

for the Scheduled Castes prepared by the States. The Special Central Assistance is an additive to the State Plan and programmes for the Scheduled Castes and does not follow a schematic pattern for specific schemes. It is for the totality of the State's effort in the Special Component Plan for the Scheduled Castes.

Pension to freedom fighters

2250. SHRI F. H. MOHSIN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, during the period of Janata Party Government many freedom fighters were deprived of their pension on the ground that they have not produced jail certificate to prove their sufferings;

(b) whether such of the freedom fighters who could not get the jail certificates (as records have been destroyed during British regime), could produce certificates from Legislators or ex-Legislators to the effect that they suffered jail along with them for the period of six months;

(c) in how many cases, pension was stopped or cancelled by the then Government and whether they have been restored now;

(d) whether sufficient publicity has been given for enhancement of pension and removal of income limit, etc.;

(e) the number of freedom fighters getting the pension at present and the number of cases still pending; and

(f) the estimated expenditure per year on that account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA):

(a) The title to Central pension is determined on the basis of the criterion prescribed and the documents furnished by the applicants and in consultation with the concerned State Government. The claims of only those applicants have been rejected who had not furnished the full and requisite

information or on review of their cases or otherwise not found conclusively eligible under the rules governing the grant of pension.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Freedom Fighters Pension provisionally sanctioned are suspended/cancelled when a strong doubt arises about admissibility of pension on one or more of the following grounds:—

(a) Applicant is not a genuine freedom fighter.

(b) Suffering is less than six months.

(c) Sufferings not in connection with freedom movement.

(d) Submission of false documentary evidence.

(e) Internment/externment/abscondence is not supported by documentary evidence.

(f) Annual gross income from all sources was more than Rs. 4999 which was the prescribed income ceiling until 1-8-1980 from which date the income ceiling has been removed under liberalised pension.

As on 1-11-1980 pension was suspended in 5,934 cases and cancelled in 1055 cases. Pension has been restored in 1235 cases.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Out of 2,49,768 applications received from the freedom fighters as on 1-11-1980, pension has been sanctioned in 1,18,965 cases. No application for the grant of pension is pending initial scrutiny. 37,343 cases stood as "filed" for want of documentary evidence from freedom fighters and/or reports from the concerned State Governments. As soon as the required information is received, the cases are finalised and pension sanctioned when the claim is adequately established.

(f) About Rs. 425 crores.