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Title: Need to set up a Cashew Board at Kollam, Kerala.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Madam, the cashew industry is emerging as the backbone of the Kerala's economy. Seventy five per cent of Cashew Industry in the country is in Kerala and the bulk of the cashew exports are also from Kollam, Kerala. There are around 800 registered cashew nut processing units providing employment to around 3 lakh workers of which 95% are women. The cashew industry is facing problem related to availability of raw nuts. The fall in the domestic production of raw nuts has led to this situation. The easiest way to overcome the situation is to bring more area under cashew production by providing encouragement to farmers. The only available method is to encourage the cashew cultivation by providing resource. It is possible only through a Cashew Board.

Hence, I urge upon the Government of India to establish a Cashew Board at Kollam, Kerala at the earliest.