

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:280

ANSWERED ON:06.07.2004

FREEDOM FIGHTERS PENSION

Gadhavi Shri Pushpdan Shambhudan;Patil Shri Shrinivas Dadasaheb

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of cases pertaining to pension payments` to freedom fighters under `Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension` and `Goa Liberation Movement, Phase-II` are pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the number of cases pending, State-wise and the steps being taken to clear these case;

(c) whether some officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs have been caught red handed by the CBI for accepting bribe in clearing freedom fighters` pension cases;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

(e) the details of action taken by the Government to book the guilty officers, during the last two years, till date?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT)

(a) & (b): No case complete in all respects eligible for Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension and Goa Liberation Movement duly verified and recommended by the State Governments is pending in the Ministry, except 241 verification reports received recently from Government of Andhra Pradesh in respect of cases recommended by the Hyderabad Special Screening Committee relating to Hyderabad Liberation Movement and 190 relating to Arya Samaj and other Movements as on 30.06.2004. While efforts are made to dispose of these cases as early as possible no time frame can be indicated.

(c) & (d): On a specific complaint passes on to CBI by MHA that two staff members of Freedom Fighters Division of MHA had demanded bribe for clearing the pension case of a freedom fighter, CBI had laid a trap to nab them red-handed. One of them, Shri Harbhajan Dass, Assistant, was caught red-handed on 25.07.2003. A case has been registered against the official under the relevant provisions of the IPC/Prevention of Corruption Act.

(e): Several steps such as (i) transfer of officials of doubtful integrity, (ii) monitoring and regulating meeting of visitors with officers in Freedom Fighters Division, (iii) minimizing the number of officers in the Division authorized to sign pension sanction letters, (iv) putting in place a system of monthly reconciliation of pension sanction cases by Freedom Fighters Division and Pay & Accounts Office of this Ministry have been taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents.