

>

Title: Need to provide Central Freedom Fighters Pension to those who are getting State Freedom Pension.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Sir, I want to raise an important issue about the freedom fighters of Kerala and other States. The freedom fighters have sacrificed their lives for achieving Independence for this country. This is the 61st year of our Independence. All the States have formed Committees to screen and find out as to who the real freedom fighters were and the States also have started giving them State pensions. But the Central Government has not decided on many issues till now. The Central Government has already identified as to who are the freedom fighters in the State of Kerala and in some other places. It is true in case of Goa also. In all these cases the concerned State Governments also have taken decisions and also in many cases the High Courts have given directions. But when applications come to the Centre, the bureaucrats are rejecting the applications on one pretext or the other. It is not possible to produce the certificates of 1935 and 1940. The report as given by the State Governments has to be taken into account. There are only a few people of that generation who are still alive. I would like to urge upon the Government to at least take a decision in the matter at an early date.