

[Shrimati Ila Bhattacharya]

Sex-appeal is also spreading like anything through films. Our youth is being misguided through scenes of murders and cheating in films.

It is the plan of vested interests to encourage perversion in society. Greedy business men are interested in profits only. That is why they have produced films based on rapes. In the newspapers we come across the incidents of rape daily. Such films help spread rape cases in the country. They are making our youth adopt sub-cultures. So, obscene films must be banned.

The business men in our country are killing two birds with one stone. One the one hand, they are earning lakhs of rupees and, on the other, they are poisoning the minds of our youth through obscene films so that they cannot think of their future and the future of the nation. The business men want that our youth should not be inspired by socialist movement. They also want that our youth should not lead the nation to the path of socialism.

The present Bill seeks to stop video shows. Today our country is flooded with video shows.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. The time is over now.

SHRIMATI ILA BHATTACHARYA: There are many points to be raised here. This is a very important issue

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Then continue after some time.

STATEMENT RE. SITUATION IN SRI LANKA

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now the statement by hon. Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, recent developments in Sri Lanka are causing us

deep concern. There have been reports of sharp deterioration in the security situation in the Northern part of Sri Lanka, resulting in large-scale loss of human life and property. There have also been reports of encounters between Sri Lankan State security forces and Tamil militants. The Sri Lanka security forces have suffered some casualties. Two Naval personnel are reported to have been killed in the violence and a senior police official died in his office in a bomb explosion. Loss of Tamil lives and property have been far greater. There have been reports of large-scale arrests in the Northern province. It has been reported that the town of Velvettiturai has been extensively shelled by the Sri Lankan Navy causing very heavy loss of life and property there. A very large number of people have been rendered homeless and are accommodated in school buildings and elsewhere. These tragic happenings have caused deep agony and shock.

As the House is aware, We have repeatedly expressed our opposition to all forms of violence and have reaffirmed our support for Sri Lanka's integrity and unity. We have taken all steps to curb any activities which may be directed against Sri Lanka from our soil. The Prime Minister has condemned the outrage at the Madras Airport on 2 August 1984, in which 29 persons died. It is, therefore, both deplorable and regrettable that responsible leaders of Sri Lanka continue to make baseless allegations against India for providing sanctuary and support to Tamil militants. I would like to reiterate once again that such false and unfounded allegations can only create unnecessary misunderstanding in the relations between the two countries.

At a time when the All Parties Conference is continuing, any escalation or confrontation of this nature would only jeopardise the political dialogue going on at present. The current situation in Northern Sri Lanka is tense and disturbed and calls for concerted

and sincere efforts for reconciliation. It is our hope that greater restraint and understanding will prevail, which can bring about an atmosphere free of communal tension and conducive to the efforts of the leaders of all parties and communities in Sri Lanka to achieve a lasting political solution.

Two days ago, President Jayewardene sent a message to our Prime Minister concerning these happenings. The Prime Minister has sent a reply in which she has, once again, emphasised the necessity of the utmost restraint on the part of all concerned and determined pursuit of the political process to find a viable and acceptable solution.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Dipen Ghosh.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, just now I have gone through the statement I given by the Minister of State for External Affairs and it can be termed as a 'general statement'. The happenings which are taking place in Sri Lanka particularly against the Sri Lankan Tamils in the name of flushing out militants or terrorists, whatever they call, is a very serious matter. As you know, Sir, in India there are imperialist forces and foreign hands behind the terrorists activities. This fact was also admitted by the Prime Minister herself. But in Sri Lanka we can see the imperialist forces are behind the Government to curb this so-called terrorist activities. You know, Sir, openly the Sri Lankan Government had invited the Israeli counter revolutionary agency—MOSAD to operate in that country to curb the so-called terrorist activities. The British mercenaries were also invited to curb the terrorist activities. All this could not have taken place without the approval or patronage of C.I.A. So it is very evident who are the imperialist forces behind the Sri Lankan Government, attacking on the human rights of the Sri Lankan Tamils. In the case of terrorist activities in our

country though our Government has been mentioning or has been admitting that there are foreign hands behind it—have not named these agencies. In this statement it is completely absent. It is not such a simple matter as it has been sought to be projected in this statement. It has been mentioned that some action has been taken against some Tamil militants, you know, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please come to the point.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: I am coming to the point.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please finish your speech in two or three minutes.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Sir, it is a very serious matter and we want a full discussion.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): In Lok Sabha they are having full discussion.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: If you agree we can have a full discussion.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please finish in three minutes.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: There is state inspired violence which is being perpetrated against the Sri Lankan Tamils. Sir, you know, this House was seized of this matter when in the name of prevention of terrorist activities, powers were given to the security forces there to kill, to murder people and to dispose of the dead bodies without any inquest or without any post-mortem. So naturally those security forces are now shelling, as it has been mentioned here.

Another thing is, the problems of the Sri Lankan Tamils, the Sixth Amendment of the Constitution which disenfranchised some three million Tamils and then the question of another one million Tamil workers in tea plantations who have not yet been given citizenship rights, those issues are still there. Now the Sri Lankan Government is trying to say that terrorist activities are going on and they are

[Shri Dipen Ghosh]

going to divide the State. We are opposed to any divisive or separatist activities. But actually they are fighting for autonomy. And in order to circumvent the settlement of that important political issue, they are doing all these things. So, my point is that when on the last 9th May, we were discussing this matter in the Rajya Sabha, the then Foreign Affairs Minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao had stated:

"We are not playing the role of a big brother. We are playing the role of a peaceful neighbour, a friendly neighbour, ready and waiting to help Sri Lanka because as an adjacent house, their problem becomes our problem."

So I want specifically to know from the hon. Minister of State for External Affairs what concrete steps the Government of India, as a neighbour, as the owner of the adjacent house, has taken to protect the rights of the Sri Lankan Tamils, to protect the human rights of the people there. This is my specific question. The Amnesty International had expressed its concern over the curbing of human rights question. This is a question of abolishing the human rights. So what specific steps has the Central Government taken or is proposing to take? Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The reply will be at the end. There are so many speakers. Shri M. S. Ramachandran.

SHRI M. S. RAMACHANDRAN (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Deputy Chairman, I am sorry that the statement made by the hon. Minister has not taken into consideration the feelings of the people of Tamil Nadu, who are so close to Sri Lanka. I do not dispute that we should continue to adopt a policy in favour of the unity and integrity of Sri Lanka. At the same time, we have a moral obligation and a moral duty towards the people of Indian origin, particularly the Tamil-speaking people. A few weeks ago we had been talking about the human rights of the Tamil minority group in

Sri Lanka. Sir, now a stage has come when we have to consider the very existence of the Tamil-speaking minority in Sri Lanka. We are working for a political solution. But what is happening in Sri Lanka? They are not sincere even in going ahead with the proceedings of the round table conference. Every time a date is fixed or a date is likely to be fixed, on one pretext or the other, whether there is really any mindless terrorist activity on the part of the Tamil militants there or not, it is postponed. The people in the South, particularly the people in Tamil Nadu believe that this is being used as a pretext. I can understand a minor incident here or some local police operation there. But the army or the whole navy using gun-fire against the whole place which has a predominant Tamil population, this is nowhere heard of in human history. This is something deliberate. The act perpetrated by the Government there using force, using their regular army against an ethnic minority, this is nowhere heard of. It is true we want a peaceful solution, we want a political solution. But in the process how many more lives are we going to allow to be sacrificed? That is the question. We may be talking high Philosophy and high ideals. But when their brothers and sisters are being killed, massacred, raped and towns are razed and thousands are rendered homeless, how can we expect the people of Tamil Nadu to be just silent spectators saying that we are still working for a political solution? I would therefore ask the honourable Minister: How long are we going to wait for a political solution? If we are doing something to expedite a political solution, well and good. But there is no political solution in sight and more and more violence is being perpetrated on the innocent Tamils in spite of the strong world opinion against the perpetrators. Everybody has condemned what is happening there, including those powers whom we consider as being friendly to them, whom we consider

as indulging in all sorts of disruptive activities all over Asia. Even in those countries they have said that something should be done about what is happening in Sri Lanka. In spite of this strong world opinion, in spite of our offer of friendship and our offer for a negotiated settlement they do not stop, they do not seem to realise the gravity of the situation. From the speeches of their leaders, like Premadasa, the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, it is very clear that they are determined, to eradicate the Tamil population from that country. I would therefore ask the honourable Minister to tell us what concrete steps is the Government going to take to bring about a real political solution and that too at the earliest opportunity and before many more lives are lost.

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am really very sorry to have to indicate certain things after going through the statement. First of all, not even a single day passes without seeing reports of incidents in Sri Lanka, that Sri Lankan Government is fighting against the Tamil minority population there. If it has been happening for one year or for a particular period of time, then we can say that it has happened unexpectedly. But for the past twenty-five years this has been going on in Sri Lanka and the Sri Lankan Government, along with its army and navy, is completely wiping away people of Tamil origin from the northern part of Ceylon. Before I deal with the various aspects of this situation I would like to say that it is a tale of two countries and this tale is going on for the past twenty-five years with so many instances of killings which nobody can narrate easily. The Tamil wanted a separate State. I am not going to enter into the merits and demerits of their claim. Of course, when the Tamil minority population which is in majority in the northern part of that particular country wants to sever its connection with that particular country, wants to come away,

there will be some feeling on the part of that Government, the Ceylon Government. But it does not mean that they should send their army, that they should send their navy, and completely wipe out the Tamil population. I find six important points in the statement; Firstly, it is stated that the Sri Lanka security forces have suffered some casualties whereas the loss of Tamil lives and property have been far greater. This clearly indicates how much and how greatly the Tamil population is suffering at the hands of not only the Sri Lankan army but also at the hands of the Sri Lanka Navy. It looks as if all the three forces, their entire armed forces have joined together to wipe out the Tamil population. It is a battle between a country's Government and its Tamil minority group which is a majority population in its northern parts which stakes claim for that particular part. Then it is stated that the town of velvetturai has been extensively shelled by the Sri Lankan Navy. It means the Navy has already entered there, the Army has already entered there and they are also expecting some Air Force, to wipe out the Tamil population. And finally it is stated that a very large number of people have been rendered homeless and are accommodated in school buildings and elsewhere. The entire ten lakh population who are residing in the northern part of the country are expected to stay in school buildings and other Government buildings. What is the reason for this? In spite of all this, the Government of Ceylon says that the Government of India is responsible the Government of Tamil Nadu is responsible for all sorts of complications.

