

Title: Requests to exempt service tax of five per cent on the manpower of those working in the Gulf countries from Kerala.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): Sir, I raise a very important issue to draw the attention of the Government of India to it. We all know that manpower is an exportable commodity. In India, Kerala is one of the largest manpower exporting States. Thousands of Keralites are working in various Gulf countries like Saudi Arabia, and Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, and other places. The Government of India is imposing a service tax of five per cent on these people. This is inhuman. Our policy says that export restrictions should go. Then, why should it not be made applicable to manpower also? Why should the Government collect this five per cent tax from these poor people?

सभापति महोदय : श्री चमन लाल गुप्ता ।

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : They are earning foreign exchange for the nation.

सभापति महोदय : मैंने श्री चमन लाल गुप्ता जी को बुलाया है ।

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, the people who are working in the Gulf countries are earning foreign exchange for the country. It is only just and proper that this tax is withdrawn. It is illegal. Nobody can excuse this. I want the Minister to respond.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

*Not Recorded.