

## Red Salute to the Communist Revolutionary leader and A Great Agitator Comrade Kotaiah



**Com. Kotaiah** (Koppula Mohan Reddy), APSC Member of CPI (ML); the Member of Party's Central Control Commission; the National Executive Member of AIKMKS and the State Secretary of RCS (AP) has suffered heart pain and suddenly departed in the early hours on 1-12-017 in his own home at Krishna Lanka in Vijayawada, AP. He led a seven decades long glorious life of Communist Movement in his age of 80 years.

Com.Kotaiah took birth in 1938 in Pullayagudem village of Ramannapet taluka, today's Atmakur Mandal, in the then Nalgonda district. Com. K.kotaiah's father Narsimha Reddy was a guerrilla fighter in the heroic Telangana Peasant Armed Struggle against the feudal landlords and Nizam's rule. In his tender age, Com. Kotaiah had extended his active help and cooperation to this struggle as a member of Bala Sangham in the village.

After the completion of his education, Com.Kotaiah had worked as a Primary School teacher for some time. He was dismissed from the job on the plea that he belonged to a Communist family. When the ideological differences came to the fore in the Communist Movement, he leaned towards the Marxist Party politics under the guidance of Com. Nandyala Srinivas Reddy, a leader of Telangana Peasant Armed Struggle. He was active in the working class Movement while working as a RTC conductor in Hyderabad. In 1965, he went to Vijayawada as a courier of Com. Nanduri Prasada Rao who was then incharge of the Party's State centre. It was a period of repression. As he had already married (1964) Dhanalakshmi, the daughter of Satyam, Krishna Lanka Hotel in Vijayawada, he made Vijayawada as his centre and continued the activities of the movement there.

He organised many agitations in Vijayawada as a youth leader, TU leader and more importantly as the leader of riksha workers. He led the movements of riksha workers and other poor in Gunadala, Arulnagar and Machavaram for house sites. When he was working openly in 1963 – 69, 1973 – 75 he distributed the Party paper Janashakti widely among the party ranks and the sympathisers. He fixed the riksha tyres to his bicycle, peddled in and around Vijayawada town and supplied 500 copies of the party paper. Not only that. He was extensively discussing politics with them. From this we can understand how extensive and intensive his work was.

Com. Kotaiah came over to the Communist Revolutionary politics in the period of post-Naxalbari and Srikakulam Movements. As a follower of Comrades T.N and D.V he made efforts to build the revolutionary Communist movement. He worked hard in the conditions of repression to get the important documents of the party printed and distributed among the cadre and equip the ranks. Com. Kotaiah attended the April 1969 state Convention of the party held in Atlapragada as a delegate. Later, in the conditions of serious repression, Com. Kotaiah was arrested, implicated in the arms case, taken to various police stations in Madhira and was subjected to severe torture. Along with the Madhira case, com. Kotaiah's name was also included as an accused No. 17 in the TN Conspiracy Case which was already foisted against the top leaders of the party. He

was then moved to Secunderabad Jail. Inside the jail, on one side, he spent time in the study. He stood like a shield in defence of the leaders in countering the slanderous propaganda that was going on at the time against the party and the leadership.

No sooner Com. Kotaiah came out of jail on a condition bail, he plunged himself fully among the workers and masses of people and moved them into action widely on their problems. The strike of Nidamanoor Sugar Factory workers, the people's resistance against the police in this context; the struggle in defence of dalits, in Gundimeda, Paturu and Gudavalli; together with this, the struggle of Giripuram people for house sites while resisting goondas; standing in defence of workers of Tadepalli Cement Factory and other companies and providing a militant guidance to the Railway and RTC workers are a few examples for his fighting nature.

During Emergency in 1975, Com. Kotaiah who was on a condition bail had gone into UG and carried on the work of the party, movement and organisation. When a super cyclone had struck the Divi area, he mobilised the affected people for immediate relief and for a militant action against the callousness of the Govt. By 1983, he was leading thousands of people into the agitation on the questions of drought and low voltage in Nalgonda district. The well-studied articles written by him on the problems of irrigation were quite inspiring for those in the movement and also for the intellectuals. He suffered the paralysis and met with a road accident at a time when he was fully in the thick of activities. The moment he recovered, he again plunged into the party work.

Com. Kotaiah was the State Secretary of the Party during 1985 –1988. As the Hyderabad Party Secretary in 1992 he had done an extensive work with the spirit of uniting the revolutionary movement. He played a great positive role at every turn in the party and movement.

In 2001, he took the responsibility of the State Secretary of Rythu Cooli Sangham (AP) and took part in the open activities. He went to different areas in the state as the member of Party's State Committee and enthused the ranks of the Organisation. Com. Kotaiah's wife had departed owing to serious ill health. His elder son too had met with a sudden death only within a few days after this. It had depressed him mentally and physically. But he overcame the grief and again, continued the mass and revolutionary activities.

Unwavering confidence in the Party leadership; immense love and affection for the people; the knowledge of Marxism and extensive study made Com. Kotaiah a towering personality.

Attentively listening the problems of cadre; constantly providing the suggestions and advice; being available, responsive and helpful to all and following the Party leadership and strengthening the unity constitute the distinct qualities of Com. Kotaiah.

For all these reasons, Com. Kotaiah's last journey went participated by a conglomeration of various revolutionary, left and democratic forces, young activists and those from the past movements.

The CC of CPI(ML) pays its heartfelt revolutionary homage to Com. Kotaiah. CC conveys its deep condolences to the members of his family.

**2-12-2017**

***CENTRAL COMMITTEE,  
CPI(ML)***

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