

- (i) **Indo-Bangladesh border (Phase-I):** 857.37 km. of fencing in the States of West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram has been completed in 2000.
- (ii) **Indo-Bangladesh border (Phase-II):** Out of 2468 km. of fencing, 1872 km. has been completed. The completion schedule is March, 2019 for ongoing works.
- (iii) **Indo-Myanmar border:** Out of the 9.12 km. fencing, 2.79 km. has been completed.

(c) Government has taken following measures to expedite the pace of road projects:

- (i) States of Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Tripura have constituted the Empowered Committee to resolve issues related to land acquisition, forest/wildlife clearance, allotment of quarries etc.
- (ii) Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) has given the General Approval under section 2 of forest (conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land required for construction/widening of roads entrusted to BRO in the area falling within 100 kilometers aerial distance from the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and for link roads between border roads in the area within 100 kilometer aerial distance from the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and National Highways/State Highways/other roads subject to certain conditions.
- (iii) Outsourcing has been allowed to augment capacity of BRO.
- (iv) Long Term Roll On Work Plan (LTROWP) and Long Term Equipment Plan (LTEP) have been approved.
- (v) Enhanced financial and administrative powers have been given to the executives of BRO.

Steps to prevent fire at ammunition depots

172. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ammunition depots are functioning with risk of fire accident as the equipment and manpower are not held as per the requirement and authorisations;

(b) if so, the reasons for a number of deficiencies in the fire fighting and safety mechanism of ammunition depots including storage of large quantity of ammunition in temporary accommodation;

(c) the details of fire incidents in ammunition depots during the last three years along with losses incurred; and

(d) the corrective steps taken by Government to prevent fire in ammunition depots in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) and (b) Due to delay in procurement/recruitment, the deficiencies of 23 fire fighting trucks and 362 personnel exist in ammunition depots of Indian Army.

Ammunition is stored in permanent accommodation. However, due to operational and other local exigencies, some ammunition is stored in temporary sheds.

(c) The only major fire incident in ammunition depot during last three years has occurred in Central Ammunition Depot, Pulgaon on 31st May, 2016. There were 19 fatal and 17 non-fatal casualties, and the total loss of equipment and stores as per preliminary estimation is approximately ₹ 7.90 crores.

(d) On the basis of the recommendations of Court of Inquiry and subsequent deliberations with all stakeholders, the following has been approved by the Government in order to prevent recurrence of such incidents:

- (i) Disposal of all defective segregated mines (Anti Tank Mines 1A ND) for exudation of TNT, held at various locations will be undertaken by Army Headquarters (AHQs).
- (ii) Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) will replace or repair the defective ammunition within three months.
- (iii) Army Headquarters in consultation with all stakeholders will finalize the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for:
 - (a) Disposal of defective ammunition in fixed time-frame, and
 - (b) Fixing up responsibility for defect and regularization of loss.
- (iv) Department of Defence Production (DDP) in consultation with all stakeholders will prepare a SOP for handholding of production agency by the designer till production stabilizes.
- (v) Army Headquarters will review the security (including surveillance) and fire safety arrangements at all ammunition depots.

Incursions and frictions at country's borders

173. SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state what is the Centre's response to the recent frequent Chinese incursions and frictions along the Indo-Pak border?