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A clear case of sour grapes

Sir,

Brigadier Bobby Sharma deserves to be complimented for his article (November 27) highlighting the de-motivating factors operating against the Army such as early retirement and unattractive pay prospects but one wonders why he had to dig out 'Something rotten in the Army' to be able to say this.

No doubt some of the maladies pointed out by him, such as those relating to sycophancy, personal loyalties, patronage syndrome etc are prevalent in the Army but then do these not exist in other spheres of life? As a matter of fact, the Army is still the best in this regard in comparison to what is taking place in other sections of our society. This is not to suggest that there is nothing wrong in the Army. It is only to stress that while efforts at self-improvement must continue, there should be for unnecessary despondency manifest in his article.

His criticism of the army is typical of officers who have been superseded. It must be realised that in a situation of the pyramid-type rank structure, supersession's are bound to take place at one stage or the other, except for the one who makes it to the top. It is not uncommon to hear even such officers talk of their uprightness and refusal to apply *maska* having come in the way of their promotion.

K BRAHMA SINGH
Jammu