

17.15 Hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA
SABHA

[English]

Secretary-General : Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha :—

“In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Railways) No. 3 Bill, 1991, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 25th July, 1991, and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill.”

17.16 Hrs

DISCUSSION UNDER
RULE 193

Escape from the custody and subsequent death of Shri Shanmugam, an accused in the Rajiv Gandhi Assassination case

[English]

Shri Anbarasu Era (Madras Central): Madam, it is not merely that India having a population of 85 crores of people mourned the tragic death of our leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi. The people of the world felt that they have lost their kin in the death of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. To quote the former President of the USA., Mr. Ronald Reagan, in tears he said that Rajiv Gandhi was like a son to him. The President of the USSR Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev bemoaned that he has lost his bossom friend. The

French President Mr. Mitterand expressed in unequivocal words that the world had lost its dynamic champion of democracy and the down-trodden.

Madam, it is in the history of the world that for the first time, the United Nations passed a Resolution paying glorious tributes to Shri Rajiv Gandhi. The rose has been plucked but then the smell, he fragrance will go on for ever.

Shri Rajiv Gandhi's love for the people was higher than his love for his life. Shri Rajiv Gandhi epitomised the concern for India of Shri Motilal Nehru, Pandit Jawarharlal Nehru, Shrimati Indira Gandhi.

Madam, without casting any aspersion on the investigating agencies, I would like to raise certain questions regarding the episode of the escape of Shri Shanmugam. This episode of the escape of Shri Shanmugam is a very simple one. It is not a complicated one. On 17th July, he volunteered, surrendered himself before the police, before the Court with an advocate that he was ready to reveal certain facts about the plot that has been hatched in respect of the assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Then, he was arrested and brought to Vedaranyam. Shri Shanmugam was brought to Vedaranyam and then at Kodikarai reserve forest he revealed certain facts about the concealment of transmitters, high explosives including petrol cans and all these were dug out. After finding out all these arms and ammunitions, he was taken back to the Inspection Bungalow where the SIT officials were staying. He was given food at 9.45 P.M. in the same Inspection Bungalow. After taking his food, under the guise of washing his hands, he escaped from the Inspection Bungalow. He went for washing his hands and then he escaped.

Shri Indrajit Gupta (Midnapore) : Where did he go to washing his hands —to the bath-room ?