

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**  
**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 3481**

**ANSWERED ON- 21/03/2025**

**WOMEN PEACEKEEPERS AT UN MISSIONS**

**3481 SHRI SURESH KUMAR SHETKAR**

**SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH GANGWAR**

**SHRI VISHWESHWAR HEGDE KAGERI**

**SHRI BASAVARAJ BOMMAI**

**SHRI KOTA SRINIVASA POOJARY**

**SMT. SMITA UDAY WAGH**

**SHRI P C MOHAN: SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR**

**SHRI TRIVENDRA SINGH RAWAT: SHRI KHAGEN MURMU**

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:-**

- (a) whether a Conference on Women Peacekeepers from Global South was held in New Delhi recently;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the number of participating**

**countries and the number of women peacekeepers presently deployed in the UN missions;**

**(b) the details of specific initiatives being taken by the Government to train and deploy more women peacekeepers in the UN missions and the steps being taken to ensure the effective implementation of lessons and recommendations that emerged from the Conference;**

**(c) the roles likely to be played by the States including Maharashtra therein;**

**(d) whether the Government plans to enhance collaboration with other Global South nations in peacekeeping training and capacity-building programs and also to set up specialised training centres in collaboration with other nations to equip women peacekeepers with advance skills for modern peacekeeping challenges;**

**(e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Maharashtra; and**

**(f) the manner such conference is likely to be useful to our country?**

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**(SHRI KIRI VARDHAN SINGH)**

**(a to g) A conference on women in peacekeeping titled “Women in Peacekeeping: A Global South Perspective” was held from 24 – 25 February 2025 in New Delhi. It was organized by the Ministry of External**

**Affairs in collaboration with the Ministry of Defence and the Centre for UN Peacekeeping (CUNPK).**

**The conference brought together women peacekeepers from 35 Troop Contributing Countries (*including India*) from the Global South. External Affairs Minister delivered the Keynote Address virtually. The Valedictory Address was delivered by Sh. Sanjay Seth, Minister of State for Defence. The UN was represented by Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix, UN Under-Secretary-General, Department of Peace Operations, and Mr. Christian Saunders, UN Special Coordinator.**

**The aim of the conference was to strengthen the role of women in UN peacekeeping by fostering dialogue, sharing experiences and improving collaboration among the countries from the Global South. The conference discussed issues of contemporary relevance to peacekeeping and the various challenges being faced by peacekeeping missions.**

**India is the first country to deploy an all-women Formed Police Unit to a peacekeeping mission – United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) from 2007 to 2016. Since 2019, an all women Female Engagement Team (FET) comprising of twenty two women peacekeepers has been deployed in United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO). Since January 2023, an all women FET**

**comprising twenty seven women peace keepers has been deployed as part of the Indian contingent in UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), Sudan. In July 2024, a 3<sup>rd</sup> Indian all women FET comprising of eleven women peacekeepers was deployed as part of UNMISS, South Sudan. Currently, there are around 150 Indian women peacekeepers deployed in six ongoing UN Missions.**

**The Government of India has been conducting capacity building programmes for peacekeepers from the Global South at the CUNPK in New Delhi. These courses are open for both male and female peacekeepers. In 2023, the ASEAN Female Military Officers Course and the ASEAN Female Military Officers Table Top Exercise were two courses conducted by the CUNPK for international women peacekeepers. Training of women peacekeepers as well as enhancement of capacity building initiatives for women peacekeepers of the Global South will remain priorities.**

**The Conference reinforced India as a leading stakeholder in UN peacekeeping. It reaffirmed India's longstanding contribution in promoting inclusive and effective peacekeeping operations, towards gender equality and the vital role women play in global security and peace efforts. It further underscored India's commitment to work closely in UN peacekeeping with the Global South.**

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