

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

But now there is an intense inter-fighting between the two Dais as well. Though there may be a glut of leaders E^nongst them, they lack total leadership. The recent elections to the Executive of the Shiromani Gurudwara Prabhandak Cornmittee, the apex body managing the Sikh shrines, has further complicated the situation with two factions claiming victory.

I, like all other hon. Members, am a strong votary of a political solution to the Punjab problem and am convinced that it is only through dialogue that Punjab can be restored to its pristine glory. But I am also conscious of the fact of the unpalatable reality that at present the Akalis, who erroneously claim to be the sole representatives of the major community in the State, have failed their constituents at a very critical juncture in their history and are in no position to provide a strong leadership.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Mr. Bansal you can continue after the lunch recess.

Now the House is adjourned 'or lunch and will again meet at 2. 30 p. m.

The House then adjourned for lunch at thirty-one minutes past one or the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at thirty-two minutes past two of the clock, The Deputy Chairman in the Chair.

STATEMENT THE MINISTER

II Grant of Pension to Eminent Freedom Fighters

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): Madam, Deputy Chairman, The House will recall that, at the instance of the Late Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi, the Government had taken up

the Scheme for grant of pension to freedom fighters in the Silver Jubilee year of Independence. The Scheme was subsequently liberalised and renamed as the Swatantrata Sai-nik Samman Pension Scheme. Although over 1, 43, 000 freedom fighters have so far been granted Samman Pension under th* scheme in addition to the pension? granted to freedom fighters by rspec tive State Governments under their own schemes, it was seen that a number of eminent freedom fighters whose contribution to the freedom movement is well-know had not applied for sanction of pension in their favour. It has been felt right and proper that they should be sanctioned pension irrespective of whether they applied for it or not. It has also been felt that it would he most apt to make such a gesture during the 40th Year of Independence.

It gives m_e greatest pleasure to announce that as a small token of the Nations gratitude to their invaluable contribution in the attainment of the goal of national independence it has been decided, wi*h the kind approval of the Prime Minister, to sanction Samman pension *suo-m. oto* to the following 97 eminent freedom fighters: —On this occasion, Madam_ I beg to place this on the Table of the House.

1. Shri R. Venkataraman, now* President of India
2. Giani Zail Singh, ex-President
3. Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, EX-CM Andhra Pradesh and now Union Minister
4. Shri N. SanjiVa Reddy, ex-President
5. Sardar Darbara Singh, ex-CM Punjab and now Member of Parliament
6. Shri H. N. Bahuguna, ex-CM of Uttar Pradesh and former Union Minister
7. Com. S. A. Dange, Communist Leader and Trade Union Leader

8. Shri B. T. Randadive, CPM leader of Bombay
9. Shri Vasant Roy Patil alias Vasant Dada Patil, Governor Rajas'han
10. Sh. C. Rajeshwar Rao, General Secretary of CPI
11. Shri Morarji Desai, Ex-CM Bombay and Ex-Prime Minister
12. Shri Babubhai Patel, ex-CM Gujarat
13. Shri Hitendra Desai, ex-CM, Gujarat
14. Shri Ghanshyambhai Ojha, ex-CM Gujarat
15. Shri R. R. Divakar, former Union Minister and Governor
16. Shri Prafulla Chandra Sen, Ex-CM West Bengal.
17. Com. E. M. S. Namboodripad, Ex-CM Kerala.
18. Shri Samar Mukherjee, Member of Parliament.
19. Shri Dev Kant Barooah, Ex-M. P. and former President Indian National Congress and Union Minister.
20. Shri Nilmony Routary,, Ex-CM Orissa.
21. Shri Biju Patnaik, Ex-CM Orissa.
22. Shri Devi Lai, Now CM Haryana.
23. Shri Mool Chand Jain, ex-Minister, Haryana.
24. Shri Achyut Patwardhan.
25. Shri S. M. Joshi.
26. Shri N. G. Goray, ex-M. P.
27. Shri Madhu Limaye, ex-M. P.
28. Shri Tridib Chaudhary, ex-M. P.
29. Shri Prabhakar Kunte.
30. Shri Nijalingappa, former CM Karnataka.
31. Co. (Dr.) Lakshmi Sehgal of INA
32. Dr. G. S. Dhillon, ex-Speaker and now Union Minister
33. Shri P. Ramamurthy ex-M. P.

