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Title: Smt. Sushma Swaraj called the attention of the Minister of External Affairs regarding the plight of Tamilians in Sri Lanka.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item No. 14 – Shrimati Sushma Swaraj.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (VIDISHA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of External Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The plight of Tamilians in Sri Lanka"

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): Sir, I rise to respond to the House on the Calling Attention notice framed by hon. Shrimati Sushma Swaraj regarding the plight of Tamilians in Sri Lanka.

Hon. Members would recall that conclusion of the military conflict in Northern Sri Lanka presented Sri Lanka with an opportunity to heal the wounds created by decades of protracted conflict, to make a new beginning and to build a better future for its people.

Government of India had emphasised to the Sri Lankan Government that the time had indeed come to focus on issues of relief, rehabilitation, resettlement and reconciliation. We had expressed our readiness to work with the Government of Sri Lanka in the rehabilitation and reconstruction process of Northern Sri Lanka and in restoring normalcy.

In the aftermath of the conflict, the presence of nearly 300,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in camps in Northern Sri Lanka posed a major challenge for the Sri Lankan Government. It was crucial that these IDPs were given immediate humanitarian attention and that urgent steps were taken to resettle them in their original places of habitation. This would, ultimately, ensure that a semblance of normalcy was restored to their lives after the traumatic experience they had undergone during the conflict. Their welfare was the first priority.

Our concern on this score was conveyed to the Sri Lankan Government. We have consistently urged the Government of Sri Lanka to quicken the pace of rehabilitation and resettlement.

In October this year, a delegation of Parliamentary Members from Tamil Nadu had visited Sri Lanka to study the rehabilitation and relief work being undertaken in Northern Sri Lanka. They had visited Jaffna, the IDP camps in Vavuniya, the Up-country Plantation areas in Central Sri Lanka and met the IDPs in the camps, witnessed the distribution of the humanitarian relief items donated by India and held discussions with a cross-section of the leaders of the Sri Lankan Tamil community and the Indian Origin Tamils. They called on the President of Sri Lanka, His Excellency Mahinda Rajapaksa.

Subsequent to their visit, it is understood that around 145,000 still remain in the camps while more than 150,000 have left the camps. Travel restrictions in Northern Sri Lanka as well as those on the remaining have been relaxed. The Sri Lankan Government has given assurance that by end-January 2010 all IDPs would be resettled. We continue to work with the Sri Lankan Government to ensure the resettlement of all IDPs.

India has been actively involved in the critical task of providing humanitarian relief and assisting in the rehabilitation of the IDPs in the Northern and Eastern Sri Lanka. 2.5 lakh family packs from Tamil Nadu consisting of dry rations, clothing, utensils, footwear, etc. have been rushed to the IDPs since October last year. The 60-member emergency field hospital set up by India in March operated for six months till September this year and treated more than 50,000 patients, many of them serious cases requiring surgery. Two consignments of medical supplies have also been gifted.

After Prime Minister's announcement in June 2009 in the Parliament, Government set aside an amount Rs. 500 crore for the rehabilitation of the IDPs and for the welfare of the Tamil people in Sri Lanka. We are committed to doing more. Our humanitarian effort in Sri Lanka has transitioned from a purely relief effort to a broader rehabilitation and reconstruction phase. In order to facilitate speedy resettlement of IDPs, India is extending much needed de-mining assistance. Four Indian de-mining teams are currently in Sri Lanka. After our Parliamentary delegation suggested enhancing Indian assistance in the field of de-mining, we are sending three more de-mining teams. To ensure that returning IDPs have a roof over their heads, India has donated 2,600 tonnes of shelter material. Additional 2,600 tonnes of shelter material is being sent. We will

also supply cement to assist the returning IDPs to rebuild the damaged housing. To address the vulnerable sections of the society emerging out of a military conflict, especially, war widows, we are undertaking a project for their rehabilitation as well.

India has also decided to assist Sri Lanka in reviving agriculture in the North. To begin with 20,000 agricultural starter packs have been supplied. Supply of an additional 50,000 packs is in the pipeline. A team led by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research visited Sri Lanka to work out a blueprint for our assistance to revive agriculture in Northern Sri Lanka.

Infrastructure is a priority area. The extension of assistance under Lines of Credit to take up projects in railway infrastructure reconstruction in Northern Sri Lanka and provision of rolling stock is receiving our attention, as also construction projects in the North and East of Sri Lanka to rejuvenate the cultural and social life amongst the people. At the same time, the requirements of the up-country Indian Origin Tamils are also not lost sight of. Skill development and capacity building are areas of focus, as also vocational training and the provision of enhanced educational opportunities.

Government is keen to see the revival of the political process in Sri Lanka, which will meet the legitimate interests and aspiration of all communities, including the Tamils and the Muslims, within the framework of a united Sri Lanka. Revival of such a political process and an inclusive dialogue would help bring the minority communities into the political mainstream. We have continued to emphasise to the Sri Lankan Government to put forward a meaningful devolution package that would go beyond the 13th Amendment. We will remain engaged with them through this process of transition and reform.

Government attaches utmost importance to the rehabilitation and the reconstruction efforts being undertaken by Sri Lanka in the North. As a close neighbour, India continues to do whatever it can to assist Sri Lanka at this crucial turning point in the country's history.

**श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज :** महोदय, मैंने मंत्री जी के वक्तव्य को बहुत ध्यान से सुना है। उसमें शब्दों की भरमार तो है किन्तु संवेदना नहीं है। कम से कम वह संवेदना तो बिल्कुल नहीं है, जिसकी हमें आपसे अपेक्षा थी, वह संवेदना बिल्कुल नहीं है, जिसकी श्रीलंका के तमिलों को आपसे अपेक्षा थी।

महोदय, इससे पहले कि मैं उनसे पूछ करूँ, मैं बताना चाहूँगी कि मेरे मन में यह विषय उठाने का विचार कैसे आया? श्रीलंका में तमिलों के साथ हो रहे दुर्व्यवहार की बातें हम पढ़ते और सुनते हैं, लेकिन कुछ दिन पहले मैंने टी.वी. पर एक विजुवल दृश्य देखा। यह दृश्य दिल दहलाने वाला था।

महोदय, शायद वह दृश्य आपने भी देखा हो और सदन में बैठे हुए मेरे कुछ अन्य साथियों ने भी देखा होगा। उस दृश्य में दिखाया गया था कि हमारा एक तमिल भाई समुद्र की तरफ पुलिसवालों द्वारा धकेला जा रहा था। वे उसे समुद्र में डुबोना चाहते थे। वह पीछे भागता था तो उसके सिर पर लाठियाँ बरसायी जाती थीं। वह कयहता था तो दोबारा उसे लाठियों से मारा जाता था। उन्होंने उसे मार-मार कर समुद्र में धकेलकर ही दम लिया। बाद में उसकी लाश तैरती हुई समुद्र के किनारे आ लगी। इस दृश्य से मेरा कलेजा कांप गया। उस समय मुझे तमिल साहित्य के एक बहुत बड़े लेखक, बहुत बड़े कवि सुब्रह्मण्यम भारती की एक कविता याद आयी।

क्योंकि मुझे उनकी कविताएँ बहुत पसंद हैं। मुझे उनकी कविता की चार पंक्तियाँ याद आईं। शायद नारायणसामी जी उसको एप्रिंशियेट कर सकेंगे, मेरे तमिल भाई उसको एप्रिंशियेट कर सकेंगे। ...(व्यवधान) जिस संवेदना की बात हो रही है, गुजरात और बाकी बातें करके कृपया उसको डाइल्यूट मत करिये। जिस संवेदना के साथ मैं इस बात को रख रही हूँ, उसमें अगर आप साथ नहीं दे सकते तो कृपया मौन रहिये। ...(व्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not disturb the hon. Member who is speaking. Hon. Member, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

**श्री सैयद शाहनवाज़ हुसैन (भागलपुर):** कांग्रेस पार्टी के लोगों को तमिल सैन्टिमेंट्स का कोई भी ध्यान नहीं है। ...(व्यवधान)

**श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज :** सभापति जी, मैं आपका संरक्षण चाहूँगी। एक बहुत गंभीर मसला बहुत संजीदगी से यहाँ उठाया जा रहा है। ...(व्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please tell your Members also not to intervene. I am there.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister, please sit down.

**श्री हरिन पाठक (अहमदाबाद पूर्व):** सर, इस समय क्या बार-बार गुजरात का उल्लेख करना ज़रूरी है? ...(व्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not disturb the hon. Member. Hon. Member, please continue.

...(Interruptions)

**श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज :** सभापति जी, मैं चाहूँगी कि जितना संजीदा यह मसला है, उतनी ही संजीदगी से सदन इसको सुने भी। मैं आपसे कह रही थी कि सुब्रह्मण्यम भारती की स्वतंत्रता संग्राम में लिखी हुई एक कविता है जिसकी पंक्तियाँ मैं यहाँ पढ़कर सुनाना चाहती हूँ।

" सोन्दै सद्दुदररहळ तुम्बतिल सादल कंडुम,

सिन्दै इरंगारेडी किडिये सेम्मई मरंदारेडी। "

इसका अर्थ है कि अपने भाइयों की पीड़ा देखकर जिस व्यक्ति का दिल नहीं पसीजता, उसकी आत्मा मर चुकी होती है। मुझे उस समय यह ध्यान रहा कि अगर इतना दर्दनाक दृश्य देखकर भी मैं सदन में चुप रह जाऊँ, तो वाकई कहीं न कहीं मेरी आत्मा मर चुकी होगी। उसी दिन मैंने तय किया था कि इस विषय पर मैं जरूर नोटिस दूँगी। मैंने ध्यानाकर्षण का नोटिस भी दिया, मैंने 193 का नोटिस भी दिया। मुझे धन्यवाद देना है स्पीकर साहिबा को जिन्होंने मेरा ध्यानाकर्षण पूरताव का नोटिस स्वीकार किया और आज इस पर हम लोग चर्चा कर पा रहे हैं।

सभापति जी, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से कुछ पूछना चाहती हूँ। मेरा पहला पूछना यह है कि क्या आप जानते हैं कि श्रीलंका में युद्ध तो सरकार ने जीत लिया, लेकिन शांति आना अभी बाकी है। आपने अपने प्रारंभिक वक्तव्य के पहले तीन वाक्यों में कहा है कि वहाँ घावों पर मरहम लगाना होगा, वहाँ शांति की प्रक्रिया लानी होगी। आपने अंतिम पैराग्राफ से पहले कहा है :

"Government is keen to see the revival of the political process in Sri Lanka, which will meet the legitimate interests and aspiration of all communities, including the Tamils and the Muslims, within the framework of a united Sri Lanka."

आपने कहा कि भारत सरकार यह इच्छा रखती है कि श्रीलंका में राजनैतिक प्रक्रिया बहाल की जाए। लेकिन मैं आपसे पूछना चाहती हूँ कि क्या केवल इच्छा रखकर हमारे कर्तव्य की इतिश्री हो जाएगी? हम उस इच्छा की पूर्ति के लिए क्या प्रयास कर रहे हैं? हमारे यहाँ से सदन के नेता और भारत सरकार के वित्त मंत्री पूणब मुखर्जी कोलम्बो गए थे। कोई बयान नहीं आया उसके बाद विदेश मंत्रालय से उनकी वार्ता के बारे में। मैं सोच रही थी कि आज आप जो बयान यहाँ देंगे, उसमें कम से कम इसका जिक्र तो होगा कि पूणब मुखर्जी जब कोलम्बो गए और महेन्द्र राजपक्षे से मिले, तो उन्होंने क्या बात की? क्या इस रियाइवल ऑफ पोलिटिकल प्रोसेस के बारे में पूणब मुखर्जी की कोई चर्चा उनसे हुई? अगर कोई चर्चा उनसे हुई तो उसका क्या नतीजा निकला, उसके बारे में कुछ तो कहा होता। आपने तो नाम तक नहीं लिया। पूणब मुखर्जी कोलम्बो गए तक थे, यह भी नहीं लिखा। तो हम कैसे मानें कि आप यह इच्छा रखते हैं। इसलिए मेरा पहला पूछना मंत्री जी से यह है कि अगर भारत सरकार इच्छा रखती है तो उस इच्छा के लिए क्या प्रयास कर रही है और पूणब मुखर्जी जब महेन्द्र राजपक्षे से मिले तो उन्होंने इसके बारे में क्या किया और वह वार्ता कहाँ तक पहुँची।

मेरा दूसरा पूछना उन कैम्पों के बारे में है जिसका जिक्र मंत्री जी ने अपने वक्तव्य में किया है। सभापति जी, वह कैम्प नहीं हैं। वह कंटीले तारों वाली जेल हैं, जिन्हें तमिल में मुल्लवेली कहा जाता है। वे बार्ड वायर्ड प्रिंजंस हैं। आपने कहा कि वहाँ अभी एक लाख 45 हजार लोग हैं और एक लाख 50 हजार चले गए हैं। लेकिन आपने शब्द इस्तेमाल किया - it is understood. यह समझा जाता है। यह डिप्लोमेटिक भाषा नहीं है, सरकार का अधिकृत बयान नहीं है। समझा जाता है कि भाषा अंदाजों एवं अटकलों पर आधारित होती है। सरकार जब सदन के अंदर अपना बयान देती है तो निश्चितता के साथ कहती है कि कितने लोग चले गए और कितने लोग हैं। मेरी जानकारी के अनुसार अभी भी दो से ढाई लाख के करीब लोग तथाकथित कैम्पों में रह रहे हैं, लेकिन आपने उन कैम्पों की दुर्दशा का कोई जिक्र नहीं किया। वे जो मुल्लवेली जेलें हैं, उनके अंदर की परिस्थितियों का कोई जिक्र नहीं किया।

सभापति महोदय, वहाँ बिलकुल सफाई नहीं है। वहाँ डॉक्टर एवं नर्स नहीं हैं और दवाई भी नहीं मिलती है। वहाँ पानी भी नहीं है। वे लोग किस तरह की हालत में रह रहे हैं। वहाँ सेवानिवृत्त मुख्य न्यायाधीश होकर आए, उन्होंने उन कंडीशंस को अपेलिंग कहा है। आप जानते हैं कि उन दो लाख लोगों में 50 हजार बच्चे हैं और 50 हजार बच्चों में एक हजार वे बच्चे हैं, जो अनाथ हो चुके हैं। मंत्री जी, ये बच्चे युद्ध की राख की सुलगती हुई विंगारियाँ हैं, इस राख को शांत कर दीजिए, वरना इस विंगारी में से अगर एक भी विंगारी सुलग गई तो वापस तबाही हो सकती है। मैं नहीं चाहती कि वहाँ तबाही हो।

सभापति महोदय, मुझे सन् 1983 का वह तमिल विद्रोह याद आता है, जब तीन तमिल बागियों ने जेल में खड़े होकर यह कहा था कि हम अपनी आंखें दान देना चाहते हैं ताकि मरने के बाद भी हम उन आंखों से अपने स्वतंत्र राष्ट्र को देख सकें। तब उन तीनों की आंखों में चाकू घोंप कर उनकी आंखें निकाल दी गई थीं। उन्हें नेत्रहीन कर दिया गया था। उन्होंने अपनी आंखें तो खो दी थी, लेकिन वे तमिल लोगों के नायक बन गए थे। कुट्टुमणी, जगन और तंगदुर्ई, इन तीनों के नामों पर लोगों ने अपनी संतानों के नाम रखने शुरू किए थे। मैं नहीं चाहती कि वह कहानी श्रीलंका में दोहराई जाए। श्रीलंका हमारा पड़ोसी देश है, हमारे उससे बहुत अच्छे संबंध हैं। हम श्रीलंका की संप्रभुता का सम्मान करते हैं। हम वहाँ आतंकवाद पनपने की पैरवी नहीं करते हैं। पड़ोसी देश में शांति होगी तो हमारे यहाँ भी शांति होगी, लेकिन जैसा व्यवहार हम इन बच्चों के साथ करेंगे, वैसा ही हमारा भविष्य बनेगा। इसलिए मैं आपसे कहना चाहती हूँ कि केवल पांच सौ करोड़ रुपए देकर हमने अपना फर्ज अदा कर दिया, ऐसा नहीं समझना चाहिए, इन कैम्पों की दशा, दुर्दशा पर निरंतर निगरानी रखने की जरूरत है, इस पर सरकार क्या कर रही है, यह मेरा दूसरा पूछना है?

सभापति महोदय, मेरा तीसरा पूछना यह है कि आपने इसमें तमिलनाडु से गए हुए प्रतिनिधि मंडल की बात की है। श्रीलंका के तमिलों की समस्या केवल तमिलनाडु, दक्षिण-भारत और चंद राजनैतिक दलों की नहीं है, अगर यह समस्या केवल तमिलनाडु या चंद राजनैतिक दलों की होती तो मैं उत्तर-भारत से आने वाली बीजेपी की सदस्या इस विषय को यहाँ नहीं उठाती। यह समस्या देश और मानवता की है। मैं आपसे पूछना चाहती हूँ कि जब एक प्रतिनिधि मंडल वहाँ गया तो उसे सर्वदलीय प्रतिनिधि मंडल क्यों नहीं बनाया गया? अगर सारे के सारे लोग जाते, सभी दलों के लोग जाते तो वे वहाँ जाकर उनकी पीड़ा देख कर आते, उन्हें बाँधस बांध कर ही आते। लेकिन आपने इसे संकीर्णता में बांधने की कोशिश की है। आप इसे चंद राजनैतिक दलों और दक्षिण के एक प्रांत तक सीमित रखना चाहते हैं। ये संकीर्ण सोच हमें कहीं नहीं ले जाएगी। क्या इस भूल को सुधारते हुए आप सांसदों का एक सर्वदलीय प्रतिनिधि मंडल वहाँ भेजने का काम करेंगे, जो अपनी आंखों से वहाँ जाकर देख कर आए, अंदाजे और अटकलों के अलावा स्वयं उन्हें कुछ सुझा कर भी आ सके और यहाँ आकर आपको भी बता सके।

सभापति महोदय, इसके साथ ही मेरा सवाल यह है कि वहाँ जो प्रतिनिधि मंडल गया था, उसकी रिपोर्ट भी आज तक आपने सार्वजनिक नहीं की। उसमें ऐसा क्या

रहस्य है, हम लोग जानना चाहते हैं? वहा जो गए, वे हमारे एम.पीज़ साथी थे। मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि आप उस रिपोर्ट को सार्वजनिक करिए और उसके साथ-साथ एक अन्य सर्वदलीय प्रतिनिधि मंडल भेजने की बात करिए।

सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से चौथा और आखिरी प्रश्न पूछना चाहती हूँ कि आप चाहे जितनी सुविधाएं इन कैम्पों में जुटा दें, वह समस्या का आखिरी हल नहीं है। समस्या का आखिरी हल तब होगा, जब ये लोग अपने घर लौटेंगे। आपने अपने वक्तव्य में यह बात कही है। अपने घर में असुविधा काटकर भी लोग वैन की जिन्दगी जीते हैं और बाहर जितनी मर्जी सुविधाएं जुटा दें, असंतुष्ट ही रहते हैं। आपने कहा है कि जनवरी 2010 तक ये लोग अपने घरों को लौट जाएंगे। मैं पूछना चाहती हूँ कि क्या कोई मॉनिटरिंग हो रही है कि जनवरी 2010 तक वे सब अपने घर चले जाएंगे? मुझे नहीं लगता कि ऐसा हो पाएगा। इसलिए आज श्रीलंका के तमिल आपसे केवल एक सवाल पूछ रहे हैं और उसी सवाल को मैं आपसे पूछना चाहती हूँ कि वह कौनसा दिन होगा, जिस दिन श्रीलंका की जेलों में रह रहे ये तमिल अपने घर लौट सकेंगे, क्योंकि उस दिन मुझे आशा की वह किरण दिखेगी कि हां, वाकई श्रीलंका के तमिलों का समाधान होगा। उन श्रीलंका के तमिल भाइयों को यह बात समझ में आ जाए कि मैं क्या सवाल पूछ रही हूँ, इसलिए मैं तमिल में आपसे यह सवाल पूछना चाहूंगी- When will the Tamils detained in the confines of the barbed wires be released?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Normally, after the Calling Attention Members are not allowed to ask questions but because of the sensitivity of the issue I am going to allow a few Members to ask one question each.

\* SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI (ERODE): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, the Deputy Leader of the Principal Opposition Party for her valiant effort to draw the attention of the Government to the plight of Sri Lankan Tamils through her Calling Attention. She has expressed her feelings and sentiments about the pitiable conditions prevailing over there and I thank her on behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu.

I do not know whether it would be possible for me to confine myself to just one question. Hon. Minister's statement is based only on what Sri Lankan government has to say about the condition of Tamils in Sri Lanka. The statement is not reflecting the ground realities and the true condition.

Shrimati Sushma Swaraj was referring to a video news footage shown by a private TV channel. It only proves a point that the genocide by the Sri Lankan Government is continuing still. The Tamils are greatly agitated about this. It is nothing but genocide. Ignoring the fact that it is a Tamil struggle, the Government of India is paying heed only to the Sri Lankan Government helping them in all possible ways even through military assistance. We witness today that the terror let loose on the Sri Lankan Tamils who are languishing in the prison camps as refugees in their own homeland. I would like to know from the Government whether any concrete step has been taken so far to assess the real situation prevailing over there.

Shrimati Sushma Swaraj pointed out in her submission about the delegation that visited that island nation. It has been referred to in the hon. Minister's statement also. I would like to know whether any report was submitted by that group or delegation consisting of MPs from certain parties. If so, whether the Government of India has acted on it.

I would like to know from the Government as to what comes in between to refrain from sending an all-party delegation to Sri Lanka on behalf of the Government of India. I would also like to know from the Government whether you have monitored the way in which the funds that were apportioned in our last Budget and sent to Sri Lanka for the relief and rehabilitation measures were spent properly or not.

I would like to know whether the Government has taken any step to find out whether the beneficiaries have got any relief from the package of Rs. 500 crore sent earlier. I would also like to know whether the relief materials sent from Tamil Nadu have reached the needy Tamils in Sri Lanka.

You are also claiming that Sri Lankan Tamils are sent back from the camps and are resettled in their traditional habitations. But I would like to point out that the Sri Lankan Government is now busy in settling Sinhalese people in the areas that were traditionally the habitations of Tamil people all these years. I would like to ask of the Indian Government whether it would impress upon the Sri Lankan Government to put an end to this neo-colonisation of Sinhalese population in the traditional Tamil-populated areas.

Sri Lankan President has also announced that there will not be any exclusive Tamil area in Sri Lanka. He has also said that both the Northern and Eastern Provinces will not remain as different entities. He has said that they shall be merged. Is it not inimical to the interest of the Tamils? Is it not affecting their rights and taking away the same in toto?

Tamils are treated like second-rate citizens even today in their own land. Education and employment opportunities must be available to Tamils on par with the Sinhalese people. I want to know whether it will be provided to them as a Constitution measure through an amendment. I would like to urge upon the Government of India and ask of it whether it

would impress upon the Sri Lankan Government to fulfil its constitutional obligation to accord equal rights and status to the Tamils there. Through you, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the steps being taken in this direction.

\* SHRI P.R. NATARAJAN (COIMBATORE) : Hon. Chairman, I would like to thank Mrs. Sushma Swaraj for moving this Calling Attention Motion. Recently a group of the Members of Parliament went to Sri Lanka. It was like a group of a political party or an alliance. My hon. Colleague Thiru. Thirumaa Valavan was the only member in that delegation who wanted to bring to light what is prevailing there in Sri Lanka. He is writing with photographs in the media the ground realities available there. We consider then to be facts and the Tamils tend to see it only that way. Our Government need not hide such details and ignore facts. We learn that the British Government has imposed sanctions against Sri Lankan Government. Since the UN organizations are also learnt to be contemplating ban on Sri Lankan Human Rights violations. Government of India announces that additional financial and military assistance would be extended to Sri Lanka. I would like to know whether India would put pressure on Sri Lanka and go for sanctions on the grounds of its violating Human Rights.

Indian fishermen are attacked almost everyday. There is no mention of it in the Minister's Statement. Perhaps, Hon. Minister may need me to make a special Calling Attention Motion to understand about the Tamil of Indian origin and Indian Tamils. I do not know whether we need a Calling Attention Motion to know about the Tamil fishermen is Tamil Nadu.

