

Left opposes Aadhaar, but not in Kerala

Aswin.JKumar
@timesgroup.com

Kochi: Just a fortnight ago, the Supreme Court said pensions are rightful entitlement and not subsidy thus delinking disbursement of pensions from mandatory possession of Aadhaar, but Kerala's LDF government has denied pensions to around 3 lakh beneficiaries — bulk of them blue collar workers — because they are yet to seed or link Aadhaar.

CPM and other Left parties have been vocal in their opposition to Aadhaar, considering it an insidious tool in the service of the surveillance state and Big Data, though the finance department, which disburses pensions, claimed it is insisting on Aadhaar due to its efficacy in establishing identity.

“We've come across instances where the same person avails pension from more than one welfare fund board. Aadhaar is the only way we can trace unique identification number to find out such persons,” said a senior finance official on Wednesday.