

# Channa Reddy In Telangana Statehood Movement: Initiation, Intervention And Contribution

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## Abstract

The present paper tries to explore some of the repeated accusations and half-truths against the Telangana leader – Dr. Marri Channa Reddy, who led the movement in 1969. It is believed that the leaders started the Telangana Statehood movement as a problem-solving movement against sub-regionalism. Dr. Reddy was a staunch opponent of Andhra's internal colonization. This is not only absurd but also a parody of the truth. This is mainly due to the lack of original documents in an organized campaign for the separate state of Telangana. The print and electronic media reports speak of alarming national integration at the request of the state of Telangana. While national integration can no longer be mere integration, biased politicians and media cannot accept the exclusive right to speak on behalf of the common man. Therefore, an ordinary person needs to understand how effectively the public and leader's participation took place in the country's democratic and political process in articulating their rights and entitlements. And, thus, the initiation, intervention, and contribution of a prominent political leader of Telangana State were discussed in this paper with substantial shreds of evidence.

**Keywords:** Telangana Movement, Regional Imbalances, Statehood Movement, Marri Channa Reddy, Political Leadership

## I. INTRODUCTION

This cruel slander aims to humiliate the leaders of Telangana and strengthen their image so that they do not accept the demands of the Telangana state. Marri Channa Reddy is one of them. He was not only a fearless leader but also known for his erosion and erosion. A few people have told or written about it. Of the sixteen prime ministers who ruled Andhra Pradesh, from Neelam Sanjiva Reddy to N. Kiran Kumar Reddy, Channa Reddy was the only top-notch graduate and no one else. He had an outstanding academic career and finished second on the MBBS final exam. He won gold medals in two disciplines, namely anatomy, and pathology. By nature, he was not only afraid of praise, but also of praise. He excelled not only in class but also on playgrounds. He played hockey and football well. Little is known that he was also an ace in horsemanship.

Channa Reddy played a key role in the ancient Hyderabad politics for which he was sent to the Indian Congression.<sup>1</sup> At least he

communicated with Baba Sahib Ambedkar. Said Dr. Reddy told Parliament that the guiding principles of Part IV of Indian Public Order must be protected so that Part IV does not become Sleeping Beauty. After he became an MP, the late Jawaharlal Nehru gave him the whip of the strongest party in Congress.<sup>2</sup> Incidentally, he was the youngest whip in the Congress party.

As a young man, he might have served as a minister in Hyderabad state. Dr. Reddy and Konda Venkat Ranga Reddy's class against Andhra Pradesh's formation. In 1953 the Indian government established the Fazal Ali State Reorganization Commission. At that time, State Cabinet Minister Dr. Reddy proposed a memorandum to the commission against the idea of creating a larger state for Telugu speakers, with relevant facts and figures. According to him, the state must have the ideal population and resources in order to grow and prosper. The Fazal Ali Commission recommended Telangana State was to operate for the first five years.<sup>3</sup> Later, based on their experience, the elected

members of the Telangana Assembly will decide: to remain as a separate state from Telangana or to merge with the state of Andhra. The Indian government was unable to comply with Faizal Ali's report as the Hyderabad case was pending before the Security Council.

## **2. FAILURE TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF SRC - 1955:**

Shortly after the police action, Nizam sent a UN telegram requesting that the case be withdrawn from Hyderabad. However, the Security Council has not granted this request and raised the question of whether the title of the Indian conquest of Hyderabad should be recognized and claimed. The Hyderabad case was pending at the United Nations until September 2, 1989.<sup>4</sup> The Hyderabad Delegation asked the Security Council for permission to complain about India to the International Court of Justice in The Hague for its military conquest of Hyderabad.<sup>5</sup>

The exiled Hyderabad government in Karachi has asked the United Nations for recognition.<sup>6</sup> If Telangana was selected as a separate state; in 1956 the communists formed a government.<sup>7</sup> The communists have already declared Telangana a liberated area and named it "Indian Manchuria".<sup>8</sup> The government believed that the young state of Telangana would not support activism and would not pave the way for anarchy.<sup>9</sup> America and Russia were at war and the West wanted India's support against communism. Therefore, the Security Council has postponed its review indefinitely.<sup>10</sup> The West did not have full confidence in India, so the Security Council passed Nizam and Moin Nawab Jung's claim against the military conquest of India before the International Court of Justice<sup>11</sup>.

