

streams at Km 5.76 on approach road to South Portal of Rohtang Tunnel, depositing debris on the construction site of the snow gallery. At the time of the happening, 130 of contractor's workers were deployed at the site. Border Roads Organisation, the contractor and the district administration took prompt action and saved the lives of 122 persons. 21 people were shifted to Manali Hospital immediately for their treatment. Due to alertness shown by various agencies the lives of many workers were saved.

(c) and (d) As per Contract Agreement, the contractor is responsible to pay compensation to next of kin of deceased under Workmen Compensation Act 1923. All workers deployed at site have been insured by the contractor. As immediate relief, Rs.40,000/- have been paid by the contractor to the kin of each of the deceased. All injured workers have been provided medical treatment and all medical expenses have been borne by the contractor.

Effect of MNC's undertaking port related activities

3760. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is allowing foreign MNCs to undertake port related activities;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether this decision may expose defence secrets to foreign countries; and
- (d) if so, the reasons for permitting MNCs to take over port projects?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) The guidelines for Private Sector Participation in port sector of 1996, permits Indian Private Sector firms to participate in PPP Projects. These guidelines also permit 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) by foreign investor in Port Sector.

(c) and (d) Naval security clearance for Port related activities of MNCs are accorded on case to case basis as per the guidelines of Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Home Affairs with due consideration to national security issues.

Delay in purchase of artillery guns

3761. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the much delayed purchase of crucial artillery guns which will replace the existing 20 years old Bofors guns in the Indian Army has been stalled again;
- (b) whether it is a fact that it is the fifth time since 2002 that the process has hit a road block due to one reason or the other seriously impinging upon the army's capability to fire at the enemy and;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and actions taken by Government in this regard?