

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.321
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 12TH DECEMBER, 2018

SHORTAGE OF OFFICERS IN DEFENCE

321. DR. A. SAMPATH:

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

- (a) whether it is true that there is acute shortage of officers in Army, Navy, Air Force and para-military forces;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total sanctioned strength as well as shortage of officers in Army, Navy and Air Force as on date; and
- (d) the number of soldiers who took the extreme step of taking their own life in the last four years and the steps taken by Government to improve the morale of soldiers?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(DR. SUBHASH BHAMRE)

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(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. 321 FOR ANSWER ON 12.12.2018

(a) to (c): The details of strength of Officers in the three Armed Forces and para-military forces are as under:-

Service	Authorised Strength	Held Strength	Shortage
Army*	50028 (as on 31.3.2018)	42734 (as on 1.7.2018)	7294
Navy# (As on 31.10.2018)	11415	9925	1457
Air Force# (As on 1.7.2018)	12584	12392	192
Para-Military Forces (As on 30.11.2018)	18416	15449	2969

* excluding AMC, ADC & MNS

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(d) The details of number of incidents of suicide in the defence forces during last four years, force-wise & year-wise is as under:

Year	Army	Navy	Air Force
2014	84	4	24
2015	78	3	15
2016	104	6	19
2017	74	5	21

Various steps have been taken by the Armed Forces to create healthy/appropriate environment for their Officers and Other Ranks. Some of these steps are as under:-

- Provision of better quality of facilities such as clothing, food, married accommodation, travel facilities, schooling, recreation etc. and periodic welfare meeting.
- Conduct of yoga and meditation as a tool for stress management.
- Training and deployment of psychological counsellors.
- Institutionalization of projects 'MILAP' and 'SAHYOG' by Army in Northern & Eastern Command to reduce stress among troops.
- A 'Mansik Sahayata Helpline' has been established by Army & Air Force to take professional counselling.
- Mental Health Awareness is provided during pre-induction training.
- Formation of Military Psychiatry Treatment Centre at INHS Asvini and establishment of Mental Health Centres in Mumbai, Visakhapatnam, Kochi, Port Blair, Goa and Karwar.
