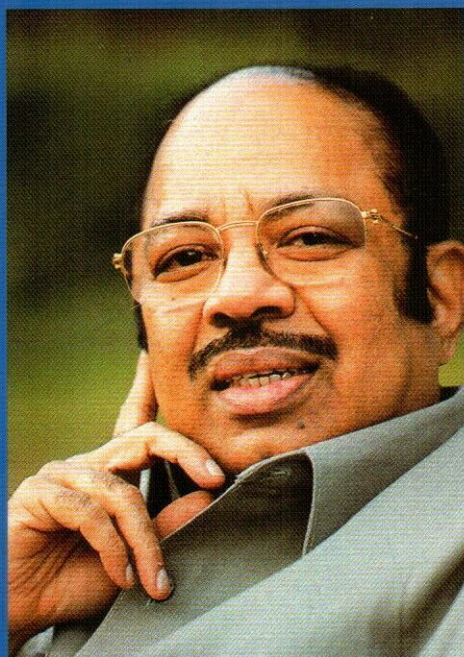
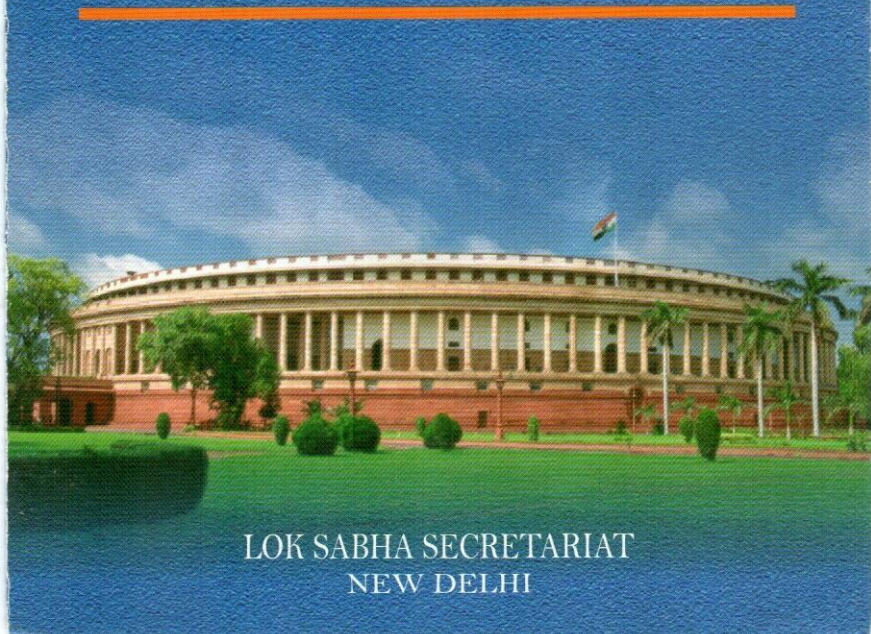




MURASOLI MARAN



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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Murasoli Maran was verily a multi-faceted personality who commanded immense respect and built up a formidable reputation in various fields he associated himself with: be it politics, journalism, literature or the world of cinema.

Born at village Thirukkuvalai, in the then Thanjavur district in August 1934, Murasoli Maran had his education at the Pachaiyappa's College and the Law College, Chennai. Even during his student days, he was closely associated with the Dravidian Movement.

Murasoli Maran had varied interests which kept him busy all through his public life: he was at once a journalist, author and screen-playwright, and social worker. He wrote dialogues for more than twenty Tamil films and produced five and directed two films. Maran's films *Kula Deivam* and *Annayin Aanai* were awarded President's Certificate of Merit as the best and second best regional feature films in the years 1956 and 1958, respectively. In 1970, his films *Engal Thangam* got Tamil Nadu Government's award for the second best feature film of the year. He was conferred the title *Kalai-Mamani* by the Sangeet Natak Academy in 1975.

Murasoli Maran had a long and distinguished political career as well. All along, he was a member of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK). He was a member of the Fourth and Fifth Lok Sabhas from 1967 to 1977, the Eleventh Lok Sabha (1996-97), and the Twelfth Lok Sabha (1998-99). He was re-elected to the Thirteenth Lok Sabha in 1999. In between, he was a member of the Rajya Sabha for three terms from 1977 to 1995.

