

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:77
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2012
WOMEN IN ARMED FORCES
Choudhary Shri Bhudeo;Mahajan Smt. Sumitra

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the actual strength of women in the three Services of the armed forces during the last three years, Service-wise and year-wise;
- (b) the number of women recruited during the said period, Service-wise and year-wise;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to recruit women pilots for the fighter aircraft and other combat duties and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to increase the strength of women in the armed forces and also launch any special recruitment drive for rural women in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the current status of the proposal to grant Permanent Commission to women officers?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 77 FOR ANSWER ON 19.3.2012

(a) Women are inducted in Armed Forces as officers. The strength of women officers in the three Services and Armed Forces Medical Services during the last three years, is as under:

Year Army Navy Air Force Armed Forces Medical Services

Army Medical Army Dental Military Nursing
Corps Corps Service

2009 1030 176 915 801 90 3067

2010 999 191 889 872 91 3634

2011 1055 288 936 893 99 3626

(b) Details of Women Officers commissioned during the years 2009 to 2011 are as under:

Year Army Navy Air Force Armed Forces Medical Services

Army Medical Army Dental Military Nursing
Corps Corps Service

2009 70 24 125 109 03 202

2010 93 39 145 59 03 606

2011 164 68 134 46 09 97

(c) There is no proposal to induct women into combat duties in the defence forces including as fighter pilots in Indian Air Force. Induction of women in combat duties has not been recommended by the studies carried out by the Headquarters Integrated Defence

Staff (HQ IDS) in 2006 and High Level Tri-Services Committee in 2011.

(d) Recruitment of officers including women officers is an ongoing process. There is no separate fixed sanctioned strength for recruitment of women officers in the Armed Forces and they are recruited within the overall authorized strength of officers in the respective Service. Recruitment of officers is done on merit on all India basis. There is no proposal to launch any special recruitment drive for rural women separately.

(e) The policy on grant of Permanent Commission to women Short Service Commissioned Officers (SSCOs) is laid down in Government policy letter dated 11th November, 2011 as under:

(i) 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;

(ii) 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 is subject to willingness of the candidate and service specific requirements, availability of vacancies, suitability, merit of the candidate as decided by each Service.

Government is sensitive to the issue of granting permanent commission to women officers in more non-combat streams.

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