

Title : Need to set up a Cashew Board in district Kollam, Kerala.

SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Cashew is one of the major industries in Kerala. We are earning crores of rupees as foreign exchange from cashew exports. About 90 per cent of the cashew processing units are in Kerala especially in Kollam district. Around 2 lakh cashew workers are working in Kollam, Alleppy, Pattanamthitta and Trivandrum. More than 300 cashew factories are running in Kerala. Cashew trees are also in Kannoore and Kasargod districts. There is a proposal for setting up of Cashew Board under the Ministry of Agriculture. Setting up of a Cashew Board is a long pending demand from the Kerala State. There is an urgent need to set up the Cashew Board in Kollam district, Kerala. Only then the cashew industry can be promoted and farmers' and workers' interests can be protected and we can earn more foreign exchange.

Keeping in view the above facts, I urge upon the Minister of Agriculture to set up the Cashew Board in Kollam at the earliest.