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Title: Need to implement welfare schemes meant for senior citizens in the country.

*SHRI K. PARASURAMAN (THANJAVUR): Hon. Chairman Sir, Vanakkam. Senior citizens are valuable assets of our country. Only because of their hard work our society has developed to a stage where it is now. It is the primary duty of all of us to help senior citizens. As per the Report of United Nations Population Fund, there were 90 million elderly persons during the year 2011 and as per the said report, it may increase to 173 million during the year 2016. Out of these 90 million senior citizens, 60 million live in isolation. Around 90 per cent of them are earning their livelihood on their own. I therefore urge that the Government should bring welfare schemes meant for senior citizens. There is a need for more schemes as regards health and security of senior citizens. At a stage when they live in isolation these elderly people need care and security. I can cite an example in this regard which is followed in Tamil Nadu. Under the guidance of Hon. Puratchithalaivi Amma, a scheme is being implemented in Tamil Nadu wherein a police constable at the beat would visit these senior citizens living in isolation at their homes and ensure about their safety and other health needs. Verification of antecedents of those who visited these senior citizens recently was also done by the police. Such a scheme should invariably be implemented throughout the country. The health of senior persons should be given utmost importance. I therefore urge that the Union government should set up Senior Citizen Welfare Fund to take care of the health care of elderly. Unclaimed funds amounting to approximately Rs. 30,000 Crore lying unutilized in PPF, EPF, LIC should be made useful in creating a Senior Citizen Welfare Fund. I believe that several lakhs of senior citizens will be benefitted as we owe them a lot. I also urge that the report of Mohini Giri Committee set up in the year 2011 for the well-being of senior citizens, should be implemented immediately. Thank you.