

Review on the working of and Annual Report of Mazagon Dock Limited, Bombay for the year 1984-85 and Statement for delay in laying these papers.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND DEFENCE SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM) : I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :
 - (i) A statement regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Mazagon Dock Limited, Bombay, for the year 1984-85.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Mazagon Dock Limited, Bombay, for the year 1984-85 along with Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2019/86].

12.44 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary General of Rajya Sabha :

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 1986, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 25th February, 1986."

MOTOR VEHICLES (AMENDMENT) BILL

As passed by Rajya Sabha

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL : Sir, I lay on the Table the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 1986, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

12.45 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Eleventh Report

[English]

SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI (Dharmapuri) ; I beg to present the Eleventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Twenty-fifth Report

[English]

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar) : I beg to present the Twenty-Fifth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Estimate Committee on Action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Seventy-Ninth Report (Seventh Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Railways—Railway Purchases.

12.46 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

[English]

Situation arising out of non-settlement of ethnic problems of Tamils in Sri Lanka

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU (Gopichettipalayam) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of External Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon :

The situation arising out of the non-settlement of the ethnic problems of Tamils in Sri Lanka and reported attacks on Indian fishing boats by Sri Lanka Navy and the steps taken by the Government in that regard.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : Government is gravely concerned over the crisis in Sri Lanka, a close neighbour with whom India has traditionally had close and cordial ties. The Sri Lanka crisis is a political one; it can only be resolved through political means. This will depend on the willingness of the Government of Sri Lanka to satisfy the legitimate aspirations of the Tamil population of Sri Lanka through the devolution of appropriate powers within the framework of Sri Lanka's unity, through legislative means and executive decisions that would redress the long standing grievances of the minorities.

The Government of India is convinced that there can be no military solution to this problem. We have extended our good offices to the Government of Sri Lanka, to assist in the negotiations between the parties to the dispute. In spite of many difficulties and obstacles, these negotiations are continuing.

The most serious and distressing result of the continuing crisis is the cycle of violence which has taken a heavy toll of the lives and property of innocent Sri Lankan civilians. This has reached dangerous proportions and, as a result, the gulf between the Sri Lankan Tamils and their government continues to widen. The crisis has had severe repercussions on India, as 125,000 refugees from Sri Lanka have sought sanctuary in our country. The Government of India hopes and urges that the crisis in Sri Lanka will be resolved through constructive political negotiations, and that conditions will be reached that would permit the early return of these refugees to Sri Lanka in honour and safety. The Government of India accord very high priority to this objective.

There have been reports of attacks on Indian fishing boats by the Sri Lanka navy and Government views these with concern. The facts of the cases reported in the press

are however being ascertained. Members may rest assured that the Coast Guard and naval authorities have been given clear directions to ensure the safety of the Indian fishermen operating in Indian waters and to prevent intrusions into Indian waters. No attacks on Indian fishing boats inside Indian waters will be tolerated. Coast Guard ships on patrol are under directions to maintain utmost vigilance and to intensify night patrols. A Coast Guard station at Mandapam provides logistic support to Coast Guard ships operating in Palk Bay and close liaison with Tamil Nadu Government authorities in Rameswaram. The Sri Lankan authorities have stated that Indian fishermen regularly cross into Sri Lankan waters. It is invariably difficult to ascertain the exact position of fishing vessels. We have conveyed to the Sri Lankan authorities that in case of inadvertent crossing of the maritime boundary our fishermen should be dealt with in a humane manner.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : The hon. Minister has come forward with a statement. Actually this ethnic problem is a long-pending problem. Which has to be solved immediately. I think our hon. Prime Minister also voiced his grave concern over the killings that are taking place everyday. Recently there were attacks by the Army-men on the civilians in Sri Lanka. Actually the situation is worsening day by day and hundreds of civilians are being murdered. I request first of all the Government of India to take it as a national issue. Even the hon. Prime Minister the other day said that this problem is not only related to Tamil Nadu but actually it relates to the entire country. When he says so, we have to take it as a national issue and as a national problem. Then only it can be solved.

