

## **P Peddaraju**

A short biographical note on P Peddaraju, a labour leader, interviewed at Chitti Valsa Jute Mill Workers' Union on September 15, 2004

P Peddaraju was born on April 4, 1930 at Vijayanagaram in a family of agriculturists. He studied at Vijayanagaram and came to ChittiValsa Jute Mill for a job. He joined the factory in 1948.

Peddaraju joined the union in 1977 when Gangadhar Reddy was the president. He was from Congress Karmik Sangh. Later Gangadhar Reddy left the Congress and joined the CPI(M) though only to leave again. He has formed a new party of his own and runs a trade union. However, when Peddaraju joined the union, Gangadhar Reddy worked for the Congress and was intensely against left.

Peddaraju was also with the Congress and was deeply influenced by Mahatma Gandhi especially when he visited Chitti Valsa to inaugurate an Ashram.

Peddaraju started a Staff Union in the factory as he was himself a white collar worker. However, Peddaraju was soon disillusioned as the workers stooped to any demands of the management at the payment of even a pittance. He refused to run the union and came out.

Peddaraju is today with the AITUC led by Gunnarao and his comrades.

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