

# Dinesh raises alarm over dengue raging across the country

Blames govt for failure to harness resources of local bodies

BY SAMAN INDRAJITH

**M**EP Leader Dinesh Gunawardena told Parliament yesterday that the government had failed to arrest the spread of dengue without the backing of local government bodies which had been left rudderless due to an inordinate delay in conducting elections to them.

"The government cannot obtain the services of thousands of local government employees to fight the battle against dengue. The entire country is suffering," MP Gunawardena said, making a special statement.

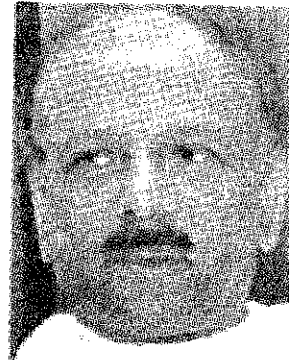
Gunawardena demanded to know what steps the government had taken to control the disease.

He said the government should have

accurate statistics in respect of the number of persons who have died of dengue this year and how many who had been hospitalised.

Minister Rauff Hakeem said nearly 800 security forces personnel had been deployed to prevent the spread of the disease.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said the government would do everything possible to bring under control the situation. "We have



Dinesh

taken action to contain the situation in the East. The government has made available resources needed for the purpose. Police, tri-forces and health ministry officials are working round the clock to provide relief to the dengue victims.

The Prime Minister said one had to consider the spread of dengue in Sri Lanka and spread of other diseases in other countries in Asia as a regional health issue.

"Diseases such as fever and even bird flu are spreading in Asia," he said.

# CA issues notice on police OIC and others on a complaint by SLT

BY CHITRA WEERARATHNE

The Court of Appeal yesterday issued notice returnable on April 4, 2017 on the OIC of the Fort police station and a few other connected officials pertaining to a writ application filed by the Sri Lanka Telecom PLC of Colombo 1.

The petitioner has complained that on or about Dec. 26, 2016, the All Ceylon Telecommunication Employees Union launched a purported trade union action, demanding that the employees of the SLT Human Capital Solution Private Limited be absorbed into the permanent cadre of the petitioner.

The purported demand of the All Ceylon Telecommunication

Employees Union was that the employees of the HCS be absorbed into the petitioner institutions forthwith.

Employees of the SLT Human Capital Resource Pvt Limited were from the commencement of the protest up to date obstructed the entrance of the Head Office and obstructed the customers and the management of the petitioner institution.

The petitioner complained to the police on several occasions but in vain.

The petitioner requested the court to

call for the complaints made to the police to peruse them and issue suitable orders on the persons causing inconvenience to the operations of the petitioner institution.

President's Counsel Sanjeewa Jayawardene appeared with Lakshman Perera and Lakmini Warusavithana instructed by Sudath Perera Associates for the petitioner Sri Lanka Telecom PLC of Colombo 1.

The Bench comprised Justice Vijith K. Maalaloda (President) and Justice S. Thurairajah.