

R Venkataraman passes away



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R VENKATARAMAN, the President at a time when the country had just begun taking to coalition politics, passed away on Tuesday. He was 98. The former President died at the Army's main Research and Referral Hospital here, where he had been admitted on January 12 for urosepsis, a condition in which toxic agents seep into body tissues. He was later put on life-support systems.

The Union Cabinet, chaired by External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee, announced a seven-day mourning for Venkataraman.

The Beating Retreat ceremony and other remaining events connected with Republic Day celebration have been cancelled as a mark of respect towards a man who was the President between July 1987 and July 1992 and worked with four Prime Ministers. Three of them - V P Singh, Chandrashekhar and P V Narasimha Rao - were sworn in by Venkataraman.

The Congress had picked Venkataraman, then the Vice-President, for a stint in Rashtrapati Bhavan after Zail Singh's term ended.

President Pratibha Patil called him a true patriot. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh issued a statement, describing Venkataraman as an 'outstanding figure of our public life' who will be remembered for his service to the nation. Venkataraman's last rites will be performed at Ekta Sthal here at 4.30 pm on Wednesday.

RV was radical in his views, prescriptions for the polity

By Neerja Chowdhury

RAMASWAMY Venkataraman, who passed away in New Delhi on Tuesday, was the eighth President of the Indian Republic. He steered the presidency at a time when the country was making the delicate and difficult transition from one party rule to coalition governance. No predecessor or successor President has seen years as eventful or turbulent as Venkataraman did between 1987-92.

Unlike recent times, when the selection of the President is left undecided till the last possible moment, Indira Gandhi had apparently decided almost a year before the due date to elevate Venkataraman as Vice President, and this was conveyed to him, even as he was asked to keep the information under wraps. Those were still days of one party rule.

President Venkataraman worked with four prime ministers, negotiating the challenges thrown up by four governments which offered different models, unforeseen by the fathers of our Constitution.

After he took over as President in July 1987, Rajiv Gandhi was in power with a brute majority of 415 Congress members in the Lok Sabha. He witnessed the decline of Rajiv Gandhi, the rise of V P Singh, his fall and replacement by Chandra Shekhar whose 50 plus MPs were supported by the larger Congress from outside in an experiment that did not last long, and the elevation of one time colleague P V Narasimha Rao as Prime Minister in 1991.

He witnessed - and guided - three models of coalition government. The first headed by V P Singh was led by the centrist Janata Dal supported from outside by both the Left and the Right in 1989. This was replaced by Chandra Shekhar-headed breakaway group which was backed by the Congress from outside. And the third was a minority government led by Narasimha Rao which ran on the basis of a political consensus.

It was not just the number of PMs he worked with - earlier he had also worked under Indira Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri - his tenure in Rashtrapati Bhavan also saw momentous events which changed the direction of Indian politics, whether it was the Bofors scam, entry and exit of the Indian Peace Keeping Force in Sri Lanka, the Mandal decision to give reservation to OBCs in government jobs or the assassina-

tion of Rajiv Gandhi.

Unlike K R Narayanan who referred to himself as a 'Working President', Venkataraman used to describe himself as a "Copybook President". The President was like an "emergency light", he used to say, which came on automatically when there was a crisis and "no power" and "by that I mean political power". Once the crisis passed off, the light went off automatically.

Even as his views were conservative about the role of the President - Zail Singh who he had succeeded had toyed with the possibility of dismissing the Prime Minister - Venkataraman was often radical in his views and prescriptions for the polity.

In January 2000, he had criticised the multi-party system, arguing that the smaller parties blackmailed the bigger parties in a coalition-something that has resonance in the mainline parties today. He made a case for derecognising regional parties. The then Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee had considered him as a possible choice to head the Constitution Review Panel but his name was opposed by the DMK because of his remarks against the regional parties. The Dravidian party forced the Government to drop his name and plump instead for Justice MN Venkatachaliah as the head of the panel.

He had difficult relationship with the Nehru-Gandhi family. He was a Congressman to the core, and held important ministerial portfolios under Indira Gandhi. But he was opposed to the emergency she had promulgated in 1975 and is believed to have written articles against it in the magazine "Swarajya" brought out by C Rajagopalachari.

Rajiv Gandhi made him President but he came to have differences with him later on, and his book, "My Presidential Years" provoked critical comments from many Congressmen.

A lawyer by profession, a participant in the country's freedom struggle, mentored by K. Kamaraj, moving from state politics to the national scene, Union Minister for Finance and Defence, Vice President and President, his was a journey which lasted almost a century, and was witness to events, that were momentous. He was mentally alert till the last and those who saw him four months ago recall him reminiscing about the past, concerned about the future, and coming out to the porch to see off his guests.

The coalition President

He worked with 4 PMs, of whom he appointed 3

By I. Ramamohan Rao

With the death of R. Venkataraman, the eighth President of India, the republic has lost one more of those leaders who drafted the Constitution and guarded its ethos in trying times. RV, as he was popularly known, played his many roles to perfection—lawyer, trade union leader, minister in Tamil Nadu and Union finance and defence minister. Not many know he was jailed for two years during the non-cooperation movement in 1942.

I first worked with RV as director of public relations when he was moved to the defence ministry in 1982—a move he did not initially relish, as he felt the finance portfolio provided more scope for boosting development policies. He always solicited my frank opinion, and I once told him about the housing and schooling challenges faced by Service staff. He took it up and told the Service chiefs that they were free to build staff quarters and Sainik Schools to meet the need. Money, he said, would not be a problem.

He took the Defence Research and Development Organisation under his wing and visited the labs. One of the young scientists who caught his eye was A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, then head of the Defence Research and Development Laboratory, Hyderabad. The 1980s saw the Services saddled with obsolete equipment. Post-Pokhran I, our arms suppliers from the west had withdrawn and what was available elsewhere was beyond our budget. In 1982, when Soviet defence minister Marshal Dmitriy F.

ILLUSTRATION: HADIMANI



RAMASWAMY VENKATARAMAN 1910-2009

Ustinov came on a goodwill visit, RV did some plainspeak. He told Ustinov it was useless to tell the USSR of India's needs because Soviet priorities were domestic, the Eastern bloc and friends like India, in that order. Taken aback, Ustinov said: "Minister, please come to the USSR and choose what you want. India will be top priority." RV made the visit and the Soviets delivered the goods.

Though a polite man, RV was the last one to back down from a just fight. He sent troops to Siachen glacier after reports that Pakistan was launching mountaineering expeditions to Indian peaks in Kashmir. Before the troops were deployed, RV visited advance bases and forward airfields in Ladakh.

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi came for the secret briefing at the Army operations room before the troops were sent. I told P.K. Kaul, then defence secretary, that the media would make a splash if it learnt of her visit on its own. So with RV's consent, we handed out a press release which described the visit as a routine briefing. Next day, New Delhi dailies carried it as a three-line local item!

When RV became the vice-president, I was director of news services division of All India Radio. The day Indira was assassinated, President Giani Zail Singh and home minister P.V. Narasimha Rao were abroad. I sought RV's permission to broadcast the news. He came to the studio and announced her death and the swearing in of Rajiv Gandhi as Prime Minister.

When he became the President, I had taken over as principal information officer for the government and we used to meet every fortnight. We hoped that he would have a non-controversial tenure. But the textbook President had to swear in coalition governments, headed by V.P. Singh and Chandrashekhar. They were followed by Rao's minority government.

RV upheld the freedom of the press. In 1988, during the golden jubilee celebration of the *Malayala Manorama*, he said: "Our press must inform readers of all that is going well, in addition to what may be going wrong. The typical and the true must not be subordinated to the sensational." Two decades later, it holds truer than ever. ■

Venkataraman presided over the change to the era of coalitions

During Indira Gandhi's second term, he was part of core decision-making team

Vinay Kumar

NEW DELHI: R. Venkataraman was perhaps the last of the great public servants who came out of the Congress stable in the old Madras Presidency and who distinguished themselves at the national level. He was in league with stalwarts like C. Rajagopalachari, T.T. Krishnamachari, Kamraj and C. Subramaniam. During Indira Gandhi's second innings in particular, 'RV' became part of the core decision-making process, and was a member of the powerful Parliamentary Board at a time when the Congress had a powerful political and electoral presence all over the country.

After competently handling key Central Ministries — Finance and Defence — he was ideally suited for higher constitutional responsibilities, as Vice-President and

then the eighth President of the republic.

It was during his Rashtrapati Bhavan days between 1987 and 1992 that he presided over the change from the one-party era to coalitions, having to work with four Prime Ministers — Rajiv Gandhi, V.P. Singh, Chandrashekhar and P.V. Narasimha Rao.

Born on December 4, 1910 in Thanjavur district in Tamil Nadu, Mr. Venkataraman had his early education locally and later in Madras from where he obtained his master's degree in Economics. He qualified in Law from the Law College, Madras, and was enrolled in the High Court, Madras in 1935 and in the Supreme Court in 1951.

It was during his law practice that he was drawn into the freedom movement and he actively participated in the Quit India Movement of 1942,



The former Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi, greeting the then President, R. Venkataraman, on the latter's 78th birthday at Rashtrapati Bhavan on December 4, 1987. (Right) Mr. Venkataraman with the former Prime Minister, P.V. Narasimha Rao. — PHOTOS: HINDU PHOTO ARCHIVES

resulting in a two-year detention. In 1946, when the transfer of power from the British to Indian hands looked imminent, he was sent by the government of India on a panel of lawyers to Malaya and Singapore to defend Indian nationals facing charges of collaboration during the Japanese occupation of those

two places.

Between 1947 and 1950, Mr. Venkataraman served as Secretary of the Madras Provincial Bar Federation.

His abiding interest in law, particularly relating to labour, and trade union activity led him to an association with politics. He was a member of Constituent Assembly that

drafted the Constitution. He was elected in 1950 to the provisional Parliament and again in 1952 to the first Lok Sabha.

Though re-elected in 1957, he resigned his Lok Sabha seat to join the State government of Madras as Minister. He held the portfolios of Industries, Labour, Cooper-

tion, Power, Transport and Commercial Taxes from 1957 to 1967.

Mr. Venkataraman was appointed member of the Planning Commission in 1967. In the 1977 general elections, when Janata Party swept the polls, he was elected to the Lok Sabha from Madras (South) and he served as

Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee.

In his long and distinguished political career spanning more than four decades he served in key capacities with the International Monetary Fund and the Asian Development Bank. He was a delegate to the U.N. General Assembly in 1953, 1955, 1956, 1958, 1960 and 1961. He led the Indian delegation to the 42nd Session of the International Labour Conference in Geneva in 1958 and represented India in the Inter Parliamentary Conference in Vienna in 1978.

Stickler for rules

In 1980, Mr. Venkataraman was re-elected to the Lok Sabha and he held the Finance and Defence portfolios in the Congress government of Indira Gandhi. A true believer in the Gandhi-Nehru tradition, he always remained a stickler for rules.

He published his biography *My Presidential Years* after his Rashtrapati Bhavan tenure was over.

MADRAS MISCELLANY

S. MUTHIAH



A pioneering labour leader

All the pieces that appeared in the press recently, remembering the late R. Venkataraman, the former President of India, have focussed on his Delhi days. Tamil Nadu seems to have forgotten the signal contribution he made to his Province / State, first as a labour leader nurturing the labour movement, and then as the State's go-getting Industries Minister.

In the early 1940s, when the Congress Party leadership of Madras Province was in jail, the Communists had succeeded in capturing the Madras trade unions. Kamaraj wanted to wrest back the movement. Congress decided to form a labour wing of the Provincial Congress Committee, and Venkataraman, an advocate and freedom fighter, was appointed member-in-charge in 1945. Before long, he and his team, which included K. Guruswami of Simpson's, had 125 trade unions under their umbrella. When the Indian National Trade Union Congress was formed in May 1948, there were differences over the Madras Congress unions joining the national federation. Eventually, the Madras unions joined the INTUC under a compromise formula, but Venkataraman, in November 1952, presided over a meeting that decided that the Madras Congress unions



PROMOTING INDUSTRY R. Venkataraman (FILE PHOTO)

would withdraw from the federation. Meanwhile, Venkataraman had, on July 19, 1948, become the President of the Simpson's Staff Union after its founder K. Guruswami found himself in the middle of a host of differences with and in the Union. Venkataraman's election to the Simpson's Union leadership had, it was said, "a soothing effect on the

simmering Simpson's scene". Of his leadership, it has been stated, "A seasoned advocate who had studied well the labour movements in different parts of the world, he constantly urged that disputes should be argued and settled without production being affected." He urged adjudication of all problems and demands, if agreement could not be reached. On

one occasion, when agreement was reached in June 1951, he succeeded in getting a settlement which involved a scheme for the payment of gratuity — for the first time in the country. Venkataraman led the Simpson's Union till he became Industries Minister in the Madras Government, on April 21, 1957. Guruswami, his lieutenant, succeeded him. In a curious coincidence, reading the obituaries of Venkataraman on January 28, my eyes strayed to a familiar face; it was that of Guruswami whose death on January 28, 2000 was being remembered in an 'In Memoriam' advertisement.

When Venkataraman became Industries Minister, the industrialisation of Madras, that was to become Tamil Nadu, really began. Truly, can it be said he was the 'Father of Industry' in the State? In 1958, the Thiru Vi Ka Industrial Estate was declared open, which, at its peak, was home to 400 industrial units with a turnover of a billion rupees a year on its 450-acre campus. It is depressing to see today the state this brainchild of Venkataraman's is; can the State resurrect it and make it a memorial to the man who went from Madras labour leader to President of India by way of nurturing Industry?

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Tribute to RV

■ To forget R.Venkataraman, popularly known as R.V. is very difficult not only by the citizens of Chennai but also the entire country.

As a Congressman during Satyagraha, trade union leader, Industries Minister of Madras State, parliamentarian, central minister, Vice President and President, he has done his roles perfect to the core.

He remained to the last himself, which was to combine many of the attributes of the man of wisdom and action. A personality of great distinction and an intellectual giant, but so simple and humble he was. He did not belong to Tamil Nadu only but to the entire country.

There is no second opinion that he is one of the ablest champions for trade union rights. The cascading Kundah Hydro-Electric Scheme consists of 5 power houses built with Canadian aid which was put into operation stage by stage between 1957 and 1964 stands testimony for his far-sighted approach as Industries Minister of Madras.

Many of the electricity projects initiated during his period is still in operation with full capacity, thanks to his vision under the leadership of K. Kamaraj.

Another silver lining of his character was that he was able to maintain cordial relationship with both Kamaraj and Rajaji, though their ideas were different. As Editor of 'Swarajya', founded by Khasa Subba Rau, he was forthright in his views without bothering about the consequences. Apart from this, his association with Kanchi Paramacharya was something unique.

In the recent past, he had separated himself from the active politics. For what he had done to this country and especially to Chennai as a Minister of Industries, every citizen should remember him. May his life and messages inspire present day politicians to work for the country's welfare. India can never produce another R.V.

R. Gurumurthy, Parameswari Nagar, Adyar.

அரசியல் பெருந்தகை ஆர்.வி.!

இந்திய அரசியலில் சிறந்து விளங்கிய முன்னாள் குடியரசுத் தலைவர் ஆர்.வெங்கட்ராமனின் மறைவு ஈடுசெய்ய முடியாத பேரிழப்பாகும்.

ஆங்கில ஏகாதிபத்தியத்தை எதிர்த்து சுதந்திரப் போராட்டத்தில் ஈடுபட்டு 1942-44-ல் வேலூர் சிறையில் அடைக்கப்பட்ட காலத்திலிருந்து சுதந்திர இந்தியாவின் குடியரசுத் தலைவராக 1987-92-ல் உயர்ந்தது வரை தனிப்பட்ட முறையில் நிறைவாழ்வு பெற்றவராக, இந்திய அரசியலில் நீண்டகாலத் தொடர்புகொண்ட சிறந்த தலைவராக விளங்கினார்.

நீண்டகால வாழ்க்கைப் பயணத்தில் அவர் பல கட்டங்களை, சோதனைகளைத் தாண்டியிருக்கிறார்; பொறுப்புகளைத் தாங்கியிருக்கிறார். அவருடைய தந்தையார் ராமசாமி, பட்டுக்கோட்டையில் முதன்மையான வழக்குரைஞராகத் திகழ்ந்தவர். தந்தையின் வழிமுறையையொட்டி வெங்கட்ராமனும் 1935-ல் சென்னை சட்டக் கல்லூரியில் படித்து, சென்னை உயர்நீதி மன்றத்தில் வழக்குரைஞராகச் சேர்ந்தார். அப்போது அவர் அதிகமாக ஈடுபாடு காட்டியது தொழிலாளர்களின் பிரச்சனைகளுக்காக வாதாடுவதில்தான். அதில் அதிக வருமானம் இருக்காது என்றாலும் அது தொழிற் சங்கங்களில், பாட்டாளி மக்களிடம் அவருக்கு நன்மதிப்பை வளர்த்தது. காங்கிரஸ் கட்சியில் தொழிற்சங்கப் பிரிவில் அவர் முக்கியப் பங்கு பெற்றார். விடுதலைபெற்ற இந்தியாவில் தொழிலாளர் பிரச்சனைகள் வந்த நேரத்தில் ஆர்.வி.யின் பொறுப்பு வளர்ந்தது. 1946-ம் ஆண்டு இந்திய விடுதலை நெருங்குகிற நேரத்தில் மலேசியா, சிங்கப்பூர் பகுதிகளில் இந்தியர்களுக்கான அவர்களில் பெரும்பாலாக இருந்த தமிழர்களுக்கான வழக்குகளைக் கவனித்து நீதிபெற இந்திய அரசாங்கம் அனுப்பிய வழக்குரைஞர்கள் குழுவில் ஆர்.வி. இருந்தார்.

அரசியல் நிர்ணய சபையில் தீவிரமான உறுப்பினராக வெங்கட்ராமன் இருந்தார். 1950-57 காலத்தில் சுதந்திர இந்தியாவின் தாற்காலிக நாடாளுமன்றத்திலும், முதலாவது மக்களவையிலும் அவர் உறுப்பினராக

இருந்தார். 1957-ம் ஆண்டு அவர் பொதுத் தேர்தலில் வெற்றிபெற்று நாடாளுமன்ற உறுப்பினராக ஆனாலும், சென்னை மாநில முதல்வர் காமராஜ் அழைப்பின் பேரில், அவரது அமைச்சரவையில் பணியாற்ற முற்பட்டார். தொழில்வளம், தொழிலாளர் நலம், கூட்டுறவு அமைப்பு, போக்குவரத்து, வர்த்தகவரி போன்ற பல துறைகளின் அமைச்சராக அவர் பணியாற்றினார். அவர் காலத்தில், தொழில் துறையின் அடிப்படைகளை உருவாக்கும் பல்வேறு திட்டங்களை தொடங்கப்பட்டன.

1967-71 காலத்தில் மத்திய திட்டக்குழு வின் உறுப்பினராகவும், 1977-80-ம் ஆண்டுகளில் நாடாளுமன்றத்தில் எதிர்க்கட்சியாக விளங்கிய காங்கிரஸ் கட்சியின் முக்கிய



இரா.செழியன்

யாத அளவுக்கு அவர் எடுத்துக் கொண்ட உழைப்பும், திறமையும் தான் பெருமைப்படத்தக்கவை. தனிப்பட்ட முறையில் வெங்கட்ராமன் என் குடும்பத்தினருடன் மிக நெருங்கிய தொடர்பும், பற்றுதலும் உடையவர். பட்டுக்கோட்டை உயர்நிலைப் பள்ளியில் என் மூத்த அண்ணன் செளரிராசனும், வெங்கட்ராமனும் உடன் படித்தவர்கள். அதே உயர்நிலைப் பள்ளியில்தான் அண்ணன் நெடுஞ்செழியனும் நானும் படித்தோம். எங்களைச் சந்திக்கும்பொழுதும், பொது நிகழ்ச்சிகளில் கலந்துகொள்ளும்பொழுதும், "நாங்களெல்லாம் பட்டுக்கோட்டை உயர்நிலைப் பள்ளியில் படித்தவர்கள்" என்று அவர் பெருமையாகக் கூறுவார்.



பல பதவிகளை வகிப்பதில் மட்டும் அவர் பெருமை பெறவில்லை. அவர் வகித்த ஒவ்வொரு பதவியிலும் நேர்மையுடன், பொறுப்புடன் எவரும் குறைசொல்ல முடியாத அளவுக்கு அவர் எடுத்துக்கொண்ட உழைப்பும், திறமையும் தான் பெருமைப்படத்தக்கவை.

பேச்சாளராகவும், பொதுக்கணக்குக் குழுவின் தலைவராகவும், 1980-ல் இந்திரா காந்தி ஆட்சியில் பாதுகாப்பு, பின்னர் நிதித்துறை ஆகியவற்றிலும் பணியாற்றினார். 1983-87-ம் ஆண்டுகளில் இந்தியக் குடியரசுத் துணைத் தலைவர்-மாநிலங்களவைத் தலைவர், 1987-92-ம் ஆண்டுகளில் இந்தியக் குடியரசுத் தலைவர் என பொறுப்பான பதவிகளை வகித்துள்ளார்.

பல பதவிகளை வகிப்பதில் மட்டும் அவர் பெருமை பெறவில்லை. அவர் வகித்த ஒவ்வொரு பதவியிலும் நேர்மையுடன், பொறுப்புடன் எவரும் குறைசொல்ல முடி

நான் முதன்முதலாக 1962-ல் நாடாளுமன்ற உறுப்பினரான பின், சென்னை மாகாண தொழில்துறை அமைச்சராக இருந்த அவர், தில்லிக்கு வந்தபோது என்னை அழைத்து மிகவும் பாராட்டி, தொடர்ந்து நன்கு செயல்படுமாறு ஊக்கமளித்தார். 1980-ல் அவர் மத்திய அமைச்சரவையில் நிதி அமைச்சராக இருந்தபோது நான் மாநிலங்களவையில் ஜனதா கட்சி உறுப்பினராக எதிர் வரிசையில் இருந்தேன். அப்போது பல சமயங்களில் முக்கியப் பிரச்சனைகளில் தீவிரமான விவாதங்களில் நான் பேசும்போது கடுமையான குற்றச்சாட்டு

களை முன்வைத்தாலும் அவர் அவற்றை மிக அமைதியுடன் கவனித்து பதிலளிப்பார். சில சமயங்களில் தவறுகளை ஒத்துக் கொண்டு திருத்தங்கள் மேற்கொள்வதாக அறிவிப்பார். அவையிலிருந்து வெளியே வந்து சந்திக்கும்போது அவர் உற்சாகத்துடன் நான் முன்வைத்த ஆதாரங்களையும், வாதங்களையும் பாராட்டுவார்.

2002-ல் என்னுடைய 80-வது பிறந்தநாள் விழாவிற்கு அவர் அனுப்பிய செய்தியில் என்னை வாழ்த்திய பிறகு, "என்னுடைய நாடாளுமன்ற பேச்சுகளைத் திரட்டி வெளியிடுவது நல்லது. அத்துடன் எழுப்பிய பிரச்சனைக்கான விளக்கத்தையும் அவற்றுக்குக் கிடைத்த முடிவுகளையும் குறிப்பிட வேண்டும்" என்று அறிவுரை தந்தார். ஆயினும், சென்ற ஆண்டுதான் எனது நாடாளுமன்ற பேச்சுகளை தொகுக்கும் வேலை தொடங்கியது. அதுபற்றி நான் எழுதிய கடிதத்திற்கு பதிலாக, 2008 ஜூலை 10-ம் தேதியிட்ட அவரது வாழ்த்துச் செய்தியில் "என்னுடைய நாடாளுமன்ற பேச்சுகளின் தொகுப்பும், நீ ஆற்றிய பணியும் வருங்கால நாடாளுமன்ற உறுப்பினர்களுக்கு நல்ல தொரு வழிகாட்டியாக இருக்கும் என்று நான் நம்புகிறேன்" என்று கூறியிருந்தார்.

என்னுடைய நாடாளுமன்ற பேச்சுகளின் தொகுப்பு நூல் வரும் பிப்ரவரி மாதத்தில் வெளியிடப்படும் என்று அவருடைய உதவியாளரிடம் இரண்டு வாரத்துக்கு முன் தெரிவித்திருந்தேன். அந்த நூல் வெளிவந்தாலும் அவ்வாறான முயற்சிக்கு என்னைத் தூண்டிய வெங்கட்ராமனிடம் நூலை அளிக்கும் நல்வாய்ப்பு இனி இல்லாமல் போய்விட்டது. இருப்பினும் அவர் தந்த வாழ்த்துரை என் நூலில் முதலிடம் பெறும்.

வெங்கட்ராமன் நீண்ட காலம் வாழ்ந்தார் என்பது மட்டுமல்ல, பல உயர் பதவிகளை சிறப்பற வகித்தார் என்பது மட்டுமல்ல, எல்லாவற்றுக்கும் அடிப்படையாக அவர் ஒரு நேர்மையான அரசியல்வாதி. நாட்டுக்காக, மக்களுக்காக ஒய்வின்றி பாடுபட்டவர். அன்பில், பண்பாட்டில், அடக்கத்தில், மாற்றாரை மதிக்கும் தன்மையில் அவர் தலைசிறந்து விளங்கினார். அவரால் தமிழகமும், இந்தியாவும் மிகவும் பெருமை பெற்றுள்ளன.



**உன்னத
லட்சியம்...
உள்ளத்
தூய்மை..!**

ஆர்.வெங்கடராமன் (4.12.1910 - 27.1.2009)

பத்து ஆண்டுகளுக்கு முன் தமிழ்நாடு தொழில் வளத்தில் பெருமைப்படக்கூடிய நிலையில் இருக்கவில்லை. 'வடக்கு வளருகிறது, தெற்கு தேய்கிறது' என்ற குற்றச்சாட்டு வலுத்திருந்த காலம் அது.

ஆனால், கடந்த பத்தாண்டுகளில் தமிழகம் தொழில் துறையில் வியக்கத்தக்க வகையில் முன்னேற்றம் அடைந்துள்ளதை ஒருவரும் மறுக்க முடியாது.

முதல் ஐந்தாண்டுத் திட்ட காலத்தில் நூற்றுக்கு மேற்பட்ட சிறு தொழில்களே இருந்த நம் மாநிலத்தில் இன்று ஏழாயிரத்திற்கும் அதிகமான தொழிற்சாலைகள் காட்சியளிக்கின்றன. நெய்வேலி நிலக்கரித் திட்டம் நாட்டிற்கே ஓர் அணிகலனாகத் திகழ்கிறது. மின்சார உற்பத்தி பன்மடங்காகப் பெருகி, பல தொழில்களுக்கு உயிர் நாடியாக ஒளி தருகிறது. இருபத்து நான்கு தொழிற்பேட்டைகள் இணையற்ற வகையில் இயங்கிக் கொண்டிருக்கின்றன. கல்பாக்கம் அணு மின்சார நிலையம் தென்னகத்திற்கே பெருமை தேடித் தரப் போகிறது.

இவ்வாறு எண்ணற்ற தொழிற்சாலைகள் ஏற்படவும், பல்லாயிரக்கணக்கான மக்களுக்கு வேலை வாய்ப்பு அளிக்கவும், தொழிற்கல்வி முன்னேறவும், சிறு தொழில்களும் பெருதொழில்களும் ஒருங்கே வளரவும் காரணமாயுள்ள தமிழக சர்க்காரை எத்தனை பாராட்டினாலும் தகும்.

இத்துறையில் தொழிலமைச்சர் திரு.ஆர்.வெங்கடராமன் அரும் பணியாற்றி, அரிய சாதனைகள் புரிந்துள்ளார்.

