

New Delhi, 14th September, 2010

The Chief of Army Staff
The Chief of Naval Staff
The Chief of Air Staff

Subject : Extension of ECHS facilities to Nepal Domiciled Gorkhas (NDG) ESM

Sir,

1. With reference to Government of India, Ministry of Defence letter No. 22 (1)01/US(WE)/D(Res) dated 30 Dec 2002 as amended from time to time, I am directed to convey the sanction of the Government for extending the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) coverage to the Ex-Servicemen Nepal Domicile Gorkhas (NDGs) pensioner on the same pattern as applicable to ex-servicemen in India.
2. Facilities of ECHS will be applicable to NDGs pensioner as per the succeeding paras.
3. **Eligibility.** Only NDG Ex-Servicemen pensioners (from Defence Estimates) are eligible for ECHS membership on the same pattern as Indian ESM. Retired pensioners from Coast Guard will also be eligible.
4. **Medical treatment.** Medical treatment will be available in ECHS Polyclinics/Service Hospitals/civil empanelled facilities in India only Emergency treatment in Nepal would not be reimbursable. However emergency treatment in India under existing provisions would be available. All other procedures and policies of ECHS will also apply to NDGs.

Procedure to Join ECHS

5. **Application Forms**

- (a) Application forms can be collected from the nearest S tation HQs of Army/Navy/Air Force in India or from Military Wing, Indian Embassy at Kathmandu.
 - (b) Forms can also be downloaded from internet website www.echs.gov.in
6. **Contribution.** war widows, battle casualties and pre 1996 retirees are exempted from one time ECHS contribution, for others, contribution will be as applicable in India in Indian Rupees.
7. **Payment of Contribution** NDGs staying in India will follow the same procedure as ESM Pensioners in India. For NDGs staying in Nepal the procedure will be as follows:-
- (a) **Persons Already Retired or Retiring before the date of issue of these orders.** Personnel already retired or retiring before issue of these orders, contribution can be deposited in India through the MRO under the existing procedure in India. The NDGs desirous to deposit the contribution in Nepal can deposit in the Govt treasury located in Embassy of India, Kathmandu, Nepal from where the treasury challan will be issued to the individual and will be attached with the application.
 - (b) **Persons retiring on or after date of issue of these orders.** The contribution amount in respect of such pensioners will be deducted by the pension payment authority as per option exercised by the individual at the time of retirement.

8. Submission of Completed Application Form. NDGs will follow the same procedure as ESM pensioners in India. For NDGs staying in Nepal the procedure will be as follows:-

(a) Persons Already Retired or Retiring before the date of issue of these orders.

The applications duly filled, are to be submitted alongwith copies of under mentioned documents to Assistant Military Attache (AMA) (Records) at the Embassy of India and Nepal.

- (i) Pension Payment Order (PPO) duly attested by Bank/Treasury from where pension is being drawn.
- (ii) Discharge Certificate/Retired/Dependent I-Card.
- (iii) Two copies (in original) of the MRO as proof of deposit of contribution.
- (iv) Affidavit. The affidavit will be sworn as per existing practice in Nepal before the Chief District Officer (CDO) for Nepal Domiciled Indian Ex-servicemen to confirm dependency of parents/children.
- (v) Bank draft for smart card in favour of Director, Regional Centre Lucknow.

(b) Persons retiring on or after the date of issue of these orders.

The blank ECHS application form for the retiring personnel alongwith the retirement order and other primary pension documents will be forwarded by the concerned Record Office. Individual/Unit will forward duly filled in ECHS Application form (Less PPO details) to record Office concerned, minimum 06 months before due date of retirement along with other primary pension documents.

9. Receipt and Vetting fo ECHS Application Forms. NDGs will follow the same procedure as ESM Pensioners in India. For NDGs residing in Nepal the procedure will be as follows:-

(a) Persons Already Retired or Retiring before the date of issue of these orders.

On receipt of filled ECHS application from individuals, Assistance Military Attache (AMA) (Records) will carry out vetting for its correctness. An acknowledgement/receipt of the application form will be handed over to the individual duly signed by AMA Records. The ESM will be authorised ECHS benefits from the day the receipt is signed. ECHS application form after due vetting will be sent to the Regional Centre Lucknow.

(b) Persons retiring on or after the date of issue of these orders.

On receipt of filled ECHS application from individual/unit, respective Record Office, will carry out vetting for correctness. An acknowledgement/receipt of the application form will be despatched to the individual by concerned Record office duly mentioning date of retirement (ECHS facilities will be available only after date of retirement) and the ECHS application form after due vetting will be sent to the concerned Regional Centre ECHS.

10. Military Attache Kathmandu. Military Attache Kathmandu will act as Stn Cdr and deal with all matters related to ECHS, except policy issues.

11. Regional Centres ECHS. For NDGs in India concerned Regional Centres ECHS will be responsible for processing of applications received from Stn HQ/Records Officers as per existing procedure and process them as is being done now in respect of other pensioners. The Regional Centres ECHS will ensure preparation of smart cards by card vendor and fwd them to Stn HQ/Concerned Record Offices.

12. Legal Matters. All legal matters will be subject to the jurisdiction of courts in India and cases will be tried as per Indian law.

13. All other procedures and policies of ECHS will also apply to Nepal Domicile Gorkhas (NDGs) ESMs in India as well as NDG in Nepal in letter and spirit.

14. The scheme will cover all the ex-servicemen of Indian Armed Forces/Dependents domiciled in Nepal and also settled in India.

15. This letter issues with the concurrence of Ministry of Defence (finance) vide their UO No. 2936/10/F/P dated 8.9.2010.

Yours faithfully.

Sd/-xxx

(H.K. Millick)

Under Secretary to the Govt of India

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3. Defence (Finance) (AG/PD)
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5. PPS to Secretary (ESW)
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8. DFA (B) / DFA (N) / DFA (Air Force)
9. D (Med)
10. O&M Unit
11. CGDA New Delhi
12. Defence Attace Kathmandu (Nepal)