

Title: Demand to ban the import of rubber goods in India.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, I would like to raise an important issue regarding the rubber growers of Kerala. Now, in spite of repeated attempts the Central Government has not taken any effective steps to control the import of rubber goods. Sir, rubber goods are imported without any restriction.

Sir, natural rubber is grown in Kerala. We produce 90 per cent of the total production of rubber. So, Kerala is the most affected State in India. We are prepared to meet the entire requirement of rubber in India. In spite of repeated requests the Government have not taken any effective steps to remedy the situation. The rubber growers are facing serious crisis. They are more or less starving. There are about 22 lakh rubber growers in Kerala. They are small, very small, and medium rubber growers. They are not rich estate owners.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to intervene in the matter and impose a ban on the import of rubber goods to India. I would also request that encouragement must be given to the small rubber growers of Kerala who produce till date 90 per cent of our rubber requirement. I once again appeal to the Central Government to impose restrictions on the import of rubber goods.

With these words, I conclude.