

Tamil Arasu

MAY 1989 Re. 1

7 மார்ச் 1989

A. Lib

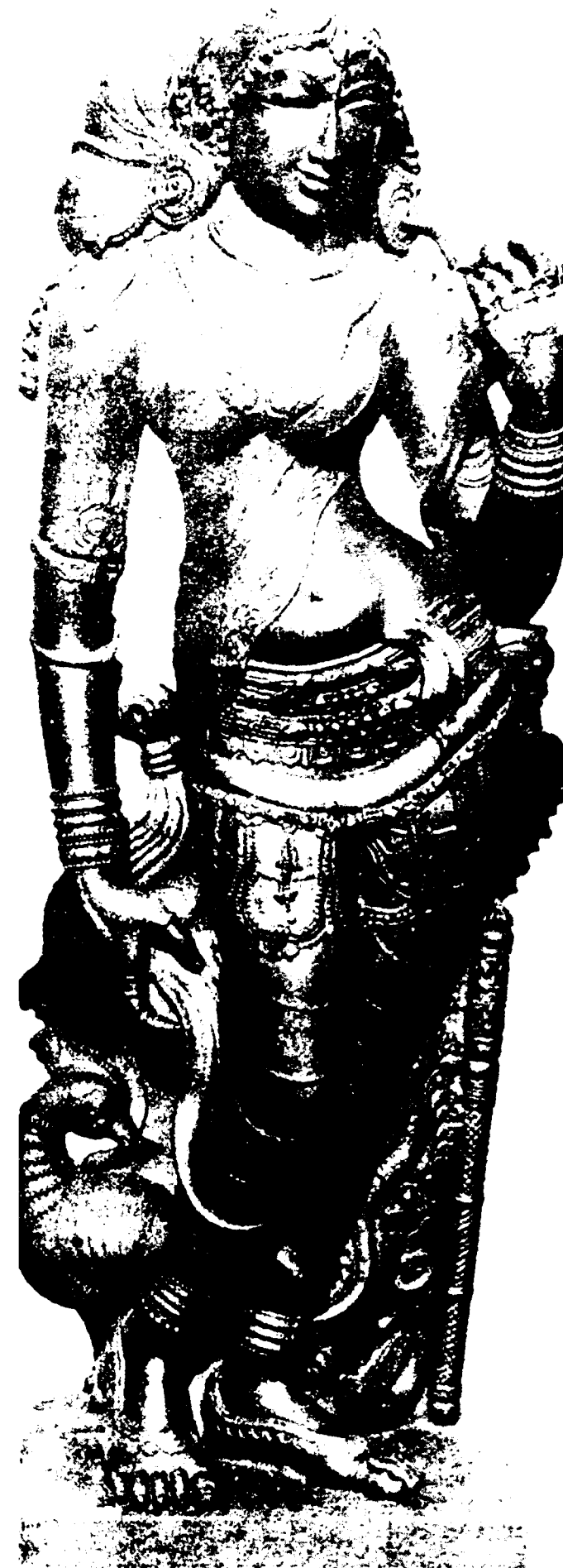
Venkat



30/5



Sir P. THEAGARAYA,
the champion of the underprivileged
BORN ON: 27-4-1852. DIED ON: 28-4-1925.



Tamil Arasu

A monthly Journal of the Government of Tamil Nadu.

THIRUVALLUVAR YEAR 2020

MAY 1989.

- ★The Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.
- ★Free Rice Distribution Scheme
- ★The Conference of District Collectors and Superintendents of Police.
- ★Chief Minister's reply to the Debate on the Budget.
- ★Tamil Nadu Budget-Views of Press and Associations.
- ★M.M.D.A. Office Complex at Egmore.
- ★Rs. 100 Crore plan to Improve Madras City.
- ★The National Conference of Voluntary Agencies.
- ★Rare species of Animals in the Vandalur Zoo.
- ★Revamping Millets Research in Tamil Nadu.
- ★The French Film Festival.
- ★Bharathidasan-The Great Poet.
By Dr. N. Sanjeevi.
- ★Sir P. Theagaraya-The Champion of the Underprivileged.
- ★The Tale of the Anklet-(Preface)-
Play written by Dr. M. Karunanidhi.
- ★The Tale of the Anklet (Anna's thought)

137109

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of the Indian Cinema



Hon'ble President of India Thiru R. Venkataraman, on 16th April lighted the traditional Kuthuvilakku to mark the inauguration of the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of the Indian Cinema in Madras.

In a glittering function of the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of the Indian Cinema and the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the South Indian Film Chamber of Commerce (SIFCC) the President advised the film industry to shed its twin obsessions of sex and violence. He also traced the history of Indian Cinema and recalled the contributions of Veterans like Late C.N. Annadurai and the present Chief Minister Thiru M. Karunanidhi. He also mentioned about the late M.G. Ramachandran, who acted in films. Reference was made to Tmt. M.S. Subbulakshmi, Carnatic Musician. Research had

established a direct correlation between violence and society and that depicted in film. He said that Entertainment therefore must not be at the expense of values.

The President recalled that the rise of the Indian cinema synchronised with the national struggle for freedom. Themes such as patriotism and social reform were portrayed in films. No one could forget a film "Thyagaboomi." He paid glowing tributes to film personalities like Dadashaheb Phalke, Sohrab Moty, S.S. Vasan, K. Subramaniam, A.V. Meiyappan, Mehboob Khan, Bhimal Roy, Prithviraj Kapoor, Raj Kapoor, Nagi Reddy, V. Santhanam, Satyajit Ray, Mrinal Sen, Thyagaraja Bhagavathar, P.U. Chinappa, S.G. Kittappa, K.B. Sundarambal, K.L. Saigal, Devika Rani, Durga Khote Balraj Sahni and M.G. Ramachandran.

Thus the last 75 years had witnessed a resurgence of the film industry. He said because of the advent of TV and Video Coverage, daily attendance in the 13,000 cinema houses in the country was estimated at about 3 crores. For more than a decade, India had been the largest producer of feature films.

"It is my hope that the platinum jubilee of the Indian cinema will lead to a creative introspection in the industry. In fact, it is my hope that in this 75th year of its career, it will become less of an industry and become more of an art".

C.M. Honoured: As many as 75 veterans from various departments of film industry were honoured. The first to be honoured was Dr. M. Karunanidhi, Tamil Nadu Chief Mini-

ster who received a shawl and silver medallion from the Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Thiru H.K.L. Bhagat. Other Veterans Honoured: The Chief Minister Dr. M. Karunanidhi honoured the other veterans including Messrs. Ashok Kumar, L.V. Prasad, Hrishikesh Mukerjee, Sivaji Ganesan, A. Nageswara Rao, D. Ramapujam, Anjali Devi, Sarada, M. Saravanan, M.N. Nambiyar, G.V. Iyer, Raj Kumar, G.P. Sippy, Pran, G. Umapathy, Sundarlal Nahata, Ajit Bose and Sudhir Phadke.

Thiru N.T. Rama Rao

The Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and veteran actor Thiru N.T. Rama Rao, and producer Thiru B. Nagi Reddy were among those honoured in absentia. There was thunderous applause as the Chief Minister Dr. M. Karunanidhi, Sivaji Ganesan, Ashok Kumar and Nambiyar were honoured.

Thiru Bhagat released a book on "the Genre of the Indian Cinema" published by the Film Federation of India (FFI). The Governor of Tamil Nadu Dr. P.C. Alexander, released a souvenir to mark the SIFCC golden jubilee.

The Governor said that the video boom and TV would kill cinema. But this was not in the case of the west and Good Cinema would always be appreciated in the western countries, control had been exercised on the inroads of video into film industry. He was astonished that in the year 1980, 482 films had flopped out of the 742 films produced. Films that became box office hits were 43 and 212 made even.

MGR Award: The Chief Minister assured the SIFCC that the State Government would help the film industry as much as possible. He had already announced that the Tamil Nadu Government would revive the practice of giving film awards which was stopped five years ago. One award would be instituted in the name of the late Chief Minister and film actor Thiru M.G. Ramachandran.

The Chief Minister recalled how during the era of silent films



a narrator would stand behind the screen and narrate the story of the film. He was extremely happy to honour the veterans.

Thiru H.K.L. Bhagat the Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting who presided, said that the Centre had appointed a high level committee to look into the problems of the film industry and the representatives of the industry would get the opportunity to place their views before a final decision taken to find solutions to their problems. To facilitate import of quality films and expose the Indian audience to the best of world cinema, a policy for import of feature films and video rights had been formulated under which only those films which won awards or received good reviews would be imported.

The Minister for Information Thiru Pon. Muthuramalingam, said films played an important role in educating and entertaining people.

The SIFCC President, Thiru R. Lakshmanan, said the Film Chamber was founded in 1939. Thiru F. Satyamurthy a veteran freedom fighter was its first President. If India today ranked among biggest films producing countries it was because South India contributed 70 percent of the films produced.

Rs. 2500 Cr. investment:- The FFI President, Thiru A. Ramesh,

said the investment in Film industry was now Rs. 2,500 crores and it employed a million people. It had achieved this status on its own resources without assistance from any institutional finance or protection from any quarter. The various amendments to check the threat of video to film industry had not paid dividends. The NRI's import of films, except the award winning ones, should be stopped. Subsidised power should be made available to cinema houses.

Thiru G.P. Sippy, the Organising Committee Chairman welcomed the gathering. He said that the Indian film industry had come a long way from the first silent film 'Raj Harischandra' released in Bombay on 3rd May 1913 to the present day 70mm films. He expressed regret that out of a gross collection of Rs. 1,000 crores at the box office, more than Rs. 600 crores was taken away by State Governments as entertainment tax, which did not leave the film industry in a healthy condition to entertain. While the film industry struggled hard to make films, people watched them in their homes through the piracy of the cable TV and duplicated videos without paying money to the film producers.

Thiru L.C. Bakliwal the FFI Vice-President proposed a vote of thanks.

Free Rice Distribution Scheme

THE Chief Minister Dr. M. Karunanidhi launched the State-wide free rice distribution scheme for the poor on the Tamil New Year's Day. Under the Rs. 20 crore scheme 76 lakh family card holders with monthly income of Rs.300 were given five kilos of rice till 30th April. The Chief Minister has made history by his new scheme - 'Free Rice Distribution to the poor'.

Inauguration:

The Chief Minister inaugurated the Free Rice Distribution scheme in his Harbour constituency in Madras. The other Ministers and MLAs participated in similar functions and distributed 5 kilos of free rice in other centres.

Implementation:

The free rice scheme is implemented through 65 primary co-operative society outlets, 4,500 village level cooperative societies, 3,752 urban fair price shops, and over 17,000 rural fair price shops. It assures each family, 15 kilos of rice on three important occasions - Pongal, Tamil New Year's day and Deepavali in the State.

Other Schemes:

The Chief Minister also announced that other schemes in the budget including the one for the transfer of ownership to taxi, auto-rickshaw drivers and cyclo-rickshaw pullers, would be implemented from 1st May.

Poll Promises:

Referring to the poll promises made in the election manifesto, the Chief Minister declared that the new Government had fulfilled 75 percent of its promises within a short span of 77 days after it came to power. Unlike other party Governments, the DMK Government had made only promises that could be implemented. He recalled that in the year 1929, the Self-Respect Movement had passed a resolution to give

property rights to women. This Government had now introduced a bill to give effect to that resolution.

The Food Minister Thiru Arcot Veerasamy pointed out that the Centre had reduced the quota of rice allocated to the state from 80,000 to 40,000 tonnes. In spite of this, the free rice scheme involving distribution of 1.20 lakh tonnes to the poor was implemented.

The Registrar of Co-operative Societies Thiru Arumugam, I.A.S., while welcoming the gathering, said 1.4 lakh tonnes of essential commodities were distributed monthly through the Public Distribution system.

The Chief Secretary Thiru M. M. Rajendran, I.A.S. presided over the function. The Handloom Minister Thiru S. Thangavel and Thiru Murali Maran M.P., and other MP's participated in the function.

Five kilos of free rice were distributed to the poor at the following places by the Hon'ble Speaker, Hon'ble Ministers and other M.L.A.'s.

The Speaker Thiru Tamilkudimagan distributed rice at Ilayangudi.

Ministers:

The Education Minister Thiru Anbazhagan distributed rice to the poor at 'Chintamani' Anna Nagar, Madras.

Thiru Sadiq Basha, Minister for Law distributed rice to the poor at Udumalpet, Pollachi.

Thiru Nanjil K. Manoharan, Minister for Revenue distributed rice to the poor at Royapettah High Road, Madras.

Thiru M. Kannappan, Minister for Transport distributed rice to the poor at Palladam, Coimbatore.

Thiru K.P. Kandasamy, Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments distributed rice to the poor at Tuticorin.

Thiru Arcot Veerasamy, Minister for Food distributed rice to the poor at Ayyanavaram and Madhavaram High Road, Madras.

Thiru Pon. Muthuramalingam, Minister for Information and Labour distributed rice to the poor at Madurai.

Thiru Durai Murugan, Minister for Public Works distributed rice to the poor at Vellore.

Tmt. Subbulakshmi Jagadisan, Minister for Social Welfare and

Rural Industries distributed rice to the poor at Erode.

Thiru E. Ramakrishnan, Minister for Adiravidar Welfare distri-



buted rice to the poor at Kanchipuram.

Dr. K. Deivasigamani (alias) Ponmudi, Minister for Public Health distributed rice to the poor at Villupuram.

Thiru K.N. Nehru, Minister for Electricity, distributed rice to the poor at Trichy.

Thiru Chandrasekaran, Minister for Animal Husbandry distributed rice to the poor at Pudukottai.

Thiru S. Thangavel, Minister for Handlooms distributed rice to the poor at Raja Annamalaipuram at Madras.

Thiru Duraisamy, Deputy Speaker distributed rice to the poor at Namakkal.

Thiru L. Ganesan, Parliamentary Secretary to Chief Minister distributed rice to the poor at Thanjavur.

CONFERENCE OF COLLECTORS AND SUPERINTENDENTS OF POLICE

The Chief Minister Dr. M. Karunanidhi inaugurated the two day Conference of District Collectors and Superintendents of Police at Secretariat on 15th April 1989. The Conference was convened by the Chief Minister to discuss ways and means to solve certain important problems-Drinking Water Problem, Drought Relief, Supply of Foodgrains etc. He has directed all District Collectors to send fortnightly reports to the Government on the progress of the various welfare schemes implemented. He also instructed them to devote full attention to tackle the drought situation.

The Chief Minister emphasized that the Collectors should discuss with the officials concerned about the drinking water situation in their respective districts at least once in every fortnight. The Chief Minister went on to emphasize that the Collectors should prepare proposals for drought relief measures on a war footing and ensure uninterrupted supply of foodgrains through the public distribution system. He also pointed out that all efforts should be taken to generate more and more employment opportunities for those rendered jobless due to drought. He stressed that necessary steps should be taken well in advance to tackle fodder and other problems connected with drought.

Despite the Government order to sink 5,000 borewells for providing drinking water, the work on this was very slow. Similarly many schemes and projects were delayed and had not been implemented for several years. Such delays would not only push up the project costs but also deny the people the benefits when they needed them. Therefore the Chief Minister urged to fix time limit for completion of such projects. He advised the Collectors to study their progress every fortnight with the officials concerned.

The Chief Minister made it clear that similar exercises should be conducted with regard to supply of foodgrains and other essential items through Public Distribution System. Steps should also be taken to ensure that there are no irregularities or corruption in the Public Distribution System and also to weed out bogus ration cards.

The Chief Minister castigated the district administrations for their failure to maintain proper basic statistics. He pointed out that though the Government had in February announced free supply of five kilo rice on Tamil New Year's day there had been confusion in some districts, because proper statistics had not been furnished by them.

It was highly regrettable that district administrations were not able to furnish even the basic statistical data. In future, it should be ensured that all records and data were maintained properly.

With regard to the law and order the Chief Minister asked the Collectors and Superintendents of Police to take firm and early steps to prevent communal violence from raising its head in the State. High priority should also be given for tackling the illicit arrack menace.

The Chief Minister listed the various schemes announced by the Government recently and said that there should be an attitudinal change in the district administration. He felt that the new Government expected the benefits of the various schemes and projects reaching the targetted public "even before the ink on the orders passed dries". The Administration on the whole, must run efficiently. He pointed out that he had received complaints that often officials like Tahsildars were not present in their respective headquarters. He asked the Collectors to take suitable action to prevent this.

Steps taken by the Tamilnadu Government to fight Drought.

Chief Minister's announcement:

THE Chief Minister, Dr. M. Karunanidhi, announced at the end of the two day Conference of District Collectors, a sum of Rs. 15 crore additional outlay for drought relief works. The State has already started the relief work, particularly employment generation, without waiting for Central grants. The Chief Minister disclosed that Rs.23 crore had already been allocated for drought relief work.

Deep Borewells:

While awaiting the Centre's grants, the State Government is not keeping the relief works pending. Top priority is being given to the programme "to have deep borewells in the affected areas". The Chief Minister said that the Chief Secretary to Government would call for the tenderers TWAD, ENCOFED and Private rig owners - to finalise the contracts for deep borewells.

The Chief Minister proposed to survey the drought-hit districts after the Assembly session. A report on the drought would be prepared by the District Collectors, and the Government would forward the overall picture to the Centre. The Collectors should take up the relief work in a "Spirit of competition".

Committee on Public Distribution System:

A highlevel committee headed by the Chief Minister's Adviser, Thiru S. Guhan and others-the Revenue, and Food Secretaries, the Civil Supplies Commissioner and the Co-operatives Registrar, would go into the working of the Family Card System in fair price shops and submit a report to the Government for improvement's based on the Collectors' views by 1st May 1989.



Conference of District Collectors and Superintendents of Police at Secretariat on 15th April 1989.



Special drive to detect bogus ration Cards had been strengthened, but the Collectors had been asked to ensure that genuine cardholders did not suffer as a result.

Rice in Polythene Packets :

Another proposal under consideration of the Government was to supply rice in Polythene Packets under the Public Distribution System, and at the same time the older system would continue. The additional cost of the packet would be borne by the consumer. To check malpractices new vigilance committees for the Public Distribution System for the shops were being constituted. If the committee members themselves indulged in any irregularities, they would have to face action and removal.

On the Tamil New Year's Day, 120 convicts who had completed their 14-year sentences were released on the basis of the policy announced in the budget.

Check on Communal Clashes:

Police Chiefs from the districts had been instructed to keep a vigil and check on communal and group clashes. Policemen helping bootleggers would also be strictly dealt with and awarded stringent punishment. The Police should ensure total removal of illicit distillation and sale.

The top police officials, who participated in the conference had highlighted the need for welfare schemes for policemen. The Gov-

10 GOVT UNDERTAKINGS AND THE POST OF 30 STATE ARTISTS ABOLISHED

The Tamil Nadu Government on 3rd March abolished about 10 State owned undertakings, agencies and posts which were considered "not required". The posts of 30 State artists have also been abolished.

The following are the abolished posts/agencies. 1) The Tamil Nadu Tube Well Corporation, 2) High-Level Committee for Agriculturists, 3) Tamil Nadu Chit Corporation Special Representative of the Government in Delhi (formerly occupied by a non-official with Cabinet rank), 4) Tamil Nadu Good's Corporation, 5) Tamil Nadu Sidda Board, 6) One-Man High Level Committee for Tamil Development, 7) Tamil Nadu Meat Corporation (Whose activities are merged with the Tamil Nadu Poultry Development Corporation) 8) Director of Traditional Arts, 9) Director of Tirukural Propaganda Centre and 10) the Poet Laureate.

The functions of these posts and organisations would hereafter

ernment would bear this in mind while preparing the demand for grants for the Home Department.

Actors for Family Planning:

To give a boost to the family planning and small savings, the Tamil Nadu Films Division, and the State Information Department would

be looked into by the concerned Government Departments.

The Government carefully reviewed the functioning of various State Corporations, undertakings, agencies, committees and posts, mostly headed/held by non-officials with a view to making them accountable to the Government and reduce overhead expenses. Consequently some of these posts and undertakings were being abolished and some merged.

The Government decided that all functioning undertakings and Corporations be headed by officials and accordingly they were being appointed either on part-time or full-time basis, considering the size of the organisation and the magnitude of its operations.

The following agencies would however continue to function under non-officials: 1) Iyal Isai Nataka Manram, 2) Music Colleges in the State and 3) the post of Vice-Chairman of the Small Savings Advisory Board.

utilise the services of good actors. Play, folk dances and films would be presented.

The Collectors had also been instructed to monitor the implementation of the Rs.4 crore Adi-Dravidar concrete Housing Scheme to avoid any lacunae.

ADVISORY PANEL TO STUDY TEMPLE'S ADMINISTRATION

The Chief Minister Dr. M. Karunanidhi convened a conference of religious heads and savants on 10th March 1989 to discuss matters relating to the Temple Administration in Tamil Nadu and its future Set-up.

The conference was attended by religious leaders or their representatives and mutts heads. The participants gave their valuable suggestions regarding the future set-up of the Hindu Religious Institutions.

The Chief Minister, announced the constitution of a five-member committee to advise the Government on measures to better the administration of Hindu Temples, Protect Temple properties and improve their financial resources.

The panel has been asked to submit its report to the Government within three months. Based on the recommendations of the experts Committee the Government would take appropriate steps to improve the functioning of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department.

Thavathiru Kundrakudi Adigalar, Thiru N. Krishnaswami Reddiar, former Judge of the Madras High Court, Thiru Thirumalai Iyengar of Srirangam, Thiru Senthilnathan of Kanchi Matt and Tmt. Radha Thiagarajan, will be the members of the advisory panel. The HR & CE Department Secretary will be the convenor.



More Powers for States:

On 3rd April 1989 the Chief Minister, Dr. M. Karunanidhi in his reply to the debate on the Budget said that his Government was steadfast in its commitment to securing rights of the states to ensure genuine state autonomy.

The Chief Minister said that during the Governor's regime the actual Plan size came down from Rs.1430 crore to Rs. 1202 crore. As a result of this some schemes were given up during the Governor's regime itself.

The Chief Minister said the Government, like several state Government including Congress (I) ruled States was demanding more powers for the States. Late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had emphasised that States should have more powers.

Planning Commission reconstituted.

The Tamil Nadu Government has revamped and revitalised the State Planning Commission by including noted agricultural scientist Thiru M.S. Swaminathan and an eminent economist Dr. Malcolm Adiseshiah.

The other members included in this panel are Dr. V.C. Kulandaiswamy, Vice-Chancellor of Anna University, Dr. Ramani Sivaraman, former Director of Medical Education and Thiru G. Chidambaram formerly Director of Evaluation and Applied Research and Thiru M. Sivagnanam, a retired IAS officer.

