

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1156
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2004
CONDUCTING OF ENTRANCE EXAM IN OTHER LANGUAGES
Prasad Shri Hari Kewal

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the entrance examination to officer cadre and other cadre in defence service is conducted only in English;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the army alone is short of 13000 ranks of Captains and Majors;
- (d) whether the Government is aware that a large number of courageous and intelligent rural youth are unable to take Officer grade examination because of English language;
- (e) whether the Government proposed to conduct entrance examination to officer cadre and other cadre in defence services in Hindi and other regional languages also;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) to (g): A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1156 FOR 15.7.2004

The entrance examination for Combined Defence Services (CDS) and National Defence Academy (NDA) & National Academy (NA) for Officers Cadre in Armed Forces is conducted by Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). There are three papers for CDS examination which are English, General Knowledge and Elementary Mathematics and three papers for NDA & NA examination which are English, General Knowledge and Mathematics. The question papers in General Knowledge and Mathematics in the NDA & NA examination and in General Knowledge and Elementary Mathematics in the CDS examination are printed bilingually that is in English and Hindi from the year 2004. As regards recruitment of Lower Ranks in Armed Forces, the examinations are conducted bilingually.

There is a shortage of 12447 officers in the ranks of Major and below in the Army. In view of the fact that the question papers are printed bilingually, the issue of rural youth being unable to take officers grade examination does not arise.

In pursuance of the Official Language Resolution, 1968 passed by both the Houses of the Parliament, the option to write answers in any of the languages included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India has been extended only in the Civil Services (Main) Examination conducted by UPSC. The Question of extension of this facility to other Examinations conducted by UPSC is under consideration of the Government on the basis of the recommendations made by the Dr. Satish Chandra Committee. In view of the importance and sensitivity of the matter and divergent views on the subject, Government's endeavour is to seek a consensus and evolve a nationally acceptable policy after holding wider consultation with the State Governments and others concerned, efforts for which are on.