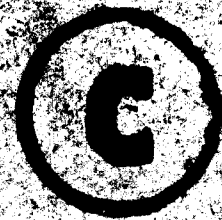


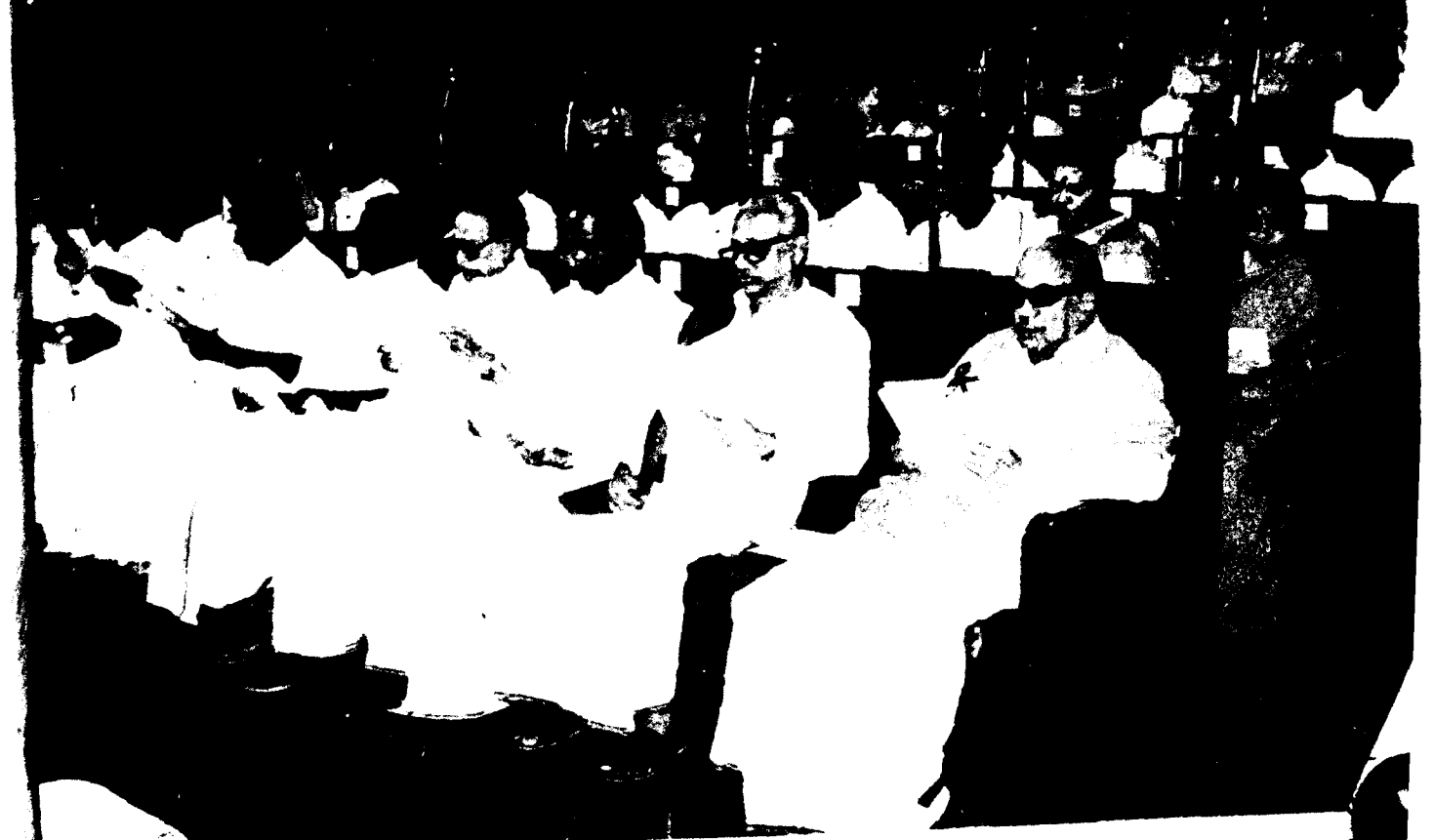
Tamil Basin

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Tamil Arasu





**நமது அன்றாட
பழக்கவழக்கங்களால்,
எய்ட்ஸ் வராதது.
அதற்கு நீங்களே
ஒரு உதாரணம்.**

காலையில் எழுந்தது முதல் ராத்திரி படுக்கப் போகும் வரை நீங்கள் எத்தனையோ பேரைச் சந்திக்கிறீர்கள். ஓட்டலுக்குச் செல்கிறீர்கள், சினிமா பார்க்கிறீர்கள், நெரிசலான பஸ்ஸில் பயணம் செய்கிறீர்கள், பலருடன் கை குலுக்குகிறீர்கள்.

இவர்களில் யாருக்காவது எச்ஐவி/ எய்ட்ஸ் பாதித்து இருக்கலாம்.

சாதாரண பழக்கவழக்கங்களின் மூலம் எய்ட்ஸ் பரவுவதாக இருந்தால், உங்களையும் எய்ட்ஸ் பாதித்திருக்க வேண்டும்.

ஆனால் அப்படி இல்லையே...

**குழந்தை பிறப்பைத் தடுப்போம்
எய்ட்ஸ் வந்தோரைக் காப்போம்**



மேலும் விவரங்களுக்கு அணுக வேண்டிய முகவரி:
தமிழ்நாடு எய்ட்ஸ் கட்டுப்பாட்டு அமைப்பு
417, பாந்தியன் ரோடு, சென்னை - 600 008.
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Magazine of the Government of Tamil Nadu
Thiruvalluvar Year 2029
Margazhi - Thai - Masi
January - February 1999

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Untouchability is a crime against humanity

- Mahatma Gandhi

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THIS GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO ACCELERATE THE RATE OF GROWTH OF THE STATE'S ECONOMY, UPHOLD DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS, PROTECT AND NURTURE THE WELFARE OF THE SOCIETY AND TO ACT AS THE GUARDIAN OF THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE POOR

Honourable Members of the Legislative Assembly,

I have great pleasure in addressing you at the commencement of the seventh session of the Eleventh Legislative Assembly. I extend my warm greetings to all of you. I hope that in 1999, Tamil Nadu will achieve further

economic growth and improvement in the standard of living of its citizens.

2. At a time when the aspirations of the people are rising and the obligations of the State are becoming more

onerous, increased resource transfer from the Central Government to the State has become imperative. The Eleventh Finance Commission, which was constituted last year, will be submitting its report before the end of the year 1999. Under the Tenth Finance Commission recommendations, states like Tamil Nadu, which are known for their prudent financial management, had received less financial assistance from the Central Government rather than being rewarded for prudence. We hope that the Eleventh Finance Commission will give due importance to this aspect and recommend larger resource transfers.

3. While upholding the country's unity, integrity, secularism and social harmony, this Government continues to strive for greater autonomy for the States, making the official languages of all States the official languages of the Union, and as a first step making Tamil as an official language of the Union and for a constitutional amendment to vest with the States the power to decide the policy of reservation for ensuring social justice. Though not much progress could be achieved on this, this Government will continue to press the Central Government for necessary legislative and executive action.

4. The Honourable Members are aware of the determined and sustained efforts made by this Government to effectively maintain law and order in this State. The steps taken in this direction have yielded results and this Government believes that with the wholehearted support of the people, the State would continue to enjoy peace and communal harmony.

5. There have been caste clashes for a long time in the

history of Tamil Nadu. This Government has taken a number of measures to identify the underlying reasons for caste clashes and to find long-term solutions to reduce the occurrence of such incidents in future. All Party meetings were held on 22.10.1998 and 26.10.1998 to deliberate on ways to avert caste clashes. On the basis of the consensus that emerged from these meetings, policy decisions have been taken and the Government is taking further action. The Government has also instructed the District Administration not to grant permission for processions, rallies, meetings etc., which are likely to disturb communal and social harmony and incite violence. They have been asked to prevent printing/publishing/pasting of posters/wall-writings by caste/communal organisations which are likely to incite violence. 'Peace Committees' have been constituted at village level. These committees will be useful in resolving the differences at the grass-root level and will act as important institutions for conflict resolution in the years to come.

6. The rainfall this year in the State was quite satisfactory. However, a few districts had floods due to excess rainfall and had suffered flood damages. Loss of lives and property was minimised considerably due to timely action by Government agencies. The Government has sanctioned about Rs.33 crores for providing relief to the affected persons and for restoration of damaged roads, bunds etc.

7. This Government is deeply concerned over the steep rise in the prices of essential commodities required by the people for day-to-day consumption. Price levels of essential commodities are determined by the general economic policies of the country as a whole and this problem of rising prices can

be solved only by the Central Government. By increasing the supply in the market by release of essential commodities procured by the State agencies, it is possible to influence the prices to a limited extent only. Following the increase in prices of essential commodities in the last few months, the Central Government had increased the price of rice, wheat, sugar, cooking gas and urea recently. In pursuance of its commitment and concern for the poor and the middle class, this Government has decided not to pass on the increase in the issue price of rice announced by the Central Government to the consumers, even though it would entail an additional expenditure of Rs.160 crores.

8. As announced in the last year's Governor's address, the task of issuing new family cards has been completed and 142 lakh families have received the new cards. Distribution of essential commodities under the new cards has also commenced. In order to build up adequate stock of rice to meet the requirement of the Public Distribution System, Government has introduced monopoly procurement in the Cauvery delta region for the current Samba season. The farmers in this region are being given an incentive of Rs.50 per quintal over the minimum support price fixed by the Central Government.

9. This Government has continued to maintain its record of achieving the State Plan outlay. During 1997-98, the approved outlay of Rs.4010 crores was fully achieved. The approved outlay of Rs.4500 crores for the year 1998-99 is also expected to be achieved. The Government will endeavour to step up the Plan outlay substantially next year.

The Tamil Nadu Institute of Information Technology has been set up to provide high quality trained manpower to the industry. The State Government is also developing a world class Software Development Park at Taramani in Chennai at a cost of Rs.320 crores.

12. In order to provide easy access to computers and Internet, a joint venture company will be set up with 'World Tel', an organisation based in England, and for the first time in India, 1,500 Community Internet Centres would be set up all over the State in the coming year, and a further 12,000 such Internet centres will be set up in the next three years. When all these centres become operational, they will create direct and indirect employment opportunities for about 1,50,000 persons throughout the State. It has been decided as a policy that the ultimate goal shall be to ensure that all students passing out of the schools will be computer literate. This goal will be achieved within the next five years. The international conference 'Tamil Net 99' was held in Chennai on February 7th and 8th to standardise the coding of Tamil scripts for computers and to standardise Tamil key boards and consensus decisions have been arrived at. Provision of standardised Tamil software will help to provide access to computers and Internet to persons who do not know English.

13. Development of industrial sector is vital for the economic growth of the State. The transparent and industry-friendly policies of the State have helped attract major investments to the State from well known multinational companies. It is a matter of pride and satisfaction that

10. Improvement of the irrigation systems is essential for agricultural development necessary for enhancing the production of foodgrains essential for the State. Desilting of the irrigation channels in the Cauvery Delta and the tanks in various districts has enabled irrigation water to reach the tailends and has also effectively moderated the effect of heavy rains this year. The Government will make an increased allocation for desilting the irrigation channels next year. Thanks to widespread rains in the State in the last season and consequent increased availability of water for irrigation, it is expected that about 98 lakh tonnes of food grains will be harvested this year. With a view to increasing the agricultural output in the State and the agricultural income of dry-land farmers, the Government has decided to launch a programme of wasteland development next year to cover over 10,000 hectares. This Government will also launch a programme of accelerated horticulture development by providing necessary infrastructure like good roads, cold storage and grading facilities. These measures will benefit the farmers and consumers by enhancing the production of vegetables and fruits.

11. The Government has decided to accord high priority for Information Technology due to its potential for accelerating the economic growth of the State, providing increased employment opportunities, and enhancing the efficiency of Government agencies and the quality of their service to the people. An Information Technology Task Force has been set up under the chairmanship of the Honourable Chief Minister to monitor the progress of this sector and render advice. Tamil Nadu is the first State to announce a new policy for the development of Information and Communication Technology.

Tamil Nadu has moved up to the second position among the States in the country in terms of investments attracted till October '98 as compared to the fifth position it held in April, 1996. Investments amounting to Rs.48,497 crores have been committed in the State during the last 32 months. This year, the automobile factories of Hyundai and Mitsubishi have commenced production. Ford Motor company's automobile factory will commence its production by October, 1999.

14. In its efforts to provide basic infrastructure for industrial development, this Government is undertaking formation of Industrial parks and satellite towns in different parts of the State, both through public sector agencies like SIPCOT and TACID as well as through joint venture efforts with private entrepreneurs. A Petrochemical industrial park at Ennore, a hi-tech industrial park at Nanguneri, an auto ancillary park near Singaperumalkoil and a floriculture infrastructure park at Hosur are being promoted by TIDCO in the joint-sector. These facilities are expected to give a fillip to the industrial growth in the State. The recent visit of the Honourable Chief Minister to Singapore and Malaysia has not only strengthened the cultural relations between us and these countries, but has also generated considerable interest among the entrepreneurs there for investment in infrastructure and industries in Tamil Nadu.

15. Increased power generation is essential for the development of industry, commerce and agriculture. Government has succeeded in attracting large private investments in the power sector in the State and the State has

undertaken a number of power projects. This year, the first private sector power project with a capacity of 196 MW has been commissioned at Basin Bridge, Chennai. Construction works on projects with a capacity of nearly 2000 MW is due to commence within the next few months. First phase electricity generation from this will commence by the year 2000-2001. Finalisation and award of contracts for the 500 MW Integrated Lignite Mining cum Power Generation project at Jayamkondam and the 2000 MW LNG based power project at Ennore through international competitive bidding in a transparent manner has received international acclaim and has enhanced the reputation and the confidence in the Tamil Nadu Government among investors.

16. This Government is taking steps to improve the capacity of the Urban Local bodies for better delivery of basic services to the public. A comprehensive legislation to govern all urban local bodies in the State was enacted by this House in its last session. This Government is paying special attention to institutional improvement and human resources development in the local bodies. It has sought funds from the World Bank for a second Tamil Nadu Urban Development Project. This project is now in an advanced stage of finalisation and will provide a sizeable line of credit for urban infrastructure and institutional development in the urban sector.

17. Apart from being the State Capital, Chennai serves as a prominent commercial hub. In view of this, Government has been implementing various schemes for the development of Chennai Metropolitan Area. The work on the Second phase of Mass Rapid Transit System Project is progressing rapidly

19. In the 1997-98 budget, this Government launched two people centred programmes, viz., "Namakku Naame Thittam" and "Anna Marumalarchi Thittam". So far, 424 Village Panchayats have been covered under "Anna Marumalarchi Thittam" and 55086 rural infrastructure works for Rs.357.79 crores have been taken up. The demand driven and participatory "Namakku Naame Thittam" has evinced good response from the people. In last two years, 9171 works for Rs.42.39 crores were taken up under "Namakku Naame Thittam".

20. As announced in the last Budget, schemes to provide adequate water to the 5,398 rural habitations getting less than 10 lpcd water have been taken up and are under implementation. 6,300 more rural habitations will be taken up for full coverage during 1999-2000. Hitherto, house-to-house water-supply connections were being provided only in the urban areas. This Government has taken a decision to extend this facility to the rural areas also. The Government has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with HUDCO for a loan assistance of Rs. 500 crores over a period of five years for improving the water supply in the urban local bodies. The Government of Tamil Nadu is also availing of loan assistance from the Austrian Government to set up desalination plants at Chennai and Thoothukkudi.

21. A well laid out network of roads is a precondition for the rapid economic development of a State. Projects at a cost of Rs.702 crores have been sanctioned by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development from the Rural

66 *In order to provide easy access to computers and Internet, a joint venture company will be set up with 'World Tel', an organisation based in England, and for the first time in India, 1,500 Community Internet Centres would be set up all over the State in the coming year, and a further 12,000 such Internet Centres will be set up in the next three years.* 99

and when completed would help in easing the traffic problems of the city. Widening and strengthening of the major radial roads from Chennai will commence before the end of this year. Construction of 10 mini-flyovers at important traffic intersections in Chennai for reducing traffic congestion has already started and will be completed in the next 15 months. The work on the Flood Control and Drainage Project for the Metropolitan Area will commence soon in Coovum, Adayar, Buckingham canal and Otteri Nullah. Construction of the mofussil bus terminal at Koyambedu will commence within the next three months.

18. The Government accords special attention to rural development, poverty alleviation and the welfare of the poor. In pursuance of these objectives, this Government has devolved adequate powers and finances to the three tiers of Panchayat institutions. While continuing the devolution of powers to these institutions, the Committee which was constituted by the Government to recommend transfer of more powers to these institutions has submitted its report on 11th January 1999. The Government will take decisions on these recommendations soon.

Infrastructure Development Fund. Out of 2661 works taken up till now, 1335 works have been completed. The construction work has commenced for 104 bridges, undertaken with loan assistance from HUDCO and NABARD at a cost of Rs.360 crores. The World Bank assisted Road Sector Project will commence next year. Under this project, 750 KM length of roads will be improved.

22. For the first time in India, this Government is setting up Samathuvapurams for achieving the noble objective of creating a casteless society. Here, people of all Communities live together in peace, friendship and harmony sharing common facilities like drinking water, electricity, community hall etc. Sixteen such Samathuvapurams have been established so far and 83 more are being set up. This scheme will continue to be implemented with renewed vigour.

23. The Government, besides earmarking higher outlays each year to promote all-round development of the Adi-Dravidars and the Scheduled Tribes has also been formulating and implementing innovative schemes for them. As education holds the key for the development of any section of the Society, Government has taken effective steps to improve the quality of education provided in the Adi-Dravidar and Tribal Welfare schools.

24. With the same humanitarian policy under which the practice of hand pulled rickshaws had been abolished and replaced with cycle rickshaws, this Government has decided to introduce a Bill in this session for abolishing the demeaning practice of manual scavenging.

25. The Government is examining the report of Kolappan Committee on fixing of minimum wages for farm labourers. The decisions taken by the Government will be announced later in this session.

26. In addition to opening 300 new primary schools in the year 1998-99, primary schools have also been opened in Samathuvapuram villages. By the year 2000, all habitations with a population over 300 will have access to an easily accessible primary school within a distance of one kilometre. Steps to create infrastructure for these schools have also been accelerated. Government has also distributed free textbooks to all students of first to fifth standards with the object of achieving the goal of universal primary education. The Tamil Nadu Compulsory Primary Education Act has also been brought into effect from this academic year to ensure universal enrolment of children of school-going age. From this academic year, 15 percent reservation is being provided for rural students in all professional colleges. This will give opportunity to students from rural areas to get professional education and help them to progress in life.

27. The State Government is keen to achieve the goal of "Health for All" by 2000 AD. In the last three years, the Government has sanctioned construction of permanent buildings for 652 Primary Health Centres. With this, all Primary Health Centres in the State would function in permanent buildings. Further, this Government is committed to ensure that medical institutions and hospitals are adequately equipped and properly maintained to give better health care. Chennai Medical College, one of the oldest Medical Colleges in India, has been granted

30. This Government has taken appropriate decisions on the recommendations of the Justice Ramanujam Committee on procedural reforms and measures for providing honest, transparent and responsive administration and for preventing corruption in administration and is implementing them. This report and decisions of the Government on the recommendations will be placed in the Assembly in the current session.

31. Aware of the key role of Government employees, teachers, policemen and employees of local bodies in discharging its developmental and regulatory responsibilities, this Government has been sympathetic to their aspirations. Tamil Nadu was the first among the Southern States to extend the central pay scales to its employees and pensioners, that too with effect from 1.1.1996 despite severe financial stringency. Streamlining the recruitment procedures and recruitment on the basis of seniority of registration in employment exchanges have to a large extent eliminated complaints regarding recruitment to Government Service.

32. The sluggish economy coupled with rising Government expenditure has had an adverse impact on the resources of the State. Economy, efficiency and prudent financial management would continue to be the watchwords of the Government. Schemes that have outlived their utility will be weeded out and beneficial schemes and programmes will be further improved and implemented with emphasis on efficiency. The administrative machinery will be geared up to ensure time bound implementation of the plans and programmes of the

the status of a Deemed University. The new Medical College at Tiruchirappalli has started functioning now. The new Medical College at Thoothukkudi will start functioning from the next academic year.

28. The House is aware of the various measures taken by the Government for the revival and development of the Handloom Industry. The 20% rebate on the sale of handloom fabrics was extended throughout the year. In order to liquidate accumulated stocks of the previous years, 30% rebate was granted in the current year upto October 1998. By availing this special rebate, the Primary Weavers Cooperative Societies and Cooptex were able to sell goods worth Rs.202 crores. Besides this, considering the heavy accumulation of unsold lungis, the Government has granted 30% special rebate on these upto 31.3.1999.

29. The Tamil Nadu Women's Development Project is being implemented in 21 districts. 2,80,556 rural women having membership in 14,374 self help groups are getting assistance under Mahalir Thittam as on first January 1999. Total savings from these groups are about Rs.19 crores. This is a growing pool of funds from which the members are getting easy access to credit for urgent and other needs and they are also repaying the loans with interest. In the coming year, the remaining seven districts will also be brought under this project. Further, the Government has started a savings linked micro credit scheme for women in urban areas, as a pilot scheme to be implemented through urban cooperative banks. To begin with, this scheme has been launched in Chennai. It will be extended to other urban areas also.

In the 1997-98 budget, this Government launched two people centred programmes, viz., "Namakku Naame Thittam" and "Anna Marumalarchi Thittam". So far, 424 Village Panchayats have been covered under "Anna Marumalarchi Thittam" and 55086 rural infrastructure works for Rs. 357.79 crores have been taken up. The demand driven and participatory "Namakku Naame Thittam" has evinced good response from the people. In last two years, 9171 works for Rs.42.39 crores were taken up under "Namakku Naame Thittam".

Government.

33. I have placed before you the achievements of the Government, its policies and programmes. This Government is determined to accelerate the rate of growth of the State's economy, uphold democratic rights, protect and nurture the welfare of the society and to act as the guardian of the aspirations of the poor. I conclude my address with the hope that your deliberations in this House will help the Government in achieving its policy objectives.

- Address by Her Excellency Justice Selvi M. Fathima Beevi to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 17.2.1999.

CHIEF MINISTER IN SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi began his first visit to Singapore and boarded flight at 11.20 p.m. on 3rd January 1999 at the Meenambakkam Airport, Chennai. He had been invited by the Singapore's Second Minister for Trade and Industry, Brig. Gen. George Yeo to strengthen the ties and economic relations existing between Tamil Nadu and Singapore.

On his arrival at the Singapore Airport,



the Chief Minister was given a rousing welcome by representatives of the various Cultural and Trade Industrial Organisations. Speaking to a representative of 'Tamil Murasu' the Chief Minister described his visit as an opportunity to enhance industrial linkages and reinforce

cultural ties between Singapore and Tamil Nadu.

Thiru Davinder Singh, Chairman of the India Business Group of the Singapore Trade Development Board, called on the Chief Minister at the Mandarin Hotel on 4.1.1999. The Indian Ambassador at Singapore Thiru Prem Singh, Hon'ble Minister for Health Thiru Arcot N. Veerasamy, Secretary Industries Department Thiru M.S. Srinivasan

were also present during the meeting. The Chief Minister explained to Thiru Davinder Singh the Industrial policy of Tamil Nadu and the steps taken to attract foreign investments, by

which the State had been successful in its endeavour.

Later in the evening, the Chief Minister met Thiru Mah Bow Tan, the Singapore Minister for Communications and held talks. He described in detail the various steps taken by the Government on Information

Technology front and conveyed his confidence that the advancement achieved by Singapore in the IT field would help Tamil Nadu to a greater extent in its efforts to implement the IT schemes in Tamil

Nadu. Pointing out the vast potential of Software professionals in India Thiru. Mah Bow Tan expressed the willingness of the Singapore Government to join hands with Indians and in particular South Indians in the Information Technology.

The Chief Minister later held talks with the Deputy Group President of the Port of Singapore Authority, Thiru Gaon Kok Loon. The expansion of the Chennai and Tuticorin ports are underway with technical assistance of Singapore Port Authority. The projects discussed include the Sethusamudram



project, Colachel port etc.

In an interview to the Singapore Radio, the Chief Minister said efforts were on to establish community internet in thousand places with the help of 'World Tel'.

The Chief Minister participated in various functions on 5.1.1999. At a lunch hosted by Brig. Gen. George Yeo, the Chief Minister discussed industrial growth in Tamil Nadu and the role to be played by Singapore to promote the industrial climate in the State.

Later in the evening the Chief Minister called on the Prime Minister of Singapore Thiru Goh Chok Tong. Thiru M.S. Srinivasan, the Secretary for Industries was also present during the 45 minute courtesy call.



Speaking to the media on his talks with Singapore Prime Minister, the Chief Minister said, they discussed about the economic policy of India, politics in general and the miserable plight of job seekers who were systematically duped by bogus agents and middle men with false offers of employment in Singapore. The Prime Minister said suitable warning and advise would be issued to those involved. The Chief Minister said the Tamil Nadu Government would, on its own initiative take legal measures to curb this menace and would also take up this issue with the Government of India for appropriate action. He said it was a courtesy call and the objective of his visit was to reinforce the cultural bonds between India, in particular Tamil Nadu, and Singapore besides broadly exploring the scope for industrial and trade linkages. The Chief Minister also said, he had suggested

the Prime Minister that Singapore could also participate in the joint venture partner in the 'Petro Chemical Park' of the Tamil Nadu Government - a Rupees Thousand crore project for which the Master Plan had been drafted.

The Chief Minister informed the media that the Prime Minister had said the project

could be discussed further when he had suggested the participation of Singapore in S-Bit Habitat Soft Bonded Information Technology Project.

The Chief Minister later delivered a speech in English at the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI).

The Chief Minister Kalaingar held discussions with the steering committee of the India Business group of the Singapore Trade Development Board on 6.11.1999. The main subjects that came under discussions were power generation, Information Technology, including computer education and housing. The Chief Minister



assured the entrepreneurs that the Government of Tamil Nadu would extend all its support to the foreign investors.

Later in the evening, the Chief Minister enthralled the audience with his literary speech at a public meeting organised by Singapore Tamil Organisations at a city stadium. The speech was enthusiastically received by the Tamils.



Completing his three day visit, the Chief Minister left Singapore for Malaysia on 7.1.1999. He was warmly received by a large number of Tamils, and Datto Seri S. Samy Vellu, the Malayisan Minister of Works and the Indian High Commissioner at Kuala Lumpur Thiru. Sahai at the Kuala Lumpur Airport. Speaking to the media at the airport, the Chief Minister said that this was his second trip to Malaysia and the visit was mainly to strengthen the cultural links and the economic cooperation between Tamil Nadu and Malaysia.

The Chief Minister called on the Malaysian Minister for International Trade and Industry, Ms. Rafidah Aziz at her office and held discussions on inviting invest mepts from Malaysia, Tamil Nadu's infrastru -



ctural needs of power generation, Information Technology and Computer Studies.

Later the Chief Minister attended a dinner hosted by the Malaysia's Works Minister Dato Seri. S. Samy

Vellu. Welcoming the Chief Minister, the Malaysian Minister said, he considered the Chief Minister's visit to Malaysia as a renewal of the cultural ties existing between Tamil Nadu and Malaysia.

In his thanks giving address, the Chief Minister asking him to excuse stated that his visit was not to renew the ties between Tamil Nadu and Malaysia. Renewal was needed only when the relations were strained. The relations had not been strained. He had come to Malaysia to strengthen the ties between Tamil Nadu and Malaysia. He also

requested the assembled body to extend their helping hand in his efforts to the industrialisation of Tamil Nadu.

The Chief Minister called on the Minister for Works Dato Seri. S. Samy Vellu at his Office on 8.1.99 and held dialogues with him and other higher officials for more than an hour. The main project which came under discussion was the construction of a superhighway connecting the Chennai International Airport and the Port of Chennai.

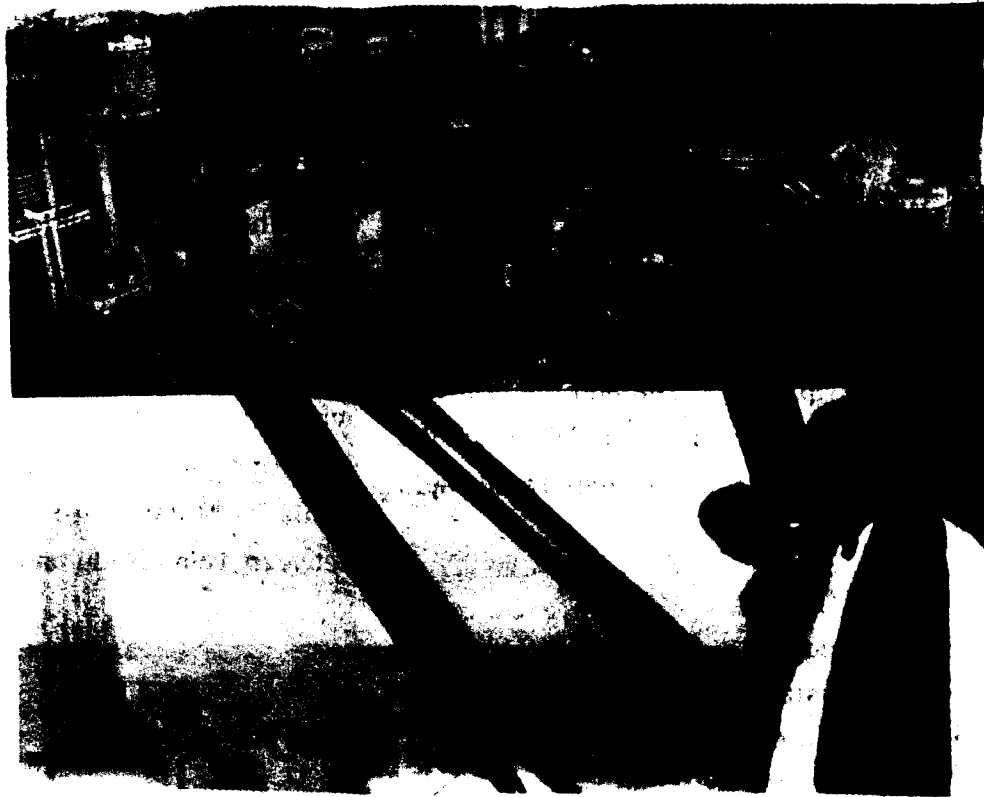
In the evening the Chief Minister addressed a public meeting organised by Dato Seri. S. Samy Vellu and Malaysians of Indian origin at the Putra World Trade Centre auditorium. The emotionally charged speech of the Chief Minister was heard with

rapt attention and appreciation. The auditorium overflowed with teeming people with hundreds having to stand outside the venue to hear the speech.

Later around 8.30 p.m. the Chief Minister spoke at a meeting with the Malaysian businessmen.

The Chief Minister called on the Prime Minister of Malaysia Dr. Mahathir Mohamed at his office on 9.1.1999. The meeting lasted for 35 minutes. The Prime Minister was apprised of the two projects viz. the Colachel Minor Port development and the Palar ground water scheme. The Chief Minister presented a copy of the techno - economic feasibility report on the Colachel Port.

Speaking to media, later, the Chief Minister said the Prime Minister had been apprised of how Collaboration in the project could give a boost to bilateral relationship.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi after a week long visit to Singapore and Malaysia returned to Chennai by 11.30 p.m. on 9.1.1999. He was warmly received by Hon'ble Ministers, Members of the Parliament, Members of the Legislative Assembly and Public in large number at the Chennai Meenambakkam Airport.

★ ★ ★

Our vision is to make our State more and more attractive to investors through our investor - friendly and transparent decision - making process.

The cultural ties between Singapore and India and Tamil Nadu in particular have been in existence for a very long time. A large number of my Tamil Brethren have become Singaporeans long back and settled here. Though I have been in Public life for more than 6 decades now, I have not visited Singapore so far. A visit to Singapore has

You are a dynamic body closely watching the transformation of the Indian economy. You are well aware of the economic progress in India in general and in Tamil Nadu in particular. Since the liberalisation of Indian economy in 1991, the role and responsibility for the nation's development have shifted from the Central Government to the States.

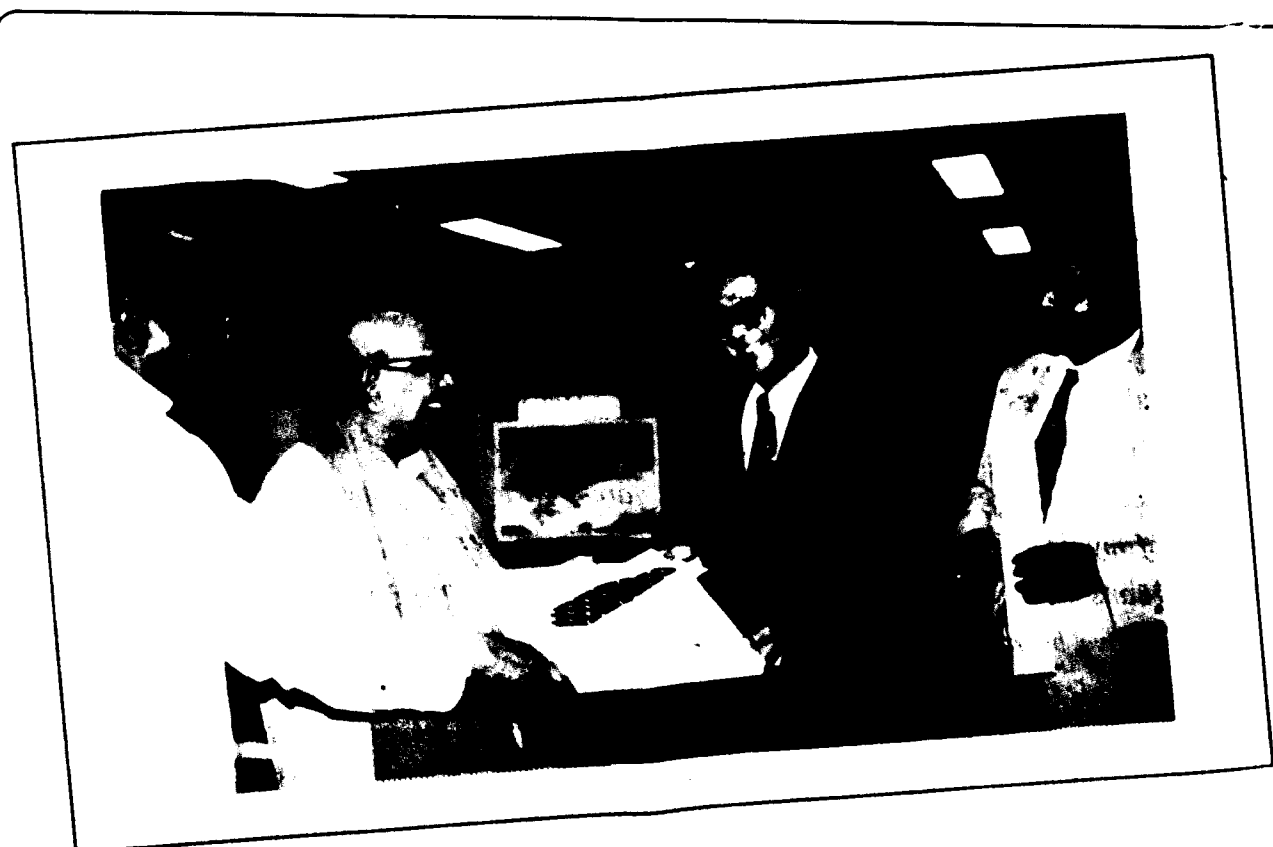


been my long - felt dream. Only now, the dream is fulfilled. I am very happy to meet you all here, as a part of my first visit to Singapore.

It gives me great pleasure to participate at this function today, organised by the SICCI. At the outset, I extend my warm greetings and sincere wishes to you all for the New Year.

The States are emerging as key-players in charge of their own destiny. In fact, even the Founding Fathers of our Constitution had foreseen a prime role for the States in industrial and economic development. The situation in the last five decades had been different. But, I am confident that in the new

- Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi at the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) on 5.1.1999.



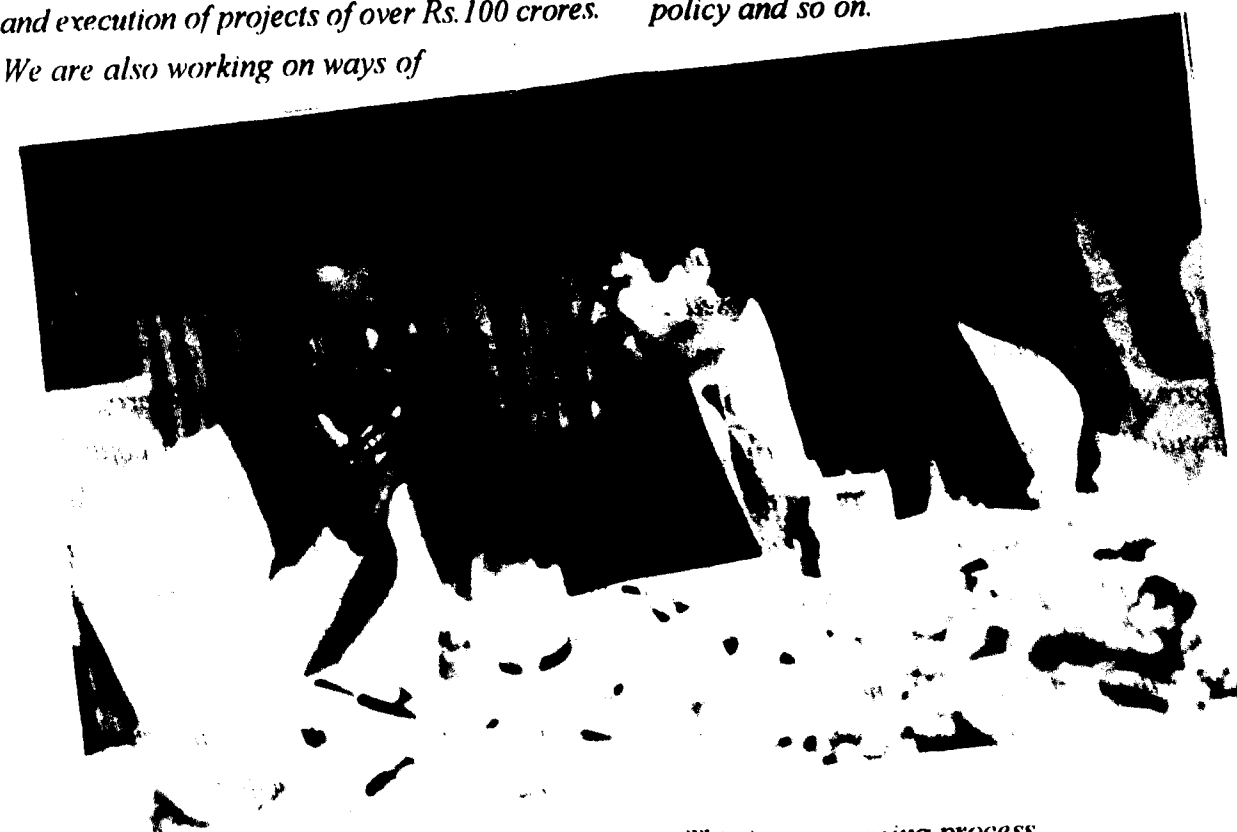
millennium, the States will be leading the process of economic growth and development in the country.

Traditionally, Tamil Nadu has followed a progressive policy of industrial development. This is reflected in the maturity and quality of the industrial base existing in the State. Our State was one of the first to understand the benefits of industrialisation in overall development, employment, poverty removal and social justice. Tamil Nadu has vast natural and human resources. It has become a market - leader in many industrial sectors. Auto and auto-ancillary, textile industry, leather industry are examples. These sectors account for sizeable portion of the national output and exports. However, the momentum in the initial decades was not maintained later for various

reasons. The State was lagging behind in the 80s and early 90s. This problem is now being effectively addressed. The State is again humming with industrial activity. After our return to power in 1996, we have taken a number of effective steps to restore Tamil Nadu to its previous glory. The impact of our efforts is already visible. The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, which is an independent body in Mumbai, monitors the investment flows into the various States periodically. According to their figures, Tamil Nadu was in the 5th position among the States, in investment proposals into industry, in May 1996. It has gone up to the second position in November, 1998, next only to Maharashtra. We are not content with this. We have taken a number of initiatives. We are working hard to reach the top slot.

With a view to providing land with the infrastructure facilities to the investors, we are creating a number of self-contained industrial parks. These parks are spread in various parts of the State. This will enable the promoters to get off the ground without delay. Another area, where we have focused our attention, is cutting the red-tape. The Industrial Township Development Authority Act was enacted by us last year. It provides for all the clearances directly from the Authority by all the industries coming up in the Townships. We have also created a single window mechanism under my chairmanship. This will monitor the clearances and execution of projects of over Rs.100 crores. We are also working on ways of

Development Corporation Limited (TIDCO), State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited SIPCOT, Tamil Nadu Small Industries Development Corporation Limited (SIDCO), etc. They provide escort services as well as financial assistance to investors. Moreover, we have indentified certain sectors as thrust - areas. We have formulated sector-specific policies, to address the problems in these areas and try and help the investors. Some of these policies, we have formulated during the past two years are Information Technology (IT) policy, Floriculture policy, Co-generation policy and so on.



This is an on-going process.

reducing the danger of the Inspector Raj, without compromising the safety-standards.

In addition to the systematic changes being carried out, we have industry promotion Agencies like Tamil Nadu Industrial

While all these are important, the single most effective incentive for investors is good quality infrastructure. As such, Tamil Nadu ranks second at All-India level in terms of

adequacy and quality of infrastructure. This is as per a recent study done by the National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER). However, we are not resting on our laurels. We are investing heavily into the various components of infrastructure. They are power, roads and port facilities. In fact, over 50% of the investment taking place in our States is towards infrastructure. More than 50% of this is in the power sector. We are taking effective steps to augment power generation capacity, both in the short run and in the long run. Against the present installed capacity of 7000 MW, we have proposed additional capacity to the tune of over 12000 MW in the next seven years. The estimated cost is nearly 400 Billion Rupees. We realise that it would be beyond the capacity of the State's finances to meet the increasing demand. Therefore, we are actively encouraging the participation of private sector in this. We have proposed 20 short gestation power projects. 6 of them are progressing well based on the fuel-linkage provided by the Government of India. A number of other private sector projects are also progressing fast. We have vast lignite reserves in our State. Therefore, we have proposed generation of Lignite-based power of 1500 MW within the next 5 years. The work has been awarded to a private sector Company. The selection was made on the basis of International Competitive Bidding (ICB). The work on this project has already started. Recently we have selected the successful bidder for generation of 2000 MW of power near Chennai. This project is based on imported Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG). Here again selection has been made

through a transparent process of ICB. The work of erection of transmission lines from new projects and the modernisation of the old thermal power stations is being offered to the private sector. With all these measures underway I can assure you that the investors will have no worry about, power shortage in the State in the future.

The second important component of infrastructure, namely roads, involves large investments for improvement and upgradation. Our investment in this sector during this 2 year period is more than three times the corresponding investment 4 years ago. Also, we have taken the initiative of sharing the cost on 50 : 50 basis with the railways for conversion of meter gauge railway lines in our State into broad gauge. This conversion will help quicker movement of goods and cargo. The Mass Rapid Transport System Phase II, at Chennai, is being implemented at an estimated cost of Rs.750 crores. This is also progressing very fast. The State Government contributes two-thirds of the cost. The project is likely to be completed by March 2002. We have already started the design of Phase - III in consultation with the railways on the same basis.

In this age of globalisation, the seaports are a major infrastructure component. Their role is very important. Tamil Nadu has two major ports at Chennai and Tuticorin. I am aware that the Port of Singapore Authority, which is rated among the best in the world, is associated with both Chennai and Tuticorin ports in their operations and expansion. We have taken steps

for development of the minor ports at Cuddalore and Kolachel. Bids have already been received for Cuddalore port. Feasibility Report is getting ready for Kolachel. A new major port is coming up at Ennore. We are setting up our LNG Terminal and a huge Petrochemical Park at Ennore. We are working actively on setting up a new International Airport at Chennai. This will be in addition to the one already existing.

In the sunrise sector of Information Technology, Tamil Nadu has taken a number of initiatives. The mainframe capacity available at Chennai is the largest in the whole country. We produce annually 23 Thousand engineers. Among them over 10,000 engineers are from IT and related disciplines. In fact, our contribution to the engineering pool is 14% at the national level as against a population of only 6.4%. The National Association of Software and Services Companies, NASSCOM, in its recent study of Software destinations in India has ranked Chennai No.1. for setting up of IT companies. We have a forward-looking and pro-active IT policy. This has been received very well by the IT Industry. We are setting up the largest IT Park in the country with state-of-the art facilities near Chennai. We have recently set up the Tamil Nadu Institute of Information Technology (TANITEC) with industry collaboration to meet the growing demand of the IT Industry. We are working in collaboration with Worldtel headed by Dr. Sam Pitroda for setting up over 1000 Internet Community Centres all over the State. This will bring

internet within the close reach of the entire population. We have also decided to make IT an integral part of the curriculum at school level from the next academic year. We are targeting to become 100% computer -literate within the next 10 years.

I am glad to learn that the industrial and business relationship between Singapore and Tamil Nadu is registering rapid progress. I am informed that among all Indian States, the highest number of joint Ventures of Singapore investors is in Tamil Nadu. I request the Singapore - Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry to advise more and more business people and project promoters here to come and participate in our industrialisation efforts in Tamil Nadu.

Summing up, I wish to reiterate that Tamil Nadu is today rapidly emerging as one of the most-favoured destinations of investors from abroad as well as from other States of India. Our vision is to make our State more and more attractive to investors, through our investor - friendly and transparent decision - making process and governance. Given our pride of place in higher education at the national level, we are determined to make Tamil Nadu, the most computer -literate State in India as early as possible. I want to assure you that we will extend our fullest assistance to bring your investments. We will always be with you to enable you to succeed.

Messages

International Conference & Seminar on the use of Tamil in Information Technology

The International Conference and Seminar on Tamil in Information Technology - "Tamil Net 99" - at Chennai, will play a useful role in promoting the use of Tamil on computers in many parts of the world.

I extend my warm greetings to the distinguished participants and organisers and wish the deliberations every success.

Thiru K.R. Narayanan,
His Excellency the President of India



I am happy to learn that the Government of Tamil Nadu is organising an International Conference and Seminar on Tamil in Information Technology, captioned 'Tamil Net 99', at Chennai on 7-8 February, 1999.

The revolution in information technology in this century has posed a major challenge to the oriental languages as well as presented them with an unprecedented opportunity. These languages, structured according to precise norms of grammar and syntax, are capable of being adapted to computer with the minimum effort. Tamil, as one of India's most ancient, mature and rich languages, can surely lead the way in computer adaptability. This will enable people conversant in Tamil language to freely use computers and benefit from the ever escalating information technology.

I am glad that the Government of Tamil Nadu has taken a very thoughtful step in the systematic evolution of Tamil for computer

usage aimed at development of internationally acceptable standards.

I wish the effort every success.

Thiru. Krishan Kant,
His Excellency the Vice-President of India



I am pleased to know that an International Conference and Seminar on Tamil in Information Technology, "Tamil Net 99", is being organised in Chennai on February 7-8, 1999. I have said that IT is India's Tomorrow. However, to ensure that all Indians are able to use its many benefits, there is an urgent need to increase local language content in information technology. Tamil is a classical language, whose richness is enhanced manifold by its ability to adapt itself to the challenges of the modern era. Tamil Nadu has produced a large number of highly successful Information Technology professionals and entrepreneurs, who are today operating both in India and abroad.

It is very heartening to note that the Information Technology Department of the Government of Tamil Nadu has organised this seminar to take Information Technology for the common people by enabling Tamil to become a major player in the information revolution.

I send my best wishes to the seminar and all its participants.

Thiru A.B. Vajpayee,
The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India



Computer technology and the use of the Internet are growing at a fast pace these days.

In such a situation, it is important that there is a fuller involvement of the Tamil language.

It is with this objective that the Tamil Nadu Government has decided to hold the Tamil Net '99 World Conference in Chennai on the 7th and 8th February.

The views of experts from many countries on matters relating to computers and Internet will be discussed to fully explore ways in which the Tamil language can be best adopted. The needs for development of innovative software is also part of the agenda. All persons interested in the Tamil language around the world will benefit from the common coding standards to be adopted at the Conference.

Only then will Internet transform into TAMIL NET!

Only then will the common man, and people living even in villages be able to look upon the computer as a friend, an aide, and an instrument of learning.

This Conference is a landmark in the move to open the vistas for harnessing the effort so far, and blending it with that of the future.

This historical event has been arranged by the Tamil Nadu Government to provide the basis for revolutionary changes in the field of communications in the new millennium. Towards that end, all assistance will be rendered for new developments in the use of Tamil.

I extend my best wishes for fruitful and successful discussions between the esteemed delegations from abroad and the experts from Tamil Nadu, and for their sustained interaction for the greater use of Tamil in worldwide communications.

Thiru M. Karunanidhi,
The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu



From Palm-Leaf to the Computer-Screen

MURASOLI MARAN, M.P.

Chairman, Reception Committee of Tamil Net 99

This is the age of Information Revolution - more subtle, yet more explosive - which will shape our future and those who care about today's - and tomorrow's - society have no other go except to welcome it and run to the forefront to become part of it and to take advantage of it.

India missed the first Industrial Revolution; but if we miss the Information Revolution we will be forgotten by history and our ancient civilisation

All over the world there is a realisation that in the information society the two required languages are : English and Computer.

If that is the case we cannot take the fruits of that Revolution to the common man living in our villages and towns who knows only his mother tongue.

Can't we use Tamil?

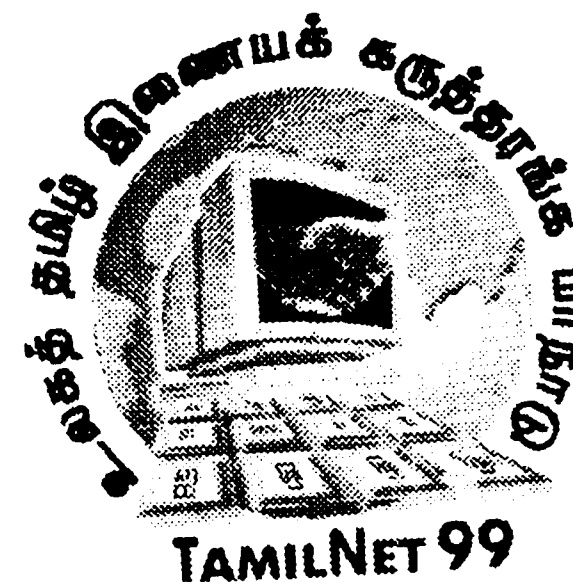


will continue to remain ancient, unable to keep step with the modern world.

Computer Technology is to the information age what mechanisation was to the industrial Revolution.

To this question the Tamils have answered "Yes" and have proved it also.

Tamil which is a classical language with an originality and a singularity of its own, and whose literatures and grammars written on the palm-



leaves that are still extant inspite of ravages of times, date back to thousands of years - is also a live modern language. Its unbroken continuity of existence right from its undoubted antiquity to its present modernity can be seen from the fact that it is used profusely in the computers also.

But as Tamil happens to be the official language in other countries and as Tamils live all over the world, many scholars have designed their own softwares without communication with one another.

They were engaged in these developments without being aware of the efforts of the C-DAC (the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing) under the Department of Electronics (Government of India).

Today there are about 350 softwares in Tamil. The immortal "Thirukkural", one of the masterpieces in Tamil literature and one of the noblest and purest expressions of human thought, composed about 20 centuries ago and preserved intact to this day through carvings on palm-leaves, is available in about 16 softwares. Likewise there are about 100 types of keyboard configurations.

Yes, it is a matter of pride. But the tragedy is that none has a uniform coding standard. As there is no common mutual compatibility among the 350 softwares. We can very well say that in the cyber highways and internet there are now 350 Tamil languages in use which is an euphemism for getting garbages.

In English ASCII has produced the uniform coding standard. That kind of international standard for Tamil is the urgent need of the hour if the Tamil used in the computers and internet is to be intelligible to all the fellow-Tamils.

Today, thanks to the efforts of the Government of Tamil Nadu, more than 100 delegates, including Tamil Scholars, Computer Specialists from India, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Mauritius, U.S.A., Canada and Europe are meeting to arrive at a consensus on the following issues:

- i) Standardisation of coding of Tamil Scripts,
- ii) Standardisation of Tamil Key Board layout,
- and iii) Use of Tamil in Multi-media, Internet and Computing.

This is a historic event for the Tamils and for the Tamil language because the valuable decisions taken in the Conference will make the Tamils living all over the world to feel really like living in a global village and their language preserved through the ages in palm leaves will find its due place in the computer screen and will become an active player in the Information Revolution.

Most importantly, it will pave the way for creating a Transparent Electronic Government, because in a democracy Government can be run meaningfully and successfully only in the people's language.



Bright Future for Thamizh in Information Technology

Dr. M. Anandakrishnan

Vice Chairman, Thamizh Nadu State Council For Higher Education

Many hundred computer scientists with sufficient knowledge of Thamizh living in India and abroad are engaged in a variety of tasks relating to use of Thamizh in Computers and Communications. The new generation of computer experts in India are showing considerable aptitude in developing innovative approaches for this purpose. School children, teachers, office workers, businessmen and product developers are showing considerable interest in using Thamizh in computers. CD-ROM based products incorporating Tamil, meant for education, games, entertainment, cultural interest, etc., are appearing in large numbers everyday. New business opportunities are increasing exponentially. The Government of Tamil Nadu has decided to achieve a high level of computer literacy which would necessarily include Thamizh based applications. Most of the Governmental forms and procedure in Thamizh will be accessible through internet and computers even in remote parts of the State.

During the last decade and a half Thamizh related computer activities have been steadily growing. Initially most of the efforts were devoted to design of Thamizh font faces by a large number of persons keeping in view their use in the popular software and hardware systems available at different points of time. They were meant for use in different operating systems particularly for word processing. Some were devoted to special purpose use such as teaching of Thamizh and simple games and puzzles.

With rapid growth of Internet and e-mail activities around the world and their increasing use in India during the last five years the efforts to incorporate Thamizh in them gained considerable momentum. Hundreds of Thamizh related web sites have appeared in recent years. Several well-known Thamizh Newspapers and Journals are available in the web. A large number of well-known Thamizh classical as well as modern literature are included in very many sites. Several Thamizh software are freely downloadable from the Internet.

Quite a few developers are engaged in producing purely Thamizh based applications for e-mail communication, web browsing, learning classical music, playing computer games, spell checking, Thamizh dictionary

and thesaurus, etc. In due course of time several new innovations and products will emerge as a result of rapid changes in Information Technology. Further advances will take place using Thamizh in text processing, information exchange, e-mail communication, computer aided instruction, computer aided language learning etc. Multimedia products will become prolific. There will be significant changes and improvements in the use of Thamizh in the publishing industry.

A challenging area for new initiatives will be on the preparation and processing of large data bases in Thamizh including sorting, indexing and retrieving. Other important areas for future efforts will include natural language processing, machine aided translation, speech recognition, and building library archives. These developments signify a bright future for the use of Thamizh in Information Technology.

