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Title : Regarding houses built by Government of India in Srilanka for rehabilitation of Tamils settled there.

SHRI R. THAMARAISELVAN (DHARMAPURI): Mr. Chairman, Sir I would like to raise an important issue which is very close to the hearts of over seven crore Tamilians spread across the Globe.

India proposed to construct 50,000 houses at a cost of Rs. 1,200 crore for displaced ethnic Tamils in Sri Lanka, out of which more than 1,000 houses have already been built up. It has been reported that most of the houses constructed are under the Sinhalese occupation.

The Sinhalese have been forcefully made to settle in the Tamil dominated areas in Sri Lanka. Even the Government of India has been forcefully compelled to engage in the building work of these 50,000 houses only to Sinhalese. Sinhalese will use the opportunity to house more Sinhala settlers in the north and eastern areas.

They even do not spare the sewing machines given by the Government of India for handing over to the widows who lost their husbands in the war, which are given to Sinhalese settlers. The names of beneficiaries of Tamil families are erased and they are inserting the name of Sinhalese settlers who had settled close to the Navatkuli area. Not only this, Sinhalese military Governor transferred 500 bicycles allocated to the Jaffna peninsula by the Indian Government to the Sinhalese families in the newly created Weli-oya Division. Similarly, a part of the consignment of 500 tractors allocated to the Northern farmers by the Indian Government has been transferred to the Sinhala areas by the Governor of the Northern Province.

Therefore, I would urge upon the Government to adopt any mechanism to ensure that the rehabilitation measures initiated by the Government of India for the Sri Lankan Tamils should only reach to them and should not be diverted at any cost. I would also urge upon the Government of India to direct the Indian Embassy in Sri Lanka to keep an eye on all these issues.