

Title: Requests the Central Government to order a special inquiry on the death of a prominent businessman Shri Rajan Pillai on 7th July, 1995 during judicial custody.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (QUILON): I would like to draw the attention of this august House to the disastrous death of a prominent and eminent businessman Shri Rajan Pillai on 7th July, 1995 during judicial custody. The death was due to lack of proper medical treatment and care. I would like to say that Shri Rajan Pillai was a businessman in Singapore and he was a citizen of India and he was found guilty by a Court of Magistrate in Singapore for misappropriation of funds in a company. Subsequently, he came to India to seek justice through Indian judicial system. The Government of Singapore sought extradition of Shri Rajan Pillai and the Government of India had constituted the Extradition Court and the Magistrate issued warrant on 1st July, 1995 and he was arrested on 4th July, 1995 from La Meredian Hotel at about 0.15 a.m. on 4th July, 1995. On the same day, he was brought to the Magistrate Court and he was rejected the bail. He moved an application seeking proper medical treatment. He submitted all the documents from Singapore Hospital. But the Central Bureau of Investigation vehemently opposed the application and the application was rejected and he was remanded to custody. It is to be noted that on 7th July, 1995 at about 8.30 p.m. the nation heard the latest news that Shri Rajan Pillai died due to lack of medical treatment when he was in judicial custody. I would like to say that on 27th July, 1995 when Shri Madan Lal Khurana was the Chief Minister of Delhi State Government, he ordered an inquiry under Section 3 of the Commission of Inquiry Act and the Inquiry Commission submitted its report known as Liela Seith Commission report. The main terms of reference of the Commission were as follows.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You cannot make a speech like this during Zero Hour.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (QUILON): The House is concerned about it. The terms of reference are, the circumstances and the sequence of events leading to the death of Shri Rajan Pillai. That is the main point which has to be inquired into. The Commission has submitted its report. There is a clear finding against the CBI. I am not going into the details. There is a clear finding about the jail authorities and also against the doctors, but the factum of conspiracy has not been inquired into. There is a reasonable apprehension to believe that there is a case of conspiracy. There is a factum of conspiracy leading to the death of Shri Rajan Pillai because when he was remanded to the jail, a letter had been given to the RMO of the Tihar Jail seeking his medical report and that was to be reported on 5th July, 1995 at 2.00 p.m. in the court.

But that letter is missing. That is the first point. Secondly, the CBI is well aware of his liver cirrhosis, hypertension and blood vomiting...(Interruptions). As far as the CBI is concerned, it is well aware of everything. That has come out in the evidence. That is there in the relevant paras of the report. But I am not going to read it out also. The specific finding against the CBI is also there...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : What do you want the Government to do? Please tell it in just one sentence.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN : I want to make one more point. It is about Mulazhia. It means that medical check up is to be conducted when a person is worse affected...(Interruptions).

I am concluding now. Mulazhia had not been conducted at the right time. It was conducted only on 7.7.95, the date of his death. So, I request the Government of India to order a special inquiry into this matter having the factum of conspiracy also in the terms of reference. The appropriate Government is the Central Government to order an inquiry in this case...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: All of you have associated with him. Now, Shri Prabhunath Singh to speak.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: We want an Inquiry Commission to be set up. The Government should come forward with an Inquiry Commission...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already brought the matter before the House. Please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

">SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Sir, it appears to be a cold-blooded murder. The Leila Seith Commission has certain findings implicating the Tihar Jail Authorities. There are many loose ends. So, the Central Government should should conduct a full and thorough inquiry immediately...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already called Shri Prabhunath Singh to speak. Please understand that I cannot direct the Government. If they want to react, let them react. But I cannot do that. The Presiding Officer cannot direct the Government.

... (Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : It was a cold-blooded murder. You know how Indians are treated elsewhere...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister wants to react to it. Do you not want to hear him? He wants to react to it.

... (Interruptions)

">THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): Will you kindly bear with me for a minute?...(Interruptions)

">PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Shri Ram Jethmalani, you are a senior Advocate and you are defending human rights. This is a human rights'

case where a person was killed in custody. Kindly convey our feelings either to the Prime Minister or the Home Minister and get an Inquiry constituted in respect of the conspiracy angle in this case...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: I want to share a personal difficulty with the hon. Members here. I was doing my best to concentrate on what the hon. Member was saying. But he spoke with such a tremendous speed that my knowledge of English has failed me...(Interruptions) Kindly just walk over to me, tell me and I will do everything that you want to be done. I must understand exactly what has happened. Kindly tell me. We will do everything that you want...(Interruptions)

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : I will submit again as to what happened...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no repetition. I will tell you what he said. You can see the record. He was telling that some inquiry was conducted. He says that there is some irregularity in conducting the inquiry.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Sir, I assure you that we will look into it and do the needful.

MR. CHAIRMAN: They will look into it and whatever is needed will be done.