

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HOME AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2483

ANSWERED ON:16.08.2011

IRREGULARITIES IN FREEDOM FIGHTERS PENSION

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

- (a) whether any irregularities in disbursement of freedom fighters pension has been reported wherein pension was released in the name of one pensioner two or more times;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of persons found involved in the said irregularities;
- (c) whether the connivance of some officers have come to the notice of the Government;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against such officials;
- (e) the total funds involved in the said irregularities and the corrective measures taken in this regard;and
- (f) the other steps taken to check such cases in future?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (f): The data of freedom fighters and their eligible dependents provided by some banks indicated a number of identical names of the pensioners/ eligible dependents. Since complete 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 dependant family pension to the pensioners' widows, who are also Central Freedom Fighter Pensioners. Apart from this, a total of eight cases has been reported by Central Bank of India, Indian Bank, Bank of India & Union Bank of India in which the pension sanctioned by the State Government, has been disbursed from the Central Government account. 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 dependant family pension in such cases and recover the excess payment from the concerned pensioners. The banks who have disbursed State freedom fighter pension from Central Government account have also been advised to refund such payments to Central Government alongwith penal interest.