Obituary

DR. N. G. K. NAIR
(1940 - 1985)

I deeply regret to record the sudden passing away of Dr. N. G. K. Nair, Head, Geosciences Division, Centre for Earth Science Studies, on 21st November, 1985 at New Delhi where he had gone to attend a meeting organised by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission.

Shri N. Gopalakrishnan Nair was born on 11th April 1940 in a family well known for the cause of freedom. He had his early education in Kerala. After his graduation from Saugar University, he obtained his M.Tech in Applied Geology from the same University in 1963. His research career began in 1964 and he was awarded the Ph.D degree by the University of Roorkee in 1968 in recognition of his work on 'The Structure and Petrology of Chromite deposits of Pauvi - Bhi vapur area'.

Dr. Nair joined the University of Roorkee as lecturer in 1968 and was elevated to the status of a Reader in 1973. He had the distinction of working as a Post-Doctoral Fellow in the University of Heidelberg, West Germany with Prof. Paul Ramdohr for one year in 1972. Subsequently, he sojournered his research work in this laboratory during 1978 and 1984. The German Agency for Technical Cooperation, as a token of appreciation of his contributions, awarded him one research microscope and accessories for his work in India.

He joined the Centre for Earth Science Studies in its early formative years in 1980. During his tenure in CESS, he worked in several important assignments as a senior scientist. The Resource Atlas of Kerala and studies on acid magmatism and related metallogeny in Kerala, are some of his important contributions. Dr. Nair has several outstanding scientific publications to his credit. In addition to his researches in Geology, he was also supervising an environmental project sponsored by the Department of Environment, Government of India.

Dr. Nair was a member/fellow of many learned societies, international task groups and editorial boards of leading scientific journals. He travelled widely and represented India in many international symposia and conferences. He was a dedicated geologist, ardent researcher, resourceful organiser and last but not least a polished gentleman. His life style was simple and his personal philosophy had a deep sense of tolerance and remained respectful of other peoples' belief and faiths. His sudden and untimely demise was received with profound grief. He leaves behind his wife Mrs. Maya Nair, daughter Smita, son Sandeep and a large number of friends to mourn his loss and to remember him for his great qualities.