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Title: Regarding increasing of central government pension and covering more categories of pensioners in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI P.R. SENTHILNATHAN (SIVAGANGA): I would thank you, Hon Speaker, for calling me to raise an important issue.

The Tamil Nadu Government is providing social security pension to the needy people under eight schemes. In 2011, the monthly pension has been increased from Rs.500 to Rs.1000 by our hon. Chief Minister Amma whereas the Government of India's support is only Rs.200-Rs.500 per beneficiary. When Government of India contribute only Rs.600 crore, the State Government is bearing the total financial commitment of Rs.4,491 crore. Our revered leader Puratchithalavi Amma had already requested the hon. Prime Minister to enhance the Central Government pension amount to Rs.1000 per month. The Government of Tamil Nadu has also requested the Centre to cover more categories of pensioners. It has also requested the Government to remove the ceiling on the number of pensioners under the Central Schemes which are just three out of the eight implemented by the Tamil Nadu Government.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to enhance the pension amount and increase the number of beneficiaries under the Central Scheme.