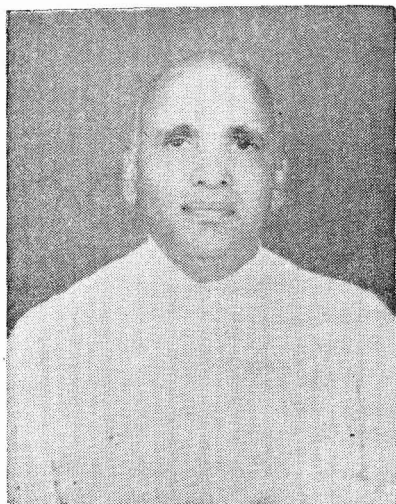


## OBITUARY



P. S. NARAYANA

1906—1981

I deeply regret to record the sudden passing away on 3rd December 1981 of Sri P. S. Narayana, the noted industrialist of Bangalore and a founder member of the Geological Society of India. He was quite hale and healthy and had gone to Guntur on a visit to his daughter. He seems to have complained of chest pain and by the time doctors could come to relieve him of the pain he had breathed his last. The dead body was brought to Bangalore the next day by car and cremated in the presence of a large number of relatives, friends and well-wishers.

Sri Narayana was an Andhra by birth but spent most of his active life in Mysore devoting his special attention to the development of mineral resources of that State. He was an old time mining and metallurgy graduate of the Banaras Hindu University. After graduation he appears to have joined the Kolar Gold Mines as a probationer. He did not stay there long but soon left that job and shifted to Bangalore to start on his own. Very soon with his winning qualities he became a favourite of Sir Mirza Ismail and Sir N. Madhava Rao, Dewans of Mysore State and through their assistance was able to secure a firm foothold in Mysore. Several mineral concessions were granted to him and he soon started a small laboratory of his own at Malleswaram in Bangalore. He focussed his attention mainly on minerals like asbestos, corundum, kyanite etc. which had not attracted much attention till then. The second world war gave a boost to his infant industry and it was possible for him to effect supplies of abrasive materials of quality to the defence establishments in the country. He became quite prominent in the industrial and political circles of the day. He later floated a Company styled 'The Mysore Abrasives Ltd.,' which for various reasons did not take off and very soon went into liquidation. This was a serious set back to all his activities. With indefatigable courage, however, he fought against great odds to reestablish himself and to a large extent succeeded.

Sri Narayana had varied interests and was an active member of many institutions like the Institution of Engineers, the Indian Statistical Institute, the Indian

Ceramic Society and many others. He was a member of the Steering Committee formed to set-up a Geological Society of India with headquarters at Bangalore. He took part in all the preliminary discussions with great enthusiasm and even placed his office at the disposal of the Society. I recall the first meetings of the Steering Committee held at his office-cum-residence in Malleswaram. Sri Narayana also functioned as the Joint Secretary of the Society for a number of years and did not miss attending a single meeting of the Council. He took a leading part in all the tours and seminars organised by the Society.

Sri Narayana was a staunch nationalist and was always to be found in spotless white Khadi worn in traditional style. His gay laughter was infectious. He had a generous temperament and distributed money and gifts to many who came seeking his help. A large number of aspiring young geologists were generously helped by him to establish themselves and chalk out their future careers.

I had the privilege of moving closely with him and through this association came to develop a genuine love and affection for him. He had many fine qualities and never accepted defeat. Whether it was a happy occasion like a marriage or an occasion when the whole family was plunged in sorrow at the death of a beloved member, Sri Narayana was sure to be there rendering such assistance as was required. He was blessed with a good partner in life and his house resounded with the merry patter of his numerous children and grandchildren. He was a very generous host. Himself, his wife, his daughters—in fact every member of the household vied with each other in making the guest feel at home. Such feelings of genuine affection and love have become extremely rare these days.

Sri Narayana was like the Indian banyan tree and sheltered a large number under his protective Umbrella. His sudden removal has cast a spell of gloom, particularly on his family. The ever cheerful faces of his children were pictures of deep anguish and sorrow at the loss of their beloved father. May God grant them courage to withstand so serious a loss.

B. P. R.