

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:165
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2010
WOMEN IN ARMED FORCES
Kumar Shri Kaushalendra;Ramkishun Shri

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of women personnel in the three services of armed forces has increased over a period of time;
- (b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years and the current year, service-wise;
- (c) the number of commissioned and non-commissioned women officers in various branches including Medical and Nursing branches, service-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has received complaints of harassment and discrimination from women officers and several recruits were reported to have declined job offers;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the remedial measures being taken by the Government to encourage women to join the services and recruitment plan envisaged in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 165 FOR ANSWER ON 22.11.2010

Women are inducted in Armed Forces as officers. The number of Women officers in Army, Navy and Air Force has increased over a period of time.

Details of the women officers inducted in the last three years and the current year and total number of women officers are as under:

Service Number of women officers Total number of women officers
 inducted in the last three
 years and the current year

Army	614	1065	
Navy	96	222	
Air Force	381	845	
Army Medical Corps	264	874	
Army Dental Corps	26	91	
Military Nursing Service	1210	3652	
Grand Total	2591	6749	

While some cases of sexual harassment have been reported, no incident has been reported where a women candidate has declined a job offer due to harassment/discrimination. A policy of `Zero Tolerance` is followed towards harassment of women in Armed Forces and due punishment is awarded to the guilty as per laid down procedure.

Measures to improve intake of officers, including women, in the Armed Forces is a continuous process. These measures include time bound promotion, increase in tenure of Short Service Commissioned (SSC) officers, increased availability of family accommodation, intensive publicity etc. Measures specific to women officers also include treating them at par with their similarly placed male counterparts in terms of recruitment, training, pay and perks, leave, welfare measures etc.; considering for Permanent Commission in Judge Advocate General (JAG) 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; Co-locating with spouses to the extent feasible; well established grievance redressal mechanism for women officers etc.

