

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to provide pension benefits to ex-employees of Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited.

SHRI A. ARUNMOZHITHEVAN (CUDDALORE): More than 5000 retired employees of NLC India, (formerly Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd) are not getting Pension benefits because they had been left out from the EPS 1995 Scheme by NLC India. Though NLC announced the Employees Group Contributory Superannuation Scheme in year 1997 wherein the amounts collected from employees were deposited with Life Insurance Corporation India and the interest derived was to be paid as pension to the employees. This scheme failed. The EPS-95 scheme was not implemented by NLC and the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Tiruchirapalli till 2003. NLC included the employees who were working in November 2003 in their pension scheme and left out the 5000 retired employees. Because of this mistake, now 5000 employees who retired before 2003 could not get their pension benefits.

The Madras High Court in its verdict in 2010 had ordered the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Tiruchirapalli to get applications from the employees left out in EPS 1995 scheme to examine the matter. But it was not implemented. A Public Interest Litigation was filed by 20 members and verdict on it was pronounced in 2012. But the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Tiruchirapalli had filed an appeal against the verdict making things worse for those who rendered 30 to 40 years of service and retired. They are all now 75-85 years old. They are paying the penalty for the dereliction of duty on the part of NLC and RPFC, Tiruchirapalli.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to make suitable amendments in EPS-95 and issue necessary instructions to the concerned authorities to include the 5000 retired employees in the ambit of the Pension scheme and provide them pension benefits immediately.

