

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:177

ANSWERED ON:24.02.2015

FREEDOM FIGHTER PENSION

Sawaikar Shri Advocate Narendra Keshav

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether incidents of misuse/embezzlement of funds under the scheme `Swatantra Sainik Samman pension Scheme 1980` have been reported in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the number of such cases reported including double payments, wrong payments, withdrawal of pension after death and multiple transfer in the same bank account during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard during the said period;
- (d) if so, the details of the findings along with the action taken against the responsible officers; and
- (e) the corrective steps taken by the Government to check such cases in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJU)

(a) & (b): The distribution of pension under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980 was audited by the Internal Audit Wing of the Ministry of Home Affairs. They had studied the sample data of the banks. Based on all the observations of the Audit, the Banks were asked to correct the discrepancies and re-submit the data. The revised data was again sought from all the Banks. On scrutiny of the revised data, it further came to the notice of the Government that some discrepancies crept in due to the confusion about the policy of the Central Samman Pension Scheme in the minds of the Bankers. Moreover, they had included certain non-Central Samman pensioners in the list. In Some cases, the Banks were either paying less or more amount of pension than what was due to the pensioners.

(c) to (e): A number of meetings have been held with the banks in order to streamline disbursement of Central Samman Pension. The banks have been directed to pay the arrears or make the recoveries as the case may be. On account of recoveries, the Banks have so far remitted 40.76 crore to the Central Government Account. Also an amount of 7.60 crore has been paid by the banks to the pensioners on account of arrears. Further the concerned Police authorities have been requested to file Criminal cases against the bankers responsible for such lapses. As a corrective measure, Central Pension Accounting Office(CPAO) of the Ministry of Finance has been asked to keep reimbursement to the banks on account of Central Samman Pension within the budgetary provision.