

vation and other benefits extended to them by virtue of their having been listed as a Scheduled Caste, no perceptible improvement has come about in their social status or economic condition.

Now, a very explosive situation has been created in Kerala because of the recommendation made by the Mandal Commission Report that the Pulaya Community be included in the list of other backward communities. Such a step will deprive this community of whatever benefits it enjoyed so far by way of reservation, etc., and will further accentuate its backwardness. Moreover, in the note circulated along with the questionnaire to the States by the Mandal Commission it was specifically mentioned that the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should be excluded while furnishing information about the other backward communities. In this circumstances, it is surprising as to how the Commission decided to include the Pulaya community in the list of other backward communities which is against the terms of reference of the Commission. This has caused dismay and shock among this community and they have launched an agitation to persuade the Government not to accept this recommendation.

Therefore, I would earnestly request the Government that this recommendation of the Mandal Commission listing Rulayas as 'other backward Community' should be rejected and they should do justice to this most backward community.

(vi) EXPANSION OF HALDIA REFINERY.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH (Dum Dum): There is a proposal to expand Haldia Refinery from 2.5 to 5.5 million tonnes. I recently visited Haldia Refinery. I found the refinery working wonderfully well. The Haldia Refinery came to the rescue of the country in a big way when the Assam agitationists succeeded in closing down the Gauhati Refinery. The R and D of the Haldia Refinery has developed completely indigenously two new commercial products viz., cylinder oil and a new type of ore, which is commercially viable. If the refinery is expanded to 5.5 m. tones capa-

city, the Haldia refinery will present the country with more new products and will be able to supply fuel stock for the proposed Haldia Petro-Chemical Complex.

I visited the Haldia dock and found that a point has been discovered between the oil jetty and the dock where super tankers will be able to berth. The work of deepening the draught of the navigational channel is proceeding smoothly. I urge upon the Minister of Petroleum and the Minister of Planning to give the green signal for the expansion of the Haldia Refinery.

(vi) DEMAND TO INCREASE THE PENSION OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री (पटना): उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, सरकार ने सन् 1972 के 15 अगस्त से स्वतंत्रता सेनानी पेंशन योजना क्रियान्वित की। सन् 1980 के जुलाई तक सेनानियों को भारत सरकार से दो सौ रुपए माहवारी पेंशन की राशि मिलती रही। पेंशन की राशि 1-8-80 से बढ़ा कर दो सौ के बदले तीन सौ रुपए माहवारी कर दी गई। इस प्रकार अभी 1,23,861 सेनानियों को पेंशन की राशि मिल रही है।

मंहगाई आसमान छू रही है और यह अब तक की मंहगाई से अधिक है। एसी स्थिति में तीन सौ रुपए माहवारी में सेनानियों के लिए काम चलाना मुश्किल है। इस बात को ध्यान में रखते हुए मेरा सरकार से अनुरोध है कि :—

(1) स्वतंत्रता सेनानियों की पेंशन की राशि बढ़ाकर पांच सौ रुपए माहवारी की जाए,

(2) सेनानियों की विधवाओं को भी सेनाधियों के बराबर पेंशन दिया जाए,

(3) पेंशन पाने की शर्त छः माह जेल की सजा को घटा कर तीन माह कर दिया जाए,

(4) गांधी-इर्विन समझौते के बाद रिहा सभी सेनानियों को पेंशन दिया जाए,

(5) स्वतंत्रता सैनिक केन्द्रीय परामर्शदात्री समिति की पिछली बैठकों में लिए गए