GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS  
RAILWAY BOARD  

No. E(G)2020/CL-4/9  

New Delhi, dated: 4.12.2020  

The General Manager (P),  
All Indian Railways and  
Production Units,  
and PSUs  

Sub: Observance of “Armed Forces Flag Day” on 7th December 2020 to honour the martyrs and men and women in uniform.  

Please find enclosed a copy of D.O. No. 2348/P/RM/2020 dated 28.10.2020 received from Shri Rajnath Singh, Hon’ble Defence Minister of India, addressed to Hon’ble MR and OM No. 135/GC/MISC/AFFD-20/KSB/D dated 03.11.2020 of Ministry of Defence on the above subject, for information and compliance.  

DA: As above  

(Anita Gautam)  
Director, Estt. (Genl.)  
Railway Board
Dear Shri Piyush Goyal ji,

Since 1949, every year 7th December is observed as “Armed Forces Flag Day” throughout India to honour our martyrs as well as men and women in uniform, who valiantly fight on our borders to safeguard the country’s honour. It is an important occasion to remind us of our obligation to look after our veterans, disabled soldiers, war widows and dependents of those who have sacrificed their lives for the safety, honour and integrity of our nation.

The “Armed Forces Flag Day Fund” (AFFDF) has been constituted by the Government of India for the welfare and rehabilitation of the Ex-Servicemen community. There are more than 32 lakh Ex-Servicemen (ESM), including 6.5 lakh widows and around 60,000 ESM are added every year due to early superannuation. Contribution received for perspective donors to AFFDF are utilized to provide basis sustenance needs of the ESM community through number of welfare schemes.

In 2019, we had organized a nation-wide campaign and celebrated 1st to 14th December as the ‘Armed Forces Flag Day Fortnight’. A CSR Conclave was also organized in association with Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) on 02nd Dec, 2019. As a response to our campaign, the general public contributed generously to the AFFD Fund and we collected a record amount during the last year. This year due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, our focus is more on digital campaign and reaching out to the people through electronic and social media. We plan to run an even more pervasive campaign to spread awareness about the importance of this day and encourage the citizen of the country. The programme we are planning to run would be in effect from 15th Nov and may continue till 31st Dec, 2020.

Contd....P/2
As it was done last year, we would request the following assistance from your Ministry, enumerated as under:-

(a) During the campaign period, regular announcements at all the railway stations be made by making an appeal to all the passengers to make voluntary contributions to “Armed Forces Flag Day Fund”.

(b) Permission to put standees/posters at railway stations with the AFFD appeal, including the QR code and other available payment method.

(c) Similar announcement to be made in all the trains during their journey.

(d) All railway authorities to broadcast the video spot on “Armed Forces Flag Day” on the display screen at the railway stations.

I am confident to receive your whole hearted and positive response for this honourable cause.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Rajnath Singh)

Shri Piyush Goyal
Minister for Railways;
Commerce & Industry;
Rail Bhawan, Rafi Marg
New Delhi - 110011
OFFICE MEMORANDUM

COMMENORATION OF ARMED FORCES FLAG DAY FROM 01ST DEC TO 07TH DEC 2020 BY SERVICE HQs/UNITs, CENTRAL GOVT OFFICES/DEPTTS LOCATED IN DELHI

Significance of Armed Forces Flag Day

1. Since 1949, 07 December is observed as “Armed Forces Flag Day” throughout the country to honour martyrs and the men in uniform who valiantly fought on our borders to safeguard the country’s honour. “It is the cause and not merely death that makes the martyrs” once said Napoleon Bonaparte. There cannot be a greater noble cause than lying down one’s life for the country. At the same time, our admiration for the martyrs should not mean that we have little time for the living heroes who were wounded while doing their duty towards their motherland or their widows and children who were left behind to fend for themselves. On this day, 07 Dec we bring to the forefront our obligations towards our disabled comrades, widows and dependents of the martyrs and our valiant soldiers.

Role of Citizenry

2. The Government measures at the Centre and State level alone are inadequate to provide support to the disabled, non-pensioners, old and infirm ESM, their families, war widows and orphaned children. It therefore becomes the collective responsibility of each citizen to make his/her unstinted and voluntary contributions towards providing care, support, rehabilitation and financial help to them. All contribution are credited to Armed Forces Flag Day Fund (AFFDF), which is a corpus managed by a Committee headed by Hon’ble Raksha Mantri at the Centre and the Governor/Lt Governor at the State/UT level. KSB Secretariat is responsible for administration of AFFDF under the aegis of above Committee.

