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Title: Need to set up a Central Cashew Board with its Headquarters at Kollam, Kerala .

*SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (MAVELIKARA): There are above three lakh employees dependent on the cashew industry in Kerala. Overwhelming majority of the workers are women belonging to SCs/STs and economically backward sections. Presently the processed cashew is mainly exported to developed countries but the economic recession has adversely affected the prospects of the international market. Hence to sustain the industry it is imperative to increase the internal consumption and develop indigenous market and also to improve the domestic production of cashew. For the comprehensive development of this industry a Central Cashew Board is to be created for scientific research in the field and increasing the plantation area. It is a long standing demand that a Central Cashew Board with its head Quarters at Kollam, Kerala be set up.

I urge upon the Government to take necessary steps in this regard.