

## **Odisha wants to recruit 1300 youth in Army this year**

Seeking recruitment of more youths from the southern parts of the State in the Army, the Odisha government on Tuesday demanded setting up of a recruitment office at Koraput and a Brigade headquarters at Amarda Road in Balasore district.

The State government made the demands at a liaison conference between the civil and Army administration here at the State secretariat.

Seven senior Army officers, led by Major General D.V.S. Rana, participated in the conference, while Chief Secretary A. P. Padhi and Home Secretary Asit Tripathy represented the State.

Mr. Padhi raised the issue relating to the need for establishment of a recruitment office at Koraput, setting up of a Brigade headquarters at Amarda Road in Balasore district and recruitment of more youths from southern Odisha.

He also requested the Army to consider relaxation of selection norms for tribal youths.

Mr. Tripathy said during last year's recruitment, the Army had taken less youths against the State's quota. "We have requested them to carry forward the balance quota and organise more recruitment rallies in the State," Mr. Tripathy said adding the district administration would provide all support for organisation of recruitment rallies.

"We target recruitment of about 1,300 youths during the current calendar year," he said.

"There was mutual sharing of views on various issues relating to hinterland security, coastal security and use of military in disaster management. The administrative issues relating to land allocations for military establishments like military station at Sambalpur, defence unit at Gopalpur, ex-gratia to next kin of the martyrs and others were discussed and possible solutions were worked out," an official release said. - PTI