

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2443**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08<sup>th</sup> August, 2022

**SHORTAGE OF MANPOWER IN THE ARMED FORCES**

2443 DR. FAUZIA KHAN:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is shortage of manpower in the armed forces at present;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, service-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken to fill up the vacancies and maintain combat force strength of the three services at the authorized level, to motivate the service personnel to continue in service and to encourage youngsters to join the armed forces?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE  
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(SHRI AJAY BHATT)

(a) & (b): On an average, 60,000 vacancies arise in the three Armed Forces every year due to superannuation, pre-mature retirement, medical reasons, casualties etc. Currently, there is a shortfall of 7799 Officers and 108685 Soldiers in the Indian Army; 1446 Officers and 12151 Sailors in the Indian Navy; and 572 Officers and 5217 Airmen in the Indian Air Force. During the years 2020 & 2021, the recruitment process was severely affected due to COVID-19. However, with the improvement in the COVID-19 situation, the recruitment process for the year 2022 has commenced.

(c): Shortage of Armed Forces personnel and mitigating measures are reviewed regularly by the Armed Forces and based on detailed analysis, numerous measures have been initiated to fill the vacancies and encourage youth to join the Services. These, inter-alia, include enhanced emphasis on improved Image Projection/ Publicity in audio, visual, print, internet, social media, holding of career fairs, exhibitions, motivational lectures in schools and colleges, computer-based online application filling examination, revamping of websites of Services to facilitate implementation of a robust recruitment management system and Candidate Friendly Recruitment Process, grant of Permanent Commission to the Short Service Commission officers, for both men and women, entry of women through NDA, besides creating requisite infrastructure.

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