

Role of Bommagani Dharma Biksham in Toddy Tappers Movement

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ABSTRACT: This paper highlights the Bommagani Dharma Biksham and his role in Toddy Tappers Movement, who was a dynamic communist leader, devoted his entire life for the sake of Telangana, he is a great mass leader. The methodology applied to the research is historical in nature with a strong emphasis on primary as well as secondary and contemporary sources available to the date in the field. The main objective of the paper is to highlights Dharma Biksham and his role in the Toddy Tappers Movement throughout India. He was an active member and representative of Toddy Tappers Association, played a vital role in Toddy tapping problems salvations. He was the renowned freedom fighter during Telangana peasantry arm struggle at the time of Nizam regime. He was well known trade unionist and President of All India Toddy Tappers and workers Federation. It developed under the leadership of the Communist Party and Andhra Mahasabha into a powerful armed people's struggle for land and liberation.

Key Words: Dharma Biksham, Toddy Tappers Movement, Communist Party, Gouda, Prohibition, etc.

In India one crore families are surviving in toddy tapping profession. They are tapping toddy and neera and are supplying the needs of entertainment. These drink after fermentation only turns alcohol. From morning to evening it is sweet and does not turn sour. The researcher has proved that it could be stored for six months without turning sour. Neera can be made a cool drink that could be exported and gain foreign exchange. Tati sugar and tati jiggery can also be produced from these trees and used to produce sugar. Lakhs of acres of land could be used to produce food crops in those lands. Tati trees are found in Asian countries of India, Burma, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Cambodia, Lavos, Vietnam, Indonesia, Philippines and the hot regions of the world.

In Indian Independence, the slogan of land belongs to those who plough it. I was prominent among the struggles of land, food and wage less labor in the Nizam rule. It was the slogan of Bommagani Dharma Biksham a veteran communist party leader, that the toddy tree belongs to those who tap the tree. The main reason for this slogan was that some groups in the districts used to give toddy tapping to big contractors and companies. These contractors and companies used to give such contract to the landlords and capitalists who in return used to give the toddy trees to the tappers for tapping. Festival of Dusshera was a hilarious occasion. Along with enjoyment the toddy tappers also experienced sorrow. In spite of toddy tapping throughout the day, it was difficult for the tappers to meet the needs of the day. It was a life struggle to pay tax installments. They had to wait for days together to get their toddy trees allotted for tapping in front of the houses of landlords. They had to sell their lands or gold of their wives or pledge them to pay taxes. If there is no tapping profession, there is no life and no food. All the family had to work hard. They have to go to the fields, bring toddy and sell. In spite of all these there is no income for the family.

Early life of Dharma Biksham:

Bommagani Dharma Biksham was born in Suryapet in Nalgonda district of Telangana on 15th February, 1922. Gopamma (mother) and Muthilingam (father) were the parents of Dharma Biksham (15th February 1922-26th March 2011). They belong to toddy tappers community. Dharma Biksham attracted to the communist ideology during his school days, and he joined Communist Party of India in 1942. As a student leader, he boycotted the silver jubilee celebrations of the Nizam's coronation conducted by school head master. As a student, he runs a student's hostel in Suryapet successfully, which was a training centre for students to inculcate patriotism and also to fight against the social evils. After India independence, the Communist Party of India led armed struggles against a series of local monarchs that were reluctant to give up their power particularly in Telangana. Dharma Biksham was an active member in rebellion that took place in Telangana, against the Nizam of Hyderabad. He was imprisoned for more than five years. He was an active member of Andhra Mahasabha; he led several processions on behalf of farmers from Nalgonda district on foot. Dharma Biksham who was experienced in communist movement had prepared to start a movement watching the deplorable situation of the tappers. He wanted not to change the fate of the toddy tappers, but to change the government policy. Tappers were a

big support to his Communist Party policies. So he viewed their problems not from caste perspective, but from a professional perspective. He decided to put an end to the extortion of the landlords and the officials. He observed the style of working of tappers societies by the elders in cities like Hyderabad. Gouthu Lachanna and Dharma Biksham had discussed their problems with the elders of the tappers in Hyderabad and prepared to start a movement. They gathered tappers from Nalgonda, Khammam, Godavari, Krishna, Guntur and north Andhra districts and started a movement against the policy of auction system.