34. Dr. Sisir Bose, ex-MLA and nephew of Netaji.
35. Shri Aurobindo Bose. ex-MLC and nephew of Netaji.
36. Shri Virendra of Pratap Daily
37. Shri Karpuri Thakur, ex-M. P. and former CM, Bihar
38. Km. Maniben Patel. ex-M. P. and daughter of Sardar Patel
39. Shri Sadiq Ali, ex-M. P. and Governor
40. Smt. Aruna Asaf Ail.
41. Shri Ram Kishan Bajaj.
42. Sardar Kapur Singh, ex-Speaker, Punjab.
43. Shri Balwant Rai Tayal, ex-Minister, Haryana.
44. Pt. Bhagwat Dayal Sharma, ex-CM, Haryana.
45. Shri Vichitra Narayan Sharma, ex-Minister, U. P.
46. Smt. Lalita Shastri as w/o late Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri.
47. Smt. Indirani Devi, widow of late Shri Jagjivan Ram.
48. Smt. Gayatri Devi, as w/o late Ch. Charan Singh.
49. Wife of late Shri Atulya Ghosh.
50. Wife of late Sardar Mangal Singh.
51. Smt. Ram Dulari Sinha, as w/o late Thakur Jugal Kishore Singh.
52. Wife of late Seth Ram Nath, Jaitu Mandi, Punjab.
53. Smt. Shanti Devi as. w/o late Shri Jagat Narain.
54. Begum Abida Ahmed as w/o late Sh. Fakruddin Ali Ahmed
55. Shri N. D. Tiwari, Union Finance Minister.
56. Shri Sachindra Lal Singh, ex-CM, Tripura.
57. Shri Muthyal Rao, ex-M. P.
58. Rajendra Kumari Bajpai, Union Minister.
59. Shri Vasant Sathe Union Minister.

60. Shri P. R. Chakravarti.
81. Shri S. B. Chavan, Chief Minister, Maharashtra.
82. Shri R. K. Hegde, Chief Minister, Karnataka.
83. Dr. M. R. Vyas, Political PS to Netaji.
64. Shri Bindeshwari Dube, Chief Minister, Bihar.
65. Shri Shiv Verma.
66. Shri B. D. Jatti, ex-Vice President.
67. Shri Prem Krishan Khanna.
68. Shri Z. A. Ahmed.
69. Shri Raja Ram Shastri.
70. Shri Niranjana Singh Gill.
71. Shri E. P. Gopalan.
72. Shri B. Gopala Reddy.
73. Shri C. Achyuta Menon.
74. Shri Brahmananda Reddy.
75. Shri Chimanlal Pranalal Bhatt.
76. Shri Umashanker Joshi.
77. Smt. Annapurna Mehta.
78. Sister Of Ram Prasad Bismil.
79. Mother of Chandrasekhar Azad.
80. Shri Jaidev Kapur.
81. Shri V. Subbaiah.
82. Shri M. R. Masani.
83. Shri Saleh Bhai Abdul Kader.
84. Shri D. K. Kunte
85. Shri S. G. Sardesai.
86. Shri Brish Bhan.
87. Smt. Hansa Mehta
88. Smt. Malati Choudhari.
89. Principal Chabil Das.
90. Master Hari Singh.
- : 91. Begum Abdullah as w/o late Sheikh Abdullah.
92. Zainab Bebum as sister of late Ghulam Mohd. Sadiq.
93. Shri Girdhari Lal Ddgra.
94. Shri Abdul Ghafoor.
95. Wife of late Barkatullah Khan. S6. Shri Anant T. Hohgorani.

