

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6244
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2015
DISBURSEMENT OF FREEDOM FIGHTER PENSION
Venugopal Dr. Ponnusamy

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has withdrawn State Bank of India from its list of authorised banks to disburse the freedom fighters pension;
- (b) if so, the details and reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government is considering to review the decision due to difficulties expressed by the freedom fighter pensioners; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): The Government has decided to transfer central freedom fighter pensioners from State Bank of India to other banks – authorized for the purpose, for disbursal of pension due to certain irregularities like paying pension to more than 3000 dead pensioners for many years after their death, payment of wrong amount of pension to many pensioners, delayed payment of revised Dearness Relief, loss of more than 1100 original disburser's portion of PPOs. On account of these irregularities more than Rs.16 crore has already been recovered from State Bank of India.

(c)&(d): In order to avoid any hardship to the pensioners, they have been advised to open account in any bank of their choice, from the 19 banks authorized for the purpose and the banks have been advised to approach such pensioners and open their accounts on priority. List of authorized banks is at annexure.