

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1449
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8th MARCH, 2021

REPORTS OF SEVERE STRESS IN DEFENCE FORCES

1449 SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a study conducted by an Indian think tank has found that a large number of defence personnel are under severe stress which is resulting in suicides, fratricides and untoward incidents each year in the country;
- (b) if so, the number of defence personnel who left services due to severe stress in the last three years; and
- (c) the steps Government proposes to take for removing stress in the defence forces and to ensure better facilities and avenues to the serving defence personnel?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SHRI SHRIPAD NAIK

- (a) The number of suicide and fratricide cases are minimal and they have been going down due to a large number of measures initiated by the Armed Forces including conduct and implementation of recommendations of studies by Defence Institute of Psychological Research (DIPR).
- (b) As per available data, no defence personnel has left service due to stress in last three years.
- (c) The Government has taken several steps towards stress amelioration amongst troops, which inter-alia include, deployment of trained psychological counsellors, improvement in the quality of food and clothing, training in stress management, provision of recreational facilities, buddy system, leave concessions, approachability of seniors, facilities for movement of troops from border areas and establishing a grievance redressal mechanism at various levels.
