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Title : Issue regarding exclusion of FCI depots in Kerala under Direct Payment System (DPS).

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (MAVELIKARA): The Food Corporation of India introduced contract payment system to all workers in various FCI Depots in the State of Kerala from 1.5.96, in the first stage of departmentalisation. However, three Depots, namely, Mavelikara, Western Calicut, and Chalakudi, have been excluded from the implementation of DPS. The reason given for the exclusion was that the names of these three Depots were not mentioned in the initial notification. The FCI authorities continued to ignore the implementation of DPS in these three Depots even after the necessary notification by the Ministry of Labour in the year 2001 and a subsequent court verdict on 16.7.2002. It is also to be mentioned here that the hon. Minister for Public Distribution System had stated in his reply to the matter raised under Rule 377 by hon. member, Shri Lonappan Nambadan that action was being taken for the implementation of DPS in the newly notified three Depots. The workers are on agitation over the indifferent and anti-workers attitude of the FCI authorities. The FCI authorities appear to be deliberate in not implementing the DPS and forcing the workers to work as per the contracted rates that existed before the implementation of DPS.

I urge upon the Government to direct the competent authorities to take urgent steps to implement DPS in the newly notified Depots and regularise the workers in the FCI Depots.