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Title: Regarding dharna staged by freedom fighters from Telangana at Jantar Mantar, Parliament Street demanding freedom fighters' pension.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (NALGONDA): Sir, yesterday, several hundreds of freedom fighters from the erstwhile Hyderabad State, known as Telangana Freedom Fighters, had come to Delhi and organized a *dharna* demanding that their pensions should immediately be sanctioned. It is a matter of serious concern for the entire nation and a matter of shame to the Government that our freedom fighters, who have fought for the liberation of our country, are coming after several years requesting for their pensions. Sir, about 10 years back, the previous Government had appointed a Hyderabad State Freedom Fighters Special Screening Committee, which recommended 13,500 cases. 27,000 applications were rejected. But unfortunately, even though the UPA Government has taken a political decision to sanction these freedom fighters' pension, the bureaucratic officers are withholding it. Several hundreds of them have died in between. It is a very unfortunate situation. I demand that the Government of India should immediately intervene and see to it that pension of those freedom fighters, whose names have been recommended earlier by the Screening Committee, should immediately be sanctioned.