

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.609
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16th SEPTEMBER, 2020

SUICIDE BY DEFENCE PERSONNEL

609. SHRI DIBYENDU ADHIKARI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether more than 110 Defence personnel died by suicide in the country during the last decade;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government has made any study with Defence Institute of Psychological Research (DIPR) on the issue;
- (c) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (d) whether it is also a fact that mental stress among the Defence personnel is the only cause of suicide; and
- (e) if so, the year-wise details of suicides by Defence personnel and the steps taken to prevent such unnatural deaths?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(SHRI SHRIPAD NAIK)

(a) to (e): The details of suicide cases in the armed forces from 2010 to 2019 are as under:

Year	No. of suicides		
	Indian Air Forces	Indian Navy	Indian Army
2010	14	01	116
2011	23	04	105
2012	15	01	95
2013	15	06	86
2014	24	04	84
2015	15	03	78
2016	19	06	104
2017	21	05	77
2018	16	08	83
2019	20	02	73
Total	182	40	901

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The DIPR after conducting a number of studies since 2006, has, inter-alia, listed Domestic and Personal problems, Marital Discord, Stress and Financial problems as the major causes of suicides by armed forces personnel.

The Government has taken several steps towards stress amelioration amongst troops, which include, deployment of trained psychological counsellors, improvement in the quality of food and clothing, training in stress management, provision of recreational facilities, buddy system, leave concessions, approachability of seniors, facilities for movement of troops from border areas and establishing a grievance redressal mechanism at various levels, etc.
