



SPEAKER

VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN

Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, fondly called Varkala by those around him, graced the Chair of the Speaker in the eighth Kerala Legislative Assembly. A successful lawyer and renowned parliamentarian, Shri Radhakrishnan was born on August 21, 1927 as the son of Shri R. Vasudevan and Smt. G. Dakshayani. Completing education at Travancore University and Kerala University, he also obtained a Law Degree and practised as a lawyer for a long time. He appeared in many cases on the issue of Emergency excesses and defended many political leaders who were detained without trial in those days. A lawyer of repute, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan was also Vice-President of All India Lawyers Union and President of Kerala State Lawyers Union.

In the course of a long public life, he held many high offices. He had served as the President of Varkala Panchayat from 1953 to 1962. He was also the President of Thiruvananthapuram District Karshaka Sangham, PWD Workers Union and Progressive Lawyers' Forum. As an advocate of justice who believed in equality for all, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan fought against untouchability and other social evils. He was also a member of the Kerala University Senate and was elected as a member of All Kerala Karshaka Sanghom State Committee.

Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan was elected to KLA in 1980, 1982, 1987 and 1991, all from Varkala Constituency. Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan assumed charge as the Speaker of the Assembly in the eighth KLA on March 30, 1987 and he held the Chair for a period of over four years, upto June 28, 1991. At the time when he was the Speaker of the Assembly, he had evinced keen interest in legislative business and had chaired the marathon sittings of the Assembly for seven days during the sixth Session of eighth KLA in February 1989, many times the sittings extending well upto the wee hours of the next day in connection with the passing of the Kerala Public Libraries Bill, 1989. During the discussion on the Kerala Public Men's Corruption (Investigations and Inquiries) Bill, 1987 also, which commenced on December 12, 1987 during the third Session of the eighth KLA and went on till 4.30 a.m. on December 13, 1987, he had chaired the sitting with perseverance and involvement.

He had chaired the Private Members' Bills and Resolutions Committee from 1981 to 1982 and the Public Accounts Committee from 1982 to 1984.

Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan was elected to the 12th Lok Sabha in 1998 and he served as Member, Committee on Finance, Committee on Subordinate Legislation and Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Commerce of the Lok Sabha. Again he was elected to the 13th Lok Sabha in 1999 and was a Member, Committee on Privileges, Committee on Labour and Consultative Committee attached to the Ministry of Science and Technology. In 2004, he was elected to the 14th Lok Sabha and had served as Member, Panel of Chairmen, General Purpose Committee and Committee on Personnel and Public Grievances.

He attended the 33rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference at Kualalumpur in 1987, 34th CPA Conference at Canberra in 1988, 35th CPA Conference in Barbados as the Chairman of a Committee and the 36th CPA Conference in Zimbabwe again as the Chairman of a Committee.

He had his literary accomplishments as well. Besides publishing a series of articles in periodicals on politics and legislation, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan also has to his credit, a book on Parliamentary Practice.

Prof. Soudamini was his wife. They have one son and two daughters.

Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan expired on April 26, 2010. The Assembly paid homage to him on June 28, 2010.