Sub: Stoppage of Fixed Medical Allowance on becoming a member of ECHS

A reference is invited to this HQrs office most important circular bearing No. AT/IV/4807/ECHS dated 29.10.03 regarding Ex-servicemen contributory Health Scheme (ECHS). According to Para 2 (b) of MOD-letter No 22(1)/01/US (CWEYD Res) dated 30.12.02 enclosed with said circular dated 29.10.03, the retired personnel joining ECHS will forfeit the Fixed Medical Allowance of Rs.100/- presently admissible to them. For this purpose, switch over to ECHS needs to be intimated to the concerned PDA by the Regional Centre of ECHS to stop fixed Medical Allowance to the concerned pensioner.

Army HQrs were requested to issue necessary instructions to Regional Centres to furnish the details of the pensioner concerned to the concerned PDAs.

Army HQrs have recently intimated that in some cases, Public Sector Banks have refused to stop fixed Medical Allowance of Rs.100/- PM in the absence of instructions from the Pension Sanctioning Authority and as a result the Ex-servicemen are facing difficulties in getting their name registered with ECHS. Accordingly they have requested this HQrs office to issue suitable instructions to all Pension Sanctioning Authorities in this regard.

The difficulties pointed out by AHQrs in implementation/execution of Govt. orders on the subject have been examined in this HQrs. It has been decided that PDAs may issue suitable instructions to all PDAs that fixed Medical Allowance may be stopped in case service pensioner opt for ECHS facilities as intimated by the Regional Centre of ECHS. In such cases a certificate may be issued to ECHS Regional Centre.
informing the centre regarding stoppage of Fixed Medical Allowance in respect of the pensioner. As per direction issued to all ECHS Regional Centres by AHQ vide their No. B/49791/AG/ECHS dated 27.11.2003, the details of pensioners who have already joined ECHS will be furnished by Regional Centres to the PDA concerned. It is therefore, requested that the PDAs may be directed to ensure that Fixed Medical Allowance to the pensioners concerned is stopped under intimation to Regional Centre of ECHS as soon as the details of pensioners opting the ECHS are received from the Regional Centres.

Copy to:

1. Gen.(Retd) V.K. Dua,
   Central Organization, ECHS,
   AG's Branch
   Army HQrs, Maude Line,
   Delhi Cantt.-110010

For information w.r.t. their letter No B/49791/AG/ECHS dated 11.5.05 with the advise to issue suitable instructions to Regional Centres for sending the details of pensioners who have joined ECHS to the concerned PDAs and not the Pension Sanctioning Authorities (i.e. PCDA (P) Allahabad, PCDA (Navy) Mumbai and DCDA (AE) New Delhi as the pensioners’ current PDA’s details are not available with the PSA’s.

The issuance of Corr PPOs for stoppage of Fixed Medical Allowance has not been considered necessary by the PSAs and the above instructions will serve the purpose.

For CGDA