

gle for a while and then dropped them from a height. Have you ever heard of such atrocities being committed in any corner of the world in the last four years? In this august House we have cried like anything; not once or twice, but umpteen times we have cried. But what happened? Still, the Central Government is sleeping over it. That is why, Mr. Jayewardene is getting bold and he is not at all respecting this Government's request. The main aim of the soldiers seems to be to destroy the Tamils, particularly the men-folk in the age group between 16 and 40 years. If they destroy the Tamil youth in the age group of 16-40 years, who else is going to fight? There are homes which have not seen a grain of rice for the past six months. Rice, if at all it is available, costs Rs. 20 per kilogram and kerosene oil costs Rs. 30 a litre. What can the poor Tamils do in this situation? On the one side there is the military attack and on the other side, there is no food to eat. Also the cost of living is so high: Rs. 20 for a kilo of rice and Rs. 30 for a litre of kerosene. This is the situation there. Good crops are being destroyed by the Sinhalese military people. I request the Deputy-Speaker to prevail upon this Government to take some effective steps. Hitherto refugees were coming only from Manner area, but now refugees are flowing from Trincomalee as well as Jaffna. This is the situation in Sri Lanka.

I also want to say that this Government is dealing with this problem in a trade union fashion. I want the Indian Government to sit on one side as a party. Instead of doing that, Mr. Natwar Singh or the Prime Minister of India is asking the Tamils to sit on one side. This is just like the Labour Commissioner asking the management to sit on one side and the trade union on the other side. This should be immediately changed. I want to say that, if the Indian Government sits as a party on the one side, opposite to the Sri Lankan Government, then everything will be solved. The middleman-role being played by this Government should be stopped immediately. Sir, the middle-

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mans role should be definitely stopped. by this Govt. He should not be a middleman,

he should be the party associates one side. Now, the help given to Tamils is highly criticised. The Sir Lankan Government is getting help from other foreign countries whereas of the Government of Tamil Nadu gives help, it is criticised. If others help Sri Lankan Elem Tigers it is being criticised.

AN HON. MEMBER: You welcome the Tamil Nadu Government's help.

SHRI N. V. N. SOMU: No, whoever helps these Tigers, there is no objection. It is a human tendency. As far as our party is concerned we tried in several ways to ask this Government to intervene effectively. Our leaders including Dr. Karunanidhi courted arrest many times. I have also courted arrest for the Sri Lanka problem three or four times. Self-emulation & rail roko were there. 50000 DMK volunteers so far courted imprisonment. Our leader has stood on his Birthday last year to collect Rs. 275000 and donated it to the Tamil militants. It is high time that when Jayewardene himself is preparing for a military solution, why not we. I want to ask you. When this Government decides to intervene effectively, by that time the entire Tamils left in Sri Lanka will be wiped out. Therefore, now or never should be the approach of this Government. I request this Govt. to intervene immediately as it had one in Bangladesh. Now or never should be the moto of this Government.

Thank you very much.

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT: Can we extend the House time by about 25 minutes because Hon. Member Shri Shahabuddin wants to speak?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think the House agrees.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE— *Contd.*

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): Sir, I beg to lay on the

[Shri Janardhana Poojary]

Table—(1) A copy of Notification No. 199/87-Customs (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 1987 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 224/81 Customs dated the 1st October, 1981 so as to reduce the customs duty on Vinyl Chloride Monomer (VCM) for manufacture of PVC resin from 25 per cent *ad valorem* to 10 per cent *ad valorem*, under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962. [Placed in library. See No. LT-4452/87]

(2) A copy of Notification No. 136/87-Central Excises (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 1987 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe concessional excise duty at the rate of 5 per cent *ad valorem* on automatic cone winding machines, issued under the Central Excise Rules, 1944. [Placed in library. See No. LT-4453/87]

DISCUSSION RE SITUATION ARISING OUT OF THE ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE IN SHRI LANKA -*Contd.*

[English]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the grim situation in Sri Lanka today is indeed too deep for tears with all its human and moral consequences. Sri Lanka is virtually in a state of civil war. The anguish and the agony of the Sri Lankan people, the Tamil people is felt by us because of our natural kinship relations. I would like to say here that this anguish is not limited to the Tamil people in South India. This anguish and agony is felt by all the people of our country to whichever part they belong and to whatever ethnic origin they might belong. The Government of Sri Lanka has unfortunately in quest of a military solution has declared a war on its people. In quest of a final solution which is nothing short of decimation and subjugation and humiliation of the Tamil people of Sri Lanka.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, no Government, far less a Government which calls itself democratic and civilised has a right to kill a section of its own people or stop them into submission or humiliation. If racism is the basis of Apartheid, then Sri Lanka is turning into another South Africa today. What we need today is firmness and action. We cannot compare terrorism with the State violence. We condemn terrorism. I am not here to justify the act of terrorism but no one can equate an act of terrorism by an unofficial group with a State violence and war launched by a Government against its own people. Today what is happening in Sri Lanka is riot affecting just the militants as the Sri Lanka Government claims. It is affecting directly the civilian population of that country. There have been thousands of casualties and people are starving. What is worse, the Government of Sri Lanka seems to be proud of its record. It is engaging in a very intemperate and irresponsible language.

We all here condemn the massacre of Sinhalese also in Trincomalee and Colombo, though our friend pointed out that there is some suspicion about what really happened in Colombo and who is behind it. But we know one thing; that this Government of Sri Lanka was elected in 1977. It got through a referendum extended its life by a whole term in 1983 and may be today it is looking for an excuse to perpetuate itself into power, to give itself yet another term of office. That particular aspect we cannot ignore when we look at the Sri Lanka situation today.

The Sri Lanka situation therefore is a national tragedy for Sri Lanka, a civilised State has been militarised and a whole generation is being brought up on hatred and violence. It is indeed a political and social tragedy in a country which was considered to be very advanced and liberal; a crime being committed against its own people and the social fabric being torn beyond repair. But it is also a regional tragedy. It is a threat to peace to our region because external powers have not been slow in trying to fish in the troubled waters.