

CHAPTER-2
ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

1. **Eligibility For ECHS Membership.** The Scheme caters for medical care to all ESM pensioners including disability and family pensioners and their dependents, which includes wife/husband, legitimate children and wholly dependent parents. To be eligible for membership of ECHS a person must meet following two conditions:-

- (a) Should have ESM Status.
- (b) Should be drawing normal Service /Disability/ Family Pension.

Ex-Servicemen Status

2. The eligibility of the retired defence personnel for status of ex-servicemen is governed by the definition laid down by Department of Personnel and Training, Ministry of HRD, Govt of India. The definition has been undergoing changes from time to time.

3. **Those Released Before 01 Jul 1968.** Any person who had served in any rank (whether as Combatant or not) in the Armed Forces of the Union and released from there other than by way of dismissal or discharge on account of misconduct or inefficiency.

4. **Those Released on or After 01 Jul 1968 But Before 01 Jul 1979.** Any person who had served in any rank (whether as a Combatant or not) in the Armed Forces of the Union for a continuous period of not less than six months after attestation and released from there other than by way of dismissal or discharge on account of misconduct or inefficiency.

5. **Those Released on or After 01 Jul 1979 But Before 01 Jul 1987.** Any person who had served in any rank (whether as a Combatant or not) in the Armed Forces of the Union for a continuous period of not less than six months after attestation if discharged for reasons other than at their own request or by way of dismissal or discharge on account of misconduct or inefficiency and not less than 5 years of service if discharged at own request.

6. **Those Released on or After 01 Jul 1987.** An 'Ex-Servicemen' 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

- (a) Who retired from such service after earning his/her pension; or
- (b) 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
- (c) Who has been released, otherwise than on his own request from such service as a

result of reduction in establishment; or

(d) Who has been released from such 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 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) Gallantry award winners.

7. The Territorial Army personnel will however be treated as Ex-Servicemen wef 15 Nov 1986.

8. Govt of India, Ministry of Defence (Dept of Ex-Servicemen Welfare) vide its Office Memorandum No 12/1/2005/D(Res) dated 01 Feb 06 has conveyed with the approval of Hon'able Raksha Mantri that such Recruits who were boarded out/released on Medical Grounds and granted Medical/Disability Pension, will also be covered under the category of Ex-Servicemen for all practical purposes.

9. The eligibility of person for the status of ex-servicemen will be governed by the definition in vogue at the time of discharge and will not be affected by the changes in the definition subsequent to his discharge.

10. The personnel of the Army Postal Service (APS) who are a part of the regular Army and retired from such service, ie directly from the Army Postal Service itself without reversion to P&T Department with a pension or who have been released from such service on medical grounds, attributable to military service, or circumstances beyond their control and awarded medical or other disability pension are also covered within the definition of ex-servicemen with effect from 19 Jul 1989.

11. The following are also eligible for membership of ECHS:-

- (a) Members of Military Nursing Service (MNS).
- (b) Whole time officers (WTOs) of National Cadet Corps (NCC) who are Ex-Servicemen/ NOK, and are in receipt of pension/disability pension/family pension.
- (c) 1588 Emergency Commissioned Officers (ECOs)/Short Service Commissioned Officers (SCOs) who were permanently absorbed in National Cadet Corps as Whole Time Officers (WTOs) after their release from the Armed Forces meeting the twin conditions of being an ex-servicemen and in receipt of pension/family pension/disability pension.
- (d) Indian Coast Guard Pensioners and retired Personnel of Defence Security Corps.
- (e) Service Officers who, prior to completing their pensionable service, joined PSUs like Air India, Indian Airlines, Pawan Hans and Shipping Corporation of India, in organisational interest, and Govt had sanctioned pension to these officers on a pro-rata basis. On secondment or