

ALL INDIA DEFENCE EMPLOYEES' FEDERATION
INDIAN NATIONAL DEFENCE WORKERS' FEDERATION
BHARTIYA PRATIRAKSHA MAZDOOR SANGH
(RECOGNIZED FEDERATIONS OF DEFENCE CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES)

Ref. No. : 48/AIDF/INDWF/BPMS/20

Date : 01.10.2020

To,

The Hon'ble President of India

&

Supreme Commander of Armed Forces

Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi

Shri.Rajnath Singh Ji,

Hon'ble Defence Minister

Government of India,

New Delhi.

**SUBJECT : REQUEST FOR ORDERING A CBI PROBE AGAINST THE
LEAKAGE INFORMATION IN VIOLATION OF OFFICIAL
SECRET ACTS 1923 & ARMY RULES 1954.**

**REFERENCE : OUR LETTER NO. 46/AIDF/INDWF/BPMS/20, DATED
30/09/2020, ADDRESSED TO THE HON'BLE PRESIDENT
OF INDIA & HON'BLE RM.**

Respected Sir,

Kindly refer to our letter dated 30th Sept. 2020 with regard to leaking of sensitive defence secret/information to the Press. In this connection it is further brought to your kind notice that Ordnance Factory Board vide its Press Note No.03/PRESS/CCD dated 30.09.2020 has issued a point wise rebuttal on the issues raised in the so called internal report of Army put on public domain by people with dubious intentions. We are happy that O.F Board has now, at least during this belated stage, has realized that there is a systematic campaign/leaking of unfounded and sensitive information to the print and electronic media to tarnish the image of 219 years old Indian Ordnance Factories/Ordnance Factory Board in the eyes of Hon'ble Prime Minister and others, thereby, vindicating the stand taken by the Federations. It is unfortunate that to justify the decision taken by the Government to Corporatise the Ordnance Factories, some selected people are going on attacking the Ordnance Factories. There is an innocent victim. Vested interested people wants to take the joy of attacking that victim, who hardly speaks, or has few friends who speak in its

support. However we the employees who are labouring day and night for the betterment of this organisation cannot remain silent spectators.

In view of the above, we once again request the Hon'ble President & Hon'ble Defence Minister to kindly take immediate action to order a CBI enquiry to find out the truth behind this systematic leakage of sensitive information on national security to the public domain and the people responsible for the same. Sir, we feel this is the only way to overcome the hurt feeling of the entire workforce of Indian Ordnance Factories, who stood with the Indian Armed Forces in equipping them with modern and reliable weaponry and has also reached martyrdom in much more numbers, than the numbers mentioned in the so called Internal Report of Army, during all these years in the line of their duties. We feel pity that no one has ever bothered about their sacrifice to the Nation.

A copy of the OFB Press Release No.03/PRESS/CCD, DTD. 30/09/2020 is enclosed herewith for your ready reference, which will give a clear picture of the factual position.

Awaiting for your favourable action please.

Thanking you,

Yours Sincerely,



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Copy to :

- 1) **The Defence Secretary**
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- 2) **The Secretary(DP)**
Department of Defence Production,
South Block, New Delhi.
- 3) **The Chief of Defence Staff**
And
Secretary to Government of India
Department of Military Affairs
Government of India, South Block
New Delhi.
- 4) **The Chief of Army**
Army Hqrs.,
South Block, New Delhi.
- 5) **The DGOF & Chairman**
Ordnance Factory Board, Kolkata.

For kind information and
necessary action please.



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All correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary
and not to any officer by name

No. 03/PRESS/CCD

Date: 30-09-2020

PRESS RELEASE

A number of newspapers have carried articles referring to accidents involving ammunition manufactured by OFB.

The articles are allegedly based on an internal report of the Indian Army. OFB is not in possession of this report. These articles tend to spread misinformation, are alarmist and defamatory. Unfortunately, no verification was sought from OFB prior to publication of these articles.

The newspaper articles mention that between 2014 and 2020, 403 accidents have taken place where OFB ammunition was involved, which caused the exchequer a loss of Rs 960 crores which in turn could have financed the purchase of 100 artillery guns. These accidents, reportedly, also led to the fatality of 27 military personnel.

OFB however does not accept these figures.

For the accidents that occurred in the period between January 2015 to December 2019, where defect investigation has been completed, only 19% of the cases are attributable to OFB.

The authors of these articles, based on an unverified "internal report of the Indian Army" have to realize that accidents are complex phenomena and can have multiple causes such as poor gun maintenance, faulty firing drill, un-validated design changes in the weapon, faulty ammunition design among others. The defect investigation is carried out by a committee headed by the Authority Holding Sealed Particulars (AHSP) which is the custodian of the manufacturing documents. The committees include representatives of all the stakeholders including the user. The investigations carried out by these committees are seldom holistic in nature despite the fact that OFB has been insisting on such an approach.

Further, out of the total number of accidents where defect investigation has been completed, only 2% of the cases where casualties have been reported are attributable to the OFB. In 98% of the cases where there have been casualties, these are not attributable to OFB.

Between 2011 and 2018, there have been more than 125 accidents involving ammunition procured from sources other than OFB, both domestic and foreign. It is, however, seen that only cases where OFB ammunition is involved are selectively reported in the press.

(Contd. in Page-2)

Of the 27 fatalities reported, 19 were in CAD Pulgaon in the incident that occurred in May, 2016 involving mine anti-tank (A/T) LA ND. This mine had been developed by the DRDO (ARDE) and was manufactured strictly according to their design. Design deficiencies were subsequently noticed and suitable changes are being evaluated.

It must be emphasised here that most of these accidents involve vintage ammunition manufactured prior to 2006 when inspection of all input materials was undertaken by the DGQA and OFB had no control on the quality of input material. In fact, after 2005-06, when the responsibility for inspection of input material was given to OFB, there has been a decrease in the number of accidents.

Since 2013, a system of advanced early user exploitation based on a random sample drawn from each freshly manufactured lot of ammunition is in place, in addition to the established schedule of inspection and validation conducted by DGQA. The results of this system have demonstrated a satisfaction level of more than 99% which is comparable to international standards. The quality of ammunition manufactured by the OFB is also amply testified to by the receipt of repeat export orders of ammunition supplied under self-certification.

The report mentions 125 mm tank ammunition. Accidents in T-72/T-90 Tanks are a dated issue wherein incidents have been observed in all combinations of ammunition and barrel – imported as well as domestic. Various investigations including those involving Russian specialists and investigation led by the user were conducted and their recommendations implemented.

OFB was given the bulk production clearance for the ammunition in 2016 and since 2017 ammunition manufactured strictly in accordance with ToT documents is being supplied, without the earlier modifications suggested by DGQA and the Army – and no accident has been reported since then.

The case of 23 mm is intriguing. Only 23% of the accidents were due to OFB ammunition, the balance 77% involved imported ammunition. Currently, hundreds of thousands of defective imported ammunition is available in various depots.

The newspaper article's logic that the amount expended on the allegedly faulty ammunition involved in the highly inflated figure of 403 accidents could have financed 100 artillery guns is specious at best. The same logic, if applied to the faulty Krasnopol ammunition imported during the Kargil war amounting to Rs 522.44 crore (USD 111,950,488) could have financed another 55 artillery guns.

(Gagan Chaturvedi)

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