

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1464  
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2004  
SHORTAGE OF OFFICERS  
Nedurumalli Janardhana Reddy Shri

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that all the three combatant armed services are facing acute shortage of officers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/propose to be taken by the Government to attract young talented boys in the three wings of the services?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) to (c): A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1464 FOR 9.12.2004

There has been some shortage of officers in the Armed Forces. The present shortage of officers in the Army, Air Force and Navy is given below:-

Army 11709  
Air Force 470  
Navy 1060

Vacancies have been existent in varying degrees in Army, Navy and Air Force since 1950, 1953 and 1985 respectively.

Several steps have been undertaken by the three Services to fill up the vacant posts. The Image Projection Campaign by the Army has been launched in 1997 and currently Phase-IV of the Campaign is being finalised. In addition seminars, lectures and presentations are organized by the Recruiting Offices at schools and colleges in order to motivate the youth to join the Army. The training capacity of the Army has been increased to facilitate increased intake.

Sustained publicity efforts are being undertaken by the Air Force to attract talented and qualified youth into the officers' cadre. Almost 3000 Schools and Colleges are on the mailing list for sending publicity material. Campus interviews are undertaken by qualified assessors from Selection Boards so as to interact directly with potential candidates and answer their queries about the service. Schools and Colleges are visited regularly for motivational talks.

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.

In addition the commitment and bravery of the Armed Forces is consistently projected through the electronic and print media. The directorate of Public Relations of Ministry of Defence, regularly interacts with the media persons while giving Defence related information and endeavours to ensure positive publicity of the same. Regular coverage of defence related events in the print and electronic media go a long way in creating awareness among the masses and motivating the youth to join the armed forces. Websites are also operative on the Internet providing career information on the three Services.