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Title: Need to release gratuity to Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka who superannuated from service in Government Rubber Corporation Kanyakumari and Provide employment of their children - Laid.

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN (NAGERCOIL): I would like to invite the attention of the Government towards the plight of Sri Lankan settlers in the Government Rubber plantation in Kanyakumari District.

In the turbulent days of ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka in 1960, sizeable number of people from Tamil Nadu were repatriated to India as refugees who settled in various districts of Tamil Nadu as per the Srimovo-Shastri Agreement of 1964.

More than thousand families resettled in Kanyakumari district and were employed in Rubber plantations of Government Rubber Corporation at Kuttiyar and Keeriparai. They were accommodated in the Quarters owned by the G.R.C. Most of them have attained the age of superannuation and they have retired from employment. Such families are being compelled by the authorities to vacate the quarters and their payment of Gratuity is withheld as a punitive measure. They are not in a position to vacate the quarters where they have been living for more than 42 years and have no other dwelling place.

Further their wards, sons or daughters who are born in India after their resettlement are denied employment as per their legal entitlement.

I, therefore, request the Government to take suitable steps for immediate payment of Gratuity (as the Gratuity is a social welfare measure) besides providing employment to their children born in India treating them as their dependants.