தொழில் அமைச்சராவதற்கு முன் தொழிலாளர் தலைவராக இருந்து 'ஆர்.வி.' என்ற அன்புப் பெயரைப் பெற்றிருப்பவர் திருவெங்கடராமன். தொழிற்சங்கத்தில் தொண்டாற்றியபோது, தொழிலில் உள்ள இடையூறுகளையும், தொழில் அதிபர்களின் பிரச்சனைகளையும் நன்கு உணர்ந்திருந்த காரணத்தால், நாட்டில் தொழில் வளருவதற்கு எத்தகைய சூழ்நிலை தேவை என்று அறியும் வாய்ப்பு அவருக்குக் கிட்டியிருந்தது. ஆகவே, தமது பதவிக் காலத்தில் தமிழகத்தையே தொழில்மயமாக்கி சீரும் சிறப்பும் மிகுந்ததாகச் செய்ய வேண்டும் என்று கங்கணம் கட்டிக் கொண்டு, கருமமே கண்ணாய் இருந்து வருகிறார். புதுப்புதுத் தொழில்கள் தோன்றுவதற்கான திட்டங்களை வகுத்து, அவற்றைத் தொடங்குவதற்கான நபர்களைக் கண்டுபிடித்து, தேவையான நிதி வசதி செய்து கொடுத்து, தடைகளை அகற்றி, அகலும்புகளும் அயராது உழைத்து வருகிறார்.

வெளிநாடுகளுக்குப் போகும் போதெல்லாம்கூட அவர், அந்த நாடுகள் எந்தெந்த துறைகளில் எந்தெந்த வகைகளில் தமிழ் நாட்டின் முன்னேற்றத்திற்கு உதவக்கூடும் என்று ஆராய்ந்து வரத் தவறுவதில்லை. அது மட்டுமல்ல, அரும்பாடுபட்டு வெளிநாட்டு உதவிகள் கிடைக்கவும் வழி

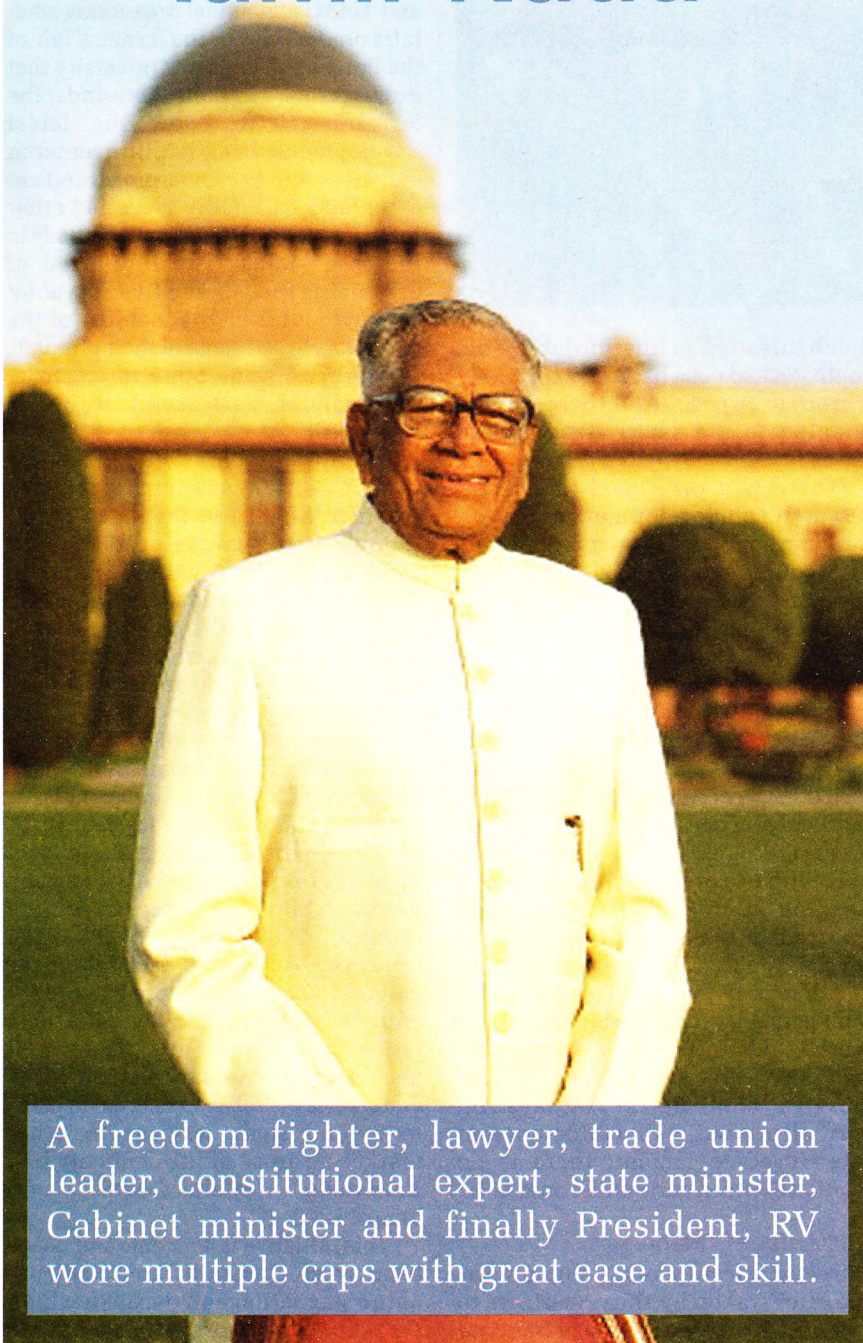
செய்து வருகிறார்.

திரு.வெங்கடராமனின் கருத்துக்களில் புதுமை இருக்கும்; பேச்சில் தெளிவு இருக்கும்; பிரச்சனைகளை ஆராய்வதில் மதி நுட்பம் இருக்கும்; செயலாற்றுவதில் ஊக்கமும் உறுதியும் இருக்கும்.

பொதுத் துறை என்றும், தனியார் துறை என்றும் வேற்றுமை பாராட்டிக் கொண்டிராமல், உற்பத்தியைப் பெருக்குவது எப்படி என்பதைப் பற்றியே எந்நேரமும் சிந்தித்துக் கொண்டிருப்பவர் வெங்கடராமன். முதலீடு செய்பவர்களின் ஊக்கத்தையும் உற்சாகத்தையும் குறைத்து தொழில் வளருவதற்குத் தடையாக இருக்கும் விதிமுறைகளைக் கண்டிக்கவும் அவர் தயங்குவதில்லை. அந்நியச் சொலாவணி தேவையற்ற சிறு தொழில்கள் துவங்குவதற்கு தாராளமாக லைசென்சுகள் வழங்கப்படவேண்டும் என்றும், தொழிலதிபர்களுக்கு ஊக்கமளிக்கும் வகையில் வரிகள் குறைக்கப்படவேண்டும் என்றும் அவர் பல முறை வற்புறுத்தியிருக்கிறார்.