However all the energy and effort devoted to these tasks will produce maximum benefit only if there is a minimum set of standards for the input systems such as keyboards and the encoding system for the Thamizh Characters and fonts and symbols. The International Conference, Tamil Net 99, to be held in Chennai on 7 and 8 February 1999, will help to seek the consensus on such standards.



*Tamil Net
will attain a
place of
prominence in the
information
superhighway*

- Her Excellency the Governor Justice Selvi. M. Fathima Beevi at the
inaugural session of the International Conference and Seminar,

'TAMIL NET '99' at Chennai on 7.2.1999

*I have great pleasure
in participating in the
Inaugural Session of the
International Conference
and Seminar on the use of
Tamil in Information
Technology, hosted by the
State level Task Force of the
Government of Tamil Nadu
on Information Technology.
I welcome the Ministers and
high dignitaries from abroad
and the International experts
and delegates to this
conference, which will set on
course the process of making*

*Tamil an integral part of
Information superhighway.*

*Information Technology
can be used as a vehicle for
all round development in
creation of new jobs and in
making access to information
amazingly easy. Today's
Internet links about 170
countries in the world, links
people who speak many
different languages on a 24
hour basis. Internet has
come a long way since the
day it first went online in
1969, initially conceived in*

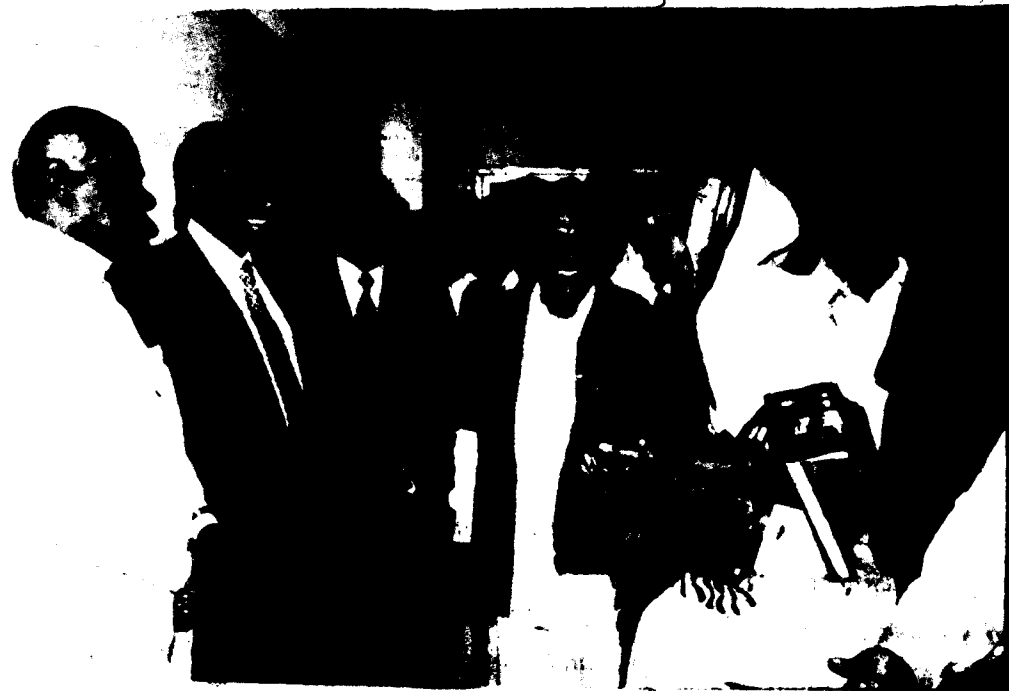
*huge mainframes and later
survived in the era of
personal computers. After
the invention of World Wide
Web, Internet has become
user-friendly providing
access to information
without any barriers between
the users and now occupies
the centre stage in the
modern world.*

*The World Wide Web
consisting of documents of a
staggering volume and easy
access to the entire world of
data, through the Internet,*

are among the finest contributions, after telephone, radio and television, by science to global communication and human interaction. Earlier in the 80s, the Internet was considered as a people's network meant for variety of academic purposes. In the

Technology and is very enthusiastic in making optimum use of the immense human capital of the State and its long tradition of academic excellence to attain serious growth in Information Technology. I congratulate the Government of Tamil Nadu

acknowledge the contribution being made by individuals at Private firms to the development of Software, especially in Tamil language and the creation of Websites carrying information on Tamil language and literature. But all these products lack in



90s, the usage of network was opened to individuals facilitating thousands to join the Internet everyday. True to the scientific tradition of the State, Tamil Nadu has taken progressive strides in Information Technology. The State Government has established a separate department for Information

on setting the pace for this growth in Information Industry. The Tamil Net 1999 is another laudable endeavour in this line.

The Government is willing to take advantage of competitiveness of the private sector in Information Industry and is happy to

uniform standards and global organisation. In addition to the millions in Tamil Nadu, there are lakhs of Tamil people living in different parts of the world. Their love for their mother tongue and zeal for its preservation and promotion are extraordinary. Since internet has become a daily

affair in individual life the world over, it is absolutely necessary to have Tamilnet with uniform codes which will be able to harmonise promotional efforts from various quarters in future. The Government of Tamil Nadu can perform this hard task and remain the Central Guide for Tamil Network usage in future.

I wish to place on record my deep appreciation of the number of individuals who have made serious and notable efforts to introduce Tamil Language on an International scale, by producing several Tamil Softwares and creating websites. With their sincere and enthusiastic co-operation, I am sure that Tamilnet will soon attain a place of prominence in the Information superhighway.

Already the use of Tamil in Internet is far greater than any other Indian languages. With the implementation of uniform coding standards, Tamilnet will be a huge network and in involving a broad community of Tamil inter-nauts in working together and accomplishing the dissemination of Information on Tamil and Tamil Nadu. The most significant achievement will be the ability of Tamil net to bring the large rural population of Tamil Nadu - the non - English speaking and non-academics - into the fold of Internet.

This is the progressive step which will place Tamil on the information superhighway thereby rendering access to international scholars in

Tamil and is conducive to intensive development in Tamil language. The credit for this is solely due to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu who has given the needed fillip for modernising both teaching and learning of Tamil language across the world. I congratulate Thiru. Maran for his Perseverance and determination to modernise many dimensions in the state administration for the larger benefit of the people.

I am delighted to extend my warm greetings and best wishes to all the participants in this Conference for success in future endeavours. I wish the "Tamil net 99" a grand success.

★ ★ ★

First Wrapper

Her Excellency the Governor's address to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly.

Fourth Wrapper

Inauguration of the construction of 102 bridges and improvements to radial roads.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TAMILNET

It has become a necessity to link the commandable efforts in promoting Tamil into Internet carried out by the numerous Tamil enthusiasts around the world. To meet these requirements, the following decisions were taken at the International Conference - Tamil Net '99, held on 7th and 8th February 1999.

Recommendations of Tamil Keyboard Standards

There have been an evolution of keyboards developed for inputting Tamil characters into a computer. Over the years a lot of improvements have been incorporated one over the other and a few excellent keyboards have been evolved. There are the three types of keyboards, for Tamil namely Romanised keyboards, Tamil Typewriter based keyboards and Phonetic

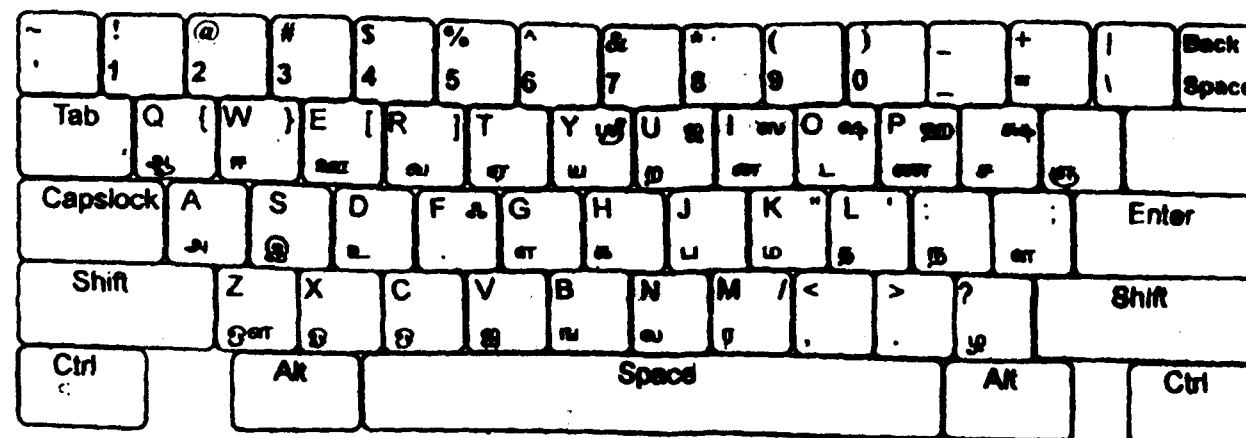
keyboards, of these the Phonetic keyboards have become more popular because of its user friendliness, language specific and lesser effort involved. While standardizing the keyboards the following aspects were considered.

Tamil Characters frequently used should be placed in strong figure positions and less frequently used in the light figure positions.

The less frequently used grantha letters shall be put in locations with shift key operations.

The short and long vowels shall be kept in adjacent positions for a good memory and easy operations.

In Tamil the **இள எழுத்துகள், ற, ள, ழ, ல, ள், ழ், ல், ள், ழ்** always go together and if these letters are placed adjacently it would be easy for operation



Key - Board Recommended by the Sub-Committee
of the State - Level Task Force Committee on I.T., T.N. Govt.

and with the help of a software the additional operation for putting a dot for consonants can be avoided.

Incorporating the above aspects, a recommended standard for the phonetic keyboard is accepted. The various keyboards developed by the researchers in different parts of the world should be documented for reference.

In the interim period till switchover to Phonetic keyboard takes place the Tamil typewriter keyboard should continue without any change from the one proposed by the keyboard committee constituted by the Government of Tamil Nadu during 1997.

The Romanised keyboard for Tamil as proposed by the keyboard committee is suggested for limited use by those who prefer English character for typing Tamil Text.

To implement the Phonetic keyboard, to get trained in the use of Phonetic keyboard and to spread the use of the same in the society, necessary actions may have to be initiated.

Recommendations of Tamil Character and Glyph Encoding Schemes

Requirements of Tamil Computing can be broadly classified under three heads

1. Word Processing and Publishing.
2. Communication and Interfaces with ASCII based Software Systems.

3. Language analysis and processing, and system software based applications.

It is possible to meet the above requirements with a single character encoding scheme if adequate space is available. That is, in a eight bit system there are 256 locations available of which ASCII occupies the lower 128 locations leaving only less than 128 locations for Tamil characters. This space is not adequate to render all the Tamil characters. In future, if a 2 or 3 byte system like unicode is implemented in full, the problem of space will not arise.

Under this situation, we are forced to think of more than one system of encoding. After a careful analysis of the various requirements and limitations the following encoding scheme is shown in the figure.

This scheme is conveniently adaptable for both bilingual as well as monolingual applications. A character encoding scheme with only Tamil alphabets and consonants placed in the same locations as in the figure is recommended for modification of the existing unicode.

Realising the importance and criticality of addressing and ensuring the changeover from the existing codes presently in use, the proposed codes are recommended as draft standard. The draft standard should be made available to one and all from a website specifically created for this purpose and a timeframe of 100 days from 9th February '99 should be provided to facilitate developers to exercise the use of the draft codes

Monolingual Glyph Encoding

	0	16	32	48	64	80	96	112	128	144	160	176	192	208	224	240
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F
0			Space	0	@	நி		ஃ		ஊ		ஐ	ஓ	கி	கா	க்
1			!	1	கி	கி	ஃ	ஊ	1	.	ஈ	ஊ	ஊ	ஊ	ஊ	ஊ
2			"	2	கி	கி	ஃ	ஊ	2	.	ஈ	ஊ	ஊ	ஊ	ஊ	ஊ
3			#	3	கி	கி	ஃ	ஊ	3	.	ஈ	ஊ	ஊ	ஊ	ஊ	ஊ
4			\$	4	கி	கி	ஃ	ஊ	4	.	ஈ	ஊ	ஊ	ஊ	ஊ	ஊ
5			%	5	கி	கி	ஃ	ஊ	5	.	ஈ	ஊ	ஊ	ஊ	ஊ	ஊ
6			&	6	கி	கி	ஃ	ஊ	6	.	ஈ	ஊ	ஊ	ஊ	ஊ	ஊ
7			'	7	கி	கி	ஃ	ஊ	7	.	ஈ	ஊ	ஊ	ஊ	ஊ	ஊ
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9			)	9	கி	கி	ஃ	ஊ	9	.	ஈ	ஊ	ஊ	ஊ	ஊ	ஊ
A			.	.	கி	கி	ஃ	ஊ	0	.	ஈ	ஊ	ஊ	ஊ	ஊ	ஊ
B			+	.	கி	கி	ஃ	ஊ	10	.	ஈ	ஊ	ஊ	ஊ	ஊ	ஊ
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183 = Bullet

115 = Pulli

in various platforms and software for compatibility and adaptability. The decision on the codes to be adopted as the standard should be taken at a meeting to be held by June 1, 1999, The procedure to receive, and consolidate the experience feedback on the draft standard will be set forth by a monitoring committee comprising of experts from within and outside India.

The Tamil Nadu Government should provide adequate encouragement and help to convert the existing software systems into the new encoding system.

To exploit the opportunities to implement the future developments in computers and Internet computing using Tamil, an active research has to be initiated world wide. For this purpose it is necessary to create a State Level

Tamil Net Research Centre and an International Tamil Net Communication Centre.

We should make the rich Tamil Literatures and the Linguistic grammars available in the Internet. It is necessary to develop Computer Softwares for dictionary, thesaurus, spell checking facilities, E-mail, Tamil Hand Writing Recognition, Optical Character Recognition, Tamil Voice Processing, Natural Language Processing, Palm Leaf Character Recognition etc., The Governments in countries having Tamil as a official Language, Private organisations and the Universities should encourage such efforts.

The International Conference on Tamil Net should be organised every year.

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TAMIL AND INTERNET

- Sujatha

Writer, Member, Reception Committee, Tamil Net '99

Among the Indian languages Tamil is the earliest to enter the Internet. There are many reasons:- Tamil Word processing software started appearing as early as 1978. Some pioneering efforts were done in IITs at Kanpur and Chennai.

Tamil being a simpler Dravidian language has less characters which are written linearly. Modern Tamil is non-cursive.

With some software tricks it is possible to accommodate all Tamil Characters in a standard keyboard. In fact in a phonetic keyboard layout, Tamil text can be inputted completely without using the shift key even once.

Many software engineers working abroad are Tamilians with a zest to contribute something to their mother tongue.

All these have been contributing factors for the early entry of Tamil into the internet and the world wide web.

There are many sites from which Tamil fonts can be downloaded freely. Tamil is used in the many popular e-mail programmes. The early Tamil search engines are in prototype stage now.

Many of the Research Institutions and Universities abroad are already inputting very large volumes of Tamil text, particularly its great literary works, into the net. The Tamil lexicon, the **sangam** classics, **kamban**, the **pragbandam** of alwars, the **thirumarais** of saivite saints and of course any number of times **thirukkural**, are all available in the net.

Normally this is a happy situation. Research scholars should have easy access to these. Unfortunately this is not happening because of a total lack of standardisation in the following.

1. The keyboard input methods.
2. The coding scheme for internal storage in computer media.

Each one of the enthusiasts in their eagerness and urgency evolved their own methods and have been merrily inputting text without really caring whether others should access them or not.

'If you want to read what I have inputted better buy my font' they say; some give it free.

It is somewhat like saying Tamil is very much in the internet but there are several Tamil languages.

This problem is not there for other world languages as they had government bodies or industry consortia to standardise their inputting and coding methods. In India the ISCII standard was evolved by the Government but unfortunately Tamil being a unique Dravidian language could not use ISCII standards efficiently. Tamil and computers were, to start with, worlds apart, suddenly the language made the quantum leap into cyberspace and the incompatibility problems are all surfacing now.

These were discussed in an international conference in Singapore - the Tamil Net 97

All the difficulties were stated and clear guidelines were given for

standardisation. The scholars all agreed, went back to their native pursuits, and continued in the same old way, totally convinced that THEIR way is the standard way.

The Tamil Nadu Government which has been a bystander in a chaotic development realised it is time to intervene and set the example. The Government undertook to host the next Internet Conference in Chennai with clear and focussed objectives of standardising input and coding methods.

A secondary objective is to take stock of all the wonderful things happening in the internet for Tamil with the purpose of supporting appropriate research efforts.

Delegates from all Tamil speaking countries, research scholars, universities and institutions are participating. Papers are going to be presented and the proceedings will be published as a book and in the net. This conference will be a path-breaking one and will enable the language to enter the next millennium confidently.

No more wasted efforts in re-inventing every time a new enthusiast enters the Tamil Net.

The conference is expected to achieve the following:

Establish standards for inputting and internal coding.

Give clear directions for future internet based activities in Tamil.

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The emerging areas of Science and Technology today, namely, Bio-technology and Information Technology have taken very strong roots in India, especially in Tamil Nadu. It is well known that Tamil Nadu is in the forefront in implementing new biological alternatives to pesticides and fertilizers.

Thus the theme of the Congress, namely "New bio-sciences- Opportunities and Challenges as we move into the next millennium" very well meets the emphasis. Tamil Nadu has been laying emphasis for this area of science. The establishment of Golden Jubilee Bio-technology Park for women inaugurated on 29.7.1998 by His Excellency the President of India; the Educational Programmes introduced through the TANITEC; and Tidel Park being organised by the TIDCO are recent examples for the emphasis by the Tamil Nadu Government.

Science and Technology has always been occupying a pride of place in Tamil Nadu. It is well known that the infra-structure for professional education in our State is one of the best in the Country. This will be most helpful in

TAMIL NADU IS IN FOREFRONT IN IMPLEMENTING NEW BIOLOGICAL ALTERNATIVES TO PESTICIDES AND FERTILIZERS

Hon'ble Chief Minister
Kalaignar
at the 86th Session
of the
Indian Science Congress
on
3-1-1999.

establishing knowledge in the High-Tech and industrial development. This trend will also help us in keeping pace with the Global phenomenon. We have to our credit, several distinguished scientists, and technocrats like Ramanujam, G.N. Ramachandran, A. Ramachandran, Nayudamma, C.V. Raman, K.S. Krishnan, S. Chandrasekar, Vergheese Kurien, Abdul Kalam and many others.

All these personalities had their education in this State. They have made great contribution, to the world of science and technology.

Several years ago, our beloved late leader "Arignar Anna" described the tragic situation prevailing among our common people thus :

"If you ask our common people,

Do you know the conveyance of Yamadharma Raja?, they will readily reply, "Buffalo".

But if you ask them, Do you know, who has invented the Aeroplane, they will just say, "No".

Now the situation has completely changed. A common man, even in a remote village is quite aware of recent happenings. He knows not only Computer and Internet but also Pokhran and Atom Bomb.

The Information Technology has converted this World into a "Global Village" Thus science and technology of our age is reaching its peak.

Even now, there is a major gap between the common people and their understanding of science. Therefore continuous efforts have to be made to take the fruits of Science and Technology to small

Towards reaching the rural population, development in the Internet connectivity to the Villages, especially in Tamil, is being actively taken up. I am indeed very happy to see that such modern communication means are used in this conference through wireless and Internet Communication Systems.

I also understand that there is a home page created for the Indian Science Congress Association. The Ramanujam Computing Centre of Anna University has been actively involved in computerization of the large number of registrants



scale and rural sectors. I am happy to inform that efforts are under way by our Government to establish the basic infra-structures for "The Science City" They include a world-class convention centre for Conferences and Exhibitions, Techno Incubator Park, Children's Hands-on Science Park, Science and Technology Information Network and so on. These activities are planned with support from all the Institutions in Chennai. They are currently involved in organising this major conference.

for this programme. In addition, I am proud to announce that steps have been taken to establish a "Ramanujam Museum" - in the name of the well-known Mathematician of Chennai, jointly by the University of Madras and the Institute of Mathematical Sciences.

I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to consider making this Museum into a National asset by support from the Central Government.

★ ★ ★



THE INDIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY OF TAMIL NADU PROMOTES PEACE AND GOODWILL

- Her Excellency the Governor Justice Selvi. **M. Fathima Beevi** at the inauguration of Day Hospital at Indian Red Cross Society, Chennai on 28.12.1998.

I have great pleasure in having inaugurated the Diwan Bahadur Namberumal Chetty Day Hospital and the Blood Bank Component Separation Unit in the premises of the Tamil Nadu Branch of the Indian Red Cross Society.

Diwan Bahadur T. Namberumal Chetty was one of the illustrious sons of India who proved their mettle to the British rulers and left an indelible mark in our history. He was the great builder who built all those monumental Indo-Sareenic buildings in Chennai. I thank Tmt. Ruthi Rajamannar and her family for making the donation, through the Thatikonda Rajamannar Trust, to add one more monument to the memory of T. Namberumal Chetty.

The Day Hospital will have facilities for the provision of complete healthcare, both preventive and curative, and I am confident that it will substantiate the efforts of the Red Cross Society in providing medical care and treatment to the hapless poor of Chennai living in the slums and on the pavements. Healthcare formed part of the wide ranging activities of the Tamil Nadu State Branch of the Indian Red Cross Society in the past 78 years of its existence. Free clinics, mobile medical units, nutritious meals, creches for children and many other activities make the society a tireless worker in public welfare.

Another laudable service being rendered by the Society is the rehabilitation of the physically handicapped. Training courses for women in nursing, physiotherapy and computers are conducted by the Society. The relief work provided by the society ranges from assistance during calamities like floods, fire, epidemics, slaughter etc. It is a matter of gratification to note all these commendable efforts being put forth by the Indian Red Cross and I am happy that the Red Cross Movement is extended to the districts too.

Red Cross is universal in aim and function. The sole aim of the Red Cross Movement is to help those who suffer, without any discrimination. Its activities are diverse, yet they all reflect the singular humanitarian outlook of the Red Cross Movement inspired by its founder and promoted, over the years, by thousands of volunteers. Red Cross has become an integral part of life



in peacetime too. The Movement which was born to assist the wounded in battlefields has assumed a bigger role of preventing and alleviating human suffering to a successful extent that today, Red Cross is considered a symbol of peace during conflicts.

The Tamil Nadu branch of the Indian Red Cross Society, promotes peace and goodwill with the co-operation of the State and the people. I very much appreciate the good work done by this Branch in taking care of the needy people caught in extreme situation. I am happy to extend my best wishes to all those connected with the Indian Red Cross Society, Tamil Nadu Branch for success in all their endeavours.

I wish the organisations who have been awarded the Rolling Shields a bright and successful future.

★ ★ ★

India
has
always
proved
successful
in
keeping
up
the
humanitarian
tradition
of
hosting
refugees

I have great pleasure in welcoming all of you to Raj Bhavan on this momentous occasion on which I had the privilege of receiving, on behalf of the Tamil Nadu State Branch of the Indian Red Cross Society, the donation of an ambulance from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

The issue of refugees, the forced displacement of people who flee their homes mainly due to inter-state and intra-state wars, persecution and human rights violations, is causing grave concern among the global community, because the refugee movement tends to create trauma in the refugees and tension in the hosting countries. As a country, India has undergone the experience of hosting more refugees than perhaps any other country and now has a rich expertise in handling refugee matters. India has always proved successful in keeping up the humanitarian tradition of hosting refugees. Since this region of Asia experiences massive refugee movements, the role of the UNHCR in South Asia is very important.

Refugees are like any other victims of tragedy and are entitled to all their human rights. The UNHCR is globally responsible for the proper treatment of the refugees and is doing remarkable service to the cause for which the UNHCR has already earned two Noble Peace Prizes. The UNHCR has a deeprooted association with the Subcontinent having long established its part in taking care of the refugees, especially in the reintegration of the returnees from India in Sri Lanka. I am happy to extend my warm greetings and good wishes to the UNHCR for continued success in its mission of serving a great humanitarian cause.

Today, the UNHCR has handed over an ambulance to the Tamil Nadu State Branch of the Indian Red Cross Society to cater to the medical needs of the local population, in particular the Sri Lankan Tamil Refugees living in Tamil Nadu. I am sure it will be of great use to the Red Cross Society in the State in providing assistance to the people in urgent need and in alleviating human suffering.

The Indian Red Cross Society, Tamil Nadu branch now carries out a wide range of activities that includes taking care of the refugees. It makes a significant contribution towards promoting peace and goodwill and acts as a valuable intermediary during conflicts. I wish the Indian Red Cross Society, Tamil Nadu State Branch, success in all future endeavours.

I wish to express gratitude, on behalf of the Red Cross, for the kind gesture from UNHCR.

Address of Her Excellency the Governor Justice
Selvi. **M. Fathima Beevi** at the Donation of Ambulance to the
Indian Red Cross Society at Raj Bhavan, Chennai ★

Work on 10 Flyovers Inaugurated



Hon'ble Chief Minister **Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi** inaugurated work on 10 flyovers in various parts of the city at a function in Perambur, Chennai on 31.1.1999.

The places where the flyovers coming up are :

- ❖ A flyover near Perambur railway station at a cost of Rs. 21 crores.
- ❖ At the junction of Peters Road and Conronsmith road at a cost of Rs. 8.50 crores.
- ❖ Peters road - Westcot road at a cost of Rs.8.50 crores.
- ❖ Pantheon road - Casa Major road at a cost of Rs. 8.50 crores.
- ❖ Purasaiwakkam High road - Hunters road at a cost of Rs.12 crores.
- ❖ Dr. Radhakrishnan salai - Royapettah High road at a cost of Rs. 8.50 crores.
- ❖ Dr. Radhakrishnan salai - T.T.K. road at a cost of Rs. 15 crores.
- ❖ Alwarpet - Eldams road junction at a cost of Rs. 11 crores.
- ❖ Sardar Patel road - Latice Bridge road at a cost of Rs.15.50 crores.
- ❖ Sardar Patel road - Gandhi Mandapam road at a cost of Rs. 7 crores.

For the progress of the Nation in industrial development and social upliftment, road communication and information technology are the most vital infrastructural needs. Bearing this in mind, when the Government of India relaxed the social reforms process during 1991, priority was given for expanding the basic infrastructural facilities. After coming to power in Tamil Nadu for the 4th time in May 1996, the Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar formed a separate Department for Highways alone at the Secretariat during 1997 and also appointed a separate Minister exclusively for Highways Department during 1998. With the result of above efforts and for the sole development of road and bridge works in Tamil Nadu, this August Inaugural function has been arranged.

In Tamil Nadu, it has been estimated that there are total of 98,184 bridges existing over the Government roads alone comprising 1315 Major bridges, 7014 minor bridges and 89,855 very minor bridges.



Construction of 102 Bridges and Improvements to Radial Roads Inaugurated

Of this, approximately 3357 bridges need immediate improvements and in some places for restoring traffic with other nearby places, new bridges have to be constructed. Further, on account of recent heavy floods, many of the villages and towns in Tamil Nadu were

badly cut off with other parts and the people were subjected to innumerable sufferings. to mitigate their sufferings, the Chief Minister has inaugurated the construction of 106 bridges on Government roads by obtaining loan assistance to the tune of Rs.360 crores from HUDCO and NABARD. It has been programmed to complete the construction of these bridges before 31.12.2000.

Likewise the Government in another step towards progress have now accorded sanction for the construction of 102 bridges with loan



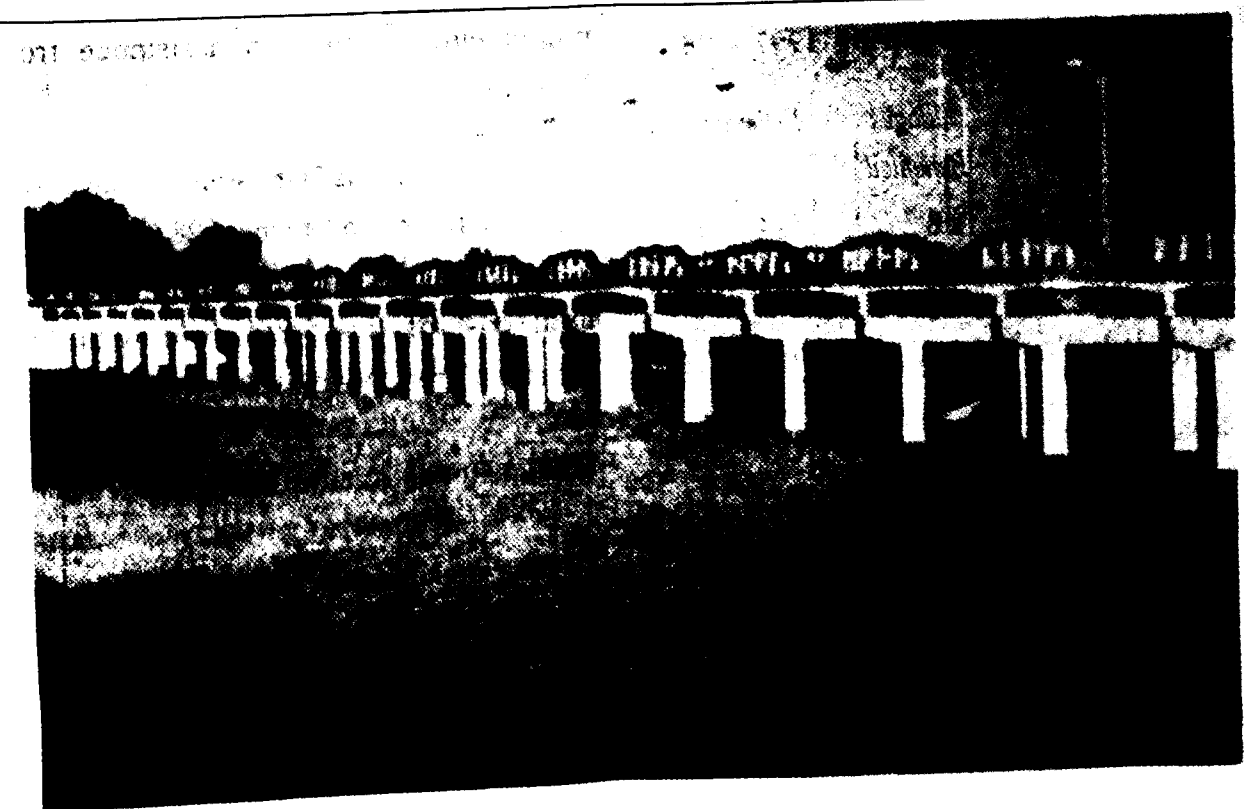
assistance from the above mentioned two financial institutions to the tune of Rs.95.44 crores. The details are, Government Roads - 67 bridges, at a cost of Rs. 59.78 crores, Panchayat and Panchayat Union Roads - 32 bridges at a cost of Rs.28.54 crores, Radial roads (Government roads) - 3 bridges at a cost of Rs.7.12 crores, Totally 102 bridges at a cost of Rs.95.44 crores.

It has been programmed to complete the construction of these 102 bridges within the period of 31.12.1999 and 30.4.2001

Rural Roads Scheme

As agriculture is the main and vital activity in villages, the village people felt that it will be better to have link road facilities with all weather roads to connect them with the nearby Government roads for ensuring easy and quick transportation of their agricultural produces to the nearby marketing centres in towns. To

fulfill the above aspirations of the village people, the Chief Minister has created a separate scheme called "Rural Roads Scheme" by a Government Order dated 1.7.72, to serve the above rural people. Under this scheme, all villages having population of 1000 and above, will be provided with link road facilities with all weather roads. The scheme announced by the Chief Minister is the first ever one in India. When the scheme was



announced as per 1971 census, the number of villages without having any link road facilities are as below

a) Population 1500 and above - 3762 villages

b) Population 1000 - 1500 - 2568 villages

with the creation of first ever new scheme ie. Rural Roads Scheme, by the Chief Minister on 1.7.72 and the subsequent of its implementation all the 3762 villages with population above 1500 were provided with link road facilities with all weather roads before the end of the seventh (7th) Five year Plan that concluded in 1990. Further all the 2568 villages having population 1000 - 1500, were also provided with link road facilities

with all weather roads, in stages and made as Government roads which are now being maintained by Government.

After assuming office the 4th time during 1996, the Chief Minister ascertained that, the number of villages without link road facilities were found to be 517 villages as below :

a) Population above 1500 - 140 villages

b) Population 1000 - 1500 - 377 villages

For ensuring cent percent connectivity to all these 517 villages, well before the closure of the current financial year, all the Government approved works, are progressing well to achieve the target.

Projects commenced during 1997 - 98

Project	Villages Benefited	Estimate Cost
Nabard Project II	108	Rs.40.44 crores
Nabard Project III	108	Rs.43.05 crores

Projects Commenced during 1998 - 99

Nabard Project IV	83	Rs.30.16 crores
Nabard Project V	149	Rs. 42.21 crores
Nabard Project VI	43	Rs.13.35 crores
Nabard Project VII	26	Rs.16.01 crores

By utilising the above allotment, it will be ensured that all the 517 villages having population above 1000 as per 1991 census will be provided with link road facilities with all weather roads before 31.3.99.

Further the Chief Minister during the presentation of budget for 98-99, has announced in the floor of the Assembly that all villages numbering 4986 having population between 500 to 1000 will also be provided with link road facilities with all weather roads in stages. For fulfilling the above objective, during 1998-99 Government have approved 373 road works with loan assistance from NABARD to a tune of Rs.123.70 crores for providing link road facilities with all weather roads to 340 villages and it has been programmed to complete all these works before 31.3.2000. All these works are to be

implemented with loan assistance from NABARD.

Apart from this, Government have also approved for improvement of 28 Government roads (ODR) for a length of 184 Kms at a total cost of Rs.15.86 crore with loan assistance from NABARD.

Radial Roads Around Chennai

The high density corridor roads in and around Chennai have inadequate width and strength and as a result the traffic on these roads have been very badly affected.

Due to this, loss of time and consumption of fuel have increased. If this trend is allowed to continue, then, there will be traffic hold up and economic loss in and around Chennai.

To avoid this situation and with a long time perspective in mind and with the able guidance of the Chief Minister, it has been programmed to widen and strengthen the radial roads in and around Chennai. which are lying within 50 km radius. After assessing that there are a total of 251.60 kms of radial roads in and around Chennai, Government have accorded administrative sanction for improvement of radial roads with loan assistance from HUDCO to a tune of Rs.213 crores and it has been programmed to complete all these works before 31.10.2000.

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Samathuvapuram

Towards Equality

The search for a just, free and prosperous society has occupied the minds of visionaries the world over. The move towards fulfilling these aims has been epitomised in India by the serene counsel of Mahatma Gandhi who upheld the principles of swadeshi, swarajya and self sufficiency. Tamil Nadu is fortunate that its Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi not only cherishes a vision but seeks to implement it through projects like the Anna Renaissance Scheme, the Self Help Programme and the Samathuvapuram (Equality Village) initiative.

The Anna Renaissance Scheme seeks to provide all basic amenities to villages drawing on the Mahatma's hope that every village would be a self sustaining republic that paves the way for a truly free India. The objective of ARS is to select a village in each legislative assembly constituency every year and develop it into a modern village by providing basic amenities such as protected drinking water, primary education, primary health care, nutritious food, street lights, link roads and fair price shops. So far 3477 works have been implemented in 212 villages in Tamil Nadu at a cost of Rs.192 crores.

The Self Help Programme introduced by the Chief Minister during 1997-98 is a dynamic new approach that prepares the rural masses to improve their know-how to create a better society. The rural people in the form of a Grama

Sabha assemble at a common location and discuss their needs focusing on the development programmes to be implemented. The awareness created by involving large masses in planning and execution fulfils the Mahatma's dream of true democracy being worked "from below by the people of every village". The Self Help Programme has resulted in building of irrigation tanks, desilting of channels, facelift to village roads, repair of burial grounds, renovation of school buildings, shelter for bus travellers and constructions of public libraries. Totally 3664 works were taken up last year and completed in 2699 villages at a cost of Rs.23 crores. The public contributed Rs.8 crores and a further Rs.10 crores has been allocated this year. This is truly Sarvodaya in action.



In commemoration of the golden jubilee of India's independence, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu announced the creation of Samathuvapurams or "Equality Villages" where members of all communities and religions would live in harmony without any differential treatment. These would be set up in all districts of Tamil Nadu. The first such Samathuvapuram has come up in Madurai district and has been created over an area of 10 acres at Melakottai. 100 houses have been built here at a cost of Rs.35,000 per house constructed on 5 cent plots with a built up area of 259 sq.ft. The entrance to the house is a large hall attached to which is a small kitchen followed by a bathroom and toilet with modern flush. Equipped with cupboards and doors and windows made from Kongu wood, the houses have concrete roofing. The forest department has planted trees in the front and rear portions.

These houses have been allotted free of cost to 100 people living below the poverty line in 8 villages of Madurai district. Officials visited the villages, convened Gram Sabhas and selected 100 beneficiaries, all living below the poverty line. Out of the 100, 40 houses have been allotted to Adi Dravidars, 25 to backward classes, 25 to most backward classes and 10 to people of other communities. The Samathuvapuram complex has water tanks, a community hall, a primary school, library, health centre, fair price shop, noon meal centre, recreation room, park and play ground.

Construction Work started in December 1997 and was completed in 150 days. The entire construction work was handed over to the Tamil Nadu State Construction Corporation, laying

emphasis on the quality of construction. Facilities provided for the Samathuvapuram include town bus from Madurai with stop over facility by all buses plying on the National Highway. Post office and telephone facilities will also be provided. Additionally, a dairy farm is being set up, with 30 inhabitants to be provided with milch cows. A scheme to extend loan facility for the self employment of youth at the Samathuvapuram is envisaged.

The Madurai District Collector has obtained a written undertaking from each of the 100 families living at Samathuvapuram: Not to permit the setting up of statues of religious or community leaders, not to sell or pledge the house for a period of 15 years, accept a common burial ground, not to create separate places of worship, not to consume liquor, not to let the house on rent, keep everything hygienic and an agreement that the property be taken over by the Government if any rules are violated.

The brainchild of the Chief Minister, the Samathuvapurams have crystallised the ideals of the Mahatma and brought them to life- "My picture in which the last is equal to the first, or in other words, no one is to be the first and none the last". "While inaugurating the Samathuvapuram, the Chief Minister said, "My wish is that the entire district should become a Samathuvapuram and not alone that, the entire State and above all the entire nation and the world should become a Samathuvapuram." The thoughts of a true visionary.

Ajay Menon

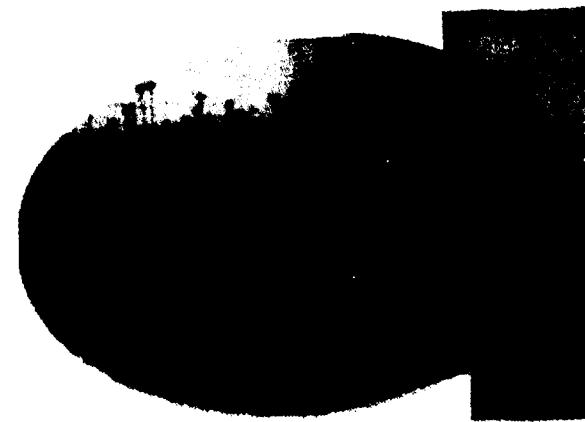
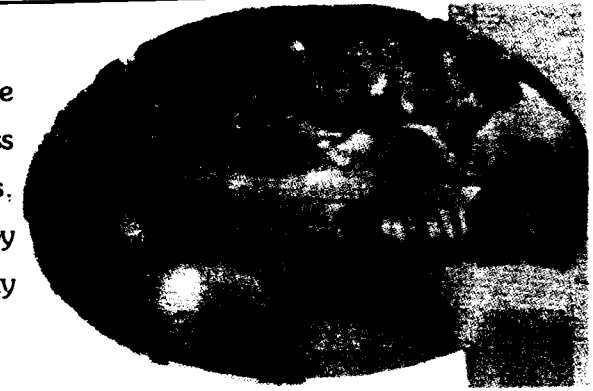
Courtesy: Economic Times, 29.1.99

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NAMAKKU NAAME...

A Path to Self Reliance Society

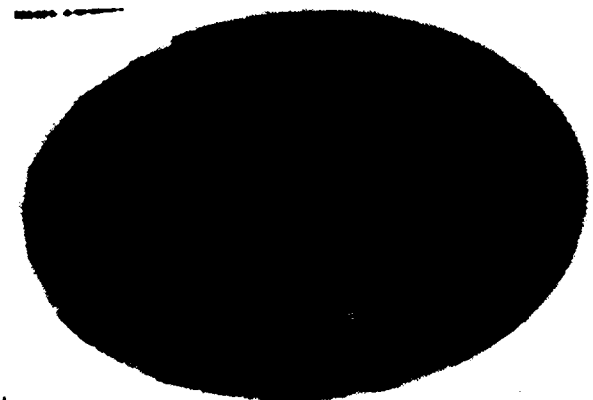
A Mass Contact Programme is already in existence enabling the officials to meet the public and to redress their genuine grievances. In addition to this, "Namakku Naame" Thittam is now introduced by which the public can plan and execute their priority needs through voluntary efforts.



Namakku Naame Thittam is a Programme implemented by the public on voluntary basis with the financial and technical support of the Government. Minimum public contribution shall not be less than 25% which may be in the form of cash, kind or labour. The activities include provision of basic amenities such as village roads, desilting of tanks and village ponds, construction of Public Health Centres, School buildings, pathways to burial grounds, link roads etc.,

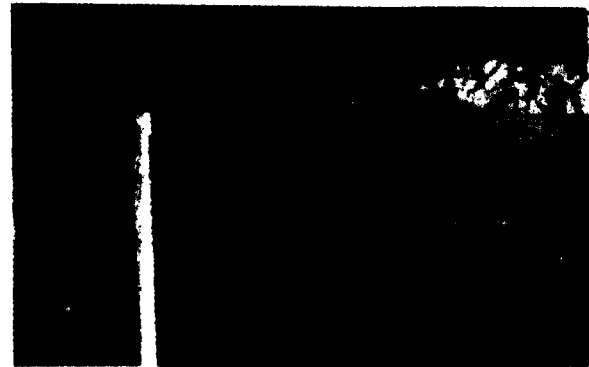
Aim of the Scheme:

- ★ To involve the public in the implementation of Developmental works.
- ★ To ensure that the entire benefits of the Scheme reach the people.
- ★ To strengthen the relation between Government and Public.
- ★ Speedy implementation.
- ★ Quality of works.
- ★ Speedy Socio Economic Development.
- ★ To create self sufficient and self reliant society.



Approach to the Scheme

- ★ With the help of Government, public can fulfil their needs by themselves through voluntary efforts. This approach should be popularised to sustain in the society over years.



- ★ The Scheme provide for the construction of buildings, bridges, canals, deepening of tanks and ponds, creation of assets and also provides for the maintenance of all works such as white washing of buildings, improvement to environment etc.



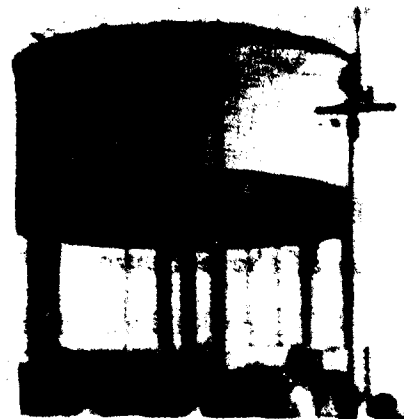
- ★ The Scheme provides for the fulfilment of public needs through voluntary contributions of not less than 25% which may be in the form of labour, kind or cash.

- ★ Public, Social Service organisations, Industrial Establishments and other Voluntary organisations can participate and implement the scheme.

- ★ The District Collectors coordinate the implementation of the Scheme with the assistance of various Departments.

Certain Landmarks of the Scheme

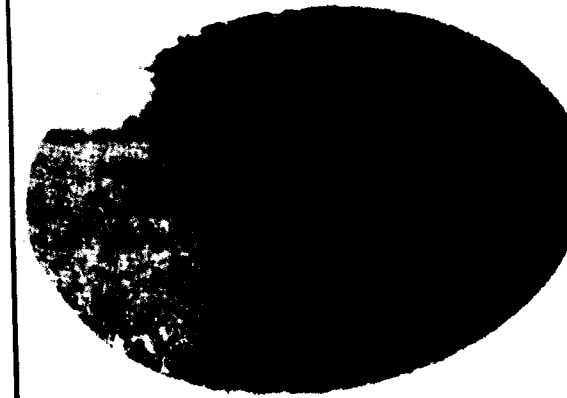
- ★ A over head tank with power pump at an estimated cost of Rs.47 lakhs with one lakh litre capacity was constructed in Antonkovil (East) Panchayat, Karur District, out of cent percent contribution under this scheme from the public.



- ★ Drainage Channel in Kulithalai at an estimated cost of Rs.2.40 lakhs with a distance of 19.5 km. has been taken up and completed under Namakku Naame Scheme, which prevents flood damages worth Rs.1 crore per year.

- ★ Desilting work of Nadarantha Oorani, a drinking water pond, in Pappapatti Panchayat, Pudukottai at an estimated cost of Rs.60,000 done after a gap of 20 years, now with full of water after restoration.

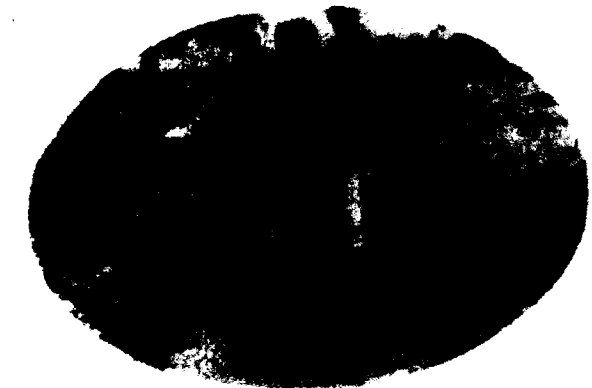
Prior to execution...



The view of irrigation channel not desilted for years together in Aviyanoor Panchayat, Annagramam Union, Cuddalore District.

Work in Progress...

Desilting work is in progress which was executed by the village people themselves with the cost of Rs. 25,000 being the 25% contribution.



After Execution...



The view of desilted channel. This work benefited the farmers in avoiding wastage of water and also improved water use efficiency.

Prior to execution...

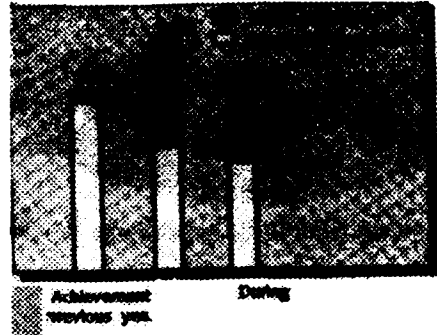


A Bridge washed away by Flood waters in the year 1977 was reconstructed after a gap of 21 years by the people of Keerathur Panchayat (Pudukkottai District) themselves as per the decision of Gramsabha at a cost of Rs.10 lakhs, which includes peoples contribution of Rs.2.50 lakhs.

After execution...



Achievement during previous year



1998-99 Scheme:

- ★ The Government sanctioned Rs.2 lakhs per Block and Rs.10 crores to State as a whole for the fulfilment of felt needs of the public through Namakku Naame Thittam.

For Additional Information :

- Block Development Officer ● District Collector ● Director of Rural Development, Chennai.

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NALADIYAR

இயாவரும் பொருளுடைமையான் பெருமை எய்துவர்.

அத்திட்ட கூறை அரைச்சுற்றி வாழினும்
பத்தெட் டுடைமை பலருள்ளும் பாடெய்தும்;
ஒத்த குடிப்பிறந்தக் கண்ணும்கூன் நிவ்வாதார்
செத்த பிணத்திற் கடை.

Money Commands respect

Though he wraps a cloth dyed red around his loins, a dozen coins or so, will gain (the wretch) respect among many men! The man devoid of wealth, though born of noble race, is viler (in the world's estimation) than a lifeless corpse!

★ ★ ★

வறுமையானது ஒருவனைப் பலவற்றினும்
நுண்ணிதாகச் செய்யும்.

நீரினு' நுண்ணிது நெய்என்பர்; நெய்யினும்
யாரும் அறிவர் புகைநுட்பம்; - தேரின்,
நிரப்பிடும்பை யாளன் புகுமே புகையும்
புகற்கரிய பூழை நுழைந்து.

The insinuating mendicant.

Where water cannot enter, the more insinuating ghi glides in; and smoke has a subtler power to penetrate than even ghi. If you look into it, the man debased by poverty will enter haunts where smoke scarce finds a way.

★ ★ ★

செவ்வமுடையவர்க்கே யாவரும் உறவினர்
உண்டாய போழ்தின் உடைந்துழிக் காகம்போற்
தொண்டா யிரவர் தொகுப்பே; - வண்டாய்த்
திரிதருங் காலத்துத் தீதிலரோ என்பார்
ஒருவரும் இவ்வலகத் திவ்.

Time-serving friends

When wealth is there, obsequious myriads will assemble, like crows around the fallen corpse. When wealth, as the beetle wheels its flight, is gone, no one in all the world will ask, 'Is it well with you?'

★ ★ ★

வறியோர்மாட்டுள்ள ஈற்குண முதலியன
பலன்படுவனவல்ல.

நீர்ப்பெய் அன்றி நிரம்ப எழுந்ததம்
கூம்பையும் எல்லாம் ஒருங்கிழப்பர்; - கூம்பையின்
முல்லை அலைக்கும் எயிற்றாய்! - நிரப்பென்னும்
அல்லல் அடையப்பட் டார்.

Poverty ruins all.

O thou whose teeth vie in sharpness with jasmine buds! - When sharp distress of poverty assails, men lose all their attributes of goodness at once, with the mind's acuteness gained from ample stores of wisdom.

★ ★ ★

செவ்வமிகுதியாற் கீழோர் செய்யும்
பெருமிதத்தைக் காணின் மானமுடையார் மனம்
புழுங்குவர்.

திருமதுகை யாகத் திறனிவார் செய்யும்
பெருமிதங் கண்டக் கடைத்தும் - எரிமண்டிக்
காணந் தலைபட்ட தீப்போற் கனலுமே
மானம் உடையார் மனம்.

Honourable minds are wroth with wealthy arrogance.

The mind of those possessed of honourable feeling will kindle into flame, like the fire that has caught the forest when the conflagration rages, whenever they behold the haughty acts of those who are destitute of virtuous habits, and to whom their wealth is their only strength.

★ ★ ★

மானமுடையார் தம்வறுமையைக் கீழோர்க்கு
உறையார்.

என்பாய் உகிலும் இயல்பிலார் பின்சென்று
தம்பா னுரைப்பரோ தம்முடையார்? - தம்பா
நுரையாமை முன்னுணரும் ஒன்மை உடையார்க்
குறையாரோ தாம்பற்ற நோய்?

High-minded men complaint not to the unsympathizing.

Will (honourable men who are) 'masters of themselves' follow graceless men to tell of their sufferings, though fallen away to mere skeletons?

Do they not (rather) tell the pain they have felt to those enlightened souls that understand their sufferings before they speak?

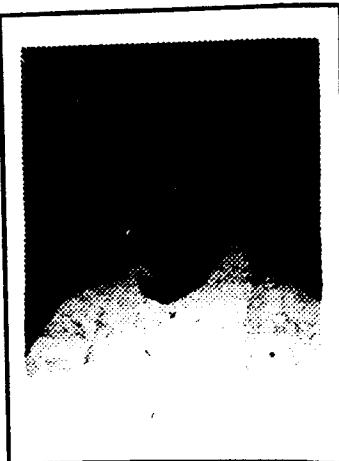
★

The Contribution of Kanniyakumari to the Tamil World

TRADITIONAL SCHOLARS

PAVALAR

There were several traditional scholars in Kanniyakumari District. A majority of them were from Kottar. Sadavadaani Sheik Thampi Paavalar who was a doyen among the Tamil Scholars of his period, stands first



in the line. (Sadavadaani means a person skilled in attending to numerous things at a time) He was a disciple of Sankaranarayana Pattaariar, a Tamil Scholar in Kottar. Paavalar proved that religion does not bar the language. He was an authority on Kamba Ramayana. He was so brilliant that at his 15th year he had become a master of Tamil language. He wrote several books in Tamil. Among them Tirukkottatru Pathitru Pathu Anthaathi, Tirunaagoor Tiruvanthaathi are most important. He wrote commentaries on Seerapuram which contains 5027 poems.

Paavalar wrote and spoke on the high ideals of Sri Ramalinga Swamikal and argued that his poems were Arutppa and not Marutpa as advocated by Kadiresa Pillai, one of the intellectual giants in Tamil Nadu. It is interesting to note that Thiru Vi.Ka. was a member of the opposition group and Maraimalai Adigal was in the group of Paavalar. Finally the view of Paavalar was crowned with success. For this

victory he was awarded several titles like Devamirtha Prasanka Kalanchiyam and was honoured with Poornakumbam at Kancheepuram Temple.

Sasthankutty Pillai of Thengamputhur was the chief disciple of Paavalar. He has not written any book. But he had several disciples who are outstanding scholars of Kanniyakumari at present. Among them Vidvan Sadasivam Pillai, the author of "Chera Naadum Senthamilum" is well-known.

Among the other disciples of Paavalar Manickavasagam Pillai, the author of "Isai mani maalai" containing more than 100 songs with musical notes and Haridaas Vaaythiriyar, the editor of "Nallarkku Nanban" a literary monthly in Tamil were famous.

Kanthapurana Kirthanaas written by Neelakanta Aasaari of Kottar and Chanakya Sutram by his son Ganapathi Aasaari were released in the Subramonia temple at Tiruchendur in the year 1889. Chaanakiya Sutram contains 4500 poems. Desika Vinayakam Pillai of Kottar wrote "Lalitha puranam" during this period.

K.N. SIVARAJA PILLAI

The contribution of K.N. Sivaraja Pillai of Kottar occupies a prominent place in Tamil literature. He was the first director of Tamil Research Centre which was started at Madras in the year 1927. He had edited one monthly in Tamil named "Nanjil Nesan" at Trivandrum. At the request of Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan

he went to Ceylon and published Kamba Ramayana. Based on the Synchronistic tables of the Kings, Chieftains and poets appearing in the Sangham literature he wrote a book "The



Chronology of Early Tamils". It was published by the University of Madras in 1932. His other works are Agasthiya in the Tamil land, The antiquity of Puranaanuru, Nanjil Venba and Mehamaalai. Several of his research works were not published. His introduction to Manonmaniyam is a fine piece of critical study. He was the pioneer in the field of Research in Tamil.

P. CHIDAMBARAM PILLAI

P. Chidambaram Pillai of Nagercoil has rendered great service to Tamil literature by publishing the famous Mudaliar palm leaf records in the year 1930. It describes the history of Naanjil Naadu for a short period. He wrote two books in English "Temple Entry" and "Aryans and Dravidians" and edited a periodical in Tamil named "Thamilan".

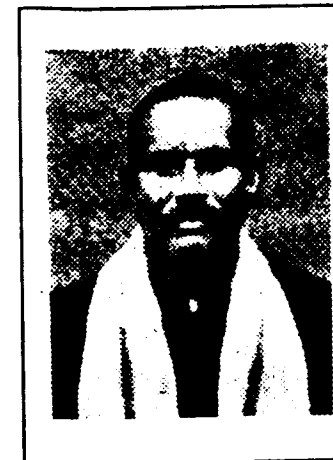
Panditha Muthuswamy Pillai of Kanniyakumari has published one periodical named "Thamilan" at Trivandrum in 1922. He has also edited "Viduthalai" of Periyar E.V.R. Dasavathanam Arumugham Pillai, a disciple of Paavalar was another Tamil scholar in Kanniyakumari. His important works were Kusela Venba and Cheramandala Sathkam. Kavignar Aathimoolam otherwise known as Kavimonithasan wrote several poems. But two books "Chentamil Cholai" and "Marungoor

Nanmanimaalai" were published in book form. He was the disciple of Kavimony.

