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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE  
(2024-25)**

**(EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

**[Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Forty-Seventh Report (17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Defence on the subject 'A Review of Functioning of Zila Sainik Boards in the Country']**

**SIXTH REPORT**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

**December, 2024 / Agrahayana 1946 (Saka)**

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*Presented to Lok Sabha on 17.12.2024*

*Laid in Rajya Sabha on 17.12.2024*



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**

**NEW DELHI**

**December, 2024 / Agrahayana 1946 (Saka)**

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## COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE (2024-25)

**SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH**

–

**CHAIRPERSON**

### **Lok Sabha**

2	Dr. Rajeev Bharadwaj
3	Shri Karti P Chidambaram
4	Shri Adhikari Deepak Dev
5	Shri Ranjit Dutta
6	Captain Viriato Fernandes
7	Shri Rahul Gandhi
8	Shri Mohmad Haneefa
9	Shri S. Jagathratchakan
10	Ms. S. Jothimani
11	Shri Ravindra Shukla Alias Ravi Kishan
12	Shri Shashank Mani
13	Shri Lumba Ram
14	Shri Bishnu Pada Ray
15	Shri Jagannath Sarkar
16	Shri Jagadish Shettar
17	Shri Virendra Singh
18	Shri Kesineni Sivanath
19	Dr. Thirumaavalavan Tholkappiyan
20	Com. Selvaraj V.
21	Shri Richard Vanlalhmangaiha

### **Rajya Sabha**

22	Shri Naresh Bansal
23	Shri N. Chandrasegharan
24	Shri Shaktisinh Gohil
25	Shri Prem Chand Gupta
26	Shri Naveen Jain
27	Shri Muzibulla Khan
28	Shri Praful Patel
29	Shri Dhairyashil Mohan Patil
30	Shri Sanjay Singh
31	Dr. Sudhanshu Trivedi

## SECRETARIAT

1. Dr. Sanjeev Sharma - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Tirthankar Das - Director
3. Shri Vikas Kumar - Under Secretary

## **INTRODUCTION**

I, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Defence (2024-25), having been authorized by the Committee, present this Sixth Report (18<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Forty-Seventh Report of Standing Committee on Defence (17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) on the subject 'A Review Of Functioning Of Zila Sainik Boards In The Country'.

2. The Forty-Seventh Report (17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) was presented to the Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2024. The Report contained 14 Observations/ Recommendations. The Ministry of Defence furnished Action Taken Replies on all the Observations/Recommendations in June 2024.

3. The Report was adopted at the Sitting held on 12 December, 2024.

4. For facility of reference and convenience, Observations/Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in the Report.

5. An analysis of Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the Forty-Seventh Report (17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Defence is given in Appendix II.

**New Delhi;  
17 December, 2024  
26 Agrahayana, 1946 (Saka)**

**RADHA MOHAN SINGH  
Chairperson  
Standing Committee on Defence**

## DRAFT REPORT

### CHAPTER – I

This Report of the Standing Committee on Defence deals with Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Forty Seventh Report (17th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Defence on the subject 'A Review of Functioning of Zila Sainik Boards in the Country', which was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 08.02.2024.

2. The Forty Seventh Report (17th Lok Sabha) of the Committee contained 14 observations/ recommendations on the following aspects:

Para No.	Subject
1.	Functioning of the department
2.	Functions and demarcation of responsibilities between Kendriya Sainik Board, Rajya Sainik Boards and Zila Sainik Boards.
3.	Zila Sainik Board
4.	Redressal of grievances
5.	Expenditure on Establishment
6.	Rehabilitation of Agniveer

3. Action Taken Replies have been received from the Government in respect of all the 14 observations/recommendations contained in the Report on Forty Seventh Report (17th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Defence on the subject 'A Review of Functioning of Zila Sainik Boards in the Country'. The replies have been examined and categorized as follows:-

- i. **Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government (Chapter II):** Para Nos. 1,2,3,4,7,8,9,10,11,12,13 and 14

(Total - 12)

- ii. **Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies received from the Government (Chapter III):**

-Nil-

(Total - 00)

- iii. **Observations/Recommendations in respect of which reply of Government has not been accepted by the Committee , which require reiteration and Commented upon (Chapter IV):**

**Para Nos. 5 and 6**

(Total - 02)

- iv. **Observations/recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited (Chapter V):**

**-Nil-**

**(Total - 00)**

**4. The Committee desire that final Action Taken Notes in respect of comments contained in Chapter I should be furnished to them at the earliest and in any case, not later than six months of the presentation of this Report.**

5. The Committee will now deal with the action taken by the Government on some of the observations/recommendations made in the Forty Seventh Report of the Committee in the succeeding Paragraphs.

### **Vacancies in Zila Sainik Boards(ZSB)s**

#### **Recommendation (Para No. 5)**

The Committee had recommended as under:

6. Vacancies in the ZSBs is yet another matter of concern for the Committee. The Committee understand that one of the major reasons is the reservation policy of the State Government which results in not filling up the posts in several categories leading to existence of perennial vacancies in the boards. In total, number of vacancies all over India is that of 530 Officers. It is a given fact that a shortage of manpower in any organization leads to inefficiency in the system and piling of unresolved cases which result into the non-fulfillment of the objectives of setting up of ZSBs. The Committee, therefore, in no uncertain words, recommend that these vacancies should be expeditiously filled up at the earliest in consultation with the State Governments concerned so that the ESM and their families do not wait for resolution of their grievances and keeping suffering the hardships. If required, a special recruitment drive may be undertaken to achieve the recommended ends.

7. The Ministry in its action taken reply has stated as under:

The issue of filling up of vacant post of officers and staff in the RSBs / ZSBs was discussed during 31 st KSB meeting chaired by Hon`ble RM held on 11 April 2023 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. The issue of vacant posts has also been highlighted through DO letters written by Secy (ESW) to all Chief Secys of States/UTs on 06 March 2024 vide DO No 1(6)/2024/D(Res-II) and Secy, KSB on 10 January 2024 vide DO No 106/Policy/Appt policy/Vol-1 respectively. During the last one year (2023) one (01) Director and eighty two (82) Zila Sainik



Welfare Officers (ZSWOs) have been appointed in RSB/ZSBs. In order to encourage employment of only ESM in RSBs/ZSBs the Central Share is given only for pay of ESM staff. However, each state has their own employment rules.

