

Finance Department
DEMAND 50

**PENSION AND OTHER
RETIREMENT BENEFITS**

POLICY NOTE FOR 2009-2010

This Demand comprises the following major heads:

		(Rupees)
2071	Pensions and other Retirement Benefits	9,847,84,17,000
2235	Social Security and Welfare	
60	Other Social Security and Welfare Programmes	14,41,91,000
	Total	9,862,26,08,000

2. Major component of the expenditure under this demand relates to pension and pensionary benefits of Government employees and teaching and non-teaching staff in Aided Educational institutions. This demand also covers

the activities of Directorate of Pension and the expenditure on pension and other benefits granted to freedom fighters and Ex-INA personnel. There are about 6,25,035 pensioners and family pensioners in this state as on 31.12.2008. The details of pensioners and family pensioners in the State are given below:

		Drawing through		Total
		Treasuries	Public Sector Banks	
1.	State Civil Pensioners	3,02,495	37,785	3,40,280
2.	Teacher Pensioners	66,461	9,192	75,653
3.	Civil Family Pensioners	1,39,894	7,512	1,47,406
4.	Teacher Family Pensioners	27,044	847	27,891
5.	Other category Pensioners	32,756	1,049	33,805
	Total	5,68,650	56,385	6,25,035

3. PENSION

- (i) A minimum qualifying service of 10 years is necessary for eligibility for Pension. The Government has reduced the minimum qualifying service from 33 years to 30 years to become eligible for full Pension with effect from 1.4.2003. Further, Pension is being determined with effect from 1.4.2003 based on 50% of pay last drawn or 50% of average emoluments drawn during the last 10 months of service rendered whichever is higher.
- (ii) Minimum pension a pensioner entitled is Rs.3050/- per month with effect from 1.1.2006.

4. GRATUITY

(i) Service Gratuity :

Service gratuity is admissible for those who have put in less than 10 years of qualifying service. It is calculated at the uniform rate of half a month's emoluments for every completed six monthly period

of service. This is a one time lumpsum payment for the service rendered in addition to the retirement gratuity admissible.

(ii) Death Gratuity :

In the event of death in harness, death gratuity is admissible at the following rates:-

	Length of Service	Rate of Gratuity
1.	Less than one year	Two times monthly emoluments
2.	One year or more but less than five years	Six times of monthly emoluments
3.	Five years or more but less than twenty years	Twelve times of monthly emoluments
4.	Twenty years or more	Half of monthly emoluments for every completed six monthly period of qualifying service subject to a maximum of 33 times of monthly emoluments provided that the amount of Death Gratuity in no case exceeds Rs.10 lakhs with effect from 1.1.2006.

iii) Retirement Gratuity :

One who has completed five years of qualifying service and above is granted retirement gratuity on his/her retirement at the rate of 1/4th of emoluments for each completed six monthly period of qualifying service subject to a maximum of 16 1/2 times of monthly emoluments. The Government has issued orders enhancing the maximum of retirement gratuity from Rs.3.50 lakhs to Rs. 10 lakhs with effect from 1.1.2006. The Government has also issued orders that the calculation of gratuity will be based on pay and dearness allowance last drawn in respect of the employees retiring on or after 1.4.1998.

5. FAMILY PENSION

The family of a Government employee is eligible for family pension in the event of his/her death either in service or after retirement. In the case of death while in service, one year of continuous service in a pensionable post at any time during his/her service is required to become

eligible for family pension. In cases of death while in service the enhanced family pension is payable at the rate of 50% of the pay last drawn for a period of 7 years after death. After this the family pension is regulated at 30% of the pay last drawn. Family pension is also allowed to the family of Government employees who die in harness before completion of one year continuous service provided that the deceased Government servant concerned immediately prior to his/her appointment to the service or post was examined by a medical authority and declared fit for Government service.

In the case of death after retirement, one should be a pensioner at the time of death for the family to become eligible for family pension. However, in cases of death after retirement minimum family pension is allowed to those who had put in less than 10 years of service and otherwise not eligible for pension.

