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Title: Need to amend the pension regulations governing defence services and grant pension to all ex-servicemen without insisting for 15 years of service.

SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN (MUKUNDAPURAM): I rise to bring to the notice of the House a matter regarding the grievances of the 'ex-servicemen non-pensioners' who were discharged or released from the Indian Army or Navy or Air Force for various reasons, such as expiry of initial engagement, on compassionate ground for domestic reasons or on medical grounds. Thousands of ex-servicemen and their families have been going through many difficulties and miseries.

As per the respective pension regulations governing all the three Services, the minimum service required for pension is fifteen years. These pension rules were framed by the British Government, which is continuing even after 58 years of our Independence. The minimum service requirements to become eligible for pension have been changed and re-regulated in almost all State and Central Government Departments for the benefit of employees. MPs and MLAs are eligible for pension irrespective of their service. But this category of ex-servicemen are denied pension on the ground that they are not eligible without a total service of fifteen years. Therefore, the denial of minimum pension is discriminatory and is in violation of articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution of India. Therefore, I would request the Government to consider and grant pension and pensioners' benefits to all ex-servicemen without insisting on 15 years of service.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Madan Lal Sharma, you can associate with what he said.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All are associating. You are making it very cheap. It is becoming a flippancy.

...(Interruptions)