GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1807

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 10TH MARCH, 2017

AVALANCHES IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR

1807. SHRI S.R. VIJAYAKUMAR:
ADV. CHINTAMAN NAVASHA WANAGA:
SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:
SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:
DR. C. GOPALAKRISHNAN:
SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:

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

(a) the total number of soldiers lost their lives due to snowfall and avalanches in Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the number of soldiers who have been trapped under snowfall / avalanche and could not be traced till date along with the financial assistance given to family of deceased soldiers;

(c) whether the DRDO is working on Wearable Physiological Monitoring System (WPMS) since 2004 to protect the soldiers from avalanche but still undergoing field tests despite over a decade of development and trials at various stages;

(d) the details thereof and the results of the field test along with the reasons for the delay; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be used for soldiers of the country?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE (DR. SUBHASH BHAMRE)
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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(a) & (b): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

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(c) to (e): DRDO–developed 'Wearable Physiological Monitoring System (WPMS)' is capable of wireless transmission of vital physiological parameters of soldiers for triaging applications in field operations where clear line of sight is possible. This system was developed as a technology demonstration that can work with range of 60m clear line of sight that is commonalty employed in open areas and usual combat scenarios. This system will be inducted after field trials with the Indian Army.

One new customized system for avalanche-specific use is in the development stage which can detect the location of soldiers trapped by avalanche snow and also health status of soldier to prioritize the search operations effectively.

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