

July 1979-1st
August 1979-1st
September 77-1

Tamil Arasu

Vol. II



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Tamil Arasu



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COMMISSIONER OF TAMIL NADU
ARCHIVES AND HISTORICAL RESEARCH

24 ௫ 1979

சென்னை, தமிழ்நாடு

We are not slaves to any one
Nor shall we fear any one.
We have our own individuality,
We have formulated a policy of our own.
We have malice towards none,
Nor do we wish to get enslaved.
We shall not bow down to others.

Officers should not be instrumental
in deceiving the public on ineffective plans.
Rather, this Government would function
On its own, independently.
The tax paid by the public
Should be properly utilized.

This Government will fulfill Anna's Plans
Of a Socialistic society,
We shall not deviate
from Anna's ideals.

Verified by
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Thiru M.G.R.'s speech
at Neyveli on 31-5-79.

Tamil Arasu
VOLUME X — ISSUE 1
JULY-1979



Agriculture continues to be the prime sector of the state. The Government of Tamil Nadu has taken keen interest in the welfare of the farmers and has not only provided all facilities for them but has also given them a number of concessions.

The disastrous floods of the past two years had caused heavy damages and the farmers were the worst affected. Heavy damages to the crops was, however, averted by prompt action taken for the revival of crops thereby minimising the loss in production.

To compensate the loss of crops, the farmers were encouraged to make use of the water from wells and lakes for irrigation in addition for cultivation during summer.

The relief measures announced by the Government and the possible action taken to mitigate the loss cannot be over emphasised.

Concessions given by Government:

Rs. 40 Crores has been given as concessions to farmers.

So far no Government had come forward to analyse the pro-

blems of the farmers and solved them. This Government has set up a High Power Committee and on their recommendation has granted concessions, for Rs. 40 Crores.

Removal of levy:

In order to create conditions favourable for the agriculturists getting a remunerative price for paddy, the Government of Tamil Nadu have decided that even the token levy of 20% now imposed on the movements of rice and paddy outside the State shall be totally recovered with effect from 1st June 1979.

Government loans removed:

The Thakkavi loans under Agricultural loans Act and Land Improvement Act, loans sanctioned for open wells or tube wells and co-operative loans have been granted.

As regards Co-operative loans, about 16 lakhs of loanes will get relief to the extent of Rs. 27 Crores. In respect of Thakkavi Loans, 15 lakhs of ryots will get relief to the extent of Rs. 13 Crores. A total relief to the extent of Rs. 40 Crores will be offered to ryots, as a result of the concessions now ordered by the Government.

Thakkavi Loans:

Agricultural Credit Input Loans granted to landless agriculturists will be totally written off. In respect of these loans granted to other agriculturists, the first Rs. 500/- of the loan amount will be waived.

In respect of soil conservation loans, the loan amount will be treated as settled if 50% of the loan portion of the principal has been paid. In respect of ground spraying, the loan amount will be treated as settled if an amount equal to the amount of the loan has been paid.

In respect of the other Thakkavi Loans not coming under the above categories, the loan amount will be treated as settled if an amount equal to the loan amount has been paid.

Penal Interest:

Penal interest upto 30.6.'79 on all short-term, medium-term and long-term agricultural loans over due as on 30.6.'78 will be fully waived. Any penal interest that may have been paid after 30.6.'77 will be refunded to the loanes by crediting it to the account of the loanee.

Conversion of short-term loans into medium-term loans has already been granted in the cases of ryots who have been affected by adverse seasonal conditions. It has now been decided that in the case of such

converted loans of a farmer, be written off and on the next Rs. 5,000/- 50 percent will be written off.

In respect of loans granted under Agricultural loans Act and Land Improvement Act, the Loans will be treated as fully settled, if the amount so far paid by the agriculturists either as principal or interest or both put together equals the amount of the loan.

In respect of Capital Improvement Loans, the loans will be written off if the amount is paid as principal or interest or both put together equals twice the amount of the loan.

Loans sanctioned for open wells or tube wells, the loans will be treated as written off if the amount equals to twice the loans amount has been paid as principal, interest or both put together.

In respect of loans for wells, in cases where the wells have failed, the loan amount upto Rs. 10,000 will be written off. Ryots who have spent an amount atleast equal to the loan amount for digging the well will be eligible for this concession.

Expect for loans granted in respect of soil conservation and ground spraying, in respect of all other loans granted by the Agriculture Department for services rendered, further collections be they 1, 2, 3 or more all interest due on such loans as on 30.5.'78 will be written off.

Besides this, waiver of interest, extension of time will also be granted for the repayment of converted loans.

Besides these concessions in respect of short-term loans converted into medium-term loans before 1.1.'79 and which are outstanding, and in respect of loans which are now to be consolidated the rate of interest will be reduced. Interest is now payable on these loans at either 13.8% or 12.5%. According to the reduced rate an interest rate of 10.5% in respect of small farmers and 12% in respect of other farmers will be charged from 1.1.'79.

Lowest Power Tariff:

The Power Tariff which was 16 paise per unit was reduced to 14 paise. For the small farmers it has been further reduced to



12 paise and for the others it has been fixed at 14 paise. Though the Government incurs a loss of Rs. 6 Crores through these concessions, they have been implemented since 1.6.'78.

The meter charge has been reduced from Rs. 5/- to Rs. 4/- resulting in a loss of Rs. 1 Crore annually.

Cyclone Relief Measures:

During the past two years the farmers have been affected greatly by disastrous floods. Since relief measures were taken quickly, the heavy damages to crops and loss in yield have been prevented. The Government have implemented the following relief measures.

Relief measures taken in 1977: Free supply of seeds:

Seeds worth Rs. 30 lakhs had been distributed to the small farmers and cultivating tenants.

A subsidy of Rs. 87,300 was given to farmers and tenants who had raised sugarcane

Small farmers and cultivating tenants who had raised plantain crops were granted a subsidy of Rs. 5,43,600/-

Small farmers and cultivating tenants who had raised betel-vines were granted an amount of Rs. 10,27,000/-

Farmers were given pesticides at a subsidised rate of 25% without

any discrimination. The amount allocated to this category of relief was Rs. 1 Crore.

98,200 Coconut seedlings were distributed among small farmers and cultivating tenants.

An area of 7,064 hectares has been reclaimed and revived. The small farmers were given this service free of cost.

Relief Measures taken in 1978.

Rs. 2,11,770 lakhs worth paddy seeds have been distributed to the small farmers and cultivating tenants.

To those affected small farmers and tenants who had raised sugarcane and plantains a sum of Rs. 79,400 has been granted.

To revive their betel farms a sum of Rs. 3,51,370 has been granted.

10,042 Coconut seedlings were distributed to those affected small farmers and cultivating tenants.

In Nilgiris the affected farmer was given potato seeds worth Rs. 250/- to Rs. 1,000 per acre at a subsidised rate of 25% of this cost. At this rate an amount of Rs. 38,600 has been granted.

Vegetable seeds amounting to Rs. 54,000 has been distributed.

Land and wells have been reclaimed free of cost for small farmers and cultivating tenants, while for the other farmers at a 50% subsidy

Your dreams of a golden harvest can now come true...



SPIC D.A.P 18:46:0

(Di-Ammonium Phosphate)

The ideal fertiliser for basal dressing of cereal crops



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Besides cereal crops like rice, jowar and bajra. SPIC DAP is also good for sugar-cane, cotton, groundnuts, tapoica, as well as dry-land crops.

It is the higher analysis phosphate (46%) that makes SPIC DAP the most economical and effective basal dressing.

SPIC Fertilisers-for better yields and higher profits.

SOUTHERN PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LTD.
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land was reclaimed up to a ceiling of Rs. 1,000/- A grant for an amount of Rs. 35.53 lakhs have been spent.

Exemption from tax :

The land affected by Cyclone and flood have been exempted from land taxes and water cess; tax on plantation crops have been exempted.

Increased prices for sugarcane:

Though the Government of India have fixed the price for cane at Rs. 35/- per tonne the Government has taken steps to increase the price from Rs. 100/- to Rs. 125/- per tonne through Co-operatives and through privately owned sugar mills.

Surplus in production:

In the past two years there has been a substantial increase in agricultural production. The production of rice in 1977 was only 62 lakhs tonnes, 19 lakh tonnes millets; pulses 3 lakhs tonnes; Jaggery 14 lakhs tonnes; and Cotton 4.04 lakhs bales and Oil seeds 12.29 lakh tonnes.

During 1978 rice production was 64 lakh tonnes; millets 20 lakh tonnes; Pulses 3.25 lakh tonnes, Oil seeds 14.07 lakh tonnes; Jaggery 19.50 lakh tonnes; 4.96 lakh bales of Cotton.

The yield per acre of paddy which was 1,277 kilos during 1976-'77 was increased to 1,350 kilos in 1978-'79.

Special summer crop scheme :

To mitigate the loss occurred due to cyclone and floods, the waters from lakes and wells were utilised in 1977-'78 and an additional 1.01 lakh hectares for rice and 0.41 lakh hectares for millets and 1.55 lakh hectares for groundnut was brought under cultivation during the summer.

During this year also there will be an increase in area under food grains as follows:

0.41 lakh hectares for rice; 0.32 lakh hectares for millets; 0.10 lakh hectares for pulses; 0.35 lakh hectares for groundnuts; 0.05 lakh hectares for gingelly oil; 0.42 lakh hectares for cotton.

Small farmers and marginal farmers have been made to adapt modern agricultural practices to increase productivity without boosting the cost of cultivation.

The "Gravitor applicator" and the multi purpose equipments are distributed to farmers in Thanjavur at concessional rates to popularise them.

Production of millets :

To increase the production of millets in five production centres in North Arcot, Tirunelveli, Madurai, Pudukkottai and Coimbatore have been started. With the help of the Central Government another seed production centre has been opened in Coimbatore.

Oil Seeds:

Utilising the dam water for the first time, a scheme has been taken up to cultivate oil seeds on a large scale. During this year under the lower Bhavani Scheme, an additional area of 32,000 hectares has been brought under cultivation.

Coconut:

To increase the production and distribution of coconut seedlings from 12 lakhs per year, during 1978-'79 to 14,30,000 have been distributed. This is notable achievement.

To increase production, an intensive cultivation scheme has been implemented in the districts of Coimbatore, Kanyakumari and Ramanathapuram.

The tall and dwarf varieties and the hybrid variety will be cultivated in Pattukottai in Thanjavur district and it has been proposed to plant 1 lakh seedlings per year.

Fertilizer distribution:

During 1976-'77 2 lakh tonnes of green manure, 0.45 lakh tonnes

of farmyard manure, 0.57 lakh tonnes manure & Chemical fertilizers have been distributed.

In 1978-'79 2.90 lakh tonnes of green manure; 0.94 lakh tonnes of manure, 1.07 lakh tonnes farmyard manure and chemical fertilizers have been distributed.

Plant Protection:

Spraying of pesticides to control paddy pests and pests that affect groundnut have been taken up. During 1977-'78, 34,000 hectares of paddy and 53,000 hectares of groundnut were sprayed. Rs. 3/- per acre was given as subsidy for spraying.

During 1978-'79 an average of 41,000 hectares of paddy and 88,000 hectares of groundnut and 38,400 hectares of millets were sprayed.

The pest "Protenia" has caused unprecedented damage to the crops in Pollachi and Usillampatti areas. Immediate action was taken for effective control of the onslaught of the pests. The pesticides were sold to the farmers at 25% subsidized rates. The amount of Rs. 53,148/- was spent for spraying pesticides in 4,378 hectares.

Under the plant protection scheme an area of 10,500 hectares have been saved from pests where cotton was cultivated.

An area of 20,000 hectares was covered under the scheme for the control of Brown Hopper during 1978-'79. An area of 18,000 hectares in Sholavandan in Madurai district, Thanjavur and Gobichetti palayam in Coimbatore districts will be covered by this scheme at a cost of Rs. 8 lakhs.



A Directorate of Horticulture has been set up and giant orchards will be laid out to improve cultivation and extending it.

A 1,000 acre model fruit farm has been set up in Pudukkottai to increase fruit production.

For production of banana, two-centres have been started in Mudalipatti, Trichi District and North Arcot district.

New varieties:

The Agricultural Department had introduced 16 new varieties to increase production. The Agricultural University had introduced 8 new varieties.

During 1978-'79, the Agricultural Department has released 12 new varieties and the Agricultural University 13 new varieties for the use of farmers.

Seeds Certification:

During 1978-'79, under this scheme 4,600 hectares of paddy, 1,600 hectares of millets, 390 hectares of high-yielding variety of Cotton were grown. Quality seeds were supplied to farmers. The quality seed production centre has been functioning as an autonomous institution. The farmers from neighbouring States have been buying the seeds supplied through this centre. This enables increase in employment and increase in production.

Seed Processing Centre:

Three seed processing centres one each at Bhavani in Coimbatore District, Killikulam in Tirunelveli District and Irrungur in Tiruchi District for the supply of quality seeds to farmers are functioning. Through these centres, 4,000 tonnes of seeds are processed and supplied.

Seed Testing Centre:

Another seed testing centre has been set up in Pudukkottai to test the quality and supply of seeds.

A testing centre has been set up in Kovilpatti to test manure and a centre to test pesticides has been set up at Kanchipuram.

Training Programme:

Training Centres for farmers have been established at Pudukkottai, Kanyakumari and Dharmapuri districts in 1977-'78. During 1978-'79, Centres at Salem, Ramanathapuram, The Nilgiris have been established. With this 14 training centres are functioning in all the 14 districts.

Marketing and Quality Control:

A Directorate for Agricultural Marketing was created on 14th October, 1977 to activate the working of the Marketing Committees and to improve the economic condition of the farmers, in securing a better and stable price for their produce.

The Integrated Rural Development Programme introduced during 1978-'79, covers 50% of the area for the benefit of Small Farmers

For the first time under an integrated scheme, large areas for soil conservation and water management practices has been implemented in 400 hectares. This integrated scheme will be extended to 100 more places.

Agricultural Engineering :

To develop ground water Sources, 257 seepage wells have been sunk during 1978-'79.

Wind Erosion:

Wind erosion control works are taken up in the wind affected areas in Bodinayakanur in Madurai district. During 1977-'78 1,633 hectares and during 1978-'79 1,632 hectares were benefited.



and marginal farmers. The Scheme will be gradually extended to all areas.

Drought Prone Area Programme:

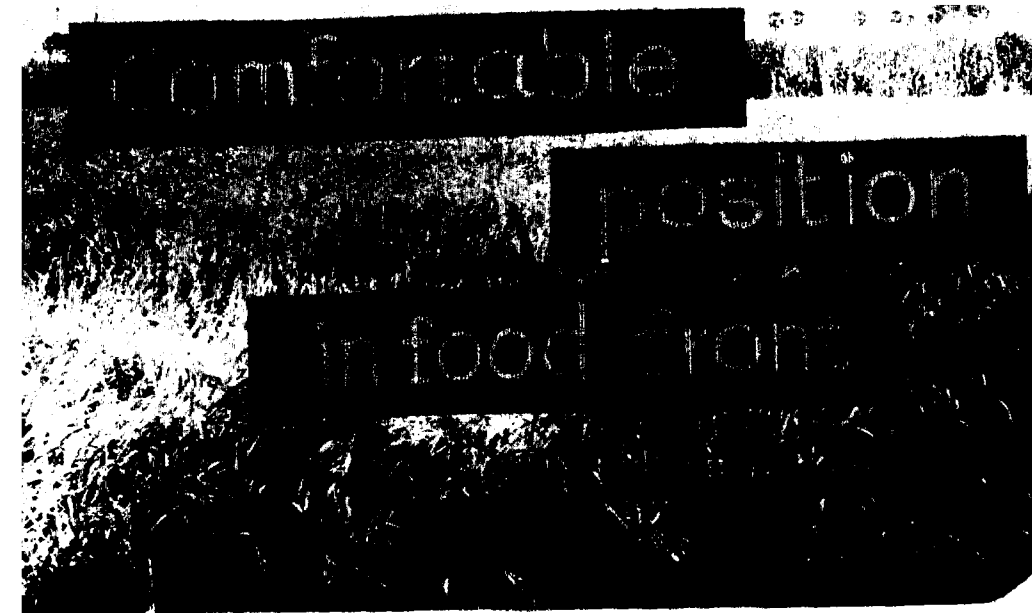
The Drought Prone Area Programme is being implemented in Ramanathapuram and Dharmapuri Districts. An outlay of Rs. 342 lakhs has been sanctioned for this scheme. It is to be noted that Rs. 464 lakhs has been allotted for the year 1978-'79. This will benefit the small farmers and marginal farmers and landless-farmers of these areas.

Soil Conservation:

Soil conservation work has been taken on 39,620 hectares in 1977-'78 and 42,820 hectares have been taken up in 1978-'79 in hilly areas and plains.

Minor Irrigation:

During 1977-'78, 4,172 tube wells and 2,689 filter-point wells were sunk. In the year 1978-'79 4,692 tube wells and 2,587 filter-point wells were sunk. Moreover in 1977-'78 2215 wells and in 1978-'79 2,573 wells were deepened.



A number of changes have taken place in the food front since this Government came to power two years ago and as a result of the changes in the food policy of the centre.

The Southern Food Zone constituted in October 1976 comprised of the states of Tamil Nadu, Andhra, Karnataka and Pondichery and excepting Kerala. In 1977, the Government of India wanted to ascertain the views of other State Governments whether Kerala could be included in the Southern Food Zone.

Tamil Nadu and Kerala consume mainly boiled rice. Raw rice is taken by a majority in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. This Government was afraid that the interests of Tamil Nadu would be affected if Kerala was included in the zone. This Government categorically pointed out to the Central Government that if a large quantity of boiled rice was sent to Kerala, there was very little chance to compensate it from Andhra and Karnataka and therefore, the Southern Food Zone could function as before.

Even while negotiations were going on, the Government of India, without consulting the States or intimating them in advance passed orders in October, 1977 that the whole country will form a single Food Zone. Tamil Nadu which had become self-sufficient in rice was afraid that Tamil Nadu may become deficit and the results will be adverse by the formation of a single zonal system. This was

brought to the attention of the Government of India. The Tamil Nadu Government has come forward to implement this new policy whole heartedly, since the Centre has given the assurance that the interests of the state will not be affected by the new policy made on an All India basis. Tamil Nadu has been functioning as a separate food zone with the exception of Kerala and one cannot absolutely foretell the consequences of the new policy of treating the country as a single zone. Yet, we were able to manage the food situation in the state tolerably. This only speaks of the foresight and pragmatism of the successful policy making of the Government.

When the state was readjusting to the new policies, the unprecedented cyclone and floods which lashed Tamil Nadu in 1977 at the fag-end of the year, created untold sufferings. This was taken as a challenge and immediate action was taken and creative work was carried on peacefully. The Tamil Nadu Government had come out successful in the food front. Despite the cyclone, and flood, there was no scarcity of rice, there was no pricehike, no shortage of rice in the open market, the public distribution system was carried on smoothly. One of the notable achievements of this Government is that it has tackled the rice problems efficiently thereby removing any anxiety.

Food situation:

Various measures have been taken to increase the food production and as a result rice production

has gone up to 64 lakh tonnes. This is sufficient to meet the demands of the state. The Government has decided to continue the public distribution system to control the open market price of rice and keep the rice supply steady throughout the year at a fixed fair price without allowing its being subjected to the vagaries of open market forces.

It is heartening to note that when the Government has completed two years of services to the people, the food situation is normal, there is sufficient stock of rice and supply through public distribution system will be at fair prices, and there will be no shortage during off-season. The Government has created a smooth and congenial atmosphere for the free operation of the private trade in food grain, while it has decided to continue the public distribution system. Changes have been made in the procurement policy without affecting the interests of the farmers.

Before 1979, there was compulsory procurement system, which has been removed now. Formerly every district was considered a separate zone and there were restrictions to take rice outside the zonal limits. Now these restrictions have been lifted and rice could be taken from one district to another. All the restrictions have been lifted since 11th May 1978 and there is free movement of rice and paddy throughout Tamil Nadu. Due to compulsory procurement, private traders were banned from whole sale trade in rice. The surplus

rice had to be sold compulsorily to the Government in the respective districts. Today the ban on whole-sale dealers in rice and paddy has been lifted. Wholesale rights have been given. A wholesale dealer can take rice from one district to another. The conditions and bans laid on retail dealers also have been lifted. The retail dealers can purchase rice and paddy directly from whole-sale dealers. The condition that a certificate from a Government Official is to be obtained to bring rice for personal use has been removed.

With the removal of all these bans restrictions and conditions the farmers can move paddy and rice from one place to another and sell it at a profitable price.

Shortage and Control:

Controls are necessary when there is shortage and as a result difficulties are inevitable. Shortages, controls and difficulties were the order of the day in the previous regime. Today, a situation prevails where there are no shortages, no necessity for controls, the difficulties faced by the public removed and there is plenty and prosperity, a special achievement indeed.

Government is very keen to ensure that the farmers receive remunerative paddy price, bearing in mind the cost of cultivation. The Centre fixes the procurement price on the basis of the recommendations made



by the Agricultural Prices Commission.

Farmers gratified:

During 1977-'78, when the question of fixing prices came up, the Government of Tamil Nadu emphatically pleaded that the procurement prices be substantively raised. The Centre has passed orders to raise the price for coarse variety of paddy to Rs. 85/- per quintal as against Rs. 74/- per Quintal. The prices fixed by the Centre on an All-India basis will be applicable to all other states. The Centre has also made it clear that the State should not raise the procurement price on any account in the form of bonus or additional amount or in any other form.

The question of fixing procurement price for 1978-'79 was reviewed in September 1978. The Tamil Nadu Government once again pleaded to raise the price of paddy to gratify the farmers. It continued to emphasize that the procurement price of paddy should be based on the cost of production and the price should be fixed on par with Wheat.

While pleading with the Centre to raise the procurement price of paddy, the Government has created a smooth atmosphere for the farmers to sell paddy at a profitable price, in the open markets. Till 1975 there was compulsory procurement for Sambha paddy. Free movement of paddy and rice from districts was curbed at one time.

A levy of 20% in the case of paddy and 10% in the case of rice has been imposed when they were moved from surplus-districts, from 11.5.78 trade levy and mill levy have been removed. Today there is no restriction in the movement of paddy and rice. Though the Government cannot raise the procurement price it is obvious that the Government has made all facilities available for the farmers to make a profit.

During the past two years the Government of Tamil Nadu has taken intensive steps to protect the interests of consumers, avoid price rise & keep a vigil over the situation.

Till 1978, the Government was following the Centres' Sugar control policy. According to it out of the

sugar produced 65% levy sugar was sent for distribution and 35% of levy sugar was allotted for sale in open markets. Under this scheme, every month 19,000 tonnes of levy sugar was sent to Tamil Nadu. The price of levy sugar was fixed at Rs. 2-30. After August, 1978 the Centre made changes in the distribution system and removed the levy. As a result a number of problems for sugar mills, and the cane price the farmers got was reduced, sugar was available for the consumers in open market at Rs. 2.10 to Rs. 2.60 per kilo. The Government has got adequate sugar stock even if the prices go up.

Therefore the traders from deficit areas can directly buy from farmers in surplus areas. Steps have been taken for the free operation of trade without any restriction or controls.

Levy is charged on paddy and rice that is moved out of the State. This levy which was 50% in October 1978 has been cut to 20%. During 1978, the Thanjai Kuravai crop was permitted to be taken to other states without any levy. This was done to enable the farmers to make a profit in open markets.

Necessary steps were taken to safeguard the food-situation and the interest of the consumers and at the same time facilities were made for the farmers to sell paddy at profitable prices.

On this basis, for rice millers, a ceiling was fixed for stocking paddy and rice for sale which was raised substantively. Whole-sale traders in Rice Mill have been permitted to procure 2,400 quintals of paddy and other whole sale traders 750 quintals at a time. This step has been taken to ensure higher prices for farmers.

Price of Rice:

The price of boiled rice consumed by a majority was Rs. 2.40 to Rs. 3.90 per kilo. in 1975 and as against this it is sold at Rs. 1.40 to Rs. 1.90 per Kilo to-day. The price of fine variety of boiled rice is Rs. 1-50 to 1-90 per Kilo. The price level is lowest when compared to the prices during the previous years.

The prices of millet is Rs. 0.80 to Rs. 1.20 per Kilo. This is lower than the price that prevailed five years ago.

Tamil Nadu is a deficit state in pulses. The demand for Tur Dhal is more than 2 lakh tonnes. The production of Tur Dhal in Tamil Nadu is only 35,000 tonnes. The demand of Red gram is also more than 2 lakhs and the production is only 5,000 tonnes.

The demand for Blackgram exceeds 1 1/2 lakhs but only 32,000 tonnes are produced. The total demand of pulses for the state is more than 6 lakhs but the production is less than 1 lakh. To meet the deficit of 5 lakhs, pulses have to be imported from Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra. Two years ago the price of Tur Dhal was Rs. 4.20 to Rs. 5.20 per Kilo now sell at Rs. 3.65 to Rs. 5-00. The price



of Red gram was Rs. 2.70 to Rs. 3.10. The price has gone up to Rs. 2.80 to Rs. 3.20. To regulate the prices of pulses, the co-operative and the consumers Association have taken steps to buy large quantities from surplus states for distribution.

Prices of Oil:

The price of groundnut oil was Rs. 10.10 to 11.65 till 1977 is now sold at Rs. 6.60 to Rs. 7.60 per Kilo. The rules regulating the export of oils have been liberalised and therefore the prices of processed oil is kept under control. Gingelly oil is sold at Rs. 7.15 to Rs. 8.80 as against Rs. 9.00 to Rs. 10.40 per Kilo three years ago.

Chillies was sold between Rs. 8/- and Rs. 11/- is being sold at Rs. 7/- to Rs. 10/-. There is increase in price in tamarind. Tamarind was sold at Rs. 2.80 to Rs. 4.50 is now being sold at Rs. 3.50 to Rs. 5.50. There is a deficit in Tamarind and the demand is met from the neighbouring States of Andhra, Karnataka, Bihar, Orissa etc., The price of coriander is between Rs. 2.40 to Rs. 3.50.

A number of trade regulations have been passed to control hoarders,

middlemen and speculators. The freedom of the merchants is not restricted and a conducive atmosphere has been created to protect the interests of the consumers also.

The Government has chalked out a programme to open a fair price shop in every village so that the essential commodities may be available at fair prices.

There are 16,600 revenue villages in Tamil Nadu. Among them there are 925 inhabited villages. 5,800 shops were selling rice, wheat, and sugar. Other necessary groceries were also sold. These shops were gradually converted into fair price grocery shops. Under this scheme fair price shops will be opened in 10,000 villages.

This scheme will be extended to Thanjavur, South Arcot, Tirunelveli and Dharmapuri districts.

Shops have been opened in 9,381 villages out of the 10,000 villages. The work will be completed in another two months.

This scheme will help to buy and sell the produce on the spot by the co-operative and the consumer's association.

Kerosene:

The Central Government allocates Kerosene to all the states. The supply of Kerosene during January 1979 was lesser and it has been reduced further in the months of February, March and April. Therefore to distribute it properly, family cards have been issued through consumer co-operatives and supplied to the public. This system has reduced the shortage of Kerosene.

The Government has been following an integrated food policy which protects the interests of the farmers, traders and consumers.

There was a time when the food problem was astute. At present the situation has been completely changed. Today there is peace, plenty and self-sufficiency in the food front. We are placed in a comfortable position due to the co-operation of the public, farmers and traders. The people of Tamil Nadu and the Government can take a legitimate pride for having created a comfortable position in the food front in the past two years.

Whatever the order...

A Pizza, A Smorrebord Sandwich or a MaSala DoSa



Let
aavin
do the
cooking



Whatever the cuisine, however exotic the dish, no matter how strange the things you've to do to tickle your patron's palate, you can be sure if the cooking is done with Aavin butter or ghee - it will enhance the taste of the dish.

Aavin is the name that has now come to be accepted as the password for pure, hygienic and reasonably priced milk products. Produced by the Tamil Nadu Dairy Development Corporation - the people who've ushered in the white revolution in Tamil Nadu - they cover the whole range of milk products viz. Cooking Butter, Ghee, Table Butter and Flavoured Milk.



The Tamil Nadu Dairy Development Corporation Limited

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HUMANITARIAN APPROACH BY GOVT.

THE main grievance of the Agriculturists has been the cost of power used for agriculture. There was an agitation in 1970, one in 1972 and again in 1978.

In 1971 the power tariff was 9 paise per unit. It was increased to 12 paise per unit with effect from 1-1-1972 by the previous regime and an agitation was then mounted against the Government in July 1972. After the agitation the Government reduced the cost of power used for agricultural pumpsets to 11 paise per unit for consumption above 100 units. But subsequently the D.M.K. Government, raised it to 14 paise per unit in October, 1974 and again in September, 1975 to 16 paise per unit.

Immediately after the present Government came to power, one of the first steps taken by the Government was to reduce the power tariff from 16 paise to 14 paise per unit for small farmers, even though this resulted in an additional loss of Rs. 2.5 crores to the Electricity Board, which was already incurring a loss of Rs. 40 crores per annum by subsidised rates for agricultural use.

In December, 1977 the Government constituted a Committee consisting of officials and non-officials

including members from the Agriculturists Associations under the Chairmanship of a senior I.A.S. officer to consider the matters relating to (i) Electricity tariff for agricultural pumpsets ; (ii) Procurement prices of paddy; (iii) Concessions with regard to repayment of loans; and (iv) Fixation of minimum prices for agricultural produce. This was a High Level Expert Committee giving representation to experienced agriculturists.

Concessions in December 1977

Simultaneously with the constitution of the Committee, the Government also announced a series of concessions to the agriculturists.

A number of benefits already being allowed to the farmers after the present Government assumed power are :

- (i) Procurement price for paddy was enhanced to Rs. 90 per quintal for coarse variety and Rs. 95 per quintal for medium quality.
- (ii) The interest payable on Co-operative loans was reduced from 12.6% to 12% Penal interest was also reduced ;

(iii) Pesticides are being distributed with 25% concession for cotton and bajra crops in Coimbatore and Madurai districts ;

(iv) For cane with 8.5% Sugar-content, even though the All India Price is Rs. 85 per tonne, this Government fixed Rs. 100 to Rs. 125 per tonne as payable by Co-operative Sugar factories.

Again with a view to help the agriculturists, the Government announced in the Legislative Assembly on 7-4-1978 the postponement of the collection of Co-operative loans for a period of two months till the harvest then going on in some areas in the State was completed. The Government also announced that the small farmers would receive power at 14 paise per unit.

APPROACH OF THE ASSOCIATION :

Even while this announcement was made on the floor of the Assembly on 7-4-1978, certain sections of the Tamil Nadu Agriculturists' Association stepped up their violent activities. The tactics used by the agitators were to place road blocks, paralyse traffic, to blow up culverts by using gelatine sticks and to burn

transport buses. They also resorted to cutting open the roads and constructing mud-walls across the road. The unlawful activities indulged in by certain violent elements in the name of agriculturists' agitation was pre-planned to upset law and order and create anarchy in the State. The blowing up of bridges with explosives, gelatine, etc. could hardly be the work of poor, innocent agriculturists. Experienced agitators were at work in the destruction of bridges and culverts, burning of buses etc. something which no unsophisticated farmer would either have the means or the inclination of attempting at.

The Government had to face the agitation of the agriculturists again in June 1978 in which the Collectorates were picketed for 10 days from 12-6-78 demanding withdrawal of cases registered against agriculturists.

On 17-7-78, 16 agriculturists stopped a P.T.C. bus and a Private Milk van at Tamorapakkam junction in Chengalpattu District on their way to Madras and off loaded down 16 milk cans of the poor farmers from the bus. Groups of agriculturists held up the Renigunta-Madras passenger at Kadambattur on 18-7-78. A P.T.C. bus was obstructed at Vanniam Chatram on Tiruvellore-Redhills Road. Thus the association sought to place an Economic Blockade of Towns, putting both the City residents to scarcity conditions and the rural producers in a difficult situation of not being able to sell their produce. At a meeting at Salem on 28-2-79, the Association called upon the Agriculturists to be prepared to paralyse vehicular traffic all over the State if the Collection of T. N. E. B. arrears are forced upon them.

At Messiahpuram in Tirunelveli district on 23-4-79 a Sub Inspector of Police was hacked to death by a violent mob.

The Association members preached violence and incited innocent agriculturists to attack Government Officials going for Collection work and to damage the jeeps in which they travel and so on. They put innocent children and women in the front line of their violent demonstrations and sought to immobilise the Government machinery and behind the screen of the innocent children and women, they perpetrated acts of violence.

GOVERNMENT'S APPROACH :

But in spite of all these provocations, the Government never adopted a vindictive attitude to the agriculturists and time and again it announced a series of concessions for the agriculturists.

In April-May, 1978, the Chief Minister and other Cabinet Ministers held discussions with the Agriculturists on as many as five occasions in marathon sessions and came out with the 10 Crores concessions :

The concessions announced in May 1978 are :—

(i) Reduction of power tariff from 16 paise to 14 paise per unit for big farmers and from 14 paise per unit to 12 paise per unit for small farmers with effect from 1-6-1978

(ii) Reduction of meter rent from Rs. 5 to Rs. 4 p.m. with effect from 1-6-78.

(iii) Facility for payment of arrears of power charges in instalments with one arrear and one current bill to be settled per month

(iv) Even though the 1978-79 Co-operative lending programme is for a sum of Rs. 140 crores which would be possible only if repayment of the loans to the Co-operative Banks to the extent determined by the Reserve Bank is ensured it was decided that no coercive steps of distraint proceedings against small farmers for recovery of co-operative loans would be taken.

(v) In addition to the short term loan of Rs. 12 crores already converted as medium term loans, the Reserve Bank will be approached for similar conversion of another sum of Rs. 16 crores out of the Rs. 121 crores of short term loans issued in 1977-78. It is also decided to extend the three year period of re-payment of medium term loans to a 5 year period for a sum of Rs. 14 crores outstanding in addition to the sum of Rs. 4.30

crores medium term loans already so extended.

(vi) Reduction of interest rates for short term co-operative loans to small farmers.

(vii) General Remission of 75% of the loan amount in respect of failed wells dug after 1971. In case of small farmers it will be remission of 90% of loan.

The State Electricity Board will be asked to provide power connection to wells dug with loans from the Land Development Banks even if they are unremunerative.

In addition to the postponement of loan in areas affected by floods and cyclone, collection of only one instalment of Government loan arrears in this Fasli will be ordered in areas not affected by cyclone and floods.

Cess on certain commercial crops ordered for Fasli 1386 was already written off by this Government in 1977. In addition further collection of this cess will not be made pending examination of this issue by the High Level Committee.

Continuation of facility of purchase of paddy by the State Civil Supplies Corporation directly from the ryots at the rate of Rs. 90 per quintal for coarse and Rs. 95 for medium varieties.

No restriction or regulation on movement of paddy or rice within the State.

Free movement of groundnut to other States would not be hampered.

Again the Government met the members of the High Power Committee and the leaders of various parties on 8-3-79 and announced the following further set of concessions.

Distraint proceedings will not be resorted to for collection of Government dues till the recommendations of the High Power Committee are received.

Arrears of electricity dues may be paid in instalments. Electricity dis-connections

will not be made for those who received disconnection notices if last month's bill is paid.

Disconnections already made will be restored if the affected parties pay the bill last received and the re-connection charges.

They should pay one month's arrear each together with the current month's bill from April onwards. No interest upto 31-3-79 on arrears will be charged. Interest will be waived for those who paid the entire arrears and got restoration of services after disconnection.

These were the positive concessions given to the Agriculturists who had not paid their electricity dues for years.

Again, the High Power Committee appointed by the Government submitted its report on 15-5-79. The Government immediately took steps to consider the recommendations and announce a series of concessions costing Rs. 40 crores per annum.

They are now famous as "the 40 crores concessions for the Agriculturists" the like of which no State Govt. has ever announced.

LABOUR AGITATION

Tamil Nadu is presenting a full picture of industrial peace. The policy of the Government is to enforce strictly the provisions of all beneficial legislations and also to bring in new provisions to safeguard the interest of the working class and by that process reduce the friction between the workers and managements. With this object in view, the Government have set up a High Power Committee consisting of the representatives of the Govt. the Management and Trade Unions and Legislators to suggest amendments to the existing labour laws.

After the agitations of the Workers, which took place in Madras City and Chengalpattu District, particularly in Padi area in 1977 the State has settled down to a situation of overall industrial peace in the State. The T. I. Cycles Factory has been restarted at the instance of the Government thus relighting the homes and hearths of thousands

actory. The T. V. S. Companies of Padi, Dalmia Cements Factory, Dalmiapuram and Simco Meters, the BHEL Factory, Tiruchirappalli have all been settled.

There was near normalcy, except for a sporadic strike or so in the Textile Industry, Sugar Industry, Power generation (Electricity Board).

The Government have also issued orders for the withdrawal of all pending cases on trial against the labourers except those cases relating to attempt to murder

The Government have always been sympathetic to the problems of labourers and they are keen on settling them amicably through negotiations and conciliation between the management and workers.

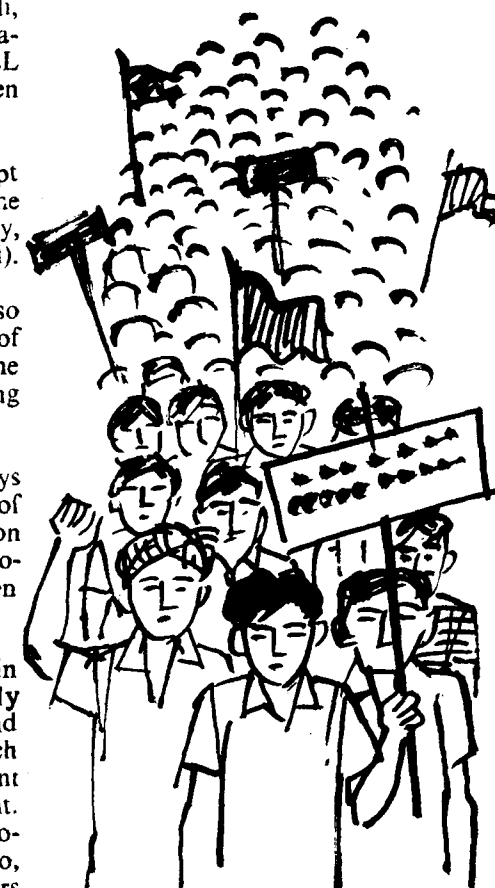
The labour and management in the Sugar Industry very quickly settled their wage negotiations and are helping the Nation to march forward. The State Government lent its full support to the settlement. With a view to settle the wage negotiations in the Textile Industry also, with a view to avoiding the workers going into a prolonged strike situation and avoiding a heavy production loss, the Government have appointed a Tribunal at the level of a retired High Court Judge to go into the question in its entirety and give its recommendations.

STUDENTS' AGITATIONS

Students agitations always pose tricky problems. These students are the future leaders, rulers, doctors, engineers and advocates. This Government are aware that nothing should be done to arrest their development for future leadership. When their agitations sometimes take a violent turn, their violence should not hurt the common man, the innocent public or any other people, who are not concerned with them.

This year 1978-79 was free from student agitations, thanks to the positive steps the Government took on various fronts to help solve the various problems of the Student Community.

A conference of transport officials, parents and representatives of students was held by the Transport Minister on 14-7-1978. A new scheme of liberalised bus passes for



students in the City (and sub-urbs of Madras City in Saidapet Taluk) was announced on 17-7-1978.

On various occasions when certain students clashed with the bus crew and or the public, the Government took a balanced view keeping in mind the need to develop the minds of the students on right lines.

This Government have always been tackling students agitation with sympathy, alertness and promptness. This Government have been very considerate in dealing with their real problems. Mutual consultations with the students, Principals, parents are always taken up for reaching amicable everlasting solutions. The Chief Minister has himself participated in a number of meetings and met personally the students' representatives to solve their problems.

Thanks to all these measures, the student community has also largely benefited in the last year and the year 1978-79 was largely an year of peace in the schools and Colleges. The students and the teaching community and the Government's approach to the students' problems deserve full credit for this state of affairs.

THE Community Development was introduced as a measure for the all round development at our rural community. Community development represents an approach to planned change that seeks to evoke, stimulate and activate in the people to attain increasingly higher standards of living. It is intended to be a self-help programme, but it does not rule out limited, but active participation of Governmental agencies in supporting people's initiative and augmenting their resources.

The proximate aim of this effort is to bring about improvements in the economic, social and cultural conditions of communities under the programme, but in the long run the process aim at integrating these communities into the main stream of national life and enabling them to contribute fully to national progress.

Community Development approach visualises a sector of planning and development which could largely be left to the initiative of the people themselves. It is assumed that people understand their local needs best, and that given the opportunity to work for meeting their

felt needs, they will in time give a good account of themselves. It is also a programme of active participation. It seeks to stimulate and activate the entire community, with a view to securing its involvement in programmes of development. Panchayat Unions are the statutory institutional structures ensuring the achievement of these objectives.

The financial outlay involved, in the administration of various schemes in the Panchayat Unions during the past two years will be in the order of Rs. 276 crores.

Financial and Physical Achievements:

The financial outlay involved in the Panchayat Development Programme has been steadily increasing. The details of the provisions made from 1974-'75 onwards and the average provisions per block allotment are as follows:

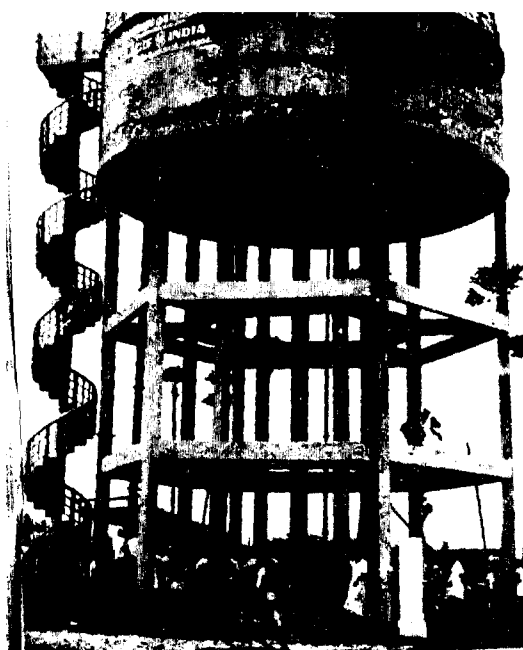
Year	Provisions (Rupees in Lakhs)	Average Provision per block
1974-75	1,04,22.05	27.87
1975-76	1,11,23.87	29.74

1976-77	1,16,25.40	31.08
1977-78	1,32,55.30	35.44
1978-79	1,43,07.36	38.25
1979-80	1,81,56.90	48.55

This is a clear indication of the importance attached to the Rural Development in order to fulfill the aspirations of the people.

The Panchayat Union Councils have put up greater efforts in mobilising local resources by way of local cess surcharge and this is evident from the fact that the incentive provided by the Government by way of local cess charge Matching Grant has been steadily increasing year after year and for 1979-'80, Rs. 1700 lakhs has been provided as Local Cess surcharge Matching Grant. All the Panchayat Union Councils have also levied the surcharge on entertainment and show tax which is expected to yield about Rs. 115 lakhs in 1979-'80.

The main aim of this Government is to provide protected drinking water supply to all in the villages. And as per its aim it has completed the following works in the past two years.



1. Ground level water tanks	454
2. Overhead water tanks	440
3. Automatic pressure tanks	91
4. Hand Pumps	3,034
5. Open Wells	1,488

6. Deep bore wells	602
7. Deepening of existing wells	512

Link roads are still to be provided for some of the villages. On the basis that link roads will raise the standard of living of the people, the State Government, the Central Government and the Panchayat Unions together have provided link roads with an outlay of Rs. 80 lakhs for 1978 and Rs. 80 lakhs for 1979.

The allotment for link roads is now being utilized for improving the existing link roads by giving up new formation of roads.

Schools

A grant of Rs. 20,000 and Rs. 30,000 is being given as aid to the Elementary and Higher Elementary Schools by Government. Besides, the following schools are also maintained.

1. Schools without own building (Elementary schools)	436
2. Newly built schools with own buildings (Higher Elementary Schools)	31

Cyclone and Flood Relief Works:

The cyclone and floods had caused damage to minor irrigation works, lakes, Panchayat Union roads and schools resulting in a loss running into crores. Renovation of these works have been taken up. The Government has granted a subsidy of Rs. 36.8 lakhs.

Non-Formal Education:

The scheme for non-formal education for the age-group of 6-14 is at present implemented in Panchayat Unions from their surplus funds in order to cater to the needs of "dropouts" who generally belong to the economically backward sections. Besides these centres the Government through the Education Department and also voluntary Agencies are running many centres for such purpose. 780 centres are functioning in Panchayat Unions having surplus funds. An honorarium of Rs. 50 per mensem is paid for each teacher who runs the centre. The financial commitment involved in running 780 centres is Rs. 4.68 lakhs. There is a proposal to open 220 additional centres from the surplus funds of Panchayat Unions where such centres have not been opened so far.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYAT DEVELOPMENT



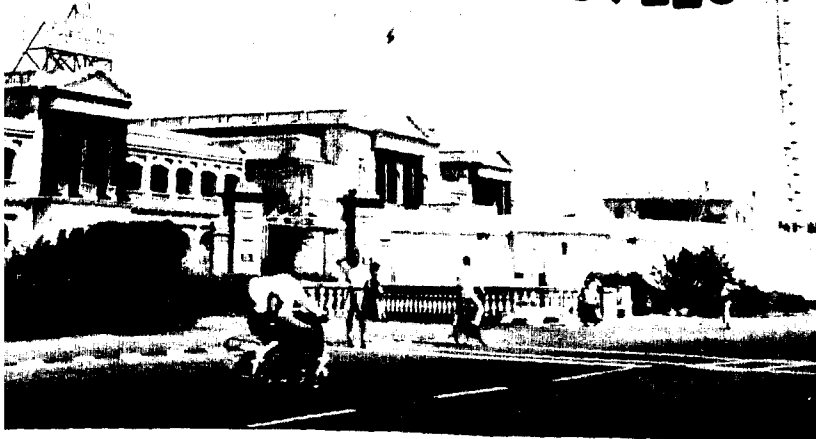
TAMIL NADU

Salt Corporation Limited

MADRAS — 600 017

SL. NO.	PROJECTS	PROJECT COST	AREA OF THE PROJECT (IN ACRES)	PRODUCTION AFTER COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT (IN TONNES)	EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
1.	Mariyur Valinokkam Salt Complex, VALINOKKAM POST, Mudukulathur (Taluk), Ramanathapuram (District).	Rs. 145 LAKHS	5566	2.4 LAKHS	1500 PERSONS
2.	Maravakadu— Vadakadu Salt Project, PATTUKOTTAI (Taluk) Tanjore (District).	ABOUT Rs. 2 CRORES	5400	1.5 LAKHS	1000 PERSONS

Concessions to GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES



The Third Tamil Nadu Pay Commission which was constituted in August, 1977 submitted its report to the Government in July, 1978. The recommendations of the Commission were examined by the Government and orders issued. On the basis of the recommendations of the Commission, the number of pay scales was reduced to 20 from 76. The new pay-structure which was linked to the All India Consumer Price Index 320 was given effect to from the 1st April, 1978.

While fixing the pay in the new scales with effect from the 1st April, 1978 the employees were allowed a special fitment benefit of 5% of the existing pay, the minimum benefit being Rs. 20 and the maximum Rs. 130. Employees have been allowed the option to come to the new scales (with this special fitment benefit) upto the 31st March, 1979. The pay of the employees was fixed in the new scales and the arrears due from the 1st April, 1978 were paid.

The Government have ordered that the Dearness Allowance formula of the Government of India be adopted in future with suitable adjustments for the difference in the All India Consumer Price Index to which the Central and State pay scales are linked. The first instalment of Dearness Allowance after the pay revision has been given—with effect from the 1st April, 1979 at the following rates :

Upto Rs. 650	2.5% of pay
Above Rs. 650	1.875% of pay

The allowance was subject to a minimum benefit of Rs. 6 per month and maximum benefit of Rs. 30 per month.

To mitigate the severity of stagnation among various categories of Government servants, the

scheme of 'Flexible Complementing' was introduced with effect from the 1st October, 1978. Under this scheme, employees on completion of 10 years' service in a post will automatically move to Selection Grade/Special Grade/Higher posts.

The Scheme of House Rent Allowance has been rationalised. House Rent Allowance which was being given as percentage of pay has been allowed on pay range basis. Ceilings for the eligibility of House Rent Allowance in mofussil have been removed. Recovery of rent from employees occupying the Government or Government supported accommodation has been revised with reference to the gradation of places instead of the practice of rent being recovered at a uniform rate of 10% for all the places.

Minimum pension has been raised to Rs. 100 per mensem from Rs. 50 per mensem. The existing pensioners have been allowed an increase of 5% of the basic pension subject to a minimum of Rs. 10 and maximum of Rs. 25.

The restriction of deducting pension and pension equivalent of Death-cum-Retirement Gratuity from the terminal leave salary at the time of retirement has been removed.

The minimum family pension has been increased from Rs. 50 to Rs. 100 and the maximum from Rs. 300 to Rs. 500. Family pension scheme has been extended to the employees of pre 1964 period also.

The age of retirement has been increased from 55 years to 58 years.

The amount of bicycle advance admissible to Government servants has been increased to Rs. 600 from Rs. 400.

Government servants upto a pay limit of Rs. 350 have been made eligible for reimbursement of the cost of text books purchased by them for their children studying in Standards I to X. This concession is admissible to all the Last Grade Government Servants irrespective of their basic pay.

The ceiling for the quantum of festival advance was enhanced from Rs. 250 to Rs. 300.

Government employees have been permitted to retire from service voluntarily on completion of a qualifying service of 20 years with pensionary benefits with a weightage upto 5 years towards qualifying service.

The procedure for sanction of pension has been rationalised with a view to enable the retiring Government servants to receive the pension and other retirement benefits promptly.

Government servants constructing or buying houses in places to which the City Compensatory allowance is not admissible are allowed a rebate of 1% in the rate of interest payable on House Building Advances.



Spectacular Progress in TOURISM

The developmental activities of the Tourism Department has been enlarged and intensified in the last two years. The outlay in 1975-76 was only Rs. 22.70 lakhs. It has risen to 46.10 lakhs during 1977-78 and 92.55 lakhs during 1978-79. The specific achievements are as follows :

For the first time a systematic Tourism potential survey was made and a perspective plan involving an outlay of Rs. 20 Crores was drawn up and sent to the Government of India who were requested to take this perspective plan schemes for consideration while finalising the Sixth Five Year Plan. The Govt. of India have indicated that they will take up in the Central sector the development of two tourist centres, namely Mahabalipuram and Kanyakumari. Master Plans have also been drawn up for places like Mahabalipuram, Ooty and Kodaikanal.

A Tourist Information Centre has been opened in Coimbatore Railway Station. Similar Tourist Information Centres for the convenience of the tourists have been sanctioned for Madras Airport, Tirunelveli junction and Delhi. These Tourist Information Centres are to be opened shortly.

Schemes to provide dormitory accommodation to the low-

income-group people have been sanctioned for Ooty, Kodaikanal, Courtallam and Hogenakkal at a total cost of Rs. 28 lakhs. Work on these is to start shortly.

The environs of the Ooty lake has been developed and beautified under the Hill Area Development Programme at a total cost of Rs. 15 lakhs and this includes better amenities for the tourists and a beautiful garden near the lake.

Telescope Houses : Two telescope houses have been commissioned at Kodaikanal which has proved very popular among the tourists. Similar telescope houses have been sanctioned for Ooty, Coonoor and Yercaud.

The amenities for tourists in Yercaud have been enlarged and a boat house with restaurant facilities are nearing completion.

A systematic effort has been made to identify new places which have tourist potential and schemes have been sanctioned for developing new places as tourist centres. These include Elagiri where the work is nearing completion, Pichavaram, Mandapam and Viralmalai where work is to start shortly.

At our instance, a Janatha Hotel involving an investment of

Rs. 3.00 crores is proposed to be built in Madras for which the State Government has given a very valuable piece of land to the Government of India at a nominal cost.

The Youth Hostel run by the Department has been popularised with the result that the revenue from the Youth Hostel have increased and the study team appointed by the Govt. of India had adjudged it as one among the best in the country.

The tourist attractions in South India and particularly Tamil Nadu were comparatively unknown in foreign countries. With the result very few of the foreign tourists who came to India visited South India. To remedy this defect we implemented a programme called "Destination South India" in collaboration with the Air India and the Government of India Tourism Department. Under this programme 40 Travel Writers from all parts of the world were invited as our guests and they were taken round all the important tourist centres in Tamil Nadu. As a result of the articles written by these Travel Writers in the overseas magazines the flow of foreign tourists to Tamil Nadu has been on the increase. To cope up with the increased flow of traffic, we have been pressing the Government of India, as well as the Air India to route more international

flights through the Madras Airport as well as to enlarge the facilities at the Madras Airport.

The Tourism Department participated in a very effective manner both in the TAAI Convention at Bangalore as well as at the PATA Convention held at Delhi. Some of the delegates to these conferences visited our State as our Guests and these have also contributed to the increase in the tourist flow to Tamil Nadu.

The whole range of publicity material like the brochures, posters and picture post cards have been up-dated, modernised and a better quality publicity materials have been brought out in the last two years. This high quality literature have been distributed not only to other States in India but also to the overseas offices of the Govt. of India Tourism Department as well as the Air India Offices abroad.

In order to strengthen the field staff, a new Tourist Office has been sanctioned for Chidambaram.

Tourist complexes at Poompuhar and Panchalamkurichi have been recently transferred to the control of the Tourism Department and we are chalking out certain developmental plans to improve the facilities in these places.

With a view to encourage domestic tourism, we have drawn up plans to set up district excursion centres in all the districts and this will be implemented with the help of other Departments in stages.

The work of the Tourism Department and the Tourism Development Corporation has drawn commendation from no less a person than the Secretary to the Government of India in the Tourism Ministry.

TAMIL NADU TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The organisational structure of the Corporation was strengthened and several reformatory steps were taken. As a result of this, the Corporation has earned a net profit for the first time, in 1978-79 and this net profit is after allowing for depreciation, interest on loans, etc. The turn over of the Corporation which was about Rs. 67 lakhs in 1976-77 has crossed Rs. one crore in 1978-79.

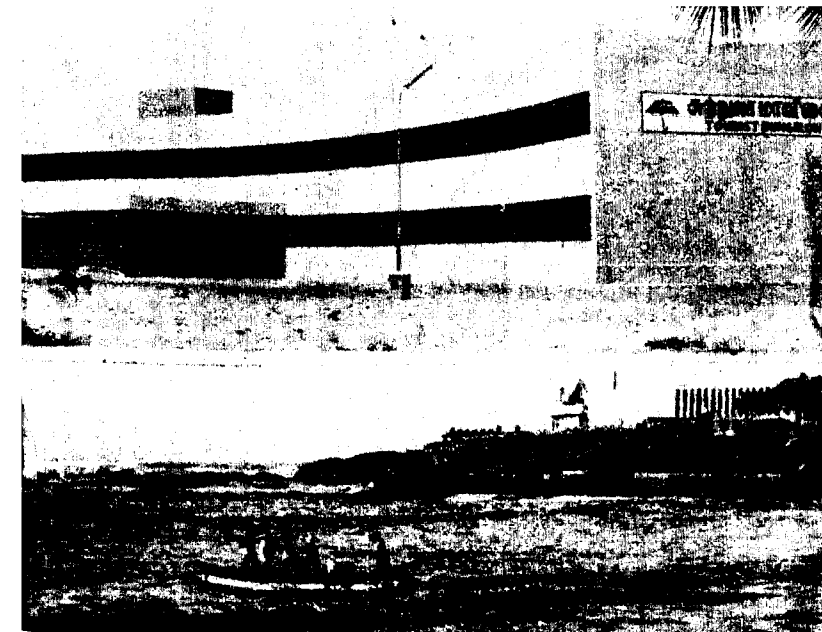
As part of the programme to build motels along the important national highways, a motel at Ranipet was commissioned in September 1978 and the second motel at Ulundurpet is nearing completion.



The Tourist Bungalows in all the places are being expanded in stages. During the last year, new facilities were added at Kodaikanal, Madurai and Yercaud. Expansion of programmes of other Tourist Bungalows are being implemented in stages.

Sanction has been accorded for the construction of a large Tourist Bungalow at Madurai at a cost of Rs. 30 lakhs and another Tourist Bungalow at Coimbatore at a cost of Rs. 22 lakhs. Work on these two projects is to commence shortly.

The Transport Wing of the Corporation has been reorganised and the package tours have been



rationalised with the result that 8 package tours are offered in a month is on instead of 4 package tours previously. As a result of this, the revenues from the Transport Unit has increased considerably.

It is also proposed to appoint Selling Agents in overseas centres for these package tours.

The fleet strength of the Transport Unit has also been in-

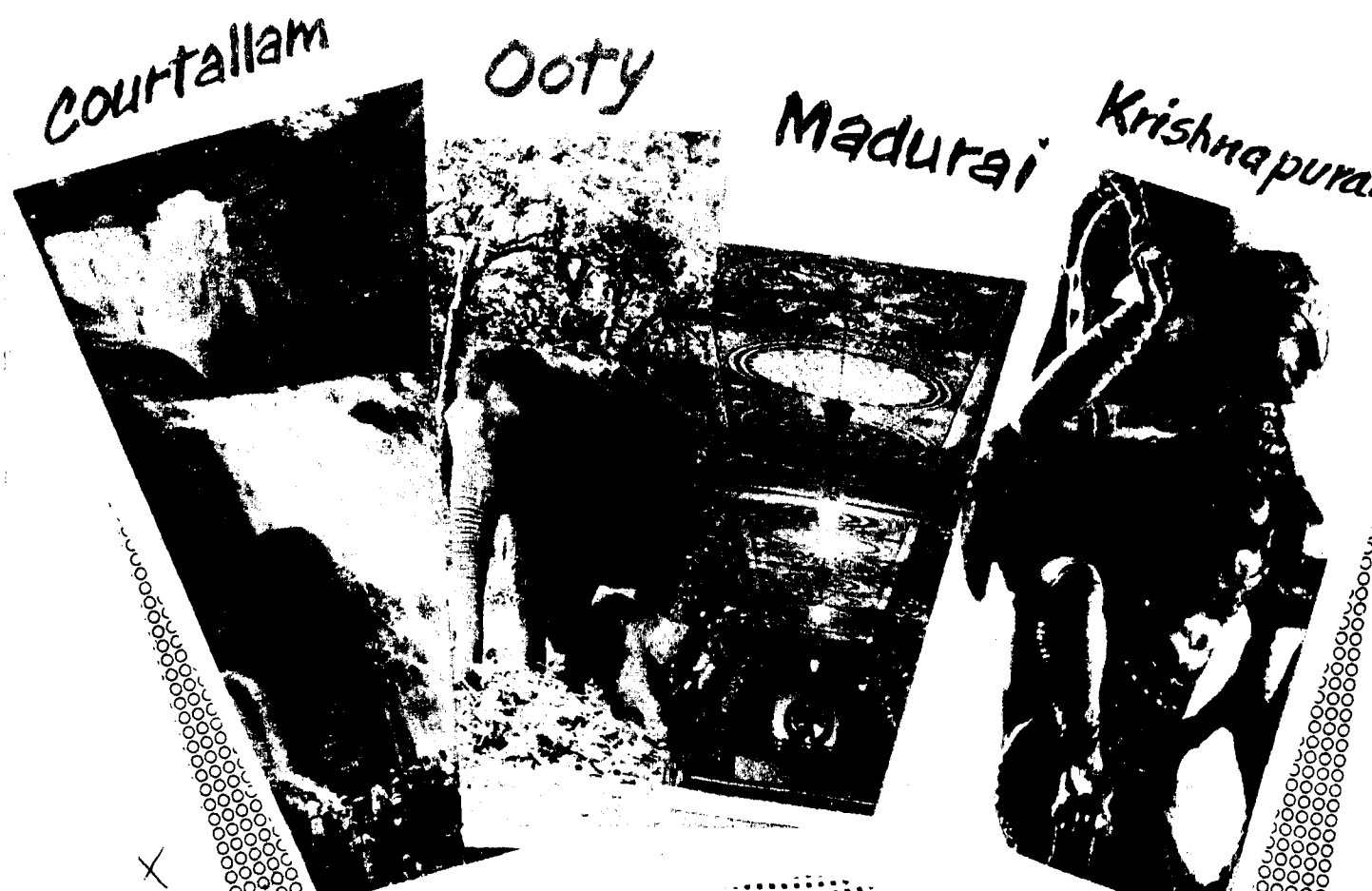
creased and a new airconditioned coach is also being added to the fleet.

The Tourist Trade Fair conducted by the Corporation at Madras was conducted on much more elaborate scale in the last two years as reflected in the increased profits from the Fairs. In the last two years, the Corporation also conducted the Chithirai Tourist Fair at Madurai which was acclaimed by the public of Madurai.

The whole range of publicity literature has been updated and modernised by the Corporation.

The Corporation has a programme to start a separate Souvenir Division for which preliminary action has been taken.

A Tourist Information Counter has been opened in the Corporation Office to answer enquiries from the Tourists.





MARCHING AHEAD IN THE FOOT PRINTS OF THE GREAT LEADERS TAMILNADU GAVE TO THE NATION UNDAUNTED BY AGITATIONS, OVER COMING HURDLES THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT IN ITS TWO YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE HAS MANY ACHIEVEMENTS TO ITS CREDIT HERE ARE A FEW...

EDUCATION

A separate university of technology named after Perarinar Anna has been established.
Tamil Cultural Centre has been set up to preserve and promote Tamil art and culture
Sanction of U.G.C. scales of pay to college teachers with effect from 1.4.74.
One fourth of the annual budget is earmarked for education.
Collegiate education is now within easy reach of the rural poor.
Tamil script reform of Thanthai Periyar is being implemented.

AGRICULTURE

New irrigation schemes of Rs. 25-crore have been executed to bring in 32,500 acres under cultivation.
Paddy production increased by 11 lakh tonnes.
High level committee has been constituted for suggesting solution of agriculturist problems.
Commission granted to agriculturist last year amounted to Rs. 10-crore and this year Rs. 40-crore to benefit 31-lakh agriculturists.
Power tariff reduced to the lowest for the agriculturists.
A special committee has been appointed to provide enhanced wages to agriculturists.

RURAL UPLIFT

In the last two years over 14,000 multipurpose Fair Price-Shops have been opened in the rural areas.
Protected water supply provided for over 10-lakh people living in 2350 villages.
17,000 hand-pumps have also been installed in the villages. 1325 miles of pucca road have been laid in the rural areas. 920 villages have been linked with bus routes.

1400 new buses ply to far-flung interior villages.
A mini-health centre for every village.
Government provides financial assistances to set up a mini-health centre in every village with a population of 1000.
Mobile dispensaries made available for rural medical relief. 1,30,000 village artisans are provided with employment opportunities.

HANDLOOM-VILLAGE INDUSTRIES

Sale of Kadhi increased to the tune of Rs. 21 crores.
Research has helped to introduce Polyester handloom cloth to compete with mill goods.
The sale of Handloom by CO-OPTEX (Tamilnadu Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society) has increased in two years by Rs. 12-crore.
A bill has been introduced in the state legislature to provide statutory employment for handloom weavers and fix a minimum wage and other facilities.

FOREST AND MINERAL WEALTH

Rs. 239 Lakh has been earmarked for planting of trees to increase forest wealth.
A Rubber Plant is being set up in Kanniyakumari.
Tamil Nadu Minerals Corporation with investment of Rs. 1-Crore has been formed.

POWER GENERATION

Power generation has increased in the past two years by 156-Crore units.

83,000 agricultural pumpsets have been put up.
Kadambarai Pumped Storage Power Project, discarded in the past, has gone now on stream

HEALTH SERVICE

Specialised medical units in the fields have been expanded in Government Hospitals in places like Coimbatore and Madurai.

HARIJAN WELFARE

A separate Harijan Welfare department has been formed.

Students of scheduled caste and scheduled tribes receive free higher education irrespective of their parents income.

FISHERMEN WELFARE

The grant of Rs. 1,000/- in the case of a fisherman dying at sea has been raised to Rs. 5,000/-. In addition, a grant of Rs. 5,000 will be made for rehabilitation of the family and for educating his children.

Steps have been taken to see to it that only genuine fishermen get motor fishing vessels.

TRANSPORT

State Government Transport Corporations have earned a profit of Rs. 416.70 Lakhs in 1977-78 and Rs. 726.58 Lakhs in 1978-79.

Children up to 5 years can now travel freely in Government buses.

Transport workers now get an increased wage and other concession to the tune of Rs. 5-Crore.

ENFORCEMENT OF PROHIBITION

The Government have taken effective steps to enforce prohibition and to curb illicit distillation.

HOUSING

One lakh houses in the rural areas through Co-operatives at a cost of Rs. 40 crores.

Interest free loans, differential rates of interest, subsidy to Harijans and rural poor.

Tamil Nadu Housing Board has a programme for Rs. 25 crores this year to build houses for low and middle income groups.

- Social justice
 - Clean administration
 - Enforcement of prohibition
 - Uplift of the oppressed and backward classes
 - Industrial growth
 - Agricultural development
 - Rural development
 - Protection to the Peasants
 - Development of Tamil language
 - Progress in education
- "Anna's Arasu" rededicates to implement these programmes peacefully

FLOOD RELIEF MEASURE

In Dec. 1978-2,10,800 persons affected by the flood in the state received 50 kilos of rice each.

SOCIAL BENEFITS

Increase of stipend to house-surgeon ranging from Rs. 25/- to Rs. 125/-

For the first time Government have fixed minimum wages for workers in printing presses and transport workshops and porters in shanties and shops.

Families of toddy tappers, scavengers and workers engaged in sinking of wells who die while performing their duties will now receive Rs. 5,000/- ex-gratia payment from the Government.

increase in the emolument of Government Officials to the tune of Rs. 37 Crore have been made.

Retirement age has been raised from 55 to 58 years.

Government officials family pension has been increased from Rs. 50 to Rs. 100.

Interest-free advance is provided to the Government Officials for their Children's education.

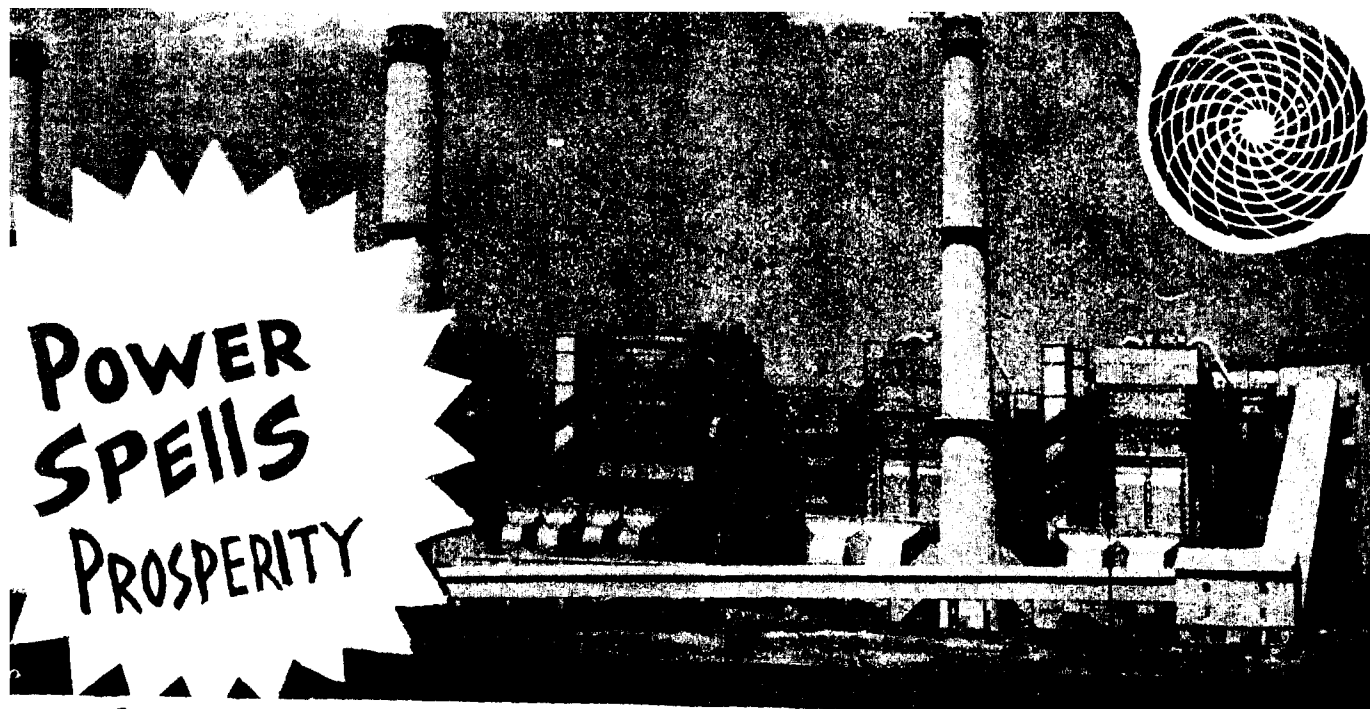
Officers and men of police service who die while performing their duties will get Rs. 10,000 ex-gratia payment in addition to Rs. 10,000/- applicable to Government officials.