Fishermen of Tamil Nadu are shot at, looted and also captured and arrested to languish in the prisons of Sri Lanka. Adequate protection is not given even to our own Indian fishermen. It is right to point out that there must be a negotiated political settlement. We must put this right kind of pressure on Sri Lankan Government. I would like to know through the Chairman whether the Government would take suitable steps in this regard. I thank all concerned who have enabled me to speak on this occasion.

\* SHRI THOL THIRUMAAVALAVAN (CHIDAMBARAM): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for this opportunity you have provided me to speak on the plight of Sri Lankan Tamils.

This is a problem pertaining to a national race that has a population of about 10 crores of people. We must not sideline the issue by way of restricting to just one or two questions.

I welcome the efforts of the Government to see that Tamils are rehabilitated in their traditional habitations. This two-page statement of the Minister can only bolster the Sri Lankan Government. There is no healing touch to the suffering Tamils. I am sorry to record my disappointment.

Sri Lankan Government gave an assurance to the Government of India that the internally displaced Tamils would be resettled in their original traditional habitations. I would like to know whether the Government of India has asked the Sri Lankan Government about the steps taken so far to resettle the Tamils in their traditional areas. No concrete measures have been spelt out in this statement. Sri Lankan Government has again gone back on its words to say now that the resettlement would be completed by the end of January, 2010. I would like to know as to how the Government of India allows this and permit the Sri Lankan Government to go back on its promise without resettling Tamils within a stipulated time frame. This only emboldens and encourages the Sri Lankan Government. The sense of urgency on the part of the Government of India shown to help militarily the Sri Lankan Government is now not shown to mitigate the sufferings of the Tamils. I would like to know as to why the Government of India is not concerned about the delay in resettling the Tamils there and rebuilding the infrastructure. We are dismayed and naturally doubts arise in our mind.

I was also part of the 10-member delegation consisting of Members of Parliament that visited Sri Lanka in the month of October. There, we found out that 11,000 people among the whole lot of refugees kept in captivity were segregated and taken to an unknown place for meeting out cruelty in the name of intensive interrogation. We learnt that they were kept in secret places as suspected associates of the militants. We wanted to meet them. We took great effort, but we miserably failed because of the selective negligence on the part of our own officials. It is only our officers of the Ministry of External Affairs of our Government that took us around, but prevented us from visiting the places we wanted to visit. We were not informed about their whereabouts. We learnt that the aged parents and mother-in-law of Prabakaran were also among the people who were taken away and kept in secret custody. I urge upon the Government of India to find out the fate of those 11,000 people. How are they treated? Where are they kept? What is happening to them? It is a moot question whether they get food and water and medical care. Through this august House, I would like to know the efforts being taken on the part of the Government of India to monitor such a situation where people are ill-treated and some among them are taken away to be ill-treated further.

I would like to point out here that in the Special Refugees Camp in Chengleput in Tamil Nadu houses about 50 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees who have been holed up there for many years without any trial and without being assigned any reason

under the very eyes of the Government of India. They also must be set free or must be taken to other Refugee Camps to be treated equally with the other Tamil refugees. This situation continues because of the directions to this effect by the Government of India. This must change.

At this juncture, I would like to point out another anomaly of our Indian citizens hailing from Tamil Nadu and Kerala languishing in the Sri Lankan prisons without any trial for an unspecified period. These people who had been to Sri Lanka for trade and other related commercial activities were detained on petty issues like error in visa formalities. These people are not fishermen and these people are not Sri Lankan Tamils. They are citizens of India who could have been handed over to the Government of India for any action if they had violated any of the laws of the land either here or there. More than 10 years and 15 years, about 50 of them are languishing in the prisons of Sri Lanka about which India has not expressed any concern so far, leave alone taking effective action to safeguard the interests of our citizens. I have also written to our External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna in this regard. I would like to point out that no action has been taken as yet to bring them back to India and book them under our laws, if need be.

No person believing in humanitarianism and humanness can bear with the inhuman treatment meted out to the Sri Lankan Tamils at the hands of the Sri Lankan Government. In an area that can hold only about 20,000 to 25,000 people, we find about three lakhs of people have been kept as refugees in their own homeland. They have been confined there like cattle and piglets in pitiable sub-human conditions. Human beings have been so confined hurting the humanitarian sentiments of right thinking people. I urge upon the Government of India to approach this problem with a humanitarian attitude.

I would like to point out that China is getting closer to Sri Lanka as they are getting a red carpet welcome to invest in commercial venture in Sri Lanka. The relations between these two countries are getting warmer. I do not know how and why the Government of India is forcing itself on the Sri Lankan Government to go out of the way to help and assist them when it is expected of the Indian Government to help and assist the Sri Lankan Tamils forced to live in pitiable conditions now. The Sri Lankan move to build bridges with China will even hamper the security interests and concern of India. I urge upon the Government of India to wake up to this reality. I want our Government to have a re-look at our Foreign Policy in this context. We must show our compassion to the suffering Tamils. More than 10 lakhs of Sri Lankan Tamils have been rendered as refugees in several countries world over. There must be an attempt and effort to create a situation to enable them to come back to their homeland. The duty of the Government of India is in helping them to resettle in their homeland. More than the relief and rehabilitation, resettlement must get utmost priority.

We, the citizens of India, – six to eight crores of Tamils in India – urge upon the Government of India not to ignore the plight of the Sri Lankan Tamils, our kith and kin. The same vehemence with which the Government of India acts when there is an attack on other Indian citizens in places like Australia, Fiji and others is not shown in the case of Tamils, the people of Indian origin. Wherever Tamils are affected, such concern is not being exhibited by India. I urge upon the Government of India to respect the sentiments of the Tamils of India, the citizens of India living in the Tamil mainland, in this country.

I urge upon the Government of India to see that a lasting solution is found through a negotiated political settlement. Both the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka must form the Tamil homeland there as envisaged in the Rajiv Gandhi-Jayawardhane Accord.

Finally, expressing my desire to know from the hon. Minister the right steps that are being taken in this regard, let me conclude.

