

# Dr. S. Krishna Kumar IAS

*(Former Union Minister, India)*

## (Note on experience and achievements)

### **I. Introduction**

Dr. S. Krishna Kumar is a distinguished Engineer, Technocrat and Indian Administrative Service (IAS) Officer turned Political Leader. He has served for nine years as a Central Government Minister in India handling several important ministries of the Central Government in India under Prime Ministers Shri Rajiv Gandhi and Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao. He had also a distinguished career for 17 years in the Indian Administrative Service heading several important Government departments and Central and State Government Undertakings. He combines an excellent academic background, administrative and technical career as well as a successful political career as a Member of Parliament and Union Minister.

Dr. S. Krishna Kumar is engaged in a number of socio-economic and industrial projects in the country. He holds the Chairmanship of some Private sector business and Industrial ventures. He also heads the consultancy and project firm 'Indo-Global Vision Consultancies and Projects Private Limited' with the main objective of Planning, Facilitation, Investment in and implementation of projects including joint ventures in India. He also heads several movements such as AWAKE (All World Alliance of Kerala Entrepreneurs), Karmanya Trust for HRD and Employment, Progress Kerala Society and TRUTH (Trust for Religious Unity, Tolerance and Harmony). He is currently the Chairman of Asian Arab Chamber of Commerce and Latin American Caribbean Federation of India.

### **II. Administrative Experience:**

- 1. IAS officer of the 1963 batch – 17 yrs in the IAS – held important assignments like District Collector, Cochin, Chairman, Greater Cochin Development Authority, Secretary, Board of Revenue, Director Civil Supplies, Industries Commissioner, Principal Secretary, Industries, Fisheries, Social welfare, Local Administration and Urban Development in Kerala.**

**Noted for several signal achievements.**

- As Industrial Development Commissioner of Kerala and Executive Chairman of Kerala State Small Industries Development and Employment Corporation organised the 'Ten Thousand Industries Programme'. Recipient of National Award for promotion of small scale industries in the Country.
- Chief Organiser of the world famous massive vasectomy campaigns in 1970 to 1972 which set up a world record in voluntary sterilisations and attracted national and international attention. He developed and implemented an operational model for the National Family Planning Programme with popular participation and mass motivation with tremendous success.
- At the 1971 camp at Ernakulam Town Hall, called the 'Family Planning Festival' 64000 vasectomies were performed amidst festive atmosphere of enthusiastic participation of acceptors.
- The motivational and educational programme succeeded in breaking resistance to Family Planning all over Kerala and contributed in achieving an irreversible decline in population growth rate in Kerala, poising the State towards achieving a potential zero growth rate. Recipient of several awards and national and international commendation for work in Family Planning. Member, National Population Advisory Council 1982.
- As founder Chairman, Greater Cochin Development Authority, was personally responsible for initiating and implementing more than thirty large scale urban development schemes in the Greater Cochin area. Notable among them are the Foreshore Reclamation and Development Project (Marine Drive) at Ernakulam, Panampally Nagar, Gandhi Nagar and Pressmen's Housing Colony.
- As Director of Civil Supplies from 1973 to 1974 credited with reorganizing and strengthening Kerala's public distribution system, considered one of the best in the country.
- As Fisheries Secretary, Kerala 1979-80 author of scheme and legislation for organisation of fishermen into Fishermen Village Societies. First Chairman of Fishermen Welfare Corporation in Kerala. Recognized as a leading social worker in the cause of upliftment of the fishermen community.

- Commendable success in implementing Kerala's 'One Lakh Rural Housing' Scheme. Inaugurated by the Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi, at Ernakulam.

## **2. District Experience**

Distinguished work as District Collector of Ernakulam (Cochin) Kerala, (1969 – 1974).

Apart from massive Family Planning campaigns and intensive Urban development of the Greater. Cochin Region Dr. Krishna Kumar took the District to the first place in Kerala in several areas such as District Level Planning, Land Reforms, Rural Housing and Anti-Poverty Programmes. Through a novel campaign of mutual consent between land owners and tenants / hutment dwellers he organized 'Title deed distribution festivals' throughout the District. For example: at a 'Shiva Rathri' festival organized in 1970 on the banks of the Periyar River, 25000 Kudikidappukars received their titles. The District was declared the first to complete Land Reforms by the Kerala Government. Was acclaimed as 'a people's Collector' by the major media in Kerala.

