

BOMBAY SAPPERS ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF THE 60th SPL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON 24 NOV 2020

1. The Special 60th Management Committee Meeting of the Bombay Sappers Association was held on 24th Nov 2020 at 0900hrs in the Rane Auditorium at BEG & Centre. The meeting was chaired by Lt Gen Manoj Pande, AVSM, VSM, Colonel Commandant, The Bombay Sappers and Chairman, BSA.

2. Following were present: -

- | | | | |
|-----|--|---|--------------------|
| (a) | Brig M J Kumar, SM | - | Vice Chairman |
| (b) | Maj Gen SD Sohoni (Retd) | - | Hony Gen Secy |
| (c) | Maj Gen SG Pitre (Retd) | - | Member |
| (d) | Col MM Bhushan (Retd) | - | Member |
| (e) | Brig SR Mazagaonkar (Retd) | - | Director, BSA |
| (f) | Col Salil Pande | - | Secy-cum-Treasurer |
| (g) | Col Punit Bharadwaj | - | Member |
| (h) | Lt Col AD Suryawanshi | - | Member |
| (j) | Sub Maj (Hony Capt) V M Lawate (Retd)- | - | Member |
| (k) | Sub Maj (Hony Capt) Lakhbir Singh | - | Asst Secy |

3. **Opening Remarks.** Brig MJ Kumar, SM, Vice Chairman BSA, started the proceedings of the Special MCM, by welcoming Lt Gen Manoj Pande, AVSM, VSM, Colonel Commandant, The Bombay Sappers and Chairman BSA. He took this opportunity to highlight some of the recent achievements of the Bombay Sappers, for info of the veteran members of the MC. These included the winning of the Inter Centre Recruits Championship by BEG & Centre Kirkee and achievements of our sportsmen Nb Sub Dattu Bhokanal and Nb Sub Lakha Singh (Retd) who have been conferred with the prestigious Arjuna award and Dhyana Chand award respectively. He also said that there have been major improvements in our training Infrastructure. He informed that presently our centre has zero active COVID cases. This was due to the efficient management of the Corona Pandemic. He then asked the Brig SR Mazagaonkar, Director BSA to proceed with the MCM.

Agenda for Spl 60th MCM

4. The Director then proceeded with the MCM. He gave out the agenda points to be discussed in the Special MCM: -

- (a) Approval of Mins of 59th MCM.
- (b) Brief of BSA activities in 2019-20.
- (c) Proposed Budget for Fin Year 2020-21.
- (d) Brief of BSA activities in 2020-21.
- (e) Misc points:-
 - (i) Proposal for institution of Col Kumar Scholarship in FY 2021-22.
 - (ii) Effect of Lock Down.
- (f) Points from members of MC.
- (g) Closing Remarks of Chairman BSA.

Approval of Minutes of 59th MCM

5. The Director proposed that minutes of 59th MCM (Last MCM held virtually from 22 Jun to 26 Jun 2020), be approved. The Director informed that the minutes have been circulated to all units and also uploaded on the BSA website and the WhatsApp group of ESMs. The approval was proposed by Col MM Bhushan (Retd) and seconded by Sub Maj (Hony Capt) VM Lawate (Retd).

BSA Activities in 2019-20

6. **Membership of BSA.** The present state of members, who have paid life membership fees, as on 20th Nov 2020 is:-

(a)	Officers	-	1,743
(b)	JCOs / ORs	-	<u>48,605</u>
	Total	-	<u>50,348</u>

7. The Director pointed out that, now we have crossed a land mark figure of 50,000 members.

8. **BSA Meetings.** Three Quarterly MCMs and one AGM were held in the last Fin Yr as follows:-

- (a) 29th Mar 2019 - 56th MCM
- (b) 09th Aug 2019 - 57th MCM
- (c) 14th Dec 2019 – 58th MCM
- (d) 21st AGM was held on 31st Aug 2019.

9. Director informed that the MCM for the fourth quarter could not be held due to the lock down. However the 59th MCM was held virtually through emails from 22nd June to 26th Jun 2020 and minutes were circulated on 26th June 2020.

