

Need to set up a regional provident fund office at Kottarakara in Quilon District, Kerala.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (ADOOR): In Kerala, Quilon district is a major cashew producing district. More than 200 cashew factories run in Quilon district in public and private sector. Around two lakh cashew workers are engaged in this industry. Most of the workers are poor and women. Some cashew factories are also running in Pathanamthitta district. Government of India has introduced provident fund, family pension to cashew workers. Most of the cashew workers are covered under Provident Fund, Family Pension scheme. About two lakh cashew workers are covered by Provident Fund Scheme. In Quilon and Pathanamthitta district, lakhs of cashew workers are going to regional Provident Office at Trivandrum. It is very difficult to go every day to Trivandrum Regional Office. Thousands of cashew workers have to face a lot of problem.

There is a proposal to set up a sub-regional Provident Fund office at Kottarakara, the Central place of Quilon and Pathanamthitta district. It is a long pending demand for setting up a regional provident office located at Kottarakara for helping cashew workers.

Therefore, I request the hon. Minister for Labour to look into the matter seriously and take necessary steps in this regard.