

MR. CHAIRMAN: Otherwise, I can also ...(Interruptions)... No, no, please. ...(Interruptions)... This is not....(Interruptions)...

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: The CBI is being used ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: This can be ...(Interruptions)... This is not the way. ...(Interruptions)... This is not the way. ...(Interruptions)...

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Employment of women in defence forces

*1. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of women employed in the three wings of the defence forces, i.e. Army, Air Force and Navy;

(b) whether there has been an increase in the number of women joining the defence forces during the last three years and during the current year; and

(c) details of the schemes being introduced by Government to incentivise women and increase their participation in the defence forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN):

(a) The borne strength of women officers in the Defence Forces as on 1.1.2019 is tabulated as under:—

Army	6816
Air Force	2305
Navy	1030

(b) The women officers commissioned in the Defence Forces during the last three years is as under:—

Year	Army	Navy	Air Force	Army Medical Corps, Dental Corps and Military Nursing Service (Common for three forces)
2016	69	44	108	395
2017	66	42	59	884
2018	75	29	59	713

(c) Various measures have been taken by the Government to attract the women to join the armed forces. Women Short Service Commission Officers (SSCOs) have

been approved grant of permanent commission along with men SSCOs in specific branches in the three services viz. Judge Advocate General (JAG), and Army Education Corps (AEC) of the Army and their corresponding branches in Navy and Air Force, Naval Constructor in Navy and Accounts Branch in Air Force.

In March 2016, approval was accorded for induction of women Short Service Commission (SSC) officers as Pilots in Maritime Reconnaissance (MR) stream and in the Naval Armament Inspectorate (NAI) cadre.

In the Indian Air Force since 1993, women officers have been inducted in all branches and stream as Short Service Commissioned Officers except in the fighter stream. However, IAF has revised Short Service Commission scheme to induct women into the fighter stream on experimental basis for five years. The first batch of three women officers was commissioned in the fighter stream on June 18, 2016.

In addition, steps like increasing tenure of women officers and improving promotional prospects in Army have been taken to increase participation of women in the Army.

Synthetic Hockey Surface in Bijapur, Karnataka

*2. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which Ministry approved the laying of Synthetic Hockey Surface at Sainik School, Bijapur, Karnataka;

(b) the initial estimated cost of the project;

(c) the amount so far released and the status of work; and

(d) by when the surface would be completed and would become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) to (d) The project of laying of Synthetic Hockey Surface at Sainik School, Bijapur, Karnataka was approved and sanctioned *vide* letter dated 20.03.2017. Initial sanctioned cost of the project was ₹ 5.50 crore. First installment of ₹ 2.00 crore was released to Principal Sainik School Bijapur, Karnataka *vide* sanction order dated 20.03.2017.

It has been intimated by Sainik School Bijapur that 40% work has been completed and the likely date of completion of the project is 31.03.2019.