



ACHARYA N.G. RANGA – ROLE IN FARMERS MOVEMENT

Dr. P. Athaulla Khan¹ and Dr. M. Nazeeruddin²

¹Associate Prof. of History & HOD, Osmania College, Kurnool.

²Associate Prof. of Economics & HOD, Osmania College, Kurnool.

Kisans and the Newspapers:-

In 1904, the Penugonda Agricultural Society signed a declaration under ActXXV of 1867 for publishing from Madras, a Telugu monthly named "Krishi".

P. Thimma Reddy published from Vayalpad "Rythu Janavali" in 1936 and "Vahini" in 1940. "Kranti" edited by K. Krishnacharyulu was published from Hindupur. "Sedyapu Vidya" was edited by S. Nagendrappa from Anantapur. "Nagelu" was edited by K. Sabha from Chittoor.

Summer School of Politics, Kothapatnam:-

It may be mentioned here that K.Narasimham, Pidathala Ranga Reddy and T.Narasimha Murthy (Kurnool District) were lathi-charged and arrested for attending the banned Kothapatnam Summer School of Politics in May 1937.

Summer School of Politics, Manthavaripalem:-

In 1937, K.Anki Reddy of Koilkuntla attended the Summer School of Politics at Manthavaripalem in Guntur District.

As President of the Provincial Kisan Congress in 1936, K. Obul Reddy organised a number of Summer Schools in Kurnool and Chittoor Districts. P. Thimma Reddy and C. Bali Reddy associated themselves with these activities.

Political and Economic Summer School, Madanapalle:-

N.G. Ranga also started in 1938 a Political and Economic Summer School at Madanapalle in Chittoor District. It had 75 students on its rolls and it was an organ of socialistic propaganda. The lectures dealt with the evils of Imperialism and Capitalism and were intended to direct the energies of the students towards active participation in movements aiming at the abolition of these forms of domination.

Summer School of Economics and Politics, Kalvabugga:-

G.Harisarvothama Rao also prepared special lectures on the history of Rayalaseema, famines, Tungabhadra Project, Gandhism etc. and used to deliver lectures in the temple-garden. The students were also taken to the nearby village, Kalwa Hussainapuram, where the students were taught about the rural and village reconstruction. Debates and group discussion formed part of the syllabus. B.Gopal Reddy, the Minister for Local Administration delivered the convocation address on the closing day. Seeing the success of the Kalvabugga School, leaders like N Sanjeeva Reddy appealed to G.Harisarvothama Rao to start one such school in Anantapur District. The result was the starting of Summer School of Economics and Politics at Hindupur on 5 May, 1939, G.Harisarvothama Rao, N.G.Ranga, P.Sundarayya and Nyapati Narayana Murthy (the then Editor of Andhra Pradesh) trained the student-volunteers of Anantapur District.

N.G.Ranga's Tour in Cuddapah District:-

N.G. Ranga toured Cuddapali District in December 1939. Kranti, the organ of the Kisans gave an account of his tour in Cuddapah District. The paper said that after opening the office of the Village Ryots' Association at Modumeedhipalle, N.G.Ranga hoisted the Red Flag. Her. said that the Red Flag was the emblem of the peasants' and workers' rule, that it represented their spirit, that the peasants and workers were toiling with the sickle and hammer by creating drops of their blood and that was the reason why the flag of the ryots and workers was red. In Chennur, he said that the ryots' and worker, rule should be established and that they should undertake to carry on Satyagraha immediately. In Peddapasupula, he said that the Congress should soon come to terms, with the Muslim League and that they should participate in the ensuing Satyagraha. In Jammalamadugu thousands of people attended the meeting. He said that there should be no connection whatever between the British Empire and India, that Swaraj should be established immediately and that the peasants and workers should participate in the Satyagraha to achieve it. Bharatidevi Ranga organised a session of the Indian Peasant Institute in 1941 in Chennur in Cuddapah Disttict. The Principal of that session was Ratakonda Narasimha Reddy who published his book India's Destiny, thoughtful and constructive study of India's problems

social and economic. P.Bala Yella Reddy joined the Institute at Chennur. It may be mentioned here that Y. Eswara Reddy organised the first Cuddapah District Kisan Conference at Paluru in 1941. P.Thimma Reddy led Rayalaseema Rythu Rakshana Yatra in 1941 covering over 500 miles on foot.