The Planning Commission, under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister would immediately start working on formulation of the State's Eighth Plan for 1990-95.

Irrigation panel:

The Chief Minister also announced a committee for development of irrigation facilities. Former PWD Secretary Thiru R. Thirumalai would be the chairman of the committee and the members are former Chief Engineers.

Chief Engineers Thiru S.P. Namasivayam, Thiru Mohanakrishnan, Thiru S. Panchanathan and Thiru S. Nageswaran and Thiru V. Rajagopalan,

GOVERNMENT STEADFAST IN ITS COMMITMENTS

CHIEF MINISTER'S REPLY TO THE DEBATE ON THE BUDGET.

former Vice-Chancellor of the Agriculture University, Coimbatore.

In this connection, he mentioned the deficit of Rs. 219 crore in the budget, including Rs. 154 crore during the period of President's rule. It was the Centre's responsibility to help the State regarding the deficit during that period, he said, adding, "we will continue to press the Centre for help".

Promises being Fulfilled:

The Chief Minister said that his two-month old government had fulfilled a number of poll promises and cited the decision to revive the legislative Council, provide 30 per cent reservation for women in jobs and increase the age limit for entry into government jobs to 30.

This Government has announced complete exemption from sales tax for fountain pen ink.

This Government would also construct a memorial for late Kannadasan at Karaikudi.

Eggs with the Noon Meals:

The Chief Minister, during his reply also announced that Eggs will be served to children once in fortnight along with their Noon Meals. Following this announcement of inclusion of eggs in the nutritious meals programmes for school children the government has decided to drop the two per cent tax on poultry feeds.

Reservation subject to review:

The Chief Minister said, that the new reservation policy of the Tamil Nadu Government is subject to review and any modifications considered to be necessary will be incorporated after evaluating its efficacy.

Pointing out that the reservation for backward classes recently announced by his government had received acclaim from several quarters, he said if anyone tried to create a wedge between the government and the Vanniars, they would be disappointed "If anyone tries to pull down the government on the reservation issue, it will end in failure.

The family income limit for educational concessions to backward class students, increased from Rs. 5,000 a

year to Rs. 12,000 in the budget, would be further increased to Rs. 15,000.

The Chief Minister said several leading personalities in the Vanniya Community, like Thiru Sattanathan, Dr. Ambasankar, Thiru Vanniya Adigal and Thiru Manickvel Naicker had hailed the government proposal. The Chief Minister also said that the DMK party has 24 MLA's belonging to the Vanniya Community and therefore he said "No one can turn Vanniya Community against us." Our party is basically a social movement and economics and politics came only after its social commitment."

District Collector's Conference:

The Chief Minister said the State had earlier asked the Centre Rs. 25 crore towards drought relief, and the meeting of District Collectors and police officials to be held on 15 and 16 April would decide whether a further sum was needed.

Minimum wages for farm workers increased:

The Tamil Nadu government announced an increase ranging from Rs. 5 to Rs. 14 in the minimum wages for various categories of agricultural workers in the State.

The Chief Minister said that the increase followed the government's acceptance in toto of the recommendations of a committee set up to go into the minimum wages of agricultural labourers.

Those engaged in paddy cultivation and allied operations would get Rs. 16 a day as against Rs. 11 now while those engaged in cultivation of other agricultural produce would get minimum wages ranging from Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 against 8 now.

Those coming under "other categories of agricultural labourers" whose minimum wages had ranged from Rs. 11 to and Rs. 18 a day, would now get wages ranging from Rs. 16 and Rs. 32.

Farm hands now being paid a monthly wage of Rs. 210 would henceforth get Rs. 375.

The Chief Minister also announced certain concessions in sales tax and

Motor Vehicles Tax proposed in the budget.

Salary limit raised:

He also enhanced the salary limit for backward classes and Adi Dravidars for educational benefits from Rs. 5,000 to 12,000 and for Scheduled Tribes from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 15,000.

MV tax cut:

The Chief Minister also announced reduction in Motor Vehicle Tax proposed for vans. As against Rs. 150 per seat per quarter for 12-seater van announced in the budget the van owners would

be levied a consolidated Rs. 1,000 per quarter.

Referring to the demands for reduction of five per cent tax on hotels with a turnover of Rs. 10 lakhs per year, he said that the government also proposed to levy compounding tax. A Decision would be taken shortly.

Civic elections postponed:

The Chief Minister announced that the elections to the three Corporations of Madras, Madurai and Coimbatore were being postponed to June-July instead of in May. This was to ensure that the 18-year olds also were given franchise in these elections.

The Chief Minister said that this Government had unearthed one more land scandal involving sale of prime land to a private party by the State Tourism Department. The sale had since been cancelled resulting in saving of Rs. 7.5 crore for the State.

The policy of the previous government regarding nationalisation of bus transport would be scrapped and reversed. This was because the previous government policy was basically the opposite of progressive nationalisation of the transport industry and also its very negation.

"ROAD SAFETY WEEK"

Safety education campaigns for drivers of different vehicles, seminars, a debate and a number of other activities to discuss problems relating to road safety were conducted during the 'Road Safety Week', observed in the State from 20th March to 26th March 1989.

Minister for Transport Thiru M. Kannappan presided over the function on 20th March 1989. The safety education campaigns were conducted by voluntary organisations for drivers of autorickshaws, taxis and lorries. Eye testing and blood examination of the drivers were done. A week-long exhibition was organised by the Automobile Association of South India (AASI) at its office.

Auto emission clinics to check emission in automobiles were organised in certain service stations with the help of IOC and other oil companies.

The Transport Department and the Police Department enforced rules of the road strictly. Special campaigns to paste reflecting stickers and bull's eyes were undertaken. Banners and pamphlets were used to spread the message of road safety.

The Transport Minister, said driving licences should be given only to fully qualified people and that too after verifying their physical fitness, particularly in terms of eye sight and hearing.

He said that many people got licenses even without sitting at the wheel. Further many driving schools claimed that they could give full training within 10 to 15 days. All this should change.

The Minister said the term 'Life Saving Week' would be more appropriate and added that it should be observed in the districts also.

He said the number of accidents and deaths in Madras had come down significantly in 1988, when compared to 1987.

Thiru S. Sivasubramanian, Transport Secretary, said the Transport corporations in Tamil Nadu were taking measures to ensure greater safety on the road.

Thiru R. Nagarajan, IAS., Home Secretary to the Tamil Nadu Government spoke on the occasion. He urged various Government departments to be strict in the implementation of traffic rules and regulations.

In the course of his speech, while emphasizing the importance of safe driving, he said that one should consider the need for improving the road conditions also.

Thiru P. Dorai IPS the Madras City Police Commissioner, said cases booked for overspeeding, rash driving, bad overtakes and footboard travel had increased. This was mainly because of better enforcement of the rules and regulations. The situation could be much better if at least a part of the amount collected as motor vehicle tax was diverted for betterment of the roads.

Representatives of the Automobile Association of South India, United India Insurance Company, Indian Medical Association, and Save A Life Club, spoke on the occasion. They called for cooperation from all sections of society to prevent accidents and to render quick medical assistance, in case of emergency.

Thiru M. B. Panneer, the Transport Commissioner, welcomed the gathering.

Thiru L. Ravi Singh, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic), proposed a vote of thanks.

Tamil Nadu Budget-

Views of Press

and Associations

The Tamil Nadu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in a statement, welcomed the State Budget, because among other things it was actually designed to help the poorer sections of the society.

Welfare Fund for Traders Welcomed.

The proposals for total withdrawal of sales tax on agricultural pumpsets and for creation of a Traders Welfare Fund in the budget presented by the Chief Minister, have been welcomed by the Chambers of Commerce.

Thiru Ashok Kumbhat, President of the Hindustan Chamber of Commerce, congratulated the Chief Minister for his plan to set up the Traders Welfare Fund and for "Keeping in tact the package of concessions announced during the President's rule". He however felt that the continuance of the turnover tax and its enhancement to two percent for dealers whose turnover was more than Rs. 1 crore would adversely affect the trading community.

Thiru K. R. Motilal, Chairman, All India Manufacturers Organisation, (Tamil Nadu State Board) said that the withdrawal of sales tax on agricultural pumpsets was a welcome measure.

Thiru S. Ram, Chairman of the Confederation of Engineering Industry, said the budget showed concern for industrial development and the increase of investments in the Electricity sector and roads would improve the industrial infrastructure of the State.

In addition, the proposed World Bank-funded scheme for urban area improvement indicated a good support for existing industrial centres. The investments in industrial growth centres would give a fillip to new industries starting up.

The CEI also welcomed the total withdrawal of Sales Tax on agricultural pumpsets. This would help the

pump industry in the State, mainly in Coimbatore, Thiru Ram said.

CEI envisaged a substantial part of the increased 31% outlay on the power sector to go towards improving the transmission and distribution of power to the existing connections and thereby improving the quality of power supply to industry. The statement that the Government was taking steps to overcome problems and expedite North Madras Power Project was welcome and CEI hoped that it would be possible to start work on this in the current year, he said.

Thiru Syed Abdul Gaffoor, President, National Chamber of Commerce said the budget did not hit the common man very hard.

The Rubber Play Manufacturers Associations congratulated Chief Minister for exempting rubber play-balls from Sales Tax, by classifying them as sports goods.

The Tamil Nadu Government Employees Union has welcomed the Chief Minister's budget announcement saying that its long-pending demand of pay parity with employees of the Union Government would be fulfilled before May this year.

In a press release Thiru P. S. Soundarapandian, General Secretary of the Union, has expressed appreciation for the proposal.

The Chief Minister had said that the report of the Fifth Pay Commission constituted during the President rule would be examined and the Government decision in tune with the fulfilment of the demands of the Government employees and teachers would be announced before the end of 1989. The Government decision would be given retrospective effect from June 1st 1988.

"Poll promises fulfilled"

"The Chief Minister Karunanidhi, on Saturday, announced a number of welfare measures in the Budget for 1989-90 in fulfilment of the promises made in the DMK Election manifesto."

The "Hindu"
27.3.1989

"A Welfare Budget"

"When does a populist Budget become a welfare Budget?"

"When it is presented by an Opposition Government."

"News times" 28.3.1989

.. Tamilnadus Rosy Dreams ..

The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Thiru M. Karunanidhi, has struck a balance between discretion and valour in producing additional resource mobilisation to the tune of Rs. 50 crores in the coming year. Moreover, the Budget has something to offer to almost everybody. For the industrialist, there is promise of stepped up outlay on power as well as three new growth centres. For the agriculturist, there is a whole new package of drought relief and debt relief. For the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the Most Backward Communities as well as women and the unemployed, the Budget spells out special schemes to implement the DMK's poll assurances.

(Economic Times)
29.3.89



"The Chief Minister Karunanidhi was able to make a self-landing with his Budget for 1989-90. The flight has been made smooth by the readiness, though belatedly, to off-load cargo in the shape of certain financial Plan targets. All said and done, the Chief Minister, who also holds the Finance portfolio has done well in managing the pressure-cooker of State finances to provide for a wide range of reliefs and funds for enlarged scale of welfare measures."

29.3.1989

"Welfare oriented Budget"

"The Tamilnadu Government was faced with three problems - a precarious financial position, an urgency for encouraging an improvement in the development exercise and a need to redeem the Election promises. It should be said to the credit of the DMK Government that its Budget for 1989-90 is charted specifically to tackle these three issues to a creditable extent."

"News Today" 89

27.3.1989

The DMK Government has not yet passed through the "grace period of one hundred days. The provision of Rs.173.8 crores for the Nutritious

Meal Programme with the intention that it will benefit 85 lakh children is in accordance with the electoral commitment.

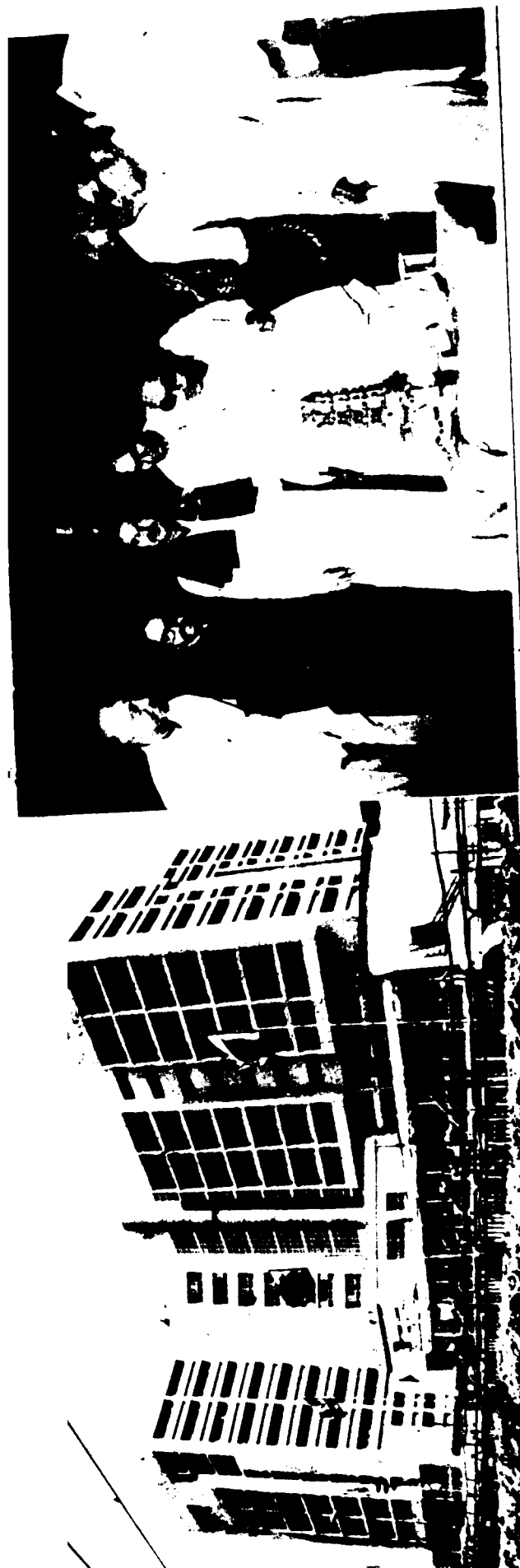
In fact, wide range of welfare measures included in the budget - marriage grants for girls from poor families, maternity relief for women from such families, free supply of 5 Kg. of rice on three festival days to an astronomical 50 lakh house holds at a cost of Rs.14 crores, the free dhoti-saree scheme costing Rs.27 crores - seem to belong to the well-known category of populist measures with a spin-off going beyond and away from the targeted beneficiaries. In the field of employment, a new scheme has been announced for enlisting 25,000 rural youth for a variety of village level activities such as adult literacy, maintenance of drinking water facilities and small savings.

The Hindu-Editorial - dated 27th March 1989.

The welfare aspect of the Budget is really its satisfying hallmark. All the election promises in this area are to be credibly fulfilled. This is clear from the proposals for supplying 5 kilos of rice free to all poor house holds on Tamil New Year Day gifting to them one saree and one dhoti to each, removing the ceiling on applications for old age pensions to be considered each year besides raising the amount per head by Rs.15 to Rs.50 per month, granting of Rs.2,000 on death of bread winner in poor households and providing accident benefit of Rs.10,000 without income ceiling. Students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Tribes, Most Backward Classes and Denotified Communities can study free upto B.A., B.Sc., B.Com levels, an intelligent way of upgrading capabilities and competitive ability. Some provision is available for converting cycle rickshaws into motorised ones on the basis of subsidised low interest loans from Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation. Nutritious Meal Pro-gramme gets Rs.173.8 crore with special emphasis on facilities for supervision to prevent malpractices.

The budget has thus striven to live up to the welfare goals. There is a sedulous attempt in evidence to ensure that the benefits of welfare schemes would reach those for whom they are intended.

Editorial, News Today, dated 27th March, 1989.



M.M.D.A. OFFICE COMPLEX—

THALAMUTHU-NATARAJAN BUILDING INAUGURATED

The Chief Minister Dr. M. Karunanidhi while inaugurating the M.M.D.A. Office Complex said that the Government will expedite the implementation of the Telugu Ganga Project. This was to ensure that Krishna water will be brought to the City in two to three years. The Chief Minister added that he would hold talks with the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Thiru N.T. Rama Rao to hasten the Telugu-Ganga Project. The Chief Minister said "we will not drop the Telugu-Ganga, the way the Veeranam scheme was dropped by the previous Government." The Telugu-Ganga Project was not implemented on schedule by the previous Government. The Chief Minister made the above remarks when he

inaugurated the Madras Metropolitan Development Authority's new Rs.15.7 crore office complex on Gandhi-Irwin road, Madras. He said that the Government would also continue to take steps to ensure speedy implementation of the mass transit system (MRTS) project. Though the matter was taken up personally twice with the ministers concerned in Delhi, and in spite of the repeated requests of the Government, only meagre funds were allotted for the above project. The Chief Minister handed over silver keys to the allottees of the M.M.D.A. building and presented mementoes to those who were involved in the construction of this building. The Handloom and Urban

Development Minister Thiru S. Thangavelu presided over the function. He said that this 12-storeyed building, was the first one in the state to be equipped with an automatic sprinkler and fire extinguishing system, having a floor area of 28,000 square metres, fully airconditioned, with eight lifts and a 750 KW generator. A computer based system ensured that the building regulated the supply of all the systems in the building, apart from protecting it against fire. The M.M.D.A. secured the land free from the Education Department in 1983 and the State construction corporation started the work in 1986. The Chief Minister said that the Government would, construct a school and a teachers

training institute at a cost of Rs.80 lakh in the land available in the premises. About Rs.84 lakh would also be spent for constructing 62 tenements there.

The Food Minister Thiru Arcot Veerasamy, The Health Minister Thiru Ponnudi, Egmore MLA Parithi Elamvazhuthi, The Chief Secretary Thiru M.M. Rajendran, I.A.S. and Thiru A. Kalamidhi M.P., participated in the function.

The M.M.D.A. Chief Engineer Thiru S. Kumaresan presented the technical report. He said that the building was 48.71 metres tall, had a car park capable of accommodating over 220 vehicles and would house

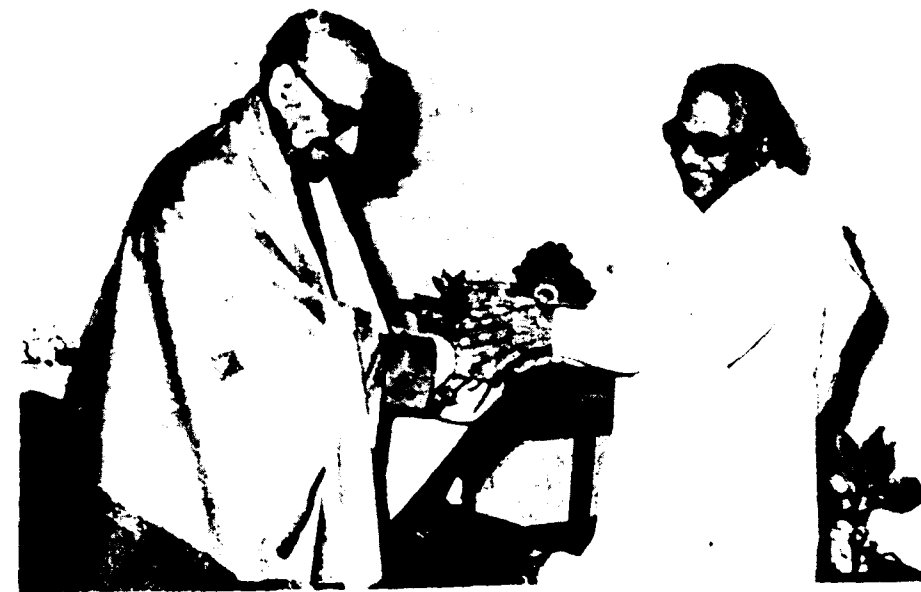


Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. M. Karunanidhi inaugurated the High Energy X-ray Machine for treatment of Cancer, at Cancer Institute. Adyar on 6.4.89.

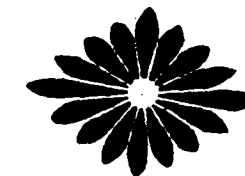
His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu Dr. P.C. Alexander, going round the 64th Flower-show in Madras, organised by the Madras Corporation on 11.4.89. Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development and Local Administration Thiru Veerapandi S. Arumugam accompanied the Governor.



His Excellency Dr. John R. Hubbard, U. S. Ambassador to India called on Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. M. Karunanidhi on 5.4.89 at his Chamber at Secretariat, Madras. Thiru Thomas M.F. Timberman, Consul General, Madras is also present. Hon'ble Chief Minister presented a memento (Tanjavur Art Plate).



His Excellency, Mr. ALI ZAKARIA AL ANSARI, Ambassador of the State of Kuwait, called on the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. M. Karunanidhi at his residence on 4.4.89.



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. M. Karunanidhi, unveiled the statue of Dr. A.L. Mudaliar, at Madras Medical College on 7.4.89. Hon'ble Minister for Food Thiru Arcot N. Veerasamy, Hon'ble Minister for Public Works Thiru Durai Murugan and Hon'ble Minister for Health Dr. Por. mudi participated in the function.



Rs.100 CRORE PLAN TO IMPROVE MADRAS CITY

Thiru Veerapandi S. Arumugam, Local Administration Minister said on 18th March 89, that a sum of Rs.100 crore would be spent to draw up plans for improvement of Madras during the next five years. This was to fulfil the promise made by the new Government in its election manifesto.

While switching on sodium vapour lamps at Velachery Road, the Minister said that the Tamil Nadu Government had sought the Finance Commission to allot Rs.50 crore to the Madras Corporation for improving slums. He said about Rs.20 crore would be spent by the Madras Corporation to instal more street lights and replace the old underground cables. He called upon the public to help curb theft and damaging street lights.

The Minister said 4000 new sodium vapour lamps and 6000 fluorescent lamps would be installed this year.

Sodium vapour lamps would be installed in 14 roads by next month. Highways Department would instal sodium vapour street light on double brackets in the median from Kathipara to Padi at a cost of Rs.57 lakh.

SURPRISE CHECKS BY Minister for Rural Development and LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

The Hon'ble Minister for Local Administration Thiru Veerapandi S. Arumugam made surprise checks in many parts of the Madras city on 21st March 1989 nearly 4 Hours. Thiru T.R. Balu, M.P., Thiruvalargal S.A. Ganesan, S.R. Sridhar and Sengai Sivam, M.L.A.'s, the Corporation Commissioner and other Circle Officers of the Corporation accompanied the minister.

The Minister inspected the cremation ground at Kannammalai and suggested to build a 120 feet alti Chimney so that the neighbouring huts adjoining the Compound Walls would not be affected.

Afterwards the Minister at Ashok Nagar IVth Main Road, inspected the cleaning of water tanks by Corporation Worker. He also inspected Kamaraj Colony and Bhoopathi Nagar slum areas there and ordered the Corporation Officials to lay roads in that area. At Trustpura the Minister ordered the Corporation officials to desilt the Storm Water drain at once so that the stagnant sewer water could be relieved. The Minister inspected the Plant nursery at Kodambakkam High Road and said that a Compound Wall should be built around it. He then went to Corporation Middle school, Gangapuram and saw the midday meals prepared at noon meals shed.

At Aminjikarai the Hon'ble Minister asked Corporation Officials to take immediate action to execute the 22 lakhs estimated bridge across Coom connecting Aminjikarai and Metha Nagar. He then inspected the sewer treatment plant at Koyambedu. He said that the sewer water should be treated well before it is let into Coom. The Minister then visited Thiruvalluvarpuram slum at Ayanavaram. It is an unsewered area. Metro water and Sewerage Board Officials explained the Minister about the Proposals made for laying under ground sewers in that area. The minister asked Corporation Officials to lay gravel roads immediately in that area.

The Minister inspected Vasanta Garden, Maduma Nagar and went to Ambedkar College, Vyasarpady, where the low lying areas are filled with building rubbish by the Corporation. He said that after filling, the area should be levelled. The Minister then went to Radhakrishnan Nagar and inspected the area.

Municipal Chairman to head tax appeals panel

Thiru Veerapandi S. Arumugam Minister for Rural Development and Local Administration has said that in Madurai on 6th March '89 that the Tamil Nadu Government has decided to empower a five-member committee for each municipality

headed by the respective municipality's chairman to take decisions on appeals regarding property Tax.

He also said that the existing Local Bodies Act would be amended in the budget session and certain norms would be fixed for the guidance of the committee for tax revision.

The property taxes had not been revised for the past 15 years, even though revision Officers had been appointed two years back. This resulted in weakening of the finance position of the Municipalities. The tax payers were asked to appeal to a committee if they felt that the revision was not justified.

The committee, did not meet at all and some people took the matter to the court. The taxes could not be collected. The Minister said that the Government has decided to set up separate financial corporations for municipalities, municipal corporation and panchayats. These corporations would raise funds for the development of the local bodies.

The Minister said that severe action would be taken against town planning officials if they delayed the approval of layouts for new constructions beyond one month.

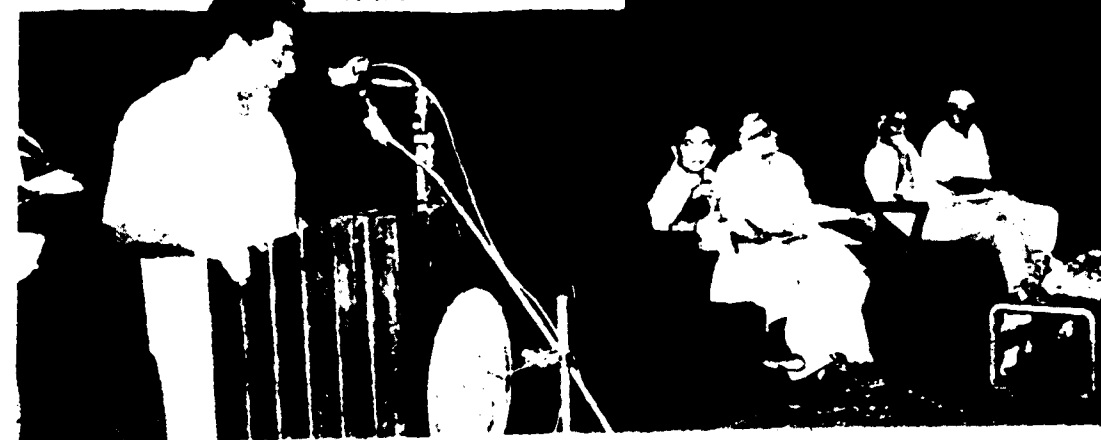
Borewells for Madurai city.

The Minister said that the Government had sanctioned a sum of Rs.45 lakhs for sinking 120 borewells in Madurai city for augmenting the water supply. All the 120 borewells would be completed before 15th March 1989.

Besides, a sum of Rs.25 lakhs had been sanctioned for distribution of water through lorries.

A Rs. One crore project for putting up two more permanent bunds across the Vaigai river for storing more water for drinking water supply was also under the active consideration of the Government. The bunds would not affect in any way irrigation water for the farmers.

NEHRU CENTENARY NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES MADRAS



The National Conference of Voluntary Agencies

The National Conference of Voluntary agencies, was inaugurated by the Minister for Rural Development and Local Administration Thiru Veerapandi S. Arumugam on 17th March 1989 in Madras. This conference was jointly organised by the Council for Advancement of people's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) and the Jawaharal Nehru Centenary Implementation Committee, New Delhi. The Minister, while inaugurating the above conference, said that the schemes like rural sanitation, environment, Child care and nutrition may be taken up by the Voluntary agencies in order to promote rural development and if these economic programmes were found to be successful, the Government could come forward and take up such programmes in a planned manner, on a wider scale to achieve speedy social justice.

Speech of the Minister for Information and Labour Thiru Pon-Muthuramalingam at the valedictory function:—

Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development Thiru Janardhan Poojari,

Thiru Patankar, Delegates from other States, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I have great pleasure in participating in the valedictory session of the two day Seminar organised by the Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology and Nehru Centenary Celebrations Committee in collaboration with the State Government.

I hope that the deliberations of the Seminar during the last two days might have made a break-through in finding new areas for the involvement and participation of the voluntary organisations and also for funding the various programmes.

Mahatma Gandhi said:

"I shall work for an India in which the poorest shall feel that it is their country in whose making they have an effective voice, an India in

which there shall be no high class and low class of people, an India in which all communities shall live in perfect harmony".

We have been trying to realise the dream of Mahatma Gandhi into reality through implementation of various programmes. In all our efforts for enriching the life of the people in rural and urban areas, we have paid careful and adequate attention not only to the physical and financial outlay but also the components of the programmes and the beneficiaries who enjoy the fruits of the programmes.

In a vast country like ours, we are facing various problems like poverty, ignorance, caste discrimination, disparity in income, disparity in development among various regions. Yet, we have made much head way in realising the objects of our planned endeavour. It seems to me that it is all due to the participation of the people at various levels. We made a spectacular progress in implementing the community De-



velopment and National Extension Service Schemes. The public enthusiasm and participating spirit which we witnessed during the sixties gradually decreased. A new approach and strategy have been adopted through the experience of People's Action for Development of India (PADI) started in Maharashtra and later by the Council for the Advancement of people's Action and Rural Technology.

I feel that, in India, the progress in the recent years in combating rural poverty and raising the living standard of the rural areas has been attributed, amongst others, to the dedicated work of many non-Governmental Organisation. Many Non-Governmental Organisations tend to adopt a holistic approach to rural development.

The Voluntary agencies have a wider role to play. They have more areas for operation. Most of the voluntary agencies as they are today, are urban-oriented and their resources are dissipated in routine programmes. It is hightime that the Non-Governmental Organisations reach out for the benefit of the poor in rural sector, and they design appropriate technology and strategy to generate awareness among the villagers and help them to become economically self-reliant and self-supporting.

I understand that over the last few years, a number of dedicated Non-Governmental Organisations have demonstrated that, given the right orientation and educational

aids, they can motivate community members to improve their sanitary practices. Prompted by the good rapport and confidence established with the communities, mainly women and their desire to transform the rural life style, these NGO's have introduced and implemented sanitation activities with encouraging results.

Many Non-Governmental Organisations are capable of reaching out to the community and enlisting their participation. For example, Ramakrishna Mission of West Bengal is making very effective use of the network of youth clubs to educate and motivate village communities. The close interaction of social workers with the community as shown by the approach used by Women's Coordinating Council in Calcutta and Asha Sadan in Delhi have indicated that ingrained habits can be changed for the better in a relatively short time.

I am referring to this programme to illustrate how a non-governmental organisation can motivate, educate and involve the people for people's advancement.

I am sure that this Seminar has made an indepth study of the role of Voluntary agencies in national development and the recommendations made by it will throw more areas to Voluntary agencies for active work and service. The Voluntary agencies are the social animators who can help the Government to remove the deficiencies in various laws like land reform acts

and to bring about transformations in rural areas. The idea of removal of middlemen in implementing anti-poverty programmes is receiving careful attention of the Government of India and the State Government.

Before I conclude, I want to recollect the words of our mentor, Perarignar Anna. In his appeal to his brothers, Anna said;

Go to the people.
Live among them;
Learn from them,
Love them,
Serve them,
Plan with them,
Start with what they know
Build on what they have.

The recent announcements made by our respected Chief Minister Dr. Kalamazhar have strengthened the democratic institutions namely, the Panchayats and Panchayat Unions. With the technical assistance available with them, the voluntary organisations can spread out into far-flung areas, and improve the living standard of the villagers and Tribal population.

I hope and trust that the delegates will return to their respective stations, with new enthusiasm and understanding for a wider role. I once again thank the organisers of this Seminar, for giving me this opportunity to share a few thoughts with you.

Thank you.



Rare Species of Animals in the Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur

MOUFLON

(European Mountain Sheep)

Mouflon is a mountain sheep. They live in many parts of Europe. This is the smallest form of all wild sheeps. The male is very beautiful with a thick backwardly recurved horn. Some scientists think that all breed of domestic sheep developed from the mouflon.

Mouflons (2 males and 2 females) were received from Yugoslavia two years back on exchange basis. They were left into a special type of mountain enclosure at this Zoological Park. Now they started breeding. One female delivered an young one on 18-2-1989. The other female is now carrying.

Anna Zoological Park is the only zoo in India in having this rare sheep variety.



GREY KANGAROO

Kangaroos are Australian animals. These animals are unique in having an abdominal pouch (marsupium). This Grey Kangaroos are one of the largest Kangaroos.

This Zoological Park received three Kangaroos (1 male and 2 female) recently (3-10-1987) from Australia at the cost of about Rs. 30,000. They now started breeding. One female has a big young one, while the other is having a small baby in its pouch. This Zoological Park is also having an another variety of small Kangaroo called Wallabys which is also breeding.

STRIPED HYENA

Striped Hyenas are widely distributed in the forests of Africa and India. They mainly feed on the left over body parts of dead animals in the forests. So they are known as the Scavengers of the Forest. By doing so they keep the forest clean. They are considered as one of the rare animals of India.

Two years back (27-7-1987) this zoo has received a pair of Hyenas from Bombay Zoo on exchange basis. They started breeding here. The first litter (2 females) were delivered a year back. Now for the same parent two pups were born on 19-2-1989. These animals are kept in a special type of open island type enclosure.

Revamping Millets Research in Tamil Nadu

Millets form a group of coarse grains capable of thriving adverse seasonal conditions. They occupy an area of 15 lakh hectares which is 21 per cent of gross cropped area in Tamil Nadu. A quantum leap in the productivity of millet crops viz., sorghum, pearl millet, finger millet and maize was witnessed in the recent years following the development of hybrids, composites and appropriate production technologies but still the average yield per hectare has not been increased substantially. The average yield is very low (1.2 tonnes/ha) compared to the potential yield of 4.5 tonnes/ha.

In order to improve the present condition, the millet scientists from all over the state attended a workshop at the main campus of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University at Coimbatore on March 7th and 8th and deliberated over the future research strategies required and thrust areas to be tackled, in the coming years.

Presiding over the Workshop, Dr. S. Jayaraj, Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University

Change is one thing, progress is another. "Change" is scientific, "progress" is ethical.

-BERTRAND RUSSELL

The art of progress is to preserve order amid change and to preserve change amid order.

-ALFRED NORTH

Man's character is his fate.

-HERACLITUS

It is not the brains that matter most, but that which guides them - the character, the heart, generous qualities, progressive ideas.

-FYODOR DOSTOYEVSKI

emphasised that millets along with tree crops is the best combination to combat the drought conditions as well to overcome the fodder shortage for animals. He called upon the scientists to promote millet production in the potential belts to match the poultry production and the Animal Nutritionists to identify nutritive fodders. "Processed food items from millets" is the mandate fixed for Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Food Scientists, enabling the millet farmers to get additional farm income.

In his opinion, the choice of millet crop, specific varieties and cropping system should be based on the rainfall pattern specific to the region. Disclosing the massive fabrication of farm machinery in the University Workshops for supply to all the Regional Research Stations and Krishi Vigyan Kendras in Tamil Nadu, the Vice-Chancellor categorically stated that the appropriate farm implements and machinery should form the integral part of dryland technology in Tamil Nadu.

Taking econometrics to the practical ladder of predicting the probabilities of dry spell, monsoon, soil moisture, pest and disease outbreaks, yield predictions and many more farm related aspects, the computerisation of farm research data is now well within the reach of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University which has got a well equipped computer centre. Dr. Jayaraj called upon the participating scientists to develop appropriate models to be test verified in different agro-climatic conditions in the state in farmers fields through on-farm trials.

Outlining the millet scenerio of Tamil Nadu, Dr. S. Chelliah, Director of Research, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University emphasised the need for intensive researches on intercropping giving region specific recommendations which inturn give additional income to the farmers. He advocated exotic breeding programmes in cholam and cumbu.

Based on the two days deliberations, the following thrust areas

in millet research have been identified for implementation in different parts of Tamil Nadu :

1. Computerisation of research data available on all major millet crops, and development of prediction models for rainfall and pest and disease outbreaks. Integrated watershed management in low rainfall areas in Tamil Nadu.

2. Cataloguing of the available male sterile lines in sorghum (cholam), maize and pearl millet (Cumbu) for evolving high yielding and pest and disease resistant hybrids.

3. Evolution of sweet sorghum varieties suitable for production of industrial ethanol (alcohol).

4. Breeding drought tolerant and high yielding varieties Makkattai cholam suited to Tiruchi and Pudukottai district, Periamanjai cholam for Coimbatore and Periyar districts and Thalaivirichan cholam for North Arcot and Dharmapuri districts under rainfed conditions.

5. Pearl millet (cumbu) hybrids and varieties suitable for intercropping in groundnut.

6. Evolution of high yielding and drought tolerant minor millets like Tenai, Penivaragu, Samai and kudiraivali for the plains and hilly tribal areas.

7. Study on the performance of millets in soils irrigated with leather tannery effluents in Palar Basin in North Arcot district and ameliorative measures to mitigate the ill-effects.

8. Efficiency of bio-fertilizers in the integrated nutrient management, on the incidence of the diseases and pests of millets and ability to withstand drought.

9. Tissue culture studies to evolve better varieties to combat blast disease in Ragi and downy mildew in cumbu.

The past researches in millet crops have been thoroughly analysed by this scientists forum and new orientation to revamp the millet research strategies was given. Such forums form a basis for self analysis as well as understanding the views of scientists of all disciplines.



The French film festival

Speech of

Thiru PON. MUTHURAMALINGAM,
Minister for Information and Labour

years ago and the enormous amount of support and encouragement that our programmes received in France.

The new wave films of India are very popular in France. The Exposition of Indian films in pompidou Centre in Paris attracted a beeline of French film goers. One of the films which was highly appreciated at this Exposition was "தலைவர்" a Tamil film depicting the 'travails of drought in villages and the expectations of the rural folk. / Tamil films like "Nayaken" have enjoyed 'good audience' in France. The film critic Mr. Michel Ciment has been visiting India frequently and the Indian films receive his appreciation in a large measure.

France and India have been carrying the torch of world peace and they have shared various international platforms for the cause of international peace and understanding. The Indo-French relations have entered a new phase during this year with the visit of the president of France. New vistas of Co-operation are opening up in the spheres of telecommunications nuclear energy and bio-technology.

We remember and relish the visit of His Excellency the President of France, Mr. Mitterand, to inaugurate the Festival of France in India when he said that the French Festival in India was "a common meditation—a common endeavour" to raise a garden of flowers and fruits."

Your Excellency Ambassador of France in India, Thiru Koshy, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India Tmt. Urmila Gupta distinguished guests and friends.

I have great pleasure in associating myself with the inauguration of the French Film Festival at Madras and I am grateful to the organisers of this festival for giving me this opportunity.

On behalf of our revered and respected Chief Minister, Dr. Kalaignar and Government of Tamil Nadu, I thank the Government of India and the Ambassador of France in India for having chosen Madras as the venue for organising this week-long important Festival. I hope that many of you are aware of the fact that our Hon'ble Chief Minister, Dr. Kalaignar is an eminent playwright and all his film stories are based on social themes relating to social reform and renaissance. He has to his credit over 25 plays and scripts for nearly 50

films, many of which are box office hits.

When the Government of India approached him for assistance to organise this Film Festival as part of the Festival of France in India which was inaugurated by His Excellency the President of France last month in Bombay, he readily agreed to provide all assistance to organise the French Film Festival here and he requested me kindly to participate in the inaugural function. I am very glad to learn that Madras which is the seat of Culture and fine arts of India, is the first city to host the French Film Festival in India.

The peoples of France and India are peace-loving people. They have a rich cultural tradition and history. We are proud of our ancient culture, arts and crafts. (Film is one of the creative arts in which the French and Indian Film makers have acquired expertise attaining international standards.

We still remember the Festival of India conducted in France two

I am pleased to note that France is the fourth largest film producer after India, the U.S. and Japan. All predictions that the New Wave French films will meet the day of gloom have been proved false. It is said that about 140 films are made every year in France and these films have the verve and resilience, attracting large audience in foreign lands also.

I understand that the fourteen

films selected for screening till 16th March in this Cinema-house are of very high quality in terms of photography, theme, acting and appeal. I hope that the film lovers and film makers of Madras City will enjoy the films, and the film Festival will further strengthen the Cultural and commercial bonds between India and France.

We conducted with success a Tamil Film Festival at Trivandrum

in November, 1988 and we have plans to do so at Bangalore and Hyderabad. May be someday we shall have a similar festival of Tamil films in Paris.

Now, I have great pleasure in inaugurating this French Film Festival in Madras.

(Speech at the Inaugural function of French Film Festival in Madras on 10-3-1989)

Safeguards to Linguistic Minorities in School Education

In Tamil Nadu there are adequate facilities for linguistic Minorities. There are schools which impart education through

Telegu, Malayalam, Urdu, Kannada, Hindi, Gujarathi, languages.

These languages are taught as first language in schools where the children belonging to linguistic Minorities get education through English Medium.

Apart from the safeguards provided in G.O.Ms.No. 115 Public (Defence) Department dated 29-1-65 the following facilities are provided to linguistic minorities:-

The linguistic minorities who are desirous of studying Tamil in addition to their mother tongue under Part 'A' of the language scheme may study it outside school hours and that the concerned Headmasters themselves may make necessary arrangements depending on the strength of pupils willing to study Tamil.

No Tuition fee is levied from the students studying through the medium like Telegu, Malayalam, Urdu and other minority language and no tuition fee is levied from students who studied in any of the

above media at the high school and Jointed English Medium consequent on the non-availability of their respective medium at the higher secondary level.

Text books in subjects like Mathematics, Science, History, Geography are printed and published in Telugu, Urdu, Malayalam and Kannada by Tamil Nadu Text Book Society.

For language text Books the books used in other States are followed in Tamil Nadu with the permission of the Government.

Provision is made for the linguistic minority candidates for the admission into Telegu medium or Malayalam or Urdu Medium in the following Government Teacher Training Institutions.

(1) One Urdu men teacher training section attached to the Government High School for Muslim (Boys), Madras-2

(2) One Urdu Women Section attached to Government Teachers Training Institute (Women) Royapettah, Madras.

(3) One section for Telugu Men Candidates attached to

Government Teachers Training Institute (Men), Dharmapuri.

(4) One section for Malayalam Teacher Training for men and women candidates attached to government High School, Villavancode.

(5) One section for Telegu Women candidates attached at Government Teachers Training Institute (Women) Krishnagiri.

Free supply of text book is provided to poor children studying in Standards I—VIII from 1985-86 under the Chief Minister's Nutritious Noon Meal Programme. Linguistic minorities are also covered under this scheme.

The linguistic minority language teachers who do not want to act in the administrative post and who do not want promotions are exempted from passing Tamil Language test.

As per section 9 of Chapter II of the Tamil Nadu recognised private schools (Regulation) Act 1973, any minority be it, individual or body of persons based on language may establish and administer any school of their choice with permission.

BHARATHIDASAN

Of the three thousand years of dynamic, delightful and developing history of Tamil literature, a unique phenomenon in the world of literature, Bharathidasan otherwise known as Pavendar meaning the king of Poets or Puratchi kavingar meaning the poet of revolt shines as the latest and brightest literary luminary who rightly compels the attention and appreciation, admiration and adoration of literary scholars all over the world in view of the quantity and quality of his creative writings. The beauty and boldness of his varied literary forms are considered as a fitting sequel to the outpourings of Subramania Bharathi (1882-1921) whose acquaintance Bharathidasan was fortunate to secure when the former was in a political exile in a then French settlement namely Puducherry (Pondicherry) during the second decade of this century along with Sri Aurobindo, V.V.S. Iyer and others.

Bharathidasan was born in 1891 nine years after the birth of Subramania Bharathi and nine years before the birth of twentieth century in a middle class non-brahmin family. Although he became an avowed atheist and an intellectual revolutionary his respect for his mentor who was a believer and Brahmin by birth never diminished because Bharathidasan was fully convinced of Bharathi's zeal for social equality and emancipation, progress and peace. In short, not only the pen-name 'Bharathidasan' which he retained till the end of his life, but the statements in poetry and prose he has made whenever an occasion demanded about the qualities of head and heart of Subramania Bharathi stand testimony to Bharathidasan's qualities of truthfulness and gratitude.

Bharathidasan who lived a full life of 73 years died on the 21st April, 1965 at Madras and was buried at Pondicherry where the Government of Pondicherry has raised a memorial. By profession a Tamil teacher, by conviction an ardent follower of Periyar E.V. Ramaswamy, father of the Dravidian movement that ushered in a big political and social change in South India in fifties and sixties, a journalist, a political sufferer and a politician in later years Bharathidasan has created a deeper impact on the people of Tamil Nadu which is more relevant in post-Independent era.

Besides being a poet of beauty, Bharathidasan's irrefutable credentials were his fiery opposition to blind beliefs, wornout traditions, socio-economic inequalities and imposition of Hindi. His pertinent contribution to Tamil poetry is his poems which encourage widow-marriage and birth-control. And his poems in praise of Lenin and socialism shall also be relevant for ever. Some of his poems are excellent examples of universal appeal.

