

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:103
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2007
SHORTAGE OF OFFICERS IN ARMED FORCES
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram;Mahajan Smt. Sumitra

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the extent of shortage of officers in all the three wings of the Armed Forces;
- (b) the number of officers who have expressed their desire to leave the Armed Forces from 2004 onwards alongwith the number of officers who have already left;
- (c) whether the Government is formulating any attractive plan to check the exodus of officers from the Armed Forces and to recruit young officers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.103 FOR ANSWER ON 20.8.2007

There is a shortage of officers in the Armed Forces. The details are as follows:-

	Army	Navy	Air Force
Authorized strength	46615	8797	12128
Positioned strength-	35377	7336	10563
Shortage	11238	1461	1565

Details of officers seeking discharge and whose applications were accepted during the last three years and the current year are as follows:

Year	Army	Navy	Air Force
	Seeking Discharge	Approved for Discharge-	Seeking Discharge
	Approved for Discharge	Discharge-	Approved for Discharge

2004	435	290	119	115	249	247
2005	536	365	176	168	308	177
2006	811	464	259	178	230	88
2007	882	377	253	176	239	53

Several steps have been undertaken by the three Services to fill up the vacant posts. All officers including those in Short Service Commission (SSC) are now eligible to hold substantive rank of Captain, Major and Lieutenant Colonel after 2, 6 and 13 years of reckonable service respectively. Time scale promotion for officers in Colonel and equivalent ranks after 26 years of service has also been introduced. Government has also issued orders extending the tenure of SSC officers from 10 years to 14 years.

Besides, the Armed Forces have undertaken sustained image projection and publicity campaign to create awareness among the

youth on the advantages of taking up a challenging and satisfying career. Candidate- friendly recruitment procedures to attract more number of candidates and a focused publicity drive in various institutions to attract potential candidates have been undertaken. Awareness campaigns, participation in career fairs and exhibitions, advertisements in print and electronic media, motivational lectures in schools, colleges are also some of the other measures in this direction.

The Government has also appointed 6th Central Pay Commission to go into the question of revision of pay and allowances etc. of all the Government servants including the Armed Forces. The three Services have presented a joint memorandum to the Pay Commission suggesting revision of pay and allowances and other conditions. The matter has also been discussed with the Pay Commission by the three Service Chiefs and officers in the Ministry of Defence.