

**PRESS STATEMENT OF SELVI J JAYALALITHAA
HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER OF TAMIL NADU - 22.3.2012**

I welcome the Government of India voting in favour of the Resolution moved by the United States of America before the United Nations Human Rights Council on promoting reconciliation and accountability in Sri Lanka.

The Government of India had been very indecisive on this very sensitive issue which is an inherent emotive issue for Tamils all over the world. The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly had passed a Resolution as early as in June, 2011, urging the Government of India to work with the members of the United Nations in bringing to book the persons who had perpetrated war crimes against the Tamils in Sri Lanka during the ethnic conflict in 2009. The Resolution had also urged the Government of India to work with other Nations for imposing an economic embargo on Sri Lanka till the Tamils are given equal rights on par with the Sinhalese and are resettled in their homes with respect and dignity. Though the Government of India had not acted on this Resolution of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, thanks to the Resolution brought by the United States of America in the 19th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, the Government of India was forced to take a stand on this issue.

The Government of India had been ambivalent on this and Sri Lanka almost succeeded in persuading India to defeat this Resolution. I had written to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India twice on this issue, urging him to back the Resolution moved by the United States of America and vote against Sri Lanka. Shri S.M. Krishna, Hon'ble Union Minister of External Affairs, issued a suo motu statement in Parliament stating that the Government of India was engaged with all parties in an effort to achieve a forward looking outcome that is based on reconciliation and accountability rather than deepening confrontation and mistrust between the concerned parties and that a view on the Resolution would be taken as and when the time was finalized for consideration of the draft Resolution on Sri Lanka in the United Nations Human Rights Council.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, in his reply to the Motion of Thanks to the Presidential Address both in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, had merely stated that the Government did not yet have the final text of the Resolution and that India was inclined to vote in favour of a Resolution that he hoped would advance the objective, namely, the achievement of a future for the Tamil community in Sri Lanka that is marked by equality, dignity, justice and self-respect.

The AIADMK Members of Parliament, who were not satisfied with the response of the Prime Minister on this issue, demanded that he state in unambiguous terms the stand of the Government of India. I had also issued a statement questioning the dubious and ambivalent stand of the

Government of India on this issue. There were media reports also that the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister had contacted Shri S.M. Krishna, Union Minister of External Affairs, Government of India, and that he had said that the Government of India had not yet taken a stand on the Resolution. Thiru M. Karunanidhi, the DMK leader, has also stated today that the statement of Shri S.M. Krishna that the Government of India had not yet taken a final decision on this is only a diversionary tactic.

Amidst all this confusion and procrastination, it is heartening to note that the Government of India has finally voted in favour of the Resolution moved by the USA. I am particularly happy that the constant pressure brought to bear on the Government of India by me on behalf of the Tamils in the form of a Legislative Assembly Resolution, letters to the Prime Minister and the vociferous demand by the Members of Parliament belonging to the AIADMK have yielded the desired result which is the first step in ensuring that justice is done to the Tamils in Sri Lanka.

I thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on behalf of the Tamils all over the world.

J JAYALALITHAA
Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

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