CHAPTER-IV

N. Sanjeeva Reddy as President of Indian National Congress 1960-1962
India, our dear motherland, is not only the biggest democracy in the world today, but it has also been the most successful one since it achieved independence.

It is a well-known fact that political parties alone form the government and run the administration in democratic countries which follow the parliamentary system of governance, so that political parties are, as it were, the very life blood of a free, democratic nation. The success of a democracy depends upon the discipline maintained by the political parties that exist in any country. Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy's career in the Congress began in his teens when he gave up his studies and left college to become an officer in the Congress Volunteer Corps. Even as a student, he was prominent for his national activities and work for the youth league.

The year 1960, with a lot of confusion among the national parties, both in respect of their internal relationship and also in their relationship with other parties. The Congress working committee was incapable of solving problems created by factions in the states. There was neither unity nor solidarity in the working committee too. In such a situation Mrs. Gandhi, the then AICC president submitted her resignation. Hence, once more the search for a new Congress President was under way. Moreover, a vigorous and dynamic young man was needed to face the burden some responsibilities of the third general elections scheduled to take place shortly.
Pandit Nehru in his extensive country wide tour in the year 1959, Sri Jawahar Lal Nehru found our Chief Minister Sri N. Sanjeeva Reddy to be fully capable of successfully discharging the responsibilities of presidentialship of the congress as well as the fittest of all to solve the diverse complicated problems of various states during critical period that was ahead of the congress as he was preoccupied with administration and foreign he wanted a suitable man to look after the party.

Nehru’s attention focused on Sanjeeva Reddy and he persuaded him to step down from the state Chief Ministership of Andhra Pradesh as to assume the AICC Presidentship. The High command unanimously proposed the name of Sanjeeva Reddy. Though Reddy was reluctant to assume AICC Presidentship, he was obliged to do so largely because of the forthcoming elections.

Sri Sanjeeva Reddy was a little upset not so much because he had been made the victim of circumstances but because he was abruptly disturbed and thus prevented from executing the various projects and programmes of which he was virtually the author. He spent moments of anguish because he was leaving his state when many of his projects were on the launching pad, but not so much at the loss of his office as chief minister.

Sri Reddy was not bothered about the doubts and misgivings entertained in certain quarters. His loyalty to Pandit Nehru, his mentor, was unquestionable and he never doubted the genuineness of his appeal and the publicly declared
purpose. He bowed to the prime minister’s wishes much against his own feelings and those of his partly legislators. He was greatly concerned about the possible injection of an element of destabilizing spirit in the hitherto calm atmosphere of the state. Moreover, in all humility he felt weighted down by his new mission to operate at national level and live up to the expectations of Jawaharlal Nehru in discharging the onerous responsibilities of the Presidentship of the AICC.

Things proceeded according to plan. Sri Reddy assumed the office of president of the all-India Congress Committee on 14th January, 1960 and presided over the annual open sessions of the Congress, the first one held in Bangalore, the second in Bhavanagar and third at Patna. It was the President of the Indian National Congress who announced the policies and programmes decided upon by the All-India Congress Committee pertaining to national and International matters. The cohesive functioning of the entire heterogeneous party machinery required a symbiotic approach, catalyst’s role and tactful handling.

It was Sri Sanjiva Reddy’s natural humility that made him acceptable to all those dithering wire-pullers. Like –Wise, it was his search for understanding and his readiness to see the point in all differing voices and his abundant commonsense, and sense of equity and fairplay that enabled him to synthesize the conflicting view-points through a process of symbiosis. He has tolerance, impartiality, and an indomitable will and therefore as president of the Congress
he could adopt a detached and philosophical approach to the increasingly complicated, diversified and diametrically contradictory issues.

