

MPs' concern over Lanka killings

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NEW DELHI, April 6 (UNI & PTI)

Members from all sides in the Lok Sabha on Friday condemned the renewed spate of killings of Tamils in Sri Lanka.

Initiating a special discussion on the reported decision of the Sri Lanka Government to clamp military rule in the predominantly Tamil area of Jaffna, Mr. Rashid Masood (Lok Dal) said the all-party Round Table Conference convened by President J. R. Jayawardene had not yielded any result.

He urged the Government to raise the issue before the Human Rights Commission, the United Nations and other international forums to arouse the conscience of the international community against the "genocide" in Sri Lanka.

He, however, made it clear that he was against division of Sri Lanka. He suggested that the Government should impose economic sanctions to express its solidarity with the Tamils in the island republic.

Mr. B. D. Singh (LD) expressed concern over the fresh spurt of violence in Jaffna district and demanded that India, in its capacity as chairperson of the Non-aligned Movement, take the initiative to find a solution to the long-standing problem.

He also expressed concern over reports that Trincomalee was being converted into an American base.

Mr. Ram Avtar Shastri (CPI) suspected that the CIA had a hand in aggravating the problem and spoiling the relations between India and Sri Lanka. He wanted to know what steps the Government had taken to safeguard the interests of Tamils in Sri Lanka and to forestall possible US intervention.

Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan (Janata) suggested that India could approach the United Nations on the possibility of sending a UN peace force to Sri Lanka.

He said if neighbouring countries like Sri Lanka and Pakistan fell into the clutches of big powers, the situation could pose a serious threat to India's security.

He urged the Government to have discussions with Sri Lanka on steps to stem the fresh outbreak

of violence in the island.

Mr. Abdul Rashid Kabuli (NC) stressed the need to restore the democratic rights of people of Indian origin in Sri Lanka through negotiations. A large number of non-Tamil speaking people who had never associated themselves with the Eelam movement had been deprived of their fundamental rights in that country, he said.

The Government should take up with Sri Lanka the question of payment of compensation to the Tamils who had been affected by the riots.

Mr. Era Anbarasu (Cong-I) said India could not be a silent spectator of the "genocide" that is on in Sri Lanka. It was a systematic effort to annihilate the Tamils. He said the Government should raise the issue in the United Nations and the Human Rights Commission.

He said the racial riots subsided when India's good offices were used to find a solution to the problem. He suggested that the Prime Minister's special envoy G. Parthasarathy be sent again to Sri Lanka.

Mr. M. M. Lawrence (CPM) said India should not tolerate the atrocities committed on Tamils any longer. A strong protest must be lodged against the continued killings of Tamils and the issue taken to the United Nations.

Mr. Maya Thevar (DMK) said it had been proved beyond doubt that all efforts to find a negotiated solution to the ethnic trouble have failed miserably.

None of commitments made by the Lankan President to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in the wake of ethnic violence in July last had been honoured. Mr. Jayewardene could not be trusted with the future of the Tamils, he added.

Mr. Era Anbarasu (Cong-I) said the killings of the Tamils were part of a plan to wipe them out. He said the postponement of the round-table talks in Colombo would only aggravate the situation and wanted the Indian Government to send the Prime Minister's special envoy, Mr. G. Parthasarathy to Sri Lanka for finding an early solution.

He added that India should move the international forums like the United Nations and Human Rights Commission to stop the violation of human rights in Sri Lanka.

Mr. R. V. Swaminathan (Cong-I) wanted the Government to take up again with Sri Lanka the question of providing security to the Tamils.

Mr. C. Chinnaswamy (AIADMK) felt if the problem was not resolved expeditiously, there could be violence in Tamil Nadu where the people were agitated about the atrocities in the neighbouring country.

Mr. Chitta Basu (FB) said the Government had a moral and political responsibility in ensuring that the Tamils were safe and secure.

Mr. K. T. Kosalam (Cong-I) urged the Centre to once again use its good offices for solving the problem.

Mr. C. T. Dandapani (DMK) expressed the fear that the Sri Lankan Government either wanted to liquidate the Tamils there or treat them as slaves.

ஆங்கில செய்தி
பத்திரிகை
தீவைப்பு

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தலைப் பேராளிகள்
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அலுவலகத்தின் முன்பாக
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சியை நடத்தி-எரிக்கப்பட்ட
சாம்பலை, இலங்கைதூதரிடம்
கொடுத்தார்கள்.

Lok Sabha to debate Jaffna killings

From G. K. Reddy

NEW DELHI, April 5.

