



FINANCE DEPARTMENT

DEMAND No.50

**Pension and Other
Retirement Benefits**

**POLICY NOTE
2018-2019**

**O. PANNEERSELVAM
DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER**

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**Government of Tamil Nadu
2018**

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PENSION
AND OTHER RETIREMENT BENEFITS
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The Directorate of Pension was formed with effect from 1-9-1994 by the Government for ensuring speedy settlement of pension/family pension/ terminal benefits and to redress the grievances of the Pensioners / Family Pensioners. There are 7,48,805 Pensioners and Family Pensioners in Tamil Nadu as on 31-03-2018. The details of Pensioners and Family Pensioners are given below:

Sl. No.	Details	Number
1.	State Civil Pensioners	4,14,441
2.	Teacher Pensioners	80,499
3.	Civil Family Pensioners	1,89,102
4.	Teacher Family Pensioners	31,414
5.	Other category Pensioners including Ex-Gratia and 1/3 rd Commuted Pensioners	33,349
	Total	7,48,805

2. The expenditure under this Demand relates to pension and retirement 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.

3. Under this Demand in the Budget Estimate 2018-2019, a sum of Rs.27,481.86 crore is provided for Pension and other Retirement Benefits, Rs.18.50 crore for Social Security and Welfare, totalling to Rs.27,500.36 crore.

PENSION.

4. (i) A minimum qualifying service of 10 years is necessary to become eligible for Pension. The maximum qualifying service of 30 years is required to become eligible for full Pension. Further, Pension is being determined based on 50% of pay drawn at the time of retirement or 50% of average emoluments drawn during the last 10 months of service rendered whichever is higher.
- (ii) Minimum pension of Rs.7,850/- per month has been fixed with effect from 01-10-2017.

GRATUITY.

5. (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 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 with effect from 01-10-2017:-

Sl. No.	Length of Service	Rate of Gratuity
1.	Less than one year	Two times of 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 eleven years	Twelve times of monthly emoluments
4.	Eleven years or more but less than twenty years	Fifteen times of monthly emoluments

Sl. No.	Length of Service	Rate of Gratuity
5.	Twenty years or more	Half month's 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.20 lakh.

(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 $\frac{1}{4}$ th of emoluments for each completed six monthly period of qualifying service subject to a maximum of $16\frac{1}{2}$ times of monthly emoluments. In respect of employees retired on or after 1-4-1998, gratuity is calculated based on basic pay and dearness allowance last drawn.

(iv) The ceiling limit of Retirement Gratuity is Rs.20 lakh with effect from 1-1-2016.

FAMILY PENSION.

6. (i) 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 case 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 10 years after death or till the year the deceased pensioner would have attained 65 years of age, whichever is earlier. After this period, 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.

(ii) Family pension is payable to the widow / widower till her/his re-marriage or death whichever is earlier. After her / his death, it is payable to the children upto the age of 25 years or till they get married marriage or till they start earning their livelihood whichever is earlier. However, if the son / unmarried daughter is suffering from any disorder or disability of mind or is physically crippled or disabled so as to render him/her unable to earn a livelihood the family pension shall be payable to such son/daughter for his/her life time even after attaining the age of 25 years. Minimum family pension is payable to the unmarried / divorced / widowed daughters of pensioners for their life time subject to fulfillment of certain conditions.

(iii) The Government have granted minimum family Pension to Thirunangai / Aravani child of the Government Servant / Pensioners considering them as girl child even beyond the age of 25 years as that of the unmarried / Widowed / Divorced Daughters.

(iv) The minimum family pension payable is Rs.7,850/- per month with effect from 1-10-2017.

EX-GRATIA PAYMENT.

7. At present ex-gratia payment of Rs.645/- per month has been granted alongwith Dearness Allowance at the rate of 266 percent with effect from 1st January 2018 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.

COMMUTATION OF PENSION.

8. Pensioners are eligible to commute 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. Even after commutation of pension, Dearness Allowance are allowed to the commuted portion of pension.

OTHER RETIREMENT BENEFITS.

9. (i) Encashment of Earned Leave at credit at the time of retirement upto a maximum of 240 days is allowed.
- (ii) Encashment of the Unearned 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) Basic Pay, Special Pay, Dearness Allowance, House Rent Allowance and 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 any other place where as employee wishes to settle down after retirement.

OTHER BENEFITS TO PENSIONERS.

10. A. Dearness Allowance.

- (i) The Pensioners / Family Pensioners are paid Dearness Allowance on par with the serving employees of the Government.
- (ii) Military Pensioners / Family 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.
- (iii) Dual Family Pension to those families of Ex-servicemen who have been re-employed in civil (i.e) State Government service and earned a pension out of re-employment prior to 01-04-2003 has been sanctioned in addition to Military Family Pension with effect from 02-09-2016.

B. Medical Allowance

- (i) The Pensioners / Family Pensioners are allowed medical allowance of Rs.300/- per month with effect from 1-10-2017.
- (ii) Provisional Pensioners / Family Pensioners are also allowed Dearness Allowance and Medical Allowance.

C. Pongal Prize

A lumpsum Pongal Prize amount of Rs.500/- has been sanctioned to all Government Pensioners those who retired from the categories of 'C' and 'D' Group including all 'C' and 'D' Group Pensioners of Aided Educational Institutions, Local Bodies, Ex-Village Establishment (Ex-Village Officers and Village Servants / Assistants), ad-hoc pensioners of all categories and to all Family Pensioners irrespective of the Groups from which Pensioners / Deceased Government employee had retired / died while in service.

D. Festival Advance

Pensioners are being given festival advance similar to Government servants. This amount has

been enhanced from Rs.1000/- to Rs.2000/- with effect from 14-03-2013.

NEW HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME, 2018 FOR PENSIONERS (INCLUDING SPOUSE) / FAMILY PENSIONERS.

11. (i) The New Health Insurance Scheme-2014 for Pensioner (including spouse) / Family Pensioners is being implemented from 1-7-2014. The Government have extended this Scheme with some additional features for a block period of four years covering the period from 1-7-2018 to 30-6-2022. This Scheme is being implemented through United India Insurance Company Limited, a Public Sector Undertaking. Under the new Scheme, the ceiling on medical assistance has been enhanced from Rs.2 lakh to Rs.4 lakh for availing approved treatments and surgeries undertaken.
- (ii) Under the new scheme, this benefit has also been extended to the son / unmarried daughter who is suffering from any disorder or disability of mind or physically crippled or disabled so as to render him/her unable to earn a livelihood, unmarried / divorced / widowed daughters of pensioners subject to fulfillment of certain conditions.

(iii) Under the new scheme, the medical assistance has been enhanced to the maximum limit of Rs.7.50 lakh for the following diseases / treatments:-

(a) Surgery, Chemotherapy, Radiotherapy and Immunotherapy for all Malignancies including inpatient procedures for diagnosis

(b) Liver, Kidney, Heart, Lungs and Bone Marrow Transplantation

(c) Complex Open Heart Surgeries and Implants

(d) Accident and Trauma cases involving Fractures

(e) Heart Valve Replacements, Aneurysms and Angioplasties

(f) Management of Burn Injuries

The upper limit of medical assistance for cataract surgery is fixed at Rs.20,000/- per eye. In respect of Hysterectomy (uterus removal surgery) the upper limit of medical assistance is Rs.40,000/-.

(iv) The coverage of medical assistance under this new scheme has been extended to Emergency Care and cases following an accident, where the patient avails approved treatment/undergone surgery in a Non-network hospital. Under this Scheme, 113 treatments and surgical procedures are covered

on cashless basis through 913 Network hospitals located in Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Thiruvananthapuram, New Delhi and Bengaluru. The annual premium payable by the Government to the United India Insurance Company Limited is Rs.3800/- per pensioner/family pensioner, per annum for the block period of four years from 1-7-2018 to 30-6-2022. The annual premium initially paid by the Government is recovered from the pensioner/family pensioner at Rs.350/- per month by deduction in monthly pension/family pension from the month of July 2018. The excess premium over and above the amount recovered will be borne by the Government / Government Organisation.

- (v) During the four year period i.e., from 1-7-2014 to 30-6-2018, a total of 2,01,285 beneficiaries have availed medical assistance to the tune of Rs.578.01 crore.
- (vi) Further, Government has accorded permission to extend this Scheme mutatis mutandis to pensioners / family pensioners of the Local Bodies, Statutory Boards, State Public Sector Undertaking,

Universities and willing State Government Organisations/Institutions, where pension/family pension is being paid from their own fund and capable of bearing the employer share of the premium without financial liability befalling on the State Budget.

PENSIONERS' FAMILY SECURITY FUND SCHEME.

12. The Government is implementing the Tamil Nadu Government Pensioners' Family Security Fund Scheme with effect from 1-1-1997. Under this scheme, a sum of Rs.80/- per month is deducted from the pension as contribution. In the case of death of Pensioner after one month of contribution to the fund, a sum of Rs.50,000/- (enhanced with effect from 7-6-2013) is paid to the family. A total number of 1,93,868 families have benefited under this scheme and a sum of Rs.672.57 crore has been disbursed to the members of the families of deceased pensioners upto 31.05.2018.

TAMIL NADU GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES SPECIAL PROVIDENT FUND CUM GRATUITY SCHEME.

13. (i) This Scheme was introduced with effect from 1-4-1984. A monthly subscription of

Rs.20/- per month was being recovered from Government employee for 148 months and the total subscription was being repaid along with interest accrued thereon at the time of retirement with Government contribution of Rs.10,000/-.

(ii) After introduction of the new scheme Tamil Nadu Government Special Provident Fund cum Gratuity Scheme 2000, the enrolment of employees in the old scheme had ceased. However, the employees who had already been enrolled under the earlier scheme are being paid the monetary benefits continuously at the time of their retirement. Further, all regular Government employees in service upto 30-9-2000 were allowed to opt and subscribe Rs.50/- per month till one month prior to the date of retirement which is refundable along with interest accrued thereon.

(iii) This Scheme was made compulsory to any person appointed on or after 1-10-2000 and the subscription was enhanced to Rs.70/- per month. The total subscription is refunded with interest

along with Government contribution of Rs.10,000/- on the date of retirement.

- (iv) The Director of Pension is the Estimating, Reconciling and Controlling Authority for the above schemes. Funds provided by Government in the Budget is drawn and disbursed by respective departments to the retired employees and teachers (except aided schools / colleges / polytechnic colleges) for settling the payments under the schemes.

PENSION TO STAFF OF AIDED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS INCLUDING LOCAL BODIES.

14. The Staff of aided educational institutions and local bodies are allowed the same pensionary benefits as available to State Government employees.

ADDITIONAL PENSION / ADDITIONAL FAMILY PENSION.

15. The Pensioners / Family Pensioners aged 80 years and above are paid additional pension / additional family pension on their basic pension / basic family pension according to their age with effect from 1-1-2011 as below:

Sl. No.	Age of Pensioner / Family Pensioner	Additional quantum of pension/family pension	No. of Pensioners / Family Pensioners as on 31-3-2018
1.	From 80 years to 84 years	20% of revised basic pension / family pension	35,933
2.	From 85 years to 89 years	30% of revised basic pension / family pension	14,684
3.	From 90 years to 94 years	40% of revised basic pension / family pension	3,955
4.	From 95 years to 99 years	50% of revised basic pension / family pension	874
5.	100 years or more	100% of revised basic pension / family pension	134
Total			55,580

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

Year	Total Expenditure on Pension and other retirement benefits (Rs. in crore)	Expenditure on pension as a percentage of total revenue receipts
2001-2002	3,050.48	16.07
2002-2003	3,488.20	16.86
2003-2004	3,279.96	13.84
2004-2005	3,921.05	13.78
2005-2006	4,488.83	13.22
2006-2007	5,461.68	13.35

Year	Total Expenditure on Pension and other retirement benefits (Rs. in crore)	Expenditure on pension as a percentage of total revenue receipts
2007-2008	6,038.96	12.71
2008-2009	7,776.21	14.13
2009-2010	8,439.24	15.11
2010-2011	11,855.27	16.89
2011-2012	12,687.97	14.89
2012-2013	13,248.08	13.41
2013-2014	14,934.37	13.82
2014-2015	17,528.06	14.32
2015-2016	18,490.89	14.33
2016-2017	20,176.74	14.39
2017-2018 (RE)	23,458.62	15.05
2018-2019 (BE)	27,500.36	15.60

e-PENSION.

17. A web-enabled software to process the pension payment and to have a Centralized Database of the pensioners has been implemented in all the Districts and Pension Pay Office, Chennai. Under this scheme, the monthly pension and other retirement benefits to the pensioners are now credited directly to the bank account of pensioners through Electronic Clearing Service / Regional Electronic Clearing Service. Further, migration

of pension related information from Accountant General's database into e-pension Central Server is being done to ensure data accuracy and saving of time and resources.

MUSTERING OF PENSIONERS.

