

THE GLORIOUS TELANGANA PEASANT ARMED STRUGGLE AND ITS VALUABLE EXPERIENCES

-VISWAM

III

Manukota-Mulugu-Warangal Areas:

The Communist Party took into consideration the losses incurred, due to certain mistakes in tactics and, as a consequence, there were arrests of leadership and dispersion of cadres and other losses. The Area Committee transferred other squads to safer areas and depending upon the experiences gained, reorganised the squads. It gave political and military training to the cadre. It sent certain squads and some cadres to the struggle areas and started resistance.

The people of the area helped a lot to the regular guerrilla activities. They gave an active co-operation in collecting information about the military movements and eliminating CIDs. They created obstacles to the military in the forest areas. Many youth joined the squads. The peasant and coolie cadre who were in confusion after the police action and were staying in the villages with temporary lassitude established relations again with the party and started their work in the mass organisations.

Landlords were not able to stay in the villages. Only in those villages where there were permanent military camps, they could cultivate lands.

People were very active in the newly extended villages. The people of all the villages were ready for the distribution of lands. Because of attacks of squads on military, people were able to face the repression. As the schemes of the enemy were shattered, there arose a scope for people's activities. The people eagerly awaited for the calls from the party and saved many comrades.

Though the losses due to mistakes in secret work and weakness on organisational front were a hurdle to the resistance, the leadership had surmounted these difficulties.

The movement of this area was extended to the forest area of Mulugu and Pakala. The cadre while discharging the task of extending the movement, re-established contacts with plain areas and organised the resistance. The period of three years from 1948 to 1951, the Manukota-Mulugu-Warangal area became a battle ground for guerrillas and Nehru's military. Many number of leaders, organisers and squads came to this area from Suryapet and continued the resistance.

After police action in 1948 the people of Suryapet area were on the move in hundreds and thousands. One village after another had confiscated food grains from the landlords who were punished earlier. They confiscated newly 10 thousand bags of paddy from some other landlords who joined hands with congress police.

The agricultural labourers conducted many a struggle and were able to get an increase in their wages in Nalgonda and Suryapet taluks. They sold the food grains of landlords to the

people at a price fixed by them. They created breaches and trenches in the roads to prevent the movement of the military.

This area was encircled by five to six thousand strong military. It tortured the people and raped women and murdered scores of people. This ferocious military attack created great loss to the Party organisation. It became necessary for the important cadre and squads to withdraw into forest areas. In this situation the landlords tried to re-occupy the lands from peasants. In some places they succeeded and in some places people resisted those landlords. The people eagerly waited for the activists and squads. They waited for the return of the squads.

They came to know that the squads were re-organised and they were taking action against landlords and union military. So their initiative was unleashed. At some places they occupied the lands taken away by the landlords. They chased away the goons of the landlords.

The strikes of agricultural labourers were conducted in 90 villages taking Yellandu as Centre. The Girijans revolted against the military.

In Garla-Pakala area, to prevent the movement of the military, more than thousand people dug trenches across the roads. In the forest and mountain ways boulders were placed, they cut the trees and placed them across the roads. There was a continuous fight between the military and the people for twenty continuous days. The removal of the boulders and trees by the military and people placing them again repeated for three times.

Girijans resisted the atrocities of the police on women. They resisted the military with wooden pestles and mirchi powder. The movement spread up to the river Godavari and Mulugu, Parakala and Gundala area. Union military unleashed severe attacks on this area; yet, the people valiantly resisted. They confiscated 900 bags of food grains from landlords and destroyed 13 hundred bags in forty villages. They destroyed the roads and took action against the police agents.

In 1950, 13 thousand acres of government and forest lands were occupied and three thousand bags of rice were distributed.

Adilabad District

The movement was extended to Chennur and Sirpur area beyond the river Godavari. The government had followed the policy of encirclement and suppression. Upto 1951 every day the Nehru government deployed additional military. In dry season, it organised 250 attacks on the villages. The military kept watch around the clock on every drinking water point. It killed 16 people and apprehended 13 guerrillas only. It implemented Brigg's plan of vacating the villages. This plan became inevitable to the enemy to prevent people's cooperation to guerrillas. Yet, the people of the remaining 30 villages searched for the ways to escape from this Brigg's plan. They faced the military attacks. People carried on counter attacks by moving constantly and protecting themselves from the enemy and striking the enemy whenever possible. They led almost the life of guerrillas and thus were hand in hand to the party guerrillas. About 40 people, including women, joined the regular guerrilla squads from them.

Female guerrillas exhibited special skill as couriers. They became experts in using guns and shooting at the enemy in a steady and cool manner. Two were elected as sub-commanders of squads.

In two taluks, people confiscated the food grains from landlords and destroyed the revenue records and mortgage deeds. They occupied the government lands, forest lands and lands in the possession of landlords and cultivated them.

By the end of July 1951, people of 48 villages participated in 44 anti-landlord actions. They confiscated the paddy and other provisions. They destroyed those items which they were not able to distribute. The people kept in police camps under Brigg's plan used to send information

to the party squads about the movements of the enemy. The people of 20 villages, who escaped from the police camps, resided in the safer areas of forest and co-operated with the squads. There are some more incidents like this. A member of the provincial committee came to this extended area and organised the people.

Bhongir Area

Most of the leadership of this area was arrested. Some leaders became martyrs due to the betrayal of traitors. In spite of this the movement and squads were re-organised according to the direction given by the provincial committee in the eastern part of Bhongir area.

People continued the cultivation of the land that they had occupied. The strikes of agricultural labourers were organised. Enemies of people were dealt with according to the situation. Poor peasants and agricultural labourers joined the movement as militants and followed the discipline strictly; methods of secrecy and tech. The people whole heartedly co-operated.

As the military attacks intensified, the squads extended from the safe area to Ibrahimpatnam taluk. They established contacts with the struggle area and continued the resistance. Squads were re-organised in the Western Bhongir which was completely damaged. Whenever the attacks were intensified, they used to reach the safe zones and continue the resistance as the intensity of the attacks is lowered. If we depend upon the people and follow revolutionary organisational methods, we can extend the movement while protecting the already achieved victories—this is the valuable lesson from the re-organising effort in this area.

Khammam-Kothagudem-Palvancha Area

After the police action, all the important squads of this area reached to safe zones. After establishing contact with the leadership the squads again started their work in this area. Though the leadership of the party in this area had degenerated and was infidel, the local comrades strove hard to organise the resistance according to the guidance received from the state committee. This revival had influenced the movement in the neighbouring taluks. In Tiruvuru taluk which was adjacent to this area, though majority of the leadership was arrested, the resurgence of the people did not abate.

As a result of the military attacks in 1948-49, only two squads with membership of 25 to 30 and four organisers remained in the plain areas.

The party organisation was to be rebuilt. Squads were re-organised with three members in plain areas and five members in forest areas. Contact with most of the movement was extended to 200 villages in Palvancha, Eastern Yellandu and Madhira areas.

Upsurge in People's Struggles Again

Agricultural workers and dhobis struck work many a time. Paddy from the godowns of landlords was confiscated and distributed.

The party organisation was strengthened with the joining of youth and women from the poor and landless peasants. Zonal Committees were formed in Palvancha, Wyra, Vemsur, Paleru, Madhira, Yellandu and Proddutur.

The party took steps to control the military attacks. People organised lightning attacks on military. Though police camps were present, squads secretly resided in the villages and killed landlords and their agents.

Forest Area

The party established relations with forest area right from the beginning of the guerrilla struggle. It won the hearts of the Girijans. On the other hand, the Union military used Brigg's plan, in which people were vacated from the villages and herded together in specially set up camps. Gadepadu camp was one of them. In this camp, ten thousand Koya tribe people died of cholera.

Instead of providing medical relief, the Union military shot down three thousand people. Eighteen party comrades died of cholera.

In Allapalli camp military killed 120 people and party comrades. Aerial attacks were made. Even though this reign of terror continued, the people's movement did not abate. The strikes of agricultural labourers and farmhands were on the rise.

After the squads extended to forest region, village and forest officers and other corrupt officials fled from the area. The Girijans occupied forest camp lands and cultivated the newly acquired lands. New light had dawned in the social lives of Girijans. Many of the youth and women joined in the squads. Nearly 200 Girijan youth joined the movement in this area as couriers and organisers.

Party activities extended into villages of Gond people in Adilabad district and Koya people in Warangal and Khammam districts. Cadres, leaders and squads withstood many difficulties in these areas. The party squads faced with the scarcity of food and drinking water and harsh weather of winter and rainy seasons. Diseases like malaria and cholera disturbed them. With limited resources, the squads in semi-plain areas faced many hardships in facing the attacks of the enemies. Both men and women cadres faced these difficulties with comradely spirit. The strength lies in the cause of revolution.

Karimnagar

People were jubilant over the end of Nizam-rajakar rule. The people's movement in Karimnagar faced setbacks during 1947-49 period. After the arrest of the leadership, the people and cadre waited for the leadership. The resistance movement against the army of Nehru in neighbouring districts gave impetus to them. The provincial committee leadership had sent organisers and three squads to this area. The oppressed peasants and agricultural labourers extended a wholehearted welcome to them.

There was no other alternative than taking offensive action on the landlords. People confiscated food grains and other properties of landlords and occupied their bungalows. Some bungalows were erased to the ground. They killed 16 policemen and 16 goondas and landlords. In an attack on Sircilla police station, they released innocent people from the lock-up and confiscated rifles, bullets and gunpowder.

With this thousands of poor people came in to the streets and attacked class enemies on a large scale. They welcomed the squads of the Communist Party. On the other hand the tyrannical landlords, exploiters and pettandars lived with great fear. Some of them fled from the villages.

The people of Sircilla, Nimmapalli, Bantupalli, Gaalipaali, Yernapalli centres took action on the landlords. They confiscated their paddy and other properties in Jagityal, Bhimavaram and other places. The fort houses were erased to the ground.

