

OBITUARY



Dr. C. Koteswara Rao (C.K. Rao)
(01.02.1930 to 04.08.2020)

Dr.C.K. Rao was born to highly illustrious parents in Chikkinala village, near Gannavaram International Airport, Andhra Pradesh. He had his early schooling in his native village and moved to Machilipatnam and Guntur for higher education and finally graduated in MBBS from Andhra Medical College, Visakhapatnam in 1955. He acquired DPH from All&PH from Kolkata in 1959 and MS in Public Health and Biostatistics from Harvard University (USA) in 1968. He underwent Certificate Courses in Epidemiology and Surveillance of Communicable Diseases from NICD in 1964 and Epidemic Intelligence Services, Advances in Communicable Diseases, Control of Measles and Eradication of Small-pox from CDC, Atlanta, USA in 1968.

He worked in Epidemiology, Control and Surveillance of Communicable diseases- Leprosy/ AID/ Filaria/ Guinea-worm/ Yaws/ Malaria from 1956-88. To begin with, he was Medical Officer in Govt. of Andhra Pradesh In Anti-Yaws Campaign in 1956-57, NMEP from 1959-63 and DHO from 19653-65. He joined NICD as Assistant Director (Epid) from July 1965-72 and Deputy Director, Division of Helminthology from 1972-84. He was DDG (Leprosy) from Dec 1984 to till superannuation on 31st January 1988.

He served as the Resource person for WHO on Yaws eradication in Indonesia in Dec 2004, Consultant/Adviser/Expert with WHO HQ and SEARO between 1994 and 2001 for strengthening global, regional and country leprosy elimination activities and Consultant to accelerate the progress of leprosy programme in the problem states in India for 11 months. In 2000, He was Consultant with SEARO, in planning and undertaking independent evaluation and In 1999, Consultant/Expert in SEARO to determine the impact of Leprosy Elimination Campaigns (LECs) in India, Bangladesh and Myanmar. He was Member of Japan's Leprosy Elimination Drug Advisory Committee from 1996 to 1999 to advise Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation on MDT by WHO HQ. Acted as WHO Short Term Consultant (STC) for Leprosy to plan, participate and prepare report of Independent Evaluation of Leprosy Programmes in Myanmar, Nepal, Indonesia, India and Philippines between 1993 and 1997. He acted as a WHO expert in the First and Second International Conferences on Leprosy Elimination in 1994 (Hanoi) and in 1996 (New Delhi). As WHO STC, assisted SEARO several times. Acted as a member of Global Leprosy Working group of WHO to formulate Policies and Review the progress between 1991 and 1995; assisted WHO Geneva in Informal Consultation on Integration of Leprosy Services into General Health Services in 1996; assisted WHO as STC in formulating plans for extension of MDT to the whole country in Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal and Indonesia between 1991 and 1994; acted as Chairman of Project review Committee of ICMR on Leprosy and as a member of Scientific Advisory Group of ICMR between 1991 and 1996; acted as Chairman of Scientific Advisory Committee of Central Jalma Institute for Leprosy between 1992 and 1997; acted as Expert to assist Leprosy Eradication Programme meetings organized by DGHS, Gol between 1990 and 1995; WHO STC on AIDS Control and Epidemiology in Sudan, Myanmar and Indonesia during 1990-91 and in Leprosy Control & Epidemiology in Myanmar and Bangladesh

n 1990-91; acting as MO (Leprosy), SEARO, worked as STC in 1988-89 and also as STC with Global Programme of AIDS, WHO, Geneva. He was Hon. Secretary, Hind Kusht Nivaram Sangh in 1988-89. He was Involved in the intensive phase of National Small-pox Eradication Programme undertaken jointly by WHO and Gol. Recipient of plaques in 1976 for outstanding contribution to small-pox eradication from the WHO & Gol and Lions International (Leap) in 1989, Bharat Sevashram Sangha, Jamshedpur in 1994 and Indian Leprosy Foundation, Mumbai in 1995 for outstanding contribution for Leprosy Control, he was Fellow of NAMS (FAMS), ISMOCD (FISCD), IMSA (FIMSA) and IPHA (FIPHA).

He was Member of WHO Expert Committee on LF (1983) and on Leprosy (1987), Steering Committee of the SWG on LF of the UNDP/WB/WHO TDR Special Programme (1984-1987), Expert Panel of the ICMR on Filariasis and Leprosy (1975 to 1990), Expert panel on Health of the ICMR (1987 to 1990) and Leprosy working group constituted by WHO Geneva (1991 to 1993). He was Participant in TDR SWG meetings on LF (1978-84), TDR SWG meetings on Leprosy (1985-88), in WHO meetings on Leprosy, 199-92. He was paper setter and Examiner of Diplomate in Epidemiology of National Board of Examination, New Delhi, 1987 till his death, Ph.D in Parasitology of Andhra, Kerala Universities and PGI, Chandigarh, between 1980 and 1988. Paper Setter and Expert in Public Health for selection committees of the UPSC Examination/ Selection Boards for recruitment of Scientists in Community Health (1985-1993). He was Chairman/Convenor of National Committee. for Independent Evaluation of Small-pox, 3rd Independent Evaluation on NFCEP, Annual Evaluation of NMCP in India (1974 and 1980), Joint Independent Evaluation of the NLEP in 1986 and 1987, Joint WHO-Gol Independent Evaluation on UMS in India (1984). He was Treasurer - ISMOCD from 1972-75, Managing Editor- JCD from 1975-76, Secretary of the Society from 1986-87; Secretary - Hind Kusht Nivaran Sangh from 1988 – 89 and Member - Scientific Advisory Panel of Editorial Board to 'Physicians' Update, 1987-1992.

He had 149 Scientific publications as author/co-author in scientific journals published from India and abroad on filariasis, leprosy, Guinea-worm and other communicable Diseases including malaria, kala-azar, JE, plague, etc. and *Hand Book / Monogram on Leprosy* as Author. He prepared Operational Manuals on NFCEP, GWEP and Yaws Eradication and contributed immensely to reach the goals.

Dr. Rao breathed his last peacefully at his farm-house near Hyderabad. He led a simple, serene and saintly life like a karma Yogi. He was a source of inspiration for all his colleagues. He is survived by his wife, a daughter, 2 sons, 5 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. His elder son is Dr. Vittal Prasad, a Radiologist and his second son Mr. Venkata Krishna, an Auditor. Both have Settled in Hyderabad.

(Compiled by C. Krishna Rao, former Deputy Director, NVBDCP and NPO WHO Country Office India).