

## *Chapter - 4*



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### *Quit India Movement in Rayalaseema*



## Chapter-IV

### QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT IN RAYALASEEMA

#### Perception of the Rayalaseema leaders

Even before the Wardah resolution was announced, leaders of Rayalaseema, like D. Seetaramaiah of Madanapalle (Chittoor District), Vidwan Viswam and Neelam Sanjiva Reddy of Anantapur district clearly expressed that England must grant freedom to India. On 7<sup>th</sup> June 1942 “Chittoor District Friends of Soviet Union and China Conference” was held at the Gandhi Maidan. The speakers declared that this country needs independence to protect from the Nazis and the Japanese.<sup>1</sup> The Russian and the Chinese were sympathetic towards the cause of Indian Independence.

While waiting for a definitive resolution from the CWC, superseding the Wardah resolution, the Kurnool District 1942 (hereinafter to be mentioned as “Kurnool Circular”).<sup>2</sup> This circular was intended for the Taluk Congress Committees and other organisations, which were working for the INC, and the agitating activists. It indicated clear directions necessary for the Quit India Movement. The leaders of Rayalaseema were under the impression that the CWC would confirm the Wardah resolution in its next meeting and that Gandhi would begin the movement subsequently at any moment. The *Kurnool Circular* wanted that all the people should be prepared to join the agitation. The Circular appealed to the people that they should not take up any activity of the movement in the absence of a clear order from Gandhiji, and that they have to wait for such an order from Gandhi. But, Gandhi was arrested and imprisoned along with the members of the CWC, besides important functionaries of the movement in different parts of the country. So, the movement started without the guidance of the important leaders. Hence, the guidelines of the Kurnool Circular guided the activists of the movement in Rayalaseema, and many items laid down therein were carried out in Andhra in general during the movement.

The Kurnool Circular formulated a six-phase programme to lead the movement. By ignoring the prohibitive orders of the government, the Satyagrahis should manufacture salt freely, becoming members of the anti-government

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<sup>1</sup> *The Hindu*, 9<sup>th</sup> June 1942, p. 4

<sup>2</sup> M. Venkatarangaiya, *The Freedom Struggle in Andhra Pradesh (Andhra)*, Vol. IV, The Andhra Pradesh State Committee, Hyderabad, 1974, Pp. 855-860

associations and touring the region freely were the items under the first phase of the programme. Vakils (lawyers) giving up their practice, students absenting themselves from schools and colleges, assessors and jurors notresponding to summons, government employees and village officers resigning their posts were the items under then second phase . Organizing workers' strikes in railways and factories and looking after the arrangements for these activities were the items under the third phase. Picketing the foreign goods, toddy shops and foreign concerns (institutions) were the items under the fourth phase. The fifth and sixth phases included ten types of activities. Important of them were: Disturbing the telegraphic and telephone message facility by cutting the wires of the lines, non-payment of taxes, except the Municipal tax, picketing the battalions of soldiers and lecturing to them and hoisting the Congress Flag on the government buildings as a sign of victory.

TheINC gave its approval for the programme since the activities planned, as part of the movement, were intended to paralyse the colonial government machinery.

### **Arrests in Rayalaseema**

Several leaders were taken into custody in the early hours of 9<sup>th</sup> August 1942. D. Ramasubba Reddi, a member of the Madras Legislative Council, representing the Kadapa constituency, Kadapa Koti Reddi, an MLA and Vice President of the Andhra Provincial Congress Committee, and A. Sitarami Reddi of Bellary, MLA, were arrested on August 1942.<sup>3</sup>

Kalluru Subba Rao of Hindupur, M.L.A., representing the Anantapur constituency and president of the Anantapuram District Congress Committee, and G. Venkata Reddi, MLA, representing the Nandyal Constituency in Kurnool district, were arrested on 10<sup>th</sup> August. Newspapers, condemned the arrests, and gave wide coverage. Bellary, Kadapa and Nandyal towns in Rayalaseema have organised public meetings. The local police arrested the editor of Sadhana, Pappuri Ramacharyulu of Anantapur, and the Branch Manager of the Andhra Insurance Company, Rama Rao, under the Defence Act on 15<sup>th</sup> August. T.K.T.T, Tatachari, a Congress leader in Chittoor district, was arrested on the same day. K.Venkataramanacharyulu of Tadipatri (Anantapur district), a member of the All India Congress Committee, was arrested on 21<sup>st</sup> August.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup>. History of Freedom Movement Book (HFMB) (Type Script), Andhra Pradesh State Archives, Hyderabad, p. 4282

<sup>4</sup>. History of Freedom Movement Book (HFMB), n. 3, Pp.4283-84, 4299, 4301, 4317

Several were lathi charged and arrested for their participation in the movement and for possessing literature and raising the anti-war slogans.

The local police arrested Mr.N. Rama Rao of Guntur on 14 August at Madanapalle (Chittoor District). The Madanapalle joint Magistrate, after a formal hearing of the case, awarded him on 21 August a six-month term of rigorous imprisonment. N. Radhakrishna Chetty of the same town, a Congress activist, was arrested on 22 August for getting ready to address a small meeting. In the lathi charge made in that connection, he was injured and admitted into hospital. Two more Congress activists, K. Narasimha Reddi and T. Gopalakrishna Gupta of the same town, were arrested and awarded a four month term of rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs.400 for having delivered lectures objectionable to the government. In case they failed to pay the fine, they were to undergo an additional term of two more months of rigorous imprisonment.<sup>5</sup>

D.Srinivasayangar, a lawyer in Chittoor and Secretary to the Chittoor District Congress Committee, was arrested on 30 August and subjected to punishment. The charge against him was that he violated the prohibition orders of the government and addressed a public meeting. As a punishment, he was to pay a fine of Rs. 200 and, if he failed to pay, he was to serve a two- month term of rigorous imprisonment. The Chittoor Sub Divisional first class magistrate delivered the judgement on these lines.<sup>6</sup> Almost on the similar charges, B. Chennu Reddi of Punganuru (Chittoor district) and Obayya of Anantapur were arrested and awarded nine months and six months of rigorous imprisonment respectively.

The Jammalamadugu (Kadapa District) first class magistrate awarded a one-year term of imprisonment, under different sections of the India Defence Acts, to B.Rama Sastri, a journalist and member of the Provincial Congress Committee, on the charge that he had possessed and distributed objectionable material.<sup>7</sup> The Kurnool Sub Divisional Magistrate, T. Prakasa Rao awarded on 7<sup>th</sup> October 1942 a one-year term of rigorous imprisonment to G.Venkata Reddi of Velgode (Velugodu) in Kurnool district for having distributed anti- government pamphlets. Venkata Reddi was a member of the communist party and organiser of the Kurnool District Student

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<sup>5</sup>. *The Hindu*, 25<sup>th</sup> August 1942, p. 4

<sup>6</sup>. *The Hindu*, 1<sup>st</sup> September 1942, p. 6

<sup>7</sup>. *The Hindu*, 1, 8<sup>th</sup> September 1942, p. 6

Federation.<sup>8</sup> For having possessed and distributed similar pamphlets, Illur Kasamma of Anantapur was caught by the police on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1942. She was awarded on 2<sup>nd</sup> December a nine-month term of rigorous imprisonment. Giving his own version in that context, the Anantapur Additional First Class Magistrate stated that Kasamma gave a pamphlet to him also on the premises of the court. Kasamma admitted all his activities, which led her to that court.<sup>9</sup> For having read the Independence Pledge and distributed its copies to the residents of Madakasira (Anantapur district) on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1943, A. Narayana Rao of Kambadur, Anantapur district received a two-year term of rigorous imprisonment awarded by the Deputy Collector of Penugonda (Anantapur district), V.R. Krishnaswamy, on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1943.

R.B. Ramakrishna Raju, (Chittoor district), was an established lawyer from Karvetinagar, a prominent Congress worker, and worked as president of the Chittoor District Congress Committee. He faced internment from 1942 to 1944 for having participated in the anti-war campaign. M. Anantasayanam Ayyangar and K. Varadachari were also arrested.

The police of the time arrested activists on the ground that they were participating in the anti-government activities or even on the suspicion that they had the plans of participating in such activities were S. Nagappa, an MLA and P. Lakshmi Reddi, Vice-President of the Board, (Kurnool) were arrested and put in Sub-Jail for 18 days C. Bathi Reddi of Kambam, General Secretary of the Andhra Provincial Kisan Sabha C. Narasimha Reddi, Secretary of the Chittoor District Congress Committee Sakula Rangadu of the Mudugula village in Chittoor district Naga Narasimhulu, Krishnadu and Suribabu of the Timbakuppam *jamindari* area in the same district. Among them, S. Nagappa and S. Lakshmi Reddi faced another harassment. The police subjected their houses to raids and searches. Sakula Rangadu, Naga Narasimhulu, Krishnadu and Suribabu were a washerman, a Congress worker, a flower-vendor and a Congress volunteer respectively.<sup>10</sup>

The slogan 'give up toddy and open your eyes (Kallu manandoi babu; Kallu teravandoi)' was a part of the freedom movement. In response to this slogan, activists

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<sup>8</sup>. P. Yenadi Raju, *Rayalaseema During Colonial Times, A Study in Indian Nationalism*, Northern Book Centre, New Delhi, 2003, p. 190

<sup>9</sup>. History of the Freedom Movement Book (HFMB), n. 3, p.4361

<sup>10</sup>. *The Hindu*, 8<sup>th</sup> September 1942, p. 6; 5<sup>th</sup> October 1942, p. 4; 15<sup>th</sup> December 1942; 12<sup>th</sup> January 1943, p. 2

of the movement burnt down toddy shops in their respective areas. The police arrested such activists, since those shops had been run with the licences issued by the government. When the toddy shop in the Rella village of Madakasira taluk (Anantapur district) was burnt, on 25<sup>th</sup> September 1942 five activists of the same village were suspected of the act and arrested.<sup>11</sup> Similar instances also took place in Rayachoti taluk and other places, in Kadapa district.

K.Gangiseti of Venkatapuram village in Kamalapuram taluk (Kadapa district) and S. Ganna of Uruturu organised a meeting on 18 October 1942 in protest against the arrest of prominent Congress leaders. On this charge and also on the charge of their participation in the activities, which, from the angle of the government, were objectionable, the police arrested them in the name of the Defence Act. C. Chennappa of the same village was also arrested. Gangiseti and Ganna were awarded a nine-month term of rigorous imprisonment, and C. Chennappa received a six-month rigorous imprisonment.<sup>12</sup>

There was an instance of the reversal of the punitive judgement of a lower court against an activist in Chittoor district, which could be considered as a rare case under the colonial rule. The judgement by a higher authority went in favour of the activist. The activist involved in this case was T.K.T. Veeraraghavachariar of Chittoor. He had taken lead in organising a hunger strike, conducting a procession and holding a meeting in Chittoor in August 1942 in support of the hunger strike of Gandhiji. The police authorities charged that the activities of Veeraraghavachariar had led to the violation of the orders prohibiting such activities. In March 1943, the Chittoor Sub Divisional First Class Magistrate declared Veeraraghavachariar a fit case for punishment since he had violated the prohibitive orders that had been issued in August 1942 by the District Magistrate. As punishment, Veeraraghavachariar had to pay a fine of Rs.75. Otherwise, he had to undergo a one month-term of rigorous imprisonment. Veeraraghavachariar felt that the activities he had carried out were not of any offence, and so the award of punishment to him was an illegal act. Therefore, he appealed to the District Sessions Judge against the verdict given by the Chittoor sub divisional first class magistrate. On examining the case on its merits, the district sessions judge came to the conclusion that the procession and the meeting organised

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<sup>11</sup> . History of the Freedom Movement Book (HFMB), n. 3, p.4345-6

<sup>12</sup> . P. Yenadi Raju, n. 8, p. 192

and conducted by Veeraraghavachariar were not in the nature of interfering with the defence of the country. Therefore, the punishment awarded earlier was annulled. The district Sessions judge also ordered refund of the amount of the fine.<sup>13</sup> It is noteworthy to recall here the opinion expressed by the District Sessions judge on the eve of delivering his verdict in this case. He expressed that there was a need to explain in proper way about the purpose of the organisers of the meetings and processions. Continuing, the Sessions judge counselled the lower level judge in absentia in a veiled way, that bringing the unwritten words into the rules and regulations so as to make it possible to award a punishment to the activist was condemnable. This instance indicates that the lower officials, whether civil or judicial, were anxious to implicate in litigation and see that a punishment was awarded to the activists of the movement, whether or not there was substance in the case.

Even the harvesting or grass-cutting sickles also looked to be objectionable articles to the administrative machinery of those times. S.Narasimha Reddi, Secretary of the Kurnool District Ryots Association, and K. Subba Reddi of the Tarimela village (Anantapur district) were arrested and taken into custody on 12<sup>th</sup> December 1942 at Panyam (Kurnool District) railway station when they were found carrying the harvesting sickles in their hand bags.<sup>14</sup>

### **First Phase of Violent Outbreaks and Police Repression**

The Quit India Movement passed through four phases. The first phase began from the day of Gandhi's arrest, i.e., 9 August 1942. This period was marked by strikes (hartals), demonstrations, processions and meetings. On 9<sup>th</sup> August 1942, a protest meeting was held at Chittoor under the auspices of the Indian National Congress. On the same day, N. Sankar Reddy was arrested at Kurnool under rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules.<sup>15</sup> On 10<sup>th</sup> August 1942, Kalluru Subba Rao and N. Sanjeeva Reddy were arrested at Anantapur and sent to Vellore Jail. On the same day, M. Ananthasayanam Iyengar was arrested at Chittoor and sent to Vellore Jail for

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<sup>13</sup>. *The Hindu*, 19<sup>th</sup> March 1943, p. 4

<sup>14</sup>. History of the Freedom Movement Book (HFMB), n. 3, p.4366

<sup>15</sup>. District Calendar of Events of the Civil Disobedience Movement(DCECDM), August-December, 1942, Madras, 1943, Pp. 30 and 73

detention under rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules.<sup>16</sup> Swamy Nityananda who published hand-bills inciting revolutionary acts against the Government was arrested at Kurnool under rule 129 of the Defence of India Rules. At Nandyal, G. Venkata Reddy was arrested under rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules. At Adoni, a hartal was observed by closing shops. Later, in the evening, a public meeting was held under the auspices of the Congress. About 300 people were present.<sup>17</sup> On 11<sup>th</sup> August, 1942, two persons were arrested at Proddutur under rule 129 (1) of the Defence of India Rules for making inflammatory speeches at a meeting of about 500 Congress sympathisers. On 13<sup>th</sup> August, 1942, Tanguturi Prakasam, a member of the AICC was arrested at Kadapa railway station.<sup>18</sup>

### **MotorCar Fire Incident of Dr.Khoshi**

On the night of 14<sup>th</sup> August, the motor car of Dr. Khoshi, Secretary of the Taluk War Committee was set fire at Uravakonda in Anantapur District, Chanda Narayanappa, Gurram Venkanna, Guntakal Bada Saheb, Busannagari Narayanappa, Uppara Urukundhappa, Bokettla Basappa, Malepati Venkataswamy, Midathala Narasimhulu, Uppara Govindhu, Gattu Ramayya and T. Ramappa were charged for the incident.<sup>19</sup>

### **Protest Meetings of the Students**

Students went to go on agitation against the British. The students of the Municipal High School and Ceded Districts College went on strike in the Anantapur town on 13 August 1942. Around fifteen hundred students went on a procession and gave the slogans that the police should stop firing on the agitators. The government should release the arrested Congress leaders and respect the national needs. At the meeting held under the auspices of the students Federation, they passed a resolution, condemning the government's measures against the agitators and national leaders. Fifteen members were injured due to the lathi charge on 14 August 1942. A student of the Municipal High School was wounded in the presence of the Police Deputy Superintendent and admitted to the district hospital in the town. Thereafter, when the agitators threw stones at the moving train, some of the passengers were injured. In

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<sup>16</sup> . District Calendar of Events of the Civil Disobedience Movement, August-December, 1942, Madras, 1943, Pp. 6, 20, 30, 39 and 73 (TNSA)

<sup>17</sup> . *Andhra Patrika*, 11<sup>th</sup> August 1942, p.1 (SNV)

<sup>18</sup> . *Andhra Patrika*, 15<sup>th</sup> August 1942, p.1 (SNV)

<sup>19</sup> . Public (General) Department letter No. 728/43 M, dated 12<sup>th</sup> May 1943, P. 12120 (APSAH)

protest against the arrests of national leaders, processions and student strikes took place at Penugonda and Hindupur of Anantapur district and at Madanapalle in the same day.<sup>20</sup>

Nothing here a judgement and certain remarks passed by the Chittoor District Sessions Judge on 18 August 1942 on an appeal petition filed by five alleged criminals is (are) of contextual value. The divisional first class magistrate had convicted those five persons on the basis of a police case brought against them. Three of them were students. They appealed to the District Sessions judge against the conviction. Nullifying the conviction, the sessions Judge passed certain remarks, which deserve our respect. He remarked:

Linking the revolt of the students against the ruling circle, with the activities of the All India Congress Committee, is totally wrong. The student revolt might be a development of those activities but there is no original evidence to assume that the unfortunate development could be a result of the programme of the All India Congress Committee.<sup>21</sup>

The District Magistrate of Kadapa, S. Ranganadhan, felt that the Boys Scouts and Girls Guides of the high schools in Pulivendula and Proddutur were implicated in the strikes and other disruptive activities during October and in the first week of November 1942. He also felt that the Scouts and Guides did not have link with the strike and its related matters, and even if they were implicated in them, it was only a momentary happening and that was also overcome.<sup>22</sup> Reporting on a similar subject, the Chittoor District Magistrate wrote in November 1942 to the Chief Secretary to the government of Madras, informing the latter that except the incident of the participation of nine members of the Hindustan Scouts Association in the exhibitions in protest against the arrest of the leaders, there were no instances of implicating the Boys Scouts and other allied organisations on the charges of involvement in the disruptive activities.<sup>23</sup> He added that such organisations did not help activists who were involved in the activities of that nature. While pointing out that one should not deny the fact that the Hindustan Scouts Association had been enjoying reputation in

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<sup>20</sup>. *The Hindu*, dated 14<sup>th</sup> August 1942, p. 8; 16<sup>th</sup> August 1942, p. 4

<sup>21</sup>. *The Hindu*, 20<sup>th</sup> August 1942, p. 3

<sup>22</sup>. Letter No. 1613-42 dated 11<sup>th</sup> November 1942 from the District Magistrate, Kadapa, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras

<sup>23</sup>. P. Yenadi Raju, n. 8, p. 200

the public, he struck a note of caution that in the prevailing circumstances, the government need not change its opinion about those movements.<sup>24</sup> The caution implied that the government should maintain its stern attitude towards the agitators.

