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Title: Need to start the work of Vallarpadam Container Transshipment Terminal.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Finance Minister in his Budget speech has mentioned that the work relating to Vallarpadam Container Transshipment Terminal would be started this year. Tenders have been invited but the Central Government is delaying it by not giving its sanction. If sanction is given, then the work will be started. There is inordinate delay on the part of the Central Government which leads to some other suspicion among the people of Kerala that there is some lobby working behind the Central Government not to give sanction to Vallarpadam Container Terminal. So, I request the hon. Minister to give the sanction early.

We are not truly represented in the Government and we, irrespective of party affiliation, all supported the Government but they are doing nothing. *â€(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Very critical support.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : The Finance Minister has even declared in his Budget speech that this would be given topmost priority.

But they have not done it. They are simply denying. What for? What is the purpose?

MR. SPEAKER: Very well, something will come during your intervention in the Finance Bill during the Budget discussion.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I request the hon. Minister, and also I request Shrimati Sonia Gandhi to use her good office to see that the Vallarpadam shipment container terminal is sanctioned without delay because some foreign multi-national companies have offered tenders and they will withdraw them. They are not giving the sanction simply for technical reason. So, I request you, Madam, to use your influence as the Chairman of the UPA Government to see to it that this is sanctioned.

MR. SPEAKER: You can only address the Chair.

Now, Mr. Veerendra Kumar, you can only associate.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (CALICUT): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am associating with the hon. Member, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, but I have one more point. This Vallarpadam trans-shipment container terminal was sanctioned in the Budget. The hon. Finance Minister said that it would be given. But now we learn that the matter is referred to another Cabinet Sub-Committee. The issue must be taken up, but it was referred back.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot explain what they discuss in the Cabinet.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : The apprehension is that some multi-national company is interested in this and they want to divert the whole thing. So, hon. Speaker, Sir, the Union Government must at least give us Vallarpadam terminal an Onam gift. Onam is coming now in Kerala. It can be given as an Onam gift. It should not be delayed any more.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure they will welcome your suggestion.