

TRANSCRIPTION SUMMARIES- PHASE –I &II

(15) N.PRASADA RAO (Andhra President) CITU.

I am not sure of my birth date; you may take it that I am around 85 years old. My political career began in Congress, and I had participated in the civil disobedience movement. I went to Benares for studies but had to discontinue the studies. I participated in the various kisan movements in the 1930s and 1940s in Godavari district and other places. During the Telegana movement, we neglected the work among the working class, but later on we corrected it.

My TU work mainly began with the formation of CITU. In Andhra Pradesh, the CITU people delayed its formation for a long time, and continued working within the AITUC longer than anywhere else in India. There were sharp debates on this question in Andhra. It was being discussed whether to form a separate CITU, and when to form.

I was relieved of the work on the kisan front and given responsibility for forming the CITU in Andhra. It was a difficult and a big job. I could do it successfully, even though I did not have any previous experience. CITU became a major force in AP.

We formed a separate RTC union, and also unions among the Port and Harbour workers, steel, tobacco, railways, etc. We were already well-entrenched within the AITUC before we came out. We participated in a big way in the 1974 railway strike, as also in several other important movements.

(N.Prasada Rao, even at this age attends office and looks after and guides several TU jobs. He also holds some posts in the CITU.).