

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1435

ANSWERED ON:03.08.2010

FACILITIES TO FREEDOM FIGHTERS

Azad Shri Kirti (Jha);Dashmunsi Deepa ;Mishra Shri Mahabal ;Rane Dr. Nilesh Narayan

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether different norms are followed by the Union Government and the State Governments in regard to freedom fighters;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to take steps for ensuring uniform pension to these privileged class at the Centre and State levels;
- (d) the details of facilities and amount of pension provided to the freedom fighters and their dependents in the country, Statewise;
- (e) the total number of freedom fighters receiving pension from the Union Government and the State Governments, State-wise; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government for the welfare of the freedom fighters and to enhance the facilities provided to them including the amount of pension?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN)

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS

(a) TO

(f) LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1435 TO BE ANSWERED ON 3RD AUGUST, 2010 REGARDING FACILITIES TO FREEDOM FIGHTERS.

(a) & (b): The eligibility criteria under the Central "Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980" inter alia includes imprisonment/underground suffering of at least six months (three months in case of women and SC/ST freedom fighters), internment in homes/externment from districts for at least six months, confiscation of properties, permanent incapacitation or loss of job, which a claimant should have undergone in connection with the national freedom struggle. The eligibility criteria adopted by different States for grant of freedom fighters pension under the States/UT schemes, vary from State to State.

(c): Central Government has no proposal to bring uniformity in the amount of pension being paid to the Central Samman Pensioners and the State Pensioners.

(d): The amount of pension payable to freedom fighters is as under:

Sl. No.	Category	Rate of monthly pension w.e.f. 1.8.2009
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i. Ex-Andaman political prisoners Rs. 7,330/- + Dearness Relief @96%

ii Freedom fighters who suffered outside Rs.6,830/- + Dearness Relief @96

British India (other than INA)

iii Other freedom fighters (including INA) Rs.6,330/- + Dearness Relief @96%

iv Widow/widower of above categories Entitlement same as of the respective deceased freedom fighter of freedom fighters

v Each unmarried and unemployed Rs.1500/- + Dearness Relief @96% daughter (upto three such daughters)

vi Mother and father each Rs.1000/- + Dearness Relief @ 96%

The details of other facilities being provided by the Central Government to the freedom fighter/their spouses are given in Annexure-I.

(e): Since the inception of the Freedom Fighters Pension Scheme in 1972 (revised as Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme in 1980) till 30.6.2010 pension has been sanctioned to 1,70,989 freedom fighters and their eligible dependents. State-wise break-up of freedom fighters/ dependents who have been sanctioned pension is given in Annexure-II. Pension is disbursed through the branches of Public Sector Banks and Treasuries spread all over the country. Powers to transfer the pension to the eligible dependents after the death of the freedom fighters has been delegated to the pension disbursing authorities. Consequently, data relating to the total number of freedom fighters or their dependents, who are alive and receiving pension is not centrally maintained. Similarly, data relating to pension sanctioned to freedom fighters by the State Governments is not centrally maintained.

(f): The Government has constituted a Committee of Eminent Freedom Fighters to discuss and recommend welfare measures for the freedom fighters. The Committee is Chaired by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs and eminent freedom fighters from different States/Union Territories are included therein. The Committee meets at periodic intervals.