Family pension is payable to the widow/widower till her/his remarriage or death whichever

is earlier. After her/his death, it is payable to the children upto the age of 25 years or till their marriage whichever is earlier. However, if the son/unmarried daughter is suffering from any disorder or disability of mind or physically crippled or disabled so as to render him/her unable to earn a living the family pension shall be payable to such son/daughter for his/her life time even after attaining the age of 25 years.

The minimum family pension payable is Rs.3050/- per month with effect from 1.1.2006.

6. EX-GRATIA PAYMENT

Government has issued orders enhancing ex-gratia payment from Rs.150 per month to Rs.605/- per month with Dearness Allowance of Rs.31/-with effect from 1st November 1997 to the families of deceased Contributory Provident Fund / Non-Pensionable establishment beneficiaries of State Government and the employees of former District Board who had retired / died in harness prior to 1st January 1986 and who are not eligible

for family pension. They are also eligible for the increase in Dearness Allowance sanctioned by the Government from 1st January 1998 onwards.

7. COMMUTATION OF PENSION

Pensioners are eligible to commute a portion of pension upto 33 1/3% of pension and receive a lumpsum payment. This commutation of pension is authorised by the Accountant-General without medical examination if they apply for the same within one year from the date of issue of Pension Payment Order. This concession has been extended in the case of voluntary retirement also. The Government has also allowed restoration of the commuted portion of pension after 15 years from the date of retirement in cases where commutation of pension is simultaneous with retirement or 15 years from the date of commutation where commutation of pension is done in the second or subsequent months of retirement.

8. OTHER RETIREMENT BENEFITS

- i) Encashment of earned leave at credit at the time of retirement upto a maximum of 240 days is allowed.
- ii) Encashment of the leave on private affairs standing to their credit at the time of retirement upto a maximum of 180 days which shall be converted to 90 days for full salary is also allowed.
- iii) Pay, House Rent Allowance, City Compensatory Allowance are allowed for the entire portion of earned leave and unearned leave on private affairs.
- iv) Transfer Travelling Allowance is allowed for going to native place or to the place wherever retired employee wishes to settle down after retirement.

9. OTHER BENEFITS TO PENSIONERS

A. Dearness Allowance:

- i) The pensioners / family pensioners are paid Dearness Allowance on par with the serving personnel of the Government.
- ii) Military pensioners who are in receipt of State Pension are allowed to draw Dearness Allowance on State Pension also in addition to Dearness Allowance on Central Pension.

B. Medical Allowance:

The pensioners/family pensioners are allowed medical allowance of Rs.100/- per month with effect from 1.6.2009.

Provisional Pensioners / Family Pensioners are also allowed Dearness Allowance and Medical Allowance.

C. Pongal Prize:

A lumpsum Pongal Prize amount which was enhanced from Rs. 150/- to Rs. 300/- from the Pongal Festival 2008 has been sanctioned

to all pensioners including adhoc pensioners of all categories and Family Pensioners of Government including All India Service, Aided Educational Institutions and Local Bodies.

10. PENSIONERS' HEALTH FUND SCHEME

Tamil Nadu Government Pensioners' Health Fund Scheme is being implemented with effect from 1.7.95 to provide financial assistance to pensioners for undergoing specialised treatment/surgery by constituting a fund called Tamil Nadu Government Pensioners' Health Fund. The pensioner has to contribute Rs.10/- (now raised to Rs. 50/-) per month towards this fund. The maximum amount of assistance under the scheme is 75% of the total cost of treatment or Rs.50,000/- whichever is less. This ceiling limit has since been raised to Rs. 1,00,000/- with effect from 1.4.2008. The Government ordered reimbursement of specialized advanced surgery/treatments in respect of diseases which are included in the list approved under Tamil Nadu Government

Pensioners' Health Fund Scheme in unaccredited hospitals also subject to certificate issued by District Medical Officer / Director of Medical and Rural Health Services / Director of Medical Education. Due to this, more number of pensioners are being benefitted under Tamil Nadu Government Pensioners' Health Fund Scheme. Up to 06.02.2009, 49,508 claims have been settled under this Health Fund scheme and a sum of Rs. 57.75 Crores have been reimbursed to the pensioners. The Government is contributing Rs. 8 lakhs every year as grant to this fund. Government sanctioned grant of Rs. 17 crores from the date of implementation of this scheme to till date to this scheme.

