

Katha Janardana Rao

A short biographical note on Katha Janardanarao (HMS) interviewed on September 18, 2004 in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh

Katha Janardana Rao was born on 13 October, 1919 in a small town called Peddapuram, thirteen kilometers from Kakinada. His father was in civil services.

Katha studied upto high school in Peddapuram in a Christian Missionary school. At Peddapuram, AITUC was organised in 1937-38, and leaders like Ram Manohar Lohia and Jaya Prakash Narayan visited the town. Katha came in touch with them.

After high school, Katha joined Congress Socialist party as he was influenced by Jaya Prakash Narayana whom he considered direct disciple of Mahatma Gandhi and other socialist leaders in 1939. Katha was a brilliant speaker and hence was taken in the party by the leaders and elected chairman of the state party.

Soon the socialists got away from the Congress and Katha was arrested among others. He remained in jail for a few years and after release organised port workers.

Katha organised various sections of port workers and remains their president even now though he is too old to be active.

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I studied upto high school in Peddapuram in a Christian Missionary school. At Peddapuram, AITUC was organised in 1937-38, and leaders like Ram Manohar Lohia and Jaya Prakash visited the town. I came in touch with them.

After high school, I joined Congress Socialist party as I was influenced by Jaya Prakash Narayana whom I considered direct disciple of Mahatma Gandhi and other socialist leaders in 1939. I used to speak well in public meetings and hence was taken in the party by the leaders and elected chairman of the state party.

Soon the socialists got away from the Congress and I was arrested among others. I remained in jail for a few years and after release organised port workers.

I organised various sections of port workers and still remain their president even now though I am too old to be active.