

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4642
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2001
ALLEGED CORRUPTION IN ARMY RECRUITMENT
MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware of rampant corruption and bribery in the regional recruitment centres of the army;
- (b) if so, the region-wise number of such complaints received during the last two years and the number of army officers found involved therein;
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (d) the concrete arrangements made by the Government to bring transparency in recruitment in Armed Forces?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) to (d): A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4642
18.4.2001

It is not true that there is rampant corruption and bribery in the regional recruitment centres of the Army. However, some complaints have been received from time to time relating to recruitment in the Army.

2. Complaints are received by and large against Zonal Recruiting Offices (ZRO)/Branch Recruiting Offices (BRO). ZRO/BRO wise details are not being maintained. However, a total number of 82 complaints were received in the year 1999 and 102 complaints were received in the year 2000. All the complaints were promptly investigated and varying scales of punishment such as reprimand, fine, reduction of rank, rigorous imprisonment, dismissal from service were awarded. The number of Army personnel found guilty are given below:-

Year Name of Zonal Recruiting Office No. of Army personnel found guilty

1999	HQ Recruiting Zone, Kolkata	1
1999	HQ Recruiting Zone, Ambala	1
1999	HQ Recruiting Zone, Jalandhar	2
2000	HQ Recruiting Zone, Chennai	1
2000	HQ Recruiting Zone, Kolkata	3
2000	Mahar Regimental Centre, Saugor	1

3. In addition to prompt investigation of the complaints received and award of suitable punishment to those found guilty, various steps have been taken to streamline the process of recruitment with a view to curbing corruption.

4. The new recruitment system which was introduced with effect from 1st April, 1998 is more transparent to the public. The main features of the policy are as follows:-

- (i) The entire recruitment process is completed at rally site in the presence of a Board of Officers.
- (ii) Branch Recruiting Office in whose location/area of responsibility rally is being held is not involved in recruitment. Instead complete

recruitment is done by Recruitment team detailed from other Branch Recruiting Offices.

(iii) Candidates do not have to make a number of trips to Branch Recruiting Offices locations.

(iv) This system is open, transparent, totally fair and candidate friendly.

(v) Written test is evaluated by a Board of Officers.