V.K. Adinarayana Reddy, who was studying senior B.A. in the Ceded Districts College, Anantapur, in February 1943, belonged to Seemalavagupalle in Anantapur district. He had developed contacts with the prominent communist leaders. He worked to foment unrest among students by arranging secret meetings in the capacity of the secretary of the Student Federation. On the eve of the arrest of the Congress leaders in August 1942, he organised picketing near the schools and college in protest against those arrests, and actively participated in the anti-government activities. He joined the leaders like G. Venkata Reddy of Nandyal in Kurnool district, N. Rajasekhara Reddy of Illur, T. Nagi Reddy of Tarimela and Chidambara Reddy of Pedapalli, all in Anantapur district, who organised protests against the war acts and the related moves. He was one of the accused among those who were charged with the crime of the destruction that took place in the Ceded Districts College. He was also one of those who were suspected of publishing the pamphlet “*Akasavani*” (Sky’s voice), which was considered objectionable to the government of the day. On the ground of these charges, the governor of Madras ordered Adinarayana Reddy’s arrest.<sup>25</sup>

Thatigotla Chadracharya Reddi, an eighteen year old youth by 1943, of Mahadevapalli in Rayachoti taluk (Kadapa district) understood well the various aspects of the Kurnool Circular and worked whole heartedly for the Quit India Movement. He had studied up to 8<sup>th</sup> class. Since he had hailed from a wealthy family, he in association with another activist, K.Vasoji Rao, took on rent a three-suited portion of a house with door No.99 on the Adiappa Nayakan Street in Madras and began the movement related activities. He used to print the literature and circulars necessary for the spread of the movement, with the help of manually operated printing machine and gestetner duplicating machine. The Circulars were ready in packets for despatch to different destinations for distribution. They dealt with the subjects like the attempts of the government to suppress the information about the hunger strike, the unethical relations between the government and the

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<sup>24</sup>. Letter F29, Confidential No. 2176/42, dated 18<sup>th</sup> November 1942 from the District Magistrate, Chittoor to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras

<sup>25</sup>. G.O. No. 60 (Public General) Department, dated 19<sup>th</sup> June 1943

communists and the inconsistent stand of the Communists in their words and deeds. The Circulars stressed the national need to bring the then administration to a standstill by intensifying the strikes in the educational institutions, railways and factories and obstructing the flow of information from one government office to another by cutting the telegraph wires. With the seizure of the circulars and the arrest of Chandrasekhara Reddi and Vasoji Rao, the case went to the Presidency Magistrate, G. Venkateswara Iyer, for trial, during which they refused to say anything. The Magistrate awarded to them an eighteen month term of rigorous imprisonment as punishment for those activities.<sup>26</sup>

The government convicted Chanda Narayanappa and Gurram Venkanna under different sections of the Indian Penal Code. The charge was that they had burnt the car of one Dr. Koshi, obviously a government employee, on the night of 14 August 1942 near Uravakonda in Anantapur district. The district sessions judge of Anantapur, M.Ramachandra, heard the case on 6<sup>th</sup> March 1943 and delivered his judgement, convicting as criminals.<sup>27</sup> Information was not available on the punishment awarded to them. A few more activists at Rajampeta in Kadapa district were arrested on 6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> June 1943 under the regulations of the Defence Act. We learn from the available documents that they were communist workers. Of them, while P. Narasimha Reddi, C. Rammohan Roy, and Ramakrishna Reddi were arrested on 6<sup>th</sup>, the other members, Ramayanam Tirupelu, Peddi Reddi, Vengal Reddi, P.K.Subbarama Reddi and S. Subbarama Raju were arrested on 10<sup>th</sup>. The Circle Inspector of Rajampeta in his report to the District Magistrate of Kadapa through the district's Police Superintendent, recommended that those activists should not be let off so soon and that the period of their remand should be extended.<sup>28</sup>

### **Condolence Meetings for the Death of Mahadeva Desai**

On 16 August, fiery speeches were made at the meetings held at Madanapalle and Palamaner. The police has issued Orders prohibiting the meetings and processions in the district under rule 46 of the Defence of India Rules.<sup>29</sup> A Protest meeting was organised at Madanapalle which was presided over by T.N. Ramakrishna Reddy, the President of the District Board. K. Narasimha Reddy, M.V. Papanna

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<sup>26</sup> G.O. No. 3095, Home, dated 26<sup>th</sup> November 1943

<sup>27</sup> *The Hindu*, 9<sup>th</sup> March 1943, p. 5

<sup>28</sup> G.O. No. 1657 Public (General) Department, dated 19<sup>th</sup> June 1943

<sup>29</sup> DCECDM, August-December, 1942, Madras, 1943, p. 30, (TNSA)

Gupta, T. Gopala Krishnayya Gupta and N. Radhakrishnayya also attended the meeting.<sup>30</sup> The speakers at the meeting criticized the government for arresting national leaders and demanded the release of all the detainees. They also condoled the death of Mahadeva Desai. On 17<sup>th</sup> August, one person was arrested at Tirupati for distributing hand bills and another for making an objectionable speech. On the same day, a meeting held at Madanapalle in defiance of the prohibitory order, was dispersed by a lathi charge injuring quite a number of people. At Sadum, K.Subrahmanyachari, K. Venkataramanachari and Subba Rayudu were arrested by Pedda Thippa Samudram police for distributing objectionable material.

On 17<sup>th</sup> August, a protest meeting was organised at Anantapur by the Town Bar Association. It was presided over by P. Hanumantha Rao. The meeting condemned the arrest of national leaders.<sup>31</sup>

During this period, the police arrested activists of freedom struggle on the ground that they were participating in the anti-government activities or even on the suspicion that they had the plans of participating in such activities. The British require no proof to level such a charge on Indians. The activists, who were arrested under this category, included C. Narasimha Reddi, Secretary of the Chittoor District Congress Committee, Sakula Rangadu of the Mudugula village in Chittoor district, Naga Narasimhulu, Krishnadu and Suribabu of the Timbakuppam Jamindari area in the same district.<sup>32</sup> Sakula Rangadu, Naga Narasimhulu, Krishnadu and Suribabu were a washerman, a Congress worker, a flower vendor and a Congress volunteer respectively.

There was an instance of the reversal of the punitive judgement of a lower court against an activist in Chittoor district, which could be considered as a rare case under the colonial rule. The judgement by a higher authority went in favour of the activist. The activist involved in this case was T.K.T. Veeraraghavachariar of Chittoor.<sup>33</sup> He had taken lead in organising a hunger strike, conducting a procession and holding a meeting in Chittoor in August 1942 in support of the hunger strike of Gandhiji. The police authorities charged that the activities of Veeraraghavachariar had led to the violation of the orders prohibiting such activities. In March 1943, the

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<sup>30</sup>. *Andhra Patrika*, 18<sup>th</sup> August 1942, p. 3. (SNV)

<sup>31</sup>. *Andhra Patrika*, 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1942, p. 3. (SNV)

<sup>32</sup>. P. Yenadi Raju, n. 8, p. 191.

<sup>33</sup>. P. Yenadi Raju, n. 8, p. 191

Chittoor Sub Divisional First Class Magistrate declared Veeraraghavachariar a fit case for punishment since he had violated the prohibitive orders that had been issued in August 1942 by the District Magistrate. As punishment, Veeraraghavachariar had to pay a fine of Rs.75. Otherwise, he had to undergo a month's term of rigorous imprisonment. Veeraraghavachariar felt that the activities he had carried out were not of any offence, and so the award of punishment to him was an illegal act. Therefore, he appealed to the District Sessions Judge against the verdict given by the Chittoor sub divisional first class magistrate. On examining the case on its merits, the district sessions judge came to the conclusion that the procession and the meeting organised and conducted by Veeraraghavachariar were not in the nature of interfering with the defence of the country. Therefore, the punishment awarded earlier was annulled. The district Sessions judge ordered refund of the amount of the fine, it already paid by Veeraraghavachariar.<sup>34</sup> It is important and noteworthy to recall here the opinion expressed by the District Sessions judge on the eve of delivering his verdict in this case. He expressed that there was a need to explain in proper way about the purpose of the organizers of the meetings and processions. Continuing, the Sessions judge counselled the lower level judge in absentia in a veiled way that bringing the unwritten words into the rules and regulations so as to make it possible to award a punishment to the activist was condemnable. This instance indicates that the lower officials, whether civil or judicial, were anxious to implicate in litigation and see that a punishment was awarded to the activists of the movement, whether or not there was substance in the case.

Nothing here a judgement and certain remarks passed by the Chittoor District Sessions Judge on 18 August 1942 on an appeal petition filed by five alleged criminals is of contextual value. The divisional first class magistrate had convicted those five persons on the basis of a police case brought against them. Three of them were students. They appealed to the District Sessions judge against the conviction. Nullifying the conviction, the sessions Judge passed certain remarks, which deserve our respect. He remarked:

“Linking the revolt of the students against the ruling circle, with the activities of the All India Congress Committee, is totally wrong. The student revolt might be a development of those activities, but there is no original evidence to assume that the

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<sup>34</sup>*The Hindu*, 19 March 1943, p. 4.

unfortunate development could be a result of the programme of the All India Congress Committee”.<sup>35</sup>

In November 1942, the District Magistrate of Chittoor reported to the Chief Secretary, the government of Madras, informing the latter that except the incident of the participation of nine members of the Hindustan Scouts Association in the exhibitions in protest against the arrest of the leaders, there were no instances of implicating the Boys Scouts and other allied organizations on the charges of involvement in the disruptive activities who were involved in the activities of that nature. While pointing out that one should not deny the fact that the Hindustan Scouts Association had been enjoying reputation in the public, he struck a note of caution that in the prevailing circumstances, the government need not change its opinion about those movements. The caution implied that the government should maintain its stern attitude towards the agitators.

### **Govindaraja Swamy Puskarini Meeting**

At Tirupati, the students of the Devasthanam High School run by Tirumala Tirupathi Devasthanam's (T T D) boycotted the classes and arranged a public meeting near Govindarajaswami Puskarini opposite to the temple. Another protest meeting was also organised at Tirupati which was presided over by V.Sankaraiah Naidu.<sup>36</sup>

A meeting was organized by the Madanapalle Panchayat Board. It was presided over by Dastagiri and C. Rama Reddy, an advocate also spoke on the occasion. A resolution was passed condoling the death of Mahadeava Desai.

### **Nagari Ordinance Case**

On 17 August morning in response to the Quit India call, the activists of freedom movement led a procession consisting of K.R. Kumaraswamy Chetty, a student in the local school, M. Subrahmanyam Raju, former teacher in a District Board School, K.Muniswamy Naidu, a member of the Chittoor District Board, V. Jayaramulu Naidu, merchant, M.Kondandaramaswamy Raju, K. Kuppaswami Mudali and G. Kannappa Chetty, aged 16 and other villagers drawn from the neighbourhood of Nagari about 500 strong reached a tank bund and held a public meeting there disregarding the advice given by the Sub-Inspector of Police, Nagari, that such

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<sup>35</sup>. *The Hindu*, 20 August 1942, p. 3.

<sup>36</sup>. *Andhra Patrika*, 14 August 1942, p. 1 (SNV)

meetings were prohibited by the District Magistrate, Chittoor. After the meeting, the whole crowd went in a body to the police station, Nagari, broke through a cordon formed by policemen and civic guards and smashed the name board of the police station. They also committed other acts of violence like cutting telegraph wires at the post office near Vepagunta and other places.<sup>37</sup> The Nagari police arrested seven persons and took them to Chandragiri to be produced before the Joint Magistrate for violating prohibiting orders. Mohammed Himayatullah Farukhi, the special Magistrate, acting under Ordinance 11 of 1942 (Special Courts Ordinance) pronounced judgement in the Nagari Ordinance Case convicting one K.R. Kumaraswamy Chetty and six others of various offences under the Defence of India Rules and sentencing them to various terms of imprisonment, fines etc.<sup>38</sup> The first three accused, including K. Muniswamy Naidu, a member of the Chittoor District Board, were sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment for one and half years each, to receive twelve stripes with a whip and to pay Rs.25/- each as fine under one charge, in default, to undergo R.I. for one month and to pay in addition as fine Rs.25/- each on another charge, in default to undergo one month R.I. The fourth accused, Jayaramulu Naidu was sentenced to pay a fine of Rs.25/- (in default to suffer one month R.I. for one offence) to pay a sum of Rs.25/- (in default one month R.I.) for another charge and to pay a further sum of Rs.50/- as fine (in default to two months R.I.) for a third charge. He was also sentenced to 15 stripes with a whip. The fifth accused Kuppuswamy, a youth of 20 years, was sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for one week for each of the three offences committed by him. The Magistrate also ordered the administration of 12 stripes with a whip. The Magistrate convicted the sixth accused Kannan, a boy of 14 years but under the provisions of the Madras Childrens' Act, admonished him for an offence under Rule 56(4) of D.O.I. Rules. For another offence, the Magistrate sentenced him to suffer six stripes with a whip. The Magistrate sentenced the seventh accused Kodhandaramaswamy Raju, to a fine of Rs.25/- for one offence and Rs.25/- for another offence in default to one month R.I. for each of the offences. The Magistrate ordered all sentences of imprisonment to run concurrently except the sentences in default of payment of fine.<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>37</sup>. *The Hindu*, 20 October 1942, p. 2.

<sup>38</sup>. *Krishna Patrika*, (Machilipatnam), 7<sup>th</sup> November 1942, p. 6 (SNV)

<sup>39</sup>. *The Hindu*, 20<sup>th</sup> October 1942, p. 2

At Karvetinagaram, R.B. Ramakrishna Raju, president of the District Congress Committee convened a secret meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> September 1942, with eight members, when they decided to carry the movement forward and requested the village officers with an appeal to villagers and to teachers to resign their respective positions in the Government and join hands with the masses to fight against the British.

### **Hindu –Muslim Unity Meeting**

On 18<sup>th</sup> August, there was a meeting of about 400 people at Rayadurg. On 20 August, one person was arrested at Chittoor for violating the prohibitory orders in force in the district. At the Theosophical College at Madanapalle, a meeting was organised by Akhil Ali, Secretary, *Saraswatha Sangham*. It was presided over by P. Balakrishna Murthy, of the Chittoor District National War Front. Those who attended the meeting were N. Krishna Murthy, Honnurappa, Muni Venkatappa and others. All the speakers stressed the need for Hindu-Muslim unity in order to achieve the goal of independence for Indians.<sup>40</sup> On 21<sup>st</sup> August, 1942, a meeting was organised at Koilakuntla, Kurnool District. It was presided over by B. Anki Reddy. Gurunadha Sharma, Pulla Reddy and others spoke on the occasion. They condoled the death of Mahadeva Desai.<sup>41</sup>

The executive meeting of the Hindupur Journalists Association was presided over by B. Sethu Rao. The meeting passed a resolution condemning the arrest of national leaders and mourned the death of Mahadeva Desai. A similar resolution was also passed by the Kadapa Journalists Union. On 25<sup>th</sup> August, a meeting of about 200 people was held at Adoni. On 27<sup>th</sup> August, one person was arrested at Kuppam for defying the order banning meetings.<sup>42</sup> On 31<sup>st</sup> August, A.V. Subbaiah, Secretary, Town Congress Committee was arrested at Nandyal in the early hours. On 3<sup>rd</sup> September, a meeting was held at Adoni in contravention of 144 order was dispersed. Six prominent leaders were arrested and charges filed.

A meeting was organized by the Madanapalle Panchayat Board. It was presided over by Dastagiri. C. Rama Reddy, an advocate also spoke on the occasion.

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<sup>40</sup>. *Andhra Patrika*, 24 August 1942, p.3.

<sup>41</sup>. *Andhra Patrika*, 27<sup>th</sup> August, 1942, p. 1 (SNV)

<sup>42</sup>. K. Maddaiah, *Freedom Movement in Rayalaseema: A Study of Peoples Response to the major Phases of National Movement 1905-1947*, Un published thesis, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad, 1995, p.289.

At this meeting resolution was passed condoling the death of Mahadeava Desai.<sup>43</sup> On 5<sup>th</sup> September 1942, the government promulgated prohibitory orders in Kurnool for 2 months. The government arrested Communist leaders like V.Bapaiah, C. Pulla Reddy, K.V. Krishna Murthy, R. Thippa Reddy and seized from them the copies of “New Age” and other papers. At Nandikotkur, Suryanarayana, Secretary of the Rythu Sangham was arrested. A protest meeting was organised at Kadapa by the Town Bar Association. It was presided over by K. Gundu Rao. The meeting condoled the death of Mahadeva Desai. At Madanapalle, a meeting was organised under the auspices of 18 organisations like Students Federation, Yuvajana Sangham and Kisan sabha etc. It was presided over by A.Chenna Basappa. Those who attended the meeting were: Y. Lakshminarayana, A. Seetharam Singh, M.V. Papanna Gupta, Akhil Ali, O.V. Setty, D. Seetharamaiah, Mogilappa, K. Valeswara Rao and R. Narasimha Reddy. The meeting demanded the lifting of ban on student’s organizations.<sup>44</sup> At Alur, arrack shops were picketed by H. Venkateswara Rao, M. Veerabhadrayya, L. Seetharami Reddy, N. Venkatalakshmi Reddy, Boggula Balaiah, Akbar Saheb, A. Pedda Papanna, T. Narasimha Reddy, Ayyapu Reddy and H. Basavanna Goud. Later, they were arrested.<sup>45</sup> At Adoni B. Ramakka, H. Rama Rao, J. Basavaiah and K. Anjaneyulu were arrested for taking out a procession in defiance of the prohibitory orders.<sup>46</sup>

On 12<sup>th</sup> September, three persons were arrested at Nandyal, for shouting anti-British slogans. On 14<sup>th</sup> September, seven persons were arrested for making objectionable speeches in Pulikunta and Bandlapalli villages. On 18<sup>th</sup> September, two persons distributing objectionable leaflets were arrested at Dharmavaram and on 19<sup>th</sup> September, the Congress flag procession was dispersed by force. On 19<sup>th</sup> September, five persons who contravened 144 order were arrested at Adoni. On 21<sup>st</sup> September, the president of the Cumbum Town Congress Committee and the President of the District Board were arrested under rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules. On 21<sup>st</sup> September, Srinivasachari, Municipal Chairman of Tirupati was arrested while at Nagari, another person was also arrested for criticizing the British.<sup>47</sup> An attempt was

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<sup>43</sup>. *Andhra Patrika*, 7 September 1942, Pp. 3-4.

<sup>44</sup>. *Andhra Patrika*, 8 September 1942, p.4.

<sup>45</sup>. *Andhra Patrika*, 11<sup>th</sup> September 1942, p. 3 (SNV)

<sup>46</sup>. *Andhra Patrika*, 18<sup>th</sup> September 1942, p. 4 (SNV)

<sup>47</sup>. K. Maddaiah, n.42, p.291.

made to distribute cyclostyled objectionable pamphlets at Yadiki on 27<sup>th</sup> September and at Anantapur on 28<sup>th</sup> September. The offenders were arrested.<sup>48</sup>

On 1<sup>st</sup> October, the slogan, “Drive out the British” appeared in Telugu on the walls of some of the buildings in Kurnool. One person was arrested at Nallamekalapalle for seditious preaching. During 1- 3 October, all the persons involved in the offence of Telephone wire-cutting and writing anti-British slogans on the walls, were rounded up and arrested at Kurnool.<sup>49</sup> P. Lakshmi Reddy and S. Nagappa, the two Congress M.L.As who were secretly inciting the offenders were also arrested. On 9<sup>th</sup> October, two persons were arrested at Tirupati for organising a procession and meeting in defiance of the prohibitory order in force in the district.<sup>50</sup>

On 18<sup>th</sup> October 1942, a public meeting was convened in Venkatapuram village in Kadapa District at Ramaswamy Temple in the heart of the village and about 50 villagers attended the same. This meeting was organised by Kopparapu Gangi Setty through a beat of tom in advance. In the meeting, Gangi Setty and Bandaru Thogata Gandanna alias Gandrayadu spoke. Gangi Setty exhorted the audience that it was wrong on the part of the public servants to serve the Government and the taxes should not be paid. Gandrayadu spoke that the people should not recognise His Majesty, the King of England as the Emperor of India, that they should not pay the taxes and that in case of attachments and sale of properties, they should not purchase the properties put to auction. On 25<sup>th</sup> October 1942, the two, Gangi Setty and Gandanna were arrested and charged in Gangi Reddy Palli station Cr. Nos. and 47/42 under section 38 (5) read with 38 (1) (a) of the Defence of India Rules. They were convicted and sentenced to 9 months R.I. each in C.C.Nos. 164 and 165 respectively dated 4<sup>th</sup> December 1942 by the Sub –Divisional Magistrate, Jammalamadugu.

