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Title: Resentment among the trading community due to the move to introduce VAT system in the country.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): Sir, the value-added tax system is being introduced throughout the country with effect from April 1, 2005. It is a welcome step but situations have arisen especially in the southern States like Kerala where the traders are on the warpath. They have even threatened to stop supply. In Tamil Nadu, the AIADMK Government has taken another step. They have even declared a black flag demonstration against the hon. Minister of Finance. Anyhow, the people would be put to difficulty and the States like Kerala are also incurring heavy losses because of this. I would request the Central Government to see that something is done in the matter so that supplies would not be disturbed. It is the duty and responsibility of the Central Government to see that supplies are not disrupted. The traders are on a warpath, especially in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, for their own reasons with which we do not agree.

But the people should not be put at the risk and the people should not suffer.

So, I request the Central Government to take immediate steps to see that the supply is not at all disrupted.