

1. Critically assess the role of the Telangana Non-Gazetted Officers' (TNGO) Association in the 1969 Telangana movement. To what extent did their mobilisation and leadership shape the momentum of the agitation?

Introduction

The Telangana Non-Gazetted Officers' (TNGO) Association played a pivotal role in the 1969 Telangana agitation. It emerged not merely as an employees' union but as a powerful pressure group advocating for the socio-political and employment rights of Telangana natives. While the movement was driven by multiple stakeholders, the TNGO's mobilization significantly sharpened the regional consciousness and administrative resistance.

Formation and Objectives

The TNGO Association was formed in 1964 under the leadership of **K.R. Amos**, who transformed the earlier Hyderabad Non-Gazetted Officers' Association into a Telangana-specific body. Its primary aim was to **safeguard the rights of Telangana employees**, particularly in the context of the **Gentlemen's Agreement** and **Mulki Rules**, which were often violated by the Andhra-dominated state administration.

Key Contributions and Mobilisation Efforts

- **Advocacy for Mulki Rules:**
The TNGO demanded enforcement of local employment protections. Their pressure led to the **Government Order on April 30, 1968**, which directed the removal of non-Mulki employees from Telangana posts. Though later legally contested, it revealed the political weight of the TNGO.
- **Mass Protests and Strikes:**
Under leaders like **V.L. Narasimha Rao (Palwancha)** and **K.R. Amos**, TNGO organized protests, particularly at the **Kothagudem Thermal Power Station (KTPS)** where locals were denied jobs despite regional resource contribution.
- **Legal Activism:**
TNGO's activism prompted judicial scrutiny, culminating in **Justice Alladi Kuppaswamy's ruling (Jan 3, 1969)** that Mulki Rules didn't apply to public corporations—a setback that further galvanized public resentment and protest.
- **Legislative Support:**
Legislators like **P. Sundarayya**, **Ravinarayana Reddy** (CPI), and **Mahadev Singh** (Socialist Party) echoed the TNGO's concerns in the Assembly, strengthening their legitimacy.

Critical Assessment

While the TNGO's actions were instrumental in **channelizing bureaucratic discontent**, it primarily represented **government employees**, not the broader masses. Its focus on employment safeguards, though crucial, often overshadowed wider developmental demands. Furthermore, its inability to unify with student and peasant movements limited its mass reach.

However, the TNGO's sustained pressure kept the Telangana issue alive in public discourse and laid the **organizational foundation** for future mobilizations, including the eventual rise of the **Telangana Praja Samithi (TPS)**.

Conclusion

The TNGO Association, through its focused advocacy, judicial interventions, and administrative protests, significantly shaped the **early momentum** of the 1969 Telangana agitation. Though limited in demographic outreach, its role as a **catalyst for bureaucratic resistance** and **symbol of regional assertion** cannot be overstated. It was a crucial node in the broader matrix of Telangana's struggle for identity and autonomy.

2. “The Telangana Agitation of 1969 found its spark among the employees of the Kothagudem Thermal Power Station (KTPS).” Do you agree with this assessment? Substantiate your response with factual references.

Introduction

The Telangana Agitation of 1969 was a significant political uprising against the perceived injustice and systematic neglect of the Telangana region within the unified Andhra Pradesh state. While the movement drew strength from various sections—students, political leaders, and civil society—the **initial spark is widely attributed to the discontent and activism of the employees of Kothagudem Thermal Power Station (KTPS)**. This assessment holds considerable validity based on events and leadership emerging from KTPS.

KTPS as the Cradle of Discontent

Established in 1966, the **Kothagudem Thermal Power Station in Palwancha** became a symbol of exploitation for the Telangana people due to:

- **Land Acquisition and Environmental Burden:** Vast tracts of land were taken from local Telangana communities, and the region bore the brunt of pollution and displacement.
- **Employment Discrimination:** Despite being located in Telangana, the majority of jobs at KTPS were given to individuals from the Andhra region, violating Mulki Rules and stoking regional resentment.

Role of KTPS Employees and Leaders

- **Kolishetty Ramadasu** of Yellandu emerged as the first vocal critic of the injustices at KTPS. In **1968**, he founded the **Telangana Regional Samithi**, which later evolved into the Telangana Regional Forum—the **first organization to openly demand a separate Telangana state**.
- He conducted **extensive touring and mobilization**, creating awareness of the violations of the Gentlemen’s Agreement and Mulki rules.
- Alongside Ramadasu, **leaders like V.L. Narasimha Rao and K.Rama Sudhakar Raju** helped galvanize protests within KTPS and nearby areas.

Institutional and Collaborative Mobilisation

- **TNGO Association’s Support:** The Telangana Non-Gazetted Officers’ Association, particularly its Illandu unit led by **Venkaiah**, worked closely with KTPS employees. Together, they exposed illegal job appointments through publications like the ‘**Jana Dharna**’ (**July 18, 1968**).
- Their efforts led to the **Government Order of April 30, 1968**, directing the removal of non-Mulki employees, a landmark decision, albeit short-lived.

Judicial Trigger and Political Momentum

- The **Alladi Kuppaswamy judgment (January 3, 1969)**, which ruled that Mulki Rules did not apply to public corporations deepened the unrest, pushing the agitation from employee resistance to a full-fledged regional movement.

Conclusion

The Telangana agitation of 1969 **indeed found its spark among the employees of KTPS**, particularly under the leadership of Kolishetty Ramadasu. Their early resistance to employment injustice and violation of regional safeguards laid the foundational narrative of marginalization. Thus, KTPS became not just a site of protest, but a **symbol of Telangana’s demand for dignity, justice, and autonomy**.