

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1256

ANSWERED ON:13.08.2013

FRAUD IN FREEDOM FIGHTERS PENSION

Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Singh Alias Pappu Singh Shri Uday

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has recently conducted an internal audit on the disbursement of freedom fighter's pension to freedom fighters;
- (b) if so, whether the audit has revealed an organised fraud in the freedom fighter's pension scheme;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the estimated loss suffered due to wrong payment of such pension by the Government;
- (d) whether the banks are also responsible for this lapse and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has directed the banks to recover the inadmissible payment of pension; and
- (f) if so, the total recovery made so far along with the action taken against the responsible officials and measures taken by the Government to curb such cases in future?

Answer

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

(a) to (f): The data of the freedom fighters and their eligible dependents drawing Central Samman pension, provided by various Public Sector banks, was scrutinised by Internal Audit Wing of Ministry of Home Affairs. The audit made observations regarding discrepancies observed by them in disbursement of pension to the freedom fighters/dependents. The data indicated a number of identical names of the pensioners/eligible dependents. Since complete details such as father's/husband's names, addresses, correct Pension Payment Orders' numbers in many cases had not been provided by the banks, they were advised to reconcile and update the data after verification. Some of the banks have reported discrepancies in disbursement of pension to the freedom fighters/dependents in a few cases which include disbursement of dependent family pension to the pensioners' widows who themselves are Central Samman Pensioners, disbursement of full family pension to each of two widows of a deceased freedom fighter, crediting of pension to the accounts of the Central samman pensioners even after their death, and disbursement of State Pension from Central Government account. The concerned banks have been advised to disburse family pension to eligible 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 fighters pension from the Central Government account have been advised to refund such payments along with penal interest. The Public Sector banks have taken steps to rectify the discrepancies in disbursement of Central samman pension. As per the information furnished by the banks, approximately Rs.76 lakh has been recovered by them and remitted to Central Government account. RBI and office of C&AG have been advised to conduct comprehensive audit of disbursement of pension by the banks and State Treasuries respectively.