

this Session itself. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs will be further consulting all the parties in this regard. As regards the cyclone in Pondicherry and Tamil Nadu, I wish to assure the hon. Members that the Government is fully seized of the matter and all appropriate steps would be taken.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU (West Bengal): Sir, he has not talked specifically about a Central legislation for agricultural workers which has been there on the agenda of the Government. What is the status of this Central legislation for agricultural workers?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I think the hon. Minister of Agriculture had addressed himself on this issue...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Sir, this is not the issue...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: In the debate on fall in the prices of agricultural commodities and other issues.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Sir, this issue is not concerned with the Ministry of Agriculture. It is concerned with the Ministry of Labour...*(Interruptions)*...

**CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE
 L.T.T.E. ACTIVITIES IN THE COUNTRY AND ACTION TAKEN BY
 GOVERNMENT IN REGARD THERETO**

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the LTTE activities in the country and action taken by the Government in regard thereto.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Sir, activists of the LTTE and its sympathisers have been noticed conducting certain unlawful activities in India from time to time. The involvement of pro-LTTE groups in smuggling activities along the Tamil Nadu coast has also been reported. Some activists have been detained under various laws by the State Government of Tamil Nadu.

Despite being declared as an unlawful association ever since 1992, the LTTE continues to indulge in activities prejudicial to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India. Hence, the Government of Tamil Nadu had send

a proposal for banning the LTTE for further period of two years beyond 14.5.2000. Accordingly, a decision was taken by the Central Government to declare LTTE as an unlawful association under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, with effect from 14.5.2000, for a further period of two years. The notification issued by this Ministry has been confirmed by the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal on 13.11.2000.

The concerned agencies of the Central and State Governments are keeping a close watch on the activities of LTTE and its sympathisers. The Central Government shares intelligence inputs as and when received with all concerned. In order to curb infiltration and smuggling by LTTE activists, Naval detachments and Coast Guard units have been established in vulnerable areas. Armed check posts and mobile patrols have also been set up. Coordination meetings of the Central and State agencies are also convened by the State Government of Tamil Nadu. Thank you.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Home Minister has indicated some action initiated by the Government of India to prevent the unlawful activities of the LTTE, a banned organisation, and he has also mentioned about the nexus between the LTTE activists and smugglers on the Southern Coast. But, perhaps, mere administrative measures from the viewpoint of enforcing the law are not adequate, if political input is not inserted to tackle this problem.

Sir, it is really disturbing to find that a person, who is the main accused in the murder of a former Prime Minister of the country, which may be termed as the most foul murder, who has been found guilty, and whose conviction has been confirmed by the highest Court, has been projected as a hero, and his birthday is going to be celebrated here. Not only this; in some parts of the country, public functions are going to be organised to celebrate his birthday. On the one hand, when the Ministry of External Affairs and other concerned Ministries in the Union Government are making serious efforts for his extradition, on the other hand, we find that in the mainland, in our country itself, an attempt is being made to project him as a big hero. Obviously, some people might have some different angularities and different approaches in regard to the problems or in regard to certain aspects of the issue. But, surely, if an organisation tries to cause damage to our national integrity, territorial integrity, challenges the authority of the Union Government, there cannot be any complacency, and no indulgence should be allowed in this respect. Therefore, what I would like to know from the hon. Minister is, how he is going to tackle these activities. Yes;

the Coast Guard can prevent smuggling; some LTTE activists could be detained and produced before the Magistrates. But unless a massive campaign is built up, the magnitude of harm caused by these organisations cannot be curtailed; whatever has happened to the late Prime Minister is a story of the past. Even in today's statement, the hon. Home Minister has admitted that the LTTE is continuing its activities to cause damage to the territorial integrity of India. How can a sovereign State tolerate it? Sir, I am not going into the details of what happened in regard to the kidnapping of a very popular cine star and the role of the forest brigand, Veerappan, in it. That is a matter of the State Governments. I am not interested in it. But what I am interested in is that some of the persons, who played the role of negotiator, are closely associated with LTTE's activities. I would just like to draw the attention of the hon. Home Minister to a news item -- it is a news analysis -- by one Mr. V. Jayanth, published in the Hindu on Saturday, November 18th. I am quoting the last few lines from this item. It says, "More than Veerappan himself, these two States must address the threat posed by the coming together of the pro-LTTE forces and flush the jungles of suspect terrorists and separatists before they launch their operations". After analysing various events and the role played by a number of actors in this episode, the news analyst has come to the conclusion that this is an area of deep concern. And we are equally concerned, if our territorial integrity is threatened, if the sovereignty of the country is challenged, if they indulge not only in the killing of the former Prime Minister of the country and a large number of persons, but are also still carrying on their activities to create serious problems here. Everybody knows how anxious moments we had to pass when a very popular film star was detained for more than hundred days and the Government became almost helpless and hostage to the forest brigand. And if it is established that the LTTE's hand is there, naturally, it is a matter of grave concern.

Therefore, I would like to request the hon. Home Minister to take a holistic approach on this issue. It may be true that he is very popular amongst certain sections of the Sri Lankan Tamils or amongst certain sections of those who are supporting this Government. But, surely, much more important is the territorial integrity and the sovereignty of the country. Much more important is our own national interest, paramount national interest, and if that paramount national interest is being compromised simply because of certain extraneous reasons, surely, that position is not acceptable to any one of us. I am not going into this aspect because that is a different issue. But it has also a close relation to the fact that the

Multi-modal Disciplinary Authority was created to examine the Action Taken Report and the follow-up steps, after the Government examined the Jain Commission's Report; we went in a deputation to call on the Home Minister and he had assured and certain initial steps were taken. I am not going into that aspect right now. But this is one area where I do feel that the Union Home Ministry must put its foot down, stop the LTTE's activities and prevent them from operating here, using our soil to subserve their nefarious activities which are against the national interest, and I repeat, paramount national interest.

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE (Tamil Nadu): Sir, thank you for having given me this opportunity to invite the attention of the Central Government to the present situation in Tamil Nadu; and to begin with, I am to state that I am not satisfied with the reply given by the hon. Home Minister that "the concerned agencies of the Central and State Governments are keeping a close watch on the activities of the LTTE and its sympathisers. The Central Government shares intelligence inputs as and when received with all concerned. In order to curb infiltration and smuggling by the LTTE activists, naval detachments..." etc.

Now, to explain the problem in a better way, we can simply say that the situation is very grave. If our information is true, Tamil Nadu and the other three southern States are sitting on a time bomb, and a situation like Kashmir is not far off, if things are allowed to go on like this and not checked in time, with a political will. For the past three years, LTTE was not very much in the news, their activities were not reported and they were not talked about or mentioned in the media. Now, all of a sudden, the activities of the LTTE, the activities of its sympathisers, the movement of people who are supposed to be very close to the LTTE have come to light; and, thanks to the kidnapping incident of Dr. Rajkumar. I request, through you, Sir, the Central Government and the Members of the House to view this kidnapping incident not as a criminal action of a forest brigand. It is a very cleverly designed, meticulously planned and diligently executed political exercise to focus certain leaders who are very close, certain organisations which are very close, to the LTTE. More than that, their avowed aim is to create a separate Tamil nation along with Tamil Eelam. Those are the people who are behind it; those are the people who have designed it; those are the people who have executed it and those are the people who are projected now before Tamil Nadu as if they are the new-born saviours of Tamil culture, Tamil language and Tamil race. So, the real hero is not the reel hero, i.e., not Dr. Rajkumar. The real villain is not the reel villain, i.e. not Veerappan.

The main players, the main participants are: the Tamil National Liberation Army (TNLA), the Tamil National Retrieval Force (TNRFF) and, then the Tamil Nationalist Organisation headed by Mr. Nedumaran. I would like to identify these people. They come under two heads. One is on the political fringe. They are the show boys; they are headed by Mr. Nedumaran; they are the political managers. They project a sober image among the public as if they are the genuine fighters for the Tamil cause. They are on the political fringe, and in the underground are, the TNLA and the TNRFF. Now, what is the reason for this kidnapping? If the House is able to understand the reason for it, it would agree with me when I say that Tamil Nadu is sitting on a time bomb. So, the reason, as the two Governments agreed, is not to get a hefty ransom; both the Governments agreed that not even a single pie was paid to the kidnappers, and they say nothing has been promised to the forest brigand and to his team. Then, what is the motive for this kidnapping? I would convince you just by reading a statement issued by those people who are responsible for this kidnapping. This particular statement was issued by Veerappan, Amudan and Maran who are the three people behind this whole operation; and this statement was released at Chennai, through Nedumaran. I don't know how a statement designed and prepared in the forest came all the way to Chennai and was released at Chennai. Veerappan and his accomplices have claimed that they arrested Dr. Rajkumar, only to trigger a crisis for the Karnataka Government. It is not a kidnapping; according to us, it is a kidnapping, but they say it is an arrest. They say that they released the film star, in view of the assurances given by the State Governments that necessary steps would be taken to implement their demands and considering his health condition. This is the first time, on record, the most dreaded forces--it has got a history of 17 years--have come to light; that they are yearning to Veerappan; that they have formed an unholy combination inside the forest; that they are able to arrest whom they want to arrest; that they are able to keep people for 109 days, without any intervention from the State Governments or the Central Government. It is a small nation of its own--of 8,000 hectares.

Finally, what is the reason for this kidnapping? The reason they have given is, 'We believe, the domination of the Central Government is the root-cause of the frictions between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.' Sir, the reason for kidnapping is the domination of the Central Government! I don't say this; it is the people who have kidnapped who say this. Finally, they say, 'The nation was opposed to the interests of Tamils. The Supreme Court's order, setting aside the Government order and release of TADA

Court's order, setting aside the Government order and release of TADA detenus shows the extent to which the Tamils have been neglected.' Significantly, the statement concluded saying, 'Our movement will continue. Victory, for liberation of the Tamil Nation.' Victory for the liberation of a Tamil nation! The statement was issued by all the three commanders, including the commander-in-chief, from the forest.

Would you still want to say that the kidnapping was a law and order problem? Would you still say that the detention of Dr. Rajkumar in the forest for 109 days did not concern the Government of India? Is it merely a problem relating to two State Governments, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu?

Sir, as I have explained, now, the plan is to project Nedumaran as an acceptable leader to the people of Tamil Nadu, and to get a kind of respectability to their ideology of a Tamil nation. Sir, neglect of Tamil race, indifference to the Tamil cause, has come as a theme for the ensuing Assembly elections which is imminent. So, it is not at all a criminal offence; it is a deliberate political exercise and an open challenge to the sovereignty of the country, to the Parliamentary system and democracy, to the established norms of political decency, integrity, non-violence and everything which the country has stood for the past 53 years. It is a silent challenge. It is not only a silent challenge, but also a vehement challenge, with all the potential to explode into a powerful bomb that would destroy the very basics and fundamentals of this great country, for which our forefathers sacrificed everything.

Sir, what happens now? There are public meetings now. Already, the day-before-yesterday, another reception was given to Mr. Nedumaran for his great achievement in getting Dr. Rajkumar released. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu is meeting the people who are responsible for the release. He is honouring them with *ponnadai*, and is posing for photographs. Who are these people? I will draw your attention to the people who have been responsible.

The first person is Kolathur mani. It is stated that Kolathur Mani, who was said to belong to the group that helped secure Mr. Rajkumar's release from Veerappan's clutches, was accused of helping the LTTE squad that murdered Rajiv Gandhi by Justice M.C. Jain, who headed the inquiry into the former Prime Minister's assassination. The conduct of the Dravida Kazhagam activist, also known as Mr. T.S. Mani, was described in Mr. Jain's final report as "extremely dubious". According to the report, Mr. Mani knew the whereabouts of Sivarasan, Subha and Nehru in early August 1991,

when the SIT officers spoke to him. He concealed the information from them all along.

He was one of the main members of the team which helped in this rescue. The Chief Minister poses a photograph along with him and honouring him with a *ponnadai*. The other gentleman is Prof. Kalyani who was actively involved in this. I am sorry to say that Kalyani is a man who is responsible for raising funds to defend the LTTE accused. Fortunately or unfortunately, our Defence Minister happens to be the patron of that association which collected money to defend the accused. *(Interruptions)*... Mr. George Fernandes. *(Interruptions)*... I can give the papers to the hon. Chairman. A committee was formed of which Nedumaran was the President, George Fernandes was the Convenor and Kalyani was a member. All these people formed an association to collect money for the accused who were charged with the assassination of a great leader.

SHRI P.N. SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Why don't you mention the name of Veeramani, who is General Secretary of DK? *(Interruptions)*. .. He is Mr. Moopanar's *rajguru*. *(Interruptions)*....

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, it is unfair. *(Interruptions)*....

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: Sir, I am not yielding. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Sir, I have a point of order. *(Interruptions)*.... We are not levelling charges. *(Interruptions)*... We are trying to discuss a very, very serious issue that threatens the unity and integrity of India. *(Interruptions)*... If any statement made by the hon. Member is untrue or defamatory or casting aspersions on somebody, then a point of order can be raised. *(Interruptions)*.... If they are going to interrupt every sentence of his speech, *(Interruptions)*.... I have not yet finished my point of order. *(Interruptions)*.... This is wrong. *(Interruptions)*... Let me finish my point of order.

SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY (Tamil Nadu): Sir, Mr. Mukherjee, who is a senior Member, has put forward his point very nicely. *(Interruptions)*.... But...

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: They have already proved their loyalty to their Government. *(Interruptions)*... Sir, I have not yet finished my

point of order. *(Interruptions)*... My point of order is as follows. The issue over here is the activities of the LTTE.. *(Interruptions)*....They are in Government, the NDA is in Government, the DMK Government is in the State. *(Interruptions)*... They are in the Government. . *(Interruptions)*... Therefore, we should not discuss what TMC did, what Mr. Moopnar did. . *(Interruptions)*... I am raising a point of order which the hon. Chairman has permitted me. He has not permitted you. Therefore, I am saying that this House is now discussing the activities of the LTTE and what steps the Government is taking to prevent them. . This House is not discussing the conduct of the TMC. . *(Interruptions)*... We are not discussing the conduct of the Tamil Manila Congress. . *(Interruptions)*... If we had been in power, then we would have taken much better action. Therefore, what these Members are trying to say is totally incorrect and it should be prevented. *(Interruptions)*....

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: I do not speak out of context. I speak only on the basis of record. I have got material with me. If there is any dispute, I will be convincing you about the veracity of my allegations. Now, the other woman involved in this kidnapping rescue is Dr. Bhanu who treated Kannada actor Dr. Rajkumar in the forests finds a mention in the court proceedings of the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. It was she who along with Mr. Jagganathan found abode for the LTTE accused. So, somehow or the other, there was a connection. What is the mysterious connection with all these people, whether it is Nedumaran, whether it is Kolathur Mani, whether it is Dr. Bhanu? They have one continuity throughout, one identification mark, that is, this proximity, their understanding, with the banned, LTTE organisation. Now, I would like to know from the Central Government three important aspects. Firstly, there is a deliberate challenge to the integrity of the country, to the sovereignty of the nation. When there is somebody who says that, 'I will have a separate nation, I will have a separate flag, I will have a separate army, I will have a separate finance', still the Government of India goes to the Supreme Court and says that it is purely a law and order problem. Is it not a shame on the Central Government? It was their Lordships in the Supreme Court who remarked that it was not a law and order problem. There is a territory, a State between a State, where no elected Government could enter. When there is an open challenge to the integrity of the nation, until the Supreme Court pointed it out, till then, the Government says, it is a law and order problem. I ask the hon. Home Minister How is that so? You say in the House that your intelligence is over-working, is alert. They are following

each and every activity of the secessionists, the LTTE people. Are you not duty bound to answer this House, the people of this country?

I have got all respect for the hon. Home Minister. He has been saying that the State should not be soft. Is it not an occasion when the Central Government chooses deliberately to be soft. The power of the country is not in the arsenals, in the ammunitions it has. It is the strong will power of the leaders to rule the country by law. I blame the Central Government that it lacks the will power to rule the country, as per the rule of law. I do not say that; it is the Supreme Court which says that. I have political differences with the hon. Home Minister, but regarding his faith in the Indian nation, I don't doubt his integrity. I do not doubt his will power to fight for the unity of the country. Sir, the release of Dr. Rajkumar was known to everybody, even on 10th. I have got the records to prove it. On 13th he was released. But no force was sent to the forest to capture him till five full days? What was the reason? To provide a clear exit to the militants, to the extremists, to those people who are associated with the LTTE, to provide them a safe passage, as you did in Kargil?

SHRI C. P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU (Pondicherry): But you are ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: Sir, I am not yielding. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him complete.

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: For full five days, everybody, both at the Centre and the State, chose to be silent spectators. What is the reason for this criminal silence, this criminal inaction? We have to have an answer to this. Now, what we apprehend has been happening. Nedumaran goes from place to place as if he is going to plead for the people who suffered during the STF operations. But the real purpose is to project the Tamil cause, the Tamil militants' ideology and a prayer for a separate nation. On Tuesday, if I remember correctly, there was a meeting at Avadi and there, there was a boy who was virtually dressed like Prabhakaran and he was honoured on the stage, on the dias; and a man speaks, a responsible political leader speaks, that we will have a separate country, we will have a separate nation, we will have a separate flag, we will have a separate army. What is the action taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu? What is the action taken by the Centre? What are you going to do? If you say that we are going to ignore all these things for the sake of continuing in power,

that we are more interested in the stability of the Government than safeguarding the integrity of the nation. I agree. But, now, this is not the way to deal with this problem. It is high time the Centre wakes up and, Sir, every month, the Government of Tamil Nadu is spending Rs. 19 lakhs to nab Veerappan; it is so for the past ten years. Everybody knew that there were only two options left -- either the hostages should be rescued by sending commandos or Veerappan should release them. The Government should have been prepared for both the eventualities and they should have entered the forest the very next moment. They have not done that. Now, every day, news items are appearing, saying that the Chief Secretary is coming and meeting the Home Minister of India, the Home Secretary is coming, the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and the Karnataka Chief Minister are coming, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu teams are coming, etc. Why all this fuss after the horses have flown? They are going to search for a man who is not there. Are they going to make a mockery of search and police action to stage another drama? The Government of India should come forward. Now, it is high time. We do not have that expertise. The State Government has clearly admitted. The Karnataka Chief Minister has made an open request that, now, the Central Government should take charge of the situation and should find out where the real root for this violence and terrorism is only then we will be able to protect the integrity and sovereignty of the country. Thank you.

SHRI R. MARGABANDU (Tamil Nadu): Sir, a challenge is thrown to the stability and peace of India. Instability has settled and there is a disturbance in the southern part of India. There is a deep-rooted conspiracy between the LTTE and other terrorist groups in the southern part of India. The nexus between these terrorist groups and the LTTE surfaced when a secessionist leader, Mr. Nedumaran, and his associates entered the forest to have a dialogue with the forest brigand, Veerappan, followed by Dr. Bhanu, Mr. Kolathur Mani and others, who are LTTE sympathisers. It was only at that stage, the Supreme Court -- it was published in the newspapers -- expressed a deep concern over the forest brigand, Veerappan's links with the secessionist elements like the Tamil National Liberation Army and the LTTE and asked the Karnataka and the Tamil Nadu Governments about the steps taken in the past to nab these outlaws. So, this is the observation of the Supreme Court. In this connection, the other person who is involved in this affair is Dr. Bhanu *alias* Bhanumati. She has been described as a goddess, for rescuing Dr. Rajkumar. Who is this Bhanu? It was reported in *The Hindu* on 24th November, 2000. The report says, "One of the

prosecution witnesses, Mr. Jagannathan, an employee of the HAL here, told the court that he, along with Dr. Bhanu *alias* Bhanumathi, had helped one Mr. Dhanasekharan, who was named as an accused in the case 'Rent a House.' Subsequently, it was found that Sivarasan, Subha, Jamuna and other LTTE cadres were staying in another house, in the next lane, before they shifted..."

So, these people were sent to that brigand -- sent to the forest -- and they treated Dr. Rajkumar. It is further stated that the communication of the Intelligence Bureau had declared the Bangalore-based Karnataka Tamil Federation, KTF, as a pro-LTTE organisation. And the KTF President, Shri A.P. Shanmugasundaram, took Dr. Bhanu to the forest after Mr. Kolathur Mani, a pro-LTTE leader, requested him to send a doctor to treat Dr. Rajkumar. This was the background this lady was having. I would like to know whether this lady is a practising doctor. No; she is not. She is only doing granite business. So, this lady was able to have an access, alongwith others. This is the position of that lady. It is also stated that the IB, CBI and RAW had been asked to update their files pertaining to the Tamil separatist groups and their links with the LTTE. Therefore, our party and our leader Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi, demand that it should be investigated by the CBI, RAW and IB. We also demand that those who openly support the banned organisations like LTTE should be arrested and prosecuted for treason and for endangering the security, integrity and sovereignty of the country. We would also like to know why the names of sundry people, like Gopal and others, who went to forest and had a dialogue with him - who were able get Dr Rajkumar released -- have been projected. I would request this Government to interrogate Mr. Gopal, Mr. Nedumaran, Dr. Bhanumati, Mr. Kolathur Mani and bring out the truth. Then, Sir, in "Times of India News Service" --on the internet-- there is a caption 'Prabhakaran ordered Raj's release'. I do not want to read its contents because it will expose everybody. I do not want to read it. But I request the hon. Home Minister to take note of this news item i.e. 'Prabhakaran ordered Raj's release'. I would like to know from the hon. Home Minister whether it is true. It is also said that the hon. Defence Minister went to Tamil Nadu, met some leaders and gave some instructions. It was only thereafter that Dr. Rajkumar was released. I would like to have some response from the Government on this news, viz. only on the instructions of Prabhakaran, Dr. Rajkumar was released. And then, Sir, the birthday of Prabhakaran was celebrated with all fanfare, placards and wall-writings, under the very nose of the police. But no action was taken. And where was it held? It was

held in the LLA building. That building belongs to the Government of Tamil Nadu. And permission was given by the Government of Tamil Nadu. I would like to know how Prabhakaran's birthday was celebrated in that building. And he was described as a brave hero. Besides, it was celebrated as a "Mahaveeran day." Then Sir, in a marriage, the LTTE literature and books were freely distributed and sold.

In that marriage, all the Central Ministers, all the NDA Ministers and the Ministers of Tamil Nadu Government were present. All the NDA partners attended that marriage. In that marriage, booklets and literature on LTTE were freely distributed. I would like to know, what action has been taken by this Government. That was a marriage in the family of the NDA partner, Mr. Vaiko. It happened. What is the nexus? Is there any nexus between the Central Government and the State Government with this other group? It is a fact that Mr. Vaiko, the NDA partner, when he visited the UNO, had met Mr. Balasingham of the LTTE in London. Is it the way a Member of Parliament, a responsible person, who has got the responsibility to save the sovereignty of this nation should behave? What is his nexus with this LTTE activist? I would like to know the answer from the Government on this. Sir, a procession had taken place. Placards were also displayed. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him speak. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Virumbi is going to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let him speak. Don't interrupt. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Don't interfere please. Let the speech go quietly ...*(Interruptions)*... Other Members will also speak. Please don't interrupt. ...*(Interruptions)*... No; no; nothing will go on record. Nothing will go on record, except Mr. Margabandu's speech. Please sit down. Nothing will go on record. Nothing will go on record. Please sit down.

SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Sir, on 02.07.2000, a procession was organised by a MDMK leader, our hon. Home Minister attended that function and spoke like this, "The blood splits in Eelam, Tamil is our own." Our hon. Home Minister had participated in that procession which was organised in support of Eelam. Our hon. Home Minister participated in that, and this is the statement which was made by him. I would like to know, what is the nexus between the Central Government and the State Government, and particularly, the political parties, with this banned organisation. So, Sir, ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already taken a long time.

SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Sir, I want to make only one more point. Both the Tamil Nadu and the Karnataka Governments sought Central help to nab this person. About 150 crores of rupees have already been spent towards nabbing this person. All persons, all sundry persons, persons who have no recognition, have gone freely to that place and met him. ...*(Interruptions)*... " I will go; I will go." When all and sundry people have got access to Veerappan, is it difficult for the Central Government to send the army? Should the two Governments, the Tamil Nadu Government and the Karnataka Government spend about Rs.150 crores to nab the killer of 130 people, poacher of 2000 elephants and smuggler of sandalwood worth Rs.3,000 crores?

What is its background? One, Prof. Krishnaswamy, informed that there was a possibility of Veerappan kidnapping VIPs. One, Mr. Arkesh, Superintendent of Police, sent a confidential report on 22-5-2000, stating that Rajkumar was likely to be kidnapped. This information was given to the Tamil Nadu Government in advance, but no police protection was given. Why was it not given? When this was brought to the notice of the Supreme Court, the observation of the Supreme Court was: "It is unpardonable that, despite getting specific information that Rajkumar might be kidnapped from the Gajanur farm house, the Government did not take any step to prevent his abduction." This is the observation of the three-Judges Bench. The Bench says: "What we are worried

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): We should discuss, not the Veerappan aspect, but the LTTE's role.

SHRI R. MARGABANDU: It is interconnected. I am only reading.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot take up the whole case. No, no. Reference is different. But you are discussing the details of the case.

DR. D. MASTHAN (Tamil Nadu): He is not discussing it, Sir. He is just raising some facts.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No.

SHRI R. MARGABANDU: I am completing, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already taken more time.

SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Then, Sir, it is a question of political will. One, Mr. Davaram, DIG of Tamil Nadu, before the Supreme Court, said: "It is not the incapacity of the police force but the absence of political will on the part of those at the helm of affairs, tying the hands of the police, that was responsible for the present sad state of affairs."

It is said that the Court was told on instructions that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Again you are going into the details of the case. You are making a speech. It is not necessary. No, no, no.

SHRI R. MARGABANDU: I am concluding.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That case need not be gone into. You have already spoken about it. We are not discussing the case.

SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Because of this nexus, the Supreme Court's observation and also the Jain Commission's indictment against the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, the AIADMK demands the dismissal of the DMK Government and an inquiry and investigation.*(interruptions)*....

SHRI V. P. DURAISAMY: The matter is not serious. ...*(interruptions)*....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. It is almost one o'clock. Are we going to sit through the lunch hour?

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI (Tamil Nadu): We have to discuss this. We want to settle the issue.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE (Maharashtra): We will continue after the lunch break*(interruptions)*.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Some people have advised. So, we will adjourn.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Okay. We will abide by your decision.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We adjourn till two o'clock.

The House then adjourned for lunch at
fifty-nine minutes past twelve of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at three minutes past two of the clock,

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Today, we have to do the business of
'vanakkam'. Shri Nilotpal Basu.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU (West Bengal): Madam Deputy Chairperson, at the very outset, through you, I must express my frank disappointment at the statement made by the honourable Home Minister. It is quite apparent that this Calling- Attention Motion which has been moved by the hon. Member, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, has come up in the background of the Veerappan episode. The statement of the Home Minister really does not capture some of the latest facts which have come to light. In fact, the Press has established, what seems to be in an irrefutable manner a connection between the pro-LTTE forces and the sandalwood brigand Veerappan. I think, those facts, which are common knowledge, which have been published and which have, for the first time reported in the form of interviews as well have not been covered by the Home Minister's statement. Now this is what disturbs us most. The Home Minister spoke about the extension of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, for a further period of two years with effect from 14-5-2000. This House and I think more importantly, the people of this country would like to know, in the light of what has come to be known as the 'abduction episode', the pro-LTTE connection and the role of the Central Government will have to be fully clarified.

Now, I say this because here is an interview given by Kulathur Mani. He has been interviewed in the news magazine **"The Week"** and he says this when he was asked, "But Veerappan had asked for Nedumaran to intervene. Is it not?"-- "Yes, it was a coincidence". Why is it that the earlier emissaries sent by the Tamil Nadu Government had not been able to make any headway and why Veerappan had specifically asked for the intervention of Nedumaran? And this brings us to the question of Nedumaran, the organisation called the TNLA and the other organisation called the TNRF, about which Mr. Peter Alphonse has spoken quite elaborately. I do not go into the details. But here is a Press article, again, by one of the veteran journalists, Mr. Sam Rajappa, in **The Statesman** of

28th November. And he says this. Madam, let me quote: "For all practical purposes, an area of 6000 square kilometres of forest on the western ghat straddling with Tamil Nadu on the east, Karnataka on the west, with bits of Kerala thrown in, has seceded from the Union of India and has come under the administrative control of Veerappan and his associates comprising the Tamil Nadu Liberation Army and the Tamil National Retrieval Force. This territory is called "Tamil Desam" and it has its own flag and administrative machinery. While the TNLA is a free extremist group, the TNRF is one of the external arms of the LTTE of Sri Lanka. The first batch of 30 TNRF recruits was trained by the LTTE supremo Velupillai Pirabhakaran in the Vanni jungles of Sri Lanka." I do not know whether this is true. But this is part of an article which is published by one of the most veteran journalists of Tamil Nadu. Is it a fact? If it is a fact, can this happen in a sovereign nation like India? We do not know. These are unanswered questions. The Government will have to explain this. In the same interview, the same Mani gives a justification for what they are doing. What is he saying? Mr. Home Minister, you must take note of it particularly. He says, "A nation is built by an indigenous race speaking the same language and following the same lifestyle." Mani says, "India is not a nation. It is at best a federation of states. We are not rebelling. We are only demanding what is rightfully ours. We are at a disadvantage on various fronts." Then he justifies by saying, "I have never denied my affiliation with the LTTE cause and ideology. I do not see why the Government cannot lift the ban on the LTTE. They are making it a geo-political issue. If someone is fighting for your natives in an alien land, why ban him? The RSS, despite being actively involved in the demolition of the Babri Masjid, in a secular country, was not banned, after the act."

Now, if all this is acceptable to the Government of India, so it be. But you have to come out openly and tell us what is the connection between the LTTE on the one hand and the TNLA and the TNRF on the other because as Mr. Alphonse has correctly pointed out--I am not going into the abduction episode--the nation was being told that that was an abduction.

But later on, a joint statement was issued by the TNRF, the TNLA and Veerappan claiming that it was not an abduction. They have arrested him to advance the cause of the Tamil people, of the EELAM, and they found that if they arrest Dr. Rajkumar, they can draw sufficient public attention, both inside and outside the country in the advancement of their

cause. Therefore, this is not a simple issue. I wish, the hon. Minister, Shri O. Pajagopal, had been here. He was raising this question as to why the Veerappan episode should be brought in. Madam, the whole question of the activities of the LTTE in this country has taken a new turn with the kind of facts and developments which have come to light in the background of the Veerappan episode. There are so many unanswered questions. On the first day after his release, why did Dr. Rajkumar mention about Dr. Bhanu, and subsequently, on the next day, why did the same statement about her role was retracted? The statement was interestingly issued by the same man, that is, Nedumaran. This is a very serious question. When you are saying that the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act is operative, then how can posters, openly supporting the LTTE, come up in the streets of Chennai and other cities of the State of Tamil Nadu, supporting Prabhakaran and celebrating his birthday? If it is true, then the charge which was levelled by Shri R. Margabandu that the function took place at the official place of the State Government, is a very serious issue. How is the law being enforced by the Government of India? I would like to know whether the Government of India has empowered the State Government of Tamil Nadu to act on its behalf or has the Central Government indeed some role in enforcing that Act? These are very serious issues. We are the staunch supporters of non-intervention by the Central Government in the law and order issues in the State. It becomes crystal clear from the facts that are there that this is not a simple case. The issue of Veerappan is not that of simple sandalwood smuggler. I am not going into all those facts. What verdict has the Supreme Court given in this case? We have seen that for 100 days, the country was on tenterhooks, and all this is not because of simple illegal activities of smuggling of sandalwood or poaching or other illegal activities under the laws of this land. There is an LTTE connection, and the whole issue of the LTTE has qualitatively taken a different turn after the assassination of the former Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Different political parties hold different positions with regard to the Sri Lankan Tamil issue, and the approach of all the political parties in this country to this issue, after the assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, is totally different today. So, we cannot ignore these very facts, and the approach of the mainstream political parties, who are represented in the Assemblies and the Parliament towards the LTTE, is the same. I think, officially, all of us, have come to this conclusion that talking in the international fora about the cross-border terrorism when we are dealing with the events on the north western border, and taking a soft attitude towards the LTTE, is not a good omen for

the unity and integrity of this country; and it is not the responsibility of the State Government alone to protect the unity and integrity of this country. If 6000 square kms of the country is having a different kind of administration..... where the sovereign laws enacted by the august Parliament do not run large? If they do not run large, then it is a very, very serious issue. Madam, we have nothing to say but to charge this Government with complicity because these facts are coming out, time and again, when, unfortunately, the Defence Minister has his pro-LTTE sympathies, and he does not find it awkward to have it recorded publicly. Photographs are there to prove all these connections which have been brought out by my other colleagues. Why the Government of India can't take a stand and why it has not yet condemned this kind of connections, that is the vital question before the country. We cannot pay lip-service to the unity and integrity of the country and allow those people to carry on all these kinds of activities. How come these people are eulogised? Mani interviewed in *Week*", again, he eulogised Veerappan. He says, "He is a great man, he is a noble soul, he respects elders", and so on and so forth! We are estounded. There is a granite connection, a granite lobby. All these have to be unfolded. These are stories in this age of information technology; I mean, in a sparkle of light, you can know what is happening in other parts of the world, and you are not informing the people authentically! Press is coming out with all sorts of information, with details about meetings, about connections, about activities. There is a report that one of the former Ministers of Karnataka had given in writing earlier that Veerappan had an LTTE connection as far back as 1985. And he claims that it is recorded in the files! If it is so, and even if the Court observes that in May itself, the State Government has come to know of a possible case of abduction, what is being done? We have seen your statements, Mr. Home Minister, about the law and order problem in West Bengal, and you are quite active, that out of 40,000 villages, only in four or five villages, some incidents happened! Yes, that is right. No options are ruled out. But when on such a big scale something is happening, we do not get to hear from our dear Home Minister! Is this the way to protect the unity and integrity of the country? So, I think, this is a very unfortunate state of affairs. This House, the whole nation and I expect a lot of explanation on this question. Thank you.

SHRI BALBIR K. PUNJ (Uttar Pradesh): Madam Deputy Chairperson, I am grateful to you for providing me with this opportunity to participate in a debate of utmost importance for the country. Madam, I

have great regard and respect for Pranabda. He has started the discussion on a very healthy note: "It is criminal to politicise matters pertaining to national security and integrity." However, I find that the subsequent speakers, particularly Mr. Alphonse and our friend who has finished just now, have tried to politicise matters and linked the hon. Defence Minister, Mr. George Fernandes, with the LTTE on very flimsy grounds. I wish they had resisted the temptation to politicise the debate.

Madam, now, there is another alliance coming up in Tamil Nadu, and our friends here owe an explanation to this House and to this country. This alliance is Anna-DMK, Congress, TMC and both the Communist Parties. It is all right; they are welcome to have their alliance, but this alliance is supported by Veeramani. ...*(Interruptions)*... This alliance is supported by Veeramani, and if they want to deny that, they are welcome to deny. He is the leader of a party which is an active champion of the LTTE in Tamil Nadu. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI P. SOUNDARARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): It is a banned organisation. *(Interruptions)*....

SHRI BALBIR K. PUNJ: It is not a banned organisation. *(Interruptions)*... It is not a banned organisation.

Madam, there is little doubt that it is a threat to our national unity and integrity. It is a challenge to our democratic system. It preaches and practises violence. It succeeded in claiming the life of one of our former Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi. It is shame that the prime accused, Prabhakaran, continues to roam even after a decade since the heinous crime was committed. But, who created the LTTE? This question needs an answer. Is it not the Congress? The fact is that when the Congress talks about the LTTE, it talks about the problem created by it. The bitter truth is that it is the Congress which introduced the LTTE to India. Otherwise, the LTTE would have been confined to Sri Lanka and it would have never come to India. Maybe, it was done with a very noble intention. The idea was to help the Tamils in Sri Lanka. But we all know how this policy went wrong and it recoiled on India. After that, when the IPKF was sent to Sri Lanka, they were sent with their hands tied at their back. I don't have the figures with me. But we know that hundreds of precious lives were lost in an alien land and for a foreign cause. The Congress created the problem and the jawans ended up by paying a price with their precious life.

Madam, a lot of fuss has been created over the role of Mr. Nedumaran. Let our friends not forget the fact that Mr. Nedumaran had a past in the Congress. He was a known Congress leader. He was called Mahavir by the Congress because he saved Mrs. Indira Gandhi from stones in a demonstration. The alliance and association of Mr. Nedumaran, who has been despised and abused at the moment, with the Congress is well known.

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: Madam, I have a clarification to seek.

SHRI BALBIR K. PUNJ: Madam, I am not yielding. *(Interruptions)*... I am not yielding.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If he is not yielding, you please let him speak.

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: Madam, I am on a point of clarification.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No. A clarification cannot be sought from a Member. Let him speak.

SHRI BALBIR K. PUNJ: Madam, the focus now is on Prabhakaran. We know that Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated in 1991. After that, it was the Congress which was in power for five years. Thereafter, we had two Prime Ministers from the United Front and both of them were supported by the Congress. All these years the Congress did nothing to apprehend that man. This Government has been in power only for two years. We have all seen the statement made by the Home Minister. It is a quite honest and candid statement. It is a problem which this Government has inherited and it has not created it. Before I conclude, I would like to compliment the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister for his statement that he will not permit the abduction drama to become a platform for the killings on behalf of the Tamil people. It is the national spirit. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY (Nominated): Madam Deputy Chairperson, the Home Minister's Statement does not reveal whether the Government is aware that one cannot talk of the LTTE without talking about Veerappan and his associates in the forests. Both are so intertwined and inter-clubbed that you can't talk of one without speaking of the other.

Madam, Shri Nilotpal Basu has talked about certain reports in the Press, about the links that Veerappan has with the LTTE. We need not go into the Press reports. One of the prisoners whose release Veerappan demanded, has asserted that Veerappan has close links with the LTTE. It is a confessional statement. Shri Nilotpal Basu also talked about a separate administration that is going on independent of the sovereign country of India in the 6,000 sq. kilometre area of forest. It is "Veerappananchal" an independent State to which Tamil Nadu is now sending ambassadors. Since the LTTE is a banned organisation, anyone who assists it, is committing an offence under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and they are punishable under the Act. There are several organisations in Tamil Nadu, several newspapers, which are doing this, assisting the LTTE by campaigning for them, but no action has been taken against them. Mr. Nedumaran is a leading light of such organisations. He has recently gone on record urging the people of Tamil Nadu to declare themselves as citizens of Tamil Nadu and not as citizens of India when the Census authorities come for enumeration. How is such a character, such a person, dealt with? No action has been taken against him under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. On the other hand, that leading light of separatist organisations is recognised as a Government emissary and sent to the forest to negotiate with the LTTE trainees who are camping there. The Tamil Nadu Government is organising, under its own auspices, a conference of LTTE activists, LTTE trainees and separatists. What happened during those confabulations, God alone knows. This is the recognition the Tamil Nadu Government is giving to the supporters of LTTE. After it is over...*(interruptions)*.

SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Madam,...*(interruptions)*.

SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Madam, what he is saying is...*(interruptions)*.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him speak. *(interruptions)*. cannot hear you. *(Interruptions)*. Please sit down. *(interruptions)*.

SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Madam, ...*(interruptions)*.

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: Madam, he is a responsible and respected person from Tamil Nadu. *(interruptions)*. He is known for his valuable ...*(interruptions)*.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. *(interruptions)*. I do not know what the complaint is.

SHRI CHO. S. RAMASWAMY: Everything is done in the name of rescuing Dr. Rajkumar from the hands of Veerappan and his extremist associates. He is no longer a bandit. He has declared in the statement -- which was read out by Shri Peter Alphonse in the morning-- that he is fighting for the liberation of Tamil Nadu from the clutches of the Delhi empire. That is his declaration. Maybe, this is because of his links with the LTTE. Well, he and his extremist associates are given six clear days to escape to whichever place they wanted. After that, the Tamil Nadu Government activates the Special Task Force. To cap it all, I saw a report the day before yesterday on the Sun TV which naturally is highly appreciative of the efforts of the Tamil Nadu Government in nabbing Veerappan and other extremists. The report shows policemen being given training in modern weapons to go to the forest to nab Veerappan. I saw this a day before yesterday. Fifteen days after the release of Dr. Rajkumar, the policemen are given training in modern weapons to go to the forest and then nab Veerappan. Can there be a more ridiculous situation? Thank God, the Tamil Nadu Government did not start recruiting men to the police force so that they can be sent to the forest. We have heard the stables being locked after the horses have bolted. Here people are given training in making locks after the horses have bolted.

Madam Chairperson, during this interregnum, during this one week or 15 days or whatever it is, where could Veerrappan have gone? Where could the extremists, the LTTE trainees, have gone? No one knows; maybe, it is an official secret of the Tamil Nadu Government; I do not know. But the Central Government has the fullest responsibility in this matter. This is not a law and order problem...

SHRI P.N. SIVA: Madam, I am on a point of order.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is your point of order?

SHRI P.N. SIVA: The rule says: 'Using offensive expressions about the conduct or proceedings of the Legislature...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is the offensive expression?

SHRI P.N. SIVA: He is saying that the Government has links...*(interruptions)*

SHRI KA. RA. SUBBIAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, there is nothing
...*(Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let me hear one person. He has raised a point of order. You have not raised anything. So there is no point is standing. Yes, please.

SHRI P.N. SIVA: Madam, he is accusing the Government of Tamil Nadu...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is questioning.

SHRI P.N. SIVA: He is mentioning...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is not mentioning, but he is questioning. That is what I heard. He is questioning. He said, "It may be an official secret."

SHRI P.N. SIVA: There is a misinterpretation that the Government is supporting the separatist movement. Madam, he is at liberty to express his opinion. But the honour of the Government is at stake.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: When Members speak in Parliament, from the Opposition, they accuse the Government. I have seen in 20 years of my being in the House...*(Interruptions)*. There is nothing to clap. I am only following the rules. Even otherwise, what is the House for? The Opposition has its duty to accuse the Government of the day, and the Government has the fullest opportunity to defend itself. So, that is what he is doing.

SHRI P.N. SIVA: He is mentioning about the State Government which cannot defend itself here. Nobody here can give an explanation on behalf of the State Government. And it will send a wrong signal to the outside world that the Tamil Nadu Government is supporting the move.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Virumbi is here to answer. You are here to answer. And the Central Government, which has an overall charge of the country's safety and security, can answer. But the thing is, if the issue was not of a State, then it would have been a Central problem. The problem happened in a particular State. This country is composed of various States. Now, something will happen somewhere. If it happens in Delhi, --that is a State now -- it is not a Union Territory. We can discuss

only about the Union Territories. I am trying to explain to you. I think, the Home Minister is very competent to answer all the worries of the Members. Let the Home Minister take the responsibility for it. Why should you stop anybody? You are free to make your own submissions when the time comes. I will give you and Mr. Virumbi full support to speak on your party's point. Okay? Yes; you continue.

SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Since so much has been said about the stand of the Tamil Nadu Government by my friends here, may I ask whether or not it is their party's stand that while they have given up their demand for secession, the reasons for the demand remain and continue? It has been stated again and again by their leader, "While we have given up our demand for secession, the reasons for the demand will remain and continue." That is why I suspect the credentials...*(Interruptions)* That is what I say. Even today, that is their stand. That is why I question the credentials of the Government in handling this, because, even as recently as four years back, the LTTE had been supported by them; Prabhakaran was hailed by them; four years back means, four years after Shri Rajiv Gandhi was murdered. That is why I am asking the Centre to take direct interest in it. That is why I am seeking a clarification from the Home Minister whether he is alive to the problem or not. This is not a mere law and order problem; it is not a street fight between two persons that is happening in Tamil Nadu. It is extremism; it is separatism; it is militancy; it is potential insurgency. So, it is the duty of the Centre to act, take direct control of it and curb this. If it is not nipped in the bud, then it will take very serious proportions, menacing proportions. Let us not have another Kashmir, another Punjab of recent times, another North-Eastern State. Let us nip it in the bud. The people of Tamil Nadu will be grateful to you. I am seeking a clarification from the Home Minister whether he is alive to this problem or not. Thank you.

SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: I endorse his view. We are also interested in nipping it in the bud.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, you have the chance to defend. But, please, do not offend.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Madam Deputy Chairman, I rise to express my views on the Calling Attention regarding LTTE's activities in Tamil Nadu, particularly. In the morning, when the debate began, Pranabji, standing on a high pedestal, gave his own arguments. So far, many

accusations have been levelled against the party, to which I have the honour to belong, as well as the Government of Tamil Nadu. But I am speaking here not as a representative of the Government of Tamil Nadu, but as a Member of this House. When somebody raised a question about the Government of Tamil Nadu, the Deputy Chairman very beautifully said, "Virumbi will reply as far as the questions about the DMK are concerned, but not on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu". Legally I cannot do that. Madam, our hon. Chairman was very considerate in the morning; he actually said that, in a way, the Rules of Procedure were a little bit sidelined today because the Chairman, in his wisdom, felt that the unity and the integrity is of utmost importance.

At the outset, I want to say that we in the DMK are second to none in this country as far as the security, the unity and integrity of this great nation is concerned. I quote here from a news item in the *Indian Express* of November, 21, "Karunanidhi reiterated that the DMK had no sympathy for the LTTE after its role in the assassination of the EPRLF General Secretary, Mr. Padmanabha and the former Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi. However, DMK would not remain silent about the sufferings of our Sri Lankan Tamils". This is our clear stand, Madam.

They said certain things about Mr. Nedumaran in the morning. I will tell you what our opinion is. I again quote what Dr. Kalaingar has said. "Reacting to the statement released by some Tamil extremists, who are now with Veerappan, through Nedumaran, that they would attain an independent Tamil Nation, Karunanidhi said that the Government would allow any movement within the democratic limits, but if it exceeds the limits, the Government would not remain silent". Apart from that, we had given a categorical assurance. That assurance was like this, Madam, and it was given on 13th November to the nation at large. I quote what Dr. Kalaingar had said, "I wish to very firmly declare that we have not only given up the demand for separation, but we will also, with determination, put down the voice for separation, whosoever raises it". This is our firm stand, Madam. Then, the role of Mr. Nedumaran was discussed here. Dr. Kalaingar has said, I quote "The Tamil National Party, headed by Mr. Nedumaran is not a banned party. He and Prof. Kalyani and Shri Sukumaran of Pondicherry, who accompanied Shri Nedumaran, are running a movement which is called the Joint Movement for Restoration of Human Rights. Only on behalf of this movement, they had all gone into the forest. But then, a doubt may be raised, is not Mr. Nedumaran close to Prabhakaran? Is he not a supporter

of Prabhakaran? Is he not sympathetic to the killers of Shri Rajiv Gandhi? I neither deny this nor support Nedumaran's stand". This is the stand that has been taken by the DMK. Further, Madam, some questions were raised about the wall posters and Mr. Kolathur Mani. Who is Kolathur Mani? This question was raised. Till some three or four days back, Mr. Kolathur Mani, was actually a member of the Dravida Kazhagam. What is the stand of the Dravida Kazhagam?

Madam, Dr. Kalaingar has clearly stated about this. Shri Veeramani, i.e., the leader of Dravida Kazhagam has taken the same line which Shri Nedumaran has taken. On 24th January, 1999, a function was held at Chennai for releasing a book titled 'MGR and Eelam Tamils'. In that function, Shri Veeramani spoke, and I quote: "It is not unconstitutional to demand the lifting of the ban on the LTTE." So, the Dravida Kazhagam has specifically asked for lifting the ban on the LTTE. Who is Kolathur Mani? Until last week, Kolathur Mani was actually an active member of the Dravida Kazhagam. Madam, he has further spoken, "As far as I am concerned -- that is the observation made by Shri Veeramani of the Dravida Kazhagam -- "As far as I am concerned, Prabhakaran is the leader of the Tamil society. He is my younger brother." That is what they have said. Dr. Kalaingar has clearly stated that Shri Veeramani is the leader of the Dravida Kazhagam. There is a paper called 'Viduthalai'; in its editorial, it has said, "Is it a big social crime on the part of Tamils in Tamil Nadu or South Africa or any other country of the world to support the liberation movement of Tamil Eelam?" Where is Shri Veeramani now? In whose company is he now? That is the question. Now, they are talking about it. Dr. Kalaingar has clearly said it. Madam, Kolathur Mani was a member of the Dravida Kazhagam. The Dravida Kazhagam has demanded the lifting of the ban on the LTTE. That is number one. Secondly, they have passed a resolution in the Central Executive Committee held in Mayiladuthurai in Tamil Nadu for commuting the capital punishment sentence on Rajiv Gandhi's murderers to life imprisonment. That resolution was officially passed in the Central Executive Committee of the Dravida Kazhagam. Last month, the Delhi Congress Party has donated five lakh rupees to the Dravida Kazhagam. Madam, the day-before-yesterday, a member of the Pondicherry Cabinet, Mr. Kannan has categorically announced that a Minister of the Pondicherry Cabinet is having clandestine relations with the LTTE. Who is that Minister? Let Mr. Peter Alphonse reply to this. It has been stated very clearly.

Madam, apart from that, there is one more thing. There was a meeting in Chennai. In that meeting -- Dr. Kalaingar has quoted -- in the

Periyar celebrations, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad participated. Those celebrations were conducted by a committee of which Shri. Veeramani was an organiser and Shri Moopanar was the Chairman.

Then, Madam, three days ago, Shri Moopanar gave a van worth Rs. fifteen lakhs which was collected by the Dravida Kazhagam volunteers for Shri Veeramani. The van was donated to Shri Veeramani by Shri Moopanar. This is not all. Madam, a Cabinet Minister of Pondicherry is having clandestine relations with the LTTE. Who is heading that Cabinet?

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: Madam, I am on a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: No, I am not yielding. ...*(Interruptions)*...When you were speaking, we did not interrupt you. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM (Uttaranchal): Let him complete. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let me deal with his point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Under which rule he is raising the point of order? ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let me deal with his point of order. The rule is noted in the rule book under 'point of order'. So, he is asking me under that rule and it is for me to decide. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let me decide. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Under which rule he is raising his point of order? Madam, he should quote the rule under which he is raising the point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Forget it. You see the rule book. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: Madam, I am on a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*...Let me explain my point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Madam, a Cabinet Minister has accused another Cabinet Minister that he has got some clandestine relations with the LTTE. That Ministry is headed by a Congress Chief Minister.

Now you know how the relationship is. The House will understand now where the accusation goes. I tell you, Mr. Peter, when you are raising one finger against me, three fingers point against yourself. When you are raising a finger against the DMK party, three fingers point against you. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: Madam, I am on a point of order. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Madam, I am not yielding, unless he quotes the rule. I am not yielding. *(Interruptions)* He didn't yield in the morning. Why should I yield now? That is my point. *(Interruptions)* When he was speaking in the morning, our own people wanted to say something. He didn't yield. I will not yield. *(Interruptions)* Madam, I will abide by your decision. *(Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I allowed an hon. Member on a point of order. It is justice if I hear what his point of order is. *(Interruptions)* I am not allowing him for clarification.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Madam, I am not yielding for clarifications. In the morning, he didn't yield to our friends. *(Interruptions)* Madam, he said, point of clarification. *(Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: now. *(Interruptions)* This is for the media. This is propaganda for the media. Who is Kolathur Mani? *(Interruptions)* This morning, our people were not allowed by him. Madam, I am not yielding. In the morning, the Chairman didn't allow us. *(Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Virumbi, please sit down. Let me hear him. It is not a fight between you and the Chair, either in the morning or now, because we are only referees over here. We are not kicking the goal for anybody. The main thing is, if I allow somebody, a Member of your party, raising a point of order, and if I don't allow another...*(Interruptions)*..

