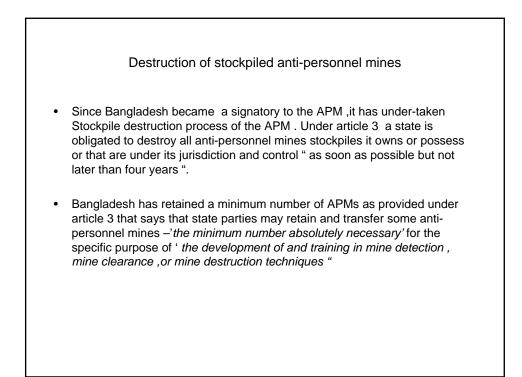
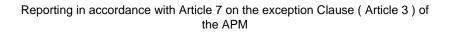


Offices and International Organizations in Geneva on the occasion of the Meeting of the Standing Committees established by the State Parties to the APM Convention Geneva 13-17 June,2005

	Backgrounder
•	Bangladesh became a signatory to the APM Convention on 7 th May,1998 and as the first South Asian Country she ratified the Convention on 6 th September,2000.
•	In line with her commitments under the APM Convention Bangladesh has taken action in the following areas (a) national legislation (b) stockpile destruction (c) transparency on retention levels (d) participation at relevant meetings
•	Under article 7.1 Bangladesh for the period 25th March2004 till 28Febraury ,2005 reported that an amount of 1,89,227 stockpiled APM has been destroyed .
•	Bangladesh also achieved the distinction to report during this period that "no mine areas existed in Bangladesh" and "no areas are suspected to contain mines in Bangladesh "



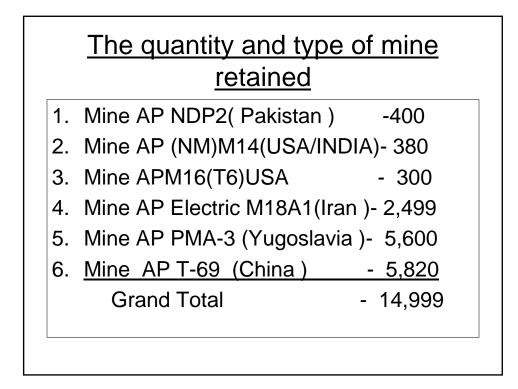


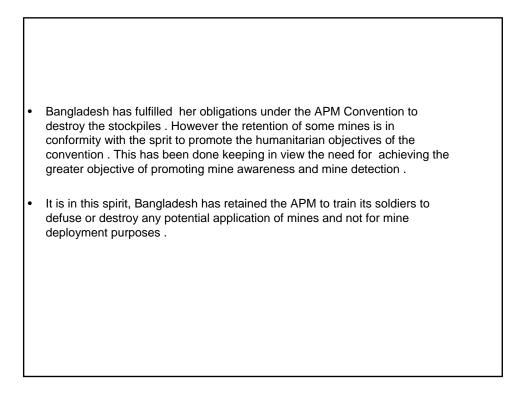
We are aware of Action 54 of the Nairobi Action plan wherein it has been stated that "All state parties – in situations where state parties have retained mines in accordance with the exceptions in article 3, provide information on the plans requiring the retention of mines for the development and training in mine detection, mine clearance or mine destruction techniques and report on the actual use of retaining mines and the results of such use"

 The number of mine retained in Bangladesh as per official statistics is 14,999. These mines have basically been retained for training purposes especially for officers /solders detailed for the UN Peacekeeping missions.

Bangladesh has completed stockpile destruction of the Mines. Only some APM s have been retained for defense training purposes. The conventional method/ techniques for training of mines is being followed for the purpose of mine awareness. For this physical existence of the mines are required The retained mines have /are being used for mine awareness , detection , clearance and destruction training. In addition the retained Anti personnel Mines are being used to organize training for the officers /soldiers detailed for the UN peace Keeping operations.

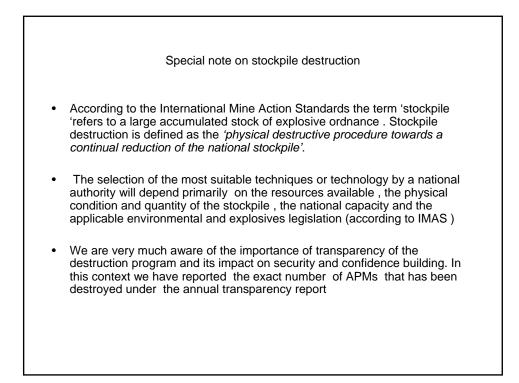
- Every individual soldier of Corps of Engineers and selected personnel from Ordnance are trained on the conventional method of mines . However soldiers of the rank of Sergeants are trained in respect of all types of Anti Personnel Mines up to an acceptable level of standard. Soldiers of the unit are also given an elementary knowledge on handling of mines .
- Conventional training on mine will remain in vogue for the purpose of mine detection, clearance and destruction techniques. Emphasis is given on clearing of mines manually because mechanical mine breaching /clearing may not always be suitable in local earth condition round the year.
- The amount of mines already retained would be enough to organize /conduct training on mine detection, clearance or destruction and mine awareness in coming years.





- The APM retained by Bangladesh would be enough for her to sustain its mine awareness training, clearance if required and destruction training programs in the future. The testing of mine clearance equipment for example may also require the use of anti-personnel mines.
- The APMs have been retained to impart general training to Bangladesh Army Personnel and specifically to assist engineering contingents to prepare for UN peace keeping Missions. The different training institutions of Bangladesh Army in the case of Mine retention are as follows : School of Infantry and tactics (b) Engineer Center and School of Military Engineering (c) Ordnance Center and School (d) Central Ordnance Depot (for research and analysis)

- Some countries are still using Anti-personnel mines . Therefore while doing Peacekeeping Operations the Peacekeepers frequently handle antipersonnel mines for detection and demolition . Therefore training on anti personnel mine handling including breaching detection and destruction is a necessity
- This issue should also be understood in the context of our substantial commitments to UN de-mining Operations .Bangladesh Army has several battalion with mine clearing capabilities. In Kuwait , in Ethiopia and in Eritrea in UNPKO it showed its competence in mine clearing actions.
- In accordance with the APM Convention, Bangladesh has never produced or exported APM s nor has acquired any new stock. Its intention to retain some APM s are mainly for training purposes.



Quantity of	the APMs destroyed
Mine AP NDP-2 (Pakistan)	- 22, 145
Mine AP (NM) M-14 (USA/Indi	ia) - 3 , 100
Mine AP M-16 (T6) Fuze M605	5(USA) 5, 046
Mine AP Elec M-18 (A-1) Iran	348
Mine AP PMA-3 (former Yugos	slavia) 1,06,221
Mine AP T-69 (China)	52,367
Total	1,89,227
Source : Bangladesh reporting 28 th February,2005	for time period from 25 March2004 till

The process of destruction
 The destruction has been carried out in safe designated areas at the Central Ammunition Depot. Both electric and non-electric methods of destruction have been used.
 Destruction process have been carried out usually in three phases that is as follows:
In phase I the APM s were collected , centralized and prepared for destruction . <u>In phase II</u> the destruction sites were prepared and the mines were transported . <u>In phase III</u> the destruction process was carried out.