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Title: Discussion regarding steps taken by Government for relief and resettlement of Tamils in Sri Lanka and other measures to promote their welfare, raised by Shri T. R. Ballu on the 16th August, 2011 (Discussion not concluded).

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, Item No. 14, Shri T.R. Baalu.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU (SRIPERUMBUDUR): Hon. Speaker, Madam, with excruciatingly bleeding heart, I would like to initiate this discussion on genocide and the sad plight of Sri Lankan Tamils. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please, let us have order in the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : I think that this is the third time in this House that I am raising this vexatious issue. The hon. Members of Parliament would desist from disturbing the House because I am initiating the most important issue of the Sri Lankan Tamils. ...(Interruptions)

Madam, the other day, I mentioned about genocide and the sad plight of Sri Lankan Tamils. ...(Interruptions) It is nothing but a true story, which could be substantiated by the Report submitted by a panel of experts appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please do not do all this.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : The panel consisted of Mr. Marzuki Darusman from Indonesia as the Chairman; Mr. Steven Ratner from United States of America; and Madam Yasmin Sooka of South Africa. ...(Interruptions)

These are nothing but true stories of their sad plight. This can be substantiated by the Report submitted by the Panel set up by the United Nations. There are umpteen number of visuals like these. This one is from the *Headlines Today* of India. Another true story has been telecast by Channel IV of BBC, London. There are many evidences the world over brought out by various NGOs and other organizations which could be shown at the appropriate time by the individuals, if there is an inquiry conducted by the International Court of Justice.

Madam, for the benefit of the Members of this hon. House, kindly permit me to read one or two paras from the Report of the United Nations so that they can understand what has happened during the Civil War in Sri Lanka. I am quoting from the Report of the Panel of Experts of the UN. Specifically, the Panel found credible allegations associated with the final phases of War.

"Between September, 2008 and 19th May, 2009, the Sri Lanka Army advanced its military campaign into the Vanni using large-scale and widespread shelling, causing large numbers of civilian deaths.

The Government shelled on a large-scale in three consecutive No Fire Zones, where it had encouraged the civilian population to concentrate, even after indicating that it would cease the use of heavy weapons. It shelled the United Nations hub, food distribution lines and near the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) ships that were coming to pick up the wounded and their relatives from the beaches. It shelled in spite of its knowledge of the impact, provided by its own intelligence systems and through notification by the United Nations, the ICRC and others. Most civilian casualties in the final phases of the war were caused by Government shelling. The Government systematically shelled hospitals on the frontlines. All hospitals in the Vanni were hit by mortars and artillery, some of them were hit repeatedly, despite the fact that their locations were well-known to the Government. The Government also systematically deprived people in the conflict zone of humanitarian aid, in the form of food and medical supplies, particularly surgical supplies, adding to their suffering. To this end, it purposefully underestimated the number of civilians who remained in the conflict zone. Tens of thousands lost their lives from January to May, 2009, many of them died anonymously in the carnage of the final few days. The Government subjected victims and survivors of the conflict to further deprivation and suffering after they left the conflict zone. Screening for suspected LTTE took place without any transparency or external scrutiny. Some of those who were separated were summarily executed, and some of the women may have been raped. Some persons in the camps were interrogated and subjected to torture.

Thus, in conclusion, the Panel found credible allegations that comprise five core categories of potential serious violations committed by the Government of Sri Lanka:"

i) killing of civilians through widespread shelling; ii) shelling of hospitals and humanitarian objects; iii) denial of humanitarian assistance; iv) human rights violations suffered by victims of survivors of the conflict; and finally (v) human rights violations outside the conflicts zone, including against the media and other critics of the Government.

This sad episode is nothing but a tragedy. These atrocities, these miseries have happened under the nose of a Gandhian State, which is even today preaching non-violence to the rest of the world. These atrocities have happened under the feet of a State which is run by the policies and principles of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. The Media would only say that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru has preached us Panchsheel. These atrocities have happened near our country. When our brothers and sisters were killed and raped in Sri Lanka, when our sisters were kidnapped and raped in the forest of Sri Lanka, when our Tamil children were butchered and hung in the streets of Sri Lanka, when my Tamil race is ridiculed by a State called Sri Lanka, when the Sri Lankan Tamils were slowly wiped out of the scene of Sri Lanka, the Indian Tamils and the Tamils world over felt that the mighty Government of India should definitely come forward with the helping hand to see that innocent killings are stopped, to see that innocent Tamils are liberated as it was done in East Pakistan sending Mukti Vahini that liberated Bangladesh. This is what we thought. This is what exactly Government of India should have done. This was a strategic one but they have not done it.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: I need not tell you. You are a very senior Member but I still would like to point out that it is another country about which we are talking. It is a sensitive matter and you will keep all these facts in mind while you are speaking.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Yes, Madam. I do agree. At the same time, the root cause for these miseries should be understood by the world, at least by our Members of Parliament. It is more important. That is why, I am telling all these things. But this is the struggle for the past 61 years. The agitation which was started in 1948 to 1967 by the great Shri Thanthai Selva and from 1977 to 1983 by great Shri Amrithalingam should not go waste. The Leaders like Shri Thanthai Selva and late Shri Amrithalingam fought for the cause of Tamils in a peaceful way, in an orderly way but they could not succeed. We could understand that they have failed by following the Gandhian way.

Finally, the youngsters, the young Sri Lankan Tamils took arms in their hands. What went wrong? Nothing went wrong. The armed struggle is one of the struggles in freedom movement, in the liberation movement. It has been accepted by all the liberation movement. Whatever it is, unfortunately the genocide has succeeded. The young people have failed miserably.

The young people have failed miserably because of various things which I do not want to dwell upon it. In spite of my leader Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi's advice, they have not coordinated properly; they have not cooperated together. There were unnecessary quarrels between brothers and brothers. Finally, the struggle went into rough weather and failed. We feel sorry for this. But my leader Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi from 1956 onwards consistently and vociferously fought for the rights of the Sri Lankan Tamils. It was because of that he lost the elected Government twice. To draw attention of world, he had resigned as MLA along with the General Secretary Prof. Anbalagan. The DMK lead by him, conducted rallies, *dharnas*, demonstrations, picketing and *bandhs*. I have also been arrested for more than 25 times particularly with Thalapati M.K. Stalin and late leader Murasoli Maran. More than 105 volumes consisting of one crore signatures of Tamils were sent to the United Nations for redressal requesting the Secretary General to intervene in this affairs. About hundred kilometres of human chains were formed in the torrential rains by Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi. The TESO Conference and the historic Conference wherein the leaders like Shri Vajpayeeji, Shri NTR, Shri Barnalaji, Prof. Madhu Dandavate, Shri Jaswant Singh, Shri Farooq Abdullahji, Shri H.N. Bahugunaji, Shri Mahantaji, Prof. Anbalagan, my leader late Shri Murasoli Maron, late Shri Upendra, 'Asiriyar' Veeramani P.Nedumaran and Mr. Vaiko, the old friend of mine had addressed the gathering of more than ten lakh people in Madurai. They resolved to see that proper redressal is given to the Sri Lankan Tamils. The historic Conference had been conducted under the leadership of my leader Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi. Finally, after the civil war he sent a delegation under my leadership to visit the refugee's camp and we saw that more than 3,30,000 people are just inside the barbed wire fencing. They were put into like cattle. We saw this tragic thing with a bleeding heart and eyes. We came here and we apprised the matter to the hon. Prime Minister of India. We apprised about this issue to all the leaders. But what had happened? No tangible result had come even today.

The worst part is that not only the Sri Lankan Tamils but our language, the Tamil language had been ridiculed. I am very sorry for that. I am reminded of a historic event wherein Hitler's Nazis, during the Second World War burnt the books of Jews. The great scientist Albert Einstein, Sigmund Freud had written so many volumes of books. Those volumes were burnt

to ashes by the Nazis.

A gang of Nazis along with hooligans went into the Berlin Library and burnt thousands of books to ashes. The same thing happened in Jaffna. More than 97,000 volumes of Tamil books were burnt to ashes in the world famous Jaffna Library. The Tamil books were burnt by two Ministers of Sri Lanka ..

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Member, we have close and friendly relations with the neighbouring State. Please keep this in mind. And when you are making your points please ensure that nothing that you say adversely affects our relations. It is a request. You are a very senior Member. I expect you to observe this responsibility.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Yes, Madam.

Madam, what I want to explain is that not only the Sri Lankan Tamils but the Tamil language itself was ridiculed. They ridiculed our language. That is why 97,000 books were burnt to ashes in Jaffna Library. They not only waged war against my language, they waged war against our Tamil culture. Nobody can tolerate that.

I would narrate the story that was published in the United Kingdom by Mr. Graham William. He says, "Traveling through the Tamil areas in Northern Sri Lanka one is shocked to see the changing demography of the land. The land that was once inhabited by Tamils, the land that had distinct flavour of Tamil culture and heritage is now in the grip of Sinhalese Army." He further says, "Throughout our travel into the Tamil hinterland we could sense an air of Sinhalese triumphalism. Military camps and Sinhalese soldiers are common sight in Tamil areas. The Sri Lankan defence forces occupied 7,000 square kilometers out of a total of 18,880 kilometres of Tamil land." He further says, "Around 2,500 temples and 500 churches have been destroyed in the war," We should be able to catch this point. This is nothing but waging war against a culture.

What has happened in Bosnia? In the break-away country of Yugoslavia, General Ratko Mladic and Mr. Radovan Karadzic - had killed 8,000 Bosnian Muslims.

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr. Baalu, I do not like to intervene again and again but we have to discuss the relief and resettlement of Tamils. Please come to that instead of going into all this. It is something very sensitive, you know about that.

SHRI T.R. BAALU :It is only a fact, Madam.

In 1992, the UN Secretary-General resolved to appoint a Commission. The Commission had enquired and reported to the United Nations. In 1992, the United Nations appointed a Tribunal. In 1993, the Tribunal identified these two people as responsible for the heinous crimes. Now they are facing that international tribunal at The Hague for killing 8,000 Muslims.

If Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic have to face the tribunal at The Hague for killing 8,000 people; if Iran stands condemned for killing hundreds of people in 2009 elections; if Bashar al-Assad faces UN sanctions for killing 1,300 Syrians in Syria for raising the voice of democracy; if Omar al-Abbasid of North Sudan had to receive a warrant from the United Nations for having killed two lakh people; why not *â€¦* * Why not *â€¦* *, for having killed lakhs and lakhs of Sri Lankan Tamils? Why not?

I would only voice my feelings, with your help here. What my friend, the External Affairs Minister said is this. The External Affairs Minister is not here. He is a very good man. Of course, he is my own friend; but the other Minister is here. *...(Interruptions)* You are here, I agree with you. If he would have been here, I would have very much impressed and that must have been more responsible. *...(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI E. AHAMED): He may come here.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Madam, the other day, the Minister of External Affairs Minister made a statement in this House:

"I have, nonetheless, stressed to my Sri Lankan counterpart, the need for investigation into the allegations of human rights violations."

My friend is requesting his Sri Lankan counterpart! Do you understand this, Madam? Our problem is with that particular administration. But my friend, having understood all these issues, having understood that a *â€¦* *

MADAM SPEAKER: No. Delete it.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Will it be all right, Madam? What I said just now, you would have probably understood. *â€¦* * Will it be

all right, Madam? No. It would not be all right.

Nowadays, the Indian Tamilians' voices are not heard by our own friends. It is not because the voices are very feeble, but our friends need some hearing aid! That is all I could say. I cannot say more than this. This is more than sufficient for them to understand that.

What is happening in Sri Lanka, after the end of the war? These are the most important points or issues. My friends can address these issues. There is a PTI story from London. After the civil war is over, the General, who had acted to the dictat of the Sri Lankan civil administration, *â€¦** is in jail now. My friends from the UN, the panel of experts went there, to find out what has happened, as was requested by the Secretary-General of the UN. They went throughout the length and breadth of Sri Lanka to understand what has happened during the civil war. They wanted to enquire from that particular General. They had not been allowed to go and find out from him what has happened during the civil war; he is in jail; the administration has not allowed them to go and approach him.

Here, there is a PTI story from London:

"The Sri Lankan Government has threatened to execute the country's jailed former Army Chief and war hero, *â€¦**, if he continues to suggest that top officials may have ordered war crimes, during the final hours of the bloody civil war. The threat has been issued by the island nation's powerful Defence Secretary *â€¦**, the brother of President *â€¦**, who said *â€¦** would be hanged if he deposes before any probes into the alleged war crimes."

MADAM SPEAKER: No. This will not go into the records.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: "*â€¦** responded angrily to the prospect of *â€¦** giving evidence."

MADAM SPEAKER: No. This will not go into the records.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : "He cannot do that. He was the Commander."

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr. Baalu, kindly restrain yourself. I have warned you again and again. Now, please restrain yourself.

SHRI T.R. BAALU :Yes, Madam, I will confine to the speech.

Yes, Madam. There is another story. This is what my friend, hon. Finance Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, previously the External Affairs Minister, had said. With your permission I would like to quote his letter:

"Dear Shri Baalu,

I write to keep you apprised of developments in respect of Sri Lanka. As you know, it has been my Government's consistent effort to work for a political solution of the situation in Sri Lanka within which all communities, and particularly the Tamil community, feel comfortable and are able to exercise their rights within the framework of a united Sri Lanka. As part of this effort, we have pressed the Sri Lankan Government to move forward towards implementation of the 13th Amendment to the Sri Lankan Constitution which resulted from the India-Sri Lanka Agreement of 1987. As a result of our recent contacts with the Sri Lankan Government, including the visit of our Foreign Secretary to Colombo on 16-17 January, 2009, I am hopeful that we can expect to see progress in the coming months (this he said in the month of January) in the direction of a real devolution of power to elected representatives in provinces occupied by Tamil majorities. "

This is what his letter says. What was the reaction of President *â€¦**

I would like to quote:

MADAM SPEAKER: Please do not bring in names.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : I am sorry, Madam. I would like to quote the President of Sri Lanka's reaction....(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. Let me control the House. A very sensitive debate is going on in the House. Please sit

down. I know what is to be done.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : I am sorry Madam. We want to vent our feelings. This is the forum where we can vent our feelings otherwise where should we go?

MADAM SPEAKER: But you have to speak with restrain.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : It is the most vexatious issue. Kindly allow us to speak. I do not think my friends will come forward to do anything but anyhow I am here to vent my feelings. The hon. Minister had written the letter in January. What has happened till now? Lakhs and lakhs of people have lost their lives. We cannot get them back. I do not think I can meet them again. I would like to quote a great person of a particular country and he says:

"There is no hurry to formulate a political solution. If there is a solution at all, it will be home grown only."

Okay, let it be home grown. It is a very interesting story. You may see, Madam, he had also added by saying:

"We will take our own time to find a solution, Madam. (the letter was written in January and we are now in August) and you cannot ask for an instant solution like Instant Noodles."

It is not proper on the part of that particular person to say like that. We cannot ask for an instant solution like Instant Noodles. This is how the Sri Lankan Tamils, the Tamil community, are being treated. Kindly understand this is his reaction on the 13th amendment.

There is one more story.

MADAM SPEAKER: How many stories you will tell?

SHRI T.R. BAALU : There is only one story left.

MADAM SPEAKER: Every time you start with another story concerning a new count.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Madam, I am not telling any story just like a grandfather telling a story to his grandchild. I am telling the facts. Nowadays, in Media parlance the facts are told as story.

In the headlines today, in our own Indian TV only, one of the officials in charge of the Sri Lankan military – I am not taking the name since Madam, you have asked me not to mention the name – the Secretary of the Sri Lankan Armed Force has been quoted.

13.00 hrs.

On the issue of political solution and the 13th Amendment, he said:

"With LTTE gone, there is no need to further amend the Constitution."

This is the statement of the official reported by the Headlines Today, which is an Indian TV channel. We feel that Indian Tamils and the Tamils world over are being hoodwinked. Not only we are being hoodwinked, the mighty Government of India is being hoodwinked by our neighbour. I can only say from Shakespeare's play – 'O Caesar, beware the Ides of March'. I think all of my friends would have gone through these lines. It is the most important line in Julius Caesar. I can only send words to my friend through this House. Madam, I am concluding.

Now, India is heading the presidium of the United Nations Security Council. India is the leader. India is presiding over it.

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, if the House agrees, we will dispense with the lunch hour?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: All right.

MADAM SPEAKER: Kindly conclude now.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Within two minutes, I am going to conclude.

MADAM SPEAKER: In this short time, you have made me very worried. Please come back to relief and re-settlement issues of Tamils because that is the topic of discussion under Rule 193. You are wandering everywhere else.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : I would urge upon this Government to prevail upon the United Nations to order for a comprehensive investigation on human rights violation in Sri Lanka from 1983 to 2009; Secondly, to bring all human rights violators irrespective of howsoever high they may be, to face the trial before International Criminal Court of Justice. Thirdly, to declare human rights violators as war criminals.

The fourth demand is to order for a Referendum for a political solution to Tamil people. These are all the demands made by *Dr. Kalaignar* during the recent meeting of the General Council of the DMK Party at Coimbatore. Finally, I would like to request, with folded hands, to the Minister of External Affairs to go through my speech and render justice to Sri Lankan Tamils.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (DARJEELING): Madam Speaker, how much time do I have?

MADAM SPEAKER: You have 26 minutes.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Madam Speaker, I will tailor my intervention accordingly. This is really an extraordinary circumstance, in which we are discussing this very sensitive and deeply emotional issue. I do share and sympathise with the sentiments that my distinguished colleague, Shri T.R. Baalu, with whom we have had the benefit of working together in the same Cabinet and indeed all his other colleagues. He knows very well that whereas I sympathise with his sentiments, I have difficulty with some of the opinions that he has expressed. But that does not distract from the totality of the situation. This is a very unhappy, challenging and trying situation in which we discuss this subject. Our dear Government is clearly at its wits end. Now I recognise that for this Government with its capability challenged, also it is challenged by its own lack of capacity and competence for it to travel to its wits end, is not a very long journey. And that is precisely why it makes it so important that what we say here is recognised by the Government and acted upon with, at least, its residual competence that it can bring to demonstrate on the subject.

