

Situation in Sri Lanka

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the House will recall that on July 28 the P.M. telephoned President Jayewardene of Sri Lanka to convey the concern of our nation over the situation of the Sri Lankan Tamil population, the attacks on Indians, the human suffering that had ensued in the disturbances and our deep anxiety as to the future course of events and their consequences. President Jayewardene readily agreed to the P.M.'s request to receive me in Colombo to discuss further all these and other aspects, including any assistants that might be required.

Accordingly, I, accompanied by the Secretary concerned in my Ministry, flew to Colombo the same night and returned in the early hours of July 30th. There have been a number of developments since then which I know will be exercising Members. I will first report to them on my visit.

My day in Colombo began and ended with meetings with the President. In between, I met the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Mr. R. Premadasa and my counterpart, Mr. A. C. S. Hameed. I also met several Cabinet Ministers, both Tamil and Sinhalese. I had hoped to meet with the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, Mr. Amirthalingam of the Tamil United Liberation Front but since he was not in Colombo, I could only speak to him on the telephone. I also had a telephone conversation with Mr. Sivasingam, the Member of Parliament from Trincomalee. Both in Colombo and Kandy where I went by helicopter, I met a wide cross-section of Indian nationals and persons of Indian origin.

The House will be glad to know that in these very trying circumstances, we learned that the Indian nationals have shown great fortitude and kept their morale. The same is true of our Mission, including the

women and children, our staff are acquitting themselves commendably.

There had been a number of attacks on Indian nationals and their property, extending also to non-Tamil Sri Lankan citizens of Indian origin of several generations standing and to personnel of our Mission. Our earlier diplomatic expression of concern was unfortunately made the occasion for a virulent press campaign against India as though we had interfered in Sri Lankan internal affairs. I made it clear to the Sri Lankan leaders that no such distorted view could be taken of the inevitable consequences of our being neighbours with possible consequences for our own national life and security. On all this I conveyed our views to the Sri Lankan President and his Cabinet Ministers.

The Sri Lankan leaders welcomed my visit and told me they understood our position and assured me that Indian nationals would be given all protection and assistance. However, our concern has been not only about the safety of Indian nationals and their properties but also on the sensitivity of the Indian people as a whole at reports of large scale killings and destruction of property of people of Indian origin, some of them of stateless category, with whom we are bound by strong ties of culture and kinship.

I was told that many were in camps in Colombo and Kandy, in which conditions, were acknowledged to be far from satisfactory. These camps were overcrowded and still had to be organised. Supplies were limited and medical needs growing. The Sri Lanka authorities told me that they were doing whatever they could to improve conditions and were examining what help might be needed. This is a human problem and we in India cannot remain impervious to the sufferings of large numbers of people in our immediate neighbourhood, though separated by boundaries of nationality and citizenship.

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As regards the prevailing situation, it was acknowledged that the communal feelings that had been aroused had affected the law enforcement agencies, who had not always carried out their responsibilities. We were told that this was passing and the armed forces were now conscientiously carrying out their tasks. The situation in the country was uncertain with many uprooted people fending for themselves. The greatest fear was of trouble spreading to the plantations. A long curfew was being imposed to help the enforcement agencies regain control and confidence was expressed that law and order would be restored shortly.

The most crucial point is the root cause of the present problem and how to deal with it. The President gave me a full account of his long standing effort to redress Tamil grievances. He acknowledged failures of implementation and deplored the shift to violence. The outrages that had both contributed to and resulted from the explosion of communal frenzy had, however, led not only to an enormous gulf of hatred between the Tamils and Sinhalees but also to a fear among the latter of a partition of the country. This the Government was determined to prevent and that was its first duty. The Sri Lankan Government believes that its task had been complicated by the efforts of a political group which is trying to take advantage of the communal animosities to bring down the Government. They said that they had only lately realised this but were now seized of the whole situation. Obviously it is not for us to comment on the perceptions of the Sri Lankan Government about the main causes of the present troubles. What is of concern to us is that life and property of Indian nationals are in danger and that there have been large scale killings and destruction of property of people of Indian origin and that communal frenzy is still the main threat to these people.

* I have seen the President and his colleagues the intensity of the con-

cern felt in India and the anxiety that the clashes as well as the sufferings might persist or even grow. I pointed out the need for reassuring the minority as essential to the process not only of restoring harmony but even of restoring law and order. I conveyed to the President that we in India are willing to do whatever we could to help. The President and his colleagues told me they appreciated our position and approach. Some of the most urgent needs mentioned to me were:

First some relief for the unmanageable situation of the Sri Lankan Tamils in Colombo camps. There are an estimated 50,000 of these displaced persons, not counting those who have sought shelter in the homes of Sinhala friend. The bulk of the Tamil population of Colombo knows no other home but there is a sizeable proportion, possibly around 10,000 who have relatives or properties in the northern region. We were told that it would reduce the dimensions of the problems in Colombo if these people would be moved by a ship to Jaffna and we were asked to provide a ship to carry 2,000 people at a time. No one such ship is available but we have arranged for three ships with a total carrying capacity of over 2500 to rush to Colombo and they will be there in succession in the next few days.

We were also told fuel oil, especially kerosene was running short. We have promised to help and have alerted our authorities to provide whatever is needed immediately. We have asked the Sri Lankans to tell us what kinds they need and what quantities and where. We have been promised these details on receipt of which we will rush oil across.

Medicines are another problem. In camps there is an acute shortage of water, especially after the Sri Lankan drought and there is fear of disease. A representative of our Red Cross has reached Colombo already in response

to Sri Lankan request through the International-Red Cross and we are prepared to extend the utmost help on getting details.

There were a large number of Indians, some 500 to 1000, who were visiting Sri Lanka on business or tourism, and also some Sri Lankan businessmen of Indian origin who wish to come to India. Indian Airlines have been ready to provide extra air services as and when the people can be brought to Colombo and the airport. We have also revived the ferry service to Talaimannar to evacuate those stranded there.

Sir, the latest position is not fully clear. My visit has been followed by that of the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister to Delhi. He met the Prime Minister, who reiterated the views she had conveyed both directly and through me to the President. Mr. Hameed in turn conveyed essentially the message that the President had conveyed to me. We have again been told that the Sri Lankan law enforcement agencies are re-establishing their control and hope to be able to assure the safety of all segments of the population. When the curfew was lifted in Colombo, yesterday, there were reportedly no incidents. In the previous 48 hours there had been reports of stray incident in clashes in the tea estate regions and major arson in one hill station townships. We all earnestly hope that calm will return but it is prudent to realise that we shall have to wait and see for some more time.

