

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3320
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2009
MPS VISIT TO SRI LANKA
Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a delegation of Indian MPs has in the recent past visited Sri Lanka;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the issues discussed by the said delegation with Sri Lankan authorities; and
- (d) the reaction of the Sri Lankan authorities thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA)

(a) to (d) A delegation of 10 Members of the Parliament from Tamilnadu comprising Dravida Munnettra Kazhagam(DMK), Congress and Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) visited Sri Lanka from 10-14 October 2009. The delegation comprised Mr. T.R. Baalu, Mr. A.K.S. Vijayan, Mr. T.K.S. Elangovan, Ms. J. Helen Davidson, Ms. Kanimozhi, Mr. Thol. Thirumaavalavan, Mr. N.S.V. Chitthan, Mr. S. Alagiri, Dr. E.M. Sudarsana Nachiappan and Mr. J.M. Aaron Rashid. The visit was at the initiative of these three parties on the invitation extended by President of Sri Lanka to Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

During the visit, the delegation visited Jaffna, Vavunia and Nuwara Eliya. In Jaffna, they met with a cross-section of the Tamil society and the public at the Jaffna Public Library. They visited IDP camps in Menik farm, Vavunia and interacted with the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). The delegation also witnessed distribution of humanitarian relief items donated by India to the IDPs. During the visit to Nuwara Eliya, Norwood and Kotagala in the Upcountry they interacted with Indian Origin Tamil (IOT) students at the Thondaman Vocational Training Centre.

The delegation also called on President Mahinda Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Ratnasiri Wickremenayake, apart from meeting Foreign Minister Rohitha Bogollagama and discussed the issue of resettlement and rehabilitation. The delegation also met the leaders and representatives of various parties.