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Title: Need to provide financial assistance for reviving and promoting the cashew industry in Kerala. – Laid.

SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN (ADOOR): The cashew industry in Kerala is one of the major traditional industries. Tens of thousands of workers, especially women workers are working in more than 500 factories of this industry. More than two and half lakh families are dependent on them. The Achutha Menon Government in 1970 established the Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation for the development of the industry as well as for the welfare measure of the workers with minimum wages, P.F., Pension, etc. the factories under this Corporation were closed during the last three years. About 40,000 workers were unemployed. The State Government didn't make any efforts to open these factories. The Corporation needs a Central assistance of one hundred crores of rupees to re-open it and provide employment as well as to earn foreign exchange through cashew exports. It is a welcome step announced by the Finance Minister to provide 100 crores of rupees for traditional industries like handloom and coir. But cashew industry is not included in that scheme. So, I request the Union Government to include it along with the handloom and Coir industries and also raise the financial assistance to Rs. 500 crores.