



**GOVERNANCE  
AWARDS  
2015**  
28-11-2015

**EXCEPTIONAL  
CONTRIBUTION AWARD**

*Dr. S. Vijayakumar, IAS*

**For successful contributions towards empowering persons with disabilities through participative inclusion in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS)**

**D**R. S. Vijayakumar, an IAS officer of the 1993 batch of the Tamil Nadu cadre, has a distinguished record with enviable acumen in public administration. He is well-known for proficiency in giving shape and structure to government schemes and policies such that they are optimised in accomplishment of their objectives. As the Commissioner, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Dr. Vijayakumar was instrumental in conceptualising and initiating efforts to include Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) under the MNREGS. While the MNREGS guidelines indicated providing equal and suitable opportunity for employment of PwDs, various difficulties were associated with its implementation due to factors such as lack of clarity, barriers in attitude, availability of suitable work and services, and so on.

Taking cognisance of the problem and with the conviction that the empowerment of any socially disadvantaged group has to be a cyclic and sustainable process, Dr. Vijayakumar, engaging the key stakeholders, based on the concept of willingness to work, initiated a multi-agency approach leading to the development of the Tamil Nadu Government's Guidelines for PwDs in MNREGS. The project achieved remarkable success with 1.49 lakh PwDs, constituting 80% of all PwDs and forming nearly 3% of the total workforce under MNREGS, working regularly and achieving social and financial inclusion. His work for the empowerment of PwDs has been evaluated and documented by well-known research institutions.

In recognition of his contribution, the Rural Development Ministry, Government of India, has fully adopted the TN guidelines, while the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has circulated the initiative to all chief secretaries across the country, recommending implementation in their states. His efforts and achievements also earned the formal appreciation of the National Advisory Council (NAC).

Dr. Vijayakumar is presently posted as the Secretary, Animal Husbandry & Dairy Development Department, Government of Tamil Nadu.



THE  
JURY

**Prabhat Kumar**  
Former Cabinet  
Secretary

**Anil Razdan**  
Former Secretary,  
Power

**Vishnu Bhagwan**  
Former Chief  
Secretary, Haryana

**M B Kaushal**  
Former Secretary,  
Internal Security