

## **Obituary: B. Satyanarayana Reddy (21 August 1927-6 October 2012)**

- Qurban Ali

Veteran freedom fighter and Socialist leader Shri B. Satyanarayan Reddy passed away in a private hospital in Hyderabad on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2012 after brief illness. He was 86. He was a staunch follower of Rammanohar Lohia and Jayaprakash Narayan. He was a bachelor, who dedicated his life for public service and served for long in the Janata Party, Lok Dal and Telagu Desham party. B. Satyanarayana Reddy popularly known as 'Bhaiji' was born on 21st August, 1927 in his native village Annaram, Shad Nagar, district Mehboobnagar, Andhra Pradesh, hails from an agricultural family. He had his primary education in village Edulabad of Rangareddy district in then Nizam State (Now Andhra Pradesh) and thereafter in Kayastha Pathshala and Keshav Memorial School, Hyderabad. After getting his High School education in Vivekvardhini High School, Hyderabad, he had college education at Nizam College, Hyderabad. He received Law Degree from famous Osmania University, Hyderabad.

He was well known Freedom Fighter and took part in "Quit India" movement in 1942 at an early of 14 years, and was arrested when he took out a procession of students against Gandhiji's arrest.

Later on he took an active part in the Socialist movement and participated in the Hyderabad Peoples' Movement in 1947. He took inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi, Acharya Narendra Deva, Dr. Rammanohar Lohia and Jayaprakash Narayan and took part in the "Socialist Movement" under the inspiring leadership of Dr. Rammanohar Lohia. He organised "Satyagraha Movement" against the Nizam's Rule. At the time of merger of the State in the Indian union, he was arrested in 1947 by the then Nizam's Government and imprisoned in Central Jail, Chanchalguda, Hyderabad for six months.

While in prison he started and edited the Urdu Weekly "*Payam-e-Nav*" which he used to circulate it among his prisoner colleagues. Before this while he was studying in Class VI, he used to publish a Hindi Fortnightly "*Mukul*".

During the Emergency era he was arrested on 1st August, 1975 and was detained under "MISA" for 18 months and sent to Musheerabad jail during the Emergency period. He was arrested several times during the Congress Rule. He took part in the "Bhoodan Movement" of Acharya Vinobha Bhave and Sri Jayaprakash Narayan.

Shri Reddy has wide experiences of Indian politics. He was the Chairman of the Action Committee of the Hyderabad Students' Union in the year 1947-48. He was the General Secretary of Bar Association, City Civil Court, Hyderabad. He was founder member of the Socialist Party, Socialist Youth Wing, National High School, Samajwadi Yuvajan Sabha and Janata Party.

He was also Chairman of the Telengana Praja Samiti during 1969-71. He was General Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Socialist Party, 1956-64 and was also the General Secretary of the Janata Party of Andhra Pradesh Unit 1977-79. Thereafter, he was General Secretary of Lok Dal (1979-82). He was Convenor of Jayaprakash Narayan Committee, Andhra Pradesh in 1975. Sri Reddy visited Malaysia, Singapore, Rome, Libya, Nairobi (Kenya), London, China, Hong Kong, West Germany, France, Holland, Switzerland, Netherlands, Norway etc.

He was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1978 as the nominee of the Janata Party but joined Telugu Desham Party in 1983 and was re-elected to the Rajya Sabha as Telugu Desham nominee in 1984. He was Governor of Uttar Pradesh from 12-02-1990 to 25-05-1993 and later on Odisha.

A Telangana protagonist, Satyanarayana Reddy served as an inspiration for those in the Telangana movement. Governor E.S.L. Narasimhan and Chief Minister N. Kiran Kumar Reddy expressed their condolences. Mr. Narasimhan said Satyanarayana Reddy was a great freedom fighter and one of the most able and influential public servants of his generation. In his demise, the country lost an outstanding administrator.

Mr. Kiran Kumar Reddy visited the residence of late Satyanarayana Reddy and paid tributes to the departed leader. TDP president N. Chandrababu Naidu recalled the service rendered by Satyanarayana Reddy as Rajya Sabha member and Governor and expressed his heart-felt condolences to the members of the bereaved family. BJP leaders M. Venkaiah Naidu, Bandaru Dattatreya and State BJP president G. Kishan Reddy described Satyanarayana Reddy as an ideal politician and a strong socialist and nationalist fighting against repression of Nizams.