The Telangana torture caused the loss of all mixed groups due to: the Indian government shedding international shame; (The Hyderabad case, before the Security Council, attracted international attention. It was ultimately not rejected until 1989): Communists – Pan Marxism; Brahmin Coast Government Offices; Kammas on land acquisition and wealth accumulation; Rayalaseema Reddy's. To wield political power, the leaders of Telangana become the

leaders of Andhra through the crumbs that fall from the tables. These cloth bearers drew a Telangana coffin with a velvet cloth with the inscription 'linguistic state'.<sup>12</sup>

In Telangana, however, the rivalry between the Brahmins and the Reddy led to the dissolution of the state of Hyderabad and the forced merger of Telangana with the state of Andhra, contrary to all canons of democracy.<sup>13</sup> Andhra leaders grabbed the competition and took control. Vandemataram Ramchander Rao, who lost the election to Channa Reddy in 1967, complained about alleged professional misconduct. Brahmananda Reddy was said to have had secretly directed the District Tax Inspector and Police Commissioner to bring charges against Dr. Reddy.<sup>14</sup> This competition lasted until 2014 so both groups surrendered to the others.

In 1955, the Government of India appointed the First States Reorganization Commission with Justice Fazal Ali as Chairman to recommend the reorganization of States on a linguistic basis. It used to be referred to as the Fazal Ali Commission. At that time, Dr. Reddy being in the State Cabinet submitted a memorandum to the Commission against the idea of the formation of a larger State for Telugu-speaking people with relevant facts and figures. It was his view, that the State should have an ideal population and resources to enable it to grow and become a prosperous state. The Fazal Ali Commission recommended that the Telangana State should function for five years after which, the elected Telangana Assembly Members, based on their experience and would exercise their choice to remain as a separate Telangana State or to merge with erstwhile Andhra State to form Andhra Pradesh. After the Commission's Report, the situation became tense and the Government of India appointed a Three-Man Committee with Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru as Chairman, Moulana Abdul Kalam Azad, and Govind Ballabh Pant as members to look into the problems of the proposed State.

The Telangana and Andhra regions were asked to send three representatives each to present their problems to the Three-Man Committee. Dr. Reddy was one of the representatives along with Chief Minister Sri Burgula Ramakrishna Rao and Kasinath Vaidya from Telangana while the then Andhra Chief Minister Gopal Reddy, Dr. Sanjeeva

Reddy, and Kala Venkata Rao were members from the Andhra region that discussed with the Union Government. The outcome of it was the "Gentlemen Agreement", which was literally drafted by Dr. Reddy himself. However, the agreement was not adhered to and it proved detrimental to the

development of the Telangana region. Then the other important part of the Agreement was the deadline of 12 years, ending in 1968, for the implementation of Mulki Rules to protect the interests of the youth of Telangana in terms of employment. This led to serious unrest among the students in 1968.

### 3. TELANGANA AGITATION AND AFTER - 1968-74

There are several scholars have attributed various reasons to the birth of the Telangana Agitation. It arose because of the feelings of the people of Telangana that the Gentlemen's Agreement which had facilitated the formation of Andhra Pradesh had been violated by the leaders of Andhra Pradesh. To cite an example the Gentlemen's Agreement was violated even before the ink became dry when the first Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh refused to name any Telangana Minister as Deputy Chief Minister. N. Sanjeeva Reddy, the first Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh regarded the post of Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh as an unwanted sixth finger of the hand. Leaders of the Andhra region did nothing to remove the genuine grievances of the people of the Telangana region.

The Telangana Agitation was the result of economic disparities between the Telangana people of the two regions. After the formation of the State, equal attention to developing both the regions of the State was not paid. Telangana, particularly, was neglected in matters of development. The Agitation broke out as a result of regional imbalances and discontent of the people living in backward, underdeveloped, and neglected regions.

