

CA. Rameshwar Thakur: A Tribute



This year, one of the most noteworthy torchbearers of ICAI slipped into history, as the veteran leader of professional and public life and past-President of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (1966-67), CA. Rameshwar Thakur passed away on 15th January 2015 at the age of 88. With his demise, the accountancy profession of India has lost one of its leading lights and a prominent as well as a veteran figure in public life. He is survived by his wife, two sons and two daughters.

CA. Rameshwar Thakur was a man of impeccable character. He made valuable contributions not only to the accountancy profession in India but to the nation as a whole. He was a part of India's struggle for freedom and an active participant in the Quit India Movement of 1942. He had been arrested and detained in the Central Jail of Calcutta in 1946 in connection with the national freedom movement.

Born in Godda district of Jharkhand, CA. Thakur was elected to the Rajya Sabha for the first time in April 1984. He remained a member of the House till 1990 and was re-elected for the period April 1990 to March 1996. He had also been the Union Minister of State for Finance (Revenue), Rural Development

and Parliamentary Affairs in 1991-94. He served the nation with distinction as the Governor of Odisha from 2004 to 2006, Andhra Pradesh from 2006 to 2007, Karnataka from 2007 to 2009 and Madhya Pradesh from 2009 to 2011. He had also been the National President of the All India Bharat Scouts & Guides in 1998 and then again in 2001. He had the distinction to lead the Indian Delegation to the World Congress of Scouts, held in Brussels, in 1964. During his effective and glorious political stint, he had successfully led and maneuvered various international delegations, including the 15th Asia-Pacific Gathering in Colombo in 1984 and the 17th General Assembly Coventry in London in 1987.

Leaders across the political spectrum of India mourned and expressed their profound grief over CA. Rameshwar Thakur's sad demise. The Hon'ble President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee said: *I am deeply saddened to learn about the passing away of Shri Rameshwar Thakur...The nation will always remember him for his valuable services and pursuit of excellence in public life.* Odisha Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik extended his heartfelt condolences to Shri Thakur's bereaved family: *'Shri Rameshwar Thakur was an honest leader and politician. He was admired by all because of his bold personality. Apart from politics, he had earned a reputation as an experienced Chartered Accountant. His death is an enormous loss.'*

Widely known for his simplicity, spontaneity and forthrightness, CA. Rameshwar Thakur was a strong proponent of ethics in accountancy profession. In his last message to his *alma mater*, i.e. ICAI, for the Bengaluru International Conference, he wished: *The new entrants as well as those already in practice have to keep themselves constantly updated in their knowledge to face competition....* ICAI's best tribute to him would be to follow and progress by his vision and act as per his words of wisdom.

The entire Indian accountancy profession stands by the aggrieved family of late CA. Thakur at this irreparable loss. The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India pays its heartfelt tribute to the departed noble leader and hopes that his probity in public life will continue to inspire many generations of chartered accountants in the years to come. May his noble soul rest in peace. ■