**8. The Committee note that in response to their recommendation on 'vacant posts' in their original report, which was presented to Parliament on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2024, the Ministry took a very prompt action by highlighting the issue through DO letters written by Secretary (ESW) to all Chief Secretaries of States/UTs on 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2024. Yet, they are surprised that despite this prompt action, not a single appointment has been made till the time of receipt of the Action Taken reply from the Ministry.**

The Committee also note that the Ministry's reference to matters such as discussion on vacant posts during the 31<sup>st</sup> KSB meeting and the 83 appointments, which is mentioned in the Ministry's action taken reply, pertain to the year 2023 - i.e. prior to the presentation of the Committee's report. The Committee feel that their concern for the 530 vacant posts and the need for filling of these posts through a special recruitment drive, as recommended in their 47<sup>th</sup> report was, perhaps, not accorded due seriousness by the Ministry. They, therefore, desire the Ministry to take up the issue of vacant posts in Zila Sainik Boards very seriously and once again sensitize the State Governments concerned to undertake special recruitment drive, if required, to fill up the vacant posts without any further delay. The Committee may also be informed of the steps taken by the Ministry in this regard.

#### **Frequency of meetings of ZSBs**

#### **Recommendation (Para No. 6)**

9. The Committee had recommended as under:

The Committee note that structure of Zila Sainik Board for resolving the grievances of Ex-Servicemen, widows and their dependents includes a procedure wherein, the grievances are received at DESW/Kendriya Sainik Board (KSB)/ Rajya Sainik Boards (RSBs/ Zila Sainik Boards (ZSBs) through various means including online submission for their eventual resolution. The Committee also note that the interdependence in the functioning of bodies for resolution of the grievances of the ex-servicemen wherein at the apex level, KSB is issuing policy guidelines and also administers the various welfare schemes funded from Armed Forces Flag Day Fund (AFFDF). The RSB oversees the State govt schemes and ZSBs have the day-to-day interface with ESM. All the applications for various welfare schemes and any other administrative requirement of ESM are routed through the ZSBs to the concerned State/ Central Govt authority.

Since ZSBs need to meet to resolve the grievances of ESM and their family members, therefore, the Committee were desirous of the knowing the prescribed norms regarding the number of meetings of ZSBs to be held in a year and the actual number of meetings held in various ZSBs during each of the last five years. The Committee also wanted to know whether the District Magistrates actually attend and head the meetings or if any other Senior Officer does it on their behalf under the delegated authority. The Committee also desired to know the exact figures in regard to the meetings not actually attended by the DMs in the last five years. The Committee are surprised that despite reminders, till the time of presentation of the report, the information on both the issues could not be provided to the Committee secretariat. Therefore, the Committee recommend the Ministry to oversee the affairs of the functioning of KSBs so that such basic information are kept ready in the records. Atleast now, the Committee should be furnished the complete details in one lot in regard to the meetings under reference. They also desire that for the benefit of all, such information can be uploaded on the website of the Ministry/KSB for ready reference of all concerned.

10. The Ministry in its action taken reply has stated as under:

The details of number of ZSB meetings held, attended by District Magistrate and decisions taken & implemented in States/UTs in the last five years, as received from the RSBs are attached as Enclosure -1.

**11. The Committee recall that in their original report, they had desired to be apprised of the prescribed norms regarding the number of meetings of ZSBs to be held in a year and actual number of meetings held in various ZSBs during each of the last 5 years. They had also desired to know whether the District Magistrates attend and preside over such meetings or some other officials attend on their behalf. However, the reply of the Ministry is conspicuous by the absence of any reference to the prescribed norms, although they have given details of the number of ZSB Meetings held, attended by DMs and decisions taken/implemented in States/UTs in the last five years. Since the intention of the Committee for seeking the norms was to see whether the meetings of the ZSBs as being held as per the prescribed norms or not, the Committee, therefore, exhort the Ministry to furnish information with respect to the prescribed norms, if any, for holding the ZSB meeting in a year. The Committee are of the view that if there is no norms prescribed at the moment, the Ministry may formulate a set of norms for holding such meetings in the ZSBs so that the meeting can be held as per norm and grievances can also be resolved within the prescribed time-limit.**

**Further, the scrutiny of the Action Taken reply reveal that there are States where no meetings have been held; in some State, it was held twice in a year and in some other States, it was held only once a year. Witnessing such lack of uniformity in the working of ZSBs, the Committee feel that the Government**

should formulate a set of norms expeditiously so as to prescribe the number of meeting of ZSBs to be held in a year and also the time-limit for resolving of grievances. The Committee also reiterate their earlier recommendation that the details of the meetings of ZSBs held, attended by DMs and decision taken etc. should also be uploaded in the Ministry's web page, if not done so far, for ready reference of all concerned.

### **Reimbursement of medical expenses to the veterans**

#### **Recommendation (Para No. 13)**

The Committee had recommended as under:

12. The matter of reimbursement of medical expenses to veterans and hospitals had invariably been raised during oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry. The Committee were also apprised that due to pending bills with ECHS, the hospitals refuse to entertain ESM and their family members. The Committee view this very seriously and desire that all the pending bill of hospitals should be cleared at the earliest and that the Ministry should make a robust system so that it can monitor the delay and blacklist the hospitals denying treatment to veterans and their family members.

The Ministry in its action taken reply has stated as under:

13. The initial ECHS Budgetary Allocation (BE) during the last financial year (2023-24) of Rs. 5431.56 Cr was supplemented with additional funds of Rs. 4449.56 Cr at various budgetary stages which arrive at the final total Budgetary Allocation of Rs. 9881.12 Cr during 2023-24. This has helped in clearing the previous backlog (Approx Rs. 3000 Cr) of pending bills of the empanelled hospitals besides streamlining the regular clearance of claims in a timely manner. The hospitals are not refusing any treatment to the veterans/families due to any bill pendency. The Ministry is also working on developing a comprehensive IT infrastructure to closely monitor the delay and quality of service being provided to the veterans/their families.

