

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

TNA satisfied with pace of resettlement: Sri Kantha

Basic facilities have been provided IDPs need financial assistance

By Kelum Bandara

After visiting the IDP camps for the first time since they were set up after the end of the war the Tamil National Alliance (TNA), said yesterday government appeared to be serious about the resettlement of these displaced persons. TNA members said there was a sense of commitment by the military and civil officials in this respect.

A seven-member team of TNA members visited the IDP camps and the newly resettled areas yesterday. The visit was organised by Government.

TNA MP for the Jaffna district N. Sri Kantha told the Daily Mirror basic facilities had been provided to displaced persons housed in welfare camps and villages in Chettikulam, Vavuniya. The MP added the people however yearned to return to their original homes.

He said the people raised their grievances and the TNA promised to take them up with Government and relevant authorities. The MP said there was a need for a regulated system to issue passes to IDPs to enable them to visit relatives in other camps.

The TNA identified cases where the LTTE suspects and persons who surrendered were separated from their families and kept in reservation camps.

Mr. Sri Kantha said his team brought these issues to the notice of the officials concerned, who responded positively.

The IDPs pointed out the need for financial assistance to purchase requirements, apart from dry rations provided by Government. "Basic facilities have been provided and people have understood the situation. They are bravely facing it. We must appreciate the role played by Government and military officers in attending to the needs of the IDPs. We have to approach the whole problem in a positive manner" he said.

The MPs also visited resettled areas of Mannar and Thunukkai and interacted with the people. Mr. Sri Kantha said the resettled people were relieved to have eventually returned to their homes.

"We are satisfied with the pace at which the resettlement process has been progressing. In fact this visit was very useful," he said.

The TNA MPs also visited areas where de-mining was taking place and observed progress of the task.

The TNA delegation comprised MPs N. Sri Kantha, P. Ariyanethran, Sivanathan Kishor, Vino

Noharathalingam, Selvan Adaikkalanathan, R.M. Imam and Thomas William Thangathurai.

Fact box

- **Seven-member team of Tamil National Alliance (TNA) MPs visited IDP camps and the newly resettled areas yesterday (16.11.09).**
- **Basic facilities provided to displaced persons housed in welfare camps in Chettikulam**
- **There was a need for a regulated system to issue passes to IDPs to enable them to visit relatives in other camps.**