

Armed Forces Personnel (Excluding AMC, ADC and MNS)

Army		Navy		Air Force	
Officers	JCOs/ORs	Officers	Sailors	Officers	Airmen
6867	36517	1500	15590	425	10425

(c) The Government has taken a number of measures to reduce the shortages. These include sustained image projection, participation in career fairs and exhibitions and publicity campaign to create awareness among the youth on the advantages of taking up a challenging and satisfying career. Further, various steps have been taken to make career in the Armed Forces more attractive including improvement in promotion prospects, more attractive pay package, better compensation for risk & hardships, additional family accommodation through Married Accommodation Project (MAP) etc.

Bulletproof jackets for the soldiers

38. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many of the soldiers have not been issued bulletproof jackets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether many soldiers have died due to lack of bulletproof jackets, while on duty at the borders during the last three years;

(d) whether Government has planned to provide bulletproof jackets to all soldiers on the Line of Control (LoC);

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons for delay in acquisition of bulletproof jackets for soldiers, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (f) Bullet Proof Jackets (BPJs) are provided to soldiers, including those deployed on borders, as per laid down specifications and

authorisation. All troops deployed in operational areas are issued with BPJs. There are no reports of casualties attributable to lack of BPJs. The up-gradation and provisioning of improved version of BPJs is a continuous process for which necessary steps are taken regularly.

Status of Republic day tableaux of Maharashtra

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

(a) whether it is a fact that tableaux of Maharashtra for Republic day was recently rejected by Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the rejection of State's tableaux by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) There is a well established system for selection of tableaux for participation in the Republic Day Parade as per which Ministry of Defence invites proposals for tableaux from all States/UTs and Central Ministries/Departments. The tableaux proposals received from various States/UTs and Central Ministries/Departments are evaluated in a series of meetings of the Expert Committee comprising of eminent persons in the field of art, culture, painting, sculpture, music, architecture, choreography etc. The Expert Committee examines the proposals on the basis of theme, concept, design and its visual impact before making its recommendations. Due to time allotted for tableaux in the overall duration of the parade, shortlisting of tableaux is done by the Expert Committee.

High level of Particulate Matter in Air

40. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the level of Particulate Matter (PM) in air in different parts of the country at present along with the limit of Particulate Matter in air necessary for healthy environment;

(b) the details of cities which have high Particulate Matter level at present;

(c) whether Government has launched National Clean Air Programme for tackling air pollution;