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Title: Demand to grant prorata pension of Rs. 30000 to emergency and short service commissioned officers of Indian Army who put their lives to protect our country and fought wars of 1956 and 1971.

**SHRIMATI KIRRON KHER (CHANDIGARH):** Hon. Speaker, Sir, I stand here to raise a matter of crucial importance to the war veterans of our country. After the 1962 war with China, a need was felt to increase the strength of the Indian Army. At that time, several thousand emergency and Short Service Commissioned officers were commissioned in the Army. These brave soldiers of our country led India to victory in two memorable wars, that of 1965 and 1971. However, about 2,000 of these soldiers were not absorbed in the Indian Army, many of whom are constituents of my constituency, Chandigarh.

Now, when the Narendra Modi-led NDA Government launched the One Rank One Pension scheme in 2016 for the war veterans of India, the scheme excluded these war veterans, who are retired senior citizens now. The veterans have held several meetings with General Bipin Rawat ji, with the then hon. Defence Minister, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman ji, and with our current Defence Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh ji. However, the issue is still pending with the Ministry of Defence and the veterans are still waiting for it to be resolved.

It is my humble request to the hon. Defence Minister that a grant of *pro-rata* pension of Rs. 30,000 be provided to emergency and short service commissioned officers who put their lives on the line to protect our country, who fought the wars of 1965 and 1971 and who led India to the two of her greatest victories.

Vijay Diwas is commemorated on 16<sup>th</sup> December every year to celebrate India's 1971 victory. If this pension could be started, it will be an expression of our nation's gratitude to them. My gratitude to you for allowing me to speak. Thank you.

**माननीय अध्यक्ष:** कुँवर पुष्पेन्द्र सिंह चन्देल, श्री कुलदीप राय शर्मा एवं श्री प्रवेश साहिब सिंह वर्मा को श्रीमती किरण खेर के द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है ।