

श्री सतपाल कपूर : बाजपेयी जी रेलवे बोर्ड को सपोर्ट भी करते हैं और उसको मुद्दालिफत भी करते हैं—पता नहीं आपकी क्या पालिसी है ।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : लेकिन आप अभी तक पार्टी से यह बात मनवा नहीं सके हैं । कांग्रेस के सारे मेम्बर कहते हैं कि रेलवे बोर्ड एवांश करना चाहिये फिर भी नहीं होता है तो सारे कांग्रेस मेम्बरों की टोकरी में फेंक देने के लायक है ।

श्री भागवत सा आनंद : पहले आप अपने को फेंक दीजिये । (व्यवधान) पहले आप अपना मुंह बाला कर लीजिये । क्या भावा है आपकी ?

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : भावा की बात मत कीजिये । आपने जो भावा का स्तर कायम किया है वह तारीफ करने के लायक नहीं है । (व्यवधान) ।

समापति महोदय : आप कल अपना भाषण जारी रखेंगे । अब अगला आइटम लिया जायेगा ।

17.31 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

EXTENSION OF PERIOD FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT OF PENSION TO FREEDOM FIGHTERS

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA (Telli-cherry): Mr. Chairman, on the 8th of August, when the Minister answered the question regarding the pension given to freedom fighters, some of the very important problems came up and that is why I thought it necessary to raise half-an hour discussion. Today again this question was raised in this House and the Government have made detailed statement regarding the applications that have been received and the pensions granted and the applications disposed of. I am very sorry to say that whatever might be the explanation the Government gives regarding the inadequacy of the number

of staff or the difficulty about finding a place for them to work etc. there has been rather unpardonable delay in taking a decision. There is bureaucratic delay in taking a decision and it has its other implications too. There are tens of thousands of applications which have been referred back. According to the statement 49,935, nearly 50,000 applications have been referred back seeking explanations from pensioners. I think the Government should keep in mind one thing when they are doing so. The very idea of giving pension has come from the fact that the nation and the Government have decided to honour those people who dedicated their entire life or atleast the best part of their life for the freedom of this country. As a mark of recognition of that sacrifice and their noble patriotism the Government had decided to give pension to them. But now it has been reduced, I do not say in all cases; but in many cases. Some bureaucrats sitting in the Ministry are pretending themselves to be so big and they are treating the freedom fighters as somebody who is stretching his hand seeking some bakshish from somebody. That attitude, which has been displayed in so many cases, should change.

I am very happy that the Government is taking some decision in this regard. But what is the positive decision or step that the Government will take to avoid such undue delay which is now taking place in taking a final decision with regard to pension?

Naturally, the freedom-fighters are mostly old people, some very old and invalid and others poor. Some of them have already died while their cases were pending with the Government. Will Government take some step by which preference will be given in the consideration of applications of freedom-fighters who are very old, invalid or poor? Will they take some special measures to see that their cases will be disposed of immediately? Will the hon. Minister appoint some more officials to process the applications and dispose of them? Some time limit should be fixed and the Government should come out with a categorical

[Shri C. K. Chandrappan]

statement that all the applications pending with the Government will be disposed of within a certain period, which should not be two or three years but a few months.

There were certain very special cases which were brought to the notice of Government to which we have not received any clear answer. In fact, I have brought this to the notice of Shri Pant. There are some people from my State who in their statement days in the early or late thirties studied in big cities like Bombay or Calcutta and who took part in the freedom movement. They were put behind the bars and after their release they left those cities and came back to Kerala. The jail authorities of those cities are not in a position to give them a certificate about the tenure for which they were in those jails, because they were in a big city only for a few years and they do not now know their old jail mates who might have now become MPs or MLAs. What is to be done in such cases? I can cite many specific cases of this nature where pension has not been paid to them and, in fact, their cases have been rejected. Suppose we bring up such cases, supported by people of long standing in politics, MPs or MLAs or ex-MPs or ex-MLAs who might have been their jail-mates, will you consider their case favourably?