### **Dangerous Villages**

Venkatapuram and Uruturu were in Gangireddipalli station limits, where a large number of persons with pro-Congress views were residing. The police considered Venkatapuram and Uruturu in Pulivendula taluk of Kadapa district as “dangerous villages. The District Superintendent of Police, Kadapa, S. Appanda Rajan, in his confidential report dated 13<sup>th</sup> July 1943 to the District Magistrate, Kadapa, Sri

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<sup>48</sup>. DCECDM, August-December, 1942, (Madras, 1943), pp. 8, 32, 74 and 75 (TNSA)

<sup>49</sup>. DCECDM, August-December, 1942, (Madras, 1943), Pp. 8, 32, 74, and 75 (TNSA)

<sup>50</sup>. *Krishna Patrika* (Machilipatnam), 31<sup>st</sup> October 1942, p. 6 (SNV)

Rao Saheb K.P. Krishna Nair, wrote that those villages were managing the Congress programmes very effectively, participating in the movement enthusiastically, the inhabitants of those villages would destroy the government property and had the capacity to take up anti-government activities on large scale, and therefore the government should always have an eye on them. The correspondence that went on between the main district administration functionaries in Kadapa district in connection with the investigation of the cases against Kopparapu Gangi Setty, Bandaru Thogata Gandanna *alias* Gandrayudu reveal interesting aspects of the intensity of the movement in the district. Gangiseti and Gandrayudu arranged *tom tom* (drumming along the streets) in Venkatapuram, which was in the jurisdiction of the police station of Gangireddigaripalle, on 18<sup>th</sup> October 1942, a public meeting was held at Ramaswamy temple of the hamlet. An audience of fifty members attended the meeting. The speakers at the meeting told the audience that it was wrong on the part of public servants to work for the government. They exhorted the people not to pay taxes to the government, not to recognise the king of England as emperor of India and not to buy the property of anyone of their co-inhabitants whenever the government put it for sale in auction to recover the government dues. These two activists were arrested for these activities and sent to jail. A confidential letter of the police noted that there were plenty of changes of these activists creating dangerous situations again for the government if they were let off.<sup>51</sup>

On 21<sup>st</sup> October, “an objectionable” pamphlet was found affixed to the wall of the Tahsildar’s room at Hindupur. On the same day, three persons were arrested at Chittoor on suspicion for writing slogans on walls which were highly objectionable to the Government. Twelve persons were convicted by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Markapur, under rule 35 (sabotage) of the Defence of India Rules and sentenced to various punishments. One individual was arrested at Pattikonda and charge-sheeted for distributing pamphlets in highly inflammable language. On 29<sup>th</sup> October, a boy, aged 12 years went to the Police Station at Dhone and began distributing manuscript pamphlets in Telugu which were in highly “inflammable language”. He was arrested. H. Narasing Rao at Vijayawada while going on tour for raising funds and materials for the movement was arrested.<sup>52</sup>

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<sup>51</sup>. Public (General) Department , G.O.No. 2091, 27<sup>th</sup> March, 1943, Pp. 2543-2545 (APSAH)

<sup>52</sup>. Sarojini Regani, (ed.), *Who is Who of Freedom Struggle in Andhra Pradesh*, Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Vol. I, Hyderabad, p. 19

## **Role of Students in the Quit India Movement**

The Students played a very commendable role in the Quit India Movement by trying to bring about an effective boycott of educational institutions as a mark of protest against the Government's repressive policies during the Quit India movement struggle. On 10<sup>th</sup> August 1942, students of the Ceded District College, Municipal High School and Training School at Anantapur struck work for one day. In the evening, a large meeting was held. At Gooty, there was half a day strike by some of the students in the London Mission High School. On the same day, there were students' Strikes and processions at Chittoor and Madanapalle. Prosecutions under the Criminal Law Amendment Act was subsequently launched against speakers at the meeting at Chittoor and were sentenced to three months imprisonment. On 11<sup>th</sup> August, the students of the District Board High School also went on strike. On 13<sup>th</sup> August, about 600 students abstained from attending schools in Kurnool. On the same day, students of the local High School at Proddatur absented themselves from their classes and conducted a meeting and procession. On 14<sup>th</sup> August, students of Anantapur picketed the Ceded Districts College. About 200 students picketing the College were dispersed by a lathi charge. On the same day, students of the Municipal High School at Hindupur and Dharmavaram went on strike.<sup>53</sup> At Dharmavaram, a public meeting was held later in the evening. On 15<sup>th</sup> August, P. Ramacharlu and V. Rama Rao who were encouraging the activities of the local students at Anantapur were arrested. On 17<sup>th</sup> August, students of Hindupur took out a procession and started throwing stones at the Police. They were dispersed by a mild lathi charge. At Madakasira, there was a strike at the Board Middle School on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1942 students of Tirupati stoned a running train causing slight injuries to the fireman. On 20<sup>th</sup> August, Kalachaveedu Venkataramanacharlu and J.C. Nagi Reddy who were trying to cause disaffection among the students of Thadipathri were arrested. On the same day, the High School boys of Pulivendula did not attend the school. On 6<sup>th</sup> September, the Town Students Federation of Kurnool planned to hold a meeting, the subject announced being liberty, peace and revolution. An order under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, was issued, prohibiting the meeting. On 10<sup>th</sup> September, the school at Rajampet was picketed. Two persons were arrested.<sup>54</sup>

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<sup>53</sup>. DCECDM, August-December, 1942, (Madras, 1943), Pp. 6, 7, 30, 39 and 73 (TNSA)

<sup>54</sup>. DCECDM, August-December, 1942, (Madras, 1943), Pp.6, 7, 30, 39 and 73 (TNSA)

## Ceded District College Arson Case

On the morning of 11<sup>th</sup> September, the Chemistry Laboratory of the Ceded District College, Anantapur was burnt down presumably by the students. K.V.R. Kotra Gowd, V.K. Adinarayana Reddy, Chenna Basappa, T. Nagi Reddy, Thirumala Reddy, Neelam Rajasekhara Reddy, Idhukallu Sadhasivan, Boya Venkatappa, G. Venkata Reddy, K.S. Raghavachrlu, Nanjappa, Gangi Reddy and Mallappa were responsible for the incident.<sup>55</sup> It may be mentioned here that V.K. Adinarayana Reddy of Cheemavagulapalli was then a student of the Senior B.A. class of the Ceded District College, Anantapur. He was reported to be fraternizing with known Communists and that he was holding secret meetings to stir up the feelings of the students of the College. He was the Secretary of the Student's Federation of Anantapur.<sup>56</sup> After the arrest of the Congress leaders in August 1942, he organised processions and picketing of the college and schools and took an active part in rebellious activities. He associated himself with Neelam Rajasekhar Reddy of Illur, Tharimela Nagi Reddy of Tarimela, Chidambara Reddy of Pedapalli and G. Venkata Reddy who were sent to jails in connection with the hampering of war efforts. Further, V.K. Adinarayana Reddy was one of those charged in the Ceded District College arson case.<sup>57</sup> The District Magistrate of Anantapur reported to the government that he was satisfied with the confidential enquiries of the Principal of the Ceded District College, Anantapur, regarding V.K. Adinarayana Reddy. "He is a dangerous character who foments trouble among the students and makes them interested in subversive political work".<sup>58</sup> The District Magistrate urged the government to issue orders directing his detention under rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules. It is said that V.K. Adinarayana Reddy was one of those responsible for the appearance of a secret political journal called the "Akashavani". Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, Vidwan Viswam, T. Nagi Reddy, Neelam Rajasekhar Reddy and Idhukallu Sadhasivan were the other members of this secret group behind the publication of the journal.<sup>59</sup>

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<sup>55</sup>. Public (General) Department , Letter No. 728/43M, dated 12<sup>th</sup> May, 1943, Pp. 12118 (APSAH)

<sup>56</sup>. Public (General) Department , Letter No. 728/43M, dated 12<sup>th</sup> May, 1943, Pp. 12118 (APSAH)

<sup>57</sup>. Narreddy Sivarami Reddy, *Spoorthy: Kamred Chandra Rajeswara Rao gari Shathajayanthi Sandharbanga*, Anupama Printers, Hyderabad, 2013, p. 10

<sup>58</sup>. Public (General) Department , G.O. No. 560, dated 19<sup>th</sup> February, 1943, Pp. 2459-2460 (APSAH)

<sup>59</sup>. *Andhra Patrika*, 11<sup>th</sup> July 1942, p. 4 (SNV)

On 14<sup>th</sup> September, the local people including an S.S.L.C. student, removed the property box from the police outpost at Rekatla and threw it into a neighbouring well. Matam Veerayya, M. Thippaswami and A. Nagappa were responsible for the incident.<sup>60</sup> On 18<sup>th</sup> September, students of the local school at Hindupur went on strike. Rags and straw soaked in kerosene were found in the school shed. Objectionable pamphlets were noticed on the walls of the town.<sup>61</sup> On the night of 30<sup>th</sup> September some science students of the High School at Pulivendhula who were associating themselves with the Congress movement broke open the laboratory and caused damage to the articles in it. The loss was assessed at Rs. 300/-, Venkatasubbaiah, Sadhasiva Reddy, D. Ramachandra Reddy, Narasimha Reddy and D. Narayana Reddy of Koruguntlapalli were the students who were suspected by the Government to be responsible for the incident.<sup>62</sup> On 14<sup>th</sup> October, five Bellary school boys convened a meeting in Alur Taluk urging the people not to supply food-stuffs to the Army. They were arrested. On 21<sup>st</sup> October, four students who were going in a procession uttering objectionable slogans were arrested at Markapuram.<sup>63</sup>

### **Role of Muslims during the Quit India Movement in Rayalaseema**

From Anantapur district Mohammad Saheb was enraged and enthusiastically participated in the Quit India Movement. As a result, he was arrested at Anantapur on 7<sup>th</sup> September 1942. But on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the Freedom Movement, he was awarded Tamrapatra (Copper Plaque) in recognition of his services to the country.<sup>64</sup>

From Kurnool District, Mullah Akbar Ali resident of Namakal village of Alur taluq was inspired by L. Sitarami Reddy who was a village Congress leader. Then he joined the Congress Party at the age of 18 years. He interned for eight months from 8-9- 1942 in the Alipuram Camp Jail during the Quit India Movement. From his early days Mullah Akbar Ali enthusiastically participated in the common people and thus responded to the National cause by the call of Mahatma Gandhi. Akbar Ali and Sitarami Reddy toured extensively the villages of Kurnool District and informed the

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<sup>60</sup>. Public (General) Department, Rc. No. 389/43EI Confidential dated 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1943, p. 12122 (APSAH)

<sup>61</sup>. DCECDM, August-December, 1942, (Madras, 1943), p. 8 (TNSAH)

<sup>62</sup>. Public (General) Department, Rc. No. C.I. 716/M/43 dated 8<sup>th</sup> May 1943, p. 12128 (APSAH)

<sup>63</sup>. DCECDM, August-December, 1942, (Madras, 1943), Pp. 23 and 76 (TNSAH)

<sup>64</sup>. Letter from Raj Bhavan, Andhra Pradesh on 12<sup>th</sup> April 1986 to M. Mohiddin Saheb

people about the atrocities committed by the Britishers. They requested the people not to pay taxes either on Salt or for tapping toddy. He usually addressed the people at various places and encouraged farmers to till the government banjar lands at Namakal, Timmapur, Nagardona, Kundurthy. M. Akbar Ali and Sitarami Reddy went to Adoni to defy the Government orders on Salt tax. Thus, he was one of the South Indian Muslims who knew Mohammad Ali Jinnah personally.

Another Muslim freedom fighter named Mahaboob Saheb native of Togerchedu in Nandyal Taluk of Kurnool district participated in the Quit India Movement along with Shamsheer Beig.<sup>65</sup> As he was influenced by Gandhiji he along with Nivarthy Venkata Subbaiah, Secretary of the District Congress Committee and also a member of All India Congress Committee led the Quit India Movement in Kurnool District. Consequently, he was involved in removing the fish plates of the railway line between Nandyal and Panyam railway station on 31<sup>st</sup> August 1942. As a result, he underwent Rigorous Imprisonment from 23-9-1942 to 21-04-1943 in the Alipuram Camp Jail. He celebrated Bhakrid in the jail during his imprisonment along with Andhra leaders like Bejawada Gopala Reddy and B.V. Subba Reddy, who were his prisonmates. Being a true follower of Congress ideals, he did not fall a prey to the Muslim League to the enticement of the members of the Muslim League who invited him to come into the fold of Muslim League.

From Anantapur district K. Mahaboob Sahib a native of Kurumala, Kadiri Taluk actively participated in violent activities and set fire to the Forest Rest House at Kothakota during the Quit India Movement. He was associated with local Hindu leaders like T.P. Gangi Reddy, Subba Reddy, Rayappa and Subba Rao. He rendered good services to the Congress from his early days particularly at the age of 18 years he became a Congress member and propagated different programmes of Congress under the leadership of Ayya Samudra Nageswara Rao. In the year 1943 he was involved in setting fire to the forest guest house and was arrested by the Police and sent to jail for one year.

Mohammad Rasool Saheb, a native of Kasaram village in the Guntakal taluq of Anantapur district also took part in the Quit India Movement.<sup>66</sup> He was greatly inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's speeches during Gandhiji's tour in Rayalaseema in the

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<sup>65</sup>. Sarojini Regani, n. 52, *Vol.II*, p.349

<sup>66</sup>. Pension Records of District Collectorate, Anantapur

years 1934 and 1935. Mahatma Gandhi and Babu Rajendra Prasad instilled in him a sense of patriotism and desire for freedom from the hands of Britishers. The prominent leaders of Rayalaseema like Kalluri Subba Rao, I. Sadasivan, Ramacharyulu greatly influenced Mohammed Rasool Sahib in the Kasaram village. As a result, he joined the Quit India Movement and took part in the violent activities like the removal of Railway track of Marmagoa – Machilipatnam line near Guntakal and damaged the Madras – Bombay trunk road. In fact he went underground for some time, but later he was sentenced for six months imprisonment.

Chittoor district was no exception for freedom movement as its Muslim population whole heartedly participated. P. Muradsha Sahib hailed from Madanapalle participated in the Quit India Movement. At the instance of Nuthi Radha Krishnaiah, P. Muradsha joined the national movement and served as the member of the taluq working committee. He was inspired by the Congress taluq working committee meeting of protest against the British Government at Madanapalle towards Quit India Movement. P. Muradsha Sahib received lathy blows by the Police for his involvement in the national struggle of Quit India Movement in 24<sup>th</sup> August 1942.<sup>67</sup>

### **Picketings**

The Commissioner of Police, Madras, promulgated an order on 24 August 1942, under rule 56 of the Defence of India Rules prohibiting the taking part in, or holding of public meetings, processions or assemblies of Congress organizations or the supporters of sympathizers of such meetings, within the city of Madras. As this order was in force on 23 February, 1943, P. Narasimha Reddy and L. Surya Prakasa Rao of Chittoor District, who were studying in Madras, entered the High Court premises shouting “Gandhi ki Jai” incessantly and a crowd gathered at the portico of the High Court building, where the court Choukidar stopped them from proceeding further into the main building of the court premises. The two students who were dressed in Khaddar with a cloth badge of tri-coloured flag pinned to their shirts stepped at the portico and continued shouting. They were arrested and was booked against them. Both of them found pleaded guilty to a charge under Rule 56(4) of the Defence of India Rules. They were convicted and sentenced to rigorous

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<sup>67</sup>. *The Hindu*, 25<sup>th</sup> August 1942

imprisonment for two months, by the Second Class Presidency Magistrate, George Town, Madras.<sup>68</sup>

### **Madras Queen Mary's College Incident**

While studying in the Queen Mary's College, Madras in 1943, T.N. Sakuntala Devi and T.N. Anasuya Devi, daughters of Thikkavarapu Rami Reddy of Nellore, organised the Students' Movements in all the Colleges in Madras. For picketing the Egmore Magistrate's Court at Madras, T.N. Sakuntala Devi was sentenced to three months simple imprisonment. Both were sent to Vellore jail.<sup>69</sup>

P.Krishna Murthy Reddy of Polakal village in Chittoor District was a student of the F.L. Class in Madras. On 19<sup>th</sup> February 1943, he was convicted and sentenced to undergo three months rigorous imprisonment for having obstructed the students of the Law College, Madras, from going in, which was considered as an offence and punishable under section 7 (a) of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1932. On 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1943, M. Venkatasubba Reddy of Kovelakuntla while a student of the B.A. Class at the Loyola College, Madras, addressed a gathering of students and asked them to revolt against the government. He was lathi charged several times and was confined in the Madras General Hospital till the second week of March 1943. Later, he was remanded to the Madras Central Jail. T.N. Krishna Reddy, G. Ramachandra Naidu (Chittoor District) and P. Parthasarathi (Kadapa district) who were students in Madras were arrested for organizing the picketing of government offices. T.N. Raghunatha Reddy (Chittoor District) who was studying M.Sc., in the Benares Hindu University was arrested in connection with a treason case.<sup>70</sup>

### **Second Phase-Removal of Railway Tracts and Fish-Plates**

In the second phase of the movement, the people raided municipal and other government buildings. Railway stations, Police stations and post offices were also attacked and many of them were set on fire.

On 11<sup>th</sup> August 1942, stone boulders were found on the railway line between Guntakal and Maddikera at mile 236/3. S. Venkataramayya Chetty was arrested in

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<sup>68</sup>. Home Department, G.O.No. 5484, dated 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1943, Pp. 12326-12328 (APSAH)

<sup>69</sup>. Sarojini Regani, n. 52, Vol.I, Pp.40 and 56.

<sup>70</sup>. Home Department, G. O. No. 5459, dated 15 March 1943, Pp. 12314-12315 (APSAH)

this connection.<sup>71</sup> On the night of 15<sup>th</sup> August, sections of rail were removed at two places near Guntakal. Both of them caused derailments. One Goods train derailed at mile 232/1 on the metre-gauge of Guntakal (Gunthakallu)- Mormugoa line near Guntakal. Kamma Bayya Venkata Naidu, Gammagutti Pullaiah, Kamma Gorthi Pedda Errasubbi, Kamma Gorthi Chinna Erra Subbi, Kamma Gorthi Venkatasubbaiah, Kamma Bantrala Chinna Subbaiah, Kamma Pothur Venkatachalamaiah, Kamma Lingutla Lakshmanna, Kepa Sambasiva Reddy, Kamma Gannerupalli Narayana, Boya Sunkadu alias Thikkanna, Golla Anjanappa, Kamma Thaguparthi Balappa, Kamma Kakarla Rangappa, Kopa Appayya and Kamma Chimpili Subbanna, were the persons responsible for the derailment. Another Goods train derailed at mile 23/12-13 on the metre gauge Guntakal-Machilipatnam line. Several active workers like Rangacharlu, Ramanujacharlu, Narayanacharlu, Nese Sreeramulu, Nese Nettekall, Rasool, Kavali Anjanayya, Kapa Ramanappa and Kamalapadu Ranga Reddy were held responsible for the derailment.<sup>72</sup> Pedda Rayappa of Thimmancherla was arrested for sabotage in connection with the removal of rails on the Mormugoa-Machilipatnam line near Guntakal.<sup>73</sup> Between 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> August, the Railway Telegraph lines between Kalamella and Regadapalli were cut. Komati Subbarayudu, Mada Venkanna of Muddanuru and Bali Reddy of Y. Kottapalli and Sangameswara Reddy of Umareddipalli were arrested by the Government for the cutting of the Railway Telegraph lines.<sup>74</sup> On 18<sup>th</sup> August, the Railway Telegraph lines between Kalamella and Kondapuram were tampered with. Three persons were arrested on suspicion. On the same day, (18<sup>th</sup> August) three fish plates were removed on the Railway line between Giddalur and Duguvamitta. On 19<sup>th</sup> August, the military patrol arrested and remanded to custody the persons seen moving about the Railway line between Renigunta and Pudi. On 22 August 1942, a military train patrol arrested one person found tampering with the railway line near Puttur in Chittoor District.<sup>75</sup>

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<sup>71</sup>. Public (General) Department, Rc. No. 728/43M dated 12<sup>th</sup> May 1943, p. 12119 (APSAH)

<sup>72</sup>. Public (General) Department, Letter No. 728/43M, dated 12<sup>th</sup> May 1943, P p. 12116-12117 (APSAH)

<sup>73</sup>. DCECDM, August-December, 1942, (Madras, 1943), p. 8, (TNSAH)

<sup>74</sup>. Public (General) Department, Rc. No. C.I. 716/M/43, dated 8<sup>th</sup> May 1943, P p. 12125-12126 (APSAH)

<sup>75</sup>. DCECDM, August-December, 1942, (Madras, 1943), p. 31,39 and 74 (TNSAH)

## Sri KalaHasthi Derailment Case

The people from Sri Kala Hasthi with national fervour inspired through the activities of prominent national leaders, took active part in the Quit India Movement. Pasupulety Subbarama Dhas went to Kovanuruvari Rice Mill and collected Spanners with the help of his friend Mudhaliyar (Junnu Mudhaliyar) on the midnight of 22<sup>nd</sup> August and reached Muchhivelu and called the villagers to derail the train. The people accompanied Subbarama Dhas. On 22<sup>nd</sup> August, an empty goods train was derailed about 6 miles north of Sri Kala Hasthi between Akkurthi and Sri Kala Hasthi on the Katpadi-Gudur line due to the removal of three pairs of rails and also due to the destruction of Insulators on the Telegraph poles. The damage done to the railways was estimated at Rs.40, 000/-. The police arrested 28 members. In this case Special Magistrate New Sam conducted enquiry and 23 members were released on 7<sup>th</sup> October 1942.<sup>76</sup> Regarding the Other five members one Pasupuleti Subbarama Dhas was awarded Five years rigorous imprisonment, fourth offender Venakata Ramu awarded six months rigorous imprisonment, Sixth offender Subrahmanyam was awarded Six months rigorous imprisonment, tenth offender Melchuru Krishnayya was awarded Two years rigorous imprisonment, twentieth offender Papachari, was below 16 yearsold. So, they suggested to his parents to observe discipline and help him to follow rules. On 22<sup>nd</sup> August, an empty goods train was derailed about 6 miles north of Kalahasti on the Katpadi-Gudur line due to the removal of three pairs of rails. The damage done to the railways was estimated at Rs.40, 000/-. Pasupuleti Subbarama Dass, Pindi Veeraswami, Pasupuleti Venkatappaiah. Appalakutti Venkatesam, S. Venkatasubbaiah, Markonda Subrahmanyam, P. Venugopal, S. Anantharaman, P. Balagangaiah, Melchuru Krishnaiah, Thondu Gangadu, Polugadu, S. Ramalinga Reddy, Gunnera Narayana Reddy, K.Gundaiah alias Gunnaiah, Venkayala Venkatayya, Venkatrayalu, Nagolu Subba Reddy, Nagolu Eswar Reddy, Sangavaram Chenchuramaiah, Mopuru Papachari, Rummala Anki Reddy, Iyaganti Venkataramaiah alias Venkatarama Naidu, G. Venkata Reddy, Iyagati Purushotham, Mutcheli, Veeraraghava Chetty, Subrahmanyam Reddy, and Kallappa Naidu were responsible for the incident at Srikalahasti.<sup>77</sup>

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<sup>76</sup>. *Krishna Patrika*, Dated 24<sup>th</sup> October 1942, p. 8c

<sup>77</sup>. *Enadu (Tirupati)*, 15 August 2008 & 2014, p.8.