14. **The Committee are happy to note that allocation of additional funds of Rs.4449.56 crores by the Ministry at various budgetary stages during 2023-24 has helped in clearing the previous backlog (approximately Rs.3000 crores) of pending bills of the empaneled hospitals, besides streamlining the regular clearance of claims in a timely manner. The Committee also appreciate the Ministry's initiative for developing a comprehensive IT infrastructure to closely monitor the delay and quality of service being provided to the veterans and their family members. However, they would like to be apprised of the latest status of the ongoing work related to IT infrastructure.**

## **CHAPTER – II**

### **OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT**

#### **Recommendation No. 1:**

The Committee are happy to note that a new Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare (DESW) was created in the Ministry of Defence on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2004 exclusively to pay focused attention to the welfare and resettlement of ESM in view of the expanding population of ex-servicemen (ESM) and widows. DESW is mandated to formulate and implement various policies and programmes for the welfare and resettlement of Ex-Servicemen in the country. The Department consists of two Division i.e. (i) Pension Division; and (ii) Resettlement Division. While the Pension Division of the Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare deals with pension policies for the Armed Forces personnel and redressal of grievances of Ex-servicemen, the Resettlement Division looks after the remaining matters. Further, DESW has three attached offices namely, KendriyaSainik Board Secretariat (KSB Sectt.), Directorate General of Resettlement (DGR) and Central Organisation, Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (CO, ECHS). KSB Sectt. Is responsible for the welfare of Ex-Servicemen and their dependents and also for the administration of welfare funds.

The work as ordained through DESW assumes special significance in the area of resettlement of the ex-servicemen as the proper resettlement is one of the main attractions for our Forces to join the Defence Services. At the handset of the mind it gives the security in terms of resettlement to the ex-servicemen and widows and their dependents.

#### **Reply of the Government**

This is factual information and Ministry has no comments to offer.

#### **Recommendation No. 2:**

The committee further note that the welfare of the Ex-Servicemen and their dependents is the joint responsibility of the Centre and the States/UTs. The Committee understand that a majority of the problems have to be resolved only by the States/UTs. Like the KendriyaSainik Board at the Centre, the Rajya/ZilaSainik Boards are responsible for policy formulation and implementation of resettlement and welfare schemes for Ex-servicemen, widows and their dependents residing in their respective

States/UTs/Districts. To assist the Central Government in this regard, there are 34 RajyaSainik Boards (RSBs) and 407 ZilaSainik Boards (ZSBs) in the country. The expenditure on the establishment of RSBs & ZSBs is shared between the Centre and the States/UTs on 75:25 basis for the special category States/UTs (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Uttrakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh) and 60:40 basis for rest of the States.

### **Reply of the Government**

- (i) There are 34 RajyaSainik Boards (RSBs) and 413ZilaSainikBoards (ZSBs) in the country.
- (ii) The special category States/UTs are Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura,Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh

### **Demarcation of responsibilities between Kendriya Sainik Boards, Rajya Sainik Boards and Zila Sainik Boards**

#### **Recommendation No. 3:**

From the information furnished by the Ministry, the Committee comprehend that there is a clear demarcation in the functioning of Kendriya Sainik Board, Rajya Sainik Boards and Zila Sainik Boards. While the major functions of Kendriya Sainik Board include coordinating inter-alia dissemination of policy directives as approved by the MoD towards ESM welfare, the functions of Rajya Sainik Boards include control and co-ordination work of Zila Sainik Welfare Offices (ZSWOs) in the State and ensure their effective functioning. The Committee note that the functions of Zila Sainik Board have the prime points like monitoring welfare of families of servicemen and ESM in addition to assisting them in representing their cases with the local administration or the Defence authorities, giving information to the general public regarding conditions of service in the Armed Forces so as to assist intending candidates in approaching the appropriate recruiting authorities for purposes of enlistment, maintain a close liaison with the pension disbursing authorities/ agencies in the district to ensure correct and timely payment of pension/ other reliefs to ESM pensioners/dependents, assisting in settlement of land and other disputes, assist families of serving personnel in regards to their safety/security, promote and maintain, welfare measures in the District such as Rest Houses for ESM, old age pensioner homes, Jawan Bhawans/ shops, vocational and other training facilities, hostel for children of serving defence personnel and ESM etc.

However, the mutual dependence/ coordination of KSB/RSB/ZSBs with the Directorate General of Resettlement (DGR) is a noticeable feature which came to notice during examination of the subject. The KSB/RSB/ZSB and DGR coordinate with each

other for various inter mingling issues such as Census of ESM, grant of ESM status to personnel, reservation for ESM in Govt service, etc.

It has also come to the notice of the Committee that benefits of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes do not invariably reach the ESM beneficiaries and their families. Therefore, the Committee are of the considered view and, therefore, recommend that a mechanism be dwelt upon and given a finality so that there should be a better coordination between the agencies working for the welfare of ESM and widows and their families so that the benefits of the Centrally sponsored schemes reach the ESM and their family members invariably. It goes without saying here that the outcome should be periodically monitored regularly by the officer not below or equivalent to the Joint Secretary in the Ministry.

### Reply of the Government

(a) There are 10 schemes being run by KSB for the welfare of ESM/widows/dependents etc on pan India basis are as follows:-

