

ROLE OF G.VENKATASWAMY IN TELANGANA MOVEMENT

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Abstract

The main objective of this paper is to probe the role of G.Venkataswamy in Telangana movement. Initially this movement started for safeguards and mulki issues turned into a separate state. Telangana Praja Samiti established for this purpose. This movement first launched by the students later it converted into a mass movement. More than 370 students were died in police firing and many were wounded. It became real peoples movement. Many important personalities of Telangana participated in it, G.Venkataswamy is one among them. In this paper the estimation is made about the role of G.Venkataswamy's contribution towards the movement.

A Brief profile of G.Venkataswamy

Gaddam Venkataswamy was born on October 5, 1929, in Hyderabad, which at the time was a princely state ruled by the Nizam. Gaddam Venkataswamy was born to Gaddam Mallaiiah and Pentamma. His father, worked for the Nizam's army throughout his lifetime. Mallaiih displays care and devotion towards Venkata Swamy, and he used to boast to his relatives that his son would one day bring the family honor. He says that his kid will make the family proud. They had a modest home in Thopukhana, which is located in the middle of Lal Darwaja and Goulipura.

Venkatswamy was an active trade unionist and headed the Indian National Trade Union Congress from 1961 to 1964. He founded the B.R. Ambedkar Education Society which was converted into a public education trust. The society runs nine educational institutions from its huge campus at Bagh Lingampalli. As the general secretary of National Huts Union, he provided accommodation to 75,000 hut dwellers and earned the sobriquet "Gudisela Venkatswamy".

Venkataswamy, a staunch loyalist of Congress, who started his political career as an ordinary Congress worker was elevated to top posts, created a record by getting elected seven times as a Lok Sabha member from Peddapally seat in Karimnagar district and Siddipet in Medak. He worked as deputy minister of labour and rehabilitation in the Union Cabinet. He also served as Union Cabinet Minister of Textiles and Labour in 1995-96. He was deputy Congress Parliamentary Party leader in Lok Sabha and also worked in various Parliamentary committees. Venkataswamy also served as Labour and Civil Supplies Minister in the combined AP Cabinet between 1978-1982. He was Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee Chief from 1982-1984.

1969 Telangana Movement:

When the Telangana agitation started in 1969, Venkataswamy was serving as an MP in Delhi at the time. From his point of view, the way Telangana was treated in the combined state was not fair. Yet he did not have any trust in the individuals who were in-charge of the 1969 movement. Because of this, when it first started, he tried to keep his distance from the movement. The movement broke out, and he was unable to see any Telangana blood on the streets. The violation of the gentlemen's contract as well as unfairness in the areas of education and employment were the primary impetuses behind the movement that began in 1969. The very name of the state that was once known as Andhra Pradesh is deceptive. In 1956, the political leaders of the two areas in Delhi came to the conclusion that the state should be called Andhra-Telangana. Andhra Pradesh was already their name before they arrived in Hyderabad, so it doesn't matter what occurred. The leaders of Telangana were not questioned in the slightest.¹¹ Since then, the Andhriles have continued their fraudulent activities. If the gentleman's agreement holds true and the guy from Andhra becomes the chief minister, then the leader of Telangana should be promoted to the position of deputy chief minister. But it did not take place. Telangana politicians grew outraged. The higher-ups are paralysed with terror at the moment. All of these are on the minds of the people living in Telangana. Watching and waiting for the proper moment. When Andhra Pradesh was founded, the leaders of Andhra Pradesh, who had previously shown unconditional love by saying that we are each other's brothers and sisters up to the merger, forgot the pledge. They never stopped being rude to the people of Telangana. The previous authorities in the administration of Telangana degraded the reputation of the state's workers by claiming that they lacked communication skills, knowledge of Telugu, and intellect. As personnel from Telangana were not productive, the secretariat was staffed by people from neighbouring Andhra Pradesh. The directives of the president were disregarded. Not only this, but the salaries of people working for Telangana at the time were much greater, mainly due to the fact that, while it was its own state, Hyderabad had a budget surplus. Yet, the state of Andhra Pradesh was in serious financial trouble. As a direct consequence of this, the pay levels of the workers there are very low. Telangana workers saw their pay cut in order to bring it in line with that of their counterparts in Andhra Pradesh, which was created at the same time. Thus, workers in Telangana were dissatisfied with the decision. In terms of educational standards, the Andhra authorities had low expectations for Telangana. Students from Andhra were given preference at the schools located in Telangana. After hearing it, the students in Telangana became upset. The chief ministers of Andhra Pradesh disregarded the establishment of the Regional Development Board. They were able to purchase the lands of Telangana at a reduced cost by relying on the purity of the Telangana populace as a point of support. As a result of seeing all of this, the people of Telangana shed their blood.

