

No.31/1/2002-3DI

From

The Secretary,
Rajya Sainik Board,
Haryana.

To

1. All the Deputy Commissioner & President,
Zila Sainik Boards in Haryana.
2. All the Secretaries, Zila Sainik Boards
in Haryana.

Dated, Panchkula, the 7-3-2006.

Subject:- Guidelines for Armed Forces Flag Day fund.

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Sir,

I am directed to invite your kind attention to the Government letter of even no. dated 13-3-2002 and 14-5-2003 on the subject noted above, vide which the new Guidelines for Armed forces Flag Day Fund had been issued and to say that the Government has reconsidered the matter and it has now been decided to enhance the financial powers of Deputy Commissioner & President, Zila Sainik Board from Rs.20,000/- to Rs.25.000/- and secretary, Zila Sainik Board from Rs.15,000/- to Rs.20,000/- to sanction financial Assistance in a year. You are, therefore, requested to take necessary action accordingly.

Yours faithfully,

Superintendent Defence-I
for Secretary, Rajya Sainik Board, Haryana.

Guidelines for Armed Forces Flag Day Fund

Historical Background

1. During the Pre-Independence days, collections used to be made from the public for the welfare of ex-servicemen on a special occasion on 11 November each year. This occasion was called “Remembrancer day or “Poppy day”. Paper poppies were distributed to the public and donation collected. This used to be organized by the Ex-servicemen Association and the collections made were utilized for the benefit of the British Ex-servicemen. The Association had the discretion of donating part of these collections for the benefit of the Indian Ex-servicemen.

2. In July, 1948, the Defence Minister’s committee decided that such collections should be organized for the benefit of serving defence personnel, Ex-servicemen and their families. It was finally decided on 28th August, 1949 to observe 07th December each year as the Flag Day. On this day, Citizens and Voluntary Organisations collect donations in exchange of Token & Car Flags throughout the country.

Significance of Flag Day

3. This occasion is celebrated on 7th December every year to honour the valiant and the dead, to salute the veteran and the brave. It also provides an opportunity to renew the national solidarity with the service personnel by enlisting public co-operation and support. This day also brings to the forefrom our resolve and obligation of looking after the disabled comrades in-arms, widows and dependents of those who have sacrificed their lives for the country.

4. The primary purpose of collections on this day is three fold, i.e. rehabilitation of battle casualties, re-settlement and welfare of ex-servicemen and their families and welfare of serving personnel and their families.

Observance of the Day

5. Concerted efforts are made to raise collections from the public through variety of ways like display of messages through media and other programmes. Token Flags and Car Flags in red deep blue and light blue colours, representing the three services are distributed to the public throughout the country by the Kendriya Sainik Board, Rajya Sainik Boards and Zila Sainik Boards. Donations are collected for the purpose given in para 4 above.

Organisation

6. Kendriya Sainik Board organises the printing and distribution of flags, which are collected by the Rajya Sainik Boards, for further distribution to the public through its Zila Sainik Boards. The extent of collection entirely depends on the initiative, planning and efforts of the Zila Sainik Boards.

Management of Fund

7. Raksha Mantri's managing committee operates the fund in the centre and similarly the fund is managed for various welfare schemes by the Rajya Sainik Board at the state Level as per the policy guidelines. Part of the collection by the state is sent to the centre by the Rajya Sainik Board each year.

Broad Guidelines

8. Objective of Flag Day fund. We celebrate this day to enlist the public co-operation and support for three basis purposes as enumerated in para 4 above.

9. Management of the state Flag Day Fund. Flag Day Fund is maintained at State level and each district level which will be managed by the state/district level committees

(a) State Level Committee shall consist of the following dignatories:-

<u>Name and address</u>	<u>Designation</u>
(i) Chief Secretary to Govt. Haryana	Chairman
(ii) Secretary, Rajya Sainik Board,	Vice Chairman

(b) District Level Committee shall consist of the following dignatories:-

<u>Name and Address</u>	<u>Designation</u>
(i) Deputy Commissioner of the concerned District. OR Additional deputy Commissioner (When officiating)	chairman
(ii) Secretary, Zila Sainik Board of the concerned district.	Member Secretary

(c) Function of the Committee.

