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Title: Need to enhance the pension of workers engaged in Cotton mills and beedi industry in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): In my Tirunelveli Lok Sabha Constituency a large number of spinning mills are functioning since long. Among them, co-operative Mill at Pettai, namely, Madura Coats Pvt. Ltd., at Vikramasingapuram is very prominent. A large number of people are employed there for the last 30 to 40 years. But they are not reasonably paid. Over a period of time, there was reduction in workforce in those units. Some of the workers/employees have opted for voluntary retirement and many of them were retrenched from service also. During their service period, they had contributed 8% of their monthly salary towards provident funds.

However, I am sorry to state that after relieving from their service they are getting very less monthly pension in the range of Rs. 250 to Rs 900. Likewise, thousands of beedi workers in my district who have worked many years are getting very meagre financial assistance, whereas the Government of Tamil Nadu is now paying Rs 1000 p.m. as pension to the old-aged people in the State. This paltry pension amount would not be sufficient to meet their both ends. In view of this, the cotton mill/beedi workers are consistently demanding that their minimum pension be fixed at Rs. 3,000/- per month which would come as a relief to these economically weak people.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to fix the minimum pension of all cotton mill/beedi workers of Tamil Nadu who are covered under EPF scheme at least Rs. 3,000 pm.