



सत्यमेव जयते

**RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR**  
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  
Vice Chairman, National Military Memorial Management Trust, Bangalore

18 January, 2014

Dear Shri Antony,

I refer to recent media reports that the Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare (DESW), Ministry of Defence, has issued a New Year office memo on 02 January, 2014, ruling that ex-servicemen who take the Ministry of Defence to court for disability and pension benefits would have to fight their cases all the way up to the Supreme Court.

The DESW memo has indentified six categories of litigation covering disability and certain categories of pensions where there is a high proportion of litigation. The memo says that the department will appeal automatically since reference to legal opinion is time-consuming and involves a lot of paper work.

This order smacks of callousness and high-handedness on the part of the government. As it is, thousands of ex-servicemen and their families fighting such cases have to dip into their savings to fight legal cases. This order will further aggravate their misery and cause much hardship to brave men and women who, after all, lose their limbs and eyesight, and sustain grievous harm to themselves in the service of the nation.

Almost three years ago, on 22 March, 2011, I had brought to your attention the case of ex-serviceman Sukhjinder Singh who had to go through a long litigation process which, you informed me was due to an error in that order, in your response dated 25 June, 2011. However, the ex-serviceman battling a disease had to go through long hardship.

Allowing this DESW order in present form would send a signal to the armed forces personnel and their families that the government does not care for them and prefers long litigation processes.



I urge you to get this order annulled and direct the officials of the Defence Ministry against denying legitimate justice to our Armed Forces Veterans.

Yours Sincerely,

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

**Shri A. K. Antony**  
Hon'ble Minister of Defence  
Government of India  
New Delhi

Encl.: Copy of my letter dated 22 March, 2011