

CHAPTER III
THE EX-SERVICEMEN AND
THEIR PROBLEMS

Who are the Ex-Servicemen?

Ex-servicemen, in a very broad sense, currently refer to all those who served any of the three forces of the Indian defence for any length of time and continue to live at any given point of time. However, "the need for formally defining the term "ex-servicemen" was felt for the first time after 1965, to ensure that the benefits of the new policy of reservations flow only to the really deserving persons. The definition was first formulated in 1966. Subsequently on 15th December, 1979, the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms, Ministry of Home Affairs, in their Notification No.39016/10/Estt(C), defined the term "ex-serviceman" for the purposes of employment as under:

"Ex-serviceman" means a person who has served in any rank (whether as a combatant or as a non-combatant) in the Armed Forces of the Union, including the Armed Forces of the former Indian States, but excluding the Assam Rifles, Defence Security Corps, General Reserve Engineering Force, Lok Sahayak Sena and Territorial Army for a continuous period of not less than six months after attestation and

- (i) has been released, otherwise than at his own request or by way of dismissal or discharge on account of misconduct or inefficiency or has been transferred to the reserve, pending such release or
- (ii) has to serve for not more than six months for completing the period of service required for becoming entitled to be

released or transferred to the reserve as
aforesaid or

(iii) has been released at his own request
after completing five years' service in
the Armed Forces of the Union."¹

Clause (iii) above entitles all those who are released from the services on compassionate grounds after completion of 5 years service, therefore, enabling such retiring personnel to claim all those concessions/facilities/privileges which an ex-serviceman after having rendered 15 years of regular service is entitled to get. The latter contends this and the Report of the High Level Committee on the Problems of Ex-Servicemen, Government of India, 1984, (henceforth being referred to as HLC) further adds that "taking advantage of the liberal definition, many educated individuals join the services and seek discharge on completion of 5 years service only to take advantage of the further benefits to which the ex-servicemen are entitled." (HLC, 1984, p.17). Accordingly, the HLC responded to a uniform demand "for a stricter definition of the term "ex-servicemen", to ensure that the benefits now existing and those contemplated would be conferred only on the deserving" and thereby recommending a new definition² which excludes provisions of clause (ii) and (iii) above from its purview and makes it applicable only to the regular pensioners subject to certain provisions. Department of Personnel & Training has now accepted the definition as proposed by the HLC (see Appendix-'A') and it has been clarified by the same vide their OM No.36034/

5/85-Estt. (SCT) dated 14-4-1987 that only those retiring after 1 July 1987 will be covered under the definition.

Scope of Definition of Ex-Servicemen for the present study:

An 'ex-serviceman' means a person who has served in any rank from Sepoy to Subedar Major in the Regular Army of the Indian Union and who retired from the service after earning his pension. A definition of ex-servicemen thus formulated for the present study excludes³ several categories from the currently adopted definition of the Government (see n.3). The purpose of limiting the scope of definition is to make the population under study homogenous so that findings may be applicable to all falling under the defined category. Any attempt at adopting the Government definition of ex-servicemen in toto will not only make the present study unmanageable under the given time and resource constraints but it will also change the nature of work from what is going to be primarily analytical exercise to a purely descriptive report writing.

In our definition of ex-servicemen we have made a distinction between officer and non-officer ex-servicemen and we have included only the latter. It has been so done considering their apparent distinction in terms of their ascribed and achieved status - level of education, age of retirement, quantum of pension and savings, social connections, age and education of the children; consumption

pattern, style of living and life attitude, etc. In a nutshell, therefore, the resettlement problems of the ranks and officer ex-servicemen are of entirely different kinds if at all the officers can be covered under the definition of resettlement.⁴ The problems of officer ex-servicemen come closer to the problems of retired civil officers/class in general having common experiences of isolation, fatigue and problems related to health and old age.

The non-officer ex-servicemen of the Indian Navy and Air Force have also been excluded from our definition because most of them acquire fluency in English. They are urban-oriented and also technically qualified enough to get readily absorbed in urban/industrial productive system. For most of them it is a problem of change of job, problem of elimination from the options already available in urban/industrial (organised) sector rather than a struggle for the second career for a primarily rural based and village oriented people.