Then there are people who had gone underground for long periods many-many decades back. They could produce advertisements inserted by the police in the newspapers about them, saying that such and such people are absconding. But they could not introduce any official record to show that they were underground. Now they are being denied pension. What can you do in such cases?

Then there are some very peculiar cases. Take the case of people who were sentenced and kept in jails in places which are now in Pakistan. Obviously, they cannot produce any jail documents. What will you do in those cases?

Then, I have been told that a deputation has already met the Prime Minister in this connection. Shri Indrajit Gupta was also there in that deputation. The deputation was from Bangladesh. There were people who took part in the freedom movement. If the Bangladesh Government has no objection in their receiving pension from the Government of India, what will be the decision that the Government of India will take on that matter.

Then, I would like the Government to spell out very clearly what they are going to do about those who participated in the liberation struggle of Goa, INA and RIN uprising. There are so many letters we are receiving that the people who applied for pension, their cases have not been decided. The Government had made certain position clear. I think, the case is pending; the case was rejected also and, if necessary, it should be reconsidered.

Now, I come to a case in which I am very much concerned and my people are also very much concerned. That is about the Moplah Rebellion in Kerala. The Government had answered a Question in the Rajya Sabha and two Questions in Lok Sabha where they had stated that they would not give any pension to the participants in the Moplah Rebellion in 1921-22. It is a fact that the Kerala Government is not a Government run by the Opposition parties alone. It is a Government in which the hon. Minister's party is a partner. It is a Government in which the Communist party is there and many other parties are there. That Government had decided to give pension to the participants of the Moplah Rebellion. And the decision was very correct. As is well-known, the Britishers tried to malign even the first war of Independence depicting as a communal uprising.

This is a book written in Malayalam. The author is Mr. Madhavan Nair who, incidentally, was the first elected President of the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee and who directly took part

in that Rebellion. He did not describe it in the most unsympathetic manner as a communal riot or anything like that. I do not know from where the Home Ministry claimed and Mr. Mohsin claimed, that he had referred to history book and then came to a decision. I would only request the Government that it is better for the Home Ministry to refer to the book written by one of the former leaders of the Congress party. Also it is good for them to refer to the "History of Congress party in Kerala" which was published by the K.P.C.C. whose this is not depicted as a communal riot.

It was a peasant revolt. It was a revolt in which the Congress leaders and the Khilafat movement leaders together came out, hand in hand, denouncing the British colonial administration in the country and pleaded for the country's Independence. Of course, there were aberrations. Nobody denies that. But the main trend, the main spirit, behind the Moplah movement was that it was a peasant revolt and it was a revolt of these people who wanted this country to be free.

Lastly, I come to Telengana uprisings against the Nizam. I am not referring to recent Telengana movement. I am referring to Telengana uprising against the Nizam and the Razakars. Answering a Question last year, the Minister said that in consultation with the State Government, they will take a final decision and they will place it on the Table of the House. They have not done so. I would only request the Home Minister to consider this question sympathetically because that was a movement of the peasants against one of those former kings who tried to disintegrate this country and to create an atmosphere instigated by the Britishers against the very interest of India. He brought about a terrible Razakar movement to disintegrate the country and to threaten the country's freedom against which the peasants took to arms and fought. What is the decision of the Government with regard to this?

These are my specific questions and I hope that the Minister will reply, positively to these questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before I call upon the members who got the priority in the ballot that was drawn—there are four of them here may I make a request? Because the subject is very important, to enable the Minister to deal with the matter properly and to make the discussion really meaningful, the members may please be brief and precise. I request them to put their questions with precision.

Shri P. G. Mavalankar.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR (Ahmedabad): Although it is true that the Minister has given fairly detailed replies on this problem on the 8th August and 22nd August, i.e., today, we find that a number of questions still remain unanswered, a number of difficulties remain unsolved. That is why, I am asking these questions.