INDUSTRIES

In the past two years several closed industrial units have been re-opened through the efforts of Government and Employment provided once again to nearly 10,000 workers.



Director of Information and Public Relations



POWER SPELLS PROSPERITY

After a spell of nearly 7 years ensured its successful completion of serious power shortage the State freed itself from the throes of power cuts since 1st July 1977. The power cut in force till then was lifted.

The power year of July '77 to June '78 was absolutely free from powercuts. A record generation of 10,064 m.u. was achieved as compared to a generation of 8152 m.u. during 1976-77.

There has therefore been an increase of 1912 m.u. over the previous year, accounting for 25% rise. This is indicative of the system capacity to absorb more energy and also the extent of demand that had been suppressed earlier due to non-availability of power.

Similarly during the 10 months period of July '78 to April '79 the generation stood at 8757 m.u. as against 8313 m.u. during the corresponding period i.e. July 1977 to April 1978. There has been an increase of 444 m.u. during this period.

Clearance of Tuticorin Thermal Project III Unit (210 MW) Scheme by the Centre was obtained in September 1977 and works were taken up immediately there after.

The Suruliyar Hydro Electric Scheme (35 MW) in Madurai District was commissioned by Chief Minister in August 1978. An incentive of one month pay as Bonus was paid to all the staff engaged in construction of the project and

ensured its successful completion before end of 1978-79. The project was sanctioned in May 1973.

Special efforts were taken up to expedite works under Kundah IV stage extension (110 MW) in Nilgiris. The 60 MW unit in Kundah Power Station III was commissioned in February '78. The 50 MW unit in Kundah Power House IV was commissioned by the Chief Minister in October 1978. The completion of the Project is significant as it adds a valuable 110 MW peaking capacity to the grid at time when it is needed most.

Ennore Thermal Station (450 MW); the Board's biggest Thermal Station in the grid has been subject to serious design defects and operational problems; with major repairs carried out in collaboration with M/s. BHEL earlier the station registered a record generation of 440 MW in July 1978.

The Tuticorin Thermal Power Project (3x210 MW) when completed would form the biggest thermal complex in the grid. The I Unit (210 MW) is getting ready for commissioning. The II Unit is expected to be commissioned in 1979-80. The III Unit will come into stream in 1980-81. Activities in the Project have been significantly stepped up in recent years. The total project cost is estimated at about Rs. 212 Cr. The total expenditure in the Project which stood at 51.06 cr. by March 1977 increased to 93.8 by March 1978 and to Rs. 134.61 Cr. by March 1979.

A decision of resumption of works in respect of Kadamparai Pumped Storage Scheme (4 x 100MW) in Coimbatore District, was taken in January 1978. Sanctioned in March 1973, the Scheme was not taken up for execution due to rethinking on the part of State Government. Designed to meet the peculiar peaking problem of Tamil Nadu Grid the Scheme is a novel one, being the first of its kind for the state. The Project activities have been not only initiated but the tempo stepped up considerably. The scheme was inaugurated by the Chief Minister in March 1979.

In order to meet the growing demand for power within the State, a number of new schemes have been proposed to the Centre for clearance and implementation by the State. One of these schemes, Lower Mettur Hydro Electric Project (4 x 30 MW) has been taken up for implementation in December '78 in anticipation of Planning Commission's approval.

Ministerial level discussions have been held with Karnataka during 1978 regarding implementation of Hogenakkal HEP.

The need for a quick decision on establishment of a 2nd Atomic Station at Kundankulam (Tirunelveli Dt.) has been taken up with the Centre in November '77.

Agreement has been reached with Kerala to avail a surplus of 1200 m.u. from December '78 to June '79. A barter deal with

Andhra Pradesh was made for power in exchange of Aluminium.

Ministerial level discussions have been held in November '78 regarding allocation of power to Tamil Nadu from Ramagundam Super Thermal Station (1100 MW) being established in Andhra Pradesh under Central Sector.

Tamil Nadu has more plans for new thermal stations as most of its hydro resources has already been tapped. A project report for location of the new Thermal Project in Mettur (2 x 210 MW) has been sent to CEA in December 1978. Another Thermal Project to be located in the North Madras required is under investigation.

As a short term measure to tide over power deficits proposals for installation of 3 Nos. 71 MW Gas Turbines have been sent to the Centre in April 1979.

With a view to give adequate importance to plan outlays on power schemes the State Government have stepped up the annual plan outlay on power Rs. 75.45 Cr. in 1976-77 from Rs. 89.64 Cr. in 1977-78 and to Rs. 114.12 Cr. in 1978-79 again to Rs. 152. Cr. in 1979-80.

The long standing grievances of agricultural consumers in aspect of tariff were redressed by a reduction in the rate of from 16 paise to 14 paise per unit for small farmers with effect from July, 1977. The rates have again been reduced, to 12 paise per unit for small farmers and 14 paise for others from June 1978.

By way of rationalisation of existing tariffs the concessions that were in force for a long time to special loads and major industries like Cement, caustic soda, Calcium Carbide, Aluminium, Fertilisers, Textiles etc. have been withdrawn and suitable enhanced rates fixed with effect from 1st May, 1979.

Government issued orders in November, 1978 reducing the security deposit for H.T. consumers from 3 months to 1 month of highest consumption during the previous 12 months. Government have also ordered that in respect of these installations, the meter reading should be taken within 3 days of the close of the month and

the bills issued in another 3 days with a time limit of 15 days for payment.

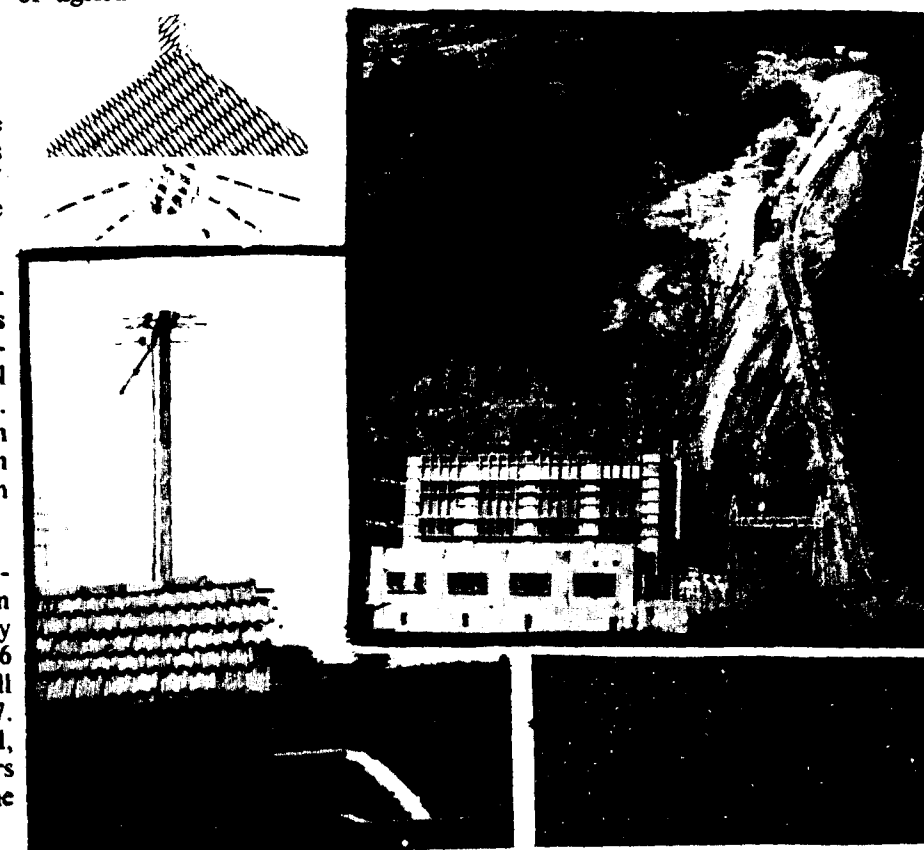
In order to extend electricity to weaker sections also, the Government has since decided to give power connection to hut dwellers in rural areas at a flat rate tariff of Rs. 2.50 per month.

The prospective consumers have been put to a handicap in the past as Department was insisting on the remunerative aspects of the scheme i.e. 10% return on the capital outlay of the scheme. This has since been completely dispensed with mainly in respect of agricultural and L.T. industries

konam, Thanjavur District at a share capital of Rs. 1.5 cr of which Rs. 90 lakhs will be as loan from REC.

Not - withstanding a record energisation of pumpsets so far, a large number of applications (about 2.5 lakhs) are pending for disposal, due to several constraints. A clear cut programme has been drawn up to wipe off this heavy backlog with a target of 25% of pending cases to be disposed off annually.

For a long time maintenance of street lights was a bone of contention between TNEB and



in order to facilitate speedy extension of supply of these categories of consumers. Connections are also being given strictly on priority of application. The consumers are being advised of their priority so that they can get ready in time.

The Rural Electrification Corporation have offered assistance in the establishment of Rural Electric Co-operatives aimed at decentralisation of power to rural areas and promotion of rural electrification and integrated economic development. Government have decided to avail this offer and therefore ordered constitution of one Rural Electric Co-operatives at Kumba-

local bodies; at one stage the maintenance of street lights was handed over completely to the Panchayats/Municipalities. This has since been modified based on representations from the local authorities themselves. The Government after careful consideration have now decided to continue the custody of the street lights by the Panchayats but extended rendering of assistance by TNEB.

Cyclic billing which will expedite issue of bills and collections has been introduced as a trial measure in Erode System with effect from April 1978. The impact of the same is being watched before it could be extended to other systems.



as it were. The speech is that of music, soft, lilting, and full of cadence. There are many varieties of this speech, musical, majestic, sublime, but always arresting even today, some 12 centuries after the last Pallava artist left Mamallapuram. Poompuhar runs a major centre in Mamallapuram to promote the art of sculpture. Poompuhar creations, and also those of other expert sculptors, are offered to you for sale at Poompuhar Showrooms.

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Art handed down through the Centuries



Co-operation DIVERSE ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

THE Co-operative movement strives to serve the people in their diverse economic activities, especially in the field of supply of agricultural credit and inputs, marketing of their produce and distribution of essential consumer goods.

Co-operative Credit:

Short-term credit: It is estimated that there are 53.14 lakhs agricultural operational holdings in the State, of which 40.32 lakhs holdings representing about 76 per cent have been covered by membership in agricultural credit societies as at the end of December, 1978. The village agricultural credit societies formed the nucleus of the Cooperative Movement in the State, and there are 4,740 such societies providing short-term and medium-term credit facilities.

Medium term loans:- To increase the income of the agriculturist, the societies provide mid-term credit for the purchase of milch animals, bullocks, sheep, raising, carts etc.,

Consumption loans:- In the context of the debt relief legislation and consequent shrinkage of credit from non-institutional sources, the credit co-operatives have been playing an important role in filling up the credit gap to the extent possible. 911 agricultural credit societies, 339 branches of State and Central Co-operative Banks and 128 Co-operative urban banks, totalling 1378

Co-operative units are now engaged in the issue of jewel loans. During 1976-77 the number of such societies was only 919.

The society which was issuing Rs. 200/- per sovereign started issuing Rs. 320/- per sovereign during last year and is issuing a loan of Rs. 400/- this year. The maximum ceiling issued per person has been raised from Rs. 2,000/- to Rs. 3,000/-.

Credit supply to weaker sections:

The co-operatives in TamilNadu have been paying due attention to the needs of the weaker sections. While according to the guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India, 20 per cent of the total lendings should go to the 'weaker sections', the co-operatives in Tamil Nadu have advanced Rs. 61.91 crores i.e., about 49 per cent, to the weaker sections cultivating less than 5 acres of land on ownership or lease basis. It is intended to increase this percentage to 54 by the end of 1979-80.

Lendings:

As against an achievement of Rs. 19.14 crores in 1976-77, the land development banks were able to issue loans only to the tune of Rs. 12.28 crores during 1977-78. There will be a set back in the programme for the issue of Rs. 16 crores during 1978-79 due to inability of the banks to lend due to heavy percentage of overdues. The likely

achievement during the year will be only around Rs. 12 crores and upto December, 1978 a sum of Rs. 7.33 crores only has been advanced. During 1979-80, long term loans to the extent of Rs. 17 crores (Rs. 8.50 crores under normal schemes and the rest under Agricultural refinance and Development Corporation assisted schemes) are programmed to be issued, provided there is collection and consequently a considerable reduction in the overdues position.

Due to diminishing scope in the field of minor irrigation, the land development banks are trying to diversify their activities into other venues like lending for raising commercial crops like coconut, cashewnut, coffee and other plantation crops, sericulture, purchase of tractors, tillers, putting up of farm houses, cattle sheds, dairy schemes, advances to Electricity Board and other public sector organisations. Government have extended guarantee for the repayment of loan in case of resumption of lands from the assignees to facilitate the flow of development credit to the landless assignees of surplus lands. Steps are being taken to provide loans to the assignees of surplus lands. This measure will benefit about 50,000 small farmers who have been assigned about 85,000 acres.

New Well Subsidy:-

Government subsidy at the rate of 25 per cent of the cost of a

new well or Rs. 500 whichever is less, is given to small farmers through primary land development banks. About 1,000 small farmers will be helped with the new well subsidy during the current year, for which a budget provision of Rs. 5 lakhs has been made. A sum of Rs. 5 lakhs has been provided in the budget for 1979-80 also, so as to assist about 1,000 more small farmers at the rate of Rs. 500 per well.

Relief from natural calamities:-

Due to extensive damage caused by cyclone and floods during 1977-78 relief to the farmers was given by way of conversion of short term loans into medium term loans amounting Rs. 28.11 crores. In addition, the loans which were converted during 1976-77 were also rephased to the extent of Rs. 19.25 crores. The land development banks also postponed the collection of annual instalments or rescheduled the loan instalments during the last four years to the tune of Rs. 32.87 crores.

Seed Development Scheme:

For the multiplication of quality seeds of paddy, cotton, groundnut, cereals and pulses, a seed development project at a block cost of Rs. 170.50 lakhs is being implemented by the Tudyalur Co-operative Agricultural Services and nine co-operative marketing societies in Coimbatore district. The project contemplates production of about 25,000 tonnes of seeds in 23,000 acres of land in 11 centres. The Tudyalur Co-operative Agricultural Services and 5 marketing societies are implementing the first phase of the scheme costing Rs. 93.50 lakhs.

The department stores gave a new dimension to the consumer co-operative movement by offering a wide range of goods and services under one roof, introducing modern retailing techniques and healthy trading practices. It is proposed to convert the mini super market at Tiruvannamalai into a department store, to open new large sized retail outlets at Ponnamaravathy and Jayamkondam and to convert the existing branches of co-operative wholesale stores at Gudiyatham and Arantangi into large sized retail outlets during 1978-79, soon after receipt of the orders of the Government of India sanctioning financial assistance.

Regional Distribution Centres:-

Two Regional Distribution Centres were sanctioned by the Government of India to pool the purchasing power of consumer co-operatives, to strengthen the bargaining power and to ensure smooth and continuous supplies from manufactures or producers to the co-operative retail outlets. The Regional Distribution Centre at Coimbatore has been started recently by the Coimbatore District Co-operative Supply and Marketing Society with financial assistance to the extent of Rs. 22.32 lakhs from the Government of India to cater to the requirements of consumer co-operatives in Coimbatore and the Nilgiris districts. Government of India approved the scheme for setting up another Regional Distribution Centre at Madras by the Tamil Nadu Consumers Co-operative Federation with a financial outlay of Rs. 72.50 lakhs and sanctioned during 1978-79 Rs. 25.00 lakhs towards the first instalment of assistance for setting up the unit for the benefit of the consumer co-operatives in Madras, Chengalpattu and North Arcot Districts. It is programmed to commission the project by 1st January 1980.

Coverage of weaker sections.

The Government of India introduced a scheme of financial assistance to the co-operative wholesale stores and strong primary co-

operative stores which set up small branches to cater to the needs of the weaker sections of the community/backward areas, industrial workers, etc. A new scheme for opening smaller branches (Makkal Angadigal) to serve the weakest of the weaker sections in slum areas of cities and towns was also introduced recently. The Government of India have sanctioned during 1977-78 financial assistance of Rs. 6.26 lakhs to the consumer co-operatives for opening 6 small branches and 34 smaller branches. All the above units have been opened and are functioning. During the year 1978-79, the Government of India have so far sanctioned financial assistance of Rs. 10.15 lakhs to the consumer co-operatives for opening 35 small branches and 10 smaller branches, of which 34 small branches 10 smaller branches have been opened. It is proposed to open 22 small branches and 48 smaller branches during 1978-79 on receipt of orders from the Government of India sanctioning financial assistance.

One village one shop scheme:

The State Government have taken a policy decision to cover the entire State by Public Distribution System by opening a fair price shop in each revenue village for the supply of rice, wheat, wheat products, sugar, chillies, tamarind, coriander, groundnut oil, etc., to ensure free availability of these essential commodities

at reasonable prices in rural areas. The following districts have been allotted to the Co-operative Department for the implementation of the scheme.

Chengalpattu, North Arcot, Salem, Coimbatore, The Nilgiris, Tiruchirappalli, Pudukkottai, Madurai, Ramanathapuram and Kanyakumari.

Other Schemes:

Common Kitchen centres:

This scheme which was introduced during 1977-78 is being continued. Out of 36 centres sanctioned 27 have been started. Efforts are being made to open the remaining centres. About 4,650 day scholars of colleges are benefitted by this scheme.

Distribution of Cement:

Consequent on the recent policy of the Government, the Co-operatives with effect from 1st January 1979 have undertaken the distribution of cement to the public at the rate fixed by the Government.

Rural Electric Co-operative Societies:

It is proposed to set up, with financial assistance from the Rural Electrification Corporation, New Delhi, two Rural Electric Co-operative Societies in this State, one will be started at Kumbakonam in

Thanjavur district, for the decentralised distribution of power in rural areas and to promote rapid rural electrification and integrated economic development.

CO-OPERATIVES FOR WEAKER SECTIONS

Types of Societies:

There are co-operative societies functioning exclusively for the benefit of weaker sections of the community, like labourers, washermen, barbers, salt workers and hill tribes. While labour contract co-operatives provide employment to their members by securing contract works, the other types of societies provide services or credit to their members. These societies are assisted by Government with share capital, loan, subsidy and free services of the departmental staff.

Lamps:

In areas where there is a heavy concentration of tribals, steps have been taken to provide integrated credit and marketing and other services under one roof, so as to improve the standard of living of the tribal population. There are nine Large sized Multipurpose Co-operative Societies (Lamps) in the tribal areas of Salem, Dharmapuri, Tiruchirappalli and North Arcot districts. Three other multipurpose co-operative societies are also functioning in the tribal areas

in Kalrayan hills of South Arcot District. Taking into consideration the economic condition of the tribals, the Government have extended liberal assistance to these societies. Lamps have been given share capital assistance of Rs. 50,000 each to enable them to strengthen their borrowing power. The tribals have also been given share capital subsidy of Rs. 50 each to enable them to buy shares for the purpose of availing the loan facilities.



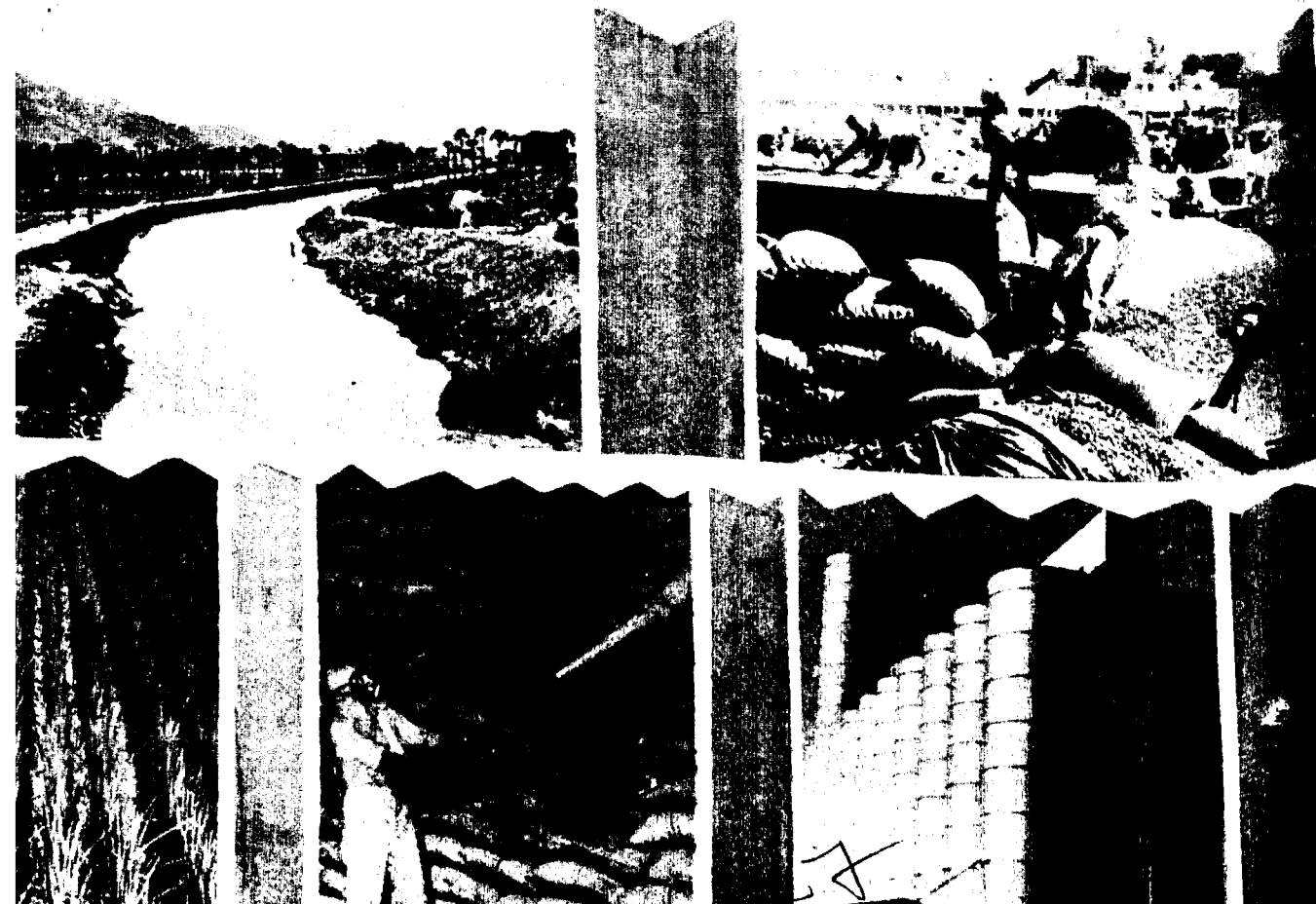
Government have also sanctioned assistance in the form of 1 and subsidy on 50:50 basis construction of godown -cum- retail outlets for head-rters and branches of the Lamp eties. The Lamp Societies pro-: production and consumption is to the tribals at a low rate of rest viz. 4 per cent as against normal rate of 10-5 per cent small farmers and 12.00 per cent others, the difference being subsidised by the Government. The nps have also been provided 1 vehicles. Other subsidies managerial subsidy, risk fund sidy, furniture subsidy, subsidy maintenance of vehicles and e fluctuation subsidy have also n sanctioned by the Government ring the years 1976-77 and 1977- the Government gave assistance he extent of Rs. 12.15 lakhs and 11.85 lakhs respectively to the MPS and the three multipurpose operative societies in Kalrayan s. Four of the LAMP societies e opened eight branches with vernment assistance.

CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION ID TRAINING:

The Tamil Nadu Co-operative ion is in charge of co-operative ication, training and publicity the State. The co-operative

training for intermediate level personnel is being imparted by the Co-operative Training College, Madras. The co-operative training for junior level personnel is being given by the Central Co-operative Institute at Madras and seven Co-operative Training Institutes in the districts.

With assistance from the State Government, Government of India and the co-operatives in the State, a building complex at a cost of Rs. 47 lakhs is being constructed at Madras to house the Co-operative Training College.



The ulcer of untouchability has gone so deep down that it seems to pervade our life.

When untouchability is rooted out no one will consider himself superior to any other. Naturally exploitation too will cease and cooperation will be the order of the day.

—Mahatma Gandhi.

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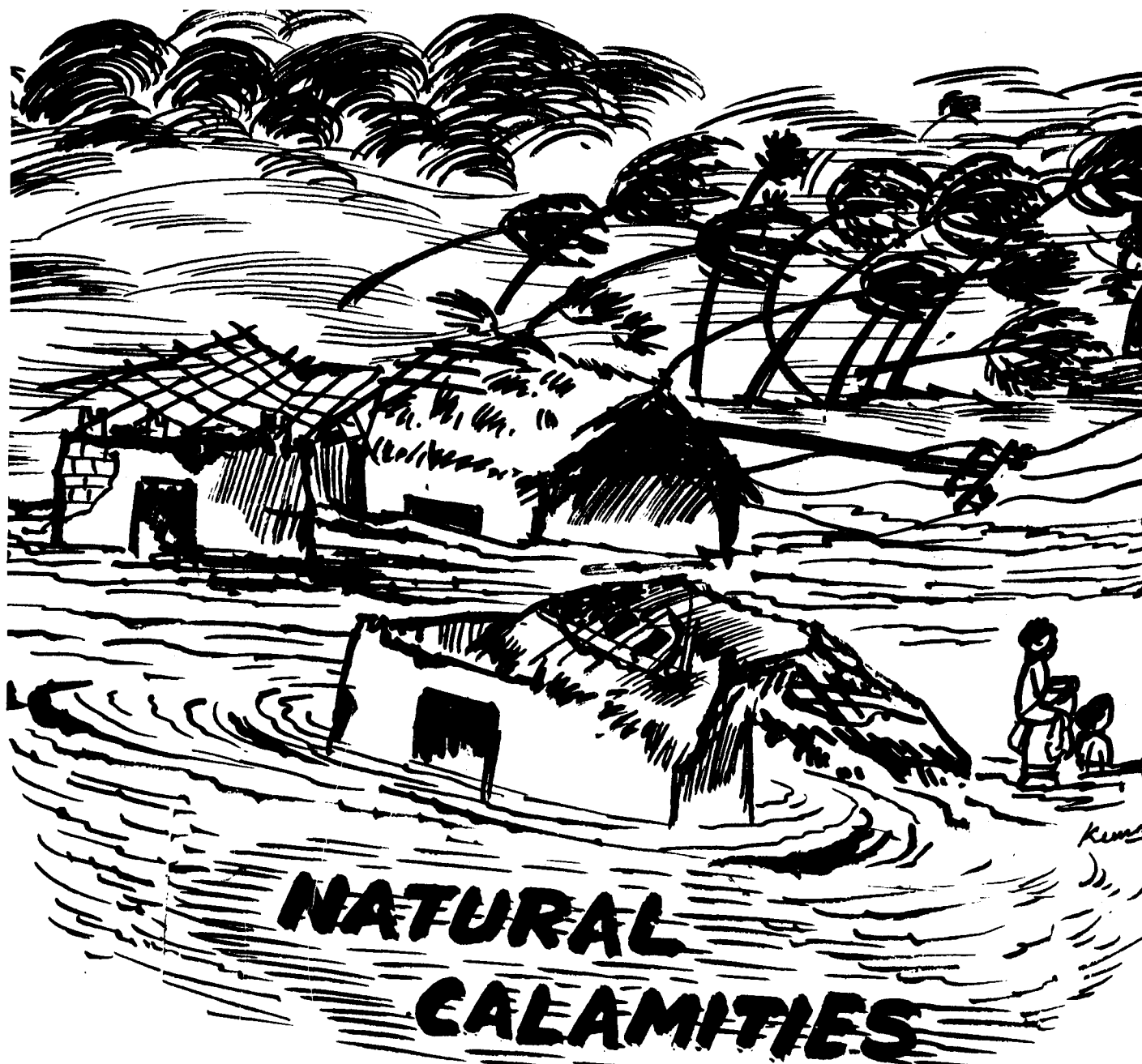
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Hheavy rains persisted in the last week of December, 1978. The cumulative effects of these heavy rains and consequent floods in most areas of the State has been one of severe destruction of property and loss of lives. The State is estimated to have suffered a total damage of about Rs. 39.3 crores, both in the public and the private sector owing to the cyclone and heavy rains in November.

The normal pattern of assistance in case of fire and floods was revised during the year as follows:-

In the case of fire and floods, a sum of Rs. 50 in respect of each partly damaged hut are given as grant for rebuilding of houses. A sum of Rs. 25 is given to each tenant of the damaged huts for clothing purpose. Besides, during the year in respect of families affected by flood and cyclones the government decided to give in addition a quantity of 50kgs. of rice, one litre of kerosene, one saree and one dhoti to each affected family free. This will, hereafter, be the normal pattern

of assistance in respect of families affected by floods and cyclones.

In the case of Scheduled Castes, this loan is given free of interest. During the year, the Government raised the maximum limits of the loan from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 2,000 in each case.

Most of the persons affected by the heavy rain fall in the last week of December 1978 in Madras City and its belt area and coastal districts were daily-wage earners, needing succour for a short period, even after they returned to their homes from the relief camps till complete normalcy was restored. Government, therefore, directed the Collectors, of the districts to supply 50Kg of rice, free of cost, to each of the families in the following categories:-

- (1) Families whose huts had been damaged wholly or partly and who were eligible for cash grant from the Government.



- (2) Families which had been evacuated to relief camps run by the Madras Corporation or other official or non-official agencies and to whom food supply was given in the camps.
- (3) All the residents of slums affected by rains and floods, not evacuated to relief camps, but who could not go to pursue their vocation due to inclement weather and were supplied food at their doors by the Madras Corporation and their non-official agencies.

An interest free advance of an amount of equal to one month's basic pay or Rs. 400 whichever is less, was sanctioned to all Government servants, who live in Madras City and its belt areas and who have suffered loss or damage to their properties on account of the heavy rains in the last week of December 1978, the above advance being recoverable in 10 equal monthly instalments.

The Government employees, Local Body employees and aided school teaching and non-teaching staff and the full time contingent staff who have suffered loss or damage to their house or properties in the 3 taluks of Ramanathapuram (including Rameswaram Sub-Taluk Mudukulathur (including Kamudi-Sub-Taluk) and Tiruvadanai taluk on account of cyclone and floods of November 1978 were sanctioned:-

State Government employees in the Nilgiris district which was affected by heavy rains and landslides had incurred loss or damage to their houses or other properties and hence required urgent financial assistance. Government, therefore, sanctioned interest free advance of pay equal to one month's basic pay, subject to a maximum of Rs. 400, the advance being recoverable in 10 equal monthly instalments. Similarly, warm-clothing advance of Rs. 300 was also sanctioned to the employees in the Nilgiris district, the advance being recoverable in 20 equal monthly instalments with interest.

An interest free pay advance equal to one month's basic pay, subject to a maximum of Rs. 400 to be recovered in 10 equal monthly instalments; and an interest free pay advance equal to one month's basic pay, subject to a maximum of Rs. 200 to be recovered in 20 equal monthly instalments in respect of full-time contingent employees.



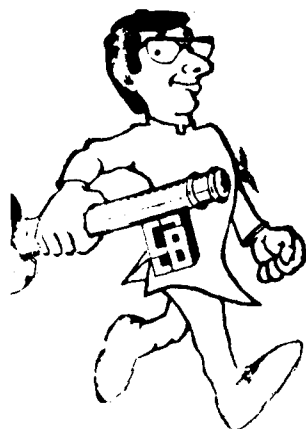
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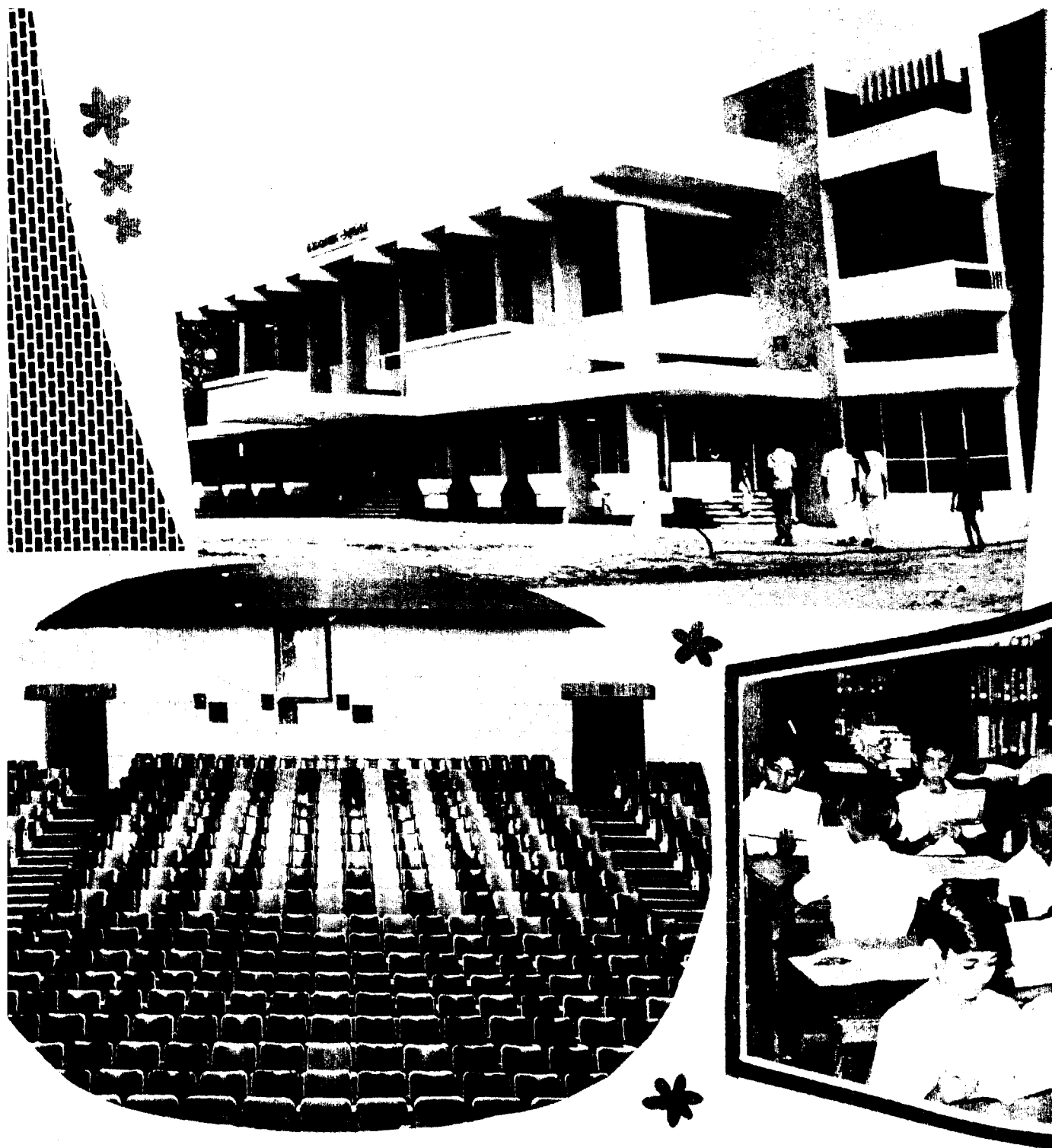


The Information and Public Relations Department functions as the liaison organisation between the Government and the Public. It is the channel through which the policies of the Government and their activities and achievements are made known to the public utilising all media of mass communication such as Press, Films, Exhibitions, Traditional Media like Drama and Song programmes and Printed material. The grievances and the needs of the public are communicated by this department to the Government and the concerned administrative departments.

With a view to educate the public about historical events and the great sacrifices made for the people by National leaders, functions are organised by this department on their birthdays and commemoration days.

The birth centenary of Periyar is being celebrated for a year commencing from September 1978 in a fitting manner in all the districts.

The Thanthai Periyar Centenary Celebrations Committee constituted by the Government has made several recommendations. Among them include setting up of a big conference hall at Madras in memory of Thanthai Periyar, science museum for propagating scientific institute of social studies. The recommendations made by the committee relating to the Tamil script reform adopted by Thanthai-Periyar for a long time was examined and in accordance with the views expressed in this regard by several Tamil scholars over a long period, the Government have issued orders on the script reform. Dramas depicting Periyar's life have been held in



various places. It is also proposed to conduct a sound and light programme on the life and message of Periyar. Government and converted as a memorial. A permanent exhibition depicting the life of Kamaraj has been set up.

The Centenary Celebrations of Rajaji, the elder statesman were organised by the Government on a grand scale. Improvements have been made to the house at Thorapalli where Rajaji was born and the roads leading to the house have been repaired. A permanent exhibition on the life and message of Rajaji has been set up at Thorapalli. As part of the celebrations a statue of Rajaji has been erected in the compound of the Madras High Court Buildings. The North Beach Road has been renamed as "Rajaji Salai". Foundation has also been laid for a two storeyed building in Guindy to locate a library and a reading room in memory of Rajaji.

The house at Thirumalai Pillai road at T. Nagar, where Thiru K. Kamaraj lived has been acquired by

Exhibitions :

The department participates in the exhibitions organised within the state as well as in other parts of the country and portrays the activities and achievements of the Government. Policy matters in regard to conduct of exhibitions in the State and the Government's participation in them are dealt with in this department. On behalf of the Government this department organised the annual exhibition at Salem in 1978.

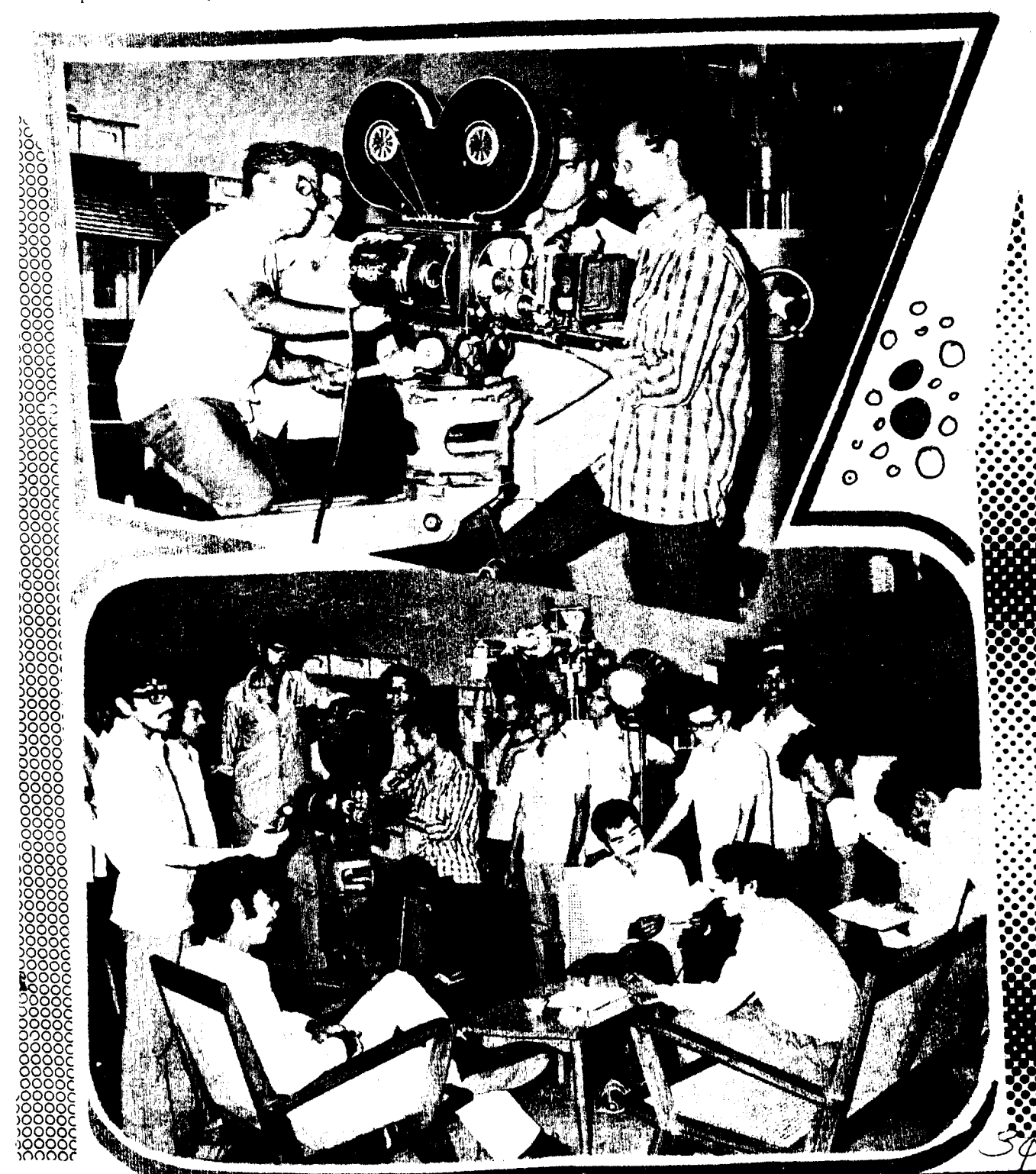
Information Centres :

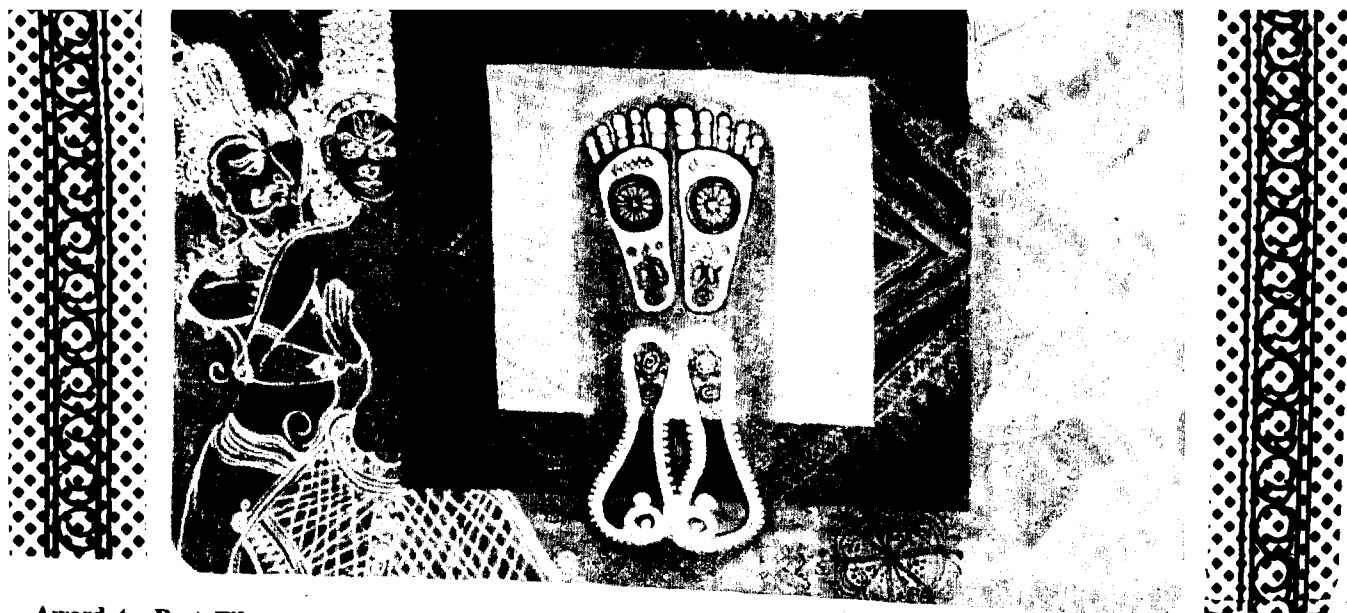
The Information Centres at Madras, Madurai and Thanjavur serve the public by providing them informa-

in all general topics and the policies and achievements of Government. Reading rooms also function in these centres. and the Bharathiyar Memorial at Ettayapuram have been brought under the control of this department.

The 'Tamil Arasu' an official organ of the State Government, is brought out as a fortnightly in Tamil and as a monthly in English publicizing the policies and achievements of the Government.

The high cost in production and the decline in the quality of films produced are among the problems faced by the film industry. To encourage the production of quality films based on nationally desirable themes and welfare of the people, the Government are offering financial assistance of Rs. 1 lakh each, to 5 films every year.





Award to Best Films and Artists:

To encourage production of Tamil films of artistic and technical excellences a scheme of annual State Awards has again been reintroduced. By this scheme, best among the feature films, documentaries and children's films, artists, technicians etc., will be chosen and presented cash awards and prizes. The selection is made by a committee constituted for this purpose.

To encourage the production of children's films in Tamil and also to mark the International year of Child 1979, a subsidy of Rs. 4 lakhs has been sanctioned to Children's Film Society for the production of three children's films in Tamil and dubbing of 4 films.

Formerly licences were issued to touring talkies for a period of 2 years and 3 months. Now they are being issued for a period of 3 years.

The Government provides assistance to start open-air theatres. The rules for constructing Cinema theatres have been liberalised, thereby encouraging the construction of new theatres.

Foundation stones have been laid on the minor rock off Kanyakumari to erect a life size bronze statue for Tiruvalluvar and a memorial to house a library.

'Journalists' Assistance Fund :

This scheme envisages assistance to the retired journalists in indigent condition and the families of journalists who die in harness.



REMOVAL OF UNTOUCHABILITY

Now to the curse of untouchability. Our Country has the monopoly for see-me-not-isms and touch me not-isms. A Country where there is a class of people who are not entitled to walk in public streets, who are not allowed to worship God in their own temples, who are prevented from using the common wells and tanks-such a country may as well be destroyed by an earthquake, burnt out by a volcano, or submerged by the ocean. I appeal to the reformers both social and political to carry on the mission of removing the sin of untouchability and cleanse our society of the dirt that has accumulated for centuries.

—Thanthai Periyar.

HARIJAN HOUSING PROGRAMME



The Government have ordered construction of 5,000 houses through Tamil Nadu Harijan Housing and Development Corporation for the Harijans during the year 1977-78.

For the year 1978-79, the Government have ordered construction of 1,660 houses by Tamil Nadu Harijan Housing and Development Corporation for the Harijans with a view to achieve full coverage for the villages where houses had already been constructed during the previous year.

Housing programmes for scheduled Tribes.

The Government have ordered construction of 42 houses for the Tribes in Jawadhi hills in North Arcot District through Tamil Nadu Harijan Housing and Development Corporation during 1977-78.

The Government have also ordered construction of 22 houses for the Tribals in Chinnakalarayan hills in Salem District through Tamil Nadu Harijan Housing and Development Corporation during the year 1978-79.

The Government have ordered electrification for the houses of Tribals in the Tribal model village at Aggal in the Nilgiris District during the year 1978-79

Sanitary workers Welfare:

During the year 1978, the Government have issued orders for provision of rent free quarters to the Sanitary Workers and Scavengers employed in the local bodies during their entire period of service in the local bodies.

Provision of House sites for Harijans

I. Total acres of land acquired:

	Acres	Cents
From 1-7-77 to 31-3-78	1252	61
From 1-4-78 to 31-3-79	1842	36
Total	3094	97

II. Total number of house sites acquired:

From 1-7-77 to 31-3-78	20,354
From 1-4-78 to 31-3-79	31,304
	51,658

III. Total number of house site pattas issued:

From 1-7-77 to 31-3-78	4,264
From 1-4-78 to 31-3-79	5,504
	9,768

IV. Budget allotment and Actual Expenditure:

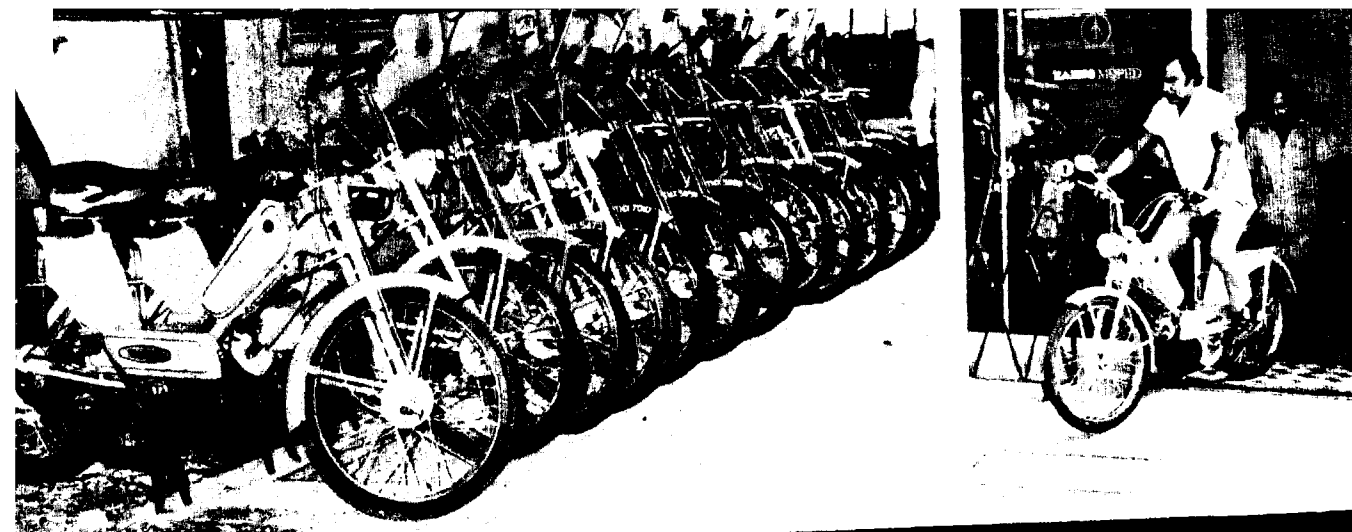
	Allotment Rs.	Expenditure Rs.	Surrendered Excess Rs.
1977-78	100 lakhs	63.17 lakhs	36.83 lakhs Surrendered.
1978-79	100 lakhs	111.64 lakhs	11.64 lakhs excess expenditure

Based on the recommendation of the District Harijan Welfare Officers meeting held at Ootacamund on 24.5.78 and the Periyar Centenary Committee held on 7.8.78 orders were issued in G.O.Ms. No.687, Social Welfare, dated 20.3.79 with a view to eradicate the feeling of segregation and to bring about the emotional integration among all classes of people as well as to help weaker section of all classes to the effect that:-

- Under the scheme of provision of house-sites for Harijans, 80% of the house sites acquired should be assigned to Harijans free of cost 10% of the house-sites acquired should be assigned for Backward Classes free of cost and the remaining 10% of the house-sites acquired should be assigned to for Forward Classes free of cost.
- Under the scheme of construction of houses for Harijans, 80% of the houses constructed should be allotted to Harijans of the balance 10% of the houses constructed should be allotted to for Backward Classes and the remaining 10% of houses constructed should be allotted to for Forward Classes on the same terms as Harijans.
- Under the scheme of construction of houses for Harijans, while allotting houses to Backward Classes and forward classes, houses should be allotted only to (a) those who do not possess any movable or immovable properties and family income is less than Rs.200/- (Rupees two hundred only) per month:
- The stipulation that houses should be allotted to Forward Classes and Backward Classes nearer to houses allotted to Harijans should not be constructed to mean that separate blocks should be constructed for the various communities. For Harijans and other communities, houses should be constructed in a group in the same place without any kind of segregation, so that they can mingle with each other and the houses should also be of the same type design without any difference. While allotting houses, as far as possible, Harijans and non-harijans should be brought together as next door neighbours.

NEW ACT TO SPEED UP LAND ACQUISITION

In order to avoid delay in observing various formalities prescribed in the existing Land Acquisition Act (Central) Act I of 1894) while acquiring lands for Harijan welfare Schemes and in order to speed up the Land acquisition proceedings for the above schemes, the Government of Tamil Nadu had passed a new Act "The Tamil Nadu Acquisition of Land for Harijan Welfare Schemes Act, 1978" (Act 31 of 1978)". The Schemes Act, 1978 "The rules to be framed under the above Act is under consideration of Government. *

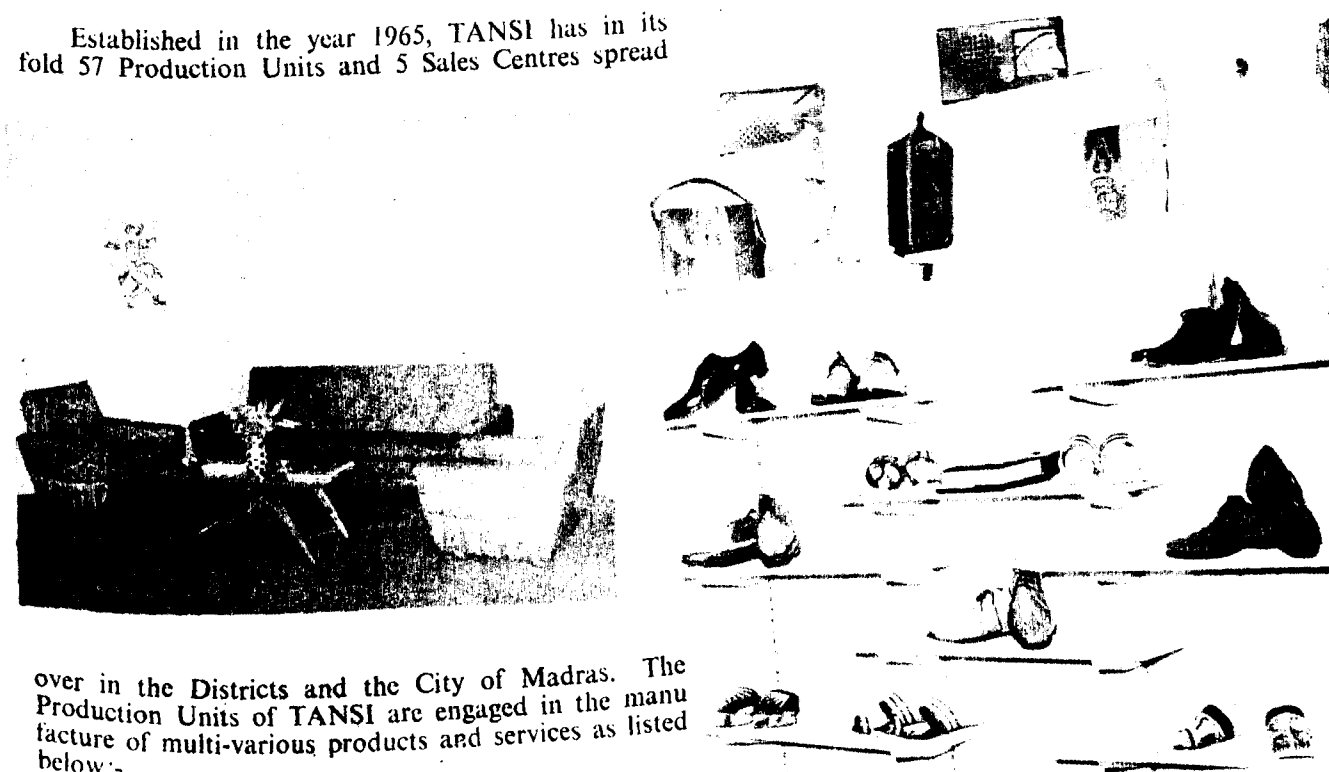


Rapid growth of

TANSI

The unique organisation of its kind in the Country, Tamil Nadu Small Industries Corporation popularly known as 'TANSI' has made rapid strides in the field of industry and agriculture. The achievements and activities of TANSI in the last 2 years assure a still better future in the ensuing years.

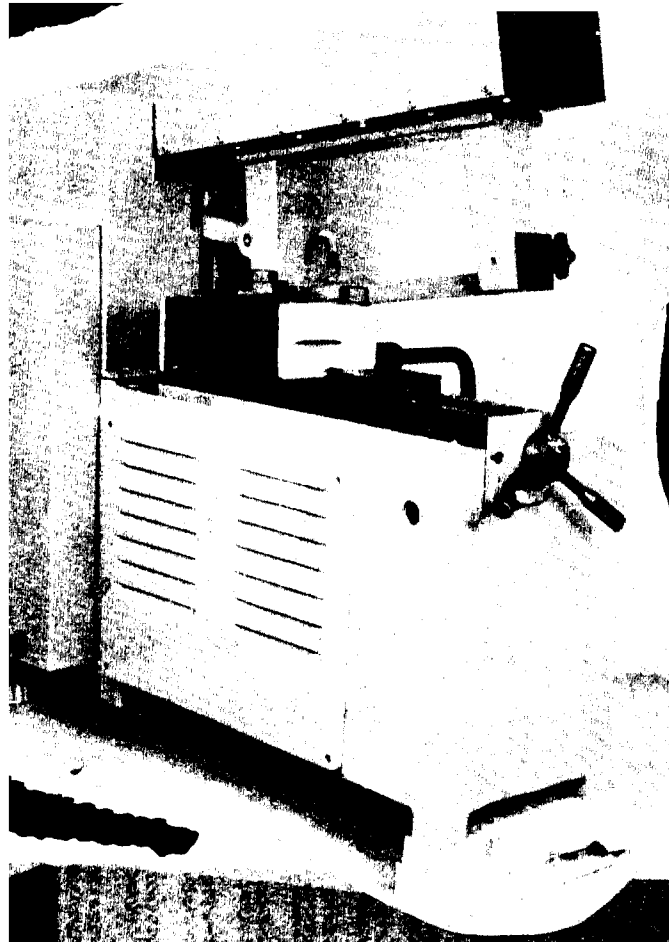
Established in the year 1965, TANSI has in its fold 57 Production Units and 5 Sales Centres spread



over in the Districts and the City of Madras. The Production Units of TANSI are engaged in the manufacture of multi-various products and services as listed below:-

PRODUCTION

1. Heavy and Light Structural.
2. Steel and Wooden Furniture.
3. Agricultural implements including Tractor-Trailers.
4. Super-enamelled and double cotton covered wires.
5. Finished Leathers.
6. Leather goods and footwear
7. Goat Hair.
8. Cast iron pipes and specials
9. Black Granite Stones.
10. French Polish and allied products.



SERVICES

1. Design and Fabrication of Tools, Jigs & Fixtures
2. Hot Forgings.
3. Non-ferrous pressure die casting.
4. Hot Dip Galvanizing.
5. Sheet metal work.
6. Assembly of wrist watches.

Consumer products such as Steel and Wooden furniture, Leather Goods and Footwear are sold directly from the Producing units concerned and also from the Sales Centres situated in Madras, Madurai, Coimbatore and Trichy. These Sales Centres serve as information centres too in respect of other industrial products manufactured by TANSI.

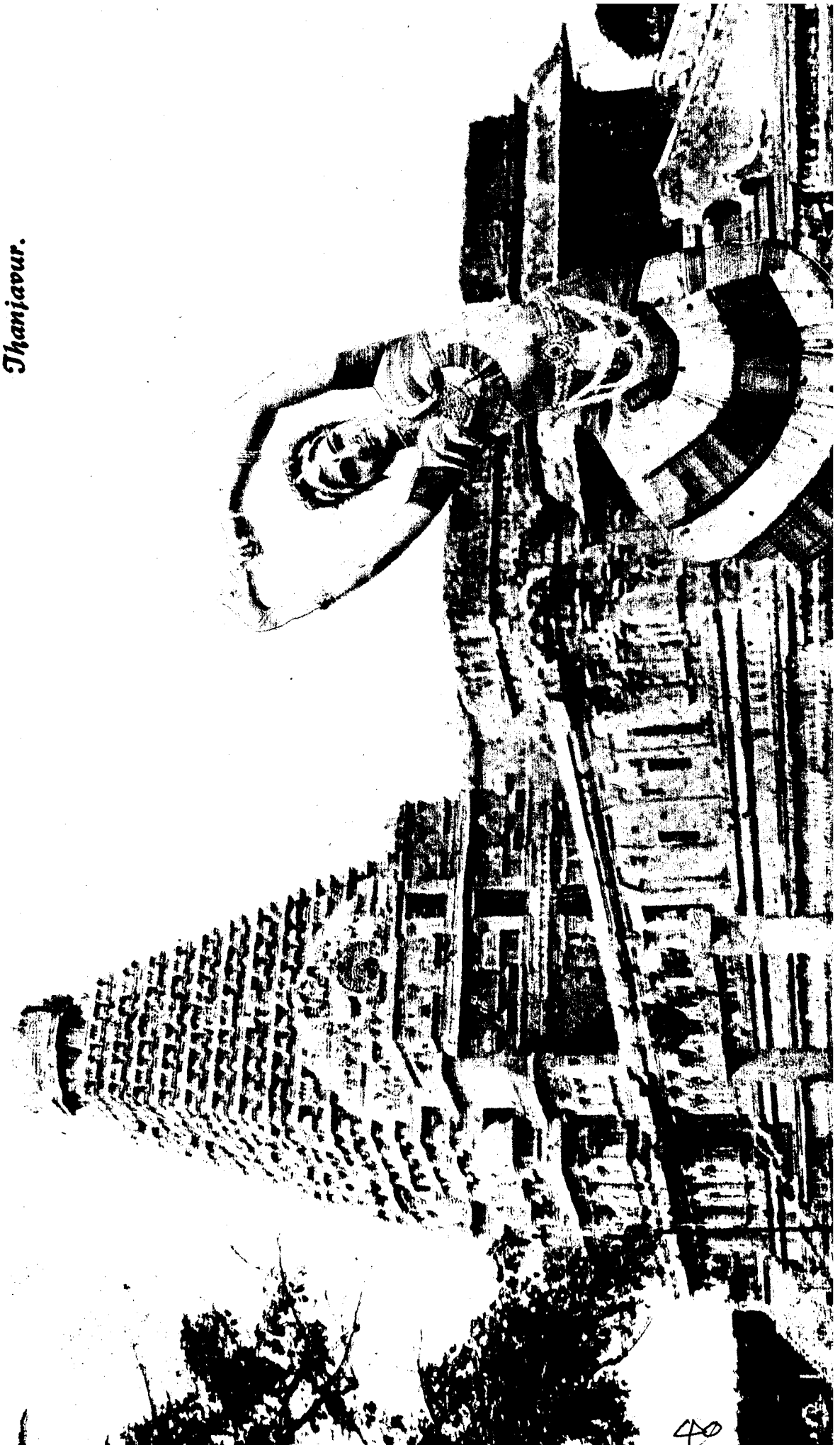
NEW PROJECTS

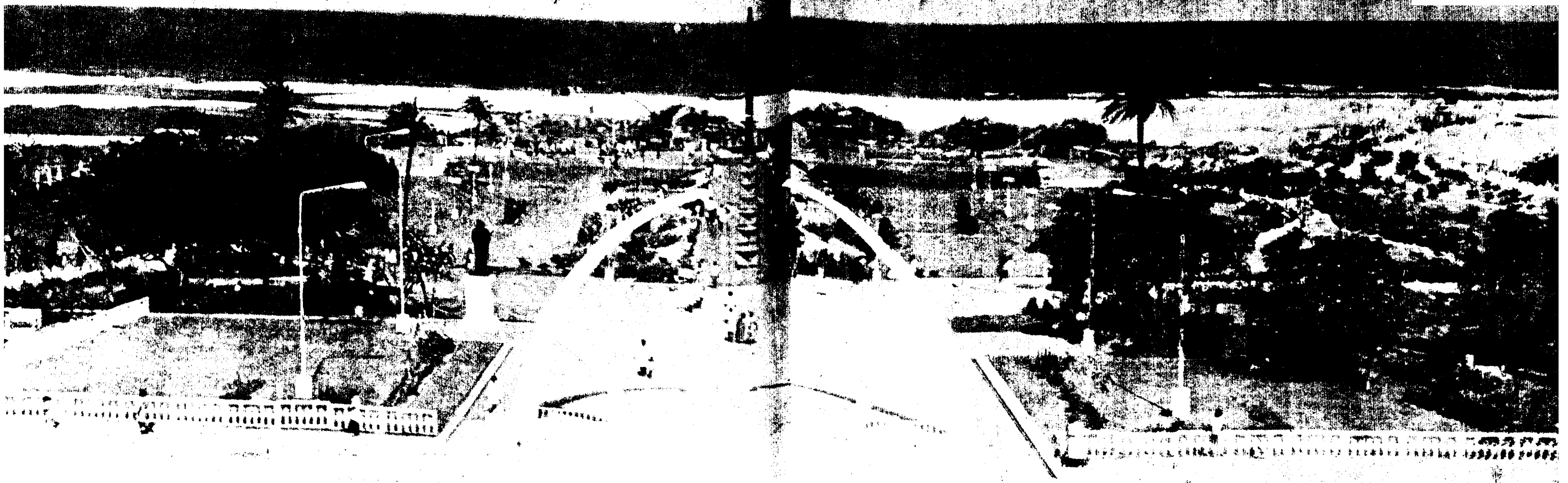
The New Projects of TANSI have made appreciable progress in the recent past.

Tansi Granites Project, Kunnam, South Arcot which commenced production by the middle of 1977 has mined 2200 Cubic Metres of black granite stones which were recognised as the best stones of its kind in the Country. These stones were fully exported to Japan. A project for setting up granite polishing unit



*The Brihadeeswara Temple,
Thanjavur.*



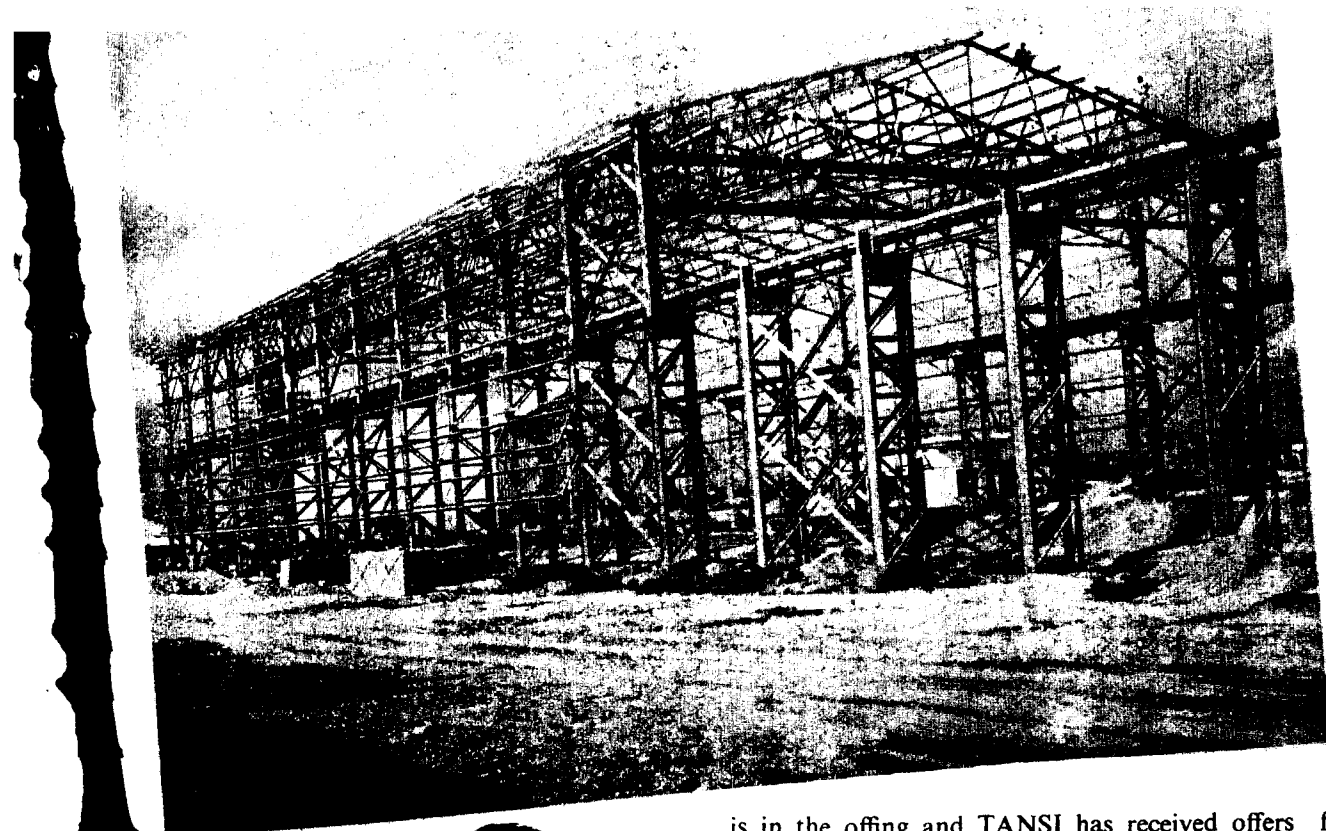


Backwaters of Pithavaram

Anna Square - Marina

Chittal





is in the offing and TANSI has received offers from various firms in West Germany, Italy and Japan for establishment of such a granite polishing factory. These offers are under active consideration of TANSI.