I do also wish to take this opportunity to express my sympathies with my dear and distinguished friend, the Minister of State for External Affairs. I did not want that this agony be inflicted upon him. क्योंकि रेज़े के दिन हैं, अब उनको ऐसे मौकों पर यह तकलीफ़ दी जाए, मेरे मित्र शायद मुझे माफ़ी बख्शेंगे पर यह वक्त मैंने तय नहीं किया था। अगर आपकी नमाज में कोई अड़चन आती हो, तो मुझे माफ़ी बख्शें।

Madam, this particular discussion really is not subject to brilliant or rhetorical frights or really even speech making. Yet we cannot move away from identifying whatever be the substance of it. Therefore, let me, at the very beginning of the discussion, share with you as to where the NDA stood on the subject because these are five or six issues which will define our approach to the entire matter and which I continue to believe are still relevant and can still, if acted upon, find an answer to what appears to be an imbroglio.

The first is that the NDA stood for Sri Lanka's constitutional and territorial integrity. It appears that the UPA has also adopted this policy because it is the correct policy, it is the sane policy and we continue to stand for Sri Lanka's constitutional and territorial integrity.

There was a question raised about the thirteenth amendment. This amendment is an amendment of the Constitution of Sri Lanka. We stand for this amendment but if the present Sri Lankan Government does not like to call it 13th amendment, they can call it 14th or 15th or whatever they choose but this amendment is a necessary step. It is a step that ought to be taken because it is directed at a certain purpose. That purpose ought to be fulfilled. That is what our recommendation would be and not any strict commitment, only to the phraseology of the word, though there is a symbolism to the word 13th amendment.

There is a third recommendation and a very strong assertion that I make to my friend in that beautiful country, Sri Lanka, that it must revert to peace and prosperity. But to revert to peace and lasting prosperity, they must make a distinction between Tamils and the LTTE. A great deal of the mistake arises by this confusion. It is possibly a confusion that afflicts some of us also. We need to remove this aspect of equating the LTTE with the totality of the Tamil population whether in Sri Lanka or the Tamil Diaspora or other Tamils, who have such enormous talent and ability and competence that the State of Tamil Nadu has given to India.

Madam, surely, when genes of competence were being distributed by the Creator, I feel cheated coming from the desert of Rajasthan, all the genes seem to have gone to Tamil Nadu! We have no 'competence' left.

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Member, you have no reason to feel cheated.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH :But I do urge all of us to reflect on this distinction. I do not want to go into the origins of LTTE. How that original fault was committed is now history. That is not entirely relevant to our today's discussion. Therefore, I limit myself to what we can do to ourselves.

The next point is again a suggestion. I think, it makes a great deal of sense and also perhaps in Tamil Nadu, that we must make a distinction between minoritism and ethnicity. The Tamils in Sri Lanka are not simply a minority. They are an ethnic grouping and that must be recognized, respected and treated as such as an ethnic group. If we do that, then a great deal of the root of the problems and solution will be found by us. I say this because I realize that these were some of the planks of the NDA. This is not any total enunciation of policy. But I do want to add my view to a unanimous expression of view by the Tamil Nadu Assembly. That unanimous expression of views by the Tamil Nadu Assembly is a right, is a sovereign function and a duty, indeed a duty of the Tamil Nadu Assembly, as presently elected, representing the State of Tamil Nadu. It does not behove anybody here or outside of India to belittle the views that the entire Assembly of Tamil Nadu has expressed. I do not wish to further labour this point. Surely, it must be understood because if I have time I will share a thought or two on the transformed nature of today's foreign policy.

Madam, there is one more thing that I will add briefly. This is what my distinguished colleague and the Leader of the Opposition had once raised and it is about Katchaitheevu. Now, this Katchaitheevu Island about which, I believe the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has lodged an appeal in the Supreme Court, was ceded by us to Sri Lanka principally to facilitate fishing. But the fishing rights of the Tamil fishermen were preserved fully. That is one. Secondly, there is a Catholic, if I am not mistaken, church. These are problems with our fishing it is entirely coastal fishing. It is not industrial fishing and because it is coastal fishery, in waters surrounding Katchaitheevu there will be occasions when Sri Lankan fishermen come, dry their nets, or Indian fishermen go there but those occasions must not ever be used to shoot at or kill Tamil fishermen. That happens because firstly we are not fully administrating the understanding which surrounds the ceding of this island.

I can only urge the Government to ensure that this understanding is fully implemented. There is a second aspect to it. I do believe in it and I shared it with my distinguished colleague earlier that there is a need for us, for this Government to take steps because we have a coastal fishery and there are millions of fishermen all along from Gujarat to Bengal. You can circumnavigate coastal India. They are all coastal fishery. There is very little industrial fishery, so we must which stand with limited options which coastal fishery offers. Please work towards arriving at a SAARC Agreement or Memorandum of understanding or protocol, with all the countries of SAARC for coastal fishery.

Madam, I will be very brief now though I have not taken much time.

MADAM SPEAKER: You have time to speak.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I would not take much time but these are the planks which have added to Tamil Nadu's present concerns. The foundation of the policy must be that there has to be a distinction now recognized by the Government between the Tamil people and the LTTE. It must be done and as a good neighbour, Sri Lanka must also recognize it.

There are two or three general points that I would like to make. There are two or three strands of foreign policy. One is what I call "Do Something Syndrome". I do not think that the wisdom of India's Foreign Policy is governed by it irrespective of what the situation is. But the reverse is even more killing and that is being uninvolved and or the "Do Nothing Syndrome". I appeal to the Government of India not to fall into either of these traps. There is an imperative need to recognize that India has a role to play not because we are a South Asian hegemon- we are not that - but because India has a role and responsibility towards its entire neighbourhood and it must provide that voice, that leadership and that guidance. It was rather a poignant intervention that the hon. Prime Minister had made earlier. I hope what I say will be understood.

Of course, nobody stands for corruption either. But there could also be corruption of policy and you could have a situation in which because of corruption of policy, the collective ill of inherited policy are borne by India today. Do I have to cite Jammu and Kashmir, do I have to cite Tibet, or China or the IPKF and the situation in Sri Lanka? But though I do not want to go into a litany of earlier errors, please do reflect upon it.

I conclude now by sharing with the House a very fine speech made by Her Excellency, the former President of Sri Lanka. I had the honour and the distinction of working with her for a great many years and we resolved a number of issues including what then appeared to be a very unpopular step which is the Free Trade Agreement with Sri Lanka which is now flourishing. Tamil Nadu has benefited; Kerala has benefited and Karnataka has benefited. Her Excellency Chandrika Kumaratunga – I will conclude with the quotation – chose a quiet July Sunday to speak her mind on the aftermath of a war that has ended more than two years back.

This is a news Report which quotes her.

"The victorious Government and the Sinhala community must comprehend that the Tamil community is different from the LTTE. "

I applaud her for voicing that sentiment. I quote further:

" I too am glad, extremely happy, that the war has ended and terrorism has been defeated. But I cannot blind myself to the fact that although we have won the civil war, we have not even begun to win the battle for peace. "

It is a very wise statement by a former President of Sri Lanka who, if I might mention Madam Speaker, is a victim of successive acts of terrorism. Her father, a very distinguished leader of Sri Lanka, her husband and others were casualties to terrorism. She herself has lost an eye to an attack on her. For her to say this really gives the great strength to people like us who are students of foreign policy and current affairs. But she is going on.

"An essential prerequisite for peace, a stable and strong Government and prosperity, is a democratic, pluralistic State. This is the only magic potion I know to bind together diverse peoples of a multi-ethnic, multi-linguistic, multi-religious and multi-cultural country like ours as one undivided and strong nation."

And, it goes on. I do not wish to read the other parts of it. It is a longish speech. It is very worthwhile. I submit to my distinguished friends and colleagues from Tamil Nadu that if they were to go through the text effectively, they will find a great deal of sense, possibly in this also. We are beginning to move towards a final resolution of what has the troubled Sri Lankan nation for all these years let us and it in its endeavours.

Madam, as one of the small cogs in the NDA machinery, I had also endeavoured to work for the resolution of this issue for which we must continue to work. The theory of being uninvolved, which appears to be the policy of the Government of India, will not work. We have to remain involved because the people of Tamil Nadu, as an ethnic community, overflow in their sentiments, in their cultural foundations which we cannot ignore. If we do so it, we ignore it at the cost of the internal stability of India. As it is the internal stability of India is already greatly challenged for we have, at the helm of affairs, a severely challenged Government. Between these two, the answer that has to be found is the collective wisdom of all of us here.

With that appeal, Madam, on behalf of my Party, I conclude. Thank you very much.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (DINDIGUL): Madam Speaker, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to participate in the Discussion under Rule 193 on the steps taken by Government of India for the relief and resettlement of Tamils in Sri Lanka and other measures to promote their welfare.

Madam, we know the relationship between India and Sri Lanka is based upon the shared historical, cultural, ethnical and civilisational ties.

13.24 hrs (Mr. Deputy-Speaker *in the Chair*)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have been following the Sri Lankan Tamils issue for the last three decades. I remember I was part of a 10-member team of hon. Members of Parliament who visited Sri Lanka in October, 2009.

We have the first-hand knowledge of rehabilitation process in the Island nation's North and East, after the war against LTTE. Sri Lankan forces defeated the LTTE 25 months ago. Enough devastation, demolition and destruction have been done by the Sri Lankan army by crushing the Tamils in the northern Sri Lanka. The 2009 war in Sri Lanka displaced three lakh people who were forced to live in rehabilitation camps within barbed wire fences for months together. No word can displace the mental agony and distress of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) persons. At present, there are 10,000 people living under inhuman conditions at the Camps. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, our Government should press the Sri Lankan Government to release them without any further delay.

After the Civil War was over on 22nd June, 2009, the UN Secretary General appointed a Panel of Experts to visit and study

the real position. Specially, the Panel found credible allegations associated with the final stages of war between September, 2008 and 19th May, 2009. I quote: "From February, 2009 onwards, the LTTE started point-blank shooting of civilians who attempted to escape the conflict zone, significantly adding to the death toll in the final stages of the war. It also fired artillery in proximity to large groups of IDPs and fired from, or stored military equipment near, IDPs or civilian installations such as hospitals." The Panel found five core categories of credible allegations against the Government of Sri Lanka. Thus, I quote: "In conclusion, the Panel found credible allegations that comprise five core categories of potential serious violations committed by the Government of Sri Lanka –1. killing of civilians through widespread shelling; 2. shelling of hospitals and humanitarian objects; 3. denial of humanitarian assistance; 4. human rights violations suffered by victims and survivors of the conflict, including both IDPs and suspected LTTE cadre; and 5. human rights violations outside the conflict zone, including against the media and other critics of the Government."

At the same time, I quote: "The Panel's determination of credible allegations against the LTTE, associated with the final stages of the war reveal six core categories of potential serious violations: 1. using civilians as a human buffer; 2. killing civilians attempting to flee LTTE control; 3. using military equipment in the proximity of civilians; 4. forced recruitment of children; 5. forced labour; and 6. killing of civilians through suicide attacks."

These reports reveal the real position of Sri Lanka. Our Government should press the Sri Lankan Government to facilitate the settlement of all these displaced people in the respective places.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the war came to an end in May, 2009. Due to war, around half a million people were displaced. Miseries and agonies still continue. Over two lakh displaced persons have still not been permitted to be resettled in their original places, even though those who have been allowed to go back to their villages are still living in temporary shelters. Moreover, thousands of people were rendered houseless; countless people were rendered homeless; more than 50,000 children and elders were miserably maimed; more than one lakh young ladies lost their husbands and became helpless widows.

More than 15 lakh people lost their kith and kin. Thousands of people who were imprisoned are experiencing living death in cells. More than 1 lakh students have been deprived of the gift of education.

Sir, our UPA Government is helping to rebuild the battered infrastructure in Northern Sri Lanka and catering to the livelihood concerns of the Tamils have marked spectrum Indian engagement with Sri Lanka in the past two post-war years to ensure an early return of normalcy.

Our Government announced a grant of Rs. 500 crore, in two instalments, for relief, rehabilitation and resettlement work in Sri Lanka. Towards longer gestation project, our Government also promised to construct 50,000 permanent houses mainly for IDPs in Sri Lanka. Yesterday, we met MPs belonging to the Tamil National Alliance of Sri Lanka. They told us that only 100 houses have been built so far.

India has provided 4 million sheets of roofing and 40,000 tonnes of cement. Towards distribution of agricultural implements, India provided 95,000 packs of agricultural starter packs valued at 3.2 million US dollars to start the agricultural activities of the resettled people. Last year our Government supplied 500 tractors and 75 buses. I am sorry to say that the tractors supplied by our Government have been diverted to some other areas, particularly to non-Tamil areas. This is highly condemnable.

Sir, for the skill development of youth, our Government has built a Vocational Training Centre in the Muslim dominated Puttalam, apart from setting up another 2 such Centres in Batticaloa. We have also taken up a project to renovate 100 schools in Killinochi and Mullaitivu areas. We have also provided 1.1 million US dollar aid to Jaffna Teaching Hospital besides providing more than 1,400 limbs and we have also constructed 150 bed- hospital in Dickoya. The work on the Northern Railway in Sri Lanka is progressing between Medawachchiya to Talaimannar. Moreover, seven Indian Demining Teams are working to clear more areas in Northern Sri Lanka. Kankesanthurai Port is also to be developed by us. Fishing equipment and boats have been given to Tamil Fishermen to recommence their fishing operations. 175 boats were also distributed to Muslim IDPs in the West.

However, issues in reconciliation are still to be addressed. Those who went missing during the war are still to be traced. Political solution to meet the aspirations of Tamils is still to be addressed.

* Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to record in this august House that the contribution of Indian National Congress towards resolving the Sri Lankan Tamil issue is in no way less than what has been done by other parties, be it in Tamil

Nadu or in the country as a whole. After the ethnic violence in 1983, India extended hospitality with an open heart to about 1 ½ lakhs of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees. Our country cannot forget the Annexure –C that was taken up to resolve the issue while our late lamented leader Shrimati Indira Gandhi was at the helm of affairs. It is only at the instance of our young Prime Minister late Shri Rajiv Gandhi that all the militant groups and the Sri Lankan Government were brought to the negotiations table at Thimpu. I would like to record this in this august House while recalling the peace initiative taken by him with the December 19 Declaration. When Tamils in Sri Lanka faced the problem of being denied the supply of essential commodities, it is Shri Rajiv Gandhi who took steps to supply 19 items of essential commodities to the Tamils in the Northern Sri Lanka making use of our Air Force planes operated from the Bangalore Air base. History can not forget the valiant efforts of Shri Rajiv Gandhi to ensure supply of more than four tones of food materials taking our air force planes even if it amount violating their air space. In 1987 on 29th of July our leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi went to Sri Lanka to sign a peace accord with the then President of Sri Lanka Shri J.R. Jayawardane. We also can not forget an attempt on his life made by a naval sepoy who tried to hit Shri Rajiv Gandhi with the butt of his rifle. It must also be recalled that our leader Rajiv Gandhi was so compassionate that he had asked the Sri Lankan Government not to take any punitive action against that Sinhala armed forces man. At this moment I recall the presence of our late leader Shri G.K. Mooppanar and our present Home Minister Shri P. Chidambaram. Shri Rajiv Gandhi, the young promising leader who had avowed to take the country forward into the 21st century was done away with by a human bomb in Sriperumbudur in an inhuman way. The country can not forget and forgive this. Even after all these tragic incidents our leader Smt. Sonia Gandhi has come forward to make appeal to save a woman from the gallows though she was found involved in the assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. We now gratefully recall that sacrificing attitude of that leader. In the recently concluded local body elections in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka, Tamil National Alliance has won comfortably in a big way. At this juncture I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the nefarious activities of certain evil elements operating in Tamil Nadu spreading hatred and disaffection against the sovereignty of our nation. I urge upon the Union Government to ensure that our gullible youth do not get misled by these elements. The Government of India must have an eye on these people. The terrorism has met with its end but certain extreme elements are still there to foment trouble. The Government must be watchful. *

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, our Government's main focus should be on the well being of Tamil citizens of Sri Lanka. The rehabilitation and re-building should be of the highest and the most immediate priority. The Government of India is their only hope. Political settlement with substantial devolution of powers on the basis of Thirteenth Amendment passed by the Sri Lankan Government should be the only solution.

The Indian Government should force Sri Lanka to: (i) begin genuine investigation into violations of international humanitarian and human rights laws; (ii) end up all State violence, release all displaced persons and continue to provide interim relief to all survivors, atrocities against civilians should come to an end, the Sri Lankan Government should investigate and discuss the fate and location of persons reported to have forcibly disappeared; (iii) to issue a public formal acknowledgement of its role and responsibility for extensive civilian casualties in the final stages of war.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, yesterday, the parliamentarians of India met the parliamentarians of Sri Lanka. There were eight Tamilian Parties and five Sri Lankan MPs. The following must be done as a matter of urgency: (i) the so-called takeover of lands by Army under the guise of High Security Zones, etc. must be dismantled promptly; (ii) the Army must be withdrawn from the Northern and Eastern parts immediately; (iii) all 'land-grab' schemes must be halted; (iv) all political prisoners must be released forthwith; (v) a conducive atmosphere must be created in the North and East of Sri Lanka for the refugees in India to return and re-start their lives in their original places;

Six, along with lifting the state of emergency, there should be similar other provisions in other laws and the Prevention of Terrorism Act must be repealed.

In conclusion, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I wish to point out that our hon. Minister of External Affairs Shri S.M. Krishna on August 4, in this august House has said that the highest priority was towards the rehabilitation and rebuilding of Northern Sri Lanka. A fair settlement of the political problem is of utmost importance.

In short, in Sri Lanka, Tamils should be treated as equals with the other classes in that island. Our Government should see that the Tamils get equality, liberty and fraternity. The Tamil community should live in peace and harmony.

