

13. P Venkataswaralu, Worker in Hindustan Shipyard, Vizag

#### BIO-NOTE

A short biographical note on P Venkataswaralu, worker in Hindustan Shipyard, interviewed in Vishakhapatnam on September 11, 2004

P Venkataswaralu was born on June 13, 1943 at Mumdiwaram Mandal in West Godavary district. He studied upto ITI and joined shipyard in 1964 as an unskilled worker. It was only in 1966 that he was promoted as skilled worker. In 1999, Venkataswaralu took voluntary retirement four years earlier than the due date.

Venkataswaralu belongs to a village that was deeply influenced by Communist ideology and hence he had the scope to interact with them. Venkataswaralu joined CPI(M) in 1964 and joined CITU in 1966. It was a time when the monthly wage worker was made to work on daily wage basis. Krishnamurthy, a draftsman and CITU leader organised struggle but failed to get the support from workers and eventually failed.

In 1967, CITU served strike notice to the management again. As a result one man commission was appointed by the management to look into the grievances. However strike was started and continued for a month after which management conceded to take workers on a regular basis with wages paid every month.

Venkaswaralu was a committee member in the union at this time and in that capacity, he used to visit even the villages of the workers for propaganda purposes. INTUC goons were after the striking workers and wanted to break the strike but failed.

In 1977, there was a wage revision with lowering of wages. All the unions joined hands and protested and the same wage terms were reinstalled.

Venkateswaralu had differences with his CITU colleagues on the issue of building a co-operative society. He left the organisation and joined AITUC as well as CPI in 1997.

In shipyard, majority of workers are on contract as there was a ban since 1983 on regular employment. Venkataswaralu is active in AITUC.

#### TRANSCRIPTIVE NOTE

A short transcriptive note on P Venkataswaralu, worker in Hindustan Shipyard, interviewed in Vishakhapatnam on September 11, 2004

I was born on June 13, 1943 at Mumdiwaram Mandal in West Godavary district. I studied upto ITI and joined shipyard in 1964 as an unskilled worker. It was only in 1966 that I was promoted as skilled worker. In 1999, I took voluntary retirement four years earlier than the due date.

I belongs to a village that was deeply influenced by Communist ideology and hence I had the scope to interact with them. I joined CPI(M) in 1964 and joined CITU in 1966. It was a time when the monthly wage worker was made to work on daily wage basis. Krishnamurthy, a draftsman and CITU leader organised struggle but failed to get the support from workers and eventually failed.

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