The Telangana Agitation began in the first week of January 1969 in Khammam district of Andhra Pradesh by a section of student leaders, in revolt against the Government for its failure to implement the safeguards as outlined in the Gentlemen's Agreement. The students and educated youth deeply felt a sense of frustration at the lack of employment opportunities. The Agitation started by the students spread to the other districts of Telangana. The Influx of people from coastal Andhra into the city of Hyderabad created its own social tensions among the people. Slowly the discontent spread to the Government officials too who got the feeling that they were

neglected and exploited by the domineering officials of the Andhra region and the enterprising people of the Andhra area.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh introduced several economic measures. Since 1965, some of these measures were unpopular. The recruitment, removal of temporary employees, and wholesale retrenchment of junior engineers and supervisors, though resulted in savings to the State's Exchequer, led to unemployment. This was felt severely in the backward Telangana regions. A few people from the Telangana region who after a long wait had just come to take employment offered to them found the posts already occupied by the people from outside Telangana. They were, naturally, disappointed and frustrated. Moreover, the job opportunities created in the Panchayat Raj institutions were given to Andhra personnel even in Telangana post<sup>15</sup>. The reason given for these appointments was that there was no availability of qualified personnel from the Telangana region. These factors contributed very much to the quick spread of the Agitation.

The students began the Agitation with a hunger strike, under the leadership of Mr. Mallikarjun, the General Secretary of Osmania University Students' Union. Initially, the Agitation was for the continuance of the Telangana safeguards provided at the time of the formation of Andhra in 1956, but gradually the Agitation turned to the extreme step of demanding separation of the region from the rest of Andhra Pradesh.

On 10<sup>th</sup> July 1968, the people of Telangana, in order to draw the attention of the Government to their grievances, began to organize protest meetings and observed Telangana Safeguards Day. In a meeting conducted at Hyderabad, Mahadev Singh a

prominent trade union leader cautioned the Government that if it failed to redress the grievances of the Telangana people, the latter might be compelled to demand separation from Andhra Pradesh. In another meeting held at Warangal on 30th November 1968, the slogan for a separate Telangana was raised. In this meeting, a committee was set up which went around the Telangana districts to conduct propaganda for separate Telangana. While one section of the students wanted full implementation of the safeguards, the other section demanded the separation of Telangana

#### 4. THE ALL-PARTY ACCORD

Chief Minister K. Brahmananda Reddy who realized that the agitation could not easily be suppressed, convened a meeting of leaders of all political parties of the State on the 18th and 19th of January 1969<sup>18</sup>. The decisions taken at this meeting were known as the All-Party Accord of January 1969<sup>19</sup>. It was decided in the meeting that all Andhra's appointed to posts reserved for Telangana personnel would be immediately transferred to the Andhra region of the State. Their posts would be filled by qualified candidates from Telangana or left vacant until such candidates were available.

Revenue surplus from Telangana would be fully utilized for the development of the Telangana region and the educational opportunities in the region would be improved. The terms of the agreement were fair enough to satisfy the moderates in Telangana and prevent the agitation from becoming a mass movement. The State Government started to issue orders for the transfer of a non-domicile public employee from Telangana. It seemed that the Government was sincere in implementing the decisions arrived at the all-party meeting. However, an unfortunate incident changed the atmosphere. On 20th January 1969, the police fired on the agitating students at Hyderabad. This incident provoked the students who continued their violent agitation.

On January 22 the agitation became more violent all over Telangana resulting in heavy damage to railways and other public property. To diffuse the burning situation the Government announced that the Andhra personnel in Telangana would be repatriated by 28th February. Despite this assurance, the violence continued unabated. The agitators made it difficult for the Ministers and

from Andhra Pradesh<sup>16</sup>. A student by the name of Ravindra started fast unto death satyagraha in Khammam. The students were supported by many politicians who were not on favorable terms with Chief Minister K. Brahmananda Reddy. The agitating students were joined by the non-gazetted offices of Telangana. Along with them, they threatened to launch direct action if the 6000 Andhras occupying Telangana posts were not returned to Andhra region<sup>17</sup>. Consequently, the agitation began to spread like wildfire and took a violent turn.

legislators to come out of their homes unless they supported separate Telangana. The Andhra's could not tolerate the attitude of the people of the Telangana region. They started a counter agitation. Students in particular went on strike and hartals throughout the Andhra region. In the heat of the situation, violent atrocities were committed in Warangal, Nalgonda, and Karimnagar. Police firings took place in many places. As no solution to the political problem was found, agitation and violence spread all over the Telangana region and a counter agitation began in the Andhra region. The army had to be called in to assist the civil authorities in restoring peace and order<sup>20</sup>.

