

Sir, it is known to every Indian that Kota is the hub of coaching institutions of India. The Indian Institute of Technology is one of the most prestigious institutions of our country. Only brilliant and academically-meritorious students get admission in the Indian Institute of Technology. It is the call of the hour that Government have to identify a route-map to find out as to what is the reason behind these suicides. Why are these brilliant students going for taking the ultimate step? Sir, the Government have to examine all those cases whether they are related to suicides or not. It may not have been suicide; it could have been ragging also. The Government must seriously look into it. I would like to give one example here. Mr. Faizan Ahmed was a meritorious student from Assam, who was doing his third year in Mechanical Engineering in IIT, Kharagpur. On 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2022, his body was found at the Lala Lajpatrai Hospital of the IIT. The IIT authorities informed Ahmed's family that he had committed suicide, but his family was not ready to accept that it was a case of suicide. They challenged the post mortem report in the Kolkata High Court given by the Midnapore Hospital in 2022. Ultimately, hon. Justice of the Kolkata High Court gave an order to go in for a second post mortem of the dead body. After the second post mortem of the dead body, it was found that there was a bullet injury in the body. ...(*Time-bell rings*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Your time is over. Thank you, Shri Birendra Kumar Baishya. The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by hon. Member, Shri Birendra Prasad Baishya: Shri Bhubaneswar Kalita (Assam), Shri Rungwra Narzary (Assam), Shri Ajit Kumar Bhuyan (Assam), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu), Shri P. Wilson (Tamil Nadu), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Shri Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shri A.A. Rahim (Kerala), Shri Haris Beeran (Kerala), Shrimati Priyanka Chaturvedi (Maharashtra), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha) and Shri Jawahar Sircar (West Bengal).

### **Demand to increase minimum monthly pension under EPF 1995 Scheme upto Rs. 9,000**

SHRI M. SHANMUGAM (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I would like to raise a demand for increasing the minimum monthly pension under the EPF 1995 Scheme up to Rs. 9,000 per month.

Sir, lakhs of people in the working class are suffering in the country. They are planning to agitate at the *Jantar Mantar* on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of next month. The Employees

Provident Fund Act was enacted in 1952, which provided for a contribution of 12 per cent from the wages of the employee and that of 12 per cent from the employer.

Sir, this is a very unique social security Act in the world. The EPF is a very big financial resources organization. After 20 years, a family pension scheme was evolved in 1972 where it was said that a contribution of 1.16 per cent from the employee, 1.16 per cent from the employer and 1.16 per cent from the Government would be contributed and workers who died in harness would be given pension. After repeated demands, in 1995, a pension scheme was evolved where, 8.33 per cent contribution from the employer and 1.16 per cent by the Government towards pension. In 2014, when the UPA Government was in power, the minimum pension was increased to Rs. 1,000. Subsequently, we demanded many times that it may be increased.

Sir, as you may know, the amount of old age pension is more than Rs. 1,000, but even after working for more than 20 or 30 years, these workers are getting very poor pension. The EPF always says that there is no financial resource. I would like to put this question to the Government, through you, Sir: All the funds from the family pension scheme have been merged with the EPF. All the corpus fund of retired employees who died after 1995 has also been merged with that. There are lakhs of rupees of unclaimed fund also. Despite all this, the Government has not come forward to meet the demand of the poor, retired working class.

Hence, I request, through you, Sir, that the Labour Ministry Department as well as the Finance Ministry must look into the matter and raise the minimum pension of the workers to Rs. 9000.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by hon. Member, Shri M. Shanmugam: Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha (Bihar), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu), Shri P. Wilson (Tamil Nadu), Shri KRN Rajeshkumar (Tamil Nadu), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Shri Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala) Shri Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shri A. A. Rahim (Kerala), Shri Jose K. Mani (Kerala), Shri Haris Beeran (Kerala), Shri P.P. Suneer (Kerala), Shrimati Priyanka Chaturvedi (Maharashtra), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shrimati Sulata Deo (Odisha), Shri Niranjana Bishi (Odisha), Shri Jawhar Sircar (West Bengal) and Shri Sant Balbir Singh (Punjab).

माननीय बाबू राम निषाद।