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Title: Regarding EPF Pension.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Madam, I would like to place before this House some very serious issues with regard to EPF pensioners.

Thousands of EPF pensioners have come in Delhi. They are agitating. They have been agitating for a long time for the introduction of minimum pension. When they were in service, a portion of their salary was deposited in their pension account. It was in the belief that they would get better income after their retirement. They are getting very low pension. As far as the beedi workers in Kasargod and Kannur districts are concerned, they are not getting even Rs. 10 or Rs. 12. The Standing Committee on Labour had visited that place and seriously criticized the Government. But the Report of the Standing Committee was not accepted by the Government.

After long agitations, the earlier Government had come to a conclusion and a Group of Ministers taken a decision that Rs. 1000 should be the minimum pension. But it was not implemented. Most of the pensioners are not getting this pension. About 17 lakh pensioners are not getting this pension because they are getting other benefits. Their agitation is to introduce the minimum pension.

Therefore, I request the Government to take a serious note on this issue. When they were in service they had contributed to this country but after their retirement no one is there to look after them. All the MPs have met the Minister and the Prime Minister in this regard. I would urge upon the Government to take it as a serious issue because it is the question of their survival.

HON. SPEAKER: Prof. Sugata Bose, Shri P.K. Biju, Dr. A. Sampath and Shrimati P.K. Shreemathi Teacher are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri P. Karunakaran. Hon. Members, there will be no Lunch break today.

12.55 hrs

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377 □

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the Matters under Rule 377 shall be laid on the Table of the House. Members who have been permitted to raise matters under Rule 377 today and are desirous of laying them, may personally hand over text of the matters at the Table of the House within twenty minutes. Only those matters shall be treated as laid for which text of the matters have been received at the Table within the stipulated time. The rest will be treated as lapsed.