First of all I want to know how far it is legitimate or right to have a time limit for receiving applications. Because you set a last date, a time limit, a large number of applications come to you within that particular time limit. It is not more desirable to let the applications come in their normal course and thereby relieve the pressure?

Secondly, in view of the fact that a large number of applications have already been received, is it not a fact that a number of these applications have been proved to be bogus? In particular, I want to know whether the Home Minister has seen a report by one Shri Yogendra Bali that appeared in the *Times of India* on 9th August mentioning the heading 'Bogus claimants to political pension pose problems to Government'. The *Statesman* of Delhi of 11th July also spotlighted this problem by giving a story on 'Tamra Patras for the Asking'.

Is it not a fact that many of those who received tamra patras,—and some of them very old—have not yet received their pensions? One Mrs. Chanchal Ben of Surendra Nagar in Gujarat, who is 96 years old, received tamra patra

[Shri P. K. Mavalankar]

from the hands of the Prime Minister and she embraced the Prime Minister. But even after one full year she had not received her pension. When the news came, I wrote to the Prime Minister and the reply was that the case was still being processed. At last, the pension has been granted. My question is this. In processing the applications, will the Minister see to it that the very old and infirm are given the first priority so that they get some benefit out of this pension and do not get it posthumously? Shrimati Chanchal Ben went to the office of the District Collector of Surendranagar at the age of 96 and said, 'Take back the tamra patra what "I want is my pension."

I also want to know what are they doing about bogus applications, bogus claimants.

Then I want to know whether the people who participated in the States people's movement—in the former princely States—before independence are considered as fit cases for getting pension under this scheme.

Regarding the naval ratings uprising of 1946 in Bombay, none of them was in civil jails and, therefore, they are unable to produce certificates which are required to be produced as per Government rules. I request that Government may please waive that rules in respect of these people.

Lastly, the Indian National Army people are already being considered eligible for this pension scheme. Government have appointed one committee here. Will it not be possible for the Government to appoint on this committee either of the two office bearers of the Azad Hind Fauz Association, 82 Darya Ganj, Delhi, because that Association and the officers concerned are very active in this particular problem of INA personnel.

The Minister of State for Home Affairs, Mr. K. C. Pant, said the other

day that many of the cases had been referred back to the States. I want to ask whether these cases which were referred to the States would come back to the Centre after scrutiny by the States or whether they would be disposed of at the State level.

These are some of my questions.

*SHRI S. A. MURUGANANTHAM (Tirunelveli): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the Half-an-Hour Discussion regarding grant of pension to Freedom Fighters. I will put seven specific questions and I hope that the hon. Minister of Home Affairs will reply to them.

Sir, the State Government of Tamil Nadu was giving political pension of Rs. 75 per month to the freedom fighters until recently. The Central Government used to deduct this Rs. 75 from the political pension granted to the freedom fighters and a net sum of Rs. 125 or 150 was being given to them by the Central Government. Now that the State Government of Tamil Nadu has stopped the political pension of Rs. 75, I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Home Affairs whether the Central Government would include this sum in the pension granted by them and pay to the freedom fighters a sum of Rs. 200 or Rs. 225 as the case may be.

Secondly, Sir, I would like to inform the House that there is inordinate and unconscionable delay in granting the pension to the freedom fighters. As you know, Sir, most of the freedom fighters are beyond the age of 60 and several of them are also invalid and suffering from severe ailments. Pinning their hopes on this pension, they have incurred debts and it is but natural that they would like to die honourably by paying off these debts with the political pension they will get. The inordinate delay in sanctioning the pension has hit them very hard. I would

*The original speech was delivered in Tamil.

like to appeal to the hon. Minister of Home Affairs that priority should be given in the matter of sanctioning the pension to the freedom fighters who are aged more than 60, who are invalid and diseased. This will enable them to have the satisfaction of clearing off their debts before their death.

