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Title: Need to enhance the minimum pension under EPF 95 Scheme.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. This is an important problem regarding the Employees Pension Scheme. In our country, there are 36 lakh pensioners. Out of these 36 lakhs, 13 lakhs are getting pension below Rs. 1000 per month. In my area, beedi workers, especially ladies, are getting only a minimum of Rs. 200 or Rs. 100 or even below this amount. So, I would request that at least minimum pension should be given to these people.

Up to March, 2011, in the EPS Pension Fund Account, Rs. 1,42,000 crore are there. The interest also accrues roughly to Rs.12,000 crore. But the pensioners are requesting now that at least Rs. 3000 per month should be given to the pensioners. This demand of the pensioners is very important. An expert committee also already recommended and our Labour Department also recommended to the Finance Department, at least, we have to give Rs. 1000 per month as pension. But this pension should be given. I humbly urge upon our hon. Minister of Labour and Employment to kindly enhance the minimum pension under EPF 95 Scheme to Rs. 3000 at the earliest and the recommended money must be allotted by the Finance Department for the pension holders. Thank you very much.

19.00 hrs