

le: Regarding withdrawal of Agniveer Scheme.

**SHRI HIBI EDEN (ERNAKULAM):** Hon. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to a very important matter related to unemployment and national security in this country.

The Agnipath Scheme was announced by the Government of India on 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2022, whereby the Indian Armed Forces, namely, the Army, Navy and Air Force will recruit young people from the age of 17.5 years to 21 years as Agniveers for a period of service of four years including six months of training.

Sir, we all know that serving in the Armed Forces demand a longer training to guard the country, and to guard the lives of fellow soldiers and themselves. But, six months of training is inadequate to serve the country efficiently in the Armed Forces to meet the challenges of the modern battlefield. We are at a juncture where we need to strengthen our Armed Forces by equipping them with technological advancements and professionalism as we are facing severe threats from our neighbouring countries looking at the the recent scenario.

Sir, any move to dilute the efficiency of the Indian Army is compromising on the national security. The Armed Forces of our country namely the Army, Navy and Air Force have been the pride of our nation. Sir, Agnipath and the Agniveers are not going to be an alternative for unemployment. जब नरेन्द्र मोदी जी आए थे, तो उन्होंने कहा था कि हर साल दो करोड़ जॉब्स देंगे । This is not a way of satisfying it. ...  
(Interruptions) Agniveers are not eligible for allowances like pension,

gratuity, healthcare scheme, canteen facilities, departmental store facilities, extended insurance scheme or ex-servicemen status.

Sir, this is a very important issue. The Government of India should withdraw the Agnipath Scheme and provide employment to the unemployed people of this country.... (*Interruptions*)