Physically disabled ex-servicemen have been excluded from our definition because they are the subject matters of rehabilitation rather than re-settlement as we have already tried to define the two concepts in the first chapter. Similarly, female personnel too have been excluded from the present definition as they face problems of different kind than those covered under our definition.

However, it may be clarified that the category which has been chosen for the purpose of present study constitutes around 90 per cent of all ex-servicemen of all the three Armed Forces of the Union including the officers as is evident from Chart 3.1:

Chart 3.1: Details of Personnel who have left the Defence Services between 1980-1983

	Year			
	1980	1981	1982	1983
OFFICERS:				
Army	548	510	675	752
Navy	152	140	98	58
Air Force	220	223	183	233
OTHER THAN OFFICERS:				
Army	4 9384	5 17 16	4 36 08	45 16 0
Navy	1647	1874	1937	2552
Air Force	4581	3672	3907	4 122
GRAND TOTAL:				
Officers	920	873	956	1043
Other than Officers	55612	57262	49452	51834

Source: Based on Appendix 'L' of Report of High Level Committee on Problems of Ex-Servicemen, Govt. of India, 1984, p.126.

Therefore, the term ex-serviceman/men hereafter will connote all persons other than officers of Indian Army who retired from the service after earning his pension. True, the definition also ignores promotee officers retiring as Captain or Major who may have some resemblance of class

with the ex-servicemen just defined but they are being taken as exceptions to the rule.

Class, Caste and Ex-servicemen:

The defence services have pyramidal structure and each rank has its own special class characteristics and idiosyncracies. There are as many as 17 ranks in the Indian Army beginning with a young sepoy to the General. The occupant of a particular rank professionally (and therefore habitually) considers himself superior to even one rank junior and expects salute and respect from him on every occasion, and, he is supposed to behave before the one who is just one rank above him. Despite the rigid nature of the rank structure, in which the rights and obligations of each rank in respect of its subordinate and superior is minutely defined, they can be broadly classified on the basis of their class characteristics.

Those who come out of the defence services are released from their respective ranks and therefore tend to retain the class characteristics and idiosyncracies of that particular rank. In terms of rank, there are two major classes - (i) the Other Ranks (henceforth referred to as ORs) and Junior Commissioned Officers (henceforth referred to as JCOs) and (ii) the Commissioned Officers. The ORs and JCOs have traditional social base in society since the company days. Because till the middle of the twentieth

century, the officers cadre was predominated by the English, and an Indian could at best aspire to become a Subedar Major. Most of the National Defence Academy (NDA), Indian Military Academy (IMA) and Combined Defence Services (CDS) recruits do not have any traditional basis in the army and are drawn from the urban middle class background. The recruitment base of the ranks, however, is middle peasantry and families of some of them have traditions of sending their males for generations in a row.

The ORs and JCOs, in terms of rank, are highly heterogeneous and subordinated. There are as many as seven ranks in this group. For a sepoy, even a Havildar is a very dominating figure - Subedar Major being the virtual king of the ranks who works as a link between the rank and the Commanding Officer. Subedar Major is a coveted position in the army, entry to which is limited only through promotions from the ranks. While a young recruit aspires to reach one day at this level, he commands a near spontaneous respects from the young Commissioned officers who are taught by him many secrets of the trade. The ORs and JCOs, therefore, despite having differences among themselves on account of rank and status and power attached to that, do form a homogenous group in terms of their uniform recruitment base and also because of the fact that there is no direct entry at Subedar level. Although the officers do not form the

subject matter of the present study, we may be permitted to remark that the officers in general reflect upper middle class characteristics. The group of officers above the rank of Colonel still seem to have not forgotten the aristocratic traditions of Senior British Officers.

As it will be sufficiently dealt with in the appropriate section that in terms of income, expenditure patterns, education, attitude about family planning and other important matter, etc., the ex-servicemen of the OR and JCO ranks strongly reflect middle class characteristics and aspirations. The representation of Brahmins and Kshatriyas have fallen down considerably since 1857. Particularly after independence, the influx of middle castes into the army have been remarkable. The ORs and JCOs as a class in the Indian army, thus, represented a typical example of the convergence of caste into class in the contemporary social milieu. Caste and class have become an almost synonymous and interchangeable analytical category in respect of ORs and JCOs who are placed in the middle of the traditional (caste) as well as the emerging (class) systems of stratification in the contemporary Indian context. The ORs and the JCOs can be an interesting subject for further studies on caste-class continuum.

