

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6554
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2013
IRREGULARITIES IN DISBURSAL OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS PENSION
Ramasubbu Shri S.

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of thyagis drawing freedom fighters pension in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether a number of irregularities have been detected in the disbursal of freedom fighters pension and genuine freedom fighters who are not having original proof of their participation in the freedom movement, are running from pillar to post and not getting their pension;
- (c) if so, whether the Government has taken any steps to disburse pension to all the eligible freedom fighters and to plug the loopholes in the implementation of the system including detection of the irregularities;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a): As per the data furnished by Public Sector Banks and State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, about 49,000 freedom fighters and their eligible dependents are drawing Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension from the Public Sector Banks and Treasuries. State-wise break up is not maintained.

(b) to (e): Central Samman Pension is sanctioned only to those freedom fighters who fulfil the eligibility criteria and produce evidentiary requirements in support of their claims duly verified and recommended by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. As per the provisions of the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980, in case records of the relevant period are not available, the secondary evidence in the form of Co-Prisoner Certificates(CPC) in case of jail suffering and Personal Knowledge Certificates(PKC) in case of underground suffering could be considered provided the State Government/Union Territory Administration concerned, after due verification of the claim and its genuineness, certifies that the documentary evidence from the official records in support of the claimed sufferings were not available. Complaints/representations regarding fake/fraudulent claims are disposed off after examining them with reference to the applicable provisions of the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme 1980, in consultation with the State Government/UT.