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Karu assures tabling of complete PCol bond scam report

By Methmalie Dissanayake and Kavindya Chris Thomas

(Ceylontoday.lk) - Speaker Karu Jayasuriya on Tuesday (5) assured Parliament that he would make a request from the Presidential Secretariat seeking all Sections of the report, of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCol) into the Treasury Bonds Issuance, once the President's Secretary returns to the country.

The Speaker, making an announcement regarding the alleged list of 118 Parliamentarians, who had received funds from Perpetual Treasuries Limited (PTL) Owner Arjun Aloysius, said that he received Sections C 350 - 360 of the report on the same day, before the Parliamentary sitting.

"I informed the Presidential Secretariat that we want all the Sections of the report as soon as possible. Once I receive all of them, the full document would be tabled in the Parliament. That was what the Committee on Parliamentary Affairs unanimously agreed to during Tuesday's meeting," Speaker Jayasuriya added.

He said that many false rumours are being

spread regarding the alleged list of MPs. That was because the Parliament had not received several Sections of the report, he observed and added that as a result of the goodwill of all MPs had been damaged.

At this juncture, Joint Opposition (JO) MP Wimal Weerawansa said that the JO wrote to the Speaker to reveal the alleged list of MPs. "Due to allegations that 118 MPs had received money from Aloysius, the names of all the MPs have been marred in the society. Since you have received 10 Sections, I would like to know if there is such a list in those Sections," he queried.

Replying to Weerawansa, the Speaker said that he did not have time to go through the received documents. "But I do not have any evidence that such a list exists in the Sections I received," he added.

Leader of the House Minister Lakshman Kiriella: "The Speaker received only 10 Sections of the report. Sections C 01 to C 349 are yet to be received. We want all of these Sections."

Chief Opposition Whip and Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna Leader, Anura Kumara

Dissanayake: "We want to know whether the Speaker could give us an assurance that other Sections mentioned above would be presented to the Parliament soon. Otherwise, tabling the received Sections would be postponed."

The Speaker said that he could assure that. "The Presidential Secretariat has been already informed about the importance of tabling all the said Sections as soon as possible. However, the President's Secretary is not in the country right now. Once, the President's Secretary returns I hope to make necessary arrangements regarding it," the Speaker observed.

Meanwhile, Executive Director of the Campaign for Free and Fair Elections Rajitha Keerthi Tennakoon, commenting on the developments, noted that the Speaker and the Parliament have the powers to obtain the full report of the PCol.

"The Presidential Secretariat has released the annex C 350—one among the many missing annexes—to the Parliament. This contains the phone calls between several MPs and Aloysius as well as the conversations he has had with Former Minister Ravi Karunanayake and his

family members. This has some value but the Parliament has the powers to call for the remaining documents as well, based on information from C 350," he said.

He further revealed that various relatives and associates of the former Members of the Committee on Public Enterprises (COPE) have entered into dealerships with W.M. Mendis Liquor Manufacturers, owned by the PTL.

"Everyone knows that the former COPE members had dealings with the PTL during the ongoing inquiry, as revealed by the PCol proceedings. Now new members have been appointed to COPE and I think the Speaker should ask for



Speaker Karu Jayasuriya

Sports Fiesta 2018 Winners

(left pic) - Winner of Cricket - "London Eagle". Trophy presented by Mr Harsha Hewa Pathirana and (right pic) - Winner of Football - "U K FC" Trophy presented by Charmain of Jack Carter Pavilion Ground, Mr Nick Hurst. Please see next week for a full photo-shoot of the event.



affidavits from them emphasising that they have had no dealings with the PTL. The Speaker is responsible for the honour of the Parliament," Tennakoon said.

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