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Title : Need to provide Central Government pension to the freedom fighters.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to place before the House some serious issues of freedom fighters of our country. The Government of India has already identified the freedom struggles in various parts of our nation. The Government has also directed the State Governments to form Screening Committees to identify the deserved persons in these struggles. Accordingly, various State Governments have constituted district- wise and State-wise Committees. These Committees have finalised the list of freedom fighters with proper verifications.

The State Government has already sanctioned State freedom fighters pension and requested the Central Government for Central pension also. Freedom fighters have individually given the representations to the Central Government. The Central Government has sanctioned few of these applications and most of them are rejected. There is no justification for the denial of the representations of the freedom fighters who scarified their lives for this country. The number of freedom fighters who are still alive are few in number and many of them are in sick conditions. They are not able to go to the judicial courts for justice. The Government have already identified the struggles of Kayyur, Karivellur, Punapravayalar, Thebhaga, Thelugana, Goa and some other in various parts of the country. Though concerned State Governments have sanctioned freedom pensions to them, but the Central Government have selected very few among them. It is sad that even after 62 years of our Independence we could not show justice to those who fought for this country. So, I request the Government to take immediate steps to sanction the Central Government pension to those who have already received the State pensions.