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Madam, he I will deal with it. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: Madam, I am on a point of order. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Madam, he has shifted from 'point of clarification' to 'point of order' shifted his stand from 'point of clarification' to 'point of order.' *(Interruptions)* In the morning, he didn't allow our Members.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let me find out whether it is a point of order or a clarification.

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: Madam, a point of order.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Under which rule he is raising the point of order? Let him say that. *(Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Alphonse, he is challenging your knowledge about the rules. Please quote the rule. I can quote the rule, but I will not do that.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: If it is a point of order, let him quote the rule. If it is a point of clarification, I am not yielding. This is my stand. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: A point of order, Madam. I will give the rule. In a discussion...*(Interruptions)*..

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Madam, let him quote the rule first. *(Interruptions)* For clarifications, I am not yielding. He is not quoting the rule. He did not yield in the morning for our party Members. If it is for clarification, I am not yielding.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am not allowing him for clarifications. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Let him quote the rule. *(Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Peter, quote the rule. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: Under rule 54. *(Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have quoted the wrong rule. *(Interruptions)*... I cannot permit you under that rule. *(Interruptions)*.... I am sorry I cannot permit you under that rule because it is a wrong rule.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Who is this Kolathur Mani? *(Interruptions)*... Madam, I am continuing my speech. *(Interruptions)*... Who is this Kolathur Mani? Madam, I would like to inform you that during the late lamented Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's regime, 31 places were selected in India to give training to the LTTE cadre in India. So far we have not discussed it keeping in view the decorum here. But once the cat has come out of the bag, whether I am willing or not, I have to tell you the truth. The land for these 31 camps selected by the Government of India to give training to the LTTE cadre was owned by this Kolathur Mani. It was the then Government of India which selected these places for these training camps. Kolathur Mani is not a new name which has come into the picture all of a sudden. The land for training to be given to the LTTE cadre was owned by Kolathur Mani during the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhiji's regime. Madam, I am telling you this only because they are mentioning again and again Kolathur Mani, Kolathur Mani. We are not for Kolathur Mani. We are not for separation; we are not for extremism. We are against extremism, we are against separation and we are against violence. We are for the integrity and unity. . *(Interruptions)*..)

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN (Karnataka): The LTTE was not a banned organisation at that time. . *(Interruptions)*... They were supporting the LTTE. . *(Interruptions)*.... He cannot accuse the then Government like this. . *(Interruptions)*....

SHRI RAJU PARMAR (Gujarat): The LTTE was not banned at that time. . *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: That is what I am submitting. During that period Nedumaran's party was also not banned. *(Interruptions)*... I am not yielding. . *(Interruptions)*.... In the same way Nedumaran's party is not banned now. . *(Interruptions)*.... This argument holds good in this case also. . *(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Just a minute. . *(Interruptions)*....

श्री बालकवि बैरागी : हाउस को मिसलीड किया जा रहा है । *(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: He is misleading the House. *(Interruptions)*..

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You sit down. *(Interruptions)*.. Let me ask him. *(Interruptions)*... The question which they are raising is that when a

political party or any other organisation is not banned; whatever action taken then, is quite different. *(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. *(Interruptions)*.. It is quite different when a certain organisation is banned. So when an organisation is banned, supporting that organisation is wrong. When an organisation is not banned, supporting that organisation is not wrong. This is the objection which has come from that side. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: I fully agree with your observation. What I am saying is that before the ban on the LTTE, everybody was supporting the LTTE. . *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MD. SALIM (West Bengal): I object to it. . *(Interruptions)*.... Our stand is very well known to you. . *(Interruptions)*....

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Except your party, most of the parties supported the LTTE. *(Interruptions)*... Madam, at the same time, once a ban has been imposed on the LTTE, we abide by that decision. We ourselves have recommended, our Chief Minister Dr. Kalaingar has recommended to continue this ban even now. On the basis of the recommendation of the State Government, the Central Government has extended the ban. We are also for a ban on the LTTE. We have supported this ban. The Government of Tamil Nadu has recommended to the Central Government for extending this ban for two more years and they have accepted it. This is the stand taken by the DMK Party. This is the stand taken by the DMK. Therefore, as far as the unity and integrity of the nation is concerned, as far as safeguarding the sovereignty of the nation is concerned, I tell you, we are second to none in this august House. Then, Madam, another thing I will tell you all parties, the so-called national parties, have attended the Dravida Kazhagam meeting in Chennai, along with Veeramani, the man who recommended the lifting of the ban on the LTTE.

SHRI RAJU PARMAR: What does he mean by "so-called national parties"? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: Why don't you take action against him? Who prevented you from taking action against the supporters of LTTE? You tell me now. Why did your State Government not take any action? Why did you not take action? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Madam, I am not yielding. *(Interruptions)*. Madam, you please bring the House to order so that I can speak. *(Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: You take action against everybody, but not against the LTTE. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Madam, in the morning, we sat silently. Only once we wanted to raise a clarification, but he did not yield during the entire speech. Even when my counterpart was speaking here, I kept quiet so that he may make his own observations but they are interrupting me like anything. It clearly shows, they are guilty. *(Interruptions)* Madam, after Veerappan freed Dr. Rajkumar, I will not say that Dr. Rajkumar was taken out from the forest to his house. They are accusing Nedumaran. They have already painted a picture. Mr. Nedumaran and his group, the extremist group, selected a site to see that Dr. Rajkumar will be protected. They selected one house. That house belongs to one Ramarajan. Who is Ramarajan? He is the General Council Member of Tamil Manila Congress. Madam, ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: Madam, please give me a chance.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him defend himself. I will give you a chance.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: After the assassination of Padmanabha, the DMK has actually stopped all support to the LTTE, in any manner.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You took his party's name. Let him give an explanation of what he wants to say. It is a very serious matter, a serious matter concerning the security of our country, a serious matter, of a person who is accused by the court of killing the Prime Minister of this country. You yourself said that your leader did not approve of the lifting of the ban on the LTTE. Now, his party Member's name and house is mentioned.

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: When my friend was speaking, he was mentioning about some kind of accommodation provided to Dr. Rajkumar immediately after his release from the forest. He walked nearly 80 kms. He was very tired. He wanted to take rest where he needed to have some fundamental facilities. In the whole area, my partyman's house was the only place available, with necessary accommodation.

3.00 P.M

He rang up my leader, got his permission and then the accommodation was provided to Dr. Rajkumar for staying, on humanitarian grounds...*(interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: On humanitarian grounds...*(interruptions)*...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Madam, he conceded my observation...*(interruptions)*...Thank you very much, Mr. Peter Alphonse, for having accepted my observation...*(interruptions)*...Further, I quote...*(interruptions)*...

SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Do not bring politics in this...*(interruptions)*...

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: Madam, please allow me to complete my sentence...*(interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I allowed you...*(interruptions)*...

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: Madam, I have not completed my sentence...*(interruptions)*...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Madam, in the morning, the hon. Chairman did not allow us to make our observations...*(interruptions)*...We were not allowed...*(interruptions)*...But, now, when I am making my observations on behalf of my party, they are interrupting me every minute...*(interruptions)*...

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: Madam, Dr. Rajkumar requested for one night and one morning's stay...*(interruptions)*...When he was treated by a doctor...*(interruptions)*...The doctor said that he needed rest for the day...*(interruptions)*...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: This clearly shows that the Tamil Nadu extremists selected the house of TMC leader...*(interruptions)*...

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: There is nothing to hide...*(interruptions)*...Do you mean to say that we should not provide accommodation to Dr. Rajkumar when he was not able to walk?...*(interruptions)*...Do you want him to die?...*(interruptions)*...That is not the correct way...*(interruptions)*...He was not able to

walk...*(interruptions)*...After an overnight's journey, he needed medical care...*(interruptions)*...He was tired...*(interruptions)*...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Madam, this clearly shows that in the Veerappan episode, Mr. Moopanar was also involved, and the TMC has got access in that...*(interruptions)*...It has now been proved...*(interruptions)*...Now, what I am saying is that it has been proved...*(interruptions)*...I further quote...*(interruptions)*...

SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Madam, the hon. Minister, who belongs to his party, is briefing him...*(interruptions)*...Let him speak on his own...*(interruptions)*...Why is he briefing him?...*(interruptions)*...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Your party's Member had already spoken...*(interruptions)*...Madam, so far, I have controlled my party colleagues...*(interruptions)*...If this goes on like this, I would ask my party colleagues to react...*(interruptions)*... Then, it would become very difficult...*(interruptions)*...Who is he to ask me to sit down?...*(interruptions)*...You are also a Member like me...*(interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Virumbi, now, you complete your speech...*(interruptions)*...I don't think you need anybody's support to make your statement. Every day, you make very nice statements and you do it on your own...*(interruptions)*...In spite of opposition, you keep on speaking...*(interruptions)*...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Madam, it is a sensitive issue...*(interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I know that...*(interruptions)*...That is why I want that this issue be taken up with the same sensitivity...*(interruptions)*...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: After Padmanabha's assassination, the DMK had clearly said, "We will not support the LTTE further. It is our clear stand."...*(interruptions)*...Madam, I quote a news item which appeared in *The Indian Express* on 19th June, 1989. The report says, "She..." -- that means Ms. Jayalalitha -- "...criticised the Centre and the State Government (in a public meeting addressed by Rajiv Gandhi) for not doing anything to save the Tamils in Sri Lanka...but if the LTTE in its present struggle against the Sri Lankan Government was defeated, the entire Tamil race in the island would be destroyed." This observation was made by her after the assassination of Padmanabha. Then, I continue...*(interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: By then, it was not banned...*(interruptions)*...The organisation was not banned, I told you...*(interruptions)*...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Further, I would like to say...*(interruptions)*...I am not saying that...*(interruptions)*...I am highlighting what had happened after the assassination of Padmanabha and before the assassination of Padmanabha...*(interruptions)*...That is what I am saying...*(interruptions)*...

SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Madam, he has misquoted everything...*(interruptions)*...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: I quote another news item which appeared in *The Hindu*, dated 8th October, 1990. The report says, "The Sinhala army and the police are actively engaged in wiping out the Tamil race in Lanka, and LTTE is waging a valiant struggle and fighting the Sinhala army heroically..."*(interruptions)*...

SHRI R. MARGABANDU: What is the point of time?...*(interruptions)*...He is misleading...*(interruptions)*...He is misquoting...*(interruptions)*...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: "...In the last two months, LTTE has not indulged in any activities that would give cause for complaint in Tamil Nadu. Now, LTTE is fighting a war against a Government of a nation, and this is a Herculean task.

We must all bear in mind that if LTTE is wiped out, the entire Tamil race in Sri Lanka will perish. The victory of LTTE will mean the victory of Sri Lankan Tamils. Instead of doing anything to help them, the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Mr. Karunanidhi, is concentrating on saving his own skin. All his energy and attention is devoted to safeguarding his CM's Chair, and if this is the attitude adopted by Mr. Karunanidhi, we cannot expect Mr. V.P. Singh to do otherwise or behave differently. Mr. V.P. Singh has not displayed any concern. *(interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Virumbi, what are you reading?
(interruptions)

SHRI R. MARGABANDU:, Madam, he is misleading the House.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Madam, it is related to this.*(interruptions)* Madam, this is the crux of the issue, today.*(interruptions)*

SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM (Tamil Nadu): Who is supporting the LTTE? *(interruptions)*

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Madam, these are crocodile tears. *(interruptions)*

SHRI R. MARGABANDU: All this happened before the assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. *(interruptions)*

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: "Mr. V.P. Singh has not displayed any concern about the fate of Sri Lanka Tamils. In the changed circumstances, the only prescription should be that Tamil people should totally back the LTTE. The Chief Minister should give all possible assistance within his powers... *(interruptions)*

SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Madam, he is misleading the House. *(interruptions)*

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI:... ..and the Central Government should find a peaceful solution in accordance with the terms and within the framework of the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement; or, the Government of India should back LTTE 100 per cent. The question is, the LTTE has rejected the peace accord, but you still call for support to the LTTE? The second question is, what is our main interest? The Tamil race should not be wiped out and the Tamils of Sri Lanka should be saved from... *(interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Virumbi..

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: One minute, Madam. .."genocide and extermination. ..

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Virumbi, what are you reading?

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: "The LTTE has committed mistakes in the past. But if we do not support LTTE, it will mean the end of Tamil race in Sri Lanka. We have to look at it objectively. The question is, is not Mr. Karunanidhi helping the LTTE, though it may not be to the same extent as MGR did? The answer is, I see no evidence of it. Jayalalitha, in an interview to the Indian Express, dated 4.10.1990.. *(interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, please sit down.

