

(d) if so, to what agency ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA): (a) to (d). The defence owned land in District Basti comprises the Kalyanpur Camping Ground measuring approximately 34.709 acres. The land is in the occupation of agriculturists to whom it has been decided to lease out the same by execution of requisite lease deed.

STATEMENT MADE BY GENERAL KUMARAMANGALAM RE: ADOPTION OF ARMY LIFE AS A PROFESSION

*785. **SHRI S.K. TAPURIAH:**
SHRI N. K. SOMANI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the statement made recently by General Kumaramangalam to the effect that 'the Army is the least popular profession—very few people like to join it as a career unless most of the other avenues are closed. We get very few officers (from those of higher grade, not in birth but in quality); and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA): (a) Government have seen a newspaper report more or less to this effect.

(b) Considering the large intake of officers, both regular and short term, for the Army, over the past few years, the response from persons wishing to join the Army is quite good, though there is room for improvement, particularly in the intake of Short Service Commissioned Officers in the Technical Branches. The shortfalls in the last few years can, amongst other factors, be ascribed to the inadequate response from the State Governments for making available civilian officers under the Compulsory Service Liability Schemes and the natural desire of Technical Graduates to go in for more permanent careers than Short Service Commission in the Army. The special measures which Government have taken, including the establishment of Sainik Schools for preparation of boys for the National Defence Academy, and the Special Entry through the NCC, are expected to make up some of the shortfalls.

DELAY IN THE HANDLING OF FOREIGN TRADE BY STATE TRADING CORPORATION

*786. **SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD:**
Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that undue delay takes place in the onward transmission of goods exported/imported through the State Trading Corporation ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the transactions during the years 1967-68 and 1968-69 in whose cases undue delay in the movement of goods occurred and the loss sustained by way of interest on the amount and by way of depreciation to the stock on this account; and

(d) whether Government propose to streamline the outdated procedures and evolve new techniques to avoid undue delay in movement ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI RAM SEWAK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

INDO-AFGHAN TRADE AGREEMENT

*787. **SHRI R. BARUA:**
SHRI N. R. LASKAR:
SHRI DHANDAPANI:

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Afghanistan signed a trade agreement for the year 1969-70;

(b) if so, the main features thereof; and

(c) whether, under this agreement India's exports to and import from that country will be increased compared to the last agreement ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI RAM SEWAK): (a) to (c). No New Trade Agreement, as such, with Afghanistan has been signed for 1969-70. The Trade Arrangement signed in July, 1968, which expired on 31st July, 1969, has been extended for a further period of one year with effect from August 1, 1969. A statement showing the main features of the Trade Arrangement is laid on the Table of the House.