- (i) To examine and decide the applications received for financial assistance from eligible applicants.
- (ii) Celebration and collection of Flag Day fund from General/ Public/Govt./Private Institutions/ Organisations and constitution of sub committees for celebration and collection of Flag Day Funds at State/Distt. Level.

(d) Financial Powers

- (i) Chairman of the State Level Committee shall have the power to sanction financial assistance Rs.5000/- to each eligible applicant, but it shall not exceed Rs.15,000/- as a whole in a calander year. Likewise Member Secretary of the State Level Committee Shall have the power to sanction financial assistance of Rs.3000/- in each eligible case with the approval of Vice Chairman of the State case with the approval of Vice Chairman of the State

Level Committee. But it shall not exceed Rs.15,000/- as a whole in a calendar year.

- (ii) Chairman of the District Level Committee shall have the power to sanction financial assistance upto Rs.1000/- in each individual eligible case which shall not exceed Rs.10,000/- as a whole in a calendar year. Likewise member Secretary of District Level Committee shall have the power to sanction financial assistance upto Rs.500/- to each individual eligible case which shall not exceed Rs.10,000/- as a whole in a calendar year.

(e) **Mode of collection of funds** Funds shall be raised/collected by celebrating Flag Day on the 07th December each year. For this purpose flags shall be supplied to each district Committee by State Committee and no flags shall be printed at local level. All out efforts will be made to raise maximum collection with the active assistance of local administration.

(f) **Maintenance of account of Flag Day Fund** Each District/State Committee shall maintain account records of receipt and expenditure and a proper cash book is to be maintained by each Zila Sainik Board.

10. **Sharing of collection of funds**

- (a) Sixty percent of District collection shall be retained by the District Level Committee. Balance forty percent of the collection shall be remitted to Secretary, Flag day committee Haryana C/o Secretary, Rajya Sainik Board, Panchkula by the 31st January each calendar year.
- (b) State Committee shall remit 25% of the collection of State Committee to Central Flag Day Fund maintained by Kendriya Sainik Board, Ministry of Defence and retain the remainder..

11. **Audit of Accounts.** Accounts of Flag Day Fund maintained by each District Committee/State Committee shall be audited on annual basis by the Auditors deputed by the Rajya Sainik Board.

12. **Eligibility Condition for grant of financial Assistance.** Financial Assistance may be sanctioned for re-habilitation of battle casualties re-settlement and welfare of serving defence personnel/ex-servicemen and their widows/dependents/orphans in distress. Applications for financial assistance must be supported with the necessary documentary proofs and must be verified/ recommended by secretary of respective Zila Sainik Boards. Financial assistance given to ESM/Widows must be endorsed by the Secretary, Zila Sainik Boards in their discharge books or on the P.P.Os

13. **Contigent Expenditure.**

- (a) state Level Committee shall have the power, to sanction Rs.20,000/- on one occasion but it shall not exceed Rs.1,00,000/- as a whole in a calander year.
- (b) District Committee shall have the power to sanction Rs.2,000/- on one occasion but is shall not exceed Rs.10,000/- as a whole in a calander year. In case of any additional expenditure, necessary sanction will be obtained from Rajya Sainik Board in advance .
- (c) Contigent expenditure must strictly be incurred only on the objects associated with the objective of the Flag Day fund like matters related to welfare measures of ESM/Widows their dependents/orphans.
- (d) Contignet expenditure upto Rs.300/- can be incurred by the Member Secretary, Zila Sainik Board on the occasion of paying tribute to a martyr of his district like laying of wreath/flowers.

14. **Exemption from Income Tax.** Donations are exempted from Income Tax vide Govt. of India, Ministry of finance (Revenue Division) New Delhi, circular No.69 (12)-iT/54, dated 6th March, 1954 and notification No.1536 (FN)/97/105/76-II(A.I) dated 25th Oct., 1976. Donations to the Armed Forces Flag day Fund are recommended to be sent through Accounts Payee Cheque/D.D/M.O./I.P.O. payable to “Flag day Fund” c/o Secretary Rajay Sainik Board, Haryana, Sector-12, Panchkula.

15. Unsold Flags must be collected back by the office of Zila Sainik Boards from the agencies to whom the flags are distributed for selling. The unsold flags must be destroyed by the respective Zila Sainik Boards.