AN HON. MEMBER: He is quoting his own party..(interruptions)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, please sit down, everybody. (interruptions) You too. Please keep quiet. I was also present when the Chairman was requested to take up this issue. This is a serious issue. Therefore, doubts were raised that a discussion on this will only mean throwing muck on each other. And that is exactly what is happening here. Are we seriously discussing the problems faced by the country, or, we are trying to say, some years ago, who said that; and some years ago, who said what. Let us discuss this issue in all its seriousness, if you really want the problem to be solved, that is, --not the problem of your political party, or of the Tamil Nadu State, who should become the leader, not that-- the problem for which the hon. Home Minister has been called here, the problem which relates to the security of the country; the proprieties; and of the responsibilities of the people. So, we are discussing these issues. I would request the entire House; please discuss it in that seriousness so that we can solve it. Then, the hon. Home Minister will be able to tell us, what is the situation. Please take it seriously. Don't make it a fight or battle over here.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Madam, I always abide by your decision. . I never disobey the decision of the Chair, whoever sits there. But, at the same time, I want to refer to the last sentence of my counterpart, of my learned friend,-- he said in the morning 'DMK Government should be dismissed'. That is why I am reluctantly forced to point out where the mistake lies. I have to express that. The truth must come out. It should not be held back. One-sided arguments cannot bring out the truth. If arguments from both sides are there, only then truth will come out. Only then, the people would be able to understand. This is a message for the nation and people should understand where the mistake lies. That is why I am saying this. Madam, regarding..(interruptions)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, I think you have said enough. Should I call the next speaker?

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: No, Madam; I have not yet finished. I just completed one point when everybody started interrupting. My next point is this. Regarding wall posters they said, 'no action has been taken'. I must tell you, 'Madam, when this poster was put up in Tamil

Nadu, immediately action was taken. I quote from 'The Hindu' of Monday, the 27th November -- 'The city police today removed the posters featuring the LTTE Prabhakaran, that had appeared in various parts of Chennai yesterday, on his birthday. A case has been registered by the Royapettah police in connection with the posters and investigation is on to trace those who had put up the posters. For that, an activist of the Tamil Nationalist Movement was arrested by the police today at Watrap, when he attempted to perform a puja at a local temple for the well-being of the LTTE supremo V. Prabhakaran on his birthday.' And, Madam, one Mr. Somu *alias* Somusudaram was arrested in Watrap on 26.11.2000. In Thanjavur district, 7 persons are arrested for the same reason. They ask whether we have taken any action. I will tell you, Madam, how we are taking action. From 1991 to 1996 -- I do not want to mention the names of the parties -- they have arrested 125 persons of Veerappan and LTTE supporters. From 1996, till today, in our regime only, we have arrested more than 131 persons. Madam, Mr. Nedumaran wanted to conduct a conference at Chidambaram, and we did not permit that conference. That was banned. Not only Nedumaran, but 258 persons had also been arrested on that occasion. Why I am telling you all this thing? It is because, Madam, the same Shri Nedumaran, when he wanted to organise a conference at Tamukkam in Madurai, in 1990, we had banned that conference also. We did not permit that. Subsequently, after the DMK Government was dismissed, under the President's rule, Shri Nedumaran was allowed to conduct the conference. Madam, this was the situation that was prevailing in Tamil Nadu. Not only that, Madam; I would like to give you the figures of LTTE supporters and other people who were arrested from 1996 till 2000. In 1996, 54 persons were arrested; in 1997, 73 persons were arrested; in 1998, 55 persons were arrested; in 1999, 44 persons were arrested; and in 2000, till now, 25 persons have been arrested. Madam, from the date on which we came to power, i.e., from 13.5.1996, till today, 251 persons, who are supporters of LTTE or extremists, have been arrested. Apart from that, there are some arrested under NSA also. In 1996, 9 people were arrested; in 1997, 23 persons were detained under the NSA; in 1998, 14 people were arrested and detained under the NSA; in 1999, 2 people were arrested and detained under it; and in 2000, 3 people have been arrested. Therefore, from 1996 -

- I do not want to talk about the previous regime -- 177 Sri Lankan people were lodged in the special camps; in 1997, 85 persons were lodged; in 1998, 65 persons; in 1999, 101 persons were lodged; and till now, in 2000, 48 persons have been lodged. This is the situation. We have taken full

action. We have already taken whatever action we had to take against the LTTE supporters. If you can find any LTTE intruders here, we will take severe action against them. Madam, all these things clearly show that whatever action the State Government could take, we have taken. Now, Madam, when this matter has come up, I would like to bring to your notice yet another action that we have taken in this regard. Our Chief Secretary, the Home Secretary, and the DGP accompanied the Cabinet Minister from my party had met the Home Minister. We sought advice as well as assistance from the Central Government, and the Home Minister was kind enough to accept whatever advice and assistance we sought from him. He assured us that the Central Government was ready to extend any help for that. Now, they have said about the N.S.G and the Army. Why the Army should not be inducted in that? Madam, I will tell you about that. Dr. Kalaingar on 13th November, 2000 has clearly stated what the previous regime had opined about it. It was said, "I do not accept this idea." Who said this? Madam, I would like to quote what the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Ms. Jayalalitha, had said at a time when the then Opposition, the Congress Party, wanted the army to be sent to the forest. She said, "I do not accept this idea now. Some other complications will arise, if the Armymen come here. The Armymen lay down a condition that the entire area should be evacuated. It is not at all possible. This Government is not inclined to get into this acid test." Madam, army men have to enter the forest with some amount of tact and skill. So far as the forest area is concerned, it is an unknown terrain for them. They do not know the intricate pathways inside the forest. Therefore, the army cannot be called. Miss Jayalalitha made this observation when she was the Chief Minister. What I say is that when they were ruling the State, they had one argument. But, when another party is ruling the State, their argument is just its opposite, and they ask why we did not send the army. A contingent of 180 people from the NSG, headed by a Brigadier, had gone to Tamil Nadu during Miss Jayalalitha's regime. They said, "It is impossible to go through the forest." The former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu stated in the Assembly, "If an elephant stands within six feet, nobody can find out whether the elephant is there or not." It is such a dense forest. The former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had made this observation. When she was the Chief Minister, they had one argument. When we have come to power, the argument is different. *(Interruptions)*

I have not said this. This is Miss Jayalalitha's speech. Please imagine for a moment. A contingent of the National Security Guard,

consisting of 180 persons, headed by a Brigadier, had gone there from Delhi to rescue three hostages held by Veerappan. The NSG is the commando force of the Central Government. The NSG group, after seeing the thick forest extending over a vast area of 6,000 sq. kilometres, came back to Delhi, expressing the view that it would be an enormously arduous task to undertake the operation in such a terrain.

Now, a strike force, a task force has already been sent there. We are interacting with the Karnataka Government. We have already consulted the Central Government. A joint meeting was held. One police official from Tamil Nadu and another police official from Karnataka are heading the strike force. Divided into six groups, they have already entered the forest to catch Veerappan.

Madam, regarding the NSG, we have clearly told this. Even though they have observed like that, the DMK has said, "If we require commandoes, we will ask for commandoes from the Central Government. If the police officials concerned think that the army has to be inducted, we will never hesitate to request the Central Government to send the army to see that the fellow is nabbed.

Not only that, Madam, as far as the LTTE activities are concerned, I tell you one thing very frankly, without hesitation because there is no party politics in this. Cutting across party lines, I say that we are against the LTTE activities not only in Tamil Nadu but also throughout India. Secondly, I want to make it clear that if not only the LTTE activity but also extremism or separatism raises its head, we will put it down with an iron hand. That is the assurance that we have given to the nation at large. What more assurance do they want?

They are merely raising some questions that are actually unrelated to this. That is what I say. As far as we are concerned, we are fully aware of the situation. If it goes beyond our control, we know what action we have to take. I have already enumerated what action we have taken.

Madam, I have replied to the question about Kolathur Mani. I have exposed the clandestine relation and with whom they are having it. I have already said about what action we have taken against Nedumaran. I have already clearly mentioned about who Ramarajan is who has given shelter. The people who have given shelter on the advice of extremists, the people who have clandestine relations with the LTTE, the people who are giving

support to the LTTE in Tamil Nadu are speaking here as if they are opposing the LTTE. There is a double talk.

Another gentleman has asked: "Will you enlist those persons?".... *(Interruptions)*.... I am not yielding to him. The police personnel screen people. All people will not be appointed in the Police Department or other agencies. They have to understand that. They said about an Ambassador or Embassy. *..(Interruptions)..* I want to say, you have provided the fort for them to escape from there. *..(Interruptions)...* You have allowed them to stay. Your former Minister had clandestine relations with the LTTE. I suspect, he had already escaped. I don't think he has just escaped. I don't accept it. My observation is very clear. Mr. Veerappan cannot escape from the forest now.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Virumbi, now, it is over. *..(Interruptions)...*

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: The observation of the DMK Party and my observation is that Veerappan cannot escape from the forest. We will see that this fellow is caught.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Virumbi, now, will you conclude?

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: I am concluding. He spoke about some extremism. In Andhra Pradesh, when IAS officers were kidnapped, who was deputed to get them released? One, Mr. Kannabiran was sent. Actually, he is the person who is advocating for extremists. That is why a decision was taken by the Andhra Pradesh Government to send Mr Kannabiran because he was having access to the extremists. They could take some fruitful decision. Finally, the IAS officers came out. If that is correct, this is also correct. Therefore, the action taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu, the decision taken by the DMK Government, was in the national interest. Finally, Veerappan cannot escape. The extremists cannot escape. *..(Interruptions)...*

Madam, lastly, I want to make one request.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: How many times you are going to say "lastly"?

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI : Madam, my request to the Home Minister, through you, is, to send the National Security Guards to the forest

to nab Veerappan and other people. With these words, I conclude. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Rama Shanker Kaushik. *..(Interruptions)...* No more *interruptions*. *..(Interruptions)...* I am not allowing your leader or any leader.

SHRI R. MARGABANDU : Madam, a reference was made to my party and to my leader. *..(Interruptions)...*

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Madam, if he is allowed, I should be given a chance to explain our point of view. *... (Interruptions)...*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes; Mr. Kaushik. *..(Interruptions)...* I am not allowing. *..(Interruptions)...* Please sit down. Yes, Mr. Kaushik. *..(Interruptions)...* You gave that explanation.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Madam, he said that the DMK Government should be dismissed. For what reason? *..(Interruptions)...*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Mr. Virumbi spoke. His time is over. You also spoke. Your time is also over. You have no right to encroach upon the time of Mr. Kaushik. Mr. Kaushik, please speak. Then, I will ask the Home Minister to reply.

श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक (उत्तर प्रदेश) : माननीय उपसभापति महोदया, दक्षिण भारत में आम तौर से और तमिलनाडु में विशेष तौर से लिट्टे जैसे आतंकवादी संगठन तथा उसका सहयोग करने वाले संगठनों से जो हमारे देश की एकता और अखंडता पर संकट आया है, वह वास्तविक रूप से कितना गंभीर है, इसका पता माननीय गृह मंत्री जी के वक्तव्य से नहीं लगता । माननीय गृह मंत्री जी ने जो वक्तव्य दिया है - कोई खास बात उसमें नहीं है और यह सारा कुछ ऐसे ही चल रहा है, इस ढंग का वक्तव्य माननीय गृह मंत्री जी का आया है । यह बहुत ही अफसोसजनक स्थिति है । सब लोग इस बात को अच्छे तरीके से जानते हैं । अखबारों के जरिए और तमिलनाडु के माननीय सदस्यों ने जो अपने विचार यहां व्यक्त किए हैं और जो बातें उन्होंने बताई हैं, और लोग भी जो यहां आते-जाते रहते हैं, उन लोगों ने बताई हैं, उनसे स्पष्ट रूप से यह पता चलता है कि तमिलनाडु में विशेष रूप से लिट्टे और उसके सहयोगी संगठन पूरे तरीके से देश की एकता और अखंडता को तोड़ने के काम में लगे हुए हैं ।

मैडम, यह कितने आश्चर्य की बात है कि हमारे देश में प्रभाकरण की जन्म तिथि धूम धाम से मनाई जाती है और इस बात का किसी ने खंडन नहीं किया। जहां उनकी जन्म तिथि मनाई गई, वह सरकारी भवन था और सरकारी भवन में जन्म तिथि मनाने की इजाजत सरकार ने ही दी थी। चारों तरफ दीवारों पर लिखा हुआ है कि वीरप्पन का संबंध लिट्टे से है। इसमें किसी प्रकार का भी शक नहीं है। हम यहां बहस इसलिए नहीं कर रहे हैं कि तमिलनाडु की सरकार

क्या कर रही है, हम तो केन्द्र की सरकार से जानना चाहते हैं कि वह क्या कर रही है? ऐसी स्थिति में जब कि हमारे देश की एकता और अखंडता को खतरा है तमिलनाडु की सरकार का सवाल तो बाद में आता है लेकिन पहले तो हम केन्द्र की सरकार से यह जानना चाहते हैं कि क्या यह विषय लॉ एंड आर्डर का है? कितनी विचित्र बात है, कितने सबूत और सारी बातें सामने आने के बाद भी केन्द्रीय सरकार सुप्रीम कोर्ट के सामने यह बयान देती है कि यह लॉ एंड आर्डर का मामला है, देश की एकता और अखंडता का मामला नहीं है। लिट्टे की जो मांगें रहीं हैं और जिस प्रकार की बात डॉ० राजकुमार के अपहरण से सामने आई और शर्तें रखी गईं तभी से बिल्कुल साफ हो गया था कि वीरप्पन का संबंध लिट्टे से है। माननीय गृह मंत्री जी कहते हैं कि जो केन्द्रीय सरकार की एजेंसियां हैं वे काम कर रही हैं। अब या तो यह कहें कि हमारी एजेंसियां चाहे रॉ, आई.बी. या दूसरे संगठन हैं ये सारी खबरें देने में असफल सिद्ध हुए हैं और यदि इन्होंने ठीक से खबर और सूचना दी है तो सरकार ने जानबूझकर लापरवाही बरती है, जानबूझकर ऐसा काम किया है जो लॉ एंड आर्डर की स्थिति बताकर ढाल दिया गया और सुप्रीम कोर्ट के सामने यह बयान दे दिया गया। मैडम, यह बहुत शर्मनाक स्थिति है। मैं माननीय गृह मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब ये सारी बातें स्पष्ट हो चुकी हैं और आपकी केन्द्रीय एजेंसियों की रिपोर्ट भी आई है तो अब वीरप्पन के खिलाफ केन्द्रीय सरकार क्या कदम उठाने जा रही है? क्योंकि यह लॉ एंड आर्डर का मामला नहीं है, केवल चोरी का मामला नहीं है, वह चंदन की चोरी करता है और हाथियों के दांत बेचता है। प्रश्न यह है कि क्या वह देश की एकता को तोड़ने का काम नहीं कर रहा है और जो दूसरे संगठन लिट्टे के साथ सहयोग कर रहे हैं उनके खिलाफ केन्द्रीय सरकार क्या कार्यवाही करना चाहती है और कब तक करेगी?

