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Title:Need to reduce the age limit of BPL beneficiaries under Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (BERHAMPORE, WEST BENGAL): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the UPA Government that a slew of measures have been taken by this Government for the upliftment of the poor and vulnerable people of our country.

Sir, the expectation of the common people has been rising in proportion to the measures announced by this Government. We have already passed an Act under the nomenclature of the Unorganised Sector Workers Social Security Act. One component of this Act refers to the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Scheme, which is supposed to provide pension to the people under BPL and the age limit fixed for that was 65 ye[r]ars.

MR. SPEAKER: It was intended to.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : Our Finance Minister, I know, does neither believe in frugality nor in profligacy. Only he believes in rationality.

My contention is when the life expectancy of our country is merely 62 to 63 years, I think, it looks an anomaly of providing Pension Scheme to the people whose age limit has been fixed to 65 years. So, I would propose the Government to reduce the age limit to 60 years and, if possibly fund permits, it must be universalized. I think it is a peanut for our Finance Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: You want the 60 year old to be treated as old people!

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : Yes, Sir ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: All other urgent Matters of public importance will be at the end of it.

...(*Interruptions*)

ADV. SURESH KURUP (KOTTAYAM): Sir, I have given notice for an important matter....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Every matter is important. Therefore, I am not disallowing them; I am saying, after the Budget Discussion.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA (RAMPUR): Sir, my matter is very important....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I gave one opportunity to every party, one Member.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You will be allowed today around five o'clock; four o'clock even.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: If I break my schedule, then to every Member time has to be given. Please excuse me, but your matter will be allowed to be raised around four or five o'clock.

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