

6.00 P.M.

**Demand for restoring old age pension to beneficiaries under Indira Gandhi
National Old Age Pension Scheme in Tamil Nadu**

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM (Tamil Nadu): Thank you, Vice-Chairman, Sir. Elderly population is an asset of the Nation. A need was felt for publicly funded, universal scheme that will overcome destitution among aged. National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) was an outcome of this need. Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) is a Central assistance given as pension of ₹ 200/- per month to persons above 60 years and ₹ 500/- per month to persons above 80 years belonging to a household below poverty line. State Government also contributes to this as State share. The main objective of this is to ensure financial support to beneficiaries. It is their only income for survival. Because of their old age, they are unable to go for any work for their livelihood. Many instances of removing the names of beneficiaries from the list have come to light. Affected by this, many beneficiaries are agitating against this. In Chennai, there was a large demonstration by beneficiaries aged from sixty to ninety against stoppage of old age pension. The plea taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu is that there are around seven lakh fake beneficiaries. It is also alleged that there may be around ten lakh more fake beneficiaries. It is not fair on the part of the State Government to stop pension to beneficiaries on the basis of presumed irregularities. Hence, I urge the Government to interfere in the matter to ensure that beneficiaries are not deprived of their due pension and their pension is restored. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI S. THANGAVELU (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE): Shri Tarun Vijay.

**Demand for celebrating millennium anniversary of Rajendra Chola-I,
the Great King of Chola Empire in schools and colleges**

SHRI TARUN VIJAY (Uttarakhand): Sir, Rajendra Chola I (Rajendra Chola the Great) was the son of Rajaraja Chola I and is one of the greatest rulers and military leaders of the Indian Tamil Chola Empire. He succeeded his father in 1014 CE as the Chola emperor. During his reign, he extended the influences of the already vast Chola empire up to the banks of River Ganges in north India and across the ocean. During his reign, the Chola Empire became the most powerful Empire of India. Rajendra's territories extended to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Maldives, and

in Malaysia, Southern Thailand and Indonesia and Pegu islands with his fleet of ships. The Cholas became one of the most powerful dynasties in Asia during his reign. It was Rajendra Chola who spread his influence in wide areas of South-east Asia like Malaysia, Indonesia and Southern Thailand. In fact, Rajendra Chola I was the first Indian king to take his armies overseas and make conquests of those territories. Rajendra Chola created at his capital a vast artificial lake, sixteen miles long and three miles wide, which to this day remains one of the largest man-made lakes in India. It is urged that let not the great Emperor of India from Tamil Nadu region be ignored and his millennium anniversary beginning this June be celebrated by Government in all schools and colleges and also, Navy should have a special celebration dedicated to the great Indian Naval Emperor. A Naval warship should also be named after him. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE): Thank you very much. He was a great leader, I agree.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA (Gujarat): Sir, I too associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

MAHANT SHAMBHUPRASADJI TUNDIYA (Gujarat): Sir, I too associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI CHUNIBHAI KANJIBHAI GOHEL (Gujarat): Sir, I too associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE): The House stands adjourned till 1.30 P.M. on Saturday the 28th of February, 2015. Thank you, very much.

*The House then adjourned at four minutes past six of the clock
till thirty minutes past one of the clock on Saturday,
the 28th February, 2015.*