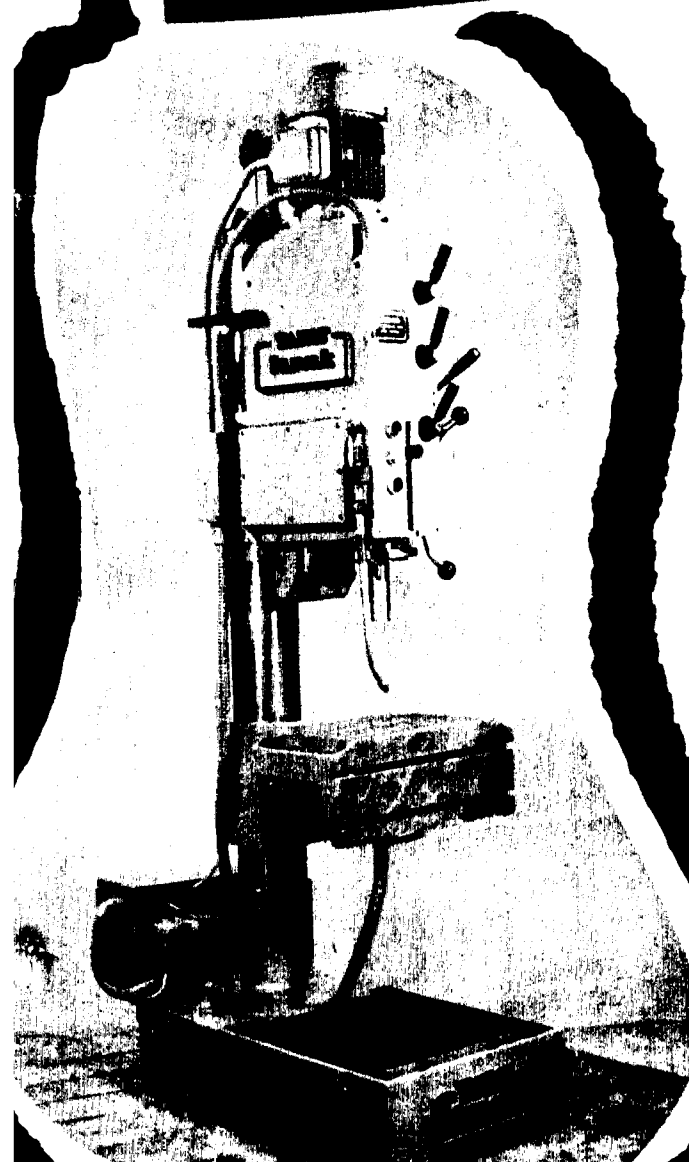
Hacksaw Machine manufactured by Tansi Machine Tools, Ranipet, North Arcot has gained popularity in the last 2 years. Design work for the manufacture of a high capacity Hacksaw (300 mm size) is also under progress in Indian Institute of Technology, Madras. Preliminary steps are being taken to develop the prototype of this machine. The proto-type development work for the Drilling Machine (DP 20 & DB 20) is also under progress. These may come out shortly with certain changes in the design after consultation with Hindustan Machine Tools, Bangalore.

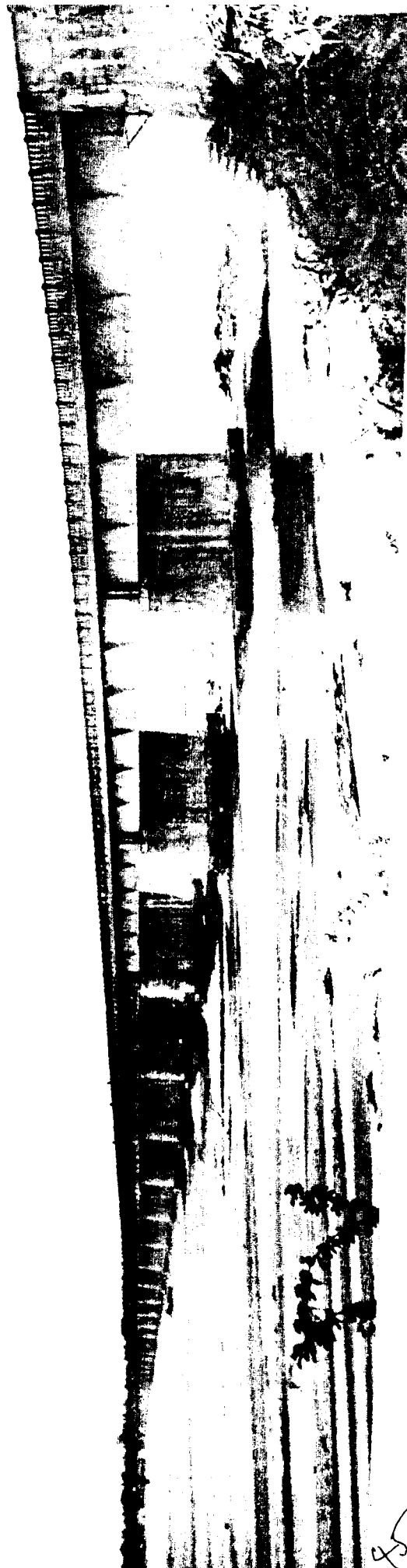
The Watch Assembly Project of TANSI at Ooty has assembled so far about 3 lakhs watches for Hindustan Machine Tools, Bangalore. These watches are of various models such as Kohinoor, Avinash, Vijay, Ajeeth, Smitha etc. The Production at the completely knocked-down state is picking up and so far 8000 sets have been assembled. Efforts are taken to impart intensive training to the workers in critical operations and also streamline the inspection procedures.

A project profile for manufacture of Camelblack has been completed and TANSI is establishing this unit in Kanyakumari District.

A project profile for setting up of Sandal Wood Oil Units is also prepared by TANSI. TANSI is keeping in touch with the leading importers abroad regarding their requirements of Sandal Wood Oil. These Sandal Wood Oil Units will be located in 12 suitable places in the State.

Strenuous efforts taken by TANSI in the recent past in respect of implementation of its new projects and streamlining the administration of its existing units will undoubtedly ensure a still better future in the years to come.





BRIDGE ON THE RIVER CAUVERY

The River Cauvery is the largest river in Tamilnadu rich in deltaic potentialities and it is the main irrigation source for the development of agriculture in Tiruchy and Tanjore Districts. The fertile areas of these regions with abundant growth of Paddy, Sugar cane, and plantations using the Cauvery irrigation source, came to be known as "granary of south". This river bisects the Tiruchy District into two parts viz., North and South. Taluk Head Quarters like Musiri, Perambalur and Thuraiyur are situated on the Northern parts and Taluk head Quarters like Kulithalai, Karur and Manapparai are situated in the Southern parts. As this bridge connects the two big commercial centres viz. Kulithalai and Musiri located on either side of river Cauvery, the distance between these two places is reduced by 75 K.M., due to avoidance of circuitous route via Tiruchy. So far, as there was no bridge across Cauvery at an intermediate point between the existing bridges at Pagalur and Tiruchy for a distance of about 100 K.M., the transport vehicles from North of Musiri bound for Dindugal and Madurai had to take a circuitous route via Tiruchy. Now, after the construction of this bridge...

heavily built up area of Tiruchy Town could be avoided. Therefore, this bridge plays a significant role for satisfying the long felt Transportation needs and also from the point of view of economy

Some highlights of the bridge

This bridge is across the River Aganda Cauvery and it is the longest river bridge in Tamilnadu.

Total length of the bridge: 1473 Metres (4830 feet)
(Nearly a Mile)

Total cost of the bridge: Rs. 139 lakhs.

Apart from the main bridge, on Musiri side approach road a subway is constructed across the Tiruchy Namakkal Road to regulate the traffic going to Musiri, Salem and Thuraiyur.

The work was commenced in January 72 and completed in April 1979. The bridge has been named after "THANTHAI PERIYAR".

The Cinchona Department, a commercial undertaking of the Government of Tamilnadu is producing Quinine and Quinine products as well as Medical/Aromatic oils. This department is functioning for the past 118 years and provides employment for about 3000 workers.

This department provides free housing accommodation and several other basic amenities to these workers under the Estate Labourers Act. The department pays equal wages to men and women workers besides increasing their daily wages from Rs. 5.70 to Rs. 6.50 during the year 1978-79 under the daily wages act.

To give employment to the weaker sections of the society the activities of this department were extended to several parts of the state with an outlay of Rs. 52.57 lakhs. An area of 400 acres will be brought under cultivation of Geranium in March 1979 in the Palani hills of Madurai district providing employment for 220 workers.

The Government of Tamilnadu has sanctioned for the cultivation of cinchona in 1000 acres in Highway-vis group of Estates in Madurai district at a cost of Rs. 146.26 lakhs. This scheme will be in force after the acquirement of the required land.

The scheme will provide employment opportunity to 1100 workers. As a rehabilitation programme Government is considering to employ 500 families of Sri Lanka repatriates in the cultivation of Geranium in 700 acres in Kodaikanal and Cookal.

The following schemes recommended by the committee constituted by the Government of Tamilnadu for the development of rural employment opportunity are, under consideration.

1. Cultivation of Java citronella in 400 acres.
2. Production of 1500 kilos caffeine per year.

A large scheme has been started during 1978-79 for the cultivation of Dioscorea and for the manufacture of Diosgenine. To manufacture Diosgenine a factory will be set up in the Cinchona areas in Valparai. This factory will be named as "Tamilnadu Steroids".

The foundation stone for the factory has been laid by the Minister for Information & Religious Endowments on 9th January 1979. The factory is expected to start production during 1979-80. The scheme at a cost of Rs. 80 lakhs when completed will

provide employment opportunities to about 400 workers. The several schemes implemented under the Five Year Plan continue to provide employment opportunities for about 1,500 persons belonging to the rural areas and the Backward Classes.

This department being one among the Tamil Nadu Government commercial Institutions, it continues to earn a considerable revenue. During 1977-78, Quinine products were exported to Foreign countries to the extent of Rs. 37.33 lakhs.

Since the Central Government had imposed a control over the export of Quinine products, products worth only Rs. 26.37 lakhs was exported in the year 1978-79.

During the year 1977-78 this department has earned a profit of Rs. 18 lakhs. It is estimated that a profit of Rs. 18 lakhs could be made for the year 1979-80.

The department provides 1,000 kilos of Quinine sulphates to the National Malaria Eradication Scheme annually for the eradication of Malaria and provides employment opportunities to the economically backward sections of the society.



WELFARE of TRIBES

SUBSIDY FOR SINKING OF IRRIGATION WELLS

With a view to improve the condition of the S.C and S.T agriculturists, financial assistance in the form of subsidy for irrigation wells has been given. To enhance the irrigation well subsidy, the Government have revised the pattern of irrigation well subsidy scheme. As per the revised pattern, one-third (1/3) of the total cost of well will be treated as subsidy and two third (2/3) of the cost will be loan from the Land Development Banks. A sum of Rs. 7.50 lakhs and Rs. 1.95 lakhs has been provided for the purpose to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes respectively for 1979-80. Besides this, a sum of Rs. 1 lakh has been provided for Scheduled Castes converts to Christianity for the same purpose.

MILK SUPPLY CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

To help poor Harijans and also give them employment opportunities during the off-seasons, Milk Supply Co-operative Societies have been organised. Each Harijan member in the Co-operative Milk Supply Societies in the State is given financial assistance at the rate of Rs 1,500/- per animal. He is eligible for a subsidy of Rs. 500/- from Harijan Welfare Funds and Rs. 1,000/- as loan from Nationalised Banks per animal. Each individual is entitled for the above assistance for purchase of two animals only. During 1979-80, a sum of Rs. 10.55 lakhs has been provided for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Castes converts to Christianity for this purpose.

Financial assistance for Funeral rites of Rs. 50/- to deaths in Harijan families:

During 78, Government have sanctioned the payment of a grant of Rs. 50/- (Rs. Fifty only) on each death of any kind in the family members of SC/ST and SC converts to Christianity subject to the production of death income certificate from the appropriate authority.

1. The scheme is applicable to all the families belonging to SC/STs and SC converts to Christianity in Tamil Nadu provided that the annual income of the head of family, of the deceased does not exceed Rs. 3,000/- (Rupees Three thousand only).
2. The scheme is implemented in all areas of Panchayats Municipalities and Corporations in Tamil Nadu.)

So far 3857 persons have received financial assistance under the scheme. In the current financial year, Rs.5 lakhs were allocated for the scheme.

SPECIAL TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR SCHEDULED CASTE AND SCHEDULED TRIBES BOYS AND GIRLS.

The Government have provided 17000/- in the Budget Estimate for 78-79 towards the scheme for training in Radio and T.V. Mechanism in Sri Seva Mandir for 20 Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes girls after their completion of S.S.L.C. so as to enable them to establish shops in busy locality and attend to Radio and Television Mechanism independently.

The Government have provided a sum of Rs. 1 lakh in the Budget Estimate for 1978-79, for special coaching schemes for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes boys and girls where they are studying in P.U.C. and three year degree courses in Government and Aided Colleges. The Coaching classes will be conducted in their respective colleges outside the college hours. This scheme applies to 189 colleges.

Removal of un-touchability:

There are six mobile police squads already functioning in the districts of Coimbatore, Tanjore, Tiruchirappalli, South Arcot, Madurai and Tirunelveli for the enforcement of the provisions of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, with a view to strengthen the machinery for the enforcement of the P.C.R. Act and to ensure the enforcement of the Act more strictly throughout the State, the setting up of seven more mobile police squads has been sanctioned in January 1979 in the districts of Chengalpattu, Ramanathapuram, Kanniyakumari, North Arcot, The Nilgiris, Salem and Dharmapuri.



TRIBAL WELFARE

The Tribal population of Tamil Nadu, though small in size, is widely scattered all over the State. According to the census of 1971, the total tribal population is 3.11 lakhs. As part of the strategy for the development of the tribals, a Tribal Sub-plan was evolved, under which contiguous areas of Tribal concentration with a minimum of 10,000 total population of which 50% are tribals was identified. A total number of about 1.46 lakhs of tribals in 9 identified areas in North Arcot, South Arcot, Salem, Dharmapuri and Tiruchirappalli Districts are covered, where the tribals benefit under the Tribal Sub-Plan.

During 1977-78, orders were issued sanctioning schemes to the tune of Rs. 153 lakhs which were need-based and included schemes on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Soil Conservation, Minor Irrigation Roads, Opening of Government Dispensaries, Maternity Centres, G.T.R. Schools, distribution of agricultural inputs, fertilisers, pesticides, milch animals, poultry units, bee-hives, etc.

During 1978-79, schemes totaling a sum of Rs. 200 lakhs were sanctioned.

WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES STUDENTS

Pre-metric Scholarship :

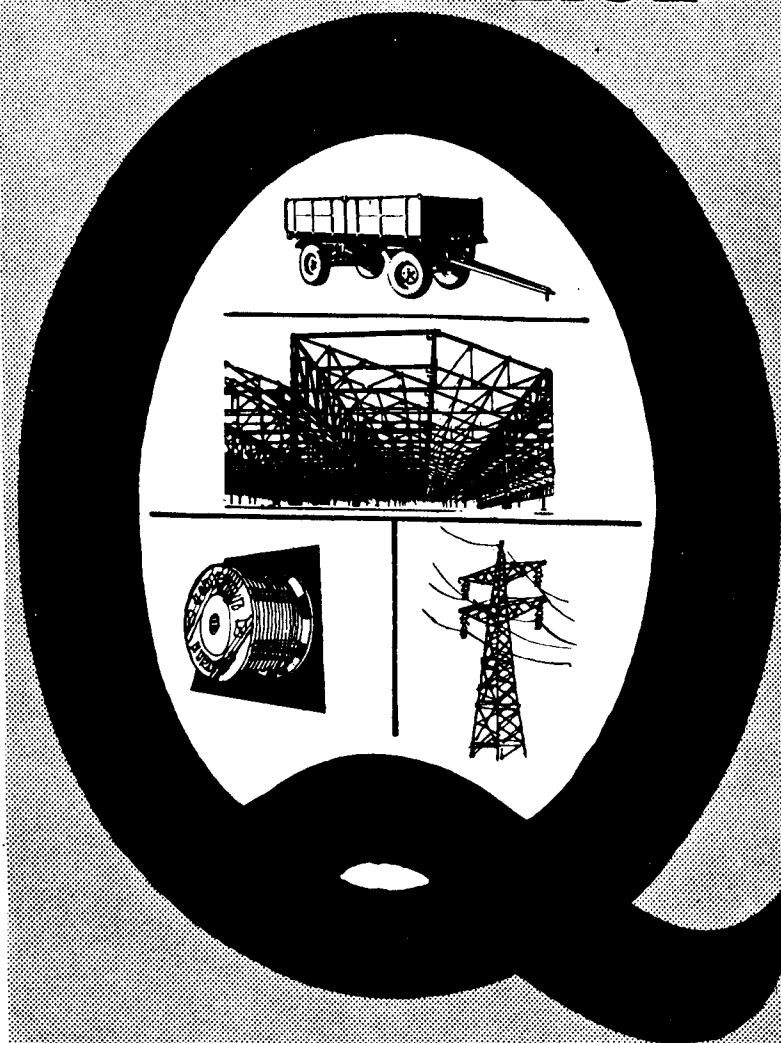
Till the year 1977-78, pre-metric scholarship was given in cash to students belonging to Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled castes and converts thereof provided their parental annual income limit was Rs. 3,000/- and less per annum. The amount of scholarship ranged from Rs. 41/- to Rs. 52.50 per annum.

The Government have directed that the STs, SCs and converts from BCs, most BCs and DNTs studying in the following institutions be exempted from payment of tuition fees under rule 92 of the TNE rules:—

Physical Education colleges. Oriental colleges B Lit. only) College/institute of catering Technology and applied Nutrition. Central Training institute for instructions (GPI)



QUALITY COUNTS... YOU CAN COUNT ON TANSI



With TANSI, Quality is a magnificent obsession! Every product coming out of a TANSI Unit is with strict quality control measures. Customers know Quality speaks for TANSI.

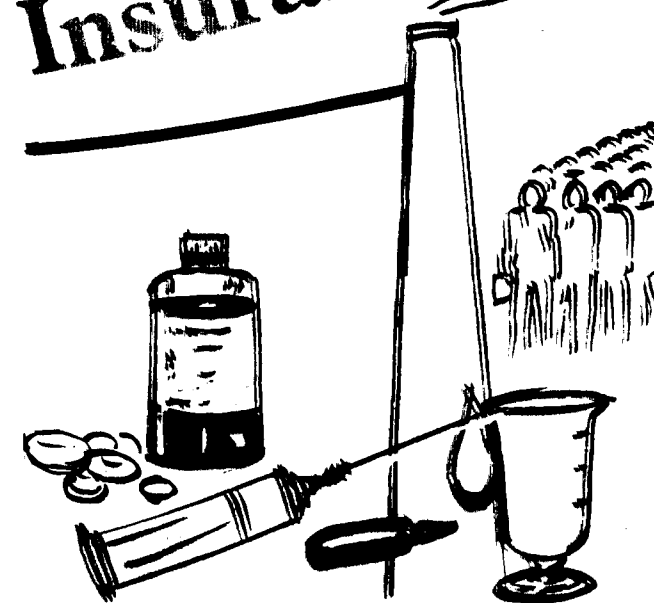
A wide range of industrial and consumer goods—structurals and towers, machine tools, steel & wooden furniture, trailers and agricultural implements, copper wires, components (forged, pressed & diecast), safety boots and gloves, french polish and allied products—to mention only a few!

You can count on TANSI for Quality.

TANSI
TAMILNADU SMALL INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Govt. of Tamilnadu Enterprise)
1, Whites Road, Madras-600 014
Phone: 82161 Grams: TANSI Telex: 41-7496 TNSI



Employees' State Insurance



Siddha wing with 6 beds in the E.S.I. Hospitals in Coimbatore and Madras started functioning with effect from 2nd October, 1978. Of the 4 E.S.I. Hospitals, 104 static dispensaries, 4 E.S.I. Hospitals and 42 dispensaries are in corporations' Own buildings and the rest are in the private rented buildings.

The E.S.I. Scheme has been extended to new sectors of establishments viz. Hotels, Restaurants, Shops, Theatre, Newspapers establishment, etc., in all the implemented areas in the State.

Necessary proposals for the extension of the E.S.I. Scheme to Arkonam, Sankari, Thanjavur, Kumarpalayam, Thuvakudi and Thiruvarambur are under the consideration of the Government.

The question of extension of full medical care of families of insured persons in all the implemented areas in this State is also under consideration of the Government.

The Government have accorded sanction for the construction of buildings to accommodate the E.S.I. Dispensaries, Tambaram, Vellore, Usilampatti near Manapalai and Dindigul, now functioning in private rented buildings. The construction work is in progress, in respect of E.S.I. Dispensaries Tambaram and Vellore. The construction work has been completed in respect of E.S.I. Dispensaries in Usilampatti near Manapalai and Dindigul. The above two dispensaries will be opened in the new premises shortly. The E.S.I. Corporation has agreed to construct their own-buildings in 51 places where the E.S.I. Dispensaries with two doctors or more are located in rented buildings now.

The Government have sanctioned, one special Deputy Collector with other ancilliary staff to expedite the work of acquisition of lands for construction of dispensaries located in private rented buildings.

The Government have sanctioned the increase of bed strength from 206 to 500 in respect of the E.S.I. Hospital, K.K.Nagar and the construction work is nearing completion.

An immunisation programme has also been started to afford prophylactic cover to the one lakh children of the insured persons at a cost of Rs. 1,38,500 per annum in the Madras region.

Employees' State Insurance Scheme:

The E.S.I. Scheme is in force in all the districts except Dharamapuri and Nilgiris. The scheme has already been extended to new sectors in two phases—second and third phases; second phase from 14-2-78 and third phase from 14-5-78 covering 30,900 workers.

To provide medical facilities to cover the 30,900 workers an outlay of Rs. 19,54,700 has been sanctioned.

In addition to the repatriates from Burma and Vietnam, the Government of Tamil Nadu has taken responsibility of giving rehabilitation to the 6 lakhs repatriates from Sri Lanka according to the Sirimavo-Sasthri Agreement.

After the ministry had assumed office, 19,703 families of Sri Lanka repatriates were employed in Tea plantations and agriculture and its connected farms. Loans have been advanced to 526 families of Burma repatriates and 191 families of Vietnam repatriates to start business. These rehabilitation schemes are implemented with the help of loans and grants from the Central Government. The State Government itself granted aid to the extent of Rs. 72.67 lakhs to these resettled families.

Besides this the Government has refinanced Rs. 1453.46 lakhs to materialise the business loans and other schemes for the welfare of the repatriates.

In addition to the existing schemes for the rehabilitation of repatriates, the ministry has sanctioned the following schemes in their short span of assuming office.

To improve the health and medical facilities the Government has spent Rs. 88,000 in Mandapam camp.

In Neyveli State Farm Corporation a separate hospital has been established for the welfare of the resettled repatriates from Sri Lanka at a cost of Rs. 28,000.

The existing fair price scheme of selling rice at a cost of 57 paise per kilo has been extended to the resettled repatriates through the Repatriates Co-operative Finance and Development Bank Limited. for the repatriates.

For the resettlement of the repatriates from Sri Lanka, steps have been taken to employ them in the cultivation of Tea in 4,000 acres in Genmam lands of Nilgiri District Tea Association.

Approval has been obtained from the Central Government to increase the grant ceiling from Rs.250 to 400 to avail the education concessions for the children of repatriates from Sri Lanka.

A Transit camp has been constructed at a cost of Rs. 26.46

lakhs at Kottappattu of Trichy district for the repatriates from Sri Lanka.

On 29-9-78 the Central Minister for housing opened 159 houses, constructed at a cost of Rs. 9,81,045 at Ranipet for the repatriate employees working in Tamilnadu Chrompet & Chemical factory.



The Central Minister for Housing laid the foundation stone on 28-9-78 in the presence of Chief Minister of Tamilnadu to provide houses for 3132 repatriate families from Burma at the renovated area of the Vyasarpadi lake at a cost of Rs. 177.63 lakhs.

The heavy industrial technology and driving training centre has been transferred from Mana of Madhya Pradesh to Gummidipoondi of Chengapattu district. This new centre at a cost of Rs.25.41 lakhs has been inaugurated by the Central Minister for Housing on 28-9-78.

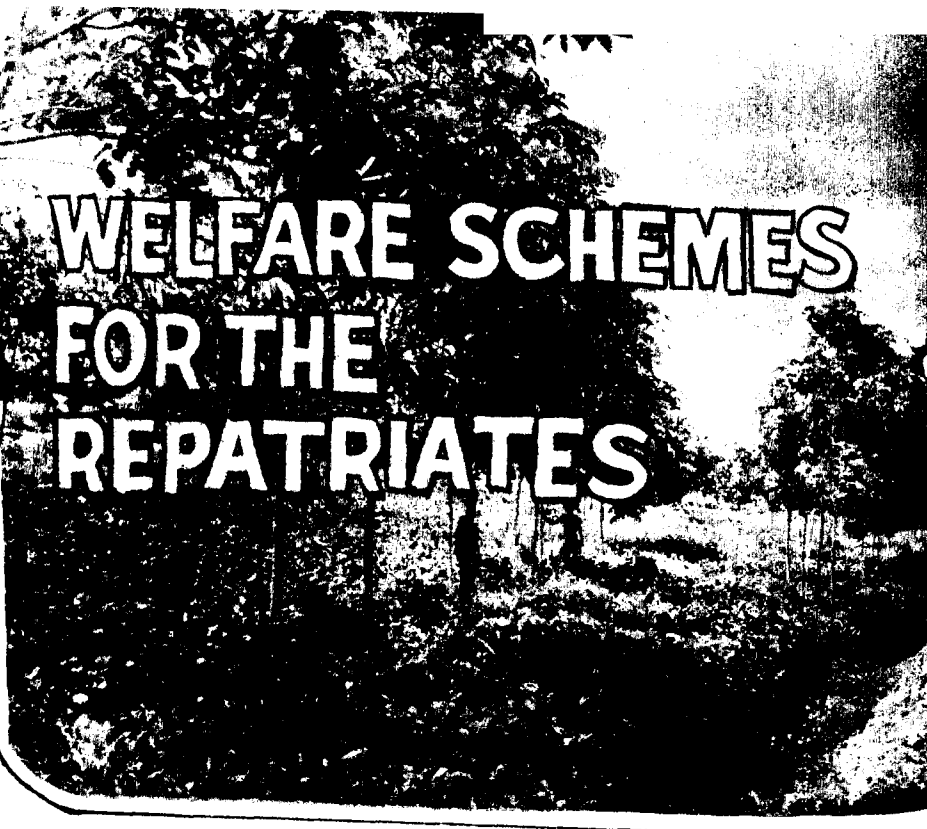
Sanction was granted to construct 600 houses at a cost of Rs. 28.50 lakhs to the repatriate employees of Neyveli State Farm Corporation.

During the sixth five year plan it is expected to rehabilitate 56,000 repatriated families from Sri Lanka. Of these 42,000 repatriate families will be rehabilitated in Tamilnadu.

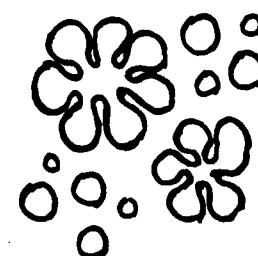
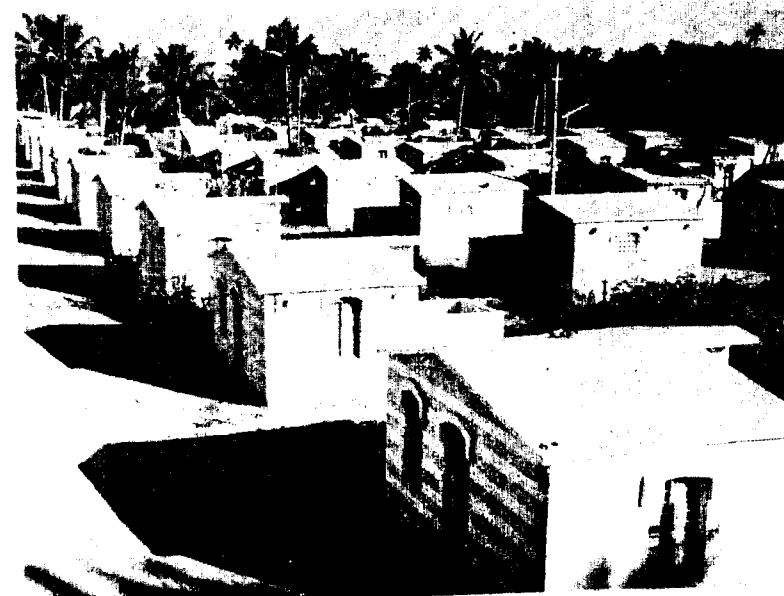
Of the repatriated families 75% were given business loan and the remaining 25% were under other schemes.

Since the business loans was not utilised properly by these repatriates, the Government of Tamilnadu is taking steps to settle them in public and Private undertakings.

WELFARE SCHEMES FOR THE REPATRIATES



Co-Operative Housing



In Tamil Nadu the Rural Co-operative Housing Societies were started from 1950.

This scheme was stopped during March 1973. 1960 houses were built by granting a loan of Rs. 1.30 crores through this scheme.

RURAL HOUSING SCHEME:

A new scheme called "Rural Housing Scheme" was implemented by the Superintending Engineer (Highways) from 1966. The Government itself has granted enough fund for this scheme.

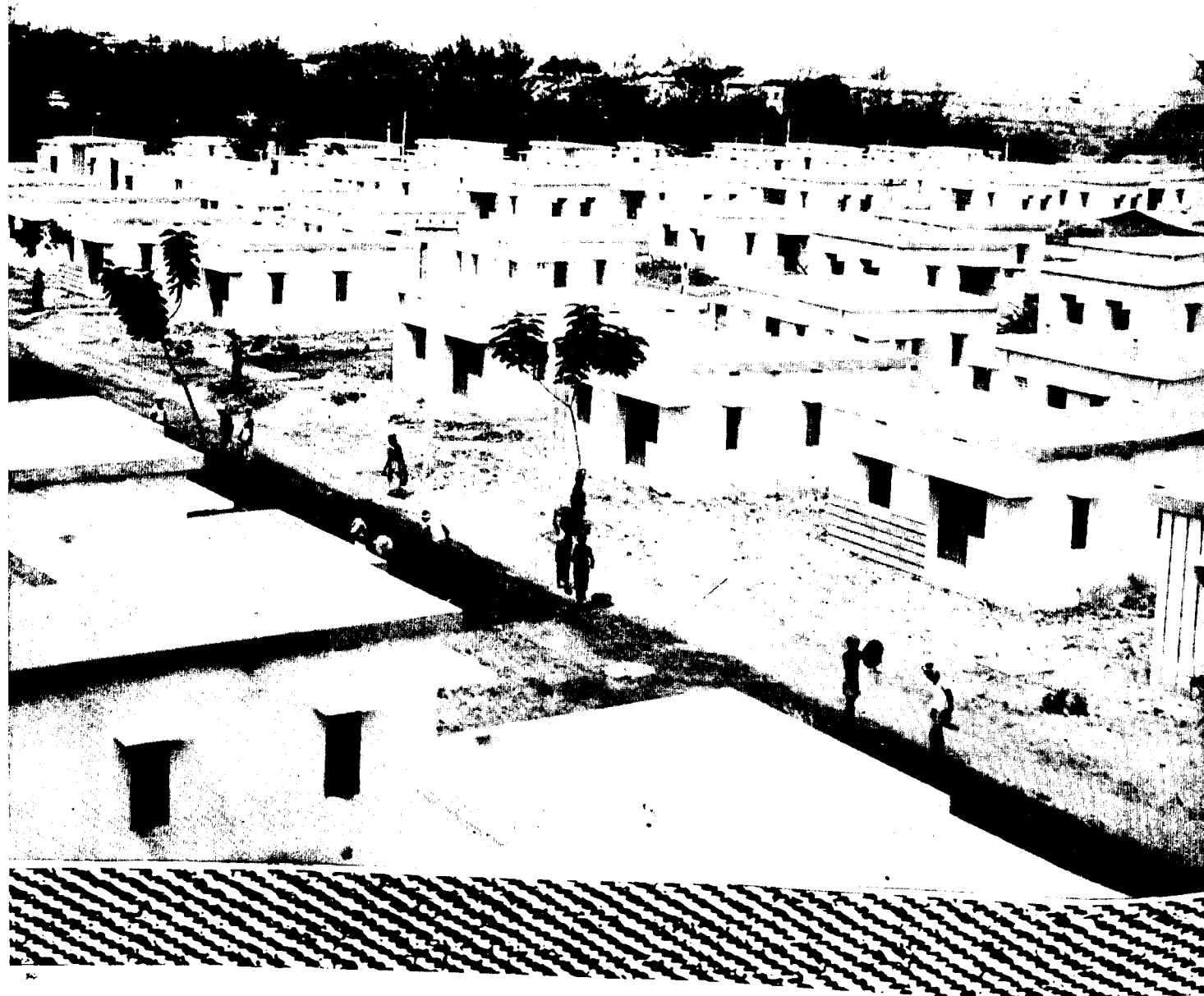
By this scheme 8,584 houses had been built since 1966 to 31.3.1976 at a cost of Rs.3.59 crores.

The Government decided to implement this scheme in a better manner. Hence a Government order was issued in April '76. Under this order 10 Taluk Rural Co-operative Housing Societies were set-up during 1976-77. 50 Rural Divisional Co-operative Housing Societies were started during 1977-78 with an aim to enable all the rural people in Tamil Nadu to make use of this scheme. All the villages have been brought under the Village Co-operative Housing Society and through the 70 Village Co-operative Housing Societies. Loans are granted to members by the Tamil Nadu Co-operative Housing Construction Society.

Tamil Nadu Co-operative Housing Society grants loans to its members to build houses.

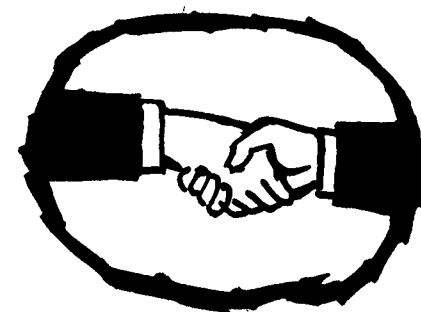
Those who possess 1½ cents of land can become a member and get the loan.

A member can get a loan to the extent of Rs. 5000. This amount shall be repaid within 20 years. 9½% of interest will be charged to those whose monthly income is upto Rs. 300/- and 10½% of interest will be charged to those whose monthly income is from Rs. 300 to Rs. 600. No interest will be charged for the Harijans. Houses can be built by



the locally available materials. Through these societies 20,000 loans were granted to the extent of Rs. 10/- crores during 1978-79. It is proposed to reach the target of building 10,000 houses at a cost of Rs. 5/- crores before 30.6.'79.

So far 2511 houses have been built and 6580 houses are under construction. 16,800 loan applications to the value of Rs. 8/- Crores have been recommended and forwarded for the approval of the central society.



In addition to the above, the Government of Tamil Nadu have issued orders on 16.2.'79 to construct

1 lakh houses within the next five years. A subsidy of 20% or Rs. 600/- whichever is low is granted to Harijans who want to build houses within the cost of Rs. 3000/- and to others who want to build houses in the Harijan areas within the cost of Rs. 3000/- under this scheme. In addition to that the Government has come forward to pay the interest in favour of Harijans, who obtain a loan upto Rs. 5000/- to build a house. It has been decided to build 20,000 houses per year during 1978-80, 1980-'81 and 25,000 houses per year during 1981-'82, 1982-'83.



IN Tamil Nadu, there are 32 Employment Offices functioning which includes 10 Sub-employment Offices at Dindigul, Erode, Kancheepuram, Ambattur, Nagappattinam, Tuticorin, Mandapam, Sankarapuram, Alangayam and Karur; 2 Special Employment Offices at Madras one for Professional and Executive Standard Employment seekers and the other for physically handicapped and 3 University Employment Information and Guidance Bureaux at Madras, Madurai and Annamalai Nagar.

The following important schemes are implemented during the years 1977-'78; 1978-'79.

To give employment opportunity to the Scheduled Tribes, Sub-Employment Offices are functioning at Sankarapuram in South Arcot District and at Alangayam in North Arcot District. For the benefit of the Scheduled Tribes, a new scheme called "Centralised Rosters for Communal Reservation" is set up and functioning in Salem District as an experimental scheme to give employment opportunity under the ratio basis. A new wing is functioning in Salem District Employment Office for this scheme.

The Government have sanctioned the proposal to computerise the Employment Exchange operations in respect of nine Employment Exchanges in Madras and Chengalpattu Districts in order to increase efficiency largely to eliminate complaints and to attract private sector employers and moreover to facilitate maintenance of up to date records. Under this programme, actual details of applicants such as qualifications, age, etc., recorded

in index cards of applicants are transferred in pre-designed in put forms using various codes developed. The details of applicants recorded in the in put forms will then be punched at the Government Data Centre and they will be stored in a computer tape. The master file of applicants so maintained in a computer tape will be used for selection of applicants through computer against vacancies notified to the Employment Exchanges. In respect of 9 Employment Exchanges under computerisation in put forms have been prepared for all applicants on the Live Register as on numbering around 2,50,000. The input forms relating to Professional and Executive Employment Office, Madras has been taken up, first for computerisation and a sample of 2,000 input forms have been taken up for punching and to test various programmes relating to Employment Exchange operations.

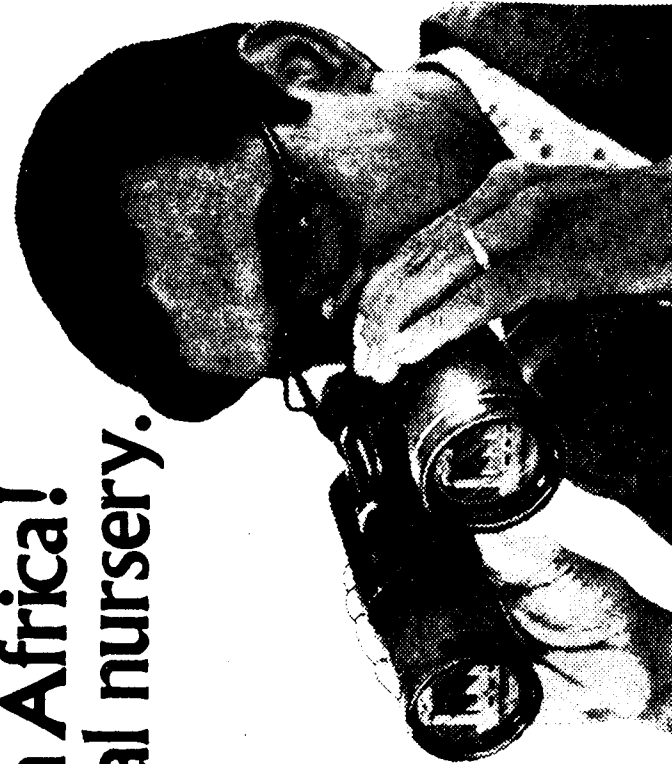
Not only to increase the employment opportunity to the physically handicapped and also to enable them to learn their work, a separate wing is functioning under one Junior Employment Officer each in Salem and Trichy District Employment Exchanges. Such wings are already in operation in Employment Exchanges of Madurai and Coimbatore Districts.

These wings enable the handicapped persons to get employment in Central Government to equal their reservation (Quota) of 3 per cent and it helps these physically handicapped persons in this district to get proper employment opportunity.

For the benefit of the rural people and to reduce the work load of Trichy District Employment Exchange, a sub-employment exchange was opened and is functioning at Karur Since 1978-'79.

BUREAU HELPS SEEK CAREERS

Zuzuvadi? No. Not in Africa! It's SIPCOT's Industrial nursery. Right in Tamilnadu.



Zuzuvadi. One of the two villages (the other is Mookandapalli) at the outskirts of Hosur, Dharmapuri District, that houses SIPCOT's largest industrial complex.

SIPCOT Welcomes Investors:
Right on Madras-Bangalore National Highway (35 kms from Bangalore), the estate welcomes with open arms all entrepreneurs — big, medium and small.

Hosur complex comprises about 1,000 acres of industrial plots, with infrastructural facilities. Available to entrepreneurs at reasonable prices. Easy mode of payment.

Hosur hums with activity:

Hosur is humming with activity. Well known business houses have already moved in. Hosur boasts of about 55 Government offices, an I.T.I. and two High Schools. Plenty of skilled and unskilled labour in surrounding areas.

Hosur's climate ideal for electronic and precision engineering industries.

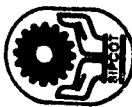
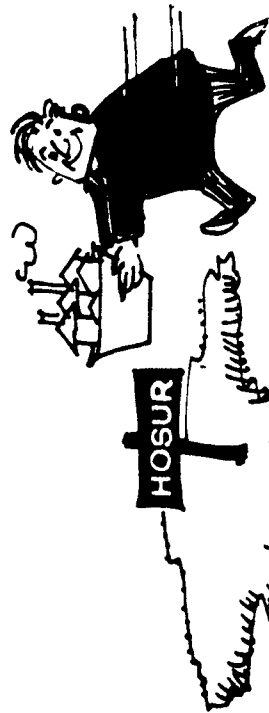
Double dose of incentives:

The magnet attracting investors to Hosur is SIPCOT's double dose of incentives:

- To large & medium scale units:**
- Attractive subsidy scheme on feasibility studies.
 - Project identification and supply of project profiles.
 - Entrepreneurial and locational guidance.
 - Term loans for new units or for expansion or diversification under IDBI Refinance scheme.
 - Underwriting of shares.
 - Concessional power tariff.
 - State Government's support in obtaining industrial licences.
 - Other industrial services.
- Special concessions to all factories in backward areas apply to those in Hosur:**

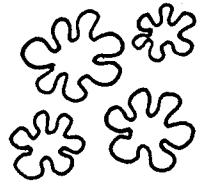
- 15% subsidy on fixed assets.
- Interest-free Sales Tax Loans.
- 15% reduction in power tariff over and above general concession for first 5 years for all new industries anywhere in Tamil Nadu.

Locate your venture at Hosur. And place yourself on high road to industrial prosperity.



SIPCOT
PRIME MOVER
OF INDUSTRIES

STATE INDUSTRIES PROMOTION CORPORATION OF TAMIL NADU LTD.
51 & 52, Greaves Road, Madras 600 006.
Phone: 88261 (5 lines).
Telex: 7735 SIPC



Caste is the first force that creates discrimination among the people in this country. It is a venom mixed in the blood of our people. It is a system that has paralysed the mind. Hence, caste should be annihilated first if we are to usher in a casteless society based on equality and socialism.

—Perarignar Anna.

TAMIL NADU SUGAR CORPORATION LTD.

(A GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU UNDERTAKING)

474, ANNA SALAI, MADRAS - 600 035.

1. Tamil Nadu Sugar Corporation has set up two sugar mills in a record time of 18 months at Thanjavur and Perambalur Taluks.
2. Tamil Nadu Sugar Corporation has expertise in Engineering Civil, Cane Development and financial management of sugar Industry.
3. Tamil Nadu Sugar Corporation undertakes consultancy service in the above fields.

SOCIAL WELFARE

IN addition to the Women's Welfare works, the Social Welfare Department is involved in other activities such as giving nutritious food to the pre-school children, mothers and running homes for the beggars punished by Courts and implementing various schemes for the welfare of the physically handicapped.

It has been decided to start 9000 pre-schools in all Panchayats within five years starting from the International Year of Child.

Under the Tribal people sub-scheme, 70 pre-schools have been started for the benefit of Tribal Children. It is proposed to start 30 such pre-schools during 1979-'80. In addition to that it is also decided to start 250 Pre-schools during 1978-'83 under the interim sub scheme.

So far 3729 Tricycles were given to the physically handicapped persons who have lost their legs and 1384 hearing aids were given to the deaf children studying in schools.

During 1978-'79, 300 hearing aids were distributed. 700 hearing aids are to be given during 1979-'80.

Scholarships were sanctioned to the value of—Rs 3.38 crores to 631 handicapped students and trainees during 1977-'78 under the Educational Scholarship scheme for the physically handicapped. 1047 applications have been received for the issue of scholarships to the extent of Rs. 6 lakhs—during 1978-'79.

It has been decided to issue free bus passes to all the physically handicapped students and trainees to reach their schools and training centres from their residence.

It has been decided to distribute 1000 artificial limbs during 1979-80 to the physically handicapped children who are affected with polio.

Under the pension scheme for the physically handicapped, pensions have been granted to 6376 physically handicapped orphans upto 30th September 1978.

Target for this year is 10,000 persons. This scheme has been materialised by the Revenue Department.

ORPHAN WOMEN

THOSE orphan women and, widows who are aged not less than



40 years are eligible for a pension of Rs. 20 under this scheme. The rules applicable to the pension scheme for the aged are applicable to this scheme also. So far 15,000 women have been benefitted under this scheme.

Widows, orphan women, financially poor women and handicapped women who are between the age group of 20 and 40, and if they are technically trained in Tailoring are given free sewing machines. 500 sewing machines were distributed last year under this scheme. The Government have issued orders to issue 1,000 sewing machines in 1978-'79. This scheme will be materialised during 1979-'80 also.

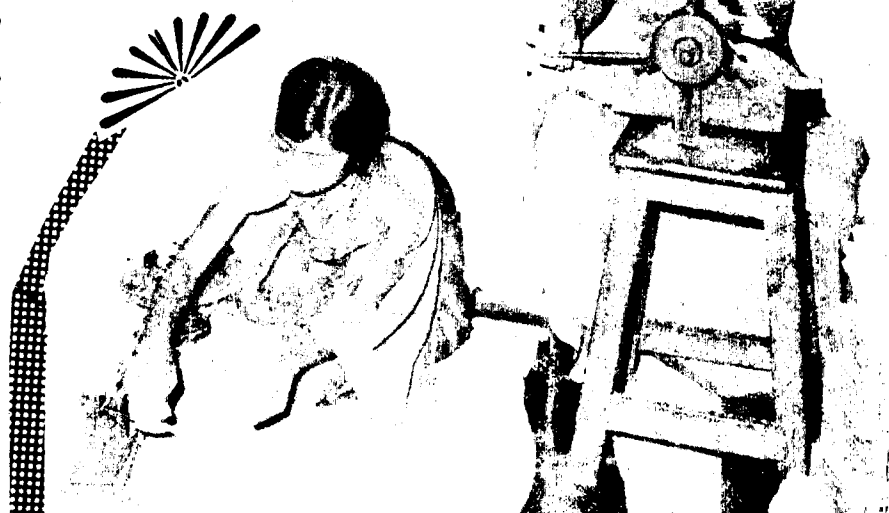
WELFARE SCHEMES

IN the women and children's Welfare scheme, Mahalir Mandrams are playing an important role. By training the rural people in handicrafts, this scheme helps them to improve their standard of living and to supplement their family income as well. 11,120 Mahalir Mandrams are in existence throughout the state. Rs. 4,000 have been allotted per Panchayat Union every year for this purpose.

To encourage Mahalir Mandrams cash awards are given to the best Mahalir Mandrams which is engaged in promoting multifarious economic activities. The Mahalir Mandrams have been divided into three different—categories and are given the following cash awards of Rs. 1,000, Rs. 600 ; and Rs. 400 respectively. Rs. 34,400 is allotted to distribute 62 cash awards under this scheme during 1979-'80.

A number of applications are received from orphans and widows

requesting for financial assistance. Bearing this in mind, it is proposed to start a scheme to provide employment opportunities to these persons. The scheme to provide essential commodities for cooking will be run on no loss no profit basis. This scheme will involve an outlay of Rs. 60,000.



Town Planning

The Integrated Urban Development Programme drawn for the Secondary cities of Madurai and Coimbatore and the Anti-Disaster Plan for Tamil Nadu are particularly noteworthy.

The aim of the Integrated Urban Development Programme is to meet the demands of the basic amenities of the people and raise the standard of living of the weaker sections.

The aim of the Anti Disaster Plan is to prevent the damages caused through nature's fury and prepare protective plans for disaster prone areas on the basis of scientific knowledge.

Integrated Plan

The total outlay for Madurai town is Rs. 7.76 crores. For Coimbatore the total outlay is Rs. 7.82 crores.

In Madurai and Coimbatore districts the following basic amenities will be provided for the benefit of the weaving society and economically backward sections of society.

Drainage, Pumpsets, sewage ponds, protected drinking water, subway to relieve traffic congestion bus stations, departmental stores, housing for the low income group etc.,

This Directorate is preparing integrated plans for Salem, Tuticorin and Tiruchi also.

The Directorate is actively associated with the preparations of an Anti-Disaster Plan for Tamilnadu. An Anti Disaster-Cyclone shelter designed by the Directorate has been commissioned for use during the recent cyclone at Akkaraipatti (Nagapattinam) and Mimisal. Five more shelters one under construction, twenty six more have been sanctioned and another fifty are expected to be built with 100 per cent grant from the European Economic Committee. The Govern-

ment have sanctioned a special project for vulnerability analysis and preparation of protective plans for disaster prone areas.

A Scheme has been prepared to install a simple equipment in all disaster prone areas in the coastal regions to warn about the approaching cyclone, to install modern equipment for speedy communication connecting head-quarters and cyclone affected areas where relief work is carried on.

The modernisation of the Directorate of Town and Country Planning to enable it to tackle urban problems and adopt modern methodologies, which was started last year, has been continued and an Aerial Photo-interpretation Division has been set up. The Division has started interpretation work of Madras Metropolitan Area for the MMDA and arrangements are being made for aerial photo interpretation of Madurai Coimbatore, Tiruchirappalli and Salem Urban Agglomerations. The Government propose to sanction an expenditure of Rs. 4.45 lakhs towards the purchase of additional aerial photo interpretation equipment during 1979-80. The Government have also decided to set up during 1979-80, a Micro-filming Reader and Printing Unit, in the Directorate at the cost of Rs. 2.09 lakhs to preserve its maps and documents in micro-film so that they can be stored in a tamper-proof manner for long periods. The Government have also decided to provide the Development of Town and Country Planning with equipments needed for Colour Printing of Plans and maps at a cost of Rs. 39,000 during 1979-80. It has also been decided to create during 1979-80 a special Inspecting and Monitoring wing in the Directorate of Town and Country Planning at a cost of Rs. 75,000 to have an effective review of the programmes and achievements of Local Planning Authorities and Regional Offices. The Directorate is already engaged in Traffic and Transportation study in class I cities of Tamil Nadu with a view to formulate traffic operation plans for these cities. It is proposed to strengthen the existing traffic and Transportation study Unit to deal with the increased work during 1979-80, at a cost of Rs. 2.25 lakhs. The Government have also decided to create an awareness of the urban problems and the need for planned urban development among the public by organising citizens groups in the planning areas and conducting seminars. They have also drawn up a scheme and provided a sum of Rs. 1.5 lakhs for the purpose.

THE LABOURER'S WORLD



Tamil Nadu has maintained significant progress in industrial development and labour situation in the past two years. The sheet anchor of the policy of the Government has been to enforce strictly the provisions of all beneficial legislations and thus safeguard the interests of the working class.

While the Government recognised the right of the labour to strike at the same time the Government took the positive approach of intervening in disputes in time to prevent the occurrence of a strike or a prolongation of such strikes by effective conciliation and peaceful settlements.

Out of 10,541 industrial units employing 6,61,245 workers in the State in 1978, there were industrial disputes only in 11 establishments affecting 2,775 workers as on 27th January 1979.

The number of strikes and lock-outs during the year under review as compared with the previous years is as follows:-

	1977	1978
(a) Number of strikes including lockouts	298	378
(b) Number of man days lost	26,16,963	21,55,675 (Less than 1% of the total man-days worked)

2,184 cases of industrial disputes were settled during the year 1978.

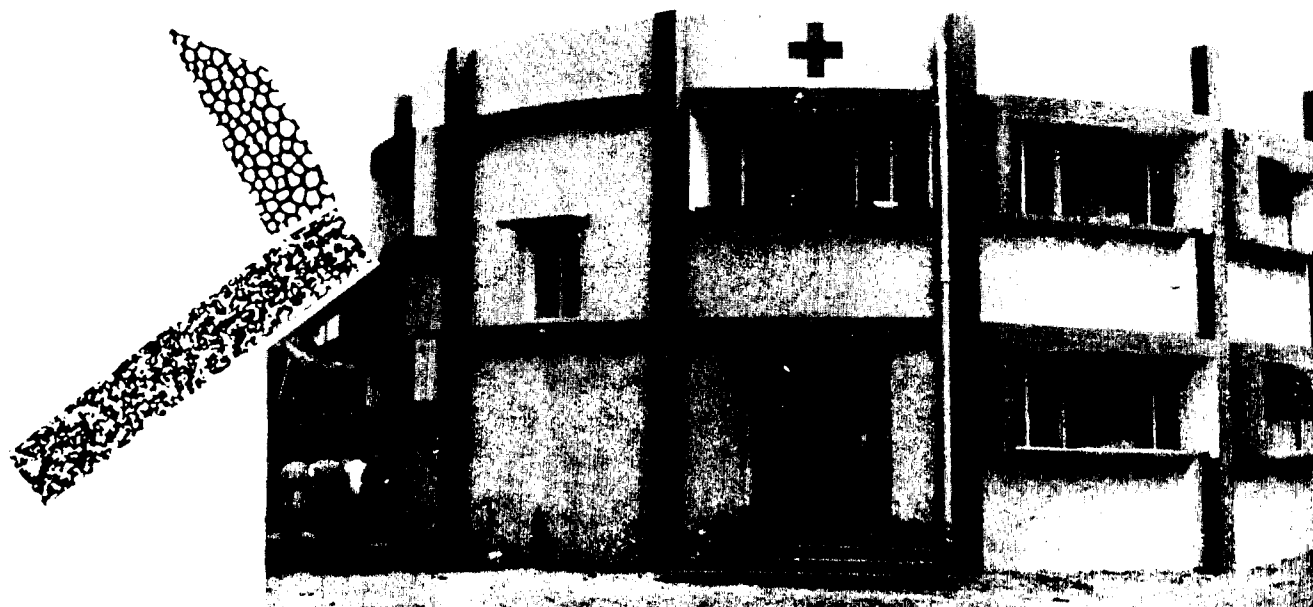
Under the Beedi and Cigar workers Act the service particulars of the workers have not been officially recorded so far. Under the Tamil Nadu 1968 Act Rules 36 (2) the employers were requested to open Service Books for the benefit of the employees. The employers are expected to maintain the Service Books with periodical entries and return them to the concerned employees.

Under Rule 31(5) of the Tamil Nadu Beedi and Cigar workers (conditions of Employment (Rules, 1968) a worker as appellant can get the copy of the order of the appellate authority only on paying for the requisite copy stamp paper. The Government have removed this difficulty of the worker by exempting

the workmen from supply of stamp papers. The position as it stands is that the workmen can get the copy of the order free of cost.

The Government issued orders to extend the provisions of the Industrial Employment (standing orders) Act, 1946 to Industrial Establishments employing 50 or more workers, which at present apply to the industrial establishments employing 100 or more workmen.

It is the view of the Government that the provision in the model standing order or certified standing orders for the termination of services of a workman for absence for 8 consecutive days should be deleted and such absence should be treated only as a misconduct to be enquired into after giving an opportunity to the workmen to explain his



case. To give effect to this proposal, Government have issued a notification amending the Model Standard Orders, and it has been confirmed in G.O. Ms.No.143, Labour and Employment, dated 27th January 1979.

The Government of TamilNadu decided that the benefit of grant of bonus should be statutorily extended to a larger number of employees in shops, establishments, motor transport undertakings and smaller factories, so that larger proportion of the working population would get the benefit of this welfare measure in Tamil Nadu. Therefore by a notification issued by the Government in their order M.S.No.833, Labour and Employment Department dated 2nd August 1978 the provisions of the payment of Bonus Act have been made applicable to the following classes of establishments in which less than twenty employed or were employed on any day during the Accounting year, 1977. Identification cards will be issued to factory workers in which the details of their work will be given. With the identification card the workers can claim their rights and privileges like casual leave, bonus, provident fund etc.

The Tamil Nadu factories act has been amended to this extent.

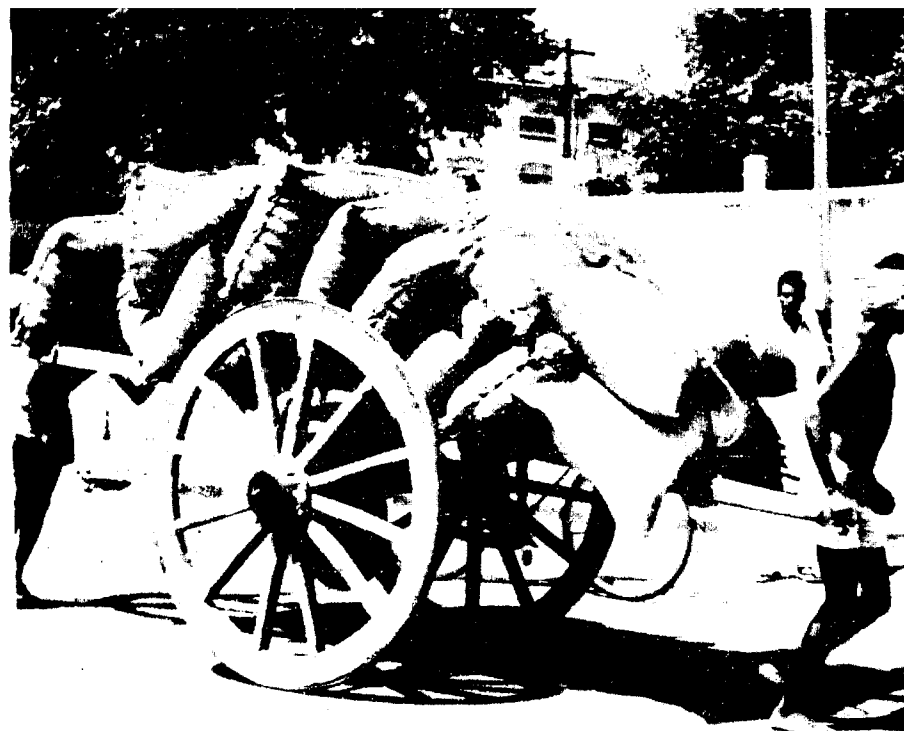
National Festivals and Holidays Act:

This Act applies to all factories as defined in clause (m) of section 2 of the Factories Act, 1948 or any place which is deemed to be a factory under sub-section (2) of section 85 of the Act, "Plantation" as defined in clause 'f' of section 2 of the Plantations Labour Act, 1951 and all shops and Establishments as defined in clause (6) of section 2 of the Tamil Nadu Shops and Establishment Act 1947. The Government have also extended the provisions of this Act to all establishments defined under section 2 (h) of the Beedi and Cigar workers (Conditions and Employment) Act, 1966.

Government have extended the provisions of this Act to the Scheduled employments for which the State Government is the appropriate authority under the Minimum wages Act, 1948.

Minimum wages Act 1948:

During the year, 1978, Government have fixed/revised minimum



rates of wages for the following employments:-

- (1) Employment in Tanneries and Leather manufacturing.
- (2) Employment in Printing Presses.
- (3) Employment in loading and unloading operations in markets, shandies/fairs and market places and other like places.
- (4) Employment in Automobile workshop.

The Government have constituted a Minimum wages Advisory Committee for the employment in Agriculture and works ancillary to agriculture with a view to revise minimum rates of wages for this employment. This Committee is headed by a Member of Board of Revenue, with an employer and employee representatives.

Proposals for constitution of Minimum wages Advisory Committees for fixation/revision of minimum rates of wages for the following employments are under consideration:----

- (1) Employment in Motion Picture Industry (including production, distribution and publicity).
- (2) Employment in synthetic gem cutting;

- (3) Employment in Bought Leaf Tea Factories.
- (4) Employment in Timber Industry.
- (5) Employment in Handloom Weaving Industry.
- (6) Employment in Handloom Silk Weaving Industry.

With a view to fix minimum rates of wages for the workers engaged in the following employments, Government have included there in the schedule to the minimum wages act.

- (1) Employment in Hospitals and Nursing Homes (other than Government and E.S.I. Hospitals and Dispensaries)
- (2) Employment in Vessel (utensil) making.
- (3) Employment in Bleaching and Dyeing.
- (4) Employment in Tailoring.

Tripartite Committee to suggest amendments to Labour Laws:-The policy of the Government is to ensure all benefits and safety to the workers by providing built in provision in law itself. With this object in view, the Government have set up a Tripartite Committee consisting of representatives of employers, employees, legislators and officials to suggest amendments to the existing labour laws. This committee has completed its deli-



beration with regard to amendments relating to

- (1) Tamil Nadu Shops and establishments Act, 1947.
- (2) Tamil Nadu Catering Establishments Act, 1958.
- (3) Tamil Nadu Industrial Establishments (National and Festival Holidays Act, 1958).

Good Industrial Relation Awards Scheme :

The Government of Tamil Nadu took a positive step in 1978 to encourage maintenance and continuance of good industrial relations between managements and workmen by instituting special awards for managements and trade unions under a scheme. The Government have set up a selection committee under this scheme consisting of seven employees and employees representatives respectively under the chairmanship of a Retired High Court Judge to select the winners for awards. This scheme is to be implemented from the award year 1978. The Committee met on 28th November 1978 and considered the form of application to be submitted by the employers/trade unions for getting awards under this scheme and other incidental matters like publicity etc., The Committee decided that the scheme and application might be published in all leading newspapers.

The Tamil Nadu Institute of Labour studies was functioning under the control of the Commissioner of Labour has been upgraded

by Government as a separate Department. While upgrading this institute Government ordered that in addition to its existing functions, it should undertake the publication of Labour Law Journal in Tamil for the benefit of the workmen and also the publication of various labour laws in Tamil with notes on court decisions. The Labour Law Journal in Tamil was released by the Chief Minister on 15th September, 1978 under the name of "Uzhaipavar Ulagam".

Holiday Home for workers :

The Board has decided to run Holiday Homes for workers at



Mahabalipuram, Courtallam, Ooty, and Yercaud. The Holiday Home at Yercaud is functioning now. Twenty persons can stay at a time. A nominal rent of Rs. 1.50 per head is being collected. The Holiday Homes at other centres will be coming up shortly.

The following programmes are on the anvil of the Board.

Purchase of film projector for the benefit of workers.

To open a community centre in the city of Madras to conduct marriages, other social functions on a nominal charge.

To open a Library in the office building complex at Teynampet.

To construct a comfortable and inexpensive accommodation for trade union leaders and workers' representatives who come to Madras to solve Labour problems.

To start Book Banks in the city of Madras, Tiruchirapalli, Madurai and Coimbatore for the benefit of the sons and daughters of workers, who study in the schools and colleges.

To conduct sports among workers at district, regional and state level.

To give tuition fees and examination fees payable to the approval institute for Typewriting and Short-hand for workers' Children.

To construct a stadium in North Madras for outdoor and indoor games.



The Finance Minister has already announced in his Budget speech for 1979-80, the decision of the Government to reorganise the Revenue firkas in the State. About 350 new firkas are expected to be formed under the reorganisation proposal. This will be implemented in a phased programme spread over two or three years having regard to the population, area and land revenue demand involved.

There are 29 sub-taluks, both dependent and independent, to be upgraded into taluks under the programme of upgrading all sub-taluks into full-fledged taluks. The Finance Minister has announced in his Budget speech for 1979-80 that 13 new taluks will be created during 1979-80, by upgrading 14 existing sub-taluks. The remaining sub-taluks will also be upgraded into taluks in the subsequent years.

Government have increased the honorarium to all Village Officers by a uniform rate of rupees ten

per month from 1st April 1978. Government have also raised the consolidated travelling allowance to Village Officers ranging from Rs. 12/- to Rs. 30/- per annum depending on the distance from Head quarters.

With a view to enabling an appreciable number of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes candidates to compete for appointment to the post of Village Officers, the Government approved a scheme for coaching candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the Village Officers Special Test Examination. Four special coaching centres were opened in Thanjavur, Madurai, Salem and Cuddalore from 2nd January 1978 for a period of 3 months to impart training to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates. The candidates were paid a stipend of Rs. 50 each per month. This scheme is expected to remove the deficiency in the availability of qualified Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates for the appoint

ment as Village Officers and will really help the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates in competing for the post of Village Officers. So far, 894 candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were trained as Village Karnams and 82 candidates were trained as Village Headmen.

Urban Land Tax

The value of lands in urban areas had soared, leading to speculations and hoarding of valuable scarce urban land. One of the solution envisaged was that a ceiling on individual holding and ownership of urban property beyond reasonable limits could be imposed. The objective was to socialise all urban and urbanisable lands, impose a ceiling on the size of the holdings and also limit the size of the houses.

With this objective in view, the Tamil Nadu Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976 (President's Act 34 of 1976), was enacted).

This Act incorporated within itself three main features, namely:-

- (i) Imposition of ceiling on the holding of vacant land by a person (an individual), a family a firm, a company or a body of association or individuals;
- (ii) Imposition of ceiling on the plinth area of dwelling units to be constructed in future.
- (iii) Regulation of transfer of urban property.

While implementing the Act, there have been spate of representations and also press reports bringing to the notice of the Government the innumerable difficulties experienced by the public. In response to public demand, Government have enacted the Tamil Nadu Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1978 (Tamil Nadu Act 24 of 1978), in order to maintain the spirit, viz., socialisation of urban property and remove the hardship caused to the public by irksome provisions of the old Act. In this process, the Tamil Nadu Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976. (President's Act 34 of 1976) has been repealed.

In the new Tamil Nadu Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1978 (Tamil Nadu Act 24 of 1978) the extent of Madras Urban agglomeration has been reduced from 1,000 sq.km. to 575 sq.km. and by about one-third of the original extent in respect of other urban agglomerations.



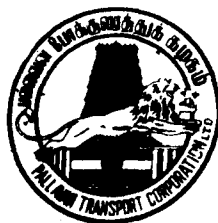


TAMILNADU GOVERNMENT'S CONCESSIONS TO PALLAVAN TRANSPORT COMMUTERS

• Free Travel for children upto the age of 5, to mark the International year of the child.

• Free Travel for the blind to go to hospital, workshop or school.

This apart, special facilities and concessions to regular passengers, students, children, women and night shift workers.



**Pallavan
Transport
Corporation
Limited (Metro)**

(An Undertaking of the Government of Tamilnadu)
Madras - 600 002.



Sobhagya/PTC-254



Tamil Nadu is covered by nine Transport Corporations, each responsible for running efficient co-ordinated and economical transport service with emphasis on service to the travelling public. The Corporations' function is in accordance with sound commercial principles and ensure operation of an efficient and economic transport system in the respective areas.

During the year 1979-80, 1,354 new buses were put on the roads at a total cost of Rs. 2,166 lakhs. Out of these 886 buses were for replacement and 468 were additions to the fleet.

Welfare Measures:

Service conditions, namely Dearness Allowances, House Rent Allowance, Leave, Medical Benefits etc., have been made uniform in all corporations:

In May 1978 after a negotiated settlement, alongwith incidental increases in fringe benefits, the total benefit to each transport worker ranges from Rs. 61/- to Rs. 69/-

The quantum of sick leave has also been enhanced from 6 to 8 days per annum from the 1st January, 1978.

Canteen facilities have been provided in 51 places and also rest rooms with recreational facilities.

Free passes are issued to children of the employees of State Passengers Transport Corporation to enable them to go to school or college.

In order to provide relief to the families of workers who die in harness on any date on or after the dates of inception of the corporations, one dependant of the deceased workers is provided with a job in the corporation without reference to the Employment Exchange, provided he/she is qualified for the vacant post.

Free in-patient treatment will be given to the Transport Workers on par with Government servants in the Government Hospitals. The scheme in this regard came into operation with effect from 1st April 1978.

The Family Benefit Fund Scheme has been introduced by all Transport Corporations. Most of the corporations have set up Employees' Welfare Trusts and have diverted substantial amounts from their surpluses. These Funds are used for giving books, notebooks, slates, scholarships etc., to the children of employees.

The question of forming industrial co-operatives with the women members of the families of Transport workers for stitching the uniform is under the consideration of Pallavan Transport Corporation in consultation with the Director of Industries and Commerce.

In the current year 1,500 houses would be allotted for the employees of Pallavan Transport Corporation under the "Own your own house" Scheme of the Tamil Nadu Housing Board. 3000 houses would be constructed with the financial assistance to the extent of Rs. 6,43,143 lakhs from Co-operative Societies, HUDCO, LIC, etc.

The workers of all Transport Corporations and their families will be permitted to travel free for 1,500km. in all, in a year in Government Transport buses other than Express buses.

Amenities to Passengers:

Fares in Express Buses of Pallavan Transport Corporation have been reduced to 5 paise per km. with effect from 1st April, 1978 benefitting a large number of passengers.

The Programme of construction of bus shelters during 1978-79 has been accelerated and 402 shelters have been constructed during the year as against 350 originally planned.

Two air-conditioned buses have been introduced between Madras and Trivandrum from 13th September 1978.

For the convenience of the travelling public, reservations of seats can be made 10 days in advance

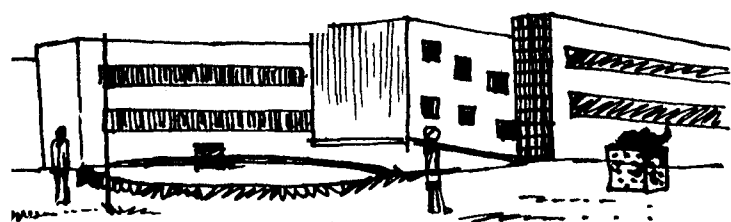
Special arrangements are made in connection with the various fairs and festivals in Tamil Nadu. Special buses are run in sufficient numbers to clear the traffic quickly. Arrangements for orderly regulation of traffic are made. For the convenience of passengers, pandals are put up where necessary and drinking water and toilet facilities are provided.

