





Tamil Arasu

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66 DISCHARGE YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES IN A SPIRIT OF TOTAL HONESTY 99

**-Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi inaugurating
the Conference of Heads of Local Bodies at Chennai on 30.11.96**

The two-day conference of the local bodies, which began on 30.11.96 was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi in Chennai.

In his inaugural address, the Chief Minister told the representatives of the newly constituted local bodies that the Government is ready to rectify any shortcomings or mistakes in the working of the local bodies, but will not tolerate official misconduct.

With the revival of grassroot democracy in civic administration, there was great expectation from all. "Let us join together in translating into reality the ambitions of people to raise their standards of living", he added.

He appealed to the heads of local bodies to dedicate themselves to service of the people and discharge their responsibilities in a spirit of total honesty. The Government was earnest in trying to enhance the powers and financial resources of the local bodies in the light of the recommendations of the State Finance Commission which submitted its report.

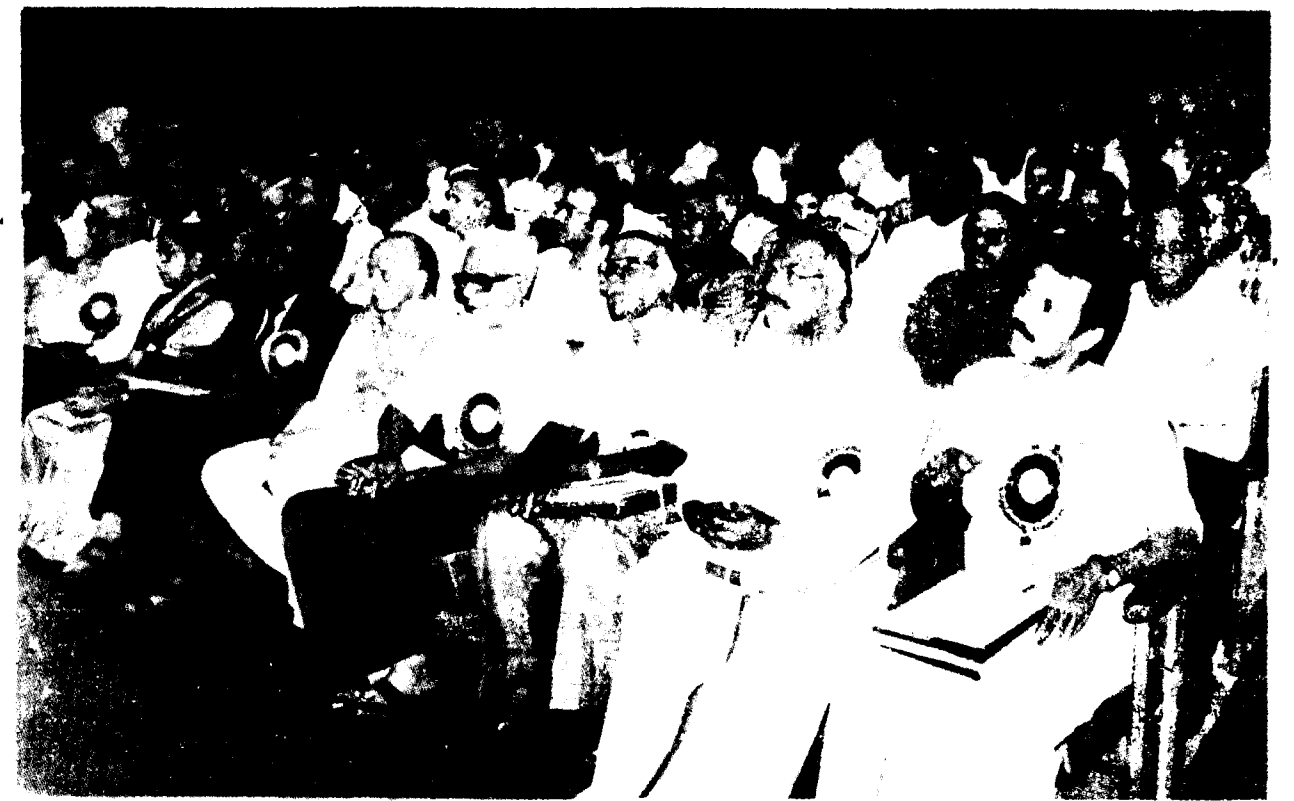
The Chief Minister said a sub committee of the State Planning Commission, set up to consider devolution of powers and responsibilities of the local bodies had been asked to submit a report within a month. Considering the fact that the power of District Panchayats was in the nature of giving counsel, the Government was examining grant of increased powers to the Dis-

trict Panchayats which had made a debut in the three tier system of local bodies.

Steps were on to bring about a uniform law to govern the functioning of Corporations, Municipalities and Town Panchayats on the Kerala model, in the place of the existing seven provisions of law which had become obsolete. The new measure relating to the urban local bodies was expected to be ready within a month. Enhanced powers for such bodies would be determined on the basis of the recommendations of the State Finance Commission and a study

said more than 70,000 houses would be built during the current year for those below the poverty line and the Scheduled Caste and Tribe and Backward Class people. Apart from this 5,000 km.length of roads in the Panchayat Unions would be metalled. If there were 20 tenements on marshy stretches, they would be linked to the near-by roads; drinking water facilities would be provided in primary schools in the panchayat union and the social forestry scheme reorganised.

A sum of Rs.50 crores had been granted to



made by people's representatives of the working of the local bodies in other States. Efforts were on to introduce the measure during the coming budget session of the Assembly.

The Chief Minister said that for the current year the State Government, with Central assistance, had sanctioned Rs.1,273.17 crores for implementation of the JVVT, guarantee scheme, self employment scheme for the young, Central Rural Conservancy scheme, Integrated rural development, etc.

While detailing the development plans, he

the Chennai Infrastructure Development Corporation for improvement of basic facilities in the areas covered by the Chennai Corporation, the Chief Minister added.

Thiru Ko.Si.Mani, Minister for Local Administration, who presided, said the conduct of the local body elections without any violence or legal hassles had been lauded not only by other States, but also by visitors from abroad. He urged the heads of local bodies to serve people to the best of their ability by ensuring their basic necessities such as shelter, road, drinking water and educational facilities.

POLIO ERADICATION EFFORTS IN INDIA

-Dr. SYED PLAS PEERAN,
Joint Director
Public Health Department

Thousands of children are affected by polio disease every year. Countrywide Pulse Polio Campaign was started to eradicate polio by 2000 AD, in our country.

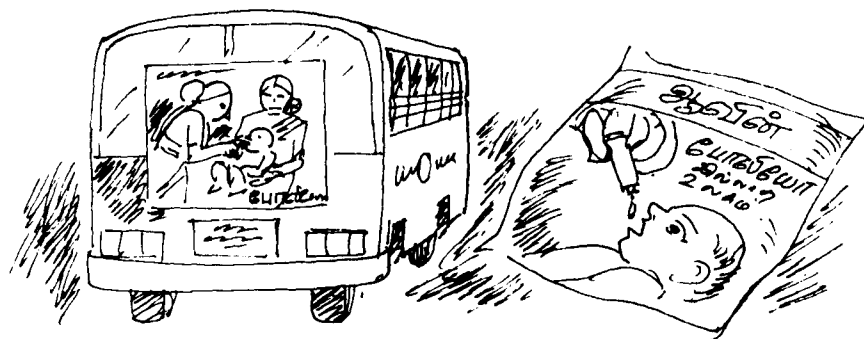
World Health Organisation (WHO), Central and State Governments, Agencies of Government and non-Government organisations, Medical practitioners, Child Health Organisations, various Charity Organisations, Rotary Club and UNICEF have lent their support in eradicating polio. The scheme was implemented with their help and it is strongly believed that by administering undiluted highly concentrated polio drops at the right age, periodically, the future will see the eradication of the disease in our country.

Way back, 60 percent of polio affected people on earth were in India. Even ten years back India recorded an alarming rate of 32,000 children affected by the disease every year. But due to continuous efforts, the figure came down to 130 in 1995 and in 1996 the figure came down to 5.

Including our neighbouring countries like Bhutan and Sri Lanka, there are 153 countries that have so far completely

eradicated polio. This scheme being implemented is an attempt to place India as the 154th country to have had eradicated polio.

For the past several years, every new born child was administered undiluted highly protected polio drops. The drops were being given every Wednesday by Village Health attendants in villages and in Primary Health Centres and Government and private hospitals in urban areas.



For herd immunity to be continued every new born should be given concentrated polio drops. Due to the continuous transfer of polio virus from one child to another, a child without proper administration of polio drops may get affected by the disease. This can be eradicated only by a countrywide Pulse Polio campaign as is being done now.

The vaccine administered in

the mouth of the Child goes to stomach and increases the resistance power in the blood and also forms a filament on the inner wall of small intestine. The filament stays there for some time and produces "cut immunity" i.e. resistance of small intestine. The virus which is communicated from child to child enters the stomach and is chased by the safe vaccine virus produced by the cut immunity. The polio virus

comes out with the child's stool and is later destroyed by the heat.

The World Health Organisation will announce India as a polio free country only if there is not a single incident of polio disease for three continuous years. WHO has planned to eradicate polio from the world by 2000 AD. India too have assured WHO that polio will be completely eradicated by 2000 AD.



Pulse Polio Programme inaugurated at Chennai

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M.Karunanidhi inaugurated the massive campaign of Pulse Polio Immunisation Programme. The biggest movement in the country since independence, the Pulse Polio Immunisation Programme was inaugurated at the Institute of Child Health in Chennai on 7th December, 1996.

The Chief Minister administered oral drops to several children to mark the beginning of the programme. The programme is aimed at eradicating the crippling disease of polio. Around 40,000 immunisation posts had been setup State-wide for the programme, also called "Polio Plus".

Nearly 65 lakh children in State received oral-polio vaccine under this programme for the second year in succession.

Rotary Clubs, Government and Non-

Government agencies and the Private Sector Agencies participated in the drive. The Polio immunisation drive would be repeated on January 18 in the coming year and would be repeated again and again till the virus is completely eliminated.

The Chief Minister thanked the Rotary Clubs for making 'polio plus' a success.

The State Government had spent Rs.5 Crores for the programme this year. The Central Government had appreciated the State Government's endeavour in eradicating the disease and directed all the other States to cover children upto five years of age as was done by Tamil Nadu.

Compared to 4409 polio cases in 1987 and 130 last year, the State had recorded only five cases in 1996, the Chief Minister said.



Chief Minister visits flood affected areas and distributes benefits

“Allocating money for rehabilitation of flood victims was not enough. Every grain of rice and every paise allotted to the victims should reach every one of them without pilferage”, said the Chief Minister K. Karunanidhi on December 18 at Chengalpattu. The Chief Minister was distributing rice, kerosene, dhoties and sarees to those affected by the floods in Anna and MGR districts.

The Chief Minister stressed on the importance of the up keep of tanks and reservoirs and recalled that during the period of Congress Ministry in Tamil Nadu, “Maramathu” (meaning the upkeep of tanks) was an important activity. The severity of the recent floods can be attributed to the neglect of State’s irrigation tanks, he added.

The Anna District Collector, Thiru K. Rajamanickam said that Rs.12 crores has been

allocated for the 91,856 houses fully damaged in the floods and 56,944 partly damaged houses, besides 34 lakhs towards five Kg. rice and one litre kerosene for each family and Rs.2.50 crores towards dhoties and sarees.

The Chief Minister went around the flood affected areas in the Districts of Chengai Anna and Villupuram Ramasamy Padayatchiar by road to have a first hand knowledge of the problems faced by flood victims.

The Chief Minister visited the ‘veedur’ reservoir and Muthampalayam Eri, the Maruthur Eri and the Poonthottam Eri. He held discussions with the collectors of Villupuram Ramasamy Padayatchiar and South Arcot Vallalar Districts. The Chief Minister, later went to a cinema hall in Pidagam village where the flood-affected were sheltered and distributed sarees, dhoties and cash relief to them.



FLOOD RELIEF MEASURES IN TAMIL NADU

Rs.25 Crores as Central Relief

The Prime Minister, Thiru Deve Gowda announced a token relief of Rs.25 crores from the Centre towards flood relief in Tamil Nadu, at Hosur on 21-12-96.

The Prime Minister was responding to an early request by Chief Minister K. Karunanidhi to announce a token relief. The Prime Minister then made the announcement.

The Prime Minister also announced that a relief of Rs.50,000 would be given to the families

On the TV Wrapper

Hon’ble Chief Minister K. Karunanidhi with the New Governor of Tamil Nadu Thiru Krishan Kant.

of the deceased from the Prime Minister’s relief fund.

Union Minister of Agriculture makes Aerial Survey

The Union Minister for Agriculture, Thiru Chaturanan Mishra made an aerial survey of the flood affected areas in Chennai, Anna, Villupuram-Ramasamy Padayatchiar, South Arcot-Vallalar, Nagapattinam Quaid-e-Milleth and Thiruvallur A.T.Panneerselvam Districts on 22.12.96.

Later taking to pressmen, the Union Minister agreed that the damage was very extensive. It was most unfortunate that damage occurred when the crops were ready for harvest, he added. The Minister announced that a team of officials from the Union Government will soon visit Tamil Nadu to assess the damage caused to the crops by the recent heavy rains and to determine the quantum of assistance required.

The Union Minister was accompanied during the aerial survey by PWD Minister, Thiru Durai Murugan and Agriculture Minister Thiru Veerapandi Arumugam.

The Union Minister also held a meeting with the State Government officials and elected representatives at the Secretariat.

RAIN HAVOC: Rs.50 CRORES SANCTIONED AS RELIEF

The unabated heavy rain have ravaged Thanjavur, Nagapattinam Quaid-e-Milleth and Tiruvarur-A.T.Panneerselvam Districts in Tamil Nadu.

The Government has organised relief work on a war footing with the Chief Minister releasing Rs.50 crores as the second instalment on 15.12.96 towards relief and rehabilitation in addition to Rs.30 crores already sanctioned.

harvesting crops in hip deep water, nearly 75 percent of the 1102 villages both in Nagapattinam and Tiruvarur Districts are under water. There was widespread and heavy rain all over Pasumpon Muthuramalingam Thevar District.

The Chief Minister told media persons after a review meeting at the Secretariat that the immediate financial requirement for providing relief had been estimated at



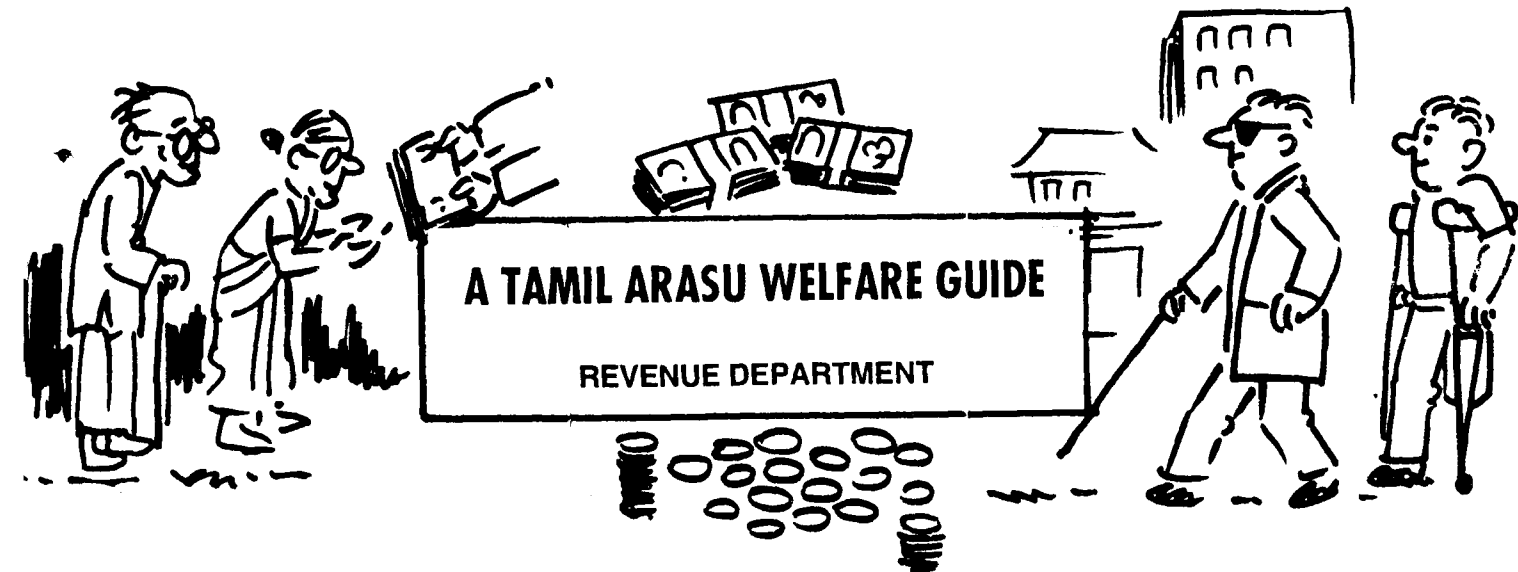
Breaches had occurred in many canals that criss-cross the delta, causing floods in almost all the villages in Nagapattinam and Tiruvarur Districts. Water crossing the roads to a length of three to four km is a common sight in many places in the two districts.

Nagapattinam District farmers had completely lost the *Samba* crop on more than one lakh hectares. One could see only a sheet of water in many fields in the District. The total *Samba* coverage in the fields in the district was about two lakh hectares and another 20,000 hectares was under *Thaladi*. Seven thousand huts were fully damaged, while 11,000 huts were partly damaged in the District. In some places, people were seen hurriedly

Rs.120 crores based on the preliminary reports received from Chennai and other Districts.

Giving details of death and destruction, the Chief Minister said that 61 persons had lost their lives, crop loss was estimated at over 1.08 lakh hectares, 789 lakes and tanks had breached and 74 bridges, including seven big one suffered damage 580 km length of road in Chennai and 1855 km length of National Highways in other places has suffered extensive damage.

Thiru Ko.Si.Mani, Minister for Local Administration and Thiru Durai Murugan, Minister for P.W.D. toured the affected Districts and closely monitored the relief works.



Name of the Scheme/ Programme

Qualifications- Conditions

Officer to be contacted

Old age pension

The beneficiary should be a destitute and above 65 years of age. A monthly assistance of Rs.100 will be given.

Concerned Distress Relief Thasildhar

Pension for physically handicapped persons

The beneficiary should be a physically handicapped destitute and above 45 years of age. A monthly assistance of Rs.100 will be given.

”

Pension to destitute widows

No age limit to destitute widows. A monthly pension of Rs.100 will be given.

”

Pension Scheme for destitute agriculture labourers.

He or she should be above eighty years of age. should have been an agriculture coolie labourer. The monthly pension is Rs.100.

”

Pension Scheme for Destitute women abandoned by their husbands.

The woman should be a destitute and above 30 years of age. A monthly pension of Rs.100 will be given.

”

Distress relief Scheme

The annual family income should not exceed Rs.7200. The person who had lost his/her life should have been an earning member. If the person had expired before 22.6.92, the family of the deceased will get Rs.3000 and if the person had expired after 22.6.92 the family will be

”

Accident Relief Scheme

given Rs.5000. Also those who draw old age pension will be provided dhotis and sarees twice annually, i.e., for Pongal and Deepavali.

The deceased should have been an earning member. Should have been employed in any of the 44 approved category of work. The family will be given Rs.10,000. Persons injured and became handicapped in the accident will be given Rs.5000 to Rs.7000, according to the nature of wound. From 28.8.96, families of the deceased are being given Rs.15000.

Flood and fire accident Relief scheme

If the tenement is fully destroyed Rs.500 will be given. Rs.250 if the tenement is partially destroyed. Also the family will be provided with 5kg of rice, one dhoti, one saree and one litre of Kerosene. Further, if a person lose his/her life in flood or fire, the family will be given a relief of Rs.2000. Also the family affected by fire accident will be given Rs.1,000 by the United India Insurance Company.

Concerned Distress Relief Thasildar.

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FOUNDATION LAID FOR THE MEGA CAR PROJECT NEAR CHENNAI



MANY FOREIGN CAR MANUFACTURERS DESIROUS OF PUTTING UP PROJECTS IN TAMIL NADU

- Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaigmar M.Karunanidhi on 10.12.96 at the ground breaking ceremony of Messrs. Hyundai near Sriperumpudur.

Chief Minister Kalaigmar M.Karunanidhi laid the foundation for the passenger car project of Hyundai Motor India Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Hyundai Motor Company, at Irungattukottai, near Sriperumpudur, Chennai on 10.12.96.

The Chief Minister in his speech said that to meet the de-

mand for power in the state projects with private investments for a capacity of 3,000 MW were under consideration, and in addition TIDCO had invited bids for 20 power plants of capacity ranging from 40 to 180 MW. To supply water to industries Metrowater proposed to carry sewage to industrial locations

and set up water treatment plants in these locations. Steps were being taken to invite bids for upgradation of Highways. For the development of minor ports, a Maritime Board had been formed and ports' policy formulated. SIPCOT and TACID had acquired 5000 hectares of land to locate industries, the Chief



Minister added.

He said that in the past five years especially, industrial growth in the State had slackened. Promoters of projects like the Singapore Corridor, who normally sought facilities from the government, were told by the powers that were of what they wanted from the investors. Several companies which would not meet these demands were forced to shift their projects to other States. However, companies from all over the world were holding talks with the present Government for setting up projects. To encourage the automobile industry, the Government had in the past week decided to

reduce the minimum investment limit for Supermega projects to Rs.1000 crores from Rs. 1500 crores for the purpose of grant of special concessions relating to electricity and capital subsidy.

The Chief Minister said several other international vehicle manufacturers had shown interest in establishing units in Tamil Nadu. Companies holding talks with the Government included Volvo of Sweden (Rs.1,300 crores investment), New Holland Tractors (Rs.175 crores), BMW car unit (Rs.450 crores), Hindustan Motors Car Plant (Rs.400 crores), and Ashok Leyland truck plant (Rs.1800 crores).

Ten suppliers associated with Hyundai Motor Company (HMC) of South Korea, who are to establish units in Tamil Nadu, will make investments totalling Rs 370 crores, the Chief Minister added.

The Chairman of Hyundai Motor Company (HMC) Thiru Chung Mong Gyu, said his com-

pany founded in 1967 had emerged as Korea's foremost automobile manufacturer. At present, it had a manufacturing capacity of 1.7 million vehicle per year and exported its cars to over 150 countries. HMC aimed to become one of the top ten automobile manufacturers in the world with a capacity of 2.4 million cars, at home and abroad by the year 2000.

Thiru Choi Dae Kwa, Ambassador of South Korea, said the stone laying for the HMC Project was an "epoch making event", the first of such endeavours aimed at bridging economically Korea and Tamil Nadu across the Pacific and the Indian Ocean.

Thiru B.J.Park, president, HMC, thanked the state Industries Department, SIPCOT and the District revenue authorities for expeditious handing over of land for the project.

Thiru T.G.Venkatraman, Union Minister of Surface Transport was also present at the function.



A true Story

QUEEN OF SALES

Mary Kay Ash, Chairman of the Board for Mary Kay Cosmetics, totally understands the value and importance of seeing the good and the potential in others. She knows the value from both sides of the fence. With two young children to support, she began working with Stanley Home Products. She got off to a miserable start but as she watched other girls doing well, she knew in her own mind her time would come, so she simply re-doubled her efforts.

A short time later, a national convention was scheduled for at Dallas. Mary Kay borrowed \$12 to pay for her transportation and the hotel room. That was all the money she had, and the \$12 didn't include meals. She took along cheese and crackers to eat for the three days. The convention was tremendously inspiring. On the final night when Mr. Stanley Beverage placed the "Queen of Sales" crown on a tall slender brunette, Mary Kay made the decision that started her on the road to success.

When she walked down the receiving line to shake hands

with President Beverage, she looked him squarely in the eyes and said, "Mr. Beverage, you don't know who I am tonight, but this time next year you will, because I am going to be the Queen of Sales". Stanley Beverage could have casually commented on the matter, but he didn't. He apparently saw that special "Something" in Mary Kay as he looked her in the eye and shook her hand, because he said to her, "You know, somehow I think you will". She did. Later, she went on to an outstanding career with that company and another one as well.

Then one day she "retired", but her retirement lasted about a month with twelve hour work days. After a day or two of meditation to collect her thoughts, she took a yellow pad and started "figuring". She listed all the things she liked about the companies she had represented.

She put down the things she considered important to a woman seeking a career in selling. She wrote down the things she wanted to do, be and have as she was building her own career. She decided to start her own

company and build it on a basis that would permit her people to utilize the beauty and ability she saw in every woman. She felt it was far better and more important to reveal to the person what they already had, than it was to give that person part of what she had.

Mary Kay saw women as capable of earning large sums of money and having the luxuries of life, including Cadillac automobiles. With limited finances but unlimited faith, Mary Kay Cosmetics began in August, 1963. Before the calendar year ended they had sold roughly \$60,000 in retail products. In 1976 Mary Kay cosmetics sold approximately \$ 88,000,000 and nearly 40,000 Consultants and Directors tell the Mar Kay story in every State in the U.S.A.

There are many reasons for this success story, but it all started when someone "saw" something special in Mary Kay. It continued and grew because she kept things in proper perspective. She teaches her people that God comes first, the family second and Mary Kay Cosmetics third. She also "Saw" and "Sees" enormous abilities in her people and treats them accordingly. As a result, she "sees" them all over the country, driving around in Mary Kay Pink Cadillacs.

Courtesy: Zig Ziglar's

'See you at the top'



HOLIDAYS FOR THE YEAR 1997

Under the "Explanation" to section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 (Central Act, XXVI of 1881) read with Notification of the Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, no.20-25-26, Public -1, dated the 8th June 1957, the Government of Tamil Nadu hereby declares that in addition to "Sundays" expressly defined as Public Holidays in the said "Explanation" the following days shall be Public Holidays for the year 1997.

Wednesday, the 1st January, 1997	-	New Year's Day
Tuesday, the 14th January, 1997	-	Pongal
Wednesday, the 15th January, 1997	-	Thiruvalluvar Day
Thursday, the 16th January, 1997	-	Uzhavar Thirunal
Sunday, the 26th January, 1997	-	Republic Day
Sunday, the 9th February, 1997	-	Ramzan
Friday, the 28th March, 1997	-	Good Friday
Tuesday, the 1st April, 1997	-	Annual Closing of Bank Accounts.
Tuesday, the 8th April, 1997	-	Telugu New Year's Day.
Monday, the 14th April, 1997	-	Tamil New Year's Day.
Friday, the 18th April, 1997	-	Bakrid.
Thursday, the 1st May, 1997	-	May Day.
Sunday, the 18th May, 1997	-	Muharram.
Friday, the 18th July, 1997	-	Meelad-un-Nabi.
Friday, the 15th August 1997	-	Independence Day.
Monday, the 25th August, 1997	-	Sri Krishna Jayanthi (Janmastami)
Friday, the 5th September, 1997	-	Vinayaka Chathurthi.
Tuesday, the 30th September 1997	-	Half Yearly Closing of Bank Accounts.
Thursday, the 2nd October, 1997	-	Gandhi Jayanthi.
Friday, the 10th October, 1997	-	Ayudha Pooja.
Saturday, the 11th October, 1997	-	Vijayadhasami.
Thursday, the 30th October, 1997	-	Deepavali.
Thursday, the 25th December, 1997	-	Christmas.

Note-(i) Though Republic Day, on 26th January 1997 (Sunday), Ramzan on 9th February 1997 (Sunday), Muharram on 18th May, 1997 (Sunday) and Vijaya Dhasami on 11th October 1997 (Saturday) fall on Saturdays and Sundays, they have been indicated to the above list for easy reference.

(ii) The Annual Closing of Bank Accounts on Tuesday, the 1st April 1997 and the Half Yearly closing of Bank Accounts on Tuesday, the 30th September 1997 shall apply only to Commercial Banks. However, the Reserve Bank of India and the Government Offices will function on these days.

PULSE POLIO IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME IN TAMIL NADU

Children below 5 years have been immunised pulse polio vaccine on 7th December 1996 throughout India.

On the same day, through 39,594 special camps 62.8 lakh children were immunised in Tamil Nadu. In this campaign 1.60 lakh people participated. In some camps, children above 5 years were also given polio-vaccine. About 1.6 lakh children were immunised under this programme.

By immunising the children five times before they complete their first year, polio can certainly be prevented. But the virus around them cannot be eliminated. But by immunis-

ing the children below five years at a time, helps in total eradication of the crippling disease of polio. As a first stage the Mass Polio Immunisation Programmes were conducted during December 95 and January 96. 64.96 lakh children were immunised.

By immunising the children below one year the polio cases were reduced to 130 compared to 4409 polio cases in 1987. In 1996 the polio cases reported were only 5. The second campaign of the Mass Polio Immunisation Programme is due on 18.1.1997. It is believed that the polio-disease will be totally eliminated from the country by 2000 A.D.



Thiru V. Suresh, Chairman & Managing Director, HUDCO called on the Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi on 17.12.96 at the Chief Minister's residence. Thiru Doss, Executive Director, HUDCO, Chennai, Thiru Arul Kumar, Deputy Chairman, HUDCO and Thiru D. Chandrasekaran, I.A.S., Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Housing Board were present during the meeting.



ஜனவரி	பிப்ரவரி	மார்ச்	ஏப்ரல்	மே	ஜூன்
ஞாயிறு 5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23	30 1 8 16	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29
திங்கள் 6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	31 3 10 17 24	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30
செவ்வாய் 7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	4 11 18 25	8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24
புதன் 1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25
வியாழன் 2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26
வெள்ளி 3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27
சனி 4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22	1 8 15 22	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24	7 14 21 28
ஜூலை	ஆகஸ்டு	செப்டம்பர்	அக்டோபர்	நவம்பர்	டிசம்பர்
ஞாயிறு 6 13 20 27	31 3 10 17 24	1 14 21 28	1 8 15 22 29	1 8 15 22 29	1 8 15 22 29
திங்கள் 7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	2 9 16 23 30
செவ்வாய் 1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	3 10 17 24
புதன் 2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	4 11 18 25
வியாழன் 3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	5 12 19 26
வெள்ளி 4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	7 14 21 28	6 13 20 27
சனி 5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	8 15 22 29	7 14 21 28



At a condolence meeting held on 11.12.1996 at Kalaivanar Arangam, Chennai, the Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi declared open the portrait of the demised Governor Dr. M. Channa Reddy and paid tributes to him. The meeting was presided by the Hon'ble Speaker Thiru P.T.R. Palanivel Rajan. His worshipful Mayor Thiru M.K. Stalin, Hon'ble Ministers, Members of the Parliament and Members of the Legislative Assembly and other officials participated.

PHOTO FEATURE

Hon'ble Chief Minister gave away the Award "Niruthiya Sudamani" to Tmt. Anitha Rathinam at Krishna Gana Sabha's 41st Arts & Pongal dance festival on 13.12.96.





▲ Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated the Pallavan delux bus services to the Airport on 6.12.1996 at Secretariat, Chennai.

▼ Hon'ble Chief Minister declared open Dr. MGR - Janaki College of Arts and Science for Women on 9.12.1996 at Chennai.



▲ Hon'ble Minister for Education Thiru K. Anbazhagan and His worshipful Mayor Thiru M.K. Stalin garlanded the statue of Rajaji on his birth anniversary on 10.12.1996, in the Chennai High Court Complex.



Dr. Channa Reddy passes away



SEVEN-DAY MOURNING IN TAMILNADU

While the State Government declared a holiday under the negotiable Instruments Act for the day and announced a seven-day State mourning (from Dec.2 to 8), the Tamil Nadu Cabinet met in the afternoon and passed a condolence resolution, hailing him as "one who had stolen the hearts of the people of the State". The Central Government offices closed down for half a day in the afternoon.

The only business considered by the Cabinet was the condolence for Dr.Reddy. The resolution, after recording the various ministerial and gubernatorial offices the late Governor had held, said his death was a 'great loss', not only to Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu but to the entire country. It hailed Dr.Reddy as an 'eminent administrator', a 'repository of efficiency', 'rich in experience', 'an exemplary of friendship' and an 'epitome of culture' who had endeared himself by his

general temperament and simple traits.

On behalf of the State Government and the people of Tamil Nadu, the Cabinet conveyed its heartfelt condolences to Tmt.Reddy and other members of the family.

Dr.Reddy, incidentally, was the second governor who died in office while serving Tamil Nadu. The first was A.J.John in 1957.

The Chief Minister Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi, and leaders of various political parties have condoled the death of the Governor Dr.M.Channa Reddy, at Hyderabad.

The Chief Minister Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi, in his message expressing shock and grief, recalled that Dr.Reddy had dedicated his life, as a youth, to public service. He strove for the development of Andhra Pradesh, not only while he was in the Govern-

ment, but also while he was out of office. Also, he had served as a Minister in the Indira Gandhi Cabinet and as Governor of Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. In Tamil Nadu, he won over the hearts of the people of the State after he assumed office in 1993, the Chief Minister said.

Describing Dr.Reddy as an amiable, experienced and able administrator, the Chief Minister said he had been accessible to one and all. His death was not only a loss to Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, but to the whole country.

The President, the Vice-president, the Prime Minister and a large number of political leaders expressed grief over the demise of the Tamil Nadu Governor, Dr.M.Channa Reddy, describing him as an able administrator, a veteran parliamentarian and an outstanding leader of the country.

The President, Dr.Shankar Dayal Sharma, said in Dr.Reddy's death the country had lost an illustrious son whose services to the nation would always be remembered.

The Vice-President, Thiru K.R.Narayanan, said Dr.Reddy occupied many important positions in national affairs and served the nation with distinction.

Describing Dr.Reddy as an astute administrator, the Prime Minister, Thiru H.D.Deve Gowda, said the country had lost a leader who had left his mark on whichever post he held

during his long and eventful life.

The former Prime Minister, Thiru P.V.Narasimha Rao, said the country had lost a freedom Fighter, an excellent administrator and a man of firm determination.

The Home Minister, Thiru Indrajit Gupta, described Dr.Reddy as an able politician and said it would be difficult to fill the void created by his death.

Both the Houses of Parliament were adjourned without transacting any business as a mark of respect to the Tamil Nadu Governor, Dr.M.Channa Reddy.

Cutting across the party affiliations, political leaders paid rich tributes to Dr.Reddy describing him as an able administrator, veteran parliamentarian and freedom fighter. The Lok Sabha Speaker, Thiru P.A.Sangma, said Dr.Reddy had made invaluable contribution during his political career spanning 46 years.

The Prime Minister, Thiru Deve Gowda said the country had lost an able administrator and experienced Parliamentarian. He said it was an irreparable loss for the nation.

Dr.Murali Manohar Joshi of BJP, said that the passing away of Dr.Reddy had left a void

in the political arena. Dr.Vijayabhaskara Reddy, said as an ardent freedom fighter, Dr.Reddy had been jailed a number of times in his long chequered political career.



the State Medical Services. Within a couple of months, he gave up the Government job and established two dispensaries in the city of Hyderabad. His dispensaries became people's dispensaries as he provided medical assistance to the needy free of cost.

He was always busy either in organising or captaining Seva Dal corps or taking part in political conferences as a delegate or leader of delegation.

Dr.Channa Reddy was elected General Secretary of the Andhra Mahasabha in 1946. After the split in the Andhra Mahasabha between Communists and Congressmen, Dr.Reddy opted in favour of the Congress which was affiliated to the Indian National Congress led by Mahatma Gandhi.

Driven by the desire to lead the anti-Nizam movement on Gandhian principles he tried to bring the problem to the notice of Congress leaders like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Dr.Rajendra Prasad and Sardar Patel. He travelled all the way to Delhi to seek Gandhiji's blessings to the anti-Nizam movement organised and led by him.

The movement against the Nizam soon intensified in the State. The leaders of the movement

including Dr.Channa Reddy were imprisoned by the regime. Later, young Dr. Reddy was one of those eight Congressmen released by the Nizam to negotiate a settlement with the people.

Dr. Reddy stood like a rock between the Nizam and the oppressed people and organised a strong resistance. In order to mobilise the people and keep his channel of communication with the masses intact, he launched a weekly called HYDERABAD from Vijayawada. This campaign paid dividends as the writings of Dr.Reddy moved the people and the resistance became stronger. The success of the resistance movement compelled the Government of India to launch Police action against the Nizam which successfully brought the fight to finale. Hyderabad came to be regarded as the State of the Indian union and its representatives were invited to join the Provisional Parliament in Delhi.

THE PARLIAMENTARIAN

Dr.M.Channa Reddy, at the age of 29, became the young parliamentarian and with his fiery speeches, enlightened perceptions and organising skill, attracted the attention of the top echelons of the Indian National Congress. Within hardly eight days of his joining the Provi-

PROFILE OF Dr. M. CHANNA REDDY

Dr.M.Channa Reddy, Born on January 13, 1919 at Mangalarn Village in Vikarabad Taluk near Hyderabad was the only son of Shri Lakshma Reddy and Shrimathi Shankamma Reddy. Married to Shrimathi Savitri Devi (daughter of Shri K.Narayana Reddy and Shrimathi Rajamma Reddy) on May 3rd 1936, Doctor Reddy was blessed with two sons Shri M.Rav-

inder Reddy and Shri M.Shashidhar Reddy, and a daughter, Shrimathi Vasudha Reddy. Dr.Reddy's ancestral home is in Sirpur village also near Hyderabad, and traditional profession is farming.

Dr.Reddy earned the degree of MBBS from the Osmania Medical College in 1941 and joined

sional Parliament, Dr.Reddy was appointed as one of the three whips of the Congress Parliamentary Party.

Dr.Reddy contested the first General Election and won a seat in the Hyderabad State Legislature and emerged as the inevitable choice for the difficult portfolio of Food and Agriculture.

The Agriculture University [with three Agriculture, two Veterinary and one Home Science College and several research centres] was established in 1964 as a result of Dr.Reddy's efforts.

In the 1962 elections, Dr.Reddy regained his seat in the Andhra Pradesh State Legislature and joined the State Cabinet as Minister for Planning, Panchayat Raj, Industries and Finance.

CONTRIBUTION IN THE SECTOR OF STEEL

An intensive industrial promotion campaign was launched in the country during his tenure in the Ministry of Steel in the Andhra Government in 1964-67.

In 1967, after winning the election for the State legislature Dr.Reddy was invited by Indira Gandhi to join her Cabinet as Minister for Steel, Mines and Metals. With his vast experience in the field of Steel Industry in Andhra (1964-67) within a short period, Dr.Reddy introduced several far-reaching changes in the set-up of steel industry in the country, which are still retained in essence.

Dr.Reddy returned to Hyderabad in 1968. The on going Telangana movement drew this born fighter into the main stream once again and he lent his full support to the movement for a separate Telangana.

The movement caught momentum and in the 1971 parliamentary elections, Dr.Reddy and his supporters were elected in almost all the constituencies of the State (except three). This glorious success of Dr.Reddy and his followers opened the eyes of the Central Leaders and soon the measures to negotiate with the people of Telangana were initiated. The Six-Point For-

mula adopted for the solution of the problem was evolved in consultation with and approval of Dr.Reddy.

GOVERNOR WITH A VISION (In UP from 1974-77)

In 1974, Dr.Channa Reddy accepted the office of the Governor of Uttar Pradesh-- the most populous and problem-ridden State of the Indian Union. Till he demitted the office in October, 1977 as Governor, Dr.Reddy took up many a public cause with the Government of the State.

GOVERNOR OF RAJASTHAN (1992-93)

Dr.Channa Reddy assumed the office of the Governor of Rajasthan on February 5, 1992. Dr.Reddy, as Governor of the State, enjoyed perfect relationship with his Chief Minister and the Council of Ministers and had very good rapport with the people of Rajasthan.

On May 31, 1993, Dr.M.Channa Reddy took over as Governor of Tamil Nadu. No stranger to Tamil Nadu, Dr.Channa Reddy had been intimately acquainted with the people and the problems of the State, for a long time now.

In fact, in 1978, when Dr.Channa Reddy was the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, he had formulated the Drinking Water Supply Scheme for Madras City, to be drawn from the River Krishna.

As the water had to flow through the chronically drought-prone Rayalaseema region, Dr.Reddy introduced the irrigation component to benefit the Rayalaseema region. While Andhra Pradesh Government was to bear the cost for the irrigation component, Tamil Nadu was to pay only for the drinking water supply component.

Dr. Reddy had even discussed the scheme with the then Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, the late M.G.Ramachandran. But somehow, the scheme could not really take off. And, in 1983, the scheme, which had been worked out earlier by Dr.Reddy was launched.



CLASSICAL DANCES OF TAMIL NADU

Beating of Drums (Thappattam)

Danced to the beating of drums, this dance is an inseparable item of village entertainment and at social gatherings. The processions, festivals and household ceremonies essentially go with this musical dance. Each group has 15 members. Villagers of all age groups take part in this dance.

The rhythmic beatings of 'Thappu' kindles the feelings of the listeners and instinctly they are inspired to dance to the tunes of the drums.

This 'Thappattam' is very popular in the Districts of Thanjavur, Madurai, Dindigul, Nellore, Kattabomman, V.O.Chidambaram, Ramanathapuram and Pasumpon Muthuramalingam Thevar.



Folk Drums (Naiyandi Melam)

This musical instrument is the base to all folk arts of Tamil villages; Nagaswaram, Thavil, Pambail, Thamukku, Urumi, Thalam are some of the musical instruments that are used in Naiyandi Melam performance. Karagam, Kavadi, Dummy horse, Oyilattam, Thevarattam, Alagarattam are a few village folk arts of the Tamils, performed in temple festivals, at all auspicious occasions and processions. This Naiyandi Melam is an inseparable item in all village functions. A group of 11 join together and perform this item. The music is enchantic and captivative. Thalam, Sruti are the basic ingredients of all musical performances. Naiyandi melam also has this twin ingredients. This is very popular in Madurai, Pasumpon Muthuramalingam Thevar, Ramanathapuram, Kamarajar, Thanjavur, Nagapattinam, Quaidemilleth and V.O.C. Districts of Tamil Nadu.

Bharatha Natiyam

This particular style of dance-Bharatha Natiyam originated and was nurtured in Tamil Nadu. Today Bharatha Natiyam is very popular other in most other countries also. Only from this classical style various other forms of dances have been evolved. Each and every limb of performer exhibit one or the other emotional feelings of the artist. The facial expression of the performer reflect the inner feelings of the mind.

This is a rare style of dance peculiar to the Tamils and Tamil Nadu. The ancient Tamil literature 'Silappathikaram' mentions in detail the various aspects of this glorious dance.



Stick Dance (Kolattam)

This particular dance is also singular to Tamil Nadu. Both men and women without any age restriction take part in this group dance. They carry small sticks (Koles) in their hands which are about a foot and a half in length and strike them against each other to suit the song and music. The songs are not merely entertaining but carry a theme and a message to the listeners. This group activity exercises the body of the performer's and rejuvenates their mind, too.

Kolattam with some alterations is also popular in other parts of the country. However, the Kolattam of Tamil Nadu is a class by itself.



guage and make an inimitable dance movement to worship the Lord of Hills.

Folk Songs (Nattupura Padalgal)

Tamil rural folk are endowed with native intelligence, imagination and elegance and seek to convey their ideas in verse combined with music and also in a touching manner. The verse and expression are spontaneous. Our folk songs are really poetry since they are also spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings.

These folk songs narrate past incidents, present exigencies and future expectations. They also carry messages from unwritten, traditional ideas handed

body and mind of the part takers. The rendering of songs of Kummi captivates the mind of on-looker. Kummi is the most popular item of folk arts of Tamils. There are also Kummi songs which give rise to sublime thoughts.

Tribal Dance

The tribals of Nilgris are Badugas, Kothas and Thodas. These people live in harmony with nature. The dances of these tribal people though simple in language have a majestic note.

The Thodas worship their deity 'AMMAN' by singing songs and the body movements are adjusted to suit the music.

Likewise the Kothas also dance to the accompaniment of song and music. The term Kothas is a derivative of the term 'hare golo', the term 'golo' is the derivatives of a flute like material, (Kuzhal). Though their musical language is "kothas", their spoken language is only Tamil. Badugas clad in white, sing their songs in their own Baduga lan-



over by tradition. These songs do not have known authors. The verbal expressions of rustic, innocent, hard working common people of villages, are reflected in these songs.

Oyilattam

Oyilattam is also a form of folk arts seen commonly in villages.



Again it is also performed mainly by women. This is very popular particularly in the Districts of Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Pasumpon Muthuramalingam Thevar, Kamarajar, V.O.Chidambaram, Tirunelveli Kattabomman and Dindigul. Oyilattam is an inseparable item of dance during village festivals. Generally the Marava and Nayakar sects perform this group dance. Today this 'Oyilattam' is performed not only in village festivals but also in general in social functions. Normally a group of 25 people take part in this dance and men also evince keen interest. Generally the song and music to this dance is given by a drum beat known as Naiyandi Melam. The performers carry coloured cloth in their hands and flutter them with vigour and elegance to match the tunes of music.

Sevaiyattam

This particular group dance is a speciality of Dharmapuri District in Tamil Nadu.

Silappathikaram is one of the

five Tamil epics known as "AIMPERUM KAPPIAM". In this Tamil epic a woman known as Madhavi sustained burns due to an accident. Her neighbours sing a song praying to their 'Kula Dheivam' for the speedy recovery of Madhavi. It is both a prayer song and an entertainer. The performers execute their movements with small sticks in their hands.

Thagadur was a part of the kingdom of Vallal Adhiyaman who gave the precious 'Nelji fruit' to ancient Tamil Poetess Avvai. Thagadur is presently in Dharmapuri District. "Sevaiattam" is performed only here now. This dance was patronised by the Hoysalas, King Krishnadevaraya and Athiyar Mulambas. The pole or the stick used in this particular form of dance are considered as divine and kept in temples of worship by the people. The semi tribal people of Bargur area in Dharmapuri District have kept alive this particular dance.



Alagarattam

In Tamil Nadu, Madurai is popularly known as the temple City. Lord Alagar is the brother of the presiding deity of Madurai, Goddess Meenakshi. The Tamil month Chithirai is very important to the people of Madurai for it is in this month Lord Alagar gave Goddess Meenakshi in marriage to Lord Sundareswarar.

Lord Alagar from his abode in the Alagarmalai comes down to Madurai to take part in the marriage of his sister Goddess Meenakshi. The people of Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Pasumpon Muthuramalingam Thevar and Dindigul Districts congregate in vast numbers to welcome Lord Alagar. They also offer fervent prayers to Lord Alagar and entertain him by dressing like Lord Alagar himself to please Him. They spray coloured water on Lord Alagar to express their love for him. They sing in chorus in praise of Lord Alagar dancing to the accompaniment of Naiyandi Melam.

Kummi

This is an exclusive domain of women performing in groups. Ideas and thoughts are set to music and sung along with the body movement of the performers.

As in Kolattam, Kummi also gives a healthy exercise to the

Karagattam

Karagam is a pyramid like, conical vessel. This is decorated and carried on the head by the performer during the dance. The accompaniment of music and beating of drums, enchants the listener.

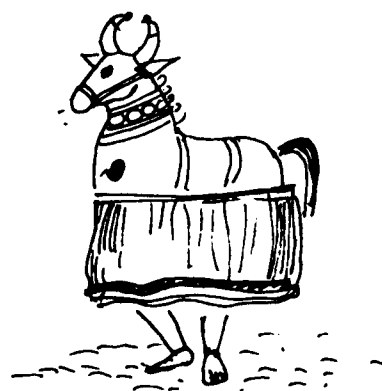
The performer skilfully carries the Karagam, on his/her head during the movement. Karagattam is a delicate and elegant folk art. It is generally performed in temple festivals and other social get-togethers.



Normally the person who carries a Kavadi sings, on his/her beloved God and dance to the chanting of manthras and music. Generally people in groups carry Kavadis and go in procession to the temples to the accompaniment of music and beating of drums.

Bull Dance (Kaalal Attam)

The bull is a symbol of strength and valour. Normally a man's walk is compared to a bull's walk. If the elegance of a peacock stands for the delicacy of the woman, a bull's posture is compared to the majesty of a man. A bull stands for hard work and manly composure.



Here, a group of men dressed like bulls, make movements and dance to the accompaniment of music and beating of drums. This is known as Kalaiattam. Naiyandi Melam is the chief musical instrument for this Kalaiattam. This particular form of dance is popular in the southern Districts of Tamil Nadu. This is a main item in village festivals.

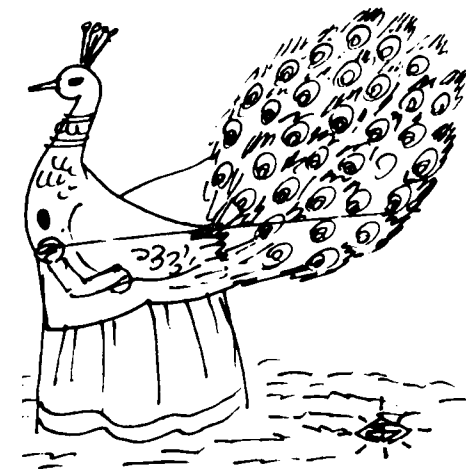
Dummy Horse

Among the animals meant for travel, the leg shape of horse and camel are different from that of others. Hence their speed in



walking and running. Man fixes such a shape of foot to his own feet and dances like a horse to the accompaniment of music.

He wears the shape of a horse on to his waist with horse foot made of wood and dances skilfully and vigourously. Both man and woman as a couple join together and perform this horse dance. Normally a historical incident is narrated in the song and the performers dance to the beating of drums and playing of



other instruments. In Tamil Nadu, this dummy horse dance is an inevitable item of performance in all temple festivals, village functions and other social gatherings.

Peacock Dance

This is popular in the southern Districts of Tamil Nadu during temple festivals and other village functions. People wear a set of peacock feathers on to their waist and dance along in a procession to the accompaniment of music and Naiyandi Melam.

Now-a-days, this dance is also performed by Bharatha Natyam dancers in their programmes.

Tiger Dance

This is a folk art performed mainly by men. They paint their body with lines and spots like a tiger from head to toe, with a tail fixed to their back. They walk, roll and dance to the music.

This is very popular during Mariamman temple festivals in villages. Musical instruments like Tharai, Thappattai are used for this ferocious form of dance.

Heroic Feats

The Tamils are known for their physical valour and mental acumen. They love heroic feats to win the admiration and love of others. In ancient Tamil literature, it was told that the youth performed risky courageous physical feats to win the love of their sweet hearts.

This includes Silambam (with poles), sword fight, wrestling, fighting with fire balls etc., This requires a regular and hard training with skill and discipline. This is taught by a teacher to the students. Only after a specific period of hard training one can perform this heroic feat. This also serves as a self protective measure. In the ancient Tamil World, such heroic feats were many and varied. Today our

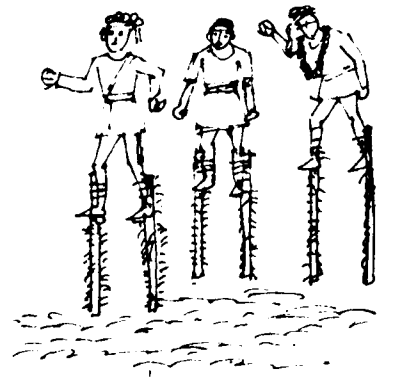
youth in villages keep alive this ancient martial arts by practice.

Dummy Legs Dance (Kokkalkkattal Attam)

This is a unique dance of the North Arcot Ambedkar District. A performer attaches long wooden planks to his feet and dances to the accompaniment of music. Normally this dance is performed during the annual festival of Ganga Amman.

Today it is being performed at national level art festivals outside Tamil Nadu. The size of the wooden plank is 3 feet height to 4.5 feet.

It requires strenuous training. This dance requires the musical instruments of Thappu, Settu, Thappattai. The performer with his artificial and extended legs dances elegantly and vigorously. Due to hard training and involvement of the dance, spectators get a sense of thrill and entertainment.



Kavadi Attam

Kavadi is closely associated with Lord Muruga, the popular Tamil God. It takes the form of half a circle fixed to a horizontal wooden rod tastefully designed and decorated. Its length is that of an average man's shoulder. Its diameter is about 2 feet. It is decorated with feathers of Peacock and colourful bands. They also carry the figures or photographs of popular Gods of the 'Tamils'.

THE HIDDEN HISTORY OF KUMARI CONTINENT

Dr. S. Padmanabhan
General Secretary
Kanniyakumari Historical and
Cultural Research Centre
Nagercoil.

It cannot be refuted that in the long chequered history of India the history of the South has been neglected. Whether it relates to the ancient period or modern period the history of South India is systematically ignored. There was a vast land mass beyond the present Kanniyakumari and a glorious civilization was born and flourished in the part of the land which was swallowed by sea several times. This fact has been suppressed by the historians. Long before the Christian era it was a fact that the ancient Tamils had nurtured the great Sanghams and their rich language flourished in these academies. But these factors were not given due place in Indian history. That is the sad position of ancient history of South India particularly Tamil Nadu.

Battle of Kalinga

The famous battle of Kalinga in the annals of Indian history converted the Emperor Asoka as a staunch Buddhist. One of the edicts says: "In this was in Kalinga, men and animals numbering one hundred and fifty thousand were carried away captives from the country as

many as one hundred thousand were killed there in action and many times that number perished". Certainly it would have been one of the biggest battles in the world history and the King who ruled Kalinga must have been a powerful and mighty ruler. As the victor of the war Asoka's name was in the history books whereas the defeated King's name was not at all found in the history books. The edicts of Asoka never mentioned the name of the King of Kalinga because Kalinga belonged to the South.

Chola Kings

When North India was being raided by Mahmud, the mighty Chola King Raja Raja was laying the foundation of an extensive empire which included the whole of South India upto the Tungabhadra, 12000 small islands and a part of Sri Lanka. Following the footsteps of Raja Raja Chola his son Rajendra Chola achieved heroic deeds in history. Rajendra's empire spread upto the Ganges in the North, Ceylon in the South, Mahodai in the West and Kadaram in the East. The glory of the two great Chola

Kings is not known beyond the Vindya mountains. The very fact is that the students of Indian history know more about Asoka, Harsha and Chandragupta but the same students have no fair knowledge about the great Chola, Chera and Pandya kings who played notable part in the history and brought name and fame to the country.

Three Tamil Kings

There are literary evidences that the kings of ancient Tamil Nadu conquered North India. The very names of Imayavaramban Neduncheralathan (the Chera King who kept Himalayas as his boundary), Arya Padai Kadantha Neduncheliyan (the Pandya King who defeated the Aryan army) and Gangai Konda Cholan Rajendran (the Chola King who conquered Gangetic plain) denote the glorious victory of the three great Tamil Kings. The fact that the Chera King Chenkuttuvan went to North and brought the stone from Himalayas for erecting the statue of Kannaki, cannot be brushed aside as a poetic exaggeration. There is a hill named Cheragiri in Meghalaya. The Chola King

Karikalan went to Himalayas and inscribed his insignia 'tiger' thereon says Silappathikaram, one of the five epics in Tamil literature. It is interesting to note that the mountain range between Sikkim and Tibet is known as Chola range and the nearby pass is called Chola pass in the World atlas prepared by Readers Digest. There is a waterfall named Chola Khola and a district Cholakumbha in Nepal. It is a fine field for further research.

Indian Freedom Struggle

In the case of the Indian Freedom struggle the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857 has been described by the Indian historians as the first Freedom struggle. But the great Vellore Sepoy Mutiny which took place 150 years ago and which paved the way for further Freedom Movement has been ignored. In the Vellore Mutiny more than 600 heroes lost their lives. More than 200 heroes were charged by the government as anti-nationals and they were hanged. The tragic factor is such a great Vellore struggle has not found its due place in Indian history. In the 1857 struggle great heroes like Jhansi Rani Lakshmi Bai, Tantia Thope, Nana Sahib and Bahadur Shah are well known to the students of Indian history. But the great heroes who were second to none in these heroic activities against the British rulers like Pulitthevan, Marudu Brothers, Umaithurai, Velu Nachiyar, Chennamma of Keladi in Karnataka, Pazhassi Raja and Velu Tampi of Kerala are not known to the students of history.

In the Indian history, the heroes from the South are not given importance. Bhagvat Singh, Rajaguru and Sukadev were the household names in the struggle of independence. At the same time Thiruppur Kumaran who sacrificed his life at the altar of freedom to honour the National flag, Vanchinathan of Schenkottai who shot dead the atrocious Collector Ash, V.V.S. Aiyar, the nightmare of the Englishmen and V.O. Chidambaram Pillai of Tuticorin who launched Indian ships to challenge the British supremacy over the sea are not given importance in the history of the freedom struggle.

Jai Hind

The freedom slogan "Jai Hind" was coined by the great freedom fighter Dr. Chenpakaraman Pillai but the slogan today brings the figure of Subash Chandra Bose to our mind. Long before Subash Chandra Bose, Dr. Pillai came to the field of politics. He went to Germany and organised the freedom movement against the British and in the famous submarine Emton he attacked India during the first World War. Subash Chandra Bose only followed the footsteps of Dr. Pillai and attacked India with the help of Japan during the Second World War. But the great efforts and heroic role of Dr. Chenpakaraman Pillai are not found in Indian history. So it is very clear that in the history of the past or the present South India particularly Tamil Nadu has been neglected and it is conveniently forgotten.

Ancient History

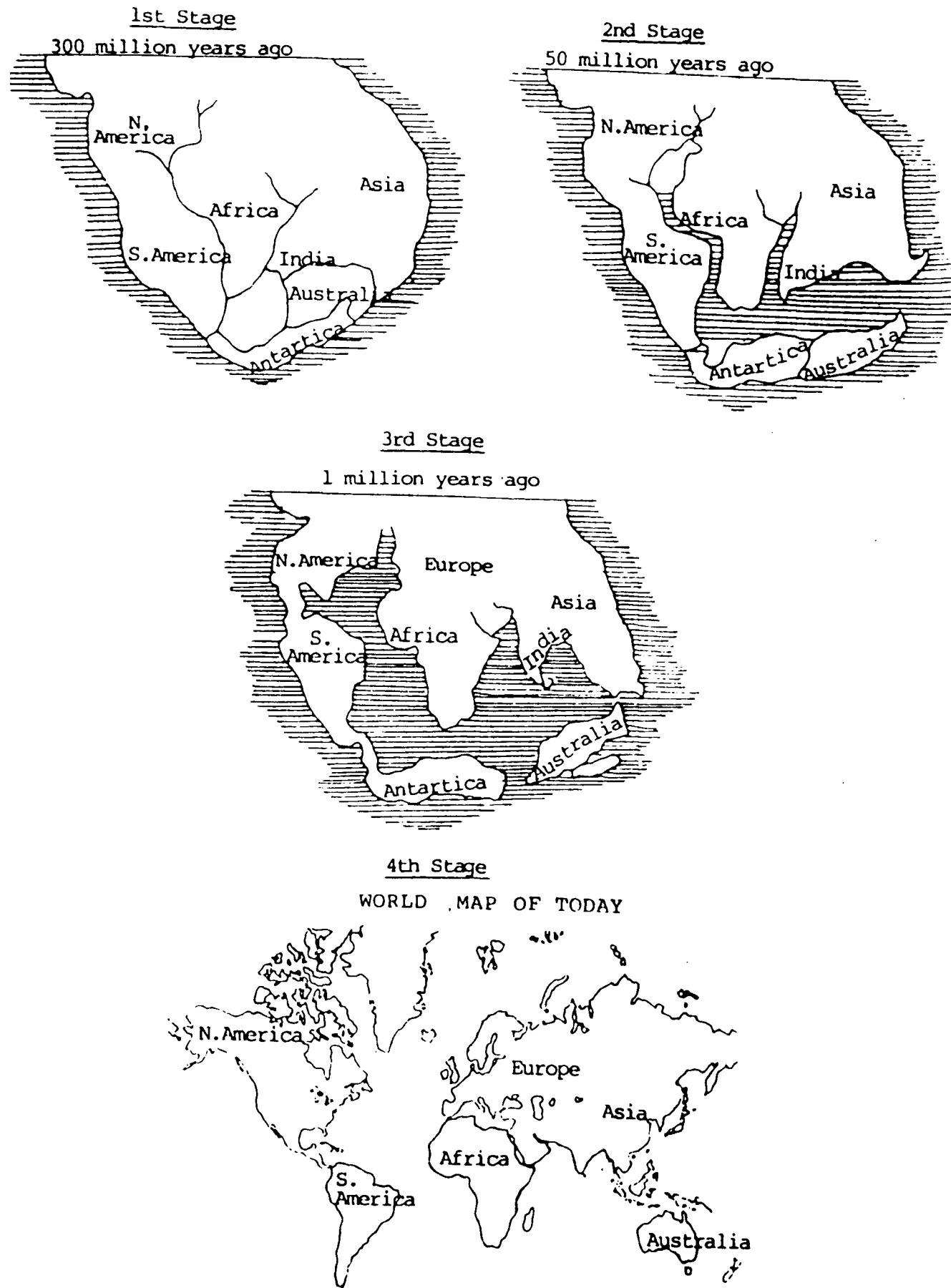
From the foregoing facts, it is evident that the history of South India particularly Tamil Nadu was not given its due recognition. Frankly speaking, we can assert that South Indian History is almost ignored by the historians of India. In this connection Vicent Smith aptly remarked: "Hitherto most historians of ancient Indian have written as if the South did not exist". But on the other hand the Lemurian theory which holds the view that there was a large mass of land to the South of Kanniyakumari carries the history of South India particularly Tamil Nadu to very ancient times.

