

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title : Regarding Inclusion of Sri Lankan Tamil Refugees under Citizenship Act.

DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY (CHENNAI NORTH): Thank you very much, Sir. There are more than one lakh Sri Lankan Tamil refugees in the State of Tamil Nadu. The Citizenship Act, which was amended earlier, has been very unjust to these people because it restricts citizenship only to people from Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh and the total numbers will be only 2000.

Here, we are talking about one lakh people. Several of them are staying here since 1983. They came here during the Black July when several thousands of the Tamils were killed. They were displaced forcefully where they had to run out of fear for loss of their life and limb. After coming here and staying for 40 years, now, they have families and children. Even their children are not being provided with citizenship and because of that those children are deprived of even basic education. They cannot become doctors because special educational provisions are not provided for them.

So, I urge upon this Government to ensure that an amendment is brought to the Citizenship Act to include the Sri Lankan Tamils so that they can have a peaceful life over here.