The Lok Sabha will have a special discussion tomorrow on the reported decision of Sri Lanka to impose military rule in the Jaffna area where the Sri Lanka armed forces recently indulged in indiscriminate killing of civilians following some violent incidents there.

The External Affairs Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, was due to make a statement on the subject in response to a calling attention notice today, but the Speaker agreed to the demand of many Opposition members to have a fuller discussion tomorrow on this development.

As it so happened, the five members whose names were chosen through a ballot for sponsoring the calling attention motion were all non-Tamilians from different States, while the Tamil Nadu members felt that they should be given a chance to express their concern by converting this into a fuller discussion.

The Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Mr. Buta Singh, who readily agreed to the suggestion, said that Tamil Nadu members from the Government side also were equally keen on a fuller

discussion. He made this observation presumably to clarify that it was not only those Tamil Nadu members from the Opposition but also the Congress (O) members from the State wanted to voice their feelings against the happenings in Jaffna area.

The External Affairs Minister said that if the discussion was held today he might not be able to come forward with any more information than what had been said in the statement made two days back by the Minister of State, Mr. A. A. Rahim. It was to enable him to gather more information that the Speaker fixed the discussion for tomorrow with the approval of members from both sides of the House.

Seizure of boats: Mr. Narasimha Rao tried to allay the fears voiced during the question-hour that Sri Lankan Naval boats were interfering with the legitimate movements of Indian fishermen. He said that in bad weather the fishing vessels tended to stray across the maritime boundary and that every time incidents of Indian boats being seized and their crew members arrested by Sri Lankan authorities came to the notice of the Government, the matter was immediately taken up by the Indian High Commissioner in Colombo who has

managed to secure the release of some of the detained boats and arrested seamen.

In all eight Indian fishing vessels had been seized till last month and the crew members of two of them, "Florida-441" and Prima-641, have since been released through the Indian High Commissioner's intervention. In addition, six Indian boats have been detained and their skippers were on bail in Jaffna, while the crew of all of them except one have returned to India. The Sri Lankan authorities have agreed to release two of these six boats detained by them.

It was quite evident from the restrained tone of Mr. Narasimha Rao's replies that the Government of India did not want to say anything that might strain Indo-Sri Lankan relations at this stage. The main efforts of India are directed at ensuring the success of the roundtable talks

Amnesty offer

COLOMBO, April 5.

The Sri Lanka National Security Minister, Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali, today offered "amnesty" to the "Tamil terrorists" provided they gave up violence.

No training camp in Tamilnadu, report is false, malicious

Liberation Tigers expose 'India Today' lies

லண்டன் தமிழ் மன்றம்
LONDON TAMIL MANRAM
51 Selborne Gardens
Hendon, London, NW4 4SH
Tel: 01-202 7180

Madras, Apr. 6: The political committee of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam has described the Sri Lanka Government's allegation that Liberation Tigers operate guerilla training bases in Tamilnadu as "false, baseless and malicious". It was a calculated move to undermine India's genuine concern to seek a lasting solution to ethnic problem in the island, the committee, in a press release, said.

The Liberation Tigers press release said that the Sri Lanka Government's over-reaction to a "baseless report" which had appeared in a fortnightly in India on Mar 31 was calculated to confuse the Sinhala masses and to seek justification for the breakdown of the round table conference.

The Sri Lankan leaders have unleashed a campaign of vilification against India and intensified military terror in Tamil areas, the release alleged.

The press release said that "forces of destabilisation are behind this whole episode to entice Sri Lanka into their diabolical design to extend its sphere of dominance in the Indian Ocean region".

"The Tiger movement does not operate any guerilla bases in Tamilnadu or in any part of India. Our training infra-structure as well as our guerilla activities are based in our homeland", the release said adding that this fact was explicitly conveyed to the fortnightly's correspondent during the course of an interview with him.

What was obviously present in Tamilnadu were refugee camp of repatriates of displaced students of scattered families, it said.

It dismissed the story of guerilla camps and armies of invasion by the fortnightly as "vicious creations of an imaginative journalist, who has provided no concrete evidence to substantiate his investigation".

The photographs published in the magazine were out-dated and some of which appeared in "our theoretical journals long ago", the release said.

Inquest demanded

Meanwhile the Jaffna citizens committee, challenging the Sri Lanka Government's version of March 28 killings in the Northern Tamil province, has demanded inquest into the shooting of civilians. Government claimed that 7 civilians were killed

and an unsuspected number of others wounded when the Air Force personnel opened fire after being fired upon.

