



सत्यमेव जयते

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
RAJYA SABHA

Member of Standing Committee on Finance
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Member of Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps
Co-Chairman, District Development Coordination & Monitoring Committee, Bengaluru Urban District

26 February 2019

Respected Raksha Mantri ji,

SUB: Supreme Court order on Voting Rights for Armed Forces

You are no doubt aware that for several decades now - men and women of the Armed Forces and their families found it difficult and almost impossible to vote in elections - an irony that men and women tasked with protecting our democracy were not able to participate in elections.

In 2014, I had approached the Hon'ble Supreme Court on the important matter of Voting Rights of our men and women in uniform of the Armed Forces and Paramilitary forces and that case was finally heard a few days ago.

In March 2014, the Supreme Court in its interim order had allowed soldiers in peace stations to register as general voters.

On 14 February 2019, the Supreme court, not only reiterated its interim order, it also directed the Election Commission to introduce flexibility in the eligibility conditions for registration of soldiers and their families as general voters. You may recall the conditions of a mandatory three-year tenure and that the soldier be residing with his family to register on electoral rolls were set aside in the interim order itself.

The Supreme Court's order is indeed a big step for the rights of our soldiers and has ensured that our men and women in uniform, like all citizens, will also be active participants in our democratic process.



Now, with the Supreme Court order, I hope you will initiate steps to facilitate registration all unregistered eligible service voters on electoral rolls so that they too can be participants in our democratic process.

Sincerely,

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

Smt Nirmala Sitharaman,
Hon'ble Minister of Defence
Government of India
New Delhi

Copy to:

1. **General Bipin Rawat**, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, YSM, SM, VSM, ADC,
Chief of Army Staff
2. **Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa**, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, VM, ADC,
Chief of the Air Staff
3. **Admiral Sunil Lanba**, PVSM, AVSM, ADC
Chief of the Naval Staff