

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

**STARRED QUESTION NO.24**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY, 2017

**SUPPLY OF SUB-STANDARD FOOD TO SOLDIERS**

\*24. SHRI D.K. SURESH:  
SHRI HARIOM SINGH RATHORE:

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

- (a) whether cases of serving sub-standard food to soldiers and their ill treatment exploitation by senior officers in Armed Forces have come to the notice of the Government through social media in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry in this regard and if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (d) the number of complaints received for serving sub-standard food and ill treatment exploitation of soldiers in Armed Forces during each of the last three years and the current year, Force-wise along with the action taken / being taken by the Government on such complaints during the said period; and
- (e) the details of the mechanism in place to monitor the quality of food and other provisions being served to soldiers and to address their grievances?

**A N S W E R**

MINISTER OF STATE  
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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(DR. SUBHASH BHAMRE)

(डा. सुभाष भामरे)

**(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. 24 FOR ANSWER ON 3.2.2017**

**(a) to (d):** No major case of serving substandard ration and ill treatment by senior officers in Armed Forces have come to notice through social media in last three years. However, videos of two Army soldiers with reference to their grievances were circulated in social media. These appear to be individual view of the concerned soldiers and does not reflect the collective feedback which is received through multiple channels

**(e)** The soldiers of Armed Forces are provided rations as per entitlement. The quality of food served to soldiers is checked as per Defence Food Specification at following levels:-

- (i)** Dry rations are checked at Central Food Laboratories by scientific staff and approved by Defence Food Analysts.
- (ii)** Fresh rations are checked by Officer Commanding (OC) of units issuing the entitled ration. In addition, the Commanding Officer (CO) / OC of consumer units is also entitled to check rations and be assured of the quality before receipt.
- (iii)** A system exists in each unit where cooked food is checked by Duty Officer before issue to troops. Commanding Officer of each unit also randomly checks the cooked food.
- (iv)** Station Commander of each military station / garrison is overall in-charge of quality of ration issued to troops. There are adequate checks carried out by Station Commander from time to time including surprise checks on quality of rations.
- (v)** A monthly mess meeting is held at each military station where issues regarding quality of food can be raised and resolved. The Commanding Officer, Quartermaster and other ranks of the each unit attend such meetings chaired by the Station Commander.

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There is a well laid down mechanism for feedback / redressal of grievances in Armed Forces starting from daily roll calls where the grievances can be addressed to Company Commanders. The Commanding Officer (CO) of unit collectively addresses through a Sainik Sammelan at least once a month and resolves the problems faced by Jawans. Also, each soldier is personally interviewed by the CO every time individual proceeds on leave, temporary duty and return backs to the unit. Soldiers can at their will seek audience of the Commanding Officer / Commanders in chain for redressal of their grievances.

A direct feedback on quality of rations from troops is also compiled on quarterly basis by Formation Headquarters and the same is perused at the highest level.

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