Thondarkulam Maha Vidwan Arumugha Naavalar occupied a unique place in the religious field. He has founded at Nagercoil a religious organisation named "Tiruneri Thondarkulam" in the year 1928 and several branches were established in different parts of Tamil Nadu. Through this organisation he preached Thevaram, Tiruvaasagam and Tiruppugal to the common people. He went to Ceylon and became very popular in the Tamil speaking area. His "Hindu Matha Vilakkam" is a fine work on the basic principles of Hindu Philosophy. He had also edited one religious monthly "Thondan".

K.N. KUMARESA PILLAI

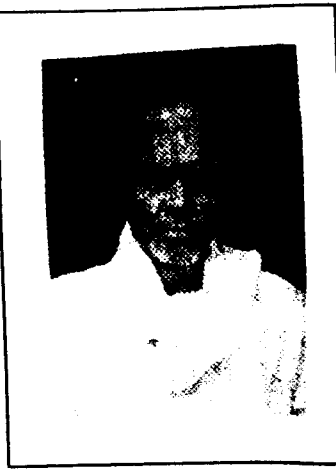
K.N. Kumaresa Pillai, the brother of Sivaraja Pillai was the pioneer in the field of propagating the fame of Kamban. He gave discourses on Kamba Ramayana in every nook and corner of Kanniyakumari District. Following the musical recitation of Kamba Ramayana by his assistant Paramathilingam



Pillai, Kumaresa Pillai rendered the commentaries. It is a traditional method of narration prevalent in Kanniyakumari District, the origin of which is not traceable. This peculiar kind of discourse on Kamba Ramayana cannot be seen anywhere else. At present Kalliankaad Ramachandra Pillai is an exponent on Kamba Ramayana in the traditional method of narration.

KAVIMONY

Kavimony Desika Vinayagam Pillai has contributed quite a substantial volume to the growth of Tamil literature. Standing right in the centre of the Tamil Poetic tradition and uttering the noble thoughts in simple



and sweet words Kavimony occupied a unique place in the Tamil literary world. His poetical collection "Malarum Maalaiyum" is an outstanding contribution to modern Tamil literature. He is remembered for ever by some of his beautiful and simple lines like "Thottathil Meyuthu Vellai Pasu" and "Veyyirkketa Nilalundu". His translations and adaptations from western languages look almost original. He brings Omarkayyam to the surroundings of Tamil Nadu.

Poets according to Kavimony are not mere dreamers of dreams but the architects of society. His contribution "Marumakkal Vali Maanmiyam" is an excellent satire in modern Tamil literature. The language of the work is so powerful and sarcastic that the system, Marumakkal thaayam (matriarchal system of inheritance) among the Vellalas of Naanjil naadu was legally abolished. This is a pioneer work in Tamil literature which has revolutionised the society.

Kavimony was a Research scholar and a clever archaeologist. "Kaandalur Saalai" is a reputed research work of Kavimony. His interpretation of the phrase "Kalamarutharuli" attracted the attention of all the experts in Archaeology during his period. The earlier

archaeologists gave the meaning of the phrase "Kalamaruth aruli" thus. "The king was pleased to destroy the ship at the roadstead of Kandalur". According to Kavimony the word "Aruthu" is but a shortened form of "Varai aruthu". On this basis he gave a different meaning for the phrase. "The king was pleased to make an endowment and fix the number of Kalams i.e. literally, the number of dinner plates, and hence the number of persons to be fed in the institution of "Kaandalur" Kavimony's verdict thus created a mile-stone in the field of Archaeology.

T.K.S. BROTHERS

The contribution of Muthamil Kalaa Vittuva Ratna T.K.S. Brothers of Nagercoil in the Dramatic field is significant, for, they rescued and resurrected the dramatic art and theatre, one among the Muthamils

(Tripartite divisions of Tamil). The dramas Raja Raja Cholan and Avvaiyaar are their masterpieces. "The history of Tamil Drama" by T.K. Shanmugham is an outstanding work on Dramatic Art in Tamil literature. It is a compilation of three lectures delivered by him in the Annamalai University.

N.S. KRISHNAN

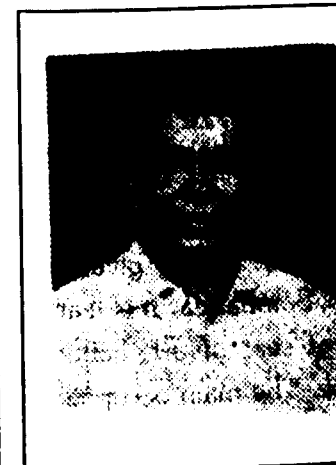
Kalaivaanar N.S. Krishnan is the asset of Kanniyakumari. "Laugh when you meet misfortune. There is nothing like this to overcome it and pass on to victory" says Tiruvalluvar. On the basis of this maxim Kalaivaanar lived and



made his audience to follow the maxim. There is no written contribution of Kalaivaanar to the Tamil world, but his contribution to the Tamil populace cannot be forgotten. He has occupied the mind of everybody in Tamil Nadu. Kalaivaanar has utilised Cinema as a medium of instruction to rectify the evils of society.

JEEVAANANDAM

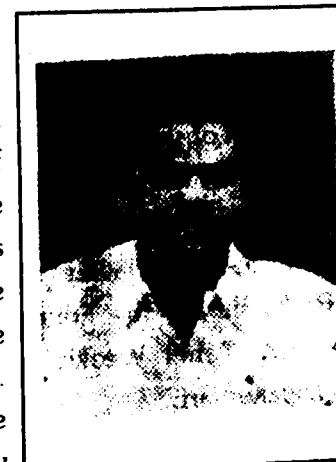
Jeevaanandam of Bhoothapandi popularly known as Jeevaa, a veteran political leader has



the first man who went to jail for writing a book in Tamil on Bhagavat Singh.

Dr. K.K. PILLAY

Among the living scholars of Kanniyakumari Dr. K.K. Pillay and Dr. B. Natarajan immediately come to our mind. Dr. K.K. Pillay, an authority in South Indian history belongs to Aloor in Kanniyakumari District. His monograph on Suchindrum temple is a monumental work which touches the cultural, social and spiritual history



of Naanjil Naadu. His contribution to the Tamil world is significant, for, he has written an authoritative history of South India in Tamil.

Dr. B. NATARAJAN

Dr. B. Natarajan, an internationally reputed Economist has contributed substantially to our Tamil literature and Saiva Siddhanta philosophy. The greatest of his achievements is that he has translated Tirumandiram of Tirumoolar into English. He has thus conveyed the message of Tamil Nadu to the west.

Panditha Ramasubramania Naavalur of Nagercoil has written several poetical works. Among them Arul Manimaalai, Venba Pathitru patthu and Naanjil Naadu are important. The well known scholar and a master of several languages K. Appadurai belongs to Aaralvaaimoli. He has written several books on Tamil literature and history. His outstanding works are Kumari Kandam and Thennattu Porkalankal. Tamil perum pulavar Abraham Arulappanar of Nagercoil has written Tholkappiya Yaappu and commentaries to Tiruvaasakam and Tirumurugatrupadai.

In the linguistic field Kanniyakumari has produced three International authorities Dr. V.I. Subramoniam, Dr. S. Agasthilingam and Dr. Muthu Shanmuganaar. They have written several outstanding works on Linguistics.

PRESENT DAY TAMIL LITERATURE

Let us have a cursory glance at the present day literature of Tamil Nadu. To the present day literature also Kanniyakumari has contributed a major share. There are several poets, short-story writers, novelists, dramatists and journalists in Kanniyakumari District. Among them Sundara Ramaswamy, Neela Padmanabhan, Ponnalan, Nanjil naadan, N.A. Velayudham,

Pa.Perumal, Hepziba Jusudasan and Isaac Arumai Rajan are well known to the Tamil readers. Their contributions are noteworthy. Here special mention may be made of Sundara Ramaswamy's Puliamarathin Kathai, Neela Padmanabhan's Thalaimuraigal, Ponnalan's Karisal and Naanjil Naadan's Thalaikeel Vigithangal. During a short span of his life Krishnan Nambi, a young writer wrote two outstanding works. "Yaana Enna Yaana", a collection of poems for children and "Neelakkadal" a collection of short stories.

The contributions of Dr. P. Arunachalam, Dr. S. Subramaniam, Dr. A.N. Perumal, Dr. M. Ilayaperumal, Dr. D. Andiappan, Professor Veerabadran, Professor C. Jesudasan and Vidwan Shanmugham Pillai are of scholarly nature. Among the poets of Kanniyakumari Vidwan Umathanu Pillai, Kavignar Kuttalam and Kumari Amudan are most famous.

JOURNALISM

In the field of Journalism the contribution of Kanniyakumari in the early period was significant. We have already seen that the first Tamil daily in India and the first magazine for children came from Kanniyakumari. Although there are numerous writers and journalists in the district no outstanding journal comes from Kanniyakumari at present. Several periodicals like *Tamilan*, *Devi*, *Naanjil*, *Sathangai*, *Tamilaruvi*, *Kanni*, *Kumari*, *Puthumai*, *Sudar*, *Tamilarasu* and *Ulavan* came from Kanniyakumari. Among them "Tamilan" edited by P.Chidambaram Pillai, "Devi" by P.Mahalinga Mudaliar and "Sathangai" by Vanamaligai were noteworthy. They have published several literary articles and stories in their magazines. *Devi* was very popular among the readers of Kanniyakumari. N.A. Velayudham's "Theeviravaathi, Arjunan's,

Thenkural", Sivasubramoniam's "Kavi Amudu" Bhoothai Annamalai's "Kaivilakku" and P.S. Mony's "Kanniyakumari" are the present periodicals of the district. With great difficulties they are publishing their journals. T.V. Ramasubbiar, the Editor of "Dinamalar", one of the leading dailies of Tamil Nadu and M.R. Krishnan, the Editor of "Vanchinaadu" the only Tamil Weekly in Kerala hail from Kanniyakumari.

KOTTAR, THE METROPOLIS

The cultural heritage of Kanniyakumari District can be understood by going through the history of Kottar, the metropolis of ancient Tamil Nadu and the historical temples in the area. The history of Kottar which provides a fund of information gives us a clear perspective into the historic past. Kottar, now a part of Nagercoil Municipality was a commercial centre of fame in days of yore. Ptolemy's Geography and Pliny's Travels clearly indicate that it was one of the most important cities during the beginning of the Christian era.

From the description of Kottar given in Thevaaram of Tirugnana Sambandar it is learnt that Kottar was a great seat of art, culture, civilisation and pilgrimage. The main occupation of the people was Agriculture. So it is no wonder that the fertile piece of land was named Naanjil Naadu, the land of ploughshare. Spinning cotton was an occupation of women and even silk was woven there. Sambandar aptly describes Kottar as "the city of Industries". Even today Kottar is reputed for its artificial silk and Vadasery located to the North of Kottar is famous for its weaving industry.

Kottar was inhabited by men and women of noble descent. It was a perfect city and presented a beautiful appearance. There were many

bazaars at Kottar selling various goods. The main commodities of trade were ivory, teak, rose wood, salt, pepper etc. The river Palayaar might have been used as an inland waterway and in all probability Muttam, Colachel, Kadigaipattinam and Kanniyakumari might have been served as sea ports. They were busy centres of maritime activities in ancient days, even now the bazaar of Kottar is famous for trade and it is locally called *Pandaka Salai* and *Koolakadai*.

The trade and commerce dominated on one side of the river Palayaar. On the other side, there was Sanghams or assemblies of scholars. The place Puravaseri on the eastern side of the river is only a corruptive form of Pulavar Seri which means the assembly of scholars. There is epigraphic evidence that land was given to two teachers at Puravaseri for expounding Vedas. There were also several Jain Scholars named Putbananda Adigal, Uttananda Adigal, Vimalachandrar and Paathamoolathan Aranganmaaran who had prefixed the word Kottar to their names. Sambandar has also described the naked Jain monks roaming in the streets of Kottar. There is clear evidence to show that the temple of Nagaraja at Nagercoil is of purely Jain origin.

The city had a number of lofty and palatial buildings beautified with multi-coloured flags. The place was surrounded by a vast expanse of Paddy fields, beautiful flower gardens and wavy coconut groves, pleasing to the eyes of the visitors. That all types of music and musical instruments were popular in the city is evident from the poetical illustration of Sambandar. The city containing charming dancers, craftsmen with artistic talents and clever magicians was a heaven to the visitors. Thus a graphic picture of life in Kottar is given in Thevaaram. This

description is supplemented by the words of a Carmelite Monk Fr. Bartholomew of the 18th century who mentions that '...this city, of considerable trade, is upward of 2000 years old, and much frequented by merchants from the island of Ceylon, the provinces of Madura, Tanjore and the coast of Coramandal. A river which flows through the middle of it, divides it into two parts. It contains abundance of merchandise; and is inhabited by a great number of weavers, money changers, silver-smiths, jugglers, comedians, quacks, dancing girls, conjurers and black artists'. Even now we can see in the Alagamman Temple at Vadiveeswaram near Kottar, the image of a juggler facing upward, balances an inverted short dagger at the tip of his nose and also a rotating saucer on the uplifted fore-finger of his right hand while his animated left hand and left foot are playing the popular game of ammanai with two balls. In another pillar one juggler stands in a balancing pose with his right foot on a stick vertically placed on the back of a pig.

There is epigraphic and literary evidence to show that Kottar, the flourishing city of Naanjil Naadu attracted almost all the dynasties of South India. In the words of Dr.K.K.Pillay "Commencing from the days of the early Paandyas. Kottar, the metropolis became the cock-pit of the South". Kottar has served as a strategic base for the early rulers. From Paandikkovai we learn that the city was once surrounded by a gigantic fort and it was captured by the Paandya King Arikesari Maaravarman, the contemporary of Sambandar.

Sanctified by the inspiring verses of the Saivite Saint Tirugnanasambandar and ruled by the Kings of different dynasties, Kottar one of the cities of ancient Tamil Nadu stands as an embodiment of different religions Hinduism,

Jainism, Christianity and Islam and it continues to be a dynamic centre of trade.

TEMPLE CULTURE

Tamil Naadu is a land of Temples. As in other parts of Tamil Nadu Kanniyakumari is having numerous temples of legendary, historical and artistic importance. But except the temples at Kanniyakumari and Suchindrum all others are unknown to the outsiders.



The Nagaraja temple of Chera style, the Cholaraajakoil of Chola structure and the Suchindrum temple of Paandya architecture reveal the fact that the rulers of Chera, Chola and Paandya Kingdoms poured into the rich plains of Naanjil Naadu and left their memorabilia in the district. There is also evidence to show that the Vijayanagar Chieftains and Nayak rulers have also had their share in the reconstruction of the temples in Kanniyakumari. Thus almost all the leading dynasties of South India have had their share in the construction of temples in Kanniyakumari District.

The only shrine dedicated to Trinity is Sthanumalaya's at Suchindrum. Sthanu is a synonym for Siva, Maal for Vishnu and Ayan for Brahma. The temple is noted for its exquisite, workmanship in stone. The marvellous sculptural skill can be seen in the

musical pillars cut out of a single block of granite stone which produce sounds of different musical instruments. The colossal monolithic image of Anjaneya of a height of 18 feet is an outstanding work of art. There is an image of Thirumal Nayak at Suchindrum. The formation of the nostrils is done so skilfully in the image that the cavity of each nostril extends to the ear on its side and the holes of the ears are also connected. Thus the temple may be considered as one of the treasure houses of the richest specimens of art in stone.

The temple of Nagaraja at Nagercoil unifies the four streams of Indian religion. Besides Siva and Vishnu there are several Jain images in the temple. The beautiful main gate way of the temple reminds us of the Buddhist monastery. Thus the temple of Nagaraja stands as an embodiment of the four creeds Saivism, Vashnavism, Jainism and finally Buddhism.



The Adikesavaperumal temple at Tiruvattar is famous for its fine workmanship in stone and wood, the striking example among them being a huge piece of granite slab measuring 18 feet square and 3 feet in thickness cut out of a rock, placed in front of the main idol. It is called Ottakkal Mandapa, the construction of which is a great achievement in the field of structural

engineering. The wooden ceiling of Udayamaarthanda Mandapa is profusely carved with beautiful figures and it is regarded as a remarkable example of the artistic genius of the period.

The story of Ramayana has been depicted dramatically on 45 wooden panels in the Ramaswamy temple at Padmanabhapuram, once the capital of Venaad rulers. It is one of the best specimens of wood art in the whole of India.

There is a temple of Vishnu at Parthivasekharapuram. One of the copper plates dated 866 A.D. informs us that Kokkarunandakkan of Aay dynasty consecrated a temple and established there a college for vedic studies in which arrangements were made to give free boarding, lodging and tuition fees to 90 students. They have imparted advanced courses of study both in theory and practice and in the administration of the country both in the civil and military branches. In the institution the martial arts were taught to the students by the masters of Kalari Payittu.

Among the temples built in the modern period, the memorial of Swami Vivekananda on the sea-girt rock at Kanniyakumari ranks first. The majestic monument which is an embodiment of different styles of architecture including Pallava and Chola stands as a fitting testimony to the traditional architectural genius of Tamil Nadu.

ART

We have evidence to show that in Kanniyakumari District the Art of Dance, Music and Paintings were preserved in the Temples. Several dancers known as Devadasis were

attached to the temple of Sthanumalaya at Suchindrum as in Thanjavur. They could also sing and play on a variety of musical instruments. Their performances were also held in the temple at Trivandrum during Navaraathri festivals. Many folk dances like Kummi, Kolaattam, Kaavadiaattam, Mayilaattam, Poykaal Kuthirai Aattam, Kaniaan Aattam, Aali Aattam and Kumbaattam are in vogue in Kanniyakumari District even today. They are staged in all social and temple festivals. The puppet shows were also performed in the temple festivals. Gopala Rao of Kottaram and Chelliah Nadar of Elusaattuppathu were experts on this dramatic art.

Kanniyakumari District encouraged the art of painting in ancient days. The old mural paintings are found on the walls of the rock-cut cave temple at Tirunandikkarai, the structural temple at Suchindrum and the palace at Padmanabhapuram. The main ingredient of the paint used during the period was only the leaves of certain plants.

VILLUPPAATTU (BOW-SONG)

Villuppaattu is a famous folk-art in the southern parts of Tamil Naadu. The people of Kanniyakumari saved the ancient art from the ravages of modern civilization. In Kanniyakumari there are several bow-songs in palm leaf records. A few of them were published by Arumugha Perumal Nadar of Agastheeswaram. In the year 1795 a bow-song named "The Victory of the Dewan" was written by Tiruanandam Pillai of Shenbagaraamanputhur. It describes the victory of Raja Kesavadaas in the war between the Maharaaja of Travancore and Tipu Sultan of Mysore in the year 1790. Osaravilai Appaavu Nadar of 19th century and

Punnakulam Kolappa Pillai, Thovalai Sundaram Pillai and Maatthivilai Ponnumuthu Aasaan of 20th century were the exponents on Villupaattu in the district. Even ladies used to play Villupaattu there. Kalaivaanar N.S. Krishnan has introduced Villupaattu to other parts of Tamil Nadu. His Villuppaattu on "Mahatma Gandhi" has earned a popularity still unmatched. The works of Dr. T. Natarajan in the field of Villuppaattu and folk tales are commendable.

MEDICAL SCIENCE AND ALLIED ART

The medical science of the Tamils evolved during the Sangham period was known as "Siddha Vaidyam". There are numerous palm leaf records on Siddha Vaidyam in Kanniyakumari District. Kanniyakumari is not only a home of Siddha Vaidyam but also the birth place of Varmam, the science of bones and nerves in Siddha Vaidyam. Even the women members in Kalkulam and Vilavankodu Taluks know the science of Varmam. Several books like "Varmani" and "Varma Sutra" were written by Aasaans of Kanniyakumari. They are in Palm leaf records.

Kalaripayattu which includes Silampam (fighting with sticks) Katthikutthu (fighting with knives) and Varma pidi (the art of striking at vulnerable parts of the body) are unique pugilistic feats of the district. Karathe is said to be a modernised form of this martial art.

SCULPTURAL ART

Kanniyakumari is famous for its sculptural art. Indian sculptural forms are poetic utterances in stone, wood, metal or lime. In Kanniyakumari there are experts in making images in all the four mediums. The artisans of Mylaudy are specially reputed for their skill in making stone

images. They have developed a unique tradition. They still hold a high place in the artistic field of Tamil Nadu.

ARCHITECTURE



Besides the builders of temples there were builders of forts and fortresses in Kanniyakumari District in ancient days. The remnants of a fort from Kadukkarai to Kanniyakumari with a length of more than 20 miles can be seen even today. Vattakkottai on the shore of Kanniyakumari was utilised as a defensive structure to save the country from the naval invaders. Udayagiri, a fortified hill was of great strategic importance during the period of the Chola King Raja Raja I. Padmanabhapuram, the old capital of Venaadu rulers is surrounded by a square fortification of stone about 2.5 miles perimeter. The Palace at Padmanabhapuram which occupies the centre of the fort, is a complex of many structures built at various times. The forts and the palace in Kanniyakumari District testify to the strategic glory of the mighty Tamil rulers and to the engineering skill of the builders of the period. Such proficiency in all arts and architecture elevates Kanniyakumari to a height of glory in the cultural field of the Tamil World.

Source : Research Paper on Kanniyakumari
by Dr. S. Padmanabhan

★ ★ ★



PURE
silk

PURE
zari

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

Co-optex
WALLAPPAH ROAD



[illegible]

TamilArasu

MARCH 1999 Bs.3





**நமது அன்றாட
பழக்கவழக்கங்களால்,
எய்ட்ஸ் வராது.
அதற்கு நீங்களே
ஒரு உதாரணம்.**

காலையில் எழுந்தது முதல் ராத்திரி படுக்கப் போகும் வரை நீங்கள் எத்தனையோ பேரைச் சந்திக்கிறீர்கள். ஒட்டலுக்குச் செல்கிறீர்கள், சினிமா பார்க்கிறீர்கள், நெரிசலான பஸ்ஸில் பயணம் செய்கிறீர்கள், பலருடன் கை குலுக்குகிறீர்கள்.

இவர்களில் யாருக்காவது எச்ஐவி/ எய்ட்ஸ் பாதித்து இருக்கலாம்.

சாதாரண பழக்கவழக்கங்களின் மூலம் எய்ட்ஸ் பரவுவதாக இருந்தால், உங்களையும் எய்ட்ஸ் பாதித்திருக்க வேண்டும்.

ஆனால் அப்படி இல்லையே...

ஏனெனில், கை குலுக்குவதாலோ, உணவைப் பகிர்ந்து கொள்வதாலோ, தொடுவதாலோ, தும்மலினாலோ, கழிப்பிடத்தை அனைவரும் உபயோகிப்பதாலோ, எய்ட்ஸ் பரவுவதில்லை.

எனவே எய்ட்ஸ் பாதித்தவரைக் கண்டு நீங்கள் ஒதுங்க வேண்டியதில்லை. உங்களுக்கு எந்த ஆபத்தும் இல்லை.

அவர்களும் நம்மைப் போன்றவர்கள்தான். அவர்களுக்கு எப்பொழுதும் போல நாம் அன்பும், ஆதரவும் காட்டுவோம்.

**சிறிதளவு ஆதரவு பெருமளவு
சுமையைக் குறைக்கும்.**

நமது அன்றாட பழக்கவழக்கங்களால், எய்ட்ஸ் வராது.

**முழுந்தை பிறப்பைத் தடுப்போம்
எய்ட்ஸ் வந்தோரைக் காப்போம்**

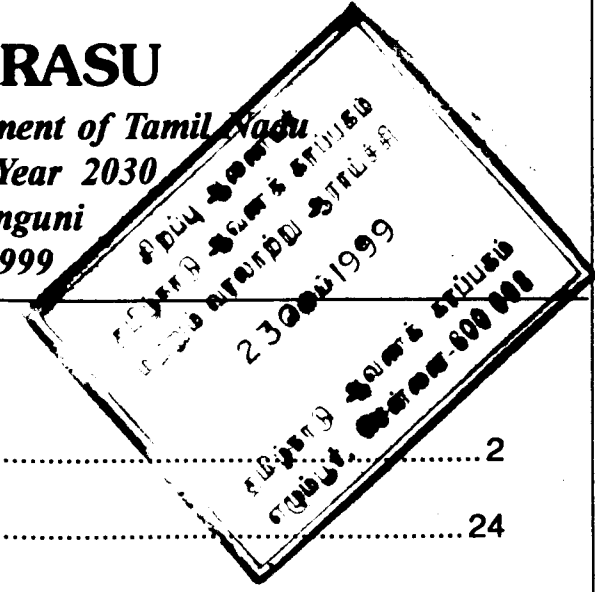
TAMIL ARASU

Magazine of the Government of Tamil Nadu

Thiruvalluvar Year 2030

Masi - Panguni

March 1999



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*Untouchability is an age old superstitious belief.
This evil has decreased the ability of the country in all aspects.*

- Swami Vivekanandar

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Speech of Thiru M. Karunanidhi, Chief Minister, Government of Tamilnadu, presenting the Budget for 1999-2000 to the Legislative Assembly on 17th March 1999.

Honourable Speaker Sir,

I present the Revised Estimates for 1998-99 and the Budget Estimates for 1999-2000 with the pledge that the D.M.K Government would untiringly continue to follow the path of Anna and strive for the establishment of true federalism by devolution of

the powers concentrated at the Centre to the States, for the emergence of State autonomy, for all the national languages to obtain the status of official languages of the Union and for Tamil language to get this status in the first instance, for vesting with the respective States the authority to decide on the policy of reservation in consonance with the ideals of social justice of the Dravidian movement, for the progress of the poor, the downtrodden and the middle classes, for the protection of the minorities and for safeguarding social unity blended with communal harmony and humanism.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2. Tamilnadu's economy in 1998-99, can be said to be in its growth phase as compared to 1997-98. The Gross State Domestic Product at 1993-94 prices is expected to register a growth of 6.78 percent this year as against a growth of 6.31 percent last year. The population below the poverty line in the rural areas has decreased from 32.48 percent in 1993-94 to 24.72 percent in 1997-98 and in the urban areas from 39.77 percent to 32.70 percent. The overall poverty ratio in Tamilnadu has declined from 35.03 percent to 27.58 percent.

CENTRE STATE FINANCIAL RELATIONS

3. It is regrettable that the Constitutional amendment Bill introduced in the Parliament for the devolution of 29 percent of the gross tax revenues of the Central Government to the States with effect from 1.4.1996, as announced by the United Front Government in 1997, is yet to be passed and that financial assistance to meet a part of the additional expenditure to the States arising from the implementation of Pay Commission recommendations has also not been given so far.
4. Additional duty and surcharge have been imposed in this year's Central Budget for increasing the revenue from Central Excise duty and Income tax. I urge the Central Government to share the additional revenue of about Rs.3,000 crores generated from these imposts with the States.
5. As the Central Government has modified the basis of allocation of funds for poverty alleviation programmes this year, Tamilnadu which has reduced its level of poverty by effective implementation of development schemes, finds its share reduced from 7.062 percent to 4.987 percent. I had brought this paradox to the notice of the Union Planning Commission and the Central Government and had emphasised that allocation of funds should not be reduced. It has been decided in the recently held meeting of the National Development Council to constitute an Expert Committee to

examine this fully. Until a decision is taken, I have requested the Central Government to continue the financial allocation on the earlier basis.

LOCAL BODIES

6. This Government conducted the elections to local bodies as promised, in order to ensure widespread presence of people's elected representatives for solving their day to day problems and for the welfare of their villages. Tamilnadu was among the first few States to devolve 8 percent of its total tax revenue to the local bodies. By this, the local bodies received Rs.685 crores in the year 1997-98 and Rs.762 crores in this financial year. While this will be increased to Rs.845 crores in the next financial year, Rs.80 crores will be provided as 90 percent share of the Entertainment Tax and Rs.101 crores will be allocated based on the Tenth Finance Commission grants for taking up capital works. From the State funds, Rs.25 crores will be allocated for Municipal Corporations, Rs. 10 crores for Municipalities and Rs.25 crores for Town Panchayats for creating infrastructure facilities and Rs.50 Crores will be allocated for the new Golden Jubilee Scheme for improving drinking water facilities in urban areas with growing populations.
7. Totally Rs.2,023 crores have been allocated to the local bodies by way of various grants from the State Government, share in tax revenue and allocations for schemes implemented by local bodies. This amounts to 19 percent of the tax revenue of our State.
8. In addition, a provision of Rs.105 crores has been made under the proposed Tamilnadu Urban Development Project awaiting approval of the World Bank, for administrative improvements in local bodies, computerisation, etc.

9. The recommendations of the Committee, with the Minister for Local Administration as the convenor, to consider

the transfer of more powers to the local bodies, will be examined and the decisions of the Government thereon will be announced in this session itself at the time of moving the demand for grants of the Local Administration Department.

ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS

10. This Government, having assumed power with a vow to traverse the path of justice that lets no wrongdoer escape, had appointed a High Level Committee on administrative reforms headed by Justice Thiru Ramanujam for ensuring an honest and efficient administration and for preventing corruption. The decisions of the Government on the recommendations of this committee will be placed in the Assembly in the current session.

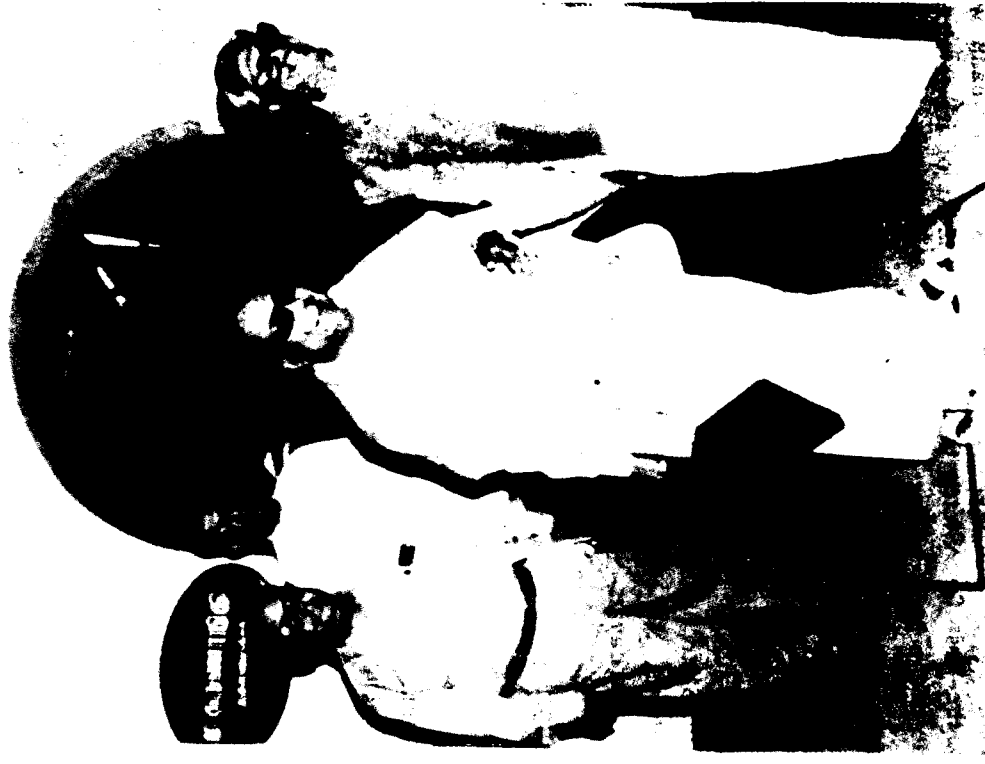
11. The President's assent for the bill on the Transparency in Tenders passed in this Assembly last year has been received recently. The Act will be implemented soon.

12. Sanction has been accorded for the construction of District Collectors' Office Complexes for the districts of Tiruvarur, Thiruvannamalai, Nagapattinam, Karur, Namakkal, Theni and Tiruvallur at a cost of Rs.38.54 crores.

13. It has been decided to computerise the land records in all the taluks in the State and necessary infrastructure for this purpose has been created so far in 35 taluks in 7 districts. Computerisation of land records in all the districts will be completed by the end of next year.

14. We have already made available to the people 80 different application forms in the Internet website created by the Government. All Government application forms will be available on the Internet in Tamil and English within a year. The 'Citizen's Charters' of the various departments of the Government can be accessed through the Internet.

15. On completion of school education, community certificate, income certificate and nativity certificate are



required for pursuing higher studies and for getting employment. Completed applications for these certificates will be obtained from the students even as they study in classes X or XII and sent to the Tahsildar with the attestation of the Headmaster. Certificates will be prepared and despatched to the schools after enquiries by the Tahsildars. These certificates will be handed over to the students on completion of studies along with the Transfer Certificates at a special function. Due to this new arrangement, students need not wait in taluk offices for obtaining these certificates.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT

16. Under the "Anna Marumalarchi Thittam", named after the beloved leader who proclaimed that the wheels of his Government would revolve only around the lives of the poor, the downtrodden, the middle class and the common man 25,171 works for providing roads, drinking water, school buildings etc., have been taken up in the current financial year in 212 village panchayats at a cost of Rs.182 crores. A sum of Rs.75 crores has been allocated for this scheme for the next financial year.

17. Tremendous public support has been received for "Namakku Naame Thittam", another new scheme of this Government. Under this scheme, 4,231 works for a value of Rs.24.19 crores have been taken up in this financial year for fulfilling the needs of the villages. For the next financial year, as a first phase Rs.10 crores has been allocated for this scheme.

18. "Namakku Naame Thittam", the scheme which encourages the sense of self help among people in fulfilling their needs themselves, will from the next year be implemented in urban areas also.

19. Under the MLA Constituency Development Scheme, 6,389 works such as roads, bridges, school buildings have been taken up in this financial year at a cost of Rs.82.25 crores at the rate of Rs.35 lakhs per constituency. In the next financial year, the allocation for this scheme will be Rs.50 lakhs per Assembly constituency.

20. Under the Jawahar Velai Vaippu Thittam, 43,533 Panchayat works including black topping of 1,420 kilometre length of roads, construction of fair price shops, noon meal centres, school buildings etc., have been taken up in the current financial year. A provision of Rs.48.90 crores has been made in the next financial year towards State Government's share for this scheme.

21. The unit cost for concrete roofs under the programme for construction of free concrete group houses has been increased

from Rs.7,000 to Rs.12,000 per house in this financial year and Rs.32,000 is being spent on each house. In the next financial year, a sum of Rs.19.2 crores has been allocated towards State Government's share for this scheme. In addition to this, an allocation of Rs.55.51 crores is being made to meet the entire expenditure for providing concrete roofs and 46,000 houses will be constructed.

22. Under the Employment Assurance Scheme, black topping of 3,519 kms of roads, construction of 1,449 school buildings, 2,992 other building works, 2,834 minor irrigation works and 8,521 water harvesting works have been taken up during the current financial year. An allocation of Rs.47.6 crores has been made as State Government's share for this scheme in the next financial year.

23. In the last financial year, 20,000 streetlights have been provided in villages without streetlights. In addition, Government has allocated a sum of Rs.12.6 crores in the current financial year for providing 25,714 street lights in such villages.

24. Makkal Nala Paniyalargal are presently being paid Rs.500 per month as honorarium. Considering their good work in explaining various schemes of the Government to the people and enabling them to derive the full benefits from such schemes, their monthly honorarium is being raised to Rs.750 so as to encourage them further to function with more zeal. They will also be paid a travelling allowance of Rs.50 per month.

RURAL WATER SUPPLY

25. This Government, which governs with the thought that for the fertility of the soil and welfare of the people, the kural "the world cannot exist without water", has to be kept in mind, has enhanced the allocation for rural water supply from Rs.330 crores in the current financial year to Rs.450 crores in the next financial year. The work for full coverage of water supply to 6,300 habitations

presently having inadequate water supply will be taken up in the next financial year.

26. The decision of the Government to provide house service connections for drinking water in the rural areas has been welcomed. Therefore, hereafter taking into account the additional requirement for house service connections, rural water supply schemes will be designed to provide 55 litres per person per day.

URBAN DRINKING WATER SUPPLY

27. A Special Golden Jubilee Year Programme will be launched for improving drinking water supply in urban areas having insufficient water supply. In the first phase, the programme will be implemented in 10 Municipalities and 25 Town Panchayats during the next financial year with a budgetary allocation of Rs.50 crores and loans of over Rs.100 crores from financial institutions.

28. Chennai City continues to receive 440 million litres of drinking water. This has been made possible due to the availability of adequate water from the Krishna water scheme. Even as the availability of water has been increased, efforts have been taken to improve its distribution. Overhead reservoirs have been constructed and made operational in two areas, viz. Valluvar Kottam and



dwellers living on the banks of these waterways. On completion of these works, the areas adjoining these rivers will be beautified and additional commercial and recreation facilities will be provided for the public. Tenders have been invited for this mega project and the work would commence in a month or two. I seek the cooperation and support of the people for transforming Chennai Metropolis into a clean and beautiful city.

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

36. In accordance with the distilled wisdom of the learned that 'people coexist through sharing', this Government has evinced keen interest in the Public Distribution System for ensuring uninterrupted availability of food grains to the public and to control the price of rice. Therefore, despite an increase in the average cost of procurement of rice for Public Distribution System from Rs.6.70 per kg in the year 1995-96 to Rs.8.08 per kg now, Government has not raised the issue price of rice. Consequently, the food subsidy borne by the Government has increased from Rs.653 crores in 1995-96 to Rs.1,000 crores in 1998-99. At a time when people had not yet recovered from the rising prices of essential commodities, increasing the prices of rice, wheat, sugar, urca and cooking gas by the Central Government is certain to penalise the poor, the middle classes and the farming community. Since increasing the issue price of rice would adversely affect the people and could also result in escalation of its price in the open market, we have decided not to burden the people with the present hike in the price of rice. As a result of this decision, the burden on the State's exchequer will increase by Rs.160 crores.

37. In order to streamline the distribution of kerosene to family cardholders, this Government had introduced an innovative scheme of setting up of kerosene bunks, the first of its kind in the country. These bunks have been helpful in eliminating the endless waiting in long queues and also preventing under measurement of kerosene distributed in fair price shops. 334 retail kerosene bunks have so far been sanctioned, out of which, 121 have started

Tiruvallikeni. Construction of the remaining 10 overhead tanks is progressing rapidly.

29. For the next financial year, an allocation of Rs.105 crores has been made for the Second Chennai Water Supply Project and Rs.75 crores for the Sewerage Renovation Project.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

30. Tamilnadu is one of the most urbanised States in the country. It is expected that within the next few years, more than half the population of our State would live in the urban areas.

31. In particular, Chennai Metropolitan Area, the capital city of our State, has emerged as one of the important industrial and commercial centres of this country. As a result, it has become necessary to implement many development projects in this metropolis.

32. For the second phase of the Mass Rapid Transit System Project, the State Government has agreed to bear two thirds of the cost of the project apart from making available the required Government lands free of cost. It has been decided to extend this scheme upto St.Thomas Mount.

33. Gauge conversion work of the Beach-Tambaram suburban line has also been undertaken with 50% contribution from the State Government. Under this scheme, level crossings in this section would be replaced by overhead bridges or sub-ways.

34. Traffic congestion in Chennai will ease considerably on completion of the bypass road from Tambaram to Maduravoyal, mofussil bus terminal at Koyembedu and various mini fly-overs and sub-ways in the city.

35. The Coovam, Adyar river, Buckingham canal and Otteri Nullah would be desilted and improved under the Chennai Flood Relief Project. In order to facilitate implementation of this project, the State Government is taking steps to resettle the slum

functioning. The rest would start functioning in the next few months.

AGRICULTURE

38. Farmers, whose livelihood is cultivation and who sustain the others in society, constitute 65 percent of our State's population. By their untiring efforts, food production in the State is expected to increase from 85 lakh tonnes last year to 98 lakh tonnes this year.

39. About 15 percent of the total land area in Tamilnadu are wastelands. A major project, which will find its place in history, for the development of wastelands covering 10,000 hectares, will be launched in the next year itself. The future of the poor living in the backward areas of Tamilnadu lies in bringing the wastelands into cultivation. A Wasteland Development Authority will be set up with experts for formulating wasteland development action plans and implementing them.

40. Adopting the legal frame work in the sugar sector under which a system of agreements between sugar mills and cane growers have enabled increasing sugarcane production and a fair price to the farmer for the sugarcane harvested, to the horticulture sector, a scheme would be launched in the next financial year with the participation of the private and cooperative sector institutions for enabling the farmers to get fair prices for vegetables and fruits produced by them and transporting their produce to urban areas to fetch reasonable prices.

41. A scheme for setting up of cold storages has been launched at a cost of Rs.40.52 crores to enable the farmers to store their horticultural products in times of surplus and obtain reasonable prices for their produce. In the first phase, this scheme will be implemented in the districts of Chennai, Dindigul and Salem at a cost of Rs.4.7 crores with the assistance of National Cooperative Development Corporation.

42. An allocation of Rs.21 crores for the Agricultural Human Resources Development Project and Rs.6.23 crores for DANIDA assisted Tamilnadu Women in Agriculture Project have been made for the next financial year.

43. In Thanjavur district, 81,553 farmers have defaulted in repayment of loans obtained from Cooperative Banks. Out of this, 21,898 are big farmers. As announced by me in my reply to the debate on the Governor's address, distraint proceedings will not be initiated by cooperative banks against the remaining 60 thousand or so small and marginal farmers. This will also be applicable to other districts.

44. To ensure that irrigation water is not wasted, this Government has been implementing the Water Resources Consolidation Project to modernise large and medium irrigation schemes to enhance the efficiency of irrigation by improving the canal systems and for the early completion of nine incomplete irrigation projects. 174 works at an estimated cost of Rs.344 crores have been taken up so far under this project. An allocation of Rs.219 crores has been made for this scheme for the next financial year. Farmers' Councils will be formed to obtain the participation of farmers in operation and maintenance of such schemes.

45. Aware of the importance of desilting works for increasing the availability of water for irrigation and for the speedy drainage of flood water, this Government has carried out desilting operations for the past two years at a cost of Rs.58 crores. Recognising the benefits of this scheme which has been welcomed by the farmers, desilting operations in 472 km of river beds, 1,624 km of drainage channels, 1,816 km of canals and 136 tanks will be undertaken in the next financial year with an allocation of Rs.50 crores.

46. 53 irrigation schemes are being implemented at a cost of Rs.665 crores. In the next financial year, approval will be given for the Nilaiyur canal project benefiting lands in Madurai, Virudhunagar and Sivagangai districts at an estimated cost of

be continued during next financial year. A scheme for the development of inland fishermen will be prepared after considering the representations of their associations.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

49. In the past three years, this Government has opened 100 new veterinary dispensaries at a cost of Rs.2.68 crores. 50 veterinary dispensaries have been upgraded as veterinary hospitals. 10 new veterinary dispensaries will be opened in the next financial year.

50. Government decided in April 1998 to increase the procurement price of milk procured from the farmers of cooperative milk societies by Rs.1.50 per litre. This has resulted in an increase in the daily milk procurement from an average 12.36 lakh litres per day in 1997-98 to 15.10 lakh litres per day in the current financial year.

ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST

51. The Government has approved the setting up of 26 common effluent treatment plants to prevent the pollution caused by leather processing industry of which 12 plants have started functioning. Further, the Government has approved the setting up of 22 common effluent treatment plants to prevent the pollution caused by the dyeing industry, of which 5 plants have started functioning. The rest are under construction. Similarly, we have requested the Central Government to provide subsidy for a programme of setting up common effluent treatment plants for preventing the pollution caused by sago-factories.

52. Under the National River Action Plan implemented with Central assistance since 1996-97, works have been undertaken in the towns of Bhavani, Erode, Kumarapalayam, Pallipalayam and Trichy to prevent pollution in the river Cauvery. For this, a sum of Rs.8 crores has been allocated for the next financial year.

53. 200 villages adjoining forest areas are selected under the Tamilnadu Afforestation project every year and in two years



Rs.8.94 crores, the Mirukanda river anicut project in Thiruvannamalai district at a cost of Rs.16.79 crores, the Ullaru dam project in Tirunelveli district at an estimated cost of Rs.23 crores, a scheme for strengthening the Cauvery upper anicut at Mukkombu at an estimated cost of Rs.6 crores, the Mambazhathuraiyar scheme in Kanniyakumari district at an estimated cost of Rs.9.5 crores and the 18th channel scheme in Theni district at an estimated cost of Rs.26.52 crores.

FISHERMEN WELFARE

47. Under the 'Sindanai Sirpi' Ma.Singaravelar Memorial Fishermen Free Housing Scheme, 12,000 houses have been sanctioned till now, of which 7,155 houses have been completed. In the current financial year, the unit cost of houses under this scheme was raised from Rs.32,000 to Rs.37,000. In the next financial year, 4,000 more houses will be constructed at a cost of Rs.14.80 crores.

48. Government has so far sanctioned a sum of Rs.12.75 crores under the Savings and Relief scheme as relief to 1.69 lakh coastal fishermen. This scheme will be continued in the next financial year also. Government has sanctioned a sum of Rs.3 crores towards subsidy for kerosene and diesel for about 20,000 country crafts in order to alleviate the hardship faced by small fishermen due to the increase in fuel prices. This scheme will

afforestation activities have been taken up in 1,50,000 hectares. A provision of Rs.96.73 crores has been made in the next financial year for covering an area of 75,850 hectares with the participation of the local community through joint forest management.

ROADS

54. As early as in 1972, when the DMK Government was in power, efforts were initiated for providing link roads to all villages with a population of more than 1,500. As the next phase, in 1990, the DMK Government undertook the provision of link roads to all villages with a population of more than 1,000. Of the balance 517 villages, link roads were provided for 216 villages in the last financial year. The remaining 301 villages will be provided with link roads by the end of this financial year. As a result of this, we will achieve the position where there will be no village in Tamilnadu with a population of more than 1,000 without link roads. As a next step, 340 villages with population between 500 and 1,000 without link roads will be provided link road facility in the next financial year as a first phase.

55. During the last three years, schemes at an estimated cost of Rs.702 crores for improvement of roads have been taken up with assistance from the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund operated by NABARD. In the next year, a provision of Rs.256 crores has been made for works under this scheme.

56. Construction work on 208 bridges at a cost of Rs.450 crores has been started and is in progress. The work on the Karanodai bridge at a cost of Rs.20 crores, the Karur bridge at Rs.12 crores, Chennai bypass road from Tambaram to Maduravoyal at Rs.43 crores, Madurai bypass road at Rs.36 crores and also Coimbatore bypass road at a cost of Rs.92 crores are in progress and will be completed in the next two years. The work on the improvement of radial roads in Chennai at a cost of Rs.212 crores will commence next month.

57. The allocation for maintenance of roads has been increased from Rs.254 crores in this financial year to Rs.270 crores in the next financial year. The quality of the work of restoration of the flood damaged roads deploying modern machinery has received the appreciation of the public. In view of this, from the next financial year, Rs.100 crores out of the provisions for road maintenance will be earmarked every year for mechanised relaying of roads.

10 Tamil Arasu

TRANSPORT

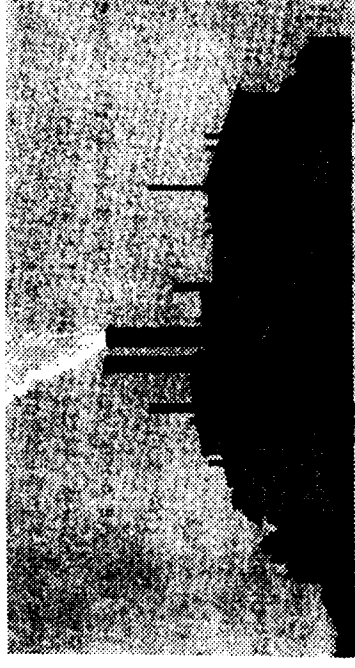
58. Tamilnadu State Transport Corporations have received several awards at the national level on the basis of their efficient performance. 7,309 new buses have been purchased in the last three years. By streamlining the purchase procedures in the State Transport Corporations, substantial reduction has been effected in the expenditure. Despite this, the State Transport Corporations will incur a loss of about Rs.400 crores during the current financial year since the bus fares continue to be the lowest compared to other States. In the next financial year, an allocation of Rs.100 crores has been provided for Government's equity investment in these corporations and Rs.80 crores for reimbursement of free bus passes issued to the students.

59. The mini bus scheme is gaining popularity among the rural population in Tamilnadu. At present, 320 mini buses are plying in the State. This will grow further in the future.

ELECTRICITY

60. In the next financial year, the Plan outlay for Tamilnadu Electricity Board will increase to Rs.1,034 crores.

61. The first private sector power project with a capacity of 196 MW located at Basin Bridge near Chennai, has commenced production in the current year and its inaugural function is slated for the 28th of this month. Further, construction work on the 330 MW



65. In this financial year, automobile majors like Hyundai and Mitsubishi have commenced production in our State. Ford Motors will commence production on the 19th of this month.

66. Acquisition of 15,301 hectares of land is in progress for setting up industrial growth centres and parks needed for starting industries in Tamilnadu. 6,160 hectares of land have been acquired so far. The work on the Export Promotion Industrial Park at Gummidipundi at a cost of Rs.19.90 crores, is nearing completion. The first phase of the work on the Perundurai Growth Centre will be completed before this month end.

67. The recommendations of the expert committee constituted under the chairmanship of Thiru. S.V.S. Raghavan to suggest measures for restructuring the Public Sector Undertakings have been examined and the following decisions have been taken.

68. Since the Tamilnadu Corporation for Industrial Infrastructure Development (TACID) and the State Industrial Promotion Corporation of Tamilnadu (SIPCOT) are engaged in similar activities, TACID will be merged with SIPCOT. After such a merger, SIPCOT will look after creation of infrastructure for industrial growth and the term lending operations of SIPCOT will be transferred to Tamilnadu Industrial Investment Corporation (TIIC).

69. The Transport Development Finance Corporation (TDFC) and the Tamilnadu Power Finance Corporation (TNPFC) will be merged to create the Tamilnadu Infrastructure Finance Corporation (TIFC).

70. The Industrial Guidance and Export Promotion Bureau (TAMILNADU GUIDANCE BUREAU) will be merged with Tamilnadu Industrial Development Corporation and will function as a division of TIDCO. The other recommendations of the committee are under examination.

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

71. As the world of science and technology has the

power project at Pillaiperumalnallur in Nagapattinam district and the 250 MW power project at Neyveli has already been started. Construction work on the 106 MW project at Samayanallur and 106 MW project at Samalpatti will commence during this month. All these projects are in the private sector.

62. Construction work on the natural gas based 90 MW power project at Kovilkalappal in Nagapattinam district, 60 MW power project at Perungulam in Ramanathapuram district and 60 MW power project at Kutthalam in Thanjavur district will be started in the next financial year by the Tamilnadu Electricity Board. The renovation and modernisation work of the Ennore Thermal Power Station will also commence next year.

63. Tamilnadu is one of the States having low electricity transmission and distribution losses. In the next financial year, the allocation for improving and streamlining the electricity distribution system will be Rs.427 crores.

INDUSTRIES AND EMPLOYMENT

64. This Government has been following an honest and industry friendly approach towards industrial development. A Single Window system has been introduced for granting approvals to the project proposals of entrepreneurs without delay and sector specific policies for fast growing sectors like Information technology have been formulated.

distinction of seeing yesterday's innovations becoming obsolete today, this Government has decided to utilise to the maximum the contemporary innovation in the Information Technology for the economic and social development of the State.

72. Government desires that all students passing out of schools should be computer literate. A scheme for offering computer science, based on curriculum designed by experts, as an elective subject in the 11-12 standards in all the 1200 Higher Secondary schools in the State would be introduced in the next academic year. The courses will be conducted by reputed computer training firms who will install the computers in the schools. At an average rate of 40 students per school, this scheme will produce about 48,000 students eligible for employment in the software industry.

73. Development of software in Tamil language has been impeded due to the absence of internationally accepted coding standard for Tamil. Taking note of this, the Government of Tamilnadu organised an international conference and seminar 'Tamil Net 99' in Chennai on 7th and 8th of February, 1999. In this conference which was organised with the objective of standardising coding of Tamil scripts and Tamil keyboards, 150 international experts from 7 countries participated and have taken consensus decisions.

74. Tamilnadu Government will create a "Tamil Software Development Fund" to encourage the rapid growth of Tamil software. It has also been planned to set up an International Tamil Virtual University for the benefit of Tamils living throughout the world. Due to these efforts, the benefits of Internet and information technology will be available not only to the people of Tamilnadu but also to all the Tamils in the world.

75. The proposed joint venture with M/s. World Tel from England will not only provide Internet access throughout the State but also create job opportunities for about 1,50,000 persons. Through this, those who do not have

computers of their own and people who know only Tamil language can obtain access to Internet facility through the Community Internet Centres located near their homes at reasonable cost, for their various day to day needs.

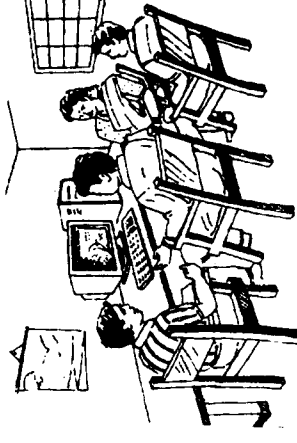
76. Telemedicine facility will be introduced in our State to make available the benefit of modern medical treatment with the advice and guidance of medical experts from far off, through computers. Initially, a taluk hospital will be linked through computers to a medical college hospital. This facility will be extended gradually throughout the State.

EDUCATION

77. Aware that letters and numbers constitute the two radiant eyes of all living beings, this Government has made an allocation of Rs.4,092 crores for education in the next financial year.

78. This Government has been according high priority to Primary Education with the objective of providing compulsory education for all children till they attain the age of 14 years as envisaged in the Constitution of India. For providing elementary education for all, an "Elementary Education Movement" will be launched from the next financial year. Campaigns would be launched in the month of May before the reopening of schools for spreading the awareness of the importance of elementary education among the people. With the involvement of local bodies, voluntary organisations, citizens interested in education, gram sabhas, teachers, and makkal nala panialalgal, these campaigns will be organised to achieve full enrolment of all children in schools.

79. I had stated in the last year's budget speech that we will create a situation wherein there will be no habitation in Tamilnadu without an elementary school. Accordingly, 300 elementary schools have been started in the current financial



year. By opening the balance elementary schools in the next financial year, we will prove that we do what we say.

80. A healthy mind resides only in a healthy body. Sports develop discipline, team spirit and leadership qualities at a young age itself. Though much smaller in area and population, England has thousands of cricket and football clubs. But here the situation requires Government to intervene effectively to enthuse the students. I wish to inform that with the objective of encouraging all important games like football, basketball, cricket, kabaddi, hockey and track events, inter high school competitions at the district level and inter district competitions at the State level will be held every year as special events. Sufficient funds will be provided for these competitions. The private sector will be requested to donate the prizes and rolling cups for the successful players and athletes.

81. Block grants to Universities were last revised in the year 1992. Government has decided to raise these grants from this financial year.

82. As announced in the last budget, 'Single Window System' has been introduced for admissions to Polytechnics.

83. Polytechnics are being upgraded under the World Bank assisted Technician Education Project and for this, Rs.19.7 crores has been allocated for the next financial year.

84. The Government has reserved 15 percent of the seats in all professional colleges for the rural students. As some urban students studying in schools located in rural habitations at the periphery of urban areas also get the benefit of this reservation thereby reducing the opportunities for rural students, efforts will be made immediately to ensure that the full benefits of this reservation go to the genuine rural students.

85. Based on the decision taken in the meeting of all party leaders held in 1997, the districts and transport corporations in the State were renamed after replacing the names of leaders. 28 endowments in 15 Universities at the rate of Rs.25 lakhs for each endowment were created in the name of these leaders and Rs.7 crores was sanctioned. Government has modified the basis for sanctioning scholarships from these endowments and has now decided to remove the ceiling on annual income at Rs.44,500 and also that the students belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward classes and Most Backward classes will be eligible for these scholarships even if they are recipients of other scholarships. By this, 1,500 eligible and meritorious students from all communities will be benefitted every year.

TAMIL LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

86. The DMK Government that imprinted its stamp of sacrifice in the defense of Tamil language, has issued an order this year for giving filip and stimulus to the Tamil language. Tamil is being taught as a compulsory subject in all schools in Tamilnadu except in schools for linguistic minorities. Government has taken a policy decision to ensure that all subjects other than English and Tamil are taught in Tamil and more specifically to change the practice of teaching only in English as medium of instruction in nursery schools. The Government has also decided to give recognition in future to only those schools that teach at least two of the three subjects other than English and Tamil viz, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies in Tamil. In addition to having reduced the

admission fees by half in fully Tamil medium schools, Government will also provide free textbooks to the students of these schools. Students from unrecognised schools seeking admission in government recognised schools would be admitted only based on an entrance examinations conducted in these schools.

87. With the objective of starting music schools in each district, 10 music schools have been started in the last two years. In the next financial year, music schools will be started in five more districts.

88. A permanent exhibition on the history of Tamilnadu starting from pre-historic period through the ancient and Sangam age upto the contemporary period would be set up. An expert committee would be constituted for this purpose and on receipt of its recommendations the exhibition on the history of Tamilnadu would be set up through a separate agency.

89. The three great doyens of music of the 17th and 18th century from Sirkazhi, Muthu Thandavar, Arunachala Kavirayar, Mari Mutha Pillai enriched Tamil language by their Tamil Keerthanas. A memorial housing their statues would be erected in Sirkazhi. Arrangements would also be made to conduct a grand "Tamilzhisai Vizha" there every year.

HINDU RELIGIOUS & CHARITABLE ENDOWMENT ADMINISTRATION

90. To ensure that temples do not turn into havens for bandits, temple property registers are being prepared so as to take stock of such properties and to protect them and to take action to realise the revenues due from them to the temples. The number of property registers prepared in the last 70 years was 1,192. In the present regime, the number of property registers prepared in the last three years itself is 1,660. Property registers for the remaining 122 temples will also be prepared very soon.

91. Since June 1996, 273 acres of land and 253 grounds of house sites belonging to temples were freed from encroachments. Additional income of Rs.6 crores has been received by temples after fixation of fair rent.

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

92. An outlay of Rs.1,079 crores has been provided in the next financial year for the Health and Family Welfare department which provides good medical facilities not only for the urban population but also for the weaker sections in the rural areas.

93. During the last three years, Government has sanctioned the construction of new buildings for 652 Primary Health Centres, of which 434 have been completed. 157 more will be completed by this month end. The rest will be constructed in the next financial year.

94. Government has ordered the starting of a Government Medical College at Thoothukudi. This college is yet to receive the approval of the Medical Council of India. After obtaining the approval, this medical college will begin functioning from the next academic year. Government is also taking steps to start a new medical college at Vellore from the subsequent academic year.

95. I had announced in my last budget speech that, in the first phase 40 Primary Health Centres would be handed over to industrial houses for maintenance. So far, 42 primary health centres have been handed over to industrial houses and are being maintained by them.

96. The D.M.K. Government had conducted free eye camps on a massive scale in Tamilnadu during 1972-73. The subsequent slackness in implementing this scheme has been removed and to ensure that eye care facilities reach the public, ophthalmic wings of all district hospitals have been upgraded, ophthalmic wings have been established in important taluk hospitals and mobile ophthalmic wings have been established in all the 29 districts. Special training in fitting Intra-Ocular Lens will be

Thirumana Thittam has been increased to Rs.70 crores. 70,000 brides will be benefited by this. Keeping in mind the delays caused in obtaining certificates of educational qualification and age and to prevent malpractices in the implementation of this scheme, Government has taken a decision to raise the educational qualification for assistance under this scheme to tenth standard. This scheme will be continued in the next financial year also to benefit 70,000 women.

100. The Tamilnadu Women's Development Project will be implemented in the next financial year in all the districts with an allocation of Rs.12 crores.

101. The all women fair price shops functioning in Madurai district in 15 places and in a few other districts have been welcomed by the public. The Government will encourage more fair price shops to be run by women in other places also for their better functioning.

COOPERATIVE LOAN AT LOW INTEREST FOR WOMEN

102. Government has started a new "Savings linked micro credit scheme" from 1.1.1999 for the poor urban women to improve their economic status and to inculcate the habit of savings. They will be given loan at low interest rates through Cooperative Banks. The scheme is targetted to benefit women who eke out their daily livelihood by engaging in small trades. This scheme which was started in Chennai has now been extended to Salem, Tiruchirappalli, Madurai, Coimbatore and Tirunelveli Municipal Corporations and thousands of women are benefiting from this. This scheme will be extended to all urban areas.

ADI-DRAVIDAR AND TRIBAL WELFARE

103. Bound by its pledge to uplift the socio-economic conditions of the people of the lowest stratum of the society, the Government has been increasing the allocation every year for the

provided to ophthalmic surgeons and in the next financial year, one lakh persons will be given cataract surgical treatment and fitted with these lenses free of cost.

VAZHVOLI THITTAM

97. It is very important to safeguard the health of school children. Certain childhood diseases can affect school education and can develop into serious illnesses later on and also cause handicaps. Therefore, Medical Officers of each Primary Health Centre will visit schools once a week, examine the students and if necessary, take them to the primary health centre for treatment. A State level "Vazhvoli Thittam" for school students will be implemented from the next academic year. This scheme is in operation in Chennai Corporation as a model.

NUTRITION

98. An allocation of Rs.532 crores has been provided in the next financial year for the Dr. M.G.R. Nutritious Meal Programme. 74.78 lakh children benefit from this scheme. The Government has constituted in each district monitoring committees at district and block levels to monitor the effective implementation of this programme and the scheme introduced by this Government for providing an egg a week. These committees will monitor the functioning of the nutritious meal centres, identify the defects and render advice for their rectification.

WELFARE OF WOMEN

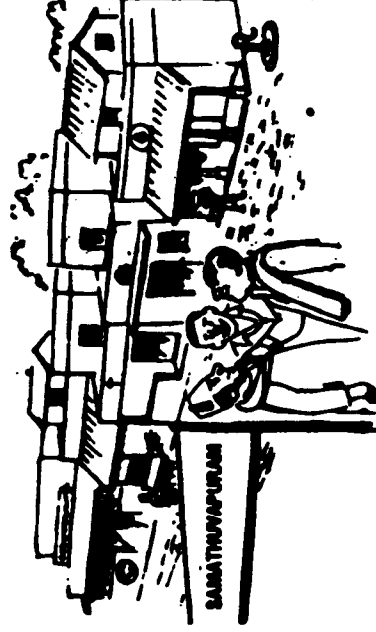
99. Proving that the women are capable of adorning titles and making laws, this Government has allocated a sum of Rs.94.71 crores in the next financial year for women's development. The Government is implementing a number of marriage assistance schemes for poor women, daughters of poor widows, widow remarriages and for intercaste marriages. In the current financial year, allocation for Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiya Ninaivu

welfare of Adi-Dravidars and Scheduled Tribes. This will be Rs.509 crores in the next financial year.

104. Through Individual Entrepreneurs Development Schemes, opportunities are being created for the Adi-Dravidars to come up as entrepreneurs in industrial and service sectors. They are given job-oriented training in fields like computers, typewriting and shorthand, textile design, plastic products etc.

105. The Samathuvapuram scheme, started in the Golden Jubilee year of Independence, is being implemented in all districts. Samathuvapurams will be created in 50 more places in the next financial year with an allocation of Rs.17.50 crores. Though I am the founder of the Samathuvapuram scheme, this scheme will hereafter be called "Periyar Nalavu Samathuvapuram Scheme" after my mentor Periyar, who enabled me to record such value based achievements.

106. There are two training centres at Chennai, one for Adi-Dravidars and Scheduled Tribes and the other for Backward Classes and Most Backward Classes, for imparting training to the candidates appearing for the examinations for All India Services. Merger of these two institutes and their upgradation with improved facilities so as to enhance the standard of training offered and thereby to increase the number of candidates selected from our State is being examined.



WELFARE OF BACKWARD CLASSES & MOST BACKWARD CLASSES

107. It was only the D.M.K. Government that created a separate department with a separate Minister for the welfare of the Backward Classes and the Most Backward Classes to enable them to reap the benefits in full without wastage. A sum of Rs.150 crores has been allocated for this department in the next financial year.

108. The scheme, started last year by this Government for granting house site pattas to Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and other classes, is being continued with an allocation of Rs.18 crores.

109. Students of Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and Denotified communities are being given job oriented training. Since the Information Technology industry will provide tremendous job opportunities in the years to come, a scheme for providing special training to 5,000 candidates from the above communities will be taken up from the next financial year.

COMMITTEES ON APPOINTMENTS IN PUBLIC SERVICES

110. The two committees on representation of Adi-Dravidars and Scheduled Tribes as well as Backward Classes and Most Backward Classes in Government and Government Undertakings have submitted their reports. They are being examined by a committee consisting of the Ministers and the Secretaries of these departments. The Government will announce its decisions on the basis of the recommendations of this committee.

WELFARE OF HANDLOOM WEAVERS

111. This Government accords high priority to the handloom industry, the lifeline of the people, next only to

on the report of the Kolappan Committee on minimum wages to the agricultural labourers and will be announced in this session.

WELFARE OF JOURNALISTS

117. In the year 1996-97, pension for the journalists was raised from Rs.500 per month to Rs.1,000 per month. Accepting their demand, it has now been decided to increase the pension further to Rs.1,500 per month. The amount being given to the families of journalists dying in harness will be increased from Rs.25,000 to Rs.40,000.

SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEMES

118. As announced by this Government in the last budget, the monthly pension to various disadvantaged sections like weavers, fishermen, landless agricultural labourers, destitute widows and physically handicapped was enhanced to Rs.150 per month, benefiting 8,43,295 persons. In addition, they are being given midday meals in the noonmeal centres along with half a kilo of rice per week. Those who do not avail of the midday meal get one kilo of rice per week. Free dhoties and sarees are given to them during Deepavali and Pongal.

119. In the current financial year, 77 lakh free sarees and 70 lakh free dhoties at a cost of Rs.100 crores have been distributed during Pongal festival to the families living below the poverty line, the Srilankan Tamils living in refugee camps and the old age pensioners. This scheme will be continued.

120. In line with the humanitarian principles adopted by this Government, a Bill will be introduced in this session for abolishing the demeaning practice of manual scavenging. Adequate funds will be earmarked in the next financial year itself for implementing rehabilitation schemes for the thousands of manual scavengers, for providing them employment opportunities and assistance for self employment.

agriculture. As announced in the last Budget, the High Level Committee constituted to study the problems faced by handloom weavers had given its recommendations. Honourable members are aware that the Government has accepted the recommendations of the Committee and has been implementing them.

112. Government has enhanced in the current financial year the insurance amount payable to the legal heirs of handloom weavers who die before attaining the age of 60, from Rs.25,000 to Rs.35,000. This amount will be increased to Rs.40,000 in the next financial year.

113. A revival package scheme for rehabilitating 18 co-operative spinning mills at a total estimated cost of Rs.185.26 crores is being implemented by this Government.

WORKERS' WELFARE

114. In the last budget speech, I had mentioned that a state level Welfare Board for the unorganised labour would be constituted comprising of representatives of management, labour and the government and that many labour welfare schemes would be implemented in this financial year. I wish to inform that, accordingly, a welfare board has been set up with nine labour representatives, nine management representatives and six government officials. Group Personal Accident Relief Scheme, Maternity-Benefit scheme and Terminal Benefit scheme have been drawn up for the welfare of unorganised labour. Through these schemes, thousands of labourers in unorganised sector will be benefitted.

115. In a survey undertaken in 1997, 25,008 persons were identified as bonded labourers. Through measures taken by the Government, so far 4,774 bonded labourers have been released and were given financial assistance for rehabilitation. Necessary action is being taken to release the remaining bonded labourers.

116. Appropriate decision will be taken by the Government

SOCIAL REFORMS DEPARTMENT

121. In the meeting of all party leaders convened to deliberate on the measures to prevent caste clashes, it was suggested that a separate Social Reforms department could be formed in the Government to usher in an era of egalitarianism and social renaissance. A committee of experts in Sociology headed by Professor Sundaram has been constituted to study the establishment of this department. On receipt of the Committee's report, this new department will start functioning at the Secretariat soon.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHERN DISTRICTS

122. Based on the recommendations of the Committee headed by former Supreme Court Justice Thiru Mohan, a high level committee will be constituted to study and formulate a development plan suggesting measures to be taken for improving the standard of living of the people of the southern districts of Sivagangai, Ramanathapuram, Madurai, Dindigul, Thenai, Tirunelveli, Toothukkudi and Virudhunagar as also for education, economic development and creation of opportunities for employment and industrial growth in these districts.

HOUSING

123. In the current financial year, Tamilnadu Housing Board will complete construction of 15,500 dwelling units at an estimated cost of Rs.252 crores. Construction of the new hostel for the Members of the Legislative Assembly at a cost of Rs.44.61 crores will be completed in the next financial year.

124. Since its establishment in 1970 by the DMK Government, the Tamilnadu Slum Clearance Board has so far constructed 66,014 multi-storeyed tenements for the slum dwellers at a cost of Rs.389.48 crores. 3,000 more multi-storeyed tenements

are currently under construction. There are 50,025 families living in slums located in unobjectionable areas in the six Municipal Corporations. As announced in the last year's budget speech, housing facilities with asbestos roofing were provided in this financial year for 7,936 families at a cost of Rs.5 crores. A major scheme has been formulated for providing houses with fireproof asbestos roofing, walls and doors to all the remaining families in those slums in the next two years. Under this scheme, 42,089 families would be provided with such houses at a cost of Rs.52.6 crores in the next two years. After covering the Municipal Corporations, this scheme will be extended to other municipalities in phases.

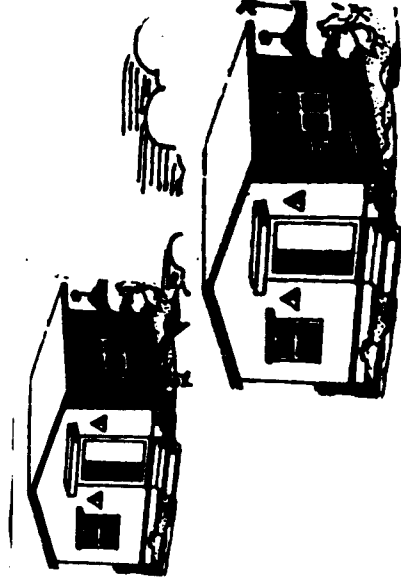
125. In order to take up the work of cleaning and restoration of the waterways in Chennai, Tamilnadu Slum Clearance Board will construct 3,000 multi-storied tenements at a cost of Rs.37.5 crores in Okkiyam Thuraiipakkam in the first phase for resettling the slum dwellers to be shifted from the areas around these waterways. 6,500 tenements presently under construction in Okkiyam Thuraiipakkam at a cost of Rs.60 crores will be completed soon. Rs.30 crores has been allocated for this purpose in the next financial year.

126. Thirty thousand families living in the slum areas of Chennai and other cities will be provided with basic amenities at a cost of Rs.6 crores.

GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR OF INDEPENDENCE

127. As announced in the last year's budget speech, this Government, which honours freedom fighters and Tamil Savants irrespective of their political affiliation, has constructed a Martyrs Manimandapam near the Gandhi Mandapam in Guindy at a cost of Rs.30 lakhs in memory of the martyrs in the golden jubilee year of independence. In memory of the freedom fighter, Thiyagi Viswanatha Das a memorial has been built at a cost of Rs.62 lakhs at Thirumangalam in Madurai district.

7



128. In memory of the great freedom fighter, Poolithevan, a new palace has been built at a cost of Rs.57 lakhs in Tirunelveli District and his statue has been installed in it.

129. A memorial has been built at a cost of Rs.25 lakhs for the former Chief Minister and elder Thiru. M.Bhaktavatchalam, at Chennai.

130. A memorial pillar has been erected at a cost of Rs.3 lakhs at Vellore in memory of the Indian soldiers who laid down their lives during the battle for freedom called the Sepoy Mutiny.

131. Construction of a memorial for the great composer Pattukottai Kalyanasundaram at a cost of Rs.20.50 lakhs is in progress at Pattukottai in Thanjavur district.

132. A memorial is being constructed for the rational poet Udumalai Narayanakavi at Udumalai in Coimbatore District at a cost of Rs.20.50 lakhs.

133. To commemorate the 200th anniversary of the execution of Veerapandia Kattabomman, a function will be organised by the Government on 16th October this year at Kayathar in Thoothukkudi district to pay tribute to him.

134. Similarly, a function will be organised by the Government in October 2001 at Tirupattur in Sivagangai district to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the execution of Marudapandiya of Sivagangai to pay tribute to them.

135. As announced in the last budget speech, the construction work for memorial of Dr.Ambedkar, a great constitutional luminary and symbol of hope of the downtrodden, was inaugurated on 23.10.98.

136. A memorial with a library will be built in Kundrakudi in memory of Tamil Saint Kundrakudi Adigalar Thavathiru Deivasigamani Arunachala Desigar, who extolled the pride of the Tamils.

137. Statues of the great martyr Sankaralinganar, the freedom fighter who laid down his life, fasting for changing the name of the State to Tamilnadu, and of Arya alias Bhashyam who, without any fear for his life, climbed to the top of the flag mast in the Fort St. George to hoist the national flag after bringing down the British flag and who accomplished it and who had been imprisoned many times in the struggle for freedom, will be erected at the entrance of the Martyrs Manimandapam at Chennai.

138. Priority will be given for the heirs of freedom fighters and Tamil savants, when names are sent by employment exchanges to Government departments and undertakings, for filling up job vacancies.

THIRUVALLUVAR STATUE AT KANNIYAKUMARI

139. I am very pleased to announce that the erection of the 133 feet high statue of the world famous Thiruvalluvar at Kannyakumari will be completed in the next financial year at an estimated cost of Rs.8.79 crores.

WELFARE OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

140. Honourable members are aware that it was the D.M.K. Government in 1989 which introduced general parity in the pay and allowances of the State Government employees with those in the Central Government and in some cases even improved on them. As announced in the budget speech last year, Government has introduced revised Central scales of pay and pensions to State Government employees and pensioners with retrospective effect from 1.1.96 costing Rs.3,630 crores including the arrears. It may be mentioned that among the southern States, the Government of Kerala and the Government of Karnataka have extended these scales of pay to their employees only from 1.3.97 and 1.4.98 respectively and the Government of Andhra Pradesh is yet to extend the revised scales of pay to its employees.

141. On the basis of the report of the Sivasubramaniam commission, we have revised the scales of pay of teachers, office superintendents, police constables etc. In addition to this, a five percent personal pay has been sanctioned to the ministerial staff and other equivalent staff. Wages of the noon-meal employees, sanitary workers, night watchmen and pensions and family pensions of the former village officers have been increased. These measures will result in an additional expenditure of Rs.196 crores per annum to the Government.

142. Government of India has revised the scales of pay of the University and College teachers based on the recommendation of the University Grants Commission. Following this, the State Government has also decided to revise their scales of pay with effect from 1.1.96 and orders will be issued soon.

143. A sum of Rs.82.75 crores will be provided as housing loan to the Government employees in the current financial year. More funds will be allocated in the next financial year for house building advances to its employees by obtaining loans from the financial institutions like HUDCO and HDFC.

144. The Central Government has again increased the pensions payable to the pensioners who retired before 1.1.96 and family pensioners. It has been decided to extend the enhanced pension announced by the Central Government, to the State Government pensioners and family pensioners with effect from 1.4.99.

145. While revising the pension for pensioners and family pensioners of the state with effect from 1.1.96, I had announced in my last budget speech that, as in the case of serving employees, 40 percent of the arrears would be paid in cash in two instalments and the remaining 60 percent would be paid after 5 years with interest. The pensioners have requested that their entire arrears be paid in cash in view of their advanced age. After considering their request and the present financial position of the Government, it has been decided to pay 40 percent of the arrears in the next financial year and the balance 40 percent in the subsequent financial year, apart from the 20 percent already paid in this financial year. This will result in an additional expenditure of Rs.25 crores in the next financial year and Rs.50 crores in the subsequent financial year.

ANNUAL PLAN

146. Tamilnadu is one of the few States which has been consistently achieving the approved Plan outlay every year. This has been appreciated by the Union Planning Commission. The Plan outlay of Rs.4,500 crores for this financial year will be fully achieved. After discussions with the Union Planning Commission, the Plan outlay for the next financial year has been fixed at Rs.5,250 crores. This is 17 percent more than the current year's Plan outlay.

FINANCIAL POSITION

147. When the current year's budget was presented to the House in March 1998, the estimate of revenue receipts was Rs.15039.46 crores and that of revenue expenditure was

Rs.18048.04 crores. In the revised estimates for this year, revenue receipts have decreased to Rs.14198.52 crores and the revenue expenditure to Rs.17183.94 crores.

148. In the Budget Estimates for 1998-99, the overall deficit was estimated to be at Rs.876.67 crores. But in the revised estimates, this deficit has come down to Rs.235.73 crores.

149. In the Budget estimates for 1999-2000, the revenue receipts are estimated to be at Rs.15867.78 crores and revenue expenditure at Rs.18500.32 crores.

150. The overall deficit in respect of all accounts in the Budget estimates for 1999-2000 has increased to Rs.790.13 crores. It is essential to undertake suitable measures to bridge this deficit.

COMMERCIAL TAXES

151. If uniform tax rates are adopted by all States, it will be possible to encourage industry and trade and enhance the revenues of the States without competing on tax rates. Even though efforts have been made at All India level for this during the last few years, it has not been possible to arrive at a final decision on this issue. However, based on the principles set out above, it has become necessary to change the tax rates on many items in our State.

152. For the first time in the history of Tamil Nadu, pre-budget consultations were held with members of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Trade Associations. After hearing their views and examining them in the light of the position in neighbouring Karnataka, the following changes are made in the tax rates:

- Tax on computers and peripherals is reduced from 4% to 2%. Additional sales tax on these items is withdrawn.
- Tax on compact fluorescent lamp is reduced from 16% to 2%.
- Tax on bulbs and horns fitted to all motor vehicles is reduced from 11% to 8%.
- Tax on greeting and invitation cards etc., is reduced from 11% to 8%.
- Tax on REP licences etc., trailers of power tillers, non-ferrous metal scrap, woollen hosiery and sarbaths is reduced from 11% to 4%.
- Tax on instant sambrani in the form of tablets or sticks is reduced from 11% to 1%.
- Tax on paper envelopes, teleprinter paper, typewriting paper, manifold paper, bond paper and tin container produced without the aid of power is reduced from 8% to 4%.
- Tax reduction from 8% to 2% on manmade fibres and yarn etc., is extended beyond 26.3.99 subject to the same conditions.
- Tax on uninterrupted power supply system (UPS) is reduced from 8% to 2%.
- Tax on the following items under Part D of the First Schedule, viz. electronic duplicating machines etc., (S.No.18), electronic indexing machines etc., (S.No. 19), electronic teleprinters and fax machines (S.No. 20), electronic typewriters (S.No. 21), gramophones etc., (S.No. 26), sound recording and reproducing equipment etc., (S.No.52), television cameras etc., (S.No.58), video cassette recorders etc., (S.No.61) is reduced from 11% to 4%.
- Tax on Cellular telephones is reduced from 11% to 2%.
- Tax on cash registers, transistors etc., falling under S.No.18 and 49 of Part-C of the First Schedule is reduced from 8% to 4%.
- Tax on television sets is increased from 4% to 10%.
- Tax on bullion is reduced from 2% to 0.5%. Additional Sales Tax on this is withdrawn.
- Purchase tax on worn out or beaten jewellery is reduced from 2% to 0.5%.
- Tax on gold sold by the nominated agencies of Reserve Bank of India to exporters of gold jewellery is withdrawn. Such exporters are exempted from payment of purchase tax under Sec.7A of the TNGST Act.
- Tax on precious stones falling under S.No. 20 of Part E like diamond is reduced from 16% to 4%.
- Tax on duplicating machines etc., falling under S.No.6 of Part G is reduced from 20% to 8%.
- Tax on branded rusk is reduced from 16% to 4% on par with bread.



- * Tax under Sec. 3(4) of the TNGST Act is reduced from 2% to 1%. Moreover, Form XVII required to be submitted for every month can now be submitted for every year.
- * Siddha medicines, solar photovoltaic lanterns and sari falls will be exempted from tax.

- * Tax exemption limit on sale of gauze and bandage cloth is raised from Rs 50 lakhs to Rs 1 crore.
- * Residuary items falling under S.No.67 of Part D of the First Schedule of TNGST Act will be included along with comparable items in the appropriate parts of the appropriate schedules.

153. After examining the effects of these changes on tax revenue, if it is found after a year that the expected additional revenue has not materialised, appropriate changes in the tax rates will have to be made.

154. Tax on pan masala is increased from 30% to 40%.

155. Cigarette smoking is injurious to public health. In order to reduce the ill-effects of cigarette smoking to a large extent, it has been proposed to introduce a 5% luxury tax on luxury tobacco products like cigarettes excluding beedis as prevalent in the neighbouring States.

156. The turnover limit for registration under TNGST Act was increased from Rs 75,000/- to Rs 1,50,000/- in the last Budget. In order to make the limits for registration and assessment the same, the turnover limit for registration will be enhanced to Rs 3,00,000. It is expected that more than 20,000 small traders will be benefited.

157. The option of payment of tax at compounded rate now available to civil works contractors is being extended to all other works contractors and the compounding rate is fixed at 4% of the total contract value.

Tamilnadu Minerals Limited (TAMIN) will be granted through open auctions to firms capable of exploiting the reserves. By this measure, revenues of the Government from seignorage fees will increase further.

164. A large number of undervalued documents remain pending with the Special Deputy Collectors of Stamps for determination of market value. A new scheme has been introduced from 1.3.1999 for their speedy disposal and generation of more revenue. According to this, if the executors of the documents are willing to pay before June '99, 50 percent of the difference between the amount fixed by the registration department and the amount paid by them, the documents would be returned to them. By this scheme, it is expected that revenue to the Government from stamp duties will increase considerably.

165. Action has been taken for effective collection of arrears of commercial taxes. The collection of arrears of commercial taxes, which was only Rs.43 crores in the last financial year has increased to Rs 130 crores in the current financial year upto February '99. We are also considering legislative measures to reduce the arrears of taxes. Due to pendency of appeals relating to Commercial Taxes in various appellate authorities for many years, crores of rupees of revenue are due to the Government. In order to ensure speedy collection of a large part of these arrears, we are considering introduction of a scheme in our State similar to the "Samadhan" scheme implemented by the Central Government.

166. There is scope for getting higher revenue from the exports of sandalwood from our State. We have sought the approval of the Central Government for the export of 1,500 tonnes of sandalwood per annum. Despite my taking this to the direct attention of the Prime Minister and the Central Minister concerned, approval is yet to be received. We will continue our efforts in this matter.

STATE EXCISE

158. Excise Duty on Indian made foreign liquor is being increased by Rs 10/- per proof litre. However, in order to check the sale of illicit liquor, excise duty will not be increased on ordinary brands of IMFL sold in 100 ml. bottles.

MOTOR VEHICLE TAX

159. The tax on Private Service Vehicles is increased from Rs 50/- per seat per quarter to Rs 75/- per seat per quarter. The tax on Maxi-Cabs is increased from the existing rate of Rs 1800/- per seat per quarter to Rs 2100/- per seat per quarter.

160. To reduce the difficulties experienced in the payment of motor vehicle tax in the Regional Transport Offices, a system was introduced last year for payment of motor vehicle tax for contract carriages along with the permit fees once in five years. Considering the good response to the system, it has been decided to extend it to goods carriages also. Payment of motor vehicle tax under this system by goods carriages will be optional.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

161. Without depending on taxation alone, we have identified various ways to augment the financial resources of the State. As against the loan of Rs.397 crores received from the Central Government in the last financial year out of the net small savings collections, we have obtained Rs.779 crores in this financial year. Further, we are taking efforts to increase the small savings collections in the State in order to get additional resources.

162. The State Electricity Board has raised Rs.297 crores in the current financial year from the capital market through issue of bonds. In the next financial year, it is proposed to raise more resources from the capital market for infrastructure projects.

163. It has been decided that unutilised granite leases with

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last financial year has increased to Rs.130 crores in the
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In order to ensure speedy collection of a large part
of these arrears, we are considering introduction
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Central Government.

has not been revised since 1990. We have requested the Central Government to revise the royalty of lignite upwards, as it is a substantial source of revenue to the State Government. Central Government is yet to take a decision on this.

168. In the Governor's address, it was announced that schemes that have outlived their utility will be weeded out and beneficial schemes will be further improved and implemented with emphasis on efficiency. Accordingly, the State Planning Commission has been asked to review the schemes implemented by various departments and give suitable recommendations.

169. After taking into account, the additional revenues of Rs.261 crores that will be mobilised through the taxation measures, the overall deficit will be Rs.529.13 crores.

Honourable Speaker Sir,

170. I express my heartfelt thanks to the Finance Secretary, Thiru. P.V.Rajaraman, I.A.S. and the government officials who performed their duties untiringly and cooperated with me fully in preparing this Budget, which seeks to meet the expectations of the people of Tamilnadu to the extent possible through unceasing efforts and for enabling this Budget to be placed in the hands of the

esteemed members of the House.

171. The great revolutionary poet, Bharathidasan had asked

When will the day come,
when I will hear others say,
that all the people of my precious Tamilnadu
are educated,
and have achieved great heights of fame
by their mastery of all fields of knowledge,
by their valour and by their love?

When will the day come,
when the libraries all over
will be enriched by works by Tamils
in Mathematics, Astronomy, Philosophy,
Science, Literature, paintings and sculptures
as wonders of the world?

When will the day come,
when I will hear the sweet song
that in the great Tamilnadu,

men and women have become equal,
drawn together by their abundant love,
like the eyes and their sight and
the flower and its fragrance?

I had mentioned in the Budget speech for 1996-97 that the
measures we take and the schemes we formulate will constitute
atleast, a small effort towards ushering in that day the great poet
dreamt of.

I conclude my speech with an invitation to all men of
integrity involved in public life to stand by me in the quest for that
golden day.

VANAKKAM

M. KARUNANIDHI,
CHIEF MINISTER.

Chennai,
17th March 1999.
Panguni 3,
Thiruvalluvar Aandu 2030.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

TAXATION :

Exemptions of Sales Tax :

- Siddha medicines, solar photo voltaic cells and sari falls.

Important reductions in Sales Tax :

- Computers and peripherals, uninterrupted power supply system, cellular phone, bullion, precious stones like diamond, duplicating machines, branded rusk, bulbs and lamps, greetings and invitation cards, instant sambirani, etc.

Important increases in Sales Tax :

- Pan Masala increased from 30% to 40%

- Television sets increased from 4% to 10%

Other important tax measures :

- 5% Luxury tax on tobacco products like cigarette excluding beedies introduced.
- Excise Duty on IMFL increased by Rs.10 per proof litre.
- Motor Vehicle tax on private service vehicles increased from Rs.50 per seat to Rs.75 per seat per quarter.
- Motor Vehicle tax on maxi cabs increased from Rs.1800 per seat per quarter to Rs.2100 per seat per quarter.

BUDGET :

- Final over all deficit of Rs.529.13 crores.
- Plan outlay for 1999-2000 fixed at Rs.5,250 crores.

MAJOR PROVISIONS AND IMPORTANT SCHEMES :

- Rs.4,092 crores provided for Education.
- Rs.2,023 crores allocated to Local Bodies by way of grants, share in tax revenue and allocation for schemes being implemented by them.
- Rs.1,079 crores provided for Health and Family Welfare
- Rs.509 crores provided for Adi-draavidar and Tribal Welfare.
- Rs.150 crores provided for welfare of Backward Classes and Most Backward Classes.
- Allocation for MLA Constituency Development Scheme increased from Rs.35 lakhs to Rs.50 lakhs per constituency.
- Outlay for Rural Water Supply increased from Rs.330 to Rs.450 crores.
- A Special Golden Jubilee Year Programme launched with a budgetary allocation of Rs.50 crores and loans of over Rs.100 crores.
- Desilting of irrigation canals, tanks, river beds, etc., to be continued with an allocation of Rs.50 crores.
- Rs.219 crores provided for Water Resources Consolidation Project in the next year.
- Rs.256 crores provided for improvement of roads under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund.
- Rs.270 crores provided for maintenance of roads including a provision of Rs.100 crores earmarked for mechanised relaying.

- Major scheme for providing asbestos roofing, walls and doors for 42,089 families at a cost of Rs.52.6 crores announced.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS :

Agriculture :

- Wasteland Development Authority will be setup with experts for formulating and implementing the wasteland development action plans and a major project for development of 10,000 hectares of wasteland to be launched in the next year.
- Six new irrigation projects announced with an outlay of Rs.91 crores.

Industries :

- TACID to be merged with SIPCOT and SIPCOT will look after creation of infrastructure for industrial growth.
- Term lending operation of SIPCOT to be transferred to TILC.
- Transport Development Finance Corporation (TDFC) to be merged with Tamil Nadu Power Finance Corporation (TNPFC) to create Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Finance Corporations (TIIFC).
- Industrial Guidance Export Promotion Bureau (Tamil Nadu GUIDANCE Bureau) will be merged with TIDCO and will function as its wing.

Information Technology :

- Computer Science to be introduced as an elective subject in 11th & 12th standard in all the 1,200 Higher Secondary Schools from the next academic year.
- Tamil Nadu Software Development Fund to be created to encourage rapid growth of Tamil Software.
- International Tamil Virtual University to be set up.

- Community Internet Centre to be set up through a joint venture with M/s.World Tel from England.
- Telemedicines to be introduced in our State.

Education :

- Elementary Education movement to be launched to achieve full enrolment of all children in schools.
- Community certificate, income certificate and nativity certificate to be arranged to be given to the students on completion of studies alongwith Transfer Certificate.
- Sports competition between High Schools at District level and Inter-district competition at State level every year will be conducted.

Health :

- One lakh persons to be given cataract surgical treatment and fitted with intra ocular lens free of cost.
- State level 'Vazhvoli Thittam' to safeguard the health of school children announced.

Roads :

- 340 villages with population between 500 to 1,000 without link roads will be provided link road facilities.
- Construction work on 208 bridges at a cost of Rs.450 crores has commenced and is in progress. Works on Karonodai bridge, Karur bridge, Chennai bypass road, Madurai bypass road and Coimbatore bypass roads are in progress.

Government Servants :

- State Government to revise the scales of pay of University and College teachers with effect from 1.1.96.

- Housing loans to Government employees increased to Rs.82.75 crores.
- Enhanced pension for pensioners who retired before 1.1.96 to be paid w.e.f.1.4.99
- Out of the Pay Commission arrears to be paid to pensioners, apart from 20 percent already paid, 40 percent will be paid in the next financial year and remaining 40 percent in the subsequent financial year.

Other Important Announcements :

- 'Namakku Naame Thittam' to be extended to urban areas also.
- Honorarium for Makkal Nala Paniyalargal increased from Rs.500 to Rs.750 per month.
- Mass Rapid Transit System to be extended upto St.Thomas Mount with State Government bearing two third of the project cost.
- Expert Committee constituted for setting up a permanent exhibition on History of Tamil Nadu.
- Educational qualification for availing benefit under Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyaar Scheme increased to 10th Standard.
- Government to encourage opening of all women fair price shops.
- Insurance amount for handloom weavers increased to Rs.40,000.
- Pension for Journalists increased from Rs.1,000 to Rs.1,500 per month.
- Bill on abolishing scavenging to be introduced in this session.
- A new Social Reforms Department to be formed.
- Committee appointed to study and formulate development plans for improving the standard of living of people in southern districts.
- All Government application forms to be made available in Internet in Tamil and English within a year.

TAMIL NADU BUDGET 1999-2000

Items	1997-98 Accounts Estimates	1998-99 Budget Estimates	1998-1999 Revised Estimates	1999-2000 Budget Estimates
(Rupees in Crores)				
I CONSOLIDATED FUND				
Revenue Receipts	13,586.95	15,039.46	14,198.52	15,867.78
Expenditure met from Revenue	14,950.85	18,048.04	17,183.94	18,500.32
Surplus or Deficit on Revenue Account	(-1,363.90)	(-3,008.58)	(-2,985.42)	(-2,632.54)
Public Debt-Receipts	2,132.70	4,665.71	4,845.64	4,921.49
Public Debt-Repayment	407.78	2,144.50	2,470.69	2,459.42
Public Debt (Net)	(+1,724.92)	(+2,521.21)	(+2,374.95)	(+2,462.07)
Expenditure met from Capital excluding Public Debt and including Loans and Advances (Net)	757.83	1,802.69	1,398.23	1,612.11
(Deficit or Surplus on Capital Account)	(+967.09)	(+718.52)	(+976.72)	(+849.96)
Total - Consolidated Fund (Net)	(-396.81)	(-2,290.06)	(-2,008.70)	(-1,782.58)
II. CONTINGENCY FUND (NET)	(+5.30	...	...	...
III. PUBLIC ACCOUNT (NET)	(+403.95	(+1,413.39	(+1,772.97	(+992.45
TOTAL - TRANSACTIONS (I+II+III)	(+12.44	(-876.67	(-235.73	(-790.13
Opening Balance	(+74.70	(+71.39	(+87.14	(-148.59
Closing Balance	(+87.14	(-805.28	(-148.59	(-938.72



TAMIL NADU HAS TAKEN SEVERAL INITIATIVES TO HARNESS THE POWER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STATE

- Chief Minister K. K. Kalyanaram

I extend my warm greetings to you all. A little over two years ago the National Development Council had endorsed the Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan. The Plan which will be taking the country into the next millennium is to have its focus firmly on agriculture and rural development, basic minimum services, social and physical infrastructure as the thrust sectors, seeking to achieve growth with social justice and equity.

I am happy to note that the Ninth Five Year Plan document now circulated to the National Development Council recognises the need to redouble our efforts at development, both in the economic and social spheres. The Special Action Plans incorporated into the Ninth Five Year Plan seek to provide added thrust to the efforts in social and physical infrastructure building, agriculture and information technology. The Tamil Nadu Government stands firmly committed to achieve accelerated economic growth and to improve the living standards. In the State's Ninth Five Year Plan, apart from a total allocation of 40% for development of economic

infrastructure in the State, 35% has been allocated for the social services sector to continue the pioneering efforts in the social sector development.

The Ninth Plan has underlined the role of Information Technology by recognising it as part of the 'technological infrastructure' for the service sector. Tamil Nadu has taken several initiatives to harness the power of Information Technology in the development of the State. The Ninth Plan has visualised that our country should emerge as Information Technology super power within the next ten years and I would like to assure that Tamil Nadu will strive hard and contribute its best to realise this goal.

While my State welcomes the initiatives proposed to strengthen the physical infrastructure, it is disappointing to note that the **Sethusamudram Canal Project** does not figure in the Ninth Plan document circulated. As announced already, this much awaited project may be taken up immediately and completed expeditiously in 3 to 4 year's time

frame. I hope that the Government of India will take note of the State's concern and include it in the Ninth Plan. Taking into consideration the increasing international air passenger traffic into Tamil Nadu in the wake of rapid industrialisation here, we have proposed to set up a new major international airport at Chennai. Towards this end, we have already initiated the necessary steps and the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation is taking the requisite action. This is proposed to be executed on Build-own-Operate-Transfer format in conformity with the policy guidelines of the Department of Civil Aviation, Government of India. This proposed facility takes into account the imperative need for augmenting this vital infrastructure to enhance our capacity to meet the requirements of international air traffic upto the year 2020. The High Level Committee constituted by the Government of India is examining the issues related to this proposal. We request Government of India's expeditious clearance in this regard. While on the subject of infrastructure, I would like once again to urge the Government of India to extend the jurisdiction of **Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited** to cover Chennai keeping in view the need to meet the rapid growth in demand and to improve the quality of service.

Tamil Nadu Government welcomes the initiatives of the Centre in Power Sector and the proposal to set up the **Mega Power Projects** at Cheyyur and Cuddalore. However, I request the Prime Minister not to link the

Mega Project proposal with privatisation of distribution and let the States consider each proposal on its own merit. I would like to utilise this opportunity to press for expeditious action to augment the transmission capacity between Cuddappah and Sriperumpudhur so that the additional power requirements of Tamil Nadu can be met from the surplus available in the eastern grid. While harnessing interstate rivers, care should be taken that the interests of the lower riparian States are protected.

While the Chapter on Cooperative Federalism recognises the fact that the Centre and States are partners in the task of nation building, it places a number of issues before the National Development Council for decision. I had already conveyed the views of my State Government on a number of these issues. For example on the question of distribution of Central assistance to the States, Tamil Nadu has stressed that the population as per the 1971 Census should be retained as the criterion, as adoption of 1991 Census will place the State, which has performed well in population control, at a disadvantage. My State has also given clear views which may help in evolving suitable criteria for the performance indicators to be included for computing Central assistance. I have, on several occasions, suggested that the grant component of the Central assistance should be enhanced to 50% and I reiterate the same request once again in this august forum.

The elaborate views expressed by my Government to the Planning Commission on

the transfer of Centrally Sponsored schemes may be taken into consideration while taking a final decision. On the fundamental issue of the future role of Centrally Sponsored Schemes, my Government has already indicated that if the Centrally Sponsored Schemes are meant to serve certain goals which are considered to be of national importance - employment generation and provision of basic minimum services are the obvious cases in point - then the goals and the resources to be devoted to them must be decided after discussion with the States and based on a consensus at the National Development Council. Such schemes should be designated as National Programmes rather than as Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

Tamil Nadu is committed to strengthen the Panchayat Raj Institutions. Elections to all the three tiers of local bodies were held in October, 1996 and the recommendations of the State Finance Commission on devolution of resources have been implemented. We are in the process of equipping these grass-root democratic institutions to decentralise the planning process.

I am happy that my representation to the Prime Minister for intervention in correcting the formula for allocating funds for the major rural poverty alleviation programmes has been considered atleast partly. As per the revised weighted average shares of the States, now worked out by the Union Planning Commission, the share of Tamil Nadu is shown as 6.025% as against the 7.062% that the State had been receiving until 1997-98. I would like to plead for restoring 7.062% share that the State was

getting earlier and the same should continue for the next ten years.

The laudable objectives of the Plan will fall flat if we do not keep the prices in check. The State Governments, being closer to the people, will have to bear the brunt in a situation where the prices of essential commodities keep increasing, as history would tell us. My Government has consistently followed the policy of reaching the staple requirements of the economically vulnerable sections of the society through a well run Public Distribution System. The State Government has been absorbing the periodic increases in the administered prices of rice in order to protect the poor from the shock and also to keep the prices in the open market in check. The recent steep hike in the administered prices of rice and other essential items has come as a rude shock to the people and the State Government.

Though the Central Government has subsequently withdrawn the increase in prices for the quantity allotted to the people below poverty line after many State Governments including the Government of Tamil Nadu voiced their protests, the steep hike in respect of quantity supplied to the families above poverty line through the Public Distribution System imposes additional burden on the State's finances. The impressive improvement in the socio economic development indicators of the State is the result of the consistent policy and sustained efforts to meet the basic minimum needs of the people and the huge financial

commitments taken upon by the State Governments in running an efficient Public Distribution System and programmes such as Nutritious Noon Meal Schemes, which the State pioneered, have to be viewed as part of the overall development strategy. My State Government once again appeals to the Central Government to reconsider the increase in the administered prices, particularly that of rice and roll it back completely. In the true spirit of co-operative federalism, it is appropriate that the Centre evolves a mechanism for consultation with the States on a sensitive issue such as the revision of prices of essential items.

I am sure that the Central Government is appreciative of the forward looking population policy of the State. But the commendable performance on the population front seems to be bringing in some unintended harm to the State. Wherever the size of the population is taken as the criterion, either for computing Central assistance, about which I have already spoken, or for delimiting the Parliamentary Constituencies, the State is likely to be placed at a disadvantage. For instance if the 2001 Census figures are to be taken as the basis, Tamil Nadu would be losing quite a few Parliamentary seats and this would amount to penalising the progressive population policy adopted by the State. I suggest that the 1971 population figures should form the basis for all such criteria in future. Just as the number of voters vary from State to State for Assembly constituencies, I once again suggest that the number of voters in Lok Sabha constituencies

be allowed to differ from State to State keeping the number of Lok Sabha Constituencies in a State at the present level irrespective of any population change in future.

In the first year of the Ninth Five Year Plan, the State registered a growth of about 6% and during the current year also the growth rate is likely to be more or less the same. In the remaining three years the State would like to redouble its efforts to achieve the envisaged growth in the Net State Domestic Product and as such we look forward to adequate support from the Central Government to realise this growth objective. At this point I would like to appeal to the Centre that the marginal downsizing of the Ninth Plan by the Centre should in no way result in a drop in the Plan assistance from the Centre to the States.

I congratulate the Prime Minister and the Planning Commission for giving a final shape to the Ninth Plan document based on the objectives endorsed by the National Development Council while placing added thrusts in sectors that are identified as the primary growth engines. I would like to assure the co-operation of my Government in realising the growth objectives and in the task of taking the country forward into the next millennium.

*- The Hon'ble Minister for Highways
Thiru. T. Krishnan delivered the speech
on behalf of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of
Tamil Nadu, at the National Development
Council at New Delhi on 19-2-1999.*

★ ★ ★



The code of conduct for the mankind

கூத்தாட் டவக்குழாத் தற்றே பெருஞ்செல்வம்
போக்கு மதுவிளிந் தற்று.

Kutha tavaikuzha thatre perunjelvam
boku madhuvilin dhatru.

'Growing wealth is quite similar to the increasing audience in a theatre to witness a drama. The disappearance of the wealth is also similar to the dispersal of the same audience'.

Commentary

In a theatre hall the audience assemble gradually and fill the whole hall for the purpose of witnessing a dramatic performance. Similarly, wealth grows by gradual acquisition till it becomes plentiful. When the dramatic performance is over, all the persons assembled in the hall disperse in a few minutes. Similarly, when the time comes when the person has to lose his wealth, the whole thing may vanish in a moment. This will prove without any doubt that what is acquired by great effort and through many years may vanish in a day.

★ ★ ★

அற்கா வியல்பிற்றுச் செல்வ மதுபெற்றா
லற்குப் வாங்கே செயல்.

atka viyalbitru jelva madhubetra
latkuba vange seyal.

'Ephemerality is the nature of wealth. Therefore when you have wealth you must use it for achieving things of enduring value'.

Commentary

Wealth is a necessary means of helping others and maintaining charitable institutions. Such charity will be of a eternal value though it is obtained through the use of impermanent wealth. Hence a person is advised not to lose his opportunity of doing good to others when he is in possession of wealth.

★ ★ ★

நானொன பொன்றுபோற் காட்டி யுயிரும்
வான துணர்வாப் பெறிந்.

nalena vondrubot kati yuyirum
vala thunarvar perin.

'Day may appear merely as a unit of time. Those who realise its true nature will recognise in it a saw that cuts your life gradually.'

Commentary

Time is divided into various units, such as, moments, hours, days, weeks, months and years. These units are calculated according to the movements of the sun. An ordinary man when he wakes up in the morning congratulates himself that he has a happy day to live. But a wise man who knows the nature of time and its relation to life will realise that a day lived is a day shortened in his life. The lapse of everyday leads to the shortening of his life. Hence it is compared to a saw that gradually cuts life through.

★ ★ ★

நாச்செற்று விக்குண்டெல் வாராழு எல்வினை
பெற்சென்று செய்யப் படும்.

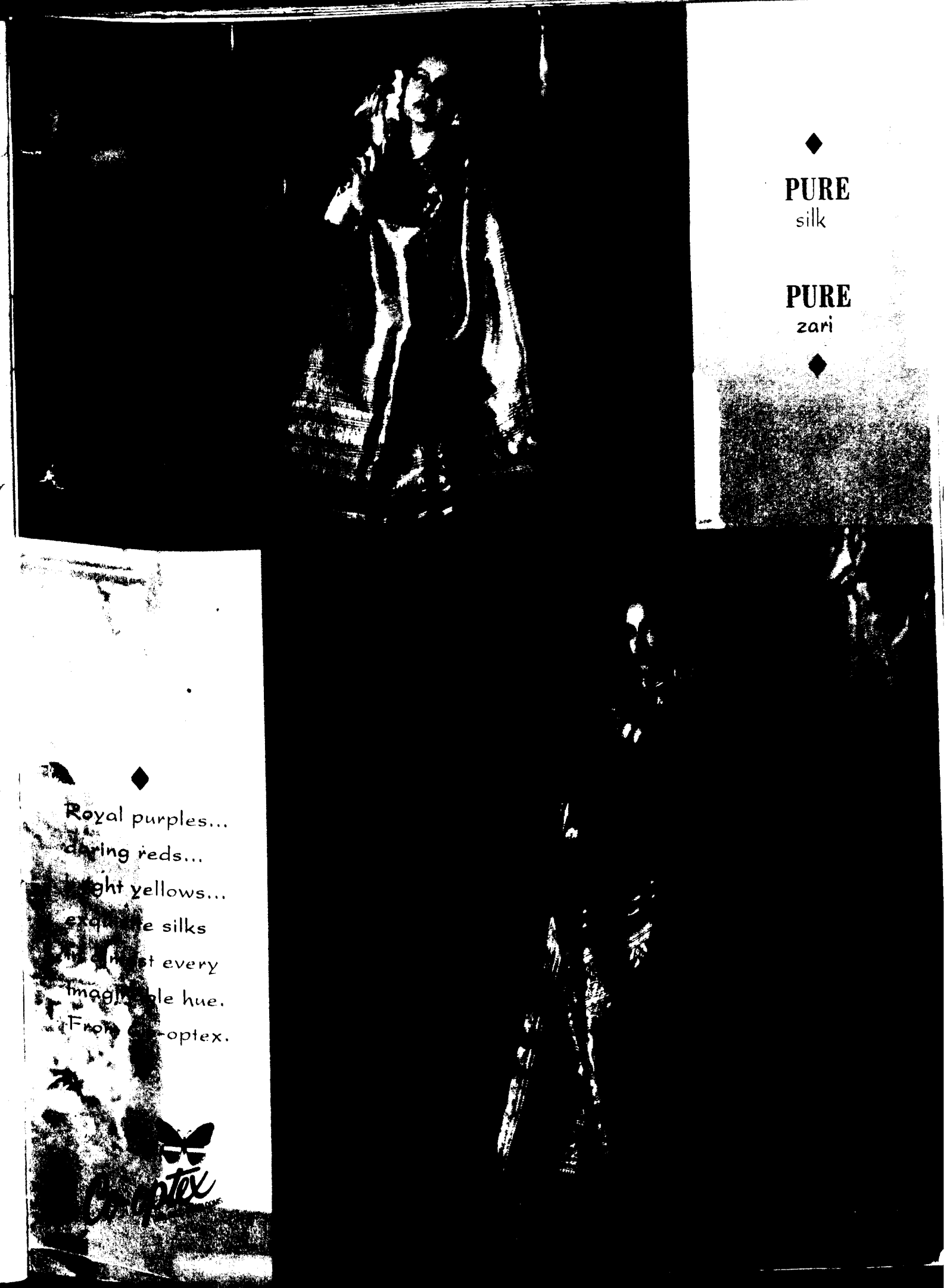
najetru vikunmel varamu nalvinai
metjendru seiya padum.

'Before the tongue becomes parched and powerless, before gasping appears indicating approaching of death, one must arouse oneself and do all possible good deeds.'

Commentary

A person should not postpone doing good till the last moment. One who desires to walk the path of righteousness leading to the ultimate goal of liberation, must devote himself to virtuous conduct as early as possible.

★ ★ ★



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Tamil Arasu

APRIL 1999 Rs.3

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**நமது அன்றாட
பழக்கவழக்கங்களால்,
எய்ட்ஸ் வராது.
அதற்கு நீங்களே
ஒரு உதாரணம்.**

காலையில் எழுந்தது முதல் ராத்திரி படுக்கப் போகும் வரை நீங்கள் எத்தனையோ பேரைச் சந்திக்கிறீர்கள். ஒட்டலுக்குச் செல்கிறீர்கள், சினிமா பார்க்கிறீர்கள், நெரிசலான பஸ்ஸில் பயணம் செய்கிறீர்கள், பலருடன் கை குலுக்குகிறீர்கள்.

இவர்களில் யாருக்காவது எச்ஐவி/ எய்ட்ஸ் பாதித்து இருக்கலாம்.

சாதாரண பழக்கவழக்கங்களின் மூலம் எய்ட்ஸ் பரவுவதாக இருந்தால், உங்களையும் எய்ட்ஸ் பாதித்திருக்க வேண்டும்.

ஆனால் அப்படி இல்லையே...

ஏனெனில், கை குலுக்குவதாலோ, உணவைப் பகிர்ந்து கொள்வதாலோ, தொடுவதாலோ, தும்மலினாலோ, கழிப்பிடத்தை அனைவரும் உபயோகிப்பதாலோ, எய்ட்ஸ் பரவுவதில்லை.

எனவே எய்ட்ஸ் பாதித்தவரைக் கண்டு நீங்கள் ஒதுங்க வேண்டியதில்லை. உங்களுக்கு எந்த ஆபத்தும் இல்லை.

அவர்களும் நம்மைப் போன்றவர்கள்தான். அவர்களுக்கு எப்பொழுதும் போல நாம் அன்பும், ஆதரவும் காட்டுவோம்.

**சிறிதளவு ஆதரவு பெருமளவு
சுமையைக் குறைக்கும்.**

**குழந்தை பிறப்பைத் தடுப்போம்
எய்ட்ஸ் வந்தோரைக் காப்போம்**



மேலும் விவரங்களுக்கு அணுக வேண்டிய முகவரி :
தமிழ்நாடு எய்ட்ஸ் கட்டுப்பாட்டு அமைப்பு
417, பாந்தியன் ரோடு, சென்னை - 600 008.
தொ.பே.: 8255467, 8255261, 8254917.
24 மணிநேர தொ.பே.: 8256882, 8256864.

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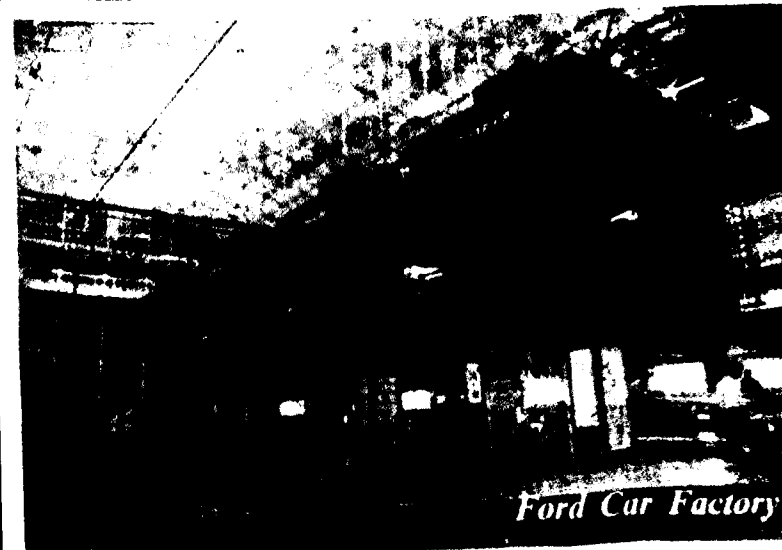
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Announcements made in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly

The Hon'ble Chief Minister K. Karunanidhi, made the following announcements while replying to the discussion on the Governor's address.

- All the old family cards (ration cards) had been replaced. 11 lakh bogus cards eliminated. Of the 22 lakh new applicants, only 4.5 lakh were found to be genuine. Of these new cards have already been issued to 2 lakh families. Printing and issue of new cards to the remaining 2.5 lakh families are being carried out.
- During the past 2½ years 1,245 new bus routes were introduced. By the reintroduction of 410 bus routes which were stopped in the previous regime owing to loss, the number of new bus routes introduced is 1655. 7,212 new buses have been added to the fleet.
- Tamil Nadu stands in the second place in the industrial investments.
- Of the 43 factories under closure, none was due to any labour dispute. They have been crippled by either financial difficulties, differences among the promoters or before the BIFR and its appellate body, AAFIR, for rehabilitation packages.
- The Government has ordered a rehabilitation package costing Rs.185.25 crores for turning around 16 sick cooperative spinning mills.
- Tamil Nadu charges the least bus fares in the whole of India.
- The SAP for sugarcane in Tamil Nadu with a lower recovery rate is still higher than the price offered in several other States which has a higher cane recovery. The Government would hold a tripartite conference including the mill owners to discuss the price issue.
- The District Co-operative Banks concerned had directed distraint proceedings only against 60 big



Ford Car Factory

- With regard to improvement in living standards, Tamil Nadu's per capita income have gone up from Rs.2,918 in 1996-97 to Rs.3,164 in the current year, based on 1980-81 prices.
- Pilkington Glass of UK have dropped its project due to demand recession and St. Gobain of France putting up a similar project in Tamil Nadu. Kumho Tyres of Korea have postponed their project due to the South-East Asian financial crisis. Norsk Hydro's decision to drop its project is due to the shrinking of demands for PVC, globally. In no way the Government is responsible for their backing out. Mitsubishi Motors, Hyundai have started their production and Ford will start its production in October 1999.
- 141 MW of power is produced by cogeneration in sugar mills. 100 MW more of power will be produced by cogeneration in the coming year.
- On the planning front of Tamil Nadu, Thiru K.C. Pant the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission has remarked at the National Development Council meeting about Tamil Nadu being one of the exceptional States which projected a plan size that did not go beyond the resources it could mobilise.
- A legislation to abolish "manual scavenging" will be introduced soon and would be implemented in six to seven months and alternative employment provided to those displaced.
- This Government will always stand by the interests of the minorities. In the task of checking for terrorists. Police have been asked to take great care.



in slums located in unobjectionable areas in the six Municipal Corporations, in the next two years. Under this scheme, 42,089 families would be provided with such houses at a cost of Rs.52.6 crores in the next two years.

The Chief Minister in his budget speech announced that Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board will construct 3,000 multi-storeyed tenements at a cost of Rs.37.5 crores in Okkiyam Thuraipakkam in the first phase for resettling the slum dwellers to be shifted from the areas around the waterways, in order to take up the work of cleaning and restoration of the waterways in Chennai.

Thirty thousand families living in the slum areas of Chennai and other cities will be provided with basic amenities at a cost of Rs.6 crores.

All weather road connectivity to all habitations in Tamil Nadu having a population of above 1000 are being provided. The Government set a target of providing potable water supply, at least 40 LPCD to all rural habitations which are presently a coverage of less than 10 LPCD. The Chief Minister has also announced enhancing the allocation for rural water supply

from Rs.330 crores in the current financial year to Rs.450 crores in the next financial year. The work for full coverage of water supply to 6,300 habitations presently having inadequate water supply will be taken up in the next financial year. Taking into account the additional requirement for house service connections, rural water supply schemes will be designed to provide 55 litres per person per day.

The Government is committed to providing social security for weaker sections of the society. The monthly pension to various disadvantaged sections like weavers, fishermen, landless agricultural labourers, destitute widows and physically handicapped was enhanced to Rs. 150 per month, benefiting 8,43,295 persons. In addition, they are being given midday meals in the noonmeal centres along with half a kilo of rice per week. Those who do not avail of the midday meal get one kilo of rice per week. Free dhoties and sarees are given to them during Deepavali and Pongal.

In the current financial year, 77 lakh free sarees and 70 lakh free dhoties at a cost of Rs.100 crores have been distributed during Pongal festival to the families living below the poverty

line. This scheme will be continued.

In line with the humanitarian principles adopted by this Government, the Chief Minister has announced that a Bill will be introduced in this Budget session for abolishing the demeaning practice of manual scavenging. Adequate funds will be earmarked in the next financial year itself for implementing rehabilitation schemes for the thousands of manual scavengers, for providing them employment opportunities and assistance for self employment.

Welfare of Women

Tamil Nadu Government is vigorously implementing nutrition programmes for children, pregnant and lactating mothers and the aged poor.

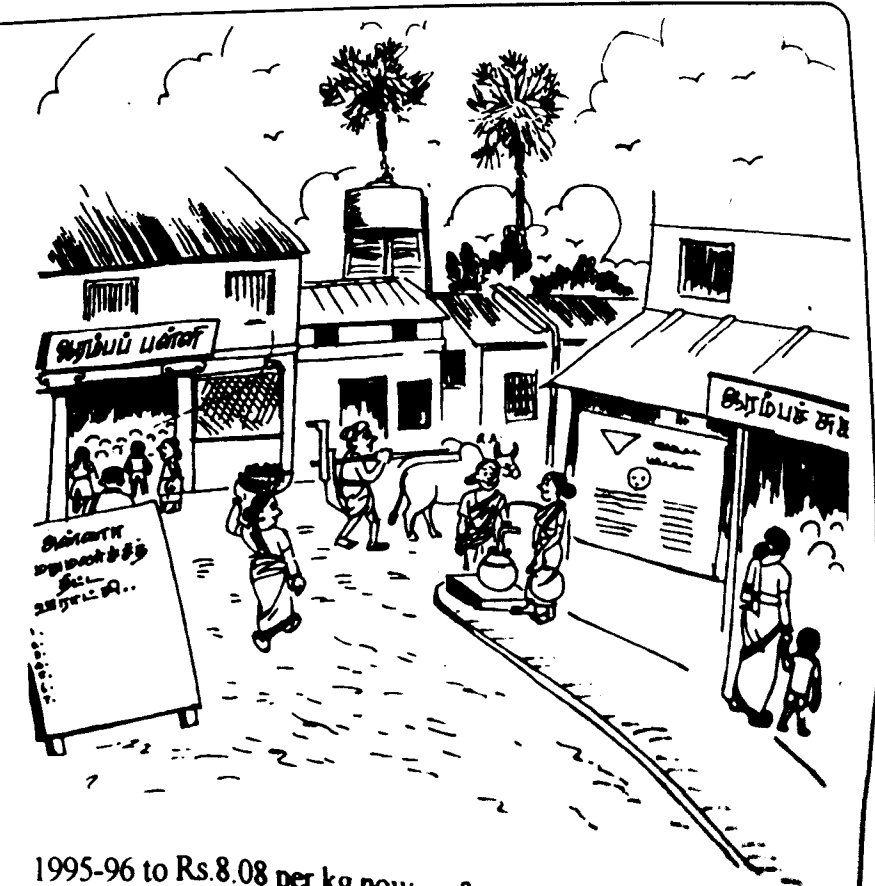
Proving that the women are capable of adorning titles and making laws, this Government has allocated a sum of Rs.94.71 crores in the next financial year for women's development. The Government is implementing a number of marriage assistance schemes for poor women, daughters of poor widows, widow remarriages and for intercaste marriages. With a view to promoting education to girl children, Tamil Nadu Government introduced a

scheme called "Moovalur Ramamirtham Memorial Marriage Assistance Scheme" for the under privileged in 1989. In the current financial year, allocation for this scheme has been increased to Rs.70 crores. 70,000 brides will be benefited by this. Keeping in mind the delays caused in obtaining certificates of educational qualification and age and to prevent malpractices in the implementation of this scheme, Government has taken a decision to raise the educational qualification for assistance under this scheme to tenth standard. This scheme will be continued in the next financial year also to benefit 70,000 women.

The Tamil Nadu Women's Development Project will be implemented in the next financial year in all the Districts with an allocation of Rs.12 crores.

Effective Public Distribution System

The State has the most efficient public distribution system in the whole country. The prices of essential commodities are kept under control. Despite an increase in the average cost of procurement of rice for Public Distribution System from Rs.6.70 per kg in the year



1995-96 to Rs.8.08 per kg now, Government has not raised the issue price of rice. Consequently the food subsidy borne by the Government has increased from Rs.653 crores in 1995-96 to Rs.1,000 crores in 1998-99. In order to streamline the distribution of kerosene to family cardholders, this Government had introduced an innovative scheme of setting up public distribution bunks, the first of its kind in the country. These bunks have been helpful in eliminating the endless waiting in long queues and also preventing under measurement of kerosene distributed in fair price shops.

Sales Tax exemption / concessions have been granted

for various items of daily use such as pulses, cooking oil etc. The Tamil Nadu Government has set up State Level Unorganised Labour Welfare Board for the welfare of workers. The hike in prices of wheat, rice, etc in this Public Distribution System

Medicare

The provision of basic health facilities for the people especially in the rural areas is one of the main objectives of this Government. The Government have taken several steps to

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Medicare

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strengthen the services available in the Primary Health Centres. In keeping with the norms of the Government of India, 1409 Primary Health Centres (including 25 upgraded Primary Health Centres and 37 Community Health Centres) and 8682 Health Sub-centres have been established in the State.

During the last three years, the Government have sanctioned the construction of new buildings for 652 Primary Health Centres at a cost of Rs.49.68 crores of which 591 have been completed.

As per the Government decision for providing round the clock services in rural areas, 250 Primary Health Centres have started functioning as 24 hour Primary Health Centres.

For the sake of poor patients, heart surgery / kidney transplantations, financial assistance of Rs.25,000 is provided from Chief Minister's Relief Fund. Free eye camps are conducted in rural areas.

Primary Education

This Government has been according high priority to Primary Education with the objective of providing compulsory education for all children till they attain the age of 14 years as envisaged in

the Constitution of India. For providing elementary education for all, an "Elementary Education Movement" will be launched from the next financial year. There will be no hamlet in Tamil Nadu without a school by the end of 1999. 300 elementary schools have been started in the current financial year. The Government has stepped up allocation for distribution of uniform and text books to the school children of 1 to 5th standard.

With the objective of encouraging all important games like football, basketball, cricket, kabaddi, hockey and track events, inter high school competitions at the district level and inter district competitions at the State level will be held every year as special events.

As announced in the last budget, 'Single Window System' has been introduced for admissions to Polytechnics. Polytechnics are being upgraded under the World Bank Assisted Technician Education Project and for this, Rs.19.7 crores has been allocated for the next financial year.

The Government has reserved 15 percent of the seats in all professional colleges for the rural students. As some urban

students studying in schools located in rural habitations at the periphery of urban areas also get the benefit of this reservation thereby reducing the opportunities for rural students, efforts will be made immediately to ensure that the full benefits of this reservation go to the genuine rural students.

The Government has also undertaken to meet expenses for higher education in respect of students who secure first three ranks in SSLC and +2 at the district level. Free transport to students upto the +2 level is extended by the State Transport.

Lesser Governance

Dr. Kalam's Government has to some extent, succeeded in minimising corruption and to a greater extent, in providing a transparent administration. This Government is committed to accelerating the pace of development of Tamil Nadu and to provide rapidly improving standards of living to our citizens, especially the poor and deprived. To achieve this, the Government has focussed its effort on infrastructural development, industrial programmes and provision of basic amenities.

This Government has been following an honest and industry

friendly approach towards industrial development. A Single Window System has been introduced for granting approvals to the project proposals of entrepreneurs without delay and sector specific policies for fast growing sectors like Information Technology have been formulated.

This Government desires that all students passing out of schools should be computer

install the computers in the schools. At an average rate of 40 students per school, this scheme will produce about 48,000 students eligible for employment in the software industry.

In short, Tamil Nadu is the only State which transforms Prof. Amartya Sen's ideas into action. Kalam deserves credit for undertaking this himalayan task of transforming Tamil Nadu into a welfare State.

it is counter - productive and expand in areas - education, health care, land reforms, social security and child nutrition - in which Government actively could be positive and under performed in the previous situation", he added. As both, Dr.Kalam and Prof.Sen are eminently motivated by a sublime sense of service to the people at large in general and to the disadvantaged in particular, it is not surprising that Dr. Kalam anticipated



literate. A scheme for offering computer science, based on curriculum designed by experts, as an elective subject in the 11-12 standards in all the 1200 Higher Secondary Schools in the State would be introduced in the next academic year. The courses will be conducted by reputed computer training firms who will

It is pertinent to quote Prof. Amartya Sen here. "The debate got derailed because some people wanted less Government and others needed a lot of it". In his view, "both of them were correct". "Your need to reduce the over-activity of the Government in those areas where

Prof. Sen's ideals and implemented them to the best of his capacity. The proof of the pudding is in the eating. The universality and relevance of Prof. Sen's welfare economics have been underlined by the people-oriented policies of Kalam.



EDUCATION FOR ALL

Outlay for Education in 1999-2000 is Rs.4144.01 crores and this works out to 22.40% of the State's total budget of Revenue Account of Rs.18500.32 crores.

This is a clear indication of the affirmation of the commitment of Government towards achieving the goal of Education for all.

The policy of the Government is to ensure that all the students passing out of the schools will be computer literate and adequately prepared for the emerging era of Information Technology. In order to achieve this goal in a period of 5 years, it has been proposed to introduce Computer Science as an elective subject in all the Government Higher Secondary Schools. Suitable, experienced training institutions will be engaged to install and maintain computers and render training according to the syllabus run by the Government.

Government proposes to implement a scheme called "Elementary Education Movement". In this movement, apart from Government officials different sections of the society like Voluntary Organisations, Chairman, President and Members of Local Bodies, public service oriented individuals will be involved. It would be ensured that all the children in the school going age are enrolled. To strengthen these efforts, new elementary schools will be opened in all the hamlets having a population of more than 300.

It is also proposed to introduce "Vazhvoli Thittam" to take care of the health of

students. Field level health workers will visit the schools on Thursdays to monitor the health condition of the children.

In line with the thinking that "only healthy body can house healthy mind", Government proposes to give high priority to sports in schools. Competitions in Sports and different games will be conducted all over the State.

The methods like "Joyful Learning" will be adopted in schools to make the learning for students a joyful experience. The teaching methods will be adopted through songs and plays.

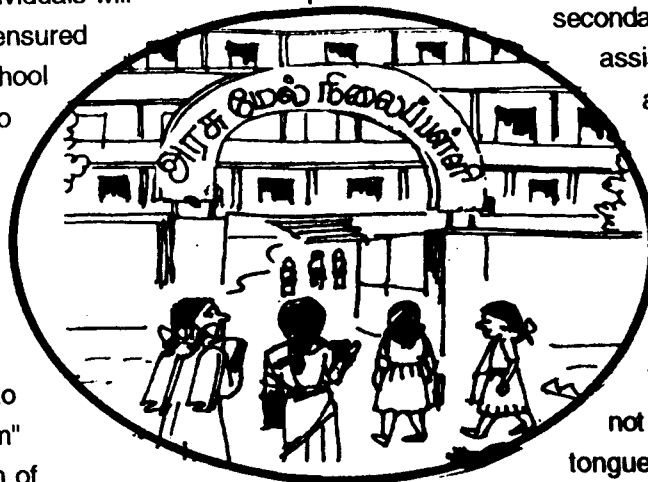
In order to achieve the policy of Universalisation of Elementary Education, the Government opened 312 new primary schools during 1998-99 including in villages of 'Samathuvapuram'. 200 primary schools have been upgraded as middle schools. In order that young children may reach school easily, it has been decided to open the required number of primary schools and to upgrade 150 primary schools into middle schools during 1999-2000.

From 1998-99 all students studying in I to V standards were supplied with free books. By this 12.8 lakh students have benefited. The scheme will be continued during this year also.

Construction of class room buildings to 3060 primary schools has been taken up.

It is proposed to upgrade 100 posts of secondary grade teachers as B.T. assistants during 1999-2000 and allot them to teach in VIII standard.

Government have taken a policy decision that all subjects other than English are taught in Tamil only so that they do not lose affinity to their mother tongue and culture and more



specifically to change the practice of teaching only in English as medium of instruction in nursery schools. Government have also decided to give recognition in future to only those Nursery schools that teach at least two of the three subjects other than English and Tamil, viz., Mathematics, Science, Social Studies in Tamil. In addition to having reduced the admission fees by half in fully Tamil medium schools, Government will also provide free text books to the students of these schools. Students from unrecognised schools seeking admission in Government recognised schools would be admitted based on an entrance examination only in these schools.

During 1998-1999, Government have sanctioned construction of additional classroom buildings in 420 Government High/Higher Secondary Schools at a cost of Rs.24.99 crores.

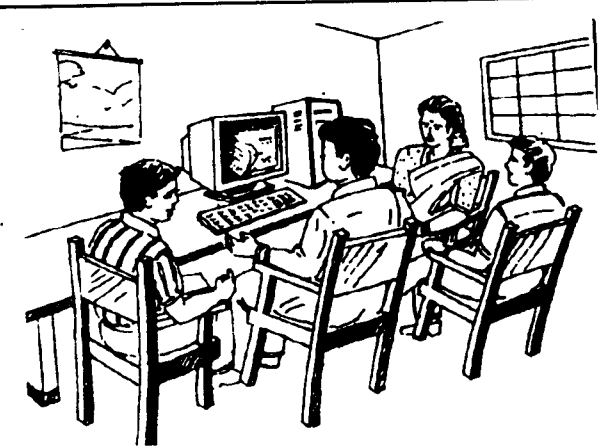
In order to enroll more children in the age group of 14 - 16, new schools are upgraded every year based on the needs of the habitations. During 1998-99, 80 Panchayat Union/Municipal/Corporation Middle Schools have been upgraded as High Schools. During 1999-2000, 80 Middle Schools are proposed to be upgraded as High Schools.

During 1999-2000, the Government propose to upgrade 50 Government High Schools into Higher Secondary Schools at various places in the State.

Computer Science will be introduced as an elective subject in the XI and XII standards in all the 1200 Government Higher Secondary Schools in order to generate Computer experts. At an average rate of 40 students per school, this scheme will produce about 48,000 students eligible for employment in the software industry.

3684 vacant teacher posts have been filled up during this year. During 1999-2000, 420 P.G. teachers, 295 B.T. Assistants and 217 Tamil teachers will be appointed.

It is proposed to upgrade 100 posts of secondary grade teachers as B.T. Assistants during 1999-2000 to handle classes in 8th standard.



Tamil Nadu is the pioneering State in implementing the scheme of Vocational Education at Higher Secondary level. 66 Vocational Courses under 6 major areas viz. Agriculture, Home Science, Commerce, Engineering and Technology, Health and others have been introduced in Higher Secondary Schools. Out of 2943 Higher Secondary Schools in the State, Vocational Courses have so far been introduced in 1389 schools and out of 6.94 lakh students in Higher Secondary Schools, 1.09 lakh (i.e. 15.70%) students are studying under vocational stream.

Library facility in schools is an essential one for students to improve their syllabus related skills. In the year 1998-99, as a first phase, Rs.100 lakhs worth of books were supplied to 200 Government High/Higher Secondary Schools. Likewise, another Rs.100 lakhs worth of books will be supplied during coming academic year also.

The special coaching programme is implemented to help the SC/ST children studying in standards VIII to XII. Special coaching is given in English, Maths and Science subjects in the evenings after school hours. This programme is implemented in 625 High Schools and 375 Higher Secondary Schools. A sum of Rs.17 lakhs has been provided for the scheme during this year. This programme will be vigorously implemented during coming years also.

Government has introduced the Rural Talent-Search Examination Scheme to select students having high scholastic achievement. This examination is conducted

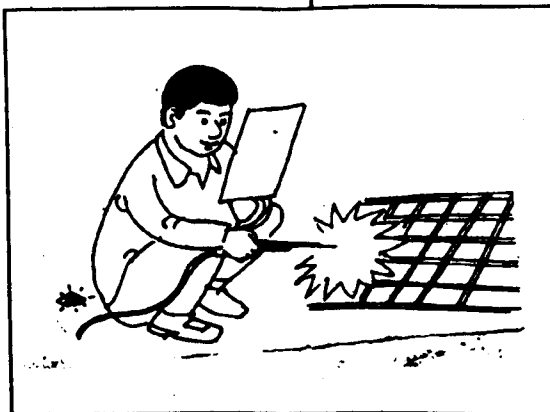
by the Director of Government Examinations every year during the month of May for children in rural areas who have passed VIII standard. Hundred children from each District - 50 boys and 50 girls are selected through this examination. A scholarship of Rs.1000 per annum is given to each of them for 4 years from standard IX to XII. Government spends Rs.1 crore for this purpose every year.

Under Top Rankers Scheme, every year the Government will meet the expenses on the 3 top rank holders in Standard X Public Examination at the State level till they complete +2. Government will meet all expenses of 3 top rank holders in the Higher Secondary Examination at the State level for pursuing Higher Education (including Medical/Engineering Courses). During the year 1998-99, Government sanctioned Rs.18 lakhs on 101 students for their higher education and 126 students for their higher secondary school education.

Scout Movement is functioning in 3430 schools in Tamil Nadu. From 1998-99 onwards, 2000 best scouts/guides are awarded with "Rajya Purashkar" awards. The Government is spending Rs.5 lakhs for this.

Government have decided to include subjects like crafts, physical education, yoga and integrated education for the disabled in the new syllabus proposed for the Diploma in Teacher Education. It has also been proposed to include Computer syllabi in the curriculum for trainees of secondary grade and B.T. teachers.

Since it is proposed to introduce Information Technology as one of the subjects in schools in the coming years, the teachers are also to be trained. A separate educational technology branch with necessary staff is functioning in each DIET. It is proposed to give computer training through Anna University personnel



to about 40 participants at a cost of Rs.1 lakh for a period of two weeks during 1999-2000.

Education Television Studio has produced 30 video programmes to Chennai Television for telecasting under "Kanbom-Karpom" programme during 1998-99 to suit the new books introduced for 4th standard. It is proposed to produce similar video programmes for the benefit of students of 5th to 8th standards and programmes on audio cassettes.

It is proposed by ETV studio to supply 20 audio cassettes to schools for the benefit of students of 5th to 8th standards at a cost of Rs.2.5 lakhs during 1999-2000.

In the districts where literacy level is low, 16 non formal education projects with 100 centres each will be started to impart non-formal education to girls of 6 to 14 age group during 1999-2000. Priority will be given to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Community.

In 1996-97, 1700 and in 1997-98, 1770 PG/B.T. teachers have been selected by the Teachers Recruitment Board. In 1998-99, 1119 PG and 865 BT teachers have been selected. Action has been initiated to fill up backlog vacancies of 19 P.G. and 19 B.T. teachers during 1998-99.

In 1999-2000, the Tamil Nadu Textbook Corporation will distribute 515 lakh copies of text books in 348 titles including the new text book for 5th standard at a cost of Rs.47.70 crores.

During the coming academic year, the Corporation will prepare and supply note books worth of Rs.7.50 crores to the Adidraavidar and Tribal welfare department.

To inculcate oneness among the students, excerpts of writings of great men of nation on injustice of untouchability, tolerance and communal harmony have been included in many text books. It

is proposed to establish sports development centres in 7 colleges at a cost of Rs.7.70 lakhs during 1999-2000 to benefit 112 college students.

A District level youth festival centred around the theme of communal harmony was organised last year at Virudhunagar. Government have decided to organise such youth festivals at District and State levels through the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu. The winners of State level festival will be allowed to take part in the National Youth Festival. This youth festival will be organised in this Year of Communal Harmony, with the participation of public in addition to Rs.20 lakhs financial assistance from State Government.

COLLEGIATE EDUCATION

At present, there are 14 job oriented courses taught in 60 Government Colleges. Further, effective steps are taken to introduce 272 job oriented courses in Government colleges between the years 1999-2000 and 2001-2002.

Internet facility has been provided in Presidency College, Chennai. This will facilitate the students to have access to more information in all fields. Now



E-mail facility has been provided in 17 Government Colleges.

Proposals for the introduction of Vocational courses during 1999-2000 in 20 Government colleges have been sent to UGC.

Under the welfare scheme titled 'PERIYAR E.V.R. NAGAMMAI FREE EDUCATION TO WOMEN STUDENTS', girl students irrespective of their caste and creed, whose parental income does not exceed Rs.24,000 are exempted from the payment of tuition fees in undergraduate courses.

In order to introduce complete transparency in admission this Government introduced the Single Window System of Admission in Engineering Colleges from the year 1997-98 and streamlined the admission procedure.

The Honourable Chief Minister Kalaignar has announced that the Government will meet the entire expenses of education of the students from families which do not have any graduates and are interested in pursuing professional courses who secure the first 10 places among students from such families without graduates based on the marks obtained out of the total of 300 qualifying marks in the Entrance Examination. Under this scheme the Government will bear the full cost of education in Professional courses, a sum of Rs.1,04,045 has been awarded to the students during the year 1996-97 and Rs.1,44,899 has been awarded to the students during the year 1997-98.

The Government permitted the starting of new courses in Jewellery Development at Dr. Dharmambal Government Polytechnic for Women, Chennai in collaboration with the World Gold Council, Mumbai.

With the objective of dissemination of the advances made in the Science and Technology, the Government have proposed to establish a Science City in the Southern part of Chennai.

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Custom Mega Prosthesis in Bone Tumours

Historically the treatment of malignant bone tumours in the limb was by amputation to save the life of the patient. Dr. Mayilvahanan has revolutionised the treatment of patients with bone cancer by introducing the technology of "Custom Mega Prosthesis in Bone Tumours" in Tamil Nadu as early as 1988. By this unique and specialised technique he has avoided amputation in patients with bone cancer and prevented them from becoming crippled and handicapped members of society, enabling them to lead their life with self respect and dignity. His impressive and unmatched series of 372 cases in 10 years (Oct. 1988 - Sep. 1998) has established Orthopaedic Oncology as a speciality in India and got him international acclaim.

The cost of the imported Custom Mega Prosthesis is Rs.2 lakhs to Rs. 3 lakhs. Working on the philosophy of indigenous technology development programme based on locally available resources in biomedical materials, he has strived to reorient and improve health care facilities to bring it within the reach of the common man. Dr. Mayilvahanan has self designed and fabricated the Custom Mega Prosthesis indigenously in Chennai at a fraction of the cost Rs.20,000 to Rs.30,000. By this he has made the custom prosthesis cost effective and treatment affordable for all sections of the society.

The indigenisation of the prostheses has cut down the cost of this procedure to one tenth and enabled service oriented organisations like the Cancer Institute and the Government General Hospital to offer this invaluable option to their patients. For the patients attending the Government General Hospital, the prosthesis has been provided free of cost, so that this technology has reached even the poorest members of our society.

By self design and indigenous manufacturing he has made the Custom Mega Prosthesis Affordable to patients, Acceptable to the medical fraternity, Applicable to the local community and the society at large and the concept of Custom Megaprosthesis in Bone Tumours, Attainable in our Country so that India keeps pace with the rest of the world in Orthopaedic Oncology.

Dr. Mayilvahanan has been doing the surgery of custom Mega Prosthesis in Bone Tumours at the Regional Cancer Institute



Dr. Mayilvahanan (WIA) and Government General Hospital, Chennai for the past 10 years. He has made these places recognised Centres of Excellence for this unique type of surgery. Patients are referred to him from all over Tamil Nadu and the Regional Cancer Centres in Kerala, Karnataka and Andhrapradesh. Patients are also referred from Bangladesh, Nepal, Malaysia, Srilanka for this surgery at low cost.

He has authored a book on Orthopaedic Oncology and currently is the guest editor in all the national journals on the section on Bone Tumours.

The Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology in recognition of his distinguished work to bone tumour patients has conferred on him the Tamil Nadu Scientists Awards (TANSA 1998) and designated him a Scientist in Medical Sciences (Clinical).

Recognition

A distinguished international organisation devoted

to the field of bone tumours namely the Asia Pacific Musculo Skeletal Tumour Society, has recognised the work of Mayilvahanan and elected him as their President for the year 2000 A.D. He is the first person in India who has received this honour. He has been made the National Delegate for the International Society of Limb Salvage USA and the International Society for study of Custom Prosthesis U.S.A.

Challenges and Achievements in India

Orthopaedic Oncology has been well established as a subspeciality in Orthopaedic surgery on the threshold of the new millennium of the 21st Century. Management of patients with musculo-skeletal neoplasms has been one of the most challenging areas in Oncology. The hallmark of Orthopaedic Oncology is Limb Salvage Surgery. Custom Orthopaedic implants is an exciting and expanding area in Orthopaedic reconstruction. It is mainly used in Limb Salvage Surgery following tumour resection.

Clinical Material

The period of the study is 10 years from October 1988 to September 1998. There were 216 males and 156 females. The average age was 25.5 years. Histopathologically there were 218 Osteosarcomas, 84 Giant Cell Tumours, 23 Chondrosarcomas, 16 Metastases, 8 Malignant Fibrous Histiocytoma in this series. Anatomically 156 were in the Distal Femur, 110 in Proximal Tibia, 33 in Proximal Humerus, 31 in Proximal Femur, 9 in Shaft of Femurs, 6 Shaft of Humerus. Staging was 2(23), 3(63), IA(11), IB(36), IIA(91), IIB(114), IIIA(1), IIIB(4). The Margins of Resection were wide in 270, Marginal 98 and Contaminated 4. The Custom

Prosthesis were made in Chennai locally. The materials used for prosthesis was Stainless steel or Titanium. The knee joint is the rotating hinge type based on the Stanmore pattern. The proximal humerus is the Campanacci shoulder type of prosthesis. The period of follow up is from 1 to 120 months with a mean of 33 months.

Results

The functional results (ISOLS) were excellent 145 (38.9%) Good 124 (33.3%) Poor 61 (16.4%) and Fair in 42 (11.3%). Oncological results were No Evidence of Disease 286, Died of Disease 64, Alive with Disease 18, and other causes 4. The complications were Biological 14.24%, Mechanical 19.35% and Oncological in 17.2%.

Discussion

Custom Prosthesis in Limb Salvage Surgery is still in infancy in India due to developing technology for fabrication and high cost. Only a small percentage of patients undergo this type of surgery. Several cases present late and end up with amputation. This paper is an analysis of the results in 372 cases from the city of Chennai with follow up of 10 years.

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MINIMUM WAGES FIXED FOR AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS

The Hon'ble Chief Minister, Kalaingar announced that the Government accepted the issues concerning revision of minimum wages for agricultural labourers on the recommendations of the Kolappan Committee. The Government had gone beyond the panel in accepting wages.

Nearly 20 lakh agricultural labourers in Tamil Nadu will benefit from the new wage package announced by the Government, which also accepted the principle of equal pay for men and women from hands doing the same type of work.

While the daily wages for farm labourers with their own plough bullocks has been hiked from Rs.55 to Rs.100 as recommended by the Committee, for those without bullocks the daily wages goes up from Rs.32 to Rs.54.



Farm hands engaged in harvesting paddy and other post harvest operations will now be entitled to Rs.54 per day from the present level of Rs. 32. Men working for six hours and women for five hours involved in these operations will both be paid at the rate of Rs.9 per hour as recommended by the committee. For harvesting crops other than paddy, the panel has also recommended revision of the daily minimum wage from Rs.32 to Rs.54 which has also been accepted by the Government.

Those engaged in sowing, transplantation and weeding works will also be entitled to a wage rate of Rs.9 per hour as against the present daily rate of Rs.32 for sowing, Rs.30 for transplantation and Rs.29 for weeding works. Similarly, workers engaged in other farm related works - like cutting ridges of the field, poultry development, bee keeping, dairy development and tree - climbing will be entitled for an hourly wage of Rs.9 as against the daily rate of Rs.32.

These revised wages would also apply to State - run farms and Agricultural Universities. In certain areas, depending on the local conditions, the District Revenue Officials would convene tripartite meetings to decide whether the payments are to be made in cash or kind to the farm labourers.

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SIDCO

*A Dependable Partner to take you
to the gateway of prosperity*

SIDCO - A CORPORATE PROFILE

Small Industries Development Corporation Limited (SIDCO) was set up by the Government of Tamil Nadu, with the specific objective of playing a catalytic role in the promotion and development of Small Scale Industries and to hasten the Industrial dispersal in backward and under-developed areas of the State. We commenced its activities in 1971 with a comprehensive promotional programme designed to stimulate entrepreneurship. Ever since, it is synonymous with the growth of Small Scale Industries in Tamil Nadu.

Thanks to the Government of Tamil Nadu's well known generosity and progressive outlook, it has implemented a number of fiscal and other incentives on Government's behalf for the Small Scale Industries, particularly to stimulate self-employment among Technocrats.

SIDCO's main function is to plan the development of Small Scale Industries in Tamil Nadu and its promotional activities comprise the following:

- Development of Industrial Estates with factory sheds of various dimensions and developed plots with all infrastructural facilities, to make it easy for the entrepreneur to start Small Scale Industries. Tiny Sector Sheds for Artisans and the self-employed are also part of Sidco's programme.

- Supply of raw-materials, such as, Iron and Steel, Copper, Zinc, Lead, Potassium Chlorate, HDPE, Paraffin Wax, Match Wax, Coke, Printing Paper etc., through Sidco's wide distribution network.
- Rendering Marketing Assistance.
- Guidance for Export Marketing.
- Bill Discounting Assistance.
- Promoting Skill Development Centres in the Industrial Estates.
- Promoting the establishment of captive Power Stations in the Industrial Estates.

INDUSTRIAL ESTATES

Entrepreneurs applying for allotment of sheds and developed plots are given the allotment fast and on easy terms. SIDCO has so far set up Industrial Estates at the following 73 places:

SIDCO INDUSTRIAL ESTATES IN TAMIL NADU

Chennai: Guindy, Ambattur.

Chengelpet: Madhavaram, Kodungaiyur, Gummidipoondi, Kakkalur, Thirumazhisai, Kancheepuram, R.K. Pet, Vichoor.

Vellore: Arakonam, Ranipet, Mukundaraya puram, Katpadi, Thiruvannamalai.

Dharmapuri: Krishnagiri, Hosur, Dharmapuri, Bargur, Uthangarai.

Salem: Salem, Mettur, Thiruchengodu, Namakkal, Veerapandi.

Erode: Erode, Nanjai-Uthukuli

Coimbatore: Kurichi, Ganapathipalayam, Malumichampatti, Tiruppur, Gudimangalam, Ooty.

Cuddalore: Cuddalore, Vadalur.

Thanjavur: Thanjavur, Kumbakonam, Pillayarpet, Nanjikottai, Nagapattinam.

Trichy: Thuvakudi, Thiruverambur, Ariyamangalam, Athur, Karur.

Pudukkottai: Pudukkottai (Government), Pudukkottai (SIPCOT), Mathur.

Dindugul: Dindugul, Batlagundu.

Madurai: Madurai, Kappalur, Andipatti, Theni.

Virudhunagar: Virudhunagar, Rajapalayam.

Sivaganga: Paramakudi, Kilanagachi, Urapuli, Karaikudi, Sivaganga, Kirungakottai.

Tirunelveli: Kovilpatti, Pettai, Kadayannallur, Tuticorin.

Nagercoil: Marthandam, Konam.

TINY SECTOR SHEDS SCHEME

Chennai: Guindy

Thiruvallur: Ambattur, Thiruvallangadu, Perambakkam.

Kancheepuram: Achirapakkam, Singaperumal Koil, Walajabad, Padappai, Orikkai, Kamalampoondi, Thirupukuzhi, Malaipattu.

Vellore: Katpadi, Madanur, Walajapet, Sekkanur.

Thanjavur: Tirubhuvanam, Budalur.

Cuddalore: Cuddalore, Vadalur.

Trichy: Musiri, Thataiangarpet, Thuvakudi.

Perambalur: Arumbavoor, Padalur.

Pudukkottai: Pudukkottai, Thirumayam, Malayur, Gandarvakottai.

Coimbatore: Kurishi, Anuperpalayam, Sirumugai.

Why set up Industries in Tamil Nadu?

1. Land of Peace and Harmony
2. Political stability with dynamic leadership.
3. Ideal atmosphere in Industrial Relations, thanks to the priority the Government of Tamil Nadu has accorded to Industrial peace.
4. Excellent infrastructure facilities and easy availability of basic raw-materials.
5. Attractive fiscal incentives offered by Government of Tamil Nadu a trail blazer in several respects.
6. A strong existing industrial base.
7. Abundance of qualified, trained and competent personnel.
8. Vast market for new products.
9. Excellent institutional frame-work.
10. A responsive and imaginative administration.
11. Presence of SIDCO - the single window with a heart and long helping hand.
12. Hospitality of the Tamil people is legend - One of the best places in the country to live.
13. Matching promises with performance.
14. Best of Incentives.
15. Adequate uninterrupted Power Supply.
16. A business-friendly Government and transparent decision making process.

Nilgiris: Ooty.

Erode: Erode, Dharmapuram

Tirunelveli: Pettai, Ambasamudram.

Tuticorin: Kovilpatti, Ettayapuram.

Kanniyakumari: Konam.

Virudhunagar: Watrap.

Sivagangai: Karaikudi, Sivagangai.

Ramnad: Paramakudi.

Madurai: Thirumangalam.

Theni: Theni.

Dindugul: Dindugul.

Salem: Salem, Peddenaickenpalayam, Edapadi, Mettur, Namakkal.

Dharmapuri: Krishnagiri, Pappireddipatti, Kariamangalam, Chennathur.

TINY MATCH SHEDS

Kancheepuram: Vedapalayam, Madasur.

Villupuram: Kallakurichi, Thiagadurgam, Thirukoilur, Elavanasurkottai, Kolliyankunam, Thiruchitrampalam.

Virudhunagar: Tiruchuli, Karapatti.

Sivagangai: Manamadurai, Sivagangai.

Theni : T. Kallupatti, Devendrapuram, Kanniappapillaipatti, Kadirnarasingapuram, Rajadhani.

Salem: Therkukaadu I, Selliampalayam, Pudukpayampatti, Valapadi, Keeraipatti, Manjuri, Vedachermalai, Thattuthurai, Kattukkottai, Vadakumari, Alagalur, Koneripatti, Deviakurichi.

Dharmapuri: Bommidu I, Pandarachettipatti, Pilparuthi, Singarapalli, Kadathur, B. Therinji palayam, B. Palapatti, Bairantham, Manasi, Vellagoundanapalayam, Chettikurichi, Madhana mangalam, Pahalapalli, Narthampatti, Oddapatti.

TINY SERICULTURE SHEDS

Erode: Dharapuram.

Dharmapuri: Oddapatti, Samalpatti, Harur.

Industrial Estate Development Programme is taken up wherever there is demand and good scope for starting new industries. The rural areas and industrially backward areas which need development are also taken into consideration while selecting the lands. Care is taken to select the Government poramboke lands at cheaper cost or private lands at reasonable cost through Private Negotiation Committee.

All the basic infrastructural facilities like roads, streetlights, water supply, drainage facilities etc. are provided in the Industrial Estate by SIDCO. Wherever necessary, followup action is taken with the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB) for getting the power connection to the units by co-ordinating with TNEB. Provision is also made for future accommodation of other amenities such as EB Sub-Station, Canteen, Banks, Post and Telegraph Office, Telephone Office, Police Outpost, parking space for vehicles, Parks, and Housing facilities.

SIDCO is maintaining all the Industrial Estates coming under its jurisdiction to keep the infrastructural facilities in good condition, by collecting the maintenance charges from the unit holders.

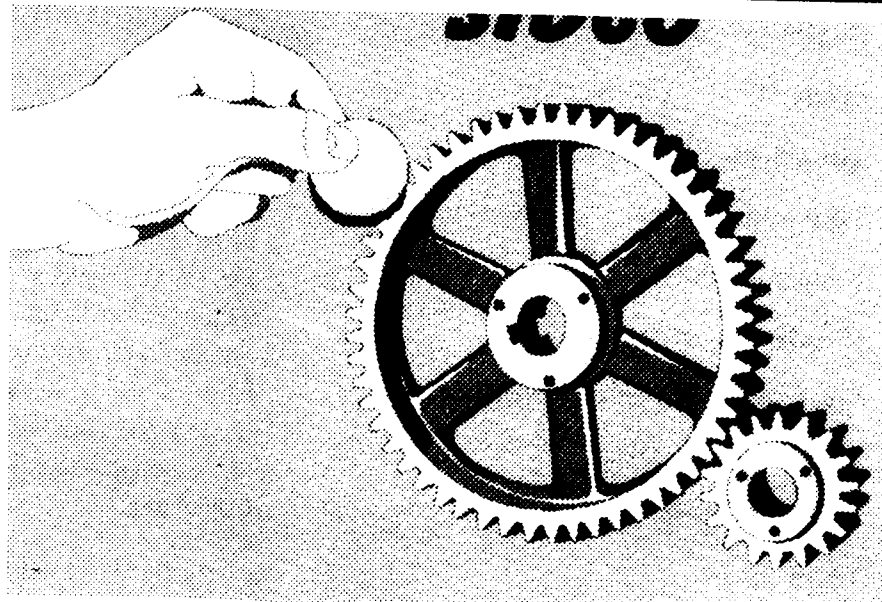
Sidco has requested the Government of Tamil Nadu to declare large Industrial Estates like Ambattur, Guindy and Thirumudivakkam as 'Industrial Townships' so that the Township Authority will function as the local body and give all clearances for setting up the Industry at the single window.

Worksheds of suitable sizes ranging from 200 sqft. to 6000 sqft. are constructed and allotted to tiny and small scale entrepreneurs. The sheds are allotted even under 'hire purchase basis'. Developed plots are also made available in the Industrial Estates.

SIDCO has so far established 73 Industrial Estates with 4233 sheds. SIDCO has constructed 1841 tiny sheds in 108 locations ranging in size from 200 sqft. to 600 sqft. for the benefit of rural artisans.

MULTI-STOREYED INDUSTRIAL COMPLEXES

Multi-storeyed Industrial Complexes are being constructed by SIDCO, in order to save land, all the same providing required infrastructure. Electronic Complex and Readymade Garment Complex have been thus constructed in Industrial Estate, Guindy by SIDCO. This is the first of its kind in South India. It intends to construct similar complexes in other areas where land is scarce.



INCENTIVES

SIDCO Industrial Estates are treated on par with the backward areas and the allottees of SIDCO sheds/plots are eligible for 15% State Capital Subsidy.

They are also eligible to avail Sales Tax Deferral Payment Scheme for a period of 9 years.

The SSI units in SIDCO Industrial Estates are exempted from payment of stamp duty in respect of the sale deed executed by SIDCO for the plots/sheds allotted to them.

30% reservation is given for women entrepreneurs and 10% for ex-servicemen while considering allotment.

INTEGRATED INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT SCHEME OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

SIDCO has been availing the Grant and Loan facilities under the IID Scheme of Government of India for the infrastructure development of Industrial Estates.

FORMATION OF NEW INDUSTRIAL ESTATES

SIDCO proposes to develop 50 more Industrial Estates in the ensuing three years. In the first

phase development of Estates are taken up in the following places :

Irungattukottai - Kancheepuram District: Pollupalli - Dharmapuri District: Asanur - Villupuram District: Hosur - Dharmapuri District: Cheyyar - Thiruvanna malai District: Perunthurai - Erode District: Nilakottai - Dindugul District: Gangaikondan - Tirunelveli District: Vellanur near Avadi Thiruvallur District.

PRIVATE INDUSTRIAL ESTATES

SIDCO came up with the novel idea (first of its kind in India) in setting up Private Industrial Estates, as early as in 1991. In co-ordination with SSI Association and Group of Private Entrepreneurs, SIDCO has successfully established Private Industrial Estates at Mudalipalayam Phase I & II at Tirupur, (TEKIC), Urangampatti, Madurai (MAHIA), Chettipalayam, Tirupur (TEKMA) and at Palladam Vadugapalayam. Association / Pvt. Entrepreneurs identify suitable land and entrust the work of infrastructure development and construction of sheds as per their requirement to SIDCO at a nominal Service cost. SIDCO will arrange to get the maximum benefits to the entrepreneurs similar to that of other SIDCO Industrial Estates. SIDCO will also make arrangements to get IID Assistance from Government of India for such Private Industrial Estates. But the rest of the money required will be brought by the Private Sector and remitted to SIDCO.

RAW MATERIAL DISTRIBUTION

SIDCO is the State Canalysing Agency for distribution of essential and scarce raw materials to SSI units. SIDCO is now distributing Iron & Steel, Coke, Paraffin Wax and Match Wax, Printing Paper, Zinc, Lead, Potassium Chlorate and Plastic Granules. SIDCO is distributing the following raw materials through its 15 depots situated at strategic locations in Tamil Nadu.

LIST OF SIDCO RAW MATERIAL DEPOTS

Chennai - Guidy, Ambattur: Kurichi: K. Pudur, Ariyamangalam, Hosur, Sathur, Sivakasi (west), Kovilpatti, Gudiyatham.

SUB DEPOTS

Vellore (Katpadi), Eorde, Salem, Thanjavur, Thirunelveli (Pettai)

IRON & STEEL

SIDCO is distributing Iron & Steel by procuring the same from the main producers like Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) Tata Iron & Steel Co. (TISCO), Visakhapatnam, Steel Plant (VSP) and Indian Iron and Steel Co. (IISCO). SSI units can lift Iron & Steel Materials from SIDCO's Raw Material Depots on mere product on of SSI Certificate. They can also avail credit facilities on furnishing Bank Guarantee. SIDCO supplies raw materials like Iron & Steel for the requirement of Government Departments/ Undertaking also.

PARAFFIN WAX

Wax is procured from Madras Refineries Ltd. (MRL) in three types, viz. Type I, Type II and Type III. Type I Wax is used for food grade packing. Type II Wax is mostly used for candles, batik printing and tarpaulin. Type III Wax is used for match industries.

COKE

Coke, an essential raw materials for foundries, is procured from Bharath Coking Coal Ltd., Dhanbad (a subsidiary of Coal India Ltd.) and mostly distributed from SIDCO's Coimbatore Depot.

ZINC AND LEAD

Zinc and Lead are sold by SIDCO as the "Consignment Agent" of Hindustan Zinc Ltd. (HZL)

POTASSIUM CHLORATE

Potassium Chlorate is procured from Tamil Nadu Chlorates Ltd. on agency basis and supplied to SSI Match Units.

PRINTING PAPER

SIDCO is an "Indenter" for distribution of printing/writing paper manufactured by Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Ltd. SIDCO procures paper and sells the same to printing presses/educational institutions/ Government Departments and Undertakings.

PLASTIC GRANULES

SIDCO is acting as "Consignment Stockist" of Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd. (IPCL) for selling their products such as LDPE, LLDPE, PP etc. on agency basis.

IMPORT OF ESSENTIAL RAW MATERIALS

SIDCO is even contemplating import of essential raw materials like Paraffin Wax and Steel to cater to the needs of SSI units to bridge the gap of demand and supply. For further details contact : Manager (Raw Materials)

MARKETING ASSISTANCE

SIDCO participates in the tenders floated by Government Departments and Undertakings on behalf of the SSI units and obtains orders for the SSI units registered under "Marketing Assistance Scheme". SIDCO also arranges for the supply of SSI products at annual rate contract basis to Government Departments and Undertakings. 3220 Units have so far been registered with SIDCO under the Scheme.

SIDCO is nominated as the State Level Agency for participating in the DGS & D tenders on behalf of the SSI units in Tamil Nadu and rendering marketing services to the SSI Sector.

SIDCO arranges for Buyer - Seller Meets so that the big Industries and Government Departments will become familiar with the products of SSI units and also given an opportunity to the SSI units to know the actual demand of the Department.

For details contact : Manager (Marketing)

BILL DISCOUNTING ASSISTANCE

SIDCO has recently introduced the Bill Discounting Scheme in order to mitigate the problem faced by the SSI units due to the delay in getting payment for their supplies to Government Departments/ Undertakings. The scheme will cover now only the bill raised by SSI units for supplies effected to Government Departments/Undertakings. The period of credit to SSI units may range from 45 days to 90 days or the credit period provided for in the purchase order. This new scheme will solve the severe working capital problems being faced by the SSI units.

For details contact : Financial Advisor (SIDCO)

GISTNIC INFORMATION BOOTH

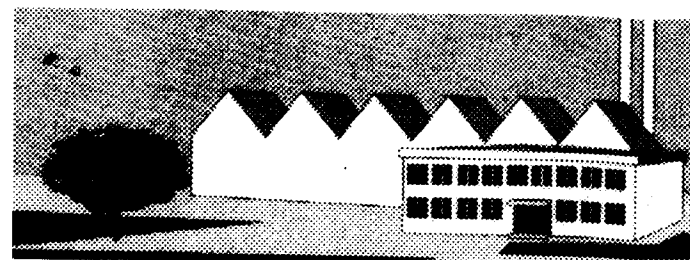
SIDCO is having a Front Office with a Gistnic Information Booth to give the following information

Industrial Directory of India, Indian Economy Profile (Monthly & Annual), State Profile, District Profile of India, Agricultural Statistics, Rural Technologies, Traditional Sciences of India, University Education Guide of India, Tourist Guide of India, Other Statistic such as Education Health, Banking etc.

PROPOSALS ON THE ANVIL

Captive Power Plant

SIDCO has advised the Industrial Estate Association to form a company where the power



consuming industrial units and SIDCO will be shareholders. This company can set up captive power stations to meet fully their electricity requirements. The surplus power available can be sold to the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board. SIDCO will only play the catalytic role, getting all clearances and approvals and taking small equity also. This captive power station will supply power at a steady voltage to member units.

Efforts are being taken to get IID Assistance and Grant from the Government of India for this Scheme also.

Export Marketing Assistance

SIDCO has been participating in the India International Trade Fair being conducted at New Delhi every year for generating export enquiries for the benefit of the SSI units. It is proposed to take up the export activity in a wider scale since the SSI units can no longer depend on internal marketing alone and have to export of their products for their growth.

SIDCO intends to have **Front Office** in its Central Office, collect data from various sources and disseminate information to needy SSI units on export marketing.

Skill Development Centre

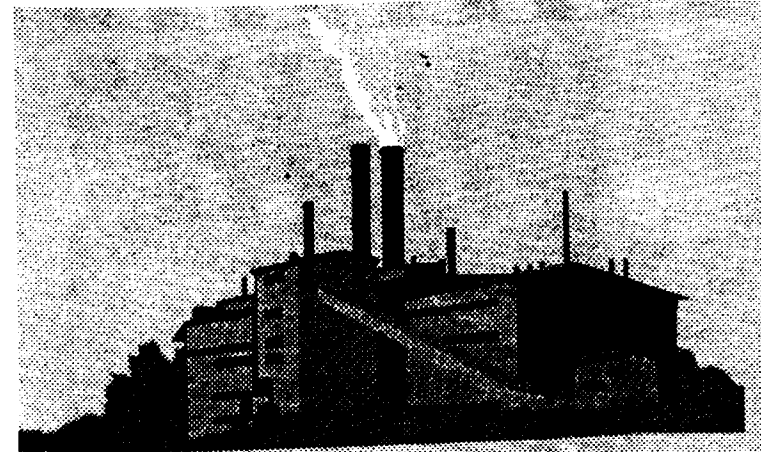
In order to make skilled people available for industries and for training and improving skills of the existing workmen, SIDCO shall assist setting up of 'Skill Development Centres' in various Industrial Estate.

Solar Energy Centre

SIDCO shall assist promoting or development of Solar based Power Generation Projects in SIDCO Industrial Estates.

Guidance Cell

SIDCO has set up a Guidance Cell in Central Office to render assistance to New Entrepreneurs on the following lines



- i) To ascertain from the new entrepreneur who approaches this office either directly or through direction from the Branch Officers, what are the fields in which he needs guidance / assistance.
- ii) To assist filling up the forms/applications.
- iii) to assist in getting electricity connection from TNEB, getting PF/ESI Registration and Sales Tax Registration.
- iv) To assist in getting clearance from Pollution Control Board.
- v) To contact the concerned Officials at various departments in connection with items (iii) and (iv) above for early clearance.

At the Branch Level, the Officer in charge of the Branch will do this work and if follow up is required at Chennai, the Branch Manager will inform the above cell.

A nominal fee of Rs.1,000 will be collected from each entrepreneur to meet the administrative expenses by Branch Manager or at Central Office

Wider Network

Till recently SIDCO had Branch Officer only at District levels. In order to be easily accessible to the entrepreneurs and budding industrialists, SIDCO have opened more branch offices at most of the prominent Industrial Estates.

The Project Offices of SIDCO : Guindy, Ambattur.

The Branch Offices of SIDCO

Chengalpattu Region : Kakkalur, Vichoor, Alathur, Thirumazhisai, Thirumudivakkam.

Vellore Region : Ranipet, Katpadi.

Dharmapuri Region : Hosur, Krishnagiri.

Salem Region : Salem

Erode Region : Erode

Coimbatore Region : Coimbatore, Tirupur

Karur Region : Karur

Trichy Region : Perambalur, Ariyamangalam.

Thanjavur Region : Thanjavur.

Nagapattinam Region : Nagapattinam

Pudukkottai Region : Pudukkottai

Cuddalore Region : Cuddalore

Dindigul Region : Dindigul

Madurai Region : K.Pudur, Kappalur, Theni

Virudhunagar Region : Virudhunagar

Sivagangai Region : Sivagangai, Paramakudi

Tirunelveli Region : Tirunelveli, Tuticorin

Nagarcoil Region : Nagercoil.

For further details

Chairman & Managing Director,
Tamil Nadu Small Industries Development
Corporation Limited, Head Office,
Paulwells Road, Kathipara Junction,
Chennai - 600 016.

Tel : 044-2341464, 2341215, 2345289

Fax : 91-044-2345792.

★ ★ ★



Hon'ble Chief Minister **Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi** presented the subsidy for the low budget Tamil feature films on 29.3.1999. Thiru. V. Mullaivendan, Hon'ble Minister for Information, Publicity and Printing, Film Actor Thiru Sivakumar, Chairman of the Selection Committee, Thiru. S. Rajarethinam IAS, Secretary, Information and Tourism Department, Thiru. G. Muthusamy IAS., Director of Information and Public Relations and Thiru Amirtham, Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Films Division and Film and Television Institute were also present on the occasion.

TREMENDOUS INCREASE IN SOFTWARE EXPORT

Tamil Nadu has achieved this year a record of 300 percent increase over its last year performance in software export.

The target fixed for 1998-99 was Rs. 700 crores. This year its has reached Rs.1,170 crores. The export in 1997-98 accounted for Rs.400 crores.

There are at present 155 software development firms of which 103 are engaged in software export. Among the Software Technology Parks of India 110 software companies have been registered as export

oriented. More than 75 percent of the software programmes went to America, 10 percent to England and the rest to other European Countries, Japan and Singapore.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister, Kalaignar have stated that the impressive performance was due to the Information Technology of the State Government, presence of Software Technology Parks of India, availability of excellent technical manpower and the coming up of several computer companies.

★ ★ ★

TIIC

*The Institution with flair and
friendship for SSIs*



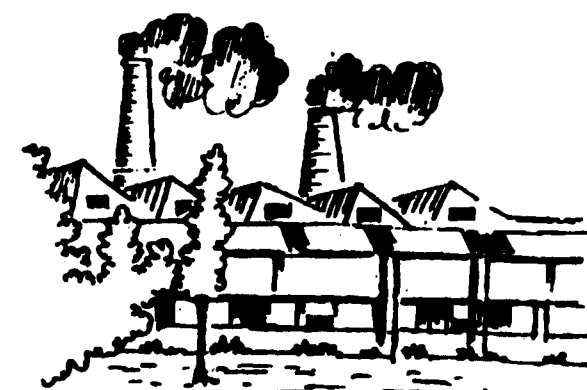
The Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation Limited (TIIC), a premier State Level Financial Institution was incorporated in the year 1949 as a Company under the Companies Act.

The Corporation grants term loan assistance upto Rs.300 lakhs for acquiring mainly fixed assets like land, buildings, plant and machinery, equipments and electricals for new industries as well as for expansion, modernisation and diversification of existing small and medium size industrial units.

PERFORMANCE

During the last two and half years, an amount of Rs.769.60 crores was sanctioned and Rs.608.17 crores was disbursed. Rs.790.85 crores has been collected and the subsidy received from the Government was Rs.88.60 crores.

Small Scale Industries which promote more employment at lesser investments occupy a prime place in the TIIC's operations. On an average, more



than 97% of the total number of sanctions are availed by SSI units.

EMPLOYMENT

The units assisted by TIIC generate employment opportunities to a sizeable number of people. 86,924 persons were provided employment opportunities during the last two and a half years upto November 1998.

PROFIT

During the last two years the Corporation has earned a net profit of Rs.13.3 crores.

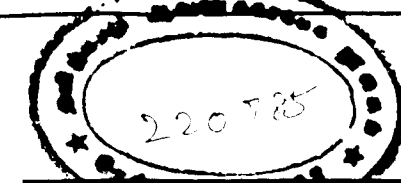
EFFORTS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Streamlining the procedures

Against stiff recession prevailing all over in the economy the Corporation is taking all out efforts to retain its position and improve in the competitive environment. Towards this end in view, the Corporation has refined the processing formalities, relaxed the rigorous norms and streamlined the procedures. By this the Corporation is clearing the loan proposals in Head Office or Branches in a months time; and disbursement of the loan in a maximum of two to three months time.

Reduction in interest rate

In the earlier years, the interest rate charged on these loans were as high as 20%. Considering the financial burden of small units due to this, and due



- | | |
|--|---|
| ★ 97% of lending goes to SSI Sector. | ★ New lending lines introduced. |
| ★ Streamlined procedures ensure quicker sanction. | ★ Modernisation scheme with 14% INT. |
| ★ Rate of Interest reduced from 20% to 17.5% for SSIs | ★ Assistance for Marketing Efforts. |
| ★ Reduction in penal interest rates from 5% to 2.5%. | ★ Liberal assistance to I.T. Industry. |
| ★ Loans to 64 SC entrepreneurs at Tiruppur for knitting units. | ★ Assistance to professionals. |
| ★ Prompt clients honoured with gold card facility. | ★ Assistance for ware housing. |
| ★ Soft exit policy for entrepreneurs who failed in their ventures. | ★ Customers Meeting at all districts. |
| | ★ New Branch at Theni District. |
| | ★ TIIC Exhibition in Golden Jubilee year. |

the representations received from various associations the Corporation has reduced the interest rates stage by stage to the present level of 17.5%.

Similarly the penal interest charged on the defaults prevailing earlier at 5% has also been reduced by the Corporation to 2.5%.

Concessions to prompt loanees

This Corporation is honouring the prompt loanees who maintain default free account continuously for two years and above, by issue of Merit, Green and Gold Card who are entitled to concessions in the form of interest rebates, liberal norms for their future loans etc. Recently this process has been further refined by extending the interest rebates as and when they are completing the respective eligibility period instead of giving such concessions at the fag end of the account settlement.

NEW SCHEMES INTRODUCED

Taking into consideration the facts of changing economic scenario in the country this Corporation has also recognised the need for new thrust areas of development and has come out with new schemes

of assistance to suit the needs of the entrepreneurs today.

SCHEME FOR TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT AND MODERNISATION

The rate of interest under this scheme is 14% promoters contribution is 20% only. The Scheme is applicable to existing units with good working results.

ASSISTANCE FOR MARKETING

Under this scheme, assistance is to be provided at normal rates of interest to enable small scale units to embark on marketing related expenditure, like Promotional Expenses, Market Research, Participation in Trade Fair and Exhibitions, Showrooms, Advertising, Establishment of Sales Offices etc.

ASSISTANCE TO COMMERCIAL COMPLEXES, etc.

There is demand for providing assistance to Commercial Complexes, Conference Halls, Marriage halls etc. The Corporation has decided to extend assistance to these sectors. The scheme is attracting lot of clients and the Corporation expects to do a good performance in this sector.

uplifting the S.C/S.T. entrepreneurs.

CUSTOMERS MEET

Towards building a cordial relationship between TIIC and customers special meetings have been conducted in almost all districts of the State along with local associations and promotional agencies.

At these meetings the new schemes of the Corporation are announced so as to attract new

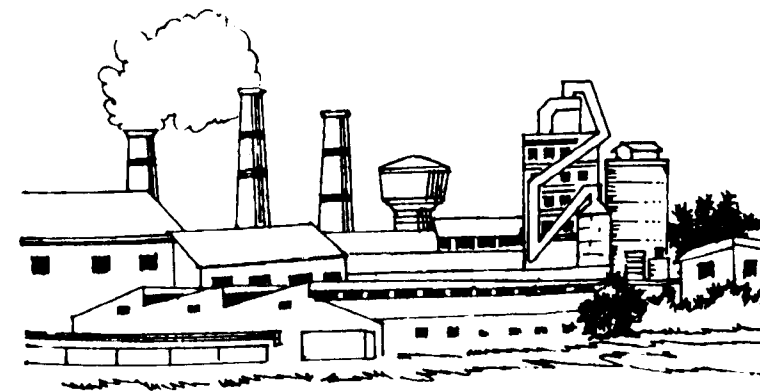
clients besides hearing the grievances of existing customers. Such grievances are also examined by the Corporation and solutions are arrived at the maximum possible extent so that the Corporation really means a customer friendly attitude.

TIIC PROPOSES TO CONVERT ITSELF INTO COMMERCIAL BANK

The RBI has been specifically moving towards dissolving the lines between the Commercial Bank and DFIs. It has been consistently following the Banking and Financial Sector Reforms over the past few years and constantly bringing down the gap between the two. It is compulsory for the institutions like SFCs to have a strong wherewithal to raise the resources. TIIC is to function purely as a Development Bank and this will help in raising resources at lower costs and pass on the benefits of the lower interest rates to industries in Tamil Nadu and also render adequate working capital to the assisted units, improve the system of monitoring etc. After obtaining the approval of the State Government in this behalf, the Corporation will have to constitute a special Steering Committee under the stewardship of an expert to take a time bound action in this direction.

Steps to safeguard the existing units.

While the Corporation takes sufficient care to step in newer lending lines, no lesser importance



BILL DISCOUNTING/FACTORING SCHEME

It is now proposed to go in for aggressive marketing of these schemes which will suit existing clients. Besides a proposal to retain and secure the services of an expert in Bills Market Operation is also being examined. It is also proposed to train a set of staff for this scheme and create a Profit Centre for this purpose.

ASSISTANCE TO SOCIAL SECTORS

The Corporation is already operating special schemes of assistance under the National Equity Fund, Soft Loan Scheme, Women Entrepreneur Scheme, THADCO Scheme, SEMFEX etc. where assistance is being given on concessional terms to special category of Entrepreneurs, Ex-Servicemen, S.C. Entrepreneurs, Technically Qualified Entrepreneurs and Women Entrepreneurs etc. with low Promoters contribution, soft Loans, subsidy etc.

At Mudalipalayam near Tiruppur one industrial estate is coming up exclusively for the benefit of S.C. and S.T. entrepreneurs for putting up Hosiery Knitting Units. The Corporation has sanctioned Term Loans to 64 beneficiaries for an amount of Rs.41.58 crores. They are in the process of drawal and implementing the project, out of which 6 units have gone into production and all the units are progressing in their implementation and may go on stream by March '99. The above estate will be a big landmark for TIIC in the social objective of

the field, Sereno and his colleagues suspected from the age and characteristics of the fossils that the dinosaur belonged to a new genus (Suchomimus), as well as a new species (tenerensis).

By analysing Suchomimus and other spinosaurids, Sereno and his colleagues have determined that the spinosaurid skull is even more elongate and crocodile-like than previously thought. In a perspective that accompanies Sereno and his colleagues' report, Thomas Holtz of the University of Maryland considers that several of the features of the skull, which parallel those of the ancient crocodile, may have arisen as adaptations towards a diet that included fish as well as meat. A narrow snout, for example, might allow a smoother passage through water and pointy, cone-shaped teeth function better to pierce and grasp rather than to slice. (Other theropods have serrated, blade-like teeth.)

The first spinosaurid, spinosaurus was discovered in Egypt in 1912 but destroyed during the bombing of Munich in World War II. Additional bones of Spinosaurus-like predators have since been found in Niger, Brazil and Europe. Before the discovery of Suchomimus, it seemed that the evolutionary relationships between the three known spinosaurid genera were a simple

matter of geography, because the two general in the southern hemisphere were more closely related to each other than to the European genus, Baryonyx.

According to this scenario, spinosaurids were initially distributed across the enormous landmass of Pangaea. As Pangaea rifted apart and the Tethys Seaway formed between the northern and southern halves (which would later from the continents in the Northern and Southern hemispheres), Baryonyx evolved separately on the northern continent and the two more closely related spinosaurids evolved to the south.

However, the discovery of Suchomimus in Africa complicates the picture, because Suchomimus appears to be more closely related to the European Baryonyx than to the southern spinosaurids found in Egypt and Brazil.

The similarities between the two dinosaurs suggest that Suchomimus' ancestor evolved in the north. Spinosaurids from the north then colonized the Southern continent via a land bridge across the seaway.

Courtesy: Science Express

★ ★ ★

THIRUKKURAL

- The Code of Conduct for the Mankind

நெருந் லுனனொருவ னின்றில்லை யென்னும் பெருமை பிறங்கிற் றுலகு.

neruna luanoruva nindrillai yennum berumai priangi trulahu.

"Yesterday he was alive, to-day he is no more. Such greatness has this world".

Commentary

The impermanence of this world is well brought out by the fact that a person who a all right yesterday suddenly passes away today.

★ ★ ★

ஒருபொழுதும் வாழ்வ தறியார் கருதுப கோடியு மல்ல பல.

orubozhudhum vazhva dhariyar karudhuba kodiya malla pala.

"A person may not be sure of this life even for a short period of one day. Yet what he thinks of achieving is to be counted not in crores but in infinite".

★ ★ ★

இன்ன வெனத்தா னுணர்ந்தவை துன்னாமை வேண்டும் பிறங்கட் செயல்

inna venatha nunarnthavai dhunnamai vendum pirankat seyal.

"Whatever is known to be bitter paid by his own experience should not be done to others"

Commentary

This also emphasises the identical nature of living beings. If a person knows that something is bitterly painful as felt by himself, he must realise that the other living beings in a similar situation would also feel the same pain. Hence just as he dislike pain himself he should see that there is no pain caused to other living beings.

★ ★ ★

எனைத்தானு மெஞ்ஞான்றும் யார்க்கு மனத்தான மாணாசெய யாமை தலை.

enaiathanu mengandrum yarku manathana manaasei yamai dhalai.

"Never to cause wilfully any kind of evil to any living being, this is the greatest virtue".

Commentary

Here the emphasis is laid on wilfully doing evil. That ought to be avoided. In an unconscious moment or involuntarily injury may be caused to living beings. Such an injury is not done wilfully and hence ought not to be considered as really sinful. The idea of doing evil is considered more important than the real action causing pain.

★ ★ ★

தன்னுயிர்க் கின்னாமை தானாறிவா னென்கொலோ மன்னுயிர்க் கின்னா செயல்.

thannuyir kinnamai dhanariva nengola mannuyir kinna seyal.

"A person who has personally experienced what is injurious to his own life, why should he inflict injury on other living beings".

★ ★ ★

பிறர்க்கின்னா முற்பகற் செய்யிற் றமக்கின்னா பிற்பகற் றானே வரும்.

prirar kinna murpahar chieyir tramakinna pripagar rane varum.

"If a person does evil to others in the forenoon, he will be confronted with evil in the afternoon.

Commentary

That the result of evil-doing is inevitable and immediate is pointed out here. As he soweth so must he reap's is a moral principle that can be never escaped.

ஒன்றாக நல்லது கொல்லாமை மற்றதன் பின்சாரப் பொய்யாமை நன்று.

ondraha nalladhu kollamai matradhan pinsara poiymai nandru.

"Not to kill is the one good deed par excellence. Next to this comes the virtue of speaking the truth."

★ ★ ★

House of Nutrients

Sprouted grams and seeds are power houses of good nourishment. They are excellent sources of protein, minerals, carbohydrates, vitamins and small quantities of essential fatty acids. Consumption of sprouts can keep a person away from expensive tonics, vitamins, proteins and minerals. Research also shows that sprouts when fresh are a veritable vitamin factory. One cup of soyabean sprouts is equivalent to six glasses of orange juice. Sprouted wheat has a greater nutritive value than white bread made from a kg of wheat. The same is true for all kinds of corn and pulses.

Eminent nutrition expert K.T.Acharya in his booklet "Your Food and you" has listed several simple ways in which we can enrich our food greatly with the use of sprouts and flour made from sprouted grains. Wheat, bajra, jowar, ragi, bengal gram, mung, horse gram and peas can all be sprouted. The time for sprouting for each of these vary from one to three days.

Sprouting begins with the onset of germination. The enzymes in the seed develop and help break down protein into amino acids, carbohydrate into simple sugars and fatty materials into their elemental forms. The mucous inducing properties of most of the legumes are eliminated. The sprouted seed becomes good source of A,B,C,D,E,K vitamins as well as minerals like calcium, magnesium, phosphorous and iron all in their natural forms. Sprouting dramatically increase the vitamin E content of the food. Vitamin E in sprouted wheat increases 300 per cent in four days and the Vitamin C by 600 percent.

There is more carotene in sprouted wheat than in a carrot. Sprouted ragi is an excellent ingredient of homemade baby foods. Sprouts developed in the light also increase vitamin K, which is essential for clotting of blood and normal functioning of the liver.

Another advantage is, the skin of sprouts additional

roughage. This stimulates better peristaltic activity of the intestines and prevents constipation and serious disease of the large bowel (polyposis and cancer) in elderly people.

Methods of Sprouting

Wash the grain well and place in any container except soluble toxic metals like aluminium, copper or iron. You can use glass jars, unglazed flower pots, towels and stainless steel containers. Cover the container with a muslin or nylon mesh. You can also cover it with a lid. Soak for sometime and then drain the water. Now, keep the soaked grains in a dark, warm place. Rinse them twice daily.

How to use

Sprouted seeds can be used in bread and casseroles in salads, sandwiches. They can also be eaten raw. Wheat grass and alfalfa can be made into a juice. Other sprouts like fenu greek and sunflower can also be juiced and mixed in carrot or celery juice.

Courtesy : Science Express

Any Festival... Any season...

Any time...

Co-optex

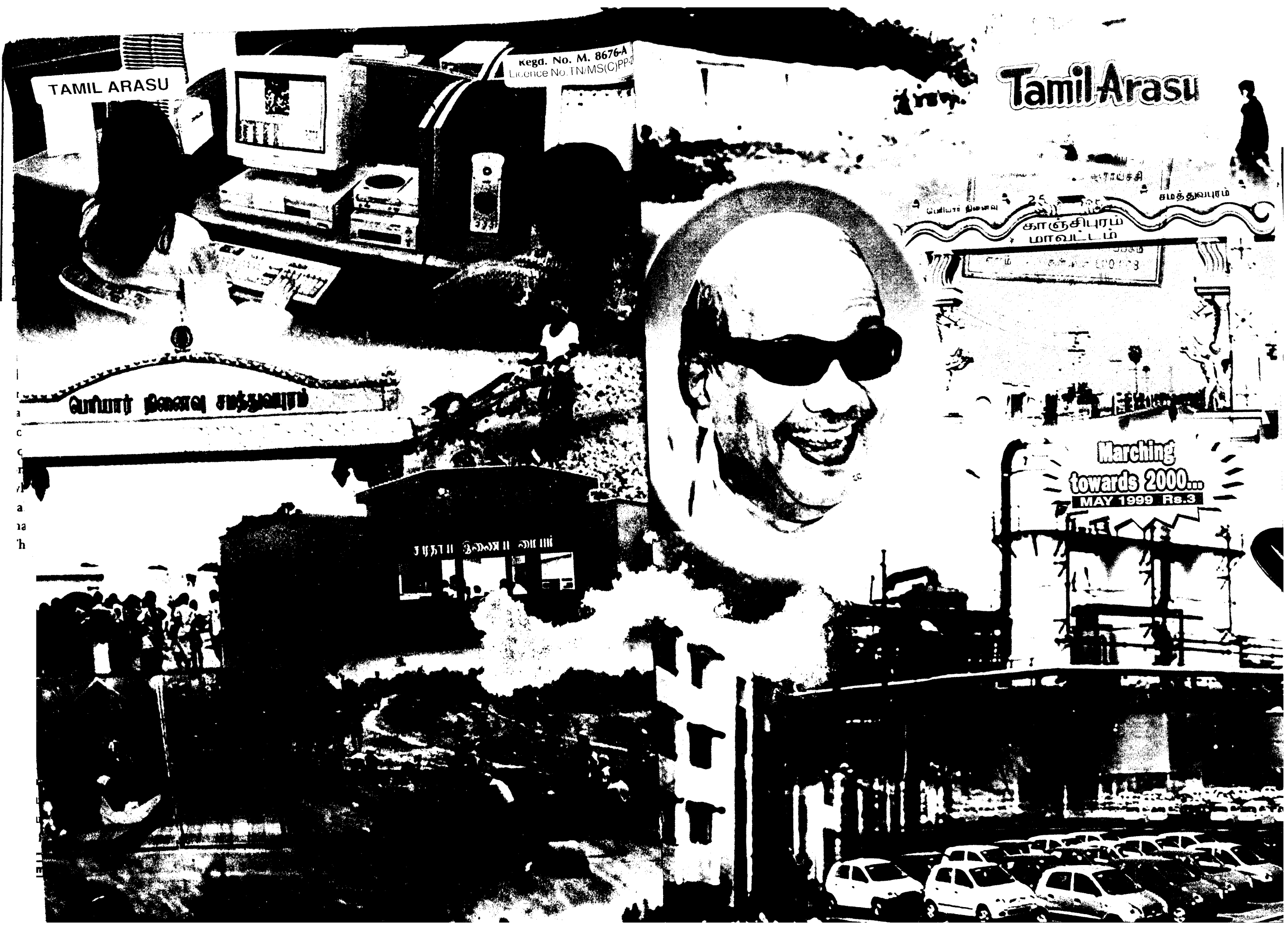


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Tamil Arasu

சென்னை மாநகராட்சி

சென்னை மாநகராட்சி

Marching
towards 2000...
MAY 1999 Rs.3



**நமது அன்றாட
பழக்கவழக்கங்களால்,
எய்ட்ஸ் வராது.
அதற்கு நீங்களே
ஒரு உதாரணம்.**

காலையில் எழுந்தது முதல் ராத்திரி படுக்கப் போகும் வரை நீங்கள் எத்தனையோ பேரைச் சந்திக்கிறீர்கள். ஓட்டலுக்குச் செல்கிறீர்கள், சினிமா பார்க்கிறீர்கள், நெரிசலான பஸ்ஸில் பயணம் செய்கிறீர்கள், பலருடன் கை குலுக்குகிறீர்கள்.

இவர்களில் யாருக்காவது எச்ஐவி/ எய்ட்ஸ் பாதித்து இருக்கலாம்.

சாதாரண பழக்கவழக்கங்களின் மூலம் எய்ட்ஸ் பரவுவதாக இருந்தால், உங்களையும் எய்ட்ஸ் பாதித்திருக்க வேண்டும்.

ஆனால் அப்படி இல்லையே...

ஏனெனில், கை குலுக்குவதாலோ, உணவைப் பகிர்ந்து கொள்வதாலோ, தொடுவதாலோ, தும்மலினாலோ, கழிப்பிடத்தை அனைவரும் உபயோகிப்பதாலோ, எய்ட்ஸ் பரவுவதில்லை.

எனவே எய்ட்ஸ் பாதித்தவரைக் கண்டு நீங்கள் ஒதுங்க வேண்டியதில்லை. உங்களுக்கு எந்த ஆபத்தும் இல்லை.

அவர்களும் நம்மைப் போன்றவர்கள்தான். அவர்களுக்கு எப்பொழுதும் போல நாம் அன்பும், ஆதரவும் காட்டுவோம்.

**சிறிதளவு ஆதரவு பெருமளவு
சுமையைக் குறைக்கும்.**

**குழந்தை பிறப்பைத் தடுப்போம்
எய்ட்ஸ் வந்தோரைக் காப்போம்**



மேலும் விவரங்களுக்கு, அணுக வேண்டிய முகவரி:
தமிழ்நாடு எய்ட்ஸ் கட்டுப்பாட்டு அமைப்பு
417, பாந்தியன் ரோடு, சென்னை - 600 008.
தொ.பே.: 8255467, 8255261, 8254917.
24 மணிநேர தொ.பே.: 8256882, 8256864.

Mudra: TNSACS 6259 96

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TAMIL ARASU

Magazine of the Government of Tamil Nadu
THIRUVALLUVAR YEAR 2030 CHITHIRAI - VAIKASI
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MARCHING TOWARDS 21st CENTURY

Noteworthy Schemes

- ★ Free Education given to school children was extended upto P.U.C. in 1969.

- ★ A committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Thiru Sattanathan in 1969 to explore the welfare of Backward Community.

- ★ The Departments of Backward Classes and Adi-dravidar Welfare were separated to form a Backward Class Welfare Ministry, in the year 1969.

- ★ A 'Police Commission' was constituted in Tamil Nadu for the first time in the whole of India in 1969 under the Chairmanship of Thiru R.A. Gopalsamy Iyengar ICS, to look into the welfare of Police Personnel.

- ★ A total of 20,250 villages alone were provided with electricity, till 1966. And in 1969, with an aim of providing this facility to all the villages, of the 58,000 big villages, excepting 400-500 villages, electricity was provided to all those villages. Of the 28,000 Adi-dravidar colonies, 18,000 colonies were provided with electric facilities.

- ★ The scheme which was in vogue till 1970 to upgrade the slum area with all basic needs was changed with the introduction of Slum Clearance Board which provides multi storeyed buildings (flats) for the slum dwellers.

- ★ The 15 acre **Land Ceiling Act** was introduced on 15.2.1970. The excess land thus acquired was

1,97,900 acres. 1,71,673 acres of land was given to landless poor. 1,37,236 agriculturists, 61,985 Adi-dravidars and 204 Tribes benefited.

- ★ An Act that enables the agricultural labourer to sell or renovate or to construct new house at the site where he lives was introduced in 1971. 1,75,000 benefited which include 1,02,000 Adi-dravidars, 40,550 Backward Class people and 32,123 belonging to other castes.

- ★ **Beggars Rehabilitation Programme** started in the year 1971 extended a helping hand to lepers in rehabilitating them with rehabilitation homes in 11 districts. More than 4,000 lepers have been given a new life by these homes.

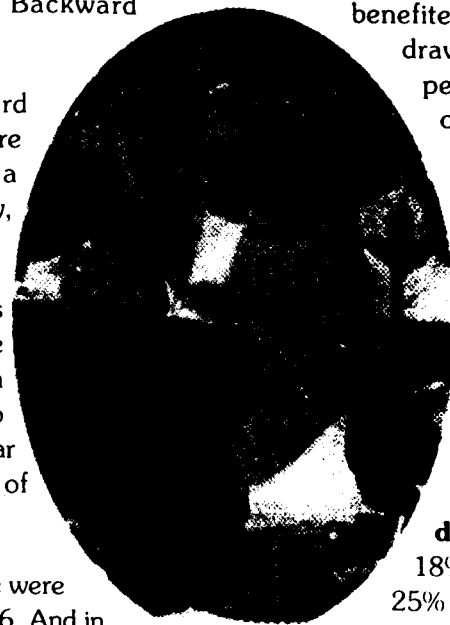
- ★ **The reservation for Adi-dravidars** was raised from 16% to 18% and for Backward Classes from 25% to 31% in the year 1971.

- ★ The year 1971 also saw the formation of Transport Corporations.

- ★ **Free eye camps** and provision of free spectacles to the needy was introduced for the first time, in 1972, and the poor living in rural and urban areas benefited.

- ★ The Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation was started in 1972.

- ★ Accepting the long felt demand of the Government Servants, **the red tapism and secret file system** were abolished by this Government in 1971. Later it came into practice in 1976 during



the President Rule. This was against taken out of practice when this Government assumed office in 1990.

- ★ **Road connectivity** to villages with a population of 1,500 and more in 1972; Road connectivity to villages with a population of 1000 and above in 1990; and from the coming year this scheme will be implemented by providing connecting roads to villages with a population of 500 and above.

- ★ This Government also **abolished the hand pulled rickshaw system** by introducing a scheme to provide free cycle rickshaws, in 1973.

- ★ **Women police** were appointed for the first time in Tamil Nadu; And a women police battalion formed, in 1973.

- ★ **Free concrete houses for Adi-dravidars** - a new scheme was introduced by this Government in 1974.

- ★ The year 1974 also witnessed the inauguration of the **Tamil Nadu Agricultural University** in Coimbatore.

- ★ This Government started the scheme of the **Rehabilitation of the physically handicapped**.

- ★ The scheme of awarding **gold medal to inter caste marriage** was introduced in 1974, Rs.5,000 was given to the couple from 1989. This amount was increased to Rs.10,000 in 1996. If any one of the couple belongs to Adi-dravidar Community, Government in 1997 announced that they will get Rs.20,000.

- ★ This Government for the first time in the whole of India introduced the **Government servants family benefit scheme** in 1974, in which Rs.10,000 was given to the family of the deceased Government servant. This amount was enhanced to Rs.40,000 in 1989 and later to Rs.1 lakh in 1996.

- ★ The number of Colleges in Tamil Nadu was 189 in 1975 comparing to the number of 92 Colleges till 1967.

- ★ **Rehabilitation of women and children** scheme for providing sewing machines to destitute women, Charity, Home, Widow remarriage scheme, free

housing scheme for the fishermen in the name of Singaravelar - all introduced in 1975.

- ★ A law permitting **equal rights to women** in the property was introduced in 1989.

- ★ Second **Police Commission** was constituted under the Chairmanship of Thiru Sabanayagam IAS, and its recommendations were accepted in 1989.

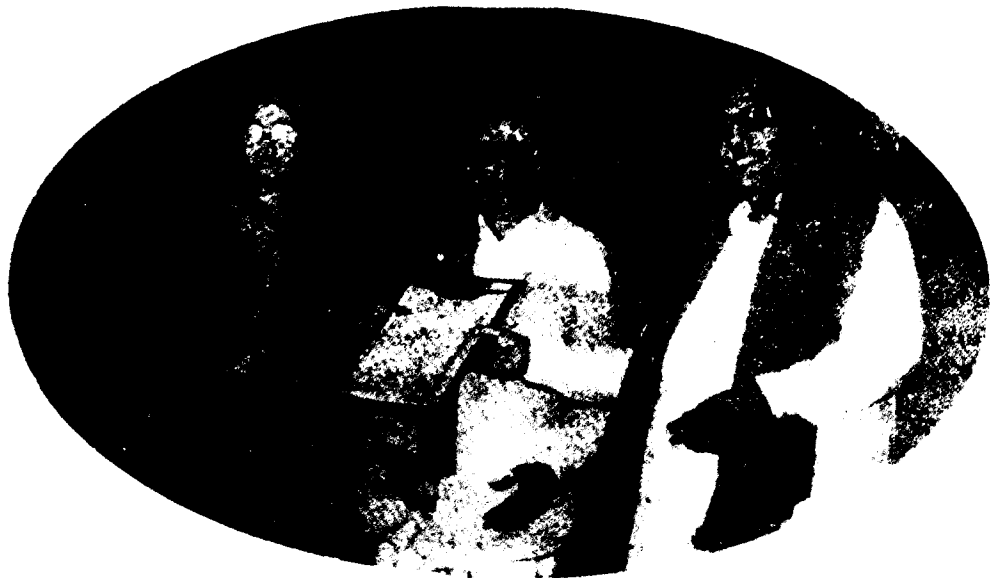
- ★ The year 1989 also witnessed the introduction of a **scheme to distribute free dhotis and sarees** to the economically poor. Today 80 lakh men and 70 lakh women benefit by this scheme.

- ★ Under the welfare scheme titled '**EVR Nagammaiyar Memorial free education to women students**' - girl students irrespective of their caste and creed, whose parental income does not exceed Rs.24,000 are exempted from the payment of tuition fees in **undergraduate courses**. This scheme was introduced in 1989 with the eligibility of annual parental income of Rs.12,000 which was later increased to Rs.24,000. So far Rs.1.75 crores have been spent for 21,963 poor women beneficiaries.

- ★ This Government also introduced the **Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Memorial Maternity Assistance Scheme** in 1989. 6,53,422 pregnant women benefitted with the financial allocation of Rs.15.22 crores.

- ★ **Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Memorial Marriage Assistance Scheme** with an allocation of Rs.5,000 per beneficiary was introduced in 1989 which was increased to Rs.10,000 per beneficiary in 1996. During the past three years Rs.128 crores had been allocated





and 1,28,000 poor women benefitted from this scheme. This year an allocation of Rs.70 crores has been made so as to benefit 70,000 poor women.

- ★ 30 percent reservation for women in employment was introduced in 1989, by this Government.
- ★ A separate department for **Most Backward Classes** was formed in 1989 and a reservation of 20 percent seat was also made.
- ★ During the past three years 31,108 **Secondary Grade Teachers were posted**, according to their seniority registered in the employment office.
- ★ **Manonmaniam Sundaranar University** in Tirunelveli, **Tamil Nadu Doctor M.G.R. Medical University** and **Tamil Nadu Veterinary Science Medical University** in Chennai were started in 1989.
- ★ **Free bus passes to school children** studying upto 8th standard introduced in 1989 has now been extended to students studying upto 12th standard.
- ★ **Free education upto graduate level to Adi-dravidars and Most Backward Class students** introduced in the year 1989-90.
- ★ Free Education upto graduate level for the **Backward Class students** also with an income ceiling introduced in 1990-91.
- ★ The 19 percent reservation extended to Adi-dravidars was reduced to 18% with an

introduction of **one percent reservation for S.T.**

- ★ **Free Electricity to farmers** introduced in the year 1990 was an example for the whole Nation.
- ★ 33% reservation for women. 44,143 women have been elected for local bodies.
- ★ A scheme was introduced to meet the expenses of the higher education of the **first three rank holders** in the state level and district level who pass in 10th and 12th standard examinations from the year 1996-97.
- ★ The Government has introduced a new scheme wherein **the Government will meet the entire expenses of education of the students** from families which do not have any graduates and are interested in pursuing **professional courses** who secure the first ten places among students from such families without graduates based on the marks obtained out of the total of 300 qualifying marks in the Entrance Examination.
- ★ **Separate Ministry for 'Tamil Development' and Highways Department** created in 1996 and in 1997. The introduction of **Department of Higher Education**. A directorate for Highways Department in 1998. Introduction of **Information Technology Department**.
- ★ The Government has reserved **15% of the seats in all professional colleges for the rural students.**

- ★ **Periyar University** in Salem, **Dr. Ambedkar Law University** in Chennai and Conversion of Chennai Medical College as **Deemed University** during 1997.

- ★ **Periyar Memorial Samathuvapurams** (Egalitarian Habitats) **conceived by Chief Minister Kalaingar** to facilitate harmonious co-existence of people belonging to various communities are being established throughout Tamil Nadu. **150 Periyar Memorial Samathuvapurams at a cost of Rs.52.50 crores are being established. So far 28 Periyar Memorial Samathuvapurams have been inaugurated.**

- ★ **Major desilting operations** were undertaken in waterways at a cost of Rs.58 crores from 1997.

- ★ A new scheme for the development of **MLA Constituency** was introduced in 1997-98 with an allocation of Rs.25 lakhs per Constituency. The fund allocated for this scheme was enhanced to Rs.35 lakhs in 1998-99. 12,045 works of roads, bridges, etc. to a tune of Rs.141 crores were taken up. This year the allocation is Rs.50 lakhs per Constituency.

- ★ **Self Help Programme introduced by Chief Minister Kalaingar** (during 1997-98) is a new approach to prepare the common masses to involve themselves in planning as well as execution of developmental schemes. The allocation for this programme was enhanced from Rs.5 crores in 1997-98 to Rs.10 crores in 1998-99. 9,722

works at a cost of Rs.48 crores were completed. The allocation for the current year is Rs.10 crores.

- ★ The objective of **Anna Renaissance Scheme** introduced in 1997-98 is to select a village in each Legislative Assembly Constituency every year and develop it into a modern village by providing all basic amenities such as protected drinking water, primary education, primary health care, nutritious food, street lights, link roads, fair price shop, etc. The allocation for this scheme which was Rs.52 crores was increased to Rs.75 crores in 1998-99. 52,943 works at a cost of Rs.353 crores were taken up. For the current year the allocation is Rs.75 crores.

- ★ A separate department '**Information Technology**' created in 1998. Agreement signed with 'World Tel' for establishing 13,000 **Community Internet Centres** throughout Tamil Nadu which would create employment opportunity for 1.5 lakh youth.

- ★ A new loan assistance programme for **women** was introduced this year to **benefit small time business women like vendor of flowers, fruits, vegetables and women who run iddli and vadai shops on road sides.** 6,000 women benefit by this scheme. For a loan of Rs.100, Re.1 is taken as interest and Rs.99 is given to them. The next day when they return the amount they become eligible for availing further loan.

Socio Economic Developmental Schemes in the 12th Budget

- ★ 208 bridges will be constructed at a cost of Rs.450 crores.



- ★ A bye-pass road from Tambaram to Maduravoyal at a cost of Rs.43 crores.
- ★ Madurai bye-pass road at a cost of Rs.36 crores.
- ★ Coimbatore bye-pass road at a cost of Rs.92 crores.
- ★ Improvements to the radial roads at Chennai at a cost of Rs.212 crores.
- ★ Provision of basic rural infrastructural facilities at a cost of Rs.256 crores with the assistance from NABARD.
- ★ **Link roads to villages** with a population of 500 to 1000. Link roads to the leftover 301 villages with a population of 1000 and above.
- ★ Rs.270 crores for the maintenance of roads.
- ★ **Aforestation** at a cost of Rs.96.73 crores on an area of 75,850 acres.
- ★ **Desilting works** at a cost of Rs.50 crores, this year.
- ★ **Irrigation development schemes** at a cost of Rs.219 crores.
- ★ Nilaiyur Canal Scheme at a cost of Rs.8.94 crores.
- ★ Miruganda river scheme at a cost of Rs.16.79 crores.
- ★ Ullaru Water reservoir scheme at a cost of Rs.23 crores.
- ★ Mukkombu strengthening scheme at a cost of Rs.6 crores.
- ★ Mambazhathuraiyar scheme at a cost of Rs.9.5 crores.
- ★ '18' channel scheme at a cost of Rs.26.52 crores.
- ★ A scheme to construct 4,000 houses for fishermen at a cost of Rs.14.8 crores.
- ★ **Wasteland development scheme** on an area of 10,000 ha.
- ★ A new scheme for farmers growing vegetables and fruits enabling them to get fair prices for their produce.



- ★ **Cold storages** at a cost of Rs.40.52 crores, for storing horticultural products.
- ★ **Major desilting schemes** for Cooum, Adyar, Buckingham Canal and Otteri nallah, in Chennai.
- ★ **Golden Jubilee special scheme for the improvement of drinking water supply** in 10 Municipalities and 25 Town Panchayats at a cost of Rs.150 crores.
- ★ Drinking water schemes for 6,300 rural habitations at a cost of Rs.450 crores.
- ★ **Introduction of Computer education** in all the 1,200 Government Higher Secondary Schools.
- ★ Plans to establish Tamil Virtual University.
- ★ **Vazhvoli Thittam - compulsory education scheme** to all children under 14.
- ★ A scheme to provide **contact lens to one lakh persons**.
- ★ A permanent exhibition housing the history of Tamil Nadu.
- ★ A scheme to construct **42,089 huts with non-flamable asbestos roofing** at a cost of Rs.52.6 crores for the slum dwellers.
- ★ The scheme of abolishing 'manual scavenging' will be continued.
- ★ Enhancement of insurance amount to weavers.
- ★ A separate committee to draft the plan schemes for the economic development of the southern districts.

- ★ A scheme to construct **3,000 multi-storeyed tenements** at a cost of Rs.37.5 crores at Okkium-Thuraipakkam near Chennai.
- ★ Provision of basic infrastructure to benefit 30,000 families living in slums in Chennai and other cities, at a cost of Rs.6 crores.
- ★ A new scheme to provide, income certificate, community certificate and residential (nativity) certificate in the school itself.
- ★ A scheme to attain the goal of "there is no hamlet without a primary school."
- ★ A new special scheme to encourage the school children in sports and games.
- ★ 'Business Standard' has written under the heading 'Pant gets tough on hike in State Plan size' that "Tamil Nadu has obtained a 17 percent increase in Plan size for 1999-2000 over 1998-99". "Yojana Bhavan sources said they were impressed by the fiscal management of the Tamil Nadu Government..."
- ★ "Business Line" has written that, "40% of the Budgetary allocation in Tamil Nadu will go towards strengthening the economic infrastructure: 35% towards social sectors and the rest towards agriculture and rural development. The State expects a 6% average in State Development Product in 1997-98 and 1998-99"
- ★ Allocation for assistance in Public Distribution System for subsidy is Rs.1000 crores.
- ★ A subsidy of Rs.250 crores to compensate the loss due to the free supply of power to farmers.
- ★ The expenses for providing nutritious meal is Rs.532 crores.
- ★ A subsidy of Rs.947 crores for aided non Government Primary Schools and middle schools.
- ★ A subsidy of Rs.192.15 crores for aided private colleges.
- ★ A subsidy of Rs.22.77 crores for the aided Technical Education Institutions.
- ★ Rs.115 crores for the purchase of medicines in the Government Hospitals.
- ★ Rs.100 crores for the free supply of dhotis and sarees to the economically weaker sections.
- ★ A rebate subsidy of Rs.72 crores for Co-optex.
- ★ Rs.80 crores for free transportations to school children.
- ★ Rs.56 crores for free distribution of uniforms to children.
- ★ Rs.25 crores for the free distribution of text books to students.
- ★ Assistance for the aged and other pensions at an expense of Rs.141 crores.
- ★ Rs.35 crores for the weekly supply of egg along with the nutritious meal.
- ★ Industrial subsidy at Rs.50.85 crores.
- ★ A compensatory subsidy of Rs.15 crores to the Tamil Nadu Cooperative Milk Producers Federation.
- ★ A rebate subsidy of Rs.17.75 crores for Khadhi and Handicrafts Board.
- ★ A subsidy of Rs.67 crores for Agricultural and Veterinary Universities.
- ★ An allocation of Rs.36.68 crores for the distribution of free house sites.
- ★ Rs.85.14 crores for educational assistance.
- ★ Rs.3,755 crores will be spent through various departments for the benefit of people involved in agro based works, in the current year.
- ★ Rs.1,286 crores will be spent for the implementation of various schemes in the urban areas.
- ★ The 75% of the total allocation of Rs.5,041 crores for the current year will be spent for the schemes meant for the welfare of people living in rural areas.
- ★ According to E&AR Department, during the past three years of this regime, **11 lakh employment opportunities have been created**.
- ★ **Tamil Nadu has attained second place in attracting foreign investors** by its investor

friendly attitude providing a favourable work place, for the investors and thus attracted an investment of Rs.48,497 crores. By these investments, employment opportunities will be created for thousands of people. By the establishment of community internet centres with the help of 'World Tel' 1.50 lakh persons will get employment opportunities.

★ **4 lakh people have been provided employment during the past 2 years** under various self employment schemes in rural areas. Under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and Employment Assurance Scheme, 1902 mandays were created.

★ A committee will be constituted to go into the details and formation of a financial institution for youth's self employment.

★ 5,743 factories have been started during the past three years, providing employment to 98,883 persons.

★ **A rubber industrial park** will be established at a cost of Rs.18 crores in Kanniyakumari District, for which 200 acres of land have been selected in Shenbagaraman-Pudur of Thovalai Taluk. This park will house 100 rubber industries.

★ **Savings and Security Scheme** was started for the members of weavers co-operative unions from 1975-76 during the regime of this Government. This Government enhanced the insurance amount to 20,000 from Rs.15,000 in the event of the death of weaving member, in 1996-97. The age limit was also increased from 58 to 60. This amount was increased to Rs.35,000 in the last year. And in the current year this amount has been increased to Rs.40,000.

★ A financial assistance of Rs.150 per month is given to the retired weavers - A new scheme being implemented.

★ The 20% rebate extended to handloom textiles for 100 days during the previous regime has been extended throughout the year. And the rebate subsidy which was Rs.41 crores has been increased to Rs.43 crores.

★ During the Pongal festival of 1999, 77,10,000 sarees and 70,42,000 dhotis were produced and distributed in the stipulated time. 30,000 handlooms were put in use and one lakh weavers gained employment.

★ To perpetuate the memory of the renowned freedom fighters who had laid down their lives for the cause of freedom and in memory of scholars, poets and great personalities who worked for social reforms and Tamil development, the Government of Tamil Nadu has constructed memorials, installed statues and organises functions and in commemoration of the birthday of the leaders.

★ **By the abolition of 'manual scavenging', the scavengers will be given alternative employment**, and if they wish they or their family members will be given training in the technical work, they choose. During their training period they will be given a stipend of Rs.350. Rs.50,000 will be given as financial assistance for self employment ventures. According to 1989-90 study, 35,561 scavengers were involved in 'manual scavenging'. Apart from the 15,000 to 16,000 scavengers who were already been placed in employment, the remaining 18,000 to 20,000 scavengers will be helped by TAHDCO for which an allocation of Rs.19 crores has been allocated apart from an allocation of Rs.1.07 crores by the local bodies. By the implementation of this scheme, 'human scavenging' will be completely taken out of practice.

★ **Major desilting of water tanks and water ways** were undertaken at a cost of Rs.58 crores and Rs.50 crores has been allocated for this purpose in the current year.

★ **Water resources consolidation project** is being implemented with the World Bank assistance at a cost of Rs.1,140 crores. So far 174 works at an estimated cost of Rs.344 crores, have been started.

★ 9 irrigation schemes at an estimated cost of Rs.174.88 crores have been approved during the past three years. 6 new schemes at an estimated cost of Rs.91 crores have been announced for the current year.

★ This Government has also announced that a **'Waste Land Development Authority'** will be formed and a historical scheme will be implemented to convert the waste land in to fertile land on an area of 10,000 h.a. in the current financial year, for the welfare of the agriculturists.



★ **Construction of cold storage** at an estimated cost of Rs.40.52 crores has been started, exclusively for storing horticultural products. During the period of excess yield the farmers can make use of this cold storage to store their merchandise to be sold on reasonable prices later.

★ In the Budget estimate of 1997-98, the sales tax for urea was reduced to 2% from 4%. The procurement tax for cotton was reduced from 4% to 2%. Sales tax on drip irrigation equipments reduced to 4% from 11%.

★ Due to the free supply of electricity to the farmers during 1996-97, 6,678 million unit power was supplied free which costed Rs.1,321 crores to the Government. In 1997-98, 7,196 million units were supplied at a loss of Rs.1,580 crores to the Government. In 1998-99, 7,586 million units of power was supplied free to the farmers. At the rate of Rs.2.58 per unit, the loss to the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board is at Rs.1,945.19 crores. The total loss thus incurred is Rs.4,847 crores.

★ The water cess levied is the lowest among the States. This has not been increased since 1962.

★ The income to the Government from the small, medium and major irrigation, this year will be Rs.10 crores only. But to implement these irrigation schemes the Government spends Rs.37 crores. Apart from these the Government has

allocated Rs.48 crores for the food production, waste land development, etc.

★ The **minimum wages of agricultural labourers** which was 6.6% till 1993-95 had been increased to 26.8% from 1996-98.

★ Further the price index of the agricultural produce is more than their terms of trade by 20%.

★ 11,21,000 small and medium farmers have availed loan from the Primary Agricultural Co-operative Banks. Those who return the principal and interest including penal interest, they will be given an incentive of 6.25% of their loan amount. For example, if they return the current loan of Rs.5000 they will get an incentive of Rs.312.50; those who return Rs.10,000 they will get an incentive of Rs.625 and those who return the current loan of Rs.25,000 they will get an incentive of Rs.1,562.

★ Rs.10 crores allocated for desilting and renovating water ways of lower Bhavani irrigation areas.

★ **Total exemption of sales tax** for ropes made of cotton, articles made of bamboo, like, Thatti, basket, muram and molasses. For products like incense sticks, thermometer, lactose IP/BP, empty gas cylinder, all types of grills, paper napkins, key chains, photo albums, wastage of non iron mixed metals, glass bottles, sachets, water in cans,

distilled water, artificial bones, bone cement, abdominal belt, knee cap etc., the sales tax is reduced from 11% to 8%.

- ★ Condemned gunny bags, all types of mosquito nets, napthalene balls, table spread made of jute, door mats, handicrafts, body building equipments, children toys, oats, dish washing powders, groundnets, ellu, porri, fried nuts, peas, sweets made of dhalls, agmark vegetable chips and rubbles - tax reduced from 10% to 4%. For vegetable chips without agmark the tax has been reduced from 11% to 2%.

- ★ For MDF board produced in our Country the tax is reduced to 8% from 16%.

- ★ Tax reduced for daily sheet calendar from 8% to 4%.

Dams and Canals completed in Kalaingar's regime 1969 - 1975

- ★ Ramanathi, Kadana, Parappalaru, Palaru, Varathamathi, Maruthanathi, Ponnani, Pilavakkal (Periyar), Pilavakkal (Kovilaru), Karupanathi, Sitharu-I, Sitharu-II, Melniraru, Kilniraru, Kudaganar, Manimuthanathi, Chinnaru, Varathupalayam, Vattamalaikarai Odai, Perivaripallam, Gunderipallam reservoirs.

- ★ Vaigai-Viraganur dam, Parthibanur dam.

- ★ Mukumbu dam, Parambikulam-Aliyar dam. Thandarai water reservoir, Nandan Canal dam Scheme, Varattupallam reservoir, Gundaru reservoir, Sathanur right Bank Canal Scheme, Sitharu-Pattanangal Scheme.

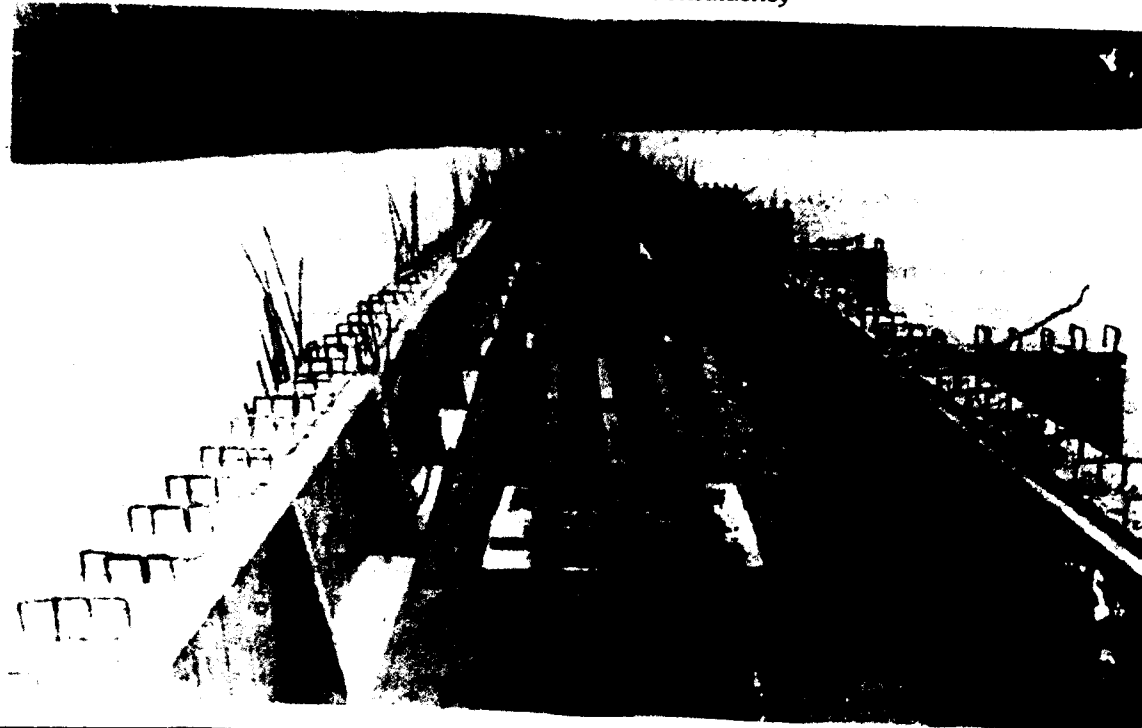
Dams in Kalaingar's regime 1989-91

- ★ Poikaiyaru dam - Kanniyakumari District
- ★ Nambiaru dam - Thirunelveli District
- ★ Adavinainar Kovil dam - near Thenkasi
- ★ Nanganchiyar dam - Oddanchattiram Constituency
- ★ Krithamal dam - Aruppukottai Constituency
- ★ Rajathoppukanar dam - Katpadi Constituency
- ★ Morthana dam - Gudiyatham Constituency

Dams and Schemes sanctioned during Kalaingar's regime 1996-99

Dams

- ★ Varattaru Valli Madurai dam - Harur Constituency
- ★ Andiappanur Odai dam - Thirupathur Constituency, Vellore District.
- ★ Pathirapalli Malattaru dam - Pernampet Constituency



- ★ Shenbagathopu dam - Polur Constituency
- ★ Kuppanatham dam - Sengam Constituency
- ★ Mirugandanathi dam - Karasapakkam Constituency
- ★ Vellakkal Kanatru dam - Vaniambady Constituency
- ★ Reddithipa dam - Arcot Constituency
- ★ Anaivizhundanvodai dam - Dindigul Constituency
- ★ Sirumalaiyatra dam - Nilakottai Constituency
- ★ Nayodai dam - Dindigul - Athur Constituency
- ★ Nallathangal Odai dam - Vellakoil Constituency
- ★ Sasthakoil dam - Rajapalayam Constituency
- ★ Kuppathuodai dam - Thenkasi Constituency
- ★ Vadakkupachaiaru dam - Nanguneri Constituency
- ★ Mambazhathuraiaru dam - Padmanabapuram Constituency
- ★ Ullaru reservoir dam - Vasudevanallur Constituency

Schemes

- ★ Vaigai Water Scheme for 58 villages (Usilampatti - Andipatti - Nilakottai)
- ★ Nilayur Canal Scheme for irrigation from Nilayur Canal to Kambikudi Kanmai.
- ★ '18' Canal Scheme (Kambam - Bodi - Theni Constituencies)
- ★ Sadayaneri Canal Scheme
- ★ Strengthening Scheme - Melanai (Mukkombu)
- ★ Tank in Malayalapatti Village across Kallar.
- ★ Tank across Upparu
- ★ Tank across Mudalaimuttuvari
- ★ Kadana extension scheme
- ★ Tank across Iramakkal Odai.

The following are the important dam schemes started during the previous regime that were not implemented due to non sanctioning of sufficient fund and later rejuvenated with sufficient fund by Chief Minister Kalaingar.

