

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3923  
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2012  
PF AND ESI FOR CASHEW WORKERS  
Kodikunnil Shri Suresh

**Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to ensure that the benefits like Employees` State Insurance (ESI) and Provident Fund (PF) are provided to the poor cashew workers in the country including Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE)

(a) & (b): The cashew workers covered under the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948 (ESI Act, 1948) are entitled to avail all benefits provided under the Act. The Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 applies to Cashewnuts industries with effect from 30th September 1962 and accordingly social security benefits are provided to the eligible members under the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 1952, the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 & the Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme, 1976.

As on 31.03.2012, a total number of 848 Units and 127212 cashew workers are covered under the ESI Act, 1948.

A total number of 2087 Cashewnuts establishments are covered under the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 with 4,25,488 members in all over India including Kerala as on 31.03.2011.

Regional Offices and Sub-Regional Offices of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation carry out regular inspections of the covered establishments including Cashewnuts establishments through their Enforcement Officers to monitor the compliance of the establishments as per the Act.

Similarly, Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) is monitoring the Scheme through its Regional, Sub-Regional and Divisional offices in the States. Periodical inspection of the covered units is conducted by the concerned Social Security Officers to enforce compliance under various provisions of the Employees' State Insurance Act.

(c): Does not arise in view of reply to parts (a) & (b) above.