I am grateful to the hon. Prime Minister for having settled so many issues within a year. I see that a young and energetic Prime Minister like our hon. Rajiv Gandhi can do this also. But nowadays what Sri Lanka is doing is that actually Jayawardene is playing a double role. He is making a double speech. That is what he is doing now. One day he is saying that a military solution alone will solve it. But another time he says that a political solution will be suitable in order to end the problem.

[Shri P. Kolandaivelu]

This problem should not be treated in a casual and cavalier manner. Our hon. Prime Minister has stated in unequivocal term that this is not a problem of Tamil Nadu alone. So I request the hon. Prime Minister to take up the matter immediately and solve it. Even President Jayawardene has publicly stated and proclaimed that if Rajiv Gandhi invades Sri Lanka and arrests him, then on that day there will not be a single Tamil left alive in the island.

12.50 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

What does that mean? In his open and direct proclamation even in the Assembly, Shri Jayawardene has stated that supposing hon. Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi invades Sri Lanka, there will not be a single Tamilian there by the time when he is arrested.

DR. A. KALANIDHI: What is the reaction of the Government of India to this?

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: I want to know the reaction of the Government of India here to the statement made by Shri Jayawardene.

DR. A. KALANIDHI: I do not think you have protested.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: Who are all the people who are being killed? The innocent Tamils are being killed in hundreds. The Tamil women are being raped. The Tamil children are mauled and maimed. They are massacred day in and day out. Sri Lanka Government is adopting a method of slow killing. That is what they are doing now. The Sri Lankan army has become their potent weapon of oppression. The struggle for Eelam has blossomed now. It is gathering momentum now with each passing day. There will be a separate Tamil Eelam. The problem can be solved only when there is a separate Eelam. (*Interruptions*). No force on earth, however mighty it may be, can stop it.

There is so much of difference between the militants and the terrorists. But what

Shri Jayawardene says is that he wants to end the terrorism. What does it mean? Actually, under the guise of anti-terrorism activities, he is killing innocent people and labourers and agriculturists. Even Sri Lankan Industries Minister Shri Cyril Mathew has said that terrorists were mad dogs and should be shot dead. What does it mean? If there is terrorism, certainly it should be stopped. It should be curbed. There cannot be a second idea over it.

What do you mean by terrorism? Here there are militants. Militancy is there. Only militants are fighting for a separate Eelam. That is their grievances now. We can preach to good people. But we cannot preach before** Shri Jayawardene. We cannot preach before **Shri Jayawardene has become** Tens of hundreds of innocent people are being massacred and murdered every day and Shri Jayawardene is playing a double role with Sinhalese and also with the Indian Government. He is actually dancing according to the tunes of the Sinhalese there in Sri Lanka. In the recent attack at Thangaveladipuram, more than 100 civilians have been killed by army men.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The words which the hon. Member used against President Jayawardene which are derogatory will not go on record.

DR. A. KALANIDHI: He is narrating what has actually happened. What is wrong in it?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not necessary to use such words.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: At Thangaveladipuram, recently a week ago, more than hundred civilians were killed by army men. The Batticaloa and Akkaripattu Citizens Committees had made an on-the-spot investigation and they have found 60 charred bodies of agricultural labourers, shepherds and nomads killed by security forces. That is the position. Even in the recent attack alone, more than 125 innocent Tamils have been killed by Sri Lankan army. By the time of reaching a peaceful accord, I think, there will not be any

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

Tamillian at all. That is why we request the hon. Prime Minister to have a settlement, to have an accord immediately, as early as possible. Even recently also, our hon. Prime Minister, when he visited Maldives, he also said and voiced his grave concern over the recent attacks made by the Sri Lankan army. Mr. Jayewardene has shown his hand more clearly by spelling out that his regime is not prepared to go beyond terms of its first 'Working Paper' on the issue which, it is proved beyond doubt, cannot work at all as a basis for any meaningful negotiations. So, he has made up his mind not to give a separate Eelem. Unless there is a separate Eelam for the Tamils there, this problem cannot be solved.