Sir, it is evident that anxiety on this score can only be heightened by the news report that the Sri Lankan Government has sought the assistance of some foreign powers to deal with their situation. I am not in a position to give details but the House and the nation should know that there is substance in the report. Members may have noted that when asked to comment on it, the Sri Lanka Foreign Minister told reporters at Palam be-

fore leaving: "If we seek any assistance from the international community, rest assured we shall also seek it from India." Some papers have carried this report as though Sri Lanka had sought assistance not for its law and order situation but against a foreign power, and there are even reports that the Colombo press has projected India as that possible foreign power. I would like to remind Member that in situations such as this, many reports circulate, not all well founded and not all well intentioned. We are looking into all aspects of these reports and are also in touch with several Governments, including those specified in the press reports, to emphasise the nature of India's concern at the existing situation in Sri Lanka and at the possible future course of developments, including any foreign involvement in the region. The response of those to whom we have spoken is favourable. As for our relations with Sri Lanka, I have already said the Sri Lankans have told us they understand our views and position and the question of Sri Lanka needing any help against India simply cannot arise. If Sri Lanka needs our assistance, that is another matter, on which the two governments will remain in touch. The House may rest assured that India will always function with due regard both to the natural concern of our people and to the obligations of a good neighbour.

Sir, in addition to this, I would like to place before the House a piece of information which I have received within the last one or one and a half hours. Our High Commissioner rang up from Colombo to say that the Sri Lanka Foreign Secretary had just told him that the report about Sri Lanka asking for assistance from USA, UK etc., was mischievous and that the Sri Lankan Government was asking its High Commissioner in Delhi to issue an appropriate denial. The UPI correspondent who is actually resident in Delhi and visiting Colombo to cover the events has been asked to leave Sri Lanka as he had filed another mis-

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chievous report according to the Sri Lankan authorities.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have received a large number of requests from Members, but I will call the leaders, partywise.

SHRI ERA SEZHIYAN (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Deputy Chairman, I share the concern and the anguish expressed by the Minister of External Affairs and I also hope, along with him, that normalcy and security will be restored in that Island.

Sir, as rightly pointed out by the hon. Minister, this is a human problem and we in India cannot remain impervious to the sufferings of large numbers of people in our immediate neighbourhood, though separated by boundaries of nationality and citizenship. When I speak of the sufferings of the vast multitudes of speaking population there, it is not only because I come from Tamil Nadu I am more worried and more emotionally involved but because the problem is one of human rights, denial of human rights, organised violence and discrimination by Government, involvement of army and armed police against a linguistic and ethnic minority. It is a matter which should concern not only India but should stir the conscience of the whole humanity. Therefore, the stand taken by India on this issue is not peculiar. It is an age-old tradition that India has always been the champion of human rights in South Africa, in Bangla Desh whenever human rights have been curshed and minorities have been suppressed.

In this connection I would like to seek some clarifications from the hon. Minister. I want to know whether it is a fact that he is not able to visit and meet the affected people in the refugee camps in Kandy and Colombo. When he visited Kandy and Colombo, the press reports said that the hon. Minister of External Affairs

was not able to meet the refugees in the camps. The affected people in the camps include the citizens of Sri Lanka Speaking Tamil, citizens of India speaking Tamil and the stateless persons. All these three categories might have been there. There is some direct responsibility involved for the Government of India and they should have been met to assess the situation there. Indian passports are held by many persons and one of the papers reported today that "a passport of India is a passport to death."

In such a situation, I would like the hon. Minister to say or whether our High Commissioner was able to go in person to these camps and assess the situation there, because there were many of our own citizens banded in these camps as has been reported by him. The second thing is he has also added, after making the main statement, that the press reports saying that the Sri Lankan Government is appealing for military assistance from foreign powers and some reports-- which have been attributed to the President himself of possible invasion from India, have been discounted and denied.

Probably this might have been planned to make India inactive in this situation. Therefore, I would warn the hon. Minister not to be taken in by the interested, deliberate leakage of such news and India should not rest and be lax in its efforts on this matter.

Sir, he has talked about transporting same from Colombo to the northern parts. In this while we are ready to assist them, there is a dangerous possibility of concentrating the population by moving some portion from one place to another. Demarcation of the well-defined boundaries may in course of time be harmful to Ceylon itself. Therefore, in all earnestness, we should appeal to them to ensure security and confidence among the people there, whichever area they

live in or belong to. Otherwise, this may grow to dangerous proportions in future.

Lastly, I would appeal to him saying that this is not a question concerning India alone. It is a question of whole humanity. Here is a set of people who have been discriminated, who have been put to macabre massacres and suppressed and their human rights taken away. But here is a group of people in a country who were born there who lived there and who belonged to that soil for centuries, and they are uprooted uncereemoniously, heartlessly and ruthlessly. In this I want to know whether the Government will take assistance of other countries also because this is not an affair of India. Why not invoke the help of other countries in the world forums which are also bound by the tenets of basic human rights and protection of the minorities, of whatever ethnic group, region or language concerned?

Sir, I do agree with him that the situation is grave and serious and we do not want to talk much. I appeal to the Government to do whatever is possible. What to do we can not spell out. It is left to the diplomacy and earnestness of this Government. I took forward to know whatever is done. If it is not possible to do it on the floor of the House, I would request him to call us to his chamber to be informed about the progress made when we will have the opportunity to give him our constructive suggestions in this matter.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, we are equally alarmed and shocked at the latest developments that have been taking place in Sri Lanka, and more particularly at the news appearing in the newspapers that the Government of Jayawardene had sought for some assistance, including the assistance of troops, from some western powers, particularly the USA. To

that, of course, our hon. Foreign Minister has just now stated that he had received a report from the Indian Embassy at Colombo that the Government of Sri Lanka have since disowned the responsibility of that news and asked UPI Correspondent to leave the country. But the fact is that the imperialist forces are fishing in troubled waters. And also the fact is that the US imperialists have a particular design to entrench in Sri Lanka, to have some bases and to create tension in South Asia, and thereby to destabilize the internal political situation in our country. It is also alarming to note that the very paper which supports the President, and possibly his own paper, the Sun, has editorially called upon the Government of Sri Lanka to close down the Embassies of countries whom they call "behind the iron curtain", and in particular of the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic. And accordingly to it also there in the press that the Government of Sri Lanka is contemplating to call upon the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic to reduce the staff of their Embassies. So, Sir, it is clear now that there are imperialist designs, and more particularly the US imperialist designs.

And so, my first question is whether the Government of India is inclined to take note of this particular development that the US imperialists are making such a design so as to create tension in South Asia, to have some entrenched interests in Sri Lanka and to destabilise the whole political situation in and around our country.

The second point which is missing in this statement is this. It has also come in the papers. I do not know whether the Government of Sri Lanka would go to disown this also. It is that the Government of Sri Lanka has banned two left parties there on the alibi that these parties are supporting the so-called separatist movement or all these things. But, Sir, you know, the last time when I had the occasion

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to participate in this discussion the statement of the Foreign Affairs Minister, I had also stated that the leaders of those parties had publicly started. (*Time bell rings*)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Put question.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Sir, I am putting the question.

