

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2856
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2012
FELICITATION OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS
Pratap Narayanrao Shri Sonawane

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of freedom fighters in the country; State-wise;
- (b) whether the Union Government has issued any guidelines to the States for sending the names of freedom fighters for consideration and issue of invitation letter to attend felicitation function in the President House on 9th August every year;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether all the States have been sending the names of freedom fighters regularly; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

- (a): Since the inception of the Freedom Fighters Pension Scheme in 1972, pension has been sanctioned to about 1.71 lakh freedom fighters and their eligible dependents till 30.11.2012. State-wise details are annexed.
- (b) & (c): The State Governments/Union Territories are requested to nominate five freedom fighters from each State/UT to attend the felicitation function hosted by the Hon'ble President of India on 9th August every year. The freedom fighters should be preferably Central Samman Pensioners who have not attended the function in the past and are physically fit to travel.
- (d)&(e): Ministry of Home Affairs sends an invitation regularly every year to all the State Governments and UTs to send the names of freedom fighters for attending the function. The freedom fighters attend the function on behalf of their respective State Governments.