

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

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BIO-DATA OF DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA

Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma was born on August 19, 1918 at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

He had his schooling at Bhopal and graduated from Allahabad University. Later he took his law degree from the Lucknow University. He is M.A. in English literature, Hindi and Sanskrit. He stood first in LL.M. in the Lucknow University and won the Chakravarty Gold Medal for the best all round student. He did his Ph.D. in Constitutional Law at Cambridge University on the subject 'Interpretation of Legislative Powers under Federal Constitutions'. He is a Bar-at-Law of Lincoln's Inn. He is a Brandeis Fellow of Harvard Law School and D.P.A. of London University. He was awarded LL.D., Honoris Causa by Vikram University and Bhopal University.

In his early days, he was a student leader in Lucknow University and took active part in 'Quit India' Movement and a member of the University Union Executive in those stormy days. He led the movement for merger of Bhopal State in the Indian Union and was imprisoned. He was sentenced to eight months rigorous imprisonment and released after the Merger Agreement with the Indian Union. In 1950, he was unanimously elected President of Bhopal State Congress Committee.

Dr. Sharma's public life as a legislator began in 1952 when he became the Chief Minister of Bhopal. He was the Chief Minister of Bhopal from 1952 to November 1, 1956 and later became Cabinet Minister in Madhya Pradesh Government and held various portfolios till July 1967.

He was the President of Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee in 1967-68 and General Secretary of Indian National Congress from 1968 to May 11, 1972 till he became the President of All India Congress Committee which post he holds till date. He is a Member of the AICC for over twenty years.

He was teaching law at Lucknow University for about nine years and at Cambridge University for one year. He was the leader of the Indian delegation to UNESCO Conference of Asian countries held in Karachi in 1958 and was a Member of the Committee of the Planning

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Commission on Community Projects which submitted the well-known report on Democratic Decentralisation.

He was the Chairman of the Working Group on Industries and Training of the Committee of Review of Rehabilitation work in West Bengal and was also a member of the Standing Committee on Secondary Education. He was the President of the All India Educational Conference held at Trivandrum and inaugurated these Conferences at Indore in 1964 and in Bhopal in 1972. He was the Chairman of the Committee on Delegated Legislation of Madhya Pradesh Assembly till he was elected to Lok Sabha. He was a member of the Lucknow University Court. He was a member of the Central Advisory Board of Education for 13 years. He was a member of all select committees of Bhopal and Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assemblies from 1952 to 1964. He was a member of the Indian Parliamentary Delegation to Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference, Paris in 1971.

He was President of Madhya Pradesh Hindi Sahitya Sammelan. He takes interest in the development of Urdu.

He was Captain and President of Rowing and Swimming Club, Lucknow University. He was also Cross Country Running Champion, Allahabad University and Swimming Champion of Lucknow University for three years.

He was the Editor-in-Chief of 'Light and Learning' and 'Ilm-au-Noor' (Urdu journal) and also Editor of Lucknow Law Journal.

He has published many booklets on Socialism etc. and his booklet 'Congress Approach to International Affairs' was well received.

He has widely travelled in foreign countries.

As Congress President, he visited USSR, Hungary, Austria and United Kingdom recently.

He was elected to the Lok Sabha from Bhopal constituency in Madhya Pradesh in 1971.

He has been sworn in as the Minister of Communications on October 10, 1974 and he brings to the Central Cabinet a rich administrative, long legislative and legal experience.