

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3831

ANSWERED ON:19.04.2005

FREEDOM FIGHTER PENSION

Boianapalli Shri Vinod Kumar;Ponnuswamy Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of freedom fighters` pension applications are still pending with the Government;
- (b) if so, the number thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the criteria adopted by the Government for identifying the freedom fighters;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the process for identifying the freedom fighters and disbursal of their pension;
- (e) whether pension was either stopped or not extended to certain category of freedom fighters who went underground;
- (f) if so, whether such persons would be eligible for freedom fighters pension; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): No, Sir. A large number of applications are not pending. As per available records, since the inception of the pension scheme in 1972, about 1.69 lakh pensions have been sanctioned and about 4.57 lakh claims have been rejected (till 31st March 2005). Receipt of State reports and due examination thereof is a continuous process. Presently only about 353 State reports are under examination. Statement showing State-wise number is enclosed.

(c): Statement showing eligibility criteria is enclosed.

(d): A regular scheme for providing pension to freedom fighters was initiated in 1972. It was renamed as the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme in 1980. The provisions of the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980, have been widely publicized and are well known over the last about two and a half decades.

Since October 1990, the power to transfer dependent family pension on the demise of freedom fighters to their eligible dependents has been vested with the pension disbursing authorities [Public Sector Banks and Government Treasuries].

(e): Pension has not been stopped or not extended to any freedom fighter who fulfills the prescribed eligibility criteria under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980.

(f) & (g): Does not arise.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION OF LOK SABHA NO. 3831 FOR ANSWER ON 19.4.2005 REGARDING FREEDOM FIGHTER PENSION.

S.No. State Pending cases

1	Andhra Pradesh	228
2	Assam	2
3	Bihar	8
4	Himachal Pradesh	1
5	Maharashtra	26
6	Madhya Pradesh	12
7	Tamil Nadu	29
8	Uttar Pradesh	3
9	West Bengal	4
10	Chattisgarh	1
11	Uttranchal	2
12	Punjab	4

Total 353

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION OF LOK SABHA NO. 3831 FOR ANSWER ON 19.4.2005 REGARDING FREEDOM FIGHTER PENSION

ELIGIBILITY

The following categories of freedom fighters are eligible for Samman Pension.

- (a) A person who had suffered a minimum imprisonment of 6 months in connection with the Freedom Struggle. (3 months in the case of women and SC/ST freedom fighters).
- (b) A person who remained underground for six months or more.
- (c) A person who was interned in his home or externed from his district for six months or more.
- (d) A person whose property was confiscated or attached and sold due to participation in the National Freedom Struggle.
- (e) A person who was permanently incapacitated during firing or lathi charge.
- (f) A person who lost his Government job (Central/State Government, including job in local bodies) and thus was deprived of means of livelihood for participation in the National Freedom Struggle.
- (g) A person who was awarded the punishment of 10 strokes of caning/flogging/whipping.

2 If the Freedom Fighter covered by any of the above categories is not alive, then any one eligible dependent viz, the widow/widower, unmarried and unemployed daughters, mother and father shall be eligible for the dependent family pension.

3 Any one dependent of a martyr i.e. a person who died or was killed in action or in detention or was awarded capital punishment, while participating in the National Freedom Struggle including INA or ex-Military person who died while fighting against the British will also be eligible for Samman Pension.