Our Prime Minister two days back, sent a message to the President of Sri Lanka emphasising the necessity for utmost restraint on the part of all concerned and determined pursuit of the political process to find a viable and acceptable solution.

While appreciating that timely message sent by the Prime Minister, what in fact I want to tell the Prime Minis-

(Shri R. Mohanaragam)

ter through you, is that this cannot be solved very easily by sending messages of this kind. This can be solved only by taking prompt action. It may be said that it is an internal affair. No, Sir, it is not an internal affair. The northern part of Ceylon is part and parcel of India. If anybody disputes that I can say that it was divided or segregated only 3,000 to 4,000 years ago or 10,000 years before. That is why the Tamil population is in majority in the northern part of Sri Lanka and that is why they want a separate State.

Sir, as I said in the beginning I am not going into the merits and demerits of this issue. But what about the human rights of these people? Please consider the problem from the humanitarian point of view. Consider the rules and regulations of human rights. Is it not the duty of the Government of India to look at the problem and see that the Tamil minority population is not wiped out from the northern part of Sri Lanka where 5,000 years ago Tamilians went and settled and shed their sweat, blood and tears for its development. This is the position. Should you not go to the help of the Tamil population there?

Now I come to my specific question. Even though technically it is not the duty of the Government of India, morally I think it is the duty of the Government of India to save the Tamil population in Sri Lanka. That is why I would like to know from the Prime Minister what positive action she has taken to save the Tamil population apart from sending messages to the Government of Sri Lanka.

SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA (Haryana): Sir, I do not have words strong enough to condemn this atrocious happening in Sri Lanka and to condemn Sri Lankan Government when it uses its army, its navy and its police forces for killing innocent people mercilessly. We condemned it when it was done in Punjab. No States has the right to use its armed

force against its own people, whether it is in India or any other foreign country. The Army is meant to resist aggression and to defend the country's borders and not to kill its own innocent people, its unarmed people. What happened in Sri Lanka cannot be condoned in any manner.

The account that has been given by the Hon'ble Minister is like a tame sort of press report without giving any direction in which the Government is thinking. We in this country must ensure the protection of innocent lives in Sri Lanka because it is so closely situated to India that peace and stability of that country are of vital importance to our own country. Apart from that, the Tamil population which occupies the northern and eastern parts of Sri Lanka has got close affinity to people living in India and what is happening there is bound to have reaction in our own country.

Therefore, I would request the Government to take strong measures in this direction. When we can condemn apartheid in South Africa or genocide anywhere in the world, we should with equal force condemn what is happening in Sri Lanka because it is an open and naked attempt to annihilate the Tamil population there and make them homeless and destroy them completely. Their women and children are undergoing untold sufferings. I would request the Government to take a positive line of action and adopt a positive line of thinking and go to the rescue of those people, if not militarily, at least morally by raising the issue in the United Nations so that the world body goes to their rescue. After all United Nations is meant to protect the human rights in any part of the world. They cannot turn their eyes from what is happening in Sri Lanka. It is a very serious problem and I hope the Government would not shirk its responsibility, because shirking of its responsibility today will spell disaster tomorrow.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Rajasthan): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the context of this statement by the honourable Prime Minister is the considerable deterioration in India's relations with all its neighbours and perhaps for the first time since the arrival of the Portuguese in this region the recent activation of our Southern borders. It is a very unusual situation and naturally, we share the concern of the Government over this kind of a development.

Now, Sir, our attempt as a country—of course the Government is entrusted with the task—is to reconcile (a) the activation of our Southern borders about which I have spoken just now and (b) a very genuine and a very real concern about the human rights about the sentiments of the Tamil population, whether it is in India or of the people of Indian origin in Sri Lanka and indeed of the country as a whole with the integrity of Sri Lanka. This is to be simultaneously reconciled with what our Government has pronounced earlier and which it repeats now, that is that we are concerned about the integrity of Sri Lanka. And, finally, Sir, there is the question of Indo-Sri Lankan relations. Now, it is these various concerns which constitute some of the factors which go towards complicating the present or today's already complicated situation. In that context, the response of the Government of India, if I may say so with your permission, was somewhat unusual. It was unusual and because it was unusual, it was fraught with danger. We chose to arbitrate, we chose to advise and we chose to mediate, with an emissary of the Prime Minister. It was a novel method and it was unusual and, therefore it created both in Tamil Nadu and also in Sri Lanka, possibly expectations, because of the very unusual nature of the step that was being taken, which expectations were perhaps misplaced. Now, it is in that

background that the recent developments in Sri Lanka are taking place.

