

Arrest of social worker

Express News Service

RAMPACHODAVARAM, June 15.

The arrest of Dr. P. Sivaramakrishna, a social worker, working for the cause of tribals in the area, on June 6, created resentment among the tribals and the taluk officials of Rampachodavaram.

Dr. Sivaramakrishna, known as 'Gendada Panthulu' was arrested allegedly with no substantial reason.

With no political affiliation, Dr. Sivaramakrishna has been working as a catalyst between tribals and government agencies to ensure benefits sanctioned to the tribals reach them.

He helps them from falling into the hands of middlemen, who often exploit them. He teaches them latest farming techniques.

Dr. Sivaramakrishna has been propagating social forestry programme sponsored by the Integrated Tribal Development Agency. He had been conferred doctorate for his research on tribals and their culture and traditions.

It is alleged that the arrack

contractors and the police themselves were behind the arrest.

Dr. Sivaramakrishna told EAS recently that he was not given the reason behind the arrest. He alleged that the police were not allowing him to talk to them.

He charged that the police pressurising people to compromise with the arrack contractors 'for their selfish ends' was not justifiable.

The police allegedly lent a deaf ear even to the recommendation of the taluk second class magistrate for his immediate release on the grounds that he was a social worker having no concern with any political party.

The police have reportedly violated the rule that the arrested should be produced before the court within 24 hours of the detention.

Moreover, Dr. Sivaramakrishna alleged that the police were pressurising him not to get into confront with them and the arrack contractors.

The reason behind the whole issue was said to be the objection for selling of arrack at Kakavada village by its residents.

some time ago.

The tribals of the village have requested the arrack contractors not to sell arrack at their village. Even the excise officials have ordered the contractors to discontinue their sales at the village.

But the police, camping at the village to check extremist activities in the taluk, have reportedly pressurised the contractors for the supply of arrack. But, the tribals have obstructed the sale. The police, suspecting the hand of Dr. Sivaramakrishna behind their objection, reportedly had a grouse against him, which eventually is stated to have led to his detention.

When the correspondent met the circle inspector recently, he reportedly said that he was on sick leave and was ignorant of the arrest.

Even the sub-inspector, who was reportedly out of station at the time of the arrest, said that he did not know the reason behind the arrest of Dr. Sivaramakrishna.

Meanwhile, the villagers of Kakavada have alleged that the police have been restricting their movements.