- ★ Shanmuganathi dam
- ★ Sothuparai dam
- ★ Irukkankudi dam
- ★ Malattaru dam
- ★ Kudiraiyaru dam
- ★ Sellampatti dam

Schemes

- ★ Krishna river water Scheme
- ★ New Veeranam Scheme

GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS IN KALAIGNAR'S REGIME

- ★ *Formation of Cauvery Waters Dispute Tribunal.*
- ★ *Formed the base for the interim award of the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal.*
- ★ *Krishna water to Chennai.*
- ★ *Major historical desilting operations in Cauvery and other rivers, canals and lakes with modern machineries after a gap of 100 years at an estimate of 108 crores.*

Major bridges on National Highways constructed during Kalaingar's regime

- ★ 220 m long bridge over Sankarabarani river near Thindivanam - 1969
- ★ A bridge across Vaigai river on Madurai-Dindigul Bye-pass road - 1971



- ★ Muthuramalingam Thevar over bridge near Madurai Andalpuram - 1971
 - ★ Mayor Muthu flyover near Madurai College - 1971
 - ★ 400 m bridge on Kusathalai river near Karanodai - 1972
 - ★ A bridge near Inumathur on Thenpennaiar on Dharmapuri-Thirupathur road - 1972
 - ★ 113 m bridge over Karaiyaru, Trichy - 1972
 - ★ A bridge on Madurai - Arupukkottai road - 1972
 - ★ Anna flyover on Anna Salai, Chennai - 1973
 - ★ 123 m bridge on Aranai river, near Gummidipoondi - 1974
 - ★ Bridge on R.K. Mutt Road, Chennai - 1974
 - ★ 321 m bridge on Kadilam river near Ulundurpet - 1974
 - ★ Thiru.Vi.Ka. bridge on Adyar river, Chennai - 1974
 - ★ Bridge in Thiruppur City - 1974
 - ★ 72 m bridge across Sadanai river near Dindigul on Chennai - Thiruchi - Dindigul National Highway - 1974
 - ★ A bridge on Vattanam Road, Dindigul - 1974
 - ★ 101 m length of bridge across Kausik river near Virudunagar - 1974
 - ★ The Pamban bridge in Rameswaram, the biggest bridge in Asia (Commencement of the construction) - 1974
 - ★ 132 m length of bridge across Sithanathan river near Manapparai - 1975
 - ★ 105 m length of bridge on Upparu river near Samayapuram, Thiruchi - 1975
 - ★ A bridge across Kuzhithurai river on Marthandam-Panichamodu road - 1975
 - ★ 90 m bridge in Thakkupettai on NH 45 near Mamandur - 1989
 - ★ 175 m length of bridge near Mamandur on Killiaru - 1989
 - ★ 686 m bridge across Palaru near Chengalpattu - 1989
- Major bridges constructed on Tamil Nadu Highways during Kalaignar's regime -**
- ★ A major bridge connecting the Thanjavur and Thiruchi Districts on Kollidam, near Thirumanur, at a cost of Rs.48.35 lakhs - 1969

- ★ Cauvery bridge between Kulithalai and Musiri - 1969
- ★ A double decker bridge near Thirunelveli Junction in the name of Thiruvalluvar at a cost of Rs.35 lakhs - 1970
- ★ Manimuthar bridge near Regal Theatre, Salem - 1971
- ★ Three decker bridge in Coimbatore - 1971
- ★ A bridge on Erode - Sathi road - 1972
- ★ A bridge on Chinnaru-Hogenekal road - 1973
- ★ A bridge on Odampokiaru in Thanjavur District - 1973
- ★ A bridge on Pollachi-Dharapuram road - 1973
- ★ A bridge across Vashishta river on Salem - Ulundurpettai road - 1973
- ★ A bridge on Devipattinam - Thirupalakudi road, Ramanathapuram District - 1973
- ★ A bridge on Thirumani river on Poieri road, Ramanathapuram District - 1974
- ★ A bridge on Ambuli Aru on Muthupettai - Mimisal road - 1974
- ★ A bridge on Arasanar river on Kallar Cement Palli road - 1974
- ★ A bridge on Amaravathi river at Udumalaipettai - Kumaralingam road - 1974
- ★ A bridge on Sunambedu road near Chengalpattu - 1974
- ★ Polur Subramanian bridge on Palar near Vellore - 1974
- ★ A bridge over Malattar on Cuddalore - Chittoor road - 1974
- ★ A bridge on Buckingham Canal; widening of railway bridge at a cost of Rs.36.05 lakhs in the same place - 1975
- ★ A bridge constructed at a cost of Rs.75 lakhs, near Thenpennaiar where sea water enter the land, on Cuddalore Coastal road - 1975

Culverts Constructed during the period of 1969 and 1975

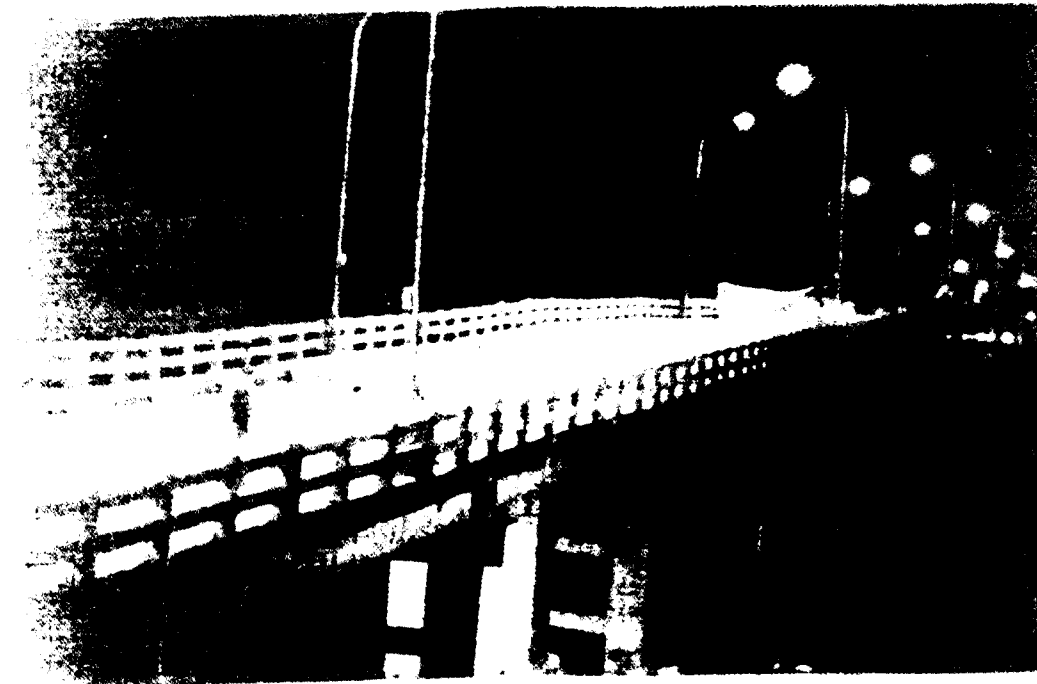
- ★ A culvert at Thoothukudi on Thoothukudi - Thiruchendur road.
- ★ A culvert on Araniaru on Puduvayal - Periapalayam Salai.
- ★ A culvert on Ulundurpettai - Thiruvannainallur road.
- ★ A culvert across Naganathi on Arani-Vazhapandal road.

Bridges constructed between 1989 and January 1991

- ★ A railway over bridge at a cost of Rs.2.15 crores between Chennai WIMCO Nagar and Ennore Railway Station - 1989
- ★ Mayuram Sarangapani flyover - 1989
- ★ Thiruvarur flyover - 1989
- ★ Kumbakonam Railway bridge - 1989
- ★ A bridge on Kannikodu-Coodanur road near Ooty - 1989
- ★ A flyover at crosscut road, Coimbatore - 1989
- ★ A bridge on Coimbatore-Sathiamangalam Kamaraj Nagar road at a cost of Rs.74 lakhs - 1990
- ★ A bridge on Coimbatore-Siruvani road - 1990
- ★ A bridge on Palar near Vayalur on East Coast Road at a cost of Rs.61 lakhs - 1990
- ★ A flyover on Mayiladuthurai-Muthupettai road, Nagapattinam District at a cost of Rs.75 lakhs - 1990
- ★ An over bridge on Arcot-Vizhupuram road, Thiruvannamalai District at a cost of Rs.49.80 lakhs - 1990
- ★ A bridge between Ambasamudram-Pappakudi on Kothaiyaru river in Thirunelveli District at a cost of Rs.45 lakhs - 1990
- ★ Renovation of old bridge on Mayiladuthurai-Muthupettai road at a cost of Rs.30 lakhs - 1990

- ★ Renovation of bridge on Madurai - Thoothukudi road, near Virudhunagar at a cost of Rs.52 lakhs - 1990
 - ★ An elevated bridge on Arjuna river on Sivakasi-Virudhunagar road at Virudhunagar District at a cost of Rs.50 lakhs - 1990
 - ★ A bridge near Cuddalore on Vizhupuram Kumbakonam road - 1990
 - ★ A bridge on Coimbatore-Dindigul road, near Coimbatore - 1990
 - ★ A bridge near Sanarpatti Dindigul District at a cost of Rs.30 lakhs - 1990
 - ★ Two bridges in Thiruvavur on Nagapattinam Coimbatore road at a cost of Rs.65.25 lakhs - 1990
 - ★ Renovation of a bridge on Chennai-Mahabalipuram road at a cost of Rs.80 lakhs - 1990
 - ★ A bridge on Madurai-Thenkasi road - 1990
 - ★ Renovation of a bridge on Madurai-Thoothukudi road at a cost of Rs.60 lakhs - 1990
 - ★ Renovation of bridge on Paralaiyaru on Marthandam-Pechiparai road at a cost of Rs.55 lakhs - 1990
 - ★ Renovation of bridge on Perambalur-Manamadurai road at a cost of Rs.38.50 lakhs - 1990
 - ★ A bridge on Vellar near Thittakudi at a cost of Rs.45 lakhs - 1990
 - ★ A bridge on Palar near Ambur at a cost of Rs.95 lakhs - 1990
 - ★ Repairing and renovation of the existing iron bridge on Thamarabarani river, near Vikramasingapuram at a cost of Rs.65 lakhs - 1990
 - ★ Renovation of a bridge on Kulachel road, Rajakamangalam, Nagercoil at a cost of Rs.39 lakhs - 1990
 - ★ A bridge across Arjuna river near Virudhunagar at a cost of Rs.43 lakhs - 1990
 - ★ A bridge across Kallanai Kalvai at Mehalathur at a cost of Rs.35 lakhs - 1990
 - ★ A bridge across Shanmuga river near Manur on Palani-West Dharapuram road at a cost of Rs.78 lakhs - 1990.
 - ★ A bridge on Arasalaru at Melasakata Mangalam in Thanjavur District at a cost of Rs.26 lakhs - 1990
- From May 1996 onwards**
- ★ A bridge near Moolakadai on Chennai - Calcutta road - 1996-97
 - ★ A bridge near Thirukoyilur, Katpadi, Veraiyur and Thiruvannamalai and two bridges near Angichettipalayam (6 bridges) - 1996
 - ★ A bridge near Koilethunai on Kallagam-Thirumazhapadi road - 1996
 - ★ A bridge near Soolapuram on Mangalrevu-Ezhumalai road - 1996
 - ★ An elevated bridge connecting Anna Nagar 80 feet road and Kamarajar road across Vaigai river in Madurai City - 1996
 - ★ A bridge across Vaigai river connecting Thirumalairayar Padithurai and Kumaran salai - 1996
 - ★ A bridge near Chinnamanur on Sankarapuram-Chinnamanur road - 1996
 - ★ A bridge near Chinnamanur on Chinnamanur-Uruchanayakkanur road - 1996
 - ★ A bridge near Kudimangalam on Pollachi-Meenkarai road - 1996
 - ★ Two bridges near Coimbatore on Salem-Cochin road - 1997
 - ★ A bridge near Nanjagoundanpudur on a branching road to Sanarpatti from Gobi-Sowndappan road - 1997
 - ★ A bridge near Vellar on Thoppur-Mettur-Bhavani road - 1997
 - ★ A bridge near Valayapatti on Thiruchi road - 1997
 - ★ A culvert near Angianur on Kallagam - Thirumazhappadi road - 1997

- ★ A bridge near Kunnoor on Nagapattinam - Cuddalore - Mysore road - 1997
- ★ A small bridge near Rayakottai on Krishnagiri-Rayakottai road - 1997
- ★ A bridge near Seevalaperi on Palayangottai - Nagalapuram road - 1997
- ★ A small bridge near Kovilpatty on Madurai-Kanniyakumari road - 1997
- ★ Two bridges near Manamadurai on Manamadurai-Pudukottai road - 1997
- ★ A bridge on Sivagiri-Nathakadaiyur Muthur road - 1997



- ★ A bridge constructed at a cost of Rs.19.50 lakhs on Manimangalam-Mudichur road - 1997
- ★ Two bridges constructed at a cost of Rs.30.36 lakhs on Soonambedu-Perumber road - 1997
- ★ A bridge constructed across Buckingham Canal on Cuddalore-Periyakuppam road at a cost of Rs.46 lakhs - 1997
- ★ A culvert across Kosathalaiyaru near Napalayam on Thiruvotriyur-Ponneri-Panchetty road - 1998
- ★ An elevated bridge across Arani river in Periapalayam - 1998
- ★ An elevated bridge across irrigation canal on Nerkundram C T Salai - 1998

- ★ An elevated bridge on Madhavaram - Sengundram road - 1998

- These 35 bridges have been constructed at a cost of Rs.25.51 crores.

208 bridges are being constructed throughout Tamil Nadu at a cost of Rs.450 crores. Construction of these bridges have been inaugurated on 2.1.1999 at Periyapalayam and on 14.2.1999 at Vandaloore.

In Chennai Corporation.... After 1997....

- ★ 14 bridges have been constructed in Chennai Corporation after 1997, at a cost of Rs.1,79,40,000.

- ★ The construction work of 10 flyovers in Chennai Corporation areas at a cost of Rs.115.50 crores was started on 31.1.1999.
- ★ Apart from this, the Nepiyar bridge is being widened.
- ★ A motorable sub-way on Saidapet bazar road.
- ★ A bridge work is in progress on Manali road.
- ★ In addition to this, it has been announced that 10 flyovers would be constructed in Chennai Corporation in the year 1999-2000.



Tamil Nadu on the Progressive Path to all-round Development and Prosperity

Achievements of Kalam's Government in Three years

TAMIL NADU RANKS FIRST AMONG THE STATES IN INDIA

In Industrial Development

- In attracting direct investments of Rs.1,51,187 crores (11.50%).
- In Credits Deposits Ratio (CDR) 92.3%.
- In setting up of 100% export oriented units. 584 units (16.67%).

In performance of Police Department

- In getting punishments for those committing crimes
- National average 37.8% - Tamil Nadu 63.6%
- In filing Charge - Sheets National average 77.5% - Tamil Nadu 91.1%

In Food Production

- In 1995-96 : 67.96 lakh tonnes.
- In 1998-99 : 98 lakh tonnes.
- Land revenue of Rs.44 crores waived to benefit agriculturists.
- Penalty of Rs.50 crores on co-operative loans waived.
- 6.25% incentive for repayment of loans in time.

- Kolappan Committee recommendations accepted - Agricultural minimum wages increased.

- Massive desilting operations undertaken after 100 years at a cost of Rs.108 crores to benefit agriculturists and increase food production.

For the betterment of poor, the down-trodden, the middle-class and the common man

• "Anna Renaissance Scheme"

52,943 works completed at a cost of Rs.353 crores. Rs.75 crores allocated this year.

• "Self Help Programme"

9,722 works completed at a cost of Rs.48 crores. Rs.10 crores allocated this year.

• "MLA Constituency Development Scheme"

12,045 works such as Roads, Bridges and School Buildings completed at a cost of Rs.141 crores. Rs.50 lakhs per constituency this year.

- 16,834 kms of roads black-topped in rural areas.

2,42,645 concrete houses distributed free of cost to Adi-dravidars and economically weaker sections. 46,000 more houses this year.

- Rs.250 per month to 40,000 workers employed in factories now closed.

A trend-setter among the States in Implementing welfare schemes for women

• Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammalayar Marriage Assistance Scheme

Rs.128 crores distributed to 1,28,000 women. This year Rs.70 crores to 70,000 women.

• Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Memorial Maternal Assistance Scheme.

Rs.15.22 crores distributed to 6,53,422 pregnant women.

• Anjugam Ammalayar Memorial Inter - Caste Marriage Assistance Scheme

Rs.1.63 crores distributed to 1,623 couples. 1,090 couples to benefit this year at a cost of Rs.1.6 crores.

• Dr. Dharmambal Ammalayar Memorial Widow Re-marriage Assistance Scheme

Rs.35.62 lakhs distributed to 557 widows. Assistance per individual increased to Rs.10,000.

• Rs.8.66 lakhs distributed to 242 destitute women. This scheme named as Mother Theresa Destitute Women Marriage Assistance Scheme.

This year the assistance per individual increased to Rs.7,000.



- Rs.1.2 crores distributed to 3,013 daughters of economically poor widows. This scheme named as E.V.R. Maniammalayar Marriage Assistance Scheme. This year 1,050 women will benefit at a cost of Rs.73.5 lakhs.

- Savings Linked Micro Credit Scheme 1999 for Corporations, being extended to Municipalities and Town - Panchayats. More than 18,000 women benefited so far. ★

PERIYAR NINAIVU SAMATHUVAPURAM

150 Samathuvapuram at a cost of Rs.52.5 crores for creating a caste and religion free equal society.

THE ENDEAVOUR OF THE GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU IS TO MOTIVATE THE GROWTH TREND ON THE NATIONAL HIGHWAYS FOR THE OVERALL DEVELOPMENT OF OUR NATION

Of the total length of 4192 kms length of State Highways, 2910 kms length is either double lane or multilane. The Government of Tamil Nadu have therefore decided to widen the balance 1282 kms length of the single lane to double lane or multilane.

Of the total length of 10051 kms of major District roads, 5672 kms length is single lane and 4379 kms length is either double lane or multilane. The Government of Tamil Nadu have shown keen interest to widen single lane Major District Roads to double lane in different stages.

Of the total length of 40820 kms of other District roads as on date, a meagre portion of about 784 kms alone is either double lane or multilane. The Government of Tamil Nadu have immense interest to widen and strengthen the other District roads utilising loan assistance from Financial Institutions.

Road connectivity to villages with population more than 500 is undertaken by Highways Department under Rural Roads Scheme.

The length of National Highways in Tamil Nadu was 2562 kms. In addition to this, 1200 kms length of State Government Roads were notified as New National Highways by the Government of India.

The total length of State Highways as on date is 4192 kms. During 1999-2000, three bridge works and one road work at an ultimate cost of Rs. 119 lakhs have been sanctioned. The Budget provision for 1999-2000 is Rs.186.86 lakhs.

The total length of major District roads as on date is 10051 kms. During 1999-2000, eleven road works at an ultimate cost of Rs.492 lakhs have been sanctioned. The Budget provision for 1999-2000 is Rs.275.22 lakhs.

The total length of other District roads as on date is 40820 kms. During the year 1999-2000, four road works at an ultimate cost of Rs.184 lakhs have been sanctioned. The Budget provision for 1999-2000 is Rs. 343.85 lakhs.

The Panchayat and Panchayat Union Road Works of original nature like provision of Major/Minor bridges causeways, culverts, and improvements to the roads costing above Rs.50000 are taken up for execution.



During the year 1999-2000, one road work at an ultimate cost of Rs.50 lakhs has been sanctioned. The Budget provision for 1999-2000 is Rs.49.03 lakhs.

During the year 1999-2000, reconstruction of 10 bridges at an ultimate cost of Rs.477 lakhs have been sanctioned. The Budget provision for 1999-2000 is Rs.245.19 lakhs.

During the year 1996-97 and 1997-98 improvements to major District roads and other Districts roads have been taken up at a total cost of Rs.157.53 crores which includes strengthening of roads to a length of 2823 kms. and construction of eight numbers of bridges of these roads.

During the year 1998-99 improvements to major District roads and other District roads to a length 366.58 kms and 53 bridges at a total cost of Rs.125.77 crores, were taken up.

During 1999-2000, a provision of Rs.11,600 lakhs has been allocated under this Scheme.

54 bridge works have been sanctioned at a total cost of Rs.99.50 crores, spread over in 25 Districts of Tamil Nadu.

All the 54 bridge works are programmed to be completed before December 2000.

Besides, construction/reconstruction of another 67 bridges spread over in 22 Districts of Tamil Nadu

and improvements to 28 roads for a length of 184 kms have been sanctioned at a total cost of Rs.75.65 crores.

A Budget provision of Rs.116 crores have been provided for the year 1999-2000.

During 1997-98, a Mammoth Project for the construction / reconstruction of 50 bridges were taken at an ultimate cost of Rs.260.71 crores.

The construction of these 50 bridges will be completed before December 2000.

Since road network development is vital and basis for industrial development, Government have sanctioned a scheme for carrying out improvements to 251.6 kms of radial roads leading to Chennai city at a cost of Rs.212.54 crores.

A provision of Rs.2.18 crores has been made in the draft 9th Five Year Plan for acquisition of lands for bye-passes.

Under improvements to the roads in Industrial area scheme, sanction was accorded to take up widening and strengthening of 69.75 kms of Government roads at an ultimate cost of Rs.8.88 crores.

In order to facilitate implementation of Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project, training the Highway engineers and others, and build up infrastructure facilities, Institutional Development Study will be carried out by a USA based consultant in five months period, for which Rs.3.49 crores has been sanctioned.

During 1998-99 an amount of Rs.53.73 crores have been earmarked as budgetary provision (with loan assistance from NABARD) for improving 704.20 kms, benefiting village connectivity with all weather roads for 301 villages having population more than

1000 as per 1991 census. All these works are in good progress and are nearing completion. As announced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister in the last year budget speech, all villages with population above 1000 will be provided with all weather roads connectivity.

As announced by Hon'ble Chief Minister in the same budget speech for providing connectivity to 4,986 villages having population between 500-1000 as per 1991 census, as a first stage, during the current year a budgetary allocation of Rs.6849.35 lakhs (with loan assistance from NABARD) has been made for improving 456 kms connecting 340 villages.

During 1998-99 a sum of Rs.16.20 crores has been obtained as loan from NABARD under RIDF III to improve 190.30 kms of roads as all weather roads upto B.T., to provide road connectivity to villages having more than 50% of Adi-Dravidar population.

The budget provision for 1999-2000 is Rs.3034 lakhs for the workers with loan assistance from NABARD to improve 203 km. of roads as all weather roads upto to B.T.

The budget provision for 1999-2000 is Rs.4116.95 lakhs for the works taken up under RIDF.IV with loan assistance from NABARD for improving 348 kms of road, for the improvement of Panchayat Union roads in which buses are plying for more than three years.

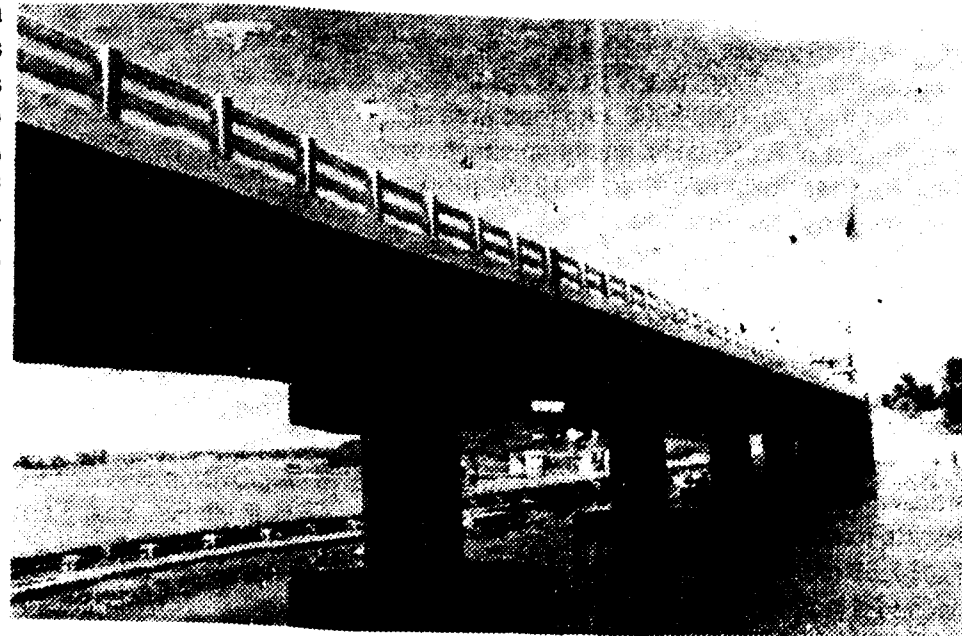
Rehabilitation and renovation of flood and cyclone damaged 12 road works and 24 bridges have been taken up at a cost of Rs.21 crores.

Improvement work in Sugar Mill Area have been taken up from Sugarcane Cess fund. So far, a total length of 1366 km roads are formed, improved and are being maintained.

Under Ghat Roads improvement programme, administrative sanction has been accorded for taking up the work of Silver Jubilee road at a cost of Rs.1.26 crores in Nilgiris District. This work is nearing completion.

Creation of "DATA BANK" by compiling all technical details and vital statistics of roads and bridges is in progress.

A total length of about 1000 kms of roads are being improved to all weather standards every year. The Budget provision for 1999-2000 is Rs.270 crores.



Mechanised construction for about 1500 kms of roads in 8 Districts for execution has been taken up using heavy machineries like central mixing plant, and paver for permanent restoration of cyclone damaged roads.

At present, there is 40820 kms of other District roads which act as catalyst for the rural economic development.

In order to improve the conditions of these roads, it is proposed to improve 60 kms of other District roads in each Assembly Constituency commencing from this financial year.



Her Excellency the Governor, Justice Selvi M. Fathima Beevi administered the oath of office to Thiru Ashok Chotelal Agarwal as the Chief Justice of Chennai High Court at the Raj Bhavan on 24-5-1999. Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M.Karunanidhi greeted the Chief Justice with a shawl and a bouquet.

On the occasion of the 109th Birth Anniversary of **Pavendar Bharathidasan**, Thiru Thamizhkudimagan, Hon'ble Minister for Tamil as Official Language and Tamil Culture and Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments, Thiru V. Mullaivendan, Hon'ble Minister for Information, Publicity and Printing and Thiru M.K. Stalin, the Worshipful Mayor of Chennai garlanded his statue at Kamarajar Salai, Chennai on 29-4-1999.





The code of conduct for the mankind

அறம்பொருள் இன்பம் உயிர்அச்சம் நான்கின்
திறம்தெரிந்து தேறப் படும்.

arramborul linbam uyiracham nangin
diramdherindhu dhera padum.

'A candidate for an office must be subjected to these four-fold tests, his attitude to virtue, wealth, pleasure, fear due to the instinct of self-preservation, and then only must he be appointed to his post.'

Commentary

His virtue is tested in the following manner. He must be secretly sounded as to his notion of virtue and loyalty to the State by informing him confidentially that there is a strong conspiracy among the people to dethrone the present ruler and setup another one on the throne, because the present ruler's ideal of virtue and equity is not satisfactory. If the candidate shows inclination to join the conspiracy it is quite patent that he is unfit to be entrusted with the high offices of the State. Similarly, his attitude towards wealth must be tested, by finding out whether he is easily amenable to the temptation of money. Similarly, a candidate must be tested with reference to women. A person who has weakness for money or women would be extremely undesirable for high posts of the State. Similarly, a candidate who cares more for his life and who is always living in fear as to his life would be unfit to hold high offices in the State or the army. Such

candidates must be carefully eliminated. Only eligible men should be appointed for the posts.

★ ★ ★

குணம்நாடி குற்றமும் நாடி அவற்றுள்
மிகைநாடி மிக்க கொளல்.

kunamnadi kutramu nadi avatrul
migainadi mika kolal.

'Take all the good qualities of the candidate, take all his defects. Weigh them carefully and discover which is predominant. Accordingly judge the candidate's eligibility.'

★ ★ ★

பெருமைக்கும் ஏனைச் சிறுமைக்கும் தத்தம்
கருமமே கட்டளைக் கல்.

perumaikum enai sirumaikum dhatham
garumame katalai kal.

'Whether the candidate's nature is great or vain, he must be judged by his work, for that is the true touchstone.'

★ ★ ★

தேரான் பிறனைத் தெளிந்தான், வழிமுறை
தீரா இடும்பை தரும்.

theran biranai thelindhan vazhimurai
thera idumbai tharum.

'If a king chooses a stranger without proper test for a high office, he will be courting irremediable trouble for all his family.'

★ ★ ★

தேற்றக் யாரையும் தேராது; தேர்ந்தபின்
தேறுக தேறும் பொருள்.

theratka yaraiyun dheradhu derndapin
treruha dherum borul.

'Select no man who is not fully tested. When fully tested entrust him with the work with full confidence.'

★ ★ ★

தேரான் தெளிவும் தெளிந்தான்கண் ஐயறவும்
தீரா இடும்பை தரும்.

theran telivum thelindhangan aiyuravum
dhira idumbai dharum.

'Trusting a person without proper test and suspecting a friend who stood the test, both will bring irremediable trouble to the State'

★ ★ ★

நன்மையும் தீமையும் நாடி, நலம்புரிந்த
தன்மையான் ஆளப் படும்.

nanmaiyeum dhimaiyeum nadi nalamburindha
dhanmaiya nala padum.

'Who examines carefully the merit and demerit of particular work, who gladly accepts the good means to execute the work and who bears a good character, only him the king shall employ to execute that works'

★ ★ ★

வாரி பெருக்கி வளம்படுத்து உற்றவை
ஆராய்வான் செய்க வினை

vari peruki valambaduthu utravai
yaraivan sieha vinai.

'Who increases the revenues, promotes the prosperity of the land, removes all the impediments to progress, let him be entrusted with the execution of the work.'

★ ★ ★

அன்பறிவு தேற்றம் அவாஇன்மை இந்நான்கும்
நன்குடையான் கட்டே தெளிவு.

anbarivu dhetram avavinmai yinnangum
nangudaiyan gatte thelivu.

'Loyal devotion to the king, knowledge of the things necessary for the State, clear decision to promote them and absence of greed, he who has these four gifts must be implicitly trusted by the king.'

★ ★ ★

எனைவகையால் தேறிக் கண்ணும் வினைவகையால்
வேறாகும் மாந்தர் பலர்.

enaivahaiyal treriya kannum vinaivahiyaal
verahum mandar palar.

'Even when selection is made according to the various tests of eligibility and character, after assuming office many a man proves otherwise by his conduct'

★ ★ ★

அறிந்துஆற்றிச் செய்கிற்பாற்கு அல்லால், வினைதான்
சிறந்தான் என்று ஏவற்பாற்று அன்று.

arindhatri sehirparku kallal vinaidhan
sirandhanendru evarpatru andru.

'The officer's capacity and character must be carefully examined, the nature of the work must be carefully appreciated, then only must he be entrusted with the work. Merely because the officer is a special favourite of the king he should not be employed to do the work straight away.'

Commentary

The officer's intelligence and capacity and not the king's personal favour should be the criterion for employment.

★ ★ ★

செய்வானை நாடி, வினைநாடிக் காலத்தோடு
எய்த உணர்ந்து செயல்.

Seivani nadi vinainadi kalathodu
eidha vunarndhu seyal.

'Let the king first determine who is the person fit to do the work by natural aptitude and ability, and then what is the nature of the work, then the proper time to begin it. After a clear idea about these three he must start the work.'

★ ★ ★

In towns and villages alike, all over Tamil Nadu Water Brings Smiles

During last 3 years, 15,201 rural habitations were provided with safe drinking water as against the coverage of 10,513 rural habitations during the previous three years - an increase of 50%.

During the comparable period, the outlay on rural water supply sector increased from Rs.240 crores to Rs.632 crores - an increase of 163%.

98 towns were provided with water supply improvement schemes during the last three years as



against 78 towns during the previous three years - an increase of 26%. The outlay increased from Rs.108 crores to Rs.194 crores - an increase of 80%.

Every one of 66,631 rural habitations in the State now has atleast one source of drinking water. 75% have the full daily requirement. In 1996, only 51% were covered in this category.

Fluoride affected areas covered by drinking water schemes increased to 752 habitations (+ 27%) in just 1 year. Since 1996, 1,514 fluoride affected habitations have been provided with safe drinking water.

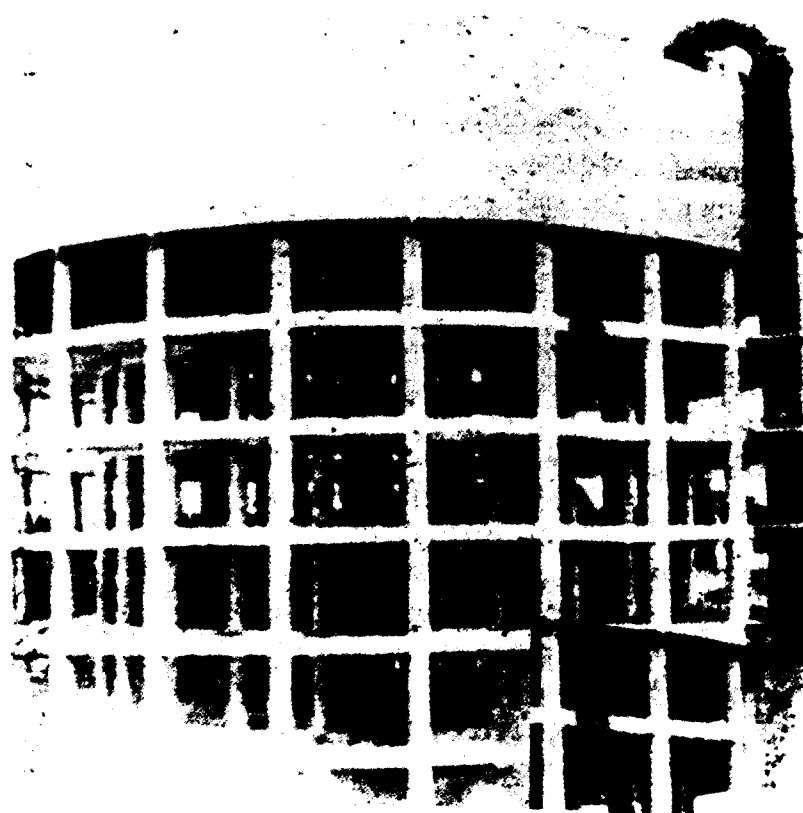
Tamil Nadu - the first State in India to:

Adopt the goal of Piped Water Supply Scheme to all rural habitations.

Provide house service connections in all rural areas.

Provide separate drinking water tank in rural schools.

Increase the level of service in rural areas from the national norms of 40 lpcd to 55 lpcd. ★



High Power Commission for the Development of Southern Districts

Announcement made by
The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Kalaingar M. KARUNANIDHI

Hon'ble Chief Minister had announced in the Legislative Assembly on 17.3.1999, while presenting the State Budget for the year 1999-2000 that a High Power Commission would be constituted to study and formulate a development plan and to suggest measures to be taken by the Government for improving the standard of living of the people of the Southern Districts as also for education, economic-development, creation of employment opportunities and industrial growth in these Districts. To give effect to this announcement, the Government has decided to constitute a "High Power Commission for Socio-economic and Industrial Development of Southern Districts" i.e., Pudukkottai, Sivagangai, Ramanathapuram, Madurai, Dindigul, Theni, Virudhunagar, Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari Districts.

The Commission will comprise the following:

1. Justice Thiru S. Rathinavel Pandian - Chairman, Former Judge of the Supreme Court
2. Thiru R.A. Seetharam Das, I.A.S. (Retd.) - Vice Chairman
3. Thiru A. Venkataraman, I.A.S. (Retd.) - Member, Member - Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission
4. Thiru N. Murugan, I.A.S., Secretary to Government, Backward Classes and Most Backward Classes Department will officiate as Secretary of the Commission.

The terms of reference of the High Power Commission are as follows:

1. to identify the bottlenecks in the economic development of the people in the Southern Districts of Pudukkottai, Sivagangai, Ramanathapuram, Madurai, Dindigul, Theni, Virudhunagar, Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari Districts.
2. to consider measures to be taken for improving the standard of living of the people of the Southern Districts mentioned above with special reference to their education, socio-economic development, creation of employment opportunities and industrial growth.
3. to recommend measures to be taken by the Government, for the economic development of the Southern Districts in the areas mentioned above and
4. to prepare, on the basis of the recommendations made above, a plan for the economic development of the people of the Southern Districts.

The Commission has been requested to give their report to Government by January 2000.

TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT IN THE CAUSE OF PUBLIC SERVICE

Reorganisation of State Transport Undertakings

In order to streamline the administration and to reduce overheads, this Government immediately after assuming office in May '96, decided to amalgamate the 21 existing State Transport Corporations into seven Transport Corporations. In fact, the Experts Committee appointed by this Government, under the Chairmanship of Thiru S.V.S. Raghavan has also endorsed that such a measure is necessary.

As a first step orders have been issued for initiating the process of amalgamation in respect of the two Express Transport Corporations operating in the State and the two Metropolitan Transport Corporations, operating in Chennai. The scheme of amalgamation in respect of these two Corporations is under process in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act. In respect of other State Transport Undertakings also action has been taken and is pending at various levels.

Fleet Expansion and Modernisation

As on 1.4.1996, the total fleet strength of State Transport Undertakings in Tamil Nadu was 15,857. Over the last three years, fleet strength has been considerably increased and as on 28.2.1999, the fleet strength was 17045, an increase of 7%.

Immediately after coming to power, in order to give a new look to the aging fleet of State Transport

Undertakings, this Government gave thrust to the replacement of over aged vehicles by inducting new buses in all State Transport Undertakings. During the last three years, 7384 new buses have been added.

As on 1.4.96, the average age of the fleet of State Transport Undertakings in Tamil Nadu was 4.13. Due to the efforts taken by this Government the average age of the fleet in the State Transport Undertakings have been brought down to 3.71 years as on 28.2.99.

Not only the fleet has been expanded, but also lot of efforts has been put in to streamline the construction of new buses. Previously, buses were constructed by purchasing kits from outsiders thereby the quality was compromised. Now, the State Transport Undertakings, themselves are constructing bus bodies within their premises with proper supervision and ensuring quality in construction.

In order to improve the comfort to the public especially in high-density corridors in the Chennai Metropolitan Area (CMA), 10 Double-Deckers and 10 Vestibuled buses have been constructed and introduced. All Vestibuled buses were constructed at the MTC owned Central Workshop at Chrompet.

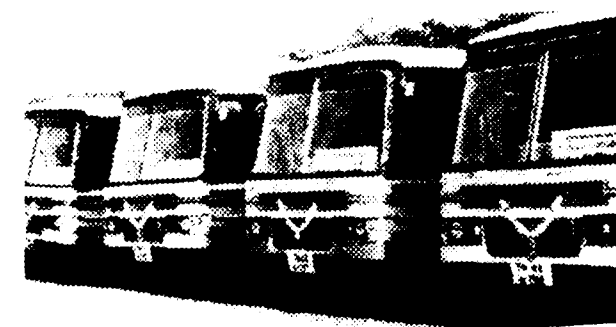
Luxury type of buses besides aesthetically better looking buses has been introduced in the Chennai City for the benefit of public. All these buses were designed and constructed by MTC itself.

This Government in order to further improve the bus body of the State Transport Undertakings, have already issued necessary orders forming a committee to call for tender to set up modern body building facility in Tamil Nadu with state of the art technology. The tender process is on.

Service to the Public

The Corporations operated 15390 services with a fleet strength of 17045 buses as on 28.2.1999. The number of services operated by the State Transport Undertakings, constitute 5698 Mofussil

services (37.02%), 5706 Town services (37.08%), 2551 Metropolitan services (16.58%), 879 Express services (5.71%) and 556 Ghat services (3.61%). It may be seen from the figures that the State Transport Undertakings are operating more number of Town services than Mofussil services. This is due to the fact that there is heavy demand from the public for plying Town services with low fare structure. The Occupancy Ratio of Town services varies between 59 to 86% only as



compared to Occupancy Ratio ranging between 81 to 95%, in the Mofussil services. The State Transport Undertakings

continue to operate Town services for the sake of serving the public notwithstanding the fact that such venture is highly uneconomical. These include mini buses and short-wheel buses operated for the benefit of the people in the interior villages.

The vehicle productivity of Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporations is very high. The % of Fleet Utilisation is 92.03% up to February 1999, as compared to 91.61% achieved during 1997-98. The achievement of bus utilisation (up to February 1999) is 405 Kilometres per bus per day, which is the highest in the country.

An average of 1.87 crores of passengers are carried every day in the buses of State Transport Undertakings. The State Transport Undertakings cover 63 lakh bus kilometres, per day.

Immediately after the new Government assumed office in May 1996, a legislation was enacted to cancel all the variations that were granted by the Regional Transport Authorities to the private operators in the early part of 1996, which were causing hardships to the travelling public.

Totally 1291 new routes were introduced during the last three years (upto 31.01.1999) of which 442 new routes have been introduced as per the recommendations of the Members of the Legislative Assembly in 1997-98.

A thorough study of the routes operated by different Corporations have been made by sub-committees for each group of amalgamated Corporations and its recommendations have been implemented with a view to serve the public better and avoid wasteful or parallel operation of services.

The system of monthly concession season tickets for travel in Town services has been extended to Mofussil Corporations. Around 1.50 lakh commuters are now availing this facility enjoying 1/3rd

concession in fares. The State Transport Undertakings have also introduced quarterly and

half yearly season tickets for the benefit of the travelling public.

For the benefit of public, peak-hour services numbering 100, have been introduced in the City of Chennai. This has eased the congestion during the peak - hours.

Video coaches have been introduced in the long distance Express services.

Separate bus bays have been provided at Saidapet and Tambaram points with passenger shelters, for the benefit of the intending passengers waiting at these important traffic generating points. Also, new bus bays have been constructed at Pallavaram and Chrompet. A new bus terminus has been constructed at Tollgate (Tiruvotriur).



Students Welfare

Previously, the students studying upto VIII Standard were getting free concession tickets to travel in the buses of State Transport Undertakings in Tamil Nadu. This Government has further extended the facilities. Now the students studying upto +2 (12th Standard) are allowed free travel concession in the buses of the State Transport Corporations from 1996-97 onwards.

All other students studying in Colleges and other educational institutions recognised by the Government are allowed 50% concession in respect of monthly concessional season tickets to travel in the buses of the State Transport Undertakings except the buses of State Express Transport Corporations.

Totally, around 16 lakh students are benefited by the free travel concession all over the State, and around 6 lakh students are enjoying 50% concession in the State.

Rationalisation of purchase procedure

In order to streamline the procedure for purchase of all materials including spares, accessories, tyres, R.T. materials by State Transport Undertakings, the Government formed a high level committee consisting of Hon' Minister for Transport, Chief Secretary, Finance Secretary and Transport Secretary as Members.

A sub-committee was also formed to assist the high level committee. After elaborate discussion, the high level committee approved the detailed purchase policy and procedures evolved by the sub committee. This has been adopted by the Boards of the respective State Transport Undertakings in Tamil Nadu, and is being followed for purchase of all materials.

Since 1997-98 the State Transport Undertakings are adopting the approved procedure for purchase of all materials and the deviations from the approved policy are being brought to notice of the Board for perusal, along with reasons, if any for such deviations.

The savings effected by streamlining the purchase procedures would be around Rs. 100 crores.

Road Safety - Driver Training

Road safety has been given utmost importance and all efforts are taken to reduce accidents. It may be observed from an analysis on the number of accidents that occurred during the years 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 (Upto February 99) that there has been a decrease in the number of accidents per 1,00,000 kilometres operated, in spite of the increase in the total Kilometres operated. The accidents per 1,00,000 Kms was 0.54 in 1996-97. Due to efforts taken, this has come down to 04.9 per lakh kilometres as 1998-99 upto February, 1999 though there has been tremendous increase in the traffic on roads.

A number of preventive and curative measures have been taken by the State Transport Undertakings for the prevention of accidents. In order to inculcate safety consciousness among Drivers, the Safety Driver Award Schemes are being implemented by the State Transport Undertakings. Drivers who have performed line duty without any accident for a continuous period of ten years is granted one special increment in the existing scale of pay.

A driving range has been constructed at a cost of Rs.30 lakhs at Gummidipoondi.

The Government with a view to enable the Drivers of the State Transport Undertakings to attend minor mechanical defects in case of breakdown of buses enroute, formulated a scheme to improve the Driver Training Courses for the Drivers by increasing the period of training, to six months.

In view of the technological development in the automobile sector and to enable the Drivers to understand the Road Traffic Rules to ensure accident free driving, the Government have enhanced the educational qualification of Heavy Vehicle Drivers recruited in the State Transport undertakings from VIIIth Standard to SSLC/X th standard pass.

Financial Assistance to the State Transport Undertakings

The fares were revised with effect from 8.9.97/ 9.9.97 and in view of the public demand for reconsideration of the fare increase, the Government has further revised the fare by reducing the rates with effect from 1.4.1998, by two paise per Km in Mofussil services and by three paise per km in Express services and by about 50 to 75 paise per stage in Chennai and 25 to 75 paise in other town services operated in other than Chennai Metropolitan services. Even after this fare revision, the fares in Tamil Nadu are the lowest in the country.

The paid-up equity of all the State Transport Undertakings as on 1.4.1996 was Rs.35.20 crores. This has been increased to Rs.576.77 crores as on 31.3.1999, by conversion of Loans and Ways and Means advances and also fresh sanction of equity in cash to the extent of Rs.71.50 crores. During the year 1998-99, the Government have allocated Rs.200 crores in the budget to assist these State Transport Undertakings. During 1999-2000 a sum of Rs.100 crores has been provided.

The Tamil Nadu Transport Development Finance Corporation Ltd., has been the primary source of finance for the State Transport Undertakings in Tamil Nadu for purchasing new chassis, body building and working capital requirements. The total deposits in TDFC has crossed Rs.600 crore mark. TDFC has also for the first time entered into the leasing activity in the year 1997-98. The TDFC has also amended its Memorandum of Association to facilitate diversification of its lending activities, especially towards the infrastructure development.

During 1999-2000 the following schemes are to be implemented.

Introduction of 'Dial-up-ticket' facility for the express buses.

Opening of additional Reservation Counters for the express buses at Kalaingar Nagar, Tiruvannamipur, Tiruvotriyur and Avadi.

Introduction of 'audio web' system of answering service for the Express buses which would facilitate the public get information on timings of arrival - departure, journey time, fare etc. This facility is provided by the Information Exchange India Ltd., at telephone No. 499 73 70.

Extension of reserved return tickets facility between Chennai and Madurai, Tirunelveli, Nagercoil, Coimbatore, Bangalore and Trivandrum.

Recognition to the Heavy Vehicle Driving School run by the State Express Transport Corporation on par with the Driving School run by Institute of Road Transport at Gummidipoondi.

Enhancement of compensation given under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme from Rs.8,500 per year to Rs.9,000 per year.

Introduction of Express buses in Madurai City as operated in Chennai city.

100 new buses consisting of 30 deluxe buses, 38 Express buses and 32 vestibuled buses would be additionally introduced in the Chennai Metropolitan area, from 3rd June, 1999 at a cost of Rs.11.00 crores.

12 buses are operated on contract to various Government offices and 14 buses are operated on contract to various Government offices and 14 buses are operated on contract to ELCOT and TATA consultancy offices now. Such facility would be extended based on demand from other concerns.

A new bus stand will be constructed at Saidapet to ease the traffic congestion. The first phase of the Bus stand will be constructed in the existing 1 acre land now available with the MTC, at a cost of Rs.1 crore, and will be extended at a cost of 2.8 crores in the adjoining land of 1.5 acres to be acquired from the CMDA.

It has been decided to merge the Tamil Nadu Transport Development Finance Corporation with the Tamil Nadu Power Finance Corporation Ltd. (POWERFIN)

Labour Welfare Measures

The ex-gratia amount payable to the legal heirs of the employees who died while in service under family benefit fund scheme has been enhanced from Rs.60,000 to 1,00,000 with effect from 1.7.96 by receiving a sum of Rs.10 per month towards contribution.

A long pending request of the erstwhile TNSTD Employees to pay interest for the belated settlement of Terminal benefits have been resolved. The Government have now decided to pay interest to all eligible employees of erstwhile TNSTD.

Monetary limit of assistance under the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation Employees family health fund scheme extended upto actual cost of surgery/allowed treatment or Rs.1,00,000 whichever is lower.

The Wage Settlement has been amicably arrived at with the trade unions with effect from 1.9.1998 by which a minimum increase of Rs.500 to a

maximum increase of Rs.1500 was given to the employees. The total commitment to the State Transport Undertakings comes to around Rs.128 crores per annum.

The leave rules of the workers of State Transport Undertakings are being liberalised enhancing the leave benefits.

Awards from National Agencies to the State Transport Undertakings

State Transport Undertakings were and are proud recipients of various awards from various agencies like the Association of State Road Transport Undertakings, the National Productivity Council, the Petroleum Conservation Research Association etc., For the year 1998-99 State Transport Undertakings of Tamil Nadu received awards for various achievements like Best Productivity Performance improvement in Vehicle Productivity, Maximum improvement in KMPL etc., as shown below.

Name of the STU	Award relating to the year	Receipt of the award in the year	Name of the award	Award given by
TNSTC-Salem	1996	1998-99	Best Maintenance of buses	Inspector of Factories
MTC-Div I		1998-99	Appointment of large number of Physically Handicapped persons	Rehabilitation Department
MTC-Div I	1996-97	Nov 1998	State Safety Award - Transport - (Continuous no accident)	Inspector of Factories
TNSTC-Dindigul	1996-97	1998-99	Best Productivity performance award for Road	National Productivity Council, New Delhi

TNSTC-Ooty	1996-97	1998-99	Transport Passengers-City services	Best Performance Award for Ghat Service	National Productivity Council, New Delhi
TNSTC-Erode	1996-97	1998-99	Productivity performance award for Road Transport Passengers-Mof services		National Productivity Council, New Delhi
TNSTC-Madurai	1996	1998	State Safety award - 2nd prize		Inspector of Factories-Chennai
TNSTC-Nagercoil	1996-97	1998-99	Winner award for Best improvement in KMPL		Petroleum Conservation and Research Association, New Delhi
TNSTC-Tirunelveli	1996-97	1998-99	Best Productivity performance award for Road Transport Passengers-Mofussil services (second place)		National Productivity Council, New Delhi
TNSTC-Kumbakonam	1997-98	1998-99	Maximum improvement in Tyre performance		Association of State Road Transport Undertakings, New Delhi

NALADIYAR

பகைவர் செய்தவற்றைச் சொல்லாவிருப்பது வெட்கம்

நச்சியார்க் கியாமை நாணன்று; நாணாளும் அச்சத்தா னாணுத னாணன்றாம்;- எச்சத்தின் மெல்லியர் ஆகித்தம் மேலாயார் செய்தது சொல்லா திருப்பது நாண்!

What is dishonouring

It is no shame (disgrace) not to (be able to) give to those who desire it of us. The shrinking on account of fear (felt) day by day is not shame (modesty). But to become reduced in other ways, and not to (dare to) tell what injuries those who love us not have inflicted on us is shame (disgrace, or self-respect).

★ ★ ★

மாவிகள் விண்ணுலகுந் தம்மானங்கெடக் கிடைப்பதாயின் அதனை விரும்பார்.

கடமா தொலைச்சிய காணுறை வேங்கை இடம்விழ்ந்த துண்ணா திறக்கும்; - இடமுடைய வானகங் கையுறிலும் வேண்டார் விழுமியோர் மாணம் அழுங்க வரின்.

Heaven itself must not be sought at the expense of honour

The jungle-haunting tiger that slays the wild cow, refuses to eat and passes by what has fallen (of itself) in its path (i.e. carrion); so the excellent, though the wide realms of heaven were within their reach, would not desire them, if to be obtained (only) by the loss of honour.

★ ★ ★

அறிவுடையார் அறிவீனரைச் சென்றிரவார்.

நம்மாலே ஆவார்இந் நல்கூர்ந்தார், எஞ்ஞான்றும் தம்மீளவும் ஆக்கம் இலர்என்று - தம்மை மருண்ட மனத்தார்பின் செல்பவோ தாமும் தெருண்ட அறிவி னவர்?

Ignorant condescending patrons

Will men themselves possessed of clear discerning knowledge follow after those who have yielded themselves up to mental bewilderment, and who (erroneously) say (of suppliants), 'These poor folks depend entirely on us, evermore are they without resources in themselves?'

"No man should ever accompany his gifts with disrespectful treatment; gifts so given bring fault on the given".

★ ★ ★

ஒருவன் வறுமையால் பிறர்பாற் சென்றிரப்பதிலும் இறத்தல் நன்று.

இழித்தக்க செய்தொருவன் ஆர உணலின் பழித்தக்க செய்யான் பசித்தல் தவறோ? விழித்திமைக்கு மாத்திரை அன்றோ ஒருவன் அழித்தும் பிறக்கும் பிறப்பு?

Honest hunger and dishonest fulness of food.

Is not a man's dying and birth again measured by the twinkling of an eye? Is it then a fault if a man rather choose to suffer hunger, doing no blameworthy actions, than to feed full, doing things that entail disgrace?

★ ★ ★

இரப்போரைப் பழியாதார் உலகத்தில் இல்லை.

என்றும் புதியார் பிறப்பினும் இவ்வுலகத் தென்றும் அவனே பிறக்கலான், - குன்றின் பரப்பெலாம் பொன்னொழுகும் பாய்அருவி நாட!- இரப்பாரை என்ன மகன்.

Beggars are universally despised.

Lord of the land where gold is borne down by rushing waterfalls from every hilly slope!- Though in this world new (kinds of) men are continually born, that very man is never born that does not scorn mendicants.

★ ★ ★

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**நமது அன்றாட
பழக்கவழக்கங்களால்,
எய்ட்ஸ் வராதது.
அதற்கு நீங்களே
ஒரு உதாரணம்.**

காலையில் எழுந்தது முதல் ராத்திரி படுக்கப் போகும் வரை நீங்கள் எத்தனையோ பேரைச் சந்திக்கிறீர்கள். ஓட்டலுக்குச் செல்கிறீர்கள், சினிமா பார்க்கிறீர்கள், நெரிசலான பஸ்ஸில் பயணம் செய்கிறீர்கள், பலருடன் கை குலுக்குகிறீர்கள்.

இவர்களில் யாருக்காவது எச்ஐவி/ எய்ட்ஸ் பாதித்து இருக்கலாம்.

சாதாரண பழக்கவழக்கங்களின் மூலம் எய்ட்ஸ் பரவுவதாக இருந்தால், உங்களையும் எய்ட்ஸ் பாதித்திருக்க வேண்டும்.

ஆனால் அப்படி இல்லையே...

ஏனெனில், கை குலுக்குவதாலோ, உணவைப் பகிர்ந்து கொள்வதாலோ, தொடுவதாலோ, தும்மலினாலோ, கழிப்பிடத்தை அனைவரும் உபயோகிப்பதாலோ, எய்ட்ஸ் பரவுவதில்லை.

எனவே எய்ட்ஸ் பாதித்தவரைக் கண்டு நீங்கள் ஒதுங்க வேண்டியதில்லை. உங்களுக்கு எந்த ஆபத்தும் இல்லை.

அவர்களும் நம்மைப் போன்றவர்கள்தான். அவர்களுக்கு எப்பொழுதும் போல நாம் அன்பும், ஆதரவும் காட்டுவோம்.

**சிறிதளவு ஆதரவு பெருமளவு
சுமையைக் குறைக்கும்.**

**குழந்தை பிறப்பைத் தடுப்போம்
எய்ட்ஸ் வந்தோரைக் காப்போம்**



மேலும் விவரங்களுக்கு, அழைக்க வேண்டிய நபர்கள்
தமிழ்நாடு எய்ட்ஸ் கட்டுப்பாட்டு அமைப்பு
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TAMIL ARASU

Magazine of the Government of Tamil Nadu
THIRUVALLUVAR YEAR 2030 VAIKASI - AANI
JUNE - 1999

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Important Achievements of KALAIGNAR's regime during the past three years

★ Land tax abolished on the day of assuming office as the Chief Minister (13.6.1996)

★ The Government incurred a loss of Rs. 14 crores.

★ 1.25 lakh families benefited.

Periyar Memorial Samathuvapuram (egalitarian habitat)

★ 50 Periyar Memorial Samathuvapurams per year from 1997.



★ So far 38 Periyar Memorial Samathuvapurams have been opened.

Anna Renaissance Scheme

★ 52,943 works were taken up at a cost of Rs. 353 crores during the past two years. This year the initial allocation is Rs. 75 crores.

★ The works taken in 15 Districts during 1997-98 have been completed.

★ 847 works in the remaining districts are being carried out at a fast pace.

★ Out of 23,206 works taken in 1998-99, 18,587 works have been completed.

Self Help Programme

★ 9,722 works were taken up at a cost of Rs. 48 crores during the past two years. This year the initial allocation is Rs. 10 crores.

★ 4,932 works taken during 1997-98 have been completed.

★ Of the 4,790 works taken during 1998-99, 3,047 works have been completed.

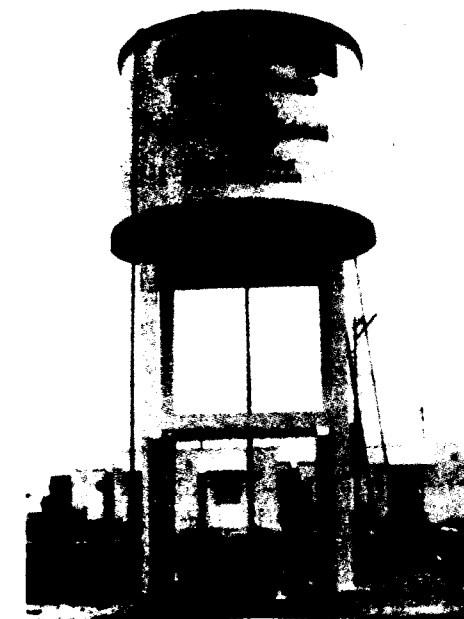
★ The people's contribution for implementing the schemes during 1997-98 was Rs. 6.90 crores.

