

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.

capacity to contribute and match it with his own requirement of an adequate pension amount, depending on his age of entry into APY. Over 12.50 lakh subscribers have been enrolled under APY within about 6 months from its introduction, as compared with the 3.01 lakh subscribers enrolled during the first year of implementation of Swavalamban pension scheme.

Measures taken to encourage people to join APY include:

- Creation of awareness through media publicity campaigns and organising town-hall meetings with the participation of State Governments and State Level Bankers' Committees to aggregate the target occupational groups and other potential subscribers.
- Providing flexibility to subscribers to pay monthly, quarterly or half-yearly contributions under APY to facilitate participation by subscribers earning seasonal or irregular income, such as in agriculture and in informal sector.
- Permitting voluntary pre-mature exit before age 60 to subscribers under APY.
- Capacity building of enrolment agencies, like officials of banks, post offices and business correspondents.

Implementation of Jan Dhan Yojana

†*170. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Bank Accounts opened under Jan Dhan Yojana, announced by Prime Minister, so far, and the amount received by Government through these accounts;

(b) whether the purpose for announcing this scheme has been achieved;

(c) whether Government has made any changes keeping in view the problems coming in the way of implementation of this scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) was launched on 28.08.2014 with the aim of providing universal access to banking facilities with at least one basic banking account for every household. As on 02.12.2015, 19.41 crore accounts have been opened by Public Sector Banks (PSBs), Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and major private sector banks with aggregate deposit of ₹ 27283.06 crore. Accounts under the Yojana are still being opened by the banks.

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