Sir, I have four specific clarifications to seek from the honourable Prime Minister as the Prime Minister has mentioned, Sir, the President of Sri Lanka, Shri Jayewardene, sent a communication about the recent occurrences in Sri Lanka. I am not asking for that which is obviously confidential or which the Prime Minister might not like to divulge. But I would like to know one thing: Was it merely a factual narration of what was taking place because, surely, a communication coming from the President of Sri Lanka would not be what is ordinarily contained in newspapers? Was it a mere factual narration or was it more than a factual narration which the statement has mentioned? What did that communication from President Jayewardene contain which could throw some more light on the evolving situation there?

Now, Sir there is a sentence used here in the honourable Prime Minister's statement which says, "viable and acceptable solution" What we had come to understand earlier, and which the Government of India earlier subscribed to as a viable and acceptable solution, was perhaps greater autonomy to district councils, etc. Is it that by which the Government of India still stands and what is the Government of India's thinking on "a viable and acceptable solution"?

Then, Sir, there are reports, in the Sri Lankan context, about British assistance and about British mercenaries to be employed, about Israeli mercenaries, in the context of the recent Meenambakkam Airport explosion, and there was also a speculation that possibly there was the hand of the Israeli elements in that. Now, what is the Government of India's information, as far as the British mercenaries are concerned, as far as the Israeli elements are concerned?

[Shri Jaswant Singh]

Finally, Sir, is not a fresh initiative going to be taken by the Prime Minister and the Government of India? Thank you, Sir.

6.00 P.M.

श्री राम नरेश कृशवाह (उत्तर प्रदेश) : माननीय उपसभापति जी, पंजाब की घटनाओं में यह बात बार-बार आई है कि वहाँ के उपवासियों को विदेशी शक्तियाँ मदद कर रही हैं। श्री लंका में जो कुछ हो रहा है उसके बारे में भी कहा जा रहा है कि विदेशी शक्तियों का हाथ है। तो क्या इन दोनों में कोई तारतम्य है क्या ये एक ही शक्तियाँ तो नहीं हैं जो वहाँ भी उपद्रव कराके और सरकार की ओर से दमन कराके हमको संग करना चाहती हैं और हिन्दुस्तान में भी ऐसा ही करा रही हैं? अगर ऐसा है तो फिर उन शक्तियों के खिलाफ सरकार क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है ?

दूसरी बात, कुछ दिनों से विदेशों में जो भारतीय मूल के लोग हैं वे इस समय ऐसे संकट में हैं कि हर जगह से उनको हटाने की कोशिश हो रही है। बर्मा से हटा दिये गये हैं, इंग्लैंड का नया नागरिकता का कामून इसलिये बना है कि उनको वहाँ से हटाया जा सके, अन्य जगहों से भी ऐसी ही खबरें हैं। ऐसा आसन्न संकट भारतीय मूल के लोगों पर आया हुआ है, और हर जगह से उनको हटाया जा रहा है। तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि हमारी सरकार किस प्रकार से इसका निराकरण करने की सोचती है, इसको भी बताने की कृपा करें ?

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the Army and the Navy have waged an undeclared war on the Tamil community. It is worse than the Nazi annihilation. Sir, in the name of integrity of the country the troops of Yahya Khan marched to crush the innocent population

in East Pakistan, in the name of sovereignty the troops marched there to crush the innocent people. When they were shedding tears and blood it is our beloved Madam Prime Minister who sent the troops to rescue those innocent people. (Interruptions) Don't interrupt. We are crying. I fall at the feet of the Central Government...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please go on.

AN HON. MEMBER: It is a serious matter. (Interruptions) ..

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: I fall at the feet of the Central Government. It is not for political purposes. We are suffering. (Interruptions)

When those people were crying, our Prime Minister sent troops and rescued them. Similarly, when the Palestinians were crying, it is our Government which recognized the PLO. We received Arafat. I really salute the efforts of the Government. Now, Sir, here is a country, Sir Lanka, where the entire Tamil community is going to be annihilated and wiped out. Jayawardene wanted to buy time. He is a clever jackal. He is succeeding in his attempts. Sir, the entire town Velvettithurai, which is the birth-place of the great hero Kuttimani, the birth-place of Prabakaran, Commander of the Liberation Army—the entire town, small town, has been razed to the ground. Hundreds of youths have been killed. Within 12 months more than 25000 youths from Sri Lanka, Tamil youth, due to the exodus, are now—stranded in the streets of Western Europe and also in Tamil Nadu. Sir, now they are crying for succour and help from this country. From this country. It is our duty to protect them. It is our duty to save them.

