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Title: Need to implement Supreme Court direction to restore the problems of EPF pensions.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Sir, I am very fortunate to have you in the Chair. You may be remembering, Sir, that I had moved a Private Members Resolution in the House and that Private Members Resolution was a matter relating to the Employees' Pension Fund pensioners.

It is a matter affecting more than 60 lakh pensioners in this country. The matter was well deliberated, discussed in this House for more than nine hours and 21 minutes. Sir, 27 Members of this House had participated in the discussion. Even the Treasury Benches, the Opposition Benches and the entire House unanimously supported the Resolution. Finally, the Government had given some assurances and on the basis of those assurances I had withdrawn the Resolution.

Sir, you may kindly see the important issues in the Employees' Pension Scheme, which is affecting more than 60 lakh pensioners in the country. The first one, which I had demanded, was to increase the minimum monthly pension up to Rs.3,000. Restoration of full pension after the realisation of the actual commuted amount was the second one. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you may be remembering that if a person has commuted an amount of Rs.48,000 from his pension at the time of retirement and after the retirement, every month an amount is being deducted from his monthly pension. I had cited an example of one Mr.

George who is in KSFE. Rs.1,78,000 has been deducted from his pension amount. The amount, which he had taken, was only Rs.48,000. It is a State-sponsored looting. I do admit that it is as per the Act but it is a State-sponsored looting. He had taken Rs.48,000 as advance and from his pension, Rs.1,78,000 has been deducted. It means it is highly unjust on the part of the Government. It is not done by this Government but as per the Act it is there also.

My point is, restoration of full pension after realisation of the commuted amount was my second demand. Implement the Supreme Court's order to avail higher pension on the basis of actual salary for which an order had been issued on 23.3.2017, and another order had been issued on 31.5.2017. My demand is to implement the order issued on 23.3.2017.

The eligibility pension criterion was 10 years. Now it has been enhanced to 3,650 days. That means, a worker has to work for 365 days, if he wants to get pension in 10 years.

Another one is relating to the welfare measure. The then hon. Labour Minister had assured in the House that ESI benefit would be extended to all the employees pensioners. Finally, I want restoration of the commutation and restoration of the RoC.

I am very thankful to the Government that the Government, on the basis of the assurance, has constituted a Committee under the Additional Labour Secretary, and the Committee's period is already over. Its time was extended once. I request the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister and the Government, through you, Sir, to expedite the Committee's Report and

implement the promises which have already been made. Thank you very much, Sir.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:

Dr. P.K. Biju,

Shri Innocent,

Shri M.B. Rajesh,

Adv. Joice George and

Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri N.K. Premachandran.

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND
MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI
ANANTHKUMAR): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my dear friend and
colleague is a seasoned parliamentarian. Shri Premachandran has raised a
very, very valid issue. I am a witness in this House that he has been
pursuing this matter for the last so many years. This matter pertains to 60
lakh employees, *mazdoors* across the country.

The NDA Government led by Narendra Bhai Modi Ji is also very much concerned about them. Therefore, we have made the minimum pension of Rs.1,000 also. In this case, as already Premachandran Ji has mentioned, there is a Committee. The Committee is yet to give the report.

SHRI RAJEEV SATAV (HINGOLI): Yesterday, the same Question was there. It was not at all replied.

SHRI ANANTHKUMAR: Therefore, I will convey the message to the hon. Labour and Employment Minister that the Committee expedite the proceedings and give the recommendations forthwith.