

>

Title: Need to provide pension to ex-servicemen who left their jobs due to compelling domestic circumstances or in compliance with Government orders before the mandatory period of service to earn pensionary benefits.

SHRI K. SUDHAKARAN (KANNUR): I would like to draw the attention of this august House towards the grievances of the non-pensioner ex-servicemen of our country. At present, these ex-servicemen who have been discharged/retrenched on becoming surplus in the service, or on own request for V.R.S. due to domestic compulsions, or declared 'service no longer required' before completion of 15 years of service in the forces, are not eligible for pensionary benefits. The minimum service in case of civilian government employees to avail of pension both at the Centre and some of the States was earlier fixed as 20 years, which has reduced to 10 years now, whereas no review has been undertaken in case of soldier's eligibility. The soldiers are the ones who deserve this benefit the most, as it is their dedication to duties that enables the rest of the country to sleep peacefully at their homes with their loved ones. They ensure security of the country by serving under difficult conditions, sacrificing all luxuries during the fruitful part of their lives. I urge upon the Government to take cognizance of the Armed Forces Tribunal, Regional Bench, Kochi's direction

dated 4th April, 2011, to the Union Government to consider each of the issues raised by Ex-servicemen Non-pensioner Association in a sympathetic manner. An expert committee should be set up to find reasonable and satisfactory solution as expeditiously as possible but not later than six months from receipt of their order. In my opinion, this critical issue is lying unaddressed till date. I would urge the Government to consider the legitimate plea of those ex-servicemen and take urgent steps to reduce their pensionable service to 10 years from the existing 15 years of service and to address their other pending legitimate demands at the earliest.