

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2601

ANSWERED ON:20.03.2002

CEASEFIRE IN SRI LANKA

ANANDRAO ADSUL;GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ;IQBAL AHMED SARADGI;PRABODH PANDA;VARKALA  
RADHAKRISHNAN

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether India has welcomed the recently concluded ceasefire between Sri Lankan Government and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) & (b) Government have welcomed the ceasefire agreement and stated that it would provide an opportunity to both sides to move forward towards a substantive dialogue for a negotiated political settlement of the ethnic conflict in a manner which would meet the aspirations of all sections of Sri Lankan society and restore lasting peace in that country.

India has reiterated its commitment to the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka and once again assured the people and Government of Sri Lanka, India's consistent support to the peace process and to cooperating fully towards Sri Lanka's economic development and progress.