सत्यमेव जयते

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

22 February 2019

Sub: Uniform support package for Families of those KIA, Gallantry Award winners, wounded/Disabled

Dear Capt. Amarinder Singh ji,

I write to you to seek your leadership on the issue of a Uniform Support Package for families of our bravehearts killed in action.

The 14 February Pulwama terror attack in which 40 CRPF bravehearts lost their lives has indeed shaken every citizen of the country. Every state Government has predictably stepped up to support the families at this time of grief and tragedy. The support announced has varied from state to state ranging from Rs. Five Lakh by the state of Andhra Pradesh to Rs. One Crore by the state of Madhya Pradesh.

While the Armed Forces/ CAPFs and Government do take care of the families of our bravehearts through pensions etc, the large variation in compensation for the bravehearts by the states has once again brought the spotlight on how the states are looking after the families of our fallen soldiers.

In fact, as far back as 2010, I had written to the then Raksha Mantri A K Antony on this matter and highlighted that when soldiers serve one cause - the Nation, there should be no discrimination and disparity in the support given to families of bravehearts, gallantry award winners and disabled soldiers.

7, Gurudwara Rakabganj Road, New Delhi-110004 India
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I am sure you will agree that every soldier of the country who dons the uniform serves the Nation and Flag. The Indian Armed Forces and Paramilitary Forces are built around the ethos of India First. They live, breathe and die for that principle. However, because there is no national policy or common framework, this competitive support from states creates an unfortunate parochialism of diluting the "India First" amongst families of veterans and bravehearts.

Moreover, this disparity also extends to cash awards by states to gallantry award recipients. for example, the cash award for Param Vir Chakra (PVC) ranges from the highest of Rs 2.25 crore given by the Government of Telangana to the lowest of Rs 22,500 given by Governments of Gujarat, Karnataka, Odisha and West Bengal. The disparity runs across all other gallantry awards too.

This, as you may recall, was visible in the case of Hony Subedar Bana Singh, Param Vir Chakra. The Jammu & Kashmir government granted him a pension of Rs 166 per month whereas neighbouring states of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh provided a monthly pension above Rs 10,000 to the Param Vir Chakra awardees. In October 2006, the Punjab Government led by you then too, announced a cash award of Rs 10 lakh for Hony Capt. Bana Singh and offered him Rs 25 lakh, a monthly allowance of Rs 15,000 and a 25-acre plot, if he moved to Punjab. However, being a proud son of J&K, he said that would not move his home.

Then, there is also the issue of domicile. Many states place a condition that a veteran/ bravehearts family must be residing in the state for a stipulated period to get benefits or would have been commissioned/enrolled into the forces from that particular state itself. Kargil war veteran and India's very own blade runner Major D P Singh (Retd) is a living example of this unfair rule and has been denied emoluments merely because the permanent address provided during his commission was that of his grandparents' which was in a state different from where his parents resided on rent.

You will agree that it cannot be right that a soldier fights for the Nation and yet when he comes back home after losing life or limb, he is seen through the differential prisms of which state he was born or lived in.

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I do believe it is time to look at these issues and find a way to do right by our soldiers and their families. I have tried my best for these years and I now reach out to you for your leadership and involvement in taking this forward.

As a Chief Minister who has always been sensitive to the issues and needs of our men and women in uniform, I request you to take the lead and call upon other Chief Ministers to join together to create a national framework or policy that creates a uniform approach to Families of those KIA, Gallantry Award winners, wounded/Disabled and does not discriminate against anybody at the same time does not create a situation where the family of one braveheart feels that his life, service and sacrifice is valued more by one state and undermined by another.

All our men and women in uniform serve the Nation selflessly. I am sure you will agree that they are all sons and daughters of India and their life and service must be treated as such.

Sincerely,

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

Capt. Amarinder Singh
Hon'ble Chief Minister Punjab
Room No. 25, 5th Floor Civil Secretariat
Chandigarh – 160001

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22 February 2019

Sub: Uniform support package for Families of those KIA, Gallantry Award winners, wounded/Disabled

Dear Shri Fadnavis ji,

I write to you to seek your leadership on the issue of a Uniform Support Package for families of our bravehearts killed in action.

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Sincerely,

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

Shri Devendra Fadnavis
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra
6th Floor, Main Building, Mantralaya,
Dr. Madam Cama Road, Fort,
Mumbai - 400032

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22 February 2019

Sub: Uniform support package for Families of those KIA, Gallantry Award winners, wounded/Disabled

Dear Shri Rao,

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Sincerely,

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

Shri K. Chandrasekhara Rao
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Telangana
Telangana CM Office,
Secretariat,Khairatabad
Hyderabad - 500022

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22 February 2019

Sub: Uniform support package for Families of those KIA, Gallantry Award winners, wounded/Disabled

Dear Yogi Adityanath ji,

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RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

Shri Yogi Adityanath
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh
Lal Bahadur Shastri Bhawan
Lucknow -226001