On the 8th and 9th of March of 1969, a convention convened by the Telangana Students' Action Committee was held. It was attended by more than 1500 delegates. By a unanimous resolution passed at the convention, the committee called upon the students of all educational institutions in the region to abstain from classes till a separate Telangana State was achieved<sup>21</sup>. This momentary decision of the students had the blessings of senior political leaders and K. V. Ranga Reddy, in particular, demanded a separate Telangana. He firmly stated in clear terms that the division of Andhra Pradesh was inevitable and without separate statehood, the injustice to Telangana could not be rectified and prevented because the Government would continue to be under the control of Andhra under their majority. To tackle the situation, Chief Minister K. Brahmananda Reddy announced on 24th March 1969 the constitution of a High-Power committee consisting of all Ministers belonging to the Telangana region to work in close coordination with the Telangana

Regional committee to ensure prompt and effective action in the matters relating to planning and development of the Telangana region.

Chief Minister K. Brahmananda Reddy further announced the appointment of S. Abdul Quader, Secretary to the Department of Food and Agriculture in the State Government, and a senior officer from Telangana as Additional Chief Secretary, to ensure quick action. He revealed the Government's decision to create nearly 2000 posts immediately to provide employment opportunities in the Telangana area and to strengthen the administration for speedier implementation of the development schemes in the Telangana region. But all these measures had not satisfied the agitators.

At this juncture, the Supreme Court of India stayed the operation of the Andhra Pradesh order under which Non-Mulki's employed in the Telangana area were to be relieved before the 28th of February 1969. Subsequently, the order was declared to be ultra-*vi*res of the constitution<sup>22</sup>. On the 28th of March 1969, Konda Lakshman resigned from the State cabinet<sup>23</sup>. The agitation took a new turn for the worse when seven Congress members and an independent member of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly from the Telangana region supported the students and demanded a separate State of Telangana<sup>24</sup>.

The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi who was watching the situation closely called for a meeting in Delhi on 11th April 1969<sup>25</sup>. Many leaders including Chokka Rao, Chief Minister Brahmananda Reddy, V. B. Raju, and Kona Venkatratnam participated in the meeting. A series of high-level meetings between the representatives of the Central Government and Andhra Pradesh was held in New Delhi, on April 11, 1969. The result was the announcement of what was popularly called the Eight-point plan by the Prime Minister in the Lok Sabha.

The Prime Minister's eight-point plan was not satisfactory to Congress legislators and non-Congress parties. By now, the student agitation passed into the hands of political elites. These leaders formed themselves into a party called 'Telangana Praja Samiti (TPS)'. At the same time, an event of immense significance occurred. The High Court gave its verdict against Dr. Channa Reddy in the election petition case filed by Vandemataram Ramachandra Rao. This judgment came as a bolt from the blue at a time when the Telangana movement badly needed a mass leader. Till then Dr. Channa Reddy was indirectly assisting the movement with his advice. He carefully avoided the mentioning of separate Telangana as long as he was a Minister in the Central Cabinet. Soon after the Court judgment Venkata Rama Reddy, Sudhakara Rao, and Janarthana Reddy invited Dr. Channa Reddy to become the Chairman of Telangana Praja Samiti.

## 5. ROLE IN THE TELANGANA PRAJA SAMITI

The Telangana Praja Samiti was a regional party that had an ephemeral existence. It appeared like a whirlwind on the political scene of Andhra Pradesh for an unexpectedly brief period<sup>26</sup>. The Telangana Praja Samiti was founded by an unknown person called Madan Mohan and it was the brainchild of a few middle-class intellectuals<sup>27</sup>. It emerged on the scene in 1969 in the form of agitation and turned itself into a political party before the mid-term Lok Sabha elections of 1971 and quietly vanished into thin air after achieving a thumping victory in the elections. It spearheaded the Telangana Agitation in which more than 300 people sacrificed their

lives in the police firings and the State was put to a loss to the tune of Rs.42 crores.

