

**Pension to Former Revolutionaries and  
Political Prisoners**

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\*517. **SHRI SAMAR GUHA :**  
**SHRI RAMACHANDRAN**  
**KADANNAPPALLI :**

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have agreed to make a reappraisal of their policy regarding honorarium in the form of pension to former revolutionaries and political prisoners who suffered long term imprisonment either as detenue or political convict ;

(b) whether appeals were made to Government to extend same facilities and honorarium to other revolutionaries and political prisoners of the freedom struggle days who passed five years or more in British jails or detention camps as have been extended to the Andaman Prisoners ; and

(c) if so, whether Government have arrived at any final decision on this matter ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI  
K. C. PANT) :** (a) to (c). Government have formulated a scheme of pension for freedom fighters who were imprisoned in the Andamans or were deported to jails outside the country. Some representations have been received that the benefit of the scheme should be extended to other freedom fighters who had suffered long terms of imprisonment in the mainland jails. These suggestions are under consideration.

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA :** Sir, the matter was raised last December in the course of a Call Attention Motion in this House. Almost the whole House made an appeal to the Government. It is 2½ decades almost and the Government has done practically nothing for those freedom fighters. They have dedicated their lives for the freedom of the country, on account of which you are there now. This is a matter of shame for the Government. Cannot they spend at least Rs. 1 crore for those persons ? I want that the Prime Minister should reply.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Please ask a question only.

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA :** The whole House was almost unanimous in its appeal. Mr. K. C. Pant said : We will consider also those who spent time in jails abroad, for instance, Portugal etc. We will consider freedom fighters also, and other prisoners. That is what has come out. They have made commitment in the House. I want to know how long they will take to decide about the question of extension of the national honorarium to those who have spent their lives in jails, either as detenues or as prisoners in connection with freedom movement etc. I would like to know how long it will take them to come to a final conclusion to say whether honorarium will be given to them or not.....

**SHRI SREEKANTAN NAIR :** So that some of us may also get it...

**SHRI K. C. PANT :** There can be no question of any lack of feeling on the part of the Government in regard to the debt that the country owns to the freedom fighters. But that debt cannot be made up in terms of honoraria and pensions. Primarily it is for the State Governments to pay pensions and this is left to the State Governments to provide for the freedom fighters. Most of the State Governments have got schemes of their own and they have taken various steps for the last 22 years, to which Mr. Guha referred to. These include lumpsum cash grants, land grants, monthly pensions, refund of fines imposed for participation in freedom movement, restoration of confiscated property, rehabilitation loans, educational concessions to their children, preference for employment in Government service, relaxation of age-limit, etc. It is not correct to say that nothing has been done.

Regarding extension of the scheme to those who are deported outside the country I have said in my reply itself that the scheme is extended now to those who were deported to jails outside the country. As to the extension of the scheme to other freedom fighters, I said, that is under consideration.

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA :** On the 14th December Government mentioned that State Governments are giving pensions to the political prisoners.

These freedom-fighters had sacrificed their all and had spent a major portion of

their life in jail in the British days not only for the freedom of different States only but also for the freedom of the whole country. It is not a fact that in the States only nominal pension of Rs. 25 or 30 or at most Rs. 50 is given to them? If so, it is a matter of shame, I should say...

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA : In my State, they are given pensions of the order of Rs. 250 or Rs. 300 or even Rs. 400. So, it is wrong to say that the amount of pensions is very low. Further, we have given them lands also. So, my hon. friend cannot make a general statement in respect of all States that the pension amount is low.

श्री हुकम चंद कछवाय : अपने चापलूसों को देते होंगे ।

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA : There is no question of *chaploosi* here. It is a fact. (*Interruption*).

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member should know that that was not directed against him. He did not feel the implications of what was said, namely that the lowest amounts were of that order...

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA : It was a question of his stating wrong facts. Therefore, I wanted to correct him

MR. SPEAKER : But he cannot get up and speak without my permission. He is a very senior Member. Why should he do so ?

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : I am surprised to find that at least there is one living coward for the standing for this Government, the standing shame of two and a half...