Nizamabad and Medak

The effect of Karimnagar movement influenced these districts. The people of Reddypet and Annavaram welcomed the squads and told them:

"Zagirdar sucked our blood. We hoped that our hardships would come to an end with the 'Jai Hind' (Congress) government. On the contrary, our difficulties increased. Show us the path. Teach us the methods of fighting the enemy. Don't be afraid of police attacks. We are all united. No one will give away information about you to the police. We will take all the precautions for your protection".

The squads responded to this appeal of people. They conducted attacks on landlords and confiscated and burnt their properties. Immediately afterwards the police unleashed repression on the people. People gave all protection to squads. The squads made lightning attacks on

the military. The people resisted police and stopped payment of land tax to government, land rent to landlords and the levy imposed on collection of forest produce.

In the same way, the people took retaliatory measures on the Zamindars of Vannazpet, Chimalapalli, and Garjanapalli and goondas of Khasimpet. Within three months the upsurge of the people was extended to 400 villages. 300 villages were in close contact. With the tactics of united front, the rich peasants and small businessmen were attracted to the side of revolutionary movement.

As the military intensified its attacks, the people's resistance also grew. The people thwarted all the attempts of military to re-build roads for the movement of their vehicles. In Nizamabad district all the roads leading to villages were breached and trees were cut and placed across the roads. They put up sign boards which warned that 'those who cross that limit will die'.

The party took offensive actions to liquidate the strength of the enemy and attacked Nimmipalli police station. They conducted many attacks on troops in Yernapalli forest and gave a hard blow to their morale.

The enthusiasm of the people grew; many more number of youth joined the squads. In the midst of police attacks, people harvested the crops standing on landlords' lands and confiscated food grains. Party conducted meetings in the villages explaining the task of democratic revolution and programme of the party. Programmes like hoisting the red flags also continued.

In a report sent to the PC centre, the Secretary of that Area Committee explained how the movement influenced various classes. The frightened landlords agreed to the demands of the people and promised to act according to the policy of land distribution. The rich peasants, who had no other alternative than accepting the party's programme, remained neutral and stopped buying lands. The middle-class peasants felt liberation from oppression and were confident that they were free from any kind of fear. They were extending all co-operation and help to the party. The poor peasants felt completely free. They were thinking about the landlords' land and properties that were yet to be taken into possession by the people. They were prepared to act under the leadership of the party. The agricultural labourers were jubilant. They felt that they were liberated from tyranny of landlords. The party took seriously the task of concentrating on the consolidation of these forces.

Though the police attacks created terror, people in the struggle areas showed strong will to fight. They did not allow the government to function; the powers of forest officials were set aside and the people freely utilised forest resources. Several measures to curtail the extension of the movement in this area were taken by the government. It confiscated all the boats in River Godavari and used Home Guards for surveillance on the banks of the river. Yet, the movement was extended to Manthana, Chennur, Nelipur and to the coal mines of Bellampalli. The peoples' resistance was continued.

The party worked among the Gond tribal people according to the situation. As a result of past revolts; the government appointed Gonds as village officers and distributed some barren lands. The cadre worked patiently to gain their confidence and attracted them towards the revolutionary movement. Exaggerating certain mistakes of the party, the enemy tried to create apprehensions among the Gond people; but, the party cadre patiently explained the matters and gained the confidence of Gond people.

The revolutionary actions of people began. Lands were distributed; land records were destroyed; people resisted police attacks. The people showed enthusiasm to fight to end the oppression and this situation prevailed in all the areas to which the movement extended.

On the Banks of River Krishna:

Huzurnagar, Miryalagudem, Devarakonda and Achampeta

The leadership of Huzurnagar area had illusions on Nehru's police action. As a consequence, it did not take measures to protect the achievements of the struggle. It took an attitude that normalcy would be restored as a result of police action, while the squads kept their weapons aside and lied low. Despite this rightist deviation and direction from the area leaders, the members of squads and lower cadres clearly understood the situation after police action. As the return of landlords and Deshmukhs grew with the help of military, the squads reorganised themselves and took defensive measures.

The area leadership firmly put forward a revisionist line. Until the new situation arose in broader areas on an all India plane, partial and economic struggles and secret party building should be continued-this was their line. It did not consider the problem such as how to face the repression, how to protect the achievements of struggle, how to save the party and mass organisations etc. Their line leads to inaction, escapism and surrender.

The conditions were different from the policies of area leadership. This was clear in the report sent by the secretary of Tadikamalla zone:

"As soon as the people came to know that the landlords are returning to the villages with the help of military; they hoisted Red Flags in their villages and showed their determination.

"The police intensified their attacks in Tadikamalla zone. Two thousand strong military came down heavily upon the people to terrorise them; but the people did not lose their confidence. Guerrilla squads attacked police camps and killed policemen. The people distributed among themselves the food grains of landlords; they destroyed their tobacco crops, confiscated their harvests and fought for wage increase.

"The military intensified its repression on people as they resisted. The military continued repression in zone after zone. Yet, the people withstood it. According to the situation the squads retreated some times, and moved forward at other times. People extended full co-operation to squads. The members of squads mingled with the people, participated in the daily activities and formed into a squad when time came to conduct an attack on police. With the killing of Patel of Chalakurti by the squad, the other village officers became submissive.

"The number of police and military camps were increased. So it became inevitable to take precautionary measures and so the squads retreated to safer areas. Emboldened with this, the police and landlords started to harass the people through arrests. Once again agents appeared in the field.

"In this situation the area leadership insisted on keeping our weapons in secret places. Our argument that we cannot save the lives of 30 exposed activists of Tettagunta area, unless we provide them with weapons, was brushed aside by the leadership. As a result of this most of the comrades were arrested and tortured.

"These policies of area leadership had emboldened the landlords and their agents, and caused many losses to the revolutionary movement. In Phattepuram, Nereducharla, Vijayanagaram, Tadikacharla, Ramasamudram and other villages of Munagala area, the people retaliated landlords and their agents and refused to abandon the achievements of the struggle and to give information about the communists. In Devarakonda and Miryalaguda areas, the affection towards the party, the hatred towards landlords and the determination showed by the people strengthened the viewpoint that we should fight the military to the end.

"Even then the area leadership steam rolled its revisionist policy of conducting partial struggle, hiding the weapons and stopping actions against landlords and police."

These policies brought disastrous results. The same report continues thus:

“Though the local comrades discussed and decided to take action on certain goondas and agents, the Area Committee overruled it. Frustrated with this attitude, the local comrades took action against notorious landlords and agents in Alagapuram and Nereducharla villages. Under unavoidable circumstances we resorted to these actions. We are to be ruthless towards the enemy. At the same time, before taking action we have to advise the exposed comrades to take safety measures. Otherwise the enemy would kill them.

“In this situation, the provincial Committee intervened and reorganised guerrilla squads. It took action on the enemy with the full co-operation of the people. The enemy fled from the area.”

With the intervention of Provincial Committee, the movement and party in this area were again put on the rails of the armed guerrilla struggle. In the meantime, goonda forces were strengthened in some centres. The squads conducted attacks on these centres and killed some of the goondas. The people were able to protect their achievement in Chalakurthi, Matampalli, Kapugallu, Adavi Devulapalli, Nereducharla, Kondaprolu, and in Miryalagudem area Bothalapalem, Vadapalli, Nidigallu of Devarakonda taluk and almost all the villages in Huzurnagar mandals.

The people of Lambada and Chenchu tribes had shown utmost confidence in the party, participated in the struggle and extended all the co-operation to squads.

It was crystal clear that the people’s opinion was in favour of fighting against Nehru’s military. The initiative shown by the people after struggle against the military amply proved this point. As a result of this, the initiative of the people of those villages which were complacent after police action, was again unleashed in Nalgonda district.

Amarabad Area

Movement was extended to this area of Mahabubnagar district. As a result of arguments for withdrawal of struggle, the party and squads could not revive the activities at a right time. They could not extend into forest area. But the people are ready to receive the party positively because of its influence in the other areas. As the party rejuvenated its work, the people had fought the enemy and protected their achievements of anti-Nizam struggle. Despite the terror tactics of the enemy, the people had extended all co-operation to the party and the movement. The enemy hatched several plans to prevent the strengthening of the party and again victimised the people with their terrorist activities.

Yet people extended their whole hearted cooperation to the guerrilla squads. Guerrilla fighting continued. The squads took action on police, home guards, goondas and landlords in the villages of Konnagula, Mudinepalli, Pamparanipalli, Bommanapalli, and Tirumalapuram of Achampeta (Amarabad).

The squads and party organisers reached this area in 1950. The landlords were frightened with the people’s upsurge, which was the result of the influence of struggle that was going on in other parts of Telangana. This area faced the problem of scarcity of gunpowder and higher level party organisers. The main problem was in the building of party organisation in tune with the peoples upsurge.

Kurnool and Guntur

The party made intentional efforts in Kurnool and Guntur district which lie on the right bank of the River Krishna. It established contacts with people and developed Nallamala forest for defensive purpose. Members were recruited from these districts for joining the squads in Telangana region. Leading comrades were sent to Telangana. Actions were taken against oppressive forces in the border areas of Kurnool forest in December 1950. By attacking the forest guards and home guards and landlords they acquired shotguns and burmars. In June 1951, the

squad raided on the police station of Gadivemula of Nandikotkur taluk and confiscated eight rifles and 130 bullets. The wicked among the landlords were punished. The people could freely use forest. People were organised to solve the food scarcity and the food grains of the landlords were distributed. People braved the police repression and saved the squads.

Palnadu and Sattenapalli taluks of Guntur district were located between the river Krishna and Nallamala forest and used as a protection abode for Telangana squads. The Guntur district communist committee rose the peoples' consciousness against the oppression of landlords, exploitation by forest officers and injustices committed by village officers and the police. After learning that the government was going to take possession of firearms from the landlords to prevent the snatching of firearms by communist guerillas; Sattenapalli guerrilla squad confiscated 70 rifles from landlords.

Vinukonda taluk in Guntur district and Markapuram Taluk of the then Kurnool district were adjacent to the Nallamala forest. Forty rifles were snatched away after attacking Pullala Cheruvu police station. Notorious landlords were punished in Vinukonda taluk. The people were made conscious of and were organised with the aim of providing protection to Telangana peasant revolutionary movement. The leading cadres and squad members for this area were allotted from Guntur, Tenali, Repalle, Bapatala, Ongole, Kanigiri, Podili, Darisi, Nandikotkuru, Atmakur and Nandyal areas.

