

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †2557**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 01ST AUGUST, 2017 / SHRAVANA 10, 1939 (SAKA)

PENSION TO FREEDOM FIGHTERS

**†2557. SHRI TAMRADHWAJ SAHU:
SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR:**

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of freedom fighters and their dependents who are receiving pension under the Central Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme along with the details of facilities and amount of pension granted to them separately, State-wise;

(b): whether the Government has any proposal to increase the pension of such persons and if so, the details thereof along with the time by which it is likely to be increased;

(c): whether any revision Commission has been set up in this regard and if so, the details thereof;

(d): whether the Government has issued any guidelines to the States to send the names of freedom fighters to consider for felicitation at felicitation ceremony organized every year on 9th August at Rashtrapati Bhavan so as to send invitation letters for the same; and

(e): if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR)**

(a) State-wise total number of freedom fighters and their dependents receiving pension under Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980 (renamed as Swatantrata Sainik Samman Yojana) is at Annexure-I. The details of benefits/facilities and amount of pension granted to the freedom fighters and their eligible dependents are as per Annexure-II and Annexure-III respectively. The amount of central freedom fighter pension is uniform for freedom fighters of all the States/UTs.

(b) & (c): The central freedom fighter pension/family pension has already been revised and increased recently by the Central Government with effect from 15.08.2016. Dearness Allowance/Relief as given to the Central Government employees/pensioners twice a year, has been made applicable to the central freedom fighter pensioners also.

(d) & (e) No standing guidelines have been issued by the Government to the States/UTs to send the names of freedom fighters to consider them for felicitation at felicitation ceremony organized every year on 9th August at Rashtrapati Bhavan. However, letters are sent to the States/UTs every year seeking nominations/names of freedom fighters for felicitation in the 'At Home' function organized by the President's Secretariat on 9th August every year. Name of only those freedom fighters are sought who are in receipt of central freedom fighter pension under Swatantrata Sainik Samman Yojana. Name of one nodal officer from each State/UT and one escort/companion for each nominated freedom fighter, is also sought for attending the function.

**STATE WISE LIST OF CENTRAL FREEDOM FIGHTERS AND THEIR ELIGIBLE DEPENDENTS
DRAWING PENSION UNDER SWATANTRATA SAINIK SAMMAN YOJANA AS ON MARCH, 2017**

SI no.	State	Number of Central Freedom fighter pensioners	Number of dependent spouse pensioners	Number of dependent daughter pensioners	Total
1	ANDAMAN & NICOBAR	15	1		16
2	ANDHRA PRADESH	1903	2986	48	4937
3	ASSAM	134	464	138	736
4	BIHAR	1858	1791	6	3655
5	CHANDIGARH	15	17	0	32
6	CHHATTISGARH	38	102	3	143
7	DAMAN & DIU	7	6	0	13
8	DELHI	156	241	20	417
9	GOA	443	363	11	817
10	GUJARAT	249	250	20	519
11	HARYANA	214	496	11	721
12	HIMACHAL PRADESH	259	315	5	579
13	JAMMU & KASHMIR	161	497	75	733
14	JHARKHAND	95	158	7	260
15	KARNATAKA	542	1578	129	2249
16	KERALA	187	1191	106	1484
17	MADHYA PRADESH	168	320	12	500
18	MAHARASHTRA	1646	3028	64	4738
19	MANIPUR	8	11	2	21
20	MEGHALAYA	3	17	3	23
21	MIZORAM	1	0	1	2
22	NAGALAND	1	1	0	2
23	ODISHA	178	553	25	756
24	PUDUCHERRY	26	87	11	124
25	PUNJAB	571	676	18	1265
26	RAJASTHAN	291	65	6	362
27	SIKKIM	1	0	0	1
28	TAMIL NADU	557	1658	37	2252
29	TELANGANA	1065	1396	11	2472
30	TRIPURA	18	150	42	210
31	UTTAR PRADESH	522	1203	27	1752
32	UTTARAKHAND	122	503	3	628
33	WEST BENGAL	1203	3003	731	4937
	Grand Total	12657	23127	1572	37356

Facilities provided to the Freedom Fighters

- i. Free railway pass (2nd/3rd AC in Duronto, 1st Class/2nd AC by any train including Rajdhani/Shatabdi/Jan Shatabdi) for freedom fighters/their widow/widower, along with one companion in same class, for life;**
- ii. Medical facilities under Central Government Health Services (C.G.H.S) and free medical treatment in hospitals run by Public Sector Undertakings under the control of Department of Public Enterprises have also been extended to the freedom fighters and their dependents;**
- iii. Telephone connection, subject to feasibility, without installation charges, and on payment of only half the rental;**
- iv. Provision of 4% reservation under “Combined Category” for Physically Handicapped Personnel(PH), Outstanding Sports Persons(OSP) and Freedom Fighters(FF) in the normal selection procedure adopted by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies for allotment of petrol pumps, gas agencies etc.**
- v. General pool residential accommodation (within the overall 5% discretionary quota) to the freedom fighters in Delhi. Spouse of a freedom fighter is permitted to retain the accommodation for a period of six months after death of the freedom fighter;**
- vi. There is a fully furnished and old age friendly Freedom Fighters’ Home at New Delhi providing transit accommodation (stay and meal) for freedom fighters/ their eligible dependents; and**
- vii. In addition to the above facilities, ex-Andaman freedom fighters/their spouses have been allowed to also avail free air travel facility to visit Andaman & Nicobar Islands, once a year, alongwith a companion.**

LS.US.Q.No.2557 FOR 01.08.2017**MONTHLY AMOUNT OF PENSION PROVIDED UNDER
SWATANTRATA SAINIK SAMMAN YOJANA**

Sl. No.	Category of freedom fighters	Basic pension w.e.f. 15.08.2016 (per month)	Dearness Relief @2% w.e.f. 01.01.2017	Total amount of pension (in Rs.) per month
1.	Ex-Andaman Political Prisoners/spouses	Rs.30,000/-	Rs. 600/-	Rs.30,600/-
2.	Freedom fighters who suffered outside British India/spouses	Rs.28,000/-	Rs.560/-	Rs.28,560/-
3.	Other Freedom Fighters/spouses including INA	Rs.26,000/-	Rs.520/-	Rs.26,520/-
4.	Dependent parents/eligible daughters (maximum 3 daughters at any point of time)	50% of the sum that would have been admissible to the Freedom Fighter i.e. in the range of Rs.13,000/- to Rs.15,000/-	Rs.260/- to Rs.300/-	50% of the sum that would have been admissible to the Freedom Fighter i.e. in the range of Rs.13,260/- to Rs.15,300/-