

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding pension related issues faced by cashew growers in Kerala - Laid

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Cashew sector in Kerala faces extreme volatilities and the crisis is exacerbated as administrative complexities increase. The insistence of EPF Organization, Kollam for submission of pension claims solely online and stoppage of filing of manual claim in Form No. 10D have put poor labourers, especially aged, ailing and illiterate in distress. The complexities involved in obtaining various certificates and digital filing cause harassment of poor workers and they are denied their opportunity to avail pension. The manual claim in Form Number 10D may be continued for the EPF members in service as on 31/12/2019 and help be given to them. The denial of pension to cashew workers due to amendment to Para 9 of the EPF Scheme 1995 by replacing “actual service” by “contributory service” and the issue relating to definition of ‘seasonal factor’ and relaxation allowed under rules be remedied and workers be allowed to avail rightful pension.