

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಟುಣುಕುಗಳು
PAPER CLIPPINGS

16

ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: Legislative Council Session

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: Prakash Herald ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE: 6/3/2011

MLCs urge govt to restore old pension scheme

Members across party lines support the cause

BENGALURU, DHNS

Members of the Legislative Council on Friday demanded the state government reintroduce the Old Pension Scheme (OPS).

Under the new National Pension System (NPS), the pension amount (which requires 10% contribution by employees) goes into mutual funds. As a result, the employees are unaware of where their money is being invested and also about how much they would get at the end of their service, the MLCs argued.

MLC K T Srikante Gowda drew the attention of the House to the issue, which received support from members cutting across party lines. In



Minister and ruling party leader Kota Srinivas Poojary speaks in the Legislative Council on Friday. DH PHOTO

his support, several MLCs, including BJP leader Ayanur Manjunath, said the government employees were made to believe that the new system was a "ticket to realise all their dreams", at the time of implementation. In reality, the employees were unaware of where their money was being invested. Moreover, it discriminated between legislators and ordinary government employees. "As legislators, we are all

still enjoying the benefits of the Old Pension Scheme. This is a discriminatory practice," he pointed out.

Specifically raising the problem of teachers in government-aided schools, Srikante Gowda said the government had put the onus on the school managements to pitch in their share of 10% for NPS, instead of the government doing it. "The school managements are not in a position to pitch in this share.

As a result, these teachers are not getting any pension at all," he said.

Responding to their demands, the ruling party leader in the House Kota Srinivas Poojary said a committee, led by the additional chief secretary, had already been constituted in 2018 to look into the issue. "We will include the issue of aided schools under the same panel," he assured the House.

Srikante Gowda also demanded the government to restart the process of recognising aided schools. "Kannada medium schools that have been set up after 1995 have not been taken into consideration for aid. The government should relax its regulations to include new schools at least until 2005, and bring them in the aided fold. This will be a good way to protect our Kannada medium schools," the MLC urged.

A proposal in this regard was before the finance department and owing to financial constraints, it was not taken forward, Poojary said.