



SPEAKER

VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN

Shri Vakkom Purushothaman, veteran leader and administrator, remains one of those few having the rare privilege of holding the Office of the Speaker twice in the Kerala Legislative Assembly. Born on April 12, 1928 as the son of Shri Bhanu Panicker and Smt. Bhavani, Shri Vakkom Purushothaman started his political career as an active worker of Students Congress in 1946. After college education, Shri Purushothaman further opted to pursue Law and holds a M.A., LL.B.

In 1953, Shri Purushothaman became a member of Vakkom Panchayat. He underwent imprisonment in connection with the High Court Agitation in 1956 and later in 1978, in connection with the agitation against the arrest of Smt. Indira Gandhi.

He also served as Syndicate Member of the Kerala University and was the President, DCC, Thiruvananthapuram, General Secretary, KPCC and Vice President KPCC. He has been AICC member for a long time and was its General Secretary for a short period.

Shri Vakkom Purushothaman was elected to KLA in 1970, 1977, 1980, 1982 and 2001 from Attingal Constituency. He was the Minister for Agriculture and Labour from September 25, 1971 to March 25, 1977 in the Ministry headed by Shri C. Achutha Menon and the Minister for Health & Tourism from January 25, 1980 to October 16, 1981 in the E.K. Nayanar Ministry. His main contributions as Minister include implementation of Agricultural Workers' Act, Head Load Workers' Act, Ela Development Scheme, Tourism Development Schemes, Students Health Card Scheme and giving 'referral status' to the Medical Colleges in the State.

Shri Vakkom Purushothaman held the Office of the Speaker in the seventh KLA from June 24, 1982 to December 28, 1984 and in the eleventh KLA from June 6, 2001 to September 4, 2004. It was during his tenure as Speaker of the Assembly, that two new Legislature Committees, namely Committee on Local Fund Accounts and Committee on Official Languages were constituted.

Besides these positions, Shri Purushothaman held the exalted post of Lt. Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands from March 19, 1993 to March 18, 1996. He also led the Indian delegation to the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States held in Barbados in 1996.

Shri Vakkom Purushothaman had his innings as a Member of Parliament as well, being elected to Lok Sabha in 1984 and in 1989 from Alappuzha Constituency. He was one among the Panel of Chairmen of the Lok Sabha. He also served as the Chairman of the Committee on Public Undertakings and the Committee on Subordinate Legislation in Lok Sabha.

Shri Purushothaman was the Chairman of the Consultative Committee of Experts to the CIDP of Inter Parliamentary Union, Geneva for five years. Besides, he was a delegate to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, held at Bahamas in 1982, Nairobi in 1983, Isle of Man in 1984 and Australia in 2001.

Shri Vakkom Purushothaman held the Office of the Minister for Finance & Excise from September 5, 2004 to May 12, 2006. He was the Governor of Mizoram during 2011-14.

Dr. Lilly Purushothaman is his wife and they have two sons and one daughter.

