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ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: 25 Other state matter

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: The Hindu ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE: 29/3/2017

Speaker always tried to get close to me, says Swapna

'He was in need of UAE Consul General for personal affairs'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

Swapna Suresh, accused in the diplomatic channel gold smuggling case, gave a statement to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) that Speaker P. Sreeramakrishnan had "always kept trying to get close to her and he was in need of the Consul General of UAE for his personal affairs."

The ED had submitted these statements to the Kerala High Court recently.

When asked to explain her relationship with Mr. Sreeramakrishnan, Ms. Swapna said she met him for the first time at a function of the UAE Consulate. "He used

to send me WhatsApp messages and used to call up frequently," she said.

Ms. Swapna said the Speaker had invited her to his official residence on several occasions.

She stated that Mr. Sreeramakrishnan had called her to a flat in Marutham Apartment, Pettah, twice and told that it was his hideout. She stated that she did not agree to his "personal interests." Ms. Swapna said she met him at the apartment along with Sarith.

She said Mr. Sreeramakrishnan handed over a bag to Sarith, another accused in the case, and told him that it

contained a packet that was to be handed over safely to the Consul General. He also gave a pen to Sarith, she stated. Sarith, who delivered the packet to the Consul General, said the packet seemed to have currency notes inside. Later, this bag was seized by the Customs from the residence of Sarith, she stated.

WhatsApp chat

When confronted with her WhatsApp chat with M. Sivasankar, former Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, Swapna said she had informed the Chief Minister about the circumstances in which she was forced to resign from the UAE Consulate.