97. Shri Radha Nath Rath, Ex-Minister, Orissa, Editor Daily Samaj, Cuttack.

2. Samman Pension in the above cases will be effective from 2nd October, 1987, Gandhi Jayanthi Day.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal): Madam, Deputy Chairman, I appreciate the gesture shown by the Central Government to accord *suo motu* Samman pension to some eminent freedom fighters who had not applied for sanction of pension in their favour earlier. Madam. I have gone through the list of 97 eminent freedom fighters to whom Samman pension has been proposed to be given but I see that there are still some eminent freedom fighters belonging to the Andaman political prisoners group, whose names have not found place in this list. Among these 97, I do not find some of those eminent political freedom fighters' names who had undergone rigorous imprisonment from 12 years to 17 years in Andamans including a large part in Cellular Jail but did not apply for pension in 1969 when they were first sanctioned such pension. And Madam, when first the Government's decision came to the Press, the representatives of the Ex-Andaman Political Prisoners' Fraternity Circle had come to Delhi and sought to meet the Home Minister to hand over some such names of eminent freedom fighters who had not applied for pension earlier but who should be given Samman Pension. But they could not meet the Home Minister. Later, they had submitted a memorandum to the Home Minister on 20th October and they had given ten names whom they consider as eminent freedom fighters who had not applied for pension earlier and who had suffered rigorous imprisonment of 12 to 17 years in Andamans in the cause of India's freedom. Those names included the name of Shri Ganesh Ghosh—our Minister and many other Members on the other side must be knowing—who was a M. P. and who is still alive.

and who Was an associate of "Masterda" Shri Surya Sen. There are other names also and they are Amritendu Mukherjee, Mukul Ranjan Sen, Nanda Dulal Singh, Prankrishna Chakravarty, Provat Chakraverty, Subodh Roy, Sudhansu Dasgupta, Sukumar Sengupta—from West Bengal—and Gopen Roy from Assam. Ali of them were ex-Andaman Prisoners suffering imprisonment for 12 to 17 years in the cause of Indian independence. So my question is whether this list of 97 is once for all a final list of persons for whom Samman Pension has been granted and whether the Government will consider the inclusion of some more names Of eminent freedom fighters for granting suo motu Samman Pension and whether the Union Ministry has received a memorandum addressed to Mr. Buta Singh from the Ex-Andaman Political Prisoners' Fraternity Circle on 20th October 1987 including the ten names of such eminent freedom fighters and if so whether the Government are going to consider these ten names for inclusion in the list. (Interruptions)

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY (Karnataka): Madam I think the list is not complete

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Do you want a clarification?

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: I am not making a speech. I am just making a submission on this subject. I only say that this list is not exhaustive. There are various other persons whom I know personally and who were involved in freedom struggle and who sacrificed a lot. And some of the names I find here are not so important as those names. I can give the names to the Minister when I meet him in person and I do. not want to give the names on the floor of the House. Therefore, I would like him to say that this is not a complete list and it is open and they are going to call for some more names. I would like an assurance on this.

श्री मोहम्मद खलील-उर-रहमान (आन्ध्र प्रदेश): जहाँ तक हमारी तेलुगु देशम पार्टी का सवाल है, यह जो पेंशन फ्रीडम फाइटर्स को अर्वाइव दिये जा रहे हैं, हम उसके खिलाफ तो नहीं हैं, मगर चालीस साल गुजर गये हमको आजादी हासिल किये हुए।

यह क्या तहरीक थी जिससे कि गवर्नमेंट हमारी उन फ्रीडम फाइटर्स को पेंशन सैंक्शन कर रही है, हालाँकि इस ताल्लुक में बहुत पहले भी सोचा जा सकता था। दूसरा प्वायंट जो है वह यह है कि कई लोग अभी जो लिस्ट में हमारे सामने आये हैं उससे यह मालूम हो रहा है कि वे तो आफिशियल पोजीशन में हैं। तो आफिशियल पोर्जेशन में होने के बावजूद यह मामूली सी रकम उनके लिए क्या होती है यह समझने की बात नहीं मालूम हो रही है। दरअसल इसका जो मकसद था वह यह था कि जंगे आजादी में हिस्सा लेने वालों के लिए उनकी गुजर-बसर के लिए, गुजारा करने के लिए हुकूमत की तरफ से, स्टेट की तरफ से कुछ मुआविजा दिया जाए। मगर यह जो तहरीक सामने आई है उसे इसकी नफ़ी हो रही है। कई लोग हमारा जो इस लिस्ट में हैं कई आफिशियल पोजीशन में हैं। मगर इसके बावजूद उन्हें यह बजीफा दिया जा रहा है। तीसरी जो बात है जहाँ तक आंध्र प्रदेश का सवाल है अभी भी कई फ्रीडम फाइटर्स पेंशन के लिए अप्लाई कर रहे हैं और यह भी देखा गया है कि पेंशन दिलवाने के लिए कांग्रेस (आई) के हमारी स्टेट में जो इन्फ्लूएणल लोग हैं वे उसकी सिफारिश भी कर रहे हैं। क्या यह बात हमारे मुख्यमन्त्री मिनिस्टर साहब के इलम में आई है? अगर आई है तो मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि आन्ध्र प्रदेश से करीम नगर, खम्मम और नलगोन्डा से जो दरख्वास्तें आई हैं उनमें से कितनी दरख्वास्तें सैंक्शन की गई हैं?

