

Title: Requested to take immediate steps against the decision of the Central Provident Fund Commissioner regarding the denial of the family pension to the cashew nut workers in Kerala.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Sir, today morning hundreds of cashewnut workers have organised a rally outside Parliament House under the leadership of Kerala Cashewnut Workers' Congress. These workers have come from Kerala. They have collected two lakh signatures from the cashewnut workers. They have submitted a memorandum to the hon. Prime Minister and to the hon. Minister of Labour.

Sir, their demand is to withdraw the recent decision which was taken by the Central Provident Fund Commissioner on the provident fund and family pension. The poor, retired cashewnut workers, have been denied of their family pension.

Sir, I have raised this issue here so many times. However, the Government has not taken any step. The hon. Minister of Labour is sitting here. It is raining heavily outside Parliament. Hundreds of cashewnut workers, who came from Kerala, are agitating there. It is a very sensitive and burning issue in my constituency as well as in Shri Ramesh Chennithala's constituency. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA): Sir, I would like to add one more thing. The cashewnut workers get employment for only three months. The recent decision has adversely affected the two lakh cashewnut workers in Kerala. The hon. Minister of Labour is sitting here. The hon. Minister should look into it and take an urgent and necessary step. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, the only question is: are the labourers supposed to pay for a period when no wages are given? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is all right. Hon. Minister wants to intervene.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, it is a very serious issue. I think, the poor labourers are in grave situation. Poverty deaths are also taking place there....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Thomas, the Minister is in a mood to respond.

...(*Interruptions*)

श्रम मंत्री (डॉ. सत्यनारायण जटिया) : माननीय उपाध्यक्ष जी, जैसा माननीय सदस्य जानते हैं कि काजू का काम करने वाले कामगारों का काम मौसमी है। उन्होंने प्रॉवीडेंट फंड के बारे में कुछ बताया।

उनके बारे में क्या सहायता की जा सकती है, निश्चित रूप से यह देखने का प्रयास करेंगे।