

## **TCE's Distinguished Alumni**

### **R Poornalingm, IAS - (1965-Electrical)**



As an Officer belonging to the Indian Administrative Service, a premier Service of India, Poornalingam had held many important assignments both in the Central and in the State governments of India.

His major assignments at the Central Government are:

- Secretary- Ministry of Disinvestment
- Secretary - Ministry of Textiles
- Additional Secretary - Cabinet Secretariat
- Additional Secretary - Ministry of Power

His major assignments in Tamil Nadu are:

- Chairman -Tamil Nadu Electricity Board
- Home Secretary
- Health Secretary
- Industries Secretary
- Food Secretary

In all these assignments, Poornalingam worked on policy formation for various sectors and also contributed significantly to organizational Improvements by adopting innovative ideas and addressing governance issues.

Post retirement from the Government of India(2005) , Poornalingam worked as non-executive Chairman of CDOT Alcatel Research Centre, a joint-venture between the Government of India and Alcatel-Lucent engaged in Wimax Technology, between 2006 and 2009. He also served as the Chairman of the Tamil Nadu Police Commission.

He is now working as a consultant to International organizations such as the World Bank, the Department of International Development (DFID), UK, UNICEF etc. to advise governments to improve their public procurement systems. He is also on the board of a few public limited companies.

As Secretary of the Ministry of Disinvestment, Poornalingam spearheaded the IPO of NTPC; and as Secretary-Ministry of Textiles, he accomplished the task of formulating many policies for modernization of the Textiles industry. In his role in the Cabinet secretariat, he participated in all major policy initiatives in various sectors including Power, Telecom, Health and Education.

As the Chairman of Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB), he was responsible for both generation and distribution of power and dealt with Thermal, Hydel and Gas power projects. He successfully negotiated many Independent Power Projects and achieved commissioning of four of them. He improved customer care through computerization of billing and re-engineering many procedures. Under his leadership, TNEB won for the first time two Gold Medals at the National level.

As the State Health Secretary, Poornalingam evolved and implemented policies for the reduction in Birth Rate and Infant Mortality Rate. He achieved unprecedented success by improving drug availability throughout the State by establishing the Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation (TNMSC) to procure and distribute drugs to the government health facilities. Through this initiative not only he reached out to the poor people of Tamil Nadu but also saved 36% of drug spending. This has been hailed as a model in public procurement by the World Bank and the World Health Organization.

Poornalingam has bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineer and Law. He has also studied Economics for his Master's degree. He is a Hubert Humphrey scholar. His date of birth is 15-11-45.

He has authored four books, "Energizing your Power Utility", "Management by Listening", "Your 27 hour day" and "Change" in addition to a number of articles.