

Title: Need to reduce eligibility period for freedom fighters' pension from six months to three months of imprisonment -laid.

SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA (CHITRADURGA): Entire nation is celebrating the Golden Jubilee of India's Independence. All of us are enjoying the fruits of Independence. For this, the entire credit should go to freedom fighters. It is their sacrifice which has brought us freedom.

The freedom fighters are running from pillar to post to get pension sanctioned. Most of them, particularly in Karnataka hail from rural areas. All the documents may not be available with them. The minimum period required for sanction of freedom fighter's pension is six month's imprisonment. But unfortunately, as stated above, all the detailed documents are not available now. Moreover, these freedom fighters are very old. Many among these are sick and they cannot move from place to place. Under these circumstances, how can one expect them to come to Delhi.

In another two months, our Golden Jubilee celebrations come to an end. Before this period comes to an end, the hon. Minister has to take quick, bold and sympathetic steps to help the freedom fighters. I, request the Union Government to reduce the eligibility period for freedom fighters from six months to three months immediately so that these old freedom fighters can breathe their last few days in peace in this largest democracy of the world. In fact, this will give a befitting finale to Golden Jubilee Celebrations of India's Independence.