

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2786  
ANSWERED ON:03.09.2007  
RELIGIOUS HEADCOUNT IN ARMED FORCES  
Panda Shri Prabodh

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

- (a) whether the Government has permitted religious headcount in the Armed Forces ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c):Armed Forces have a secular and a political character. Recruitment to the Forces is based on merit and is open to every citizen of the country without any discrimination on the basis of their caste, creed, religion or region. All the personnel from all communities and regions work together without any distinction on the basis of caste, creed or religion. Therefore, it was not considered desirable to permit headcount based on religion as it would have affected the ethos and cohesiveness of the forces.