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Title: Need to ban the import of the coir product from Sri Lanka to save the coir industry in India.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): Sir, coir industry is one of the oldest traditional industries in India. Now, it is facing a crisis. The crisis is caused due to the Indo-Sri Lankan Accord. If that is given effect to, it may lead to a catastrophe.

Now, the coir produces are not sold in the Cochin market. There is no market because of the fear of import from Sri Lanka. I may point out that about five lakhs of people are engaged in this industry. Eighty per cent of them are women workers. I am speaking in the period of International Women's Year. By our policy and because of this Indo-Sri Lanka Accord, four to five lakhs of people are thrown out of employment. So, I would request the Central Government to take immediate steps to see that the coir produces are not imported in India. Also, the Government has to find out some new nations in the South American States. So, we may make arrangements for export of coir to South American States. The Central Government should take immediate steps for that. I request the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs who is present here, at least, to make a response because five lakhs of people are involved. What will they do?