

Title: Request to sanction pension to the freedom fighters of the anti-imperialist movement of Punnapravayalar, Kayyoor, Karivelloor, Morazha and Kavumbai MSP strike in the Kerala.

***SHRI T. GOVINDAN (KASARGODA):** The historic struggles of Punnapravayalar, Kayyoor, Karivelloor, Morazha and Kavumbai MSP strike, were among the noted anti imperialist movements of the State of Kerala. Though certain political forces had tried to ignore these struggles, the historians of the Indian freedom struggle had recorded them with due importance. History states that many leaders of these struggles were hanged or shot dead and others put to life imprisonment. Our great leader Shri K.P.R. Gopalan who was given a death sentence in the Morazha case, was released by Gandhiji's timely intervention. Pension had been sanctioned to the dependents of those who had sacrificed their lives in those struggles, by the State Government. But the Congress Government, whenever it was in power at the Centre, denied them that pension. Later, on 20.1.98, Shri Indrajit Gupta, the Home Minister in the United Front Government, recognised these struggles as a part of our national struggle for freedom and sanctioned pension to the freedom fighters and their dependents. But as on today, only a small number of them survive to make that claim. But instead of expediting their cases positively, it is very unfortunate that the present BJP Government at the Centre and its Home Ministry too resort to delay tactics in the name of procedural and technical formalities. They demand the documents about imprisonments from the respective jails which are very difficult to procure after about 60 years. So Sir, I request that this sort of negative attitude should change and justice be done to the freedom fighters and their families by sanctioning pension to those who were recommended by the State Government. I also request that the railway passes may please be issued to them through the District Collectors.

* Translation of speech originally delivered in Malayalam.