

PARAMILITARY FORCE RETIRED OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION (REGD.)
CHANDIGARH
(3089 of 2000)

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28 August,, 2011

To

Sardar Parkash Singh Badal,
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Punjab,
Chandigarh.

Sub: Discrimination against Gallantry Awardees of Paramilitary Force Personnel

Hon'ble Sir,

Punjab has always been known to honour the gallant soldiers without any discrimination. In consonance with this tradition, the Govt of Punjab has been extending monetary grants, annuities and other concession to the awardees of Gallantry Medals. (Govt of Punjab, Dept of Defence Services Welfare O M No 2/53/2004-IDW/1134-38 dated 02-05-2005 refers). Under this Notification, the Gallantry Awardees have been granted monthly Annuity and other concessions as per the Gallantry Awards conferred on the Defence Services Personnel. The list, however, is restricted to the Awards of Defence Services series only like PVC, A C, MVC etc and the awardees of Police Gallantry Medals have been ignored.

2. The various types of awards conferred on Indian Citizens, have been notified in the Govt of India Gazette Notification (President's Secretariat) No 104-Pres/95 dated 11 Nov,1998 in the 'order of precedence'. A perusal of this notification indicates that in addition to defence gallantry awards, PVC, A C, and MVC etc the Presidents Police Medal for Gallantry and Police medal for Gallantry also find mention. It is seen that in the order of Precedence, the 'Presidents Police Medal for Gallantry' is rated above 'Yudh Sena Medal' and 'Sena/Nao Sena/Vayu Sena Medals', and 'Police Medal for Gallantry' is below these gallantry medals, but above 'Mention in Despatches'.

3. Most of the recipients of Police series of Gallantry medals belong to Paramilitary Forces (BSF, CRPF, ITBP and other CPOs). These gallant personnel had earned these medals at great risk to their life with some attaining martyrdom also in fighting not only against some local criminal elements, but had also faced the enemy bullets in Indo-Pak Wars, Chinese Intrusions, and had been actively involved in dealing with insurgents / terrorists in Punjab, Kashmir and North-east. Their actions are in no way inferior to the Defence Services Personnel.

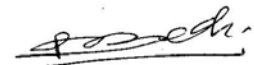
4. Considering the valour shown by the gallantry awardees of Police series of Medals, the Central Govt has extended monetary allowances to the recipients of Presidents Police Medal for Gallantry and Police Medal for Gallantry. The Chart at Annexure 'A' indicates the list of Gallantry Awards in the order of Precedence showing the Monetary Allowances by the Central Govt and the matching allowances and other concessions extended by the Govt of Punjab. A comparison indicates that, where-as Central Govt has extended monetary grants to all awardees of gallantry medals irrespective of their affiliation with various Security Forces, the Govt of Punjab has restricted these only to Defence Service Personnel. The discrimination shown towards the recipients of these Police Gallantry Medals seems highly implausible on the part of a state which takes pride in the valour shown by its sons of the soil. This discrimination affects the morale of the Punjab inhabitants adversely who feel that in their own state they are considered as second rate citizens and their achievements are out rightly ignored. This, not only amounts to humiliation, but leads to frustration.

5. The affected awardees of Police medals for Gallantry had raised this point earlier also, but no action was taken, on the grounds that the local Sainik Boards do not recognize these gallantry awards, through which the Punjab Govt is disbursing the various annuity and concessions. The Paramilitary Forces come under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Home Affairs and not Ministry of Defence and hence these gallantry awardees are not covered by the Sainik Boards. None-the-less, this contention does not hold good to deny them the recognition which they deserve as Punjabis.

6. It is therefore reiterated that case for suitable matching 'Monthly Annuity' and other concessions may be considered for Gallantry Awardees of Paramilitary Force Personnel, serving, retired, and the widows of the deceased on similar lines as are being extended to Defence Services personnel. The disbursement of the annuity may be considered through the nearest Paramilitary Establishments located in Punjab / Chandigarh or any other channel/Dept.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,



**(P S BEDI) DIG (Retd) BSF
CHAIRMAN**

Encl: Annexure A

ANNEXURE- A

DETAILS OF GALLANTRY AWARDS & ALLOWANCES

S.No	Gallantry Medal	Order of Precedence as per Govt of India Notification	Monetary Allowance by Central Govt (Min. of Defence No 7(119)/2008-D (AG) dated 30-03-2011)	Allowance/ Annuity by Punjab Govt (Dept of Defence Services Welfare No 2/53/2004-IDW/1134-38 dated 02-05-2005)	Allowances by Govt of Punjab for spouse of deceased awardee
1	Param Vir Chakra	2	Rs 10,000/-	Rs 12,500/-	Widow will get Rs 7,500/-
2	Ashoka Chakra	3	Rs 6,000/-	Rs 10,000/-	Widow will get 50% of the allowance
3	Maha Vir Chakra	8	Rs 5,000/-	Rs 9,500/-	Widow will get Rs 5,700/-
4	Kirti Chakra	9	Rs 4,500/-	Rs 7,500/-	Widow will get 50% of the allowance
5	Vir Chakra	14	Rs 3,500/-	Rs 5,500/-	Widow will get Rs 3,750/-
6	Shauriya Chakra	15	Rs 3,000/-	Rs 3,500/-	Widow will get 50% of the allowance
7	Presidents Police Medal for Gallantry	17	Rs 1,500/- (MHA, No 1026/4/8-PMA dated 8-9-2008)	Nil	Nil
8	Sena Medal/Nao Sena Medal/Vayu Sena Medal	21	Rs 1,000/-	Rs 2,000/-	Widow will get 50% of the allowance
9	Police Medal for Gallantry	23	Rs 900/- (MHA, No 1026/4/8-PMA dated 8-9-2008)	Nil	Nil
10	Mention-in-Dispatches	No precedence	Nil	Rs1,000/-	Widow will get 50% of the allowance
<i>The Chart above indicates that the Gallantry Awardees of Paramilitary Forces are discriminated by the Govt of Punjab</i>					