

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1798  
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2013  
SETTING UP OF CASHEW BOARD  
Antony Shri Anto

**Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether there has been any request for setting up of the Cashew Board in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the reasons for the delay in setting up of the Cashew Board in the country;
- (d) whether the Government has identified the location for setting up of the proposed Cashew Board and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to assist the cashew industry and to promote the export of cashew from the country?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN)

(a) & (b) Yes, Madam. In addition to the various Members of Parliament and Chief Minister of Kerala, the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committees on Commerce in their 42nd, 46th, 50th, 58th, 65th, 70th, 77th, and 99th Report had suggested/recommended that a Cashew Board should be established. Accordingly, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry had initiated and moved a proposal to form a Cashew Board. Since the proposed Cashew Board involved merger of the Directorate of Cocoa & Cashew Development (DCCD) under the Ministry of Agriculture and the Cashew Export Promotion Council (CEPC) under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry engaged with the Ministry of Agriculture including meetings at Secretary level as their agreement for merger was essential. However, Ministry of Agriculture has not agreed to the merger of the Directorate of Cashew Nut and Cocoa Development with the Cashew Export Promotion Council (CEPC). They were of the view that the different agencies under the Agriculture Ministry have done significant work in promotion of cashew cultivation and enhancement of productivity and have, therefore, maintained that 'there is no need for setting up a separate Cashew Board. Further, the Cashew Industry too is not in favour of a Cashew Board and has conveyed their opposition to the proposed setting up of Cashew Board. This being the position, it was decided to drop the proposal to set up a separate Cashew Board.

(c) & (d) Does not arise.

(e) In order to promote cashew export, the Government has been continuously assisting the Cashew Export Promotion Council of India through Five Year Plans. In the XI Five Year Plan, the Cashew Export Promotion Council of India was provided an assistance of Rs.9.02 crore for upgrading processing facilities. Similarly, for the XII Five Year Plan (2012- 2017), the CEPCI has been sanctioned Rs.26 crore for modernization, diversification, Process Mechanization, Automation of Cashew Processing Units, quality up-gradation and Food Safety Certifications. In addition, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry has put in place various schemes namely Market Development Assistance (MDA), Market Assistance Initiative (MAI), Assistance to State for Development Export infrastructure and Allied Activities (ASIDE), Vishesh Krishi and Gram Upaj Yojana, Focus Product Scheme, Focus Market Scheme, Town of Export Excellence etc. to boost export of agri products which includes cashew industry also.