## SRES – NFIR

The monthly salary withdrawal limits for all the Kerala State Government employees is only Rs.50,000/-. Employees are suffering.

The only Union CITU ruling Kerala.

The above situation should not come to Railways.



The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala government began crediting the salaries of government employees on Monday, but temporarily limited the daily withdrawal at ₹50,000 citing technical issues. Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal said the government hoped to complete the disbursal of salaries and pensions for February in the next two to three days.

The ₹50,000 cap has been set reportedly to prevent the treasury drifting into overdraft once again. The official account is that the limit has been set to prevent the online system from collapsing. The payment of salaries via the employee-Treasury Savings Bank (e-TSB) accounts was hit on March 1, triggering protests from employees' organisations.

Mr. Balagopal blamed the Union government for



Kerala NGO Association members stage a protest in front of the District Treasury in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday. S. MAHINSH

the financial crunch. The Centre has whittled down the State's eligible funds by ₹57,400 crore. It has offered to permit the State to borrow ₹13,608 crore in return for withdrawing the suit filed in the Supreme Court. Kerala expects a favourable decision when the case is heard on March 6 and 7, he added.

Meanwhile, the Opposition-backed Secretariat Action Council staged a hunger strike demanding steps to disburse the salaries.

Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan said the United Democratic Front (UDF) is not surprised by the delay. It had foreseen and warned of this scenario through two white papers on State finances.

Mr. Satheesan accused the Finance Minister of misleading the employees regarding the reasons for the delay. The empty treasury stands testimony to the financial mismanagement by the Left government be said.

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