

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 18.08.2010
ANSWERED ON
SUICIDE BY SOLDIERS .

2596 Shri P. Rajeeve

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether it is a fact that on an average one soldier commits suicide every three days;
- (b) if so, whether Government has taken any steps to address this problem; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF DEFENCE

(SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

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

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (c) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2596 FOR 18.8.2010 REGARDING SUICIDE BY SOLDIERS.

111 Suicide cases by Armed Forces personnel were reported in 2009 while till July 2010, 59 such cases have been reported. The Government has been continuously taking measures for reducing suicides by soldiers. Some of the steps taken are:-

(i) Counselling on stress management by trained and qualified Psychiatrists and Psychiatric Nursing Assistants.

(ii) Stress related issues are being addressed by the Commanders through Group discussions/workshops/counseling session/stress management courses.

(iii) Utilization of religious teachers to counsel troops.

(iv) Leave policy has been liberalized.

(v) All personnel returning to unit after leave are interviewed and medically examined by the Regimental Medical Officer. Any stress marker is looked for and motivational talk is rendered.

(vi) The training capsules on relaxation techniques including Yoga and Pranayam have been introduced.

(vii) Quality of food, clothing and availability of married accommodations has been improved.