

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:428
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2003
HEALTH MAINTENANCE OF ARMY TROOPS
BODAKUNTI VENKATESHWARLU;SRINIVASULU KALAVA

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Army is suffering from acute fatigue on account of counter-insurgency operations in Jammu and Kashmir and operation Parakram; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to ensure health maintenance of Army Troops and boost their morale?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) & (b): No, Sir. The morale of the Indian Army is very high. In order to maintain high morale and keep the soldiers stress-free, the Medical Directorate of Army Headquarters has taken the following action:-

(i) The Regimental Medical Officers (RMOs) have been instructed to identify and counsel individuals who show any signs of stress.

(ii) The Zonal Hospitals hold seminars for training the RMOs with appropriate skills to fulfil their role.

(iii) Commanders at all levels have been apprised about how to identify the stress victims and about action to be taken at various levels.

(iv) In addition to the above, short training capsules of relaxation exercises, regular Sainik Sammelan and visits by religious teachers are organised. Regular rotation of Units and individuals, regular leave, prompt attention to grievance, congenial working atmosphere and provision of family accommodation etc. are ensured to the maximum extent so that stress related incidences are kept to the minimum.