

To

THE COUNCIL OF STATES (RAJYA SABHA)

The petition of Sarva Shri. Sanjay Prabhu

Sheweth- that various associations/movements and other organizations of Ex-Servicemen of Country's Armed Forces have time and again pleaded to the Government of India demanding for ONE RANK ONE PENSION in order to address the sense of hurt, injustice and dishonour in the Armed Forces and bring parity in the pensionary benefits for the retired personnel of Armed Forces;

Historically, prior to the Central Third Pay Commission, the pension of Armed Forces personnel was regulated by Pension Regulation exclusively keeping in view the peculiarity and gravity of the Service conditions to which the soldier is subjected to in peace, and the danger to which he is exposed in war, the inevitable need to retire a soldier much earlier than the normal age of Superannuation enjoyed by the other central Government civil employees, the difficulty in getting a soldier to rehabilitate in civilian work of life after retirement, and last but not the least, the sacrifice that the family, and more so, the children of the soldier are called upon to offer to the country. It was decided by the then Government to grant pay and perks that a soldier deserves by virtue of his contributions to the motherland and to keep his status and living standards quite high without comparison with civil employees. His pension was based on the rank at the time of retirement provided that he has put in the minimum required years of service. Every Armed Forces personnel was entitled for One Rank One Pension which took care of his needs and it was based on principle of reward for his sacrifices.

Unfortunately, after the Third Pay Commission, the Pension Formula as applicable in the Civilian Pension rules was extended to the Armed Forces pensioners also through a Government administrative order. This ex-parte decision has denied One Rank One Pension to the ex-Armed Forces personnel which is the cause of all troubles and resentment amongst them.

This just demand for honour and justice, of the Ex-Servicemen has the support of almost all the political parties of the nation and this has been included in the Election Manifesto of some of our national political parties which reflects the political will of a democratic and welfare State like ours as these political parties represent the people in the legislature, the essence of a democratic polity;

Many a times, particularly during the general elections, Ministers in the Union Council of Ministers too have lent their Support to this demand of Ex-Servicemen.

The Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence of the Parliament consisting of Members of both the Houses of Parliament representing almost all the political parties in Parliament and due to this uniqueness the

Parliamentary Committee is considered mini-Parliament, has also consistently recommended to Government of India to accept the demand of ONE RANK ONE PENSION of the Ex-Servicemen, but this issue still remains unaddressed;

It is an irony that on the recommendations made by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence, the Government has chosen to appoint a Committee of Civil servants to evaluate the recommendations and decide, which leads to the perception that when Government wishes to deny any claim irrespective of its merits and genuineness, a Committee of Civil Servants is appointed which have unfortunately developed a fine tuned reputation of obstructive conduct. The very appointment of a committee of Civil Servants to examine the recommendations of a Parliamentary Committee in itself undermines the status and privilege of the Parliamentary Committee.

The action of the Government to accede to the demands of Members of Parliament for a hike in their salaries – *which while being fully justified* – is in stark contrast to the delay in responding to the long pending demands of the Armed Forces veterans. This sends a very misleading and somewhat dangerous signal to the country and all its people that there are two sets of standards in this country – that public service and duty to nation as exemplified by the Armed forces veterans are secondary to political expediency and politics.

This genuine demand of the Ex-Servicemen may be considered on the lines of the pension of Hon'ble Members of Parliament which is Rs. 20000 for all first time MPs. Since the Armed forces is truly unique and dedicated group of personnel whose sense of selfless service, sacrifice and nationalism is a matter of pride and dignity, the Government of the day should at least accept the just demand of Ex-Servicemen for ONE RANK ONE PENSION to honour them who defended our motherland and accordingly your petitioners pray that the long pending demand of the Ex-Servicemen of the Armed Forces for ONE RANK ONE PENSION may be resolved on priority basis and the commitments made by the government from time to time on this issue be honoured without any stipulations and conditions. This is a matter of general public interest.

To be presented by:



RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR  
MEMBER, RAJYA SABHA  
DIVISION NO: 161