

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let me hear. What is your point of order?

श्री हुक्मदेव नारायण यादव : उप-सभापति महोदय, मैं इन लोगों को किसी कीमत पर बाधा नहीं डाल रहा हूँ जो वह सेंटीमेंट की बात कह रहे हैं। उनकी भावना के साथ हम सभी जुड़े हुए हैं।

मैं कह रहा था कि अभी जितने सदस्यों ने अपनी व्यवस्था का प्रश्न उठाया है उसकी तहत अपनी बात आपके सामने रखी। मैं उसी के संबंध में व्यवस्था चाहता था कि हम लोग निश्चय कर भी देते हैं तो भी कहने का मौका नहीं मिलता है। अभी जो व्यवस्था के तहत बातें रखी गई वह किस रूल और किस नियम के तहत रखने की इजाजत दी गई? उसका कृपा करके रूल बताने का कष्ट करें, ताकि जीरो आवर में हीरो बन सकें।

श्री उपसभापति : जीरो आवर में इस से कोई संबंध नहीं है। ये मामनीय सदस्य व्यवस्था के बहाने कुछ दूसरी बात उठा देते हैं। यह व्यवस्था नहीं, अव्यवस्था है; और जब मैं इजाजत नहीं देता हूँ तो श्रीमान ज्ञा जैसे मुझ पर आरोप लगाते हैं और सदन की कार्यवाही चलने नहीं देते। इसलिए कभी-कभी उन बातों को बर्दाश्त करना पड़ता है।

The hon. Minister, please.

(Interruptions)

PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE (West Bengal): Sir,...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can say anything, Mr. Bhattacharjee.

PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: You don't allow me. You allow somebody else.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will allow you. Don't worry.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Reported Racial Violence and attacks on the Tamils of Indian Origin in Sri Lanka—Contd.,

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): Sir, during the election campaign for the District Development Councils in Sri Lanka in May-June 1981, violence broke out in the Jaffna area leading to a number of casualties and considerable destruction of property. A State of Emergency was declared and the situation was eventually brought under control with the help of the armed forces. There has been a recurrence of violence in the last few days. This has been concentrated around Colombo and in the estate areas in the centre of the island. The main victims are Tamils, the majority of whom are workers in the estates. There have been a number of deaths and numerous incidents of arson, looting and violence. Several thousand estate workers have been forced to abandon their homes. The Government of Sri Lanka has again declared an emergency and the armed forces have once more been called in to control the situation. The Government of Sri Lanka have also set up a machinery for the rehabilitation of those affected in the recent events. Due to the confused situation, we have not yet been able to obtain detailed information as to how many Indian nationals have been affected.

Sir, after this, I will be placing before the House the latest position. There are some figures which have come. At the time when this was drafted, we did not have these figures. I have some figures now. I will share those figures with the House.

The Government of India have been in constant touch with the Government of Sri Lanka since these developments began and expressed our concern to them. They have kept us informed of the turn of the events and the steps taken by them, stating that

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they view these events with the utmost seriousness and are determined to restore normalcy. The Government of Sri Lanka have informed us that there have been no untoward incidents in the last three days and that a climate of confidence is being built up.

These events are essentially an internal affair of Sri Lanka. Nevertheless, I am sure that Members of the House do share the concern of the Government of India over these developments since they affect a large number of persons of Indian origin and possibly some Indian citizens. It is, therefore, our hope that the Government of Sri Lanka will succeed in its efforts to put an end to the present violence and to restore confidence, so that the present difficulties would be soon resolved and no shadows are cast on the traditional close relations which exist between India and Sri Lanka.

Sir, in addition to this, as I was just saying, at Ratnapura refugee camp there are 110 persons of Indian origin, of whom 15 are Indian citizens while some others claim to have applied for Indian citizenship. The bulk of the refugees returned to the estates on the 20th August. The majority of the refugees are Sri Lanka citizens or Stateless. A similar situation exists at Palmadulla. The Indian citizens were told that, if they wished, our High Commission would assist them to return to India immediately. Overall, the situation has been brought under some control by the Army and confidence is returning to the estates slowly. We estimate that there may still be about 4,000 refugees at Bogawantalawa and Maskeliya which were visited by our First Secretary in the High Commission at Kandy on the 20th. This is the latest position we got this morning.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Sir, at the outset, I want to bring to the notice of the House the way in which the Sri Lanka Police have dealt with an Indian newsman, i.e. a senior

editor of *India Today*, the magazine published from India. He had gone there and he was arrested and he was ill-treated. His camera and other things were seized. He is still in custody there. I am sure all sections of the House will join me in requesting the External Affairs Minister to get the release of this newsman immediately and get him repatriated to the motherland.

SHRI G. C. BHATTACHARYA (Uttar Pradesh): Yes, we all request that this should be done.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: That is No. 1, No. 2 is about the weaknesses of our High Commission. A country's importance does not depend on its size. There have been historical and traditional relations between our country and the Island. We should have some eminent person there as the High Commissioner and the High Commission in Sri Lanka should be strengthened. In the past, the House will recall, we had such a great man as Shri V. V. Giri as our High Commissioner there. The present High Commissioner is so very weak. I do not want to go into details. I will request the hon. Minister for External Affairs to investigate the causes of the weaknesses and, if necessary, to re-organise the High Commission suitably so that it will be able to discharge the duties properly in his critical period. Sir, now let me come to the point. It is a matter of great concern for all Indians, whether we are in the North or in the South. It is not correct to think that all these Tamils in Sri Lanka are settlers. That is a wrong impression in the minds of some people. There are two kinds of Tamils: One, the Tamils of Eela Naadu, that is the North-Western and the North-Eastern regions of the island. They are as old as the Sinhalese. They are the citizens of that land, Sri Lanka, as much as the Sinhalese-speaking population. Traditionally they have been very close. I have visited the place last time after the riots in 1977. I had met the Sinhalese people. I have met our Tamil

people there, and I am speaking from personal knowledge. The Sinhalese speaking people or the Tamil-speaking people have great love for our country, India. They want our friendship to continue. They want our trade relations to continue. They want our cultural relations to continue. I am speaking from personal knowledge. That is the position of the people. Here it is made to appear as if the Sinhalese people are attacking the Tamils. That is where the mistake has taken place. Our Government also seems to be under the impression that it is a riot between the Sinhalese-speaking people and the Tamil-speaking people. It is a terrorist method. Sir, we Indians or this House cannot be indifferent. We cannot close our eyes and shut our ears to what is happening in Sri Lanka, thinking that it is an internal affair. If this is an internal affair, then, what right have we got to speak about the United Kingdom and what right have we got to speak about the racialism in South Africa? So, here, this should be viewed in the context of the global attempt of certain imperialist powers against us, against our country, in Pakistan, in Bangladesh, in China and in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka occupies a very critical place geographically in the Indian Ocean. It is 20 miles from our shores. Some parts are even less than that. We should look at it from that point of view. Here are some details which I want to give to the House. As I have already said, there are two types of Tamils: One, the indigenous Tamil, and the other, the Tamil workers who went there some four generations ago to work in the plantations and to clean the streets of the cities like Colombo. In 1964, when they introduced the new Constitution, they thought that the working class might be left-oriented, and so, they disenfranchised about 15 lacs of the plantation workers and the municipal workers before 1964. Our Government in their anxiety to build friendship with Sri Lanka, created a new category, that is, the category of the people of the Indian origin. They went there three or four generations

ago. Through the Srimavo-Shastri Pact this category was introduced. This is the beginning of the trouble. This is weakness of the whole situation. They did not go there recently. They went there to build the plantations some centuries ago. By this time it will be four generations or five generations. By their sweat and labour they have built tea gardens which yield 80 per cent of the revenue of the country. This is the position, and this is what we should see. They are left nowhere. They are called the stateless citizens. The weakness of the pact which was entered at that time can be seen well now. They have repatriated only about 3 lacs of people. The Government of Sri Lanka has given citizenship to a little over 2.5 lacs of people, not necessarily to all these workers. It is all given on the basis of pick and choose according to their choice. Nearly 10 lacs of people who are categorised as the people of Indian origin, are left there. And they are nowhere. There is no protection for them. The other population, the Eelanaadu Tamil people are about 40 lakhs. Altogether there are about 50 lakhs of Tamil-speaking people and about 90 lakhs of Sinhalese-speaking people. This is the population of that country. We in India wish them well. It is a matter concerning human rights and democratic values of that country itself, whether the people speak Sinhalese or Tamil. So, ultimately... (*Time-bell rings*). Kindly excuse me. It is such an important and sensitive question...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The time is limited. Ten minutes are already over. Please conclude now.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: If you interrupt me...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You cannot discuss indefinitely. There is no time. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Now, we wish them well. We want our traditional friendship to continue, whatever may be the attempt of the

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present Government there to drag their country towards the imperialist camp, towards the ASEAN in this region. And it works counter to the foreign policy of our country. Whatever may be the provocation from this neighbouring country, I am sure our Government will not lose its balance, and we will stick to our tradition of non-alignment, anti-imperialism and close friendship with neighbouring countries. But that should not be misused. Recently, just a few years ago, they handed over Kachcha Theevu to Sri Lanka. Whether at the time of the Sirimavo-Shastri Pact or at the time of handing over Kachativu to Sri Lanka, the State Governments of Kerala and Tamil Nadu were not at all consulted. True, External Affairs is the prerogative of the Union Government. But we in the State are closer to these people. Should they not consult us? Even when Mr. Bhaktavatsalam was the Chief Minister, he was not consulted at the time of the Shastri-Sirimavo Pact. This is the situation. Still we put up with it because we were anxious that the friendship between Sri Lanka and India should continue. Even today we are not going to shift from that position. But what is happening now? It is terrorism. The hon. Minister just now gave us the facts. But these facts are not adequate. We are getting more than these. These are official figures. Our officials are not allowed to go to these places as they like. So, the facts are misleading. The situation is much more serious. Here is a statement by the Communist Party of Sri Lanka. Nobody will accuse ...

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: I would just like to add at this juncture that this information which I gave is the latest information, received from the High Commissioner after his visit to Ratnapura. It is not as if he has not been allowed to go there. He did visit there ...

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: I stand corrected. But the figures

supplied to him would be from the Sri Lanka Government.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: I am only saying that he went there... (Interruptions).