S No	Scheme	Amount (in Rs)
(i)	<b>Penury Grant</b> - Non pensioners up to the rank of Hav (Above 65 years of age)	4,000/-pm
(ii)	<b>Education Grant</b> - Wards of pensioner / non pensioner / widows up to the rank of Hav as under :- (i) Boys / Girls - Grade-I to graduation (ii) Widow's - PG	1,000/-pm
(iii)	<b>100 % Disabled Children Grant</b> - Wards of pensioner / non pensioner up to the rank of JCO.	3,000/-pm
(iv)	<b>Daughter's Marriage Grant</b> -Daughters of pensioner / non pensioner up to the rank of Hav (Applicable to two daughters only). <b>Widow Re-Marriage Grant</b> - Widow of pensioner / non pensioner up to the rank of Hav.	50,000/- (one time)
(v)	<b>Medical Treatment Grant</b> – Non pensioner up to the rank of Hav& dependent.	50,000/- (Max)
(vi)	<b>Orphan Grant</b> - Wards of pensioner / non pensioner for all ranks as under :- (i) Daughter till marriage. (ii) Son up to 21 years of age.	3,000/- pm
(vii)	<b>Vocational Trg Grant for Widows</b> -Widows of pensioner / non pensioner up to the rank of Hav.	50,000/- (One Time)
(viii)	<b>Treatment of Serious Diseases Grant</b> –Non pensioner / widow / dependent for all ranks	1,50,000/- for major diseases (one time).  75,000/- per annum for cancer and dialysis
(ix)	<b>Modified Scooter Grant</b> -Disabled ex servicemen up to the rank of JCO with a disability 50% or more.	1,00,000/- once in ten years.
(x)	<b>Interest Subsidy on Home Loan</b> - Re-imbusement of interest on loan taken from banks for construction	1,00,000/- one time

	of house to War Bereaved, War Disabled and Attributable to Peace time casualties. 50% of the interest charged by the banks or Govt / Public Sector	
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(b) The chain of processing of applications submitted by ESM is as follows:-

ESM→ZSB→RSB→KSB→JS(ESW)→Secretary(ESW)

(c) All the 10 welfare schemes are periodically reviewed and monitored by JS(ESW) in the Case Consideration Committee Meeting which is held Quarterly in the office of JS(ESW).

### **Composition of a Zila Sainik Board**

#### **Recommendation No. 4 :**

The Committee note that the composition of Zila Sainik Board consists of District Collector as President, Senior Ex-service Officer as Vice President, Heads of State Govt Departments/ Recruiting Officer as Ex-officio members, Two Ex-Servicemen as Non official member, Four Prominent Citizens as Members, Zila Sainik Welfare Officer as Secretary along with seven-eight support staff, including Clerk, Peon, Driver etc., to assist in the day-to-day office work. The Committee have also been informed that the staff is sufficient for day to day working of Zila Sainik Board.

Taking cognizance of the above facts, the Committee do not agree with the view of the Ministry that ZSB's mixed composition of civil administration and ESM facilitates resolution of issues of ESM in a better way, especially related to Revenue/ Home department. The Committee are of the view when there is already a District Collector, who is the head of all civil departments in a district as the President, instead of civilian officers, more number of ESMs should be added as members in the ZSBs, who themselves, by virtue of the experience of serving in the forces, are better equipped to understand their problems in true spirit. Therefore, the Committee, in no uncertain words recommend that all out efforts be done within a time frame to restructure and accommodate more numbers of ESMs so that issues surfacing be comprehended in the true earnest and more number of disputes resolved amicably and for mutual satisfaction of all stake holders.

The Committee also note that the State/UT Govts. have their own recruitment rules and staff in ZSBs which are employed as per the sanction accorded by respective State/ UT Govt. and also some ZSBs are employing personnel on contractual basis too. In this regard, the Committee, here, can only recommend the Ministry to impress upon the State Governments to give more representation to the ESM and that a uniform policy constituted across all the States/UTs to be implemented for resolving the grievances in an expeditious manner. They also recommend, wherever feasible even on hiring the personnel on contractual basis preference must be given to ESM.

## **Reply of the Government**

The issue of filling up of vacant post of officers and staff in the RSBs / ZSBs was discussed during 31<sup>st</sup> KSB meeting chaired by Hon`ble RM held on 11 April 2023 at VigyanBhavan, New Delhi. The issue of vacant posts has also been highlighted through DO letters written by Secy (ESW) to all Chief Secys of States/UTs on 06 March 2024 vide DO No 1(6)/2024/D(Res-II) and Secy, KSB on 10 January 2024 vide DO No 106/Policy/Apptpolicy/Vol-1 respectively. During the last one year (2023) one (01) Director and eighty-two (82) Zila Sainik Welfare Officers (ZSWOs) have been appointed in RSB/ZSBs. In order to encourage employment of only ESM in RSBs/ZSBs the Central Share is given only for pay of ESM staff. However, each state has their own employment rules.

### **Redressal of grievances by DESW, KSB, RSBs and ZSBs**

#### **Recommendation No. 7:**

The Committee note that grievances are normally received at DESW, KSB, RSBs and ZSBs. These are resolved at an appropriate level or forwarded to the concerned authority for resolving the grievances of the ESM / Widows / their dependents.

The Committee are happy to learn that data of veer naris is maintained by the respective services and is shared with the ZSBs for necessary assistance. The Ministry vide written note informed the Committee that these details are collated and shared with KSB on half yearly basis by RSBs. Due attention is paid to monitoring the grievances of the Veer Naris. All the RSBs are regularly requested to resolve these matters on priority and forward the status of pending cases along with the monthly Pragati report. Further, modifications in the CPGRAM ver 7.0 have also been suggested to DS (P & G) / MoD with inclusions of all ZSBs for faster dissemination of the grievances.

The Committee are also happy to learn that the Ministry has devised time line for resolving / forwarding the grievances to the concerned departments and practically all replies are rendered much before the cut off time in majority of cases. The Committee found that the majority of grievances received pertain to State Govt/other agencies via Record Offices are forwarded to them for early redressal and regularly proactive interaction by KSB Sectt with all RSBs.

The Committee also note that in addition, a help line has also been started in KSB (Grievances) Secretariat where approximately 25-30 queries per day are being received on the telephone from the ESM fraternity and the same are being redressed/suitably guided for their action. However, the Ministry failed to provide the comparative figures regarding the number of cases registered vis-à-vis disposed by the ZSBs districts wise during each of the last five years and issues pending resolution for more than five years in each of the ZSB, so that they can arrive at a definite conclusion on the effective working of ZSBs. Therefore, the Committee recommend that the above



information should be furnished to them within one month of presentation of this report so they can extend useful guidance to the Ministry in this regard.

### **Reply of the Government**

Details of grievances received/ resolved by ZSBs for the last five years from 2019 to 2023 is attached as **Enclosure-2**.

