

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3721
ANSWERED ON:10.09.2007
PHYSICAL FITNESS OF ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL
Sangliana Shri H.T.;Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is concerned over mites and ticks threatening the health of troops deployed over a vast stretch of the subcontinent in diverse terrain and the ecological conditions that made the soldiers susceptible to various diseases particularly in Jammu and North-East Region;
- (b) if so, whether the Army has started providing training to the doctors and paramedics at the Armed Forces Medical College to identify and prevent the disease;
- (c) if so, the steps being considered by the Government to meet the situation in the sub-Himalayan belt from Jammu to Nagaland; and
- (d) the details on the overall physical fitness of the troops?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3721 FOR ANSWER ON 10.9.2007

The incidence of mites and ticks borne diseases has been insignificant in the Armed Forces during the last six years. There is, therefore, no undue concern over mites and ticks threatening the health of troops. Training for prevention, early diagnosis and treatment of mites and ticks borne illnesses is already included in the curriculum for Doctors and Paramedics at the Armed Forces Medical College, Pune. Precautionary measures taken to avoid transmission of mites and ticks borne diseases include, spreading awareness of the symptomatology of the mites and ticks borne diseases, avoiding camping of troops in areas which are likely to have mites and ticks colonies, provision of insect repellents etc.

The over all physical fitness of the troops is upto the desired standards.