

(b) the details of incursions by Chinese helicopters, aircrafts and soldiers in the different parts of the country in the last three years along with the objections raised by Government on such tendency and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) There is no commonly delineated Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the border areas between India and China. There are areas along the LAC including Uttarakhand where both sides have differing perception of LAC. Government regularly takes up any transgression/air space violation along the LAC with the Chinese side through established mechanisms such as border personnel meetings, flag meetings, meetings of Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs and diplomatic channels.

Upgrading defence capability of the nation

2440. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country has inadequate defence power in comparison to our neighbouring countries such as China, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the remedial measures Government has taken or proposes to take to increase the defence power of the nation keeping in view the present controversy with China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) Government is fully seized of the security needs of the country. Government regularly reviews the threat perception to secure our borders and protect national interest. Appropriate measures are taken from time to time to maintain/upgrade the country's defence preparedness along the borders to safeguard the sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of India. Military capacity enhancement and modernisation of armed forces including armament and ammunition is a dynamic and continuous process and is done in consonance with our threat perception.

Suicides and fratricides in the Army

2441. SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA:

DR. R. LAKSHMANAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of suicides and fratricides reported in the Indian Army during the last three years and the number of deaths of soldiers and officers in the Indian Army for the above reasons;

(b) the steps Government has initiated so far to stop such incidents which are giving a bad name to the Indian Army; and

(c) whether Government is considering to appoint a commission/committee consisting of retired Army officers, psychologists and social scientists to study the whole matter and find out the reasons and solutions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) The details of suicide and fratricide cases in respect of Army Personnel during the last three years and current year are as under:

Suicide:

Year	No. of Suicide Cases			Total
	Officers	JCOs	OR	
2014	02	07	75	84
2015	01	01	76	78
2016	04	08	92	104
2017	02	03	39	44

(till 31st July)

JCOs: Junior Commissioned Officers,
ORs: Other Ranks.

Fratricide:

Year	No. of Incidents	No. of Casualty			Total
		Officers	JCOs	ORs	
2014	03	-	01	06	07
2015	01	-	-	01	01
2016	02	-	-	02	02
2017	01	01	-	-	01

(till 31st July)

(b) and (c) On the directions of Government, Defence Institute of Psychological Research (DIPR) conducted various studies on suicides and fratricides and their findings highlighted the need for management of stress.

A number of steps have been instituted for management of stress among soldiers in a multi-pronged manner. These include:

- (i) Provision of superior quality of clothing, food, married accommodation, implementation of 'Sahayak' system, travel facilities, schooling, recreation, establishment of grievance redressal mechanism.

- (ii) Conduct of Yoga and Meditation as part of unit routine.
- (iii) Formulation and implementation of an elaborate Mental Health Programme.
- (iv) Stress management sessions at all major stations by Commanders and Psychiatrists at various levels including individual counselling.
- (v) Sensitization of Commanders on the subject and addressing grievances through interactions.
- (vi) Training of Counsellors and conduct of regular counselling exercises.
- (vii) Institutionalizing of MILAP and SAHYOG projects, Mansik Sahayata Helpline and dissemination of educational material including short films.

These steps, taken to reduce stress level amongst troops, have had a positive impact.

Expediting procurement of jets for IAF

2442. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would expedite procurement of fighter jets for Indian Air Force, to augment its force, in view of strategic reasons at present, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether tenders were issued placing order to purchase these jet aircrafts;

(c) the efforts being made to see that it is covered under the Make in India programme;

(d) the number of MiG-21 aircrafts which are to be retired in the next three years; and

(e) the steps taken to have full complement of 42 squadrons in IAF and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (e) The modernization of the IAF is an ongoing process and is executed in consonance with the roadmap laid down in the Long Term Integrated Perspective Plan (LTIPP) and considering the current capabilities of the IAF, the emerging threats in the region and the prevailing technological environment. The planned induction of Rafale, Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) and SU-30MKI fighters into the IAF in the coming years will partially offset the phasing out of in-Service fighter aircraft. The LCA is an indigenous fighter aircraft being manufactured by HAL.