

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, we will sit up to 6.00 P. M. and after that we can see. I now call upon shri Kumarmangalam.

16.59 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

**Situation arising out of the Reported
Activities of LTTE in Tamil Nadu**

[English]

SHRI P. R. KUMARMANGALAM (Sa-lem) Madam, Chairperson, I am extremely obliged that you have at last called upon me to raise a discussion, though I think the cause is very justified to the extent that it was on a very important issue which had a very strong humanitarian angle. But I raise this discussion with tremendous pain and anguish in my heart. Madam Chairperson, being a Member of Parliament from the State of Tamil Nadu, my mother State, it is but with a tremendous amount of restraint and understanding that I think all of us must participate in this debate.

17.00 hrs.

The situation is not just serious but it is moving to a crisis point. I think it would be relevant for me to go into the immediate past about the activities of LTTE in Tamil Nadu and then come to the present situation. Actually, after the Indo-Sri Lankan Accord, around October, 1987, the LTTE, which had spread out in Tamil Nadu were told in on uncertain terms that they must return and they did pack their baggages and moved out. The moment the Assembly elections were over, they returned, that is, in January of last year and returned not in small numbers but in quite a large contingent of them but lay quite low. Now and then we saw sporadic action on their part in the coastal areas. But they started preparing grounds in the hinterland of Tamil Nadu itself. The real first flash was, when they openly moved in for a kill as it is called. It took place around 19 and 20

December, 1989 this House would recollect when this was brought to the notice of the Government through the Speaker who was in the Chair at that moment. At that time, five customs' officials were kidnapped by the LTTE. We were later informed that they have been released. This obviously was done with an intention to intimidate the customs and immigration officials. That was the beginning of the serious phase in Tamil Nadu. The five of them were taken into custody or detention by the LTTE in a mid-sea encounter with the militants on the 9th of December. Thereafter what is interesting is that, we found that they were imposing their control over the seas not just the portion of the seas that belonged to the international waters of Sri Lanka but also the portion of the seas that belonged very clearly, according to any international law, to us. Our fisher folk, specially from Rameshwaram, could not even venture into the sea and fish near their shores-which were an old practice-were, prized prawns were available. But on the contrary, their fishermen, to only fish in our waters, but also move on to our shores and kept control. One of the worst happenings that I could bring to the notice of the hon. Minister for Home Affairs is that they have been walking around in the coastal areas in Rameshwaram, in the city of Madras and they have been seen in the city of Madurai, carrying AK-47s openly on their shoulders. They are not shy of exposing that they are armed and they are flaunting about. In fact one example was that the two tigers were in their full uniform-they were not in the *mufti* but were in their battle dress.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Tigers?

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Yes; they are called Tigers.

My friend Mr. Rawat is asking: 'Tigers?' and I have to explain to him that it is the nickname that they have got for themselves. They have cap and all, a full uniform, carrying AK-47 rifles and were waiting for a friend of theirs at the railway station at Rameshwaram, a friend who is coming from Egmore

in Madras. So, they receive their friends. I am just giving this as an example of how they have full access of movement, and they do not restrain themselves, or pull their punches when it comes to showing the amount of fire-power that they have at their disposal.

17.06 hrs.

[MR DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Not only that; in addition, they drive through hundreds of kilometres chasing, according to them, members of other militant groups in Tamil Nadu, tracing them out in hotels in various small coastal towns, having shoot-outs; and thereafter, no action is taken against them. One would understand if this is a limited activity, only restricted to the coastal areas, though one does not approve of it, but it could be easily controlled. But where one gets a little shaken is when one sees where they have moved during the last 3 or 4 months. (*Interruptions*)

If my friends here like to continue their discussion under rule 193, on Andhra? I will not mind; I will sit down. If that is what they want, I do to have any objection.

SHRIMATISUBHASHINI ALI (Kanpur): Now you know what problem I had with your party.

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Madam Chairman- I am sorry; I did not notice that the Deputy Speaker has come.....

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are to addressing the Chair.

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, I was addressing the Chair, but at that time the switch-over was very fast.

