Dear Secretary,

The Independence Day Flag Hoisting Ceremony at the Red Fort is an important historic and national function held every year on the 15th of August. Considering the importance of this national function at which the Prime Minister addresses the nation, it is expected that all the officers who are invited, attend the ceremony.

2. In view of social distancing requirements imposed due to COVID – 19, it has been found feasible to invite officers only up to Joint Secretary level and equivalent to attend the ceremony this year.

3. It has been observed that there is, at times, low attendance of the official invitees to the ceremony. This is inappropriate considering that the occasion is of great national importance. There is, clearly, a need to remind the officers that it is their duty to attend the Independence Day Ceremony.

4. You may suitably advise all officers of your Ministry/Department, who are invited to the Independence Day Ceremony, to attend the function. You may also like to caution them that a serious view would be taken of their absence on this occasion.

with regards

Yours sincerely,

(Rajiv Gauba)

Dr. Ajay Bhushan Pandey
Finance Secretary,
Department of Revenue
New Delhi