

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.684
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16th SEPTEMBER, 2020

CASUALTIES OF SOLDIERS

684. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there have been some casualties of soldiers serving at high altitudes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government to prevent such casualties and provide congenial atmosphere to the soldiers working at high altitudes like Siachen?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(SHRI SHRIPAD NAIK)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The details for the last three years are as under:

Year	Fatal casualties
2017	06
2018	08
2019	08

Causes of death in Siachen Glacier and other Super High Altitude Areas range from those directly related to High Altitude like High Altitude Pulmonary Oedema (HAPO) and Pulmonary Thrombo Embolism (PTE) to other general causes.

(c) Indian Army is deployed in highly treacherous terrain along the borders in J&K, where there is constant threat of crevasses, avalanches and other weather related calamities to the troops. Govt undertakes several steps to prevent casualties like pre-induction medical examination, requisite medical cover at all medical echelons which are well equipped to deal with any high altitude illness, stringent acclimatization schedule, provision of specialized training, special living shelters including provision of kerosene oil, provision of specialized clothing and high quality rations. Steps are also undertaken to utilize modern technological equipments for rescue missions, prevention of accidents and ensuring rapid and timely evacuation of casualty, apart from issuing of regular advisories.