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Whether it is in regard to the Jaffna area, that is the Tamil area, or it is in regard to Ratnapura, that is the plantation area, the figures that come in the press are different from the figures that come through other sources because the press is gagged there. Nobody is allowed to gather information there independently. That is much more serious than an Emergency. Here is what the Sri Lanka Communist Party has to say. Nobody accuses the Sri Lanka Communist Party of consisting only of Tamils. The majority of its leadership consists of Sinhalese and the majority of the party members consist of Sinhalese. The Communist Party of Sri Lanka enjoys the support of both the Sinhalese and the Tamils. This is what they have to say:

"The Communist Party of Sri Lanka draws the attention of all democratic forces and public organisations to the need to be vigilant concerning, and oppose, the growing trend towards State-sponsored and State-patronised terrorism."

Kindly note—"State sponsored and State-patronised terrorism".

"... This trend which began with the killing of the trade union martyr Somapala during the 1980 picketing campaign, has now been repeated on an even bigger scale in Jaffna."

That is, the Tamil area. This is a quotation I give from a resolution of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Sri Lanka. I agree that ultimately the solution should be found by the democratic forces in that country, the democratic and secular forces in that country. We are not here discussing to suggest to the Government to send our army. Their own army, navy and air force have failed to restore order. That has been admitted by

Mr. Jayawardene himself that the deployment of naval force, air force and army could not help. Therefore, it is a warning. Not only what is happening in Sri Lanka is a warning and a lesson to all those who invite multinationals, who invite IMF loans—that is what Mr. Jayawardene has done. Though a small country, 400 sq. miles around Colombo is treated as a free trade zone, and Trincomalee is now leased to the Americans as a sub-base for Diego Garcia because in Diego Garcia there is no social life for the American soldiers and ratings. So they want to be sent to Trincomalee, just twenty miles from our shore. What for? For having social life. What do they mean? I am sure, the self-respecting Sinhalese people in their true tradition will not tolerate it. This is how it is being converted under the United Nationalist Party Government led by Mr. Jayawardene. This is what our Government of India should know in the context of the global imperialist strategy towards India, towards Indian Ocean. This is what they should know.

Another very important point here is that Sri Lanka air force is going to have a practice over the Palk Straits and the Gulf of Mannar. That is, the sea dividing our shore and the Sri Lanka shore. They are shallow waters. The main thing is about fishing. The lives of three lakh fishermen are affected. They want to put bombs there. That means, not only during the bombings and during the period of exercises that the fishermen will be deprived of their livelihood, but for some years to come the fish will disappear from that area. Is it not politically and economically directed against our country? It is an attempt to destabilise the economy of this country. There is the least doubt about it. In that marine zone the Japanese, the Taiwanese, the Americans, join together to destabilise our economy. That is the purpose of this 400 mile area around Colombo. These things must be understood properly. So, "to hide all these things,

high prices, growing unemployment, high rate of inflation, increasing foreign debt, the whole country is being mortgaged by the United Nationalist Party to the imperialists. To hide that fact they are whipping this communal riot. They want to take shelter under the communal riot". This is what the Government of India and the people of this country must know. That is why I took the trouble of raising this point. It is not a matter concerning the people of Tamil Nadu. It is a matter concerning the people of the entire country, the people of entire India, who believe in democracy, who believe in anti-imperialism. This morning when the Minister was answering this question, he was in difficulty to explain how the imperialists are interfering or obstructing the global convention. So, the imperialists are very active not only in Pakistan, not only in Bangladesh; they are active in this island also though this island may be very small. This is what our country, our Government, should know. And this Government, led by Mr. Jayawardene, is in league with it. So I agree that it should be tackled very carefully. It is a sensitive issue. I cannot suggest that you should send our army. It is not our tradition. So what should you do? Kindly review the economic arrangements. Please liberalise. Our papers cannot go there and their papers cannot come here. Take up this issue and expose those people. Traditional items of exports to Sri Lanka—take up that issue. You can show your real face. So, the Government of Sri Lanka is acting against the interests of India and India-Sri Lanka relations. This is the point that our country should know.

One more point. There are about ten lakhs of Stateless persons. Even the National Union of that country has demanded that Sri Lanka Government should give full-fledged citizenship and grant all consequential rights such as franchise, employment, etc. to all people of Indian origin except to those who may hereafter

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make fresh applications for Indian citizenship. This is a very important question. Are we in a position to take back all these 10 lakh people? If so, where can we keep them? And they are not willing to come back also. Whether they are of Indian origin or not, they should not be repatriated to India.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: The basic consideration which this House has to keep in view is that this is a delicate matter which impinges on our relations with our neighbour. There is some trouble. We would not like to add to that trouble. I am placing all the facts, as they come, before the House. Therefore, I will not go into questions not directly connected with the riots. These questions could be gone into separately. There is nothing to hide. If you want to have a discussion or debate on what is happening on the repatriation issue, I am prepared to place all the figures before the House. Let us not link these two things, although I do know there could be a relation between them. But let us confine ourselves to the subject-matter of the Calling Attention ...

SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD NANDA (Orissa): Even your statement did not reveal what was the immediate cause or provocation for these large-scale riots there. You should have enlightened the House on that point. We are groping in the same darkness as before.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: How do you expect the Minister to say that? Sri Lanka Government is giving support to this.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Let us return to the subject I would like to respond to the questions raised by Mr. Kalyanasundaram

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: First, about the Indian journalist.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Do not be impatient.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: I was going to start exactly from there. The press report that a journalist belonging to "India Today" has been arrested is not correct. His cameras were impounded. But the Foreign Ministry is taking action to return them. This is number one.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Is he not under police custody?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: He has not been arrested. This is the latest information.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Is that information given by the Sri Lanka Government?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: This is the information which we got from our Acting High Commissioner...

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR (Uttar Pradesh): Where is he now? He may not have been arrested legally...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him complete it. Please allow him to complete his reply.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: I have nothing to hide. I am getting information by the hour. I am placing it before the House. If there is anything still wanted, I am prepared to get it and give it to any hon. Member who wants it. The point is that a situation is developing and evolving. Fortunately report is that it is being brought under control slowly and gradually.

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: About the journalist kindly enquire where he is physically present now.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: At quarter to one where is he? Sir, the High Commissioner has been commented upon. I would like to tell

Mr. Kalyanasundaram and the House that our High Commissioner in Sri Lanka is one of the top diplomats of this country and he is not a junior officer and has not been sent there recently.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: What about the complaint that facilities were not given to the victims?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: He is one of those who are at the top and it is not fair to trace anything happening in Sri Lanka to any alleged weakness of the High Commissioner. That is not correct.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Even the repatriates are complaining that they were not given proper facilities. If you want the details, I will send you the details.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: You can send me the details. But, whoever is the High Commissioner, in an extraordinary situation like this there are bound to be certain inconveniences and we shall certainly look into those things. But, to trace these things to the weakness of the High Commissioner.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: I said "High Commission"

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: That is not correct. If there is anything further to be done, if the High Commission is to be strengthened, if there is any lack of staff, may be to cope with a situation like this, we can certainly look into all those things. But I would like to say that it is not the High Commissioner who is weak or anything like that. The fact of the matter is that they are faced with a very very difficult situation. For instance, in Iraq, when an extraordinary situation was faced, every embassy, every office, was under tremendous pressure...

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: I agree.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: ...and we have to see, considering that pressure, whether they are doing well or not and I have no doubt that our High Commissioner in Sri Lanka has been doing well. If there are any further matters to be looked into, I am always prepared to have that information from the honourable Members and see that they are looked into.

Then, Sir, it is true that there are original inhabitants of Sri Lanka among the Tamils. It is not as if all the Tamils have gone from India and are of Indian origin. But the fact remains that, whether they have gone four generations back or five generations back, those who have gone from here are technically termed as those of Indian origin, and those who did not go from here would not be of Indian origin. Therefore, there are Tamils of Indian origin and Tamils who are indigenous, as old as the Sinhalese. So, I have no quarrel with that analysis given by Mr. Kalyanasundaram. But it so happened that in these riots the victims have been the Tamils. I never said, "Tamils of Indian origin". I say, "Tamils". This is the fact and I cannot suppress it and, therefore, I have told you that Tamils have been affected, a majority of them have been affected. I have also told you that among the refugees, there are Sri Lanka citizens as well as Stateless persons because, when a riot takes place, no one picks and chooses. The emotions that are aroused in a riotous situation affect everybody with the result that among the refugees there are Sri Lanka citizens and also those who are Stateless and also Indians.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: When the honourable Minister uses the term "riot, what does he meant by it? Is it that the Sinhalese *en masse* went out and attached? I have said that it is State-sponsored terrorism. What is your information?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: I said that when riots break out, it

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is not that "X" has started and "Y" has been the victim. Riots break out in a manner which it is impossible to define, to say who has started it or which section started it, how it has been started, and so on, we can never go into those matters and it is impossible. Even if the Sri Lanka Government appoints a Commission, there will be many versions of this...

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: They may not publish the facts at all.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: ...as to who started it or when it started at a given place. Therefore, it is no use going behind the riots. The question is that here we are faced with a situation and we have to see that the situation is defused and the defusing of the situation is going on, as we understand it, slowly and gradually, but in the right direction.

Sir, when I say that it is an internal affair, I think I am on very firm ground. Clearly the controlling of the law and order situation within a country is the internal affair of that country.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Nobody disputes that.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: At the same time, I have said that we are concerned and it is exactly the same thing that we are saying in relation to UK and in relation to any other country and there is no contradiction in this. It has to be admitted that it is an internal affair and we cannot possibly do anything about it. We only hope that they will control it. But, at the same time, expressing concern is something which is quite legitimate. That we have done. And that is why I said the entire House shares the concern of the Government.

So on this we are at one. There is no difference on this.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Good.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, about the Srimavo-Shastri Pact, as I said, this is no directly concerned, and, in any case, a pact which was concluded in 1964, whatever its pros and cons, whatever its rationale, it is too late in the day for us to go back and say that it was not properly done. What is now possible is implementation, early implementation of the pact—a pact that was entered into in 1974. The time factor is important in this because the term of the pact is coming to an end this year, in 1981. That is why I submitted in the other House that we are taking steps to see that there is no gap. We are in touch with the Government of Sri Lanka. Mr. Kalyanasundaram has pointed out that it is not a small question of arithmetic, counting heads and taking them. We will have to see if the man really wants to come here. I have submitted in the other House that it is a very important factor today. The economic conditions there have changed, conditions of life have changed, and he may make his own comparison with what he has there and what he is likely to have in India if he is repatriated. Therefore, all these questions have to be gone into first by the person concerned and then by the authorities. This takes time. But we are trying our best to see that there is no gap between these two, and we will see that some satisfactory solution is arrived at. Our Secretary, who is in charge of this region, has been there. He met the President himself, and the President admitted that this matter brooks no delay and it will have to be looked into at the earliest. So the matter is being looked into.

