

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5527**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 7<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2017  
**SUICIDE BY DEFENCE PERSONNEL**

5527. SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY:  
SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA:  
SHRI SHIVKUMAR UDASI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has studied and reviewed the conditions under which the personnel are compelled to serve in the border areas and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the reason behind the spate of several jawans and even officers committing suicide;
- (c) whether the Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences (DIPAS) has conducted any in-depth research on these aspects and suggested remedial measures and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has implemented these, particularly in the forward areas and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government has compensated the family of soldiers who have committed suicide and if so, the details thereof?

**A N S W E R**

MINISTER OF STATE  
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

रक्षा राज्य मंत्री

(DR. SUBHASH BHAMRE)

(डा. सुभाष भामरे)

**(a) to (e): A statement is attached.**

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5527 FOR ANSWER ON 7.4.2017**

**(a) to (e):** No such study has been conducted by Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences. However, Defence Institute of Psychological Research (DIPR) under DRDO has carried out a number of studies on related subjects, details of which are as under:-

- (i) Suicide and Fratricide in Counter Insurgency areas (December 2006);**
- (ii) Impact analysis of the study in counter insurgency areas (March 2008);**
- (iii) Suicide and fratricide in peace areas (December 2009);**
- (iv) Impact analysis in counter insurgency and peace areas (October 2010);**
- (v) Psychological autopsy of suicide cases (January 2011);**
- (vi) Suicide Risk Assessment Inventory (September 2012); and**
- (vii) Study of factors causing distress among young officers (2015).**

Besides, Armed Forces Medical Research Committee has also conducted various studies regarding stress among Armed Forces Personnel, which are given below:-

- (i) Presumptive Life Stress in Soldiers: A study to scale the life events.**
- (ii) Ecology of stress among serving soldiers.**
- (iii) Assessment of level of stress and to work out preventive measures against stress among troops in operations scenario.**
- (iv) Changes in stress markers and immune markers and their correlation amongst troops in counter insurgency operations scenario.**

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The above studies have indicated that occupational factors like increased workload, non-grant of timely leave, lack of adequate sleep and rest, staying away from home and not being able to attend to various pressing family issues are some of the factors causing stress which may also lead to cases of suicide or fratricide.

The Government has taken a number of steps to reduce stress amongst defence personnel, which includes conduct of Yoga and meditation as part of unit routine, Psychological counselling by psychological counsellors, liberalized leave policy, improvement in living and working conditions through provision of better infrastructure facilities, improved accessibility of leaders and frequent interaction among leaders and the led, provisions for sports and recreational facilities, various training on stress management, provision of married accommodation etc. Further, a High Powered Committee viz. Psychological Evaluation and Remedial Action Committee (PERAC) is also regularly monitoring various actions in the field of stress management and suicide prevention. The steps taken to reduce stress level amongst troops have had positive impact.

As a part of the effort to install security based infrastructure to secure borders, Indian Army has constructed an Anti Infiltration Obstacle System (AIOS) along the Line of Control (LC) and International Border (IB) in Jammu & Kashmir, North of Chenab, under its operational control. Battle Field Surveillances Radars (BFSRs), Long Range Reconnaissance and Observation Systems (LORROS), Infra Red (IR) Sensors and Hand Held Thermal Imagers (HHTI) along with human intelligence and surveillance have been incorporated on this fence to detect and intercept infiltration by terrorists. AIOS is further strengthened by deployment of troops and construction of defence works based on threat perception for an effective multi-tiered counter infiltration grid. Review of the requirement of additional infrastructure incorporating a mix of technology and manpower resources has been carried out.

The families / next of kins of the deceased soldiers get financial assistance by way of Family Pension, Death-cum-Retirement Gratuity etc as per extant rules. They may also avail the benefits of the various Welfare schemes provided through the Directorate General Resettlement / Kendriya Sainik Board.

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