

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2633**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2024/ AGRAHAYANA 27, 1946  
(SAKA)**

**SWATANTRATA SAINIK SAMMAN PENSION SCHEME**

**2633 SHRI AYODHYA RAMI REDDY ALLA:**

**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

**(a) the manner in which the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme be optimized to ensure that the freedom fighters' pension benefits are commensurate with their contributions to India's independence movement;**

**(b) the measures that can be taken to streamline the application and disbursement process for the pension scheme, ensuring a seamless experience for the freedom fighters and their families; and**

**(c) the manner in which technology can be leveraged to create a comprehensive database of freedom fighters, enabling efficient tracking and verification of beneficiaries under the scheme?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
(SHRI BANDI SANJAY KUMAR)**

**(a): Considering the contribution to India's independence movement, the freedom fighters pension has been revised on 15.08.2016. Further, the existing dearness relief system based on All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial workers, which was hitherto applied to freedom fighters pension on annual basis has been discontinued and replaced by dearness**

**allowance system applicable to Central Government employees twice a year. In addition to this, the following benefits are also extended to the freedom fighters:**

- (i) Free life time railway passes of 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>AC in Duronto, 1<sup>st</sup> class/2<sup>nd</sup> class AC by any train including Rajdhani/Shatabdi are provided to the Freedom Fighters/Spouse along with one companion in the same class.**
- (ii) Free medical facilities under CGHS and free medical treatment in hospitals run by PSUs are provided to the Freedom fighters and eligible dependents.**
- (iii) Free transit stay with meal at State Bhawan, New Delhi for Freedom fighters and eligible dependents alongwith one companion.**
- (iv) Collectors/SDMs have been directed to regularly enquire about the well-being of the freedom fighters and resolve their pension related issues.**

**(b)& (c): The following steps have been taken to streamline the application and disbursement process for the pension scheme, ensuring seamless experience for the freedom fighters and their families namely:**

- (i) After the death of the freedom fighter, period of submission of application by the dependents to the banks for transfer of pension, increased from six months to one year.**
  
- (ii) Date of Sanction/transfer of dependent pension to eligible dependents has been amended from the date of application to the date of death of pensioner.**
  
- (iii) Pensioners are required to submit their life certificate to the banks once in a year instead of twice a year.**
  
- (iv) Banks have been authorized to re-start the stopped pension due to delayed/ no submission of life certificate from the present 01 to 03 years.**

- (v) Submission of Aadhar link Life Certificate through Jeevan Praman Portal has been started.**
  
- (vi) Freedom Fighters / dependents being notified through SMS for timely submission of life certificates.**
  
- (vii) Know Your Freedom Fighter/ Family (KYFF/F) forms introduced for collecting updated information enabling efficient tracking and verification of beneficiaries under the Scheme.**

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