The above mentioned agriculturists with national fervor and as part of the call given by Mahatma Gandhi resorted to sabotage the British by removing rail fish plates near Akkurthi between Sri Kala Hasthi, Katpadi –Gudur Line.

The police after thorough investigation indentified the volunteers those who have involved in the removal of rail fish plates and arrested. All the volunteers were awarded five years rigorous imprisonment on 17-10-1942. Some of them were sent to Alipuram camp Jail and Wellesly Sanitorium Jail, Bellary. Pasupuleti Subbarma Das was released 30-03-1946.<sup>78</sup>

### **Panapakam Railway Case**

The people of Chittoor district were actively involved in the Quit India Movement and resorted to the destruction of public property and involved in several violent incidents. The Chittoor district witnessed rail derailment incident namely at Panapakam on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1942. On 23 August, a mixed train with carriages of both goods and passengers derailed between Panapakam and Chandragiri on the metre guage line from Katapadi to Gudur due to sabotage. Three pairs of fish plates, 12 bolts and over a dozen steel keys had been removed. The engine and four goods vans immediately behind the engine capsized.

The people from Kasipentla village with moderate educational background, but with national fervour inspired through the activities of prominent national leaders took active part in the Quit India Movement. The important persons involved in the derailment of train near Panapakam were Navaluri Bodebba, Oleti Chenchayya, D. Chengayya, Pilla Chengayya, Kommini Dharmiah, P. Gangaiah, Guravaiah, Dondapati Muthyalu, Dondapati Yellappa Naidu, Oleti Chengaiah, P. Gangaiah and others took active part in the causing of the derailment of train on the evening of 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1942.<sup>79</sup> The train which was delayed and operated between Pakala and Gudur has no passengers. So, there were no casualties reported because of the derailment of the train near Panapakam. In this connection, Gummadi Chinnaswamy, N.V. Naidu and Munaswamy Naidu were also arrested and detained near Chandragiri for 15 days.<sup>80</sup>

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<sup>78</sup>. Sarojini Regani, n. 52, Vol.I, p. 58

<sup>79</sup>. Ibid, p. 66

<sup>80</sup>. My Interview with Gummadi Chinna Swamy, Freedom Fighter, at Tirupati, near West Railway Station, on 3-12-2010.

The above mentioned agriculturists with national fervour and as part of the call given by Mahatma Gandhi resorted to sabotage the British administration by removing rail fish plates near Maravapalli, i.e, between Kasipentla and Maravapalli on the Panapakam and Chandragiri railway line.

The police after thorough investigation identified the volunteers those who have involved in the removal of rail fish plates and arrested. All the volunteers were awarded four years rigorous imprisonment on 3-10-1942. Some of them were sent to Alipuram camp Jail and others to Salem jail. After serving one year jail sentence, the High Court set aside the conviction of the volunteers for involving in the removal of rail fish plates. So, they were released on 2-10-1943.<sup>81</sup>

On 24<sup>th</sup> August, the railway line between Muddanur and Kondapuram was tampered with. Between 25<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> August, 1942, few bags of gun-powder were found at the Makkajipalli Railway Station, Penugonda Railway Station and Dharmavaram Railway Goods shed. On 31<sup>st</sup> August, between Nandyal and Panyam, fish-plates of three rails were found removed.<sup>82</sup> On 1<sup>st</sup> September, between Cumbum and Somidevipalli stations; a Telegraph post was pulled down, wires were cut and insulators broken, two fish-plates and seventeen fish bolts were also reported to have been removed. M.V.S.Gupta, B. Satyanarayana, A.V. Subbaiah, Bolam Satyanarayana, M. Pothuluri, G. Satyam, K. Subbanna, P. Basi Reddy, N. Kondayya, M. Chennakesavulu, D. Nanne Sahib and K. Obul Reddy were convicted by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Markapuram, 4 persons to 2 years Rigorous Imprisonment and the rest to 1 year Rigorous Imprisonment.<sup>83</sup>

Obstructions on the Railway Track at Kurabalakota on the night of 7 September, stoners were seen placed on the metre-guage railway track between Kurabalakota and Tummanagutta. On 23 October, it found that several boulders were placed blocking the railway traffic at Vanganur. The police found it out and promptly removed the stones. The students who were responsible for placing the stones were arrested.<sup>84</sup>

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<sup>81</sup>. Sarojini Regani, n. 52, Vol. I, p. 50

<sup>82</sup>. DCECDM, August to December, Madras 1942, Pp. 9, 40 and 74 (TNSA)

<sup>83</sup>. Public (General) Department, L. Dis. 591/43 dated 15<sup>th</sup> June 1943, p.12161 (APSAH)

<sup>84</sup>. DCECDM, August to December, Madras 1942, Pp. 9 and 32 (TNSA)

## **Role of Gummadi Chinna Swamy in the Quit India Movement**

He was born at Ramireddygari palle Dalithawada, Chandragiri Taluk. He studied at T.T.D. High School in Tirupati. Chinna Swamy attended Political School Classes in Kuppam. That school maintained by Vazravelu Chetty. In that political School he observed and inspired by M.N. Roy speeches. In Tirupati near Railway Station, one Communist namely Dasharatha Rami Reddy distributor distributed the Red Star News Paper. This Red Star News Paper was from Russia. After receiving of the newspaper, the police arrested Dasaratha Rami Reddy and found the addresses of Gummadi Chinna Swamy, Muttha Reddy, M.N.Rathnam and C.K. Narayana Reddy. The Police was coming at mid-night their houses and arrested the Gummadi Chinna Swamy to sent the Sub Collector's Bunglaw at Chandragiri. At Chandragiri Sub-Collector's Bunglaw, police asked the addresses of Communists. But Gummadi Chinna Swamy did not say. In this connection total 8 members were arrested. Except M.N. Rathnam and G.Chinna Swamy all people accepted Congress. But two were not say Congress. They said Communist. Speeches of leaders motivated them sacrifice their lives for the sake of the nation.<sup>85</sup>

## **Removal of Letter Boxes**

On 30<sup>th</sup> August, 1942, a postal letter box in Thondur Chavidi, Pulivendhula Taluk was found missing. On 5<sup>th</sup> September, an attempt was made to set fire to the branch post office at Panyam. Three empty mail bags were burnt.<sup>86</sup> On 29<sup>th</sup> September, two letter boxes were found removed at Madanapalle and thrown into the nearby river. On 19<sup>th</sup> October, a letter box at the branch post office at Palamaner was found missing. The volunteers by resorting to the removal of post boxes wanted to sabotage the postal system of the British in India.<sup>87</sup>

## **Kondur Mail Bag Snatching Case**

On 16<sup>th</sup> September, some youth with their faces covered with black masks, snatched away the mail bag from a young boy of 15 who was on duty for his father, the mail runner, for the day, on the Kondur-Badvel road. The mail bag and its contents were recovered a few yards away from the scene of occurrence. The contents were not tampered with.

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<sup>85</sup>. Interview with Gummadi Chinna Swamy on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2014 at Tirupati

<sup>86</sup>. DCECDM, August to December, Madras 1942, Pp. 40 and 74 (TNSA)

<sup>87</sup>. DCECDM, August to December, Madras 1942, Pp. 32, 41 and 42.

### **Simhadripuram Mail Bag Snatching Case**

On 31<sup>st</sup> October, the mails from Lavanur to Simhadripuram in Pulivendula Taluk, carried by the grandson of the regular mail runner were snatched away by three persons who ran away with the mail bag. Pedda Subbi Reddy and Venkatarami Reddy of Musalareddipalli were sentenced and Bali Reddy of Y. Kothapalli was sent as a detenue.<sup>88</sup>

### **Muddanur Mail Robbery**

On the morning of 15<sup>th</sup> November, a mail cart carrying three mail bags from Muddanur Railway Station to the post office was robbed in the early hours and the bags removed. Seetharamayya, Obul Reddy, Siva Reddy, Balamathugadu, V. Ramanna, Jayarami Reddy, Balija Venkatesu, Venkata Narayana Reddy and M. Narayana Reddy of C. Dandlur, Sambhu Reddy of Veerappanayanipalli, Sesha Reddy of Illur, Kadiri Rami Reddy of Agadur, Venkata Reddy and Subbi Reddy of Tummalapalli were involved in the mail robbery. Similarly three mail bags destined to Peddajatur, Vemula and Vempalli and despatched from Pulivendula were removed. Chava Ramulu of Koraguntlapalle, Gangi Reddy, Bandi Malla Reddy, Venkatarami Reddy of Tummalapalli were arrested by the Government.<sup>89</sup>

### **Punganur Post Office Burnt**

On 9<sup>th</sup> December, the agitators as per the call of the movement burnt the post office at Punganur Chittoor District.<sup>90</sup>

### **Cutting Of Telephone and Telegraph Wires**

On 13<sup>th</sup> August 1942, signal wires and Telegraph wires were cut between Anantapur and Garladinne Railway Stations.<sup>91</sup> On 14<sup>th</sup> August, the Telegraph wires were pulled down between Brahmanakotkuru and Bollavaram in Nandikotkuru Taluk. Pocha Siva Sankara Reddy, Baddhula Narayana and Yalluru Swamy Reddy were arrested and sentenced to 2 years R.I. each.<sup>92</sup> On 15<sup>th</sup> August, a Telephone wire was cut at Adoni. On 16<sup>th</sup> August, Telephone and Telegraph wires were cut between

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<sup>88</sup>. Public (General) Department, Rc. No. C.I. 716/M/43 dated 8<sup>th</sup> May 1943, Pp.12127-12129 (APSAH) see also Krishna Patrika, 7<sup>th</sup> November 1942, p. 6 (SNV)

<sup>89</sup>. Public (General) Department, Rc. No. C.I. 716/M/43 dated 8<sup>th</sup> May 1943, Pp.12127-12129 (APSAH)

<sup>90</sup>. DCECDM, August to December, Madras 1942, p. 33 (TNSA)

<sup>91</sup>. DCECDM., August to December, Madras 1942, p. 7 (TNSA)

<sup>92</sup>. Public (General) Department, L. Dis. 591/43 dated 15th June 1943, p.12162 (APSAH)

Aspari and Guntakal. On the same day, the Government Telegraph wires were cut near Yerraguntla and Railway Telegraph and Telephone wires were cut near Diguvamitta. On 15<sup>th</sup> August, Thathachary was arrested in connection with the cutting of the Telegraph wire near Punganur. On 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> August, the Telegraph wires and posts were cut off at mile  $\frac{3}{4}$  and  $\frac{7}{6}$  at Vajrakarur. On 18<sup>th</sup> August, Telegraph wires were cut near Allagadda and Jupadu. On 19<sup>th</sup> August, the Telegraph wires between posts 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at mile 50 were cut between Zangalapalle and Dharmavaram Railway Stations at Anantapur. On 21<sup>st</sup> August, the telegraph wires were cut and a Telegraph post was removed and placed across the Railway track on the metre-gauge line near Mudigubba. On the night of 22<sup>nd</sup> August, the Telegraph wire was cut and one pole was found missing between Rayadurgam and Bopa Samudram. On 24<sup>th</sup> August, the Telegraph wires were cut and the posts were damaged at mile  $\frac{14}{5}$  and  $\frac{15}{2}$  at Uravakonda. The persons responsible for the incident were: P.C. Ramana Gowd, Kamma Obulesu son of Obanna, Gowal Guntla Chinna Narasimhappa, Kamma Obulesu son of Pedda Hanumanthu and Chinna Ramana. On 26<sup>th</sup> August, the Telegraph wires near mile 49 were cut between Kalyanadhurgam and Rayadhurgam. Tharigopula Errappa, Narasimhulu, Venkataswamy, Balakondaiah and Thammineni Narayana were responsible for the incident.<sup>93</sup> Between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> September, the person's moving with a view to cause damage to the Telegraph posts between Nandyal and Noonepalli were arrested. G. Subbarathnam, E. Subba Reddy, P. Pitchyya and Subba Narasinga Rao were convicted by the Special and Joint Magistrate, Nandyal and were sentenced to 3 year Rigorous Imprisonment each.<sup>94</sup> On 9<sup>th</sup> September, the Telegraph wires were cut at Uravakonda. P. C. Ramanna Goud, Chinna Narasimhappa, Kamma Obulesu son of Pedda Hanumanthu, Kamma Obulesu son of Obanna, Chinna Ramanna, Pedda Ramanna and Koricha Sunkappa and others were responsible for the incident. Between 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> September, Telegraph wires were cut at five places in Adhoni Taluk on five different days. A Telegraph pole was found missing in Mandigiri in Adoni Taluk and Telegraph wires were cut near Bodivanda hamlet, Adoni Taluk. The Tahsildar of Adoni was ordered to look into the matter with a view of imposing collective fines on the inhabitants of the area. On 18<sup>th</sup> September, the Raichur

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<sup>93</sup>. DCECDM, August to December, Madras 1942, P p. 8, 74 (TNSA)

<sup>94</sup>. Public (General) Department, L. Dis. 591/43 dated 15th June 1943, Pp.12161-12163 (APSAH)

Telegraph wire was cut near Adoni Railway Station.<sup>95</sup> On the night of 20 September and also 12<sup>th</sup> October, Telegraph wires measuring about 200 feet at one place and another 210 feet at another place were pulled down in Moolasagaram village. A collective fine of Rs.500/- was levied on the inhabitants of Moolasagaram and collected in full. The collective fine were imposed on the following villages for cutting telegraph wire: Gajulapalli Rs.1,000/-, Gopavaram Rs.1,000/-, Seetharamapuram Rs.1,000/-, Ayyaluru Rs.2,000/-, Nandyal Rs.500/-, Mulasagaram Rs.500/-. Subsequently, one Kanala Venkatasubba Reddy was prosecuted before the Special and Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Nandyal and was convicted and sentenced to suffer Rigorous Imprisonment for 1 year and to pay a fine of Rs.200/- for these offences. On the night of 24<sup>th</sup> September, the Telegraph wires were pulled down between Jolapuram and Venkayapalli. On the night of 28<sup>th</sup> September, the Telegraph wires measuring about 750 feet across the Hundri River, behind the people's Park in Kurnool town were pulled down. Lakshminarasayya, Venkatasubbaiah, Basanna, Sankarayya, G. Satyanarayana alias Satyam, Bogam Subbadu, Sudhakar Pandey, Hubboji and C. Ramayya were charged before the Special and Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Kurnool.<sup>96</sup> On 24<sup>th</sup> September, the Trunk Telephone wires were cut between Yerrampalli and Nagasamudram Railway stations. The offenders were arrested and a saw recovered. On 5<sup>th</sup> October, the Telegraph wires near Nagasamudram Railway Station at Chenna Kothapalli were cut. Bellamkonda Narasayya and Venkatachalam were arrested. Between 13 August and 17<sup>th</sup> October, the Telegraph wires were cut near Punganur, Renigunta, Palamaner, Pudi, Chandragiri, Panyani, Pakala, Sri Kala Hasthi, Vepagunta, Nagari, Nalagampalle and at a place 6 miles off Chittoor. On 26<sup>th</sup> October, two main Telegraph wires were cut and insulators were smashed at Gajulapalli. Between 30<sup>th</sup> October and 6<sup>th</sup> November, Telegraph copper wire and control copper wire were cut and removed at places near Nandipalli and Giddaluru. It was reported that at Nandipalli, a copperwire measuring 194 yards was removed by the villagers. On 16<sup>th</sup> November, two insulators on Telegraph posts were broken at Madanapalle. Between 16<sup>th</sup> August and 14<sup>th</sup> December, the telegraph lines were cut between Muddanuru-Mangapatnam, Kadapa-Pulivendula, Kadapa-Jammalamadugu, Kadapa-Badvel, Kadapa-Proddutur (near Pushpagiri and Tavvasipalli), Pulivendula-Vempalle, Proddutur-Mydukuru, Sidhout-

<sup>95</sup>. DCECDM, August to December, Madras 1942, Pp. 22-23 (TNSA)

<sup>96</sup>. Public (General) Department, L. Dis. 591/43 dated 15<sup>th</sup> June 1943, p.12162 (APSAH)

Badvel, Proddutur-Jammalamadugu (near Bollavaram and Pellasethipalle) and Jammalamadugu-Mydukuru.<sup>97</sup> On 17<sup>th</sup> November, the Government telegraph line on the Pulivendula-Kadapa road was disrupted. Chava Ramulu of Koraguntla palle, Gangi Reddy, Malla Reddy, Venkata Rami Reddy of Thummalapalli were arrested by the Government. Narasayya and Raghavulu Reddy of Thummalapalli were sent to jail as detenues.<sup>98</sup>

Apart from snapping of the Telegraph lines in the Rayalaseema area, there were also several cases of burning down of public places and government buildings to intensify the struggle.

### **Kothakota Forest Rest House Arson Case**

During the Quit India Movement, P. Adi Murthy, D. Bali Reddy, K. Gangi Reddy, K. Mahaboob Saheb, K. Nagabhushana Chari, N. Narappa and G. Narayanappa were arrested for setting fire to the Forest Rest House at Kothakota in Chittoor District.<sup>99</sup>

### **Konappa Nayani Palyam Forest Rest House Arson Case**

On 5<sup>th</sup> October, the Forest Rest House at Konappa Nayani Palyam near Pamudhurthi in Anantapur District was set fire. In this connection, Venkata Reddy, Komati Narayana, Nese Narigadu, Gangi Reddy, Mukkigadu, Kamsala Narayana, Adhi Moorthy, Sambhamoorthy, Nagabhushanam, Gandla Narayana and Babi Reddy were arrested.<sup>100</sup>

### **Gagan Mahal Arson Case**

C. Narayana Reddy, K. Ramachandrayya and P. Seshasayanam were arrested in the Gagan Mahal (a part of the Penugonda fort) arson case in 1942.<sup>101</sup> On the night of 26<sup>th</sup> August, an attempt was made to burn the office building of the Deputy Inspector of Schools at Nandyal. Some furniture and a window were burnt and a room was charred.<sup>102</sup>

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<sup>97</sup>. District Calendar of Events of the Civil Disobedience Movement, August to December, Madras 1942, Pp. 9-77(TNSA) see also Public (General) Department, Letter No. 728/43M dated 12<sup>th</sup> May 1943, p.12118 (APSAH)

<sup>98</sup>. Public (General) Department, Rc.No.C. I. 716/M/43 dated 8<sup>th</sup> May 1943, p.12(APSAH)

<sup>99</sup>. Krishna Patrika, 7 November 1942, p.6.

<sup>100</sup>. Public (General) Department, Letter No. 728/43M dated 12<sup>th</sup> May 1943, p.12118 (APSAH)

<sup>101</sup>. Sarojini Regani (ed.), Vol. I, n. 52, Pp. 21, 26 and 30.

<sup>102</sup>. Krishna Patrika, 31<sup>st</sup> October 1942, p. 6 (SNV)

On 3<sup>rd</sup> September, the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Markapur received a threatening letter that his court and bungalow would be burnt between the third and fourth September and that he might remove his family from the place. On 20<sup>th</sup> September, an unsuccessful attempt was made in the early hours to set fire to the High School building at Kadapa. On 20<sup>th</sup> October, an attempt was made to set fire to Kosigi Sub-Registrar's Office. On the night of 20<sup>th</sup> October, the end room of the Board High School Hostel and the office of the Deputy Inspector of Schools at Penugonda were gutted by fire. K. Balija Ramachandraiah, Panchangam Seshasayanam, T.S. Visweswaraiyah, C. Narayana Reddy and C. Venkata Reddy were arrested. On the night of 29<sup>th</sup> November, the door of the cattle pound was forcibly removed and burnt at Muthukur.

