

**Demand to extend the insurance coverage period for Covid frontline warriors  
under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana**

SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY (Karnataka): Sir, under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana, our Finance Minister had announced and started implementing insurance coverage of ₹ 50 lakh to COVID frontline warriors, including doctors, nurses, ASHA workers, medical and sanitary workers, paramedics and others who have been racing against time to provide critical medical care to COVID patients in Government hospitals and COVID centres.

The scheme, which was started initially on 30th March, ended in June. Further, the Government of India has extended this scheme for a further period of three months up to 30.09.2020.

There are more than 22 lakh public healthcare providers, including community health workers, standing as shield to protect patients inflicted with Coronavirus. There are no signs of this pandemic disappearing in the immediate future. Eminent doctors, scientists and epidemiologists have also been saying that virus may stay for at least another 6-12 months. I strongly feel that our frontline warriors should also be protected. But the validity of insurance scheme is only up to 30.09.2020 which needs to be extended.

Hence, I request hon. Prime Minister to extend this scheme for a further period of six months which will not only encourage our COVID frontline warriors but will also motivate them to work with more dedication and devotion.

DR. SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI BHASKAR RAO NEKKANTI (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

**Demand for EPF pension for the retired employees of the Neyveli Lignite  
Corporation (NLC) India Ltd.**

SHRI M. SHANMUGAM (Tamil Nadu): Sir, Neyveli Lignite Corporation India Limited is a Mahanavaratna company and EPF Pension Scheme, 1995 is applicable to

[Shri M. Shanmugam]

the employees who are all members of Family Pension Scheme, 1971. But the Government of India permitted those employees, who had not opted Family Pension Scheme, 1971, to get their pension after paying the dues of the contribution with interest. Since most of the CPSUs have formulated separate pension schemes, it was not accepted by EPF organisation. When the trade unions went to court, the Supreme Court also upheld the EPFO decision in 2003. The Court allowed the employees to receive the pension after paying pension contribution from 1995 to 2003. Unfortunately, the EPFO did not permit (i) the employees who are not a member of Family Pension Scheme, 1971; and (ii) the employees who retired between 1995 and 2003 but willing to pay their contribution, even after the court direction to allow them to join the scheme. Repeatedly, the RPF Commissioner, Tiruchirappalli, approached the court to drag on the case but all cases were dismissed by the court.

Therefore, I urge upon the Minister of Labour to intervene in the case to resolve the long-pending issue of poor employees who retired from service before 2003; most of them have expired and their families are also suffering like anything. It is the right time to give justice at least to the families of those deceased pensioners by sanctioning family pension. Thank you.

DR. SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri M. Shanmugam.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri M. Shanmugam.

SHRI RAJMANI PATEL (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri M. Shanmugam.

**श्रीमती फूलो देवी नेतम** (छत्तीसगढ़): सर,...

MR. CHAIRMAN: फूलो देवी जी, This is not Zero Hour; this is just a Special Mention.

**श्रीमती फूलो देवी नेतम** (छत्तीसगढ़): सर, मैं इसे सभा पटल पर रखती हूँ।

**Demand to construct four-lane road from Dhantari to Bastar Division Headquarter Jagdalpur in the State of Chhattisgarh**

**श्रीमती फूलो देवी नेतम** (छत्तीसगढ़): महोदय, बस्तर संभाग छत्तीसगढ़ का पिछड़ा इलाका है, जहाँ से रायपुर तक केवल सड़क मार्ग द्वारा ही जाया जा सकता है। बस्तर संभाग के पिछड़ेपन