This is all I can say on the questions raised in regard to this. I agree that one or two other questions have been raised which are not connected with

this. But in order to keep the record straight, I should say that on the question of Kachativu, we had constant consultations with the Tamil Nadu Government before a decision was taken to implement it. In the present situation we have had discussions with the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, who is constantly in touch with the Government. He came and saw the Prime Minister the other day and we are also in touch with him.

Then, Sir, on the question of Air Force exercises, I understand that this news is not correct. The Sri Lanka Air Force is not undertaking any exercise, near our shores. This is the information which I have. We will check it up still further. But for the present, whatever information I have had I am placing before the House.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ramakrishnan.

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, at the outset, it is my humble submission that the attitude of the Government of India and the Minister in giving a very low-key approach to the entire problem is rather wrong. Sir, you will have to understand the sentiments of the people of Tamil Nadu. We are particularly concerned about this issue because of geographical, historical, and also ethnical interest, as also because of the proximity and so many other factors. The Minister would know what exactly is happening now in Tamil Nadu. There is no question of politics on this issue. All the parties, including the Congress (I) have submitted a Memorandum to the Prime Minister to see and interfere in this matter. And the students have also started demonstrating about this. What may happen after some time is that this whole thing will go out of proportion and become law-and-order situation in our country if the Government of India does not take a much stronger attitude in the whole thing. Well, I am one with the

hon. Foreign Minister in appreciating that Indo-Sri Lanka relations should be maintained cordially in view of the historical friendship between the two countries. But that does not mean that we can just say that we are having discussions with the Government of Sri Lanka. No doubt, it may be an internal affair of Sri Lanka but there are so many things which happen in other countries. It involves many Indians, particularly there are three classes of Indians there; the Indians originally settled there, persons who have gone there four or five generations back, and the third category of stateless people. That is not the issue at all. When something which affects the lives of hundreds of innocent people is there, no country can afford to keep quiet and say that they are having discussions. For example, today, there was a news item that in Nepal the effigy of Mrs. Indira Gandhi was burnt. Rightly the External Affairs Ministry and the Ambassador have given a protest note. And why was no protest note given for this when the matter has not been happening today or yesterday but even in May and June the riots broke out in Jaffna? And, again, after two or three months.... (*Interruptions*). I agree that the External Affairs Ministry did a right thing in giving a protest note. Sir, in May and June this happened and, again, after three months, there is a recurrence of riots. So, the External Affairs Ministry should have acted more firmly on this issue. And, secondly, Sir, the matter has gone to such a proportion that even a Minister of the Government of Mr. Jayewardene, Mr. Thondarman has complained to him that even Tamil plantation workers, innocent of any political activities, have been singled out for murder and mayhem. Sir, this is a quotation from Mr. Thondarman, a Minister of Mr. Jayewardene's Government. This is not somebody X, Y or Z saying. He has himself complained. There is a wholesale genocide going on there, and it is a huge problem. And even this sort of terrorism will be taken advantage of by the anti-social elements and other

[Shri R. Ramakrishnan]

elements, as Mr. Kalyanasundaram said, and it will become an issue which will definitely affect India in course of time.

Secondly, Sir, this sort of discrimination against the minority by the majority is not something new. Even as early as 1977, when the Jayewardene Government came into power, they appointed a former Chief Justice of Sri Lanka, Mr. M. C. Sansoni, to go into the matter. And in his one-man commission, he has come to the conclusion that the Tamils were being discriminated against and this should be stopped if bloodshed was to be prevented. After that, in the last three years, there have been six or seven emergencies by the Sri Lanka Government to prevent the situation. Therefore, it is not correct on the part of the Government just to have this low key discussion with the Government of Sri Lanka. It should be raised in the United Nations. What for is the UN there? If other country's internal matters cannot be taken up by some other country, then the United Nations can be dispensed with. Matters relating to Taiwan, China and so many others are discussed in the United Nations. This is a matter where a wholesale genocide is going on. Then, Sir, look at the arrogance of the Sri Lanka Government. Perhaps, the hon. Foreign Minister may be aware of it. A Cabinet spokesman, Mr. Anandatissade Alwis, on behalf of Mr. Jayewardene, said that a foreign hand is behind the disturbance. Whom this foreign hand implies, we do not know. And he further says that he made it clear to a visiting foreign correspondent that the Government would not disclose the findings as to who the foreign hand is. That means, it is an indirect imputation of some neighbouring country. It is not saying that India is doing it. It implies so many things.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Don't read like that. It may be anybody.

SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE (Karnataka): He has taken a leaf out of our own Government.

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN: Then when it was pointed out to the Minister that the Government of India had expressed concern over the attacks of Indian passport holders and citizens, look at the arrogance of the Minister. That man says, "Has Sri Lanka conveyed any concern for the massacre of the Assamese". Is this a sensible talk on the part of that Government? Is any Sri Lanka national involved in Assam? Is there any massacre going on in Assam? There may be a problem in Assam. If Sri Lanka wants, let them express concern over it. Let them give a protest note. What is this arrogant attitude? And our Government says, "No, no. We want friendly relations. Bhai-Bhai will do." This is wrong. I feel that the Government of India should take up this matter more strongly first through the normal diplomatic channel, by giving a protest note, and then later with the United Nations, if it is required.

Then, Sir, there is one more thing. Thousands of innocent estate workers have to tread through snake-infested forest. Our Government is spending crores of rupees on the RAW. The statement as laid before the House—later, of course, the Minister supplemented it with some scanty information—says, "Due to confused situation, we have not yet been able to obtain detailed information as to how many Indians have been affected."

we should ask the Indian 1 P.M. High Commission to supply all the information. If in spite of spending huge funds the Government cannot get intelligence information on sensitive issues like this, the RAW can be dispensed with. We need not depend on this Sri Lanka Government, on the official figures. They will not give correct figures. There is a report reaching Madras that hundreds of Tamilians and Indian citizens have been killed. This will naturally be contradicted by the Sri Lanka Government. There-

fore, it is essential that our RAW operations there and other informal agencies and intelligence sources should give the Government correct information.

Secondly, Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether he has obtained information as to how many people have been rehabilitated? It has been stated that the Government of Sri Lanka has set up a machinery for rehabilitation. What is the number of those people who have been rehabilitated and how many people have approached the Indian High Commission who have lost their passports. Of course, we will take up the question of stateless persons later, as the hon. Minister has stated. But we want to know how many people have actually been rehabilitated by the Government. So, Sir, this is an important issue, where, on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government, our Chief Minister, Shri M. G. Ramachandaran, as early as June 10, 1981, drew the attention of the Prime Minister by a letter and by two or three visits personally impressed upon her the urgency of looking into this matter, and the Prime Minister assured him that the needful will be done and the Minister has also confirmed that. But what I am saying is that this is a matter which if allowed to go out of control if some strong action is not taken by the Government of India, will have serious consequences.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, in the first place, I would like to submit that the matter is not going out of control. On the other hand, reports show that it is being brought under control, gradually and slowly, and we wish that this process continues. We have not taken it up on a low key or a high key. We have no particular motivation for that. We have taken up the matter at a suitable level in a suitable manner because we know the very delicate situation that obtains and we want that the relations between the two neighbouring countries should not permanently get impaired as a result of this temporary upsurge.

We want this to be controlled properly and we hope it is going to be controlled. We do not think that this is a matter for the United Nations. There could be a difference of opinion. In the opinion of the Government this is not a matter to be taken to the United Nations and as far as the statement of the Minister of the Sri Lanka Government, which the hon. Member has read, is concerned, I would only say that I am not prepared to emulate that Minister.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Shri Gopalsamy. I have to inform the hon. Members that if we do not finish within some limited time, we can sit...

SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE: May I suggest that we adjourn now?

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): No, I want to speak.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If we do not finish it say, within half an hour, then the House will adjourn and this Calling Attention will be taken up at 5 o'clock, because after lunch we have to take up the non-official business. Therefore, I would request you to confine your observations to say, five minutes, because everything has been said.

AN HON. MEMBER: Let us adjourn now and take up the Calling Attention at 5 o'clock.

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Or, let the Minister reply to the points of all the Members together.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: No, no, we should follow the usual procedure.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If you are ready to finish by 1.30 p.m., every Member can speak for 3 or 4 minutes.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: No, Sir; this is a serious matter.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Then we shall take it up after 5 p.m.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, I have a submission to make. I have to leave Delhi for a purpose which cannot be postponed, which happens to be a religious ceremony in relation to my mother's death anniversary. So, if this could be completed before lunch within a suitable time, I would be grateful.

SHRI ERA SEZHIYAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, let us finish it even if we have to forgo lunch; we do not mind even if we skip our lunch.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gopalsamy, please be brief; otherwise if you take twenty minutes, we cannot finish it.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Mr. Deputy Chairman, with much anguish and agony I put before this august House the most painful events that have rocked the town of Jafna and other areas of Sri Lanka where the Ceylon citizens of Indian origin and also the indigenous Tamilians are living.

