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Member of Standing Committee on Finance
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Respected Prime Minister,

September 19, 2018

Sub: Restoring honor of Shri Nambi Narayanan.

I write to you regarding the false case filed in 1994 against S. Nambi Narayanan then a scientist in ISRO who was falsely accused of espionage and was arrested and kept in custody for 50 days.

Regretfully, this is not just a case of a person being falsely accused in a case as stated by the Supreme Court of India, it is also about a brilliant scientist being humiliated, subjected to third degree torture at the behest of some Police officers, then apathetic Government and its political conspiracy.

Nambi Narayanan was a senior scientist at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), in-charge of the cryogenics division, making rapid progress in the field of liquid technology – a key technology in rocket propulsion that is being deployed in GSLV. Narayanan was one of the chief architects of the 'Vikas' engine that is at the heart of India's rockets, the same ones that made missions like Chandrayaan and Mangalyaan possible and which will be involved in many more space voyages in future. Vikram Sarabhai, the celebrated scientist and father of Indian Space, put his trust in Narayanan and sent him to Princeton University for higher studies on rocket propulsion.

What was inflicted on Narayanan - who could have been the next pioneer in rocket propulsion & space technology - is a great injustice not just to the scientist but a shame on collective conscience of every Indian who believes in justice. This incident marks a shameful chapter in our country's history much like the Emergency.



The arrest of Narayanan, terrorized the entire ISRO community which seemed to have been the primary purpose of those who had manufactured this false case against him. This apathy and abuse meted out to an esteemed scientist by the then Congress government was shameful and unforgivable. Padmaja Venugopal daughter of then Chief Minister of Kerala has gone on record saying that this was a political conspiracy. That a proud citizen and reputed scientist can become a pawn in a political conspiracy and have his reputation and career callously destroyed by those in power then raises serious questions about that period.

The Supreme Court has spoken decisively and exonerated Narayanan. But the abuse and humiliation meted out to him cannot be restored alone by this and Rs 50 lakhs as compensation awarded by SC in its verdict of September 14th which is to be recovered from the Government of Kerala. The SC has also formulated the Justice Jain Committee which will find out ways and means to take appropriate steps against the erring officials, something that the then Government of Kerala blatantly denied taking responsibility for. Grievous harm was done to country's space program by this conspiracy as well as careers and lives of Narayanan and his co-accused.

I request the Government of India to:

1. To ensure that the process of justice is completed by pursuing those that are responsible and holding them to account.
2. To honor Shri Narayanan's struggle – by a Padma Award or a similar recognition by Government of India that recognizes eventual triumph of good over evil.

Predictably this story will fade from the headlines and public gaze. However, this kind of injustice must never repeat itself and so it is important that just like the Emergency the country never forgets this shameful saga - never to be inflicted on any of its citizens ever again.

Yours Sincerely,


RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister
New Delhi.