The job of the Congress President in his time was so stupendous and intricate that it had proved to be the grave yard of many a political reputation in the past. Sri Reddy, however, to the utter surprise of many, proved himself to be an exception. The young president was acclaimed and lauded for his political, diplomatic and organizational capabilities. After assuming the charge of presidency of the A.I.C.C, the very first test Sri Reddy had to face was the Mid-term elections in the troublesome state of Kerala after the dismissal of Sri Namboodriprasad’s Government. In those days the dismissal of the democratically elected Namboodriprasad’s Communist Government made a sensation. It became a great controversy of the time as an early sample of the toppling game of the ruling party at the centre.

The circumstances deserve recounting. It all happened like this. The mid-term elections in the politically enlightened and sensitive Kerala State assumed international importance, since Kerala happened to be the first state in Indian Federal Policy to have gone ‘Red’ in the General Elections of 1957. The Kremlin, though apparently silent, was placidly watching the reactions of the Indian leaders. The western leaders and the press began to view the rising Red Star in India through politically tinted glasses. It was at that juncture that Prime Minister Nehru announced that the verdict of the Kerala electorate would be honoured.
The Namboodriprasad assumed the Chief Minister ship and the whole of India was keenly watching the progressive and somewhat radical policies implemented there. At a time when the people of India were slowly losing their faith in the A.I.C.C. resolutions on the “socialist pattern of society”, the communist government in Kerala was determined to go all out to steal the thunder by implementing their radical measures of land reform etc. The Government was carrying out its well-known policies in all earnestness.

However in piloting the Kerala Education Bill Sri Namboodriprasad’s Government got into trouble. It was toppled by the Congress Government at the centre which cleverly exploited the tidal wave of popular upsurge in Kerala against the ill-fated Bill. It was no secret that Burgula Ramakrishna Rao, the then Governor of Kerala, who had proved himself earlier to be a shrewd politician while he was the Chief Minister of the former Nizam state, played his cards well, under instructions from the Central Government. Perhaps, this was the beginning of a new phenomenon in Indian politics called the toppling game and the game of destabilization.

This toppling game has since become a burning problem affecting the non-congress governments in the states including Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Jammu and Kashmir and West Bengal. The post of the Governor has become a subject of such an acrimonious debate that his or her blatantly partisan role has come in for public censure. “Democracy in danger” has become a popular slogan. Things bad gone to such a head in Mrs. Indira Gandhi’s regime that
several states led by non-congress governments had openly demanded the abolition of the governor’s post and representations to that effect have been made to the Sarkaria Commission. Governors like Sri Ramlal, Sri Jagmohan and Sri Tapase hit the headlines in the newspapers for their style of functioning and the manner in which the popularly elected chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh and Jummu and Kashmir were eased out. Things became worse in the subsequent Period.

The communist Party of India had virulently propagated that it was the Congress Party and not the people of Karala who opposed the bill. The congress party, no doubt, stoked the fires and kindled the Christian and Nair religious sentiments and exploited them to the full without any conscientious qualms. Somehow, the Communists’ propaganda had, to some extent, shaken the people’s faith in the lofty out-look and innocence of Congress leaders and particularly Nehru, who came to be regarded as having played the part of Hamlet in the Indian Political drama with all his dilemmas similar to those of the Prince of Denmark.

It was no longer a secret that the higher-ups in India had felt the pulse of the Kremlin and therefore, the Congress Party decided to use the mid-term elections as the best way to prove to the people in India and outside especially to the Soviet leaders that they had not engineered the mass-upsurge in Karala against the Education Bill and that it was a spontaneous people’s movement. Viewing the matter from such a background, one can estimate the magnitude of
the Congress Party's stakes in the Kerala Mid-term poll in the task of regaining the confidence of the people in India and outside and rehabilitating its moral prestige which had fallen low.