MR. SPEAKER : That was what I feared he might say.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : I want to know from Government whether these revolutionaries and freedom-fighters had sacrificed their lives for the freedom of the States only or for national freedom, and if they have sacrificed their all for national freedom, then whether Government would not take up the responsibility of considering the whole matter from the national plan and draw up a national plan for giving national honours to the freedom-fighters?

May I also know whether it is a fact that some States have extended the age-limit up to 60, as for instance in West Bengal, for the freedom-fighters who have entered Government service, and if so, whether the Central Government are going to give this benefit to those who are employed under the Central Government by extending their service period up to 60 years because most of them had joined Government service very late ?

MR. SPEAKER : There are so many 'ifs' and 'buts'.

SHRI K. C. PANT : He has put a number of questions.

MR. SPEAKER : But he can give one reply.

AN HON. MEMBER : He may reply to the last part of the question.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member seems to be lost in the question himself.

SHRI K. C. PANT : The amount of pension given by the different States varies ; it is Rs. 20 to 50 in Gujarat...

SHRI S. A. SHAMIM : Rs. 20 for those who have spent six months or more in jail ?

SHRI K. C. PANT : It goes up to Rs. 75 in Jammu and Kashmir, and in Madhya Pradesh up to Rs. 100, and in Rajasthan, up to Rs. 250 and so on. It is different in the different States...

SHRI ISHAQ SAMBHALI : What about UP ?

SHRI K. C. PANT : My hon. friend has raised the point with regard to the calling-attention-notice and has asked whether we took any notice of what was said in the House. We did take notice of it naturally, and in fact, we wrote to all the State Governments conveying to them the sentiments that were expressed in this House and specifically telling those States where the pensions were low that the amount was not enough and that it should be raised ; and we had pointed out to them that in some of the States the pension amounts were more and we had advised those who were paying less to increase the amount. That was what we had done in

February this year. We have also given more assistance to freedom-fighters and revolutionaries for self-employment and extended the same facilities to the INA men who had joined the Azad Hind Fauj movement.

So we have taken note of all these suggestions and have written to all the State Governments. The broad approach so far of the State Governments has been that those who are in need should be given these pensions.

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA :** What about extension of service ? Some of them joined very late. Some States have extended the age to 60. What about those who have been employed in the Central Government...

**MR. SPEAKER :** Please sit down. Do not do like this. I am sorry.

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA :** You should also pull up this Government.

**SHRI RAMACHANDRAN KADAN-NAPPALLI :** The Kerala Government have sanctioned a pension of Rs. 50 per mensem to freedom fighters. The total annual recurring expenditure would come to Rs. 17 lakhs. The Kerala Government have sought 50 per cent financial assistance from the Government of India.

May I know whether the Government has received any request from the State Government for assistance and whether any action has been taken on that request ?

**SHRI K. C. PANT :** I could not here the question. The Kerala Government have decided to grant Rs. 50 per mensem. All the details are being settled.

**श्री भारत सिंह चौहान :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह मामला बहुत मीरियस है। मैं 25 साल से इस सम्बन्ध में प्रयत्नशील हूँ और पिछली लोक सभा में भारतीय क्रान्तिकारी लोगों के लिए बाघे घटे की चर्चा हुई थी जिसमें शासन ने यह आश्वासन दिया था कि उनके लिये जो करना चाहिये था वह हमने नहीं किया और यह उचित है कि हम उनके लिए और भी करें। लेकिन अभी तक दो साल हो गये, वह बाघे घटे की चर्चा जो इस सदन में हुई थी

उसमें जो बड़े-बड़े आश्वासन दिए गये थे उ की पूर्ति नहीं की गई और घलन-घलन राज्यों में जो भ्रमर्याप्त पेंशन दी जा रही है उसे बढ़ाने की व्यवस्था नहीं की गई। मैं चाहता हूँ कि अखिल भारतीय स्तर पर उनके लिए कुछ किया जाय। उनकी प्रतिभा का लोभ देश को मिल सके इसके लिए\*\*

**MR. SPEAKER :** I am asking the Reporters not to record it. I am repeating this every day. Why are you not caring for it ?