Government accepted the long standing demand for inclusion of the spouse of the pensioner also under this scheme for the purpose of providing medical reimbursement. Orders in this regard will be issued shortly.

The Official Committee (2009) has recommended that the Family Pensioners may also be included in the Tamil Nadu Government Pensioners Health Fund Scheme provided they exercise an option to enroll themselves under this scheme and to contribute a monthly subscription of Rs. 50/- per month from the Family Pension. Government Order in this regard will be issued separately.

11. PENSIONERS' FAMILY SECURITY FUND SCHEME

The Government has introduced the Tamil Nadu Government Pensioners' Family Security Fund Scheme with effect from 1.1.1997. Under the above scheme, a uniform contribution of Rs.70/- is deducted from the pension till the death of pensioners towards the Tamil Nadu Government Pensioners' Family Security Fund and the Fund is operated from 1.1.1998. In the case of death of a pensioner after one year of contribution to the fund,

a sum of Rs.25,000/- will be paid to the family from the fund. Up to 31.10.2008 a total number of 79,987 families have been benefitted under this scheme and a sum of Rs.200.58 Crores have been disbursed to the members of the family of deceased pensioners.

12. PENSION TO STAFF OF AIDED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS INCLUDING LOCAL BODIES

The Staff of Aided Educational Institutions and Local Bodies are allowed the same pensionary benefits as available to State Government employees.

13. THE EXPENDITURE ON PENSION AND RETIREMENT BENEFITS OVER THE PAST YEARS HAS BEEN AS FOLLOWS:

Year	Total Expenditure on Pension and other retirement benefits	Percentage of total Revenue Receipts
	(Rs. in crores)	
1999-2000	2668.41	16.46
2000-2001	2927.24	15.48
2001-2002	3050.48	16.07

Year	Total Expenditure on Pension and other retirement benefits	Percentage of total Revenue Receipts
2002-2003	3488.20	16.86
2003-2004	3279.96 *	13.84
2004-2005	3921.05	13.78
2005-2006	4488.83	13.22
2006-2007	5461.68	13.35
2007-2008	6038.96	12.71
2008-2009 RE	8049.44	14.53
2009-2010 BE	9862.26	16.92

* Lesser outgo due to postponement of arrears.

14. CONTRIBUTORY PENSION SCHEME

New employees who have joined after 1.4.2003 are enrolled under the Contributory Pension Scheme. A subscription at the rate of 10% of basic pay plus dearness allowance is being recovered from the employees who joined in Government service after 1.4.2003. Under the scheme the Government is also making an equal contribution every month. Accountant General is maintaining the accounts of the Contributory Pension Scheme.

DIRECTORATE OF PENSION

15. The retired Government employees including teachers who have rendered pensionable service as per Tamil Nadu Government Pension Rules 1978 are eligible for monthly pension as fixed up to the period of retirement and revised as per extension of any pension benefit that may be allowed by Government from time to time as sanctioned by Pension Sanctioning Authority and authorised by Accountant-General as per the codal provisions and payment of pension made through Treasuries / Sub-Treasuries / Pension Pay Office and Public Sector Banks. In addition to the service pensioners, family pension is paid to the wife / husband / eligible daughter / sons of the deceased Government employees while in service and on demise of the pensioners. To redress grievance of the pensioners / family pensioners and with a view to ensuring quick settlement of pension / terminal benefits, Government considered necessity for

formation of separate department to look after their affairs.

Accordingly, the Government established the Directorate of Pension, which is functioning with effect from 01.09.1994. This Directorate is headed by a Director who is in the rank of Joint Secretary to Government, Finance Department. Besides the Director, the Directorate is functioning with support of one Joint Director, one Deputy Director, one Accounts Officer, one Assistant Accounts Officer and other Ministerial and basic service staff. The functions of this Directorate are as follows:

- i. Redressal of the grievances of the State Civil and Teacher pensioners
- ii. Settlement of pensioners' grievances through Pensioners' Lok Adalat
- iii. Monitoring the Heads of Departments and Heads of Offices to send pension proposals promptly to the Accountant-General in time and to review the position periodically.

