

RED SALUTE TO COMRADE KOVAI ESWARAN



Our veteran Comrade Kovai Eswaran, aka Com. Viswesvaran, has passed away on July first by 7.00 pm at Royapettai Government Hospital. For the past one month he was sick. He was treated for kidney problem and infection at Public Health Care Centre in ICU at West Mambalam. He was transferred to Royapettai Government Hospital for dialysis and hemo therapy. He was responding well to the treatment. During dialysis, he suffered a sudden heart attack and he left us. During the one month period CPI (ML) Comrades Dr. Sudheer, Gunalan along with Prem (son), Selvi (daughter-in-law) and Priya (daughter) looked after him with care and concern. Numerous comrades and friends came to the fore to help. But our beloved comrade Kovai. Eswaran's life came to a halt at his 79th year.

Born on 16.07.1939 at Gopichetti Palayam in Coimbatore district, to Venkatanarayan and Muthulakshmi, a brahmin family. His father was a school teacher. He participated in the freedom struggle and got arrested. Due to this his family was ex-communicated from the society. Comrade Eswaran started his political career by joining with Maa. Po. Sivagnanam's Tamilarasu Kazhagam. He took part in various struggles like Tamil Nadu State Border Issue; declaring Tamil as official language; renaming the then Madras State as Tamil Nadu. During these struggles he was arrested and imprisoned. In this period he came into contact with Comrade Jeeva, a great orator in Tamil literature. The Communist ideology gave a new dimension to Eswaran's thinking and life. He became a member of Communist Party of India.

Eswaran participated in the agitation against Hindi Imposition by the Central Government. Under the Red flag movement he organised the workers in Chennai city and was arrested by the then Congress government. At that time he was working in Chennai City Co-operative Housing Society as Record Clerk (1956-1962). Hearing about his political activities Bakthavatsalam then Congress Chief Minister ordered to dismiss Com. Eswaran from the service. He approached the Court for justice. But the Court verdict went against Eswaran. The question before Eswaran was either to apologize to the government to save the job or resign. He chose to resign. He managed with some private jobs Com. Eswaran rejected revisionism and neo revisionism and adopted the revolutionary politics. He joined the then CPI (ML) led by Com. Charu Majumdar and became a full time worker. He was allocated the work of party building in Dharmapuri area. He worked hard to become familiar with the cadre. Com. Eswaran did not agree with the insistence of the leadership that annihilation is the only way and path for revolution. He expressed his view right in front of Com. Mazumdar. But Com. Charu Mazumdar stated that those who are not engaged in annihilation activities can't be the true Communists. Com. Eswaran was further frustrated by this statement.

By 1970 he wished to do party work as journalist and started a literary magazine "MANITHAN" in Tamil. As he worked in the CPI (M) magazine THEEKATHIR earlier, he had some experience in running a magazine. MANITHAN was first circulated only to private and individuals. Since MANITHAN was an underground magazine Eswaran encountered many hardships in running the

magazine. Comrades like SK, AN Singh and Nagaraj were in the Editorial Board. In that time Emergency was declared. MANITHAN was banned. Comrades were arrested. At this juncture Comrade met P.V.Sreenivasan, State Committee Member who was leader and brother of Comrade Rathna. By party decision Comrade Kovai Eswaran and Rathna got married. To meet out the family expenditure Eswaran had to seek some employment. He worked as a manager in private finance company and ran a mobile restaurant for livelihood. He became father of Prem and Priya.

During Emergency the struggle for democratic rights had become order of the day. Comrade Eswaran organised many such struggles on behalf Tamil Nadu Human Rights Organisation. In these activities comrades SK, AN Singh, Nagaraj stood with Eswaran. The fight against capital punishment became the main agenda. Three persons who have been awarded death penalty were relieved and their sentences had been reduced to life term. Thereafter they all have been released by Court. Because of these activities in Chennai Eswaran's residential quarters in Chennai had become a resting and meeting place for comrades and legal advocates.

After the Naxalbari uprising, the slogan of armed struggle as the main form come to the fore and nagated mass organisations. By 1980, this War corrected and started building mass organisations. Various Marxist Leninist groups took different stances regarding the Political Path to be taken. Eswaran stood with AMK and a cultural front - Revolutionary Litetary and Cultural Movement (RLCM) headed by Eswaran with Comrade Kalyani was formed. A monthly magazine named "Sendharagai" (Red Star) in Tamil. District level Committees were formed and Cultural programs propogated Marxist Leninist ideological themes. At All India level All India League for Revolutionary Culture was formed. By 1983 various programs regarding Tamil Elam, Seminar on Caste and Class struggle were taken up. In all these meetings Eswaran was the main speaker. His thunderbolt voice was mesmerizing the masses all over Tamil Nadu.

After 1990 the movement got splintered. Eswaran too was a victim of this. However he continued to be a soldier in ideological struggle. He never hesitated to discuss with the cadre of different age groups.

He continued to work with different groups, doing translation works, writing articles and engaged in practical activities. By 2008 his health was affected. Attacked by paralysis his movement was restricted considerably.

Later, he came into contact with the Central leadership of our Party. He had an extensive discussion with the Central leadership of the Party on various aspects of Programme, path and the questions of ideological and political importance.

Finding himself in basic agreement with the line, he joined the Party. Since then, he was fully engaged himself in the work of the Party. During this period he started translation of Comrade T.Nagi Reddy's India Mortgaged- a Statement made in the Sessions Court defending the political line and refuting the charges of Conspiracy.

He played an important role in bringing different Communist Revolutionary groups together and into our Party- CPI (ML). Tamil Nadu State Committee was formed and he became its Secretary. Also he became the Central Committee member. The Political Organ of Tamilnadu State "varga porattam" was edited by him and he published various translations.

In his final days he translated Comrade Kanu Sanyal's The Voice of Indian Revolution. He passed away when the book was under print.

Comrade Kovai Eswaran is a living legend of his days. He opposed the caste system and both his son and daughter got married by revolutionary Culture. He lived a simple life ideal for the Communists to emulate. The Condolence meeting was held at his residence. His Body was carried by women Comrades to Kannamma pettai funeral yard and cremated.

Long live Comrade Eswaran!

Red Salute to the departed leader Comrade Kovai Eswaran

**Central Committee
CPI (ML)**
