

Dyuti Krishna Panda (AITUC President, state unit of Orissa) Bhubaneswar

Name	Dyuti Krishna Panda (AITUC President, state unit of Orissa) Bhubaneswar
Date of Interview	January 21-22, 2003
Place	at Bhubaneswar, Orissa
Context	DK Panda has been one of the tallest leaders of Orissa trade union movement and been elected to Parliament several times. He now lives in Bhubaneswar and chairs the state unit of AITUC.
Interviewers	Anil Rajimwale

Biographical Sketches

Born on July 1, 1923 in a rich peasant family, I studied upto graduation in Berhampur college. I was active in the student and cultural front in Ganjam district. There were several prominent leaders with me like Nandini Satpathy and many others. I took part in the anti-Union Jack movement in 1945. There were several other movements to follow after that. I was associated with Aksa movement and also with the liberation struggle of several princely states.

I came in touch with the labour movement roughly in 1947. I started organising fishermen, weavers and rice mill workers among others. I was also involved in the struggle of sugarcane and sugar workers beginning with Aksa and then spreading all over the state and finally to country. I organised All India Sugarcane workers and cane growers conference. I was in the world cane growers conference too held in Mexico. Sugar cane growers were organised under trade union act. I had also organised sugarcane cooperatives and the movement for it.

I was also involved in Railwaymen's strike in 1949.

The other sectors that I was involved in were electricity, press, unorganised sector workers like Anganwadi, porters, mine and forest workers, apart from various others.

Presently I am the state president of the Orissa TUC.

Transcript Summary

Context: DK Panda has been one of the tallest leaders of Orissa trade union movement and been elected to Parliament several times.

He now lives in Bhubaneswar and chairs the state unit of AITUC.

He was born on July 1, 1923 in a rich peasant family. He studied upto graduation in Berhampur College in 1944-47. As a student, he was involved in several students' struggles. Among them the memorable ones were anti-Union Jack movement and against detention system.

In the decades of forties, he was involved in the peasants struggle. There was the famous Takarda movement after the incident in the village of the same name in Ganjam district.

It was in the course of student and peasant movements that he came into contact with the labour movement. As a student leader, he also worked among the fishermen, weavers, rice mills workers, printers and many others.

Movements were launched to provide nets at cheaper rates to the fishermen.

Panda participated in the 1949 railway strike. There was long drawn strike of the workers in Berhampur. He started working among the sugarcane growers at Aksa and pioneered the movement. The sugarcane workers and growers movement and organisation ultimately became widespread and assumed first state wide and then country wide dimension. I also helped to organise the sugarcane workers of international levels and took part in the international conferences including the one held in Mexico.

Panda took part in the movement to protest against the incidents in Takarda in Ganjam district in 1948 and was imprisoned in the early 1950s.

Panda joined the law course and later the bar at Aksa.

Panda also organised the Ayurvedic workers in 1958. He is the president of the Sugar Cooperative Employees Union for the last 39 years. Since 1968, he has been working among the electricity workers activating their state level organisation.

Panda was also involved actively among the workers of the unorganised sector including the Anganwadi workers. He is the president of their union.

He has also been involved in organising the Keonjhar mine workers as well as the forest workers. He also helped organise the porters union at Khurda. He has also organised the bidi workers and now even organising a school for them in Orissa. The Orissa state TUC has been instrumental in the NALCO movement too.

At present, he is the president of the Orissa TUC.