



SPEAKER

K.M. SEETHI SAHIB

Janab K.M. Seethi, popularly called Seethi Sahib by those around him, occupied the Chair of the Speaker of Kerala Legislative Assembly from March 12, 1960 to April 17, 1961. Born in 1899 as the son of Haji Seethi Mohammed and Smt. A.K. Fatima Beevi in an affluent family in Kodungalloor, Shri Seethi Sahib later came to be regarded as one of the stalwart figures in the line of administrators.

A law graduate who groomed into a successful lawyer, Shri Seethi Sahib did his schooling in Kodungalloor High School and completed Intermediate from Ernakulam Maharaja's in 1917. He enrolled as an advocate in Madras High Court in 1927 and started practice in Ernakulam and Tellicherry.

As many of his generation, Shri Seethi Sahib also joined politics as a student, taking part in the freedom struggle. He took active part in the Non Co-operation Movement in 1921 and had also represented Kerala State in the Lahore Congress in 1930. He however left the Congress in 1933. He was elected to Cochin Legislative Assembly twice, in 1928 and 1931 unanimously, before he became a Member of Kerala Legislature.

After becoming an active worker of the Muslim League in 1937, Shri Seethi Sahib was elected to Madras Legislative Assembly in 1946 and 1952 from the Malappuram Constituency.

Shri Seethi Sahib's entry into the Kerala Legislative Assembly was in 1960, elected from Kuttippuram Constituency. His personal charisma coupled with leadership qualities ensured him the coveted post of the Speaker of the Assembly, right on his debut.

As one known for his integrity, character, courage of conviction and honesty of purpose, Shri Seethi Sahib was able to conduct deliberations of the Assembly successfully, adding to the grace and dignity of the House.

As a public man, he was particularly acclaimed for his qualities, which brought him distinguished success. His suavity of manners, his inexhaustible patience, his wide knowledge of men and things, the liberal and disarming way in which he approached public questions, all these combined, made his public career one of great distinction and enduring success.

Apart from being a statesman, Shri Seethi Sahib was a gifted orator, writer and a dedicated social worker, who toiled for the upliftment and well-being of the backward sections of the society. Many educational institutions owed their existence to him. And as a lawyer, he attained eminence of a rare degree. Again, as founder member of 'Chandrika', Shri Seethi Sahib found time for literary contributions, even amidst a tight schedule.

Smt. Khadija was his wife and they have one son and three daughters.

Years of unceasing toil took its toll on Shri Seethi Sahib's health and culminated in his passing away on April 17, 1961, while still in Office. The Assembly paid homage to him on June 8, 1961.

