

Dt: 3/9/15

Speech by His Excellency Sri K. Rosaiah garu Governor of Tamilnadu

**The 29th Gopichand National Literary Award to
Padmabhushan Sir William Mark Tully
on Tuesday, 8th Sept 2015 at 1800 Hrs
at Sri Potti Sriramulu Telugu University Auditorium,
Public Gardens, Hyderabad**

Sir Mark Tully, Sri Kondal Rao garu, Pof. Sunaina Singh, Dr. Hanuman Chowdary and members of organising committee,

I am delighted to be associated with this function for award of the **29th Gopichand National Literary Award to Sir William Mark Tully**. Sir Mark is a distinguished person who has been knighted by Her Highness, the Queen Elizabeth of the United Kingdom and even more significantly, awarded Padmabhushan by the Rashtrapati of the Republic of India. As Chief of the Bureau in Delhi of the **famed British Broadcasting Corporation**; as a broadcaster, as commentator and writer of several books relating to India with great understanding of the life and aspirations of people of India. Sir Mark is a good friend and well-wisher of India. It is remarkable that his understanding of and sympathy with the people of India has made him to choose India as his residence. He belongs to that noble band of English -men like Dr Annie Besent, Sisiter Nivedita and Dr JBS Haldane who, with great understanding of India's millennial civilisation and culture have chosen to be Indian and to live in India and serve its people. I am much pleased that I have this opportunity to honour this great writer, broadcaster, journalist and lover of India and that too to commemorate another illustrious writer and intellectual Sri Gopichand.

2. I know the late Sri Tripuraneni Gopichand and his distinguished father, the late Kaviraju, Sathavadhani Tripuraneni Ramaswamy Chowdary . Sri Ramaswamy Chowdary, was a Barrister by training. But he was a crusader for social reform and rational thinking. He brought about a revolution in the thinking of the people of Andhra Pradesh, especially in the coastal areas. The greatest contribution that he made was to inspire people to ask "**why**" "enduku" for everything and that led to the casting away of superstitions irrational beliefs and practices. He inspired people to be educated and rise intellectually so that the inequality could be reduced between advanced sections of the society and the rest. His **geyam** (song) "**Veera gandham techinaramu veerudevvalu telpudi**" inspired many people to participate in the satyagraham for freedom, led by Mahatma Gandhi.

3. Sri Tripuraneni Gopichand , Ramaswamy Chowdary's eldest son imbibed from his father rationalist thought. In fact Gopichand said that the greatest gift that he received from his father was the question "**Why**". Gopichand started as a non-believer - nasthika, embraced socialist and communist ideas for some time, then progressed to radical humanism inspired by the late Manaveendra Nath Roy and finally he came to accept and believe in sage, Aurabindo's ideas of **divine life and evolution of man to higher levels of consciousness embracing all mankind**. His numerous essays, broadcasts over All India Radio, his plays, his novels were avidly read by the Telugu people. Gopichand showed great understanding of the psyche of middle class people with the baggage of an ancient heritage and attractive, alluring aspirations of the rising generations in the light of science and technology. His novels, "**Asamardhuni Jee Yathra** and **Pandita Paramaswara Sastry Veelunama** are masterpieces in Telugu novel literature. The message

that we get from the lives of Sri Gopichand and his father is that **we should not merely be scholastic but always be incisively inquiring and questioning every concept and learn from life. Indeed this is the message of the Upanishads.**

4. It is indeed remarkable that the Post & Telegraph Department of the Government of India brought out commemorative stamps in honour of both the father, Ramaswamy Chowdary and son Gopichand . Such a distinction is had only by Motilal Nehru, Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi , in memory of all of whom postal stamps were issued.

5. I have great pleasure in recalling my knowledge of the work and life of the father and son duo, Ramaswamy Chowdary and son Gopichand

6. Once again let me say I am very much delighted to present the **The 29th Gopichand National Literary Award** to an equally distinguished person Sir Mark Tully.

7. I thank the Yuva Kalavahini, its office bearers and Dr Tripuraneni Hanuman Chowdary Sri Tripuraneni Saichand for choosing Sir Mark for the award and for organising this function. May all of you serve Telugu Talli, Telugu and Bharat so that we all become a great, enlightened fraternity, drawing into our brotherhood distinguished persons like Sir Mark. (725 words)

Thank You.
Jai Hind