School and College students in the rural areas would be eligible for 33-1/3% concession in the fares for the journey in mofussil and town services to their educational institutions and back.

Passes will be issued to all blind persons to travel free in the buses of S.T.Cs other than Express Buses for travel to and from hospitals, work-spots and schools to their residences. During the current International Children's year, Children below five years of age will be allowed to travel free in the buses of S.T.Cs and those of private operators.

Bus stands now leased to private contractors would be taken over by the State-owned Transport Corporations. The Transport Corporations would themselves establish facilities such as latrines, rest rooms, restaurants, and other hygienic measures in the bus stand and deduct the expenses while paying the lease amount to the Municipalities.

50 Ambulance Vans would be put on the road in 1979-80 to cater to the needs of the rural people. The scheme is to be financed from the Chief Minister's Accident Relief Fund and by the Government owned Transport Corporations 100 more Ambulance vans will be put on later.



Tamil Nadu Housing Board

The Housing Board can look back upon the years 77-78 and 78-79 with a sense of satisfaction and pride in having created many records.

Its expenditure of Rs. 1741 lakhs during the year 1977-78 and Rs. 2116.16 lakhs during the year 1978-79 on schemes represents 300% increase over the expenditure in 1969-70 and twice that in the subsequent three years.

HUDCO is one of the main sources of finance for the Housing Board. The Board drew a loan of Rs. 656 lakhs during the year 1977-78 and Rs. 774 lakhs during the year 1978-79. It continues to lead other house building organisations in the country in drawing maximum loan from the HUDCO.

In physical terms, the Board completed and handed over to its allottees 5108 dwelling units during the year 1977-78 and 5046 dwelling units during the year 1978-79.

For the Economically Weaker Sections, 1866 units were completed during the year 1977-78 and 549 units were completed during the year 1978-79. Apart from this 290 more units were in progress. Rs. 96.91 lakhs were spent during the year 1977-78 and Rs. 54.66 lakhs were spent during the year 1978-79 on this scheme.

For the Low Income Group, Rs. 275.93 lakhs were spent to complete 1368 dwelling units during the year 1977-78 and Rs. 381.14 lakhs were spent to complete 2585 dwelling units during the year 1978-79. Apart from this 3055 units were in various stages of construction.

For the Middle Income Group, Rs. 478.57 lakhs were spent to complete 1238 dwelling units during the year 1977-78 and Rs. 405.64 lakhs were spent to complete 1081 units during the year 1978-79.

To the stock of houses for Government servants under Tamil Nadu Governments Rental Housing Scheme the Board was able to add 636 units during the year 1977-78 and 831 units during the year 1978-79. The work on 944 more quarters was also started. Rs. 172.47 lakhs during the year 1977-78 and Rs. 181.46 lakhs during the year 1978-79 were spent respectively.

In land acquisition and development schemes the Board spent Rs. 346.02 lakhs during the year 1977-78 and Rs. 462.49 lakhs during the year 1978-79, mostly on completing development works in old schemes such as A.A. Nagar, K.K. Nagar, Korattur, Vyasarpadi, A.A. Nagar West, South Madras Neighbourhood and Tiruvanmiyur at Madras. New Neighbourhoods at Erode, Tiruchengode, Pudukottai were started during the year 1977-78.

Under Urban Development Schemes the Madras Metropolitan Development Authority has launched a development project covering an extent of 500 acres costing Rs. 235 lakhs at Maraimalai Nagar and the Housing Board was assigned the development works such as laying of roads, storm water drains culverts etc. which are being completed. In addition to this the Board also took up construction of 144 units for Low Income Group people.

Another development project proposed by the Madras Metropolitan Development Authority is at Manali covering an extent of 419 acres. The Housing Board has been entrusted with the works at developing 212 acres in this area. In addition to this the Board also took up construction of 960 units for Low Income Group people.

The sites and Service programme aided by the World Bank is one of the most satisfying schemes taken up by the Housing Board during the year 1977-78. This scheme

sponsored by the World Bank is to benefit mostly the economically weaker sections residing in Madras Metropolitan Area. Under this scheme 13467 plots would be made available at Arumbakkam, Villivakkam and Kodungaiyur. 9760 of these plots will be for Economically Weaker Sections while the rest will be for the Low Income Group people. The total cost of the scheme will be Rs. 932.88 lakhs to be spent in 4 years. In addition to developed residential plots, lands has been reserved for small scale industries and commercial uses. An extent of 175 Hectares of land would be developed in these three areas. The scheme at Arumbakkam is expected to be completed by September '79 and the scheme at Villivakkam has also been commenced and is in progress. The lands for Kodungaiyur scheme is in the advanced stage of acquisition. Rs. 175 lakhs during the year 1977-78 and Rs. 206.18 lakhs during the year 1978-79 were spent out of total of Rs. 932.88 lakhs.

The Tamil Nadu Housing Board has been chosen as one of the agency for executing the works of housing programmes under Integrated Urban Development Programme in the state. In Coimbatore, schemes to the value of Rs. 390.54 lakhs and at Madurai works to the value of Rs. 500 lakhs sanctioned by the Government of India are taken up by the Housing Board. The works in both the places have been commenced and in progress.

The Housing Board's pioneering work in the field has been recognised and appreciated in a large measure by Administrators and technocrats throughout the country. It is not only in the field of construction that the Board has set a new pace, on the administrative and production sides also it has set up records.

The Cellular Concrete Plant at Ennore has reached peak production and the working of the Wood Working Unit was also extremely satisfactory during these years. The Board has set up its mosaic tile unit and supplying mosaic tiles for the works from the year 1978-79.

The revenue collections continued to maintain an upward trend and same trend is being maintained. The happy performance in the last two years has given us the confidence that we do still better in the years to come and we have set ourselves the goal of spending Rs. 25 crores and making available 12,800 units during 1979-80.

RAPID STRIDES IN EDUCATION



EDUCATION continues to get top priority in our planned endeavour to better the life of the people. The outlay on education for 1979-'80 is Rs.209 Crores, which represent 25% of the total expenditure. The expenditure on education has been steadily rising, as may be seen from the figure of Rs. 123 crores spent in 1975-'76, Rs. 143 Crores in 1976-'77 and Rs. 163 crores in 1977-'78 and Rs. 191 Crores in 1978-'79.

There has been a rapid growth in School Education and the quality has also improved. As on 1st August 1978 there were 36,238 schools in Tamil Nadu and 85.43 lakh pupils were studying in them.

The percentage of Children of age groups 6-11 and 11-14 already enrolled is 94% and 58% respectively. About 3.21 lakhs under these two age groups were enrolled additionally in 1977-'78 and 1.93 lakhs in 1978-'79. The total number of pupils who studied in 1978-'79 in the 3,310 Elementary schools was 67.46 lakhs and the number of teachers 1,81,087 and the teacher-pupil ratio worked out to 1:37.

There were suggestions from various quarters to lighten the load for various subjects under the new 10 year school syllabus introduced gradually in schools from 1972-'73 to '76-'77. After consulting educational experts the Government have reduced the excess burden under all subjects from 1978-'79. From 1977-'78 detentions have been abolished in standards 1-3 in all

schools. This measure will decrease the dropouts to some extent.

To improve the teaching of science in schools, a sum of Rs. 55,000/- is spent for the purchase of equipment for science laboratories for each Government High School selected under the scheme. Under this scheme 75 schools have been covered in the past two years. Another 25 schools will be covered in 1979-'80. In the year 1977-'78, 6 Mobile Science Laboratory Vans were sanctioned. Grant to pur-

chase laboratory equipment for Higher elementary schools are being sanctioned.

To provide buildings for schools additional grant has been allocated. A survey will be taken of the existing facilities like buildings, libraries, laboratories etc., Based on this, it is proposed to provide facilities immediately to these schools having minimum facilities. The extension of facilities will be graded on this aspect. Permanent buildings will be constructed to these schools



which do not have permanent buildings.

COMPARTMENTAL PASS :

Hitherto, for becoming eligible for admission to higher studies one should pass all subjects at one sitting. The Government has now introduced the compartmental system of pass in the S.S.L.C., A.I.S.L., O.S.L.C. and Matriculation Examinations. In the present system it is enough if a candidate appears for and passes only the subjects which he has failed. This is a major reform ushered in by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

The concession of permitting all persons who have completed 14 years and have not had a school education can sit for the S.S.L.C. examination.

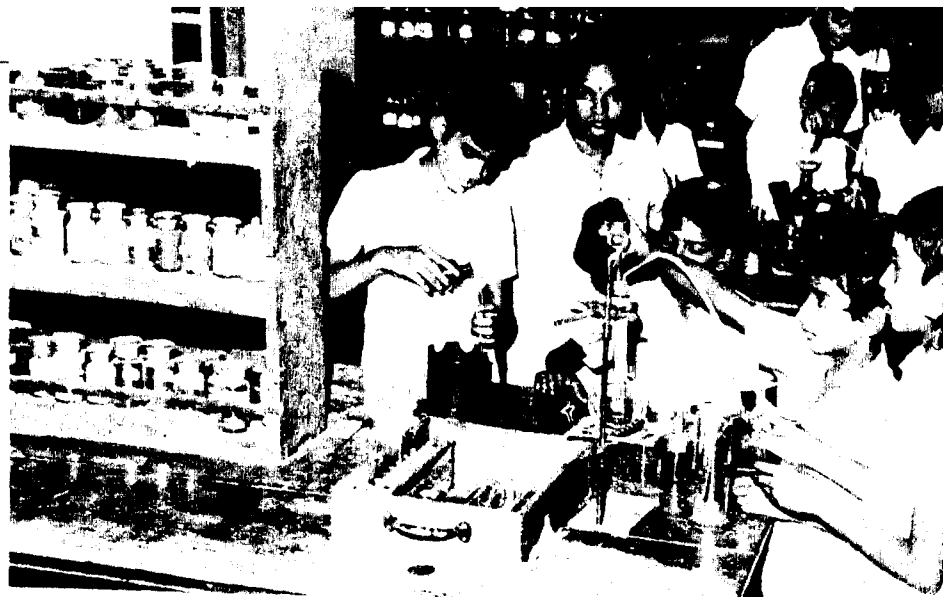
Those who have completed 16 years and possess a pass in standard VIII in recognised schools can appear as private candidates for the S.S.L.C. Examination.

Till now the number of fresh awards per year under the Rural Talent scholarships Scheme was only one in each of the 374 Panchayat Unions in the state. This number has been doubled to 4 from 1978-'79 and this will be in accordance with the policy of the Government.

Steps were taken to bring out text-books on time for the distribution of all students. Steps have been taken to produce note books from cheap paper through the Text-book Society.

From 1978-'79, no tuition fees are levied from Anglo-Indian Students (irrespective of the income limit of their parents) studying in Anglo-Indian schools.

The Government of India in the Department of Social Welfare has been addressed for clearance for getting CARE assistance for setting Central Kitchens. In the Dharmapuri district (16 Kitchens serving 90,000 pupils) and Ramanaipuram district (32 kitchens serving 1,76,000 pupils) in the first instance in 1979-'80. Out of the total non-recurring cost of Rs. 144 lakhs involved in setting up 48 Kitchens, this Government will have to bear Rs. 79 lakhs and CARE 65 lakhs.



TEACHERS' WELFARE:

The Government are evincing continuous and active interest in promoting the welfare of the 2½ lakhs of teachers working in the schools of Tamil Nadu.

Higher Grade posts held by Secondary Grade qualified teachers are up-graded as Secondary grade posts on a phased programme. During the past two years 3,000 posts have been upgraded.

The Government have now decided to regularise the appointment of all the graduate teachers from the date of their original temporary appointment allowing them arrears of increment also in full; physical education teachers in the school now receive Rs. 50/- per annum as uniform allowance.

SCHOLARSHIPS TO TEACHERS CHILDREN:

The Government have sanctioned a scheme for giving scholarships to sons and daughters of the teachers/in service, retired or deceased for continuing higher studies. So fresh scholarship will be awarded every year, 25 for Engineering, 25 for Medicine, 20 for Agriculture and 10 for Veterinary. Each scholarship will amount to Rs. 500 per year.

HIGHER SECONDARY EDUCATION:

The Higher Secondary course has been introduced in Tamil Nadu from 1978-'79 and the first year class of the 2 year Higher Secondary Course (+2 stage of the 10+2+3 pattern of Education) was started from 1st July 1978.

The Government have decided that the Higher Secondary Course should be started only in schools. Schools were selected keeping in view the object of ensuring that, by and large, there is at least one institution in each Panchayat Union and in each Municipality selection was made with a rural bias, in order that Higher Secondary Education with its thrust on vocational education will be available within easy reach of the rural masses. Higher Secondary Course has been started in 912 schools, during 1978-'79. 1,14,000 boys and girls are studying in these schools.

Out of 1,08,000 pupils who passed the 11 year S.S.L.C. in March 1978, barely 78,000 joined the Pre-University Class in Colleges. But out of the 116,000 pupils who passed the 10 year S.S.L.C. at the same time, as many as 1,14,000 have joined the Higher Secondary Course. It will be obvious that the scheme of Higher Secondary Education has made post-Secondary education accessible to wider sections of the Community. It is further a matter for gratification that out of the 1,14,000 pupils in Higher Secondary schools, as many as 24,400 are studying Vocational courses.

To meet the further needs of teachers for academic subjects in Higher Secondary schools, 1,300 additional posts, were sanctioned in 1978-'79. In 1979-'80 it is proposed to create 1,740 additional posts of Higher Secondary Teachers for the 870 ordinary Higher Secondary Schools.

VOCATIONAL HIGHER SECONDARY COURSE :

That nearly 25% of the total intake of students in the Higher



Secondary System have chosen vocational courses is a very good augury for the future of these programmes. 709 Higher Secondary Schools are, each offering one or more vocational courses, and the total number of vocational courses so offered is 1,153.

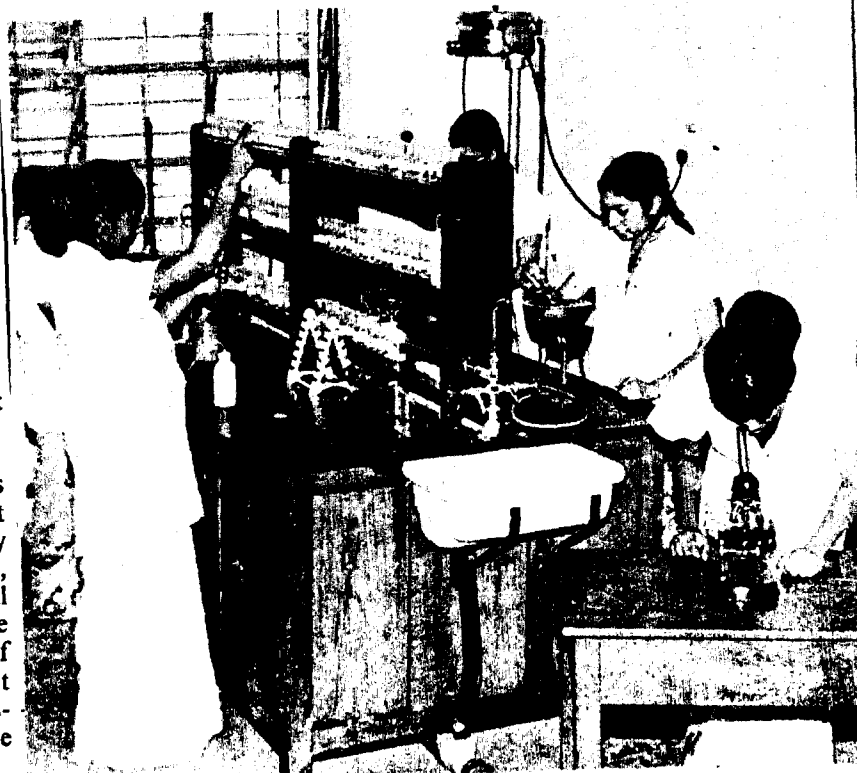
The 24,400 pupils in vocational courses are studying one or the other of 37 vocational subjects falling under six major occupational areas.

Non-Formal Education and Adult Education:

The Government are anxious that, while determined efforts must be made to universalise elementary education upto the age of 14 years, Non-formal and Adult educational facilities must be extended to the non-schoolers and dropouts of school age, as well as to the adult population, to remedy their educational deprivation and to enable them to develop their potentiality.

Non-Formal Education

Among the children of age group 6-14 who have never gone to school, or have dropped out after attending school for a few years, many belong to the poorest sections of society. They may not be able to take advantage of the formal school system. If the aim of universalisation of Elementary education for age-group 11-14 is to be achieved, a flexible system of schooling has to be provided for them - flexible in curriculum, methodology, duration, working hours etc., Non-Formal Education Centres were opened by the Department of Non-Formal Education in 1976-'79 at the rate of 1 in each of the 374 Panchayat Unions in the State. The number of Centres were in-



creased to 2 in 1977-'78 and 4 in 1978-'79, so that now 1496 such centres are functioning. Each once opened functions for 3 years and conducts 3 courses each of ten months duration with different sets of dropouts. The present enrolment in all the Centres is about 45,000. The Centres are located in Panchayat Union School building and the school teachers conduct the non-formal education classes for 2 hours in the evenings and get an honorarium of Rs.50/- per month.

Non-formal education Centres are being run in 780 other villages directly by Panchayat Unions from their own funds.

A State Board of adult education has been constituted. 5,000 centres will be opened in 780 villages.

COLLEGIATE EDUCATION

The outlay on collegiate education has been nearly doubled after June 1977 as against only Rs.10 crores spent on college education in 1975-'76 and Rs. 12 crores in 1976-'77; about Rs. 21 crores were spent in 1977-'78 and about Rs. 23 crores will be spent in 1978-'79.

U.G.C. Scale

The previous Government was shelving the issue on some pretext or other giving room for agitation by college teachers. With the teachers' welfare in mind, the Government have extended to teaching staff of Government and aided colleges of Arts and Sciences, Law



Colleges, Engineering Colleges and Polytechnics in Madras, Madurai and Annamalai Universities, the U.G.C. scales of pay effective from 1.1.1974 with monetary effect from 1.1.1977.

New University

The Government have decided to develop the Presidency College, Madras as an institution of Post Graduate studies and Research. 8 additional courses were started from 1977-'78.

This Government is taking intensive steps to start two new Universities one in Tiruchirapalli and one in Coimbatore districts.

With a view to extend facilities for Legal education, it is proposed to open Law Colleges at Coimbatore and Tiruchirapalli from 1979-'80.

Tamil Nadu is the first state to grant autonomy to Colleges, 10 Colleges in the State (6 colleges under Madras University and 4 under Madurai Kamaraj University) have been given autonomy in order to enable them to improve the quality of education.

An adhoc merit grant of Rs. 300/- is paid to all students belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes including converts to christianity (irrespective of the income limit of the parents of the

students) who (i) Obtain 60% and above in the S.S.L.C. Examination and (ii) pass in first class in the P.U.C. examination. This grant is to enable them to prosecute higher studies of their choice, and is over and above all other facilities and concessions to which they are eligible as student belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Tribes. This scheme costs the Government about Rs. 5 lakhs per annum.

From 1977-'78, full fee concession is given in Degree Courses and above, to all scheduled caste and tribes students, irrespective of the annual income of their parents.

The Colleges are required to refund the entire tuition fee, retaining only one term/semester fee, to the students who leaves the first year degree course, either on account of getting admitted to in Professional College or for any other reason, before the completion of the first term/semester.

Alongwith the implementation of the U.G.C. Scales, a number of measures have also been taken to improve the lot of Teachers/Demonstrators and Tutors who have put in 3 or more years of service as on 1st December, 1977 and also possess post-graduate qualification in their discipline have been upgraded as Assistant Professors/with effect from 1st December 1977 and

allowed to draw the University Grants Commission scales of pay applicable to this upgraded category. This process of upgradation has been practically completed. This concession will also apply to all Tutors and Demonstrators who possess/acquire post graduate qualification and complete three years of service in their present post, as and when they fulfill the three-year term.

Under the U.G.C. Scales the pay of the principals of colleges is fixed as Rs. 1,200 to Rs. 1,800.

With a view to ensure full and prompt payment of salaries to staff of Aided colleges, the Government have introduced a revised pattern of grants from 1st June 1977 under which the entire net deficit in salary expenditure is met by the Government and grants are released to the Colleges more than eight times a year.

Teaching staff of aided colleges in Tamil Nadu have been eligible for retirement benefit (Pension, etc.) as early as from 1st April 1962. From 1st April 1976, these benefits have been extended to non-teaching staff also, of these colleges. It is proposed to extend to the staff of aided colleges, the group insurance scheme (under which Rs. 10,000 is paid to families of persons dying in harness.) The leave benefits to Aided College teachers have also

been liberalised and they have been made eligible for Medical leave for 18 months (as against 12 months previously)

JOB SECURITY:

The Government had originally assumed protection from retrenchment of any college staff (teaching or non-teaching) who was in service on 31st March 1977 consequent on

- abolition of P.U.C. from 1979-'80 or
- due to uneconomic strength and fall in work load.

The protection has since been extended to retrenchment due to closure of classes or implementation of a new pattern of education. Persons appointed to permanent vacancies during the period 31st March 1977 to 26.2.1979 have also been given protection. For implementing this protection the Government propose to take a number of steps in consultation with the Universities like starting new courses, special coaching classes, reduction of minimum student strength, colleges complex scheme, sending college teachers for higher studies etc.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION:

The Provision for Technical education in 1979-'80 is Rs. 7.6 crores. There are 6 engineering Colleges directly under the Department and seven other Engineering Colleges. There are 39 Polytechnics (including 3 women poly-technics) and 14 Technical High Schools.

The issue of starting a Technological University had been allowed to drift for more than a decade. As soon as this Government assumed charge they devoted particular attention to it and have been able to pass the necessary legislation recently for setting up at Madras "The Perarignar Anna University of Technology. The Principal seat of the University will be the college of Engineering, Guindy and three other institutions of Madras will form part of the University.

During 1979-'80 a new Polytechnic will be set up by Government in Dharmapuri district where there is no Polytechnic at present.

With the assistance of the Central Government a technical institute to train food technologists will be started in July '79 in Tiruchi.

Three Technical Educational Institutions will start functioning in 1979-'80 in rural areas, with extension activities.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION:

The Government takes keen interest in providing all facilities for the promotion of sports in the schools and Colleges. From 1978-'79 each Physical Education teachers in High Schools has been ordered to be paid every year an uniform allowance of Rs. 50/- each from the games fee fund of the School. Open - air gymnasias have been sanctioned for about 15 schools in rural areas.

PENSION TO SPORTSMEN:

The Government have sanctioned from 1st April 1978, a scheme for grant of Financial Assistance to outstanding sportsmen/women in Tamil Nadu who are now in indigent circumstances and to the dependents of such sportsmen/women who leave their families unprovided. To be eligible for assistance under the scheme: the contribution of the individual to the development of the sports or games must be significant. The Sportsman/woman who wants to apply for the assistance should have attained the age of 60 years. The private means of the applicant must not exceed Rs. 150/- per month. Every person selected for grant of assistance will be paid a sum of Rs. 75/- per month for life. The first sanction shall however be for a period of 3 years.

SCOUTS AND GUIDES:

The Government of Tamil Nadu hosted the Eighth National Jamboree of Bharat Scouts and Guides at Maraimalaiagar near Madras in January 1979. About 20,000 scouts and guides from various parts of the country and some neighbouring countries participated. The elaborate steps taken by this Government to make the Jamboree a success was appreciated, by all.

TAMIL DEVELOPMENT:

The Government are anxious that the policy of adopting Tamil as the official language of Tamil Nadu should be implemented with full vigour at all levels.

A scheme has been sanctioned to give pensions to Tamil Scholars in indigent circumstances at the



rate of Rs. 250/- a month as against Rs. 100/-

Generous grants are offered to various Universities and institutions in other states which come forward to establish chairs in Tamil, undertake Research Work in Tamil/ or introduce part-time Diploma courses in Tamil. During 1978-'79, Universities/Institutions in other States were given a grant of Rs. 15,000 each for conducting part-time diploma courses in Tamil.

TAMIL SCRIPT REFORM:

On the occasion of the birth centenary of Periyar E.V. Ramasamy the Government have accepted for implementation some reforms in the Tamil script.

An expert committee has been set up to translate books in Tamil into other languages and books in other languages into Tamil.

A Directorate of Tamil Cultural Centre will be set up as a tribute to great Tamil savants like Kambar, Vallalar. A good library and a Reading room, an auditorium and an Exhibition Hall will be constructed.

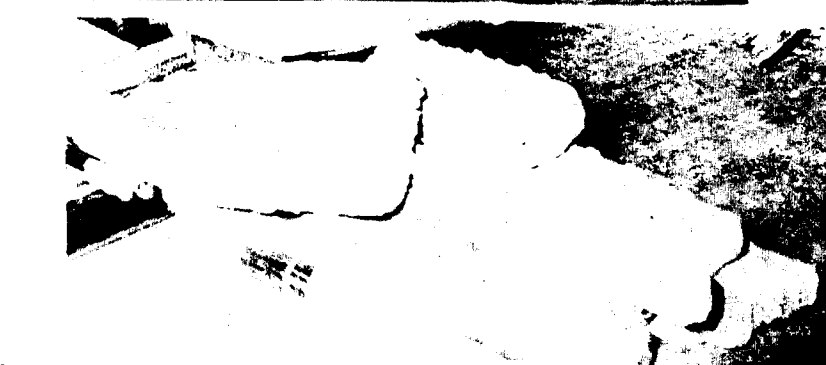
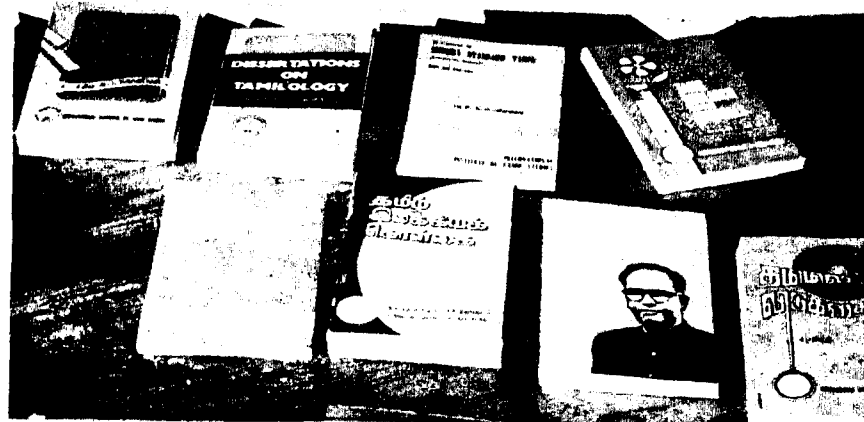
HONOUR TO TAMIL POETS AND SCHOLARS:

A Reader's chair in the name of Umaru Pullavar has been instituted in Madurai Kamaraj University for Research in Islamic Tamil Literature. The Government have paid an endowment of Rs. 2 lakhs for the purpose.

In memory of Pavendhar Bharathi Dasan, the Government have instituted in the Madras University an Endowment of Rs. 25,000, the interest of which will be utilized for organising Endowment lectures every year.

The Government have instituted the Pavendhar Bharathi Dasan award, under which a cash award of Rs. 10,000 and a silver insignia will be given to a Tamil Poet selected every year. Kavignar Suradha got the award for 1978.

In accordance with the Government's policy of honouring Tamil scholars and savants, Tiruvalargal K. Appadorai, T.S. Avinasilingam, G. Deveneya Pavanar, M.P. Periasami Thooran and V. Subbiah were



honoured with the title of "Senthamil Chelvar" on Thiruvalluvar Day in 1979.

FIFTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE:

The Fifth International Conference Seminar of Tamil studies will be held at Madurai in January 1980. The Government will render all necessary help for the conference as was done in 1968 for the Second Conference by the Government of Arignar Anna.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES:

The Thanjavur Maharaja Serfoji's Saraswathi Mahal library is a premier institution containing valuable manuscripts. The Government of India have released a grant of Rs. 2 lakhs for the preservation and other works. Steps have been taken to preserve such monuments as, the Tirumalai Naick Mahal at Madurai, the Nayak Palace at Thanjavur, the remains of the fort of Veerapandiya Katta-bomman at Panchalankurichi, the Ramalinga Vilasam at Ramanathapuram and the Danish castle at Tranquebar. Site Museums have been set up at some of them. A scheme for collecting and preserving ancient palm leaf manuscripts has been taken up in 4 districts. A permanent museum will be set up at Dharmapuri to preserve loose sculptures and valuable palm leaf manuscripts. This scheme will be extended in 5 more districts.

MUSEUMS:

The Government has decided to set up a Museum at each district

headquarters. A museum has been set up at Salem this year. The facilities at the museum at Madras will be improved. A children's Museum will be set up to synchronise with the International year of the child with a provision of Rs.6/- lakhs.

MUSIC, DANCE AND DRAMA:

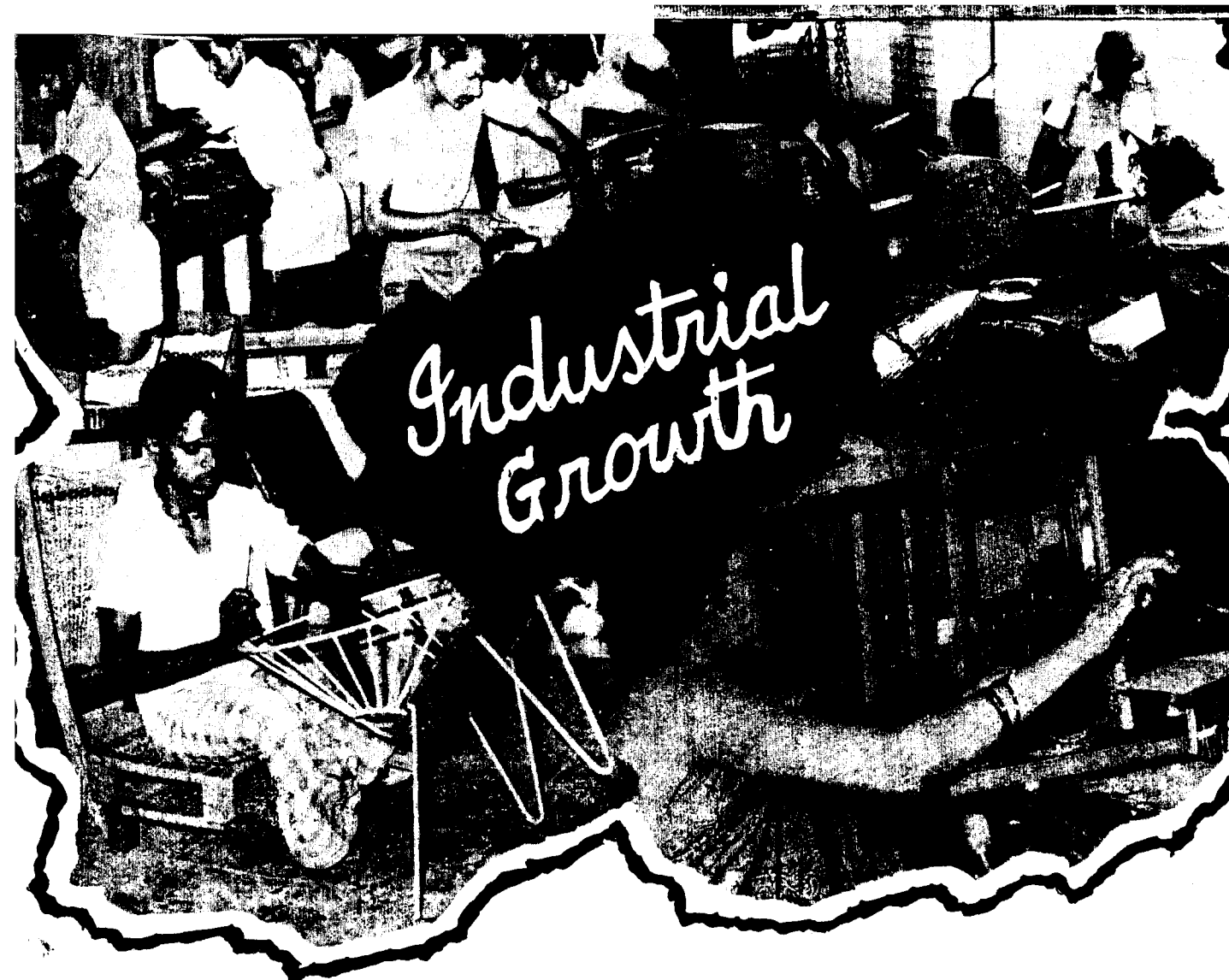
A Music College has been established at Madurai.

Under a new scheme sanctioned in 1978-'79, a cash award of Rs.5,000 will be given every year to a poet who composes in Tamil Songs of traditional value. A similar award will be given to one who introduces new ragas and tunes without sacrificing the spirit of Tamil Culture and in conformity with the traditions of Music.

On Tiruvalluvar Day in 1979, 8 persons of eminence in fine arts were awarded the title "State Artistes". The State Artistes will get an honorarium of Rs. 1,000 per month for five years.

PENSION TO INDIGENT ARTISTES:

Under this scheme about 700 artistes who are in indigent circumstances are receiving a monthly pensions of Rs. 75/- per month. Provision has been made to cover 175 more artistes during 1979-'80. ●



THE industrial wealth is an indicator of the economic wealth of a State. The people whose livelihood depended mainly on agriculture were diverted to industries, thereby increasing production and employment opportunities. During the past two years efforts were taken to make rapid strides in the various industrial fields.

Today, there are more than 450 electrical industries in Tamil Nadu.

In the field of small scale sector there are 235 electrical factories where 3,500 persons are employed and there are 1,600 women among them.

Another small scale industry with large employment potential is the joss stick industry. There is a wide market for joss sticks in Japan. At present there are 20 centres. There are chances for opening more centres.

The plastic industry is another promising industry. Of the 6,000 industrial centres in the country,

300 are established in Tamil Nadu. L.D.P.E. and poluprolene stand good chances.

There are 120 rubber processing centres in Tamil Nadu. There are 75 paint manufacturing centres.

The cashew processing centre at Kanya Kumari has progressed well. There are more than 100 centres. There are 15 factories in and around Panruti in South Arcot district.

Tamil Nadu is one of the foremost states in the production of handloom goods. It also uses dye-products on a large scale.

The Industries and Commerce Directorate has encouraged industries to produce dye-products. 15 dye-Centres have been set up.

The production of pesticides is another small scale industry. About 40 industrial centres are engaged in the production of pesticides.

The production of starch from sago is exclusive to Salem. A sago

research centre to produce quality products has been set up at Salem.

The silk-weaving industry was carried on in Dharmapuri and Coimbatore districts. Now it has spread among the entire state. It has been estimated that 18 lakh silk yarn cocoons are produced. One third is spun into yarn and 50 000 Kilo worth of silk is woven. This employs about 1 lakh people in the rural areas.

The Handloom Weavers Sales Co-operative Societies has been registered recently to help the producers of silk Cocoons and spinners and weavers with facilities to make their sales easily and do away with touts.

Tamil Nadu ranks third in coconut cultivation and second in production. There are 83,000 hectares of coconuts palms. It is estimated that 867 million coconuts are produced annually. There are 10 coir industrial centres. It employs 1,600 persons in the production of ropes and nearly, 2,000 persons in its bye-products.

ENTREPRENEURS! FEED YOUR NEED THROUGH TIIC'S SEED CAPITAL SCHEME!

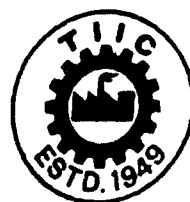


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TIIC provides financial assistance to projects in the Small Scale Sector under Seed Capital Scheme. Industrial Units in rural and backward areas, technocrats, export oriented units and industries with high employment potential will receive preferential treatment. Artisans and Craftsmen will also be eligible under this scheme.

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- Moratorium-5 years

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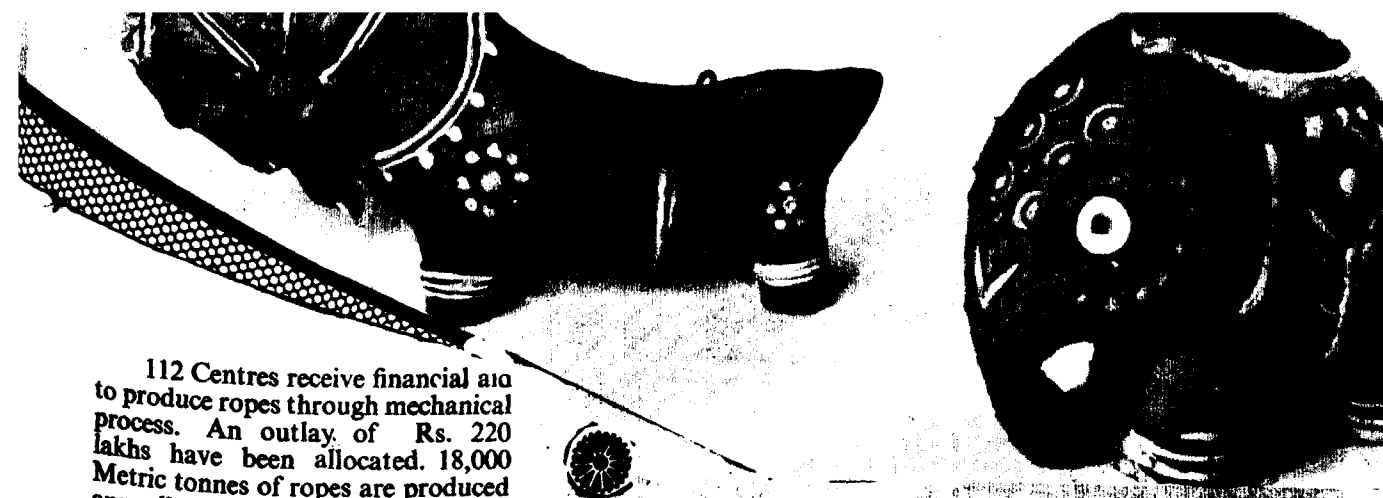
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112 Centres receive financial aid to produce ropes through mechanical process. An outlay of Rs. 220 lakhs have been allocated. 18,000 Metric tonnes of ropes are produced annually, 3,000 persons are employed in the rural areas. Large and medium traders were exploiting 30,000 persons, who today are given self-employment in coir and rope industries.

Industrial centres have been established in Chingleput, Dharmapuri, Kanniyakumari, Pudukottai, Ramanathapuram, Salem, South Arcot, Tirunelveli districts. Industrial Centres will be extended throughout Tamil Nadu shortly.

Within five months of setting up centres 10,000 persons have been employed and 2,500 craftsmen are getting permanent wages.

Tansi and its associate firms have employed more than 6,000 persons.

With a capital of Rs. 11.26 lakhs Tansi has opened a varnish industry.

Since its inception till 31st March 1979, SIDCO with an outlay of Rs. 373.26 lakhs has established 397 industrial work Sheds in Ambattur, Guindy, Kurichi, Rani-
pettai, Hosur, Tiruchirappalli, Mathur, Krishnagiri, Namakkal, Kancheepuram, Pillayarpetti and has provided employment opportunities for 4,000 persons.

"Tacei" the ceramics factory at Vridachalam produces, china ware, insulators etc.

The TIDCO which is implementing 47 projects through the Public sector and the Co-operatives, provides employment to 40,000 persons and thousands are employed through its allied projects.

The Alangulam Cement factory has been functioning for the past 8 years. This factory which is

set up in a backward area provides employment for 1,450 persons.

TIIC has a proposal to give financial assistance to the unemployed for the purchase of auto-rickshaws.

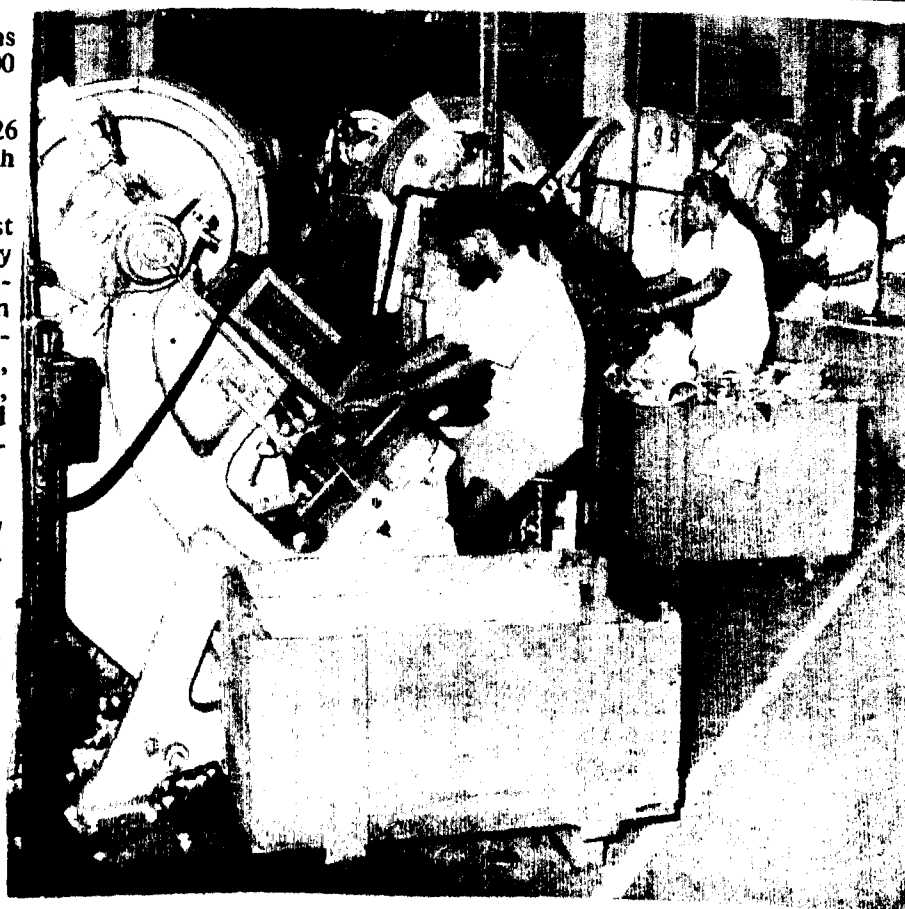
Till 31.12.1978, the SIPCOT has come up with financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 2,784.21 lakhs, for various schemes and to encourage an investment upto Rs. 185 crores as capital and has provided direct employment to 33,000 persons.

A Salt Directorate was set up in July 1974. About 1,500

persons are employed in the production of salt and its allied industries.

An amount of Rs. 50 lakhs has been sanctioned to establish a salt factory on an extent of 5566 acres in Ramanathapuram district.

In the year 1969, the Government of Tamil Nadu enacted the Tamil Nadu Relief undertakings (special provisions) Act, 1969, to give protection to sick units and relief has been given to various units.



How to better a beautiful city—Project V

Creating jobs for people is not easy. Especially for people who lack skills.

With this in view, the MMDA, in association with voluntary agencies, has initiated a three-pronged drive to promote training and employment generation for the Economically Weaker Sections to equip them to earn a reasonable wage by:

- Promoting skills to help people increase their earnings by setting up Production Centres for preparing food products,

mat weaving, fancy wooden articles and spinning Khadi.

- Assisting voluntary agencies with equipment and finance for setting up training programmes and providing stipends for trainees in fields like welding, plumbing, tailoring, para medicals, driving and housekeeping.

- Encouraging self-employment in association with commercial banks, particularly the Nationalised

banks, in fields like wig making, mobile snack bars, cycle shops, vegetable vending and so on.

This drive has just commenced and the results so far have been encouraging.

This is a first step towards reducing unemployment within the Madras Metropolitan area—but a very significant one.

Part of our plan to build a better Madras for you.

**Increase
employment and
employment
opportunities.**



MMDA Madras Metropolitan
Development Authority,
52, E.V.K. Sampath Salai, Vepery,
Madras 600 007.

FDS MMDA 2867

Phenomenal growth OF MMDA

vided alongwith medical facilities, nutritious food for 7,000 mothers and children in the age-group of 0-6 years.

Under the slum improvement scheme 20,000 girls who have attained majority will be given nutritious food, medical facilities and educate them about the family planning programmes and in the three R's.

So far 58 Kughanthaigal Kapagams are functioning. 3,641 children are benefitted through basic and primary education. 295 children below 2.5 years are admitted in the 9 Kuzhanthaigal Kapagams. The nutrition programme is being implemented in 30 child welfare centres. 1,246 babies and 149 children are the beneficiaries. 2,231 women are benefitted by the teaching scheme.

DRINKING WATER FACILITIES:

To renovate existing facilities and to render speedy assistance to slum dwellers who depend on public taps is one of the aims, of this scheme. Work under this scheme has commenced and is progressing.

IMPROVEMENT OF ROADS, ROAD TRANSPORT, (Highways, Rural Development Dept. Madras Corporation and Police Department):

Formation of parts of an Inner Ring road, carrying on of repair of footpaths, construction of new footpaths, Cycle-tracks, sub-ways, river-crossings, street-lightings at cross-roads, communication, engineering technology are the features of this scheme. The construction of Inner Ring roads, are nearing completion in three areas. Out of 9 sub-ways

Tamil Nadu has the largest number of urban centres in the country and is one of the two states with the highest urban population. However, the urban centres are not uniformly spread out and their development is also not uniform. In order to achieve zero rural-urban migration, a balanced growth and distribution of urban centres through out the state has to be ensured. With this objective, the Government have introduced during 1978-'79, a new scheme entitled the "Tamil Nadu Integrated Urban Development Programme". Under this scheme, plans will be prepared for accelerating urban conditions in a phased manner and for inducing rapid growth in some of the urban centres so that a balanced distribution of urban centres can be achieved. The projects taken up will cover housing, water supply and sewerage, traffic and transportation and commercial centres. It is proposed to cover 15 municipalities and 40 Panchayat Towns each year under this scheme.

Improvement of 14 slum areas consisting of 3,300 families have been completed.

Improvement work in 5 more areas of 800 families is nearing completion. Improvement work in 5 more areas consisting of 10,000 families is under way.

VIASARPADI HOUSING AND IMPROVEMENT SCHEME:

In the lake area of Vyasarpadi, 5,709 families have occupied an extent of 180 acres unauthorisedly. There are 3,132 families of Burma repatriates. It is proposed to improve the lake area and provide basic amenities like good roads, water-taps modern public conveniences, bathrooms, street lighting, drainage, kindergarten, elementary schools, hospitals, and small industrial centres. It is estimated that it will involve a total outlay of Rs. 149.85 lakhs.

MOTHER AND CHILD WELFARE DEPARTMENT:

SLUM IMPROVEMENT SCHEME:

Basic amenities like water-taps, roads, street-lighting, sewerage, Facilities for training, equipment and buildings will be pro-



5 have been completed and are in use.

MADRAS URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT:

Renovation of foot-paths on Annasalai and Poonamallee High Road and cycle tracks are being carried on. Out of 7 subway work on 5 has been carried on and they are in use.

For this project, which is meant to benefit the Economically Weaker sections, the world Bank has provided loan assistance to an extent of Rs. 21.6 crores to the Govern-

ment of India which in turn passes it on to the State Government. The total cost of the project is Rs. 46.80 crores and the Government of Tamil Nadu meets 50% of the project cost from out of its own resources. The Project envisages sizable investments in sites and



services, Slum Improvement, Social services, Traffic and Transportation. The Project also includes a programme for employment generation by creating Small Scale Industries and Cottage Industries. Under this programme 4,000 jobs will be created in the Small Scale Industries sector and 5,000 jobs will be created in the Cottage Industries Sector.

One of the schemes implemented under the Integrated Urban Development Project for the Madras Metropolitan area with World Bank assistance is "Sites and Services" and the Housing Board is entrusted with this work.

The Project consists of the establishment of 13,467 serviced plots at three different sites, namely Arumbakkam, Villivakkam and Kodungaiyur adjoining Madras City limits covering a total extent of 168 hectares with a cost of Rs. 932.88 lakhs. In addition to the residential plots, the project also provides serviced plots for commercial and small-scale industry.

Adequate provision has also been made for primary schools, high schools, public and commercial purposes, community centres and for small-scale industries.



AREA DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS:

This helps to develop as per the strategy in the Master Plan for Madras Metropolitan Area. Initially, development of Manali Urban Node and Maraimalai Nagar New Town (Satellite Town) has been taken up. In Manali, a housing complex on an extent of 190 hectares is being developed. 543 houses have been built and sold to industrial workers and other eligible persons. A second project for 300 persons is being undertaken with the Assistance of the HUDCO.

In Maraimalai Nagar, 45 kms. from Madras, a new town in an area of 1,600 hectares for a population of 1 lakh is being developed. Infrastructure for 100 hectares of housing and 120 hectares of industrial land has been laid. 305 housing plots and 18 industrial plots have been sold. With financial assistance from HUDCO, 144 houses for Low Income Group are being built.

A NEW WHOLESALE MARKET AT KOYAMBEDU:

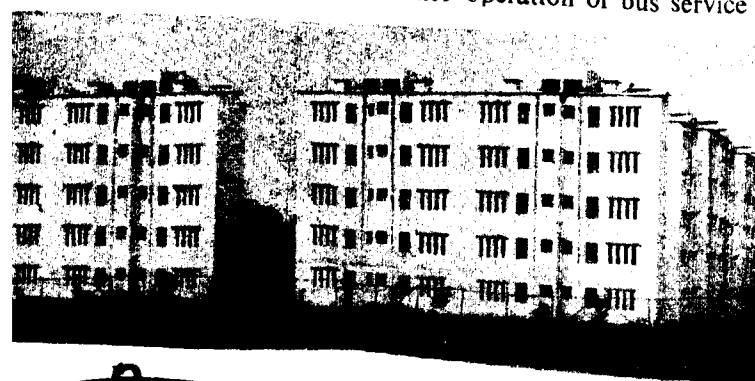
To relieve the pressure and congestion in the Central Business District of Madras, a new wholesale market to accommodate about 3,000 shops in an area of about 120 hectares at Koyambedu has been taken up. The project is expected to be completed in 3 years. This Market

will replace the present Kothwal Market and Textile Market in George Town.

PERIPHERAL OUTSTATION BUS TERMINALS:

In order to provide for efficient operation of bus service and relieve

congestion in the Centre of the City, it has been proposed to organise 3 sub-terminals at points close to the Inner Ring Road and on the three Inner City Traffic Corridors. Acquisition of land for this purpose is under way.



The Government is cognisant of the fact that Health is the birthright of every citizen and therefore has adopted various measures to help the citizens achieve this end. Thus it has formulated many schemes and plans.

Prevention of communicable and other diseases, containment of communicable diseases where it occurs, providing medical care to the rural areas, improving the standards of environmental sanitation, prevention of environmental pollution, prevention of adulteration of food articles and drugs, providing care to women during pregnancy, childbirth and lactation collection and compilation of health statistics including registration of births and deaths for purposes of health planning and education of people in ways and means of healthful living that are the major items of services rendered to achieve this aim.

A majority of the population lives in rural areas. To provide medical facilities and health care, Primary Health Centres are run. An outlay of Rs. 14,000 has been allotted to each centre.

To ensure medical facilities in the predominantly rural areas at their very doorstep, the Government introduced a new scheme, the first of its kind in the country

in 1977-'78, in the form of Mobile Medical Teams. Such teams are already functioning in 24 Primary Health Centres reaching the remote villages, in those areas. In 1978-'79 this scheme was extended to 100 more Primary Health Centres. It will cover another 100 Centres in 1979-'80 at a cost of Rs. 62.43 lakhs.

This scheme was started in Primary Health Centres with 3 Medical Officers. One to attend to outpatients twice a day, while the other two will visit villages for the delivery of curative and preventive services. The entire block will be covered within a week's time. Complicated cases will be referred to specialists in hospitals.

Multi-purpose Health Workers Scheme:

Under this centrally sponsored scheme, there will be a horizontal integration of functions and one male health worker and one female health worker will be posted for a population of 5,000 in rural areas. The scheme is being implemented in the five districts of Kanyakumari, Madurai, South Arcot, Salem and Chengalpattu.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres:

The Maternity and Child Health Programme in rural areas is catered through the various maternity cen-

tres established and maintained by the respective Panchayat Unions.

There are 2,983 Maternity Centres in rural areas including 2,880 established by Panchayat Unions under grant-in-aid schemes.

Improvement of Nutritional status of Population:

The Nutrition Programme is directed to the vulnerable sections of the population. Nutrition education, especially to mother and children of Maternity and Child Health Centres, Primary Health Centres, Balwadis and schools has formed an important component of the Nutrition Programme.

The following Nutrition Programmes covering mother and child are being implemented:

1. Integrated Child Development Scheme.
2. Tribal Development Scheme in Kalrayan Hills, South Arcot District.
3. Prevention of control of blindness among children.
4. Special Nutrition Programme.
5. Applied Nutrition Programme.

Integrated Child Development Scheme:

This scheme was launched in 1976 in Thalli Block (Population

1.13 lakhs) and Nilakottai Block (Population 1.14 lakhs) and in certain slum areas of Madras City.

Objections of the scheme:

1. To improve the Nutritional and Health status of Children in the age-group of 0-6 years.
2. To lay the foundation for proper psychological, physical and social development of the child.
3. To reduce the incidence of mortality, morbidity, malnutrition and pre-school dropout.

Special Nutrition Programme:

This scheme is in operation in 2 corporations, 33 Municipalities and 25 Panchayat Unions, with a view to extend the Nutritional support to pregnant and lactating mothers and pre-school children between 6 months to 6 years in urban slums and tribal areas. The scheme covers 1,46,530 beneficiaries.

Tribal Development scheme in Kalrayan Hills:

To provide Medical and Health coverage for a population of about 24,000 Tribals in 103 Villages in Kalrayan Hills, One Mobile Medical Unit with necessary Medical and para-medical staff have been provided

1. Immunization Programme.
2. Improvement of Environmental sanitation and
3. Treating the Tribals for minor ailments, will be attended to by Health Inspectors.

Vitamin A deficiency and malnutrition:

The scheme is implemented in one block in each district (where applied Nutrition Programme is not in operation) in co-ordination with the Social Welfare Department and the Directorate of Rural Development.

The scheme is intended for strengthening health education component necessary for sustained nutrition activity by mother and children.

Medical Education:

There are 8 medical colleges in the state; 3 are in the city and five in the districts. 1,015 students are selected for admission every year.



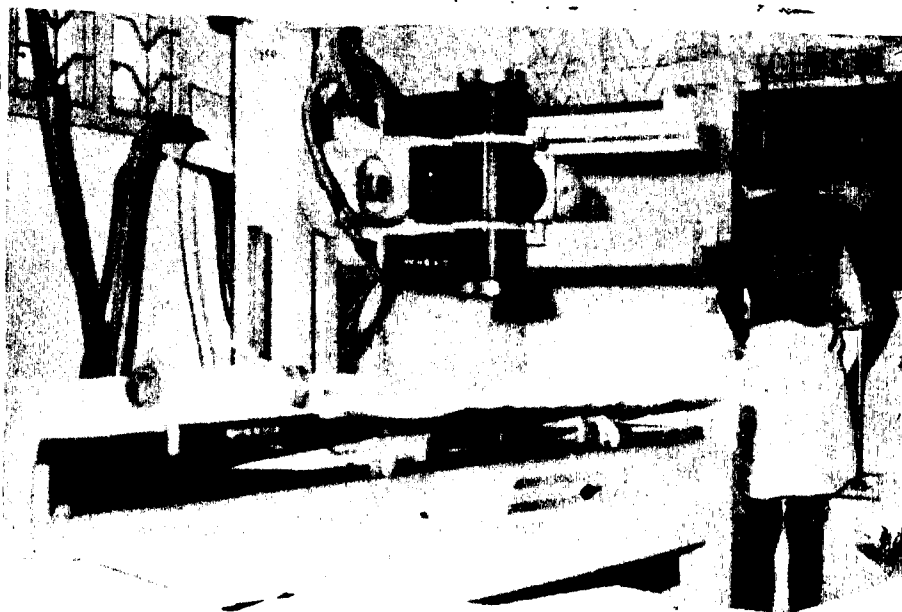
30 seats are reserved for students from other states. 3 are reserved for the physically handicapped and ten for widows. general wards 281 beds and in the infectious disease wards 120 beds were added, thereby increasing the total strength to 4,455.

Periphery Hospitals:

The periphery hospital started at K.K.Nagar is already functioning. The hospital at Anna Nagar and at Tondiarpet have been constructed and will begin to function shortly.

Achievements for 1978-'79

There are 14 head-quarters hospitals in the State. In the year 1977-'78 the total bed strength in the hospitals was 4,054. In 1978-'79 in the There are 108 taluk hospitals. There were 5,653 beds in 1977-'78 and 130 beds were increased bringing the total to 5,783. Under the Family Planning scheme the Government of India had set a target for conducting 2,76,700 Family Planning Operations in the year 1978-'79 against which 1,89,464 have been done till 15.3.79. 73 units of siddha system of medicine are functioning in the state in addition the allopathy hospitals.



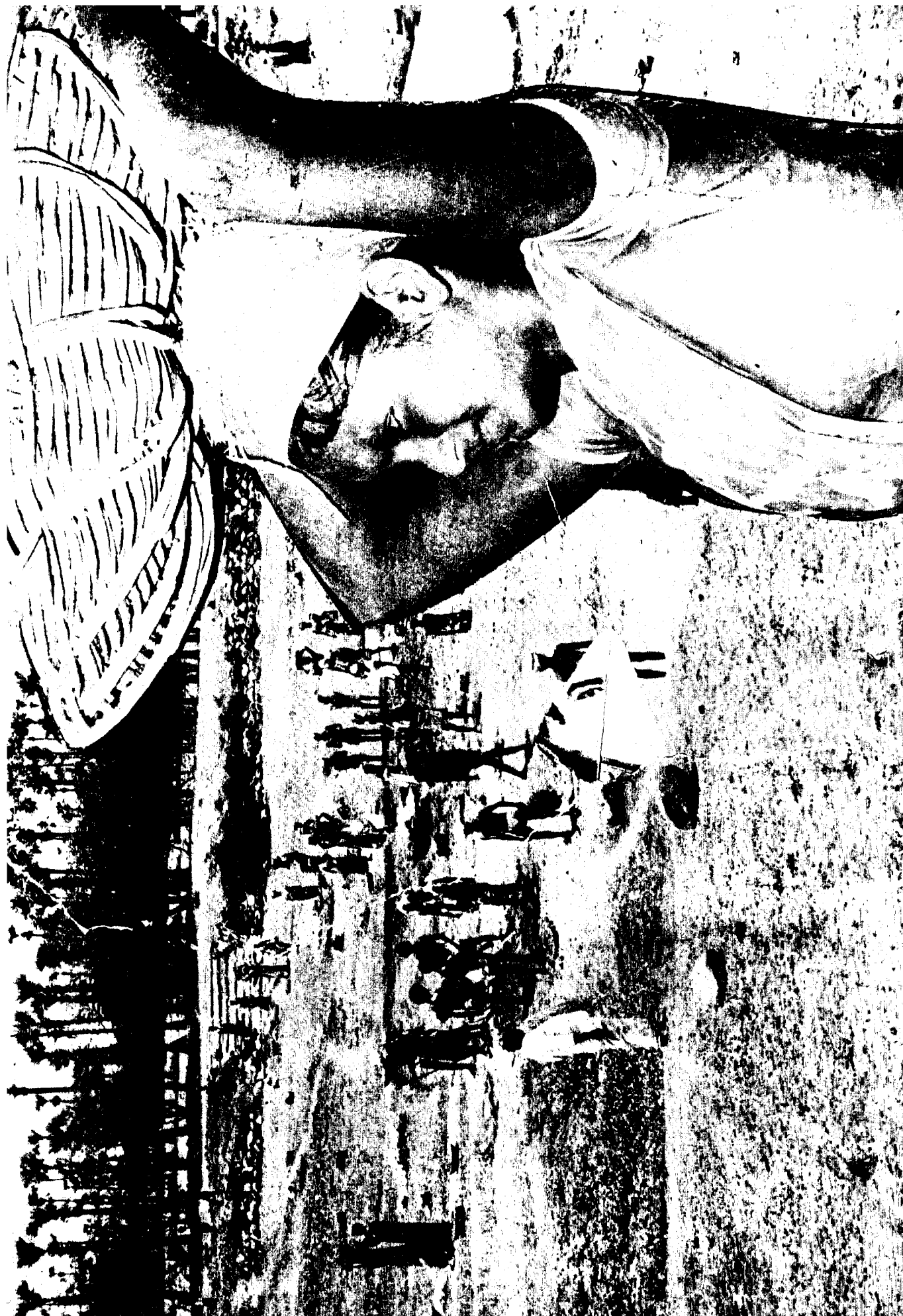
The President Thiru N. Sanjiva Reddy unveiling two obelisks to mark the inauguration of the work on the second mine cut and the laying of the foundation for the second Thermal Power Station at Neyveli on 4-7-79. The Union Minister for Energy Thiru P. Ramachandran, The Governor Thiru Prabudas Patwari, The Chief Minister Thiru M.G.R. participated in the function.



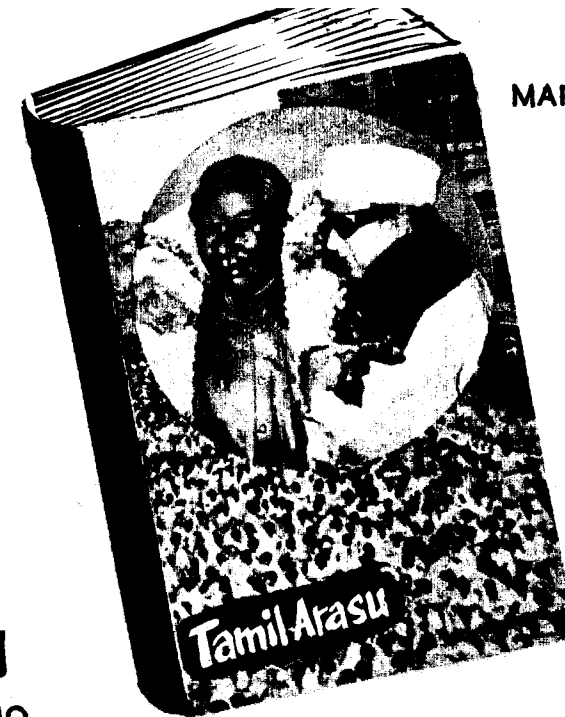
Tamil Arasu

AUGUST 1979 50 P.

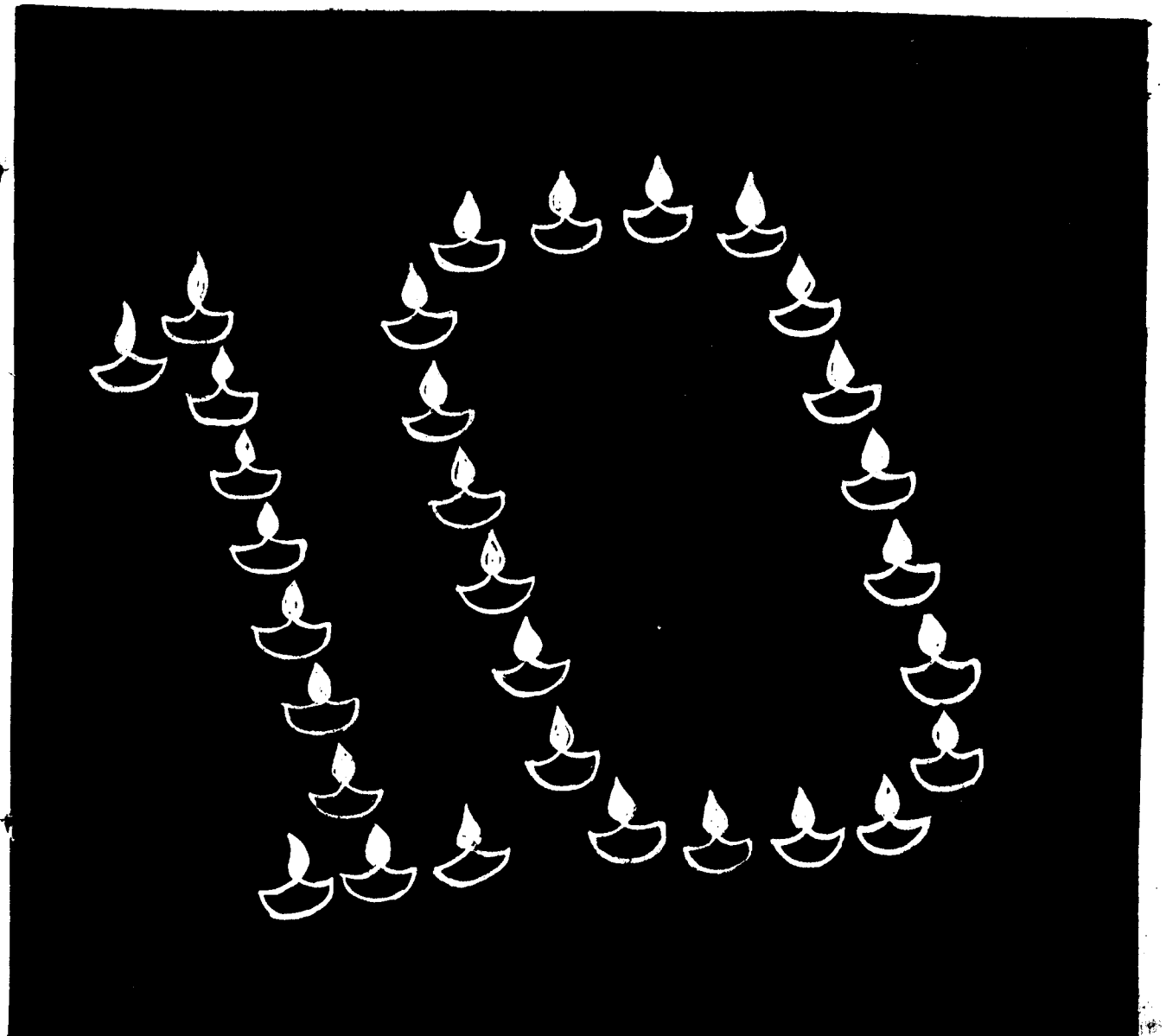


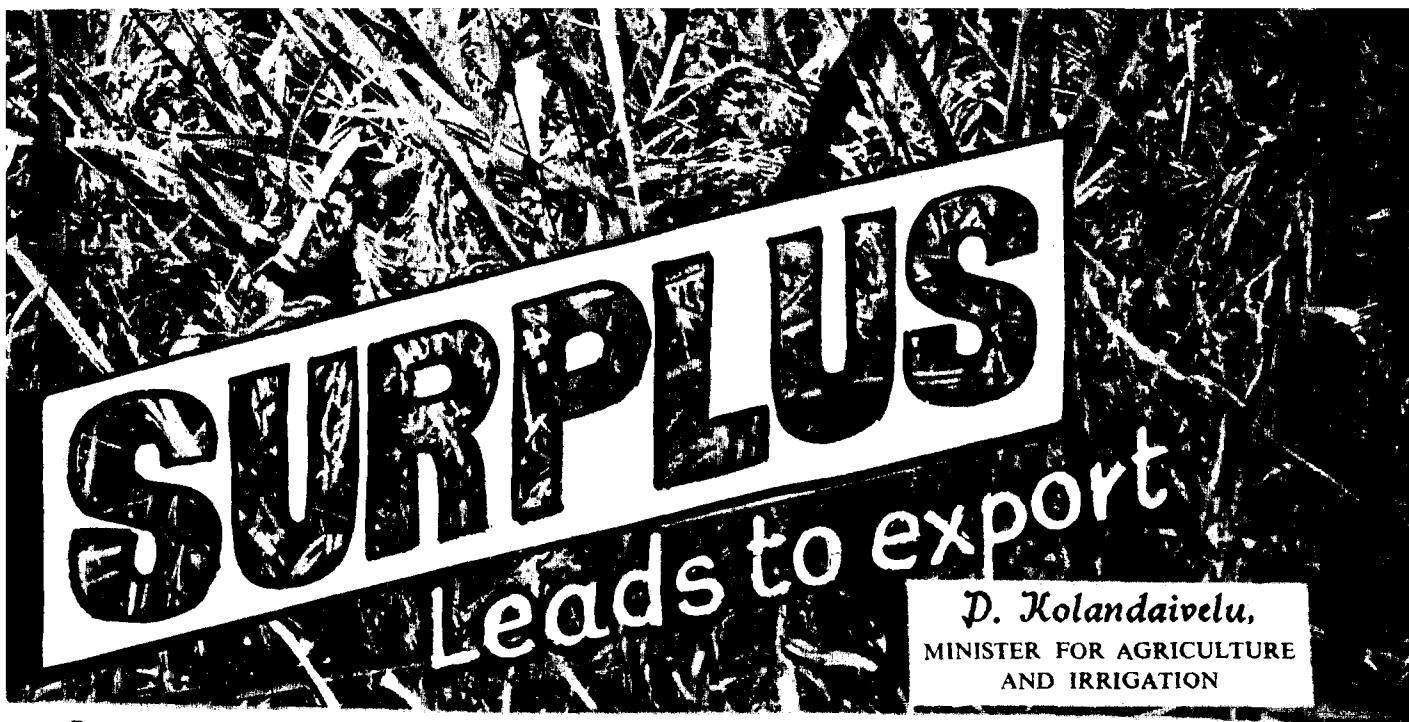


Tamil Arasu
Vol X AUGUST NO 2



WE COMPLETE NINE
MARCHING ON TO TENTH
GLORIOUS YEAR





ABOUT 2,000 years ago, the great Tamil Poet, Thiruvalluvar, in his Thirukkural, has stated that Agriculture, though laborious is the most excellent way of life, for people who go about in search of other employments have to depend finally on the farmer for food. He has also pointed out that Agriculturists are, as they were, the linch pin of the world, for they support all other workers who cannot till the soil.

Dr. Anna, our affectionate elder brother, described the farmers as "Doctors who can cure the burning sensation of hunger and starvation."

Realising the importance of Agriculture and farmers as stated by Thiruvalluvar and Dr. Anna, the present benign Chief Minister Thiru M. G. Ramachandran is giving top-priority to Agriculture and taking keen interest in the welfare of the farming community from the time of assuming office as Chief Minister. He aims to improve the standard of living of the farming community who were subjected in the past to the scorching sun, torrential rains, trembling cold and neglect. He is always sympathetic towards the farmers because the Indian farmer is born in debts, lives in debts, and dies in debts. He has not only provided all facilities to the farmers but also given them a number of concessions so as to reduce the burden of debts.

Reduction in Power Tariff :

Our Chief Minister has reduced the power tariff for Agricultural consumption from 16 paise to 14 paise per unit on the next day of

assuming office even before the farmers made demand. This shows the sympathetic nature of our Chief Minister towards the farmers. But our farmers were not satisfied with this reduction. Again, our Chief Minister has reduced the power tariff from 14 paise to 12 paise for small farmers and fixed it at 14 paise for other farmers. Due to this concession, the Government is incurring a loss of Rs. 6 crores per year. The meter charge has been reduced from Rs. 5 to Rs. 4 resulting in a loss of Rs. 1 crore annually.

Relief for 31 lakhs of Farmers :

So far no Government have come forward to analyse the burning problems of the farmers and solved them. The present Government of



D. Kollandaivelu,
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE
AND IRRIGATION

lakhs of farmers have got relief as a result of the concessions ordered by the present Government.

But our farmers' leaders are not yet satisfied. They want total write off of all loans. Is it possible for any Government ? I request you to all to kindly think over on this.

The present Government is always ready to have discussion with the leaders of the farmers on the farmers' problem. But I request the farmers' leaders not to indulge in violence.

Thanks to the Farmers :

I would like to thank our enterprising farmers through "TAMIL ARASU" on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu for their enthusiastic response to our appeal for increased production. The Tamil Nadu farmers, known for their intelligence and hard work, have increased the Agricultural production of the State, since the inception of our Ministry. As a result of the efforts that farmers and farm-labourers have put in and the resources that the Government have invested, the State has to-day passed from a stage of dependance on external source of supply to a situation of surplus in 1978-79. The production of food grains has reached a high figure of 87.25 lakh tonnes in 1978-79 as against 73.90 lakh tonnes in 1976-77.

Similarly, the production of Commercial Crops has reached a high figure of 37.32 lakh tonnes in 1978-79 as against 30.53 lakh tonnes in 1976-77. Our target for the current year is 88.73 lakh tonnes.



of foodgrains and 40.10 lakh tonnes under Commercial Crops.

When one compares the food situation of June 1975 or June 1976 or June 1977 to the present situation of surplus, he will not hesitate to say that the present Ministry of Tamil Nadu has strived hard to increase Agricultural production and to hold the price line within limits.

None Can Deny

Tamil Nadu has witnessed an unprecedented drought during the year 1977-78. The disastrous floods of the past two years had caused heavy damages in Tamil Nadu and the farmers were the worst affected. In spite of droughts and floods good progress has been made in Agriculture in Tamil Nadu during the past two years. None can deny this ! How was it possible in a short span of time before which Agricultural production was not satisfactory ? It is by the enthusiastic encouragement of the present Government and the cooperation by the farmers that made the great achievement possible.

Increase in Rice Productivity

We have achieved substantial progress in stepping up the produc-

tion of rice and millets during the past two years and even during adverse seasonal conditions we were self-sufficient in rice and millets. Based on the research work done by the Department of Agriculture, a programme of low cost high efficiency technology has been introduced for paddy crop to reduce the cost of cultivation and to increase the productivity. This has been achieved by (i) reducing the quantity of inputs, (ii) increasing their efficiency and (iii) using new low cost inputs which increase production. The new technology consists of the following aspects :

- (i) Producing super seedlings.

- (ii) Use of 'Pai Nursery'.

- (iii) Bio-fertilisation with blue-green algae.

- (iv) Zinc sulphate application.

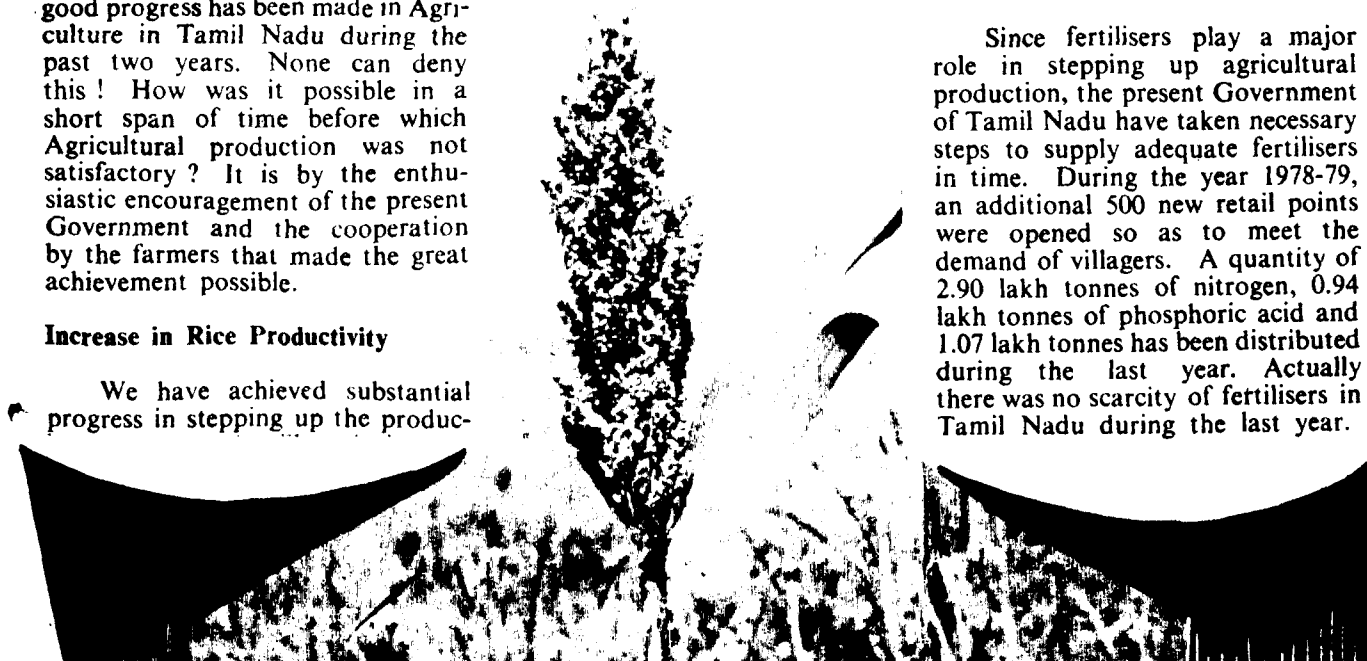
- (v) Better placement of fertilisers.

- (vi) Better placement of insecticide granules.

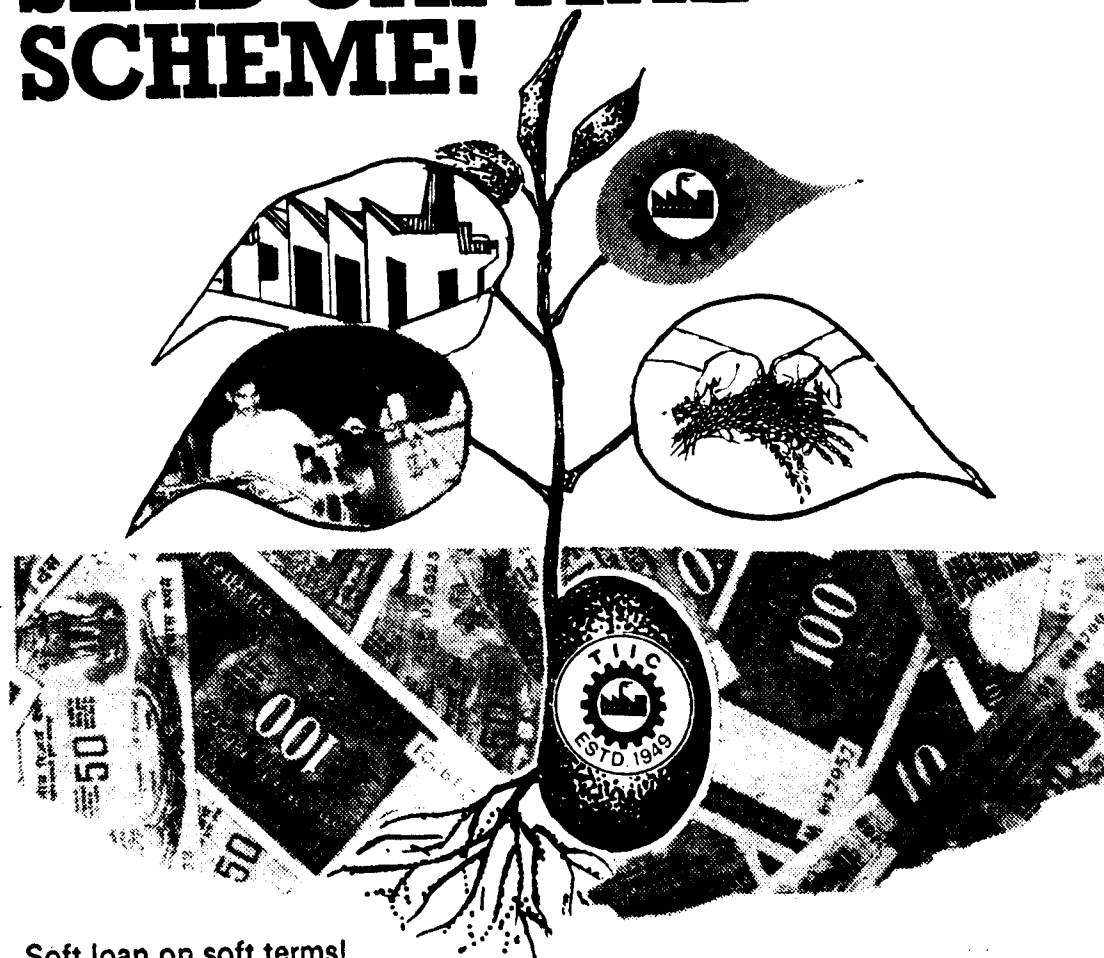
Due to the adoption of this new technology the yield per acre of paddy which was 1,277 kg. during 1976-77 was increased to 1350 kg. in 1978-79.

Some of the Achievements

Since fertilisers play a major role in stepping up agricultural production, the present Government of Tamil Nadu have taken necessary steps to supply adequate fertilisers in time. During the year 1978-79, an additional 500 new retail points were opened so as to meet the demand of villagers. A quantity of 2.90 lakh tonnes of nitrogen, 0.94 lakh tonnes of phosphoric acid and 1.07 lakh tonnes has been distributed during the last year. Actually there was no scarcity of fertilisers in Tamil Nadu during the last year.



ENTREPRENEURS! FEED YOUR NEED THROUGH TIIC'S SEED CAPITAL SCHEME!

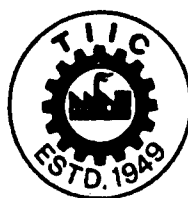


Soft loan on soft terms!

TIIC provides financial assistance to projects in the Small Scale Sector under Seed Capital Scheme. Industrial Units in rural and backward areas, technocrats, export oriented units and industries with high employment potential will receive preferential treatment. Artisans and Craftsmen will also be eligible under this scheme.

- Loan to a maximum of Rs. 2 lakhs
- Rate of interest only 1% p. a.
- Repayment Holiday-3 years
- Moratorium-5 years

TIIC has a soft corner for entrepreneurs who need soft loans.



For further details, please contact:
The Managing Director,

**THE TAMIL NADU INDUSTRIAL
INVESTMENT CORPORATION LIMITED,**

27, Whites Road, Madras 600 014.

Phone: 83078, Grams: "MINDVEST", Telex: MIIC-7164.

REGIONAL OFFICES: COIMBATORE & MADURAI.

BRANCH OFFICES : Cuddalore, Dharmapuri, Salem, Thanjavur, Tiruchi, Tirunelveli and Vellore.

Avail TIIC's Liberal Assistance for New Units, Modernisation, Expansion and Diversification.

The Department of Agriculture has released 16 crop varieties during the year 1977-78 and their seeds were multiplied and made available to farmers for large scale cultivation. The department has also released 12 new varieties during the last years.

As a result of the sustained efforts of the Scientists of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, 8 crop varieties during 1977-78 and 13 crop varieties during 1978-79 were released. On the whole the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University have evolved 49 better crop varieties and ideal crop management techniques.

A giant orchard, largest of its kind in Asia, has been established at Vallatharayan Kottai of Pudukottai.



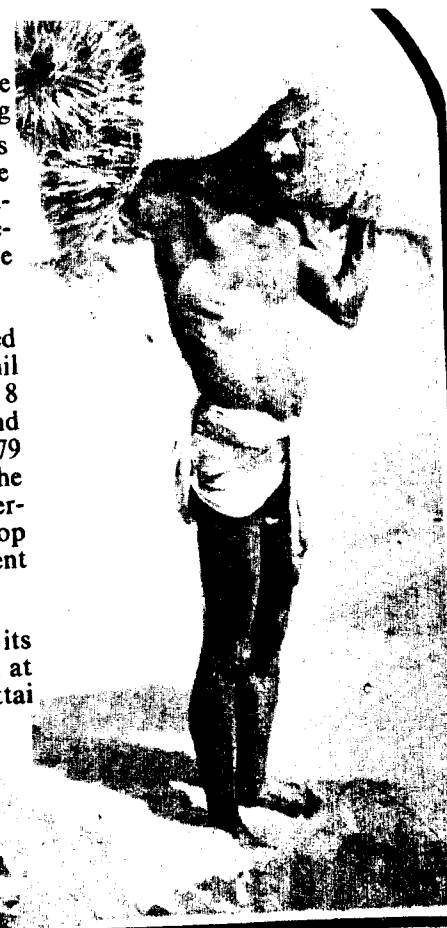
During the year 1977-78 an area of 5700 hectares of Agricultural lands in nine districts were severely affected due to sand cast caused by the floods. The reclamation works were taken up on war footing mobi-

lising the available men and machineries and the works were completed in record time. An amount of Rs. 94 lakhs were spent up to 31st July 1978.

Three Farmers Training Centres at Ootacamund, Ramanathapuram and Salem were established during the last year.

During the year 1978-79 the Agricultural Engineering wing of the Department of Agriculture has sunk 4,692 tube wells and 2,587 Filter points, 2573 wells were deepened. In addition, boring in 2563 wells were undertaken. In Thanjavur district, 59 Community wells have been sunk during the last year.

Under Soil conservation scheme an area of 42,820 hectares have been covered during 1978-79.



Similarly during the last year also an area of 2500 hectares were affected in nine districts due to the floods in November and December 1978. The reclamation works were completed.

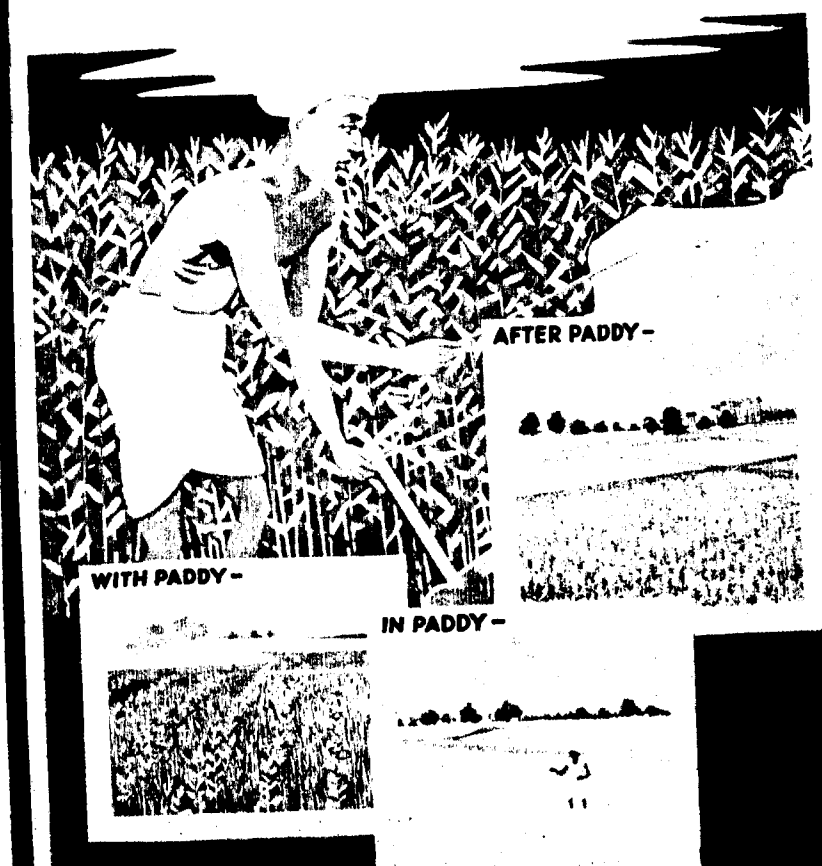
A new labour saving equipment called 'Gravitor applicator' for better placement of fertilisers and insecticides for paddy has been developed by the Department of Agriculture during the last year. It economises on the use of fertilisers and insecticides without loss in efficiency. This equipment costs only about Rs. 50 and can cover one acre in five hours.

A multi-purpose equipment has also been evolved by the department for use in dry tracts. This has been named as the 'Poor Man's tractor' and it is able to cover 4 to 5 acres per day depending on the size of the bullocks used. This implement can be used for sowing, placement of fertilisers and intercultivation. The cost of the implement is about Rs. 500.

NEW SCHEMES IN 1979-80.

Apart from the existing schemes under implementation, the following

RAISE GREEN MANURE IN PADDY FIELDS



new schemes are proposed to be implemented during 1979-80.

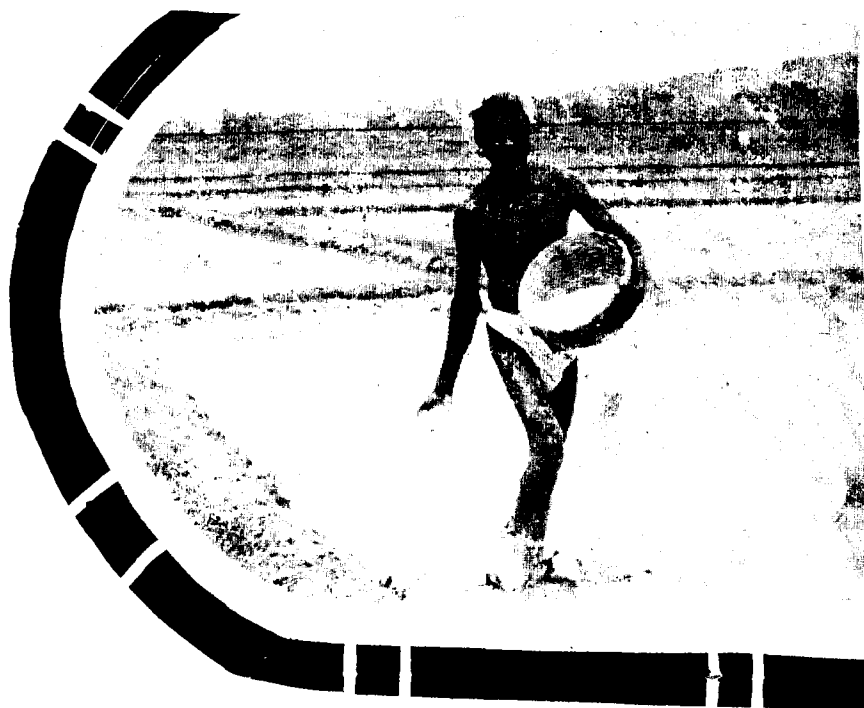
Quality seed is the basic need for increasing agricultural production. In order to supply quality seeds to the farmers, a separate Independent Seed Certification Directorate is being set up and it will function very soon.

Similarly a separate Directorate of Horticulture is being set up at Dharmapuri so as to help the farmers in the cultivation of Horticultural crops.

This Government is trying to form an Oil seed Development Corporation at a cost of Rs. 15 crores with the financial aid from National Dairy Development Board. This Corporation is likely to function from coming September and it will help to cultivate groundnut in about 6 lakh acres.

DIVERSION OF WEST FLOWING RIVERS

The present Government is sincerely trying to provide irrigation facilities to drought affected areas of Tamil Nadu. On the initiative taken by this Government, Government of India have constituted a Technical Committee to examine and suggest schemes for diversion of surplus waters of the west flowing rivers to the eastern side to benefit the drought prone areas. Tamil Nadu is represented on this Committee. The Committee has met five times and examined the various aspects of the problems and also the preliminary proposals submitted by Tamil Nadu and the preliminary notes furnished by Karnataka and Kerala. The discussions are to be continued.



Studies indicate that it will be possible to divert 14 TMC from the Pandiyar—Punnapuzha river to benefit 1,40,000 acres in Coimbatore district, particularly in Gopi and Avinashi Taluk. Similarly, another 5,00,000 acres will be benefited in other districts, if we succeed in our attempts of diverting West flowing rivers to Tamil Nadu.

Better Price for Agricultural Produce

With a view to help the farmers in securing a better and stable price for their produce, this Government have created a separate Directorate for Agricultural marketing. There were only 140 Regulated Market and 11 Market Committees before 1977. Now there are 176 Regulated Markets, 22 Sub-Markets and 13 market committees. There are proposals to establish another 25 Regu-

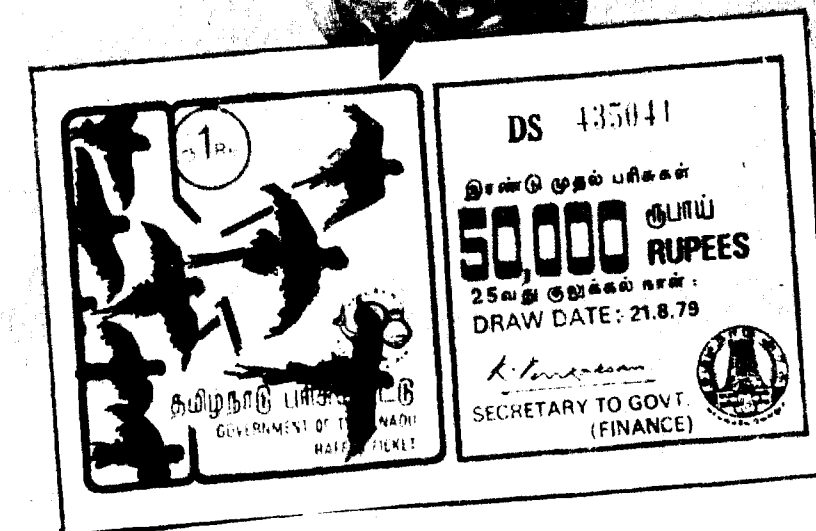
lated markets during this year. The policy of the present Government is that there should be a regulated market for every 16 KM to enable the farming community to market the agricultural produce without much difficulty. The Government is trying to get a world Bank aid for a sum of Rs. 70.2 crores to develop all the 220 potential Regulated markets in Tamil Nadu.

Chief Minister's Gesture

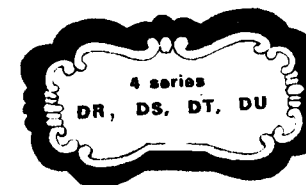
You know pretty well that our Government is again and again pressing the Government of India to fix a higher price for paddy as per cost of production on par with wheat. Recently, our Chief Minister has announced that a sum Rs. 20 per quintal will be paid by the State Government over and above the price fixed by the Government of India for Paddy. This Government is also persuading the Government of India to fix a higher price for Sugarcane.

Various Programmes including the Schemes for increasing the irrigation potential have been launched by the Government. With the Cooperation of the farmers and the successful implementation of the various scheme under progress, Tamil Nadu will be able to produce not only the food, sugar, cotton and vegetable oils required by the people of this State but also considerable surpluses for export in the immediate future. The Government is ready to help the farmers in all possible ways.

YOUR MESSENGER OF GOOD FORTUNE



**Buy TAMIL NADU
RAFFLE TICKETS
and WIN 2 FIRST PRIZES**



Rs. 50,000

AND MANY MORE PRIZES

Total Prizes : 10620

Total prize amount Rs. 15,60,000



**DIRECTOR OF TAMIL NADU RAFFLE
Govt. Estate, Madras 600 002**

**Draw date
21.8.1979**



EP-DIPR-435.

Cauvery

A great river of Tamil Nadu, famous alike for its traditional sanctity, its picturesque scenery, and its utility for irrigation. Rising on the Brahmagiri, a hill in coorg, high up amid the western ghats, it flows in a generally southeast direction across the plateau of Mysore and finally pours itself into the Bay of Bengal in the Tamil Nadu district of Tanjore. The total length is about 475 miles. It is known as the "Dakshina Ganga" or the "Ganges of the South", and the whole of its course is holy ground.

According to the legend preserved in the Agneya and Skanda Puranas, there was once born upon earth a girl named Vishnumaya or Lopamudra, the daughter of Brahma; but her divine father permitted her to be regarded as the child of a mortal called Kaveramuni. In order to obtain beatitude for her adoptive father, she resolved to become a river whose water should purify from all sin. Hence it is that even the holy Ganga resorts underground, once in the year, to the source of the Cauvery, to purge herself from the pollution contracted from the crowd of sinners, who have bathed in her waters. At Tala Kaveri, where the river rises, and at Bhagamandala, where it receives its first tributary, stand ancient temples frequented annually by crowds of pilgrims in the month of Tulamasa (October, November).

The Cauvery enters Tamil Nadu at the falls of Sivasamudram, and forms the boundary between the districts of Coimbatore and Salem for a considerable distance, until it strikes into Tiruchirappalli. In this part of its course, near Alambadi in Coimbatore, there is a remarkable rock in the middle of the stream which throws up a column of perpetual spray, though the water round it is to all appearances quite unbroken. It is called the "smoking rock", and the people of that locality declare that the spray is due to the river pouring into an enormous chasm in its bed. Close under the

historic Rock of Tiruchirappalli the Cauvery breaks at the island of Srirangam into two channels (crossed by masonry road bridges), which irrigate the delta of Thanjavur, the Garden of Tamil Nadu. The more northerly of these channels is called the Kollidam; that which continues the course of the river towards the east preserves the name of the Cauvery. On the seawardface of the delta are the open roadsteads of Tarangambadi, Nagapattinam and Karaikal.

In Tamil Nadu the Chief tributaries of the Cauvery are the Bhavani, Noyil and Amara-vati.

The only navigation which exists on the Cauvery is carried on in coracles of basket-work, but the Kollidam is navigable for a few miles above its mouth by Vessels of 4 tons burden.

Although the water of the Cauvery is utilized to a considerable extent for agriculture in Coimbatore and Tiruchirappalli districts, it is in its delta that its value for irrigation becomes most conspicuous. At Srirangam, first above the point where it bifurcates to form the Kollidam, the flood discharge is estimated at 313,000 cubic feet per second. The problem of utilizing this storehouse of agricultural wealth was first grappled with by one of the Chola Kings, who constructed a massive dam of unknown stone, below the island of Srirangam, to keep the Cauvery separate from the Kollidam, and drive it towards Thanjavur district. This is the "Grand Anicut."

Irrigation is one of the glories of Thanjavur. Though blessed with fertile soil in most parts of the district, not much progress could have been made had it not been for the presence of perennial Cauvery and the numerous irrigation projects that have been completed.

The Grand Anicut is the oldest and the most significant and is reported to have been constructed during the Sangam Age of Chola

period. This is built at the junctions of the rivers Cauvery and Kollidam, about ten miles off Tiruchirappalli.

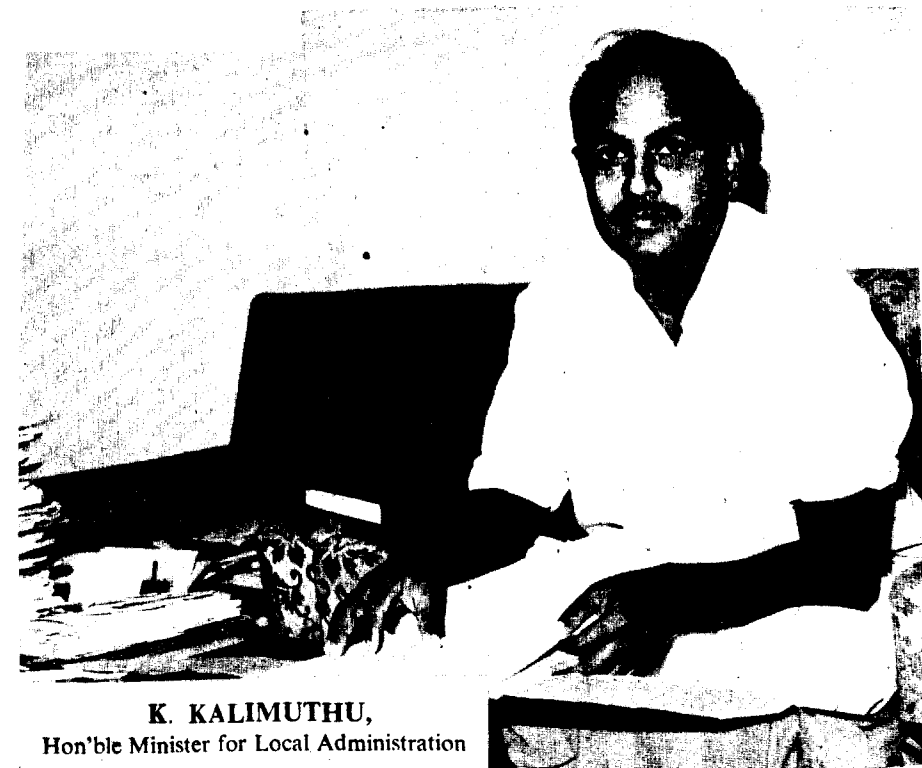
The anicut was first made of roughly dressed granite stones set in mud covered with an outer layer of granite blocks set in lime mortar. Its length was 1,080 feet and breadth 40 to 60 feet with a depth of 15 to 18 feet. Afterwards this has undergone numerous improvements. In 1806 it was raised further and in 1830 the anicut came to be provided with sand scouring sluices. Some fifty years later the stones were renewed to be replaced by automatic folding shutters. These were soon replaced by lifting shutters (1899).

The main purpose of this anicut was to check and control the waters running to waste into Kollidam. The attempt to stop this wastage continued for some time with no consequence. The flow from the Cauvery was considerably reduced and lands of the deltaic regions came to be affected.

Mettur dam is one of the biggest in India with length measuring over 5,300' and height 214' above the deepest foundations. The project has cost about 663.6 lakhs of rupees and has been designed to ensure steady supply of water for irrigation.

The utility of the scheme is manifold. By the storage of flood waters in the reservoir the dam has made it possible to provide sufficient supply of water for agricultural purposes during the inter-monsoon periods and also to safeguard cultivation against the unforeseen vagaries of nature. Even in times of drought the project ensures an even supply and distribution of available waters, thus preventing avoidable wastage. Moreover, it enables the agriculturists to control and regulate their farm operations taking into account the availability of water. Apart from these it also acts as a shock absorbent against the onrush of Cauvery in all its fury during the North-East monsoon period causing serious damages to crops and lands.

MEET THE CHALLENGE



K. KALIMUTHU,
Hon'ble Minister for Local Administration

The General concept of community development is over all development of the rural areas and attainment of self-sufficiency. However, I feel that it is only the people of the villages who are perhaps more aware of their needs and who can carry out programmes effectively; especially the youth and the women. Thus it is only when the latent leadership qualities in these persons are brought out and given shape, plans drawn up and implemented, that the villages will progress and prosper.

The daily needs and living standards are increasing every day. There is no end to them. Therefore growth is a continuous process. Politics, caste, religion,

riches or poverty have no room to play. The rural population should extend their whole hearted co-operation for the progress of the rural areas and this should be their main aim. I wish that they extend their co-operation to all Government Programmes and undertaking.

In Tamil Nadu, the Panchayat Presidents are elected directly by the electorate, unlike in other states. This system averts squabbles and jealousies. This system will be followed in electing the Union Presidents also.

As soon as this Government came to power, it has taken steps to solve the problem of drinking water facilities on a permanent basis. I would like to categorically state that there will not be a single dwelling without drinking water facilities. Drinking water facilities will be provided to all the villages which have no reliable source of their own or in their proximity and the scheme is nearing completion. So far 5,783 dwellings have been provided with.

It is a matter of pride that a village of Tamilnadu has been selected as the best village and a grama sevika as the best grama sevika on a national level.

Under the three-tier system of Panchayat Administration envisaged in the Tamil Nadu Panchayat Act, 1958 and by the District Development Councils Act, each Panchayat Union has a community development block co-terminous with the jurisdiction of Panchayat Unions. The Panchayat Unions in this state, not only perform civic functions but also act as agents of the state government to implement the development schemes which are capable of execution at block levels. An important procedural change introduced at that state was the formulation of Panchayats Development Schematic Budget through which funds are available for different development schemes having a bearing on rural development were pooled together and made available to Panchayat Unions for utilisation. This innovation apart from presenting an integrated frame work for execution of local development programmes,





has also contributed to the generation of local contribution by the beneficiaries to the various schemes. The Panchayat Development Schematic Budget thus spells out clearly to the local bodies the financial resources and grants and aids the development of the Panchayat Unions. The larger the contribution of the local people, the greater will be the local development budget of the Panchayat Unions.

The organisation of the Panchayats, Panchayat Unions, Financial resources administration etc., in Tamil Nadu have drawn the admiration and attention of the people of other states.

In other states the various departments draw up their respective plans without including the Rural Development Department. This results in misunderstanding between the Rural development organisation and Government Department.

Here, Extension Officers Co-ordinate with the Block Development Officers and carry out the programmes successfully. This averts mistakes and difficulties.

The work of the District Development Councils also come in for praise.

The "whole villages development scheme" is under implementation in 4 villages in Tirunelveli District. The object of this scheme is to attain progress of the entire rural community and to solve their problems. The scheme will be implemented under various circumstances and with the experience thus gained will be emulated for the whole country. Attention will be given first to the agriculture sphere and later the others.

The success or otherwise of the Panchayat Administration revolves mainly on the active Co-operation from the rural population. With the active and whole-hearted willingness of these people, the estimated target can be achieved within the least period possible.

To conclude, it may be said that the three-tier system of Panchayat Administration functions quite satisfactorily and the task before the administration now is to shape and face tomorrow as it is well equipped to meet the challenges of the day.

IN Tamil Nadu, Agriculture continues to be the prime sector and the annual variation in the State income are governed significantly by the agricultural production only. Bringing new virgin lands for agricultural use being limited the solution lies in increasing the productivity by taking recourse to multiple cropping programmes utilising the High Yielding Varieties and inputs like seeds, fertilisers, pesticides etc. Plus, a notable beginning has been made to formulate profitable cropping systems with suitable crop production techniques for the economical use of land, water etc. in the different agro-climatic regions of the State. The Department of Agriculture is the major agency heavily involved to bring the required changes in the field conditions. With the help of a close network of Experiment Stations and a system of Adaptive Research Trials a breakthrough is being achieved

in solving field oriented local problems. Dry farming is given importance and the constraints are tackled by implementing the programmes of rain water conservation, land shapping, fertility improvements, mixed and multiple cropping, utilization and creation of community assets like percolation ponds, community wells etc.

The table below gives the production details of major crops of Tamil Nadu.

No. Names of the Crop	Production in lakh tons	
	1970-71	1978-79
1. Rice	50.07	64.00
2. Millets	15.04	20.00
3. Pulses	1.33	3.25
4. Oilseeds	10.36	14.07
5. Cotton (Bales)	3.23	4.96
6. Sugarcane(Gur)	10.74	19.50

Considering the past achievement it has been projected to achieve 88.75 lakhs tonnes of food grains and 36.45 lakh tons of commercial crops during 1979-80.

Significant progress have been made in the production of Rice and Millets in the past few years. Even during the years of natural calamities self-sufficiency was attained, as far as Rice and Millets are concerned. By intensifying the cultivation in the potential pockets and increase the unit area production, the other available lands can be used for the cultivation of commercial crops which could supply raw materials to the industries. Hence in the ensuing year the production of rice will be increased from 64 Lakh tons to 65 Lakh Tons by increasing the production efficiency of the crop in all possible ways. At the same time the area under paddy will be reduced from 27 lakh hectares to 26.5 lakh hectares and the 50,000 hectares thus diverted from paddy cultivation will be made available for the production of Groundnut and Cotton. Thus the gap between the demand and production could be reduced.

Paddy and Millets:

Additional production of one lakh tonnes of rice and 0.15 lakh tonnes of millets are programmed



N. HARIBASKER, I.A.S.
Secretary for Agriculture



duce one lakh T x D seedlings has been started in Pattukkottai area of Tanjore district.

Cotton:

Present production of 3.75 lakh bales from 2.90 lakh hectares will be increased to 4.40 lakh bales by increasing the area to 3.50 lakh hectares. To achieve the above targetted level 100 percent coverage will be aimed at under (i) use of improved seeds (2) fertiliser application (3) adoption of plant protection measures and (4) improved agronomic practices.

Sugarcane:

During the year 1979-80 the area will be stabilized at 1.45 lakh hectares with production aimed at 19.67 lakh tonnes of gur. This will be mainly achieved by saturating the area under sugarcane, with High Yielding Varieties through systematic seed multiplication and distribution programme.

offtake of fertiliser during 1979-80 will be increased to 3.40 lakh tonnes of Nitrogen, 0.90 lakh tonnes of phosphoric acid and 0.90 lakh tonnes of Potash.

In addition, the use of organic manures will be augmented by distributing a quantity of 1000 M.Ts. of green manures seed. Preparation and use of Blue Green Algae and application of micronutrients will be intensified during 1979-80

Plant protection plays a vital part in the Crop Production. During 1979-80 it has been programmed to stock sufficient quantities of required pesticides and distribute to the farmers. With the assistance of the 7 Mobile Service Units and the one Plant Protection Squad at Thanjavur district, it is programmed to hire out sprayers to the farmers.

New Varieties:

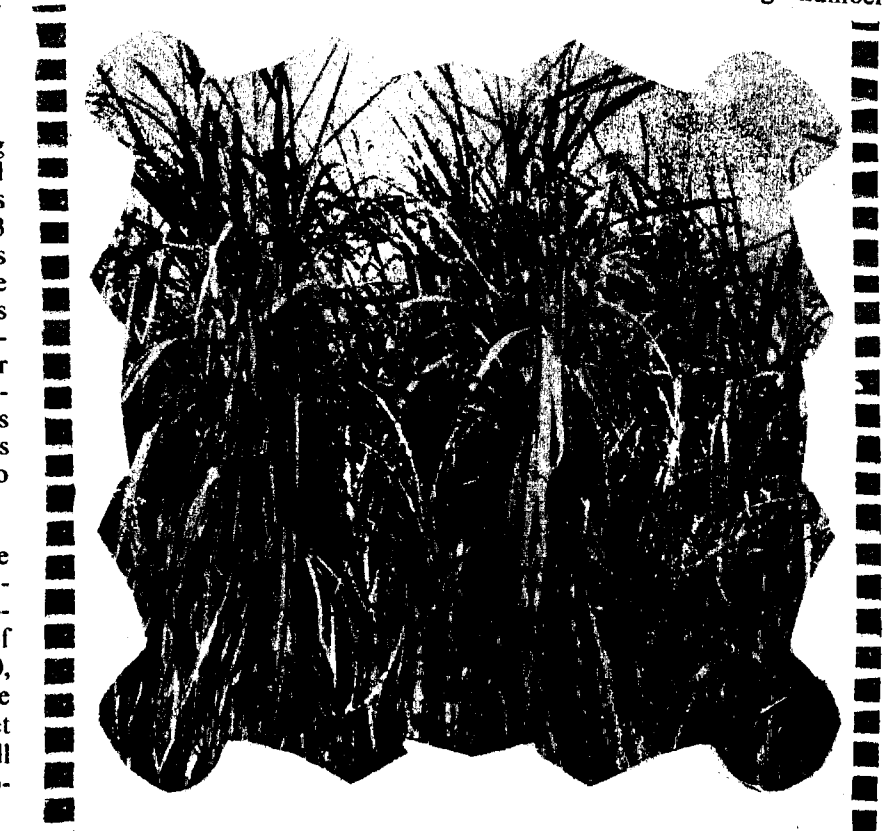
The department has released six varieties of paddy, three varieties of millets, two varieties of pulses and one oilseed variety. These varieties possess peculiar qualities suited to the different agroclimatic situation of this state and the farmers could choose any one as per their choice.

Dry Farming:

Attention is bestowed on dry-farming to support a large number

Inflow of outputs:

Effective steps were taken to supply the seeds, fertilizers and pesticides in right time in right quantity and in right quality. During 1979-80, it has been programmed to supply 9500 tonnes of paddy 275 tonnes of sugarcane, 480 tonnes of cholam, 160 tons of Maize, 175 tons of Ragi, certified seeds to the farmers. The



through the introduction of new High Yielding Varieties and hybrids and by bringing new areas under their influence.

Pulses:

The present area of 11 lakh hectares under pulses crop will be stepped upto 11.60 lakh hectares during 1979-80. The additional area will be covered by bringing pulses under (1) pure crop (2) Mixed Cropping and (3) Rice fallows. The production will be boosted to 3.58 lakh tonnes by advocating improved techniques and adequate timely supply of inputs.

Oilseeds:

To meet the ever increasing demand for edible oil it is proposed to step up the production of oilseeds from 14.07 lakh tonnes to 16.03 lakh tons. The area under oilseeds will also be increased from the present level of 13.37 lakh hectares to 14.57 lakh hectares. The increase in area will be mostly under irrigated condition where the productivity is high. New techniques like application of micro nutrients and Gypsum will be intensified to increase the production.

Stress will be laid to increase the area under coconut and to increase its productivity. It is proposed to distribute 13 lakhs of coconut seedlings during 1979-80, which is a lakh increase over the previous year distribution. To meet the increased demand for Tall x Dwarf varieties a scheme to pro-

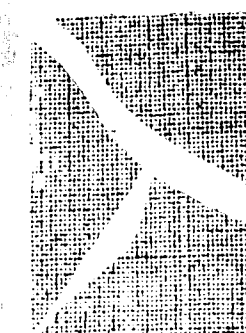


of rural poor with modern technology.

Demonstration plots in large extent in dry tracts each covering 1000 acres on watershed basis have been organised during this year. One to two such demonstrations in each district has been planned during this year.

Land Development:

Tractors and Bulldozers will be put to work for 2,50,000 hours during the year 1979-80 to level an area of 7000 hectares and to plough an area of 22,500 hectares. To tap the ground water, it is programmed to sink 4,300 tube wells and 2,500 filter point tube wells besides deepening



raise 32,000 hectares of Gingelly crop. 16,000 tons of Gingelly valued Rs. 6, crores was produced this year benefitting the farmers of the area.

Irrigation from Mettur Dam :

The Mettur Dam was opened for irrigation on 12th June this year. Such an early release was done 12 years back only. This early opening is expected to benefit the farmers of Thanjavur delta to raise 2 lakh hectares of Kuruvai crop.

Training:

With a view to popularise the everchanging technological developments among the farmers training centres are functioning in all districts of Tamil Nadu. About 30,000 farmers will be trained during this years by these Farmers Training Centres.

Thus Tamil Nadu is marching ahead with all determination and development in the farm front. The Development of appropriate technology through research, dedicated extension activities, training programmes, Government assistance and close cooperation of the farmers indicate a bright future in the farm front in Tamil Nadu.

ing 2,700 existing wells and bringing additional area under irrigation and supplementing irrigation during 1979-80. It is also programmed to undertake boring in 2200 wells to increase the present yield. Under soil conservation programme an area of 42,820 hectares were brought under the scheme in plains and Hilly tract of this State. It has been programmed to bring out 60,000 hectares during the current year under the above scheme.

Increased Gingelly production under Lower Bhavani Project:

The Lower Bhavani Project was thrown open for a third crop for the first time during this year. This has facilitated the farmers to



T. V. VASUDEVAN, I. A. S.,
Secretary for R.D.L.A.

A NEW 1

The wheel of nature has created a cyclic necessity for mankind to work to eat and to eat to work. This wheel has been in operation ever since the days of the creation of man and is eternal. It can have no rest.

When a man is hungry he is induced to think of work. The thought thus translated into action brings forth cash and paper notes which—helps to buy food stuffs suitable for one's needs. Hunger is appeased. Hunger which induces the—thought of work gets appeased and now the thought of rest supervenes. When hunger reaches forth like the morning sun such rest has to evaporate like the early morning dew. Again, the thought of work bubbles up at the end of rest.

To remove the obstacles between work and food, the "food for work plan" was evolved.

The "Food for work Programme" was started by the Central Government during 1977. Under this programme, the Central Government supplied Wheat and Maida free of cost to the states. The object of this programme is to create permanent social services.

Tamil Nadu, mainly a rice consuming area was not able to benefit through this scheme because only wheat was supplied.

Therefore the Government of Tamil Nadu thought that it would approach the Government of India requesting the supply of rice, so that the food for work plan may be implemented for the benefit of the rural public.

Our Government was victorious after—relentless efforts. Accordingly, a request was made for 66,300 tonnes, of rice for distribution in Tamil Nadu. The Central Government has sanctioned an amount of 47,000 tonnes for the year 1979-'80. Already 30,000 tonnes have been received.

The Chief objectives of this programme :

- (1) it induces the rural people to work briskly, shaking off lethargy,
- (2) to maintain irrigation works and roads as permanent properties.
- (3) to protect public works properly,
- (4) to provide the workers with foodgrains from the stock.

The food for work scheme differs from other schemes. The foodgrains are given to the workers in

person. There is no room for touts or contractors. The foodgrain will not be distributed through contractors in any situation. As a result, the workers get benefitted in a large measure from the wages for their work.

Though the Central Government provides the foodgrains, the responsibility of implementing the scheme lies with the State Governments.

Major and minor irrigation works are created through this scheme. The irrigation works already in existence are improved further. The work of preventing floods is expedited. The ups and downs in an area

is removed and leveled. The land is made ready for tilling. Plans for minor dam works are not shelved but implemented. School buildings come up. Roads are improved. Transport facilities to interior places are improved.

As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned a number of schemes are being implemented. As a result some thousands of working class benefit daily. This scheme aims to create a spirit that public property is own property in the minds of the people, raise the economic standard of the people, mitigate inflation, remove the disparities between the rich and the poor, and therefore the scheme will be a new milestone in the development of the villages.





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TNAU MARCHES ON



**A. VENKATARAMAN, I.A.S.,
VICE—CHANCELLOR.**

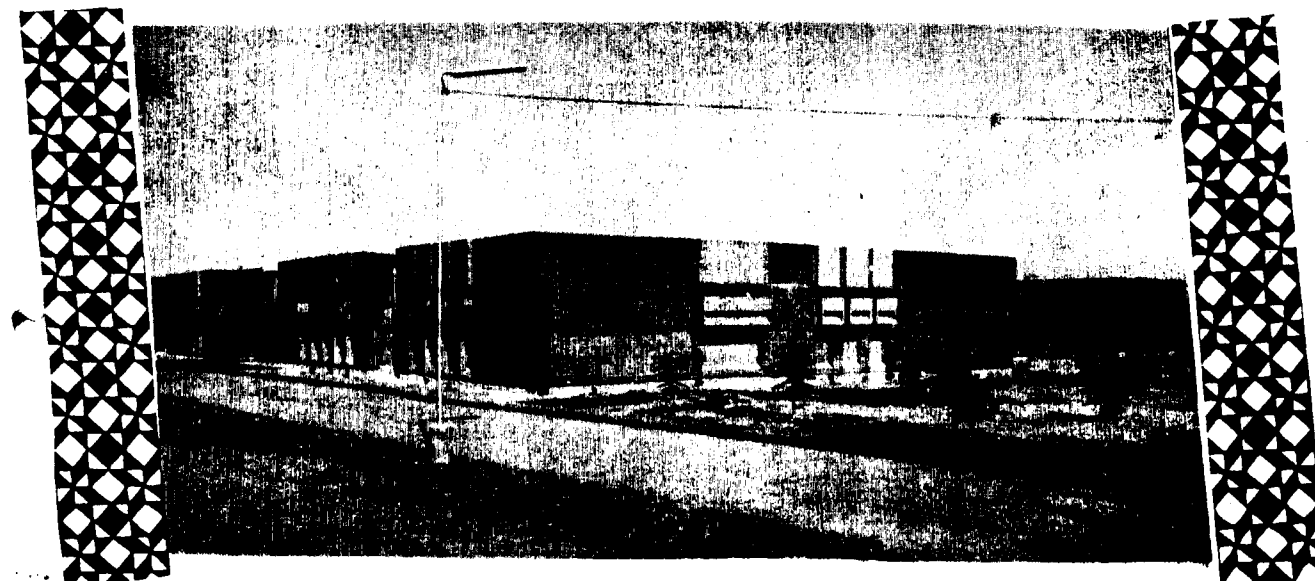
Tamilnadu Agricultural University.

four farmers' institutes have been established at Coimbatore, Madurai, Trichy and Pondicherry. In all these centres of learning research activities in their concerned field of specialisation are undertaken by qualified scientific personnel. Besides, 22 research units have also been established in various parts of the state to carry out situation-specific, problem-solving, time-bound research programmes. Right at present TNAU provides higher education in the fields of agriculture, animal sciences, agricultural engineering and fisheries. Research activities are undertaken in all these major fields and also in forestry which is in its infancy.

Rural development largely depends upon availability and adoption of innovations suited to the socio-economic situation of the people. Education enables development of innovations and facilitates faster adoption in a social group. The twin responsibilities of higher education in agriculture and research development to ensure faster development of agriculture in our state of Tamil Nadu have been entrusted with the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University.

Infrastructure :

The main campus of the University is situated at Coimbatore with colleges for agriculture, basic sciences horticulture and agricultural engineering. Institutions for providing higher education in veterinary sciences are located at Madras. Two other colleges for agricultural education and fishery science are functioning at Madurai and Tuticorin respectively. To provide direct contact with the farming community



Major Contributions :

438 students are admitted every year for the under-graduate courses leading to a degree in the fields of agriculture, horticulture, agricultural engineering, veterinary sciences and fisheries. Another 417 students are provided with facilities to pursue higher education leading to M.Sc. and Ph. D. in 32 departments in the faculty of agriculture, horticulture, basic sciences, agricultural engineering and veterinary science. Thus the TNAU amply takes care of the needs of the State for trained manpower in this vital sector.

As a result of sustained research activities 60 new varieties in Rice,



through mass media, extension personnel, farmers institutes and publication of literature. TNAU conducts exclusive courses for farmers through the All India Radio and so far 3458 farmers have participated in 14 special courses. Besides bringing out various publications on scientific topics in English and Tamil, we are publishing a monthly journal "Vallarum Ve lanmai" in Tamil for the benefit of our farmers.

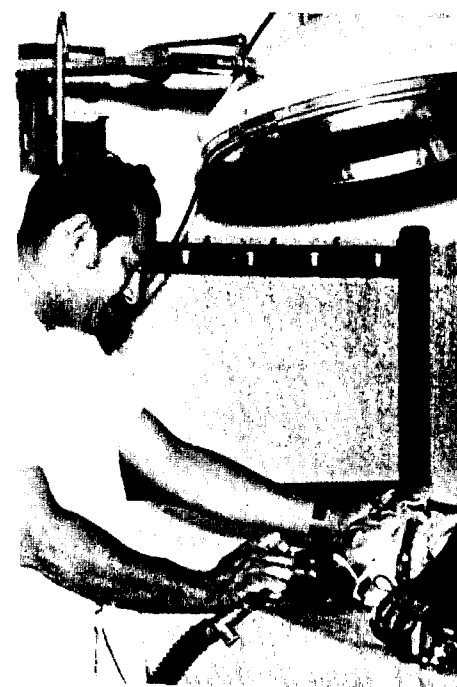
Our immediate goals :

Facilities in all the academic institutions will have to be greatly strengthened to provide a practical skill oriented education to the stu-



is under progress. Evaluating some of the agro-industrial by-products as feed ingredient with the object of reducing the feed cost was made and the materials studied were gobar-gas slurry, Brewers spent grains, spent tea dust, leaf meals of papaya, tapioca and mulberry. Systems for better management and health cover for various animals have been systematically worked out at the Veterinary College, Madras and passed on to the clientele group. A production method of fish culture in sewage water has been perfected and put to large scale use. New techniques in mango pruning, propagation of plants, processing of horticultural products have been found out.

Recent findings are communicated to the rural community



Sorghum, Bajra, Ragi, oilseeds, vegetables, cotton and other major crops of the State have been released by the TNAU. Twelve modern implements and tools to carry out farm operations efficiently have been designed and made available for popularisation among farmers. New methods in seed production, seed processing and seed storage have been evolved. Various agronomic measures to preserve soil fertility and improve production efficiency, better methods of soil conservation and water management, efficient plant protection control measures, new methods of processing and preservation, have been studied carefully and results communicated to the farming community for adoption. A new breed of poultry Meyer strain has been evolved at the Teynampet poultry research station. Study of the performance of wooly breed for Tamil Nadu with 5/8 Merino and 3/8 Nilgiri inheritance



ing research activities through an interdisciplinary team of scientists will facilitate faster development in this badly neglected sector. Water is the chief constraint for agricultural production in our State. Better water management practices in command areas will have to be evolved in collaboration with the personnel of the public works and other connected departments. Production of fibres, oilseeds, pulses, vegetables and fruits has not attained the desirable levels in our State. Research activities which will lead to a break-through in production of these crops will have to be undertaken in a massive scale. Better methods of



dent. The teacher-student ratio will have to be narrowed by reducing the intake in each institution and by opening one or two more new academic institutions so as to improve the quality of teaching and learning.

Enough attention has not been bestowed upon dry farming and water management so far. Besides continuously working on irrigated farm techniques special efforts should be bestowed upon developing new strategies to improve the socio-economic condition of the rural people in the upland areas. Setting up of a research station in one of the drought prone areas and undertak-

livestock management and health care will have to be evolved and popularised. Social forestry, horticultural forestry, inland fisheries development, agro processing techniques will have to be given better attention. Continuous monitoring of socio-economic constraints for production will pave way for mid-stream correction of development activities. There is a tremendous need to evolve low cost protection techniques without sacrificing total production of various agricultural commodities. The Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, conscious of these needs, is concentrating its attention on all these vital areas and will definitely play a dominant fruitful role in the further development of our state.



Dr. K. VENKATARAMAN,
I. A. S.,
CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR,
*The Tamilnadu Agro Industries
Corporation Ltd.*

Agro industries provide inputs to agriculture or draw inputs from it. To the former category belong improved agricultural implements, fertilisers, pesticides etc. Agro processing facilities such of those for rice, sugarcane, oil seeds etc. belong to the latter category.

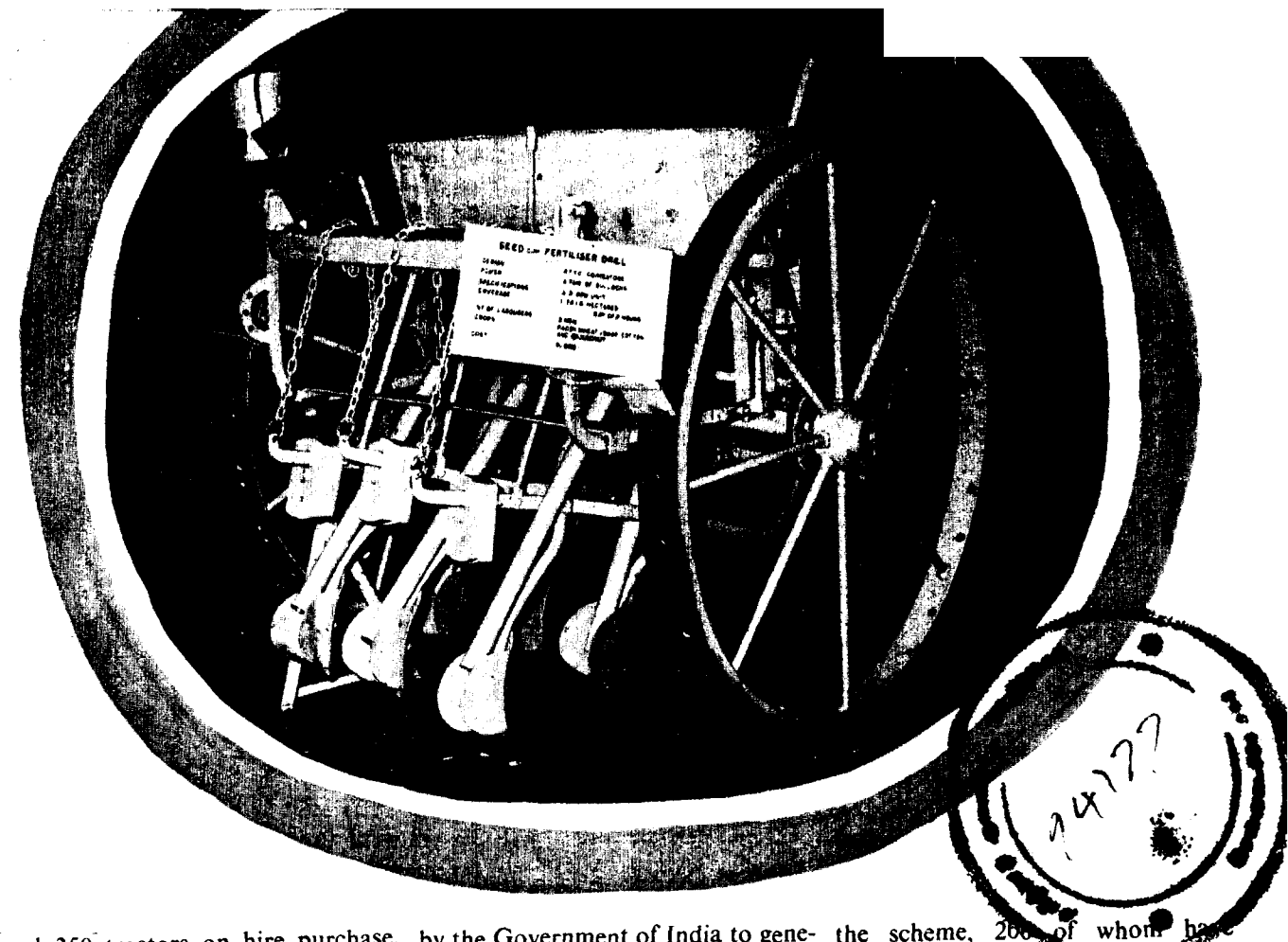
Considerable progress has been made in Tamil Nadu in agricultural development both in terms of the type and varieties of crops raised and the yields therefrom. Agro industrial facilities created so far can claim their share of credit for this achievement. A number of improved agricultural implements as well as mechanised tractors and power tillers have been introduced and are in great demand today. Arrangements for manufacture of fertilisers and a widespread net work for their distribution have been made. Likewise different types of pesticides which are needed for the crops are being distributed through a variety of means.

While the task is on the one hand to streamline such arrangements and ensure that in terms of quantity and quality they are adequate to meet the growing demands including those of small farmers, there is need on the other hand for wide spread agro processing facilities which are essential for a number of reasons. They will be instrumental in creating a steady effective demand for the agricultural products and also in ensuring that reasonably

remunerative prices are offered to the farmers. Without such support the efforts in increasing the productivity of agriculture will not be meaningful. Suitable agro-processing facilities will also ensure a redistribution of the pattern of agricultural crops with an increased emphasis on those which are commercially remunerative and/or socially useful. Such processing facilities have been created to a very

substantial extent in Tamilnadu particularly in terms of sugar mills and modern rice mills. In as much as agriculture requires a wide variety of inputs and also produces a wide variety of outputs, the scope for agro industries is very wide.

The Tamilnadu Agro Industries Corporation in its existence for over a decade concentrated initially on providing inputs to agriculture particularly through the supply of tractors and pumpsets on sale and hire purchase basis and later through custom hiring of tractors. Between 1968-69 and 1970-71, the Corporation supplied about 11000 pumpsets



and 350 tractors on hire purchase. The scheme was discontinued when the Land Development Banks and Commercial Banks started giving financial assistance for this purpose. In addition the Corporation has sold about 2,715 tractors and spare parts worth Rs. 2.95 crores. The Corporation has also been providing customs hiring and servicing facilities as an essential service to the farmers. With the provision of custom hiring facilities through ENCOFED (Tamilnadu Agro Engineering and Service Co-operative Federation Limited) which has 220 centres in the state, the Corporation's role in custom hiring will not be extended. But it will continue to sell tractors, power tillers and spare parts in an increasing measure.

The activities mentioned above are being implemented through seven regional centres and ten sub-centres. These centres also manufacture and sell certain improved types of agricultural implements. Greater scope exists in this regard through a more co-ordinated effort with extension agencies. One of the improved implements developed by the Corporation is a multipurpose plough for dry farming.

The Corporation has also been implementing a scheme sponsored

by the Government of India to generate employment opportunities for graduates and diploma holders in engineering or agriculture and to encourage them to settle in rural areas on vocations promoting agricultural activities. During the past seven years 284 candidates have been trained by the Corporation under

the scheme, 266 of whom have started agro service centres in various rural areas of the State.

The Corporation is also operating a pesticides project and supplying pesticides worth about Rs. 59.10 lakhs to the farmers.

Another plant of the Corporation manufactures fishnet from nylon and polythene. The Corporation's products have been very well received by the users.

The Corporation's major efforts are now devoted to the establishment of agro processing facilities. The Corporation's entry into the edible oil trade is of particular significance in providing some scope for the public sector to stabilise edible oil price and provide good quality edible oil. The Corporation's facilities for solvent extraction which exist in Namakkal and Pochampalli and are being installed in Punakulam in Pudukkottai District and Maman-dur in Chengalpattu District will enable the solvent extraction of groundnut oil cake, for which adequate facilities have not so far existed in the State. The Corporation has made a good beginning in exporting deoiled cake and supplying good quality solvent extracted refined oil to consumers.



The Corporation's Oil Complex in Pochampalli is even more significant. The Corporation has been able to pioneer the use of Sunflower oil for edible purposes in India in a big way and has established a market for it with the brand name "SUNOLA" which has become a household word in the State. The Corporation's effort will not only lead to a significant augmentation of the pool of edible oil within the country but also a more wide-spread cultivation of sunflower which is a short term crop and can grow in different types of soil and water conditions. As a result the prospect for agriculture particularly for small

course be used for human consumption as well. A small experimental unit run in Udumalpet has enabled a steady income for farmers cultivating about 100 acres of lucerne and at the same time provided good quality ingredient for animal feed to manufacturers of cattle and poultry feed. This unit is expected to be replicated in several other locations in the State in the coming years.

A maize milling unit also located at Udumalpet is intended to provide a stable demand for the maize grown in that area. The lucerne plant and the maize plant together constitute the nucleus of an agro industrial

tions in a more effective way. Projects under consideration include cotton ginning units, tin making units, a fruit processing unit and a cattle feed unit. The Corporation has also initiated trading activities for distribution of fertilisers, pesticides and steel to farmers, which are expected to assume larger dimensions in the coming years.

Considering the wide range of agro industrial opportunities the Corporation will also try to promote the establishment of agro industries in the State in addition to operating units of its own. A small information and consultancy wing has



farmers in dry farming tracts have considerably improved. The Corporation has offered a minimum price of Rs. 2.25 per kg. for sunflower seed with a view to increase the area under sunflower cultivation in the state. A beginning has been made to provide through commercial banks loan assistance to farmers for cultivating sunflower.

Another significant venture of the Corporation is in providing a typically rural, labour intensive agro processing facility for lucerne, which is a good leaf protein which is used in cattle feed and could in due

complex in Udumalpet which is situated right along side of the regulated market. In juxtaposing the regulated market facilities and the agro processing facilities the Corporation is experimenting with a new type of agro industrial complex which may be worth replicating in other market centres in due course.

The Corporation is drawing up a fresh corporate plan. In the meantime its future interest would be in the expansion and consolidation of its existing activities and also integrating its existing activities to utilise the outputs from its various opera-

been created for this purpose. Besides, the Corporation intends to adopt a district in which it will, through a team of specialists, identify specific agro industrial projects, prepare project profiles in co-operation with the banking institutions and interest potential entrepreneurs and financial agencies in implementing such projects. This work will be carried out in co-operation with concerned agencies, particularly the district industries centre. Based on the results the scheme could be repeated in other districts.



IN MODERN times publicity through mass media lays a great role in informing the people and analysing their support for the development plans and welfare schemes of the Government. It is a nation-building activity designed to strengthen the foundations of democracy. It has to motivate the beneficiaries. Therefore the modern methods of publicity through mass media is of great advantage to the Government and the people. In a democratic set-up a well informed public is an asset and necessary to carry forward the developmental works.

The most effective media to create a rapport between the people, especially the rural mass and the Government have been found to be the radio and television in a developing nation like India. The impact made by the radio and T.V. among the people in rural areas has been so great that full advantage has been taken not only to disseminate information but also to educate them about the developmental activities of the Government.

Radio and television have many functions to discharge. They can provide the motivation for economic activities and social change, create the climate for development works and influence attitudes. They can also help in imparting various types of education and training to the people in the rural areas, particularly to the farmers. They have the advantage of reaching millions even in remote corners overcoming the barriers of illiteracy. They do not depend on the physical facilities of roads and communications for reaching their targets. They are direct, personal and intimate and hence capable of providing an immediate impact.

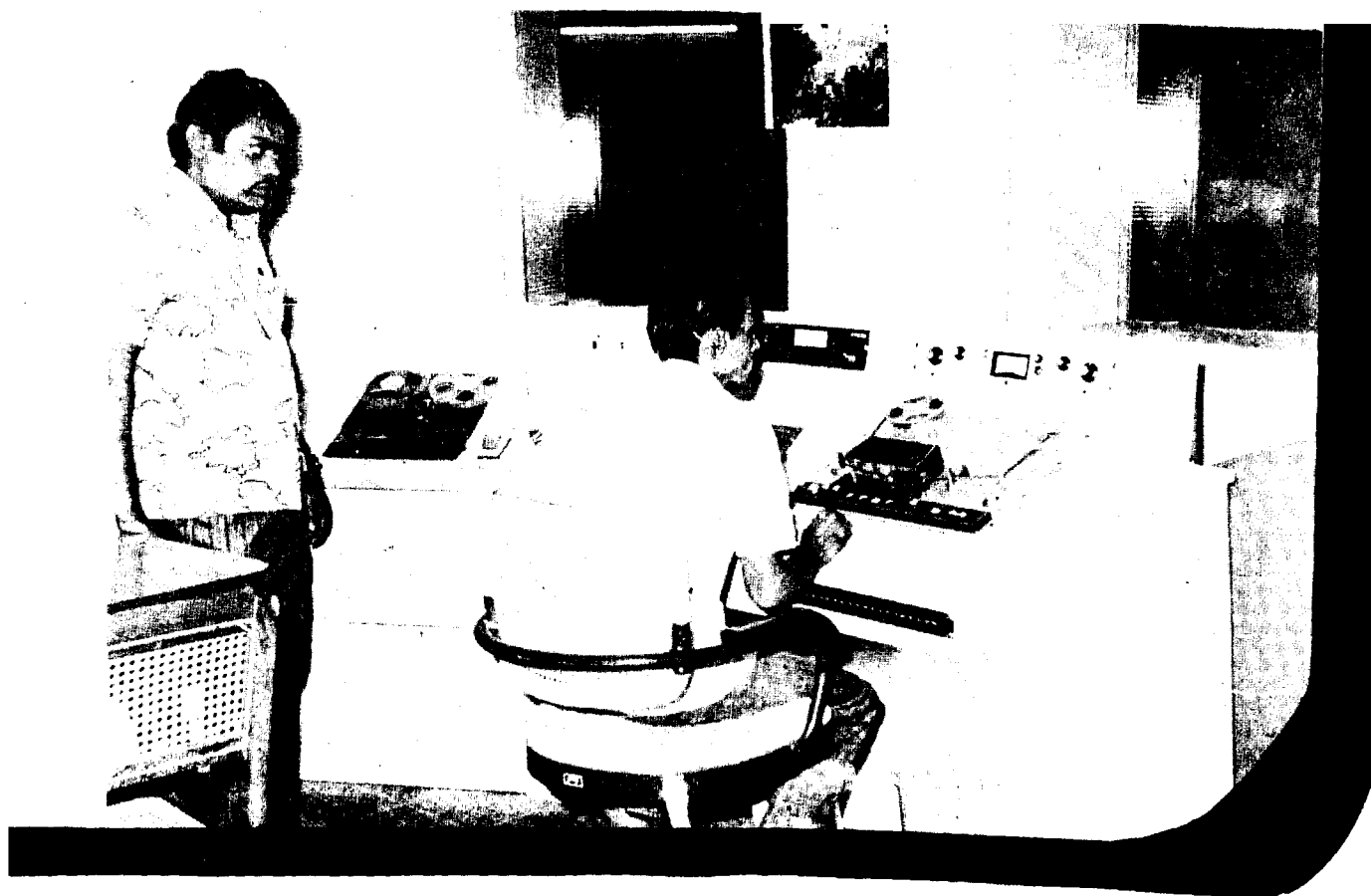
As the majority of our population live in villages, rural development has been the primary concern of radio and television. Today the performance of the All India Radio is really creditable as they reach 93% of the population. There are 174 lakhs broadcasting receiver license holders in India today. It will thus be seen that radio broadcasts have made vast strides in India and influences the people very much.