Telling President J.R. Jayawardene that inquest was not held into the killings, the Jaffna committee said in a letter that the inquest would have revealed "the true facts".

"The committee feels that in the interest of justice inquest proceedings should be held in the case of those who died and an inquiry should be held in the case of those who are injured," it added.

Report on training of Tamil rebels denied

From Our Special Representative

MADRAS, April 5.—The Political Committee of Sri Lanka's Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam today denied operating any guerilla bases in Tamil Nadu. Mr. A. S. Balasingam, spokesman of the organization, said the Sri Lanka Government's allegation was a calculated move to undermine India's concern to seek a lasting solution to the ethnic conflict in the island.

Mr. Balasingam, speaking on behalf of Mr. V. Pirabakaran, leader and military commander of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, said the tiger movement was restricted to the confines of Sri Lanka and did not operate any bases in Tamil Nadu or in any other part of India.

The savage repression of the Tamil minority in the island by the Sri Lanka Government of Mr. R. Jayawardene had led to the exodus of thousands who found

sanctuary in Tamil Nadu, Mr. Balasingam said.

Referring to the Sri Lanka Government's "over-reaction" to a "baseless report" in an Indian fortnightly, Mr. Balasingam said the outdated photographs published in the magazine had been in possession of the Sri Lanka intelligence and were taken in the jungles of Sri Lanka. Many of them, in fact, had appeared in the Sri Lanka Press long before last year's ethnic carnage.

Mr. Balasingam said those present in Tamil Nadu were refugees fleeing for their lives, displaced students, youths wanted by the Sri Lanka armed forces and members of families torn asunder by the communal violence.

He suspected "forces of destabilization" behind the whole episode intent on enticing Sri Lanka into their orbit to extend their sphere of dominance in the Indian ocean region.

தமிழகத்தில் பயிற்சித் தளம் உண்டா?

விடுதலைப்புலி பிரபாகரன் அறிக்கை

சென்னை, ஏப். 6 தமிழகத்தில் இலங்கையைச் சேர்ந்த தமிழீழ விடுதலைப்புலிகள் கொரில்லா முகாம்களை அமைத்து செயல்படவில்லை என்று விடுதலைப்புலிகள் இயக்கத் தலைவர் வி பிரபாகரன் சார்பில் அறிக்கை வெளியிடப்பட்டுள்ளது.

அந்த அறிக்கை விபரம் கீழ்க்கொரில்லா பயிற்சி அளிக்கப்படுவது பற்றியே சிந்திக்கின்றன.

விடுதலைப்புலிகள் இயக்கம் தமிழ்நாட்டிலோ அல்லது இந்தியாவின் வேறு பகுதிகளிலோ கொரில்லா தளங்களை அமைத்து செயல்படவில்லை. அந்த இயக்கத்தின் நடவடிக்கைகள் அனைத்தும் இலங்கையில் நடைபெறுகின்றன.

இலங்கையில் சிறிதுபாள்மையினராக உள்ள தமிழர்களை இலங்கை அரசு காட்டு பிராணடித்தனமாக ஒடுக்கிறது. அதனால் தமிழ் இளைஞர்கள் இலங்கையிலிருந்து வெளியேற உருந்துள்ளனர்.

அவர்கள் தமிழ்நாட்டில் புகட்டிடம் தேடி உள்ளனர். இலங்கையில் படுகொலை ஆவதைத் தவிர்க்கவே அவர்கள் புகட்டிடம் தேடிச் சென்றுள்ளனர்.

"இந்தியாடுடே"பத்திரிகையில் பிரசுரமான செய்திகளுக்கு எந்த ஆதாரமும் இல்லை. இந்தியாடுடேபத்திரிகை பிரசுரித்துள்ள கட்டுரை, புகைப்படங்கள் இலங்கை அரசு வெளியிட்ட பழைய புகைப்படங்கள் அல்ல. அவை இலங்கையில் கொரில்லா பயிற்சி அளிக்கப்படுவது பற்றியே சிந்திக்கின்றன.

மன்னிக்க தயார்.

இலங்கையில் தீவிரவாத தமிழர்கள் தங்கள் வலமுறை நடவடிக்கையை கைவிட்டால் அவர்களுக்குப் பொது மன்னிப்பு தரப்படும் என்று அந்த நாட்டு தேசிய பாதுகாப்பு மந்திரி லலித் அதுலமுதவி அறிவித்துள்ளார்.

தீவிரவாதிகளின் மொத்த எண்ணிக்கை முந்நூறுக்கும் குறைவாகத்தான் இருக்கும் என்று லலித் அதுலமுதவி கூறினார்.