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Title: Issue regarding enhancement of the minimum pension under EPF to Rs. 1,000 per month.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Sir, my Adjournment Motion notice is on the minimum pension under EPF. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: In one minute, please tell what you want.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Sir, the decision to enhance the minimum pension under EPF to Rs.1,000 per month was taken by the then UPA Government and implemented by the NDA Government. Unfortunately, the Government has decided to stop the same with immediate effect saying that the decision was to give pension for only one year. It was implemented from September 2014 and withdrawn by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015.

The Circular issued by EPFO said that it has decided to suspend the Scheme in the absence of any directions from the Government to continue this benefit beyond March 2015. The enhancement of pension to Rs.1,000 is possible by increasing the Government contribution to EPS 95 from the existing 1.16 per cent to 1.79 per cent, that is, a nominal increase of only 0.63 per cent. If the Central Government makes an allotment of Rs.563 crore per year, the pension to around 32 lakh families can be enhanced to Rs.1,000 per month.

Sir, it is a very important matter. Without any reason, the Government of India has withdrawn this increase in minimum pension under EPF. Sir, 32 lakh families have been affected by this. The hon. Finance Minister should make a statement in this regard.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri K.C. Venugopal, Shri Anto Antony and Shri M.K. Raghavan are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Kodikunnil Suresh.