

[24 July, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

and developed an Integrated Field Shelter, which is productionised by a private agency in the trade.

(b) Ten number of Field Shelters have been supplied to the Army.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Field Shelter is capable of providing protection to 30 persons and is modular in construction. It has all the facilities for 96 hours stay and provides protection to personnel against nuclear fall out and ingress of chemical and biological agents.

**Casualties in mine blasts and incidents related to
Operation Parakram**

773. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):
DR.AKHILESHDAS:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in another mine blast on 2nd May, 2002, some 60 kms. from Surat Garh, at least 7 army personnel were killed and four seriously injured;

(b) if so, the total number of casualties suffered in mine blasts and connected incidents, related to Operation Parakram; and

(c) the precautions taken against such blasts and mishaps and the main reasons for such accidents, found as a result of inquiries and otherwise?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) There was an accident on 2nd May, 2002 when some unserviceable/defective mines exploded while being transported to the Army Field Firing Ranges at Mahajan. In this accident, seven army personnel were killed and four were injured.

(b) Amongst the casualties incurred during Op PARAKRAM till date, 73 persons (60 army & 13 civilians) have been killed and 216 (132 army and 84 civilians) have been injured due to mine blasts and related accidents.

(c) The reasons for the mine accidents are human error, defective mines and fuzes, stray cattle entering into the minefields, adverse/extreme vagaries of climate, and bad terrain.

Precautionary steps taken to obviate such mine accidents include stringent quality control of mines and fuzes, destruction and replacement of stocks of older vintage, and providing better on the job training to troops employed in mine laying activities.

Losses suffered by farmers of Rajasthan due to laying of landmines and mobilisation of troops

774. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH:

DR. ABRAR AHMED:

SHRI GAYA SINGH:

SHRIJ.CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of farmers of four Western Districts of Rajasthan whose fields and crops have been destroyed due to laying of landmines and mobilisation of troops. are waiting for compensation for losses suffered by them;

(b) if so, whether Government has not released the full amount of compensation;

(c) if so, the amount released so far and the remaining amount to be released; and

(d) by when the entire amount is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) The State Government of Rajasthan have projected a tentative loss of Rs. 55.13 crores to the crops of the farmers occurred during the preparatory stage of defence preparations/movement of Armed Forces in the border areas of Rajasthan. To Give an immediate relief to the farmers, a sum of Rs. 13.80 crores, which is 25% of the amount projected by the State Revenue Authorities as loss towards the crops, has been sanctioned to the State Government of Rajasthan as "on account" payment to be made to the individual farmers. Out of this, a sum of Rs. 10 crores (approximately) has already been disbursed to the affected people/farmers. However, to know the exact losses occurred to the crops of the farmers, Board of Officers have already been ordered by the Army Authorities consisting of representatives of Army, Directorate General of Defence