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Title: Need to formulate a national policy/scheme for the benefit of freedom fighters and their heirs.

SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (TIRUPPATTUR): As the nation completes 60 years of its freedom, we are celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of our Independence. It is natural that the number of our freedom fighters has come down.`` All these years, there had been different pension schemes for the freedom fighters both at the central and various State levels. Now, as their total number has gone down considerably, a uniform pension scheme at the national level must be evolved and the Union Government must bear the entire expense to ensure parity. We must now collect the details about the living conditions of the families for freedom fighters and identify how many of them are in needy conditions awaiting some incentives and schemes for their betterment. As pointed out by our founder leader Annadurai, Independence Day is a stock taking day or a day of National Social Audit. We must introspect whether we adequately extend courtesy, honour and possible help to those who fought for our freedom. In Tamil Nadu, streamlined freedom pension distribution schemes and establishing of memorials for freedom heroes have been effectively carried out by our Chief Minister Karunanidhi, who happened to be the Chief Minister on all the three occasions during the Silver Jubilee, Golden Jubilee and Diamond Jubilee of our Independence.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Government at this juncture to go in for extending help to the really needy third-generation-heirs of the freedom fighters by way of priority in job recruitments, liberal credit facility for entrepreneurial ventures to set up industrial units and establishing certain business activities.

…(*Interruptions*)

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* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil

अध्यक्ष महोदय: श्री तुकाराम गणपतराव रेंगे पाटिल।

…(व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Arjun Charan Sethi.

…(*Interruptions*)

अध्यक्ष महोदय: श्री हेमलाल मुर्मू।

…(व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : श्री रामदास आठवले