



Sushma Swaraj

External Affairs Minister of India

Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister of India, was born on 14 February 1952 in Ambala, Haryana. She has been elected seven times as a Member of Parliament and three times as a Member of the Legislative Assembly. She is an Advocate by profession and educated at S.D.College, Ambala Cantt (Haryana) and Department of Laws, Panjab University, Chandigarh.

Political Career:

Mr.s Sushma Swaraj began her political career with the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad in the 1970s. She became a member of the Haryana Legislative Assembly and a Cabinet Minister in Haryana at the age of 25 in 1977 and held 7 portfolios. She became State President of Janata Party (Haryana) in 1979, when she was 27. She was Education Minister, Haryana in the Bharatiya Janata Party–Lok Dal coalition government during 1987–90.

In April 1990, she was elected as a Member of the Rajya Sabha and remained there until she was elected to the 11th Lok Sabha from South Delhi constituency in 1996. She was Union Cabinet Minister for Information and Broadcasting in the first Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government in 1996. She was re-elected to 12th Lok Sabha from South Delhi Parliamentary constituency for a 2nd term in 1998. In the second Vajpayee Government, she was sworn in as Cabinet Minister for Information and Broadcasting with additional charge of the Ministry of Telecommunications from 19 March to 12 October 1998. She resigned from the Union Cabinet to take over as the first woman Chief Minister of Delhi in October 1998.

She resigned her Assembly seat to return to national politics and was Minister for Information & Broadcasting from September 30, 2000 to January 29, 2003 and Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Parliamentary Affairs from January 2003 until May 2004.

Mr.s Swaraj was re-elected to the Rajya Sabha in April 2006 from Madhya Pradesh. She served as the Deputy Leader of BJP in Rajya Sabha till April 2009. She won the 2009 election to the 15th Lok Sabha from the Vidisha Lok Sabha constituency in Madhya Pradesh and became Leader of Opposition in the 15th Lok Sabha on 21 December 2009 and retained this position till May 2014. She has been re-elected to 16th Lok Sabha from Vidisha in 2014.

Smt Swaraj has held following positions during her political career:

1992-94	Chairperson, Joint Committee on Catering Member, Committee on Government Assurances, Rajya Sabha
1994-96	Chairperson, Committee on Petitions, Rajya Sabha
1996-98	Member, Committee on Defence Chairperson, Sub-Committee on Upgradation and Modernisation of Naval Fleet Member, Committee of Privileges

Aug 2004-2009	Chairperson, Committee on Home Affairs, Rajya Sabha Member, Business Advisory Committee, Rajya Sabha Member, General Purposes Committee, Rajya Sabha
Sep 2004-2009	Member, Ethics Committee, Rajya Sabha
Oct 2004-2009	Member, Consultative Committee, Ministry of Defence
May 2006-2009	Member, Parliamentary Forum on Population and Public Health
May 2008-2009	Member, House Committee, Rajya Sabha
31 Aug 2009- 1 Jan 2010	Chairperson, Standing Committee on External Affairs
23 Sep 2009-	Member, Rules Committee
07 Oct. 2009 -	Member, Committee on Ethics
21 Dec 2009 - 18 May 2014	Leader of Opposition, Lok Sabha

Personal Life:

Sushma Swaraj is married to Swaraj Kaushal, a senior advocate of Supreme Court of India and a criminal lawyer who served as Governor of Mizoram from 1990 to 1993. Swaraj Kaushal was a Member of Parliament from 1998 to 2004. They have a daughter, Bansuri, who is a graduate from Oxford University and a Barrister at Law from Inner Temple.