### **Role of the Ministry of Defence in resolving grievance**

#### **Recommendation Serial No. 8:**

The Committee understand that redressal of grievances is a key function of the Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare. Department is receiving pension related and other grievances from ex-servicemen through offline in hard copy as well as online through CPGRAMS/CPENGRAMS which are being processed with the concerned offices who are redressing the grievances of Ex-Servicemen efficiently and in a time bound manner. The Committee note that as per the information furnished to them by the Ministry, the grievances pending beyond the prescribed time limit are regularly followed up and regular interaction with the concerned offices is made for their speedy disposal as well as reviewing the pending grievances on a weekly basis. In the direction of prompt and satisfactory resolution of grievances following initiatives are then taken by the Ministry.

- (a) Personal contact with petitioners: Apart from written communication, petitioner are invariably contacted over the phone to obtain (i) specifics of the grievances, facts, service/pensioners details (ii) Feedback about resolution of grievances and to ascertain level of satisfaction. Contacting the petitioner over the phone in connection with his/her grievance is also providing immense satisfaction making him/her feel as an important part of the system.
- (b) Categorization of grievances: The department has categorized the grievances according to the nature of grievances received from ex-servicemen to know the root cause of the grievances and issuing instructions to the concerned offices about the deficiency.
- (c) Periodical monitoring at higher level: The status of pending pension grievances is being monitored at the highest level of the department by the Secretary in regular weekly/fortnight meetings.
- (d) Synergy of the existing infrastructure: The Existing set up of Sainik Boards is being utilized for assisting the petitioners and other ex-servicemen for competition of documents/Records required for release of pension and assisting in State Govt. related issues/grievances.

The impact of the above indicated initiatives, together with strict compliance with shorter timeline of 30 days for resolution of grievances and use of existing technology

has resulted in reduction of average disposal time from 87 days in 2014 to 33 days in 2022.

The Committee are happy with the above measures and monitoring undertaken by the Ministry which has resulted in reduction of average disposal time from 87 days in 2014 to 33 days in 2022. However, they desire that further reducing the time of redressal of grievance from 33 days to two weeks will fortify the bond between the Ministry and the ESM.

The Committee have also been informed that during the year 2022, approximately 11,000 complaints were received and most of them were through CPGRAM Portal. It was further informed that the complaints belonging to service matters were resolved at the level of the board but other complaints like personal matters or land issues, the board can only advise. The Committee in this regard only suggest that even in personal matters, board should extend all possible help, since most of the ESM, after spending a large active part of life away from their homes, do not remain familiar with civilian society and take time to again mingle with them.

The Committee also desire that the Ministry should give a ranking to each ZSB based on its performance related to efficiency in resolving grievances of ESM and their family Members and providing employment opportunities.

The Committee note that the Ministry has a system for the resolution of pension-related problems wherein a ESM can lodge a complaint through the Common Service Center in a far-flung village. However, the Committee are of the view that for better monitoring of the existing system and procedure, in the meetings of ZSBs, local MP and MLA of that area should be invariably invited to attend, which will help in providing immediate solution.

### **Reply of the Government**

It is pertinent to mention that as per DARPG guidelines, the time limit for the redressal of grievances is 30 days. As per the report of SCoD approximately 11,000 grievances were received with an average disposal time of 33 days during the year 2022. Whereas during the year 2023 the number of grievances increased approximately by 3.3 times i.e. 36,662. However, the same was disposed off with an average disposal time of 28 days.

### **Criteria for opening of Zila Sainik Boards**

#### **Recommendation Serial No. 9 :**

The Committee note that as per the existing provision of High Level Committee report, 1984, Zila Sainik Boards can be set up by concerned State Governments, if the population of ex-servicemen and families of serving/deceased service personnel is 7500 and above. However, prior approval of Central Government is required if the number of families of ex-servicemen and serving/deceased service personnel in a district is less than 7500. Prior approval of the Central Government is also necessary for the

establishment of a District Welfare Board in that district or for the establishment of District Welfare Board consisting of 2 or 3 districts where population is less than 7500.

The Committee desired to know whether there is any proposal to open more ZSBs in the country in view of the increasing number of ESM and their family members. The Committee have been informed that opening of the new ZSBs is a continuous process. The total numbers of ZSBs in the country have been increased from 229 in 1984 to a total of 409 by 2022. It further stated that new ZSB can be established by the concerned State/ UT Governments themselves if the population of ESM and families of serving/ deceased service personnel is 7500 and above. In case the strength is less than 7500 and the need is felt to set up a ZSB due to demographic or other reasons, then the same can be done with prior approval of Central Govt/ MoD through KSB Sectt. These requests are considered favorably to facilitate the welfare of ESM community.

The Committee are happy that the Ministry have an established procedure to open new ZSBs. However, considering the fact that many of the ESM and their families are located in far-flung areas, the Community recommend that ZSBs or sub-centres should also be opened in those areas which are a little away from the main concentration of the population or difficult to reach by an average old ESM.

### **Reply of the Government**

ZSB is opened in each district where requisite population of ESM and family of serving/ deceased service personnel is 7500 and above. In case of districts with less number of ESM and difficulty due to topography, case to case recommendation is given with the approval from MoD/DESW. Such Sub Centres of ZSB in district are already existing in States.

### **Expenditure on Establishment**

#### **Recommendation Serial No. 10 :**

The Committee note that the Central Govt provides 75% share of the cost of establishment of RSBs/ZSBs to 12 special category States/UTs (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and Uttarakhand) and 60% share for remaining States/UTs. The amount is allotted to States/UTs as per projection / expenditure. RSBs of States forward the consolidated requirement for the entire State.

After gleaning through the information provided by the Ministry, the Committee note that the funds have been fully utilized. However, in the absence of any concrete reply from the Ministry, the Committee could not comprehend clearly about the monitoring mechanism of the fund utilization. Therefore, the committee recommended that a robust mechanism for monitoring may be established and the Committee may be informed accordingly.

