

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:53

ANSWERED ON:01.08.2011

SHORTAGE OF OFFICERS IN ARMED FORCES

Nirupam Shri Sanjay Brijkishorilal ;Vardhan Shri Harsh;Viswanathan Shri P.

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is huge shortage of officers in the armed forces;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the sanctioned vis-à-vis actual strength of officers in the armed forces, Service-wise;
- (c) the reasons for the existing vacancies;
- (d) the measures being taken by the Government to fill up the vacancies including recruitment of NCC cadets in this regard; and
- (e) the time by which all the vacant posts are likely to be filled up?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE(SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 53 FOR ANSWER ON 1.8.2011

- (a) There is shortage of officers in the armed forces. However, the same is being addressed through a number of measures.
- (b) The service-wise details of shortage cannot be disclosed in the interest of national security.
- (c) Some of the major reasons for shortage of officers are accretion in force levels from time to time, availability of multiple and lucrative alternate career avenues with the growth of nation's economy, stringent selection criteria, difficult service conditions coupled with perceived high degree of risk, disrupted family life and education of children along with shortage of accommodation.
- (d) The details of steps being taken by the Government to meet the shortage of officers are as under:-
 - (i) Making Short Service Commission more attractive.
 - (ii) Implementation of AV Singh committee report for improving career prospects.
 - (iii) Undertaking the married accommodation project for overcoming the shortage of married accommodation.
 - (iv) Undertaking Image projection campaigns and activities such as motivational lectures etc. to encourage youngsters to join the defence forces. To encourage recruitment of National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets in officer cadres of the armed forces, certain vacancies have been earmarked for their induction who volunteer and meet the requisite standards through NCC (Special) Entry Scheme. They are also being motivated to join the services through motivation drives and by providing information through recruitment publicity material.
- (e) It is expected that these measures would help in reducing shortage of officers.