In this political context, one can understand the tremendous responsibility that fell on the shoulders of Sri Reddy, as soon as he put on the thorny crown of President ship of the A.I.C.C. in the Bangalore session as Congress president Sanjiva Reddy personally participated in election campaigns and exhorted to the masses to support the Congress. He appealed to the people of Kerala to unitedly meet the common danger to democracy from the Communist Party and thwart the sinister design of the communist party, to capture power in the states and at the Centre. However, the Congress party along with its alliance emerged victorious. This victor added one more feather to the cap of Reddy. Sanjiva Reddy was so successful in Kerala passed the first test and emerged as the “Victor of Kerala”. Thus had undoubtedly added a few inches to his political stature. As Congress President, he toured extensively taking in his stride sometimes many places in a single day. Often he was on the move round the clock, holding discussions, addressing whistle-stop meetings and every where boosting up the morale of the rank and file of the party. It's peripatetic President infused new life and vigour into the party when it was suffering from disarray and personal bickerings.

By and large, Sri Sanjiva Reddy was a party-fixer and reconciler. Owing to his persistent, constructive and pains-taking efforts as President of
the Indian National Congress, the internal squabbles and conflicts of the Congress Party in Uttar Pradesh, the biggest state in India, were satisfactorily and amicably resolved and no ugly crisis was allowed to develop thereafter. A substantial part of credit for establishing a stable Congress government in Orissa and also for taming the reactionary forces which had raised their ugly heads in the mid-term elections in that state should go to Sri Sanjiva Reddy whose energetic campaigning contributed to the success in the election.

Based on his track record, Sri Reddy was re-elected as President of the Congress at the Bhavnagar A.I.C.C., session in January, 1961. He went into all aspects of the political imbroglio in Assam state and advised the then Union Minister for Home, Govind Ballabh Panth to form a composite Assamese State which would at once bring unity among the assamese-speaking people. He knew that language could be a divider as well as a unifier. This strategy had paved the way for establishing a strong and viable state in the most sensitive and vulnerable North East Frontier. An Integration committee was also constituted for this purpose which, in turn, solved many other problems in other states.

Reddy had no illusions about the influence attached to his new role. As a former Chief Minister, he knew where the power really rested. He knew in advance where he would stand among the top leaders at the centre and he made quite clear his understanding of the position in his first public statement to his
fellow-congressmen in Bangalore. This statement was an excellent summary of the role played by the Congress Presidency in the early 60s.

"I am fully aware that the President ship of the Indian National Congress does not carry the same weight as it did before, during the days of freedom struggle. During those halcyon days the Congress was a dynamic organization, in opposition to the rule of one of the mightiest Empires that the World has ever seen. It was, therefore, manned and led by the best brains in the country and the finest patriots that the country could throw up usually become the President. But after achievements of the Independence, the government has become our own, and hence there has to be a division of all available talent in the country between the organizational wing of the party and its governmental wing. There should be no friction between these two wings, and both of them should function in a spirit of cooperative Endeavour in order to conduce to the best advantage of the nation."  

During 1960-61, factional politics in most of the states continued as usual. Thus it was a difficult task which a young and energetic Sanjiva Reddy was faced with for his country and its foremost political organization. In order to strengthen the party organization he toured from Kanyakumari to Kashmir and made extra-ordinary speeches in which he thrashed everybody in general and that of the communists in particular without any reservations and fear. Even Prime Minister Nehru was not spared from his criticism.
After holding the Congress Presidency for a year in his 66th presidential address at Bhavanagar, he admitted that, until then, “My connections had been mainly with the people of my own state of Andhra and except for occasional visits, I have had no vital contacts with the rest of India. This one year had helped to correct this imbalance and has enabled me to view the local and regional problems from a national stand point and appreciate their significance from a wider range.

There were inner squabbles in the Congress organization. Almost all senior leaders were continuing in their offices. No senior leader preferred to serve the party organization. This led to the weakening of the organization. In order to augment the efficiency of the organization, Reddy made a suggestion that “people who have been in power, say for a period of 10 years, should voluntarily relinquish their office and take up organizational work. Their wisdom backed by a decade of administrative experience should be available for the congress so that they can lead the organization through better channels. There would be an equal distribution of talent between the government and the organization.”

He was discreet enough to add that his suggestion would not tough Nehru for “the wisdom and experience of the prime minister would always be available to us, but the same can not be said other in power”.

Nehru and some other Chief Ministers at that time ignored and scoffed at his suggestion. But in November 1961 quoting Sanjiva Reddy’s plan,
Morarji Desai asked Jivaraj-Mehta, the then Chief Minister of Gujarat to retire from politics. Nehru firmly declared that there was no such rule for forcing ministers to retire. But in the end however Desai was successful. Mehta was finally, ousted from power at the time of the implementation of Kamaraj plan. Nehru did not recognize the importance of Reddy’s plan.

Through Reddy was very particular to implement it he could not do so because of Nehru’s high-handedness in the Congress Organization. But in May 1963 when Nehru faced some threat from some of the Congress leaders he adopted Kamaraj plan as a necessary solution to face the situation at the Centre. It deviates very little from the suggestion made by Sanjiva Reddy.

Sanjiva Reddy had also made two other suggestions, viz., introduction of Zonal Council System and indirect elections. He said one possible solution to the separatist tendencies would perhaps be to activities the five zonal councils that were functioning in the country. These zonal councils at the moment were merely advisory bodies and no-doubt they were doing good in bringing together people from various parts of the zones. So that they could discuss problems of common interest. But the main reason why the zonal councils were not effective to-day was that they were merely advisory bodies and had no sufficient authority to implement them. Decisions taken at Delhi might not take fully into account all the local needs of national importance.6

It was obvious, therefore that a via media establishment was needed to decide the problems at an intermediary level. The composition of zonal
councils might be extended allowing for further representation of all interests. But their decisions, after a full discussion of all available matter must be accepted by all the participants. If therefore these zonal councils were clothed with necessary statutory powers and made them live institutions by creating administrative and power to take decisions by creating administrative and legislative, machinery for this, the might perhaps provide solution for the present fissiparous tendencies in the country.

Regarding the second suggestion he opined, that the system of indirect election would reduce the cost of elections. As a practical politician he expressed that each village could elect a representative to form an electoral college to elect representatives to parliament and legislatures.7

Sanjiva Reddy in his presidential address further expressed his feelings towards secularism. He followed Dr. Radhakrishnan’s view of reality to the conception of a secular state. He said “our Government should be a secular one while our culture is rooted in spiritual values. Secularism does not mean irreligion or atheism or even stress on material comforts. It proclaims that it lays stress on the universality of spiritual values, emphasizing the unity of religious experiences despite all doctrinal difference.”8

His two years tenure as Congress Chief was highly successful, inspite of numerous difficult problems. It will be no exaggeration to assert that Dr. Sanjiva Reddy saved the Congress Party from many difficulties which threatened its very existence as the premier political organization of the
Republic of India. His initiative, drive and organizational ability completely belied the sceptics and the pessimists who apprehended that the Congress would soon cease to be the party in power in many States.

All this shows the political insight and forethought with which Sanjiva Reddy had worked in the party organization. During the time of Nehru the Congress Presidentship in its functioning became no more than "a glorified office boy of the Congress Central Government headed by the Prime Minister". Congress Party was returned to power with comfortable majorities in every state, and won an overwhelming majority in the Parliament. No future political historian can ever fail to assert that Dr. Sanjiva Reddy's tenure of office as President of the Congress was both momentous and most successful within the last decade.

What adds to his glory was that Dr. Sanjiva Reddy was chosen for Congress Presidentship by Sri Jawaharlal Nehru himself, and his choice was more than justified.

