

**REFERENCE HELD BY THE FULL COURT, HIGH COURT OF A.P. ON THE
TRAGIC DEMISE OF Dr. Y.S. RAJASEKHARA REDDY, CHIEF MINISTER,
STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH ADDRESSED BY Mr. D.V. SITHARAM
MURTHY, ADVOCATE GENERAL ON 7.9.2009**

My Lord the Chief Justice Sri *Anil Dave* Ji, My Lords the Honourable Judges of this Court, Members of the Bar and the Legal Fraternity.

It is with shock grief and disbelief, I am to inform you that Dr. *Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy*, the Chief Minister of the State of Andhra Pradesh is no more.

Cold words. A rude reminder of our temporal transience. Death, before the tenth hour of Sept 2, hijacked the dream merchant of millions. Shattered along with helicopter and its inmates was hope and smile of millions of people of the State of Andhra Pradesh. The State of Andhra Pradesh is justifiably in grief. Its most dynamic leader of recent times now lies in eternal rest in the calm of his backyard of Idupulapaya. A man who spoke of the need to retire at sixty bade of premature farewell to millions of his followers and characteristically died in the midst of his work. His death was a symbol, of his life : work over self; people welfare over personal safety.

History will record his name in the annals of our heroes. He was a dynamic example of a dwindling species: courageous, human, dedicated, warm and above all sincere.

He was born on July 8th 1949 in Pulivendula to late *Y.S. Raja Reddy* and Smt. *Jayamma*. He studied Medicine in M.R. Medical College, Gulbarga, Karnataka and was elected as student union leader. He led House Surgeons Association at Tirupathi, S.V. Medical College and evinced keen interest in politics.

He started young became a MLA at the age of 29 and eventually left in a hurry. *Richard Nixon* once said : *A leader has to be*

brutally tough at times in order to do his job. If he frets too much about the toughness of his task, if he lets himself be deterred too much by sentimentality he will not do what he has to do right or even do it all.” Paradoxically it was perhaps this dictum of leadership that pushed him to his Rachchabanda Programme and made him overlook the fatal combination of the rough terrain and the incriminate weather. Death does not show signs, it signs off.

He was truly a great leader, in the sense that he raised statecraft to a high plane of accountability. It is said that while a Manager represents a process, a leader represents a direction of history. Beyond the software, of man management and resource administration he understood human life and the wants of the citizenry. True to his profession and training he knew how to read the pulse of his people. His mammoth 1500km Praja Prasthanam of 64 days was, an unrivalled political exercise, drenched in the Gandhian philosophy that, connectivity with the common man is the *sine qua non* for a statesman in India.

In about five years he has changed the face of the State of Andhra Pradesh from a soft ware hub to the most dynamic agricultural economy navigated by the interests of the poor and the rural. He addressed compelling issues and faced divergent challenges with characteristic energy and contagious commitment. He fought divisive and dissentious elements with dogged conviction. His transformation formula for the State like people centric programmes including Jalayagnam which targets to irrigate ten million acres by 2014; National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS); Rs.2 Kg Rice;

Rachhabanda; Indramma Housing; Rajiv Arogyasri; Pavala Vaddi; Abhayahastam; Rajiv Udyogasri; all of which have the common thread of human concern. From a sub aerial look at constitutional requirements he transposed welfare to an arterial function, osmotic to people requirements and aspirations. He galvanised the bureaucracy to act with a sense of urgency and commitment and ensure that the political agenda of the Government does not end in the files of the Secretariat but finds expression in the narrow lanes of every village.

After the stupendous people connect programme that would have physically ruined the normal, he romped home with a majority to lead his party in the State. He must have a *Churchillian* style told himself that day : I felt as if, I were walking with Destiny, and that all my past life had been, but a preparation for this hour and for this trial. Like the said leader he grabbed the historic opportunity, with glee and child like enthusiasm and went back at the first quinquennial opportunity to seek a referendum. The rest is truly history and beyond the clinche. I have only known Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy garu for a very short while. In the few months that we have personally known each other he built effortlessly bondage that makes me feel that I had known him for decades. I grieve his passing away as if, a dear and long lasting, friend and guide has suddenly

been guided by the guiles of fatality. It may sound a hyperbole at first blush, but I have reasons to believe that my inadequate vocabulary and heightened emotions do not find accurate expression of the man and thus, I borrow the words of *Isiah Berlin* who said of another leader words that fit Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy as if they were designed for him. I quote with very minor alteration : a man larger than life, composed of bigger and simpler elements than ordinary men, a gigantic historical figure during his own lifetime, superhumanly bold, strong and imaginative, one of the greatest men of action his nation has produced in recent times, the saviour of his people, a mythical hero who belongs to legend as much as to reality”.

If we suffer such a tragic emotion on his passing away, I shudder to imagine those of his close associates and family who have had the fortune of knowing him for longer and closer. To all members of his extended family (Smt. *Vijayalakshmi*, Sri Y.S. *Jagan Mohan Reddy*, Smt. *Sharmila* and Sri *Anil*), we place on record our incalculable condolences and pray the Almighty his soul rests in peace.

I will retrieve to my personal loss and grief after summing up the life of this great workmen politician with the words of Sir *Winston Churchill* when he said : It is the brightest hours that fade away the fastest.

REFERENCE OF THE ADVOCATE-GENERAL ON THE DEMISE OF HONOURABLE Smt. JUSTICE K. AMARESWARI

My Lord the Chief Justice and companion Justices and Members of the Bar and friends,

It is my sad duty to inform you the passing of Smt. Justice K. *Amareswari* garu on July 25th, 2009.

It was Goethe who said. Death is a commingling of eternity with time; in the death of a good man, eternity is seen looking through time. This time over death chose to snatch a pioneer who defied gender, broke into the male bastion and became the first lady Judge of this Honourable Court.