The negotiation talks between Sri Lanka and India with regard to the ethnic problem of the Tamils should be done headed by a Cabinet Minister. I request the hon. Minister for External Affairs to take up this issue. Of course, Mr. Romesh Bhandare, Foreign Secretary, has been taking up this issue. Even though he is doing his duty as directed, he may not be having special interests as a political leader, just like our hon. Minister here, to settle the issue as early as possible. I request the hon. External Affairs Minister, Shri B. R. Bhagat, to take up this matter and try to solve the problem as early as possible.

Mr. Dixit, our High Commissioner in Colombo, has been called today, I suppose, in the wake of reports of Sri Lankan Tamils facing murder and atrocities and a major action by the Armed Forces in which 100 Tamils were killed recently. The action has been described as genocide.

An independent study made by the Catholic Church has confirmed that a large number of Tamils have been either killed or subjected to violence and rape.

In the light of such incidents, Mr. Jayewardene says that he was not seeking a military solution to the Tamils issue. What does it mean? It is not a question of one or two incidents of violence; violence is continuing almost every day. So, it is an every day business of killing the Tamils in Sri Lanka.

The Sri Lankan problem is having its repercussions in Tamil Nadu, and the people's strong sentiments have been reflected in the civic elections; because the problem has not been solved by the Government of India, the people have expressed their strong sentiments in the local panchayat elections in Tamil Nadu...

DR. A KALANIDHI : The civic poll has given a clear verdict.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Senator Edward Kennedy has said that 'Tamil Eelam' is the only solution for the settlement of the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka. Even a person who is a Senator in America has come forward and said that 'Tamil Eelam' is the only solution in order to settle the issue. I would say that we are not satisfied with the statement made before this House by the External Affairs Minister. We have seen umpteen reports like this. I request the hon. External Affairs Minister to come forward with concrete proposals. The TULF has already given certain proposals in order to settle the issue. But Mr. Jayewardene is not accepting the proposals which have been given by the TULF. Unless the TULF proposals are agreed to, there cannot be any solution to this problem. I request the hon. External Affairs Minister to take up the issue immediately and settle it. We have to bring about a settlement to this issue. It is a sensitive matter not only in Tamil Nadu but in the whole world. Everybody has voiced grave concern over the state of affairs there. That is why, it is very important to settle it. I think, our External Affairs Minister will come forward and settle the issue.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : Sir, I suggest that we skip the lunch-hour today so that we can continue with the Calling-Attention,

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If the House agrees, we can skip the lunch-hour today....Yes.

Shri Sriram Murty Bhattam.

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMAMURTY (Visakhapatnam) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the situation in Sri Lanka is fast deteriorating; it is growing from bad to worse. Every day we find violence and counter-violence. The troops marching into Jaffna, the heartland of Tamils indulged in mass killing-spree. The innocent Tamils in hundreds are being gunned down every day. The atrocities, inhuman treatment and merciless massacre knew no bounds. Sri Lanka is fast becoming another South Africa. Shri Jayawardhane is another Botha. One wonders whether he wants to excel and out do South African leader, Mr. Botha. The continuous bloodshed and genocide is an ever growing recurring feature. Under the circumstances, what does India propose to do? What initiative does the Government want to take? Or do they want to be a silent spectator? India is no doubt committed to help the Sri Lankan Government to arrive at a peaceful negotiated settlement in regard to ethnic problem. Whatever role they have played so far after continuous several months' hard, sincere, dedicated, patient and persistent efforts, the whole thing became in fructuous. India no doubt could successfully bring them to, negotiated table. In spite of that what is happening there now? What is the stand of Sri Lanka Government? Even the moderate leaders' proposals do not meet with the approval of the Sri Lankan Government. They want merger of Northern and Eastern provinces. This was rejected and overlooked. They pleaded for certain amount of autonomy to the Provinces and that again is said to be in consistence with the unitary nature of the Constitution of Sri Lanka and they were not agreeable for that. Whatever has been agreed to at the time of discussions and negotiations, they go back on that. They revert to the cruel massacre, reckless and indiscriminate killing of innocent people. This is what is being done there. They go back on their earlier commitment on the devolution of greater powers to the Provinces and Provincial Councils. They had agreed to annex 'C' while discussing with Shri G. Parthasarathy and now they are going back on it. The Sri Lankan Government and Tamils have rejected each others proposals. Under these circumstances, what is the use of having further negotiations and discussions?

