

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:343

ANSWERED ON:20.03.2015

SHORTAGES IN DEFENCE SERVICES

Choudhary Shri Ram Tahal;Jadhav Shri Prataprao Ganpatrao

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate measures have been taken by the Government to attract best talent and youth to join Defence Services and if so, the details thereof along with the extent to which these have yielded desired results;

(b) whether the Government has taken note of shortage of officers / Personnel Below Officer Rank (PBOR) in Defence Services, if so, the details thereof, service and gender-wise and the corrective measures being taken in this regard;

(c) whether a number of officers / PBOR especially women have left the Defence Services during the last three years and if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;

(d) whether women joining the Defence Services are yet to be assigned combat roles/duties, if so, the justification thereof and the corrective measures being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to reduce retraction rate, incentivise their work and improve the service conditions and facilities for those serving in the Defence Services?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR)

(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. 343 FOR ANSWER ON 20.3.2015

(a) & (b): Details of the shortage of personnel in the Armed Forces service-wise are as under:

Army	Navy	Air Force
(As on 1.1.2015)	(As on 31.1.2015)	
Officers#	Other Ranks\$	Officers# Sailors Officers# Airmen

9642	24356	1322	11257	152	5540
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(As on 1.2.2015) (As on 1.3.2015) #excluding medical and dental branch.

\$against this shortage, 66502 are already under training. presently 6159 recruits are already under training.

Women officers are part of the Officers cadre and no separate cadre exists for them.

Government has taken a number of measures to encourage the youth to join the Armed Forces, including sustained image projection, participation in career fairs and exhibitions and publicity campaign to create awareness among the youth on the advantages of taking up a challenging and satisfying career. Further, Government has taken various steps to make armed forces jobs attractive. These include implementation of recommendations of the VI Central Pay Commission with improved pay structure, additional family accommodation through Married Accommodation Project (MAP) and improvement in promotion prospects in the Armed Forces.

(c) Details of officers / PBORs who have exited / released from the Defence Services during the last three years are as under:

Year	Army	Navy	Air Force
(As on 1.1.2015)	(As on 31.1.2015)		
Officers#	Other Ranks\$	Officers	Sailors Officers Airmen

2012	285 (Women-3)	12928	265 (Women-14)	3186	286 (Women-18)	4513
2013	228 (Women-2)	14252	237 (Women-17)	2299	228 (Women-20)	5576
2014	125 (Women-1)	12703	216 (Women-9)	3154	201 (Women-21)	3811

#data is of Pre-mature Retirement / Resignation.

\$pre-mature retirement. only one batch of sailors was inducted in the year 1998 against the standard norm of two batches, thereby resulting in lesser exits 15 year down the line in 2013.

The major reasons for seeking premature retirement include compassionate grounds; medical grounds; domestic reasons; other Government Civil / Armed Forces Employment; education grounds and supersession.

(d) Women personnel in the Armed Forces are not being deployed for combat operations, fighter stream of Air Force 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.

(e) Government has taken various steps to check attrition rate which include implementation of recommendation of the VI Central Pay Commission with improved pay structure, additional family accommodation through Married Accommodation Project (MAP) and improvement in promotion prospects in Armed Forces.

Further, Government has taken various measures to create appropriate environment for defence personnel, so that they can perform their duty without any mental stress. Some of these include improvement in living and working conditions through provision of better infrastructure and facilities, liberalized leave policy, establishing a grievance redressal mechanism, provision of psychological counselling by qualified counsellors and conduct of yoga and meditation as part of unit routine.