CHAPTER - III

KOTLA VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY
LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS
Kotla Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy is one of the promising political leaders produced by Kurnool district in Andhra Pradesh. He hails from a family background of agriculturist and village administrators and who earned and established a reputation and image of their own. Though politics is not the main-background of his family but however politics became the main profession to Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy in his life time.

Tarasani Krishna Reddy the Grand father of Kotla Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy of Kallapari village in Kurnool district married Kotla Achamma, and settled with his father-in-law at Laddagiri of Kurnool district. As Achamma was only the daughter of her
parents Krishna Reddy was brought under Illarikam which was a conventional method generally followed in Andhra Pradesh. As a result Krishna Reddy ultimately became the sole heir of kotla family.¹

Krishna Reddy had four sons and three daughters namely Pedda Thimmamma, Pedda Nagi Reddy, Chinna Thimmamma, Chinna Nagi Reddy, Pedda Subba Reddy, Chinna Subba Reddy, Seshamma as shown in Table 3-1.

The eldest son of Krishna Reddy was Pedda Nagi Reddy who really brought fame to the Kotla family. He studied upto 5th Class under the care of a private tutor in the neighbouring village Anugonda. After his elementary education he was engaged in the family works and agriculture. As he was grownup his family assets and status also developed. Gradually he entered in the Social Service. For the first time he became the village Munsif of Laddagiri. He was much interested in the welfare of the local people. Pedda Nagi Reddy also worked as an Assessor in the District Judge Court for some time in Kurnool. He was also elected as the member of Kurnool Taluk Board by defeating
Laxmi Reddy a lawyer of Yerra Doddi in 1932. He was having close contacts with the political leaders and carried the family to the level of political fame which was later recognised as one of the families of political leaders.

The family of Pedda Nagi Reddy was a joint family of four brothers and three sisters. They never quarrel. This family was known for its discipline. It was their generosity and hospitality which brought fame to the family. The practice of 'Anna Dana' (offer diet to incumbents) which is even to-day being praised by the old generation and the contemporaries of Pedda Nagi Reddy and also the present generation.²

It was Pedda Nagi Reddy who was responsible to change their Surname from Tarasani to Kotla on the background that the property which they possessed was of "Kotla" (Crores) value and since then their name was popularised as 'KOTLA'. On the spiritual side they worshipped Srisaila Mallikarjuna Swamy, Venkata-giri Giddy Anjaneya Swamy and Ramadas who got settled in Laddagiri and who was treated as a God.³
Kotla Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy is the only son of noted Pedda Nagi Reddy. He was born on August 16, 1920 at Laddigiri in Kodumur Mandal of Kurnool District. His primary education was held at his native village Laddagiri.

He completed his High School education from Municipal High School and Coles Memorial High School, Kurnool in 1938. During his High School education he used to exhibit more interest in playing games than in education. Then he joined in Besant Theosophical College (known as B.T. College) Madanapalli in the same year for his pre-university course. He later joined in Bachelor of Arts in 1942 and was studied till 1944. He was selected as best student while he was a student of Bachelor of Arts. While he was a college student at Madanapalli, he was also acted as captain of Hockey team of Madanapalli College for twice. From his College days he used to show interest in politics and participate in student politics. As part of his political interest he worked as President of Students Congress of Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh while
he was in graduation. He was drawn into the freedom struggle of our country since his student days. He led the students agitation in 1942 at Madanapalli in the composite Madras State and participated in "Quit India Movement" for the independence of our country. Responding to the call of Mahatma Gandhi, he organised protest demonstrations and again and was brutally Lathi-charged on several while leading a procession and he was in the State of unconscious for few days and recovered only after months of hospitalisation.\(^4\)

Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy completed Bachelor of Law from Madras Law College, Madras during 1945-47. During this period also he actively participated in independence movement. He was one of the founder member of Madras Students' Congress. After completion of his Law Graduation he was continued to remain in Law profession. As part of this he started practice at Madras as junior under Alladi Kuppu Swamy till 1953 in Madras High Court. After the formation of Andhra from the composite Madras State he shifted
his practice from Madras to Kurnool. At Kurnool he practiced under Y. Bali Reddy and Rama Krishna Shastry. During his practice he had bitter experience in his practice and on the other side was busy in analysing the political situation in the state.\(^5\)

