

The following were the Army casualties:—

- (a) Killed: One officer, two JCOs and six Other Ranks.
- (b) Wounded: Six Other Ranks.
- (c) One Jawan of BSF was also killed and one Jawan of Defence Service Corps was wounded.

The security arrangements in the Cantonment area have been reviewed after the incident and necessary steps initiated to prevent recurrence of such incidents. A Court of Inquiry has also been ordered to inquire into the lapses, if any.

Defence production factory at Rajgir

806. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have acquired some land at Rajgir in Bihar to set up a factory for defence production; and

(b) if so, the details of the project and what further steps are being taken to set up the factory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) Action has been initiated to acquire land for setting up of an Ordnance Factory at Rajgir in Nalanda District of Bihar.

(c) Project envisages an investment of approximately Rs. 850/- crores to set up facilities for production of propellants for high calibre ammunition for which a detailed project report has been prepared.

Unused Machines in Ordnance Factory, Kanpur

†807. SHRI RAMJI LAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of machines being imported since long in the ordnance factory, Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh, are lying idle and are not being used, due to which they have become useless; and

(b) if so, the action taken/being taken by Government in this regard?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

[8 December, 1999]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
(SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) All the machines imported by Ordnance Factory, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh are in active productive use.

Modernisation Plan for Indian Ordnance Factories

808. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Ordnance factories plan to invest Rs. 250—300 crores annually on their modernisation;

(b) if so, whether the plans for modernisation have been finalised;

(c) if so, whether any Committee was formed to formulate the plan of modernisation; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
(SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Investment decisions for modernisation are taken on the basis of in-house exercises as well as on the recommendations of expert committees set up for the purpose. The report of one such committee is available.

Replacement of Arjuna Tank

809. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the main battle tank Arjuna is being replaced;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the new varieties proposed to be purchased; and

(c) the steps proposed to ensure that spares for the new varieties to be purchased are available?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.