



SPEAKER

M. VIJAYAKUMAR

Shri M. Vijayakumar, who rose to eminence through student movements and later became an experienced legislator, graced the Chair of the Speaker in the tenth Kerala Legislative Assembly.

Born on October 5, 1949 as the son of Shri V. Madhavan Pillai and Smt. B. Thankamma, Shri Vijayakumar was actively interested in political activities even from his student days. He entered into active politics after taking Law Degree from the University of Kerala.

As a student activist, he was in the forefront of many agitations including the one against corruption in private educational institutions in Kerala. He played an active role in the formation of Students Federation of India in 1970 and the Democratic Youth Federation of India in 1980 and served as General

Secretary of SFI. He became State Secretary and later All India President of DYFI. Shri Vijayakumar was arrested several times and had been imprisoned for various periods too, including the period of Emergency. The historic Parliament march raising the slogan 'Education for All, Job for All' was spearheaded by him. The novel campaign for promoting national integration and communal harmony named 'Human Chain' was organized mainly by his efforts. He was also a member of the Senate and Syndicate of the University of Kerala.

Shri M. Vijayakumar was elected to the eighth, ninth, tenth & twelfth Kerala Legislative Assembly from the Trivandrum North Constituency. He served as Chairman of the Committee on Petitions from 1989 to 1991. Shri Vijayakumar became the sixteenth Speaker of Kerala Legislative Assembly on May 30, 1996 and occupied the Chair till June 4, 2001. Several reforms were initiated during his stewardship to improve the quality of the Business in the House. These include regulating the number of questions to a maximum of five, widening the scope of Privileges Committee to include ethics under its purview and providing for presentation of review report of the Subject Committees on the Demand for Grants in the same financial year itself.

His speakership was witness to many

memorable events. The Assembly celebrated its 40th anniversary under his guidance. All the living members of the first Kerala Legislative Assembly were honoured on this occasion. It was during his speakership that the last meeting of the Assembly in the old chamber in Government Secretariat Buildings was held on June 29, 1998 and the first meeting of the Assembly in the new chamber in the Legislature Complex was held on June 30, 1998. The old Assembly building was declared as a historical monument and dedicated to the nation by the Vice President of India, Shri Krishan Kant during his speakership. Live telecasting of Assembly proceedings and computerisation work were also started during his speakership. An ad-hoc Committee was also constituted in 1996 by him to review the working of the Subject Committees.

Shri M. Vijayakumar served as the Minister for Law, Parliamentary Affairs, Sports and Youth Affairs and Ports during 2006-11 in the Ministry headed by Shri V. S. Achuthanandan. He also held the portfolio of PWD for a short term.

Now, Shri Vijayakumar is a Member of the State Committee, CPI(M) and Chairman, KTDC.

Smt. Sreekala is his wife and they have one son and one daughter.

