

(b) if so, the extent to which this searchlight will be useful and improve the efficiency of the Tank ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) The Instruments Research and Development Establishment at Dehra-Dun, has developed the Infra-red searchlight for the use of Gunners of Vijayanta tanks. The Infra-red searchlight for use of Commanders of Vijayanta tank is at present under development.

(b) The use of the Infra red searchlight will enable the crew of the Vijayanta Tanks to operate the tanks during night effectively.

Re-Employment of Released Emergency Commissioned Officers in N. C. C.

2786. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have offered alternative posts in N. C. C. to the former Emergency Commissioned Officers;

(b) if so, how many officers were offered the posts and how many of them accepted them;

(c) the steps which Government are taking to protect the interests of ex-emergency commissioned officers in N. C. C.; and

(d) the reasons for the unpopularity of N.C.C. service among the ex-Commissioned Officers ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) : As indicated in answer to Starred Question No. 767 given in Lok Sabha on 28th June, 1971, ordinarily Regular Officers from the three Services man the posts in the National Cadet Corps, Due to acute shortage of Regular Officers, a number of ex-Emergency Commissioned Officers have been granted commissions in the N. C. C. on a temporary basis.

2941. ex-ECOs who had applied for grant of NCC Commission had been considered

for grant of NCC Commission. 1157 had been approved but out of them 71 had been absorbed in other organisations and Services like CRP/IPS/BSF etc., and the remaining 1086 were offered NCC Commissions. 732 joined NCC out of them 163 have subsequently left. There are thus at present 569 ex-ECOs holding NCC Commissions.

Their tenure is prescribed as two years, extendable by one year at a time for so long as their services are required. As the present shortage of Regular Officers in the three Services is likely to persist for some years, there is no risk of these ex-ECOs holding NCC Commissions being retrenched in the near future. As they are employed in lieu of Service Officers, they cannot be retained permanently in the NCC.

The ex-ECOs who have been given temporary appointments leave NCC as and when they get jobs with better security of tenure.

National Plan for Tourism

2787. SHRI VEKARIA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the suggestion made by the Travel Agents Association for drawing up a national plan for tourism has been examined by Government; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof and decision taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) and (b) : Government is considering steps for the formulation of a National plan for tourism.

Financial Assistance to Gujarat

2788. SHRI VEKARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of Central aid given to State of Gujarat during the year 1968-69, 1969-70 and 1970-71 for development works; and

(b) whether the aid has been fully utilised by the State ?