

>

Title: Issue pertaining to the statement made by the Defence Secretary of Sri Lanka criticizing the Resolution passed by the Tamil Nadu Assembly.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, today we shall skip Lunch Hour and take up few 'Zero Hour' matters and then we will take up legislative business. Now we take up 'Zero Hour'. Dr. M. Thambidurai.

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI (KARUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise an issue pertaining to Sri Lanka. Recently the Defence Secretary of Sri Lanka Mr. Gotabaya Rajapakse criticized the Resolution passed by the Tamil Nadu Assembly. He said that the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu got the Resolution passed only to gain political advantage. He further said that she made those comments without knowing the facts.

Sir, it is well known that the UN Panel has recently given a report stating that nearly 40,000 innocent civilians have been killed in Sri Lanka by the Sri Lankan Army during the war against LTTE. Apart from that, they have violated so many things and they committed war crimes. Our Minister of External Affairs also said in a *suo motu* statement that three lakh civilians in Sri Lanka are also affected and they are living away from their homes. That is why the Indian Government has also come forward to rehabilitate those civilians and a sum of Rs.500 crore has been sanctioned by the Government.

Based on the facts, Madam Jayalithaa, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, passed a resolution in the Tamil Nadu Assembly condemning those who have committed war crimes and also sought to see that rehabilitation of all the civilians take place quickly.

Mr. Rajpakshe has said – this Government, should we say – that she did it for only political gains. This is condemnable. In this context, I would like say that she did it after asserting the full facts and also did it with full responsibility. She did not do it for any political advantage or gain. She has become the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu three times with a thumping majority. Therefore, this kind of a statement that she did it for political motives made by the Defence Secretary of Sri Lanka is *.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Sir, a discussion is going to take place on this, the hon. Member can raise this issue at that time...(*Interruptions*) Sir, this matter relates to our neighbouring country and this cannot be raised like this...(*Interruptions*)

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI : Please allow me to complete. So, instead of solving the problem, the Sri Lankan Defence Secretary has criticized the resolution and also criticized the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. This is objectionable, inappropriate and *â€*/*

Sir, yesterday also, this matter was raised in the Tamil Nadu Assembly and the whole Assembly reiterated and stood by the resolution. The Assembly urged the Union Government of India to take appropriate action and see that the problem of Sri Lankan Tamils is solved. Therefore, I would request the Union Government to take necessary action and that the spirit of the Tamil Nadu resolution be conveyed to the High Commission of Sri Lanka. This is what I want to insist and therefore, I once again *â€*/*the criticism made by the Defence Secretary of Sri Lanka.

सभापति महोदय : कुछ ऑब्जेक्शनबल होगा तो डिलीट हो जाएगा।

-

(Dr. M. Thambidurai *in the Chair*)