

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2852
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17th March, 2023

TACTICAL HELMETS FOR SIKH SOLDIERS

2852. SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to make wearing of tactical helmets by Sikh soldiers compulsory;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken into account Sikh sentiments and consulted any experts before mandating such a move keeping in view the very principles of Sikhism; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(SHRI AJAY BHATT)

(a) to (d): Indian soldiers are provided the requisite protection to include Bullet Proof Jackets and Bullet Proof Helmets to operate in challenging environment. Safety of soldiers who are deployed on security duties is considered paramount. A modern day soldier needs to have all round protection from the newer and emerging threat of warfare. Sikh troops battling terrorism have been wearing Bullet Proof Patka over cloth patka while maintaining their religious identity. Tank Crew of Armoured Regiments also wear padded communication head gear.

Tactical helmets are an integral part of flying gear for combat aircraft operations and protective gear of soldiers against enemy gunfire. All pilots of fighter aircraft/combat helicopters and soldiers deployed in the areas where enemy attacks are anticipated or defending important installations are to wear the full protective gear for personal safety. Fighter Pilots and Helicopter Pilots of the Indian Defence Forces have always been wearing helmets over their religious head gear for heads up display and communication.
