

nt>

Title: Issues relating to sale of Kovalam Ashok Beach resort of ITDC to a private company.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): Sir, Kovalam is an international tourist centre. There is a castle built by the former ruler of Travancore. It is a matter of historical importance. Recently, this was transferred to the India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC.) They, in their turn, have illegally transferred the ownership of the property which is worth more than Rs.400 crore for a small, paltry sum of Rs.43 crore. This was done during the NDA regime.

The Leader of the Opposition in the Kerala Assembly, Shri V.S. Achuthanandan came here and met the hon. Prime Minister. He was accompanied by the former Speaker of Kerala Assembly. All these people came and met the hon. Prime Minister. Dr. Manmohan Singh agreed to order an inquiry into the matter. This is a very serious issue. In one sense, it is corruption. In the other sense, the archaeologically important international centre was sold to a private party, the M FAR Hostels Private Limited. There is corruption to the core. This has figured in the Kerala Assembly debate also. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: All right, you have raised it very forcefully. Please complete now.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : So, I would request the hon. Prime Minister to order a comprehensive inquiry into the matter as promised to the Leader of the Opposition in the Kerala Assembly. We will be presenting a memorandum to the hon. Prime Minister also in this behalf. So, I again request the hon. Prime Minister to take urgent measures for a comprehensive inquiry.