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Title : Need to provide rehabilitation package to the Sri Lankan Tamil refugees.

SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM (KRISHNAGIRI): Sir, with the recent change of Government in Sri Lanka, it has brought renewed violence rather than clam. The arrival of Tamil refugees to Tamil Nadu has resumed after a gap of three years. But a question arises whether the "heaven" they have chosen, would help their rehabilitation in the country. The major contention are two issues which could affect the future of over 56,000 refugees who live in poverty and are at present lodged in 102 camps in Tamil Nadu. The contentious issue of food subsidy and educational concessions that Tamil refugees have been enjoying since 1983 to enable their survival under international humanitarian requirements for rehabilitation and repatriation. The Union Government in August 2005 took a controversial stand by cutting the rice subsidy offered under a comprehensive package. The Government of Tamil Nadu has also not yet restored the cancelled, special allotment in professional educational institutions that Madras High Court validated. It is not humane to leave the refugees in the lurch especially when they are waiting to return to their motherland.

Hence, I request the Hon'ble Minister to kindly intervene in the matter and to restore the food subsidy and special allotment educational facilities immediately and adequate rehabilitation package should be provided to the Sri Lankan Tamil refugees.