

Title: Need to take steps for development of Cashew sector in the country.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): The socio-economic condition of cashew nut workers is very bad. The average total expenditure is significantly higher than the average income. The living condition of cashew workers is highly dependent on the total number of working days. Due to the import-export policy and the imposition of tax, the factory owners are not able to provide sufficient number of working days. The cashew sector is facing serious problem. The intervention of Government is required for increasing the number of working days to 250, financial assistance for mobilizing working capital, special arrangement for procurement of raw nuts, streamline policy on procurement of raw nuts and sale of kernels, promotion and expansion of marketing, financial support and technical support for value added products, project for diversification, etc. Hence, I urge upon the Government to initiate urgent action for resolution of the issues in cashew sector in the country particularly in Kollam, Kerala.