Sir, when Mr. Premadasa made a statement on the very floor of the House of Sri Lanka Parliament posing a challenge to the Government of India, making accusations against our

Government, we never responded. We have been so cautious. But we should not be concerned about the diplomatic niceties and foreign relations. We should be concerned about human rights. When human rights were violated, we should raise the banner of Human Rights. Now they are dying. They are killed. And I will beg to you, Members, don't equate the situation of Punjab with the situation in Sri Lanka. During the past 35 years they are treated like slaves, like animals. Don't equate the situation of Punjab. It is totally different. For the past 35 years they have tried all their means—democratic, peaceful means—but failed. So now they have been pushed to that corner to take up arms. They are not terrorists. The US imperialists are saying the same thing that they are terrorists. When I met the State Department people at Washington on the 5th of the last month, they were telling the same story which was supplied to them by Jayawardene. But they are not terrorists they are freedom fighters. If they are called terrorists, then Bhagat Singh is also a terrorist, then our forefathers who took up arms and guns against the British are also terrorists. They have been pushed to that corner because thousands of innocent people are killed. Our sisters and mothers are raped in the streets. So, they have taken up arms. Now they are fighting. But the entire Army and Navy are invading the Tamil areas and the innocent people are being killed. They are turning their eyes towards this country, towards this piece of land. We are also crying. It is high time to take action. If you delay action, the community will be wiped out. They will be wiped out. I beg of you, Madam Prime Minister, to give an ultimatum to that country. Not just a statement. The statement is totally disappointing. The statement is a betrayal of Tamilians. You give an ultimatum. I beg of you to tell them that unless they stop the genocide, the diplomatic relations will be cut off. If the massacre is carried on

even after that, then the same operation which you took in Bangladesh should be taken. We expect, the 50 million tamilians expect, you to undertake the same operation which you undertook in Bangladesh. You will be like Durga. When you took action in Bangladesh, the people called you 'Durga of India.' On the other hand, if you don't take any steps to help them and to save them, our posterity will not forgive this Government. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, no words are enough to condemn the barbarities committed on the Tamil population in Sri Lanka—barbarities which border on genocide. It is so unfortunate that these atrocities are committed on a population which has contributed so much to the Ceylonese economy and prosperity. But I wonder, in this complex and sensitive situation, what the Government can do more than what has already been done. It is natural for us to get emotional and agitated over the plight of the people there. But we are dealing with a Government there which is patently dishonest and with leaders who never live up to their words. They come here and say something. But they do something else when they return. I, therefore, wonder what we can do in the present situation. Mr. Gopalsamy's suggestion for severance of diplomatic relations might further complicate the matter. We will lose what ever channel we have to deal with that Government. Therefore, I feel that the time has come for us to take the issue to the international forums like the United Nations and the Human Rights Commission in order to bring pressure on them through these international agencies. I think that is the only thing which we can do in the circumstances, short of war which my friend has suggested and which we cannot obviously do. Thank you.

SHRI S. W. DHABE (Maharashtra): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, it is very serious situation and if we delay

[Shri S. W. Dhabe]

action, it will lead to annihilation of the entire Tamil population. The Times of India report today says (it is not mentioned in the statement):

"...as the security crackdown in the north entered the fourth day, over 2,000 people of Valvattithurai had taken shelter in five schools. Over 50 per cent of the houses had been damaged in shelling by the forces. Naval ships were also used to shell the town. A Hindu temple and a school were among the buildings damaged."

These atrocities have been going on for four days and the immediate task which is before the country is that the people of Indian origin must be saved. Therefore, my first question is what timely action we are going to take immediately to save the population. Though the statement in very much restrained as it is bound to be restrained in the situation, it is very essential that, as leader of the Non-Aligned Movement, we should save our own people nearby the country. If we cannot save our own people, then the whole world will laugh at us. It is a clear case of genocide and violation of human rights. What steps are we going to take for intervention of international agencies or any other agency to save the people from genocide, apart from their demand regarding the problem which is internal. Thirdly, the whole problem is that the Government there are employing trained terrorists to wipe out the population. This is a very serious matter. It is not that the terrorists are used against the Government. The Government are using them against the minority community in Sri Lanka. The minorities there are being attacked by the Forces there and also by trained personnel.

Therefore, my submission and my request to the hon. Prime Minister is that she must rise to the occasion and see that the Tamil people of Sri Lanka get justice. And whatever steps they want to take, they may not tell us, but action must be taken immediately.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI (Maharashtra): As Indian parliamentary delegation should be sent to Sri Lanka. That is my suggestion.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY (Nominated): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the Sri Lankan Government has gone barbarian from democratic norms. The Government has taken an unusual step of waging a war against its own people. About the genocide that is going on against the Tamils, we do not find any words to condemn. But it must come to an end. The Government there is waging a war through its Navy and Army. And the peculiarity is that the State Ministry confirmed that the Navy patrol opened fire on suspected Tamil militants on beaches around Velvetthurai and destroyed a large number of fishing boats. It is both from the sea and the land that the Government is fighting against the minorities there, who are their own people, who are the citizens of Sri Lanka.

