

Title: Regarding problems of farmers of Kerala.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): Sir, I am raising a very important issue that has been mentioned in this House long ago.

The important question is that the Central Government has already declared the minimum support prices for two or three agricultural products in Kerala. The first one is with regard to copra procurement. The procurement of copra is completely stopped in the State of Kerala. No procurement is taking place for the last three or four months. Also, with regard to rubber, there is no procurement on the part of the Central Government. The authorities concerned have dragged out from the scene. So, the condition is very precarious.

The coconut farmers as well as the rubber growers are facing a very grave crisis. Moreover, the prices are quite unstable. Today, in Kerala, almost all *kisan* organisations have started an agitation. There is a huge rally in Trivandrum before the Government's Secretariat. I understand that thousands and thousands of farmers are participating in that mass rally now staged before the Government's Secretariat at Trivandrum. The position is very serious. The entire Secretariat is encircled by lakhs of farmers gathered from almost all the districts of Kerala. It is a very serious situation, which we cannot ignore.

The prices have come down for almost all agricultural products. The prices have come down to a considerable extent. People are more or less starving. Some farmers have committed suicide. This is the grave situation, which I would like to bring before this House. Until and unless we take some preventive or urgent steps in this matter, the State would be facing a very huge crisis. I request the Central Government to review the situation with all seriousness and to understand that the farmers, who are normally very calm and cool, are now on the warpath. So, the Government should take the problems of the farmers into account and do all that is possible without delay.