

Recruitment of tribal youths from Orissa in armed forces

*300. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tribal youths from Orissa have not been recruited in adequate numbers in the armed forces; and

(b) to keep the tribal youths away from Naxalism/Maoism, whether Government will organize a special recruitment drive for recruitment of tribal youths in the armed forces in large numbers with suitable relaxations in physical standards?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) The recruitment in the Armed Forces is based on merit irrespective of caste, creed, tribe or religion, provided the candidate meets the laid down age, physical, medical and educational criteria. Officers are selected in the Armed Forces primarily through all India open competition.

In Army, Other Ranks (ORs) are recruited through recruitment rallies throughout the country including all tribal areas. The recruitment vacancies are allocated proportionate to the Recruitable Male Population (RMP) of the State. Dispensations in the physical and educational criteria are available to tribal candidates for recruitment in the Army. It is endeavored that candidates including tribals from each District of Orissa are given adequate opportunity for recruitment. In Navy, recruitment of ORs is carried out on All India basis on state-wise merit of the eligible RMP as per the number of vacancies available. Recruitment is carried out for each State and Union Territory including all tribal areas. In Air Force, recruitment of ORs is through selection tests on all India basis. Recruitment of youth from tribal areas including those in Orissa is an ongoing process for which a constant endeavour is made.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Misuse of export promoting schemes

†2171. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes being run for increasing the foreign trade and exports in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.