The point that is important is this; it is not a question of who is responsible, or why it has happened. But what is more important is that it has come to be. And unless all concerned admit the reality—and I repeat, admit the reality—and take a decision to tackle the problem, the matter would not only go out of

hand, but would become the genesis of, maybe, another violent, separatist movement in a very sensitive State known as Tamil Nadu.

It is reported that nearly 50 lakhs rupees worth of goods are smuggled every week through Rameswaram; and the surprising thing is that it is not the Customs men who go on coastguard boats who really take the bribe, or the protection fee or whatever one may call it, but it is the LTTE which does it. Not only do they take this Rs. 1,000 per boat as the fee for boats moving across, and into, our coastal waters; but they also give a receipt, a proper, good receipt naming the person, viz. the boatman, and the amount of money they have collected, with a duly authorized signatory, with stamp and all.

The surprising fact is that though this has come out in the Press, there has been no action whatsoever to restrict their movement in the coastal areas. In addition, even a further shocking fact which, I think, all of us should take note of, is that the Policemen, when they try to have an encounter with them, invariably are the ones who suffer. And in every effort, we find that policemen are killed, and the LTTE rebels escape.

I don't think I am bringink these facts as a great revelation to the hon. Home Minister. He is aware of these facts, though he may find it a little embarrassing to reveal all to us; but he is aware that the matter is moving slightly out of hands. They had started moving about in Tamil Nadu from December 1989. I would like to specify the time because they had moved into Tamil Nadu early in 1989 once again after they had moved into Tamil Nadu in 1987. But they really started showing arms openly and threatening and intimidating the officials around December 1989. They had seized our fishing boats; they had killed the refugess who made an attempt to cross in the fishing boats; they were massacred in mid sea. You can see their photographs in the newspapers. It is nothing new. You will find boats full of dead refugee women and children floating on the water. Nothing was done to restrain them. They have full

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free control over the coastal area. In addition to that, they have now set up training camps specially in those areas where the refugee camps are not there; where there are refugee camps they are aware that every type of training that they receive is visible. They have set up their training camps in my home district, Salem. I understand that they have set them up in Madurai; they have set them up in Madras in Tanjavore somewhere near Pudukotai. But I know for certain that in Salem it does exist. One wonders whom are they training. After all, the IPKF has been withdrawn. Now they have the north east area of Sri Lanka available to them. Now an argument is put to us, that is as to why should the LTTE ever have any presence in Tamil Nadu? After all, they have their own land where they are ruling almost *de facto*. So, why should they be here at all? This is a very important question not from the point of view of defence or offence but from the political point of view. But what is it that they are doing in Tamil Nadu? I would like to make it clear to all that what they are doing is that they are using Tamil Nadu as a base for income through peddling of drugs, carrying of drugs and doing all sorts of illegal activities including imports and exports of arms, sales of arms locally. In addition to that, they also have protection and free access to our border; they have free access for coming inwards and going outwards from import and export. What is it that they do in return? In return, they are training, I repeat, persons belonging to the Dravida Kazhgam, an organisation, which has an outfit which is called "Tamils Nationalist Movement". It is reported that one of these camps is, in fact, running on the lines that belongs to the Ruling Party in Tamil Nadu a person who is very powerful and big in their party. But, anyway, that is not relevant to me. What is really relevant is that certain Indian nationals, our citizens, are being trained and armed. Now, this was denied outright. But this denial goes totally against the fact that a case has been booked and charges have been filed against five persons in Coimbatore for manufacturing spares for AK47 Rifle. They have admitted

that they have been doing it on behalf of a Sri Lankan militant, a prominent Dravida Kazhgam activist; and their group people are accused. I do not need to take names. But I am sure, the hon. Home Minister is aware of this case.