When he was doing practice he tried for seat to contest on behalf of Congress Party but that was in vain due to the interference of stalwarts in the district. In 1954, he was elected to Andhra Congress Committee. In 1955 Andhra Assembly Elections he contested from Yemmiganur double constituency as general candidate and Damodaram Sanjeevaiah was the reserved candidate. Both contested on behalf of Congress Party. Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy having been elected, creating in prestigious election, defeating with a big margin of over 25 thousand votes, Mudumala Sankara Reddy a veteran freedom fighter and a leading political personality in the State from the district. Damodaram Sanjeevaiah also had been elected and got 34,445 votes.\(^6\)

On the basis of one from each district in the ministry, the senior man Damodaram Sanjeevaiah got
On December 23, 1959 Kotla unanimously elected as first Zilla Parishad Chairman of Kurnool district and remained in the seat till January 27, 1962. Then he resigned for Chairmanship when he was defeated by Veerabhadra Goud in 1962 in Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly elections from Yemmiganur constituency in Kurnool district. The then existing practice was that the Chairman of Zilla Parishad must be either a Samithi President or Member of Legislative Assembly. In the light of his defeat he immediately resigned for the Chairmanship. In 1958, he was elected as member of All India Congress Committee and continue till today. He was elected as Member, Public Accounts Committee of Andhra Pradesh from 1955 to 1962 and was also the Chairman of Public Accounts Committee of Andhra Pradesh during 1961-62.

In 1964 he unanimously elected as Samithi President of Kodumur and was again unanimously elected
as Chairman of Zilla Parishad on September 11, 1964 and remained in the position till May 9, 1967. Thus he enjoyed in the position of Zilla Parishad Chairman nearly about 57 months. During his term he gave priority to Primary and Secondary Education. Ninety per cent of the villages in the district got primary schools and sixty per cent Secondary schools opened and several schools were upgraded. Several Schemes of drinking water, irrigation tanks and Roads to villages were taken up during his tenure as Chairman of Zilla Parishad, Kurnool.

Kotla is a pragmatic visionary wedded to the cause of his electorate he realised that his district was a drought prone one and also backward and the situation could be redeemed by providing alternative employment opportunities to achieve reasonable economic development. Towards this objective, he established a chain of educational institutions throughout the district and diverted the educated youth successfully for seeking employment outside the district. With his inherent wisdom as a "KISAN" and a genuine concern for
the down trodden, he ceaselessly struggled for their upliftment. The numerous developmental works in Kurnool district bear testimony to his untiring efforts.  

He was a member of Legislative Council from 1967 to 1972. For the first time he was inducted in the Andhra Pradesh Ministry of Kasu Brahmananda Reddy as State Minister of Co-operation on March 6, 1967 and continued as Minister till July 18, 1971. He was incharge of co-operation, Ayacut development and Finance Ministries.

He made a mark as an effective speaker and an able administrator and was inducted in Andhra Pradesh Cabinet. With his devotion and Zeal for party work he soon made his presence felt. He made a tremendous impact as a Finance Minister and rose to be the number two in the Cabinet. When he was the Ayacut Development Minister he created a world record in water utilisation.

Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy became the Chairman of the State Chamber of Zilla Parishads and also the
President of Andhra Pradesh Co-operative Marketing Federation from 1960 to 1967. During his tenure, he introduced a number of innovative schemes. He was the moving force behind the co-operative movement in Andhra Pradesh.

He was elected as the Member of the VI Lok Sabha from Kurnool Parliamentary Constituency in 1977 and again in 1980 Parliamentary Elections he was elected with a majority of over two lakh votes, which speaks volume of his popularity in his constituency.

When Andhra Pradesh was simmering with discontent over the rule of ineffective Chief Ministers, Public opinion crystallised unanimously in favour of his leadership and the Prime Minister ordained him to lead the State. He took over the charge of Chief Minister for the first time in September 1982, when the management of party affairs and the Government were at its lowest ebb. But too short was his tenure, his successful impact could only salvage the party to a respectable return at the polls, when the cyclonic storm of regionalism and parochialism swept Andhra
Pradesh. Even during its critical period for the Congress Party in Andhra Pradesh, which otherwise remained all along an impregnable bastion while it was violently rocked in the rest of the country, Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy managed to win a majority of the Assembly seats for the Congress (I) in his native district of Kurnool. Such were his organisational abilities and popularity among the masses. He was inducted into union cabinet on January 29, 1983 with the portfolio of Shipping and Transport.  

In 1989 Parliamentary Elections, he elected for IX Lok Sabha from Kurnool by defeating Telugu Desam rival E.Ayyapu Reddy by a margin of 1,10,418 votes. He was also member of the political affairs committee of Congress Legislature party. In X Lok Sabha Election in 1991 when IX Parliament dissolved, he was elected again to the Parliament. He was placed in the Cabinet as Minister for Law, Justice and Company Affairs.  

