

Selection of Candidates at School Level

5981. DR. VISWANATHAM KANITHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to select persons into various cadres from among the students of different levels - High School, College or Elementary School, depending on their fitness and aptitude after systematic tests;

(b) if so, the criteria laid for selection of such candidates;

(c) the number of such candidates selected and trained under this scheme; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (d). University Entry Scheme for selection of candidates for recruitment in the Officer Cadre of technical branches of the Air Force and the Navy already exists. Under this Scheme, students studying in Graduate/post-Graduate level Engineering/Technical Courses are selected. There was a similar Scheme for entry into the technical branches of the Indian Army, which was given up in view of the inadequate response. A decision on the proposal of Army HQs. to reintroduce the Scheme, with certain modifications, has not yet been taken.

2. The Army are to operate a Scheme for raising Boys Sports Companies with the help of the Sports Authority of India (SAI). Boys in the age group of 12 - 14 years shall be selected, by talent hunting teams, visiting various stations and also through witnessing inter-School Sports Competitions. Boys who show acceptable merit, in both sports and

education, shall be selected and allowed to complete 10+2 level of School education under the aegis of the SAI or Armed Forces Sports Colleges, Pune. Thereafter, they will be enrolled as direct Havildars or other ranks provided they are fit in all respects.

3. The Air Force selected 547 candidates under the University Entry Scheme, from 1983 to September 1991. The Navy, under the same Scheme, selected 222 candidates from 1987 to 1991. Of the 17 Centres, to be raised by the Army for the Boys Sports Companies, 8 have been raised so far.

Ezhimala Naval Academy

5982. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of the Ezhimala Naval Academy, Cannanoor in Kerala; and

(b) by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b). An agreement has been signed with the selected Architect to prepare the Master Plan and the Detailed Project Report by December, 1992, to enable assessment of the likely Project cost and the time-frame within which it can be completed.

Savings Bank Accounts

5983. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the deposits in the savings bank accounts in post offices are fully exempted from income-tax as against similar deposits in commercial banks getting the same rate of interest;