

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:71
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2003
RECRUITMENT IN ARMED FORCES
SUDARSANA E.M. NATCHIAPPAN

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that career in armed forces is becoming non-lucrative among the younger generation;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to make recruitment in armed forces lucrative?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 71 FOR 24.7.2003

Recruitment in the Armed Forces during the recent years has increased in all the three Services and there has been no perceptible trend to the contrary. In fact, the response in the recruitment rallies conducted in various parts of the country has also been very encouraging. Due to a changed socio-economic environment and the availability of wide variety of lucrative employment options on the civil side, the priority being assigned to Armed Forces as a career option for officers of the three services, however, today is lower.

2. Sustained efforts are being made by the Armed Forces to attract talented youth, both at the officers' level and at the Personnel Below Officers Rank (PBOR) level.

3. An Image Projection Campaign by the Army has been launched in 1997 and currently Phase-III of the Campaign is underway. In addition, seminars, lectures and presentations are also organized by the Recruiting Offices at schools and colleges with a view to motivate the youth to join the Army and the training capacity of the Army has been increased to facilitate increased intake.

4. Extensive publicity and recruitment drives are being carried out by the Navy. Motivation drives are conducted in various colleges/institutions in order to widen the scope of target population.

5. Sustained publicity efforts are being undertaken by the Air Force to attract talented and qualified youth into the officers' cadre. Almost 3,000 schools and colleges are on the mailing list for sending the publicity material. Campus interviews are undertaken by qualified assessors from Selection Boards so as to interact directly with potential candidates and their queries about the service. Schools and colleges are visited regularly for motivational talks. Participation in 'Career Fairs' and placing of career-oriented advertisements in newspapers and magazines is also undertaken.

6. In addition, a committee chaired by Additional Secretary, Ministry of Defence, had been constituted to give an impetus to the Short Service Commission cadre and make it more attractive and lucrative. Another committee under the Special Secretary, Department of Defence has also made certain recommendations relating to re-structuring of the officers cadre. The recommendations of these committees are being examined with the aim of improving service conditions and fulfilling career aspirations. The Fifth CPC recommendations also saw a favourable revision of the pay and allowances package for the Armed Forces. Better in-service training as well as resettlement training is also provided to Armed Forces personnel.