Despite such a success and topmost party position, Sri Sanjiva Reddy stepped down responding to the call of the people of Andhra Pradesh and became Chief Minister once again solely in the interests of his people. As President of the Indian National Congress, he became a world figure and acquired for himself a status as high and important as that of the Chairman of the Labour and Conservative Parties in the United Kingdom and that of the heads of various political parties in the United States of America and other free
European countries. His speeches and his work always found a place in the world press. To give up such an eminent place in world affairs is an act of self-abnegation, but Dr. N. Sanjiva Reddy has always been renowned for his selflessness.10

SANJIVA REDDY AS CENTRAL MINISTER 1964-1967

Pandit Javaharlal Nehru died on 27th May 1964. With his death an era has ended in Indian political history. There were so many expected and unexpected events happened. There was lot of vacuum which was filled by time. Kamaraja Nadar, S.K. Patil, Sanjiva Reddy, Nijalingappa, and Atulya Ghosh to take political reign in to their hands. This group was known as SYNDICATE which was responsible to make Lal Bahadur Shastry the prime minister.11 Sanjiva Reddy played a key role along with Kamaraj in making Shastry as prime minister of India.

Nehru’s death resulted in a turning point in the political career of Sri Sanjiva Reddy who was then cooling his heels in his native village, Illur, after tendering his resignation as Chief Minister in the first quarter of 1964 following the Supreme Court verdict in the Bus Routs ’Nationalization case. Having already made a mark at the National level as President of All India Congress Committee, Sri Reddy played an equally important role along with Kamaraj Nadar in evolving the new concept of ‘Consensus’ which made the succession to the Prime Minister ship an easy and smooth affair resulting in Sri Lal Bahadur Shastry’s emergence as the second Prime Minister. The rival
candidate was Sri Morarji Desai. On Shastry’s invitation, Sri Reddy joined the Union Cabinet with the Iron and Steel portfolio.

Sri Lal Bahadur Shastry’s period was short but packed with important events. There was great promise of a revival of our ancient culture and ethical standards in administration during his period. He lived a simple and saintly life, Unlike Nehru; he was not committed to any dogmas and doctrines or ideologies. He was pragmatic. His socialism was more Gandhian than Marxist. It was a happy coincidence that he shared Gandhi’s birthday, born as he was on the 2nd of October, 1904 that he was competent and quick in decision making was amply proved by his handling of the Indo-Pakistan conflict which ended in victory for India. He gave to the nation the inspiring slogan ‘Jai Jawan and Jai Kisan’. After signing the Tashkent peace Declaration on 10th January, 1966, he suddenly died of heart attack. To day we have ‘Vijay Ghat’ in the vicinity of ‘Raj Ghat’. And ‘Shanti Van’ (graves of Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru). Graves of great men are the gathering places of nations as a poet has said. His prime Minister ship lasted barely 18 months. But it left behind a lingering fragrance. His life was brief candle turn at both sides and in the middle.

Sri Reddy was instrumental, in his new capacity, for the constitution of an Anglo- American Consortium to select the site and the location for establishing and erecting a steel plant in South India. The consortium finally selected Visakapatnam (Vizag) to be the port-based steel plant. By the time the
consortium report was released and some tangible action could be taken, Pakistan committed aggression on India on 5th of September, 1965 and this tragic war caused the shelving of many new projects including the Vizag steel plant.

Besides this external intervention Contributing to the shelving of the steel plant issue, an impression was somehow allowed to grow more in the lobbies by the gossip-mongers backed by certain vested interests to the effect that Mr.Gulzarilal Nanda, then Home Minister and Prime minister Shastri began to entertain second thoughts because of the so-called intriguing role of the iron and Steel Minister Dr.Reddy during his three-day stay in London, in connection with his foreign tour when the Anglo American Consortium was preparing its report in London at that time.

