

Need to provide Ex-Servicemen status to former Military Nursing Service (MNS) Officers-Laid

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the denial of Ex-Servicemen (ESM) status to former Military Nursing Service (MNS) Officers, which has severely affected their post-service employment prospects and may deter youth from joining the MNS. MNS, the only all-women service in the Indian Army, had been granted ESM status since its inception. However, in 2019, the Kendriya Sainik Board withdrew this recognition, jeopardising officers' access to age-relaxation measures, job reservations and other benefits available to ex-military personnel, thereby creating social and financial vulnerabilities. This has recently impacted officers seeking re-employment in civil services after the Short Service Commission, with candidatures being rejected due to the non-recognition of their ESM status. In April 2025, the Supreme Court upheld the inclusion of MNS Officers in the ESM category, yet no substantive action has been taken to enforce this ruling. This inaction undermines the dignity and welfare of MNS Officers and risks discouraging future recruitment. I urge the Hon'ble Minister of Defence to take immediate steps to implement the Supreme Courts directive and restore the rightful benefits of these officers.