The birth, rise, and fall of the Telangana Praja Samiti were closely connected with the separate Telangana Agitation of 1969. In the beginning, it was not conspicuous. Its emergence could be seen in the various stages of the Agitation. In February 1969 the Telangana people's convention was formed at a meeting attended by lawyers, doctors, journalists, peasants, and businessmen. This convention was the precursor of the Telangana Praja Samiti.

Madan Mohan who was the organizer of the Convention was responsible for the emergence of the Telangana Praja Samiti. He was elected as the President of the party. Slowly but steadily this party began to take part in the agitation. In a press conference on February 26, 1969, Madan Mohan stated that separate statehood for Telangana was not negotiable. He gave his party's full co-operation to the student conference which was held on the 8th and 9th of March 1969.

The success of various phases of Telangana agitation such as the Telangana Peoples' Convention, Telangana Bandh, and Telangana Students' Conference encouraged the organizer- of the Telangana peoples' convention to turn the success into a broad-based organization. In the initial stages of the agitation, there was actually no trace of an organization called Telangana Praja Samiti. In the words of an eminent author, "it was nursed in the womb of agitation and it took a short time to be delivered".

Since its initial stages, the Telangana Praja Samiti was political. Its only objective was to achieve separate statehood for the Telangana region. Some leading politicians from the Congress party joined the Telangana Praja Samiti. With the joining of Dr. Channa Reddy, the party got a great boost. He was unanimously chosen as the President on 22 May 1969. From then onwards he became the guiding spirit of the party. Before accepting the Presidentship, Dr. Channa Reddy demanded unconditional acceptance of his decisions and leadership of the movement. After taking over Dr. Channa Reddy intensified the agitation by making numerous eloquent and persuasive speeches.

Earlier on April 4, 1969, the Telangana Praja Samiti gave a call to observe May 1 1969 as the Telangana Demand Day. The observance of Demand Day led to violence and police firing in some parts of Telangana<sup>28</sup>. The complete hartal was observed in Hyderabad and Secunderabad again on May 2<sup>nd</sup> in response to the call given by the Praja Samiti to protest against the police firing and police excesses in the city and to mourn the death of those who died in police firings the previous day<sup>29</sup>. The Prime Minister of India invited the Praja Samiti leaders for talks in New Delhi on May 6, 1969. But 13 of the 15 leaders conducting the Telangana agitation who had received

the invitation', had jointly declined the invitation. In a letter to the Prime Minister, the Telangana Praja Samiti stated that the creation of a separate Telangana "is not negotiable" and that because of the unequivocal statement of the Government of India ruling out the creation of a separate Telangana no useful purpose would be served in discussing the matter.

Dr. Channa Reddy spearheaded the Telangana Praja Samiti. He was not only the spokesman but planned its activities. He called upon the Centre to take a decision soon to form a separate Telangana State<sup>30</sup>. On 8<sup>th</sup> May 1969 while addressing a convention of the Non-Gazetted Officer's Association he said that the proposed visit of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to Hyderabad would not solve this issue. "It is rather too late to serve any purpose", he said in clear terms<sup>31</sup>. For the first time, he publicly announced, "The agitation will end only when there is a separate Telangana". Then he called upon Mysore, Madras, and Uttar Pradesh Governments to withdraw their police forces from Telangana. He categorically demanded that the people of Telangana have to be prepared for greater sacrifices.

The situation in the first week of June 1969 was abnormal and the routine normal life got totally paralyzed. The Non-Gazetted Officers decided to observe "work to rule" on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1969 in support of the demand for a separate state. The Government issued an ordinance banning any action by workers in essential services that were likely to lead to cessation or substantial retardation of work despite stringent orders of the State administration. Telangana NGOs decided to strike on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 1969. Pitched battles took place between the tile police and the agitators. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of June 1969, the agitation got out of control and the military had to be called in. There was a complete breakdown of normal life.

The Prime Minister, therefore, visited Hyderabad on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1969 to meet the local leaders of various shades of opinion and study the situation personally. Many delegations met her and presented a memorandum with arguments for and against separation. Mrs. Gandhi preferred consultations with Dr. Channa Reddy. The very next day Y. B.

Chavan, the home minister, came to Hyderabad to try to pacify the leaders.

The Telangana leaders proposed three measures, namely;

1. The Dismissal of Brahmananda Reddy's Ministry
2. Proclamation of Presidential rule in the State
3. A referendum to ascertain the wishes of the people.