श्री शैलेन्द्र कुमार (कोशाम्बी): महोदय, मैं आपका आभारी हूँ कि आपने मुझे 193 के तहत श्रीलंका में तमिलों पर हो रहे अत्याचार के सम्बन्ध में हो रही चर्चा में

बोलने का अवसर दिया। यह मेरा सौभाग्य भी था कि टी0आर0बालू साहब ने और हमने एक साथ नोटिस डाला था और वह नोटिस 193 में इस सदन में चर्चा के लिए स्वीकार भी हुआ। आज उसी पर बोलने के लिए मैं आपके बीच खड़ा हुआ हूँ। मैंने अभी बहुत ही गंभीरता से टी0आर0बालू साहब को सुना और हमारे विद्वान और पूर्व विदेश मंत्री आदरणीय जसवंत सिंह जी ने भी अपनी बात रखी, मैं उनकी बातों को भी बहुत ध्यान से सुन रहा था। स्पीकर महोदय की भी इस हाउस से एक अपील थी कि हम बहुत ही भावनात्मक और बहुत ही संवेदनशील मुद्दे पर यहां चर्चा कर रहे हैं। हमारे विदेश मंत्री जी भी यहां बैठे हैं और मेरे ख्याल से वे सभी की बातों को बहुत गंभीरता से सुनकर यह कोशिश जरूर करेंगे कि हमारे और श्रीलंका के बीच के सम्बन्ध सुधरे।

महोदय, अगर आज देखा जाये तो भारत ही नहीं विश्व में भी जो हमारे तमिल भाई हैं, उनका एक-दूसरे का आपस में बहुत ही अटूट सम्बन्ध रहा है। मैं याद दिलाना चाहूंगा कि वर्ष 1962 में जब चाइना ने भारतवर्ष पर हमला किया था तो तब श्रीलंका अकेला ऐसा देश था, जिसने ललकार कर यह कहा था कि चाइना की सेना अपनी हद में रहे और वापस जाये। उस समय के सम्बन्ध से लेकर आज तक और जो बीच के सम्बन्ध रहे हैं, उन पर हमें गंभीरता से चिंतन करना पड़ेगा और यह कोशिश करनी पड़ेगी कि वे क्या कारण हैं, जिनके कारण हमारे और श्रीलंका के बीच जो सम्बन्ध थे, उनमें बहुत खटास आयी है। आज अध्यक्ष महोदय भी अपील कर रही थीं कि कोई ऐसी बात न हो, जिससे हमारे जो सम्बन्ध सुधरे हैं, उनमें कुछ इतफाक आये। मैं उस पर नहीं जाना चाहूंगा, लेकिन सबसे पहले मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि वर्ष 1962 की लड़ाई में और उसके पहले, उस समय हम छोटे थे, उस समय रेडियो पर भी रेडियो सिलोन आता था, सीलोन का नाम ही बदलकर श्रीलंका पड़ा। वहां पर जो बहुसंख्यक सिंहली हैं, उनका हमेशा वहां वर्चस्व रहा है। वहां हमारे तमिल भाई अल्पसंख्यक के रूप में रहते हैं। उनके सम्बन्ध हमारे देश से भी थे, विदेशों में भी जो हमारे तमिल भाई थे, उनसे भी बड़े अच्छे और अटूट सम्बन्ध रहे हैं। अगर इस परिप्रेक्ष्य में देखा जाये तो मैंने देखा कि बहुत सी किताबें भी मुझे अध्ययन करने के लिए मिलीं। अब तक लगभग एक लाख तमिलों की हत्याएं हो चुकी हैं। यह बहुत ही अमानवीय अपराध है, उन पर अत्याचार हुए हैं। बुकलेट भी हमारे तमाम सम्मानित सदस्यों ने दी हैं। यह चिंता का विषय है। मैं चाहूंगा कि जो अमानवीय अत्याचार, नरसंहार, जो जघन्य अपराध हुए हैं, उसकी पुनरावृत्ति अब नहीं होनी चाहिए। यही नहीं तमिल और सिंहली भाईयों के बीच एक बहुत बड़ी गहरी खाई है। आज वहां जो भी हमारे तमिल भाई हैं, उन्होंने अपनी राष्ट्रवादी पार्टी बनायी, वहां तमाम पार्टियां बनीं और सभी तमिल भाईयों ने अपनी स्वायत्ता को लेकर, अपनी आजादी को लेकर, अपनी स्वायत्ता के लिए उनका जीवन संघर्षमय बीता है, जिसमें बहुत बड़ा नरसंहार हुआ। वहां पर स्थिति आज भी दयनीय है, इसके पहले भी स्थिति दयनीय थी। वहां के नौजवान जो विश्वविद्यालयों में पढ़ते थे, उनको अध्ययन करने से रोका गया। क्या कारण है कि श्रीलंका विश्वविद्यालय में तमिलों की संख्या दिन प्रतिदिन दिन कम होती जा रही है? यही कारण था कि तमिल नौजवानों ने अपनी स्वायत्ता के लिए हथियार उठाए। यही नहीं, उनको भावनात्मक रूप से भी ठेस पहुँचाई गई, उनकी भाषा पर भी हमला किया गया। जाफना में पुस्तकालय में आग लगाई गई। उसमें भी तमाम तमिल साथी मारे गए लेकिन मैं उस पर विस्तार से नहीं जाना चाहूंगा क्योंकि मेरे ख्याल से शुरू से अंत तक बोलूंगा तो भाषण बहुत लंबा हो जाएगा, और हम यह भी चाहते हैं कि हमारे जो अच्छे संबंध हैं, वे बने रहें। लेकिन इतना जरूर कहना चाहूंगा कि तमिलों पर अत्याचार बंद होना चाहिए। महोदय, जिस प्रकार से अंग्रेजों ने अत्याचार किया था, वही स्थिति आज श्रीलंका में हो रही है और उसी प्रकार सिंहलियों ने तमिलों पर अत्याचार करना शुरू किया है। आज भी अमानवीय और जघन्य अपराध उनके साथ हो रहे हैं। इस पर भारत सरकार हस्तक्षेप करे। प्रधान मंत्री जी इस पर वार्ता करें या हमारे विदेश मंत्री जी यहाँ बैठे हैं, वे वार्ता करें कि वे भी भाई हैं, हम भी भाई-भाई हैं, हमारे यहाँ भी तमिल हैं, हमारी संवेदना उनके प्रति जुड़ी है कि उन पर कोई अत्याचार न हो। वहाँ के नवयुवक जिन्होंने हथियार उठाए थे, एलटीटीई बनी थी, मैं नहीं कहना चाहूंगा, उसमें वहाँ के राष्ट्रपति से लेकर प्रधान मंत्री तक तमाम मंत्रियों की हत्याएँ हुई हैं जो नहीं होनी चाहिए। राजनीति में वैचारिक लड़ाई और विभेद हो सकते हैं लेकिन इस प्रकार की लड़ाइयाँ नहीं हुई हैं कि वहाँ के राष्ट्रपति और हमारे यहाँ के भी पूर्व प्रधान मंत्री जी की हत्या हुई है, मैं उस पर विस्तार से नहीं जाना चाहूंगा, लेकिन इतना कहना चाहूंगा कि हमारे विदेश मंत्री जी जो यहाँ बैठे हैं, उनको इस पर गंभीरता से सोचना पड़ेगा कि तमिलों पर अत्याचार बंद हो और तमिल विद्यार्थी जो वहाँ पर हैं, जो शिक्षा ग्रहण करना चाहते हैं, कैसे रोजगार उनको मिले। आज यह स्थिति है कि वे रोजगार भी नहीं कर सकते। आप वहाँ के राष्ट्रपति से वार्ता करें कि वहाँ के लोग आकर यहाँ पर रोजगार पाएँ, यहाँ पर व्यवसाय करें और वहाँ के जो तमिल हैं, जिनका संबंध हमारे देश से है, वे भी रोजगार और व्यवसाय करें ताकि उनका जीवन-स्तर उठ सके, अच्छा हो सके और वे अपने पैरों पर खड़े हो सकें। सबसे पहले हमारी भारत सरकार में प्रधान मंत्री जी और विदेश मंत्री जी को यह प्रयास करना चाहिए कि जो नरसंहार हुए हैं, उनकी पुनरावृत्ति नहीं होनी चाहिए। आज भी छुटपुट हो रही हैं। मैं देखता हूँ कि सोमालिया में अगर जहाज़ का अपहरण होता है जिसमें हमारे लोग भी बंधक बनाए गए थे, तो हमें कितना दर्द होता है। पूरा देश और पूरा इलाका चिन्तित हो जाता है। विदेश के किसी भी व्यक्ति पर अगर यहाँ अत्याचार होता है तो वहाँ की सरकारें हस्तक्षेप करती हैं। हमारे जो तमिल भाई वहाँ पर अल्पसंख्यक हैं, उन पर भी अत्याचार नहीं होना चाहिए। इस पर सरकार को गंभीरता से सोचना चाहिए।

उपाध्यक्ष जी, हमारे विदेश मंत्री जी यहाँ बैठे हैं। मैं आपके माध्यम से उनसे पूछना चाहूंगा कि अब तक श्रीलंका और हमारे बीच में क्या संबंध हुए हैं, किस पर आपने समझौता किया है, उन संबंधों में कितनी प्रगति हुई है, कितनी खटास आई है? अगर और वार्ता करने की ज़रूरत है तो उनसे वार्ता करनी चाहिए। यहीं पर श्रीलंका की पार्लियामेंट के अध्यक्ष आए थे। उनका डेलीगेशन भी आया था। हमारे कुछ सम्माननीय सदस्यों ने उठकर उनका विरोध किया था। अध्यक्ष जी ने हस्तक्षेप किया। हमें भी अच्छा नहीं लगा। हम लोग नहीं करना चाहते। हमारे भारतवर्ष की संस्कृति और सभ्यता हमेशा इतनी मज़बूत रही है कि हमने दुनिया को सीख दी है। हम एक संदेश देना चाहते हैं। 'अतिथिदेवो भव' भारतवर्ष की संस्कृति और सभ्यता रही है। मैं चाहूंगा कि विदेश मंत्री जी बैठे हैं, बहुत चरिष्ठ हैं, सीनियर हैं। तमिलों की जो हत्याएँ वहाँ हो रही हैं, वह तत्काल बंद होनी चाहिए। उनके जीवन स्तर को उठाने के लिए, रोजगार, व्यवसाय या वाणिज्यिक क्षेत्र में आपके उनके साथ क्या व्यापारिक-आर्थिक समझौते हुए हैं, विदेश नीति आपकी क्या कहती है? श्रीलंका हमारा पड़ोसी देश है। अगर इनसे हमारा संबंध अच्छा नहीं रहा तो हम दुनिया में कहीं भी मुँह दिखाते लायक नहीं रहेंगे। बड़े-बड़े देशों से हम सामना नहीं कर सकते। हम विकासशील देश हैं, हम विकसित देश बनना चाहते हैं। हमारा यह प्रयास होना चाहिए कि जो भी तमिलों पर अत्याचार और नरसंहार हो रहा है, वह तत्काल बंद हो, हमारे संबंध सुधरे, राजनीतिक संबंध सुधरे, व्यावसायिक संबंध सुधरे, वहाँ के लोगों को रोजगार व्यवसाय मिले, यह हमारा प्रयास होना चाहिए। हमारा यही प्रयास होना चाहिए।

महोदय, आपने मुझे बोलने का मौका दिया, इसके लिए मैं आपका आभारी हूँ। श्री बालू ने 193 के तहत जो बात उठाई है, उससे अपने को सम्बद्ध करते हुए अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ।

श्री धनंजय सिंह (जौनपुर): उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय बालू जी द्वारा 193 के तहत बहुत महत्वपूर्ण विषय उठाया गया है, मैं अपने को इस विषय से सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

महोदय, मैं बहुत महत्वपूर्ण बातें सदन और देश के संज्ञान में लाना चाहता हूँ। विदेश मंत्री जी सदन में उपस्थित हैं। वर्तमान समय में भारत एक बहुत बड़ी इमरजेंसि

इकोनोमी और सशक्त राष्ट्र के रूप में दुनिया में स्थापित हो रहा है। ऐसी स्थिति में हमारी भूमिका हमारे पड़ोसियों के साथ किस तरह की होनी चाहिए, इस बारे में हमें पुनर्विचार करने की जरूरत है। हमने लगातार देखा है कि हमारे पड़ोसी पाकिस्तान, नेपाल, बंगलादेश, श्रीलंका आदि, सभी हमारे एक परिवार की तरह ही हैं। नेपाल के साथ हमारे किस तरह के रिश्ते रहे, पाकिस्तान हमसे अलग हो कर बना, बंगलादेश भी हमसे अलग हो कर बना। श्रीलंका भी भारत से ही अलग हो कर एक राष्ट्र के रूप में निर्मित हुआ। श्रीलंका से हमारे सामाजिक, धार्मिक, भौगोलिक रिश्ते हर तरीके से आदिकाल से चले आ रहे हैं। निश्चित तौर पर विगत कुछ समय से जब से एलटीटीई का उदय हुआ, श्रीलंका में तमिलों के साथ निरंतर अत्याचार होता रहा है और भारत ने अपना सक्रिय हस्तक्षेप करके वहां की समस्याओं का समाधान करने का भी निरंतर प्रयास किया है। जब से श्रीलंका सरकार का एलटीटीई के साथ युद्ध समाप्त हुआ है, तो निश्चित तौर पर वहां जो तमिल निवास कर रहे हैं, उनके साथ अभी भी श्रीलंका की सरकार, हमें कहीं न कहीं महसूस होता है कि श्रीलंका की सरकार फील करती है कि तमिल लोगों का एलटीटीई के साथ संबंध है, जबकि भारत सरकार को पुरजोर तरीके से हस्तक्षेप करके श्रीलंका की सरकार को कन्विन्स करना चाहिए कि वहां रहने वाले सभी तमिल आतंकवादियों से नहीं मिले हुए हैं और न ही उनका किसी तरह की आतंकवादी गतिविधि में हस्तक्षेप है। इस वजह से वहां के सिविलियन्स को तमाम तरह की यातनाएं झेलनी पड़ रही हैं। भारत सरकार को श्रीलंका सरकार के साथ बात करनी होगी कि वहां रहने वाले लोगों की सेप्टी, सिक्चोरिटी और जो डिस्क्रीमिनेशन है, उसे भी दूर करने का प्रयास करे। बीच में इंडियन ओशन का जो डवलपमेंट हुआ है, जिस तरह से चीन की इंडियन ओशन को लेकर सक्रियता बढ़ी है, वर्ष 2010 में इंडिया ट्रेड के मामले में सबसे ज्यादा एफडीआई इन्वेस्टमेंट श्रीलंका में हुआ है, तो भारत का हुआ है। आज धीरे-धीरे चीन की वहां पकड़ बनती जा रही है। सामरिक तौर पर भी यह हमारे लिए चिंता का विषय है। हमारे पूर्व रक्षा मंत्री श्री मुलायम सिंह जी सदन में बैठे हैं। उन्होंने हमेशा चिंता व्यक्त की है कि भारत को किसी भी पड़ोसी मुल्क से प्रतिस्पर्धा या चिंता करने की जरूरत है तो वह देश चीन है। चाहे किसी भी क्षेत्र में हो व्यवसाय के क्षेत्र में, सैनिक क्षेत्र में, हर क्षेत्र में हमें अपने देश को चीन के मुकाबले विकसित करने की जरूरत है। हम चाहते हैं कि वहां के तमिल लोगों का पूरी तरह से डवलपमेंट हो, चाहे स्वास्थ्य सेवाएं हों, शिक्षा का क्षेत्र हो। वर्ष 2009 में भारत सरकार ने 500 करोड़ रुपये का सहयोग वेलफेयर के लिए किया था। मैं चाहता हूँ कि भारत और ज्यादा वेलफेयर के लिए श्रीलंका सरकार को सहयोग करे और खास तौर से वह पैसा तमिल लोगों के उत्थान के लिए और खास कर जो नार्थ-ईस्ट क्षेत्र जाफना है, इस एरिया में ज्यादा इन्वेस्टमेंट हो, जिससे कि वहां के लोगों की जीवन सुविधा बेहतर की जा सके और उनके जीवन में बहाली आ सके।

मैं एक बात जरूर निश्चित तौर पर कहना चाहूंगा। पहले श्रीलंका और भारत द्विपक्षीय वार्ता करे। वहां की ह्यूमन राइट्स को अगर हम रिस्टोर कर लेते हैं तो यह बहुत अच्छा है, नहीं तो भारत को एक अग्रणी भूमिका निभानी चाहिए। यह मामला ऑलरेडी यू.एन.ओ. भी गया था। यह मेरा अपना सुझाव है कि भारत को इस मुद्दे को अंतर्राष्ट्रीय फोरम में ले जाकर वहां के तमिल लोगों के मानवाधिकार को बहाल कराने का प्रयास करना चाहिए। मैं कह रहा हूँ कि वहां के लोग निश्चित तौर पर हमसे बहुत ज्यादा जुड़े हुए हैं। इसलिए कि लगभग 10000 से ज्यादा श्रीलंकाई प्रति वर्ष यहां आते हैं। खास तौर से, सिंहली समुदाय के लोग हमारे हिन्दुस्तान के बौद्ध स्थलों के भ्रमण हेतु प्रत्येक वर्ष आते हैं। जब हमारे सामाजिक रिश्ते इतने मजबूत हैं तो मैं चाहूंगा कि हम सरकारी तौर पर इसी रिश्ते को और मजबूत बनाने का प्रयास करें। वहां तमिल लोगों को भारत आने के लिए थोड़ी कठिनाइयों का सामना करना पड़ता है। वहां वीजा के जो नियम हैं, वे थोड़े कड़े हैं। निश्चित तौर पर भारत सरकार को बात करनी चाहिए कि वहां वीजा नियमों में थोड़ी शिथिलता बरती जाए जिससे तमिल लोगों को आसानी से आने-जाने में सुविधा हो। पूरे तरीके से मेरा मानना है कि श्रीलंका में जो तमिल लोगों का मुद्दा है, उससे पूरा हिन्दुस्तान, सभी दल के लोग अपने आपको डीपली कंसर्नड महसूस करते हैं। हमारा पूरा राष्ट्र तमिल लोगों के साथ किसी भी स्थिति में खड़ा है। श्रीलंका के साथ हमारे रिश्ते बेहतर रहे हैं। श्रीलंका एक स्वतंत्र राष्ट्र है। हम भी एक स्वतंत्र राष्ट्र हैं। हमारी भी कुछ बाध्यताएं हैं। उन बाध्यताओं को ध्यान में रखते हुए हमें पड़ोसी के नाते श्रीलंका के साथ बेहतर रिश्ते कायम करते हुए वहां के लोगों के मानवाधिकार को सुरक्षित करने में अपनी भूमिका निभानी चाहिए। यह इस राष्ट्र की पहली प्राथमिकता होनी चाहिए।

मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जरूर चाहूंगा कि जब वे अपना वक्तव्य दें तो निश्चित तौर पर सदन के अंदर यह एश्योर करें कि भारत सरकार वहां पर रहने वाले तमिल लोगों की बेहतरी के लिए प्रयास करेगी। वहां पर जो तमिल नेशनल एलायन्स पार्टी है, वह अपने अंदरूनी मामलों को एक डेमोक्रेटिक तरीके से डील नहीं कर रही है। निश्चित तौर पर, भारत सरकार को यह प्रयास करना चाहिए कि वहां श्रीलंका की सरकार इस पूरे मामले को डेमोक्रेटिक तरीके से देखे, न कि एकतरफा तरीके से कि जिसकी बहुलता है उसकी बात सुनी जाए। हमारे जितने पड़ोसी मुल्क हैं, धीरे-धीरे उसी दिशा में बढ़ें। श्रीलंका में हर वर्ग की नुमाइंदगी थी। जिस तरह से भारत में हर धर्म और हर वर्ग की सदन से लेकर सड़क तक नुमाइंदगी है, उसी तरह भारत को चाहिए कि अपने पड़ोसी मुल्कों में भी इस तरह का वातावरण तैयार करे। मैं स्वागत करता हूँ कि अभी हाल में भारत के प्रयास से बांग्लादेश में कुछ इस तरह की स्थितियां तैयार हुई हैं। उसी तरीके से भारत को श्रीलंका में भी वातावरण निर्माण करने का प्रयास करना चाहिए। मैं बार-बार कहता हूँ कि हम तमिलियन लोगों के जीवन को जितना बेहतर करने का प्रयास कर सकें, उतना ही अच्छा होगा।

श्री शरद यादव (मधेपुरा): उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, तमिल मूल के लोगों की श्रीलंका में जो हालत है, वह बयान नहीं हो सकता। हर तरह से चाहे वह पढ़ाई हो, लिखाई हो, इलाज हो ओर कई तरफ से जो रिप्रेजेंट हैं, उसको आप बयान नहीं कर सकते। श्रीलंका हमारा पड़ोसी देश है और हम श्रीलंका के दुख और तकलीफ में हर तरह की सीमा को लांघ कर उनके साथ खड़े रहे हैं। आज वहां तमिल लोगों के साथ जिस तरह का व्यवहार हो रहा है, वह ठीक नहीं है। लोकतांत्रिक अधिकार की बात तो छोड़ दीजिए। मैंने फिल्म देखी है। श्री वायको आए थे, उन्होंने तमिलियन्स के ऊपर मुझे एक फिल्म दी।

14.00 hrs.

उस फिल्म को देखने के बाद आप अंदाज नहीं करेंगे कि वहां किस तरह से लोगों को तबाह किया जा रहा है। यदि हमारा देश उनके बारे में नहीं सोचेगा, उनकी बात को नहीं सुनेगा तो फिर कौन सुनेगा? हमारे रिश्ते ठीक होने चाहिए, यह बात ठीक है, लेकिन किस कीमत पर होने चाहिए। वहां जो लोग हैं, पूरी आबादी दोयम दर्जे के नागरिक में बदल दी गई है। हमारी सरकार ने प्रयास करके कई बार वहां बातचीत की है, लेकिन बातचीत का कोई नतीजा एवं कोई फल नहीं है। उस बातचीत से वहां कोई राहत पैदा नहीं हुई है, उस बातचीत से वहां के जो तमिलियंस हैं और पूरे तमिलनाडु में जो जनता है, वह इतनी बेचैन है, लोग इतने चिन्तित हैं। हिन्दुस्तान के तमिलनाडु के लोग तकलीफ में हों तो हिन्दुस्तान सुख एवं शांति से नहीं रह सकता है। उनकी जो बेचैनी है, वह बेचैनी इस देश की और हमारी बेचैनी है।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से विनती करूंगा, आपने बातचीत की है, ठीक है, लेकिन बातचीत में यह भी पक्का होना चाहिए कि जो ह्यूमन राइट्स हैं, हम अपने यहां उनकी रक्षा करते हैं, श्रीलंका की बनावट में हमारी सदियों पुरानी विरासत मिली हुई है। वे उस विरासत को अलग करके अकेले सिंहली लोग श्रीलंका पर राज करें और राज करें तो कोई बात नहीं है, राज करिए, लेकिन आप तमिलियंस के ऊपर दोयम दर्जे का व्यवहार करें, यह हिन्दुस्तान के लिए मुश्किल सवाल है, इसे सहन नहीं किया जा सकता। मैं विदेशी मंत्री जी से कहूंगा कि जब से सत्तू शुरू हुआ है तब से बालू जी से लेकर तमिलनाडु के जितने एमपीज़ हैं, वे सब इस सवाल को उठाने के लिए कितने बेचैन रहे। लेकिन सदन की जो परिस्थिति बनी, आज बड़ी मुश्किल से यह सवाल उठा है। इस सवाल को उठाने के लिए ये लोग बहुत दिनों से लगे हुए हैं। मंत्री जी, हमारे अड़ोस-पड़ोस में जो हालत है, आज नेपाल की जो हालत है वह कितनी विकट है। जैसे इस देश में एक सिविल सोसायटी का आंदोलन चल रहा है, लेकिन वहां पूरी सिविल सोसायटी, पूरा देश टर्माइल में है। वहां सरकार बनती है, टूटती है, जिस नेपाल के साथ हमारे हर तरह के रिश्ते हैं। नेपाल हिन्दुस्तान से कोई किसी तरह की बोली, संस्कृति, तहजीब, रिश्ते-नाते में पीछे नहीं है। वह हिन्दुस्तान की सीमा से नौ सौ किलोमीटर उत्तर प्रदेश और बिहार से लगा हुआ है। हमारी विदेशी नीति इतनी असफल है, उनके साथ इतना करीबी रिश्ता होने के बाद भी वहां की परिस्थिति, लोकतंत्र, स्थाई शांति से हमारा मुल्क बंधा हुआ है। इसी तरह तमिल, श्रीलंका में तमिलियंस बहुत बेचैन और परेशान हैं। वहां अस्पतालों और स्कूलों का खस्ता हाल है। वहां सारी फौज ने जाकर वहां के मकान से लेकर सब चीजों को तबाह किया हुआ है। निश्चित तौर पर यह हमारे दोनों पड़ोसी देश हैं। इनमें शान्ति और स्थायित्व हो, यह भारत की विदेश नीति का हिस्सा है, लेकिन हिस्से के साथ-साथ यह भी है कि नागरिक आजादी के लिए जैसे हम यहां सतर्क हैं, वहां के बारे में भी सतर्क हों। हमारे ये दोनों देश जो हैं, ये हमारे दोनों हाथ हैं, ये भारत राष्ट्र शरीर के हिस्से हैं। देश अलग हैं, लेकिन इनके यहां कोई भी किसी तरह की उथल-पुथल हमारे यहां भी असर करती है, दिक्कत करती है और इसमें दिक्कत और तकलीफ हमको होती है। इसलिए मैं विदेश मंत्री जी से कहूंगा कि बातचीत हुई है, लेकिन बातचीत निर्गुण नहीं, इस बार सगुण होनी चाहिए, ताकत के साथ होनी चाहिए और तमिलियंस का जो ह्यूमिलिएशन है, वह वहां बन्द होना चाहिए।

हम सदियों से उनके साथ हैं। हमारे रिश्ते भी उनसे हैं। एक समन्दर बीच में है। तमिलनाडु और तमिलियंस एक हैं और वहां जो परिस्थिति है, वह बिगड़ती जा रही है, उसे रोकना चाहिए और किसी तरह से भी उसका खस्ता निकलना चाहिए। सभापति जी, यही मैं आपके माध्यम से कहना चाहता हूँ कि अकेले तमिलनाडु नहीं, तमिलनाडु के साथ पूरा देश है, क्योंकि तमिलनाडु हमारे देश की अनोखी जगह है। हिन्दुस्तान में हिन्दुस्तान के कमजोर तबकों के लिए कोई सूबा उनके एड्रान से बरी नहीं हो सकता। हिन्दुस्तान में कमजोर वर्गों के लिए अगर कोई पहला संविधान संशोधन हुआ तो वह तमिलनाडु के लोगों के संग्राम से हुआ था। हिन्दुस्तान का, भारत का कमजोर वर्ग तकलीफ में होता है, जब तमिलनाडु में कोई गड़बड़ी होती है। बाबासाहेब अम्बेडकर जी ने और पेरियार साहब ने हिन्दुस्तान के गरीब लोगों के बारे में कोई मामूली काम नहीं किया, इसलिए मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि तमिलनाडु पेरियार की धरती है, जो हिन्दुस्तान की जाति व्यवस्था के खिलाफ हिन्दुस्तान का सबसे बड़ा संग्रामी आदमी था। हिन्दुस्तान की जाति व्यवस्था के दिन बदले, लेकिन हिन्दुस्तान दुनिया की सबसे बड़ी ताकत उस दिन बनेगा, आपके कहने से नहीं बनेगा, 21वीं शताब्दी में देश बनेगा, यह गलत है, जिस दिन पेरियार ने कहा कि eradicate the caste system, इसको बचाओ, इसको खत्म करो, तब यह देश बनेगा।

मैं मंत्री जी से निवेदन करूंगा कि इसमें कुछ ज्यादा प्रयास की जरूरत है, ज्यादा शिद्दत से यह बेचैनी जो तमिलनाडु में है और तमिलियंस लोग जो वहां परेशान हैं, उसके निवारण का खस्ता जरूर निकलना चाहिए, यही मेरी आपसे विनती है। वह खस्ता निकालने के लिए संकल्प आपका जरा मजबूत होना चाहिए।

इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं अपनी बात को यहां समाप्त करता हूँ।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय :

श्री पी.एल. पुनिया को श्री शरद यादव के साथ एसोसिएट करने की अनुमति दी जाती है।

*SHRI P.R. NATARAJAN (COIMBATORE): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Tamils in Sri Lanka must have equality and equal opportunities and we are raising this issue now in this august House. The vexed issue is yet to be resolved and stumbling block is the militarisation of the Tamil areas even after the end of the armed clashes between the militants and the Sri Lankan army two years back. When the armed clashes were at the height of it, the Sri Lankan army violated basic human rights and let loose atrocities. That State army was violating even the basic norms to be adopted during war period. Their Air force heavily shelled and bombarded the Tamil areas and did not spare even the no-war zones and attacked even the hospitals, schools and worship places. People were confined to restricted areas in the name of rehabilitation camps and were starved to death. People who wanted to surrender were shot dead and were tortured. This has been documented by a three member UN panel constituted at the instance of the UN Secretary-General. We have now before us the question as to how we are going to get punishment to those who have committed the excesses and identifying those who have committed the same. Hence we urge upon that there must be a high level inquiry and the culprits must be brought to book. People who have lost their houses and kept in the camps must be sent back to their originally inhabitant areas. The rehabilitation measures should be speeded up as they are progressing at a slow pace now and they are getting delayed now. I would like to point out that the financial and other assistances extended by our Government to rebuild their houses have not reached the needy Sri Lankan Tamil peoples. The Sri Lankan Government is not coming out with the list of those who have been arrested from the high security zone till date. We would like to urge upon the Government that adequate steps must be taken to free those who have been arrested under the suspicion that they may have LTTE links. We must ensure that the Sri Lankan

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil

Tamils live with honour and self-respect having been assured of safety and security. Normalcy must return in their lives so that they may regain the peace they have lost. Even after the end of the civil war, the Sri Lankan armed forces are still occupying and continue to encroach upon the Tamil inhabitant areas. In order to set up army camps not only the Government land, but also the provided land areas are being taken over. This will only lead to further tension and possible clashes in the future. This militarisation process will not only harm the Tamils now, but will affect all the peoples speaking various languages in Sri Lanka in the future. Hence we fervently appeal to all the democratic forces to oppose this militarisation by the Sri Lankan authorities.

During the armed clashes that went on for many years, emergency was enforced for a very long time. Even after the end of those clashes, emergency still continues and the emergency has not been lifted as yet. I urge upon the Government of India to intervene and impress upon the authorities of that island nation to lift emergency at least now. That Government has not implemented especially the provisions of the 13th Amendment that came about as per the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord. The Sri Lanka Government has not kept its word and has gone back from its promise to go in for devolution of power to the Tamils and carving out a Tamil home-land merging northern and eastern provinces. In India, the States do not enjoy more powers but still the law and order and the police force come under the State Governments. Recently, the President of Sri Lanka in an interview has stated that the police force and the laws related to land and land-ownings would be vested with the National Government at the Centre. This will only be diluting the concept of devolution of powers to the provinces. We would like to point out that this would not help us to resolve the Sinhala-Tamil conflicts. It is only when all the political parties in Sri Lanka are taken to the negotiating table and made to understand the need for devolution of powers that can be a thorough understanding of the existing problems and its resolution.

Secondly, I would like to urge upon the Government to see upon the displaced peoples are allowed to go back to their original habitations to be resettled.

Thirdly, those who committed the excesses during the armed clashes must be identified through a high level inquiry committee and the culprits must be brought to book.

Fourthly, the army's intervention in the administration in both northern and eastern provinces must come to an end. Emergency must be withdrawn. We urge upon the Government of India to take up strongly with the Sri Lankan authorities to restore normalcy and extend to all Tamils their democratic rights.

The Government of India has extended assistance to Sri Lankan Tamils to be resettled and we must ensure whether that has been really reaching the Tamils who needed them. We have before us several complaints that the Tamils are not getting the assistance they were extended with.

I would like to point out to the deriding comments made by the Secretary of Defence to Sri Lanka about the unanimous resolution passed by the Legislative Assembly of Tamil Nadu. When we talk of Sri Lanka, we always take care and often reminded that it is our friendly country, but that has been left to winds by the authorities there in Sri Lanka. They have criticized the unanimous resolution passed by the Legislative Assembly of Tamil Nadu. Had our External Affairs Ministry summoned the Sri Lankan High Commissioner to India and brought to his notice the unanimous resolution passed in the Legislative Assembly of Tamil Nadu, this situation might not have arisen. I would like to emphatically record in this august House that the Government of India must have strongly condemned the deriding comments made by the Secretary of Defence to Sri Lanka against the unanimous resolution passed by the Legislative Assembly of Tamil Nadu.

I urge upon the Government of India to take note of the fact that as an emerging power in the comity of nations we have a bounden duty to take note of a UN Panel Report that indicts those who have committed crime against lakhs of innocent, unarmed civilians and killed them. I urge upon the Government to take suitable and effective steps to bring to book the culprits and the war criminals.

With this I conclude.

DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI (BHUBANESWAR): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the issue which is being discussed today, is a highly debated and discussed issue in this august House. It has been discussed through Starred Questions in Lok Sabha

as well as in Rajya Sabha. In this House, it has also been raised by way of an Adjournment Motion, through the Calling Attention and even during 'Zero Hour'.

I have seen personally Shri Vaiko, who was our colleague at that time and hon. Shri T.R. Baalu and we had discussed this issue. Now, Shri Baalu has raised this issue today in order to protect the humanity in Sri Lanka. I am adhering to the hon. Speaker's direction as she has already cautioned us that the issue that we are discussing today is really a very dangerous and very sensitive issue.

Before going to the main debate, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister for External Affairs, who is a former Chief Minister, Shri S.M. Krishna. I am grateful to Shri Ahamed also. Yesterday, I had a discussion with him relating to some Tamilians, some Oriyas and some Biharis who are now in Tripoli, the capital of Libya, where I have been seven days back when the bombardment took place. Even the President of the Peace Mission, Dr. Paul, is also barricaded.

I have already appealed to the Prime Minister. I am already writing D.O. letters to Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister. I would request hon. Minister for External Affairs to see that their lives are saved and also request him to intervene. The hon. Minister told me today and day before yesterday also that they are trying to get some information, but the channel of information is totally disrupted. I would request him to try again and again. He may please try to have it from Sudan also where there are more Oriya people. Though this is not covered in the subject of discussion for today's debate, yet I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister, and also of this House, to save and protect Oriya people trapped over there.

I may now come to the main debate. I can draw the attention of the hon. Deputy-Speaker that I have been to Jaffna in the year 1991 when the Government had organized one international colloquium relating to Social Workers' Conference. At that time, Shri Biju Patnaik was the Chief Minister and I was his cabinet colleague. At that time, I had personally seen the tragic conditions of Tamilians.

I have seen with my eyes today the photographs that were presented to me by the Tamilians, which were pasted in the book. You should see as to how the children and women are brutally murdered, and how the butchers are butchering them. It is beyond humanity, and one cannot tolerate it. I have personally seen it with my own eyes.

The land is ours. *Mati janmoru urbaro, manusho janmaru barbara.* मिट्टी जन्म से उर्वर है, The soil is fertile by birth, but इंसान जन्म से बर्बर है, The man is brutal by birth. One can see that brutality if you see how the Tamilians are being pushed beyond the ethics of humanity. We are propagating in the UNO, and particularly, drawing their attention and telling them about plunging war against war to promote peace. What is this war? I have seen it personally, and I feel it.

