

Shri Radhakrishna Bajaj

Recipient of Jamnalal Bajaj Award for Constructive Work-2004

Born: 14th July, 1905

Educated upto English IVth Standard .

Shri Radhakrishna Bajaj is perhaps among the oldest surviving Gandhians of today. He has devoted his entire life in the field of Constructive Work which includes Khadi, welfare of women, rural development, Sarvodaya and Go-Seva. An outstanding freedom fighter, who drew inspiration from the great leaders of the freedom movement in our country, Radhakrishnaji took active part in the non-cooperation movement and the Jaipur Satyagraha. He found his early moorings under the inspiring tutelage of Acharya Vinobaji Bhave. The British Government jailed him thrice. During the Quit India movement, he was charged with the offence of sabotage and was sentenced to death. It was one of the major trials of that momentous period in our country's history.

Vinobaji's Gram Seva Mandal has been the focal point of his rural development work and Radhakrishnaji has been responsible for spreading the village industries movement in the villages of Wardha district. Even today, when he is 100, he is actively involved with this Mandal. Radhakrishnaji's most outstanding contribution has been in the fields of Khadi and Go-Seva. He has been instrumental in opening and running a number of spinning and weaving centres for Khadi, and his Charkha even now has a charmed hold on his deft and steady hands.

It was more than 60 years ago that Shri Jamnalalji Bajaj made Radhakrishnaji the Secretary of the Go-Seva Sangh. Since then, Go-Seva has occupied the prime space in Radhakrishnaji's life. He has set up Go- Shalas, the Goras Bhandar and the Krishi Gram Seva Sangh. He visits the Go-Shalas every day and tends to the cows.' He has fought for the protection of Go-Daan and propagation of proper cow breeding. This has brought work, employment and unprecedented well-being for the poor rural folk. Shri Radhakrishna Bajaj's most outstanding and historic contribution is his Herculean efforts to bring about a halt to cow slaughter. He took part in almost all major phases of the agitation demanding such a ban and attracted the attention of the public and the Union and State Governments to this vexed problem.

As a Sarvodaya worker, his commitment to the movement has been total. He was intimately associated with the Bhoodan, Gramdan and Gram Swaraj movements. Welfare of women is a cause very dear to his heart. The growth of Mahila Ashram in Wardha is a true testimony to his commitment to this cause.

The Laxmi Narayan Temple of Wardha is a mute witness to a tumultuous turn of the social history of India. This temple was also thrown open to the Harijans. Radhakrishnaji has been its President for a number of years. He has also been the preserver and propagator of Vinobaji's literature and has been responsible for bringing out numerous publications containing Vinobaji's writings, thoughts and speeches as well as other related literature.

