

PRESS RELEASE

Text of the D.O. letter addressed to Dr. Manmohan Singh, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India by Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 7.3.2012 is reproduced below:

"As you are fully aware, the people of Tamil Nadu are greatly exercised over the conduct of the Sri Lankan Government while dealing with Sri Lankan Tamils and their rights. The local perception is that the Sri Lankan Government has completely failed in ensuring the local Tamils' right to live with dignity, self-respect and equal constitutional status on par with the Sinhalese.

Against this background, there have been instances in the recent past when Sri Lankan VIPs and other dignitaries come on private visits to Tamil Nadu without informing the State Government. During one such visit of Thirukumaran Nadesan, brother-in-law of the Sri Lankan President, to Rameswaram on 9.1.2012 and 10.1.2012, there was an attempt to attack him. As there was no information to this Government either from the Sri Lankan Government or from the Government of India, no precautionary security measures could be taken.

My attention was also drawn to the letter from the Deputy High Commissioner for Sri Lanka in Southern India addressed to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu and the letter from the Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs. The tone and tenor of the letter is unwarranted, unacceptable and totally unjustified.

The difficulties faced by this Government owing to the frequent visits of Sri Lankan Officials/Army Officers and VIPs without informing the State Government were already brought to the notice of the Ministries of External and Home Affairs by this Government's letters dated 16.9.2011 and 24.2.2012.

Hence, in view of the prevailing situation, it would be appropriate that the Government of Tamil Nadu is given prior intimation about the visits of Sri Lankan dignitaries and it would also be appreciated if the Government of India discourages such frequent visits to Tamil Nadu and allows such visits only after consulting the Government of Tamil Nadu in future."

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