Madras has the distinction of pioneering Radio broadcasts in India. The first Radio club in India was formed at Madras on May 16, 1924, using a low power transmitter of vintage design. This was later taken over by the Madras Corporation, which started a regular broadcasting service at Madras in 1930. This transmitter is now preserved in the Madras Museum. However, the history of organised broadcasting in India began on July 23, 1927 when a 1.5 KW: MW transmitter was inaugurated in Bombay under the designation of 'Indian State Broadcasting Service'. This was redesignated as All India Radio on June 8, 1936.

In 1947 when India achieved Independence there were only six Radio stations and the total coverage was only 2.5% by population and 8% by area. On 1-4-1974 the area covered had increased to 67.5% and the population coverage to 82.5%.

Rural broadcasting

THE ALL INDIA RADIO station at Tiruchirapalli which is a premier centre of Rural broadcasting uses modern portable recording equipment for on-the-spot recordings for Farm and Home Unit. During the year 1976-77, as many as 620 villages were visited and



the station did a total number of 909 outside broadcast recording relays. Again, Madras occupies the pride of place in having installed the first frequency modulation broadcasting service in India, which was inaugurated in July 1977. This new technique in broadcasting will provide very high fidelity and noise free reception when within its service, range of about 40 K.Ms.

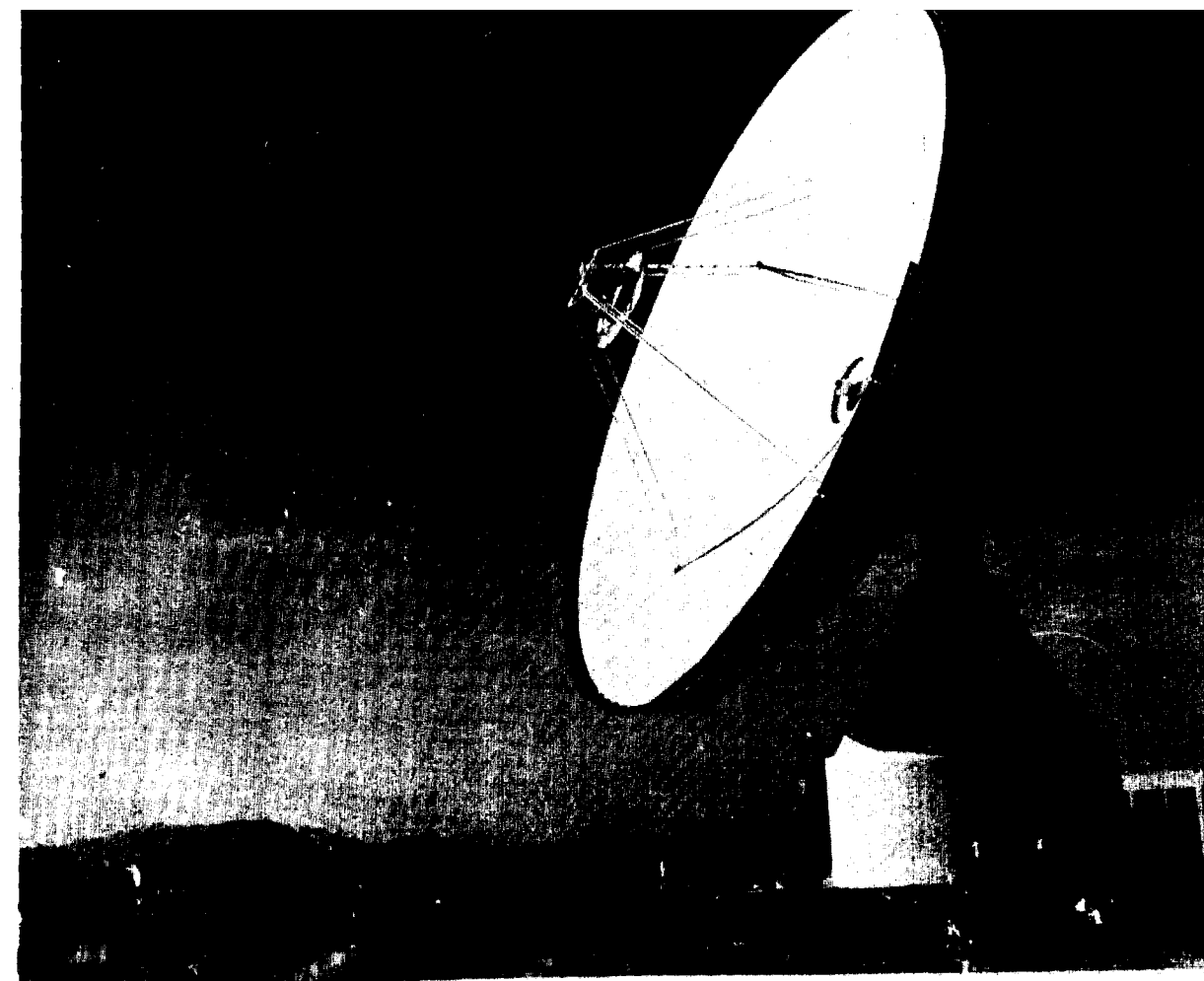
Tamil Nadu realised the unique advantage of radio broadcasts and took steps to instal community

radio sets in villages from the year 1937 when prohibition was first introduced in the State. There are now 45,499 community radio sets in the State. Special programmes for farmers and others are broadcast at set times which are heard through these community radio sets. Radio Rural Forums in villages act as the eyes and ears of these broadcasts, and supply sufficient feed-back on listeners' reactions which help the authorities to plan further. Hundreds and thousands of farmers have been benefited by these broadcasts.

The radio has played a major role in the "green revolution" brought about in the country by giving proper and timely advice to the farmers on improved methods of cultivation. The All India Radio broadcasts from Madras, Tiruchy, Coimbatore and Triunelveli Stations extensively cover Tamil Nadu, with a rural bias. The programmes cover subjects like agriculture, animal husbandry, rural planning, health, adult education, maternity and child welfare, small savings, rural and small industries and current affairs. There is cooperation and coordination of efforts between the media wings of the Government of Tamil Nadu and the All India Radio. Since the rural masses are mostly illiterate and poor, it is necessary to evolve special techniques for putting across the news regarding plan schemes and social and economic developments. Experiences of one region are broadcast to others. The radio has been extremely useful in reaching the people instantly and to post them with upto-date news and information.

Television

TELEVISION has been a recent innovation in the field of mass communication. Tamil Nadu had its first T.V. station at Madras from 15-8-75 catering to a limited area of about 19 K.M. radius. It was extended



to a radius of 90 K.M. from 4-7-76. The Government of India have supplied 114 T.V. sets to the Government of Tamil Nadu free of cost under Community viewing scheme for supply to the villages to popularise the programmes and other activities of Government of India and Government of Tamil Nadu among the rural people. These sets have been installed in villages and it is found that the present transmission covers the entire district of Chingleput, and the Panchayat Union area of Arkonam. Nemili, Cheyyar, Vembakkam Kaveripakkam and Anakkavur of North Arcot District and Marakkanam and Olakkur Panchayat Union areas of South Arcot. These sets are being maintained by the Panchayat Radio Maintenance Organisation.

Recently the Government of Tamil Nadu has permitted the Panchayats and the Panchayat Unions to instal and maintain T.V. sets to be financed from their funds. It has been decided to instal 1500 T.V. sets in the three districts of Chengleput, North Arcot and South Arcot on a phased programme. In addition to these, the schools will also purchase T.V. sets. In all 1700 sets are expected to be installed in the near future. A separate "T.V. Maintenance Cell" for Tamil Nadu has been created for the purpose of installing and maintaining T.V. sets in the Panchayats, Municipalities and the Corporation of Madras. The T.V. cell will be under the control of the Director of Rural Development and located at the Instronic Campus at Adyar Madras

T.V. Clubs have been formed on the lines of the Radio Rural Forums so that a feed-back is obtained. These clubs are also supplied with free stationery and stamps to induce them to write their reactions to the T.V. programmes.

The T.V. has brought a new excitement to the village folk. In small groups people from within and neighbourhood quickly assemble at the local panchayat office. For over two hours they intently listen and see the programmes. While the T.V. is still beyond the reach of many well-to-do people, the poor and the lower middle-class people in villages are fortunate to benefit from this modern facility.

To plan the programmes in a manner more beneficial to the villagers, the Government of Tamil Nadu has set up a committee consisting of representatives from almost all departments. This consultative committee which periodically meets, discusses the suggestion from officials and the T.V. clubs and formulates the future programmes.

Thus mass Communication media of radio and television have been put to the advantage of both the Government and the people. With the increase in literacy it is hoped that the utility of these media will increase substantially.





BHARAT BHAGYA VIDHATA

On 15th August 1947, we the people of India became the "dispensers of our own destiny" ("Bharat Bhagya Vidhata"). The 32nd Anniversary of our Independence Beckons us Today

- ★ to gather strength and inspiration from our achievements
- ★ to work with renewed efforts for a better tomorrow.

In 32 years of Independence.....

- ★ we have successfully repulsed external threats to the integrity of our country
- ★ average life expectancy has risen from 32 to 52 years
- ★ we have more than doubled our foodgrains production
- ★ our industrial production has more than quadrupled
- ★ foreign exchange reserves exceed Rs. 5,000 crores

"It is a cause of legitimate national pride that.....a stagnant and dependent economy has been modernised and made more self-reliant." to quote the current Five Year Plan draft.

**LET US TAKE PRIDE IN OUR ACHIEVEMENTS
FOR PROSPERITY AND INDEPENDENCE,
LET US REMAIN UNITED**

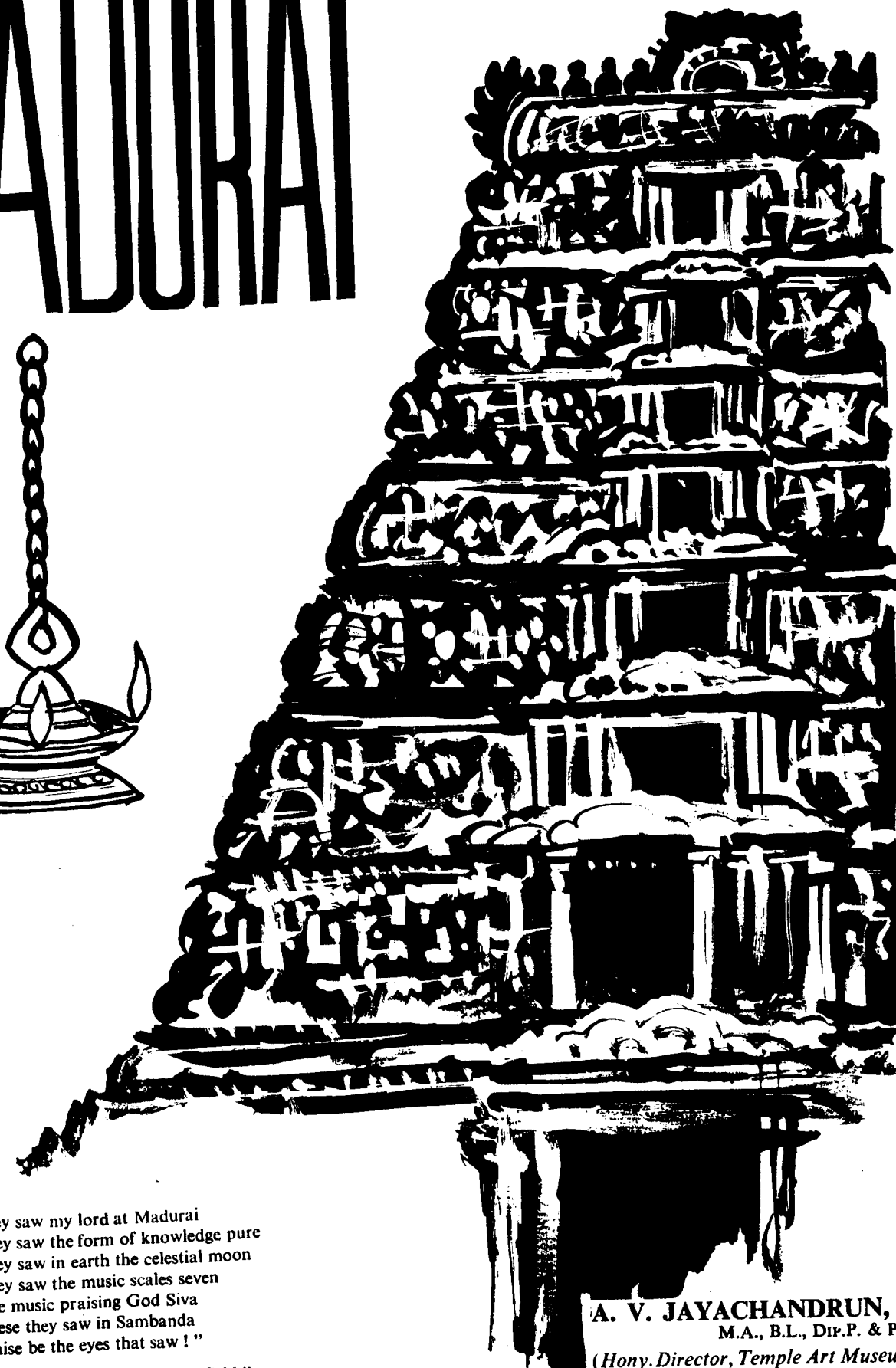
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MADURAI



" They saw my lord at Madurai
They saw the form of knowledge pure
They saw in earth the celestial moon
They saw the music scales seven
The music praising God Siva
These they saw in Sambanda
Praise be the eyes that saw ! "

—Saint Sekkilar
(Peria Puranam)



A. V. JAYACHANDRUN,
M.A., B.L., Dip.P. & P.A.

(Hony. Director, Temple Art Museums
Madurai. Special Officer. Museums,
Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams,
Tirumala

Madurai is one of the very few cities of the world that claims a continuous history of over two millennium. When the now mammoth cities of Bombay and Madras were just fishing hamlets and the present most populated city of India-Calcutta, was a tiny village of mud-flats, the name of Madurai was known to the civilised world as the capital of the Nayakar dynasty. Still earlier, about the beginnings

of the Christian Era, Madurai was the Capital of the Pandiyas with whom the Mediterranean world carried on trade and whom even the great Mauryan Asoka did not attempt to conquer. The mighty Cholas of the Mediaeval period tried to vanquish the Pandyas but failed. Everytime they were defeated, the Pandyas arose phoenix like from the ashes of their past glory and till the fourteenth century ruled Madurai continuously.

The Muslim generals, like Malik Kafur, Alauddin had planned to plunder the wealth of this great town during the 14th century. They carried away ton loads of gold, and jewellery, but could not rob its cultural ethos which till date remained distinct from the rest of the Tamil Nadu nay Bharat.

THE CHIEF ATTRACTION

The chief attraction, no doubt is the temple. With stately towers springing up over the tall gate-way-structures and the bewitching magnificence of the sculptured colonnades, the temple offers the tourists a new world to breathe, to live and to get enthralled in ecstatic delight. All the gods of the Hindu pantheon on the towers are arrayed in front of their eyes to gaze and slip into a mystic trance.

Despite several vicissitudes that affected it, the city has not lost its unique position. *Paripadal*, *Madurai Kanchi*, *Kalittogai*- all of the first to third century A.D. have described the temple and the city. These accounts are confirmed by a host of foreign writers. Megasthenes (302 A.D.) speaks of the Pandiyan country. Strabo (20 AD) records about an embassy sent by the Pandiyan King to the (emperor) Agustus. Pliny (77 AD) mentions the Pandae' the king Pandya and his 'mediterranean emporium of Madoura'. Ptolemy (140 AD) tells us of 'modoure', the kingdom of the 'Pandion'. Searching for later sources, we have the accounts of Marco Polo (1393 AD) and Ibn Batuta (1333-1345AD).

The uniqueness of the city, is that it is planned around the temple in almost concentric squares. A description of the fortification of Madurai, found in *Madurai Kanchi* informs us of the city being surrounded by thick forests not easily crossed by enemies, a deep moat and lofty,

walls pierced by huge gates with towers over them.

REGAL PATRONAGE

Very few cities in the world have for over thousands of years continued the throbs of life inspite of wars, pestilence, invasions and other onslaughts, as Madurai. The city has from the beginnings of the Christin era obtained the patronage of the illustrious rulers.

The earliest to take a deep abiding interest in the temple and the city was Kadungon (6th century A.D.). He constructed a compound wall of length 22 ft. and breadth 156 ft. around the simple temple of Sundaresvara, already in existence and referred to in the 7th and 8th century A.D. Tevaram Hynms. The temple grew as also the city. His successor to evince a greater interest in enlarging the city and throwing fortification around it was Jatavaraman Kulasekhara Pandyan (1163-1175). The East gate belonging to this fort is still seen, though now difficult to be identified due to its location amidst the labyrinth of shops. Kulasekharan built temples at all cardinal points around the fortification, and now except the Vishnu temple on the west all are in existence.

The temple chronicles, *Sthala-varalaru Tirupanimalai* records the munificence of kings in the temple expansion and renovation programmes. Most of the edifices of these illustrious monarchs were razed to the ground during the Muslim invasion of Madurai in the fourteenth and the present temple is due to the efforts of the Nayakars -the vassals of Vijayanagar Rulers.

An imaginative layout was conceived around the sanctums of the Lord and Minakshi (which alone escaped during the Muslim attack) by Vishvanatha Nayakar who restored peace and order in the Pandya empire during the sixteenth century. It fell to the lot of Tirumalai Nayakar, his beghin successor to complete the plan. Except a few additions during the subsequent centuries, the temple stands as it was left by Tirumalai Nayakar.

The British Collectors who ruled after the invasion of the city by Colonel Heron took considerable interest in the temple affairs. Rouse Peter, a Collector endearingly called Peter Pandyan emotionally associated himself with the temple. The wrath of the then rulers and the the Christian missionaries was on him. He brushed it aside and donated a gold strirrup still in the temple, as thanks giving to Minakshi for saving him from being killed by the cracked ceiling of his bungalow.

THE TEMPLE

The Minakshi Temple is a world of its own. Even in the small

hours of the morning viz. 4.30 A.M. the temple gates are open and ritualistic worship is commenced. Eight times a day are the lamps lit, the deities bathed, decorated, and offerings made, while *mantras* are repeated and *Nadasvaram* music is played.

During the night, the sacred foot of the Lord is carried in procession with a paraphernalia which even the head of a country will envy, to the sanctum of the Goddess where it is placed on a swing in a special bed chamber and where already the image of the Goddess is seated. Before the doors are closed, musical instruments are played, mantras are chanted and prayers are offered. Though modest this concluding festival of the day symbolised the union of primordial sakti *Kundalini* with the *Sahasrara* - the state of expanded consciousness in which the devoted experienced the absolute, in wakeful forgetfulness.

The yearly calendar of the temple is full of festival days, out of 365 days in a year 280 days are festival days at Madurai and the deities are taken out on perambulation.

The conventional entrance to the temple is through the Ashta Sakti Mandapam where pillar sculptures of Mahalakshmi, Vaishnavi, Raudri, Brahma, Koumari, Yagnarupini, Shyamala, Maheswari, Manonmani are found. Each goddess showers her special blessings even at the entrance to a devotee. The visitor then enters the five aisled Minakshi Nayakkar Mandapam fringed by the seven tired Gopuram called Citra Gopuram and another dark mandapam where the sculptures of Siva with begging bowl and the wives of Rishis entraptured with the naked beauty of the lord are seen.

From darkness unto light, the panoramic view of the Porramaraikulam, the Golden Lotus Tank unfolds itself. The golden Vimana sikhara of Minakshi and Sundares varar shrines and all the twelve gopurams of the temple could be viewed walking around this tank. The sayings of Valluvar, the Marcus Aurelius of the Tamil country whose work *Tirukkural* has been translated in all the languages of the world, adorn the walls of the South Corridor of the Golden Lotus Tank. It is believed that the work was first published at Madurai. Walk-



ing along the corridor we reach the precincts of the Minakshi Temple. Hindus only are admitted inside the Sanctum where the Goddess is viewed in standing position decked with pleasing apparel, jewellery and scented flowers. The face of Minakshi is touched with turmeric and sandal paste over the brows and we witness an enthralling sight. In her presence we experience a split-second-forgetfulness, a state of expanded awareness in which time loses into timelessness.

Coming out of the Goddess's shrine the temple complex of Sundaresvarar is entered through the South five-tiered Gopura called





Nadu Kattu Gopura. A rare treat-the mammoth figure of Mukkurini Vinayagar carved out of a single boulder invites us. Every year during August-September, the deity receives a huge food-ball of rice and dhal.

The sanctum of the Lord with a circumlatory passage into which only Hindus are admitted is of the size of a foot-ball field. Going around the peri-stylar passage you will feel history in your veins.

The sculptured pillars which portray the various alter egos of the Lord, are specimens of the finest work of the sculptor's chisel. In the figure of Agni and Aghora Virabhadras, Urdva Tandavar and Kali, motion is petrified in monoliths, an art learnt by the Pandyan sculptors and usefully portrayed in this great temple.

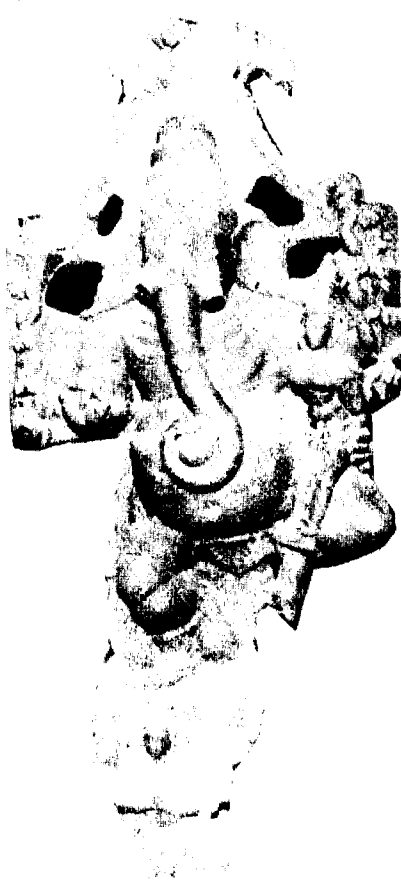
From this mandapam called Kambattadi Mandapam one can walk to the Kalyana Mandapa, where a portion is roofed with copper tiles. From there on to the Thousand Pillared Mandapam-the venue of the Temple Art Museum

THE ART OF MADURAI TEMPLE

In the architectural and sculptural history of Tamil Nadu Madurai Temple had a dignified place. It marked the last phase of an illustrious experiment made to build a multi-prakara-house of God on Agamic lines. The temple is a sculptural paradise though most

of the sculptures belonged to the periods later than the sixteenth century, yet for sheer grace and majesty of form, they had a few parallels. Artists well versed in Western and Eastern sculptural techniques created the thousand pillared hall transforming into Rococo.

The Temple Art Museum, housed in the Thousand pillared

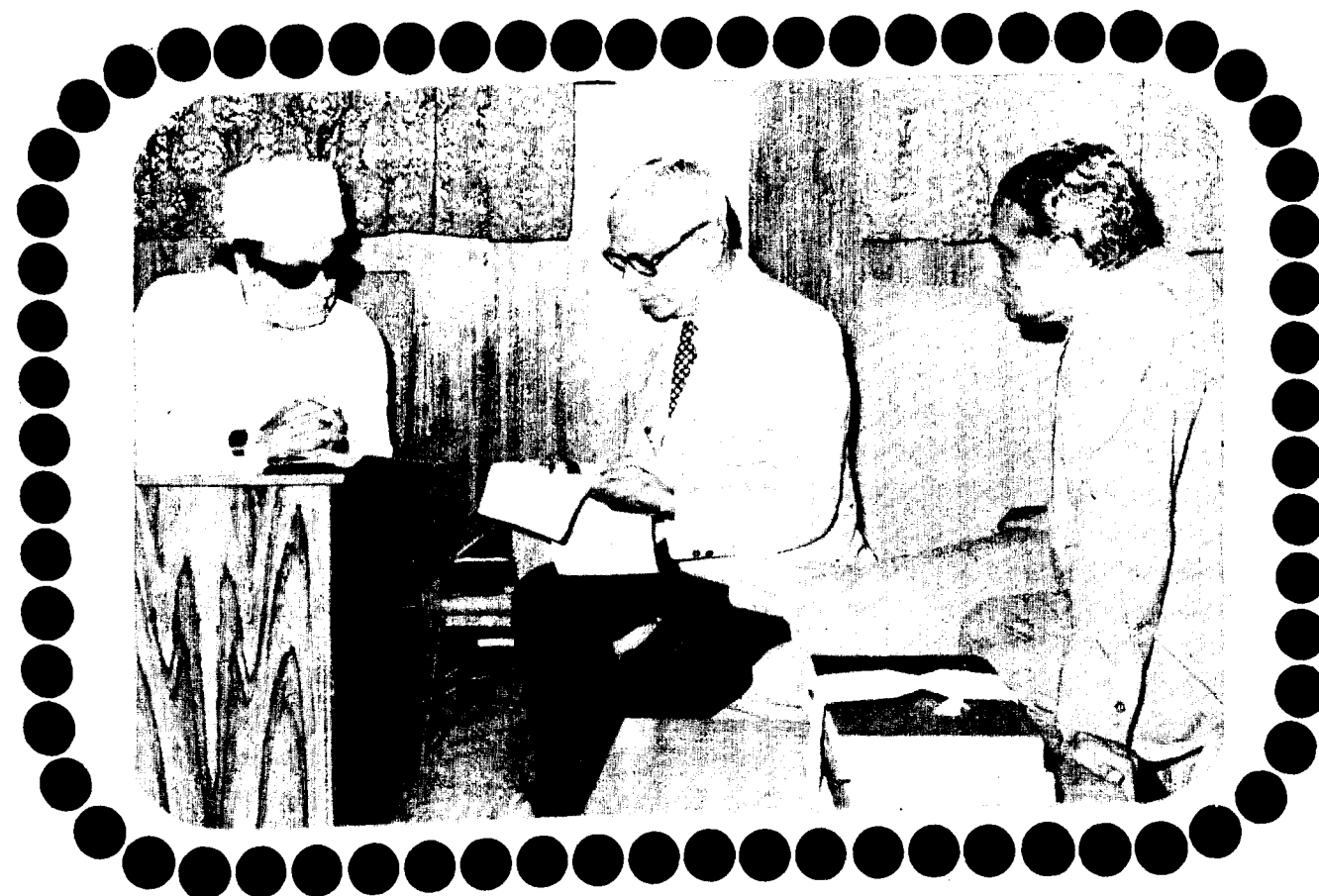


Hall, through imaginative exhibits presents, a glimpse of the evolutions of temple architecture of the South iconography and iconometry. Rare collections of bronzes, that speak of the glory of the artisans of the Southern districts, can be viewed in leisure at this Museum. Some of the bronzes date back to the days of Sundara Pandya of Twelfth century. If you have a camera you have a real treat here awaiting you in the sculptured hall of monolithic pillars. The sheer conception of both the form and content of this great hall is an eloquent testimony to the genius and skill of medieval craftsmen. The musical pillars in the Thousand Pillared Hall will be pointed out, if you ask any of the Museum guides. Before leaving the Museum do listen to its music.

It is at Pudu Mandapam that sculptures had escaped into a new spirit-converting the edifice into a decorative jewel.

The unfinished tower in front of Pudu Mandapam if completed would have been an acme of perfection the Nayakar craftsman desired a reach. It is here that one witness specimens of sculptural Art presented after a re-study, and newer inspiration injected in the veins of the craftsmen due to upsurge of the ethos of the age.

The Madurai Temple, dedicated to Minakshi and Sundareswarar, is just not a temple, it is a cultural, an art paradise, an embodiment of all the values that Saiva Agamas wanted to perpetuate to ensure a lasting peace amidst humanity.



PRISONS REFORMS COMMISSION REPORT

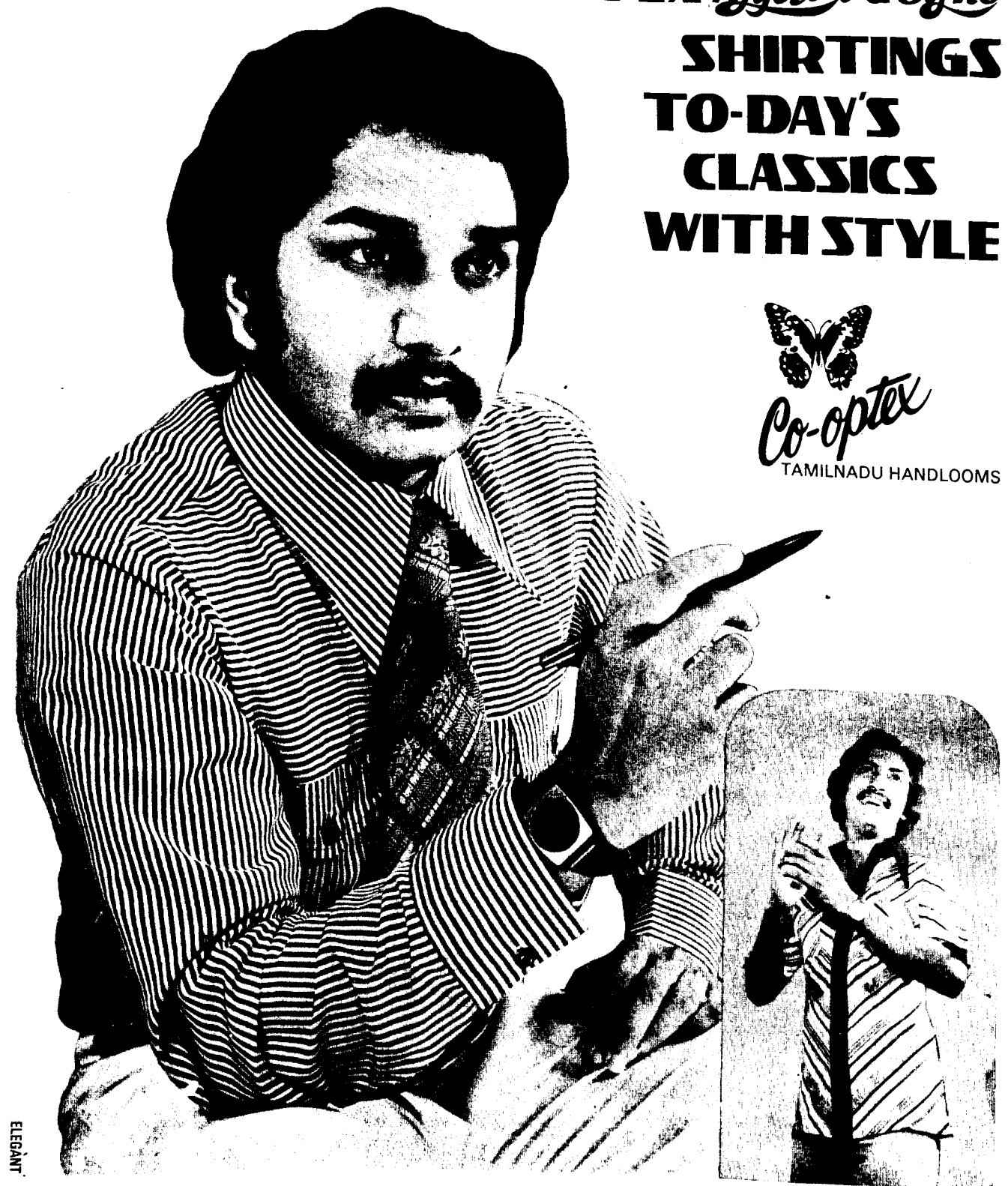
The report of the Tamil Nadu Prisons Reforms Commission was presented to the Chief Minister on 28-4-'79 by Thiru R. L. Narasimhan former Chief Justice of Patna High Court.

The three-part report consists of 178 recommendations. The report was prepared under the guide lines of Thiru Narayanasamy, Honourable Minister for Law.

The Chairman of the Commission while submitting the report to the Chief Minister said that the generous attitude and progressive views of the Chief Minister have been incorporated in the recommendations. He said that he is looking forward to the day when Tamil Nadu will stand in the forefront in India in the matter of treatment of prisoners with proper accommodation facilities, by implementing the recommendations.

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ELEGANT

Water
Water
every Where
And many a drop to drink



K. MADHAVA SHARMA I.A.S. Managing Director Tamilnadu Water and Drainage Board.

Over 80% of the total population of our country live in villages; but the villages have few amenities essential to life such as drinking water compared to towns. The Tamil Nadu Government have given top priority to solve the drinking water supply problem in the rural areas and to bridge the gap between towns and villages in this respect.

STATUS OF RURAL WATER SUPPLY IN VILLAGES BEFORE IMPLEMENTATION OF RURAL WATER SUPPLY PROGRAMME:

In many villages, there is no potable and perennial drinking water source at all and the people have to fetch their drinking water from distant sources. Particularly the women folk and children spend most of their time in this burden some task wasting their productive contribution to the Nation. In several villages, the water available is saline or otherwise unfit for



drinking. Therefore, they were frequently subjected to Cholera, Typhoid, Guinea-worm disease and other-water borne diseases. In addition to the above, even villages with good water supply during rainy season suffer when their water sources dry up during summer months.

SURVEY ON DRINKING WATER SOURCES IN RURAL AREAS

Owing to the consecutive failures of monsoons, the State suffered a severe drought during 1974, 75 and 76 and a Crash Programme of providing drinking water supply to many drought affected villages was undertaken and completed. Eventhough the above relief measures were carried out during 1976-77 the problem of drinking water in the villages was far from solved. Hence the Government had conducted a scientific survey to assess the problem in its entirety correctly. The Data was collected through printed questionnaires which were answered by about 5,000 Gram-sevaks (V.L.O.) attached to the 374 Development Blocks of Tamil Nadu after visiting personally each of the habitations. The Data so collected from the entire State was analysed in the Government Data Centre, Guindy, Madras using a Computer. As a result of this survey, the habitations have been classified under the following six categories.



PROGRAMME PLANNED

The State Government have started the implementation of the programme for the provision of water supply to 5420 type 1 and type 2 habitations in Tamil Nadu from 1-9-77 and the schemes are under execution. The estimated cost for this programme is Rs. 25 crores. So far 2,700 habitations under Types 1 and 2 have been provided with protected, potable

and perennial water supply benefitting a population of about 10 lakhs at an expenditure of Rs. 11.4 crores. Provision of water supply to the balance 2,720 habitations benefitting a population of 11.38 lakhs is under advanced stage of execution and will be completed by 31st March, 1980.

Immediately after the completion of water supply schemes to Types 1 and 2 habitations, works relating to provision of water supply to type 3 habitations (habitation where the source is not perennial) will have to be taken up in every district. The approximate cost of providing water supply to all the 6,487 habitations of type 3 is estimated to be Rs. 46.44 crores. It is expected that the provision of water supply to most of the Type 1 and 2 habitations will be completed in December, 1979 and works relating to provision of water supply to type 3 habitations will be taken up and the programme is expected to be completed by March, 1982. After covering type-3 habitations, works relating to types 4, 5 and 6 will be taken up in the same order of priority as the type number to achieve the objective of providing protected, potable and perennial water supply to the rural habitations of the State.

Under this Programme, all harijan colonies will be provided with independent water supply and consequently they will no longer depend on water sources in the main villages.

Highlights of Rural Water Supply Programme

(a) *Iron Removal Plants* : While tackling the problem of providing water supply to type 2 (non-potable source) habitations, it was found that there are a number of habitations having water with high iron content thus necessitating installation of suitable treatment plants. The research wing of Tamil Nadu Water Supply & Drainage Board had evolved suitable type designs for iron removal plants both for hand pump and power pump schemes and some of the plants are already under operation.

(b) *Fluoride Removal Plants* : There are a number of rural habitations in Madurai and Coimbatore Districts where the water available has excessive Fluorides. The people living in these areas, suffer from decay of teeth, deformation of bones etc., which incapacitate them. In view of very huge costs involved, schemes for providing pure drinking water to these areas were not taken up in the past. The present Government have ordered that all such habitations should be provided with potable and perennial drinking water irrespective of the costs involved.

Suitable treatment plans for removing the excess fluorides are being evolved for use in these areas, and very soon they are expected to come into operation.

(c) *Comprehensive Water Supply Schemes* : Another unique feature of the present Rural Water Supply Programme is the implementation of a number of Comprehensive Schemes (each scheme covering a number of habitations) for habitations where the ground water is not potable because of salinity in the coastal areas of the districts viz., Ramanathapuram, Pudukottai, Tirunelveli etc., These areas have hitherto been neglected due to high costs and they are now being covered by these Comprehensive Schemes. So far 47 Comprehensive Water Supply Schemes (each costing more than Rs. 2 lakhs) benefitting a total population of 3.67 lakhs have been sanctioned under types 1 and 2 at an estimated cost of Rs. 10 crores and they are under execution.

Maintenance Programme

The huge investment made under this Programme will not benefit the rural masses unless, all the power pumps and hand pumps

in the rural areas are properly maintained. Realising this, the Tamil Nadu Government have given importance to the maintenance programme for Rural Water Supply Schemes.

(a) *Hand Pump Maintenance* : At present there are about 18,000 deep borewells fitted with hand pumps now in operation in the rural areas of the State. These special type of pumps, though sturdy in design to withstand use in rural areas, require periodical maintenance. It is estimated that one deep borewell fitted with a hand pump can serve about 250 to 300 persons. All these pumps are maintained by the Tamil Nadu Water Supply & Drainage Board from August, 1976.

A "three-tier-system" of hand pump maintenance is being adopted. This system contemplates maintenance of hand pumps at village level, Block Level and District Level by caretakers, Block Level fitters and Mobile Teams respectively.

The caretakers selected from among the residents near the hand pump intimate any breakdown to the Block Level fitter/Mobile Team through stamped post cards given to them. On receipt of information, the repairs are carried out by the Mobile Team/Block Level fitter.

Under Hand Pump Maintenance Programme, so far 245 fitters have been appointed and 17 Mobile Teams formed. This system is functioning satisfactorily in all the districts of the State. A recent National Seminar conducted by Government of India and UNICEF have commended the Tamil Nadu System for adoption throughout India.

(b) *Power Pump Maintenance* : It is estimated that there are about

10,570 power pumps now existing in the Rural areas of Tamil Nadu. The Government realising the need for proper maintenance have decided to entrust the maintenance of all the 3,000 power pumps available in South Arcot, North Arcot and Chingleput Districts to Tamil Nadu Water Supply & Drainage Board as an experimental measure for one year from 1-4-78. It has been proved that after the taking over of maintenance by Tamil Nadu Water Supply & Drainage Board, the percentage of sick pumps at any point of time has reduced to a very great extent. The proposal for entrusting the maintenance of power pumps in all the other districts is under the active consideration of the Government.

Financial Allocation

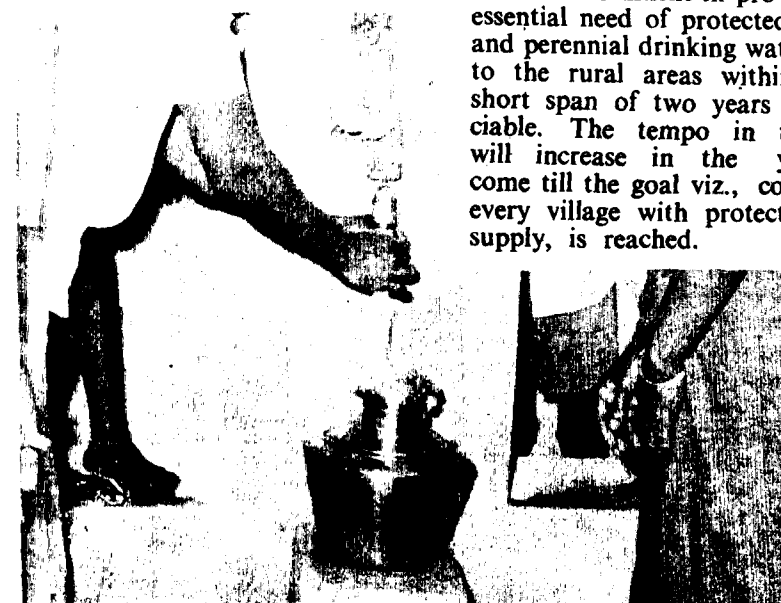
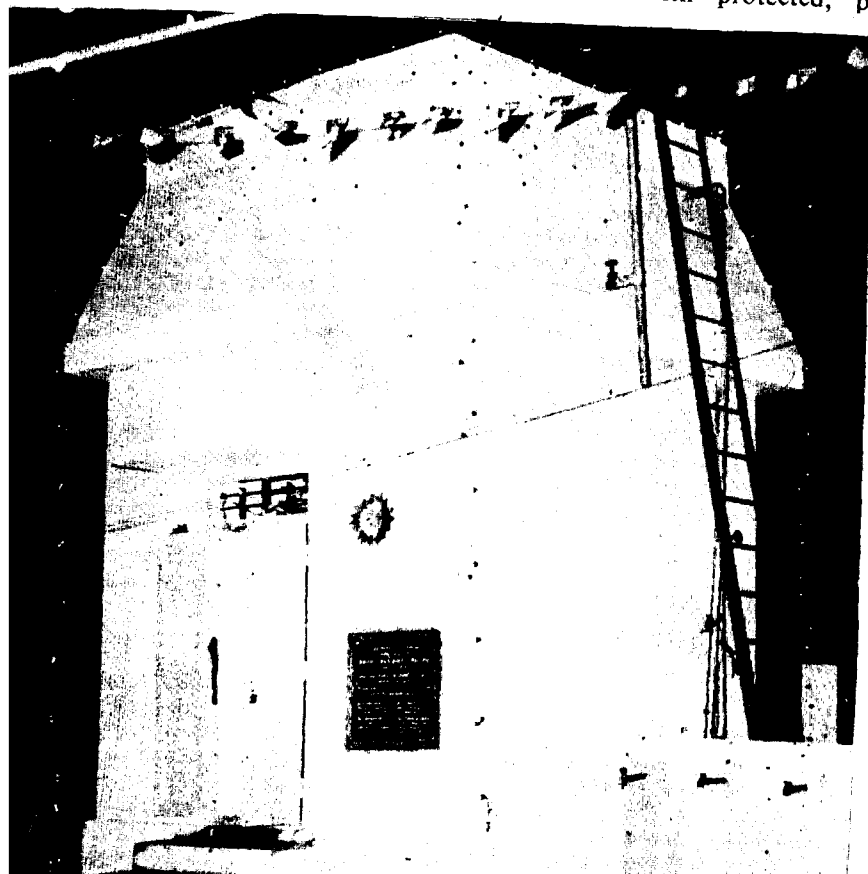
During 1972-73 and 1973-74, about Rs. 1.5 crores was being spent annually on Rural Water Supply Schemes. During 1977-78 and 78-79, a sum of Rs. 6.75 crores and Rs. 8.60 crores respectively were spent by the Government in this sector. The allocation for 1979-80 is Rs. 16 crores including the assistance of Rs. 10 crores from Government of India.

From the above, it can be seen that the financial allocation made by the State Government during 1979-80 including Central assistance is more than 10 times, the allocation made during 1972-73 and 1973-74 for Rural Water Supply Schemes.

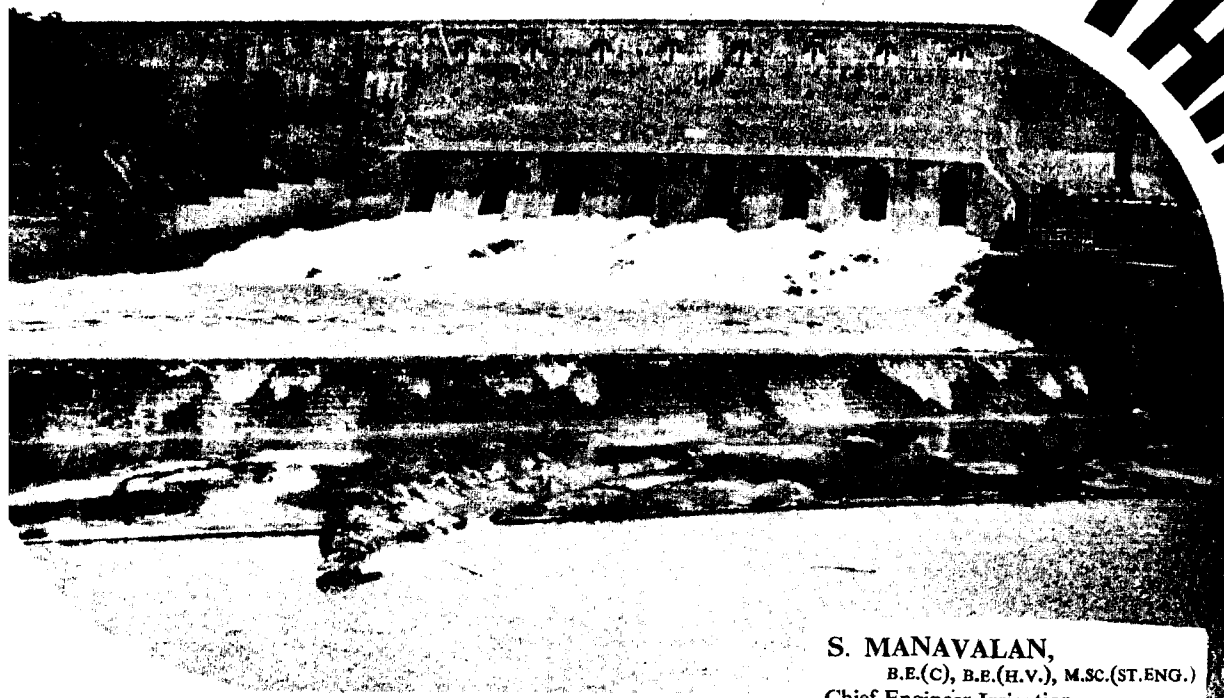
From this, it is very clear that all out efforts are being taken by the State Government, with assistance from Government of India to tackle the problem of Rural Water Supply.

Conclusion

The efforts taken by the Tamil Nadu Government in providing the essential need of protected, potable and perennial drinking water supply to the rural areas within a very short span of two years is appreciable. The tempo in this field will increase in the years to come till the goal viz., coverage of every village with protected water supply, is reached.



IRRIGATION IN TAMIL NADU



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Chief Engineer Irrigation

Irrigation is an art practised in Tamil Nadu from time immemorial. Utilisation of the surface waters for irrigation has been gradually stepped up and at present, about 95% of the available surface waters are being utilised. This high degree of utilisation has been made feasible by forming reservoirs, anicuts, channels and tanks, at almost all potential sites.

Before the implementation of Five Year Plans, there were only 23 irrigation systems in Tamil Nadu, providing irrigation facilities to 11 lakhs hectares (27 lakhs acres). Irrigation was extended by anicuts in Ponnai, Cauvery, Tambara-parani etc., rivers. Besides these, two reservoirs were also formed. One of these is the Periyar Lake formed across the West flowing Periyar river. The west flowing waters are diverted to the east through a tunnel to benefit Madurai District. The other one is the Mettur Reservoir across the river Cauvery. This is the largest storage reservoir in Tamil Nadu.

In the five year plans implemented from 1951-52, six major and 39 medium irrigation projects, costing Rs. 217 crores, have been taken up for benefitting 3.34 lakh hectares (8.26 lakhs acres) of new

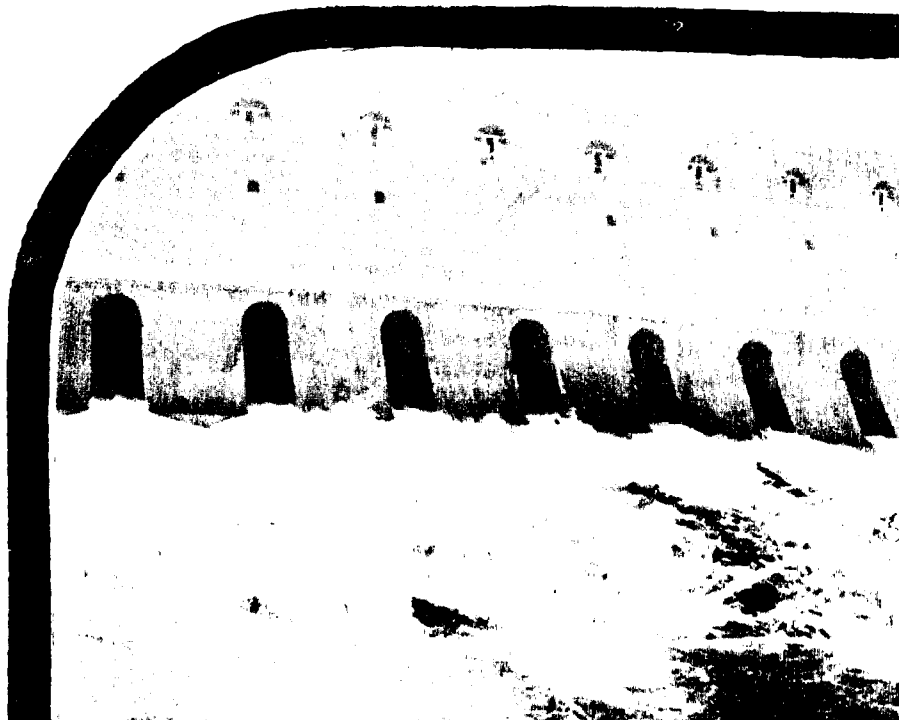
area. Out of these, 4 major and 32 medium schemes have been completed benefitting 2 lakh hectares (4.95 lakh acres) of new area. Apart from this, an extent of 1.01 lakh hectares (2.5 lakhs acres) of new area will be benefitted by the Parambikulam Aliyar Project which is being implemented in stages by the schemes completed in 1977-78 about 2700 hectares (6600 acres) of new area will be benefitted.

In the current year (1979-80) it is programmed to give irrigation facilities to 5000 hectares (12400 acres) of new area.

Salient features of important irrigation projects which are under execution, are given below :—

Parambikulam Aliyar Project :

The multi valley, multi purpose Parambikulam Aliyar Project was



commenced in the second five year plan period. This is an example of good will and co-operation among neighbouring states. So far, six reservoirs, one weir, seven channels and inter-connecting tunnels have been completed, providing irrigation facilities. Lower Nirar Dam and tunnel works are under execution. They are programmed to be completed in the current year. The targeted extent of ayacut under the project is 1.01 lakh hectares (2.50 lakh acres). Still there are large extent of lands in the command area of the Project without irrigation facilities. Government have approved the scheme of extension of irrigation benefits of this scheme to another 0.45 lakh hectares (1.10 lakh acres) with a view to carry the benefits of the scheme to dry areas atleast in alternate years.

Modernisation of Periyar-Vaigai Irrigation System :—

With a view to modernise the Periyar-Vaigai irrigation, and to minimise the seepage loss, a modern scheme with World Bank Aid is being implemented. The estimated cost of the scheme is Rs. 41.04 crores and 15,956 hectares (39420 acres) of new area will be benefitted. It is programmed to complete the work in the current five year plan period. A separate Chief Engineer has been appointed by the Government in 1977 for this Project.

Excavation of a right side canal from Sathanur Pick-up Anicut.

A canal is under excavation from the pick up anicut below Sathanur Reservoir on the right side where irrigation facility was not given previously.

Under this scheme, originally it was programmed to give the benefit of wet cultivation to an extent of 3600 hectares (9000 acres) But, subsequently it has been decided to extend the irrigation benefit to a larger extent of land. This is proposed to be achieved by designing the system for irrigated dry crops and an extent of 6554 hectares (16443 acres) will be now benefitted. The latest estimated cost of the scheme is about Rs. 465 lakhs. The Scheme is programmed to be completed in the current five year Plan.

Formation of a reservoir across Ponnai near Kelavarapalli :

A dam costing Rs. 607 lakhs is under construction across the



river Ponnai near Kelavarapalli village in the Dharmapuri District. The Government approved the scheme in 1977. Irrigation facilities will be extended to 3237 hectares (8000 acres) of new dry crop lands. A reservoir of 386 M.cft capacity with two canals will be formed. The scheme is programmed to be completed in the current five year plan period.

Formation of a Reservoir Across Pambar near Marampatti

Under the Drought Prone Area Programme, a reservoir, costing Rs. 248 lakhs is under construction across river Pambar, near Marampatti village in Uthangarai Taluk of Dharmapuri District. An extent of 1620 hectares (4000 acres) of new lands will receive irrigation facilities. The scheme is programmed to be

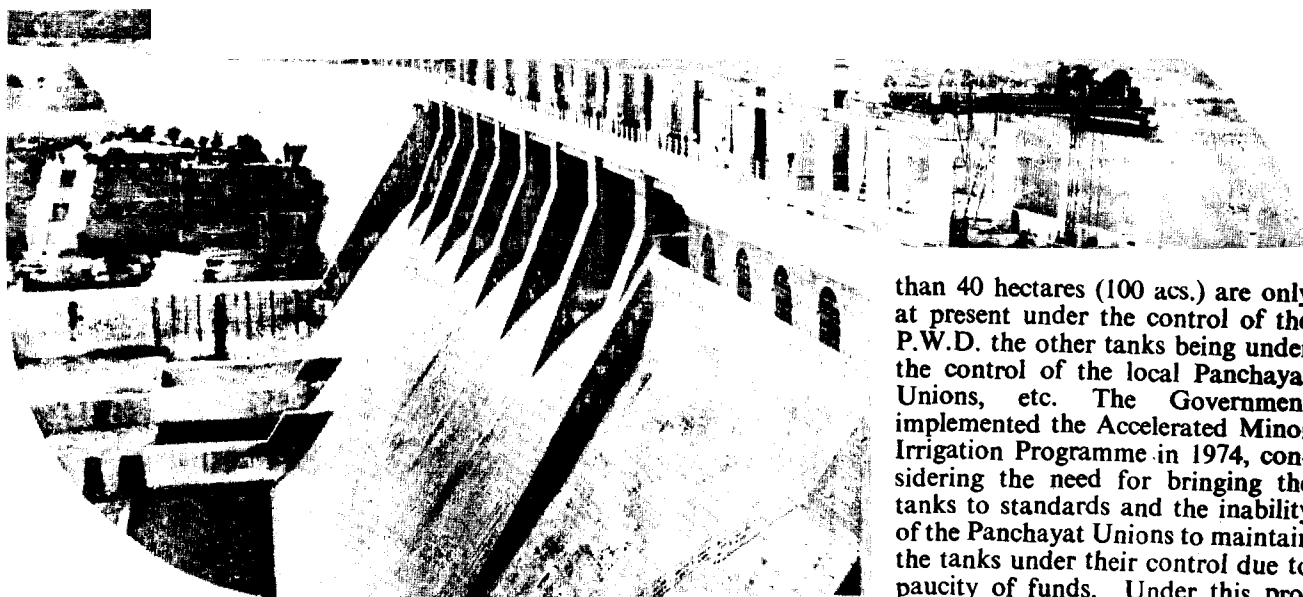
completed in the current five year plan period.

Gundar Reservoir Scheme

The scheme contemplates formation of a reservoir of 25 M.cft. capacity across Gundar river near Kannipulmedu in Shencottah Taluk of Tirunelveli District. This scheme will stabilise irrigation in an extent of 495 hectares (1222 acres), besides benefiting 40 hectares (98 acres) of new area. Government have sanctioned the revised estimate for Rs. 82 lakhs for the scheme. The work is being taken up and will be completed in the current five year plan period.

Improvements to Veeranam Tank System (Pilot Study)

It has been programmed to improve the Veeranam Tank system.



In the first stage, a pilot scheme has been taken up to improve the Lalpet and Valligudy channels of this system at a cost of Rs. 11 lakhs and these works are in progress.

In 1978-79, the Government have sanctioned the following four new schemes.

Formation of a reservoir of 131 M.cft. capacity across Pulampatti river near Thumbalahalli village in the Palacode Taluk of the Dharmapuri District :—By this scheme an extent of 884 hectares (2184 acres) of new area will get irrigation facilities, besides bridging gap and stabilising an extent of 171 hectares (422 acs.) of existing ayacut. The estimated cost of the scheme is Rs. 123.97 lakhs.

Formation of a reservoir of 418 M.cft capacity across Vaniar river near Mullikadu village in Harur Taluk of the Dharmapuri District :—The scheme will provide irrigation facilities to an extent of 3460 hectares (8550 acs.) of new area for raising dry crops, besides stabilising an area of 749 hectares (1852 acres) of existing ayacut. The estimated cost of the scheme is Rs. 560 lakhs.

Formation of a reservoir of 398 M.cft capacity across Vaippar river near Vembakkottai village in Sattur Taluk of the Ramanathapuram District :—It will benefit a new area of 3278 hectares (8100 acs.) for dry crops. The estimated cost of the scheme is Rs. 296 lakhs.

Formation of a reservoir of 127 M.cft capacity across Virudupatti Odai, near Kullur Sandai Village in Aruppukottai Taluk of the Ramanathapuram District :—By this scheme an extent of 1034 hectares (2556 acres) of new area will

get the benefit of irrigation dry cultivation. The estimated cost of the work is Rs. 127 lakhs.

Further, Special Minor Irrigation Programme works are implemented from the first plan period onwards. Under this scheme, small irrigation works costing less than Rs. 25 lakhs are taken up to provide irrigation facilities. As these schemes are quick yielding, the Government pay special attention to them.

In the last two years i.e. 1977-78 and 1978-79, 216 works benefiting new area of 8533 hectares (21087 acres) were completed. Upto end of 1978-79 works numbering 17911 have been completed benefiting 2.13 lakh hectares (5.26 lakh acres) of new area. For the current year the Government have allotted Rs. 250 lakhs for S.M.I.P. works.

Irrigation tanks lose their original capacity due to silting. Restoration of lost capacity in part or full can be achieved by raising the F.T.L. of tanks and desilting the tank beds to reclaim the foreshore lands. By a judicious combination of the two methods the scheme is being implemented. The scheme which was commenced in the second five year plan period is being continued in the current plan period. From the inception upto 1978-79, the scheme has been executed in 263 tanks, while in the last two years it was done in 13 tanks. The allotment by the Government for these works for the current year is Rs. 25 lakhs.

In Tamil Nadu an extent of about 9.3 lakh hectares (22.98 lakh acres) of lands receive irrigation facilities through 37000 tanks. Out of these, tanks feeding more

than 40 hectares (100 acs.) are only at present under the control of the P.W.D. the other tanks being under the control of the local Panchayat Unions, etc. The Government implemented the Accelerated Minor Irrigation Programme in 1974, considering the need for bringing the tanks to standards and the inability of the Panchayat Unions to maintain the tanks under their control due to paucity of funds. Under this programme, the PWD tanks, tanks under the control of Panchayat Unions and the ex-zamin tanks will be brought to standards by the PWD in a phased programme. A total of 3734 nos. of such works have been completed upto the end of 1978-79. In the last two years i.e. 1977-78 and 1978-79, 1043 such works have been completed for the current year, the Government have allotted Rs. 135 lakhs for these works.

A major scheme costing Rs. 192.68 crores for modernising about 500 tanks each having an ayacut of 200 hectares (500 acs.) has been formulated. This is under consideration of the Government.

Chances of framing new major irrigation schemes in Tamil Nadu are not bright, as the balance utilisable surplus flows are very limited. Investigation to formulate schemes to utilise the residual flows to the maximum extent feasible is however being conducted. Having utilised the surface water flows almost fully, efforts are being taken by the Government to obtain surplus waters of the west flowing rivers in the neighbouring Kerala State by diverting them eastwards to increase irrigation facilities in our State. The Central Government have appointed a Technical Committee in this regard.

Government are also taking steps for modernising the existing old irrigation systems, and extending irrigation facilities by conserving water as a result of modernisation in a phased programme.

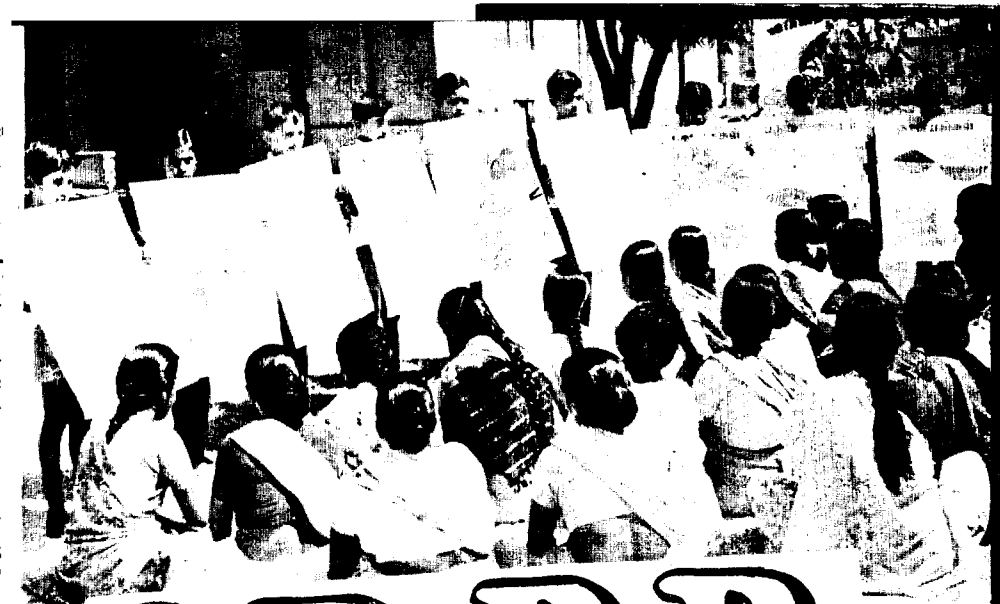
With the available water potential, the Government are taking and will continue to take all steps for expanding the irrigation facilities to the maximum extent feasible.

I.R.D.P. is the current topic discussed and much talked about in these days by planners, Administrators, Politicians and the common man. Is it merely another slogan, which will fade away in course of time? Is I.R.D.P. simply just another special programme launched by the Government? Or is it the real remedy and panacea of the rural ills and a hope of the weaker sections who are in the most deplorable condition in our country.

What is I. R. D. P. ? How is it different from the programmes launched and tried in this country? To have a proper perspective and understanding, it is essential to look back critically in an unbiased way the impact of the various schemes implemented hitherto in this country their strong points, the achievements and also the failures and weaknesses.

In the past, several *ad hoc* projects like PIREP, CSRE, Area Development, SFDA, DPAP and such other numerous programmes have been tried through out the country to generate more employment and also increase the standard of living of the people. The impact of these *ad hoc* schemes was only marginal and it did not bring about desired effect of reaching the poor masses. The benefits did not trickle down to the weaker sections.

Similarly Community Development Programme, started in 1952 vigorously implemented initially with the people's participation had far reaching effects on the community as a whole. The enthusiasm shown in the nascent stage in the implementation of the Community Development Programme slowly waned and it has become senile, sterile and stereotyped. One of the significant benefits of the Community Development Programme is, it has resulted in rural assets and contributed to the infrastructural facilities in the rural areas. Again, the focus was not on the weaker sections as the Community Development Programme was designed for all segments of society. All the above said special and regular programmes had a wide coverage, but failed to concentrate on the rural poor. Consequently, the neglected poor became poorer and it has been estimated approximately despite all these programmes that 60% of the people are now living under the poverty line, the bulk of these



I.R.D.P.

The Hope of the WEAKER SECTIONS

By

M. JAMES VICTOR

constitute the helpless weaker sections and the rural poor.

The second major Himalayan problem facing the country, partly due to population explosion and certain other factors is the unemployment of educated and uneducated people. It has been estimated in 1973 that there are about 5000 million unemployed mandays in a year in the rural areas. The magnitude of rural unemployment is estimated as 4 million persons in the category of "Chronically unemployed" for the country as a whole. But it does not reflect the basic malady of the employment situation in the country which is of under employment. Under employment is another gigantic problem to be tackled, especially in the rural areas.

How to bridge the gap and lift the poor masses above the poverty

line is the grim problem facing us. And the big challenge. Another gigantic problem facing the country is the rural unemployment and under employment, which is closely associated with rural poverty.

Our planners awoke to the reality of the magnitude of this problem and began to plug the loopholes, rectify the defects found in past failures and evolved a new strategy, a package of programmes and schemes, a workable methodology with special emphasis and concern for the weaker sections. It has been named rightly as Integrated Rural Development. I.R.D. may therefore be defined as Integrated Development of the area and the people through optimum development and utilisation of local resources—physical, biological and human and by bringing about necessary institutional, structural and attitudinal changes and by delivering a package

of services to encompass not only the economic field i.e. agriculture and rural industries but also the establishment of the required social infrastructure and services in the area of health and nutrition, sanitation, housing, drinking water and literacy, with the ultimate objectives of improving the quality of life of the 'rural poor and the rural weak.' It implies functional, spatial and temporal integration of all these parameters. Thus the I.R.D. is a multifacet framework involving a multi-disciplinary approach. In this process, self-help and community participation have a paramount role.

Objective and strategy :

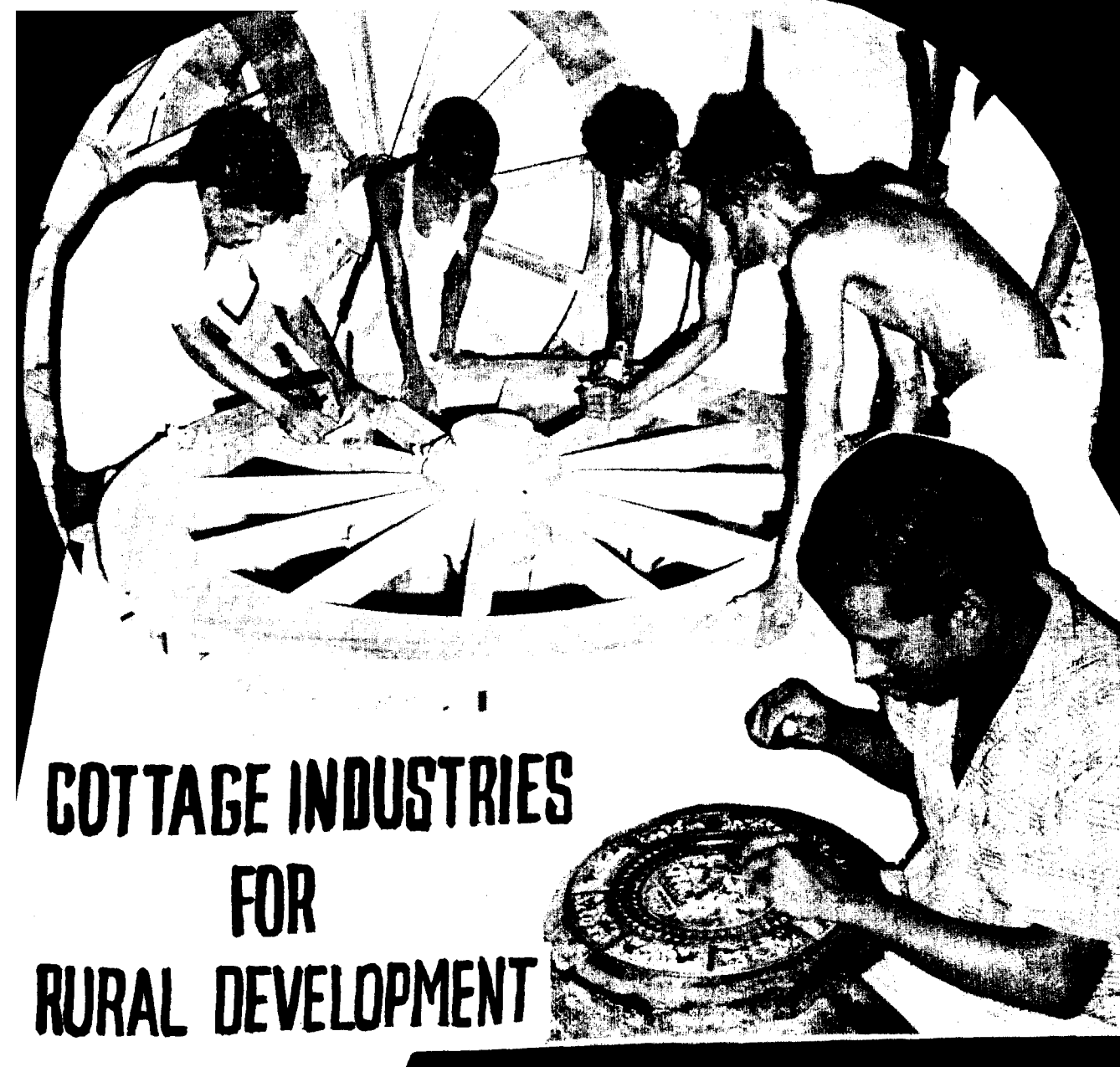
The objective of this scheme of I.R.D. is to provide full employment through production programmes in a selected area. The objective is to be achieved by earmarking additional allocations for which one of the selected blocks in such identified schemes as are suitable for the particular area. The schemes are designed to generate additional employment and raise the income level of the identified target groups consisting of small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers rural artisans and persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. 2,000 blocks in our country which are mostly covered by any one or more of the special programmes of SFDA, Drought Prone Area Development Programme etc. have been taken up for intensive and integrated rural development



during 1978-79. 300 blocks will be taken up every year during the Sixth Five Year Plan period.