### **Puthalapattu Board Elementary School Articles Burnt Incident**

On 9<sup>th</sup> December, an Almirah containing books, maps etc., in the Board Elementary School at Puthalapattu in Chittoor District was found burnt after the school was closed. Only one person was arrested in this connection and remaining escaped arrest for want of evidence in this incident.<sup>103</sup>

### **Damaging Bridges and Culverts**

Another familiar form of resentment during the Quit India Movement was the damaging of bridges and culverts. On the night of 17<sup>th</sup> August 1942, the bridge at mile 291/1 on the Madras-Bombay Trunk Road was damaged at Uravakonda in Anantapur District. On the night of 23<sup>rd</sup> August, two hundred culverts on the Pulivendhula-Vempalle road were damaged. On 30<sup>th</sup> August, one milestone and 7 furlong stones were found broken on the Muddanuru-Pulivendhula road. On 31<sup>st</sup> August, an attempt was made to tamper with a culvert on the Kadapa-Kurnool road. On 5<sup>th</sup> September, the cause-way over the Pennar at Chennuru was slightly damaged. The culprits were arrested. On 6<sup>th</sup> September, one culvert at mile 196 on the Yerraguntla-Vempalle road was damaged. On 15<sup>th</sup> September, trellis and signals on the Muddanuru-Pulivendhula road was tampered with. One was stolen and another was damaged. On 24<sup>th</sup> September, one culvert on the Muddanur-Pulivendhula road

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<sup>103</sup>. DCECDM, August - December, (Madras 1943), Pp. 23-40 (TNSA)

was damaged. On 25<sup>th</sup> October, three mile stones were broken on the Pulivendhula-Pernapalli road.<sup>104</sup>

### **The Voice of Administration**

The district magistrates in Rayalaseema during 1943-44 have sent reports regularly to the Madras High Court on the activities in connection with the Quit India Movement and its fall out in response to the latter's R.O.P. Number VIII-43-C-2, dated 1 December 1943 to all the District Magistrates. The report from the District Magistrate of Anantapur, S. Ramachandran, indicates that the overall situation in that district was peaceful, "except a few incidents", during 1943. The report from the District Magistrate of Bellary, I.M. Frazer, indicates that a Police Act was brought into operation to control the processions and meetings in Hospet. Further, the report mentioned the incidents of anti-government activities like the theft of mailbags, removal of fishplates on the railway lines, cutting of the telegraph wires, and such other activities. The report also mentioned that those charged with the theft of mail bag in Harpanahalli taluk were registered under violation of the Food Grains and kerosene Control Orders in Hospet, were settled. The District Magistrate of Chittoor, A.R.C. Westlake, reported that there were incidents of cutting telegraph wires in Palamaner and Madanapalle jurisdictions. He also reported that four Congress leaders were arrested and identified as convicts, two hundred students of the Theosophical College at Madanapalle, conducted a procession with the photo of Gandhiji on 22 February and they were lathi charged and dispersed. It was suspected that there would be some political unrest in connection with the anniversary of the Quit India Movement that was to be observed in August 1943. He concluded that thereafter the administration did not face so much problem (many problems) as it was earlier. The District Magistrate of Kadapa, S.K. Chettur, reported that the pending case that had been registered as No. 216/42 for the theft of mailbag at Muddanur was settled and the convicts were punished with rigorous imprisonment and payment of fine and that there was not any political incident worthy of note.

The reports of the District Magistrate tried to have downplayed the situation in Rayalaseema. But the information that went from Kurnool in December 1944 is in a shade different in its content. The District Collector of Kurnool, M.Seshadri, reported

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<sup>104</sup>. DCECDM, August - December, (Madras 1943), Pp. 40 and 42 (TNSA)

that there were certain revolts in 1943 as a consequence of the Quit India Movement. No such revolts in 1944. The administration successfully suppressed the Congress Movement because the police machinery took proper action.

As the intensity of the Quit India Movement came down by the end of the Second World War in 1945, there appeared that the Indian independence became a reality. In Rayalaseema like in other parts of India, the intensity of the movement came down. The correspondence that took place in September 1945 between the District Magistrate of Anantapur and the Deputy Secretary, Government of Madras, Public (General) Department, indicates that the INC and its allied institutions withdrew their movement indirectly, if not directly. The INC and its provincial and district committees were not considered to be the institutions opposing the government's Acts since the intensity of the enemy force got reduced throughout the world. While expressing his opinion thus, the District Magistrate cancelled an earlier order that had been issued by his office in September 1942, prohibiting public meetings under the section 56(1) of the India Defence Act.<sup>105</sup>

The students played a commendable part in the movement. In some places students planned effective boycott of educational institutions to make their emphatic protest against the Government's repressive policies. Gurram Venkata Reddy of Velugodu, T.K.R. Sarma of Kurnool, Karanam Krishna Rao of Kallu Bhavi and M.V. Subba Reddy of Koilakuntla organised strikes in their Colleges and Schools and gave up their education in protest against the repressive policies of the Government. Collective fines were imposed on the Hindu residents of Adoni for inciting student strikes on 15<sup>th</sup> September 1942.<sup>106</sup> S. Nagappa, a Member of the Kurnool District Board organised the strike with the students of Kurnool Municipal High School on 12<sup>th</sup> August. On 13<sup>th</sup> August, about 600 students of Kurnool boycotted schools for the arrest of the leaders. The Nandyal SPG High School Students under the leadership of Deshpanda Subba Rao and Katari Silas and Markapur High School Student's under P. Kesava Rao, E. Narayana Goud and K. Seshachalamaiah organised processions against repressive policies of the Government.

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<sup>105</sup>. Letter No. P.R. 679/45-C-1 dated 5<sup>th</sup> September 1945 from T.S. Ramachandran, District Collector and Magistrate of Anantapuram, quoted in G.O. No. 2831 Public (General) Department, dated 29<sup>th</sup> November 1945. The earlier order of the District Collector and Magistrate of Anantapuram was numbered RC 1188/42-C-1 and dated 8<sup>th</sup> September 1942

<sup>106</sup>. C.I.D. Special Branch Daily Report for 15<sup>th</sup> September 1942

## **Disrupting the Communication and Transport**

Intercepting and snatching the mailbags containing the government correspondence when on transit from one place to another, was a part of the movement. P.Sitaramaiah of the Penikalapadu village in Jammalamadugu taluk (Kadapa district) and another group of fourteen members of the neighbouring villages snatched three mailbags from the post-runner at Muddanuru on 15 November 1942. The police took them into custody and sent them to the sub jail at Jammalamadugu.<sup>107</sup> Putta Subba Reddi and B. Malla Reddi of Modumeedipalli near Pulivendula were charged with the crime of the postal theft on 17<sup>th</sup> November. As per the confidential letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> February 1943 from the police superintendent of Kadapa district to the district magistrate of the same district, Putta Subba Reddi was an eighteen year old youth. He was a staunch follower of the Congress. Besides, he had been serving N. Ranga Reddi, an MLA, in the capacity of a clerk, which position had brought him considerable influence in that area. He had undergone a jail term also, when he participated in the Satyagraha movement in 1941.

Putta Subba Reddi had been taking a keen interest in the Quit India Movement indirectly. He was accused of several charges by the government. Cutting the telegraph wires at Narasanapalli; Chinnamasupalli, Mariapuram and Dandumalavada on 16<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> August 1942 in the vicinity of Pulivendula, destroying a culvert at the stone number 103/4 in Kadapa district on 1 September and attempting to burn the railway bridge near Krishnapuram in Kamalapuram taluk on 5 September of the same year were some of the charges levelled against him. Suspecting, naturally arrest at any time for these activities, he went underground and gave support to the Quit India Movement. Even then, the police arrested him on 3 February 1943. On the argument that he would foment anarchy by way of indulging himself and also by causing his followers to indulge in the anti-government activities, even remaining underground, the government considered him as a convict under different sections of the Defence of India Act and issued orders on 14 February 1943 to confine him in the central jail at Vellore.<sup>108</sup>

On the charges of the theft of mail bags, destruction of culverts of the roads, cutting of telegraph wires and participation in the anti-government activities, Bandi

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<sup>107</sup>. History of Freedom Movement Book (HFMB), n. 3, p.4354

<sup>108</sup>. History of Freedom Movement Book (HFMB), n. 3, p. 2395

Malla Reddi, to whom reference is already made, was awarded a three year term of rigorous imprisonment. T. Pagadala Reddi, son of T. Pedda Gangaiah of Tummalapalle in the Telluru village of Pulivendula taluk, was also a friend of B. Malla Reddi. On the charge of helping Bandi Malla Reddi in the theft of mail bags at Peddajuturu, Pagadala Reddi was taken into custody. But, on the basis of his father Pedda Gangaiah's petition, on Pagadala Reddi taking on executing two bonds of Rs.200 each as guarantee, the police released him.<sup>109</sup>

The telegraph wires were cut, by the agitators, the line connecting Kurnool and Nandikotkur (Kurnool district) on 4 August 1942. Consequently, the facility of Trunk Bookings and quick passage of messages, both official and private, received a setback. The Deputy Superintendent of Police, Kurnool, had to rush to the troubled spot to enquire into the matter. But no arrests were made in that connection. In a gap of four days after this incident, another similar incident, with a difference in its material form, took place in Anantapur district. A culvert near Kothapalli on the Anantapur-Bellary Trunk Road was destroyed on 18<sup>th</sup> August 1942, consequent upon which, the traffic on the road came to a standstill. In this instance also, no arrests were reported.<sup>110</sup> In the context of a similar activity near Kalyanadurgam in Anantapur district, T. Errappa and Tammineni Narayani received a punishment each in the form of fifteen whippings and a six month term of rigorous imprisonment. But Balaknodaiah, Narasimhulu and Venkataswamy, who were also involved in the same case, were let off as they had appealed to the government for pardon, executed surety bonds of Rs.1,000 each, and promised that they would not indulge in such activities. The government, while releasing them, warned that they should conduct themselves well and be peaceful in future.<sup>111</sup> The fortnightly reports relating to the later part of August 1943 indicate that there were instances of cutting the telegraph wires and the consequent arrests of agitators in Chittoor district.<sup>112</sup>

The Kurnool Circular disapproved the cutting of the rail links, because the Indians too loss their life. But, the agitators felt that the British use railways to transport the Police and wanted to create an impression that the movement is growing in its intensity.

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<sup>109</sup>. G.O. No. 3853, dated 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1942; G.O. No. 3108, dated 29<sup>th</sup> October 1943

<sup>110</sup>. History of Freedom Movement Book (HFMB), n. 3, Pp. 4295,4304

<sup>111</sup>. *The Hindu*, 24<sup>th</sup> January 1943, p. 4

<sup>112</sup>. History of Freedom Movement Book (HFMB), n. 3, p. 11395

The agitators removed the rails for a distance of forty yards between the railway stations of Guntakal and Maddikeri in the division of Guntakal and Vijayawada on 16 August 1942. As a consequence, a goods-train engine and a wagon derailed there. The driver and his assistant were injured in the accident. There is no evidence to effecting arrests in that context. On a charge of the removal of the rails, which caused the accident of the goods train on 1 August 1942, Special judge at Anantapur, JanabAbdulla Khan Ghohi, awarded a four year term of rigorous imprisonment on 1 February 1943 to K.Anjaiah and Ramanappa of Kasapuram near Guntakal.<sup>113</sup> The police let off seven members, who were charged with that offence in that incident.

The railway line between Guntakal on the northwest boundary of Andhra Pradesh and Arkonam on the northern boundary of Tamilnadu passes through Rayalaseema. The District Collector of Kadapa, S.Ranganadhan, and the District Superintendent of Police suspected a possible destructive activity by the agitators on the railway bridges on that railway line, particularly at the points near Kondapuram, Kamalapuram and Nandalur, Kadapa district. They felt that there was the need to have strict patrolling for the entire railway line in that section. In addition to the railway employees on that particular duty, the railway authorities employed the village servants like the *Talari* and *Vetti*. The correspondence that went on between the District Collectors of Kadapa and Chittoor on the one hand and the chief Secretary to the government of Madras on the other reveal several interesting factors. The confidential report sent by M. Sirajuddin, District Police Superintendent of Kadapa reveals that the *Talaris* and *Vettis* on the patrolling duty along the railway line in Kadapa district faced many difficulties.<sup>114</sup> Non-availability of food to those servants from the villages near the railway lines was one of the difficulties. There may be people who deny food to the hungry and needy ones, even if it is there, sufficiently with them. The percentage of such people is very meagre, despite the district being in the famine zone. But in each hamlet, there might be at least a few families, not less than five or six, who would serve a morsel or two to those who went to them for food. But, the context here is the nationalist movement. There was the possibility of the

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<sup>113</sup>. *The Hindu*, 17<sup>th</sup> August 1942, p. 1; 4<sup>th</sup> February 1943, p. 6

<sup>114</sup>. Confidential Report dated 16<sup>th</sup> September 1942 from the District Police Superintendent, Kadapa, to the District Collector of Kadapa

inhabitants of those hamlets entertaining the feeling that they should not extend any hospitality to those, who were serving or co-operating with the government.

There were instances where damage occurred to the goods being transported by the goods trains during the movement. The government paid compensation to the owners of such goods as were damaged or lost during transit. P. Venkataramaiah, a businessman of Kambam and owner of the Gopalakrishna Slate Works, was one of those who received compensation from the government for the loss of his consignment booked for a transit. The consignment lost was a box of slates, and he received Rs.56-13-0 (Rs.56.82) as compensation.<sup>115</sup> The government began collecting an additional revenue in the form of enhanced and punitive taxes to pay not only for the compensation thus paid, but also towards the cost of repairs to the damaged railway lines, culverts, bridges and government buildings. In that connection the government collected Rs. 5,000, Rs. 20,000 and Rs. 2,000, for example, from the inhabitants of the villages of Kottalapalle of Gooty taluk in Anantapur district, Kamma Kottalapalle and Peddapyapali in Kurnool district, respectively as collective fine on the villages. Having arrived at the total amount of the taxes on each village, the government fixed the amount of the collective fine which amounted three times of the total.<sup>116</sup>

Meanwhile, people of all sections in the society began participating in this movement. The government of the day called it “Congress rebellion”.<sup>117</sup> The influence of N.G. Ranga and his political school had its hold on Rayalaseema. Many inspired individuals organised Kisan (agriculturists) meetings under the influence of Prof. Ranga and began enlightening the people even in remote corners of the region. Chegireddi Bali Reddy, General Secretary of the Andhra Provincial Kisan Association, and Kandula Obula Reddy, once the president of the Kurnool District Congress Committee were among those, who were thus inspired. These local leaders, in turn, influenced G. Rami Reddy, a rich landlord of Brahmanapalle in the Nandyal taluk, to work for the nationalist cause. Rami Reddy toured the Kurnool district and

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<sup>115</sup>. G.O. No. 989, Public (General) Confidential, dated 12<sup>th</sup> April 1945

<sup>116</sup>. G.O. No. 41, Public (General) Confidential, dated 5<sup>th</sup> January 1943

<sup>117</sup>. Letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> August 1943 from the District Police Superintendent, Kurnool, to the District Magistrate, Kurnool

campaigned for the Kisan Movement. Anti- government activities took place in that context.<sup>118</sup>

### **Picketing of Toddy and Arrack Shops**

On 20<sup>th</sup> September about 20 persons of Uravakonda village went to Burujula village of Pattikonda taluk damaged 40 date trees and beat watchman late at night. Jangam Thippaiah and his friend Khasim damaged toddy shops at Prathakota. T. K. R. Sarma of Kurnool was a prominent leader in the Ceded District College at Anantapur. He organised a strike against the arrest of the Congress leaders, on 11<sup>th</sup> September 1942, and burnt out the college chemical laboratory with the help of a friend, for this offence, other student G. Venkata Reddy was arrested. Subsequently, Sharma's offence was detected and suspended from final B.A. Class by K. P. J. Menon, the then Principal, Bisani Satyanarayana, the President of TCC, Cumbum was actively involved in the violent incidents. He was arrested on 19<sup>th</sup> December and detained in Central Jail, Vellore.<sup>119</sup> On 19<sup>th</sup> August 1942, Avulanna Toddy shop was picketed at Anantapur. Between 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> September, thirteen volunteers picketing toddy sales at Adoni were arrested, tried and sentenced. On 18<sup>th</sup> September, T. Venkata Ramanaiah Chetty picketed toddy sales at Dhone. He was charged, convicted and sentenced to one year rigorous imprisonment.<sup>120</sup>

### **Ticketless Travelling**

As per the 11 point programme envisaged by Gandhiji ticketless travelling in trains was suggested not only in North India but also in South India. Few incidents took place in Chittoor district. On 30 August, three persons were arrested for ticketless travelling and pulling communication cord in the Bombay Mail between Pudi and Renigunta.<sup>121</sup> By resorting to ticketless travel, cutting telephone wires and damaging the property, the freedom fighters wanted to create the awareness among the British officials to realize the aspiration on the Indian masses.

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<sup>118</sup>. G.O. No. 421, Public (General) Confidential, dated 8<sup>th</sup> February 1943

<sup>119</sup>. M.G.W. Chandra Sekhar Raju, *Freedom Movement in Kurnool District 1920-1947*, unpublished thesis, S.V. University, 2001, p. 251

<sup>120</sup>. DCECDM, August - December, (Madras 1943), Pp. 8, 22 and 75 (TNSA)

<sup>121</sup>. DCECDM, August - December, (Madras 1943), p. 32 (TNSA)

## Distributing of Exhorting Handbills

While such arrests as narrated above were taking place on the grounds of anti-government campaign, handbills and notices were being distributed to the police personnel and to the civil employees, warning them to be cautious against the government's designs, to resign their jobs and join the movement.

Activists of the movement distributed handbills to government employees, including the police personnel. One such handbill in Telugu, issued under the *pseudonym* "Servant of the Country" and distributed to police officers at Proddutur and Kadapa, stated that the government's intention in recruiting the police was to induct them later on into the army. Authors of the handbill pitied them, saying that because they were innocent, the government was able to recruit them for a paltry pay of Rs.15 or Rs.20 a month, and cautioned them not to be hoodwinked by their superiors. The handbill interjected the caution with a local idiom, "if alive, you can live even by selling salt", which is still popular among Telugu people. The handbill exhorted the police officers to revolt against the compulsory recruitment and asked them to take care of themselves. The English version of a notice issued to the police officers at the same places advocated: Do or Die. Every man is free to go to the fullest length under Ahimsa (Non-violence), complete deadlock by strikes and all other possible non-violent means. *Satyagrahis* should go out to die and not to live. It is only when individuals go out, will seek and face death, the nation will survive.<sup>122</sup>

The district superintendent of police, Kadapa, drew the conclusion that both handbill in Telugu version and the notice in the English version distributed to the police officers, were the handiwork of the students of the local school.<sup>123</sup>

In another instance, Makani Subbarayudu of the Erraguntala village of Sirvel Taluk, Kurnool district distributed copies of a pamphlet in the closed covers to all the clerks in the Revenue Department in the Nandyal town. The pamphlets appealed to the government servants to resign their jobs and join the Civil Disobedience

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<sup>122</sup>. Special Branch Daily Situation Report from the Superintendent of Police, Kadapa, to the Inspector General of Police, Madras, who in turn reported it on 25<sup>th</sup> August 1942 to George Boag, Adviser to the Governor of Madras, see G.O. No. 3491, Public (G1) Confidential, dated 27<sup>th</sup> October 1942

<sup>123</sup>. P. Yenadi Raju, n. 8, p. 194

Movement. Subbarayudu, while being busy distributing the copies of the pamphlet, was arrested and prosecuted.<sup>124</sup>

So, as part of the Kurnool Circular, the Satyagrahis resorted to violate rules which resulted in the arrests and punitive actions meted out to the activists in Rayalaseema by the government under the charges of possessing and distributing objectionable literature, organising processions and meetings, delivering objectionable lectures and other sundry charges. The Circular, had the plans for destroying the government premises, disturbing the movement of vehicular traffic and conveyance of news, either postal or telegraphic relating particularly to the government, and revolting against the government.

The village servants under the employment of the government were in the habit of interning the cattle of the villagers on the charge of unlicensed grazing in the reserve forests or of illegal grazing in the *patta* lands of those to whom the cattle did not belong. A case of public resentment against such practice took place in a village, Muthukuru, near Punganuru of Chittoor district, possibly under the influence of growing nationalist spirit. A batch of four persons, who were considered to be Congress workers in that village were charged with breaking the gate of cattle-pound on 29<sup>th</sup> November 1942. The police of Palamaneru arrested and took them into custody in the first week of next December.<sup>125</sup>

#### **POLICE REPORTS ON THE HAPPENINGS IN RAYALASEEMA FROM 22-08-1942 to 05-10-1942**

Office of the Inspector-General of Police, Madras, dated 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1942, to Sir George Boag, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., I.C.S., Adviser to his Excellency the Government of Madras, Madras. My Dear Boag, Report sent to me this morning shows in regard to preventive measures taken by the Police that 6 persons have been arrested under Rule 38 (5) of the Defence of India Rules at Bapatla, 4 locals rounded up at Repalle and that the general situation in the Guntur District is well under control and slowly reverting to normal.

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<sup>124</sup>. Special Branch Daily Situation Report dated 1<sup>st</sup> September 1942, from the Superintendent of Police, Kurnool, to the Inspector General of Police, Madras

<sup>125</sup>. *The Hindu*, 15<sup>th</sup> December 1942

Adequate precautions have been taken to patrol the lines of the South Indian Railway and on the night of the 20<sup>th</sup>, 8 patrol trains were running instead of 2 as previously.

