

## **C Prasad Kumar**

A short biographical note on C Prasad Kumar interviewed at the premises of Andhra Pulp and Paper Mills on September 20, 2004 at Rajamundri, Andhra Pradesh

C Prasad Kumar is a worker in the Andhra Pradesh Pulp and Paper Mills and an active member of the union. It was his father who had migrated from Palghat in Kerala and joined the factory in 1949 as store-in-charge. It was in private hands then.

Prasad was born on May 8, 1953 at Rajamundri. He was educated in Rajamundry upto school final and joined the factory in 1973. The mill was nationalised in 1964. In 1975-76, he was fully absorbed at a salary of Rs 130 per month. By 1977, he became permanent with a salary of Rs 330 per month.

In 1979, Prasad and other members of the AITUC union in the factory launched a struggle. Prabhakar Chaudhry was the union president then. Since then, every three year, there is a new agreement with salary hike. Now Prasad is getting a salary of Rs 6000.

Prasad was drawn to the organised movement since his student days when he was involved with All India Student Federation led by Stanley, son of Prabhakar Chaudhry. Govind Rao was another active leader in the Federation and all three led the union in Paper Mills too.

Prasad and his comrades in the stock preparation department where he worked got organised by Stanley, Govind Rao and Prasad in 1976. The unity was based on the departmental solidarity where all the workers from all the unions joined. It was an experiment launched by these three young trade unionists to unite the workers. The officially recognised union had to consult each department unit for every decision.

Prasad was soon elected Vice President of the factory union. At present in 2004, he is the organising secretary. His job is look after the needs of the workers. If they face accident, Prasad takes them to the hospital. If they are harassed, Prasad prepares their grievance letter.

Prasad speaks Mayalam, Tamil and Hindi apart from Telugu and hence, is very popular with the workers.

In 1988, the union launched a general strike and all three leaders became very active under the general leadership of Prabhakar Chaudhry. The struggle continued for 88 days and workers refused to join back till their demands were met. Finally before three month could be completed, the strike was over.

Inside the factory, CITU has also come up. The left workers are divided and CITU has started attacking the AITUC activists.

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I am a worker in the Andhra Pradesh Pulp and Paper Mills and an active member of the union. It was my father who had migrated from Palghat in Kerala and joined the factory in 1949 as store-in-charge. It was in private hands then.

I was born on May 8, 1953 at Rajamundri. I was educated in Rajamundry upto school final and joined the factory in 1973. The mill was nationalised in 1964. In 1975-76, I was fully absorbed at a salary of Rs 130 per month. By 1977, I became permanent with a salary of Rs 330 per month.

In 1979, alongwith other members of the AITUC union in the factory, we launched a struggle. Prabhakar Chaudhry was the union president then. Since then, every three year, there is a new agreement with salary hike. Now I am getting a salary of Rs 6000.

I was drawn to the organised movement since my student days when I was involved with All India Student Fedration led by Stanley, son of Prabhakar Chaudhry. Govind Rao was another active leader in the Federation and three of us led the union in Paper Mills too.

My comrades in the stock preparation department where I worked got organised by Stanley, Govind Rao and me in 1976. The unity was based on the departmental solidarity where all the workers from all the unions joined. It was an experiment launched by these three young trade unionists to unite the workers. The officially recognised union had to consult each department unit for every decision.

I was soon elected Vice President of the factory union. At present in 2004, I am organising secretary. My job is to lookafter after the needs of the workers. If they face accident, I take them to the hospital. If they are harassed, I prepares their grievance letter.

I speak Malayalam, Tamil and Hindi apart from Telugu and hence, can communicate easily with the workers.

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