

Therefore, it is requested that Government of India may declare a special economic package for the upliftment and encouragement of such traditional cottage industries of bell metal which is an integral part of the cultural heritage of the region.

SHRI MANGALA KISAN (Orissa): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI KISHORE KUMAR MOHANTY (Orissa): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

**Need to take suitable steps to deal with the problems of
Sri Lankan Tamil Refugees in India**

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI (Tamil Nadu): Sir, since 1983, a large number of Sri Lankan Tamils affected by the ethnic violence in Sri Lanka have arrived on the Indian shores as refugees. At present, around 73,074 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees are staying in 114 settlements across the State of Tamil Nadu. Besides, 32,240 Sri Lankan Tamils are residing in Tamil Nadu as non-camp refugees. The Tamil Nadu Government has been providing all necessary assistance for their livelihood, cash doles, food etc. with the aid of the Centre.

As India is not a signatory to the 1951 UN Convention on Refugees and there is no specific law for refugees in India, their entry, stay and departure are regulated under the Foreigners Act, 1946. The Government of India has issued directions to deal with the categories of Sri Lankan Tamils who arrived in India under Order 370 dated 10.09.1996, which says that the Sri Lankans who arrived in India from January 1993 onwards may be dealt with in accordance with the existing legal provisions as applicable to any other foreigner. Sri Lankan Tamils poured into Tamil Nadu even after 1993 and it continues till date. The people who have come here after 1993 also have to be registered as refugees.

Hence, I request the Government of India to suitably bring in necessary directives to deal with the Sri Lankan Tamil refugees to avoid legal complications. This can be done by extending the deadline date so that it includes continual arrival of Sri Lankan Tamils till otherwise provided for. I would also request the Central Government to extend citizenship to the Sri Lankan Tamil refugees, as requested by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. Many of them have lived in Tamil Nadu for more number of years than they have lived in their own soil.

....(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI A.A. JINNAH (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.