Now this is not possible in a State unless the local Government assists, encourages and covers up. This is the misfortune. If the local Government really means what they say, and that is to the extent that the militants cannot stay on in Tamil Nadu unless they keep within the law, then there should be no difficulty in handling them. But I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Home Minister, through you, that—it is reported on the 17th—on the 16th of May, very recently, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu gave a firm warning that the Government will not tolerate any Sri Lankan militant group roaming about in the State carrying on their activities. The warning has come after six months. But why has he given this warning? He says that there is no camp at all in the State for training and the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam is not involved at all, and that your intelligence agencies, the Centre's intelligence agencies, like the Research and Analysis Wing are trying to create problems between the Central Government and the State Government. And, not only that; he moves even further to stand guarantee that the DMK is not involved, when a case only three days ago has been registered in Coimbatore by the Tamil Nadu Police Crime Branch, not by the CBI or any central authority! To that level they are willing to go to cover up. There is a reason. It is not dead. Once again, the question will be put, "We are in power in Tamil Nadu, after all we are the Government there, why should we encourage such forces?" The answer is simple. During the year 1989 the present Government in the State of Tamil Nadu and its Chief Minister took every possible step that they could think of politically to win over the people of Tamil Nadu, according to me. And when the elections took place he came to know that one of his populist moves was able to get him any credibility among the people. He knew that his party's support is limited and it is

dwindling. And, therefore, today the Government in Tamil Nadu, which knows that it does not have the support of the people, has resorted to allowing dangerous groups to continue there.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): You say it has not got the support of the people. It has got elected and the mandate will be there for five years.

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM: May I explain? I am obliged that the hon. Home Minister asked this question. The most important thing is that at that time, the forces which were against the DMK were divided. But when the Lok Sabha elections were held, what happened?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM (Sivaganga): They lost in 232 segments.

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM: In how many segments did they win?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: What happened in every single segment where the by-elections were held? There were 232 segments. You advise him to call the elections now.

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Let them see where they stand, Assuming that he has the support, what all I wish to ask you is, if you try to have elections in Tamil Nadu you will know what the position is. That is not the issue. The issue which I want you to understand is that it is not that I am trying to play politics; all I am trying to point out to the hon. Home Minister, through you, is that it is not as simple as it seems. It is a very deep, devious political game that is being played by people who have no commitment to either the Constitution or to the country as a whole. They have decided to resort to the most unfortunate and dastardly scheme of leaving behind the seeds of sedition. In a State which is basically, fundamentally nationalist in character, they have tried over and over again, to raise the bogie of the language and tried to see if we get divided on that basis.

When they found that, yes, the people of Tamil Nadu love their language, love their culture, they considered the selves part of India as a whole and not a separate entity. Culturally we have our small diversities, but on the over-all picture we are one; we are part of a nation; we have recognised it; we always admired this fact and we are proud of the fact that we are Indians. Having come to know that this is not possible anymore, to play around in the name of either language or religion to try and bring about a divide so that regional control remains, they have resorted to this technique. I can establish, through you, to the hon. Home Minister that what has been given to him through his intelligence agencies is only the tip of the iceberg. To my knowledge, he knows of a few people being trained in somewhere and in some camp. That is only because some officer in the Central Intelligence decided that his conscience will prick if he does not allow atleast a little of it to leak, as a hint to the Central Government. Let us not forget that in Government today, the National Front Government has the ruling party of Tamil Nadu as a part of itself. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SUBHASHINI ALI (Kanpur): Like you had... (*Interruptions*) They have never been part of our Government.

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Madam, please get your facts corrected. They have been our allies but they have never been part of our Government. Unfortunately, Mrs. Subhashini Ali has got to get her facts corrected.

I would like to end by requesting that the Government of India realised that the problem of LTTE being in Tamil Nadu and being encouraged by the local Government is not one to be treated lightly. There are lot more facts available with all of us; may be we should not put it so openly on the Table. Definitely we would meet the Home Minister and bring to his notice the facts. There is enough proof that the Government in Tamil Nadu is actively participating, encouraging and covering up sedition in its own State. And not only that, but they are campaigning

