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Title: Need to convert 51<sup>st</sup> India Reserve Battalion into Lakshadweep State Armed Force and make provision for posting/deployment of personnel of India Reserve Battalion in Union Territory to which they belong.

SHRI HAMDULLAH SAYEED (LAKSHADWEEP): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the 51<sup>st</sup> India Reserve Battallion which was created by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, for the UTs of Lakshadweep, Daman Diu, Dadar and Nagar Haveli. The personnel recruited for this Battalion are from Lakshadweep and other places. A company consisting of 126 persons is usually transferred from one place to another on completion of 2 years tenure. On transfer, the persons hailing from Lakshadweep are put to lot of inconveniences and financial losses. In Lakshadweep, the IRB personnel get a salary of

Rs. 18000/- or more whereas if posted in other places like Daman Diu, Silvassa etc., get only a salary of Rs. 12000/-. The expenses for getting a rental house in house station are more as compared to Lakshadweep. They are not paid mess allowances at par with other armed Forces. On their transfer, Children education is affected. In Daman Diu and Dadar Nagar Haveli the medium of education is Gujarati whereas in Lakshadweep it is Malayalam. In Lakshadweep, the children get free education in schools because of the Scheduled Tribe status given to them on account of their social, economic backwardness and because of the geographical isolation from the main land.

I would, therefore, strongly urge the Government to convert the IRB into Lakshadweep State Armed Force and allow the IRB personnels to stay in the Union Territory to which they belong.