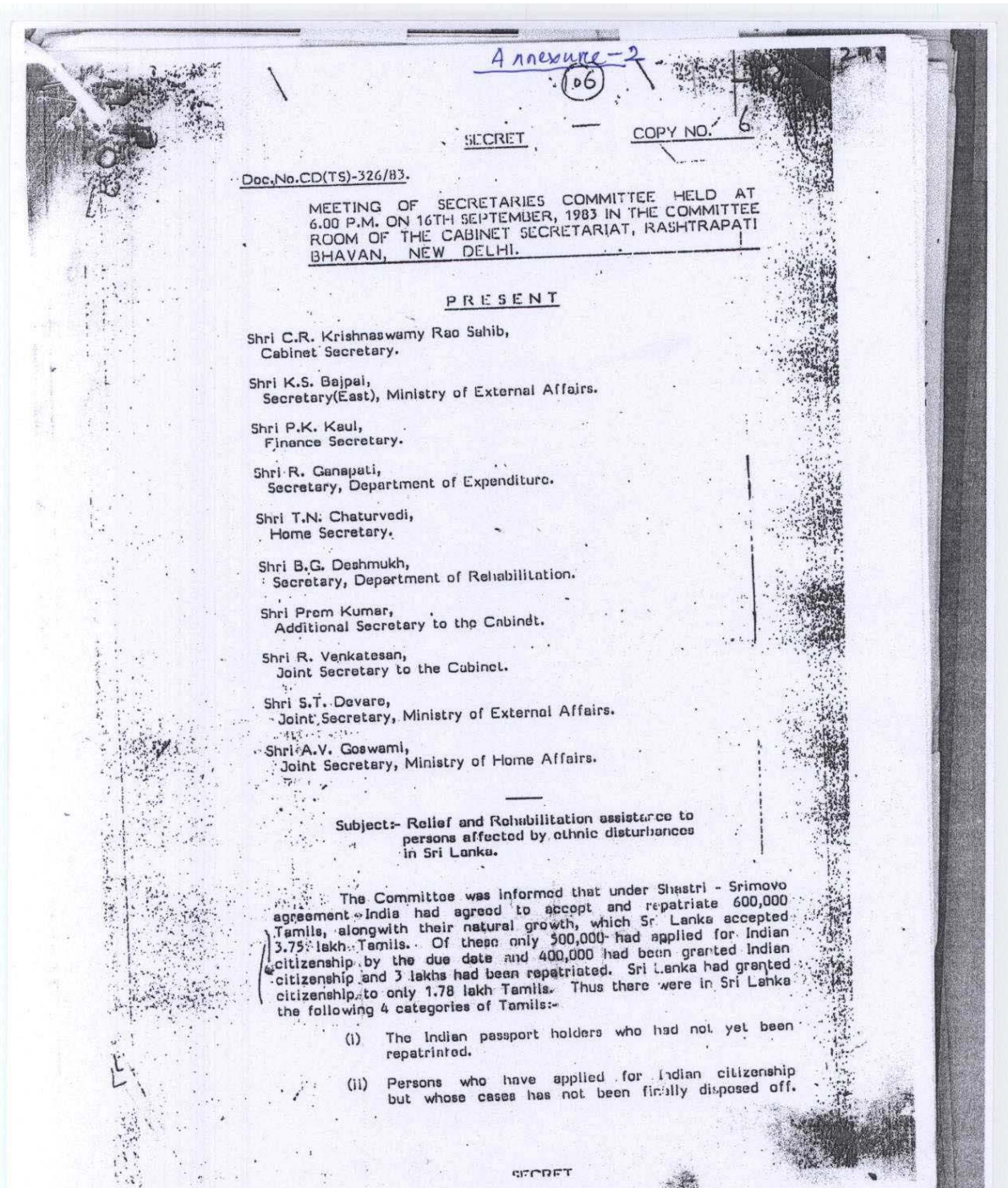


Relief and Rehabilitation assistance to persons affected by ethnic disturbances in Sri Lanka.



Annexure-2
06

COPY NO. 6

SECRET

Doc.No.CD(TS)-326/83.

MEETING OF SECRETARIES COMMITTEE HELD AT
6.00 P.M. ON 16TH SEPTEMBER, 1983 IN THE COMMITTEE
ROOM OF THE CABINET SECRETARIAT, RASHTRAPATI
BHAVAN, NEW DELHI.

