

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:347
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2009
WOMEN IN DEFENCE FORCES
Mithlesh Shri ;Ray Shri Rudramadhab

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of women recruits in Army, Navy and Air Force for the last two years and the current year:
- (b) whether the number of women in defence forces is as per sanctioned strength:
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to induct women into combat duties including that of fighter pilots in Air Force; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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.347 FOR ANSWER ON 14.12.2009.

Women are inducted as officers in the defence forces. There is no specified sanctioned strength for women officers in Army, Navy and Air Force. The number of women officers recruited in the defence forces in the last two years and the current year is as under :-

Year Army Navy Air Force Armed Forces Medical Services Grand total

Army Army Military

Medical Dental Nursing
Corps Corps Service

2007 188 19 88 39 06 58 398

2008 72 15 77 58 14 163 399

2009 92 23 50# 74 04 189 432

Half yearly figures

At present, there is no proposal to induct women into combat duties in the defence forces including that of fighter pilots in Indian Air Force. A study carried out by Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff in 2006 on all aspects of employment of women officers in the armed forces, recommended exclusion of women officers from close combat roles.