

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2184

ANSWERED ON:11.12.2015

Clothing for High Altitude Areas

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**Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has taken steps for meeting the requirement of uniform / clothes of defence personnel employed in super high altitude areas like Siachen, Drass, Kargil and North-Eastern States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the total number of defence personnel lost their lives in Siachen Glacier due to cold weather and other accidents;
- (c) whether uniform / clothes of soldiers deployed in such areas are being imported at present;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the expenditure incurred thereon during the last three years and the current year; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government for upgradation, indigenization of uniform / clothes and replacement of imported clothes for defence personnel deployed in such areas?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH)  
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(a) In order to fast track procurement of Clothing and Equipments for defence personnel deployed in very high altitude areas like Siachen, an Empowered Committee under the chairmanship of Master General of Ordnance (MGO) has been set up with full powers of Competent Financial Authority. Special dispensation for placing 100% repeat order has also been given to the Empowered Committee. Moreover, sufficient quantities of these items are kept in reserve in Army Headquarters to avoid any shortage.

(b) The total number of soldiers who have died in Siachen Glacier on OP MEGHDOOT since 1984 till date due to climatic conditions, environmental and other factors are as under:-

- (a) Officers - 33  
(b) JCOs - 54  
(c) OR - 782

Total: - 869

(c) Operational deployment along the borders is a dynamic process based on assessment of threat to the National Security.

(d) & (e): Out of 55 items of clothing and mountaineering equipments, only 20 items are imported.

Details of Expenditure incurred for the last three years including current year are as under:-

Financial Year Budget Estimates Expenditure  
(Rs. in Crore)

2012-13	2300.0000	2280.5430
2013-14	2023.3449	1919.3100
2014-15	2574.3100	2366.5943
2015-16	3332.0000	938.5400*

\*Expenditure upto 30th November 2015.

(f) Steps taken for upgradation include constant search for newer items which will save lives and increase the combat efficiency of our troops deployed in very high altitude areas like Siachen. A Seminar with Indian Technical Textile Association was held in February 2015 followed up by trial of items in Siachen Glacier and sharing of trial reports with Indian Industry for further improvement to meet the stringent requirements of such areas.

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