In this connection, Sir, I would like to say that though the statement made by the hon. Minister is restrained, the people of Tamil Nadu do understand the steps that the Government of India has taken, do understand that it is only our hon. Prime Minister who can solve the problem of Tamils in Sri Lanka. If at all there is any hope for Tamils in Sri Lanka, any hope for the people in Tamil Nadu that the problem would be settled in a better way, it is only in our Madam Prime Minister. In Tamil Nadu, if I may say so, for the past two years they have been looking upon our Madam Prime Minister that she would definitely solve the problem. And Tamil Nadu is grateful for whatever steps that the Government of India has taken so far to solve the problem. But, as one hon. Member has rightly put it, the other Government must respond in a proper way. And we are dealing with a Government which does not respond, we are dealing with a Government which does not keep its words, and we are dealing with a Government which has no norms, which has no respect for human considerations. And our Government and our Madam Prime

Minister have repeatedly reaffirmed their support for Sri Lanka's integrity and unity. Still, even though human rights question has been raised on the floor of the House in Sri Lankan Parliament, genocide is going on repeatedly. And it is going on after a lapse of every two or three months. And it is being repeated after a lapse of three days of whatever talks that take place between their own leaders and our mediation. Sir this genocide which is being repeated must be put an end to. Sir, I do appreciate the restrained statement. And, at the same time, beyond the statement, it is time, Sir, that the Government of India should take steps to see to it that the genocide is put an end to. Only Madam Prime Minister can do it. And the Tamils believe that she only can save the Tamils there, even though a little bit of politicalising the situation is there in Tamil Nadu. That doesn't matter. The Prime Minister is the only ray of hope for all the Tamils, all over the world, and in Tamil Nadu and in Sri Lanka in particular.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, the Hon. Minister.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: An Indian parliamentary delegation must go there. It is our demand. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI PARVATHANENI UP-
ENDA: Sir, the Prime Minister is present here. She may... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has made the statement. Let him reply.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, in view of the gravity of the situation, we would request the Prime Minister to...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mirdha made the statement, so let him reply.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Sir, the Government fully shares the concern expressed by the hon. Members on the situation that is developing in Sri Lanka at present. We will not go

into the long history of this problem, but the disturbances in Sri Lanka last year resulted in great destruction of life and property and a large number of refugees, 40,000 came to our country. That is not the only reason why we feel concerned about it. We have long ties with the Tamil speaking people living in Sri Lanka and we greatly value them. But the type of disturbances that took place there have serious repercussions in our own country. Our own citizens were killed there and these disturbances bring a lot of tension in our neighbourhood which we certainly do not like to have. These and various other reasons compel us to have a deep and abiding interest and concern in what is happening in Sri Lanka and whatever has been said, we fully share the sentiments of the hon. Members because it is really a serious matter that people with great affinity, our own people, are being subjected to a type of regime which we would rather not like them to do.

Well, Sir, various points have been raised by the hon. Members which I will try to reply as far as possible. Mention was made about the British and Israeli intelligence presence in Sri Lanka. Well, Sir, it is our information that Israel has been permitted to open an interest section in Sri Lanka with the United States playing the role of protecting power. According to Sri Lanka Government leaders they are seeking the assistance of Israel, including Israeli intelligence agency, Mossad, to combat terrorism. Well, Sir, we have conveyed our serious concern about the induction of foreign intelligence and security forces in our region and we will continue to do so. We totally disapprove of it and we take a serious view of this new development in our region. As regards the British presence, well, Sir, our information is that British experts are providing commando and other training to Sri Lanka security forces. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Are they British troops or mercenaries?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: The British Government has denied that their forces are there. It seems to be mercenaries who are going there to train. But there are British experts. They are not Government servants of the British Government. But they are there to train Sri Lankan security forces. Well, Sir, this development is very ominous one and we take a very serious view of this thing. Well, Sir, as regards taking the matter to the United Nations or the Human Rights Commission, I would like to state that the Human Rights Commission in Geneva is already seized of the matter. The Government has not moved in the matter, but a number of other organisations have approached them and they are seized of all the petitions that have gone to them in this respect. We are watching as to what things are going to take place there.

Well, Sir, as regards the ultimate solution, we have always felt that all the violence that is taking place on the part of our militant friends, our Tamil speaking people there, is basically because not enough progress is made in the political consultations which alone can lead to a solution of this nature. It is not our concern in a way as to what ultimate solution emerges out of those consultations or all-party conference that is going on there. But we do feel that that process should be stepped up so that a solution that is acceptable to all the parties concerned in Sri Lanka is arrived at the earliest time. We have constantly told about this to the Sri Lanka Government. The latest communication from the Prime Minister also stresses this and I would like to assert and say that the only solution to the whole thing lies in a political solution that is satisfactory, that is acceptable, that is viable for the people living in Sri Lanka. And we do hope that efforts will continue. Talks have sometimes been stalled; the last meeting was in July; now they are meeting a few days from now in the all-party conference,

and we do hope that the consultations that will go along there, would bear some results so that some real solution is found about the whole matter.

