

## **NOTORIOUS BUS ROBBERY GANG OF TALLA SHANKAR REDDY**

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In 1989 to 1994 there were a series of bus robberies in the districts of Guntur, Khammam, Krishna, Ananthapur, Nalgonda, Nellore, Prakasham, East Godavari, West Godavari, Mahboobnagar, Kurnool, Chittoor. In which Talla Shankar and his associates used to travel as bonafide passengers in R.T.C. buses plying during the nights. The offenders used to threaten the bus crew and passengers at the point of revolvers; country made pistols and knives and used to rob them. The gang committed 61 bus robberies with in a period of 6 years in the above 12 districts of A.P., covering all the three regions.

Talla Shankar Reddy had criminal propensities from his boy-hood days. He along with some other associates committed robberies and dacoities on passengers travelling in Lorries. Subsequently he was sent to jail in a murder case of Donda Samba Siva Rao. After release from jail, he formed a gang and committed dacoities in Guntur district. He was again arrested along with some of his associates and sent to judicial custody. While he was in judicial custody he escaped from Sub-jail Narsaraopet by cutting the bars of the Cell vide. Cr.No.306/87 u/s 224 IPC of Narsaraopet P.S.

Later, the accused formed another gang in the year 1989 with (8) members hailing from Hyderabad, Guntur, Nalgonda and Krishna district. They committed 61 bus robberies. On credible information in the year 1995 the local Police of Guntur and staff of A.D.Cell C.I.D. apprehended Talla Shankar Reddy, Vijjala Vijaya Bhaskar Rao, Bhupathi Pandu, Patla Prabhkar, Dondoti Raju, Billa Komal Reddy, Talla Baliram Reddy, Toguta Veerachari, Sarvi Ganesh and recovered 1 Italian made pistol, 2 revolvers 1 tapancha, 92 cartridges, 4 knives and gold ornaments weighing about 4 and ½ Kg. Gold. After recovery of the properties the accused were sent to judicial remand. After completion of the investigation A.D.Cell C.I.D. filed charge sheets in all 61 cases including one dacoity. All the 61 cases were transferred to Special Designated court i.e. III Addl. M.S.J. Hyderabad. At the time of framing of charges in Cr.No. 43/92 u/s 392IPC and 27 of Arms Act. Of Chilkaluripeta P.S. the accused Talla Shankar Reddy of Guntur, V.V.Bhaskar Rao of Krishna Patla Prabhaker of Hyderabad city, pleaded guilty and they were convicted for 8 years R.I. The other cases were disposed off. Appeals against the acquittals are pending in the High Court of A.P.