Vikarabad - Thandur

The movement extended to this area by the end of 1950. The people waged struggles against the collection of levy of food grains, and collection of taxes by the revenue, against the atrocities of police, village officers and landlords. They waged struggles for the lands occupied by landlords and for increase of wages of agricultural labourers and achieved partial success.

The movement was extended to 300 square miles. The enemy did not relish the victories and the extension of people's movement. The enemy unleashed a reign of terror. The police caught and killed agricultural labourers harijan Yellappa and harijan Lalappa and other youth and peasants. The squads took revenge with the cooperation of the people against those who were responsible for these attacks. The people destroyed the land records, snatched away rifles from the police and home guards and severely beat the landlords and agents.

After the withdrawal of Telangana peasant armed struggle, Com. Torati Laxmana Murthy was arrested and killed by the police. He belonged to Torredu village in Ramachandrapuram taluk of East Godavari district. He was sent to this area for the extension of the movement.

Mahabubnagar

After the police action, party activities were extended to Kalvakurthy, NagarKurnool and Kollapur taluks. In nine villages people abolished exorbitant land rents and raised the wages of labourers.

The Role of Workers, Students and Middle Class

They stood in support of the great Telangana peasant armed struggle. In March 1949, in Hyderabad the workers of Praga Tools and Iron & Steel struck work for two months, for their professional and economic demands. Posters were displayed with the demands that Nehru's military should quit Telangana and people's democratic government should be formed with peasants, workers and other classes. Red flags were hoisted.

Immediately after the police action, the workers of Bellampalli coal mines led the people in attacking the fort-houses of landlords. The greedy traders and landlords were punished. On September 1949, Nine thousand workers struck work and marched in the streets of Hyderabad demanding the abolition of death sentences to the heroic fighters of Telangana. Hyderabad state transport workers struck work to protest the murder of Com. Ganapati by the police. The

workers of oil mills, municipal and public works employees joined with them. The Socialist Party also gave a call for workers strikes in protest of the repression. Warangal Azamjahi mill and 22 other factories joined the strike. Students marched with black flags in Hyderabad to protest the declaration of Nizam as 'Rajpramukh' by the Indian government. The students of Warangal and Karimnagar also organised protest marches and anti Nehru government processions by including their academic demands.

In May 1949 the subordinate engineers and PWD Hyderabad government employees federation fought for the resolution of their problems. Those journalists who showed solidarity to these struggles were lathi charged and arrested. Youth waged struggles against executions and repression. They became victims of suppression.

All these struggles had helped the Telangana armed peasant movement. Though these struggles were of relatively low level in extent and depth, their political importance is not less prominent.

The Role of Andhra and Rayalaseema Districts

The peasant movements in coastal districts, which were then part of Madras presidency, and which had sowed the seeds of this movement had not reached to the stage of guerrilla struggle. Yet they continue as militant struggles waged against feudalism challenging the power and authority of the landlords. The political spirit of these movements helped a lot in building revolutionary movement in Telangana. These movements attained more revolutionary character once the Telangana peasant movement reached the level of guerrilla armed struggle. There was a controversy whether these movements had a comprehensive orientation of building revolutionary movement or were they spontaneous ones. Whatever it might be, various social, political and economic struggles waged since 1935 had the communist goal; they had revolutionary class struggle orientation. Certain aspects like how the revolution would be brought, were dealt in general manner and were not concretised. In the process of building the Telangana peasant revolutionary movement and practicing Marxism-Leninism they could find a path and the process of owning this path by several people had begun.

The anti-feudal struggles in Krishna district were extended to the Western border area which was adjoining to Telangana. These struggles sowed revolutionary seeds in Telangana. The political effort that took place at Tunikipadu had sowed the first seeds.

Serious class struggles were waged in the area adjoining the forest of Tiruvuru, Mylavaram and Nuzvidu of Krishna district, Vinukonda, Sattenapalli and Palnadu of Guntur district; on both the sides of River Krishna in Nandigamma, Gannavaram, Divi and Vijayawada taluks in Krishna district, Guntur, Tenali, Repalle and Sattenapalli taluks of Guntur district; Kothapatnam, Chirala, Bapatla, Cherukupalli along the sea coast of Guntur and Krishna districts; Machilipatnam, Kaikalur in Krishna district; Narasapuram and Bhimavaram in West Godavari district and Amalapuram, Kottapet, Razolu, Ramachandrapuram, Kakinada and Tuni and adjacent taluks of East Godavari district; Narsaraopet in Guntur district, Gudivada in Krishna district, Tanuku in West Godavari, Rajamundry and Peddapuram in East Godavari districts. Many political movements were also conducted in these areas. Yelamanchili, Anakapalli, Visakha taluks of Visakha district and Mandasa, Barua, Sompeta taluks of Srikakulam district also witnessed many class struggles and political movements. In Nellore district also many class struggles were waged in Darisi, Kanigiri, Kandukur, Kavali, Atmakur, Venkatagiri and Nellore taluks. In the Rayalaseema districts of Ananthapur, Kurnool, Cuddapah and Chittoor, the class struggles were organised. In the adjoining areas of Nallamala and Yerramala forest, anti-feudal class movements were conducted. The political, organisational work which provided support and defence to the struggle of Telangana was continued here. The main centres of the movement

