

- (iv) Greater use of quick-setting cement capsule grouted roof bolts for support in development workings in underground mines.
- (v) Reduced exposure of workers to mining hazards by increasing use of SDLs and LHDs for loading operations in below ground mines.
- (vi) Continued efforts towards induction of capital intensive mechanised longwall mining with powered support, where workmen work under skin-to-skin steel roof support in underground mines.

Inefficiency in R & D Wing of Ordnance Units

316. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Research and Development Wing of the Ordnance units of the country is very poor and out of date;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that due to inefficient R & D of Ordnance units country had to import vital ammunitions at a very heavy cost during the period from 1992-1993 to 1997-98; and
- (c) if so, whether Government are taking adequate steps to clear this bottleneck without any further delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (c) The Research & Development (R & D) in the sphere of defence systems, new generation of arms and ammunition and equipment is primarily the responsibility of Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO), under the Department of Defence Research in the Ministry of Defence.

The R&D activity of Ordnance factories is restricted to product and process improvement only. As such the question of import of ammunition due to failure of R & D activities of ordnance factories does not arise. Imports do take place to meet enhanced requirements of the Armed Forces of items in existing product line or because of induction into service of new generation arms and equipment not developed indigenously.

Design Deficiency in SU-30 MK Aircraft

† 317. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have taken a decision to make an enquiry to find out the reasons for deteriorating combat capabilities of country's fighter aircrafts.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.