'உற்பத்தியைப் பெருக்கி அந்நாள் கிடைக்கும் செல்வத்தைச் சீராகப் பங்கிடுவதுதான் உண்மையான சோஷலிசம்' என்பதில் அசையாத நம்பிக்கை உடையவர் திரு.வெங்கடராமன். இவரைப் போல் உன்னத லட்சியத்துடனும் உள்ளத் தூய்மையுடனும் பணிபுரியும் அமைச்சர்கள் இருந்துவிட்டால், நாட்டின் பொருளாதார வளர்ச்சியைப் பற்றிக் கவலையே படவேண்டாம்.

The architect of industrial Tamil Nadu



A freedom fighter, lawyer, trade union leader, constitutional expert, state minister, Cabinet minister and finally President, RV wore multiple caps with great ease and skill.

It was the late 1970s. I received a call from S Viswanathan, chairman, Seshasayee Group of companies, requesting me to meet R Venkataraman (RV) that evening for rendering possible assistance in printing the Labour Law Journal that RV was then editing.

I met RV that evening. Dressed in a simple khadi dhoti and kurta, he was busy proof-reading through his thick glasses in a modest room at the end of the flight of stairs leading to the terrace in dim light. Through the next couple of hours RV took me on a delightful journey down the memory lane. It provided rich insights into the several instances when he took unconventional and unorthodox steps that contributed so much to the rapid industrialisation of Tamil Nadu.

I recall one such: RV persuaded J H Tarapore, C S Loganatha Mudaliar and T S Narayanaswamy to set up the South India Shipping Corporation (SISCO). RV offered equity investment by the state financial corporation, the Madras Industrial Investment Corporation (later TIIC) of a crore of rupees. It was the first major attempt of Tamil Nadu in independent India to set up a shipping company and RV was keen to assist the same. The company placed orders with a German shipyard at Bremen for the acquisition of six bulk carriers.

RV recounted: "The German company wanted the deal to be completed before 31 March and demanded payment before that date. T A Verghese, then finance secretary (a member of the ICS, he holds the record for this post and is among the most efficient of the civil servants), pointed to a procedural difficulty: that the memorandum and articles of association of MIIIC did not provide for equity investment in a corporate not defined as an industrial unit and that shipping was at that time not eligible for such finance. It needed amendment of the M&AA which would take time beyond 31 March."

RV took up the matter to chief minister K Kamaraj who appreciated the need for this investment. He called for Verghese and asked him to find a solution. Verghese suggested providing for this sum in the states budget to meet the deadline and



In RV's demise, the country has lost a stalwart political leader who will be remembered long for his contributions to industrialisation and flow of investments into the state of Tamil Nadu and also as a model President of the country. We offer our condolences to his bereaved family.



attending to the funds transfer after completing the necessary amendments. "Thus it was a precedent of sorts when the state budget provided for the equity of a private corporation," narrated RV. (Some three decades later when the Essar Group took over SISCO, it paid a humungous sum for the shares held by TIIC).

He constantly encouraged investment in the state

RV was truly the architect of the industrialisation of Tamil Nadu. Making use of the policy of licensing, RV procured licences for a vast range of industries from paper to aluminum to viscose fibre to shipping... apart from procuring dozens of licences for more familiar industries like textiles, sugar and cement. He used to persuade new generation entrepreneurs to set up industrial units assuring them assistance to procure technical and financial collaboration as also funding support through equity and term loans by MIIC and other Central development banks. Tamil Nadu witnessed nithya kalyanam-pachai thoranam with one industrial unit or other getting established every day. RV maintained close rapport with budding entrepreneurs and encouraged them to invest in industry.

Under Kamaraj, RV handled an array of portfolios from 1957 to 1967 - industry, power, labour, transport, cooperation and commercial taxes. Teaming well with then Cabinet minister T T Krishnamachari and many illustrious bureaucrats of Delhi, RV also attracted rich Central investments in Neyveli Lignite

Corporation, BHEL-Tiruchi, Heavy Vehicles factory-Avadi, Madras Refineries, Madras Fertilisers and the small arms factory.

Golden decade of industrialisation

That decade under RV was the golden era for the industrialisation of the state. With his keen interest in automobiles and ancillaries, RV also encouraged the setting up of dozens of units that included the rich crop of component units of TVS at Padi, of Amalgamations at Sembium, units of the Rane Group and vehicle manufacturers like TAFE. Today Tamil Nadu accounts for production of around 30 per cent of vehicles and 35 per cent of auto components justifying RV's reference to Chennai as the Detroit of India.

Not just medium and large industries; RV was also the father of the small industry movement. The Guindy Industrial Estate pioneered the concept of providing common facilities that encouraged new generation entrepreneurs to set up industrial units with limited capital. The movement caught on rapidly with dozens of such estates proliferating in quick time. Thousands of small and tiny industries flourished in this state under the benign lead of RV.

RV was steadfast in his loyalty to Kamaraj and moved over to Indira Congress only after the latter's demise. What a meteoric ascent that ensued! RV assumed charge as the Union finance minister in 1980, then as defence minister, vice president and President of India.

A freedom fighter, lawyer, trade union leader and constitutional expert, RV represented India in several UN bodies and multilateral institutions. This experience stood by him in good stead in steering the transition of the federal government from a single party rule to the era of coalitions during his tenure as president during 1987-92. He saw four prime ministers during his presidency with three of these heading minority governments and there was also the proliferation of regional parties with tenuous coalitions. RV was a textbook president who preferred to go by the rule book. The healthy convention he established of calling the party with the largest following to form the government, and not to go by the manipulative display post-elections, came to be regarded as a healthy practice.

It appeared a miracle for a Brahmin from Tamil Nadu to have risen to the highest post of the country, viewed against the virulent and long anti-Brahmin tirade in the state. The DMK has not permitted a member of this caste to get into the party and gain prominence. For close to four decades, no vice chancellor of any of the state-funded university has been headed by a member of this community.

DMK supremo Karunanidhi had a special grouse against RV for signing the dismissal of his government in 1991 recommended by then prime minister Chandra Sekhar. Later in the 1990s, when prime minister A B Vajpayee constituted a commission to look into necessary amendments to the constitution and suggested RV to head this, the DMK supremo reportedly shot this proposal down and Justice Venkatachalaiah was chosen instead.

I chanced to interview then AP chief minister Chandrababu Naidu when he received a phone call from one of the senior officials of AP from Delhi. Naidu enquired why RV was not chosen and was shrewd enough to ensure that one from AP (Justice Jeevan Reddy) was part of the commission.

In the post-presidential years, RV leaned towards the BJP and was close to Vajpayee. His loud thinking on the formation of a national government did offer an interesting solution to the kichidi of coalition governments at the Centre that are at the mercy of the regional chieftains. But then no change can be brought about without their involvement. -SV

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Bhavan's Journal

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Editorial

RV- Always Above Partisan Politics

The death of former President of India and Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan on January 28, has deprived the nation of one of the most statesmanly and constitutionally correct Presidents to have guided the destiny of an India deeply disturbed by the prospect of mandateless governments and opportunistic alliances, disfiguring its democratic character.

