

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding Agnipath Scheme.-Laid

ADV. A. M. ARIFF (ALAPPUZHA): Youths, who were waiting for recruitment in the armed forces for the last three years, are reported to be angry over the recruitment policy under the Agnipath scheme. Agnipath scheme is intended to recruit soldiers for four years only, with no retirement benefits like pension and medical insurance. At the end of four years, when the recruitee would be relieved from the armed forces, they will not get any pensionary or medical benefits like ex-servicemen. Youths are questioning as to what will happen to their career after four years when there is so much unemployment in India. If a large number of youngsters with licenced weapons and no adequate source of livelihood are sent back to their villages, it will pose a security threat. It might pose severe law and order problem even if a small percentage of such youths take to crime just to fulfil their basic needs. What will happen if youths trained in handling of sophisticated weapons fall into the hands of some terror groups or radicalized organizations having ulterior agenda?. Hence, I urge the Central Govt to withdraw the Agnipath scheme and recruit soldiers on regular basis in Indian Army.