



## LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA (1923-2004)- A STUDY

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### ABSTRACT

Ramchandra Veerappa was a member of the 14<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha of India. He represented the Bidar constituency of Karnataka and was a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) political party. At the time of his Death his family consisted of Veerappa's wife, Shankamma, his sons, Subhash Arya, Parameshwara Arya, Basavaraj Arya, four daughters, 31 grandchildren, and six great grandchildren paid their last respects to him.<sup>1</sup>

**KEYWORDS:** Ramchandra Veerappa , political party , Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

### EARLY LIFE.

Ramchandra Veerappa was born in Humnabad on January 1 1908 (1923 to some other sources) in a Dalit Family. His father was Shri Veerappa, he had some primary education at Bidar and married Smt. Shankamma.<sup>2</sup> But was drawn towards India's freedom movement in his early ages. When He was born, there was neither school nor conditions, which would have helped him into a formal education. Influenced by the preachings of Swami Ramananda Teerth, he joined the Arya Samaj and by the time he turned 20, had become a fulltime freedom fighter with Arya Samaj philosophy inculcated in his mind.<sup>3</sup>

He was arrested in the Nizam Koti Bomb Case in 1933 and sent to Andaman Nicobar jail. It became his second home, as he was frequently sent there by the then Nizam and British Governments.<sup>4</sup>

### POLITICAL CAREER AFTER FREEDOM.

When Independence dawned, his was a familiar name in the district politics and got him a Legislative Council seat of Hyderabad state. Though he was re-nominated as MLC in 1956 in the newly-formed Mysore state, he quit in 1962 to successfully contest the Bidar Lok Sabha seat. Thus began his journey to Parliament.<sup>5</sup> Barring a five-year period as Hulsoor (reserved) MLA from 1978, he has been a constant player in Bidar.

Following is the account of his political Career in the Post Independent Era. From 1947-48 he was the Member, Municipal Council, Bidar, Karnataka. From 1948-52 he was a Member, Karnataka Legislative Council. During 1957- 62 again he was Member, Karnataka Legislative Assembly. In 1962 Elected to 3<sup>rd</sup> Lok Sabha. From 1962-67 Vice-President, Bidar District Congress Committee, Karnataka. From 1962-84 Member, Karnataka Congress Committee. In 1967 Re-elected to 4<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha (2<sup>nd</sup> term). During 1980-85 he was Member, Karnataka Legislative Assembly. In 1991 he was again Re-elected to 10<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha (3<sup>rd</sup> term). He quit Indian National congress, joined BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party) and was Vice-President, Bharatiya Janata Party, All India Scheduled Castes (SC) Cell from 1991-94. During the years 1991-96 he was Member of B.J.P. Working Committee, Bidar, Karnataka. In 1996 Re-elected to 11<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha (4<sup>th</sup> term as BJP



Candidate). In 1998 he was Re-elected to 12<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha (5<sup>th</sup> term as BJP Candidate). During 1998-99 he was Member of Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution; and its Sub-Committee-B on Department of Sugar and Edible Oils. In 1999 he was again Re-elected to 13<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha (6<sup>th</sup> term as BJP Candidate) and was Member of Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution 1999-2000. From 2000-2004 he was Member, Consultative Committee, Ministry of Commerce and Industry 2004 Re-elected to 14 Lok Sabha ( 7<sup>th</sup> term as BJP Candidate).<sup>6</sup>

### **SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES.**

Shri Ramachandra Veerappa a born Arya Samajist has worked tirelessly for Removal of social, economic and religious disparities and inculcating human values among people through Arya Samaj. He has also worked for the strengthening of Arya Samaj and RSS in the area of his constituency. He had Special Interests in Religious work and social equality.<sup>7</sup>

"I owe this long life and good health to god alone. In fact, I am looking forward to completing 100 years as an MP and god willing, contest again in the next elections" says Shri Ramchandra Veerappa.<sup>8</sup> He speaks in Deccani Urdu and is fluent in Hindi and Marathi, spoken by large sections of people in this region. "I did not have the fortune of going to a school, but managed to pick up the 3Rs (reading, writing and arithmetic) in my native language (Kannada) as I grew up,"<sup>9</sup> says a rustic Ramchandra Veerappa, sporting a red headgear. He has seen Indian politics in all its changing hues.

"I had the privilege of interacting with Jawaharlal Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Indira Gandhi and Morarji Desai. During the freedom struggle, national leaders were so different and more patriotic than the present bunch of leaders" Says the veteran.<sup>10</sup>

### **CONCLUSIONS.**

Though, his journey in the corridors of power began a good 50 years and ever since this seven-time Lok Sabha veteran has carved a niche for himself among the people of the backward border district, and to date has remained invincible. In the minds of the people, the very mention of his name conjures up an image of an old dark-complexioned medium-built man wearing a grey waistcoat and a dark-red silk turban. But he was not like the rest of his luxury-hungry ilk. Materialism mattered little to him who has spent half his life in Parliament and Vidhana Soudha .Till recently, he lived in a house with a tin sheet roof in Humnabad. Now, the house has metamorphosed into an RCC house all his four married sons and their children live there.

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