

India brought LTTE to negotiating table—Thonda. (1989, June 30).  
*Sun.*

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By Dayasena Abeylath reporting from Mahiyanganaya

The LTTE entered into discussions with the government because of the machinery of the Indian government. Therefore, we should be thankful to that government. Textile and Rural Industrial Development Minister S. Thondaman told a press conference at the Gam Udawa exhibition premises.

He said, "The Indian government began withdrawing its troops from Sri Lanka even before the Sri Lankan President requested it to do so."

Since the Sri Lankan govern-

ment has informed the Indian government to withdraw its troops from Sri Lanka this issue should not be made a problem, he explained.

Minister Thondaman said, "Under the Janasaviya programme, a large number of unemployed persons will obtain self employment and the Rural Industrial Development Ministry will make arrangements to sell the items thus produced. Arrangements have also been made for self-employed persons to obtain bank loans and to establish a raw material bank."

Industries Minister Ranji Wickremasinghe told the press conference that steps would be taken to protect the industries under the Industries Policy prepared by President Premadasa.

The next Free Trade Zone would be set up at Koggala, he added.

In reply to a question, the State Minister for Housing, Imtiyas Bakoor Marker said his ministry would take steps to prevent the transfer of houses by the owners who had obtained them from the government.