10. **BSA News Letters.** Three news letters were issued on 09th Apr 2019, 09th Jul 2019 & 18th Dec 2019. These were uploaded on our web site, and the ESM Whats app Gp. It was circulated to Veteran Officers through the Gp Adj't's Email Group and Units were sent copies through AVAN. The 4th quarterly news letter could not be issued due to the lock down.

11. **Maruti Ertiga Vehicle.** BSA vehicle was used by 155 members and did 30,455 Kms in the last Fin yr.

12. **Sapper Sarais.** All our Sapper Sarais are functional and were used by 1436 members in the Fin Yr 2019-20. The figures of occupation of the Amritsar Sapper Sarai are not included as they could not be obtained.

13. **Additional Investments.** Director informed that BSA has made fresh investments of Rs 22.50 Lacs in FDs in the last fin Yr. This brings our total amount invested in FDs to Rs 4, 97, 97,000/- as of date.

14. Amounts disbursed on various welfare schemes and events in FY 2019-20. The director displayed the summary of amounts expended on welfare schemes as shown below:-

Sl.No	Grants	Amount
(a)	Edn Scholarship	2,79,000.00
(b)	Edn Grant to Children of widows (EGCW)	4,88,400.00
(c)	Grant for Professional Courses (Including awardees of previous yrs)	3,50,000.00
(d)	Madhuri Gupta Scholarship	1,50,000.00
(e)	Imdt Grant	3,20,000.00
(f)	Distress Grant	1,20,000.00
(g)	Grant to widows for daughter's marriage	1,50,000.00
(h)	Aid to GBA	3,81,461.00
(j)	Indira Dassannacharya Scholarship	15,000.00
(k)	Bi Centenary Celebration	6,96,533.00
Total Rs		29,50,394.00

15. After display of the summary, the director gave details of Rs 6.96 lacs spent on the occasion of Bi- Centenary Celebrations, which are as under:-

(a)	Felicitation of 58 Veer Naris & 15 Spec Children @ Rs 5000/- each- --Rs 3, 40,000.00	
(b)	Purchase of Fiber Glass boat with 6xLife Jackets -----	Rs 82,065.00
(c)	Purchase of two E- Rickshaws -----	Rs 2, 49,500.00
(d)	Expenditure on Gifts given to Veer Naris and spec children -----	<u>Rs 24, 968.00</u>
	Total Expenditure	Rs 6, 96,533.00

16. He then proceeded to give details of amounts spent on various schemes.

(a) **Edn Scholarship.** This was given to children of 54 JCOs and 227 ORs. Total amount given was Rs.2, 79,000/-.

(b) **Edn Grant to Children of widows (EGCW).** This was given to 155 children of 96 Widows. Total amount given was Rs. 4, 88,400/-.

(c) **Grant for Professional Courses.** Installments ofRs 10,000/- each were given to 35 children pursuing various professional courses. These included 10 fresh awardees of yr 2019-20 and 25 awardees of previous years. Total amount disbursed was Rs 3.5Lacs.

(e) **Madhuri Gupta Scholarship.** Six children were given installments of Rs 25000/- each. These include two fresh awardees of yr 2019-20 and four awardees of previous years. Total amount disbursed was Rs 1.5 Lacs.

(h) **Immediate Grant.** The Director informed that in the year Fin Yr 2019-20, we had 32 unfortunate death cases of serving personnel. A cheque of 10,000/- each was dispatched to the widows/NOK. A total amount of Rs. 3, 20,000/- was thus disbursed for this purpose.

(j) **Distress Grant.** A total amount of Rs. 1, 20,000/- was disbursed to 12 ESMS/widows/serving persons @ Rs 10,000/- each.

(k) **Grant to widows for daughter's marriage.** An amount of Rs. 1, 50,000/- was given to 06 widows @ Rs 25,000/- each.

17. **Income and Expenditure details for FY 2019-20.** The director displayed the summary of income and expenditure details of Fin Yr 2019-20 which is as shown below:-

INCOME FIN YR 2019-20

Ser No	Head of Income	Anticipated Income FY 2019-20	Actual Income in FY 2019-20
(a)	Interest from FDs	32,40,119.00	32,70,785.00
(b)	Interest from Sweep and Saving A/c	50,000.00	1,34,012.00
(c)	Income from duplicate card charges	58,400.00	51,700.00
(d)	Donations	6,50,000.00	11,00,719.00
	Total	39,98,519.00	45,57,216.00

18. Director pointed out that on the income side we have received more donations than anticipated. However, he said out of the above we recd Rs 3.5 lacs from Col Vijay Kumar in Dec 2019 and Rs 2 lacs from Mrs. Ambekar in March (via bank transfer). We could have transferred this amount of Rs 5.5 lacs directly to our corpus head. However due to the lock down, the banks monthly statement was received only in June, hence that was not done.

EXPENDITURE FIN YR 2019-20

Ser No	Head of expdr	Budget for FY 2019-20	Total Expdr till 31 March 20
(a)	Children Edn Scholarship	3,50,000.00	2,79,000.00
(b)	Edn Grant to Children of widows (EGCW)	7,00,000.00	4,88,400.00
(c)	Distress Grant	1,00,000.00	1,20,000.00
(d)	Imdt Relief	4,00,000.00	3,20,000.00
(e)	Grant for Marriage of Daughters of widows	3,00,000.00	1,50,000.00
(f)	Grant for Professional Courses	4,10,000.00	3,50,000.00
(g)	Salary	8,60,000.00	8,54,335.00
(h)	Maint of Cmptr (incl website maint & hosting charges)	30,000.00	21,832.00
(j)	Tele Bill/Internet	25,000.00	17,996.74
(k)	Office Expdr	25,000.00	11,700.00
(l)	Audit Fees (Could not be paid due to lock down will be paid in 2020-21)	35,000.00	0
(m)	Misc	30,000.00	14,590.00
(n)	Aid to GBA	3,70,000.00	3,81,461.00
(o)	Madhuri Gupta Scholarship	1,50,000.00	1,50,000.00
(p)	Indira Dasannacharya Scholarship	15,000.00	15,000.00
(q)	Bi-Centenary Celebration	2,00,000.00	6,96,533.00
	Total	40,00,000.00	38,70,847.74

19. On the expenditure, the director pointed out that expenditure under various heads was generally as planned. However, we had substantial savings in the heads of Children Edn Scholarship, EGCW and Grants for Marriage of Daughters of Widows. The savings from these heads enabled us to spend Rs 6.96 lacs on various events and welfare activities during our Bi-Centenary Celebrations. He also pointed out that the fees of our chartered accountants could not be paid in the Fin yr, so we have catered for double fees to be paid in yr 2020-21.

20. **Audit Report of Chartered Accountant.** The Director then displayed on the screen the Audited Financials of FY 2019-20. Which are enclosed at appendices as follows: -

- | | | | | | |
|-----|---|---|------------|---|-----|
| (a) | Receipt and Payment Account FY 2019-20 | - | Refer Appx | - | 'A' |
| (b) | Income and Expenditure Account FY 2019-20 | - | Refer Appx | - | 'B' |
| (c) | Balance sheet as on 31 Mar 2020 | - | Refer Appx | - | 'C' |

21. **Resolution to set apart sum under Sec 11(2) of IT Act.** The Director drew attention to the fact that donations recd were Rs 11, 00719/-. The complete amount has been taken as Income in the Income /Expdr Statement (Ref Appx B) thus, as per the advice of our Chartered Accountants, we have to set aside an amount Rs 99,036/- for expenditures on our welfare schemes in next five yrs, under provisions of Sec 11(2) of IT Act. He also drew the attention of the members to the Balance sheet (Ref Appx C) wherein also this amount of Rs 99,036/- has been shown as amount set apart under Sec 11(2) of IT Act on the LHS i.e. as liabilities. A resolution for the same has been made as per draft given by our Chartered Accountant. The director requested all the members of the MC to sign the same at the end of the meeting. All members agreed to sign the resolution.