It has become a fashion among some of the historians in this country to neglect or under-rate the history of the Tamils or to conjure the issues by saying "this is not corroborated elsewhere," "confirmation is wanting," "seems to be mythological", etc. and raising doubts and problems instead of attempting to solve them. They forget that a huge mass of literature of striking originality and free from myths and legends cannot be brushed aside.

Oceanic Research

People have not believed when scholars uttered a simple truth that the great cities like Tyre, Byblos and Troy described in the great epics Illiad and Odyssey once flourished and gradually eclipsed. But the 20th century Oceanic explorations brought to light the existence of these cities as a fact. The recent oceanic exploration reveals the

CONTINENTAL DRIFT IN DIFFERENT STAGES



fact about the great city of Alexandria and its connection with the Queen Cleopatra. In India also the great cities like Poompuhar in the South and Dwaraka in the North are described in the ancient Indian epics. Many doubted the veracity of the statement where these beautiful cities existed. But today thanks to the oceanic research the characteristics of the two great cities are known to the world.

Naavalam Theevu (Single Land Mass)

Most of the visitors to Kanniyakumari only know of the confluence of the three oceans, the temple of Devi Kanniyakumari, Gandhi Smarak Mandir besides of course, the land mark of Kanniyakumari, the Vivekananda Rock Memorial. How many would know that beneath the Indian Ocean there lie the remnants of a vibrant and hoary civilization of the Tamils going back to 25000 years, which were submerged by periodical cataclysmic landslips during the remote past? It is interesting to know that the topography of ancient India was different from what it is today. Peninsular India extended beyond Kanniyakumari forming a sprawling continent touching Africa in the West, Australia in the East and Antarctica in the South and occupying a large portion of the Indian and Pacific Oceans. Based on Geology and Cosmology, the Geographers made out a world atlas depicting the position of the whole world 2,00,000 years ago and in it there is only one single land mass and all the present

continents were shown as one unit. The huge landmass in the old map was known as Naavalam Theevu which means the land surrounded by sea on all the four sides. In the old map the present Himalayan range was shown as sea while South India was shown as a land mass. Only a Geologist can state conclusively that the location of the present Himalayan ranges was only the site of a shallow sea almost some 20 million years back. The discovery of the thrilling facts that the Indogangetic alluvial plains, on which, the most prosperous States of the Indian Union are located, are geologically of very recent origin. While the Deccan plateau forms the remnant of the original crust of the earth, is the outcome of modern scientific studies in the field of Geology. The study of fossils alone, in the rocks of the different sectors of the globe could establish the antiquity of the land's end promontory of the present India. In the basis of this fact the well-known Archaeologist Dr.H.D. Sankalia aptly remarked: "In the South we have the oldest land mass in India older than the Himalayas".

Seismic disturbances, cataclysmic landslips, volcanic upheavals and tidal waves had submerged a vast expanse of landmass to the South of Kanniyakumari. The forefathers of the Tamils lived and thrived there. Western scholars and historians refer to the great landmass to the South of Kanniyakumari as Lemuria which broke up several thousand years ago. According to Tamil tradition the lost Lemuria was known as Kumari

Mandalam, Kumari Nadu and Kumari Kadam (Kumari Continent).

Continental Drift Theory

Alfred Wegner (1880-1930) introduced a theory commonly known as the theory of Continental drift. It was striking and unusual that it attracted world-wide attention. According to him there was but a single land mass which covered about one third of the globe. About 2 crores of years ago the single land mass broke apart; North and South. America floated West, Eurasia and Australia drifted East. One of the main arguments of Wegner was an assertion that the eastern, northern and southern America would fit well into the outlines of Western Africa and Europe. It is evident from the recent researches that South India, Sri Lanka, Africa, Australia and the numerous island in the Indian and Pacific oceans are only the remnants of the lost continent of Kumari. On the basis of Cosmology, Geology, Meteorology, Anthropology, Biology, Zoology and Bio-chemistry, the Research Scholars brought forth the theory which confirms the literary account of Kumari continent. Geologically speaking the landmass named Kumari Nadu was shattered to several pieces and as a result of the continental drift, India, America, Africa and Antarctica became separate countries and the innumerable islands in the Indian and Pacific oceans were formed.

to be continued....

We present a G.O. every month,
for the benefit of readers.



FINANCE (PAY CELL) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No.13, dated 4th January 1996

(Margazhi 20 Yuva, Thiruvalluvar Aandu 2026)

Award of incentive to the Government employees who have rendered 25 years of unblemished service - Orders - Issued.

Order - No.13, Finance (Pay cell), dated 4th January 1996.

Government Employees Association have represented to the Government that one incentive increment may be given to Government Employees who have rendered 25 years of service as a token of recognition of longer years of service rendered.

2. Government have examined carefully the above request and have decided to grant an one time incentive to the Government employees who have rendered 25 years of unblemished service in recognition of their good service. Accordingly, Government direct that the Government employees who have completed 25 years of unblemished service under the State Government shall be awarded with an Indira Vikas Patra in the denomination of Rs.1000 (Rupees One thousand only) with an initial sale value of Rs.500 (Rupees Five hundred only).

3. Unblemished record of service would mean: absence of any punishment or adverse remark in the record excluding warnings.

In respect of persons against whom a charge is pending or contemplated consideration may be deferred their cases may be taken up if they are exonerated subsequently.

4. Government also direct that the appointing authorities shall prepare a list of employees who have completed 25 years of unblemished service once in every half year i.e., on 1st January and 1st July of every year, and issue sanction orders at the rate of Rs.500/- per Indira Vikas Patra so as to enable the drawing and Disbursing Officers to prepare and draw the relative bills and to purchase and distribute the Indira Vikas Patras shall be purchased by the Drawing and Disbursing Officers from the nearest Post Office. The issue of the incentive shall be recorded in the Service Book of the employees.

5. These orders shall apply to the teaching and non-teaching staff in local bodies and in aided educational institutions.

6. The expenditure shall be debited to the detailed head of account "59 prizes and Awards" under the relevant sub-head, minor, sub-major and major heads of account.

7. The expenditure sanctioned above shall be treated as an item of "New Service" and will be met by an advance from the Contingency Fund.

8. These orders shall take effect from 10th December 1995.

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

P.V.RAJARAMAN,
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT



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Tamil Arasu

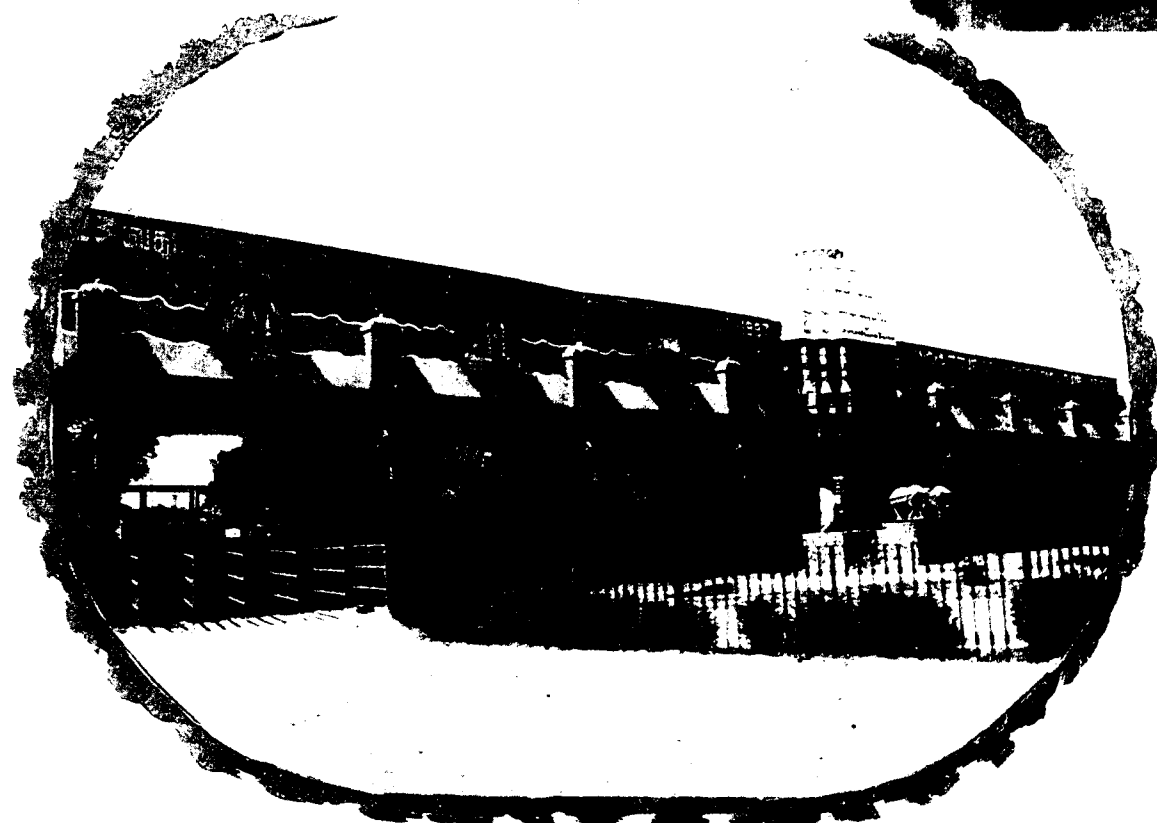
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Tamil Arasu

FEBRUARY 1997





Tamil Arasu

Magazine of the Government of Tamil Nadu

FEBRUARY - 1997

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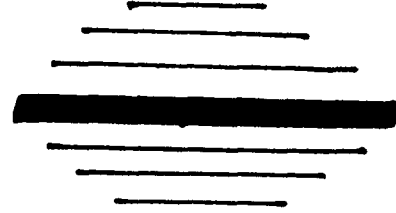


GOVERNOR LAUDS TAMILNADU'S REPUTATION AS A PROACTIVE, TRANSPARENT, INDUSTRY FRIENDLY

STATE

*His Excellency Thiru Krishan Kant's address to the
Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 22.1. '97*

- ★ **THE PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM TO BE RESTRUCTURED**
- ★ **ALL AVAILABLE COURSES OF ACTION PURSUED TO SECURE WATER FOR THE CAUVERY DELTA.**
- ★ **A MASSIVE FORESTRY PROJECT IN THE OFFING**
- ★ **WATERWAYS IN CHENNAI TO BE CLEANED UP**



- ★ **ALL HABITATIONS WILL BE PROVIDED ADEQUATE POTABLE WATER SUPPLY.**
- ★ **GOVERNMENT COMMITTED TO ACHIEVE "HEALTH FOR ALL" BY 2000 A.D.**
- ★ **STANDARDISATION AND IMPROVEMENTS TO IRRIGATION TANKS BEING TAKEN UP.**

Honourable Members of the Legislative Assembly,

I greet you on the commencement of the second session of the Eleventh Assembly, being held in the Golden Jubilee year of our Nation's Independence. Momentous changes have been brought about in the system of governance of our State in the last eight months through a decentralised democratic set up and simultaneous elections to all the local bodies in the State.

2. On this occasion we recall with sorrow the absence of Dr. M. Channa Reddy who addressed the Assembly last year. Dr. M. Channa Reddy had a distinguished record of public service, twice as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, as a Minister in the Central Cabinet of Tmt. Indira Gandhi and as the Governor of Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan before he took over as Governor of Tamil Nadu. A man of simplicity, patience and great ability and varied experience in public life, his demise has been a great loss not only to Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh but also for the whole country. I join you in paying tribute to this illustrious son of India and in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

3. Tamil Nadu had to face calamitous floods in the northern coastal districts of the State due to the unprecedented heavy rainfall during the first half of December 1996 resulting in the loss of 151 human lives and 3,738 heads of cattle. 58,313 huts were damaged totally while 6,29,987 huts were damaged partially. Crops were destroyed over an extent of 3,08,112 hectares

totally and damaged over an extent of 2,20,903 hectares partly. Further, horticulture crops were totally damaged over an extent of 15,437 hectares and partly damaged over an extent of 6,626 hectares. A very large number of roads have been severely damaged and irrigation tanks and canals breached. Under the personal supervision of the Chief Minister, the administration swung into action and provided rescue, relief and restoration measures to all those affected. Most of the immediate relief measures had been completed within 12 days of the havoc caused by the rains.

4. The total damage to crops and property during this flood is estimated to be over Rs 1,000 crores. This Government has already sanctioned an amount of Rs 195 crores for immediate calamity relief operations. In addition, road works have been ordered to be taken up at a cost of over Rs.150 crores. To help the tenant farmers of the flood affected areas, Government has decided to postpone payment of the current and arrear demand of lease rent as on 30.6.1997 by two years and to protect them from eviction from their lands for default in payment. Government has also taken a decision to convert short term co-operative loans into medium term loans and medium term loans into long term loans in these flood affected areas. The State Government has sought financial assistance from the Central Government to meet the calamity of such large magnitude. The Union Minister for Agriculture visited the State immediately after the flood and deputed a central team

of officers to tour the affected areas for an assessment of the damage and loss. It is expected that the Central Government would sanction substantial financial assistance. The yeoman service rendered by the general public in the flood relief measures cutting across party lines, and their liberal donation of Rs. 14.42 crores so far to the Flood Relief Fund, pursuant to the appeal by the Chief Minister are praise worthy.

5. In fulfilment of its commitment to rejuvenate grass root democracy in the State, this Government has successfully conducted the long delayed elections to all the levels of local bodies in the State simultaneously. It is a matter of great satisfaction that these elections were conducted smoothly and in a free and fair manner. On the assumption of charge by the elected representatives of these local bodies, Government took the initiative of organising a State Level Conference of the Chairmen of local bodies to ascertain their views on providing an efficient and responsive local self-government and the measures required therefor.

6. This Government is committed to devolving additional powers and responsibilities to the local bodies and commensurate resources for fulfilling these responsibilities. The State Planning Commission has been requested to study the legal, administrative and financial aspects of the transfer of further responsibilities to the local bodies and its recommendations have since been received. The Government will take early decisions

will be conducted as per the directions given by the Courts.

9. With a view to promoting administrative efficiency, enabling effective supervision over the field level functionaries and to make the administration accessible to the people, this Government has decided to create smaller district units. On this basis, four new districts have been formed, namely, Tiruvarur A.T. Pannirselvam District with headquarters at Tiruvarur, Vaigai Veeran Azhagamuthu District with headquarters at Theni, Rajaji District with headquarters at Namakkal and M.G.R. District with headquarters at Tiruvallur. These districts have become operational from First January 1997. Besides, it is befitting that the district with Kancheepuram as Headquarters has been named after Arignar Anna and the district with Dindigul as Headquarters has been named after Mannar Thirumalai.

10. People of this State had given a special mandate to this Government in unequivocal terms to provide transparent and corruption-free governance. Conscious of this historic responsibility, as already announced, this Government has appointed a high level committee headed by Justice Ramanujam to recommend necessary measures for simplification of Government procedures and for prevention of corruption in Government. On receipt of its recommendations Government will examine them and will initiate necessary administrative reforms. Government is also

on these recommendations and announce them during the Budget session of the Assembly.

7. The State Finance Commission set up in 1994 under the provisions of the Constitution has submitted its report recently covering various aspects relating to devolution of resources from the State Government to the local bodies, measures for improving their self-generated resources, measures for improving the quality of services provided to the citizens by the local bodies etc. The recommendations are being examined and the decisions of this Government on these recommendations will be taken soon and suitable financial provisions incorporated in the Budget to be presented next month. The requisite legislative measures for giving effect to the decisions regarding enhanced powers and responsibilities and resources to the local bodies will be enacted during the Budget Session. This Government proposes to bring a new common Act governing all the urban local bodies in the State replacing the existing Acts.

8. This Government has also kept up its word and conducted elections in respect of the Primary Cooperative Societies which had been postponed for the past five years. Elections in over 14,000 Primary Cooperative Societies have been completed. Elections to the milk co-operatives will be conducted before 31st March this year. In the case of remaining Primary Societies elections had been stayed by the Courts and

contemplating the introduction of legislative and administrative measures to impart transparency in tenders and purchase procedures. While looking into various measures for the elimination of corruption in the transactions of Government business, this Government has also assiduously investigated all allegations of corruption and has taken effective steps to prosecute the cases in Courts of Law.

11. Realising that peace and tranquility are the *sine qua non* for economic progress, this Government attaches the highest priority to maintenance of law and order in the State. Due to the sustained efforts of the Government, communal amity has been restored by and large. The police force is in the process of being transformed into a professional force, responsive to the concerns of the citizens. Orders have already been issued for setting up a State Human Rights Commission to enquire into citizens' complaints of human rights violations.

12. We have now taken up the preparation of the Ninth Five Year Plan. This Government has reconstituted the State Planning Commission with persons of eminence and vast experience as members. With the elected local bodies in position at all levels in the State, the preparation of the Ninth Five Year Plan will be on a decentralised basis taking into account the priorities and preferences of the people. Major thrust areas during the Ninth Five Year Plan will be, provision of basic minimum

services to all citizens, creation of employment opportunities, alleviation of poverty, rapid industrialisation of the State and the development of infrastructure.

13. Realising the importance of economic reforms for the accelerated development of the State and reduction of poverty, this Government will continue its initiatives in the area of tax reforms. In the last Budget, far reaching reforms were introduced in the commercial taxes structure. This will be continued. This year the Government proposes to introduce reforms in the areas of stamp duty and registration. The main objective of such a reform will be to simplify the rates and the structure of duties and to improve service to people.

14. Public Sector Undertakings constitute an important segment of the State's economy. In realisation of this, this Government will take measures to improve their performance through company specific studies and analyses and measures for managerial improvement and financial and organisational restructuring. A committee of eminent professionals has been appointed to recommend suitable measures in this regard.

15. Realising the need for large investments in infrastructure like roads, power, water supply and sanitation, ports, etc., it has been proposed to create an enabling environment in which private sector can participate along with the public sector in investing and

operating infrastructure. The State Maritime Board will take steps to secure private sector participation in the development of intermediate and minor ports in the State. In the power sector also, large generation capacities are proposed to be set up in the private sector with the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board purchasing and distributing the power produced by the independent power producers. Similar initiatives are being contemplated in other infrastructural areas. A new financial intermediary, Tamil Nadu Urban Infrastructure Financial Services Limited, has been set up in association with all India financial institutions to mobilise resources for investment in municipal infrastructure.

16. This Government realises that the key to the development of the poorer segments of society is the development and empowerment of women. It has been decided that a massive women's development programme would be launched in all the districts of the State, to help women form themselves into self-supporting, cohesive and dynamic groups to improve their income generating capacity and consequently the quality of their lives and their families.

17. Education is an area of priority for this Government. The challenge of achieving the goal of free and universal primary education for all by the end of this millennium has been taken up and a programme will be launched to enrol and retain all children of school going age in schools. The thrust will also be on improvement

of basic facilities in schools like buildings, teaching materials, etc., and in improving the quality of education imparted to the children. The World Bank supported District Primary Education Programme has been extended to three more districts during the year, extending the coverage to seven districts in all in the State. With a view to ensuring greater attention to the development of school education in the State the Education Department in the Secretariat has been bifurcated into the Department of School Education and the Department of Higher Education.

18. The floods of this year following the drought of last year have adversely affected the agricultural output, particularly of food grains, in the State. With a view to developing agriculture on a sustainable basis in the State, major investments are being made in improving irrigation systems. Under the Tamil Nadu Water Resources Consolidation Project, improvements to existing systems of medium and large irrigation are being taken up at a cost of Rs 807 crores. The standardisation and improvements to the large number of irrigation tanks in the State will be taken up in a phased manner with assistance from bilateral / multilateral agencies. A crash programme is also proposed to be taken up to clear supply channels to irrigation sources.

19. With a view to providing impetus to high technology agriculture based industries, this Government has decided to participate in the capital of a high-tech

agricultural finance company being set up by NABARD for encouraging commercial floriculture, horticulture and post harvest processing.

20. With a view to ensuring universal primary health care and improved medical facilities in rural areas, we have sanctioned equipment and other resources for the Primary Health Centres and Taluk level hospitals. As already announced, construction of buildings for 300 primary health centres at a cost of Rs 18 crores has already been taken up and construction of buildings for another 300 Primary Health Centres will be taken up during 1997-98. In order to make available quality medical care round the clock to the rural population, it has been ordered that all Block level Primary Health Centres will function 24 hours a day. A massive programme for immunisation against Polio has been successfully implemented in the State. This Government is committed to achieving the goal of 'Health for all' by 2000 AD.

21. Thanks to the sustained efforts of this Government, Krishna Water finally reached the water starved city of Chennai in September 1996. As a result of this historic achievement, daily water supply to Chennai city has been stepped up to an all time high of 440 million litres. With all reservoirs being full, Government is hopeful of maintaining the present level of supply in the coming summer months. Government has decided to delegate powers to Municipalities in the State to execute water supply schemes of value upto Rs 50 lakhs on their

own. During the next three years, all habitations in the State will be provided with adequate potable water supply.

22. This Government has vowed to restore the pride of place to Tamil Nadu in the industrial map of India. Within a very short period of taking office, this Government has established a reputation as a proactive, transparent, industry friendly State. Major investments by well known international companies like Hyundai for automobiles, and Pilkington and St. Gobain for float glass and automobile glass bear testimony to this. With a view to providing head start to new industries, this Government has already taken steps to acquire large tracts of lands for locating industrial complexes. Considering its large potential for ancillarisation and employment generation, this Government has decided to treat Automobile Industry as a thrust industry and a special package of incentives will be offered to this industry in the State. With these measures, a favourable environment has been created in which Chennai area will become the "Detroit" of India.

23. This Government has constituted a High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister for regular interaction with industrialists and for getting their suggestion for the rapid industrialisation of the State. The State Government will bring a legislation in the current session of the Assembly on single window clearance for industries in designated Industrial Areas where empowered Industrial Area Development Authorities will be constituted.

24. Recognising the importance of power for rapid industrial development of the State, Government has actively pursued a policy of private sector participation in power generation. Though there had been some attempts in this area in the past, the progress had not been satisfactory. This Government took sustained efforts and has successfully signed Power Purchase Agreements in four cases. TIDCO has received highly encouraging response for short gestation liquid fuel based projects in 20 locations. This Government will take quick decisions on the 73 valid bids received.

25. The Government has decided to take up a project for cleaning up the waterways in Chennai in order to reduce waterlogging in low lying areas in the city and to improve the environmental quality. In the first phase, the Government has decided to take up the abatement of pollution in the Coovum river and the Buckingham Canal and for the speedy implementation of the scheme, the Government has constituted a High Level Committee.

26. With a view to improving the green cover of the State, Government has successfully negotiated a loan of Rs.424 crores with Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), Japan to implement a massive State Forestry Project spread over 5 years. This Government has been able to curb the sandalwood smuggling effectively and realise an all time high revenue of Rs.47 crores in sandalwood auctions so far.

27. This Government has been taking continued initiatives for a lasting solution to the Cauvery River water dispute. At the instance of the Supreme Court of India, as an interim arrangement for the release of water from Karnataka for the current year crops, the Chief Ministers of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu held five rounds of discussions. Since the final round of talks on 5th January 1997 did not succeed, this Government has decided to pursue the matter in the Cauvery Tribunal. The proceedings of the Cauvery Tribunal had come to a standstill due to the resignation of the then Chairman from 1st July 1996. Due to the intervention by our Chief Minister with the Prime Minister, the Government of India has since appointed Justice Thiru N.P.Singh, sitting Judge of the Supreme Court as the Chairman of the Cauvery Tribunal. This Government will continue to pursue all available courses of action to secure the required quantum of water for the Cauvery Delta from Karnataka.

28. The offtake of rice in the Public Distribution System has gone up to 2.25 lakh tonnes per month. The Government of India has announced a new scheme of supply of rice from the Central Pool at subsidised rates only for families below the poverty line. Apprehending a considerable reduction in the monthly allotment of rice to our State from the Central Pool, our Chief Minister has pressed the Government of India to continue the monthly allotment of rice at the usual level. The Government has taken efforts to keep adequate stocks with it to manage the situation. Introduction of monopoly

procurement in the Cauvery Delta is one step in that direction. With a view to ensuring that the farmers in the delta area are not put to hardship because of this restriction, the Government has increased the production incentive to Rs.50 per quintal and reduced the grade cut from Rs.15 to Rs.5 per quintal.

29. In order to ensure that the benefits of the Public Distribution System reach the poor and downtrodden in an effective manner, the Government is considering a proposal to restructure the Public Distribution System. People below poverty line will be given red colour family cards and they will be supplied all articles under the Public Distribution System. The affluent sections of the society which generally do not make use of the Public Distribution System will be issued green cards and all articles under Public Distribution System except rice will be supplied to them. There is a third category of people who may want additional quantity of either sugar or kerosene in lieu of rice. With a view to fulfilling the requirement of this category, they will be issued yellow cards and will be given an additional quantity, based on their option, of either 3 kgs. of sugar or 5 litres of kerosene in lieu of rice. The distribution of new cards is likely to commence in April 1997 in the Municipal Corporations and will be completed before the next Independence Day all over the State.

30. With a view to preventing leakages in the Public Distribution System and to improve its

performance, a Committee has been constituted comprising legislators, officials and a representative of consumer organisations to study the implementation of Public Distribution System in certain other States and make suitable recommendations to improve our system. The Committee has given its report to the Chief Minister on 9th January 1997.

31. Consistent efforts have been taken to provide a major thrust to the welfare of the Adi-Dravidars and Tribals in the field of education, economic upliftment and provision of basic amenities. Substantial increases in the allocation for these sections have been made by this Government. In addition to achieving the various targets fixed for these programmes, this Government will take steps to improve the quality of these programmes and will also ensure that the benefits reach the deserving.

32. The Government is committed to the welfare of fishermen in the State. As announced during the last Governor's address, the massive housing scheme of constructing 4000 houses for the fishermen every year will be continued this year also. Effort will also be made to provide infrastructural facilities to these habitations. To assist the fishermen who get stranded in midseas during cyclones etc., it is proposed to provide Walkie Talkie sets to 1500 Mechanised Fishing vessels at 25% subsidy. This Government is seriously concerned about the repeated attacks by the Sri Lankan Navy on our innocent fishermen who venture into the sea for their livelihood. The recent incidents of violence have been taken up with the

Government of India. When the Katchatheevu agreement was reached in the year 1974, it contained a clause to protect the fishing rights near Katchatheevu of Tamil Nadu fishermen and the rights of pilgrimage to Katchatheevu from Tamil Nadu. But, it is not known why this clause was not enforced after the DMK government was removed in 1976. This Government will continue to press the Government of India to enforce this clause again to solve the problem. The Central Government has assured that it would endeavour to find an appropriate solution to the problems faced by our fishermen. This problem was discussed by the Chief Minister with the Union Minister for External Affairs on the 17th of this month at New Delhi in a meeting in which the officers of the Central and State Governments participated.

33. This Government is conscious of the important role played by the Government employees in implementing the programmes of the Government and in ensuring that the benefits reach the target groups. This Government reiterates its commitment that the new pay scales fixed for Central Government employees arising out of the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission will be extended to the State Government employees without any undue time lag.

34. I conclude this address with the confidence that the deliberations in this House will bring to bear on issues your experience and your interaction with the citizens resulting in enlightened decisions which will benefit the citizens of the State and will promote their rapid economic and social development.

VANAKKAM



ALLOCATION FOR BASIC MINIMUM SERVICES SHOULD BE ON THE INCIDENCES OF POVERTY

Hon'ble Chief Minister K. K. Kalyanasundaram at the National Development Council at New Delhi on 16.1.97

Let me at the outset extend my warm greetings to all assembled here to discuss the "Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan". The commitment to ensure basic minimum needs to the people as a central concern of the Ninth Five Year Plan is entirely welcome. I am in agreement with the objectives of the Ninth Plan and its identification of Agriculture and Rural Development, Basic Minimum Services, Social Sectors and infrastructure as the thrust areas.

I commend the accelerated growth scenario presented in the approach to the Ninth Plan which is based on an average annual growth rate of 7 per cent. Though this places a heavy burden on mobilisation of resources, a even higher growth rate should be aimed at to sustain our efforts for the eradication of poverty and for making a dent on unemployment and under employment. The country must be willing to make all necessary sacrifices to achieve the goal of removing poverty in as short a period as possible.

There should be no objection to the involvement of the States in the financial sectors in order to raise non-budgetary resources for financing infrastructure and other capital programmes. I had already raised the issue of States also participating in banking and insurance sectors. This is fully justified in the context of the discussion of private sector participation in these areas.

It is a matter of regret that the States share in the actual public sector plan expenditure in the Eighth Plan has not been at the level originally determined. With greater emphasis in the Ninth Five Year Plan on rural development and social sectors, in which the States have a dominant role to play, it is necessary that the States' share is significantly stepped up. This would call for the transfer of adequate resources by the Centre to the States. I may point out that it is the emphasis on growth with equity through human development the wide provision of social services and land reform that has been at the root of the suc-

cessful performance of the East Asian countries.

The accent on the creation and utilisation of irrigation potential is important as stressed in the approach paper. However I would voice a strong note of caution in the matter of the Government of India funding of projects on inter-state rivers, particularly when they are subject matters of dispute. No project should be funded or permitted to be taken up in an upper riparian State which would be to the detriment of on going irrigation in a lower riparian State without the consent of the concerned lower riparian States. Otherwise it will create tensions between States.

At inadequate income levels, State's interventions for providing basic minimum services becomes essential. I would therefore strongly urge that the allocation for providing basic minimum services should take note of the incidence of poverty rather than the per capital income or gaps in the levels of these services.

The approach paper rightly focuses on the pressing need to reduce unemployment. In order to generate large employment opportunities in the rural areas it is essential that programmes under IRDP and TRYSEM receive greater thrust. The strategic shift towards group oriented approaches and skill upgradation is welcome. In this connection I commend for support the programme initiated by Tamil Nadu to open industrial training institutes in every block of the States, to provide necessary training in skills suitable for current industrial requirements. This must also be backed up by mechanisms for absorbing skills generated in the rural sector.

I welcome the approach to involve the Panchayat Raj Institutions in the formulation of the plan. In the provision of basic minimum services, these institutions have a significant role to play. In Tamil Nadu steps have been taken within a short span of time to activate these institutions by conducting elections to all three tiers. Action has also been initiated to empower these institutions in sectors in which they have a crucial role to play.

Higher levels of growth contemplated in the Approach Paper cannot be achieved without increasing investment in infrastructure development. The Approach Paper has brought out the shortfall in the creation of installed capacity in the Power sector during the Eighth Plan period. Though the much desired private participation has been on the cards for sometime, it has not materialised to meet the targets.

In such a scenario, States cannot merely wait for the creation of the potential in the private sector and would themselves have to create adequate capacity. In this context I would urge the States be permitted to raise tax Free bonds just as has been done for the Central public sector undertakings. Ways to channelise low interest long term bonds are essential in order to keep the cost of these services within the affordable reach of the common man.

I have on many occasions and in many fora repeatedly drawn attention to the fact of declining central investment in Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu's share in the central investment in the country has steadily declined from 8% in the 70s to 5% at present. This decline has greatly hampered the progress of this State and it must be rectified in the Ninth Plan.

I welcome the initiative to introduce a chapter on federalism in the Approach paper for the first time in the history of planning. I am happy that the document reflects this approach and accords due recognition to the role of the States in nation building. The approach to give to the States greater flexibility and the responsibility of managing the implementation of centrally sponsored programmes is a desirable change. It should however be ensured that in transferring resources to the States for these programmes the methodology of working out their entitlements is determined in a transparent manner, in full consultation with the States.

While welcoming the approach to give greater responsibilities to the States in determining the size of the Plan, I would like to sound a note of caution that it should not result in an abdication of the role of the Union Planning Commission. The Union Planning Commission has an important role to play in securing adequate Central assistance required to meet the needbased plans of the States. This factor should not be lost sight of in any revised scheme.

In our efforts to set the Nation on a path of accelerated growth, the Centre and the States have complementary roles to play. Many of programmes of the States have to be supported by the Centre with investments in related sectors. Investment by the State to power sector requires the complimentary intervention of the Centre in development of coal fields, establishments of fuel linkages and development of ports. In this context we have been talking up the urgent need to develop Ennore and Tuticorin Ports. We have also stressed the need to improve the inter-state road connecting Tuticorin and Mangalore ports, through Chennai and Bangalore to benefit the industries located in the hinterland. I have also highlighted the need for implementing the Mass Rapid Transit System II for Chennai in order to take care of the increasing passenger needs in the outlying areas. I urge adequate funding for these programmes in the Ninth Five Year Plan.

I would like to raise the issue of the allocation of Central assis-

tance to major States for which no satisfactory solution has been found. In spite of the importance accorded to per capita income of the States below the National average the persistence of low levels of income in these States as brought out in the document itself, raises the question of the adequacy of the formula. The disadvantage placed on better performing States is yet another irritant in this approach while the document lays stress on growth with equity and reduction of unemployment, the allocation of assistance ignores two indicators viz. people below poverty line and unemployment rate which are critical factors to assess the success of the Plan. A reappraisal of this formula giving due weightage to these factors before the finalisation of the Plan is the most pressing need of the States.

Yet another issue on Central assistance is the proportion of grant and loan components. In the earlier Plan, the capital content used to be higher warranting the fixation of the loan component at 70 percent. However, over the years, the revenue component in the Plans has increased. With the opening up of the infrastructure sectors to private sector for investment the revenue component will increase further. There is justification for increasing the grant component of Central assistance to 50 percent, which I commend for adoption in the Ninth Plan.

Although it is a matter concerned with nonplan expenditure, I would like to draw the

Tamil Nadu is one of the few States which have kept their commitment to raise their own resources to the level assessed at the beginning of the Eighth Five Year Plan.

specific attention of the NDC to the relief measures that have to be undertaken in the case of damages caused by flood and cyclone. While many of the activities in the plan can ameliorate the sufferings of the people during droughts and generally with the onset of the monsoon the gravity of the problem abates, in respect of flood relief large investments required to set right the damages has to be borne immediately. This places a severe strain on the resources for the Plan. A suitable financing pattern for this has to be evolved to enlarge the Calamities Relief Fund which provides only for minimum relief.

Tamil Nadu is one of the few States which have kept their commitment to raise their own resources to the level assessed at the beginning of the Eighth Five Year Plan. Per capital tax raised by this State as a proportion of its per capital income is one of the highest in the country. While the States has been exploiting every possible source for revenue, it is a matter for regret that in items like levy of consignment tax and implementation of the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission in

expanding the divisible pool and enhancing the share of the States, there has been poor response from the Centre. On the issue of consignment taxes, there has been a series of discussions held with the States by the Centre ideas, the levy of this tax which intended to plug. The present juncture is the most appropriate time to take a decision in this matter so that additional resources envisaged for the accelerated growth scenario are realised.

The recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission to bring within the divisible pool all Central taxes and to enhance the State's share would go on long way to augment the resources of the States in order to fulfil the States' share of the public sector plan. A early decision on this issue has to be taken before the formulation of the Ninth Plan.

We are deliberating on the Ninth Five Year Plan which will take us to the twenty first century. It is the ambition of everyone of us that India should emerge as a major economic power in the next few decades. Let our deliberations have the way for launching the nation on the track for achieving this objective.

SCIENCE UP-DATE

TALLER PEOPLE ARE SAFE

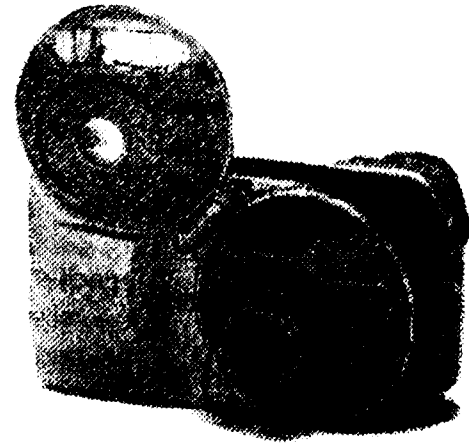
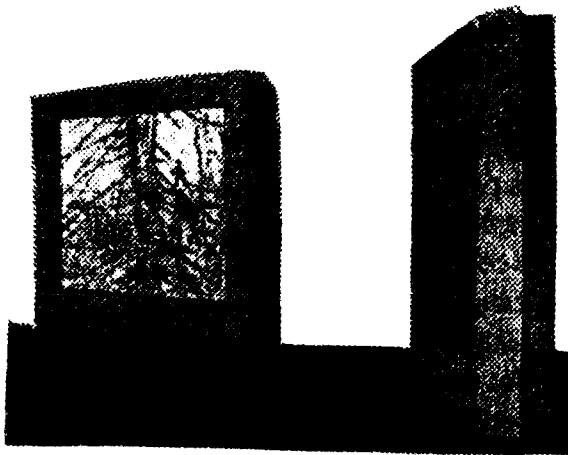
Stature may protect against STROKE. Research in Norway shows that for every 5-cm increment in height, there may be a 25% lower incidence of stroke in women and an 18% lower risk in men. The reason, researchers suggest, is that taller people tend to have slower heart rates and larger arteries.

DEPRESSION IS DANGEROUS

More depressing news about Depression: those who have had one or more episodes appear to have three times the normal risk of heart attack. That means the illness could rival hypertension or high cholesterol as a threat to the heart.

SLIM COMPUTER MONITORS

Once merely the stuff of a decorator's dreams, thin computer monitors to hang on the wall or adorn the desk are fast becoming a (costly) reality. Hitachi's high-resolution plasma-thin ovation is a skinny 7.6 cm deep, but it provides a 63.5 cm picture and can be hung as simply as a painting.



SWING OPEN CAMERA LENS

Yes, this tiny aluminum point-and-shoot boasts a fool-proof loading mechanism and powerful zoom lens, but what makes it truly revolutionary? Efficient design that features a swing-open lens cover. Which turns the camera on and reveals a multi function flash unit and a red-eye-reduction lamp. This canny placement of the flash inside the cover increases the effectiveness of the lamp feature by positioning the flash up and away from the lens.

AIDS ON THE DEFENCE?

A new class of drugs known as protease inhibitors-taken with a number of other drugs in a "cocktail" may be turning HIV infection into a manageable condition. In tens of thousands of AIDS patients the amount of virus in the blood has dropped below doctors ability to measure it. The drugs are not perfect: they can cost \$20,000 a year in the U.S. and the virus may yet find a way around them. But they offer the first real hope since the epidemic began.



Periyar, Thiru-vi-ka and Pavendar Awards presented

Chief Minister announces "Periyar Chair" at Bharathidasan Varsity

A Chair in the name of Thanthai Periyar would be constituted immediately at Bharathidasan University in Tiruchy, to undertake research on the works and philosophy of the great leader, announced the Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalam Dr. M. Karunanidhi at Chennai on 25.12.96.

The Chief Minister was responding to the plea of the recipient of the 'Social Justice Award' instituted on the name of Thanthai Periyar, Thiru Thiruvarur Thangarasu. The Chief Minister was addressing the function to present the Periyar Social Justice Award, the Thiru Vi Ka award and the Pavender Award, organised by the Tamil Nadu Government. Prof. M. Nannan and Thiru Vairamuthu were the recipients of the Thiru Vi Ka and Pavender Award respectively.

Paying encomiums to the awardees, the Chief Minister described Thiruvarur Thangarasu as a true follower of Periyar. Thiru Thangarasu was propagating the ideals of Periyar despite odds and deserves an encouragement, he added. He assured that the Government would consider extending assistance to the orphanage run by him at Tiruchy. The Chief Minister described Prof Nannan as a great teacher and a social reformer. He appreciated the quality of Thiru Vairamuthu's revolutionary poems and lyrics.

Hon'ble Education Minister, Prof. K. Anbazhagan, Hon'ble Minister for Tamil Culture and Tamil Official Language Thiru M. Tamizhkudimagan and Hon'ble Minister for Backward Classes, Thiru R.K. Panneerselvam, offered their felicitations on the occasion.

Earlier, Thiru. Thiruvarur Thangarasu announced that he was donating the cash award, Rs.20,000 to the orphanage he was running at Tiruchy and requested the Chief Minister, to present it at the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the orphanage to be held shortly. He requested the Chief Minister to nationalise the works of Periyar. Prof. Nannan and Thiru Vairamuthu thanked the Government for the award and said that they considered it as a great honour bestowed on them.

Thiru V. Pazhanichamy, Secretary, Department of Tamil Development and Culture welcomed the gathering. Thiru A. Panneerselvam Director (incharge) of Tamil Development Department later proposed a vote of thanks.

The award presented to Thiru Thiruvarur Thangarasu carried a gold medallion, a silver plaque, a cheque of Rs.20,000, a shawl and a citation. The awards presented to Prof. Nannan and Thiru Vairamuthu each carried a shawl citation and a cheque of Rs.20,000 each.



■ **Hon'ble Prime Minister Thiru H.D. Deve Gowda inaugurated the Salem-Bangalore broad gauge line at a function in Salem on 11.1.97. Flagging off the train along with the Prime Minister were the Chief Minister Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi, the Minister for Railways Thiru Ram Vilas Paswan and the TMC Leader Thiru G.K. Moopnar.**



■ **The Mayor of Chennai Thiru M.K. Stalin flagged off deluxe buses of the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation at the Island Grounds on 7.1.97.**



■ **Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi inaugurated the 23rd Tourism and Industrial Trade Fair at the Island grounds on 7.1.97.**

M/s Saint Gobain, a \$14 billion transnational company of France signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Tamil Nadu at Secretariat in the presence of the Chief Minister for setting up a float glass project, on an investment of Rs.450 crores at Irungattukottai Industrial Complex. Thiru Jacques Aschenbroich, President, Float Glass Division, signed the agreement with the Tamil Nadu Government.



■ **Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi inaugurated new bus routes in Salem on 11.1.97.**





Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi and His Excellency the Governor Thiru Krishan Kant received His Excellency the President Thiru Shankar Dayal Sharma at the Chennai Airport on 20.1.97.



The Malaysian Minister for Public Works Thiru Datho Samivelu held discussion with the Hon'ble Chief Minister on the possibility of constructing elevated roads in Chennai. (30.12.96.)

A committee headed by the Industries and Commerce Minister of Singapore, Thiru Goh Chee Wee held discussions with the Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi on starting new Industrial ventures in Tamil Nadu, at the Chief Minister's residence on 24.1.97.



THIRUVALLUVAR DAY CELEBRATIONS

TAMILNADU GOVERNMENT COMMITTED TO PRESERVE THIRUVALLUVAR'S LEGACY

**-Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi
on 14.1.97 at Chennai**

Thiruvalluvar Day was celebrated under the presidentship of the Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi on 14.1.1997 in Chennai.

The Thiruvalluvar award for the year 1997 was conferred on Dr. K. Mohanaraju, Professor, Madras University on the occasion. The Chief Minister presented a citation, a shawl and a cheque for Rs. 20,000 to the recipient of the award, who is the 12th recipient of the award ever since its institution in 1986.

The Chief Minister while addressing said that

the State Government will render all assistance to impart Tamil education in Mauritius. Tamils in Mauritius could speak the language but were unable to read or write Tamil. Many Ministers and delegations had visited the nation of islands from time to time, during the earlier regimes. The Tamil speaking population there had requested them for help as the islands did not have Tamil schools and there were no one to teach the language. Years later, only the assurances remain, the Chief Minister added.

But now, action is being initiated to fulfill their desires. The Government would interact with its

order limiting the reservation to a maximum of 50 percent.

Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi in his speech said Tamil Nadu was like a mother land for the advocates of the backward classes. Starting with Periyar, it had the history of protecting the downtrodden and raising their standards. As early as 1973, he had demanded reservations in employment and education for backward classes, he said.

He requested the Prime Minister to extend the 27 percent quota to education also. Though Thiru Mandal had submitted his report long time back, it was buried for 10 years before Thiru V.P.Singh became the Prime Minister. Thiru V.P.Singh had to sacrifice power for implementing the Mandal recommendations, he added.

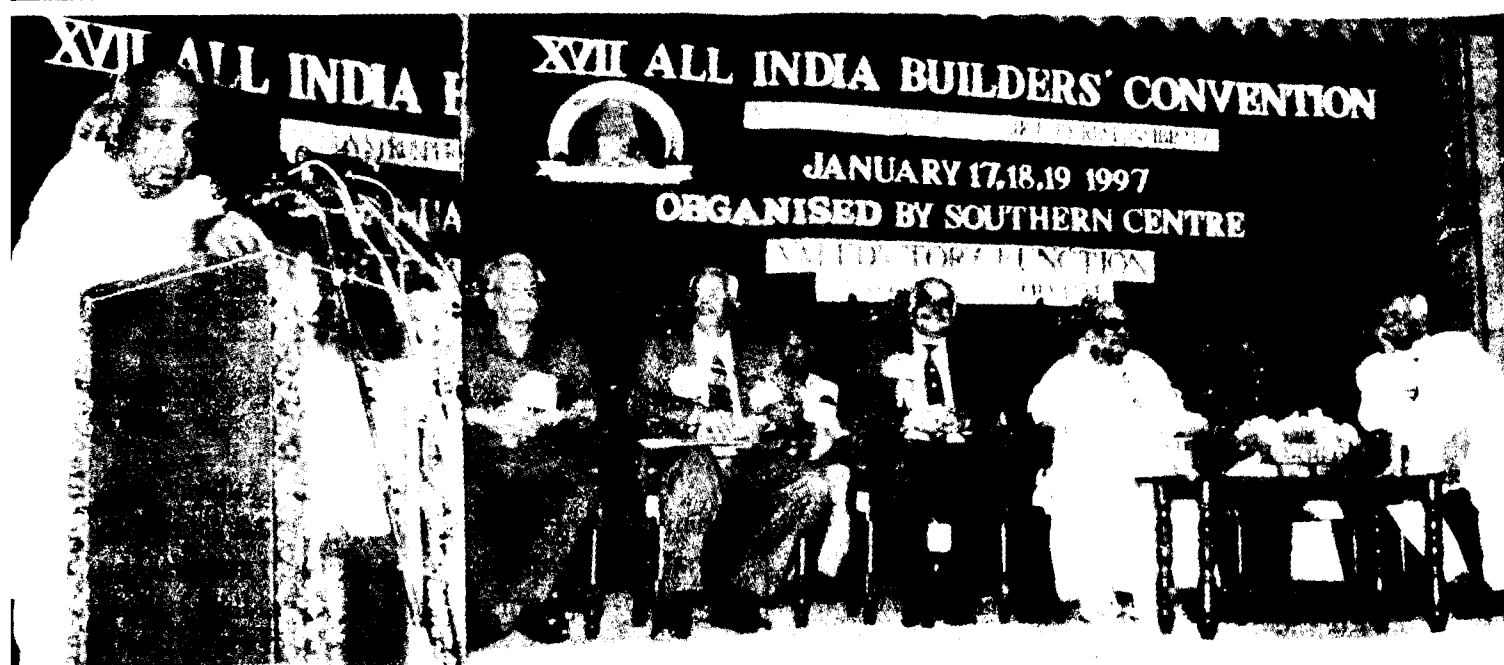
Thiru V.Narayanasamy, Member of Parliament and President of the Federation requested

the Government to appoint liaison officers in all departments to ensure that the benefits of reservation reached the employees and to constitute a parliamentary sub-committee to monitor the implementation of the reservation policy. He said the 27 percent reservation should be applicable for promotion also.

Thiru B.S.Ramoowalia, Union Minister for Welfare, said the United Front Government was committed to the uplift of the backward classes.

Thiru N.V.N.Somu, Minister of State for Defence said Tamil Nadu had a long history of protecting the downtrodden and the Chief Minister Kalaingar M.Karunanidhi was a trend-setter in implementing reservations.

Thiru P.Vaiyapuri, Secretary, Reception Committee, Thiru G. Karunanidhi, General Secretary and Thiru J.Parthasarthy Secretary, also spoke.



The valedictory session of the three day National Convention of the Builders' Association of India (BAI) was held at Chennai on 19.1.97. Hon'ble Prime Minister Thiru H.D. Deve Gowda was the chief guest. Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M.Karunanidhi participated.

A TAMIL ARASU WELFARE GUIDE

Schemes of the Most Backward and Denotified Welfare Department

Name of the scheme and concessions

State Government's aid for text books

Approved free text books will be distributed through Tamil Nadu Text Book Society. Special fees and examination fees will be granted. Only students belonging to most backward classes studying in 9th and 10th standards can avail these concessions. Students belonging to Denotified community can avail from 6th to 10th standards. The aid amount need not be mentioned in the application form.

Grant for School Higher Studies

For boys and girls, tuition fees, special fees, cost of text books will be granted at the rate fixed by this Department.

Examination fees will be granted at the rate fixed by the University Examination officers. To the hostel students boarding and lodging fees will be granted in cash.

Should apply through educational institutions in prescribed forms.

Tuition fee exemption - concessions to students studying in English medium schools (Tuition fee fixed by the Government). Need not apply through proper form. Provision of Community Certificate is accepted.

Other Concessions

The following concessions are

Qualification/Conditions

1. Should belong to Tamil Nadu
2. Should belong to one of the communities enlisted in the most backward community list published by the Tamil Nadu Government.
3. A Hindu Most backward, denotified community converted to Christianity can avail this educational concession.
4. Should study in a Government recognised school in Tamil Nadu.
5. Annual income of the parent/guardian should not exceed Rs.25,000.
6. Most Backward Community boys/girls should have passed scoring 40% marks in the previous standard. Denotified community students should have passed the previous standard.

The above mentioned conditions are applicable to this scheme. Should get the printed form from the educational institutions, fill it up and submit the form before due date along with necessary certificates. The assistance amount is granted to these students studying in Higher Secondary Schools, Colleges, Universities, Technical Colleges in Tamil Nadu and students of Tamil Nadu studying in JIPMER Hospital, Pondicherry, belonging to Most Backward and Denotified Communities.

All the students in Government and Government aided schools (Not applicable to private schools) Studying in 6th to 12th, studying in English medium belonging to Most Backward/Denotified Community will be granted these concessions irrespective of their parent's annual income.

Students studying in all Government and Government recognised Colleges

Whom to approach

Concerned School Headmaster/Headmistress/District Backward and Minority Welfare Officers/Special Deputy Collector (Kallar Reclamation) Madurai.

Special Deputy Collector (Kallar Reclamation) Madurai.

Head Master/Headmistress - District Backward and Minority Welfare Office/Special Deputy Collector - Kallar Reclamation, Madurai.

College Principals/District Backward and Mi-

Short Story

THE FLOOD

Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai

given to those Most Backward and Minority Community Students studying B.A., B.Sc., B.Com., three year courses, irrespective of their parents annual income.

1) Tution fees, Special fees, Examination fees as fixed by the Government (No income limit).

2. Cost of the text books as fixed by this Department (Annual income below Rs.25,000).

3. Fees at a fixed rate for boarding and lodging to hostel student (annual income below Rs.25,000).

in Tamil Nadu belonging to Most Backward, Denotified Communities can avail these concessions. These concessions are granted on the basis of the entries regarding community, made in the students enrolment register and the approved list sent by the Heads of their Institutions.

Need not apply in a separate application form. But should apply in a prescribed form for text books, boarding and lodging and their parents annual income should not exceed Rs.25,000.

minority Welfare Officer and Special Deputy Collector (Kallar Reclamation) Madurai.

to be continued....

The highest spot in the countryside was occupied by the temple. But even there the deity now stood in water up to its neck. Water! Water everywhere! The people of the countryside had all gone to look for dry places. If a house owned a boat, one person stayed back to guard the possessions. In the three-roomed upper storey of the temple there were sixty-seven children, and three hundred and fifty-six older people, dogs, cats, goats, and fowls together in peaceful co-existence.

Chennan had been standing in water for one whole night and day. He had no boat and his master had fled for his life three days before. When the water first began to peep into the house, he had already built a loft with sticks and woven coconut leaves. He spent two days on it hoping that the flood would quickly subside. Also, there were four or five clusters of bananas and a hayrick which some smart chap might carry off if he left the house. And so he remained.

Now there was knee-deep water above the floor-board of the loft. Two rows of the coconut leaf thatch on the roof were already under water. From inside Chennan called out, but who was there to hear him? A pregnant poor woman, four small children, a cat, and a dog-these were his

dependents. He was sure that within twelve hours the water would flow over the roof, and that would be the end of them all. For three days there had been no end to the rain. He broke open one row of the thatched roof and looked in all directions. There was a large boat paddling northward. He called in the loudest voice he could summon to make the boatman hear. Luckily they

portunity the cat leapt in. Nobody remembered the dog. He was at that moment stifling around on the west side of the house, examining things on his own. The boat moved forward and its distance from the hut widened.

The dog returned to the spot where he expected the family to be- and saw the boat already far away. It seemed to be flying away. He began to howl in alarm. He produced a succession of sounds like a helpless human being in distress- but who was there to hear him? He ran on all four sides of the roof and smelt in places and howled on. A frog perched on the hut heard the cry and, frightened, jumped with a plop into the water. The dog stood staring in fear at the spot in the water ruffled by the frog's jump.

He wanted food and went searching for it all round the hut. A frog urinated into his nostrils and slipped of into water. The restless dog sneezed and coughed. With one of his front paws he cleaned his face. The rain started pouring again, and the dog crouched under its fury. Meanwhile, his master had landed safely at Ambalapuzha. It was night. A huge crocodile floated by slowly, almost brushing the hut. The dog howled in fear, tail down, but the crocodile passed along, not noticing.

After a time the hut collapsed. There was nothing to be seen now in that endless expanse of water. Till his death the Dog had guarded his master's possessions. The crocodiles had him now and the hut also was finished.

understood the situation and turned the boat towards the hut. One by one Chennan pulled his woman, his children, the cat and the dog out through the opening. By that time the boat had drawn close. The children were climbing into it when Chennan heard a cry. "Hai Chennacha..."- someone called from the west, and Chennan turned towards the voice. That was Kunjeppan from Madiathara crying out from his housetop. Chennan hustled his wife into the boat. Taking the op-



Selvi. Fathima Beevi was sworn in as the new Governor of TamilNadu at Rajbhavan on 25.1.97. Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaighar M.Karunanidhi honoured the Governor with a shawl.

The wretched animal sat on top of the hut and looked up at the dark sky and howled, and his sad cry must have been heard far and wide.

The kindly god of sound, Vayu, bore the cry to other shores. Some people heard it and perhaps murmured to themselves, "ayyo, a dog is left desolate on the housetop-what a shame!" Perhaps his master was having a meal on the shore to which he had gone-the dog always used to get a rice ball after his master had eaten. Perhaps now the master remembered the animal as he ate. The dog's howl, loud and long, began to grow feeble. He heard a voice chanting verses from the Ramayana, pricked up his ears and fell into silence for a time. Then as if his heart would break, he started howling again.

In the utter silence of that dark night the chanting of the Ramayana filled the air. The dog again pricked up his ears and listened intently as he stood motionless. The sweet tones of the chanting mingled with the cold unabating wind; and the only other sounds that could be heard were the sound of the wind. He found that his tender nose had become red and swollen.

In the afternoon two men passed along in a small boat. The dog barked and wagged his tail hopefully. He tried to make them understand his plight in as human a way as possible. He stood in the water, poised to jump into the boat. "Hey, there stands a dog" _shouted one man. As if he understood the compassion in that voice, the

dog wagged his tail in gratitude. "Let him Be", said the other men. The dog prayed with his eyes and tried twice to jump in to the boat; but the boat moved further and further away. As the dog started howling again, one boatman turned his head, looked back. "Ayyo" -no, that was not

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The kindly god of sound, Vayu, bore the cry to other shores. Some people heard it and perhaps murmured to themselves, "ayyo, a dog is left desolate on the house-top-what a shame!" Perhaps his master was having a meal on the shore to which he had gone-the dog always used to get a rice ball after his master had eaten. Perhaps now the master remembered the animal as he ate. The dog's howl, loud and long, began to grow feeble. He heard a voice chanting verses from the Ramayana, pricked up his ears and fell into silence for a time. Then as if his heart would break, he started howling again.

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the boatman calling it was the human groan of the dog. That anguished, exhausted cry mingled with the shrieking of the wind and was heard once again above the ripple of the waves on the water.

The dog stood gazing at the boat till it was out of sight. As if hating the world and saying goodbye to it, he mounted the top of the hut. Perhaps he was saying to himself that he would

never love man again. He lapped up some coldwater. He looked at the birds flying overhead, and at a watersnake gambolling in the waves. Through the opening from which Chennan had pulled out his family the watersnake got in. The dog watched. Goaded by the fear of death and gnawing hunger he barked loudly. Any-one could have understood him now, for the language he uttered was universal.

Storm and rain started again. The roof was becoming unsteady because of the continuous lapping of the waves on its foundations. A long head looked out of the water; it was a crocodile. Fowls were crying in Unison from somewhere nearby. The dog heard Human voices again. "From where is the dog crying? Haven't the owners abandoned the hut?" There, near the banana tree, the dog saw moored a boat filled with bunches of bananas, straw, coconuts. He turned towards the boatmen and barked angrily, edging close to the water. One of the men in the boat reached up to the banana tree. The other warned: "Be careful; it looks as though that dog will jump." He did jump, so that the man let go his hold and fell into the water. The other man helped him back into the boat. Meanwhile the dog swam out of the water and perched again on top of the hut. The robbers cut every single cluster of banana. Hearing the dog's furious bark they said, "wait and we'll show YOU" They piled more straw into their boat. Finally, one man climbed on to the top of the hut. The dog fastened his teeth on the man's leg,

bit off a mouthful of flesh. Crying in agony the man jumped back into the boat, while the other man gave one resounding blow on the dog's head with his oar. The dog cried in a faint voice- myawoo, myawoo. Soon, even that sound could not be heard. The man who was bitten lay in the boat and cried aloud, and the other, bidding him be quiet lest they attract notice, steered the boat away. For a long time the dog kept on barking at the receding boat. It was midnight by then. A large dead cow came floating by and was caught near the hut. The dog came near it and looked at it, but did not dare climb down. Slowly the carcass grew disentangled, moving downstream. The dog sprang on it then. Tail wagging, he dug his teeth into the carcass and gorged himself on the plentiful flesh.

Abruptly the dog disappeared as the carcasses went under for while. After that one could only



hear the howl of the storm, the croaking of frogs, and the sound of the waves on the river. The dog was silent; his heart-rending cries and moans were no longer heard. Rotten carcasses floated down the river crows pecking at them undisturbed. There was desolation everywhere, and nothing to prevent thieves from plying their trade.

After a time the hut collapsed. There was nothing to be seen now in that endless expanse of water. Till his death the Dog had guarded his master's possessions. The crocodiles had him

now and the hut also was finished.

The water began to recede. Chennan came swimming towards his hut to find out what had happened to his dog. Underneath a coconut palm he saw the dead body of a dog gently swayed by the ripples. With his fingers Chennan turned the carcass over and looked at it. He doubted whether it was his dog. One ear had been bitten off; the skin had rotted and that made it difficult to tell the colour.

Translated from Malayalam by: SAMUEL MATHAI.

Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalam M. Karunanidhi delivered the Silver Jubilee address at the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in Coimbatore on 12.1.97. He laid foundations to buildings and flagged off 40 new buses of Cheran, Jeeva and Mahakavi Bharathiar Transport Corporations.



(Continued from Previous Issue:)

THE HIDDEN HISTORY OF KUMARI CONTINENT

Cilappathikaaram

From Cilappathikaaram one of the twin epics in Tamil literature, we learn that the river Pahruli and the city Kumarikkodu along with a huge range of mountains disappeared in a great deluge. The Sangham works Kalittokai and Kurunthokai also mention the lost continent of Kumari. The river Pahruli in Kumari Continent is also mentioned in Purananuru. The land South of Sri Lanka according to Mahavamsa covered a distance of 700 Kathams or 4900 miles southwards. The great deluge is also mentioned in the Holy Bible.

Tholkaappiyam

Adiyarkkunallar, the commentator of Cilappathikaaram gave a fine description of Kumari Nadu and added that the land was made up of 7 big divisions named Thanganaadu, Krumpanai naadu, Madurai naadu, Munpaalai naadu, Pinpaalai naadu, Kuntra naadu and Kuna-gaara naadu and they were divided into seven small divisions each. Thus the whole landmass was divided into 49 divisions. According to Iyayanar Kalaviyal Urai, the first Tamil Sangham was held at then Madurai (South Madurai), the capital of Pandyas and after the fall of then Madurai, the capital was shifted to Kapaadapuram where the second Tamil Sangham was

Dr. S. Padmanabhan
General Secretary
Kanniyakumari Historical and
Cultural Research Centre
Nagercoil.

held. As a result of the deluge the literary and poetical works of the first Sangham have not survived except a few fragments of Agathiyam and Aindiram. A number of works seem to have been produced during the period of the second Sangham, but only Tholkaappiyam has survived. When Kapaadapuram was also deluged by the sea the capital was shifted to the present Madurai which became the capital of Pandyas and also the seat of the third Tamil Sangham. The literary works of the third Sangham are the main source of the ancient history of the Tamils. Reference in Tholkaappiyam show that there existed a certain amount of literature in Tamil before its composition. The author of Tholkaappiyam has cautiously acknowledged to his previous authorities in 260 places by mentioning "they say" and "the learned say" etc. It reveals the glorious literary antiquity of the Tamils.

Poompuhar

The facts culled from these old literary works cannot be brushed aside as mere imagina-

tion and exaggeration. The archaeological findings found at Alagankulam near Ramana-nathapuram and the oceanic explorations held in Poompuhar confirm the detailed description of the places mentioned in ancient literature. The Director of Archaeology in Tamil Nadu Government, Natana Kasinathan who participated in the Oceanic explorations conducted in Poompuhar port remarked "The artefacts strangely confirm that the city Poompuhar was swallowed by the sea and a number of structures of the lost city are still under Sea". So much so, if any excavation in the land and exploration in the sea are undertaken around Kanniyakumari the truth about the lost Lemuria or Kumari continent will come to light.

LEMURIA (KUMARI CONTINENT)

Many Research scholars have spoken about the existence of a great landmass extending beyond the present Kanniyakumari in the Indian Ocean. An examination of these views confirms the Lemurian theory. Sir Walter Raleigh in the "History of the world" says "India was the planted and peopled country after the flood". The December, 1990 issue of the "Science of Man" says "the locality of the origin of the earliest race from

the most recent researches appears to have been on the land now submerged beneath the Indian Ocean". Sir John Evans in his presidential address to the British Association in 1897 mentions southern India, as the cradle of the human race. The same view is held by Maclean the author of "Manual of the Madras Presidency". Scott Elliot in his treatise held the view that the original abode of man was in the Indian Ocean. Dr. A. Chandrasekhar, Professor of Linguistics, Delhi University while delivering the presidential address at the 9th All India Conference of Dravidian Linguistics, pointed out, "The Dravidian civilization is not only the oldest in India but the oldest in the world and Dravidians had spread not only to the whole of India but also the world over". These statements confirm the glorious history of Kumari continent in the Indian Ocean situated on either side of the equator.

The very sculpture of the legendary animal Yali found on the pillars of several temples in Tamil Nadu leads us to think that the extinct animal would have lived in the lost continent of Kumari. Here it is interesting to note that the national Bird of Mauritius namely Dodo can be seen only in the Museum at Port Louis. The reconstruction of the legendary bird was made from the bone fragments found in the sea around Mauritius. Similarly it is possible to get the fossil of Yali in the Indian ocean.

Prof. Haechel had pointed out that the Indian Ocean formed a continent which extended from

the Sunda Islands along the Asian coast to the eastern coast of the African continent and affirmed that it was the cradle of the human race and the first nursery of man. Sir John Evans, the British Scholar felt that southern India was probably the cradle of the human race. The significant fact is that geologically the oldest part of India and in the world is South India according to the well known archaeologist Dr. H. D. Sankalia. Astronomical calculations have also supported their contentions. But some of their conclusions require to be further tested by oceanic explorations. Even though experts in USA and USSR have accepted these views and have begun further enquires, more research requires to be undertaken for rewriting the history of man and the hidden history of Kumari continent.

RAMAYANA AND KUMARI CONTINENT

Dr. M. M. Rao, a research scholar in the History Department of Osmania University in his research paper on "Ramayana and Kumari Continent" found out several astonishing facts confirming the theory of the lost continent of Kumari. According to him Asuras lived in the vast land which includes Africa, Australia, Antarctica and a portion of the present America. It is interesting to note that the language of the aborigines of Africa, Australia, Peru and Mexico resemble that of the Tamils. According to ancient Indian literature the figure of Asuras was gigantic. Dr. Rao showed the persons with an abnormal height of 18 feet in

Suku clan of African continent who resembles that of Asuras in appearance described in ancient literature. According to Rao, Kumbhakama lived in Antarctica. The very fact that the people had 6 months night and 6 months day in Antarctica is a clear indication of the fact that Kumbhakama followed the same pattern as sleep for 6 months and kept awake for the other 6 months.

AFRICA

Several research scholars are of the opinion that there are many similarities between Dravidians, Africans and Australians in terms of language, food habits, family relationship, social rites and aesthetic appreciation. The flora and fauna of these three countries also have similarities. It is surprising to note that certain Tamil words are in vogue in African language and they are used without affecting the basic meanings. To cite an example the Tamil word Paatti meaning grandmother is constantly used in African languages. Dr. Cyril A. Kromnik, an American scholar who conducted field research in East Africa, whom I met in Mauritius in the year 1989 emphatically stated that Africa was a part of the last Lemuria and pointed out that the people of the eastern coast of Africa use the Tamil Term Teppam and Mithappu to denote their country boats.

Dr. Thayammal Aravanan in her book "Dravidians and Africans - A Comparative Study" pointed out that 'aval' a popular Dravidian food made out of paddy is also a favorite diet of the Africans. She showed that Man-

think, a section of the people in Senegal prepare aval exactly as is done by the Tamils. Africans like the Dravidians make use of 'ural' stone (mortar) and 'ulakkai' (wooden pestle) for pounding purposes. Like the Tamils the Africans drink palmyra toddy and neera and eat the kernal of the tender palmyra fruit. With regard to the family relationship and rights similarity can be found between Dravidians and Africans. Maternal uncle occupies the pride of place in the family. In the use of ornaments, jewels and tattooing, the Africans resemble Dravidians. Like the Tamils women desert the use of ornaments after the demise of her husband. Just as the Tamils have the mountain God Muruga the Africans also worship Murungu as their mountain God. In the Eastern Africa 25 tribes used to worship Murungu. The female deity in Africa is called as Morima, a derivative form of Mariamma. The folk games of the Tamils, Kalarchi (a game with molucca beans), Ammaanai (a game played by girls throwing up and catching three or more balls), Pallaankuzhi (a game in thick plank with 14 hollows), Paaandiaatam (a game played by girls on the square spaces drawn on the floor like chess board) and the games of merri-ment Kummiaattam (dance with clapping hands) and Kollattam (dance with small sticks) are in vogue even in Africa. According to Dr.K.P.Aravanan the Sahara desert and its adjacent parts might be the Paalainadu or desert land in the last continent of Kumari.

Congo, the central part of Af-

rica is peopled by Pandus, a very important section of the African population. Tradition has it that they might have been migrated from Asia and settled there several hundred years ago. Their language culture and civilization are said to be more than 2000 years old. This might have happened in either way. That is, these people might have migrated from Old Pandyanadu in the continent of Kumari fearing the frequent deluges or the territory of ancient Pandyanad would have extended upto Africa before deluge. Alexander Kondrotove, a Russian research scholar relying on oceanographic evidences observed that in the early ages, a land bridge connected South India with Africa. This was substantiated by the resemblance of flora and fauna between the two regions. Bearing in mind the cruelty of the deluge the Africans consider the sea as a cruel deity and used to offer human sacrifice.

AUSTRALIA

Some racial anthropologists held the view that the South Indian tribes have affinities with those of Australia. Sir William Turner, an authority in this field, studied the Dravidians and the Australians from the stand point of Craniology. According to him, the aborigines of Australia are closely associated with the Dravidians. Some other scholars consider them as a branch of Dravidian stock. William Turner writes: "Many ethnologists of great eminence have regarded the aborigines of Australia as clearly associated with the Dravians of India. The affinities be-

tween the Dravidians and Australians have been based upon the employment of certain words by both people apparently derived from common roots; of the use of Boomerang similar to the well-known Australian weapon by some Dravidian tribes (boomerang is a curved missile so balanced that it returns towards the thrower). Some Dravidian tribes use this weapon even now. Both Dravidians and Australians have dark skins approximating to black dark eyes; black hair either straight, wavy or curly, nostrills, usually short of stature". The rites and rituals of Australian aborigines and the Dravidian tribes have resemblances.

The great Research Scholar, Wisher S.Carve in his study of the continent of Lemuria gives certain facts which are very interesting. The people who lived in the Lemuria continent or Kumari nadu had an eye on their forehead which resembles that of Siva, otherwise known as Mukkannaar, the three eyed God. The research work "gems from pre-historic past" edited by Dr.N.Mahalingam asserts that the ancient Lemurians worshipped Siva.

The learned scholar K.Ap- padurai in his book "Kumarikandam" connected the ancient Tamil grammer with the organ of the third eye. In Tamil the nearness or proximity is to be noted by the letter "E" (ஏ) and distance was noted by the letter "A" (அ). The long distance or unknown factor was to be shown by the letter "u" (உ). According to him the third ye of the Lemurians could

see factors and scenes which could not be perceived by the other two eyes. It is interesting to note that the three eyed people of Lemuria worshipped Siva, the three eyed God. The native tribes of Australia have the dance named Siva dance and this is referred to in the book, "The Native tribes of Central Australia" written by Spencer and Gillen. The dancers used to have drawn on their Foreheads a third eye which indicates Siva and also the supernatural eye of the Lemurians. Dr.Padma Subramaniam who witnessed the tribal dance in the name of Siva find several Tamil words in their language. In Africa also Si- valinga in the name of Venka is still worshipped at Takkolam. Thus Siva cult which is widely prevalent in Africa, South India, Sri Lanka and Australia is also a clear evidence to prove the Lemurian theory.

Some scholars are of the opinion that the first man was born not in Africa or Australia or South India but a common place between these countries which was swallowed by the sea. According to them the Dravidians, the Africans and the Australians might have descended from the same ancestors. Before the separation of these countries from one land mass known as Lemuria this might have happened and the common ancestors must have lived in the South of Kanniyakumari now under the sea. After the deluge India, Africa and Australia were separated and several islands in the Indian and Pacific oceans were formed. Because of the distance

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and dislocation and passage of time several changes took place in the separated countries in spite of several common factors still prevalent among them.

KUMARI

The common ancestors native home of the Tamils and the aborigines of Africa, Australia and other Pacific islands must have been in the lost Lemuria or Kumari continent. To commemorate this common ancestor's lost home Kumari Nadu, the Tamils called their capes as Kumari, Africans call a place as Komar and Australians have Kannuda and Kooma. The historical significance of the word "Kumari" is pretty mind-boggling when one considers how many places derive names from it. the old name of the island Madagascar near Africa was "Kumar". The people of the Island were called Komari. The sea between Africa, Madagascar and Mosambi and an is-

land nearby are known as comores and comron respectively. A part in Western Africa is called Cameroon.

A female deity Kumari was worshipped in Cambodia and Indo-China in the 6th Century A.D. One cape in Cambodia is known as Kumari and the people called Khomers. An Arabian traveller Abu Syed of the 9th Century A.D. called the area of these parts as "The country of komri" in his Travelogue. In all probabilities the popular word Komer is only a derivative form of the Tamil word Kumari. From the recently published volume "Dravidian Encyclopaedia" it is learnt that the word Sumeria is derived from the Tamil word Kumari. From all these facts one can understand the historic background of the Tamil word "KUMARI" which contains the hard consonant, nasal consonant and middle consonant like our sweet Tamil.

to be continued...



FINANCE (PENSION) DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 488, Dated 12th August 1996

(Thadhu, Aadi 28, Thiruvalluvar Aandu 2027)

RETIREMENT BENEFITS - Encashment of leave at the time of retirement - Encashment of leave on private affairs and payment of full leave salary for the period of earned leave exceeding 180 days - Orders - Issued.

READ - the following papers:-

1. G.O. Ms. No.999, Personnel and Administrative Reforms Department, dated 31.10.1987.
2. G.O. Ms. No. 545, Personnel and Administrative Reforms Department, dated 30.9.1989.

ORDER:

At present the entire earned leave subject to a maximum of 240 days at the credit of the employees shall be entitled for encashment at the time of retirement and the leave salary for the period of earned leave upto 180 days comprises of Dearness Allowance, House Rent Allowance, City Compensatory Allowance, etc., as admissible under the rules and for the period of earned leave exceeding 180 days, the leave salary comprises of Pay and Dearness Allowance only. Further, at present, the half pay leave on private affairs at the credit of the retiring employees shall lapse.

2. The Government have decided to accept the long pending demand of various associations of employees to surrender half pay leave on private affairs at the time of retirement and also to grant full leave salary for encashment of the entire earned leave at credit of retiring employees. Accordingly, Government pass the following orders:-

(a) At the time of retirement, 50% of the leave on private affairs standing to the credit of the employees, upto a maximum of 90 days, be entitled for full leave salary. The Head of Office shall draw the leave salary on encashment of leave on private affairs, as in the case of encashment of earned leave; and

(b) Full leave salary including Dearness Allowance and all other allowances normally admissible while going on leave during service be allowed for the entire period of earned leave encashment at the time of retirement.

3. The above orders shall apply to All India Service Officers serving under the State Government.

4. These orders shall also apply to the following categories of employees:-

- a) those retiring on medical invalidation;
- b) those retrenched from Government service;
- c) those permitted to retire from service without prejudice to the disciplinary proceedings pending against them,
- d) in the case of death of an employee while in service
- e) to those going on voluntary retirement; and
- f) those sent on compulsory retirement.

5. These orders shall take effect from 1st July 1996.

6. Necessary amendments to Tamil Nadu Leave Rules, 1933 will issue separately from Personnel and Administrative Reforms Department,

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

S. GURUMURTHI,

SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT



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This is in continuation of our earlier advt. published in Indian Express on 23.9.96

C O N T E N T S

Tamil Arasu

Magazine of the Government of Tamil Nadu

MARCH - 1997

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JUSTICE M.FATHIMA BEEVI HER EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU

Justice M.Fathima Beevi, former Judge of the Supreme Court of India, was born on April 30, 1927 at Pathanamthitta in Kerala. Had school education at her home town and college education at Trivandrum. Graduated in Science in 1947 and in Law in 1949. Enrolled as Advocate on 14.11.1950 and practised in the Courts in Kerala until joining Subordinate Judicial Service as Munsiff in 1958.

Served in various capacities as Munsiff, Subordinate Judge, District/Chief Judicial Magistrate, District and Sessions Judge in different parts of the State. Was appointed Judicial Member of the Central Income Tax Appellate Tribunal in 1980 and elevated as Judge of the Kerala High Court in 1983; Retired in April 1989 and thereafter in October 1989 was appointed Judge of the Supreme Court of India. First Woman to hold this position in India and the first Muslim woman to be the Judge of the apex Court in the world. After retirement from the Supreme Court, nominated as Chairperson of the Kerala State Commission for Backward Classes. National Human Rights Commission was constituted in October, 1993. Joined the Commission as member in November, 1993.

Career started from the grassroot level and had occasion to deal with all branches of law in different capacities.

Associated in social work and women's development. Has received several awards, including honorary degree in D.Litt. Travelled wide in India and abroad. She took over the charge as the twentieth Governor of Tamil Nadu on January 25, 1997.



Tamil Nadu Government is Committed to Health Care

The Third Annual Convention of the Indian Academy of Echocardiography was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Kalaigal M.Karunanidhi, at the Sri Ramachandra Medical College, Chennai on 24.1.97.

The Chief Minister said that the Government was committed to health-care of the masses and several diseases had either been controlled to the maximum extent or eradicated. The role of private hospitals was commendable as they supplemented the efforts of the Government in providing health-care to people. The Government alone could not cater to the increasing health care needs of the people and hence the growth of private hospital was a welcome trend. The incidence of diseases along with population, the number of doctors and hospitals also increase, he added.

The Hon'ble Minister for Health, Thiru Arcot N.Veerasingam, releasing a scientific book, said

in terms of facilities, the Government hospitals in the State were superior to leading private hospitals. In Tamil Nadu a record of Rs.800 crores had been spent in a year on health-care alone. Last year, Rs.20 crores was allotted for the purchase of modern equipment.

He sought the support of doctors in the efforts of the Government in improving the hospital services in the State; steps like round the clock PHC service and extension of OP time had been introduced as part of these efforts. Echocardiography was a cheaper alternative diagnostic methods like angiography, he added.

Dr. Ketan Desai, President, Medical Council of India, said that medical care had become very expensive in the country.

Dr. S. Thanikachalam, Cardiologist and Organising Secretary, Dr. K. Chandrasekar, Thiru Kamal Hasan, film actor and Dr. Alagesan spoke on the occasion.

NATIONAL LEPROSY ERADICATION PROGRAMME

Leprosy is an ancient disease and still one of the most misunderstood diseases, social prejudice, superstition and fear continue to obstruct the early detection of cases in the society. Advent of Multi Drug Treatment promises a bright future and offers a possible hope for elimination of Leprosy as a public health problem in the country.

Present Situation in Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu has a population of 55.6 million as per 1991 census out of this 36.6 million people live in rural areas and 19.0 million people live in urban areas.

Tamil Nadu was a high endemic state for leprosy in India with a prevalence rate of 11.8 per 1000 during 1983 with a case load of 5.8 lakhs. M.D.T. was introduced (composite North Arcot District) in 1983 and later extended to other Districts in a phased manner. The case load as on 31.01.97 in TamilNadu was 51824 cases of which 13312 (25.7%) were Multi Bacillary and 38512 (74.3%) were Pauci-bacillary accounting for a prevalence rate of 0.9/1,000 as on 31.01.97. The achievements in performance to control leprosy during the decade has been remarkable. The prevalence has been brought down to 0.9/1000 from 11.8/1000 in a period of 13

years.

Objectives:

The National Leprosy Control Programme is in operation since 1955 with the main-objective of controlling the leprosy through domicilliary sulphone treatment. The control programme was re-designated as National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) in 1982 with the goal of total elimination of Leprosy in Tamil-Nadu by the Year 2000 A.D.

The dramatic reduction in prevalence from 11.8 in 1983 to the present 0.9/1000 is due to effective diagnostic supervision by the specialist services in leprosy coupled with the impact of the wonder drugs of M.D.T.

The active involvement of voluntary organisations in all these

activities are encouraged. Motivation for retrieval of absences, healthy contact work and survey work are also being done.

Organisation Structure:

Additional Director of Medical and Rural Health Services (Leprosy) is incharge of the Programme. He is responsible for planning and development of the programme.

The District Leprosy Officer is incharge of the programme in the District. Government Leprosy Control Units, Urban Leprosy Units, Temporary Hospitalisation Wards and Voluntary Organisations are under the control of District Leprosy Officer.

KNOWN CASES AND PREVALENCE

Year	Known Cases		Total	Prevalence per 1000
	MB	PB		
31.3.88	67739	359749	427488	8.8
31.3.89	69418	272391	341809	7.1
31.3.90	68629	187681	256310	5.3
31.3.91	56153	119874	176027	3.1
31.3.92	42771	74513	117284	2.1
31.3.93	27098	47171	74269	1.3
31.3.94	17197	37192	54389	0.97
31.3.95	14378	36151	50529	0.908
31.3.96	13488	29723	43211	0.7
31.1.97	13312	38512	51824	0.9

The staffing pattern of each Government Leprosy Control Units are:

Medical officer	...	1
Non Medical Supervisor	...	4
Leprosy Inspectors	...	20
Health Educator	...	1
Lab. Technician	...	1
Physiotherapy Technician	...	1

SET - (Survey Education and Treatment) is situated in rural areas covering the population of 20,000 and is manned by Leprosy Inspector. Urban Leprosy Centre covers a population of 30,000 to 50,000 in urban areas with one Leprosy Inspector. Temporary Hospitalisation Wards serves for treatment of

complications in leprosy like reaction, neuritis etc.,

School Survey

TamilNadu is pioneer among all other States in India in the performance of School Survey. School Survey is being conducted since 1977. It is done every year during July and August. The main reasons for success in the above activity is due to excellent cooperation offered by the Education Department Officials and Teachers.

Voluntary Organisation in Leprosy

Voluntary organisation supplement Government efforts in the eradication of leprosy. There are 33 Voluntary Organisations in Tamil Nadu. The Voluntary Organisations are engaged in case

detection, case holding and discharge of cured cases. Voluntary Organisations operate under the direction of NLEP and are subjected to the same type of monitoring and evaluation system. Some voluntary organisations organise training of staff and engaged in rehabilitation of Leprosy patients and reconstructive surgery.

Rehabilitation

10 Reconstructive Surgery Units and one Leprosy Rehabilitation and Promotion Unit are functioning under NLEP to cater to the physical and vocational needs of disabled patients. L.R.P.U. aims at providing vocation rehabilitation besides facilities for surgical correction of deformed/disabled Leprosy patients.

EFFORTS ON IN TAMIL NADU TO ERADICATE LEPROSY

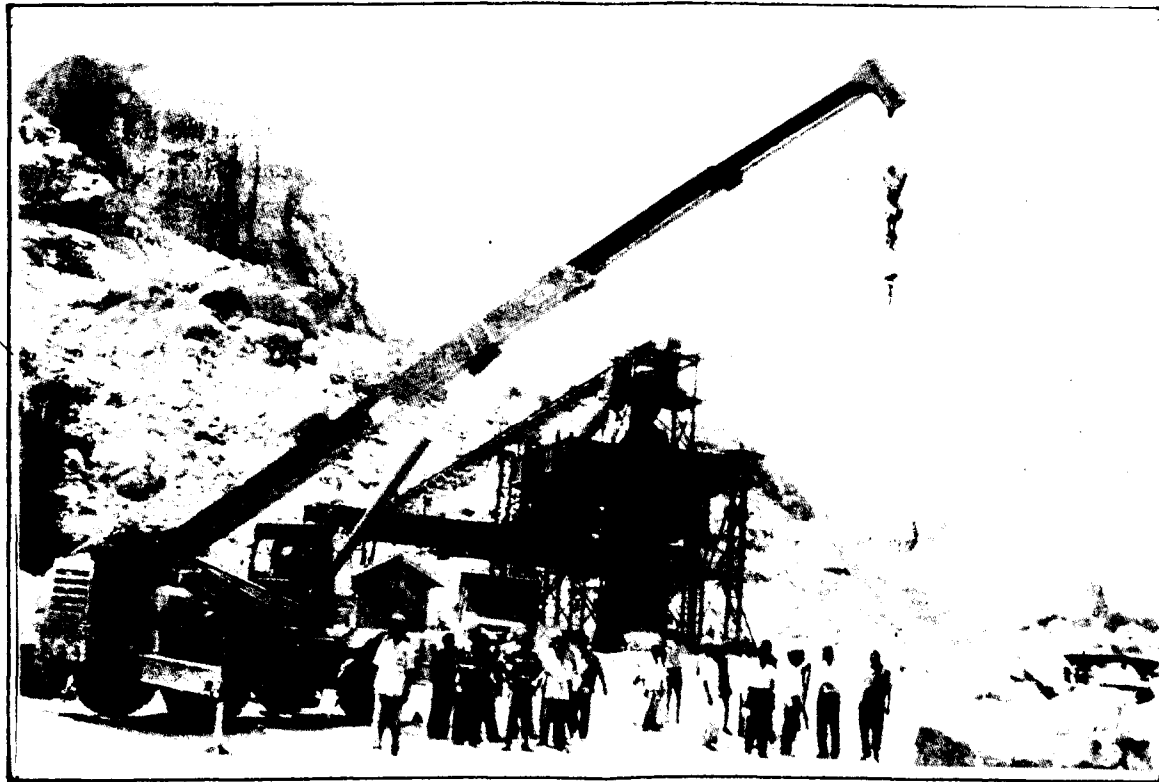
Speaking at the Valedictory of the Leprosy Award and Intensive Case Detection Campaign on 28.2.97. The Hon'ble Minister for Health and Electricity Thiru Arcot N.Veerassamy said that over 2.99 crore persons throughout the State were screened by the Health Department under the National Leprosy Eradication Programme of which nearly 2.6 lakh persons were found to be infected with the disease.

He said every year nearly 66,000 persons were found to be afflicted by the disease and the

State Government was taking all steps to eradicate it soon. He lauded the efforts of the field staff of the Health Department, who conducted the survey.

He also added that the State Government had allocated Rs.1.60 crore to organise the detection programme and the drugs and other expenditure involved in the programme were provided by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Central Government.

A New Satellite Port at Ennore



A satellite port is coming up at Ennore about 20 km North of Chennai. The Chennai Port authorities are thinking in terms of shifting dusty cargo like coal and iron ore to Ennore in future.

The idea of establishing a new port at Ennore was conceived for handling coal meant for the North Chennai Thermal Power Project. The estimated cost of the project is Rs.593.90 crores with a Foreign Exchange component of Rs.307.58 crores. The Asian Development Bank has agreed to provide a loan for Rs.450.45 crores. The remaining amount will be funded by Chennai Port Trust. The total cost of the project is likely to be revised at the end of this year.

The project scheduled to be completed by December 1999 was conceived following a study conducted by M/s.RITES, a Government of India Undertaking which recommended rail-cum-sea mode as the least cost mode of transport for bringing coal from Kalinga Mines, Talcher, to the North Chennai Thermal Power Project at Ennore.

The main works involved are construction of two new berths for handling coal vessels upto 65,000 DWT size, capital dredging of approach channels and harbour basin, construction of breakwaters, groynes, on-shore civil works, utilities and amenities, procurement of floating crafts, navigational aids, etc.

M/s.Haskoning Royal Dutch Consulting Engineers and Architects, The Netherlands, have been appointed for the preparation of detailed design and construction supervision of the Project.

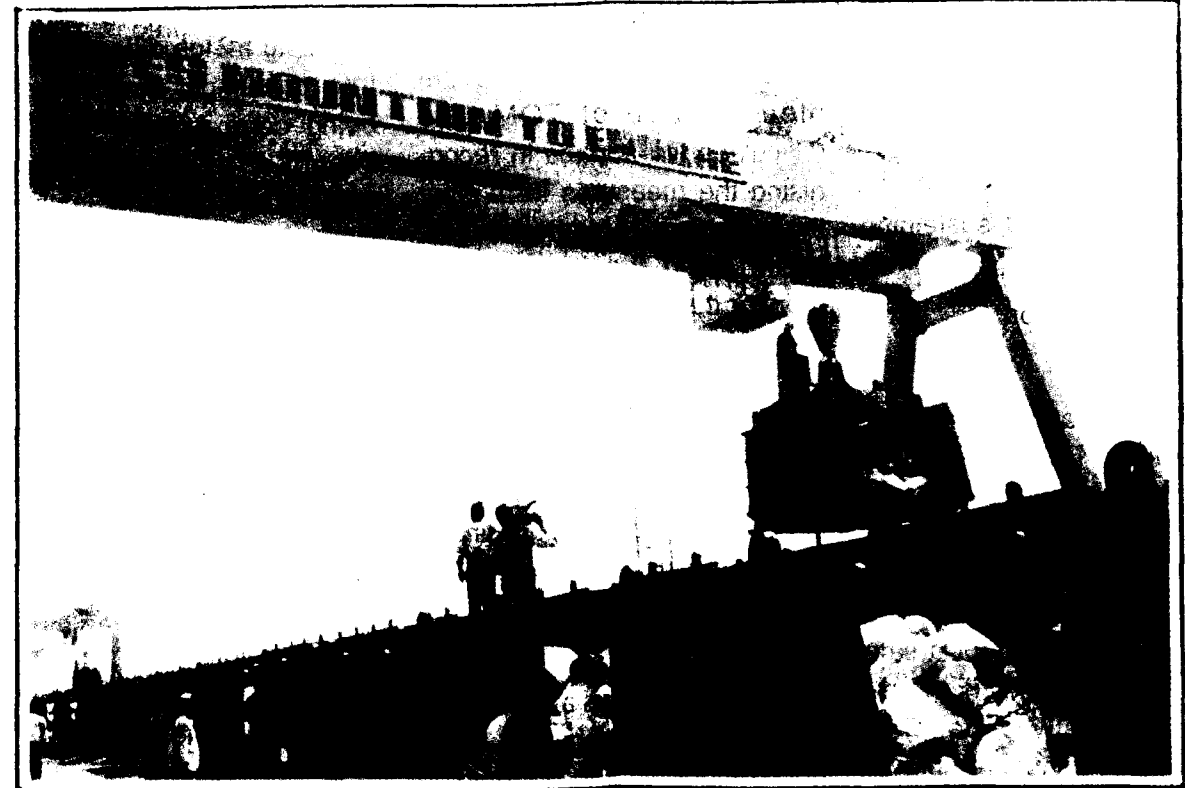
For construction of breakwater structures, a hilly quarry measuring about 40 acres at Karikkal near Arakonam has been taken on lease for the stone requirement. The site contains a hill with a total quantum of 12 million tonnes of stones. A Rs.119.52 crore contract to quarry 3.1 million tonnes of granite stones and transport the same to project site has been given to a Mumbai based firm. Transportation of boulders from

Karikkal quarry to Melpakkam transfer station is done by road and then by rail from Melpakkam to Ennore Port site.

To facilitate the transportation of stones from Melpakkam to Ennore, construction of railway siding at Melpakkam and Ennore at an approximate cost of Rs.15.20 crores was entrusted with the Southern Railway.

Transportation of rocks in skips loaded in bos type railway wagons commenced in November '96 and it is in progress. The State Highways and Rural Works Departments have taken up the work of widening and strengthening of the road between Karikkal and Melpakkam at an approximate cost of Rs.11 crores, which is nearing completion.

Out of the total extent of 2,500 acres of land required for the new port, about 1000 acres of land has already been acquired. The port will have two coal berths, each 560 metres to handle the ultimate coal requirement of 16.12 million tonnes per annum. The first berth is scheduled to be completed by September 1998 and the whole project is expected to be completed by the



Prohibition Campaign by Makkal Nala Paniyalargal

The Government of Tamil Nadu had decided to entrust the work of prohibition campaign to Makkal Nala Paniyalargal. In the recruitment of Makkal Nala Paniyalargal, it was decided to take back those who were appointed to these posts in 1989, if they expressed a desire to rejoin the post. They would be paid an Honorarium of Rs.500. The guidelines for their appointment would shortly be notified to District Collectors.

end of December 1999.

Officials of the Port Trust say that several industries in the Ennore and Manali belt, have started demanding that the Ennore Port should also handle LPG and hazardous chemicals as well as more coal from Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. A Master Plan study is to be commissioned shortly to define the appropriate future development strategies for Chennai and Ennore Ports. The construction of breakwaters for Ennore Port will commence in June.

MANAGING THE CHANGE

TQM approach and implementation is a change process. **Managing change means taking control of the process** and shaping the direction of the change. To do this effectively, a structural approach would be required. This change can be viewed as four stage process.

Establishing the need to change.

2) Obtaining and sustaining commitment.

3) Implementation

4) Review.

Any organization attempting to establish TQM has to go through the above steps and could face difficulties in one or more of the above processes. They are to be expected and have to be overcome for a safe journey. As everybody is aware, TQM is basically a people's movement, by people (employer & employees), for people (internal & external customers), through people (the process adopted by all concerned). Hence, in an ultimate analysis it will be seen that the difficulties are also caused by people. It could be from any quarter from top management to middle level management, to middle level management down to last level employees and it could occur at any stage from TQM awareness stage to review or auditing stage.

Clearly knowing our present status is an important requirement for establishing the need to

change. For this purpose, the factors to be considered are to be well defined and then measuring scale has to be agreed upon. TQM is a managed, measured process. If there is a lacuna in understanding the prime measurement factors, it is ascertained that at every stage of implementation of TQM, the difficulties will surface in recognising the measures to monitor the progress, or deterioration. While fixing the measures to monitor the progress concerned people are required to be taken into confidence by involving them and accepting valid suggestions and ideas. These can be decided through brainstorming sessions or quality circles which are again tools of TQM.

Once the process begins and the initial enthusiasm wears off and there is always a temptation to say we have achieved some good results- let us do something different. This should not be allowed to happen.

FORCES AGAINST CHANGE (ROAD BLOCKS)

Conflicting Measures

Measurements and standards that are not uniformly practised, would confuse and send conflicting messages. NOT knowing the real target can lead to no targets being met at all.

Complacency

We no longer need to change attitude is clearly a negative outlook and does not guarantee the

future.

Lack of Time

Time does not wait for any one. It is the organization to find time to start.

Fear

Doing things differently in future can imply that things are being done wrongly now. It is important to convince people that change does not imply criticism. There can also be fear about the future due to the proposed change.

Disbelief and Cynicism

Management's lack of commitment, sincerity will lead to disbelief and mistrust amongst people.

Organisational structure

In some cases radical rethink of structure is necessary for a successful implementation process.

While executing the implementation of TQM monitoring and controlling the progress ensures the allocated responsibilities are met by all concerned through out the company. The organisational structure, hence, has to include a steering group consisting of a representative from each functional group. Steering group meetings should be run separately from other meetings. The steering group develops policy and release resource activities.

Quality Improvement Plans (QIPs) are the key steps in mak-

ing quality improvement permanent and continuous improvement. QIPs are used by steering group.

An effective QIP, like any other company plan should contain all the necessary detail.

- ★ Priorities clear objectives and requirements.
- ★ Visibility of ownership
- ★ Resources required.
- ★ Links to other functional departments.
- ★ Targets, dates, milestones.
- ★ Points where communications are necessary.

QIP should necessarily focus on:

- ★ Education and Training.
- ★ Improvement opportunities.
- ★ Culture and style.
- ★ Communication.
- ★ Recognition.
- ★ Internal customer.
- ★ Business processes.

TQM tools to be employed in practicing TQM could be so chosen that would offer effective and perceivable results. The list of TQM tools is ever increasing and in fact any tool or process that would lead to improved customers satisfaction, continuous improvement, higher productivity, better employee participation and team work is regarded as a TQM tool. Total Quality MANAGEMENT IS NOT JUST about awareness of Quality. TQM demands the implementation of new systems. The quality delivery process is a genetic name for such a system.

An appropriate system of recognition and reward is critical to any company's TQM programme as it offers greater involvement to ordinary working people. People work for many reasons-for achievement, advancement, increased responsibility, recognition job interest as well as money. Both recognition and rewards have a powerful motivating effect on people at work. They enhance persons awareness of self worth and self esteem. The given recognition and rewards are gestures that recognise a person's uniqueness and human dignity. They also have a social value since they are often given in the presence of colleagues. The following are recognition and rewards guidelines for managers.

1. Managers should look for positive behaviour to recognize and reward rather than for negative conduct to criticize.

2. Manager should give recognition and rewards in a public way to maximise their impact and effectiveness.

3. Managers should strive to be open and genuine in the process of recognition and reward-giving. A single word of sarcasm or cynicism can ruin a recognition programme.

4. Managers should have a wide range of recognition and reward options to allow them to match the recognition or reward to the individual or special group involved.

5. Managers need to develop a sense of timing about recognition and rewards. Recognition

should be continual and rewards should follow hard in the heels of achievement.

6. Managers must remain impartial and evenhanded in giving out recognition and rewards. They should also be able to communicate exactly why individuals and groups are receiving awards. Ambiguities in this area create hard feelings and can be destructive of the very participative process they are intending to foster.

Understanding of TQM must be translated into commitment, policies, plans and actions for TQM to germinate. Making this happen requires not only commitment, but a competence in the mechanics of quality management and in making changes. Without a strategy to implement TQM through systems, capability and control, the extended effort will lead to frustration. The strategies should assure continuous improvement involving people at all levels of the organisational hierarchy. The message of Kaizen strategy is that not a day should go by without some kind of improvement being made somewhere in the company.

TQM is a part of holistic approach to progress. It is an ascendency as the year 2000 approaches. Total quality has the potential power to transform the tangrams into running figures liberating people at work to become more truly themselves and more creative.

Courtesy: Quality Focus
Jan:1997.

POETRY

Work

- Kahlil Gibran

You work that you may keep pace with the earth and the soul of the earth.

For to be idle is to become a stranger unto the seasons, and to step out of life's procession that marches in majesty and proud submission towards the infinite.

When you work you are a flute through whose heart the whispering of the hours turns to music.

Which of you would be read, dumb, and silent, when all else sings together in unison?

Always you have been told that work is a curse and labour a misfortune.

But, I say to you that when you work you fulfil a part of earth's furthest dream, assigned to you when that dream was born.

And in keeping yourself with labour you are in truth loving life.

And to love life through labour is to be intimate with life's inmost secret.

But if you in your pain call birth an affliction and the support of the flesh a curse written upon your brow, then, I answer that naught but the sweat of your brow shall wash away that which is written.

And to love life through labour is to be intimate with life's inmost secret.

You have been told also that life is darkness, and in your weariness you echo what was said by the weary.

And I say that life is indeed darkness save when there is urge.

And all urge is blind save when there is knowledge.

And all knowledge is vain save when there is work.

And all work is empty save when there is love.

And when you work with love you bind yourself to yourself, and to one another, and to God.

☆☆☆☆☆

And what is it work with love?

It is to weave the cloth with threads drawn from your heart, even as if your beloved were to wear that cloth.

It is to build a house with affection, even as if your beloved were to dwell in that house.

It is to sow seeds with tenderness and reap the harvest with joy, even as if your beloved were to eat the fruit.

It is to charge all things your fashions with a breath of your own spirit.

And to know that all the blessed dead are standing about you and watching.

Often have I heard you say, as if speaking in sleep, "he who works in marble, and finds the shape of his own soul in the stone, is nobler than he who ploughs the soil".

"And he who seizes the rainbow to lay it on a cloth in the likeness of man, is more than he who makes the sandals for our feet."

It is better that you should leave your work and sit at the gate of the temple and take alms of those who work with joy.

But I say, not in sleep, but in the overwakefulness of noon tide, that the wind speaks not more sweetly to the giant oaks than to the least of all the blades of grass;

And he alone is great who turns the voice of the wind into a song made sweeter by his own loving.

Work is love made visible.

And if you cannot work with love but only with distaste

It is better that you should leave your work and sit at the gate of the temple and take alms of those who work with joy.

For if you bake bread with indifference, you bake a bitter bread that feeds but halfman's hunger.

And if you grudge the crushing of the grapes, you grudge distils a poison in the wine.

And if you sing though as angels, and love not the singing, you muffle man's ears to the voices of the day and the voices of the night.



SHORTCUTS TO FITNESS

Everyday Activities like Talking on the Phone, Playing with the Kids-can Add Up

You don't have a second to spare in your day for exercise. Although you have tried countless times, you have never been able to stick with a workout routine.

Your house is much too small to accommodate bulky exercise equipment. You can only dream of being able to afford one of those expensive health-club memberships. Besides, You'd be much too embarrassed to prance around in front of an aerobics class full of women and men who are thin, fit and gorgeous. So you're a helpless case right?.

Wrong. You don't have to spend hours a week at a gym to

get in shape. You can improve your health and fitness-and look and feel a lot better-by incorporating even small doses of physical activity into your day. As a matter of fact, you hardly even have to break a sweat.

Ridiculous, you say? Not at all, according to the most recent findings from the nation's leading exercise experts. "The fitness gurus used to insist that we had to punish ourselves with strenuous aerobic exercise for at least 30 minutes three times a week to get fit?", says Bryant Stamford, Ph.D., Director of the Health Promotion Centre at the University of Louisville School of Medicine in Kentucky and author of Fit-

ness without Exercise. "But new studies show major benefits from exercise so modest it doesn't feel like a workout".

A recent study involving 102 women between the ages of 20 and 40 at the Cooper Institute for Aerobics Research in Dallas showed that strolling a 20 minute mile-a lap or two around the typical mall- significantly decreases blood pressure and cholesterol levels which reduces the risk of heart disease. "For lowering cholesterol and blood pressure, moderate exercise works as well as a strenuous workout", says John Duncan, Ph.D, Associate Director of the Cooper Institute and Senior co-author of the study. "And the more out of shape you are, the more you will benefit from doing low intensity exercise".

Another study conducted at the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester showed that even moderate walking reduces tension and anxiety. "No matter how slowly they walked, everyone felt less stressed afterward", says study author James M. Rippe, M.D., Director of the University's Exercise Physiology and Nutrition Laboratory. In fact, these studies and others have helped convince the American Heart Association to

promote modest exercise a few times a week as an excellent way to significantly reduce the risk of heart attack, currently the leading Killer of American women.

"The Health benefits if low level exercise are great news for sedentary Americans", Dr. Duncan says, "Intensity does not matter. What is most important is regularity. If you become even slightly more active and stick with it your health will improve".

EXCUSES, EXCUSES

Everyone starts with the best of intentions. But all too often, we wind up making excuses for why we can't make time for fitness. Do any of these sound familiar?

"I am Just too busy". Of course you're busy. You lead a hectic life. That's more reason to exercise- to help manage your stress and build the self-esteem, stamina, strength and flexibility you need to cope with all the daily demands you.

"I don't have large blocks of time to exercise". You don't need them", Dr. Rippe says, "Sporadic exercise adds up. If you take just three 10 minute walks a day during breaks, you're exercising for 30 minutes".

What kind of physical activities do you already engage in? Shopping, cooking, child care? Stretch, bend and lift more during house work. Walk briskly while running errands. Get physical when you play with your children.

"I hate exercise". Don't sign up for water aerobics if you hate to swim. Choose a physical ac-

tivity you like and do it regularly. You don't have to run, do sit-ups and use a stair climbing machine. Even gardening or a nightly stroll burns calories.

"I have never been active, It's too late to start now." A recent study shows that even 90 year old lifelong fitness phobics gained significant physical and emotional benefits from modest, regular exercise. No matter how long you've been out of shape, it's never too late to get fit. Just start now and keep at it.

"I feel self-conscious. I'm a Klutz when I exercise and I look terrible in tights". You don't look ridiculous. You look like a woman who's taking control of her life and health. You look great. Besides, everyone else is too busy obsessing about the way they look to worry about you.

"I never seem to improve." Be patient. It takes a month or two to notice the aerobic payoffs of exercise, and a while longer for any physical changes to ap-

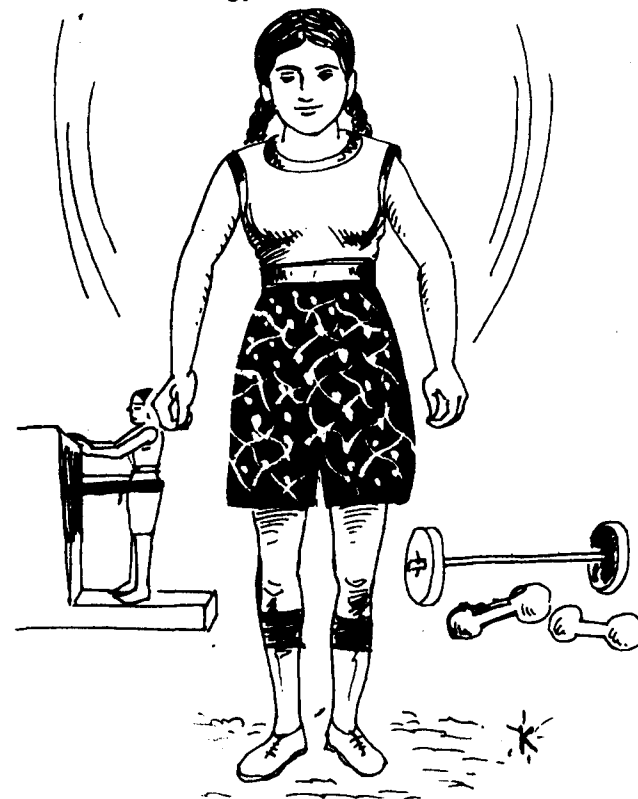
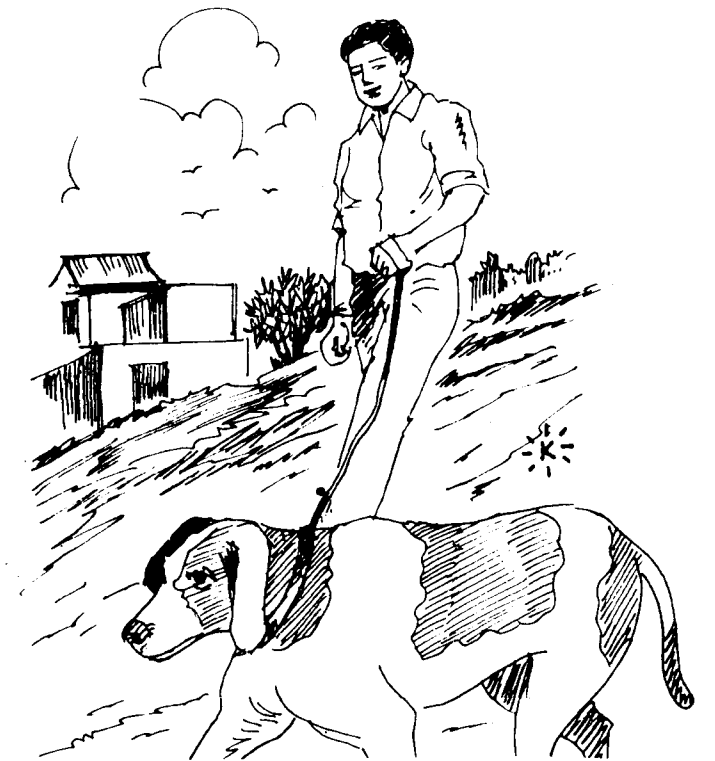
pear. Keep a record of your progress. Make a chart that shows how many blocks from work you park or how many flights of stairs you can climb before you feel winded-anything that you can measure. Plot your progress on a weekly basis. Before you know it, you're sure to see some improvement.

"I cant afford to join a gym or turn my home into one." You don't have to. Do it yourself workouts-like housework and walking-don't cost a penny.

"I never stick with it." You're not alone. Half of those who start exercising give it up within 12 months.

To keep from being a quitter, follow these steps.

★ Be realistic. For every year you've been out of shape, it takes a month to get fit again. What's more, remember that you may not reap the physical benefits exercise until six to eight weeks have passed. But you'll begin to feel the emo-



tional benefits almost immediately.

- ★ Start slowly and don't overdo it. You should be able to carry on a conversation while exercising. If you find yourself becoming breathless you may be pushing too hard.
- ★ Do only activities that feel fun. If one type of exercise isn't enjoyable, switch to another. Getting exercise should not turn into a chore.
- ★ Find a buddy. It is much easier to stick to a regular fitness routine when you exercise with a friend.
- ★ Vary your activities. You'll be less likely to get bored and lose interest in working out.

FITNESS FIXES

There are plenty of simple shortcuts you can do to integrate more physical activity into your daily life. "Choose two or three and commit to doing them everyday", recommends Ralph La-

forge, Director of Health Promotion at the San Diego Cardiac Center Medical Group.

Try walking up the stairs instead of taking the elevator. If you're out of shape, start by walking down the stairs. When climbing stairs no longer leaves you winded, climb a little faster.

Park a few blocks further away. Walk the extra distance to work, the mall, the movies, or friends' homes. As you gain stamina, park even further away and walk more briskly.

Stash a pair of walking shoes at work. Slip them on for walks at lunch. Better yet, take a daily ten-minute stroll before lunch. You may discover that you'll want to eat less lunch afterward.

Buy a backpack. Then instead of driving around town when doing your errands, walk as much as possible and use the backpack to hold your purchases.

Avoid "Food dates". Instead of meeting friends for lunch, coffee or desert, make arrangements to take walks, go dancing or shopping, visit a museum or go for bike rides together.

Walk your dog. If you don't have one, borrow a neighbour's. Dogs are great exercise companions.

Make breaks count. During television commercials or breaks at work, get up and stretch or walk around. Encourage co-workers and family members to join you. Use the opportunity to chat.

YOUR BEST EXERCISE INVESTMENT: GOOD SNEAKERS

Forget expensive health clubs, exercise equipment and designer sweats. You don't need them to get fit. But good sneakers are essential to even modest exercise programmes.

- ★ Check your feet, if you are flat-footed, you need extra arch support. If you have a high arch, you need extra shock absorption. For weak ankles, consider high-tops.
- ★ Check your old sneakers. Notice where they're most worn and look for shoes reinforced in those areas.
- ★ Shop in the afternoon. Feet swell during the day.
- ★ Don't get overwhelmed by the different types of sneakers. Worry less about whether they're crosstrainers or aerobic sneakers and instead concentrate on the quality and



features.

- ★ Get the right fit. Experts say there should be about 1/4 inch between your toes and the tip of the sneaker.
- ★ Try on both sneakers. Feet vary greatly in size.
- ★ Check the weight. The lighter the better.
- ★ Check the traction. Shoes should not slip on any surface.
- ★ Test them. Sneakers should feel comfortable in the store. They shouldn't require breaking in. Jump up and land on your fore feet. In well-cushioned shoes, you should feel almost nothing. Rock from side to side. You should not wobble. Pivot in different directions. Your shoes should always feel flexible.

Don't automatically use the phone or intercom at work. Walk to your co-workers desks instead.

Make the most of phone time. Don't sit while talking-pace instead. Invest in a longer handset cord so you can walk further, or get a cordless phone.

If you must stand in one spot, march in place, raising your knees up high. Or rise up on your tiptoes. Do this five times, then do five half-knee bends. Gradu-

ally work up to doing ten repetitions.

Another telephone tip: Keep a small three pound weight or a can of food near the phone and, while talking, do weight-training curls and presses.

Curls: With your arm straight, hold the can or weight down by your hip. Bend your elbow and bring the weight up to your shoulder.

Presses: Start with your arm in the curled position, then, straighten it over head. Do five or each. When you feel ready, do ten.

Make the most of "micro-wave minutes": Don't stand around thinking about the snack you're going to scarf down. Pace, stretch or do some calisthenics.

Put more energy into house work: Scrubbing floors, vigorously sweeping and vacuuming, washing the windows and other chores provide more exercise than you might think. What's more, if you step up the pace you will finish much sooner-and get a worthwhile workout as well.

Make the most of time spent unpacking groceries: Curl and press cans a few times. When you feel ready, try it with six-

packs.

Don't always automatically reach for the food processor: When time permits, cut, chop and dice all those vegetables by hand.

Wash and iron your own clothes: You will get a workout and save on laundering. Spend that money on something exercise-related, such as dancing class or an aerobics tape.

Work outdoors: Pushing a power mower is great aerobic exercise. Or retire your power mower and invest in a push model. Digging, weeding, raking and shovelling are also good-for the body and the mind.

MOTHERS NEED FITNESS, TOO.

Here are a few more tips, just for mothers;

Walk your baby: Infants, love motion, put your baby in a backpack or carriage and take a stroll to the park or the store.

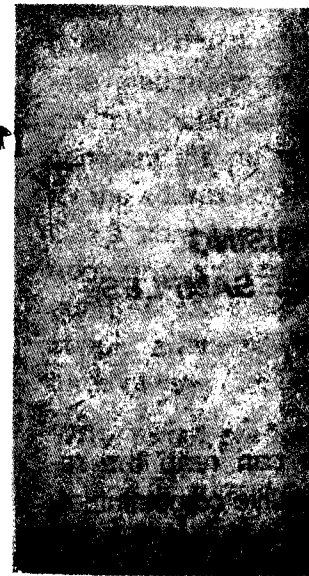
Weight train with your baby: Play with your little one on the floor. Lift her overhead, exercise her arms and legs.

Push your child: Kids love swings and merry go rounds. Pushing them provides you with great exercise.

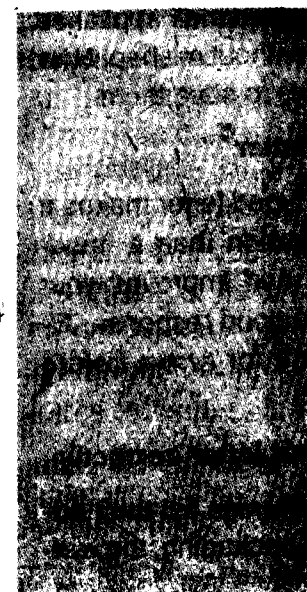
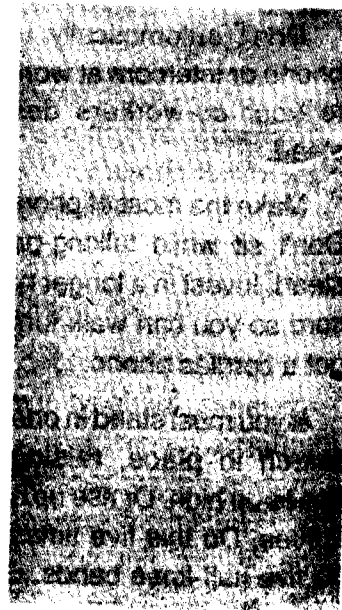
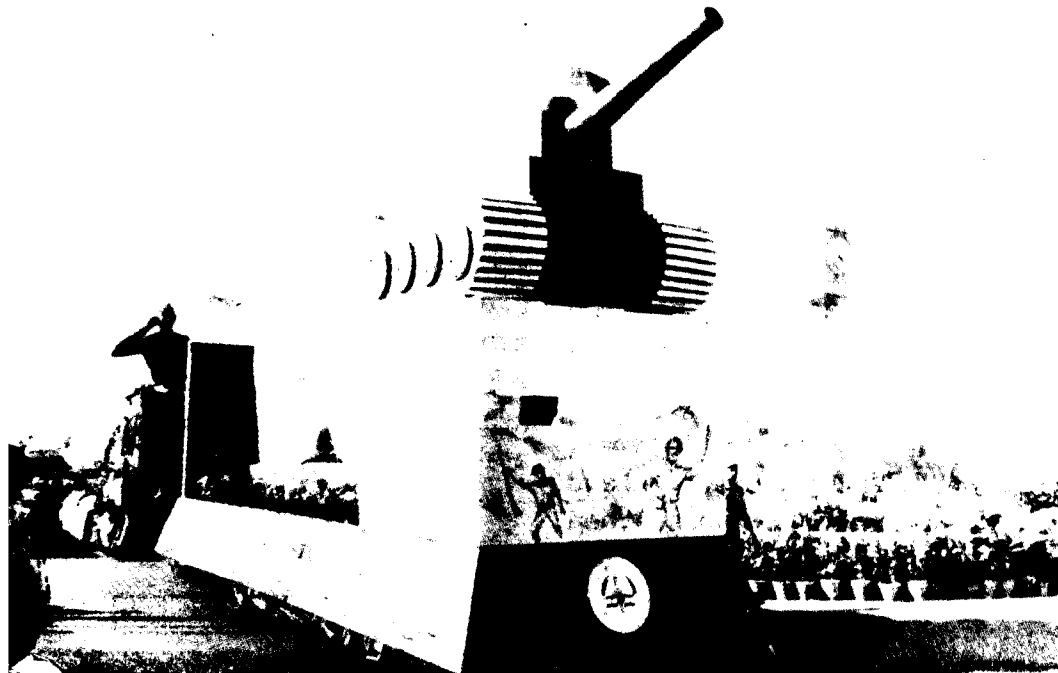
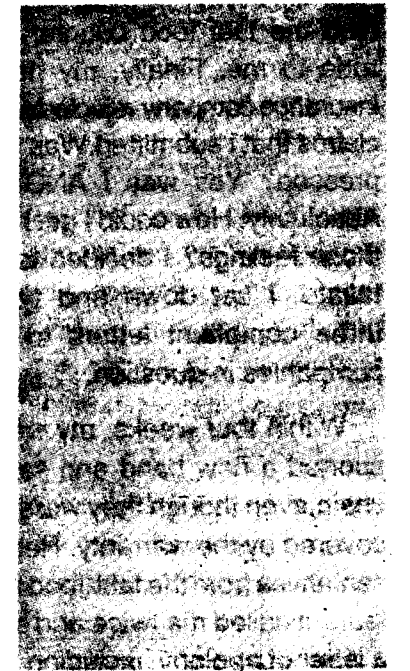
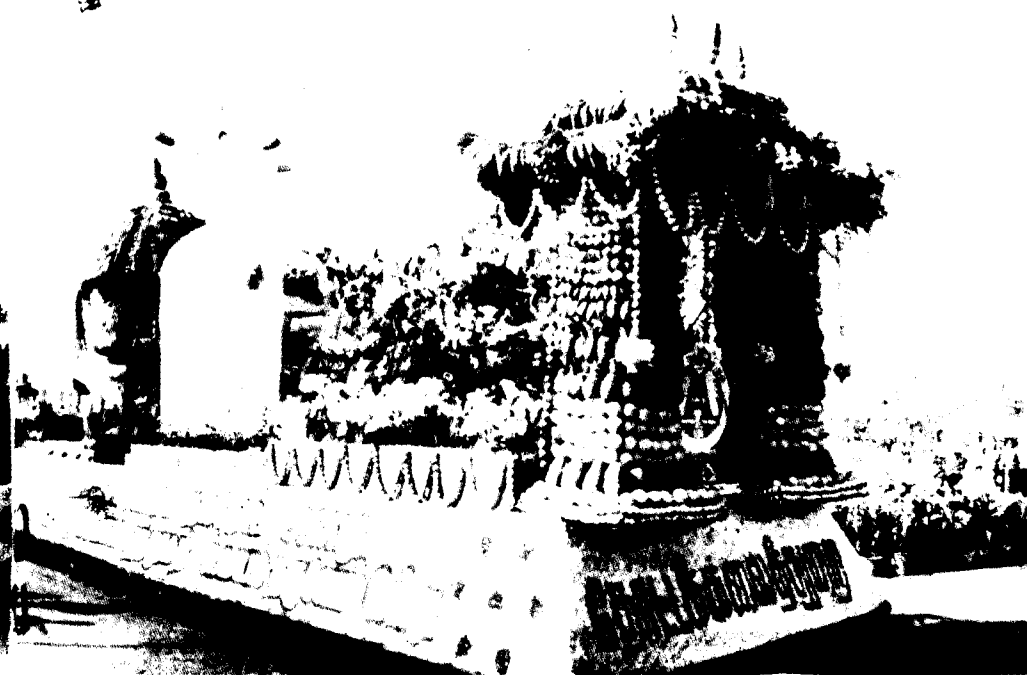
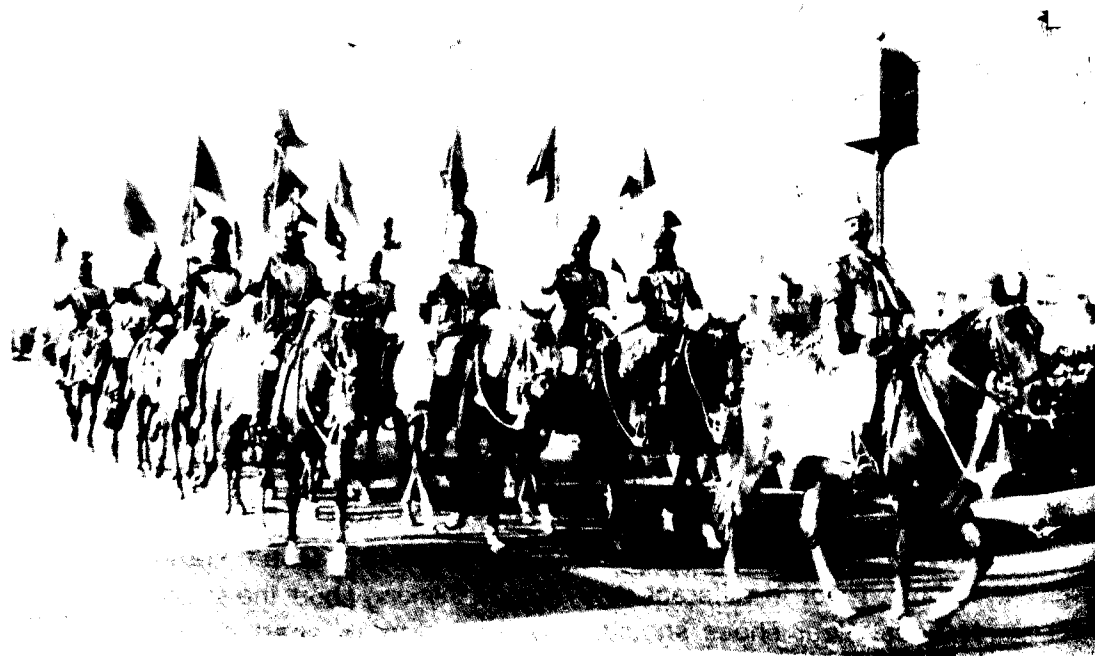
Join in older children's games: Play tag. Go roller skating, jump, rope climb a play structure, take a swim, a bike ride or a row-boat cutting on a lake. You will have so much fun that you might not even notice that you are exercising.

Courtesy: The Healthy Woman1994.





**Republic Day
Celebrations
at
Chennai
26.1.97**



IT PAYS TO COMPLAIN

AN EFFECTIVE COMPLAINT LETTER CAN PRODUCE SURPRISING RESULTS: REPLACEMENTS, REFUNDS, GIFT CERTIFICATES, FREE SAMPLES, EVEN IMPROVED PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

It was a day to forget. First, I noticed that the band of my six month old watch was coming apart. (The safety chain had broken already) Then the boy behind the fast food counter was rude to me. Finally, my health insurance company rejected some claims that I submitted. Was I depressed? Yes was I ANGRY? Absolutely. How could I get rid of those feelings? I decided to retaliate. I sat down and typed three complaint letters to the companies in question.

Within four weeks, my watch sported a new band and safety chain, even though they were not covered by the warranty. Representatives from the fast-food restaurant called me twice and sent a letter of apology, including two coupons for free food. And the insurance company reexamined my claims and agreed to pay 90 percent of the bills.

In the past five months, I have written more than 25 complaint letters to companies ranging from manufacturers of toys and medical supplies to clothing suppliers. My response rate is 92 percent. I have received food coupons worth \$16.50. \$ 55 in gift certificate and products worth medical supplies valued at \$ 149.

I should have started my retaliation campaign sooner.

Letters get the most action

As a remedial-writing instructor, I taught my students how to write effective complaint letters. The results of those they mailed were encouraging, but I never practiced what I preached. Instead I fretted over flawed socks, badgered my husband to fix the broken stroller and swore I'd never return to a restaurant whose employees gave me poor service.

My husband grew tired to my complaints and urged me to write

Send a thank you letter to any one who is extremely helpful. This courtesy should give the company incentive to continue helping customers.

letters instead. I did and quickly learned the emotional and financial rewards of effective complaints. Suddenly, I was in control. And in helping myself, I felt I was helping to improve products and services for others. When I complained about a split seam in an infant overall, for example, the company promised to increase seam allowances and reinforcements.

You also can reap the rewards of effective complaint letters by following these steps.

Be sure your complaint is valid

Don't approach a company with a problem that's your own fault or stems from a misunderstanding. Make sure you have followed directions and have been reasonable in your expectations.