In fact, these parties are trying to rouse the common people there to bring amity among all the religious, ethnic and linguistic groups. Yet, the Sri Lankan Govt. is trying to raise this bogey to clamp the ban order on those parties and to stifle the democratic rights and voice of the people of Sri Lanka. So, my second question is whether the Government of India has taken note of it. And may I know what steps the Government of India is going to take to check these U.S. imperialist designs and also the machinations of stifling the democratic rights and voice of people of Sri Lanka. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Rajasthan): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, we all welcome the indications of return to normalcy in Sri Lanka. I think, that, is the primary thing that has to be welcomed. I think it also needs to be emphasised that the disturbances were largely limited to Colombo. That the disturbances did not spread to the rest of the country is a welcome sign. There are some indications about disturbances—some mention was there about it—in the tea-garden areas, and those are to be condemned.

The threat to life, security and safety of the people of Indian origin, of stateless citizens, as also indeed the Sri Lankan citizens, who may have been living there for many generations and who are of Indian origin, is a matter of deep concern for all of us.

I cannot, however, refrain from expressing a reservation that in all these statements that the Government has issued there is a great deal of sobriety and there is a great deal of understanding of the deep import of the developments in near neighbourhood, but there is a disparity between public statements and public postures. I cannot help carrying a feeling that the Government is tending to play domestic politics with disturbances in a neighbouring country. Concern for human values, concern for human lives are concerns that we all share. These concerns tend to sound a bit hollow when they come so hot on the heels of very sad developments that are taking place in our own land, in Assam. When the Prime Minister while visiting.

SHRI BUDDH PRIYA MAURYA (Andhra Pradesh): Are you allowing questions or are you allowing discussion?

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): Are you comparing it with Sri Lanka?

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM (Tamil Nadu): Asam cannot be compared.

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR (Uttar Pradesh): Do you understand what he says?

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: I understand what he says. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please confine yourself to this statement.

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am sorry to express our feeling that a Member of the House should not speak, especially here, like this. Why should he compare it with Assam (*interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Jaswant Singh, please confine yourself to this statement. Don't go beyond that.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I appreciate the sentiments.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: These remarks will be picked up by them and they will be given as our remarks.
(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It is also a matter of concern for us.....

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Enemies are here in India like him.
(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It is a matter of concern for us that the Prime Minister while visiting Tamil Nadu says in Madras that the policies that the Government of India are adopting have the approval of Anna DMK. I don't know.....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is a different matter.

AN. HON MEMBER: It is irrelevant.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI): What nonsense is he talking? I have not said anything like this.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I am glad that a rebuttal came here.....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That statement is not here. Please put questions about this statement.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: If I may say so, it is highly irresponsible for an Hon'ble Member to make such an allegation without finding out whether there is any basis, especially when it is obviously incorrect.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: We are not privy to the Government decisions. Our basis is the newspaper reports. Of course, if the Government had rebutted.....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please put questions.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I am very glad that the Prime Minister has now clarified it. It is indeed very reassuring. I said it is domestic politics because the caption says "All-Party Delegation". When an all-party delegation.....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please don't bring in that matter.

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN (Tamil Nadu): It is a matter of international concern. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: There is one particular disparity in the statement. I am glad that there is some movement in the House, some excitement.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There are so many Members who want to put questions.

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN: It is objectionable. He is playing with the emotions of thousands of people. In a lighter moment, he might have said it, but it will be misunderstood and misinterpreted. There is absolutely no domestic politics. In fact, the Prime Minister has acted swiftly and firmly in the matter.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: There is a particular disparity in the statement that has been read out, issued to us and in what the hon. Minister of External Affairs subsequently mentioned. In the statement issued and read out, there is use of a phrase that "there is substance in the report" about involvement of foreign powers etc. etc., and the Sri Lankan Government asking for foreign troops "There is substance in the report"—that means, the Government of India's information and belief is that the Sri Lanka Government has actually done so, has asked for foreign assistance. Subsequently—it is not included in the statement itself—the hon. Minister of External Affairs was good enough to say that since then he has received telephone message from our High Commissioner to say that the S

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Lanka Government have denied this, that there is no substance, that the correspondent of the UPI who happened to carry this story has also been expelled, etc. Now, we would, therefore, like to know what is the Government of India's stand. It has said two different things. It has said "there is substance" which means that it believes that this is what the Sri Lanka Government has done. It also says that our High Commissioner has turned round and said that there is no substance. What is the Government of India's stand?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think both the statements are quite separate.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Would you like to do it? Or would you like the Government to do it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That statement is quite different. Don't mix it. If you mix it, there will be a problem. Please read carefully. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. VENKA (Tamil Nadu): There is no confusion at all.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Not to my mind. I am a man of limited understanding.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think you also correctly followed it, but you are putting it otherwise. All right, Dr. Zakaria.

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE (Maharashtra): What the hon. Member means is, he has infinite misunderstanding.

MR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA (Maharashtra): Mr. Deputy Chairman, I share the pain and anguish that every Indian inside and outside this House feels about what has happened in Sri Lanka. And under the circumstances, no Indian who has any sense of understanding would want to do

or say anything which would make matters worse for those who are still suffering in that unfortunate island. It is sad that anyone should want to make political capital out of a situation like this.

And therefore, I was rather surprised that those who are politically jaundiced, nothing seems to cure them even when occasions are so grim. The Prime Minister under the circumstances could not have acted with greater promptness and also with restraint. And therefore, the statement of the External Affairs Minister is most restrained. But I was rather agitated—and if you will forgive me—rather worked up when I read a report in the latest issue of the *London Times* one of the most responsible newspapers in the world which gives such a harrowing picture of what is happening there. And with your permission I would like to draw the attention of the External Affairs Minister to what the *London Times* has to say:

"The Government when presented with evidence that the army or the police have committed atrocities against the innocent Tamils, has usually reacted with a shrug of the shoulder. Sometimes indeed the police misconduct has actually been rewarded. In two separate cases recently the Supreme Court of Colombo found that police officers have acted illegally. In both cases the officers concerned were promoted soon after the judgement. Thereafter the security forces have interpreted this as a licence to do as they pleased with impunity and President Jayawardene has not seen the need to disabuse them. Early last month he introduced a legislation to allow the police to cremate or bury dead bodies if they think it necessary without any inquest or post-mortem taking place. The provision for prevention of terrorism acts is being used mercilessly against Tamils who are suspect and they are detained up to 18 months. The two Tamil newspapers have been banned."

Not only that. What is still worse is this. The report says:

"All this is being done in the name of eliminating terrorism, a reference to the Tamil Tigers who have been held responsible for attacks on It is a queer sort of logic which holds that the best way of eliminating Tamil terrorism is to ban all Tamil political parties and proscribe the main Tamil newspaper. But President Jayawardene, like many other of his compatriots, seems to use the words 'terrorist and Tamil' as if they were interchangeable."

