

CENSUS OF EX-SERVICEMEN : ISSUE OF IDENTITY CARDS - CLARIFICATION

Copy of Letter 4008/DGR/S&R/RES-9 dated 26-4-93 issued by Directorate General Resettlement

1. The retired defence services personnel eligible to the status of ex-servicemen as per definition in vogue at the time of their discharge are being issued identity cards by Zila Sainik Boards (ZSBs). The identity card confers the status of ex-servicemen to the holder. The ex-servicemen are entitled to canteen facilities. A number of complaints have, however, been received in this Dte that ex-servicemen in possession of valid ex-servicemen Identity Card issued by respective ZSBs but with less than five years of service are not being issued CSD canteen cards. It is clarified in this regard that the grant of the status of ex-servicemen to the retired defence services personnel is governed by the definition in vogue at the time of their discharge and not by the definition issued subsequent to his discharge. The definition of ex-servicemen has kept on changing from time to time and broadly speaking definition of ex-servicemen could be classified into the following four categories :-

(a) All Defence Services personnel honourably discharged before 12 Feb 69 are eligible to the status of Ex-servicemen irrespective of the length of service and reasons for discharge;

(b) Those discharged honourably between 13 Feb 69 and 14 Dec 79 will qualify to the status of ex-servicemen provided they had put in a continuous service of not less than six months irrespective of reasons for discharge;

(c) Those discharged honourably between 15 Dec. 79 and 30 Jun 87 will qualify to the status of ex-servicemen provided they had put in a continuous service of not less than six months and had not been released at their own request. Those released at their own request during this period (1979-1987) shall be eligible to the status of ex-servicemen if they had put in not less than five years service in the Armed Forces of the Union; and

(d) As per the Existing definition effective since 01 Jul 87 "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 such service after earning his/her pension; or

(ii) who has been released from such 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, otherwise than on his own request, from such service as a result of reduction in establishment; or

(iv) who has been released from such service after completing the specific period of engagements, 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 and includes personnel of the Territorial Army of the following categories, namely :-

(i) Pension holders for continuous embodied service.

(ii) persons with disability attributable to military service; and

(iii) gallantary award winners.

2. A set containing definitions issued from the time to time is enclosed. It is, therefore, not correct to deny canteen facilities to those retired before 1979 with less than five years service who qualify to the status of ex-servicemen as per the definition in vogue at the time of their discharge. Suitable instructions in this regard will be required to be issued to the concerned canteen stores. As the ex-servicemen identity cards are being issued only to the eligible ex-servicemen as per the definition in vogue at the time of their discharge by respective ZSBs, it will also be desirable to ensure that all those who are in possession of valid identity cards are not denied canteen facilities. You have already issued instructions in this regard vide your letter No.96003/Q/DDGCS dated, 21 Oct 92.

3. It is further clarified that ex-servicemen identity cards are being issued only to the retired defence services personnel and to their widows. The dependents other than widow of the deceased ex-servicemen are not being issued identity cards. A photocopy of the letter No.20-2-72-SWD dated 14 Jan 93 from Govt. of Himachal Pradesh which is self explanatory is enclosed herewith for further action in the matter.

Sd/-
(KAD Sinha)
Director (S&R)