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today without using the media, but using their allied sister organisation as front for secession, what they call a greater Tamil Nadu. They have built and drawn up a map which covers more than what the Tamil Nadu State today can consist of; a little bit of Sri Lanka and a little bit of other islands around and they have started campaigning. In every public meeting, pamphlets are being distributed saying that this is what Tamil Nadu should be. Unfortunately, there is no action taken against any offender who was caught distributing it. In one of our own party meeting, two people were caught and handed over to the Police. Neither was the case booked nor was any action taken. This has happened in the Madras city itself. I think the time has come for the Central Government to realise that the continuance of the Government in Tamil Nadu in its present form with DMK as the ruling party would mean that soon we would have Punjab like situation created in Tamil Nadu where you have trained terrorists, destroying the peace of a highly civilised and peaceful society. Tomorrow you may not have time to save it. I only wish, we dismiss the Tamil Nadu Government and have President's rule in Tamil Nadu so that this could be averted.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): The cat is out of the bag.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I was told that it was decided that this discussion would continue only upto 6 O' clock today. I think, there is a lot of business tomorrow also. I have about six members from the Congress Party, about 4 members from the National Front, two members from the BJP and about four or five from other parties also. Mr. Kumaramangalam has taken about 35 minutes. He was the first speaker and he was making some good points and so it was allowed. We shall have to decide as to how to go about. Can we extend the sitting today?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Tomorrow I find, it will be very difficult to take up this issue or you decide to allow only one speaker from each party. Now Mr. Jaswant Singh.

SHRIJASWANTSINGH (Jodhpur): How much time would you like to give me?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your party has 18 minutes. I have two names from your party. You can either speak for 18 minutes or you can divide it between you two.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Will the discussion be continued tomorrow also?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I find it difficult because tomorrow they have lot of business. But if Government and all parties decide, then I have no objection. Actually the issue is such that at this point of time we should discuss it a little more extensively.

SHRIJASWANT SINGH: I listened with great interest to the hon. previous speaker, the hon. Member from the State concerned. And no doubt his anxiety and his concern about the situation that is developing in Tamil Nadu is something that we entirely share. It is a matter of some regret that in the latter part of his intervention he made very serious charges. And it is those charges that I would request the hon. Union Home Minister to address himself to because he went to the extent of charging the State Government of Tamil Nadu with cooperating in sedition. It is a very serious charge. I am sure, the hon. Member did not make it lightly. It is nevertheless a charge which disturbs me very greatly because I cannot conceive a constitutionally formed government engaging deliberately in sedition.

There is many aspects of the presence of LTTE and it did not lie in the hon. previous speaker's mouth to say that the LTTE is a factor in the domestic politics of Tamil Nadu has enraged only since December, 1989. I do not think that is at all a reality. It is, therefore, necessary for me to take just a few minutes to explain what are really the various aspects of this factor of LTTE. There is

the domestic angle. And as the previous speaker pointed out quite rightly, the factor of the impact on our internal law and order by the presence of LTTE in the State of Tamil Nadu, is a matter of concern which the entire House shares. I do not think that it is a matter on which anyone is in disagreement. And I am confident within my mind that the Government of Tamil Nadu is equally seized of this aspect of the impact of law and order by the presence of LTTE, or its cadres, or some of them, in Tamil Nadu. And that at least is where I would like to start, unless the Union Home Minister disagrees with me on the subject or informs me otherwise. There are some illustrations that were given by the hon. previous speaker, of the direct consequences of this impact on our internal law and order. I do not need to repeat them. For example, historically established fishing rights of the fishermen on Kathcha Teevu Island has resulted in certain amount of difficulty. Was that difficulty with the Government of Sri Lanka, or was it with some elements of LTTE? And, thereafter, effects were locally, felt in the State of Tamil Nadu or in the Tamil Nadu Assembly. I do not think this was referred to by the previous hon. speaker. I want the Union Home Minister to clarify this. There are also aspects which he referred to about the capturing I do not want to use the word capturing—but that was what it amounted to—of some custom officers, their being taken away or to being available, recoverable for three-four days. This is one aspect.

AN HON. MEMBER: for 15 days.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: 15 Days? It is for the Union Home Minister to inform me. They are after Government officials, and if officials of the Union Government are detained by anyone, be it by Sri Lanka or be it the LTTE, then, it is a matter of the deepest concern to me because they are officials wearing the uniform of India. And that is not just an individual insult, it is not an individual that has been captured, it is the uniform of India that has suffered indignity and I do expect the Union Home Minister to apprise the House with full facts in this regard.

There were also mentions made as to what the LTTE has been doing about in the coastal regions of Tamil Nadu, about the employment, the flaunting of arms etc. Without repeating all those, I would request the hon. Home Minister to inform us about this.

There is, however, an aspect of the LTTE's presence, which was not touched by the previous hon. speaker and it is necessary for me to do that. By the LTTE's presence—whether directly through the LTTE or otherwise—we now face the post Rajiv Jayawardane Accord, and post withdrawal of IPKF situation. We are also now the victims of the residue of the internal strife between various Tamil groups of Northern Sri Lanka. We have become the victims. Our land today has become the site for a resolution of some of those problems that have spilled over into India. Groups like the EPRILF, Endff have ridden piggy back on the IPKF and have come to India as refugees. With that they have imported the struggle within Sri Lanka on to our shores. It is axiomatic, thereafter, that those problems of Sri Lanka also get imported into India because of a misapplication of the totality of India's Sri Lanka Policy in the last five years, even in the current year. Then I think it is time that the Government addressed itself purposeful and meaning fully to the entire aspect of how this is going to be contained because there is not just one dimension of the importation of the problems of Sri Lanka on to Indian shores, there is also the aspect of increasing numbers of Tamil refugees in India of one variety or another. We have, therefore, post Rajiv Jayawardane Accord not as resolved either the problems within Sri Lanka or the Indo Sri Lanka problem of Tamils. I would request the Government to throw some light on this matter and to share with us their thinking, as to how they intend to move about resolving this particular aspect. This bit about the impact of the LTTE on our internal polity was an aspect that was spoken of by the previous speaker. He did give an illustration, but some here somehow he left me feeling let down. I was expecting that having constructed a scenario, he would inform us as to where the crux of the problem Norway, is or where

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possibly the solution to all this lies. It is, therefore, necessary for me to remind the House, through you, Sir, that starting from about 1980, encouragement was given to the LTTE and its cadres by the late M.G. Ramachandran. It is a well enough known fact that this was not just in terms of providing them with camps in Tamil Nadu, it went to the extent of momentary assistance. It is well enough known that amounts ranging from Rs. five to seven crores, moneys for acquisition of vessels from Singapore, moneys for acquisition of weapons and other arms from the free markets of Singapore, were given. These are all facts. These are now all established as facts and we cannot just with them away. It is also a fact that right from the days of late Mrs. Gandhi, the close association of the Research and Analysis Wing with the LTTE is a very unsavory chapter in the entire evolution of our Indo-Sri Lankan policy, and I would not be doing to the totality of our concern and justice if I did not at least mention it. I consider it indeed my responsibility to mention that there is one instrument.. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI R. MUTHIAH (Periyakulam): One clarification, Sir. Mr. Jaswant Singh has said MGR had assisted LTTE people to purchase vessels and weapons. It is not correct. The fact is that he had assisted LTTE to put down their weapons and not for purchase of weapons.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I am happy with the hon. Member's denial. I am happy that he has denied what I am saying. But I am not convinced with what he has said. I grant him his right to disagree with me and to say that the facts available with me are not correct. I would leave it to the hon. Union Home Minister to clarify the position because it is in my knowledge that a minimum sum of Rs. five crores was given by the M. G. Ramachandran, to the LTTE, for purchasing things like vessels from Singapore, arms, etc. I would be happy to be proved wrong.

I was on this nexus between the LTTE

and RAW and I was on the point of submitting to you that, in fact, if there is one particular institution which thoroughly misled the previous Government and which is perhaps still misleading this Government, and if there is one institution that is responsible for the misemployment of the IPKF in Sri Lanka, it is the Research and Analysis Wing. The Research and Analysis Wing has misled... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANBARASU ERA: (Madras Central): That was the demand from all political parties that IPKF should be sent.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I think perhaps the hon. Member has not understood the point that I am trying to make. It is a very unhappy, in fact, a very unsatisfactory, role that was played by the Research and Analysis Wing in guiding the previous Government and in misemploying the IPKF in Sri Lanka. There is the aspect of the LTTE and the post Indo-Sri Lankan Accord, the Accord that was signed between Shri Rajiv Gandhi as Prime Minister of the country and the former President of Sri Lanka, Jayewardene. I do not wish to go into it. I do not wish to go into how completely misled this Accord and because of which this LTTE and the interest of the Tamil population, in whose support the IPKF did first go to Sri Lanka, became the victims of IPKF's combat. We end up by putting face to face as combatant groups the IPKF and the LTTE. If there is an illustration of a total failure, both of perception of policy and practice of policy, both military and diplomatic, then I think it is the question of the employment of the IPKF against the LTTE. The hon. Member who spoke previously has interjected to ask me: are we talking about Sri Lanka or are we talking of LTTE? He was not here earlier when I said that it is the importation of the Sri Lankan problem into Tamilnadu via all these acts and that is what we are talking of and it is because he went to the extent of seriously charging the Government of D.M.K. in Tamilnadu with actively supporting sedition, for that, I share the concerns about for the presence of the LTTE in Tamilnadu. But to charge a duly elected Government of the country, any State Gov-

ernment, with sedition is a very serious charge and we cannot take it lightly. There is little understanding on the political nature of the LTTE which is necessary if we are to understand why this importation of the Sri Lankan Tamil problem on our shore is such crucial importance. It is my understanding that the LTTE does not believe in majority view. They want supremacy through an exclusivity of interests. This is a distressing aspect of the political nature of the LTTE and the Government of Tamilnadu it is not for me to advise the Government of Tamil Nadu in this House—and the Home Ministry would do well to address themselves to this I share with the previous speaker his unstated concern, in as much as the LTTE is now on the look out for a hinterland. They are now on the look out for geographical and political depth. In their search for that hinterland, in their search for a geographical and political depth, the Government of India and the Union Home Minister would do well to take note that the Palk Straits can be crossed in just about 45 minutes, by today's boats, these the distance between Jafna and the shores of India is only 45 minutes. The entire hinterland of Tamilnadu is a ready-made depth for the LTTE of which they are in search and I think the Union Home Minister must take into account this factor.

Sir, I had mentioned about the IPKF. I cannot talk of the LTTE and the presence of the LTTE in Tamilnadu without referring to the IPKF.

I have had the privilege of having worn the uniform. That is why 1300 dead later, near about 300 maimed later, twenty-nine months after, they were employed and hundreds of crores of rupees sent which perhaps are of not any great consequence, the fact that the IPKF and the Indian army should today be reviled and be objects of political shuttle-cocking, of a kind of political rivalry is not acceptable to me. The IPKF went there rightly or wrongly due to the misdeeds or misapplication of the previous Government, mis-perception or whatever, the IPKF went there as an instrument of State policy. Day after day, night after night, despite an unat-

tainable political and military objective, young officers and men went out on patrols in the sure knowledge that some amongst them will be killed or maimed and yet they went.

I appeal to this House and to everyone, that in the present situation concerning the *pros* and *cons* of LTTE, let us, for Heaven's sake, not blunt the sword arm of the country that is the army; let us not bring in the IPKF in temporary political controversy.

AN HON. MEMBER: Who did it?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It is a matter of regret to me, Sir. . . (*Interruptions*)

I will conclude and I say this because I think this is now an inseparable aspect of the presence of LTTE—the presence of LTTE as a thought and the presence of LTTE as a physical reality in Tamil Nadu. Every time the IPKF will come up and I appeal to the Government—and it will take only a minute to say how distressing it is for me to say that you go anywhere in the world today, you go to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the People's Republic of China, the entire land of Europe, you go to the United States of America; they suffered a terrible defeat in Vietnam. Yet, in every town and in every school and in every village Church yard, there is a memorial tablet for those that lost their lives in Vietnam. It is a matter of some regret to me that our students, our schools do to know what our soldiers did in 1948 or in 1962 or in 1965 or in 1971 or what the IPKF did in Sri Lanka. It is vital, it is important not just to put up a tablet.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I will conclude, Sir. It is a subject very close to my heart and therefore, I do tend to get carried away.

I will conclude by saying that when the Union Home Minister answers all these points, would he perhaps please convey my appeal that if we are to answer the political

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presence of the LTTE in this country please put up a suitable and befitting memorial to the IPKF somewhere in this country, so that every one knows what the contribution of IPKF was?

SHRIMATI SUBHASHINI ALI (Kanpur):
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir in the time that is left to us, I will briefly try to say about our understanding of the problem that is under discussion today. (*Interruptions*)

We are talking today about the problem being posed by the LTTE's presence in Tamil Nadu. But as the earlier speaker had already explained, it is impossible to separate this problem that we are facing today in one part of the country from its context. Now, I think that we have also to think a little bit about what our objectives were in Sri Lanka. Sending the IPKF there was a well thought out decision. And what were our objectives? Our objectives were to see that the interests of Tamils in Sri Lanka were protected and that the interests of Tamils in Sri Lanka were protected and that their democratic rights were safeguarded and that some devolution of power took place so that they could exercise their rights as free citizens of the republic of Sri Lanka.

Mr. Jaswant Singh has also spoken about the earlier Government's unfortunate attitude towards LTTE. So, I do not want to go into that aspect of it.

I think now the problem that we are confronted with has also three aspects. One aspect is the problem in Sri Lanka. The second aspect is the problem of the Sri Lankan refugees in India as a whole and the third aspect is the problem in Tamil Nadu being created by the presence, and the increasing presence, of the LTTE. All these three aspects must be viewed together and only then can we come to terms with the situation and decide what steps we want the Government of India to take to redress the situation as it exists today. In Sri Lanka it is very distressing to note that after the with-

drawal of the IPKF two things seem to have happened. One is that the Government of Sri Lanka itself has adopted a soft attitude towards the LTTE in the North of Sri Lanka and it is allowing the LTTE to terrorise other groups of Tamils in that region. At the same time, it has gone back on its words as far as devolution of power is concerned. Its own forces are terrorising different groups of Tamils and making the Tamil population feel increasingly insecure. In this context, we must view the recent murder of one of the elected Members of Parliament from that part of Sri Lanka, who belong to the EPRLF. This situation that is being created by the actions of the Government of Sri Lanka is creating problems for us. They are going back on the democratic promises they had made. The people of Tamil origin in that part of Sri Lanka are losing confidence in the Government of Sri Lanka. They are feeling insecure because they are being terrorised; they are being victimised and one particular group among them that is the LTTE is being patronised by the Government of Sri Lanka also. This is resulting in the problem of refugees in India and that should also be our concern. Many refugees have come to India and they have been sent to different parts of India like Orissa. We should also see the conditions in which they are being forced to live over there. They are living in inhuman conditions. We have already heard reports that people have run away from those camps in Orissa. They have tried to take shelter in Tamil Nadu and they have been arrested in Tamil Nadu; husbands have been separated from their wives and childrens have been separated from their parents. This kind of inhuman treatment is being meted out to them. This is also our concern. We must be concerned about those people who had to flee from the excesses of the Government of Sri Lanka and from the excesses of the LTTE in Sri Lanka. They are coming to India for help and aid. They are being hounded here; their families are being separated. This should also be the concern of this House.

Then, another thing is the growing presence of the LTTE in Tamil Nadu. I do not want to go into the sins committed by the

previous Government because they are known to everybody. But this holier—than—thou attitude that is being adopted by my hon. colleague Shri Kumaramangalam also is to be deplored. The situation is serious and we all should rise above our political affiliations and come into terms with the situation. There is a certain amount of opportunism often resorted to, by politicians of different groups in order to win popularity or for short term gains. Many people indulge in this kind of opportunism. Unfortunately, uncertain cases, it leads to very serious consequences for national unity. What is important is that, all political parties, as far as the serious question of national unity and integrity of this nation is concerned, should give up this kind of politics of opportunism which we have seen what kind of grave consequences it can have in different parts of the country.

