

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:402  
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2007  
RECRUITMENT OF PSYCHIATRISTS  
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Yadav Shri Baleshwar

**Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Army Plans to recruit 400 Psychiatrists to cope with stress within its ranks that has led to an increase in fratricidal killings and suicides, as reported in the Times of India dated December 30, 2006;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether the proposal has since been finalized and accepted by the Government; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which this proposal is likely to be implemented?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

- (a) There is no proposal to recruit psychiatrists. There is sufficient number of psychiatrists in the Army. Army has already taken several steps to cope with stress within its ranks. Some of the measures are:-
- (i) 50 Junior Commissioned Officers (JCO) from Army Medical Corps have been trained as counsellors in Northern and Eastern Commands, where troops are engaged in counter insurgency operations.
  - (ii) Religious Teachers, JCOs of Army Education Corps and Regimental Medical Officers have been identified as 'Psychological Health Mentors' at unit level and their services are being utilized accordingly.
  - (iii) Training capsules on relaxation exercise including Yoga and Pranayam have been introduced.
  - (iv) Rotation of units and individuals is being implemented to minimize exposure to stress. This measures is an ongoing process.
  - (v) Leave policy has been liberalized permitting splitting of casual and annual leave.
  - (vi) All Chief Ministers have been requested to make the civil administration more responsive to the problems of serving soldiers and their families.
- (b) to (d): Do not arise.