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Title:Need to safeguard the interests of Tamils in Sri Lanka .

*SHRI L. GANESAN (TIRUCHIRAPPALLI): There is a need for the Government of India to take effective steps to impress upon the Sri Lankan Government to still explore without any further delay the possibilities of negotiated political settlement within the framework of their constitution as the rebels have expressed more than once very recently their willingness to uphold the Ceasefire Agreement entered into by both the parties.

The neighbouring island nation needs to have peace and tranquility maintained in the interests of our Indian nation and its security concerns.

This is necessary because it is an emotive issue in the light of the fact that the pathetic plight of Tamils there and the influx of refugees here are causing great anguish and agitation in the minds of the Tamils in India.

This is essential because India has extended on several occasions its good will gesture like handing over of Katcha Tivu Island and agreeing to take back thousands of stateless Tamils of Indian origin though they were living in that Island nation for more than 50 and even 100 years right from the British colonial days when both India and Sri Lanka were under the clutches of the British Empire.

It is also necessary for India to prevail upon the neighbouring Sri Lankan Government that quelling a rebel must not end up in wiping out a national race and an ethnic group that are the original people of the soil, however, bitter the rivalry be between their national races impressing upon them that their national Government must be bipartisan.

* Treated as laid on the Table.