

BRIEF ON SAINIK BOARD ORGANISATION IN THE COUNTRY

Historical Background

1. In a Government resolution dated 07 Sep 1919, the then Government of India suspended the functioning of the Central Recruiting Board and at its place a new Board was established called the **Indian Soldiers' Board** to advise on matters affecting the interest of serving, discharged and deceased Indian Soldiers and noncombatants and their dependents. Due to steady expansion of the Navy and Air Force during the Second World War, the need for a single organisation to perform the same functions in relation to all the three services was felt and the Board was consequently reconstituted in 1944.

2. In March 1951, it was renamed as the Indian Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Board. The designation of the Board was changed to the Kendriya Sainik Board at centre and Rajya Sainik Board, Zila Sainik Board at State and district level in 1975. This Board functions under the Ministry of Defence as an InterService Organisation.

3. Though welfare of the Ex-servicemen and their dependents is the joint responsibility of the Centre and the State/UTs, majority of the problems have to be resolved only by the States/UTs. To assist the State Governments in this regard, there are 32 Rajya Sainik Boards (Appendix 'A) and 352 Zila Sainik Boards in the country (Nine more are under the process of setting up). The expenditure on these is shared between the Centre and the States/UTs on 50:50 basis. Like the Kendriya Sainik Board at the Centre, the Rajya/Zila Sainik Boards are responsible for policy formulation and implementation of resettlement and welfare schemes for Ex-servicemen, widows and their dependents residing in States/UTs.

4. There is a possibility for attaching serving defence personnel in the RSBs/ZSBs and interlinking them through the Internet. They would be

responsible for the monitoring of requests/complaints by the detached families of the serving soldiers and also issuance of the Identity Cards.

Organisation

5. The interrelationship between the various Deptts in the Central Organisation and the State and Zila Organisation are outlined in the following chart:

