

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.458
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3rd February, 2021

COVID-19 POSITIVE DEFENCE PERSONNEL

458. SHRI V.K.SREEKANDAN:

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

- (a) whether many soldiers who travelled to Delhi to take part in the Republic Day and Army Day parades have tested positive for COVID-19;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether protocols have been put in place for ensuring safety of the soldiers and conducting the parade safely; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(SHRI SHRIPAD NAIK)

(a) to (d): As part of the Covid-19 prevention protocol, prior Covid-19 testing was done for the soldiers participating in the Army Day Parade and Republic Day Parade, 2021 within 7-10 days of arrival. 287 out of 2518 Army soldiers tested positive for Covid-19, all asymptomatic. All those who tested positive were quarantined at predecided locations and repeat testing was done after 10 days as per protocol. These soldiers, who tested negative were allowed to return to the camp. Accommodation and dining area were reduced to half the capacity to ensure adequate spacing. All soldiers were provided with adequate face masks and hand sanitizers. The strength of marching contingent was also reduced to 96 from 144 personnel to ensure interpersonal distance.