The primary impetus for the revolt in 1969 was the unfair treatment of employees at Singareni. After the merger, the Andhriles had the intention of stealing the Singareni mine from Telangana. Except for the chore of mining coal, they were adamant about working independently in all of the other occupations. The merit level of clerk employment has been raised to the intermediate level. Because of this, the youngsters of Telangana migrated away from working in the Singareni industries. The administrators and leaders of Andhra raised the merit level to an intermediate level because they thought everyone would be from Telangana.

When the Nizam ruled Telangana, everyone was taught in Urdu. Telangana was also home to a smaller number of colleges and universities. Because of this, Telangana's young people were unable to read after completing the tenth grade. They were to blame for it. Since the decision was made to raise the merit level to Inter, Singareni has been transformed into an Andhra camp. The movement that began in 1969 used the phrase "Ghulam Ki Zindagi Se Mouth Achcha Hai" to light the fuse that started the fire. A student called Annabathula Ravindranath began a hunger strike on January 8 in Khammam and KTPS worker P.Krishnamurthy in Palvancha on January 10 with the intention of dying, requesting to implement Telangana safeguards and employment prospects in the Singareni region be reserved exclusively for locals. The university quickly emerged as the epicentre of the movement. Students from City College and Nizam College set off on an excursion. They insisted that the gentlemen's agreement be rigorously carried out and adhered to. Yadava Reddy was one of the most prominent leaders of the student movement of that era. The students' fight received backing from TNGOs. Amos was the leader of the Telangana workers back then. After some time, each of them earned positions of leadership inside the House. January 1969 marked the beginning of the movement, which was first led by students Mallikarjun and Sridhar Reddy, with the assistance of more experienced individuals such as Kaloji. On February 28, a group known as the "Telangana Prajasamithi" was established by a number of young people and intellectuals. Their goal is to establish Telangana as an independent state. The demand for a bandh in Telangana that was made by TPS on March 3 was met with overwhelming approval. The Supreme Court's decision on March 29 to rule that the Mulkey clauses were unconstitutional contributed further to the movement's growth and momentum.

After stepping down from his position as Minister, Konda Lakshman Bapuji established the "Telangana Congress Samithi." He was joined in the movement by other influential people like Madan Mohan, Sadalakshmi, Vandemataram Ramachandra Rao, Mahadev Singh, and S.B. Giri. Marri Chennareddy became a member of the movement on April 21st, which brings us to our last point. Chennareddy was able to get control of the whole movement for a short period of time, but Venkataswamy did not have trust in Chennareddy because he first said that he was against Vishalandhra, but he ultimately agreed to sign the gentlemen's agreement. As a result of this, Venkataswamy refrained from participating in the movement that began in 1969. The Telangana Praja Samiti's request that May Day be observed as Telangana Korkela Day and heavy rally was conducted from Charminar to Rajbhavan has resulted in an outbreak of violent protests died three persons.² On November 15, K. V. Rangareddy also became a member of the movement. The student community had a sneaking suspicion that the movement, which had been led by students and intellectuals up until that point, was slowly but surely being more and more influenced by politicians. Because of this, a group of students and intellectuals have come together to create the Telangana Prajasamithi in order to compete with one another. Student leader Sridhar Reddy is the one in charge of this group. Both Vandemataram Ramachandra Rao and Badrivishal Pitti sided with the TPS in the election against Chennareddy.