You can show that book to the hon. Deputy-Speaker and hon. Speaker, which was presented to me yesterday and tears will come in your eyes after seeing it. Nowhere has this happened in the world. ...(*Interruptions*) We think globally, but we should work locally. I know that the Tamilians are having high heritage and literature. You go and see the Jaffna University. It is totally ransacked and damaged. You go and see the hospitals. Where will the patients go? You should go and see the ocean where the fishermen go every day. The ocean belongs to everybody; the world belongs to everybody; the soil belongs to everybody; and the wind is ours, but our people are being killed. We lost a great Prime Minister of our country. At the same time, they also lost their Prime Minister and other leaders too despite all this.

Our Parliament; our Prime Minister; and our hon. Minister should intervene as Rs. 500 crore is nothing. I pray to make it Rs. 5,000 crore. Every day, people are eating and digesting crores and crores of rupees in the name of scams. Why do you not sanction Rs. 5,000 crore immediately to provide shelter, and for maintaining their livelihood? I pray, through you, to the august House that one should fight for humanity, and saving humanity must be the greatest order of this august House.

We have long association with the Sri Lankan people. Shri Biju Patnaik's Government provided shelter in Dandakaranya project. I have seen in Malaysia and Indonesia that Tamilians are great in the field; they are laborious; they are great workers; and they till the land like farmers. They are cultivators earning money for their livelihood, and this has to be maintained.

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI (KARUR): Thank you, Deputy-Speaker, Sir, for allowing me to participate now in the discussion on this very sensitive issue of Sri Lanka Tamils. I thank most of our colleagues who participated in this very serious matter, and expressed their views emotionally and sincerely. They want to see that somehow we solve this problem of Tamils in Sri

Lanka.

I want to make an objection to the fact that originally we have given the notice and included the subject as "Alleged killing of Sri Lankan Tamils by Sri Lankan Army in the year 2009 as recently revealed in the UN Report."

Even the revised List of Business of August 10, 2011, Wednesday, once again, mentions the topic as: "To raise a discussion on the alleged killing of Sri Lankan Tamils by Sri Lankan Army in the year 2009 as recently revealed in a United Nation's Report." This is the exact topic that we had given. But what made you to change this topic and bring some other thing is something that I could not understand. Why is our Indian Government so hesitant and fearful of Sri Lanka? That is how I will put it. It is fear. Once the notices are given by all our Members and you have put it in the Bulletin, why have you changed the title? Why are you putting a restriction on us by saying that we should not discuss about the killings of Tamils by the Sinhalese Army?

We may be good friends, that is, Sri Lanka may be a good friend of India, but that is a different issue. We have to develop friendship with all our neighbouring countries. While India is trying to do that, how are they reacting? What about Pakistan and what are they doing? What about Nepal, Bangladesh and China? What kind of friendship they are having with us? In the same way, what is Sri Lanka doing? Actually, Sri Lanka is blackmailing India. I can say that they are pretending to be a friend of India, but actually they are not our real friends. The Government of India called the President of Sri Lanka on the Republic Day function and honoured him as the Chief Guest. But what did their Defence Secretary say in his country? "We are having some more friends. We do not have to bite whatever you are saying", that is what their Defence Secretary said recently. Immediately after this, the President of Sri Lanka went to China to show that their friendship is developing and also to show that he is more friendlier with China than with India. That is what they are doing.

Therefore, why have you changed the topic through which we wanted to discuss what the UN Report has actually said? That is what we wanted to discuss. It is about human rights violation. As our friend has said, it is all about human rights violation. Forget about which country or where. Wherever human rights are violated, it is our bounden duty to raise it here in India. It was not only in India, this issue was raised even in USA and they have passed a resolution on it. Similarly, even in UK also, they have raised this issue and then passed a resolution. What is wrong with it if we want to discuss this matter in the Parliament of India, especially when it is about human rights violation?

Secondly, the hon. Minister of External Affairs made a Statement recently. I see three points as very important in the Statement made by our External Affairs Minister. He says:

"The end of the long period of armed conflict in Sri Lanka in May, 2009, left around 3,00,000 Internally Displaced Persons living in camps in Northern Sri Lanka and general devastation of infrastructure in the affected areas."

That is what he has said. Merely because of this War, 3,00,000 Tamils have been displaced. The next point is:

"The end of the long conflict in Sri Lanka has also raised questions relating to the conduct of the War. We have, in this context, noted a report issued by the Panel of Experts constituted by the United Nations Secretary-General on Accountability in Sri Lanka. "

This is your Statement from where I am quoting. Here, you have not mentioned as to what the findings of the Panel of Experts were. You have simply stated that it was based on the Report of the UN.

Another aspect that you have mentioned is about the Thirteenth Amendment. I want to quote further from your Statement:

"There have also been public reactions to the telecast of 'Channel 4' documentary entitled 'Sri Lanka's Killing Fields'."

These are all the aspects that you have mentioned. That is why we have given the notices for taking up this issue. It is not that voluntarily, we have given those notices. It was based on the Statement of the Minister of External Affairs only that we have given the notices to discuss the 'Sri Lankan Army's atrocities and the killing of Tamils'.

The hon. Speaker has every right to change the topic. The Presiding Officer has the prerogative. But at the same time, when our friends are expressing something, you have to listen. We are not criticizing any neighbouring country purposefully

because that is not our intention.

We are only discussing this here. That is why, Sir, regarding this, a unanimous resolution was passed by the Tamil Nadu Assembly by the elected Government. You have to give respect for that. You are by-passing the Tamil's interest and their feelings. He said that there may be conflict in India. Why I am telling this? It reflects all sections of Indian aspirations because not only Tamilians are speaking now, all other sections of Indian people are speaking; they are expressing. This consists of all India, not only of Tamil Nadu. You have to take into account. That is why, our Hon'ble Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Madam recently brought a Resolution as soon as the Assembly was constituted. The first Resolution which she brought is this. It says:

"Perarignar Anna has said that the culture of Tamils is not to be subservient to others and not to make others subservient. "

This is not our intention. Tamil are not like that. We want to be friendly with others. We do not want to have any enmity with others. That is the concept which our Hon'ble former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Perarignar Anna has said.

"Tamil people with such noble ideals are spread all over the world. Linguistic and cultural umbilical cord between Tamils in Tamil Nadu and Tamils in Sri Lanka is known to all."

This is emotional relationship, they were neighbours and friends. Also our ethnical relationship is there. Not only in Sri Lanka, but in most of the places wherever Tamil people are there, they are having some culture. Our country's main purpose is to preserve our culture and language. We have to peacefully live there. Our Hon'ble Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Madam Dr. Jayalalithaa ji said:

"Though Sri Lanka became independent, the Tamils living in that country were struggling for many years against the injustice of treating them as second class citizens."

Our country is a multilingual country. We are having so many things but it is only one India. We are respecting all. It is Indian culture. We want to see that all minorities should be respected. We are fighting for that. Our Government is also telling that we are protecting the minorities. What about Tamils there? They are treated as second class citizens. They do not have any rights at all. That is why, they are fighting for that.

"Instead of appreciating the justness of their demands and ensuring that Tamils in Sri Lanka lead life with dignity, equal rights and self-respect through necessary Constitutional Amendment, Sri Lankan Government was taking all actions to exterminate them."

But even when we are making this kind of efforts, they are not listening and not stopping extermination of the Tamils there.

Then what about the UN Panel Report? You have not mentioned that I want to point out that the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. Jayalalithaa ji has passed the Resolution in Tamil Nadu Assembly and she mentioned that:

"The Panel appointed by the Secretary-General of United Nations Organisation found the following serious credible allegations against the Sri Lankan Government.

- (i) the killing of civilians through widespread shelling;
- (ii) shelling of hospitals and humanitarian objects;
- (iii) denial of humanitarian assistance;
- (iv) human rights violations suffered by victims and survivors of the conflict including both IDPs and suspected LTTE cadre; and
- (v) human rights violations outside the conflict zone including against the media and other critics of the Government."

These are the things which the UN panel has found and the report was submitted. We expected a mention of it but Hon'ble External Affairs Minister missed it in his statement. Therefore, our Hon'ble Tamil Nadu Chief Minister made a Resolution which says:

"Therefore, this Assembly resolves to urge the Government of India to take up with the United Nations Organisation and to declare those found guilty of such war crimes as war criminals."

It is the bounden duty of our Government. The Assembly passed the Resolution requesting you to take this to the UNO and see that they are declared as war criminals. If at all they have not done, Hon'ble External Affairs Minister may do it. That is all. They are not gaining anything.

"Further, this Assembly resolves to urge the Government of India to initiate action by working with the other nations for the imposition of an economic embargo on the Government of Sri Lanka till the Tamils who are now living in camps are resettled in their own places and are allowed to live with dignity and with equal constitutional rights on par with Sinhalese."

This is the Resolution. There is nothing wrong in that. Our friend Shri Jaswant Singhji said that the recently elected Tamil Nadu Government has passed the first Resolution. We have formed the Government in the State after getting majority. This Resolution is the aspiration of the seven crore Tamil Nadu people. We are requesting the Government to take up this Resolution. We are not asking for anything. We know our limitations. We would request the Government of India, we would like to request the hon. Prime Minister, we would like to request the External Affairs Minister about this. That is all we can say. That is why, we are raising this issue here.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please be brief.

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI (KARUR): Sir, I am raising a very important issue. This is a very sensitive matter. I know about the limitations of time. In spite of that, I would request you to allow me to say a few more things. I am not going to take much time of the House. I would refer to only points because our friends have already explained the whole history of the sufferings of the Tamils in Sri Lanka. I do not want to go into the details as to how the Sinhalese are treating the Tamils. I am limiting myself to what we want.

As our friend has said, the Defence Secretary of Sri Lanka has criticized the Resolution and also our Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. I raised this issue during 'Zero Hour'. This is a condemnable thing. We are not casting aspersions on anybody. When the Resolution was passed in the Assembly, it was passed on to the Union Government. I said it in the beginning itself that in the *India Today*, it has been said that the US State Department has warned recently and said that an international mechanism should have to be brought to investigate war crimes in Sri Lanka. Even USA has said this. Why I am telling this is that there is nothing wrong in saying that. The UK and some other European countries have also uttered this view. All countries have been raising these kinds of issues.

The UN estimate is that over 40,000 Tamil civilians died during the last stages of war. The Sri Lankan Army was accused of firing shells and bombing areas designated as 'safe zones'. The UN report itself says that 40,000 Tamil civilians are killed by the Sri Lankan Army. But the actual estimate is that more than a lakh people have died. The place where still one lakh people are staying is also fenced with barbed wires.

I would now like to come to the action part. I would say that the lands are being acquired from Tamils in the North and Eastern parts of Sri Lanka for setting up Army camps. But no proper compensation has been given. They want to encroach some more lands and see that the Army can be settled there to threaten the Tamil people. That is the thing they are doing. The Indian Government gives an impression as though it wants to promote bilateral relations between Sri Lanka and India without hindrance of the issue of Tamils. This is what we are feeling. It appears that it wants to see that the issue dies a natural death. Is it a deliberate strategy of the Indian establishment? I want to know this. Why are you postponing this? India is pursuing a strategic policy towards Sri Lanka as being a friend at the cost of Tamils living there. The Government of India had allocated Rs.500 crore. What happened to that? I would like to know whether they have spent it properly. Some of our friends have said that only Rs. 100 crore has been given and the remaining Rs.400 crore has been taken away by the Sinhalese. Whatever we are supplying, that is given to some other party.

There is one more point. How was our Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi treated when he visited Sri Lanka? Everybody knows about it. Our friends from the Congress said about how we should treat our guests. I also respect that we should treat our guests with respect. When Shri Rajiv Gandhi went to Sri Lanka as a guest, what respect did he get on that day?

They tried to kill him when he was taking the Guard of Honour. That was the treatment the Sinhalese gave to our former Prime Minister. When he went there as their guest, they made an attempt to kill him then and there. That is what

Sri Lanka is. Sri Lanka is pretending but it is not trying to help. As I said in the beginning, Sri Lanka is threatening us that if we do not remain friendly with Sri Lanka and unnecessarily interfere in the Tamils issue they will try to get friendly with China. China is already there. Somebody has already referred to Kachchatheevu. What is Sri Lanka doing in Kachchatheevu? They have allowed Chinese to fish in those waters. In the name of fishing in those waters, Chinese people are entering Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka also made an agreement with China to bring in a lot of capital. Chinese conquering presence is there more or less. What are they doing?

When Rajiv Gandhi visited Sri Lanka, he signed an accord with Jayawardene which referred to the 13th amendment of the Sri Lankan Constitution. Have they done it? According to the Rajiv-Jayawardene Accord, they were to merge the Eastern and Northern parts together and see that a separated area is created there for Tamils to live in. Did they implement that accord? According to 13th amendment, they were supposed to give equal rights to Tamils also. Have they given equal rights?

I would request the hon. Minister of External Affairs, through you, Sir, the resolution passed in Tamil Nadu by hon. Jayalalithaaji be implemented. That includes the demands that war criminals be punished, they should be tried through the UN, and embargo be put.

What we request is that till the Sri Lankan Tamils are settled this embargo be implemented there. Thank you very much.

SHRI T.R. BAALU (SRIPERUMBUDUR): Sir, the hon. Member mentioned about the change of the wording of the Motion.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There is no need to reply.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : I am not replying to him. But as the mover of the motion I would like to clarify that initially the motion submitted by the DMK read like this: "Killing of 40,000 and above Sri Lankan Tamils and follow up action taken by the United Nations and the subsequent report." But, Madam Speaker in her wisdom changed the wording to read like this. This was because various parties have given various ratings. Probably he wanted to rectify things.

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: Mr. Shailendra Singh's resolution was also like that. How has it changed? Who allowed it to be changed?

*SHRI P. LINGAM (TENKASI): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of this august House the human rights violations and the genocide attacks on the Sri Lankan Tamils. I would like to appeal to the Government of India to take necessary steps and suitable actions to ensure that the Tamils there get equality and equal treatment while the human rights violators meet the nemesis.

We need to know why these excesses have been perpetrated? What is happening there? Right from 1956, the Tamils have been struggling to have equality and equal opportunities. The Tamil population in Sri Lanka was 35 per cent in 1956 and that has been reduced to 24 per cent now. In the Government services there, the Tamils have got only 7 per cent. To go a step further, no position is given to Tamils in the Sri Lankan armed forces. Even the 3 per cent carved out for them is not available to Tamil in both northern and eastern provinces. After stripped of many of their rights and losing equal status, the Tamils who have been rendered as second-rate citizens are continuously taking up their cause. Their peaceful struggle which commenced in 1956 went on till 1983. It is only after a severe attack on them by the might of the State, they took to arms and inevitably the struggle turned out to be armed clashes leading to violent attacks. Ever after that that country has gone through several strife, conflicts, struggles and sufferings.

In 1983, when the Sinhala army attacked the Tamils brutally, the then Prime Minister of India, Smt. Indira Gandhi Ji sent food materials to the affected Tamils. I would like to call Sri Lankan army as Sinhala army because it has no place for Tamils. In 1987, when the situation worsened again, our popular Prime Minister, late Shri Rajiv Gandhi, went in for evolving a Peace Accord to ensure protection, safety and security for the Tamils. He provided for in that Accord a

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

way out to carve out a Tamil home-land merging both the northern-eastern provinces the Tamil dominated areas. The Accord also provided for more of devolution of power with autonomy within the framework of Sri Lankan Constitution. But that amendment to their constitution has been ignored and neglected by the Sri Lankan Government. It is said that their Supreme Court annulled it. Even today the Tamils live there as the second-rate citizens. More than 1, 46,000 Sri Lankan Tamils have been killed by the State machinery and in the clashes. More than 5 lakhs of Tamils have fled from their homes and have sought refuge in various countries of the world. In India alone there are about 1.5 lakhs of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees put up in various refugee camps. I would like to ask of this Government as to why we are turning a Nelson's eye and neglect our responsibility to take up the cause of the suffering Tamils in our neighbourhood even though that has been going on for so many years now that too at a time when we have been claiming of a legacy of peaceful co-existence and a constitution that proclaims about our role in establishing equality around. I would like to express my apprehension and record it in this august House that the Government of the neighbouring country that commits atrocities against its own peoples who have cultural ties with our country may rise against our country one day soon. We have been repeatedly saying that Sri Lanka is our friendly nation. At the end of the civil war there, the President of that country states that their victory was possible with the role of India in it. A President, who clamoured over a victory in a civil war, stated that India's backing and assistance was fully there to win that war. I would like to ask this Government that it must clarify as to how our country helped Sri Lanka. It has to be noted that Sri Lanka is an island nation and we are its immediate neighbouring country and we must also note that Sri Lanka has brought no inimical country as it is situated away from every other country. If India has extended arms and weapons and equipments to Sri Lanka, we must bear in mind that it may be used against us only in future. Only we are saying that it is a friendly country. When we had Indo-Pak war to liberate Bangladesh, Sri Lanka allowed itself to be used as a Pakistani Army Base. We must not forget this. The army planes were flying over our air space then. Sri Lanka has always been acting against our interests. Even today it is reported that Chinese and Pakistani army camps and installations are there in Sri Lanka. I do not know how we are still calling Sri Lanka as our friendly country.

Taking note of serious human rights violations and genocidal attacks on innocent civilians at the instance of the UN Secretary-General, a three Member UN Panel was sent there. The report submitted by that UN Panel has brought to light clearly the human rights violations and the war crimes. Several countries have raised their voice against that regime in that neighbouring country and have taken up with the UN to proceed further and bring to book the culprits. More than 47 countries have moved a resolution in this regard. At a time when we seek a permanent seat in the UN Security Council, we must take note of the move by 47 countries about the human rights violations and war crimes committed in Sri Lanka. I am afraid, we should not make ourselves vulnerable before the world that might ask us as to how a country that cannot ensure peace in its neighbourhood can seek to be a Member of UN Security Council to ensure world peace. I urge upon the Government of India to support the Resolution moved by 47 countries. At least this opportunity could be better utilised to bring about a lasting political solution in that island nation.

