

Aid to rebels

P. B. Mukhopadhyay (letter, Jan. 18) argues that Sri Lanka's "Dec. 19 presidential election hardly showed any sign of India's fomenting any crisis in Sri Lanka."

In April 1987, Tamil Nadu's state government paid in cash 40 million rupees to the LTTE (Tigers) and EROS groups; and the Indian government regularly paid the "Tigers" more than £200,000 sterling a month. The funds were paid even in August 1987, a few weeks after India signed the "peace accord" with Sri Lanka.

K. Natwar Singh, India's minister of state for External Affairs, admitted in India's Parliament that the sum was paid as otherwise it would become extremely difficult for him to "retain their loyalty."

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