

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2143**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2022

**SAHAYAKS IN ARMY**

2143. SHRI A.K.P. CHINRAJ:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of Sahayaks or helpers serving in the Indian army;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to revamp the Sahayaks system; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the total amount spent on salaries and allowances for Sahayaks in the Army?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE  
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(SHRI AJAY BHATT)

(a): Regular soldiers, who while discharging his regular military duties, also support officers and JCOs in the Indian Army are termed Buddies (erstwhile Sahayaks). They are integrated in the authorized War Establishment scales for units and Headquarters. In the Indian Army, a buddy has clearly defined military duties and forms an integral part of the organization structure of a unit and has specific functions during war and peace. During operations in the field areas, he and the Officer / JCO act as buddies in arms. One covers the movement of the other buddy and protects him in operations where support has to be total, whether mental or physical or moral.

(b): No, Sir.

(c): As Buddies are combatant soldiers and form part of the Army and perform operational tasks as well. Thus, there is no additional cost to Government exchequer.

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