

## **Comrade Maruthei Thangavel ( 1954-2021)**

### **Departure of a revolutioner**

He was born to a working class family at Lellopitiya, Bopeththa, plantation area in Ratnapura district of Sri Lanka. He was inherited with gifted humanity to all human beings. He too was victimised to the grievances of plantation workers. He was well experienced at his early age how his parents were trying to survive as a family.

Thangavel was received his formal education at a school which was situated in his living estate. He excelled both Tamil and Sinhala language. He gained a fair knowledge of English language too. Young Thangavel always fought individually and organisationally against the injustice which occurred to his fellow workers. In term of the true sense, he was a humble and sociable character and gave a leadership to community works.

Thangavel continued his social works through various kind of charity organizations of the area. He felt thrust of doing social works and held various responsibilities in order to uplift the living condition of fellow state workers. He actively participated with “Shramadana Campaign” (collective charity works) and toiled his labour for the sake of his plantation community.

He was not only a social worker but also a militant. He was always grieved on poor living condition of plantation workers and the way them to be exploited by landlords. He led so many plantation struggles to win demands. He fought fearlessly against traditional state trade unionist, Savomyamurthi Thondaman and his movement. Therefore he had to face so many baseless allegations and had to spend his time at police stations and the courts.

During this period, he met comrade Kandaiah Kanapathy who holds an alternative leftist ideology. Thangavel was attracted to the organisation for which then Kanapathy holds the membership. Marxist workers Tendency (predecessor of United Socialist Party) .Thangavel became a Marxist and a Trotskyist and launched the socialist Plantation service union to fight against the monopoly of Thondaman’s Trade union hegemony.

In 2006, Comrade Thangavel fought against the theoretical derailment of United Socialist Party and finally formed The Socialist Party of Sri Lanka (SPSL) (a sister organization of LSI) .Unfortunately he could not exist with the party for long time. SPSL leadership paid a loose stance on Self-determination rights on minority Tamil people of Sri Lanka. Therefore he re-launched a new workers organization by the name of United Lanka workers’ Party which affiliated with RCIT. Till his untimely death, he continuously held the red flag and was an active member of the party.

Red salute to Comrade Maruthei Thangavel!

The Executive committee of United Lanka workers’ party.

