

**Facilities to freedom fighters**

1812. SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) how many freedom fighters of the country are still alive and how many of them are getting freedom fighter's pension;
- (b) what are the other facilities/privileges provided to the freedom fighters; and
- (c) whether Government is providing any facility, financial assistance *e.g.* pension, health care assistance and free transportation, etc. to the living family members of the late freedom fighters, if so, the details thereof and whether Government would consider to do the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) Central Samman Pension is granted under Swatantrata Sainik Samman Yojana of this Ministry to those freedom fighters who fulfill the eligibility criteria and evidentiary requirements prescribed in the Scheme. 12,657 number of freedom fighters (self) are getting pension under Swatantrata Sainik Samman Yojana.

(b) and (c) The facilities other than pension being provided to the freedom fighters and their eligible dependents are given in the Statement-I (*See* below). Category-wise amount of pension being granted to the freedom fighters and on their demise, to their eligible dependents (spouse/unmarried and unemployed daughters) is given in the Statement-II.

***Statement-I******Facilities provided to Central Freedom Fighter Pensioners***

1. Free Railway Passes for Freedom Fighters and their spouses, along with a companion, for life to travel anywhere across the country for any number of times;
2. Free medical facilities under Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) 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;
3. Telephone connection, subject to feasibility, without installation charges and on payment of only half the rental;
4. 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;

5. 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;
6. 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
7. 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 and Nicobar Islands, once a year, along with a companion.

***Statement-II***

*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 @ 3% w.e.f. 01.07.2017	Total amount of pension (in ₹) per month
1.	Ex-Andaman Political Prisoners/ spouses	₹ 30,000	₹ 900/-	₹30,900/-
2.	Freedom fighters who suffered outside British India/spouses	₹ 28,000	₹ 840	₹28,840
3.	Other Freedom Fighters/spouses including INA	₹ 26,000	₹ 780/-	₹26,780
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 ₹ 13,000 to ₹ 15,000	₹ 390 to ₹450/-	50% of the sum that would have been admissible to the Freedom Fighter i.e. in the range of ₹ 13,390/- to ₹ 15,450/-