

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:888

ANSWERED ON:27.11.2012

DISBURSEMENT OF FREEDOM FIGHTER PENSION

Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any irregularities in the disbursement of freedom fighter pension has been detected;
- (b) if so, details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has directed the banks to update the records of such pensioners; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the response received by the Government from the banks in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH)

(a) 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. Since complete details such as father's/husband's names, addresses, correct Pension Payment Order numbers in many cases had not been provided by the Banks, they were advised to reconcile and update the data of freedom fighters/eligible dependents drawing pension after verification. Some of the Banks have reported discrepancies in the disbursal of pension to the freedom fighters/dependents, in a few cases, which include disbursal of dependent family pension to the pensioners' widows who themselves are Central Samman Pensioners, disbursal of full family pension to each of the two widows of a deceased freedom fighter, crediting of pension to the accounts of the Central Samman Pensioners after their death, and disbursal of State Pension from Central Government account. The concerned Banks have been advised to disburse family pension to dependents of Central Samman Pensioners in accordance with the instructions issued in this regard and to recover excess payments from the concerned pensioners/dependents. The Banks who have disbursed State Freedom Fighter Pension from the Central Government account have been advised to refund such payments to the Central Government along with penal interest. The Banks have taken steps to rectify the discrepancies in disbursal of Pension.