

## 'I should've become a hotelier to get Padma'

**New Delhi:** Adding his voice to the growing chorus of protests against NRI hotelier Sant Singh Chatwal's nomination for Padma awards, Rajya Sabha MP Rajeev Chandrasekhar has hit out at the government saying that he should have become a hotelier in New York to be recognized by the country. The MP, who made the caustic remark on Facebook, has also shot off a letter of protest to PM Manmohan Singh registering his annoyance at being struck off the list after the Karnataka government nominated him.

Asked if he had written to the PM expressing his sentiment, Chandrasekhar said, "Yes, I have written to the PM but it is private communication. I can't share anything

more on that." However, the former FICCI president was far more candid in his comment posted on Facebook on January 28. "Rajeev Chandrasekhar was informed that



Chandrasekhar

he was nominated for a Padma Bhushan for Rajeev's contribution to telecom sector in India — it seems the honourable PM said since RC is an MP, he shouldn't be given a Padma award! Rajeev says, 'Instead of choosing public service as an MP, I should've chosen to be a restauranter in NY to be recognized by my country!!!', " the comment said.

According to sources, the MP, who is vastly credited with bringing in major technological changes in the telecom industry, has questioned the criteria for the awards. TNN