We may now have a few examples in English translation (though inadequate as even any excellent translation may be) to have a glimpse of the heat and light of the volcanic personality of Bharathidasan.

(Sung in the style of the pole dancer's song)

Tiduthidum thiduthidum thiduthidum thiduthidum
Tiduthidum thiduthidum thiduthidum thiduthidum
Ahaha salute you all

Ahaha sit all orderly please
Ye all who have begotten children
Hallo my Young brother!

the Great Poet - Dr. N. Sanjeevi.

Hallo my brother old!
Look here brother a skeleton!
No flesh! no strength!
Yes thiduthidum what is its name?
What is the name of this medicine?
When touched inside your soul it will be sweet that is that crystal-clear Tamil Yes that Crystal clear Tamil
Now I smear this medicine over this skeleton!
O! brother strike the drum
thiduthidum thiduthidum thiduthidum thiduthidum
look the Tamil skeleton laughs!
blossomed our land that was barren and destroyed
look our fresh-green Tamil land sings!
O! mothers! O! fathers!
no magic! no mantras!
What is wanted is will
What is wanted in the search for a way
To get rid of our woes!

Lullaby song for a female child

O! casket of camphor
to spread such a sweet perfume
Overwhelming the awful bad odour of blindbeliefs!
O! Lady of ever-burning light to dispel the darkness of unwanted caste-system!

Lullaby song for the male child

O! the hero of young and strong shoulders!
to catch and control those untamed bulls
that attempt to hit us when told
Of the evils of blind-beliefs
that causes cruelty and waste our valuable life!

On widow-marriage

When the woman dies
the widower seeks another woman
like that we shall ask
the widow to get a husband for her

Birth Control

While keeping the door for love open
We shall shut the door for conception
What harm is there
Otherwise what for is a child?
to die or to languish?

On a caste / Class free new communist society

O! the world is still in the dark dungeon!
Still the people who adhere to caste are alive!
Still are there the religious heads who threaten and curse
The world marches towards the goal
where all get all

Let us create a new world
Where the war-lords shall be wholly uprooted

When the poor begging-bowls
Become warriors to beat the rich
There shall be no beggars and barons
All will become equal. O! man realize this.
Up up climb! integrating country with country
Up up climb over the hills that hit the skies!
Up up climb ceaselessly!
Having climbed up look around all-over!
Look around all the people of the world all over!
Look around the thick of your human population!
Look around the army of men who were born with you!
Enjoy looking at the human sea!
Cry out that you are the human sea!



Sir. P. THEAGARAYA

The champion of the under privileged

Born on the 27th of April, 1852, five years before the Great Indian Mutiny, now called the First War of Indian Independence Sir P. Theagaraya must have been influenced by the establishment of the University of Madras, in 1857, and it was from that University that he graduated in 1876. Throughout his life he cared for the downtrodden and under-privileged.

As a member of the Devanga community, whose traditional occupation was weaving Sir P. Theagaraya was deeply interested in that industry and erected a large factory to provide employment for weavers. He was one of the founders of Southern Indian Chamber of Commerce and its President from its inception in 1910 for successive terms, till 1921.

Along with V. Tirumalai Pillai, Sir P. Theagaraya recognised and developed Changalvaraya Naicker's Technical Institute. He maintained a school at Washermenpet. He evinced great interest also in higher education and did much good work as a trustee of Pachaiyappa's College and other institutions of Pachaiyappa's Charities. In 1898 he was made Fellow of Madras University.

Sir P. Theagaraya hailed the birth of the Indian National Congress in 1885 and attended its sessions in Madras. He figured in every important beneficial movement in Madras Province. But he was distressed at the state of large sections of the Non-Bramin community in South India. They had long been educationally backward and were

gravely under represented in the Public Services and were powerless to raise their status. Unless they were given special protection they were liable to be submerged permanently. To uplift them and enable all communities share equally the benefit of education, the employment opportunities and the facilities offered by the Government, he, together with Dr. T. M. Nair founded the South Indian Liberal Federation, otherwise known as the "Justice Party."

Sir P. Theagaraya sat in the Legislative Council in 1910-1922 and it was sailing for him. In the referred council he was confronted by an opponent of unusual prowess, the Swarajist leader, S. Satyamurthy.

By assisting in shaping and reinforcing the policies and programmes of the Justice Party, Theagaraya paved the way for the many momentous

enactments of the party's Ministry during his time and afterwards.

Sir P. Theagaraya served on the Corporation of Madras for more than 40 years. In 1909 the title of 'Rao Bahadur' was conferred on him and, in 1919 the title of "Dewan Bahadur" and he was made a 'knight' in 1921.

Sir P. Theagaraya was always straight forward, whether his words, pleased or displeased his hearers. His charity was boundless. He helped many in distress, led thousands from indigence and idleness to gainful occupations, guided useful movements and built up benevolent institutions. His life was sunshine to all around him. His death on 30th June, 1925, at the age of 73, was widely lamented.

(Preface)

The Tale of the Anklet Silappathikaram

Play by

Dr. M. KARUNANIDHI

Poompuhar: We have listened to the song of the waves on many a shore but the poignant tune of the waves that roll in the sea of Kaveri-poompattinam of the present takes us to a world far, far away from the world today. And what we are transported to is the world of Tamil literature of nostalgic antiquity, drenched in nectar perennially sweet.

The beautiful City of Poompuhar was on the banks of Cauvery, where the River meets and emerges with the billowing sea. The City with its three sectors, namely Pattinapakkam, Maruvorpakkam and Nalangadi - where the landmarks where the Grand Arch which the King of Avanti had constructed as a gift to Karikal Chola, the auditorium of Pearls which was a present from the Monarch of Vajra and the pavilion which was a tribute from the Ruler of Magadha - is today under the sea. But the renown of the City reigns supreme even now and all the oceans of the world cannot draw a veil over it.

As long as the Chera Prince-Poet Ilango's Epic Silappathikaram is on record, the fame of Poompuhar, the greatness of Mathurai, the valour of Vanchi and, in short, the glory of Tamilagam shall remain undimmed.

The characters delineated by the royal ascetic Ilango Adigal-Kovalan and Kannagi and Madhavi of dulcet speech, Nedunchezhian the Pandya King who sacrificed his life at the altar of justice and Senguttuvan, the Chera Monarch, who led an expedition to the North in order to hew rock from the Himalayas for the Statue of Kannagi - send a message in unison to us that singing the praise of the Tamil people is a noble exercise that has no point of satiation. And this Play based on

Ilango's Epic is the outcome of that emotion and enthusiasm.

As a member of the vast ranks ever vigilant in the cause of Tamil and the Tamil people, I have been impelled to this effort by my affection and love for the language of everlasting fragrance and eternal grandeur. Active service to Tamil is the first and foremost of my duties and this attempt is but a step in that direction.

The Tamils have a long and venerable history and their writ had run even in far-off lands, across the high seas. Many foreign countries had established diplomatic relations with the land of the Tamils. Silappathikaram is not only a story of eddying emotions; it is also an elaborate history of Tamilagam.

Poompuhar, the birthplace of the characters of Silappathikaram - Kannagi and Madhavi and Kovalan was a harbour city handling export and import on a large scale, as has

been recorded in detail, in Pattinapalai: "Steeds from across the seas and loads of pepper delivered by barges from inland; gems and gold from the northern hills, sandalwood and akhil from the western ghats, pearls brought from the southern sea and coral from the eastern sea; goods from the plains of the Ganga and produce from the banks of the Cauvery itself - a resplendent sight, the scene of active prosperity here." Karikalan was a Chola Monarch of great renown, who ruled from this Capital and his period has been estimated to be from 60 B.C. to 10 B.C.

It was during this time that Augustus Caesar ruled in Rome (i.e.) from 39 B.C. to 14 A.D. It is clear that the Tamil King, who sent Envoys to the Court of Augustus Caesar was Pandyan Peruvazhuthi. Trade relations had been established between Rome and Tamilagam a long time before, but the ties became closer only after Karikalan and Peruvazhuthi were crowned. The friendship between Rome and Tamil-



gam flourished steadily thereafter-
ards and it can be said that decline
t in, only after the period of King
lero of Rome. Archaeology has
ielded impressive material testifying
to the friendly relations between
Rome and Tamilagam.

The Greeks and the Romans
ere called 'Yavanas' here and quite
few of them were in employment
in Tamilnad as Palace-guards.
Tamil literature contains ample ref-
erences to this fact. Mention is
made in Silappathikaram of the
Yavanas with swords fierce in battle
making excellent guards.

Pepper formed the main item
of export from Tamilagam to Rome.
It is said that when Rome was sub-
jugated once, it was ordered to pay
1,000 pounds of Tamilnad-pepper
to the Conqueror.

In the place called Colachal,
South of Musiri, convicts sentenced
to death were made to dive for
pearls, for export to Rome.

In the records of Ptolemy there
are references to two ports of Tamil-
nad which could be taken as Kaveri-
poompatinam and Pudhuvai (Pon-
dicherry) Pearls and conches of
Korkai in Pandya land were, of course,
world famous. That the pearls from
Korkai were matchless is seen from
the lines in Ahananooru; "Pearls of
Korkai guarded by the virtue of the
valorous Pandyas...."

Apart from Pearls, Korkai ex-
ported fine cloth of cotton and silk,
to Rome and other places; and it
imported horses, varieties of liquor
and glassware. The harbour was
always buzzing with activity.

Literature of the sangam age
contains proud references to the
active Musiri port where Yavanas
arrived in ships laden with gold and
returned with a cargo of pepper.

It has also been recorded in
Tamil literature that merchants and
sailors from many countries used to
arrive at the port of Puhar and that
there was great friendship not only
among them but also between them
and the local people. And that way,
Puhar can certainly be said to have
nurtured fraternity among peoples
of different lands.

Such was the prominence in
maritime trade and the historic



greatness of Poompuhar. It was
against this backdrop that Ilango
placed the theme of his monumental
epic that had in it sufficient
material of invaluable importance
to posterity. The way of life of
the ancient Tamils, their culture,
civilisation and political organisa-
tion and their love of proficiency
in Arts - all these have been
delineated in a masterly manner
in 'SILAPPATHIKARAM', the
great author of which deserved to be
remembered in gratitude by
historians too.

The story of SILAPPATHI-
KARAM has formed the basis for
very many new stories in Tamilnadu.
A spate of stage-Plays too cropped
up on the subject totally discarding
the literary finesse, artistic splendour,
historical background and the nobi-
lity of the characters of the original.
In the process Kannagi became
'Karnagi', Kovalan turned into
'Kovilan' and Madhavi was trans-
formed into 'Madhagi', to be sinned
against in that name. And all this
caused unbearable anguish

to those who had studied SILAPPA-
THIKARAM.

I am one of those who feel that
it is no fault to effect a few changes
in the presentation of the story, if
such changes lend strength to the
fundamentals enunciated by the
author of the Epic. Likewise it is no
fault to portray the characters with
added details, as long as such por-
trayal does no violence to the nature
of the characters.

Also, it would not be inappro-
priate or improper if a few altera-
tions are made, in tune with the
spirit of the times, without of course
deflecting the purpose of the story.
It would be equally proper if certain
ideas are emphasised that might
have been left out by the author and
certain reasons listed which the
author might not have felt the need
to record, in his time; that these
insertions do not overflow the boun-
daries of the theme of the original
should be the sole criterion.

With these objects in view, I
have made bold to put through
certain alterations while writing this
Play of Ilango's Epic. I am listing
a few instances:-

In the Epic, Madhavi gives a
garland to the hunch-backed lady
and asks her to hawk it in the street,
the idea being that she (Madhavi)
would marry whoever can afford to
purchase the garland. Such an
indiscriminate choice of a bride-
groom does not appear to do justice

to a sensitive damsel like Madhavi
who later merges her personality so
thoroughly with that of Kovalan,
a handsome youngman and a connoi-
sseur of Art. So I have gone with
Ilango, only up to the point where
the condition is stipulated for
eligibility to woo Madhavi. There
afterwards, I have deviated from the
original and added a sequence involv-
ing an old Greek. And incidentally
I could also point out the links betw-
een Tamilnad and Greece, of those
times.

"The version in SILAPPATHI-
KARAM is that, on buying the
garland, Kovalan went straight
away to Madhavi's house. It cer-
tainly does not seem logical to convey
that the affection which Kovalan
had for Kannagi evaporated all of a
sudden. I could not find it in my
heart to come out with an affirma-
tive answer to the question as to
whether Kovalan who had describ-
ed his adoring wife so spontaneously
as "the gem which the earth could
not have yielded and the melody
which no harp could compass" would
have forgotten her in a trice. The
logic of the situation led me to effect
certain alterations so that Kovalan's
abiding love for his wife and her
inherent nobility may be highlighted.

Madhavi's insistence that Ko-
valan should visit his wife and Kov-
alan's acceptance of her advice are
additions in detail, intended to assist
Ilango to draw the attention of rea-
ders to Madhavi's good heart and
the purity of her thoughts.

Madhavi was not after Kovalan's
wealth. And yet Kovalan's riches
disintegrate and he is reduced to
penury. It is to clear this apparent
contradiction that I concluded that
Madhavi's people must have abstrac-
ted Kovalan's wealth by impos-
ing on Kannagi, and without
Madhavi herself being aware of their
machinations. When she does come
to know of their tricks, all she can
do is to return the gold to Kovalan's
parents and again this gesture under-
lines her nobility.

I have not made the Goldsmith
guilty of the theft of the Anklet.
This deviation from the Epic is to
bring the story into pace with the
times; and the change does not
interfere with what follows the theft
of the Anklet.

Pandya King Nedunchezhiyan's
literary contribution, in the form of
a poem on learning, included in
Purananooru, does not find mention
in SILAPPATHIKARAM. I have
supplied the omission.

The dramatic element in the
sea-side scene which Kovalan parts
from Madhavi is only an elaboration
around the nucleus in the original.

It is hard to sell anklets or ear-
rings except in a pair. Kovalan
could not have been ignorant of
this and if he had actually taken both
of the Anklets for sale, there would
have been no grounds for anyone
to suspect him and the story of course
would not have had a climax and
Kannagi would not have become a
militant heroine. The entire tragedy
hinges on Kovalan taking only one
of the Anklets for sale. I have pro-
vided a rational explanation for his
act and I do feel that it does add
strength to the sequences as develop-
ped in the Epic.

These changes and alterations
have also helped to a great extent,
in evolving this play from Ilango's
Silappathikaram.

In the course of the Play, I have
also included adaptations of two
popular legends from the West one
related to illustrate Sir Walter
Raleigh's chivalry and the other in
proof of King Solomon's wisdom.
Legends such as these are universal
in appeal, as may be seen from the
fact that versions of them are there,
in many languages.

COVER PAGE

The Chief Minister Dr.
M. Karunanidhi, distributed Pavendar
Award to the under mentioned
poets at 'Pavendar Bharathidasan
Birthday Celebrations' organised by
the Department of Information and
Public Relations on 29-4-'89 at
Kalaivanar Arangam.

Recipients of the Pavendar Award.

1. Kavignar Mudiarasan
2. Kavignar Ponnivalavan
3. Kavignar Abdur Rahuman

The Chief Minister Dr.
M. Karunanidhi, distributed Thiru.
Vi.Ka. Award to the undermen-
tioned writers at 'Pavendar Bharathidasan
Birthday Celebrations' orga-
nised by the Department of Infor-
mation and Public Relations on
29-4-89 at Kalaivanar Arangam.

Recipients of the Thiru Vi. Ka. Award.

1. Thiru K. M. Sheriff
2. Dr. N. Subbu Reddhar
3. Manavai Mustafa

Anna's thought on the book

'THE TALE OF THE ANKLET'

Silappathikaram : The very name is scintillating—There is rhythm and melody in it, and just as 'the Silambu—The Anklet' contained gems of rare value, the Epic contains not a mere story but the very spirit of ancient Tamilagam.

The story itself is of a high order—it portrays two types of womanhood - KANNAGI and MADHAVI, the former bearing troubles and tribulations—tears and sighs due to separation from her husband, KOVALAN; the latter, a cultured damsel of dazzling beauty and delightful temperament, well versed in the Art of love, pure and noble—not a mercenary nor an embodiment of seduction and coquetry, but one who twined herself with Kovalan, with warmth and depth, and gave unto him her very soul.

Kovalan too is not of the usual type—the frivolous youth with tons of gold to squander—but a respectable young man, with an honoured place in society and hailing from a family of Merchant-Magnate.

Romance of the sweetest order—between Kovalan and Madhavi—their music and dance, unfolded in this classic does not bring before us the life of a depraved young man and a despicable damsel but the life of two lovers—we find not the crocodile catching its prey, but the Swan of the purest white, gliding in the rivulet with melodious movement.

It is not the story about the coquetry of a courtesan but the story of an abandonment of self—there is such a perfect reciprocity as between the two, that though reminded about the tear-laden eyes of Kannagi, the episode does not

Silappathikaram is one of the five fine classics of Tamil Literature. It was written by Ilango, a Prince turned ascetic. The story of Silappathikaram was turned into a Play 'Poompuhar' by Dr.M.Karunanidhi. The English Translation of this Play was published under the title 'Tale of the Anklet'.

kindle feelings of nausea or irritation. What has happened, one is led to think, is something to the regretted but along with that we are led also to exclaim, what perfect combination! What a superb romance.

The very portrayal of such characters, unless it comes from a master-hand is bound to create feelings of disgust—but no, Ilango, the poet-prince of "Chera Nadu" handles the theme in so superb a manner that we along with Kannagi, bear with patience and with no malice Kovalan's sojourn into the "not-strictly" correct path.

The Romantic aspect leads us on to the side of poignancy and pathos. While Kovalan and Madhavi are entwined in the fragrance of the new-found love, we find Kannagi strong enough to bear the pang—not indifferent to what has happened to her—yet strong enough to bear the bleeding of her heart.

With what bright hopes, this damsel of no mean beauty began her wedded life with Kovalan!

"Gold with no blemish
Fragrance of the highest order
Pearls of the noblest type...."

—in such a vein does Kovalan put forth his love towards Kannagi—and yet, leaves her to pine for that love, while he enters into the mansion of music and dance.

No lover of the Tamil Classics can resist being inspired by Silappathikaram, one amongst the Five Fine Classics of Tamil Literature. Ilango's magic touch makes every portion of this engrossing Epic so true to nature that when one is reading Silappathikaram, he is taken to Ancient Tamilagam, with all the pageantry alive, Nature's beauty laid before us, a veritable panorama of events and a parade of different types—and all pulsating with life—with brilliance all around.

It is most appropriate that THAMBI KARUNANIDHI should give us Silappathikaram in his own inimitable diction and under the caption "POOMPUHAR" for his command over the Tamil language and his mastery over the art of portrayal, so well-known and so well appreciated, gives him fit enough right to render Silappathikaram in the dramatic form keeping the high standard of diction intact, and at the same time embellish it with certain interpretations of events so as to offer logical explanations to some of the events that appear to us as being inexplicable, may even unwanted.

The part assigned to the Greek Merchant as having been instrumental for the episode that took Kovalan to Madhavi's mansion, offers an appropriate explanation to Kovalan's action. He did not allow himself to be enticed nor did he seek pleasure and frolic; he had to defend the fair name of Tamilnadu and the fairest damsel from falling to the grip of an old man from Greece.

"Why don't you meet Madhavi once, my lord! and convince

her that she is yearning for the impossible".

It is this plea from Kannagi that takes an otherwise unwilling Kovalan to Madhavi's abode not the flame of sensuality kindled by Madhavi's seductive beauty. He saw in her Art in its finest form nothing more. And circumstances not of his creation lead him to her abode he goes to advise and remains to become a co-partner in a new life of sweet melody.

Another and a far more important interpretation to an event to be found in Silappathikaram is given in an able manner by M.Karunanidhi

It is well-known that Silappathikaram depicts the Chief Goldsmith of the Palace as the real offender and from that has sprung forth an impression which has affected the very self-respect of an entire community.

Though none can charge Ilango with that motive, the consequence of that has been, that the entire community was forced to bear odium

This odium Karunanidhi has deftly removed, for as a firm believer in the maintenance of concord between various communities, he wanted to erase this blot. And this is done in his 'poompuhar' in an admirable way.

Not the Goldsmith, but a petty officer of the Royal household of Pandyan Nedunchezian, is presented as the real culprit. This is done to maintain social justice and such interpretation to ancient episodes becomes quite justifiable and necessary - and it is done with the best of motives. And this has been admired and appreciated by not only the members of that maligned community but also authors who render ancient classics in modern form.

Apart from such deft handling the entire rendering of the Epic, in prose form, is done in such an admirable way that neither the fragrance nor the form found in Silappathikaram is lost—in fact the melody is there as sweet as Ilango gave it.

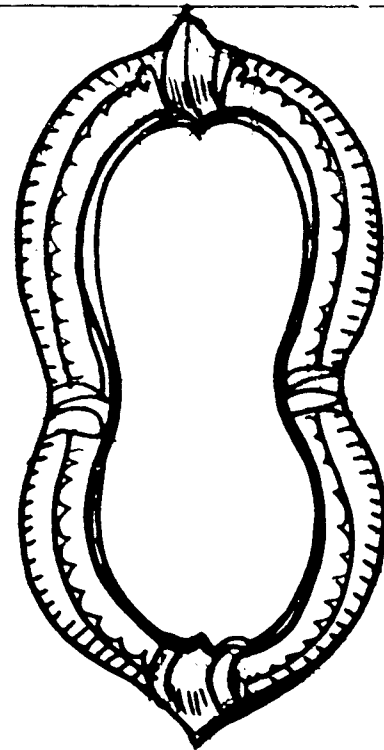


While the first part of Silappathikaram contains the life story of a young man and a fair courtesan, the later part rises to a height that is breath-taking. Events march on with rapidity and dramatic turns. He who became immersed in Madhavi's beauty finds himself estranged! What was once an abode of superb delight, becomes a place to be shunned. He returns-disillusioned-im-poverished-conscious of the in-justice meted out to his Kannagi-with remorse and regrets, with only one aim in life, to begin the conjugal life that was cut asunder, to lead a new life-with none other than Kannagi to claim him! Tears of joy and hope come gushing forth during the scene depicted about Kovalan rejoining Kannagi. She did not wait in vain, here comes her Kovalan, back to life, back home-- once again this home will become bright and happy, once again the delightful embrace and the sweet smile, home that has lost its brightness and has been engulfed in darkness and desolation is to become bright again--here comes Kovalan to lit once more the lamp of love. Tears no more Kannagi! No more to pang! Smile! Laugh! Dance with delight! He whom you had lost, you have regained! No more need you be single and solitary, here comes Kovalan! It is with such warmth and hope almost glee that we welcome the home-coming of Kovalan. And yet

The Poet of the highest order, Ilango, takes us and them not to a new life and happiness regained, but to a scene, that brings forth tears of blood.