Sir, savage violence has been unleashed by armed gangs with the connivance of the police—I repeat, with the connivance of the police—and also army, against the citizens of Indian origin and also the indigenous Tamilians. Arson, looting, rape, murder, have become the order of the day. Why? Sir, these atrocities are deliberately committed to instal terror in the minds of the people to force them to flee the land which was enriched by their sweat and toil. The Minister also was very correct in saying that there are two groups: one, the indigenous Ceylon Tamilians and the other who were brought by the British planters from South India. Sir, these people of the second group, the majority of them, know no home other than the island of Sri Lanka. They have been dis-enfranchised and made Stateless when the Britishers left by the brute majority of the Sinhalese. These unfortunate people

have been subjected to the worst tragedy, the unbearable sufferings throughout the period. Worst tragedies took place in the years 1974 and 1977 when many lives were lost. This year witnesses the genocide of the Tamilians. Sir, what happened on the 31st May? The whole area was ransacked. Just imagine, a Member of Parliament, Mr. Yoheswaran and his wife scaling the walls of the house to find an escape route, only to turn back and see their house go up in flames. The youngsters in the house were killed; their jeep was burnt; the whole building was burnt. Sir, this is the photograph of the dead body of the youngster who was killed in the house of that M.P. And the same day, the great library of Jaina, one of the finest libraries of Asia, was burnt. About 95,000 precious books were burnt. Sir, the "New Statesman" of London described this incident particularly under the caption "PARADISE BURNT". There have been incidents which have been reported. According to my information from authentic source in our State, there have been cases in which people were locked in the houses and burnt to death. Sir, you will be shocked to see the photograph of these youngsters who were tortured, whose skulls were broken, and the brain tissue was spilled over the highways. This is the photograph. I shudder to see these photographs. Sir, the days of Kaligutta and Taimur are repeated. Atrocities of storm-troopers of Nazi are repeated in the land of Sri Lanka. All these atrocities are going on. My friend was very correct in saying that several thousands of workers have to tread through the snake-infested jungles to escape persecution by these armed gangs of hoodlums. For the past 15 days serious attacks are going on the womenfolk. The horrors to which the womenfolk were subjected, I have no vocabulary to describe. Even the children are not spared. And they say it is the internal issue of Sri Lanka. Sir, it is not the internal affair of Sri Lanka; it is a question of human rights. They have no other go except

to appeal to the conscience of humanity. Atrocities have affected all the categories of Tamils who came under the purview of the Srimavo-Shastri pact. There are 1,10,000 Indian passport holders and 90,000 of them have applied to come out. Why do they want to flee? It is because of terrorism, not because of economic conditions; it is because of terrorism. Our Government and our Prime Minister have rightly expressed their concern. With all sincerity, I express my gratitude as well as the gratitude of the people of Tamil Nadu to the Central Government and our Prime Minister for this. They have rightly expressed their concern over this. Even in 1979, Madam Indira Gandhi was concerned about this. She wrote a letter to Mr. Vaikuntavasan, the President of the Co-ordination Committee of Sri Lanka Tamils wherein she had expressed her concern. I have a photostat copy of the letter which Madam Indira Gandhi wrote. She says there:

"I have just received your letter of 22nd August and I am horrified to see the enclosures.

The Janata Party Government is going out of its way to be friendly with the present Government of Sri Lanka."

This is the concern which has been expressed by our Prime Minister. She has deep affection for the Tamil people. That is why, she has expressed her concern over these incidents. But this is not adequate. This is not enough. When people in Bangladesh were attacked, when they were hunted by the blood-thirsty monsters, it was our Prime Minister who flung out the banner of freedom to those people. Similarly, when lakhs of Tamils are being attacked and killed, within eighteen miles from our sea shores, we cannot shut our eyes.

There is another serious point to which I would like to draw the attention of the Government. Sri Lanka is going to become an army base of

the U.S.A. like Diego Garcia. Attempts are going on. In that event, if Sri Lanka becomes a base, this will pose a threat to the peace of Asia and also to the security of this country. It will also be a threat to the forty lakh Tamils. They will become the slaves of the Roman days.

Sir, what has happened? I am pained to see in the newspapers that ten thousand Tamils have left Sri Lanka and have reached West Germany seeking political asylum. That is why, day before yesterday, the West German Minister for Economic Affairs has visited Sri Lanka to discuss this problem in regard to the persons who have reached West Germany seeking political asylum. That is why, I would request this Government to exert all sorts of diplomatic pressures on the Sri Lanka Government and they should tell them that India would not shut its eyes, when forty lakh Tamils, including the people of Indian origin and the Ceylon Tamils are being attacked and killed. We should firmly tell the Sri Lanka Government that India would not shut its eyes to these developments. Such a type of concern should be expressed.

It would like to draw the attention of the Government to another thing. The pro-Sinhalese newspapers are preading venomous propaganda against our Government and against our Prime Minister. Though we are particular in continuing the cordial relations with the Sri Lanka Government they are not bothered. I have got photostat copies of these journals. There is one journal called "Sun" w' ich says, under the caption "Veiled Protest" dated 1st August 1981:

"Mrs Gandhi must know that Sri Lanka is not a "Pranth" of India like Rae Bareilly. And that Sri Lanka will not shudder when Bareilly frowns. Lanka will do what she thinks is good for Lanka and her people. If India does not like it, it can lump it."

[Shri V. Gopalsamy]

This is the sort of propaganda which is being whipped up, by the pro-Government elements in Sri Lanka. The Tamil people and the Tamil areas have been attacked by the Policemen in civilian clothes. This is our information. The police stations were vacated and these have been occupied by the army personnel. I say, Sir, this has been done not to protect the Tamils, this is only a camouflage. They are whipping up the extremist organisations to instil terror in the minds of the Tamils and in the minds of the people of Indian origin, to flee this land. This is the terrorism which has been sponsored and encouraged by the Government itself. The police is being used for this purpose. I have got photographs which show how market places were ransacked, how newspaper officer, houses of Members of Parliament and shops have been burnt. If our hon. External Affairs Minister sees these photographs, he will be very much pained. So, these atrocities are going on. I would request the Government to come forward and exert all sorts of pressures, express concern at the diplomatic level and also to express its deepest concern. I would also request the Government to consider the proposal of sending a parliamentary or some other delegation to Sri Lanka.

I hope and I am sure this Government alone can protect the interests of the people who are suffering there. They have no other hope. They are running here and there, to the European countries, but still the only hope for them is that the Indian Government will protect the interests of the citizens of the Indian origin residing in Sri Lanka. (*Interruptions*). What do you say? So, Sir, I hope and expect that this Government will come forward and protect the interests of the people who are shedding their tears and blood there.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: I have nothing to respond in specific terms to what Mr. Gopalsamy has said. It is a description which is

known to the Government. If I have not used that phraseology it is for obvious reasons that I have not done so. I would like to assure him that we are vigilant, we are aware of the situation, something, do something.

SHRI G. C. BHATTACHARYA: Say something, do something.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please hear him.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: I have yet to understand what 'something' means. It is very easy to say, "do something", but it is difficult to specifically point out what is to be done. I have said we have done these things, we have expressed our concern. Our High Commission is day and night actively assisting those who are affected, to the extent they are able to do so. This Parliament is seized of the matter. Our voice is being raised. Beyond these things in regard to what is happening in another country, in spite of the grave concern we feel what can be done specifically is a matter for all of us to consider.

SHRI G. C. BHATTACHARYA: Whatever you have done with regard to South Africa you do the same thing. We are giving that suggestion.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Very good. Let the suggestions come. I am prepared to answer the suggestions. One suggestion has come that we should go to the U.N. I have very respectfully submitted that in the opinion of this Government that is not correct, that is not to be done. Therefore, if there are any suggestions like that, we would certainly respond to those suggestions. But the point is, here is a situation which is reported to be improving slowly and gradually. Shall we or shall we not allow it to improve? (*Interruptions*) This is the position I would like to appeal to the House that the reports that we are getting are not reports of deterioration, they are reports of

improvement. We are at this stage. Now keeping this stage in view, I would like the Members to give suggestions.

SHRI ERA SEZHIYAN: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir it is with great concern and shock that we approach this discussion. There is no intention here to score a point of political nature. As rightly pointed out by the previous participants in this discussion, it affects all persons. It is not only a question of Tamilians of Sri Lanka, it is not only a question that agitates the minds of the people of Tamil Nadu, it is not only a question that agitates the minds of all Indians, it is a question that affects the whole humanity. It is on the conscience of humanity when the human rights are being disregarded and denied in the Island. Sir, I do not agree with the tone of the statement that has been drafted and read by the Minister. He has started by saying that these developments have started after the election campaign. Partly it may be true, but it is not the whole truth. Mr. Thondaman, a Minister in the present Government in Sri Lanka is reported to have met the President there and to have said—this I am quoting from "The Statesman" of 19th August 1981, under the caption "Sri Lanka Tea Estates Unsafe—Attacks on Tamils":

"The CWC (Ceylon Workers Congress) president, Mr. S. Thondaman, who is also Minister of Rural Industrial Development in Mr. Jayewardene's Government yesterday complained to him that even Tamil plantation workers, innocent of any political activity, have been singled out for murder and mayhem.

In a statement to the Press, he said it appeared that those who indulged in looting and arson appeared to 'covertly enjoy the patronage of powerful personalities'.

Coming from a member of the Cabinet, coming from a responsible Minis-

ter, we should take it that it is not only political motivation and political disturbance, but something more deeper and sinister lies behind these engineered attacks on the Tamils.

As rightly pointed out by the Minister, the problem is complex. It is a singled-out attack on the Tamil in general, on the Tamils of Sri Lanka, Tamils of Indian origin staying in Sri Lanka, Tamils of Indian origin who are to be repatriated to India and Tamils who are unfortunately called the "Stateless persons". These four categories are there. The hon. Minister is saying that while we are concerned, we should be very reserved, it is an embarrassing question and we should not try to interfere in the internal affairs of another country. But I would like to point out that very many persons of Indian nationality now in Ceylon who are either to be repatriated or who are temporarily there have been vitally and most atrociously affected by the riots. His statement has not revealed the enormity of the atrocities perpetrated there. There is a report from the correspondent of "The Hindu" dated August 18, wherein he says:

"Thousands of refugees from the riot-hit Ratnapura Balanoda and other districts are pouring into Colombo and the predominately Tamil areas of the north. There were refugees also from Kahawatte and Rakwana weeping and wailing and narrating tales of horror.

Most of them have either left their belongings back or lost them. Completely empty-handed they are living on charity.

Many of them are Indian citizens waiting for repatriation. All their hopes of starting a new life in India with whatever little savings they had, have been dashed."

Here is a situation wherein persons are prepared to come, who have their lives' savings which they want to take out. As he knows Srimovo-

[Shri Era Sezhiyan]

Shastri Agreement was not implemented faithfully. Even though many of them were prepared to come, they could not be paid all their amounts of savings, provident fund, compensation due etc. by the Ceylon Government. For inordinately long, they have been held up. To crown that all here is the misery: when they are prepared to come, their belongings have been looted; many of them have been assaulted. They are all Indian citizens. Therefore, I would like to know what steps have been taken by the Government. Whether they would lodge a protest under the international law, for loss of life and property they can rightly approach that Government. So I would like to know what efforts have been made in this direction.

In this statement, there is one sentence:

"The main victims are Tamils, the majority of whom are workers in the estates. There have been a number of deaths and numerous incidents of arson, looting and violence."

