

K. Subbana, Andhra Pradesh

He is around 78 years old; date of birth is not known. He has been one of the leading figures of the TU movements A.P., particularly among the non-coal and berite mine workers. He was in politics since the student days itself. He organised a students' strike in 1947-48 in Cuddapah. As a student, he attended a political school addressed by P. Sundarayya. He worked in the 1946 general elections held on the basis of limited franchise. He was also in the anti- Nizam struggles, and was jailed on more than one occasion in the late 40s – early 50s.

In TU movement

Among his early contacts with the workers was that with the railway workers. He later participated in the formation and strengthening of Railway workers' unions in Vijaywada, Nellore, Guntur and other places during the 40s and also in the mid 50s.

The first trade union in Cuddapah was registered in 1955. From then on, there was a rapid proliferation of TU movement in this region. TU movement struck roots among the water workers, mining, motor transport, hotel, municipal, and others.

Since the days of Nizam's rule, the movement and organisations of mining workers were growing. In the later days, more and more berite mines were developed. By early 70s different grades of Berite were being worked upon. Berite, asbestos, and other mines presented serious health and other kinds of hazards for the workers.

Subbanna was approached to tackle the difficult problems of berite mines and mine workers. He went to Anantpur and other places in this connection and organised their unions. He also organised APMC (Andhra Pradesh Mining Corporation) employees, whose first conference was addressed by K.L.Mahendra. Their struggles ultimately provided them 20% bonus, among others. The questions of minimum wages, regularisation and other questions were also tackled. Subbanna was made the office secretary of the TU office in Cuddapah, and this was his first regular TU work.

He was also associated with the District Motor workers' union, medical employees, Road Transport Corporation workers, Lorry workers etc. He took up the case of those workers who were displaced by the replacement of private buses by RTC buses. He succeeded in getting a large number re-employed.

He tackled the various problems arising out of the replacement of jute bags by polythene bags, and its impact on the workers. In this course, he had to face the onslaught under politics also.

K. Subanna also worked among the cement workers and formed their union too. Today, Subanna is not able to work actively due to failing health, but he continues to help and guide the TU movement. He occasionally attends the TU meetings and other programs.