

Fourteenth Lok Sabha

Session : 10

Date : 09-03-2007

Participants : [Radhakrishnan Shri Varkala](#)

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Title: Need to review reduction in import duty on Palm and other edible oils with a view to protect the interests of coconut growers in Kerala.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): Sir, normally I would not get an opportunity during 'Zero Hour' because I would be in the Chair at that time. This is the first time I have got a chance to speak during 'Zero Hour'.

MR. SPEAKER: Therefore, please say good words about me.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I think you are not ready. You can raise it on Monday. Thank you for your cooperation.

Now Shri Shailendra Kumar to speak.

श्री शैलेन्द्र कुमार(चायल) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, आपका बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद...(व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं केवल आपसे इतना ही धन्यवाद चाहता हूँ कि आप हाउस में काम कीजिए। हमें धन्यवाद नहीं चाहिए।

...(व्यवधान)

श्री शैलेन्द्र कुमार : अध्यक्ष महोदय, हम काम करने के लिए बैठे हुए हैं...(व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप बोलिए।

श्री शैलेन्द्र कुमार : अध्यक्ष महोदय, व्यवधान हो गया है...(व्यवधान)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, I would like to inform the House about the plight of the coconut farmers... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I think Mr. Radhakrishnan has remembered his subject now. So, Shri Shailendra Kumarji, please protect me and allow Mr. Radhakrishnan to speak.[\[R22\]](#)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, I would like to raise the issue of the plight of the coconut growers not only in Kerala, but of the entire southern States. The difficulty is that the Central Government has come out with a proposal to reduce the import duty on palm oil and other edible oils. It has resulted in an unsteady market and consequently the coconut growers are not getting remunerative prices for their produce. This has adversely affected the economy of the State.

I would like to request the Central Government to consider raising the duty of palm oil without delay so that we could prevent any further suicide by farmers in the State. Suicide by poor farmers would become the order of the day if things continue like this. Until and unless the Government takes effective measures,

the conditions of the farmers of the State would continue to deplorable and we would continue experience incidents of suicide by farmers throughout the country.

Sir, therefore, I would like to request the Government to take immediate steps for providing relief to the poor coconut growers who are facing a crisis for a very long time now.