Sir, I would like to refer to the directive of the Home Ministry which stipulates that the freedom fighters whose applications are received later than August 14, 1973 would not be eligible to get the pension from August 15, 1972. I request that this kind of rigid approach so far as the freedom fighters are concerned should be given up. After all, they have also sacrificed their everything for the freedom of the country. This stipulation should be liberalised and they should also get their pension from August 15, 1972, though their applications are received later than August 14, 1973.

Sir, in the matter of honouring the freedom fighters, there should not be any discrimination. In these days, some Judges who were sympathetic to the cause of our freedom did not impose sentences even upto six months. They used to be liberal and sentenced the freedom fighters upto 1 month or 2 months. Now that should not prevent them from getting the pension. It is not their fault that they were not sentenced upto six months or more than six months. I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Home Affairs whether those cases would also be considered for the grant of pension.

Sir, April 7, 1954, July 14, 1954 and August 9, 1954 are red-letter days in the history of freedom of Pondicherry from the yoke of French Colonial Rule there. The people of Pondicherry waged their heroic struggle for freedom of Pondicherry and for the mercy of Pondicherry with India on these dates. The then Indian Ambassador, Padma Sri Kewal Singh, and also the entire Press eulogised the valiant struggle of the freedom fighters. Just because they did not undergo six months' imprisonment and because they went underground, they have been denied the political pension. I would like to know

from the hon. Minister of Home Affairs whether these freedom fighters in Pondicherry would be made eligible for pension from the Government of India. I appeal to the hon. Minister that their case should be considered favourably.

During the Second World War, many patriotic Indians in Andaman-Nicobar Islands fought against the Japanese Imperial Forces which had occupied the Islands. They are not being considered for pension. I would request the hon. Minister of Home Affairs that their case also should be considered sympathetically and political pension must be granted to them.

Sir, in many cases the freedom fighters have undergone cumulatively more than six months' imprisonment, but not at a time. Just because they have not undergone imprisonment for six months at a stretch, their applications for pension have been rejected. The freedom fighters who have undergone imprisonment cumulatively for six months or more should be made eligible for political pension.

Lastly, Sir, the uneducated wives and minor children of deceased freedom fighters are naturally unable to run about for getting this certificate or the other. In such cases, the Government of India should not apply the rules and regulations in a rigid manner. The Government of India should adopt a liberal approach for sanctioning pension to the widows and minor children of deceased freedom fighters. Before I conclude, I would like to point out that in case a freedom fighter has got a family income of Rs. 5000 or more annually—his wife or son may have an annual income of Rs. 5000—he is debarred from getting the political pension from the Government of India. I would say that this is doing injustice to such freedom fighters who had risked their life and everything for the freedom of the country. I would appeal to the hon. Minister of Home Affairs that this stipulation should be repealed.

I would like to have categorical replies from the hon. Minister of Home Affairs on the points I have raised.

श्री चण्डिका प्रसाद (बलिया) : भारत सरकार ने स्वतंत्रता संग्राम के सैनानियों को पेंशन देने का जो योजना बनाई है और उसमें उदार शर्तों को रखा है उसके लिए वह सराहना की पात्र है। लेकिन उसमें आपने एक शर्त यह लगा रखी है कि छः महीने की कम से कम किसी को सजा होनी चाहिए। ऐसे किसस भी हैं जिन में चार महीने की सजा हुई और पचास रुपये जुर्माना किया गया और जुर्माना न देने की अवस्था में दो महीने की और सजा दी गई। पचास रुपये किसी का सामान मिलाव करके वसूल कर लिये गये थे या किसी ने जमा करवा दिये थे और चार महीने की सजा काटी थी। उन दिनों यह राशि भी बहुत अधिक होती थी। इस तरह से जो चार महीने के बाद छूट गये उन को भी आप यह सुविधा देंगे ? जिन्होंने इस तरह से पचास रुपये जमा करा दिये या उन से वसूल कर लिए गए और चार महीने की सजा काटी क्या आप उनको भी यह सुविधा देंगे ? क्या उनको भी आप छः महीने सजा वाली कैटेगरी में रखेंगे और पेंशन देंगे।