Sir, war cry is now heard. Military operations are in full swing. Virtual genocide against the ethnic minority of Tamils is going on unabated. War hysteria is being whipped up by all concerned. Mrs. Bandaranaike is also suffering from the same. What do we do under the circumstances? What does India propose to do under these circumstances? All that India did for the last several months is being undone by the intransigence of Sri Lankan Government. Could we remain passive spectators all the time? Can we remain passive spectators to all that is happening in Sri Lanka? No doubt, it is their internal problem. But at the same time we cannot forget the fact that these people are of Indian origin and we are the neighbouring country. We are the affected country. Lakhs of people, refugee people, have come to India and their influx is increasing. Under these circumstances, we will have to take a tough line. We will have to stop the genocide. Sri Lankan security forces merrily went on killing-spree in Jaffna, Tamil heartland. Sri Lankan army called in the air force to launch an aerial attack with helicopter gunships and fighter planes, killing hundreds of people and harassing others and making their life miserable. I therefore urge upon the Government that the matter should be taken to the international forum like the Human Rights Commission and there the matter has to be discussed and decided. The regular genocide cannot go on unquestioned, unchecked continuously without check and hindrance.

India has to adopt a tough line and must give an ultimatum to the Sri Lankan Government. They should forthwith stop all genocide, all cruelties, all barbarities and atrocities and indiscriminate killings of the innocent Tamils.

What has happened to the cease-fire agreement and the virtual collapse of the monitoring machinery. There should be effective cease-fire and this is the condition prevalent for resumption of any worthwhile and fruitful resumption of negotiation. It is very essential for negotiations. There should be a neutral agency for this purpose to monitor the ceasefire agreement.

Why not involve SAARC in this new search for a lasting peace. I think this may be fruitfully attempted. The SAARC may also be involved in this. The main factor that we will have to take into consideration is the war cry of the President Jayawardane. On January 26, he made a solemn assurance to the people of Sri Lanka that he shall overcome, destroy and eradicate terrorism in all forms on the soil of Sri Lanka. He gave a call to the people of Sri Lanka to unite, come forward and destroy the militant movement. He clearly pitted the Sinhalese against the Tamils. Obviously he is seeking a military solution to the ethnic problem. He seems determined to annihilate the Tamils. He says that the Army is better equipped and better trained now. He expects the guerilla to be liquidated all in one year. He wants a military solution to a military problem. After doing that he says he will revert back to the political problem and achieve a political solution. What does it mean? After military operations, what remains is nothing, but total destruction, desolation and extermination of Tamils. Where is the question of political solution after that?

He wants to totally exteminate the Tamils through military operations. What is there still left to be tackled politically? It is ridiculous. This is not understandable. He wants to play the dual role-indulge in ruthless and merciless mass massacre of the innocent Tamils and also later show an olive branch and talk of peace and negotiated settlement. The intention is very clear. The trends are very clear. Sri Lanka is buliding up armed forces.

The Defence expenditure is increasing. In 1985 originally it was estimated to be 1.7 billion. But it went upto 5 billion. A further increase of 68% is planned in the next budget.

The Pak President visited Sri Lanka. There are other factors also and these factors cannot be lost sight of. We will have to take them into consideration. In December, the Pak President had offered training facilities to Sri Lanka Home Guards. President Jayawardane expressed gratitude for the practical support of the Pak President. Not only Pakistan, but also several other countries are supplying arms to Sri Lanka.

The United States of America, Israel are also going all out to help Sri Lanka.

The Seventh Fleet of the United States is frequently visiting that area. That also deserves to be noted. Now Sir, the question is that Jayawardane wants to utilise the opportunity of negotiations if and when India once again resumes them, only for the purpose of taking time and further preprre and strengthen the army to totally destroy the Tamil speaking people in Sri Lanka. This is very unfortunte. He is playing for time.

