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Title: Regarding alleged delay in disbursement of funds to the pension holders in Kerala.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Hon. Madam Speaker, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to raise a very urgent and important matter.

A serious lapse is occurring in the Postal Department in the State of Kerala. The Government of Kerala is implementing various pension schemes for the welfare of old people, disabled and people with different vulnerabilities. This pension amount is disbursed through the Postal Department in the State of Kerala. The Government of Kerala has deposited Rs.925.54 crore to be disbursed to as many as ninety one lakh pensioners in the State. The money was deposited months back to disburse the amount to the Post Office Savings Bank Account of the pensioners well before the local self-Government elections. But the Postal Department has purposefully delayed the disbursement of the money to the pensioners. Maybe, it is done by the officers and staff belonging to the Trade Unions of the Opposition Parties in Kerala. It is believed that the pension sabotage by the Trade Unions hand in gloves with the officials of the Postal Department was to influence the voters against the Government and in favour of their political parties. The authorities of the Department have not monitored the disbursement of the pension and thus failed in their duties. This has resulted in loss of trust towards the Postal Department and if the allegations are found true, the Postal Department will lose a big business permanently. This will be detrimental to the very existence of the Department of Posts and its credibility will go down drastically.

I urge upon the Government to conduct high level inquiry in this matter and if any culprit is behind this, they should be punished. So, I would like to request the hon. Government, through you, Madam, to conduct a high level inquiry because the poor pensioners are not getting the pension in time. It is a very important matter. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Rajeev Satav is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Kodikunnal Suresh.