

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1465
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.07.2021**

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN SRI LANKA

1465. SHRI SHYAM SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the gross human rights violations against Tamils and those critical of the Sri Lankan Government in Sri Lanka;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken into account the aforementioned issue of human rights abuse before announcing the grant of \$ 12 million for the installation of renewable energy systems in northern Sri Lanka;
- (d) whether the Government will take any concrete step in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN)

(a) & (b) India continues to remain engaged with Sri Lanka at all levels in its efforts to build a future that accommodates the aspirations of all sections of society, including the Sri Lankan Tamil community, for a life of equality, justice, peace and dignity within a united Sri Lanka. The Government of India has consistently called upon Sri Lanka during bilateral discussions at all levels to fulfill its commitments on addressing the issues related to protecting the interest of Tamils in Sri Lanka. This was reiterated during the visits of the President and Prime Minister of Sri Lanka to India in November 2019 and February 2020, respectively, and during the India- Sri Lanka Virtual Bilateral Summit on 26 September 2020 between the two Prime Ministers as also during EAM's visit to Colombo in January 2021.

At the 46th session of United Nations Human Rights Council, India reiterated that respecting the rights of the Tamil community, including through meaningful devolution, contributes to the unity and integrity of Sri Lanka and therefore delivering on the legitimate aspirations of the Tamil community is in the best interests of Sri Lanka.

(c) to (e) Government, in consultation with the Government of Sri Lanka, has undertaken a large number of development projects in Sri Lanka including in Northern and Eastern Provinces. India's investments and

development projects are based on the developmental priorities of the country concerned as well our overall interest and these stand on their own merits. India will continue to undertake infrastructure development projects in consultation with the Government of Sri Lanka to protect our interests and deepen our partnership further for mutual benefit.