Recently he appointed a Military Committee to look into the mass massacre of the innocent Tamils. A Military Committee of the very people who are guilty of genocide, who have killed, murdered and ruthlessly massacred and butchered are Tamils to sit in judgement on their own actions? That is the message which Jayavardhane intends to pass on to the Government of India. The India High Commissioner specially runs to New Delhi with this. This is not acceptable to us and this cannot be tolerated for a minute. You will have to make it very clear that India will not tolerate this. You will have to build up pressure to stop genocide and military action or you will have to take the matter to the higher international forum

Necessary steps should be taken immediately in order to see that not a single soul of Tamil-speaking people should be lost. They are being killed in a ruthless and merciless manner by the fascist rule of Sri Lanka.

Further, the innocent fishermen go in the Indian Ocean within our own territorial limits, are being attacked by the Navy of Sri Lanka. This has been noticed not once but several times. They are being harassed regularly. What is being done by our Government? It is not a question of formally lodging a protest; we will have to take concrete steps to see that the property and life of the people of Indian origin are saved from the belligerant attitude of the Government of Sri Lanka. The Tamil-speaking people in Sri Lanka would not be able to put up with genocide this any longer. There has to be an end to this.

[Shri Bhattam Sriramamurthy]

Hundreds and thousands of smugglers are operating from Sri Lanka to Indian border. That needs to be tackled with an Iron hand. Hashish and other narcotics are being smuggled into India and this is a great risk to the security of our country. This needs to be tackled and necessary steps taken immediately.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has expressed the anxiety of India in regard to the situation prevailing in Sri Lanka in unambiguous terms. The Government of India wants that the integrity and unity of Sri Lanka should remain intact and some political solution of the present tangle is found out. No civilised society can approve what is happening in Sri Lanka and we cannot remain content by simply expressing our anxiety over the events that are taking place there. You have mentioned in your statement that there are 1,25,000 refugees but, I think, the number of refugees who have taken refuge in Tamilnadu from Sri Lanka is rather more. It is affecting the economy not only of that State but of the country as well in the same way as the heavy influx of the refugees from Bangladesh had affected the economy of the country. Those people, who have made significant contribution to the prosperity and development of Sri Lanka are not only being regarded as second class citizen but are also being annihilated by the army in a planned way there. According to the Survey made by "Jaffna Independent Weekly" a newspaper of Sri Lanka, more than 3000 Tamils have been killed by the army with one year. The Youth of Tamils origin belonging to Tinkomali, which is situated in the northern part of the country, are being imprisoned in the Southern part and are being subjected to grievous tortures.

There is no doubt that the Government of India have taken a serious note of this problem and the Prime Minister has expressed the anxiety of India more than once. We have made all possible efforts to find a political solution to the problem. I would like to say before the House that it is only due to our efforts that

both the parties agreed to come to the negotiating table, otherwise there would have been more bloodshed in Sri Lanka. But when we go through the whole chain of events and, as our friends have also said, the President of Sri Lanka wants to gain time. On the one hand he says before the Parliament of his country that they would take military action to quell the Tamils and outside the Parliament he talks of political solution to the problem. These contradictory statements are beyond comprehension. I would like to say to the hon. Foreign Minister that when we express our anxiety over the slaughter of Tamils, the Government of Sri Lanka react to it immediately. When they had referred to the military solution of the problem, our Government should have lodged strong protest against it, but they did not. Sometime back the TULF leader, Shri Amrithalingam had put forward some proposals. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of Jayewardene accept the true federal concept which has been advanced by you, or not. If they accept it and the way they have submitted proposal to the effect that they want mediation from India, which has been published in the Press also, then India should take initiative in the matter. If they do not agree to the basic thing, I think the Government of Sri Lanka will gain time to procure arms from Pakistan and other sources and in this way they will perpetrate more atrocities against the Tamils. I would like to know the reaction of the Sri Lankan Government in this respect. Secondly, they have talked of forming a panel to investigate the causes of the killing of Tamils. What will be the constitution of the panel? If the panel consists of the officials of the Sri Lankan Government, nobody will have faith in it. If the members of the Catholic Church or such people are included in the panel on whose impartiality the Tamils have no doubt then, I think, that panel can be fruitful. We should make efforts in this direction. There are press reports that the Ambassador has been recalled here for consultation to review the policy in regard to Sri Lanka. I would like to say that taking into account the situation prevailing in Sri Lanka if we do not review our whole policy towards Sri Lanka, the Government of Jayewardene will take advantage of the situation and the incidence of excesses on Tamils will increase and the influx of refugees into India will

