

Re: Fixing of MSP for Cashew

SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU (SRIKAKULAM): Sir, I wish to raise the issue of cashew crisis unfolding in my district, Srikakulam. Andhra Pradesh is one of the biggest exporters of cashews in India and Palasa in Srikakulam has more than one lakh acres of cashew cultivation managed by mostly small and marginal farmers. Cashew plantations start bearing fruit after three years of planting and require proper care to bear fruits. Farmers have borne rising expenses up to Rs. 30,000 annually whilst selling their produce for prices as low as Rs. 8000, barely earning even one-third of their expenses. Moreover, introducing cheaper cashew kernels from countries like Vietnam has further dropped the prices in the market, thereby compounding the losses suffered by local farmers. I urge upon the Government to step in and provide immediate relief to the over 30,000 farmers of Srikakulam by fixing an MSP for cashews after consulting local farmers. Furthermore, the Government must re-impose a five per cent import duty on foreign cashews to reinvigorate local cashew sales and set up a Cashew Board to supervise the implementation of such changes at the earliest to ease the burden of local farmers.

माननीय सभापति : श्रीमती नवनीत रवि राणा ? उपस्थित नहीं ।

श्री रितेश पाण्डेय ।