were Ananthapur, Tadipatri and Gutti of Ananthapur district whereas in Kadiri, Penugonda partial class struggles took place. Class struggles took place in Nandikotkur, Atmakur, Nandyal, Kurnool, Markapuram, Kambham and Pathikonda taluks in the then Kurnool district; Class movement was built in Pulivendula, Kamalapuram, Cuddapah, Proddutur, Rajampet taluks. Several struggles took place in Madanapalli, Kuppam and in Cuddapah district.

Several struggles took place in Madanapalli, Kuppam, Putthur, Srikalahasti, Chittoor in Chittoor district. The party led the peasants and workers in many class struggles in Bellary, Kolar and Guntakal areas which are in the border of Karnataka and in Yemmiganur and Adoni of the then Bellary district. Many tasks such as recruiting cadres and training them, securing weapons, finances and dens etc., were discharged by the party organisation in coastal and Rayalaseema regions. Strong movements of the oppressed classes were built.

Guerrilla Struggle Firmly Established

The military sent by Nehru's government tried to trample the victories achieved by the peasantry in their anti-feudal struggle. The revolutionary peasantry resisted this attempt under the leadership of the communist party and protected their victories inspite of fascist repression by thousands of military forces. The people waited for favourable conditions in villages where the military camps were set up and saved the squads and important cadres. The party took up the extension programme. Thousands of people were arrested and hundred were killed. Yet, the movement was extended by applying appropriate tactics.

The backbone of tyrannical feudal lords was broken. The village panchayats had conducted all the matters. The union military tried to smash the organs of peoples' power and establish old power. The people resisted these attempts. In the midst of police camps, these panchayats might have not discharged their duties in an efficient manner, but they made the committees function through direct and indirect methods. At certain times, they waited for the party contact to resolve certain critical problems. All the people, including the rich peasants respected party's judgment. The problems were never referred to the government courts of law or to the congress offices by the people.

The party fought against the policies of surrender and vacillation. It continuously educated the cadre on these trends.

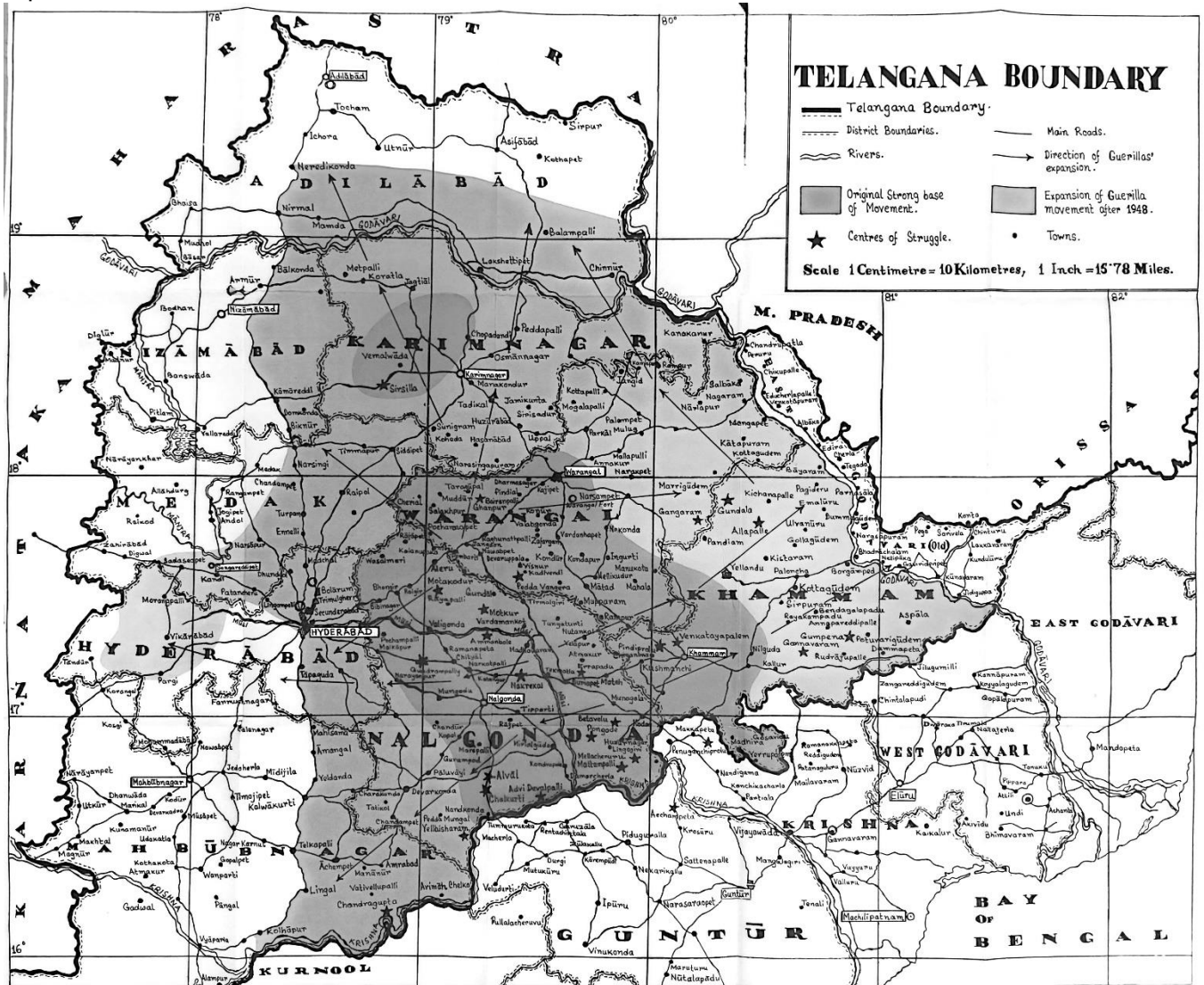
It took several measures to protect, consolidate and extend the achievements of the struggle. It re-organised the party and squads in those areas where there were setbacks. As a part of protecting the movement through extension to new areas, it allotted leading cadres and squads to those areas and built and trained new guerrilla squads.

