

Details of Non-official Advisory Committees constituted for scrutinizing claims and making recommendations on eligibility or otherwise for grant of pension.

I. ARYA SAMAJ COMMITTEE

The participants of Arya Samaj Movement represented to the Government that they had participated in the movement which took place in the former Hyderabad State during 1938-39 and that it would not be possible for all the claimants of this category to produce evidence based on official records in proof of their claims of jail suffering etc. under the Scheme. Consequently, the Arya Samaj Committee was formed on 13.11.1986. The tenure of this committee expired on 31.12.1989. The composition of the committee was as under :

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| (i) | Shri Anand Bodh Saraswati (formerly Shri Ram Gopal Shalwale), President Sarvedeshik Arya Pratinidhi Sabha, Delhi. | - Chairman |
| (ii) | Shri Ramchander Rao Kalyani, Mahboobnagar, Andhra Pradesh | - Member |
| (iii) | Shri Ramchandra Vandemataram, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh | - Member |
| (iv) | Shri Som Nath Marwaha, Delhi | - Member |
| (v) | Shri Ranbir Singh, Ex. M.P., Rohtak, Haryana. | - Member |
| (vi) | Prof.. Sner Singh, Ex-M.P., Rohtak, Haryana | - Member |
| (vii) | Pandit Shiv Kumar Shastri, Uttar Pradesh | - Member |

The Committee was entrusted with the task of screening and scrutinizing the application / documents. Where no acceptable documentary evidence from jail authorities / courts was furnished by the applicants, the

Committee was to satisfy itself before making recommendations that the records of respective jails etc. where imprisonment / detention had been claimed were not really available. This committee considered 2354 claims and recommended grant of pension in 1152 cases.

II. SINDH COMMITTEE

The freedom fighters hailing from Sindh whose area of operation during the freedom struggle was in areas which are now falling in Pakistan were finding it difficult to produce evidence in support of their claimed sufferings. Therefore, a committee known as Special Non-Official Committee (Sindh) was constituted with the following :

- (i) Shri Anand T. Hingorani,
C/18-D, Munirka
New Delhi – 110067 - Chairman
- (ii) Shri Assudomal Bulchand,
114-C, Moti Nagar,
New Delhi - 110015 - Member

The applications of eligible freedom fighters were initially examined by the Ministry of Home Affairs and then placed before the Committee for their recommendations. The committee was expected to take into account the recommendations of the State Government, District / State Level Committee as well as the veracity of CPC/PKC and other evidence produced by the applicants together with their own personal knowledge while giving opinion in each case referred to it. Of the 72 cases placed for consideration of this Committee, pension was recommended in 61 cases.

III. NON-OFFICIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR INA CASES

The sufferings of the ex-INA personnel being in the South East Asian Countries, it was represented to the Government that it was not possible for the freedom fighters to produce documentary evidence in support of their claimed detention. Consequently, a committee to scrutinize the applications of ex-INA personnel was constituted in September, 1973. The composition of this committee was as under :

- (1) Shri Shah Nawaz Khan,

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| | Minister of Supply | - | Chairman |
| (2) | Shri Mohan Singh,
Member of Parliament | - | Member |
| (3) | Shri S.M. Ghosh | - | Member |
| (4) | Shri R.N. Tyagi,
Deputy Secretary,
Ministry of Defence | - | Member |
| (5) | Shri R.L. Pradeep,
Deputy Secretary,
Freedom Fighters Division,
Ministry of Home Affairs | - | Member
Secretary |

IV. NON-OFFICIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO ADVISE ON GRANT OF PENSION TO EX-INA PERSONNEL DEPORTED TO NEW GUINEA AND ADJOINING ISLANDS

In July 1983, a Non-Official Advisory Committee was constituted to consider the claims of such of the ex-INA personnel who had been deported to New Guinea and adjoining Islands. The composition of the committee was as under :

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| (1) | General Shah Nawaz Khan (ex-INA) | - | Chairman |
| (2) | General Mohan Singh (ex-INA) | - | Member |
| (3) | Col. P.S. Raturi (ex-INA) | - | Member |
| (4) | Major Babu Ram (ex-INA) | - | Member |
| (5) | Joint Secretary in-charge of
Freedom Fighters Division | - | Convenor |

The applications of such persons were to be examined in the Ministry and then made over to the committee for consideration. The committee was

authorized to evolve its own procedure for the scrutiny of applications and, if necessary could interview the applicants.

