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MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
RAJYA SABHA

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

09 September, 2010

Dear Excellency

Sub. : Request your Support for One Rank, One Pension for the Armed Forces Veterans

I am enclosing herewith my letter to the Hon'ble Prime Minister requesting again for a sympathetic and compassionate view on the long standing demands of the Armed Forces veterans for One Rank, One Pension.

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.

The Armed Forces remain one of the most important institutions with a rich history of selfless duty to the nation. When companies and corporates walk away with doles, concessions and payouts in a blink, we as a nation are reducing our brave men to begging for a fair deal. As Kautilya, the great political strategist wrote to Chandragupta Maurya centuries ago: "The day the soldier has to demand his dues will be a sad day for Magadha. For then on that day, you will have lost all moral sanction to be king."

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence has already endorsed and recommended One Rank, One Pension to the Government of India. I now request your support, as a Hon'ble Governor, for this legitimate and urgent demand of the Armed Forces veterans. Millions of Armed Forces personnel, who serve the nation everyday selflessly and silently, and their families, will remember and be grateful for your support.

Yours Sincerely,

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

H. E Shri. E. S. L Narasimhan
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