It maintained the continuous and relentless nature of party activities. It strived to develop maximum relations with the people, to develop their consciousness to higher level and thus kept them always active. In a most dedicated and unflinching manner, this effort was continued. It prepared the guerrilla squads for offensive acts on the enemy. At the same time, when the situation demanded a retreat, they behaved in a most responsible and brave manner.

Our offensive acts struck a hard blow upon the morale of enemy forces and gave an impetus to the initiative of people and guerrilla squads. It educated the cadre and people on the relation between offensive and defensive acts. It conducted propaganda among the enemy forces explaining them the aims and targets of our movement and against which classes we were fighting. As a result, a situation arose that the top military brass did not trust the ordinary jawans. – Even though the party leadership lost contact with Suryapet, Janagama, Bhongir, Manukota, Nalgonda and Khammam etc., areas due to offensive attack by the enemy forces, the people were able to protect their achievements of struggle because of their resistance to the military and Deshmukhs who could not stay in villages without the presence of military. Whenever an

opportunity was available people under the leadership of the party used to attack zamindars in ambush. Later when the guerrilla squads were reorganised this area became the centre of revolutionary movement with a strong base.

- The party withdrew from this area in the initial phase of the police action not for saving the leadership; but to develop the guerrilla struggle and to extend the movement.
- The Zamindars and enemy forces could only reside in the road side villages with some sort of peace.



A Geographical Picture of the Movement:

First:

Taking Surypet-Janagama road as the central point, towards the North, Warangal, Dharmasagaram, Pendyala, Bairanpalle; towards North East Narsampet, Manukota, Vardhannapet; towards East, Khammam, Venkatayapalem, Pindiprolu; towards South East Huzurnagar, Kodada, Madhira, Matampalli; towards the South, Chalukurthi, Adavidevulapalli, Alwal, Nandikonda; towards North East Munugode, Chanduru, Marapalli; towards the West Narayanapur, Gundrampalli, Pochampalli, Bibinagar, Bhunvangiri and towards North West Kolanupaka, Rajpet, Pochampet, Cheryala. The area which was in the middle of these eight directions was the strongest revolutionary base. It was red area.

Second:

The movement was also strong, though relatively smaller in area, around Vemulawada and Sircilla in Karimnagar district.

Basing on these two centres, in 1948 the movement extended after the police action. The strategy and tactics adopted by the Provincial Committee were implemented only after the government arrested hundreds of cadre, leadership and thousands of people. As a result of this the mass base, cadre and squads had grown in strength. The people were prepared for resistance.

From the central area of the revolution and from coastal and Rayalaseema districts steps were taken to strengthen the movement covering the area of the following villages:

In the North :

Beyond the Godavari River Nirmal, Bellampalli, Chennur in Adilabad district.

In the Northeast :

Manthana, Mahadevpur, Mangapet, Bayyaram, Pagideru, Parnasala, Burgumpaadu, Jeediguppa, of this side of Godavari as a border.

In the East :

Rudrakshapalli, the border of West Godavari district, Jeelugumilli, Dammamet.

In the Southeast:

Thiruvuru, Mylavaram, Penuganchiprolu, Veerulapadu.

In the South:

The villages of Sattenapalli, Palanadu talukas which are a border to the Krishna river.

In the Southwest:

Amarabad, Yellendu, Telakapalli, Amangal, Kolhapur, Chandragutta, Arimeta Chelaka, Vinukonda, Markapuram, border villages of Nandikotkur taluka, Veldurthi, Pullala Cheruvu.

In the West :

Vikarabad, Sadasivapet, Narsapur.

In the Northwest:

Thimmapur, Bikanur, Kamareddy, Balakonda.

