

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1118

ANSWERED ON:28.11.2011

WOMEN IN DEFENCE FORCES

Bhoi Shri Sanjay;Dubey Shri Nishikant ;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Paranjpe Shri Anand Prakash;Rani Killi Krupa

**Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) the actual strength of women personnel in the three Services of the armed forces during the last three years and the current year, Service-wise;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to increase the percentage of women personnel in the forces and if so, the details thereof indicating the steps being taken in this regard;
- (c) whether the women officers are being considered only for the Short Service Commission and that too confined to a few streams/fields only;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether there is any proposal to create more avenues including combat duties for women in the armed forces;
- (f) if so, whether any internal view has been obtained and considered by the Government; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof and also the status of the proposal to grant Permanent Commission to women officers?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (g): A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1118 FOR ANSWER ON 28.11.2011.

Women are inducted in Armed Forces as Officers. The strength of women officers in the three Services of the Armed Forces during the last three years and the current year (Service-wise), is as under:

Year    Strength of Women Officers (Excluding Army Medical Corps, Army  
Dental Corps and Military Nursing Services)

Army    Navy    Air Force

2008	1072	173	957
2009	1030	176	915
2010	999	191	889
2011	1055	288	936

There is no separate fixed sanctioned strength for recruitment of Women officers in the Armed Forces and they are recruited within the overall authorised strength of officers in the respective Service. They are inducted as Short Service Commissioned Officers (SSCOs) in various Services/Branches of the three Service as indicated in the Annexure attached.

The Armed Forces have submitted a comprehensive policy paper on induction and employment of Women. The Ministry after considering the policy paper keeping in view the role and responsibility of the Armed Forces in defending the nation and protecting the territorial integrity of the country have issued a Government letter on 11th November, 2011 inter-alia laying down policy on induction and employment of women in Armed Forces including grant of Permanent Commission to women SSCO's, as under:

(i) Women Officers may continue to be inducted as Short Service Commission officers(SSCOs) in Branches/Cadres where they are being inducted presently in the three Services;

(ii) Women SSCOs will be eligible for consideration for grant of permanent commission alongwith Men SSCOs in specific Branches in the three Services viz. Judge Advocate General(JAG) and Army Education Corps (AEC) of Army and their corresponding branches in Navy and Air Force; Naval constructor in Navy and Accounts branch in Air Force, as specified in Ministry's letter No. 12(1)/2004-D(AG) Pt-II dated 26th September, 2008;

(iii) In addition to the above, in the Air Force, women SSCOs will be eligible alongwith men SSCOs, for consideration for grant of permanent commission in Technical, Administration, Logistics and Meteorology Branches.

The grant of permanent commission will be subject to willingness of the candidate and service specific requirements, availability of vacancies, suitability, merit of the candidate as decided by each Service.

Further, a matter regarding grant of permanent commission to women officers in Army is sub-judice before the Hon'ble Supreme Court.