

## Assumption of the Office of the President, By Shri. R. Venkataraman

This initial endowment gave a tremendous fillip to the pioneering efforts of the budding Samaj. Various temples of South India contributed encouraging monetary help to the Samaj to go ahead with the task of construction of the temple for Lord Swaminatha Swami in the Capital, that would stand as a sequel religiously, culturally and architecturally, to temples in the South, dedicated to the Lord.

At this stage of initiating the preliminary steps in mobilizing the needed resources for commencing the construction of the temple Shri O.V. Alagesan relinquished his ministerial office and returned to Tamil Nadu.

.Shri R.Venkataraman, present Patron-in-Chief who had held *high* profile political offices and high profile Ministerial offices in the State of Tamil Nadu as Minister of Industries and in the Union Council of Ministers, Holding the crucial portfolio such as Industry, Finance and Defence and finally, as Pooja Rashtrapathiji, had just in 1964, emerged from the political arena of Tamil Nadu was joining the all India arena as a tall political figure took over as the third President of the Samaj succeeding Shri.O.V. Alagesan. His Holiness the Pramacharya of the Holy Kanchi Kama Koti Peetam, who has graciously monitoring the progress of the Samaj, at every stage. In its formative years, advice him to assume the Presidentship of the Samaj.



Sarvashri V.Ganapati Stapati,  
K.Balakrishnan, at Pattumalai Kuppam,  
Walajabad, for Pooja cut for before  
Commencing cutting and scuituring of  
idols and statues



Pattumalai Kuppam rock with garland  
This rock was making sculptured statues

The subsequent history--continuous methodical record of progress of the Samaj in building the temple complex and in enhancing its religious sanctity as an ideal place of worship over the year would show beyond all reasonable doubt that the assumption of the office of President by Shri R.Venkataraman, was apparently *in response* to a divine message to him as it

were from Lord Swaminatha Swami Himself, through His Holiness the Paramacharya and not a mere succession of the office of President ship of the Samaj.

At Shri R.Venkata raman's instance, Shri Ganapathi Sthapati of Mahabalipuram was entrusted with the responsibility of construction of the temple. Excellent quality of granite was available at a place called Pattumalai Kuppam, near Walajabad (between Arkonam and Katpadi). A workshop was started at Walajabad itself for sculpturing the stones for *making the Divine* idols and other statues. Under the aegis of President Shri R. Venkataraman, the pace of Droaress of construction of the temple gathered momentum. Funds were flowing smoothly and the job of sculpturing at Walajabad never suffered from lack of funds at any time.