All these doubts arose from the fact that the harbour-based steel plant, envisaged by the Consortium, happened to be in the home state of the Steel Minister. These doubts and rumours gathered currency especially on account of the pressing demands from the Madras and Karnataka states. Perhaps these doubts could not have arisen at all, had Sri Reddy, like his predecessors in the Union Cabinet T.T. Krishnamachary and C.Subramanyam from Madras State and others from other states, done it straight away instead of resorting to the administrative process of constituting an Anglo-American Consortium and all that.
One must try to understand the peculiar qualities and complexes of Andhra Ministers arising from their broad outlook and hyper sensitivity. Even when they have to take a decision on merits favouring their state, they attach undue importance to the possible reactions and repercussions of their moves. As such they have often failed to nurse their constituencies and sometimes they even went to the extent of sacrificing the interests of their own State, which eventually led to their rejection by the neglected electorate when the General Elections came. Lack of assertion has always been a lamentable factor among the Telugu people at the level of national politics. Vacillation led to inaction. Another ugly thing about some of them was to indulge in belittling and slandering tactics and slinging mud at their own leaders and colleagues, on account of groupism, casteism and above all jealousy and mutual bickerings. Although such tendencies were sometimes noticed among the people of the other states, they have a higher visibility in Andhra Pradesh.

**Unexpected and Important Events Happened**

Lal Bahadur Shastri ruled this country by convincing all in his own way. At this time Sri Lal Bahadur’s sudden and untimely demise at Tashkent in 1966 January 11\(^{th}\) at the peak of his popularity again brought the dark clouds looming over the political horizon of New Delhi. Once again, Sri Reddy along with Kamaraj Nadar, S.K.Patil, Atulya Ghosh and Nijalingappa played a decisive role in solving the issue of Prime Minister-ship and in the process Smt. Indira Gandhi, who was regarded as a vote-catching personality and the most
widely accepted candidate, was chosen as Prime Minster on 19\textsuperscript{th} January, 1966. The five leaders popularly known as the ‘Syndicate’ were not actuated by altruistic motives in supporting Smt. Indira Gandhi. Here Sanjiva Reddy played a key role along with Kamaraj. At that time it was a right decision also. This syndicate group practically wanted and desired to rule this vast country by keeping Mrs. Indira Gandhi on chair. They had calculated that Morarji Desai with his reputation as a strong man would prove a hard nut for them to crack and that Mrs. Gandhi being the least controversial person at the moment, would toe their line and play to their tune. These calculations were upset and these men were thoroughly disillusioned later on for underestimating the political skill and self-assertion of Mrs. Gandhi. Later events proved that their calculations were quite wrong.

Sri Reddy was inducted as a Cabinet Minister in Indira Gandhi’s Ministry with the Ports, Shipping and Civil Aviation Portfolio, in which capacity he played a crucial role in exposing Dharma Teja’s notorious squandering-away of public money in the Shipping Corporation and his evasion of taxes to the tune of several crores of rupees. Sri Reddy firmly put down the strike of the Air India and Indian Air Lines employees.

In the Central Party hierarchy, Sri Reddy was a member of the Parliamentary Board and of the Working Committee of the Congress Party by virtue of his having presided over the A.I.C.C. as its president.
The Fourth General Elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies were round the corner in February, 1967, for the first time without Pandit Nehru’s charismatic and electric presence. Already symptoms of a split were slowly emerging in the Congress party. The devaluation of the rupee (on the reported pressure of the World Bank) by Mrs. Gandhi on the advice of her Kitchen Cabinet consisting of Messers. Ashok Mehta, Chowdury and Subramanyam without consulting her other colleagues and Kamaraj Nadar, then, A.I.C.C. President, was considered to be the first shot, fired by Mrs. Gandhi at the so-called Syndicate within the party. Being seasoned and hard-boiled politicians, the Syndicate Group, of which Sri Reddy was considered to be a key-figure, took Mrs. Gandhi’s act of devaluation of the rupee in their stride without displaying any undue perturbance, giving a long rope to her and hoping that she would devalue herself after the coming General Elections.