श्री जसवंत सिंह (राजस्थान): महोदया, मैं दो मिनट भी नहीं लूंगा, दो ही बातों को कहूंगा। एक तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि आपका बोसिस क्या था जो यह 97 नाम चुने गए हैं? वेने बड़ी अच्छी बात है, 40 साल बाद किया कोई बात नहीं, अब तो किया। लेकिन यह 97 नाम किस आधार पर चुने गए हैं, क्योंकि जैसी शिकायत हुई अन्य मैम्बरान की

बहु वाजिब है। मैं यह लिस्ट पढ़ रहा था। उसमें राजस्थान का एक ही नाम है वह है बेगम बरकततुल्ला खां। अब बरकततुल्ला खां के वालिद फैजुल्लाखां जी जोधपुर रियासत के दीवान रह चुके हैं। यह बड़ी खुशी की बात है कि फैजुल्ला खां के लड़के की विधवा को जिसको आप सम्मान पेंशन कह रहे हैं वह आप दे रहे हैं। तो पूरे राजस्थान से आपको केवल बरकततुल्ला खां की बेगम साहिबा ही मिलीं फ्रीडमफाइटर के लिहाज और सारे राजस्थान से आपको उसके सिवा और कोई नहीं मिला। यह अपने आप में पेरॉनियल कंसर्न है। शायद मंत्री महोदय इसका जवाब दे पाएँ ?

उपसभापति : डा० एच० पी० शर्मा ।

DR. H. P. SHARMA (Rajasthan): Madam Deputy Chairman, we are happy at the initiative and the grace of the Government to grant pension to freedom fighters who have not come forward to apply for the pension. But there is one point which is not clear to me. Since when does the pension start? This question arises because there are other pensioners also who had applied for pension and it is not clear whether you would be granting pension only from now onwards or from the time when the pension was started. The anomaly will be like this. If there were two political sufferers who were in jail during the same period for the same breach of British laws and if one of them had applied earlier and started getting the benefit, to that extent, the person who applies now is bereft of the benefit all these years. I certainly do not think the Government intended any kind of discrimination and I am sure the Government would see to it that there is no discrimination whatever. If there is any discrimination or differentiation between the two, that would be bad in law and bad in practice because for the same offence or for the same service the set-off persons who come forward now are denied payment of pension. It will certainly not entail any burden on

you and it would only absolve you of any charge of this kind.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Vithalrao Madhavrao" Jadhav.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAV RAO JADHAV (Maharashtra): Madam, I actually congratulate our Government on granting this honourable pension to eminent freedom fighters. When I look at the names of freedom fighters from Maharashtra, I find that eminent freedom fighters like Comrade Dange, Shri Vasant Dada Patil, Shri S. M. Joshi, Shri N. G. Goray, Shri Achyut Patwardhan, Shri Madhu Limaye, Shri Prabhakar Kunte, Shri Vasant Sathe, Shri S. B. Chavan and Shri D. K. Kunte have been included in this and I congratulate all these freedom fighters. My special thanks are to the Government also. But, at the same time, I would like to bring to your notice that there are many very eminent freedom fighters who, fortunately or unfortunately, are not in power and who, therefore, could not be in the limelight as others have been. So, here I would like to make a request to the Government. Take the case of the Hydeabad struggle. It was a very short freedom struggle and it had gone only for a year or two and during these two years, there are people who fought with Swami Ramanand Tirtha and there are so many other seniors. I do not say that all these people should be given that honour. But at least those who were the generals of the freedom movement should be included in this list and I would like to request the honourable Minister through you, Madam, to find out and include the names of those persons also in this list. The other thing is that from the Marathwada region—parts of Marathwada and Telangana and parts of Karnataka were once parts of the former Hyderabad State—there are so many cases of freedom fighters which are pending with the Central Government for the grant of pension. These people, many of them, have-