Karunanidhi rises to great heights while portraying the pathos of Kannagi when she is confronted with Kovalan beheaded! What woman can bear the death of her husband! what woman can bear insult done to her husband! Here lies Kovalan, beheaded, falsely accused, hastily judged and savagely disposed of. What can a helpless Kannagi do! It is the Royal King who has been responsible for this. The deed is dastardly, but the author is no ordinary man, the powerful and well-learned Pandyan has ordered this.

Why? How?-- screams forth Kannagi and her fury causes echoes



that thrill one and all. She refuses to remain bemoaning the loss! She refuses to allow the blemish to stick on to the fair name of Kovalan. No Justice should be established, Justice I shall get, thunders forth Kannagi, and dashes onward to the Royal Court, to demand justice.

Kannagi's pleading, her arguments, her admonition as depicted by Karunanidhi is thrilling and is so realistic, that we are tempted to join her in her anger, curse, accusation and admonition. The volcano erupts, the sea becomes stormy, the wailing widow becomes the supreme Law giver - King thou art not, Oh, Pandya! and King thou shall not be! -- roars this 'Pathini' -- the whole pant -up fury bursts forth. It is not easy for a writer to depict this faithfully and in a fine form. Karunanidhi has succeeded exceedingly well, in establishing his claim as a writer of superb style!

"Speak my Lord
Speak but a word
Speak to Kannagi
Speak, your Kannagi has come."

With tears flowing she screams and screams! But then gets no response he is dead. And then she says,

"Though speakest not
My Lord
But hear this.

Make I shall the
Whole world to speak
on your behalf....

And Kannagi has made the world speak--not only the world of her day--but the world for all times to come.

Throughout, Karunanidhi has kept up the easy flow, the elegance and the fragrance so essential for a classic.

Karunanidhi's 'Poompuhar' rendered into English under the title 'Tale of the Anklet'--is itself an anklet-- the gold of Ilango is there-- and the workmanship of this writer of eminence is to be found in abundance.

Silappathikaram has got a theme of perennial interest--and its appeal is not confined to Tamilagam alone. It is a world subject- a classic of such a high order that it has a right to be acclaimed by the world of letters as a whole. The rendering of "Poompuhar" in English is timely and the author responsible for this deserves our admiration and congratulations Mr.T.G.Narayanaswamy has done full justice to the subject and style to be found in "Poompuhar" of Karunanidhi.

Karunanidhi has done a fine service to Tamil literature by bringing forth 'Poompuhar' and the English rendering has made it possible for a wider domain than Tamilagam to get the thrill and message that Ilango Adigal offers through Silappathikaram.

If we have anyone thing to offer to the wide world as proof positive of the eminence we once held, It is the Tamil Classics and of the Five Fine Classics, Silappathikaram is a gem of rare brilliance. And this English rendering fulfils a long-felt need and I have great pleasure in welcoming this English version of "Poompuhar". Let the fragrance of Poompuhar, the City of Flowers spread far and wide, and let the world realise the glory that was Tamilagam Long live Tamil! Long Live Tamilagam!

Exotic Designs for the New Year

A new range of fabrics in
Chiffon, Polyester, Silk
and Cotton Sarees, Blouses
Visit Co-optex showroom



Co-optex
Handloom

DIPR/Efficient

Tamil Arasu

JUNE 1989 Re.1

A. V. V.



Hon'ble Dr. M. Karunanidhi, the Chief Minister garlanded the Statue of Dr. Ambedkar, in connection with his birthday in Madras on 14.4.1989.



The Thiruvapur Car Festival was held after six years on 7-5-'89.





TAMIL ARASU

A monthly journal of the Government of Tamil Nadu

**Thiruvalluvar Year 2020
June 1989**

- ★ A Priceless Pearl
- ★ Tamil and Dr. Kalaingar
- ★ Hon'ble Chief Minister with Leaders
- ★ The Chief Minister's letter to the Prime Minister
- ★ The Trust for Development
- ★ The Central Drought Team Visits Tamil Nadu
- ★ May Day gift for auto, rickshaw drivers
- ★ Rs.15 crores rebate planned for Handloom Co-operatives
- ★ Fame - Thou art mysterious
- ★ Speech of Minister for H.R. & C.E. and Forest in the Conference of Forest Ministers
- ★ Inauguration of State Planning Commission
- ★ Hindu Women get equal property rights





A PRICELESS PEARL

M.S. VENKATACHALAM



M Muthuvelar's Karunanidhi a priceless pearl
K Kindness from him flows like 'manna'
A An ardent follower of endearing Anna
R Reigns Supreme O'er all Tamil hearts!
U Undaunted hero of countless bards
N Never tired of rendering his toil
A Ambitious to enthrone Mother Tamil!
N Numberless hurdles had he to face
I Indefatigable will, his weapon for success
D Dravidian Movement's doughty Warrior!
H Historic deeds, to his credit, galore!
I In our hearts he'll live for ever!



OHI TAMIL!! YOU HAVE A PAARI NOW!!!

King's
chariot
for the
Jasmine
creeper!

Hundreds of years ago, the great Parri, the Tamil king created history by revealing to the world his benevolent and munificent mind, in his act of offering his own chariot to the Jasmine creeper. The feelings he underwent after seeing the suffering creeper without a hold, actuated his mind to fix his own chariot as the supporting pole for the creeper to hold it and flourish afterwards. Had he not done this rare act, the creeper would have met with disaster. Without doubt, the noble action of the kind-hearted king not only made the creeper flourish, but also it showed that no other person would have made such a great and noble act, as Paari did and no wonder he got into the immortal world and obtained the covetable title of Vallal!

Tamil
sweet
rich
and
ancient
language

Now to our comparison. Tamil, a sweet and an ancient and rich language in every sense of the term, in this generation requires a Paari for its development and appreciation of its beauty and its further growth. When everyone is claiming service for Tamil, Dr. Kalaignar, Hon'ble

TAMIL AND DR. KALAINAR

By Thiru K. Srinivasan M.A.B.T.
Retired Headmaster, Madurai

Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi, has been rendering silent service which is praiseworthy. For the past fifty years or so, in every walk of life his service and sacrifice for the cause of Tamil is incomparable! His writings-hundreds and thousands of articles-breathe the soul of Tamil and Tamil only! His prose is always poetical and his poems are still more so! All of them are soaked in and saturated with inimitable love and undying passion appreciating the many sided beauty of Tamil language!

Golden
Age
for
Tamil
and
Tamil
Culture

He has been an ardent champion and sincere devotee of the Muse of Tamil Poetry and no other motive is more powerful in his mind than the love of Tamil. The beauty of it is that his breath, thought and talk revolve round Tamil and Tamil only! Of course, he had to exhibit his love vehemently when occasions demanded! There are scholars and scholars who have sincerely sacrificed for the cause of Tamil, but Dr. Kalaignar only has the guts to do anything and everything for the cause of Tamil. Last century, Poet Bharathi placed Tamil Annai on the throne, showering all praises on her. Now, Dr. Kalaignar, with indomitable will and undiminishing determination, is doing everything for Tamil language, in every sphere, it is good fortune that the Muse of Tamil has found succour and sustenance from a Paari, our Dr. Kalaignar.

Vazhiya Senthamizh and Vazhga Natramizhar!

Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. M. Karunanidhi



With
Leaders



With Thanthai Periyar



With Perarignar Anna



With Rajaji



With Thiru Kamarajar



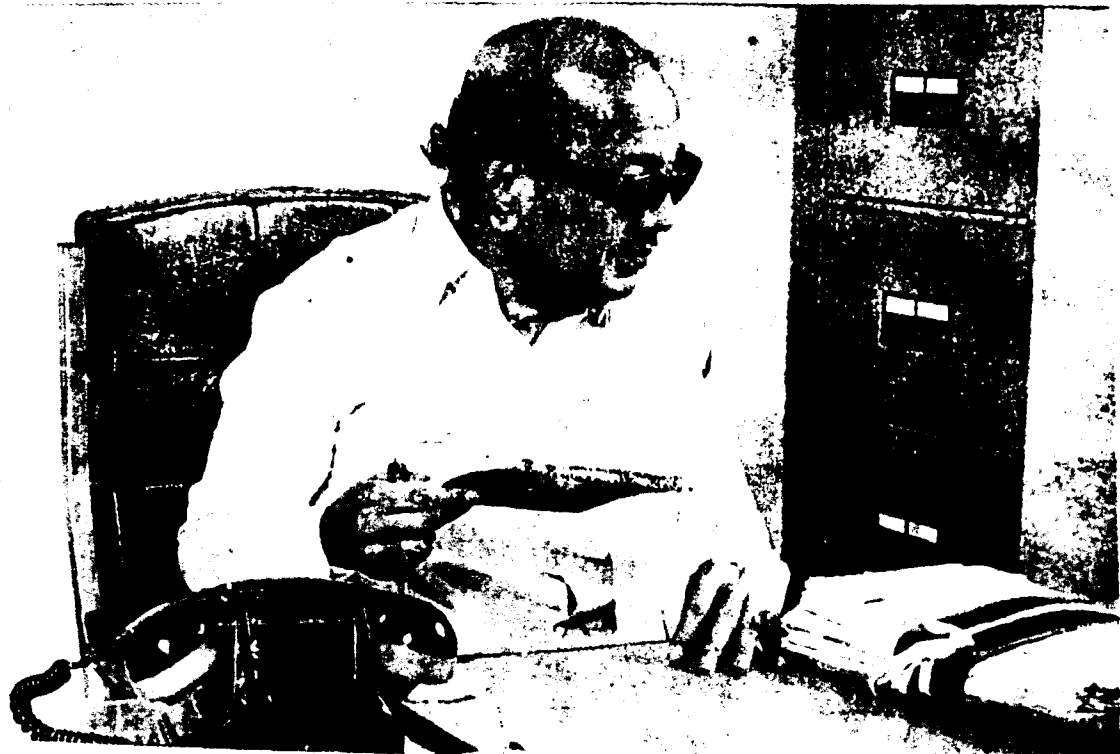
With the President of India



With the Prime Minister of India



The Chief Minister's letter to the Prime Minister on the Proposed Constitution (64th Amendment) Bill 1989



M. KARUNANIDHI
Chief Minister

D.O. Letter No.7791/S.1/89
SECRETARIAT
MADRAS-600 009

25th May, 1989.

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing this in connection with the proposed Constitution (64th Amendment) Bill, 1989 which has been introduced in Parliament on 15th May 1989.

2. As you are aware, I was not able to participate in the Conference of Chief Ministers on Panchayat Raj held on 5th May 1989 on account of the Golden Jubilee of our Legislative Assembly. However, our State was represented by Thiru Nanjil K. Manoharan, Minister for Revenue.

3. Our Statement at this Conference could only reflect our general views on the subject since the detailed provisions of the proposed Constitutional amendment were not available at that time. We had made it clear at the Conference that our Government was firmly committed to the objective of strengthening local bodies. In fact, within a short period of assuming office we have taken several concrete steps for greater decentralisation of powers, responsibilities, and resources to local bodies in Tamil Nadu. We propose to pro-

ceed further in delegating additional responsibilities to panchayat unions and panchayats.

4. At the same time, we had drawn attention at the Conference to a number of policy and practical consideration which would argue against a Constitutional amendment to strengthening Panchayat Raj institutions. We had therefore urged that it was not necessary or desirable to introduce Constitutional amendments for this purpose. We had also pointed out that Chief Ministers should have an opportunity to give their specific views on any proposed Constitutional amendments and that major changes to the Constitution in this matter of vital concern to State Governments should not be rushed through especially at a time when general election to Parliament are due within a matter of months.

5. We have now carefully examined the proposed Bill. In introducing a separate Part in the Constitution relating to panchayats, the Bill would appear to make a basic change in the structure of the Constitution by adding new levels of administration to the Union and the States. Further, mo-

of the provisions included in the Bill relate to matters which are appropriately subjects for legislation by the States under Entry 5 in List II of the Seventh Schedule. In spirit and substance the proposed amendments thus amount to an inroad into the autonomy and exclusive powers of the State Governments. Moreover, the recent guidelines relating to the Jawahar Rozgar scheme indicate that the Centre intends to use the panchayat setup to bypass the States. In this way, the Centre will be only adding to its burdens and responsibilities which is not in its own interest. These are the grounds on which our Government is opposed in principle to the proposed Constitutional amendments.

6. We also feel that it is not wise to impose uniform arrangements throughout India in regard to Panchayat Raj. Each State should be left to implement the decentralisation process in a manner best suited to its circumstances and situation.

7. The present panchayat legislation in Tamil Nadu was introduced in 1958 when Thiru K. Kamaraj was Chief Minister. At that time, there were 11 district boards in the State and it was a well considered decision of the then

“

In spirit and substance the proposed amendments amount to an inroad into the autonomy and exclusive powers of the State Governments.

”

Government and the Legislature to abolish them because experience over nearly four decades had shown that district boards had misused their powers and had lost contact with the people. We therefore have only a two tier system in Tamil Nadu, namely, village panchayats and panchayat unions at the level of the development block. We feel that it is neither necessary nor desirable to have a third tier at the district level.

8. In the original legislation of 1958, members of village panchayats were to be directly elected while the president was elected by, and from amongst, them. Even at that time, our revered leader Anna, who was in the opposition, strongly argued for direct elections to the posts of presidents/chairmen of panchayats and panchayat unions in view of malpractices involved in indirect elections. When I was Chief Minister, our Government in 1970 amended the Act to provide for direct election of panchayat presidents as a first stage. In the case of panchayat union councils, the membership has always been composed of the presidents of village panchayats while in the original legislation the chairman of the council was elected by, and from amongst, them. Following the change made in 1970 for panchayats, direct election was introduced in 1978 for the chairman of the panchayat union also in the second stage when Thiru M.G.R. was Chief Minister. The

“Statement of Objects and Reasons” for the amending legislation of 1978 pointed out:

“The direct election of presidents of panchayats has become popular and panchayats are functioning smoothly. Further, the direct election of presidents of panchayats has eliminated the difficulties and evils of indirect election such as corruption, lifting and kidnapping of members, harassments and frictions.”

However, elections to panchayats and panchayat unions were not held until 1986.

9. The 64th Amendment Bill proposes to replace direct elections to the chairmanship of panchayat unions with indirect elections. In doing so, it will reopen avenues for several malpractices in villages and unions which successive Governments in Tamil Nadu, belonging to different political parties, have sought to prevent.

10. I may also point out that the fact that the panchayat union council is composed of the presidents of village panchayat provides an organic link between the two tiers, namely, panchayat at the village level and unions at the block level. This gives panchayat presidents the right and responsibility to take up the claims of their villages to the council and to implement the union's schemes in their villages. Even in the original legislation, considerable emphasis was placed on this link. As was pointed out by the Kamaraj Ministry in introducing this legislation:

“In this way we seek to ensure that the panchayat union council regards itself and is regarded by panchayats as a co-operative association of the panchayats themselves. The panchayat union councillors will each, individually, form a human link between the panchayats and the panchayat union council and thereby promote mutual understanding and harmonious working of what are only different parts of a single panchayat organisation.”

11. In the background of this well designed and time tested feature of the Tamil Nadu pattern, we feel that the proposed amendments which provide for direct election of members to the panchayat union council are retrograde in as much as it severs the organic link between the village panchayats and the panchayat union. The proposed Bill no doubt provides for the representation without vote for panchayat presidents in the council but such representation will render them ineffective apart from making the council unwieldy.

12. We welcome reservation for women and for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in panchayats and panchayat unions. We have ourselves provided for their representation. For example, our new Government has decided to provide 25 seats each for scheduled castes and women through elections and co-optation in a total number of 150 seats in the Madras Corporation Council. However, the extent of reservation should be left to be decided by each State and

need not be prescribed for India as a whole.

13. The provisions in the Bill relating to the Finance Commission, supervision of panchayat elections by the Election Commission of India, and audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India are unnecessary, cumbersome, and expensive. In our State, resources are transferred to panchayat unions and panchayats through a system of revenue assignments, statutory grants, matching grants, and maintenance and development grants. This system has functioned well. Elections are supervised by the department of rural development and there have been no complaints. The audit is undertaken by the Examiner of Local Fund Accounts who is a functionary of the State Government in an economical and timely manner. These arrangements, which have functioned satisfactorily, do not require any change.

14. Our Government is committed to holding regular elections to panchayats and panchayat union councils once in every five years. We also agree that in case of supersession elections should be held not later than six months. On this issue there is likely to be agreement among all the States. If a Constitutional provision is considered desirable, we would suggest that it may be discussed at an all-party conference and a national consensus obtained in the matter.

15. I understand that in your concluding remarks at the Conference of Chief Ministers held on 5th May 1989, you had promised to get in touch with Chief Ministers bilaterally and if necessary, collectively to discuss the proposed Constitutional amendments. You had also mentioned that there was scope for a nationwide debate on this issue between the introduction of the Bill and its consideration in the monsoon session of Parliament. Your speech in Parliament, while introducing the Bill, also indicated that you have an open mind on the issues involved.

16. In this letter, I have put forward a number of reasons for not proceeding with this Bill. There is considerable consensus, if not unanimity, among all major political parties and between the Centre and the States that Panchayat Raj institutions need to be strengthened and activated for mobilising peoples' participation in diverse nation-building activities. It would be best in these circumstances to treat the proposed Bill as a set of suggested guidelines and leave it to the States to modify or improve their Panchayat Legislations in the light of the provisions in the Bill. If, instead, the Bill is pressed it will only introduce needless discord and rigidity in a matter in which consensus and flexibility are called for.

17. We would, therefore, urge you not to proceed with this measure. If this suggestion is not acceptable, I would request you to convene a meeting of Chief Ministers to discuss the matter once again in the light of the proposed amendments to the Constitution. The Bill may also be discussed with the leaders of all political parties represented in Parliament.

18. In order to promote a public debate on this vital issue I am releasing this letter to the press.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

M. Karunanidhi

(M. KARUNANIDHI)

To,
Thiru RAJIV GANDHI,
Prime Minister of India,
Prime Minister's Secretariat,
South Block,
NEW DELHI-110 001.

Thiru Belits Gegmann, Consul and Head of the Cultural Department USSR called on Hon'ble Minister for Education Thiru. K. Anbazhagan at Secretariat on 20.5.89.



was also undertaken during 1988-89 for additional resource mobilisation. Large deficit in the State budget was repeatedly taken to the notice of the Central Government at the highest level both by the Governor and subsequently by the new Government but no substantial assistance was given by the Centre to meet the deficit created under President's rule.

As a result, the closing deficit for 1988-89 has been estimated at Rs. 154 crores. The Chief Minister Dr. M. Karunanidhi has pointed out in the budget speech that the responsibility for creating this deficit is that of the administration during President's rule and accordingly the Central Government will be pressed to cover it in full at least during 1989-90.

In this very difficult situation, the Government has pursued a responsible policy for financial management. It has not hesitated to raise resources for sustaining a reasonable increase in Plan outlay along with adequate provisions for implementation of its Election Manifesto, Drought relief, pay revision, continuation of existing schemes and initiation of new projects. Even prior to the budget, Rs. 100 crores were mobilised through State excise duties and other levies relating to liquor. This was followed by tariff increases on the part of the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board which are expected to fetch Rs. 120 crores in a full year. In the budget, additional taxation of Rs. 50 crores has been effected through increase in sales tax and motor vehicles taxes.

THE THRUST FOR DEVELOPMENT

Financial Situation

THE administration under President's rule had announced a Plan outlay of Rs. 1457 crores for 1988-89 while being well aware that the resources available for implementing the Plan were only of the order of Rs. 1302 crores. These resources were further eroded on account of shortfalls in receipts, announcement of concessions, new schemes not included in

The various measures for additional resource mobilisation have been carefully designed so as not to increase the burden on the common man. In suitable cases, tax concessions have also been extended such as for agricultural pumpsets.

The Chief Minister has indicated that the net deficit of about Rs. 65 crores arising from the transactions in 1989-90

will be fully covered through economy measures, better tax collection, and from the State's share of consignment tax which is due to be introduced in Parliament by the Centre. He has expressed his firm resolve to practise economy in Government expenditures, to take all efforts to avoid waste whether in Plan or non-Plan schemes, and to eliminate losses and improve returns from public sector corporations.

Plan Outlay

The annual plan outlay in Tamil Nadu was Rs. 1012 crores in 1985-86, Rs. 1203 crores in 1986-87 and Rs. 1337 crores in 1987-88. Due to the erosion of resources under President's rule, the annual plan for 1988-89 had to be reduced to Rs. 1202 crores. This decline in the plan outlay has been arrested and plan expenditure has been increased in 1989-90 to Rs. 1360 crores representing a growth of 13 per cent over the previous year.

Planning Commission

The DMK Government was the first in India to establish a Planning Commission at the State level. The State Planning Commission set up in 1971 prepared a long term perspective plan for Tamil Nadu. In the past years, there have been frequent changes in the membership of the State Planning Commission, adequate expertise was lacking, and the Commission has not functioned effectively. The State Planning Commission has now been reconstituted with the Chief Minister as Chairman. The members include outstanding experts such as Dr. V.C. Kulandaiswamy, Vice-Chancellor, Anna University, Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, eminent agricultural scientist, Dr. M.S. Adisheshaiah, former Vice-Chancellor, Madras University, Thiru M. Sivagnanam, former Chief Secretary, Gujarat, Dr. Ramani Sivaraman, former Director of Medical Education and Thiru G. Chidambaram, former Director, Evaluation and Applied Research Department.

Major Budget Provisions

Allocations in the Plan and Budget for 1989-90 reflect a balanced approach to investment and welfare :

—The allocation for the Power sector has been increased from Rs. 350 crores in 1988-89 to Rs. 460 crores in 1989-90. Adequate provisions have been made for ongoing projects such as Mettur III unit, Tuticorin expansion and the North Madras thermal project. The allocation for transmission and distribution will

for the development of water resources and of irrigation in Tamil Nadu with reference to the situation in each river basin. The Chief Minister has promised to make one more attempt to settle the Cauvery dispute in discussion with the Karnataka Government. He has indicated that if this attempt fails there will be no alternative except to move the Centre to refer the dispute to a tribunal.

