



सत्यमेव जयते

रक्षा मंत्री  
भारत

MINISTER OF DEFENCE  
INDIA

DO.No. 12(6)/2016-D(Res-II)/3152-F/RM/16

<sup>m</sup>  
30 June, 2016

Dear Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar,

This has reference to your letter dated 06<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 regarding renaming of Armed Forces Flag Day celebrated every year on 07<sup>th</sup> December as National Day of Remembrance or Sainik Smriti Divas.

I have had the matter examined in consultation with the concerned authorities. I have been informed that the Armed Forces Flag Day is observed on 07<sup>th</sup> December every year to commemorate our gallant soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty to ensure protection of our territorial integrity and fought the scourge of terrorism and provided succor to fellow citizens in times of natural calamities. KSB Sectt, an attached office under the administrative control of D/o Ex-Servicemen Welfare, Min of Defence is responsible for the event.

On the day, a booklet is brought out containing messages commemorating our gallant fallen soldiers by dignitaries including Hon'ble President, Prime Minister and Raksha Mantri, publicity through print and electronic media, instructions to Indian Embassies and PSUs to observe AFFD and forward the donations to KSB Sectt for depositing in AFFDF. Officials of KSB Sectt Call on VVIPs/VIPs to pin flags and collect donations and all State Governments/UT Administrations also observe AFFD involving their entire establishment and educational institutions, i.e. schools etc.

The donations collected on Armed Forces Flag Day are utilized for providing financial assistance to ESM/dependents for their personal identified needs such as penury grant, children's education grant, daughter's marriage grant and funeral grant etc. The Managing Committee of AFFDF is headed by Rakhsa Mantri and all the policy matters on the usage of AFFDF for the welfare of ESM/dependents are decided by the Managing Committee. During 2015-16 around 50,000 ESM/dependents have been provided financial assistance of around Rs 82 crore out of AFFDF.

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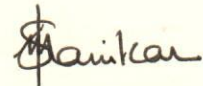
From the above it can be seen that the entire Nation participates in observing the Armed Forces Flag Day and paying tributes to the martyred soldiers and also contributing for the welfare of the dependents/families of the martyred soldiers. The USI proposal suggests similar activities though on AFFD, in addition, contributions are collected for the welfare of their families/dependents which to my mind is real tribute to the fallen soldiers.

In view of the position stated in the above paras, there does not seem to be the requirement of giving another name to the Day. Considering USI sentiments, you may like to advise them to supplement our efforts the way they desire and collect donations for the welfare of martyred soldiers' families and deposit in AFFDF.

Regarding setting up memorials across the World for the war-dead outside India, Commonwealth War Graves Commission takes care of all the martyred soldiers upto World War II of which India is a Member. AG's Branch takes care of post-independence war-dead. The bodies of the war-dead which are mainly part of the UN Peacekeeping Forces are brought back to the country and their names are engraved on the memorial constructed at each Regimental Centre for the purpose. The National War Memorial, proposed to be constructed in Delhi will commemorate all the war heroes and martyrs of the nation and a policy decision has been taken not to support other memorials.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,



**(Manohar Parrikar)**

**Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar**  
Member of Parliament (RS)  
211, North Avenue  
New Delhi - 110001