श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी : उपसभापति महोदया, मैं ध्यान पूर्वक इस बहस को सुन रहा था। इस सत्र के पहले सप्ताह में ही मुझे जानकारी मिली कि इस सदन के कुछ सदस्य वीरप्पन के मामले को उठाना चाहते हैं, बहस करना चाहते हैं। मुझे यह जानकारी मिली कि समापति जी ने कहा कि यह उचित नहीं होगा कि वीरप्पन के मामले पर हम यहां बहस करें और इस कारण यह उस रूप में नहीं आया। लेकिन कल जब मुझे सूचित किया गया कि हम एलटीटीई की गतिविधियों पर कालिंग अटैन्शन में चर्चा करेंगे तो मैंने उस समय जानकारी प्राप्त की और एलटीटीई की गतिविधियों के बारे में पूछा। मुझे बताया गया कि कुछ सदस्यों ने इस बात की ओर ध्यान दिलाया है कि एलटीटीई के नेता श्री प्रभाकरण का जन्म दिवस तमिलनाडु के कई भागों में बड़ी धूम-धाम से मनाया गया। इसी कारण यह उचित हो गया कि इस पर चर्चा करें। लेकिन आज की बहस को जब प्रणब मुखर्जी ने शुरू किया तो उन्होंने स्वयं ही कहा कि मैं वीरप्पन के मामले को नहीं कहूंगा। सिवाय इसके कि जन्मदिवस मनाया गया प्रभाकरण का, एल.टी.टी.ई. का। एक-दो और प्रसंग भी उन्होंने बताए। लेकिन सारी बहस में सारी बातें लोगों ने रिपीट ही कीं। फोकस ऑफ डिस्कशन वीरप्पन और वीरप्पन से संभावित एल.टी.टी.ई. के बारे में था। मैं मानता हूँ कि इस बारे में देश को चौकन्ना रहना चाहिए, मुझे इस पर कोई आपत्ति नहीं है लेकिन यह भी सही है कि बहस का स्वरूप कुछ ऐसा बना जिससे लगता था कि यह बहस अगर तमिलनाडु की विधानसभा में होती तो ज्यादा अच्छा होता, हरेक जान लेता कि कौन-कौन क्या-क्या है। कुछ नाम तो मैंने भी पहली बार सुने। मैं इतना कहना चाहूंगा कि हमारी सरकार, केंद्र की सरकार इसके प्रति सर्वथा सजग है। अगर देश की एकता और सार्वभौमिकता के साथ कोई भी खिलवाड़ करने की कोशिश करेगा तो हम उसे किसी भी रूप में बर्दाश्त नहीं करेंगे। मैं इस बात का जिक्र करना चाहूंगा कि जब हमारी सरकार मार्च के महीने में 1998 में बनी तो उस समय एल.टी.टी.ई. पर जो पाबंदी

लगी हुई थी वह मई, 1998 में समाप्त होने वाली थी। हमें इस बात की भी जानकारी है जिसका जिक्र कई लोगों ने अपने भाषण में किया कि तमिलनाडु के बहुत सारे संगठनों की सहानुभूति एल.टी.टी.ई. के साथ थी। उनमें से कुछ ने हमारे साथ मिलकर सरकार बनाई थी। हम इससे परिचित थे। उन दिनों हमसे किसी ने पूछा कि जब मई के महीने में एल.टी.टी.ई. पर पाबंदी समाप्त होगी तो आप क्या करेंगे? मैंने कहा कि हम एल.टी.टी.ई. पर लगे बैन को जारी रखेंगे। मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि मुझे इस बात पर संतोष मिला जब एल.टी.टी.ई. पर बैन का निर्णय लेते समय हमारे किसी सहयोगी दल ने यह नहीं कहा कि यह नहीं होना चाहिए क्योंकि अब तो इतने साल हो गए, राजीव गांधी की हत्या को भी काफी साल हो गए तो आप इसे क्यों लागू कर रहे हैं। इसका कारण यह है कि एल.टी.टी.ई. पर बैन केवल इसलिए नहीं है कि उन्होंने हमारे देश के प्रधानमंत्री की हत्या की बल्कि इसलिए भी है कि वे कई प्रकार की गतिविधियाँ आज भी कर रहे हैं और ऐसी गतिविधियाँ कर रहे हैं - जिसके कारण आज ऐसी हिंसा और हत्या हमारे यहां हो सकती - लेकिन किसी भी असावधानी की तनिक भर भी गुंजाइश नहीं रखी और आगे भी हमें इस बात के लिए सजग रहना पड़ेगा ऐसे सब संगठनों के प्रति जो हिंसा और हत्या के द्वारा अपने राजनैतिक स्वार्थ साधना चाहते हैं। दो और संगठनों का नाम पीटर अल्फांसों ने लिया, ऐसी बात नहीं है कि उन्हें जानकारी नहीं है, उन्हें जानकारी है और उनमें से कुछ लोगों का संबंध किस के साथ है, किसके साथ नहीं है, इसकी भी लंबी-चौड़ी बहस हो गई, एक-दूसरे पर आरोप भी लगे कि वीरूमणि किस तरफ है, वह किस तरफ है, मैं इसमें नहीं जाऊंगा। लेकिन इतना जरूर कहना चाहूंगा कि अनलॉफुल एक्टिविटी ऐक्ट हमें किसी पर भी पाबंदी लगाने की इजाजत नहीं देता। आपको याद होगा पिछले दिनों आंध्र के एक संगठन, जिसने कई चर्चों पर बम विस्फोट भी किए, को लेकर मांग हुई कि आप उस पर पाबंदी लगा दीजिए, सिंहली पर पाबंदी लगा दीजिए। लेकिन हम जानते हैं कि कानून कहता है यदि सरकार पाबंदी भी लगा दे, एग्जीक्यूटिव बैन भी लगा दे तो उसके बाद भी वह ऑटोमेटिकली ट्रिब्यूनल में जाएगा एंड दि ट्रिब्यूनल हैज टू एन्डोर्स इट और यदि ट्रिब्यूनल कह दे कि यह बैन गलत है तो गलत होगा। इसलिए कोई सरकार किसी को अनलॉफुल डिक्लेयर नहीं कर सकती जब तक उसके पास अनलॉफुल डिक्लेयर करने के लिए पूरे प्रमाण नहीं हों। मुझे अच्छा लगा जब किसी ने जवाब देते हुए कहा कि उस समय तो एल.टी.टी.ई. अनलॉफुल नहीं था, अब अनलॉफुल है। लेकिन इसी नवंबर महीने में जिस ज्यूडिशियल ट्रिब्यूनल को एपीओट किया गया था, उसने कहा कि अनलॉफुल का बैन जारी रखना ही सर्वथा उचित है।

मैं इस बात की ओर ध्यान दिलाना चाहूंगा क्योंकि प्रणब मुखर्जी जी ने उसी से बात शुरू की थी और उसी एल.टी.टी.ई. के इस प्रस्ताव को स्वीकार किया गया, कालिंग अटेंशन को स्वीकार किया गया। हमने तमिलनाडु सरकार से जानकारी प्राप्त की है कि क्या यह सही है कि बड़े धूमधाम से वहां पर प्रभाकरन का जन्म दिन मनाया गया जो एक्काऊंडर है। इस बात को नहीं भूलना चाहिये कि वह एल.टी.टी.ई. का नेता मात्र नहीं है लेकिन राजीव गांधी की हत्या में जिन लोगों को एक्काऊंडर डिक्लेयर किया गया है, वह उनमें से एक है और भारत सरकार ने तमिलनाडु सरकार से मांग की हुई है कि आप उनका एक्सट्रेडिशन कराइये, उनका एक्सट्रेडिशन होना चाहिये। यह हमने मांग की हुई है, भारत सरकार ने और यह मांग हमारे आने से पहले की है...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Not to the Tamil Nadu Government, but to the Sri Lankan Government. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is made to the Sri Lankan Government.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I am sorry. To the Sri Lankan Government.

श्रीलंका की गवर्नमेंट से हमने माग की है और अभी अभी इसी महीने में । This very month, on the 13th of November.....(Interruptions)...

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: Hon. Home Minister, please give the details in English because the interpretation is not good and we are not able to follow. Most of us are from Tamil Nadu.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I will do it. I will do it.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Why is the interpretation not good? ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Sometimes, it happens.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: This very month, the MDMA team, which has been entrusted with the task of following up the Action Taken Report on the Jain Commission's Report, visited Sri Lanka between 13th of November and 23rd of November and took up the matter of extradition of Prabhakaran with the Attorney-General and the Solicitor-General in the presence of other senior officials of the Sri Lankan Government. So, our Government is still very particular; I do not think hard words are needed. हमारे कौशिक जी ने नाराज़गी प्रकट की कि इतनी गम्भीर समस्या को हल्के ढंग से कह दिया । हल्के ढंग से नहीं कहा, हमने कहा है कि "The LTTE continues to indulge in activities prejudicial to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India." इससे बड़ा आरोप किसी के ऊपर नहीं हो सकता । हमने उसके बाद इनफिल्ट्रेशन की बात कही है, हमने स्मगलिंग की बात कही है जिसके कारण Naval detachments and coast guard units have been established in the vulnerable areas. I have made a brief statement. Even in this brief statement, the dangers inherent in the activities of the LTTE have been highlighted, and the Government is aware of it. AIADMK, DMK का एक ऐसा रिलेशनशिप है कि जिसके कारण कटुता आ जाती है। उसमें मैं किसी को दोष नहीं देता। The politics of Tamil Nadu State has become bipolar essentially, polarised into either DMK being in power, or AIADMK being in power. ... (Interruptions)...

AN HON. MEMBER: And TMC also!

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Not TMC. TMC has to go along with someone! ... (Interruptions) ... It is all right; we have had associations with both of them! I would like to say here because, today, the kind of attacks and counter-attacks being made; I could understand the attacks being made by

these, but about the rest, I would say, let us understand, let us realise that there was a time when in Tamil Nadu, whether it was DMK, whether it was AIADMK, whether it was DK, whether it was any other such party, apart from the Congress Party or the Marxist Parties or the miniscule which we were at that time, all these parties were part of a movement which virtually believed that Tamil Nadu was a separate State, it was a separate country, Tamils were a separate nation. Therefore, when I read the Chief Minister's statement in the House in the context of this particular episode, I was very happy. I read what he said: "In the year 1962, when Anna was the General Secretary of the DMK, the General Council meeting was convened and a resolution was passed, giving up the demand for Dravida Nadu." He has stated that they are formally giving up the demand for Dravida Nadu and emphasised, "that the DMK would uphold the spirit of unity and integrity of our country. I wish to very firmly declare that we have not only given up the demand for separation, but also we will, with determination, put down the voice of separation, whoever raises it". I would welcome a statement of this kind. I am sure, the Congress, which had welcomed it then, would welcome it now also, and other sections of the House would also welcome it. After all, we are, today, facing this problem not only in Tamil Nadu, which is no longer there, but in other parts of the country also. When the voice of separation is being raised in other parts of the country, when we call upon them to come and discuss their genuine grievances, if any, and we are willing to solve them, how can we afford to ignore what one particular leader said at a given time that he had abandoned the demand for separation? Mr. Cho said that....

SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: The DMK has said that it has given up the demand for secession, but the reason for the demand continues and remains. It is acknowledged by Mr. Viduthalai Virumbi.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I appreciate what you said. I don't know it. I have not seen any such statement. I would not like to emphasise it. I would like to state the positive points they have said. Today, if my Communist friends, who have at one time felt that democracy is throttling and democracy was a way of continuing the domination of the vested interests on the weaker sections, etc., have come to the path of democracy, I welcome them. I don't say you are not honest to democracy. I welcome them. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Mr. Cho has said....

