

Region of GSI at Calcutta. He was on deputation to the Government of Jammu and Kashmir as Director, Geology and Mining during the period 1967 to 1971. He returned to GSI 1971 as Deputy Director General and was elevated to the position of the Director General, GSI in 1976. He superannuated from service in 1982 as Advisor, Department of Mines, Ministry of Steel and Mines.

Shri Varadan made notable and signal contributions in the deliberations of the Law of Sea Conference of the UN held at Caracas (Venezuela) in 1974, Geneva (Switzerland) in 1975 and at New York (USA) in 1976. He was instrumental in safeguarding the interests of the developing nations in the Law of Sea Treaties finalised under the aegis of the United Nations. He was a member of the Indian Geoscientific delegation to the USSR in 1960 and leader of the Indian delegation to the International Geological Congress held at Sydney, Australia in 1976.

Shri Varadan had a scholarly appreciation of English literature and sound understanding of Sanskrit and could lead a lively discussion on the dialectics of Vedanta. Investment financing was his absorbing hobby. His sharp intellect, ready wit, encyclopedic knowledge and pleasant personality left an indelible impression on any one who came in contact with him. He was an eloquent, if loquacious, speaker on a wide variety of subjects and was in great demand to address learned bodies, associations and educational institutions. He was associated with Boards of Studies in Earth Sciences of several Indian Universities and acted as Examiner for post-graduate and doctoral courses. He authored several scores of papers/technical reports covering a wide spectrum of Earth Sciences. •

The events that took place in the last part of 1977 resulting in Shri Varadan's displacement from the helm of affairs of GSI, caused much anguish and dismay among the entire Earth Science community. Shri Varadan maintained his poise and dignity under extreme circumstances displaying his strength of character and equanimity. He neither became bitter nor cynical but carried on unperturbed as before. Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan writing about the truly great says "*..... they are determined to do whatever they considered to be right. We may punish their bodies, refuse them comforts, but we cannot buy their souls, we cannot break their spirits. Whoever possesses this invulnerability of spirit even to a little extent deserves our admiration.*" Shri Varadan belonged to such a category of the truly great. In his passing away, Indian Earth Science has lost a great proponent. Shri Varadan leaves behind his two sons and his wife Smt. Rukmaja Varadan to whom we offer the sincere and heart felt condolences of the entire Earth Science Community of India.

Bangalore
14-3-2000

S.K. RAMASWAMY
M.S. RAO

A. Ranga Rao (1930-1999)

A. Ranga Rao was born on 10th October 1930 in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh. He studied in Sagar and Varanasi before joining the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation as a geologist in 1957. He was very active in research even after his retirement in 1983. He had an intense fascination for geological mapping and structural analysis of the Himalaya. His love for fossils was legendary. He was keen on establishing a Museum of Palaeontology in Dehra Dun. His spouse Dr. Obergfell is taking active interest in fulfilling his dream. With his death we have lost an outstanding Himalayan geologist and palaeontologist.

JAGDISH PANDEY