

>

Title: Need to review the recommendations of Shyamala Gopinath Committee on Mahila Pradhan Kshetriya Bachat Yonaja.

SHRI K. P. DHANAPALAN (CHALAKUDY): I am raising a very serious issue. Mahila Pradhan Kshetriya Bachat Yojana is a saving scheme targeting the poor and the deprived. It was launched in the 1970s by the then Prime Minister late Shrimati Indira Gandhi to develop the habit of small savings among the housewives and the weaker sections of the society. Mostly unemployed ladies from the deprived classes of the society were involved in the scheme. So far, the scheme has provided employment to lakhs of unemployed women among the weaker sections of the society.

So far, the scheme had been successful since it could develop a habit of small saving among the rural and unprivileged and could collect a huge amount of money for the Government as small deposits and savings. However, it is understood that the Government has recently received a Report of the Committee headed by Ms Shyamala Gopinath which recommends a number of reforms including slashing the Commission of the Mahila Pradhan Agents. The recommendations, if accepted, is likely to defeat the object 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 against the spirit of the scheme.