PRESENT

- Shri C.R. Krishnaswamy Rao Sahib,
Cabinet Secretary.
- Shri K.S. Bajpai,
Secretary(East), Ministry of External Affairs.
- Shri P.K. Kaul,
Finance Secretary.
- Shri R. Ganapati,
Secretary, Department of Expenditure.
- Shri T.N. Chaturvedi,
Home Secretary.
- Shri B.G. Deshmukh,
Secretary, Department of Rehabilitation.
- Shri Prem Kumar,
Additional Secretary to the Cabinet.
- Shri R. Venkatesan,
Joint Secretary to the Cabinet.
- Shri S.T. Devare,
Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.
- Shri A.V. Goswami,
Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs.

Subject:- Relief and Rehabilitation assistance to
persons affected by ethnic disturbances
in Sri Lanka.

The Committee was informed that under Shastri - Srimovo agreement India had agreed to accept and repatriate 600,000 Tamils, alongwith their natural growth, which Sri Lanka accepted 3.75 lakh Tamils. Of these only 300,000 had applied for Indian citizenship by the due date and 400,000 had been granted Indian citizenship and 3 lakhs had been repatriated. Sri Lanka had granted citizenship to only 1.78 lakh Tamils. Thus there were in Sri Lanka the following 4 categories of Tamils:-

- (i) The Indian passport holders who had not yet been repatriated.
- (ii) Persons who have applied for Indian citizenship but whose cases has not been finally disposed off.

SECRET

SECRET

- 2 -

244

(iii) Stateless persons out of the 6 lakhs who had not applied for the Indian citizenship or those out of 3.75 lakhs not yet conferred Sri Lanka citizenship, and their natural increase. Both these categories of persons President Jayewardene had declared were now the responsibility of Sri Lanka to look after.

(iv) Sri Lanka citizens.

2. The Committee was informed that apart from the persons belonging to the first category Indian High Commission was also issuing emergency certificates to persons of the other categories some of whom had come to India. According to the information given by Relief and Rehabilitation Ministry about 380 persons who did not hold Indian passports or citizenship certificates had come from the middle of August as refugees. Before the present trouble in Sri Lanka the number of repatriates coming to the camps during the last couple of years had declined. On arrival they were granted some immediate relief and thereafter rehabilitation grant. The details were given in Annexure II to the note circulated. The Ministry was operating 3 camps the capacity of which was 6,000 which could be stretched to 7,500. The camps were operated through State Governments acting as agents of the Central Government.

3. The Committee recalled that there were about 40,000 displaced Tamils from Colombo area who had been shifted to Jaffna and many in the tea plantation area who may want to migrate to India. If refugees were admitted liberally very large movement may start. It was also quite apparent that few people would return to Sri Lanka once they have come to India. The Committee therefore felt that this policy of discouraging general exodus should be maintained, as had indeed been decided earlier. Consequently High Commission of India in Colombo should be advised that apart from about 1,00,000 persons who had applied for Indian citizenship but whose papers had not yet been cleared, others should not be granted emergency certificates for the present. The certificates should carry a special endorsement to the effect that the persons concerned are applicants for Indian citizenship. After discussion the Committee recommended the following procedure to be adopted:

(a) For persons belonging to categories (i) and (ii) mentioned in para 1 above both relief and rehabilitation assistance should be made available on a regular basis as for repatriates.

(b) For categories (iii) & (iv) the liability is basically of Sri Lanka. Our approach is to discourage their movement but if any refugees belonging to this category do come they should be granted relief in the refugee camp and kept in the camp with the ultimate object of repatriation back to Sri Lanka. In other words the process of rehabilitation will not start in their cases and relief would be given to them pending such repatriation.

(It was mentioned that some persons belonging to these categories in the first flush of arrival may have already been given rehabilitation grants; this may be ignored.)

4. It was desirable to know how many persons of which category were coming to India and therefore, for this purpose a fortnightly statement may be got compiled by the Home Ministry on the basis of the records of immigration authorities.

SECRET

BP

SECRET

- 3 -

5. The present rates of relief were considered to be extremely inadequate. They would be reviewed by the Ministry of Rehabilitation in consultation with the Finance Ministry. It was noted that the rates were also recently revised for the persons who were kept in refugees camp in Assam earlier in the year.

6. The Committee was informed about the concern of Tamilnadu Government which have collected substantial quantity of goods for helping Tamils in Sri Lanka that the relief material may not be reaching the target groups. However, Sri Lanka Government was sensitive about using any third party channels or International Agencies for this purpose. To the extent it was possible to associate the High Commission with the relief work, a check would be maintained.

