

an>

Title: Need to remove the ceiling on the number of beneficiaries under social security pensions in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI P. KUMAR (TIRUCHIRAPPALLI): Hon. Chairperson, Tamil Nadu is one of the frontline States of India in the field of social security and social assistance programmes. Social security pensions are provided to deprived classes under eight schemes in Tamil Nadu. Under these schemes, there are 35.64 lakh beneficiaries. This figure includes 12.37 lakh persons covered under the three Government of India supported pension schemes. In view of the ever increasing food inflation, monthly pension was raised from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1000 in May, 2011. Monetary support provided by the Government of India is only up to Rs. 200 to Rs. 500 per beneficiary per month in three out of the eight categories. The total financial commitment to Tamil Nadu Government for a year is Rs. 4,491 crore whereas the Government of India contributes only around Rs. 600 crore a year. With its limited resources, the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, hon. Amma is doing her best to provide social security to all the needy citizens. This monetary support to the disadvantaged sections of the society cannot be compromised at any cost. Therefore, I appeal to the Centre to remove the ceiling on the number of beneficiaries under the Centrally funded schemes and also cover more categories of pensioners as is done by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

I also urge upon the Centre to enhance the Central Government pension amount to Rs. 1000 per month.