

Title: Problems faced by the tea/coffee plantation industries.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): Sir, I am referring to an issue concerning two popular drinks throughout the world, that is, tea and coffee.

Sir, the tea industry is facing a very serious crisis and tea estates in my Constituency are, more or less, closed. Some of them have been closed for a very long time.

Sir, there is going to be a serious crisis because of imposition of excise duty. So, I request the hon. Minister of Commerce as well as the hon. Minister of Finance to withdraw the estate duty and save the tea industry from ruin.

* Not Recorded

Sir, there are about 600 tea growers in South India, particularly in Kerala. There are about two and a half lakh of workers employed in tea production. So, I request the Central Government, especially the hon. Minister of Finance and the hon. Minister of Commerce, again, to intervene in the matter and save the industry from destruction.

Sir, I would again request the Central Government to withdraw the excise duty immediately, otherwise all these employees will be thrown out of employment and the estates will be closed. ...(*Interruptions*)

श्री चन्द्रनाथ सिंह : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, हमार भी नोटिस है। हमने भी कई दिन से नोटिस दिया है। हमें भी मौका दीजिए। (व्यवधान)

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : नोटिस दिया है तो आपको भी मौका मिलेगा।