- 18.** (i) Considering the difficulties of the Pensioners / Family Pensioners, this department has taken initiatives to simplify the annual mustering process by incorporating the provision of biometric identification through Finger Print Reader with the help of NIC. Aadhaar numbers are being linked with the pensioner's data at the time of annual mustering. The Government of India launched *Jeevan Pramaan*, a biometric enabled digital service for pensioners. Using the present Aadhaar linkage, pensioners are encouraged to use *Jeevan Pramaan* Portal through which a Life Certificate issued online by a Government agency after Aadhaar Biometric Authentication will also be accepted as a valid certificate.
- (ii) The Government is pursuing action vigorously to achieve 100 percent Aadhaar linkage with pensioner's database. Once this is achieved, all

the pensioners will be able to use *Jeevan Pramaan* Portal to generate digital life certificate. The pension disbursing authority may access the life certificate without insisting either on personal appearance of the pensioner or Life Certificate by the competent authority.

19. Apart from this, the upcoming Integrated Finance and Human Resource Management System will also help in creating hassle free and user-friendly environment for the Pensioners to receive all the required services from the Government.

DIGITIZATION OF PENSION RECORDS.

20. The work of digitization of the Pension Payment Orders and other records of the Pensioners attached to the Pension Pay Office, Chennai and all Treasuries and to link it with the web enabled e-pension software is under process. After digitization, secured and sustainable storage, easy and multiple access beyond boundaries, retrieval of information by all end users including the pensioners and enhanced quality of records such as legibility, avoidance of discoloration etc., are the expected key benefits of digitization. Government has also sanctioned a sum of Rs. 95.53 lakh towards digitization

of pension records by the office of the Accountant General (A&E) Chennai.

IDENTITY CARD TO PENSIONERS / FAMILY PENSIONERS.

21. Based on the Government Order to issue Identity Card to Pensioners / Family Pensioners, the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister inaugurated this scheme on 16-04-2018 and the Identity cards are being issued. Identity cards are being received by the Pensioners / Family Pensioners through Government e-Seva Center on payment of service charge of Rs.30/-.

CONTRIBUTORY PENSION SCHEME.

22. (i) Employees who have joined on or 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 on or after 1-4-2003. Under this scheme, the Government is also making an equal contribution. The Commissioner of Treasuries and Accounts is maintaining the accounts of Contributory Pension Scheme with the assistance of Government Data Centre. There are about 5,06,000 Government, Aided Educational

Institution and Local Bodies employees covered under this scheme and a sum of Rs.22,981 crore has been accumulated including interest in the Pension Public Account as on 31-03-2018.

- (ii) The Government has also authorized a sum of Rs.272 crore towards CPS final settlement claim of 6,768 employees retired/ resigned, died and terminated from service.

NATIONAL PENSION SYSTEM (NPS):

23. National Pension System (NPS) has been implemented for the All India Service (AIS) officers appointed on or after 1-1-2004. The Government of Tamil Nadu has signed agreement on 28-6-2017 appointing National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) as Central Record Keeping Agency (CRA) for the National Pension System (NPS) and the NPS Trust of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) as the Trustee Bank, Pension Fund Manager (PFMS) and Annuity Service Provider (ASP) for operationalizing the National Pension System (NPS) for All India Service (AIS) officers of Tamilnadu cadre. A sum of Rs.9.58 crore has been transferred to National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) towards subscription amount and Government contribution for All India Services Officers so far.

CONTRIBUTORY PENSION SCHEME TO LOCAL BODIES :

24. The Government issued orders in G.O.Ms.No.260, Finance (PGC) Department dated 15-10-2015 designating the Commissioner of Treasuries and Accounts as the State Nodal Officer for implementing the Contributory Pension Scheme for the Employees of Municipal Corporations, Municipalities, Town Panchayats and Panchayat Unions. A software application for Local Bodies has been developed and the related data are being maintained.

PENSIONERS PORTAL :

25. As per the announcement made by the Hon'ble Minister for Finance in the Legislative Assembly while moving Demands for Grant 2017-2018, orders have been issued for the creation of Pensioners' Portal in G.O.Ms.No.359, Finance (Pension) Department, Dated 7-12-2017. Website and necessary software application has been created. The Portal will be launched shortly. In this portal pensioners will be provided details like pension drawn particulars, commutation restoration, additional pension, New Health Insurance Scheme, etc.

This portal will facilitate the pensioners to access all relevant information by themselves.

MIGRATION OF PUBLIC SECTOR BANK PENSIONERS INTO PILOT SCHEME

26. As per announcement made by the Hon'ble Minister for Finance during 2017-18 orders were issued in G.O.MsNo.268, Finance (Pension) Department, Dated 18-9-2017, for the migration of about 79,000 pensioners drawing pension through Public Sector Bank Scheme into the Pilot Scheme of the Department of Treasuries and Accounts. Pensioners records received from the Banks are being updated in e-pension software at Treasuries. Details of 23,428 pensioners have been received and uploaded so far.