After formation Andhra Pradesh, Andhra and Telangana Toddy tappers societies began to united organize movement for their welfare. As a toddy tappers society leader Dharma Biksham strived for tapping workers in our state for their development and welfare. As a result toddy tapping profession was developed and their extortion and injustice were controlled. Telangana toddy tappers society's presidents, secretaries and Andhra region district tappers societies important leaders who struggles against prohibition and who strived for tappers profession protection met at Hyderabad on 17th December, 1956 under the chairmanship of Dharma Biksham.

In this meeting they decided to unite tappers unions of both the regions and build a "State Society". This decision gave strength to tread all state tappers in one path. The same meeting took a historical decision to hold a state society's first meeting at Khammam. A reception committee was elected with Dharma Biksham and S.R. Dhatla as conveners. This prominent meeting gave a call to ameliorate the toddy tappers lives that were living miserable lives, to coordinate the movement and to build the state society.

State tappers First general Body Meeting at Garla:

The various districts of Telangana and Andhra toddy tappers representatives first meeting was held on 19th and 20th October, 1957 at Garla in Khammam district which was presided over by Yaddanapudi Ramalingaiah. Andhra Pradesh toddy tappers united struggle was the inception of this state first general body meeting. In this general body meeting tappers society has given a birth to "Andhra Tappers Laborers Society".

This meeting of the was inaugurated by the communist leader and Parliament member Baddam Ella Reddy. Inaugurating the general body meeting he gave a call to united struggle to save their profession, to stop auction policy, corruption, extortion and the policy of groupism. After discussing the different problems of different districts

thoroughly the general body approved the following resolutions unanimously. In the days of this general body meeting Dharma Biksham was a member of legislative Assembly.

Resolutions of Toddy Tappers first General Body Meeting:

- 1) To abolish contract policy this helps extortion of the tappers, to arrange tappers co-operative societies.
- 2) To abolish the policy of groups and allot shops village wise.
- 3) To lift prohibition in Andhra region.
- 4) To give toddy shops to co-operative societies.
- 5) To give waste lands to toddy tappers and to facilitate educational facilities to their families.
- 6) To translate excise law in to Telugu.

Andhra Pradesh toddy tappers society earned a distinction for state toddy tappers problems solution agent. It enthusiastically and scientifically and other than other societies worked differently and took professional centered resolutions.

Dharma Biksham took up the responsibility of Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh toddy tappers first general body meeting. He started a new type of tappers movement. He sounded a bugle to abolish auction policy, arrangement of co-operative societies, abolition of group policy, village wise allotment, lifting of prohibition in Andhra region and to give waste lands to the toddy tappers. These slogans were different from the earlier thoughts and were scientific. The reasons for these slogans were people's welfare and Dharma Biksham's belief in struggle.

Dharma Biksham always thinks scientifically for the sake of poor and labor class's development. He does not compromise with his beliefs. Seminar leader in the movement Gouthu Lachanna discussed that toddy tapping profession has to be nationalized, toddy tapping has to be allowed without taxes, Dharma Biksham argued that tappers would pay taxes for the trees, but it should not be heavy, only when the professionals pay taxes, there will be opportunity to struggle for government's welfare activities and professional rights. He called for tappers professional shops, limited taxes and for allotment of lands to grow toddy trees. When Y.S. Rajesekhar Reddy was the Excise Minister he agreed their demands and issued a circular when Devendar Goud was Revenue Minister, Dharma Biksham was a Parliament member. He organized a meeting of Ranga Reddy and Hyderabad districts tappers meeting in the Sherton hall. He made the government agree

to allot 5 acres of land to grow toddy trees and to convert the circular into a government order.

In 1957 Garla Dhatla, Sampath Rama Rao, Suranna, Veeranna Goud, Shankaraiah, Mallaiah, Ramchandra Murthy, Tallapally Ramulu, Ramalingaiah, Appa Rao and Bheemanna were taking the tappers society forward. In Andhra Pradesh only a few societies had a history of movement except some political parties. Among them only tappers society was such an organization. In Suryapet of Nalgonda district that society organized a second general body meeting and invited the then labor minister T. Anjaiah, Excise Minister V. Purushotham Reddy. All India Agriculture Labor Society president Gujjula Elamanda Reddy, farmers society leaders C.H. Rajeshwar Rao, Nimmala Ramulu and other dignitaries. In the committee of that general body meeting, Dharma Biksham was the president