The District Magistrate, Chittoor, has prohibited the holding of all Congress meetings in the district under Rule 56 of the Defence of India Rules. Seven individuals who went along the Railway line in Renigunta with a view to remove the rails were caught. Six young men of Nagari were also arrested. The students of the Theosophical College, Madanapalle, have called off their strike.<sup>126</sup>

The two derailments at Guntakal on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1942 were skilfully arranged by a local Congressman. Former Ex-railway gangmen gave help in removing fish-plates. The local police have been acquainted with the result of Special Branch (S.B) enquiries and have been told the action required.

The Inspector-General of Police, Madras, dated 23rd August, 1942 informed about the station to Sir George Boag, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., I.C.S., Adviser to his Excellency the Government of Madras, Madras. My dear Boag, in continuation of my D.O. to you this morning, I enclose S.B. Daily Report for 24<sup>th</sup> August 1942. The following further information was received after I had written to you this morning.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1941, three covers were received in Proddatur Police Station, one each by the Station Writer, Head Constable and the Sub-Inspector. Each cover contained two notices one in Telugu and the other in English. The Telugu one when translated runs as follows:

“It is a pity. You are all innocent. Taking advantage of your innocence, the rulers want to deceive you and enlist you in the Army. Orders have been issued to enlist 60% of the Town Police and 40% of the Reserve Police into the Army. As you are all poor fellows you had to join the Police for the sake of Rs.15 or Rs.20 to satisfy your stomach. But times have changed. Elders say that if you are alive you can live by selling salt. So, I warn you all not to be deceived by your superior’s words. There are only two alternatives either to resign your jobs or to revolt against such compulsory recruitment of these two, the first one is preferable because you may be even shot dead if you revolt. Therefore, you should take care of yourselves. ‘Country Server’.<sup>127</sup>

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<sup>126</sup>. M. Venkatarangaiya, n. 2, Vol. IV, p. 879

<sup>127</sup>. M. Venkatarangaiya, n. 2, p. 880

The English notice is as follows: - “Do or Die.

“Everyman is free to go to the fullest length under Ahimsa, complete deadlock by strikes and all other possible non-violent means. Satyagrahis should go out to die and not to live. It is only when individuals go out, will seek and face death the nation will survive”.<sup>128</sup>

The District Superintendent of Police, Kadapa seems to think that the above is the work of the students of the local school and is making enquiries to trace the authorship.

#### **Special Branch Daily Report for 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1942**

A Pedarayappa mentioned in the report for 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1942, is in our list of Congressmen of lesser importance. The activities of this group were reported to the District Superintendent of Police, Anantapur. The situation on the whole is quiet. Superintendent of Police, Special Branch, C.I.D.

#### **Special Branch Daily Report for 24<sup>th</sup> August 1942**

The Superintendent of Police, Special Branch, C.I.D. report to The Inspector-General of Police, Madras, through the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Railways and C.I.D., Madras. There was a derailment of a train between Katpadi and Gudur on the night of 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1942 near Chandragiri in Chittoor District. The cause was the removal of fish-plates, bolts and keys, etc.

#### **Special Branch Daily Report for 25<sup>th</sup> August, 1942**

The Superintendent of Police, Special Branch, C.I.D. report to The Inspector-General of Police, Madras, Through the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Railways and C.I.D., Madras. (Compiled from information available to the Special Branch upto 13.00 hours). From Kadapa district has been reported an ingenious and deliberate attempt to suborn the Police. Three Police Officers in Proddatur Station were each sent a letter containing an English and a Telugu notice. The English notice was on general lines, but the Telugu Notice said that the subordinate Police were being hoodwinked and that 60% of the ordinary police and 40% of the Armed Reserves were to be conscripted into the Army immediately.<sup>129</sup> All policemen were

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<sup>128</sup>. M. Venkatarangaiya, n. 2, p. 881

<sup>129</sup>. M. Venkatarangaiya, n. 2, p. 884

advised to resign forthwith or foercibly to resist any attempt at conscription. The latter suggestion was not recommended because, it may result in bloodshed. All D.S.Ps. have been warned of this attempt and have been directed to maintain a sharp lookout for any such and immediately to contradict any such fantastic rumour which comes to their notice.

#### **Special Branch Daily Report for 26<sup>th</sup> August, 1942**

The Superintendent of Police, Special Branch, C.I.D. report states that the situation in the Andhra districts on the whole has improved. On the night of 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1942 a man was caught red-handed while tampering with the permanent way on the Madras-Bombay Line in Chittoor district. A Pedarayappa referred to in my report for 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1942, has been arrested by the Anantapur Police. The situation on the whole is satisfactory.<sup>130</sup>

#### **Special Branch Daily Report for 27<sup>th</sup> August 1942**

The Railway Line was tampered within Kadapa on the night of 24<sup>th</sup> August 1942 but the defect was rectified before any real damage took place.

Sir George Boag, Adviser to His Excellency, the Governor of Madras, Madras, Office of the Inspector-General of Police, Madras, dated 30<sup>th</sup> August 1942. In the Kurnool district the Secretary of the Taluk Congress Committee, Nandyal, has been arrested for instigating villagers to make use of forest produce which they, however, refused to do so.

#### **Special Branch Daily Report for 30<sup>th</sup> August 1942**

In the Rayalaseema the only serious items are the finding of 3 small bags of country gunpowder on the Railway line near Penukonda in Anantapur on 25<sup>th</sup> August 1942.

The District Superintendent of Police, Kurnool reports that on the night of the 27<sup>th</sup> an attempt was made to burn the office of the Deputy Inspector of Schools at Nandyal.

R. B. Ramakrishna Raju, M.L.A., Chittoor, President of the District Congress Committee, Member of the All India Congress Committee and Provincial Congress Committee and an ex-Satyagrahi who tendered his resignation on 9<sup>th</sup> August 1942 has

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<sup>130</sup>. M. Venkatarangaiya, n. 2, p. 885

withdrawn the same on 25<sup>th</sup> August 1942. He is supposed to have discontinued his profession as a lawyer and has given away his pending cases to his juniors. In this district also, in an interior and out of the way village, the villagers objected to purchasers taking away paddy from the village and took 6 bags of paddy that had been purchased, from the bandies of the purchasers. The local V.M. on receiving information proceeded to the spot and recovered the 6 bags of paddy.

### **Special Branch Daily Report for 31<sup>st</sup> August 1942**

In the Rayalaseema Districts the situation continues to be uneventful. On 26<sup>th</sup> August 1942, there took place six incidents in Rayadurgam, Anantapur District. Special Police took measures to prevent the occurrence.

Madras, Dated 1<sup>st</sup> September 1942, My dear Boag, The District Superintendent of Police, Kurnool reports that one Makam Subbarayudu of Erraguntla village of Sirvel Taluk was found on 29<sup>th</sup> August 1942 distributing typed roneoed pamphlets enclosed in covers addressed to all clerks of the Revenue Department in Nandyal Town appealing to all Government servants to resign their jobs and join the Civil Disobedience Movement. He was caught red-handed and is being prosecuted.

On searching the house of A.V. Subbayya, Secretary of the Nandyal Town Congress Committee, a letter from Dayananda Reddy, Secretary of the Nandyal Taluk Congress Committee was found to the effect that he had set up villagers to start forest Satyagraha and required a sum of Rs. 50 for this purpose.<sup>131</sup>

The District Superintendent of Police, Bellary reports that a Public Meeting was held on 30<sup>th</sup> August 1942 under the auspices of the Bellary Circle Congress Committee after a procession in the Town with the photo of Mahatma Gandhi. Various speakers were reported to have spoken at this meeting, one of whom announced that there would be a big meeting on the following Saturday and wound up his speech saying that the Government was doing the extraordinary acts it was now doing owing to its last days. Another speaker advocated the total boycott of Government machinery and asked the merchants to fall in line with this programme.

The District Superintendent of Police, Chittoor reports that 9 out of the 10 accused definitely traced to be responsible for the derailment of the train near Panapakam on the night of 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1942 have been arrested.

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<sup>131</sup>. M. Venkatarangaiya, n. 2, p. 891

### **Special Branch Daily Situation Report**

The District Superintendent of Police, Kadapa reports that on 31<sup>st</sup> August 1942 the talayaries patrolling the Kadapa-Kurnool road saw about 15 persons breaking a culvert who bolted when the talayaries shouted for assistance taking away with them 4 cross iron bars of the fencing of the culvert.<sup>132</sup> Troublesome villages are being well patrolled by the Police.

### **Special Branch Daily Situation Report**

Dated 5<sup>th</sup> September 1942, Orders under section 144 Cr.P.C. were promulgated throughout the Bellary District prohibiting processions, meetings and demonstrations in connection with the Civil Disobedience Movement on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1942 and police action had to be taken at Adoni. The Special Branch is unaware as to why this prohibitive action was not taken by the District authorities much earlier. The situation in other Andhra Districts was quite nonmal.

The District Superintendent of Police, Bellary reports that a meeting convened by the public at Adoni in defiance of 144 Cr. P.C. was dispersed by lathi charge and 6 people were taken into custody.

Madras, dated 7<sup>th</sup> September 1942, my dear Boag, the following report comes from the District Superintendent of Police, Kurnool. "Appeals in the name of the District Congress Committee asking the Government servants to resign their jobs and join the Civil Disobedience Movement have been received by some of the Government Officials in the district. A good number of such appeals have been seized by the Police and most of them seem to have been sent by post. The President of the District Congress Committee and another who are believed to be responsible for the issue of these appeals has been arrested under Rule 129 of the Defence of India Rules. Arrangements have also been made to arrest the Secretary of the District Congress Committee in this connection. All possible steps are being taken to prevent the further issue of these appeals and to seize the cyclostyle machine used for this purpose. In the premises of the Municipal High School, Nandyal, two Telugu notices asking the public not to rent out buildings to Government servants were found. They were promptly seized and enquiries are being made to trace the author".<sup>133</sup>

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<sup>132</sup>. M. Venkatarangaiya, n. 2, p. 894

<sup>133</sup>. M. Venkatarangaiya, n. 2, p. 899

The report of the District Superintendent of Police, Bellary shows that various elements in Adoni seem likely to cause troubles. He has taken the necessary steps to curb any such disturbances.

Attempts were made to set fire to the wooden sleepers on the Railway Bridge near Krishnapuram railway station in Kadapa district, but the culprits bolted away on the approach of Railway gangmen. A causeway over the Pennar River at Chennur on the Kadapa-Kurnool Trunk Road was damaged on the night of 5<sup>th</sup> September 1942.<sup>134</sup> As this is an important causeway, the District Superintendent, is putting a guard on it.

Superintendent of Police, Special Branch, C.I.D. Madras, dated 8<sup>th</sup> September 1942 to Boag, an ex-clerk of the District Police Office, Kurnool who was responsible for attempting to organise a meeting of the Town Students Federation on 6<sup>th</sup> September 1942 was arrested. On the night of 5<sup>th</sup> September 1942, his house was searched and Telugu leaflets to the effect that in case the national leaders were not released, the students intended to disobey law etc., were seized. This meeting did not take place.

The District Superintendent of Kadapa reports that 3 individuals suspected to have been concerned in the attempt to burn the railway bridge at mile 165/19-20 and in the cutting of the telegraph line on the night of 5<sup>th</sup> September 1942 have been arrested and that 15 individuals of Chennur village were arrested early morning on the 7<sup>th</sup> for having caused damage to the Pennar cause way at Chennur.

Chittoor reports that on 6<sup>th</sup> September 1942 about 30 members of the Chittoor District Board with T. N. Ramakrishna Reddy, President in the chair passed unanimous resolutions condemning the action of Government in arresting national leaders, in banning the A.I.C.C. and in adopting a repressive policy and advocated the closing of all the High Schools under the management of the District Board and the District Board Office on 7<sup>th</sup> September 1942 as a protest against the above-mentioned acts of Government. In his report, dated 7<sup>th</sup> September 1942, the District Superintendent states that no incidents occurred.

### **Special Branch Daily Report for 12<sup>th</sup> September 1942**

The Chemical laboratory of the Ceded District College, Anantapur, was burnt in the early hours of 11<sup>th</sup> September 1942.

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<sup>134</sup>. M. Venkatarangaiya, n. 2, p. 900

### **Special Branch Daily Situation Report**

Madras dated 15<sup>th</sup> September 1942, Sir George Boag, K.C.I.D., C.S.I., I.C.S., Advisor to His Excellency the Governor of Madras, Madras.

Four more persons, including G. Venkata Reddy, Advocate and Ex. Vice-President of the Anantapur District Board were arrested on 13<sup>th</sup> September 1942 in connection with the fire in the laboratory of the Ceded District Collge, Anantapur.<sup>135</sup>

It is reported from Kadapa that a postal runner in Pulivendula taluk was way-laid on the 14<sup>th</sup> morning and that the mail bag was seized and burnt. This is under investigation.

Madras dated 16<sup>th</sup> September 1942; four persons were arrested by the Police, in Nandyal, Kurnool district, on the night of 8<sup>th</sup> September 1942 as they were making preparations to cut telegraph wires.

The District Superintendent of Police, Anantapur, reports that K.S. Raghavacharlu, Advocate and Ex-Public Prosecutor, Anantapur, was arrested on 14<sup>th</sup> September 1942 in connection with the fire in the Ceded District College.

### **Special Branch Daily Report for 18<sup>th</sup> September 1942**

On the night of 15<sup>th</sup> September 1942 telegraph wires were found out in Kadapa and the mails were robbed on Siddout (Siddhavatam)-Badvel road.

Madras, dated 17<sup>th</sup> September 1942, six persons were arrested in Poolikunta village of Anantapur taluk on 14<sup>th</sup> September 1942 for making objectionable speeches. They are being prosecuted. Two persons of Kalyanadurgam were arrested on 14<sup>th</sup> September 1942 in connection with a case of telegraph wire-cutting. They will be prosecuted.

The District Superintendent of Police, Kadapa, reports that on the night of 14<sup>th</sup> September 1942 two talayaris patrolling the railway line made a false report to a Military patrol party that they were assaulted by some persons who were found hiding near the railway line and had left on the approach of the patrol party. The Military patrol party fired 5 rounds in the direction in which the offenders were alleged to have run. The talayaris had evidently made this false report to create an impression on the Military patrol that they were doing their duties very vigilantly.

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<sup>135</sup>. M. Venkatarangaiya, n. 2, p. 910

Madras dated 19<sup>th</sup> September 1942, the students of the IV and V Forms of the Municipal High School, Hindupur, Anantapur District, have gone on strike again from 15<sup>th</sup> August 1942.<sup>136</sup>

It is reported from Chittoor that a meeting of ryots was held on 11<sup>th</sup> September, 1942 at Kattubhavi, Madanapalle taluk with K. Subbarao of Kattubhavi presiding. Resolutions were passed condemning the action of the Government in arresting Congress leaders. The proceedings of the meeting are being examined by the District Superintendent of Police with a view to action against the conveners of the meeting.

Madras dated 20<sup>th</sup> September 1942, in the Kurnool district the Headmaster of the District Board Elementary School at Jakkasanikuntla and a person called Bayamma were arrested for sending notices asking village officers to resign.<sup>137</sup>

Madras dated 21<sup>st</sup> September 1942, Subba Reddy, President of the District Board, Kurnool, who had been carrying on secret propaganda in furtherance of congress activities was arrested on 18<sup>th</sup> September 1942.

The students except those in the War Technicians section, of the Industrial School at Bellary staged a strike on 18<sup>th</sup> September 1942 as their request for an increase in their wages was not granted. On 19<sup>th</sup> September 1942 four men and a women who took out a procession at Adoni in defiance of the prohibitory orders were arrested and the crowds that followed them were dispersed by force.

On 19<sup>th</sup> September 1942, an attempt to hold a meeting at Dharmavaram of the Anantapur District was prevented and a crowd of about 60 persons who had collected was dispersed by lathis.<sup>138</sup>

M. Sreenivasachary, Chairman, Municipal Council, Tirupati in the Chittoor district is being arrested and detained as he has been holding secret meetings and encouraging subversive activities.

### **Special Branch Daily Report for 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1942**

A Havildar in Camp Renigunta has been shot dead by a sepoy. Cause is not known.

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<sup>136</sup>. M. Venkatarangaiya, n. 2, p. 916

<sup>137</sup>. M. Venkatarangaiya, n. 2, p. 918

<sup>138</sup>. M. Venkatarangaiya, n. 2, p. 919

Madras dated 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1942, Telegraph wires were found out in Adoni town of the Bellary district on 20<sup>th</sup> September 1942. Crowd which had collected near Kotthur Police Station on 18<sup>th</sup> September 1942, when some arrests were made by the Police, was dispersed by force.

An attempt was made on the night of 19<sup>th</sup> September 1942 to set fire to the library of the Municipal High School, Kadapa. Pieces of cloth soaked in kerosene were used. There was very little damage done.

Two cases of cutting of telegraph wires on 21<sup>st</sup> September 1942 are reported from the Chittoor district.<sup>139</sup>

### **Special Branch Daily Report for 24<sup>th</sup> September, 1942**

Madras dated 25<sup>th</sup> September 1942, it is reported from Anantapur that the students of the High School, Hindupur continue to be on strike. The strike commenced on 15<sup>th</sup> September, 1942.

On 21<sup>st</sup> September 1942 some bags of cholam were looted as the owner was making arrangements to remove his stock from Narasimha Kottala village to Proddaturu in the Kadapa District for safety. Twenty six persons have been arrested by the Police in this connection.<sup>140</sup>

Madras dated 28<sup>th</sup> September 1942, objectionable notices inciting people to damage Railway and Government property were found in Hadagalli village in the Bellary District.

Two trunk telephone wires were cut near Yerrampalli in the Anantapur district on 24<sup>th</sup> September, 1942. Two locals have been arrested and they have confessed the offence.

Madras dated 29<sup>th</sup> September 1942, the District Superintendent of Police, Kurnool, reports that M. Subba Rao, Civil Assistant Surgeon, Nandyal, is reported to be often meeting local Congressmen. His movements are being watched. Telegraph wire was cut near Jolapuram village in Kurnool taluk on 25<sup>th</sup> September 1942. Printed notices in Telugu appealing to village officers to resign have come to notice in a few villages of Markapur taluk.<sup>141</sup>

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<sup>139</sup>. M. Venkatarangaiya, n. 2, p. 922

<sup>140</sup>. M. Venkatarangaiya, n. 2, p. 924

<sup>141</sup>. M. Venkatarangaiya, n. 2, p. 931

### **Special Branch Daily Report for 29<sup>th</sup> September 1942**

Reports of the cutting of telegraph wires come from Guntur and Anantapur while in Kadapa a culvert was damaged on the night of 24<sup>th</sup> September 1942. Otherwise there is nothing of S.B. importance to report.

Madras dated 30<sup>th</sup> September 1942, the District Superintendent of Police, Anantapur, reports that on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1942 three persons were arrested at Tadipatri and two persons on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1942 at Anantapur for distributing cyclostyled objectionable pamphlets. Four persons of Rallapalli village of Madakasira taluk were arrested on 26<sup>th</sup> September 1942, in connection with the burning of a toddy shop in the village.

Madras dated 1<sup>st</sup> October 1942, it is reported from Chittoor that Twenty-five villagers of Peddha Mandyam in Madanapalli taluk stopped some bandies that were leaving the village with grain and removed a number of bags and some cash from the owner.

### **Special Branch Daily Report for 1<sup>st</sup> October 1942**

Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Railway and C.I.D., Madras, an objectionable pamphlet was found affixed to the wall of the HindupurTahsildar's room in Anantapur district on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

Telegraph wire was cut on the Kurnool-Atmakur road on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1942 and 75 feet of the wire have been removed.

Two postal letter boxes were removed from two places in Chittoor town on the night of 29<sup>th</sup> September 1942.<sup>142</sup>

### **Special Branch Daily Report for 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1942**

Some of the articles of the Pulivendula High School Laboratory are reported to have been damaged on the 30<sup>th</sup> night. The postal letter boxes were removed in Chittoor District on the night of the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Madras dated 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1942, reported to Sir George Boag, Telugu cyclostyled notices asking them to resign were received by some of the members of the Kurnool District War Committee. The source is being traced.

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<sup>142</sup>. M. Venkatarangaiya, n. 2, p. 934

The District Superintendent of Police, Anantapur, reports that an anonymous letter, dated 30<sup>th</sup> September 1942 threatening his life and those of his wife and children was received by the Inspector of Police, Anantapur.

