

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2481

ANSWERED ON:04.08.2015

Pension to Freedom Fighters

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Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the salient features of the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980;
- (b) the total number of freedom fighters, their widows and eligible dependents who are receiving pension under the Central "Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980" separately, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has received any representations regarding relaxation of criteria for awarding pension and if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) the details of facilities provided to freedom fighters and the total funds disbursed during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and
- (e) whether the Government has any proposal to enhance the pension and facilities of freedom fighters and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a): The salient features of the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980 are as follows:-

(i) The following categories of freedom fighters are eligible for the Samman Pension under the Scheme :-

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- (1) Eligible dependents of martyrs.
 - (2) A person who had suffered a minimum imprisonment of six months on account of participation in the freedom struggle.
 - (3) A person who, on account of his participation in the freedom struggle, remained underground for more than six months.
 - (4) A person who, on account of participation in the freedom struggle, was interned in his home or externed from his district for a minimum period of 6 months.
 - (5) A person whose property was confiscated or attached and sold due to his participation in the freedom struggle.
 - (6) A person who, on account of participation in the freedom struggle, became permanently incapacitated during firing or lathi charge.
 - (7) A person who lost his Government job for participation in the freedom struggle.
 - (8) A person who was awarded the punishment of ten or more strokes of caning/flogging/whipping for his participation in the freedom struggle.
- (ii) As a special dispensation for women freedom fighters and for the freedom fighters belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the minimum period of imprisonment/jail sufferings has been kept at three months in place of six months.
- (iii) Spouses (widows/widowers), unmarried and unemployed daughters (up-to maximum three) and mother or father of deceased freedom fighters (as also of martyrs) in that order are eligible for grant of dependent family pension under the scheme. At one point of time, only one of the above mentioned categories of dependents is eligible for family pension.
- (iv) At present the total monthly pension amount for Freedom Fighters is Rs.20,129/- (Rs.23,309/- for ex-Andaman Political Prisoners). The current rate of monthly pension and dearness relief payable to various categories of freedom fighters and their eligible dependents are given in the Annexure-I.
- (v) The pension amount is not taxable.

.....3/-

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b): The total number of the freedom fighters, their widows and eligible dependents receiving Central Samman Pension through various Banks as on 30th June, 2015 under Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980, State-wise is given in the Annexure-II.

(c): Representations from various Freedom Fighters Organisations and individuals are received from time to time to relax the criteria for awarding pension under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme. The Govt. has not relaxed any of the existing criteria for grant of Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension.

(d): Apart from the pension, the freedom fighters/eligible dependents are also provided various facilities as per the Annexure-III. Total funds disbursed during each of the last three years and the current year towards Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension is as under:-

Year Pension (Rs. In crore)

2012-13 772.83

2013-14 826.11

2014-15 784.32

2015-16 (upto 30.06.2015) 242.30

(e): At present, the Government has no proposal to enhance the pension and facilities of freedom fighters.