Recently, the Legislative Assembly of Tamil Nadu move a unanimous Resolution in this regard. It even spelt out that an economic embargo could be brought against Sri Lanka. It could be used as a tool against Sri Lanka to bring it round the corner and to the negotiations table to bring about a durable solution. I urge upon the Union Government to follow suit with the Government of Tamil Nadu and bring about a similar Resolution and have it passed in the Parliament of India. We cannot remain a mute spectator to violations of human rights in our neighbourhood and we also must realise that it is the anguish and the pain of about 7.5 crore of people in Tamil Nadu who have cultural ties and emotional attachment with the Tamils in Sri Lanka. I urge upon the Union Government to speed up the possible positive steps to ensure peace and protection to the Tamils in Sri Lanka.

I urge upon the Government of India not to come in the way of any possible UN action against the Sri Lanka and instead it must support the actions initiated by certain other countries of the world. Government of India must ensure the justice to the Tamil people of Sri Lanka. The Resolution moved by about 47 countries based on the findings of the UN Panel must have support of India. Equality and equal opportunities must be available to the Sri Lankan Tamils. We have a definite role to play there and ensure safety and security to the Tamils of Sri Lanka.

In the name of friendly country, Sri Lanka cannot go on and India cannot afford to keep quiet for long. Sri Lanka can go against India also. Hence we should not blindly believe Sri Lanka. We need to review our diplomatic relations with the Sri Lanka ascertaining fully whether Sri Lanka is our real friendly country or not. India is a big country and an emerging power and we should not be taken lightly and we should not allow ourselves to be disappointed at the hands of our small neighbouring country whom we take to be a friendly country. With these words of caution, I would like to conclude my speech.

*SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI (ERODE): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, my esteemed colleagues who spoke ahead of me have brought to the notice of this august House the current prevailing situation in Sri Lanka and the plight of Tamils there. Particularly I would like to refer to the speech made by Shri Patasani of Biju Janata Dal, who identified himself more with the Tamils and their problems. Almost all of them have reiterated that the Sri Lankan Tamils are treated as second rate citizens in that country. As was rightly pointed out by Shri T.R. Baalu and Dr. Thambidurai, the problem is not of recent origin. When India won its freedom, Mohammad Ali Jinnah raised his voice for a separate Pakistan and that is why India was partitioned and two nations were carved out. Britishers annexed two separate nations ruled by Tamils and Sinhalese separately. When the Britishers left unified Ceylon, which is now Sri Lanka, two nations were not there. It is also to be noted that Tamils took the lead to win freedom for the entire unified country from the Britishers. Tamils only wanted devolution of powers and share in power and did not ask for a separate country at that point of time. Now, they suffer that action of theirs.

Right from 1956, till date they have been agitating and fighting for their rights. Their struggle which started as a peaceful Gandhian movement was ignored by and large by the Sinhalese majority and the Tamils were continued to be treated as second rate citizens, denied of their legitimate rights. Continuous treatments as second rate citizens and denial of equal rights and violent attacks by the Armed Forces on them have forced the Tamil youth to take to arms. Helplessly they sought the help of arms and arm struggle. Now we find ourselves in a situation where even taking the name of LTTE is considered to be inappropriate. The world has opened its eyes now. Many of the countries have now accepted that it is true that human rights have been violated in Sri Lanka. The three member UN Panel

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil

Report clearly points out to the genocide with the help of arms supply from several countries of the world. Sri Lankan Government has trampled upon the human rights of Tamils and the State has resorted to war crimes. They have wiped out Tamils using banned arms prohibited by the Geneva Convention. What is the solution? I do not want to go into the same arguments advanced by others.

I would like to point out that the Tamil militants won back the Tamil dominated region from the clutches of the Sri Lankan authorities and they were running a separate nation in the name of Tamil Eelam. India was in the forefront to help Sri Lanka to finish them off. What is prevailing there now? We now hesitate to even raise issues in a sane manner. If we are apprehensive about raising our voice, who is there to protect the interests of Tamils there? Even at a time when the entire world has come forward to raise its voice sympathizing with the Tamils, we are still backtracking. We are now discussing here in this august House about the rehabilitation measures this Government has taken to help the Tamils in Sri Lanka. A similar discussion took place in the Sri Lankan Parliament two days back. Mr. Sreendran, a Member of Parliament belonging to the Tamil National Alliance has raised his voice in their Parliament stating that unidentified people are attacking innocent Tamils in their habitats. The panic that was created in the East has now spread to North. Such violent armed attackers come even naked with arms and attack wildly innocent people and when they are given a chase, they run away and enter Army camps and Police Stations without any check. When complaints are lodged, action is taken against the innocent public. What kind of justice is this? In Jaffna areas where people live with panic, these incidents have spread in Killinochi and in Bharathipuram where people have to spend sleepless nights apprehending the unexpected attack by unidentified men. This is what is prevailing in Sri Lanka now where Tamils continue to live in fear without safety and security. When this is the state of affairs available there, as informed to their Parliament, we, in Indian Parliament, are talking about the assistance we have extended to them for the rehabilitation of Tamils which hardly trickles down to the needy. All our relief materials have not reached the needy Tamils. Who are the beneficiaries? Are we in a position to verify whether what we have extended is really being used for the purpose it was intended to and sent? Delegations from the countries of the world cannot go there and see for themselves freely the real situation available there. The people who have gone there report that the only liberal help forthcoming from the Sri Lankan Government to the Tamils is that they are provided with 4 poles and a tarpaulin to make a makeshift tent.

The Government of India is waxing eloquent about the financial assistance extended to them and the materials sent to them in the form of several bags of cement and other materials. But the houses that are supposed to be constructed for the displaced Tamils are not forthcoming to them. The ground reality is that the Sinhalese are being settled in those newly constructed settlements. Sinhalese are colonized in the Tamil dominated areas in a systematic manner by the Government of Sri Lanka. This goes on unabated. The war that the Sri Lankan Government waged was not a war to end terrorism, but it was a war to wipe out the Tamil race, the original inhabitants of that island nation. They have completed that war with the sole intention to root out completely the Tamil race from that nation. The Government of India had extended a helping hand

to this.

India gave arms to them. It was also pointed out by the BJD Member who spoke ahead of me about the treatment meted out to the Tamils in Sri Lanka in 1989. Our leader Vaiko and hon. Members like Baalu have all pointed out to this in this august House earlier too. Our voices were not heard by the deaf ears of this Government. You gave them financial assistance, you provided them with arms, you had even sent the Chiefs of your Armed Forces, you had even reached an agreement with them to share the intelligence inputs of the Navy of your nation. India had even gone to the extent of sending our Naval frigate to submerge the vessels from the countries of the world to help the militants in their fight for their right.

This Government has supported to wipe out and finish off our brethren, our blood relations and the men of our race, who have had umbilical cord relations with us. Sri Lanka itself has proclaimed that India was with them and helped them in their war against the Tamils, which was nothing but genocide. India went that far to defeat a resolution brought before the UN Human Rights Commission by 17 countries against Sri Lanka. Even today, the Government of India has not taken cognizance of the UN Panel Report that has come out with its findings about the genocide, the human rights violations and the war crimes committed by Sri Lankan Government. Even at a time the countries of the world have opened their eyes and are seeing for themselves what had happened in Sri Lanka, the Government of India is yet to open its eyes. So far they were using arms and weapons to resort to genocide, but now the Sri Lanka Government has resorted to weapon-less genocide systematically.

The Sri Lankan Government which claims that they have wiped out totally LTTE with the end of the war, continues with the genocide. Tamils are driven out from their originally inhabited areas. They are not allowed to return back to their dwelling places. Shri Srinidharan has pointed out in the Sri Lankan Parliament that in Kilinochi area, almost total evacuation of Tamils has taken place. Even in Batticaloa region, people are being evacuated from their originally inhabited places. Even now, the Armed Forces come in the dead of night, threatening people. Security is not there in the lives of the Tamils even after the tall claims by the Government there that they have wiped out terrorism.

I would like to point out to another atrocious thing carried out by vested interests. The betrayers of yesteryears who are now projected as leaders are brought to India and are made to interact with Members of Parliament here. It was pointed out by Congress Members here that they had met them yesterday. Where do we go? There is unrest in Tamil Nadu. You must understand the sentiments of the people over there. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to point out that this is a grand design forged by the intelligence agencies of both the countries to paint the town red. I would like to charge that this is a plot by the Sri Lankan Government in connivance with ours to finish off once and for all the entire Tamil race in Sri Lanka. I urge upon the Indian Government not to fall a prey to the evil designs of that Government.

It is enough. The Government of India must say to itself that it is enough to have allowed so much of atrocities against Tamils and finish them off there in Sri Lanka and keeping quiet all these years in the name of friendly diplomatic relations. It should not be forgotten that the race that is being hunted down in Sri Lanka is close to the Tamils who live in the southern tip of the country. Please do not sacrifice Tamil race to extend a friendly hand to the Sri Lankan Government. Sovereignty is not merely the rule of Government over its people, but also the confidence the people repose in that Government. The people must feel that they are also being protected and their interests are also being protected by their Government. I urge upon the Government to understand the sentiments of the Tamils who have reposed their faith in the sovereignty of the Government of India.

We are an ancient race. "*kal thondra mann thondra kalathe,*

Mun thondri moortha kudl" is what is said of us. It means that our Tamil race is an ancient race that walked on this earth even before the Stone Age. Just because you wanted to have friendly relations with Sri Lanka, you had offered to them on a platter our Katchativu. That has resulted in our Indian fishermen being attacked by Sri Lankan Navy day in, day out. Please do not extend friendly hand to Sri Lanka to wipe out Tamil race once and for all. Please help us save and continue with the faith we have in the sovereignty of Indian State. Kindly bring about a change in our ways of handling things in direct proportion to the sentiments of Tamils and understand our feelings and act accordingly.

There cannot be a lasting solution without carving out a separate Tamil Eelam. Hence, I urge upon the Government to take steps to go in for a referendum as it was done in certain South-East Asian nations. Let all the Tamils in Sri Lanka be allowed to vote and choose their destiny. A general referendum with the participation of all the Sri Lankan Tamils, both who are in the Island and also those who have spread out to different places of the world, be held. Recently concluded local body elections have proved the same point. The aspirations of the Tamils there, who have a separate eelam, is reflected there. It is to be noted that the party that swears by Tamil Eelam has won in those polls. Hence, there is a need to go in

for a referendum to decide about Tamil Eelam. I urge upon the Government of India to help, assist in holding such a referendum in the near future. This alone will help the Tamils like us who live in the Tamil mainland in India to continue to repose our faith in the sovereignty of Government of India.

With this, I conclude.

15.04 hrs (Shri Inder Singh Namdhari *in the Chair*)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Sir, thank you very much for allowing me to participate in this discussion. I am glad to participate in this discussion under rule 193 which has been piloted by our hon. Member Shri T.R.Baalu. The text of the discussion was ratified and approved by all the Members of the Business Advisory Committee, including Shri Thambidurai...(*Interruptions*)

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI (KARUR): Sir, I am objecting to it. This was not discussed...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: You are also a Member of the BAC.

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI : That is why I am objecting to this statement...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Chowdhury, there was no need to refer to it here.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : He referred to it and that is why I have mentioned it. It was decided by the hon. Speaker in consultation with the Members of the BAC...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: If anything is found objectionable, then it would be expunged from the proceedings.

Shri Thambidurai, you say that this matter was not discussed in the Business Advisory Committee.

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI : Sir, how can he mislead the House?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then how was the name of the subject was changed?

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI : That is why I raised this and objected to it. It was not discussed in the BAC meeting...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: It is the prerogative of the hon. Speaker and not only that in consultation with all the Members of the BAC...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. SEMMALAI (SALEM): It was not consulted...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Thambidurai, since this change was approved by the hon. Speaker, therefore, I think, there is no need for raising any objection.

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI : Sir, that is different. Why is he bringing in the name of a Member...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Sir, the hon. Speaker has every authority to change it...(*Interruptions*) The hon. Speaker, in her wisdom, has changed it, why is he raising an objection...(*Interruptions*)

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI : It was not in consultation with the Members...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. SEMMALAI: How was it changed?...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Thambidurai, what do you want to say?

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI : Sir, I just want to seek a clarification. Hon. Member said that it was changed by the hon. Speaker in consultation with the Members. That is wrong. I have already said, when I spoke at that time, that the hon. Speaker has the prerogative. We have given a notice of a different type but it has been changed. That is my protest. But the hon. Member said that it was done in consultation with the Members. That is wrong. That is what I said and I want to put it on record...(*Interruptions*) He may not mislead the House like this...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Making a change is within the jurisdiction of the hon. Speaker.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, what I said was that he was also a Member of the BAC...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: We also read the previous Motion which was quite different from the Motion on which the discussion is going on. But when the hon. Speaker has given her consent, then I think, there is no need for wasting the time.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, hon. Members give notices on several Motions in their own form. Now the final form that has been approved by the hon. Speaker is being discussed today. As you rightly mentioned, when we are discussing it, why are you creating a controversy on this?...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Chowdhury, you may now please speak on the topic.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : With respect to the Sri Lankan Tamilian issue, nobody should try to score a political brownie point. This is my first contention.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Chowdhury, one point is there. Since the matter is very sensitive and emotional, I think the hon. Members belonging to other States also should speak more. It should not be confined only to the Tamils. This is the concern of the whole country.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : Sir, the issue is relating to Sri Lankan Tamils. It is our honest endeavour to see restoration of peace and tranquility across the Palk Strait. The settlement of Tamilians in Sri Lanka was a historical necessity. We cannot deny it. Apart from the concerns expressed by several Members, I would like to draw the attention of Tamil leadership as well as the Union Government of India to the fact that since the 1980s, when the civil war broke out there, lakhs of Sri Lankan Tamils were forced to migrate from Sri Lanka and started settling in various parts of the globe. That Tamil Diaspora has carved out a niche for their own fate by dint of their skill, intelligence and dynamism. But now the civil war has ended. Therefore, the host country which extended hospitality to the Tamil expatriates decades ago may now attempt to repatriate themselves to their place of origin, that is, Sri Lanka. Here, we should take it into account so that those Tamil expatriates should also be rehabilitated and resettled in their land of origin. I am asking the Government to look into it.

I took a little exception to the observation made by our honourable former Minister for External Affairs, Shri Jaswant Singh that Indian Government is at wits' end with regard to Tamilian problem, if I have correctly understood. I would like to say that being a former External Affairs Minister of our country, he should know the limitation of diplomatic manoeuvre. It is true that we are surrounded by various hostile neighbours which cannot be denied. It is also true that our external environment is not propitious to our country. Already, string of pearl strategy is being perpetrated by our hostile neighbour. So, we have to take into cognizance the security environment and to pursue our neighbours through the diplomatic channels so as to settle the problem and to facilitate the rehabilitation and resettlement programme.

When Hindi language was perceived to have been in 60 imposed, Tamil Nadu got flared up but it had not escalated into a civil war. But the same syndrome was observed in Sri Lanka when Sinhala language was imposed on the ethnic Tamilians, it got flared up. To the detriment of all, it boiled down to a civil war and a war ravaged Sri Lanka has already hogged the limelight of the world. We were not being able to spare ourselves from the spillover effect of the war-torn regime. That is the reason that our most beloved Leader, late Shri Rajiv Gandhi had laid down his life. He was assassinated by a conspiracy hatched in that part of the soil. That is why we should take into account the entire spectrum of this political situation before venturing into any initiative.

Sir in the year 1974, the island of Kachchatheevu was ceded to Sri Lanka. That was referred to by Shri Jaswant Singhji also. It is because it was a gesture of goodwill to our neighbouring country that the tiny island of Kachchatheevu was ceded with a stricture that Indian fishermen will be entitled to dry their fishing net in that island. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please try to be brief.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : We have also observed the chilling blood curdling episode of Sri Lanka which was revealed in the British Station Channel IV. It sent a chill down the spine. It is an outrageous episode and it is beneath contempt.

Sir in the year 1987, our beloved late Shri Rajiv Gandhi had signed a pact with the Sri Lankan Government for the devolution of power. I would like to ask the concerned Minister what is the present status of 13th Amendment, what is the present status of devolution package which was proposed in that Agreement because we came to know that the merger issue was rendered null and void. I would like to know whether the devolution package and the 13th Amendment have been transferred to a Select Committee of that country by ignoring the sentiments of the Tamil National Alliance. The fact is that the day our hon. Minister stated here in the Parliament that the expeditious and concrete progress has been going on in regard to Tamil people in Sri Lanka; the same day, the talks between the Sri Lankan Government and the Tamil National

Alliance had failed. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : Sir, I would like to mention a few lines made by the former President of the Sri Lanka, Kumaratungaji, "who was the fourth Executive President of Sri Lanka, who has come out in strong opposition to current President (*not recorded*), considered to be the mastermind and driving force behind a genocide carried out against Tamil citizens in Sri Lanka's northern coastal regions, culminating two years ago in the brutal, senseless deaths up possibly more than 100,000 human beings, most of whom were civilians". ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. The name should be deleted.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : Sir we are very much concerned to know that a semblance of demographic aggression is being carried out against the Tamilian population in Sri Lanka. Sir, we do not want to see the replication of Tibet syndrome which was carried by demographic aggression. We do not want to see the replication of Tibet syndrome in our neighbouring country Sri Lanka. That is why this Government should exhaust all its resources, and should exhaust all its diplomatic maneuvering skill so as to settle the long-drawn problem in regard to Tamilian in Sri Lanka.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, I have four more speakers to speak on this Discussion under Rule 193. Those who want to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House can do so. It will be treated as part of the proceedings.

अ. रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह (वैशाली): महोदय, यह हृदय विदारक ग्रंथ है। श्री वी.आर. कृष्ण अख्यर हमारे यहां जज हुए हैं, इसमें से मैं कुछ पंक्तियां कोट करना चाहता हूँ-

"The pictures in the book sent to me projects the horrendous injuries noxious by inflict. The gory scene when presented through the photos and pictures robs my sleep. Can man even be so beastly with little babies, raping girls, mutilating men and women and massacre numbers? Inhumanity thy name is Sinhala. And Lord Buddha the finest human ever is the one whom Sinhala worships. Lord, let there be Light, compassion, humanism, mercy in Sri Lanka and a glorious grand settlement through a new federal State. No war is good. No peace is bad.

