

Title: Need to redress the grievances of the Extra Departmental agents who participated in the strike during 23-29 October, 1996.

SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR (OTTAPALAM): Nearly three lakhs of extra departmental employees are working in the Postal Department. Most of them had participated in the strike of the period from 23rd October 1996 to 29th October 1996 demanding the removal of the eligibility ceiling on bonus to Central Government employees. The Central Cabinet has taken a positive decision on their demand and the demand was conceded. Further, the Central Cabinet again took a decision to make payment of the wages for the strike period by granting eligible leave to participants. The ED agents are not entitled for any kind of leave. If leave is granted to them the allowance for the leave period will be deducted from their monthly wages and paid to the substitutes. Even though, the Government of India has decided to condone the strike period but the benefit of the decision has not been implemented to the poor paid ED agents only on the plea that they are not entitled to wages during the leave period.

The decision of the Postal authorities is in contravention to the spirit of the Cabinet decision. So the postal workers of Kerala went on an agitational programme from 2.12.1996. The then Hon. Minister for Communications intervened on the issue and promised the Union (NFPE) representative that action would be taken for payment of strike period of wages to ED agents also. But it seems no improvement on this issue is there.

I request the Government to look into it.