

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1658
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2003
RECRUITMENT OF OFFICERS IN ARMED FORCES
RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been a perceptible decline in the interest amongst the youth to join the armed forces;
- (b) the number of vacancies that occurred in the rank of commissioned officers in the three services, respectively during the last three years;
- (c) the number of officers recruited/commissioned during the corresponding period;
- (d) the reasons for less recruitment against the vacant posts in the three services; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to attract talented youth to join the armed forces?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1658
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Recruitment of youth in the Armed Forces during the recent years has not shown perceptible decline. In fact, the response in the recruitment rallies conducted in various parts of the country has also been very encouraging. However, due to a changed socio-economic environment and the availability of wide variety of lucrative employment options on the civil side, the priority being assigned to Armed Forces as a career option for officers of the three services, is currently lower.

The number of vacancies of commissioned officers during the last three years and those recruited/commissioned during that period is given below:-

Service	Year	No. of vacancies	Year	No. of officers
		recruited/commissioned		

Army	2000	2978	2000	2211
	2001	2666	2001	1997
	2002	2822	2002	1911

Air Force	2000	746	2000	385
	2001	728	2001	363
	2002	809	2002	448

Navy	2000	330	2000	260
	2001	329	2001	286
	2002	484	2002	389

2. The Armed Forces continue to maintain its high standards for induction of personnel. Only those who meet the stringent selection and medical criteria are accepted for training. Therefore, there is some induction shortage.

3. Sustained efforts are being made by the Armed Forces to attract talented youth, both at the officers' level and at the Personnel Below Officer Ranks (PBORs) level.

4. An Image Projection Campaign by the Army has been launched in 1997 and currently Phase-III of the Campaign is under way. In addition seminars, lectures and presentations are also organised by the Recruiting Offices at schools and colleges in order to motivate the youth to join the Army and the training capacity of the Army has been increased to facilitate increased intake.

5. Extensive publicity and recruitment drives are being carried out by the Navy. Motivation drives are conducted in various colleges/institutions in order to widen the scope of target population.

6. Sustained publicity efforts are being undertaken by the Air Force to attract talented and qualified youth into the officers' cadre. Almost 3000 Schools and Colleges are on the mailing list for sending the publicity material. Campus interviews are undertaken by qualified assessors from Selection Boards so as to interact directly with potential candidates and answer their queries about the service. Schools and Colleges are visited regularly for motivational talks. Participation in 'Career Fairs' and placing of career-oriented advertisements in newspapers and magazines is also undertaken.