

Comrade Sampath Rao – A Dynamic Leader

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When I got the invitation to attend the Reception to Comrade J. Sampath Rao on retirement from service at Warangal on 4th September 2011, I could not believe that he has completed 60 years and is retiring on 31st August 2011. It looked incredible. He looked so dynamic, young and full of energy.

Anybody who has been in contact with Sampath Rao would have experienced the intimacy with which he treats everybody as also his genuine concerns for the problems of others. Behind his somewhat stern exterior lies a soft person for his friends and comrades. During the tours with him in Andhra Pradesh I have seen the close contact which he got from all. I feel that he knows each and every one of our members in A.P. personally.

Com.Sampath Rao is our Circle Secretary since 1992. He was the Asst. Circle Secretary of A.P.Circle at the time of Bhopal Conference in October 1991 in which myself and Com. Moni Bose were elected as the President and General Secretary of the All India Telecom Employees Union Class III respectively defeating O.P.Gupta & team decisively.

In the next Circle Conference held at Eluru, West Godavari, comrade Sampath Rao was elected as Circle Secretary of AITEU Class III in a stiff contest with Comrade Madhusudan Rao, who was the then Circle Secretary. Comrade Moni Bose and I were present in that Conference. There was a victory procession by the delegates in the town which still I remember. The workers hailed him as 'Andhra Tiger' which still holds good.

When CHQ was in doubt where to conduct the National Convention to form the BSNL Employees Union, Comrade Sampath Rao took the responsibility to conduct the same at Visakhapatnam. The National

Convention, which was treated as the first conference of BSNLEU, was held on 21-22 March 2001 attended by thousands of workers from all the unions which merged with the BSNL Employees Union. Sampath Rao and the comrades at Visakhapatnam made excellent arrangements for the successful conduct of the conference at a very short notice.

The dynamic leadership of Comrade Sampath Rao and his method of taking all with him has made the A.P. Circle the biggest circle of BSNLEU. The Sampath Rao-Asokababu team has an excellent record of effective functioning. The car donated by A.P.Circle under his leadership was a great help to CHQ. The same car is still being used even after 8 – 9 years.

Comrade Sampath Rao's home at Warrangal is the office of the union also. Every time I had gone there I have seen a lot of the BSNL comrades coming and going and discussing with him on important matters. His wife and children were part of the functioning of the union, all of them attending the meetings and conferences.

A.P. is one of the circles, where regular trade union classes are held to increase the consciousness of the workers. The circle journal is regularly published. At the membership verification period Sampath Rao is in a non-stop tour of all the divisions in his vehicle with some senior comrades. He even made audio-songs and used them effectively.

If I go with my association and important incidents in which he is also connected, it will go on for pages after pages. Com. Sampath Rao has already retired from service on 31st August 2011. But his leadership and connection with the union will last forever. There is no doubt about that.

At this time of his retirement from service, I wish him all the best in life and also a long life to serve the BSNL workers and the common people.

VAN. Namboodiri