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Title: Reported military action against the Tamils in Sri Lanka.

DR. C. KRISHNAN (POLLACHI): Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on Sri Lankan Tamils. I am speaking on behalf of Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam headed by my beloved leader Thiru Vaiko, leader of the Tamils world over.

We are very much concerned and worried about the indiscriminate killing of Tamilians in Sri Lanka and the Tamil Nadu fishermen who are fishing within the India-international territory of sea water.

The Indian Government should stop killing innocent ethnic Tamilians. Ethnic Tamilians are those who are living there for thousand of years. The barbarian Sri Lankan army has launched a very bad offensive attack against the Tamilians, as if a war has taken place.

The Tamils in Sri Lanka are dying of hunger, starvation and illness without medicines. India has refused to give clearance to the International Red Cross to send food and medicine to the suffering Tamils collected on humanitarian basis in Tamil Nadu.

So far, four Tamil Members of Parliament have been murdered by the Sri Lankan Government Forces. The Government of India failed in its duty to condemn these killings of Members of Parliament. But, on the other hand, India has supplied radars and military hardware to the Sri Lankan Government to pursue their military attack against the Tamils.

I would like to request the Indian Government to get back those radars along with the experts who have been deputed to operate the radars. The Army General of Sri Lanka Sarath Fonseka, whose hands are stained with the blood of Tamils, was given red carpet welcome by Indian Government with all undeserving honours. This needs to be looked into.

He has said that "we will intensify our military attacks to liquidate the Tamil rebels with the solid logistic support of India". This has become true. Till this day, the Government of India has not issued any denial. It is further shocking that the Sri Lankan armed personnel are being given training in India and our Indian Air Force pilots are giving training to the Sri Lankan Air Force pilots.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your demand?

DR. C. KRISHNAN : The Central Government should intervene and stop the training given to the Sri Lankan Army and pilots. This is like stabbing our children from behind by the guardians themselves. The Central Government has betrayed the Tamilians at large by helping and assisting the Sinhalese Government to kill the innocent Tamilians there.

Sir, therefore, I would earnestly appeal and insist upon the Government of India to withdraw the radars supplied to Sri Lanka and to stop forthwith any form of military assistance to the Sri Lankan racist regime and protect the Tamilians living there and stop the war against civilian Tamils and let peace prevail in that part of the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Sippiparai Ravichandran is also associated on this matter. [\[R93\]](#)

PROF. M. RAMADASS (PONDICHERRY): Sir, on behalf of the Paattali Makkal Katchi and its Founder President, I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India to a very serious, alarming and grave situation in Sri Lanka where innocent Tamilians are massacred and butchered.

Sir, the lives of lakhs and lakhs of Tamilians are in jeopardy and it is the question of self respect for 6.1 crore Tamil population of Tamil Nadu because we find that our own ancestral links in Sri Lanka are being rooted out. The present President of Sri Lanka says that the entire Tamil race should be annihilated. This has been vouchsafed by the Army General there who said that Sri Lanka belongs to Sinhalese and Tamils are only minorities and if they want, they can leave that country. It only shows that they do not want the co-existence of Tamils there and have decided to eliminate this race.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India that the Tamilians who are living there have had very long associations with India. They are part of Indian culture, Indian ethnicity, the language and the race and in all respects, they are all related to India. Hon. former Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao appearing before the Jain Commission has tendered his evidence by saying that the Tamilians in Sri Lanka today have all kinds of permanent links with Indians. He has made this statement. That is why, the Government of India has great interest in that country. Our honourable former Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi in a sympathetic way tried to bring Tamilians to the mainstream of life. Former Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi did his best to help the Tamils in Sri Lanka. And we have entered into Indo-Sri Lanka Accord in 1987 which says that

Tamil rights should be respected and Tamilians should be given the right to determination and right to rule there. In spite of all these things, the genocide in Sri Lanka unabated and this has to be stopped.

The Government of India should not think it as a matter of internal affairs of some other country. It is not like that because India has always voicing its concern wherever human rights are trampled and international human rights are not respected. In the recent history, nowhere has this kind of genocide happened as it happened in Sri Lanka. Even in the case of East Pakistan, we entered into the matter and created Bangladesh. Today, we are supporting Dalai Lama and we have a Government in exile there. Therefore, when we have allowed all these things and when the Government of India is interested in the brotherhood of Sri Lanka, it should actively intervene and should show a sign of intervention. We feel that India must come in very strong terms and express its disapproval of what is happening in Sri Lanka and it cannot allow the killing of innocent Tamils. It must tell the Sri Lankan Government to stop the war and initiate the process for a political settlement. It should also stop all forms of assistance to the Sri Lankan Army. What is important is the rehabilitation of the Tamils there. About five lakhs of people have come out of Sri Lanka now. They are all living as refugees everywhere. They are in dire need of food, medicine and other things. India should send them through international agencies and Indian Government also should prevail upon the Sri Lankan Government to stop the killing of the fishermen of Tamil Nadu. About 400 fishermen have been killed by the Sri Lankan Army. We should recognize the rights of the Tamils there and we should be able to help the people who are in need of it in that country.

