

G Sanjeev Reddy, President INTUC

A short biographical note on G Sanjeev Reddy, President, INTUC, interviewed on July 19, 2004 in Delhi

G Sanjeev Reddy has been the INTUC president for the longest period of ten years. He believes that INTUC is based on constructive organisational principles and not on political or emotional grounds. For him, trade unions must be free of political influence. Hence, INTUC has only association with the Congress and not direct involvement. Congressmen can become trade unionist as Mr Reddy himself had several times been elected to the Andhra Assembly and was also labour minister in Brahmanand Reddy led ministry in the state from 1965 to 1970.

As labour minister, Mr Reddy had piloted a bill on lines suggested by Gajendra Gadkari, the author of first Labour Commission to abolish the Industrial Tribunal.

There are leaders and workers from other parties as well in INTUC. Subroto Mukherjee from Trinamool Congress, Sachin Ahir from NCP are prominent among them. Likewise many congressmen are in HMS.

Since the INTUC is not under any political compulsion from the Congress, the trade union workers have expressed their discontent over globalisation and privatisation. Sonia Gandhi as Congress president wanted to reform the INTUC but failed as political influence could not restrain the trade union activities.

As Sanjeev Reddy said, INTUC leaders only discuss their problems with the Congress. They do not take guideline from them.

Sanjeev Reddy was born on 18 February, 1930. When he was a student, he had worked on the student labour front organising the municipal workers, hotel workers, Gumashta Sangam and riksha pullers. He took part in anti-Nizam struggle too.

Mr Reddy has launched the idea of Workers' Capital Trust. Wherever the management declares his unit sick, INTUC workers take up the challenge and form a company of workers that runs the unit. There are several units in Surat, Hyderabad and other places where the experiment is being carried out. In Hyderabad, a company owned by Birlas has been taken over by INTUC workers and with fifty percent wage cut the workers are managing the unit. Reddy is in support of taking up electricity distribution in Andhra Pradesh once it is privatised.

Mr Reddy also wants to organise finance for the workers' capital trust from the Provident Fund, Pension and Gratitude. He has submitted a blue print to the government of India for the same.

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It was my idea to launch the Workers' Capital Trust. Wherever the management declares his unit sick, INTUC workers take up the challenge and form a company of workers that runs the unit. There are several units in Surat, Hyderabad and other places where the experiment is being carried out. In Hyderabad, a company owned by Birlas has been taken over by INTUC workers and with fifty percent wage cut the workers are managing the unit. I am in support of taking up electricity distribution in Andhra Pradesh once it is privatised.

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