One thing I would like to tell my hon. friends, particularly, Shri Gopal-samy from Tamil Nadu. He said it is the voice of the 50 million people of Tamil Nadu. It is not so. It is the voice of the whole people of India and I would urge on the hon. Member not to confine his remarks, not to confine the ambit of this problem to Tamil Nadu. Even we feel as concerned as our brothers and sisters in Tamil Nadu about the whole thing and it is a national issue, as is apparent from the number of hon. Members from various places, from various States, who have participated in this discussion. It is not a question of Tamil Nadu at all; it is a question of whole of India. The interest of India is involved in what is happening there. Our Prime Minister is fully concerned about this issue; she has taken a lot of initiative; she is in touch with the world leaders in this respect and she is telling them our efforts that we are making, and they have appreciated those efforts. All I can say is, our efforts in this direction will continue and whatever feelings in this House are, we fully share them and we will resolutely put forward our viewpoint so that a viable solution is found of the ethnic situation in Sri Lanka and the Tamil-speaking people get their due right and recognition of their existence.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): I have little to add to what my colleague has said. We have discussed this matter before and we have all condemned what has been happening against the Tamil-speaking people in Sri Lanka whether they are now Sri Lankan citizens or whether they are Indian citizens. There is no doubt that the Sri Lankan Tamils are under great peril. There are a few terrorists; but I think the House knows that the vast majority are perfectly peaceful citizens wanting to live their

normal everyday lives. But the ones who have been killed—may be a few terrorists have been caught and killed—a majority of those killed are these peaceful citizens. On an earlier occasion when the trouble took place in Colombo, Kandy and other areas, many of them were Indian citizens. We are deeply anxious, not merely because what is happening is a bad thing, a condemnable happening in a neighbouring country with whom we have good and friendly relations but also because our own citizens were involved and harassed. Their properties were completely destroyed and so on. As an hon. Member has said, this is a very complex situation. It is not similar—as you rightly remarked—it has nothing to do with nor has anything in common with the situation in Punjab. It has also no similarity with the situation in Bangladesh. Here you have to know how the Tamil population is spread out in Sri Lanka. You say you want action. Firstly, we are another country. Secondly, whatever action we take, must help the Tamils and not harm their cause. This is what I have been trying to stress from the beginning, that what we do must indeed save them and not precipitate their annihilation. This is why it is an extremely delicate situation. There is no question of acting as referee, as one hon. Member has said. We cannot referee for another country on something that is taking place outside our borders. We offered our good offices because we saw the situation going out of hand and we felt if we could help to defuse the tension and get them talking together, that might decrease tension and hostility. Initially, if the President had not agreed to anybody going from India, we could not have sent the person. Hon. Members want to send a Parliamentary delegation. This is not in our hands. It is a question of what the other country will agree to do. The President of Sri Lanka agreed and we were glad, he did so. We were able to put our point of view to him strongly. We had other occasions to discuss these matters with him and with other

Ministers. But I am sure, Hon. Members will appreciate that if we say or do anything that irritates the majority community in Sri Lanka, it will not help the Tamils, specially those who are scattered in other parts. There are Sri Lankan Tamils in the northern part and it is true that everything is being done to uproot them. Initially they were in a majority even in the Eastern province. By colonisation and by settling Sinhala people there, the majority has been reduced. These problems exist. The other Tamils who are in the plantations are completely spread out and defenceless. This is an extremely complex situation.

Somebody spoke of acceptability. The question is not of a solution being acceptable to us, but acceptable to the Tamil organisations in Sri Lanka as well as to others. If the other parties do not accept, no solution will work. Therefore, what we were attempting was, without interfering, trying to get them to come to some agreement. I think, hon. Members will appreciate that this is not easy. People do not like others coming into the picture; specially, in such a situation. Sri Lanka could have asked for our help. On an earlier occasion, they did ask for our help in an emergency. We reacted immediately and we helped them out in a very brief time. But this time they chose to approach other countries, quite far off countries. The initial reaction of most of these countries was to ask what India thought. But it is true that afterwards, the Sri Lanka Government has received British help. These are not mercenaries, but are giving training largely to their police. It is quite true that the Israeli agency Mossad has been called in. We know about their activities in other parts of the world. Naturally we are certainly worried about the atrocities. We are worried about human rights. But we are also worried about the reaction in our own country. We have 40,000 refugees. Therefore, the tension grows. When people are threatened in the Jaffna area or the Northern province some of them want to cross over to India. We have blamed sheltering

[Shrimati Indira Gandhi]

them. But we are not encouraging any militant activity. We have assured the Sri Lanka Government that we are against terrorism and we do not think that this kind of terrorism is going to work. This is not merely an ideal. We have also to take a practical view of the effect of terrorism. We have laws in this country and we told the Sri Lanka Government that we have to observe our laws.

