

(v) NEED TO TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO
AVERT THE MISERABLE PLIGHT OF
CEYLON REPATRIATES SETTLING IN
TAMIL NADU

DR. V. KULANDAIVELU (Chidambaram): I would like to make a statement on the floor of the House about the pitiable condition of the Ceylon repatriates settled in Tamil Nadu in general with a special reference to the people at Neyveli and a necessity for an adequate rehabilitation measure to be ensured. In the year 1975 Government has received thousands of repatriates from Ceylon and settled them in different parts of Tamil Nadu with a maximum number of 637 families having been settled in and around Neyveli. As a rehabilitation measure to make the livelihood of the poor Ceylon repatriates the then Tamil Nadu Government has ensured job opportunities in the State Farm Corporation. And in turn, the Ceylon Repatriates and other local employees numbering 2000 could toil to make good of the then forest areas into cultivable lands of 3000 acres.

Now the authorities of the State Farm Corporation is claiming a great loss when the cause for such a loss is differently attributed for their own failure to avert malpractices; and has decided to close down the farm once and for all, or else, to adopt a contract system. As an initial measure to close down the farm, job opportunities are restricted to two to three days in a week; and many employees are on the verge of losing their jobs permanently. Consequent to that effect, the Ceylon repatriates are under the constant threat of mental agony and miserable conditions because of infrequent *ad hoc* job opportunities.

In this connection, area representative of the people of the House in that locality I pleaded with the Tamil Nadu authorities to ensure livelihood of the Ceylon repatriates by effective functioning of the State Farm at

Neyveli and to avert a proposed closure of the said Farm.

When the periodical representations failed to get response, the frustrated Ceylon repatriates who are under misery resorted to agitation, hunger strikes etc. without much avail.

As we have the moral duty to ensure the livelihood of job opportunities and by adequate rehabilitations. I strongly urge upon the Government to immediately intervene and avert the miserable plight of the Ceylon repatriates settled in and around Neyveli and other areas in Tamil Nadu. I want to convey that it is high time that Government remedy the frustration before it takes a dangerous shape in the interest of the people.

STATEMENT RE. ATTACK ON U.S.
CONSULATE—GENERAL'S OFFICE
IN BOMBAY.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND
DEPARTMENT OF PARLAMENTARY
AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBALAH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission I would like to make the following statement.

According to a report received from the Government of Maharashtra, at about 4-45 p.m. on March 25, 1982, four persons went to the U.S. Consulate-General's Office at Bhulabhai Dastai Road, Bombay, and asked for some import-export forms. When told that such forms were not available, two of the persons started attacking the Consulate staff with plastic containers with lighted wicks. Forty others from outside rushed in and started smashing the window panes of parked cars and setting them on fire. Four cars were burnt and seven were damaged. They also damaged furniture, flower pots and window panes of the building. The police guards on