22. **Additional Investments to be done in Fin Yr 2020-21.** The Director also drew the attention of all members to the Balance Sheet (Appx C) and said that the value of our Corpus now stands at Rs 5,16,45176/-. There is an increase of Rs 18, 63,276/- in the corpus, in fin Yr 2019-20. As already brought out, our investment in FDs stand at Rs 4, 97, 97,000/- (Ref para 13 above). Thus to ensure that our corpus remains untouched we need to invest an additional amount of Rs 18,48,176/- say 18.5 lacs in FDs, in this fin yr i.e. in 2020-21.

Proposed Budget for Fin Yr 2020-21.

23. **Budget 2020-21.** The Director then displayed on screen the proposed budget for FY 2020-21. He said that the budget being displayed was approved by the MC in the 59th MCM held in June 2020. In normal circumstances this proposed budget is ratified and got approved by the General Body during the AGM every year. However as we have not been able to hold the AGM due to restrictions imposed by the govt., due to the pandemic. Hence we are following this budget, till the AGM for this year is held. The anticipated Income and Budget for Expenditure for Fin yr 2020-21, is as tabled below: -

ANTICIPATED INCOME FOR FIN YR 2020-21

Ser No	Head of Income	Income in FY 2019-20	Anticipated Income FY 2020-21
(a)	Interest from FDs (based on actuals)	32,70,785.00	33,80,744.00
(b)	Interest from Sweep/Saving Acct	1,34,012.00	50,000.00
(c)	Income from duplicate card charges	51,700.00	40,000.00
(d)	Donations	11,00,719.00	5,00,000.00
	Total	45,57,216.00	39,70,744.00 Say Rs 40 lacs

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FIN YR 2020-21

Ser No	Head of expdr	Total Expdr 2019-20	Budget for FY 2020-21
(a)	Edn Scholarship	2,79,000.00	3,50,000.00
(b)	Edn Grant (Children of widows)	4,88,400.00	6,00,000.00
(c)	Distress Grant	1,20,000.00	1,00,000.00
(d)	Imdt Relief	3,20,000.00	4,00,000.00
(e)	Grant for Marriage of Daughters of widows	1,50,000.00	3,00,000.00
(f)	Grant for Professional Courses	3,50,000.00	3,80,000.00
(g)	Salary	8,54,335.00	8,34,000.00
(h)	Maint of Cmpt (incl website maint & hosting charges)	21,832.00	30,000.00
(j)	Tele Bill/Internet	17,996.74	25,000.00
(k)	Office Expdr	11,700.00	10,000.00
(l)	Audit Fees	-	70,000.00
(m)	Misc	14,590.00	26,000.00
(n)	Aid to GBA	3,81,461.00	3,80,000.00
(o)	Madhuri Gupta Scholarship	1,50,000.00	1,75,000.00
(p)	Indira Dasannacharya Scholarship	15,000.00	15,000.00
(q)	Bi Centenary Celebrations	6,96,533.00	0
(r)	Grants for Sapper Sarais	-	3,00,000.00
	Total	38,70,847.74	39,95,000.00 Say Rs 40 lacs

BSA ACTIVITIES IN FIN YR 2020-21.

24. **Details of Boards held for various schemes in FY 2020-21** Details of boards held up to Nov 2020 and amounts disbursed for various BSA schemes were displayed, which are as given below: -

(a) **BSA Education Scholarship scheme.**

- (i) Beneficiaries : 44 JCOs and 88 ORs Children
- (ii) Amount disbursed : Rs. 1, 32,000/-

(b) **Grant for Professional Courses.**

- (i) Beneficiaries
 - Awardees of 2020-21 : 18
 - Awardees of previous yrs : 28
- (ii) Total amount disbursed 2020-21 : Rs. 1, 80,000/- (Rs. 10,000 each)

(e) **Madhuri Gupta Scholarship**

- (i) Beneficiaries
 - Awardees of 2020-21 : 02
 - Awardees of previous years : 06
- (ii) Total amount disbursed 2020-21 : Rs. 50,000/- (Rs. 25,000/- each)

- (d) **Immediate Grant.** : Given to widows/NOKs of service pers Who Expired on duty.
- (i) Beneficiaries : 22 widows/NOKs
 - (ii) Amount disbursed : Rs 2, 20,000/- (Rs.10, 000/- each)