DIRECTORATE OF PENSION

27. The Government established the Directorate of Pension with effect from 1-9-1994. This Directorate is now headed by a Director who is in the rank of Additional Secretary to Government, Finance Department. Besides the Director, the Directorate is functioning with the

support of one Joint Director, one Deputy Director, one Accounts Officer, one Assistant Accounts Officer and other Ministerial and basic service staff. The major activities 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' Adalat.
- (iii) Attending to the clarifications sought for by the pensioners.
- (iv) Administering and implementing the Tamil Nadu Government Industrial Employees Provident Fund Scheme for Government Departments.
- (v) Settlement of old cases under the Tamil Nadu Government Pensioners' Health Fund Scheme, 1995 for Pensioners / Family Pensioners.
- (vi) Administering and implementing Tamil Nadu Government Pensioners' Family Security Fund Scheme, 1997 for Family Pensioners.
- (vii) Estimating, Reconciling and Controlling Authority for Tamil Nadu Government Employees Special Provident Fund cum Gratuity Scheme, 1984.

- (viii) Estimating, Reconciling and Controlling Authority for Tamil Nadu Government Employees Special Provident Fund cum Gratuity Scheme, 2000.
- (ix) Preparation of Budget Estimate of pay and allowances and other benefits in respect of serving employees in the Directorate of Pension and reconciliation of departmental accounts with Pay and Accounts Office and Accountant-General.
- (x) Administering and implementing Tamil Nadu Social Security Scheme, 1974 for unorganized daily wages, labourers and Public.

REDRESSAL OF THE PENSIONERS GRIEVANCES

Settlement of Pensioners' Grievances in Pension Directorate.

28. The petitions received from Pensioners / Family Pensioners in various Districts, through Chief Minister's Special Cell and under Right to Information Act are given due attention for immediate settlement of pensioners' grievances. During the year 2017, 279 Chief Minister's Special Cell petitions, 253 Right to Information Act petitions were received and replied. A total number of 1,347 petitions were received

from the districts and were settled in the Directorate of Pension. Expeditious action is taken to redress the grievances of the petitioners.

District Collectors Pensioners' Grievances Day Meeting.

29. The District Collectors conduct Pensioners' Grievances Day Meeting once in four months in their districts. The Director or Joint Director attends these meetings and assist in the expeditious disposal of such grievance petitions 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 grievance petitions, department-wise meetings are conducted periodically with departmental officials to review the progress on settlement of these grievance petitions.

PENSION ADALAT.

30. Pension Adalat has been constituted by the Tamil Nadu Legal Services Authority at High Court

Complex, 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 and follow up action on the Pension Adalat upon settlement of Pensioners' grievances put forth before the authority. The Director of Pension has been nominated as the Nodal Officer for the Adalat. The Adalat meeting is held every month. 83 cases have been enquired during the period from 1-1-2017 to 31-12-2017 out of which 43 cases have been settled.

PENSION PAY OFFICER AND PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATIONS MEETING.

31. The Director of Pension conducts monthly meeting with Treasury Officials, Pension Pay Officer in the presence of Pensioners' Association Representatives to sort out problems faced by Pensioners in the Pension Pay Office under Pilot Scheme in Chennai.

GUIDE TO PENSIONERS.

32. A Guide to Pensioners showing information of pension and other retirement benefits, orders issued by Government from time to time and guidelines to send pension / family pension proposals has been displayed on the **website www.tn.gov.in/dop**. Pension Forms can also be downloaded from the above Website for instant use. The Directorate of Pension may be contacted through **e.mail** also. The **e-mail** address of this Directorate is **dop@tn.nic.in**.

COMPUTERISATION OF PENSION DIRECTORATE.

33. Family Security Fund Scheme have been fully computerized by which necessary input data is fed, processed and output is generated in the form of sanction proceedings. Similarly, the Industrial Employees Provident Fund Scheme, 1969 has also been computerized and the amount is being credited to the individual's Savings Bank Account through the National Electronic Fund Transfer payment system (NEFT).

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

34. The Government of Tamil Nadu has always given top priority in extending facilities to the Freedom Fighters and their families, who had participated in the freedom struggle of our country. The Government has earnestly been implementing 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.