Now, the reports from Tamil Nadu are very alarming. The LTTE groups and gangs are well-armed; they move around in fleets of cars like Marutis, in jeeps and in motor cycles. They are there not only in the coastal areas, but they have moved inwards also. They have got camps; they have got basis; they are bringing in gold and they are smuggling gold and electronic goods in a big way into the country. All sorts of important people, out of their greed, are encouraging this smuggling, participating in smuggling and making money out of it. The money that is being made is used for printing propagandas material in Tamil Nadu, for making bombs and other things like that. The arrest of Customs officials and harassment of fishermen are going on there. They are running an office also in Madras, the Capital of Tamil Nadu. We have heard reports of certain meetings that have taken place. Many reports have come that meetings have taken place between citizens of India and members of the LTTE, where all sorts of atrocious sentiments were voiced. All sorts of anti-national speeches have been made in some meetings. This is something very serious and we all should take a note of it. This is the

beginning of things and it should be nipped in the bud right here. Now what needs to be done is this. On the one hand, the Government of India must talk to the Government of Sri Lanka about keeping up its side to the Accord, namely, devolution of powers must be carried out. The Tamil population living in Sri Lanka must be assured of its democratic rights; it must be given protection. That is the first part of thing they should do. The Government of India should tell us what they are doing in this regard. Or we all urge upon the Government to immediately move in this regard and start dialogue with the Government of Sri Lanka. At the same time, it should be our efforts—the Indian Government and the people of India—that we should try and bring all the different groups of Tamils together. In this regard, even if no partiality has been shown to any different group, no partiality should appear to have been done to any different group. If any Government or any political party, for short term political gains, is playing a very dangerous game, is trying to use one group against another, this must be stopped. If any political party is encouraging a group like LTTE, that must be stopped. The Government of Tamil Nadu must also be urged upon to use its good offices to bring all the groups of Tamils together and not to differentiate between them and not to patronise any of them. *(Interruptions)* If he is doing, he should be told to stop it. If he is thinking of doing it, he must be told to stop thinking of doing it. He must be told what is in the national interest. That is what I am trying to say. This is what our Government should urge upon and also this sentiment should be conveyed to the Government of Tamil Nadu. Otherwise, very serious consequences can emerge from all this. We are already seeing the results of earlier opportunism in Kashmir, in Punjab and in different parts of the country where secessionist movements are rising.

With these words, I conclude.

17.57 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Twelfth Report

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK): I beg to present the Twelfth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

17.58 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

**SITUATION ARISING OUT OF THE
REPORTED ACTIVITIES OF LTTE IN
TAMIL NADU—*CONTD.***

[*English*]

SHRI BHABANI SHANKAR HOTA (Sambalpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are discussing about the activities of LTTE in Tamil Nadu. I was particularly listening to my previous speaker from the Opposition, Congress-I when he voiced very serious concern about the activities of LTTE and also made certain allegations against the State Government there that the State

Government was in collusion with the LTTE. He ascribed two motives. One is that the LTTE is indulging in smuggling of narcotics and other things. The second motive which he has ascribed is that the Government of Tamil Nadu, i.e. DMK which is the ruling Party in Tamil Nadu itself is preparing for a dangerous movement of sedition through this organisation. These are two very serious charges. As far as I know, this is either false or half-froth. There is no basis for making such a wild allegation against the State Government and the ruling party which is a part of the National Front Government at the Centre. It is a track record of the DMK Party since the time of Mr. C. M. Annadurai who was the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. that it gradually joined the mainstream. If you see the history, it was gradually moving towards parliamentary democracy and committed itself to the process of democratisation. The same Party which has now made the charge of sedition was in alliance with the Party in Tamil Nadu in 1972 and 1980 and came to power at the Centre with their indirect support. It is highly reprehensible that the Party is making such a charge.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can continue next time.

18.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then Adjourned till Eleven
of the the Clock on Thursday, May 24,
1990/Jyaistha 3, 1912 (Saka)*