

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:434
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2009
RECRUITMENT OF WOMEN IN DEFENCE FORCES
Hussain Shri Syed Shahnawaz

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of women recruits in the Defence forces has declined over the last few years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to improve this situation?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 434 FOR ANSWER ON 3.8.2009.

Women are inducted in the Defence Forces as officers. There is no discernible declining trend in the recruitment of women officers.

A number of steps aimed at enhancing recruitment of talented officers (both men and women) in the Armed Forces have been taken. 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. The tenure of women SSC officers has also been increased from 10 to 14 years. The Government have approved grant of Permanent Commission to SSC (Women) officers prospectively in Judge Advocate General (JAG) Department and Army Education Corps (AEC) of Army and their corresponding Branch/Cadre in Navy and Air Force, Accounts Branch of the Air Force and Naval Constructor of the Navy.