7. The Committee was told that Sri Lanka Government has given an assessment of the monthly requirement of relief material. Further despatch of relief goods and materials would be examined in this light.

SECRET

BP

11 copies.

*This was perused by the former Dy. P.M
in F.No. 10/2/98 - SLG/RHS/MD at
Pg no. 39/N. Relevant extract of the
file is enclosed.*

SCALES OF RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE
TO REPATRIATES FROM SRI LANKA.

A. RELIEF

Sl. No.	Item	Scales
1	2	3

1.	Cash doles	Size of the family	Amount to be paid (Rs.)
		Family with one Member	35.00 per month
		" " two Members	50.00 " "
		" " three "	65.00 " "
		" " four "	77.00 " "
		" " five "	90.00 " "
		" " six "	102.50 " "
		" " seven "	115.00 " "

Large sized eligible families having more than seven members will get an amount of Rs.5/- (in the form of cash doles) per head per month, in respect of members in excess of seven.

2. Food

On their arrival at Rameswaram the repatriate arriving under the Indo-Ceylon Agreement, 1964 from Sri Lanka are supplied one free Coffee/Milk and Cater Meal, as per scales and within the ceilings as below:-

Coffee/Milk Rs.0.50 per adult (12 years & above) Rs.0.50 per child (below 12 years)

Cater meals Rs.3.50 " Rs.2.00 "

3. Ration at Subsidised Rates

Scales: 400 grams per adult (8 years & above)
200 " " child (below 8 years)

Rate: Rice/Wheat atta @ 57 paise per kg.
Wheat @ 51 paise per kg.

4. Medical

A 20 bedded Government hospital is there in the Transit Camp at Mandapam, for the benefit of repatriates. The recurring expenditure involved on the entertainment of the hospital staff as also on the provision of medicines and diet etc. are apportioned between the Central Govt. and State Govt. of Tamil Nadu in the ratio of 2:1.

5. Education

(i) Book grants, ranging from Rs.15/- to Rs.150/- per annum to Day-scholars for purchase of books
(ii) stipends ranging from Rs.60/- to Rs.90/- per month to repatriate students reading in Middle Schools, High Schools, and Colleges, subject to certain conditions regarding marks, provided they stay in the hostel, away from their families the income of the parents is not more than Rs.500/- per month.

- 6. Passenger & Landing dues and excess baggage charges. The expenditure on 'Passenger and Landing dues' and 'Excess Baggage' charges paid to the State Minor Port Fund and Shipping Corporation of India Ltd., respectively, is met by the Central Government.
- 7. Porterage charges. Rs.1.40 per head, irrespective of age limit.
- 8. Travel concessions. Free travel facilities (Second Class tickets) by (Ordinary) trains are provided to the repatriates from Sri Lanka who are admitted to the transit camp and are granted cash doles for their journey from the port of disembarkation (Rameswaram) to the transit camp Mandapam and from there to the rehabilitation sites.
- 9. Journey Allowances The repatriates eligible for grant of free travel facilities are given journey allowance Rs.8/- per adult aged 8 years and above) and Rs.5/- per child (below 8 years) per head per journey day of 24 hours or part thereof.
- 10. Cremation & Sradh grant A grant for cremation and Sradh etc. not exceeding Rs.80/- in the case of an adult (more than 12 years) and Rs.50/- in the case of minor (aged 12 years or less) deceased Sri Lanka repatriates, provided the head of family to which the deceased head-of-family to which the deceased belongs did not bring liquid assets worth more than Rs.5,000/- from Sri Lanka. This grant is admissible in the Transit Camp only.

B. REHABILITATION FACILITIES

Resettlement in Agriculture:-

(a) Assistance admissible to repatriate families for cultivation of their own lands:

	Ceiling per family with land holding of		
	1 acre	2 acres	3 or more acres
	(in rupees)		
<u>LOAN</u>			
(i) Land reclamation	300	600	900
(ii) Cost of well	2000	2500	2500
(iii) Work animals i.e. per pair	800	800	800
(iv) Agricultural implements	200	200	200
(v) Cultivation cost including seeds and fertilisers.	350	650	950

erewi
 the
 st,
 kan n
 / 16
 LAL
 GOVT
 retar
 oint
 Dire
 Dire
 Def
 v, D

- (vi) Loan for subsidiary occupation like vegetable gardening, dairy farming, bullock cart plying etc. where necessary.

300	300	300
3,950	5,050	5,650

Adjustment between different items of loans at (i) to (v) is allowed, in the overall ceilings.

