

an>

Title : Need to take steps to solve the crisis in cashew industry due to fall in the price of cashew kernels.

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN (QUILON): The crisis of cashew industry due to fall in the price of cashew kernels has indeed caused a negative impact on our foreign exchange earnings apart from rendering workers jobless. International markets for cashew nuts are characterised by competition, falling prices and a concentration of power with buyers and retailers in Europe and the US creating an unpredictable situation. India's share of the international cashew market has been reduced over time through the entry of other countries, most recently Vietnam. International prices of raw cashew and processed Kernels are volatile and the terms of trade are deteriorating. At the same time, quality requirements and standards are increasingly applied. No action has been taken by the Government in increasing the production of raw cashews in India leaving cashew processing centers at the mercy of global suppliers. A recent study by International Institute of Environment and Development indicts the Indian Government that there is a notable absence of an active role by government (national and state level) to implement existing labour laws or even to design policies which would allow the Indian Industry to maintain its global position and competitiveness in the future. The industry is in a crisis and the real sufferer are the workers who are rendered jobless and those who are forced to work under private processing centers without any benefits.

(vii) Need to formulate an Action Plan for conservation of Vembanad

wet land system in Kerala