SHRI T.K.S. ELANGOVA (CHENNAI NORTH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity. At the outset I am grateful to Shrimati Sushma Swaraj for having shown so much concern for the Tamilians languishing in Sri Lanka.

Sir, I have gone through the entire statement of the hon. Minister. I would like to quote from the statement, it says:

"The presence of nearly three hundred thousand internally displaced persons in camps in Northern Sri Lanka pose a major challenge for the Sri Lankan Government."

It was not the Tamilians who wanted to go to the camps. It was the Sri Lankan Government who brought the Tamilians from their homes and kept them in the camps. So, it was the Sri Lankan Government which wanted to put their own people within the camps. Therefore, the statement should not have shown any sympathy to the Government. Throughout the statement the hon. Minister has stated about re-construction, rehabilitation of people and re-building of Sri Lanka. I would like to quote the last paragraph.

"As a close neighbour, India continues to do whatever it can to assist Sri Lanka at this crucial turning point in the country's history."

Why should you assist Sri Lanka? We want you to assist Sri Lankan Tamils. Why should you assist that Government which has created many troubles for its own citizens, the Tamils? They were killing them, as was quoted by Shrimati Sushma Swaraj. What will the Sri Lankan Government do if they are helped more, if they are given arms? If they are given money, they will use that money to attack our own Tamils. The Government should do something for the Sri Lankan Tamils and not for the Sri Lankan Government.

The war is over but the question remains as to what will be the position of Sri Lankan Tamils in future? Will they be treated on par with the rest of the Sinhalese? Will they be treated as they were treated before the war? This is the question now. What is the Government of India going to do for a political settlement, for an honourable living of the Tamils in that island? What is the Government going to do for the Tamils who were facing about 25 years of war and who were made to stay in barbed wire camps for about six months? The Government should take up counselling for those people who are mentally affected by the war. They do not know what to do in the future. What is the Government's plan for the future of those people, to build confidence in the minds of the Sri Lankan Tamils there?

The hon. Prime Minister had promised an amount of Rs. 500 crore. Subsequently, hon. Home Minister had promised another Rs. 500 crore which has not found a place in the hon. Minister's statement. Is the Government going to give another Rs. 500 crore for them or not? These are the questions which I would like to ask the hon. Minister.

By way of clarification, I think, the House needs a response about the team which had been sent to Sri Lanka because some of our colleagues have raised the point about the team sent to Sri Lanka.

The hon. President of Sri Lanka, Shri Rajapaksa had sent invitations to two leaders of Tamil Nadu. One is for our Party President and the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. M. Karunanidhi and the other is for the AIADMK General Secretary and former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. Our leader accepted that invitation and, he had sent a team, with the permission of the Government of India, selecting representatives from the UPA like the Congress, the VCK and the DMK. Members of Parliament were selected from these three parties and were sent to Sri Lanka. But I do not know whether the AIADMK General Secretary had accepted that invitation or not. I do not know why she had not sent a team representing her. ...*(Interruptions)* This is not a team selected by the Speaker of this House or the Government of India. I would like to have a small explanation about it. We have given a report on whatever we had seen there. I was part of the team who went to Sri Lanka. Every Member who had been there took that opportunity only to assess the situation in Sri Lanka and explain things to our leader. The report was presented to the Prime Minister even. But the Government should take care of the Sri Lankan Tamils. It is not just reconstruction or infrastructure that are required there. We need to instill confidence in the minds of the Sri Lankan Tamils and I hope the Government will take steps to do that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri O. S. Manian may speak now.

[\\*SHRI O.S. MANIAN \(MAYILADUTHURAI\)](#): Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, I would like to express my thanks to Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, the Deputy Leader of BJP in this august House for her drawing the attention of this House to the plight of Sri Lankan Tamils. I would like to record my appreciation for her effective submission.

The former Chief of Sri Lankan Armed Forces Gen. Fonseka has stated in an interview that their military victory over the Tamil militants was not due to the help they got from either Pakistan or China but because of the support they got from the Government of India. I would like to point out that our Government has not issued any denial to this claim. I would like to know from the Government of India whether it is true. If it is so, then I would like to point out that the DMK in Tamil Nadu, which is part of this Government at the Centre, must also take the blame for having supported a regime that killed about

80,000 Sri Lankan Tamils. I would also like to point out that the Union Government supported by Shri Karunanidhi, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, has a supportive role in those killings. I would like to know from the Government whether they would agree with this reading. The Union Government has carried out the decision of their Alliance.

In order to study the situation in Sri Lanka, a delegation consisting of all parties, representatives of journalists and impartial observers ought to have been sent by now. I would like to know from the Union Government as to why it did not initiate such an objective move. I would also like to know as to what was achieved by the delegation that went to Sri Lanka in October last.

Thiru. Thol Thirumaavalavan, a member of that delegation, alone has expressed deep anguish after witnessing the plight of Tamils there. I would like to know why others, along with the Government of India, are silent on this.

I would also like to ask the Government of India and its top functionaries like the Prime Minister, the Home Minister and the Parliamentary Affairs Minister as to why they are keeping quiet and ignoring the plight of Sri

Lankan Tamils. Are they not people of Indian origin? I would like to know the ulterior motive behind this silence.

More than 80,000 Tamils have been killed. More than 10 lakhs of Sri Lankan Tamils are living abroad in several countries as refugees and as third-rate citizens and as asylum seekers. More than a lakh of them are living as refugees in Tamil Nadu. In their own country, about four lakh Sri Lankan Tamils are living as refugees confined in an open fenced area covered by barbed wires. This internally displaced people are living in pitiable conditions suffering worse conditions like cattle. They do not get proper food, shelter and medical care. They are meted out to cruel treatment. Their traditional habitations have been encroached upon and taken away from them. They have lost their properties. I would like to ask of the Government as to why they are silent about the efforts carried out by the Sri Lankan Government on a war footing to settle the Sinhalese people in the traditional Tamil-habitated areas. Even the food supplies we are sending from across the border are not reaching the needy Tamils. Why this situation is being allowed to go on unabated?

Senior citizens and injured people are not getting proper treatment. Why and how this situation is being allowed to continue? We also learn that all the news that comes from Sri Lanka is being censored. Red Cross, NGOs, Human Rights organizations and even some of the UN body units are not being allowed to visit those camps. They are denied access even to visit the burial and cremation sites.

