

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

**RAJYA SABHA**

**QUESTION NO 22.11.2006**

**ANSWERED ON**

**INCREASE IN SUICIDE CASES IN DEFENCE FORCES .**

37

SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE/DEFENCE be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether it is a fact that the cases of suicide/killing self in the defence forces are on the increase these days;
- (b) if so, the number of such cases which took place during the last one year, rank-wise;
- (c) what are the reasons for such suicides/self-killing of the jawans/officers of the armed forces; and
- (d) what steps Government propose to take to stop such an action amongst the forces?

**ANSWER**

(SHRI A.K. ANTONY) MINISTER OF DEFENCE

(a) & (b): From 1st January, 2006 to 14th November, 2006, the number of suicides in the Armed Forces were 128 which include 5 Officers, 5 Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs) and 118 Other Ranks (ORs).

(c) In majority of the cases, this extreme step was resorted to due to personal and family problems like marital discords, medical problems, depression, property issues and also organisational factors.

(d) The measures adopted in this regard include:-

(i) Increased formal and informal interaction between senior and junior officers, improved accessibility of leaders and frequent interaction of junior leaders with soldiers, better man management and prompt attendance to grievances;

(ii) Organizing buddy system and strengthening time tested reporting and feedback system in the unit;

(iii) Liberalized leave policy to attend to domestic problems;

(iv) Identification and counselling of persons who are at higher risk of combat stress by Regimental Medical Officers, junior leaders and unit commanders.

(v) Counselling by Religious Teachers.

(vi) Psychological counselling by psychiatrists where required.

(vii) Training capsules in relaxation exercise including yoga/meditation.

(viii) Rotation of units and individuals to minimize exposure to stress. (ix) Post Army Medical Corps Junior Commissioned Officers as psychological counselors who will interact with the troops and alleviate their stress related problems. These measures are being personally monitored by the senior officers. All officers and other personnel in the Services have been sensitized on the above issues.