- iv. Liaisoning with the Accountant-General to see that pension and other retirement benefits of Government employees are settled on or before the date of retirement so that the officers and staff get the benefits without any delay.
- v. Attending to the clarifications sought for by the pensioners
- vi. Administering and implementing the Tamil Nadu Government Industrial Employees Provident Fund Scheme for Government Departments Casual Workers.
- vii. Administering and Implementing Tamil Nadu Government Pensioners Health Fund Scheme, 1995 for Pensioners.
- viii. Administering and Implementing Tamil Nadu Government Pensioners Family Security Fund Scheme 1997 for Family Pensioners
- ix. Budget Estimate and Control Authority for Special Provident Fund Scheme 1984

- x. Budget Estimate and Control Authority for Tamil Nadu Government Employees Special Provident Fund Cum Gratuity Scheme 2000
- xi. Budget Estimate, Reconciling and Control Authority of Pension Directorate, Leave Salary Contribution and Contributory Pension for Government Public Sector Undertakings / Boards Employees deputed to State Government Departments on foreign service and
- xii. Administering and Implementing Tamil Nadu Social Security Scheme 1974 for unorganized daily wages, labourers and Public.

REDRESSAL OF THE GRIEVANCES

Settlement of Pensioners' Grievances in Pension Directorate

16. The petitions received from pensioners in various Districts, through Chief Minister's Cell and under Right to Information Act are given due

attention for immediate settlement of pensioners' grievances. In 2007, 1961 Chief Minister's Special Cell petitions were received and settled. In 2008 upto 31.12.2008, 649 petitions were received and 473 petitions and settled. 374 petitions were received under Right to Information Act upto 31.01.2009 and information furnished. In 2008-2009, 631 pension grievances petitions received from various Districts were settled.

District Collectors Pensioners' Grievances Day Meeting

17. The District Collectors conduct Pensioners' Grievances Day Meeting once in three months in their Districts. The Director or Joint Director attends these meetings and assist in the expeditious disposal of such grievances petition in the Districts. The pension benefit proposals pending with the Office of the Accountant-General are also followed up by this Directorate to speed up settlement. As a follow up action, the concerned Heads of Departments are addressed in respect of

the Districts grievances petition, department-wise and meetings are conducted periodically with departmental officials to review the progress on settlement of these grievance petitions.

PENSION ADALAT

18. Pension Adalat has been constituted by the Tamil Nadu Legal Service Authority at High Court Complex, Chennai-104 with effect from 22.02.2002. The Government formed a committee consisting of the Director of Pension, officers from concerned Departments in the Secretariat, Heads of Departments and representative of the Accountant-General to execute directions of the Pension Lok Adalat upon settlement of Pensioners' Grievances put before the authority. The Director of Pension has been nominated as the Nodal Officer for the Adalat. The Adalat meeting is held twice every month. As on **18.02.2009**, **999** cases have been received, out of which **934** cases have been settled.

PENSION PAY OFFICER, LINK BANK OFFICIALS AND PENSIONERS ASSOCIATIONS MEETING

19. The Director conducts monthly meeting with Link Bank Officials, Pension Pay Officer in the presence of Pensioners Association Representatives to sort out problems faced by Pensioners in the Banks under Public Sector Bank Scheme and Pension Pay Office under Pilot Scheme in Chennai.

GUIDE TO PENSIONERS

20. A Guide to Pensioners showing available retirement benefits and important pension benefits G.Os issued by Government from time to time with guidelines to send pension / family pension proposals to the pensioners has been displayed on the **Website www.tn.gov.in/dop**. Downloadable Pension Forms are also available in the above Website for instant use. This department may be contacted through **e.mail** also. The **e-mail** address of this Directorate is **dop@tn.nic.in**.