Uppunutula Purushotham Reddy was an important participant in students' movement, Vandemataram movement and Andhra Maha Sabha which were lead by Dharma Biksham. In one of the meetings in his presidential remarks referring to the excise minister he said, "Minister if any vehicle collides with a person, the victim is paid exgratia by the government. If a toddy tapper falls from the tree, the body would be shifted to a government hospital for post mortum and then it would be handed over to their family which would be rendered to orphans. Is the government not particular about granting exgratia to this family? Immediately the minister Purushotham Reddy responded to the request of Dharma Biksham and agreed to grant exgratia to the toddy tappers family from the every day. Then he went to Hyderabad consulted the Chief Minister Vengal Rao and announced exgratia to the toddy tappers. This way the toddy tappers achieved payment of exgratia. Labor Minister Anjaiah also announced enhancement of minimum wages to the toddy tappers. Dharma Biksham's skill is special in not only turning people, but also ministers and government immediately towards welfare of the people and making them answerable to their activities.

As an Andhra Pradesh tappers society President Dharma Biksham started a movement at a high level to lift ban on prohibition and the policy of group and auction system. In 1977 soon after Morarji Desai took over as the Prime Minister he announced prohibition indirectly. It is also ban on toddy tappers profession indirectly. It was decided on 17-4-1977 in Gouda Hostel under the presidentship of Dharma Biksham to garner the support of different parties. With this call more than 5 lakhs of tappers organized

demonstration and dharnas. On 15th and 16th of July, 1977 a big seminar was organized in Pingili Venkatarama Reddy hall under his presidentship. Dharma Biksham had presented a historical document on the issue of prohibition. The tappers society organized a marvelous demonstration and presented a memorandum to the then governor Sharada Mukherji. During the tenure of Morerji Deasai as a Prime Minister this issue was raised by different parties, important Gouda society leaders on prohibition.

During the period of under the leadership of Dharma Biksham a peaceful demonstration was organized to declare auction policy, abolition of tax system, establishment of Finance Corporation and implementation of works compensation to toddy tappers. This demonstration has turned a big issue of discussion in those days. Chief Minister Vengal Rao, Excise Minister Purushotham Reddy legislators Nimmala Ramulu, Y.V. Krishna Rao, Gurjala Yellamanda Reddy and Veeravelli Bheemanna had spoken on the occasion. In 1978 Chenna Reddy government had introduced a group system of allotment. It announced an ordinance hiking task of trees. It brought out a G.O. cancelling the societies within the corporation and town notified areas. On 16-08-1978 under the presidentship of Dharma Biksham toddy tappers had started a movement with a call from state meeting. As a result in government had withdrawn himing the tax. It also withdrew cancellation of societies within 8 km. This development in brought a new environment in Andhra Pradesh. He left no stones unturned in achieving support of political parties, people's societies and professional societies.

Supporting the toddy tappers movement National Committee of Indian Communist Party declared all co-operations on 9th December, 1977. In this massive movement Dharma Biksham toured throughout the district. During Dharma Biksham's tour of the districts and villages on the issue of prohibition, he toured was alert with a bag containing pamphlets, banner and with workers around him. It was a tremendous credit to him.

Andhra Pradesh movement had given a new impetus to all tappers profession workers. It helped converting the movement into a national affair. On 29th August, 1978 toddy tappers representatives' national seminar was held under the presidentship of Dharma Biksham. Then representative group submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister Morarji Desai and the president to withdraw prohibition and to protect tapping profession.

In the two day meeting held under the presidentship of Dharma Biksham. All India toddy tappers union was formed for the first time in the history of India. For this national

union Dharma Biksham was elected president and N. Kumaran was elected secretary. This national union had made lakhs of people involve in people's movement with the slogan "Protect the profession oppose prohibition" thousands of toddy tappers were arrested.

On 17th November, 1977 a severe cyclone had devastated Krishna district. Farmers, coolies, poor people, tappers, washermen, fisherman, ironsmiths and other professionals were rendered homeless. Dasari Nagabushan Rao as convener took up rehabilitation programmes. Donipudi Dathu, Purna Azad and with Achuta Ramaiah cooperation Dharma Biksham toured all cycle divested areas along with the district tappers society leaders. They have given a memorandum to the state government. As a result cyclone affected Guntur, Krishna, and Godavari district tax dues were cancelled and tappers were extended financial assistance of Rs. 200/- each.

