

Pension Scheme. Rest of the cases are awaiting finalisation for want of State Verification reports and/or requisite information from the applicants.

(f) The annual expenditure on implementation of Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme is Rs. 36 crores.

(g) The Central Government operates the scheme for award of Tamra Patras apart from Swatantra Sanik Samman Pension Scheme. There is also a Freedom Fighter Home in New Delhi providing boarding, lodging and medical facilities etc. to old/infirm freedom fighters who have no one to look after them. This is run by the Delhi Administration on grants from the Ministry of Home Affairs. Besides these, the State Governments/Union Territories Administrations have their own schemes for the grant of various benefits to freedom fighters.

Statement

The Government have taken the following decisions in connection with implementation of Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme:—

(i) In respect of claim of jail sufferings, the Government will now accept certificates of co-prisonership from any two renowned freedom fighters, who themselves had undergone imprisonment for not less than one year in connection with Freedom Struggle and are recipients of Tamrapatras and pension from the Central Revenues. Under the existing provisions of Scheme, such co-prisoner certificates were acceptable only when they had been issued by a sitting or former legislator.

(ii) The Government will also accept documentary evidence based on lists and books in regard to political suffering which had already been published by 1951-52 by various State Governments and other Quasi Official Agencies.

(iii) Flogging/whipping or caning awarded by the Court has been recognised as qualifying suffering for the purpose of grant of Samman Pension and ten strokes will be treated at par with six months imprisonment etc.

(iv) Hollwell Monument Removal Movement-1940 has been accepted as part of the National Freedom Struggle for the purpose of grant of Samman Pension from 1-8-80. This Movement was sponsored by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose for the removal of the Hollwell Monument which was erected by the Britishers to commemorate, what used to be termed as the Black Hole massacre.

(v) The persons of Ex-INA, who had been sent to New Guinea and adjoining Islands and had undergone extreme hardships starvation, although they did not suffer any formal imprisonment, have been admitted to Samman Pension Scheme from 1-8-1980.

Help to Scheduled Tribes

631. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Government are helping the areas where the Scheduled Tribes are in a majority in a population of ten thousand; and

(b) if so, the help given last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) Outside the tribal sub-Plan areas identified in the States on the basis of blocks/talukas having each a majority of scheduled tribe population, pockets whose total population is 10,000 or more of which scheduled tribes constitute more than 50 per cent have also been identified with a view to ensuring accelerated development of the area and the people.

(b) In 1981-82, a sum of Rs. 9.40 crores was allocated by the Ministry of Home Affairs to the concerned States for development of pockets of tribal concentration.

Possibility of getting Gold in Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh

632. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state: