

nt>

Title: Requests the Central Government to protect Tamil refugees coming from Sri Lanka and ask the Govt. of Sri Lanka to stop the genocidal attacks on Tamils.

SHRI VAIKO : Mr. Chairman, Sir.... (Interruptions) Madam, kindly allow me to speak.... (Interruptions)

श्री मदन लाल खुराना: वैज्ञानिकों के बारे में मैं **HRD**मिनिस्टर से कहूंगा कि वे इसके बारे में आकर जानकारी दें।

... (व्यवधान)

SHRI VAIKO (SIVAKASI): I will speak only when silence prevails.... (Interruptions) Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for the opportunity given to me.

With a heavy heart and terrible agony, through you, I wish to draw the attention of the Government towards an important issue. A grave tragedy has taken place in Palk straits. About 47 refugees who were coming from Sri Lanka were killed when their boat capsized. They were drowned to death. The dead ones include pregnant women and also the children. One of the survivors, Shri Velayudham with tears in his eyes stated that before his own eyes his pregnant wife and children were crying but he could not help them and now he was wondering why he had survived. About 47 people have drowned in the ocean. Our late lamented founder of DMK, Peraringer Anna once said, 'the sea water is getting salty because of the tears of the Tamils'. The survivors have narrated how the mishap took place. According to them the accident took place because of the genocidal attack launched by the Sinhalese Government. There was bombardment from the planes. In order to get some solace, succor and asylum as refugees, these people were coming to India.

This is not an internal problem of Sri Lanka. The former Prime Minister, Shri Gujral, stated, 'whatever has happened, is an internal problem of Sri Lanka'. This is a problem of universal human right. I would say that this is worse than what has happened in Bosnia. More than 10 lakh people have been uprooted from their traditional homes. They are now in jungles. They are dying without food and medicines.

What happened two days back is only the tip of the iceberg. The press cannot go there because of the genocidal attack. There is censorship there. Representatives of the International Red Cross Association could not visit the affected areas.

AN HON. MEMBER: It is 'zero hour'.

SHRI VAIKO A lot of time is wasted on a lot of issues. Why are you getting disturbed over this issue? You need not remind me that it is 'zero hour'. It is a matter which concerns us very much. Our hearts reach out to the victims. ... (Interruptions) I shouted against the Member who said that it is 'zero hour'. I can reply to him, if he stands up.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Vaiko, you are a senior Member. Do not invite troubles like this.

SHRI VAIKO : Sir, it might be a matter to laugh at for these people. It is because of the foreign policy pursued by the previous Government that these things are happening. They committed blunder after blunder. When our kith and kin are getting killed like this, we cannot shut our eyes to the reality. This genocidal attack against the Tamils should be stopped. I urge upon the Government of India not to pursue the policy of their predecessors. I urge upon the Government that they should take it up as an issue of human rights and ask the Government of Sri Lanka to stop forthwith the genocidal attacks on the innocent Tamils. Since the hon. Prime Minister is going to Sri Lanka to Pak Strait, our fishermen are getting killed everyday by the Sri Lankan Navy. This is going on everyday. Our own Tamil fishermen as well as Tamil refugees who are coming from Sri Lanka, are getting killed. The Government of India should realise the seriousness of the problem, and take up the issue of protecting the innocent Tamils.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister may make her statement now.

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY: Sir, I gave notice on the same matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister ought to have made the statement at 1 o'clock. So, let the Minister make her statement now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Vaiko has sent a note to the hon. Speaker and the hon. Speaker has permitted him and not all of you.

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY : My name is in the list. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please cooperate, Shri Sathiamoorthy.

">SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY (RAMANATHAPURAM): The incident has happened in my constituency. I am from Rameshwaram.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, Shri V. Sathiamoorthy.

13.22 hrs

(At this stage, Dr. Shakeel Ahmad and Shrimati Suryakanta Patil came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, On 23rd July, 52 persons of Tamil Eelam left Sri Lanka to reach India. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why can you not tell your Members to sit down? This is too much.

... (Interruptions)

13.23 hrs

(At this stage, Dr. Shakeel Ahmad and Shrimati Suryakanta Patil went back to their seats.)

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY (RAMANATHAPURAM): Forty-four of them including women and children drowned in the sea and died pathetically while they were coming to Rameshwaram from Sri Lanka as refugees.

Sir, A vigorous war is going on between the Sri Lankan Army and the LTTE in Jaffna. This region is thickly-populated by Tamilians. There is no safety for the lives of the innocent Tamil people in Jaffna area. Some of them want to save themselves by coming to Tamil Nadu as refugees. But both the LTTE and the Sri Lankan Army are preventing them from leaving.

In such a circumstance, it is a usual and routine thing that the innocent affected people escaping from the Sri Lankan Army and Navy are trying to reach Tamil Nadu as refugees by small unsafe boats and in the process most of them are meeting with fatal accidents. They are in a very pitiable condition.

Therefore, I would like to urge upon the Central Government to take up the issue under humanitarian considerations with the Government of Sri Lanka and take some official measures to help those refugees who are all willing to

come over to India. In order to safeguard their lives, some authorised vessels may be arranged and pathetic deaths may be prevented in the mid-sea.

श्री दिलीप संघाणी (अमरेली) : सभापति महोदय, गुजरात की बात पूरी नहीं हुई है। ... (व्यवधान)