Dr. Channa Reddy reportedly informed that the agitation would be suspended if categorical assurance on behalf of the Prime Minister to consider the question of Telangana's separation and the introduction of President's rule in the State was made. Chief Minister K. Brahmananda Reddy, however, accused that the agitation was due to the attempts of some disgruntled politicians to exploit the distrust and suspicions of people. He castigated Dr. Channa Reddy, as being motivated by personal animosity towards him.

The Telangana NGOs started their strike on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 1969. Subsequently, the Telangana Praja Samiti renewed the agitation on June 16<sup>th</sup>, 1969. This was the zenith of the violent agitation for Telangana State. Almost the entire Telangana region was handed over to the army to maintain law and order. This was also the peak period of the Telangana Praja Samiti's first phase of agitation which was marked by violence. The imposition of the curfew was frequent and at times shoot at sight orders were given. The agitation reached its climax on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 1969. The Telangana Praja Samiti claimed the participation of 50000 people in the civil disobedience movement at 236 places. To contain the agitation arrests were made on a very large scale.

Dr. Channa Reddy and other' Praja Samiti leaders were arrested and sent to Jail, under the Preventive Detention Act. This action caused a major sensation in the Telangana region leading to renewed strikes, hartals, and Satyagrahas. The State administration appeared helpless because of the developments following the arrest of leaders of the Telangana movement. Feeling that he was the main target of attacks from the agitators, Chief Minister K. Brahmananda Reddy resigned to the Congress Parliamentary Board. However, the Congress Legislature party reaffirmed its confidence in K. Brahmananda Reddy by re-electing him as

the Chief Minister again. But, on July 19, the Ministry was reconstituted and J.V. Narasinga Rao from Telangana was appointed as Deputy Chief Minister. Thus, was fulfilled one of the political demands of the Telangana leadership. Dr. Channa Reddy and other leaders were released in August 1969 after the courts held that the detention was illegal.

On 22nd April 1970, the Telangana Praja Samiti commenced what is described as the final and decisive phase of the agitation for a separate Telangana under the leadership and guidance of Dr. Channa Reddy. On May 1, 1970, he was arrested along with General Secretary S. Venkatarama Reddy for violating the prohibitory orders that were in force<sup>32</sup>. The arrest was affected when the two leaders came to witness the Satyagraha by a batch of volunteers led by N. Naroatham Reddy. Dr. Channa Reddy made a brief speech in court. In his speech, he highlighted the phases of the struggle. He narrated the history behind the demand for separate Telangana. He recalled the appointment of the Fazal Ali Commission in 1955 by the Government of India and its recommendation suggesting the constitution of a separate Telangana State. It was at the instance of the then Prime Minister it was agreed to form an integrated State of Andhra Pradesh under certain conditions and terms.

Dr. Channa Reddy further stated that it was then categorically assured that "if there was any violation of the terms and if the people of Telangana did not get the justice and feel dissatisfied, they have a right to separate into a Telangana State<sup>33</sup>. He further observed that the people of Telangana, out of bitter experience gained during the last 13 years and the treatment meted out to them as second-rate citizens on their soil, launched this movement initiated by the students in January, 1969<sup>34</sup>. The organization of the people of Telangana was conducting the

struggle following the aspirations of the people peacefully and democratically. The Chairman of the Telangana Praja Samiti said that it had been organizing satyagrahas, hunger strikes, and peaceful mass agitations, which were well-known weapons in the famous and traditional non-violent armor nourished by Mahatma Gandhi<sup>35</sup>.

Meanwhile, some leaders of Telangana Praja Samiti wanted to convert it into a political party. In the first Telangana conference held in Secunderabad on January 10 and 11, 1970 a resolution was moved by a student. This resolution sought to convert the Telangana Praja Samiti into a full-fledged political party. It was withdrawn as Dr. Channa Reddy was not favorable to it. However, on 12th December 1970 it was unanimously decided that for the achievement of a separate Telangana, the Telangana Praja Samiti must be converted into a political party. The advocates of this decision thought that Telangana Praja Samiti would be a good means for the public to express their wishes for a separate Telangana during the elections. For this, a common symbol for Telangana Praja Samiti was needed.