Nature of the Problems of
Ex-Servicemen:

As already discussed, soldiers in India have always occupied an important place in society because of the

indispensable functions that they have performed from the beginning of human civilization. The concept of ex-servicemen is closely linked with the emergence of retirement and pensionary benefits in the British Indian Army. "The Pension system" in the British Indian Army "was designed to serve three important objects:

First, it induced old and infirm soldiers to retire against the former practice of continuing in service till a very old age. Secondly, it attracted recruits and induced them during service to behave well. Thirdly, the pensioners, scattered all over the country, played an important political role. Their interest became identical with Government's and they could be relied upon to inculcate feelings of obedience and loyalty among the masses".⁵

It is needless to emphasise that despite changes in politico-economic contexts, the pensionary benefits are still performing all the three functions as mentioned above though its manifestly attributed reasons now also include maintaining the morale of the serving armed personnel by paying ex-servicemen well and ensuring attraction of fit and capable ones for its fresh recruitments.

If one may discount the elements of atrocious racial discrimination which the native ranks were subjected to suffer coupled with the unfavourable terms and conditions and pay and allowances as against their British counterparts, the socio-economic status of the native ranks and their political leverage can be estimated as slightly better than the present day retired soldiers. Their comfortable

situation in society after their release from the army, however, was hardly an end product of any conscious effort by the British Government. The natives joined the British army more for the pride and honour of their family and community than self-satisfaction. The birth of modern "individual" was yet to take place and a native soldier always referred back to his family, village and caste or community while in service and returned to the same soon after retirement. The near absence of urban industrial avenues of resettlement (or what is the better termed as urban industrial pull factors) the village ties may have seemed even stronger to the contemporary serving jawans at the verge of retirement. The reasons for their practically singular preference to go back to the villages of their origin was substantially strengthened by the capability and eagerness of the village system to decently absorb such retired officials. The country was then ruled by an alien government. If the Britishers felt that in the retired native soldiers they have planted their trusted agents in the countryside, the villages too felt that their association with such persons may give them some respite from the harassment and exploitation by the local functionaries of the Government as well as the zamindars and "other respectable men" of society. A retired soldier of the British Indian Army was a welcome man in the village also because he brought money, English wine and other

consumable items into the village and more especially stories of different places, people and events especially at a time when means of communication was so limited and illiteracy was rampant.

The context is largely changed now. So have the problems of ex-servicemen. The village system due to over-population lacks in its capacity to provide ex-servicemen any non-competitive and respectable absorption. With the inundation of mass media and greater integration of villages with the urban/industrial socio-economic system, the charm and value of an ex-serviceman has faded away. His political value as a loyal agent of an alien and powerful ruler has completely vanished. He finds himself as stranger in the power game of the village. The village economic system finds itself unable to provide him any readymade absorption and demands great initiative, innovation and drive which are the requirements fairly opposite to their prolonged professional training and conditionings in the army.

The overpopulation of the countryside, large-scale industrialization and massive recruitment into the Indian Army and consequent retrenchment have almost coincided. Their preponderance itself has somewhat acted as an eroding agent undermining their value. They are no longer considered as rare species. Men who once evoked awe and reverence from the village folk are taken casually now and sometime

even with a sense of amusement.

If the overpopulation of villages and its inability to provide any ready economic absorption to its one's emigrated member has acted as one of the strongest desisting (push) factor, the attractions (pulls) of the urban and industrial towns too have largely tempted them and have shaken the ex-servicemen commitment to return to their villages. This is not to say that the urban/industrial centres have great employment avenues and their past skills and training have any direct and ready-made adaptation in the civil/industrial production system. Thus, an ex-serviceman now hardly gets red-carpet welcome in the urban/industrial centre either. Nevertheless, the crucial point is that he now has a choice, a choice to break his ties with the place of his origin, a choice not to remain obliged and bound by the 'primordial loyalties' of the village system. The urban/industrial resettlement have brought more miseries than fortunes to the ex-servicemen. At the first place he is no longer clear about his post-retirement vocation. He has to take very hard decision because neither village nor urban/industrial system ensures any ready-made job opportunity. He has to make a choice between hard and not so hard life of resetting with his family either in the villages or in the urban/industrial centres.

