

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S

SUO MOTO WRIT PETITION(CIVIL) No(s).6/2025

IN RE: CADETS DISABLED IN MILITARY TRAINING STRUGGLE

IA No. 250579/2025 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION

IA No. 331260/2025 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT

Date : 07-10-2026 This matter was called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE B.V. NAGARATHNA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE R. MAHADEVAN
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE DEVENDRA KUMAR UPADHYAYA

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UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

By order dated 04.08.2026 we had, *inter alia*, directed the respondent-Departments to reconsider the recommendations made by the Sabharwal Committee in its report in light of the fact that the matter is now taken up by this Court in order to ameliorate the conditions of the outboarded cadets and we expected a favourable recommendations emanating from the respondent-Departments.

For ease of reference, we extract the exact words of our order as under:

"We also direct that the respondent-Departments to reconsider the recommendations made by the Sabharwal Committee in its Report in light of the fact that the matter is now taken up by this Court in order to ameliorate the conditions of the out boarded cadets and we expect that certain favourable recommendations would be emanating from the respondent-Department in this

regard.”

Learned ASG has drawn our attention to the affidavit filed on 23.09.2026. Paragraph 10 of the said affidavit no doubt reiterates what has been extracted above. It also extracts certain recommendations of the Sabharwal Committee made in its 2015 Report. However, there is no whisper in the affidavit as to whether the Committee’s recommendations were reconsidered by the respondent-Departments. All that is stated in paragraph 14 is that a meeting was held by DESW on the issues raised by the Services, under the chairmanship of Secretary (ESW) on 22.08.2022 and the proposal with regard to grant of disability pension to ex-cadets boarded out was considered and the relevant decision has been extracted.

It is clear as daylight that there has been no reconsideration of the Sabharwal Committee’s report by the respondent-Departments pursuant to our direction. We say that there has been non-compliance of our direction issued above on 04.08.2026.

Before we pass any other order which may be adverse to the respondent-Departments, we give one more opportunity to the respondent-Departments to comply with our aforesaid direction and to place on record the minutes of the meeting to be held pursuant to our direction on record.

For that purpose, we adjourn this matter to 30.11.2026 at 02:00 PM.

The grievance of the outboarded cadets as ventilated by the learned Amicus Curie is that while the outboarded recruits have been granted service benefits both in monetary terms and otherwise, the same are not being extended to the outboarded officer cadets who are lesser in number. All that they are seeking is some kind of parity. That is the object with which this *suo moto* petition has been initiated by this Court by taking note of the plight of the outboarded cadets owing to their disabilities with varying ranges of disability both above 40% or below 40% of the bench mark disability. It is expected that the respondent-Departments would now comply with the directions least we are constrained to pass certain adverse orders in future.

In the meanwhile, the learned Amicus to identify the benefits that have been extended to the out boarded recruits so that on consideration of the same the facilities and benefits that could be extended to the outboarded officer cadets could be considered on the next date of hearing.

(B. LAKSHMI MANIKYA VALLI)
COURT MASTER (SH)

(DIVYA BABBAR)
COURT MASTER (NSH)