Save all parts and relevant papers

It helps to have the model or serial number, warranty and receipt when you write to complain. Never throw away the broken product, the company may ask to examine it. I used to discard receipts after I'd worn a garment once or used a small appliance a few items without mishap. Now I know it pays to save them.

Type your letter^a

A neatly typed letter makes a better impression than a handwritten one and improves your chances of a good response. Always check it for errors before mailing.

Address your letter correctly

Most companies list their address on the packaging, the war-

ranty card and instruction booklets. If you need the corporate headquarters consult the local telephone directory for the company's local office and ask for the address of headquarters. Call a store or restaurant for the address of their corporate headquarters. Most stores also can supply addresses of manufacturers of the products they carry.

Write to the person in charge

And be sure to get the correct spelling of his or her name; by calling the firm's local number.

You need not write to the President of the company over a small matter

Some one at a lower level may provide better and faster results-especially if you send a copy to the President and indicate that at the bottom of the letter. When a box of my favourite crackers were undercooked, I received prompt results from the customer service manager. But when the safety of my children was at risk because of an unsafe toy, I went straight to the top. **Establish rapport in your opening**

The person who receives your letter will be more eager to help if you are a loyal customer and say so. If you have never purchased their products or patronized their store before, explain why you did so this time. Learning that you love the firms advertising or admire its reputation for top quality puts the recipient of your letter in a positive frame of mind.

State the problem succinctly

A few paragraphs are usually



sufficient to explain your complaint. Include a careful description of the product, the model or serial number and copies of relevant papers. If your problem relates to service include relevant dates, times, locations and names of employees, when possible.

Don't write when you are angry

Wait until you have calmed down, then write on the assumption that the recipient of your letter cares about your problem and is eager to help you resolve it.

Ask for a specific resolution in clear-cut cases only

When my son's stroller snapped going over a curb and couldn't be fixed, I requested a replacement. But I'm glad I didn't request a replacement when I complained about a pair of flawed socks. I received two pairs of better-quality socks in return. Specific requests may limit your chances of a more gen-

erous settlement.

End on a positive note

Write that you hope the problem can be resolved quickly so that your confidence in the company will be restored. A thank-you for assistance is always appreciated. Include your phone number in case the person wants more information.

Make a copy of your letter before mailing

If the company does not respond in four to six weeks, send a copy with a note expressing your disappointment at not receiving a response. If you did not write the President the first time, send him or her the follow-up letter.

Send a thank you letter to any one who is extremely helpful. This courtesy should give the company incentive to continue helping customers.

INTERNET

- R. Maheswaran

Internet is "the network formed by the cooperative interconnection of computing networks". Infact, the word "Internet" was coined from the words "Interconnection" and "network". This means that hundreds of connecting networks, usually made up of different kinds of computers and software are put together so smoothly that the individual parts appear to be one big network.

Origin

In 1969, an American Defence Department Agency- The Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency. Realised to develop an easy way to exchange military information between scientists and researchers based at different geographical locations.

A simple network of 4 computers-connecting 3 in California with one unit in Utah known as ARPANET. It was soon changed to ARPANET and by 1972 it had grown to include 37 computers.

By 1983, ARPANET had grown to such an extent that the Defence Department decided to split the network into two parts.

i) The Internet (devoted to Research and education).

ii) DDB (devoted to military optional activities).

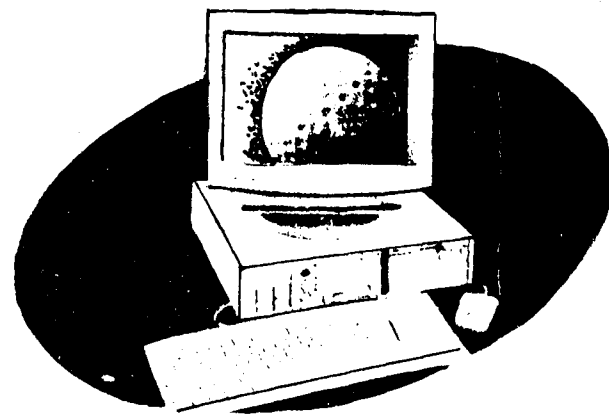
Who Owns IT?

No one owns the Internet.

To many people's surprise,

there really is no central administration unit to the internet.

Every person who makes a connection, every group whose Local Area Network (LAN) becomes connected owns a slice of the Internet. So while no one person or entity owns the Internet, all who use it or supply materials for it play a part in its existence.



ices anywhere in India on a commercial basis.

Under GIAS, VSNL has set up a country wide network with the main node at Bombay and link nodes at Delhi, Calcutta, Chennai and Pune for providing Internet Access.

The devices required to get on to Internet are:

1) 386 PC with 4 MB RAM

ii) VGA Monitor

iii) Mouse

iv) Phone Line

v) Error-connecting MODEM

at 14.4 kbps

vi) Software

Subscribing for Internet

In the four metros, VSNL offers subscription for Internet. On paying the subscription, VSNL give a password of your own, to enter into the world of Internet.

GIAs would enable subscrib-

ers to log into data bases, Send E-Mails, read news, down load files remotely run programmes on distant hosts and range of other applications.

Applications:

1) E-mail: Through E-Mail communication can be done with high accuracy and high speed.

ii) Education: Journals, Lectures and Tutorials, books, software, major education sites and specialised sources in education are available.

iii) Travel: Use the travel department to book airline tickets, hotel rooms and rental cars.

iv) Shopping: It can be done without even having to leave the comfort of your home.

v) Money and Matters: Offers a broad range of investment information on stocks, mutual

bonds, commodities and the money market.

vi) Health related topics: Full of updated information are described and explained in easy to understand terms and definitions.

Internet, has indeed open a world of opportunities and possi-

bilities, hitherto unimagined. Education, cultural, trade barriers are being brought down at the split of second, thanks to Internet. The day is not far away when being part of the net would be the in thing and being out of it, would be considered undeveloped, uneducated and may be backward too.



Co-operatives to be involved in the sale of Indian Made Foreign Liquor

The Hon'ble Chief Minister K. Karunanidhi informed the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 25.1.97 that the Government would entrust the Indian Made Foreign Liquor trade to co-operatives in areas where the liquor shops were not auctioned.

He said that the pre-

vious AIADMK regime fetched the upset price could not be auctioned earmarked 4,500 shops only and the remaining could be entrusted to the co-operatives, he said.

When the renewal of li- shops 186 were en- cence for the current year trusted to the coopera- came up, 556 shops did- tives. Even for these, the not opt to renew. When private traders obtained a these 641 shops (the 85 court stay. The stay had that were not auctioned now been vacated and and the 556 which did not the Government would renew the licence) were examine whether all the auctioned, 175 of them remaining shops that

Replying to a ques- tion, he said that his Govt improved the liquor reve- nue to Rs.130 crores per annum from Rs.60 crores previously by plugging the loop holes for corrup- tion.

A TAMIL ARASU WELFARE GUIDE

Most Backward and Denotified Communities Welfare Department

Name of the scheme and Concessions.	Qualification/Conditions	Whom to approach
4. Free education Professional courses (Students belonging to Most Backward and Denotified communities studying Medical, Engineering, Law, Veterinary science, Agriculture, Professional courses can avail all the above mentioned concessions) Annual income of the parent should be below Rs.25,000/- Any one of the Family member should not be a graduate.	1. Parent/guardian's annual income should not exceed Rs.25,000/- 2. No graduate should be in the student's family 3. The student should be the first member in his family studying professional course.	College Principals/District Backward and Minority Welfare Officers, Special Deputy Collector (Kallar Reclamation) Madurai.
5. Distribution of free tools and instruments. Brass iron boxes to washermen, kits to barbers, stone breaking tools to poyers and others.	Annual income should not exceed Rs.12,000/-	Concerned District Backward And Minority Welfare Officer.
6. Loan schemes at low rate of interest for 1. Establishing	Annual income should not exceed Rs.12,000/-	Concerned District Backward and Minority Welfare Officer.

saloon
2. For laundry and mobile laundry.

7. Distribution of house sites scheme.

House sites will be allotted to those Most Backward and Denotified community people who do not possess own house. 0.03 cent of land will be allotted for construction of houses.

Should belong to Most Backward/Denotified community.

Concerned District Most Backward and Minority Community Welfare Officers.

Hostels

Free boarding and lodging for students belonging to Most Backward/Denotified communities studying in School/College/Technical Educational Centres. Students who are residing at school hostels will be given two sets of uniforms free of cost.

Annual income of the parent should not exceed Rs.15,000/-

Preference will be given to students whose residence is far away from the school.

Preference will be given to students whose annual income is less than Rs.15,000/-

Concerned District Most Backward/ Minority Community Welfare Officer Special Deputy Collector (Kallar Reclamation) Madurai.

8. Kallar Reclamation Schools.

Free education for students in Kallar Reclamation Schools run by this Department belonging to Piramalai Kallar community in Madurai, Dindigul and Theni Districts.

Preference will be given to Piramalai Kallar Community students in school admissions.

No income limit.

Principals of Kallar Schools, Special Deputy Collector (Kallar Reclamation) Madurai.

Students will be given text books, note books, mid day meals and two sets of uniforms free of cost.

9. Short hand/ Typewriting course.

(Shorthand-1 Year; Typewriting 6-months)

Educational qualification-Plus Two. Annual income of the parent Rs.15,000/- (Typewriting Course at Lower Grade/Higher Grade. For Shorthand course should have passed typewriting. The institution should be a recognised one).

Concerned District Most Backward and Minority Welfare Officers.

10. Computer Course (6 Months)

Should be a graduate. Parents annual income limit Rs.12,000/-

Director, Backward and Minority Welfare Department, Chennai-5.

Should apply after the release of yearly advertisement in Newspapers, in the format published in the advertisement.

11. Heavy Vehicle, Training Courses (3 months)

Should have passed 10th std; weight 50 kgs; height 160 cm; Age between 20 and 28. Annual income should not exceed Rs.12,000/- Should have obtained light vehicle driving licence an year earlier. Training will be given at the Road Transport Training Institute, Gummidipoondi.

Should apply to Director of Backward and Minority Welfare Department, Chennai-5, after the yearly advertisement published in newspaper, in the format published in the advertisement.

12. Training for Law Course (3 Months)

Should be a Law Graduate, parent/guardian income should not exceed Rs.12,000/- Age limit 30.

Should apply to Director, Backward and Minority Welfare Department, Chennai-5 after the yearly advertisement published in newspaper in the format published in the advertisement.

13. IAS/IPS Examination Training

Qualification; Should have obtained not less than

Should apply to Director, Backward and Minority

Course.

80% of marks in B.A., B.Sc., B.Com., or not less than 55% of marks in M.A., M.Com., or not less than 65% of marks in M.Sc., or in Professional Courses like M.B.B.S., B.E, B.Sc., (Agri) B.V.Sc., B.L., No income limit for admission. But for hostel students parent/guardian's annual income should not exceed Rs.24,000/-

Welfare Department, Chennai-5, after the yearly advertisement published in newspaper in the format published in the advertisement.

14. Pre-Training Course for entrance examinations for Professional Courses (15 days)

Should submit proof of application, applied for entrance examination for professional courses. No annual income limit.

Headmasters/Govt/ Govt Aided High/Higher Secondary Schools, District Backward and Minority Welfare Officers/ Press release of District collector.

15. Food subsidy (Private hostels)

Annual income Rs.15,000/- should be a recognised private hostel of this Department.

All District Backward and Minority Welfare Officers.

POWER: Concessions to domestic users.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaigarnar M.Karunanidhi announced relief to a section of electricity consumers withdrawing the hike in respect of domestic consumption upto 50 units (100 units bimonthly).

In the tariff hike effected from February 15, the Government spared only the consumers in the first slab upto 50 units bimonthly, continuing the old rate of 65 paise per unit for consumption from 51 units to 100 units bimonthly, the rate was increased by five paise, from 75 paise to 80 paise.

The Chief Minister, said it had since been decided that in the second slab of consumption from 51 units to 100 units also, there would be no change in the energy charges and it would continue at the old rate of 75 paise.

He said the modification would benefit another 17 lakh consumers. The income to the exchequer would be less by Rs.20 crores. Already 31 lakh consumers benefit by the non-revision tariff for upto 50 units bimonthly and now 49 lakh persons will be left untouched by the new power rate, he added.

THE INTERLOCKING CRISES

Until recently, the planet was a large world in which human activities and their effects were neatly compartmentalized within nations, within sectors (energy, agriculture, trade), and within broad areas of concern (environmental, economic, social). These compartments have begun to dissolve. This applies in particular to the various global 'crises' that have seized public concern, particularly over the past decade. These are not separate crises; an environmental crisis, a development crisis and energy crisis. They are all one.

The planet is passing through a period of dramatic growth and

fundamental change. Our human world of 5 billion must make room in a finite environment for another human world. The population could stabilize at between 8 billion and 14 billion sometime in next century, according to UN projections. More than 90 percent of the increase will occur in the poorest countries, and 90 percent of that growth in already bursting cities.

Economic activity has multiplied to create as 13 trillion world economy, and this could grow five or tenfold in the coming half-century. Industrial production has grown more than fiftyfold over the past century, four-fifths of this growth since 1950. Such

figures reflect and presage profound impacts upon the biosphere, as the world invests in houses, transport, farms, and industries. Much of the economic growth pulls raw material from forests, soils, seas, and waterways.

A mainspring of economic growth is new technology, and while this technology offers the potential for slowing the dangerously rapid consumption of finite resources, it also entails high risks, including new forms of pollution and the introduction to the planet of new variations of life forms that could change evolutionary pathways. Meanwhile, the industries most heavily reliant on environmental resources and most heavily polluting are growing most rapidly in the developing world, where there is both more urgency for growth and less capacity to minimize damaging side effects.

These related changes have locked the global economy and global ecology together in new ways. We have in the past been concerned about the impacts of economic growth upon the environment. We are now forced to concern ourselves with the impacts of ecological stress-degra-

vation of soils, water regims, atmosphere, and forests-upon our economic prospects. We have in the more recent past been forced to face up to a sharp increase in economic interdependence among nations. We are now forced to accustom ourselves to an accelerating ecological interdependence among nations. Ecology and economy are becoming ever more interwoven-locally, regionally, nationally, and globally-into a seamless net of causes and effects.

Impoverishing the local resource base can impoverish wider areas. Deforestation by highland farmers causes flooding on lowland farms; factory pollution robs local fisherman of their catch. Such grim local cycles now operate nationally and regionally. Dryland degradation sends environmental refugees in their millions across national borders. Deforestation in Latin America and Asia is causing more floods, and more destructive floods, in downhill, downstream nations. Acid precipitation and nuclear fallout have spread across the borders of Europe. Similar phenomena are emerging on a global scale, such as global warming and loss of ozone. Internationally traded hazardous chemicals entering foods are themselves internationally traded.

In the next century, the environmental pressure causing population movements may increase sharply, while barriers to that movement may be even firmer than they are now.



Over the past few decades, life-threatening environmental concerns have surfaced in the developing world. Countrysides are coming under pressure from increasing numbers of farmers and the landless. Cities are filling with people, cars, and factories. Yet at the same time these developing countries must operate in a world in which the resources gap between most developing countries and industrial nations is widening, in which the industrial world dominates in the rule making of some key international bodies, and in which the industrial world has already used much of the planet's ecological capital. This inequality is the planet's main environmental problem; it is also its main development problem.

International economic relationships pose a particular problem for environmental management in many developing countries. Agriculture, forestry, energy production, and mining generate at least half the gross national product of many developing countries and account for

even larger shares of livelihoods and employment. Exports of natural resources remain a large factor in their economies, especially for the least developed. Most of these countries face enormous economic pressures, both international and domestic, to overexploit their environmental resource base.

The recent crisis in Africa best and most tragically illustrates the ways in which economics and ecology can interact destructively and trip into disaster. Triggered by drought, its real causes lie deeper. They are to be found in part in national policies that gave too little attention, too late, to the needs of small holder agriculture and to the threats posed by rapidly rising populations. Their roots extend also to a global economic system that takes more out of a poor continent than it puts in. Debts that they cannot pay force African nations relaying on commodity sales to overuse their fragile soils, thus turning good land to desert. Trade barriers in the wealthy nationals- and in many



developing ones-make it hard for Africans to sell their goods for reasonable returns putting yet more pressure on ecological systems. Aid from donor nations has not only been inadequate in scale, but too often has reflected the priorities of the nations giving the aid rather than the needs of the recipients. The production base of other developing world areas suffer similarly both from local failures and from the workings of international economic systems. As a consequence of the debt crisis of Latin America that regions natural resources are now being used not for development but to meet financial obligations to creditors abroad. This approach to the debt problem is short sighted from several standpoints; economic, political, and environmental. It requires relatively poor countries simultaneously to accept growing poverty while exporting growing amounts of scarce resources.

A majority of developing countries now have lower per capita income than when the decade began. Rising poverty and un-employment have increased pressure on environmental resources as more people have been forced to rely more directly upon them. Many governments have cut back efforts to protect the environment and to bring ecological considerations into development planning.

The deepening and widening environmental crisis presents a threat to national security- and even survival that may be greater than well-armed, ill-dis-

Wrapper:-

I - Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary

Photo Courtesy:

Forest Utilisation Division, Chennai.

IV - The Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi with the awardees at the 22nd Anniversary Celebrations of the Muthamizh Peraval on 9.2.'97.

posed neighbours and unfriendly alliances. Already in parts of Latin America, Asia, the Middle East, and Africa, environmental decline is becoming a source of political unrest and international tension. The recent destruction of much of Africa's dryland agricultural production was more severe than if an invading army had pursued a scorched earth policy. Yet most of the affected governments, still spend far more to protect their people from invading armies than from the invading desert.

Globally, military expenditures total about 1 trillion a year and continue to grow. In many countries, military spending consumes such a high proportion of gross national product that it itself does great damage to these societies' development efforts. Governments tend to base their approaches to 'security' on traditional definitions. This is most obvious in the attempts to achieve security through the development of potentially planet destroying nuclear weapons systems. Studies suggest that the cold and dark nuclear winter following even a limited nuclear war could destroy plant and animal ecosystems and leave any human survivors occupying a

devastated planet very different from the one they inherited.

The arms race- in all parts of the world- pre empts resources that might be used more productively to diminish the security threats created by environmental conflict and the resentments that are fuelled by widespread poverty.

Many present efforts to guard and maintain human progress, to meet human needs, and to realize human ambitions are simply unsustainable- in both the rich and-poor nations. They draw too heavily, too quickly, on already overdrawn environmental resources accounts to be affordable far into the future without bankrupting those accounts. They may show profits on the balance sheets of our generations, but our children will inherit the losses. We borrow environmental capital from future generations with no intention or prospect of repaying. They may damn us for our spend thrift ways, but they can never collect on our debt to them. We act as we do because we can get away with it: future generations do not vote; they have no political or financial power; they cannot challenge our decisions.

But the results of the present profligacy are rapidly closing the options for further generations. Most of today's decision makers will be dead before the planet feels the heavier effects of acid precipitation, global warming, ozone depletion, or widespread desertification and species loss. Most of the young voters of today will still be alive.

(Continued from Previous Issue:)

THE HIDDEN HISTORY OF KUMARI CONTINENT

Dr. S. Padmanabhan

KANNIYAKUMARI DISTRICT

This paper further gives a few additional facts available in Kanniyakumari District which establish the Lemurian theory. The river Parali now known as Palayaru in Kanniyakumari District is but Pahruli river in the lost continent swallowed by the sea. From the poetic Inscription found in the first dam in the river Palayaru, the dam is mentioned as "Paraliyarru anai". It is also confirmed by the Travancore Land Revenue Manual which calls the river as Paraliaru. After the construction of the dam near Bhuthapandi in the Kollam year 920 M.E. (1745 A.D.), the new branch of the river was called Puthanaru and the old river came to be known as Palayaru. The word "palaya" means old and 'Puthen' means new in Tamil and Malayalam. Even now there is a river named Paraliaaru flowing in the taluks of Kalkulam and Vilavankodu in Kanniyakumari District. Before the deluge the rivers now known as Palayaru and Paraliyaru were flowing, as one single river named Pahruli and because of the deluge this river might have been divided into two. We have already seen that the submersion of the river Pahruli and the city Kumarikodu which was surrounded by a mountain range under the sea is

mentioned in Cilappathikaram. Even now the district Kanniyakumari consists of numerous places bearing names ending in Kodu, such as Athankodu, Andukodu, Idaikodu, Mekkoddu, Nettankodu, Thiruvithankodu, Thiruviaikodu, Pakodu, Vellaikodu, Kattimankodu, etc., (Kodu means a hill in Tamil).

Among the seven main divisions of Kumari Nadu the divisions named Thenganadu and Kumpanainadu were in the area now known as Kanniyakumari District and Thengappattinam and Kurumpanai their capitals are now in the same district. Thenganadu is also mentioned in a copper plate Inscription which belongs to the Aay king Varaguna of the 9th Century A.D. From these facts we can conclude that the present Kanniyakumari District is the remnant of the lost continent of Kumari.

Even now the people of Kanniyakumari District have a fear that the high seas which destroyed their glorious civilization are very cruel. There is a practice among the people of Kanniyakumari District that the newly married couple should witness the car festival of Suchindrum temple first and then only have glimpse of the sea. The slogan still recited in Kanniyakumari is "thirai kaanum mun therai kaanaven-

dum" (see the car festival before you see the tides of the sea). It only reflects the historical tragedy of the Tamils that the Turbulent seas cruelly swallowed their land was still lingering in the minds of the people. Bearing in mind the disaster of the deluge the fisherman of the western coast in Kanniyakumari District used to perform poojas to the sea God. The divers who collect sea-shells under the sea used to celebrate this festival every year during November. A careful and impartial study of the places in the Western coast may reveal many new findings. The rock locally known as "aadu mechaan paarai" (the rock which was used as pasturage for goats) is now in the sea. According to the local fishermen there were mandapams under the sea and one could hear the ringing of bells from there sometimes. The cults of serpent, Mother Goddess named Morima and Mountain God Murungu are prevalent in East Africa and they are worshipped in Kanniyakumari District as Naagar, Amman and Muruga respectively.

There are several evidences to show that Agasthiyar, Tholkappiyar and Athenkottu Aasath belonged to the soil of Kanniyakumari. Tholkappiyam which appeared during the period of the Second Tamil Sangham is

the only work which escaped from the deluge since the author of the work and the scholar named Athenkottu Aasaan who released the work belonged to the area which was escaped from the sea that is the area of the present Kanniyakumari District. It is very clear that the area around Kanniyakumari is the remnant of the lost continent of Kumari.

The author of Tholkappiyam refers one source book "Aindiram" in its prefatory verse. The epithet referred to here as "Aindiram Niraintha Tholkappiyam" denotes that Tholkappiyam is full of references to Aindiram. The text of the ancient work Aindiram was found out from the enormous accumulation of Palm leaves in Saraswathi Mahal Library at Thanjavur. It is a matter of great pleasure and pride that the Directorate of Technical Education of Tamil Nadu Government has published this rare book in the year 1986. We learn from this ancient work Aindiram that its author Mayan lived in the lost Continent of Kumari. One can witness the ancient tradition of Mayan in the art and architecture of not only the whole of India but in various parts of the world. It is regrettable to note that nobody cares about the tradition of Mayan, the pioneer in the field of art and architecture who lived in the lost continent of Kumari.

The Research scholar Chamanlal find in his field research a number of similarities between the civilizations of the Tamils in India and Maayans in Mexico. There are two versions regarding Mayan. According to one school of thought, there are

two Mayans living in the remote past, one in Kumaricontinent and another in Mexico. Another school of thought headed by Dr.V.Ganapathi Sthapathi, a Doyen of Indian traditional art and architecture of International repute, the Mayan of the east and the Maayan of the west were not two different entities, but are one and the same individual. They stand separate by space but not by time. The proven continental drift, accounts for the dual role of one and the same single personality. It is a fine field for further research on multidimensional basis.

Maulana Azad once remarked, "the history of India is still concealed in the depths of the soil waiting for the archaeologists who will bring new data to light to reconstruct the history of ancient India". The history of South India particularly of Tamil Nadu is hidden not only under the soil but also under the sea. In the southern end of India no sincere attempt has been made so far in the field of excavation and underwater archaeology. The history of South India can be wonderfully recovered if any excavation in the land and scientific research under the sea around Kanniyakumari are undertaken. Undoubtedly the archaeological treasure lying buried in the area will throw light on thousands and thousands of years of human history.

In the first half of the 19th century a ship named Challenger first started the underwater research in the Indian Ocean. In the Year 1889 a German ship named Fasel and a Russian ship named Vidyasu with all the up-to-

date equipments undertook the ocean-based study in the Southern and Northern India respectively. Again in the year 1960 the American French and Russian ships continued the underwater research which revealed the fact about the existence of long and high mountain ranges under Indian ocean. It is a confirmatory piece of evidence for the destruction of the river Pahruli and the city Kumari Kodu with many ranges of hills by the tidal waves of the sea detailed in Cilappathikaaram. But their underwater research was not continued further. If the research under the Indian Ocean would have continued in multidimensional basis, the hidden history of not only the ancient Tamils, but even the beginning of the human history would have been brought to light. It is presumed that the age old civilization of the lost Lemuria was many millions of years older to the civilizations of the Sind and Gangetic valleys. If the lost Lemurian civilizations is unearthed and brought to light, the other old civilizations of the world particularly of Indus Valley and Gangetic Plain would have receded far behind. Perhaps that may be the reason the historians of North India are not interested to undertake the project of underwater archaeology in Indian Ocean in a detailed way and give credit to the ancient civilization of the Tamils.

It is the prime duty of the State and Central Governments with the help of UNESCO to carry out the underwater archaeological exploration in the Indian ocean and bring out the hidden history of the Kumari continent and also the original abode of mankind.

We present a G.O. every month,
for the benefit of readers



ABSTRACT

FORESTS-Wildlife-Sanction of financial assistance to the victims who are killed/injured by the attack of Wild animals-Pattern of Relief Rationalised - Orders - Issued.

ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (FR.V) DEPARTMENT

G.O. Ms. No.235

Dated:4-10-1996

Read:

1. G.O.Ms.No.17, Food and Agriculture, dt. 2-1-65
2. G.O.Ms.No.3212, Agriculture, dt. 8-12-1970
3. G.O.Ms.No.430, Forests & Fisheries, dt.9-4-83
4. G.O.Ms.No.629, Public (L&O-B), dt.3-5-1991
5. Govt. Ln.No.13551/FR.WL/92-4, dt.22-6-1992
6. G.O.Ms.No.874, Public (L&O-B) dt.8-8-96
7. From the Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) and Chief Wildlife Warden, Ref. No.A4/7908/96, dt.2-8-96

ORDER:

In the Government Order first read above, the Government have ordered the payment of compensation to the owners of the Cattle viz. Buffaloes, bulls, oxen and cows that are killed by the Tigers in the vicinity of the Sanctuaries. In the Government Order second read above, the scheme was extended to the animals killed by panthers also (in addition to tiger). In the Government Order third read above, the said scheme was extended to the entire State of Tamil Nadu and the quantum of compensation fixed as Rs.500/- or 50% of the value of the animal killed. Now, the Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden in his letter seventh read above, has suggested to include 'bears, elephants and Hyena in addition to 'Tiger and Panther'.

2. The Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) and Chief Wildlife Warden in his letter last read above has further stated that at present the compensation of Rs.5,000/- is paid for the human death caused by the wild animals to the legal heirs and also there is a provision for ex-gratia payment for the following:-

- | | |
|---|------------|
| a) Total permanent disablement disqualifying to continue in any avocation | Rs.3,500/- |
| b) Grievous hurt falling within Section 320 of the Indian Penal Code | Rs.3,000/- |
| c) Loss of eye-sight of both the eyes | Rs.1,500/- |
| d) Permanent incapacitation or loss of joint of the body | Rs.1,500/- |
| e) Permanent disfiguration of face or head | Rs. 600/- |

The Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) and Chief Wildlife Warden has added that he has examined the case with reference to other States, that it is found that in Gujarat they have raised the amount of compensation to Rs.1.00 lakh for the loss of life. He has added that the compensation now paid so far is very low and in fact does not have any impact on the protection of Wildlife and it is definitely not adequate to the loss of human life. Hence, he has requested that the relief now given may be revised.

3. The Government have examined the whole issue in detail based on the orders issued in the Government orders fourth and sixth read above and accordingly they have decided to enhance the norms as detailed below for the following categories as noted against each:

1) Relief for the death/injury to human beings due to the attack by the Wildlife elephants, Tiger etc.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| a) To the legal heirs of the deceased | - | Rs.50,000/- (Rupees fifty thousand only) |
| b) Permanent incapacitation | - | Rs.50,000/- (Rupees fifty thousand only) |
| c) Major injuries | - | Rs.10,000/- (Rupees ten thousand only) |
| d) Partial incapacitation | - | Rs.10,000/- (Rupees ten thousand only) |
| e) Minor injuries | - | Rs.5,000/- (Rupees five thousand only) |

2) Relief for the losses to the houses, shops and crops, other than human death/injury caused by the attack of Wildlife:

Quantum of Relief

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| i) Loss of or damage to house | |
| a) ROC roof or tiles house | - a) Actual loss or Rs.2,500/- (Rupees Two thousand and five hundred only) which ever is less. |
| b) Thatched house | - b) Actual loss or Rs.1,500/- (Rupees One thousand and five hundred only) whichever is lower. |

(a) and (b) includes loss of movable property such as grains, clothes and other household effects.

ii) Loss or damage to shops:

a) Tiled shops, including loss of goods in the shop

Actual loss or Rs.2,500/- (Rupees Two thousand and five hundred only) whichever is lower.

b) Thatched shops or bunks including loss of goods in the shops

Actual loss or Rs.1,500/- (Rupees One thousand and five hundred only) whichever is lower.

iii) Loss of earning assets like vehicles, boat, cattle

Actual loss or Rs.2,000/- (Rupees Two thousand only) whichever is lower.

iv) For loss of movable property such as grains, clothes and other household effects without loss of or damage to house, loss of articles in shop without loss or damage to building containing the shop.

Actual loss or Rs.1,000/- (Rupees One thousand only) whichever is lower.

Relief under Items 2(i) and (ii) will disentitle relief under Item 2 (iv) above.

v) Damage to irrigation, drinking water wells, tube wells, electric motor, fittings, fruit bearing trees etc.

Actual loss or Rs.1,000/- (Rupees One thousand only) whichever is lower.

in the ownership of the victims.

4. The Chief Conservator Forests (WL) and Chief Wildlife Warden, Chennai is hereby empowered to issue necessary sanction orders in respect of compensation to the legal heirs of victims who lost his life due to attack by wild animals. For permanent disability and injuries referred to above, the same will be sanctioned by the concerned Wildlife Conservators or Territorials Conservators as the case may be after getting the due certificates from the Medical Officers concerned and payment will be made by the Wildlife Wardens or District Forest Officers.

5. In respect of human loss of life or injury or crop damages etc. due to the attack by the Elephant the same will be paid under the 'Project Elephant'. The expenditure towards relief sanctioned to the victim will be met under the following need of account.

"4406 Capital Outlay on Forestry and Wildlife-02. Environmental, Forestry and Wildlife-110. Wildlife preservation Schemes in the Eighth Five Year Plan - III. Centrally Sponsored Scheme-SD. Project Elephant-Anamalai and Mudumalai-16. Major works (D.P.C.No.4406 02 110 SD 1600)".

6. Similarly, the expenditure towards payment of compensation in case of death by carnivores like Tiger, Leopard, Hyena etc will be met under the following head of account:

"2406. Forestry and Wildlife-02. Environmental, Forestry and Wildlife-110. Wildlife Preservation-VI. Scheme shared between State and Centre-UE. Tiger Reserve Scheme (D.P.C. No.2406 02 110 00 0003)".

Necessary provision of funds will be made in Revised Estimate/Final Modified Appropriation 1996-97.

7. The Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) and Chief Wildlife Warden, Chennai is requested to take necessary action to get the ratification of the Government of India for meeting the expenditure at the enhanced rate now ordered by the Government. He is also requested to take necessary action to provide adequate funds under the above two heads of accounts.

8. For the purpose of paying compensation for the death of cattle, due to attack by wild animals, 'donkey' 'horse' and 'sheep' be included in the list in addition to the existing 'cow', 'ox' and 'buffalo

Similarly, now compensation paid for the death of cattle died due to the attack of tiger and panther. In future, in this list, 'bear' 'hyena' and 'elephant' shall also be included.

9. The rearing of goats within a radius five kilometers in and around the Wildlife Sanctuaries/National Parks/Reserve Forests is thereby banned. The Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) and Chief Wildlife Warden, Chennai is requested to take necessary action to ban the rearing of goats in consultation with the Director of Animal Husbandry, Chennai.

10. The Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) and Chief Wildlife Warden, Chennai is empowered to sanction the compensation as at present.

11. This order issues with the concurrence of Finance Department vide its U.O. No.326/AH&F/96-I, dt.3-10-96.

(By order of the Governor)

K.S. SRIPATHI,
Secretary to Government



PURE
silk

PURE
zari

Royal purples...
daring reds...
bright yellows...
exquisite silks
in almost every
imaginable hue.
From Co-optex.







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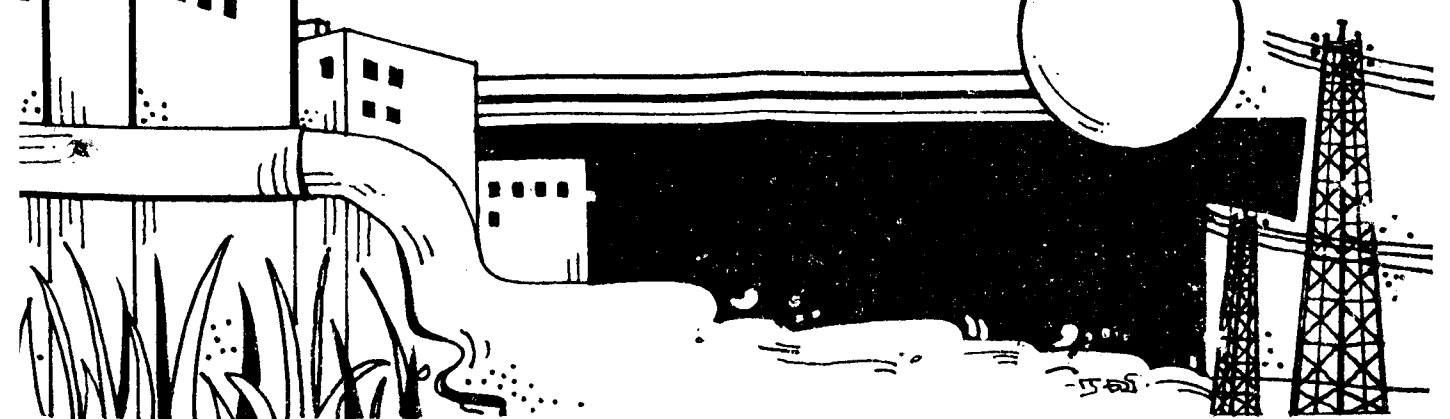
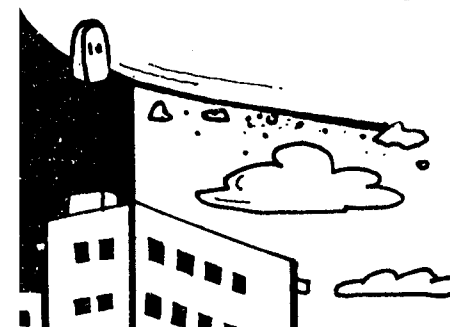
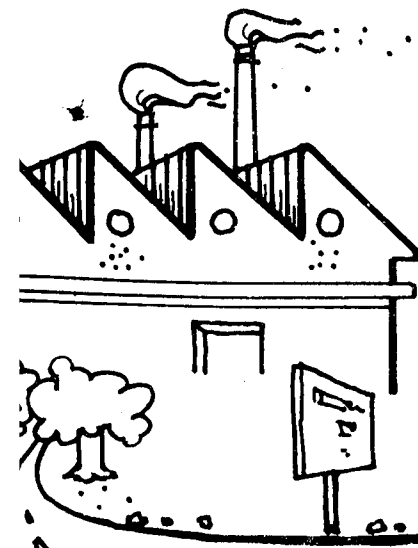
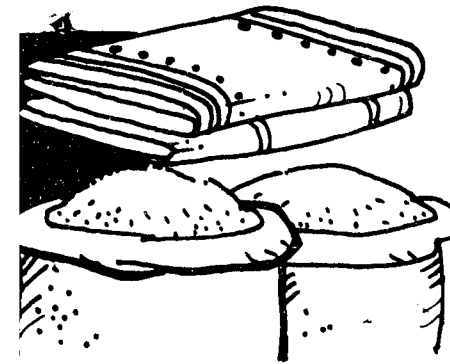
TAMIL ARASU

MAGAZINE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

April 1997

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TAMIL NADU BUDGET 1997 - 98

The Hon'ble Chief Minister, Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi presenting the Budget for 1997-98 to the Legislative Assembly on 5th March 1997

Hon'ble Speaker,

When I presented the Budget last year, I had stated that in accordance with the Kural of Thiruvalluvar.

'Who pulls forth like a bullock throughout every way and place,

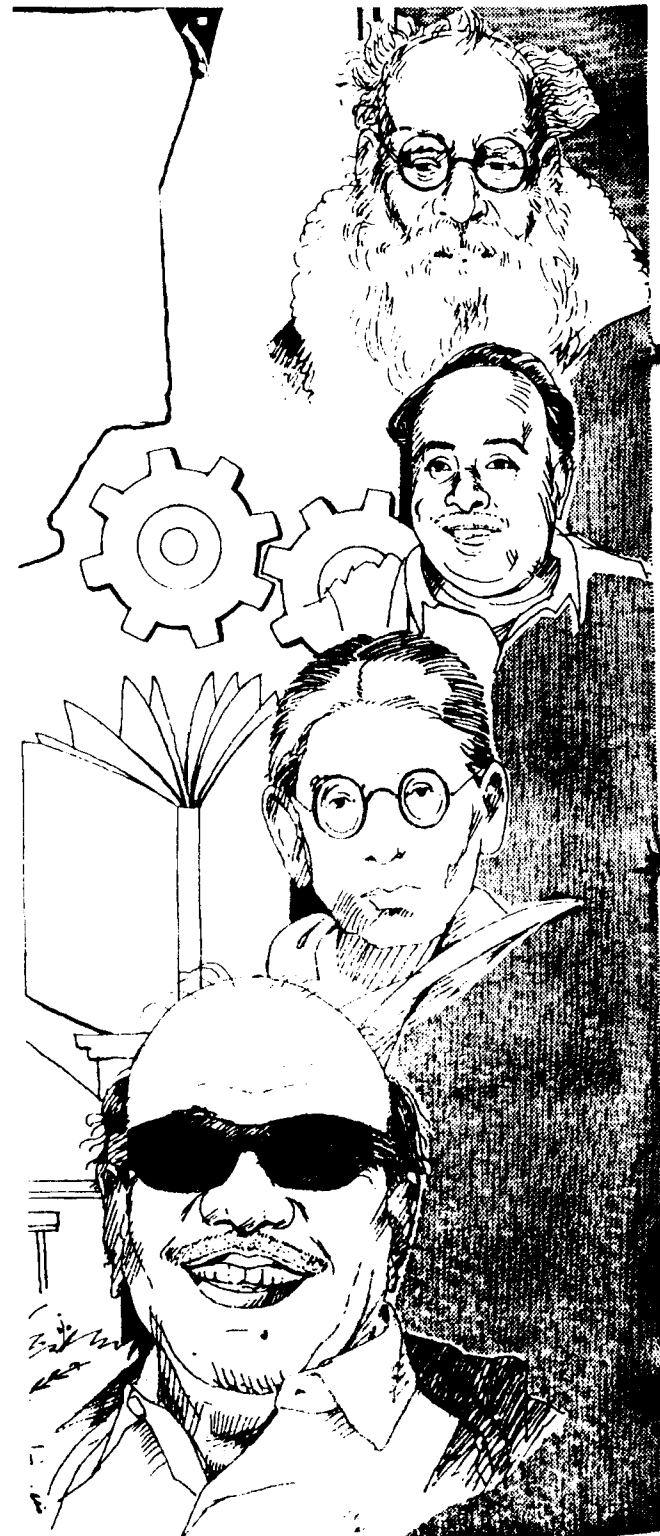
Will surely cause his griefs themselves to grieve and flee apace'

This Government would function with the determination of an ox pulling its burden over an uneven path full of obstacles, in the firm belief that the relentless efforts will result in an end to difficulties and ultimately in success. In the past ten months, this Government has been serving with the same zeal and has started implementing several schemes for the economic development of the State and the welfare of the people, tackling successfully the situation arising from heavy rains and floods occurring twice and drought in many areas, even while successfully conducting simultaneous elections to all the local bodies and the primary co-operative societies. I place the Revised Estimates 1996-97 and the Budget Estimates 1997-98 before this august House with the determination to continue to strive vigorously for the welfare of the people by gearing up the administrative machinery.

CENTRE - STATE RELATIONS

2. Although the Constitution envisages the setting up of an Inter - State Council, after the first meeting convened by the National Front Government, it was only the United Front Government which convened the second meeting of the Inter-State Council in 1996. In the meeting held on 15th October 1996, I had stated that the Sarkaria Commission's recommendations were not adequate to meet the legitimate demands for greater autonomy for the States and that the recommendations should be improved upon and the Constitution of India amended.

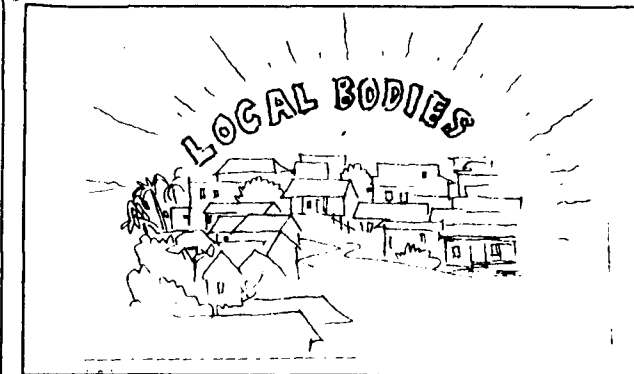
3. The National Development Council met on the 16th January 1997 with the State Chief Ministers participating and the Prime Minister of India presiding, to consider the Approach Paper for the Ninth Five Year Plan. While welcoming the



envisaged average annual growth rate of 7 percent during the Ninth Five Year Plan, I had stressed that this would call for transfer of adequate resources by the Centre to the States. I had also called for increasing the grant component of the Central assistance to the States from 30 percent to 50 percent during the Ninth Plan.

4. I had emphasised the need for quick implementation of the recommendation of the Tenth Finance Commission for inclusion of all the taxes levied by the Centre in the divisible pool for sharing between the States and Centre. I welcome the announcement by the Union Finance Minister accepting my views expressed in the conference of Chief Ministers as a beginning for the Central Government in according respect to the rights of the States.

LOCAL BODIES



5. This Government has come forward to grant greater responsibilities, powers and financial resources to the local bodies in stages.

6. This Government would request the Central Government to amend the Constitution to provide for the Village Panchayat Presidents to become ex-officio members of the Panchayat Union Council and for the direct election of the Panchayat Union Chairpersons, as existed earlier in Tamil Nadu.

7. The District Panchayats, after discussing the implementation of Government development schemes in rural areas, will give suitable recommendations for their improvement. They will allocate the District Decentralised Plan outlay to appropriate schemes taking into account the requirements of the various parts of the District.

8. As regards the mandatory functions of the Village Panchayats and the Panchayat Unions under the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, Government has issued orders declaring the Panchayat President as the executive authority, giving him the necessary resources and staff to carry out duties such as

provision of drinking water, street lights, maintenance of roads, public health, sanitation, etc. Similarly, maintenance of minor irrigation tanks, Panchayat Union roads, buildings etc., would come under the purview of Panchayat Unions.

9. On the basis of the recommendations of the State Planning Commission regarding devolution of additional responsibilities to the local bodies, Government has decided to issue orders for entrusting the responsibility for the implementations and supervision of schemes in important areas like poverty alleviation, drinking water supply, public distribution system, roads and communications, khadi, village and cottage industries, technical training, libraries, rural electrification and non conventional energy sources. In addition, Government has decided to entrust to the rural local bodies the responsibility of supervising the Primary and Middle Schools in rural areas.

10. I hereby state categorically that the local bodies would take decision regarding the responsibilities entrusted to them and that the officials would only have the responsibility of implementing those decisions.

11. In order to provide additional funds to the local bodies, the Government has considered the recommendations of the State Finance Commission and has taken the following decisions:-

- i) Hitherto, the local bodies were given 60-70 percent share of the total Entertainment Tax collections. From 1997-98, 90 percent of the Entertainment Tax receipts, will be assigned to the local bodies.
- ii) For the first time in our State, 8 percent of the total tax revenue receipts excluding the Entertainment Tax will be transferred to the local bodies.
- iii) This 8 percent allocation will be distributed to all the local bodies based on certain parameters. In order to correct the possible inequities arising out of this distribution and to continue the existing incentive grants to the local bodies, 15 percent of the above mentioned 8 percent allocation will be transferred to a fund called Equalisation and Incentive Fund. 60 percent of this fund will be allocated to the rural local bodies and 40 percent to the urban local bodies.
- iv) Of the remaining amount from the 8 percent allocation, 55 percent will be transferred to the rural local bodies and 45 percent to the urban local bodies.

12. I am happy to announce that as a result of these decisions, the grants to the local bodies on revenue account will increase from Rs.646 crores during this year to Rs.1174 crores during 1997-98.

13. Necessary amendments have been made to the Municipal Corporation Acts to provide for additional financial powers to the Mayors, Councils and Commissioners of all the Municipal Corporations. A legislation common to all the Municipal Corporations, Municipalities and Town Panchayats in Tamil Nadu will be introduced in the current session.

ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS

14. Revenue Department plays a very important role in the day to day life of the people. The Revenue Commission constituted by the Government under the Chairmanship of the former Chief Secretary Thiru. Sabanayagam is examining measures to avoid delays in revenue administration and for delegation of necessary powers to the officials at lower levels. The Commission will express its views on simplifying the existing procedures for issue of various certificates and licences and on supervision and control mechanisms.

15. This Government had already announced its intention to set up an inquiry institution called "Ombudsman". The High Level Committee headed by Justice Thiru Ramanujam has been requested to study the laws in other States and also the recently introduced Bill in the Parliament and to suggest suitable legislative measures for setting up an enquiry forum in our State also. This committee will recommend administrative reforms to permanently usher in a corruption free administration.

16. In order to prevent recurrence of irregularities that occurred during the previous regime due to the interference by the executive in tender procedures and changes effected in its basic structure without the approval of the Legislature, an act will be passed to prescribe transparent and fair procedures to be followed in the award of tenders. This will restore people's confidence in the Government's tender procedures which had been lost due to past events.

17. One major reason for the occurrence of irregularities in administration is that information regarding the decisions taken by the officers at various levels does not reach the public. Hence, this Government has decided to enact a "Right to Information Act" to provide the public the right of access to information about the administration. This will enable the public to get details about the

schemes of the Government implemented by various departments, the works executed by various departments, the quantity of rice and other essential commodities supplied to each of the shops under public distribution system and their stocks and pave the way for the people to question irregularities in the system.

SELF HELP

18. The Manu Needhi programme for redressal of public grievances was introduced for the first time in India in Tamil Nadu by the D.M.K. Government. This programme requires the Officials to go to the villages, to meet the people, hear their grievances and to take prompt action on them. We will remove the slackness that has crept into the implementation of this programme during the recent years and the programme will be revamped so as to pave the way for promoting among the people an attitude of self help so that they come forward to fulfil their needs by themselves.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

19. For the year 1997-98 Rs.44.38 crores has been provided under the Integrated Rural Development Programme and Rs.5.01 crores for the related "TRYSEM" training programme, including State and Central Government funds. The allocation for the Jawahar Vela Vaippu Thittam during the next year will be Rs. 46.78 crores. During this year 71,597 houses are to be built under Indira AwasYojana of which 61,428 houses will be for Adi-Dravidars. Farmers will be assisted at a cost of Rs.7.85 crores for Jeevandhara wells. An additional 643.62 lakh man days of employment will be generated in rural areas under schemes like the Jawahar Vela Vaippu Thittam and Employment Assurance Scheme.

20. 26,136 individual toilets and 353 toilets in schools are being constructed at a cost of Rs.3.35 crores under the Central Rural Sanitation Programme during 1996-97. In the next financial year also a sum of Rs.7.26 crores has been provided for this programme.

21. A Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project is being implemented at a cost of Rs.43 crores with the assistance of the Government of Denmark, in South Arcot Vallalar and Villupuram Ramasamy Padayatchiyar Districts from October, 1996.

22. I had mentioned in the last Budget that Makkal Nala Paniyalargal would be appointed in each Panchayat to undertake activities such as encouraging child education, adult literacy, running

libraries, assisting in the protection of village common properties, prohibition propaganda work etc. This scheme which was started during the year 1989 was abandoned in the year 1991 by the previous Government. With a view to providing an opportunity to those who lost their jobs, a detailed Government order for the implementation of this scheme has been issued. 17,500 male and female workers will be involved in this scheme.

23. Villages are the backbone of India. In order to develop these villages in a phased manner, one village in each Assembly Constituency will be selected every year and developed into a modern village with all facilities. A scheme will be implemented from the next financial year for this purpose and this rural scheme will be named as "Anna Renaissance Scheme".

BASIC AMENITIES

24. Our primary objective is to provide to the people seven basic minimum services viz., protected drinking water supply, primary health care, housing assistance to shelterless poor, nutritious food to poor children, a fair price shop for every village, compulsory primary education and road facilities to all villages.

RURAL WATER SUPPLY

25. Of the total 66,631 rural habitations in Tamil Nadu, 34,459 get 40 LPCD (litres per capita daily) of protected drinking water. 154 habitations do not have protected drinking water at all. We will provide protected drinking water supply to all these 154



habitations by the end of this month. 10,000 habitations which have less than 10 LPCD supply will be given priority and schemes will be implemented in the next two years so that they get a minimum water supply of 40 LPCD. Required drinking water facilities would be provided for the remaining 20,000 habitations also in the next three

years. Thus, before the close of the Five Year plan period, we will provide 40 LPCD of protected drinking water to all the rural habitations in Tamil Nadu and we will bring about a situation whereby there will be no village in Tamil Nadu without protected drinking water. I am happy to announce that a substantial allocation of Rs.250 crores has been made during 1997-98 for this purpose.

URBAN WATER SUPPLY

26. Rs.31.5 crores has been provided for water supply schemes in Municipalities and Town Panchayats during 1997-98 and out of this amount, besides completing the drinking water supply schemes in five Municipalities and 18 Town Panchayats, 11 new schemes would be taken up benefiting four Municipalities and seven Town Panchayats.

27. At present, 440 million litres of drinking water is supplied daily to Chennai city. It would be possible to continue to maintain this level in view of the comfortable position in the reservoirs. Even though, Krishna water had reached Chennai towards the end of September 1996 due to the extraordinary efforts of this Government, breaches have occurred in the canal due to heavy rains in October 1996. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken up the repair of these breaches expeditiously. It is expected that this work will be completed by June 1996. The following two major projects will be implemented in order to distribute the three TMC of Krishna water received at present and the 12 TMC of Krishna water to be received by 1999-2000. An allocation of Rs.80 crores has been made in this financial year for the scheme being implemented at an estimated cost of Rs.513.90 crores with the financial assistance from the World Bank. As the next phase, another project has been formulated at an estimated cost of Rs.1533 crores and sent to the World Bank for funding.

28. A project for treatment of sewage at a cost of Rs.572 crores with financial assistance from the Japanese Overseas Economic and Cooperation Fund has been started. A part of the sewage of Chennai City would be treated and supplied to the industries.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

29. Sanction has been accorded for various schemes in the Chennai Metropolitan Area at an estimated cost of Rs.326 crores. These include construction of Moffussal Bus Stand and flyover at Koyambedu at an estimated cost Rs.98 crores, construction of over bridges at Perambur and

Nungambakkam at an estimated cost of Rs.44 crores and the construction of drinking water supply head works at Ekkattuthangal and Choolaimedu at an estimated cost of Rs.21 crores. Additional schemes to the tune of Rs.200 crores will be sanctioned during 1997-98.

30. As was done in the year 1996-97 during the next financial year also provisions of Rs 25 crores for Corporations other than Chennai, Rs.10 crores for the Municipalities and Rs.25 crores for the Town Panchayats have been made for improving infrastructure facilities.

31. The Tamil Nadu Urban Development Fund has been set up for improving basic services such as drinking water supply, sewerage schemes, shopping complexes and transport in all the urban local bodies in Tamil Nadu. The State Government's share in this Fund will be Rs.120 crores and the share of All India Financial Institutions will be Rs.51 crores. Loans to the extent of Rs.60 crores would be sanctioned from this Fund to the local bodies. In addition, a grant Fund of Rs.30 crores would be set up for providing grants to schemes benefiting the urban poor.

32. A provision of Rs.50 crores has been made in the Union Railway Budget 1997-98 for the second phase of MRTS. We also have provided Rs.50 crores for this purpose in this Budget. Hence, the second phase of MRTS from Luz-Velachery will be taken up.

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND PRICE SITUATION

33. With a view to bringing down the prices of



essential commodities several concessions were given in commercial taxes in the last Budget. As a result of this, and also due to the other vigorous measures, prices of certain essential commodities like dhall, chillies and edible oil have come down. However, due to heavy rains and floods in Tamil

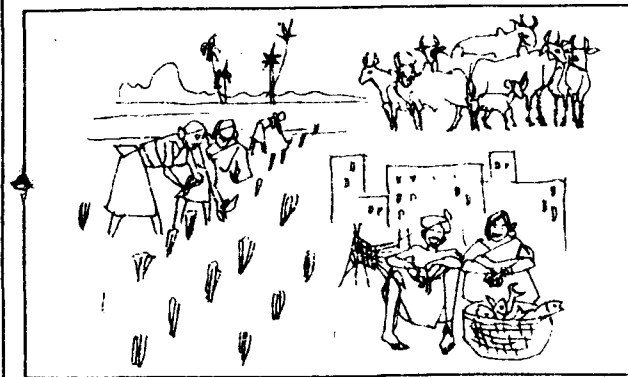
Nadu and natural calamities in Andhra Pradesh, the price of rice had gone up in the open market and has now come down to some extent. In order to keep under check the price of essential commodities like rice consumed by the poor and the middle class, the Government is taking necessary measures to streamline the Public Distribution System without raising the price of rice and without reducing quantity of issue in the fair price shops.

34. Government of India has recently announced a new scheme called the "Targeted Public Distribution System". As per this scheme, 10 Kg of rice or wheat per month will be supplied at half the price to the families below the poverty line. Central Government has permitted the selling price of this rice to be fixed upto Rs.4 per Kg for these families. As the price of rice is Rs.3.75 per kg and a quantity upto 20 kgs per family is being supplied in Tamil Nadu at present, without changing this basis, action has been taken to distribute new family cards to genuine beneficiaries and to eliminate bogus cards. **Eventhough, as per Central Government's scheme, the price of rice will be Rs.7.50 per Kg. to those whose annual income is above Rs. 15,000, I am happy to announce here that our State Government has decided to continue the supply of rice at Rs.3.75 per Kg. to those below poverty line with an annual income of less than Rs.15,000 and to the middle class with annual income above Rs.15,000.**

35. The Committee set up for streamlining the Public Distribution System in Tamil Nadu has submitted its report after visiting many States and studying the Public Distribution System there. This report has been examined and it has been decided to distribute family cards in three colours. Families with annual income less than Rs.15,000 will be given red coloured family cards and they will be supplied rice and other articles at fair prices under the Public Distribution System. Affluent families with a monthly income of more than Rs.10,000 will be given green coloured family cards and, as already announced, only commodities other than rice will be supplied to them. The middle class families who do not fall under these two categories, will be supplied yellow coloured family cards and they will be given, based on their option, rice or 3 Kgs. of sugar or 5 litres of Kerosene in lieu of rice.

AGRICULTURE

36. An outlay of Rs.103.79 crores has been provided during 1997-98 under the Tamil Nadu Agricultural Development Project implemented with



World Bank assistance and schemes such as agricultural extension, seed production, watershed development, rural roads and rural drinking water supply would be taken up under this programme.

37. NABARD has set up a high-tech Agricultural Finance Company in Tamil Nadu with a view to providing loans for production and export of commercial agro based industries in floriculture, vegetables and mushroom culture. The share capital of this financial institution would be Rs.20 crores. **It is noteworthy that Tamil Nadu is one of the first three States in India in which this project is being taken up.**

38. With a view to shifting the grain markets functioning in congested areas in major towns and establishing these grain markets on the outskirts of the towns with all necessary facilities, as a pilot project, **a paddy market will be constructed on the outskirts of Madurai City at an estimated cost of Rs.9.80 crores.**

39. The expert Committee constituted with a view to ushering in Second Green Revolution and to developing waste and manavari lands using the latest technology under the chairmanship of Dr.V.C.Kulandaiswamy is about to complete, its work. On receipt of the detailed recommendations of this committee the Government would take expeditious action.

40. Government is examining the inclusion of Agriculture as one of the subjects in school education with a view to providing an opportunity to students desiring to join Agricultural Colleges.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

41. The Livestock Development Project currently under implementation with DANIDA assistance in Pudukkottai District will be extended to the southern districts of Kamarajar, Chidambaranar, Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar and Ramanathapuram at a cost of Rs.27.50 crores.

FISHERMEN WELFARE

42. I had stated in the last Budget that an allocation of Rs.6.73 crores had been made for the year 1996-97 for providing 4,000 houses and other facilities every year to fishermen free of cost. It has been brought to the notice of the Government that the construction of many houses which should have been completed during the previous regime has not been completed so far. For completing these houses during this year itself, an additional amount of Rs.3.56 crores has been allocated. During 1997-98 funds have been allocated to construct 4,000 houses.

43. The second phase of Integrated Marine Fisheries Development Scheme would be implemented with an outlay of Rs 48 crores with the assistance of National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC). Under this scheme 16,350 fishermen would be provided boats fixed with outboard motors and various types of fishing nets.

44. Walkie-talkie sets would be given at a subsidised rate to fishermen to enable them to communicate immediately in times of emergency when they go out for fishing.

IRRIGATION

45. Preliminary works have been started under the scheme to provide irrigation facilities to 58 villages in Usilampatti area, Madurai District utilising the additional water received from Periyar Dam. Similarly work has commenced in respect of Shenbagathoppu scheme in Thiruvannamalai Sambuvarayar District, Varattaru-Kuppathu Odai scheme in Tirunelveli Kattabomman District and Andiappanur Odai scheme in North Arcot Ambedkar District.

46. The Water Resources Consolidation Project is being implemented as a major scheme in the irrigation sector with an outlay of Rs.1140 crores with World Bank assistance. A provision of Rs.173 crores has been made in 1997-98 for this project. Modernisation of large and medium irrigation schemes, enhancing irrigation efficiency, participation of farmers in irrigation management and quick completion of the incomplete irrigation projects are the important objectives of this project.

47. I am glad to announce that the four schemes - **Perambalur, Kodumudi, Nambiyar, and Lakshmi Panchayal** in Tirunelveli Kattabomman District, and the five schemes - **Gridhamal, Govt. in Kamarajar District, Mordhana and Rajathoppu Kinar** in North Arcot.

Ambedkar District, Poigayar in Kanniyakumari District, and Sothuparai in Madurai District have been taken up for implementation under the TamilNadu Water Resources Consolidation Project. It is pertinent to note that six out of the above nine schemes were started in 1989-90 but not continued by the subsequent Government.

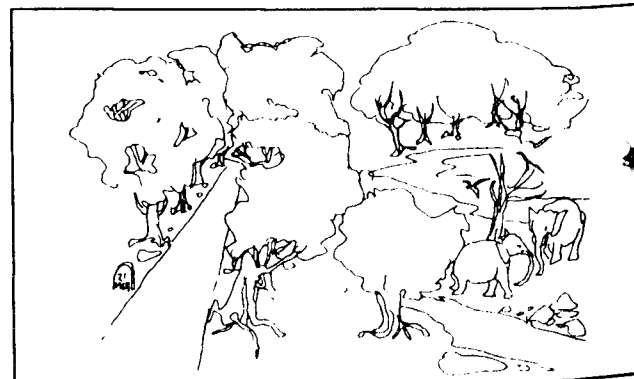
48. The system of Kudimaramathu by which farmers undertake maintenance of irrigation schemes has become defunct and the farmers have become dependent on the Government for maintenance of the irrigation schemes. Therefore, organisation of local farmers will be formed under the Tamil Nadu Water Resources Consolidation Project so as to enable their gradual participation in the maintenance of irrigation schemes. The officials of the Public Works Department will render necessary technical assistance to these organisations.

49. There are approximately 40,000 tanks in Tamil Nadu. In 1997-98, an allocation of Rs.17.12 crores has been provided for the Tank Modernisation Project which is being implemented at a project cost of Rs.115 crores with assistance from the European Economic Community. A scheme for modernisation of small tanks of the panchayat unions has been formulated at an estimated cost of Rs.270 crores and efforts are underway to secure Japanese aid.