Socially too villages have not remained a static entity. In an age when the country is having large-scale

and rapid transformation from every angle - in a matter of 10-15 years, when a jawan normally remains away from home on duty - the entire set-up, relationships, outlook, etc., changes. The changes which take place in villages or urban/ industrial centres are not the same which takes place in him in course of his training in the army. He has a society of his own when he is in the army and he tries his level best to adapt to his professional society throughout his career. By the time he leaves the army to join back his native home, he finds a sea change in practically every sphere of life.

Although regular visits to ones' village on leave and frequent exchanges of letters from home keep him in touch with his family and village society, for great many of them, when it comes to staying 24 hours in the village they are virtually compelled to resocialise once again. The problems of ex-servicemen are thus a part of the general problems of uncontrollable unemployment and fast changing society in all its ramifications. They cannot afford to tackle the problems of finding a decent second career employment in isolation. This is because their ability to grab a job in the civil life depends as much on his pulling the strings of social connection as social connection depend upon a decent placement in the production system. Most of them must forget the norms of an assured set-up where every thing was regulated to minutest precision and everything was provided for without asking. The ex-servicemen now must always struggle

in a generally precarious state of affairs until one is successful in grabbing some assured or stable position/element in it.

Although every citizen is faced with the problem of unemployment at any level and has to confront with the stress of fast-changing society, the ex-servicemen feel it rather painfully for a variety of reasons. Some problems of everyday reality get accentuated for the ex-servicemen for they are used to a different world in which they did not have to struggle for their daily existence. The pampered now feel neglected. They are required to come out of their professional inertia. At the place of mute obedience to commands, great drive and initiative is wanted. The army training works as an impediment in exploiting the few opportunities available in the highly competitive world which an ex-serviceman joins. The benefits enjoyed in service makes him feel more deprived and neglected as compared to his civilian competitors for the same job or occupation.

Their problems become highly peculiar and specialised by the fact that they are made to leave a job in the age when the social responsibilities of an average ex-serviceman are at its peak. He is out of job when his children are growing and most of them are in school. His income, benefits and privileges are suddenly reduced to minimum at a time he requires it most. Lack of entrepreneurial skill and unfamiliarity with the business tricks desist

him from taking any risks with the money brought home in lump sum by way of gratuity, etc. which gradually gets depleted in due course in search of a job when he has to spend his hard saved money on consumable items of everyday requirement. Seldom he gets a job more satisfying than the Army. Even if he gets a job the difficulties of professional re-socialisation are to be met which are often substantial.

It is a well known and established fact that there is no one to one relationship between aging and ability to work. It is just the peculiarity of the nature of work that the serving jawans are required to leave their job when they are fully fit and agile. There are numerous professions such as teaching, law, politics, etc., in which age works as an added advantage to the role occupant. But despite all variations associated with the peculiarities of different professions, there is a general socially acknowledged scale of active and economically significant life. Therefore, 30-60 is considered to be as most active, relevant and rewarding age-group. Even in traditional Hindu life-cycle parlance, Grihashtashrama, the economically and socially significant period in ones life cycle has been suggested to be between 25 and 50 years in an individual's life time.

The ORs and JCOs are out of work soon after their retirement when they are expected to work and perhaps

cannot do without taking up a post-retirement remunerative work. For all these they are practically left on their own to meet the challenges of selecting and finding out a second career job. Anxiety of an ^{-servicemen} ex/ heightens when he has one or two growing unmarried daughters or sisters. He feels shy to attend social functions because in such functions there will be exchange of gifts and it will greatly hurt him and demoralise his wife if his offerings are smaller than what used to be when he was in service. Thus, he is more alienated from his kin than what he used to be while in service.