The Prajabandhu published the resolutions unanimously passed at a meeting of the Working Committee of the Anantapur District Ryots' Association held on 8 January, 1941 under the Presidentship of Pratapagiri Shanta Bai.

The Committee requested Gandhi, "the Congress dictator" to convert the Individual Satyagraha into mass satyagraha.

Jangam Thippaiah of Cherukucherla village (Nandikotkur Tauk) was arrested for organizing the no- tax, campaign among the farmers of Cherukucherla and Rollapadu villages.

N.G.Ranga's tour in Chittoor District:-

N.G. Ranga toured Chittoor District from 8 July to 14 July,1942 . The places he visited were: Kuppam, Tirupati, Renigunta, Yerpedu, Kalahasti, Vadamalapeta, Srirangaraja-puram, Devlampeta, Chettigundlapalli, Chittor, Vallivedu, Pakala and Palamaner. He was accompanied by N.Doraiswamy Naidu, Atluri Appa Rao and P.Thimma Reddy. At Kalahasti, the meeting was organized at Gandhi ghat on the banks of Swarnamukhi , River K. Gopinath presided over the meeting. N.G.Ranga asked the people to fight against Fascism and Imperialism He said that Congress alone would protect the interests of the farmers. P.Subbarama Doss and T.C. Muniswamy Naidu presented Rs.20/- to N.G.Ranga. The meeting at Yerpedu was presided over by Narasimha Reddy. At Pakala, the meeting was presided over by Pakala Venkatarama Naidu. Naidu asked the people not to pay taxes.

The conference of the Cuddapah Taluk Ryots' Association was inaugurated in July, 1942 at Chintha- kommadinne village by Y.Adinarayana Reddy. It was presided over by P. Narasimha Reddy. Y.Balarama Murthy hoisted the flag. The speakers asked the people to fight against fascism and urged the government to release all the detenues.

Kisans and Quit India Movement :-

Since the outbreak of the Civil Disobedience Movement, G. Rami Reddy of Brahmanapalli in Nandyal Taluk had been very active, moving from place to place and meeting the local Congress leaders "In Camera". After discontinuing his studies, G. Rami Reddy took to national movement and began to associate himself with C. Bali Reddy, General Secretary of the Andhra Provincial Kisan Sabha and K. Obul Reddy of the Kurnool District Congress Committee and also an active member of the Kisan Sabha.

Through them, Rami Reddy came under the direct influence of N.G.Ranga. He toured the Kurnool District along with N.G. Ranga and others advocating the principles of the Kisan Movement and forming Kisan Sabhas. During his sojourn in Kurnool District, he came into contact with S. Narasimha Reddy, Alluri Subba Reddy, Kanala Venkata Subba Reddy and others. He attended the Summer School of Politics held at Kalwa Bugga in 1939 and contributed immensely to the success of the Movement. As he was a keen and ardent follower of N.G.Ranga, he was elected as the President of the Kurnool District Kisan Sabha in 1941. In August 1942, he organised a secret meeting at Maddur and advocated the cutting of telegraph wires and other subversive activities. It was disclosed after the arrest of S.Narasimha Reddy at Panyam Railway Station with unlicensed fire arms and ammunition and Kanala Venkata Subba Reddy at Nandyal that the series of wire cutting cases in Nandyal were the direct result of the secret meeting at Maddur which was sponsored by G.Rami Reddy. In December, 1942 a bundle of prejudicial pamphlets describing the process of manufacture of bombs and other explosives was received from Guntur by one K.Kuppu Swamy of Nandyal who was a business partner of the brother of Rami Reddy. This parcel was obviously intended to be delivered to Rami Reddy, as it was well known that all letters and correspondence meant for G.Rami Reddy were received by Kuppu Swamy at Nandyal and dispatched to his village Brahmanapalli, by a special messenger. It is also learnt that the Andhra Provincial Kisan Sabha had appointed him as a District Agent for Kurnool District for the purpose of carrying on Kisan propaganda, which was nothing, but Congress propaganda. He was therefore arrested under Rule 129 of the Defence of India Rules, at 5 P.M. on 1 February 1943 and remanded to custody in the Sub-Jail at Nandyal. Kisan leaders were active in Chittoor District and there were indications that something in the nature of a no rent campaign was being launched. In Kurnool District, K.Obul Reddy, a Kisan leader was prosecuted for inciting the ryots of the villages to refuse to pay land revenue.

