

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 sun-clad red green flag arose in Bengal's sky at the final moment of victory through 9 month's long fierce fighting. This freedom is achieved in exchange of blood shading of million martyres, maximum sacrifice of the freedom fighters and losing the chastity of our thousands mother's and sister's. Establishment of democracy, demolish of exploitation and deception, achievement of economic progress, self-dependency and dignified nation in the world are the sprits 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;
- ❖ Preparation of guidelines for preserving the history and of liberation war;
- ❖ Upholding the real history to the present and future generations;
- ❖ Ensuring of quota for freedom Fighters and their children in government, autonomous and semi- autonomous bodies;
- ❖ Construction of Independence Tower and preservation and maintenance of the burial sites/mass graves, front war points of liberation war;
- ❖ Celebration of the Independence and National day in appropriate manner including Mujibnagar Day, Shahid 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 self-employment generating training and micro finance facilities to the female members of the freedom fighters, families will create opportunities for them to become self-reliant. This will ensure their socio-economic security and their empowerment.

3.2 Inspire the ideals and spirit of liberation war among the present and future generations and strengthening 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: Different 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 siren up day after day.

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

4.1 Women have a glorious role in every stages of the Liberation War of Bangladesh. Fearless Freedom Fighters made a unique contribution to bring the freedom of war to the final stage, on the one hand, by fighting with arms, on the other hand, 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 the name of all women freedom fighters are going on with a view to present their glorious role before the nation. In the meantime, a list of 210 'Beerangana' (women freedom fighters) has been gazzetted. 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 honorium 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 honourium and ration facilities to wounded freedom fighters and families of the martyrs of liberation war and wounded freedom fighters (deceased), honourium to freedom fighters including those with gallantry awards	Different 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. 37.50 crore was provided to 34,400 freedom fighters and training was provided till March 2018 to 50,000 dependents of the Freedom Fighters to the objective of rehabilitation and

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1	2	3
	and honourium for treatment of wounded freedom fighters.	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 martyrs 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.
3.	Different projects and programme to inspire the spirit of liberation war and preserve and promote history of liberation war.	In order to promote the spirit of the liberation war in the national sphere, 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 expedite raising among the present and future generation the ideals and spirits of the liberation war and strengthen the patriotism that will contribute for the development of the womenfolk.
4.	Welfare and rehabilitation of freedom fighters	Activities leading to construction work for Muktijuddha Complex for all upazillas and districts are going on. Muktijuddha complexes are already completed in 52 districts and 270 upazillas. It will be possible to use the money, which will be received from commercial activities of such muktijuddha complex, for the welfare of the families of the freedom fighters from which female members of the family will be directly benefited. Moreover, development programmes 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 2720 houses is 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 2018-19			Revised 2017-18			Budget 2017-18		
	Budget	Women Share		Revised	Women Share		Budget	Women Share	
		Women	percent		Women	percent		Women	percent
Total Budget	464574	136938	29.48	371495	86169	23.2	400266	112019	27.99
Ministry Budget	4261	281	6.6	3849	318	8.27	3986	284	7.12
Development	550	129	23.4	275	136	49.61	420	98	23.33
Operating	3711	152	4.11	3574	182	5.09	3566	186	5.22

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 freedom fighters allowance and it will help promote socio-economic conditions of the freedom fighters. During the 2017-2018 financial years, a total of 210 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:

Different initiatives have been undertaken to provide various benefits including monetary honourium for the development of socio-economic conditions of the freedom fighters and enhancing 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 named "Construction of Residential cum commercial Building for Wounded Freedom Fighters at Gaznabi Road in Dhaka" is being implemented. To ensure accommodation facilities to the landless and insolvent freedom fighters, a project named 'construction of Housing

for Landless & Underprivileged Freedom fighters” has been undertaken. in all upazillas and districts. 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:

A comprehensive database for the women freedom fighters can be prepared. A special programme can be launched to widely publicize the glorious roles of the women freedom fighters engaged in the front war during the liberation war.