—Particular emphasis has been given to the revival of industrial growth in Tamil Nadu, and several steps have been taken to improve the climate for new investments in the State. The Chief Minister has held a detailed discussion with leading industrialists in the State and has addressed the Chambers of Commerce. He has assured them of easy access and all necessary help to expedite clearances at the State level and in obtaining clearances from the Centre. An official committee under the Chief Minister has been set up for expediting decisions on industrial policy and new projects in the joint sector and private sector. Several measures have been taken to promote new industries in the joint sector and incentives to industries have been liberalised. A new associate outer policy has been announced. It is proposed to establish six new growth centres for industries in Tamil Nadu.

—Urban development is another thrust area. The budget includes a provision of Rs. 111 crores for the Tamil Nadu Urban Development Project (total cost Rs. 633 crores) which will benefit Madras and 9 other cities in the State. Rs. 23 crores have been allocated for Madras city in addition to Rs. 30 crores for the Telugu-Ganga Project. Discussions are to be held soon with the Andhra Pradesh Government for expediting this project.

—The budget includes substantial provisions for meeting basic minimum needs of the people such as education, health, water supply, sanitation, housing and house-sites.

6000 villages and hamlets will be provided with drinking water supply in 1989-90 and full coverage of all villages with protected water supply will be achieved by the end of 1990-91.

45,000 houses with concrete roofs are being built for free provision to Adi-Dravidar. Scheduled



enable connections to 40,000 new pumpsets and for 40,000 huts. Effective steps have been taken to expedite the North Madras thermal project which had been badly delayed on account of litigation. The Centre has been requested to appoint an expert committee to examine and resolve concerns expressed in various quarters relating to the Koodankulam nuclear project.

—Provisions have been made for a number of irrigation projects under implementation and for initiating a few new projects. The second phase of tank modernisation is being pursued. Dry land farming and water management are being given priority. A high-level Standing Irrigation Development and Water Resources Commission has been appointed. Thiru R. Tirumalai is the Chairman and its members include Thiru S.P. Namasivayam, Thiru A. Mohanakrishnan, Thiru S. Nageswaran and Thiru S. Panchanathan, who are retired Chief Engineers, Dr. V. Rajagopalan, former Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and the Chief Engineer, Irrigation. The Commission will advise the Government on an integrated approach

Tribes and Fishermen at a cost of Rs. 49 crores in 1989-90.

2.5 lakh house-sites are expected to be assigned to poor households and 40,000 house-sites will be acquired for Scheduled Castes in 1989-90.

The Tamil Nadu Nutritious Meal Scheme, which benefits 85 lakh children, is not only being continued but is being strengthened through the provision of one egg every fortnight. The functioning of the scheme will be effectively supervised so that its benefits fully reach the children.

—The budget contains a comprehensive social security package for poor households. This includes :

Free supply of 5 kilo grams of rice on Tamil New Year's Day, Deepavali and Pongal. The free supply has been extended to two more occasions in 1989-90 viz., Anna's birthday and Kalaignar .Karunanidhi's birthday on June 3 to commemorate 50 years of his life in public service.

Free supply of handloom dhoti and saree to poor households.

Old age pensions and pensions for the physically handicapped, widows and destitute women have been liberalised. The amount of pension has been increased from Rs. 35 per month to Rs. 50 per month. The ceiling on the number of pensions has been removed and the waiting list of 30,000 applications will be cleared.

An amount of Rs. 2000 will be given to families of poor households who lose their bread-winner.

The accident relief scheme, with a family benefit of Rs. 10,000 on death, has been extended to cover new categories such as drivers of cycle rickshaws, auto rickshaws, taxis and trucks and to building and construction workers.

—Large provisions have been made for generating employment :

—Rs. 109 crores for rural employment schemes which will result in 600 lakh mandays of employ-

ment, i.e., a full year's employment for nearly 2 lakh persons.

—Rs. 49 crores for self-employment under IRDP including agriculture, dairying, small industries and small business to benefit 2 lakhs persons.

—Self-employment programme for urban poor under which 44,000 persons will be covered.

—Employment for 18,000 educated unemployed youth.



—A new scheme for providing employment to 25,000 educated youth in rural areas who have completed 10th class with a monthly honorarium of Rs. 200. This will be linked to constructive activities such as adult literacy, continuing education, maintenance of drinking water facilities, supervision of sanitation and other village welfare schemes.

—A similar scheme for educated unemployed in urban areas is to be announced.

led to serious law and order problems in 1987 and in 1988. Neither the AIADMK Government nor the administration under President's rule were able to find a solution to this problem.

The new Government have examined the issue of reservations in all its aspects and have announced their policy within 50 days of assuming office. Under the new policy 50 per cent of the reservation for Backward Classes has been apportioned on the basis of 20 per cent for Most Backward Classes and Denotified Communities and 30 per cent for other Backward Classes. The 18 per cent reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as well as the 32 per cent available to all classes under open competition have been maintained.

Government have established a separate Directorate to implement schemes for the educational, social and economic advancement of Most Backward Classes and Denotified Communities.

The new reservation policy has been widely welcomed within and outside the State. The Chief Minister has indicated that he has an open mind on whether it needs any further revision on the basis of actual experience.

Communal Harmony

The DMK was formed not to contest elections; it was formed only as a social reform movement... To seek and obtain social harmony between all sections will be our first priority.

Chief Minister,
Interview to *Indian Express*,
6-1-1989.

Among all the States in India, Tamil Nadu has been relatively free of communal disturbances but in recent years tensions have been created by RSS activity. Intervening in debates in the Legislative Assembly on communal incidents in Salem, Kanniyakumari, and Coimbatore districts, the Chief Minister has indicated the Government's firm resolve to maintain good relations among all communities.

Status of Women

The new Government is committed to securing the dignity and development of women. Several far reaching steps have been taken to implement this objective :

IMPLEMENTATION OF ELECTION PROMISES

The DMK party has believed that its promises to the people should be reflected in performance and what is not feasible should not be promised either. The Election Manifesto was accordingly realistic.

The Election Manifesto contained 70 promises. Some of them relate to general policies and some have to be implemented in a longer term. Apart from these, steps have been taken to implement 58 specific policies and programmes within the first hundred days. This is indeed a remarkable achievement.

The major electoral Promises that are being implemented are :

- Revival of the Legislative Council
- Increased powers to local bodies
- Debt relief to farmers
- 30 per cent reservation for women in Government employment and other schemes for women's welfare
- Higher allocations for drinking water, Adi-Dravidar housing, Fishermen housing, Urban development, and Employment
- Welfare schemes included in the Budget
- Increasing the age limit for Government employment to 30 years.
- Free education up to graduate level for students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes
- Establishment of a Traders' Welfare Fund with a grant of Rs. 2 crores from Government
- Assistance for converting cycle rickshaws into motorised rickshaws and for drivers of cycle rickshaws, auto rickshaws and taxis to own their vehicles.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Reservation

The aspirations of communities recognised as Most Backward Classes, particularly the Vanniar Community, have been agitated for a long period in Tamil Nadu and had

—30 per cent of employment opportunities in Government offices, public sector corporations and local bodies have been reserved for women. Only women teachers are to be appointed hereafter to I and II standards in schools.

—Legislation has been introduced to amend the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 in order to provide equal rights for female children in ancestral property.

—Free education is to be provided up to graduate level for girls coming from poor and middle class families.

—A marriage grant of Rs. 5,000 has been announced for girls from poor households who have completed 8th standard and above.

—Maternity relief of Rs. 200 has been announced for working women from poor households who lose earnings at the time of pregnancy and child birth.

CENTRE—STATE RELATIONS

The DMK Government has throughout pursued a steadfast policy of being firm in regard to the autonomy of States while extending constructive co-operation, wherever appropriate, to the Centre. This policy has been reiterated in the Election Manifesto, Governor's Address and Budget Speech. In particular, the Government has repeated its firm resolve to oppose any effort to impose Hindi against the wishes of the people of Tamil Nadu and to press for English being retained as an official language until all 15 languages, which find a place in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, are treated as official languages.

Chief Ministers' Conference

Every opportunity has been taken, since the new Government assumed office, to project its stand on Centre-State relations and to press for the fulfilment of Tamil Nadu's legitimate demands on the Centre. The Chief Minister, while participating in the Conference of Chief Ministers held in New Delhi in February 1989, explained his stand on various Centre-State fiscal issues such as our opposition to the replacement of sales tax by additional excise duties and the need for early introduction of consignment tax. He has underlined the need to initiate a comprehensive discussion on Centre-State relations in the legislative, administrative and financial spheres and for an Inter-State Council to be expeditiously

established under Article 263 of the Constitution for this purpose. He has also urged that the Prime Minister should discuss the structure and procedures for such a Council with the Chief Ministers.

Ninth Finance Commission

Detailed discussions were held with the Ninth Finance Commission in February 1989. On this occasion, the Chief Minister explained our stand on several issues relating to financial transfers from the Centre to States and to the sharing of such transfers among the States. Within this framework, he set forth the need to accommodate special problems affecting Tamil Nadu such as urban development, school buildings and upgradation of judicial administration. In particular, he conveyed our disappointment at the report of the Ninth Finance Commission for 1989-90 in neglecting the claims of Madras City while providing a grant of Rs. 50 crores each to Calcutta and Bombay for slum improvement. He has urged that a similar grant should be made for Madras at least in the final report.

Projects for Tamil Nadu

The claims of Tamil Nadu have also been taken to the notice of Prime Minister and Central Ministers during the Chief Minister's visits to New Delhi in February and March 1989. The major projects for which we have sought early implementation or clearance include :

- Neyveli III mine cut
- Cauvery delta modernisation
- Expediting Karur-Dindigul broad gauge line
- Adequate allocations for Madras City Rapid Transport System
- Upgrading the highway between Cuddalore and Kanniyakumari
- Royalty/profit sharing from the Neyveli Lignite Corporation

Sri Lanka

On the Sri Lanka issue, the Chief Minister has kept himself fully briefed. He has had four meetings on the subject with the Prime Minister in addition to briefings by the Minister of State for External Affairs. He has also had dis-



First the administration has to be streamlined and made efficient.

—Chief Minister,
Interview to *Hindu*,
26-1-1989.

Several concrete steps have been taken to provide the State with a clean, responsive, and efficient administration.

cussions with Thiru Varadaraja Perumal, Thiru Thondaman and Gen. A.S. Kalkat. He has pointed out that the restoration of peace and harmony in the Tamil areas of Sri Lanka has the highest priority at the present stage and that this would be possible only through a political solution involving all interested parties including the LTTE.

Administrative Reform

There is stagnation everywhere. During the last 10 years the clock has been set back. Putting the administration on the rails will be our top priority.

—Chief Minister,
Interview to *Indian Express*
6-1-1989



Decentralisation

Decentralisation constitutes the major thrust for improving the delivery of benefits to the people at the grass roots level. Although Tamil Nadu had been a pioneer, during the Kamaraj administration, in implementing the comprehensive legislation for strengthening Panchayats and Panchayat Unions, the scope and substance of decentralisation had come to be drastically diluted since 1976. Panchayat Unions were superceded under President's rule in 1977 and Panchayats were superceded in 1979. Since 1970, elections to these bodies were held only in 1986 after a long interval of 16 years. In the meanwhile, Panchayats and Panchayat Unions were deprived of many of their powers, responsibilities, and privileges. Several local schemes of the Government were also directly implemented without giving local institutions any role in them.

On the tenth day of assuming office, the new Government convened a Conference in Madras of the Chairmen of all the 384 Panchayat Unions and 98 Municipalities in the State. On this occasion, the Government's policy not only to restore the powers taken away from local bodies, but also to equip them with additional powers and resources was announced. A number of concrete steps have been taken since then to fulfil this promise :

- Elections are to be held soon on the basis of the voting age of 18 years, to the Corporations of Madras, Madurai, and Coimbatore.
- The tenure of the Chairmen and Members of these Panchayat Unions and of the Chairmen and Members of the Municipalities, which was curtailed to 3 years, has been extended to 5 years.
- Panchayat Unions and Panchayats have been given powers for supervision in respect of several schemes and activities such as noon meals, elementary education, school buildings, health sub-centres, agricultural input distribution, agricultural extension, drinking water supply, and sanitation.
- Panchayat Unions and Panchayats have been made responsible for the identification of beneficiaries under IRDP, NREP, RLEGP, social forestry and other anti-poverty programmes.

—Training programmes have been organised for Panchayat Union presidents.

—Finance Corporations will be established to provide financial assistance to Municipalities, Panchayat Unions and Panchayats.

Village Administration

Along with local bodies, village administration provides the Government's link with the people at the grass roots. In 1982, the traditional system of village officers was abolished and they were replaced by village administrative officers for groups of villages. As a result, the rural population has been greatly inconvenienced in having their claims and grievances attended to and village accounts are not being properly maintained. It is also widely felt that the new system has led to an increase in corruption.

The Election Manifesto had therefore announced that the question of reviving the old system of resident village officers would be examined without prejudice to the village administrative officers who had already been appointed. In pursuance of this promise, a Committee has been appointed under the Chairmanship of Thiru K. Lakshminathan Bharathi to suggest improvements to village administration within three months. Its members include the Revenue Secretary and Joint Commissioner (Revenue Administration).

Cooperatives

Elections have not been held to cooperative societies at the primary, district and Central levels since 1975. During President's rule, an announcement was made that elections to cooperatives will be held at an early date in 1988 but it was not implemented. The new Government has decided to hold elections to cooperatives as soon as possible in the current year.

Temple Administration

The Chief Minister held a detailed discussion with Heads of Hindu religious institutions. Following these discussions, a Committee has been appointed to recommend comprehensive measures for reforms to temple administration. The Committee consists of Thiru Kundrakudi Adigalar, Thiru Justice N. Krishnaswami Reddiar, Thiru Thiruvarangam Thirumalai Ayyangar, Thiru Senthilnathan, Thirumathi Radha Thiagarajan and the Secretary for Hindu Religious and Chari-



table Endowments. This high-level Committee has been requested to submit its report within three months.

Hospital Administration.

Several complaints have been received about the functioning of hospitals in the State. Medical education is another priority. Government have appointed a Medical Education and Hospital Improvement Advisory Committee with Dr. B. Ramamurthy as Chairman. Its Members include Dr. A. Venugopal, Dr. Sam Moses and the Health Secretary. The Committee has been requested to submit its report within three months.

Depoliticised Administration

Within 10 days of taking office, the Chief Minister announced that all except one or two public sector corporations and committees will be hereafter headed only by officials.

11 public sector corporations/committees were wound up as being no longer necessary. 41 posts of Chief Executives, held in the past by non-officials were retrenched resulting in an economy of Rs. 45 lakhs per annum.

eligible from capturing them."

—The Chief Minister himself has been directly receiving hundreds of petitions every day. About 3 lakh petitions have been received in his Secretariat. These are being expeditiously processed in consultation with concerned departments and the final disposal is intimated to the parties.

—Detailed discussions have been held with Collectors and Police Officials at their Conference held on 15 and 16 April and they have been instructed to give immediate attention to drought relief, employment programmes, public distribution system, disposal of public grievances, checking illicit distillation and maintenance of communal harmony.

—The Chief Minister and Ministers have undertaken surprise inspections of noon meal centres, hospitals, health centres, schools, ration shops, taluk offices, etc. Action has been taken against erring officials and procedures are being improved so that there is no recurrence of irregularities.

—On the occasion of the 20th death anniversary of Perarignar Anna, the Government gave remission to certain classes of prisoners. 843 prisoners including 71 women have been benefitted from the amnesty.

—Cases instituted for political reasons have been withdrawn.

—'Suspension Cases' will no longer be instituted.

—The Government have pursued an enlightened labour policy. Three closed textile mills have been reopened and steps are being taken to reopen other closed factories. An interim relief of Rs. 250 per worker has been provided to those affected by closure. About 500 workers belonging to the Madhavaram dairy, who were victimised in 1980, have been taken back into employment. Major labour disputes, such as those relating to the Metal Box Company have been resolved. Minimum wages have been announced for agricultural labourers and beedi workers. The Chief Minister has expressed his support in principle to the raising of minimum bonus to 12 per cent.

Public Distribution System

Despite several representations from the new Government, the Centre has reduced the monthly allotment of rice from the Central pool from 80,000 tonnes in November 1988-January 1989 to 40,000 tonnes since February 1989. To meet the situation, the new Government has been going ahead with an ambitious procurement target of about 18 lakh tonnes of paddy in the current year. Adequate supplies are being maintained throughout the public distribution system. Steps have been taken to weed out bogus ration cards and to streamline the ration card system. The issue price has been maintained despite the increase in the price of rice from Rs. 2.79 per kilo to Rs. 3.25 imposed by the Centre in February 1989.

Illicit Liquor

Illicit distillation of liquor is a widespread problem. The new Government has taken a number of steps to root out evil through raids, seizures and arrests and has not hesitated to take disciplinary action against erring police officers.

Efficient and Responsive Administration

In the first hundred days of the new Government the Cabinet has held as many as 8 meetings and taken decisions on a number of important issues. The Standing Finance Committee has met for three full days.

The Chief Minister has placed considerable emphasis on making the administration more responsive in meeting the demands and grievances of the people at all levels. In this connection, he has given the following assurance in the Budget Speech:

"The administration would be streamlined from top to bottom. Government offices at the Collectorate and Taluk levels will be modernised. Decisions will be expedited on representations from the public. Arrangements will be made to ensure that benefits announced by the Government are reached to the people in an easy and expeditious manner. For this purpose we shall make the people aware of what they need to do and what they can expect from the officials in a time-bound manner in order to obtain benefits assured to them. This will be done through notices, meetings in which the people participate and through brochures. These measures will enable all to understand who are eligible to obtain benefits and to prevent sections of those who are not

—Longstanding aspirations of the local people have been met in renaming districts. The erstwhile Chengalpattu district has been renamed as Chengai Anna, the erstwhile Anna District has been renamed as Dindigul-Quaid-E-Milleth, the erstwhile Pasumpon Muthuramalingam District has been renamed as Pasumpon Thevar Thirumagan.

It had been announced by the Government that the new District to be created would be named after Ambedkar. Accordingly the North Arcot District is bifurcated into two and named as 'Thiruvannamalai Sambuvayarar District' with its headquarters at Thiruvannamalai and 'Vellore Ambedkar District' with its headquarters at Vellore.

Relations with Employees

The Government has shown in several ways its concern for meeting the demands of its employees and for rendering justice to them:

—Parity in pay scales for State Government employees with Central employees has been accepted in principle. The Government has undertaken to obtain the report of the Fifth Tamil Nadu Pay Commission and announce decisions by the end of May 1989 with retrospective effect from 1st June 1988.

—UGC scales for University and College teachers have been implemented with effect from February 1989 and provision for arrears due from 1st January 1986.

—A Police Commission is to be established.

—More than 2 lakh employees in the Tamil Nadu Government Nutritious Meals Programme have so far been treated as temporary employees. They have now been made permanent part-time employees of local bodies.

—Disciplinary actions taken in the past have been re-examined and victimisation has been rectified in many cases such as those relating to Secretariat employees, other Government employees, teachers and policemen.

EXPOSURE OF CORRUPTION

The exposure of corruption, favouritism and misuse of power is an essential step in providing a clean administration for the future. The new Government has taken pains to expose and to eliminate major avenues for corruption.

Liquor

The Governor's Address indicated that "in the past, the rules under the Prohibition Act have been changed several times conferring several benefits to the distillers. This has resulted in heavy loss to the exchequer running to several crores of rupees legitimately due to the State." In this context, the Government announced its intention to bring forward legislation and amendments to the rules to prevent this loss and to augment the State's revenues.

This indication was quickly followed up with measures that were announced during the Chief Minister's reply to the debate in the Legislative Assembly on the Governor's Address on 17 February. Excise duties and other levies relating to Indian Made Foreign Spirits (IMFS) at different stages of production and distribution were reviewed and refixed. Powers have been given to the Commissioner for Excise and Prohibition to determine the prices at which TASMAC purchases and sells IMFS. Retail shops will henceforth be permitted on auction basis instead of at the low licence fee that had been charged hitherto. As a result of these far-reaching measures, additional resources of Rs. 100 crores, which had provided a source for corruption in the past, have been captured for the exchequer.

Transactions in Land

Several transactions relating to the disposal of valuable lands at low prices and to the granting of allotments and exemptions relating to plots and buildings have been brought to light and cancelled. These include :

—The resumption of 324 grounds of land around the old Madras zoo which had been assigned at a low value of Rs. 1.76 crores to Pallava Hotels Corporation promoted by a non-resident investor (NRI). The true value of these lands is Rs. 40 crores.

—83 grounds of land near Valluvar Kottam, 50 acres in Muthukkadu, and 299 acres belonging to a temple in Thiruvudanthai have been resumed. These lands, with an estimated value of Rs. 7.5 crores had been allotted to a NRI by the AIADMK Government without following proper procedures and at low valuation.

—The AIADMK Government had also entered into an agreement with an NRI promoter whereby they had



transferred the management of the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation Hotel at Mahabalipuram for a nominal lease rent. The agreement has now been cancelled and the TITDC has resumed the management of the Hotel.

—The Government has brought to light 181 arbitrary exemptions from planning permission orders issued by MMDA. The exemptions have been issued overruling the objections of the MMDA and the Housing Department in the Secretariat by Ministers of the AIADMK Government between 21st October 1986 and 29th January 1988. Notice has been given to cancel these exemptions and an enquiry has been ordered on the circumstances under which they were granted.

—The AIADMK Government had transferred 240 plots covering an extent of 302 grounds in Anna Nagar, Kalaignar Karunanidhi Nagar, Besant Nagar and Indira Nagar by converting such plots to private use from public purposes such as hospitals, dispensaries, schools and parks and had allotted them on a discre-

tionary basis to various individuals. The market value of these plots has been estimated at Rs. 13 crores. Notice has been given to cancel these allotments with a view to resuming the plots for public purposes.

Transport Legislation

The Supreme Court, in its judgement of February 1987, had held that private bus operators cannot run their buses on notified routes or on routes which overlap with notified routes under schemes for nationalisation of passenger transport. Subsequent to this judgement, the AIADMK Government passed the Tamil Nadu Motor Vehicles (Special Provisions) Bill, 1987 in order to provide for the grant of new and renewal permits to private bus operators in routes covered by nationalisation schemes. The assent of the President for the Bill was received in March 1989. The policy of nationalisation would have been effectively diluted if this Bill had been given effect to. The new Government have therefore decided not to



publish the Bill and, by doing so, have ensured that the policy of nationalisation is not frustrated.

Self-financing Colleges

In the last few years, a number of private self-financing colleges which demand capitation fees had been allowed. Besides extracting large amounts from students, these colleges lack adequate facilities and the quality of education provided is poor. The Government have decided that private self-financing colleges will not be approved in future. They have also decided to examine the functioning of all such institutions, which are in existence at present, and to take necessary action to remedy the situation.

