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Title: Need to revise the Coal Mines Pension Scheme, 1988 for the welfare of coal mine workers.

SHRI P. SRINIVASA REDDY (KHAMMAM): Telangana is one of the coalmine rich States of India. The Coal Mines Pension Scheme - 1998 was introduced for the welfare of coal mine workers and their dependents and they drew wages on the basis of 5th National Coal Mines Wage Agreement. This pension is the only source of income for their survival. However, the Government has not reviewed and revised the same till date.

As per the Coal Mines Pension Scheme - 1998, the corpus of CMPS-1998 is to be evaluated every three years and upon evaluation, the benefits are to be expanded to pensioners. But, no evaluation has taken place till now, whereas, the wages of coalmine workers have been revised four times during the last 17 years of time. The coal mine pensioners are requesting the concerned authorities to revised CMPS 1998, but no action has been taken.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to resolve their long pending issues, as follows :- (i) Revise CMPS-1998 in every 5 years as it is being done in PSUs, (ii) Fix a minimum pension of Rs. 6,500, (iii) Evaluate CMPS 1998 corpus for the last 14 years and pay arrears along with interest, (iv) Evaluate this corpus every year instead of once in three years, (v) Pay dearness allowance every 3 months to CMPS - 1998 pensioners. (vi) Employer contributory amount be equivalent to 2% of wages and one increment as in the case of regular employee, (vii) Provide pension commutation facility, (viii) Consider the entire service from 1971 to 1989 for the purpose of pension, (ix) the Saving Scheme from pension be continued, (x) Pay pension to the disabled irrespective of the period of service rendered, (xi) Last drawn pay should be criterion for the purpose of pension, (xii) All the medical facilities that were available while in service, should continue after retirement and (xiii) Grant funeral expenses of Rs. 10,000.