An hon. Member suggested that our sending an emissary has led to aggravating the situation. This is a most unfair comment and a wrong interpretation of the situation. Our emissary was able to defuse the situation at that moment. People were being killed. And this stopped. There was a desire to see whether an agreement could be reached. But now, their opinion seems to have changed. May be it was pressure from the other side. To me, it seems exceedingly strange this religion which has laid the greatest stress on compassion and in a country which has made it the State religion, such violence should take place, and that the people who profess this faith should be so ruthless and, if I may say so, non-Buddhist in their actions. Of all religions, Buddhism is one of compassion, peace and harmony. The Human Rights Commission, Amnesty International and various other international organizations are seized of this matter. Hon'ble Members will also remember that our request was not to send our people. The International Red Cross cannot go into such matters but the Red Cross League which is connected with the Red Cross does look into such matters. We asked that international body be allowed to go and see conditions. At that time it was not only the killing, arson and looting in cities like Colombo, Kandy, etc. According to our reports the state of the refugee camps was dreadful. There was no food, no medicine, there was discrimination in the treatment of people who had been badly wounded. But even this international body was not allowed. This is the situation

which we are facing. In this situation while we certainly have to think of what more we can do, at the same time we must be restrained so that we do not make the situation worse for those people. If something goes wrong, it is not we who will suffer, but the people who are in Sri Lanka, the Tamils. They were the first settlers there and later on went those who are now the Sinhala people from Bengal or Orissa, I do not know from which area they went. We have now to create an atmosphere in which these people can be saved and can get their due rights. As the hon. Member opposite pointed out, this matter is not new. It started the day when in their Constitution they made a distinction between the two communities and definitely said that one community was better citizen or first-class citizen than the others. They did not have the same rights. The Tamils are asking that they should enjoy the same rights. The Tamils are asking country where they have always lived and which they have served devotedly. Although we feel anger and sorrow, in our words and in our actions we must also show better understanding of the totality of the situation. We must use restraint and look at the long term effect of our actions. Quite honestly, it is not easy to know what to do in such a situation. We must think about this together. We must hope and try to convince the international opinion.

Some hon. Members have referred to statements of certain individuals who are in positions of authority in Sri Lanka. I do not want to take their names. These statements are completely baseless and, if I may say so, quite irresponsible. They are against me personally, against the Central Government, the Tamil Nadu Government and India as a whole. At a time when we are showing the greatest restraint, at a time when we are doing everything possible to help the Sri Lankan Government to settle their problem. We assured them that we do not want to upset their Government, we do not want to help their

enemies, but unless they give some justice to the Tamils there, giving them some feeling of justice, this situation will not be solved. Yet they have approached all these other foreign powers.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Madam Prime Minister, you have shown utmost restraint, but this is the time to express our concern and protest against these atrocities.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: We have already protested and expressed our concern.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Over the last two days' killings.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Continuously, whenever anything happens.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Is there involvement of any US agency?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Not to our knowledge.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now Smt. Ila Bhattacharya. You have already taken ten minutes. You can take two or three minutes more. There is no time. Your party had 7 minutes only. You have already taken 10 minutes. So you may take two minutes more.

THE CINEMATOGRAPH (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1984—contd.

***SHRIMATI ILA BHATTACHARYA:** I was telling, Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, uncensored films are being shown along with censored films. Consequently, video-parlours have sprung up like anything in our country. In last February it was reported in the press that a plan has been undertaken to construct large number of video auditoriums in towns and villages. That project requires Rs. 16 crores which will be invested by non-resident Indians. People will be allowed to see video shows in those auditoriums on

*English translation of original speech delivered in Bengali.

payment of Rs. 2 only. My question to the Hon. Minister is why video shows are not being banned when obscene scenes are displayed in them. Had the video shows been banned earlier, the present degeneration in society would not have set in and the present amendment would not have been necessary. I hope, the Hon. Minister will reply to this point.

A few days ago, some instructions have been given to the state Governments. Those instructions say that advertisements depicting naked pictures in obscene films should not be displayed in public. So, a responsibility has been cast upon the State Governments. But what about the Central Censor Board? How that Board is certifying obscene films for exhibition? So, the work of the Government is contradictory in nature.

In simple language we can say that it is the intention of vested interests to create anti-social elements in society. Cinema is an important medium. Today national integration is very much in danger. It has become the burning question of the day. In various States communism and parochialism have reared their ugly heads. The Government of Tripura proposed to produce a film on national integration. They asked the Central Government to sanction Rs. 20 lakhs for that purpose. But the Central Government has not sanctioned any money. Even the Central Censor Board is not having representatives from all the States and Union Territories. So, how can we expect a film on national integration?

The present Bill seeks to enhance the punishment for those who are guilty of showing video shows. Since 1952 the present Act has been amended many times. In the beginning, the provision was that the offenders would be given imprisonment for three months and they would be fined Rs. one thousand. Later that provision was amended. That amended provision imposed upon the offenders imprisonment for a period of two years and a fine of Rs twenty