

**Subject: Monthly Summary Report for the month of April, 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 April 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 the existing Government guidelines. All staff of DESW, attached offices, Field Establishments and Ex-Servicemen (ESM) are being sensitised to take adequate precautions, ensure safety and compliance of Govt. orders and advisories on the subject.
- (ii) In order to help the Ex Servicemen (ESMs) during the period of lockdown, several relaxations in the rules have been made by the Central Organisation Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (CO ECHS). The provision for purchase of medicines by veterans with chronic ailments on long treatment from market on reimbursement basis to promote social distancing and avoiding unnecessary exposure till 30.4.2020 has now been extended till 31.5.2020. 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.
- (iii) Ministry of Finance had placed a financial limit of 20% of Budget Estimates (BE) in respect of expenditure to be incurred in 1st quarter of 2020-21 on ECHS. In view of difficulty in making payments to hospitals, due to this limit, matter was taken up with the Ministry of Finance and the 20% ceiling was got lifted.
- (iv) Vide MoD/ DESW ID No 18(20)/2019/I&C/D(Res) dated 25.4.2020, necessary instructions to all divisions of DESW and attached offices on judicious utilization of Budget (20% cut on avoidable wasteful expenditure) for FY 2020-21 have been issued for compliance.
- (v) Hospitals on ECHS panel which have been designated as COVID hospitals by State governments had expressed difficulty in extending full cooperation in treating COVID patients due to huge unpaid bills pending with ECHS. Request for urgent payment to the hospitals was received from Ministry of Finance based on a request made to them by Secretary, Environment and Forests, who is also the Chairman of the Task Force on COVID-19 with respect to availability of hospitals, etc. Accordingly, a decision was taken and communicated to CO, ECHS to make out of turn payment to hospitals on ECHS panel which have been designated as COVID hospitals by the State governments, by one time relaxation of the FIFO (First in-First out) rule of making payments to hospitals.
- (vi) Kendriya Sainik Board (KSB) is coordinating with all the Rajya Sainik Boards (RSBs) and Zila Sainik Boards (ZSBs) and has identified 1,80,000 Ex-Servicemen across the country as useful human resources for capacity building at State/District level if required. So far 7,236 Ex-Servicemen volunteers have been requisitioned by various State/UT administrators (Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand and Assam) in various outreach activities such as contact tracing, community surveillance, reporting, bandobast duties and effective implementation of home quarantine. The Sainik Rest House at Silchar, Assam is operational as a quarantine centre while those in the States of Goa and Uttarakhand have been kept as stand by. Besides the above, a number of local Ex-Servicemen Associations are providing mask, donating blood, helping in community kitchens and providing ration to poor and migrant labourers in the State/UT of J&K, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh,

Jharkhand, Tripura, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Puducherry, on voluntary basis.

- (vii) The Number of ESM/ dependents registered for Digital Life Certificate up to 31.3.2020 is 5,06,285.

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