Not only Tamils in Sri Lanka are being targeted, but also the Indian Tamil fishermen are also attacked by the Sri Lankan Navy day in-day out. The deadly attacks and the killings are continuing, but still there is no effective action on the part of the Government of India. I would like to know from the Government the reason behind the long drawn silence and inaction to protect the interests of Tamils. I would like to ask the Government of India as to why they turn a Nelson's eye and ignore the plight of Tamils when they always go forward to raise their voice whenever there is some human crisis in other parts of the world. I would like to know from the Minister as to what concrete action is being taken to protect the Tamils from the attacks of Sri Lankan military might.

My colleague Thiru. T.K.S. Elangovan, who spoke ahead of me, wanted to know whether our leader and the General Secretary of AIADMK has accepted the invitation from the Sri Lankan President Shri Mahinda Rajapakse. I would like to make it very clear that we will not accept an invitation from a person like Rajapakse who has let loose terror on Tamils and killing them in large number. If there was an initiative from the Union Government to send a delegation to that island nation to see for ourselves and to assess the situation of Tamils there, we would have taken part in that delegation.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (DINDIGUL): Mr. Chairman, thank you. At the outset I would like to tell that whatever we talk about Tamils in Sri Lanka or whatever discussions we are having here about them, should be helpful to the Tamils in Sri Lanka. Our speeches or our arguments should not in any way mar the future of Tamils. That should be borne in mind by all the political parties.

I am happy to inform that I was one of the members of the delegation which was sent by the Government of Tamil Nadu to Sri Lanka. We had elaborate discussions with various political leaders in Sri Lanka and we also visited various camps where Tamils have been kept for more than five months. Really, they are undergoing untold sufferings. Further, we learn and hear the news that the Sri Lankan Government has started releasing the persons who were in the camps for more than five months.

In this connection, I want to have two clarifications from our hon. Minister. While appreciating the action taken by the Government of India in helping the Tamils in Sri Lanka, may I know from him, after the release of the Tamils who were in



camps, has anybody gone to these respective places? Has anybody gone to his respective place? Has anybody made any survey regarding the places, their houses? I would like to know whether their houses are in good condition or in bad shape. What about their land? They said: "We reclaimed the land." Or, is it fit for agriculture? Has anybody made any research? Or, has any survey been made by the Sri Lankan Government or by the Indian High Commission people, who had been there? I want to know the details from the hon. Minister in this regard.

There is another point. The Government of India has announced the measure to help the Sri Lankan Tamils. It has set apart, as the other hon. Members have said, a sum of Rs.500 crore for the relief, rehabilitation and resettlement of the affected Tamil people. I would like to know, through you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, from our hon. Minister whether any detailed programme or outlay or survey has been received by the Government of India from the Sri Lankan Government.

In this connection, I wish to thank the Government of India that it has set apart another Rs.500 crore for the rehabilitation of the Sri Lankan Tamils. I want to know all the details to my questions from the hon. Minister....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Sir, the House has discussed a very important question which is engaging the attention of a vast majority of the people of this country.

At the outset, let me state that the Government of India is not looking at this issue as a Tamilians' issue. It is an issue which concerns the nation. Hence, our response would be a national response, not a sectarian or provincial response. To that extent, the hon. Member Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, by raising this issue, certainly lends credibility to my assessment that it is a national issue.

She has quoted the national poet Subramanya Bharati. We, in the southern part of India, have drawn inspiration from the writings of poet Subramanya Bharati, not necessarily the people of Tamil Nadu but the whole of the southern provinces, the northern provinces and the whole of India have drawn inspiration.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : It is so because he is a national poet.

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Subramanya Bharati is a national poet of eminence....(*Interruptions*) So, when we quote Subramanya Bharati, the quote should only be to further integrate the nation as one entity and that is the Indian entity....(*Interruptions*) To that extent, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj has served a very important purpose in quoting the poet Subramanya Bharati.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Thank you.

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Sir, cutting across party lines, all of us are concerned about the plight of our Tamil brothers and sisters in Sri Lanka. Things are not all that well in the Sri Lankan Tamilian camps. We have been engaging the Government of Sri Lanka time and again to know for ourselves as to the various measures that they have taken to resettle the displaced persons of the Tamil-speaking Sri Lankan citizens.

Right from day one, we have been given assurance by the Sri Lankan Government that within 180 days, those three lakh people who are in the camps would be sent back to their villages and to their hamlets. We are still hopeful that they would be able to complete that mission of rehabilitating three lakh people within that time frame of 180 days. But I know that it is a very difficult proposition. There are so many things which are involved. As a result of that, with the best of intentions, the Government of Sri Lanka might not be in a position to live through that promise of 180 days. But the larger question is that, if not within 180 days, they will have to be rehabilitated and we cannot expect that our Tamilian brothers in Sri Lanka will remain in camps for a long time. We are depending upon the Government of Sri Lanka to do the rehabilitation.

We know that Sri Lanka has gone through a very troubled two-and-a-half decades of internal strife, civil war, conflict and bloodshed, which was not only confined to Sri Lankan borders, but flew out of Sri Lanka also. We lose one of the most promising leaders of our country Shri Rajiv Gandhi because of this problem. So, I share the anguish and the agony that many Members have felt about what is happening in Sri Lanka.

The Sri Lankan Government has said that they are making efforts to bring about reconciliation. The reconciliation is something which the Government of India has always been insisting upon the Government of Sri Lanka. We want the Sri Lankan Government to take proactive and positive steps to bring about a political settlement with the Tamil minorities in Sri Lanka. Now that they have been able to win the war within, I think the victor must be magnanimous, he must be just and the weak will have to be protected. This is the line that we are taking with the Sri Lankan Government.

Sir, a number of issues like the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment are there. The Government of India wants the Sri Lankan Government to go beyond the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment. They should look in terms of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment plus, in order to bring about a rapprochement between the Sri Lankan Tamils and the Government in Sri Lanka. It would be in their interest and it would bring them permanent peace, tranquillity, trust and understanding.

### **15.00 hrs.**

Shri Elangovan mentioned about confidence building measures. I think, that is what needs to be done in Sri Lanka today. Shrimati Swaraj mentioned about the pitiable conditions of the camps.