- (b) Repatriate families are given loans for purchase of private agricultural lands, upto 3 acres per family subject to an over all expenditure ceiling of Rs.6000/- per family. Financial assistance for cultivation purpose is also admissible to these families at the scales indicated at (a) above.
- (c) Repatriate families given land in land colonisation schemes are given financial assistance for cultivation on the same scales, as applicable to land holding of 3 or more acres indicated at (a) above.

The State Government have been authorised, in case of necessity to increase the amount of loan for sinking of irrigation wells upto Rs.4000/-.

Rehabilitation Assistance to Non-Agriculturist Families

The rehabilitation assistance available to Sri Lanka repatriate families is as follows:-

Nature of assistance	Per family ceiling of financial assistance
(a) Loans for Small Trade/Business or profession in urban or rural areas.	Upto Rs.5000/- (the actual amount of loan in each case depends on the locality, the type of business, the aptitude and experience of the repatriates).
(b) Loans/grants for housing:	
(i) Urban areas	Loan Rs.8000/-
(ii) Rural areas	Loan Rs.3300/- Grants Rs. 700/-
	Total Rs.4,000/-
(c) Loan for construction of business premises or for hiring shops or stalls:	
(i) Urban areas	Rs. 1000/-
(ii) Rural areas	Rs. 200/-

0.4/-

199
 at:
 1971
 c
 Se
 or
 r
 y
 t.

Maintenance Assistance

Maintenance assistance to repatriate families resettled in agriculture, business etc. is granted as under:-

(i) Families resettled in Agriculture:

Limit of assets brought by the family	For nine months in the first agricultural season.	For 12 months after the first agricultural season.
(a) Not exceeding Rs.1000/-	Grant at rates from Rs.40/- to Rs.150/- per month depending on the size of the family.	Loan at half the rates viz. from Rs.20/- to Rs.75/- per month depending on the size of the family.
(b) Exceeding Rs.1000/- but not exceeding Rs.5000/-	Grant at half the rates viz. from Rs.20/- to Rs.75/- per month depending on the size of the family.	Loan at 1/4th of the rates viz. from Rs.10/- to Rs.37 1/2/- depending on the size of the family.

(ii) Families resettled in Small Trade/Business.

"Grant" at rates from Rs.40/- to Rs.150/- per month depending on the size of the family, for a period of three months from the dates of release of first instalment of loan.

(iii) Families resettled in plantation.

"Grant" at rates from Rs.40/- to Rs.150/- depending on the size of the family for one month from the date of employment.

The concessions at (ii) and (iii) above are restricted to families who have brought liquid assets not exceeding Rs.5000/-.

(iv) Families resettled in Industrial Schemes.

The families sponsored for employment under the Industrial Schemes are given stipend at the rate between Rs.22.50 to Rs.32.50 (Rs.97.50 in case where free accommodation is not provided) per month for a period of 6 months. The family, excluding the trainee, is also given grant at rates of Rs.40/- to Rs.150/- per month, depending on the size of the family, during the training period.

Subsidised Ration:

Wheat at a subsidised rate of 51 paise per kg. and rice/wheat etc. at a subsidised rate of 57 paise per kg. are supplied for a limited period to repatriate families resettled in land colonisation schemes and employed in industrial units and cooperative spinning mills.

Provision for drinking water wells has been made in housing colonies upto a ceiling of Rs.6000/- per well, if no community drinking water wells are already available in the vicinity.

Training and Educational facilities to repatriates.

(i) Training:- Payment of stipends for training of repatriates from Sri Lanka in Industrial Training Institutes/apprenticeship training and other training schemes is regulated as under:-

- (a) When the family of the trainee is at the same station as the location of the training institute or Centre, the trainee is given a stipend of Rs.22.50 per month;
- (b) When the trainee is undergoing training at station away from the station of the residence, of his/her family but is provided with free accommodation in a camp, a stipend of Rs.82.50 per month is given;
- (c) When a trainee is undergoing training at station away from the station of the residence of his/her family where free accommodation is not provided a stipend of Rs.97.50 per month is given.

(ii) Educational:- Book grants ranging from Rs.15/- to Rs.150/- per student per annum are given to day scholars, for different classes/courses. For students in hostels and lodges, a grant ranging from Rs.60/- to Rs.90/- per student per month is given to cover hostel expenses, books etc.

These assistances are provided to repatriate students subject to certain stipulations regarding marks obtained by them and the income of their parents, which should not exceed Rs.500/- per month.