

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:361
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2013
SUICIDE BY BSF PERSONNEL
Sugumar Shri K.

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of Border Security Force personnel who committed suicide during the current year;
- (b) whether it is true that ninety six personnel have committed suicide in the past six years in the eastern theatre alone and if so, the details and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to check such cases and also improve the working conditions of BSF personnel?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI R.P.N.SINGH)

(a)to(c): Yes, Madam. A total of 21 BSF personnel have committed suicide during the current year upto July, 2013 and a total 96 BSF personnel have committed suicide in the past six years in the Eastern Theatre. The causative factors in most of the suicide cases were found to be generally the personal and domestic problems like marital discords, personal enmity, mental illness, depression, etc. In few cases the same could be owing to the work related stress. In order to address the problem of suicide cases, Government has taken following remedial measures to contain suicide cases by CAPFs personnel including BSF:-

- (i) Implementing a transparent, rational and fair leave policy;
- (ii) Grant of leave to the Force personnel to attend to their urgent domestic problems/issues/needs;
- (iii) Regular interaction, both formal and informal, among Commanders, officers and troops to find out and address their problems;
- (iv) Revamping of grievances redressal machinery;
- (v) Regulating duty hours to ensure adequate rest and relief;
- (vi) Improving living conditions through provision of basic amenities/facilities for troops and their families;
- (vii) Motivating the Forces through increased risk, hardship and other allowances;
- (viii) Provision of STD telephone facilities to the troops to facilitate being in touch with their family members and thus to reduce tension in the remote locations;
- (ix) Better medical facilities for troops and their families including introduction of Composite Hospitals with specialized facilities;
- (x) Organizing talks by doctors and other specialists to address their personal and psychological concerns;
- (xi) Yoga and meditation classes for better stress management;
- (xii) recreational and sports facilities and provision of team games and sports etc;
- (xiii) Providing welfare measures like Central Police Canteen (CPC) facility to the troops and their families, scholarships to their wards, etc;
- (xiv) Giving status of ex-CAPFs personnel to the retired personnel of CAPFs, which is expected to boost the morale of the existing CAPFs personnel and also expected to provide better identity, community recognition and thus higher esteem and pride in the society to the Ex-CAPFs personnel.