उत्तर प्रदेश के पूर्वी जिलों और बिहार में कितने ही आश्रम चलते थे जैसे मिलकी आश्रम बलिया में है। बाबा लछमन दास इसको चलाते थे कांग्रेस के कार्यकर्ता उसमें शरण लेते थे। भीख मांग करके, चूटकी चूटकी भर घाटा इकट्ठा किया जाता था और कांग्रेस के कार्यकर्ताओं को भोजन करवाया जाता था। आज भी वे आश्रम भिखा पर चल रहे हैं। मिलकी में एक कांफ्रेंस हुई थी जिस में स्वर्गीय श्री गोविंद बल्लभ पंत और पंडित जवाहर लाल नेहरू गए थे। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि ऐसे आश्रम जो हैं वहाँ जो उत्तराधिकारी हैं, जो चले हैं, जो अशक्त हैं, अपाहिज हैं, भीख मांग कर गुजारा करते हैं, उन को भी इसकी सुविधा दी जायेगी ?

आपने पेंशन देने के लिए इनकम की शर्त रखी है। लेकिन उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने

पेंशन पुरस्कार के रूप में देना तय किया है। उनकी कुर्बानी और उनके त्याग के वास्ते उसने कहा है कि उनको इनाम के रूप में पेंशन दी जायेगी। वहाँ इनकम का कोई प्रतिबंध नहीं लगाया गया है। क्या उसी आधार पर भारत सरकार भी स्वतंत्रता सैनानियों को पेंशन देने पर विचार करेगी ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB GOTKHI (Sangli): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there are any cases about the freedom fighters who were sentenced to undergo imprisonment of not less than six months but who were released much earlier than this for no fault of theirs? Whether such cases would also be considered *suo moto*, if they are rejected earlier? They were sentenced for a period of not less than six months but for no fault of theirs they were released earlier.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Good behaviour might have been their fault.

SHRI ANNASAHEB GOTKHI (Sangli): Not that way. It has been stated that in the case of a jail certificate not being available a certificate from the co-prisoner who is sitting M.L.A. or M.P. or an ex-M.P. or ex-M.L.A. is required. I represent a constituency which, at that time, was comprised of princely States where such a movement was going on there and many of the freedom fighters were lodged in the jail run by the State Government. No jail certificate was available and there is not a single M.P. or M.L.A. who was lodged with them in some of these jails in those days. So, my submission would be that either the Government will have to give or the party will have to give a certificate for these freedom fighters who were lodged in those jails. Surely, I may point out a peculiar case. There is no freedom fighter by name Shri V. R. Panwalkar from Ratnagiri District who is aged 76. He was awarded *tamra patra* at the hands of the Prime Minister on 15th August, 1972. His case was referred back to him. Why? Some infor-

mation was called for from him. There are a number of such freedom fighters who have undergone imprisonment. And in many cases, they were awarded tamra patra in Delhi at the hands of the Prime Minister. The case about this gentleman about whom I said just now should be decided earlier.

There is one more point. In Satara and Sangli Districts they were running a parallel Government. Many of them had gone underground. They all come from that area. But, there is no certificate available to know whether the person is belonging to that category of underground or not. I want to know one thing. I have got an Extract from the Bombay Chronicle, Vol. 34, No. 99, dated 26th April, 1946 page 2. This is a Government document which refers to a list of releases and under-trial and absconders. I want to know from the Government whether the Government would review this document in order to know which person was an absconder as mentioned in this document given by the Government about 25 years back? Lastly, I was told that there are a number of cases from Goa which are yet to be decided. I am referring to one case. In that case, one Shri Sathe, who hails from my constituency and who has worked and fought in the Goa struggle was sentenced for twenty four years of rigorous imprisonment. But, the sentence was awarded in absentia. I am not championing the cause of any particular person. But here is the case of a person who was awarded by the then military tribunal a sentence of 24 years' rigorous imprisonment. Why should these cases not be decided early?