In Tamil Nadu 161 blocks have been selected, 100 from SFDA, 30 from DPAP blocks and 31 blocks not covered by any special programmes. The Government of India, has provided financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 537 lakhs during 1979-80. Institutional finance has played a major role in implementing the I.R.D. Credit mobilised through Banks runs to 1118 lakhs. During the current year it is proposed to take up 26 additional blocks under I. R. D.

This programme is designed for the period of 5 years and almost all the 374 blocks will be brought under its coverage within the period of next 4 years. Thiru B. Sivaraman, formerly Planning Commission Member who visited the Uthiramerur blocks of Tamil Nadu was very much impressed with the speed with which I.R.D. is being implemented in Tamil Nadu. Block Level Planning is one of the pre-requisites for implementing this programme and the unique feature of block level planning is the identification of the individual households, their felt needs, their aptitudes, their land holdings, Income etc. Such an indepth survey is the basic foundation on which I.R.D. is being implemented. In Tamil Nadu 4,40,970 families have been identified and within a short period of about five months as the actual implementation of the scheme was from October/November 78 only. 1,42,000 poor families have been benefitted by this scheme. This is a remarkable and record of achievement. Two more separate ancilliary schemes like E.G.S. and self-sufficiency scheme of the blocks in a phased manner have also been taken up simultaneously during this year in Tamil Nadu and these two schemes may be compared to the rails on which I.R.D. can move to its destination namely the weaker sections of the society. I.R.D. is indeed the hope of the weaker sections in Tamil Nadu.



COTTAGE INDUSTRIES FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

THE place of Cottage Industries in our national economy has been the subject of keen controversy and is yet to be considered in its perspective. India is a land of villages and the only way to build up the country is to rebuild and revitalise the villages. The biggest of the problems of our villages is poverty. The Royal Commission on Agriculture rightly pointed out that the cultivator "Labours not for profit, not for net return, but for subsistence."

More than 80% of our population live in the rural areas. The entire rural population depend on agriculture for their subsistence in one way or other. Indian agriculture continues to depend upon monsoon and every failure of monsoon which is too frequent in India impoverishes the agricultural economy. The pressure on land is increasing day by day. It has been

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well said that a nation that depends on agriculture for its livelihood depends upon a broken reed which can never—in the very nature of the case—ensure economic stability. The available land for cultivation is fixed and the law of Diminishing return operates more quickly in agriculture than in industries.

To arrest the further economic deprivation of the rural masses, an organised effort has to be made by providing alternative employment to the villagers. At least 50% of the existing rural population should be employed in other occupations. These employment opportunities should be made available at the villages where they live. The villagers cannot be trained overnight in

operating complicated machineries. They cannot also be expected to invest huge amount in the proposed industry. It should be more labour intensive than capital intensive. Only village and cottage industries can satisfy these conditions. Large scale industries with huge and costly machineries can never be the answer in such conditions. Hence, the introduction of labour intensive, small scale and cottage industries is the need of the hour and it will go a long way in providing employment opportunities to the rural mass in their place of residence. This will facilitate in stopping the exodus of the rural masses to the urban areas and thereby create many more problems in the already over crowded urban areas. The development of cottage industries can increase the purchasing power since it seeks to utilise leisure and reorganise the economic life of rural masses.



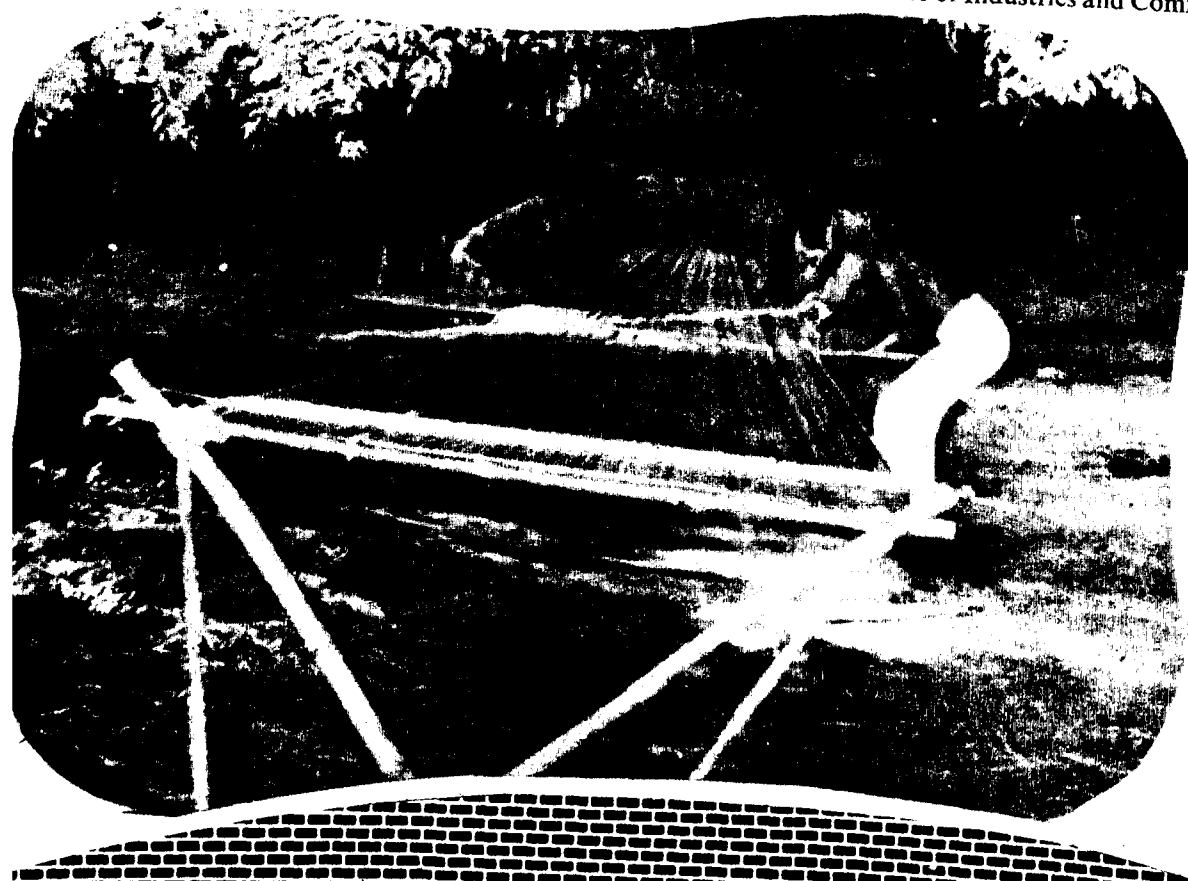
The programme of development of rural industries in the first two years has been slow and it has not made any appreciable impact on the economy. In the first two years, a few industries were selected for development. Though these were intended to be selected on the basis of local availability of raw materials, skills and markets in the area, the choice was made on an ad hoc and experimental basis. In the light of the results achieved, it is necessary that some change of approach to this whole problem be called for.

The programme of rural industrial development short aims at

improving the local traditional skills and introducing new skills, in providing common service facilities, and generally assisting rural artisans to stand on their own legs and contribute effectively to the rural economy.

Under the community Development Programme, provision was made available for the development of industries under the schematic heads of "Rural Arts Crafts and other industries." In the national Extension Service Blocks there were no similar provision. Subsequently when the distinction of the C. D. & N.E.S. Blocks was abolished under the revised financial pattern from April 1958, a grant was provided

depending upon the stage of the blocks. Subsequently, during the third five year plan, a uniform provision of Rs. 50,000 was made for all blocks. The schematic provision made under Rural Arts and Crafts was treated as nucleus funds and the provision made by the All India Boards like the All India Handicrafts Board, Khadi and Village Industries Commission etc. are to be fully involved in the development of industries in the block areas. All the provisions were routed through the Director of Industries and Commerce. Consequently to effect a co-ordinated development of various industrial programme, the Director of Industries and Commerce



was made responsible for the implementation of the industries programme in Blocks. Even from the initial stages, he was made responsible for the sanction, execution, and implementation of the rural arts and crafts programme and also the other industrial programmes. The Director of Industries and Commerce was made responsible for the administering the funds and all schemes relating to cottage industries, village industries, small scale industries, and rural arts and crafts programmes from 1953- to 1961.

Even before this, improved tools were distributed in the selected Firkas under the Firka development and Rural Welfare Scheme and controlled articles like iron and steels were also distributed to the artisans. Even these schemes were administered by the technical instructors working under the Director of Industries and Commerce. Hence, the association of the Director of Industries and Commerce with the industries programme in blocks could be traced from 1947 onwards. But the programme relating to the rural arts and crafts which was attended to by the Director of Industries and Commerce from 1947 to 1961 was entrusted for implementation by the State Khadi and Village Industries Board with effect from 1-4-61. These units were subsequently transferred to the P.Us. by the K. & V. I. Board. The T. N. K. & V. I. Board was made the P. Us. administratively responsible for the implementation of the programme. The technical responsibility vested with the Khadi board. The schemes are to be formulated by the P. Us. and technically scrutinised by the officers of the T. N. K. & V. I. Board. The units transferred to the P. Us. were run as training centres or Training cum—Production Centres. Some of these centres like Carpentry, Blacksmithy, Carpentry-cum-Blacksmithy, Tailoring, cumby weaving, mat weaving, bell metal, Pith unit, cane and Bamboo unit, Chalk, crayon units etc. were subsequently converted to production units. Before converting the above units as production units the artisans and other people living in the block areas were given training and were made to increase their livelihood by utilising the training they got from these centres by using improved technology. These centres provided employment to the artisans and thereby increased their earning. The other persons who got trained in the training centres

As a new industrial policy, Government of India Ministry of Industry have suggested the setting up of D. I. Cs. in every Districts so as to provide through a single agency all the services and supports required for small and village industries.

In pursuance of this policy, Government have set up D. I. Cs. in eight Districts initially to promote industries in rural and Backward areas and to provide employment opportunities in large numbers. Government have also sanctioned necessary staff to man these centres. The intention of the Government in starting D. I. Cs. is to provide all facilities including financial assistance under one roof to the prospective entrepreneurs who are willing to start new industries in the rural areas. Government have also minimised the procedural delays in getting clearances from the local bodies for starting new industries in the rural areas. Financial assistance for starting new industries or reviving sick industries is also provided from the financing institutions through the D. I. Cs. After the introduction of D. I. Cs. technically trained persons from the rural areas have come forward to start new industries in rural and backward areas by utilising the assistance given by the D. I. Cs.

After the formation of the D.I.Cs. and upto 31st May 1979 the number of persons who were given employment is 23,580 and a sum of Rs. 167.14 lakhs have been given as financial assistance to 900 units through banks. Financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 17,33,795 has been given to 3081 artisans.

To examine the scope for creation of employment through rural industries with specific emphasis on household and cottage industries, Government constituted a committee on February 78 under the Chairmanship of Dr. Nayudamma former Director General of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research,

Madras. The Committee have submitted its recommendation to Government. In its recommendations the committee have suggested several new industries depending upon the availability of raw materials in the rural areas. The recommendations are being examined by the Government and the new industries will be started in the rural areas on the basis of recommendations of the committee.



The improvement of village economy depend upon the industrialisation of the rural areas to a large extent. The exodus of villagers to urban areas is being prevented by providing employment opportunities to the villagers by starting new industries in their areas. The development of industries in the rural areas will boost the economy of the villagers and also increase the purchasing power of the villagers to minimise their dependence upon the urban areas for their daily requirements.

It is hoped that with the renewed efforts on the part of the State and Central Governments by establishing D. I. Cs. and other similar projects, the rural areas are expected to usher in a new era of prosperity with better standard of life resulting in all round development.

Of the 600 million people living in this country 1/3 is said to go to bed hungry every night; they suffer from under Nutrition and Malnutrition. Because of this, Pre-school children even lack the energy to drive away the flies gathering at their open mouths. 12 year old children look like 8 years old, women of 35 look like 60 year old women. Apart from this, thousands of people in the country, especially children below five suffer from deficiency diseases like Kwashiorker, Marasums, impaired vision, permanent blindness followed by high rate of mortality and morbidity. All these maladies are due to lack of proper nutrition. Children below 5, pregnant and nursing mothers are most vulnerable sections affected by mal-nutrition.

According to the study conducted by NIN, in Tamil Nadu, the standard of nutrition of the people is very low, when compared even to all India average. The actual intake of food in the state falls far below the standard requirements of 2400 calories and 55 gms of protein, for adults and it is more than 1/3 less than the requirements for children, pregnant and nursing mothers. There is wide prevalence of deficiency of Vitamin A, Iron and B. Complex deficiency especially among the vulnerable group.

Eventhough poverty is the major cause of mal-nutrition in children it is mainly due to the lack of knowledge of mothers about the diets of children, proper feeding practice and simple methods of child care. Even the diets of others in the family can be greatly improved with the available income and local resources

if women are educated about the importance of nutrition, better methods of cooking and dietary habits and also helped to produce the critical foods required, by themselves.

Applied Nutrition Programme is thus an educational programme at village and family levels that aims to bring about improvements in the diets of the villagers by education through self-help, improved production and improved consumption. The main objectives of the programme are:

1. To educate mothers, school children and other members of the village community about the types and qualities to be consumed.
2. To encourage the local production of pulses, greenleafy vegetables, other vegetables, fruits and also foods of animal origin like eggs and fish.
3. To encourage proper method of storage and preservation of foods at family and village levels and to increase the knowledge of women and school children about proper methods of preparation of foods by demonstration.
4. To increase the knowledge of mothers about the diets of infants and pre school children and simple aspects of child care and family welfare planning.
5. To utilise the cooperation of the health personnel to ensure necessary health care

for the vulnerable group and also to organise a feeding programme for other mal-nourished children, pregnant and nursing mothers with the food materials produced under the programme.

Applied nutrition programme was started in Tamil Nadu with the assistance of Unicef and Govt. of India in 1962-63 with 7 blocks. Now the programme has covered 75 blocks of which 38 blocks have entered the post operational period, after an operational period of 5 years and 37 are in the operational period. In the post operational blocks the activities should be continued with the departmental funds. The period of operation for the blocks started from 1974-75 are 6 years with a preliminary year for planning and training the personnel for drawing up an effective comprehensive plan for the operational period.

A comprehensive need based plan for each ANP block is drawn up based on a base line survey and assessing the local resources and leadership with the financial provision available from UNICEF, Govt. of India and State Government. Unicef provides Rs.20,000 per block for 5 years, Government of India Rs. 34,000 per year per block for the production components and State Government spends Rs.51,000 per block per year on Production component and and Rs. 85,000 on Nutrition Education. As Unicef aid is not available for the blocks started in 1978-79, Government of India is giving special additional allotment of Rs. 30,000 per year

per block. Pt. Un contributes Rupees 1.5 Lakhs towards the cost of 30 K.K. Kappagams Buildings. The financial outlay per block for the operational period works out to Rs. 10 to 12 lakhs. The Budget estimate under the State Government budget for 1979-80 is Rs. 45 lakhs for the Scheme.

Under Nutrition Education training of all the officials and non-officials concerned is an important aspect. All the R.E.T.Cs. and S.I.C.D. Bhavanisagar and the N.R.C. Erskine Hospital Madurai are involved in the training of personnel. Apart from this, Block level training is conducted every year for Mahalir Mandram members and convenors, Presidents and Chairman of the Pt. Uns, Poultry growers, by the A.N.P. Instructresses attached to the Sri A.H.S. College, Coimbatore and the R.E.T.C. extension staff. 450 to 500 persons are trained per block including levels from District to the village.

Propaganda meetings, exhibitions, competitions, drama and film shows are conducted in villages to impart Nutrition Education to all the people in villages.

For young girls and women two demonstrations on Nutrition are conducted every month in 30 Mahalir Mandrams in each block. Demonstrations equipments and demonstrative charges are provided for those Mahalir Mandrams. Talks and discussions on Nutrition, Child care, family welfare planning, health and environmental sanitation are arranged in these M.Ms. every month. Transistor radios are supplied to selected M.Ms. and women are encouraged to listen to Radio programmes on the above subject.

Demonstration feeding programme is organised to convince the mothers about the importance of Nutrition for good health. 30 K.K.S. are organised in each block and feeding organised for 120 beneficiaries. The 40 pre school children between the ages of 2-6 years, 40 other children between 6 months and 6 years and 40 pregnant and nursing mothers are selected by the M.Os. of the Local Primary Health Centres. The vegetables, Greens, Pulses, fruits, eggs, and fish produced by the production units of the programme and the food materials received from CARE is utilised to feed 120 beneficiaries per day per centre for 300 days in the year. The 30 K.K. in the A.N.P. Block are provided educational toys,



cooking utensils, trained Balasevikas and pucca buildings at a cost of Rs. 10,000 per building. So far 1025 Kappagams are organised in the 75 A.N.P. Blocks and 600 K.K. buildings have been completed. It is planned to construct 280 buildings during 1979-80. After handing over 594 K.K. of the Post ANP to the Social Welfare Department there are 431 K.Ks. in the 37 on going blocks with a feeding programme for 34, 480 children and 17240 pregnant and nursing mothers.

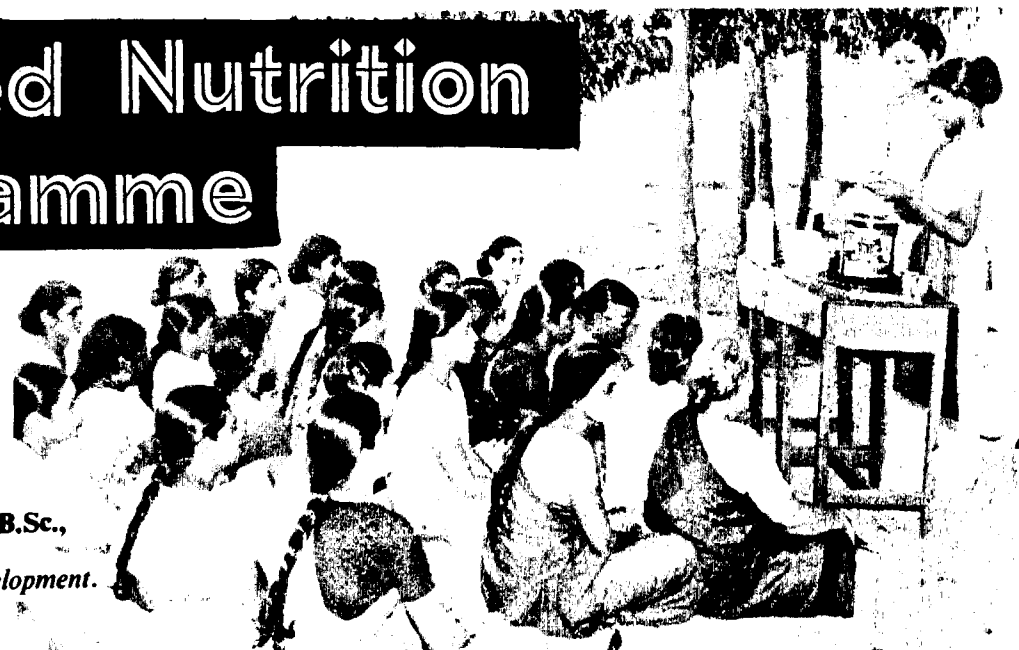
Nutrition Education and supplementary feeding will not solve the problem of nutrition. More protective foods have to be made available at family and of village level.

Hence the programme of production is considered an important component of A.N.P. To encourage the increased production of green leafy vegetables, other vegetables, pulses and fruits, Headquarters nursery is organised in each Block headquarters. Every year 10,000 Morniga seedlings and 50,000 Pappaya seedlings are produced and distributed to Home gardens in the villages. In addition every year fruit seedlings of Guava, Sapota, Gooseberrys etc. worth Rs. 3000 are distributed for home gardens in each Block areas. So far 74,383 Home gardens have been organised under the programme. All schools with land and water facilities are encouraged to raise the vegetable

Applied Nutrition Programme

S. P. PERUMAL, B.Sc.,

Joint Director of Rural Development.





gardens and assistance in the shape of supply of seeds, seedlings, fertilisers, sinking of wells and pump sets, etc. are provided. These school gardens are utilised for imparting Nutrition Education to the boys by involving them in the production of nutritive vegetable and fruits and consuming them in the midday meals. 1944 school gardens above 30 cents have been organised so far.

In order to demonstrate to the community the production of Nutritiously rich vegetables, greens, pulses and fruits one or two community gardens are started in each Block. Nutritious vegetables and greens are produced every season and fruit trees like gooseberry, Pappaya, Mango, Sapota west Indian cherries etc. are planted. A portion of the produce is diverted to the supplementary feeding programme in K.K. 55 Community gardens have been organised in the blocks started since 1970-71.

For providing for the supply of more animal protein in village areas poultry production is encouraged. In each block 10 grower farms are organised for the supply of pullets to the programme. To encourage the needy low income group to benefit from poultry growing five birds and a cockrel are provided at 50% cost. This 50% is received either in cash or in kind as eggs and supplied to the K.Ks. for feeding programme for pre-school children. Two eggs per week per child are supplied to all the feeding centres in the Blocks.

To encourage the production of more eggs and its availability in

villages to increase the family income, deep litter units are also started. 20 birds and 2 cockrels at 50% cost are supplied and this cost is either recovered in cash or eggs. If cash is received eggs are purchased and supplied for feeding programme.

In each block 10 grower farms are organised every year 50 deep litter Units and 500 Backyard units during the operational period.

To provide for the availability of more fish in the area all the tanks with water atleast for 6 to 8 months under the control of Pt.Un. are cleared and stocked with fingerlings supplied by Fisheries Department. When they are mature they are caught and supplied for feeding programme. When more fish is harvested it is sold in the villages at low cost.

Apart from these programmes of productions certain special programmes have been introduced to increase the earning capacity of women of the weaker sections of the community. It is a well known fact that when more money is available



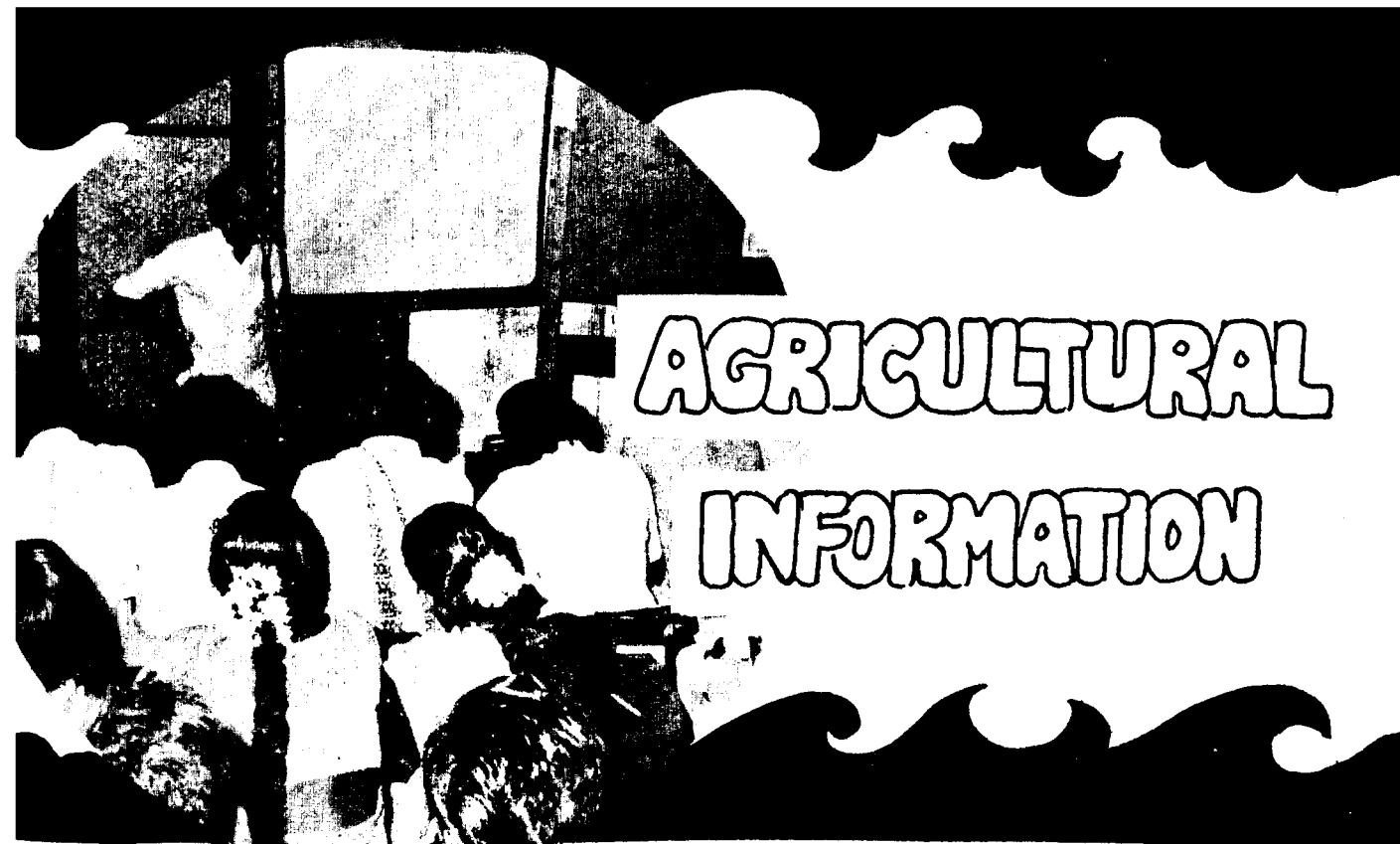
in womens hands it will go to improve the nutrition of the small children in the family. With this aim in view, goat rearing, mat weaving, sericulture activities are planned under the programme. Under the milch goat rearing project 394 goats have been supplied to the selected members of the M. MS. belonging to the weaker sections of the community. In each M.M. 5 she goats and he goat are supplied at the rate of one she goat to each member on condition that she gives a she goat to another member, free of cost, when it litters. This has to be continued till all members received a she goat each. This will increase the supply of milk for children in needy families and also increase the earning of women.

For any programme for improving the nutritional status of the people, especially children below 6 years, pregnant and nursing mothers, providing health care is a must. In A.N.P. the M. Os. of P.H.Cs. in the Block and the para-medical staff attached to them are expected to provide the health coverage for the programme. Immunisation of all children in the villages where K.Ks. are functioning is carried out. Children are immunised against small pox, T.B. Polio and also administered with D.P.T. Vaccine. The beneficiaries for the feeding programme are selected by them based on nutritional deficiency. Periodical health check up of the beneficiaries of the feeding programme is undertaken and those suffering from various illness either treated or referred to Hospitals. Health cards are being maintained for pre-school children and the mothers educated about the importance of child care.

In addition the importance of safe drinking water and clean environment is stressed in villages to prevent infection and infestation of worms in children in villages.

In one A.N.P. Block i.e. in Tirupathur in North Arcot District, programme for Intensive Development is planned with additional Unicef assistance of about 8 lakhs.

A. N. P. is thus the only integrated nutrition programme in operation in the country, which includes Nutrition Education, Production of Nutritive foods and its consumption with a provision for health coverage with the aim of improving the nutrition, of the people in villages especially the children and the mother.



THE technique not adopted is the technique not invented" says an old adage. Any scientific invention especially in the field of farm science, needs to be field oriented and should be easily adopted by the large mass of illiterate and semi literate farmers. But the scientific inventions, owing to the sophistication of research, are always brought out with too many jargons and statistics which a man out of its circle may not be able to understand as much. This is more so in the case of illiterate farmers who are the ultimate consumers of these ideas and techniques. Hence the raw scientific findings are to be properly treated and made available to the farmers in the right form, right way and in right time with least distortion for them, to reap more. This is where the farm information business come into

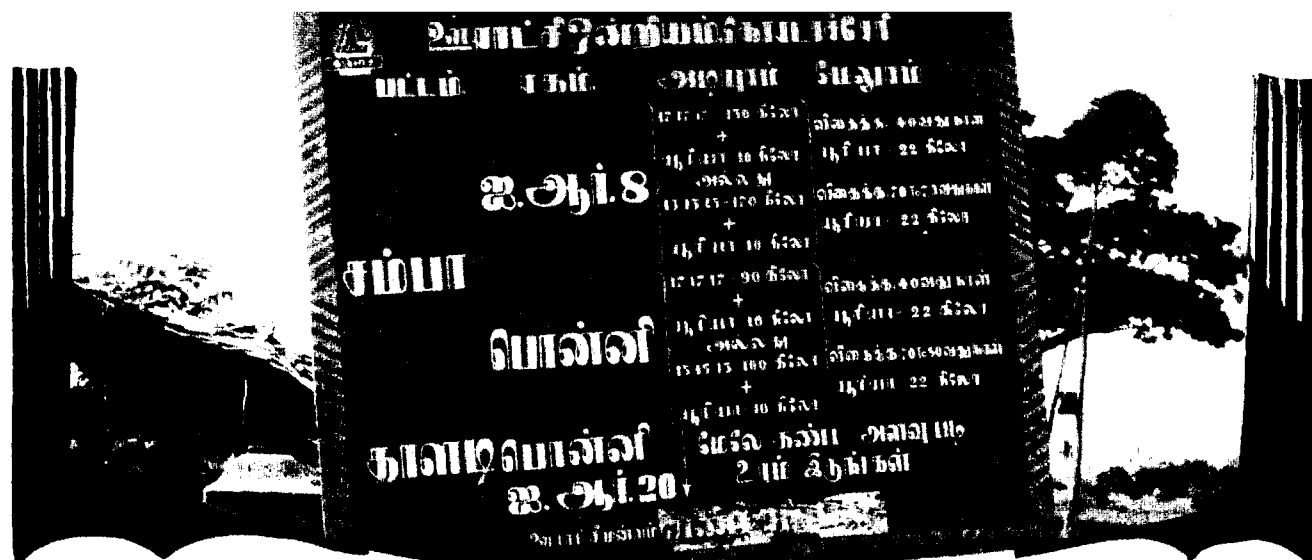
being to bridge the gap between the Researcher and the Farmer. The functioning of farm information units are symbiotic, because, it should feed both the farmer and the researcher about the innovation and the problems respectively. One way it carries the research findings to the field and in other way posts the field problems to the researchers. This work is now carried out by the specially trained personnel through various media of audio, visual and audio-visual nature.

In Tamil Nadu about all the districts are having their farm in-

formation units attached to the Deputy Director of Agricultural incharge of the district. The unit comprises of one District Agricultural Officer as the unit head with one Silk Screen Designer and two artists for preparation of proper visual supports. Besides, there is a cine-operator and a information van with built-in public address system for propaganda in the Rural areas.

These units, in accordance with the regular development programmes and strategies designed for the year, plan their activities to carry the timely farm messages in the form understandable by the farming folk. Their activities widely cover all means of communication, right from individual contact to Mass media approach. Necessary audio and visual supports like pamphlets,





booklets, posters and the recorded cassetts on the talks of experts and experienced farmers are prepared and used in various campaigns and occasions like group meetings, village vizhas, etc.

With a view to monitor the field information activities and to render necessary technical and operation support to the field officers a separate state level unit is functioning at the headquarters attached to the Directorate of Agriculture, Madras. This unit is headed by the District Agricultural Officer and supported by 3 Deputy Agricultural Officers with a team of artists. This unit mainly acts as an intermediary between the Researchers and extension officers. The activities mainly comprises of Publication of research findings, production of Documentary films, feeding the mass media like Radio, Television, Press etc. Organising the State Level expositions and reviewing the dis-

tricts activities in accordance with the Corporate objectives.

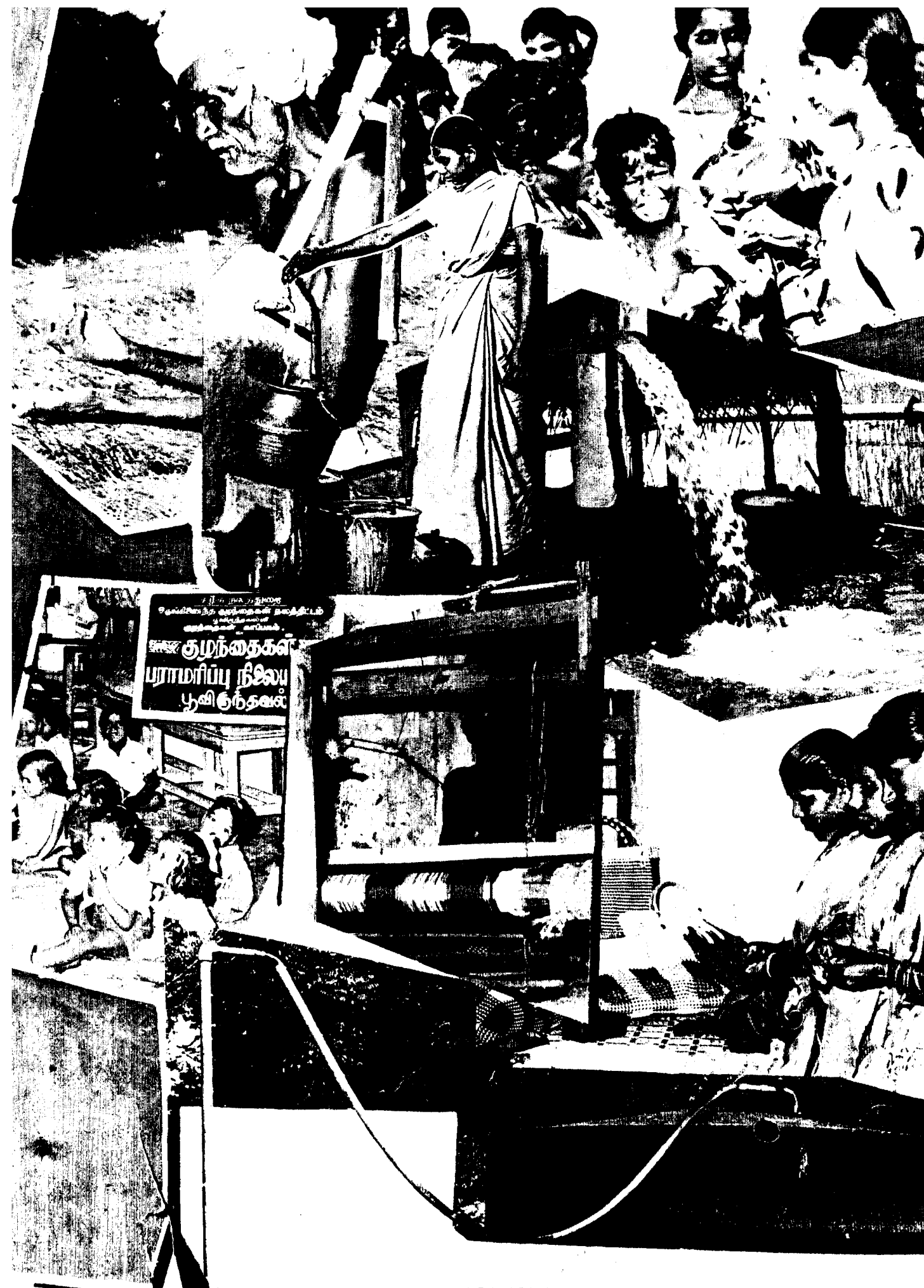
A full-fledged press is maintained for publications. A monthly magazine called "The Farm Science and a Monthly Reporter" published by this unit carry the articles on research and general interests respectively. Besides, books on special subjects authored by the specialists are being published and they are issued free of cost both for the farmers and extension workers.

Documentary films on subjects of current interest are being produced with the assistance of Tamil Nadu Films Division, Adayar, Madras. During 1978-79 films on Sugargane, Dry farming and Agricultural Engineering were produced. These films are distributed through the public relations officers of the districts for wide screening in the theaters. Besides they are being used by our information officers

attached to the district units for their campaigns.

The Tourist and Festival fairs are the opportunities for the large scale communication of farm messages and achievements to the urban, semiurban and the surrounding rural mass about the situation and facilities available for farm production. Exhibitions are conducted on such occasions to serve the above purpose.

Thus the farm information unit play vital role in bringing the required change in the field with an ultimate objective of increasing the "Farm Productivity" which the entire gamut of Agricultural activities in the national level aim at. With the increased sophistication of media and farm innovations the task of the information units are so great which they approach with all grace.

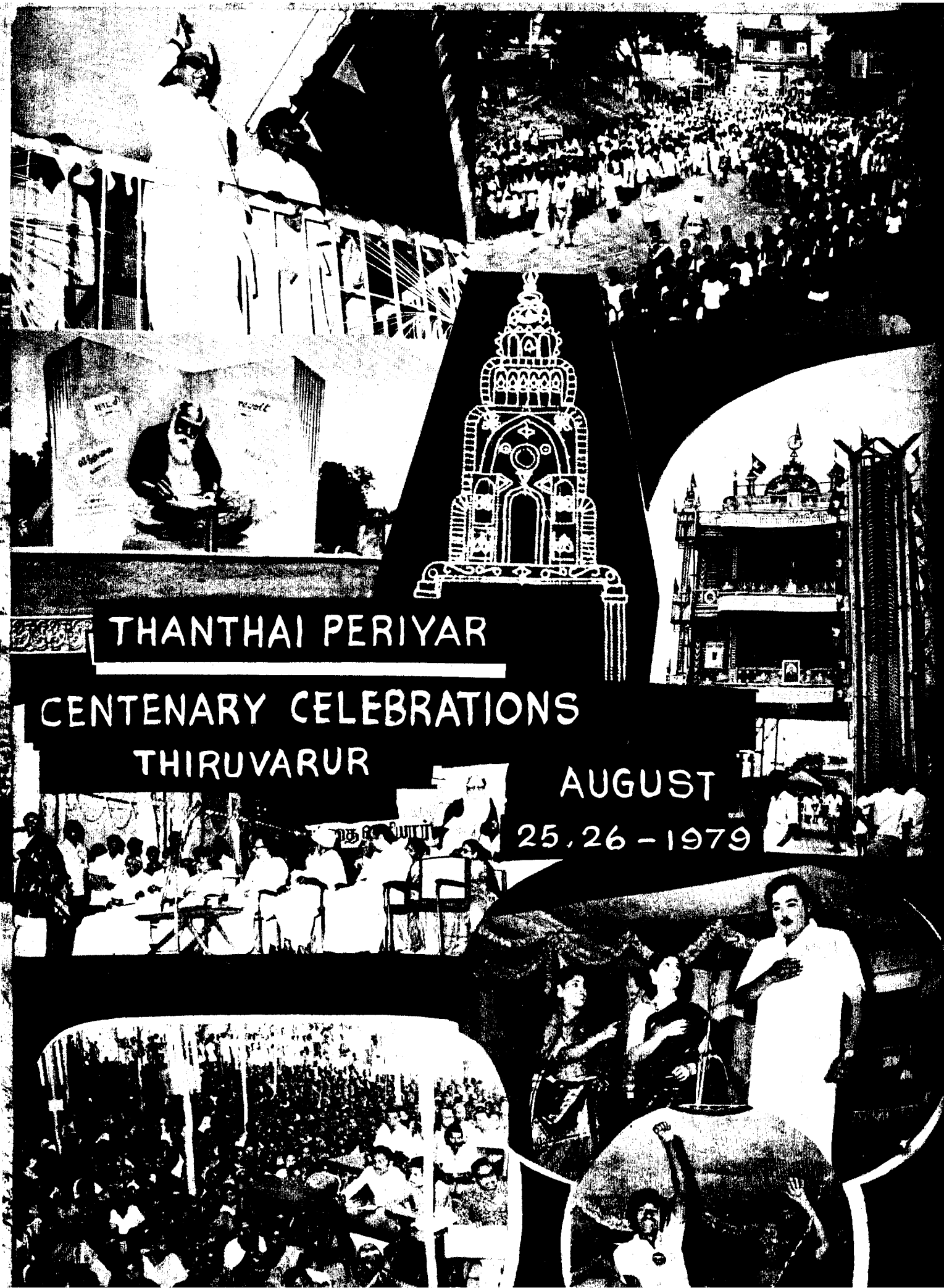


Regd. No. 8676—A



Tamil Arasu





THANTHAI PERIYAR
CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS
THIRUVARUR

AUGUST
25, 26 - 1979



The Hurricane that uprooted growths poisonous to Society

— PERARIGNAR ANNA —



An uneducated old man. An obstinate person from his youth. An agitator who was not aware that a party set-up should follow the nature of political objective. He never bothered about the feeling of the people he hurt and that those hurt will hurl abuses. He refused to be tactful. He was attacked by the very same persons whom he brought into the limelight. To this old man, the very idea of agitation tastes sweet. He has a long public service to his credit. But what has he gained? Has he obtained a knighthood? Had he any opportunity to go to Geneva at Government cost. Did he go to the States at the expense of the Government? What are his achievements. He was put in prison not less than eight times. This is Ramasami Naicker.

We are aware of the appearances of a good many extremists in the world. We are aware of speakers with gifted tongues, who have talked of atheism. We have seen heroes braving rivers of fire. We should understand the great difference between these persons and Periyar.

They talked and wrote among educated persons of mature understanding. Whereas Periyar's work was among the most illiterate of Tamil Nadu amongst opposition including stone throwing and mud slinging. While the all-knowing men of letters of all fields, felt helpless even to check impostors, Periyar, slashed through like a hurricane, uprooting various growths poisonous to society in Tamil Nadu.

Periyar has great experience in having led a number of agitations. His relationship and understanding with the general public was so certain that the wrath of the rich could not harm him.

He sowed the seed of self respect in Tamil Nadu. He has seen many a battlefield and participated in many a battle. Discarding luxurious living he lived a simple life.

Come forward to work. Don't ask me the means of livelihood. Come to rescue your com-

munity. Don't ask me whether you have the energy for it. Come, join the battle. Don't ask me when it will end. This was his war cry.

The qualities of intellectuals and revolutionaries like Socrates, Lenin, Bernadshaw and Rousseau, for which they are held in great esteem are all seen together in the form of Periyar.

A good number of persons have worked alongwith Periyar. Throughout I had the opportunity to be with him, more than the others. They have been very sweet days for me. Even as I recall them today, I derive great pleasure.

During his conversations he has come out with a number of thought provoking ideas. He taught me the art of fortifying my heart against hardships. He induced in me a great interest, pleasure and satisfaction in public service.

I found and accepted the leadership of this sole leader.

His life was a continuous struggle to uphold the right to speak what he felt at any cost. His success in this struggle was tremendous. He was not the sole person to enjoy the fruits of his success. Today, one and all enjoy the fruits of his labour. In Tamil Nadu, a state prevails, when one can express his views freely. This is the first phase of the success of an intellectual revolution. Periyar and Periyar alone is responsible for this. The service rendered by him to achieve this success is very appreciable.

And therefore, I generally refer to it—the great service rendered by Periyar is not the work of an individual, but it is an era, an important period of time, a turning point.

He has seen many battlefields. The successes achieved were very many. The battle he started is still going on.

I call those days the spring in my life, the days when I had the opportunity to join him in that battle.





PERIYAR CENTENARY

We Proudly Celebrate

Thanthai Periyar worked hard for the uplift the poor in the lowest rung of society. Therefore, the people should be made to understand his ideals.

The ideals of social reformation will be popularized by participating in the Periyar birth centenary celebrations. Those who are already aware of his ideals may become more active and those who have forgotten may recall them through these celebrations.

Periyar's functions are not conducted in order to get degree or to collect votes. By listening to the speeches even for a few hours one can learn much more than what one can learn over 10 or 15 years.

The Periyar birthday celebration conducted by the Government is to help recall the path of social reform.

(Excerpts from the speeches made on 4-8-79 at the E. V. R. Centenary celebration at Pudukottai).

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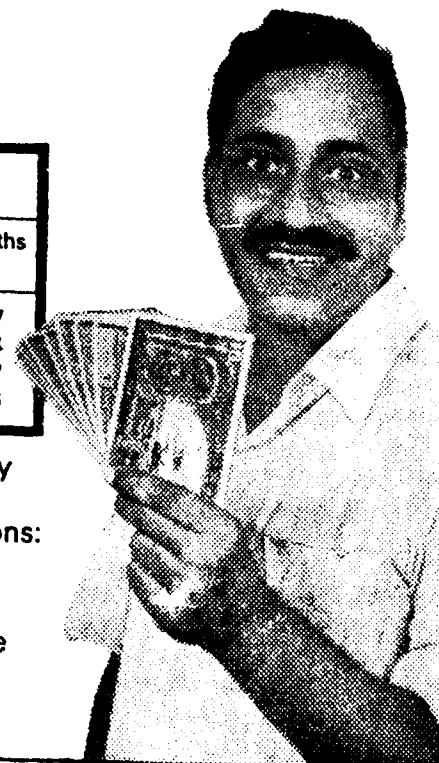
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A SOCIAL REVOLUTIONARY



S. RAMACHANDRAN B.E. (Hons) F.I.E.,
Hon. Minister for Electricity

Exactly a hundred years ago, Periyar was born; a new era was born.

It was a time when Indian Society was at the threshold of a change. It was a time when the feeling for freedom dawned among the native Indians. It was also the time when many social reformers attempted a change in the social structure.

Indian society suffers from a peculiar disease—the 'caste' system. It is the caste system which divided society into water tight compartments. It is this system that put a stop to social mobility. It is the caste system which prevented social inter course.

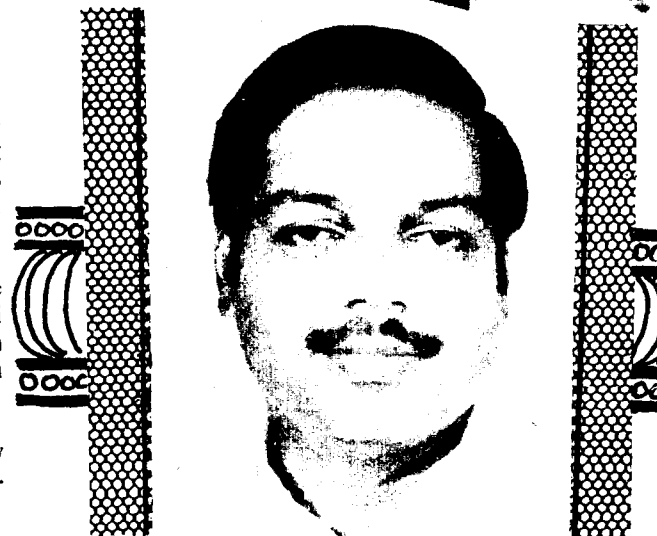
In retrospect it is amazing that a 'cultured' society like ours should have not only accepted it, but perpetuated it with religious sanction.

Indian society was divided into four castes. Others were treated as outcastes or untouchables. Even among the four divisions of castes, there was a hierarchical system assigning status to a particular caste. The upper most was the 'Brahmin' caste, the priestly class. This was there for long, probably for many centuries.

It is this community which was in the fore-front in all walks of life, social, political and economical. This community established a rapport even with Britishers, our rulers at that time. They functioned not only in the British Government but were also active participants in the freedom movement. Such is their dynamism and cheerful efficiency.

Tamil Nadu is not an exception to this Indian situation, except for the fact that it has its own distinct culture which treats all alike.

Periyar, a tenacious fighter against injustice, was born amidst these circumstances. In his anxiety to fight against alien rule, he joined the freedom movement, headed by the congress party and found himself



in a pitiable predicament when he realised that British Rule would only be replaced by Brahmin Rule, if social equality were not attained by that time.

According to him, the Brahmin caste, constituting only 3 percent of the population, was enjoying as much as 70 to 80% of the benefits derived from society whereas 70% of the non-Brahmin population was not able to derive benefits even upto 10 or 15%. Being conscious of the injustice, that was likely to be meted out to the masses, he could no longer remain in the Congress, nor could the Congress contain him.

It was in 1925 that he came out of the Congress to fight for the just cause of the majority of the population in Tamil Nadu who are non-Brahmin.

In this crusade, many well-educated youth joined him, the chief among them being our late Leader ANNA. Not only did he attack the Brahmin domination in the society but he demolished the very foundation of the caste structure.

In this great venture, he achieved many firsts in the field of his battle.

8 He was the one who conducted all his battles without even a trace of violence, in spite of the fact that he was leading a majority of 20 Percent people against 3%.

He was the one who adopted tactics which yielded high dividends without sacrificing many of his volunteers in the battlefield. His method can be described as 'threaten and withdraw'. He would threaten to burn the Constitution, the National Flag and even the portrait of Mahatma Gandhi, the leader of our freedom movement, only to squeeze out of the Government certain concessions and privileges for his exploited masses. When he saw the prospect of achieving it, he never hesitated to withdraw.

He was the first to be a leader among leaders. Not only was he respected by leaders of all political parties and leaders of all shades of opinion but he was the father figure for a separate generation of leaders. If there is a modern political movement in Tamil Nadu started by the late Anna and conducted effectively by our energetic Chief Minister Hon'ble Thiru M.G.R. today, the credit goes to the Father figure—our late Periyar.

He was the first to realise his dreams in his own life-time when social equality is upper most in one's mind. He achieved what he wanted. There is nobody in Tamil Nadu today who is bold enough to ascertain the caste of the other. In fact, everyone is enlightened enough to get rid of the caste system altogether.

He was the first in spreading his movement not only in the social field but also in the political field to

create awareness among the masses to elect such a party which would be rationalistic in dealing with social problems.

He was the first of his kind among social philosophers to denounce the very existence of God and question the validity of religion. By his marathon tour all over the state and by his numerous meetings all the time, he convinced illiterate masses, among whom he worked hard, of the rationale of his policy and programmes.

It was in 1974 that Periyar departed after long and active years of public life.

Though he is no more with us he has left with us a great country and a great ideal: A great country rid of the caste system, untouchability and all attendant social evils, a great ideal to treat humanity as one and serve them equally above the prejudices of caste, colour, race, religion, sex, language, and nation.

Probably he is the first to have left us his own follower to become the Chief Minister and to celebrate his centenary. A charismatic personality, by his own virtue, our Chief Minister Hon'ble Thiru M.G.R. has organised the people of Tamil Nadu to celebrate the centenary of Periyar, throughout the year. No other people could have celebrated any other leader like this. Even after his death, Periyar was made to achieve this first.

As Anna has aptly put it, Periyar was an era. When he ended, that era also ended.

So he took over the real leadership of the contemporary Tamil renaissance which till then had been a predominant elite-movement, but now was turned into a mass-movement. In this way self-respect was widened to include self-consciousness of the Tamilians as Tamilians, and the Self-Respect movement, eventually developed into the Dravida Kazhagam. But the Periyar himself has also left his mark on his followers, a heritage which may be hard to manage.

As a foreigner I see this heritage in the Periyar's radical sense of human dignity and his quest for self-respect as the indispensable precondition of any achievement, socially as well as politically. He fought during a lifetime, and not in vain, in order to awaken this quest among the Tamilian people. But on the other hand, self-respect itself is a precondition, a precondition, namely, of true regard for one's fellow human beings.

To my mind this is the lasting challenge which the Periyar has left, a challenge, which characteristically corresponds to the conception of human greatness as elaborated in the Sacred Kural.

Bent Smidt Hairsen

Social equality as a precondition of political "swaraj" was the basic idea when E. V. R. founded the Self-Respect movement. However, self-respect is not only a question of social equality, but as well a question of personal self-reliance. So E. V. R. had to face both sides in order to found true self-respect, and he did not hesitate to call what he considered his double-faced enemy by name: Caste and Superstition. To quote himself: "Man is disgraced by caste and caste is disgraced by religion. How can we destroy one keeping the other alive."

Previous reformers had attacked the caste system, but before E. V. R. none had realized that the roots of the caste system had to be found in religion. To fight both with one blow marks, however, the originality of E. V. R. Being a non-Brahmin

himself, he spontaneously perceived the difficult definable term "religion" to be North-Indian Brahmanism and just this perception determined the success of his fight. The previous North-Indian reformers had to appeal to self-criticism in order to achieve their social aims, in so far as the customs they intended to reform were based on their own Aryan-religious tradition. But to make people realize that the roots of most social evils can be found only by looking nearer home has certainly nowhere any mass-appeal, nor had it in North-India. On the other hand, to make people realize that they are caught in spiritual as well as social darkness because of suppression by intruders, this above all appeals to self-respect, and this was, particularly, what E. V. R. did.

The Morning Star of Tamil Nadu

R.M. VEERAPPAN,
Hon'ble Minister for Information
and Religious Endowment

believe; he fully understood them. Therefore he defied such beliefs. He attacked vehemently those who were the cause for the spread of such beliefs. He fought ruthlessly against the structures which were the basis for it.

His voice of dissent was full of revolutionary fire. The words from his pen shot out like atom bombs. His feelings burst forth like a volcano because he was not able to tolerate the miseries of society. He raised his war cry. His agitations differed vastly from other social reformers.

But this leader who was keenly bent on agitation—a great leader who could channelize the energies of men, who had the power to destroy his opponents at the crook of his finger, who could command legions of

Thanthai Periyar—This is not just the name of a leader. It is the name of an era. 75 years of the history of Tamil Nadu can be traced in his life.

Peerless leaders, great intellectuals, philosophers, freedom fighters, social reformers have appeared in this world. He appeared to have the dynamic force of all these luminaries unified in himself.

He tried to eradicate—nay, he fought against the evils of casteism brought about by religion, social inequalities, slavery of women, religious bigotry and superstitious beliefs which are a disgrace to mankind. He lit the lamp to dispel the darkness in society. He castigated these cancerous social evils and paved a revolutionary path for a new world. He swam against the current for sixty years.

If we keenly follow the activities and programmes of this father of agitations the lion undaunted by prison walls—we can understand that he has carved out a path of great purity and uprightness, which we should try to emulate.

He believed that certain beliefs and norms were the cause for social evils and degradation. Not only did he



fighters, a leader who had no equals, he in his lifetime, saw to it that those who opposed him, the symbols which he wanted to destroy, or those believers who opposed him, never came to any harm. The peaceful and righteous manner in which he looked after their welfare—should be emulated by his followers.

Those who point out that Thanthai Periyar had class hatred, should look back on his life.

Those who call him an antagonist of Asthikas should look carefully into 60 years of his life.

Throughout his life, this great leader saw to it that his movement of rationalism did not harm the particular section of the people who were determined to protect the evils of social tradition and religious tradition that were a part of the Hindu social fabric.

He opposed superstitious beliefs and he opposed them strongly. But he did not oppose the society nor the people who were the cause for it. He had a great affection for people. He was a great humanitarian. Only if this great truth were understood can one understand Periyar's great strength. This was the quality pointed out by Anna. Periyar who started his work in the freedom movement realized from Gandhiji's philo-

sophy that independence could be complete only when social freedom was achieved. That was why Periyar chose to follow an independent path, instead of becoming a slave to political intrigues, desire for power and the fruits of office.

The journey Periyar undertook was one of hardship. To undertake this journey one should have indomitable courage and unlimited zeal. Periyar had both in abundance, and was able to face success in the first phase, resulting in the formation of Anna's Government in 1967.

The Tamil people were able to realize the ideals of Periyar with the formation of Anna's Government as a first step and the work still goes on. Periyar is not with us today. Perarignar Anna who was introduced by Periyar to the Tamil society is also no more. But the Government formed by Anna still continues.

To rekindle his memories, the Government of Anna which realizes the ideals of Periyar, has drawn up a programme to celebrate the centenary of Periyar—the morning star, right through the year.

Let us bow to the leader par excellence of the 20th century—an era in the annals of Tamil history. Let us take a pledge to follow his footsteps.



PERIYAR
E.V. RAMASAMY

—Miss ANITA DIEHL

University of LUND, Sweden.

In Periyar's propaganda, an ethical - structure, based on a concept of man, is apparent. He advocates strongly to and determined by life in this world, as he firmly repudiates any transcendental power, influence, or accent.

In thinking of man as a rational being, Periyar optimistically ascribes to him both good-will and dignity. He emphasises Social duty, equality and justice in word which sometimes are obviously connected with the New Testament. "These words are often repeated by Periyar as virtues required of man and indispensable to Society. Olukkam (good behaviour) Nanneri (integrity) and Unmai (truth) when using this terminology, Periyar betrays his indigenous back-ground.

"Periyar is the pragmatic propagandist -attacking what he sees wrong in religious influence on society, namely Brahmin domination. He cannot be called as atheistic philosopher.

"In his attack on the Brahmin as high caste-the representative of religio-social domination, the social side of Periyar's ideology is manifested. Just as the vaikom experience in 1924 taught Periyar that anti-Brahminism meant the eradication of religion, this too taught 'The Vaikom Hero' that anti-Brahminism meant the eradication of caste.

Robert G. Ingersoll, the American atheist and Rationalist is often quoted in the speeches and writing of the D.K. movement. Ingersoll

has been translated into Tamil—for instance the booklet Irandu Valikal (TWO WAYS) published in 1968. At an interview Periyar stated My disciples read Ingersoll to me and I accepted many of his ideas and used them in my propaganda".

The question why Ingersoll proved attractive to Periyar seems significant. According to Irschick, the Ingersoll influence came to Periyar through C.N. Annadurai who had read him and who was impressed by the American philosopher. The influence of Ingersoll on Periyar was apparent after his trip to Russia in 1931.

The Personality of Periyar in his effective manifestations of an active propagandist, creating an image of the clear contours has emerged out of personal experiences. Periyar's propaganda is the reflections of his personality. An enumeration of the main trends and events of recent history in South India will, therefore, give a key to his personality and at the same time answer the question of the development of his influence. In his fierce attacks on existing South Indian structures, religion and social tradition guided by Brahmins, Periyar has contributed to the growing sense of Tamil identity. He broke with latent Hindu fatalism, when in his bold Rationalism, he proclaimed his message of change and improvement which is apparent behind his many anti-slogans.

MARTIN LUTHER of TamilNadu

Periyar has carved out a niche in the Hall of Fame in Tamilnadu and beyond. Since the thirties and earlier Periyar was doing revolutionary propaganda in the promotion of social justice. He aroused conscious of sub-merged communities in the new awakening of their human dignity and equality. During those years a friend of mine occasionally used to mention about the impact of "Kudiyarasu" which was negating existence of "God" and propagating ideas of social equality and communal justice for depressed classes, castes and communities.

My first acquaintanceship with Periyar was quite accidental. During the year 1930 I worked for the Justice Party candidates in the City of Madras. Most of them were elected to the then Madras Legislative Council. Dewan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar got elected for the then Central Legislative Assembly and continued to function for full four years. The Indian National Congress decided to contest the Central Legislative Assembly elections in 1934. As a student of Panchaiyappa's College I worked for his election. There was a sweeping success achieved by the Indian National Congress in the later half of 1934 Central Legislative Assembly elections. Periyar Ramaswamy did vigorous propaganda for the success of A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar but in vain.

In 1938 I was practising as an Advocate in the Courts of North Arcot District. The late Samy Naidu of Tirupattur was known to me. Sir Kurma Venkata Reddy Naidu and Periyar addressed the Mohammedans of Arcot town in the later half of 1939. During the



year 1939 Muslims of India were awakened to new consciousness of their political rights by Mr. Jinnah who was spelling out the idea of separate nationhood in rather ambivalent terms. I even now distinctly remember that both these speakers exhorted the Muslims of Arcot to follow the lead of Mr. Jinnah fearlessly and unflinchingly.

Periyar was living during the year 1950 in one street named after a muslim near Mount Road. I was often making visits to him. At least

twice "Kuthcosi" Gurusamy came and consulted me on certain legal matters, even in regard to the new social reform movement or political agitations which Periyar started during that decade. I had so much of respect and reverence for Periyar that although Periyar wanted to come to my residence and consult me, I made it a point to meet him in his house and give my legal advice about the legal implications of some of his movements or agitations either socio-political or political.



K. NARAYANASWAMY,
Hon'ble Minister for Law.

In October 1954 I appeared for Periyar and others in the High Court of Judicature at Madras. A complaint was filed by Thiru A. Veerabhadran Chettiar against Periyar for an alleged offence under sections 295 and 295-A of the Indian Penal Code. The complaint was that Periyar broke the mud-image of Ganesa in public at the Town Hall Maidan of Tiruchirappalli on 27.5.1953 at 5.30 p.m. The First Additional First Class Magistrate, Tiruchirappalli dismissed the complaint under section 203 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Thiru Veerabhadran Chettiar took up the matter by way of revision to the Court of Sessions Judge of Tiruchirappalli Division. The Sessions Judge refused to order further enquiry and dismissed the revision petition. Thiru Veerabhadran Chet-

tiar sought to revise the order of the Sessions Judge of Tiruchirappalli before the High Court of Madras. I appeared for Periyar. The petition filed by Thiru Veerabhadran Chettiar was dismissed on 13th October 1954. (The judgment of the High Court in the case filed by Thiru Veerabhadran Chettia is reported in 1955 I M.L.J. page 368)

In the year 1956 I invited him for a lunch with me. I was living in No.1, Daniel Street. I have a distinct recollection that I also invited the late lamented Thiru V.L. Ethiraj, Justice Govinda Menon among others. I still remember Thiru Justice W.S. Krishnaswamy Naidu (who is happily with us) was one of the invitees. It is well known that Periyar was rather influential with the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Perumthalaivar Kamaraj. In the course of lunch and conversation, Justice Govinda Menon gave me a good good chit about my stature as a Lawyer. Thiru Ethiraj sportingly conveyed a distinct hint to Periyar that my stature at the Bar must be duly recognised by the then Government! Periyar smiled and smiled! I am aglad to notice that

nothing came out of this during the Congress regime. I want to lay emphasis on one aspect of this luncheon. I told Periyar that the lunch was to be at 1.00 p.m. at my residence. He arrived punctually at 1.00 p.m. An Englishman, whose virtue is punctuality, would have been amazed at the precision and accuracy of the punctuality practised by Periyar. How many of us know the virtues of punctuality today!

(It may not be totally irrelevant to mention that at the end of 1952 or at the beginning of 1953 Thiru M.G.R. (as he then was known) came to my residence with Thiru Ponnambalanar and gave me a word of appreciation for my services in what was known as ~~மாண்புமிகு~~ in which ~~மாண்புமிகு~~ were arraigned as accused by the Rajaji Administration.)

I made visits to Periyar when he was either ailing or convalescing in the General Hospital.

After I became a permanent Judge of the Madras High Court I wanted to pay my respects to Periyar. On one occasion Periyar recollected a meeting between him

and the then Chief Minister Thiru Anna. at Pattiveeranpatti. He told me details of his successfully persuading the Chief Minister to persuade me to accept the offer of a Permanent Judgeship when I was invited by the then Chief Justice to accept the said offer. Until his sad death, I used to make now and then a few calls on Periyar at Periyar Thidal.

Periyar was the Martin Luther of revolutionary protestant social reformation in the State of Tamil Nadu. The repercussions of his propaganda have had an extensive and wide spread fall out throughout India today. Today his ideas are being imbibed and propagated throughout India by the submerged communities suffering from the vicious, diabolic, cruel caste system. He will live in the history of India permanently like the Buddha and Martin Luther of Christian history. May his noble example and spirit of sacrifice inspire all the Tamilians to accomplish the tasks left behind him thus fulfilling his dreams and aspirations for a democratic, egalitarian, equalitarian and casteless society in India in general and in the State of Tamil Nadu in particular.

In 1925, he organized the 'Self Respect movement' designed as a Dravidian uplift, seeking to expose the Brahmin tyranny and the deceptice methods by which they controlled all spheres of Hindu Life. Naicker publicly ridiculed the puranas as fairy tales, not only imaginary and irrational but grossly immoral as well. Influenced in his religious thinking by Robert Ingersoll and having translated much of his writing into Tamil, Naicker still bitter from his experiences as a Sanyasi attacked religion as the tool of Brahminical control. He carried on active propaganda in an attempt to rid the people of Puranic Hinduism and wean them away from religious ceremonies requiring the priestly service of the Brahmin. He denounced caste observances, child marriage and enforced widow-hood, and attacked the Laws of Manu which he called the basis of the entire Hindu Social fabric of caste, and described as not only essentially,

but totally inhuman. The Laws Naicker pointed out, were designed to secure the supremacy of the Brahmin and to ensure his unquestioned authority. In order to propagate his views, he founded a Tamil Journal Kudi Arasu (People's Government).

"Naicker waved black flags of rebellion in his first, anti-Hindi campaign. The agitation against the imposition of Hindi brought Naicker to the fore-front of attention, and influenced the non-Brahmin."

"As in the Self-Respect Movement, one of Naicker's basic objectives was to remove all 'Superstitious belief' based upon religion or tradition. No member was allowed to wear the Sectarian marks of faith across his forehead. Members were urged to boycott the use of Brahmin priests in ceremonies. He campaigned vigorously for widow remarriage and inter-caste marriage."

—Robert. L. Hardgrave Jr.
University of Chicago

Socrates

of the

Century

N. D. SUNDARAVADIVELU

Former Vice-Chancellor Madras University



Thanthai Periyar E. V. Ramasami was the Socrates of the twentieth century. Like Socrates of Athens, Thanthai Periyar would not deviate from the path of rationalism for fear or favour. Periyar Ramasami led a dynamic public life till his end in the ripe old age of ninety-five. This great colossus was a bold thinker, an original thinker and a revolutionary thinker who expressed himself on all occasions with frankness bordering on bluntness and effectiveness.

Thanthai Periyar Ramasami was more than a great individual. He was the personification of a great and revolutionary movement. The self respect movement of which, this great thinker and agitator was the founder, stood for, fought and is still fighting against every form of injustice. Humanism is the hall mark of Periyar's life long mission. Preservation of human dignity and ensurement of equality between all men and between men and women, without any reference to colour, creed and caste were the noble causes for which Periyar fought a relentless battle lasting more than half a century.

Even as a young boy of nine or ten years E. V. Ramasami revolted against the age old custom of caste inhibitions with regard to drinking and eating. Defying parental orders not to drink or eat in the homes of people dubbed by custom to be inferior to his caste, he incurred the wrath of his parents. This revolt

against casteism and its evils grew unabated as he advanced in age.

E. V. Ramasami's parents having failed in their attempts to enforce caste discipline in this young boy, withdrew him from school by the time he came to the fourth grade. They put him to apprenticeship at his father's mundy. He became a successful dealer and soon an independent businessman. Wealth and popularity grew fast.

E. V. Ramasami's debut into public life was through the Municipal council of Erode. He became the chairman of the Erode Municipal council. It was E. V. Ramasami who was responsible for bringing for the first time, protected water supply to the town of Erode.

At that time, the Indian National Congress was becoming under the charismatic leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, a real mass movement, drawing into its fold men and women of different backgrounds. E. V. Ramasami, the strong man of Erode came to be attracted by the goal of political freedom from foreign rule. He joined the Indian National Congress and became an activist in that movement. In response to Gandhi's call for non-co-operation with the British administration E. V. Ramasami gave up un-hesitatingly the Chairmanship of the Municipal Council as well as twenty eight other honorary offices.

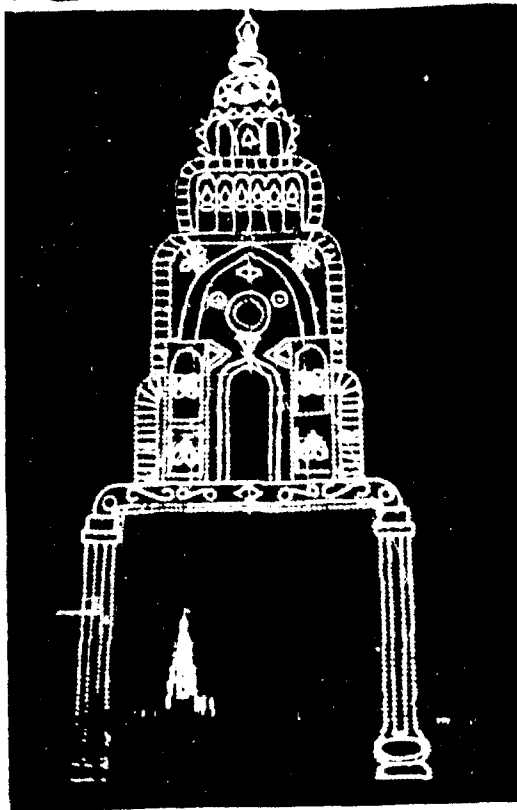
Whatever he undertook, E. V. Ramasami would throw his heart and 'Soul' into it. His social status, powerful oratory, organising capacity and earnestness of purpose were responsible in a great measure for building up the Indian National Congress in Tamilnadu as a broad based and strong organisation. E. V. Ramasami was Secretary of the Tamilnadu Congress Committee and President of that Committee respectively for a period of two years each.

