

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE  
**LOK SABHA**

**STARRED QUESTION NO.231**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY, 2018

**DEATHS OF SOLDIERS**

\*231. DR. C. GOPALAKRISHNAN:  
DR. BHARATIBEN D. SHYAL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE j{k k ea=h  
be pleased to state:

- (a) whether around 1600 soldiers from Indian Army die without going to war every year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether all such deaths were investigated properly, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the preventive steps taken / being taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) the number of persons from Armed Forces permitted premature retirement during the last three years and the current year?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF DEFENCE

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(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

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**(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.**

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 231 FOR ANSWER ON 3.1.2018**

**(a) & (d):** In the current year 84 army personnel have suffered fatal Battle Casualties and 1131 army personnel have suffered fatal Physical Casualties (Road accidents, Train accidents and other reasons).

All operational casualties are analysed by initiation of detailed situation reports and after action reports. These reports are examined in detail and lessons learnt from previous operations are promulgated to all formations, units and sub-units. The shortcomings of operations conducted are meticulously deliberated to refine the battle drills. These drills are thereafter imbibed by new units during Pre Induction Training and also to the units deployed in operational area.

Realistic training on conduct of Counter Insurgency / Counter Terrorism (CI / CT) operations is being imparted to all personnel prior to their deployment in CI / CT environment. In addition, routine training is being conducted at unit / sub-unit level on nuances of conduct of successful CI / CT operations. Furthermore, After Action Reviews are being conducted after all operations / terrorist initiated incidents. Lessons drawn from such reviews have been incorporated to enable effective conduct of operations and to avert unwarranted casualties.

The steps taken by the Indian Army are as follows:

- (I) The Army has adopted a robust counter infiltration strategy which has an appropriate mix of technology and human resource put together to check infiltration effectively. Innovative troop deployment, proactive use of surveillance and monitoring devices and the Anti Infiltration Obstacle System have enhanced the ability to detect and intercept terrorists attempting to infiltrate / exfiltrate. The trends of infiltration are being constantly monitored at various levels and requisite actions are initiated to minimise infiltration.
- (II) On occurrence of any Terrorist Initiated Incident or otherwise, the Army carries out review of the security arrangements of all its camps, garrisons and installations. Based on these reviews, suitable drills and procedures are adopted to counter such threats. Some of the measures employed are as follows:
  - (a) Appraisal and upgradation of intelligence gathering capabilities.
  - (b) Upgradation of perimeter defence and surveillance capability.

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- (c) Provision of suitable weapons and equipment to soldiers.
- (d) Rehearsals of drills to counter terrorist action.
- (e) Timely casualty evacuation and adequacy of medical facilities.

(III) Issues of infiltration / suspicious activity close to LC are taken up regularly with Pakistan through military channels via established mechanism of Hot Line Messages and scheduled DDG / DMO talks.

(e) The number of persons from Armed Forces permitted premature retirement during the last three years and the current year is as follows:

Year	Army		Navy		Air Force#
	Officers	JCOs/ORs	Officers	Sailors	Officers
2014	126	12703	74	32	108
2015	62	9296	130	16	59
2016	201	12307	142	26	186
2017	204*	12600*	30	15	200

\* till date

# Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS)/Premature Retirement from Service is not applicable in Airmen cadre.

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