Instead of giving a vague statement the Government should have given exact figures. The figures have come now. I am told that as many as 16 Tamils of Indian origin have been done to death and I think in the firing only one Sinhale was reported to have been killed. I do not know the exact number. This is the number given. I think the Government should have very properly given this information.

As I stated earlier, apart from the efforts for demanding compensation for loss of life and property, as rightly pointed out by other friends here, it is not as if because we speak Tamil so we are approaching this Government. They form a minority in an adjoining State and it is not only the repercussions which are being felt here but it is a matter of human rights that are being violated. I would request the hon. Minister to take whatever steps that are possible.

Probably he cannot be as ebullient as a private member could be in the open House but I will be thankful if all possible steps are taken to tackle this problem. There is one more suggestion I would like to make.

As a follow up to the discussion here and in order to give our suggestions and to get information which cannot be put forth here, I would request the Minister to convene a meeting of all the Opposition leaders as early as possible and put forth whatever additional material that has come to him and whatever effort they have made and in what stages those efforts are when we will offer our own suggestions at an *in camera* meeting which will go a long way in helping to solve this problem.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO:

Sir, that is a good suggestion. I would say, at the outset, that I would welcome any suggestion from any Members in regard to this problem—how they feel it should be tackled, what else they would like the Government to do. All these suggestions will be welcome and I would personally look into those suggestions and inform them what has been done or what is proposed to be done. As for convening a meeting, that also could be considered.

Sir, in regard to the Indian citizens who have been affected, as I have stated earlier, Indian citizens have been told that if they wish to come back to India, the High Commission would assist them to return to India immediately. Now, those instructions are already there with the High Commission and it is only the expression of their wish to return to India and they will get all assistance that is needed. That is already there—the instructions are there—and they have been told. . .

SHRI ERA SEZHIYAN: Apart from the instructions, what about the los-

ses they incurred and what about compensation?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Now the point is, in a situation like this, do they want to wait for other things to be sorted out or do they want to come to India immediately? They will have to make a choice. Naturally, the other matters cannot be sorted out before they come to India. If they have to be sorted out before they come to India, they cannot come to India immediately. It is a matter for them to decide and if they feel that they want to come to India, assistance is available to them and they will be brought back to India and their cases could be looked into in due course.

Sir, about the numbers which the hon. Member referred to, I have already said that there are still about 4,000 refugees from other places and they were met by the First Secretary or the Assistant High Commission in Kandy. The number is undoubtedly large. I have never made a secret of it. We will have to deal with large numbers. That is why these complications are arising and, whatever inadequacies may be felt, are because of the unusually large numbers involved. I would certainly take any suggestions, Sir, as I have already stated.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now I think the House will have to be adjourned because today is Friday. Some of the Members have already . . .

SHRI ERA SEZHIYAN: You can allow one more . . . (Interruption)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That I can't do. Today is Friday as you know and some of our friends go . . .

श्री एराली सेझियन (मद्रास प्रदेश) : दो बजे तक तो हंगामा चलाइये . . . (व्यवधान)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall take it up at 2.30. I think the

House agrees to take up the matter at 2.30.

भवन की बारंबाई ढाई बजे तक के लिये समाप्त की जाती है ।

The House then adjourned for lunch at twenty-eight minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at thirty-two minutes past two of the clock. Mr. Deputy Chairman in the Chair.

SHRI M. S. RAMACHANDRAN (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, at the outset, I wish to state that I do not agree with the stand that this is an internal affair of Sri Lanka, nor do I agree that the situation is progressing and it is not as bad as it was. It is also not a fact that these racial violent attacks are confined only to certain parts of Sri Lanka where Tamil-speaking people are settled. In fact, Sir, during the last seven or eight days, after the disturbances started, all the aircrafts coming from Sri Lanka to any part of Tamil Nadu have been arriving two or three hours late and I had the personal experience of talking to some of the passengers and almost everyone of them told me that they were not in a position even to have a safe travel from their places to the Colombo airport. The condition is so bad that it is not progressing well. The press reports or even any information from our own sources, I would like to submit, are not correct.

Sir, under the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreements of 1964 and 1974, our Government is committed to repatriation of a certain number of persons, and so also the Government of Sri Lanka is committed to confer citizenship on a certain number of persons. Sir, as far as repatriation

[Shri M. S. RAMACHANDRAN]

is concerned, it is not our fault alone that the required number could not be repatriated to India within the time-limit agreed. The main reason for the delay in repatriation is the delay in settlement of dues like provident fund, gratuity by the Ceylon planters and other employers for our workers who were willing to be repatriated. And the second reason is that the labour requirement is such that the Sri Lanka plantation owners want our workers to continue there. They are not prepared to send back the workers to India. Therefore, they are being discouraged from opting for repatriation. The main reason is with the Sri Lanka employers and planters. Secondly, Sir, regarding the commitment which the Sri Lanka Government made to confer citizenship to a particular number of people, in spite of the fact that 15 years have passed, they have not conferred citizenship even on 50 per cent of the people they agreed to. Now, these violent incidents have already been referred to by several of my colleagues. This is not the first incident or a stray incident because of the election for the Development Council. This is a planned attack with the support and connivance of the ruling party there. My submission is that this is not an internal affair. It is more a genocide against a linguistic minority and it is deliberate and planned violence. I also share the view expressed by the hon. Member, Mr. Ramakrishnan, about the arrogance of the spokesman of the Sri Lanka Government when he stated that they had not expressed any concern about the Assamese. I submit, Sir, that there is no citizen of Sri Lanka in Assam, first. And secondly, there was no massacre of any Assamese in Assam. Therefore, this type of arrogance only shows that it is a planned attack on the people, not only people of Indian origin but their own citizens, Tamil-speaking citizens of that country. Stateless persons and others. This is a planned and deliberate genocide on a linguistic minority by the majority people.

Now, in view of the concern expressed by all the speakers here on this issue, will the Government consider any more effective steps to convey our strong feelings to the Sri Lanka Government and also to see that such type of violent activities are not allowed to continue?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, I have already submitted what has been done, what is being done and in the light of the suggestions given by hon. Members, if there is anything specific that could still be done, the Government would be willing to consider it. But nothing has emerged so far on specific lines. Not only now during this debate but even afterwards, I have already made a general request to Members to come forward with suggestions, if any, and give them to us. We will also consider what else can be done. We will not merely wait for suggestions to come from the Members. It is a continuous process. This is an evolving situation. We will be vigilant and we will be in touch.

SHRI G. C. BHATTACHARYA: This is not correct. We have suggested economic sanctions. (*Interruptions*) He is misleading the House. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. How is he misleading the House?

SHRI G. C. BHATTACHARYA: Are you ready for economic sanctions? (*Interruptions*). He is asking for suggestions. We are giving suggestions. (*Interruptions*). Are you ready for economic sanctions?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: I am taking the suggestions. I am not supposed to say, "Yes" or "No", to that instantaneously. That is not the way we function. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bhattacharya, he has told this thing several times.

SHRI G. C. BHATTACHARYA: He has said no good suggestion has

come. But we have suggested economic sanctions.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You do not hear and you jump up.

SHRI G. C. BHATTACHARYA: You should have asked him when he said no concrete suggestion had come.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think he never said this, what you say.

SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO DHABE (Maharashtra): I heard with anguish the statement by the honourable Minister. It seemed to the world that India is helpless and cannot give any protection to people of Indian origin all over the world. Indians are treated badly not only here but also in U.K. Reports have also come from Saudi Arabia that Sikhs are not allowed to enter, Kuwait and other countries are also denouncing Hindus and are telling them, "You Hindus cannot hold public worship." They cannot even observe their festivals. Bangladesh and Pakistan and other countries which are there around our nation are also not having happy relations with us. I would like to tell the Minister that the policy should not be that of a tiger without teeth. Those countries don't treat the Americans and the Britishers like this. This is what the Indians there say. The first question, therefore, is that there should be a radical change in the approach to the problem, looking to the events that are happening not just in one country, but in many countries. The Indians there feel that nothing is being done by the Indian Government. Therefore, something more concrete should be done. I would not like to say because you know better, the Central Government knows it better, how to protect our people. There must be a proper strategy. The important question to be asked is. Is this problem really racial or is it connected with citizenship denial of voting rights or employment?

Because, with the plantations workers that is the main question. Is the problem racial or is it connected with employment and denial of citizenship? Secondly, he has made a good suggestion. The Minister was referring to the agreement. I would like to know up to July, 1981 how many Indians have been repatriated and how many have been granted citizenship. I would like to know the position as it stands today. This problem must be solved effectively before the year 1981 because the agreement period is expiring.

Lastly, nobody is going to accept the statement of the honourable Minister. This sort of treatment is given not only to the people of Indian origin living there, but even to the Indian citizens, to our passport-holders. Our passport-holders are also being treated shabbily. They are also being manhandled. What are you going to do? You must tell the Sri Lanka Government that at least our citizens have a right to be treated properly and they should not be attacked. I would like to know how many Indian citizens have suffered in these riots which are taking place in Sri Lanka.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: I have placed the facts before the House. It is not possible to describe the riots in a particular manner. What I have said is, "As a result of the riots the sufferers are such and such people." Now that gives a clue for all of us to draw our own conclusions. But to brand it as a particular kind of riot would not be proper. I only placed the facts as we got them.

The other thing is about the figures which the honourable Member wanted. I have some figures here.