On May 3, 1969, Zakir Hussain, the President of India, passed away. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Kasu Brahmanandareddy, has arrived in Delhi to pay his respects. When this occurred, Venkataswamy served as the Member of Parliament. Brahmanandareddy proposed to Vanakataswamy that they collaborate on the establishment of a unified state as an alternative to the Telangana movement. In this scenario, Brahmanandareddy's objective is to launch a counterattack that will be directed at Chennareddy, who is working against him. This is the concept that Kasu Brahmanandareddy is working on. Venkataswamy was aware of Chennareddy, and he also was aware of what was going through Brahmanandareddy's head. Thus, he agreed to it only to keep the peace. It made Brahmananda Reddy extremely pleased with himself. Venkataswamy gave a hesitant "yes," but he did not show up to any meetings where the state was expected to be present.

After two days, the Communists put together a meeting at the Burugu Mahadeva Hall in Secunderabad to push for the continuation of Samikyandhra. As soon as the communist leaders began publicly opposing the creation of a separate Telangana state, the conflict broke out. During the conference, hundreds of students and workers screamed anti-communist chants against the attendees of the meeting who were communists. They got into a fight with the communists, and it was a rough one. They hurled stones at people. When the situation began to spiral out of control, the police opened fire. The incident resulted in the deaths of three people. Hundreds of people were wounded by gunfire.³ Since that time, frequent use of force by police in Hyderabad has been the norm. The violent phase of the movement began in June 1969. As participants made their way towards the clock tower, the demonstration, which had begun with just 25 individuals from Charminar, had grown to include 25,000 people. Under the instructions of Kasu Brahmananda Reddy, who intended to put an end to the movement in any case, the police opened fire. During the shooting, dozens upon dozens of kids were taken from their lives. During the first, second, and third weeks of June, a curfew was enforced in Hyderabad for the very first time in the city's history. Students staged a demonstration in front of Durga Vilas in Abids on the second day before the fire. An Andhra guy owns and operates the hotel. A student who was shouting anti-Andhra chants was taken by hotel workers and stabbed to death while they were doing so. Venkataswamy was aware of the situation. Headed to the Abids market Before he could even get there, hundreds of students had already made their way to Durga Vilas. Students were assaulted with stones and drink bottles by Andhra gangs who were hiding inside the hotel. Also, the students assaulted the hotel. Students hold a funeral for a young guy who was slain by Andhrites while the corpse is present. The parade attracted a very large audience of spectators. After seeing everything unfold in front of him, Venkataswamy felt his heart break. He was unable to maintain his silence for much longer. At the press conference that took place the same evening, he made the announcement that he would be joining the cause. He said that he will cooperate with the TPS while it is led by Chennareddy. On 21 May 1969 Chennareddy became TPS President.⁴ Juvvadi Chokkarao, a member of TRAC, has been sending Indira Gandhi letters on occasion to inform her about the chaos that is taking place in Telangana. With that, she maintained her awareness of what was taking place here. Indira Gandhi came to Hyderabad to discuss the issue with Telangana leaders. Indira Gandhi made it very obvious that she intended to grant Telangana. On the other hand, she requested a little bit of patience.

During this period, the Government promised to correct what critics saw as a violation of the promises of the Gentleman's agreement in the areas of jobs, budget allocations, and educational facilities.⁵ Telangana employee unions started strike on 10 June supporting Telangana movement. Major leaders of the movement were jailed in July and released in August upon court's intervention.⁶