In view of this report I would like to know from the External Affairs Minister whether he has tried to impress upon the Sri Lankan Government that while we are committed to non-interference in their internal affairs, this country is known to react when there has been violation of human rights anywhere else in the world and here is a case of not a communal riot, here is not a case of any racial conflagration, here is a case of slaughter and genocide and whether they would please see to it that the situation is not allowed to go out of control so that Indian restraint is not put to its utmost test.

DR. (SHRIMATI) SATHIAVANI MUTHU (Tamil Nadu): I just seek a few points of clarification. On page 6 of the statement he has stated—

"In the previous 48 hours there had been reports of stray incidents in other parts of the country including clashes in the tea estate regions and major arson in one hill station township....."

We have been reading news from the newspapers and we are getting alarming news from Sri Lanka. After the recent visit of our External Affairs Minister the situation has become worse. We have come to know that nearly 200 persons were killed

and many thousands are rendered homeless. That is the news on Sunday.

Tension still prevails. Although the Tamil Nadu *bandh* today was very successful, people are not satisfied about the situation in Sri Lanka. Yesterday one of the AIADMK party workers, Mr. Subramanyam, committed self-immolation in Ramanathapuram, to show the amount of anxiety on behalf of the Tamil Nadu people. This sort of anxiety continues in Tamil Nadu.

We thank our hon. Prime Minister for taking quick action. This is the first time, I think, that the Central Government has suspended Railways and Post and Telegraph services in Tamil Nadu in view of the *bandh*. This shows the amount of anxiety of the people and this also shows the whole country stands behind the people of Tamil Nadu origin in Sri Lanka.

Now, I want to ask a few questions for clarifications. Firstly, were you able to assess the total number of deaths that have taken place? We get various newspaper reports and we do not like to believe them.

Secondly, what is amount of financial loss suffered by Tamils in Sri Lanka so far? According to one newspaper report one Nadar has left behind property worth Rs. 4 crores and has escaped to London with just one suit case and his clothes. We want to know whether all these are true. If so, is the Central Government going to give financial help to such people and to what extent? What action are you going to take to compensate for the loss of ordinary people—people who are left homeless people who left without any property? Most of them are plantation workers; most of them are ordinary labourers who are left without any help. Apart from the help we demand from the Sri Lanka Government, what sort of help are you going to give them, apart from

[Dr. (Shrimati) Sathiaivani Muthu]
food, medicine and clothes?
What kind of substantial help is the
Central Government going to give
them? I want only clarification on these
points.

श्री सत्यपाल मलिक (उत्तर प्रदेश) :
श्रीमन्, जो बयान माननीय विदेश मंत्री जी
ने दिया है उसको पढ़ने के बाद भी मैं
इस नतीजे पर पहुंचा हूँ कि जितना इस
बयान से दीखता है मामला उससे ज्यादा
गम्भीर है। भारत सरकार ऐसी परि-
स्थिति में जो कर सकती थी वह कर
रही है इसके लिए हम सब लोगों को खुशी
हुई है लेकिन श्रीलंका में मामला जितना
बयानात से दीखता है उससे कहीं ज्यादा
गहरा है और जब मैं यह कहता हूँ तो
मेरे यह कहने का आधार यही है कि
श्रीलंका के राष्ट्रपति के जो बयानात इधर
आये हैं वह बयान एक दगाई के बयान हैं।
जो आदमी खुद दगों में शरीक हो वही
इस तरह के बयान दे सकता है और
श्रीलंका के राष्ट्रपति बराबर यही बोलते
रहे हैं। मसलन उन्होंने यह कहा कि यह
स्थिति इसलिए भड़की क्योंकि तमिल
लोग बहुत दिनों से हिंसा कर रहे थे
उसकी प्रतिक्रिया के तौर पर सिंहली लोगों
ने उसका जवाब देने के लिए यह किया।
जब किसी मुल्क का पहला नागरिक इस
तरह की भाषा बोलता है तो वह केवल दंगा
नहीं रहता और भी बड़ी चीज बन जाती है।
अतः हिन्दुस्तान की सरकार से मैं निवेदन
करना चाहता हूँ कि इसमें बहुत डिफेंसिव होने
की जरूरत नहीं है। यह सिर्फ हिन्दुस्तानी
नागरिकों का मामला मानकर अगर आप
चलेंगे तो गलती होगी। वहां के राष्ट्रपति
का यह रुख है तो उससे साफ जाहिर होता है कि
वहां जातीय दंगे इतने ज्यादा नहीं हुये
जितनी वहां किलिंग सरकारी अपरेटस के
जरिये की गयी है। राष्ट्रपति का रुख

और सरकारी अपरेटस का रुख दोनों
यह लगता है कि किसी खास जाति के
खिलाफ है वह हिन्दुस्तानी नागरिकों का
मामला नहीं है। मैं निवेदन करना चाहता
हूँ कि सरकार को इसमें बजाय डिफेंसिव
होने के डिप्लोमैटिक ऑफेंसिव वे में इसको
दुनिया के सामने ले जाना चाहिये। मैं
निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि हमें दुनिया को
बताना चाहिये कि यह श्रीलंका में हो रहा
है इसके लिये हम चिंतित हैं। दूसरी बात
यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि जो शरारत करने पर
श्रीलंका आमादा है उसको भी हमको समझना
चाहिये। श्रीलंका जो उसके अपने आंत-
रिक संकट हैं उनको इस मसले से हट
करना चाहता है। अभी आपने कहा कि
15-20 मिनट पहले खबर मिली कि उन्होंने
खंडन किया। वह वहां के विदेश मंत्री
हैं कोई मामूली आदमी नहीं हैं। वह
हिन्दुस्तान की जमीन पर से कह कर जाता है
और खंडन नहीं करता कि हमने विदेशी
ताकतों को कहा है। वहां के अखबारों
ने जिस तरह से लिखा है उससे यह
मानकर आपको चलना चाहिये कि श्रीलंका
की सरकार अपने आंतरिक मामलों को हल
करने के लिये इन संकटों को बढ़ायेगी
घटाने में उसकी दिलचस्पी नहीं होगी।
इसलिये खुशफहमी में रहने की जरूरत
नहीं है कि आने वाले दिनों में यह सन्तोडाइज
हो जायेगा। यह सारे स्टेट के जरिये
किया गया मामला है और आने वाले
दिनों में और ज्यादा गम्भीरता के साथ
इस मसले से निबटने के लिये तैयारी करना
चाहिये।

आखिर में यह निवेदन करना चाहता
हूँ कि जो श्रीमाओ शास्त्री पैकट था उनके
इम्प्लीमेंटेशन के बारे में एक दूर दृष्टि
रख कर इस मसले पर भारतीय मूल
के तमिल लोगों और बाकी के जो
तमिल लोग हैं जिनका जिनोसाइड हो

रहा है उनके लिये एक लांग टर्म स्ट्रेटेजी हिन्दुस्तान को बनानी चाहिये। मैं सिर्फ इतना ही कहना चाहता हूँ।

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the Prime Minister and the Government of India have reacted in the manner in which it was possible to do so and the Prime Minister has declared that the whole of the Indian nation is concerned about it. Today, Sir, in Tamil Nadu there is a *bandh* by all the political parties, the working class and the farmers. Even though it is confined to Tamil Nadu, the very fact that the Central Government employees and industries are also joining this *bandh* shows—and this must show to the others—that the entire nation is supporting the cause for which the *bandh* is taking place.