50. A reservoir will be constructed across Mallattar near Bathalapalli in Gudiyatham taluk, North Arcot Ambedkar District at a cost of Rs.25.49 crores in three years. A reservoir across Cheyyar, near Kuppanatham village will be constructed in Chengam taluk, Thiruvannamalai-Sambuvarayar District at a cost of Rs.35.46 crores in the next three years. A reservoir will be constructed across Varattar, near Valli Madurai village in Harur taluk, Dharmapuri District at a cost of Rs.19.20 crores in three years. The Sadayaneri Channel in Sathankulam taluk in Chidambaranar District, will be widened and extended upto Puthamtharurai at a cost Rs.12.33 crores. Nayodai scheme in Dindigul Mannar Thirumalai District and Sirumalai Irrigation Scheme in Nilakkottai taluk will be duly examined and suitable decisions taken soon.

ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

51. I had mentioned in the last Budget that a massive Tamil Nadu Afforestation Project with an estimated cost of Rs.463.20 crores with financial assistance from OECF Japan would be commenced



in 1997-98 and implemented over the next five years. I am happy to inform that the approval of the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan has been obtained for this project. A provision of Rs.50 crores has been made in the Budget for this scheme.

52. Steps have been taken to intensify the vigil to curb smuggling of sandalwood and an additional 452 forest guards have been appointed. Corruption in sandalwood auctions has been eliminated and on an average the revenue per tonne has almost doubled this year.

53. Under the National River Action Plan, schemes will be implemented at a cost of Rs.38.20 crores to prevent pollution in the Cauvery River due to mixing of sewage from the towns on its banks such as Bhavani, Kumarapalayam, Erode, Pallipalayam, Tiruchirapalli. A sum of Rs.10 crores has been earmarked for Cauvery River Pollution Abatement Project this year. Further the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board would implement a project for handling and treating hazardous waste in a safe manner at a cost of Rs.11.60 crores with financial assistance from World Bank.

ROADS

54. Huge funds are required for improving all the roads in the State to facilitate industrial growth. Realising that Government alone cannot provide all the resources required for road development, the Government of India has announced a policy for private sector participation in National Highway Projects. Accordingly, priority would be given for widening, upgradation and maintenance of National Highways through joint efforts of the private sector and the Government. The Government has proposed to take up the formation of a bye-pass on the National Highway near Coimbatore and construction of a new bridge at Karanodai on Chennai-Calicut National Highway through the private sector. For widening and upgradation of roads of high traffic density, a project has been drawn up at a cost of Rs.950 crores for obtaining financial assistance from the World Bank.

55. The construction of a sub way and an interchange on the Tindivanam-Pondicherry-Krishnagiri Road has been taken up at a cost of Rs.19.89 crores. During 1997-98, the Highways Department and Southern Railway will undertake the construction of an over bridge at a cost of Rs.5 crores near Kilperumpakkam Railway Station in Villupuram Town. A bridge will be constructed across the River Palayar connecting Melamanakudi and Keelamanakudi in Kanniyakumari District at a cost of about Rs.6 crores.

56. When the D.M.K. was in power during 1972, a scheme was formulated and implemented for providing link roads to all the villages having a population of 1500 or more. The D.M.K. Government took steps in 1990 to provide link roads to all villages having a population of more than 1000. Out of the remaining 517 such villages, 108 villages will be provided link roads during 1997-98 and the balance 409 villages during 1998-99. Following that, a scheme is being drawn up to provide link roads on 4,986 villages having a population between 500 and 1000. Thus we will bring about a situation in five years whereby there will be no village in Tamil Nadu, without link roads.

57. Eventhough, NABARD came forward to support road development projects, the previous Government failed to make use of the offer. I am happy to inform that this Government has obtained sanctions from NABARD for Rs.250 crores for road development works and Rs.22 crores for irrigation works. We will continue to take up road development works getting a similar quantum of assistance next year also.

ROAD MAINTENANCE

58. The Government would constitute a 'Road Maintenance Fund' for the maintenance and upgradation of roads. A specified share of the receipts under Motor Vehicle tax will be transferred to this fund. The views of road users, organisations will be obtained on the administration of this fund, and accordingly works would be taken up from out of the fund. A provision of Rs.287 crores has been made in this Budget for the maintenance of roads.

59. As there has been a ban on recruitment of gang mazdoors after 1977, at present there are only 4975 persons in this position. I am happy to inform that this ban would be lifted, 10,000 gang mazdoors would be appointed on the basis of the existing norm and two persons per 8 Km and the maintenance activities expanded.

TRANSPORT

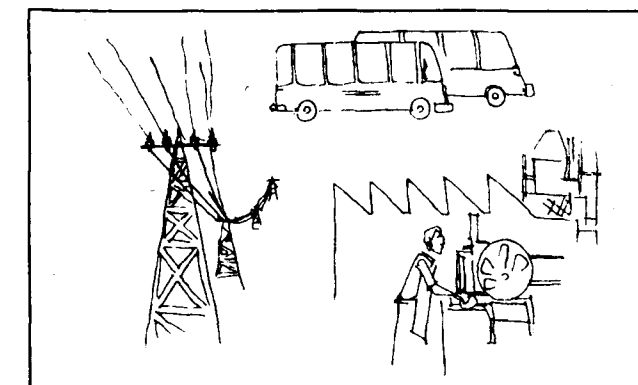
60. I have some happy news for those who are distressed over the poor condition of the buses. In addition to the purchase of 2,200 new buses this year for the Transport Corporation at a cost of Rs.150 crores, 3,600 more new buses will be purchased at a cost of Rs.292 crores during the next year.

61. Body building units with modern technology will be established at four places in the State with foreign technical collaboration to build buses for our Transport Corporations.

62. Without forgetting the fact that if the villages are the backbone of the country, tiny hamlets are its nerves, the Government is keen to provide transport facilities also along with other basic minimum needs to these hamlets. We have therefore decided to allow the private sector to ply vans in the unserved interior rural sector. Permits will be given to these vans to operate on route lengths upto 16 Kms. only.

ELECTRICITY

63. Uninterrupted power supply should be given



for both agriculture and industry. Since it is not possible for the Government alone to meet the huge capital required for this, steps have been taken to set up power projects in the private sector.

64. Power Purchase Agreements have been signed with 5 private promoters for generating 2280 MW of power. Of these, work has been started for Chennai Basinbridge Project. Gas Turbine power projects with a capacity of 30 MW each at Koilkalappal and Perungulam and the work on increasing the generation capacity of Chennai Basinbridge Gas Turbine project from 120 MW to 180 MW have been taken up by the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board.

65. During 1989-90, North-Chennai Thermal Power project was started only by this government. But, subsequently no major power project was taken up. Hence, keeping in view that no additional power generation can be expected during the next two years, short gestation liquid fuel based power projects are to be started in private sector. Tenders received in respect of such projects in 17 places with a total generation capacity of 1788 MW, would be scrutinised and orders issued shortly.

66. Despite considerable investment in power generation by the private sector, the transmission and distribution work will continue to be undertaken only by the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board. Tamil Nadu Electricity Board is implementing projects to the tune of Rs.382 crores for this purpose during this year. The total Plan outlay of Tamil Nadu Electricity Board will be increased to Rs.870.19 crores for the next financial year and accordingly the State Government has earmarked Rs.250 crores in this Budget as equity investment in Tamil Nadu Electricity Board for this purpose. Tamil Nadu Electricity Board will obtain the balance amount as loan from the financial institutions.

INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE

67. For creating infrastructural facilities and to implement development schemes, it is necessary to raise adequate extra budgetary resources. Having regard to the fact that banks, insurance funds, capital market, small savings, pension and provident funds are appropriate sources of funds for such schemes, an expert committee will be constituted to make suitable recommendations to the Government on raising financial resources from these sources.

68. I have been pressing the Central Government that at least one All India Development Financial Institution should be established with its head quarters at Chennai. It is a matter of great satisfaction that accepting our request, the Central Government has registered The Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation (IDFC) with Chennai as its headquarters.

INDUSTRIES AND EMPLOYMENT

69. Our goal is to see that Tamil Nadu becomes the pioneering State in India in the Industrial sector. Hon'ble Members of the House are aware that on account of the several transparent and special efforts taken by this Government for the development of the Industrial sector after assuming office, an industry

friendly atmosphere has been created whereby multinational companies have come forward to start new industries in Tamil Nadu. Project work has already been started for the setting up of:

Ford Mahindra Car Project

Hyundai Car Project

Lancer Car Project

Pilkington Float Glass Project in Maraimalai Nagar

St. Gobain Glass Project in Irungattukottai.

Modern Abattoir at Pollachi

Nylon Project in Gummudipoondi and

The Coconut Processing Project in Pollachi.

Intensive efforts are being made to increase employment opportunities by setting up many more industries.

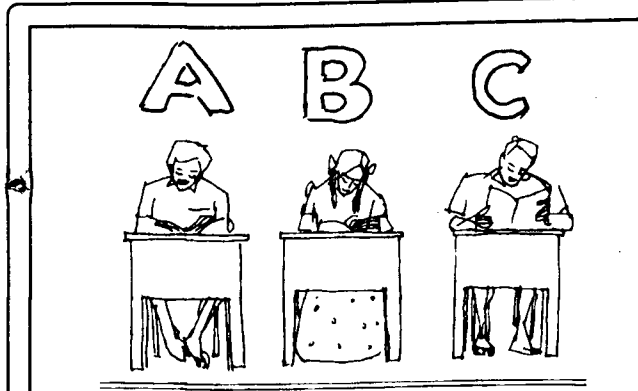
70. The Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO) will set up a petrochemical park in 7000 acres of land at Ennore. Petrochemical industries and a natural gas based power project will be set up in this park.

71. Japanese firms have come forward to establish industrial parks in Tamil Nadu. State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (SIPCOT) and Tamil Nadu Corporation for Infrastructure Development (TACID) are taking steps for establishment of industrial estates by acquiring 10,000 acres of land. An allocation of Rs.40 crores has been provided in the Budget as share capital assistance to these corporations for this purpose. Electronic Corporation of Tamil Nadu will establish a computer city in 200 acres of land near Chennai and a computer software park at Coimbatore.

72. The Government would assist small industries by giving basic facilities to upgrade their technology and to improve their competitiveness. The Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation would give financial assistance to small industries for getting the ISO 9000 quality certification. Further, TIIC will implement a scheme to provide soft loans for setting up small industries to technocrafts and first generation entrepreneurs who lack adequate financial resources.

EDUCATION

73. The provision for Education has been increased to Rs.2938 crores in 1997-98. Necessary steps will be taken to prevent primary school students from dropping out in the middle and to make



them continue their education so as to achieve the goal of compulsory primary education for all. Makkal Nala Paniyalargal, will attend to enrolment of children in schools and encourage them to continue their education in schools, along with their other work.

74. As announced in the last Budget, 85 new Primary Schools were opened during 1996-97. Further, 21 Primary Schools have been upgraded as Middle Schools, 99 Middle Schools as High Schools and 81 High Schools as Higher Secondary Schools. In the next financial year, 168 new Primary Schools will be opened. 41 Primary Schools will be upgraded as Middle Schools, 60 Middle Schools as High Schools and 75 High Schools as Higher Secondary Schools.

75. In addition to implementing the last year's announcement that the Government will bear the cost of professional education in respect of the top 10 students from families not having any college graduate, we will implement a scheme from the next academic year in which the educational expenses on higher studies will be borne by the Government in respect of students who secure the first three ranks at the District level, in S.S.L.C. and plus two stages.

76. The Government has accorded priority to the development of sports. During the Ninth Five Year Plan period stadia will be constructed in 12 Districts without stadia. Indoor stadia will be constructed in the cities of Coimbatore, Madurai, Tiruchirappalli and Tirunelveli. A fund with a corpus of Rs.10.00 crores will be created for the development of sports with donations from the public and industrial establishments. The State Government will make a matching contribution to this fund.

77. The high level committee headed by Dr.M.Ananthakrishnan constituted to study and report whether adequate infrastructural facilities like land, building, library etc are available in self financing

colleges, whether the teachers with requisite qualification have been appointed and are working in these colleges and for eliminating the irregularities there in has decided to give its report in two parts. I have discussed the measures that have to be taken before the commencement of the next academic year, with this committee. The committee will submit its report in this regard shortly. The second part of the report regarding long term measures for managerial reforms will be submitted later. Appropriate action will be taken by the Government after studying the recommendations.

78. Information Technology is considered to be the key for the speedy development of our State. Due to the revolutionary changes that are occurring in the field of communications, the earth is becoming a 'global village'. Phenomenal changes are occurring in that field, every year, every month and every week, rendering yesterday's, technology obsolete. The next century will be a Century of Information Technology. In order to create the required infrastructure for information technology and to become a pioneer in the world in the field of Information Technology in the 21st Century, the Information Technology Institute of TamilNadu (ITIT) will be established for the first time in India at Chennai. Initially this will be started as a self-financing registered society and gradually this will be developed into a Self Financing University. I am happy to announce that this institute will establish contacts with leading American Universities, renowned private Institutions and our experts living abroad and produce outstanding youth in all areas of Information Technology like Computer Graphics, Software Engineering and Hardware Systems, Multimedia, Telecommunications and Digital Technology. A sum of Rs.10 crores would be provided next year for this purpose.

79. Orders would be issued shortly for the selection of a site for locating the New Law College at Tirunelveli. The Bill for establishing Dr.Ambedkar Law University in Chennai has been sent to the Government of India for concurrence.

80. I am happy to inform that with a view to fulfilling the long standing demand of the people of Salem, a new University named after Thanthai Periyar, a great rationalist and a constructive thinker, will be started during 1997-98 with Salem as Head Quarters.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING

81. In view of the rapid industrialisation of Tamil Nadu, it is very important to train the required skilled

workers. For this purpose, 31 Industrial Training Institutes are being upgraded a cost of Rs.38 crores with World Bank assistance. Further, 21 more Industrial Training Institutes will be upgraded during the next two years.

TAMIL OFFICIAL LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

82. Additional staff has been appointed for the speedy implementation of Tamil Etymological Dictionary Project which was started during 1974 by this Government. This Government had started a project to write and publish an authentic history of Tamil Nadu in 1970. Three volumes have so far been published. Action is being taken for the early publication of four more volumes.

83. The International Institute of Tamil studies was started by Perarignar Anna during 1968 and registered during the year 1970 by the D.M.K. Government with the avowed objective of spreading the excellence of Tamil and greatness of its literature internationally, establishing literary contacts with the Tamils all over the world and undertaking research in languages and other areas related to Tamil. But during the subsequent period, adequate attention was not paid to this. Action will be taken to reinvigorate the International Institute of Tamil Studies and implement schemes to achieve the objectives for which it was established.

84. Tamil and English will be the compulsory languages under Part I and Part II respectively for all students studying upto the Fifth standard. Government will arrange to appoint language teachers if linguistic minorities want to learn their mother tongues and there are more than 15 students. By this, while protecting the interests of the linguistic minorities, the possibility of any one acquiring a degree in Tamil Nadu without learning Tamil will be eliminated.

85. Music schools will be started in 5 Districts as a new endeavour to encourage the youth who are interested in learning music and to develop them as eminent musicians. For this, a sum of Rs.25.00 lakhs has been provided. Preference will be given to Tamil music in these music schools. Keeping in mind the decline in the number of persons trained in the ancient musical instruments like, Nadhaswaram, Miridhangam, Flute, Veena and Kottu Vadyam, suitable steps will be taken for the revival of these ancient forms of music and to teach them in these schools. Arrangements will also be made to undertake research on Tamil Pann in the Music

Colleges.

86. Government has granted permission to the Ramakrishna Mutt, initially for a period of three years, on a contract basis to conduct a cultural exhibition in the seaside building in Chennai where Swami Vivekananda who had established the greatness of our culture all over the world had stayed.

87. An amount of Rs.20 lakhs will be allotted for nationalising all the literary creations of Maraimalai Adigalar, a great Tamil Scholar who had risen like a moon in the vast sky of the Tamil land, who woke up the Tamils from their deep slumber, a veteran of the Self Respect Movement and a great poet who dauntlessly rose against anyone harming Tamil and a benefit fund would be provided to his family.

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

88. Tamil Nadu stands first in prevention of communicable diseases and in offering quality medical facilities, second in population control and third in reducing infant mortality rate in India.

89. The outpatient hours of Government Hospitals have been extended upto 12.00 noon. By this measure, the outpatient attendance in Government Hospitals has increased by 20%. Similarly, action has been taken for making all the Block level Primary Health Centres function 24 hours a day and render emergency medical care to the Public.

90. The Government sponsored Tamil Nadu AIDS Control Society, in association with many voluntary organisations has undertaken AIDS awareness and control activities at a cost of Rs.20 crores. Both the Government of India and the World Bank have commended these activities.

91. When we were in office during the year 1971, we had provided medical facilities to the leprosy affected persons and had opened rehabilitation homes in the districts for their benefit. Later, in the year 1989, with a view to eradicating leprosy we had vigorously implemented multi drug therapy. As a result of these measures, the number of leprosy affected persons which was 120 per ten thousand in 1983 in Tamil Nadu came down to 7 in 1996. With the objective of total eradication of leprosy from Tamil Nadu, a scheme is being implemented from February 1997 at a cost of Rs.4 crores.

92. A scheme to restore eyesight of the blind persons was implemented in Tamil Nadu by the DMK Government during the year 1972-73. Eye care units were set up in districts for special and extensive

treatment for cataract. A scheme for cataract treatment is being implemented in Tamil Nadu at a cost of Rs.64 crores with assistance of World Bank.

93. Sanction was accorded during 1996-97 for construction of buildings for 300 Primary Health Centres, of this construction work is in progress in respect of 200 Primary Health Centres. The construction work in respect of the remaining 100 Primary Health Centres will commence soon. Buildings will be constructed for 300 more Primary Health Centres at a cost of Rs.21 crores during 1997-98. An amount of Rs.57.13 lakhs has been allotted for the development of Indian Systems of Medicine. **The existing pension of Rs.150 per month to the aged hereditary siddha medical practitioners will be increased to Rs.500 per month.**

94. Industrial establishments in many areas in this State have come forward to adopt the Primary Health Centres in their areas and to maintain them well. By this entrustment, it will be possible to improve the building and equipment facilities in Primary Health Centres.

NUTRITION



95. We had provided a higher allocation of Rs.401.44 crores during 1996-97 for the Nutritious Meal Programme started by Late Chief Minister M.G.R. to encourage children to evince interest in education. Rs.405.56 crores have been provided for this scheme for 1997-98.

96. **The extent to which the demands of the employees of the Nutritious Meal Programme can be accepted, would be examined when the pay scales of the State Government employees are revised after the Central Government accepts the report of the Fifth Pay Commission.**

WELFARE OF ADI-DRAVIDARS AND TRIBALS

97. Three categories of schemes, one for improvement of the economic status of Adi-

Dravidars and Tribals, the second for improvement of their educational status and the third for providing basic amenities to them are being formulated and implemented. Taking this into account, the allocation for this department has been increased considerably. As against a provision of Rs.208.10 crores during 1995-96, provision during the year 1996-97 was increased to Rs.267.39 crores. This has again been increased to Rs.334 crores during the coming year.

98. A provision of Rs.15.25 crores has been made for the year 1997-98 for granting free house site pattas to Adi-Dravidars and tribals. In addition, about 6 1,000 free houses will be constructed for Adi-Dravidars under Indira Awas Yojana during the next year.

99. During this year, 40 new hostels for Adi-Dravidar students have been started. During the next financial year also, 40 more new hostels will be started at a cost of Rs.1.70 crores. Five Middle Schools will be upgraded as High Schools and Five High Schools as Higher Secondary Schools.

100. The Government has issued orders for the filling up of all the vacancies reserved for the Adi-Dravidars and Tribals which have so far not been filled up in Government Departments and Public Sector Undertakings, before June 1997.

WELFARE OF BACKWARD CLASSES AND MOST BACKWARD CLASSES

101. In the current year, Rs.54.31 crores were allocated for the welfare of Backward Classes and Most Backward Classes. This has been increased to Rs.63.10 crores in the next year. 40 Backward Class hostels and 22 Most Backward Class hostels will be started during 1997-98. New buildings with all facilities will be constructed for 13 hostels.

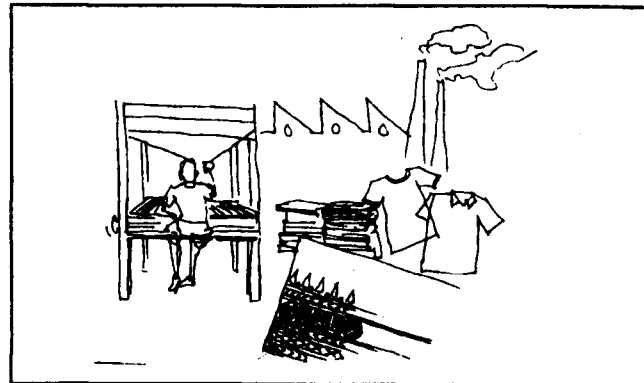
102. This government will definitely not go back on its commitment to continue to take all necessary legal measures and to take necessary steps to secure the benefits of 69% reservations for the Backward, Most Backward and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who are socially and educationally backward.

103. We had extended the scheme of giving free house site pattas to the people below the poverty line belonging to all the communities among Most Backward Classes and Denotified Communities, when we were in office in 1990. Before that, this scheme was applicable only to certain communities like washermen and barbers. A sum of Rs.2 crores has been allotted for this extended scheme in the last

year. I am happy to announce that his allocation will be increased to Rs.10 crores during next year. I wish to mention here another important decision taken by this Government. It has been decided to extend the scheme of giving free house site pattas to the families in rural areas living below the poverty line belonging to the other backward Communities also. A sum of Rs.5 crores will be provided for this scheme during 1997-98.

104. Based on the need to have a common approach towards providing housing assistance to all the poor and the downtrodden, I am happy to announce that this scheme of giving free house site pattas will be extended to the families in rural areas living below poverty line belonging to the forward communities also. A sum of Rs.3 crores will be allotted for this purpose during 1997-98.

WELFARE OF HANDLOOM WEAVERS



105. As announced in the last Budget, order have been issued increasing the insurance amount under savings cum insurance scheme for the handloom weavers from Rs.15,000 to 25,000.

106. Tamil Nadu has to maintain its special place in the textile industry. Towards this, the Government has come forward to formulate and implement a policy for integrated development of the industry, improving the productivity of cotton and production and export in the Handloom, Powerloom and the Mill sectors. The textile Policy will be introduced in Tamil Nadu for the first time.

WELFARE OF THE SRILANKAN TAMIL REFUGEES

107. Of the Eelam Tamil refugees who came to Tamil Nadu seeking shelter, excepting those who have returned, over 60,000 refugees have been accommodated in various camps in the districts. The Central Government has not yet conceded our request to enhance the assistance given to them

from Rs.150 per month. They will be given Rs.50 per month additionally on behalf of the State Government till the Government of India accepts our request.

108. In order to improve the living conditions of these refugees, the Government has allowed them to go outside the camp to work and earn wages. Their children are also allowed to study in the nearby educational institutions.

109. The Government has taken steps to renovate their residential camps at a cost of Rs.5.63 crores during 1997-98. (The Government will extend the scheme of free supply of dhothies and sarees to these refugee families also this year.)

110. It is a matter of great concern that the Tamils living in Sri Lanka are driven to the pathetic condition of living as refugees within Sri Lanka itself due to the continuing ethnic problem there. We have requested the Government of India to take up with the Government of Sri Lanka to approach the problem from a humanitarian angle.

WELFARE OF WOMEN



111. A sum of Rs.49.12 crores was allotted for women welfare during 1996-97. This has been increased to Rs.54.70 crores during 1997-98.

112. As already announced in the last Budget, action has been taken to implement the Tamil Nadu Women Development Project. This scheme will be implemented at an estimated cost of Rs.1420 crores over a period of Five years, for improving the income generating Capacity of ten lakh women by forming themselves into self supporting groups. Tamil Nadu Women Development Corporation has taken steps to establish the required administrative infrastructure for this purpose. 61,540 women have been formed into 3077 groups upto December 1996. During the year 1997-98 one lakh women will be enrolled into groups and they will get a loan assistance of Rs.125.80 crores.

113. This Government has proposed to establish Women Welfare Centres to enable women in rural areas to become aware of aspects of Women's health, Nutrition, Family Welfare, Self Employment Training, Literacy and Vocational Education. These centres will be established on an experimental basis in 50 Noon Meal Centres during this year.

114. In the last Budget Session, we had announced a new scheme to give financial assistance to the women entrepreneurs to start industries. Accordingly, orders have been issued to provide capital subsidy of 10 percent subject to a maximum of Rs.50,000 to 250 first generation women entrepreneurs.

115. Under the scheme of Trade Related Entrepreneurship Assistance and Development for women (TREAD) with the assistance of Government of India, 5000 women will be selected in Chennai in the first phase and necessary management and technical training will be given to them and financial assistance provided for starting up business and industry with the assistance of voluntary organisation. Under this scheme initially training and financial assistance will be given for setting up food processing, readymade garments and leather products industries. One third of the financial assistance will be given as grant and the two thirds as loan.

116. Women Police Constables were appointed for the first time in Tamil Nadu by the D.M.K. Government during 1973. Their present strength is 2800. It will take three to four years to achieve this Government's goal of appointing women constables to the tune of 30 percent of the total strength. However, in the first phase, I am proud to announce that 5,000 women constables will be recruited during the next year.

SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEMES

117. Government has spent Rs.108 crores during 1996-97 for several Social Security Schemes. During 1997-98 a provision of Rs.113 crores has been made for this purpose. In view of long waiting lists and people's representations, the total allocation under Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Marriage Scheme, has been increased from Rs.10 crores in 1996-97 to Rs.20 crores in 1997-98. As a result 20,000 couples would be benefitted.

118. In view of the high cost involved in heart surgery and kidney transplantation and the

related medical treatment, people below poverty line applying with required certificates would be given assistance of Rs.25,000 from Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund, from today. Similarly, Rs.10,000 would be sanctioned from Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund to the handicapped below the poverty line for fixing artificial limbs.

119. Karunai Illams were started during 1975 in the temples under the control of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, with a view to providing food, shelter, education and training in art etc., for destitute children. One fourth of the expenditure for running these Homes was to be met by the Government. But, no grant has been released from year 1977-78 and thereafter. Now, Karunai Illams are running in 22 temples with 735 destitute children and the cost is fully borne by the temples. Government will take necessary action to improve their functioning and for opening additional Karunai Illams in temples where necessary and the Government will bear 50 percent of the expenditure, hereafter.

120. This Government has decided to create a "Child Labour Rehabilitation and Welfare Fund" so as to implement the recent judgement of the Supreme Court regarding the elimination of Child Labour.

121. Considering the long pending request of the freedom fighters receiving central pension, it has been decided to increase the monthly pension amount given to them by the State Government, from Rs.250 to Rs.500.

WELFARE OF PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

122. This Government has always been giving special attention to the welfare of physically handicapped. A massive scheme is being implemented by this Government from 1989-90 for complete eradication of polio and for rehabilitation of polio victims. A District Rehabilitation Centre helping the physically handicapped to lead life as useful citizens in the society is functioning well in Anna District. Similar Rehabilitation Centres will be opened in all Districts in Tamil Nadu in the next year. Physically handicapped persons in the rural areas will be identified through these centres, their disability assessed, and those in need will be given medical treatment in the district hospitals. They will be given necessary appliances and the required training to use them and the instruments will be repaired as and when necessary. These Rehabilitation Centres will assist the handicapped in

getting assistance under various welfare schemes for the physically handicapped.

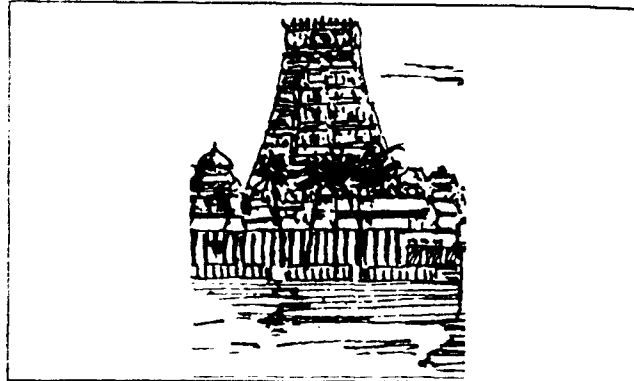
123. The blind and lame persons will be given free bus passes in Express bus routes also in addition to such passes in ordinary bus routes.

WORKERS' WELFARE

124. Separate Committees will be formed soon to examine problems of construction, agricultural and other categories of workers and to suggest remedial measures to the Government.

125. The Government has decided to increase the minimum wages of the agricultural labour. One eighth of the harvested produce will be given as wages for the harvest either in cash or in kind. The notification regarding the increase in the minimum wages will be published within the next few days.

HINDU RELIGIOUS AND CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS ADMINISTRATION



126. The Government had taken action to streamline the temple administration during year 1996 and the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act was amended. An Advisory Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister with the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Minister as Vice-Chairman and eight other members who are religious leaders and Tamil scholars. In the first meeting of this Committee suggestions have been given for the improvement of the administration of the temples and increasing the revenue.

127. There are many books on morality and literary works resonating with musical Tamil. In order to create an awareness among the younger generation and others, of their greatness and value, opportunities will be provided for the study of works like Thirukkural, Thevaram, Thiruvasagam, Thiruppavai, Thiruvembavai and Naladiyar in temples. This scheme will be extended further depending upon the need.

INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

128. Greater attention is being paid to the maintenance of the memorials of Tamil scholars after this Government assumed office. Orders were issued and works started during 1990 to instal a 133 feet high statue of Thiruvalluvar in Kaniyakumari. This work has been entrusted to Thiru Ganapathi Sthapathi. Government will take vigorous steps to instal the statue of Thiruvalluvar expeditiously. A sum of Rs.2.46 crores has been sanctioned for this work. A sum of Rs.1.50 crores has been sanctioned for the improvement works in the Anna Square in Kamarajar Salai on the Chennai Beach. Similarly, a sum of Rs.4.20 lakhs has been provided for carrying out the improvement works of Anna Memorial at Kancheepuram. Rs.15.50 lakhs has been provided to erect a memorial for Jeeva at Nagercoil and a sum of Rs.8.30 lakhs has been provided for Mahakavi Bharathiyyar Illam at Chennai.

129. A bust sized statue of Mahatma Gandhi will be installed at the Gandhi Mandapam next year. Bust sized statues of Moodharignar Rajaji, Perunthalaivar Kamarajar, Perarignar Anna and Makkal Thilagam MGR will be installed at the entrances of their Memorials.



130. The Centenary of Netaji, will be celebrated at Netaji's life size statue will be installed in Chennai.

131. Government has decided to celebrate the golden jubilee year of Independence in a grand manner. A Golden Jubilee Celebration Committee has been constituted to advise the Government and to finalise the arrangements to be made.

132. The Legislative Assembly of Tamil Nadu has a great reputation and tradition. The Legislative Assembly was first constituted in the year 1935 under Government of India Act with 215 members representing various sections of the society. The first session of this Assembly was held at 11.00 A.M. on 14.07.1937 in the Senate House, Chepauk. That day marked the birth of the Legislative Assembly in our State. As the Legislative Assembly is completing 60 years on 14.7.97, the Government has decided to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of the Legislative Assembly in a grand manner.

133. Elections are the life line of democracy. Seven General Elections have been conducted before Independence and eleven General Elections have been conducted after Independence in Tamil Nadu. After the first election in Tamil Nadu held on 30.11.1920, the Justice Party came to power under the leadership of A.Subbarayalu Reddiar. To commemorate the completion of 75 years, the Platinum Jubilee of Tamil Nadu Elections will be celebrated this year in a grand manner.

134. As announced by me already, orders have been issued for sanctioning an amount of Rs.1 lakh from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund in cases of stunt artistes dying while acting in fight scenes in films and an amount of Rs.50,000 in cases of permanent incapacitation.

FILM ON BABASAHEB DR.AMBEDKAR

135. I commend on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government the efforts to film the life history of Baba Saheb Dr.Ambedkar in English with famous character artiste Mamooty in the lead role. I would like to announce that the producer of that film would be given a prize amount of Rs.10 lakhs if that film is dubbed in Tamil and released.

JOURNALISTS' FAMILY BENEFIT FUND

136. I wish to announce that financial assistance of Rs.25,000 will be given from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund to the families of deceased Editors, Sub-Editors and Reporters who have put in continuous service of twenty years in Journalism.

WELFARE OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

137. In the last Budget, I had announced various new schemes for the Government employees which have not so far been implemented by the Central and other State Governments. Hon'ble Members are aware that all these schemes have been implemented.

138. As announced in the last Budget, orders have been issued sanctioning a monthly pension of Rs.175 with effect from 5-12-1986 and also a pension of Rs.100 per month to the families of those deceased to solve completely with problems of the erstwhile Village Officers.

139. The Fifth Central Pay Commission has submitted its recommendations to the Government of India. After the Government of India announces its decision, as mentioned in Governor's address, they will be examined quickly and necessary

action taken to extend the benefits to the State Government Employees also.

HIGH COURT BENCH AT MADURAI

140. As announced in the last year's Budget the work relating to formation of a Bench of Madras High Court at Madurai has been intensified. The work regarding acquisition of the land required for the Court has been expedited. Funds are available for establishing the Bench of the High Court. There will be no delay in fulfilling this demand which has been under consideration since 1973.

DROUGHT IN SOUTHERN DISTRICTS

141. The Ministers for Local Administration and Public Works have visited the drought affected Southern Districts for a week, along with the Ministers hailing from the Districts, representatives of the people and officers and have given their report. I would like to inform that based on this report, a sum of Rs.42 crores will be allocated for drought relief measures and in particular to take up employment oriented works in the Southern Districts.

RELIGIOUS HARMONY

142. In our Country, the majority community is like a huge tree full of branches and the minorities are like the creepers climbing around the tree. It is the policy of this Government that, like the tree not objecting to the creepers climbing around itself and the creepers not cutting the branches of the tree, the majority and the minority communities should co-exist with humanism blended with religious harmony. Though there are leaders of parties with goodwill who will unite to prevent any harm to the above sentiments and will rush to the spot where trouble has erupted and make concerted efforts to restore peace, to assist them in their good efforts, a Swift Action Force is being set up as a wing of the Police Department. This force will be set up in Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai, Trichy and Tirunelveli with a total strength of 1000 men. This force will be started with 200 men in Coimbatore this year.

M.L.A. CONSTITUENCY DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

143. In the last sitting of this House, all the Hon'ble Members put forth a request for a scheme for MLA Constituency Development on the lines of Central Government's MP Local Area Development Schemes. Accepting this request, I am happy to inform that a sum of Rs.25 lakhs will be allocated

for each Assembly Constituency for executing works chosen by the MLA of that Constituency. MLAs may furnish a list of such schemes to be implemented in their area to the District Collectors and these schemes will be implemented from out of the funds allotted to the Districts for this purpose. Orders will be issued soon in this regard.

ANNUAL PLAN

144. 1997-98 is the first year of the Ninth Five Year Plan. 56 working groups on various sectors have been constituted in our State Planning Commission to formulate sectoral plans for Ninth Five Year Plan. Report of these groups will be given by June, 1997. Accordingly Ninth Five Year Plan will be fixed. The size of the Eighth Five Year Plan of Tamil Nadu was Rs.10,200 Crores. Ninth Five Year Plan size would be more than Rs.20,000 crores.

145. Unemployment could be reduced only through development of Industry and Service sectors. This is the reason why this Government attaches greater emphasis on the development of infrastructure. This Government would take determined efforts to achieve to increase the growth in Net State Domestic Products at constant prices which was always less than 6% during the Eighth Five Year Plan, to more than 7% during the Ninth Plan. Towards achieving this goal, the annual plan outlay for 1997-98 has been fixed at Rs.4,000 crores. Rs.334 crores under the current year plan outlay is being transferred to non-plan account next year. Taking this also into account, the plan outlay of next year would be 17.4% more than that of this year.

FINANCIAL POSITION

146. The Budget Estimates for 1996-97 when presented during July 1996 indicated total revenue receipts of Rs.11068.07 crores and total revenue expenditure of Rs.12106.70 crores resulting in a revenue deficit of Rs.1038.63 crores. In Revised Estimates for 1996-97, total revenue receipts have increased to Rs.11760.33 crores and total revenue expenditure to Rs.13047.20 crores. Consequently the revenue deficit has widened to Rs.1286.87 crores. The main reason for this includes the sanction of Rs.195 crores for Flood relief works, the provision for payment of additional interim relief instalment of Rs.203 crores and the additional payment due to enhanced ceiling for payment of Pongal Exgratia and Bonus of Rs.40 crores.

147. In Budget Estimate for 1996-97, it had been estimated that the overall deficit will be Rs.334.89 crores. The increase in the net loan receipts and the

reduction in capital expenditure over the Budget Estimates, have brought down the overall deficit to Rs.156.22 crores in the Revised Estimates for 1996-97.

148. In the Budget Estimate for 1997-98, the revenue receipts are estimated at Rs.12641.05 crores and revenue expenditure at Rs.14377.62 crores. Due to this, it has been estimated that the revenue deficit will increase to Rs.1736.57 crores. Provision of additional allocations in 1997-98 Budget for pay increase to Government employees as per the recommendation of the Fifth Central Pay Commission and for the devolution of funds to the Local Bodies and towards payment of pension are the main reasons for such increase.

149. The overall deficit in respect of all accounts in Budget Estimates for 1997-98 has increased to Rs.498.38 crores.

150. The size of the revenue deficit and the overall deficit is a matter of serious concern. Therefore, it is essential to undertake suitable measures for taxation and expenditure management to bridge the deficit to some extent.

REGISTRATION AND STAMPS

151. In order to improve the service to the public provided by the Registration Department which is more than 130 years old and to reduce duty evasion, necessary administrative and legislative changes will be introduced. **DURING THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR, A PROVISION OF RS.1 CRORE HAS BEEN MADE FOR INTRODUCING COMPUTERS IN THIS DEPARTMENT AND TO INCREASE OTHER FACILITIES TO THE PUBLIC.**

152. The Registration Act has been suitably amended in order to prevent the loss of revenue by registration of documents in other States for properties in Tamil Nadu.

153. Reduction of the 13% stamp duty to 0.1% will enable the Housing Financial Institutions in Tamil Nadu to mobilise larger financial resources and provide housing loan.

MOTOR VEHICLES TAX

154. The rates of Motor Vehicles Tax were revised with effect from 1.4.1994 for Light Motor Vehicles produced in India. The rate of annual Tax for those vehicles will be revised as follows.

Indian Made Motor Vehicles				
Unladen Weight	ANNUAL TAX			
	Individual		Others	
	Existing Rs.	Revised Rs.	Existing Rs.	Revised Rs.
a) Weighing not more than 700 kgs.	500	600	1000	1200
b) Weighing more than 700 kgs. but not more than 1500 kgs.	650	800	1300	1600
c) Weighing more than 1500 kgs. but not more than 2000 kgs.	750	1000	1500	2000
d) Weighing more than 2000 kgs. but not more than 3000 kgs.	800	1100	1600	2200
e) More than 3000 Kgs. unladen	900	1250	1800	2500

155. The rates of annual tax for contract carriages will be revised as follows.

	ANNUAL TAX	
	Existing Rate Rs.	Revised Rate Rs.
1) Auto Rickshaw	240	280
2) Ordinary Taxi	600	700
3) Tourist Taxi	800	1000

The tax for autorickshaws was last revised in 1983.

156. Suggestions have been made to reduce the need to visit the Regional Transport Offices for payment of motor vehicle tax in view of the difficulties and harassment faced. Taking this into consideration, it has been decided to collect the motor vehicle Tax for the contract carriages along with the permit fees once in five years. New Auto Rickshaws, Ordinary Taxies and Tourist Taxies, will pay the Motor Vehicle Tax for the five year period of the permit at the time of issue of permits. The five year tax payable will be Rs.1400 for Autorickshaws, Rs.3500 for Ordinary Taxies and Rs.5000 for Tourist Taxies. In the case of existing permit holders, the tax shall be paid annually till the permit comes up for renewal, when the tax for the five year permit period shall be paid along with the permit fees. This will obviate the need for permit holders to visit the Regional Transport Offices for payment of Motor Vehicle Tax for the duration of the permits.

157. The annual tax payable by Motor Cycles will be revised as follows.

Motor Cycles	ANNUAL TAX	
	Present	Revised (In Rupees)
Upto 50 cc	Exempted	
51 to 75cc	125	135
76 to 170cc	180	200
Exceeding 170 cc	210	240

The life time tax payable for Motor Cycles will also be revised proportionately.

158. The revised rates of Motor Vehicles tax will come into effect from 1.4.1997.

SALES TAX

159. I had announced a long term taxation policy in the last year's Budget to foster a stable, clear and friendly taxation environment for stimulating industrial growth and commerce. Accordingly, many reforms were undertaken in the Sales Tax structure. Taxes were reduced in respect of several categories. Trade and Industry have welcomed these measures. Following this, a Sales Tax Rationalisation Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Thiru C.Thangaraju I.A.S. (Retd) to make recommendations for necessary further changes in commercial taxes. After careful consideration of the report of this committee it has been decided to make the following changes in Sales Tax. I hope these changes would provide further impetus to the growth of agriculture, industry and trade in our State.

160. Sales tax on Urea used by farmers will be reduced from 4% to 2%. The farmers would benefit as a result of this measure, as this would offset, to some extent, the recent increase in the price of this fertiliser announced by the Central Government. In addition, Sales Tax on Irrigation equipment such as Drip Irrigation equipments will be reduced from 11% to 4%. Fish feed and Cattle feed will be exempted from sales tax.

161. I am happy to announce abolition of Sales tax for the following items which are taxed currently at 11%, 8%, 4% and 2% as applicable:

Thatti, Muram and Baskets made of Bamboo, Coconut shells and chips, Groundnut shell, Shikakai powder, Thonnai, Gum Benzoin (Sambrani), Sledge Hammer, Sea Shell and articles made thereof, Curd, Panjamiratham, 39 items of country drugs and life saving drugs for the treatment of Cancer, Leprosy and

Tuberculosis, Cycle carriages for invalid persons, Educational Charts, Maps, Tourist guides and maps, Solar cells, Clay for making bricks and tiles, Senria leaves and pods leaves of Nilavagai plant, Old silver Metti, Kolusu and araignan, Tapioca thippi and kappi, footwear costing below Rs.50, and gold sold to exporters of gold jewellery by MMTC, a Central Public Sector Undertaking.

162. Sales tax on Suitcases, parts of Oil Engines, Furniture such as Tables and Chairs, branded Butter and Ghee is being reduced from 11% to 10%.

163. At present Sales tax of 20% is levied on spectacle lenses and typewriters and this is being reduced to 8%.

164. Sales tax on paper bags, umbrellas, handicraft articles, 30 Adisarakku items and Tarpaulin will be reduced from 11% to 8%.

165. Sales tax on Tamil Typewriters is being reduced from 20% to 4%.

166. Sales tax on Glass beads, Glass marbles (Goli Gundu), Mosquito repellants, destroyers and mats used for this purpose is being reduced from 16% to 4%.

167. Sales tax on fried Groundnut kernel, Helmets, Biomass Briquettes, Blue metal, Toys, Electronic parts and accessories and stationery items used by students for painting is being reduced from 11% to 4%.

168. Sales tax on unbranded Footwear, Domestic vessels made of Brass, Copper and Stainless Steel, Flavoured Milk, Waste Paper, Scientific equipment sold to educational institutions, Sewing and embroidery machine parts and needles thereof is being reduced from 8% to 4%.

169. Sales tax on Coconut and Copra sold within the State is being reduced from 4% to 2%. At the same time Sales-tax at 2% will be levied on the sale of coconut and copra to other States. This measure will help the growth of this industry in our State.

170. Sales tax on Hosiery goods is being reduced from 4% to 1%.

171. Sales Tax Rationalisation Committee has now recommended certain changes in the rates of sales tax in order to minimise the present

widespread tax evasion in certain commodities and promote sales within the State. The following decisions have been taken on the basis of these recommendations:-

□ Purchase tax on cotton is being reduced from 4% to 2%.

□ Sales tax on Zari is being reduced from 8% to 2%.

□ Sales tax on man made yarn and fibre will be reduced from 8% to 2% on the condition that there shall not be any sale by way of branch transfer to agents in other States or consignment transfer.

□ Sales tax on Gold and Silver jewellery will be levied on a slab basis with the following monthly rates:

	Rs.
1. In respect of annual sales turnover exceeding Rs.3 lakhs and below Rs.5 lakhs	500/-
2. Annual gross sales turnover exceeding Rs.5 lakhs and below Rs.10 lakhs	1000/-
3. Annual gross sales turnover exceeding Rs.10 lakhs and below Rs.20 lakhs	2000/-
4. Annual gross sales turnover exceeding Rs.20 lakhs and below Rs.30 lakhs	4000/-
5. Annual gross sales turnover exceeding Rs.30 lakhs and below Rs.40 lakhs	6000/-
6. Annual gross sales turnover exceeding Rs.40 lakhs and below Rs.50 lakhs	7000/-
7. Annual gross sales turnover exceeding Rs.50 lakhs	present rate will continue

A review of these above mentioned starred tax reduction measures will be undertaken after six months as recommended by the Committee and in case the anticipated additional sales tax revenue does not materialise suitable changes will be made.

172. Sales tax on food and beverages sold in Hotels was withdrawn a few years back. The Sales Tax Rationalisation Committee has recommended the levy of slabwise tax rates on food and drinks sold in Hotels and Restaurants. Keeping in view that this levy should not result in any increase in price of foodstuffs, it has been decided to levy the following slab rates lower than what has been recommended by the Committee:

1. Annual gross sales turnover up to Rs.25 lakhs	exempted
2. Annual gross sales turnover exceeding Rs.25 lakhs and below Rs.30 lakhs	Rs. 2000 p.m.
3. Annual gross sales turnover exceeding Rs.30 lakhs and below Rs.40 lakhs	Rs. 3000 p.m.
4. Annual gross sales turnover exceeding Rs.40 lakhs and below Rs.50 lakhs	Rs. 4000 p.m.
5. Annual gross sales turnover exceeding Rs.50 lakhs	2%

173. Sales Tax on Pan masala is being increased from 11% to 20%.

174. The present compounded tax rated on sale of lottery tickets are being revised as follows:

	Existing Rate Rs.	Revised Rate Rs.
Weekly draw	6,000	10,000
Bimonthly draw	No compounding	15,000
Monthly draw	15,000	25,000
Monthly Bumper draw	15,000	40,000
Special/Festival Bumper draw	20,000	60,000

175. Having regard to our financial position, at present it will be possible to accept only a part of the recommendations of the Sales-tax Rationalisation Committee. After examining the effects of their

implementation and the impact on the revenues to Government, decisions will be taken in the next financial year regarding the implementation of the remaining recommendations.

VALUE ADDED TAX

176. In the last Budget the implementation of the system of VAT in respect of resellers was announced. Later, based on the representations of the traders, the implementation of this system of taxation was kept in abeyance for reconsideration. The Taxation Rationalisation Committee has emphasised the necessity of explaining the system to traders and training the Sales tax personnel before implementation. Accordingly, necessary action will be taken and appropriate decisions on levy of VAT taken thereafter.

CHECK POSTS

177. The Committee has recommended abolition of unnecessary check-posts within the State except those at the State borders and setting up of roving squads in their place. This recommendation has been accepted and will be implemented in a phased manner.

178. With a view to improving the functioning of Commercial Taxes Department, removing the procedural hurdles in check-posts, simplifying the administrative system and undertaking investigations for prompt detection of tax evasion, Government will implement a computerised system shortly. An allocation of Rs.3 crores has been made in 1997-98 for this purpose.

179. The Taxation Rationalisation Committee has made recommendations regarding the simplification of the procedures of levy of Sales tax. These recommendations will be examined and the decisions of the Government announced during the discussions on the Demands for grants of Commercial Taxes Department.

CABLE T.V.

180. At present the Entertainment Tax on Cable TV is 20% of the gross collections. Hereafter, this will be revised to Rs.20 per cable TV subscriber per month. The present limit of 100 subscribers in the Cable TV licence will be enhanced to 500.

STATE EXCISE

181. Excise duties on Indian made foreign liquor have not been revised since 1994. With a view to making good the loss of revenue on account of the sales tax concessions announced in this Budget and

allocating additional funds necessary for developmental activities it has been decided to increase the excise duty on IMFL by Rs.15 per Proof litre. The vend fee which is Rs.95 per case at present will be revised to Rs.165 per case. Through these measures, it is anticipated that additional revenue of Rs.210 crores will be realised.

182. In order to monitor whether all the development schemes, employment oriented programmes and welfare schemes announced in this Budget and earlier, and all other ongoing programmes in the Districts under various departments are effectively implemented as planned and announced, a "Cell for Monitoring Development Programmes" consisting of able officers will be established in the office of the Chief Minister. Ministers will discuss with the departmental Officials the programmes of their departments and their implementation every month and send a detailed report to this Cell.

183. I am happy to say that this will expedite and ensure that the benefit of the programmes reach the people without delay as planned. We do what we say and we talk about what we do.

184. I express my heartfelt thanks to all the departmental officials who have stood by me and assisted me in the task of preparation of this Budget and extended their unstinted cooperation, in particular the Finance Secretary Thiru P.V. Rajaraman, I.A.S.,

185. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, in the southern part of India, Thanjavur was the capital of the mighty Chola Empire where their imperial flag with the Tiger insignia was flying high. In this Thanjavur region, I was born and brought up in a village called Thirukkuvalai, in a most backward family engaged in agriculture with proficiency in music. Even as a young boy, I had a deep sense of self-respect and love for the Tamil Language. I became a true disciple of Thanthai Periyar and then the affectionate younger brother of Arignar Anna and eventually a kin of the Tamil people dedicating myself to work for their betterment. In my 73 years, I have spent six decades in the cause of public service. In all these years of my dedicated public life, I have made this long journey with a vow that "Even if I were to fall, let Tamil live". My sense of duty is such that even if I am thrown into the sea, I shall stay afloat like a catamaran for the Tamil people to ride upon. In my whole life I have had only one thought foremost in my mind, day in and day out, that is the right of the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and Most



Backward Classes to live with dignity. I have considered myself fortunate to be a humble soldier in their formation. I have identified persons among the forward communities who have the ability and concern for the rights and progress of these people. With their help, I have strived for the prosperity of the downtrodden. Even in my dream my yearning is to fulfil my vow to see God in the smile of the poor. This budget was prepared to transform that dream into reality and out of my unquenchable zeal to see in my lifetime a peaceful and prosperous and intellectually vibrant Tamil Society. I place this Budget before this august House with the assurance that when the people, leaders of parties and the Hon'ble members comment on this Budget, I shall in accordance with the Kural,

"To discern the truth in everything, by whomsoever spoken, this wisdom".

welcome the comments, rectify the defects and strive for perfection.

Vanakkam. □

HIGHLIGHTS OF TAMIL NADU BUDGET FOR 1997-98

LOCAL BODIES

- Orders issued for the devolution of responsibilities to Local Bodies.
- For the first time, 8% of the total State tax revenue receipts excluding the entertainment tax will be transferred to the local bodies. As a result, the local bodies to get Rs.528 crores more during 1997-98 than this year's level.
- 90 percent of the Entertainment tax receipts will be transferred to local bodies instead of present 60 to 70 percent.
- Common Act for all urban local bodies to be enacted.

ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS

- An act would be passed prescribing transparent and fair Tender Procedures.
- To provide the public the right to access the information about administration, Right to Information Act to be brought.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

- Commitment to provide 7 Basic Minimum Services.
- Rs.25 lakhs per MLA for Development works in Constituency.
- Anna Renaissance Scheme to be implemented to develop villages.
- 35,000 Makkal Nala Paniyalargal to attend to school enrolment and retention work.
- Rs.250 crores for Roads in Rural areas.

RURAL WATER SUPPLY

All the habitations in Tamil Nadu to be provided 40 LPCD water supply before the close of Ninth Five Year Plan.

CHENNAI

- Rs.80 crores allocated for Chennai Water Supply.
- Rs.50 crores for MRTS Work on Luz-Velachery to start.
- Rs.326 crores for various Infrastructure Development Schemes in Chennai. Mofussil Bus stop and fly-over at Koyambedu. Overbridges at Perambur and Nungambakkam.
- A sewage treatment project proposed at a cost of Rs.572 crores in Chennai and a portion of the sewage to be supplied to industries after treatment.

AGRICULTURE

- Rs. 42 crores to be sanctioned for drought in Southern Districts.

FISHERIES

- 4000 more houses to be constructed for fishermen during 1997-98.
- Rs.48 crores Integrated Marine Fisheries project to benefit 16,350 fishermen.

IRRIGATION



- Three new reservoirs to be constructed across Malattar, Cheyyar and Varattar at the cost of Rs.80 crores.
- Kudimaramathu scheme of involving farmers in maintenance of irrigation scheme to be revived.

FOREST AND ENVIRONMENT

- Rs.10 crores for Cauvery river water pollution abatement programme.
- Rs.463.20 crores Tamil Nadu Afforestation Project to be started from 1997-98.

ROADS

- All villages having population above 1000 to be provided with link roads in the next two years.
- Road Maintenance Fund to be set up.
- 10,000 Gang Mazdoors to be appointed for maintenance of roads.

TRANSPORT

3,600 new buses to be purchased for the Transport Corporations at a cost of Rs.292 crores.

Private operators to be permitted to ply vans in interior rural sectors on route lengths of upto 16 kilometres.

INDUSTRIES

- TIDCO to set up a Petrochemical Park in 7,000

acres at Ennore.

- ELCOT to set up a Computer City near Chennai and a Computer Software Park at Coimbatore.
- Textile Policy to be introduced.

EDUCATION AND SPORTS

A new university to be started at Salem named after Thanthai Periyar.

Information Technology Institute of Tamil Nadu (ITIT) to be established at Chennai.

- Indoor stadia to be constructed in Coimbatore, Madurai, Tiruchirapalli and Tirunelveli.
- 168 new primary schools to be opened in 1997-98.
- 64 middle schools to be upgraded as High Schools and 75 High Schools as Higher Secondary Schools.
- Government to bear educational expenses for those who secure first three ranks at District level.

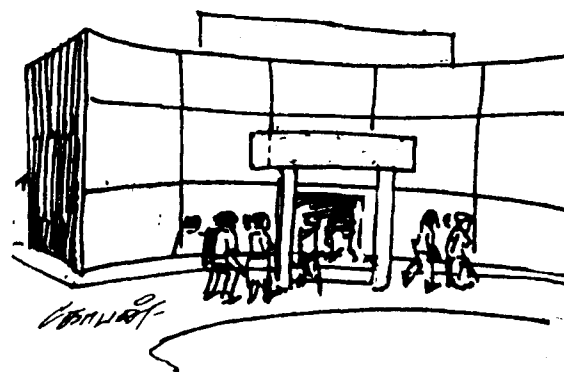
TAMIL OFFICIAL LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

- Tamil to be made compulsory language in schools upto V standard.
- Steps taken to revive ancient Tamil Music.
- Literary works of Maraimalai Adigalar to be nationalised and the family assisted at a cost of Rs.20 lakhs.
- Arrangements for language teachers for linguistic minorities.

HEALTH

- Buildings for 300 Primary Health Centres to be constructed during 1997-98.
- Pension of Hereditary aged Siddha Medical Practitioners increased to Rs.500 per month.

ADI-DRAVIDAR WELFARE



- 40 new hostels for Adi-Dravidar Schools.
- 5 Middle Schools to be upgraded as High Schools and 5 High Schools as Higher Secondary Schools.

BACKWARD CLASS AND MOST BACKWARD CLASS

- Allocation for free house sites to Most Backward Classes increased to Rs.10 crores.
- Free houses site scheme to be extended to other Backward Classes also. Allocation of Rs.5 crores to be made.
- Poor families in Forward Communities also to get free house sites, Rs.3 crores allocation to be made.

SRI LANKAN REFUGEES

- Rs.50 per month additional cash assistance to Sri Lankan Refugees.
- Free dhothies, sarees also to be given to Sri Lankan refugees.

WOMEN WELFARE



- Subsidy of Rs.50,000 to 200 first generation women entrepreneurs.
- 5,000 women constables to be recruited.

SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEMES

- Allocation under Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Marriage Scheme increased from Rs.10 crores to Rs.20 crores. 20,000 couples to benefit.
- Rs.25,000 from Chief Minister Public Relief Fund for heart surgery and kidney transplant; Rs.10,000 to handicapped for fixing artificial limbs.
- State Pension to the recipients of Central freedom fighter pension increased to Rs.500 per month.

WELFARE OF THE HANDICAPPED

- District Rehabilitation Centre to be started in all Districts.
- Blind and lame allowed concession on Express Bus Routes also.

- Budget deficit for the year 1997-98 estimated at Rs.498.38 crores.
- Motor Vehicle Tax revised upwards.
- A new system introduced for payment of Motor Vehicle Tax for the 5 year period of permit at the time of issue of permits for the contract carriages.
- Sales Tax abolished on number of items.
- Sales Tax reduced on items of common usage.
- Sales Tax reduced on urea, irrigation equipments.
- A slab system of Sales Tax on gold and silver jewelleryes.

- Sales Tax on manmade yarn and fibre and purchase tax on cotton reduced.
- Slab rate sales tax introduced on food and beverages sold in hotels.
- Compounded tax rates on sale of lottery tickets revised.
- Unnecessary check posts to be abolished in a phased manner.
- Vend fee revised upwards by Rs.70 per case.
- Excise Duty on IMFL increased by Rs.15 per Proof litre.

TAMIL NADU BUDGET 1997 - 98

Items	1995-96 Accounts	1996-97 Budget Estimates	1996-97 Revised Estimates	1997-98 Budget Estimates
1. CONSOLIDATED FUND				
Revenue Receipts	10,599.25	11,068.07	11,760.33	12,641.05
Expenditure met from Revenue	10,910.57	12,106.70	13,047.20	14,377.62
Surplus or Deficit on Revenue Account	(-311.32)	(-1,038.63)	(-1,286.87)	(-1,736.57)
Public Debt-Receipts	1,519.12	3,505.77	3,569.04	3,874.20
Public Debt-Repayment	326.55	1,823.71	1,740.77	1,835.67
Public Debt (Net)	(+1,192.57)	(+1,682.06)	(+1,828.27)	(+2,038.53)
Expenditure met from Capital excluding Public Dept and including Loans and Advances (Net)	944.54	1,306.91	1,155.77	1,541.33
Deficit or Surplus on Capital Account	(+248.03)	(+375.15)	(+672.50)	(+497.20)
Total - Consolidated Fund (Net)	(-63.29)	(-663.48)	(-614.37)	(-1,239.37)
II. CONTINGENCY FUND (Net)	(+ 6.59)	...	...	...
III. PUBLIC ACCOUNT (Net)	(+171.15)	(+328.59)	(+458.15)	(+740.99)
TOTAL - TRANSACTIONS (I+II+III)	(+114.45)	(-334.89)	(-156.22)	(-498.38)
Opening Balance	(-55.66)	(-410.16)	(+58.79)	(-97.43)
Closing Balance	(+58.79)	(-745.05)	(-97.43)	(-595.81)

TAMIL

- SUBRAMANIA BHARATI

Of all the languages I've learnt
None is so mellifluous as Tamil,
But we, steeped in ignorance, live like beasts.
Is it right for us, contemptible apostates,
To have the cheek to call ourselves Tamils?
We must do our best to broadcast
Tuneful Tamil all over the World

Of all the poets I've studied
None on earth can be compared
To Kamban, Valluvar, or Jango
This is God's own truth,
Unalloyed with conceited boast.
Yet deaf-dumb and blind are we.
If we are earnest about our emancipation,
Tamil must thrive, ringing in every street.

Foreign classics we must render in Tamil;
New masterpieces must be penned in Tamil;
No point in telling ourselves idle tales of our past glory;
People abroad must revere our literary excellence.
If truth illumines our hearts
Our words will be winged with light.
If arts and poetry surge in flood
The blind pitched into the ditch
Will gain vision and power.
Whoever tastes the ambrosial Tamil
Will live on earth in glory divine



Courtesy : BHARATI Patriot, Poet, Prophet . Translated from Tamil by Dr. S. Ramakrishnan.

TEACHERS HAD A SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF SHAPING THE DESTINY OF THE COUNTRY

(Hon'ble Chief Minister, Kalam M. Karunanidhi on 9.3.97 at Chennai at the State Conference of Tamil Nadu Elementary School Teachers Mandram)

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalam M. Karunanidhi participating in the Sixth State Conference of the Tamil Nadu Elementary School Teachers Mandram at Kalaivanar Arangam, Chennai on 9.3.97, said that at

been benefitted.

The Hon'ble Minister for Education, Thiru K. Anbazhagan said that the teaching methods should



present there were 1.23 crore school students in the State with a teacher strength of 3.07 lakh. The Government's endeavour was to increase the teacher's strength so that it was in proportion to the increased student population, he expressed.

He stressed the role of teachers in shaping the destiny of the country and said that the teachers had a social responsibility which they should not shirk at any cost. He added that they should be regular in attending the schools as they had a role in implementing various welfare programmes of the Government.

He lamented the fact that women's literacy was just at 52.29 percent. It was heartening that it had grown from one percent at the beginning of the century to 52.29 percent at the turn of the century, but there was still a long way to go, he added.

He also said that the State Government had introduced free education upto undergraduate level for girl students belonging to poor and middle income group during its previous tenure and so far 5,400 students had

move away from the rigid teacher-student instruction to a play way method where there was good opportunity for teacher-students inter action. The interest of the students should be kindled to make them learn effectively. The education in Tamil Nadu should aim at providing the students with good knowledge of Tamil and a functional knowledge of English.

Inaugurating the Conference, the Hon'ble Minister for Tamil Development, Thiru Thamizh kudimagan said though the percentage of literacy in the State was 51 percent, it ranks only after Kerala and Maharashtra. It was not possible to improve the percentage without the help of teachers, he added.

