

THE PARVATIPURAM CASE

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On 16. 1. 1970 a First Information Report (FIR) was registered in the Parvatipuram taluk Police Station in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh. The names of 148 persons were mentioned in this report among others, stating that the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) popularly known as Naxalites, decided to bring about revolution through violence and that some of the most important people like Vempatapu Satyanarayana, Chowdary Tejeswara Rao and others, at the incitement of Charu Majumdar, Kanu Sanyal and Sushital Roy Chowdhury met at Boddapadu village in Srikakulam district in or about October 1968, and conspired to commit dacoities, murder landlords, attack the police and other governmental officials to overthrow the Government. The charge-sheet mentioned as many as 30 murders, 100 dacoities and about 200 other offences committed by the accused till 26. 10. 1970, i.e. the date on which it was filed.

The Government did not stop with filing the chargesheet alone. Instead of producing the arrested in a court of law, it shot down Comrades Vempatapu Satyanarayana, Adibhatla Kailasam, Pondala Balakrishna, an engineering college lecturer,

Rameshchandra Saho, Dr Devineni Mallikharjunadu, Dr Changanthi Bhaskara Rao, Subba Rao Panigrahi, Panchadi Krishnamurthy and his wife Panchadi Nirmala, Thamada Ganapati, Arika Somulu, Rajaram Reddy and many others. At last a chargesheet was filed on 26. 10. 1970 against 140 people among whom were Chowdary Tejeswara Rao, Kanu Sanyal, Souren Bosu and others. The prosecution has cited 1,024 witnesses on its side and thousands of pages of documents and other materials.

The Government played all sorts of tricks to delay the trial and to a great extent it succeeded. The trial began on 14. 11. 1974, 58 months after the FIR was filed, when the charges were framed against the accused in the Additional Sessions Court of Visakhapatnam. The charges against Comrade Tejeswara Rao and 74 other accused were conspiracy to overthrow the Government, collection of arms and ammunition, preaching of violence, waging war against the Government and committing of murders, dacoities etc. under various sections of the Indian Penal Code.

The examination of the prosecution witnesses began on 20. 11. 1974 and till 26. 11. 1974, three approvers have been examined. With all the past experience and delaying tactics of the Government, nobody can say how many months and years it will take to complete the examination of all the 1,024 prosecution witnesses.

A committee under the presidentship of Sri Tarimala Nagi Reddy, a veteran revolutionary, is looking after the defence arrangements in this conspiracy case as well as many other cases in Andhra Pradesh, particularly in the Agency areas of Srikakulam district, now pending from the committal stage to the High Court and Supreme Court. This Committee is arranging legal defence for all those who want and accept its defence arrangements. It has engaged Sri S. V. L. Narasimham, an experienced and veteran advocate of Guntur town, and Sri K. Ramakrishna Reddy, advocate of Anantapur town. They are defending comrades Tejeswara Rao, Kanu Sanyal, Souren Bosu,

Chowdhury Sampoolnamma, tribal leaders like Govindarao Yendudora, Nimmala Krishna Murty and 28 other accused, mostly peasants and tribal comrades. Others have engaged their own advocates. A few have boycotted the court.

The Parvatipuram case has acquired a unique position in the annals of the revolutionary movement and the judicial system in the country, as it involves top-ranking leaders of the Naxalite movement and a very large number of witnesses. It is said to be the biggest case ever of this nature in South Asia.

December 28, 1974