

Chapter-44

Ministry of Liberation War Affairs

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Independence is the best achievement of the Bengali Nation. On 16 December 1971, the red-green flag was raised in the sky of Bangladesh after 9 month's long fierce fighting. This independence is achieved by the blood shading of million martyrs, highest sacrifice of the freedom fighters and losing the chastity of thousands of women and girls. Establishment of democracy, elimination of exploitation and deception, achievement of economic progress and self-dependency, and establish ourselves as a dignified nation in the world are the spirits of great liberation war. The Ministry of Liberation War Affairs is assigned to uphold the sanctity of Liberation War by stimulating the spirit of it and provide due honor and different benefits to the freedom fighters-the great son of the Nation.

2.0 Major Functions

- ❖ Preparation of the list of freedom fighters, publication in the gazette and preservation of declared list;
- ❖ Formulation of acts, rules and guidelines related to rights and benefits of the freedom fighters.
- ❖ Providing allowances and other benefits to the freedom fighters;
- ❖ Formulating guidelines for preserving the history and documents of liberation war;
- ❖ Upholding the real history to the present and future generations;
- ❖ Ensuring quota for freedom Fighters and their children in government, autonomous and semi- autonomous bodies;
- ❖ Constructing Independence Tower and preservation and maintenance of the burial sites/mass graves, front war sites of liberation war;
- ❖ Celebrating the Independence and National day in appropriate manner including Mujibnagar Day, Martyred Intellectual Day and Victory day.

3.0 Strategic objectives of the Ministry and their Relevance with Women's Advancement and Rights

3.1 **Ensure overall welfare of the freedom fighters:** Various employment-generating trainings and granting micro finance facilities to the female members of the freedom

fighters will create opportunities for them to become self-reliant. This will ensure their socio-economic security and their empowerment.

3.2 Inspire the present and future generations in the spirit of liberation war and strengthen patriotism: Efforts have been continued to exalt the ideals and spirit of Liberation War among the current and future generations by making, screening and displaying the documentary films based on true history of Liberation War, updating the list of freedom fighters, registering Liberation War based organization and celebrating the national days with grandeur. It plays a vital role in ensuring the equal rights for men and women in these deeds.

3.3 Preservation of history and memorials of liberation war and physical development: Various physical infrastructural development works are being continued including refinement of documents and history of the Liberation War and construction works to preserve the memories of the Liberation War. Women's participation alongside with men in these deeds is increasing day after day.

4.0 Role of Ministry of Liberation War Affairs on women's advancement and rights:

4.1 Women had a glorious role in every stages of the Liberation War of Bangladesh. Fearless lady Freedom Fighters made a unique contribution to bring the independence either by fighting with arms or by giving assistance to the freedom fighters. On this background, The Ministry of Liberation War Affairs is implementing multifarious activities for the welfare of the women freedom fighters. Activities of enlisting of all women freedom fighters are going on with a view to present their glorious role for the nation. In the meantime, a list of 244 'Beerangana' (women freedom fighters) has been gazetted. Besides, titled women freedom fighters are honored in different state-level programs. The socio-economic conditions of the families of freedom fighters especially the women members are improving by the result of providing various facilities including state honorarium by the Government.

5.0 Priority Spending Areas and Benefits for Women's Advancement

Serial No.	Priority Spending Areas/Programmes	Impact on Women Development (direct/indirect)
1	2	3
1.	Provide state honorarium and ration facilities to wounded freedom fighters and families of the martyrs of liberation war and wounded freedom fighters (deceased), honorarium to freedom fighters including	Various state honorarium, medical allowance, ration etc are being provided to freedom fighters, wounded freedom fighters, families of martyred freedom fighters of the liberation war. During the last three years, micro credit from the revolving fund of Tk. 37.75 crore was provided to 35820 freedom fighters and training was provided to 38253 dependents of the Freedom Fighters

