

## **Mallapudi Suryanarayana**

A short biographical note on Mallapudi Suryanarayana interviewed on September 22, 2004 at Rajamundri

Mallapudi Suryanarayana was born in a village called Ramarapuram which was his maternal grandfather's place on 13 March, 1924. He belonged to a poor family though high caste Brahmin. His father was an intellectual and wrote a critical analysis of Ramayana. He was also an authority on Sanskrit. He was generally sympathetic to national movement.

When Suryanarayana's father had to sell all his land to pay back the loan, the children had to leave school. He could study only upto eighth standard and instead learnt Sanskrit. His elder brother, the famous late leader Bhadram had already joined the Communist Party as a whole timer in 1939.

By this time the Second World War had started. In Vizag military canteen there was a vacancy. The Communist party in Vishakhapatnam wanted some comrade to work there among the soldiers and Suryanarayana joined. He was selling party publications and soon was asked by the management to leave.

After getting out of the military canteen, Suryanarayana went to the Communist Party office planning to leave for his village. The party secretary persuaded him to become a whole timer at jute mill workers' union at Chitti Valsa where his elder brother Bhadram had been active and was arrested. There were charges against Bhadram that he did not understand party line and could not lead the workers towards strike. The founder president of the union was Subbarao and he was close to the Congress.

At Chitti Valsa, Suryanarayana was working with advocate K Venkateswaralu. Hardly three months had passed when they both reorganised the union. By 1944, government came with an order to gag the union activists by not allowing them to speak within a radius of one km from the factory for two months. Suryanarayana was arrested and put in Tanjavur jail. However soon both the brothers were released from jail though were banned from entering Vishakhapatnam. He was arrested again in 1949 and was in Kadloor Central jail for two years.

After his release, Suryanarayana came back to Kolaseema, and became a whole timer with a wage of only Rs 16 a month. However, by 1952, all whole timers were asked to take up jobs. Since then, Suryanarayana never took any financial help from the party.

However, after his release from jail, Suryanarayana was asked by his close friend Prabhakar Chaudhry to come to Rajamundri and become district party secretary of East Godavari.

Suryanarayana has been expelled from the Communist Party for his anti-party activities.

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When my father had to sell all his land to pay back the loan, the children had to leave school. I could study only upto eighth standard and instead learnt Sanskrit. My elder brother, the famous late leader Bhadram had already joined the Communist Party as a whole timer in 1939.

By this time the Second World War had started. In Vizag military canteen there was a vacancy. The Communist party in Vishakhapatnam wanted some comrade to work there among the soldiers and I joined. I was selling party publications and soon was asked by the management to leave.

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After my release, I came back to Kolaseema, and became a whole timer with a wage of only Rs 16 a month. However, by 1952, all whole timers were asked to take up jobs. Since then, I never took any financial help from the party.

However, after my release from jail, I was asked by my close friend Prabhakar Chaudhry to come to Rajamundri and become district party secretary of East Godavari.

I have been expelled from the Communist Party recently.