

Kerala Communists spar over food scheme

The bickering between ruling allies - the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) and the Communist Party of India (CPI) - in Kerala intensified Thursday with the senior leaders of both parties lashing out at one another over proposed food security scheme.

The scheme aims at increasing paddy and milk production in the state.

'The CPI is trying to sabotage the food security scheme. The party is taking steps that are detrimental to the scheme,' said CPI-M state secretariat member E.P. Jayarajan at a meet to protest price-rise here.

The dispute between the two allies is over who should administer the implementation of the scheme. The CPI, which holds the agriculture portfolio, wants the agriculture minister to be the chairman of the State Food Security Mission, which will implement the scheme. The CPI-M wants the chief minister to head the mission.

Reacting to Jayarajan's statement, CPI state secretary Veliyam Bhargavan said it is not right for the chief minister to takeover the control of all other departments. 'This is not good for a coalition government or any other government,' Bhargavan told reporters at Kottayam, 90 km south of Kochi.

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