

In 198 Velupillai Prabhakaran had an interview with the prestigious Hindu newspaper. He was interviewed by N. Ram who was the editor of the Hindu and also a member of Kasthuri family who owns the Hindu paper.

In his interview had to stress that there in no alternative except "Eelam" for the Tamil people living in the island.

trading" to obtain a majority.

His first invitation was to the Ceylon Indian Congress. Mr. Thondaman as leader, requested the other members to take a decision. Only Mr. Motha said it should be considered whith conditions. But the strong trade unionists Subbayya, Velupillai and Rajalingam strongly opposed any dealings with the UNP Mr. Kumaravel Also supported the majority will and the matter was dropped.



Anti India

Ponnambalam 1948 Prabhakarana 1986 - 2009

Ram suggested several options but Prabhakaran wasnot prepared to accept them. He also tried to maintain that is the duty of the Tamils in Tamil Nadu in particular and the government of Indian in general to support the cause of Ealam.

I wrote a detail reply to prabhakaran's claim and where I pointed out how this Tamil leaders of Jaffna had treated the Indian origin Tamils living in Sri Lanka during 1948 to 1952 period.

In 1947 in the election of the first parliament in Sri Lanka seven members of the Ceylon Indian Congress were elected. They were Mr. S. Thondaman (Nuwara Eliya), Mr. S.M. Subbayya (first member Badulla), Mr. G.R. Motha (Maskeliya), Mr. Mr. K. Rajalingam (Nawalapitiya), Mr. M. Kumaravail (Kotagala), Mr. C.V. Velupillai (Thalawakale), Mr. D. Ramanujam (Aluthnuwara).

Except Mr. Motha who was a lawyer all others were full time trade unionists. They were elected to parliament because of dedicated work for the upliftment of the plantation workers who were most exploited group of labour in Ceylon.

They were brought here by the British planter southern Tamil Nadu in the 19th and 20th centuries.

The parliamentarians of the Ceylon Indian Congress were significant because of the attire. The were pure white vettis and Kurthas spun out of Gandhian kadar.

Immediately after the election the leader of the UNP Mr. D.S. Senanayaka Who had won only 42 seats out of 95 electorates of the House of representative began "horse

However, Mr. Senanayaka appointed the government with the support of several independents. In mid 1948 two

S. Piyasena

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ministers of the Senanayala government were unseated on election petitions.

Bi-elections were held for the seats of Kandy and Gampola. In both pro government candidates lost. The lost because the plantation workers of the Indian origin (who were a considerable proportion of the electorate) voted against the UNP candidates. This prompted the Senanayaka government to introduce a draconian law named "Indian Pakistani Residents Citizenship Bill.

When the bill was placed before the House there was very keen debate lasting three days and over 20 Sinhala members of parliament opposed the Bill.

I remember one incident during the database. Mr. Peiter Kauneman who was speaking against the Bill sail that the government has fallen in line with the South African Apartheid influenced by the imperialist camp.

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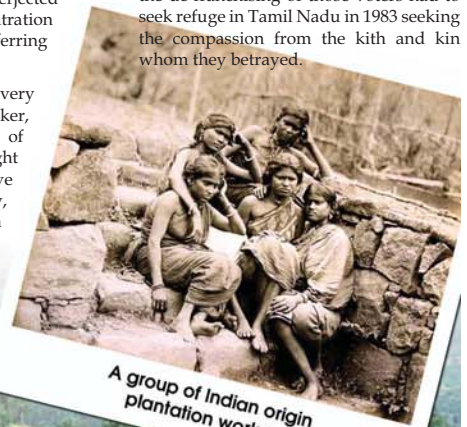
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Of the 12 Ceylon Tamil members representing the Northern and Eastern provinces voted with the government supporting the Bill. Two dozen Sinhala members voted against risking their political future.

Two Tamil members namely S.J.V. Chelvanayagam (Kankasanthurai), and Mr. Vanniyasigham (Kopai) voted against the Bill and formed the Federal Party and decided to support the struggle of the Indian origin Tamils Mr. G.G. Ponnambalam who was a minister and was the undisputed leader of the Ceylonese Tamils (Jaffna) vehemently deafened the de-franchising of the innocent "Tamils of Indian Origin" and preventing the chances of members of the Ceylon Indian Congress.

By a strange irony of the fate the Sri Lankan Tamil politician who supported the de-franchising of those voters had to seek refuge in Tamil Nadu in 1983 seeking the compassion from the kith and kin whom they betrayed.



A group of Indian origin plantation workers

