

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. D. PATIL): (a) to (d) A statement is attached.

Statement

One Shri Onkar Sharma approached the police authorities on 5-3-1979 and complained that 7 persons two of whom were known to him had come to his house in Naraina and threatened him at revolver point to pay Rs. 25,000/-, failing which he and his family would be killed. On pleading his inability to pay the amount the persons reduced the demand to Rs. 10,000/-, which was required to be paid the same evening at about 7.00 P.M. at a pre-fixed place in South Extension, New Delhi. He was also threatened not to report the matter to the police. On this information a raiding party headed by an Inspector of the Central Special Squad proceeded to the spot and took positions at strategic places. After a while the complainant also reached there. On a signal from him the police arrested Charan Singh who had come there to collect the money. Charan Singh was then taken to Greater Kailash by the Inspector who left behind a small police force. Twenty minutes later another young man came to the spot in South Extension and started making enquiries about Charan Singh. He was also apprehended by the policemen present at the spot. Simultaneously, a Fiat car started firing towards the policemen. As a result of the firing a three wheeler scooter driver who was standing nearby received a bullet injury while a few bullets hit the nearby building and one also entered the restaurant. An A.S.I. who was carrying a revolver returned the fire. The rear screen of the car was smashed and some of the occupants of the car appeared to have been hit. In the resulting confusion the arrested person who had been taken inside the restaurant by a Head Constable managed to free himself and join his companies in the car. The car then sped away.

One member of the gang who had gone to collect money demanded by the gang from the complainant was arrested before the shooting took place. One person was killed in the shooting while another person who received injuries was arrested later. Another member of the gang not involved in the firing was also arrested later. There members of the gang are still at large. According to the investigation done so far six persons appear to have been involved in the shooting incident.

The member of the gang who was killed in the incident was earlier arrested in case FIR No. 21, dated 6-1-1978 u/s 307/506/34 IPC PS R. K. Puram, New Delhi and was released on bail by the Court. He was also involved in case FIR No. 173 dated 27-7-1977 u/s 353/332/506 IPC read with sections 25/27/54/59 Arms Act P. S. Division No. IV, Jullundur City, Punjab. He is also suspected to be involved in several other cases and necessary verification in this regard is being carried out.

Memorandum from ex-INA personnel

2044. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a memorandum from the Tamil Nadu INA Forum regarding the grant of Central pension to the ex-I.N.A. personnel treating them as freedom fighters; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The demands made by the Tamil Nadu INA Forum relating to the grant of freedom fighters' pension have been examined and the position on each of them is indicated in the statement attached.

Statement

The Contentions made by the Tamil Nadu INA forum and Comments thereon.

1. The Ex-INA personnel of civilian category, in general are being neglected. Central Government is giving partial treatment to ex-INA personnel of Tamil Nadu as compared to their counter parts in North India. No discrimination is made on the basis of regions in the processing and finalising of pension cases from ex-INA personnel.
2. The requirement of furnishing certificates from Company Platoon and Section Commanders under whom the ex-INA personnel served should be waived. This requirement has since been waived.
3. The requirement of furnishing co-prisoner certificates from two such ex-INA personnel who are already in receipt of Central Govt. pension should not in every case be strictly enforced. In cases where it is not possible for an ex-INA personnel to furnish such co-prisoner certificates, this condition should be relaxed and pension sanctioned after scrutinising the applicant's available records with the recommendation of the local associations. The requirement of two co-prisoner certificates cannot be dispensed with since no official records are available to prove the claim of jail suffering/detention of ex-INA personnel of the civilian category (i.e.) those who have settled as civilian in South East Asian Countries before joining the INA) It is not possible to sanction pension on the basis of recommendation of any particular association.
4. The claim of an ex-INA personnel should not be rejected on the ground of discrepancies found in their civilian proforma, history sheet and other supporting documents. In such cases the All India INA Committee's certificate should be relied upon and pension should be granted. Applicants are given every opportunity to prove their claim of suffering and only when serious discrepancies arise, pension is rejected.
5. Some persons were granted pension before 1-10-76 without co-prisoner certificates. Such persons should not be asked to furnish co-prisoner certificates and their cases may be regularised without co-prisoner certificates. Pensions were initially sanctioned on the basis of State Govt's recommendation without much detailed scrutiny. Opportunity is therefore being taken to review the sanction given earlier before considering requests for enhancement of pension and continue the pension only in cases where acceptable evidence is complete.
6. Members of the Balak Sena (a wing of INA) should not be denied the pension. It is not possible to consider sanction of pension to members of Balak Sena because they have not undergone any imprisonment or detention as required under the Scheme.
7. Cases should not be rejected on the ground that the applications were received after the prescribed date i.e., 31-3-74. It is not possible to accept this suggestion. Wide publicity and adequate time had been given about the Scheme and the last date.
8. If an INA (civilian) pensioner dies, the pension should be continued to be paid to his heirs and dependents without any delay and without any official Red-Tapsim. The consideration of age of the heirs for receipt of such pension should be done away with and pension paid till such heir gets a job. The request of widows for transfer of pension on the death of their husbands are dealt with on priority basis and if there is some delay in dealing with their request, it may be due to lack of complete evidence or other details about dependents. Daughters who are eligible dependents get pension till their marriage/gainful employment irrespective of their ages.