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Title: Need to establish an Army Unit in Odisha.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): The State of Odisha is very much prone to natural calamities such as flood, cyclone etc. where immediate help of Defence forces is sought. The help reaches the needy at a very late stage due to late decision making at the Centre and time taken for mobilising the forces. Most of the States of the country have Army units placed within their State. Placing of Army units within the State has been an influential factor to attract the youth to join the Army. However, no such defence units are existing in Odisha. When the country's 3% of the population is in the Defence forces, Odisha's contribution is only 0.3%. This is primarily due to lack of general awareness and absence of Army units.

The Government of Odisha has already earmarked 1500 acres of land near Amarda in Mayurbhanj district for establishment of an Infantry Brigade in Odisha, however till date no progress has been made in this regard.

I, would urge upon the Government to take suitable decision at the earliest.