

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Indian Army conducts Recruitment Rallies across the country covering all districts at least once a year. Applications are invited online and candidates called in batches for selection with equal opportunity to all irrespective of region. Two Army Recruitment Offices are located in Gujarat at Ahmedabad and Jamnagar for the entire State.

Air Force Selection Board in Gandhinagar covers Gujarat conducts online examination twice a year for Officers and Airmen. The Indian Navy also conducts online recruitment examination twice a year at Rajkot, Ahmedabad and Surat and physical and medical tests at Jamnagar.

#### **Modernisation of border roads/helipads/air stations**

955. DR. ASHOK BAJPAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any fresh plan to modernise our border roads, helipads, air stations, keeping in view the recent attacks;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The Indian Army has planned a road development programme consisting of 272 roads during 2018-2023. Road development along borders is also done under the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. In addition, 212 roads are included as Priority-II and 352 roads are under maintenance.

Modernisation of helipads, air fields and Advanced Landing Grounds (ALGs) by the Army, Indian Air Force and Navy including security upgradation based on threat perception has also been undertaken where necessary.

#### **Indian soldiers martyred in terrorist attacks**

956. SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Indian soldiers martyred on the India-Pakistan border in frequent terrorist attacks during the last two years;

- (b) the action taken by Government in this regard; and
- (c) the time by which the terrorists would be flushed out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a)

Year	Fatal casualties suffered by Army personnel due to terrorist attacks (tactical actions)
2017	13
2018	12

(b) and (c) All the forward posts are adequately strengthened to withstand terrorist attacks. Continuous improvements, including the usage of modern technology, in the defences are made to make them more robust and resilient. The Army also carries out indepth analysis of the terrorist incidents and security breaches that are identified with various incidents.

#### **Status of INS Virat**

957. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Indian Navy is spending a huge amount of money on the upkeep of retired warship INS Virat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government proposes to hand over INS Virat to Maharashtra Government for converting it into a museum at Mumbai; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Indian Navy has been incurring expenditure on the upkeep of INS Virat on the provision of services like electricity and water and repairs till date.

(c) and (d) INS Virat has been decommissioned in 2017. INS Virat could not be handed over to any State Government because of non-receipt of a self-sustaining financially complete proposal. Thus, in view of considerations of safety, security etc., a decision to scrap INS Virat has been taken in due consultation with Indian Navy.