

Pension to freedom fighters

523. SHRI KRISHNA KRIPA-LANr : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many Indians have so far been given life pensions as freedom fighters;

(b) what are the minimum and maximum amounts of monthly pensions, and how many persons have been so far given in each category, State-wise; how many among them are Sindhis;

(c) whether it is a fact that a freedom fighter is required to apply for a pension before his case is considered;

(d) whether Government are aware that there are some freedom fighters who suffered long imprisonment and are today in needy circumstances, and yet are too proud to apply for a pension for having done what they deemed was their duty;

(e) whether Government propose to help such self-respecting and honourable patriots; and

(f) if so, in what manner ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN) : (a) Upto 30-4-1975, Provisional pensions have been given to 1,02,307 freedom fighters.

(b) The minimum amount of monthly pension for a freedom fighter is Rs. 200 and for the family it varies from Rs. 100 to Rs. 200 inclusive of the State Govt, pensions. The maximum amount of pension so far granted to deserving freedom fighters is Rs. 500 p.m. Two statements (Annexure I & II) showing the total number of pensions sanctioned statewise, and the number of enhanced pensions category-wise and State-wise are enclosed [see Appendix XCII, Annexure No. 34 and 35]. No record has been maintained community-wise. As such it is not possible to give the number of Sindhis among them.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f) Only 2 cases have been brought to the notice of the Government so far. These are of :

(i) Master Sunder Lai of Meerut. It was brought to notice by Shri Pari-purnanand Painuli, M.P. stating that the freedom fighter feels that it is against his conscience to apply for pension. The M.P. has requested that the pension may be sanctioned to him without a formal application. The M.P. has been informed that some near relative or anyone else may supply the particulars on his behalf. On receipt of the information, the case will be examined.

(ii) Shri Hira Ballabh Tripathi, Ex-M.P. of Saharanpur was unwilling to apply for pension. Shri A. P. Jain, ex-M.P. took up his case for sanction of pension without application. The case was got verified through the State Government and the District Magistrate got an application signed by Shri Hira Ballabh Tripathi and pension was thereafter sanctioned to him.

524. [Transferred to the 9th May, 1975.]

Financial assistance to small scale industries

525. SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to give financial assistance to small and middle sized industries by way of interest free loans;

(b) if so, the maximum amount of loan for such projects;

(c) the agencies through which such loans are likely to be distributed; and

(d) the criteria for grant of such loans ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A. P. SHARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.