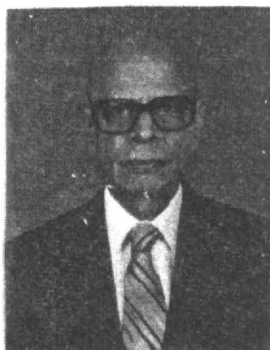


OBITUARY



V. Gopal
(1926-1995)

It is with deep regret that we place on record the sad demise of Shri. V. Gopal, Life Member of the Society and former Director of Geology and Mining, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, on 30-12-1995 at Madras. His death deprives us of a dedicated geologist who served Tamil Nadu for over four decades, with distinction.

Shri Vajapeyam Gopal was born on 4th January, 1926 and had his early education in the Kellet High school, Triplicane, Madras and later at Presidency College, Madras. He passed his B.Sc. (Hons) degree in 1946 in first class, topping the list and won the *Chromartie Prize*. He joined the Presidency College soon after as a member on the teaching staff and was later posted to the Engineering College at Coimbatore. He was selected as Assistant Geologist in the Geological Survey of India in 1948.

Shri Gopal was posted to the then Southern Circle of the GSI at Madras and was assigned geological mapping in Ramanathapuram district. He brought out, during his work, the limestone deposits near Alangulam (based on which the Alangulam unit of the Tamil Nadu Cements Corporation Ltd. was set up later) and the Sivaganga graphite deposit now under development. He later worked in the Publication Division of the GSI at Calcutta before joining the Tamil Nadu State Geology Branch of the Industries and Commerce Department on deputation as Deputy State Geologist, in 1961.

He was assigned to work for the then proposed Neyveli-Salem steel project for a detailed assessment of the Kanjamalai iron ore deposit and the limestone prospects in Salem district. He was also entrusted with the task of training the young geologists of the Department and shaping them to meet the State's requirements. He was elevated as State Geologist in 1964. Shri. Gopal was awarded the U.N. Fellowship in 1967 and spent over six months in U.K., U.S.S.R. and Canada acquainting himself with modern methods of mineral exploration and formulated the U.N. Development Programme for Tamil Nadu. He was co-ordinator for the UN Project between 1968-1975 and played a key role in its implementation. The State Geology Branch was modernised during the period, with the setting up of a chemical laboratory with facilities for instrumental analysis, for remote sensing studies, geophysical and geochemical surveys, ore dressing, petrological laboratory with X-ray equipment and core-drilling. He also organised the first aeromagnetic surveys in the State.

He joined in 1977, the Tamil Nadu Minerals Ltd. as its Managing Director and organised mineral exploitation projects including the ornamental stones - black and multi-

coloured granites. He rejoined the State Geology Branch in 1978 and was made its Director in 1982 in which post he continued until 1984 when he retired.

During his tenure of office several mineral-based units—ceramic and three cement plants, were set up in the State. He was also deputed to West Germany for study of the pelletization of the magnetite ores in Salem and North Arcot Districts. He was member of Board of Directors of the BGML (Kolar Gold fields), TAMIN, TANMAG and TACEL, advisor to Salem Steel Ltd., consultant to the Neyveli Lignite Corporation and after retirement, for the Pandian Graphites Pvt. (Ltd.).

He was Founder Secretary and later President of the Geologists' Association of Tamil Nadu, which was formed under his initiative as a forum to promote greater co-ordination amongst the geologists working in the State.

Shri Gopal was also responsible for the setting up of the Earth Resources Development Co. (Pvt) Ltd. He became its Chairman and Managing Director in 1985 and remained so until he breathed his last. He organised consultancy services to meet the requirements of small and big mineral entrepreneurs.

He was always very friendly and cheerful and helped all those who approached him. He had the ability to inspire his colleagues to put in their best for which he will be gratefully remembered.

Shri. Gopal leaves behind his wife, two sons and a daughter. May his soul rest in peace.

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N.G.K. MURTHY

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SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

It has been decided to encourage submission of "Short Communications" to the Journal, intended to convey important and significant results of ongoing investigations and research work. It will be our endeavour to bring out these without too much of time lag.

However, Short Communications should not exceed 1500 typewritten words and should be accompanied by an informative summary not exceeding three to five typed sentences. They may also include essential illustrations which would stand 2/3 reduction in the block making without loss of clarity, particularly the lettering employed. A short list of only the most important references may be appended at the end.

Authors are therefore requested to send in "Short Communications" to achieve the objectives stated. — *Ed.*