In fact, Maran's innings in Parliament was one of the longest. From 1967 till his passing away in 2003, he continued to be a member, dividing the period almost equally between the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, making

a mark in both. He led his Party in both the Houses with remarkable efficiency and registered the voice of his Party emphatically on all major issues of the time, always adhering to the established parliamentary norms and conventions.

Murasoli Maran was an outstanding parliamentarian and served as a member of various Parliamentary Committees. He was member of the General Purposes Committee from 1980 to 1982 and again for the year 1998-99, he was also a member of the Committee on Public Undertakings for three terms between 1977 and 1995. Besides, he served on the Public Accounts Committee during 1980-82, 1991-95 and 1998-99; Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes during 1982-83 and 1987-88; Committee on Subordinate Legislation during 1988-89; Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Commerce during 1998-99; and the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of External Affairs during 1998-99. In the year 1992-93, Maran was a member of the Joint Parliamentary Committee to enquire into the irregularities in the securities and banking transactions.

Maran's administrative skills, leadership qualities, deep understanding of the issues and his world-view came out prominently during his stint in the Union Government on different occasions. Maran served in the Union Council of Ministers as the Minister of Urban Development from 1989 to 1990; Minister of Industry from 1996 to 1998; and the Minister of Commerce and Industry from 1999 to 2002. Always open to new ideas and new approaches to issues relating to development, Maran provided effective leadership to the different Ministries he headed from time-to-time.

Murasoli Maran's persuasive arguments in support of the trading interests of the developing countries gave him world attention during the Ministerial Meetings on the World Trade Organization (WTO) at Seattle in November 1999 and later at Doha in November 2001. As Minister for

Commerce and Industry, Maran was instrumental in resisting the developed nations' attempts to widen the WTO's scope by bringing within its purview issues like labour standards and environment—issues that could have been used to the detriment of the trading interest of the developing countries. He could see through the dangers for the developing world, hidden behind the attempt to link non-trade related issues to issues of trade and development. He stood his ground steadfast, asserting India's conviction that the developing countries deserved a better deal in the world trade regime.

While supporting economic liberalization, Murasoli Maran wanted to ensure that India's interests were not compromised in the process. He was convinced that policies that could contribute to jobless growth and capital flight could undermine the foundations of our economy, particularly hitting the poor the hardest. He had his own vision for an industrially strong nation, confidently dealing with the rest of the world from a position of strength.

Murasoli Maran advocated reforms with a human face. While emphasizing on industrial growth, he ensured that it was not done at the expense of the traditional and small-scale industries. He was instrumental in the setting up of a Special Economic Zone for Gems and Jewellery.

A man of vast and varied interests and experiences, with a profound understanding of national and international events, Murasoli Maran attended many international programmes, Seminars and Workshops.

Murasoli Maran authored a number of books on politics and short story collections in Tamil. His book, *State Autonomy—Manila Suyatchi*, is an acclaimed research work on Union-State relations. Another of his works, *Dravida Iyakka Varalaru*, on the history of the Dravidian Movement, was also very well received. He was also the editor of "*Murasoli*", a Tamil daily, and "*The Rising Sun*", an English weekly. He was the founder-member and the first President of the Madras Press Club. Maran was also a well-known

social activist who worked relentlessly for the uplift of the poor and the downtrodden.

Murasoli Maran breathed his last on 23 November 2003. Paying tributes to the departed leader, the President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, said: "Maran was a multi-faceted personality, who contributed to the nation in various capacities during his career. He was an able newspaper editor, a versatile film writer and producer, a distinguished parliamentarian for over three decades and a person committed to economic reforms in the country. As a Minister in the Government of India, he has made significant contributions to the fields of commerce and industry." The Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, also expressed profound sorrow and described Maran as 'a leading light of the Dravidian Movement'.

[The Statue of Murasoli Maran, sculpted by Thiru S. Deenadayalan, will be unveiled by the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh. The Statue has been donated by Thiru T.R. Baalu, Union Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways.]