

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Problems faced by workers engaged in Cashew Processing

Units in getting medical treatment.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): My constituency has a large number of cashew processing units and workers are mostly women. The workers who are ESI card holders have regular health problems while working at highly toxic conditions where deshelling of nuts is done.

The new ESI rule stipulates that to be eligible for treatment in an ESI dispensary/clinic, a card holder would have a minimum of 150 days attendance in a year. The work is seasonal totalling not more than 80/-working days a year, therefore the rule should be revoked and the minimum attendance should be lowered to the earlier level of 75 days a year.

The workers develop ailments/ complications requiring treatment by super specialists at super speciality hospitals. The revised rules deny this facility to cashew workers.

I urge the Centre Government to provide immediate relief to cashew workers on both the above counts on humanitarian and compassionate grounds.