**TAMIL NADU GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES
SPECIAL PROVIDENT FUND CUM GRATUITY
SCHEME 1984**

21. This Scheme was introduced with effect from 01.04.1984. A monthly subscription of Rs.20/- per month is being recovered for 148 months and the total subscription will be repaid along with interest accrued thereon at the time of retirement with Government contribution of Rs.10,000/-. The contribution was enhanced from Rs. 5,000/- to Rs.10,000/- with effect from 15.09.2000.

**TAMIL NADU GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES
SPECIAL PROVIDENT FUND CUM GRATUITY
SCHEME 2000**

22. This Scheme was introduced with effect from 01.10.2000.

- a. All regular Government employees in service up to 30.09.2000 may opt to subscribe at Rs.50/- per month till one month prior to the date of retirement which is refundable along with interest accrued thereon.

- b. This Scheme is compulsory to the new recruits appointed on or after 01.10.2000 and the subscription will be Rs. 70/-. The subscription is refundable with interest and Government contribution of Rs.10,000/- on the date of retirement.

The Pension Directorate is Budget Estimate and Control Authority to the Scheme. Funds provided by Government in the Budget is drawn and disbursed by departments to the retired employees and teachers (except Aided Schools / Colleges / Polytechnics) for settlement of payment under the Schemes.

COMPUTERISATION OF PENSION DIRECTORATE 'E' GOVERNANCE

23. As per programme developed by National Informatics Centre, the Health Fund Scheme has been fully computerised by which necessary input data is fed, processed and output is generated in the form of sanction proceedings. Similarly, the Family Security Fund Scheme and

Employees Provident Fund Scheme have also been computerised which will come into operation soon. In order to strengthen Information System for pensioners, KIOSK Informative System has been approved by Government, in Part II Scheme 2009-2010 with a cost of Rs.1.30 lakhs. For Introduction of ECS to credit their payments under the above said Pensioners' Welfare Schemes through Reserve Bank of India in their respective Bank Accounts, the process for ECS payment is underway with assistance of National Informatics Centre, Pension Pay Office, Treasuries and Bank Officials by which payment through Cheque will be dispensed and immediate credit of payments will be ensured. Further, National Informatics Centre has taken up developing Web enabled programme by which pensioners can view claim status of Tamil Nadu Health Fund Scheme and Family Security Fund Scheme through the Directorate website which would further strengthen the enquiry system to the pensioners.

PENSION AND OTHER BENEFITS TO FREEDOM FIGHTERS AND EX-INA PERSONNEL

24. For the welfare of the Freedom Fighters and their families who have participated in the Freedom Movement of our country and suffered untold miseries, the Government have instituted a number of welfare schemes such as Freedom Fighters Pension, Family Pension, medical facilities, free transport facilities, priority in Government employment, and allotment of houses etc.,

25. The Government of Tamil Nadu have been implementing the State Freedom Fighters Pension with effect from 1.10.1966. As per the above scheme, Freedom Fighters who were sentenced to imprisonment or held under detention for not less than three months or who were killed in action or who became permanently incapacitated due to firing or lathi charge during their participation in the National Freedom Movement were eligible to get Freedom Fighters Pension. Later, the Ex-INA personnel and persons who participated in Naval

Mutiny, 1946 and those who suffered imprisonment in Madurai Conspiracy Case were also made eligible for the Pension. In addition to these, Freedom Fighters who went underground avoiding the arrest warrant or whose property was confiscated / attached or who were removed / dismissed from service on account of their participation in the freedom movement were also made eligible for Freedom Fighter Pension, provided that such claims are supported by documentary evidence through Court records or other official records. The period of three months of imprisonment that was fixed as one of the eligibility criteria for getting pension was reduced to three weeks with effect from 1.4.1980. The income ceiling originally fixed was also removed with effect from 11.3.1983.