18 hrs.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT): I am very glad to find that certain very important matters have been raised, and this gives us an opportunity to clarify misgivings or misunderstandings and also to take well points where we think that they gaps have been left.

Shri Chandrapan who has initiated this discussion has raised several matters which are of common importance, which other hon. Members have also raised.

But of the points raised by him, one is of special significance, and that is in regard to the Mopla rebellion participants.

It is not that the Government had either in this or in any other case or category taken any other consideration into account except the basic principle namely whether the people participated in the emancipation of India from the bondage of foreign rule. Whether they were violent or non-violent, whether they were from the south or from the north, whether they belonged to one party or another, now or then, all these considerations have not influenced our decision, at all.

So far as the Mopla rebellion is concerned, I do not want to give all the literature etc., nor do I want to give the impression that all those who at that time had acted badly or anything of that kind. I do not want to be misunderstood on that score. We have gone into the history of the movement. We have gone not only into the documents and telegrams and letters that passed between the Government of Madras and the Viceroy and between the Viceroy and the Secretary of State, but also into statements like those of Mahatma Gandhi, resolutions passed by the Indian National Congress, and recorded statements after research contained in writings by well-known historians like Mr. Majumdar. All these incontrovertible pieces of evidence go against the proposal.

I would not like to say that substantially and essentially, it became a communal movement. Mahatma Gandhi has expressed in words of anguish how this movement was essentially a communal movement; the loss of property and loss of life was confined to one community only. Looting, arson and a number of things happened. Now, if we take this up, it will highly complicate the matter, and we shall convert this question which is above party-politics and which is above controversy into something like a controversial matter.

[Shri Uma Shanker Dikshit]

My request to the hon. Member who has raised this discussion is this. I am willing to show him all the evidence that we have gone into. But I would request the House to take this as my assurance that personally I do not think that there is any reason why we should necessarily disbelieve the correspondence that took place between the district magistrate and between the local magistrate and the Madras Government and between the Madras Government and the Central Government, and between the Central Government and the Secretary of State; I do not think, necessarily that is so, but apart from that.....

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA: Why should the State Government's decision not be considered?

SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT: We have not got much time, and, therefore, let us not diverge from the main point. I can quote from the *Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi* his comments on the Mopla rebellion. Mahatma Gandhi says:

"My heart bleeds to think all our Mopla brethren have gone mad; I am grieved to think that they have looted Hindu houses, leaving many hundreds of men and women homeless and foodless. I am grieved to think that they have endeavoured forcibly to convert Hindus into Islam."

"and by all these acts they have done me an injury".

I do not want to give all the details as it will not help either the atmosphere or the cause which we all have at heart and I do not think there should be any insistence in including them.

As far the RIN rebellion and all other similar freedom fighters, they have been included. The INA personnel who participated, they have been included. Wherever we have found according to historical research that there was any movement either on a large scale or on a small scale

including any movement in the Indian States, which was essentially intended to be for the political emancipation of the country, we have included all such cases. I think it would be a travesty of the principal that has been accepted to include the participants in the Mopla rebellion in this category.

As for the point made about the old, sick and invalid and so on, I entirely agreed. There are certain classes still left over. In most such cases clarifications have not been received. People have merely said that they had gone to jail for such and such things. In 70 cases* we received very serious complaints. In the morning, I used rather strong language and I do not want to repeat it. But even such allegations as I mentioned in the morning have been received. There are about 70 such complaints in which various kinds of charges of falsehood and so on and so forth have been levelled. We have held up in some cases, and in some also stopped payment of pension.

So let us not proceed on the assumption that any paper received either with a thumb impression or signature purporting to be from someone is necessarily a document on the basis of which we should give pension, hard-earned money of the people collected as taxes.

