

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2424

ANSWERED ON:16.08.2011

CRITERIA FOR RECOGNISING FREEDOM FIGHTERS

Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai;Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada;Shekhar Shri Neeraj;Singh Shri Yashvir

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of freedom fighters who are receiving pensions from the Union and State Governments separately, State-wise;
- (b) whether there is a variation in the criteria adopted by the Union and State Governments to recognise a person as freedom fighter;
- (c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor and the steps taken to amend the Central Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980 in this regard; and
- (d) the details of other programmes being implemented by the Government for the welfare of freedom fighters in the country?

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. The data relating to the freedom fighters drawing pension from State Governments is not centrally maintained.

(b) & (c): 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 at home/externment from districts for at least six months, confiscation of properties, permanent incapacitation or loss of job for participation in the freedom struggle. The eligibility criteria adopted by different States for grant of freedom fighter pension under the States/UT scheme, vary from State to State. There is no proposal under consideration to amend the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980.

(d): Besides pension, the central freedom fighter pensioners/their spouses are eligible for various facilities, the details of which are at the Annexure.

ANNEXURE

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2424 FOR 16.08.2011

Apart from pension, freedom fighters are also provided the following facilities by the Government of India.

- (i) Free railway pass in II AC in Rajdhani, Chair Car in Shatabdi/an Shatabdi and 1st Class/AC II Tier of all other trains for freedom fighter, along with a companion for life;
- (ii) Free medical facilities in all Central Government hospitals and in hospitals run by PSUs under the control of the Bureau of Public Enterprises. C.G.H.S. facilities have also been extended to the freedom fighters and their eligible dependents;
- (iii) Telephone connection, subject to feasibility, without installation charges, and on payment of only half the rental;
- (iv) General Pool residential accommodation (within the overall 5% discretionary quota) to freedom fighters in Delhi.
- (v) Accommodation in the Freedom Fighters' Home set up at New Delhi for freedom fighters who have none to look after them;
- (vi) Ex-Andaman Freedom Fighters/widows along with a companion are also entitled to free air travel to visit Andaman & Nicobar Islands once a year.