

Therefore, there is a very urgent need to reintroduce the narrow-gauge immediately. I strongly urge upon the Government to provide broad-gauge at least from Bangarpet to Kolar so that the farmers of the drought-prone district can have the facilities of transportation of their produce to be supplied to the other parts of the country. The backward district will thus join the mainstream of the nation through this broad-gauge conversion.

DISCUSSION *RE*: SITUATION  
ARIS OUT OF ESCALATION OF  
VIOLENCE IN SRI LANKA -- *CONTD.*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: We will now continue the discussion under Rule 193, on Ceylon. Prof. Swell.

SHRI G. G. SWELL (Shillong): It is most unfortunate but the noises that have come from Sri Lanka of late have been shrill, have been militant, have been unappreciative of the role that India has been trying to play as an honest mediator, have been insensitive to the difficulty that India is facing as a result of the happenings in Sri Lanka.

Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate and I think I am expressing the feelings of the Government of India, of the Members in this House that we in India have a vested interest and that vested interest is the peace, the security the integrity, the sovereignty of Sri Lanka, as for any other country in our immediate neighbourhood. We are not bargaining for what is happening in Sri Lanka, today, we are not bargaining for the thousands of refugees from Sri Lanka that are being given hospitality in Tamil Nadu, We are not bargaining with the prospect of more of thousands and hundreds of thousands of the people of Sri Lanka coming over to Tamil Nadu. We would like Sri Lanka to be peaceful, to be settled to be secure, but I think it is also time that we speak the language that Sri Lanka will understand,

that the people, the forces behind Sri Lanka will understand.

The first point I would like to make is to remain this House and to remind Sri Lanka and also to remind the whole world, that some time in the early 'seventies it was the Government of India that saved the Government of Sri Lanka from falling, that saved the country, Sri Lanka from being taken over by the ultra leftist organisation, the Janata Vimukta Peramna. And I would like to go on record that it is Sri Lanka today that is its own worst enemy. It is not only the struggle between the Sinhalese and the Tamilians, Sri Lanka is facing today a struggle against this ultra Marxists Organisation, the Janata Vimukta Peramna. And if today it is the talk that the Government of Sri Lanka is under a siege, that the President of Sri Lanka is under a threat of assassination, that does not come from the Tamilians; it comes from the members of the Janata Vimukta Peramna. We would like them to remember that it was the aircraft from India, it was the weapons from India that saved the Government of Sri Lanka at that time.

And so just because we are insisting that there should be a peaceful political solution to the problem of Sri Lanka, just because we insist that the formula for the peaceful settlement of the problem of Sri Lanka should depend on the December 19 proposals that have been made, just because we say that, it does not lie in the mouth of the President of Sri Lanka, it does not lie in the mouth of Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, to say that the attitude of India is Hitlerite or Hitlerian.

I would like to take this problem of Sri Lanka in a larger context. We have been talking the other day about the danger to this country coming from the north and the north-west, from Pakistan. During my speech at that time on Indo-United States relations I had drawn the attention of the House to say that a similar danger, perhaps a greater danger, is facing this

[Sh. G. G. Swell]

country from the south. Sri Lanka has a bay called Trincomalee which is perhaps one of the best natural harbours in the world with a legacy of its being one of the biggest fuel depots in the world. There are today in that bay 99 fuel tanks with a capacity of 12,000 tonnes for each tank - 99x12000 it comes to 1,18,8000 tonnes of fuel that can be stored in Trincomalee bay at any time and an any given day.

Now, we know what is happening in Diego Garcia, just a few hundred miles from Sri Lanka. There a small island has been converted into a full nuclear base equipped with nuclear operated aircraft, nuclear operated submarines. More than that, it is being equipped with the latest gadgets of electronics surveillance and listening devices. There is a system called the ground based electro-optical deep space surveillance system in Diego Garcia. It has the capacity of detecting any object in space or in air 25,000 miles away. An object of one metre in breadth in size can be detected in this manner.

It has been on the agenda of the United Nations to convert the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace. A few countries like the United States of America have got vested interest in Diego Garcia. They have been opposing a conference to consider the conversion of the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace. The reasons are obvious. I have drawn the attention of the House again and again to the central command, geo-strategic interest of the west especially the United States of America in trying to contain the Soviet Union. And Sri Lanka today seems to be moving towards providing itself as one more link in the chain of that a central command. I would like the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs to give his reaction and to take note of these things.

Therefore, it is time that we speak to Sri Lanka in a language that Sri Lanka will understand. The other day, I had said that it is time that we in India should speak in

the language that the United States of America will understand. And the only language for us is that India goes nuclear. It is only then that the people will talk to us. It is also necessary that we speak this language. Unfortunately, that is the only course left to us; that is the only option open to us. We have no weapon against AWACS. We have no weapon against other kinds of sophisticated weapons. This is the only language for which the people will sit up and understand. It is also necessary that today we say that it is all right for Sri Lanka to do everything they want to do in their own house. You have got your house; nobody disputes that. You can do what you like in your house and to your house but you have no right to set your house on fire and put my house in jeopardy. I think this is the language that India shou'd speak. We want the good of Sri Lanka. We will try to do everything possible. Even today we will reiterate that there is only one solution to the problem of Sri Lanka and that is a political settlement. They are facing the problems from the Tamilians today. They are bombing Jaffna. A time will come when they will have to fight a civil war within and around Colombo itself against their own people. What will you do at that time?

But if because of these problems they would like to bring the external forces, they would like to bring the Mossad, they would like to bring the C.I.A., they would like to bring the British strategic air services and things like that, they would like to bring foreign forces into Sri Lanka and make Sri Lanka a kind of a jumping base, they will be creating another frontline for a super power. We are already facing the danger from the north as I said. This is the position that India cannot tolerate and we shall not tolerate in the best national interests, and if it is necessary, we will have to take necessary action to ensure that Sri Lanka remains a sovereign country, that Sri Lanka is not a plaything for the super powers in this part of the world. It is necessary that Sri Lanka remains independent and strong and

towards that end if necessary, India will take the necessary actions to ensure that and to prevent that eventuality from coming into pass.

[*Translation*]

\*SHRI A.J.V.B.NAGESWARA RAO (Amalapuram): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the genocide in Sri Lanka is going on unabated. It is a blot on the history of modern day world. Innocent Tamils are being massacred in Sri Lanka every day. The Sri Lankan Govt. is hell bent in solving the ethnic issue through military means. The Sri Lankan Govt. has more faith in the military solution of the problem rather than the political solution. No country on the earth which has respect for the human values would ever tolerate the actions of Sri Lanka Government.

Sir, the Indian efforts to help Sri Lanka to solve the ethnic issue through peaceful means have not yielded any result so far. Many officials and diplomats had visited Sri Lanka to help solve the issue. But the Sri Lankan Govt. has not displayed any inclination to solve the issue through negotiations. It is trying to evade a political solution. It is continuing to kill the innocent Tamilians there. Tamils are being butchered in Sri Lanka now. The entire world is aghast with the happenings in that country. Everyone who cherishes human values hangs down his head in shame. The genocide is still continuing. Sri Lankan Govt. is showing no respect either for peace initiatives undertaken by India, nor is it having any respect for the feelings of the millions of the Indians. But India cannot afford to be a silent spectator any more. It is the responsibility of this country to protect the people of Indian origin in Sri Lanka. It is the first and foremost duty of the Indian Government. Sir, India has diplomatic relations with Sri Lanka. It is a close neighbour of ours. With all good intentions the Tamil Nadu Govt. is extending the help to Tamilians

who are now being tortured in Sri Lanka. The financial assistance extended by Shri M.G. Ramchandran to the Tamils is being misinterpreted by Shri Lankan Govt. and used for anti-Indian propaganda. It is most unfortunate. Only recently, the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Shri Prema Dasa has declared that any country which opposes the policies of that Govt. would be treated as their enemy. It is most unfortunate. India should strive for an amicable understanding between the Govt. and Tamils in Sri Lanka. It should step up its diplomatic efforts. Sri Lanka. It should step up its diplomatic efforts. Sir, the Sri Lankan Govt. is soliciting support from various other countries in its efforts to wipe out Tamilians in that country. It poses a danger to India too. Indian Govt. should realise this danger. India has to guard itself from the impending dangers. Hence, it is in the best interests of India too, that a peaceful solution to the ethnic crisis is found out. Hope the Govt. would initiate action in this direction soon. Sir, the burden of refugees is increasing day by day. It is beyond the means of our Govt. to provide shelter to them for an indefinite period. Sir, just before the formation of Bangladesh, a similar situation existed. The refugees were pouring in lakhs every day from the then East Pakistan. The Govt. handled the situation admirably. The influx of Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka is reminding us of those days. Govt. should also try to discharge its responsibilities towards Sri Lanka refugees. In fact, India had been helping every country in its hour of distress. Similar help and cooperation should also be extended to Sri Lankan Tamils in this hour of crisis.

Sir, there are various groups among Tamil militants now. Efforts should be to unite these various groups. Unless they speak with one voice, they can not achieve much in solving their problems. Hence India should first try to evolve a consensus among the various Tamil groups.

\* The Speech was originally delivered in Telugu.

[Sh. A. J. V. B. Nageswara Rao]

Sir, every Tamilian is being treated as a terrorist in Sri Lanka. Already almost every Tamilian has lost his property and saving his life by the skin of his teeth. It should be told clearly to Sri Lanka that every Tamilian is not a terrorist. It is the primary responsibility of our Govt. to provide safety to the life and property of the people of Indian origin in Sri Lanka. Hence once again I appeal to the Indian Govt. to shoulder the responsibility of our intermediary and step up diplomatic efforts to find a political solution to the ethnic crisis in Sri Lanka.

I thank you very much for providing me this opportunity to speak and conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM (Salem): We have had many a debate on the Sri Lankan ethnic conflict. It is not new and this House, in fact, this Lok Sabha itself is very familiar with the problems. But the misfortune if I may at the outset say is a problem that those who wield power in Sri Lanka have tended to look upon only the Sinhala sectional interest as synonymous with national interest. They seem to have forgotten that Sri Lanka is a multi-lingual and multi-racial nation. They seem to think that the only religion that matters is Buddhism. The only language which matters is Sinhalese and the only race which has the right to exist and live in Sri Lanka are the Sinhalese. This is the misfortune.

I think it is relevant to spend a few minutes on what is the real problem. It is true the majority population of Sri Lanka is Sinhalese 74% of the population is Sinhala speaking population. But there is 25.6% of the population who are Tamil speaking, whether they are Muslims or Hindus or Christians. But the short point is that before independence the problems between these communities did not exist. The real problem started when the

plantation Tamils in Sri Lanka were divested of their voting rights. What really happened was the Tamils and nearly 25% of the seats in the legislature, then. But after divesting of the voting rights of the plantation Tamils, it came down to nearly 12%. What really happened after 1977 is, we have seen discrimination of the worst type that could ever take place in any nation. We talk of apartheid. We talk of white and black. But what about apartheid among blacks? Is our Government going to keep quiet. Nearly 500000 jobs came into existence after 1977. The Tamilians got 2% of the jobs, even though educationally they were the most qualified. We saw in that States that the unemployment rate of Tamilians who have passed SSLC is in the region of 45% while in the Sinhalese it is as low as 20%. It is very clear.

If one sees the Police force or the Air force, Tamil representation is negligible. It is almost non-existent. One cannot even talk of percentage. One problem is employment; the other problem is education. In education there is constant implicit racial discrimination taking place.

Admissions are not available if you are born as Tamils. And Tamils in what form? Is it because they speak a different language? Is it because they are born as Tamils, citizenship; rights are denied to them? Sir, in the 20th Century, we criticise apartheid in South Africa. Is it not as bad when Idi Amin murdered people in his nation, the Non-Aligned leaders justified the removal of Idi Amin? Here what is happening in Sri Lanka is genocide, rape of the worst type. Little girls in the age of 6 to 7 are raped and brutally murdered by the military officials and Sri Lankan armed forces. Every single human rights body in the world has criticised and what is the history behind this? There have been pact after pact. In July 1957, there was a famous Bandaranayake-Selvanayakam pact which literally broought a solution to the problem. But what happened? The

present President of Sri Lanka Mr. Jayewardene, under the Leadership of his party led a march. He led a march and they destroyed the pact. Again when their party signed a pact in 1956, a similar agreement where the rights of the Tamils were reduced was brought in and at that moment the turn was the SLSPs - the other Opposition Party - to say that it was a sell - out to the Tamils and they destroyed that agreement. In 1972, the Constitution which was brought in was to remove the protection to minority which was existing till then in the Constitution. Even in the political document, the protection to minority was removed. In 1978, the Constitution was brought in where Tamil representatives did not participate and were not consulted. Today, unfortunately, the situation is that in the name of land settlement, the Sinhala population, in fact the lumpens, are armed and settled in Tamil areas. Tamil villages are destroyed and it is not that it is without a design and the Minister of Internal Security categorically went on record to say that "I believe this is the successful method of combatting terrorism in a non-violent way. This could mean that somewhere in the future there could be more Sinhalese in the north than the Tamils." Their intentions are very clear. The President, Mr. Jayewardene, of Sri Lanka said in January 1986. "I shall have a military solution to what I believe is the military problem. After doing so, I shall tackle the political side." They are very clear about what their intention are. Their intention is to annihilate the Tamil speaking population in Sri Lanka. It is no longer the internal problem of Sri Lanka. This is the problem of human race. Can one dominant majority race destroy and annihilate another section of the human race just because they are in minority ? Is that what Buddhism teaches ? Buddhism is supposed to be the State religion of Sri Lanka. Is that their old-age path ?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the unfortunate thing is that the Government of India, if I may humbly submit, has done its best. But

sometimes the issue arises whether the best is enough. Sir, I should take this opportunity to congratulate the Government of India for its patience.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichettipalayam) : It is very good, Sir.

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM : The amount of provocation that they have received is without question.

But I am sure that hon. Minister for Foreign Affairs would agree with me that there is a limit to which a big nation like us can be pushed. We are being pushed now tight against the wall. Let us remember that many of the Tamils who are being killed are our relations. I have relations, Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Sri Lanka, who have been killed, brutally murdered by the Army and not even by lumpens. They organise the private armies, arm them to the teeth and send them to raid the villages. Today they had the audacity to say they have an economic blockade against our own people. In which nation does this happen that a Government imposes an economic blockade on its own people, in the worst of worst internal differences ? Even in the case of a civil war this is not done. Mr. Speaker, Sir, what else is happening ? We find the unfortunate poor Tamils who have nothing to do with either militants or violence or even politics but surviving by day-to-day manual labour, their huts being strapped by helicopter gunships. Houses are being blown up, hospitals are being bombed—what is this ? Mr. Speaker, Sir, what is on in Sri Lanka is a civil war. Is India going to sit quietly watching ? That is the question. I do not say, nor do I suggest, that today India should immediately send its Army to Sri Lanka. No. But when the Tamil Nadu Government sends relief to Sri Lankan Tamils in the North, all those boats which carry relief, not armaments, I repeat, which carry relief, medicines and food—are those boats going to be escorted or not, is the question. Are those boats going to be given protection ? Mr. Speaker, Sir, today

[Sh. P. R. Kumaramangalam]

the time has come for India to categorically communicate to the Sri Lankan Government that we do not think it is an internal matter, we believe definitely in the unity of Sri Lanka, we do not want to break up Sri Lanka, we are not for any Elam, but we believe every human who is alive and who lives on the surface of this earth has the right to live in dignity, peace and future.

*[Interruptions]*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to take one minute more.

May I point out that today the Sri Lankan budget in the military expenditure is almost Rs. 16 crores a day. It is unheard of. Even our huge nation does not spend that much money—Sixteen crores of Sri Lankan Rupees a day, that is what they spend. And what is it spent on? To fight foreign forces? No. It is spent on to kill their own citizens. And are we going to keep quiet? Billions of Dollars they have taken as loan. If today Sri Lanka is asked to pay back even one-tenth of the loan that it has taken from its allies if I may use the word, in the form of Israel, in the form of the United States, in the form of United Kingdom, they will be broke. They are destroying their economy. Even if a political solution comes today that nation is going to be crippled because of certain unfortunate tyrannical political beings being in power.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I end only by saying that it is necessary for the Government of India to take a stronger stand. Yes, we cannot directly interfere, but we are powerful enough to be clear in our communication to the Government of Sri Lanka. The suggestion that was given on the 19th of December 1986 is a good proposal in the sense that it starts a discussion. But there cannot be a discussion, there cannot be a negotiation when there is an economic blockade and when there is an economic killing. Let it be made clear.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, our concern on the development in Sri Lanka is on two major fronts. One is ruthless massacre of Tamils by the Sri Lankan Government and the account of which is quite abundantly available in the papers and what we have heard here also. In this situation, when one is pained to say that my relations are being killed, one can very well understand how the anger could be, how despoiled the mind could be. Despite that, it is quite appreciable that that kind of mindless demands have not been made and we are still trying for a political solution to the problems of Sri Lanka.

I am not going to give an account of the torture that is going on there. The blockade of Jaffna, the bombing of hotels, the killing of civilians, the merciless kinds of these things are known to everybody. What we cannot understand is, how a civilian Government can act in this mad way with its own people.

Then, there is another aspect of the problem and that is, growing penetration of international gangsters in Sri Lanka, in, what they call themselves, their internal affairs of their own and in that, it is not that India that is interfering. It is the Jayewardene Government which is calling the forces from outside to suppress its own people. The U. S. agencies are active; Israeli Mossad are active. Pakistanis are also invited there. South Africa is also invited there. Who is tampering with the sovereignty of Sri Lanka? That is the precise question. These kinds of going under the influence of imperialist forces are being done according to a design. This ethnic conflict is taken as a pretext to enhance their influence. I have every doubt to suspect and there is reason to believe that certain forces are active in Sri Lanka and they do not want a political solution. Every time in the past when the agreements were about to be reached between the two communities, like 1957 Bandaranaike-Chelvanayakam Pact, they were thwarted.

Again in 1965, the settlement efforts were thwarted. Now this time also, when the December, 1986 proposal was mooted, that was accepted by Mr. Jayewardene. But just after that, it has also been thrown out. Now, it seems that they are not interested in the negotiated settlement. What everyone has to understand in our country, including the Tamils in Sri Lanka is that, certain forces of vested interests are there to see that the ethnic conflicts continue so that things go out of the hands of India also and of the Sri Lanka also. That is a very difficult situation. In that, we have every ground to be anxious about it and to express our concern about it. What Mr. Swell has said is very relevant in this respect. He talked about Trincomalee. It is not that it has the oil tankers capacity only. They have already given it to one of the Western firms that is very close to U. S. A., namely Oroleum. Now, it can provide not only berth of 29 oil vessels but it can provide berth for nuclear vessels also. These are very serious matters. What we talked about the Indian Ocean, the same should be talked of Trincomalee also. It is said that Trincomalee holds the key to the Indian Ocean.

#### 12.00 hrs.

Now USA has a strategic interest in Sri Lanka, and they are trying to increase their presence by using this ethnic policy. The question that comes up here is we have got the evidence of the Voice of America Agreement in 1983 and they are going to set up that station there. It is not that innocent Voice of America transmission. It is the monitoring capacity of the radius on 3,300 KM. It can monitor it. It directly has a bearing on the question of the security of our country also. I have talked about Israel and all that. Now the question is that the Tamils who used to be one and those who are resisting and those who are fighting a defensive battle, now we find that their actions are being attempted to be marred by certain kind of bad name given to them. We condemn

every kind of terrorism. When Sinhalese are murdered, by whom I do not know, even if by terrorists group, we condemn them. It is not that we want this to continue. But then again there is the report that this is being used as a pretext to cancel the mediatory efforts. Then there is a report to postpone elections. It may be done. I condemn this. There are many groups of Tamils. They should see that they should come together. They should speak in one voice. They should try to establish unity with the Sinhalese also. That is very important. In this context, I must say that we should not bother whether the role we have played so far has paid us dividends or not. The point is this. The whole world should know that India is playing a mediatory role, not the role of an aggressor. That is very important. The human conscience of the world will not remain silent. On the one side, we see Jayewardene himself inviting the Americans, the British, the South Africans, the Israelis and the Pakistanis and, on the other side, we see the Human Rights Commission has become active. Lakhs of Tamils refugees have come here also. They are everywhere now in many countries of the world. Now everybody is getting to know what is happening in Sri Lanka. Many renowned people, including Mr. Tutu, the Nobel Prize winner, is in a Committee, called the International Alert. They formed the Emergency Committee of Sri Lanka. What have they said? They have said that "a peaceful and stable settlement of the Sri Lankan conflict is in the interest of Sri Lankan citizens and people and viz Governments of the United Nations." Nobody is going to remain silent. We do not speak of naval exercise. We do not speak of nuclear language. No. That is not necessary at all. Sri Lanka is too tiny a nation to speak in that language. We can take up with USA. I have no objection to it. But the point is that they should understand that peace is also forceful nowadays in the world. If they disturb the kind of supply that is being given by Tamil Nadu Government-- I do not know -- you have to take up with them -- but there are

[Sh. Saifuddin Chowdhary]

other agencies also, in a population is besieged and if they are threatened and if the supplies are cut off to them, is it the duty of only India to see that the supplies are made to them and that they are looked upon as our blood-relations? Sinhalese are also our blood relations in that way. Had the conditions been different in Sri Lanka and had the Tamil majority population is suppressing the Sinhalese there, the same should have been our reaction. The same kind of sympathy should have been shown to them. It is not that Tamilians should get a little favour from us. It is a human question. Jayewardene has already internalised the issue. Any action we are taking bilaterally is being given a different meaning. When international conscience is aroused, we have to see that these multilateral agencies and the non-aligned movement who are opposed to imperialism play their role. They come forward. They condemn it. I believe they are going to do that. We have every sympathy for the Tamils. We have every feeling for the Sinhalese who are democratic-minded people, who want to see their country united. I can say this: the deterioration of relations with India is how much dangerous for Sri Lanka. I believe Jayewardene has not understood it. But Mrs. Bandaranayake has understood it. She says: "after having closely watched the serious and alarming developments between the Governments of Sri Lanka and India for the past few days - she has requested "to desist from any course of action that will adversely affect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka". They should understand this. Many of them have also understood this. What is the game behind it? Why settlements are not being adhered to? Now, I appeal that we should not give up our mediatory role, whether they accept it or not, it is a bearing in the international community. The December 19 proposals have to be accepted by Mr. Jayewardene. Negotiations are to be started. Blockade has to be lifted. If they have anything to say about the Tamil

terrorism, it is for the Tamil groups to see that this kind of aberrations do not take place. Actually, they should see they do not help these vested interests in Sri Lanka to invite the foreign powers. Nodoubt about it that they have a conflict. They have this kind of suppression - I mean of the Tamils. It is not that we are saying, it is not the intention of our country — India — with any ulterior motives. But this is what Mr. Jayewardene has said.

12.06 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY - SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Sir, during the 1977 elections, in the election manifesto, Mr. Jayewardene said:

"The United National Party accepts the position that there are numerous problems confronting the Tamil - speaking people. The lack of a solution to their problems has made the Tamil - speaking people support even a movement for the creation of a separate State. In the interest of national integration and unity so necessary for the economic development of the whole country, the party feels that such problems should be solved without loss of time".....

Now, who is losing time? Who has forgotten all these things? They have a real basis to determine. It has been accepted by Mr. Jayewardene. These miseries have been perpetuated - as it is evident now - by the acts of his Government. It is for the Tamils and the Sinhalese to understand. I do not want to make any comments about the Janatha Vimuktha Peramuna (JVP). It is for their people to decide as to how they should move and what kind of Government they should have in their country. But to what I refer very much is that between these Tamils and the Sinhalese, unity should be there. It there is any kind of fanaticism in

the minds of the Sinhalese, I cannot help it. We do not have any methods to do it. It is for the Tamils to appeal any appeal for that and that will embolden their path. That will really make a different new kind of situation that will ensure the integrity of Sri Lanka, the unity of Sri Lanka and to ensure peace in our region in which we have a very vital stake.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI VIR SEN (Khurja) : Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, the situation in Sri Lanka is really alarming. When there is an alarm, it calls for action. I think the situation in Sri Lanka has reached such a pitch that some sort of action is necessary and required. As far as the Government of Sri Lanka is concerned, it blows hot and cold in the same breath. In the same sentence they say that the Government of India's role as a mediator, is appreciated. But at the same time, they say that the role of Government of India is Hitlerite. Now, you can see that they say something and say different things in the same breath and do not mean the same thing. What I feel is that from the very beginning since independence of Sri Lanka, the Sri Lankan Government has never accepted the Tamils to be the citizens, to be their legitimate citizens. It has been from the very beginning that they have been trying to push them away from the land of Sri Lanka.

In the beginning, of course, we entered into an agreement with Shrimati Bhandaranaike and she forced quite a large number of people to be taken back to India. So, this has been the situation. They agreed to register some of them as their citizens, but, of course, from the heart of hearts they have never accepted Tamilians to be their citizens. That is why, their policy is not to accommodate the Tamils but to annihilate them ; total annihilation has been their efforts. And what they are doing is either they want to push them away back to the mainland of India or they want to kill them then and

there. This is their policy and I think when we frame our policy towards Sri Lanka or reconsider our policy towards Sri Lanka, we have to take into consideration all these things. I feel that the atrocities that have been committed by the Sri Lankan Government on the Tamil people put the atrocities committed by the apartheid government to shame. Now, they are doing something which, of course, any nation would not do even to its enemies. Even the prisoners-of-war are treated well; they are given good food ; they are given medical treatment; but here is a Government which refuses to give medical aid to its own citizens; here is a Government which says, "You shall have no hospitals even". In the last week, we read in the newspapers, they have said that the medical hospital shall also be shifted from that place. That is the type of thing they are doing. They refuse to give food and civil supplies. They have put a blockade. What does it mean ? It simply means that they want to starve the Tamil people altogether. This is the situation that they are creating. The Government of India has been trying to come to some sort of an agreement, political agreement, but in this respect also the Government of Sri Lanka is blowing hot and cold at the same time. On the one side they say, "We shall come to the negotiating table" and on the other, they say, "No ; we will have a military solution". So, they want to resort to military solution. What are we going to do then? In the recent past they have totally refused to come to the negotiating table, and they say, "First we have to militarily annihilate and totally the opposition or the demand for equal rights in the State". This is the position. I think, every behaviour of the Government of Sri Lanka is governed by their real intention of political annihilation of the Tamil people. What then is the remedy? Some of our friends say that we should take some sort of action. Mr. Swell was speaking about the language the USA understands and he pleaded for nuclear option. I am also in total support of nuclear option. I think, the only remedy for us to protect ourselves

[Sh Vir Sen]

from the intransigence of the U S Government through Pakistan is that we need the nuclear option. But as far as Sri Lanka is concerned, I think, this option will not help much. We will have to take some positive action. The stage for talks, the stage for pleadings, the stage for negotiations, the stage for mediation, I think, this is all over. The option that we exercised in three instances was this. When the situation became intolerable, we chose the option of police in Hyderabad. When the situation became intolerable in the case of Goa we exercised that option, when the situation became intolerable in the case of Bangladesh and then East Bengal we chose the option of police action. I think, the time has come when talks and speeches and goodwill missions and visits of the Minister to the Colombo are not going to do anything. You have to take an action. In my opinion the only solution is - you have totally rejected military option - the police action that we should take as we took in the case of Bangladesh. It is our policy, declared policy that we do not want to interfere in others' matters. We do not want to interfere in the sovereignty of other nations, we do not want any extension of our territorial limit. But, still, when our interests are in jeopardy, when our people are affected economically also, how then are the people coming everyday from Sri Lanka to India and disturbing our economy? Then, of course, we should not and we cannot sit silent, we cannot sit idle. And the time in my opinion has come when we should take at least, if not military action, action which is needed that is police action? With these words I finish and request the Minister to reconsider the options open to the Government of India and see if they can help and save lives of the Tamil people who have some filial affinity with us. I think, if the Government of India makes effort, this problem of Sri Lanka will be solved very shortly. Thank you.

SHRI P KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichettipalayam) Sir, with regard to the ethnic

problem prevailing in Sri Lanka we have been discussing the matter for the last 30 months. We are discussing this matter for the 9th time. Of course, you are kind enough to allow us to discuss the matter here. As far as our Government of India is concerned, they have taken a mediation role. Sir, for the last four years the mediation role is continuing without any result. We have come to a stage, we have reached a stage where there is no solution at all. I request the Hon. Minister not to give very same reply what he given in the Rajya Sabha. He has already given it in Rajya Sabha that it is the height of irresponsibility to suggest that India should go to war with Sri Lanka. He has stated that our options are closed. He has stated that military intervention is ruled out. I request the Hon. Minister to reconsider this issue again in the light of the situation which is coming everyday.

Sir, Jaffna is being bombed, Jaffna hospital and even the universities are closed. Two of the universities are closed and the third is facing closure. All the students are in the streets. As far as people are concerned, they are without shelter, without food, wandering here and there.

That is the position. It is the life and death problem which is prevailing in Colombo, in Sri Lanka, in Jaffna. When such is the situation, what is the action you are taking? I am asking, as a mediator what mediation is done between militants and the Government of Sri Lanka? You have even talked to the representatives of the Colombo Government and also the representatives of the different militant groups in Thimpu and other places. Whether it was done with results? Whether you have given some proposals at least? As a mediator you have to give some proposal which must be agreeable for both the parties.

I would like to know whether you have given it and whether they have accepted it. You would say that India has given a

proposals in December 1986. But what Mr. Jayawardene did with those proposals? He negatived them, he refused them and he rejected them. And what is the stand you have taken afterwards? Have you asked Mr. Jayawardene as to why he did not accept the proposals of Indian Government? Has he accepted it? No. He did not accept it; but he rejected it. You did not say a single word after the rejection of the proposals of December 1986. You did not utter a single word against Mr. Jayawardene's rejection. What does it mean?

May I quote from one of the newspapers from London? It has been reported as to why are you keeping quiet and what actually is the role played by India. In the London Daily News it has been reported that:

"One official said President Junius R. Jayewardene's Government had assurances from India regarded as the protector of Tamil rebels, that it would allow Sri Lanka to settle the conflict any way it wanted".

Are you a friend of Mr. Jayawardene? That is why you are keeping quiet. That is why you are not going to the rescue of Tamils who are being killed and murdered. Is it the way you are conducting your mediation role?

quote another report about Mr. Jayewardene. The day before yesterday he went with his horoscope in order to see whether he can be murdered or not. Mr. Jayewardene is telling that according to his horoscope he cannot be murdered. His horoscope also said that he is like a cork in the water and would always come up if anyone tries to push him down. This what President said. There is an alleged plot by JVP - the Janata Vimukti Peramuna, not our Janata Party; but somebody else. What is this plot? Actually he is just like a cork in the water and even if India tries to push him down, he will come out from the water. He has got the help of India, that is what he says. Is it correct?

Another point is that the Sri Lankan Government have planned for a final assault on Tamilians. What is the final assault? Each and every Tamilian, without leaving anybody, will be shot dead. That is the final assault. What are you going to do in such a situation? Are you going to be a silent spectator? Are you going to be a silent observer in order to see all the murders and killings? Supposing you want to be a silent spectator, you please withdraw from the scene as a mediator, that is all I can suggest. For all these long years you are keeping quiet. You did not do anything. Without doing anything, what is the role you are playing? Why should we unnecessarily discuss here the Sri Lankan Tamil problem?

Even the Land Development Minister from Colombo has got the audacity and guts to speak on our soil about our leader Mr. MGR, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu who is a mass leader and an accepted leader of Tamilians in the world. He says that contributing Rs. 4 crores to the Tamilians cause is a foolish act. What audacity he has got! But he has been allowed to come here in Delhi in order to have the Chair in the Cricket Conference. I am asking whether you have condemned the act of the Land Development Minister Mr. Dissanayake, who has said that the act is foolish. Supposing that is so, I am asking another question that you have created a Fund for the South African people....

You have created a fund of about Rs. 50 crores. Is it a foolish thing? Is it not an insult to Indian Government and insult to our hon. Prime Minister. As a philanthropist, as a protector of Tamilians and as a Chief Minister they have passed a unanimous resolution allotting Rs. 4 crores for Tamilians and he has come here to say that it is a foolish act. Actually the Minister himself is living in a fools paradise. That is why he is speaking like that.

[Sh. P. Kopalandaivelu]

It has been reported in London Times dated 27th January where Jayawardene has stated: I shall have a military solution to what I believe is a military problem. After doing so I shall tackle the political side. Even the Prime Minister has made a statement in the Parliament that military solution can only solve the problem in Jaffna. What does it mean? Both the Prime Minister and the President are talking about military solution and you say we must keep patience. We must not interfere into the affairs of Sri Lanka. What is it that you are going to do? I request the hon. Minister to come to the rescue of the Tamilians who are being killed in Sri Lanka. If you are not doing so then you please withdraw from the scene as a mediator.

Sir, when a Muslim is attacked all the Muslim countries rise to the occasion in order to help him. When Hindus are being attacked - Tamils are Hindus - I would like to know whether Hindus are coming to their rescue. When Hindus are being killed and murdered in Sri Lanka nobody is coming to their rescue. We are not giving a helping hand to the people there. Is it proper for us to keep quiet when such a situation arises in Sri Lanka? Is it the way that you should adopt in mediation?

I would request the hon. Minister to keep open the options. You should not fore-close the options. If you fore-close the options then you are strengthening the hands of Jayawardene because he said because terrorism and violence are prevailing in Sri Lanka, in Jaffna and in North and Eastern portions where Tamilians live that is why he is seeking military solution. So do not fore-close your options. You have replied in Rajya Sabha stating that you are not at all going to keep the options open. What does it mean? It means you are strengthening the hands of Jayawardene.

What are the proposals that have been given by the Tamil militants to the Jayawardene Government. The proposals

are very very simple. Their proposals are: First, Tamil should be recognised as a distinct language; second, northern and eastern provinces should be recognised as Tamil homelands; Third, Tamils peoples' right to self-determination must be recognised, and fourth the citizenship rights should be granted to all Tamils living in Sri Lanka. Jayawardene has also given some proposals. He has said limited devolution of power by setting up provincial and district councils and vesting them with legislative and executive powers over specified matters. Retaining a strong Presidential control over appointment of the Chief Executive. Dissolution of the councils. Appointment of the head of police in the provincial district council area and the central training of police.

Both rejected each other's proposals. Jayawardene said it is too much a proposal you have given. The Tamils said too little a proposal you have given. With regard to the proposals that is what actually is the conflict.

But, Sir, having heard so many proposals by the Tamil militants and Jayawardene, you are not giving any mediation. You are not giving a proposal which should be acceptable by both the parties. As a mediator you have to come forward with certain proposals which must be agreeable to both the parties. But you have not done so far.

Sir, Jayawardene says India's policy is Hitlerian one. What does it mean? You have deviated from the path of Mahatma Gandhi; you have deviated from the path of Jawaharlal Nehru - that is what he says. How he feels then? Is he following the footsteps of Buddha then? Is he following the principles of Dharma then? No he is not. But he is another Idi Amin in Sri Lanka, Sir, Nyerere went to the help of the people who suffered under the Presidentship of Idi Amin when he was ruling. Just like that, another Nyerere must come from India in order to save

the Tamils who are being killed in Sri Lanka.

Sir, actually these people are becoming \*\* nowadays. I don't know why. We have never seen in the world a government killing their own people. But Jayewardene is doing it. What for? He is a That's why he is doing it.

Sir, I will come to the last point. Even Mrs. Bandaranayake - she was the President at one time - now has brought a non-confidence motion against Jayewardene. What does it mean? Mrs. Bandaranayake's bringing a non-confidence motion against Jayewardene means that he is not fit to rule that country. He is unable to control the country in order. That's why she is bringing a non-confidence motion. When such is the case, is it not for India to go to the rescue of the Tamils? Is it not for India to declare that our options are always open and we will tackle the problem directly.

Sir, I don't say that military intervention is the point to be made immediately. You can do some naval exercises in the Palk Strait. That will create a problem for Jayewardene. But you are prepared even for that. Even after all these things, you want to shut the ears, you want to close the eyes, you want to keep mum. This is too dangerous because the situation in Sri Lanka is very serious, very tragic. So, I request the hon. Minister to come to the rescue of the Tamils in order to save the Tamils in Sri Lanka.

[*Translation*]

\*SHRI G.S.BASAVARAJU (Tumkur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for the last four years the ethnic problem in Lanka is worsening day by day. Our Prime Minister is trying his best at the highest level to solve this burning problem. Unfortunately the Lanka Government has

not changed its attitude. It is continuing its inhuman treatment against the civilians. There is no place for peace and justice in Sri Lanka. Mr Jayawardhane's attitude towards the Tamilians of Sri Lanka is not surprising. He had this type of attitude before becoming the President. His objective is to wipe out the Tamilians of that country. Our Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi has sent several dignitaries to hold discussions with the Sri Lankan Govt. in this regard. The Sri Lankan Govt. is not accepting the proposals put forward by India. On several occasions we have raised this issue in this august House in the form of calling attention and under Rule 193. We have urged upon the hon. Minister to take concrete steps to stop vilification and genocide in Sri Lanka. Unfortunately the incidents of atrocities on women and children in Sri Lanka are on the increase. If this trend is continued, Sri Lanka will become a graveyard in near future.

It is stated that the Sri Lankan crisis is an ethnic one. I want to say that it is not just an ethnic problem but a well planned strategy to destabilise India. This will also lead to frictions between countries. America has established its Naval base in Trincomalee. The naval base of Diego Garcia has been shifted to Trincomalee. Britain is supporting the activities of the Sri Lankan Govt. The inhuman activities that are going on in Israel are being repeated in Sri Lanka. War has been waged against the innocent civilians of Sri Lanka. The attitude of Pakistan about this crisis is well known to the world. The attitude of China is also very clear. All these factors have added fuel to the fire and worsened the situation in Sri Lanka.

The hon. Minister has spoken in Rajya Sabha about this burning problem of Sri Lanka. He has said that there is no easy solution to the crisis of Lanka. According to him, political solution is the only way of

\*\* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

\* The speech was originally delivered in Kannada.

[Sh. G. S. Basavaraju]  
 resolving the crisis in that country. In fact, Govt. of India is trying very hard on these lines. Shri Parthasarthy, Shri Bhandari, hon. Minister Shri Chidambaram and Shri Dinesh Singh were sent to Lanka for holding high level talks. There cannot be any solution to the problem even if you send thousands of such high dignitaries. In fact, Sri Lankan Government thinks that sending dignitaries for talks is a sign of weakness. If immediate and firm steps are not taken, the situation will deteriorate and the innocent civilians particularly Tamilians of Lanka will be wiped out from that country and a situation similar to that of Bangladesh refugees in 1971 may arise again.

India will have to face the problem of huge exodus from Lanka. I therefore urge upon the hon. Minister not to hesitate to resort to military action to stop massacre of the innocent people. Such problems may crop up in other countries like Malaya, where Tamilians are the citizens.

Sri Lanka is not an unfamiliar country to us. King Ashoka spread Buddhism in that country. We all know the story of Ramayana. Our Prime Minister has to go there to stop the killings. Mr. Jayawardhane is behaving like\*\* of Ramayana. He is reacting like\*\* Of course, our country follows the foot steps of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of our nation i.e. the path of non-violence. This path, it appears does not yield any fruitful results as far as Lanka problem is concerned.

Thousands of innocent people have been killed. Young girls have been molested and raped. The whereabouts of hundreds of people are not known till today.

Earlier Smt. Bhandarnayake was the President of Sri Lanka. She got all the cooperation from our late lamented leader Indiraji and she maintained peace in the country.

At that time also Pakistan played its role in creating troubles between India and Sri Lanka. After that problems have cropped up one after another and till today Sri Lanka is not behaving like a friendly neighbouring country.

Our Govt. can place this problem before UNO or convene a SAARC Conference.

The warm welcome that Mr. Jayawardhane got in Bangalore during the SAARC meeting is still fresh in our memory. Perhaps Mr. Jayawardhane did not get such an affectionate and warm welcome anywhere in the world. In spite of this he has not changed his stubborn attitude. He is exploiting this situation and the innocent Tamilians are suffering. Even glucose is not available in the hospitals of the northern Province. Mr. Jayawardhane has become more cruel. Tamilians are killed if they ask for their rights.

This is not the religious problem. As my colleague Shri Kulandaivelu stated, it is a human problem. People may belong to Hinduism or Islam or Buddhism but first of all they are all human beings.

Hence I urge upon our hon. Prime Minister to come to the immediate rescue of the unfortunate and innocent Tamilians of Sri Lanka. I hope that he will be able to find a firm and permanent solution to this grave problem of Sri Lanka.

Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this burning problem and with these words I conclude my speech.

[English]

DR.V. VENKATESH (Kolar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir: What is going on in Sri Lanka cannot, in fact, be forgotten in human history. As Mr. Basavaraju and Mr. Kulandaivelu have already said, these acts of genocide should end immediately. I do not think that in recent years, such acts of genocide have occurred on this planet.

\*\* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

Unfortunately, Jayewardene claims to be a follower of the great Buddha. You know, Sir, pretty well that Buddha was born in our country. Of course, he went to the neighbouring countries like China and Sri Lanka, and preached there. I am very much doubtful about Jayewardene's following Buddhism. The original thoughts and ideas of Buddhism show that it is a scientific religion, a religion for humanism, whereas the acts and practices of Jayewardene today are quite contradictory to this religion.

It is high time that we the Indian people known for our faith in *Dharma* and humanism and particularly Government of India--declare a war against this i.e. a *Dharma yudha*. We must declare a *Dharma yudha*.

What I mean to say is that you must tell all human beings on this planet what is going on in Sri Lanka, what kind of genocide act is going on there. For what is it going on? It is going on only for Political thrust, Political Power.

Smt. Baandaranaike has already said, what I mean to say is *dharma yudha*; we are not fighting for blood; we are not fighting for any power, we are fighting for upholding humanism; that is what mean by *dharma yudha*. We should declare right now war against it because it is a land of *dharma*, it is a land of humanism. Today, in this world, India stood first, as far as protection of the humanism is concerned, as far as scientific *dharma* is concerned. That is my appeal through you to the Minister.

Just now one hon. member has said about Smt. Bandaranaike. She was once ruling that country. Fortunately or unfortunately, she had been ousted out of power. From what day onwards, this political game has been going on in the small island. Though it is a small island, it is very stragic; and whatever happens there it reflects in the entire world. Therefore, the Indian Government should take it very seriously. It is not an internal matter of that country or whatever may be the thing; it is not just like telling excuses. It is high time that we should react against it. It is threatening the very

existence of the human beings on this planet. therefore, such a thing should be condemned. I am once again urging the Government of India to declare a war against this *dharma yudha* and see what is going on in Sri Lanka should be popularised in the whole world; and you must get the opinions of the human beings on this planet and fight back such an act.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are discussing here the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka. As a result of it, the carnage is taking place there. In order to check the carnage there, the Government of India has assumed the responsibility of working as a mediator. In spite of that, the incidence of carnage continues to go on increasing day by day.

It is a fact that we cannot intervene in the internal matters of any country. Even then, when such incidents take place in a country, we are also affected by these incidents. First of all, it affects or economy. People flee from that place and come over here. They become a burden on our country after reaching here.

Tamil speaking people of Indian Origin have been living there. It is a human issue for them. It is true that it is their internal problem. But it is a political problem and it should be solved at the political level. But instead it is being solved there by bombs and arms and ammunition, this problem is not likely to be solved by use of force. It is very heinous all which is taking place there. Therefore, I would like that our hon. Minister may mediate in it and stop this type of carnage. If any delay takes place in it, they will finish the Tamil speaking people as per their plans and thereafter what will be the use in finding a solution to the problem. They themselves have found a way out to the problem. I do not say that the problem may be sorted out by sending there our army. But we may adopt our own method of extending assistance, the method of our religion, the method of negotiations. Ours is a secular country. Either we should go there, hold talks there, find some way out of the problems

[Sh. Ramashraya Prasad Singh]

prevailing there, otherwise this situation will take a very serious turn and it will cause a burden to our country. We have already been facing problems from other quarters. It will create more problems. Therefore, I would like to request the hon. Minister to mediate on behalf of the government of India and try to solve this problem as early as possible. If there is any other alternative, he may also try to adopt the same.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI MANOJ PANDEY (Bettiah): Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have heard a lot and also read a lot about the Lanka referred to in Ramayana and about the Lanka of Ravana. Under the present situation, we are much concerned over the continuous carnage taking place in Sri Lanka. Sir, it is a very disturbing situation that all these incidents are taking place in our neighbouring country. This has time and again been discussed in this august House. All of us admit this thing that external powers are working in a very planned manner in our neighbouring countries especially in Sri Lanka. The Government of India have continuously been making endeavour through their mediatory efforts with a view to bring an end to their problems and to do away with the atrocities being committed on the Tamil speaking people. The Government of India have all along been making efforts in this regard. It is a matter of great concern that despite all these efforts, our intention being absolutely clear, the Government of Sri Lanka did never take it in the right perspective.

Sir, the situation has come to such a stage that we have all along been receiving the news through the press about the atrocities being committed on Tamil brethren and about the involvement of the Government of Sri Lanka in it. The Government of Sri Lanka has never clarified its position in this regard and has

never made efforts to adopt an uniform attitude. Sir, you might be knowing that the Hon. Prime Minister utilised his good offices and in several round of talks the Government of India has clarified its stand. It has been stated there in clear terms that we can solve our issues bilaterally. But it is very unfortunate that the Government of Sri Lanka says one thing across the table and some other thing on the other occasion. The powers behind them, their god fathers dictate to them and the Government of Sri Lanka acts accordingly. In this way, the double standard policy that has been adopted by the Government of Sri Lanka is a matter of great concern for us. Though it is said that it is their internal matter, yet how far is it justified that the matter is their internal and we are forced to bear the burden. In the name of internal matter, if people in large numbers come and settle in India, and it puts a burden on our economy, who will shoulder the responsibility. I do not deny the fact that it is their internal matter. But if this is their internal matter and the burden falls on us, then we are also dragged into it. Therefore, Sir, I would like to submit that some solution must be found for this problem.

Our Government have made a lot of efforts and its results have also come to light. There are no two opinions about it. But I am of the view that there is a need to accelerate the efforts already made. The Government of Sri Lanka has blamed the Government of India on many occasions. They did it officially whereas our intentions are very clear that we want some agreement. Because the residents of Tamil-origin are our brothers and the Sinhalis are also our brothers. Both the groups are of Indian origin. Both of them follow our traditions. I belong to Bihar, the birth place of Gautam Buddha, the place of his action. Sri Lanka was one of the countries where the message had spread from Bihar. It was during the regime of Ashoka. Their son and daughter propagated Buddhism. Though a follower of Buddhism, the Srilankan President has not proved to be a true Buddhist. Similarly, 100 to 150 people are being killed everyday. It seems as if the times of Hitler

have been revived. Such inhuman treatment is being given to the people of Tamil origin and how long can we remain mute spectators to it? I want to request the hon. Minister that he should use his good offices in a proper manner. We have to find the solution in consultation with the Srilankan President on the basis of the strategy which we have chalked out. Our Tamil brothers are being harassed in different ways. Civilian settlement are being bombed, houses are being set on fire and we are just mute spectators to everything. It is unhuman. Our Government should pressurize the Government of Sri Lanka to stop inhuman treatment being meted out to the Tamils and a solution should be found to the problem after consulting each other so that both the communities can live peacefully. It took a long time for the Lanka of Ravana to burn and the reasons behind it were very clear, Ravana's Lanka was considered to be a land of gold and it was supposed to be the richest land on earth and the people were rich and prosperous. However, if we look into the history of Sri Lanka, we will find that destruction has taken place there constantly. The main reason behind such destruction is the absence of love between human beings. We will have to reconsider its political implications and pressurise the Government of Sri Lanka to not to involve outside powers in an internal problem. Instead, we should be consulted and the matter should be settled with mutual agreement so that cordial relationship can be established. With these words I will end my speech.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): May I convey my deep appreciation and thanks to the 12 members who have spoken in this debate on this very important subject. I will begin with a few preliminary remarks giving the background of the situation and then if I may, with your permission, take up various points made in the debate specially by the first speaker, Mr. Mohanty, who made a very valuable contribution on a very intricate, complex and sensitive issue which is of very serious and of very real concern to the people of India—not any particular part of

India. I am not, for a moment, denying that the people of Tamil Nadu living next door are emotionally and deeply involved as we are all. But to suggest that we are looking at this problem in any sectional or regional manner, to my mind, is most unfortunate. I will come to that later in the course of my statement when I will take up various issues raised by hon. Members.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please continue after lunch.

13.00 hrs

*The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.*

*The Lok Sabha reassembled after lunch at four minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

DISCUSSION RE : SITUATION ARISING OUT OF ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE IN SRI LANKA - CONTD.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Natwar Singh is to continue.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SRI K. NATWAR SINGH): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, just before we adjourned for the lunch break, I said in my remarks that the Government and the people of India were looking at the profoundly tragic situation in Sri Lanka from the national point of view and not from any sectional or regional point of view.

The suggestion made by the former Foreign Secretary at Vijayawada on the 25th of April that the Central Government was not paying sufficient heed to what was happening in Sri Lanka and that if a north Indian minority was involved then the reaction would have been different, is, if I may say so in regard to my former colleague, reprehensible, regrettable and unfortunate. The whole of India regardless of any party affiliations is concerned