Now, Sir, after the visit of our External Affairs Minister, the developments there do not give us any confidence that normalcy will be restored and the situation will be less serious or less grave. The information that has reached us is very limited, including the information that the Government has got, because the censorship there is so tight. I will refuse to believe even if our External Affairs Minister says that there is no incident after he left. The developments are much more serious. Three Left parties have been banned. If the Government of Mr. Jayewardene is serious about restoring normalcy and solving this problem of Tamil minority, is this the way? Which are the Left parties that have been banned? At least those Left parties that have been banned are personally known to me. The Communist Party of Sri Lanka has membership among the Sinhalese as well as along the Tamils. All other parties are either parties of Tamils or parties of Sinhalese. Why should these be banned? Why should those leaders be arrested if the Government is interested in restoring

normalcy there and solving the problem of the Tamil minority which has been pending there for many years including the problem of the oppressed people, the plantation workers. So, Sir, the situation is serious here. But they are putting out all these bull stories, they are putting out stories that there is a threat to what India is going to do to solve them. (Time bell rings) Though they might say these fantastic reasons, do you really think that they will accept it? They tell such stories and deny the fact that it is only to gain the support of the Sinhalese and to isolate the Left parties which stand for better international relations between the two communities.

Now, Sir, let me make some clarifications. The Communist Party of India does not approve of Jayewardene taking it to the UN. It is Jayewardene's demand. Mr. Jayewardene wants foreign imperialist troops to come there to take the Diego Garcia Island to come closer.

MR. DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER: Please conclude.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: This is a serious matter not only for the Tamils of Sri Lanka but also for Tamil Nadu, but the whole country. Such stories that they want to invade them have been put in the hand. That is only an attempt of the Government of India to delay the matter and must act quickly. What is the way? Since we are the leading the movement of the Government, the imperialists want to take it to the Diego Garcia; it is intended to attack the attack on Tamils is an attempt. They want to isolate the Government against the South-Eastern countries. They are a ready supplier of arms to Pakistan and Bangladesh. (Time bell rings) They want to establish the situation. So there is any plot of the imperialist plot against India to spoil the relationship between India and Sri Lanka.

[Shri M. Kalyanasundaram]

Lanka and use Sri Lanka as their imperialist ambitions. This danger has increased. Of course, the discussion in this House will wake up our nation. Our nation must be alert to this danger. All patriotic and anti-imperialist forces must stand together and show to the world, not only that we are together in defending the rights of the Tamil minorities there—it is our primary duty—but also all other differences must be left out. I am very sorry if any hon. Member thinks that this is the time to attack this Government or that Government policy—a rotten way of betraying our country's interests.

(Interruptions) We in Tamil Nadu or anywhere should stand together. After all, as against an imperialist danger, can we say that it is the responsibility of the ruling party, the Indira Gandhi Government? We may have thousands of grievances against Congress(I). But that is a different matter. When the whole country is threatened, can we put our grievances against this Government on top, or should we look into the defence of the country? (Interruptions) I would appeal to all section and to all people of our country to stand together to face the threat. The threat has not decreased. The threat is increasing.

PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE (West Bengal): Mr. Deputy Chairman, it is an expression of solidarity of the whole country on this particular—the participation, indirect though it may be, of the Government of India—since all the Government of India offices, transport, railways, etc. have also been closed down for the day. It is an expression of solidarity. But what is happening across the borders. The External Affairs Minister's statement naturally cannot give out everything. That is appreciated. But there are certain points which emanate from the statement given by him. I would put it before him in a question form. He states that President Jayewardene recognizes the failures of implementation of long-standing Tamil grievances.

Perhaps it is not only grievances but certain constitutional, political arrangements have not been implemented, regarding the rights of the Tamils in Jaffna and in Sri Lanka as a whole. What is Mr. President's perception on this particular point, and what hopes does he hold out of any implementation in future? Has he any mind to implement that? That question invariably comes out of it. Mr. Malik referred to Scimono-Shastri Agreement. This is symptomatic of India's concern regarding Tamilians in Sri Lanka. It is not just a few Indian people there. It is the historical background. Therefore, that question is very important because that is at the root of the recurrent trouble in Sri Lanka in which the Tamilians are regularly and chronically affected. That is one point and I do not know whether any clarification could be obtained from him. At the very beginning, Shri Sezhiyan raised another question.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Don't repeat that question.

PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: The report is silent on that. Could he complete his visit according to this programme or whether it was impeded in any way? That is the test of friendliness and neighbourliness. Therefore, an answer to this question must come.

There are two other points regarding the news item. One is there in the prepared statement which we have received. "I am not in a position to give details." It is on the 7th page. How then the nation can know that there is substance in the report—the report of seeking assistance? Some additional information has been given by the External Affairs Minister. Even then, I would like to know whether he sticks to what has been said here that there is substance in the report of assistance being sought from other countries. The last point is this. If Sri Lanka needs our assistance, that is another matter on which the two Governments will remain in touch.

This is a very tricky statement, I should say without casting any aspersions on the External Affairs Minister himself. We know of a precedent when the Government of India went to the rescue of Sri Lanka Government when there was some internal trouble. We know what sort of Government operates in Sri Lanka. The Government of India obviously cannot pass any judgement. I would make only one comment regarding this doing away with post-mortem. A remark on that evoked protest from Sri Lanka Government. So, the Government of India naturally cannot give it out. But we know what sort of Government there is in Sri Lanka. It is not a parliamentary form of Government, not a democratic form of Government and they are trying to utilise this occasion to butteress their position. Otherwise, there cannot be any justification for action against the Marxist Party. This point should be clarified in the light of our previous experience and present state of things in Sri Lanka. Our forces should, in no way, be utilised for bailing out the undemocratic Government even in a neighbourly country. That assurance should be forthcoming in the context of this statement from the External Affairs Minister.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : Sir, when the news reached Sri Lanka that our Foreign Minister is visiting that country as a representative of our Madam Prime Minister, the people who were wailing and crying in the refugee camps, were so eager and anxious to see him. But, Sir, our Foreign Minister was not able to see them. This is most unfortunate. Also, he did not meet the leaders of the opposition though he had a talk with them on the phone. Had he met the leaders of the opposition, he would have assessed what is going on there. There is no mention in the statement about the gruesome killings in the Belikada jail which reminds us of the brutal killings in the Belren death camp of Nazi Hitler. Their eyes were gouged out and hundreds of persons were killed. Two editors of the newspapers were also killed. Three priests were killed.

