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Title:Need to take immediate steps to implement 'One Rank, One Pension' for the Defence/Army personnel.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN (VADAKARA): I thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise a matter of urgent public importance.

I wish to draw the attention of this House to a very important issue of 'One Rank, One Pension' relating to the Defence personnel. This issue has been hanging fire for a long time. A disquieting situation has arisen following the non-implementation of the decision taken by the previous Government. Shri A.K. Antony was the Defence Minister then, and budgetary allocation was also made in the last Budget presented by the UPA Government. The present dispensation also reiterated that the proposal has been accepted by the Government in letter and spirit.

I have a reply from the present Defence Minister to my submission in this august House, "that modalities are being finalized by taking all stakeholders on board." So much water has flown under the bridge. The retired Defence personnel are on a warpath, and the apathy and the negligence of the Government forced them to move the issue before the Supreme Court. The Government is dilly-dallying on the issue. The attitude of the Government will have a reflection on the morale and discipline of the serving personnel of the Army in a bigger way.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to implement 'One Rank, One Pension' for the Defence/Army personnel. Thank you.