grown very old now. Six months ago, Madam, there was a convention of freedom fighters in my place and from our area alone there were 75 freedom fighters. Many of these freedom fighters were having Samman Patras from their respective State Governments. I do not understand why the Central Government has not given or sanctioned pension to these people. When the State Government gives the Samman Patra to a particular freedom fighter, I do not understand the reason for the Central Government not giving the pension to them. They have appointed one Screening Committee and the most unfortunate thing is that even in the Screening Committee which selects the names of eminent freedom fighters corruption is going on and corruption lies there in deciding as to who should be given the pension. That is the worst thing because they got freedom for all. So, I would like to submit that whoever it may be, if he has got the freedom fighter's certificate from the Government he must be given the pension from the Central Government and there should not be any screening at all. I would like to ask the honourable Minister: Are you going to accept this principle or not? In this connection, I would like to say that about two thousand cases from the Marathwada region alone are pending with the Government... (*Time bell rings*)... Madam, this is very important.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: But you are shifting to other issues now.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: This is very much connected with the main issue, Madam. If one freedom fighter is getting the pension and if another does not get it, it is very bad and 'this should be removed'. There should not be any 'discrimination against any freedom fighter. Those people who have demanded pension whether from Maharashtra or from any other part of the country, if they have got the freedom fighter's certificate from the

State Government, they should be given. Is the Government going to consider this point seriously? Then, in that case, please state in this House that if a freedom fighter has got the freedom fighter's certificate either from the State Government or from the Centre, he would get it. Such freedom fighters must be given the pension because their life is very short and after ten years or so you will not find any freedom fighter in this country. Thank your Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Jagesh Desai.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra): Madam. I am very happy to see that the Government has decided *suo motu* to grant Samman Pensions to these eminent freedom fighters who have not applied at all. I would like to mention that there were many freedom fighters and there are, I think, many who did not want to apply though they were freedom fighters and we have one such person is Shri Inderlal Oza who has spent the whole of his life in prison. But he decided not to apply. I would like to know whether such names would be considered by the Government. I know that some machinery of the Government is there for getting these names. I would like to know whether such a thing would be done because there are many freedom fighters who are still living and who have not applied. Shri Inderlal Oza is one of such persons and he has spent his whole life in prison.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA (Andhra Pradesh): Probably he is not 'eminent'.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: No, no. He is a very eminent person.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: I said that he is not eminent in the view of the Government.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: He is a very eminent person and I have worked with him.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: I know that there are certain names of freedom fighters included here who are not that eminent... (Interruption*)... But there are others who have not been included. I do not want to disclose the names here but I will give the same to the hon. Minister.. i

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA-
Theses are the names of some persons who were students in those days.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: I hope this is only a preliminary list and the Government will make enquiries from other persons whose names have been, left out. I hope this is just a provisional list and that you have started this process. I also take it that the Government will initiate action to find out other names.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN; Shri Ram Chandra Vikal.

