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Title: Need to relax the norms of physical and educational standards for youth from border areas of Uttarakhand for gaining an entry in the Indian Army.

LT. GEN. (RETD.) TEJ PAL SINGH RAWAT (GARHWAL): Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to raise the issue of unemployment amongst youth inhabiting the border areas of the State of Uttarakhand. It is indisputable that the border area adjoining China and Nepal of the State of Uttarakhand is mainly a backward region. Thus, there are no employment opportunities for the youth living there. The education standard of the people of the border areas is also low. Due to lack of requisite qualification for joining army, the youth from these border areas are migrating to towns and cities in search of jobs. I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to take necessary steps for encouraging youth living in the border areas of Uttarakhand to join army which includes inter alia, reduction in physical standards particularly the height to 163 cm. and education upto high-school pass without any Division instead of the present requirement of high-school pass with IInd Division. Such a gesture from the Government would facilitate and help in preventing the youth in these border areas from migrating to other cities and towns.

* Treated as laid on the Table