

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT OF EX-SERVICEMEN WELFARE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 4632
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20TH MARCH, 2026

UNEMPLOYED EX-SERVICEMEN IN WEST BENGAL

4632. SHRI SAUMITRA KHAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of ex-servicemen residing in West Bengal along with the number of those who are currently unemployed/underemployed, district-wise;
- (b) whether any region-specific skilling or entrepreneurship support has been provided under the Directorate General Resettlement (DGR) and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has partnered with Defence Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) or private firms to offer remote work/contract opportunities for veterans in non-metro areas and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to formulate any roadmap to bridge the urban-rural disparity in post-retirement welfare schemes for soldiers; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(SHRI SANJAY SETH)

(a) and (b) District-wise details of the number of ex-servicemen residing in West Bengal is enclosed as **Annexure 'A'**. The Directorate General Resettlement (DGR) runs resettlement schemes and skill development training for ex-servicemen, disabled soldiers, widows and their dependents to provide job opportunities based on the region specific skilling/entrepreneurships facilities as well as the demand. Data on Ex-Servicemen currently unemployed or underemployed in the State of West Bengal is not maintained. DGR conducts skilling and entrepreneurship schemes pan India to cater for Ex-Servicemen (ESM) from all three services across all states. In West Bengal, a total number of 34 courses (Kolkata-27, Midnapore-7) have been conducted wherein 1,096 ESMs have been trained in the year 2025-26.

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(c) to (e) Department of Public Enterprises, Ministry of Finance has advised all Public Sector Undertakings to undertake provisioning of security services through the Directorate General Resettlement empanelled Security Agencies under the DGR Security Agencies Scheme. These security agencies also work in remote areas. Further, DGR's Tech Service Scheme also provides all PSUs, the private sector, Industry and Departments of Central and State Governments technical manpower through the State Ex-Servicemen Corporations. To provide post-retirement employment welfare to ex-servicemen, various schemes/ programmes run by the Government such as Coal Loading and Transportation Scheme, Coal Tipper Attachment Scheme, Security Agency Scheme, Common Service Centres (CSC) Scheme, Village Level Entrepreneurship training, Agriculture, Management of Company Owned Company Operated (COCO) Outlets, Mother Dairy Milk Booths, Safal Shop, Company Owned Retail Outlet Dealerships and reservation in Central Government Posts provide ex-servicemen an opportunity for post retirement employment pan-India including in rural areas.

**ANNEXURE-A REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) and (b) OF LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4632 TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.03.2026 REGARDING
UNEMPLOYED EX-SERVICEMEN IN WEST BENGAL**

Census Data of ESMs as on 30.06.2024 - West Bengal					
S. No.	Districts	Army	Navy	Air Force	Total
1	Kolkata	4,465	833	1,885	7,183
2	Howrah	1,448	294	588	2,330
3	Hooghly	2,878	461	1,002	4,341
4	24 Pgs (N)	11,896	1,817	4,946	18,659
5	24 Pgs (S)	3,429	546	1,548	5,523
6	Midnapur (E)	4,620	171	392	5,183
7	Midnapur (W)	3,473	147	458	4,078
8	Bankura	2,690	64	319	3,073
9	Purulia	745	34	174	953
10	Jhargram	37	0	5	42
11	Burdwan (E)	4,044	317	978	5,339
12	Burdwan (W)	1,423	143	477	2,043
13	Bribhum	2,262	57	236	2,555
14	Murshidabad	6,825	230	190	7,245
15	Malda	2,165	41	83	2,289
16	D/Dinajpur	1,117	40	63	1,220
17	U/Dinajpur	1,088	23	95	1,206
18	Jalpaiguri	2,525	66	60	2,651
19	Coochbehar	1,710	48	67	1,825
20	Alipur Duar	1,009	50	106	1,165
21	Darjeeling	15,984	206	285	16,475
22	Kalipong	1,766	13	6	1,785
23	Nadia	8,879	394	1,014	10,287
Total		86,478	5,995	14,977	1,07,450

Source: Rajya Sainik Board, West Bengal
