

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:35
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2006
FRATRICIDE IN THE ARMED FORCES
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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the cases of killing the senior officials and colleagues by the Jawans are increasing in the Armed Forces ;
- (b) If so, the number of such cases reported during each of the last three years and the current year, force-wise ;
- (c) Whether the Government has ascertained the factors attributed to these killings ;
- (d) If so, the conclusion drawn therefrom; and
- (e) The steps taken by the Government to prevent such cases ?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 35 FOR ANSWER ON 23.11.2006

The number of fratricide cases reported during the last three years and the current year, forces-wise is as under:

Force	2003	2004	2005	2006 (upto 14.11.2006)
Army	05	05	06	11
Navy	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Air Force	Nil	01	01	Nil
Coast Guard	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

The factors attributed to these killings are :

- (a) Perceived grievances due to harassment by seniors.
- (b) Argument(s) between colleagues.

Various steps have been taken to contain and prevent such incidents. These include:

- (i) Study by Defence Institute of Psychological Research, Delhi to identify factors, which lead to these incidents and suggest remedial measures.
- (ii) Strengthen the Zilla Sainik Boards (ZSBs) to make them more responsive to the problems and difficulties of the soldiers and their families.
- (iii) Establish a network so that the problems of families of soldiers are intimated to the ZSBs who may follow up the matter with the concerned civil authorities. The nearest nominated unit also should be in touch with ZSB and give feed back to the unit of the soldier.
- (iv) Impart training to Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs) to act as counsellors in sensitive areas.

- (v) Increased formal and informal interaction between senior and junior officers, improved accessibility of leaders and frequent interaction of junior leaders with soldiers, better man management and prompt attendance to grievances;
- (vi) Strengthening time tested reporting and feedback system in the unit;
- (vii) Liberalised leave policy to attend to domestic problems;
- (viii) Identification and counselling of persons who are at higher risk of combat stress by Regimental Medical Officers, junior leaders and unit commanders;
- (ix) Counselling by religious teachers;
- (x) Psychological counselling by psychiatrists where required ;
- (xi) Training capsules in relaxation exercise including yoga/meditation;
- (xii) Rotation of units and individuals to minimize exposure to stress; These measures are being monitored by the senior officers. All officers and other personnel in the Services have been sensitized to the above issues.