N.G. Ranga's tour in Chittoor District:-

N.G.Ranga, toured Chittoor District and addressed meetings. He was reported to have advocated the conduct of peaceful agitation regarding rents through Kisan Sabhas; the formation of Peace Brigades and support for the Congress policies. The Kisan Sabha was not prepared to accept the doctrine that the World War-II was peoples' war. On this ground, Ranga refused to preside over the meeting convened by the Friends of Russia and China.

In Chittoor, Rangites Ryots' Association was formed. In September, 1944, fifty local Congressmen attended a meeting held at Madanapalle under the auspices of the Communists. (21). In December, 1944, P. Sundararami Reddy, a Communist leader, addressed meetings in Anantapur, Kurnool and other places in an attempt to persuade Congressmen to admit Communists into their ranks. His efforts did not meet with any conspicuous success; but indications showed that all Congressmen were not of the same mind on the matter. In Chittoor, for instance, a Communist was invited to attend a meeting called upon to form a local Congress Samithi.

In Kurnool, the District Ryots' Conference was held in April 1945. It was attended by about 6,000 people. At this Conference, resolutions for the release of the National leaders, the commutation of the death sentences passed on the Ashti, Chimur and Kulasekharapatnam prisoners etc., were passed.

REFERENCE :

1. K Maibtalat., "Freedom Movement in Rayalaseema : unpublished Ph.D., Thesis submitted to the University of Hyderabad, 1995.
2. Sarojini Regani (ed,). Who is Who of Freedom Struggle in Andhra Prades,(Hyderabad, 1978-1982) Vol. II, Pp. 349-350; Vol.III
3. Fortnightly Repot for the first half of May, 1938, D.O.No. P. 4-9, dated 23 May, 1938, Vol. No.73 (TNSA).
4. M.Veerabhadra Rao, Sree Sarvothama Jeevithamu, (Vijayawada, 1965)

Pp. 157-161.

5. M.Venkatarangaiya (ed.), The Freedom Struggle in Andhra Pradesh (Andhra): 1932-1947 (Hyderabad, 1974), Vol.IV, Pp. 122-123.
6. Ratakonda Natasimha Reddy, a native of Madanapalle, became a Member of the Rajya Sabha during 1972-1978. See also N.(I. Ranga, Op.cit., P. 287.
7. Sarojini Regani (ed.), Who is Who of Freedom Struggle in Andhra Pradesh, (I lyderabad 1978) Vol.', Pp. 61 and 71.
8. Public (General) Department, Newspapers and Periodi. cals, Prajabandhu, GO.No. 360, dated 21st February, 1941 (TNSA).
9. Andhra Patrika, 10 July, 1942, P.3 (Sri Saraswaths Niketanamu, Vetapalem, hereafter SNV)
10. Andhra Patrika, 4 July, 1942, l'.3 (SNV)
11. Andhra Patrika, 18 July, 1942, P.4 (SNV)
12. Andhra Patrika, 23 July, 1942, P.3 (SNV)
13. 13. Public (General) Department, G.O.No. 421, dated 8 February, 1943, Pp. 2389-2391 (A.P. State Archive'', Hyderabad hereafter APSAH).
14. Ibid.,
15. Public (General) Department, D.O.No.P.4-1 dated 64111, 1942, P36 (APSAH)
16. Public (General) Department, D.O.No.P.4-14 dated July, 1942, P.57 (APSAH)
17. Public (General) Department, D.O.No.P.4-18 dated 6 April, 1942, P.36 (APSAH)
18. Public (General) Department, D.O.No.P.4-25 dated 6 January, 1944, P.233 (APSAH)