In five years he saw four Prime Ministers come and go and political stability threatened by short-lived governments and fragmentary politics. The Bhavan family lost a person of public eminence who upheld and promoted values and ideals prescribed and practised by Kulapati

Munshi.

Half a century of holding high political offices with distinction and excellence unblemished by taints that characterise such offices, RV (as he was referred to by colleagues and admirers) never allowed power to corrupt him or make him arrogant.

As Industry Minister in Tamil Nadu he laid the



R. Venkataraman

In every crisis- his presidential tenure had many- he went strictly by rules and was always above partisan politics.

foundations of that State's economic progress. He carried his knowledge of the law and the constitution to put his stamp on every position he held from thereon. In every crisis- his presidential tenure had many- he went strictly by rules and was always above partisan politics.

Above all, he remained free from personal ambitions and familial interests to promote. In his book, 'My Presidential Years', he refers to Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee's offer to step down as Prime Minister, if he (RV) agreed to head a National Government of all parties.

RV writes: 'I told him that the President should not set this wrong and dangerous precedent, as it might kindle

ambitions in future Presidents to meddle and indulge in machinations against the Prime Minister.'

As President of the Bhavan, his one major initiative was to work out a national consensus on keeping criminals out of elections.

He called upon political parties to desist from fielding candidates with records of corruption and criminality. He also collected together persons of high integrity and eminence in public life to advise the national government on finding workable solutions for ending the Kashmir imbroglio.

That his wisdom and sage counsel fell on deaf years did not deter him; what did deter him was physical health. He remained lucid and mentally alive to what was happening in the country until his last days.

The Bhavan family pays its homage to RV for his services to the country and to the Bhavan at crucial moments to both. ■

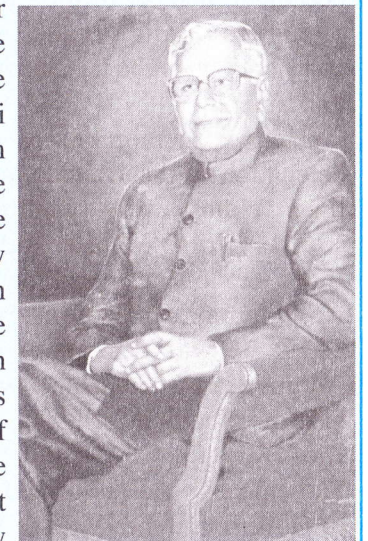
Shraddhanjali

R. Venkataraman

04-12-1910 – 27-01-2009

J. Veeraraghavan*

That which is born must surely die. So says the Bhagawad Gita, as indeed our common sense. But Nachiketas in Katopanishad compels Yama to reveal to him the secret of conquest over death. Yama tells him, in effect, that there is neither birth nor death, if one realises what one is, namely, the immortal self. Such a realisation was given to Ramaswamy Venkataraman, former President of India and Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan (2000-2003), by the deeply revered late Paramacharya of Kanchi whose Grace was always upon him or perhaps it grew in on him when he chose to study year after year the Vedas at the divine feet of Swami Dayananda Saraswathi at his Ashram in Coimbatore. Whatever the process, RV has attained that state of universal benevolence and identity that could be called immortality even when in mortal coils. Now those mortal coils are gone. One can reflect, howsoever briefly, on his great contributions to the making of our Nation. As a young lawyer he aspired to become a government servant but was persuaded by



R. Venkataraman

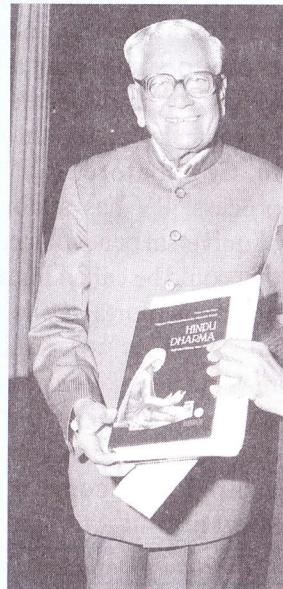
* Director, Bhavan's Delhi Kendra.

Bhashyam and other Congress leaders not to become the slave of a slave; this led him into the labour movement and was connected with railway workers, working journalists, tea estate workers and several other labour organisations.

He actively participated in the Quit India Movement of 1942 and was imprisoned for two years. In 1944, he founded, along with Kamaraj, the labour wing of Tamil Nadu Congress Committee and started the Labour Law Journal in 1949. He was also Secretary of the Madras Bar Association between 1947 and 1950 and started his practice in the Supreme Court in 1951.

He was a Member of Parliament between 1950 and 1952 and was elected to the Lok Sabha in 1952 elections. Pandit Nehru was deeply impressed by his hard work, legal knowledge, fearlessness and articulation and his commitment to the Party. As a result, he became a member of the Congress Parliamentary Committee in 1953-1954 and made significant contributions to the legislative process in Parliament.

He was a member of the Indian delegation to the United Nations seven times, almost every year from 1953 to 1961, as Prime Minister Nehru felt that India needed his participation in this world forum. For 24 years, from 1955 to 1979, he was a member of the UN Administrative Tribunal, of which he was also the Chairman. He also represented India in the ILO and the Inter-Parliamentary meets. He held the position of Governor in the IMF, the World Bank and the Asian Bank.



He was elected to the Lok Sabha in 1957 but resigned to join the Ministry of Kamaraj in Tamil Nadu where he looked after the Department of Industry, Labour, Cooperation, Electricity and Transport and Commercial Taxes. Between 1957 and 1967, he did pioneering work to develop industries in Tamil Nadu and earned the title of Father of Industrial Development in Tamil Nadu.

In 1967 he became a member of the Planning Commission. Perhaps it was then that the Venkataraman Committee on Public Utilities laid down the objective of 12% rate of return for such utilities. Had the Indian polity stuck to his recommendations India's fiscal and economic development would have been a different and greater story. But the polity was too weak and fragmented to achieve the objective set forth by him.

After 1971 he became the Editor of Swarajya, founded by Rajaji. He was among the few Congressmen elected to the Lok



J.Veeraraghavan, Director, B.V. Bhavan, Delhi, presenting flowers to Shri R. Venkataraman on the occasion of his 95th birthday

Bhavan President

Shri R. Venkataraman was President of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan from 2000-to-2003. During his tenure, Shri Venkataraman guided the destiny of the Bhavan with great distinction, sagacity and dedication and provided the Bhavan's Family Worldwide with inspiring leadership.

During his Presidentship he served the Bhavan with great zeal and dedication. Under his sagacious advice and direction, the Bhavan maintained its steady pace of progress and intensified its cultural and educational activities.

Shri Venkataraman initiated steps to introduce necessary reforms in Bhavan's Constitution and administrative set-up as also to put up a firm modern system of management at the office level. He has used his great personal repute and contacts to further the interests of the Bhavan and given it new creative ideas and vision to enlarge the scope of the Bhavan's activities.



As President of Bhavan Shri R. Venkataraman receiving the Gandhi Peace Prize from the President of India Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam on March 18, 2003, at New Delhi.