श्री राम चन्द्र विकल (उत्तर प्रदेश) :
उपसभापति महोदया, मैं सरकार को हृदय से बधाई देता हूँ कि उन्होंने राजनीतिक सम्मान पेंशन, जिन्होंने नहीं ली उनको भी या जो लिस्ट में गलती से नहीं आ सके उनको भी यह सम्मान पेंशन देने के लिए प्रस्ताव लाए हैं। उपसभापति महोदया, इसमें राजनीतिक आंदोलन—हैदराबाद सत्याग्रह, उसकी लिस्ट भी कम्प्लीट नहीं है। ऐलान तो गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से कई बार हुआ है कि हैदराबाद सत्याग्रहियों को हम राजनीतिक पेंशन देंगे, लेकिन उस पर अमल नहीं हो रहा है क्योंकि अभी तो हमारे जो पुराने ऐतिहासिक लोग थे, उन्हीं के बारे में लिस्ट बन रही है। उपसभापति महोदया, मैं एक सुझाव तो यह देना चाहूंगा कि यह पेंशन परिवारों को दी जाये। मैं एक उदाहरण कुंवर सुब्बालाल अय्य मुसाफिर का दूंगा जो कि सरहद्दी सूब से लेकर यू.पी० में सब जगह जेलों में गए। सन् 1952 में उनको लो.समा की सीट का टिकट देने का भी तय

किया गया, लेकिन उन्होंने मना कर दिया। उन्होंने कहा कि मुझे टिकट नहीं चाहिए। जब पेंशन का सवाल आया तो उन्होंने जीवन पर्यन्त पेंशन नहीं ली और कहा कि, मैंने देश सेवा की है, मुझे कुछ भी नहीं चाहिए। आखिर में उन्हें पैशालाइज हो गया, फॉलिस पड़ गया। तब उनके दस्तखत फार्म पर कराए गए और मुश्किल से साल-छे महीने वे पेंशन ले पाए। अब उनके परिवार का हालत अच्छी नहीं है क्योंकि ये पोलिटिकल लोग उन दिनों अपना घरबार छोड़कर देश के काम में लग जाते थे और उन बच्चों की पढ़ाई हो पाती थी। सर्विस का तो सवाल ही नहीं था। तो उनके परिवार की स्थिति अत्यन्त दयनीय है। मैं एक नहीं ऐसे कई उदाहरण दे सकता हूँ जिन लोगों ने उस वक्त पेंशन नहीं ली। हमारे कई लोग जो ऊँचे पदों पर रहे हैं, राष्ट्रपति से लेकर मुख्य मंत्री तक, उन्होंने तो अपने पदों की वजह से नहीं ली होगी, उनको भी यह पेंशन दी जानी चाहिए। लेकिन जिन्होंने स्वाभिमान की खातिर नहीं ली उनकी लिस्ट टुटवायी जानी चाहिए और उनके परिवारों को यह पेंशन दी जानी चाहिए। यह उनके साथ न्याय होगा दूसरा सुझाव मेरा यह है कि सच्चे देश भक्तों की जीवनियाँ हमारे बच्चों के कोर्स में आनी चाहिए ताकि वह आदर्शरूप में उसे अपने जीवन में ला सकें। जिन्होंने सही में देशभक्ति की, ऐसे लोग न छूट जायें और उनके परिवारों को भी आप पेंशन दिला सकें तो बड़ा कृपा होगी।

SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL (Gujarat): Madam Deputy Chairman, I wanted to point out—that there are some freedom fighters who had some income when "the scheme was implemented so they did not apply for pension. But today" they do not have any income. I wanted to know whether the Government will sanction pension to them if they apply for it now. Those who are getting pension from the State Governments are getting a meagre amount of Rs. 700 or Rs. 150 or Rs. 200. They applied to the Central Government but their applica-

tions have been rejected. I can give you One name. Mr. JtavyRamesh l Gupta who is a well-known freedom fighter in Gujarat and Bombay but the Government rejected his application for Central Government pension. Will the cases of those persons who are getting this pension from the State Governments be considered sympathetically, because they are not getting railway passes? Those freedom fighters who are "getting pension from the State Government are not entitled to railway passes. May I know from the Minister whether such cases will be considered sympathetically or not?

