

G.B. Pant Memorial Lectures

I

Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, Director, CRSARD, Madras – 1991

II

Dr. T.N. Khoshoo, Jawaharlal Nehru Fellow, TERI, New Delhi – 1992

III

Mr. V. Rajagopalan, Vice President, World Bank, Washington – 1993

IV

Prof. U.R. Rao, Member, Space Commission, New Delhi – 1994

V

Dr. S.Z. Qasim, Member, Planning Commission, New Delhi – 1995

VI

Prof. S.K. Joshi, Vikram Sarabhai Professor, JNCASR, Bangalore – 1996

VII

Prof. K.S. Valdiya, Bhatnagar Research Professor, JNCASR, Bangalore – 1997

VIII

Prof. Vinod K. Gaur, Distinguished Professor, IIA, Bangalore – 1998

IX

Prof. H.Y. Mohan Ram, INSA Senior Scientist, University of Delhi, New Delhi – 2000

X

Prof. J.S. Singh, Emeritus Professor, BHU, Varanasi – 2004

XI

Prof. Madhav Gadgil, Centre for Ecological Sciences, IISc, Bangalore – 2005

XII

Dr. S.S. Handa, Ex-Director, RRL (CSIR), Jammu – 2006

XIII

Dr. Lalji Singh, Director, CCMB, Hyderabad – 2007

XIV

Prof. Roddam Narasimha, Chairman, EMU, JNCASR, Bangalore – 2008



Pt. Govind Ballabh Pant Memorial Lecture : XV

Dr. R.S. TOLIA

September 10, 2009

at
Kosi-Katarmal, Almora



G. B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development
Kosi-Katarmal, Almora - 263 643,
Uttarakhand (INDIA)



Dr. R. S. Tolia, (IAS : 1971)

Chief Information Commissioner

Uttarakhand Information Commission, Government of Uttarakhand

Date of Birth: 15th November, 1947

Brief Biography

Dr. R.S. Tolia presently heads Uttarakhand Information Commission as its Chief Information Commissioner (2005–contd.). Prior to this he was Chief Secretary of Uttarakhand (2003-2005).

Educated at:

M.Sc.(Mathematics), M.A. and Ph.D. in History, he completed a PG Course in Rural Social Development from University of Reading, United Kingdom (Colombo Plan).

During his 35 years of service in Uttar Pradesh, Government of India and Uttarakhand he has held posts related to rural, industrial and mountain development. He was closely involved with Operation Flood, consolidating Amul pattern in co-operative dairying and he was the founding Rural Development Commissioner of Uttar Pradesh. As the Hill Development Secretary he was closely involved with the development of the 8 mountain districts, before bifurcation of the state in 2000.

His involvement with training sector has been long and very productive; as Director of the UP Academy of Administration for more than five years (1995-2000), he was instrumental in formulation of National Training Policy and qualitative improvement in the training sector; and as Director of the State Institute of Rural Development, Bakshi Ka Talab, he supervised and activated the rural development training infrastructure.

His areas of interest include training, mountain, rural development and historical research and writing. As Hill Development Secretary he was Convenor of the (Kaushik) Cabinet Committee on formation of Uttarakhand and was later designated in charge of formation of the new Capital and Swearing in Ceremony of the newly formed Government of Uttaranchal in 2000. During this period Tea Development efforts in the mountain regions were revived and today Uttarakhand boasts of more than 500 hectares of best organic tea gardens. During the formative years of the newly carved hill state (2000-2005), he was instrumental in establishing a whole range of commodity and service Boards e.g. Medicinal & Herbal Development Board, Organic Commodities Board, Bio-fuel Board, Bamboo and Fiber Board, Livestock & Fodder Development Board, Sheep & Wool Development Board and Service Agencies like Organic Certification, Seed Certification etc. Many of these have proved to be trend-setters in the field of livelihood promotion in the mountain tracts, or model for Public Private Partnership initiatives.

Dr. Tolia has been involved in Quinquennial Review Missions of international institutions like International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Kathmandu, Nepal : Sir Ratan

Tata Trust (SRTT), Mumbai etc. and recently chaired the Task Force on Mountain Eco-systems, Planning Commission, Gol, New Delhi.

He has traveled extensively in South Asian, Far Eastern, European and North American countries, in connection with his official assignments and published follow-up literature. He has left behind a substantial number of useful literatures, all related to the subjects, wherever he happened to be posted. In Uttar Pradesh Registrar Cooperative Societies, Rural Development Commissioner, State Milk Board, Provincial Co-operative Dairy Federation (PCDF) and State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD) have a sizeable number of publications which are by way of Process Manuals, Hand Books, Directories and Permanent Circulars in Compendium form. In Uttarakhand the UP/Uttarakhand Academy of Administration has published a series of Studies, Monographs, Surveys, Workshop, Status Papers and Re-prints of valuable official records, Memorial Lectures as reading material for the Officer–Trainees and participants of training events. He regularly contributes articles on public administration, mountain and rural development, training and now on various aspects related to the RTI.

His trilogy of three books (i) Food For Thought and Action, (ii) Patwari, Gharat and Chai, and (iii) Inside Uttarakhand Today, are real time/on-line account of various events and initiatives which were taken in this new State (2000-2005), a unique case of current history, as it were. His two books on administrative history of Uttarakhand, (i) Some Aspects of Administrative History of Uttarakhand, and (ii) Founders of Modern Administration in Uttarakhand (1815-84), constitute a set of two books, which would serve the purpose of a Primer for all future administrative officers and public representatives as well as research scholars. For his present responsibility Dr. Tolia has produced a Hand-book for Public Information Officers which has proved useful as a working manual, as well as a training material to be used by training institutions; its Hindi version has proved useful for citizens and other stakeholders in equal measure. Besides these, the Uttarakhand Information Commission has brought out as many as 23 publications on various aspects dealing with the Right to Information Act implementation.