**Military Affairs Department seeks feedback from three services on Agnipath scheme**

As the Agnipath scheme for the recruitment of soldiers into the three Services completes two years, the Department of Military Affairs (DMA), headed by the Chief of Defence Staff, has sought feedback from the forces on the scheme.

A meeting was held in this regard on Wednesday where the progress was reviewed at the highest level, it has been learnt.

Monthly reports are being regularly sent by the units, formations, and regimental centres to the Army headquarters with marks, a source said. “Feedback is received from all units, compiled at various formations and sent to headquarters, along with an averaged-out quantified feedback. Marks are given out of 10 on various attributes,” the source said.

On June 14, 2022, the government announced the Agnipath scheme for recruitment of soldiers into the armed forces for four years, doing away with the earlier process. The overall intake has been capped at 1.75 lakh till 2026, and Agniveers on completion of four years will get an opportunity to join regular cadre and up to 25% would be selected through another recruitment process.

The Agnipath scheme has become a major poll issue in the Lok Sabha election, with the Congress pledging to abolish the scheme and revert to the earlier manner of permanent recruitment if voted to power.

Speaking at an event in March, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh defended the scheme and said the future of youth joining as Agniveers would not be impacted. He added that the government was “open” to bringing any changes in the scheme “if required”.

To questions on the issue, an official source said the Army conducted regular reviews to ensure the efficacy and currency of its policies on human resources. Terming the scheme “transformational”, the source added that regular feedback was obtained periodically to ensure error-free implementation of the scheme.

The Navy and the Air Force have already compiled the feedback which is ready to be sent to the DMA, sources confirmed.