No. of persons repatriated to

India 2,73,346

Balance to be repatriated under

1964 and 1974 agreements . . . 3,26,657

[Shri P. V. Narasinha Rao]
No. of persons granted Indian
citizenship 3,56,352

No. of Indian citizens awaiting
repatriation to India 83,006

Total estimated number of Indian
citizens in Sri Lanka including
the above figures of 83,006 awaiting
repatriation under 1964 and 1974
agreements 1,15,000

Balance to be granted Indian citizen-
ship under 1964 and 1974 agree-
ments 2,43,648

No. of persons whose applications for
Indian citizenship are pending 1,27,300

No. of persons granted Sri Lanka
citizenship 1,56,282

Balance to be granted Sri Lanka
citizenship 2,18,718

Actual repatriation in 1980 12,166

Actual repatriation in 1979 15,942

Actual repatriation in 1978 20,281

These are the figures. May be, there could be a little variation in these figures. But the figures clearly show that what was agreed to be done in 1964 and then in 1974 has not been done fully. Only half of it seems to have been done. Meanwhile there are some new complications. The original applicants died and their sons and daughters have come into the picture. That is what is called natural increase. They in many cases may not be prepared to come. In many cases, as has been pointed out, the employers are not prepared to release them in which case we tell the Sri Lanka Government either to let them come or to give them citizenship and not to keep them hanging as stateless persons. These are our demands and we have

been talking to Sri Lanka Government on these lines.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : श्रीमान्, यह प्रश्न बहुत पुराना है। उस सारे इतिहास में जाने की आवश्यकता नहीं है। लेकिन दो बातों की ओर मैं इन सरकार का और सारे सदन का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूंगा। जब कल्याण-सुन्दरम जी बोल रहे थे तो उन्होंने कुछ उसमें राजनीतिक बातों का उल्लेख किया था। यह बात सच है कि इनके झगड़े के पीछे राजनीतिक भी कुछ बातें हैं। कई साल पहले जो साम्यवादी वहां घटना हुई थी उनके खिलाफ बहुत जबरदस्त कार्यवाही श्रीलंका सरकार ने की थी। लेकिन हमें आज भी उस बात से मचेत रहना चाहिए कि जहां तक तमिल भाषी लोगों का प्रश्न है जो भारतीय मूल के हैं उनको सुरक्षा, उनका हित हमारा हित है। परन्तु वहां पर साम्यवादियों के साथ क्या किया जाता है, क्या नहीं किया जाता है, सिहलियों के साथ क्या किया जाता है, क्या नहीं किया जाता है, उससे हमारा सरकार सरकार के रूप में या भारतीय निवासियों के रूप में संबंध नहीं स्थापित किया जाना चाहिए। यह मेरा मत है और जब वहां के साम्यवादियों की पार्टी का नाम लेकर कोई बात कही जाय तो उसमें यदि यह उल्लेख आये कि भारत के कुछ नागरिक वहां के साम्यवादी आंदोलन को प्रोत्साहन देना चाहते हैं और वहां के जो तमिल भाषी भाषी हैं उनको यहां से प्रोत्साहन मिलेगा वहां को सरकार के विरोध में आंदोलन करने के लिए तो यह उचित नहीं होगा। यह भारत और सेलन के संबंधों को बिगाड़ने में एक सहायता कर

सकता है । इसकी सावधानी हमें हर प्रकार से बरतनी पड़ेगी और बरतनी चाहिये, यह मेरा निवेदन है और मैं समझता हूँ कि सरकार इस विषय पर निश्चित रूप से सचेत होगी । यह बात सच है कि जब से तमिल वहाँ गये और जो उनको अधिकार पहले थे वे घटते चले गये । कुछ घटनाएँ ऐसी हैं । जब वहाँ पर अंग्रेजों का राज था तो उस समय तमिल भाषा भाषियों का हर जगह पर बाहुल्य था । अधिकांश जगहों में वे प्रभावो थे लेकिन जैसे ही अंग्रेजों के बाद वे आजाद हुए, जैसे अन्य देशों में हुआ है उसी आधार से हर क्षेत्र से उन्हें अहिंसा-अहिंसा हटाया गया बजाये इसके कि उन लोगों को हटाने जो सीलोन में नहीं रहे हैं, वहाँ नये-नये गये हैं । लेकिन दुख यह है कि मैं केवल थोड़े से आंकड़े देना चाहता हूँ । वहाँ पर जब अंग्रेज थे उस समय तक जो स्थिति थी वह यह थी कि जो सीलोन की एडमिनिस्ट्रेटिव सर्विस थी वहाँ पर 30 प्रतिशत लोग तमिल भाषी थे । 1977 में वे घटकर केवल पाँच प्रतिशत रह गये, ऐसे ही क्लेरिकल स्टाफ में 50 परसेंट थे जो 70-72 में 5 परसेंट रह गये । ऐसे ही जो आर्म्ड फोर्स में थे उसमें 40 परसेंट थे उसमें एक परसेंट रह गये, ऐसे ही पुलिस के अन्दर भी हैं, यह दिखाता है कि वहाँ का शासन जो भी रहा हो वह तमिल भाषा भाषियों को पीछे धकेलना चाहता है । तो मेरा सरकार से अनुरोध है कि सीलोन सरकार को इस नीति की ओर से सीलोन की सरकार को हमारी ओर से जवाब जाना चाहिये कि यह जो घटी हुई है, यह सिस्टमैटिकली हुई यह अनजाने से नहीं हुई और इस नीति को मूलतः सीलोन सरकार को बदलना चाहिये । जब कि यह निश्चित न हो जाये कि कौन भारत आयेगा, कौन भारत न आ कर वहाँ का

नागरिक रहेगा तब तक उनके किसी क्षेत्र में भी कहीं पर भी तमिल भाषियों के साथ विद्वेष का भाव छलकता हुआ कभी नहीं दिखाना चाहिये ।

दूसरा एक और है और मैं समझता हूँ कि सरकार ने इस तरफ ध्यान आकर्षित किया होगा कि जो तमिल भाषा-भाषी लोगों के बाहुल्य का क्षेत्र है वहाँ पर सरकार की ओर से नियोजित रीति से सिहलियों को बसाया जा रहा है और इसके विपरीत यदि तमिल भाषा-भाषी लोग सिहली बाहुल्य क्षेत्र में जाना चाहते हैं तो उनको सरकार रोकती है । मैं सरकार का ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि वह इस बात की ओर ध्यान करे कि वहाँ के हम लोगों की शिकायत यह है—जो हमारे खून का खून है, हमारे मांस का मांस है जो वहाँ पर रहने वाले भारत-वासी हैं—कि यह सरकार की ओर से प्रोत्साहित किया जा रहा है, इसको बन्द किया जाये । फिर कुछ वहाँ की राजनीतिक घटनाएँ भी हैं । अभी जो वहाँ की रूलिंग पार्टी है और जो टी० एन० एफ० तमिल भाषा-भाषियों की संस्था है उनके बीच में समझौता हो गया था और उसी समझौते के रूप में कुछ न कुछ चीजें मिली थीं । उदाहरण के रूप में जो डिस्ट्रिक्ट कौंसिल हैं, तमिलभाषा की जो स्वायत्ति है कुछ क्षेत्रों में और ऐसी कुछ नौकरियों की सुविधाएँ मिली थीं । लेकिन यह कहा गई जब कि विरोधी दल के नेता अमृतालिघम के खिलाफ उन्होंने एक प्रस्ताव संसद में ले आये थे, तब झगड़ा खड़ा हो गया है । यह जो चीज है दिस इज पोलिटिकल ।

अगर वहाँ की सरकार वास्तव में तमिल भाषा-भाषियों को दबाना नहीं चाहती, तो जो रूलिंग पार्टी का और वहाँ के तमिल भाषा-भाषियों का समझौता हो रहा था और कुछ हो चुका था, उस वक्त उन्होंने वहाँ पर यह प्रस्ताव क्यों लाए । इसका मतलब सोधा-

[श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर]

सीधा यह है कि वहां पर विरोधी दल और सरकारी दल के अलावा कुछ ऐसे लोग हैं, जो विधिवत पोलिटिकल बेंडेटा एक प्रकार से तमिल भाषा-भाषियों के खिलाफ करना चाहते हैं। इसकी ओर ध्यान आकृष्ट हमारे डिप्लोमैटिक लैवल पर यह अन्य किसी प्रकार से भी होनी चाहिए। मेरा सरकार को यह सुझाव है।

दूसरी बात मेरी समझ में नहीं आई— जो शास्त्री जी के साथ समझौता हुआ था, जो कि वैसा डिप्लोमैटिक समझौता नहीं था जैसा यूज्यूअल होता है, पत्र-व्यवहार के रूप में समझौता था। लेकिन उसकी हैसियत उसी समझौते की है जो डिप्लोमैटिक लैवल पर दी जाती है। यह सारी कार्यवाही 15 साल पूर्व हो जानी चाहिए थी। 1974 में हुआ, उसकी 1979 के बजाए दो साल और अवधि बढ़ गई और 1981 तक आ गई। तो आखिर-कार रिपैट्रियेशन क्यों नहीं हुआ ?

अभी मंत्री महोदय ने बताया कि अभी लगभग 83-84 हजार लोग ऐसे हैं वहां— मैंने सुना है कि इतनी संख्या थी—जो भारत में आने के लिए इच्छुक हैं, रिपैट्रियेशन के लिए, और वे लटक रहे हैं। वह क्यों लटक रहे हैं ?

श्रीमन्, क्या श्रीलंका सरकार उनको आने नहीं देना चाहती या हमारी सरकार ने उनको सिटिजनशिप राइट देने का अभी तक पूरी तरह से फैसला नहीं किया या जैसे मेरे सहयोगी ने बताया कि उनको वहां के नौकरी देने वाले नहीं छोड़ना चाहते, अथवा उनका पैसा रुका हुआ है, इसका कारण क्या है ? थोड़ी बहुत संख्या नहीं है, बहुत बड़ी संख्या है।

इसी के साथ बहुत बड़ी संख्या ऐसी है जिन्होंने अभी तक न इधर अर्जी दी है न उधर अर्जी दी है। (समय की घंटी) मैं एक मिनट में खतम कर रहा हूं। अब जो नये पैदा हो गये, उनकी स्थिति क्या है ?

मेरा ख्याल है कि इस सारी स्थिति का स्पष्टीकरण 1981 में समझौता समाप्त होने पर और नया जो भी समझौता हो, उसको इतना स्पष्ट कर लेना चाहिए कि अगले दो साल के अंदर यह सवाल हल हो जाएं। जो वहां रहने वाले हैं, वे वहां रहें और जो यहां रहने वाले हैं, वे यहां रहें, और उनकी जो सन्तान होगी, वह तो नागरिक होगी ही, यानी

—All points should be made specific and clear जिसके साथ It should not go on hanging fire.