26. Extracts of the concerned jail records or judgement of the concerned court in proof of the imprisonment undergone are required to be enclosed along with the application. In the absence of the above records, 'Co-prisoner' certificate

obtained from the legislators who served during the period 1980 or before was accepted as evidence for jail imprisonment with effect from 1-4-1980. Since some deficiencies in the above system were brought to the notice of the Government, the system of issuing co-prisoners certificate by the MLAs was modified during the year 1988. As per the orders dated 16.11.1988 issued by the Public Department, an applicant may obtain co-prisoner's certificates from any two of the fifteen Freedom Fighters authorised to issue such co-prisoner's certificates throughout the State and apply for sanction of pension. As certain difficulties in the above system were brought to the notice of the Government, a District Level Screening Committee was formed in each District as per the orders of the Public Department dated 7th February 1996, consisting of the Collector of the District as Chairman, the District Revenue Officer, as Vice-Chairman, three prominent freedom fighters as members and two prominent Freedom Fighters as certifiers. The members and certifiers should be in

receipt of Freedom Fighter's Pension on the basis of their original Court or jail records. The applicant who claim freedom fighter pension should have completed 18 years of age at the time of imprisonment and also should submit one co-prisoner certificate from any one of the authorised certifiers of the concerned district. The application in the prescribed format should be submitted to the Collector concerned. These cases are examined by the District Level Screening Committee, as per the guidelines issued and are recommended to Government. Those cases which are recommended by the Collectors are considered by the Government for sanction of Pension to the eligible Freedom Fighters.

27. The pension payable to Freedom Fighters had been enhanced from time to time. The details are indicated in Annexure I.

28. In the event of death of any State Freedom Fighter Pensioner, the pension is paid continuously to the wife/husband/minor children of

the Freedom Fighter as family pension. Government sanction the continuance of pension to the son/daughter of the freedom fighters who is suffering from any disorder or disability of mind or is physically crippled or disabled so as to render him or her unable to earn a living even after attaining the age of 18 years in the case of the son and 21 years in the case of the daughter till their life. This pension scale has been enhanced from time to time. The details are indicated in Annexure II.

29. The Government have been sanctioning special pension to the descendants of eminent persons in recognition of the significant role played by them in the freedom movement. Accordingly descendants of Marudhu Pandiar Brothers, direct and senior descendants of Veerapandia Kattabomman and eligible descendants of Muthuramalinga Vijaya Raghunatha Sethupathy of Ramanathapuram are receiving pension at the rate of Rs.500/- per month. Now this Government has enhanced this amount from Rs.500/- to

Rs.1,000/- per month with effect from 1.12.2008. Accordingly 121 descendants of Marudhu Pandiar Brothers, 5 direct and senior descendants of Veerapandia Kattabomman and 79 eligible descendants of Muthuramalinga Vijaya Raghunatha Sethupathy are receiving pension at the rate of Rs.1000/- p.m. They will receive the above pension till their life time.

30. The other concessions granted to the Freedom Fighters and their dependants are given below: -

a) Medical Facilities:-

A sum of Rs.15/- per month is paid as Medical allowance to those who are receiving Central Pension or State Pension or both and to the widows and Minor children. The above pensioners or their dependants are permitted to have free Medical treatment in Government Hospitals with 'A' class ward facilities.

b) Transport facility:

The Freedom Fighters drawing Central or State Pension, their widows and legal heirs are given free bus passes to travel in the buses of State Transport Corporation.

c) Housing Facility:

Reservation of 1% has been made to the Freedom Fighters, in the allotment of houses/plots/flats made by the Tamil Nadu Housing Board from out of 18% reserved for SCs/STs, out of 5% reserved for Dhobies and Barbers and out of 37% reserved for the General Public.

d) Employment Assistance:-

Priority is given for the legal heirs of Freedom fighters when names are sent by Employment Exchanges to Government Departments and Undertakings for filling up vacancies.

e) Funeral Expenses:

A sum of Rs.2,000/- is being sanctioned immediately to the wife or the immediate legal heirs of the Freedom Fighter towards funeral expenses in the event of death of the Freedom Fighter. This is applicable to all the Freedom Fighters receiving State/Central Pension or both. As a mark of respect to the deceased Freedom Fighter, an officer not below the rank of a Tahsildar of the Revenue Department on behalf of the Government will place a wreath on the body of the deceased Freedom Fighter.

