



About Dr. Tarlok Singh

Born on February 26, 1913, in Gujranwala, now in Pakistan, Dr. Tarlok Singh (1912 - 10 December 2005), was a distinguished civil servant—an ICS officer, who as the Director-General Rehabilitation (September 1947-December 1949) — played a stellar role in re-settling and rehabilitating about half a million families from Pakistan. He was a member of the Indian Civil Service (ICS) from 1937 to 1962.

He was chosen by Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, to be his first private secretary. He guided the affairs in the Planning Commission for 17 years, rising to become its member. He also wrote India's first five-year plan. In fact, he was so pervasive in the Commission that the Commission came to be known as Tarlok Sabha

Dr. Tarlok Singh was an alumnus of the London School of Economics (LSE). At LSE, he was a favourite student of legendary Professor Harold Laski. Dr. Singh, later, became an economist and policymaker of repute and played a vital role in the economic regeneration of the nascent Indian state and also in the developmental processes of other newly independent nations after the collapse of colonialism post World War II. For his pioneering work in the field of economics, he was awarded the Soderstorm Medal for Economics by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm, in 1970. He was the only civil servant to have been decorated with all three Padma awards - Padma Shree in 1954, Padma Bhushan in 1962, and Padma Vibhushan in 2000.

Dr. Tarlok Singh was the first Chairman of the Indian Association of Social Science Institutions (IASSI). The IASSI has been organising Tarlok Singh Memorial Lectures since 2006 in his honour. He has written several books and articles. His books include Poverty and Social Change, Land Resettlement Manual for Displaced Persons, The Planning Process, Towards an Integrated Society, and India's Development Experience.

The contribution of Dr. Tarlok Singh in building India and tackling seemingly intractable problems in the years after independence has been immense. He was a man of unimpeachable integrity, simplicity, modesty and capacity of relentless work.

Dr. Tarlok Singh breathed his last on December 10, 2005, at the ripe old age of 92. His legacy, however, lives on.