

(b) whether it is also a fact that the changes are partly aimed at reducing fratricide and suicide within the forces, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) There is no proposal for psychological test for candidates during selection of non-officer positions.

(b) Does not arise.

Depletion of fleet strength of AAC

1799. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Army Aviation Corps (AAC) is plagued with 32 per cent deficiency in its authorised fleet strength, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the reasons for failure of Government to replace the 30 years old Chetak helicopter fleet;

(c) the number of military helicopters crashed during the last three years along with casualties; and

(d) the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) and (b) The present holding of helicopters in Army Aviation Corps (AAC) is 73 per cent of the authorized strength. An Inter Government Agreement has been signed in 2015 with Russian Government for procurement of 200 Kamov helicopters for replacing Chetak / Cheetah fleet.

(c) and (d) Details of Army helicopters crashed during last three years along with casualties are as under:-

Year	No. of Army Helicopter Crashed	Casualty
2013	01	—
2014	02	03
2015	03	02

All crashes are investigated by a Court of Inquiry to find out the cause of accidents and to recommend remedial measures to prevent accidents. Remedial measures suggested by the Court of Inquiry are implemented at various levels. Standard Operating Procedures are constantly reviewed and stringent training norms are followed to

minimized accidents. Detailed analysis of cause factors of the accidents in the form of 'Accident / Incident Compendium' are published regularly for spreading awareness. Regular interactions are also carried out with the Original Equipment Manufacturers to implement technical upgradations and modifications as recommended from time to time.

Treatment of retiring animals of the army

1800. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether dogs, horse and mules are put to sleep by the Army after their retirement;

(b) whether Government has informed the Judiciary that it would come out with a policy on the matter at the earliest; and

(c) if so, by when, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) to (c) The policy regarding rehabilitation of unfit Indian Army animals has been revised and necessary instructions have been issued to Army Headquarters regarding immediate cessation of further destruction of old and worn out animals, except for animals suffering from incurable diseases, injuries and terminal diseases. Even cases of animals suffering from incurable disease, injuries and terminal disease should be dealt with as per the provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

In WP (C) 6305/2015 & CM No.11479/2015 in the High Court of Delhi, it was informed that detailed proposal to do away with euthanasia of old and worn out army animals and their suitable rehabilitation till they eventually pass away is under active consideration of Ministry of Defence.

Ceasefire violation by Pakistan

1801. SHRI K. C. TYAGI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken by Government for violation of continuous ceasefire by Pakistani troops in Jammu and Kashmir areas and the details thereof;

(b) whether any message has been given by Government to Pakistani Government about consequence of these ceasefire violations; and

(c) whether any assurance has been given by Pakistani Government to stop such activities along Indian Borders, if so, details thereof?