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Title: Issue regarding releasing of persons convicted in assassination of former Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

SHRI T.R. BAALU (SRIPERUMBUDUR): Hon. Madam, yesterday the Supreme Court has passed a judgment as to the release of Shri Perarivalan, Shri Santhan and Shri Murugan subject to the consideration of the State Government and the Central Government. They also commuted the death sentence into life sentence. Since the accused have been languishing in jail for more than 21 years, it is all the more possible for the State Government and the Central Government to see that the accused are released forthwith.

Today morning, the Cabinet of the State Government has decided to release all the seven accused who are languishing in jailâ€¦*(Interruptions)*

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI (KARUR): The Tamil Nadu Cabinet has already said it.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Yes, I am telling. I am making the same thing. What is the problem? I am making the same statement. Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)* I have already made the statement. ...*(Interruptions)* What do you want? ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Baalaji, please address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Madam, as I have already said, the Cabinet of the State Government of Tamil Nadu today decided to see that all the accused, the three accused to which the Supreme Court has already referred and commuted and four other accused who have been languishing for more than 21 years have to be released. They have requested the Central Government to consider it and a positive view should be taken so as to release them forthwith. The nation is aware that our leader Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi had made an appeal to the Centre and the State Government to ensure their release as per the directions/observations of the Supreme Court.

So, on behalf of my Party DMK, I would request the Government of India through this House that all the seven persons convicted in the case may be released immediately. This is my demand.

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI : Madam, they have already decided. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: All right, Dr. Thambidurai ji.

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI : Madam, our Chief Minister has already taken a stand and passed a resolution in the Assembly also. They have referred it to the Central Government. It is left to them. Our Madam is already going to release the accused. They have already taken this step.