

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2012

ANSWERED ON:22.11.2010

SHORTAGE OF PERSONNEL IN ARMED FORCES

Deora Shri Milind Murl;Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram ;Rathwa Shri Ramsinhbhai Patalbhai;Shanavas Shri M. I.

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the existing strength of officers and Personnel Below Officers Rank (PBORs) in the three services of armed forces vis-à-vis the sanctioned strength;
- (b) the total shortage of officers and PBORs in the three services and reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has chalked out recruitment strategy including changes in recruitment procedure under Short Service Commission to fill up the existing vacancies; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER 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. 2012 FOR ANSWER ON 22.11.2010

There has been a shortage of officers in the Armed Forces. In Army, the existing strength of officers is 35,354 against authorised strength of 47,864 with a shortage of 12,510. In Navy, the existing strength of officers is 7,972 against authorised strength of 9,719 with a shortage of 1,747 and in Air Force, the existing strength of officers is 11,195 against authorised strength of 12,211 with a shortage of 1,016. There is no significant shortage of Personnel Below Officer Rank (PBOR) in the Armed Forces.

The shortage of officers in the Armed Forces is partly attributable to accretions from time to time, tough selection procedures, difficult service conditions coupled with perceived high degree of risk involved in service career.

A number of steps have been taken to attract the talented youth to join the Armed Forces. 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 SSC officers has been increased from 10 years to 14 years. A total number of 750 posts of Lt. Colonel have been upgraded to Colonel towards implementation of AV Singh Committee Report (Phase-I). Further, 1896 additional posts in the ranks of Colonel, Brigadier, Major General and Lieutenant General and their equivalents in the other two Services have been upgraded towards implementation of AV Singh Committee Report (Phase-II). The implementation of recommendations of the VI Central Pay Commission with substantial improvement in the pay structure of officers of Armed Forces has made the Services more attractive.

The Armed Forces have also undertaken sustained image projection and publicity campaign to create awareness among the youth on the advantages of taking up a challenging and satisfying career. 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.

It has been decided to increase intake of Short Service Commissioned Officers which alongwith other measures is expected to reduce shortage of officers in the Armed Forces.