## **Reply of the Government**

The following mechanism is used for monitoring of utilisation of funds:-

- (a) It is intimated that as per the policy 60% / 75% of the cost of maintenance/ establishment of RSB/ ZSBs is provided by Govt. of India/ MoD as Central Share.
- (b) The Central Share funds are released to the respective State Govts in two stages i.e: -
  - (i) 50% of the admissible Central Share as an Advance payment, based on the Budget Estimate (BE) allocation by the State Govt. for the FY.
  - (ii) The remaining/balance Central Share funds are released/reimbursed as Final Claim payment for the respective FY after Audit/booking of expenditure by the AG of the concerned State.
- (c) In view of the above, it may be inferred that there already exists an established mechanism of Audit/monitoring of the expenditure incurred by the State for maintenance/ establishment of RSB/ZSBs by AG of the concerned State. The final payment of Central Share of funds for any FY is cleared only post scrutiny of the CAG Audited expenditure.

### **Computerization to ease the functioning of KSB/RSB/ZSBs**

#### **Recommendation Serial No. 11:**

The Committee note that KSB Sectt. has an independent web portal which was launched in 2016. This web portal enables ESM and their dependents to apply online for various Welfare Schemes funded from AFFDF. The disbursement of financial benefits is undertaken through Direct Benefit Transfer mode. The RSB/ZSBs are handling respective State Govt Welfare schemes through their web portals. The Ministry ascertained that KSB Sectt regularly monitors the CPGRAMS portal for grievances of ESM. In addition, all RSBs are also monitoring the CPGRAMS. Further modification in CPGRAM ver 7.0 has been suggested to DS (P & G) / MoD for inclusion of all ZSBs for faster dissemination of the grievances.

On the issue of networking between the KSB/RSB/ZSB and other departments, the Ministry apprised that it is primarily through emails. Regular interaction at the MoD level chaired by Secy (ESW)/ JS (ESW) where heads of each department attend are also undertaken.

The Committee note that there exists a system of registration of ESM with ZSBs, however, the Committee find that ESM have to approach their respective RSB/ZSB to register their name. In this regard, the Committee urge the Ministry to create a system through which registration takes place automatically alongwith the pension papers, so that they don't have to approach respective ZSB after their retirement. This move will

not only help the Ministry to have updated data about ESM but also help in creating central supervision of ESM as well as ZSBs.

### **Reply of the Government**

Most of the ESM are young and healthy at the time of retirement. They are required to visit their concerned ZSB for issue of I-Card for self/ dependents. This also helps the individual to liaise with the ZSB staff for future requirements. Therefore, the existing system is considered suitable and beneficial for the ESM community. Their physical presence ensures verification of service documents, PPO and other credential prior to issue of I-Card.

### **Lack of uniformity in the States/UTs regarding ex-gratia monetary benefits/compensation to the martyrs in the country**

#### **Recommendation Serial No. 12 :**

The issue of lack of uniformity in the States/UTs regarding ex-gratia monetary benefits/compensation to the martyrs in the country was addressed in earlier reports of the Committee specially in the Reports on Demand for Grants. During oral evidence of the Ministry, the issue was again raised and it was mentioned that Hon'ble Raksha Mantri has written to States about the enhancement of ex-gratia benefits.

The Committee note that ex-gratia lump sum compensation of Death is paid to eligible family members of martyred soldiers. The Committee were informed by the Ministry of Defence during the examination of related subjects in earlier reports that this amount varies for different categories of death of the soldier. Compensation of Rs. 25 lakh is granted in case of death occurring due to accidents or acts of violence by terrorists, anti-social elements while performing duties and a compensation of Rs. 35 lakh is paid in case of death occurring in border skirmishes and action against militants, terrorists, extremists, sea pirates etc. Besides, an amount of Rs. 45 lakh is granted as compensation in case of death occurring during enemy action in war, After the intervention of the Ministry, the amount of compensation has been raised by some of the State Governments and State like Gujarat have raised the amount to Rs. 1 crore but a few states like Mizoram and Telangana are giving only Rs 6 lakh and Rs 5 lakh respectively. The Committee are of the considered view that though the loss of life of a soldier cannot be evaluated in monetary terms, yet financial grant helps provide a reasonable and respectful life to family members of the soldier. Further, it also acts as an incentive and encouragement for the youth to join the Armed Forces. Given this notion and considering the increase in the rate of inflation, the Committee desire to reiterate that the Government should seriously consider increasing the ex-gratia fund by Rs. 10 lakh in each of the above categories. The minimum amount under any category will be Rs. 35 lakhs and the maximum Rs. 55 lakhs.

The Committee wish to state that they are not oblivious of the fact that the issue regarding uniformity in payments of ex-gratia amount to the dependents of Martyrs has been raised and discussed in several meetings of the Committee without any positive outcome. Therefore, the Committee, in unequivocal terms, recommend that requisite

measures be initiated and should be put in place to sensitize state Governments to bring in more uniformity in granting ex-gratia funds for families of martyred soldiers.

### **Reply of the Government**

Hon'ble RakshaMantri, through a DO letter, had urged CMs / LGs of concerned State/UTs to enhance the ex-gratia and other grants. Recently the States of Manipur, Meghalaya and Rajasthan have enhanced the grants for Gallantry Award winners. Further, States are likely to increase these grants during their RSB meetings as and when these are conducted.

### **Reimbursement of medical expenses to the veterans**

#### **Recommendation Serial No. 13 :**

The matter of reimbursement of medical expenses to veterans and hospitals had invariably been raised during oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry. The Committee were also apprised that due to pending bills with ECHS, the hospitals refuse to entertain ESM and their family members. The Committee view this very seriously and desire that all the pending bill of hospitals should be cleared at the earliest and that the Ministry should make a robust system so that it can monitor the delay and blacklist the hospitals denying treatment to veterans and their family members.

### **Reply of the Government**

The initial ECHS Budgetary Allocation (BE) during the last financial year (2023-24) of Rs. 5431.56 Cr was supplemented with additional funds of Rs. 4449.56 Cr at various budgetary stages which arrive at the final total Budgetary Allocation of Rs. 9881.12 Cr during 2023-24. This has helped in clearing the previous backlog (ApproxRs. 3000 Cr) of pending bills of the empanelled hospitals besides streamlining the regular clearance of claims in a timely manner. The hospitals are not refusing any treatment to the veterans/families due to any bill pendency. The Ministry is also working on developing a comprehensive IT infrastructure to closely monitor the delay and quality of service being provided to the veterans/their families.