Satyameva Jayate. "

यह श्री कृष्ण अख्यर ने लिखा है। वहां तमिलों पर जो अत्याचार हुआ है, उसके बारे में ही इसमें सब है। मैं आज सदन को यह समर्पित कर दूंगा। आज से करीब 55 साल पहले जब हम छोटी कक्षा में पढ़ते थे, तो भूगोल में पढ़ाया जाता था कि हिन्दुस्तान और श्रीलंका दो देश हैं, लेकिन हिन्दुस्तान का नक्शा जब बनता है तो उसमें श्रीलंका भी जरूर रहता है। पुराने ज़माने में दोनों का फोटो एक साथ दिखाया जाता था। अब नहीं दिखाता है। मेरे कहने का तात्पर्य यह है कि हिन्दुस्तान से श्रीलंका का संबंध सांस्कृतिक और ऐतिहासिक अपनेपन का रहा है। बौद्ध धर्म का प्रचार करने के लिए यहां से सम्राट अशोक का लड़का महेन्द्र और संघमित्रा श्रीलंका गए थे। तब से वहां पर बुद्धिज्म है। चौथी शताब्दी में जब फाह्यान हिन्दुस्तान आए थे तो उन्होंने लौटते हुए श्रीलंका में सेमिनार किया था। वहां बुद्धिज्म का जिक्र हुआ था। भारत और श्रीलंका की सांस्कृतिक मित्रता है, लेकिन वहां तमिलों पर जुल्म हो रहा है। वहां यूनाइटेड नेशन की टीम गई, जिसने इसकी छानबीन की और दुनियाभर के मानवाधिकार एक्टिविस्ट हैं, उनका कहना है कि तमिलों को एलटीटीई मानकर जुल्म किया जा रहा है, वहां की आर्मी और सरकार के द्वारा। उनको सरकार का कोई प्रोटेक्शन नहीं है। उनको मार कर उनकी संख्या को घटा दिया गया है। आर्मी के अटैक में 40 हजार सिविलियन तमिल मारे गए। सभी तमिलों के साथ एलटीटीई मान कर व्यवहार किया जा रहा है। उन्हें आतंकवादी माना जा रहा है और जुल्म किया जा रहा है। इसके बाद यूनाइटेड नेशन से एक दल वहां गया, जिसने अपनी रिपोर्ट दी। इसी पर तमिलनाडु विधान सभा ने भी सर्वसम्मति से संकल्प पारित किया है। मैं स्पैसिफिक बात जानना चाहता हूँ कि भारत सरकार ने यूएनओ की रिपोर्ट पर क्या कार्रवाई की? क्या उस रिपोर्ट को पढ़कर कुछ विचार-विमर्श किया गया है? दूसरी बात, भारत की डिप्लोमैसी कहां है? भारत-श्रीलंका मित्र हैं, मित्र हैं, लेकिन वहां तमिलों को मारा जा रहा है। यह कैसा मित्र है? मैं अपनी सरकार से कहना चाहता हूँ कि उनकी डिप्लोमैसी कहां है, कहां है उनका व्यवहार? भारत सरकार ने वहां के तमिलों को बचाने के लिए क्या किया? वहां तमिलों पर हो रहे अत्याचार से क्या वह बेखबर है?

इन्हें खबर ही नहीं है कि वहां तमिलियन्स पर जुल्म हो रहे हैं। यह सवाल नम्बर दो है कि क्या हुआ? उनके राहत और पुनर्वास की व्यवस्था का क्या हुआ? वहां लोग विस्थापित हो गए, वे बाहर में रह रहे हैं, उनके रहने की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं है। उनकी आबादी करीब 30 लाख होगी। पुराने ज़माने में जो लोग नाव से वहां चले गए होंगे, वे ज़ाफ़ना और उसके अगल-बगल में बसे हुए हैं। तमिल संस्कृति बहुत पुरानी है। महोदय, आपने संत तिरुवल्लुवर के बारे में जरूर पढ़ा होगा। तिरुवल्लुवर का तिरुक्कुरल ग्रंथ है, जिसको पढ़ने से दुनिया के लोगों को यह संदेश जाता है कि मानवता क्या है और मानवता की सेवा कैसे की जानी चाहिए। कहां है वहां मानवाधिकार? कहां है यू.एन.ओ. और वह क्या कर रहा है? हमारी सरकार क्या कर रही है? इसलिए हम इस पक्ष में हैं कि यहां भी भारत के संसद से सर्वसम्मत संकल्प पारित किया जाना चाहिए कि वहां तमिलियन पर जोर और जुल्म बंद हो, उनके पुनर्वास की व्यवस्था हो, उनके मानवाधिकार की रक्षा हो। हमारे अगल-बगल के पड़ोस में जुल्म हो और हम चुप बैठे रहें। वहां तिब्बत में वाइना वाले तिब्बतियों पर जुल्म कर रहे हैं, अत्याचार कर रहे हैं। हम चुप कैसे बैठे रहेंगे? हमारे अगल-बगल के मुल्क में मानवता पर हमला होगा और यहां हिन्दुस्तान में हम चुप बैठे रहेंगे। हमारे यहां चुप बैठने की संस्कृति नहीं है। यहां के आम नागरिक इस बात को अपने व्यवहार में लाते हैं कि "मैं उस देश का वासी हूँ, जिस देश में गंगा बहती है, " यहां लोग कहते हैं कि अतिथि जो हमारा होता है, वह जान से प्यारा होता है, "अतिथि देवो भवः "। अगल बगल के मुल्क के लोगों की संस्कृति और उनकी भाषा पर हमले हो रहे हैं। श्री बालू साहब अभी भाषण दे रहे थे कि वहां सब किताबों को जला दिया गया। तमिल संस्कृति हमारी बहुत पुरानी संस्कृति है। उसका एक-एक ग्रंथ है। हस्तलिखित किताब, ताम्रपत्र सबको जला दिया गया।

महोदय, इस किताब में भी उसका वर्णन है। इसलिए इस किताब को हमने उलट-पलट कर सरसरी निगाह से देखा है। इसको जिन्होंने तैयार किया है, उनका नाम मैं बता देना चाहता हूँ। The document is the maiden attempt of Penny Cuic Publications. John Penny Cuic is a British Engineer worked in colonial India. was a great humanitarian. In 1895 with his own efforts he constructed the Mullaiperiyar Dam in the State of Tamil Nadu, India. उसने मेहनत करके इस किताब को तैयार किया है। मैं जस्टिस कृष्णा अय्यर की रिपोर्ट पढ़ चुका हूँ।

सभापति महोदय: रघुवंश बाबू, जरा आप इधर देखिए। आप आसन की ओर देखकर बोलें।

डॉ. रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह : जी महोदय, मैं आपको सुना रहा हूँ। यहां जिज्ञासा जाहिर की गयी कि क्या ग्रंथ है? यह ग्रंथ हृदय विदारक है। वहां महिलाओं और बच्चों पर कितना जुल्म हुआ, यह देखने से कलेजा फटने लगता है। Dr. Ellyn Shanker graduated from Albert Einstein College of Medicine. She founded "Healing Seminars", an organisation dedicated to teaching mind-body connections to help heal physical and psychiatric problems.

सभापति महोदय : धन्यवाद। आप गिनती भूल जाते हैं, मैं क्या करूँ?

डॉ. रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह : महोदय, बस दो पंक्ति और हैं। "The Tamil people are being disenfranchised and victimized by the Sri Lankan authorities. This injustice must stop. The Tamil people must be allowed to live in peace and flourish in their homeland."

श्री श्रीतुंगा जयसूर्या कौन हैं? ये यूनाइटेड सोशलिस्ट पार्टी के महासचिव हैं। ये वहीं के हैं जहां हमारे खानदान के लोग समूह में होंगे। He is defending the human rights of the Tamils. He has an unequivocal stand on the political question of the right of self-determination of Tamils. He started a bilingual paper 'Arumuna'.

सभापति महोदय : रघुवंश बाबू, ये पुस्तक हमें भी मिली है और अन्य माननीय सदस्यों को भी मिली है। मैंने भी इस पुस्तक को पढ़ा है।

डॉ. रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह : श्री विराज मेंडीस कौन हैं? Mr. Viraj Mendis is the Chairperson of the International Human Rights Association in Germany, a refugee based organisation. भारत सरकार को आने आना चाहिए, यूएनओ की रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक तमिलनाडु

विधानसभा का संकल्प जो पारित हुआ, बालू साहब और अन्य माननीय सदस्यों ने जो भाषण दिया, इस पर भारत सरकार आगे आकर तमिलों के मानवीय अधिकारों की रक्षा के लिए आवश्यक कार्यवाही करे। भारत दुनिया में, यूएनओ में तमिलों की संस्कृति के ऊपर, उन्हें बचाने के लिए, उनकी रक्षा के लिए सवाल उठाए, यही हमारी मांग है।

सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से सदन में कहना चाहता हूँ, सरकार साफ-साफ बताए कि ये क्या करने जा रहे हैं? भारत की डिप्लोमेसी कहां है? ...(व्यवधान) तमिलों की रक्षा की जाए, यही हमारी मांग है।

*SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (BIKANER): I want to give some suggestions in the discussion under Rule 193 – Relief and Resettlement of Tamil in Sri Lanka :

(A). India should intervene through SAARC Agreement with the Sri Lankan Government to save the lives of Tamils living in Sri Lanka.

(B). The tradition of coastal area should be safeguarded as per our Foreign Policy so that fishermen of Tamil community can get relief and action can be taken as early as possible about their resettlement.

* Speech was laid on the Table

*SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH ROY (COOCH BEHAR): Respected Chairman Sir, I am thankful to you for allowing me to speak on the motion under Rule 193 introduced by Shri Baalu ji in this august House. We have maintained good relations with Sri Lanka since a very long time. Language, culture and religion of southern part of India and Sri Lanka are similar. In every country, it is the duty of the majority of the population to take care of the minorities. Tamils of Indian origin have been staying in the island nation for thousands of years. They had started the movement for autonomy, self determination, language, education and employment in the year 1956. But the Government of Sri Lanka did not recognize their rights and termed them as LTTE terrorists. Not all Tamils of Sri Lanka are terrorists. Some of them must have strayed away unknowingly but most of them are ordinary people. In the year 2009 the Sri Lankan Government started torturing and harassing then in the name of suppression of terrorism. This is not at all acceptable. We all want to have cordial relations with Sri Lanka, we want to strengthen our ties with that nation. With this purpose in mind, our former Prime Minister had sent peace troops to Sri Lanka. We do not support terrorism under any circumstances. Internal policy of no country should be under the cloud of terror and India do not believe in patronizing terror groups. But as Hon. Member Raghuvansh Prasad ji just mentioned, and as being reported by UN or other European nations, atrocities are being meted out to Tamil Civilians by the Government of the island nation. Human rights are being grossly violated there in the name of elimination of LTTE terrorists. Go to any hospital of Sri Lanka – you will find hundreds of poor helpless Tamils lying wounded after they were attacked by Lankan army. These people have been branded as criminals. Sri Lankan Tamils have been displaced from their original habitats. The Government of India must address this issue in right earnest. The grants which are sent by India for the development of the Tamils are actually not reaching the target group.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

Sri Lanka is our neighbouring country. Though we need to improve our relations with it, India must strive to raise its voice against any kind of injustice that takes place there. Through the United Nations, this issue must be highlighted immediately and strongly.

Sri Lanka, Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh – all are our good neighbours and we must enhance and strengthen our ties with every country. But the reports of UN and other European countries are shocking and incidents of atrocities on Tamil civilians are heart rending. Thus through you, Sir I urge upon the Government of India to take up the matter with Lankan Government and bring about an amicable solution to the ongoing crisis. India also needs to have a proper policy to address this issue and a firm resolve to raise voice against violation of human rights and gross injustice that is taking place in Sri Lanka.

With these words I thank you for this opportunity and conclude my speech.

सभापति महोदय: अगर कुछ लोग और भी बांग्ला में बोलेंगे तो आसन को भी समझने में सुविधा होगी।

*SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (BALURGHAT): Respected Chairman Sir, Sri Lanka is our neighbouring country and we have longstanding relationship with the nation. We, the student, of history are aware that Ashoka had sent his emissaries to Sri Lanka to propagate Buddhism in that country. India and Sri Lanka are friendly nations. But today we are discussing a very grave issue which relates to incidents of gross violation of human rights there. We know that the war is over but still rights of common people are being trampled like anything with the help of military. Northern and Western Sri Lanka are Tamil dominated areas. The army is trying to uproot the civilians from their original homes and thus are attacking

and torturing them heavily. Though the war has stopped, a war-like situation is still being created and basic rights of the Tamils are going for a toss.

People of the entire world, who are peace loving, who are democratically inclined must stand up and oppose the atrocities now. It is the right time. The way in which UN reports are pouring in saddens us, shocks us. They say that more than 40,000 Tamils have already been butchered by Lankan Government in the post-war scenario. The Government of India must immediately speak out against the injustice. America, UK and other European countries have raised their voices. Now its our turn because our people are suffering. Human rights violation should not be allowed to happen. We must stop this at any cost. This issue should be highlighted in the United Nations.

This situation began in 1956. A large number of Tamils stay in Sri Lanka but they are always treated as second class citizens. In every aspect, they are deprived. In employment, in education, in health care facilities, the Tamils do not have any say, any priority. The help or aid which is sent by the Government of India should be enhanced. More grant should be earmarked for them.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

In India, we have more than seven and half crore of Tamils. They have a rich culture, heritage, language. They are good people and must get their due. But the rights of Tamils are not being safeguarded in Sri Lanka. They are treated as second class citizens. Therefore Indian Government must ensure that the money which is sent to Sri Lanka is actually utilized for the benefit of Tamils.

Pressure must also be exerted through international organizations like UN and by the Ministry of External Affairs so that the Tamil brothers living in Sri Lanka get relief and respite. This is the responsibility of our foreign Ministry and the Government, must do something in this regard.

I thank you sir for giving me the opportunity to speak on this very important matter and conclude my speech.

*SHRI CHARLES DIAS (NOMINATED): The atrocities on Tamils in Sri Lanka is a matter of great concern for our country. Tamils in Sri Lanka have contributed much to promote the agricultural and industrial progress of Sri Lanka. But, the attitude of Sri Lankan government to Tamils was not at all healthy and Tamils suffered lots by this attitude, which is known to the whole world.

Now, there arose a situation that in the struggle between organizations for Tamils and Sri Lankan army, thousands of innocent Tamils lost their life and property and they are now put to unexplainable miseries. This aspect has to be looked into, which is our duty. Any society which values human rights should consider this. The Govt. of India has to ascertain the loss of life and property to the unfortunate Tamils in Sri Lanka and take effective measures to help them build the houses for Tamils and also to provide them basic amenities.

It is also a need of the hour that through diplomatic sources, efforts have to be taken to end the problems of Tamils and they should have an atmosphere to live in peace with dignity.

DR. TARUN MANDAL (JAYNAGAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I believe in the true spirit of internationalism. I feel that our brothers and sisters of the Tamil community, who have been killed in Sri Lanka, are our own people. They are our parents; they are our mothers and fathers. I would not like to differentiate Indians even as Tamilians, Keralites, Bengalis, Kashmiris, Gujaratis etc. I feel that we are all Indians living in different parts of India. We are Indian contingent of the broader international community.

It is horrible, senseless and inhuman killings of Tamil people at Sri Lanka since 1983 till recent period by the Sri Lankan military in the name of fighting LTTE. Thousands and thousands of Tamil children, men and women had been massacred, murdered, maimed and made orphan by the Sri Lankan Government violating all international conventions and covenants. The International Human Rights Charter has been trampled down to earth and it has been done by a so-called civilized Government. I would like to condemn this act of the Sri Lankan Government by my strongest voice.

It reminds us the terror, horror and the inhuman torture perpetrated by the US imperialist forces at the prison of Abu Ghraib and at the prison of Guantanamo Bay. It reminds us the holocaust perpetrated in Vietnam by the US Military and in the East European countries and Germany by fascist Adolf Hitler. It reminds us the brutality, barbarism and the war crimes of the Second World War.

Sir, we might have some differences with the LTTE demands and their path. But the autonomy, ethnicity, equality and rights of the Tamil citizens of Sri Lanka with non-Tamil citizens must be permitted, protected and promoted. Their culture, language, values and ethnicity should be protected and honoured and they be given power to decide on their own future and progress within the Sri Lankan boundaries.

The Indian Government must take up the issue of their settlement, rehabilitation, particularly economic rehabilitation, with the Sri Lankan Government. People who have been killed, disabled and property which has been destroyed be compensated adequately as per the international norms. Those who have been displaced, if they wish to settle back in Sri Lanka, must be resettled accordingly.

There must be political solution of the issues raised by the Tamil people in Sri Lanka. Political dialogue to this end should be pursued with all sincerity. It is unfortunate that in a land of overwhelming Buddhist culture and influence, such bloodbath

occurred during the last three decades turning the blue coastal water into red, time and again. Sri Lanka, no doubt, is also a capitalist country and like ours a vibrant member of SAARC. It is facing similar capitalist crisis like all other capitalist countries of the globe. We cannot imagine today that the same capitalist democracy which called for liberty, fraternity, equality and which appeared as a saviour of individual freedom and all-round development of human beings, at this crisis-ridden stage of imperialism is crushing human rights and freedom. Capitalism is naked today stripped of humanism, human values and social ethics.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mandal *ji*, only one thing I want to tell you that the discussion relates to the resettlement of Tamils by the Government of India.

DR. TARUN MANDAL: I know, Sir. I have mentioned it; I am mentioning it again. In this respect, I would like to mention that the forces used by the Sri Lankan Government on its citizens, may they be Tamils, cannot be tolerated by any civilized society. Similarly, in our country also, to tackle the problems of different ethnic, provincial, religious, linguistic, and economically deprived people, the States forces are being utilised at length which are making the problems more complex only.

Military might cannot be a solution as practised by the Government of Sri Lanka. A political will and a political talk can only be the way out.

Sir, my last concluding point is this. These crisis-ridden capitalistic States sometimes keep alive such internal problems to divide their exploited people of caste, creed, religion or ethnicity to prevent a unified fight by them against this oppressive social system. Only in a true socialist and communist society, we can put an end of exploitation of man by man and eradicate such ethnic problems.

