

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1955
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2014
PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN SRI LANKA
Adityanath Shri Yogi

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether cases of human rights violation in respect of citizens of Tamil origin in Sri Lanka have come to the notice of the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the matter has been raised at the bilateral/other fora;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and response of Sri Lankan Government thereto; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for the protection of human rights in Sri Lanka?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GEN. RETD. V.K. SINGH)

(a) to (e) Government has consistently called upon Sri Lanka during bilateral discussions and in the international fora to fulfill its commitments made to the international community on effective and timely implementation of all the constructive recommendations contained in its Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC) Report including those pertaining to missing persons, detainees, reduction of 'high security zones', return of private lands by the military and withdrawal of security forces from the civilian domain in the Northern Province. Government remains engaged with Government of Sri Lanka to take forward the process of reconciliation and, in the spirit of partnership, encourage them to take forward the dialogue with the elected representatives of the Sri Lankan Tamils.

Since the end of conflict in Sri Lanka, the focus of Government has been on the welfare and well being of the Tamils citizens of Sri Lanka. Their resettlement and rehabilitation have been of the highest and most immediate priority. Government has implemented and continues to implement a wide range of projects covering assistance projects for IDPs in the areas of housing, de-mining, education, connectivity, livelihood restoration, economic revival, etc. It may be noted that due to our engagement with the Government of Sri Lanka on reconstruction and other issues, a modicum of normalcy is returning to the Tamil areas in Sri Lanka.