Well, the hon. Member from DMK has clarified how some of the MPs did go to Sri Lanka. It was not at the Government of India's initiative. It was surely the initiative that was taken by the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, the eldest statesman of the country, Shri Kalignar Karunanidhi. That has served a useful purpose.

Even though, President of Sri Lanka wrote to the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to invite him to come there, in his wisdom he sent a delegation consisting of some Members of Parliament and others and it has served a useful purpose, in the sense, they are able to appreciate or understand and then convey to many of us who do not know what the life in the camps is like. Based on their recommendations, we will further take up with the Sri Lankan Government how life in the camps could be further improved, but at the same time, insisting on Sri Lanka that all of them, all the 300,000 people who are in the camps should be sent back to where they belong in their own country. I think, that is underlining principle we are adopting.

Mr. Ganesh Murthy, hon. Member, mentioned about equal rights. Yes, we cannot comprehend a situation where Tamil speaking people become second class citizens in Sri Lanka. There has to be equal rights, there has to be equal citizens of that country and they should participate in the mainstream of activities in that country.

Mr. Natarajan mentioned about human rights. Yes, we have heard about human rights violations. Whenever we hear of such reports, we immediately bring it to the notice of the Sri Lankan Government.

Shrimati Sushma Swaraj mentioned about a visual where a boy was being shown tortured. I think, it has come to my notice also. We have verified from our own sources. Our sources say that it was a case of police excesses. There was nothing to do about ethnic factors.

**श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज :** एथनिक होता तो इतना नहीं कहा जाता कि सिंहली लोग कर रहे हैं, ये तो पुलिस वाले कर रहे हैं, इसलिए ज्यादा गंभीर है। मैंने शुरू में ही कहा कि पुलिस वाले लाठियों से मार रहे थे। यह पुलिस एट्रोसिटीज का केस है तो इसमें कहीं न कहीं सरकार का इन्वाल्वमेंट आ जाता है। इसलिए यह ज्यादा गंभीर हो जाता है।

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: A mention was made by one hon. Member that the Finance Minister had gone to Sri Lanka and whether he was able to talk about this. I think, it was Sushma Ji. The Finance Minister had gone there to deliver an endowment lecture, just like a couple of years back, the present hon. Home Minister was also invited to make that endowment speech.

Naturally, when the Finance Minister met President Rajapaksha, he did take up the question of Sri Lankan Tamils. We have brought to the notice of the Sri Lankan President whatever we have heard from our own sources, from our Members of Parliament and from various political parties; and this has been duly conveyed to them.

With reference to question of grants, how these Rs. 500 crore are being spent, I think there is a mechanism which we have put in place where there is monitoring of whatever expenditures or whatever grants that we have given or we intend to give to Sri Lanka are being accounted for. Then we are also using international agencies like the United Nations Commissioner for Refugees. It is one of the sources whom we depend upon for monitoring the developments there in that country.

A mention was made about fishermen's problems. I think we are concerned about the fishermen's problems. There was an understanding about the fishermen's question in *Katchatheevu in 2008 October. We have stood by that agreement of 2008. The facts bear out that there has been a steep reduction in terms of seizure of boats and the arrest of our fishermen willy-nilly crossing the Indian maritime territorial waters. While in 2008, 334 boats were seized and 1456 of our fishermen were apprehended by Sri Lankan Government; in 2009 till the end of November, we have had only 31 boats and 124 fishermen*

*apprehended. Witnessing this sharp decrease, we have continued to emphasize to the Sri Lankan Government the need to scrupulously adhere to the October 2008 understanding between our two Governments.*

Earlier I submitted that we have insisted on Sri Lankan Government for full implementation of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment and the Sri Lankan Government has promised to do exactly that, though they have certain reservations. But we have also urged them to go beyond the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment and undertake a credible devolution of powers.

An allegation was made that Government had actively collided with the Government of Sri Lanka against the Tamil community. Well, all our efforts are directed exactly to support and defend our Tamil brothers and sisters in Sri Lanka. I am sure that we respect Sri Lanka as a sovereign country and we have cordial relations with Sri Lanka. This relationship dates back to times immemorial. As one of the hon. Members put it, we have civilizational links with Sri Lanka. We have traditional links with Sri Lanka. It is the intention of the Government of India to continue and further strengthen those links between Sri Lanka and India. I am sure the Sri Lankan Government, when it deals with other powers – we are not concerned – our relationship with Sri Lanka is between two sovereign countries on a bilateral basis. They understand our sensitivities; they understand our concerns of our own security, because our security and Sri Lankan security at some point they merge.

Hence, in whatever the Sri Lankan Government does, I am sure that they will bear in mind the sensitivities of the concerns of the Indian Government and the Indian nation.

Sir, I think, I have made an honest attempt to meet very many points but if there are some points on which I have not been able to respond, I will certainly go through the various suggestions that the hon. Members have made from various sides and then I will certainly be able to respond to them in the days to come.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we go to item no. 20.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing should go on record.

(Interruptions) â€!\*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister has already responded. Please sit down. Now, we go to item no. 20.

...(Interruptions)

**श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज :** महोदय मैं केवल माननीय मंत्री जी से एक बात पूछना चाहती हूँ।

...(व्यवधान) यह इनिशिएटिव महेन्द्र राजपाकसे जी का था या करुणानिधि जी का था। लेकिन हम सब जाकर अपने आप स्थिति देख आए वया भारत सरकार इसके लिए सर्वदलीय प्रतिनिधि मंडल भेजेगी? यह मैंने पहले भी पूछा था और अब दोबारा पूछ रही हूँ।...(व्यवधान)

SHRI T.K.S. ELANGO VAN (CHENNAI NORTH): Sir, I want to seek one clarification. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not a debate. Please sit down. She was the mover of this Calling Attention. That is why, I have allowed her to seek a clarification.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (VIDISHA): Will the Government of India send another delegation comprising of Members of Parliament from all the parties? ...(Interruptions)

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Sir, the hon. Member has made in her speech earlier also about sending an all-party delegation to Sri Lanka. Let me say that we will certainly consider this. ...(Interruptions)

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1043/15/09)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up item no. 20.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)  $\hat{\epsilon}_i^*$*

