

CA. K. Rahman Khan Takes Charge of Ministry of Minority Affairs

From a chartered accountant to MP (Rajya Sabha), Deputy Chairman (Rajya Sabha) and to Union Minister for Minority Affairs of Cabinet rank, CA. K. Rahman Khan has really scaled inspiring heights of success and excellence in both professional and public life. Just before getting the portfolio of Minority Affairs, he had been re-nominated to the Rajya Sabha. He was first elected to Rajya Sabha in 1994, reelected in 2000, and, then again, in 2006. A valuable asset to the Indian polity for years, he has been a dependable *friend, philosopher and guide* to the accountancy profession in India. The ICAI congratulates him for becoming the Union Minister for Minority Affairs.

Born in Karnataka, CA. Rahman Khan graduated in Commerce from Mysore University of Karnataka. He joined the league of chartered accountants and served the ICAI first as the Chairman of its Bangalore Branch and, then, as Treasurer at its SIRC. He had once said on the character of an accountant during 2004 CA Day celebrations: *An accountant should be honest, independent and fearless in discharging his duties. An accountant is a conscience-keeper and a watchdog of the economy.* He places a lot of responsibilities on the shoulders of CA profession: *A CA also plays a very dynamic role in corporate governance...It (the accountancy profession) is one of the noblest professions and is respected and sought after in society.* We are proud to know that he is proud to be a part of the CA fraternity. Very few know that CA. Rahman Khan had been elected an honorary Internal Auditor of the Inter-Parliamentary Union at its 115th Assembly held in Geneva in 2006. We are proud of him for shouldering that responsibility. Being a conscious member of the accountancy profession, he reminds us: *There is an urgent need for paradigm shift in the thinking and vision of the accounting profession – from a post-mortem approach to a position of leadership, guiding decision making process at every stage of development, i.e., planning, policy making investment, implementation and evaluation.* The ICAI has been working on the vision of accountancy profession guided by his wisdom. At present, CA. Rahman Khan is also on the Board of Directors of the Accounting Research Foundation of the ICAI.

Prior to joining the Rajya Sabha, CA. Rahman Khan served as a member of the Karnataka Legislative Council in 1978-90 and, then, as its Chairman in 1982-84. His



past roles of the Chairman of Karnataka State Minorities Commission, Joint Parliamentary Committee on the functioning of Wakf Boards, Committee of Privileges, Committee on Provision of Computers to Members (Rajya Sabha) and Joint Parliamentary Committee on Wakf and Committee on Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (Rajya Sabha) prepared him to take a bigger role in the minority affairs of our nation. It is but justified that he has been asked to take charge of the Ministry of Minority Affairs of our nation.

CA. Rahman Khan continues to inspire the accountancy profession through his perseverance and hard work. He says: *The institute and the profession will face new challenges, particularly when India is embarking on high growth rate and also emerging as economic power... The profession should redefine its role as a watchdog of public expenditure and investments. It should come out of its traditional role of client centric approach and emerge as representative of the civil society to maintain financial ethics and propriety in the civil society.* He asks the CA fraternity to follow the Motto of ICAI, *Ya Esa Suptesu Jagarti* (who is awake amongst those who are asleep) in both thought and deed. He is sure that *only chartered accountants can help the Government plug leakage and misappropriation of funds and ensure value for money to the ordinary citizens.*

Having a worldwide exposure through his visits to countries like USA, UK, France, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kenya, Nigeria, Canada, Spain, Australia, New Zealand, Russia, Malaysia, Afghanistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka and China, CA. Rahman Khan will take this Ministry of Minority Affairs to a new height and give a new meaning to words like *reform* and *development* in this context. The ICAI wishes him success in all his endeavours. ■