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1	2	3
	those with gallantry awards and financial assistance for treatment of wounded freedom fighters.	to the objective of rehabilitation and self-employment of freedom fighters. Out of those trainees and loan recipients, a significant portion belongs to women, causing the scope for employment generation of the families of the freedom fighters and their social safety.
2.	Construction of war mausoleum, tower, monuments, maintenance and development of front war fields, mass killing spots, mass graveyard, and graveyard of martyred freedom fighters.	After completion of the construction and maintenance of mausoleum, tower, complex building reflecting the heroic deeds of freedom fighters during the liberation war, a sense to build the country on the spirit of the liberation war will be generated among the new generations despite of male and female.
3.	Undertake different projects and programme to inspire the spirit of liberation war and preserve and promote history of liberation war.	Amendment to the documents and history of the war of liberation, infrastructure development work for preserving the war memory and developing and display of documentary on true history of the liberation war will make people aware about the contribution of the women in that great war. As a consequence, it will escalate the respect toward women in society as well as raise the ideals and spirits of the liberation war and strengthen the patriotism among the present and future generation. It will contribute for the development of the womenfolk.
4.	Welfare and rehabilitation of freedom fighters	Construction work for Muktijuddha Complex for all upazillas and districts are already completed in 60 districts and 135 upazillas. The earning from commercial use of muktijuddha complex can be utilized for the welfare of the families of the freedom fighters from which female members of the family will be directly benefited. Moreover, development programs are undertaken for the construction of the residences of landless and insolvent freedom fighters. Through these programmes, a total of 2971 houses will be constructed for those landless and insolvent freedom fighters. Under the programmes, a total of 2962 houses are already handed over and the rest will be completed shortly and it will bring about socio-economic development of the female members of the freedom fighters and their families.

6.0 Women's Share in Ministry's Total Expenditure

(Taka in Crore)

Description	Budget 2019-20			Revised 2018-19			Budget 2018-19			Actual 2017-18		
	Budget	Women Share		Revised	Women Share		Budget	Women Share		Actual	Women Share	
		Women	percent		Women	percent		Women	percent		Women	percent
Total Budget	523190	161247	30.82	442541	136036	30.74	464573	136938	29.48	321861	88441	27.48
Ministry Budget	4453	457	10.26	3848	442	11.48	4261	281	6.6	3413	286	8.37
Development	464	109	23.39	225	91	40.68	550	129	23.4	250	137	54.69
Operating	3989	348	8.73	3623	350	9.67	3711	152	4.1	3163	149	4.7

Source: RCGP database

7.0 Success in Promoting Women's Advancement

The Ministry of Liberation War Affairs has taken several initiatives for ensuring overall welfare of the Freedom fighters and their families. Through these initiatives undertaken, economic and social empowerment of the female members will be enhanced to a large extent and it will increase participation of women in national development.

- 7.1 Enlisting female freedom fighters (Beerangana):** The present government has taken steps to publish the list of female freedom fighters (Beerangana) in the gazette. Steps are also taken to ensure distribution of equal amount of allowance. During the 2017-2018 financial years, a total of 244 female freedom fighters' (Beerangana) name was published in the official gazette.
- 7.2 State honourium, ration for wounded freedom fighters, shaheed and wounded freedom fighters (deceased) and their families, state honourium to freedom fighters including those with gallantry awards treatment of the wounded freedom fighters:** Various initiatives have been undertaken to provide several benefits including monetary honorarium for the development of socio-economic conditions of the freedom fighters and improving their status. Policy has been taken to provide 8 lakh taka for the treatment of the wounded freedom fighters.
- 7.3 Introducing micro-credit programmes for self-employment and imparting training for freedom fighters and their dependants:** The Ministry is providing training and micro-credit through BRDB to create employment for the freedom fighters and to improve the standard of their lives. A low priced ration scheme has been given to the 7838 families of wounded and martyred freedom fighters.
- 7.4 Construction of commercial infrastructure:** A project titled "Construction of Residential cum commercial Building for Wounded Freedom Fighters at Gaznabi Road in Dhaka" already implemented. Projects on building Muktijuddha Complex in all upazillas and districts are under progress. A portion of the complex building will be rented out on commercial basis and the income from the rents will be spent for the rehabilitation of the freedom fighters and their families.

8.0 Future Activities:

- ❖ To prepare a comprehensive database of the women freedom fighters.
- ❖ To publicize the glorious roles of the women freedom fighters participated at the front site of the liberation war.