

CHAPTER VI

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 CONCLUSION

The serviceman renders very useful and arduous service to the nation defending the borders. The country remembers him when there is a war and forgets him as soon as it is over; though he continues to live under similar conditions keeping his vigil over the borders. These people need to be looked after till their dying days, but when he retires a big question of resettlement stands in his way. It is unfortunate that the nation has been unable to utilise these considerable skills and talents, because of simple lack of will and focus, as well as suitable organisations, which can voice their aspirations and bring forth their availability to the attention of the policy makers of our country, as also to the captains of our industry. In the existing environment in the country, besides their talents and skills, the ESM bring with them a high degree of dedication to duty, a great amount of hard work and diligent application, obedience to authority, impartiality, secularism of the highest level and a culture of sacrifice. Having served the country in an exemplary manner, in all types of terrain and in highly adverse environments, they are both physically and mentally tough. They are therefore ideal material to be employed in rural and other difficult areas, where their civilian counterparts do not want to venture.

The young students and youth take inspiration from the elders and in many cases, the veterans act as role models. Veterans are a large reservoir and resource of disciplined, experienced and trained human capital that can be effectively used for nation building projects. The officers, as well as the rank and file from the defence forces retire at comparatively younger ages, and can be easily absorbed, after a short re-orientation training, both in government jobs, on contractual basis in Private sectors, or in NGOs (Non-Government Organisations).

ESMs should find their rightful place in national development. Veterans the world over have been accepted as important pillars of the nations polity. Although 'nation building' by the veterans finds acceptability amongst the public, there is also hostility. A large number of ESMs have done highly creditable work in reviving and turning around dying or dead organisations, both in the public and private sectors. They have found opposition from bureaucrats and technocrats, who feel the ESMs are intruding in their domains. This hostility needs to be contained in the interest of the nation. Veterans need to rise to meet the aspiration of millions of our poor people. Also, as a group they need to get united.

Besides being a national loss, this reservoir of trained manpower can profitably be used in various socio-economic projects. Any delay in their resettlement would create dissatisfaction. The ESM are no less

than the other political sufferers. They have suffered privations and isolation while in service and separation from their families for long periods and also have staked their life for the freedom of the motherland and well-being of their countrymen.

It is, therefore, important that we remember those who answer the nation's call with the full measure of their valor and loyalty. Let their courage and sacrifices be weighed against the nation's lack of understanding of what constitutes the highest duty. Instead of glory they are more often than not greeted by embarrassment or ignored when they return to civilian life. Let us dedicate ourselves to offer them our concern and understanding and our help to them for building new lives so that they can, with heads held high; say --

*When you go home, Tell them of us and say,
For your tomorrow, We gave our today.*

6.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations for gainfully exploiting the skill of ESMs while maximising their potential are as follows:-

- (a) In order to keep the civil administration and the countrymen aware of the various problems of ESMs, it is necessary that the present organisation of the Sainik Board be reviewed and streamlined. RSBs and ZSBs could be made more accountable.