TAMIN

Under-invoicing of granite exports and other irregularities relating to the exploitation, processing and export of granite by the Tamil Nadu Mineral Corporation (TAMIN) resulting in an estimated loss of Rs. 10 crores have been brought to light. Steps have been taken to fix responsibility and to reorganise the functioning of this Corporation.



THE CENTRAL DROUGHT TEAM VISITS TAMIL NADU

The Central Drought team which inspected the drought conditions and the relief operations in Tamil Nadu for two days on 11th and 12th May 1989 has commended the Tamil Nadu Government's efforts for mitigating the sufferings of the people.

The seven members of the team, which visited the Tamil Nadu, divided themselves into three groups. The team toured all the 12 affected districts and returned to Madras on 13th May 1989. They had a discussion with the Chief Secretary Thiru M.M. Rajendran, IAS, the Revenue Secretary, Thiru A.M. Swaminathan, IAS, the Finance Secretary Thiru N. Narayanan, IAS and other senior officers of the Tamil Nadu Government at the Secretariat.

Later they called on the Chief Minister, Dr. M. Karunanidhi. They also visited the city's drinking water sources before going to Delhi.

The Team Leader, Thiru Vishnu Bhagavan who met the press, told that in all the affected districts, besides considerable loss of crops, the irrigation tanks had all dried up and the drinking water problem was quite acute. Even in the deep-borewells, there was inadequate water.

Another serious problem was to make jobs available for the rural people so that they could have money to buy their daily needs.

On both fronts, Thiru Bhagavan said, the Tamil Nadu Government had acted at the right time and released the funds for schemes to provide drinking water and generate employment through road and tank works. "wherever we went we saw the schemes being implemented; women formed half of the work force and majority of the beneficiaries belonged to the weaker sections". The workers who were paid a daily wage of Rs.10 in cash and kind, appeared happy.

In all the districts, the Collectors were in charge of relief operations.

The collectors told the team members that there was no paucity of funds for relief work and more employment generation schemes would be taken up shortly.

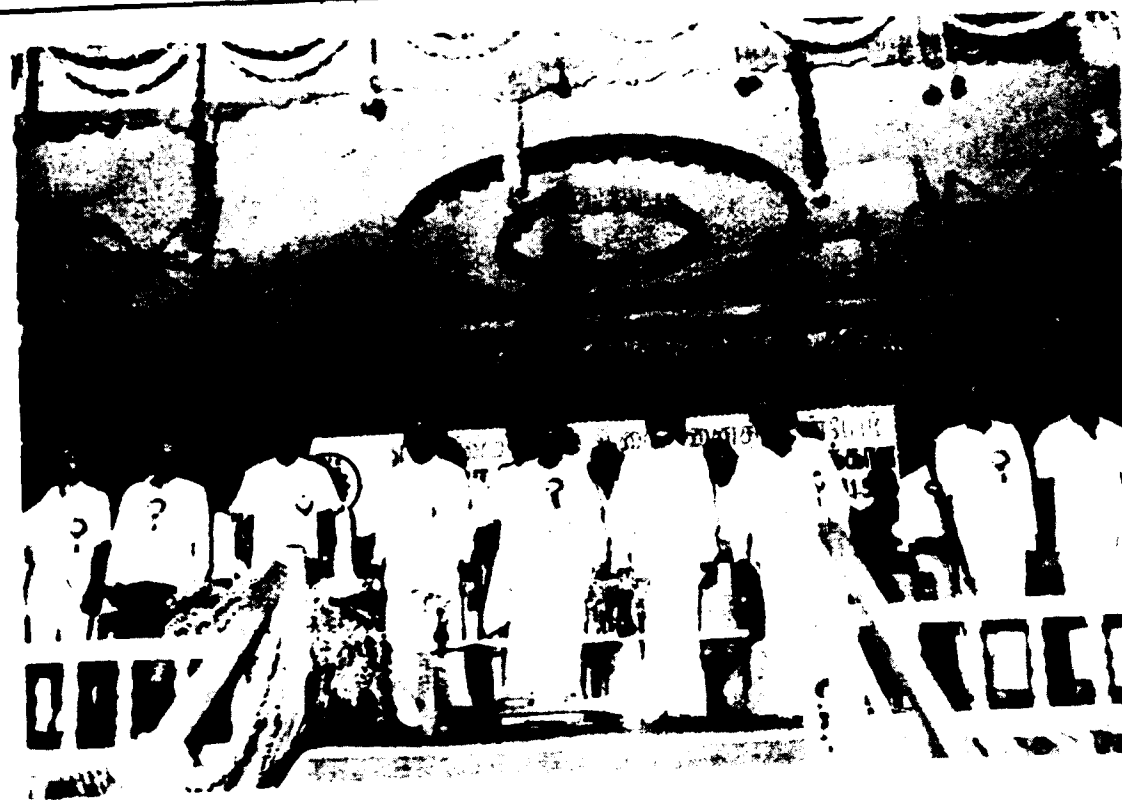
Thiru Bhagavan himself visited the worst-affected areas such as Ramanathapuram, Pasumpon Thevar Thirumagan and Kamarajar districts and saw personally the relief works and there were no complaints about jobs

and security of food. The team would submit its report to the Centre, within a week. Thereafter the process was not very long.

The Chief Minister appreciated the Centre's gesture for having sent the study team almost immediately on receipt of the State Government's memorandum. Due to urgency, the Chief Minister had asked the Chief Secretary to take the report to Delhi; the Revenue Minister, Thiru Nanjil K. Manoharan also met the concerned authorities in Delhi and explained the situation. The Chief Minister thanked the Centre for deputing the team immediately and expressed his hope that with the same speed the assistance will also come.

The Tamil Nadu Government has proposed relief works involving an outlay of Rs.222 crores and sought liberal assistance from Central Government to implement them. Of the normal paddy area of 24 lakh hectares, the coverage of this season was only 18.9 lakh hectares, in respect of millets the coverage was 13.34 lakh hectares. A sizeable portion of the cropped area has been damaged because of the drought, which has hit nearly 10,000 of the State's 17,300 villages.

MAY DAY GIFT FOR AUTO, RICKSHAW DRIVERS



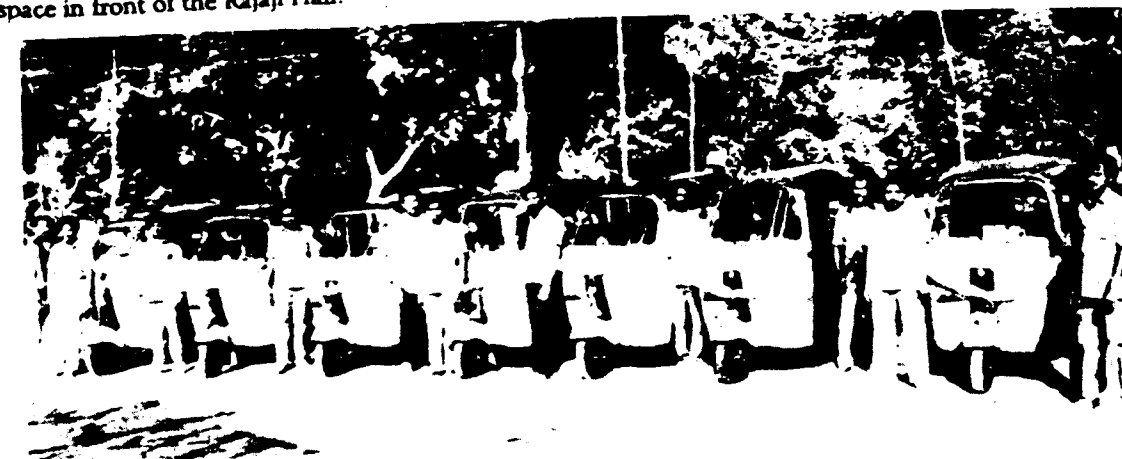
To make Drivers of Cycle-rickshaws, Auto-rickshaws and Taxis, the owners of the vehicles, the Chief Minister, Dr. M. Karunanidhi, on 1st May 1989 launched a new scheme - a scheme that is being implemented on the basis of Government subsidy and low interest loans through the Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation (TIIC). As a result of this scheme 25,000 persons will be benefitted.

The Chief Minister handed over a few vehicles and the sanction orders to beneficiaries at a function held in the open space in front of the Rajaji Hall.

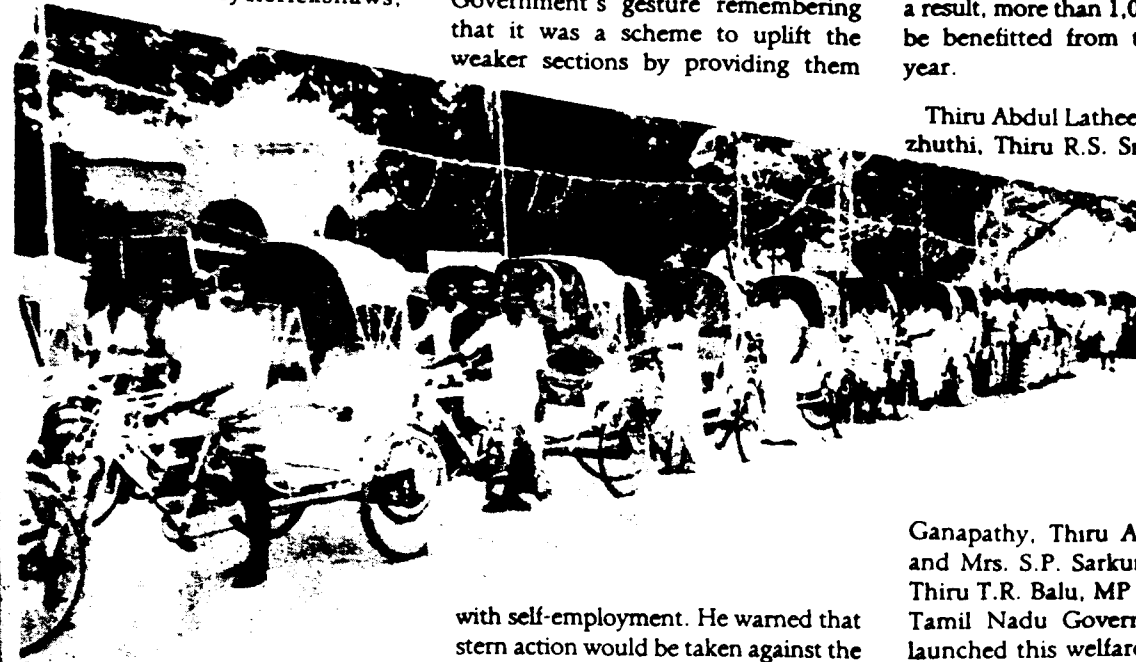
He said that by launching this scheme, the Government had actually translated into reality another of its election promises. He also said that permits for autorickshaws could be obtained by paying a fee of Rs.500, but in practice it was not so because of a few individuals who got all the permits and were selling them for as much as Rs.23,000 including the cost of the vehicle, a person might have to spend anything like Rs.62,000 to own an autorickshaw. This was the reason, why the passengers are mercilessly fleeced by autorickshaw man. The drivers demand extra money from

passengers in order to take back their investment. The Government was determined to put an end to such evil practices hereafter.

He said that as many as 6,000 cycle rickshaws were on the roads without licence. It has now been decided to grant licences to all such unlicensed cycle rickshaws at a date which will be notified soon. However, he said that no new cycle rickshaws would be permitted and for regularising and issuing licences to the existing cyclickshaws, 1st May 1989 would be taken as the cut-off date.



The Chief Minister explained in detail that under the above scheme launched on 1st May 1989 assistance was given to fix motors in the cyclickshaws and to purchase motorised new cyclickshaws.



traffic congestion would also be taken into account and suitable action would be initiated to manage the extra traffic. He said that the beneficiaries should prove worthy of the Government's gesture remembering that it was a scheme to uplift the weaker sections by providing them

Chief Secretary to the Tamil Nadu Government requested the beneficiaries to pay back the loan promptly so that the money could be used to help more and more people. As a result, more than 1,000 drivers would be benefitted from the scheme this year.

Thiru Abdul Latheef, Thiru Elamvazhuthi, Thiru R.S. Sridhar, Thiru N.

autorickshaws and taxis. The beneficiary's contribution for fixing the motor costing Rs.4,000 in the cyclickshaw was only Rs.500. The Government gave a subsidy of Rs.1,500 and the rest came as loan from TIIC, carrying a 14.5 percent interest. The Government provided an interest subsidy of seven per cent. To Adi-Dravidars and to those who repaid the loan an additional two per cent subsidy was given. Similarly, for cyclickshaws, the Government subsidy was Rs.2,850.

In all, 293 persons including 210 Adi-Dravidars were given the assistance, totalling Rs.50.16 lakhs. Of this, Government subsidy worked out to Rs.7.79 lakhs and the beneficiaries contribution was Rs.5.75 lakhs.

The Transport Minister Thiru M.M. Kannappan, presided over the function. He said that a proposal to issue more cyclickshaw permits was under the consideration of the Government. Only valid permits were eligible for the assistance under the scheme. The Government is now examining whether new permits could be given liberally while issuing permits. Other

with self-employment. He warned that stern action would be taken against the drivers, who fleeced the passengers. It was really a credit to this new Government that in just 93 days of its coming to power, it had been implementing a new scheme or a programme almost each and every day.

Thiru M.M. Rajendran, I.A.S., the

Ganapathy, Thiru A. Rahman Khan and Mrs. S.P. Sarkunam, MLAS and Thiru T.R. Balu, MP Commended the Tamil Nadu Government for having launched this welfare scheme.

Thiru K.A. Nambiar, I.A.S., Commissioner and Secretary, Industries Department, welcomed the gathering. He explained the features of the scheme. Thiru A.P. Bhatikar, Managing Director of TIIC, proposed a vote of thanks.

M.S. SUBBULAKSHMI MADE NATIONAL RESEARCH PROFESSOR

Tmt. M.S. Subbulakshmi, the Carnatic music exponent has now been appointed as National Research Professor for five years.

The scheme of National Research Professorship was instituted in the year 1949 to honour distinguished academics and scholars. Persons who have been honoured as National Research Professor so far are: Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao, an Economist, Thiru Justice D.D. Basu, a Constitutional Expert, Dr. C.R. Rao, a Mathematician and Dr. A. Appadorai, a Political Scientist.



Rs. 15 crores rebate planned for Handloom Cooperatives



The Chief Minister, Dr. M. Karunanidhi, said that the Tamil Nadu Government has proposed to give Rs.15 crores rebate to the Handloom Cooperatives in the State this year, 1989.

Speaking at the valedictory function of the Handloom Exhibition, held at the Cooptex grounds in Egmore, the Chief Minister Dr. M. Karunanidhi at the outset said that the Government was keen on settling the rebate arrears of Rs.26 crores due to the societies. Already Rs.15 crores had been paid and the balance would be cleared very soon.

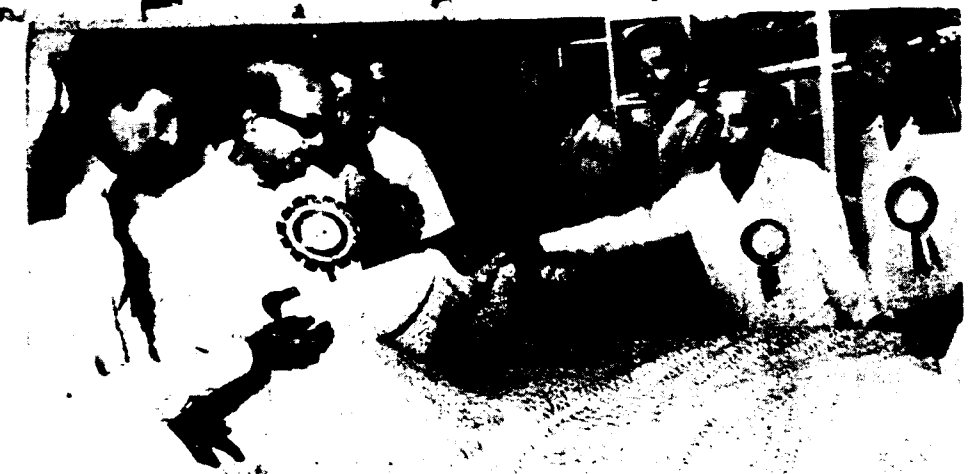
The Chief Minister also announced that the Government would soon set up a 'Design Centre' at a cost of Rs.50 lakhs for the benefit of weavers. Two Handloom Emporiums, one each in Erode and Kancheepuram, would also be opened soon. He said as against his announcement in the budget to provide employment to 1,000 women weavers, about 5,000 women weavers would be given jobs.

He said about 40 to 50 lakh people were dependent on the handloom sector and the Government would take all possible steps to improve their welfare. As a first step the Government had instructed that cotton yarn would be supplied first to the co-operative societies,

the wrong export policy. The export of cotton yarn would be prohibited so that the weavers could get it without any difficulty. The rebate period which was 90 days, some thirteen years back, had been reduced to 30 days. He said the 90 day period should be restored. The sericulture industry, which had been neglected so far should be given its due importance.

Thiru Kumari Anandan, MLA appealed to the Chief Minister to abolish the two per cent sales tax on cotton yarn.

Thiru Murasoli Maran, MP, and Thiru Venkatesa Dikshitar, MLA said that the scheme of 'Free distribution of a Saree and a Dhoti' to the families below the poverty line during festivals, as announced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister would definitely help the handloom co-operatives to clear the accumulated goods. It would also provide continuous employment to weavers.



then to other private handlooms and lastly to the mills.

Hon ble Minister for Handlooms, Thiru S. Thangavelu presided over the function. Sales this year at the exhibition was Rs.3.25 crores against Rs.2.20 crores last year. In the other 16 cities the total sales in the State was Rs.25 crores in 1989 against Rs.20.47 crores in 1988.

The 18 co-operative spinning mills in the State were running under loss, which had aggregated to Rs.35.79 crores, due to administrative lapses and other reasons. The defects in their working would be rectified and the mills would be made to gain profits.

Dr. A. Kalanidhi, MP said the shortage of cotton yarn was mainly due to

The Chief Minister distributed shields to various co-operative societies in recognition of their performance and presented prizes to those who had excelled in the exports.

Thiru K. Kirubakaran, IAS, Secretary, Handlooms, Handicrafts, Textiles, and Khadi Department, and Thiru R.S. Panda, IAS, Director of Handlooms, spoke on the occasion.

Tmt. Jayanthi, IAS, Special Officer, Co-optex, welcomed the gathering. Thiru S.S. Perumal, Member, Festival Celebration Committee proposed a vote of thanks.



TAMIL NADU MINERALS LIMITED MADRAS - 600 005

(An undertaking of the Government of Tamilnadu)

TAMIN exports Black and Grey Granite Blocks to Foreign countries like Japan, West Germany, U.K., Italy and Australia.

TAMIN GRANITES, a 100% Export Oriented Unit of Tamin, on commissioning its commercial production, now exports polished slabs, wall panels of 2 to 3 cm thickness and monuments of 10-15 cms thickness.

TAMIN also offers the following important Industrial Minerals from their Mines for supply within the country and for exports to the required specification of the consumers/Industries.

1. INDIAN STANDARD SAND :	As per I.S. 650/1966
2. LIMESTONE :	Chemical Grade + 91% average CaCO ₃
3. QUARTZ :	+99.8% SiO ₂
4. FELDSPAR :	+12% K ₂ O
5. ROSE QUARTZ :	Semiprecious variety
6. SILICA SAND :	+99.7% SiO ₂
7. FIRE CLAY :	Refractory Grade 32.1% Al ₂ O ₃
8. RAW GRADED VERMICULITE :	Volume expansion on heating 14 times (average)
9. EXFOLIATED VERMICULITE :	Golden Yellow in colour
10. LIMESHEEL :	average CaCO ₃ + 94%

for your requirements, kindly address:

The CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR,
TAMIL NADU MINERALS LIMITED,
P.B. No. 2961 TWAD HOUSE, GROUND FLOOR,
31, KAMARAJAR SALAI, CHEPAUK,
MADRAS - 600 005.

FACTORY:

TAMIN GRANITES
MANALI - PONNERI ROAD
MANALI
MADRAS 600 068

PHONE : 848932
TELEX : 41-6081 TAMIL IN

GRAMS : MINERALITE

DIRECTOR GENERAL



(Following is a free English prose rendering of one of the exquisite verses of Dr. M. Karunanidhi. Even his prose writings are noted for their pictorial quality and poesy.)

Fame Thou art mysterious!

Fame!

Thou art a Moon.

Many a Scholar tried but succeeded not in their attempt to possess you.

Fame!

Thou art the summit of the Himalayas. By perseverance a few reach you.

Fame!

Thou art an ice cube.

You will foil the attempt of anyone to hold you in the palm of his hand and will melt into water and disappear altogether.

Fame!

Thou art a puzzle!

You are inexplicable!

Translation: Ilandevan



“ while estimating the green cover in the country, the greenery found in urban and rural areas and the trees grown by people should also be included. In that respect Tamilnadu's image can be said to be exemplary. ”

Thiru K.P. KANDASAMY,
Honourable Minister for H.R. & C.E. and Forests,
Government of Tamilnadu
in his speech
in the conference
of Forest Ministers
at New Delhi
on 11th May 1989.

The Honourable Minister at the outset welcomed the forest policy. The Minister pointed out that the subject forest was in the State List till 1977 but this was transferred to the Concurrent List at the instance of Government of India without consulting the State Governments. The Minister admitted that there is need for uniformity in matters connected with forestry but it should not be treated as a subject in the Union List.

In a like manner, while making amendments to the Forest Conservation Act also, Government of India has not consulted the State Governments. Therefore the Minister pleaded that the States should be consulted in future in all important matters including such amendments.

While dealing with requirement of wood based industries, the Minister pointed out that there should be a balance struck between the needs of industry and the requirements of forestry. He pointed out that while estimating the green cover in the country, the greenery found in urban and rural areas and the trees grown by people should also be included. In that respect Tamilnadu's image can be said to be exemplary. He cited the urban developments in Soviet Russia and pointed out that while developing New towns and cities, Avenue trees are also planted.

He also pointed out that in Tamilnadu Wattle is grown in places like Ooty and Kodaikanal on elevations more than 6000'. This is the only source of supply of tannin bark and it cannot be given up.

Likewise paper is also very much required because literacy rate is also going up in our country. Unless paper industry is able to develop alternate sources of supply, wood supply from department cannot be stopped. In this connection, he also mentioned that it would be too much, asking for the industries to grow trees in private and patta lands. He again mentioned that the Tamilnadu Government has started a plantation corporation which has 70,000 to 80,000 acres for raising industrial plantations.

