

(c) the number of posts lying vacant at ordnance factories, action taken to fill up the vacancies so far; and

(d) whether the Ordnance Factory Recruitment Board (OFRB) have started its process for recruitment drive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir. Only 275 products manufactured by OFB are classified as non-core.

(b) In accordance with the recommendation of Expenditure Management Commission, an exercise was done in the Department to hive off the non-core activities. Accordingly, two Committees headed by Members/OFB and representatives from Master General of Ordnance (MGO) Branch, Directorate General of Ordnance Services (DGOS) and Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) were constituted and submitted their reports in 2016. Based on the deliberations and recommendations of the committees, 275 products have been classified as Non-core.

(c) As on date 29,476 vacancies are available in Ordnance Factories. Considering the work load of the factories, the requirement of manpower through direct recruitment has been reviewed and OFB has concluded the recruitment of 2,668 Industrial Employees, 188 Group 'B' officers and 121 Group 'A' officers in 2018.

(d) Yes, Sir. Ordnance Factory Recruitment Board (OFRB) already completed recruitment action for 2668 Industrial Employees for Ordnance Factory Organization in 2018.

Instances of fratricide in the army

817. DR. SANTANU SEN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that instances of fratricide in the armed forces are on the rise, if so, the details of all incidents in the last five years; and

(b) the steps which have been taken to ensure mental health of armed forces personnel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Details of instances of fratricides in the three services of the Armed Forces in the last five years are given as under:—

Year	Army	Navy	Air Force
2015	01	Nil	Nil
2016	02	Nil	01
2017	01	Nil	Nil
2018	01	Nil	Nil
2019	02	Nil	01
2020 (till 31.01.2020)	Nil	Nil	Nil

(b) The measures taken by the three services of the Armed Forces are given below:

- (i) An elaborate Mental Health Programme has been formulated and is in vogue since 2009.
- (ii) Sessions for stress management are organized at all major stations for the Armed Forces Personnel at regular intervals. Review meetings are held periodically for creating a stress free environment and prevention of suicide.
- (iii) Service personnel who are at high risk of combat stress (vulnerable) are identified and counseled by unit Commanding Officers, Regimental Medical Officers and Junior Leaders. Any stress marker/warning signs of stress are looked for and motivational talk is rendered to all.
- (iv) Specific measures include sensitization of Commanders on the subject, measures like provision of adequate married accommodation, good schooling, recreation facilities etc.
- (v) Religious Teachers (RT) JCOs, besides preaching religion, are also being trained to augment the availability of psychological counselors in units.

Joint patrolling with Indian Ocean Littoral Navies

818. SHRI K. J. ALPHONS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether coordinated patrols are being undertaken with Indian Ocean Littoral Navies; and