The Telangana Praja Samiti, after converting itself into a political party, gained strength. Even before the TPS was converted into a political party in December 1970, Dr. Channa Reddy inaugurated the enrollment of members. He commented that for strengthening the TPS and turning it into a strong and disciplined political organization and for achieving separate Telangana there was a great need for large-scale enrollment in the Telangana Praja Samiti<sup>36</sup>. In this context, it should be borne in mind that even before the TPS was converted into a political party, the TPS leaders were making all efforts to prepare the ground for the conversion of the TPS into a full-fledged political party.

The TPS had already gained prestige by a few important electoral victories in the by-elections in the Telangana area. The first one was the election of the TPS secretary S. Venkatarama Reddy as MLC. The other two were held at Khairtabad and Siddipet. Dr. Channa Reddy took an active part in the election campaigns too. This was the first time that the TPS was contesting the State Assembly<sup>37</sup>. In both, the elections the TPS candidates were elected with thumping majorities. With these electoral successes, the TPS became confident of sweeping the polls

in the midterm elections of 1971. There was a dialogue between the Central leadership and the TPS leadership for an electoral understanding. But the TPS insisted on separate Telangana. Thus, the efforts of the Prime Minister to woo the Telangana Praja Samiti went in vain.

The Telangana Praja Samiti decided to contest the election with all its resources. The program of the party was formulated by Dr. Channa Reddy. The Telangana Praja Samiti in its manifesto demanded a separate state for Telangana. The Telangana Praja Samiti assured the voters that a separate Telangana would bring great prosperity to the region. The election was a question of life and death for Telangana Praja Samiti because it was a question of survival on the issue of separate Telangana. Hence the leaders as well as the rank and file entered the election with great devotion.

The TPS fielded candidates for all fourteen seats of the Telangana region. The contest in the elections was between the TPS and Congress. The TPS secured an overwhelming majority of seats by winning 10 out of 14 seats. It secured almost 49 percent of votes polled. Thus, the TPS claimed that it was successful in demonstrating the people's choice for a separate State. The TPS had reached its zenith of popularity among the masses. All the members of the parliament who were elected on the TPS ticket were administered oath by Dr. Channa Reddy before a huge audience that had assembled to greet them. After the elections, Dr. Channa Reddy was elected as the President of the TPS. In April 1971, the TPS released its constitution.

Many reasons can be attributed to the resounding victory of TPS in the elections. After a prolonged agitation for two years, the 1971 Lok Sabha elections were announced and at that time a mass hysteria of a sentimental regional feeling was widespread in the Telangana region which facilitated the Telangana Praja Samiti. The TPS captured the lead in the agitation and managed to give a posture to the people that only Telangana Praja Samiti could achieve separate Telangana. A considerable number of Congress party leaders and a majority of its workers were on the side of the TPS. All these factors facilitated the thumping victory of TPS. Despite this Mrs. Gandhi's over helming



majority in the Lok Sabha did not give any leverage to the Telangana Praja Samiti<sup>38</sup>.

The center had persisted in its stern opposition to the breakup of Andhra Pradesh mainly on the ground that a departure from the principle of linguistic states would be leading to an avalanche of similar demands in other states of the Union and introduce a new phase of instability<sup>39</sup>. After the 1971 midterm Lok Sabha elections, the Prime Minister Mrs. The six points in the formula were;

1. A separate budget and separate accounts for Telangana
2. The continuation of Mulki rules
3. Statutory powers to the Andhra Pradesh Regional committee (a committee of Telangana M.L.A.'s)
4. A separate state Congress committee (PCC) for Telangana
5. Review the issue after three years and
6. The resignation of Brahmananda Reddy in favour of a Chief Minister from Telangana. Though the merger of TPS was decided by Dr. Channa Reddy without the consultations with other important TPS leaders the 6-point formula was unanimously adopted by the State council of TPS in its meeting on 18 September

1971. The party merged with Congress on the same day<sup>40</sup>.

As per the terms of the agreement K. Brahmananda Reddy stepped down as Chief Minister, although he had the solid support of 220 MLAs, out of 287. On 25<sup>th</sup> September 1971 P. V. Narasimha Rao from Telangana was elected as the leader of the Congress Legislature Party. And a few days later he formed his Ministry. The Telangana agitation did not achieve its essential goal of a separate Telangana. After a lot of bloodshed and loss, it was able to wrest for the first time only the Chief Minister's ship from the politically dominant Andhras.