As this was going on, it was discovered that at Mushirabad prison there was a conspiracy to kill student leaders and political leaders. The Mushirabad prison was invaded by hundreds of individuals, including students, workers, and regular citizens. As soon as Venkataswamy learned about the situation at Mushirabad, he made his way there immediately. After seeing him, the activists had the confidence to pursue their goals, regardless of the risks. Tear gas was deployed by the police. Yet the demonstrators did not back down from their positions. After that, we began shooting at each other. During the incident, the police opened fire, killing two civilians who were standing nearby. The blow to Venkataswamy's head was severe. He suddenly became unconscious. Someone provided a vehicle for him to ride in on the way to the hospital. The police fired their weapons at the vehicle as well. With all of the mayhem, the vehicle overturned. The vehicle collapsed on Venkataswamy. A significant amount of blood had been expelled from both of his nostrils and his nose. He was carried there in an ambulance.⁷ Over a period of three days, Venkataswamy was able to regain consciousness. Brahmanandareddy was worried that the movement could grow much bigger because of the protests in Mushirabad and the shooting of Venkataswamy. As a result, he arrested some of the movement's most important people, including Marri Chennareddy, Konda Laxman Bapuji, Badri Vishal Pitti, Hashim, Manik Rao, Padmanabhan, and Raghuveer Rao, all in one night. Since there was a risk of them being held in Telangana prisons, the authorities moved them to Rajahmundry and a few other facilities in Andhra Pradesh. In response to the events that took place in the Mushirabad prison, residents of Hyderabad participated in a bandh. Workers organised massive demonstrations. Soon after Venkataswamy regained consciousness, he was introduced to Melkote and Lakshmibai. They were dissatisfied with Brahmanandareddy's position; hence, they made the decision to quit as members of parliament. On June 27, 1969,

Brahmanandareddy resigned from his position as Chief Minister. But it's all drama. Because the letter of resignation was handed over to Nijalingappa, who was serving as party president at the time, rather than being delivered to the governor. Nijalingappa advised Brahmanandareddy to keep going until the Congress makes the subsequent choice. Already, the protest was in full swing, with the police gunfire and the deaths of students generating a stir among ministers in the Telangana state government. They were all prepared to hand in their resignations. In a statement delivered in Parliament on the 18th of August 1969, Venkataswamy and Melkote voiced their opposition to the continued persecution of the people of Telangana. The protesters quickly snatched photographs of the martyred dead. They requested that the administration of Brahmanandareddy be removed from power and that the President be given absolute power instead. They demanded that a sovereign nation be established as soon as possible. "We arrived from Telangana, which was a horrible mess. We got away with only a few rounds fired. Already, the lives of 250 citizens have been taken by

gunfire. Under the provisions of the PD Act, hundreds have been taken into custody. Fifty thousand people are now being held in jail against their will. We strongly condemn this heinous act. We do not want anybody to be forced into slavery as a result of colonialism." A fiery oratory was shown. They told us that our fight would go on until Telangana was established as an independent state. When Venkataswamy, Anjayya, and Sadalakshmi met Indira Gandhi, it was the beginning of an era of turbulence in the movement. On September 22, Konda Laxman Babuji made the announcement that the movement would be delayed in the event that Brahmanandareddy resigned his position as Chief Minister. The Telangana Prajasamithi has released a statement to the effect that all kids should be present in school since the quality of their academic performance is declining. Both Marri Chennareddy and Mallikarjun put their names on the TPS statement that was made public on September 23. The student body as well as the staff members strongly disagreed with the TPS statement. They have indicated that they will keep the movement going. After entering the fray on September 29, the national government immediately began holding separate conversations with the leaders of Telangana. On October 10, Chennareddy issued a call for *satyagrahas* to be held across the state of Telangana. It was met with a very enthusiastic reception. People didn't join the 1969 movement because of something Chennareddy said on November 26. Chennareddy made the announcement that the movement would be put on hold for a year since it had reached a stalemate due to the fact that students were having to study for exams and farmers were working in rural regions.

