

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:156
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2013
MENTAL HEALTH OF DEFENCE PERSONNEL
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun;Ray Shri Saugata

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether incidents of fratricide have increased in the armed forces;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor during each of the last three years and the current year, Service-wise;
- (c) whether the Government is taking steps to spread awareness among defence personnel and their families about various psycho-social issues that affect their mental health resulting in their violent behaviour;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the funds allocated and released for the purpose during the said period; and
- (e) the effective measures taken / being taken by the Government to address the issue?

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. 156 FOR ANSWER ON 16.12.2013

(a) & (b): Details of number of incidents of fratricide in the Armed Forces are as under:

Year Army Navy Air Force

2010 5 Nil Nil

2011 4 Nil Nil

2012 1 Nil Nil

2013 3 Nil Nil

(as on

10.12.2013)

The possible causative factors for committing fratricide are as under:

(i) Stress (ii) Personal problems (iii) Financial problems.

(c) to (e): The Government has taken several steps to spread awareness about psycho-social issues and to prevent incidents of fratricide which include Psychological counselling by psychological counsellors, conduct of workshops on mental health, conduct of Yoga and meditation as part of unit routine, establishing a grievance redressal mechanism, improvement in living and working conditions through provision of better infrastructure and facilities, additional family accommodation, facilities for movement of troops from border areas and liberalized leave policy. These measures are taken within the existing resources and manpower of the armed forces.