

Title: Requested the Home Minister to formulate a policy to give financial assistance to the freedom fighters from the respective State Governments, in addition to the pension given by the Central Government

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Sir, the condition of the freedom fighters is very precarious. I would like to bring it to the notice of the hon. Home Minister, who is present in the House, that the condition of the freedom fighters throughout the country is very bad. They have been sending memoranda, meeting Governors and the Chief Ministers of the States. Sir, in addition to the pension provided by the Central Government to the freedom fighters, the Governments of different States provide additional money to them. The amount given by different State Governments is as follows: Assam - Rs.1300 per month, Bihar - Rs.750 per month, Haryana - Rs.1600 per month, Kerala - Rs.2200 per month, Punjab - Rs.750 per month, U.P. - Rs.2,250 per month, Orissa - Rs.1000 and Tripura - Rs.300 per month.

But, Sir, it is most unfortunate that the West Bengal Government does not provide any assistance to the freedom fighters staying in West Bengal. Recently, they met the hon. Governor of West Bengal also to register their complaint. I would request the hon. Home Minister to formulate a policy so that all the freedom fighters in the country are provided, in addition to the pension given by the Central Government, some additional amount by the respective State Governments. The West Bengal Government may be compelled to give some financial assistance to the freedom fighters who fought for the protection of our motherland. (Interruptions)

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (TAMLUK): Not all the States are giving the assistance....(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : I have mentioned the names of at least 14 States....(Interruptions) They did not take part in the freedom struggle. So, naturally they are not aware of it....(Interruptions)

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH : Sir, he is distorting the facts. He is distorting the history....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not proper to first raise an issue and then make it an issue.

Shri Yerrannaidu.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except what Shri Yerrannaidu says.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Sir, I authenticate my statement....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: In the House, Members are not supposed to talk to each other. They should address the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR.SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Shri Yerrannaidu.