Admittedly there are variations in the nature of the problems of ex-servicemen in respect of their ranks, family responsibilities and background, age of retirement and the region they belong to. But a general thread underlying their problems is the sense of deprivation that they seem to carry when they evaluate themselves in terms of past perks and privileges or in relation to the civilians of equal status of like background and qualifications enjoying their heyday of professional career. The educated and articulate ex-servicemen often summarise their sense of deprivation in the following stanza of Francis Quarles composed three centuries ago:

God and soldier Men alike adore
When at the brink of danger, not before,

The danger past, alike are both requited,
 God is forgot, and the brave soldier slighted.⁶

It is said that a soldier 'has a dangerous role in war and thankless role in peace'.⁷ The early retirement deprive ex-servicemen even from the dangerous or thankless role. The early retirement brings about loss of work, money and status which they face amidst fast increasing family responsibilities. The higher ranks seem to be much worried about their loss of izzat. Like the epigrams just cited above, an epitalph from the Kohima War Cemetery is also popularly quoted, emphasizing the sacrifices of the soldiers:

"When you go home
 Tell them of us,
 For your tomorrow
 We gave our today".⁸

The problems of ex-servicemen can therefore be summed up as inadequacy of institutionalised means in the wake of ever-increasing cultural goals. It is not just the disjunction between their cultural goals and institutionalised means. They feel somewhat punctured when privileges and facilities enjoyed while in service are abruptly withdrawn as though they are suddenly thrown from the cliff. They witness retirement at an age when the cultural goals in terms of family responsibilities have increased and they have been made accustomed to a set living as a result of

their routine nature of job, regular income and privileges associated with a particular rank.

At the time of joining the Indian Army a young recruit is usually found unmarried. By the time he becomes an ex-serviceman he is father of at least two growing children with his aging wife who has missed her husband's regular company throughout his army career. In a situation when the demand from his growing kids and wife are at its peak, his post-retirement monthly income roughly gets reduced to one-third of his last pay drawn. Viewed this way, for a family of four inclusive of the ex-serviceman, his cultural goals in terms of family responsibilities increase twelve-fold as the institutionalised means to meet such goals get reduced to one-fourth. The pension thus drawn is far too insufficient to meet the increasing responsibilities and materialize the associated cultural goals of wider amplitude. He is compelled to look for additional sources of income through whatever means. And the very process of a hunt for the second career and craving for compensating all that he has lost economically and socio-psychologically, have been adequately treated in the introductory chapter as a process of "resettlement".

Approaches to Resettlement

The fact that the Indian ex-servicemen face a number of problems, as outlined just above, is specially recognised

by the suffering ex-servicemen and the Government. Resettlement is conceived as an accepted method for the amelioration of their problems. Thus, when it is asked: "What is the solution to the problems of the ex-servicemen?" The invariable reply is: "Resettlement". But before this question acquires its significance, another set of questions are already assumed to have been answered implicitly, namely: "Why the ex-servicemen be resettled at all?" Or, "Why their problems be treated with greater sense of importance and urgency?" Answers to these questions are not just one. It involves various arguments, rationalisations, justifications and viewpoints firstly, on part of the suffering ex-servicemen, receiving or claiming to receive resettlement benefits, and secondly, on part of the government always keeping extra sensitive ear for even their feeblest voice of discontent. Thus, in the last section of the present chapter, we intend to present the viewpoints of both the ex-servicemen and Government regarding the necessity and relevance of resettlement which we have culled from our field work.

The rationale given by the ex-servicemen (individual respondents) in support of receiving or croaking about the existing facilities differs from person to person and from place to place. But a general thread underlying their argument point towards deprivation and subsequent

compensation theory. If asked that early retirement is engrained in the nature of the job and they were aware of this condition at the time of joining the army - they do not deny the fact. But they are apt to compare their present situation with that of the past. The comparison implicitly indicate the rising professionalisation in the industrial arena and the power and prestige enjoyed by them as well as other comparable civilian governmental functionaries. They feel to have slid down in the general power and prestige structure of society. This they call in their words as - "erosion of their izzat" - and they seem to be quite concerned about that. The reasons assigned for the loss of their izzat is the fact that they have to beg assistance and support from the civil institutions. Whereas the milder lots from the ex-servicemen ask for more speedier and adequate treatment to their problems pertaining to the search of second career - the more vocal and aggressive ones are against the very concept of second career. They advocate that no serving jawan should be made to look for the second career. It should be the responsibility of the state to provide them a comparable decent job suo motto as soon as they are considered unfit for serving in the army merely for the reason that they have attained a particular age which make them unfit for the Defence Services. They say that the solution lies in "lateral placement" in civilian jobs which should become a part

of the contract before joining the army. They count innumerable forces and agencies where they can be easily absorbed and prove their utility if placed there. But this is a call for the future which pertains to the ex-servicemen of tomorrow.

