



SPEAKER

C.H. MOHAMMED KOYA

"One unmistakable mark of a Great Man," it has been said, "is the power of making durable impression upon people he meets; a second is to have handled matters in such a manner that the course of events is continually influenced by what he did." Judged by these yardsticks, Shri C.H. Mohammed Koya was truly one of the most outstanding personalities in the history of modern Kerala.

Adorning the seat of the Speaker of the second Kerala Legislative Assembly, after the unexpected demise of Janab K.M. Seethi Sahib, Shri Mohammed Koya played many parts with distinction – Journalist, Editor, Author, Orator, Legislator and Administrator.

Born on July 15, 1927 as the son of Payampunathil Shri Ali Musaliar and Smt. Mariyumma at Atholi in Calicut District, he had his early education in the Kongannur Aided Elementary

School, Velur Mappila Elementary School and Quilandy Board High School.

In his early years, Shri C.H. Mohammed Koya served for a short term in the Kozhikode District Muslim League Committee and in the Municipal Office in Calicut. Subsequently, he served in the editorial staff of 'Chandrika'. In 1951, Shri C.H. Mohammed Koya was elected to the national executive of IUML and shortly afterwards, was elected as Councillor of Calicut Municipality.

Shri C.H. Mohammed Koya was elected to the Kerala Legislative Assembly in 1957 from Tanur Constituency. He was again elected to the second KLA from the same constituency in 1960. Leader of the Muslim League Parliamentary Party in the Assembly, Shri C.H. Mohammed Koya became Speaker on June 9, 1961 on the demise of Shri Seethi Sahib and continued till November 10, 1961.

Though the youngest of Presiding Officers, he conducted the business with flair and distinction. In the midst, he found time to indulge in his favourite pastimes of reading and writing.

When Muslim League quit the political alliance at State level, Shri Mohammed Koya resigned Speakership and contested the election successfully from the Calicut Lok Sabha Constituency.

Again, in the State Assembly elections held in 1967, Shri C.H. Mohammed Koya won by a vast majority, contesting from Mankada Constituency. In the ministry headed by Shri E.M.S. Namboodiripad, Shri C.H. Mohammed Koya handled the portfolio of Education. He continued as Minister for Education in the succeeding ministries headed by Shri C. Achutha Menon, Shri K.Karunakaran and Shri A.K. Antony, right up to the Nineth Ministry

headed by Shri P. K. Vasudevan Nair. As Minister for Education, Shri Mohammed Koya was instrumental in formulating many progressive reforms. He had also handled the portfolios of Home and Finance.

On October 12, 1979, Shri Mohammed Koya became the Chief Minister of Kerala and continued up to December 1, 1979. In the next UDF Ministry headed by Shri K. Karunakaran, Shri Mohammed Koya adorned the seat of Deputy Chief Minister. Continuing in the seat even after the ministry was re-constituted in 1982, after the General Elections, Shri C.H. Mohammed Koya stayed there till his untimely demise in the ensuing year.

Shri Mohammed Koya had also served as Chairman of Assurance Committee during 1958-59 and Public Accounts Committee during 1980-82.

A gifted writer with an amazing sense of humour, Shri C.H. Mohammed Koya also has to his credit no less than eight delightful volumes, like 'My Haj Pilgrimage', 'Caux – London – Cairo', 'The Malaysia I saw', 'How Legislative Assembly Works', 'Soviet Union', 'Muslim Rule in India through Stories', 'Five Days in Sri Lanka' and 'Travel Around the World'. Along with, Shri Mohammed Koya continued to remain Chief Editor of 'Chandrika' in the midst of a tight schedule.

In the course of an illustrious public life spanning over three decades, Shri C.H. Mohammed Koya played many roles with distinction.

His wife was Smt. Amina and they have three children, Dr. M.K. Muneer, former Minister and MLA for five terms representing Kozhikode South Constituency in the 14th KLA being his only son.

Shri C.H. Mohammed Koya passed away on September 28, 1983. The Assembly paid homage to him on November 25, 1983.