

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2748
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04th August, 2023

ARMY DENTAL CORPS

2748. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI KARUNANIDHI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that almost 90% of the vacancies were allotted to males in the recently conducted Army Dental Corps (ADC) recruitment process;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for leaving only 10 per cent of the vacancies for women;
- (d) the present strength of women in Army Dental Corps; and
- (e) the measures taken by the Government to promote the involvement of women in the defence services?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(SHRI AJAY BHATT)

- (a): Yes, Sir.
- (b): During the recently conducted recruitment process of Army Dental Corps for Short Service Commission - 2022, a total of 30 vacancies (27 for Gentlemen Dental Officers and 03 for Lady Dental Officers) were advertised.
- (c): The engagement of Lady Dental Officers in the Army Dental Corps is restricted based on service constraints and employment considerations. At the time of assessment of vacancies for Short Service Commission - 2022, there were 187 Lady Dental Officers in the Army Dental Corps out of a total strength of 743 officers (25.2%). Therefore, it was decided during the Medical Service Advisory Committee (MSAC) meeting held on 23rd November, 2021 to limit the intake of Lady Dental Officers to the extent brought out at Part (b) above.
- (d): Presently, there are 183 Lady Dental Officers out of total held strength of 716 (25.6%).
- (e): Army:
Combat employment philosophy of women in the Armed Forces is a continuously evolving process. At present, women are being commissioned in the Indian Army in following Streams:
- (i) Corps of Engineers; (ii) Corps of Signals; (iii) Army Air Defence; (iv) Army Service Corps; (v) Army Ordnance Corps; (vi) Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers; (vii) Army Aviation Corps; (viii) Intelligence Corps; (ix) Judge Advocate General Branch and (x) Army Education Corps.

Some major initiatives to promote the involvement of women in the defence services are as under: -

- (i) 20 vacancies for Women Army cadets per year have been allotted in National Defence Academy (NDA), Pune with effect from July, 2022.
- (ii) Short Service Commission (SSC) has 90 vacancies for women including 10 additional vacancies increased with effect from June, 2023.
- (iii) Approval has been given, since March, 2023 for induction of women officers into following branches: -
 - (aa) Artillery units.
 - (ab) Remount and Veterinary Corps.
- (iv) Entry of women officers as pilots in Army Aviation has commenced with effect from June, 2021.
- (v) Enrolment of women as Other Ranks in Corps of Military Police in the Indian Army has commenced since 2019.

Navy:

The induction of women as officers in the Indian Navy commenced in the year 1991. Since then the Indian Navy has gradually opened all branches to women officers including induction through NDA. Further, for the first time women are also being recruited for sailors entries under the Agnipath Scheme with effect from 2022 and 20% vacancies are reserved for women.

Air Force:

Officers recruitment in the Indian Air Force (IAF) is gender neutral. Women officers are inducted in all the branches and streams of IAF. Opportunities for a career in IAF service are widely publicized through print/electronic media and special publicity drives. The experimental scheme to induct women officers in all combat roles, initiated by the IAF in 2015 has now been regularized into a permanent scheme.

Armed Forces Medical Services:

The representation of women in the Armed Forces Medical Services includes: –

- (i) 1637 Lady Doctor Officers out of a held strength of 7350 (22.3%).
- (ii) 183 Lady Dental Officers out of a held strength of 716 (25.6%).
- (iii) 4646 Lady Nursing Officers in an all-women cadre (100%).
