

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5619
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 7TH APRIL, 2017

MISSING SOLDIERS

5619. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:
SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV:

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

- (a) whether the Government has not been able to find soldiers who went missing in action in 1972 war and whose bodies also were not found;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said soldiers have not been honoured as martyrs although they disappeared while in the arena of war; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

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 (d): A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5619 FOR ANSWER ON 7.4.2017

(a) & (b): No war took place in the year 1972. However, Fifty Four (54) missing defence personnel (including one from Border Security Force) of 1965 and 1971 wars are believed to be in custody in Pakistan. Government has repeatedly been taking up the matter with Government of Pakistan. However, Pakistan does not acknowledge the presence of any such personnel in its custody. A delegation of 14 relatives of missing defence personnel also visited 10 jails in Pakistan from 1-14 June, 2007. The delegation, however, could not conclusively confirm the physical presence of any missing defence personnel.

(c) & (d): Hon'ble High Court of Gujarat vide their judgement dated 23.12.2011 passed an order, interalia, regarding payment of service and retirement benefits to the next of kin of the missing defence personnel believed to be in the custody in Pakistan, as if they retired on superannuation. The order of the Hon'ble Court has been accepted by the Government and necessary action has been taken towards compliance of the aforesaid judgement. As such, question of declaring these soldiers as martyrs may not arise.
