

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT**

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1296
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.11.2019**

CASHEW SECTOR EMPLOYEES

1296. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is considering to treat all cashew sector employees as seasonal factory employees as defined under Para 2(kk) of the employees PF scheme 1952 read with explanation to para 9 (a) to the employees pension scheme 1952;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard;**
- (d) whether the Government is aware that the PF sub regional office, Kollam has denied PF pension benefits to poor cashew workers as per amendment to para 9 of the employees pension scheme 1995 replacing actual service by contributory service;**
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard; and**
- (f) whether the Government is intending to conduct PF Adalat at Taluk level, if so, the details thereof along with status of the same?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)**

(a) to (c): The cashew sector employees are already treated as seasonal workers under the provisions of Para 2(kk) of the Employees' Provident Funds (EPF) Scheme, 1952 read with explanation to para 9(a) to the Employees' Pension Scheme 1995.

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(d) & (e): Clarification was sought by the Zonal Office, Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) Kerala on the issue of eligibility of cashewnut workers for pension and the same was provided by EPFO Head Office and as per available information with EPFO Head Office, RO, Kollam is processing the pension claim applications in respect of cashewnut workers, treating them as employees employed in seasonal establishments.

(f): Nidhi Aapke Nikat, which was earlier known as Bhavishya Nidhi Adalat is conducted on 10th of every month (on next working day in case of holiday). Nidhi Aapke Nikat is conducted by field offices of EPFO within and outside office including Taluk level. Total Number of 103 Nidhi Aapke Nikat (Bhavishya Nidhi Adalats) were conducted at Taluk level during 2019-20 till month of November.