increase. This will put burden on our economy. We should tell the Sri Lankan Government categorically to find some political solution to the problem. If they fail to find some political solution within a stipulated period, the Government of India should take positive action against the Sri Lankan Government. I do not insist that it should be at the diplomatic level only. I will go a step further and say that Sri Lanka is very near to us and foreign bases are also situated there. They are getting assistance from America and several other countries. Previously, the danger was from Diego-Garcia and now the danger is looming large only at a distance of 30 to 35 kilometres. Under such a situation we can no longer remain indifferent to the problem. This is not the problem of Tamils or Tamilnadu. The whole country is concerned at the problem. We can understand your anxiety because there some Members of Parliament here whose relatives are victims of excesses in Sri Lanka. The people of India are very much concerned at these happenings and ask the Government of India to take stringent measures in this matter.

[English]

SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH GOSWAMI (Nabadwip): Sir, the whole country is anxious and anguished and our hearts bleed any cry out against the continued gruesome mass killings of innocent men, women and children belonging to the Tamil ethnic minority by the Sri Lankan security forces. On behalf of my Party and on my behalf, I condemn these gruesome killings and this genocide with all the force at my command. Why cannot the Government of India publicly condemn the genocide of the Tamils in Sri Lanka? What prevents Shri Bhagat to publicly condemn them? What is this precious diplomacy? While the Amnesty International also is taking up some cases. Why is it that our Government has to keep silent? Sir, I want to know whether this Government will come out in the open, publicly condemning this genocide in Sri Lanka of innocent women, children and men the civilians. What is this Government doing to have an effective cease-fire? Even after the Thimpu Agreement, nothing was implemented and what did our Govern-

ment do to implement it? There was no cease-fire from Jayewardene's part and it appears that he is bent on a military solution of the problem and he wants to drive away the Tamils by sheer terrorism. Sir, one important thing is that the prolonging of this conflict helps the American imperialism which has secured a military base in Trimcomalee, that on the one hand, threatens the independence and sovereignty of the Sri Lanka itself and peace in the whole region on the other hand.

I want to know from the Government, through you, Sir, whether the Government has taken it up with the U.S. Government or has lodged the complaint, because their action affects the stability and security of our region. Here in this statement also the Government do not come out condemning the Sri Lankan Government—condemning Jayewardene's military regime. So that condemnation, I want in unequivocal terms from our Government.

Sir, the proposals of the TULF accepting the principal of maximum autonomy within the framework of a united Sri Lanka, that provides to my mind the basis of a negotiated settlement.

That will meet the democratic aspirations of the suffering Tamil ethnic minority in Sri Lanka. This House wants to know what renewed efforts the Government is making to pressurise the Jayewardane Government to arrive at a negotiated settlement. All means available to this Government should be used for this purpose. Only a few days back on the 19th of this month, prominent citizens of Madras made an appeal to the Prime Minister. It says:

“Seven prominent citizens of Madras today appealed to the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, to “take early, effective steps” to bring the Sri Lankan Government and the Tamil Liberation organisations back to the negotiating table and to guide them to forge an “honourable settlement of the ethnic problem.”

There is still time to retreat from the evilque brink and go back to the negotiating table and work out with sincerity and diligence an acceptable solution on the federal model giving

[Shrimati Bibha Ghosh Goswami]

the Tamils an opportunity to live with self-respect and security as citizens of Sri Lanka. A partition of the island with solve no problem and do equal harm to both the Tamils and the Sinhalese."

The sinatories to the "Appeal for Peace in Sri Lanka", are : Shri C. Subramaniam, former Union Finance Minister, Prof. K. Swaminathan, Prof. K.R. Srinivasa Iyengar, Mr. P.S. Kailasam, former Supreme Court Judge, Shri Rajmohan Gandhi, Shri M. V. Arunachalam and Shri G.K. Sundaram.