V. **THE INA NON-OFFICIAL SCREENING COMMITTEE**

This Committee was constituted on 18.1.88 to screen/scrutinize applications for grant of Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension received from persons claiming to have been associated with INA/IIL during India's freedom movement. The Committee consisted of the following:-

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| (i) | Shri K.N. Kannampilly,
'Karuna', Trimpanam - 682309 | - | Chairman |
| (ii) | Col. (INA) P.S. Raturi,
Block H, Flat No. 62-C,
Saket, New Delhi-110007 | - | Member |
| (iii) | Col. (INA) G.S. Dhillon,
Dhillon's Den (Vill. Hated),
Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh. | - | Member |
| (iv) | Capt. (INA) S.S. Yadav,
D-733, Saraswati Vihar,
Delhi - 110034. | - | Member |
| (v) | Lieut. (INA) Francis S. S'cruz
President, The Ex-INA Association
Kerala, Jetty Road, Quilon 691001. | - | Member |
| (vi) | Smt. Lakshmi Sahgal &
Col. P.K. Sahgal,
15/241, Civil Lines,
Kanpur - U.P. | - | Member |

The tenure of the Committee expired on 19.11.1989.

VI. PUNJAB NON-OFFICIAL SCREENING COMMITTEE

This committee was constituted to screen/scrutinize the applications of those freedom fighters who had claimed their participation in freedom movement and undergone suffering in the areas of West Punjab now falling in Pakistan. The committee considered and gave views on each case referred to it by this Ministry on the basis of available documentary and other evidence furnished by the applicants and also supplemented by personal knowledge and judgment of the Committee members. The Committee consisted of the following members :

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| (i) | Shri Darbara Singh, MP | - | Chairman |
| (ii) | Shri Virender,
Daily Pratap, Jullundar | - | Member |
| (iii) | Shri Sohan Singh,
Jalal Usman, Amritsar | - | Member |
| (iv) | Deputy Secretary,
Freedom Fighters Division | - | Convenor |

This committee considered 410 cases and recommended grant of pension in 403 cases.

VII. EASTERN INDIA COMMITTEE

The 'Eastern India Committee' was constituted to screen /scrutinize the applications of freedom fighters claiming to have participated and undergone suffering in connection with freedom struggle in areas of East Bengal now falling in Bangladesh. The committee consisted of the following members :

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| (i) | Shri Sachindra Lal Sinha, Agartala | - | Chairman |
| (ii) | Shri Makhan Pal | - | Vice-Chairman |
| (iii) | Shri Jagdish Chatterjee | - | Member |
| (iv) | Shri Arun Maitra | - | Member |

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| (v) | Shri Kanti Ranjan Chatterjee | - | Member |
| (vi) | Shri Bibhash Ray | - | Member |
| (vii) | Dr. Phul Renu Guha | - | Member |
| (viii) | Shri Pratul Chowdhury | - | Member |
| (ix) | Shri Ganesh Ghosh | - | Member |
| (x) | Shri Mohitosh Purokayastha | - | Member |

The tenure of the Committee expired on 19.11.1989. The Committee considered each case referred to it by the Ministry of Home Affairs on the basis of available documentary and other evidence furnished by the applicants as supplemented by the personal knowledge and judgement of the committee members. Of the 3454 cases referred to this committee, pension was recommended in 1496 cases.