Three leaders of the Gandhian movement were also killed. There is no mention about that dastardly action in the statement.

Another thing. There is a mention about supplying kerosene. Sir, kerosene and petrol was poured from the aeroplane on the whole village of Kuttimani and the whole village was gutted and burnt. Our people were roasted like pigs and animals. There are reports that kids and women were thrown to the flames. They have kerosene for this. What is this? Are you pouring kerosene which could be used for killings?

Sir, I am not here to criticise the policy of the Government. I have come here to kneel before the Prime Minister, to beg of the Prime Minister to protect the lives of all those people because, Sir, when the people were hunted and hounded out in Bangladesh, it was our beloved Prime Minister who raised the banner. Even when there was a threat from the Seventh Fleet, we rescued the people in Bangladesh. Now, Sir, I am afraid, the situation may deteriorate because of the rigid censorship there. Now, the Sri Lanka Government has taken a decision to ban all those political parties which fought and won the elections on the demand of separate Tamil Eelam. Now they are the main opposition in Sri Lanka. By one stroke of pen, the entire Tamil population will be disenfranchised, their future will be at a stake there. Earlier you raised the matters of Cyprus and Congo, South Africa and so many other issues in the United Nations. My point is, why not now you raise the matter in the Security Council as it is a matter of human rights. Even on the 28th July, when three Palestinians were killed, justifiably our Government raised the issue in the United Nations. So, when thousands are being killed, when even the women are killed and so many dastardly things are going on, why not you raise it now? That is why I would like to know from the Government whether they will come forward to take some steps through diplomatic means, and if

[Shri V. Gopalsamy]

the diplomatic means fail, if the diplomatic pressures fall, some suitable action, and sending our Armed Forces. Otherwise, Sir, our people will be killed and annihilated. This is the real danger there. And I would also like to request the Government whether they will come forward to insist on the Government of Sri Lanka to stop such draconian legislation which they have proposed to bring forward day-after-tomorrow. I would like to request the Government whether they will come forward to take steps to send an International Delegation to assess the correct situation there. So, Sir, we are disappointed. That is Government. I appreciate your participation in the Bandh. But that would not solve the problem. Even your statement does not make any protest about the dastardly killings there. So, Sir, we are disappointed. That is why, Sir, I am not here to criticise, I am here to beg of the Central Government, to beg of our hon. Prime Minister that you please save the people in Sri Lanka. Unless you take a decision like the one which you took on earlier occasions, those people will not be saved.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Satyanarayan Reddy. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN: Just one minute, Sir. It is an important matter and we want to make one constructive suggestion.

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: You permit us, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There are so many Members yet to speak. (*Interruptions*) Please take your seats. This is not the way. Every Party has been allowed to ask questions. It is not a debate. (*Interruptions*) Ten more names are here Please take your seats.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, it is a great tragedy and sorrow that a large number of people of

Indian origin and Tamil-speaking people of Sri Lanka have been killed and butchered and their property has been destroyed.

Sir, it is good that our Foreign Minister had been to Sri Lanka and it is also good that our Prime Minister was good enough to be in touch with President Jayewardene of Sri Lanka. But, Sir, in spite of his visit, in spite of the direct contact with the President of Sri Lanka, the things have not improved. The press reports go to show that the situation is very serious and a large number of people are still being killed and their property destroyed. Sir, we wanted to have a first-hand report. But the statement given to the House by the Foreign Minister does not give any first-hand information. It simply says that he had talks with so and so. What we wanted to know are the details of the total destruction because the Sri Lanka Government says that 200 people have been killed but the press reports say that about 3,000 people have been killed and their property has been completely destroyed. And even in jails, hundreds of people have been killed. We wanted to know from the Foreign Minister a details report about the destruction of life and property in Ceylon and at the same time the relief that we wish to extend to the suffering people.

6 P.M.

So, I would like to know whether the Foreign Minister has inquired into the quantum of relief that they want. What is the relief that they want? Do they want foodgrains, medicines or clothes or any other help? Whatever relief and help they want is the Government of India ready to send it? Have they calculated what is the quantity that they want? I would request the Government of India to extend all help to the suffering people of Sri Lanka and, at the same time, see that their lives and property are protected. (*Time bell rings*).

Another thing to which I want to refer is the shocking and dangerous

news that has appeared in this morning's papers. They have stated that Sri Lanka Government is seeking assistance from the USA, the UK, Bangladesh and other countries. (*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please do not repeat the same thing.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: I know there is no truth in it. But, at the same time, I would like to know whether he has ascertained from the Governments of Pakistan, Bangladesh, the U.K., because they are friendly to us, whether there is any truth in such a statement or not. If he has not inquired, why not? I request the Foreign Minister even now to inquire from these Governments and find out the truth.

SHRI MADAN BHATIA (Nominated): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, it is out of our total commitment to the policy of the good neighbourliness and friendship that we have proclaimed that these tragic happenings with which we are deeply concerned in Ceylon or Sri Lanka are essentially the internal affairs of Sri Lanka. But I would suggest for consideration by the hon. Minister for External Affairs that to those quarters which are seeking to accuse us of interfering in the internal affairs of Sri Lanka by initiating all these diplomatic steps out of our deep concern for the safety and protection of the people of Indian origin and Indian nationals, that we may say that we are very much within the limits of international law. And, in this connection, Sir, I shall like to quote one judgement delivered by the International Court of Justice. In *Mavromatis* case the International Court of Justice declared and I quote: "It is the elementary principle of international law that a State is entitled to protect its subjects when injured by acts contrary to international law committed by any State from whom they have not been able to obtain satisfaction through ordinary channels. By taking up the case of its subjects and by resorting diplomatic action, a State in

reality is exerting its own rights, its right to ensure in the person of its subjects respect for the rules of international law." (*Times bell rings*). It is not only this. I just want to say two more lines. There have been constitutions in this world where it was provided that it is not only the right but the duty of the state to protect its citizens wherever they are. In this connection, I give only one example. The Weimer Constitution of 1919 laid down that "against foreign States all Reich nationals have both within and without the Reich a claim to the protection of the Reich."

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, some of the reports are so horrible and all of you might have seen them. Will the hon. Prime Minister who has been taking quick and firm action through the External Affairs Minister, impress upon the Sri Lanka Government, as a first immediate measure to restore peace and normalcy, the desirability of appointing an international commission under an eminent international jurist, with two other members, if possible, one from India, if they accept, otherwise from a neutral or a third country, to go into it? It will give a lot of faith to what the Government of Sri Lanka is claiming and it will also restore peace and normalcy. This is a very good suggestion which she may consider.