The Hon'ble Minister for Health, Thiru Arcot N. Veerasami, honoured the teachers who were selected for national awards. The Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Defence Thiru N.V.N. Somu also spoke on the occasion. Thiru K. Meenakshi Sundaram, General Secretary presented the demands of the Mandram.

SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES SECTOR - APPROACH TO IX PLAN

Tmt. O. P. SOSAMMA, I.A.S.
Secretary,
Small Scale Industries

Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission has adopted a new approach in the formulation of the Ninth Five Year Plan.

One can never over-emphasise the relevance and inevitability of the Small Scale Industries in the Indian Economy. I will run through quickly the salient features of this sector which should form the backdrop for the deliberation of the various work groups. All our policies and programmes in this sector has been guided by the lofty ideals of wide dispersal of industrial growth and distribution of income. The major industries can achieve rapid economic growth, but for a given level of industrial development, the Small Scale Sector can generate more employment and wide-spread income distribution. This has enormous value to a developing country like ours and it was the pressing need when we started formulating our industrial policy immediately after independence.

After Eight Plan Periods, we are now standing at the cross-roads of industrial growth with the dual need of reviewing the past and planning for the future. The relevance of the Ninth Plan approach paper assumes an added importance because of the liberalisation of the industrial sector and opening up our economy to foreign investments.

Hence, the various work groups may ponder over the two basic issues.

- What are the strengths and weaknesses of the support policies in this sector; how much of it needs to be followed and strengthened as also how many of it need to be amended.
- What are the new policy guidelines to be adopted in this sector?

The following guidelines may serve as starting points for discussion and adoption by working groups.

- Certain products can be manufactured with economic advantage only by the Small Scale Sector. These products must be identified and recommended to be included in the list of items reserved for SSIs.
- In recent times there has been a clamour for derecognition of many Small Scale products on the ground that economy of scale operates in the manufacture of these products. Though economy of scale can be achieved in many cases there is a hidden cost to be paid for this; particularly a **social cost**. At higher levels of production unit cost of a product may go down, but the process of production on most occasions would be automated and hence, employment opportunities would be lost. Therefore, the social objective of employment generation must be kept in mind while discussing the advantages of economy of scale.
- Close on the above is the case of technology upgradation. While there is no second opinion on the urgent need for improving technology care must be taken not to lose sight of the advantages gained by our developmental policies, adopted in SSI sector. While product technology improvements result in introduction of new and improved products to meet a need, process technologies result in improving the method of production techniques. Thus, process technologies must be encouraged to increase output keeping investment and employment levels within the confines of the SSI sector. Product technology improvements must be

encouraged to usher in new products that can be manufactured by SSIs. In the name of technology transfer the area reserved for the SSI sector should not be encroached upon by medium and large scale industries.

- The present State Government Department and Undertaking, servicing the SSI and Tiny Sectors must be reoriented towards the new challenges ahead when we plan for the Ninth Five Year Plan. Given that all our policies and programmes have achieved the present level of growth in this sector further growth will become purposeless if what we have achieved already is not sustained successfully. The closed units, sick units, unrecoverable foreclosed loans, BIFR cases, all sorts of rehabilitation schemes, rescheduling of loans etc., by State Finance Institutions as well as Bank, point towards one question viz., have we been taking the right approach at the optimum level? If not, what are the remedial measures? The work groups must address this issue with participants from DIC, SIDCO, TIIC and other Government agencies.

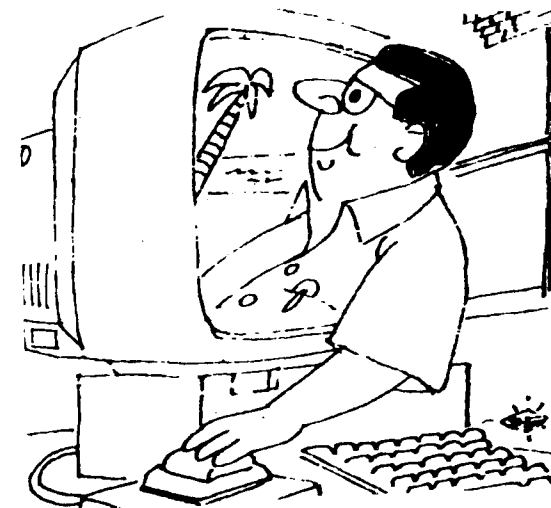
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Research and Development work is the cornerstone of any industrial activity. The dividing line that runs clearly between the developed and developing industrial economies of the world is made of Research and Development work only. The work involves very huge costs and sometimes these prohibitive costs make it impossible for developing nations to adopt any form of research. The work groups must address this question and assess whether academic institutions can be asked

to shoulder Research and Development responsibilities for the SSI sector.

Whether successful individual researchers who possess viable new innovations in products and technologies can be adopted by State Promotion Agencies to convert such viable Research and Development into Proven Technology? If so, what

- are the ground rules and methodology?



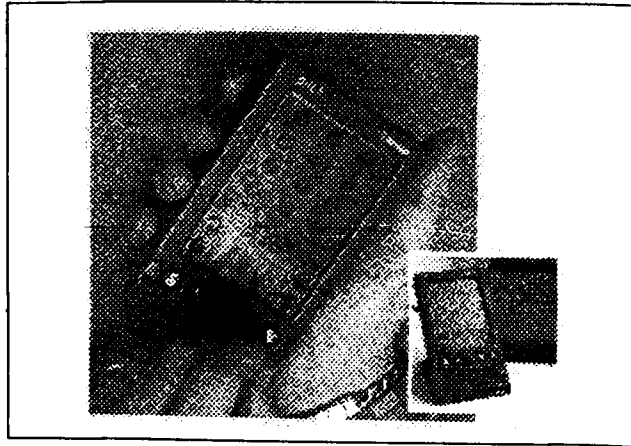
Another area where the work group must actively associate among themselves the academic like Professors of Industrial Relations is the creation of Veritable data base for the SSI and Village Industries Sector. With the rapid strides made in the field of Information super highway the internet has revolutionised the structure

and use of SSI data base. Do we have at least any data that is usable by our entrepreneurs? Can we cull out from the large amount of statistics which the Government Publishes annually that data which is necessary for SSIs? Can it be collated with the census figures? This question must be addressed more seriously.

- Above all another important item of work before the work groups should be the assessment whether we need to break away from stereo-typed mindset in our promotional policies. The habit of thinking only on the existing lines must be stopped. Is there a way to make the SSIs self-sufficient? The present policy supports giving them the needed encouragements have come to stay. The role of Government Departments is to protect them from the onslaught of market shocks in the form of liberalisation. No liberalised delicensed industry can substitute SSIs.

□

SCIENCE UP-DATE



FIRST FULLY PRACTICAL PALM TOP ORGANIZER

Surely one of technology's most understandable seductions is miniaturization; microprocessors that fit on the head of a pin; tv sets that fit inside a pair of spectacles; even, goodness, computers that nestle in our open hands.

Now US Robotics, a company known for its compact and reliable modems, a palmtop that stuffs all the dream functions of a pocket computer-scheduling, to do lists and an address book-into a box the size of a memo pad. The 161.6 g. organizer is the first to take that essential step from nifty techno-gadget into the realm of real world utility.

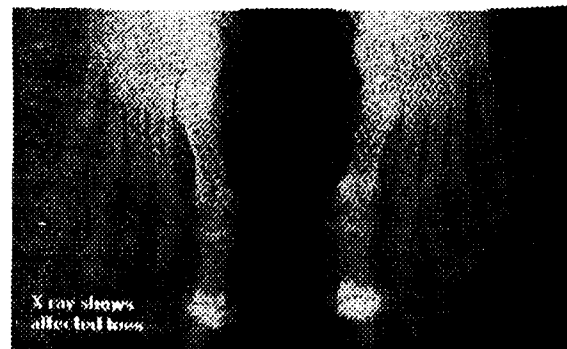
Pilot users can jot notes and addresses into the machine with a tiny pen like stylus that traces letters on to the touch sensitive screen.

RELIEF FOR SWOLLEN JOINTS

The three new treatments build on what scientists have learned about the ways in which rheumatoid arthritis works. The Problem starts when, for reasons no one fully understands, a few misguided T cells incite other immune-system cells called macrophages to attack the joints. The approach favoured by IDEC Pharmaceuticals, a biotech company in San Diego, is to target all active T cells with a custom-made antibody that can temporarily knock the immune cells out of commission. Although this antibody treatment cannot distinguish between normal and misbehaving T cells, the gambit has proved successful. More than half the 122 patients in one study showed significant improvement without

debilitating side effects. "We literally had patients dancing in the halls," says Dr. Craig Wiesenhutter, Director of the Cocur d' Alene Arthritis Clinic in Idaho.

Other researchers favour a more direct approach. Rather than target the T cells that get the ball rolling they say, it better to focus on the compounds that actually do the damage; the killer proteins produced by the macrophages. These proteins attack the cartilage and cause inflammation. One company, Immunex of Seattle, has focused on one such protein, called tumor necrosis factor. Immunex's treatment, which worked so effectively for Lindagai Dixon, consists of genetically engineered proteins that sop up



excess TNF, interrupting the cycle of destruction. A third tactic, being developed by Amgen of Thousand Oaks, California, targets another inflammatory protein, interleukin-1 in much the same way. If approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, all three drugs could be on the market in a couple of years.

TROUBLE IN THE LILY PADS

Something ominous is happening to Minnesota's frogs-and its spreading.

It started last year when a group of middle school children on a biology field trip in South Central Minnesota spotted some unusual-looking frogs. One was missing a leg, some had withered arms. Others had shrunken eyes. Of the 22 frogs caught that day, 11 were

deformed. Their teacher told officials, reports of strange frogs began to mount; a frog with mine legs, a club footed frog; a free with three eyes, one of them in its throat.

At first, investigators from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in St. Paul assumed that the problem was restricted to their state, and the agricultural part at that. They were wrong. Deformed frogs have since turned up in Wisconsin, South Dakota, Vermont and up into Canada.

"Abnormalities like this get me worried," says David Hoppe, a University of Minnesota Herpetologist. "We don't know how far this is going to go". Because frogs spend much of their life in water, pesticides or toxic metals were prime



suspects. But now possible causes include acid rain, global warming and increased ultraviolet light. Hoppe observes that different deformities seem to be concentrated in frogs from different regions. It may be he says, that more than one cause is at work.

What some scientists fear is that the frogs, like a miner's canary, could be a sign that something is very wrong with the environment. "We may have a large problem here", says Roberts Mckinnell, a University of Minnesota, Cancer Researcher, who has collected hundreds of deformed frogs. "If frogs are not able to handle whatever it is that is causing this, it may turn out that people can't either".



The Hon'ble Chief Minister, Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi on 10.3.97 has ordered for an allocation of Rs.12 crore to the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, out of the total allocation of Rs.60 crore earmarked by the Centre as recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission for special subsidies. The Government has drawn an elaborate plan for relocating 14,003 families living in objectionable places in the city.

WRAPPERS:

- I Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. KARUNANIDHI presenting the Budget for 1997-98 to the Legislative Assembly on 5th March 1997.
- II Hon'ble Chief Minister distributing aids to the physically handicapped on 28.2.97.
- IV Some of the tourist places in Tamil Nadu.

1300 YEARS OLD IMAGES DISCOVERED

The most exciting panel sculpture of an Ayyanar has been discovered by the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology at Alagramam, a small village in Tindivanam Taluk of Villupuram Ramasamy Padayatchiyar District. The location of this image was brought to the notice of the Department of Archaeology by Thiru Muthu Ethirasan, a retired teacher of Madras City on the information got from two young Doctors serving in that locality namely Dr.E.Sankar and Dr.Murugan. While Thiru Natana.Kasinathan, Director of Archaeology, Thiru V.Narayanaswamy, Assistant Executive Engineer and Thiru S.Krishnamurthy, Archaeological Officer, Chidambaram had conducted the field exploration of this area, the existence of this image along with a Vishnu image and a Jyeshta image at Mamandur were noticed by them.

Having two hands, the right hand of Ayyanar is in the position of lolahastha hanging by the side of the right knee of the leg, while the left hand is placed on the left knee. Wearing Jatabaram on his head and some ornaments on his neck and ear, he is shown with a small dagger tucked in his waist. The Utharabandha and the ornaments worn on the shoulder and the forehead are thick in size, suggesting the sculpture be assignable to 7th-8th century A.D. He is flanked by one woman on either side. The woman standing on the right side is shown catching hold of a vessal like wine jar, by her left hand, while right is placed on the hip. Wearing Karandamaguda on her head and ear lobes on the ear, the breast band is shown prominently on the chest. The lady standing on the left of Ayyanar is bearing a basket like object probably containing some offering by right hand while the left is placed on the hip. She is also wearing Karandamaguda on her head and ear lobes on the ear. Her breast band is also prominent. On the right side below the right leg of the Ayyanar, a standing lamp and a dog are shown. A horse and a horseman holding the rope of the horse are seen on the left side. This Ayyanar sculpture is unique of its kind in Tamil Nadu as the dog and the caparisoned horse the mount of Ayyanar and the two ladies probably Purani and Pushkala the counterparts of Ayyanar are shown in one group. An image of Ayyanar with a dog was

noticed by this Department at Chunampedu in Chengai Anna District some years ago. Another Ayyanar with dog image was found at Esalam in Villupuram Ramasamy Padayatchiyar District. The third one was found with the image of a dog at Nagathi near Tanjore. But this Ayyanar with the above images namely two ladies flanking the Ayyanar on either side, a lamp, a dog and a horse with the rider below him is the first occurrence as far as Tamil Nadu is concerned. Hence this image assumes more significance.

The image of Jyeshta which is found at Mamandur an adjacent village of Alagramam is also another interesting figure as a lady figure which is carved on the left side of the pedestal of which Jyeshta shown seated is a unique addition in Jyeshta panel. Jyeshta is usually found with the figures of Kuligan on right side and Manthi on the left side. They are supposed to be the son and daughter of her. Her banner crow on the right side and her weapon broom on the left are the usual images. But a dwarf figure of lady carrying a box like object on her head is an interesting addition to the image of Jyeshta. So far, this image has not been found in the Jyeshta panels. Hence this panel is also a significant one as far as Jyeshta study is concerned. Jyeshta is shown in the usual form placing her two legs in spread out position holding a flower like object in the right hand and placing her left hand on the top of the box carried by the dwarf lady. In between the Jyeshta and the dwarf image there is one kettle like object.

Another image of Vishnu located in Alagramam is standing in samabhanga pose having four hands. All the hands are in usual position. He is wearing the Kretamakuda on the head and the thick Yagnopavita which is running over the right shoulder. By the side of his left leg, there is a lady shown seated with folded legs and on the right side a male figure is seen in the same position. Both the figures appear to be offering something to Lord Vishnu.

Of all above three images, the image of Ayyanar and the image of Jyeshta are outstanding and unique in nature.

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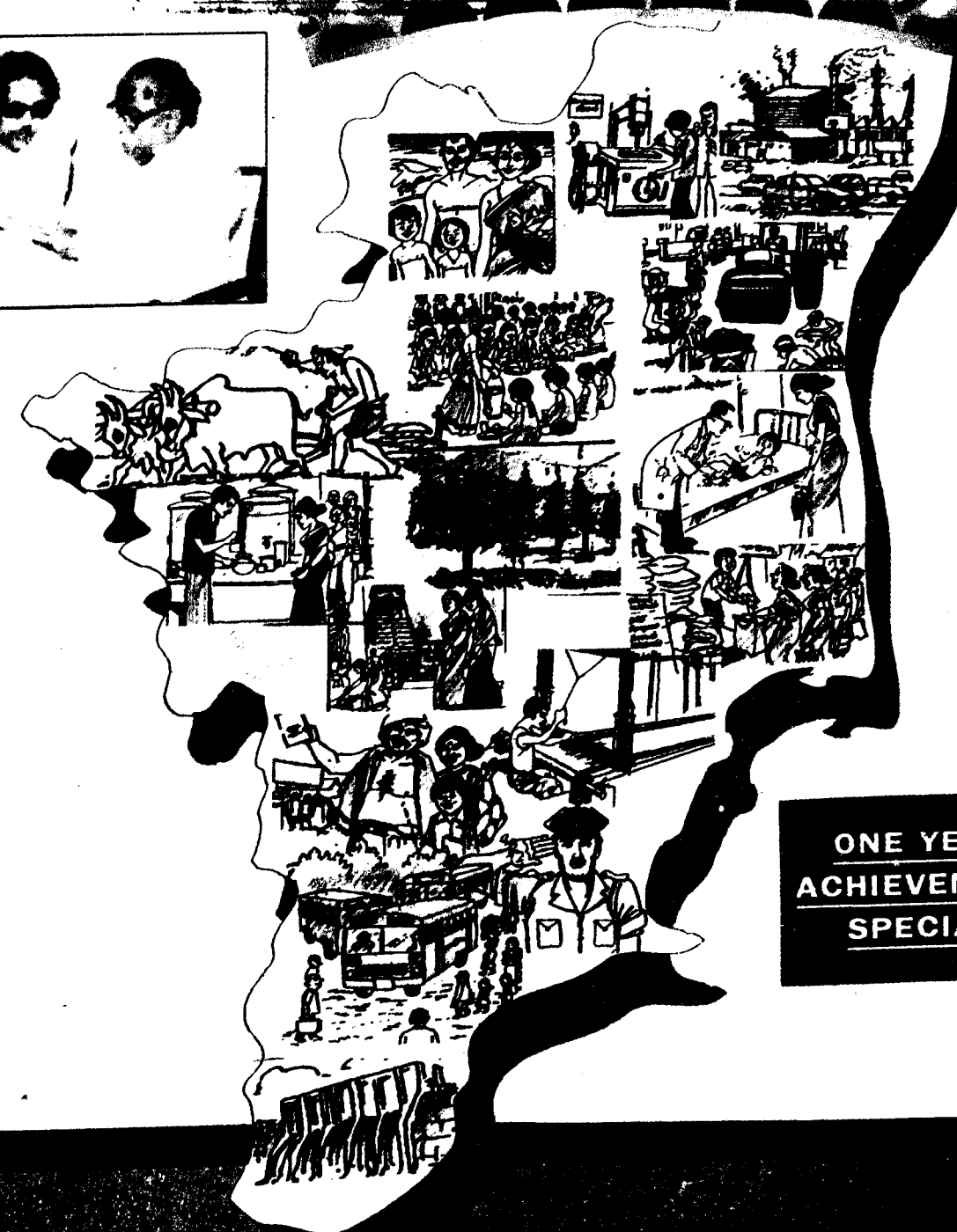


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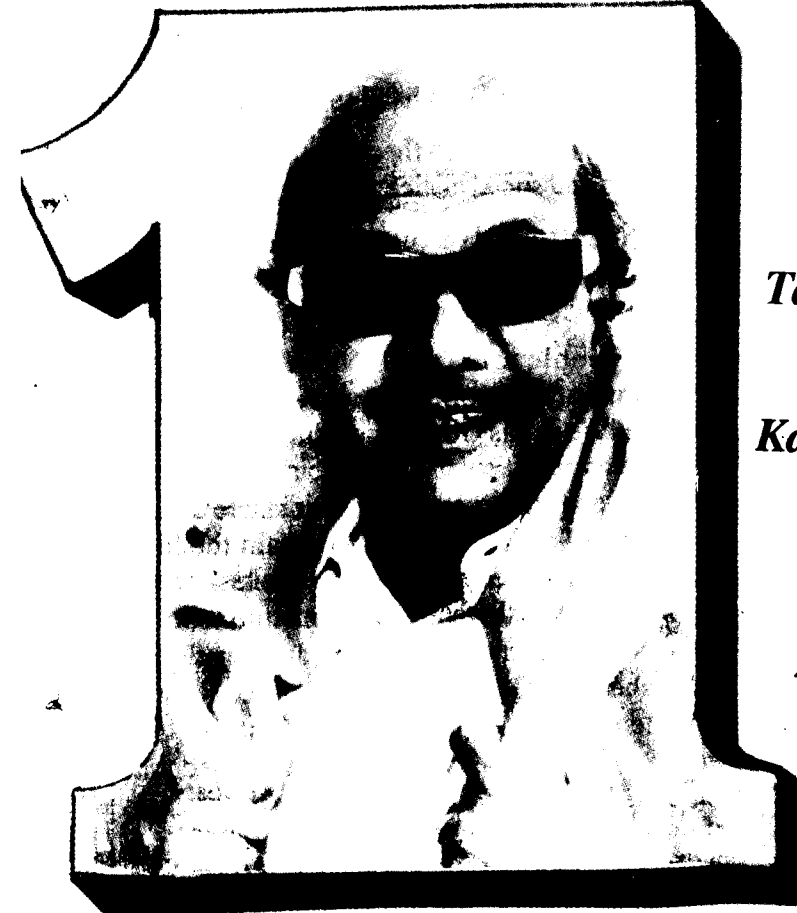


**ONE YEAR
ACHIEVEMENT
SPECIAL**

TAMIL ARASU

Magazine of the Government of Tamil Nadu

May 1997



*Tamil Nadu scales new heights
under the leadership of
Kalaigar M. KARUNANIDHI*

A compilation of Records

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TAMIL NADU ON THE MOVE

THIS GOVERNMENT WILL LIVE UP TO THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE PEOPLE

- ALADI ARUNA
Hon'ble Minister for law

It was exactly one year ago that the Government, headed by Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi took office following the massive mandate given by the people of Tamil Nadu. If I may take you back a couple of years, you may remember the sordid State of affairs in the State which was an affront to every self-respecting Tamil. Gone were the days when he held his head high and Tamil Nadu was in the forefront of virtually every field. One year back, the State was hitting the national headlines for the wrong reasons: rampant corruption, flagrant misuse of official machinery, police atrocities, ostentatious and vulgar display of wealth, near-complete paralysis of administration, violent communal clashes, break-down of law and order and a reign of terror, murder, mayhem, bomb attacks and explosions let loose by anti-social elements. The



genuine interests of the State took the backseat. Against this backdrop, elections were held. Our party went to the electorate with the promise that if returned to power, we would

- ★ bring the corrupt minister, including the then Chief Minister and officials to book
- ★ establish an "ombudsman" like institution and provide an open, transparent and corruption-free administration

- ★ create a congenial atmosphere for communal harmony
- ★ conduct the long-delayed elections to local bodies and co-operative societies immediately
- ★ putdown with an iron hand the criminals
- ★ dedicate ourselves to the all-round economic growth and social justice
- ★ continue to strive for a wholesome and genuine federalism with autonomy for the States.

The people of Tamil Nadu gave this Government, as you are aware, a massive mandate. We in this Government interpreted this mandate as re-affirmation of their faith in our principles and an expression of their innate desire to reinvent Tamil Nadu and to regain the lost glory. We dedicated ourselves to this task from day one. It is worthwhile at this juncture to look at the political scenario prevailing at the national level when this Government took office, which afforded a real opportunity for installing a Government at the Centre with a genuine federal outlook. The United Front represents the mosaic of the vastly different socio-political milieu that is India, and their Common Minimum Programme spelt out the shared aspirations of the numerous socio-political realities of this vast country. Expectedly, Centre-State relations have been taking the centre stage in the discussions of the Inter State Council. This Government is steady-fast in its resolve that only by giving more autonomy to the States will the varied interests of the multi-ethnic society be better served.

This Government believes in practicing what it preaches. We believe in decentralisation of powers ourselves. Within a few months of assumption of office, this Government fulfilled its poll promise of conducting elections to the local

bodies and the co-operatives; it has also delegated substantial powers to the local bodies and has ensured the flow of adequate funds to these bodies. We are also planning to involve the elected bodies and the Grama Sabhas in the process of plan formulation, implementation and monitoring so that there is genuine local self-Government in Tamil Nadu. Putting the administrative machinery back on its rails has been our top priority. The high and mighty, who had ransacked the State exchequer for their personal gains have been brought to book. Judges have been appointed by the High Court to speedily dispose of the cases against the erstwhile rulers and officials charged with corruption. Realizing that besides weeding out the corrupt elements from the body politic, the system requires structural modifications if we have to regain the confidence of the public at large in the Government, this Government has ushered in a number of policy initiatives, innovative programmes and procedural changes. To mention a few :

1. The Right to Information Act has been passed. Henceforth, every resident of this State will have unlimited access to the information available with the Government which was hitherto the privy of the privileged few.
2. A Human Rights Commission has been constituted to ensure the basic right of the people to a dignified life. A Rapid Action Force has been created in the police force for speedily dousing the embers of communal strife before it threatens to engulf communities.
3. The ubiquitous and scandalous "single tender system" wherein tender forms were made available to only those close to the corridors or power has been dispensed with. A legislation making the tender procedure transparent is on the avail.
4. Rule 39 of the Tamil Nadu Minor Minerals (Concession) Rules, which was a veritable gold mine for the erstwhile rulers, to give mining rights on nomination basis has been modified. Hereafter, the quarrying rights will be decided by the open-tender system only.

5. To make an in-depth study of the sources of corruption in the administration and to suggest systemic changes, a high-level committee headed by Justice Ramanujam has been appointed.
6. To demystify land revenue administration and to suggest procedural changes, another high-level committee chaired by Mr. Sabanayagam, the former Chief Secretary of the State has been constituted.
7. To suggest ways and means of improving dry-land farming in the State, an expert committee under the chairmanship of Dr. V.C. Kulandaisamy, former Vice-Chancellor of Indira Gandhi Open University, with eminent members like Dr. S. Swaminathan, the internationally acclaimed agricultural scientist, has been constituted.
8. A high-level committee chaired by the Chief Minister himself has been regularly interacting with the leading industrialists of the country to improve the industrial climate of the State.
9. "Industrial Area Development Authorities", the single-window authorities, vested with all the powers for local clearance to facilitate speedy implementation of industries, have been put in place in the industrial estates of the State.
10. Various committees are being constituted for the welfare of labour in the unorganised sector.
11. To simplify and rationalise the tax structure of the State, a committee was constituted headed by Mr. M.C. Thangaraj, a retired IAS Officer whose far-reaching suggestions to overhaul the sales tax structure have been implemented.
12. To streamline the registration procedure in the State, a specialist committee was appointed whose suggestions are being followed vigorously.

These are only illustrative of the earnestness of the Government in fulfilling its promises. The faith reposed in the Government by the industry and trade is being reflected in the innumerable projects under implementation in the State.

A NEW INDUSTRIAL CLIMATE

The industrial policies to the State have been fine-tuned to meet the needs of the entrepreneurs.

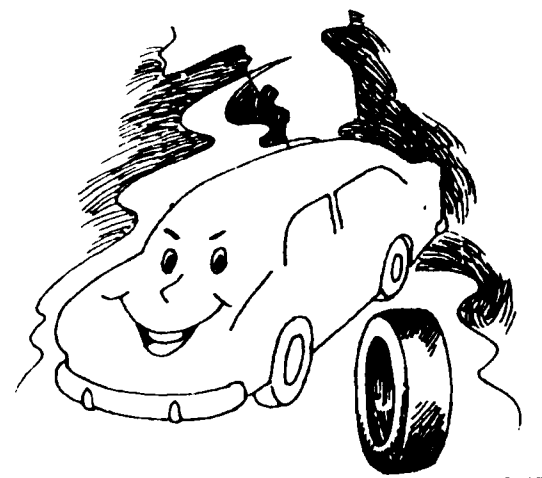
- ❑ Realizing that electricity is one of the thrust areas, twenty short gestation power projects have been tendered. Tenders have already been finalised in record time for eleven sites.
- ❑ A unique Act, providing for the issue of all clearances required for starting of new industrial enterprises in the industrial townships of the State at a single point has been passed ushering in a new and effective Single Window Clearance.
- ❑ Sales tax rates have been reduced in respect of industrial raw materials, spare parts and other inputs required for manufacture, along with the sales tax for finished products. This will enable the industries in the State to reduce their cost of production. They will also become competitive in various up-country markets, resulting in increased volumes of sales.
- ❑ Authority has been delegated to various levels to facilitate the speeding up of the decision making process.
- ❑ Sound infrastructure, a far sighted and sympathetic Government, skilled workers who put in hard work with sincerity and devotion to duty, Trade Union Leaders who display a commendable sense of responsibility, and rules and procedures which encourage transparent decision making, are together making Tamil Nadu the preferred destination for those looking for safe industrial investments.

During the last one year, due to the efforts of this Government, the following big projects were initiated in our State:

1. Hyundai Motor Car project of South Korea for manufacturing 1,25,000 cars during the first year itself;
2. Two Float Glass Plants—one from Pilkington of U.K. and the other from Saint Gobain of France;

3. Kumho Tyres of Korea;
4. Lancer Car project of Hindustan Motors Limited in collaboration with Mitsubishi of Japan;
5. Ashok Leyland's Expansion project and
6. TAFE expansion project

Our Government has taken certain initiatives to secure new investments from foreign countries like Malaysia and Singapore. The private sector in Singapore and Malaysia has shown keen interest in coming to Tamil Nadu to set up Industrial Parks, first class highways, modern satellite cities and power projects.



The Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited (TIDCO), has been fast acquiring the role of the chief facilitator of private sector investment in industries in Tamil Nadu.

- ★ TIDCO proposes to set up a Petrochemical Park in about 7,000 acres of land surrounding the new Ennore Port. A portfolio of chemical and petrochemical industries has been identified for this park. A liquefied Natural Gas Terminal and the associated power station will also come up here. With water being a critical input for petro-chemical industries, the Government has planned to set up treatment plants to convert treated sewage into good water which will be supplied to the industries in the new petrochemical and other complexes.

- ★ TIDCO has also proposed an auto-ancillary park near Chennai to enhance the availability of world-class auto components to the growing automobile manufacturers in Tamil Nadu and neighbouring states. Tremendous opportunity exists for more new ancillary units, despite of Tamil Nadu being the traditional home for auto ancillaries.
- ★ The Government intends to invite private sector participation in establishing modern ports at Cuddalore, Colachel, Nagapattinam and other places. An elevated expressway from the Chennai port to Ennore and also to Tambaram will be taken up. The expressways are proposed to be constructed with private sector investment who may collect toll for the road using vehicles. Agri-business, Floriculture and Food processing have emerged as thrust areas. TIDCO has taken active interest to set up new projects in these sectors.
- ★ An egg processing plant, involving an investment of Rs.40 crores, in association with the SKM Group, will be commissioned shortly.
- ★ International competitive bidding for an integrated mining and 500 MW lignite-based power project at Jayamkondam.
- ★ A project to manufacture particle board from bagasse, in association with the National Plywood Limited and the German company, Siemplekamp has been cleared by TIDCO recently, involving an investment of Rs.150 crores.
- ★ Using the technology of Tamil Nadu News Print and Papers Limited, the possibility of another similar project based on bagasse, near Cuddalore is under examination.
- ★ A TIDCO project to manufacture superior condoms will be set up shortly, at an investment of Rs.40 crores.
- ★ TIDCO has entered into a joint venture in associate sector with Advanced Lighting Resources of U.S.A. for setting up a 100% export oriented Metal Halide Lamp Project at

a cost of Rs.27 crores. The construction will be commencing shortly.

- ★ The State is not lagging behind in the chemical industries sector either.
- ★ Tamil Nadu Petroproducts Limited, a Joint Sector venture of TIDCO, is expanding its capacity of epichlorohydrin and is diversifying into epoxyresins in association with CIBA, with an investment of about Rs.90 crores.
- ★ A project for manufacture of bulk drugs is under execution in association with the NATCO group of companies at an investment of Rs.47 crores.



- ★ A project for manufacture of Alcohol from Tapioca is under the consideration of TIDCO.
- ★ TIDCO is working on projects to manufacture alcohol-based chemicals.
- ★ A project for manufacture of Benzyl chemicals is under the consideration of TIDCO.
- ★ TIDCO is promoting a fly ash utilization project in association with the Thapar Group for manufacture of fly ash based building materials.
- ★ TIDCO has signed a cooperation agreement for setting up a PVC plant at Ennore with Det Norske Hydro of Norway and W.S.Group of Tamil Nadu.
- ★ TIDCO has been awarded a license to set up a naphtha cracker and olefins complex and the spade work has commenced.

- ★ Proposals have been sought from reputed industrial houses to join TIDCO in projects for manufacture of yeast, biaxially-oriented polypropylene (BOPP), Bisphenol-A and activated Carbon.
- ★ The Southern Iron and Steel Company Limited (SISCOL), a joint venture of the reputed LMW group and TIDCO, has commissioned its Rs.450 crores pig iron plant recently.
- ★ A project to manufacture secondary aluminium with value added products is under process.
- ★ The Rs. 1000 crores copper-smelter project set up by the Sterlite Group at Tuticorin has gone on stream.
- ★ The small ship-breaking facility at Valinokkam, near Ramanathapuram, is expected to be put to full use this year.

A number of well developed industrial estates are being promoted by this Government. A new industrial complex in Cheyyar taluk is being set up by the State Industries Promotion of Tamil Nadu Limited (SIPCOT) in the industrially backward Thiruvannamalai - Sambuvarayar District. SIPCOT is acquiring 1350 acres of land for establishment of this complex. A new industrial complex is being developed in Irungattukottai in Sriperumbudur Taluk, Anna District. SIPCOT has identified 1,829 acres of land for this purpose. Near Sriperumpudur, three other locations have been identified for development as new industrial complexes and townships.

Efforts are on for setting up a new industrial complex in Coimbatore (South) Taluk in Coimbatore District. The Tamil Nadu Corporation for Industrial Infrastructural Development Limited (TACID) is setting up Growth Centres at Perundurai in Periyar District and Gangaikondan in Tirunelveli Kattabomman District at a cost of Rs.110 crores and Rs.39.68 crores respectively. TACID is also setting up new industrial complexes in Mammandur and Palamathur village in Madurantakam Taluk, Anna District; at Sunguvar Chathiram, Sriperumbudur

Taluk, Anna District, and at another site near Sriperumbudur.

A Software Technology Park with a satellite city will be set up by the Electronic Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited in 200 acres of land near Kelambakkam, South of Chennai. ELCOT has proposed to set up yet another software park at Coimbatore, in association with the Bharathiyar University.

Our attention has not been confined to major industries alone. Small industries also have got an equal fillip. During the last year more than 22,000 small scale industries were started in the State, providing employment opportunities for more than 1.4 lakh persons. The Government has been according priority for women entrepreneurs in allocating developed industrial sites and industrial sheds.

Under the scheme of Trade Related Entrepreneurship Assistance and Development for Women (TREAD) with the assistance of Government of India, 5,000 women will be selected in Chennai in the first phase and necessary management and technical training will be given to them and financial assistance provided for starting up business and industry with the assistance of voluntary organisations. Under this scheme, initially training and financial assistance will be given for setting up food processing, readymade garments and leather products industries. One third of this financial assistance will be given as grant and two thirds as loan.

In order to create the required infrastructure for information technology and to become a pioneer in the world in the field of Information Technology in the 21st Century, the Information Technology Institute of Tamil Nadu (ITIT) will be established for the first time at Chennai. Initially, this will be started as a self-financing registered society and gradually this will be developed into a self-financing University.

THE POWER SECTOR

There has been a 4.54 percent increase in the energy consumption during 1996-97. The energy requirement of Tamil Nadu at the end of the

Ninth Plan has been estimated at 42,481 MU and our endeavour has been to meet the demand without any restriction. A number of new power projects have been proposed in the public sector with private sector participation. Power generation from various sources like wind, co-generation, bio-mass, municipal waste and solar power is being implemented. Sixteen private sector power projects with a total capacity of 9,273 MW have been planned, and are in various stages of implementation. In the State sector, the following projects will be implemented.

- ★ Perungulam Gas Turbine Power Project (30 MW)
 - ★ Kovilkalappal GTPP (30 MW)
 - ★ South Chennai Thermal Power Project (2000 MW)
- The State's share in the new central sector projects are expected to be :
- ★ 168 MW from the expansion of Neyveli TS-I
 - ★ 138 MW from additional unit at Ramagundam
 - ★ 318 MW from Rihand Thermal Station in U.P.

Thus, our Government has been taking every effort to ensure that the power position in the State will be comfortable. This must be seen in the context that the previous Government in their five years rule did not start even one new power project.

TAX REFORMS

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had announced a long term taxation policy in the last year's Budget to foster a stable, clear and friendly taxation environment for stimulating industrial growth and commerce. Accordingly, many reforms were undertaken in the Sales Tax structure. Taxes were reduced in respect of several categories. Trade and Industry have welcomed these measures. The main objectives of this long term taxation policy were:

- ★ Rationalisation of the structure of tax rate and slabs to provide greater transparency of tax

rates and simplicity in assessment and collection;

- ★ Introduction of more modern systems and procedures of taxation;
- ★ Provision of incentives for industrial development in the State and encouragement for local purchase and local manufacture;
- ★ Relief to large number of small traders by way of exemptions compounding and self assessment procedures;
- ★ Reduction of tax burden on households.

Consequently, taxes were abolished for quite a few items, reduced for a number of other items and the surcharge has been totally abolished. Multipoint tax, a constant irritant to the trading community, has been abolished. The self-assessment procedure has been introduced for assesseees with turnover of Rs.10 lakhs or less. The tax concession amounted to more than Rs.400 crores in 1996-97 alone.

ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

With a view to upgrading and strengthening the roads in Tamil Nadu, a project report called "Strategic Option Study" was prepared and 3,250 kms of road in 23 corridors have been identified. Consultants have been appointed for preparing feasibility study and detailed engineering design for 375 kms of the roads.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Though industrial development remained a thrust area for this Government, we were equally concerned about rural development. A sum of Rs.789.70 has been allocated for rural development for 1997-98 for implementing various State Plans and the Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

- ★ 82,000 group houses were built last year. Tamil Nadu has the unique distinction of providing concrete roofs for the houses built under this scheme. Nearly 5,000 kms of village and Panchayat Union roads were formed during the last year.
- ★ With a view to utilising the services of the rural

youth to promote adult education, to propagate awareness about the evils of drinking and to create an awareness among the villagers, orders have been issued creating 35,000 posts of Makkal Nala Paniyalargal under which each panchayat will have one male and one female worker.

In order to develop the villages in a phased manner, a new scheme known as "Anna Renaissance Scheme" has been formulated under which one village in each Assembly Constituency will be selected every year and developed into a modern village with all facilities.

The Manu Needhi Thittam (the Mass Contact Programme) will be revamped to pave the way for promoting among the people an attitude of "Self-Help" so that they come forward to fulfil their needs by themselves.

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

The Government aims to provide a primary school within a radius of one to two kms from every habitation with a population of 300 or more. In accordance with the policy of providing quality primary education, this Government sanctioned the opening of 85 new primary schools and upgrading of 21 Primary Schools to Middle Schools in 1996-97. For 1997-98, the Government of Tamil Nadu has decided to open 168 primary schools and upgrade 41 Primary Schools to Middle Schools.

The recruitment procedure for teachers was streamlined and 11,652 Secondary Grade Teachers posts which were lying vacant for 4 to 5 years were filled up last year.

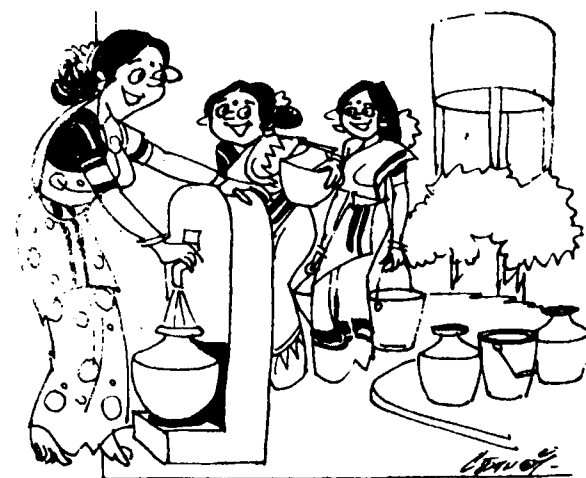
The Government has introduced new schemes which will ensure that the Government will bear the cost of professional education in respect of the top 10 students from families not having any college graduate. From this year onwards, the Government has decided to bear the educational expenses on higher studies in respect of students who secure the first three ranks at the district level in the high school final and the plus two final examinations.

HEALTH

The Tamil Nadu Government has embarked on a comprehensive plan to construct 600 buildings for Primary Health Centres so that all the 1,420 Primary Health Centres in the State will have proper buildings. The Government has implemented a scheme whereby 124 Primary Health Centres work round the clock. This scheme will be extended to 420 Primary Health Centres in all, at the rate of at least one centre per Panchayat Union.

RURAL WATER SUPPLY

This Government has embarked on an ambitious plan by which before the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan period, all the rural



habitations in Tamil Nadu will be provided 40 LPCD of protected water and bring about a situation whereby there will be no village in Tamil Nadu without protected water supply. Rs.250 crores have been allotted for this purpose during 1997-98.

SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEMES, SCHEMES OF MONETARY ASSISTANCE TO WOMEN

- ★ A sum of Rs.2,000 is given for the marriage of daughters of poor widows and a sum of Rs.21 lakhs has been provided for this scheme in 1997-98.
- ★ The Government has enhanced the assistance under the Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Ninaivu Thirumana Udhavi Thittam from

Rs.5,000 to Rs.10,000. Under this scheme, a grant of Rs.10,000 is given to girls from poor households who have completed 8th standard and above, on the occasion of their marriage. Rs.20 crores has been earmarked for this scheme this year, which will benefit 20,000 poor girls.

- ★ The Government have allotted Rs.5.81 crores under the Dr.Muthulakshmi Reddy Ammaiyar Ninaivu Mahaperu Udhavi Thittam, and also increased the assistance to Rs.500 per beneficiary. Under this scheme, cash support is given to the women from poor households for the last two months of pregnancy and the two months immediately after delivery of the child, to compensate the loss of income during the period.
- ★ In order to promote self-employment of women through a network of Self Help Groups, the Government has announced a phased extension of the Tamil Nadu Women's Development Project to all Districts of the State. The estimated total cost of this project is Rs.1,440 crores including institutional finance which will cover around 10 lakh women over a five year period.
- ★ On a pilot basis, 50 Women's Welfare Centres will be established in five backward districts. The centres will conduct awareness campaigns on various aspects of health, nutrition, family welfare and literacy.

SCHEMES FOR BACKWARD CLASSES AND SCHEDULED CASTES

Our Government has always been championing the cause of the backward classes and the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes of the State. Every effort is being made to get 69 percent reservation in educational institutions and in employment for these oppressed classes. Top priority is being given by our Government for the educational advancement and economic development of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and backward classes. Rs.334 crores has been provided for the welfare of scheduled castes

and scheduled tribes in the State Budget for 1997-98. Rs.64.3 crores have been allotted for the welfare of backward classes in the current year's budget.

40 new hostels were opened for the scheduled castes last year alone and another 40 are being opened this year. For the backward classes, 45 new hostels were opened last year. The Government has decided to construct buildings for all the scheduled caste girls' hostels functioning in rented buildings, within the next three years. A new hostel for post-graduate scheduled caste students is being opened this year. The Government has planned to build laboratory buildings for all the higher secondary schools run by the Adi-Dravidar (Scheduled castes) and Scheduled Tribes Welfare Department.

A massive scheme to give free house-sites to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other poorer sections of the society is being implemented at an estimated cost of Rs.30 crores this year. For the first time, the scheme has been extended to cover poor families belonging to all castes.

THE ONE YEAR IN RETROSPECT

The new schemes and improvements to existing schemes and procedure brought forth by this Government during the last one year are numerous and the list will be long if we try to catalogue all of them. The narrative above was intended to give an indication of the direction in which we are moving. This Government is conscious of the enormous responsibility thrust on it and the high expectations of the people for providing an honest, efficient and clean Government. This Government, under the able stewardship of Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi, will doubtless live up to the expectations of the people of Tamil Nadu.

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TAMIL NADU - the most preferred investment destination in the country

The basic objectives of the new policy of the Tamil Nadu Government are :

- ❑ Regain for Tamil Nadu its days of glory as the most industrialised State in India;
- ❑ Market Tamil Nadu as the preferred destination for investment in India and abroad;
- ❑ Plan, create and offer world-class infrastructure for industrial entrepreneurs;
- ❑ Dismantle barriers to investment and simplify rules and procedures;
- ❑ Set in motion a process of development which is ecologically sustainable;
- ❑ Ensure a transparent and investor-friendly administration;
- ❑ Harness the vast human-resource capital in the State.

The Government believe that competing with other States by offering more and more incentives alone will be not useful. Instead, we would concentrate on strengthening of the power generation capacity and the transmission and distribution arrangements, improving our road network, bringing in the most technologically advanced Telecom facilities, opening new ports and developing the existing ports, strengthening the technical training facilities and speeding up the broadgauge conversion of our rail lines.

Hence the Government declared that all decisions would be taken in the most transparent ways, that this Government would follow industry-friendly policies, that decisions would be fast and that strengthening of infrastructure would be the area of extreme focus.

The first Industrial Complex taken up was SIPCOT's Irungattukottai Complex. The plan was to acquire about 1750 acres of land on the Chennai-Bangalore National Highway and develop it into an Industrial Complex for Automobile Engineering and Auto-component Industries. M/s. Hyundai Motor Company from Korea agreed to establish their car manufacturing facility in a 540 acre plot here. This would be their biggest auto plant after their 1.5 million cars per annum plant at Ulsan, Korea. Other new Industrial

complexes are fast getting established at Thiruperumbudur, Sunkuvar Chatram and near Coimbatore, Cheyyar, near Ranipet and near Singaperumalkoil. SIPCOT will acquire about 10,000 acres of land for the various new Industrial Complexes.

TACID, another State Undertaking has identified 1500 acres for acquiring and developing them as Growth Centres.

A Petrochem Park over a 7000 acre area near Ennore would be developed by TIDCO. This complex will have a tank terminal which can store the imported petroleum products. The first L.N.G.(Liquified Natural Gas) terminal in India is also expected to come up here, bringing in 2½ million tonnes of LNG per annum to start with, along with a down-stream 2500 MW power station.

Several administrative decisions were taken for cutting out red-tape and speeding up decisions. In the area of mineral policy, the Government abolished the much abused Rule 39 of the Mineral Rules and boldly reintroduced the Tender-cum-auction system, thus highlighting its commitment to pursue policies designed to serve the public interest. A new legislation has been presented by the Chief Minister in the Tamil Nadu Assembly, for ushering in, an effective Single Window Clearance Mechanism for new industries coming up in the Industrial Complexes in the State. This bill has since been passed by the Assembly.

All these efforts on the part of the Government of Tamil Nadu have attracted new investment proposals both from India and abroad. Apart from M/s. Mahindra Ford and Hyundai, Mitsubishi of Japan, which is setting up a Car plant to manufacture their Lancer model, has also selected Tamil Nadu as its home in India. While competing with each other both Ms. Pilkington of U.K. and Saint Gobain of France have zeroed in on Tamil Nadu sites. Major industrial groups like Matsushita Industries and Fujikura of Japan, Kumho Tyres of Korea, Iveco of Italy in association with Ashok Leyland have also signed up with Tamil Nadu. ★

SPECIFIC THRUST TO RURAL AND SMALL INDUSTRIES

ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT

In the initial stages immediately after independence the first generation entrepreneurs came mainly from the trading community. Gradually the scenario changed and more and more educated unemployed youth are attracted towards starting their own Small Scale Industrial Units. Government supported programmes for entrepreneurship development have them in mind as target group.

As a first step in assisting them Government proposes to start an Entrepreneurship Development Centre at Guindy during 1997-98. The Centre will act as a nodal agency for monitoring all the Entrepreneurship Development Programmes implemented through Government Departments, Corporations and Banks. The Centre will also strive to assist them after the training to start their own units by arranging finance, providing technical information and marketing information. In order to assist women entrepreneurs, coming from a non-trading family who have difficulty in arranging the margin money required for getting institutional finance, Government has introduced a Margin Money Scheme. Women Entrepreneurs who are either destitutes or single- widows or divorcees are given 10% of the project cost (Max.Rs.50,000) as margin money assistance.

THE PERFORMANCE OF INDUSTRIAL COOPERATIVES FUNCTIONING UNDER THE CONTROL OF DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND COMMERCE

The Industrial Cooperatives have achieved a record turnover of Rs.329.27 crores in 1996-97 as against the turnover of Rs.282.54 crores achieved during the financial year 1995-96. The maximum contribution in this sector is by Salem Starch and

Sago Manufacturers' Service Industrial Cooperative Society (SAGOSERVE) during 1996-97. Similarly, the Nilgiris Small Tea Growers Service Industrial Cooperative Society (INCO SERVE) has also shown substantial progress in its performance during 1996-97.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN COIR SECTOR

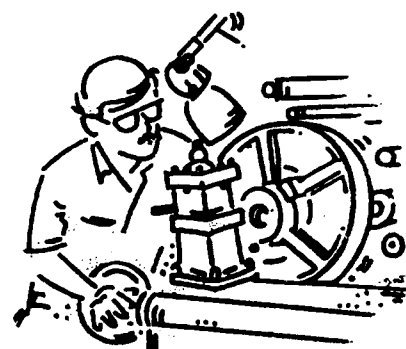
An Integrated Coir Development Project at a cost of Rs.16.71 crores with the financial assistance of National Cooperative Development Corporation and Coir Board is to be implemented in 3 years from 1996-97. During the year 1996-97, 19 Coir Societies have been identified under Phase I for modernisation at a cost of Rs.555 lakhs. This project is expected to create additional employment to 1230 workers.

PERFORMANCE OF THE TAMIL NADU INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT CORPORATION LIMITED FOR THE YEAR 1996-97

TIIC is a State Level Financial Institution started in the year 1949. The Corporation sanctioned term loan of Rs.43,070 lakhs during 1996-97. Of which 76% is for the Small Scale Sector. The Corporation also finances schemes like equipment Refinance Scheme, Quality Control Scheme, Small Transport Operators, Hotel Project, Hospital/Clinic and Registered Medical Practitioners. New business activities undertaken by TIIC.

TAMIL NADU SMALL INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED

Tamil Nadu Small Industries Development Corporation Limited (TANSIDCO) was set up in the year 1970 by the Government of Tamil Nadu with the specific object to promote and develop Small Scale Industries and disperse them in the backward and under developed areas of the State.



The development of Industrial Estates in potential growth centres and planned construction of workshops to suit the needs and entrepreneurial demands form crucial part of SIDCO's activities. The plots in the SIDCO Industrial estates have been provided with basic amenities such as water supply, sewerage connection, lighting etc. and these facilities are provided at various industrial estates spread throughout the State keeping in view, the needs of the entrepreneurs to start industrial activity. These are 72 industrial estates which form a sprawling network in the State. During the year 1996-97 the work is in progress for 141 workshops and 210 developed plots against the target of 225 work sheds and 220 developed plots with a budget outlay of Rs. 22.50 crores.

SIDCO distributes certain key raw-material such as iron and steel, coke, aluminium, wax to fulfil the requirements of Small Scale Sector. Apart from the above raw materials SIDCO also deals items like Zinc, Lead, IPCL Products, Potassium Chlorate etc. SIDCO has taken up the marketing assistance scheme to help the Small Scale Units to market their products at the competitive rates. SIDCO has proposed to establish new industrial estates at Pollupalli near Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri District, Anna District, Irungattukottai, Thirumudivakkam MGR District-Avadi.

The Corporation has planned to distribute about 29,532 MT of raw materials valued at Rs. 7018 lakhs to the SSI Units during the year 1997-98.

★★★

Rs.10,000 FOR FIXING ARTIFICIAL LIMBS TO THE HANDICAPPED FROM CHIEF MINISTER'S PUBLIC RELIEF FUND

The physically handicapped clamour for opportunity and not for charity. Recognising this, this Government have been implementing a large number of programmes which will enable physically disabled to lead an honourable life. During 1997-98, the Government have decided to sanction upto Rs.10,000 from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to each of the needy handicapped below poverty line for getting the necessary artificial limbs fixed. This will enable the poor handicapped to stand on their own legs and eke out an independent and decent livelihood.

**MOOVALUR RAMAMIRTHAM AMMAIYAR
NINAIVU THIRUMANA UDHAVI
THITTAM (MARRIAGE ASSISTANCE
TO POOR GIRLS)**

Moovalur Ramirtham Ammaiyar Ninaivu Thirumana Udhavi Thittam is a boon to the poor



girls. The cash assistance of Rs.5000 under this scheme which was introduced during 1989-90 was enhanced to Rs.10,000 during 1996-97. It not only offers cash assistance of Rs.10,000 to the poor girl for marriage, but also helps to achieve two laudable objectives viz. implementation of minimum marriage age for girls and ensuring minimum educational accomplishment (upto 8th Standard). Taking into account the large number of applications pending for, above the budget allocation of Rs.10 Crores during 1996-97, the Government have enhanced the number of beneficiaries under the Scheme from 10,000 to 20,000 at a cost of Rs.20 crores per annum from 1997-98 onwards.

**Dr. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDY
AMMAIYAR NINAIVU MAHAPERU
UDHAVI THITTAM (MATERNITY
ASSISTANCE SCHEME)**

The pathetic nutritional condition of the pregnant woman below poverty line is a well known fact. To help her out this Government are implementing a scheme of cash assistance of Rs.500 per beneficiary which is given to her to look after herself during the most vulnerable period i.e. 2 months before pregnancy and 2 months immediately after pregnancy. This scheme is thus a direct intervention to reduce infant mortality as well as maternal mortality rates. The cash assistance which was Rs.300 from 1989-90 has been enhanced by the Government to Rs.500 from 1996-97 onwards. About 2.9 lakh women get benefitted under this scheme.

**VISUALLY AND PHYSICALLY
HANDICAPPED ALLOWED CONCESSION
ON EXPRESS BUS ROUTES ALSO**

Realising the need for mobility existing among the physically handicapped persons to travel to schools / colleges / hospitals/training centres/work spots, this Government have already permitted them to travel free of cost in all State



owned transport corporation buses except the express buses run by Rajiv Gandhi Transport Corporation and Thiruvalluvar Transport Corporations. During 1997-98, the Government have decided to extend the free-travel concession to travel by express buses also to the blind and lame persons.

**DISTRICT REHABILITATION CENTRE TO
BE STARTED IN ALL DISTRICTS**

While the rehabilitation Centres for the Physically Handicapped run by the Government as well as the N.G.O.s. are mostly spread in the State or District Head Quarters, there is hardly any institution catering to the needs of the poor physically handicapped living in rural areas. To fulfil this long pending need of the people in rural areas, the Government have decided to set up District Rehabilitation Centres, similar to the one functioning at present in Chengalpattu, in all the districts during 1997-98. These District Rehabilitation Centres will offer the following package of services at the doorsteps of the rural poor physically handicapped and help them come out of their predicaments :

1. Identification of the handicapped in the rural areas through camps at the village level;
2. On the spot assessment of their disability by the team of experts;
3. Arranging medical treatment and therapy classes in the district centre;
4. Supply of necessary appliances and the required training to use them;
5. Follow up of the use of appliances and carrying out repairs as and when necessary;
6. Assisting the handicapped in getting assistance under various existing schemes to enable them to sustain themselves.

This comprehensive package will no doubt be a boon to the unfortunate and ignorant physically handicapped people living in the rural areas.

★★★

PURCHASE OF 3600 NEW BUSES

The vehicle productivity of Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporations is the highest in the country. The vehicle productivity which stood at 395 Km/bus/day during 1993-94 rose to 402 Km/bus/day during 1996-97.



The fleet utilisation is 92.77% during 1996-97 and the State Transport Undertakings, are

operating 16,022/- buses out of which about 32% constitute mofussil services and 48% town services and the remaining the express services. During 1996-97 about 146 new routes were introduced for the benefit of 152 villages. In spite of this the State Transport Undertakings, are not able to meet the traffic needs of the public in full. Hon'ble Chief Minister has therefore announced that 3,600 new buses will be purchased for the Transport Corporation.

CONCESSION FOR FREE TRAVEL IN STATE OWNED BUSES EXTENDED TO +2 STUDENTS

During May 1990, the Government issued orders that students studying upto VIII Standard be issued free bus passes to travel from their residence to Schools and back in the town buses of State Transport undertakings. The same concession was extended by the Hon'ble Chief Minister to the students studying upto plus two in schools from the academic year 1996-97.

4,000 MORE HOUSES FOR FISHERMEN

During the Budget speech 1996-97, the Hon'ble Chief Minister announced a special scheme of construction of 20,000 houses with one electric light for fishermen over a period of 5 years, at the rate of 4,000 houses per year. Accordingly, for the year 1996-97, construction of 4000 houses with one electric light has been taken up at an expenditure of Rs.12.80 crores. The scheme has been named as "Tamil Nadu Government Ma.Singaravelar Memorial Housing Scheme"

The unit cost per house with one electric light has been fixed at Rs.32,000. The special scheme of construction of free houses for fishermen has been announced to provide permanent housing to the marine fishermen who are now living in huts in 442 coastal villages.



The 4000 houses are under various stages of construction. For the year 1997-98 also, 4000 more houses will be constructed under the special programme of construction of 20,000 houses. Action is being taken to select the villages with lands immediately available for construction of these 4,000 houses.

INTEGRATED MARINE FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT PROJECT TO BENEFIT 16,350 FISHERMEN

The Integrated Marine Fisheries Development Project is implemented in the State with the financial assistance of National Cooperative Development Corporation. The Phase I of the Project is under implementation in 44 villages in 5 Coastal Districts of Tamil Nadu at a block cost of Rs.15.88 crores. The Phase II of the Project will cover 100 villages in 11 coastal Districts at a block cost of Rs.48 crores. Under the scheme, the fishermen will be provided with Kattumarams, Vallams with Out-Board Motors and Inboard Motors, nets and other fishing implements. The Coastal Districts which will be covered under this scheme are Chennai, M.G.R., Villupuram Ramasamy Padayatchiar, South Arcot Vallalar, Nagai-Quaid-e-Milleth, Thanjavur, Pudukottai, Ramanathapuram, V.O. Chidamparamanar, Nellai

- Kattabomman and Kanniyakumari. Under the Scheme, 16,350 fishermen will be supplied 5000 units of fishing implements. During the Five year period of implementation, the scheme will yield an additional production of 55,350 tonnes of fish per year with an expected revenue of Rs.5535 lakhs. The implementation of the scheme will strengthen the cooperative movement in the Coastal Villages which is the main aim of the scheme. The scheme will pave way for a modified pattern of marketing through the fishermen Cooperative Societies.

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FREE EDUCATION TO FIRST TEN RANK HOLDERS FROM FAMILIES WITHOUT ANY GRADUATE

The Government have introduced a new benevolent scheme from the academic year 1996-97 to encourage students from families which do not have any graduate and are interested in pursuing professional courses. Under this scheme, the Government will bear the full cost of education in professional courses (i.e.,) Medicine, Dentistry, Engineering, Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences of such students, who secure the first ten places among students from such families without graduates based on the marks obtained out of the total of 300 marks.

The Health Department has implemented the scheme during 1996-97. Accordingly 10 students in M.B.B.S.-I year course and 10 students in BDS-I year course are benefited under this scheme.

The above free education scheme will be continued in the subsequent years also.

From 1989-90 the Government of Tamil Nadu have been implementing the scheme for provision of free house sites to the families of Most

Backward Classes/Denotified Communities who live below the poverty line and who do not possess land or house sites of their own. Initially a Budget provision of Rs. 1.00 crore was provided for this scheme. Subsequently a sum of Rs.2 crores has been allocated from 1996-97.

In order to implement this scheme more effectively and also to provide more number of house sites to the poor people below the poverty line who live in the villages, the Government have extended the scheme to Backward Classes and Forward Communities also with the following allocation of funds from 1997-98.

	(in Rupees)
i. Provision of free house sites to Most Backward Classes and Denotified Communities	10 crores
ii. Provision of free house sites to Backward classes	5 crores
iii. Provision of free house sites to Forward communities	3 crores
Total	18 crores

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Multi - Sector Project for Agricultural Development

The Tamil Nadu Agricultural Development Project is a World Bank assisted multi-sector project, being implemented in Tamil Nadu over a period of seven years from 1991-92 to 1998-99. 1997-98 is the seventh year of implementation of the project and schemes such as agricultural extension, seed production, watershed development, rural roads and rural drinking water supply would be taken up under this programme. An outlay of Rs. 103.79 crores has been provided during 1997-98.



ESTABLISHMENT OF PADDY MARKET COMPLEX BY MADURAI MARKET COMMITTEE

It is proposed to shift the existing Paddy Market in Nelpettai, which is in the heart of Madurai City to Mattuthavani on the Melur-Madurai Road to ease the congestion and also to provide spacious place to the paddy merchants for day-to-day business. This is one of the announcements made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on the floor of the House. In pursuance of the announcement, the Madurai market Committee has proposed to establish a regulated paddy market on the land belonging to Corporation of Madurai after purchase.

The project has been proposed to be implemented into different phases. The first one would be to develop Paddy Market and the next would be to develop flowers, fruits and vegetable markets. The original project cost was estimated at Rs. 12.80 crores. But now the project cost has been pruned to Rs. 9.28 crores.

EXPERT COMMITTEE HEADED BY Dr.V.C.KULANDAISAMY

The Expert Committee constituted with a view to ushering in "Second Green Revolution" and to develop waste and manavari lands using the latest technology under the Chairmanship of

Dr.V.C. Kulandaiswamy is about to complete its work. On receipt of the details of recommendations of this Committee, Government would take expeditious action.

