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Title : Need to take steps to facilitate peace process in Sri Lanka.

SHRI L. GANESAN (TIRUCHIRAPPALLI): Sir, ethnic strife has become a continuing one in Sri Lanka ever since its independence. All right thinking nations would like to see lasting peace in that Island Nation. Even armed conflicts and blood-shedding have become an intermittent recurrence. Whenever peace is at peril there its spill-over effect is felt in a big way in Tamil Nadu in the form of refugee influx causing heavy burden on our economy with wider ramifications politically and socially.

When countries like Norway can, India can still facilitate a negotiated political settlement between the conflicting parties there. India, if at all it wants to assume a helping Nation's role, it must desist from arming any party there and must not add to Sri Lanka's military might. Even if some arms and equipment like RADAR are being sent, it must be stopped. Instead, India must work towards assuming a more responsible peace-marker's role so that it does not earn the wrath of anyone of the ethnic races there especially they Tamils who have their traditional links even today. India must be seen as peace-maker from the land of Gandhiji and Buddha.