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Title: Demand for a free export zone to safeguard the labourers working in cashew processing units.

SHRI T.R.V.S. RAMESH (CUDDALORE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very much grateful to the hon. Speaker for allowing me to speak in Lok Sabha regarding my constituency problem.

In my constituency, there are many cashew processing units. There are more than 200 cashew processing units in my constituency of Cuddalore. More than five lakh women labourers and more than two lakh men labourers are employed in this processing industry. We want to safeguard them. That is why, I am requesting for a free export zone for cashews. If free export zone is there, the labourers will be benefited accordingly. They are now levying 2.5 per cent duty on cashew. It should be withdrawn to safeguard the cashew industry in my area. More than seven lakh people are involved in the cashew export processing units. The cashew industry is earning foreign currency for the country. That is why, you have to ban the import of raw cashew kernel.