

Regarding need to address the grievances of Employee Provident Fund Pensioners including the minimum amount of monthly pension

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I am going to raise a very important matter. This issue had already been raised on many occasions in the previous Lok Sabha by many hon. Members.

The Government of India is turning a blind eye to the grievances of Employees Provident Fund pensioners. Despite having the financial capacity to serve the rightful demands of the pensioners, the Government is neglecting their demands. The Government of India had introduced the pension scheme, EPS 95 in the year 1995 as a Contributory Pension Scheme and all the members of the Employees' Family Pension Scheme were made part of this new EPS Scheme.

It is pertinent to mention here that all the employees who come under this Pension Scheme are or were working in the public or private industry, and manufacturing sector, contributing to the growth of this country. The sweat and toil of these pensioners have contributed to the growth of the GDP of India and national development throughout their lives. I would list out the major issues being faced by the members and the pensioners of Employees' Provident Fund Scheme. The EPF pensioners are getting only a nominal amount as monthly pension. Even though in the year 2014, the Government of India raised the minimum monthly pension to Rs.1000, the Employees Provident Fund Organization unfortunately found many reasons to even decline this minimum pension amount that the Government of India have assured. At present, there is a total of 76 lakh pensioners all over the country under the EPS 95 Pension scheme. Out of these 76 lakh pensioners, around 23 lakh pensioners are getting even less than Rs.1000 as monthly pension. This is really very unfortunate. This meagre pension is putting the poor pensioners to untold hardships. Hon. Bhupender Yadav ji is here. He was also a former Labour Minister. Hon. MP, Shri N.K. Premachandran has also raised a Private Member's Bill in this respect.

माननीय सभापति : कृपया अपनी बात समाप्त कीजिए ।

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Madam, I am going to conclude now.

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Madam, it is a very important subject affecting lakhs of workers.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: I would like to say that lakhs and lakhs of employees or pensioners are facing threat. Madam, through you, I would like to urge upon the Government to implement the directions of the hon. Supreme Court in this respect.

Thank you.