

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

RAJYA SABHA

QUESTION NO 23.08.2006

ANSWERED ON

SUICIDE BY A WOMAN DEFENCE OFFICER .

2763

Smt. Jaya Bachchan

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether it is a fact that a woman officer of 5071 ASC Battalion, posted at Northern Command HQ in Udhampur, committed suicide; if so, what were the reasons that led to the suicide;
- (b) what is the number of incidents that have taken place till date, where the women officers have either complained of harassment or committed suicide; and
- (c) what steps Government have taken to avoid this kind of situation in future?

ANSWER

(SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) MINISTER OF DEFENCE

(a) Yes, Sir. The officer was under depression for which she was undergoing psychotherapy.

(b) The number of such cases reported since 2003 has been as follows:

| 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006(till date) |
|------|------|------|-----------------|
|------|------|------|-----------------|

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Suicide Harassment | Suicide Harassment | Suicide Harassment | SuicideHarassment |
| Army | Nil Nil Nil 03 Nil 01 01 02 | | |
| Navy | Nil Nil Nil Nil Nil Nil Nil Nil Nil | | |
| Air Force | Nil Nil Nil Nil Nil 02 Nil Nil | | |
| Medical, | | | |
| Dental | | | |
| and | | | |
| Nursing | | | |
| services | Nil Nil Nil Nil 02 Nil 01 Nil | | |
| Total | Nil Nil Nil 03 02 03 02 02 | | |

(c) A system of educating and counselling on stress related issues, which cover suicides also, already exists in the Defence forces. This includes increased formal and informal interaction between senior and junior officers; strengthening time tested reporting and feedback system in the unit; using services of psychiatrists and counsellors to conduct lectures/presentations and educate officers/personnel; identifying personnel under stress and carrying out psychological conditioning and counselling of identified individuals. Officers and other personnel in the Services have been sensitized on the subject. Two Psychiatric centres in the Northern and Eastern Commands have been augmented by posting additional psychiatrists.