

RE: BOMBING ON CIVILIANS IN SRI LANKA

SHRI MISA R. GANESAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to raise a very important issue.

Madam, 'Operation Leap Forward', the Sri Lankan military offensive, on the Northern Sri Lanka began on the 9th July. In this Operation the Sri Lankan Government's aim was to fight against the rebels. We had nothing in it.

Madam, under the International Humanitarian Law, innocent civilians, women, children and disabled have to be spared. But, the Sri Lankan Government has failed to protect the innocent civilians in this Operation.

Civilians, including women and children who took refuge in St. Peter's Church in Navaly, were bombarded by the Sri Lankan military and they killed 65 women and children. The International Committee of the Red Cross, ICRC has condemned this tragedy.

Vatican has expressed its concern over the dastardly killing of women and children. Uptill now there has not been a single statement either from the Indian Government or from the External Affairs Ministry condemning the dastardly killing of women and children.

Indian has always acted with responsibility to defend the dignity and honour of those people who are helpless. Bangladesh, Namibia, South Africa, Vietnam and Palestinian are some of the nations who have won India's support for their cause. That glorious tradition is now lacking. Why? In many cases India had expressed its concern immediately. But in this case innocent women and children who took refuge in St. Peter's Church have been killed by the Sri Lankan military. So far, the Indian Government has not come out with any statement.

Madam, I request, the Indian Government through you to come out with a

statement and not to delay any further criticising the civilian killings. I also request the Central Government to mount diplomatic pressure on Sri Lanka to stop aerial bombing on civilian areas. India should unequivocally condemn the indiscriminate military onslaught on the civilians. Thank you.

SHRI S. MUTHU MANI (Tamil Nadu): Madam,....

SHRI K.K. VEERAPPAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, I want to associate myself with this issue.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Muthu Mani and Mr. Veerappan have also associated themselves with this issue.

SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, I also associate myself with this issue.

SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Madam, I also want to associate myself with this issue. Please give me one minute.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, You only associate yourself.

SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Madam, it is a very serious issue. With a very heavy heart, I, on behalf of my party, wish to refer to a very unfortunate and painful situation prevailing in the northern part of Sri Lanka.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. That is enough.

SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Indiscriminate bombing by the Sri Lankan defence forces on the civilian areas...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Muthu Mani, don't violate the rules.

SHRI S. MUTHU MANI:in the name of flushing out the militants has resulted in the killing of hundreds of civilians, mostly Tamils.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Muthu Mani, you only associate yourself.

SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: This pathetic situation is continuing and it is regrettable that the Government of India has

not even made a statement on the matter.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No speech, please. Mr. Muthu Mani, please.

SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: The Tamils living in that area have been starving due to non-supply of food in that region.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Muthu Mani, enough. Please sit down.

SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Even medicines are not being supplied. We are aware of the action taken by Shri Rajiv Gandhi through air-dropping of food packets during a similar situation in Sri Lanka.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Muthu Mani, please. Please sit down; otherwise, I will have to say that it is not going on record.

SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: In view of the seriousness of the situation, I demand that the Indian Government should immediately intervene in the matter and save the Tamils living in the Island. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are violating your own rules.

SHRI K.K. VEERAPPAN: Madam, it is a very sensitive issue. I request the Central Government to mount diplomatic pressure on the Sri Lankan Government for stopping the indiscriminate bombing by the Sri Lankan forces.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, I would like to associate myself with this issue to the extent that India should come out with a statement condemning the killings of innocent women and children especially when they took refuge in the Church.

But this should not be used as a platform to support the murderers of Rajiv Gandhi and some other banned organisations, as is being done in Tamil Nadu by one political party.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is not associating.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: The Central Government should take a stern view on this because this is being used as a platform. All of us condemn the killing of innocent Tamils in Sri Lanka. But a particular political party in Tamil Nadu is using this as a platform to support the banned organisations...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam Deputy Chairman, we wanted to associate ourselves with the Zero Hour Mention, but we are not allowed. Without notice, she is associating herself and you have permitted her. This is not fair....*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Zero Hour is over...*(Interruptions)*...Zero Hour is over...*(Interruptions)*...Now, Special Mentions.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Madam, I would like to say only one single sentence...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No. Now, we have the Special Mentions. Zero Hour is over...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: How did you allow Shrimati Natarajan? Our party has given a notice. Our Member, Shri Muthu Mani, gave a notice yesterday. He also gave a notice today, in the morning. You don't allow us.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Zero Hour is over.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: The point is, we gave a notice to associate ourselves. But we are not being allowed. And you allowed the two Members from the Congress party.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Zero Hour is over. Now, Shri Chimanbhai Mehta...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: There is no difference between the Sri Lankan Government and the LTTE. Both of them appear to be alike...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Madam, you are allowing the Congress Members to speak. We are also from Tamil Nadu. We also want to say something on this matter. We also gave a notice. But you are not permitting us...(Interruptions)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mehta, please speak.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA (Gujarat): They are not allowing me to speak. How can I speak?

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Madam, both Mrs. Natarajan and Mr. Narayanasamy are speaking without giving a notice. We gave a notice. Yesterday, our Member gave a notice. That has not been accepted and today you are allowing them even without a notice.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Swaminathan, please sit down.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: They are speaking on other subject. They are bringing in their association on all subjects. Then, we should also be allowed to speak. We should not be asked to sit down.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Swaminathan, please sit down. Mr. Mehta, please make your point.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Madam, this is a very sensitive topic and we should be allowed to speak.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I agree that this is a sensitive topic. But I cannot help it.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Our party is the ruling party in Tamil Nadu. We are eleven Members in this House. You at least allow us to associate ourselves. You are preventing us from associating ourselves with the matter.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have not prevented anybody and I will not prevent anybody.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Mr. Muthu Mani gave a notice yesterday.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I allowed him.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: In the morning also, he gave a notice.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He spoke and associated himself. I allowed him and he associated himself. You are not listening. That is the trouble.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Madam, I went out because I was asked by your Secretariat people in connection with an important matter...(Interruptions)...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: You are not watching the proceedings of the House and you say that your Members are not being allowed...(Interruptions)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Swaminathan, my Secretary-General never wanted you to come out of the House. She must have been asking you to come and sit in the House.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Some officers wanted to speak to me. It is not the Secretary-General. Some officers of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat wanted to speak to me on an important matter. That is why I went out and came back after meeting him.

RE. NEED TO POSTPONE ENFORCEMENT OF DELHI RENT CONTROL BILL

उपसभापति: श्री चिमनभाई मेहता। तीन मिनट में ऊपर बोलेंगे तो दूसरे को बुला लेंगी।

श्री चिमनभाई मेहता (गुजरात): जी हां, सम्मन गया।

उपसभापति: अब आप बहस मत कीजिए। बोलिए

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Madam, yesterday a very unusual thing happened. The Urban Affairs Minister, hon. Mrs. Sheila Kaulji, spoke to the Press and said that she was prepared to consider amendments to the Delhi Rent Control Bill after it came into force. I was really surprised by her statement. When the Government is moving in the