

# Cashew industry seeks aid from state & Centre

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**Kollam:** Kerala small and medium cashew industrialists on Sunday requested the central and the state governments to come out with a package to save the sector, which is facing a severe financial crisis.

The leaders of the joint protest council of cashew industrialists said they approached both the Centre and the state government seeking help to revive the sector, but in vain.

"It is high time that the Union and state governments stop the negative attitude towards the crisis in the cashew industry and sufferings of the entrepreneurs, as well as lakhs of



workers in the sector," said council convenor K Rajesh.

As part of agitation to highlight their demands, the council would organise a protest rally to the Secretariat in Thiruvananthapuram on September 10, he said.

Their demands include steps to provide fresh soft loans to reopen factories, financial aid for semi-mecha-

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nisation of units and waiver of interest on loans for three years. Around 100 Cashew entrepreneurs and their family members had observed fast on Onam day, in front of the secretariat in Thiruvananthapuram in support of their demands including stopping recovery measures by the Kerala government against them.

AGENCIES