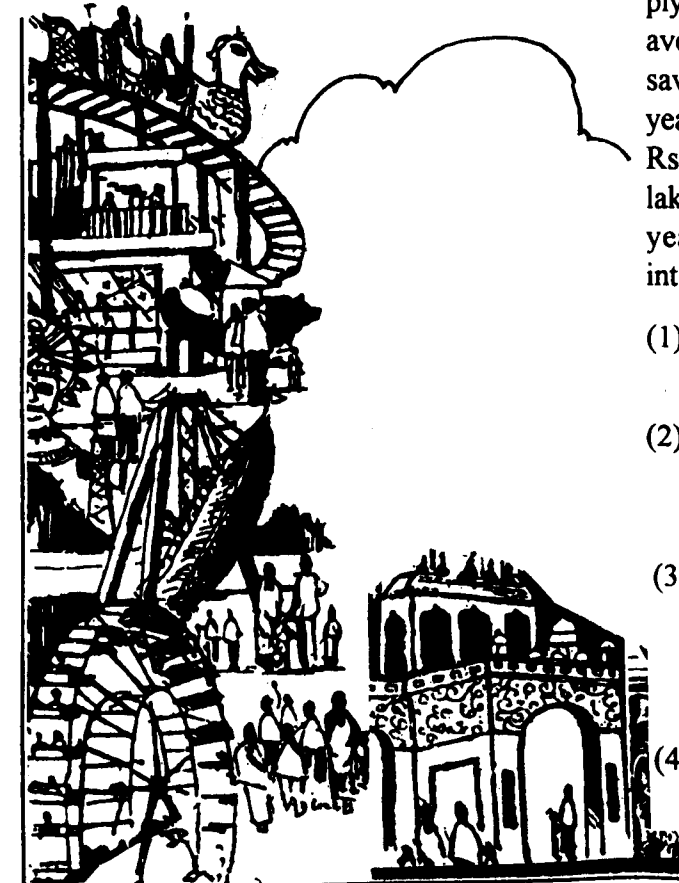
NABARD has set up a high-tech Agricultural Finance Company in Tamil Nadu with a view to providing loans for production and export of commercial agro based industries in floriculture, vegetables and mushroom culture. The share capital of this financial institution would be Rs.20 crores. It is noteworthy that Tamil Nadu is one of the first three States in India in which this project is being taken up.

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TAMIL NADU TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

10 NEW COACHES PURCHASED

TTDC was facing lot of problems in the past few years operating old and wornout coaches.



During the year 1996-97, 10 old coaches were replaced with new coaches of which two were A.C. This was done by obtaining loan from TDFC. This has resulted in TTDC having a young fleet of less than 3½ year old coaches which is a major milestone in the Corporation history.

TTDC has adopted the technological innovation by incorporating by inducting the Air-suspension Billow in three new coaches. This function as a major shock absorber adding comfort to the traveller.

INDIA TOURIST & INDUSTRIAL FAIR '97

TTDC has been organising the Annual Trade Fair at the Island ground in Chennai for the past 23 years since 1974. This year Fair was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister during January '97. At the time of inauguration, the Chief Minister rendered valuable advice emphasising the need for avoiding wasteful expenditure incurred in erection of giant size plywood cut outs, electrical cut outs etc. TTDC avoided such wasteful expenditure resulting in a saving of Rs.15 lakhs. This has helped the current year to achieve all time high record profit of Rs.50 lakhs compared to the profits of Rs.20 lakhs achieved during last year. In the current year Fair the following novel items were introduced.

- (1) Attractive prizes were introduced on entrance ticket.
- (2) Concessional ticket at the rate of Rs.1 per head was distributed to the various schools in the city.
- (3) The science pavillion, MRL children's pavillion were erected with the objective of educating the students about the basic laws of science.
- (4) Lakshadweep participated in the Trade Fair for the first time in the history of Fair.

(5) Several attractive pavillions depicting the model of Poompuhar, Ripon Building were erected during the current year Fair attracting the crowd in large number

This year Fair has proved to be a trend setter arresting the declining trend in crowd attendance in the fair, witnessed for the past 10 years. During the current year Fair the crowd attendance has increased more than 2 lakhs compared to the previous year which is a major break through for TTDC.

FINANCE PERFORMANCE

TTDC has been suffering huge loss in the past two years to the tune of Rs.63 lakhs and Rs.89 lakhs respectively. The Corporation was on the verge of bankrupt and was finding it difficult to meet the day-to-day expenses. This has occurred mainly due to several financial irregularities committed during this period.

However immediately after the new Government assumed office the administration was cleared and several steps were taken to revitalise the Corporation which was in very poor shape.

Several steps were taken to cut down wasteful expenditure and improve the financial performance.

This has paid rich dividends and the Corporation is anticipating a net profit of Rs.6 lakhs in the current year 1997-98 which is a tremendous achievement compared to the bad performance recorded in the past two years.

24 HOURS SERVICE IN THE PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRES

PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRES

The Government have issued orders for construction of buildings for all the 600 Primary Health Centres which are not in Government building, within two years.

Accordingly sanction was accorded for construction of buildings for 300 Primary Health Centres during 1996-97 at a total cost of Rs.18 crores.

The construction of buildings for the remaining Primary Health Centres in the State will be taken up during 1997-98 under Part I Scheme at a total cost of Rs.21 crores.

INTRODUCTION OF 24 HOUR SERVICE IN THE PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRES

The Primary Health Centres at Block Level have been functioning from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. so far. As there were representations from the public that medical help was not available to them beyond the working hours which resulted in hardship. The Government have therefore decided that all the Block Level Primary Health Centres shall function for 24 hours a day throughout the week without any holiday. Medical Officers required for the same have been provided from the available Medical Officers. With the provision of additional doctors, 124 Primary Health Centres have started functioning for 24 hours a day. Steps are being taken to make the remaining Block level Primary Health Centres also function for 24 hours a day in a phased manner. This effort has been commended by the Union Planning Commission recently. The Government have also



ordered that Primary Health Centres which are functioning in Government buildings will attend

to "delivery cases". This will benefit the pregnant women in rural areas greatly and help to reduce infant and maternal mortality.

ENHANCEMENT OF OLD AGE PENSION TO HEREDITARY SIDDHA MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

The Scheme of payment of Pension to Hereditary Siddha Medical Practitioners of 60 years of age and above was introduced by the Government in the year 1986. The hereditary Siddha Medical Practitioners who are above 60 years of age have been getting a pension of Rs.150 per month, subject to the following conditions :-

- The beneficiaries should be Registered Hereditary Siddha Medical Practitioners.
- They should be incapacitated to work or to earn a living.
- Their annual income should not exceed Rs.3,600.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu while presenting the Budget for 1997-98 on 5.3.1997 announced that the pension of Rs.150 will be enhanced to Rs.500 per month. Accordingly orders have been issued to the effect that the Hereditary Siddha Medical Practitioners of 60 years of age and above will be paid Rs.500 per month with effect from 1.4.1997.

FREE EDUCATION TO TOP TEN RANK HOLDERS FROM FAMILIES WITHOUT ANY GRADUATE

The Government have introduced a new benevolent scheme from the Academic Year 1996-97 to encourage students from families which do not have any graduate and are interested in pursuing professional courses. Under this scheme, the Government, will bear the full cost of education in professional courses (i.e.) Medicine, Dentistry, Engineering, Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences of such students, who secure the first ten places among students from such

families without graduates based on the marks obtained out of the total of 300 marks.

The Health Department has implemented the scheme during 1996-97. Accordingly 10 students in M.B.B.S - I year course and 10 students in BDS-I year course are benefited under this scheme.

The above free education scheme will be continued in the subsequent years also.

EMPHASIS ON ENLARGING OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIRL STUDENTS

Towards achieving the goal of qualitative improvement in schools and hostels, besides the grant for opening 40 new hostels which is a substantial increase over the number sanctioned in the past, the new Government after assuming power decided to give emphasis on enlarging opportunities for girl students. Therefore, a policy announcement was made to provide buildings to all the 122 girls hostels within a period of three years. The Government also sanctioned Rs.8.50 crores for construction of 28 girls hostels during the year 1996-97.

Realising the hardship faced by scheduled caste students who could not get free hostel accommodation, in defraying the maintenance expenses the Government very spontaneously announced a quantum jump in loan scholarship, i.e. from Rs.2,500 to Rs.7,000 per annum. All the scheduled caste students in degree classes will now be able to avail of an annual loan scholarship of Rs.6,500 and those pursuing post graduate and professional courses Rs.7,000.

Towards modernising and improving the content of education in 101 higher secondary and high schools run by the Department the new Government has taken care to provide computer courses in 40 these institutions.

These schools have also now been provided with buildings and equipments for laboratories at a cost of Rs. 72 lakhs.

Immediately after the new Government assumed power a message loud and clear was conveyed to all the District Collectors that the word 'Bonded Labour' should be taboo and be eradicated from the face of the State of Tamil Nadu which upholds the dignity of mankind and respect for labour. Sloppiness of the past was shown the backdoor and the Vigilance Committees in all the districts were revitalised.

Prosecution of cases is being closely monitored not only by the District Collectors at the District Level but also by the Secretary to Government, Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department at the State Level.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has yet again given a lead to all other States in the country by making a budgetary allocation of Rupees one crore for providing relief to the victims of atrocities.

Four Additional Sessions Courts have also been sanctioned for trying the offences under the Act. In order to ensure speedy trials the Government have also sanctioned one exclusive Public Prosecutor for each of the revenue districts in the State to prosecute the offences under the Act. This again is another first of its kind in the country.

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WELFARE SCHEMES FOR THE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Ad-hoc increase in remuneration sanctioned to those drawing Honorarium/Consolidated pay of Rs. 150 and above at Rs. 20 p.m. and for those drawing below Rs. 150 at Rs. 10 p.m. with effect from 1.7.96.

Independence Day and Republic Day were included in the list of Festivals to enable Government employees to avail Festival Advance.

Provision for availing second Marriage Advance while the first advance is pending recovery.

Enhancement of monetary limit for Conveyance Advance as indicated below :

	From Rs.	To Rs.
Bicycle	1,000	1,500
Motor cycle (new)	25,000	35,000
Motor cycle (second hand)	8,000	12,000
Motor car (new)	1,40,000	2,00,000
Motor car (second hand)	60,000	90,000

★ Health Fund Scheme has been introduced for extending financial assistance to employees of Panchayat Unions, Town Panchayats, Municipalities for major surgeries/special treatments like Open Heart Surgery, Kidney Transplantation, etc., with effect from 1.7.96.

★ Qualifying service for drawal of full pension has been reduced from 33 years to 30 years to those who retire from service on or after 1.7.96.

★ Enhancement of Medical Allowance to pensioners/family pensioners from Rs. 30 to Rs. 50 with effect from 1.12.95.

★ Encashment of 50% of Leave on Private Affairs standing to the credit of the employees upto a maximum of 90 days at the time of

retirement with full leave salary for those retiring from service on or after 1.7.96.

★ Enhancement of lump sum payment under Tamil Nadu Government Servants Family Security Fund Scheme from Rs. 60,000 to Rs. 1 lakh with effect from 1.7.96.

★ Lump-sum payment under the Group Insurance Scheme for the employees of Local Bodies, Aided Schools, Aided Colleges and Aided Technical Institutions including employees working under Nutritious Meal Programme enhanced from Rs. 60,000/- to Rs. 1 lakh.

★ The Government have introduced the Tamil Nadu Government Pensioners' Family Security Fund Scheme with effect from 1.1.97. Under the above scheme, a uniform contribution of Rs. 20 will be deducted from the pension till the death of pensioners towards the Tamil Nadu Government Pensioners' Family Security Fund and the Fund will be operated after 12 months from 1.1.97. In the case of death of a pensioner after one year of contribution to the Fund, a sum of Rs. 25,000 will be paid to the family from the Fund.

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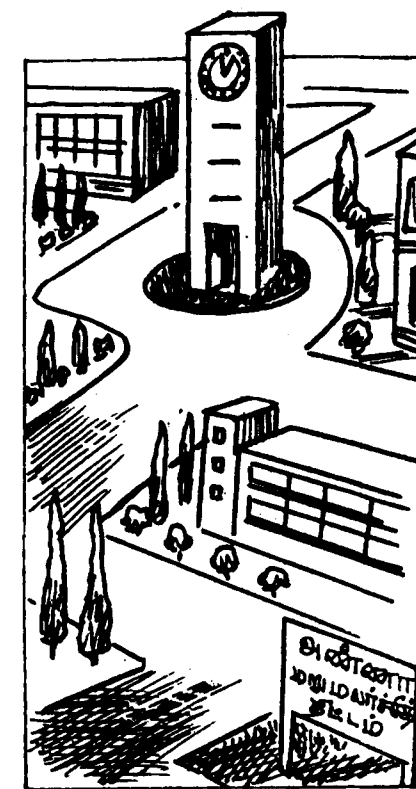
ANNA RENAISSANCE SCHEME TO DEVELOP ALL VILLAGES

The Hon'ble Chief Minister had announced in the Budget Speech 1997-98 that from this year onward a scheme called "Anna Renaissance Scheme" will be implemented with a view to develop all the villages with modern facilities. The scheme will be implemented by selecting one village in every Legislative Assembly Constituency in this State. Each member of the Legislative Assembly shall have the prerogative to select a

village of his/her choice every year. The basic objectives of this scheme are to provide the seven basic minimum services under the prioritised sectors of (a) Drinking water (b) Primary Education (c) Public Health (d) Nutritious Meal (e) Habitation (f) Rural Roads and Link Roads and (g) Fair Price Shops.

The above scheme will be implemented by a Co-ordination Committee headed by the Collector of the District. The scheme will be monitored by the Director of Rural Development and by the Government in Rural Development Department. All the activities under the scheme will be completed in full before the end of March 1998.

Elections to rural local bodies was last held in February 1986 and the term of office of the elected representatives was over in February 1991. Consequent on the enactment of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act 1994 and in fulfilment of the general election manifesto, the present Government conducted elections to Panchayats, Panchayat Unions and District Panchayats in



October 1996 and the elected representatives have assumed office.

When this Government assumed charge in 1996 there was a substantial backlog of uncompleted works running to more than 1,14,000 works in different districts. During the last one year, the total work load taken up by the department is more than two and half times the normal work. During 1997-98 the department will be building on the strength of the achievements in 1996-97.

STREET LIGHTS

A total of 9,27,074 Street Lights including Sodium Vapour and Mercury Vapour Lamps are maintained by Panchayats. The Government is sanctioning every year, Rs.3 crores to weaker Panchayats towards clearance of Electricity consumption charges due to Tamil Nadu Electricity Board and maintenance of Street Lights.

RURAL WATER SUPPLY

Panchayat Unions are maintaining 1.49 lakhs hand pumps and 29,405 power pumps and a sum of Rs.5.65 crores was sanctioned by Government for maintenance and rejuvenation of these pumps. Under this scheme, the Government sanctioned Rs.100 lakhs every year.



The Government released a sum of Rs.8 crores to Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board for replacement of worn out pipelines for the year 1996-97. Under Tamil Nadu Agricultural Development Project, out of 12500 borewells

targetted, 2126 borewells were drilled during June '96 - April '97.

TRAINING FOR RURAL YOUTH IN SELF EMPLOYMENT (TRYSEM)

The objective of the scheme is to provide training to rural youths to enable them to take up Self Employment in certain industries.

During 1996-97, Rs.619.24 lakhs had been earmarked for this scheme. Both Central and State Governments had released their first instalment of Rs.154.805 lakhs and Rs.131.505 lakhs respectively. State Government have released the second instalment of Rs.154.305 lakhs. The release of Central Government share is awaited.

Financial assistance in the form of subsidy is extended to institutions belonging to Central and State Government training institutions and training institutions run by voluntary organisations which offer training to youths under TRYSEM. The Government run institutions are eligible for 100% subsidy, whereas 50% assistance is given to other institutions. During 1996-97, Rs.1,91,60,000 had been earmarked for this scheme.

15,877 Youths have completed their training at the cost of Rs.598.22 lakhs for the year 1996-97. Trained candidates will be provided modern tool kits with 100% Central Government Financial Assistance.

SELF EMPLOYMENT GENERATION PROGRAMMES (IRD P)

This programme is in operation in the State from 1980-81 with 50% assistance from Government of India. The thrust of the scheme lies in raising the standard of living of the rural population below poverty line (with annual income below Rs.11,000 per family) by assisting them to acquire income generating assets through subsidy and Bank Credit. During 1996-97, 51,550 SC/ST, 46,357 women and 1,565 physically handicapped benefitted upto February 1997 under

this scheme. A provision of Rs.37.69 crores has been made in Budget Estimate 1997-98 for this scheme.

During 1997-98, 70,905 SC/ST, 65,905 women and 2,787 physically handicapped persons have benefitted upto April 1997 under this scheme.

DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN RURAL AREAS (DWCRA)

This scheme was launched in 1983-84 as a component of IRDP to improve the status of women, by providing opportunity of Self-Employment on a sustained basis. Expenditure of this scheme will be shared by the Centre and State in the ratio of 50:50 basis. Each group is provided with one-time grant of Rs.25,200 which is shared equally by State and Central Governments. During the financial year 1996-97, 1265 groups have been formed benefitting 18,025 women in 28 districts. A provision of Rs.2 crores has been made in Budget Estimate 1997-98 as State's share for the scheme. During the financial year 1997-98 upto March '98, 1549 groups have been formed benefitting 22,550 women.

EMPLOYMENT ASSURANCE SCHEME

This employment oriented scheme is implemented in all districts of the state with 80% assistance from Government of India. The thrust of the scheme is to provide gainful employment for 100 days in a year atleast for two members in a family during the lean agricultural season, by providing work within the area of the block.

During 1996-97, 282 blocks out of 384 blocks have been covered. The Government of India have released Rs.108.95 crores and the State Government have sanctioned Rs.27.24 crores for implementation in 1996-97. 1,13,128 SC, 15,246 ST and 1,27,515 people belonging to other communities benefitted upto February 1997 under this scheme.

A sum of Rs.34.05 crores has been provided in Budget Estimate for 1997-98 as State's share for this scheme.

Details of Implementation of the Scheme 1996-97

a) No. of persons Registered under EAS as on date	11.178 (lakhs)
b) Employment generated	468.424 (Lakh Mandays)
c) Total No. of works completed (Nos.)	23970
d) Works under Performance (Nos.)	8526 (as on date)
e) Total expenditure	Rs.17014.19 lakhs

Physical Performance

	Employment generated (in Mandays)
Scheduled Caste	212.999
Scheduled Tribes	25.464
Others	229.961
Total Mandays	468.424

REJUVENATION OF EXISTING WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES

On the formation of this Government in May 1996 this Government realised the importance of the rejuvenation of the existing water supply schemes and immediately took over the task of rejuvenating the rural water supply schemes in a big way during 1996-97 at an approximate cost of Rs.52 crores.

By this rejuvenation programme, about 3100 individual power pump schemes and 225 combined Water Supply Schemes have been rejuvenated at a cost of about Rs.39.00 crores.

WATER SUPPLY IN RURAL AREAS

During 1996-97, in addition to the task of rejuvenating the existing schemes, TWAD has taken up the works and provided water supply facilities for the Rural habitations under the following categories through regular and special

programmes.

- a) Under Regular Rural Water Supply Programme: 1600 nos.
- b) Water Supply to not covered habitations : 49 nos.
- c) Water Supply to fluoride affected habitations 70 nos.
- d) Desalination programme: 4 plants
- e) Special component plan for Adi Dravidar colonies (part of regular RWS programme): 844

PROVIDING WATER SUPPLY IN URBAN AREAS

Water Supply Schemes have been provided to 11 Urban Towns comprising of 3 Municipalities, 8 Urban Town Panchayats, 16 Rural Town Panchayats were also provided with Water Supply Schemes during the year 1996-97.

MAKKAL NALA PANIYALARGAL SCHEME

The Hon'ble Chief Minister announced on the floor of the Assembly that the Makkal Nala Paniyalargal Scheme will be revived and employment will be provided for 25,000 rural youths on an honorarium of Rs. 500 per mensem.

The Government have since issued orders on 24.2.1997 for implementing the scheme by creating 25000 posts of Makkal Nala Paniyalargal.

INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT OF TRIBALS IN INDIRA GANDHI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

The Government of India has sanctioned a sum of Rs.132 lakhs for the project on Development of Tribals in Indira Gandhi Wild Life Sanctuary of the Anamalai Hills in Coimbatore District under Special and Innovative Employment

Scheme.

The State Government have accorded sanction to the release of Rs.33 lakhs as its matching share of assistance for the implementation of the Project.

JAWAHAR VELAI VAIPPU THITTAM

National Rural Employment Programme and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme were merged and a new scheme known as Jawahar Velai Vaippu Thittam was launched in April, 1989. People below poverty line are the target group, but preference is given to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes and 30% of the overall employment opportunities is reserved for women.

The expenditure is shared between Centre and State on 80:20 basis.

Under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana the Government of India have released their total share of Rs.5805.53 lakhs and the State Government has also released its share of Rs.1451.633 lakhs to the implementing agencies for 1996-97.

INDIRA AWAAS YOJANA

The Indira Awaas Yojana is implemented as a separate scheme with effect from 1.1.96. The cost of the scheme is shared between Centre and State on 80:20 basis.

Under Indira Awaas Yojana the Government of India released their total share of Rs.4004.44 lakhs and the State Government has also released its share of Rs.1451.633 lakhs to implementing agencies for 1996-97.

GROUP HOUSES

The Government have sanctioned Rs. 15 crores for repairing Group Houses of Adi Dravidars constructed under REP/RLEGP/JVVT.

The Government have also sanctioned Rs.15 crores for reconstruction of collapsed and damaged group houses of Adi Dravidars constructed prior to 1989-90 under NREP/RLEGP etc. The DRD has apportioned Rs.30



crores to 28 Districts and orders will be issued entrusting the above works to the beneficiaries themselves.

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REVOLUTIONARY CHANGES IN SALES TAX STRUCTURE

- ★ As a measure of encouraging the growth of new Industries and sick units, a sum of Rs.40 crores has been deferred.
- ★ Sales Tax abolished on a number of items such as :



Fish feed, Coconut Shell and Chips, Groundnut Shell, Shikakai Powder, Curd, Panjamirtham, Educational Charts, Maps, Tourist guides and Maps, Sledge Hammer, Old Silver Metty, Kolusu and Araigann, Thatti, Muram and Baskets made of Bamboo.

39 items of Country drugs and Life Saving drugs for the treatment of Cancer, Leprosy and Tuberculosis.

Solar Cells, Footwear costing below Rs.50, Cattle feed, Thonnai, Gum Benzoin (Sambirani), Cycle Carriage for invalid persons, Clay for making bricks and tiles, Senna leaves, pods and leaves of Nilavagai Plant, Tapioca Kapi and thippi, Hosiery goods, Gold sold to exporters of Gold, Jewellery by MMTC, Wheat Bran, Vibhoodhi, Namakatti, Pulichakkeerai rope.

- ★ Sales Tax has been reduced on number of items such as :

Tamil Typewriters, Spectacles, Lens, Typewriters, Glass Beads and Glass Marbles (Goli Gundu), Mosquito repellents, destroyers and Mats, Electronic Parts and accessories, Helmets, Biomass Briquettes, Blue Metal, Toys, Stationery items used by students for painting, Fried Groundnut Kernel, Sprinkler drip irrigation equipments, Paper bags, Umbrellas, Handicraft articles, 30 Adisarakku items, Tarpaulin, Suit cases, Parts of Oil Engine, Furniture such as Tables and Chairs, Butter and Ghee with brand name, Zari, Man made Yarn and Fibre, Flavoured Milk, Waste Paper, Scientific equipments sold to Educational institutions, Sewing and embroidery machine parts and needles thereof, Unbranded Footwear, Domestic Vessels made Brass Copper and Stainless Steel, Urea, Coconut and Copra, Cotton, Plastic scrap, Fish net, Old Brass, Copper and Eversilver vessels.

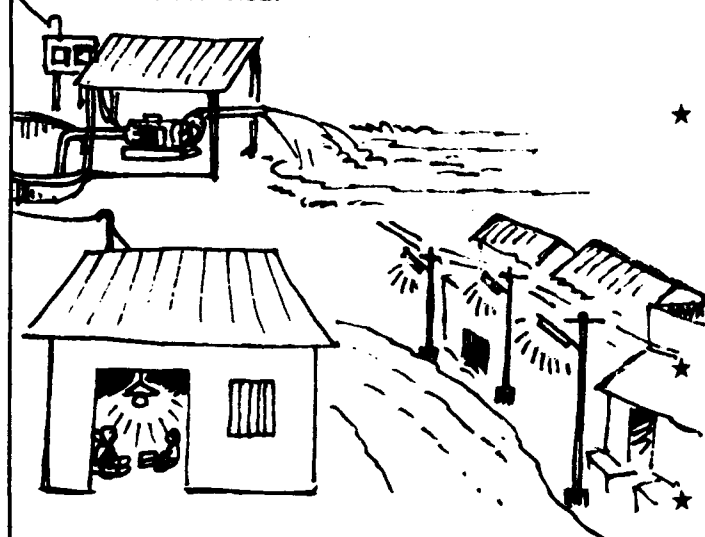
- Tax Relief worth Rs.306 crores was announced in the Tamil Nadu Budget for 1996-97.
- Revolutionary changes in the Sales Tax structure: Surcharge on Sales Tax and additional surcharge on Sales Tax merged with basic Sales tax.
- Firms with total turn over of less than Rs.100 crores exempted from payment of Additional Sales Tax.
- Value added Tax introduced for the first time for resellers with turnover of more than Rs.7.5 lakhs.

- ❑ Concessional rate of tax on inputs reduced to 3% and the benefit extended to capital goods as well with a total tax concession loss of Rs.200 crores.
- ❑ Effective tax on LPG(cooking gas) reduced from 11.8% to 8%
- ❑ Effective tax on diesel reduced from 19.2% to 18%
- ❑ Effective purchase tax on Sugarcane reduced from 14.7% to 8%

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57950 HUTS ELECTRIFIED

- ★ A total of 37891 Numbers of agricultural pumpsets were provided with electricity.
- ★ Under one light one hut scheme, 57950 huts were electrified.



- ★ New Industrial services totalling to 22763 were connected.
- ★ About 4.33 lakh domestic and commercial services were given supply.
- ★ 31,808 numbers of street lights and 2129 numbers of over head tanks were connected.
- ★ Additional wind mills with a total capacity of 118 MW have been installed. 1108 MU of energy have been generated from these wind mills.
- ★ 100 KW Solar Photo Voltaic Cells have been additionally installed.

- ★ 11 numbers of power plants using liquid fuels totalling to 1250 MW have been approved by the Government and these plants are expected to generate power in the year 1999. For 9 more power plants with a total capacity of 900 MW, fresh tenders have been called for.

- ★ In the past one year, a total of 43 numbers of substations were commissioned. Extra High Tension Transmission lines to a total length of 569 Ckt.Kms.were erected and commissioned. High Tension Shunt Capacitors to a total capacity of 217 MVAR were put into operation to improve the voltage conditions. To cater to the increased load demand, the power transformer capacity was enhanced in 28 numbers of substations.

- ★ As a result of aggressive negotiation in Board's contracts for purchase of materials/execution of works, an amount of Rs.35.88 crores has been saved.

- ★ Under the employees health fund scheme, a total sum of Rs.17.28 lakhs has been granted as financial assistance to 36 employees of the Board for undergoing special treatment like Coronary by-pass surgery, Renal Transplant, Cancer etc.

- ★ Allocation for house building advance has been increased from Rs.29 Crores in 1995-96 to Rs.31 Crores in 1996-97.

- ★ The qualifying service for receiving full pension has been reduced from 33 to 30 years.

- ★ Full salary and all other allowances has been permitted to be given for the earned leave at credit at the time of retirement. Similarly orders have been issued permitting encashment with full salary, 50% of the unearned leave on private affairs at the time of retirement subject to a maximum of 90 days. For the calculation of retirement gratuity, 97% of the Dearness Allowance along with pay will be taken into account. The ceiling for the death cum retirement gratuity has been enhanced from Rs.1 lakh to Rs.2.5 lakhs with retrospective effect from 1.5.95.

- ★ Medical allowance to the pensioners has been enhanced from Rs.30/- to Rs.50/- per month.

- ★ For the pensioners, a Family Security Fund Scheme has been constituted, according to which a sum of Rs.25,000 will be paid to the spouse/legal heirs in case of the death of the pensioner. In addition, a health fund scheme for the pensioners to provide financial assistance upto a maximum amount of Rs.25,000 for medical treatment, has also been evolved.

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A NEW UNIVERSITY AT SALEM

- ★ A New University at Salem, is to be started on 17.9.1997

- ★ Proposals for the introduction of vocational courses during 1997-98 in 13 Government Colleges have been sent to UGC. The UGC will be assisting at the rate of Rs.3 lakhs for



Arts course and Rs.9 lakhs for Science Course per year. The Colleges can use this money to create infrastructure, prepare teaching materials, employ guest-lecturers etc.

- ★ B.Sc., Computer Science Course and MCA courses have been introduced in 8 Government Colleges. Employment oriented subjects like Micro-Biology, etc. have been introduced to increase the employment opportunities.

- ★ Besides Budget allocation of Rs.2 crores for the maintenance and repairs of 65 Government Colleges, an additional sum of Rs.3 crores have been sanctioned for the construction of new buildings, additional class-rooms, Laboratories, Auditoriums etc. in 15 Government Colleges.

- ★ A sum of Rs.10 crores have been sanctioned for construction of Buildings in 4 Engineering Colleges.

- ★ The Vivekananda House, wherein Swamy Vivekananda stayed for nine days in March 1897 has been given to Ramakrishna Mutt as a goodwill gesture.

- ★ Under the World Bank assisted second Technical Education Project, to revitalise and upgrade 21 Government and 31 Government aided Polytechnics in the State, an amount of Rs.75.60 crores have been allotted.

- ★ The Management of Self-Financing Engineering Colleges were extorting huge amount of money for Branch allotment during second year from the students. The Government have issued instructions for Branch allotment which will completely eradicate this evil.

New courses in Jewellery Development at Dr. Dharmambal Government Polytechnic for Women, Chennai in collaboration with the World Gold Council, Mumbai, which has great employment potential has been started. This is the second of its kind in the whole country.

- ★ To create the required infrastructure for information and to become a pioneer in the field of Information and Technology in the 21st Century, a sum of Rs.10 crores have been provided to establish Information Technology Institute of Tamil Nadu.

- ★ Single window system of allotting subjects in the Engineering Colleges during the first year

admission itself shall be followed from 1997 onwards.

- ★ 15% seats have been allotted for the students coming from rural areas in Engineering Colleges from 1997-98.
- ★ It has been ordered to teach subjects in Tamil Medium in the Government Colleges and in selected Government aided colleges of Education from 1997-98. Action has been taken to teach in Tamil Medium in all Polytechnics and in some selected Engineering Colleges and in Universities.

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KUDIMARAMATHU SYSTEM REVIVED

The system of Kudimaramathu by which farmers undertake maintenance of irrigation schemes has become defunct and the farmers have become dependent on the Government for maintenance of the irrigation schemes. Therefore, organisations of local farmers will be formed under the Tamil Nadu Water Resources Consolidation Project so as to enable their gradual participation in the maintenance of irrigation schemes.

BATHALAPALLI MALATTAR RESERVOIR SCHEME

This Government has sanctioned the scheme of formation of a reservoir across Malattar, a tributary of Palar near Bathalapalli Village in Gudiyatham Taluk of North Arcot Ambedkar District. The cost of the scheme is Rs.25.49 crores. It is proposed to complete the scheme within a time frame of three years. This scheme will benefit 1125 ha of land in Gudiyatham Taluk. Besides, this scheme will provide drinking water to Pernampet town and wayside villages.

KUPPANATHAM RESERVOIR SCHEME

The scheme of formation of a reservoir across Cheyyar, a tributary of Palar near Kuppanatham village in Chengam Taluk of Tiruvannamalai Sambuvarayar District has been sanctioned by this Government, at a cost of Rs.25.46 crores at current price. The time frame for completion of this scheme is three years. This scheme will benefit 3130 ha of land in Chengam and Tiruvannamalai Taluks.

VARATTAR-VALLI MADURAI RESERVOIR SCHEME

This Government has sanctioned the formation of a reservoir across Varattar near Valli Madurai in Harur Taluk of drought prone Dharmapuri District. The cost of the scheme is Rs.19.20 crores. This is a time bound project to be completed in three years. This will benefit an extent of 1157 ha of single crop dry lands in Harur Taluk.

ANDIAPPANUR ODAI SCHEME

This Government is pleased to sanction the formation of a reservoir across Andiappanur Oda a tributary of Palar near Andiappanur in Vaniambadi Taluk of North Arcot Ambedkar District. This scheme will benefit 810 ha of double crop dry lands. The cost of the scheme at current price is Rs.18.28 crores.

SHENBAGATHOPPU RESERVOIR SCHEME

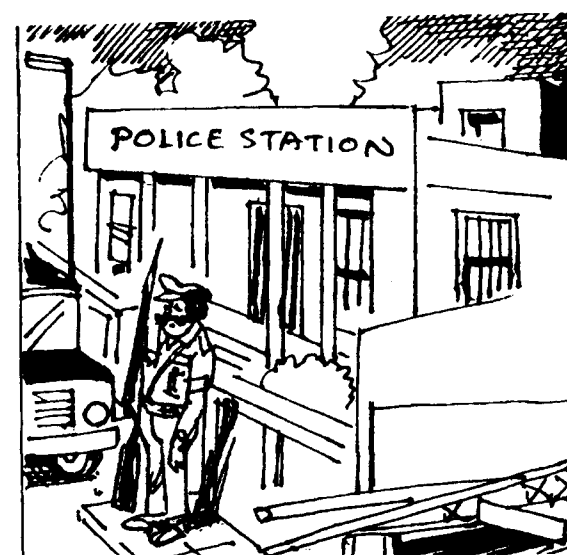
This scheme has been sanctioned by the Government at an estimated cost of Rs.21.33 crores. This scheme contemplates the formation of a reservoir across Kamandalaru, a tributary of Cheyyar in Shenbagathoppu Village of Polur Taluk of Tiruvannamalai Sambuvarayar District.

This scheme will benefit an extent of 2709 ha of ayacut in Polur and Arani taluks of Tiruvannamalai Sambuvarayar District.

WELFARE MEASURES TO INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE POLICE FORCE

Maintenance of Law and Order is the primary responsibility of any Government which strives to achieve rapid economic development and better living standards to the people.

The agitations launched by political parties, labour unrest and communal tension have been handled well in the State. Rowdism which was rampant in the past has been curbed with an iron hand in Chennai city and other parts of the State resulting in the restoration of the faith of the



public in the police.

Communal clashes which took place in certain parts of the State were contained effectively by deft handling of all such incidents by the police. The Government have ordered the formation of special force to deal with communal tension realising the need for containing the communal virus effectively. Accordingly, an elite force called 'Swift Action Force' has been formed to prevent and control communal clashes that may occur in any part of the State.

The performance of the Tamil Nadu Police has been remarkable in detecting crime in the recent months. During the year 1996, 69% of property offences were detected as against 66.7% in the year 1995.

A notable achievement on the crime front during the year 1997 has been the prompt detection of temple theft case at Chitrakulam Vedantha Desigar Temple at Mylapore in which gold jewels, diamonds and other temple properties worth Rs.8,37,504 were recovered.

To improve the functioning of the police at the cutting edge level and in order to provide immediate relief to the public, 12 out-posts have been upgraded into Pucca Police Stations. New Police Stations are going to be opened particularly to deal with forest offences including smuggling of sandalwood. Rs.5.87 crores were sanctioned by the Government for purchase of 342 vehicles for the Police Department.

Improvement of infrastructure inputs and upgradation of skills of police personnel are the twin objectives of modernisation of police force.

During the financial year 1996-97, the Government have sanctioned funds to the tune of Rs.1183.47 lakhs for purchase of vehicles, communication/office equipment/aids to investigation/training equipment and light weaponry.

The Government have also accorded sanction for purchase of vehicles (Rs.2.46 crores), communication equipment (Rs.3.03 crores), signal equipment (Rs.67.95 lakhs), Rs.6.57 crores for improvement of Traffic Management under Tamil Nadu Urban Development Project Scheme in 10 selected towns including Chennai, Madurai and Coimbatore.

The Government sanctioned the recruitment of 10,000 police personnel in the year 1995 out of whom 3265 men and 1680 women have been

sent for training. In addition, 5000 women Police Constables have also been sanctioned by the Government.

Several welfare measures have been undertaken in the State to boost the morale of the police personnel and increase their efficiency. The most important of these are :

- ★ Inclusion of family members of police personnel in the scheme of financial assistance upto Rs. 1 lakh under the Tamil Nadu Police Health Fund Scheme for specialised surgeries/treatment in reputed private hospitals.
- ★ Increase of Uniform Allowance from Rs.25 to Rs.30.
- ★ Increase of Driver's Special pay from Rs.40 to Rs.60.
- ★ As an incentive to the AR personnel, the proficiency pay for AR Police Constables have been increased from Rs.3 to Rs.10 and for Head Constables from Rs.5 to Rs.15.
- ★ All Police Constables including women Police Constables who have completed 15 years of service are being promoted as Head Constables.
- ★ Good Service Allowance for the unblemished services of above 15 years has been sanctioned to police personnel at the rate of Rs. 5 onwards upto Rs.20 p.m. depending on their length of service.
- ★ 329 posts of Assistants have been upgraded into those of Superintendents, creating promotional avenues for the ministerial staff.

In order to enhance the housing needs of police personnel, during 1996-97, the Government has sanctioned Rs.1982.47 lakhs for the construction of 1602 Police quarters by the Tamil Nadu Police Housing Corporation.

In addition, new buildings for District Police Office and Range Office at North Arcot Ambedkar District have been sanctioned at a cost of

Rs.207.50 lakhs.

As a number of police personnel could not get House Building Advance in recent years due to shortage of funds, the Government has enhanced this grant from Rs.1 crore to Rs.3 crores.

To give due protection to women in distress, 57 All Women Police Stations are functioning in the State.

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PENSION TO WEAVERS

- ★ Action on to provide pension of Rs.150 to weaver above 60 years of age.
- ★ The loan sanctioned for construction of houses to weavers was enhanced to Rs.45,000 from Rs.35,000. The relief provided to the handloom weavers family on the demise of a handloom weaver has been enhanced from Rs.3000 to Rs.5000.

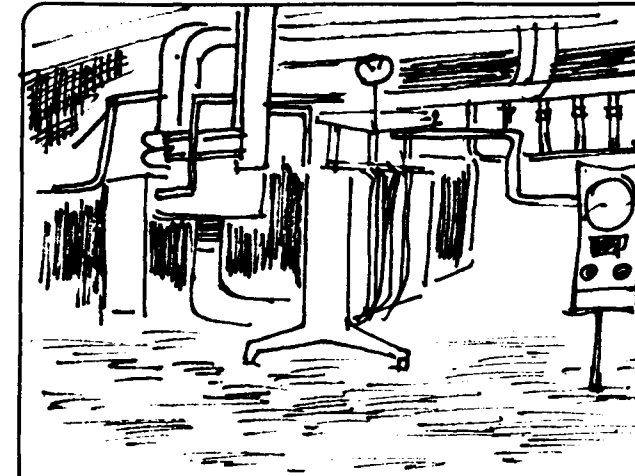


- ★ The insurance and savings scheme for the weaver is being enhanced from Rs.15,000 to Rs.25,000.

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DAIRY DEVELOPMENT

- ★ The milk chilling capacity at Karaikudi dairy was upgraded to 60,000 litres from 50,000 litres per day.



- ★ The milk chilling capacity at Sivagangai and Paramakudi chilling centres were upgraded to 30,000 litres from 20,000 litres per day.
- ★ The capacity at Tirunelveli dairy has been increased to 1 lakh litres from 50,000 litres per day.
- ★ The Chilling Centre's capacity at Sankarankoil Milk Chilling Centre has been increased to 50,000 litres from 30,000 litres per day.

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NUTRITIOUS MEAL

- ★ Women's Welfare Centres will be started in 50 noon meal centres. Here information will be



provided on health, nutrition, family welfare, self employment training, arivoli and life style oriented education.

MUSIC SCHOOLS IN FIVE DISTRICTS

- ★ Music Schools will be started in 5 districts with a view to encourage children who are interested in learning music.
- ★ The works of Maraimalaiadigal will be Nationalised Rs.20 lakhs will be allotted for this purpose.
- ★ Tamil will be taught as Part -I language and English will be Part-II language as compulsory languages for the students upto fifth standard.

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STREAMLINING THE PDS

- ★ Recruitment office in the Districts to select salespersons for the Ration Shops.
- ★ 10 kg. of rice or wheat will be sold at half the price every month to the people below poverty line.



- ★ To streamline the Public Distribution System, Family Ration Cards will be issued in three different colours.

- ★ Actions will be taken according to the recommendations of the committee formed to eradicate the misdeeds in the Public Distribution System.

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SUBSIDY TO LOW BUDGET TAMIL FILMS RAISED

- ★ Families of Film stunt artistes who lose their lives while on film shooting will be given Rs. 1 lakh and those who become incapacitated will be given Rs. 50,000, from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund. Order have been issued in this regard.
- ★ The subsidy given to low budget Tamil Feature Films produced with less than 25 prints will be enhanced from Rs.3 lakhs to Rs.5 lakhs. Entertainment tax for those films will be exempted for the first four weeks from the date of their first release.
- ★ It has been decided to install the bust size statues of Arignar Anna, Kamarajar and MGR at the entrances of their memorials.

★★★

PENSION SCHEME FOR POOJARIS

- ★ Orders issued to provide Rs. 500 per month to Rs. 1500 Village Poojaris under Poojari Pension Scheme.



- ★ Rs.3000 is being spent per marriage of the poor Hindu Adi-Dravidars and Backward Communities, from the Temple Fund, according to a policy of the Government. So far, 50 marriages have been conducted. A list of 157 couples have been drafted to benefit under the scheme.

★★★

BEST TEACHER AWARD NAMED AFTER DR. RADHAKRISHNAN

- ★ 168 Primary Schools will be started during the current year. 41 Primary Schools will be upgraded to Middle Schools.
- ★ 11,652 vacant teachers posts have been filled.
- ★ In the forthcoming Academic year 14 Colleges will be made autonomous colleges.
- ★ The Best Teacher Award has been renamed as "Dr. Radhakrishnan Award"
- ★ Action on to enhance the amount of Dr. Radhakrishnan Award from Rs.1000 to Rs.2000.
- ★ The cash amount of Dr. Radhakrishnan Award will be given away to two college Principals increased from Rs.2500 to Rs.5000.
- ★ Government will meet the expenses of the education of 10 first rank holders every year for technical education, whose families do not have any graduate.
- ★ Government will meet the expenses of higher education for the first three rank holders in +2 examinations and SSLC examinations.



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JUNE 1997 Rs. 3





Her Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Justice Fathima Beevi presented an award to Tmt. Chandiraleela Bharathiraja at the 1995 Annual Film Award Function at Kalaivanar Arangam on 16.5.97. Thiru Rajni Kanth donated Rs.5 lakhs to the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund towards rehabilitating the families of the victims of recent disturbances in the Southern Districts.

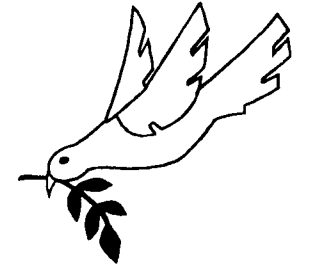




Tamil Arasu

Magazine of the Government of Tamil Nadu

JUNE 1997



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CASH AWARD TO TOP RANKERS IN +2 EXAMS

The Hon'ble Chief Minister, Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi on 31.5.97 announced that the Government would bear the expenses for the higher studies of the students, who have secured the top three ranks in the Plus Two exams in the State.

The Chief Minister presented Rs.5000 to each of them at the Secretariat as a token appreciation of the efforts of the top rankers.

The Chief Minister also presented a cheque for Rs.5000 to the top ranker in Tamil and Rs.3000 each to the second and third ranker in the subject. Similar cash awards would be given to 87 students in various districts, the Chief Minister announced.

The Hon'ble Minister for Education, Thiru K. Anbazhagan was present on the occasion.



World Environment Day

The Urban Challenge

By the turn of the century, almost half the world will live in urban areas—from small towns to huge megacities. The world's economic system is increasingly an urban one, with overlapping networks of communications, production and trade. This system, with its flows of information, energy, capital, commerce, and people, provides the backbone for national development. A city's prospects—or a town's—depend critically on its place within the urban system, national and international. So does the fate of the hinterland, with its agricultural, forestry and mining, on which the urban system depends.

In many nations, certain kinds of industries and service enterprises are now being developed in rural areas. But they receive high-quality infrastructure and services, with advanced telecommunications systems ensuring that their activities are part of the national (and global)

urban-industrial system. In effect, the countryside is being 'urbanized'.

THE GROWTH OF CITIES

This is the century of the 'urban revolution'. In the 35 years since 1950, the number of people living in cities almost tripled, increasing by 1.25 billion. In the more developed regions, the urban population nearly doubled, from 447 million to 838 million. In the less developed world, it quadrupled, growing from 286 million to 1.14 billion.

Over only 60 years, the developing world's urban population increased tenfold, from around 100 million in 1920 to close to 1 billion in 1980. At the same time, its rural population more than doubled.

Population Living in Urban Areas, 1950-2000

Region	1950	1985	2000
	(percent)		
World Total	29.2	41.0	46.6
More Developed Regions	53.8	71.5	74.4
Less Developed Regions	17.0	31.2	39.3
Africa	15.7	29.7	39.0
Latin America	41.0	69.0	76.8
(Temperate South America)	(64.8)	(84.3)	(88.6)
(Tropical South America)	(35.9)	(70.4)	(79.4)
Asia	16.4	28.1	35.0
(China)	(11.0)	(20.6)	(25.1)
(India)	(17.3)	(25.5)	(34.2)
	(million)		
World Total	734.2	1,982.8	2,853.6
More Developed Regions	447.3	838.8	949.9
Less Developed Regions	286.8	1,144.0	1,903.7
Africa	35.2	164.5	340.0
Latin America	67.6	279.3	419.7
Asia	225.8	791.1	1,242.4

Source : 'Urban and Rural Population Projections, 1984', Unofficial Assessment, Population Division, UN, New York.

- In 1940, only one person in eight lived in an urban centre, while about one in 100 lived in a city with a million or more inhabitants (a 'million city').
- By 1960, more than one in five persons lived in an urban centre, and one in 16 in a 'million city'.
- By 1980, nearly one in three persons was an urban dweller and one in 10 a 'million city' resident.

The population of many of sub-Saharan Africa's larger cities increased more than sevenfold between 1950 and 1980-Nairobi, Dares Salaam, Nouakchott, Lusaka, Lagos, and Kinshasa among them. During these same 30 years, populations in many Asian and Latin American cities (such as Seoul, Baghdad, Dhaka, Amman, Bombay, Jakarta, Mexico City, Manila, Sao Paulo, Bogota and Managua) tripled or quadrupled. In such cities, net immigration has usually been a greater contributor than natural increase to the population growth of recent decades.

In many developing countries, cities have thus grown far beyond anything imagined only a few decades ago-and at speeds without historic precedent. But some experts doubt that developing nations will urbanize as rapidly in the future as in the last 30-40 years, or that megacities will grow as large as UN projections suggest. Their argument is that many of the most powerful stimuli to rapid urbanization in the past have less influence today, and that changing government policies could reduce the comparative attractiveness of cities, especially the largest cities, and slow rates of urbanization.

The urban population growth rate in developing countries as a whole has been slowing down-from 5.2 percent per annum in the late 1950s to 3.4 percent in the 1980s. It is expected to decline even further in the coming decades. Nevertheless, if current trends hold, Third World cities could add a further three-quarters of a billion people by the year 2000. Over the same time, the cities of the industrial world would grow by a further 111 million.

These projections put the urban challenge firmly in the developing countries. In the space of just 15 years (or about 5,500 days), the developing world will have to increase by 65 percent its capacity to produce and manage its urban infrastructure, services, and shelter-merely to maintain present conditions. And in many countries, this must be accomplished under conditions of great economic hardship and uncertainty, with resources diminishing relative to needs and rising expectations.

DOMINATING CITIES

Nairobi, Kenya : In 1975, Nairobi had 57 percent of all Kenya's manufacturing employment and two-thirds of its industrial plants. In 1979, Nairobi contained around 5 percent of the national population.

Manila, Philippines : Metropolitan Manila produces one-third of the nation's gross national product, handles 70 percent of all imports, and contains 60 percent of the manufacturing establishments. In 1981, it contained around 13 percent of the national population.

Lima, Peru : The metropolitan area of Lima accounts for 43 percent of gross domestic product, for four-fifths of bank credit and consumer goods production, and for more than nine-tenths of capital goods production in Peru, in 1981, it was home to around 27 percent of Peruvians.

Lagos, Nigeria : In 1978, Lagos' metropolitan area handled over 40 percent of the nation's external trade, accounted for over 57 percent of total value added in manufacturing, and contained over 40 percent of Nigeria's highly skilled workers. It contains only some 5 percent of the national population.

Mexico City, Mexico : In 1970, with some 24 percent of Mexicans living there, the capital contained 30 percent of the manufacturing jobs, 28 percent of employment in commerce, 38 percent of jobs in services, 69 percent of employment in national government, 62 percent of national investment in higher education, and 80 percent of research activities. In 1965, it contained 44 percent of national bank deposits and 61 percent of national credits.

Sao Paulo, Brazil : Greater Sao Paulo, with around one-tenth of Brazil's national population in 1980, contributed one-quarter of the net national product and over 40 percent of Brazil's industrial value-added.

Source : J.E. Hardoy and D. Satterthwaite, 'Shelter, Infrastructure and Services in Third World Cities', Habitat International, Vol.10, No.4, 1986.

The Crisis in Third World Cities

Few city governments in the developing world have the power, resources, and trained staff to provide their rapidly growing populations with the land, services and facilities needed for an adequate human life: clean water, sanitation, schools and transport. The result is mushrooming illegal settlements with primitive facilities, increased

'Given the distribution of incomes, given the foreseeable availability of resources-national, local and world-wide-given present technology, and given the present weakness of local government and the lack of interest of national governments in settlement problems. I don't see any solution for the Third World city.'

Third World cities are and they will increasingly become centres of competition for a plot to be invaded where you can build a shelter, for a room to rent, for a bed in a hospital, for a seat in a school or in a bus, essentially for the fewer stable adequately paid jobs, even for the space in a square or on a sidewalk where you can display and sell your merchandise, on which so many households depend.

The people themselves organize and help construct most new housing units in Third World cities and they do so without the assistance from architects, planners, and engineers, nor from local or national governments. Furthermore, in many cases, national and local governments are frequently harassing these groups. The people themselves are becoming increasingly the true builders and designers of Third World cities and quite often the managers of their own districts.'

Jorge Hardoy
International Institute for
Environment and Development
WCED Public Hearing, Sao Paulo, 28-29 Oct 1985

overcrowding, and rampant disease linked to an unhealthy environment.

In most Third World cities, the enormous pressure for shelter and services has frayed the urban fabric. Much of the housing used by the poor is decrepit. Civic buildings are frequently in a state of disrepair and advanced decay. So too is the essential infrastructure of the city; public transport is overcrowded and overused, as are roads, buses and trains, transport stations, public latrines, and washing points. Water supply

systems leak, and the resulting low water pressure allows sewage to seep into drinking water. A large proportion of the city's population often has no piped water, storm drainage, or roads.

A growing number of the urban poor suffer from a high incidence of diseases; most are environmentally based and could be prevented or dramatically reduced through relatively small investments. Acute respiratory diseases, tuberculosis, intestinal parasites, and diseases linked to poor sanitation and contaminated drinking water (diarrhoea, dysentery, hepatitis and typhoid) are usually endemic; they are one of the major causes of illness and death, especially among children. In parts of many cities, poor people can expect to see one in four of their children die of serious malnutrition before the age of five, or one adult in two suffering intestinal worms or serious respiratory infections.

Air and water pollution might be assumed to be less pressing in Third World cities because of lower levels of industrial development. But in fact hundreds of such cities have high concentrations of industry. Air, water, noise, and solid waste pollution problems have increased rapidly and can have dramatic impacts on the life and health of city inhabitants, on their economy, and on jobs. Even in a relatively small city, just one or two factories dumping wastes into the only nearby river can contaminate everyone's drinking, washing and cooking water. Many slums and shanties crowd close to hazardous industries, as this is land no one else wants. This proximity has magnified the risks for the poor, a fact demonstrated by great loss of life and human suffering in various recent industrial accidents.

The uncontrolled physical expansion of cities has also had serious implications for the urban environment and economy. Uncontrolled development makes provision of housing, roads, water supply, sewers and public services prohibitively expensive. Cities are often built on the most productive agricultural land and unguided growth results in the unnecessary loss of this land. Such losses are most serious in nations with limited arable land, such as Egypt. Haphazard development also consumes land and natural

Environmental Problems in Third World Cities

Out of India's 3,119 towns and cities, only 209 had partial and only 8 had full sewage and sewage treatment facilities. On the river Ganges, 114 cities each with 50,000 or more inhabitants dump untreated sewage into the river every day. DDT factories, tanneries, paper and pulp mills, petrochemical and fertilizer complexes, rubber factories, and a host of others use the river to get rid of their wastes. The Hoogly estuary (near Calcutta) is choked with untreated industrial wastes from more than 150 major factories around Calcutta. Sixty percent of Calcutta's population suffer from pneumonia, bronchitis, and other respiratory diseases related to air pollution.

Chinese industries, most of which use coal in outdated furnaces and boilers, are concentrated around 20 cities and ensure a high level of air pollution. Lung cancer mortality in Chinese cities is four to seven times higher than in the nation as a whole, and the difference is largely attributable to heavy air pollution.

In Malaysia, the highly urbanized Klang Valley (which includes the capital, Kuala Lumpur) has two to three times the pollution levels of major cities in the United States, and the Klang river system is heavily contaminated with agricultural and industrial effluents and sewage.

Sources: Centre for Science and Environment, State of India's Environment: A Citizens' Report (New Delhi: 1983); V. Smil, The Bad Earth: Environmental Degradation in China (London: Zed Press, 1986); Sahabat Alam Malaysia, The State of Malaysian Environment 1983-84-Towards Greater Environmental Awareness (Penang, Malaysia: 1983)

landscapes needed for urban parks and recreation areas. Once an area is built up, it is both difficult and expensive to re-create open space.

In general, urban growth has often preceded the establishment of a solid, diversified economic base to support the build-up of housing, infrastructure, and employment. In many places, the problems are linked to inappropriate patterns of industrial development and the lack of coherence between strategies for agricultural and urban development. The world economic crisis of the 1980s has not only reduced incomes, increased unemployment, and eliminated many social programmes. It has also exacerbated the already

low priority given to urban problems, increasing the chronic shortfall in resources needed to build, maintain, and manage urban areas.

The Situation in Industrial World Cities

The Commission's focus on the urban crisis in developing countries is not meant to imply that what transpires in the cities of the industrial world is not of crucial importance to sustainable development globally. It is. These cities account for a high share of the world's resource use, energy consumption, and environmental pollution. Many have a global reach and draw their resources and energy from distant lands, with enormous aggregate impacts on the ecosystems of those lands.

Nor is the emphasis on Third World cities meant to imply that problems within the cities of industrialized countries are not serious. They are. Many face problems of deteriorating infrastructure, environmental degradation, inner-city decay, and neighbourhood collapse. The unemployed, the elderly, and racial and ethnic minorities can remain trapped in a downward spiral of degradation and poverty, as job opportunities and the younger and better-educated individuals leave declining neighbourhoods. City or municipal governments often face a legacy of poorly designed and maintained public housing estates, mounting costs, and declining tax bases.

But most industrial countries have the means and resources to tackle inner-city decay and linked economic decline. Indeed, many have succeeded in reversing these trends through enlightened policies, co-operation between the public and private sectors, and significant investment in personnel, institutions and technological innovation. Local authorities usually have the political power and credibility to take initiatives and to assess and deploy resources in innovative ways reflecting unique local conditions. This gives them a capacity to manage, control, experiment, and lead urban development. In centrally planned economies, the ability to plan and implement plans for urban development has been significant. The

priority given to collective goods over private consumption may also have increased the resources available for urban development.

The physical environment in many cities of the industrial world has improved substantially over the decades. According to the historical records of major centres-like London, Paris, Chicago, Moscow, and Melbourne-it was not too long ago that a major part of their population lived in desperate circumstances amid gross pollution. Conditions have improved steadily during the past century, and this trend continues, although the pace varies between and within cities.

In most urban areas, almost everyone is served by refuse collection today. Air quality has generally improved, with a decline in the emission of particles and sulphur oxides. Efforts to restore water quality have met with a mixed record of success because of pollution from outside of cities, notably nitrates and other fertilizers and pesticides. Many coastal areas, however, close to major sewage outlets, show considerable deterioration. There is rising concern about chemical pollutants in drinking water and about the impacts of toxic wastes on groundwater quality. And noise pollution has tended to increase.

Motor vehicles greatly influence environmental conditions in the cities of the industrial world. A recent slowdown in the growth rate of vehicle numbers, stricter emission standards for new vehicles, the distribution of lead-free gasoline, improvements in fuel efficiency, improved traffic management policies, and landscaping have all helped reduce the impacts of urban traffic.

Public opinion has played a critical role in the drive to improve urban conditions. In some cities, public pressure has triggered the abandonment of massive urban development projects, fostered residential schemes on a more human scale, countered indiscriminate demolition of existing buildings and historic districts, modified proposed urban highway construction, and led to transformation of derelict plots into playgrounds.

The problems that remain are serious but they affect relatively limited areas, which makes them

Large cities by definition are centralized, manmade environments that depend mainly on food, water, energy, and other goods from outside. Smaller cities, by contrast, can be the heart of community-based development and provide services to the surrounding countryside.

Given the importance of cities, special efforts and safeguards are needed to ensure that the resources they demand are produced sustainably and that urban dwellers participate in decisions affecting their lives. Residential areas are likely to be more habitable if they are governed as individual neighbourhoods with direct local participation. To the extent that energy and other needs can be met on a local basis, both the city and surrounding areas will be better off.

*'Sustainable Development and How to Achieve It'
Global Tomorrow Condition
WCED Public Hearing, Ottawa, 26-27 May 1986*

much more tractable than those of Cairo or Mexico City, for example. Certain aspects of urban decline even provide opportunities for environmental enhancement. The exodus of population and economic activities, while creating severe economic and social difficulties, reduces urban congestion, allows new uses for abandoned buildings, protects historic urban districts from the threat of speculative demolition and reconstruction, and contributes to urban renewal. The de-industrialization of these cities is often counterbalanced by the growth of the services sector, which brings its own problems. But this trend creates opportunities to remove heavy industrial pollution sources from residential and commercial areas.

The combination of advanced technology, stronger national economies, and a developed institutional infrastructure gives resilience and the potential for continuing recovery to cities in the industrial world. With flexibility, space for manoeuvre, and innovation by local leadership, the issue for industrial countries, is ultimately one of political and social choice. Developing countries are not in the same situation. They have a major urban crisis on their hands.

*Courtesy: Our Common Future
Published by: World Commission
on Environment and Development*

The Art of Maturity

The distilled experience of many men has resulted in discoveries like these about the art of mature living...

That life is too short to be wasted in hatred, revenge, fault-finding, prejudice, intolerance and destruction.

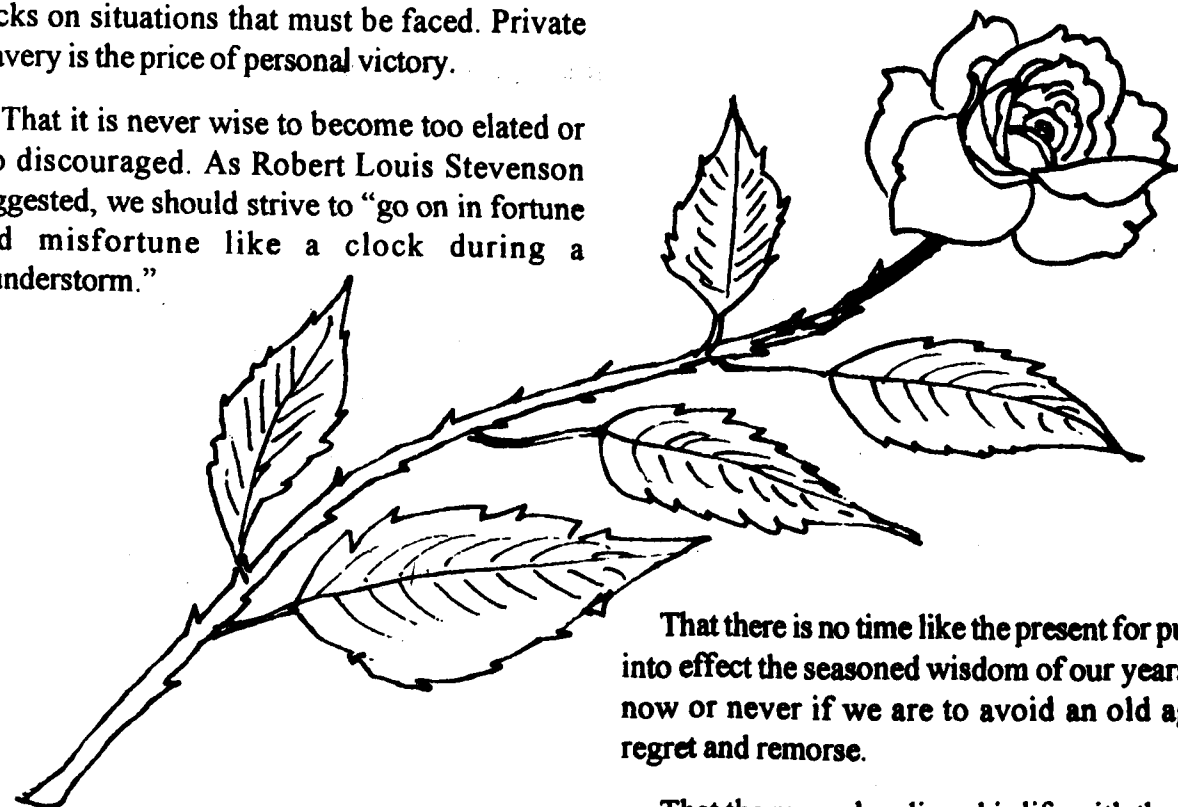
That only the affirmative approach inspires progress. We should follow the wise advice of Charles W. Eliot and "cultivate a calm nature, expectant of good."

