

Shortage of officers in the Armed Forces

†*168. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is shortage of officers at various ranks in the Armed Forces;

(b) if so, the detailed reasons therefor;

(c) whether ministry has ever tried to find out the reasons behind this, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether Government would consider to constitute a committee of higher officers of Armed Forces to study the reasons for this shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH) : (a) The details of shortage of officers (excluding medical and dental branches) in the Armed Forces are as under:

Army (As on 1.7.2015)	Navy (As on 31.10.2015)	Air Force (As on 1.11.2015)
9106	1435	NIL

(b) to (d) Some of the major reasons for shortage in Armed Forces, include increase in authorized strength due to new accretions in force level from time to time, availability of other attractive career avenues, stringent selection criteria coupled with perceived high degree of risk.

Response to Atal Pension Yojana

†*169. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that people have shown lack of interest in the Atal Pension scheme;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the number of people who joined the Atal Pension Scheme since its inception and the steps being taken by the Government to encourage people?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) The Atal Pension Yojana (APY) was launched in May, 2015 and the registration of subscribers under APY started from June 1, 2015. APY is a long-term savings product, with at least 20 years of financial commitment, where a subscriber has to analyse his

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.