



RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
RAJYA SABHA

Member of Standing Committee on Finance  
Member of Consultative Committee on Finance  
Member of Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps  
Co-Chairman, District Development Coordination & Monitoring Committee, Bengaluru Urban District

05 December 2017

Dear Nirmala Ji,

**Sub: Regarding the MoD order capping education concession granted to children of Martyrs and disabled soldiers**

I write regarding the recent Order (No. 6(1)/2009/Edu.Concession/D(Res.-II) dated 13 September 2017, capping the education concession – combined amount of tuition fees and hostel charges - granted to children of our Armed Forces Martyrs and of disabled soldiers to Rs 10,000/pm only.

As you may be aware this scheme to bear the cost of education of children of our Armed Forces martyrs was announced in the Lok Sabha on 18 December 1971 and introduced in the 1972 Parliament session allowed complete exemption of tuition and 'other fee' for education school onwards.

It is also important to recall that this scheme was announced two days after our forces brought our Nation victory in the 1971 War and was a small gesture to convey the Nation's gratitude and support towards the children and widows of our soldiers who had laid down their lives in the War.

Now, to cap the total expenses at Rs 10,000/ pm goes against the very principle by which this scheme was implemented.

We are observing the Armed Forces Week and will celebrate the Armed Forces Flag Day in two days. Even as the Ministry of Defence urges citizens to contribute to the Flag Day Fund to support families of Martyrs and our veterans, this order that takes away from the little help the Government offers to the Martyrs children and betrays the spirit of the Armed Forces Flag Day.



The service and sacrifices of our soldiers cannot be repaid ever and it is our moral obligation to ensure their families do not face any hardships and difficulties.

Therefore, I urge you to have this order recalled and ensure that we do not take away from the commitment made and kept all these years of financial support to the children of our soldiers who have selflessly given their life and limb for the Nation.

Sincerely,

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

**Smt Nirmala Sitharaman**  
Hon'ble Minister of Defence  
Government of India  
New Delhi