31. The number of Freedom Fighters in Tamil Nadu who are now drawing State Pension under various schemes are as follows:

1	No. of Freedom Fighters receiving State Freedom Fighters Pension (Rs.4000 + Rs.15/- Medical Allowance)	778
2	No. of Dependants receiving family Pension (Rs.2000 + Rs.15/- Medical Allowance)	2229
3	Descendants of Veerapandia Kattabomman (Rs.1,000/- per month)	5

4	Descendants of Sivagangai Marudhu Pandiar Brothers (Rs.1,000/- per month)	121
5	Descendants of Muthuramalinga Vijaya Raghunatha Sethupathy (Rs.1,000/- per month)	79

32. CENTRAL PENSION SCHEME

The Central Government have been implementing the Scheme of Freedom Fighters Pension (Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension) with effect from 15.08.1972. According to this Scheme, the following concessions are granted:

- i) Persons who had suffered a minimum imprisonment of six months in connection with freedom struggle are eligible for Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension. They have to produce certificate in support of their imprisonment and in the absence of jail certificate from official records, a certificate indicating "Non Availability of Records" from the concerned authorities along with two co-prisoner's certificates in

the prescribed form will have to be produced. The co-prisoner's certificates have to be obtained from two freedom fighters who had undergone jail suffering for one year or one co-prisoner's certificate from a sitting M.P. or M.L.A. or from an Ex. M.P. or Ex.M.L.A., specifying the period of imprisonment.

- ii) The period of imprisonment has been reduced from six months to three months in respect of Scheduled Caste / Scheduled Tribe and Women Freedom Fighters.
- iii) Persons who had remained underground for six months or more but are unable to produce official documents can produce a Personal Knowledge Certificate from a prominent freedom fighter who had undergone imprisonment for a period of two years or more along with a certificate to indicate "Non Availability of Records" from the concerned authorities. The certifier

should belong to the same District as that of the Freedom Fighters certified.

- iv) Ten strokes of flogging / whipping / caning inflicted for participation in the Freedom Movement will be treated as equivalent to six months of imprisonment.
- v) Further, Ex-INA personnel are also eligible for pension if the imprisonment/ detention suffered by them was outside India for six months or more.
- vi) Each recipient of Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension is getting Rs.6,330 as pension along with 79% D.A. i.e. Rs.11,331/- with effect from 1.8.2008. The total number of persons who are receiving Central Freedom Fighters Pension/Family Pension is 3090.
- vii) State Pension of Rs.500/- p.m. from the State Funds is paid to those who receive Central Freedom Fighters Pension/Central Family Pension.

33. For the year, 2009-2010, a total sum of Rs. 14,09,56,000/- has been provided for the purpose of political pension schemes mentioned above.

K.ANBAZHAGAN
Minister for Finance

ANNEXURE - I
RATE OF MONTHLY PENSION PAID BY THE
STATE GOVERNMENT TO FREEDOM FIGHTERS

Sl. No.	Period	Pension Amount Rs.
1.	With effect from 01-10-1966	50/-
2.	With effect from 15-08-1972	75/-
3.	With effect from 01-04-1979	100/-
4.	With effect from 25-01-1981	150/-
5.	With effect from 10-06-1986	250/-
6.	With effect from 01-08-1989	350/-
7.	With effect from 01-01-1991	400/-
8.	With effect from 01-08-1992	1000/-
9.	With effect from 01-09-1995	1500/-
10.	With effect from 15-08-1997	3000/-
11.	With effect from 01.05.2007	4000/-

ANNEXURE - II
RATE OF MONTHLY PENSION PAID TO THE
DEPENDANTS OF STATE FREEDOM FIGHTERS
PENSIONERS

Sl. No.	Period	Pension Amount Rs.
1.	With effect from 01-10-1966	50/-
2.	With effect from 15-08-1972	75/-
3.	With effect from 01-04-1979	100/-
4.	With effect from 25-01-1981	150/-
5.	With effect from 10-06-1986	250/-
6.	With effect from 01-08-1989	350/-
7.	With effect from 01-01-1991	400/-
8.	With effect from 01-08-1992	500/-
9.	With effect from 01-09-1995	750/-
10.	With effect from 15-08-1997	1500/-
11.	With effect from 01.05.2007	2000/-

