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Title: Regarding problems being faced by tea workers in Wayanad district of Kerala.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar to speak now. Please be very brief.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (CALICUT): Yes, Sir. I will be brief.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the State of Kerala, the entire plantation industry is in doldrums. I want to draw the attention of the House about one district which is the smallest in Kerala which is known as Wayanad district where large tea plantations are closed. In the Wayanad district the Assam Brote plantation, Padoor plantation which are very large tea plantations, are closed for eight to nine months. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Please be brief.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : Thousands of workers do not have jobs. Ninety-two people have already committed suicide in this small district. It is a district of only 7,00,000 people. The prices are sliding down. There are one lakh farmers who cultivate pepper and coffee. They are in real trouble. The prices are alarmingly sliding down. Large plantations are closed. People have no work. It is a tribal district. The Government must look into the matter because this smallest district has the largest number of suicides because of this. ...(*Interruptions*) This matter needs the consideration of the Central Government.

Sir, in the last four days, three people, namely, Shri John, Shri Vasu and Shri Ramachandra, who were small farmers, committed suicide. They could not repay their debts. The plantations are closed. About 1,00,000 agriculturists are in trouble and labourers have no job. The Government has to very seriously consider this matter. The smallest backward district of 7,00,000 people in Kerala has the largest number of suicides. The matter is of urgent concern for the Government to look into.