Dharma Biksham – a multi beneficial tree for tappers:

After getting elected as the president of All India tapping laborers union he later visited different states and prepared to spread the movement. For this programme Union's General Secretary and Rajya Sabha Member much loved by the Kerala people S. Kumaran support helped Dharma Biksham to double his enthusiasm. The slogan "Rebellion against prohibition to save tapping profession" reverberated throughout the country. The people were so far disgruntled progressed with warlike enthusiasm for a union which came into existence. With a call given by these union thousands of workers were arrested and put in jail in Pondicherry. They also received lathi charges. They incurred restrictions. Several people like Dr. Ranganathan were involved in cases. Even then tapping professionals have protected their profession.

After declaring prohibition once Morarji Desai's Goa Programme was released. Before that Dharma Biksham and Kumaran submitted a petition to the president and Prime Minister Morarji Desai not to include toddy in prohibition. On this occasion Morarji said that he would continue his programme by all means. The representatives have observed his determination. Kumaran and Dharma Biksham have subtly expressed their opinion without mincing any words. The Prime Minister could not digest their views. Within a few days of this incident his visit was confirmed. Toddy tappers have brought the whole state to a standstill. This news was handed over to the Prime Minister by the intelligence agencies. Understanding severity of the situation his visit was cancelled. After all these developments prohibition was lifted in the state.

In Andhra Pradesh this movement has erupted and on May 22, 1979 under the presidentship of Dharma Biksham a national seminar was organized, S. Kumaran had participated as Chief Secretary. They made a statement in solidarity to the Pondicherry toddy tappers. All the national papers have published this seminar prominently. After this seminar Dharma Biksham and Kumaran have visited the state. Toddy tappers have welcomed them warmly. The district leaders have invited them both at a village called Jai Kesaram. Usha Goud, B. Prabhakar and others have attended a public meeting in which thousands of people attended it. Later Dharma Biksham had started a relay hunger strike at the Secretariat. This movement had spread throughout the state. The then world labor union president M.L.C. and All India Agricultural labor Union President Ella Manda Reddy has visited the hunger strike camp and extended their support. Along with T.N. Goud the Ranga Reddy district toddy tappers had participated in the hunger strike. Relay hunger strike camps continued in 17 districts. Lakhs of tappers have participated in this programme. The state government had clarified that it would not impose prohibition on toddy. Because of this wonderful movement the honor of the flag of Andhra Pradesh toddy tappers society reached dizzy heights. All the political party leaders and different societies have showered encomiums on Dharma Biksham. Wrong opinions on prohibition have been discarded nationwide especially in Andhra Pradesh. This was not only a movement but also a dynamic tour not to include toddy in prohibition. The movements were able to shape the opinion and were successful.

Toddy tappers labor movement has diverted village professionals towards protests and struggle. In this dynamic environment in 1982 Andhra Pradesh tappers society general body meeting was held at Vijayawada. The meeting was inaugurated by the union's Chief Secretary Kumaran. Hundreds of representatives have participated in the meeting. Representatives meeting took place at Madhukala Mandapam. The meeting elected Dharma Biksham as President. On the last day evening Dharma Biksham had given a call to forgo one day tapping toddy and to participate in a demonstration. Responding to the call thousands of tappers has attended the demonstration with their tapping materials. In this meeting, Dharma Biksham has spoken that new papers have written that the representatives were not seen in the meeting. He criticized that if we neglect rural professionals, it was nothing but neglecting the nation. The paper representatives might have spoken to their officials about this remark. Later their news was prominently

published. Two days later one senior reporter said to Dharma Biksham that he spoke boldly and congratulated him for his boldness.

In 1983 N.T. Rama Rao had formed a new government in Andhra Pradesh. In the election manifesto prohibition was also included. Dharma Biksham has seen that it would also affect toddy tapping profession. So they submitted a memorandum to N.T. Rama Rao and Excise Minister Jeevan Reddy to cancel contract policy and to give all the shops to the co-operative societies. As expected Rama Rao government has declared a policy of not giving T.F.C to the societies within 8 kms of towns and corporations. On this issue there was a state wide protest. All the societies jointly submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister and made them accept the proposal.

In 1984 under the presidentship of Dharma Biksham Andhra Pradesh toddy tappers societies silver jubilee celebrations were organized for two days which were inaugurated by Kumaran. The seminar on the necessity of organizing societies was inaugurated by the Minister for co-operative societies Jana Reddy; T.S. Goud was elected honorary president. The celebrations were held grandly under the secretaryship of B. Prabhakar. Thousands of people had participated in those celebrations and demonstrations.