The Government of India is seized of the matter but everyday, in Sri Lanka, thousands of people are massacred. Everyday that we delay in taking a decision, we will be harming the interests of Tamils. We should protect them as they are our own brothers and they have got links with India. The Government of India should be blessed by the people of Tamil origin and we should show that degree of courage and sympathy which Shrimati Indira Gandhi and Shri Rajiv Gandhi showed. We should respect the equal rights of Tamil in Sri Lanka.

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY (CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I associate myself with Prof. Ramdass.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may send a slip for associating with him.

The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11 a.m.

**20.40 hrs.**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock*

on [\[r94\]](#) Wednesday, October 22, 2008/Asvina 30, 1930 (Saka).

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[□](#) Speech eas laid on the Table of the House.

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Cd by b1 [\[R1\]](#)

[\[r2\]](#)fld by d

[\[r3\]](#)fld by d

HERE INCLUDE ALL MADDERS UNDER RULE 377 LISTED FOR 21<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER [\[H4\]](#)

cd. by f1 [\[H5\]](#)

Shri pranab mukherjee ctd [\[r6\]](#)

Fisd by h1 [\[r7\]](#)

[\[m8\]](#)ctd. by j1

[\[k9\]](#)fd nu k1

Ctd in english

[\[r10\]](#)

[\[r11\]](#)Fld.. by l1

Fd by m1 [\[r12\]](#)

Fd by n [\[r13\]](#)1

[\[r14\]](#)Cd by o

[\[p15\]](#)Mahtab cd.

[\[p16\]](#)Cd P

Shri Mahtab cd [\[R17\]](#)

cd by q [\[R18\]](#)

Mehtab contd. [\[R19\]](#)

Contd. By r1.e [\[R20\]](#)

cd. by s

cd. by t1.h [\[R22\]](#)

Sh. ramjilal suman cd. [\[R23\]](#)

cd. by u1.e [\[a24\]](#)

cd. by u1.e [\[a25\]](#)

Cd by w1

[\[R27\]](#)(Cd. by x1)

cd. by z1 [\[r28\]](#)

[\[s29\]](#)Fd. by a2

[\[r30\]](#)ctd. by c2

[\[k31\]](#)contd by d2

cd.. by e2 [\[r32\]](#)

Shri P. Chidambaram - Cd [\[r33\]](#)

Cd by f2

Cd by g2 [\[KMR35\]](#)

Cd by h2 [\[r36\]](#)

[\[p37\]](#)Fld J2

Contd. By l2 [\[R38\]](#)

Fd. By m2 [\[U39\]](#)

[\[a40\]](#)cd. by o2.e

Cd by p2 [\[R41\]](#)

[\[R42\]](#)(Cd. by q2)

[\[r43\]](#)santa ctd

[\[r44\]](#)ctd by r2

cd. by s2 [\[r45\]](#)

Shri Brahmanand Panda – cd. [\[H46\]](#)

FId by t2 [\[p47\]](#)

Contd by u2.e [\[r48\]](#)

[\[m49\]](#)ctd.by w2

[\[k50\]](#)contd by x2

cd.. by y2 [\[r51\]](#)

[\[r52\]](#)Cd by f2

Ctd by a3

[\[r53\]](#)

fd. by b3 [\[R54\]](#)

[\[h55\]](#)Fd by c3

cd. by d3 [\[L56\]](#)

Shri Baalu contd. [\[MSOffice57\]](#)

Contd. By E3 [\[MSOffice58\]](#)

Fd. By g3 [\[a59\]](#)

[\[r60\]](#)cd. by k3

Fd by L3 [\[r61\]](#)

[\[r63\]](#)Cd by d3

[\[b64\]](#)(cd. by n3)

[\[k65\]](#)contd by o3

cd.. by p3 [\[r66\]](#)

Shri B. Mahtab - Cd [\[r67\]](#)

Cd by q3 [\[r68\]](#)

Cd by r3 [\[KMR69\]](#)

Cd by s2 [\[r70\]](#)

[\[p71\]](#)Cd T3

cd. by u3 [\[R72\]](#)

Ramadoss contd. [\[R73\]](#)

Contd. By w3 [\[R74\]](#)

cd. by x3 [\[U75\]](#)

Contd. By Y3 [\[MSOffice76\]](#)

cd. by z3.e [\[a77\]](#)

cd. by z3.e [\[a78\]](#)

[\[R79\]](#)(Cd. by b4)

[\[r80\]](#)mahtab ctd

[\[r81\]](#)fd by c4

Fd. by d4 [\[r82\]](#)

Cd by e4

[\[h83\]](#)

contd by f4.e [\[r84\]](#)

[\[s85\]](#)G4fd

fd by h4 [\[R86\]](#)

[\[r87\]](#)Fld.. by j4

Cd by k4

[\[N88\]](#)

Shri Nihal C [\[R89\]](#)hand cd.

Cd by l4 [\[KMF90\]](#)

Fd. by m4 [\[R91\]](#)

fd. by o4 [\[R92\]](#)

Fld by [\[R93\]](#)p4

[\[r94\]](#)