

NT>

Title: Regarding problems being faced by the coir industry in Kerala.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): Sir, I rise to raise a very important issue regarding the daily life of ten lakh of coir workers.

Now, the Central Government has asked the State Government to bring in a new scheme and they have also brought the new scheme. The Central Government promised 50 per cent subsidy for that scheme. So far, not a single pie has been given to them.

It is reported in the newspapers that there are several instances of deaths of coir workers. They do not have any other means of livelihood. This is a traditional industry and, as all of you know, the coir mats are spread over throughout India. It is the handiwork of these poor workers.

Sir, we were discussing about the rights and the difficulties of women workers. Now, almost all the workers employed in the coir industry are women workers. So, when we speak about women's rights, we forget about their daily livelihood. Are those in the Central Government human beings? If they are, they will have to give the subsidy that they had promised. They are not doing it and the poor women workers are left to the mercy of starvation. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHAMED (MANJERI): Sir, I associate with what Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan has said. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, there is one more thing. In Kerala lakhs of people are in trouble because the Nedungadi Bank has been merged with the Punjab National Bank. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, let me finish my point.

MR. SPEAKER: He is associating with you.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : He can associate with me. I thank him also. But I have not finished my point.

The question is that it is the laxity of the Central Government in giving aid to the State Government to meet at least the promise made which is creating problem. The State Government has agreed to implement the scheme. They have stopped subsidy given to the coir workers. That is not all. Instead of that, they have proposed a new scheme. As per the Government release they are not given the wages. That is why lakhs of poor coir workers are starving. That is why I raise this important issue here. I urge upon the Central Government to give aid that is promised. The workers have to be rescued. ...*(Interruptions)*