

H. Prasada Rao, CITU, Andhra Pradesh

Date of birth not known. He is roughly 84-85 years old. He had been in contact with the congress movement since his early youth. He was in touch with the congress people since 1928 itself. He participated in the civil disobedience movement of the early '30s and had to discontinue his studies.

He went to Benaras just after the movement, and it is there that he became a communist in 1934. He was back in East Godavari Dist. in 1935 and began to work among the Kisans. He participated in a historic peasants' march in 1937, which started in the northern part of Andhra region and covered a distance of 1430 miles to Madras. He was arrested several times during the war period. He participated in the Telangana Struggle of 1946-51. At first, he and his associates did not expect the working class to participate in the revolutionary armed struggle, and therefore neglected the work among the workers. But later on, he corrected this attitude.

As CITU Organiser

The CITU in Andhra delayed its formation for a long time. Its leaders in Andhra remained in the AITUC longer than elsewhere in India. There were intense debate among the future CITU leaders of AP, like Parasa Salyavarayana, N. Prasada Rao, and others whether to form a TU organisation separate from AITUC, and if yes, when to form it. Ultimately, the CPM and the future CITU leaders decided to separate from AITUC, and they established CITU in 1970.

N. Prasada Rao was the obvious choice because of his organisational skills, he was relieved of the work on Kisan front, and given the responsibilities to organise and establish CITU in Andhra. He had the active support of talented team consisting of Parasa Satyanarayana and others. It was a big job that he successfully carried out even though he did not have much direct experience of TU work earlier.

Under Prasada Rao the CITU became a major force in A.P. it formed a separate RTC Union, as also among Port and Harbour workers, municipal workers, railways, tobacco, steel, etc. According to him, the CITU people were already well entrenched even before they came out of the AITUC, and therefore they did not face any serious difficulties in organising the CITU. Under his leadership the CITU participated in a big way in the 1974 railway strike. Besides, the CITU carried on several separate and joint struggles, along with other TUs, on various issues.

Even at this ripe old age, N. Prasada Rao continues to actively attend office, attend to various organisational and working class problems, and do regular TU work. He continues to hold important parts in the CITU and the Party.