However, the end of the Telangana Agitation had not brought peace and stability to the Andhra Agitation. Again, there was violence in the Andhra region of Andhra Pradesh over the outcome of the Supreme Court judgment on the Mulki issue. On 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1972, the Supreme Court gave its verdict on the Mulki rules stating that they were valid and were in force. This judgment created a great political crisis in the State. The people of the Andhra region felt that they were reduced to the status of second-class citizens even in their own state

Gandhi keeping in view the overwhelming majority registered by the TPS invited its leaders for mutual discussions to solve the Telangana issue and for the merger of the TPS with the Congress party. In a series of talks that Dr. Channa Reddy held with the Prime Minister and several other central leaders, a six-point formula was evolved based on which the TPS merged with Congress in September 1971.

capital. They felt that the best way to safeguard their dignity and honour was by severing their connection with Telangana. They wanted a separate Andhra State and to achieve this they started the Jai Andhra Movement.

The Jai Andhra Movement spread to all parts of the Andhra region and paralyzed the administration. Consequently, the President's Rule was imposed on the State, on 18th January 1973. To counter the separatists of the Andhra Region the Congressmen of Telangana met at a convention on 21<sup>st</sup> January 1973 at Hyderabad. Dr. Channa Reddy presided over the meeting and he resolved to fight for a separate State and converted itself into a Congress forum for Telangana.<sup>41</sup> But after the agreement of the six-point formula the President's Rule was revoked and J. Vengal Rao formed the Ministry on 10th December 1973. Dr. Channa Reddy was chosen as the Governor of Uttar Pradesh on 18th October 1974. From then on Dr. Channa Reddy devoted his energy to his new assignment.

## 6. REASONS NOT TO FORM TELANGANA:

The following reasons were essentially considered as obstacles to the formation of Telangana Statehood.

- ✓ Integrated due to a split in the National Congress, Indira Gandhi relied on left-wing parties to be in power. As for his desires, he did not agree with the state of Telangana.
- ✓ Integrated 1971 The Indo-Pakistani War ended and India faced international shame.
- ✓ Integrated 1971 it is strange that this is another regional movement in the sub-region (Bangladesh) that is helping to contain the Telangana movement.<sup>42</sup>
- ✓ Integrated The Hyderabad case was still pending at the United Nations, and the Indian government intended to relocate the state of Telangana shortly after international law.

If the 1857 uprising was the first war of independence in India, the Telangana agitation of 1969 was also the first independence movement in Telangana. Indeed, 1857 may not have gained independence yet, but we are aware of its importance and remember the memories of Rani Jhansi, Nana Saheb, and Tantia Tope. This movement later encouraged freedom fighters. If we use the same analogy, Dr. Channa Reddy was an essential person.

Despite the limitations and weaknesses of the 1969 movement, its effect in liberating Telangana from foreign rule was a laudable act and a progressive step. While the meaning of a historical event is not limited to its immediate achievements, the 1969 riots

- ✓ Smt. Indira Gandhi reached an electoral agreement with Telangana Praja Samithi in the 1971 elections and promised to surrender the state of Telangana. However, he was not encouraged to do so as the Hyderabad case was pending before the Security Council. Mr. Channa Reddy turned into a whip.
- ✓ Integrated Indeed, Smt. Indira Gandhi wanted to start the process of forming a separate state for Telangana by introducing P.N. However, Khaksar, his chief secretary of the PMO, had to leave at the last minute due to the State Department's failure.
- ✓ Integrated Finally, Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister of India, did not travel to Telangana State.

are not just a historical tragedy that did not cause riots in 1969. Even his relentless opponent K. Brahmananda Reddy writes: "He is dynamic and hardworking, if sometimes difficult. He was with me and against me; It's cool anyway."<sup>43</sup> However, Dr. Reddy always forgot his enemies, but never their names. This eminent doctor was an excellent speaker who, like no other, raised the self-esteem of the Telangana people, who loved children, loved animals, and remained loyal to their region to the end.

Dr. Channa Reddy may have been a man of few sinners, and there's more to be said than many historical figures. It is not easy to describe and it is certainly not brief.

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