

Farmers in Indian Army

54. Shri Jyotirmoy Basu: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of Indian Army personnel who are farmers by origin;

(b) whether it was considered at any time to engage the army for a few months in a year in cultivation work;

(c) whether it was considered at any time to use suitable army equipments in land reclamation and cultivation work; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence (Shri B. R. Bhagat):

(a) 61.5 per cent.

(b) to (d). While it has not been considered necessary to engage the Army for some months in the year in cultivation work, Regimental Farms do exist in which Army personnel engage themselves outside their normal hours of work. At the time of natural calamities Army assistance has been provided at the request of civil authorities to fight flood and famine. No regular use of Army equipment for land reclamation or cultivation work has either been made or thought of.

British Recruiting Camps for Gurkhas in India

55. Shri Jyotirmoy Basu:
Shri Bharda Nand:
Shri Bharat Singh:
Shri Kanjit Singh:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of British recruiting camps which are within India to recruit Gurkhas;

(b) the number of persons recruited through such Centres during the years from 1960 to 1966;

(c) the number of transit camps which are there for their transit facilities in India;

(d) the total number of personnel transited through such camps during the above period;

(e) the source of procurement of ration for these personnel, specially cereals; and

(f) whether our Intelligence service keeps a thorough check on the activities of Gurkha recruiting camps and transit camps?

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) Nil.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is one transit camp at Barackpur.

(d) and (e). Such information as might be available is being collected.

(f) Our relations with the countries concerned are most cordial.

Special Information Cell in Indian Embassy at Washington

56. Shri Inderjit Malhotra: Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to create a "Special Information Cell" dealing specifically with agricultural information, at our Embassy in Washington; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) and (b). The suggestion has been considered, but due to lack of funds, it has not been possible to increase the staff of the Information Wing of the Embassy, which along with the Economic Wing, is handling agricultural information in addition to its publicity work.

Sainik School in Jamaica

57. Shri Inderjit Malhotra: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1557 on the 8th August, 1966 and state:

(a) whether the Central Government have since received any request