

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HOME AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1148

ANSWERED ON:01.03.2011

FREEDOM FIGHTERS PENSION

Punia Shri P.L. ;Swamygowda Shri N Cheluvaraya Swamy

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

- (a) the criteria adopted by the Government to grant freedom fighters` pension;
- (b) whether the Government has conducted any survey to find out the number of freedom fighters in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the total number of freedom fighters/their eligible dependents who are receiving pension as on date, State-wise;
- (d) the total number of applications received/pending/rejected for grant of such pension to the freedom fighters and their dependents as on date separately, Statewise;
- (e) whether the Government has received any complaints with regard to nonpayment of pension to freedom fighters; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the total number of such cases reported during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI GURDAS KAMAT)

(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 women and SC/ST freedom fighters), internment in home/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.

(b) & (c): No such survey of freedom fighters was conducted by the Government. However, applications were invited from time to time for grant of Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension. As per available information about 51, 400 freedom fighters and their eligible dependants are actually drawing pension through the branches of the Public Sector Banks and Treasuries.

(d): Receipt and disposal of claims for grant of Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension is a continuous process. About 4.56 Lakh claims have been rejected in the past since in these cases the applicants either did not fulfill the eligibility criteria and/or did not submit the required documentary evidence. Apart from 39 cases of Hyderabad Liberation Movement in which re-verification reports have been received from the State Government very recently, no other case complete in all respects and recommended by the State Government is Pending.

(e) & (f): As and when any such complaint is received, by the Government regarding non-payment of pension after the same has been sanctioned by the competent authority, the matter is immediately taken up with the concerned pension disbursing authority for redressal of the grievance. No record of such complaints is centrally maintained.