



Huge blaze engulfs groundnut warehouse: Thick smoke seen for miles, 1.59 lakh sacks destroyed

A massive fire broke out in the warehouse used to store groundnut stock, purchased by NAFED at support prices, inside a ceramic factory near Rfaleshwar village in Morbi.

In this fire, which started around 3 pm due to unknown reasons, an estimated 1.59 lakh sacks of groundnuts were burnt. Pillars of smoke were visible from afar. Upon learning of the incident, the fire department team was informed. Groundnuts worth crores were likely reduced to ashes in this incident. Panic ensued in area due to fire. According to the details received regarding this, a warehouse was built inside a ceramic factory located near Rfaleshwar village in Morbi to store the groundnut stock purchased by NAFED. Inside this warehouse, 1.59 lakh sacks of groundnuts were stored. A fire broke out in it for some reason in the afternoon, causing panic. The fire, which started at 3 pm, was not brought under control even by 7 pm.

Attempt to control fire by spraying water As the fire rapidly escalated, a major call was declared by the fire team. Currently, seven fire tenders are at the scene. A total of seven fire teams, including four from Morbi, two from Rajkot, and one from Wankaner, are making efforts to bring the fire under control by spraying water. Morbi Municipal Corporation's Chief Fire Officer Devendrasinh Jadeja stated that around 3:00 pm, the fire control room received a call about a fire in a groundnut warehouse of a ceramic factory located on Rfaleshwar Road. This warehouse was given on rent. Upon receiving information about the incident, the Morbi Fire Brigade team was immediately dispatched to the scene. Due to the warehouse being closed on all four sides, having a shed above, and containing a large quantity of groundnuts inside, firefighters are facing great difficulty in extinguishing the fire.

Groundnuts purchased at support price stored in warehouse: Morbi NAFED Warehouse Manager H. G. Rathod stated

Groundnuts purchased by NAFED at support price were stored in this warehouse. Vehicles loaded with groundnuts used to arrive here from 10 different societies including Kodinar, Talala, Una, Rajkot, and approximately 1,59,000 sacks of groundnuts were stored in this warehouse. At the time of the incident, I was busy with distribution work at the lignite collection warehouse, when in the afternoon, the warehouse owner called to inform that smoke was emanating from the warehouse. Immediately upon receiving the call, the fire brigade was informed.

How did fire start despite godown being closed for 10 days? According to information received from H.G. Rathod, Godown Manager of Gujarat Warehouse Corporation, sacks of groundnuts purchased by NAFED are stored in the godown where the fire currently broke out. The godown has not been opened for the last 8 to 10 days. However, it is currently difficult to say for what reason and how the fire started in the stock of groundnuts kept inside the godown.

Furthermore, according to information received from fire department sources, the godown was completely sealed and there was no movement of people there, so it cannot be said at present how the fire incident occurred. It is noteworthy that every year, NAFED purchases groundnut stock and stores it in godowns. Incidents like fires, theft of groundnuts, or sacks filled with soil found in groundnut stock have also come to light in the past.