

## **BIO-DATA OF KUMARI SELJA**

Minister of Housing Urban Poverty Alleviation and Minister of Tourism  
Government Of India

Father's Name : Late Ch. Dalbir Singh  
Education : Schooling - Convent of Jesus & Mary, New Delhi  
B.A.(Hons) in Geography } Panjab University,  
M.A. (Eng. Literature) } Chandigarh  
M.Phil.  
Date of birth : 24<sup>th</sup> September, 1962

Belongs to an agriculturist family. Father was elected as Member of Legislative Assembly of Punjab in 1952 and became Deputy Minister in joint Punjab in 1957. He was elected Member of Parliament for four times from 1967 and remained Union Minister for a number of years. He was also General Secretary, All India Congress Committee.

Kumari Selja became active in politics during her college days. She contested the General Elections to Parliament in 1991 and was elected as Member of Parliament from Sirsa in Haryana with a margin of over one lakh votes-the highest in Haryana. She remained member of the Executive Committee of Congress Parliamentary Party from 1991 to 1994. She was a member of All India Congress Committee. She worked as Union Deputy Minister for Education & Culture & Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India from 1992 to March 1996.

Kumari Selja got elected as MP for second term in 1996 and was given the responsibility as Member of Executive Committee of Congress Parliamentary Party. She remained Secretary and Spokesperson of All India Congress Committee from 1996 to May, 2004. Contested Lok Sabha Elections-2004 from Ambala Constituency in Haryana and won the seat with a margin of 2.35 lac votes. Inducted as Minister of State (Independent Charge) in the Council of Ministers and allotted the portfolio of Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, where she is taking keen interest in solving the problem of urban housing in the country.

Kumari Selja has been unanimously elected as the President of the UN-Habitat during its 21<sup>st</sup> Governing Council Meeting held at Nairobi from 14<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> April'2007 for a two years term from 2007 – 2009. It is a great honour for the country and in the past only once for the year 1988-89 India has held this responsibility. This is the only UN Agency that India is currently heading. She has also been elected the Chairperson of the Commonwealth Consultative Group on Human Settlements (ComHabitat).

She has travelled widely in India & abroad including countries of Japan, China, Malaysia, U.K., Mongolia, Singapore, Hongkong, France, Bangladesh, Turkey, U.S.A. Trinidad & Tobago, Israel, Brazil, Russia, Vietnam, Canada, South Africa & Kenya. She is also an avid reader of literature and development related publications.