

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು  
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The Hindu

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# Kerala Assembly rejects motion to remove Speaker

Oppn. accuses him of role in gold smuggling case

<sup>TN 22/1/2021</sup> Sivasankar arrested

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

After nearly four hours of heated debate, the Kerala Assembly on Thursday rejected a motion moved by the Opposition seeking the removal of Speaker P. Sreeramakrishnan alleging his role in the diplomatic channel gold smuggling case and reckless expenditure in the various activities by the Legislature Secretariat.

Moving the motion soon after Question Hour, IUML legislator M. Ummer said the Speaker had denigrated his office and that the resolution was not for personal or political reasons or for casting aspersions on Mr. Sreeramakrishnan. It was to protect the dignity of the House.

"Serious allegations are cropping up against the Speaker every day. His assis-

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOCHI

After booking him in the diplomatic channel gold smuggling case, the Customs on Thursday arrested M. Sivasankar, the former Principal Secretary to the Kerala Chief Minister, in the dollar smuggling case.

The suspended IAS officer has been arraigned as the fourth accused in the

tant private secretary was questioned by the Customs for nine hours. It is said that the Speaker will be questioned by the Central investigating agencies after the ongoing Assembly session. Will the dignity of the House and Chair go up if he is summoned?" Mr. Ummer asked.

Earlier, S. Sharma of the CPI(M) questioned the admissibility of the resolution

case related to alleged smuggling of dollars worth nearly ₹1.30 crore by a former finance head of the UAE Consulate, Thiruvananthapuram, to the UAE.

He is currently housed at the district jail, Kakkannad.

Swapna Suresh and P.S. Sarith, the key accused in the gold smuggling case, have also been arraigned as the accused in the case.

citing precedence, rules and procedures as the allegations were solely based on media reports. After heated arguments between the Opposition and treasury benches, Deputy Speaker V. Sasi granted permission, ruling that he was not looking into the technicalities. The resolution was supported by UDF legislators and lone BJP legislator O. Rajagopal.