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Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister
Prime Minister's Office
South Block, Raisina Hill
New Delhi – 110011

CONTINUED DEGRADATION OF THE STATUS OF THE ARMED FORCES

Respected Prime Minister,

1. Recently I came across a letter written by Col AK Mor, Commanding Officer, 10 Inf Div Pro, dated 23 Dec 2022 (Copy attd as Appx 'A'), with the subject matter **"Unacceptable & demoralising disparity in allowances in field/op areas between CAPF and Armed forces personnel."**
2. As highlighted by the officer, gross disparities exist between CAPF and Armed Forces personnel in field/op areas. The officer states, "Presently the difference in allowances drawn by CAPF/Civilians and Armed Forces personnel when serving alongside in some areas in J&K, NE and Island Territories **over a single tenure of about 2¹/₂ years amounts to anything upto Rs. 13 lakhs**, depending upon rank and pay levels. Such huge disparity in allowances **is not only legally and ethically unacceptable but is also very demoralising for our Armed Forces pers.**" The officer has attached the details of the disparity in allowances as Appx to his letter.
3. In reply to this letter, Brig Pay & Policy in the Adjutant General's Branch has stated that "Concerns enumerated have been analysed and it reveals that these are valid, however, I would like to bring to your notice that these disparities have been already identified. The anomalies are being processed after soliciting views of all HQ Comds."
4. From the officer's reply, it appears this is a 'new' revelation to him or the Service HQ. Though I do not know since when these disparities in allowances of CAPF and Armed Forces personnel in field/op areas exist, it is safe to assume that these disparities have existed at least since the implementation of the 7th CPC in Jan 2016. Given the above, **it is astounding that even after almost seven years since the 7th CPC was implemented, Service HQs are still in the process of soliciting the views of the HQ Comds to formulate their response;** that too after being pointed out by an officer.

5. What pains me most is that this disparity in allowances against the Armed Forces personnel is not an isolated incidence. It is common knowledge that since independence, for reasons best known to the politico-bureaucratic class, there has been a planned, systematic degradation of the status of the Armed Forces. Though listing out all such instances is beyond the scope of this letter, I would like to highlight two gross anomalies post 6th CPC, over which Armed Forces personnel are presently fighting cases in the Supreme Court. These issues are Non-Functional Upgradation (NFU) and Dynamic Assured Career Progression (DACP) (for Armed Forces doctors). **Both these benefits have been granted to all Central Govt employees, including CAPF and civilian employees of the Min of Defence.**

6. The most unfortunate part is that the top leadership of the Armed Forces, over the years, have not only failed to show the gumption to arrest/reverse this continued degradation of the status of the Armed Forces, but still worse, they have contributed in no small a measure, to this downward spiral in the status of the Armed Forces. **This is best illustrated by the refusal of the Service HQs to implement both the NFU and DACP, even though the Govt was willing to grant both these benefits even to the Armed Forces personnel.** There are no parallels to this in any other organisation in the country.

7. Armed Forces, particularly the Indian Army, have been continuously engaged in a low-intensity war for more than three decades and are operating in some of the most challenging areas in the world. In this period, thousands of soldiers have shed their blood and laid down their lives in the line of duty. Despite this, due to the cumulative failure of the top leadership of the Armed Forces over the years, we have reached the nadir where rather than the CAPF seeking parity with the Armed Forces in pay and allowances, it's the Armed Forces personnel that are struggling for parity with the CAPF. **It aches my heart and hangs my head in shame.**

8. **Given the above, you are kindly requested to resolve the issue of disparity in allowances highlighted above immediately; it's an open-and-shut case and doesn't require any committees to look into the matter.** Furthermore, Govt should show large-heartedness and, despite being refused by the Service HQs themselves, should now immediately grant NFU and DACP to the Armed Forces.


9. I would like to end my letter with the advice given by Chanakya, also known as Kautilya, to Chandragupta Maurya, founder of the Mauryan empire:

"Pataliputra reposes each night in peaceful comfort, O King, secure in the belief that the distant borders of Magadha are inviolate and the interiors are safe and secure, thanks only to the Mauryan Army standing vigil with naked swords and eyes peeled for action, day and night, in weather fair and foul, all eight praharas (i.e. round the clock), quite unmindful of personal discomfort and hardship, all through the year, year after year."

"While the citizenry of the State contributes to see that the State prospers and flourishes, **the soldier guarantees it continues to EXIST as a State!** To this man, O Rajadhiraja, you owe a debt: please, therefore, see to it, on your own, that the soldier continuously gets his dues in every form and respect, be they his needs or his wants, for he is not likely to ask for them himself."

Then Chanakya gave his king this blunt warning: "The day the soldier has to demand his dues will be a sad day for Magadha, for then, on that day, you will have lost all moral sanction to be King!"

Jai Hind!



(Yatendra Kumar Yadav)
Col

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