**SHRI P. NARASIMHA REDDY :** In view of the fact that all the States in the Indian Union are not in a position to introduce such a scheme. Will the Government take over such schemes and offer incentives to the State so that such schemes are adopted all over the country ?

**SHRI K. C. PANT :** I think there is no State in the country which is so poor as not to afford this little money to the revolutionaries.

**SHRI KARTIK ORAON -** The tribes have never been found lagging behind in the national movement. I would like to particularly draw the attention of the Government to the cases of Thana Bhagats of Bihar who participated in the non-co-operation movement, as a result of which all the lands have been confiscated and auctioned. The Government have given a number of assurances at different times, but nothing has been done so far. I would like to know from the Government categorically as to what steps they have taken or are going to take to restore the lands in those areas.

**SHRI K. C. PANT :** We respect the contribution of Thana Bhagat and the others in the freedom movement. It would be invidious to single out any group or person because the whole country participated in that movement. As to what is being specifically done about their land, I require notice. I shall have to find out from the State Government.

**PROF. MADHU DANDEVATE :** Is it true that though the army men who joined the Indian National Army founded by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose were essentially

revolutionaries and freedom fighters, they are denied the facilities of pension, while the army men who remained loyal to the British Army were given these facilities, and if so, does the Government propose to move in the matter and give facilities of pension to the ex-INA men ?

**SHRI K. C. PANT :** Ex-INA personnel have also been treated as political sufferers for the purpose of giving financial assistance.

**Deterioration in Quality of I. A. S/  
I. F. S. Entrants**

\*518. **SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA :** Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the quality of entrants to the Indian Administrative Service/Indian Foreign Service has been deteriorating for the last fifteen years ; and

(b) if so the steps Government propose to take to rectify the situation ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) :** (a) and (b). Recruitment to the Indian Administrative Service and the Indian Foreign Service is made on the basis of a competitive examination conducted by the Union Public Service Commission every year. The Union Public Service Commission has set norms for the selection to these services keeping in view the requirements of the positions of responsibility, the members of these services are required to occupy.

A study made by the Government some-time back revealed a gradual fall in the proportion of first class graduates appearing at the Combined Competitive Examination, on the basis of the results of which recruitment is made, *inter-alia*, to the Indian Administrative Service and the Indian Foreign Service. The reasons for this fall as also its effect on the quality of entrants are being studied in depth. The action to rectify the situation will be decided on the basis of results of this study.

**SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA :** If the Government receive regular reports

on their performance, and I assume that they do, then, what is their assessment about the ability and integrity of the personnel of the IAS ?

**SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA :** As a whole, the performance of the Indian Administrative Service has been very satisfactory.

**SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA :** The hon. Minister was pleased to say that there has been a fall in the number of first class graduates appearing for IAS. What exactly are the reasons for this ? Are the reasons, firstly, that they are attracted to some other branches, and secondly, that there is less sense of security in the IAS ?

**SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA :** As I said, the whole thing is being studied in depth as to why first class graduates do not appear in the IAS examination and do not get selected in enough numbers. There could be various broad reasons for this. There are a lot of other competing attractions in business and industry where they might like to go. It is not possible to generalise about first class graduates because standards vary from university to university and it can sometimes well be that a second class graduate from one university is as good as, if not better than, a first class graduate in another university.

**SHRI A P SHARMA :** In view of the fact that the Administrative Reforms Commission has recommended that the maximum age limit of recruitment for the IAS should be increased to 26 years, may I know whether the Government has accepted that recommendation and if so what action has been taken to implement it ?

**SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA :** This recommendation of the Administrative Reforms Commission is under the consideration of Government.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** The hon. Minister states that this matter is being investigated in depth. Is it not a fact that they start on a very low salary and because of that the competent people are more attracted by the private sector than the IAS and IFS ? In that case would the Government increase their salaries and make them more lucrative as there is a brain-drain in favour of the private sector.