

Subject: Monthly Summary Report for the month of March, 2020 in respect of Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare, Ministry of Defence.

The following are the Important policy decisions taken and major achievements during the March 2020 :-

- (i) Amidst the current COVID 19 pandemic, Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare (DESW) and its attached offices i.e. Directorate General of Resettlement (DGR), Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS), Kendriya Sainik Board (KSB) and their Field Establishments are operational as per orders with majority working from home. All staff of DESW, attached offices, Field Establishments and ESM are being sensitised to take adequate precautions, ensure safety and compliance of Govt. orders and advisories on the subject.
- (ii) All ECHS polyclinics are kept open and functional being part of essential medical services. Interaction of local Military authorities is being coordinated in areas of curfew/lockdown. All relevant advisories on COVID 19 have been disseminated to Regional Centres and Polyclinics for information, awareness and implementation. The same are posted on ECHS website www.echs.gov.in. List of all empanelled hospitals notified by Government/Government Hospitals/ Medical Colleges competent for treatment of COVID 19 has been uploaded on ECHS website for information of veterans. Helpline numbers of Central Organisation ECHS, Regional Centres and Polyclinics have been uploaded on the ECHS website for information of veterans.
- (iii) In order to help the Ex Servicemen (ESMs) during the period of lockdown, several relaxations in the rules have been made by the CO ECHS. Provision has been made for purchase of medicines by veterans with chronic ailments on long treatment from market till 30.4.2020 on reimbursement basis to promote social distancing and avoiding unnecessary exposure. Provision has also been made for approvals by specialist/Senior Executive Medical Officer (SEMO) to be given by email/fax. No referral is required by the veterans in case of follow up treatment of cancer.
- (iv) Kendriya Sainik Board (KSB) is coordinating with all the Rajya Sainik Boards (RSBs) and Zila Sainik Boards (ZSBs) in identifying and training them in various outreach activities such as contact tracing, community surveillance and reporting and effective implementation of home quarantine. Identified ESMs will form part of the Human Resource pool for management of quarantine, isolation facilities, logistics and supply chain management after training them as per the laid down guidelines by the Ministry of Health and Welfare. ESMs Volunteers have already been sought and identified by various State Administration of Chattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh (UP), Punjab and Andhra Pradesh (AP). Help of several ESM organizations are also being sought by the local ZSBs. The Sainik Rest Houses at various places in the States of Goa and Uttarakhand have been kept as stand by as Isolation/quarantine centres.
- (v) Helpline numbers of Central Organisation ECHS, Regional Centres and Polyclinics have been uploaded on the ECHS website for information of veterans.
- (vi) An amount of Rs.2,40,55,421/- was disbursed under the Defence Service Estimate (DSE) Budget during the month to the States for payment of Central Share and the Kendriya Sainik Board. The Progressive disbursement under DSE Budget during the year so far is Rs.27,32,68,789/-.

- (vii) Financial assistance of Rs.6,91,515/- was released to War Memorial Hostels during the month. The progressive disbursement for the year so far is Rs.27,24,329/-.
- (viii) Financial assistance of Rs.3,28,600/- has been released to Paraplegic Rehabilitation Centres (PRC) Mohali during the month. The progressive disbursement for the year is Rs. 18,94,975/-.
- (ix) Financial assistance of Rs.34,82,550/- has been released to Paraplegic Rehabilitation Centres (PRC) Kirkee during the month. The progressive disbursement for the year is Rs. 1,40,42,475/-.
- (x) Financial assistance of Rs.13,50,000/- (27 SRH) has been released during the month to the Sainik Rest Houses in the NE States. The progressive disbursement for the year is Rs.26,00,000/- (52 SRHs).
- (xi) An amount of Rs.63,75,987/- was disbursed out of the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund for various welfare activities during the month. The progressive disbursement in the year so far is Rs.83,70,56,213/-
- (xii) An amount of Rs.6,51,65,370/- was disbursed under the Prime Minister Scholarship Scheme (PMSS) for 1993 cases during the month. In all Rs.40,15,87,204/- for 14288 cases have been disbursed under the Prime Minister Scholarship Scheme in this year so far. (xiii) A total of 435 Ex-Servicemen have been provided employment under Government, Non-Government and Self-Employment Schemes.