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: No, please. No. I have known Cho for years. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: ...he fought for the welfare of the Tamils. He has said so in that sense.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Yes. You are concerned about the welfare of the Tamils in Sri Lanka. I would say the whole of India is concerned about it.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: We are for the welfare of the Tamils in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: All right. What I am saying is that these developments should be viewed in a wider contest and from a wider perspective. From that angle, all that my friend, Mr. Virumbi, has said in the House--it is on record; it is not merely in the State Assembly--is something very welcome. It is very welcome.

श्री दीपांकर मुखर्जी (पश्चिमी बंगाल): 6 हजार किलोमीटर से आ जाते हैं... (व्यवधान)...

श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी : हां, तो वह वीरमणि ने क्या किया, उसने क्या किया, इसमें मैं तो नहीं जाऊंगा। I will not go into it. कितने दिन उनको पैदल चलकर कहां पर उनको शरण मिल गयी, आश्रय मिल गया। I am not concerned with it. I am more concerned with both the aspects. Even if we are not related to the LTTE, what has happened in Tamil Nadu in the past two months has certainly disturbed the whole country. But how do we deal with it? After all, in this particular matter, everyone knows that it was not merely the Tamil Nadu Government which was concerned. The Karnataka Government was also concerned. At no point of time did the Karnataka Government tell me that I must intervene, I must deal with the situation, because they were conscious of the implications. The Chief Minister of Karnataka was the first person to phone and tell me that Mr. Rajkumar had been kidnapped, this was what had happened and the consequences could be this. Perhaps, he was the first person again to phone and tell me later that he had been released. But, all along, the Central Government's communication with both the Governments was, 'You two act together. Whatever you, together, want us to do, we would be willing to do. But it should be both, together'. All along, we were in touch with both the Governments. Even after Mr. Rajkumar had been released, the representatives of both the Governments met me.

The Chief Minister himself had come. From Tamil Nadu, all the senior officials had come. Also the Ministers of the Central Government who belong to Tamil Nadu have been in touch with us and we have told them that from the Central Government side-- both the Home Ministry as well as the Defence Ministry-- we would be willing to give all the necessary help, whatever is needed to deal with the menace of this kind. After all, according to the figures which I have received, he has killed more than 120 persons. So many persons and elephants have been killed and smuggling of crores of rupees is taking place. All this has been going on. And then for such a long time we have not been able to do anything, which certainly affects the image of the whole country. Therefore, we have told the two State Governments to coordinate and take a decision and then whatever assistance is needed from our side, we would be willing to do that. I think both of them are satisfied. Some of our officials said that this could not be done and that could not be done. I told them that so far as the Central Government was concerned, we were conscious of the fact that this was not purely a law and order problem --technically, it may be so -- and that it was the State Government which has to operate. But basically, this is an issue of such a nature that we are all concerned about it and we would be willing to give all the assistance. Thank you.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I am afraid, you started by saying that you wanted to know from the Tamil Nadu Government as to how was it that Prabhakaran's birthday was being celebrated with fanfare. Thereafter, you switched over to other areas. Please tell us about this information which you have got from the Tamil Nadu Government. That is the information I wanted to know

SHRI R. MARGABANDU: How is it that that function was organised in a Government building? *(Interruptions)*.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him deal with one question first.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I will come to that. As Shri Virumbi mentioned, the police was told to take off all the posters that were pasted. Secondly, arrests have been made in Cuddalore, Tanjavur and Virudhhanagar and three cases have been registered in Chennai in connection with that House or that building where this particular function was supposed to have been organised. I have been informed that it was a function to felicitate Nedumaran because of his success in bringing back Dr.Rajkumar. It was not in connection with the birthday celebrations of Prabhakaran. In these

cases several persons have been arrested and several cases have been registered against them.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: I want to know one thing. I demanded that NSG should be sent to Tamil Nadu as requested by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu through the Chief Secretary. I would like to know the reaction of the Home Ministry because we need NSG. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu made this request.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: This question of NSG was raised by Karnataka as well as Tamil Nadu. I can only say that whatever needs to be done, would be done. There will be no reservation.

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: Madam, I raised two points. I expected that the hon. Minister would reply to those points. So far as the whole Veerappan issue is concerned, earlier we were informed that it was not Veerappan, it was the TNLA and the TNRF. These are two separate organisations which controlled, guided and engineered the kidnapping. The statement itself admits that the kidnapping was done by them. The Home Minister has not answered this question. There is another allegation which came in the newspapers that two organisation collected money for the trial of the accused in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case and our Defence Minister was the patron. Is it a fact? Was there any inquiry into it? This was the news item in many newspapers. I have got the clipping. If the Home Minister wants it, I can give it. What is the view of the Home Minister in this regard? I would request the Home Minister to clarify these two points.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: The Central Government is aware of the Tamil National Liberation Army, which has Mr. Maran as its leader, and also of the Tamil National Retrieval Force, and their sympathy for the cause of Tamil Eelam. We are aware of it. But as regards the question as to which organisation can be or should be declared unlawful, as I have mentioned, a law is there for that, and that law makes it imperative for the Central Government to invoke its provisions only when it feels that it has an ample material in its hand which would face scrutiny by a judicial tribunal, and not without that. In this case, I will pursue this matter in respect of both these organisations because their sympathies and their inclinations are known.

SHRI MD. SALIM: What about your defence in favour of the Defence Minister?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: This is like the kind of observations which were made by Mr. Virumbi about others. So far as the Defence Minister is concerned, all along these three years that we have been working together, he has never said anything or done anything in favour of this banned organisation. Never. Now, I would refer to something which was mentioned about me; I think Mr. Margabandu or Mr. Peter Alphonse mentioned it. I did go to a rally of the MDMK. There were people who were objecting to it, when I went to the rally...*(interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him finish, please. This is not proper...*(interruptions)*

SHRI MD. SALIM: The question is not about the banned organisation. The question is regarding the patronage by the Defence Minister who raised money in defence of the culprits in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I have no substance...*(interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is answering...*(interruptions)* Please take your seat.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I am saying this because a personal reference was made. I was dissuaded even at that time. But I went to that rally. On the MDMK platform, -- the party is supposed to be in favour of the LTTE, even though, during these three years, they have never said a word in favour of LTTE -- I criticised the LTTE and I said, "As Home Minister, my principal problem, today, is cross-border terrorism; terrorism is a matter on which, the world over, we are trying to mobilise international opinion. So, we are strongly opposed to any party or any organisation which subscribes to this terrorism, and we will continue the ban on it." I said this at that rally, and that sent a very good message there. Now, Shri Peter Alphonse was asking me something.

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: I want to bring to the notice of the Home Minister a notice which has been printed in a respectable daily, the Dinamalar; it is a very popular daily in Tamil Nadu. It has printed a notice which says "... to save twenty people's lives..." "There are a lot of truths hidden. Twenty Tamils were convicted and the sentence was that they should be hanged to death. After this a committee was formed" "The patron-in-chief is Shri George Fernandes and the President is Shri Nedumaran...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What are you reading?

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: It is a quote from a newspaper.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please, either you ask us for the availability of translation from Tamil to English or Hindi, or you read it in Hindi or Urdu because this is not understandable.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Madam, he is reading from a newspaper. I would appeal to him, if he would translate that and if he would authenticate that, -- he is making an allegation against my colleague and I am not going to ask my colleague, on the basis of this note -- then, I will certainly pursue the matter.

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: I will only authenticate the newspaper report. It is for you to confirm or deny it. It is a respectable daily which has printed the original notice, with an address printed on it. Now, it is for the Government to find out the details...*(Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You address the Chair. Do not address those... *(Interruptions)* Excuse me, I am addressing you. When anybody brings a paper making an allegation against any other Member or a member of the Council of Ministers, he has to authenticate it. You cannot ask the Home Minister to take action on it or to react to it in this manner. This is not done. You better get it translated into a language which the Home Minister will understand and authenticate it that this is the true information, and you substantiate it. Then only, I will pass it on to the Home Minister.

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: I will bring the translation and then I will request you...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Not the translation, you authenticate it.

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: You see, I have to submit the papers before you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Just a minute. Let me make you understand the procedure. The procedure is, whatever you are referring to in the House, you should be authenticating it. *(Interruptions)* Just one minute, Mr. Salim. Can't you have some patience? Let him understand. Perhaps, he doesn't. Translate it and then authenticate it as to from which source you got this information. Then only, you can give it to the

Secretariat. It will be passed on to the Home Minister. That is the proper procedure.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Madam, just one minute.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we have to finish this. I have to take up the Companies Amendment Bill. *(Interruptions)* No. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MD. SALIM: Madam, Mr. Peter made this point in the House in front of the Home Minister. What you said in your ruling is right. But now the House came to know that the Defence Minister's name was used in a notice published in a Tamil daily that he was the patron-in-chief and Mr. Nedumaran was the President and they appealed to the people to collect money to defend the twenty accused, who were already the convicted people. Of course, it will be authenticated and laid and so on. That is another matter. But now it is the sacred duty of the hon. Home Minister of the Government of India to let us know and, through us, the nation also, whether the Defence Minister's name has been properly used or improperly used. *(Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Just one minute. You do not know the procedure also. Before making any allegation against any Member of the Parliament... *(Interruptions)* On what basis is this allegation? It is on the basis of the newspaper. He should give a notice so that the person is present here to answer that. So, you follow the procedure. It is Rule 238 (a).

SHRI MD. SALIM: Madam, it is the concern of the citizens of India that...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Salim, don't...

SHRI MD. SALIM: ...some outfits are using the name of our hon. Defence Minister. Now, either the Government of India or the Defence Minister should say, "No. We have nothing to do with it. Or, yes. We have something to do with it". ..*(व्यवधान)*.. वे पाक-साफ हैं, उन पर कोई ऐलिगेशन नहीं है, लेकिन उनके नाम का गलत तरीके से इस्तेमाल किया जा रहा है, इस पर विवाद है ।
...*(व्यवधान)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. *(Interruptions)* You see, just... *(Interruptions)* Mr. Salim, please sit down. *(Interruptions)* Sit down. *(Interruptions)* Sit down. *(Interruptions)* Virumbi, please take your seat.

(Interruptions) Take your seat. *(Interruptions)* Mr. Salim, you should be knowing because you are a member of the Panel of Vice-Chairman and I expect you to know the rule. Rule 238, I think, (a), has to be followed. Whether it is in any newspaper or any other document, he should give a prior notice to that person, the Member of Parliament, so that he can come here and answer. He cannot just ask the Home Minister to speak for somebody else. So, please, I am not allowing this and your allegations, in this manner, are wrong. It is out of order.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Madam, ...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, it is finished.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Madam, during the debate, one Member said something regarding separation...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, it is enough. Now, no more! We will now take up the Companies Amendment Bill, 2000. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Madam, my party leader...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No. Now, it is over. It is not part of the record. It is out. The matter is over. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Madam, please...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No. I am not allowing. *(Interruptions)* Mr. Virumbi. *(Interruptions)* Mr. Virumbi. *(Interruptions)* Please sit down for a minute. Mr. Virumbi, the discussion was over. You took too much time... *(Interruptions)* Just listen. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Madam, it is because of others... *(Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, you also took it which is recorded. The point is that the Home Minister also referred to what you are referring. That matter is closed now. We have moved into another business. Now, whatever you say will not become part of the record and it will not be reported in the newspapers, about which you are bothered.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we take up the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2000.

4.00 P.M

THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2000

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Madam, I move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Companies Act, 1956, as passed by the Lok Sabha be taken into consideration"

Madam, I am extremely grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to table the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2000 before this hon. House. At the very outset, I must state that on Monday, this Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha and about 40 amendments which had been suggested by the Standing Committee have been incorporated in this Bill. I am extremely grateful to the Members, and particularly, the Chairman of the Standing Committee, who very expeditiously and very thoroughly examined this Bill and suggested several changes to it which were unanimously accepted by the other House.

In 1996, the Government of India had constituted a Committee to go into the question of suggesting a comprehensive Company Law Bill. Suggestions were made and a report was received in August, 1997, which was referred to the Standing Committee on Finance because the comprehensive Bill ran into several hundred clauses. Last year, in 1999, the first part of the Bill was incorporated by way of an Ordinance, initially; and then approved by both Houses of Parliament. The 1999 Bill which has now become an Act had several major provisions; *inter alia*, it referred to a provision for sweat equity for employees, a provision for buy-back of shares, simplification of nomination facilities for legal heirs and representatives of deceased shareholders, enforcement of uniform accounting standards, and most important, the creation of an investor education fund. The suggestion was that unclaimed dividend lying with various companies as also interest which was unclaimed on various deposits in companies would go into the creation of an investor education fund.

[The Vice-Chairman (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA) in the Chair.]

Similarly, Sir, the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2000 has several important provisions. But the three most important provisions relate to transparency in corporate governance, improving the standards of corporate governance and also creating provisions for investor protection. I will just,