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Title: Need to constitute a separate Directorate for Cashew with its Headquarters at Kollam, Kerala.

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN (QUILON): Kollam District in Kerala State is known as the Capital of the cashew industry of the Nation, as the cashew processing industry of the nation is concentrated in the district. The workers employed in processing the cashew kernels are renowned for their skill and agility. Cashew kernels processed and marketed from Kollam have special market all over the world. The annual export of processed and value added edible cashew kernels from Kollam has crossed 50,000 MT, fetching a foreign exchange of more than 1000 crores per annum. The cashew industry of Kollam comprises of direct exporters; large scale manufactures, small-scale processors employing more than two lakhs of labourers. The potential for growth in the cashew Processing Section is very high, provided adequate common facility centers, raw material bank, and market facility are provided. Government of India implements several projects through various agencies for the uplift of the Cashew industry. The Directorate of Cashew nut and Coca Development under the aegis of Ministry of Agriculture, administers the schemes for the cashew development of the Government. It will be more appreciable if the Government take immediate steps to constitute a separate Directorate for cashew, with its Head quarters at Kollam.