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Title: Need to enhance the pension of EPF Pensioners and restore ESI medical facilities to them.

SHRI K. P. DHANAPALAN (CHALAKUDY): Nearly 27 per cent of EPF pensioners get a monthly pension of less than Rs. 500 at present and about 56 per cent get pension between Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 per month. While some beedi workers receive Rs.30 a month as pension since the time the EPF Pension Scheme was introduced by the Central Government in 1995. Even those with 30 to 35 years of service receive between Rs.100 and Rs.900 per month as pension. The maximum that a person can earn as pension has been fixed as Rs.1,900. There is almost four crore employees registered under the scheme since 2004 and about 20 crore people are covered under the scheme, if the dependants of the employees are also taken into account. When the pension scheme was introduced by the Government, it was decided to revise the pension after every 10 years. But that has not happened though two committees were set up. The first committee gave its report in 2005 to the Government and the second committee constituted in 2008 submitted its report on August 5, last year to the Government but there has been no response yet. The EPF pensioners do not have access to any medical facility despite having been employed in reputed companies for many years. They have been neglected despite contributing a portion of their savings towards the pension fund. Considering the fact that the EPF has an estimated fund of Rs.1.30 lakh crore, which is the money collected from the employees and the employers by the Government, it is the right of the EPF pensioners to have a decent amount of pension.

Hence, I request that as per the demand of the pensioners, the minimum pension may be increased to at least Rs 3000 per month and it may also be linked to inflation index. Besides, their ESI medical benefits may also be restored.