

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3387

ANSWERED ON:18.03.2013

DEATH OF SOLDIERS IN SIACHEN

Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Chitthan Shri N.S.V.;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Paranjpe Shri Anand Prakash

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of soldiers have been killed and found missing due to avalanches occurred in Siachen region recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of soldiers killed and found missing during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (c) the measures taken / proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the lives of soldiers deployed in such areas;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to negotiate with Pakistan to de-militarize this area; and
- (e) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) & (b): The following fatal casualties occurred due to avalanches during the last three years and the current year in Siachen:-

| Year | No. of Casualties due to Avalanches |
|------|-------------------------------------|
|------|-------------------------------------|

| | |
|------|----|
| 2010 | 06 |
|------|----|

| | |
|------|----|
| 2011 | 05 |
|------|----|

| | |
|------|----|
| 2012 | 07 |
|------|----|

| | |
|------|-----|
| 2013 | NIL |
|------|-----|

(c) The troops deployed in this area are suitably equipped, trained and organized to face the operational challenges and carry out their mandated tasks.

(d) & (e): Any deployment / redeployment of troops in the area is contingent upon the threat perception, ground situation, operational and strategic considerations.