The non-co-operation programme of Gandhiji cost E. V. Ramasami a great deal. Promissory notes and mortgage bonds to the value of Rs. 50,000 were about to become time barred. E. V. Ramasami deliberately chose to lose that much of money of the early twenties by refusing to go to a court of law, even through a third party, for the recovery of the amounts due.

Prohibition was an important item of the Gandhian programme. In pursuance of this E. V. Ramasami organised the first picketing of a toddy shop in Erode. This resulted in his first imprisonment. Thanks to Ramasami's encouragement, his wife, Nagammal of revered memory and his sister Kannammal, a great social worker also took part in his picketing campaign.

These ladies were the pioneers in such picketting in our country.

A coconut grove, belonging to E. V. R's family, was leased earlier for toddy tapping. When he accepted prohibition as his goal, Ramasami tried in vain to persuade the lessee to take adequate compensation from him and to give up the right to tap toddy. When the lessee insisted on his last drop of toddy, Ramasami saw to it that all the five hundred trees in the grove were felled down overnight by men hired by him.



Casteism is a sore pestering Hindu society for thousands of years. Its manifestations are varied in form. Apart from the cruelty of segregating millions of our own brothers and sisters in separate, secluded insanitary colonies, tens of millions were denied the basic human rights of access to public streets, roads, tanks, wells, choultries etc.

Early in 1924, in the far off town of Vaikkam in the then Travancore State revolt against the tradition that Ezhavers and similar castes could not go through the streets around the temple, erupted. Volun- teers courted arrest by defying this ban. The organisers were jailed in a lot.

E. V. Ramasami then President of the Tamilnadu congress committee was invited to take charge of the Vaikkam satyagraha. Periyar did accept the invitation and led the Satyagraha, underwent imprisonment twice on this count but brought the struggle to a successful end. Not only the Public streets of vaikkam but also the public roads and street throughout the State were thrown open to all persons, irrespective of their caste.

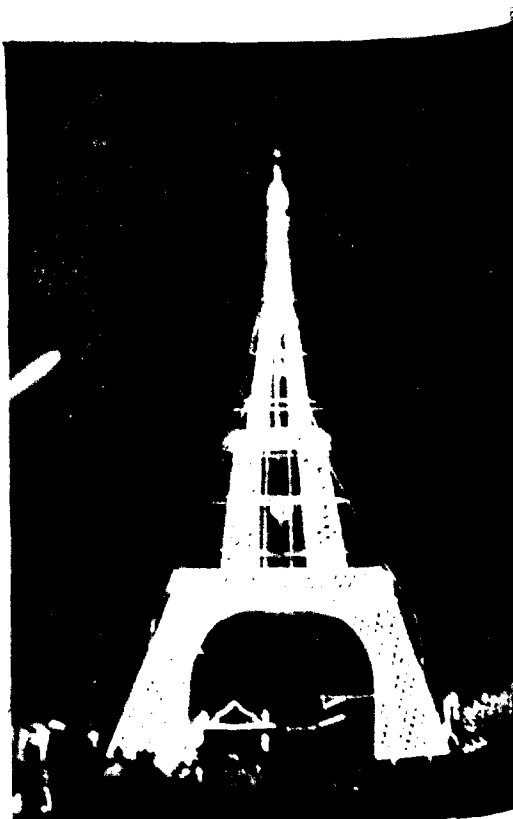
As a prominent leader of the Congress in Tamilnadu, E. V. Ramasami campaigned for about six years for the acceptance in principle of communal representation in elected positions and, services. In late 1925, in the provincial conference of the Congress held at Kacheepuram even a discussion of this subject was vetoed. That was a turning point in the course of public service of E.V. Ramasami. He left the congress, once for all, despite the prominent position he then held and the future prospects, it would have given to him.

Ever since E. V. Ramasami left the Congress, he carried on, year after year, a whirlwind campaign for the total abolition of castes and their heirarchy. The orthodox and the conservatives tried to stem the tide of rationalism and revolt by throwing the sand bags of hoariness, religious faith, superstitions, quoting scriptures in the process. The self respect movement was forced to examine these assertions and scriptures in minute details and to expose to the people at large that most of our scriptures, rites and practices were mere devices to bolster up the decadent caste system.

Inspite of universal illiteracy, ignorance and mass hysteria nurtured by our festivals, the hold of caste, traditions, rites etc., on Tamil society had lessened a great deal thanks to Periyar's campaign.

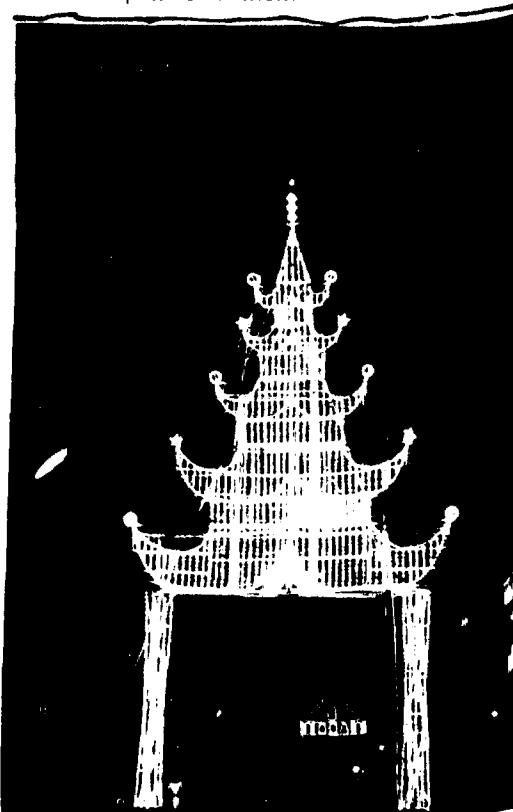
No family of any standing in Tamilnadu can now claim absence of inter caste marriage in its close circles. Both under the aegis of the self respect movement as well as in folds outside it, the number of inter-caste marriages have been steadily increasing during the last half a century. Caste titles are rarely to be found attached to the names of present day youth.

As a result of Periyar's movement, even the humblest of our citi-



zens have come to realise the value and importance of education including higher and professional education.

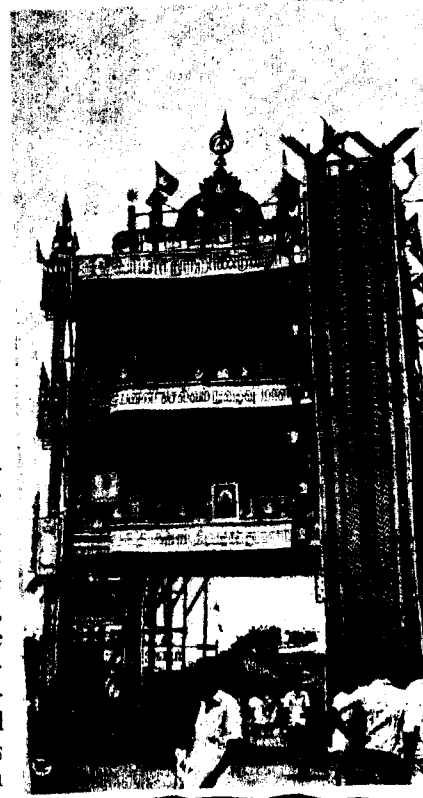
Long ago, in the year 1931, the second provincial self respect, women's conference held at Virudunagar passed a resolution to the effect that all professions should be thrown open to women. What was



blasphemy then, is fast becoming the order of the day. In 1978, as many as 196 girls were selected out of a total selection of about 1,055 for admissions into the Engineering Colleges in Tamil Nadu. The day is not far off when girls will attain parity with boys in such admissions. If Tamilnadu and Tamilians are comparatively devoid of bigotry caste and communal hatred it is in a great measure due to the ceaseless efforts of Periyar, and his devoted disciplines of unflinching loyalty, ready for any sacrifice at the call of their guru.

Periyar's life long campaign encompassed the economic order also—As early as May 1930, Periyar pointed out to the Second provincial Self respect Conference at Erode that the abolition of the current economic system of the haves and have nots, would be the future direction the movement has to take to. His conviction in favour of socialism ensuring a decent, human living for all citizens was strengthened after his extension tour in the soviet Union in the second half of 1932. On his return to India, he called for meeting of the activists of his movement and in collaboration with the veteran communist, comrade M. Singaravelu, drew up a self respect socialist programme. In due course this came to be accepted by the then Justice party as part of its programme.

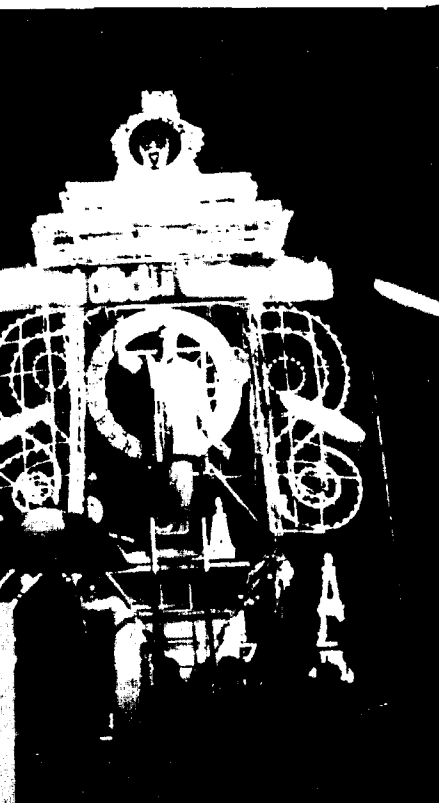
The British Government, which at that point of time, took strong measures to suppress propagation of communist ideas, prosecuted Periyar Ramasami, the Editor of 'Kudi Arasu' and his sister Kannammal, the publisher of that weekly for sedition and propagation of communism. Both were convicted and



sentenced to six months imprisonment.

Inspite of it, the establishment of Socialist order in our society remained one of the main objectives of the self respect movement and the Dravida Kazhakam. Even during the periods when Periyar was not on friendly terms with the communist party, he did not backout or under value the importance and urgency of working for a socialist society.

Thanthai Periyar Ramasami, the most towering of the South Indian leaders of recent times was unsurpassed by any one either in



the length of his service or the volume and nature of sacrifice or the daring of his revolutionary campaigns, or the number of public meetings addressed, or the nature and volume of opposition he had to face, conquer or even in the number of times he went to prison for public causes. In all, Periyar Ramasami had to undergo twenty one terms of imprisonment, both during the British rule and during the Swadeshi rule.

Inspite of his intense and burning desire to bring in a new, casteless and classless society, devoid of superstition, inspite of the numerous and bitter agitations he had to lead, Periyar Ramasami never allowed violence to raise its ugly head in his movement. This, I consider, is the greatest tribute of our multi-dimensional Revolutionary Thanthai Periyar. No wonder the image of Thanthai Periyar is enshrined in the hearts of millions of Tamilians living in India and abroad.

May Periyar's spirit of equality engulf us. May the Path of rationalism, which our Thanthai showed be ours for ever. May humanity outgrow its diseases of caste complexes, warring denominations and exploitation of man by man, group by group and women by men. May we all learn to live as brothers and sisters of equal worth and dignity.



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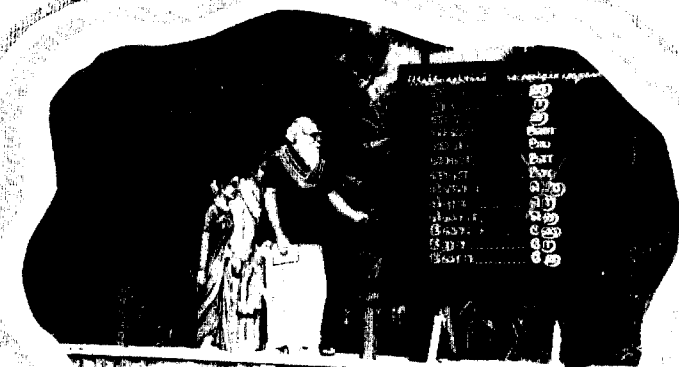
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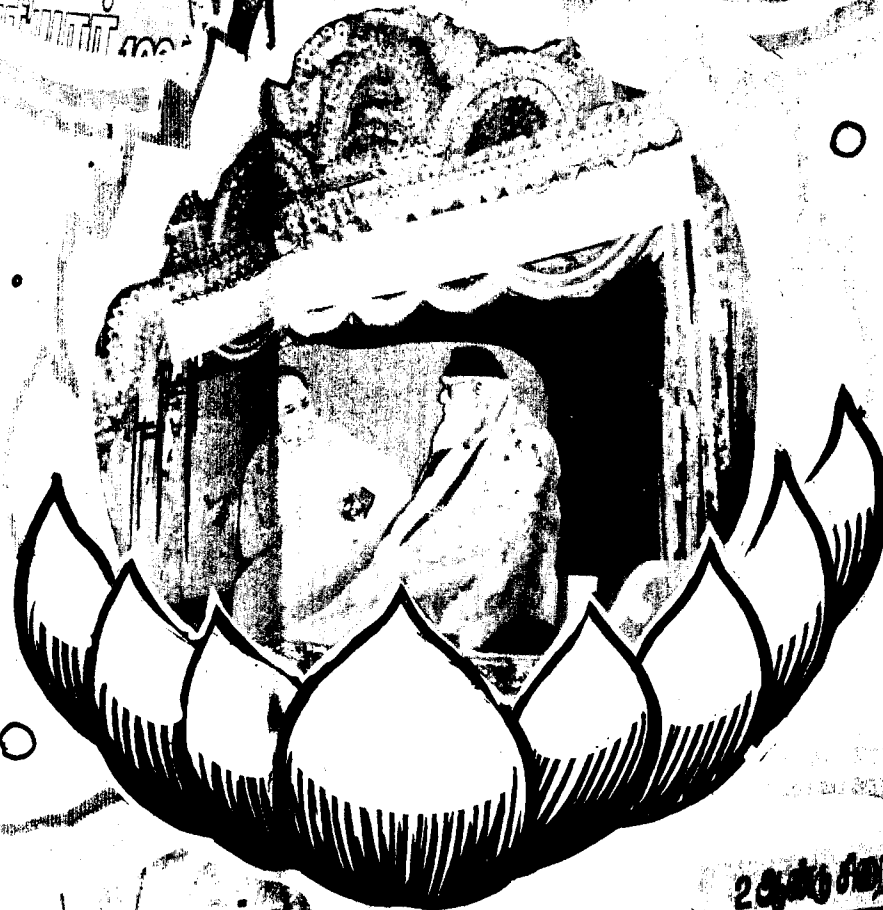
பெரிய பூங்கா வெளிப்புறம் - 1932



பெரிய பூங்கா வெளிப்புறம்



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பெரிய பூங்கா வெளிப்புறம்



TRICHI J
திருச்சி

Periyar's Speeches

A. P. JANARDANAM, M.P.,

In 1934, as a boy of 14, I went to the Fort Maidan in Vellore. On that day, a justice party meeting was held. It was attended by about three thousand people. After some speakers, Periyar, with his flowing beard, chocolate shawl and leonine voice held the audience spell bound. He made out a good case for his party and bitterly denounced superstition. I was completely converted. From that day Periyar is my hero.

Periyar, for over 50 years, toured every nook of the Tamil land and delivered thousands of speeches. He pleaded for social justice, Social Reform, a renaissance, a new Order, a new outlook. He roused the people from ages of slumber. He attacked everything that hindered Free Thought, he did not spare the gods, the sastras, the puranas. He was the smasher of myths and illusions, with unparalleled courage he ridiculed the customs which governed the masses from cradle to grave.

He did not mince words. He did not cloud the issues with the dust of dialectics. He never believed in soothing platitudes or honeyed phrases. He never played to the gallery. He chided, ridiculed, scorned, and came down heavily on the opponents.

But he was utterly sincere. He was moved by the plight of the Sudras and the Chandalas of the

Hindu Order. On behalf of them, to restore their self-respect, to secure them justice, to remove their stigma, he carried on a relentless, remorseless, remarkable crusade to the end. Even at the very ripe age of 93, he gave his clarion call in ringing tones. He was moved to elemental fury at the sight of the high and the mighty prostrating before ravenous, rotten, heartless, inhuman leeches who fattened and battened on the blood and sweat of the toiling masses. He hurled strong epithets, bombarded the citadels of orthodoxy and obscurantism and blasted the myth of Varanashrama monopoly.

Caste, according to him, was the greatest villain in India. High



caste arrogance was fought by Buddha, the Siddhas, Valluvar and Vallalar, Swami Vivekananda, Dayananda, Narayana guru and Gandhiji. But, Periyar alone, day in and day out, made his main plank and toured every nook of the

country, bulldozing the structure with his fiery speeches.

He went to the very root of the matter. Utterly fearless, unburdened by pedantic lore, straight, clear hard-hitting, reaching direct the hearts of the hearers. He boldly attacked the puranic characters and shocked the people to reason.

He preferred the scalpel to mere medicine. He said that the desperate condition of the land called for surgery. He lashed out at the cunning, diabolical machinations of the capitalists by birth. He dynamited the very basis of Hindu hegemony and exhorted the people to become Rationalists and humanists.

His sincerity, dedication and down to-earth approach had very good effect. Though he went against the current, though he pricked many a bubble, though he was very straight, very frank, very unvarnished though he did not mince his words, though he threw his harsh but true findings in the face, though he lashed right and left with stinging effect, his certainty, conviction and clarity silenced the doubters, rallied the wavers and fools who came to scoff and stone, remained to hear.

He rose with the storm. The heckling, the cat-calls, the stones and missiles, simply made this Erode engine gather speed. With his clear, steady, unruffled, vigorous, on the spot replies, the opponents were silenced.

He was at his best when he answered questions. Once in Mannargudi, he went on replying to questions. Suddenly, the pencil end of the questioner broke. Periyar, having observed this, offered his pen to the questioner, exhorting him to write more questions. The poor man was overwhelmed.

Some of Periyar's speeches have been tape-recorded. Many have been published. The Tamilnadu Government under the able stewardship of the charismatic chief Minister M. G. R. is bringing out his sayings. Particular thanks are due to Mr. V. Anaimuthu of Trichy, whose three volumes of Periyar's writings and speeches are splendid.

Periyar's speeches roused a fallen people. They gave a new life and revolutionised thought, reform and conduct in South India.

They will inspire people for thousands of years. Periyar is the 20th Century Tiruvalluvar in Black shirt!



The Magnificent Messiah

S. V. CHITTI BABU

former Vice-Chancellor,
Madurai Kamarajar University



Spelling out the striking characteristics of a truly great man, Channing once observed thus: "The greatest man is he who chooses the right with invincible resolution; who resists the sorest temptations from within and without; who bears the heaviest burdens carefully; who is calmest in storms and most fearless under menace and frowns; whose reliance on truth and virtue is most unflattering." Our beloved Periyar eminently measures up to this exquisite definition of greatness. The cause he whole-heartedly espoused and undauntedly fought for was a right one because it meant the emancipation of society from the choking grip of caste tyranny and the pernicious influence of obscurant religious practices, ridiculous customs and bizarre superstitions. With steadfastness of purpose he abandoned a life of ease and comfort despite his having been born with a silver spoon in his mouth as he was. Power and pelf had no attraction for him. Nor could he be tempted with ministerial offices by vested interests. On the contrary he took upon himself the himalayan task of uplifting the forsaken and the forlorn, the suppressed and the oppressed from the slough of social degradation and misery and restoring them to their rightful place in the social set-up. In his attempt to accomplish this task he encountered many an impediment of abominable

nature. But he overcame every such obstacle with unflagging courage. Even in the face of a grim challenge he was collected and composed. He stood four-square against all storms of vehement criticism of his principles and policies and violent demonstration against his campaigns for social justice by such sections of the community as were desperately clinging to the "ancient regime". As an embattled crusader against all iniquity, sham and hypocrisy he determinedly relied on his armour of virtue and sword of truth.

CRUSADER AGAINST SOCIAL INEQUALITIES:

Periyar could not tolerate society riven by differences based on birth and sex. The perpetuation of a caste system dividing people into high born and low-born, was anathema to him and he was devastatingly critical of the Sastras and Puranas which lent support to the so-called theory of Karma and transmigration of soul. He was unsparing in exploding all the ancient myths which had been relied upon by such people claiming caste superiority. The epic battle he successfully headed against the bastions of orthodoxy and caste arrogance at Vaikom is verily a saga of indomitable valour and heroism which evoked the spontaneous applause of our national leaders

like Gandhiji. Even as he directed his onslaughts against the time-worn practices of castesism and communalisms he adroitly championed the claims of womanhood for social equality. He used to say that any real rivalry of the sexes is the sheerest folly and most unnatural - nonsense. To brand women as the weaker sex was most revolting to him. He averred that it was the law of eternal justice that man could not degrade women himself falling into degradation. Love and devotion discretion and good nature, he said, were the distinguishing ornaments of womanhood. As such he could not see how women who were entitled to equal respect and treatment could be regarded as mere appendages to a male-dominated society.

RIGHTER OF WRONGS:

It was his vehement thesis that the weaker sections of society had been for centuries deliberately left wallowing in the mire of ignorance by a self-seeking caste conscious minority of people who manœuvred to keep to themselves a monopoly of all educational benefits. He therefore took up cudgels against this age-old and atrocious wrong and mounted a vigorous propaganda for the equalisation of educational opportunities and reservation of jobs in government services for the socially and educationally

backward communities. His memorable success in this regard will for ever remain inscribed in letters of gold in the annals of Tamilnadu.

It is common knowledge how during the time when Thiru Kamaraj, the doughty protector of the poor held the reins of government in our state, Periyar went all out to support the former in his matchless endeavours to democratise education, particularly at the elementary and secondary levels. This he did in spite of certain ideological differences with Thiru Kamaraj, and it was a measure of his genuine concern for the education of the unprivileged and neglected segment of society.

Humanist with a Scientific Outlook:

Speaking of education, Periyar's impassioned plea was for an education that liberated children from the strangle hold of hoary beliefs, untenable doctrines, primitive concepts and ante-diluvian ideas which caused intellectual sterility and inertia. To this end he zealously advocated the inculcation of scientific thinking in the minds of the young right from the beginning so that it may enkindle and keep alive their desire to discover their own potential without external restraints. According to Periyar, becoming human means "getting into and out of deep waters". This means taking risks by asking questions for which there are no ready copy-book answers. Such behaviour naturally "gets the child into deep waters". Teachers should recognise this and have the courage to face any kind of questions that the child would like to ask so that learning is not robbed of its excitement. They should help children move in the direction of imagining and giving free vent to promising ideas and original suggestions, however, imperfect or unconventional. When a person is brow-beaten to submission to external threats and pressures he gives up a part of his humanness. As Periyar rightly observes, human potentialities develop as the child learns the value of self-perception and self-expression and finds some one who cares to listen to him as well as encourage him in his adventurous search for new aspects of the truth. In this context one is reminded of what Thoreau said:

"If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him keep step

to the music that he hears, however measured or far-away".

Firm Man of Reason:

It is Sir W. Drummond who has aptly remarked: "He that will not reason is a bigot; he that cannot reason is a fool; he that dares not reason is a slave". Inseparably wedded to reason, Periyar was impatient with a society of bigots, fools and slaves. He was quick to confute error, reprove bigotry, expose hypocrisy, condemn slavery and upbraid foolishness. For this he was accused of uncourteousness, and uncharitableness. But those of us who had known him closely can vouch for his having been most exemplary in his show of courtesy to friend and foe, young and old alike, as well as in his respect for fairplay and justice. A.A. Milne once quipped: "The third-rate mind is only happy when it is thinking with the majority. The second-rate mind is only happy when it is thinking with the minority. The first rate mind is only happy when it is thinking". Periyar's was a first-rate mind, a perfectly just and sound mind, a well-cultivated mind given to original thinking.

When firmness of purpose is yoked to a reasoning mind, it enables one to regard difficulties as but evils to be surmounted, no matter what shape they may assume. It was so with Periyar and what was more, it constituted one of the steel-like sinews of his character, one of the best instruments of his success.

Eloquent Expounder of Criticism

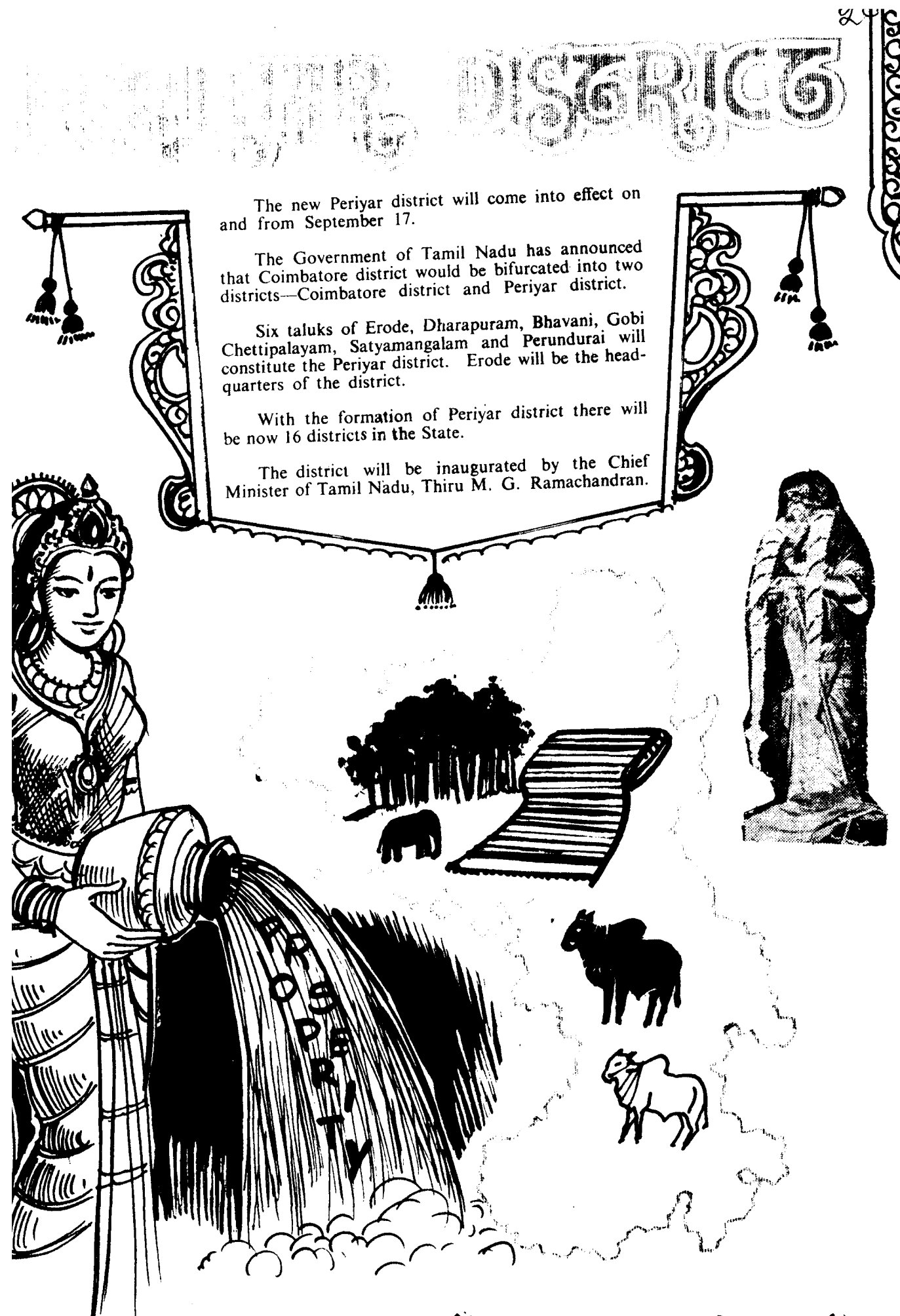
Writing and speaking, speaking and writing—this ceaseless twin activity formed the elixir of Periyar's life. Without this he would hardly have cared to live long. But then, was he writing copiously and speaking tirelessly just to amuse himself? No. On the contrary he deemed it as the grand mission of his life to carry the message of reason and truth through his writings and speeches to the remotest corners of our land and redeem the people from a life of mute suffering and abject surrender to the despotism of out-dated customs and truncated traditions. To Periyar Manu is the arch villain of the piece. When the latter says that immemorial custom is transcendent law, does he not sound ridiculous in the present age of scientific and technological explosion and assertion of fundamental human rights? Flinging him-

self into the cause of liberty and justice, Periyar scalded his foes with biting sarcasm and pungent irony. The hammerstrokes of his extraordinary common sense were dreaded by the high priests of orthodoxy and traditionalism. His wit and wisdom made even his most carping slanderers pause and think whether there was not some substratum of truth in what he propounded.

The clear conception, the inexorable logic, the high purpose, the dauntless spirit—the firm resolve, this is eloquence. Judged by this yardstick, Periyar was uniquely eloquent, with a racy and breezy style of his own which kept millions of his hearers intellectually enriched and emotionally refreshed for hours together. He was an enchanting conversationalist and could as well be called the "Fiery Particle" because his physical frame held such ferocious vitality.

Bringer of Hope to Millions:

A man of multifaceted genius Periyar became a legend during his life time and undoubtedly will continue to be so in times to come. One of the most outstanding figures in the history of our State, he must be considered the most notable independent spirit of modern times. He has attained immortality as the magnificent messiah who brought hope to millions of his compatriots by shattering the rusty fetters of social and economic thralldom that had been imposed on them by caste-hierarchy, priestly ritualism, and religious dogmatism. He identified the human areas, felt sincerely, thought creatively, spoke fervently, wrote critically and acted practically. He pooled his resources vibrantly and spent them prudently in the service of the people. Sick of competitive politics and negative controversies, he spearheaded an agitation for marshalling the conscience of the state to remould its laws and social structure. We are reaping today the harvest of his worthy labours, to some extent. However the historic war for total emancipation he had initiated is yet to be won completely. But the spirit of Periyar the grand patriarch of our times, a man of the masses, a giant among pigmies, will, it is hoped and continue to inspire us as an untailing beacon of light to win the war ultimately—the war against ignorance and indigence, injustice and ineptness, fraud and falsehood, irrationality and intolerance.





The Grand Rebel of Tamilnadu

—By Dr. K.R. Hanumanthan,
Professor of Ancient History
School of Historical Studies
Madurai Kamaraj University,

It is said that ordinary men follow others while geniuses make others to follow them. Conformity to existing traditions and customs is not the way of greatmen. They rebel against the common trends, carve out new paths and attract the masses towards them. Periyar E.V.R. was one of those rare geniuses in whom the spirit of rebellion was in-born. He rebelled, and rebelled grandly against the existing Tamil society, its norms and values, its culture and way of life in the political social and cultural fields. As Toynbee the great historian said he was one of those creative individuals who were bold enough to cut the "Cake of Custom" and show a new path to the masses.

Family rebel:

Even as a young lad, Periyar displayed a remarkable spirit of rebellion against orthodoxy, in his own family. "Much to the dislike and irritation of the orthodox, he was seen touching the untouchables he was seen delighting himself in drinking water and eating food" with them. He insisted on eating non-vegetarian food on prohibited days. He prevented his wife and other members of his family from visiting the temples. Often he brought the untouchables to be fed in his house. His unorthodoxy reached its climax when he removed the "Thali" the symbol of marriage from the neck of his wife, after calling it as the symbol of slavery. His parents were aghast at this sacrilege and poured abuses on him to

such an extent that he left the house and went to Banaras.

Party rebel:

His spurt of rebellion, next exhibited itself in the Congress Party in which he was a member and later on the secretary of its local organ. He condemned the practice of serving food in separate places for Brahmins and Non-Brahmins in the Gurukulam at Shermadevi, run by V.V.S. Iyer. As the secretary of the Tamil Nadu Congress Party he refused to pay the donation sanctioned by the Congress to the Gurukulam which was supposed to train young men in the spirit of patriotism and social service. He urged for common mess for all the inmates of the "ashram" and waged a crusade against communal discrimination. As a result of his vigilant propaganda the Gurukulam lost its public patronage and slowly died away.

In order to bring about social justice, Periyar insisted on the reservation of seats for the Non-Brahmin Communities in the legislature and public services. He proposed his idea in the form of a resolution in the Tirunelveli convention of the Congress in 1920. But it was brushed aside by the Chairman S. Srinivasa Iyengar who styled it as "detrimental to national unity". Year after year Periyar brought the resolution in the Congress but could not pass it. Disgusted with the Congress which according to him sheltered and nurtured com-

munalism he left the Party in 1925 and became a fighter for social freedom and justice.

Social and religious rebel:

The Gurukulam affair and the bitter experiences he had in the Congress, convinced him of the necessity of fighting against the social evils especially the Varnashrama system which gave the Brahmin a supreme position in society. He thought that he could do it within the Congress. But when he found even Gandhiji supporting the idea of Varnashrama he thought that he could fight out the evil only from outside the Congress. He started the self respect movement and urged the Non-Brahmins to come out of the Hindu fold in which they were given the last rank as Sudras and Panchamas. He asked them whether they were not ashamed of employing the Brahmin priests who dubbed them as sudras meaning children of concubines. Since Brahmanic religion and religious texts such as Dharma Sastras were the root causes for the perpetuation of the varna system he began attacking the Hindu religion itself. He wanted the removal of Brahminic Hinduism lock, stock and barrel from the Tamil Society, if any one wanted to eradicate casteism and untouchability from it. Therefore he launched a scathing attack on Hindu Gods, customs, rites and ceremonies in a manner unparalleled in Indian History. He became a rationalist and asked the Tamils to use their reason and not to believe what the priests and puranas said.

Hindu Gods and ceremonies could not stand the test of his pure reason piercing logic and scathing criticism.

Like Voltaire of France he abhorred the tyranny of organized religion, and adopted the slogan "Crush the infamous thing-religion". He joined with Voltaire in condemning the selfish priest as "the first divine was the first rogue who met first fool." Like Diderot he branded all institutionalized religions as instruments of exploitation, devised by the scoundrels to enable them to prey upon the ignorant masses. His teachings were in-conformity with the rationalism and liberalism of Diderot and other enlightened scholars of the west who maintained that "men will never be free till the last king is strangled with the entrails of the last priest". Yes, Periyar was not only against organized religious tyranny but also - political tyranny. He agreed with d' Alembert who declared that the only assurance of progress lay in universal enlightenment which he termed as *Pahutharivu* in Tamil. He named his movement as enlightenment movement or "*Pahutharivu* lyakkam". "What is the use of religion and God" he asked if it is not for the maintenance of equality among men and perpetuate squalor and misery among the illiterate masses.

After denouncing organized religion as an obstruction to all Progress, he began to condemn the practice of meaningless rites and ceremonies, beliefs and superstitions. He was particularly against the practice of the Tamilians looking into the almanac and finding out auspicious moments to start good activities and inauspicious times in which no good act should be performed. When a house is on fire during *ragukalam* should one stop putting it out? When one's life is in danger would he stop going to the doctor during *Yamakandam*? Will a businessman refuse to board a train or a ship if it starts during *Rahukalam*? It is all absurd he said and deplored the enormous waste of time and lost opportunities of the Tamils because of this superstition. Therefore he asked his followers, to perform marriages and other important acts during inauspicious periods such as *Rahukalam*, *Kuligai Kalam* and *Yamakandam*.

He also condemned the practice of matching young men and women

according to their horoscopes. Many a happy marriage has been wrecked on the rocks of horoscopes. Are there not more widows among educated Brahmins who perform marriages by looking into horoscopes than among the illiterate poor people who do not bother about them he used to ask. He told the people to consult the doctor before matching young people rather than the astrologer.

Belief in ill omens, was another cause for the backwardness of the Tamil people. He was sore over people who return home after having seen a widow, a single Brahmin, oil presser or a cat crossing his path. He also exhorted people not to believe in the bad effects which could be produced by the howling of dogs or Jackals, chattering of lizards, hooting of owls, sneezing of a male and the good effects which could be produced by the braying of a donkey or the cawing of a crow. He was also totally against the Tamilians' belief in miracles, which could be performed by God-men and Mantravadhis (magicians). He ridiculed those who were afraid of certain so called bad numbers such as three, eight, thirteen and eighteen. He particularly wanted the young generation not to believe in all these superstitions. He deplored the B.Sc. graduates who took bath during eclipses and performed the *Sraddha* ceremonies to propitiate the spirits of their dead ancestors. He wanted them not to believe in things which are not explicable by reason. He declared that whatever is beyond the perception of the five *Indriyas* (sense organs) is untrue and irrational.

Nothing worried him more than the inhuman treatment meted out to women in the Society. Again religion was responsible for the degradation of women in the family. According to Shastras Women are equal to Sudras who can not study religious scriptures and perform sacrifices. They can not perform the *Sraddha* ceremony for their dead parents. Therefore the orthodox people abhorred the birth of female children. Periyar categorically condemned the literature which advocated the treating of women as slaves of men. That was the reason why he condemned the practice of tying a tali around the neck of the bride. When it was pointed out that it was a symbol to proclaim to the public the married

status of a lady he asked why not men also wear a tali around their necks to show that they are married. His heart ached when he found the enormous waste of human energy found in females, who were not used in the society for higher services and kept idle in houses as mere cooks and servant maids. He asked women not to wear colourful sarees and ornaments just to please the men who considered them as mere objects of sensual pleasure and procreating machines. He wanted them to wear male dress, and compete with men in all walks of life. He ridiculed the selfish males who worshipped goddesses in temples but treated their own wives as worse than slaves in their homes. He wanted to make a bonfire of all puranic literature which praised the absolute servility of woman to man. He also abhorred the Hindu ideal of chastity of women. If chastity is a virtue for women, it should be equally applicable to men also. But men are rarely chaste and true to their wives. In such cases women should be enabled to divorce easily, their unfaithful husbands. He was all in favour of the remarriage of widows and even divorcees.

Periar was equally bitter in his condemnation of the practice of untouchability in the Hindu society. He wished that a society perpetrating untouchability may rather perish than survive with it. It was all due to the superstition that some people are born pure and some others are born-impure and are capable of polluting the others. It was his zeal for the eradication of untouchability, which made him to take the untouchables into a temple at Erode and fight for their freedom in the *Vaikkam satyagraha*. According to Periar scriptural literature such as *Manu-dharma Shashtra* which advocate social inequality and practice of untouchability must be burnt publicly and should not be followed by any one.

What is the solution for the twin evils of Hindu society, casteism and untouchability? Periar is of the view that reform is no solution. Buddha, Sri Ramanuja and many other leaders tried to reform the Hindu society but in vain. Therefore a social revolution is the only panacea for all the evils of Hindu society. How can such a revolution be brought about? It is possible only by a rational and benevolent dictatorship. Like Sunyatsen of

China, Kemal Pasha of Turkey and Peter the great of Russia, only a dictator can bring about a social revolution in India by stringent laws. But social justice could be established in India also in a democratic set up, if the various castes are given representation in the legislature and public services according to their numerical strength. Such a representation would gradually raise the economic and social status of the backward castes and make them equal to the so called high castes. Such a state of affairs would ultimately lead to castelessness according to him. The caste people also must sacrifice a little for the uplift of the backward castes. According to Periar they should deny themselves the privilege of entering the colleges and technical schools for 15 years. Of course this is a drastic step which no high caste Hindu would be prepared to take up.

Political rebel:

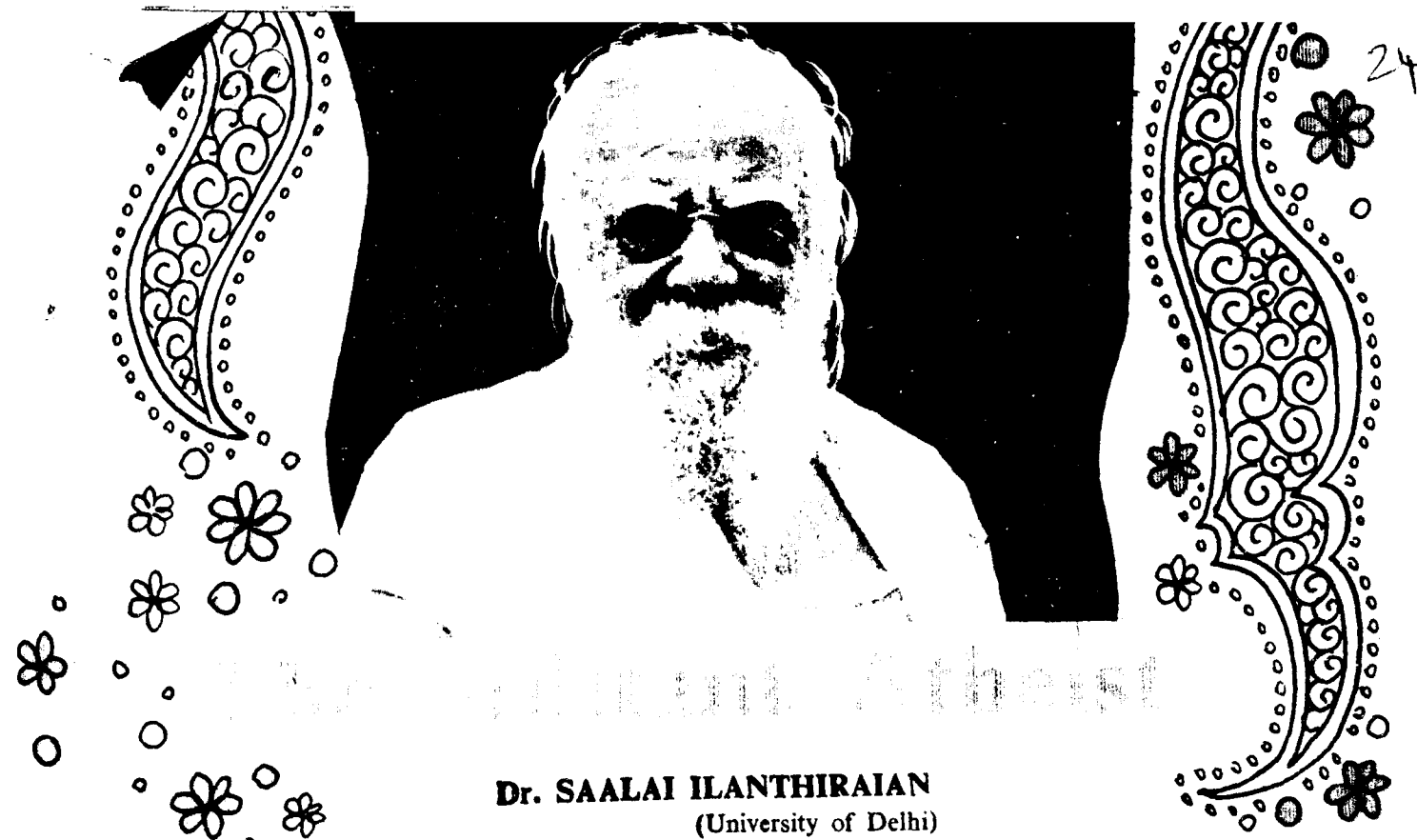
Periyar proved himself to be a rebel in the political field also. He condemned outright the system of Government called democracy. According to him it is unfit for a country like ours, where the majority of the people are illiterate and whose votes could be easily purchased. Virtues like honesty, uprightness, keeping one's promises, can never be practiced in a democracy. It teaches man how to cheat people by false promises and dishonesty. Further democracy counts heads but not the grey matter inside it. It leads to the rule of mediocracy rather than aristocracy. He was convinced that the modern democratic elections are the sources of all evils, such as bribery, horse-trading and political chicanery. Therefore he asked his party men not to stand for elections and enter legislatures. According to him, only vested interests are benefitted in modern democracies. Toynbee once said that Democracy and Industrialism are two evils of Modern Civilization. Periar also held a similar view. It is to be remembered, that Voltaire, the great rationalist, was also dead against democracy. Though Periar did not spell out the nature of Government he favoured, it may be inferred that he preferred an intellectual aristocracy of a few to the ignorant democracy of the many.

Periar for a long time toyed with the idea of establishing a

vein. But such ideas were all dubbed as antinational capable of encouraging fissiparous tendencies and therefore banned. Periar had to drop his idea of establishing a separate Dravidiasthan in the south. Moreover his idea did not find Dravidian Federation consisting of all the Dravidian speaking areas of the south. He of course denied the existence of distinct races such as Aryan and Dravidian. But he declared that one could not shut his eyes to the glaring differences between the two streams of culture Aryan and Dravidian as revealed from the Sanskrit and Dravidian literature. The Aryan culture glorified other worldliness and negative approach to life while the Dravidian culture emphasized the enjoyment of earthly pleasures and a positive approach to life. Arighar Anna also spoke and wrote in a similar

favour with the other Dravidian States of the South.

Thus Periar bristled with novel and revolutionary ideas in the political, social and cultural fields. He wanted to transform the Tamil society completely by translating such ideas in practice. He knew that he was attempting the impossible but was satisfied that the seeds of rationalism had been sown in the minds of Tamil people, which would germinate someday or other and grow into a tree bearing sweet fruits. He preached humanity in the place of divinity, equality in the place of gross inequality based on caste system, rank materialism in the place of spiritualism and rationalism in the place of blind sentimentalism. In more than one way he proved to be an institution by himself, occupying a venerable place among the rationalistic liberals of the world.



Dr. SAALAI ILANTHIRAIAN
(University of Delhi)

PERIYAAR E. V. Raamasamy, who is very aptly called the "LION OF ERODE" was the life force behind the activity in almost all spheres of life in Tamilnadu for the past sixty years. His thunderous roar echoed in each and every field of activity. Not a single aspect of modern society and its movements missed his attention. Anyone who just takes a cursory look at his long life of hectic activity will at once jump to the conclusion that Periyaar was an all-rounder who could deal with anything that affected the life pattern of the people. And therefore, it is not an easy job to identify him with a particular movement or organisation. Yet, if one takes a close look at the root and source of his multifarious activities he would not find it very difficult to call him the "Militant Atheist" of our times.

The Difference

For the common man Periyaar was a politician; as for as he could see, Periyaar was with this party or that party at the time of elections. And, curiously enough, for a long time; the party that was supported by the Periyaar was easily the winner at the polls. But, again no common man was as prudent as to know that Periyaar was a politician with a difference. The fact, that Periyaar was a "non-politician" among the

politicians of his times is clearly borne out by another fact that he never aspired for a position in the Government.

The so called social reformers, claimed him as the "Class-I social reformer" of the twentieth century. But they never knew that Periyaar himself has disowned this "title". He once declared that he did not belong to that group of individuals who claimed to be social reformers. While explaining his stand he said, "when there is perfection in many aspects of life and only a few spheres need some change or face-lift we can call it reform; but, our society needs a complete overhauling which can be done only through a revolution."

A handful of well to do people who were self styled saviours of the poor and downtrodden were pleased to call him the "Champion of the depressed and downtrodden." No doubt, he was one and he was a valiant champion too; but they never knew that the Periyaar was not their colleague and friend who just wanted to protect and keep the poor and downtrodden as a separate entity in the society. He fought to redeem the poor from the clutches of the socio-religious-villainy and to re-instate them in par with the others in the society. Yes; Periyaar was not a mere humanist; he was the warrior friend of the downtrodden.

And that is why the so called social reformers could not relish or digest Periyaar's tirade against the age-old social system.

And for some others Periyaar was the Socrates of modern India. The power of his thoughts, the discipline on which they had been moulded and the refreshingly new idioms in which they were expressed were all original and original to the core. And naturally anyone will easily be tempted to compare him with the ancient greek thinker. But, in their very sweet and heartening thought they tend to forget that Socrates was not a tireless fighter like Periyaar. Periyaar was not satisfied with just expressing his views; he carried them to the common people through his pen and his tongue and through agitations wherever found necessary.

Why destruction?

We can also compare and contrast Periyaar with many other people who identify themselves with one or the other of the social activities. In all these, he stands apart as a "public man" with a conspicuous difference. This difference and this difference alone makes him "Periyaar" or the great one.

Everyone knows that our society is not an ideal one and that this state of affairs has continued for

centuries together. They also feel that this society should be completely changed. But the public men throughout the long history of this (Tamil-Indian) society could not find out the root cause for all the social evils that have thrived on the ignorance and indulgence of the people. Or, they did not rather had the courage to raise their finger against the real culprit. That means none of them had a clear comprehensive view of their society while they prescribed the ways and means for its reform.

As some one has clearly pointed out the "substructure and superstructure" of this (Indian/Tamil) society have, in the long run, assumed entirely different roles which in turn made the understanding of the socio-economic problems highly, complicated :

"The Substructure of a society is predominantly determined by the forces of production and the relations of production; the former establishes the man-material relationship which in turn shapes the latter, namely, human and social relationships. The superstructure, consisting of religion, morals, ethics, laws, customs, conventions, politics etc. are directly or indirectly shaped and determined by the substructure. But there have been instances in different societies at different times in their historical evolution when the superstructure itself begins to shape and determine the substructure.

"When the superstructure begins to dominate the substructure, not only man loses control over his environment and his own creations but fails even to grasp what goes on around him as well as within himself. He is no more the master of his own destiny. What he has once created as customs, conventions, religious principles, ethics and morality, for social utility and purpose have lost their original purpose and significance. Over a period of time these elements of superstructure get themselves established, crystalized institutionalized and ritualized; they became self-generating, self-perpetuating, meaningless but most powerful and independent entities; they grow monstrously into an end in themselves. Vested interests develop, within these entities; they vested interests conveniently convert them into 'socially approved and sanctioned' instruments of exploitation; oppression, discrimination, social



stratification and injustice. Man, instead of being an end in himself becomes a means to all other ends."

This, in essence, is the history of the development of our society. Unless and otherwise one endeavours to set right the confusion in the relationship between the superstructure and substructure he cannot dream of creating a society wherein 'each one will work according to his ability and enjoy according to his needs.'

When Periyar clearly understood this particular situation in respect of the socio-economic problems he started attacking the priestly class and the belief in god they were perpetuating among the people. He was fully convinced that as long as the belief in god existed among the people no reform could be effected in their life pattern.

In Periyar's own words, 'caste is a curse which must be abolished; to abolish caste religion must be abolished; and to abolish religion God must be abolished'. This statement is nothing but the result of a clear understanding of the centu-

ries old social system that has been imposed on the people in the name of religion and God.

It is only on the basis of this understanding that Periyar declared "There is no God, no God; no God. He who invented God is a fool; he who preaches God is a rogue; he who worships God is a barbarian." As far as Periyar was concerned this was not a mere slogan to attract the attention of the people. He took this message to every nook and corner of Tamilnadu. He never hesitated to demonstrate that there is no truth in the stories about the so-called Gods and Goddesses. He burnt the pictures of these Gods (deities of the Hindu Pantheon) in public; he broke the images of these Gods in public places. He did all these just to impress upon the common people that all the stories about God and his powers were untrue, and that they have no significance in the human life.

Periyar was a man of strong convictions. He never uttered a single words which he did not himself put into practice. He openly announced and asserted, "Blind



belief and bland faith cannot be eradicated by reformatory work, but they can be done away with only by destructive work." He went on to explain that the cause of untouchability is not political slavery; it is the Hindu religion pure and simple. Social reformers have perforce to kill the demon of untouchability, if necessary by killing the Hindu religion itself!

We have had a number of social and religious reformers throughout our long history. But, we should realise that none of them was able to eradicate either poverty or untouchability. We had humanitarians like Valluvar, Thaayumaanavar and Vallalaar etc., their utterances also were widely publicised. The vehemence with which the Siddhar poets attacked the caste system and religious rituals was a class by itself. Yet, that could not shake even a single brick at the foundation of both these evils. It should not be very difficult for any one to under-

stand that their weakness lies in their belief in God. As long as one has belief in God he can only talk of superficial reforms that will not last long. And only when he removes the root cause, which in this case is the belief in the existence of a God, he will be able to extricate the people from the tyranny of these age old evils.

Periyar could very easily understand the main plank on which these evils stand. And he immediately launched his mission on a warfooting against those strong holds that protected these social evils. The following statement which breathes a cent percent "Periyaariyan Spirit" will show what Periyar actually stood for: "If we actually want to do anything worthwhile, we should be prepared to make a bonfire of all our Gods, our religion, our sastras, our epics and puranas. I say this because all the Gods we have are the protectors of caste-system; all of them have murdered

those who stood for a casteless society."

In a society where religion has been given the most prestigious place it is not an easy joke to speak or do anything against it. But, Periyar, being an iron hearted warrior taking up the cause of the downtrodden preferred to do that. By taking this mission upon himself he proved to be worthy of his own statement that runs like this: "Those engaged in this destructive work should have a magnanimous steadfastness and a clear mind without the smallest doubt and with the biggest venture to bear insults and to court death."

With such a devotion to his philosophy Periyar started his tirade against religion and God the root cause of all evils in the society. By doing so he wanted to instil a kind of courage and awakening in the minds of the people. Only when the poor and downtrodden realise that their belief in God and the resultant aith in all sorts of superstitions are shattered they will be able to fight their real enemy. And to develop such a state of mind they should cultivate an apathy for God and religion. This is what Periyar wanted to create. And hence, he vehemently denied the existence of God and became the first foremost atheist with a militant bent of mind.

The Success

Periyar's mission was, no doubt, a very difficult one; but, at the same time, there is no denying of the fact that mission achieved its goal to a considerable extent. As Dr. C. N. Annaadurai has put it, "the battle fields Periyar saw are many and the victories he won are many." This statement by one of his closest disciples can be appended with what the Periyar thought at the fag end of his life (at the age of 94) about his life's mission. "In my life time I have been thinking, telling, propagating and practising what were considered by the majority of others as unthinkable, unutterable and impracticable in the field of religion.

Due to this posture of mind, I have never experienced in these 93 years of my life time any defect, trouble, inconvenience or mental dissatisfaction. On the contrary, I have achieved very easily honours which are considered to be impossible to achieve by others. The country and the people especially the backward and depressed classes have seen the growth and development."

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Periyar was a man of strong convictions. He never uttered a single words which he did not himself put into practice. He openly announced and asserted, "Blind



belief and bland faith cannot be eradicated by reformatory work, but they can be done away with only by destructive work." He went on to explain that the cause of untouchability is not political slavery; it is the Hindu religion pure and simple. Social reformers have perforce to kill the demon of untouchability, if necessary by killing the Hindu religion itself!

We have had a number of social and religious reformers throughout our long history. But, we should realise that none of them was able to eradicate either poverty or untouchability. We had humanitarians like Valluvar, Thayayumaanavar and Vallalaar etc., their utterances and Vallalaar etc., their utterances also were widely publicised. The vehemence with which the Siddhar poets attacked the caste system and religious rituals was a class by itself. Yet, that could not shake even a single brick at the foundation of both these evils. It should not be very difficult for any one to under-

stand that their weakness lies in their belief in God. As long as one has belief in God he can only talk of superficial reforms that will not last long. And only when he removes the root cause, which in this case is the belief in the existence of a God, he will be able to extricate the people from the tyranny of these age old evils.

Periyar could very easily understand the main plank on which these evils stand. And he immediately launched his mission on a warfooting against those strong holds that protected these social evils. The following statement which breathes a cent percent "Periyaariyan Spirit" will show what Periyar actually stood for: "If we actually want to do anything worthwhile, we should be prepared to make a bonfire of all our Gods, our religion, our sastras, our epics and puranas. I say this because all the Gods we have are the protectors of caste-system; all of them have murdered

those who stood for a casteless society."

In a society where religion has been given the most prestigious place it is not an easy joke to speak or do anything against it. But, Periyar, being an iron hearted warrior taking up the cause of the downtrodden preferred to do that. By taking this mission upon himself he proved to be worthy of his own statement that runs like this: "Those engaged in this destructive work should have a magnanimous steadfastness and a clear mind without the smallest doubt and with the biggest venture to bear insults and to court death."

With such a devotion to his philosophy Periyar started his tirade against religion and God the root cause of all evils in the society. By doing so he wanted to instil a kind of courage and awakening in the minds of the people. Only when the poor and downtrodden realise that their belief in God and the resultant aith in all sorts of superstitions are shattered they will be able to fight their real enemy. And to develop such a state of mind they should cultivate an apathy for God and religion. This is what Periyar wanted to create. And hence, he vehemently denied the existence of God and became the first foremost atheist with a militant bent of mind.

The Success

Periyar's mission was, no doubt, a very difficult one; but, at the same time, there is no denying of the fact that mission achieved its goal to a considerable extent. As Dr. C. N. Annaadurai has put it, "the battle fields Periyar saw are many and the victories he won are many." This statement by one of his closest disciples can be appended with what the Periyar thought at the fag end of his life (at the age of 94) about his life's mission. "In my life time I have been thinking, telling, propagating and practising what were considered by the majority of others as unthinkable, unutterable and impracticable in the field of religion.

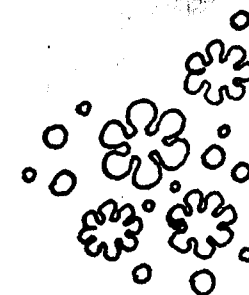
Due to this posture of mind, I have never experienced in these 93 years of my life time any defect, trouble, inconvenience or mental dissatisfaction. On the contrary, I have achieved very easily honours which are considered to be impossible to achieve by others. The country and the people especially the backward and depressed classes have seen the growth and development."

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C. R. NARASIMHAN



Periyar E. V. Ramaswamy was a unique personality. He was more or less of the same age as my father Rajaji. They became friends and co-workers when both of them were in their 40's. This friendship was based on common purpose over social and political issues. Both belived in the elimination of the drink evil. Both were against outworn social and caste restrictions. Both were for the programme of non-co-operation against foreign rule. They worked together closely though in individual up-bringing they were totally different from one another. In this period they were bound together.

When in 1920, I was a boy of eleven, Thiru Naicker as he was then popularly called, once putting me affectionately on his lap enquired why I was thin and weak. He made detailed enquiries as to what and how much I ate daily and about my daily routine. He got the impression that I was a kind of neglected type owing to pre-occupations of my father. To him I bore the marks of a person who was growing up without the care of a loving mother. Thiru Naicker's face showed his anguish about it. It also showed his admiration of my father whose entire thought was about the country's problems leaving him very little time for the family. Even as a boy I could see these feelings gleaming through Thiru Naicker's sympathetic face.

In 1927 when the Tiruchengodu Gandhi Ashram was founded and which is continuing to do

useful work for the last fifty-three years, Thiru Naicker presided over the inaugural function.

By this time the non-cooperation programme of Gandhiji stood withdrawn. The tempo of that movement had held different types of people together. A kind of reaction set in when the movement was withdrawn. Those who believed that Swaraj would dawn in a year were disillusioned and frustrated. In the North, the Ali brothers who were Gandhiji's strong supporters drifted away. In the same manner, Thiru Naicker also drifted away. He started the self-respect movement and propagated new theories. Though this separated Periyar and Rajaji and put them in opposite camps, there did exist kind of rapport between them. Their viewpoints occasionally met as extremes do. It is well known that Periyar prior to his marriage with Mani Ammai consulted Rajaji about the matter.

Even though Periyar's speeches fumed against Rajaji's policies, whenever they met, great mutual consideration was shown.

Periyar's anguish was great when my father was in his death bed. Periyar was present throughout the cremation ceremony and sympathised with the families' bereavement. His tribute to Rajaji at that time is of historic value. It was really revealing to see two opponents respecting one another.

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A first meeting with Mr. Ramasamy Naicker and Mr. C. N. Annadurai took place in 1930, in the Theagaraya Buildings in Mount Road which accommodated the offices of the "Justice" daily and "Dravidan", the Tamil daily of the Justice Party. I was then working as Editor of 'Dravidan'. One day while I was in my room correcting final proofs and writing the editorial for the day, the room peon told me that a man with long beard along with an young man were waiting to see the Editor of 'Dravidan'. On being asked to admit them in, I saw those two persons at a short distance. The gentleman in the beard aged about 35 years was looking a little surprised and asked whether I was the Editor of 'Dravidan'.

I could easily understand his misgivings and surprise, because I was only 22 years old, fresh from college. When I confirmed my identity, the man with beard introduced himself as Erode Ramasamy Naicker and said his companion was Mr. C.N. Annadurai, M.A. Mr. Naicker was so pleased that an young non-brahmin could be the editor of a daily newspaper and shook my hands heartily.

All the while Mr. Annadurai looked calm and collected with a mild smile. I told Mr. Naicker that I was pleased to meet him as the leader and founder of the Self-respect movement, the main objective of which was to campaign for the removal of religious superstitions.

As our conversation proceeded lively, Mr. Naicker illustrated his campaign against religious supersti-

After half a century meeting Recalled

(By 'Thamizharingar'
A. RANGANATHAN)

tions by a vivid example. His example is still as green in my memory as his mode of presenting his favorite subject for which he lived for 95 years and died. Here I give below the English translation of his narration, as far as my memory recalls after the lapse of 50 years. The facts and incidents disclosed here are substantively correct to my recollection Mr. Naicker said: with glooming eyes; "you know in your city of Madras there is a well-known Easwaran temple at Puasawalkam by the name of I happened to be in a friend's house at the time of what is called as Bramotsavam which draws a lot of so-called Bhakthas. That morning the idols of Iswara was taken out in procession in the street. Along side this idol, the idol of his consort Iswari Amman was also seen. At one stage, the Amman's idol was hurriedly withdrawn from the presence of Iswara and whisked away to a place distant from Iswara. In the place of the lawfully wedded Iswari was found by the side of Iswara, the idol of a courtesan woman, bedecked with all ornaments and looking glamorous.

"When I asked the significance of Itheekam of this theatrical incident, it was explained that Iswara fell in love with a glamorous looking courtesan. On finding that God Iswara's attention was diverted from her Iswari got wild with fury and as a protest against this wrong done to her she ran away from him, not desiring to be near her unfaithful husband.

"A little later, Iswara's idol was taken to the irate wife, to whom Iswara apologised for his action and thereafter the idol of the disappointed courtesan, who shared Iswara's love for a short time only, was withdrawn from the scene and the idols of Iswara and Iswari went side by side to the sanctum sanctorum of the temple."

I was listening almost dumfounded to the harrowing tale, while Mr. Naicker was stirred emotionally.

Mr. Naicker continued his story with unabated satire and anger.

"I think, young editor, comment on this disgraceful episode regarding Iswara's sense of morality is need-

less. If you have any doubt, please witness the Brahmatsavam of the shrine at Puasawalkam this year

(I may say here that my visit to this festival later on confirmed Mr. Naicker's incident)

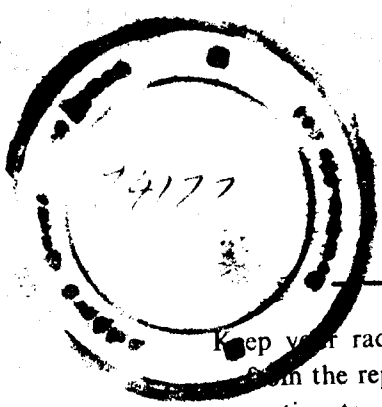
Mr. Naicker went on: your see that while the existence of God itself is a matter of opinion, me has disgraced Him by attributing to Him, all the vices of which man is guilty. If the supreme God is discredited with a concubine and made public exhibition of it, which reasonable human being will degrade himself by worshipping Him?"

Mr. Annadurai intervened: It is against such atrocious religious superstitions that the self respect movement is crusading amidst the opposition of uneducated people. Our campaign is not so much against the existence of God as such as against the plethora of religious superstitions, which are paraded for the belief of men."

Addressing Mr. Naicker I said: "we are one with you in your relentless campaign against the stupid religious superstition surrounding God & Puranas. But what is the significance of your campaign against Kamba Ramayana, the Magnum opus of Poet Kambar?"

Mr. Naicker said, "I am glad you have raised the question. Our campaign against Kamba Ramayana is only with the characterisation of Rama, Sita, Ravana and Kumbakarna. It was a time honoured convention with Asura in ancient Tamil Nadu to abduct the enemy king's wife or wives and courtesan and imprison them in the invading king's countries as hostages. If a particular king is vanquished in the war, their women will be retained by the conqueror. Bereft of all side issues, Ravana took Sita as a hostage before declaring war with Rama. I cannot understand why his simple and common incident is exaggerated and a lot of nonsense is woven around it. In the conduct of Ravana, a Dravidian king, one admirable quality is stressed both by Kambar and Valmiki that, the Asura King never chose to touch Sita while she was completely under his mercy.

31



Keep your radio on and listen to latest weather warnings and advice from the report of All India Radio Station, Madras. Pass on the information to others.

Get away from low lying beaches or other locations which may be swept by high tides or storm waves. Leave sufficiently early before your way to high ground gets flooded. Do not delay and run the risk of being marooned.

If your house is out of danger from high tides and flooding from the river and it is well built, it is then probably the best place to weather the storm. However, please act promptly if asked to evacuate.

Be alert for high water in areas where streams or rivers may flood due to heavy rains.

Board up glass windows or put storm shutters in place. Use good wooden planks securely fastened. Make shift boarding may do more manage than none at all. Provide strong suitable support for outside doors.

If you do not have wooden boards handy, paste paper strips on glasses to prevent splinters flying into the house.

Get extra food especially things which can be eaten without cooking or with very little preparation. Store extra drinking water in suitable covered vessels.

If you are in one of the evacuation areas, move your valuable articles to upper floors to minimise flood damage.

Have hurricane lantern, flash lights and or other emergency lights in working condition and keep them handy.

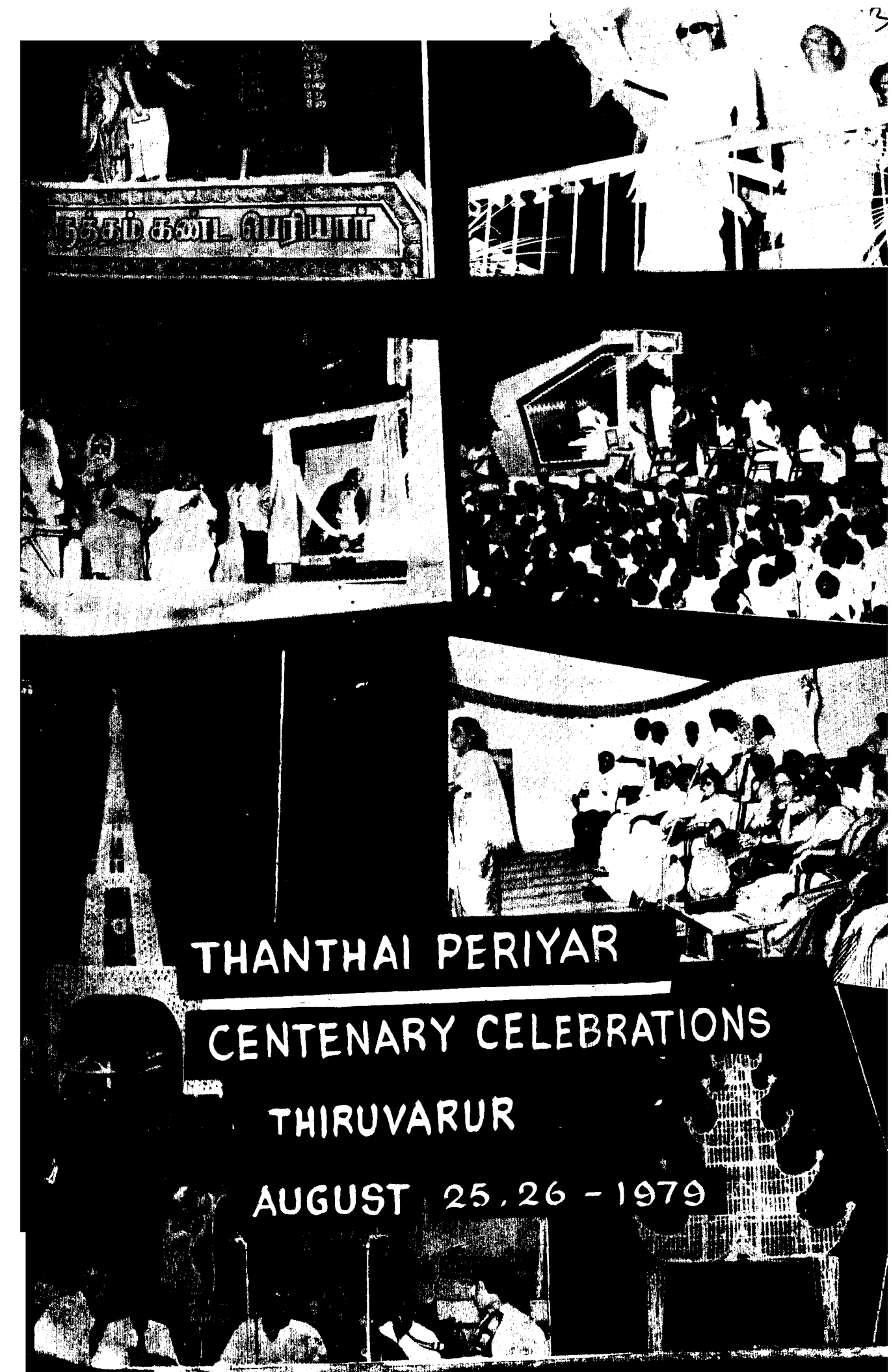
Check on everything that might blow away or be torn loose. Kerosene tins, cans, agricultural implements, garden tools, road signs and other objects become weapons of destruction in strong winds. Remove them and store them in a covered room.

Be sure that a window or door can be opened on the lee side of the house i.e., the side opposite the one facing the wind.

Make provision for children and adults requiring special diets.

Remove cattle to safe places as far as possible.

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