

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:541  
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2013  
COMPULSORY MILITARY TRAINING  
Agarwal Shri Jai Prakash

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the countries which are providing compulsory military training to their citizens;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has ever considered making military training compulsory for all the youths of the country on similar lines;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government has received any proposal in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

**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. 541 FOR ANSWER ON 6.5.2013

The Government is aware of the fact that certain countries are providing Compulsory Military Training to their citizens. Government of India is not in favour of making military training compulsory to all the youth of the country due to the following reasons:

- i) India is a democratic Republic and the Constitution does not provide for compulsory military training. In our democratic set up, people are free to choose their professions. Compulsion in respect of Military Training, it is felt, would go against the democratic ethos.
- (ii) Military training to all the youth of the country may also lead to militarization of an entire nation. With our socio-political and economic conditions, it is highly undesirable, lest some of the unemployed youth trained in military skills join the ranks of the radical forces.
- (iii) Armed Forces in India have a large number of volunteers to draw upon and there is no problem in getting adequate numbers of volunteer recruits. All the youth of the country, therefore, do not compulsorily need to be given military training.
- (iv) Training all the youth in the country would require establishment of a very large number of training centers, with the necessary wherewithal, all over the country and would involve huge expenditure in their maintenance and upkeep. The likely benefits of imparting military training to all the youth will not be commensurate with the expenditure involved in such an effort. This would translate into an unmanageable figure and will also be a big drain on limited resources of a developing country.
- (v) The youth contribute to the productive workforce of the country. Diversion of such work force from contributing to the overall economic growth of the country would be counter productive for the Nation, as a whole. The details of the proposals received during the last 5 years and action taken by Government on each proposal is as under:

Proposal received from Proposal in brief Status of the proposal / Action taken by MoD. A Private Member Bill was received from Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, MP(LS)-Introduced in Lok Sabha on 19.8.2011 Provide for Compulsory Military Training to all able-bodied citizens Consequent on the appointment of Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, the member-in-charge, as a Minister, the Bill has been removed from the Register of Bills pending in Lok Sabha under rule 113 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. A Private Member Bill was received from Shri Avinash Rai Khanna MP(RS)-Introduced in Rajya Sabha on 7.12.2012. To provide Compulsory Military Training to all youths in the country. The Bill did not find favour with government, however president's recommendations were obtained and the same were forwarded to Rajya Sabha Secretariat for Consideration of Bill in Rajya Sabha. A Private Member Bill was received from Dr. Bhola Singh, MP(LS) - Introduced in Lok Sabha on 8.3.2013. To provide for Compulsory Military Training to all able-bodied citizens. The Bill did not find favour with government, however president's recommendations were obtained and the same were forwarded to Lok Sabha Sectt for Consideration of Bill in Lok Sabha.