That our basic direction should always be toward wholeness of life. The great life is built on deep and enduring values. Like a giant tree, we should grow from within.

That no outstanding work is done alone. Miracles can be achieved when we don't care who gets the credit.

That we should not dodge reality or turn our backs on situations that must be faced. Private bravery is the price of personal victory.

That it is never wise to become too elated or too discouraged. As Robert Louis Stevenson suggested, we should strive to "go on in fortune and misfortune like a clock during a thunderstorm."



That a few troubles and a little pain are good for us and help us to grow. We should not complain that the rosebush has thorns but should rejoice because it bears roses.

That time is the great healer of hurts, sorrows and disappointments. When one door closes another will open if we don't lose heart.

That it is wiser to judge a man by how he lives than by what he says.

That moderation in all things is a good rule. It is wise to live a balanced and varied life without permitting anyone or anything to enslave us.

That we must learn to distinguish between the important and the unimportant. Then trifles will not trip us up and we can devote our lives to the meaningful and the significant.

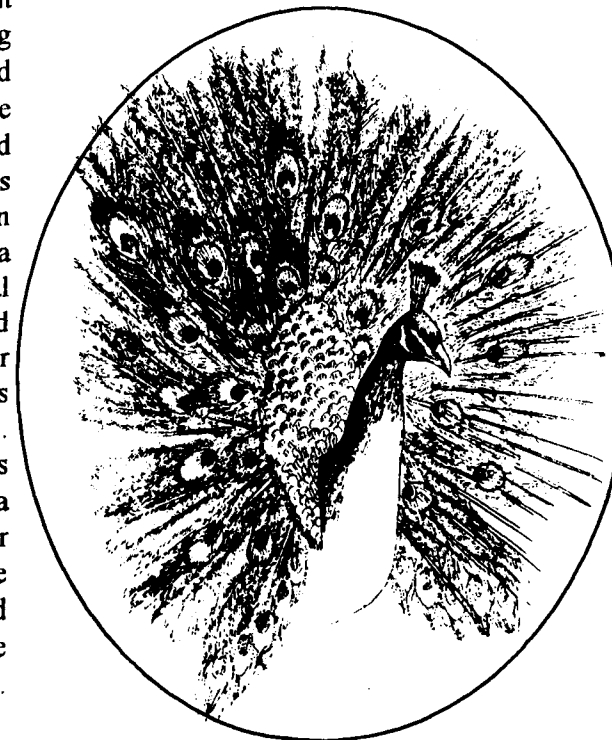
That there is no time like the present for putting into effect the seasoned wisdom of our years. It is now or never if we are to avoid an old age or regret and remorse.

That the man who aligns his life with the good and true need fear no evil.

Courtesy: The Art of Living by Welfred A. Peterson.

Peacock

The peacock - male of the common peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*) - is an incomparably beautiful bird. In its domesticated form it is a familiar inhabitant of parks and zoos and like other pheasants it has an ancient history. According to mythology the hundred eyes of the giant Argus, killed by Mercury, were transferred by eyes by the goddess Juno to the peacock's tail. In its native India the bird is not only valued for the way in which it attacks and kills young cobras but is also worshipped in many districts as the reincarnation of the god Krishna. The date of its domestication is unknown but it may have been a gradual, almost accidental process as a result of wild birds straying from their forest habitat towards villages in search of food. Certainly the species was imported into Mesopotamia by 300 B.C., was later introduced to Egypt, Greece and Rome, and thence found its way to other parts of the Western world.



are gregarious, gathering in small family groups, and are active at more or less any time of the day, except in regions where they are likely to be disturbed, in which case they only venture out at dawn and sunset.

The breeding cycle of the peafowl depends largely on the pattern of local rainfall, normally coinciding with the onset of the dry season. The polygamous cock

after performing his spectacular train - spreading display, mates in turn with from two to five hens. Unlike other pheasants, the peacock does not face the hen when courting her but turns round and round with his back towards her, so that she is compelled to run about frantically to keep up with him. Schenkel is of the opinion that she pursues her mate as though he held a morsel of food in his beak, the outspread train being the signal that stimulates her to do this. Among other pheasants a genuine food offering is part and parcel of the

The peacock is perhaps the most handsome bird alive. The colour of the head, neck and breast is variable, ranging from emerald green to rich, dark blue, with glistening metallic reflections. The small head is surmounted by a flat fan of feathers of similar hue and there are white areas around the eyes. But the most resplendent attribute of the peacock is its magnificent flowing train-green and blue with rows of large, brilliantly coloured ocelli or eye-spots. These dazzling ornamental feathers are not in fact part of the tail proper, but elongated upper tail coverts. The long train is actually supported by the tail itself.

courtship ritual, so that if Schenkel is correct it would seem to be a residue of an ancient pattern of behaviour which has lost its original meaning.

Peafowl, among the largest of the Galliforms, are inhabitants of the densest parts of the jungles of southern Asia, especially of impenetrable areas where hills and valleys are traversed by streams which sometimes turn the lowlands into swamps. The birds

Eventually the hen stretches out on the ground and the cock, bringing the display to a conclusion by closing the train, lowers his tail and couples with her. Later she conceals herself in the thickets, sometimes selecting a hollow tree trunk or the abandoned nest of a bird of prey, and lays from three to five eggs. After an incubation of four weeks the chicks are born, covered with light brown down, and within a few hours are pecking at the ground for food. They are closely protected by the mother and often take refuge under her tail. The young males soon begin to spread their tiny tails but the ornamental feathers of the train only reach full development after two years.

★

A Threatened future

The Earth is one but the world is not. We all depend on one biosphere for sustaining our lives. Yet each community, each country, strives for survival and prosperity with little regard for its impact on others. Some consume the Earth's resources at a rate that would leave little for future generations. Others, many more in number, consume far too little and live with the prospect of hunger, squalor, disease, and early death.

Yet progress has been made. Throughout much of the world, children born today can expect to live longer and be better educated than their parents. In many parts, the new-born can also expect to attain a higher standard of living in a wider sense. Such progress provides hope as we contemplate the improvements still needed, and also as we face our failures to make this Earth a safer and sounder home for us and for those who are to come.

The failures that we need to correct arise both from poverty and from the short-sighted way in which we have often pursued prosperity. Many parts of the world are caught in a vicious downward spiral: Poor people are forced to overuse environmental resources to survive from day to day, and their impoverishment of their environment further impoverishes them, making their survival ever more difficult and uncertain. The prosperity attained in some parts of the world is often precarious, as it has been secured through farming, forestry, and industrial practices that bring profit and progress only over the short term.

Societies have faced such pressures in the past and, as many desolate ruins remind us, sometimes succumbed to them. But generally these pressures were local. Today the scale of our interventions in nature is increasing and the physical effects of our decisions spill across national frontiers. The

growth in economic interaction between nations amplifies the wider consequences of national decisions. Economics and ecology bind us in ever-tightening networks. Today, many regions face risks of irreversible damage to the human environment that threaten the basis for human progress.

These deepening interconnections are the central justification for the establishment of this Commission. We travelled the world for nearly three years, listening. At special public hearings organized by the Commission, we heard from government leaders, scientists, and experts, from citizens' groups concerned about a wide range of environment and development issues, and from thousands of individuals—farmers, shanty-town residents, young people, industrialists, and indigenous and tribal peoples.

We found everywhere deep public concern for the environment, concern that has led not just to protests but often to changed behaviour. The challenge is to ensure that these new values are more adequately reflected in the principles and operations of political and economic structures.

We also found grounds for hope: that people can cooperate to build a future that is more prosperous, more just, and more secure; that a new era of economic growth can be attained, one based on policies that sustain and expand the Earth's resource base; and that the progress that some have known over the last century can be experienced by all in the years ahead. But for this to happen, we must understand better the symptoms of stress that confront us, we must identify the causes, and we must design new approaches to managing environmental resources and to sustaining human development.

SYMPTOMS AND CAUSES

Environmental stress has often been seen as the result of the growing demand on scarce resources and the pollution generated by the rising living standards of the relatively affluent. But poverty itself pollutes the environment, creating environmental stress in a different way. Those who are poor and hungry will often destroy their immediate environment in order to survive. They will cut down forests; their livestock will overgraze grass lands; they will overuse marginal land; and in growing numbers they will crowd into congested cities. The cumulative effect of these changes is so far-reaching as to make poverty itself a major global scourge.

On the other hand where economic growth has led to improvements in living standards, it has sometimes been achieved in ways that are globally damaging in the longer term. Much of the improvement in the past has been based on the use of increasing amounts of raw materials, energy, chemicals, and synthetics and on the creation of pollution that is not adequately accounted for in figuring the costs of production processes. These

trends have had unforeseen effects on the environment. Thus today's environmental challenges arise both from the lack of development and from the unintended consequences of some forms of economic growth.

Poverty

There are more hungry people in the world today than ever before in human history, and their numbers are growing. In 1980, there were 340 million people in 87 developing countries not getting enough calories to prevent stunted growth and serious health risks. This total was very slightly below the figure for 1970 in terms of share of the world population, but in terms of sheer numbers, it represented a 14 percent increase. The World Bank predicts that these numbers are likely to go on growing.

The number of people living in slums and shanty towns is rising, not falling. A growing number lack access to clean water and sanitation and hence are prey to the diseases that arise from this lack. There is some progress, impressive in places. But, on balance, poverty persists and its victims multiply.

Population Size and per Capita GNP by Groups of Countries

Country Group	Population (million)	Per Capital GNP (1984 dollars)	Average Annual Growth Rate of Per Capita GNP, 1965-84 (percent)
Low-income Economies (excl. China, India)	611	190	0.9
China and India	1,778	290	3.3
Lower Middle-income Economies	691	740	3.0
Upper Middle-income Economies	497	1,950	3.3
High-income Oil Exporters	19	11,250	3.2
Industrial Market Economies	733	11,430	2.4

Source: Based on data in World Bank, *World Development Report 1986* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1986.)

The pressure of poverty has to be seen in a broader context. At the international level there are large differences in per capita income which ranged in 1984 from \$190 in low-income countries (other than China and India) to \$11,430 in the industrial market economies.

Such inequalities represent great differences not merely in quality of life today, but also in the capacity of societies to improve their quality of life in the future. Most of the world's poorest countries depend for increasing export earnings on tropical agricultural products that are vulnerable to fluctuating or declining terms of trade. Expansion can often only be achieved at the price of ecological stress. Yet diversification in ways that will alleviate both poverty and ecological stress is hampered by disadvantageous terms of technology transfer, by protectionism, and by declining financial flows to those countries that most need international finance.

Within countries, poverty has been exacerbated by the unequal distribution of land and other assets. The rapid rise in population has compromised the ability to raise living standards. These factors, combined with growing demands for the commercial use of good land, often to grow crops for exports, have pushed many subsistence farmers onto poor land and robbed them of any hope of participating in their nations' economic lives. The same forces have meant that traditional shifting cultivators, who once cut forests, grew crops, and then gave the forest time to recover, now have neither land enough nor time to let forests re-establish. So forests are being destroyed, often only to create poor farm land that cannot support those who till it. Extending cultivation on to steep slopes is increasing soil erosion in many hilly sections of both developing and developed nations. In many river valleys, areas chronically liable to floods are now farmed.

These pressures are reflected in the rising incidence of disasters. During the 1970s, six times as many people died from 'natural disasters' each year as in the 1960s, and twice as many suffered from such disasters. Droughts and floods, disasters among whose causes are widespread deforestation and overcultivation, increased most in terms of numbers affected. There were 18.5 million people affected by droughts annually in the 1960s, but 24.4 million in the 1970s; 5.2 million people were victims of floods yearly in the 1960s, compared with 15.4 million in the 1970s. The results are not in for the 1980s, but this disaster prone decade seems to be carrying forward the trend, with droughts in Africa, India, and Latin America, and floods throughout Asia, parts of Africa, and Andean region of Latin America.

Such disasters claim most of their victims among the impoverished in poor nations, where subsistence farmers must make their land more liable to droughts and floods by clearing marginal areas, and where the poor make themselves more vulnerable to all disasters by living on steep slopes and unprotected shores-the only lands left for their shanties. Lacking food and foreign exchange reserves, their economically vulnerable governments are ill equipped to cope with such catastrophes.

The links between environmental stress and developmental disaster are most evident in sub-Saharan Africa. Per capita food production, declining since the 1960s, plummeted during the drought of the 1980s, and at the height of the food emergency some 35 million people were exposed to risk. Human overuse of land and prolonged drought threaten to turn the grasslands of Africa's Sahel region into desert. No other region more tragically suffers the vicious cycle of poverty leading to environmental degradation, which leads in turn to even greater poverty.

Growth

In some parts of the world, particularly since the mid-1950s, growth and development have vastly improved living standards and the quality of life. Many of the products and technologies that have gone into this improvement are raw material-and energy-intensive and entail a substantial amount of pollution. The consequent impact on the environment is greater than ever before in human history.

Over the past century, the use of fossil fuels has grown nearly thirtyfold, and industrial production has increased more than fifty fold. The bulk of this increase, about three-quarters in the case of fossil fuels and a little over four fifths in the case of industrial production, has taken place since 1950.

The annual increase in industrial production today is perhaps as large as the total production in Europe around the end of the 1930s. Into every year we now squeeze the decades of industrial growth and environmental disruption-that formed the basis of the prewar European economy.

If people destroy vegetation in order to get land, food, fodder, fuel, or timber, the soil is no longer protected. Rain creates surface runoff, and the soil erodes. When the soil is gone, no water is retained and the land can no longer produce enough food, fodder, fuel, or timber, so people need to turn to new land and start the process all over again.

All major disaster problems in the Third World are essentially unsolved development problems. Disaster prevention is thus primarily an aspect of development, and this must be a development that takes place within the sustainable limits.

*Odd Grann
Secretary General, Norwegian Red Cross*

Environmental stresses also arise from more traditional forms of production. More land has been cleared for settled cultivation in the past 100 years than in all the previous centuries of human existence. Interventions in the water cycles have increased greatly.

Massive dams, most of them built after 1950, impound a large proportion of the river flow. In Europe and Asia, water use has reached 10 percent of the annual run-off, a figure that is expected to rise to 20-25 per cent by the end of the century.

Distribution of World Consumption, Averages for 1980-82

Commodity	Units of Per Capita Consumption	Developed Countries (26 percent of population)		Developing Countries (74 percent of population)	
		Share in World Consumption (percent)	Per Capita	Share in World Consumption (percent)	Per Capita
Food:					
Calories	Kcal/day	34	3,395	66	2,389
Protein	gms/day	38	99	62	58
Fat	gms/day	53	127	47	40
Paper	kg/year	85	123	15	8
Steel	kg/year	79	455	21	43
Other Metals	kg/year	86	26	14	2
Commerical Energy	mtce/year	80	5.8	20	0.5

Source: WCED estimates based on country-level data from FAO, UN Statistical Office, UNCTAD, and American Metal Association.

The impact of growth and rising income levels can be seen in the distribution of world consumption of variety of resource-intensive products. The more affluent industrialized countries use most of the world's metals and fossils fuels. Even in the case of food products a sharp difference exists, particularly in the products that are more resource-intensive.

In recent years, industrial countries have been able to achieve economic growth using less energy and raw materials per unit of output. This, along with the efforts to reduce the emission of pollutants, will help to contain the pressure on the biosphere. But with the increase in population and the rise in incomes, per capita consumption of energy and materials will go up in the developing countries,

as it has to if essential needs are to be met. Greater attention to resource efficiency can moderate the increase, but, on balance, environmental problems linked to resource use will intensify in global terms.

Survival

The scale and complexity of our requirements for natural resources have increased greatly with the rising levels of population and production. Nature is bountiful, but it is also fragile and finely balanced. There are thresholds that cannot be crossed without endangering the basic integrity of the system. Today we are close to many of these thresholds; we must be ever mindful of the risk of endangering the survival of life on earth. Moreover, the speed which changes in resource use are taking place gives little time in which to anticipate and prevent unexpected effects.

The 'green house effect', one such threat to life-support systems, springs directly from increased resource use. The burning of fossil fuels and the cutting and burning of forests release carbon dioxide (CO₂). The accumulation in the atmosphere of CO₂ and certain other gases traps solar radiation near the Earth's surface, causing global warming. This could cause sea level rises

over the next 45 years large enough to inundate many low-lying coastal cities and river deltas. It could also drastically upset national and international agricultural production and trade systems.

Another threat arises from the depletion of the atmospheric ozone layer by gases released during the production of foam and the use of refrigerants and aerosols. A substantial loss of such ozone could have catastrophic effects on

human and livestock health and on some life forms at the base of the marine food chain. The 1986 discovery of hole in the ozone layer above the Antarctic suggests the possibility of a more rapid depletion than previously suspected.

A variety of air pollutants are killing trees and lakes and damaging buildings and cultural treasures, close to and sometimes thousands of miles from points of emission. The acidification of the environment threatens large areas of Europe and North America. Central Europe is currently receiving more than one gram of sulphur on every square metre of ground each year. The loss of forests could bring in its wake disastrous erosion, siltation, floods, and local climatic change. Air pollution damage is also becoming evident in some newly industrialized countries.

'The remarkable achievements of the celebrated Industrial Revolution are now beginning seriously to be questioned principally because the environment was not considered at the time. It was felt that the sky was so vast and clear nothing could ever change its colour, our rivers so big and their water so plentiful that no amount of human activity could ever change their quality, and there were trees and natural forests so plentiful that we will never finish them. After all, they grow again.'

Today we should know better. The alarming rate at which the Earth's surface is being denuded of its natural vegetative cover seems to indicate that the world may soon become devoid of trees through clearing for human developments.'

*Hon. Victoria Chitepo
Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism,
Government of Zimbabwe*

In many cases the practices used at present to dispose of toxic wastes, such as those from the chemical industries involve unacceptable risks. Radioactive wastes from the nuclear industry remain hazardous for centuries. Many who bear these risks do not benefit in any way from the activities that produce the wastes.

Desertification - the process whereby productive arid and semi-arid land is rendered economically unproductive - and large-scale deforestation are other examples of major threats to the integrity of regional ecosystems. Desertification involves complex inter-actions between humans, land and climate. The pressures of subsistence food production, commercial crops, and meat production in arid and semi-arid areas all contribute to this process.

Each year another 6 million hectares are degraded to desert-like conditions. Over three decades, this would amount to an area roughly as large as Saudi Arabia. More than 11 million hectares of tropical forests are destroyed per year and this, over 30 years, would amount to an area about the size of India. Apart from the direct and often dramatic impacts within the immediate area, nearby regions are affected by the spreading of

sands or by changes in water regimes and increased risks of soil erosion and siltation.

The loss of forests and other wild lands extinguishes species of plants and animals and drastically reduces the genetic diversity of the world's ecosystems. This process robs present and future generations of genetic material with which to improve crop varieties, to make them less vulnerable to weather stress, pest attacks, and disease. The loss of species and subspecies, may as yet unstudied by science, deprives us of important potential sources of medicines and industrial chemicals. It removes forever creatures of beauty and parts of our cultural heritage; it diminishes the biosphere.

Many of the risks stemming from our productive activity and the technologies we use cross national boundaries; many are global. Though the activities that give rise to these dangers tend to be concentrated in a few countries, the risks are shared by all, rich and poor, those who benefit from them and those who do not. Most who share in the risks have little influence on the decision processes that regulate these activities.

Annual Rate of Increase of GDP in Developing Countries, 1976-85 (percent)

Indicator	1976-80	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
Gross Domestic Product:						
All Developing Countries	4.9	1.3	0.2	0.8	2.1	2.5
Developing Countries Excluding Large Countries	4.5	1.0	-0.6	0.1	1.5	1.4
Per Capita GDP:						
All Developing Countries	2.4	-1.0	-2.1	-1.5	-0.2	-0.2
Developing Countries Excluding Large Countries	1.9	-1.5	-3.1	-2.4	-1.0	-1.1

Source: Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, *Doubling Development Finance: Meeting a Global Challenge, Views and Recommendations of the Committee on Development Planning* (New York: UN, 1986)

Little time is available for corrective action. In some cases we may already be close to transgressing critical thresholds. While scientists continue to research and debate causes and effects, in many cases we already know enough to warrant action. This is true locally and regionally in the cases of such threats as desertification, deforestation, toxic wastes, and acidification; it is true globally for such threats as climate change, ozone depletion, and species loss. The risks increase faster than do our abilities to manage them.

Perhaps the greatest threat to the Earth's environment, to sustainable human progress, and indeed to survival is the possibility of nuclear war, increased daily by the continuing arms race and its spread to outer space. The search for a more viable future can only be meaningful in the context of a more vigorous effort to renounce and eliminate the development of means of annihilation.

The Economic Crisis

The environmental difficulties that confront us are not new, but only recently have we begun to understand their complexity. Previously our main concerns centred on the effects of development on the environment. Today, we need to be equally concerned about the ways in which environmental degradation can dampen or reverse economic development. In one area after another, environmental degradation is eroding the potential for development. This basic connection was brought into sharp focus by the environment and development crises of the 1980s.

The slowdown in the momentum of economic expansion and the stagnation in world trade in the 1980s challenged all nation's abilities to react and adjust. Developing countries that rely on the export of primary products have been hit

particularly hard by falling commodity prices. Between 1980 and 1984, developing countries lost about \$55 billion in export earnings because of the fall in commodity prices, a blow felt most keenly in Latin America and Africa.

As a consequence of this period of slow growth in the world economy—together with rising debt service obligations and a decline in the inflow of finance—many developing countries have faced severe economic crises. Over half of all developing countries actually experienced declining per capita gross domestic product (GDP) in the years 1982-85 and per capita GDP has fallen, for developing countries as a whole, by around 10 percent in the 1980s.

The heaviest burden in international economic adjustment has been carried by the world's poorest people. The consequence has been a considerable increase in human distress and the overexploitation of land and natural resources to ensure survival in the short term.

Many international economic problems remain unresolved: developing country indebtedness remains serious; commodity and energy markets are highly unstable; financial flows to developing countries are seriously deficient; protectionism and trade wars are a serious threat. Yet at a time when multilateral institutions, and rules, are more than ever necessary, they have been devalued. And the notion of an international responsibility for development has virtually disappeared. The trend is towards a decline in multilateralism and an assertion of national dominance.

Courtesy:
Our Common Future

Published by: World Commission
on Environment and Development

Environmental Protection in Tamil Nadu

As the twentieth century draws to a close, mankind has come to face with a rude reality. Not because of any thing nature has done but because of everything human beings are doing to destroy its base. The biological wealth and the potential of land are getting slowly diminished or destroyed. The fresh water resources are getting depleted. The oceans are getting polluted. The gaseous composition of the atmosphere is being altered and significant changes may occur in temperature and precipitation. The ozone shield in the upper atmosphere is being damaged to an extent that the earth may experience higher levels of ultraviolet radiation to a greater incidence of unknown effects on biological productivity.

The Environmental movement in India for all practical purposes had its beginning in 1972, the year when United Nations Organisation held its Conference on Human Environment at Stockholm

25 years ago. In this Conference the developed countries visualised environmental problems as an application of industrialisation and suggested "no growth" policy as the only viable means of protecting the environment. However, the developing countries, shared the view that their environmental problems are mostly due to lack of development rather than excessive developments. As a followup of Stockholm Conference, the Constitution was amended in order to insert direct provisions for the protection of environment. The following legislations have been enacted by the Government of India to preserve the environmental quality.

1. The Water (P&CP) Act, 1974 as amended in 1978 and 1988.
2. The Air (P&CP) Act, 1981 as amended in 1987.
3. The Water (P&CP) Cess Act, 1977 as amended in 1991.



4. The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
5. The Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989.
6. Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989.

Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board established in 1982 enforces the provisions of the above Acts/Rules. Tamil

Nadu is one among the industrialised States in the country. As per the inventory of the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, as on 31.12.'96, there are 7806 Red category (Polluting industries), 7937 Orange Category (Medium Polluting) and 1877 Green Category (Non Polluting) industries in Tamil Nadu. Out of the above 17620 units, 716, 2380 and 14524 units fall under Large, Medium, Small Scale sector of industries. There are a few sectors of industries unique to Tamil Nadu and peculiar in being cited as major sources of pollution of Water, Air and Land. Urbanisation has been rampant during the past decades. The major Cities and Towns expanded beyond proportion with the existing basic facilities like water supply and sanitation, transport, communication, parks and recreational spaces, etc.

75% of tanneries in India are found in Tamil Nadu. There are 895 tanneries in Tamil Nadu. Most of them are located in North Arcot Ambedkar District. Textile industries are concentrated in Coimbatore District. Mineral processing industries are in Salem. Bleaching and dyeing units are located in Tiruppur and Karur. Cluster of starch industries are there in Salem District. Chemical Industries are located in Manali, Ranipet, Cuddalore, Mettur and Tuticorin areas. Sugar, Distilleries, Pulp and Paper industries are located near the water bodies. Aqua culture units of recent development are found in Nagai-Quaid-E-Milleth District. The impairment in quality of water at such points where concentration of industries is largely attributed to indiscriminate discharge of trade effluent without proper treatment. The parched lands and the rivers remaining dry several months tend to absorb the waste water immediately and the water table available is further hit by a wide range of pollutants found in the effluents discharged by the industries.

The Government is seized of pollution of rivers

of the State caused by the discharges of effluent from the industries located on or near the river banks and sewage discharged by urban local bodies. Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board has prescribed standards for effluents depending upon the mode of disposal. All the industries generating trade effluent have to provide effluent treatment plant to treat the trade effluent to satisfy the standards prescribed by the Board. Industries are constantly monitored regarding the functioning of their effluent treatment plants and samples of treated trade effluent are collected regularly to assess the quality of effluent discharged and also to assess the efficiency and adequacy of the effluent treatment plants provided. Government of India have identified 17 categories of highly polluting industries like Distilleries, Tanneries, Fertilizers, Petro chemicals, Power Plants, Cement etc. There are 142 units of these 17 category of highly polluting industries in Tamil Nadu. Out of this 142 units two units are non-complying units and the remaining 140 units have achieved the standards prescribed by the Board. The effluents generated by the Tanneries, Bleaching and Dyeing Units have been causing serious environmental problems. Since a large number of these units are in clusters and also in the small scale sector, the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board has launched a massive programme of setting up of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) establishing the principles of "Polluter Pays" by which the beneficiary units themselves have to accept full responsibility to set up, operate and maintain the treatment facilities. Common Effluent Treatment Plants are put up under the guidance of Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board.

28 CETPs for Tanneries, 25 CETPs for Bleaching and Dyeing Units, are being implemented. CETPs for Tanneries at Pammal,

SIDCO-Ranipet, Vaniyambadi, Udayendiram. Ranipet, Ambur (Thuthipet), Melvisharam, Peranambut (Bakkalapalli) and Dindigul have been commissioned. CETP for Bleaching and Dyeing units at Ayyampet-Muthialpet (Anna District), Karur and Tiruppur are under progress.

As a part of the Global Environmental Monitoring Schemes (GEMS), the quality of water in Cauvery Basin at Mettur, Pallipalayam, Musiri and ground water quality at Musiri is monitored. Similarly Cauvery, Tamiraparani, Vaigai and Palar are being monitored under the programme of India National Aquatic Resources (MINARS).

The water quality of city waterways namely, the Cooum, Adyar, Buckingham Canal and Otteri Nullah is also monitored.

Under the National River Action Plan, pollution abatement proposals have been approved by Government of India for five highly polluting stretches of Cauvery river at Bhavani, Komarapalayam, Erode, Pallipalayam and Trichy towns at a cost of Rs.38.20 crores. The project covers the following components.

1. Interception and diversion of sewage.
2. Providing/upgrading sewage treatment plants.
3. Improvements to Crematoria.
4. Provision of low cost sanitation.
5. River front and bathing ghat developments.
6. Afforestation and
7. Solid Waste disposal by providing compost yard.

Atmospheric pollution in Tamil Nadu is no way less than water pollution. Coal-based Thermal Power Plants, Cement industries, Nitrogenous and Phosphatic Fertilizer, Petrochemical and Refineries are major sources of air pollution. These

units emit gases like SO_2 , NO_x , CO etc. The dust fall-out at the nearer distances are inevitable and it has had their unique impact on health of humans, plants and animals.

With the increased industrial activity in the vicinity of major Cities/Towns, the need for keeping the Ambient Air Quality within the limits prescribed by the Board is increasingly felt. Under the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAAQM), 9 Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations have been established at Chennai, Coimbatore and Tuticorin. In addition to the above, Chennai Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme is proposed to be commissioned at a cost of Rs.10.23 lakhs covering 8 monitoring stations at traffic inter sections, residential and commercial areas of Chennai city.

Industrial complexes located at Ranipet, Mettur, Cuddalore and Tuticorin house chemical, fertilizer and petrochemical industries. These industries emit pollutants like suspended particulate matter, Sulphur di-oxide, oxides of Nitrogen, Hydrogen, Hydrogen sulphide, Ammonia, Acid fumes, etc. It is proposed to establish continuous air quality monitoring systems at Tuticorin and Cuddalore.

Tamil Nadu with its 1000 Km long Coast Line offers a rich diversity in terms of marine life and social infrastructure along the coast. The Coastal Line is endowed with a variety of habitats like rocky zone, coral reefs, oil fields, salt pans, ports, fishing harbours, mangroves, sand dunes and beach resorts. There is increasing pressure from industries to locate their facilities along the shoreline and thus acquire easy access for discharging their effluent. The activities along the coast are diverse and economically compelling that it is necessary to examine the whole range of issues in totality and the inter-relationships that co-exist

with one another. The Coastal Water Quality is monitored at 32 Coastal Stations under 5 sectors identified along the coast of Tamil Nadu starting from Ennore to Kanniyakumari. In order to protect the coastal areas from over exploitation, taking into consideration the features of ecologically sensitive areas, developed areas and relatively undisturbed areas, the coastal stretch has been classified as Coastal Regulation Zone-II and Coastal Regulation Zone-III, restricting certain activities in these areas.

Urbanisation and Industrialisation have resulted in increased vehicular traffic in Chennai City, resulting in appreciable increase in automobile emission. Goods Transport vehicles are being tested for emissions at 3 monitoring stations in Chennai City. The vehicles are issued 'fitness certificate' by the Transport Department only on production of the emission under control certificate of Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board.

Under the Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989, the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board is effectively monitoring collection, transport, storage, receipt, treatment and disposal of 18 categories of Hazardous Wastes. Establishment of the proposed Common Hazardous Waste Management and Disposal facility at Manallur (MGR District) and Siruseri (Anna District) for treatment and disposal of Hazardous waste from industries in these areas is a significant development.

Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board is setting up an Emergency Response Centre at Manali (MGR District) to provide prompt relief in the event of accidents in handling hazardous chemicals.

Government of Tamil Nadu has created a new Department viz. Department of Environment and it is functioning from March '96. This Department

is in charge of implementing pollution abatement in Cauvery river and coastal stretches of Chennai City; improvement of Kodaikanal and Udhagai lakes under National Lakes Conservation Programme.

No movement or effort in the field of Pollution Control and Environment Protection would succeed unless adequate awareness is inculcated among the community and a climate of acceptance is created. The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board propagates environmental awareness through the Environmental Pavilion set up at Periyar Science and Technology Centre, Chennai, a Non-Governmental Organisation Cell, as well as by conducting Painting, Essay writing and Elocution contests on Environmental issues, screening of Video and Film shows, etc.

Man power is not only a precious asset, but its effective contribution to the organisation can always be enhanced through appropriate training and skill development measures. An Environmental Training Institute has been set up with assistance of DANIDA at a cost of Rs. 3.93 crores with a view to make the staff of the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Personnel from Industries, Government Organisations competent and capable of controlling and guiding industries on pollution abatement and prevention techniques suitable to their needs.

The world is a God-given heritage and it is the responsibility of the society to curtail the exploitation of our natural resources. Indicators that awareness of the environment and its protection are evident from the fact, 'World Environment Day', and 'Earth Day' and 'World Forestry Day', are being observed to remind us that Mother Nature is precious and should be protected and conserved. ★

Courtesy : Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board

ANTIMICROBIAL DRUGS FAIL

Resistance by disease-causing organisms to antimicrobial drugs and other agents is a major public health problem world-wide. It is making a growing number of infections virtually untreatable.

Antimicrobial resistance is not a new problem, but it has worsened dramatically in the last decade. During that time, the pace of development of new antimicrobials has slowed down while the prevalence of resistance has grown at an alarming rate. The increase in the number of drug-resistant bacteria is no longer matched by a parallel expansion in the arsenal of agents used to treat infections.

All bacteria possess an inherent flexibility that enables them, sooner or later, to evolve genes that render them resistant to any antimicrobial. By killing susceptible bacteria, an antimicrobial provides selective pressures that favour overgrowth of bacteria carrying a gene that confers resistance. The continuous use of antimicrobial agents encourages the multiplication and spread of resistant strains.

There is strong evidence that a major cause of the current crisis in antimicrobial resistance is the uncontrolled and inappropriate use of antibiotic drugs, in both industrialized and developing countries. They are used by too many people to treat the wrong kind of infection, in the wrong dosage and for the wrong period of time.

Awesome implications

The implications are awesome: drugs that cost tens of millions of dollars to produce, and take perhaps 10 years to reach the market, have only a limited life-span in which they are effective. As resistance spreads, the life-span shrinks; as fewer new drugs appear, the gulf widens between infection and control. So far, the pattern of

excessive or inappropriate use and the development of resistance has been repeated after the introduction of each new antimicrobial.

The overuse of expensive drugs designed to cover a range of infections is a particularly serious problem in industrialized countries. In developing countries, the problem is compounded by the ready availability of over the counter drugs. This allows patients to treat themselves, either with the wrong medicine, or in quantities that are too small to be effective. Substandard and counterfeit drugs which lack adequate amounts of active ingredients further exacerbate the resistance problem.



Resistance has no natural barriers; its development in the most remote locations can lead rapidly to a worldwide impact, aided by international air travel.

Furthermore, enormous amounts of medical antimicrobials are used for the production of animal food around the world. Some 170 billion

tons of animal meat are produced worldwide every year. More than half the total production of all antimicrobial is used in farm animals, either for disease prevention or for growth promotion. Drug-resistant bacteria are passed through the food chain to the consumer, where they may cause disease or transfer the resistance to human pathogens.

Examples of bacterial resistance

Enterococci contribute to some of the most common infections acquired in hospitals, causing intra-abdominal abscesses, endocarditis, and infections of the urinary tract and soft tissues. In some countries, infections resulting from strains resistant to the main groups of antibiotics, such as the beta-lactams and the aminoglycosides, can only be treated with vancomycin, an expensive intravenous drug. Even resistance to vancomycin has developed in the last 10 years or so. In the United States in 1994, 14% of enterococci isolated from patients in intensive care units were resistant to vancomycin.

Staphylococci, which can contribute to skin infections, endocarditis, osteomyelitis, food poisoning and other serious disorders, have developed resistance to all antibiotics except vancomycin. If vancomycin-resistant strains were to emerge, some of the most prevalent hospital-acquired infections would become virtually untreatable.

Streptococci have become increasingly resistant to some antibiotics in the last 25 years. They are among the most common disease-causing bacteria, responsible for infections of the throat, middle ear, skin and wounds, and also necrotizing fascitis and gangrene.

Pneumococci and Haemophilus influenzae are the most common bacteria causing acute respiratory infections in children, particularly pneumonia. Both of these organisms are becoming

more and more resistant to drugs. Strains of pneumococci, once uniformly susceptible to penicillin, are currently resistant to it in upto 18% of cases in the United States and 40% in South Africa. In addition, they are becoming resistant to many other commonly used antibiotics, including cotrimoxazole, the drug recommended by WHO for treatment of pneumonia. The most virulent type of Haemophilus influenzae is today frequently resistant to ampicillin, and strains have been identified that are resistant to other drugs, including cotrimoxazole. In brief, doctors worldwide are losing some of the most useful and affordable antibiotics against the two bacteria which are the major cause of death in children.

Neisseria gonorrhoeae, cause of one of the most common sexually transmitted diseases, has acquired such resistance to penicillin and tetracyclines in most countries that the use of these antibiotics to treat it has become unacceptable and this infection now requires the use of much more expensive drugs which are often unavailable.

Shigella dysenteriae has been causing outbreaks of severe diarrhoeal disease in central and southern Africa in recent years, including those in refugee camps, with the epidemic strain acquiring increasing resistance to standard antibiotics. Epidemic dysentery caused by this strain results in the death of upto 15% of those infected.

Salmonella typhi, the bacterium responsible for typhoid fever, has developed resistance to antibiotics commonly used in the past for treatment. Resistant strains have caused outbreaks of the disease in India and Pakistan in recent years. Without effective antibiotic treatment, typhoid fever kills almost 10% of those infected. In South-East Asia, 50% or more of the strains of the bacteria may already be resistant to several antibiotics.

More than half of the antibiotics produced worldwide are used in animals, largely in subtherapeutic concentrations which favour the onset of drug resistance. As a result, two important human pathogens of animal origin, E. coli and salmonellae, are today highly resistant to antibiotics in both industrialized and developing countries. For instance, in the United Kingdom, the increase of multidrug-resistant strains of Salmonella typhimurium isolated from cattle is paralleled by increasing resistance among strains of human origin. In Thailand, salmonellae isolated from food animals are also highly resistant to the common antibiotics. These bacteria cause diarrhoeal disease and can lead to life-threatening complications. Due to the globalization of food supply and international travel, antimicrobial resistance among animal bacteria can affect consumers anywhere in the world.

Strains of M. tuberculosis resistant to antituberculosis drugs are widespread, although attention has recently focused on the alarming outbreaks of tuberculosis caused by multidrug-resistant strains in the United States. Drug resistance is the result of poor prescribing practices, or poor patient compliance with treatment. It is low in the few countries with effective tuberculosis programmes. The most dangerous form of the multidrug-resistant disease occurs when cases become virtually incurable and doctors face situations similar to those of the pre-antibiotic era.

Malaria presents a double resistance problem; resistance of the Plasmodium parasites, which cause the disease; to antimalarial drugs; and resistance of the Anopheles mosquitoes, the vectors of the disease, to insecticides. The arsenal of antimalarial drugs is limited. Most of them act by killing parasites when they are multiplying in the bloodstream of the human host. Unfortunately,

due to inadequate regimens, poor drug supply, and poor quality and misuse of drugs, rapid development of drug resistance has occurred in most areas of the world. Drug resistance is particularly important in falciparum malaria, the most severe form of the disease. Resistance to chloroquine, the most commonly used drug, has been found in all endemic countries except those of central America and the Caribbean. Resistance to multiple drugs is common in South-East Asia.

This serious obstacle to malaria control efforts is further complicated by mosquito resistance to insecticides. Many mosquitos are reported to be resistant to the three classes of insecticides available for public health use, and some are becoming resistant to pyrethroids, widely promoted for bednet and curtain impregnation.

Dim outlook

The next few years are certain to be critical for the future of antimicrobial drugs. Antimicrobial resistance will increase, if present trends continue. Doctors in many parts of the world could find themselves resorting to methods that date back to before the antibiotic era. For instance, in New York city patients with multidrug-resistant tuberculosis who will not voluntarily comply with recommended treatment are sometimes isolated on a former prison island, used much as sanatoria were in the past.

Disease control strategies will be seriously threatened by mounting drug resistance levels among bacteria which cause the most important and frequent diseases worldwide. Developing countries, where the burden of infectious diseases is the highest, will be facing the impossible task of controlling diseases with only scarce expensive drugs which will not be affordable for all sick persons.

Courtesy: 'Health Action'

Addiction - A Disease

World over, there is an increasing tendency to study both alcoholism and drug addiction as 'chemical dependency'. The term 'addiction' has been used to refer to both addiction to alcohol and to other drugs. Nevertheless, while elaborating, we have chosen to make a differentiation between the two.

ADDICTION TO ALCOHOL (ALCOHOLISM)

The common man sees 'alcoholism' as a weakness of character. The moralist looks at it as a vice. Law finds the consequential acts of alcoholism as a crime. The clergyman considers it a sin.

After extensive research, in the year 1956, American Medical Association came to the conclusion that it is a DISEASE.

Before elaborating on the disease concept of alcoholism, let us clearly understand who an alcoholic is, and in what respects he is different from the social drinker.

Who is a 'social drinker'?

A social drinker is one who drinks the way his social group permits. He never oversteps their unwritten, unspoken, but clearly understood boundaries. He either drinks occasionally, or drinks regularly in moderate quantities. His intake of alcohol does not cause any problem whatsoever in his life.

Who is an 'alcoholic'?

"An alcoholic is one, whose drinking causes continuing problems in one or more areas of his life (family-relationship, financial position, occupation, etc)" - Marty Mann. In spite of these problems, he will keep on drinking. Here, 'continuing' is the key word. This is what differentiates him from a social drinker.

An 'alcoholic' will not be able to take note of his problems and stop drinking totally. He tries, but

never succeeds on a long-term basis. He develops a physical and psychological dependence on alcohol. He will have no control over his drinking, and even if he stops drinking for a short duration, he will definitely go back to obsessive drinking.

Out of the ten people who start drinking for the pleasure associated with it, two become alcoholics. Unfortunately, the cause is still not known.

Why is alcoholism classified as a disease?

Clinically, a disease is confirmed if the following are present:

- The aetiological agent (that which causes the disease)
- How the agent comes in contact with the patient (Epidemiology)
 - What happens when the contact is made (Pathogenesis)
- The lesion-the focus of damage and its consequences-(Structural, biochemical, physiological and behavioural)
- The syndrome. (A collection of symptoms complained by the patient and 'signs' observable to others that regularly occur together)



In 'Alcoholism', the

- The aetiological agent is Ethyl Alcohol or Ethanol.
- Epidemiology-a clearly seen, but complex process.
 - Pathogenesis-numerous effects in the body.
- The lesion-quite clear cut in the liver.
- Syndrome-well defined and stereotyped reaction.

Now we realise that the alcoholic is a sick person-a person with a disease.

What is alcoholism?

The most widely accepted definition of alcoholism, is the one offered by Keller and Efron: "Alcoholism is a chronic illness, psychic, somatic or psychosomatic, which manifests itself as a disorder of behaviour. It is characterised by the repeated drinking of alcoholic beverages, to an extent that exceeds customary, dietary use or compliance with the social customs of the community and that interferes with the drinker's health or the social or economic functioning"

Alcohol dependence can be both physical and psychological.



Physical dependence is a state wherein the body has adapted itself to the presence of alcohol. If its use is suddenly stopped, withdrawal symptoms occur. These symptoms range from sleep disturbances, nervousness, and tremors to convulsions, hallucinations, disorientation, delirium tremors (DTs) and possibly death.

Psychological dependence exists when alcohol becomes so central to a person's thoughts, emotions and activities, that it becomes practically impossible to stop taking it. The ethos of this condition, is a compelling need or craving for alcohol.

The characteristics of alcoholism are as follows:

It is a primary disease

Initially, alcoholism was considered a symptom of some psychological disorder. Now it has been understood that alcoholism *per se* is a disease which causes mental, emotional and physical problems. These associated problems cannot be effectively dealt with, unless alcoholism is treated first.

It is a progressive disease

If it is not treated, the disease progresses from bad to worse. Sometimes there may be intermittent periods where one feels there is improvement; but over a period of time, the course of the disease will only be towards deterioration.

It will be a terminal disease, if not treated

A person drinking excessively, may die due to some medical complication like cirrhosis or pancreatitis. But on close scrutiny, it will be found that the complication itself was induced by alcohol. Thus alcohol is the real agent behind the person's death.

It is a treatable disease

The disease cannot be cured; but it can be successfully arrested, with the help of timely, appropriate and comprehensive treatment. Treatment aims of total abstinence from alcohol. Ingestion of even a very small amount of alcohol

will lead the person to obsessive drinking within a few days and he will lose control. In other words, an alcoholic can never go back to social drinking, even if he has remained sober for quite a number of years. Hence alcoholism is considered a permanent disease.

There are three distinctly noticeable phases in the disease of alcoholism.

Early phase

Increased tolerance

'Physical tolerance' is the body's ability to overcome the usual effect of a drug, so that an increased dosage is needed to experience the same effect as before.

The first warning sign for many who later develop alcoholism, is a need for higher amounts of alcohol to produce 'the desired effect'.

For instance, initially he may have taken a peg or two of whisky to experience a 'warm glow' - that relaxed and pleasant feeling. Now, it takes four to five pegs for him to experience the same effect.

As tolerance for alcohol increases, the individual starts gulping his first few drinks, so that the desired effect is felt immediately.

Black-out

This is a period of temporary amnesia which occurs during the drinking days. 'Black-out' should not be confused with 'passing out' which means unconsciousness. During a 'black-out', the person may go through many activities, without being able to recall even trace of them later on. The person walks, even drives "apparently normally"; but has no recollection of it afterwards.

People who are not alcoholics, may also occasionally have black-outs. However, in people progressing towards alcoholism, repeated episodes of black-out occur.

35 years old Rakesh hails from an orthodox, religious family. He had been drinking for over ten years. His drinking, however, gradually



became excessive. He always arrived home late, totally drunk.

One day, as usual, Rakesh came home in an intoxicated state. He complained that the food was not to his liking; he shouted at his wife; aggressively got up and smashed all the pictures in the pooja room, and then fell asleep.

Next morning, when Rakesh got up, he was surprised to see his mother and wife sulking in a corner. Nobody spoke to him.

Rakesh asked his mother,

"What happened? How is it that you are not busy with the usual pooja?"

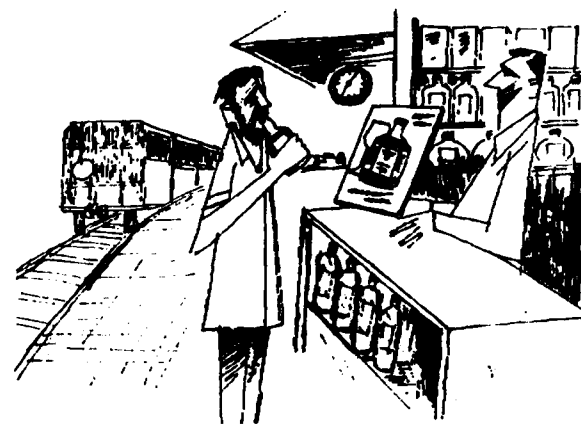
His wife got angry and went away without speaking a single word. His mother narrated what he had done the previous night.

Rakesh was taken aback.

He was totally shaken; for he did not remember anything-not even a trace of it.

Preoccupation with drinking

Even when the alcoholic is not drinking, he is always preoccupied with thoughts of how, when and where he could get the next drink. While at work, he may be thinking about and waiting to get



his drinks at noon, during lunch break. When going to a party, he somehow finds out if there will be alcohol. Drinking is synonymous with having a good time. If drinking is not going to be part of any activity, his response will be, "Count me out".

Avoiding any talk about alcohol

This is a result of his feelings of guilt. Formerly he had been formerly boasting about how much he could drink; but now he does not want to talk about it at all. If someone else brings up the subject, he totally diverts the topic, for fear that they will talk about his drinking. He does not want to talk about, listen to, or even read anything which has reference to drinking.

MIDDLE PHASE

Loss of control

Initially, there is a loss of control over the quantity of alcohol consumed. That is, the person is not able to predict what will happen after the first drink. Intending to have one or two pegs on his way back home from the office, he enters a bar, but he is still drinking till the bar closes.

As alcoholism progresses, the patient will lose control over the time and place of drinking (comes drunk early in the morning to the office).

He now reaches a point when he literally cannot keep away from drinking, or control the amount

consumed. Drinking becomes compulsive. Now he is totally powerless over alcohol. Loss of control is a clear-cut sign that alcoholism has now developed. The warning signs are gone. It may get worse; but he is not likely to get better without help.

Satish had been drinking alcohol for quite a number of years. His family wanted to go to Tirupati and he had agreed to take them. In all earnestness, he stopped drinking 2 or 3 days prior to the trip. On the appointed day of travel, Satish and his family boarded the train as planned.

At one of the stations, Satish got down to fill his water bottle. As he was filling the bottle, he spotted an arrack shop just outside the platform. He was tempted. He knew that the train would stop there for a few minutes, and there would be time for him to have one drink. He thought, "Let me have only one drink..nothing more!".

He started with only one drink...wanted to have one more quick one. He had another...one more...one more...etc.

When he came out, it was too late; the train had left the station long ago.

Justifying his drinking

He feels guilty and depressed. He begins to rationalise. He develops an elaborate defence system of reasons and excuses to reduce his guilt feelings. He will keep on explaining as to why he drinks a little too much, and gets a little too drunk.

Grandiose behaviour

Another way by which an alcoholic avoids the truth about himself and his condition, is by exhibiting grandiose behaviour which is inconsistent with his financial and professional capabilities. For example, he buys things he does not need, gives lavish gifts and pays others' bills at the bar.

Mohan had been drinking excessively for three years. He had borrowed money from various people and his debts had mounted up.

One day, a shop-keeper came, stood outside his house and shouted;

"You have not yet paid my dues which you promised to pay last month itself. I want the money right away! I will return in the evening to collect it from you. If you fail to repay, I will drag you to the police station!"

Mohan's wife felt extremely ashamed, and was terribly annoyed. Mohan told her, "Don't worry! Today I will take a loan from my salary. We can pay him back this evening itself".

Mohan went to the office. On his way back home, he bought five packets of cigarettes and happily distributed them to his friends. They smoked and drank together. Mohan called for a taxi, and when he came back home, he had no money left to pay the taxi driver.

Aggression

Since he believes that others are the cause for his problems, he strikes out against them with verbal abuse, sometimes even with physical abuse. Such abuses are only an expression of self-hatred directed towards someone else.

Guilt and remorse

Now he slowly becomes aware of what he had been doing to himself and to others. He is unable to throw it off as easily as before. He feels a deep sense of personal guilt and this guilt and remorse often lead him back to the bottle. But when the alcohol is gone, his guilt remains. These feelings now become as much a part of his alcoholism as drinking and getting drunk.

Abstaining from alcohol

He attempts to quit on his own-to give up alcohol-not for ever, but for a definite period of time. He feels this will 'prove' that he can give up drinking whenever he wants to. He may stay away from alcohol for a period of time he has set- a week, a month, or whatever-but then his compulsion for alcohol may make him either shorten the period of time he has set for himself, or

he may be able to abstain for the set period; in either case, after this stretch, he will inevitably go back to obsessive drinking.

Changing the drinking pattern

After trying to abstain, he now takes another precaution. He changes his drinking pattern to show that he can start drinking again without experiencing the same old problems. He changes drinks-from whisky to beer, or shifts the place and time of drinking. But no matter how many changes he makes, if it is alcohol he is drinking, he will soon be immersed in the same problems which haunted him before.

Decaying of social relationships

As he continues to drink, he becomes aggressive. This is the time his friends start moving away. He may start establishing new friendships, where people are in tune with his drinking pattern. When he comes out of his problem of addiction, it is a painful discovery for him to realise that his 'so called friends' were nothing more than 'mere drinking friends'.

Problems on the job

Until now, his job may not have been affected. But he can no longer hide his hangover, his absenteeism and low quality of work. Everyone becomes aware that he is drinking too much. He is now being watched. He receives memos, suspension orders. He may even lose his job.

Family problems

Now he is unable to keep the family together in peace. The major problems begin to weigh heavily on his wife and children. They suffer due to unmanageable problems.

Morning drink

Physical dependence is very apparent. The morning drink takes care of the hangover, the jitters, the guilt, the remorse and the depression.

He needs it to start the day. This initiates the cycle of continuous drinking and speeds up the progression of alcoholism.

Seeks help

Problems with the family and on the job mount up. These motivate him to seek help. But even now, he will not seek help for his alcoholism. He wants help only to put the rest of his life back in order.

Chronic phase

Now he is getting close to the bottom. Other alcoholic complications like gastritis, liver dysfunction and polyneuritis occur.

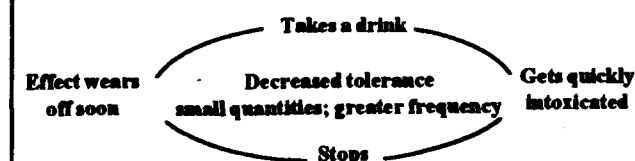
He has a total breakdown in his relationship with the family. There is considerable confusion and mental deterioration.

Binge drinking

Now the alcoholic has absolutely lost control and goes on drinking continuously for several days, and this is referred to as a binge. He is utterly helpless. There is a total disregard for the family, job, everything. At the end of such as 'binge', he is left in a shaking, frightened, guilt-ridden condition. He promises never to drink again. But it happens over and over and again.

Decreased tolerance

Initially, the alcoholic needed more and more alcohol to experience the 'desired effects'; or in other words he had 'increased tolerance'. Due to severe physical deterioration, the alcoholic now gets 'drunk' even with very small quantities of alcohol. Drinking smaller amounts results in higher degree of blood alcohol concentration than in the past.



Ethical breakdown

The alcoholic is so dependent on alcohol that he will lie, borrow or even steal in order to maintain his supply of alcohol.

John, 42 years-married with two children. He had been drinking excessively for a few years, as a result of which he was facing a financial crisis.

He was totally broke.

He had no money to pay his children's school fees.

Many of his bills remained unpaid.

In spite of his financial problems, he could not stop drinking. He desperately needed money to buy alcohol.

He went to the church one day. The plate for collecting mass-offering came round. Without any hesitation, he put a fifty paise coin in the plate, and took away a five rupee note.

He immediately went to the arrack shop and spent his money on alcohol.

Paranoia

At this stage, the alcoholic is suspicious that everyone is watching him, talking about him or even plotting against him. He is a victim of circumstances over which he has no control.

He becomes jealous of everyone-of his friends, of neighbours, even of his own family. With a male alcoholic, there is a loss of sexual desire/ functioning at this stage. This results in him



becoming suspicious of his wife having affairs with other men. This is an extension of his inability to perform as a marital partner.

Indefinable fear

He is frightened by nameless fears. Now he is afraid even to cross a road, enter a dark room, etc-frightened of all kinds of things which are in no way related to reality.

Hallucinations

Auditory (imagining voices speaking), visual (seeing non-existent things) and tactile (feeling as though something is moving on the skin) hallucinations are experienced.

Bhajan Singh had been drinking for nearly 30 years. His family and friends had been requesting him to either stop or reduce his alcohol consumption. He did neither.

One night, Bhajan Singh was behaving in a very strange manner.

He said that he saw Rajiv and Sonia Gandhi entering his house. He ran, woke up his wife and asked her to prepare tea for the eminent visitors.

He could hear several people shouting, "Long live Sonia Gandhi! Long Live Rajive Gandhi!" To him, these voices were clear and distinct. He started repeating the slogans and asked his wife also to join in.

His wife got terribly scared. She felt he was mad. She did not know that he was experiencing visual and auditory hallucinations.

Lack of motor co-ordination

At this point, he loses most of his motor co-ordination. He is unable to tie his shoes, or button his shirt, until he 'steadies' himself with a few drinks. His legs and arms do not respond automatically. He experiences shakes and tremors. This is not the first time he is experiencing tremors. But formerly he could control them by taking 'more alcohol'. Now the 'shakes' are more



pronounced, and alcohol does not help in 'quietening them'.

Turning to God

He becomes desperate. He is unable to face the reality of his situation and turns to God for help. Even now, he does not ask God to remove his desire for alcohol. He pleads with God to help him to maintain a supply so that he can manage his drinking. His entire being is nearly destroyed by addiction at this stage.

Finally, the inevitable vicious circle begins. He gets sick, drinks to feel better and becomes ill again. This continues endlessly. He drinks just for the sake of drinking; he drinks only to stay alive.

When he reaches this stage, two things may happen to him. He continues to take alcohol and becomes mentally ill.

or

He continues drinking and dies a premature, painful death.

The only solution to this problem is to stop drinking totally for life.

*Courtesy: Alcoholism and Drug Dependency
- The Professionals Master Guide
Published by: TTK Hospital, Chennai.*

Invaluable artefacts of 2400 years old unearthed from Alagankulam and Kodumanal

Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology had unearthed a number of interesting artefacts from Alagankulam in Ramnad District. When the first phase of excavation was carried out during the month of February and March of this year by the Archaeologists Messrs D. Tulasiraman, S. Selvaraj, K. Kalaivanan V. Ganesan and Tmt.S. Vasanthi, it had yielded a considerable number of inscribed pottery written in Archaic Tamil character datable to 4th century B.C. to 2nd century B.C., three copper and one silver coins, beads of different materials like semi precious stone, paste, glass and terracotta in various shapes and some iron, copper and gold objects.

prevalence in Tamil Nadu after a period of approximately one hundred years. Hence it is to be dated to 3rd Century B.C.

Other equally interesting find is of a few N.B.P. sherds of Mauryan period assignable to 4th - 3rd century B.C.

Totally three trenches namely AGM-10, AGM-11, and AGM-12 were laid bare. All these trenches have yielded very valuable antiquities. In AGM-10, the occurrence of a channel and in AGM-11 post holes probably for planting the wooden posts for bearing the superstructure had been noticed.

At Kodumanal in Periyar District also, this

Of the above antiquities the coins are more significant as far as dating of the above objects are concerned. About the three copper coins two are of Roman issue and the other is of Pandya of Sangam age. The two Roman coins are the issues of Glory Aroma Norum who ruled during 5th century A.D. while the Pandya coin is of 2nd century B.C. as it is found in more corroded form. On the adverse of the Roman coins the portraits of the emperors are seen. The reverse of them are very much defaced. The adverse of the Pandya coin bears the figure of an elephant whereas the reverse bears the design of a fish, the royal crest of Pandyas.



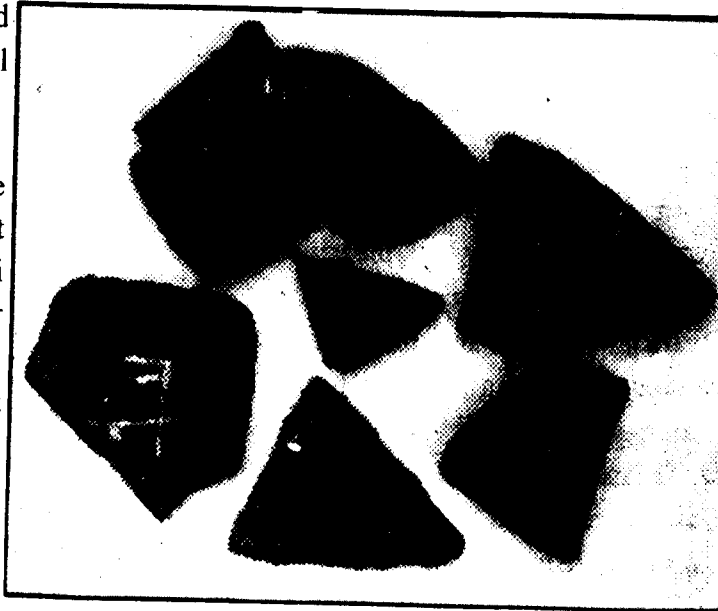
The silver coin is the most outstanding discovery as it is a Punch marked coin. According to Thiru R.Krishnamurthy, the renowned numismatist, this coin is the issue of Nandas who were ruling Gangetic region of North India during 5th century B.C. and it should have come into

Department in collaboration with the Tamil University, Thanjavur has undertaken excavation during the same period.

This excavation was carried out by the archaeologists namely Messrs. K. Sridhar, Pungunram, Gautamaputtiram, Subramanian under the guidance of Dr. Y. Subbarayalu,

Professor, Tamil University, Thanjavur and Dr.K. Rajan, Senior Lecturer of the Tamil University, Thanjavur.

This excavation also had yielded more significant artefacts such as inscribed pot sherds, graffiti bearing pot sherds, semi precious stone beads, spindle beads, deer horns, bone arrow heads, crystal sickle, etc. These further attest the fact that Kodumanal had played vital role in Sangam age in exporting the stone beads and deer horns to different parts of India as well as to abroad.



The above invaluable artefacts of both the sites clearly indicates that the cultural history of Tamil

Nadu has to be written from 4th century B.C and make us to understand that during those period the Tamil civilization was in highly evolved stage.

CHICK OR DUCK?

How about a chick being transformed into a duck! Ever heard of that? This startling discovery was announced by the researchers at New York's Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre and Cornell University Medical College.

On injecting a mutant gene for bone morphogenetic protein (BMP, a growth factor involved in bone and cartilage formation) into the right legs of two day old chicken embryo's, the chicks developed webbed toes on their feet. This explains the mystery of cell demise in webs that joins our digits inside the womb. Researchers claim that we emerge without webbing because the cells in the webs die due to BMP. Interesting right! Otherwise all of us will be going around with webbed feet.



Source: Down to Earth



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