

Late Shri Sat Paul Mittal, MP Founder Chairman, IAPPD

Shri Sat Paul Mittal, started his political career when he was a student. He was actively involved in addressing problems concerning the youth. In 1958, the then Prime Minister, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru picked him as Deputy Leader of the Indian Youth Delegation to the former Soviet Union where he met top Soviet leaders including the then Prime Minister Nikita Khrushchev.

An excellent orator and a keen debater, Shri Mittal gained prominence in Punjab's legislative circles in 1961 when he was elected to the Legislative Council. He became Deputy Minister for Home in Punjab. He was elected twice to the Rajya Sabha for a term of six years each in 1976 and 1982. Further, in 1988, the President of India nominated him to the Rajya Sabha in recognition of his contributions to public causes, particularly his dedication to the upliftment of the downtrodden and to global population issues.

Throughout his political career, Shri Mittal served as Member of Parliament and was part of several industry associations and policymaking bodies; Chairman, Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IAPPD) and Centre for Parliamentarians on Population and Development (CPPD); Founder, Secretary General and Vice Chairman, Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD); Secretary General Emeritus, Global Committee of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (GCPPD); Co-Chairman, Global Forum of Spiritual and Parliamentary Leaders on Human Survival; Chairman, Parliamentarians Action for Removal of Apartheid (PARA-India); President, Nehru Sidhant Kender Trust (NSKT); Vice President, Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee (PPCC); Member, All India Congress Committee (AICC); Member, Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) and Member, Advisory Panel of Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) for South and South-East Asia.

As Chairman of IAPPD, he took upon himself the daunting task of tackling the problems of population facing the country and made it a peoples' movement. He single-handedly established the Centre of Parliamentarians on Population and Development involving all Parliamentarians irrespective of their political affiliation. Unique in Asia, the Centre catered to ideological orientation courses, seminars and data information on population, development and related subjects.

Shri Sat Paul Mittal's perseverance and zeal in promoting new ideas on population control, world peace and development were recognized world-wide when the United Nations Secretary General, Mr. Javier Perez De Cuellar, decorated him with the prestigious United Nations Peace Medal in 1987.

He organized several National and International conferences which involved spiritual and parliamentary leaders as he believed that they could influence communities. He spoke passionately at the historic Global Survival Conference at Oxford in 1988 and in Moscow in 1990 and made valuable suggestions for human survival and sustainable development.

He was equally concerned about apartheid in South Africa. He organized a conference of parliamentarians from several countries in Delhi where a joint declaration was made condemning apartheid. It was presented to the Indian Prime Minister. Shri. Rajiv Gandhi, the then Prime Minister appreciated his Shri Mittal's efforts.

At a prayer meeting held in Shri Mittal's memory on January 24th 1992, the then Prime Minster, Shri. P.V. Narasimha Rao described Shri Mittal as a man of very strong will power who was passionately involved in activities related to population and development and had observed that Shri Mittal's presence at any meeting would ensure that a balanced result would emerge out of the discussions.

Posterity will gratefully remember the significant contribution made by him in giving direction to the parliamentary movement in promoting basic awareness and understanding of population and human survival issues in the world.