

Indian Express 29-5-92

(4)

Voluntary body wants contractor prosecuted

29-5-92

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

KAKINADA - In his letter to the district collector, Dr P Sivarama Krishna, director of 'Sakti', a voluntary organisation based at Ramachodavaram, has requested the former to issue instructions to the authorities for prosecuting Mr Vankara Reddy for allegedly contravening the Andhra Pradesh Private Forest Act by felling 2,000 trees in the Chintalapudi forest of Yamavaram mandal.

Dr Sivarama Krishna said illegal felling of a tree attracts Rs. 5,000 fine or two years imprisonment. Tracing the developments of the litigation, he said the Government had given a stay against G.O 185 in August, 1990, citing the objections raised by Sakti. When Sakti pressed for stay orders on the said G.O. in the High Court, the Government submitted to the court that it had already stayed the GO at the instance of Sakti, the petitioner.

But on December 16, 1991 the government vacated the stay with-

out informing Sakti or the court. He termed the action of vacating the stay orders keeping him in the dark as "mischievous" and "undemocratic". But he was alert and got stay orders against GO 185 before the orders of the Government vacating the stay could be officially despatched to Mr. Sankara Reddy.

When the pattadar approached the court to transfer the felled trees, Sakti opposed the move of the pattadar and the Government. But the Forest Department conceded the demand of the pattadar.