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Title: Sought clarifications regarding help to Sri Lanka for its fight with Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam (LTTE)

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to speak on a matter which relates to the developments in Sri Lanka. According to the today's newspaper, the External Affairs Minister of the Sri Lankan Government has come here and has held talks with the Defence Minister and the Prime Minister. Some such details have appeared in the Press. I hope the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs knows it. I am not saying anything about the internal matter of Sri Lanka, regarding the fight that has gone on for several years between the Sri Lankan Government and the LTTE. It is their internal matter and we do not want to interfere in that. This is our External Affairs policy also. According to the recent report, the Sri Lankan Government has approached the Government of India through its emissary and has held talks in Delhi. They have sought the help of the Government of India in either sending its Army to Sri Lanka for help or supplying arms and ammunitions to them.

We would like to know whether such talks have gone on between the two countries or not. What exactly is the reaction of the Government of India to it? Sir, the matter is so urgent that through you I request the Government of India, to make a statement during the course of the day. In the beginning of the day the Minister of Defence was very much in the House but we do not see him now. He might have gone to the other House. I would press the Government to come out with a statement where exactly the matter stands now. Let the House be informed about the developments; if there are any, in this regard.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, during the Question Hour, the DMK Members have already raised this issue. I did not want to interrupt because the hon. Member, Shri Bangarappa was speaking. The Minister of External Affairs is going to make a statement in this regard in Lok Sabha immediately after lunch recess.