

Demand to expedite investigation in Rajiv Gandhi assassination case by the CBI

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Sir, for the last few days reports have been coming in that certain person had a connection with the assassination of former Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi. This issue was raised in Parliament by the hon. Members immediately after the assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Shri Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated at Sriperambadur in 1991. The accused persons were tried, and some of them were punished by the court at that time. There was a demand by the hon. Members of Parliament that the foreign hand behind the assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi be inquired into.

The Jain Commission was appointed by the Government and it submitted its Report. Thereafter, the Action Taken Report on the basis of the Jain Commission's recommendations was also submitted in Parliament. There, the clear evidence of foreign agencies' involvement was mentioned. Multi-Disciplinary authority had also gone into the matter on the basis of the findings given by the Jain Commission Report. Now, a new revelation has come from the CBI that they have collected a lot of evidence against the involvement of that person in connection with the assassination of former Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

Therefore, Sir, the Government should effectively pursue the case as mentioned in the Jain Commission Report, about the role of this person in the Rajiv Gandhi's assassination case. Already, more than 13 years have passed after the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi. Therefore, it is all the more important for the Government to pursue the case in an effective manner and bring to book the persons mentioned in the Jain Commission Report including this person. Sir, I would request the hon. Minister...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, the hon. Minister is sitting here in this House. If he wants to respond, he can do it. Thank you.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): Sir, through you, I would like to inform this House that we are pursuing this case effectively.

DR. FAGUNI RAM (Bihar): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri Narayanasamy.

SHRI G.K. VASAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri Narayanasamy.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri Narayanasamy.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri Narayanasamy.

Concern over the plight of the small scale industries in the country

SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR (Maharashtra): Sir, the small scale industry in India has proved to be a very big engine of growth for the Indian economy. The small scale industry accounts for 40 per cent of the industrial production, 36 per cent of India's exports and it provides nearly 60 per cent of the industrial employment. The total turnover of SSI in India is above Rs. 7,50,000 crores which is equal to above 25 per cent of India's GDP.

The issues concerning bank credit to small-scale industries continue to be left unattended by negligence of the RBI, in spite of reports of several specialised Committees like the Nayak Committee (1991-1992), Abid Hussain Committee (1998), and S.L. Kapur Committee (1998). Adequate credit, on the basis of 20 per cent of the projected annual turnover, is not provided by the banks to SSIs. Very high rates of interest, i.e. from 14 per cent per annum to 16 per cent per annum, continue to be charged to SSIs, though bank credit is available to the large scale industry in India at 6 per cent per annum, to 9 per cent per annum. Though there is a recommenda-