So this settlement, is immediately required, with the good offices of our Government, it brooks no delay.

Regarding the Tamil refugees who have come across seeking to escape the atrocities committed by the Sri Lankan military establishments, it has been said in the papers that they are Stateless people. What efforts are being pursued for a settlement which will protect their fundamental rights, as ethnic minorities, and create conditions for them to return home? The whole country, and the whole world is really looking with great concern towards this problem now. As I said, it brooks no delay, and every measure available to the Government should be used to pressurize the Jayewardene regime to come to an immediate settlement. I want to know from the Government what exactly Government is going to do in this respect.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : I am in absolute agreement with the views expressed by the hon. Members, when they say that this is a question of serious concern to the whole country. It is a matter of serious concern. The Parliament is involved. There is serious concern not only in Tamil Nadu; of course, I know the feelings in Tamil Nadu, both among the people and in the Government of Tamil Nadu; they are very strong. But you have seen the views expressed by some hon. Members coming from outside Tamil Nadu. It is a matter of very serious concern. There cannot be any two opinions or that.

In the scenario that has been described by the hon. Members there is a very large element of truth. I agree with the scenario. (*Interruptions*) You give me a chance to speak. I am trying to deal with the points which you all have raised.

The difficulty has been that the Sri Lankan Government and its authorities have been professing peace, political solutions and peaceful negotiations; but in fact they are practising, and going in for a military solution. (*Interruptions*) That has been the basic difficulty.

In the beginning, the hon. Members referred to the Thimpu agreement. The cease-fire agreement was signed. But it has observed more in violation than in observance, *i.e.* smooth observances. Earlier, they said it was violation by both the sides; but I made the statement that the violation was from the security forces of Sri Lanka. And then I was criticized in the Sri Lankan Parliament, that I had made a very biased statement, or a strong statement; but later events proved that not only there was violation but the security forces had gone much beyond any civilized action.

What has happened recently? Some reference was made to the recent killings of innocent people—workers harvesting in the field in some villages, men, women and children have been killed. This goes beyond the norm of any civilized behaviour. Many hon. Members have described it is a genocide. An hon. Member asked me about my views on it. I am sorry to say that it is a matter of concern that it has the elements of a genocide. What else?

Armed people going and just without any reason spraying bullets and killing a large number of people who are working in the fields—what else is it? How do you describe it? It is with great pain and sorrow that I am saying this.

Then the Monitoring Committee was set up. On our advice, they have set up; the monitoring team; and it was not allowed to function. And the result was that the Tamil members resigned, and the monitoring arrangements collapsed.

A reference has been made about strengthening of the armed forces, military preparation to deal with terrorism in that country and get help from all over. I do not want to repeat this, but it is a fact. On the one hand, for whatever reasons; may be domestic compulsion; may be certain forces within Sri Lankan Government are opting for military operation; others are still speaking for a political solution; on the other hand, when the proposal of the TULF came, with all these difficulties and obstacles we were pursuing peaceful negotiations and working towards the political solution. You have said that it should be upgraded. The Foreign Secretary is doing a good job.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : He is on the verge of retirement. We want you to take up this matter personally with him.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : The government is the same. He is working on behalf of the government; he is not alone. He consults the Foreign Minister and the Prime Minister. He gets direction from the Prime Minister. So, this matter is given the top-most priority; this is a matter of national concern and the Prime Minister gives the direction; under the direction of the Prime Minister and the views expressed here in Parliament, he functions.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : He is an officer altogether; he may not have any political interest just like you.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : He is an agent of the government. I am saying in this matter he works under the direction of the Prime Minister. What else do you want? He is doing a good job.

(Interruptions)

It is given the most serious consideration.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : He is a very experienced diplomat.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : When the TULF proposal came, it was decided that Mr. Romesh Bhandari will go and discuss this matter. The reaction on the TULF proposal of Sri Lankan Government was negative. There was no meeting ground and therefore we called him back and we said that there was no point in discussing

it. You remember the Prime Minister's statement in Male. The Prime Minister himself made this statement that let the Sri Lankan Government tell us whether they wanted our mediation in this matter or not. What stronger, what more positive and categorical stand do you want? Still we need informal negotiations between India and Sri Lankan Government and they are continuing. The Sri Lankan Government has expressed a desire again to continue negotiations towards political solution.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Every time, they say like this.

