

- (a) whether Republic Day tableaux of certain States were rejected for the Republic Day Parade, 2020;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details thereof;
- (c) the criteria for selecting the tableaux for the occasion; and
- (d) the details of State tableaux rejected, in the last five years?

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

Vacancies in the defence sector

37. SHRI MANAS RANJAN BHUNIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are a large number of vacancies in the Ministry including employment of the soldiers in the Artillery, Navy and Air Force in different streams;
- (b) if so, the numbers of vacancies in each stream; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to fulfil the vacancies to strengthen the defence forces?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Total number of vacant posts in the Ministry of Defence is as under:-

Civilian Personnel

Group-A	Group-B	Others
3782	34289	201669

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