



Greeting the elders during the swearing-in ceremony at Rashtrapathi Bhavan in New Delhi

Profile at a glance...



Mrs. Daggubati Purandeswari

Union Minister of State for Human Resource Development

Name : Mrs. D. Purandeswari
 Father : Dr. N.T. Rama Rao
 Mother : Mrs. N. Basava Rama Tarakam
 Birth : April 22, 1959
 Place : Chennai [Tamil Nadu]
 Marriage : May 9, 1979
 Spouse : Dr. D. Venkateswara Rao
 Children : Nivedita, Hiteshchenchuram

Education

School : Sacred Heart High School, Church Park, Chennai
 College : P.U.C., Ethiraj College, Chennai and B.A. [Litt], SIET College, Chennai
 Diploma in Gemology, Gemological Institute of India, Mumbai.
 Institute : Established Hyderabad Institute of Gem and Jewellery in Hyderabad.

DAGGUBATI PURANDESWARI, can eloquently read, write and speak four languages... English, Telugu, Tamil and Hindi. Her versatility in Indian dance form 'Kuchipudi' mirrors 13 years of dedicated practice under the able guidance of the 'Kuchipudi' exponent, Dr. Vempati Chinna Satyam.

She was first elected to the 14th Lok Sabha from Bapatla parliamentary constituency in Andhra Pradesh in 2004 and successfully completed her full term. Subsequently, she contested the general elections of 2009 from Visakhapatnam parliamentary constituency and became victorious with huge majority of votes.

From the very initial year she proved to be an effective and dedicated Member of Parliament by bringing to the fore several problems relating to agriculture, education, public health, science & technology, mother-child welfare, natural calamities and the problems faced by weavers and artisans in the country. She raised these issues forcefully in the House for appropriate redress.

She impressively participated in debate on various bills such as 'Domestic Violence, Hindu Succession [Amendment], and establishment of special courts exclusively for trying cases of women to name a few' and made meaningful contributions. In appreciation of her performance in Parliament during her first year itself, the *Asian Age* adjudged her as the best parliamentarian for 2004-'05.

Her speeches and addresses on different issues at the international fora gave ample evidence of the force and facility with which she could project various problems concerning the overall welfare of mankind with full sense of justice. In recognition of this quality, she was often nominated on several panels for making a final draft on decisions and deliberations of various international conferences. She played a lead-role on such occasions and her amendments and suggestions were mostly included in the final draft.

Being an extempore orator, a woman in quest of innovative life-style, a great visionary and having accomplished the global recognition, she was honoured with an invitation from Mrs. Laura Bush and addressed the White House symposium on 'Advancing global literacy'.

Recently, she authored a book 'IN QUEST OF UTOPIA', comprising 82 of her illuminating speeches, she delivered on national and international forums for the people so as to bring about a paradigm shift in their life-style. Her favourite topics such as education, health, economic development, agriculture, industry, child-abuse, women's empowerment, science & technology, youth, environment, governance, books & art, Indian culture, music & dance and astrology have been aptly included in the book.

As part of her glorious achievements, she further received encomia from eminent personalities. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh observed that he was proud of her and she was an asset in his Cabinet. Former Speaker of the Lok Sabha Somnath Chatarjee lauded that in her, Parliament had found a good orator. Former minister for HRD Arjun Singh acknowledged that though she was the Minister of State, the entire HRD Ministry depended on her.

Noted agricultural scientist M.S. Swaminathan presented his compliment to the effect that had she been the Minister for Agriculture, the country would have been enormously benefited. Director of the NIAS and presently Member of Parliament Kasturi Rangan in his note of appreciation observed that she had a vision for India, she was cultured, articulate and knowledgeable. Former Governor and Member of Parliament P.C. Alexander while commenting on her performance in Parliament, said that she was one of the most prominent young ministers, who always came to the House well-prepared for answers. Doyen of Telugu film industry, Akkineni Nageswara Rao overwhelmingly expressed he was proud of her.