In this connection, he mentioned that Research for raising productivity should be conducted. He mentioned to the Honourable Union Minister for a question raised by the latter, that the price of wood has recently been increased keeping in view the market price.

Wild Life Act of 1972:

He was very critical of the implementation of Wildlife Act of 1972. He pointed out that the reptiles which was included in Schedule IV has been unnecessarily transferred to Schedule II

thereby banning trade in snake skin. He said that atleast 30 Thousand snake skins were seized recently in Madras City and they were handed over to the Bharat Leather Corporation. The Wildlife Act has deprived the income of the trade and seriously affected the livelihood of tribals who make their living on snake catching. In this context, he pleaded very earnestly, for the appointment of the Expert Committee to go into all the problems and suggested the lifting of the ban immediately.

The Minister said that a fraction of sandalwood is smuggled out of State. The reason for this continuing problem is that only in Karnataka and Tamilnadu, keeping more than 5 Kg. of sandalwood is an offence. He made it clear, that processing and transporting sandalwood in places other than the States of Karnataka and Tamilnadu is not an offence. Therefore he suggested the enactment of a uniform legislation for the possession and trading in Sandalwood.

He also recalled the meeting with Union Minister about a month ago and pointed out his discussion regarding export of Sandalwood. He suggested that atleast one-third of the chipped wood should be allowed to be exported. He pleaded for the restoration of 200 gms. instead of 50 gms. in the size of chips for export.

He thanked all the participants and concluded his speech.



The Golden-Jubilee of the Tamil Nadu Assembly

The Golden Jubilee of the Tamil Nadu Assembly was celebrated in a grand and impressive manner on 5th May 1989 at the Assembly Chamber in Fort St. George. The House was beautifully decorated and special illuminations were made. The Speaker of the Assembly, Thiru Tamilkudimagan honoured Dr. M. Karunanidhi, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu with a shield and shawl on that historic occasion for his invaluable service as legislator for 25 years. The Chief Minister paid his regard and respects to the former members of the Assembly. Speaking on that occasion, the Chief Minister recollected the glorious traditions of the past and reminded every member to maintain dignity and decorum of the House and

further it was the responsibility of every member also. He also said that due to certain incidents happening in the Assembly one should not think and speak ill of it. The Chief Minister said that so many laws had been enacted in the past, which helped a lot for social justice and economic uplift of the backward classes.

The Speaker Thiru Tamilkudimagan welcomed the gathering. The Speaker in the course of his speech mentioned that the former Chief Ministers Rajaji, Kamaraj and Perarignar Anna by enacting historic laws in the Assembly brought glory to the State. He also appreciated the former Chief Minister Thiru M.G. Ramachandran because he was responsible for creation of many

universities in the State during his ten year regime. He also applauded the previous DMK regime for the creation of Slum Clearance Board and implementation of various social welfare schemes. Again the Speaker remarked that this Golden Jubilee should have been celebrated in the year 1987 but due to the illness of the then Chief Minister (MGR) it could not be celebrated. The Speaker said that the Chief Minister Dr. M. Karunanidhi's decision to confer rights on women to inherit property is a unique gift to the women.

The Education Minister Thiru K. Anbazhagan, M.L.A.'s and other party leaders spoke on that occasion. Everyone recalled the glorious traditions of the House.

SENIOR LEGISLATORS HONOURED

To mark the golden jubilee of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, 39 senior legislators of the past and present were honoured at a function held on 5th May 1989 at the Assembly Chamber in Fort. St. George.

Among them were 23 public men, who had been a member of the House for 14 years and more, five former Speakers and Chairman of the Legislative Council and 11 other who had been members of the Assembly for four terms. The Speaker of the Assembly Thiru Tamilkudimagan announced the names of the senior legislators. They were all presented with mementoes.

The names of the senior legislators who had been members of the assembly for over 14 years are given below:- Dr. M. Karunanidhi, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and

Thiruvalluvar Thiru K.K. Muthiah, Thiru V.R. Nedunchezian, Thiru P.U. Shanmugam, Thiru K.R. Nallasivam, Thiru A.R. Subbiah Mudaliar, A.K. Subbiah, Panruti S. Ramachandran, K. Anbazhagan, S. Madhavan, Munu Adi, Pulavar K. Govindan, A.R. Marimuthu, T. Rajarathnam, S. Alagarwami, K. Kalimuthu, K.S. Ardhanareeswara Gounder, T.P. Elumalai, N.K. Palaniswami, Anbil P. Dharmalingam and Nellikuppam V. Krishnamurthi and Tmt. Anandanayaki and Tmt. A.S. Ponnammal.

The names of the former Speakers and Chairmen of the House are given below: Thiruvalluvar M.A. Manickavelu, M.P. Sivagnanam, S. Chellapandian, K. Rajaram and P.H. Pandian.

The names of the members for four terms are:

Thiruvalluvar, K.A. Sengottayan, K.K.S.S.R. Ramachandran, S. Thirunavukkarasu, K. Ramani, Durai Ramaswamy, C. Aranganayam, M. Andi Ambalam, A. Rahman Khan, S.J. Sadiq pasha, Veerapandi S. Arumugam and Durai Murugan.

Twelve more senior legislators were honoured on 5th May 1989 in connection with the golden Jubilee celebration of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, bringing the total number of Members honoured to 51.

They are: Thiru N. Mahalingam, Thiru Haja Shareef, Tmt. Sathyavani Muthu, Thiru A. Senpathi Gounder, Thiru T.M. Kaliannan, Thiru T.S. Swaminatha Udayar, Thiru S. Murugaiyan, Thiru T.M. Nallaswamy, Thiru N. Rajangam, Thiru M. Shanmugam, Thiru N. Marudhachalam and Thiru P. Jayaraj.

TIRUVARUR CAR FESTIVAL

The Thyagaraja temple car of Thiruvalluvar moved after six years on 7th May 1989. Lakhs of people witnessed this car festival, when it was drawn by thousands of devotees. Thiru K.P. Kandaswamy, the Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments, inaugurated it. A pair of bull-dozers were used to push the temple car, and the four wheels of the car were controlled by hydraulic brakes designed by the Bharat Heavy Electricals. The devotees drew this 300 tonne car with great enthusiasm.

The devotees thronged the town to have a glimpse of the car and the 400 foot long ropes. Elaborate arrangements for the car festival were made and it was organised at a cost of Rs.6 lakhs. All four main roads of Thiruvalluvar around the temple were packed with lakhs of people, who had come from all over the State. Besides this giant Temple car, which will take three days to return to the starting point, four other cars carried the utsava idols of Vinayaka, Muruga, Ambal and Chandikeswarar.

The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Minister Thiru K.P. Kandaswamy released a book published by the Thyagarajaswamy Devasthanam in Thiruvalluvar in connection with this Temple car festival.

The Minister said that donations had been raised to meet out the entire expense.



INAUGURATION OF STATE PLANNING COMMISSION

The Chief Minister, Dr. M. Karunanidhi on 15th May 1989 launched the reorganised State Planning Commission with himself as Chairman, at a function attended by Industrialists, Trade Union Leaders, Senior Government Officials and experts in various fields of social and economic activity.

This was in fulfilment of a promise he made at a meeting of industrialists soon after the DMK assumed power, to create a "Think Tank", the Chief Minister said.

A State Planning Commission was first constituted in Tamil Nadu, in 1971 by the DMK. But during the last few years, the role of experts was considerably reduced and the commission became inactive.

The new members of the State Planning Commission Dr. Malcom Adhisheshaiah, Dr. V.C. Kulandaiswamy, Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, Thiru M.P. Sivagnanam, Dr. Ramani Sivaraman and Thiru G. Chidambaram, spoke on the occasion. They spoke about the problems to be tackled through planning. Dr. Malcolm Adhisheshaiah said that the urgent tasks before the planning commission are to reduce the percentage of unemployment and the number of families below

the poverty line. The State should not adopt the approach of the Central Planning Commission entirely, but should evolve its own strategy.

Dr. Kulandaiswamy said that the poor natural resources should not deter the State in its march forward, because "human resources" are more important than natural resources. The Tamil Nadu could reach great heights, if only attention was paid to improve the productivity of those in the unorganised sector, comprising 90 per cent of the work force.

Dr. Swaminathan a farm scientist, said that there should be a proper blend of modern science and technology. The majority of the people living in rural areas were young and unless they were given employment there itself, they would not stay in villages and migrate to cities in search of jobs.

Thiru Sivagnanam, a former IAS Officer of the Gujarat Government said that the main reason for the poverty of the majority of the population was that the fruits of planning and development had been mostly utilised by the 10 or 15 per cent rich. "This attitude should change".

Dr. Ramani Sivaraman, former

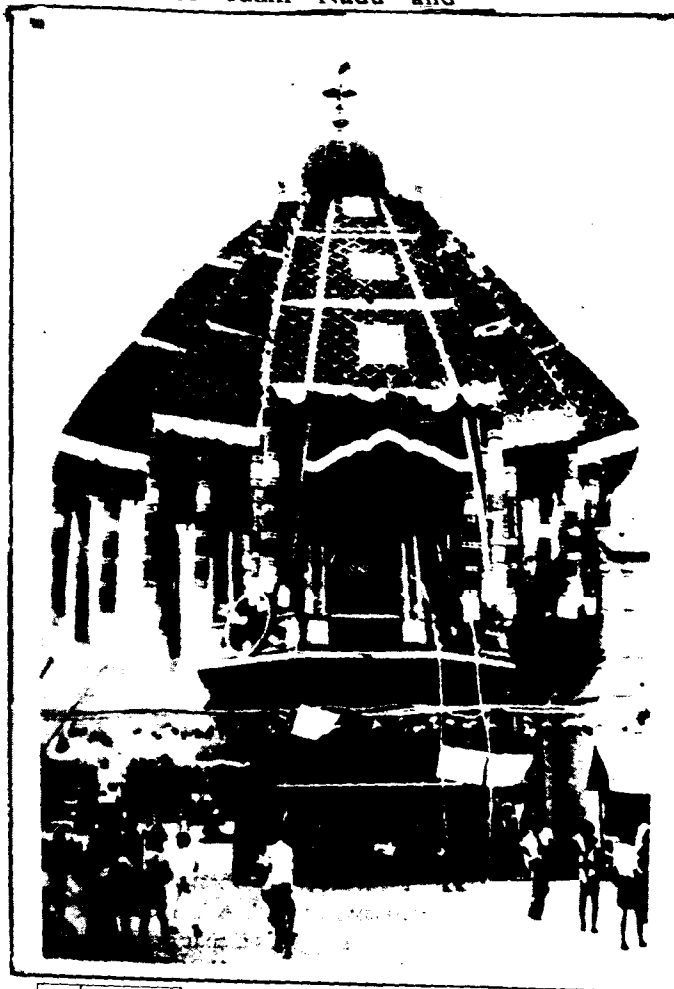
Director of Medical Education, stressed the importance of reducing the infant mortality, child-mother care and health education through the electronic and mass media. Thiru Chidambaram, an expert in evaluation and applied research, called for proper monitoring of the development schemes for accelerating development.

The Chief Secretary to the Government Thiru M.M. Rajendran IAS., in his welcome address, said that this new Planning Commission was coming into existence at a crucial time when the State's economy and development was in a very poor condition. The focus should therefore be on changes in cropping pattern, use of less water and reclamation of waste lands. In the industrial sector, attention should be paid to employment generation by preventing sickness and reopening of closed units.

He also promised Government's co-operation in the effective implementation of the various schemes.

CHIEF MINISTER'S ADDRESS

Hon'ble Ministers of the Tamil Nadu, Members of State Planning Commission, Chief Secretary, Adviser, Secretaries of various Departments and friends



You may all be aware that in the whole country, a State Planning Commission was first constituted in Tamil Nadu in 1971 by the D.M.K. Government as a model to all other States and that this was then uniformly praised by one and all. But unfortunately during the last few years, the role of Experts in the Planning Commission was considerably reduced and the Commission also became inactive. When the D.M.K. Government came back to power and I assumed the Office of Chief Minister, I held a series of meetings with different sections of people. You may recall that at the meeting of the Industrialists held on 6th march, I informed, that the State Planning Commission would be constituted as a 'THINK TANK' with Experts in various fields and that I would also assume the Chairmanship of the Commission. Accordingly this Planning Commission has been constituted with Experts, known for their professional competence, rich experience and keen interest. I thank the Members of the Commission for accepting this additional responsibility despite their several other preoccupations.

During my reply to the Debate on the Budget in the Legislature, I had stated that the State Planning Commission would deem as its first duty, the formulation of the Eighth Five Year Plan. In this Age, Planning is very necessary for succeeding in any venture. Without a long term Plan, we may be spending our entire energy and attention in solving the day to-day problems without having any vision of the future. Particularly in today's noisy political climate with its emphasis on the 'Here and Now', if a Government spend its entire energy and time only in solving the immediate problems without providing for the future welfare of the people, it will be a gross injustice to the very people, who placing their trust on them had voted them to power. To avoid that, a long term Plan with its focus on the welfare of the people is very essential.

To plan properly, it is necessary to undertake certain allied functions as well. To plan for the future, we should have a good understanding of the present. For that, we should have reliable data on the current situation. Hence,

collecting the data and keeping them ready, is essential for proper planning. Further, the progress in implementing the Plan Schemes should be periodically reviewed. When different schemes under various Sectors are implemented, it is quite necessary to evaluate them to ensure that they are being implemented in the intended manner to achieve the intended objectives and to take appropriate remedial measures wherever necessary. Taking all these into account, Government have decided that the Planning Commission which formulates the Plan, should also have these allied functions and accordingly the functions of Data collection Evaluation and Plan Review, which were hitherto with the Government, have now been transferred to the Commission. In addition, the Government have also requested the Commission to advise them on the integration of District/Block level Schemes with the State Plan. All this will bear testimony to the confidence and trust that Government have reposed in the Commission.

At this juncture, when we have embarked on formulating the Eighth Five Year Plan, I feel, it will be appropriate, to briefly indicate the present state of development in the State and certain related issues.

Tamil Nadu has 7% of India's population but only 4% of country's area with the result that population density and man-land ratio is adverse. Except for Lignite and some oil deposit, we do not have any significant mineral resources. We are also located far away from the coal mines of India. All modes of irrigation in Tamil Nadu-rivers, tanks and ground water-depend on rain fall and because of the vagaries of monsoon the State is also subject to frequent and prolonged spells of drought or floods and cyclones. Surface irrigation potential has already been more or less fully exploited. The State is also poor in Forest resources. About one-third of our population is in urban area and this necessitates large investments on basic services such as Housing, Water supply, Sanitation, Transport and Roads in urban areas.

Despite the above difficulties, the development in Tamilnadu during the

last forty years, in several sectors, has been as good as in States which are relatively better in resource endowment. Tamilnadu ranks first in the country in rural electrification, rural water supply, number of energised pumpsets, passenger transport and Credit-deposit ratio in nationalised banks. Further, in respect of utilisation of existing irrigation sources, per hectare productivity in paddy, sugar, groundnut and cotton, per hectare consumption of fertilisers, infrastructural facilities, literacy etc., the State occupies a high place. But the fact that our progress is relatively better than other States should not make us complacent and lead us to the conclusion that we have achieved all that can be achieved. There is still, a lot more to be achieved. This will be clear if we compare our achievements with the international standards. Hence, we should take the achievements so far made only as an encouraging sign and strive harder to achieve still better results.

Despite these commendable achievements in various sectors, our State fares poorly in respect of Eradication of Poverty, Per Capita Income, and Employment, which are the real touch-stone for Development. This peculiar situation, in fact highlights a major problem faced by the developing countries in general. For rapid Economic Development, Savings and Investment of the Savings in sectors essential for development are very necessary. But the benefits accruing out of these investments will be realised only after a number of years. In the intervening period, a democratic Government, cannot be insensitive to the question of satisfying the basic needs of food, clothing and shelter for the large and economically weaker sections of the society. We cannot indefinitely postpone satisfying these basic needs; nor is it feasible or fair to ask the people to patiently wait. But when we try to meet these basic needs, the available surplus for Investment may be reduced. Every time we prepare the budget, the question arises - whether to invest in future development, or meet today's basic needs. Both are important; and also interconnected in some ways. We should take into account this vital issue and the related questions, when we for-

mulate our future plans.

While formulating schemes in different Sectors, we should take care to see that they do not affect the Environment and the National Resources. We cannot undertake schemes, which in the long term will result in irreparable loss to the environment, just because they appear profitable today.

We may be very keen to formulate several schemes for the welfare of the people but these schemes can be implemented only if our resources are adequate. In Tamil Nadu, we have raised resources mainly through taxation. But, we can raise resources in other ways too; through small savings, by reducing the infructuous expenditure in Government, by adopting stringent economy measures, by improving the working of the State Public Sector Undertakings, by making necessary modifications in the various schemes of subsidy from Government to ensure that they really reach only the deserving, by realising atleast the running costs in respect of several facilities provided by the Government.

We may formulate an excellent Plan; but it cannot be implemented in a satisfactory manner unless we have the

support of the people. In order to ensure full co-operation and help from people, we should try to involve in the Plan implementation, the various democratic institutions at the District, Panchayat Union and Panchayat levels. This Government have reactivated the Panchayat Unions with the firm conviction, that power should not be concentrated in the Government but should be widespread. We should take measures to see that the democratic institutions in the rural areas keenly involve themselves in the Plan efforts.

In addition, we should also try to utilise the services of Non-Government Voluntary Agencies also. Some of these agencies have done excellent work and gained valuable experience in such fields as provision of drinking water, housing, public health and environmental protection. We should encourage their activities and make them a valuable ally in our efforts.

I have indicated only a few issues which should be kept in mind while formulating the Plan. There are many more issues and I am sure you will consider all these while formulating the plan.

I wish to convene the meeting of the

Commission atleast once a month and participate myself in them. The Commission should also try to get the help and the co-operation of experts in various fields. Only then, we will be able to formulate a practical and feasible Plan.

I thank all the Experts in various fields, Industrialists, Trade Union Leaders, Editors and other friends from different walks of life, who have responded to our invitation and request them to extend all their help and co-operation to the Planning Commission. I would also like to inform that the Government will take a keen interest in the activities of the Planning Commission and that all the Ministers, Secretaries to Government and other officials will extend their full co-operation and support for the efficient functioning of the Commission. I would once again like to thank the Members of the Commission, who by accepting the Membership, have enhanced the prestige of the Commission.

Thank you.

Thiru A.K. Venkat Subramanian,
Member-Secretary of the Planning Commission proposed a vote of thanks.

RURAL JOB SCHEMES

The Tamil Nadu Government is providing employment to nearly 2.15 lakh persons everyday in 6,000 works in "Drought-Hit Areas" and the workers are given rice and wheat apart from daily wages.

A sum of Rs.15 crores have been set apart for employment generation schemes in rural areas. Works like laying roads, desilting ponds and raising their banks are being done on regular basis in the drought affected areas.

The Government also granted concessions like waiving of land tax for the year in places where cultivation had been affected. Collection of Govern-

ment loans and land tax arrears had also been deferred to next year. Farmers, whose crops had been affected could get a certificate from the District Collectors for conversion of their short-term loans into medium term loans.

Action had been initiated to sink 5,000 deep borewells at a cost of Rs.125 crores. Of this, 1,500 deep borewells had already been sunk and the remaining would be sunk before June this year.

For deepening open wells, providing drinking water through tankers and cleaning pumps, an additional sum of Rs.11.32 crores had been sanctioned. Of this, works totalling Rs.1.65 crores had already been completed.

HINDU WOMEN GET EQUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 6th May 1989 adopted an amendment to the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 in its application to the State, to confer equal inheritance rights for Hindu Women in relation to coparcenary property in Joint Hindu families governed by the Mitakshara Law.

It would have retrospective effect from 25th March 1989 the date on which the Chief Minister, Dr. M. Karunanidhi, announced the proposal for the legislation. The Law Minister Thiru S.J. Sadiq Pasha said that any partition or sale of property subsequent to that date in contravention of the provisions contained in the amend-

ment would be null and void.

Everybody welcomed this move and no one was against this.

The Chief Minister said that the idea of equal rights for women and men was mooted in the form of a resolution at the first Provincial Conference on self-respect in Chingleput in 1929. After a lapse of six decades, the DMK Government had drawn up a legislation for the above purpose.

The Law Minister moved the Bill for consideration and said that at present, daughters were not members of the coparcenary under the Hindu Mitakshara Law and were not entitled

to claim partition in coparcenary property. This had led to the creation of a socially pernicious dowry system with its attendant social evils. To eradicate these evils by positive means, which would simultaneously ameliorate the conditions of women in Hindu society, it was necessary to confer the same rights on a daughter as a son had in a Hindu Joint family.

The provision, however, would not apply to a partition which had been effected before the date of the commencement of the amending Act.

The Bill was welcomed by all in the Assembly and everybody felt that it would enhance the status of women.



EID-MILAN DINNER

A grand Eid-Milan dinner was hosted by the committee of hosts in Madras on 12.5.89. Hundreds of invitees from different faith and communities representing a cross section of the society including Ministers, Diplomates from other countries, Top officials of the state and central services, Judges, the Chiefs of Armed forces, social workers, Educationists, industrialists, professionals, and business magnates participated.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister, Dr. M. KARUNANADHI said that there were twenty seven lakhs

Muslims in Tamil Nadu. Out of which over twenty six lakhs were backward. He assured that as ever he will remain a friend of the muslims and other minorities he would do his best for their upliftment.

Presiding over the occasion, Mr. SADIQ PASHA, Law Minister said that communal harmony had always prevailed in Tamil Nadu and he exhorted people from other states to visit Tamil Nadu to carry this message to the entire country. Mr. M.A. LATHIEF, M.L.A., spoke on the

significance of Ramzan and appealed to the Chief Minister to build a Haj House in Madras for the pilgrims. Mr. K. VEERASAMY, Food Minister released a folder. Mr. DURAI MURUGAN, P.W.D. Minister participated.

Welcoming the gathering the convener, Dr. S.K. KHADRI said that Eid-Milan was being held for the past 14 years to promote mutual respect and understanding among people of different faiths and to promote national integration. Dr. G.S.M.P. KHADRI proposed a vote of thanks.

Exotic Designs for the New Year

A new range added in
Chiffon, Polyester, Silk
and Cotton sarees for you.
Visit Co-optex showroom.



Co-optex
Handloom

*Verified
M*

DIPR/Efficient



676-A
Lined No. 714077-3

Special scheme inaugurated on May 1st '89 for Cycle-rickshaw, Auto and
Taxi Drivers to own their vehicles.