(f) **BSA Distress Grant**

- (i) Beneficiaries : 04(02 ESM, 01 Widow &1 Serving per)
- (ii) Amount disbursed : Rs. 40,000/- (Rs. 10,000/- each)

(c) **BSA Grant for Marriage of Daughter of Widows**

- (i) Beneficiaries : 4 widows
- (ii) Amount disbursed : Rs 1, 00,000/- (Rs 25000/- each)

25. Director pointed out the following:-

- (a) **Children Education Scholarship scheme.** The response to this scheme was very less as compared to last year, due to the lockdown. However, the applications received till 31st Oct 2020 was accepted, though the date of receipt of applications is 31st Aug of every year.
- (b) **EGCW.** He informed that we have received only 54 applications till date and will be holding Board No 1 within a few days. This is also due to lock down and difficulties faced by widows in getting the mark sheets and getting the applications countersigned by the school authorities.
- (c) **Grant for Professional Courses & Madhuri Gupta Scholarship.** He informed that some awardees of previous years are yet to submit their results of their last academic year, hence their next installments have been held up. They will be paid as soon as we receive their results. He said generally the exams of medical stream students are held late and hence the delay in submitting the results.
- (d) **Distress Grant.** We will hold some more boards as and when applications are recd.

26. **Termination of the Children Education Scholarship Scheme.** The Chairman raised a point at this juncture about the scheme of the Children Edn scholarship. He pointed out that nowadays all other ranks get a substantial amount as Children Education Allowance from the government, and also from ESSA. The amount given by BSA is comparatively less. This may be the reason for such a low response. He said that we could consider discontinuing this scheme and think of using this amount to enhance the amounts being given to the schemes for professional courses. A discussion took place and following points were put forth by members.

- (a) The response to this scheme is low from Combat Units and more applications are received from ERE units. CO's of all combat units were sent figs of applications received last yr, with an appeal to look into it. However, the situation this year is different.
- (b) The main aim of starting this scheme was not to give financial aid but to act as an incentive for children to do better.
- (c) We should restrict the no of scholarships given to the number of vacancies decided in the SOP (i.e. 48 to JCOs and 192 to other ranks). This will increase the competition and also we could increase amount of scholarship. Director pointed out that the competition was already tough as in last two yrs JCOs children scoring above 95% in class 10th could get the scholarship.
- (d) It was finally decided that we should carry out an analysis of this point and the proposal should be discussed in the next AGM and the decision to close the scheme can be taken in the AGM.

27. **State of Income/Expenditure till date in FY 2020-21.**The Director displayed the status of income and expdr so far in this Fin Yr 2020-21.

INCOME SO FAR IN 2020-21

Ser No	Head of Income	Anticipated Income FY 2020-21	Actual Income till 31 Oct 2020 (Rs)
(a)	Interest from FDs	33,80,744.00	23,84,458.00
(b)	Interest from Sweep/Saving Account	50,000.00	1,046.00
(c)	Income from duplicate card charges	40,000.00	5,600.00
(d)	Donations	5,00,000.00	40,500.00
	Total	39,70,744.00 Say 40 Lacs	24,31,604.00

28. Director also displayed the list of donors and informed that we have recd donations of Rs 7.5 lacs from Col Vijay Kumar (Retd) till date in this fin yr. This is being taken directly in the corpus as these amounts are being remitted by him for Institution of the Col Kumar Scholarship. The details of donations received were as under.

(a) Amounts recd from Col Vijay Kumar & taken directly in corpus Rs 7, 50,000.00

(b) Amounts recd from other donors Rs 40,500.00

He also informed that the donations received this year are less, hence a letter will be sent to all Veteran Officers, making an appeal for donations.

