



SPEAKER

R. SANKARANARAYANAN THAMPI

To Shri Sankaranarayanan Thampi, the esteemed leader and legislator, goes the honour of adorning the seat of the Speaker of Kerala Legislative Assembly for the first time, after the Assembly was formed in April 1957 for the newly formed State of Kerala. Born on September 30, 1911 at Pallana, Alleppey District, as the son of Shri Rama Varma Raja of Mavelikkara and Smt. Thankamma Kettilamma of Pandavath, Shri Sankaranarayanan Thampi had his initiation into the arena of public life through the Indian National Congress.

Graduating from the University College, Trivandrum, he took his B.L. Degree from Law college, Trivandrum and soon started practice as a lawyer at Mavelikkara. Meanwhile, he took part in the Harijan Uplift Movement and became a member of the

All Travancore Youth League in 1938 and was also elected as its Working Committee Member. In the same year he joined the State Congress and became a Member of All Travancore Congress Committee.

Shri Sankaranarayanan Thampi was sentenced to six months imprisonment in August 1938 for participating in Youth League activities but was released after three months by a general amnesty. He had also associated with Malabar Socialist Party and had organised anti-war activities. Meanwhile, taking part in Trade Union Movements, he soon became Vice President of All Travancore Coir Factory Workers' Union. He was sentenced to two years imprisonment and fined ₹1000 for making allegedly provocative speeches at Punnappa in 1946. In 1947 he joined the Communist Party and was a Member of the State Council and Executive Council of the Party. He also acted as District Secretary of the party in Kayamkulam.

Shri Sankaranarayanan Thampi was elected to Travancore Sri Mulam Assembly, the Third Assembly (1944-47) in 1944, representing Karunagappalli-Karthikapalli Constituency. He was also a Member of

Travancore - Cochin Legislative Assembly during 1954-56, elected from Mavelikkara Constituency. Subsequently, he was elected to the first Kerala Legislative Assembly (1957-59) from Chengannur Constituency.

Shri Sankaranarayanan Thampi was elected as the first Speaker of Kerala Legislative Assembly on April 27, 1957 and occupied the Chair till the dissolution of the Assembly on July 31, 1959. The rulings made by him had a place in the publication 'Rulings from the Chair' and the same is quoted regularly in the House to this day. The rulings made by him had always been brief and to the point.

Later, he withdrew from active politics and acted as Chairman, State Service Rules Revision Committee. However, he continued to be an active worker in the Forum for the Protection of Citizens' Rights and Forum for Social Justice.

His wife was Smt. P.L. Thankamma and they have three sons and two daughters.

Shri Sankaranarayanan Thampi expired on November 2, 1989. The Kerala Legislative Assembly paid homage to him on January 22, 1990.