The currently released army men, though few in number, complain that they are robbed of their youth and in the middle age they are made to lead a difficult life with their family. That they have sacrificed their youth for the defence of the country, and therefore the middle age should be comfortable, as is the case with their civilian counterparts. Thus, it is argued that they must adequately be compensated for the strains and risks that they took up while in services and for the deprivations which they feel having received after their release.

From the Government side, the need for resettlement of ex-servicemen got due recognition with their emerging problems after the heavy release of jawans who were recruited on large-scale basis during Indo-China and Indo-Pak wars. The first justification given by the Government side for the quick and satisfactory re-settlement of ex-servicemen seems to be to keep up the morale of the standing army. "Keep up the morale of the army" appears to be the prime motivating factor on the Government side for making arrangements of their re-settlement. The Government seem to be

much concerned about the slogan 'jawans of today are the ex-servicemen of tomorrow'. The serving army men cannot remain untouched about the problems of their retired colleagues if the problems they face exceed reasonable limit. Further, the deteriorating conditions of the ex-servicemen may discourage the talented and competent young men from joining the army.

Next to the morale theory, the prevention of deviant individual/collective behaviour theory works as one of the major approaches for re-settlement among the Government circle. The reports of deviant behaviour by the ex-servicemen are not rare to find out from the newspapers. Their indulgence in robbery, dacoity etc. have been reported from time to time. Although such incidents occurred only once in a blue moon, the very fact that they create a lasting impact on the general public goes to prove that there is a different standard of morality in people's mind in respect of an ex-serviceman's behaviour. It is least expected of them to indulge in day light robbery and dacoity. The sample of the occurrences of deviant behaviour that may be considered as 'normal' for a great number of groups in society becomes 'pathological' in case of ex-servicemen. Although it is a matter of independent research to find out the reasons for such deviant behaviour from individual accused ex-serviceman, the

objective fact of struggle for the search of second career and impacts of professional and social dislocations may provide some answers for their abnormal behaviour. The Government are aware that they are well trained persons equipped with arms, etc., and once they are out of control individually or otherwise, they can create problems for the Government. A satisfied person rarely turns a deviant. Therefore, Government does not want to breed dissatisfaction among this strategic section of society and always tries to take a step ahead in mitigating their problems and keeping them satisfied.

Apart from the individual deviant actions, what cautions the policy makers with greater sense of urgency is their association, direct or indirect in any violent movement. As it will be seen subsequently that by its very character, ex-servicemen are least likely to become a political force and take part in political movements actively. Their open involvement in any violent movement is unlikely not only because they are from the middle class but also due to the fact that they are governed by special rules which prohibit them from taking up a such action. Their overt involvement in socially disapproved movement may disqualify them from getting the pensionary and other benefits which are quite substantial by any standard if not adequate. Nevertheless, their clandestine

support to any violent movement is not ruled out and their personal dissatisfaction in terms of re-settlement may be one of the many important causes. But wherever they have lent support to the violent movements, their impact has been limited geographically and local extra-economic (chiefly political) factors have weighed heavier than their dissatisfaction on account of poor re-settlement measures.

The third important approach to re-settlement is guided by the manpower management theory. It is believed that due to the inability of the government to suitably employ their released services personnel in their employable age, there is great economic loss to the state and society. Although it is difficult to make a cost-benefit analysis of the money lost because of their deployment to some field other than the one in which they were initially trained in the army and also the loss of the money that was invested for such training, it is the common-sense understanding that their release from the services in physically and mentally active and professionally efficient age leads to colossal waste of money. No doubt the Government is aware of this problem and by various notifications of its different Ministries from time to time, as many as 2% service trades have been equated with the civil trades. This has been done with a view that the retired army personnel do not have to waste time in justifying their worth and the doubt of the employing civil institutions are also cleared about their

qualifications and training in civil phraseology. The Directorate of Training of DGR has compiled a reference book entitled Equation of Service Trades with Civil Trades which contains Equation of Service Certificates/Examinations, Equation of Army Trades, Equation of Army Trades by various Agencies, Equation of Naval Trades, Equation of Air Force Trades and Equation of Common Trades in Three Services. The compilation is commendable in as much as it clears the doubts of various government agencies where the vacancies for ex-servicemen lie and they are interested in getting employed there.

