

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:187  
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2000  
RECRUITMENT OF NON MARATHIS IN MARATHA LIGHT INFANTRY  
CHANDRAKANT BHAURAO KHAIRE

**Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether Non-Marathas are being recruited in the oldest Regiment of Indian Army i.e. Maratha Light Infantry;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Marathas are thus being deprived of their share in recruitment in view of
- (a) above;
- (d) if so, the steps taken to remedy the situation; and
- (e) the broad details of Recruitment Policy of the Government being followed in each of the three wings of 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) (e) OF FLOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.187 FOR 24.2.2000.

A small percentage of recruitment of non- Marathi is being made in Maratha Light Infantry which is as per the laid down class composition policy in Army. The laid down class composition of Maratha Light Infantry is as follows:-

- (i) Marathas 86.13%
- (ii) Mysurians 4.16%
- (iii) Muslims of South 4.16%
- (iv) All classes including SC/ST from Karnataka, Goa, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh without any fixed percentage. 5.55%

Tradesmen i.e. Clerk, Safaiwala, Barber etc. are recruited from all Indian all class.

2. Marathas are thus not being deprived of their share in recruitment in Maratha Light Infantry.

3. The recruitment policy being followed is that recruitment to Army is broadly made State- wise. Recruitment to Navy and Air Force is made on all-India basis and there is no State- wise quota.