

Sir,

I crave your permission to make a reference to the late Shri T. N. Swaminatha Pillai, the recipient of the Akademi Award for instrumental music of the Karnatic School. It is, however, with deep regret that I have to convey to you the sad news of his sudden death on February 8, 1961.

Born on 12th September, 1899, at Tiruppamparam, a village in Tanjore, Shri Swaminatha Pillai came of a family of musicians and music scholars. Since his very childhood he showed aptitude in flute-playing and under the able training of his father soon became an expert in the art.

His music was replete with sweetness and richness of equally balanced *Raga-bhava* and *Layabhava*. His *Swaraprasthana* was noted for its musical excellence and his *Raga Alapana* was subtle and to the point. His exposition of *Kritis* conformed to true classical tradition.

He was an author of five well-known works on Karnatic music and for his outstanding merit he had received the title of *Sangeetha Kalanidhi*.

For his pre-eminence in music and for his life-long devotion and service to its cause, I pray, Sir, that you may be pleased to grant him recognition as Musician of the Year, in the field of instrumental music of the Karnatic School, and award to him, *posthumously*, a shawl, a gold *Shrinkhal* and a *Sanad* in token of that recognition.