Another strand of the conformists of manpower planning approach believe that they can play a vital role in environmental protection and large-scale tree plantation as well as can become the trusted and natural sepoys of the proposed 'national integration force' to combat any communal riot. Yet others see them as entrepreneurs full of resources, drive and initiative. The conviction is demonstrable in the separate Directorates of Self-Employment in the DGR. It remains to be seen, and we shall discuss the matter subsequently, whether such laudable expectations from the ex-servicemen have any basis or not - and whether as successful entrepreneurs they are ready to come upto the expectations of the Government and its people.

We find that there are as many approaches to re-settlement as justifications offered for it. No simple

approach can be taken as the dominant one for the kinds of re-settlement benefits that are being offered now. All the approaches seem to have strengthened one another and their cumulative effect has been the general realisation of the need for speedy and adequate solution to the problems of ex-servicemen.

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Notes & References

1. Report of the High Level Committee on Problems of Ex-Servicemen, 1984, Government of India, Ministry of Defence, p.16.
 2. "An 'ex-serviceman' means a person, who has served in any rank whether as a combatant or non-combatant in the Regular Army, Navy and Air Force of the Indian Union and
 - (i) who retired from the service after earning his/her pension, or
 - (ii) who has been boarded out of the service on medical grounds attributable to military service or circumstances beyond his control and awarded medical or other disability pension, or
 - (iii) who has been released from the service as a result of reduction in establishment, or
 - (iv) who has been released from service after completing the specific period of engagement, otherwise than at his own request, or by way of dismissal, or discharge on account of misconduct or inefficiency and has been given a gratuity.
- 4.7 Territorial Army personnel of the following categories shall also be considered as ex-servicemen:
- (a) Pension holders for continuous embodied service.
 - (b) Disabled Territorial Army personnel with disability attributable to military service.
 - (c) Gallantry award winners.
- 4.8 Defence personnel, who on retirement from service would come under the category of ex-servicemen as defined in Paras 4.6 and 4.7 above on retirement, will be permitted to apply for re-employment: availing themselves of all concessions one year before the completion of the specified term of engagement, where applicable. This should be subject to the clear understanding that they will be permitted to leave the uniform only after the completion of the one year period.

The above definition has since been accepted by the Government w.e.f. 2 July 1987.

3. The categories excluded for the purpose of present study are as follows:
 - i) All female persons from all the three forces of the Indian Union.
 - ii) All who have served in any rank whether as combatant or non-combatant in the Navy and Air Force of the Indian Union.
 - iii) All who have served above the rank of Subedar Major in the Regular Army of Indian Union, and all
 - iv) Who have been boarded out of service on medical grounds attributable to military service or circumstances beyond their control and awarded medical or other disability pension, or
 - v) Who have been released from the service as a result of reduction in establishment, or
 - vi) Who have been released from service after completing the specific period of engagement, otherwise than at their own request, or by way of dismissal, or discharge on account of misconduct or inefficiency and have been given a gratuity, and
 - vii) All Territorial Army personnel.
4. The concepts of settlement, resettlement and rehabilitation have already been defined in Chapter I.
5. Saksena, K.M.L., Op. cit., p.213.
Quoted from Note on Orgn. of Native Army of India, by H.W. Norman dt. 11 Oct. 1975, M.D. Progs, May 1876, No.52: Encl.F.Ch.V.
6. Epigrams quoted in O.P. Sharma, Military Law in India (Bombay, 1973), p.2 from Chap. E.W. Buch, Salute to the Soldier, 1966, p.2.
7. Ibid., quoted from Anthony Varrier, An Army of the Sixties, 1966.
8. High Level Committee Report on Problems of Ex-Service-men, Government of India, (New Delhi, 1984), Quoted by Shri K.P. Singh Deo, Chairman, HLC in his foreword to the said report, p.xiii.