35. The Freedom Fighters Pension scheme was first implemented in the State 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 are eligible to get Freedom Fighters Pension / Family Pension. This scheme had been extended to the Ex-INA personnel and persons who participated in Naval Mutiny in 1946 and those who

suffered imprisonment in Madurai Conspiracy case. Further such of those Freedom Fighters, who have gone underground evading the arrest or those whose properties were confiscated / attached or who were removed / dismissed from service due to their participation in the freedom movement, were also brought under the eligibility criteria to receive 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 fixed was also removed with effect from 11-3-1983.

36. The pension payable to Freedom Fighters has been enhanced from time to time. The pension has been enhanced from Rs.12,000/- to Rs.13,000/- per month with effect from 15-8-2017.

37. In the event of death of any State Freedom Fighter Pensioner, their wife / husband / minor children are paid family pension. The Government also sanction

the continuance of pension to the son / daughter of the freedom fighters who are 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 family pension amount has been enhanced from time to time. The family pension has been enhanced from Rs.6,000/- to Rs.6,500/- per month with effect from 15-8-2017.

38. The Government has been sanctioning the special pension to the descendants of eminent persons in recognition of significant role played by them in the freedom movement. Under this scheme, the descendants of Sivagangai Marudhu Pandiar Brothers, direct and senior descendants of Veerapandia Kattabomman and eligible descendants of Muthuramalinga Vijaya Raghunatha Sethupathy of Ramanathapuram and descendants of V.O.Chidambaranar are receiving pension with enhancement to Rs.6,500/- per month with effect from 15-8-2017. At present, 106 descendants of Marudhu Pandiar brothers, 5 direct and senior

descendants of Veerapandia Kattabomman, 62 eligible descendants of Muthuramalinga Vijaya Raghunatha Sethupathy of Ramanathapuram and 1 descendant of V.O.Chidambaranar are receiving this pension. They will receive the above pension till their life time.

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

(a) Medical Facilities:

Medical Allowance is paid to all Pensioners who are receiving Central Pension or State Pension or both and to their widows and Minor children. This amount was enhanced from Rs.100/- per month to Rs.500/- per month with effect from 15-8-2012. The above pensioners or their dependants are permitted to avail 'A' class facility/Pay ward facility without payment of any charges in Government Hospitals.

(b) Transport Facility:

The Freedom Fighters, drawing Central or State Pension, their widows and legal heirs are given free bus pass 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) Priority in Employment:

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

(e) Funeral Expenses:

A sum of Rs.5,000/- is being sanctioned immediately to the wife or the immediate legal heirs of the Freedom Fighters towards funeral expenses in the event of death of the Freedom Fighter. As a mark of respect to the deceased Freedom Fighter, an officer not below the rank of a Tahsildar from the Revenue Department on behalf of the Government will place a wreath on the body of the deceased Freedom Fighter.

It will be applicable to those who are receiving State / Central Freedom Fighters Pension or receiving both pensions.

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

Sl. No.	Various Kinds of Pensions	Numbers
1.	Freedom Fighters receiving State Freedom Fighters Pension (Rs.13,000 + Rs. 500/- Medical Allowance per month)	214
2.	Dependants receiving Family Pension (Rs.6,500 + Rs. 500/- Medical Allowance per month)	1,246
3.	Descendants of Sivagangai Marudhu Pandiar Brothers (Rs.6,500/- per month)	106
4.	Descendants of Veerapandia Kattabomman (Rs.6,500/- per month)	5
5.	Descendants of Muthuramalinga Vijaya Raghunatha Sethupathy (Rs.6,500/- per month)	62
6.	Descendants of V.O.Chidambaranar (Rs. 6,500/- per month)	1

CENTRAL PENSION SCHEME:

41. The Central Government has been implementing the scheme of Freedom Fighters Pension (Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension) with effect from 15-8-1972. The Government of India has now changed the nomenclature of the scheme as “Swatantrata Sainik Samman Yojana” with effect from 01-04-2017 According to this Scheme, the following concessions are granted:

- (i) Each recipient of Swatantrata Sainik Samman Yojana is getting Rs.26,000/- as monthly pension along with Dearness Allowance with effect from 1-1-2017. The total number of persons who are receiving Central Freedom Fighters Pension / Family Pension is 987.

- (ii) State Pension of Rs.500/- per month from the State Fund is paid to those who receive Central Freedom Fighters Pension/Central Family Pension.

42. For the year 2018-2019, a total sum of Rs.17,28,25,000/- has been provided for the political pension schemes mentioned above.

O. PANNEERSELVAM
Deputy Chief Minister