श्री शिवचन्द्र झा (बिहार) : उपसभापति जी हम लोगों की आवाज पर और स्थिति की गम्भीरता पर विदेश मंत्री जी ने एअर डेंश किया उसके लिये उनका धन्यवाद है और हम लोगों को प्रसन्नता है कि यह सही-सलामत आ गये।

श्रीमन् मेरा पहला सवाल है कि जो बात उठाई गयी है उसको मैं भी थोड़ा रख रहा हूँ कि क्या जयवर्धन से जो आपकी बातें हुई उसमें क्या आपने उनके सामने यह बात रखी कि जो श्रीलंका में हो रहा है यह दो कम्युनिटीज का दंगा

[श्री शिव चन्द्र झा]

नहीं है; बल्कि जिस रूप में सेना को हुलकाया गया है—घटना कुछ हुई हो दिगर आफ करने के लिये इतिहास में ऐसी घटनायें हैं। मैं उदाहरण दे सकता हूँ लेकिन सरकार ने सेना को नहीं हुलकाया है बसों से घसीट करके मारा है जेल में कोल्ड-ब्लड्डेड तरीके से मारा गया है।

क्या आपने जयवर्धन से कहा है कि यह ब्लॉड एक्सटर्मिनेशन की नीति आप क्यों चला रहे हैं? यदि आपने पूछा है तो उनका क्या जवाब था और यदि नहीं पूछा तो क्यों नहीं पूछा?

दूसरे जो अखबारों में बात आ रही है कि अब वह सिविल राइट्स से भी महत्त्व करने जा रहे हैं। जो लोग कुछ आवाज उठावें जिन पर शक करेंगे सिविल राइट्स से भी उन्हें महत्त्व कर दिया जाएगा, जो मिनिमम ह्यूमन राइट्स के नार्म्स के खिलाफ हैं, ह्यूमन चार्टर के खिलाफ हैं कि जो तमिल के लोग इंडियन ओरिजिन के वहाँ हैं उनकी सिविल राइट्स से महत्त्व कर दिया जाएगा।

तीसरा सवाल यह है कि आपका अपना क्या हिसाब है—अखबारों में बात आई है कि इतने लोग मारे गये हैं प्रापर्टी की बात थोड़ी देर के लिये छोड़ दीजिए।

श्री उपसभापति : वह तो पूछ लिया है।

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा : मरने वालों की संख्या दो हजार लोगों से भी ज्यादा है। और चौथा सवाल यह है कि यह सात नेशंस की ओर मुपतगू कर रहे हैं आप दिल्ली में—

रीजनल कोऑपरेशन—उसमें आपने यह बात उठाई है या नहीं? हर मीटिंग में मिसलेनियस एजेंडा रहता है। यदि उठाई है तो उनके क्या रेस्पॉन्स हुए हैं और नहीं उठाई है तो क्यों नहीं उठाई है? ... (व्यवधान)

श्री उपसभापति : एक-एक करके सवाल पूछिये, भाषण मत दीजिए।

SHRI P. N. SUKUL (Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Deputy Chirman, what happened in Sri Lanka and is still happening there has come to us as the worst shock of the decade. In fact, it is a slap on the entire face of humanity at large. Mass murder of people of Indian origin by the people of Sri Lanka as well as the army of Sri Lanka is to be most vehemently condemned by all right-thinking people of the world. Our Government has, no doubt, shown utmost and exemplary restraint in dealing with this vexed problem. However, we now propose to extend material help to the victims there by way of kerosene oil or medicines as stated by the Minister. But I would like to know how is the Government going to ensure that all this material sent by us reaches the right people, the oppressed people, and is not misappropriated by their Government for distribution amongst the oppressors, that is the Sinhalese.

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Mr. Deputy Chairman, only two or three days have passed after our External Affairs Minister visited Ceylon and we are thankful to the Prime Minister for having taken bold steps with regard to this problem. But daily, new happenings are going on in Ceylon. What we have talked so far, I consider, is not sufficient. There should be some general discussion on this matter because the matter is very serious. Many unexpected things are going on in Sri Lanka. That is why, as has been allowed in Lok Sabha, let us have some two or three hours....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: After one hour now, you are making this suggestion!

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Let us have a full discussion on it.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI (Assam): Mr. Deputy Chairman, the statement by the hon. External Affairs Minister is unexceptionable because it has given an indication of the immediate steps taken by the Government and has also expressed our concern, and at the same time has assured the Sri Lanka Government that we do not want in any way to interfere in the internal affairs of that country. In fact, we would not like to say anything here which may create problems for the Indian people, for the Tamil people there. But I have got three questions to ask. The hon. Minister of External Affairs, on page 3, has said that it was acknowledged that the law-enforcement agencies had not always carried out their responsibilities. The statement says 'We were told that this is passing and the armed forces were now conscientiously carrying out their tasks'. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, apart from the promise that he has received from the Government of Sri Lanka, what is his information? Because this is an important matter regarding violation of human rights. When people are killed in jail when they are in protective custody, it cannot be said that this is a matter which is entirely within the framework of the internal affairs of a country. Therefore, I would like to know what is the positive information which the Government has.

Secondly, on page 7, the hon. Minister, while dealing with these reports, has said that he is in touch with other Governments regarding the question of foreign involvement in the region. The Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka was here yesterday and I would like to know whether this aspect was discussed with him and what has been his reaction because when discussions with neighbouring countries are going on,

obviously, one item on the agenda is that there should not be any foreign involvement in the region.

Thirdly, some laws were passed like the law which lays down that dead bodies can be disposed of without inquest or post mortem and without informing the kith and kin and these laws are looked upon with a great amount of apprehension in this country. I would like to know whether the External Affairs Minister, in his discussions with the Prime Minister or the President or the Foreign Minister, drew the attention of the Government of Sri Lanka to these laws and if so, what is the reaction of the Sri Lankan Government on this question?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Members for having drawn my attention to certain aspects and asked for clarifications which I would be happy to give. I also thank them for the high level which they have maintained in putting across their views and the restraint which they have shown.

Sir, I would like to make a preliminary clarification covering more or less all the assistance that has been asked for and we have promised, namely, that this was asked for by one and all. It was not just the Government or the Ministers. The same demands, the same requests, came from persons affected, MPs, other leaders and people. It is not a one-sided request. Mr. Amrithalingam, himself, for instance, requested for the ship to be sent there, and fuel. Therefore, this request came from all quarters unanimously and there is no question of this assistance, when it goes from here, being presumed as likely to be misused or used in a one-sided manner.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: It was misused.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: I am not talking of the past. I am only placing before the House what

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was requested of me by all sections including the Government. There could have been many other things, which some asked for and some did not. But these were unanimous.

In regard to my not being able to visit the refugee camps, it is true that I was not able to visit, the reason being that the Government itself thought and told me plainly that they are not organised yet and, in fact, they are not in a condition to be visited. But I know, with a reasonable amount of certainty, what the condition was and what the scarcities were.... and, therefore, my not being able to visit the refugee camps as a result of the request of the Government, did not really preclude me from knowing everything about the camps, that was necessary to know. (Interruptions) What are the scarcities there? About food we were told that food scarcities are also there although this was not corroborated by all. It means that in some places there has been scarcity, in some places there may not be scarcity now but it can come later. So, these conditions were brought to our notice by those who were concerned, by the representatives of those who are in the camps and who have seen ...