An innovative scheme conceived by Dr. Krishna Kumar was the 'Labour cum Development Bank' scheme which harnessed idle rural manpower for selected rural development schemes. The scheme was successfully implemented in a few blocks of the District and became the focus of study and commendation by leading economists like Dr. KN Raj, the Kerala Planning Board and the National Planning Commission.

Dr. Krishna Kumar was the recipient of several awards including FICCI award 1973 for excellence in District Administration presented by Smt. Indira Gandhi at New Delhi. Also 'For the Sake of Honour' – highest Civilian Award by International Rotary for humanitarian and social welfare work for the poor and the disadvantaged.

## **III. Ministerial Experience:**

Rich experience and noted contributions as Union Minister of State for 9 years under Prime Ministers Sri. Rajiv Gandhi and Sri. P.V. Narasimha Rao.

## **Rajiv Gandhi Ministry**

1985 – 87      Family Welfare

- Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's first exclusive Minister for Family Welfare.
- Brought to bear firsthand knowledge and practical expertise in the field of Family Planning and Welfare.
- Provided a rare insight and purposeful direction to this work of prime national importance and formulated a new comprehensive strategy for the National Family Programme. Set up all time records in the national achievements under the programme.

1987 – 88      Textiles

- Gave shape to the new Indian Textile Policy
- Reorganised the National Textile Corporation
- Launched new welfare programmes for handicraft artisans and handloom workers.
- New programmes in Cotton exports, Coir and Jute development
- Spear headed the launching of the Indian Institute of Fashion Technology, now a world leader in the field.

1988 – 89      Information and Broadcasting

Was instrumental in expanding the infrastructure of All India Radio (AIR) and Doordarshan – the National Television Service in India through building infrastructure across the country and qualitatively improving the work of national media. Noted for his contribution in making Kerala the first state in India in total TV coverage and universalising Malayalam programmes.

## **Narasimha Rao Ministry**

1991 – 93      Petroleum and Defence (Concurrently)

- Formulated new National Petroleum Policy. Privatization and joint ventures launched in Oil & Natural Gas sector in exploration, production, refining and distribution.

- Key actor in formulation of India's defence policies and programmes. Gave a new direction to optimal capacity utilization of Ordnance Factories and encouraged R&D activities with emphasis towards greater indigenisation. Was also in charge of Defence Research & Development.

1993 – 96 Non Conventional Energy Sources and Agriculture (Concurrently)

- Gave a signal thrust to renewable energy sector through a new master plan and imaginative programmes. Achieved historic progress in wind, solar and other new energy sectors taking India to the fore front in alternate energy.
- Won the national award 'Energy Man of the Year' in 1995.
- Took new initiatives in Agricultural Production and Research. Founded the 'Small Farmers Business Consortium'. In charge of India's Agro Exports which witnessed galloping growth during his tenure.

#### **IV. Parliamentary Experience:**

3 term Lok Sabha MP from Quilon, Kerala from 1984 to 1996. Elected the most popular MP in Kerala in Media Survey in 1990.

Noted parliamentary performance as MP and Minister.

Implemented significant schemes in Quilon constituency such as the Thankassery Fisheries Harbour, National Highway Bypass etc. Significant contribution in the legislation of National Water Way Act which included Kerala's comprehensive Inland Water Way System from Parassala to Manjeswaram linking the fabled back waters – a key infrastructure for transport and tourism development of the State

#### **V. Trade Union Experience:**

President, Major INTUC Unions of FACT, HMT, Keltron, ALIND etc. in Kerala.

President, Employees Concorde (Apex coordinating body of Keralas State and Central Government Employees).

## **VI. Public Sector Experience:**

### **Chairman, Hindustan Latex, Central PSU (Trivandrum, Kerala)**

- Transformed the chronically unprofitable PSU into an outstandingly successful and profitable enterprise setting a new record in capacity utilization, product quality and profits.
- Launched a comprehensive expansion project, making the company the leading Condom manufacturer in the world.

