

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Reg: Angipath scheme- Laid

**SHRI P.R. NATARAJAN (COIMBATORE):** I strongly oppose the Government's proposal of 'AGNIPATH' scheme concerning the future of the educated young job seekers which is abandoning the permanent nature of employment.

According to the annual report of the department of expenditure, out of more than 40.78 lakh sanctioned posts about 8.72 lakh posts are vacant in Central Government departments itself as on 3.2.2022. Most of the vacant posts are in Group B & C categories short term contract workers and temporary modes of employment are increasing in all the Central/State departments to the tune of 24.3 lakh according to the National Sample Survey of India. In this present unemployment problem, Similar design of contractual employment proposed by the govt. with the name 'Agnipath Scheme' is nothing but strengthening Low cost jawans in the place of regular employment opportunities. In such a situation, labourers could not have the thinking space of raising their voice and could also be ready to accept lower remunerations and claims on defined rights of labour force.

According to this scheme, 40 to 50 thousand soldiers in the age group between 17.5 to 21 will be recruited annually. After four year in service, one fourth of them will be included in regular defence services. There is no rules of procedure like interviews, physical test etc for such 25% selection of AGNIVEERS. Rest of the persons selected for Agni path will be dropped out. This will over the period of time reduce the permanent service personnel soldier within the armed forces. Most importantly, this might breed feudal loyalty often soaked in preference relating to religion, caste and ideology instead of professionalism and impersonal commitment to the norms and discipline of the defence services. Hence, I request the Union Government to restrain from giving approval to this AGNIPATH scheme.