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: (West Bengal): I am on a point of order. The Member of Parliament, Shri Tridip Chaudhary, has been shown as ex-M. P. He is a Member of Rajya Sabha? Is it not an affront to Rajya Sabha? Shri Tridip Chaudhary, has been called as an ex-M. P. because he is no longer a Member of the Lok Sabha. There should be a parliamentary committee from all parties to sort out these things.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Madam, I am very happy that almost all the hon. Members who have participated have approved the action of the Government in giving pension to eminent freedom fighters. I am grateful to Dipen Babu for pointing out 10 cases of Andamans political prisoners. They get Rs. 800.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: You must have the list. Your Ministry or the Department concerned must have the list of pensioners.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: It is a very solemn occasion that we are giving pension to all the freedom fighters belonging to all the parties. Some friends suggested that those who are in office are not getting pension. But their contribution is there. It is not an exhaustive list that we have given. You can just give names

of prisoners in Andaman and I shall look into them. Our friend, Shri Gurupadaswamy and other friends suggested other names. Please send them to us and we shall examine them. During the last six or seven months, we have cleared about 500 or 600 genuine cases. Some people said that there was corruption. We have rejected about 500 cases. Our mind is open on this thing. It is a solemn occasion. We want to honour those who have sacrificed the most. This is only a token. We must all feel glad and thank...

j SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: We thank you. My specific question was whether your Ministry has received a memorandum from Ex-Andamans Political Prisoners Fraternity Circle dated 20th October, in this connection.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: It is a limited thing. I will look into the memorandum.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: I wanted to know whether you have received it or not. Have you taken care of these names? It included the names of case- nesh Ghosh.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: We are not disagreeing with you about the Andamans political prisoners. We have given them pass and everything so that they can visit Andamans.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: They were in jail for 17 years and you have not found them fit for giving them political pension.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: We have taken into consideration all the cases.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Is the Chairman of the Left Front of West Bengal not an eminent person?

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Certain cases have been rejected.

3. 00 P. M.

ठाकुर जगतपाल सिंह (मध्य प्रदेश) : माननीय मंत्री ने अभी कहा कि कुछ लोगों ने गलत पेंशन ले ली है जिनको आपने रिजेक्ट किया है। क्या आप उनसे जो पैसा उन्होंने ले लिया है, वह वाप लेंगे ?

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: In many cases we are doing that.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: What about my question?

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Have a Parliamentary team to help you.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: What about the question of pension...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is not a discussion. You can go and see the Minister in his Chamber. He cannot discuss each and every case here. You should try to understand it. Now, the Railway Minister. (*Interruptions*)

श्री जगदम्बो प्रसाद यादव (बिहार) : यह सवाल भी बार-बार उठाया गया है . . .

उपसभापति : मैंने रेल मिनिस्टर साहब को स्टेटमेंट करने के लिए कहा है। आप बैठ जाइये। (व्यवधान)

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

III. Accident to 123 UP Tamil Nadu Express on 7-11-1987 on Antfa-Nagpur Section of Central Railways.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): Madam Deputy Chairman, I deeply regret to apprise the House of an unfortunate train accident involving 122

Up New Delhi-Madras Tamil Nadu Express at about 13.35 hrs. on 7-11-1987 on the Amla-Nagpur Broad Gauge single line section of Nagpur Division of Central Railway. The accident occurred between Katol and Metpanjara stations about 50 kms short of Nagpur. The train had a load of 21 coaches. The engine and the first 8 coaches passed the site of accident safely while the remaining 13 coaches, 9th on-wards from the train engine, derailed/capsized. I regret that, as a result of the accident, 2 passengers lost their lives including one in the hospital. 13 persons suffered simple injuries and 19 grievous

Senior Officers from Nagpur and from the Zonal Railway Headquarters at Bombay rushed to the site of accident. Member Engineering Railway Board also rushed to the site. Later Member Traffic left for Nagpur.

Immediately on receipt of the information, medical vans were rushed from Ajni and Amla. Railway doctors also rushed to the site from Nagpur by road with ambulances. Local doctors from Katol, Kalameshwar and Pandhurna also rushed to the site and rendered medical assistance. The injured were moved to the Railway and Civil Hospitals at Nagpur where further treatment is following.

Ex-gratia payment to the next of kin of dead and to the injured has been arranged.

The stranded passengers were cleared from the site by special buses and by the unaffected coaches of the train. They were further cleared by a special train from Nagpur.

Joint checks of accident spot by Railway and Civil Authorities as also by the Commissioner of Railway Safety Central circle, have been conducted whereafter restoration work has been taken in hand in full swing.

In fact, the first train, one goods train has already passed over the