

Regarding the Employees` Provident Fund Pension

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Thank you very much, Madam. This is my first 'Zero Hour' submission in the Budget Session. It is relating to the Employees' Provident Fund pension.

In the Sixteenth Lok Sabha, I moved a Private Members Resolution and the Government appreciated it. A Committee was then appointed. It went into the matter of EPS, 1995. It recommended to increase the minimum pension to a higher level. The Ministry of Labour and Employment also accepted it.

It is pending before the Finance Ministry. So, my first submission is that the minimum pension should be enhanced as per the recommendations of the High Level Empowered Committee.

My second submission is regarding the inordinate delay in the disbursement of lawful pensionary benefits to the contributors for the pension on higher wages. The higher pension on the basis of actual wages should be provided as per the direction of the hon. Supreme Court's verdict dated 4th November 2022. It is clear on the part of the hon. Supreme Court that higher pension should be given on the basis of actual wages. But, it is quite unfortunate to note that there is a delay in that till now. Most of the PF offices are not disbursing the amount on time.

My third submission is regarding the unlawful introduction of *pro rata* calculation method for higher pension which is overpowering the Parliamentary provisions and disregarding the apex court judgement dated 4th November, 2022. The pensionable service and the wages are divided into two parts. After 1st September 2014, 30-35 per cent pension will be reduced. It is a gross violation of the hon. Supreme Court's judgement as well as the Act passed by the Parliament.

There is one more point that I wish to make. There is a non-compliance of the judgement dated 4th November 2002 of the hon. Supreme Court as well as the judgment dated 30th May 2004 of the High Court of Kerala with respect to the petitions of pensioners of CPSUs in Kerala. In Kerala, para 11 of the pension scheme has not been opted. They are now being denied this higher pension.

All these issues go to show that the Employees Provident Fund Organisation is always acting against the interests of the poor labourers in the country. Therefore, an urgent meeting may be conducted by the Government of India to address this serious issue.

With these words, I thank you very much for permitting me to speak.

एडवोकेट चन्द्र शेखर (नगीना) : सभापति महोदया, मेरा नाम भी लिस्ट में है ।

माननीय सभापति : मैं सभी माननीय सदस्यों को बताना चाहती हूँ कि आप सभी के नाम मेरे पास हैं । आप धैर्य रखें, आप सबका नम्बर आएगा । आप सभी सहयोग कीजिए ।

एडवोकेट चन्द्र शेखर : आपकी वजह से ही हमें उम्मीद है कि हमें बोलने का अवसर जरूर मिलेगा ।