

>

Title : Alleged harassment meted out to disabled ex-servicemen seeking parity with Regular and Emergency Commissioned Officers.

SHRI SHARANJIT SINGH DHILLON (LUDHIANA): Sir, when a young man is recruited in the Army, he does his best to protect the borders of the country from foreign aggression. He hopes that after retirement, the Government and the country will look after him. However, the condition of ex-servicemen today is pitiable. Especially, the disabled ex-servicemen are in a miserable condition.

Some time ago, the disabled ex-servicemen wanted to hold a rally at India Gate to draw the attention of the Government towards their demands. However, they were beaten up with batons by the police. These disabled ex-servicemen were so disillusioned that they tried to sell their medals there.

I want to highlight the plight of the disabled ex-servicemen of the emergency wing. Injustice is being meted out to them. The Army rules provide for equal facilities to the 'Regular Commissioned Officers' and the 'Emergency Commissioned Officers'. During war times, the enemy bullets do not distinguish between 'Regular Commissioned Officers' and 'Emergency Commissioned Officers'. However, the injured or dead 'Regular Commissioned Officers' are provided all facilities by the Army whereas the 'Emergency Commissioned Officers' are denied these facilities and left to fend for themselves.

For instance, Sir, there is a rule in the army that if a soldier becomes 80% or more disabled, he gets all the facilities that a 'Regular Commissioned Officer' gets. Similarly, there are facilities a soldier gets if his disability ranges between 20% and 79%. However, in reality, these provisions are not being implemented.

The 'Emergency Commissioned Officers' filed a case in the High Court. The High Court accepted their demands. But, the demands have not yet been implemented by the Army. So, I appeal to the Government to accept the genuine demands of the 'Emergency Commissioned Ex-Servicemen' as per rules. I also demand that a separate Pay Commission for them should be announced.

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.