

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO.233

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 3RD JANUARY, 2018

UPGRADATION OF TECHNOLOGY OF ORDNANCE FACTORIES

*233. SHRI OM BIRLA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE j{k k ea=h
be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any significant step for the consolidation of the defence forces after the publication of the CAG Report which pointed towards the ammunition shortage and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there is a shortage of staff at various ordnance factories in the country, if so, the details thereof and the action taken to resolve the problem;
- (d) whether the Government requires upgradation of technology used in the various ordnance factories to optimise their rate of production as per the needs of the Indian Defence Services; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government to upgrade the technology employed in ordnance factories during the last three years and the current year?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF DEFENCE

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(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

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(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 233 FOR ANSWER ON 3.1.2018

(a) & (b): The authorization and holding of ammunition is as per operational requirement of the Indian Defence Services. Adequate reserves have been authorized to cater for contingencies. There is adequate stock of ammunition with the Indian Defence Services and they are well equipped for meeting any operational requirements. Further, making up of stock of ammunition to desired level is a continuous process, the requirements for which are identified every year and procurements are undertaken accordingly.

There are 82 ammunition items for which the Army provides roll-on-indent to Ordnance Factory Board (OFB). The plan for issue of these items till 2014-19 is Rs.26,475 Crores against which items worth Rs.12,919 Crores were delivered till March, 2017.

Besides the roll-on-indent, OFB issues a number of ammunitions to the Indian Armed Forces and other customers (MHA, Civil Trade, Exports, etc). The total value of issue by OFB in respect of all ammunition in 2016-17 was Rs.5,753 Crores.

(c) As per details given in Annexure 'A'.

(d) & (e): In order to keep the factories' assets at par with the contemporary technology available in the market, OFB prepares modernization plan which is implemented as annual plan in each of the factories under following categories:

- (i)** Renewal & Replacement (RR) of plant & machinery (P&M) which are beyond economical repairs;
- (ii)** Acquisition of P&M under New Capital (NC) for higher productivity, enhanced quality, focus on use of renewable energy and to address environmental issues, etc.; and
- (iii)** Civil Works (CW) infrastructure.

Systematic modernization plan was put in place since 2007-08. The expenditure on Modernisation for XI plan was Rs.2,927 Crores. The expenditure on modernization of XII plan was Rs.5,351 Crores.

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Investment made on modernization during last three years (Rs. in crore) is as given below:-

Year	Renewal and Replacement (RR)	New Capital (NC)	Civil Works (CW)
2014-15	442	486	301
2015-16	386	313	339
2016-17	452	369	338
2017-18 (BE Target)	475	472	300

ANNEXURE 'A' REFERRED IN THE REPLY GIVEN IN THE STATEMENT IN PART (C) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 233 FOR ANSWER ON 3.1.2018

The sanctioned strength of Ordnance Factories is intended towards catering to peak load requirement of Indian Armed Forces while existing strength is maintained for meeting the current load of the Armed Forces on annual basis. The flexibility is required to help Indian Ordnance Factories to augment the manpower at a very short notice in times of exigency and to cater the workload from time to time.

The last exercise of manpower planning of Ordnance Factories was carried out by a Manpower Rationalisation Committee during 2015-16, which took into consideration various implications of introduction of modern technologies and computerization of process on efficiency. The Committee accordingly recommended reduction of total sanctioned strength from 1,63,103 to 1,45,503, which was approved by Ministry of Defence with the condition that the operating strength of the organization will not exceed 1.10 Lakh.

The position of manpower as on 01.10.2017 is as follows:

Category	Sanctioned Strength	Existing Strength (As on 01.10.2017)
Technical Staff	1,20,161	70,023
Non-Technical Staff	22,361	14,657
Group 'A' Officers	2,981	1,785
Total:	1,45,503	86,465

However, manpower is being sanctioned every year in respect of all categories of employees based on vacancies available in the recruitment grade and work load requirement. The manpower (Gr. B & C) sanctioned for recruitment after April 2015 is as follows:

Category	Year	No. of posts sanctioned for recruitment	Manpower Recruited
Industrial Employees (Gr. C)	2015	4,895	2,006
	2016	4,033	1,859
	2017	--	3,587 (Under process of recruitment)
Non-Industrial Employees (Gr. B & C)	2016	965 (under review)	--
Non-Gazetted Officer (Gr. B)	2016	692 (under review)	--
Gazetted Officer (Gr. B)	2015	188	(under process of recruitment)
	2016	127 (under review)	--
	TOTAL:	10,900	7,452