बस, यही दो-तीन बातें मैं आपके सामने रखना चाहता हूं।

श्री पी० वी० नरसिंह राव : श्रीमन् मैं तो पहले से यह सावधानी ले रहा हूं कि इस चर्चा में कम से कम मेरी तरफ से किसी राजनीतिक दल या दलगत नीति या ऐसी कोई बात न आए। लेकिन माननीय सदस्यों में से यदि कोई सदस्य किसी दल के पत्र में से कुछ पढ़ना चाहे तो मैं उसे रोक नहीं सकता। पर इसका मतलब यह नहीं होता कि कोई राजनीतिक दल यहां से वहां के किसी दल की मदद कर रहा है या उसके अन्दरूनी मामले में हस्तक्षेप कर रहा है। यह मैं मानने के लिए तैयार नहीं हूं। जब एक बात आ जाती है, तो जहां-जहां से हमारे पास जानकारी आती है उसको सदन के सामने लाया जाता है। इसके बारे में मुझे तो इतराज नहीं है। लेकिन मैंने यह सावधानी जरूर बरती है कि हमारी तरफ से किसी राजनैतिक दल की बात या दलगत कोई बात न लाई जाए और जो भी जानकारी मेरे पास है मैंने उसे उसी तरह आपके सामने रखी है।

अब दूसरी बात यह कि वहां के जो अल्पसंख्यक हैं, माइनारिटीज हैं, उनके बारे में उस सरकार की जो नीति है उसे हम उसी सरकार की अन्दरूनी नीति मानते हैं, जैसा हमारे पास अपनी सरकार

की नीति है। लेकिन हम अपनी चिंता प्रकट कर रहे हैं और चिंता क्यों प्रकट कर रहे हैं इस पर काफी प्रकाश डाला जा चुका है। तो इन दोनों में हमें थोड़ा बहुत भेद करना चाहिए। माइनारिटीज एज माइनारिटीज हम नहीं देख रहे हैं माइनारिटीज इन ए ब्रांड सैंस। ये ऐसी माइनारिटीज हैं—जिनसे हमारा थोड़ा बहुत रिश्ता अभी भी कायम है और पहले से रहा है और हमें चिंता होती है जहां कहीं भारतीय हैं और उन पर जुल्म होता है तो हमें चिंता होती है। उस प्रकार की चिंता को हम व्यक्त कर रहे हैं। वे भारतीय न होते और वे शत-प्रति-शत माइनारिटी ही होते तो वह उनका एक दम अंदरूनी मामला हो जाता और उस पर हम ज्यादा कहने की स्थिति में नहीं रहते तो इन दोनों में थोड़ा सा भेदभाव करना है और मैंने जो कहा है वह सिर्फ इसलिए कि उनका अंदरूनी मामला होते हुए भी चूंकि इसमें भारतीय हैं भारतीय ओरिजिन के लोग हैं, हमें चिंता होती है। यही मैंने कहा है और यही उचित है जहां तक मैं समझता हूं।

श्री लाडली मोहन निगम : उपसभापति महोदय, मैं उन बातों को तो नहीं दुहराऊंगा जो सभी साधियों ने कहीं। मैं कल्याण सुदर्मजी के श्री रामाकृष्णन जी और बाद में गोपालसामी के भाषण से साधारणतः सहमत हूं। असल सवाल, इस मसले को व्यापक पैमाने पर देखा जा सकता है लेकिन तात्कालिक मामला है जो अभी वहां पर सांप्रदायिकता के रूप में स्थिति भड़क गई है—सांप्रदायिकता का शब्द मेरा है। लेकिन वहां के दोनों ही वैसे ही हैं, मतलब यह कि कोई दूसरे संप्रदाय का नहीं है दूसरा धर्मावलम्बी नहीं है। तो बात यह नहीं कहीं गई है, नहीं तो फिर बुद्ध और गैर-बुद्ध का

मामला हो जाता है। अब इस से बड़ा दुर्भाग्य क्या हो सकता है कि बुद्ध का इस्तेमाल आजादी के बाद हम लोग नहीं कर सके जो बुद्ध के जमाने में या बुद्ध के बाद लोगों ने किया नहीं तो शायद आज वह हालत न होती। मैं एक बात कहना चाहता हूं विदेश मंत्री जी से — इस हालत में जब नीति हम कोई बनाते हैं, चलाते हैं, आजका तात्कालिक उठाया हुआ बंदम, तो उस के परिणाम दाद में देखने को मिलते हैं। असल सवाल यह है उपसभापति महोदय, अगर गुस्ताखी न हो तो मैं कह सकता हूं कि हिन्दुस्तान की मुट्ठी खुल गई है। हमारी मुट्ठी में वह ताकत रही नहीं है; खुल गई है, क्योंकि श्री लंका, जितना साल भर में हम बच्चे पैदा करते हैं उतनी बड़े आबादी का मुल्क है। उस देश की इतनी हिम्मत हो जाए कि हिन्दुस्तान के किसी हिस्से को दबा ले और उसके बाद भी उन्होंने देखा कि हम उस का कुछ नहीं कर सके। उसी के साथ जब उनका आंतरिक मामला, विद्रोह हुआ, तो उसमें आंतरिक मामले को लेते हुए जहां राजनीतिक परिवर्तन और बदलाव चल रहा हो उस में अगर हिन्दुस्तान की सरकार अपने हवाई बेड़े का इस्तेमाल करना चाहे तो पता चलेगा कि हम परिवर्तन वाले लोग हैं। तो श्रीलंका हमारी क्यों मानने लगे? यह बात बिलकुल सही है कि जब कभी भी आगे करार आप करना चाहें तो पूरे मामले तय कर लेने चाहिए। लेकिन अभी तात्कालिक रूप में हमें क्या कदम उठाना चाहिए? सीधा सवाल है, जैसा आपने कहा, हम भी मुत्तफिक हैं कि हिन्दुस्तान का खून वहां है, इस वास्ते आप मान लीजिए, किसी दूसरे देश में जहां मानद अधिकार ही टूट रहा हो, क्या हम नहीं बोलेंगे? इस वक्त मानवीय अधिकार, इन्सान का हक, खतरे में है इस दृष्टि से सारे मसले को देखता हूं और इसलिए मैं आप से कहना चाहता

[श्री लाडली मोहन निगम]

हूँ कि देश की अखंडता और अक्षुण्णता के लिए तो जरूरी है हो, इन्सानियत के लिए भी क्या हम विश्व में जनमत नहीं बना सकते ? यूनाइटेड नेशंस की रेफ्यूजी कौंसिल, रेड क्रॉस है, स्काउट्स संस्था है; --25 संघटन होते हैं--गैर सरकारी तौर पर जितनी राजनैतिक पार्टियाँ जो समाजवादी समता में या किसी बड़े उदार दृष्टि में विश्वास करती हो, उन के साथ जनमत बनाने में काम नहीं कर सकते हैं ? मैं नहीं कहता, सारा मामला सरकारी लेवल पर तय करो। जहाँ तक मैं जानता हूँ एक करान पार्टी थी, जो सोशलिस्ट इंटर-नेशनल से संबंधित है श्रीलंका की, सम समाजम, उस के साथ क्या हम लोग गैर सरकारी तौर पर, उनको विश्वास में ला कर, कुछ आगे नहीं बढ़ सकते ? मैं यह नहीं कहता वहाँ जो कूटनैतिक विभाग है या जो लोग वहाँ राजदूत, मफोर लोग, बैठे हुए हैं, सारे निकम्मे और खराब हैं, मेरा यह कहना है कि जो भी राजदूत होता है यह मानकर चलता है मैं सरकार का हूँ, सरकार का काम कर रहा हूँ। उसके दिमाग में हो कि मैं यहाँ बैठा हुआ हूँ एक इन्सान अपने देश के अधिकार की रक्षा करने के लिए।

मैं एक बात की तरफ आज भी--चेतावनी तो देने की मेरी ताकत नहीं--लेकिन आगाह जरूर कर देना चाहता हूँ, आप के माध्यम से। यह मेरी सूचना नहीं, बल्कि वहाँ के विदेश मंत्री आनंद किशनर अनावीस ने जो कहा है, धर्म गुरुओं को सभा में, जिसको मैंने परसों ही अखबार में पढ़ा, कि इसमें विदेशी हाथ है। त्रिलुप्त साफ है, क्योंकि आपका कल का जो भाषण हुआ है लोक सभा में उससे भी ध्वनित होता है कि कुछ ताकतें इस मामले में लगी हुई हैं कि ऐसे मौखिक हालात पैदा हो जाए कि हिंदुस्तान हिन्द महासागर के वारे में एक सम्मेलन यूनाइटेड नेशंस या संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ को तहान करने वाला है उस को तोड़ा जा सके। तो क्या कुछ ऐसा खतरा नहीं लगता ? अब तो त्रिलुप्त साफ है कि वह सम्मेलन न

हो सके ऐसे हालात पैदा कर दो ताकि हमारे लिए भी हिस्सा लेना मुश्किल हो जाय। जब हम ने डियागो गार्शिया को खाली कराने की बात की तब उस ने कहा था कि हम उससे ज्यादा नजदीक हैं, हम को खतरा है। आज लंका दूसरे साम्राज्यवादी बेड़े का अड्डा बनने जा रहा है। यह मेरे सामने सवाल है। हमारे जो भारतीय वहाँ हैं उन को नैतिक जिम्मेदारी आप के ऊपर है। जो भारतीय पारपत्र लेकर वहाँ पड़े हुए हैं उन की सुरक्षा के लिए सरकार को क्या रुख अखिलकार करना चाहिए वह तो सरकार करेगी ही। रहा सवाल भारतीय मूल के लोगों का। उन को भी बचाने के बारे में सोचना चाहिए। यह बात सही है कि शास्त्र वाले समझौते के परिणामस्वरूप आज करोड़ करोड़ एक लाख आदमी स्टेटलेस हो गये हैं उन को कोई लेने को तैयार नहीं है।

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Five lakhs.

श्री लाडली मोहन निगम : वालिग लोग एक लाख हैं। उन के साथ उन के परिवार के लोगों को जोड़ कर आप कह रहे हो। संख्या और भी बढ़ सकती है। उन के बारे में सरकार क्या सोच रही है। लंका तो इस बात का सहारा ले लेगा कि अवांछनीय तत्व हमारे राष्ट्र में घुसे हुए हैं, भले ही हिन्दुस्तान उन का सहारा न ले रहा हो। तो मामला कैसे हल होगा ?