VIII. J&K NON-OFFICIAL SCREENING COMMITTEE

This committee was constituted to scrutinize the applications of freedom fighters of J&K State on the basis of documentary evidence furnished by the applicants in accordance with the criteria laid down for eligibility for pension. The committee consisted of the following :

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| (i) | Minister of State in the
Ministry of Home Affairs (V) | - | Chairman |
| (ii) | Shri P.L. Karihaloo, J-3
Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar (Kashmir) | - | Member |
| (iii) | Shri Peer Gyasuddin, Jawahar Nagar Extn,
Wazir Bagh, Srinagar | - | Member |
| (iv) | Shri Mallick Abdul Gani,
Sopore (Kashmir) | - | Member |
| (v) | Shri Ali Mohammed Bhat, | | |

	Sumpora Basant Bagh, Srinagar (Kashmir)	-	Member
(vi)	Shri Moti Ram Baigra, Udhampur, (Jammu)	-	Member
(vii)	Shri G.R. Kar, Sopore, Kashmir	-	Member
(viii)	Shri Soofi Ghulam Ahmed, ex-MLA Syed Ali Akbar Mohalla, Srinagar (Kashmir)	-	Member

A total of 952 cases were placed for consideration of this committee and the committee recommended grant of pension in 756 cases.

IX. SPECIAL SCREENING COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERING APPLICATIONS FROM FREEDOM FIGHTES OF THE ERSTWHILE NIZAM STATE OF HYDERABAD.

This committee was constituted by the Government on 5.10.83 to consider the claims of such of the freedom fighters who had participated in the freedom movement in the former Hyderabad State for its integration with the Indian Union. The initial composition of the committee was as under :

(i)	Shri Govind Bhai Shroff of Aurangabad	-	Chairman
(ii)	Shri Jagannath Rao Chanderki, Gulbarga	-	Member
(iii)	Shri P. Thirumal Rao, Khammam	-	Member
(iv)	Deputy Secretary Freedom Fighters Division Ministry of Home Affairs	-	Convener

The Committee (from 1985 to 1996) recommended about 7,000 cases for grant of pension.

The HSSC was reconstituted from time to time. It was last reconstituted in June, 1997 with Shri C.H. Rajeshwara Rao as Chairman. The Rajeshwara Rao Committee recommended about 13,500 cases during its tenure upto May, 1998. Even while the Committee was scrutinizing applications, a series of complaints were received from various quarters alleging large scale malpractices and corruption in recommending cases. Therefore, the Government of Andhra Pradesh instituted vigilance enquiries in cases relating to Karimnagar, Khammam, Nalgonda and Warrangal districts. Based on the report of the Director General (Vigilance & Enforcement), Government of Andhra Pradesh decided to re-verify each and every claim recommended by the Rajeshwara Rao Committee, including the sanctioned cases.

X. **SCREENING COMMITTEE OF EMINENT FREEDOM FIGHTERS CONSTITUTED TO SCRUTINISE REVERIFICATION REPORTS RECEIVED FROM THE CONCERNED STATE GOVERNMENTS REGARDING CASES OF HYDERABAD LIBERATION MOVEMENT AND TO GIVE RECOMMENDATION FOR GRANT OF CASES OR OTHERWISE.**

Following complaints of irregularities in recommending cases by the Special Screening Committee under the chairmanship of Shri C.H. Rajeshwara Rao, Government of India also constituted a Committee of Officers under the chairmanship of Secretary (BM) on 28th February, 2007 which recommended:

- (i) 100% re-verification may be conducted by the State Governments with due diligence, with reference to the lists of cases forwarded earlier during the years 1998 and 1999 by the Government of India to the State Governments for verification.
- (ii) After this fresh re-verification by the State Governments, another Screening Committee, comprising eminent freedom fighters (other than those of the erstwhile HSSC), may be constituted by Government of India to scrutinize each case and give its considered recommendations.

Accordingly, a Screening Committee of Eminent Freedom Fighters was constituted on 19.9.2007 with the following composition:

- (i) Shri Konda Laxman Bapuji, Chairman,
- (ii) Shri Dodda Narayan Rao,
- (iii) Shri Gowtama Rao, Karimnagar,
- (iv) Shri Tirunagaru Gangadhar, Miryalaguda,
- (v) Smt. Mallu Swarajyam, Hyderabad,
- (vi) Shri G. Pichi Reddy, Nalgonda,
- (vii) A Representative each of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh/ Karnataka/ Maharashtra, and
- (viii) Director/Deputy Secretary looking after the work Hyderabad Liberation Movement in FFR Division of MHA as member secretary.