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Title: Need to review the recommendations of the Shyamala Gopinath Committee report regarding Mahila Pradhan Kshetriya Bachat Yojana.

SHRI K. P. DHANAPALAN (CHALAKUDY): Mahila Pradhan Kshetriya Bachat Yojana (MPKBY), a saving scheme targeted at the poor and deprived was introduced in 1970s by the then Prime Minister Late Smt. Indira Gandhi to develop the habits of small savings among the housewives and the weaker sections of the society. Most of the unemployed women from the deprived class of the society were involved in the scheme and, so far, the scheme has provided employment to lakhs of unemployed women of the weaker sections of the society. So far the scheme had been successful since it has developed a habit of small saving among the rural and unprivileged and helped collect a huge amount of money for the government as small deposits and savings. But a Committee headed by Ms Shyamala Gopinath which has recommended a number of reforms including slashing the commission of the Mahila Pradhan Agents. The recommendations, if accepted, are likely to affect the objective and purpose of the scheme and will seriously affect the success of the scheme.

Under these circumstances, I would urge the Government to review the recommendations of the Shyamala Gopinath Committee and reject the proposals which are against the spirit of the scheme.