

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1456
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2011
DEPENDENTS OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS
Raghavan Shri M. K.;Thamaraiselvan Shri R.

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of eligible dependents of freedom fighters who are receiving freedom fighters' pension, State-wise;
- (b) whether any lacunae including multiple drawing of pension and pension being drawn even after the deaths of dependents have been reported;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the number of such cases reported alongwith the total funds disbursed and steps taken to recover funds during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (d) the action taken against the responsible officials in this regard during the said period;
- (e) whether the Government has any proposal to revise the guidelines of 'Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980'; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH)

(a): The data of freedom fighters and their eligible dependents drawing Central Samman Pension from the Public Sector Banks and Treasuries has been uploaded on the website of Ministry of Home Affairs. No separate list of eligible dependents of freedom fighters receiving Central pension is maintained since the power to release dependent family pension of deceased freedom fighters has been delegated to the pension disbursing authorities.

(b) to (d): The data of freedom fighters and their eligible dependents provided by some banks indicated a number of identical names of pensioners/eligible dependents. Incomplete details such as father's/ husband's name, addresses, correct Pension Payment Order number in many cases had not been provided by the banks, they were advised to reconcile the data provided by them after verification. In this context, Union Bank of India in two cases, Syndicate Bank in one case and Indian Bank in two cases have reported that they had been disbursing dependent family pension to the pensioners' widows, who are also central freedom fighter pensioners. In cases where both husband and wife are drawing Central Samman Pension individually, the surviving pensioner is not eligible for family pension of the deceased spouse. Accordingly, the said banks have been advised to stop payment of dependent family pension in such cases and recover the excess payment from the concerned pensioners. Instances of payment of dependent family pension even after death of such dependents have not so far been reported.

(e) & (f): There is no proposal under consideration to revise the guidelines for Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980.