Also served various times as **CMD Kerala Small Industries Development and Employees Corporation, Kerala Civil Supplies Corporation, Kerala Handicapped Welfare Corporation etc.**

## **VII. Cooperatives Experience:**

Organised Cashew Workers of Kerala and set up the Cashew Workers Apex Co-operative Society (CAPEX), took over several closed cashew factories and served as the Chairman, running the workers' factories successfully.

## **VIII. Teaching and Engineering Experience:**

1960 – 1961: Lecturer: Mechanical Engineering, University of Kerala.

1961: First rank in India in all India Engineering Services (Mechanical).

1961 – 1963: Indian Railway Service: Mechanical Engineer, Eastern Railway, Calcutta.

## **IX. Education:**

Topper in Model School and Intermediate College, Trivandrum.

1960 First Rank and **Gold Medallist in Mechanical Engineering**, University of Kerala.

**1961 First Rank All India in the Indian Railway Service of Engineers.**

1963 Joins the **Indian Administrative Service with high rank.**

Student President of the Trivandrum Engineering College and the National Academy of Administration, Mussourie.

State and University Tennis Champion, Kerala

A continuous learner, in 2006 he secured a further post graduate degree of MA (Sociology) from Annamalai University and in 2014 a Doctorate from Birla

Institute of Technology and Science (BITS), Pilani on his Thesis “Kerala Model of Development – Critical Analysis and a Design for the Future”.

**X. Professional Training:**

Trained abroad in Management, Leadership and Socio-economic Development by the UN, International Union of Local Authorities, World Bank, USAID, Soviet Society for International Friendship, British and Chinese Governments. Also trained by the Government of India and several Institutes of Management. Qualified Corporate Independent Director certified by the Institute of Directors, India

**XI. Research - Publications:**

- The Story of Ernakulam Experiment in Family Planning – 1971 (Published by the Govt. of Kerala).
- Kerala’s Pioneering Experiment in massive Vasectomy Camps – 1971 (Studies in Family Planning, Population Council, New York).
- Development of Cochin Shipyard Ancillary Industries – A Technical Study – 1972
- Report on Greater Cochin Development Authority – 1973
- Ernakulam’s Third vasectomy campaign using the Camp Approach – 1974 (Studies in family Planning, Population Council, New York).
- Strategy for Massive Effort for Small Industries Development in Kerala State – 1975 (Govt of Kerala)
- Strategy and Action Programme for a Massive Thrust in Fisheries Development and Fishermen’s Welfare in Kerala – 1978 (Govt of Kerala)
- Doctorate Thesis – “Kerala Model of Development - Critical Analysis and a Design for the Future” – 2014 (BITS, Pilani).

**XII. Awards:**

- CM Stephen Award 2010 for leadership in development of Greater Cochin Region
- MKK Nair Award 2009 for productivity in Public Administration
- K.R. Narayanan Award 2007 for Public Service
- Pazhassi Raja Award 2007 for distinguished Public Service
- R Sankar Award for Public Leadership

- 1995 ‘Energy Man of the Year’ National Award for outstanding work in the field of New and Renewable Energy Sources.
- **FICCI National Award in 1973** for individual initiative in economic and social development (Presented by Smt. Indira Gandhi).
- International Rotary’s Highest Civilian Award ‘For The Sake of Honour’.
- ‘Thanks Medal’ by Bharat Scouts and Guides.
- ‘NAYE’ Award by the National Alliance of Young Entrepreneurs for contribution to the development of small-scale industries in the Country.
- Miscellaneous State Level Awards.

### **XIII. A Visionary Developmental Leader:**

Called the ‘builder of modern Cochin’ in Kerala Dr. Krishna Kumar had demonstrated time and again his vision and ‘out of the box’ thinking and had implemented path breaking and innovative schemes in diverse areas – notably – Family planning, Land Reforms, Rural Housing, Anti Poverty programmes, Public Distribution System, Urban Development and Fishermen’s Welfare, India’s revolution in electronic media under Sri. Rajiv Gandhi and promotion of Alternate Energy Sources. He is considered as perhaps the most educated and pragmatic development oriented political leader in Kerala and a specialist in Kerala’s development strategy.

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