### **Rehabilitation of Agniveer**

#### **Recommendation Serial No. 14 :**

The Committee found that there is no assured employment or skill development programme exclusively designed for Agniveer, except for some percentage of reservation of jobs in Central Armed Police Forces. The Committee are happy to note that in consonance of their considered views during the examination of the subject, the Ministry have started monitoring of the quota in filling Government vacancies. The

Committee also desire that rather than simply monitoring the vacancies, Agniveers, who are destined to go out of the service after a certain years of service, should be informed personally about the vacancies and ensure that they fill up the forms to appear for the required physical and written tests so that no vacancy remain unfilled. Considering the plight of family members/Next of Kin, the Committee desire after Martyrdom of an Agniveer, same benefits should be provided to their family members that are provided to the family of a regular soldier.

### **Reply of the Government**

- a) There is no assured employment for each Agniveer on exit.
- b) However, there is an exhaustive skill development and certification programme in place for Agniveers while in service. Each Agniveer shall obtain two KaushalPramanPatras at NSQF level 4.5 as per his trade in Indian Army. Agniveers shall also accrue one National Trade Certificate (ITI) based on his trade.
- c) The forwarding Ministries have also catered for reservation in jobs or financial concessions for entrepreneur endeavors for existing Agniveers:-
  - (i) **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**:10% horizontal reservation to the post of Constable (GD)/Rifleman in CAPFs (CISF, SSB, ITBP, CRPF & BSF) & Assam Rifles.
  - (ii) **Ministry of Defence (MoD)**:10% horizontal reservation in Group 'A', 'B', 'C' and lower level posts.
  - (iii) **Ministry of Railways**:Notification issued for 10% reservation in RPF & all Level-1 posts. 5% reservation in all Level-2 to 7 posts.
  - (iv) **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**: Soft loans will be extended to ex-Agniveers under various Govt. schemes for encouraging entrepreneurship.
  - (v) **Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)**: Subsidies, 5% reservation in courses and loans under preferential schemes have been extended to ex-Agniveers by MSME.
- d) In terms of same benefits be provided to family of Agniveer on death on duty as for permanent cadre, the compensation is provided as specified in the terms and conditions of service by Government of India.
- e) Details of various naval civilian posts for employment of ex-Agniveers are sent to Commands with a request to advise Agniveers on avenues available to join the Indian Navy as Naval Defence Civilian on completion of the Agniveer engagement. Commands have also been requested to highlight the requirement of upgradation of their skill/ educational qualification as applicable to various posts.
- f) Through collaborative efforts with Ministry of Education (MoE) and Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MoSDE), educational upgradation and up-skilling of Agniveervayu during his/her service period has been ensured. A detailed syllabus, training and job role matching was carried out with the relevant departments under both these Ministries towards identifying commonalities and equivalence. Based on the same, MoU have been inked by IAF with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and

National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) to facilitate award of Graduation degree and Senior Secondary qualification to Agniveervayu (AgV) and Agniveervayu Non Combatants (AgV NCs). To seamlessly facilitate the process, IAF has been awarded Dual Recognition as the Awarding Body (AB) as well as Assessment Agency (AA) by the National Council of Vocational Education and Training (NCVET). In addition, Director General of Training (DGT) under MoSDE would also facilitate award of National Trade Certificate (NTC) to AgV NCs. AgV and AgV NCs will be issued with subject qualification certificate after successful completion of four years of their engagement period. It would be ensured that Agniveers are informed personally about the Government vacancies in the last year of their tenure.

g) At present, the following is admissible to NoK from the Agniveer Corpus Fund in case of his/ her death: -

<b><u>Category</u></b>	<b><u>Entitlements of Agniveervayu</u></b>
Death during engagement period on Bonafide duty <b>(Category 'Y/Z')</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Insurance cover of Rs. 48 lakhs from Public Fund.</li> <li>(ii) One-time ex-gratia Rs. 44 lakhs from Public Fund.</li> <li>(iii) Full pay for unserved period upto four years (with effect from date of death) including Seva Nidhi component.</li> <li>(iv) Balance accumulated (as on date) in the individual's Seva Nidhi fund and Govt contribution including interest from the Agniveer Corpus Fund.</li> </ul>
Death during engagement period not on duty <b>(Category 'X')</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Insurance Cover of Rs 48 lakhs from Public Fund.</li> <li>(ii) Balance accumulated (as on date) in the individual's Seva Nidhi Fund and Govt contribution including interest from the Agniveer Corpus Fund.</li> </ul>



### **CHAPTER – III**

**OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE REPLIES RECEIVED FROM THE GOVERNMENT**

**-Nil-**

## CHAPTER – IV

### OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE

#### Vacancies in ZSBs

##### **Recommendation No. 5 :**

Vacancies in the ZSBs is yet another matter of concern for the Committee. The Committee understand that one of the major reasons is the reservation policy of the State Government which results in not filling up the posts in several categories leading to existence of perennial vacancies in the boards. In total, number of vacancies all over India is that of 530 Officers. It is a given fact that a shortage of manpower in any organization leads to inefficiency in the system and piling of unresolved cases which result into the non-fulfillment of the objectives of setting up of ZSBs. The Committee, therefore, in no uncertain words, recommend that these vacancies should be expeditiously filled up at the earliest in consultation with the State Governments concerned so that the ESM and their families do not wait for resolution of their grievances and keeping suffering the hardships. If required, a special recruitment drive may be undertaken to achieve the recommended ends.

##### **Reply of the Government**

The issue of filling up of vacant post of officers and staff in the RSBs / ZSBs was discussed during 31<sup>st</sup> KSB meeting chaired by Hon`ble RM held on 11 April 2023 at VigyanBhavan, New Delhi. The issue of vacant posts has also been highlighted through DO letters written by Secy (ESW) to all Chief Secys of States/UTs on 06 March 2024 vide DO No 1(6)/2024/D(Res-II) and Secy, KSB on 10 January 2024 vide DO No 106/Policy/Apptpolicy/Vol-1 respectively. During the last one year(2023) one (01) Director and eighty two (82) ZilaSainik Welfare Officers (ZSWOs) have been appointed in RSB/ZSBs. In order to encourage employment of only ESM in RSBs/ZSBs the Central Share is given only for pay of ESM staff. However, each state has their own employment rules.

