

Remembering

Tarimela Nagi Reddy



Nagi Reddy was born in a wealthy family on February 11, 1917. He had his early education in the Theosophical and Rishi Valley schools.

Neither the relation nor affection as father and son came in the way when he had to launch the struggle against the landlord nature of his own family.

Com. TN shifted his studies to Benarus Hindu University, from Madras Loyola College where he found more freedom for his independent political thinking.

He actively participated in the activities of student's union and was elected as its president. At that time, BHU was a centre for various political views. The untiring efforts and initiative of Com. TN had led the student masses towards the nationalist politics, socialist ideas and proletarian revolution. He withstood all the tests required by the standards of the then Communist Party for a member of the vanguard of working class, the Communist Party, in 1939.

After returning to his native village with MA degree and leaving Law course, he strived to organise the youth and students into Communist movement. During the political classes organised by the Congress Socialist Party, Com. T.N. used to teach contemporary economics and politics creatively applying Marxism. During this period, Com. T.N. attracted many youth towards Marxism.

It is interesting to note that TN was first arrested in 1940 by the British Government. It is also pertinent to note that TN was then sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment under the Indian Penal Code. It can as well be said that his

active political life as a Communist was initiated in that year by the grace of the colonial government.

Since then, TN have been in and out of prison quite a number of times. The following will give an idea as to how the succeeding governments have treated him as a hard-core "Criminal".

1940 : Sentenced to one year rigorous imprisonment for having Published a booklet, '**Economic Effects of War**'.

1941 : Re-arrested at the jail gates immediately after the above sentence was over and he was released from Tiruchirapalli jail. Detained under Defence of India Act.

1946 : Arrested by the Congress Government under what is known as Prakasham Ordinance and detained. Released in 1947.

1951 : Arrested and detained just before the first General Elections and after four years of underground life.

1955 : Arrested during mid-term elections for defiance of Section 144.

1962 : Arrested under Defence of India Rules.

1964 : Arrested in December and detained under Defence of India Rules.

1969 : Arrested in September under Preventive Detention Act.

1969 : Arrested again on December 19th, at Madras, and chargesheeted under Section 121-A and other Sections of IPC.

The one feature of importance is that his arrest in 1940 and again in 1969 has been under the same Act- the Indian Penal Code promulgated in 1860.

Devulapalli Venkateswara Rao



DV Rao hailed from the village Bandameedi Chandupatla of Suryapet Taluka of Nalgonda district. However he was born in a family of landlords (Deshmukhs) in 1917 (1-6-1917) at Inugurthi village of Manukota taluka of Warangal district. DV Rao died on July 12, 1984. His father was Shri Devulapalli Varada Rao and mother Shrimati Devulapalli Gopamma. He had his early education there. He had his primary education in Tirumalagiri and Namavaram, villages near Chandupatla, and the middle school education in Suryapet. He pursued his high school education at Khammam. During this period he attended the 3rd Conference of the Andhra Maha Sabha at Khammam. He had his Intermediate education in Warangal. He joined the BA course for his graduation at Osmania University. He participated in the famous Vandemataram Strike of the university students for which he was expelled from the university along with many others he refused to oblige the university authorities who demanded an apology from the students for readmitting them. After moving the pillar to post in search of a university which would admit them, Com. DV along with others joined the Jabalpur Arts College and completed his graduation. During this period he had an occasion to know about the national movement and also met, though briefly, some of its leading figures. He also came into contact with socialist and communist literature. After his graduation he returned to his native village (1938).

In 1939 he was contacted by the CPI. Among other things the implications of joining the party and carrying on communist activity in the Hyderabad state was made clear to him. As a part of these, it was made clear that one should be prepared to sacrifice his life. There was a ban on the party according to the then existing laws. Com. DV thought over all the problems of joining the party, and with a full knowledge of its implications agreed to join the party as a full-time worker. From then on he stuck to communist convictions in thought, word and deed to the last moment of his life.

DV played a crucial role in the development of Telangana Peasant Struggle in all its important stages right from the inception of the party, commencement and development of the class struggle, the struggle taking the form of armed struggle and continuing the armed struggle against the Union army and opposing the demand for the withdrawal of the armed struggle.

Charu Majumdar



Comrade Charu Majumdar was born in 1919 in Matualaloi, Rajshahi (now Siliguri) to the Zamindar family. His father was a freedom fighter during the Indian independence movement. Majumdar dropped out of college in 1938.

After dropping out of college in 1937–38, Majumdar joined the then banned Communist Party of India (CPI) to work in its peasant front. Soon an arrest warrant forced him to go underground for the first time as a leftist activist. Although the CPI was banned at the outbreak of World War II, he continued CPI activities among peasants and was made a member of the CPI Jalpaiguri district committee in 1942. The promotion emboldened him to organize a 'seizure of crops' campaign in Jalpaiguri during the Great Famine of 1943, more or less successfully. In 1946, he joined the Tebhaga movement in the Jalpaiguri region and embarked on a proletariat militant struggle in North Bengal. The stir shaped his vision of a revolutionary struggle. Later he worked among tea garden workers in Darjeeling.

The CPI was banned in 1948 and he spent the next three years in jail. In January 1952 he married Lila Mazumdar Sengupta, a fellow CPI member from Jalpaiguri. The couple moved to Siliguri, which was the center of Majumdar's activities for a few years. His ailing father and unmarried sister lived there in abject poverty. He was briefly imprisoned in 1962.

During the mid-1960s Majumdar organized a leftist faction in Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI(M)) in northern Bengal. In 1967, a militant peasant uprising took place in Naxalbari, led by his comrade-in-

arms Kanu Sanyal. This group would later become known as the Naxalites, and eight articles written by him at this time—known as the Historic Eight Documents—have been seen as providing their ideological foundation: arguing that revolution must take the path of armed struggle on the pattern of the Chinese revolution. The same year, Majumdar broke away and formed the All India Co-ordination Committee of Communist Revolutionaries which in 1969 founded the Communist Party of India (Marxist–Leninist) – himself as its General Secretary. He was captured at his hideout on 16 July 1972 at 3 am and after 12 days in police custody he died of a massive heart attack at 4 am on 28 July 1972 – aged 53 – in the same lock-up.