As regards the old, sick and invalid, it has already been stated by my colleague several times here and in the other place that we give priority to old people. You may call the officers bureaucrats. After all, they are workers. Their number has increased four times of the original. One human being can make mistakes as any other. I request you to be so good as to point out in writing either to me or to my colleagues or direct to the officers as to what happened in a particular claim and I assure that with complete impartiality, we will go into the matter and will not stick simply to the technical aspect.

But there are other matters. For instance, two or three cases were mentioned in which an old lady or an old gentleman has been asked for clarification, although *tamra patra* was given to him or her. Even where a person has suffered imprisonment for six months or a year, if his or her income is not certified or shown to be Rs. 5,000 or less, naturally we have to consider the matter. Supposing I am in affluent circumstances and I had suffered one or two years in jail, today I or my progeny is not entitled to this pension.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री (पटना) : बहुत से ऐसे लोग हैं जिन की आमदनी 5 हजार से कम है, उन को ताम्रपत्र दिया गया है पर पेंशन नहीं।

श्री उमाशंकर बोशित : ऐसे मामलों में श्रीमान्, माननीय सदस्य हमको बताए तो हम बखोले। (व्यवधान) . . एक केस में तो आपने रुकवाया है और जिसमें आप आगे कहेंगे उस को देख लेंगे। . . (व्यवधान) . . एक बार मैं आपको फिर से आश्वासन देना चाहता हूँ। परन्तु जो योजना है आप उसको बढ़ाने की कोशिश करेंगे तो मैं असमर्थ हूँ। हम ने छः माह का शर्त लगाई है, जहाँ पर अन्डरप्राउंड का केस है वहाँ पर यह किया है कि एक्स्ट्राडिट डिक्लेयर हुए हों या ऐसी कोई बात हुई हो। यदि हम इस को और आगे बढ़ाएंगे और ऐसा कहेंगे कि तीन-महीने वाला रह गया या एक महीने वाला रह गया तो अवश्य कठिनाई खड़ी होगी। इस लिए समझ लीजिए कि कुछ इस पेंशन योजना में अवश्य छूट जायेंगे जिन्होंने कुछ त्याग किया है।

महात्मा गांधी जी की हम लोगों को यह सलाह थी—मैं समस्त सदस्यों से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ—कि स्वतंत्रता सैनानियों को कुछ नहीं देना चाहिए, उन्होंने कोई अहसान नहीं किया है। साथ ही यह भी कहा ऐसा न करे कि हमारे देश के अन्य लोगों में और इनमें कोई अन्तर पैदा हो। उन को दे दें और दूसरों को कुछ न दें—ऐसा अन्तर हम नहीं करे। इसी लिए 20-25 वर्षों तक नहीं किया गया। जब यह समझा गया कि ये लोग दुखी हैं, इस के कारण उनका यातनाएं हो रही हैं और हमारे जो राष्ट्र का सम्मान है उस को हानि पहुँच रही है, तब यह किया गया। यह आशा आप न रखें कि जो एक दिन भी जेल गया हो, उस को भी पेंशन दी जाये, यह सम्भव नहीं है।

लेकिन एक आश्वासन देना चाहता हूँ—बहुत समझ कर शब्दों को तोल कर आश्वासन दे रहा हूँ—यदि कोई विशेष व्यक्ति है या विशेष उदाहरण है या विशेष घटना से सम्बन्धित व्यक्ति है, जिस के सम्बन्ध में आपका यह मत है कि उस समय का यातनाओं से उसने बहुत दुख सहा है या आज उसकी ऐसी स्थिति है कि नियम भग होने के बावजूद भी विचारणीय है तो मैं यह कहूँगा कि हम उस पर सहानुभूति-पूर्वक विचार करेंगे। . . .

(Interruptions). You wrote to me and I shall consider them. Even if a case has been rejected wrongly, I shall reconsider it.

18.10 hrs. . .

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock Thursday, August 23, 1973 | Bhadra V, 1895 (Saka). —