Our attention should be drawn towards that.

*** श्री महेन्द्रसिंह पी. चौहान (साबरकांत):** आदरणीय सभापति जी, श्रीलंका में तमिलों के ऊपर अत्याचार हो रहे हैं, महिलाएं एवं बच्चों को भी हैरान पेशान किया जा रहा है। श्रीलंका हमारा अच्छा पड़ोसी है, हमारा दोस्त है, हमारे संबंध अच्छे हैं फिर भी तमिलों के ऊपर अत्याचार हो रहे हैं, फिशरमैनो के ऊपर भी अत्याचार हो रहे हैं। मानवाधिकार का हनन हो रहा है, उनके सहित पुनर्वास एवं कल्याण के लिए हमारी सरकार को त्वरित कार्यवाही करके उचित कदम उठाए जाने चाहिए।

*SHRI THOL THIRUMAAVALAVAN (CHIDAMBARAM): Mr. Chairman, Sir, after three weeks of continued effort we have finally managed to take up this discussion which seeks to highlight the plight of Sri Lankan Tamils. I thank the Chair for giving me an opportunity to participate in this discussion. India is an emerging power. We are now submitting our prayers before this great power called our Indian Government. We fervently hope and sincerely believe that the Government of India alone can positively intervene and ensure the safety and security of Tamils in Sri Lanka. We, as the people of India and as the rightful citizens of this country lend our support to the cause of the suffering Eelam Tamils and take up the same in this august House. We want to put forth certain urgent requirements. Only India can ensure if it chooses to provide safety and security to the Eelam Tamils. As we all hope that a lasting solution and enduring peace can be found only through the earnest efforts of the Government of India and hence we are placing before this Government our fervent appeals. It would be possible only when the Government of India extends its humanitarian assistance.

Our Hon. Minister of External Affairs had mentioned in his statement made in this august House two weeks back that about fifty thousand houses would be constructed to rehabilitate the Internally Displaced Tamils and the foundation work for about thousand houses have been completed already. The facts are to the contrary and not even hundred dwelling units have been raised in all these two years. Nothing has been done because the already existed houses have all been razed to the ground and the Sri Lankan armed forces have encroached upon those lands and plots. It is a question as to how our Indian Government will be able to create a situation where the safety and security is guaranteed to the Tamils there. I am pained to point out that we have to restrict ourselves to certain constraints in expressing our sentiments. We cannot even cry for them expressing our anguish. We are not able to say whatever we wanted to say here. We are not able to choose

* English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Tamil

the topic ourselves and to speak on it. It is rather paining that we do not have freedom even within this House. The moment it was announced that the Sri Lankan Tamils issue would be taken up in this House, more than 90 per cent of the Members of this august House have all left. This itself shows the attitude of this Government, this House towards the sorry plight of hapless Tamils there. I, of course, get a relief to find Members from various political parties have enjoined themselves in expressing their views sharing our sentiments about the pitiable situation in which the Tamils in Sri Lanka find themselves there. Can we not weep for them? Can we not talk about the legitimate rights of Tamils? Already we have lost the lives of about 2 lakh people. More than 15 lakhs of Tamils are moving about all over the world as orphans and refugees. Sinhalese, as aggressors, have taken over the Tamil homeland, our originally inhabited areas. More than a lakh mothers have been widowed. More than 15,000 people have been maimed. Much more than a lakh of students are not in a position to go to schools and colleges. What kind of help can the Government of India extend to them? The compassionate gesture of giving Rs. 500 crore may not wipe out their tears. It cannot cleanse the blood that has been shed till now. A lasting solution can emerge only when a separate homeland is established there. Only a Tamil Eelam can be an answer for a permanent solution and we expect the Government of India to act upon in a resolute manner.

When our Government always remains supportive of the Sri Lankan Government, they do not reciprocate the same in right earnestness. They have never implemented sincerely whatever accord we have signed with them. They build close ties with China, Pakistan and other inimical countries in our neighbourhood. But our Tamil people consider India as their motherland. In 1927 when Mahatma Gandhi went to Sri Lanka, it was only the Tamils who extended a warm welcome to him, handing over bouquet of flowers. Tamils accepted Gandhiji as their father. They embraced Congress movement and even started Tamil National Congress there. Whenever there had been Indo-Pak clash, Tamils had always liked to see India winning. Tamils used to fire crackers and celebrate whenever they saw India winning. The Tamils in Sri Lanka have always considered India to be their homeland and I am rather pained to point out that such people have been neglected by the Government of India. Not only the Tamils living in the North and East of Sri Lanka, but also the Tamils in the Central Hill Provinces are living in pitiable conditions as bonded labour. I would like to ask of this Government whether we have taken note of the fact that the Government of that island nation has left to the winds the Shastri-Srimavo Accord of 1964 to find a solution to the problems of the Tamils of the Central Hill Region. Even today, they are there to fend for themselves as Stateless orphans without having citizenship rights and voting rights.

Our fishermen are not able to go near Katchativu islet which we have ceded to them with an understanding that our fishing rights would remain intact. Time and again there are attacks against our Indian fishermen and the Government of India has not seriously condemned such attacks even once. In all these 25 years, more than 300 Indian Tamil fishermen have been killed. More than 300 people have been severely wounded. I would like to raise a question in this august House

as to how and why we are neglected. Is it because our mighty Government of India is afraid of something or never bothered about the Tamils and their problems? We would like to ask whether we are sought to be insulted. We have reposed our faith in the Government of India and we always continue to remain a part of India and we are living within the boundaries of India and we belong to this nation. On the basis of this faith, I would like to ask the Government whether they are going to take up the Tamil cause in a befitting manner without ignoring our sentiments.

The Tamils as a National race in our Indian nation are an ancient race with a rich cultural heritage and history and they are about seven and a half crores of people in India and with more than 10 crores of people spread through out the world. On behalf of all the Tamils, we would like to appeal to the Government of India to take note of the UN Panel Report about the war crimes and human rights violations committed there and the Indian Government must show keen interest in the welfare of Tamils in Sri Lanka. America and England have also pointed out to the war crimes. The Tamil Nadu Assembly has unanimously passed a Resolution in this regard. I do not know why the Government of India is still silent on this. We need to approach from a humanitarian angle. The Government of India was a mute spectator to the killings of lakhs of Tamils during the war. In broad daylight at Mullivaikkal, 1 ½ lakh Tamils were massacred and when that genocide was taking place, the entire world and India were simply watching it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If there is anything objectionable, that should be deleted.

SHRI THOL THIRUMAAVALAVAN : The perpetrators of the genocide killings and those men of (*Interruptions*) *should be brought to book for war crimes. They must be meted out with suitable punishment and should be taken to International Court of Justice.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The names mentioned by the hon. Member should be deleted.

SHRI THOL THIRUMAAVALAVAN :India has got 120 crores of people whereas Sri Lanka has got only 1 crore people. So mighty India can still prevail and if need be, we must consider intervening with all our force. Why are we afraid of them? What do we apprehend? The Tamil people must be sent back to their originally inhabited places. We must put an end to the aggression by their Armed Forces in taking over the land and properties of the hapless Tamils. Their cultural symbols are being destroyed. Hindu worship places are devastated. Instead, they seek to raise Budh Vihars there. The cultural identities of Tamils are being wiped out. They have razed to ground the houses of Tamils from their habitations. In English they call it genocidal attack.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is a revolutionary speaker.

SHRI THOL THIRUMAAVALAVAN : Such a kind of high-handed methods are going on there. The greatest dictator of the 21st Century could be (*Interruptions*) *Such people must be brought before the International Court of Justice for war crimes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The names and other objectionable words should be deleted.

SHRI THOL THIRUMAAVALAVAN : Only when a separate homeland is carved out for Tamils in Sri Lanka, we can ensure peace and stability there. When Rajiv Gandhi was there, he took a bold decision to send food materials there for the affected Tamils. I urge upon the present Government to take such bold measures. We must get a separate State for the Tamils there. If need be, we must resort to armed forces intervention. Only India can get a separate Tamil Eelam. Thanking the Chair for giving me this opportunity, let me conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now the hon. Minister will reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If there is anything objectionable, that should be deleted.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The names mentioned by the hon. Member should be deleted.

He is a very revolutionary speaker. The names and other objectionable words should be deleted.

ओशी वरिन्द्र कुमार (टीकमगढ़): माननीय सभापति महोदय श्री लंका तमिल बंधुओं के साथ जो अमानवीय व्यवहार हो रहा है वह काफी निंदनीय है। यह मेहनत से अपने परिवार के लिये धनोपार्जन करते हैं वहीं अपनी संस्कृति को भी पोषित करते रहते हैं किंतु वह पिछले 3 दशकों से काफी संकटों का सामना कर रहे हैं उन्हें उनके राजगारों से छीना जा रहा है उनके मकानों में घुसकर सामूहिक नरसंहार किया जा रहा है। वृद्ध बच्चे एवं महिलाओं को भी नहीं छोड़ा जा रहा है हमने हमेशा अपने पड़ोसियों से अच्छा व्यवहार किया है। बंगला देश की स्वतंत्रता की लड़ाई में हमारी सरकार एवं लोगों ने काफी योगदान दिया अतः जो तमिल श्री लंका में रह रहे हैं भारत को गंभीर प्रयास करके वहाँ की सरकार से बात कर उनको पुनर्वास एवं संरक्षण दिलाना चाहिये।

* Speech was laid on the Table

ओशी नारनभाई कछाड़िया (अमरेली): माननीय सभापति महोदय, यह एक अत्यंत खेद की बात है, जो हमारे तमिलियन पर वार किया गया है वह सचमुच में मानवाधिकार का हनन करने के बराबर है। आज हमारे देश के लोग विश्व के सभी भागों में अपने रोजी रोटी के लिए अपने व्यापार के लिये फैले हुए हैं।

सभापति महोदय एक मनुष्य का अधिकार होता है कि वह किसी भी देश में स्वतंत्र रूप से कार्य करने का अधिकार है।

मैं यहाँ केन्द्र सरकार से अनुरोध करना चाहूँगा कि इन तमिलों के ऊपर जो श्रीलंका के द्वारा अत्याचार किया गया है, उसे रिसेटलमेंट और उचित न्याय का प्रवधान करें।

* Speech was laid on the Table

*SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Chairman Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak on discussion under Rule 193 for the steps taken by Government of India for relief and resettlement of Tamils in Sri Lanka and other measures to promote their welfare.

After the civil war, the Sri Lankan Government assured India that they will resettle the marooned Tamil speaking people of Sri Lanka in their respective villages.

So, on humanitarian grounds, our Indian Government gave Rs.500 crore for the rehabilitation and resettlement of Tamil-speaking people who are affected severely.

Our Government should insist the Sri Lankan Government to construct 50,000 houses for which we have allocated fund for the Tamil-speaking people for their rehabilitation. The Tamil people must get all the liberty and political freedom in Sri Lanka.

The Sri Lankan Government should understand that the Tamil speaking people also are their citizens, namely, Sri Lankan citizens. The Sri Lankan Government itself should not create any disparity among the Sinhalis and Tamilians in Sri Lanka. The military control in Sri Lanka on Tamilians should be removed.

Indian should have a cordial relationship with Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan Government also have the responsibility to establish a peaceful and amicable settlement.

The Indian fishermen who are involved in fish-catching near Katchativu area are killed frequently by Navy of Sri Lanka and by Sri Lankan fishermen. This kind of problem should be stopped. Our Indian Government should make an amicable arrangement with Sri Lankan Government to protect the Indian fishermen community.

* Speech was laid on the Table

Since Sri Lanka is a neighbouring country, our Government should establish a cordial relationship. At the same time it is the duty of our Government to advise Sri Lankan Government to make a humanitarian arrangement to settle the Tamil people

to live peacefully and economically sound.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI E. AHAMED): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank the hon. Members for raising this very pertinent issue in this august House and also raising many pertinent points relating to the problems faced by the Sri Lankan Tamils ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister of External Affairs has to come and give reply to this discussion. It is the most important issue and also it is a sensitive issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : How can the Chair object him from giving the reply because he is a member of the Council of Ministers?

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, there would be many clarificatory questions. Would it be possible for the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs to give answer to those? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, the hon. Minister of External Affairs may come before the reply is over. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Baalu, you were yourself a Minister. There is a collective responsibility of the Council of Ministers.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : At the time of conclusion of this discussion, the hon. Minister of External Affairs is not here. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI E. AHAMED: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit that the same issue is being debated in the other House. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI T.R. BAALU :It is not fair...(*Interruptions*) Then, we have to walk out.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not think, it is a genuine point of order.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI T.R. BAALU :The Cabinet Minister concerned has to come. While I moved the motion, then also he was not here. So, in conclusion, he is not here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Baalu, it would have been better if the Cabinet Minister was here. But the Minister of State also has every right to speak.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : No, we do not want to hear the Minister of State in his place...(*Interruptions*) He should come and reply.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, he is in the Rajya Sabha...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Kindly hear me... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please take your seats.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Baaluji, I am on my legs. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : He should come and reply. There is no other way to continue. ...(Interruptions) When I moved the motion, at that time also the Cabinet Minister was not here...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I am on my legs. Please take your seats. Please maintain decorum.

Narayanasamyji, what do you want to say?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, I would like to submit that the discussion on Sri Lanka is going on in this House as well as in the Rajya Sabha. Now, the hon. Cabinet Minister is replying to the debate in the Rajya Sabha. He is on his legs there...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : In no way, Lok Sabha is subservient.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: It is not like that...(Interruptions)

Sir, apart from that, even under the rules, the Minister of State is also entitled to reply...(Interruptions) Even otherwise, the Minister of State is also entitled to reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Thambidurai, you are a very experienced Member. Mr. Baalu himself was a Minister. Now, the Minister means a Member of the Council of Ministers and it includes a Member of the Cabinet, a Minister of the State, a Deputy Minister or a Parliamentary Secretary.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHI SANKAR (KALLAKURICHI): But Sir, it is not an ordinary issue...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, I agree with you. But when I moved the most important motion, the Minister was not here...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I agree that it would have been better if the Cabinet Minister was present here. But if he is replying in the Rajya Sabha, how can he speak here simultaneously?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, the Cabinet Minister is in the Rajya Sabha and he is on his legs. He cannot leave and come...(Interruptions)

Sir, we respect the sentiments of the hon. Members...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : I know I was a Minister here...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let me give my ruling.

...(Interruptions)

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI (KARUR): Sir, let me make my submission....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Narayanasamy, please sit down. I will give you a time.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Thambidurai, you may make your point in just one minute.

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI : Sir, this is a very serious matter. Various Members have spoken on this matter. International issues are also involved here. Secondly, you said that according to the rules, it may be a Minister or a State Minister, who can reply. The Minister means the concerned Minister. Who gave the statement? The Minister of State has not given the

statement. The statement is actually given by Shri S.M Krishnaji. According to the rules, the Minister who has given the statement has to reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Thambidurai, you must have seen on that day, the hon. Prime Minister made the statement but the reply was given by the Home Minister.

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI : That is an exception.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That day the statement was given by the hon. Prime Minister and the reply was given by the Home Minister.

...(Interruptions)

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI : Sir, please do not quote the precedent...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. SEMMALAI (SALEM): The name was mentioned. It was mentioned about the statement by Shri S.M. Krishna

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Baalu, let us hear what Mr. Narayanasamy has to say.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, we are discussing under rule 193, a short duration discussion. Short duration discussion does not require any kind of a statement by the Minister...(Interruptions)

16.00 hrs.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: No, many Members have referred to the statement...(Interruptions)

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: He is competent to reply...(Interruptions)

I am not quarrelling with you. He is replying in the other House. How can he come when he is replying there?...(Interruptions)

16.0 ½ hrs

*At this stage, Shri C. Sivasami and some other hon. Members came
and stood on the floor near the Table.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please go back to your seats. I am going to give my ruling. No, Dr. Thambidurai please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please go to your seats. I am giving my ruling.

...(Interruptions)

16.01 hrs

*At this stage, Shri C. Sivasami and some other hon. Members
went back to their seats.*

SHRI E. AHAMED: Hon. Chairman, I would like to make a submission. Under the Constitution and under the Rules of Procedure, I have every right to reply. If the hon. Members do not want to listen to a Minister of State, let them wait till the Cabinet Minister comes. I have no objection. Either you adjourn the House or take up other business, I have no objection...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I can do one thing. Mr. Baalu, Dr. Thambidurai, Mr. Sampath, please listen to me. I am calling the hon. State Minister to intervene but the final statement will be given by the hon. Cabinet Minister tomorrow.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED: Mr. Chairman, you have only one alternative, either let the House wait till the Cabinet Minister comes here or you take some other subject. It is your prerogative.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But you can intervene for some time.

SHRI E. AHAMED: No. If they are not prepared to listen to me, why should I speak here? I am prepared to speak. I can reply. I have been replying in the other House and in this House also....(*Interruptions*) Even on the other day, Dr. Thambidurai himself wrote that the Minister of State can say. I have no objection....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: The House can take up the Minister's reply tomorrow.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Yes, it can be tomorrow....(*Interruptions*)

I cannot say we are wrong but you cannot say I am wrong....(*Interruptions*)

Mr. Chairman, I do not say their objections are wrong but they should not say I am wrong. I have every right under the Constitution and under the Rules of Procedure.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : No, Sir, I am very sorry. I know the Constitution. I was a Cabinet Minister. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Baalu, I feel the depth, sentiments of the hon. Members that they want to hear the reply from the Cabinet Minister because so many questions have to be put. But I say Mr. Baalu that the State Minister has got full right to reply. But even then I am taking up the next item and the reply will be given tomorrow.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : The Minister is not available in both the Houses. The Minister is not in the Rajya Sabha. He is not there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are taking up Item No.10.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: He is not there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am taking up legislative business. I have given the ruling. What is wrong? He will reply tomorrow.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Even the system of having Minister of State is to meet such a contingency. One Minister cannot do everything simultaneously. It is not that one Minister alone will do everything...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I agree.

SHRI E. AHAMED: I need not say this to such a senior Member like Shri Baalu.
