

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3149

ANSWERED ON:13.12.2006

PEACE IN SRI LANKA

Appadurai Shri M.;Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari;Tripathi Shri Chandramani

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has taken steps for the early settlement of ethnic issues and bring peace in Sri Lanka;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there have been frequent and recent incidents of killings of Tamils in Sri Lanka;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether this matter has been taken up with the Sri Lankan authorities; and
- (f) if so, the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) to (f) There have been hostilities between the Sri Lankan armed forces and the LTTE since the beginning of this year, which have resulted in serious loss of lives including that of Tamil civilians.

It is Government's belief that the only solution to the ethnic problem is a negotiated political settlement acceptable to all communities in Sri Lanka.

Government has emphasised to the Government of Sri Lanka the need to make all possible efforts to strengthen the ceasefire and to revive the political dialogue in order to move the peace process forward.