



**Ministry of External Affairs**  
Government of India

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## QUESTION NO.230 PROTECTING INTERESTS OF TAMILS IN SRI LANKA

March 23, 2017

RAJYA SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO.230  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.03.2017

### PROTECTING INTERESTS OF TAMILS IN SRI LANKA

\*230. SHRI D RAJA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent United Nations report raising serious concern about the delay in addressing the allegations of war crimes and in meeting other promises Colombo made when it co-sponsored a resolution at UN Human Rights Council in 2015;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to take up the matter with the Government of Sri Lanka in order to protect the interests of Tamils there?

ANSWER  
THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
(SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 230 REGARDING "PROTECTING INTERESTS OF TAMILS IN SRI LANKA" FOR ANSWER ON 23.03.2017.

During the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC)'s 34th Session from 27 February – 24 March, 2017, the

Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (HCHR) on Sri Lanka has been presented before the Council. This report assesses the progress made in the implementation of UNHRC resolution 30/1, on promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka between October 2015 and January 2017. On that basis, the HCHR has identified efforts that need to be taken to achieve progress in the reconciliation and accountability agenda to which the Government of Sri Lanka has committed by agreeing to be the co-sponsor of the resolution that is tabled before the UNHRC. The HCHR also advocates for the Government of Sri Lanka to continue meaningful consultations with relevant stakeholders on transitional justice and the reform agenda, and urges the UNHRC to sustain its close engagement and monitoring of developments in Sri Lanka.

India's approach in the UN Human Rights Council has been guided by the firm belief that promotion and protection of human rights can be best pursued through constructive and collaborative engagement. We also believe in the primacy of national efforts in the realisation of human rights. In keeping with its traditional commitment to human rights and values, India has actively participated in all sessions of the UN Human Rights Council, in a constructive and inclusive manner.

As Sri Lanka's closest neighbour, India cannot remain untouched by developments in that country. India has always supported efforts to preserve Sri Lanka's character as a multi-ethnic, multi-lingual and multi-religious society in which all citizens, including the Sri Lankan Tamil community, can live in equality, safety and harmony, and prosper and fulfil their aspirations within a united Sri Lanka.

We hope that with the sagacity and political will of its leadership and the support of its people, Sri Lanka will achieve genuine reconciliation and development.

The Government has consistently called upon Sri Lanka during bilateral discussions and in the international fora to fulfill its commitments made to the international community on addressing the issues related to protecting the interest of Tamils in Sri Lanka.

Since the end of the conflict in Sri Lanka, the focus of Government of India has been on the welfare and well-being of the Tamil citizens of Sri Lanka. In this context, the Government has implemented and continues to implement a wide range of projects covering assistance projects for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the areas of housing, de-mining, education, connectivity, livelihood restoration, economic revival etc.

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Working hours at Headquarters 9:00 A.M. To 5:30 P.M.