In the Khairatabad Assembly by-election that took place in June 1970, the TPS candidate Nagam Krishna Rao won with an overwhelming margin.⁸ On 6 November, TPS candidate A.Madan Mohan was also victorious in the Siddipet bi-election.⁹ After that victory, the TPS formally established itself as a political party. The results of Telangana kept Indira in conundrum. Congress believed that it was hopeless to prevail given the existence of TPS. Because of this, Indira decided to join the industry herself. She participated in conversation with Brahmanandareddy. According to what she stated, there is a circumstance in which Telangana must be granted. she wanted to commence the process of formation of a separate state for Telangana by instructing Sri P.N. Haksur (Secretary of External Affairs), her senior secretary in the PMO, but she had to withdraw at the last minute due to intervention by Kaul who dissuaded her from it by reminding that Hyderabad's case was pending in the Security Council.¹⁰ United Nations dropped the case of Hyderabad on 2 September 1979.¹¹ After that, Indira found herself in a difficult situation. Indira made a serious effort to create Telangana. But she could not proceed without taking Brahmanandareddy into consideration since she was unable to do so. Because Brahmanandareddy backed Indira with his group of MPs when there was a split in the Congress and the Indira administration went into the minority, despite the fact that they were in the minority. Because of this, Indira hoped that she might convince Brahmananda Reddy to hand over Telangana. In the meantime, a proposition was put forward. In other words, the establishment of Telangana was scheduled to take place in 1977, five years after the election. It requires the support of two-thirds of the parliamentarians in Telangana. This proposition was conveyed to Chennareddy by Venkataswamy in the course of their conversation. Venkataswami, Chennareddy, and Chokkarao sat in Delhi and spoke. After that, Chennareddy consulted with Indira Gandhi in person. Indira was quite clear with

Chennareddy when she said that she would hand over Telangana by the year 1977. Chennareddy has said that he is unable to comment at this time and that the decision will be made after the TPS debate. The encounter between Indira and Chennareddy caused the leaders of Andhra to become anxious. Because of this, people are spreading falsehoods about us with the intention of destroying our reputation. Throw some dirt on us and say that Chennareddy is going to fool the people of Telangana. As a result of this, several activists from Telangana suspected as well. Chennareddy did not pay any attention to them at all. On January 3, 1971, Chennareddy called an emergency meeting of the TPS to take place in his house in order to address Indira's suggestions. The TPS decided to issue a statement after the heated debates that took place on the plan. In a summary, Chennareddy's statement said that Telangana Praja Samithi urges the formation of a separate state as soon as possible after the elections. TPS will withdraw its participation in the by-elections if Congress gives its approval. Indira Gandhi erroneously believed that the Telangana Praja Samiti wanted her to create a separate state. She said that it is difficult to make progress on state formation with just one party's efforts. Because of this, the Congress and the TPS were unable to form an alliance together. The Telangana Praja Samithi was the only political party that ran for election in 1971 with the goal of establishing Telangana as a separate state. Venkataswami secured Siddipet Parliament ticket. When he travelled to the district for the election campaign, he was given a reception that had never been seen before. His triumph was ensured by the participation of young people and students. They assured us that everything would be handled properly by them. Venkataswami is aware that victory is a foregone conclusion. Sadalakshmi ran against him in the election for Congress as an opponent. But she was unable to prevent him from prevailing. He triumphed with a victory margin of a lakh and a half. Eleven of the fourteen seats that were up for election were won by the Telangana Praja Samithi. Both Rajaram and Kishan Rao were unsuccessful in their bids to win their respective seats. Since Andhra voters make up the majority of the electorate in Khammam, they were not shocked by their candidate's defeat there. The overwhelming win of the TPS was not enough to sway Indira Gandhi in any way. Due to their success in that election, Indira Gandhi and her New Congress party were able to take power on their own. Because of this, the strategy of the TPS representative was unsuccessful. They are of the opinion that assistance from the TPS will be essential in the event that Indira Gandhi is unable to get a majority in the town. If Indira comes to them for help, they are willing to lend it to her so long as the Telangana state government is established first. But the vast majority of those who came to her were let down by their expectations. The Telangana Praja Samithi is now in a helpless situation since it is unable to fulfil the task that the people have entrusted it with, which is to bring the state into being. They have arrived at the conclusion that joining the Congress is the best way to ensure that Telangana will one day offer them what they want, which is to go closer to Indira rather than farther away from her. As a direct consequence of our incorporation, Kasu Brahmanandareddy tendered his resignation as Chief Minister on September 15, 1971. On the recommendation of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, P. V. Narasimha Rao became the first Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh from Telangana on 30 September 1971.¹²

The Six Point Formula:

