

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2946

ANSWERED ON:13.03.2015

WOMEN PERSONNEL IN DEFENCE SERVICES

Girri Shri Maheish;Gupta Shri Sudheer;Kirtikar Shri Gajanan Chandrakant;Kumar Shri Ashwini;Meinya Dr. Thokchom;Paswan Shri Chirag;Singh Shri Bhola;Singh Shri Kunwar Haribansh

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether women personnel in the Defence Services are being deployed for combat operations and on naval warships;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the total number of women personnel deployed in such operations so far and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether women personnel enjoy equal status in terms of service conditions and opportunities as their male counterparts;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the corrective steps being taken by the Government for providing equal status and opportunities to women personnel in the Defence Services?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR)

(a) & (b): Women personnel in the Armed Forces are not being deployed for combat operations and on naval warships. Induction of women in combat duties has not been recommended by the studies carried out by the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQIDS) in 2006 and High Level Tri-Services Committee in 2011.

(c) to (e): In the Armed Forces, Women are inducted as Short Service Commissioned Officers (SSCOs) alongwith men SSCO's with a tenure of upto 14 years. All officers including SSCO's, irrespective of gender, are eligible to hold substantive rank of Lieutenant Colonel after completion of 13 years of reckonable commissioned service. Further, Women SSCO's are eligible for grant of Permanent Commission in specific branches in the three Services viz. Judge Advocate General (JAG) and Army Education Corps of Army and their corresponding branches in Navy and Air Force; Naval constructor in Navy and Accounts, Technical, Administration, Logistic and Meteorology branches in Air Force in terms of extant Government Policy.