

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, Aug. 1, 1991/Sravana 10,
1913 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Deportation of Sri Lankan Tamil Refugees

*245. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO:
Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS
be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have
taken a decision to deport the Sri
Lankan Tamils who have not register-
ed their arrival on the Indian soil;

(b) the number of Sri Lankan
Tamilians residing in India at present
and the number out of them not reg-
istered; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken
to deport the unregistered Tamilians
from Indian soil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF PARLIA-
MENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINI-
STER OF STATE IN THE MINI-
STRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI
M. M. JACOB): (a) and (c) No
decision has been taken in the matter.

(b) According to the available in-
formation, the number of Sri Lankan
Tamilian refugees residing in India at
present is 2,10,951. Of these, about
75,000 have not registered with the
State authorities.

[Translation]

SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Mr.
Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has
mentioned the number of registered
as well as non-registered Sri Lankan
Tamilian refugees residing in India.
I would like to know how many of
them are involved in terrorist and
smuggling activities and the process
being adopted by the Government to
identify them?

[English]

SHRI M. M. JACOB: Sir, accord-
ing to the information received from
the State of Tamil Nadu, the suspect-
ed militants who are there in the
camps, their number is 1928. But
there are many others who are outside
the camps and efforts are on for the
registration of all the Sri Lankans in
Tamil Nadu. In this process if the
State Government is able to locate or
identify anyone, we may be able to
know.

[Translation]

SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Mr.
Speaker, Sir, in his reply to parts (a)
and (b) of the question the hon. Mini-
ster has stated that no decision has
so far been taken in the matter. I wo-
uld like to know as to why the Gov-
ernment is not taking quick decision
in regard to the Tamilians, who have
been identified as terrorists and
smugglers? Secondly, have they any
links with Naxalites and ULFA ter-
rorists? If so, the steps being taken
by the Government in this regard?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): If we get some evidence about what we call as the suspected refugees who are having some kind of direct or indirect connections with militants—whether they are naxalites or LTTE—then the Government will have to apply its mind to deport them from India.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: It is unfortunate that this country has paid for the laxity of the Government of India in coming to a decision regarding the Sri Lankan Tamils by Hon. Rajiv ji's brutal assassination. Sir, how long will the Government take to come to the decision that all unregistered Sri Lankan Tamils would be deported? Secondly, I would like to know how did they come to the figure of 75,000 when the registration has not been done.

SHRI M. M. JACOB: This is the figure supplied by the State Government of Tamil Nadu. Registration was going on for the last few weeks and the dead line is actually closed now. They have found that the figures with regard to the persons who first came and identified themselves at the transit camps and other places vary. That 75,000 is yet to be registered. The Tamil Nadu Government is now conducting a house to house search to identify and find out where these people are and who are these people.

Then comes the question regarding their deportation. If they are really refugees who are covered under some other international norms and standards that we are yet to find out.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: I would like to supplement on this. Even if they are refugees and if they have any connection with the militants, then of course, they will be liable for being sent out of India.

SHRI M. RAMANNA RAI: The figures and the answers given by the

Home Minister are in respect of only Tamil Nadu. These particulars are supplied by the Tamil Nadu Government. Tamilians are there throughout India. Sri Lankan Tamilians are also found throughout India. How will you differentiate between the LTTE, Sinhala Tamils and other Tamils? May I know whether there is any machinery for finding out whether the LTTE are found outside Tamil Nadu also and if so what is that machinery?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: It would not be in the public interest to divulge as to how we are differentiating between one and the other.

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK: Sir, the House is aware that the LTTE is responsible for the brutal assassination of our beloved Leader, Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Everybody knows that LTTE in its operation was assisted by several hundreds of militants staying unauthorisedly in Tamil Nadu and elsewhere in the country.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister the reasons for the delay in deporting the unregistered Sri Lankan Tamils, specially the militants whose number as the hon. Minister of State himself has said is 1928, who have entered into India.

Secondly, during Shri Chandra Shekhar's regime, the DMK Government in Tamil Nadu was sacked, the reason being that the DMK Government or the DMK Leaders were assisting the LTTE in its operations in Tamil Nadu. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what action the Government has taken against those DMK Leaders who had been assisting the LTTE in its operations in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI SOBHANA DRESWARA RAO VADDE: It is the Congress Government which has helped the LTTE. At that time, the Congress Government was at the Centre.

SHRI M. M. JACOB: The first part of the question is whether the militants are there and whether they are roaming about.

Sir, the militants are located in four camps. The number which I have now given, that is 1928, is of four camps. The Government is aware of their existence and their movements. They are not allowed to move out as such. So, we know where they are.

Regarding the other question whether there is a link between the DMK and the militants, I would say, it is a wider question. Many things are under investigation and I may not be able to reveal everything at this stage in the interest of the security of the country.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know whether the Government has thought of any project for settling these Tamilians of Indian origin who have come from Sri Lanka.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a good question, do not dilute it.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: For example, now in my constituency Mangalore, in Sulya, they have already taken up a project of rubber plantation. The problem is like this. Only two in a family are provided jobs. The rest are jobless. That is why, according to me, this militancy is spreading. So, I would like to know whether the Government has thought of a project so that all such refugees who would be here are given some sort of jobs.

SHRI M. M. JACOB: At present, those Sri Lankans who have come with valid documents at one stage

whom we have considered as repatriates, have been given facilities to get themselves enrolled for getting employment and so on and so forth.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: They are not for all.

SHRI M. M. JACOB: The other people in the camps especially are given other aid. The expenditure on facilities is met by the State Government with the financial support of the Government of India.

[*Translation*]

Modernisation of State Police Forces

*246. SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance provided to various States for modernisation of the State Police Forces during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to give special grants for this purpose to the States where communal disturbances occur frequently; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) A statement is enclosed.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

(c) Question does not arise.