

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:291
ANSWERED ON:03.09.2007
REHABILITATION OF DISABLED SOLDIERS
Prabhu Shri Suresh Prabhakar

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of disabled soldiers, as on date, across the country who need to be rehabilitated;
- (b) whether the Defence Ministry has taken a number of steps to rehabilitate the disabled soldiers and war widows;
- (c) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of persons rehabilitated during the last three years, Year-wise;
- (d) whether the Defence Ministry has also requested the Government to provide reservation in jobs for the disabled soldiers and war widows; and
- (e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

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. 291 FOR ANSWER ON 3.9.2007

The number of disabled soldiers in the country as on 1.4.06 is 2,78,301. Out of them 241 disabled soldiers are on live register of ex-servicemen cell of Directorate General of Employment & Training, Ministry of Labour awaiting employment assistance upto July, 2007.

2. Resettlement of disabled soldiers is an ongoing process. The Government has the following schemes in this regard:-

ECONOMIC REHABILITATION:

(i) COAL TIPPER SCHEME:

Eligible widows/disabled soldiers can participate in a self-employment scheme under which they are required to make a deposit of Rs. 85,000/- with any of the coal transport company nominated by Directorate General of Resettlement (DGR). The nominated coal transport company pays Rs.3000/- per month to the widows/disabled soldiers for 5 years and thereafter refunds the amount of Rs.85,000/- deposited by them.

(ii) ALLOTMENT OF OIL PRODUCT AGENCIES:

Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has reserved 8% of the Oil Product Agencies, i.e. LPG dealership, petrol pumps, kerosene distributorship etc in the marketing plan for widows and dependents of those who died in war/peace with death attributable to Military service and disabled soldiers.

3. The number of persons who have benefited from the above schemes during the last 3 years is indicated below:

(i) COAL TIPPER SCHEME:

The number of widows/disabled ex-servicemen benefited by the scheme.

	Widows	Disabled	Total
2005-	98	08	106
2006-	69	15	84
2007-	97	34	131
till date.			

(ii) ALLOTMENT OF OIL PRODUCT AGENCIES:

Number of eligibility certificates issued by Directorate General of Resettlement to widows/dependents/ disabled soldiers:

	Widows/dependents	Disabled	Total
2005-	336	106	442
2006-	123	32	155
2007-	33	15	48

HEALTH REHABILITATION:

The number of disabled soldiers who have been provided artificial limbs is as given below:-

Year	No. of disabled soldiers provided Artificial Limbs	No. of families provided with Artificial Limbs
2005	1389	309
2006	1663	245
2007	813	146
till June.		

The number of disabled soldiers rehabilitated at various Paraplegic Centres and Cheshire Homes during the last three years are as under:

	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
PRC Kirkee	75	73	78
PRC Mohali	26	35	38
St. Dunstan's	112	75	98
Cheshire Homes	21	19	19
War Memorial Hostels	563	509	480
(For wards of war widows/ war disabled)			
Motor Tricycles	0	10	10

4. Besides, disabled soldiers are also encouraged to avail the benefit of loan assistance on liberalised terms under self-employment schemes from financial institutions/banks.

5. There is no separate reservation for disabled ex-servicemen who are fit for employment. However, reservation is available to handicapped persons including disabled ex-servicemen in appointment to Group C & D posts filled through direct recruitment to the extent of 3% (1% each for the blind, deaf and orthopaedically handicapped). The Central Government has also reserved 10% of vacancies in Group 'C' posts and 20% in Group 'D' posts for Ex-Servicemen. Central Public Sector Undertakings and Nationalised Banks provide 14.5% reservation in Group 'C' and 24.5% in Group 'D' posts with them. Besides 10% vacancies of Assistant Commandants in Para Military Forces are also reserved for Ex-Servicemen.