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: They would have been consoled at least.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: I just cannot see how I could insist on visiting a camp when the Government themselves told me about the disorganised condition of the camps and suggested that I should not visit.

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will our Commissioner be allowed to visit the camps later on?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Not only in Kandy, our mission people are visiting other camps also, not once but several times a day. So, it is not that we do not know. We know all the facts. But the numbers are increasing. In fact, everyday maybe,

new camps are coming up, people are coming in. Therefore, it is a situation which has to be really tackled on top priority, which the Sri Lankan Government said they are trying to do, but from other reports it appears that it is not being done as it ought to be done. So, it is very clear what is happening in the refugee camps.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: They did not permit you to visit the camps in order to hide their ugliness. (Interruptions).

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: I am telling you very clearly why I could not visit the camps.

The human rights aspect has been emphasised by several Members. I have referred to it not only in this but also in my previous statement. So, that aspect has been covered. The Prime Minister, when she met the leaders of all parties from Tamil Nadu the other day, told them that there are several options open, but we have to think of which option is going to be effective and what time is going to be appropriate. Nothing more can be elaborated and I am in a position to say that all options that are available to Government, in regard to raising the matter are being considered by Government, but at the moment it will not be possible to take a decision because that would complicate the situation. We will have to think of many aspects before taking a decision.

About banning of left parties, in fact, I would not like to go into this in any great length. As I have mentioned, a representative of Red Cross from India has already gone there and he is making an assessment of their immediate needs. He is visiting the camps obviously and we will be able to know how much assistance and what kind of assistance will be needed. Medicines are needed obviously because there are reports of the danger of some diseases spreading there. (Interruptions). We have to know what they need. Someone from Red Cross has gone there. In the next one or two days perhaps he will be able to tell us

what they need. We are ready to send those things immediately, the moment we receive the request and information about their needs.

Sir, about the banning of parties, I was submitting that I would not like to go in any great details into this question because there is a view which the Government of Sri Lanka have taken that it is because of a plot to overthrow the Government that all this has been engineered. The Sinhalese...

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM:
Do you believe it?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO:
It is not a question of my believing. I am only reporting what has been told to me. I have said, it is not for us to comment on their perceptions, but when we get an account from the Head of State, I am here only reporting what I was told. There is no question of my belief or disbelief and in any case it is a matter in which they have this perception and they have acted in pursuance of this perception. Not only that, they have said that they came to know about it only recently. Now, with all these statements, one can draw one's own conclusion. So I would not like to say anything more on that aspect because several Members have raised this question of banning of parties.

Prof. Bhattacharya has raised the question of grievances of Tamils and non-implementation to which I have referred. Sir, again, this is a long story which has been discussed several times. Mr. Kalyanasundaram and many other Members from Tamil Nadu particularly have given a full account of what has been happening there for decades and decades. Now there is a distinction between Tamil and Tamil there. One is the Tamil population of the northern province—Jaffna—who are there traditionally. They are Sri Lankans as much as the others. The other part of the Tamil population is those who had been taken there during the British rule to work in the tea gardens and whose citizenship has become a question between the two Governments since the Srimavo-Sastri

Pact. I have reported to the House the latest position in the implementation of that Agreement. I have been reporting from time to time how many still need to be absorbed as citizens there and in general, our stand has been that the Pact is over, the Agreement has come to an end and we are under no obligation in respect of that. This is, more or less, agreed to, and during my talk with the President, he also referred to this, but not as an issue because this is an issue which is not really central to the present situation. But he did say that he would like to solve this problem by himself because it is his problem. This is also one of the things which are raised from time to time. So this has to be kept apart from the problem which we are considering now. As one hon. Member pointed out, we are not really concerned about the long term solution; we are concerned about how the present situation has to be met, how it has to be defused, how normalcy has to be restored. These are the immediate aspects of the question and these immediate aspects were the ones on which we had very long discussions. The Ministers of his Cabinet—not only Tamil but the Sinhala Ministers—also came and met me and they also agreed that the immediate task is to see that normalcy is restored.

Now about the question of confidence on the part of each individual that varies from individual to individual, I cannot say that every one is confident. I have to say that some are not quite confident.

So, that varied from person to person, but on the whole it appears that it would be hazardous to make a final statement whether it is going to be controlled or not going to be controlled. We will have to wait and as I have said in my statement.

Sir, Mr. Goswami raised the question of law-enforcing authorities now acting and not having acted before. Without going into details, I would like to say that there is some evidence to this. From other quarters I have gathered that, for instance, in the in

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stages curfew was observed more in breach. That is not the case now. When curfew is imposed, it is obeyed. That was not the case earlier on and therefore there is some reason to believe that the law enforcing authorities are able to enforce it better now than before. This is the position which I have seen and also have heard from others. Therefore, I would like to give this information to the House.

About the regulation empowering the authorities to bury bodies or cremate bodies without autopsy and so on, this is a matter which exercised our minds earlier on. But there is again a history to this. It will be difficult for me to go into the intricacies of this regulation—when it was there, when it was taken out of the Statute Book and when it was re-introduced. The claim of the Sri Lankan Government is that they have re-introduced it in a milder form than it was before. Now, as I say, we need not go into that. But the point remains that it can be misused. This is what we were concerned about and this is what we expressed in this House and elsewhere, that whether it was introduced now, whether it was promulgated now or whether it was there in existence before, the fact remains that under conditions such as exist today, this regulation is likely to be misused. This is what constitutes the real point and this is what I impressed on them.

Sir, these are the main points raised by the hon. Members. (Interruptions)

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: About imperialist designs? (Interruptions)

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, I had not been briefed by Mr. Shiva Chandra Jha before going. So, I am sorry to say that I did not employ the exact phraseology that he has in view. But the content was conveyed. That is about all, Sir.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Sir, the statement he has made has disappointed us, and on behalf of the DMK party, I express our distress and sorrow, we talk out.

(At this stage some hon. Members left the Chamber)

(Interruptions)

MESSAGES FROM THE LOK SABHA

(I) The National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board Bill, 1983.

(II) The Vegetable Oils Cess Bill, 1983

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report to the House the following messages received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary of the Lok Sabha:—

(I)

"In accordance with the provisions of Rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose herewith the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board Bill, 1983, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 1st August, 1983."

(II)

"In accordance with the provisions of Rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose herewith the Vegetable Oils Cess Bill, 1983, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 1st August, 1983."

The Speaker has certified that this Bill is a Money Bill within the meaning of article 110 of the Constitution of India."

Sir, I lay a copy each of the Bills on the Table.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The debate on the Motion of the Health Minister will be taken up tomorrow.

सदन की कार्यवाही कल 11 बजे तक के लिये स्थगित की जाती है।

The House then adjourned at thirty-one minutes past six of the clock till eleven of the clock on Wednesday, the 3rd August 1983.