Armed Forces Flag Day Fund

3. Further, amendments to Schedule VII of the Companies Act 2013 carried out vide Govt of India, Ministry of Corporate Affairs Notification No. GSR-130(E) dated 27 Feb 14, allow PSUs to utilise CSR budget for the benefits of Armed Forces veterans, war widows and their dependents. PSUs can contribute to AFFDF or sponsor some welfare/rehabilitation schemes of KSB from respective CSR budget. In this regard, more details can be obtained from the Secretariat of KSB or from the website www.ksb.gov.in.
Uses of Token Flags

4. It is submitted for information of all Central Government Ministries / Deptt./ PSUs staff to download the dignity designed Token Flags from KSB website www.ksb.gov.in and it can be worn on their respective dress with pride.

Collection of Donations

5. It is submitted that voluntary contributions can be made to the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund by any of the following means throughout the year:-
   (a) By cheque/demand draft drawn in favour of ARMED FORCES FLAG DAY FUND and payable at New Delhi.
   (b) Online through RTGS. Bank details are as under:-

   | (i) Account Name       | - Armed Forces Flag Day Fund,         |
   | (ii) Bank Name & address | - Punjab National Bank, Sewa Bhawan |
   |                      | - Branch, RK Puram, New Delhi-110066 |
   |                      | - 308300100179875                   |
   | (iv) IFS Code          | - PUNB0308300                     |

6. All the Central Ministries and their subordinate offices located in Delhi / NCR are requested to organise commemoration of the “ARMED FORCES FLAG DAY” event during the period from 1st December 2020 to 07th December 2020 and collect donations in cash or cheques drawn in favour of “Armied Forces Flag Day Fund” and send it to Secretary, Kendriya Sainik Board, Ministry of Defence, West Block-IV, Wing-VII, RK Puram, New Delhi-110066 or directly deposit it in the AFD Fund A/c as per details given in Para 5(b)-above, under intimation to KSB Scott for issue of IT exemption certificate. The Central Ministries are also requested to instruct PSUs under control to organize similar drive in their premises.

7. An ‘Awareness Booth’ may be established at prominent and convenient locations in the Govt. Offices’ premises by displaying the Donation Boxes and publicity material. All the employees of the Govt. Offices/ Deptt./ PSUs/ HQs/Dtes be encouraged to wear the digitally designed Token Flags downloaded from KSB website and donate generously towards this noble cause. Staff members may be detailed along with authority letter/valid ID proof to collect Donation Boxes and publicity material from KSB between 23.11.2020 to 27.11.2020 and contributions received be deposited between 09.12.2020 to 15.12.2020.

Tax Exemption

8. All the donations / contributions towards the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund are exempted from income tax vide Govt of India, Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue (CBDT) letter F.No.197/08/2007-TTA dated 26 Mar 2007 and under Section 80 G (5) (vi) of Income Tax Act 1961 vide Director of Income Tax (E). Letter No. NQ. DIT (E) I 2010-11/DEIL-AF22280-04012011/2185 dated 04 Jan 2011. The tax exemption certificate will be issued for the donations made by cheques/demand drafts subject to donor’s particulars endorsed on the reverse of the cheque / demand draft.
Observance by Subordinate HQs/Units

9. In view of the above, all the Offices/Departments/Directorate etc under the control of your Ministry/Headquarters may also be advised to observe the Armed Forces Flag Day during the period from 01st December 2020 to 07th December 2020 and encourage its employees to wear the downloaded token flags with pride while making generous donations for this noble cause.

(B. Ahluwalia)
Air Cmde
Secretary,
Kendriya Sainik Board

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13. DGR ....................................... 25 Copies

Instructions for S/L No. 7 to 13 ibid:

This Office Memorandum is for information and to issue necessary instructions to Service HQs, its Branches/Directorate and Subordinate Units. Contents of this letter may please be brought to the notice of all the Command HQs, Directorates and Inter Services Organisations located at Delhi/New Delhi down to their Units with a request to forward all the contributions received on Armed Forces Flag Day to the KSB Scott. As per the given time line.