

PRESS RELEASE

Text of the D.O. Letter dated 7.4.2015 addressed by Thiru O. Panneerselvam, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to Shri Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh is reproduced below:

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"I am very distressed to learn that in an operation conducted early this morning (7.4.2015) by the Red Sanders Anti-Smuggling Task Force personnel of Andhra Pradesh in the Srivarimettu and Eesagunda areas in Seshachala forest area, about twenty persons sustained bullet injuries and succumbed to the injuries on the spot. Many of these persons are reportedly from Tiruvannamalai and Vellore Districts of Tamil Nadu. While it is possible that these persons may have been engaged in illegal activities, the occurrence of such high casualties in the operation raises concerns whether the Task Force personnel acted with adequate restraint. Even if the persons had been engaged in illicit tree cutting, efforts could have been made to apprehend them rather than take such drastic action and cause such high casualties.

In these circumstances, I request you to kindly order a credible and speedy enquiry into the matter so that the facts are established and responsibility fixed for possible human rights violations. In case of any human rights violations, it is essential that action is taken against those who caused the deaths and appropriate compensation is paid to the families of the victims."

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