

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:465
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2013
SHORTAGE OF OFFICERS
Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram ;Pandey Saroj

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of officers in the Army is less than to their sanctioned strength;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the plan being formulated by the Government to address the said shortage?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (c): A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 465 FOR ANSWER ON 9.12.2013

The held strength of officers in the Army is 38574 (as on 1st July 2013) as against sanctioned strength of 47762 (excluding Army Medical Corps, Army Dental Corps and Military Nursing Service).

Steps have been taken on a continuous and an ongoing basis to address the issue of shortage of officers in the Army. All officers including those in Short Service Commission (SSC) are now eligible to hold substantive rank of Captain, Major and Lieutenant Colonel after 2, 6 and 13 years of reckonable service respectively. The tenure of SSC officers has been increased from 10 years to 14 years. A total number of 750 posts of Lt. Colonel have been upgraded to Colonel towards implementation of AV Singh Committee Report (Phase-I). Further, 1896 additional posts in the ranks of Colonel, Brigadier, Major General and Lieutenant General and their equivalents in the other two Services have been upgraded towards implementation of AV Singh Committee Report (Phase-II).

The implementation of recommendations of the VI Central Pay Commission with substantial improvement in the pay structure of officers of Armed Forces has made the Services more attractive.

The Armed Forces have undertaken sustained image projection and publicity campaign to create awareness among the youth on the advantages of taking up a challenging and satisfying career. Awareness campaigns, participation in career fairs and exhibitions, advertisements in print and electronic media, motivational lectures in schools, colleges are some of the other measures in this direction.