



RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
RAJYA SABHA

Member of Standing Committee on Information Technology  
Member of Consultative Committee on Finance  
Member of Parliamentary Forum on Youth  
Co-Chairman, Vigilance & Monitoring Committee, Bangalore Urban District

11 April, 2011

Respected Mrs. Gandhi,

I thank and congratulate you for your initiative that has caused the Government to accept the need to pass the Lokpal Bill, and importantly, Civil society involvement in the drafting of this Bill through representation in the committee.

Through this letter, I would like to draw your attention to another serious issue that, for the last few years, has been a blot on our country and people.

All nations and their people, treat the veterans and serving men and women of their armed forces with respect and love. However, our conduct and responsibility towards the over 25 lakh veteran men and women of the Armed Forces and their families, especially on the issue of One Rank, One Pension (OROP), has been unfortunate and indefensible.

The Armed Forces is a truly unique and dedicated group of people, whose sense of selfless service and nationalism is a matter of great pride and dignity. These proud men and their families have served our nation selflessly, with a certain belief that the nation and their people will look after them, when it comes to their turn to be looked after.

The OROP issue is about honour and izzat, and intends to remove the feeling of injustice which the earlier retirees experience when they find that their pension is less than that of someone who was in the same rank in service.

OROP implies that the pension entitled to the military personnel should be same for the personnel in the same rank irrespective of the date of retirement which currently depends on the length of service and rank of personnel on the day of their retirement. I am attaching herewith a note on OROP, for your review.

As you are aware, the Armed Forces veterans have repeatedly sought Government's positive response on this issue and have been agitating peacefully and non-violently at Jantar Mantar for several months. While there has been sympathy for this issue, it has been stymied by bureaucratic obfuscation and prejudice within the government.



I have personally raised this issue in Parliament and outside on several occasions, including writing to senior members of the Government. As a result, a petition has been admitted in the Parliamentary Committee on Petitions.

I request your urgent and personal intervention in this serious issue - to prevent further alienation and disenchantment amongst this large group of people who have served the nation selflessly and with distinction in the most trying times in the history of our democracy.

May I kindly request you for a meeting – for a group of veterans to represent in person their just demand for honour.

Yours Sincerely,

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

**Smt. Sonia Gandhi**  
Chairperson- UPA  
10 Janpath  
New Delhi