

# Fuel-smuggling routes sealed

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**TIRUCHI, Sept. 28** — The smuggling of kerosene, diesel, etc. from Tamil Nadu to northern Sri Lanka has been totally stopped thanks to the tightening of entry points by the Navy, BSF, and police forces. "There is no LTTE operation in any part of the State," asserted Mr. Walter Dawaram, ADGP, talking to media persons here on Monday.

Of the 43 Sri Lankan Tamil escapees from Vellore Fort, 21 had been apprehended. Two of them had died after swallowing cyanide. A hunt for the remaining 22 militants was on. The police were aware that most of them were still in India and had not fled to Sri Lanka. Hence the police were confi-

dent of nabbing them, he said.

Asked about the continuance of "Z" security to VIPs, despite the claim that the LTTE had been eliminated from Tamil Nadu, Mr. Dawaram said that the threat to the lives of eminent personalities required that adequate protection be given to them.

Mr. Dawaram added that no State in the country provided a compensation package like Tamil Nadu to police personnel who died in action, or for acts of bravery and risk in apprehending criminals. As many as 35 police personnel had been given promotions for the apprehension of the 21 Sri Lanka escapees. **(Hindu)**