Due to resignation of N.Janardhana Reddy, due to count verdict of sanction of 24 Dental and
Medical Colleges as Chief Minister. The Congress (I) President had asked the Union Minister K. Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy to look after the State politics. Thus he became unanimously elected as Congress Legislature Party leader and he was sworn in as 13th Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh on October 9, 1992, for the second time he assumed office of the Chief Minister. He also faced constitutional obligation of electing as member to the house of Assembly. His election became problematic. Finally he was elected from Panyam Assembly Constituency on April 13, 1993 over his Telugu Desam Party rival Renuka Chowdary. Thus he retained his office of Chief Minister through his successful election.¹¹

Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy with an imposing personality and a resonant voice, is known for his qualities of head and heart. He has an incisive mind and clear perception and is totally dedicated to high ideals. He is a man of swift action and has a cool temperament and is unnerved even under trying circumstances. He is brief to the point but very decisive. As a keen sportsman, he is a natural leader who commands the respect of one and all.
# TABLE 3.1
## KOTLA FAMILY ORDER

### 1) KOTLA KRISHNA REDDY AND ACHAMMA:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sons</th>
<th>Daughters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Pedda Nagi Reddy</td>
<td>1. Pedda Thimmamma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Chinna Nagi Reddy</td>
<td>2. Chinna Thimmamma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Chinna Subba Reddy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2) KOTLA PEDDA NAGIREDDY AND VENKAMMA:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Son</th>
<th>Daughters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy</td>
<td>1. Ratnamma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Anantamma</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3) KOTLA VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY AND SYAMALAMMA:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sons</th>
<th>Daughters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. K. Jaya Surya Prakashreddy, (Rajarami Reddy)</td>
<td>1. Vasanthi (Chinnaswamy Gowda)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. K.Ramesh Reddy</td>
<td>2. Indumathi (Syam Prasad Reddy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Varalaxmi (Rajarami Reddy)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 4) KOTLA JAYASURYA PRAKASH REDDY AND SUJATHA:

| 1. K. Raghavendra Reddy                 | 1. Nivedita                                      |

### 5) K. RAMESH REDDY AND LAXMI:

| 1. Harshini (Only daughter)            |                                                   |
II) KOTLA CHINNA NAGI REDDY AND VENKAMMA:

Sons
1. Hari Sarvothama Reddy
2. Rajeswara Reddy
3. Venugopal Reddy
4. Kodanda Rami Reddy
   B.A.(Horn) B.L.EXM.P.
5. Venkata Krishna Reddy

RAJESWARA REDDY AND VENKATARAMAMMA:

Sons
1. Nageswara Reddy, B.A.
2. Srinath Reddy, V.A.O.

Daughters
1. Nirmala
2. Venkateswaramma

NAGESWARA REDDY AND SATYAVATHI (No Children)

SRINATH REDDY AND KUMUDVATHI:

Sons
1. Kshmendra Reddy
2. Vidunandan Reddy

YUGANDHAR REDDY AND VISHALA:

Sons
1. Rajesh Reddy
2. Naresh Reddy
3. **VENUGOPAL REDDY AND SUSILAMMA** (No Children)

4. **KODANDA RAMI REDDY AND CHANDRAKALAVATHI**:  
   **Sons**  
   1. Venkateswara Reddy  
      B.E.,
   2. Harshavardhan Reddy  
      (B.L.)  
   **Daughters**  
   1. Sridevi
   2. Urmila

5. **VENKATA KRISHNA REDDY AND THIMMAMMA**:  
   **Sons**  
   1. Giridhar Reddy  
      (B.E.)
   **Daughters**  
   1. Anuradha  
      B.A.
   2. Mythili  
      M.Sc.

III. **PEDDASUBBA REDDY AND JANAMMA**:  
   1. Saraswathamma (only daughter)

IV. **CHINNA SUBBA REDDY AND JAYAMMA**:  
   **Son**  
   1. Madhusudan Reddy
   **Daughter**  
   1. Sarojamma

V. **MADHUSUDAN REDDY AND SATYAVATHAMMA**:  
   **Sons**  
   1. Vamsidhar Reddy
   2. Ravindranath Reddy  
   **Daughters**  
   1. Sri Vardhini
   2. Subashini
REFERENCES:


6. Ibid.


8. Venkata Rao, M., Our Glorious Tributes, (General Secretary, All India Telephone Traffic Employ-
