

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding problems of cashew sector in Kerala.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Madam, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to raise a very important and urgent matter of public importance of Kerala.

Madam, in Kerala, in the last few years, more than 400 cashew factories have been closed down due to the policies of State Government as well as of the Central Government. Shri N.K. Premachadran, Shri K.C. Venugopal and myself come from Kollam district of Kerala. Kollam is a cashew producing district. More than two lakh workers work in this sector. Now, they are losing their employment due to this crisis. The cashew workers who work in private sector are also losing their stipulated ESI and PF benefits.

I would like to urge upon the Central Government and also the Ministry of Commerce to take urgent steps to call a high-level meeting at the earliest to settle this crisis in cashew sector.