In October 1972, When the Supreme Court upheld the Mulki rules, the Jai Andhra movement, with the aim of re-forming a separate state of Andhra, was started in Coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema regions.¹³ Prominent leaders from Andhra Pradesh: Tenneti Viswanadham, Raja Sagi Suryanarayana Raju, Gouthu Latchanna, Jupudi Yegnanarayana, N. Srinivasulu Reddy, B. V. Subba Reddy, Kakani Venkataratnam, Vasantha Nageswara Rao, M. Venkaiah Naidu, Nissankararao Ventakaratnam, Chowdary Satyanarayana, prominent student leaders like K.Sreedhar Rao , Haribabu etc., from Andhra University, and many others participated in the agitation.¹⁴ The leaders of the movement, which lasted for barely three months, converted it into a violent one. Insane statements were also made by leaders such as Gauthu Lachanna and Thenneti Vishwanatham. They made threats to leave the country and form their own independent nation. Through their inflammatory statements, they ratcheted up the level of tension. The innocent people have been shot by the cops. The political leaders of the region were concerned that the movement would destroy Andhra. Deliver misleading information to the centre. After this, talks were undertaken between the Central and Andhra leaders. In light of the judgement handed down by the Supreme Court, the centre has devised a six-step process to ensure that injustice is not perpetrated against them.

The plan known as the Six Principles is flawed in a number of important respects with regard to Telangana. A decrease in the local eligibility period to four years, as well as the elimination of the Mulki regulations and the Telangana Regional Committee. In addition, the method that displayed income and expenditures in a split manner for the Andhra and Telangana areas has been done away with. The legality of the Six Point Formula has done a lot of damage to Telangana, and this damage can't be fixed. The Jai Andhra campaign was the main reason why the Congress got rid of P.V. Narasimha Rao as Chief Minister. A few days after the President took office, a settler named Jalagam Vengala Rao was chosen to be the Chief Minister. But he did not have the right kind of connections with the Center, Venktaswami served as a mediator between the state and the centre.

From the outset, Venkataswami has been a supporter of Telangana. He was intimately engaged in various fights on this land, ranging from the armed struggle of the day to the Malidasa Telangana movement. These conflicts included the struggle for independence for Telangana. This Telangana land is constantly being harmed. Every day, the ground was stained with blood. Despite this, he did not surrender without a struggle.

While Venkataswami's health was worsening in the lead up to the 2009 election, his son Vivek entered politics to take over for his father. The people of Peddapalli have given me the impression that they have blessed me by putting Vivek in their hearts. In 2009, Vivek was victorious in the election.¹⁵ Just one item was discussed between Venkataswami and his son: "You are required to make good on the obligation of Telangana land. You have to put in a lot of effort if you want to create the state of Telangana within my lifetime," "he stated."¹⁶ Since he took office, Vivek has been quite active in the Telangana political arena. As a direct consequence of his struggle, he found himself in opposition to the Chief Minister at the time, Kiran Kumar Reddy, made an attempt to do financial harm to Vivek, but he did not show any

signs of fear, the flag of Telangana that had been hoisted was not lowered. After learning more about what was going on, Vivek quit his job in the Congress and joined the TRS.

When Sonia Gandhi heard that Venkataswami's successors leaving Congress for Telangana, she was surprised. Venkataswami has devoted his whole life to the party. In the working committee, she was in charge of the Telangana resolution. She was well aware of the financial clout possessed by the leaders of Seemandhra. Because of this, she reached out to representatives of all of the political parties in an effort to keep the Telangana bill pending in Parliament. Under the advocacy of Sonia Gandhi, the Telangana Bill was able to get approval in Parliament.¹⁷ The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was forced to comply with the circumstances as well. Sonia Gandhi remained true to her pledge by granting Telangana statehood. In spite of objections from 23 members of the Andhra legislators' own party, the measure was bravely introduced in the House.

KCR is aware of her dedication and the challenges she faces. he immediately complimented Sonia when the law was successful in its passage. After arriving in Hyderabad, KCR went to the residence of Venkataswami and said "Sir! If you hadn't been the one to seize the initiative in 2004 and form a coalition, Telangana's ambition of becoming its own state would not be a reality right now," "he stated."¹⁸

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