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Title : Reported decision of Union Government regarding closing of Marine Research Centre and Marine Aquarium at Vizhinjam, Kerala.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, very often I get the opportunity and I am very fortunate to occupy the Chair. Even during late nights, I get opportunities to occupy the Chair enabling the House to do the business. So, I lose the opportunity to raise matters during 'Zero Hour'. Today, I got that rare opportunity of being able to raise an important matter during 'Zero Hour'.

MR. SPEAKER: There is nothing called 'Zero Hour'!

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Now, the Government of India have taken a decision, a wrong decision in my view, to close down the Marine Fisheries Research Institutes functioning in coastal areas of Kerala, namely Kozhikode, Alleppey, and Vizhinjam. All these Research Institutes have been closed down on the pretext that the Expenditure Committee had recommended their closing down. It is very unfortunate and highly objectionable that these Institutes which are functioning for decades are being closed down. The Vizhinjam Institute is functioning from 1951 onwards, doing commendable service in the matter of

* Not Recorded.

research. Very rare fishes are available near Vizhinjam, Trivandrum. Unfortunately, the Ministry has taken a decision to close it down. An agitation is going on.

I would request the Central Government to reverse the decision and take a proper corrective decision so that the people's agitation can be prevented. We are representing the State of Kerala. The people of Kerala are being put to great hardship. We are supporting the UPA Government. The Government is closing down many of these Institutes. How can we face the angry people?

With full responsibility I remind the Chairperson of the UPA, who is present here now, that it is an anti-people decision. This decision was taken by the previous NDA Government. You must correct it. It was a decision taken by the NDA Government. The UPA Government must correct the decision. It should reverse the decision.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, please address the Chair. Do not threaten any hon. Member. Threaten me only!

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No Member is allowed to threaten any other Member. You can threaten the Chair. It is because the Chair is impervious now!