Sabha in 1977 elections and chaired the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament.

In 1980 he became Finance Minister under Indira Gandhi, was Defence Minister between 1982-1984 and held additional charge of Industry and Home.

In August 1984 he became the Vice-President of India and in July, 1987, he became 8th President. The five years he was President were among the most turbulent and eventful and the several Prime Ministers during this period had the benefit of his wise counsel. He tried to lay the foundations of sound conventions of a Cabinet form of Government and set an example by always calling on the leaders of groups to form the Government based on their strength of numbers and strictly in that order so that haggling and horse trading might be avoided.

In addition to his statesmanship and contribution to the policies of his country, his work in promoting Gandhian thought and action has been most valuable. He was always a solid and powerful supporter of Gandhian institutions and ways of thinking.

His contributions to social, cultural and religious institutions has also been immense. The Swamimalai (Malai Mandir) Temple at Vasant Vihar, New Delhi, had his full support and guidance and patronage. When I was Secretary, Culture, in the Government of India, he, as the then President of India, sent for me and expressed his distress at the lack of action on his suggestion for making Kalakshetra of Madras a Central Government Institution. On examination of relevant papers I found there was quite some hesitation in the Ministry as to whether the Government could run such an eminent cultural institution. However I did persuade the Government to take this step, also ensuring full autonomous functioning, so that the great vision of Rukmini Devi Arundale could continue to inspire younger generations. RV was very happy

that this great institution was saved from manipulation by vested interests.

In him we had a statesman whose deep spiritual wisdom, and refined cultural sensibilities informed all his actions in political, social and economic activities. He had great admiration for Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan and Kulapati K. M. Munshi.

He had friends and admirers in all political parties and all sections of society. It was on December 4, 2008, that Shri Gharekhan, Chairman of Delhi Kendra of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan and Indira Gandhi Centre of Arts, Shri Ashok Pradhan, Advisor of the Bhavan and I called on him and had his warm blessings in response to our greetings. Little did we know that he was so close to shedding the mortal coils of his immortal self. ■

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தமிழ்நாடு சட்டமன்றப் பேரவை

2009, ஜனவரி 28, புதன்கிழமை
திருவள்ளூர் ஆண்டு 2040, தை 15

சென்னை தலைமைச் செயலகத்திலுள்ள சட்டமன்றப் பேரவை
மண்டபத்தில் காலை 9.30 மணி அளவில் மாண்புமிகு பேரவைத் தலைவர்
திரு. இரா. ஆவுடையப்பன் அவர்கள் தலைமையில் பேரவை கூடியது.

இரங்கல் தீர்மானம்

திரு. ஆர். வெங்கட்ராமன்

முன்னாள் இந்தியக் குடியரசுத் தலைவர் அவர்கள் மறைவு குறித்து

மாண்புமிகு பேரவைத் தலைவர்: கீழ்க்காணும் இரங்கல் தீர்மானத்தினை
பேரவைமுன் வைக்கிறேன்:-

“சுதந்திர போராட்ட வீரரும், தமிழ்நாட்டு அரசியலிலும், இந்திய தேசிய அரசியலிலும் தனியொரு வரலாறு படைத்தவரும், இந்தியத் திருநாட்டின் எட்டாவது குடியரசுத் தலைவருமான திரு. ராமசாமி வெங்கட்ராமன் அவர்கள் தனது 99-வது அகவையில் 27.01.2009 அன்று புதுதில்லியில் மறைவுற்ற செய்தியறிந்து இப்பேரவை அதிர்ச்சியும் ஆற்றொணாத்த துயரமும் கொள்கிறது.

திரு. ஆர். வெங்கட்ராமன் அவர்கள் இந்தியச் சுதந்திரப் போராட்டத்தில் ஈடுபட்டு 1942 ஆம் ஆண்டு "வெள்ளையனே வெளியேறு" இயக்கத்தில் கலந்து கொண்டு இரண்டு ஆண்டுகள் சிறை சென்றார்.

1952-57 ஆம் ஆண்டுகளில், முதல் இந்திய பாராளுமன்ற உறுப்பினராகப் பணியாற்றினார். பின்னர், 1957 ஆம் ஆண்டு நடைபெற்ற பாராளுமன்ற பொதுத் தேர்தலில் வெற்றி பெற்ற போதிலும் அப்பதவியை இராஜினாமா செய்து விட்டு தமிழக அரசில், 1957-67 ஆம் ஆண்டுகளில் தொழில், கூட்டுறவு, போக்குவரத்து மற்றும் வணிகத் துறைகளில் அமைச்சராக திறம்பட பணியாற்றினார். அவ்வமயம், அவர் தமிழக மேலவை முன்னவராகவும் பணியாற்றினார்.

1977 ஆம் ஆண்டு நடைபெற்ற தேர்தலில் பாராளுமன்றத்திற்குத் தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பட்டு உறுப்பினராகப் பணியாற்றினார். 1980 ஆம் ஆண்டு மீண்டும் பாராளுமன்றத்திற்குத் தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பட்டு, திருமதி. இந்திரா காந்தி தலைமையிலான அமைச்சரவையில், நிதித் துறை அமைச்சராக சிறப்புறப் பணியாற்றினார். பின்னர், பாதுகாப்பு அமைச்சராகவும் பணியாற்றினார். 1984 ஆம் ஆண்டு முதல் 1987 ஆம் ஆண்டு வரை குடியரசுத் துணைத் தலைவராகப் பணியாற்றினார். 1987 ஆம் ஆண்டு முதல் 1992 ஆம் ஆண்டு வரை இந்தியாவின் எட்டாவது குடியரசுத் தலைவராகச் சிறப்புறப் பணியாற்றினார்.

அவரது மறைவால், அவரை இழந்து வருந்தும் அவர்தம் குடும்பத்தினர்க்கு இப்பேரவை ஆழ்ந்த இரங்கலையும், அனுதாபத்தையும் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்கிறது.”

மாண்புமிகு பேரவைத் தலைவர்: இந்த இரங்கல் தீர்மானத்தை நிறைவேற்றும் முகத்தானும் மறைந்த இம்மாமனிதருக்கு மரியாதை செலுத்தும் வகையிலும், மாண்புமிகு உறுப்பினர்கள் அனைவரும் எழுந்து நின்று இரண்டு மணித்துளிகள் அமைதி காக்குமாறு கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்.

(உறுப்பினர்கள் அனைவரும் இரண்டு மணித்துளிகள் எழுந்து நின்று அமைதி காக்க, மாண்புமிகு பேரவைத் தலைவர் அவர்களால் முன்வைக்கப்பெற்ற இரங்கல் தீர்மானம் ஒருமனதாக நிறைவேற்றப்பட்டது. மறைந்த இப்பெருந்ததைக்கு மரியாதை தெரிவிக்கும் வகையில் பேரவை அலுவல்கள் ஏதும் எடுத்துக்கொள்ளப்படாமல் நாள் முழுவதும் ஒத்திவைக்கப்பெற்றது.)



பேரவைத் தலைவர்,
தமிழ்நாடு சட்டமன்றப் பேரவை.