



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 identified 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Rajeev Chandrasekhar', is written over a horizontal line.

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



सत्यमेव जयते

रक्षा मंत्री  
भारत

MINISTER OF DEFENCE  
INDIA

D.O. No. 313-VIP/1RM/2014

24 January, 2014


Dear Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar,

I am in receipt of your letter dated 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2014 requesting to direct the Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare (DESW) Ministry of Defence to annul its order dated 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 2014 and defend the disability/pension benefit cases of armed forces veterans in courts.

I am having the matter looked into.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

  
(A.K. Antony)

Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar  
Member of Parliament  
211 North Avenue  
New Delhi – 110 001