जब हम लोग वहाँ के लोगों की भाषा की प्रतिष्ठा की बात करते हैं तो हमें अपने गिरेबान में देखना चाहिए कि हम भाषा के सम्बन्ध में कितने ईमानदार हैं। तो इस मसले को हल करने के लिए तीन तरीके होंगे। एक तो दूरगामी विश्व के जनमत को तैयार करना, सरकारी तौर पर जो कुछ फैसला आप को करना हो करें। दूसरा तरीका हो सकता है कि अपने आसपास के जो हमारे मित्र हैं--कल अगर मान लीजिए किसी मित्र ने कहा कि इसे यूनाइटेड नेशंस में ले जायें तो यूनाइटेड नेशंस में हम अकेले न पड़ जायें यह खतरा है इस वास्ते में उस को नहीं कहता--उन को

साथ लें इस विषय पर। जो अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सेवाभावी संस्थाएँ हैं उन में जनमत बनाने का हमें काम करना चाहिए। तीसरे अपने अन्दर जितना हम प्रजातांत्रिक अधिकारों को मजबूत बनायेंगे उतना वहाँ पर प्रजातंत्र के अधिकारों के लिए लड़ सकेंगे। चौथी चीज, बुद्ध को जब तक हम हिन्दुस्तान की राजनीति में प्रतिष्ठित नहीं करते तब तक जितने ये साउथ-ईस्ट के देश हैं उन के साथ हमारा कोई बहुत अच्छा भविष्य दिखता नहीं। इस वास्ते लंका के आज के मौजूदा दंगों से—हम को कोई खुशी नहीं है—एक अच्छा काम हुआ है कि उस ने हमारी उमीदों को, जो हम बलसाये हुए पड़े थे उस को दूर कर के हम को जगाने का काम किया है। अगर जागे हैं तो जाग्रत नागरिक और सरकार का परिचय दीजिये। मुझे इतना ही कहना है।

श्री पी० बी० नरसिंह राव : श्रीमान, मैं पहले तो यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि हम कभी सोये हुए नहीं थे। 15 साल से, 17 साल से जो यह मामला चल रहा है, सदस्यों ने स्वयं कहा कि यह कोई हमारी तरफ से आलस्य नहीं हुआ, बर हमारी तरफ से नहीं हुई, दोनों तरफ से हुई। उस के कारण थे। तो यह मामला ऐसा है जिस को दोनों तरफ से निबटाने की कोशिश होनी चाहिए और उसी कोशिश में हम लगे हुए हैं। मैं ने जो निवेदन किया, भारतीयों के सम्बन्ध में जो हमारी चिन्ता है उस को प्रकट करने में हम सब सहमत हैं इस लिए वह प्रकट मैं ने की। अब ह्यूमन राइट्स, मानवीय अधिकारों का जो प्रश्न होता है वह केवल एक देश का नहीं होता। आप को पता है कि भारत ने कभी भी मानवाधिकारों की रक्षा में कभी नहीं की, हम पीछे नहीं हटे हैं। ह्यूमन राइट्स के लिए हर एक जगह आवाज उठाने में हम आगे रहे हैं। हमारा जो रोल रहेगा वह रहेगा अपनी जगह।

श्री लडली गोहन निगम : निर्गुण जाप मत करिये, सगुण जाप करिये।

श्री पी० बी० नरसिंह राव : निर्गुण नहीं, सगुण ही करते आये हैं। जब-जब आवश्यकता हुई है हम ने आवाज उठायी है, किसी से कम नहीं रहे हैं, पीछे नहीं रहे हैं आवाज उठाने में। लेकिन इस मामले में उस को अभी से जोड़ना मुझे उचित नहीं लगा इस लिये मैंने उस पर कोई दृष्टि नहीं डाली। अब बुद्ध को कहीं प्रतिष्ठित करना है यह बड़ी लम्बी समस्या है। इस के बारे में फिर कभी सोचेंगे। इस मामले से इस का कोई संबंध नहीं है।

श्री नरसिंह प्रसाद नन्द : वह अपनी जगह पर प्रतिष्ठित है। उन को प्रतिष्ठित करने की जरूरत नहीं है।

SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SURJEET (Punjab): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I share the feelings of all and it is not an issue which concerns the Tamilians alone. It is an issue which concerns all the Indians and I feel the statement of the Minister of External Affairs is very disappointing. Firstly, because, he has expressed the feeling of satisfaction that a climate of confidence has been built up when there are four thousand people still in the refugee camps. One does not know what is going to be their fate. The problem remains unsolved. Secondly, Sir, it has been said that this is an internal affairs of the Sri Lanka Government. One can differentiate between the issues which are there at Jaffana and the issues which are there where direct attacks are made on the Tamilians of Indian origin. Thirdly, Sir, he has stated that no responsibility can be fixed about the riots. Sir, I want to point out... (Interruptions) I do not want him to commit to anything. I was there in England when Skinheads attacked Indians and this is the type of reply which was given by the Prime Minister first. But later on she had to accept it when the whole thing was made known to her. More than 300 people came from outside and attack-

[Shri Harkishan Singh Surjeet]

ed Indians. This should not be stated here. What I want to say is that it is not correct to say that this thing started because of all these things. The basic problem is that there was an agreement between the two countries. The problem has remained unsolved since so many years. There was some agreement between the Governments of India and Sri Lanka. What happened to that? Who is responsible for not implementing that agreement? Their fate is hanging in a balance since a long time. Today we come to know that almost one-third have acquired the citizenship of Sri Lanka, whereas the fate of two-thirds is still undecided, according to the figures provided by the Minister of External Affairs. Who is responsible for that? What steps have been taken earlier during all these years to see that everybody is settled? Secondly, there are so many persons who are still stateless. What are steps that the Government of India is taking about them, to solve their problem? Then, what about those who have offered to acquire the Indian citizenship? What is the hitch about them? Why have they not been provided all the facilities to come here, and if the question of their arrears, provident funds, other dues, etc., is not settled, what steps have been taken by the Government of India in that direction? You cannot shirk your responsibility. If Shrimati Indira Gandhi at that time, in 1979, could write a letter, which was quoted here, in which she said that the Janata Party Government is going out of its way to be friendly with the present Government of Sri Lanka, when the attacks were on the Tamilians, when the riots were there, you cannot now say, you cannot do anything. You could then make a written protest in a communication and you say now that nothing could be done today. I would like to ask the External Affairs Minister what are the steps that the Government propose to take to see that the agreement is implemented and what are the steps that the Government

has already taken. It is not the elections alone. It is this thing. If they were not stateless, if their citizenship were determined, the problem would not have been there to that extent. What steps do the Government propose to take to ensure that those who want to come to India, their provident fund matters and property matters are settled? What steps is the Government taking to settle their affairs? There are Indian Citizens, there are stateless persons. What are the steps that the Government is taking? This is the responsibility of the Government. You cannot say that *this is an internal affair of Sri Lanka* because these people are outside the country. They are Indian citizens. I fail to understand how the the Government of India takes such a stand. If such a stand is taken, it will not be good for this country. You are proud of getting thousands of crores of rupees of foreign exchange through the savings of Indians abroad. They are helping you. If this statement goes to the Indians abroad that the Government is not going to take any responsibility, this will have a very adverse effect on the Indians because such a situation is not in Sri Lanka alone, but in other countries too such a situation is developing. If the Government of India does not take a firm position—it is a very dangerous situation—it will lead to lack of confidence among Indians abroad that there is nobody in India to look after their interests.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO:

Sir, I am afraid, what I have never said, is being imputed to me. I have said at the very outset that these two are separate things although we cannot say that there is no link between them. The question of repatriation, what has been done, why more could not be done, what is proposed to be done etc., could be discussed in this House and I am prepared to come forward with all the information that would be relevant. Here we are on a specific issue and that concerns the riots. So whatever information I have placed before the House, is concern-

ing the roits, and by the way, whatever other information I happen to have, I have placed before the House. Therefore, I would once again appeal to the House that if Hon'ble Members really want that the main question of the repatriation process has to be discussed, I am prepared for the debate and come with all the figures. But I have never said that we are not going to do anything or we are not going to take any action. Whatever action is possible, we are taking not only here, but everywhere. In the case of Indian citizens, I have already said, if they want to be evacuated immediately, there are facilities available. If the Government of Sri Lanka in some cases is taking its own time in sorting out whatever dues are to be paid to them, that has been one of the problems. We have been putting pressure on them through bilateral discussions. I can also demonstrate by figures if there is any need or any occasion, that as a result of the pressure which we have been consistently bringing on them, there has been some improvement. For various reasons, that Government has not been able to find money in a lump sum to pay to these people immediately so that they could go. So, this question is being looked into, all these questions are being looked into and as the hon. Member said, time is of essence. I understand; I have myself said that time is of essence because the term of both the agreements is coming to an end this year and I have already submitted to the House that before the term ends we are going to find a way so that there is no gap between what we do next and the ending of the term. That is what we are at, at the moment and the matter is being looked into.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We go to special mentions. Shri Nanda.

**REFERENCE TO THE ALLEGED
 POLICE BRUTALITY ON THE CON-
 VENER OF THE ALL ORISSA STU-
 DENTS ACTION COMMITTEE IN
 SAMBALPUR**

**SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD
 NANDA (Orissa):** I am thankful to

you for giving me this opportunity for making a mention of a brutal, primitive and inhuman act by the police against a student leader. I am glad that the Minister of State for Home Affairs is here and I hope he will take note of what I am saying. You will kindly remember that last year, in the month of September, there was an agitation by students making demands, among others, for effective check on black-marketing, maintaining level of prices of essential commodities, adequate supply of rations to students in hostels, check on police excesses and so on and so forth.

Sir, yesterday I got a telegram from Ashok Kumar Bisi, District Secretary, Communist Party of Sambalpur, then Mohammed Mumtaz, District Secretary, Lokdal, Bajrabahu Satpathi, Advocate, Bhagvatnanda, Advocate, Sambalpur. I just read the telegram and the meaning will be clear.

"Suresh Kumar Pujari Convenor All Orissa Students Action Committee beaten mercilessly by police in town police lockup Sambalpur Orissa Seventeenth Night being arrested under Section 107 CRPC."

You will kindly see that after the agitation at least, particularly, at this point of time, there was an atmosphere of lull. The atmosphere was quite calm. Seven students leaders had been expelled from the Gangadhar Mehar College and Shri Suresh Kumar Pujari who happens to be the convenor of the Students Action Committee was a brilliant University student. He moved the High Court when he was expelled by the College authorities, so that he may be enabled to prosecute his studies and appear in the examinations. Meanwhile, he was arrested under section 107 Cr. P.C., under the preventive provision of the Criminal Procedure Code. If there had been any material to arrest him, they could have of course arrested him. Merely by executing a bond, a person is entitled to be released on bail. (Tear-
bell rings) Sir, I will just mention one thing. He was mercilessly beaten up.