R.B. Ramakrishnaraju, B.A., B.L., M.L.A., and R. Venkata Reddy, B.A., B.L., Ex-Public Prosecutor, Chittoor were arrested on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1942 at Chittoor and remanded to custody.<sup>143</sup>

Madras dated 4<sup>th</sup> October 1942, reported to Sir George, on the night of 28<sup>th</sup> September, 1942 about twenty persons of Uravakonda village in Anantapur district went to Buruzula village of Pattikonda taluk of Kurnool district and damaged 40 date trees and beat the watchmen. This is under investigation.

The District Superintendent of Police, Bellary, reports that about twenty youths of Adoni took out a procession on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1942 in connection with “Gandhi Jayanthi”. They were arrested and will be prosecuted.

71 students out of 161 in the VI Form of the Municipal High School, Anantapur, struck work on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1942. There was however, no disturbance at the School.<sup>144</sup>

It is reported from Kadapa that on the night of 30<sup>th</sup> September 1942 the laboratory in the District Board High School at Pulivendhula was broken into and property to the value of about Rs. 400 was either removed or damaged. Five students of the High School have been arrested on suspicion.

Two persons were arrested on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1942 at Palamaneru in the Chittoor District for distributing prejudicial pamphlets to the staff of the local Taluk Office.

### **Special Branch Daily Report for 4<sup>th</sup> October 1942**

A case of Railway Telegraph wire cutting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> night has been reported from Kurnool District.

Madras, dated 5<sup>th</sup> October 1942, reported to Sir George, the District Superintendent of Police, Kurnool, reports that ten persons responsible for the cutting of telegraph wire near Kurnool town were arrested on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1942. Telegraph wire, six hundred feet in length and cutting-pliers were seized from their houses.

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<sup>143</sup>. M. Venkatarangaiya, n. 2, p. 936

<sup>144</sup>. M. Venkatarangaiya, n. 2, p. 937

Another Congressman who admitted having posted appeals to various Government servants asking them to resign was also arrested on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1942. Telegraph wire near Nandyal town was cut on the night of 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1942.

It is reported from Anantapur, that 200 war Technicians struck work on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1942 and 400 more on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1942. The general cause for the strike is alleged to be ill-treatment and strict enforcement of the disciplinary rules. It is also reported that the Military tailors of Anantapur struck work for 2 days as a result of a dispute with the contractor regarding wages. They have since resumed work. These two strikes are, however reported to bear no political significance.

### **Resignation of Village Officers**

From Deputy Secretary to Government of India, Home Department, Government of India, New Delhi, No. 3303-D/42-Ests. Express letter issued to All Provincial Governments, New Delhi, and the 1<sup>st</sup> September 1942. The Government of India have decided that the resignation of a Government servant, tendered for political reasons, should not be accepted and that if the Government servant, after tendering his resignation, absents himself from duty, he should at once be dismissed, with consequential loss of pension and forfeiture of Government contribution, if any, to his Provident Fund.

The Government of India propose to follow this policy in respect of all officers in the Central Services, and request the Provincial Governments to adopt the same policy in respect of officers under their control.<sup>145</sup>

Chief Secretary to Government, Government of Madras issued order “All the Heads of Departments are informed that if they received letters of resignation from Government servants under their administrative control on account of the present Civil Disobedience Movement they should on no account accept the resignation. A charge should be framed against the individual for failing in his duty for political reasons and he should then be dismissed, after following the prescribed procedure”.

Public (general) Department Memo. No. 42924/42-1, Dated 28<sup>th</sup> August, 1942, to issue about Civil Disobedience Movement-Resignation of Village Officers and others. Collectors are informed that if they receive letters of resignation from Village Officers or from other persons drawing salaries from Government on account

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<sup>145</sup>. M. Venkata Rangaiya, n. 2, p. 875

of the present Civil Disobedience Movement they should on no account accept the resignation.

On 19<sup>th</sup> August 1942, M. Padmanabham Nayar, Ex-clerk in Surgeon's General's Office, distributed a few manuscript chits at the gate of the Collector's Office at Anantapur inciting Government Servants to resign their jobs. On 27<sup>th</sup> August, a procession was organised at Pulivendula by the local Congressmen. The processionists went around shouting anti-government slogans. They went to the Taluk Office, the police station and to the Sub-Registrar's Office and subsequently to the police station at Thondur. They shouted objectionable slogans and asked the government officers to resign their jobs. At Thondur, they had a meeting and suggested the ryots that they should destroy communications, force village servants to resign and violate forest laws. On 30<sup>th</sup> August, M. Subbarayudu was arrested at Nandyal for having in his possession and distributing to the Government servants pamphlets which were in highly inflammable language. On 10<sup>th</sup> September, one person was arrested at Gajulapalle for posting letters urging resignation of the Government servants. On 27<sup>th</sup> September, in the Dhone Division, four persons were arrested, two for distributing literature, calling upon the government servants to resign and two for being in possession of literature which was in highly inflammable language. They were sentenced to various periods of imprisonment. On the same day, the Karanam of Pattikonda resigned his job as a protest against the policy of the Government. He was dismissed from service and was subsequently arrested.<sup>146</sup> One person was also convicted at Nandyal for distributing pamphlets asking the Government servants to resign and sentenced to 1 ½ years Rigorous Imprisonment and three others for uttering anti-war slogans and sentenced to various periods of rigorous imprisonment. Printed notices in Telugu calling upon the village officers in the Markapur Taluk to resign were distributed. On 28<sup>th</sup> September, the Congress workers who approached the Village Magistrate of Jakkasanikunta (a village in Dhone Taluk) and appealed to him to resign his job were arrested. M. Mamaracharyulu, the Vice-President of the Velugodu Panchayat Board, tendered his resignation as a protest against the action of the Government, in arresting the Congress leaders. Gurram Venkata Reddy, Secretary, Kurnool District Rythu Sangham was arrested for distributing objectionable pamphlets. The police searched

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<sup>146</sup>. DCECDM, August - December, (Madras 1943), Pp. 75- 76 (TNSA)

the houses of Gurram Venkata Reddy, A. Sudharshana Varma and Chittari Yenganna at Velugodu. Chittari Pitchayya, a boy of 10 years was arrested and released after two days. S. Narasinga Rao was arrested at Velugodu for pasting anti-government pamphlets on the walls of the police station.<sup>147</sup> On 12<sup>th</sup> October, two Village Officers of Owk (Avuku) village received by post, Telugu pamphlets urging them to resign and to commit acts of arson. Three more similar letters found in the post office were seized by the police. On 14<sup>th</sup> October, one Venkataramaiah of Kurnool who advised constables to resign, was arrested. On 15<sup>th</sup> October, the village headman of Kalludhevanakunta and two ryots in Adoni Taluk were arrested for trying to persuade the Village Officers to resign. On 18<sup>th</sup> October, one person was arrested at Palamaneru (Pallavan Eri- means Pallavas Tank) Taluk Office for sending letters to the Government servants in highly inflammable language. Another was arrested for distributing the literature. On 20<sup>th</sup> October, 1942, E. Narayana Goud and G. Pitchayya were arrested for participating in a procession at Markapuram. On 26<sup>th</sup> October, S. Amaravathamma, wife of S. Nagappa, M. L. A. was arrested for distributing an appeal in Telugu to Village Officers at the Kurnool bus stand.<sup>148</sup>

### **Suppression of District Boards**

In Rayalaseema, three District Boards were superseded for passing resolutions sympathizing with the Congress movement. In Chittoor District, Boards were superseded for passing resolutions sympathizing with the Congress movement. The Chittoor District Board was superseded for a period of six months for passing a resolution on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1942, welcoming the resolution of the AICC, condemning the repressive measures of the government and resolving as a protest to close the schools and offices under the control of the Board. The Kadapa District Board was superseded for a period of six months for passing resolutions on 4<sup>th</sup> September, welcoming the resolution of the AICC condemning the action of the government in putting down disorderly activities and resolving, as a protest, to close all offices and institutions, except dispensaries of the Board. The Kurnool District Board was superseded for a period of six months for passing a resolution on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1942 approving the action of the President in ordering the closure of the District Board Offices in sympathy with the Congress movement. Earlier on 12<sup>th</sup> August, the

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<sup>147</sup>. *Andhra Patrika*, 30<sup>th</sup> September 1942, p. 3 (SNV)

<sup>148</sup>. DCECDM, August - December, (Madras 1943), Pp. 9, 23, 33, 43 and 75-77 (TNSA)

Kurnool District Board passed a resolution protesting against the arrest of Congress leaders.<sup>149</sup>

### **Third Phase**

The movement entered its third phase in September, 1942 during which there was greater amount of violence. In sheer excitement, the mob resorted to armed attack. On the evening of 20<sup>th</sup> September, seven shops were looted at Proddatur. Nineteen persons were arrested in that connection. The total loss was estimated at about Rs.2,000/-. On 21<sup>st</sup> September, about 50 villagers at Narasimha Kottala (a village in Kadapa District) looted three lots of cholam belonging to a merchant who refused to dispose of the stock according to the villager's terms. The loss was estimated at Rs.200/-. Twenty six persons were arrested in this connection. On the night of 6<sup>th</sup> October, a bullock-cart carrying six bags of grain was looted at Kalasapadu, a village in Kadapa District. Eleven out of sixteen persons involved in the offence were arrested and most of the grain recovered.<sup>150</sup>

### **Fourth Phase**

In its fourth phase, the movement became mild again as like in the first phase. The agitations continued till Gandhi's release in May 1944, in the form of demonstrations and processions on certain days of a month. Tilak's anniversary, Gandhi Jayanthi and Independence Day were observed by taking out processions by the masses regularly to highlight the need of the freedom for Indians. At Bangarupalem, M.B. Seshachalapathi Nayanivaru and Polakala Ramachandra Reddy contributed Rs.1500/- each towards Kasturba Smaraka Nidhi, P. N. Guruva Reddy contributed Rs.116/-. The Chittoor District Congress Committee decided to contribute Rs.5,000/- towards the Nidhi. Chittoor District also contributed for the Kasturba Gandhi Memorial Fund Rs.2,400/- by their contributions. The people of Chittoor made it clear that they were in the forefront of the agitation through their Contributions. On 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1942 (Gandhi Jayanthi day), there was a procession at Rekatla in Rayadurgam Taluk. Three men were arrested. A procession organised at Adoni in connection with Gandhi Jayanthi was dispersed by a lathi charge. In all twenty one arrests were made.<sup>151</sup> Rayalaseema also contributed for the Kasturba

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<sup>149</sup>. DCECDM, August - December, (Madras 1943), p. 77

<sup>150</sup>. DCECDM, August - December, (Madras 1943), Pp. 41- 42 (TNSA)

<sup>151</sup>. DCECDM, August - December, (Madras 1943), p.23 (TNSA)

Gandhi Memorial Fund. The details of the contributions were: Anantapur District-Rs.84, 301-10-0; Chittoor District-Rs.2,400-0-0; Kadapa District-Rs.20,370-0-0; and Kurnool District-Rs.8230-0-0.<sup>152</sup> At Rajampeta, the Gandhi Jayanthi Celebrations were organised under the presidentship of Boggavaram Venkata Subbayya. At Kalyanadurgam, G. Chalamappa; at Anantapur, Narayana Swamy and at Adoni, K.L.N. Somayajulu presided over the Gandhi Jayanthi Celebrations. In 1945, M. Ananthashayanam Iyyangar presided over the Gandhi Jayanthi Celebrations at Palamaneru. At Madanapalle, V. Papanna Gupta presided over the Gandhi Jayanthi Celebrations. Venkata Reddy, Narayana, Ramayya, N. Radhakrishnayya and Ramarathnamma from Sri Kala Hasthi also spoke. At Anantapur, Congress volunteers went from house to house selling Kaddar.<sup>153</sup> In view of the Independence Day of 26 January, orders under rule 56 of the Defence of India Rules were issued in Madras and other places prohibiting the holding of meetings from 25 to 27 January, inclusive of both days. Attendance in most educational institutions was normal except in the Besant Theosophical College, Madanapalle, where students abstained from classes to express their solidarity towards the struggle.<sup>154</sup>

#### **No Tax Campaign in Kuppam and Punganur Zamindari Areas**

No tax campaign was brewing in Kuppam and Punganur Zamindari areas due to the influence of D. Srinivasa Iyengar of Chittoor. The government suspected that he would in all probability revert to underground rebellious activities on his release due on 8<sup>th</sup> February 1943. Hence, the government recommended for his detention. No tax campaign was also organised by E. Govindappa Naidu against the abnormal taxation of the Devasthanam Estate and the local proprietors whose jurisdiction extended over the Puttur and Tiruttani Taluks. P. Thimma Reddy also led a no tax campaign for reduction of rent in the Estate and Inam villages of Chettinad Estate of Pallipat, Devalampeta, Rayalacheruvu and in the villages, where the hereditary rights were held by T.T.D.<sup>155</sup>

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<sup>152</sup>. *Andhra Patrika*, 31<sup>st</sup> October 1944, p.2 (SNV)

<sup>153</sup>. K. Anjaneyulu, *Andhra Pradesh lo Gandhiji (Gandhiji in Andhra Pradesh)*, Hyderabad 1978, Pp. 908-914.

<sup>154</sup>. Public (General) Department, G.O. No. p. 4-3 dated 7<sup>th</sup> February, 1944, p. 25 (APSAH)

<sup>155</sup>. Public (General) Department, G.O. No. 435, dated 8<sup>th</sup> February, 1943, p. 2443 (APSAH)

## Underground Activities

During the Quit India Movement, underground activities were organised in Rayalaseema against the repressive policies of the government. Since the outbreak of the rebellion, Putha Subba Reddy of Modamedipalli (a village in Kadapa District) was taking keen interest in the movement keeping himself in the background. He had a hand in the organisation of the following acts of sabotage. A) On 16<sup>th</sup> August 1942, telegraph wire was cut at Narasannapalli b) on 18<sup>th</sup> August 1942, telegraph wire was cut at Chinnamasupalli c) on 20<sup>th</sup> August 1942, telegraph wire was cut at Mariapuram d) on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1942, culvert at Milestone 103/4 was broken e) on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1942, Telegraph wire was cut at Dendumalavada) on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1942 the railway bridge at Krishnapuram was attempted to be set on fire. Besides these, he associated himself with B. Malla Reddy who committed the mail robbery on 17<sup>th</sup> November 1942, near Pulivendula. He was careful to avoid arrest and was working underground. After a long search, he was arrested on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1943, under rule 129 of the Defence of India Rules. A. Chidambara Reddy of Anantapur District was the Zonal President for underground Committee. He went underground for one year and three months before he was arrested. J. Sriramulu of Gooty Taluk went underground and was involved in the derailment of train at Guntakal. Y. Adhinarayana Reddy and P. Sessa Reddy of Kadapa District also went underground. Y. Adhinarayana Reddy exhorted the people to fight the British by any means. Y. Mahanandi Reddy of Nandyal worked underground and planned to destroy the railway bridge between Nandyal and Giddaluru.<sup>156</sup>

Nivarthi Venkatasubbaiah, a member of the AICC and the General Secretary of the Kurnool District Congress Committee went underground in 1942. When he met Gandhi early in August, 1944 at Sevagram, he was advised to surrender himself to the police. He accordingly did so. He was then put up for trial for the offence of issuing pamphlets in highly inflammable language and inciting students to boycott schools and village officers to resign.<sup>157</sup>

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<sup>156</sup>. Public (General) Department, G.O. No. 496, dated 14<sup>th</sup> January, 1943, Pp. 2393-2395 (APSAH)

<sup>157</sup>. *Andhra Patrika*, 24<sup>th</sup> August 1944, p. 5; 31<sup>st</sup> August, 1944, p.3, 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1944, p.3; 26<sup>th</sup> October, 1944, p.2 (SNV)

## **Role of Communists in Freedom Struggle**

The Communists took active part during the final phase of the freedom movement. Their ideology initially ran parallel to that of Congress and later on, it turned out to be a complex opposition to the latter in certain respects, though both of them cherished the same goal that is, securing freedom for India.<sup>158</sup>

The communist ideology found its way into Rayalaseema in the late 1930s and early 40s.<sup>159</sup> By then, the Quit India Movement, the last phase of the Indian freedom movement, had begun. Many cadres in the INC with socialist ideology were attracted towards the communist movement.<sup>160</sup> A superficial reading into the events of Indian freedom movement in Rayalseema provides an impression that the communists worked for the movement. But, by their own pronouncements, they did not support the basic idea of the Quit India Movement.

The major ideological reason for not supporting the Quit India Movement by the Communists was that the German aggressive posture during the World War II was considered fascist in nature, which the communists opposed. Opposition to Great Britain in her war with Germany was considered as a support to fascism. The INC wanted India to support Great Britain in the war efforts as an independent sovereign state but not as a dependent colony. Winston Churchill, the then British Prime Minister, did not agree to the proposal of Indian leadership for India's independence. The disagreement prompted the INC to oppose the war-efforts of Great Britain in India. Since the Quit India Movement was sponsored by the INC 9 August 1942 on the plank of opposition to Great Britain, communists declared that they would not support the movement as it would amount to supporting the fascists Germany. Another ideological reason for the difference with the INC was that the communists felt that independence could be achieved by participating in the war, whereas the INC felt "first independence, then only support to war efforts," as already pointed out.<sup>161</sup>

The ideological differences between the INC and the communists made the latter to be opposed to the newly launched individual satyagraha as part of the Quit India Movement. But they attacked the British for continuing their policy of

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<sup>158</sup>. P. Yenadi Raju, n. 8, p. 204

<sup>159</sup>. Y. V. Krishna Rao et.al, *Andhra Pradesh lo Communist Udyama Charitra, 1936-42 (History of Communist Movement in Andhra Pradesh-Telugu)*, Hyderabad, 1988, Pp. 160-177

<sup>160</sup>. P. Yenadi Raju, n. 8, p. 205

<sup>161</sup>. Y. V. Krishna Rao et.al, n. 158, p. 87

imperialism toward India and for not conceding India's demand for independence. Almost every fortnightly report issued by the government referred to the communist activities in that direction and to their efforts to foment trouble among students and workers. The report dated 25 February 1941 said that the "communist activities amongst students are continuing but their efforts have been greatly hampered by the recent arrests and detentions".<sup>162</sup> Another report, dated 4 July 1941 stated that - "a considerable quantity of communist literature was seized from various students and others in a school in the Chittoor district. The proscribed *Swatantra Bharat* continued to make its appearance from time to time particularly in the Andhra districts, and communists in that area have been trying to make trouble by utilising any dispute, however small, between the workers and their employers...."

Many a youth, pursuing either High School or collegiate education, developed nationalist ideas as the freedom movement progressed. This trend continued during the Quit India Movement as well. Such sensitive young men with dedication to the nationalist cause were influenced by the Communist ideology. Leaders like Putchalapalli Sundarayya, who was already an acknowledged Communist cadre, took pains in bringing such youth into the fold of Communist Party. E. Pulla Reddi, hailing from a wealthy family of Velugodu village in Nandikotkur taluk of Kurnool district, was one among many such young men, who were brought into the Communist fold in the first half of 1940s. He had developed nationalistic ideas since his school days, and when he was doing Engineering in Madras, he turned a Communist. Giving up his studies at that stage, he returned to Kurnool in 1942, and got himself acquainted with other local Communists like Tippareddi of Kurnool and Kodi Narasimham of Nandyal. Also, associating himself with the Kisan workers like Ghegireddi Balireddi and Kandula Obul Reddi of Kambam taluk and G.Rami Reddi of Nandyal taluk, he took interest in the formation of Ryots Association and toured the district, spreading Communist ideology. When engaged in these activities, he came in contact with the local Congress cadres. He attended the Communist party Plenum in Vijayawada during 21-28 January 1943.<sup>163</sup> Thus, the basic nationalist instinct was presenting the dedicated youth, and whichever ideology they were influenced by, they mixed with one another and became a nationalist cadre, forgetting their party affiliations.

