

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HOME AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2256  
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2009  
RECOGNITION OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS  
Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada

**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the criteria adopted by the Union Government and various State Governments including Uttar Pradesh for recognition of freedom fighters, State-wise;
- (b) whether the freedom fighters imprisoned for less than 6 months are not given any benefit of Central schemes; and
- (c) if so, the reasons for the same?

**Answer**

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

(a): 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, varies from State to State. As far as Uttar Pradesh is concerned, as per Rule 2 of the Uttar Pradesh Freedom Fighters & their Families Pension Rules, 1975, any person who on account of his participation in the national freedom struggle, had undergone jail suffering of two months'or was interned in house or was under trial prisoner in jail for three months; or who was awarded punishment of ten strokes of caning or who was declared absconder or was injured due to firing or who attained martyrdom, will be treated as freedom fighter. These Rules further provide that other persons, who were interned or undertrial prisoners for shorter periods at different times, will also be treated as freedom fighters provided that their total period of internment or undertrial prisoners is three months or more.

(b) & (c): The eligibility condition for "Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980" has been relaxed in case of certain Movements depending upon the special circumstances obtaining in such Movements.