29. The details of Expdr so far in this Fin Yr displayed were as given below:

EXPENDITURE SO FAR IN FY 2020-21

Ser No	Head of expdr	Budget Approved in AGM (Rs)	Expdr so far (Rs)
(a)	Education Scholarship	3,50,000.00	1,32,000.00
(b)	Education Grant (Children of widows)	6,00,000.00	-
(c)	Distress Grant	1,00,000.00	40,000.00
(d)	Immediate Relief	4,00,000.00	2,20,000.00
(e)	Grant for Marriage of Daughters of	3,00,000.00	1,00,000.00
(f)	Grant for Professional Courses	3,80,000.00	1,80,000.00
(g)	Salary	8,34,000.00	4,86,500.00
(h)	Maint of Cmptr (including annual website maintenance charges)	30,000.00	5,202.00
(j)	Tele Bill/Internet	25,000.00	11,665.00
(k)	Office Expdr	10,000.00	7,023.00
(l)	Audit Fees	70,000.00	30,000.00
(m)	Misc	26,000.00	16,156.00
(n)	Aid to GBA	3,80,000.00	-
(o)	Madhuri Gupta Scholarship	1,75,000.00	50,000.00
(p)	Indira Dasannacharya Scholarship	15,000.00	-
(q)	Grant for Sapper Sarais	3,00,000.00	-
	Total	39,95,000.00	12,78,546.00

30. Director gave following point pertaining to the Expenditure this year:-

(a) The expenditure on the Children Education Scholarship scheme has been very less hence there is going to be substantial savings in this head. Similar savings may occur in the EGCW scheme.

(b) Gurnam Boys Academy has not opened till date. The aid given to GBA is based on the annual expense incurred on children of widows and ESMs. This yr this expenditure itself is likely to be low and hence the aid amounts will also reduce. Hence there may be a saving in this head.

(c) We have catered for Rs 3 lacs as Grant for Sapper Sarais this year. We have not given any grants for our Sapper Sarais in last two years hence we could give them more grants, from the savings in other heads. This will enable them to upgrade their infrastructure and provide better facilities to members visiting the Sarais. This was agreed to by all members.

Misc points from Director.

31. **Col Kumar Scholarship.** Director explained the proposal for institution of this Scholarship, which has been proposed by Col Vijay Kumar (Retd), now settled in USA. Col Vijay Kumar (Retd) sent in Donation of Rs 3.5 lacs in Dec 2019, just before he came to attend the Bi-Centenary Celebrations. A brief on our schemes was sent to him with some proposals. After exchange of mails a final SOP was prepared in April 2020. The salient points of the scholarship are as under:-

(a) The Scholarship is to be given to one meritorious student pursuing Engineering Degree i.e. BE /B Tech. All conditions of eligibility and selection to be like Madhuri Gupta Scholarship.

(b) The value of Scholarship was decided as Rs 96000/- to be paid in 4 yearly Installments of Rs 24000/-.

(c) It was decided that Col Vijay Kumar will give Rs. 17 Lacs, which will be invested in fixed deposits. This amount will fetch an annual interest of Rs 96000/- reqd for the scholarship. Schedule of payment of this amount by the donor will be as below:-

(i)	Donation already recd in Dec 2019 & April 2020.	7.0Lacs
(ii)	Monthly Donation of Rs 0.8 lacs from July 20 to Mar 2021 (0.8x 9)	7.2 Lacs
(iii)	Balance Donation to be paid in April 2021	<u>2.8 Lacs</u>
	Total	<u>17.0 Lacs</u>

(d) In Principal Approval was given by the MC in the 59th MCM to start the Scholarship in 2020-21.

(e) SOP etc was finalized after Col Vijay Kumar gave instructions to his bank to transfer Rs 80,000/- every month to BSA the account, wef. July 2020.

(f) However the rates of Interest on FDs suddenly dropped in the month of July 20 and it was realized that Rs 17 lacs will not fetch an interest of Rs 96,000/-, reqd to run the scholarship. Hence two options were given to Col Vijay Kumar (Retd).

(i) **OPTION 1.** Scholarship to be started only in 2021-22 after complete donation of Rs 17 lacs is recd when we can work out the value of scholarship based on interest rates in April 2021.

(ii) **OPTION 2.** We start scholarship now in 2020 and he can donate an additional amount in April 21 which will fetch an interest of Rs 96000/- per yr. at prevailing rates of interest in April 21.

(g) Col Vijay Kumar (Retd) has accepted Option- 1. Hence the promulgation and institution of the scholarship has been kept on hold. The same will be instituted next year in 2021-22.

34. **Effect of Lockdown on BSA.** The overall effect of the pandemic on the functioning of BSA office was as follows:-

(a) BSA office was run single handedly during the lock down period from 22 Mar 20 till 09th June by Sub BM Ghatage. It was ensured that lmdt relief cases were addressed along with emergency cases during this period.

(b) BSA office was closed completely between 12th Sept to 11Oct 20 due to two cases of viral Infection in civilian staff.

(c) Drastic drop in applications for BSA Edn Scholarship Scheme and EGCW.

(d) Applications for Grant of Professional Courses will be accepted till 31 Dec 2020 as admission process to medical /engineering colleges has just commenced.

(e) Donations recd in 2020-21 are very low. A letter, to all veterans, making an appeal for donations will be sent shortly.

(f) Audit by CA could be carried out in only in Oct 20 and report recd in Nov20.

(g) During Lockdown Period BSA vehicle was used to ferry emergency cases to hosp etc.as a welfare measure. BSA vehicle has done only 5,566 Kms in this fin yr.

Points from member of MC.

35. **Law stream to be added in the Grant for Professional Courses Scheme.** During the briefing on the Col Kumar Scholarship, Vice Chairman informed that we had also interacted with Mrs Situ Puri and Mrs RR Rane, during the Bi-Centenary celebrations regarding institution of new scholarships. However there is no response from them till date. He also mentioned that Mrs. Situ Puri had been asked to start a scholarship for the Law stream. The Chairman at this juncture said that keeping in view that an Army Law College has started functioning we should also consider and add a vacancy for this stream in our Grant for Professional Courses Scheme.

36. The point was agreed to and it was decided that proposal for adding the Law stream along with details of eligibility and vacancies etc (i.e. all India Competitive Exam to be considered for preparing the merit list) should be worked out ,so that we could add this in the yr 2021-22.

Closing Remarks Of Chairman

36. The Chairman in his closing remarks, after thanking the Director for covering all activities of BSA, gave out the following points:-

(a) **Physical Casualties / Non Battle Casualties.** He brought out that widows of Battle Casualties are well looked after with a large number of grants and assistance coming from Central & State Governments; the children are also given priority while allotment of defence quota seats in educational Institutes. However, no such major financial assistance is given to widows whose husbands were physical / non battle casualties. He felt that we should focus on and pay more attention to resettlement of these wards.

(b) **Data Base of widows of ESMs who expire after retirement.** He felt that is an area which needs to be pursued with an aim of ensuring that the welfare and resettlement of these widows is taken care of. He felt that nodal officers and Commanding Officer of units should make all efforts in contacting such widows and identifying their problems which could then be addressed by the Centre / Record Office / BSA.

(c) **Liaison NCO at RR and CH(SC) Hospital.** He informed that an NCO each has been detailed at RR Hospital in Delhi and CH (SC) at Pune to help out all Bombay Sappers visiting the hospital for guidance and help in getting treatment, accommodation for relatives during treatment etc. A similar system could be started in Chandimandir. Maximum publicity should be given to this arrangement and contact numbers of the JCO/NCO should be shared.

(d) **MOU with Prominent Edn Institutes.** He informed that some Regtl Centres have signed a MOU with reputed education institutes wherein admission are given with significant concession on tuition fees to the children or wards of widows of their Regiment. BEG & Centre could also examine the feasibility of making similar arrangement with edn instt in and around Pune.

(e) **Liaison with AWPO Pune.** Army Welfare Placement Organization has a large no. of job opportunities and vacancies for ex-servicemen, specially in trades / skill of our Group pers, which are not utilised. We should take advantage of this provision. He asked Director BSA to maintain close liaison with Col Jaibhan Singh of AWPO node at Pune.

(f) **Welfare Funds of AGs Branch.** AGs Branch has adequate funds earmarked for welfare of widows and ESMs specially those in penury and distress. We should project specific cases of our Widows and ESMs who need financial assistance, duly recommended by BEG & Centre to AG's Branch.

37. The 60th Spec MCM was thereafter declared as closed.

(Brig SR Mazagaonkar, Retd)
Dir, BSA

10002/MCM/60th /BSA

Bombay Sappers Association, C/O Headquarters
Bombay Engineer Group & Centre, Kirkee, Pune-411003

Dec 2020

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