They presented a low profile in view of Mrs. Gandhi’s personal popularity. She being Nehru’s daughter, her presence in the electioneering was considered as a vote-catching device especially in the absence of Nehru with his usual charisma. Further, the disillusionment among the public over the efficacy of the A.I.C.C.’s economic resolutions and the growing popularity of regional parties like the D.M.K. which flourished with the support of Rajaji in Madras state, Sant Fathe Singh’s Akali Dal in the Punjab (and Haryana), the
Marxist Community Party in West Bengal and C.P.I. in Kerala, were bitter realities no to be pooh-poohed.

Understandably the Syndicate Group within the Congress decided to give the impression of unity to the public and other parties to avoid direct confrontation with Mrs. Gandhi at that crucial time. However, they were determined to see that their nominees got the majority of party tickets both in the centre and the States, perhaps to cut Mrs. Gandhi to size, if not to eliminate her politically. To achieve that objective, almost all the Syndicate leaders found their way into the Congress Election Screening Committee. Therefore, Mrs. Gandhi’s recommendation of party tickets to certain prominent figures like V.K. Krishna Menon from one of the constituencies in Bombay and Burgula Ramakrishna Rao from Secunderabad constituency was turned down by S.K. Patil and Sri Reddy.

Whatever may be the political realities, the rejection of Mrs. Gandhi’s plea in favour of the two stalwarts by Sri Patil and Sri Reddy was perhaps, looked upon as the first act which brought down their own standing in their home states in particular and in the country in general. Mrs. Gandhi who already became adept in manipulative politics, slowly but successfully began to wean Sri Kasu Brahmananda Reddy, the protégée of Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy and Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh from his mentor. She succeeded in her efforts. It was the time-tested policy of divide-and-rule. Sri Reddy was made to feel the gradual erosion of his base in his own home state. As a
counter to this development, Sri Reddy and Sri Damodaram Sanjeevaiah, once arch rivals, came to a tentative understanding in the distribution of party tickets for the Andhra Pradesh State Legislature Elections. Necessity makes strange bed fellows. Sometimes rivals are bound together solely by the attraction between hostile poles or mutual advantage.

Perhaps, one may have to infer from the above chronological developments and the march of events that Sri Reddy's image as the unchallenged and supreme leader of Andhra Pradesh began to be weakened for the first time. There had always been ebb and tide in politics. Sri Reddy's fortunes were on the decline.14

Thus, in sharp contract to the 1962 General Elections, the 1967 General Elections proved to be a bane for Sri Reddy especially in his own home state. From then onwards, his image suffered a temporary eclipse in the eyes of many, rightly or wrongly, and it dipped from national level to state level. It was partly due to the machinations and rank ingratitude of the local and district Congress leaders who earlier basked in the sunshine of his patronage. The extent of the betrayal of his erstwhile disciples could be gauged by the fact that Sri Reddy's arrivals and departures in his state and even in his native district did not attract much attention. Media men seldom take notice of the leaders who are in the political wilderness. Their cameras zoom on those who glitter on the seats of power. That is the way of the world. Sri Sanjiva Reddy came and went. The cup of his political isolation was almost full.
Students of political science know that such reverses are not uncommon in the political game. Like the ebb and flow of the sea, rise and fall are relevant to the political scenario. The wise look upon them with equanimity. However, the golden principle in politics is that no practicing politician can be written off. Time will resurrect him. Like the proverbial phoenix he will rise from the political grave once again at an unpredictable future date. There is no ‘retirement’ but only a ‘retyrement’ or ‘reincarnation’ for a politician. But he is prone to forget the past and ignore the future. The past is a cancelled cheque. The future is a promissory note. The present is hard cash.

In the next election held in 1967 Sri Reddy successfully contested from the Hindupur Parliamentary constituency in his native Anantapur district and returned once again to the national political scene. In the rough and tumble of politics the practitioner alternates between rewards and reverses. To the satisfaction of his friends and surprise of his adversaries, Sri Sanjiva Reddy made a quick recovery. He climbed back to position 15.