DR. A. KALANJIDHI : We want you to take up this matter with them personally.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI (Howrah) : You personally deal with the Sri Lankan Government instead of asking him to do it. That will give much more weight to it than the Secretary. That is the concern of the House.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : I am dealing with it. You do not ask me to leave the Parliament and run all around the world. I said, somebody will have to go and discuss. If necessary, I can go. This matter has been discussed at all levels. The Prime Minister himself has held several discussions with the President of Sri Lanka in different places—in Dhaka, in Nassau and here in Delhi itself. So, this matter is at the highest level. Every time we will review our position and see what best arrangement for negotiations can be done. But I say, the Foreign Secretary is doing a good job and there is no reason that he should be withdrawn at the present moment.

The point I was saying was that what has happened recently has created complete breakdown of credibility...*(Interruptions)*.

AN HON. MEMBER : Innocent people's genocide.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : Well, this is a very serious matter and if they want to whitewash it, it cannot be whitewashed. They cannot just appoint a committee which is not to go into it, which is not acceptable, which is not independent. As has been said by the hon. Member, Mr. Rawat, it has to be a

[Shri B. R. Bhagat]

committee which is acceptable to the people, both the Tamils and the Sinhalese, to the people of Sri Lanka, and not just as a white-washing committee. But what has happened is that a large number of innocent people, people who have nothing to do with this, who are working in their daily life, the poor people, they have, just without any rhyme or reason, been killed. You cannot give any other description. This fits in with the description of genocide, as accepted in any international forum or in a civilised way. This Sri Lankan Government have to assure, firstly, that there will be no more violence. Dealing with terrorists is one thing but in the name of terrorism, killing large number of civilian population is quite another. If this goes on, we have said it in the past that unless ceasefire violation stops, it is a negative factor in the political negotiations. But now it has gone much further. It is a climate of violence, and in a climate of violence you cannot negotiate, you cannot work for a political solution. The second point which I want to emphasise is that time is fast running out. We want action on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka on this matter. If they say that they are for a political solution, well, let them consider and there must be a time frame. We cannot give long time enough. The Prime Minister has already said that they have to say whether they want our mediation or not. If they want, well, they have to settle this question in a very small time frame—a week, or two weeks or not more than...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : You fix the time...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Have you informed them that it is not the desire of the Government...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : We have called the Ambassador...*(Interruption)*.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the House needs your protection. The Foreign Minister is telling categorically that the situation is so explosive now that they feel that within the time frame things should be discussed and sorted out. If that is the point of the Government, did the Government of India inform this particular aspects.

SHRI G. G. SWELL (Shillong) : I do not think they need to inform them. What the Minister has said in the House is itself an information.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : As I said, when we withdraw, we called back the Foreign Secretary from Madras saying that because of the negative response of the Sri Lankan Government, there was need for negotiations. Since then we were evaluating the position and now the Sri Lankan Government has emphasised again that they want a political solution and so we have called the High Commissioner. He will be coming here. He may have come this morning itself. We will discuss it and we will inform them these two things that this must be stopped. We have said it earlier that this should be enquired into. There should be an impartial inquiry into the nature of these killings. In future this must stop. The killings of civilians and innocent people must stop. This is number one precondition. The second thing is this. The various elements of a political solution, the land settlement, the devolution, the law and order problem and all these questions must be gone into and a settlement arrived at early. These are the two things. India shall communicate our firm views to the Sri Lankan Government. Thank you.

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMAMURTY : After such a discussion, I thank that the position will be informed to the Lok Sabha here.

13.41 hrs.

MOTION *Re* : JOINT COMMITTEE
ON LOKPAL BILL

[*English*]

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT (Tehri Garhwal) : I beg to move the following :

“That this House do appoint Shri S. Jaipal Reddy to the Joint Committee on the Bill to provide for the appointment of Lokpal to inquire into allegations of corruption against Union Ministers and for matters connected therewith vice Prof. Madhu Dandavate resigned.”