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TO

SRI S. V. RAJU,

EDITOR,

FREEDOM FIRST,

III

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FROM.

S. VENKAT RAMAN,

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May 19, 2006

Dear Mr. Raju,

My wife Dr (Mrs) Lalitha Venkataraman, M.A., PhD breathed her last on Dec 19th in the early hours of the morning after a massive heart attack. She was 72. Since you know her and she was associated with Rajaji and Masani and others, I thought it my duty to bring this to your kind notice.

An obituary page about her study and attachment to the studies will reveal that even in 2000, she had studied in USA as a research scholar.

I hope you will publish the matter in the Freedom First magazine.

Your report on Prof Satyaanjan Sathe-a Tribute was very moving and heartfelt when I read Dr Upendra Baxi's words on that great soul.

Thanks and regards

S. Venkataraman
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11, Karpagam Flats, Canal Bank Road,
Luz, Mylapore, Chennai 600004.

Enc:2 photos and 2 pages

Dr Lalitha Venkataraman,

was associated with the Swatantra party and interviewed Rajaji, Masani and others and was a close follower of 'Swarajya' the mouthpiece of the party. She was a member of the Rajaji Foundation and used to attend the meetings held at Chennai. She was a member of the 'Freedom First'.

She expired after a massive heart attack in the early hours of Dec 19th at the age of 73. Till her last breath, she was attached to the books and to the Liberal Quarterly 'Freedom First'.

We express our heartfelt condolences to her husband Mr. S. Venkataraman, who was closely following her research and academic pursuits and both of them have closely moved with Rajaji and other leaders of the Swatantra Party.

As Secretary of the magazine, I know her personally and moved with her closely and we have lost a great academician of high caliber and sincerity and devotion to the subject.

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Dr (Mrs.) Lalitha Venkataraman, M.A., Ph.D in Pol Sc.

She got her Doctorate in 1977 from BHU

Was a Lecturer in Dept of Pol Sc and Women's College in B.H.U

She was a Junior Research Fellow for 1 year and a field worker in the 'Centre for Adult and Continuing Education, B.H.U in 1983

(1)Her dissertation on the Swatantra and Jan Sangh was a landmark study. It underlined their electoral support distribution of power within them, their internal constitutional arrangements and most importantly, the social and political mores of the community, rather than having discontent, divine or otherwise as the basis for the parties--Jan Sangh Party is the precursor of the present dominant partner of the NDA government and Swatantra Party is the precursor of the present Swatantra Bharat Party.

(a)Prof Radhakrishnan of Economics, University of Madras, had said after going thro her dissertation-

'I think it is a pioneering study to present the historical backdrop of the two Rightist Parties in the context of political parties with socialist ideologies dominating the political scene for about four decades. When researchers take up the study of political parties after 1991, her search study would be of great interest and help to understand the changing political fortunes of parties. Future researchers can learn a lot from her scholarly analysis.'

(2)Dr Lalitha's research programme on 'Centre State (Legislative) relations with special reference to Indian constitution underlined the necessity of adopting "Co-operative Federalism" aspects of American Constitution for Indian Constitutional working after analyzing the pros and cons of Indian, Canadian and U.S Constitutions.

(3)Her Project report on 'Government and Politics of Madras 1967' as a Junior Research Fellow and the Doctoral Dissertation were completed with the Survey Research of interviews, schedules, questionnaires and as Participant Observer-in their respective Party Forums-interviewing the C.J, C.M, Governor, Secretaries of the respective State Departments, Legislators leaders of the two parties at all levels-thus blending the historical and modern methods.

(4)She had registered for Post-Doctoral Research for her D.Litt., on 'The Politics of Agriculture in Tamil Nadu-its Socio-Political Dynamics' could not be completed due to the demise of the Research Guide and Head of Dept of Pol Sc, B.H.U, Dr Manoranjan Jha.

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Dr Lalitha had written a number of papers which have been published in eminent journals. Including two of the research papers:

- (a) Quest for Political Alternatives-Dimensions and Dialectics of Election Manifestos of 1971,
- (b) A case study of Election in Madras

She was interviewing the **Governor of Madras, Sardar Ujjal Singh**, for the Project Report 'Government & Politics of Madras, 1967-68' submitted in the journal 'Centre for the study of State Governments.

(5) She was unanimously elected as the **Asst Secretary (Orgn) for the 'Society for the study of State Government', Varanasi, .**

(6) She acted as a 'Rapporteur in 'All India Pol Sc Confs', Seminars and 'Workshops' conducted by the

- (a) Department of Pol Sc for the study of State Governments, Varanasi
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(7) Her article 'A case study of elections in Madras' was given permission to be reprinted in the 'Home Rule', the official mouthpiece of the DMK party. Same article was commented upon in the 'Introduction to Fourth General Elections in India'-special Number (this has been cited twice).

(8) Her article on 'Uttar Pradesh Politics-a Socio Political Interpretation (as a co-author) had been included in the book 'State Politics in India' Ed by Dr Iqbal Narain, Prof and Head of Dept, Pol Sc., Rajasthan University. The book and article were reviewed in 'Link' Dec 31, 1967. The same article was cited in the book on 'Swatantra Party-a Political Biography' by V.P.Vasam (thus thrice cited).

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Dr Lalitha Venkataraman, went to USA as a Visiting Scholar at the 'Meyner Center for the study of State and Local Government, 2000 , Kirby Hall of Civil Rights, Lafayette College, Easton PA on 'American Federalism and State and local Government with emphasis on health care, environmental protection including global politics and high transportation. The research at the 'Meyner Center' will serve as the foundation for furthering the research on the apparent similarities or otherwise of 'public Policies and Social Justice' in both US and India.

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