#### Frequency of meetings of ZSBs

##### **Recommendation No. 6 :**

The Committee note that structure of ZilaSainik Board for resolving the grievances of Ex-Servicemen, widows and their dependents includes a procedure wherein, the grievances are received at DESW/KendriyaSainik Board (KSB)/RajyaSainik Boards (RSBs/ ZilaSainik Boards (ZSBs) through various means including online submission for their eventual resolution.

The Committee also note that the interdependence in the functioning of bodies for resolution of the grievances of the ex-servicemen wherein at the apex level, KSB is issuing policy guidelines and also administers the various welfare schemes funded from Armed Forces Flag Day Fund (AFFDF). The RSB oversees the State govt schemes and ZSBs have the day-to-day interface with ESM. All the applications for various welfare schemes and any other administrative requirement of ESM are routed through the ZSBs to the concerned State/ Central Govt authority.

Since ZSBs need to meet to resolve the grievances of ESM and their family members, therefore, the Committee were desirous of the knowing the prescribed norms regarding the number of meetings of ZSBs to be held in a year and the actual number of meetings held in various ZSBs during each of the last five years. The Committee also wanted to know whether the District Magistrates actually attend and head the meetings or if any other Senior Officer does it on their behalf under the delegated authority. The Committee also desired to know the exact figures in regard to the meetings not actually attended by the DMs in the last five years. The Committee are surprised that despite reminders, till the time of presentation of the report, the information on both the issues could not be provided to the Committee secretariat. Therefore, the Committee recommend the Ministry to oversee the affairs of the functioning of KSBs so that such basic information are kept ready in the records. At-least now, the Committee should be furnished the complete details in one lot in regard to the meetings under reference. They also desire that for the benefit of all, such information can be uploaded on the website of the Ministry/KSB for ready reference of all concerned.

### **Reply of the Government**

The details of number of ZSB meetings held, attended by District Magistrate and decisions taken & implemented in States/UTs in the last five years, as received from the RSBs are attached as **Enclosure -1.**

**CHAPTER – V**

**OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH GOVERNMENT  
HAVE FURNISHED INTERIM REPLIES/REPLIES AWAITED**

-Nil-

**NEW DELHI;**

***17 December, 2024***

***26 Agrahayana, 1946 (Saka)***

**RADHA MOHAN SINGH,**

***Chairperson,***

***Standing Committee on Defence.***

## APPENDIX I

### STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE (2024-25)

#### MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE (2024-25)

The Committee sat on Thursday, the 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2024 from 1500 hrs. to 1515 hrs. in Committee Room No. '53', Samvidhan Sadan , New Delhi.

#### PRESENT

**Shri Radha Mohan Singh** - **Chairperson**

#### MEMBERS

##### **Lok Sabha**

- 2 Dr. Rajeev Bharadwaj
- 3 Shri Karti P Chidambaram
- 4 Shri Ranjit Dutta
- 5 Captain Viriato Fernandes
- 6 Shri Mohmad Haneefa
- 7 Ms. S. Jothimani
- 8 Shri Ravindra Shukla Alias Ravi Kishan
- 9 Shri Shashank Mani
- 10 Shri Lumba Ram
- 11 Shri Jagannath Sarkar
- 12 Shri Jagadish Shettar
- 13 Shri Virendra Singh
- 14 Shri Kesineni Sivanath
- 15 Com. Selvaraj V.
- 16 Shri Richard Vanlalhmangaiha

##### **Rajya Sabha**

- 17 Shri Naresh Bansal
- 18 Shri N. Chandrasegharan

19	Shri Shaktisinh Gohil
20	Shri Dhairyashil Mohan Patil
21	Dr. Sudhanshu Trivedi

## SECRETARIAT

1. Dr. Sanjeev Sharma - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Tirthankar Das - Director

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee and informed them about the agenda for the Sitting. The Committee then took up for consideration the following draft Reports:-

- (i) **Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2024-25 on 'General Defence Budget, Border Roads Organisation, Indian Coast Guard, Directorate General Defence Estates, Defence Public Sector Undertakings, Welfare of Ex-Servicemen and Defence Pension (Demand Nos. 19 and 22)';**
- (ii) **Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2024-25 on 'Army, Navy, Air Force, Joint Staff and Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (Demand Nos. 20 and 21)';**
- (iii) **Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2024-25 on 'Capital Outlay on Defence Services, Procurement Policy and Defence Planning (Demand No. 21)';**
- (iv) **Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2024-25 on 'Directorate of Ordnance (Coordination and Services–New DPSUs) and Defence Research and Development Organisation (Demand Nos. 20 and 21)';**
- (v) **Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the Forty-Second Report (17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) on the subject 'A Review of the Working of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)'; and**
- (vi) **Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Forty-Seventh Report (17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) on the subject 'A Review of Functioning of Zila Sainik Boards in the Country'.**

3. After some deliberations, the Committee adopted the above reports without any modifications.

4. The Committee, then, authorized the Chairperson to finalise the above draft Reports and present the same to both the Houses of Parliament on a date convenient to him.

5. \*\*\*Does not pertain to the Report\*\*\*

The Committee then adjourned.

## APPENDIX II

**ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE FORTY-SEVENTH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE (17TH LOK SABHA) ON THE SUBJECT 'A REVIEW OF FUNCTIONING OF ZILA SAINIK BOARDS IN THE COUNTRY'.**

1. **Total number of recommendations** **14**
  
2. **Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government (please see Chapter II):**  
**Recommendation Para Nos. 1,2,3,4,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14**  
**Total : 12**  
**Percentage: 85.71%**
  
3. **Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies received from the Government (please see Chapter III):**  
**Recommendation Para No. –Nil-**  
**Total : 0**  
**Percentage: 00 %**
  
4. **Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee, which require reiteration and commented upon (please see Chapter IV):**  
**Recommendation Para No. 5 and 6**  
**Total : 2**  
**Percentage: 14.28%**
  
5. **Observations/Recommendations in respect of which Government have furnished interim replies/replies awaited (please see Chapter V):**  
**Recommendation Para No. –Nil-**  
**Total : 0**  
**Percentage: 00 %**