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<sup>162</sup> M. Venkata Rangaiya(ed.), n. 2, Pp. 140-141

<sup>163</sup> G.O.No. 1024 Public (General) Department, dated 10<sup>th</sup> April 1943

Despite the nationalist approach being a common factor, the communist approach to the freedom movement presents them in a distinct shade. When V Bapyya and C.Pulla Reddi, who were Secretary and Organiser respectively of the Kurnool District communist party, were arrested under section 144 of the Criminal procedure Code (CrPC), in September 1942 with a view to prevent them from holding meetings and taking out processions, Kodi Narasimham and R. Thippa Reddi, both communists, met the District Collector and presented him a memorandum on behalf of the organiser of the Andhra Provincial Communist Party. The memorandum pointed out that the communists had no intention of doing anything that would adversely affect the war effort and that the party's policy was to fight the fascists till the end. Further, the memorandum also pointed out that the local communists were doing their utmost to carry on anti-fascist propaganda and secure the support of the people for the war effort and that they were against the Congress movement. The memorandum warned that the repression of the communists by the government would only help the fascists. On that argument, the memorandum appealed to the Collector to allow the communists to continue their anti-fascist activities by releasing the arrested communist cadres and returning to them the office files, circulars, etc. of their party, which had been seized by the police.<sup>164</sup> Later on, the communists lamented that the government ordered the arrest of communist workers because the government did not distinguish the imperialist war from the people's struggle in which the communist workers were active but not in the activities against the war-efforts. This stand looks paradoxical when we notice a reference to the effect that Idhukallu Sadhasivam of Anantapur district, a communist cadre, published and distributed in early 1940 a cyclostyled paper, *Akasavani*, through which the anti-war campaign was carried on. The paper reached even remote villages, and its contents were read out to the unlettered peasants and field workers also.<sup>165</sup>

Despite protestations by the Communist party organisers that their struggle was against imperialism and fascism but not against the British war-efforts, Communist workers faced arrests and conviction during the Quit India Movement under different sections of the Defence of India Rules. The government considered even a procession here and a public meeting there as anti-British and against the

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<sup>164</sup>. History of Freedom Movement Book (HFMB), n. 3, Pp.140-141

<sup>165</sup>. Y. V. Krishna Rao et.al, n. 158, Pp. 162-163

defence of the country. It was under such circumstances that V. Bapayya, secretary of the Kurnool district committee of the Communist Party of India, was convicted by the Sub Divisional magistrate of Kurnool on 11 September 1942 and awarded one year simple imprisonment. C. Pulla Reddy, organiser of the district committee of the Communist Party of India, was sentenced to six months term of imprisonment.<sup>166</sup>

Student organisations grew along with the spread of the communist ideology and activities in Rayalaseema. A students federation was in existence in Kurnool district by 1942. In the first week of October 1942, G.Venkata Reddy, a communist cadre from Velugodu in Kurnool district was an organiser of the Kurnool district students federation. The police of the time alleged that he was involved in the distribution of pamphlets “prejudicial” to the then government. For this alleged anti-government activity, the sub-divisional magistrate of Kurnool convicted him on 7 October 1942. He was sentenced to one year term of rigorous imprisonment.<sup>167</sup>

Quite often, the government of the day considered the Communist activities in Rayalaseema as illegal and prejudicial to the interests of the government. Charges were framed against Chanda Narayanappa and seven others of Anantapur district and Gurram Venkanna, also of the same district, under different sections of the Indian Penal Code, Defence of India Rules and ordinance 3 of 1942. The offence they committed was “conspiracy..., illegal and prejudicial acts and burning the car of Dr. Koshi in Uravakonda” on the night of 14 August 1942.<sup>168</sup> Dr. Koshi, could possibly be on government employment, the details of which are not available.

Even without investigating into the alleged charges, arrests were made under the Defence of India Rules during the Quit India Movement. Communist workers were not an exception to this. At Rajampeta, a taluk headquarters in Kadapa district, eight communists were arrested and detained. Of them, P. Narasimha Reddi, C. Rammohan Roy and Rama Krishna Reddi were arrested on 5 June 1943, while Ramayanam Tirupelu, Peddi Reddi, Vengal Reddi, P.K. Subbarama Reddi and S. Subbarama Raju were arrested on 10 June 1943. They were remanded to custody for fifteen days from the date of their arrest. Superintendent of Police, Kadapa

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<sup>166</sup>. History of Freedom Movement Book (HFMB), n. 3, p. 4336

<sup>167</sup>. History of Freedom Movement Book (HFMB), n. 3, p. 4351

<sup>168</sup>. *The Hindu*, 9 March 1943, p. 6

district, recommended continuance of their detention until the investigation into the charges was completed.<sup>169</sup>

Fomenting trouble in the ranks of workers in railways and also in factories to paralyse the administration was one of the items on the agenda of the Quit India Movement in Rayalaseema. This was well suited to the communist point of view so far as its stand towards working a class is concerned. Even though the declared policy of the Communists was against the Quit India Movement, they did not lose an opportunity to induce disgruntled attitude in the workers against the managements of factories. Several instances can be quoted from Rayalaseema on this subject. But suffice would it be to say that in one case the district magistrate of Chittoor pointed out that the workers in some factories at Chittoor and Kalahasti observed strike in early December 1946, in which the Communists had a 'share'.<sup>170</sup> The professed anti-Congress and pro-British stand of the communists during the Quit India Movement in Rayalaseema did not appease the colonial government in India. The Communist cadres could not escape being convicted under different sections of the then Defence of India Rules. They faced arrest and punishment by the government with simple or rigorous imprisonment.

Thus, the different sections of the Indian society worked for the freedom of the country with different ideologies, particularly different type of mixed action went on in Rayalaseema also. Meanwhile, the developments like coming to power by Winston Churchill in place of Clement Attlee in England. The Labour Government under Attlee decided to leave India to her own people's rule. The consequent attainment of independence by India 14-15 August 1947 and the celebration of the occasion in the country are now a part of history, "along with the celebration, the country was to experience the trauma of partition and its consequences as well. Rayalaseema shared the joy of celebration and also the pain of trauma of Free India, the pangs of partition in particular, on that occasion.

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<sup>169</sup>. G.O. No. 1657, Public (General) Department, dated 19<sup>th</sup> June 1943

<sup>170</sup>. Letter dated 20<sup>th</sup> December 1946 from the District Magistrate, Chittoor to the Assistant Registrar, High Court of Judicature, Madras

## **RAYALASEEMA WOMEN FREEDOM FIGHTERS IN QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT**

Mahatma Gandhi while inviting the Women of India to take part in the national struggle said thus:

“You must be the change you wish to see in the world”.

“Woman is more fitted than man to make exploration and take bolder action in nonviolence. There is no occasion for women to consider themselves subordinate or inferior to man. Woman is the companion of man, gifted with equal mental capacity. If by strength is meant moral power, then woman is immeasurably man's superior. If nonviolence is the law of our being, the future is with women.”

Like at national and Provincial level, several Women took active part in the freedom struggle from Rayalaseema.

### **Amaravathamma, Sirdhar**

Amaravathamma was a resident of Kota Kurnool, daughter of Yenumula Ankanna. She was the wife of Nagappa and who was an active freedom fighter and later become M.L.A. She took part in the Individual Satyagraha movement, as a result she was kept in the Kurnool Sub-Jail for two months as an under trail prisoner before her conviction. Underwent ten months rigorous imprisonment from 25-01-1941 in the VelloreJail. Again she was arrested while distributing pamphlets, and participated in the Quit India Movement and arrested on 26-10-1942, and sentenced on 05-11-1942 to One year Simple imprisonment and was Incarcerated in the Vellore Jail, and died.

### **Boyamma, Peram**

Boyamma was a resident of Dhone. She was a daughter of Bhagyamma. She associated with Quit India Movement and was convicted under the D.I.R. She underwent rigorous imprisonment from 22-09-1942 to nine months in the Vellore Jail.

### **Ramakka, Ballekallu**

Ramakka was a resident of Adoni. At the age of 75 she took part in the picketing of the police station on 14-09-1942 during the Quit India Movement and was Lathi charged.

### **Narasamma, Hardhagiri**

Narasamma was a resident of Rayachoti. She was wife of Simham, H.N. She participated in the 1940 Individual Satyagraha Movement and sentenced and fined by the Sub-collector office of Chandragiri. She took part in the Subversive activities during the Quit India Movement. She was arrested at Gunthakal and missing since then.

### **Anasuya Devi, Nallapareddy**

Anasuya Devi, Nallapareddy was born in 1924 at Nellore. She was a resident of Tamballapalli, Madanapalli Taluk. Her father was Thikkavarapu Ramireddy and her husband was Raghunadha Reddy. In 1943, while a student of the “Queen Mary’s College”, she organized the students into picket the Government offices, picketing the Egmore Magistrate’s court at Madras.<sup>171</sup> She suffered three months imprisonment from 20-02-1943 to 19-05-1943 in the Vellore Jail. Other Women students also took part in the protests. Students of Queen Mary’s college observed Harthals and led processions shouting “Quit India” slogans until they were dispersed by the police. The director of public instruction issued a circular asking heads of educational institutions to report to him the daily attendance class-wise until normal attendance was restored and also any demonstration by students in their institutions.

### **Shakunthala, Nallapareddy**

Shakunthala was born in 1927. She was a sister Anasuya Devi. She was the wife of Krishna Reddy. She also participated while studying in Queen Mary’s college, Madras in 1943.<sup>172</sup> She also organized the students movements in all the colleges in Madras with her sister Anasuya Devi. So, she was sentenced on 20-02-1943 to six months simple imprisonment for picketing the Egmore Magistrate’s court at Madras. As a result she suffered the imprisonment in the Vellore Jail.

### **Kasamma, Illur**

Kasamma caught by the police on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 1942 for the cause of distributing the anti-government pamphlets. Kasamma gave a pamphlet to Venkata Reddy, organizer of the Kurnool District Student federation. He was awarded on

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<sup>171</sup>. *Andhra Jyothi* (Tirupati), 15-08-2014, p. 8

<sup>172</sup>. *Andhra Jyothi* (Tirupati), 15-08-2014, p. 8

2<sup>nd</sup> December, 1942 a nine month term of rigorous imprisonment. Giving his own version in that context, the Anantapur Additional First class Magistrate stated that Kasamma gave a pamphlet to him also on the premises of the court. Kasamma admitted all her activities.

### **Jeeva Rathnamma**

She participated in the Quit India Movement at Arts College Anantapur. Students agitated against British. They picketed at College gates. The Principal K.G. Menon encouraged the students for agitation. The police lathi charged on the mob. 15 students wounded along with Jeeva Rathnamma. V.K. Adinarayana Reddy, Thirumala Reddy and Yellayya also participated in this incident.

### **Venkatamma, R.**

Venkatamma was a resident of Bellary. So, she suffered simple imprisonment from 28-01-1943 to six months in the Vellore Jail.

Thus, Mahatma Gandhi's call of Quit India Movement has enormous effect which spread to the nook and corner of the country symbolizing that irrespective of age, education, profession, religion all joined together for the cause of freedom for the country. It is important to note here that because of the sacrifices made by the lakhs of people who suffered in the hands of the British by serving jail sentences, hangings, firings and Lathi charges. We are enjoying freedom. In this context the role played by Rayalaseema Women freedom fighters who involved in this movement played a key role in arousing national sentiment among the people for the cause of national independence.

### **Activities of the Kisans in Rayalaseema**

Since the outbreak of the Civil Disobedience Movement, G. Rami Reddy of Brahmanapalli in Nandyal Taluk had been very active, moving from place to place and meeting the local Congress leaders "In Camera". After discontinuing his studies, G. Rami Reddy took to national movement and began to associate himself with C. Bali Reddy, General Secretary of the Andhra Provincial Kisan Sabha and K. Obul Reddy of the Kurnool District Congress Committee and also an active member of the Kisan Sabha. Through them, Rami Reddy came under the direct influence of N.G. Ranga. He toured the Kurnool District along with N.G.Ranga and others advocating

the principles of the Kisan Movement and forming Kisan Sabhas. During his sojourn in Kurnool District, he came into contact with S. Narasimha Reddy, Alluri Subba Reddy, Kanala Venkata Subba Reddy and others. He attended the Summer School of Political held at Kalwa Bugga in 1939 and contributed immensely to the success of the movement. As he was a keen and ardent follower of N.G. Ranga, he was elected as the President of the Kurnool district Kisan Sabha in 1941. In August 1942, he organised a secret meeting at Maddur and advocated the cutting of telegraph wires and other subversive activities. It was disclosed after the arrest of S. Narasimha Reddy at Panyam Railway Station with unlicensed fire arms and ammunition and Kanala Venkata Subba Reddy at Nandyal that the series of wire cutting cases in Nandyal were the direct result of the secret meeting at Maddur which was sponsored by G. Rami Reddy.<sup>173</sup> In December 1942 a bundle of prejudicial pamphlets describing the process of manufacturer of bombs and other explosives was received from Guntur by one K. Kuppu Swamy of Nandyal who was a business partner of the brother of Rami Reddy. This parcel was obviously intended to be delivered to Rami Reddy as it was well known that all letters and correspondence meant for G. Rami Reddy were received by Kuppu Swamy at Nandyal and despatched to his village Brahmanapalli, by a special messenger. It is also learnt that the Andhra Provincial Kisan Sabha had appointed him as a District Agent for Kurnool District for the purpose of carrying on Kisan propaganda which was nothing but Congress propaganda. He was therefore arrested under Rule 129 of the Defence of India Rules, at 5 P.M. on 1<sup>st</sup> February 1943 and remanded to custody in the Sub-Jail at Nandyal.<sup>174</sup> In August Kisan leaders were also active in Chittoor District and there were indications that something in the nature of a no rent campaign was being launched. In Kurnool district, K. Obul Reddy, a Kisan leader was prosecuted for inciting the ryot's of the villages to refuse to pay land revenue.<sup>175</sup> N.G. Ranga, the Kisan leader toured Chittoor District and addressed several meetings. He was reported to have advocated the conduct of peaceful agitation regarding rents through Kisan Sabhas, the formation of Peace Brigades and support for the Congress policies. The Kisan Sabha was not prepared to accept the doctrine that the World War -II was Peoples' war. On this ground, Ranga refused to

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<sup>173</sup>. Public (General) Department, G.O. No. 421, dated 8<sup>th</sup> February 1943, Pp.2389-2391 (APSAH)

<sup>174</sup>. Public (General) Department, G.O. No. 421, dated 8<sup>th</sup> February 1943, Pp.2389-2391 (APSAH)

<sup>175</sup>. Public (General) Department, D.O. No. p. 4-1 dated 6<sup>th</sup> April 1942, p. 36 (APSAH)

preside over the meeting convened by the Friends of Russia and China.<sup>176</sup>In Chittoor, Rangites Ryots' Association was formed. In September 1944, fifty local Congressmen attended a meeting held at Madanapalle under the auspices of the Communists.<sup>177</sup>In December 1944, P. Sundara Rami Reddy, a Communist leader, addressed meetings in Anantapur, Kurnool and other places in an attempt to persuade Congressmen to admit Communists into their ranks. His efforts did not meet with any conspicuous success; but indications showed that all Congressmen were not of the same mind on the matter. In Chittoor, for instance, a Communist was invited to attend a meeting called upon to form a local Congress Samithi.<sup>178</sup>In Kurnool and Kadapa, the question whether Communists should be admitted to Congress membership or not led to a lively discussion and finally the meeting decided to refer the matter to Gandhi.<sup>179</sup>As the government prohibited all meetings and processions, the Communists in Nandikotkur took the independence pledge in their party office only.<sup>180</sup>

### **Impact of Gandhi's Fast**

On account of the Quit India Movement, the normal functioning of the administration was badly affected. The Government banned all student organisations like the National Students Union and the National Youth Organisation under the Defence of India Rules. On account of this stringent action of the Government the momentum of the Quit India Movement had to be slowed down. Gandhi went on fast from 10 February to 30 March 1943, in order to repudiate the charge that he was responsible for the violence and destruction during the Quit India Movement. The whole country was thrown into a state of anxiety on account of the fast taken up by Gandhiji at the advanced age of 74. The atmosphere in the country became tense. Several students in Rayalaseema undertook a sympathetic fast. Processions were taken out by college students demanding the release of Gandhi from the Jail. At Madanapalle the police lathi-charged a student procession and injured about 25 students.<sup>181</sup> In Anantapur, the local Muslim League sent a telegram to the Viceroy

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<sup>176</sup>. Public (General) Department, D.O. No. p. 4-14, dated 21<sup>st</sup> July, 1942, p.57 (APSAH)

<sup>177</sup>. Public (General) Department, D.O. No. p. 4-18, dated 15<sup>th</sup> September, 1944, p.162 (APSAH)

<sup>178</sup>. Public (General) Department, D.O. No. p. 4-25, dated 6<sup>th</sup> January, 1944, p. 233 (APSAH)

<sup>179</sup>. *Andhra Patrika*, 30<sup>th</sup> October, 1944, p. 3 (SNV)

<sup>180</sup>. *Andhra Patrika*, 1<sup>st</sup> February, 1944, p. 3 (SNV)

<sup>181</sup>. Sarojini Regani, *Highlights of the Freedom Movement in Andhra Pradesh*, The Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Govt of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad, 1972, p. 158

praying for Gandhi's release.<sup>182</sup> At Kurnool, the stationary Sub-Magistrate promulgated prohibitory orders within a radius of 5 miles. Notices were also issued to C. Pulla Reddy, K.V. Krishnamurthy Rao, R. Thippa Reddy, T. Jammanna, Somasekhara Rao (all communists), Vaidyanatha Iyer, Teacher, Municipal High School and 12 others for trying to organise Independence Day Celebrations.<sup>183</sup>

In Madanapalle, it was reported that the Muslims offered prayers at the local mosque on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of Ramzan for the success of Gandhi - Jinnah talks in 1944. But the news of the breakdown of the talks had caused wide-spread disappointment in Rayalaseema.<sup>184</sup>

### **Constructive Programme**

In Chittoor, the Students Congress organised a conference in February 1945 at which the importance of Gandhi's constructive programme was stressed as "the only way to destroy British Imperialism".<sup>185</sup> In Kurnool, the District Ryots Conference was held in April 1945. It was attended by about 6,000 people. At this Conference, resolutions for the release of the National leaders, the commutation of the death sentences passed on the Ashti, Chimur and Kulasekharapatnam prisoners etc. were passed.<sup>186</sup> In Chittoor, the Congress Workers Association was formed in December 1945, the object of which was stated to be to work for a mass upheaval and prepare the public for an all-out struggle.<sup>187</sup> Mention should be made of Anandhashram, near Mydukur in Kadapa District which was established during the Quit India Movement. Its founder-Secretary was V. Veerabrahmam. Among its early promoters were such illustrious national leaders as Acharya Vinobha Bhave, Jayaprakash Narayan, C. Rajagopalachari, T. Prakasham and others who not only guided its programmes from outside but often participated in them. Its agenda covered a wide range of constructive programmes such as popularisation of khadi, harijan upliftment, and extension of the Bhoodan movement, development of cottage industries, emancipation of women, anti-illiteracy drive and other components of Gandhi's constructive programme.<sup>188</sup> A meeting of Congress M.L.A.s and M.L.Cs of

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<sup>182</sup>. Public (General) Department, D.O. No. p. 4-29, dated 8<sup>th</sup> March, 1943, p. 120 (APSAH)

<sup>183</sup>. *Andhra Patrika*, 26<sup>th</sup> January, 1944, p. 2. (SNV)

<sup>184</sup>. Public (General) Department, D.O. No. P. 4-19 dated 9<sup>th</sup> October 1944, p. 160 (APSAH)

<sup>185</sup>. Public (General) Department, D.O. No. P. 4-3 dated 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1945, p. 5 (APSAH)

<sup>186</sup>. Public (General) Department, D.O. No. P. 4-8 dated 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1945, p. 5 (APSAH)

<sup>187</sup>. Public (General) Department, D.O. No. P. 4-24 dated 11<sup>th</sup> January 1946, p. 230 (APSAH)

<sup>188</sup>. A.S. Raman, A Seer's inspiration, Indian Express, Hyderabad, 1<sup>st</sup> September, 1991, p.2

Royalaseema was held in July 1945 at Guntakal and though the economic problems were the main issues, the meeting was reported to have been in favour of office acceptance.<sup>189</sup>

In 1945, a Summer School of Economics and Politics was started by Nivarthi Venkata Subbaiah at Krishnaraopeta, a village in Atmakur Taluk of Kurnool District. In the same year, another Summer School of Economics and Politics was started at Gulladhurthi(a village of Koilakuntla Taluk of Kurnool District) by M. Venkata Subba Reddy.<sup>190</sup> B. Ramasastry organised a Summer School of Politics and Economics for 15 days to train the Congress volunteers in Uppalapadu village in Kadapa District.<sup>191</sup>

The Perception of the Royalaseema leaders, arrests of the Royalaseema leaders Protest meetings of the Students, Damaging Bridges and Culverts, Disrupting the Communication and Transport, Picketing of Toddy and Arrack Shops, Ticketless Travelling, Police Reports on the happenings in Royalaseema, role of Communists in Royalaseema during the Quit India Movement, women participation in this movement and activities of the kisans in Royalaseema were discussed. The next chapter mainly focuses on the impact of the Quit India Movement in Royalaseema.

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<sup>189</sup>. Public (General) Department, D.O. No. p. 4-14, dated 4<sup>th</sup> August, 1945, p. 145 (APSAH)

<sup>190</sup>. Gamago, Vismrutha Karyakartha, Kurnool, 1993, p. 45

<sup>191</sup>.B. Rama Sastry, Kadapa Zillalo Swathanthryodyamamu, Naku Thelesina Kondharu Swathanthrya Yodhulu, Kadapa Zilla Panchayat Raj Rajathotsava Sanchika, Kadapa, 1976, n.p.