The guerrilla fighters made supreme sacrifices to make the movement firmly take roots in the Godavari valley, Krishna, Guntur, Mahabubnagar and Kurnool districts. They developed fighting tactics in their battle against Nehru's military forces. The military was afraid of entering the guerrilla areas. The jawans started to understand the aims of the movement and started to sympathise with it. The revolutionaries became adopted to living under the difficulties and hardship. The people, party comrades and families were steeling themselves to long term repression.

The party and people were fully prepared to face difficulties of a long drawn armed struggle. The Guerrilla squads strived hard to establish a guerrilla zone in an area of forty thousand square miles having ten million population. This movement had great influence on the rest of India and was closely observed by the people of the world.

The armed struggle initially against Nizam and then against the Nehru's military forces between 1946-51 had surged forward amidst many ups and downs. It tasted many losses and weaknesses. It continued steadily amidst the inner party problems of political, theoretical and organisational nature and the trend of surrender. It moved forward steadily with confidence amidst ruthless struggles against the vacillators, politically bankrupt elements and agents of enemy.

Exactly at this phase of the movement, venomous bite of betrayal struck it. What were the bankrupt theories of this venomous bite? Why the movement could not escape this bite? How the bite was executed?—These are the questions that are facing today's generation of revolutionaries. The responsibility of answering these questions and drawing proper lessons from the valuable experiences of the glorious movement rests with the communist

revolutionaries. Only when CRs discharge this duty purposefully, Peoples Democratic Revolution in India will surge forward.

Conclusion

Since 1940, the Communist party brought the people into action and developed their consciousness step by step. It played an active role through various mass organisations, particularly the Andhra Mahasabha.

At the ideological plane, it has drawn a clear cut line of demarcation between Gandhism and Marxism-Leninism.

It waged relentless struggle against the bourgeois reformism in Andhra Mahasabha. It organised the peasants on an anti-feudal programme.

It implemented with all dedication the principle of 'to the people - from the people and again to the people.'

It waged militant struggles after defeating legalism and reformism. It developed the consciousness of the need to establish people's power. It acted upon the spontaneous movements and took steps to build organised movements.

Though partial struggles on partial issues were organised, it took up issues of land and peoples power in order to sustain the movement and to take it to a higher level. It did not confine to partial struggles on partial issues. It gradually raised the level of people's resistance by taking the land issue as central task. It adopted all means—from traditional weapons to firearms—as means of people's resistance. It had built and trained the armed resistance squads to fight the enemy according to the level of the movement, and gradually developed the people's resistance to the level of guerrilla struggle. The weapons were mainly acquired from the enemy.

In building the movement it linked the efforts of concentration and extension of work. From the grassroot level to the higher level, it implemented the organic relation between the concentration of work and extension of work. It strived to develop the political, cultural and economic level of the people. For this purpose, it used propaganda, agitation and resistance. It criticised and corrected the trends of showmanship, lack of concreteness and individualism. It also corrected the wrong trends of sectarianism and individualism that raised their heads due to heroic actions. It criticised and corrected the defeatism and inaction that usually rise when there are no quick victories or when facing setbacks.

It developed the discipline, and the methods of secrecy that are necessary for the protection of movement and peoples struggle. It linked the open activity with secret activity. It followed the tactics of united front in building the movement. At the same time it fought against right opportunism, surrender and liquidationism. It was able to attract the middle classes and small businessmen. It was also able to keep some of the rich peasants till the end on the side of the movement. It attracted many number of artists, writers, intellectuals and democrats and utilised their support and abilities for the development of movement.

Even though it did not forget the task of organising the working class as the leader and whatever may be the reasons for its failure in this task, it could not concentrate on this task sufficiently.

At every stage of the movement and in the midst of brutal repression by the enemy, it gave anti-feudal and anti-government programme to the people. It formulated the tasks for the protection of achievements of people's struggle. It formulated the appropriate programme when the movement extended to new areas. It skillfully implemented the tactics of continuously keeping the people in active phase on the move amidst repression. It firmly adhered to the principle of not isolating from the people.

The Telangana peasant armed struggle was not only for overthrowing the rule of Nizam; but also for the abolition of feudalism and for establishment of people's democratic state. As a continuation of this the struggle against the Army of Nehru was continued in the second stage.

The struggle waged against Nizam and Union government was for the establishment of people's democracy and abolition of feudalism.

The inner party struggle was started to fight against the trends of surrender, disruption and illusions on the government. Such forces had appeared in all the districts. At the central level, they openly came out and resorted to disruption. Even then, the people, mass organisations and party committees in Andhra, Rayalaseema and Telangana stood on the side of Telangana armed struggle and supported it. The revolutionary people's movement of Telangana dawned as a morning star of the Peoples' Democratic Revolution in India.

Victory of the Revolution Assured!

Red Salute to Martyrs!

[This extensive article "The Glorious Telangana Peasant Armed Struggle and its Valuable Experiences" published in 3 parts in the July, August and September 2023 issues of Class Struggle is written depending on the books and articles written by Com. DV, Com. P.Sundarayya, Com. Chandra Rajeswara Rao, Com Ravi Narayana Reddy ,Com Bhimireddy Narsimha Reddy, Com Nalla Narsimhulu and utilising articles published in Prajasakti, Visalandra and Janasakthi on Telangana Armed Peasant Struggle.]