On this occasion Dharma Biksham's efforts were praised for his relentless service in the progress of the movement. The assembly announced to start a financial institution and to arrange a welfare Board for toddy tappers. Silver Jubilee celebrations have given a call for comprehensive excise legislation and for making a challenge in Hyderabad. Previously government tried to cancel co-operative societies and to introduce auction policy. Dharma Biksham and Gouthu Lachanna jointly submitted a memorandum to the excise minister Ashok Gajapathi Raju. They launched a movement to change the mind of the government.

In 1986 toddy tappers general body meeting was organized at Nalgonda. It was inaugurated by the state transport minister Jana Reddy. In this meeting Dharma Biksham was elected President. Thousands of people organized a demonstration at Nalgonda. A public meeting was arranged with Dharma Biksham as President.

Dharma Biksham used to make relentlessly the toddy tappers active about toddy trees preservation. When people resorted to destruction of toddy trees in Warangal, Nalgonda and Krishna districts, he directly participated and stopped destruction of trees. On several occasions, Dharma Biksham responded and directly participated in resolving belt shops problems. On several occasions, he strived to protect tappers rights at auction

halls. He participated in any platform to resolve the problems of toddy tappers. He was honored at Nizam College meeting during the tenure of Chief Minister Nedurumalli Janardhan Reddy. Gouthu Lachanna and Karnataka Chief Minister Bangarappa also felicitated him. The Chief Minister declared that he would constitute a committee and resolve tappers problems. This committee recommended not imposing prohibition on toddy and the government acted as per this recommendations.

Anti cheap liquor agitation had been started in Dubakunta of Nellore district. But Kotla Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy's government had declared a policy of prohibition of toddy places where there are no toddy trees within 8 kms of municipalities and corporations. With Dharma Biksham's initiative and under the presidentship Gouthu Lachanna toddy tappers Societies leaders meeting took place. In this meeting all prominent Gouda leaders participated with the proposal of prominent High Court advocate B.S.A. Swamy, Bommagani Prabhakar was elected Andhra Pradesh toddy tapping profession protection struggle samithi, B.S.A. Swamy remained an advisor. With their leadership state level movement continued. All India level Parliament members Dharma Biksham had rendered a yeoman service. He submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister P.V. Narsimha Rao. Responding to this memorandum, Prime Minister wrote a letter to the Chief Minister to review prohibition of toddy. He also wrote another letter to Dharma Biksham mentioning his letter to the Chief Minister. This matter was referred once by K.E. Krishna Murthy saying only Biksham knows what P.V. Narsimha Rao does to him. His respect to Biksham made him write a letter to the Chief Minister. Vijay Bhaskar Reddy's proposal withdrawal was the result of pressure brought in the Parliament by Dharma Biksham and his representation to the Prime Minister P.V. Narsimha Rao.

In June, 1995 with R.M. Prabhu Goud a president reception committee was constituted. In Nizam College toddy tappers general body meeting was organized Dharma Biksham presided over this meeting and it was inaugurated by Devender Goud. N.T. Rama Rao attended this meeting as a Chief Guest exempted toddy from prohibition and declared it as a policy decision state government would make a resolution and make a recommendation to that effect to the central government. In that meeting financial corporation Chairman Sathaiah Goud and many toddy tappers societies' leaders participated. This meeting was meant to discuss the assurances given by the chief minister N.T. Rama Rao.

In 1988 All India toddy tappers national second general body meetings was held in Hyderabad. One week before the general body meeting there was a cyclone and it stopped only on the first day. Again it started raining after the concluding presidential remarks of Dharma Biksham. This meeting had brought another twist to All India Toddy Tappers Movement. Similar to many national parties' general body meetings three days representative meeting and commissions and other methods were followed and resolutions were taken. Those who watched this meeting all political parties and leaders of people's societies have showered praises on Dharma Biksham for his dexterity.

In this general body meeting Dharma Biksham was elected President Kumaran was elected Chief Secretary. As a President of a unique national organization along with Kumaran they met state Chief Ministers and submitted petition on several issues. They have formulated a charter of demands, propagated toddy tappers issues and took up movements. Seminar participant members Indrajit Gupta, Geetha Mukherji, Loknath Choudary, Vijay Kumar Yadav and others mentioned the issues in the Parliament.

Reference of tapping profession instantly reminds Dharma Biksham. That is how he organized movements under his leadership. He attained distinction of creating and training workers and for extending them for state toddy tappers movement. Tappers leaders proudly declare that they had worked with Dharma Biksham or with tappers societies lead by him. There is no place which is he did not tour from Srikakulam to Adilabad. In spite of several other caste leaders his presence makes a difference and his style was different. Tappers consider him a foundation for their profession. They argue that injustice to their profession and service should go. Gouda sangam meeting at Ravulapenta in which lakhs of tappers attended was attended by Dharma Biksham and Zilla Parishad Chairman Devender Goud. Many tappers leaders also attended the meeting. He spoke in that meeting that it was tapping profession that won the stage. It was that profession that remained a means of livelihood for their families. So they had to struggle united for its survival. Dharma Biksham had made partners in movements' people with different political opinions, those not in politics. Social workers and leaders of people's societies were respected for their thoughts and opinions. That is why in whatever party they were, they had respect for Dharma Biksham. He also respects them equally.

In Andhra Pradesh political parties' institutions and peoples societies with 40 years history of movements are very few. Among them Andhra Pradesh toddy tappers

society is one of them under Dharma Biksham's presidentship 40 anniversaries were organized at Hyderabad. Those who were strong in movements were felicitated on this occasion. Minister Devender Goud speaking on the occasion remarked that felicitating Dharma Biksham means felicitating the tappers society. We should learn sacrifice and movement inspiration from him Parliament member, state C.P.I. secretary Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy speaking on the occasion showered praises for being a communist hero, who strived relentlessly for the welfare of the downtrodden and labor. Under Dharma Biksham toddy tappers 40 years of movement was organized successfully and was continuing dynamically. This movement would remain an inspiration for many other movements. In this area, he started a special organization for those workers who work under contracts and organized struggles for them. Strikes and movements were organized. Wages and labor laws were implemented. Toddy tappers society should always think scientifically. It should always struggle for the welfare of the professionals was his objective. He differs with those who favor cancellation of all professional taxes and provision of free allotment.

He believed in a principle that burden less tax would make the government answerable to the toddy tapping professional laborers. Dharma Biksham who participated in land struggles and movements for land for those who plough it contest that land should be distributed to the poor. He took up movements for allotment of 10 acres to co-operative societies to grow trees for toddy tapping. During the tenure of Y.S Rajasekhar Reddy as excise minister he made him agree to allot 5 acres to the co-operatives societies. He made the Commissioner issue a circular. Ranga Reddy and Hyderabad districts committee organized a massive seminar in Sharaton Hall. Inaugurating this seminar, Dharma Biksham requested the government to issue a government order in the place of a circular as the allotment of 5 acres of land to the societies. Revenue minister Devender Goud who attended the seminar responded instantly and declared release of a government order. It was agreed to give old age pension to toddy tapping professionals. It was a historical event.

Victories in the Path of Movements:

Andhra Pradesh toddy tappers society had attained many victories in their struggles. It protested against corrupted officials. It brought pressure on taking action

against them. It stopped excise officials and contractors from hindering toddy tappers to sell their toddy. It also controlled official torture and bribery. It helped organizing tappers societies and was instrumental in cancellation of auction system. Those who fall accidentally and either became handicapped or dead were given exgratia. The struggle for enhancing exgratia from Rs. 200/- to Rs. 1000/- was successful. Exgratia cases were settled within 6 months. The process of application for exgratia was simplified. The struggle for enhancement of license renewal from every year for three years was successfully attained. Later it became successful in enhancement of license renewal for five years. It could also stop cancellation of societies in the name of identity cards. Rental hike of 5% on village societies was withdrawn. Rental hike of 50% policy was given up this struggle.

Action was taken on these who cut down palm trees and it brought pressure on legal procedures. It reminded the duties of the authorities when the societies protested over the land lords and criminal action was taken in this regard Nalgonda, Warangal, Krishna, Karimnagar and Godavari districts.

Tappers societies were successful in establishing “Financial and Welfare Corporation” for the sake of welfare of toddy tappers. It could achieve loans and old age pensions. It made the people, political parties and intellectuals agree that toddy was not alcohol but a drink with nutritious value. This was the reason why toddy was excluded from prohibition in our state. In spite of a plethora of successes, it is necessary to blow a bugle over pending and long standing issues. Every toddy tapper has to prepare for a long struggle and achieve his rights. They have to notice that only a determined and united struggle would attain their goals.

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