★ The contribution of the public for the implementation of the schemes for 1998-99 has increased to Rs. 12.36 crores.

Scheme for the development of MLA Constituency

★ This scheme was introduced during 1997-98.

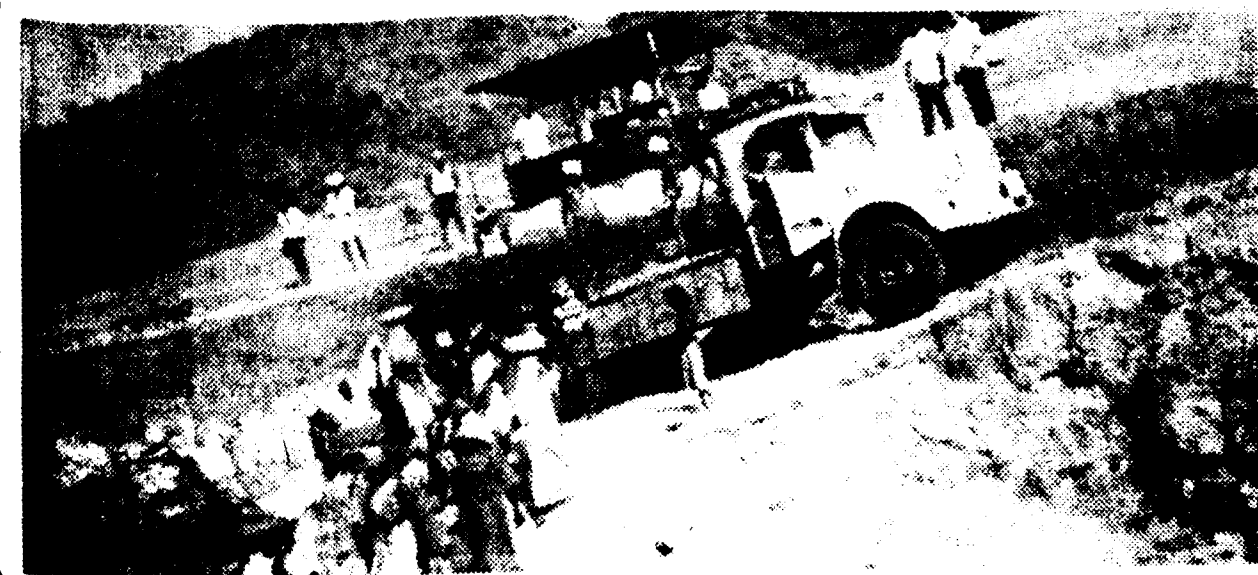
★ Rs. 25 lakhs is allocated per MLA constituency.



★ 12,045 road and bridge works were taken up at a cost of Rs. 141 crores, during the past 2 years.

★ This allocation has been enhanced to Rs. 35 lakhs per constituency during 1998-99.

★ For 1999-2000 this allocation will be Rs. 50 lakhs.



Temples

- ★ 1,660 property Registers have been prepared in Temples during the last three years.
- ★ Temple properties viz. 273 acres of land and 253 ground house sites have been recovered.
- ★ An additional income of Rs.6 crores to the exchequer.

Cattle Wealth

- ★ 100 new veterinary dispensaries at a cost of Rs.2.68 crores.
- ★ 50 veterinary dispensaries upgraded.

Nutritious Meal Programme

- ★ An egg was supplied along with the nutritious meal once in a fortnight during 1989-90.
- ★ Egg once in a week from 1.6.1998.
- ★ The financial allocation for nutritious noon meal programme in 1995-96 was Rs.360 crores.

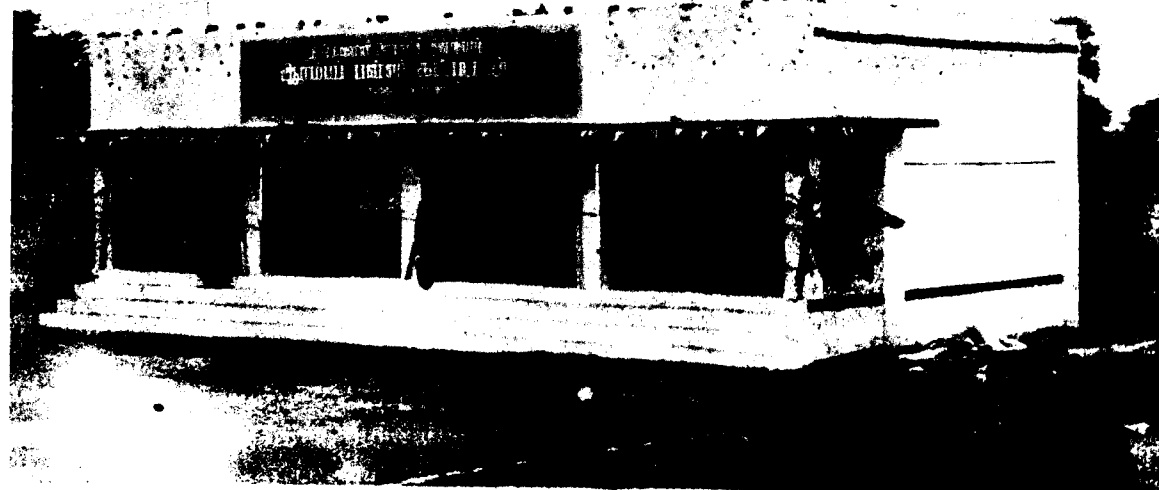
- ★ The present allocation is Rs.532 crores - An additional allocation of Rs.172 crores has also been made.

Financial allocation for Education Department

- ★ The allocation during 1995-96 was Rs.2,233.17 crores.
- ★ The allocation for 1999-2000 is Rs.4,092 crores.
- ★ An additional allocation of Rs.1,859 crores during the past three years.

During the past three years...

- ★ 953 New Primary Schools have been opened.
- ★ 462 Primary schools have been upgraded to middle schools.
- ★ 319 middle schools have been upgraded as high schools.
- ★ 250 high schools have been upgraded as Higher Secondary schools.



- ★ 31,108 secondary grade teachers have been appointed according to the seniority registered in the employment office.
- ★ 2,407 Post Graduate teachers have been appointed.
- ★ 1,529 Graduate teachers have also been appointed.
- ★ 828 Assistant Professors have been posted in colleges.
- ★ Formation of a separate department for higher education.
- ★ 114 self financing engineering colleges.
- ★ 84 self financing Arts and Science colleges.
- ★ Government colleges for women at Sivagangai and Nilakottai.
- ★ Law college in Tirunelveli.
- ★ A medical college in the name of K.A.P. Viswanatham who fought for the cause of Tamil Language, at Trichy was started.
- ★ Yet another medical college in Tuticorin in the current year. The Chennai Medical College (formerly Madras Medical College) was upgraded as Deemed University.
- ★ Periyar University in Salem.
- ★ Dr. Ambedkar Law University in Chennai.
- ★ A scheme to meet the expenses of higher education of the first three rank holders in the State level and the District level who pass in 10th and 12th standard examinations, by the Government.
- ★ A new scheme wherein the Government will meet the entire expenses of

education of the students from families which do not have any graduates and are interested in pursuing professional courses who secure the first ten places among students from such families without graduates based on the marks obtained out of the total of 300 qualifying marks in the Entrance Examination.

- ★ 15 percent of seats reserved in all professional colleges for the students hailing from rural areas.
- ★ 28 trusts have been formed in 15 Universities in the names of great kings, leaders and poets with Rs.25 lakhs per trust. Total expenditure is Rs.7 crores.

MARRIAGE ASSISTANCE SCHEMES

Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Marriage Assistance Scheme

- ★ Introduced by Kalaignar's Government in 1989 with an assistance of Rs.5,000 per beneficiary.
- ★ This assistance was enhanced to Rs.10,000 per beneficiary in 1996.
- ★ During the past three years Rs.128 crores have been spent for this scheme and 1,28,000 poor women benefited.

Anjugam Ammaiyar Memorial Inter Caste Marriage Assistance Scheme

- ★ Rs.5,000 per beneficiary was given as assistance in 1989.
- ★ The assistance was enhanced to Rs.10,000 in 1996.
- ★ From 2.10.1997 onwards if the bride or the groom belonged to Adi-dravidar Community, then the assistance given is Rs.20,000.



Dr. Dharmambal Ammaiyar Memorial Widow Remarriage Assistance Scheme

- ★ Rs.5,000 per beneficiary in 1989.
- ★ This assistance was enhanced to Rs.7,000 per beneficiary during 1997-98.
- ★ This assistance is further enhanced to Rs.10,000 at present.

Destitute Women's Marriage Assistance Scheme

- ★ This scheme has been named after Mother Teresa.
- ★ During 1996-97 the assistance was Rs.2,000.
- ★ The assistance was enhanced to Rs.3,000 during 1997-98.
- ★ During 1998-99 this was further enhanced to Rs.5,000.
- ★ Currently Rs.7,000 is being given as assistance.

Marriage Assistance Scheme for Poor Widow's daughter

- ★ The scheme has been named after E.V.R. Maniammaiyar.
- ★ Rs.2,000 was given as assistance during 1996-97.
- ★ This assistance was enhanced to Rs.3,000 in 1997-98.
- ★ Rs.5,000 as assistance in 1998-99.
- ★ Presently this assistance has been further enhanced to Rs.7,000.

Assistance to the Poor

- ★ The monthly pension which was Rs.100 was enhanced to Rs.150.
- ★ The ceiling on the number of beneficiaries cancelled.
- ★ The condition - (the assistance will not be given if the widow has a son of more than 18 years old) is cancelled.

Development in the Information Technology

- ★ An Information Technology Department was created on 5.10.1998.
- ★ A state level Task Force on Information Technology under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister, for the development of IT, formed on 8.10.1998.
- ★ Formation of a subcommittee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Anandakrishnan for finding ways and means to the development of Tamil Software and introduction of Computer education at school level.
- ★ An International Conference and Seminar on Tamil in IT, 'Tamil Net 99' was convened in February 99, to encourage the use of Tamil in Computer.
- ★ This conference has recommended standards for Tamil Keyboard and for coding of Tamil scripts.
- ★ To extend the benefit of Tamil education to interested students throughout the world, a Tamil Virtual University based on the Internet will be setup.
- ★ A Tamil Software Development Fund will be set up with a corpus of Rs.5 crores to encourage the development of innovative Tamil Software.
- ★ A 'Tidel Park' at Tharamani in Chennai on an area of 1.2 million sq.ft with world class facilities for software development centres.
- ★ IT parks in Sholingnallur and Kelambakkam.
- ★ Rs.30 crores as special investment fund to help young IT entrepreneurs.

- ★ The Government established 'Tamil Nadu Institute in Information Technology' (TANITEC) on 11.9.98 as an Academic Institute of excellence for promoting IT education.
- ★ A hightech park for women entrepreneurs near Tharamani was inaugurated on 29.7.98.
- ★ A network of 13,000 community Internet Access Centres, with the help of M/s. World Tel of U.K. It will lead to employment of around 1,50,000 persons.
- ★ Computer science as an optional subject in all the 1,200 Higher Secondary Schools.

Bridges and flyovers

- ★ 35 bridges were constructed and opened during the past three years, at a cost of Rs.25.51 crores.
- ★ Presently 208 bridges are being constructed at an estimated cost of Rs.450 crores.

In Chennai City

- ★ 14 bridges were constructed after 1997, at a cost of Rs.1.79 crores.
- ★ 10 flyovers are being constructed at a cost of Rs.115.50 crores.





freedom fighters and those who fought for the cause of Tamil language, has been extended to their legal heirs also.

★ A maritime academy for the development of minor ports created.

★ Actions are on to develop the Kulachel port.

★ Mini bus services introduced in rural areas to increase the bus facilities

to the interior villages. A total of 320 mini buses are being operated.

★ Rs.605 crores allocated for Mass Rapid Transit System (MRTS) from Thirumaiyali to Velacheri.

Road facilities

★ Connecting roads to villages with a population of more than 1500 in 1972.

★ This scheme extended to villages with a population of more than 1,000 in the year 1990.

★ 517 villages were connected with other roads after 1996 achieving the goal of "there is no village with a population of 1000 without connecting roads".

★ It has been planned, as a first phase, to provide road connectivity to 340 villages with a population of 500 to 1000, during the current year.

★ 10,000km of village roads have been newly laid.

★ 12,000km of village roads have been converted to tar topped roads.

★ Plans for the construction of 12 more bridges during the current year.

★ The widening of Napier bridge is nearing completion. Cost Rs.5.11 crores.

★ A motorable subway is being constructed below the railway line on the bazar road, Saidapet.

★ A subway is being constructed near Ezhilagam on the Kamarajar Salai.

New Buses

★ A total of 7,384 buses were purchased.

★ A saving of Rs.48 crores in the body building of the buses due to the complete eradication of corruptions.

★ A saving of Rs.14 crores in the purchase of tyres during 1998-99.

★ Free bus passes were issued to school children studying upto eight standard in 1989.

★ This free bus pass facility was extended to all school children studying upto 12th standard, in 1996-97.

★ This free travel concession in the state transport undertakings extended to

★ Rs.702 crores worth of works have been implemented in rural areas through NABARD.

★ 8000 road workers have been appointed.

Laying of Bye-pass roads

★ Tambaram - Mathuravoyal bye-pass road at a cost of Rs.43 crores.

★ Madurai bye-pass road at a cost of Rs.36 crores.

★ Coimbatore bye-pass road at a cost of Rs.92 crores.

★ Land taking process is on at a cost of Rs.2.18 crores for bye-pass roads in Kumbakonam, Palani and Seiyaru.

★ 410 places have been identified as accident prone areas. Of that 402 places have been improved.

★ Rs.15 crores allocated for the development of roads in and around Tiruppur.

★ Rs.212 crores allocated for the development of radial roads in Chennai.

National - State Highways

★ 1,781km length of road on National Highways have been added.

★ 2,258 km length of State roads have been added to present length.

Protected drinking water

★ Rural drinking water schemes have been implemented at a cost of Rs.668.87 crores during the past three years.

★ 3,222 power motors were repaired at an expense of Rs.32 crores.

★ 233 drinking water schemes were renovated at an expenditure of Rs.7 crores.

★ 818 village overhead tanks upgraded at a cost of Rs.8.26 crores.

★ Rs.53.40 crores were spent to rectify drinking water facilities affected with fluoride content in 1,514 tenements.

★ 409 tenements benefited by the 11 desalination schemes in Ramanathapuram District at a cost of Rs.41.07 crores.

★ 98 urban drinking water schemes have been completed at a cost of Rs. 196.67 crores.

Drinking water schemes under Anna Renaissance Scheme

★ Drinking water schemes were implemented in 3,359 tenements in 424 Panchayats.

★ Drinking water schemes completed in 2,706 tenements at a cost of Rs.68.19 lakhs.

Krishna Drinking Water Scheme

★ 24 crore litres of water per day was supplied till 28.9.1996.

★ 70 litres of water per day per person was supplied.

★ 44 crore litres of water per day supplied to Chennai city from 29.9.1996.

★ By this, a person gets 100 litres of drinking water per day.

Desilting Works

★ Desilting works in Nagapattinam and Thiruvavur Districts were carried out from

March 1998 to June 1998 at a cost of Rs.12.14 crores.

- ★ Kolianur canal in Villupuram District was renovated at a cost of Rs.90 lakhs.
- ★ 200 lakes were desilted at a cost of Rs.27.84 crores.
- ★ Buckingham Canal was desilted from Coovum junction to Adyar at a cost of Rs.3.22 crores.



Achievement in Food Production

1995-96 - 67.96 lakh Metric Tonnes
1996-97 - 76.45 lakh Metric Tonnes
1997-98 - 85 lakh Metric Tonnes
1998-99 - 98 lakh Metric Tonnes

Concessions to Farmers

- ★ Free supply of electricity to farmers introduced in 1990 by this Government will be continued.
- ★ 3,53,000 fertilizer identity cards were distributed to the farmers.
- ★ Rs.50 is given as incentive for food production to the Cauvery delta farmers.
- ★ The rate of quality control has been reduced to Rs.5 from Rs.15.
- ★ Rs.76.41 crores were disbursed as loan to public and co-operative sugar mills to give the pending amount to sugarcane farmers.

- ★ A sum of Rs.47.89 crores were disbursed as flood relief to farmers who lost their crop due to the floods in December 1996.
- ★ 10,05,166 sugar cane growers benefited.
- ★ Rs.11.46 crores were given as flood relief during November 1997 floods.
- ★ The subsidy given to farmers for the purchase of oil engines with 5 HP instead of 3 HP is as follows :
 - 25% for small farmers
 - 30% for marginal farmers
 - 50% subsidy for downtrodden / tribal farmers.
- ★ Rs.44 crore worth land tax written off for the affected farmers by the 1997 floods.

Co-operation

- ★ The interest for short term crop loan reduced by one percent (from 13% to 12%.)
- ★ The short term loan amounting to Rs.174.69 crores given to farmers

affected by drought of 1996-97 and 1997 November floods, was converted to midterm loan. Thus the penal interest of Rs.50 crores written off.

- ★ 6.25 percent incentive to farmers who repay the loans promptly.
- ★ Rs.25,000 was given per person as jewel loan through co-operative banks in 1995-96.
- ★ This amount has been increased to Rs.1 lakh.
- ★ Loan assistance programme for women to benefit small time business women was introduced on 1.1.1999 in Chennai and later introduced in other corporations also.
- ★ This scheme was extended to Municipalities and town panchayats from 2.5.1999.
- ★ The daily loan amount ranges from Rs.100 to Rs.5000.
- ★ So far more than 20,000 women have benefited.
- ★ For one Rupee collected everyday 85 paise is saved and returned with interest.

Block houses

- ★ 83,486 block houses were pending during the previous regime.
- ★ 1,74,264 block houses have been approved for construction during the last three years.
- ★ Out of 2,57,750 houses 2,42,645 block houses have been constructed so far.

Free house site pattas

- ★ 5,10,440 house site pattas have been freely distributed during the past three years. 1,77,440 Adiravidars and 5,793 tribals benefited.

Welfare of Fishermen

- ★ The target fixed for construction of houses for fishermen under Singaravelar housing scheme during the past three years was 12,000 houses.



- ★ Number of houses constructed - 7,155.
- ★ The increase in the construction cost is from Rs.32,000 to Rs.37,000.
- ★ 2000 houses in fishermen tenements were planned for repair.
- ★ 1,004 houses were repaired.
- ★ 996 houses are being repaired.
- ★ 1,193 street lamps have been lighted.
- ★ Connecting roads to fishermen tenements target - 34, roads completed - 31.

- ★ The fishermen insurance amount has been increased from Rs.35,000 to Rs.50,000.

Welfare of Weavers

- ★ An assistance of Rs.150 to those weavers who have crossed 60 years of age.
- ★ 96,000 weavers benefited.



- ★ An increase of 10 percent in wages to the weavers.
- ★ The insurance amount to the weavers which was Rs.25,000 had been increased to Rs.35,000 last year, which is further increased to Rs.40,000 presently.
- ★ 20 percent rebate for handloom products throughout the year.
- ★ Six months special rebate of 10 percent from 31.3.1998 for the unsold stock. Total rebate 30 percent.
- ★ 30 percent special rebate for further 5 months for lungi.
- ★ Rs.43.25 crores as subsidy amount was given to co-operative societies which was pending during the previous regime.

- ★ The penal interest of 2 percent levied for the defaulters who do not pay back the instalment is written off by TAN-silk for those who bought the silk from loan amount.

Welfare of labourers

- ★ Labourers Welfare Board formed for the welfare of non-organisational labourers.

- ★ 25 lakh labourers benefited.
- ★ The minimum wages of the agricultural labourers fixed at a higher rate according to the recommendations of the Kolappan Committee.
- ★ Rs.250 is being paid as relief every month to the labourers of closed industries from 1.4.99.

Welfare of Government Servants

- ★ The family welfare fund has been increased from Rs.60,000 to Rs.1 lakh.
- ★ 30 years of Government service is enough for availing full pension.
- ★ On the basis of fifth pay commission new scale of pay was given to the Government servants and pensioners, from 1.1.1996.

- ★ By this, the Government incurred an expenditure of Rs.10,344 crores, during 1998-99 alone.

Welfare of freedom fighters

- ★ In commemoration of the Golden Jubilee of India's Independence the monthly pension given to the freedom fighters and to those who fought for the cause of language, was enhanced from Rs.1,500 to Rs.3,000.
- ★ The monthly pension to their descendants have also been enhanced from Rs.750 to Rs.1,500.

Family pension to those who lost their lives while fighting for social causes

- ★ Rs.3 lakhs each to the families for the 24 deceased persons who lost their lives in firing, while participating in the agitation for 20 percent reservation in 1987.
- ★ Rs.1,500 is being given to the families as pension.

Welfare of Journalists

- ★ The journalists pension was increased from Rs.500 to Rs.1,000 during 1996-97. Presently it has been enhanced to Rs.1,500.
- ★ Journalists family pension of Rs.500 to the wife of the deceased retired journalist who received journalist pension of Rs.1000 per month.
- ★ A relief of Rs.25,000 was given to the families of deceased journalists while at service, in 1997-98.
- ★ Now it is Rs.40,000.
- ★ House sites given to journalists in Chennai during 1989-90.
- ★ Presently house sites are allotted to journalists in Madurai and Trichy.

Power Schemes

- ★ The 630 MW North Chennai Thermal Power Station and 120 MW Basin Bridge gas turbine power projects have been recently commissioned.
- ★ The 7.5 MW Sathanur Power Project was commissioned on 9.3.1999.
- ★ The 8 MW Bhavani Power Project was commissioned in February 1998.
- ★ 27 MW of power from combined power schemes in sugar mills.
- ★ The finalisation of fund allocation for Pillaiperumal Power Scheme has been completed This will start its generation from March 2001.
- ★ Permissions have been granted to seven private organisations to produce 2563 MW of power and agreement has been signed for the purchase of power.
- ★ The first private organisation that started power generation was G.M.R. Vasavi Power Generation in Basin Bridge. 196 MW of power is being generated from 28.3.1999.
- ★ Action is being taken to implement 3 gas turbine power generation schemes in Koilkalappal (90MW) Perungulam (65 MW) and Kuthalam (60MW).
- ★ Permission has been granted by the Central Government on 14.8.98 for Neyveli Lignite power generation project to produce 250 MW of power. This will commence its generation in 2002-2003.
- ★ Jayamkondam thermal power station to produce 500 MW of power at an investment of Rs.5,500 crores - The Mumbai based Reliance Industries have been selected as contractors. This will be commissioned in 2003.

- ★ Ennore L.N.G gas turbine power generation scheme to produce 2000 MW of power - Mumbai based Datshin Bharat Energy Consortium has been selected as contractors - The construction work will commence soon.

- ★ A scheme to start 20 short time power generation projects - The Central Government have agreed gas connection to 5 schemes to generate 465 MW of power.

- ★ Central Government's gas connections is awaited for the remaining 15 power projects to produce 2307 MW of Power.

- ★ Tax exemption for 5 years to textile mills, paper mills, chemical industries, sugar mills, etc who produce their power requirements by themselves using fuelled generators.

- ★ Permanent tax exemption for the industrial organisation who generate power from wind and solar energy.

Tamil Nadu ranks first in loan deposit amount

- ★ The all India average rate of loan deposit amount is 55.5%.

- ★ But Tamil Nadu ranks first with 92.3%.

Tamil Nadu's achievement in Software export

- ★ In 1997-98 Software export was worth Rs.400 crores.

- ★ The software export was worth Rs.1100 crores, exceeding the target of Rs.700 crores during 1998-99.

Tamil Nadu ranks first in 100% export - oriented industries

- ★ Tamil Nadu ranks first in starting cent percent export - oriented industries.

- ★ 3,503 export oriented industries at All India Level.

- ★ 584 export oriented industries in Tamil Nadu alone - 1/6th of the total.

Distribution of food grains

- ★ 20 kg of rice for a 3 member family .

- ★ 2,800 fair price shops started as full time and part time shops.

- ★ Rs.1.42 crores 2 coloured family cards distributed

Kerosine Distribution Centres

- ★ Proposed Centres - 500.

- ★ Started so far - 121.

- ★ Members of Parliament, Members of Legislative Assembly, Representatives of Local Bodies are empowered to inspect the fair price shops located in their respective constituencies.

Health Centres

- ★ Sanction accorded for the construction of new buildings for 652 Primary Health Centres at a cost of Rs.52 crores.

- ★ So far 600 such buildings have been constructed, 200 sub-health centres are to be constructed at a cost of Rs. 9 crores.

Primary Health Centres functioning round the clock

- ★ Target - 298

- ★ So far 250 implemented.

Rs.25,000 for medical treatment fund for those living below the poverty line

- ★ A scheme was introduced in 1997-98 to sanction Rs.25,000 to those patients suffering from diseases like heart, kidney and cancer living below the poverty line.

- ★ The time limit for out patients in Government Hospitals is extended upto 12 p.m.

- ★ 280 ambulances for Hospitals and Primary Health Centres at a cost of Rs.10 crores.

Improvement of Hospitals with the help of Industrial Organisations

- ★ The Hon'ble Chief Minister had discussions with industrialists on 1.11.97.

- ★ 19 Industrial Organisations accepted to take care of 7 Hospitals, 50 Primary Health Centres and 5 Sub Health Centres.

Eye Camps

- ★ The scheme of distribution of spectacles introduced in 1972-73 had a slackness.

- ★ The scheme was given life by this Government in 1996.

- ★ Ophthalmology Department in all District Hospitals have been upgraded.

- ★ Ophthalmology Departments have been started in important Taluk Hospitals.

- ★ Mobile Ophthalmology wings have been created in 29 Districts.

- ★ A scheme to provide contact lens to one lakh persons.

- ★ Cataract operation for 3.75 lakh patients this year.

- ★ Eye operations will be undertaken and Intra ocular lens fixed, free of cost.

National Siddha Medical Centre

- ★ On the requisition made by this Government the Central Government is establishing a Siddha Medical Research Centre near Thambaram at a cost of Rs.100 crores.

- ★ For that purpose 15 acres of land worth Rs.6.64 crores allotted free of cost.

- ★ Monthly Pension amount for Siddha Doctors who are above 60 years of age has been enhanced from Rs.150 to Rs.500.

- ★ In order to monitor the performance of the Hospitals, an Advisory Committee with the Member of the Legislative Assembly as one of the members have been constituted in each Hospital.



Appointment of Police Personnel

- ★ 7,698 men and 2,604 women police were appointed, which was announced and not fulfilled by the previous regime.

- ★ Among the 2000 Police personnel selected by this Government during

1989-90, 1,023 personnels who were selected and unemployed were given postings.	★ 11,140 police quarters have been provided with electric fans.
★ 3,465 Police Personnels were selected last year.	★ Rs.270 crores spent for the welfare of police personnel.
★ This year 5,000 more police personnel will be selected. Of this 1000 are women.	
Selection of Sub-Inspectors	Courts
★ 1,100 Sub-Inspectors who were selected and not appointed during previous regime, were recruited by this Government.	★ 100 new courts have been started.
★ 882 persons were selected through the examination for Sub-Inspectors conducted last year.	★ Land has been acquired at a cost of Rs.2.52 crores for the establishment of High Court Branch in Madurai.
	★ 9 Court Halls in Chennai High Court have been air-conditioned at a cost of Rs.2 crores.
New Police Stations	Fire Service
★ 44 Police Stations were inaugurated during the past 3 years.	★ 47 new Fire Service stations have been opened.
★ This year 17 more police stations will be opened.	Prohibition
Buildings for police stations	★ Separate wing for Prohibition.
★ Sanction accorded for the construction of buildings for 120 police stations.	Additional revenue to the Government exchequer through revision of taxes
★ Construction of buildings completed for 23 Police Stations.	★ Revenue from prohibition
★ 75 buildings are nearing completion.	During
Police Quarters	★ 1995-96 Rs.1,425 crores
★ 1,000 Quarters were constructed per year.	★ 1996-97 Rs.1,649 crores
★ This have been increased to 2,500 quarters per year.	★ 1997-98 Rs.1,942 crores
★ Toilet facilities have been provided in 2,751 quarters. Seperate electricity meters provided in 13,932 houses.	★ 1998-99 Rs.2,697 crores
	Tax rebate through Commercial Taxes Department
	During
	★ 1996-97 Rs.353 crores
	★ 1997-98 Rs.143 crores
	★ 1998-99 Rs.81 crores
	★ 1999-2000 Rs.25 crores

Tax exemption and tax reduction	Concessions of stamp duty in registration of documents
During 1996-97	★ Exemptions from stamp duty for sale deeds from Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board.
★ Total exemptions of tax for Dhal, Chilli, coriander, turmeric, tamarine, cumin, asafoetida, jaggery, sikkakai, silver metti, anklet, waist thread, paddy, grit.	★ 22 thousand youth appointed as document writers.
★ Tax exemption for vests, rope, wheats, panchamirtham, viboodhi, husk etc., in the year 1997-98.	★ Stamp duty on partition deeds reduced from 4% to 2%.
★ During 1998-99 edible oils like groundnut oil, coconut oil, gingily oil, sunflower oil, refined oils were exempted from taxation.	★ Exemption of stamp duty for the sale of immovable properties not exceeding the value of Rs.3000.
★ Tax exemption for Computer Software, Raw Materials used for producing picture varnish.	★ 1,524 stamp vendors appointed.
Tax reduced for the following articles	★ Stamp duty on mortgage deeds reduced to 4% from 7%.
★ In 1996-97 cooking gas, sugarcane, fuel, raw materials for power generation.	★ Stamp duty for second mortgage reduced from 13% to 0.1% for the mortgaged properties of the public by the private housing societies.
★ In 1997-98 - typewriters, spectacles, mosquito mat, glass balls, small glass beads, electronics spare parts, helmets, rubbles, toys, fried groundnut, umbrellas, paper bags, tarpaulin, suitcase, oil engine parts, table, chair, zari, tailoring, embroidery machines etc.	Tamil Development
★ In 1998-99 coconut, riped coconut, masala powder without trade mark, food items prepared in bakery, icecream with trade mark, peas flour, grit etc.	★ Seperate Ministry for Tamil Development.
Reduction of Professional Tax	★ An amount of Rs.50 lakhs for Dravidian University in Kuppam area of Andhra State.
★ Professional tax only for those who earn Rs.21 thousand and above for six months instead of Rs.9,000.	★ Nationalisation of the books of Devaneyapavanar, Maraimalai Adigal, Thiru.Vi.Ka., Kalki, Kavimani, Jeevanandam, Nammakkal Kavignar, V.O. Chidambaranar, K.M. Sheriff, Navalar Somasundara Bharathiar, Parali Su. Nellaiappar, Va.Ve.Su. Iyer, Karaikudi Sa. Ganesan and S.D.S. Yogi.
★ Rs.108 had to be paid as tax by those, whose income was Rs.21,000 for six months, previously. Now this has been reduced to Rs.60 upto the limit of Rs.30 thousand.	★ Rs.5 lakhs given to Vellore K. Ragavan who translated the work of Karl Marx, as the source.

- ★ Rs.2 lakhs to the family of the writer - Film dialogue writer late Ilangoan.
- ★ Bharathiar award in 1997 and Ambedkar award in 1998 introduced.
- ★ Cash award of Rs.10,000 to Tamil Scholars was enhanced to Rs.20,000 in 1996 and enhanced Rs.1 lakh in 1998.
- ★ 10 Music Schools have been started.

Memorials for renowned freedom fighters and veterans

- ★ Golden Jubilee Memorial Pillar near War Memorial.
- ★ Thiagigal Manimandapam at Guindy at a cost of Rs.30 lakhs.
- ★ Memorial for Bhakthavatchalam at a cost of Rs.25 lakhs.
- ★ Memorial Pillar at a cost of Rs.3 lakhs in memory of Indian Soldier who lost his life during Vellore Sepoy Mutiny.
- ★ The house of Thiagi Viswanatha doss in Thirumangalam, Madurai converted into a memorial at a cost of Rs.50 lakhs.
- ★ Renovation of the bungalow of Poolithevan and installation of his statue in Nelkattumseval village, Tirunelveli District at a cost of Rs. 57 lakhs.
- ★ In memory of the Commander of Kottabomman, Veeran Sundaralingam, a town in his name has been established in Kavarnagiri Village at a cost of Rs.1.05 crores and 200 houses were allotted to his heirs.
- ★ A memorial for Jeevanandam in C.P. Ramasamy Park at Nagercoil at a cost of Rs.15.50 lakhs.

- ★ A statue of Nethaji on Kamarajar Salai, Chennai in connection with his centenary year at a cost of Rs.7.40 lakhs.
- ★ Works started for Ambedkar Manimandapam.
- ★ Burst size statue of Gandhiji installed in the entrance of Gandhi Mandapam.
- ★ Burst size statues of Rajaji, Kamarajar, Anna, M.G.R. at the entances of their Memorials.

33% reservation for Women in Local Bodies

- ★ Elections were held for Local Bodies in 1996 with 33% reservation for Women.
- ★ 44,143 women were elected.
- ★ Two of them have assumed office as Mayors of Corporations and one among them is from down-trodden community.

Former Village Administrative officers

- ★ Rs.175 as pension and other benefits to those officials who lost their jobs on 14.11.1980.
- ★ Each of them received approximately Rs.23,000 in lumpsum.
- ★ Former employees who lost their jobs on 14.11.1980 and died were sanctioned family pension.
- ★ 1,406 temporary posts were made permanent.



Strengthening Communal Harmony

V.Sankaran

Recently, people in Tirunelveli blocked traffic to protest against the poor services of State Transport Corporation buses. Their grievances may be genuine but they failed to realise one thing. The caste clashes in their area also contributed to the present state of bus services. The State Transport Minister, Shir. K. Ponmudi has gone on record blaming the caste and communal clashes in Southern Districts for the poor financial position of

the State Transport Corporation. In the recent past, as many as 11 buses were set ablaze by the antisocial elements during communal flare-ups. This is just one instance of how caste and communal clashes could affect the general public.

The implications of caste and communal clashes are deep and wide. People, often innocent, get killed or injured; houses and shops set on fire and as tension grips people are forced to remain indoors. Normal life is affected resulting in loss to the economy; but what is more worrisome is the divide or scar these clashes create in the community. The divide is often so deep that it takes a longer time to disappear. The persisting scar poses a grave threat to the unity of the people, so essential for the peace and prosperity of the State and the Country.

Should Tamil Nadu, a well-developed State, become a victim of caste and communal clashes? The Tamils have the long tradition of being one of the most tolerant people. Lakhs and lakhs of people of different faiths and regions have made Tamil Nadu their home. Over centuries,

people have been living in complete harmony in the State. Even today, it is so. The respect for other faiths is ingrained in their spirit. That is why, one can see thousands of Hindus daily visiting the Velankanni Shrine and the Nagore Darga. It cannot be an unfamiliar sight if one happens to see Christians and Muslims visit famous Hindu temples. Come festivals of any religion, greetings are extended to the persons of that religion by his friends in other faiths. Greetings are more often followed up with invitation for feasts. In offices and business houses, the atmosphere is one of complete mutual trust.

Historically, Tamil Nadu has been in the forefront of social reforms and, therefore, there should be no scope for any communal tension in the State. It should be remembered that it is during this century Late E.V.Ramasami Naicker, affectionately called Thanthai Periyar carried on a crusade against casteism. In 1924, he led a temple entry at Vaikom where dalits were prohibited from walking through the streets around the temple. Periyar was arrested here twice for staging satyagraha against

untouchability and earned the title, 'Vaikom Veerer'. In 1939, Vaithianatha Iyer led a batch of the down trodden people into the Meenakshi temple in Madurai. Before the temple entry, he actively campaigned against untouchability saying that it had no place in Hinduism. He cited references from sacred books including Vedas.

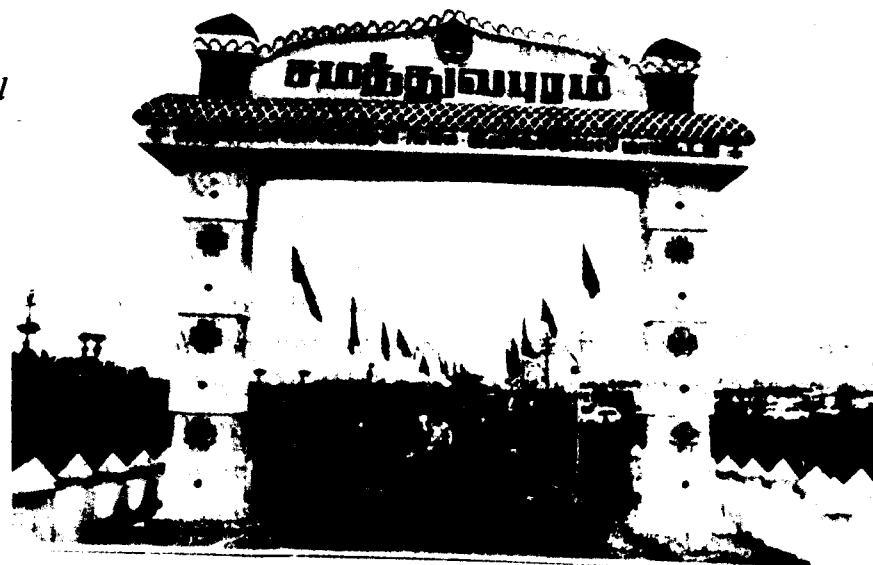
Then, why occur caste and communal clashes? Reasons apart, they can, at best, be described as aberrations in the otherwise peaceful State. As such aberrations have the potential of becoming cancerous which can eat into the very vitals of our society and the Nation, it is essential to ensure that such incidents do not keep recurring.

Tamil Nadu, therefore, has taken a major initiative to promote communal harmony. It includes several steps, both economic and social. The first significant step was taken when the names of Districts and State Transport Corporations were changed at one stroke. The naming of Districts and Transport Corporations after caste leaders was a sore point for people of

other castes and it led to jealousy and competition among communities, besides giving scope to anti-social elements to foment trouble. The State had earlier abolished the caste suffix in the names of streets and roads. The State is implementing a unique scheme for the promotion of communal harmony among people. The scheme called Periyar Memorial Samathuvapuram Scheme envisages co-habitation of people of different communities in a certain ratio. All basic amenities are provided in the colony for a comfortable living. During 1997-98, Rs.17.5 crores were allotted for creating 50 Samathuvapurams throughout the State. An equal amount has also been set apart in 1998-99 budget

to set up another 50 colonies. Some Districts will have more than two or three Samathuvapurams. So far, 30 Samathuvapurams have come up throughout the State. A scheme to promote inter-caste marriages is being implemented from 1974. Under it, financial assistance of Rs.5,000 was given to every inter-caste married couple. The amount was raised in 1996 to Rs.10,000. Double this amount is now being given to the inter-caste married couple if anyone of them belongs to Scheduled Caste.

There is a general feeling that relative economic backwardness of the Southern Districts is also responsible for the caste clashes in that region. In this background, Tamil Nadu Government has set



up a High Power Commission for Socio Economic and Industrial Development of Southern Districts with Justice Shri Ratnavel Pandian, a former Supreme Court Judge, as its Chairman. The commission is to identify the bottle-necks that stand in the way of the economic development of the Southern Districts and to recommend the steps for the upliftment of the people in that region. The commission will submit its report by January next year.

With a view to promote a sense of brotherhood among the people, common feasts are organised in temples on important occasions like Gandhi Jayanthi and Pongal. Hundreds of people from different castes take part in such feasts. Important functionaries like the Chief Minister, Ministers, District Collectors and other prominent public men participate in such feasts to drive home the message of the need for unity among the people.

Strict Enforcement of Laws

Besides such various measures to promote harmony among the people, steps to remove the causes for caste and communal

conflicts are simultaneously taken. These include strict enforcement of the provisions of Protection of Civil Rights Act and Prevention of Atrocities (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Act. The provisions in these acts take care of the violation of human rights such as use of abusive language against anyone belonging to Scheduled Castes and denial of honourable treatment to dalits like the practice or reserving separate glasses for them in tea shops. Such practices are punishable with imprisonment. For enforcing these provisions, special cells under the Police are functioning in all the Districts. Peace committees at District and Taluk levels have been set up to promote peace and to remove the causes which might increase communal tension.

Multi-Media Campaign

Presently, the State Government is organising a major multi-media campaign in all the Districts to promote communal harmony and to eradicate untouchability. Programmes including cultural shows and film and video shows are being conducted to generate awareness against the evils

of communalism and untouchability. A massive poster campaign through all available means is being undertaken. Besides, rallies, human chains, etc., are also organised. The State is to give awards to the people in the media who effectively carry to the people the message of communal harmony and eradication of untouchability. The State Government has already declared the year 1999 as the year of Communal Harmony and Against Untouchability.

The peace and amity in the State have, in no small measure, contributed to the achievements of the State in the industrial and agricultural sectors. The tempo of development in these sectors is being speeded up to ensure a better life for the people of the State. The efforts made in this direction can bear fruit only if all people extend their full co-operation to maintain peace and harmony in the society. Hopefully, they will, so that Tamil Nadu can occupy the prime place of being the most developed State in the social and economic sectors in the twenty first century.

★ ★ ★

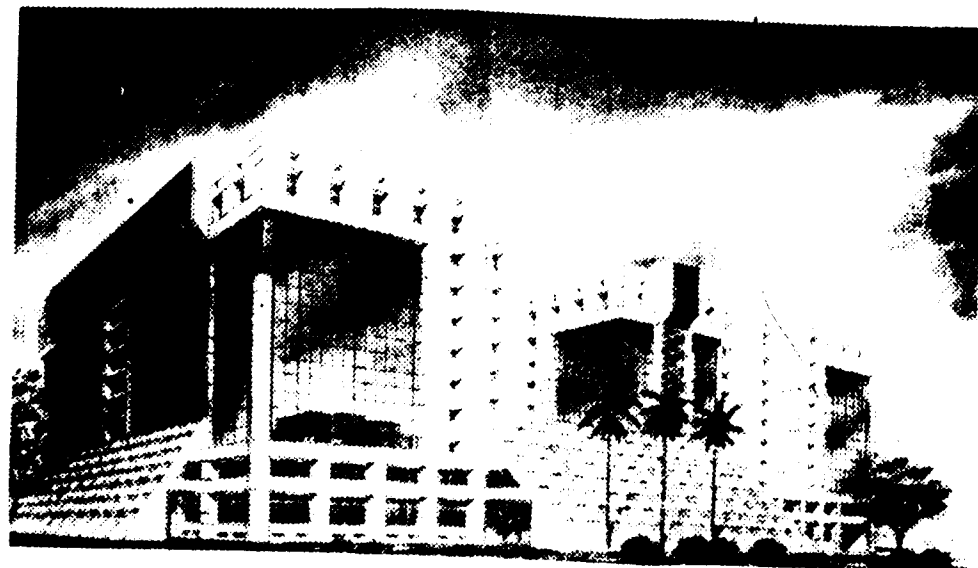
Tamil Nadu has made rapid strides in Information Technology (IT). Tamil Nadu has also become a major centre for software exports in the country. Compared to software exports of Rs.400 crores in 1997-98, exports during 1998-99 have increased by nearly 200% to Rs.1170 crores. This goes on to prove that a congenial atmosphere prevails in Tamil Nadu as far as Information Technology development is concerned.

Tamil Nadu was one of the first States to notify a separate IT policy as early as November 1997. Arising from this policy, several major initiatives have been launched and will be continued in 1999-2000.

★ TIDCO and ELCOT are jointly promoting a Software Technology Park named TIDEL Park at Tharamani in Chennai at a total cost of Rs.320 crores. This Park will have a total area of 1.2 million sq.ft. and will have world class facilities for software development centres. Construction is in full swing and the facility will be ready for occupation in early 2000.

★ Tamil Nadu was first in the country to launch an operational venture capital fund called Tamil Nadu Software Fund, which has been set up by TIDCO in association with SIDBI and ILFS and this is fully operational.

★ SIPCOT, the premier industrial infrastructure development agency of the Government of Tamil Nadu, is developing a modern IT Park at Siruseri on the old Mahabalipuram Road. This Park, with total area of 1000 acres will have developed plots for both hardware and



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CONGENIAL ATMOSPHERE PREVAILS FOR IT IN TAMIL NADU

software units and will provide every modern facility to international standards to such units.

★ The old Mahabalipuram Road from Tharamani in Chennai is rapidly developing as an IT corridor. In view of its importance, four laning of this road is being started so as to provide excellent physical infrastructure to the IT industry. Many major IT companies have set up or are in the process of setting up their Software industries in this area. Tata Consultancy Service has recently inaugurated Asia's largest Software Development Centre near Sholinganallur and other major companies like WIPRO, INFOSYS and POLARIS are in the process of setting up their Centres in this area.

★ ELCOT, a fully owned enterprise of the Government of Tamil Nadu is now focussing primarily on IT Industry. It functions as the nodal implementing agency of the IT department and participates in promoting units in the IT sector. ELCOT is a profitable company and has been continuously earning profits. It has carried out important projects for the Government such as designing and preparation of voter ID cards, issue of computerised driving licenses, issue of computerised ration cards. ELCOT proposes to acquire land near Sholinganallur on the old Mahabalipuram road for meeting the land requirements of IT companies. It also provides a single window facility to IT companies for all their infrastructure

facilities. Its website www.elcot.com is the official site for IT in Tamil Nadu.

★ The Government of Tamil Nadu, through ELCOT, have decided to enter into a joint venture with M/s. World Tel of UK for establishing a large network Community Internet Access Centres. World Tel was set up by the International Tele-Communications Union, an agency of the UN. This venture will provide a high bandwidth communication backbone for the State and will create a network of more than 13,000 Community Internet Access Centres. It will lead to employment of around 1,50,000 persons. Through these Centres, people who do not own computers can access internet for any of their day to day requirements at a reasonable cost.

★ Internet in the rural areas can be useful for the people only if the content is available in Tamil. To encourage this, the Government has taken several steps. The main initiative was the convening of 'Tamil Net 99', in February '99, an International Conference and Seminar on Tamil in IT. This Conference has recommended standards for Tamil Keyboard and for coding of Tamil Scripts. Based on the Conference' recommendations, final standards in these areas will be notified by Government by July '99.

★ For international acceptance of these standards, the Government of Tamil Nadu has become an Associate Member in the International Unicode Consortium, USA, and will send a proposal to Unicode to revise the existing standards for Tamil as these standards do not address the specific needs of the Tamil language.

★ A Tamil Software Development Fund will be set up with a corpus of Rs.5 crores to encourage the development of innovative Tamil Software.

★ To extend the benefit of Tamil education to interested students throughout the world, a Tamil Virtual University based on the Internet will be set up.

★ To stimulate advanced research on the use of Tamil in IT, an Internet Applications and Research Centre to focus on Tamil will be set up either independently or as part of an existing Institute in this field.

★ To encourage research in the area of Tamil in IT, three reputed Universities namely Anna

University, Bharathiar University and REC at Trichy will be entrusted with the setting up of three Endowment Chairs for Tamil in IT.

★ The Government have already established Tamil Nadu Institute in Information Technology (TANITEC) as an academic Institute of excellency for promoting IT education. TANITEC has started functioning and is conducting a one year Post Graduate Diploma in IT on advanced topics which are of immediate relevance to the IT industry. Starting with an in-take of 50 students today, it will double this intake in 1999-2000. TANITEC also proposes to start Degree courses in IT and will function as a nodal agency for upgrading the skills of IT faculty in engineering institutions throughout the State.

★ The IT Department also assists all departments of Government in their computerisation activities. Special emphasis is being placed now on areas with large public contact like registration, sales tax, motor vehicles, land records and maps and Citizen's Charter.

★ In association with Health Department, a pilot project on Tele-medicine will be implemented this year to make available the benefits of advanced medical consultation to patients in the rural areas.

★ In association with School Education Department, arrangements will be made to offer computer science as an optional subject in all Government Higher Secondary Schools in the State numbering about 1200. This arrangement will progressively make available computer education to the students in Class X and below and upgrade the skill of existing teachers.

★ As part of the effort to make administration transparent and effective, important policy decisions of the Government will be made available on the official website of the Government of Tamil Nadu at www.tn.gov.in. Already, copies of all Citizen's Charters of Government Departments, the Budget Speeches, nearly 80 Application Forms of Government departments which are of interest to the citizens, are available on this site and this process will be completed during this year. The Government is continuing to take initiatives like this.

MOFUSSIL BUS TERMINAL AT KOYAMBEDU

Chennai is one of the four Metropolis in India and it is poised for growth and change. The population of Chennai City is estimated to be 50 lakhs by 2001 and 60 lakhs by 2011. The rest of the Metropolis around the nucleus Chennai City is also growing fast and its population is estimated to be 25 lakhs by 2001 and 35 lakhs by 2011.

★ The urban problems of Chennai City are many. One of the problems faced is congestion in central parts of the City and on arterial roads, viz., Anna Salai, Periyar Salai and G.N.T. Road leading to the Central Business District (George Town) of the City. CMDA has planned for and implementing schemes and projects to alleviate the problems of the metropolis and to ensure better living conditions for the people.

★ The CMDA has planned for shifting of wholesale trades in vegetable, fruit, flower (ie. perishables), food grains and allied trades, textiles and Iron and Steel from George Town area to the periphery of the City; of which the perishable trades were already shifted to Koyambedu Wholesale Market Complex (KWMC) and the Market development for Iron and Steel has been completed.

★ The shifting of the existing Bus Terminals to the location at Koyambedu, in the periphery of the city is to relieve congestion in the existing old parts of the city and also on the arterial roads.

★ The studies showed that the existing Mofussil terminals at Esplanade, Broadway and Basin Bridge are all located in the Central Business District (CBD). The buses entering the city have to crawl through the congested city corridors to reach the terminals. The existing terminals handle more services than their capacity and are very congested. They are operationally and environmentally in a very poor state.

★ The traffic studies conducted in 1996 showed that shifting of the bus terminals to the periphery

of the city would relieve traffic congestion. It also showed that the site along inner ring road at Koyambedu was the ideal location for the centralised mofussil bus terminal complex.

Objectives of the Moffusil Bus Terminal Project

- ★ To decongest Central Business District (George Town) and major arterial roads leading to it.
- ★ To provide better environment by minimising conflict between vehicles and pedestrians and also between various types of passengers and providing bus ways, pedestrian ways, pedestrian subways across IRR etc.
- ★ To provide for operational ease and a easy maneuverability, ease of maintenance etc.
- ★ To provide better comfort for passengers by providing for adequate space for waiting areas, toilets, cloak room, water fountains, booking offices restaurants, kiosks, convenient shops, telephone booths, etc.
- ★ To provide adequate space for crew operational requirements including crew rest rooms, time keepers rooms, security rooms, operational manager's rooms etc.
- ★ To provide adequate spaces for visitors, staff, auto rickshaws and taxis.
- ★ Finally to provide for a safe, operationally efficient, aesthetically good and environmentally better modern bus terminal at easily accessible location of the city.

Project Area : 25 acres + 6 acres for link road to Nesapakkam Road

Estimated Cost : Rs.84 crores (excluding interest)

Project Period : 2 years

FACILITIES PROPOSED

Bus Bays

Departures : 150 Nos.
Idle Parking : 60 Nos.
Arrivals : 30 Nos.

City Buses : 30 Nos.

Total : 270 Nos.

Operational facilities

Ticket Booking Counters/Computerised Counters
Security Rooms
Crew Rest Rooms
Time Keepers Rooms
Office Rooms for Transport Operational Managers
Bus Parking Area
Fuelling Station
Maintenance Shed and Store

Others

Visitors parking spaces for cars, auto rickshaws
Staff parking spaces
Two wheelers and cycle parking spaces

Passengers facilities

Seating facilities : 1536 Nos. at arrival/ departure platforms
Departure and Arrival Halls
Bus bay destination displays : 180 Nos.
Public Information Systems : Televisions-60 Nos.
Drinking water fountains : 15 bays
Telephones : 60 Nos.
Shops : 24 Nos.
Dust bins : 192 Nos.
Advertisement displays : 250 sqm.
Fans : 125 Nos.
Lights : 910 Nos.
Sanitation : Water closets - 47Nos; Urinals - 32 Nos.
Restaurants : 900 sqm.
Cloak Room
Information Centre

Additional Information

Total built-up area of the project : 40720 sq.m.

No. of Mofussil Bus services operated from Chennai : 2000 Nos.

No. of Bays for mofussil buses

Required currently : 120 Nos.

Required by 2011 : 194 Nos.

Proposal in the project : 240 Nos.

No. of bays for transit city buses proposed : 30 Nos.

Auto/Taxi parking area required currently : 1000 sq.m.

proposed : 2000 sq.m.

Car parking area required currently : 800 sq.m.

proposed : 1500 sq.m.

Two wheeler parking area required currently : 1100 sq.m.

proposed : 1600 sq.m.

Presently the mofussil bus terminals are functioning at following locations :

- ★ Broadway
- ★ Esplanade
- ★ Basin Bridge

★ It is proposed to relocate all these terminals at the proposed terminal at Koyambedu facilitating the public to access this central terminal at only one location with all modern facilities.

★ The existing terminals at Broadway, Esplanade and Basin Bridge would be used for appropriate redevelopment by land owning agencies viz. Corporation of Chennai / Transport Corporations.

★ Bus service is said to be the closest transportation to public. This project would provide the best possible convenience to the public and dependability of service improving the public satisfaction. Further this transport infrastructure would not only improve the living conditions in this 'Singara' Chennai, but also would have positive impact on the economy of the metropolis. □



Hon'ble Minister for Information, Publicity and Printing Thiru. V. Mullaivendan inaugurated the Multimedia campaign and the Multimedia Exhibition in Ramanathapuram on 7.6.99. Speaking on the occasion the Minister said, video films have been produced at a cost of Rs.21 lakhs, emphasising the eradication of untouchability and promotion of communal harmony and social unity. He also said,

orders have been issued for screening this film throughout the State through Video Vans by the District Public Relations Offices. Tamil Nadu leads at all India level in providing subsidies to the people through various departments. Rs.5,500 crores per year is spent by the Government of Tamil Nadu for subsidy alone.



THE RATE OF TAMIL ARASU EDITION IS REVISED FROM 1-7-99

Each Edition : Rs.5

Annual Subscription of
Tamil Arasu Tamil Edition : Rs.120
For Six Months : Rs.60

Annual Subscription of Tamil Arasu
English Edition : Rs.60

First Wrapper

- ★ Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi unveiled a portrait of Kamarajar and laid the foundation stone for Kamarajar Manimandapam on the sea shore at Kanniyakumari.

Fourth Wrapper

- ★ Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi inaugurated the desalination plant at Narippaiyur, Ramanathapuram District. This plant envisages conversion of sea water into potable water. This will provide protected drinking water to the present population of 2,06,691 living in 34 rural habitations of Mudukulathur, Kadaladi and Kamuthi unions at a per capita supply of 15 lpcd.
- ★ Periyar Memorial Samathuvapuram at Kalingarasapuram in Kanniyakumari District.

Smoke on the Lips Fire in the Belly

- Dr. ROHINI KELKAR

Even with new health risks turning up every day, smoking probably ranks as Public Enemy No.1. Even diehard smokers admit its connection to many grim afflictions from lung cancer and heart disease to bad breath. Still, many people are unaware that cigarettes can also contribute to digestive problems. New research reveals that smokers are more likely to suffer heartburn, acidity, ulcers and even cancers of the food pipe, stomach and pancreas. Can cigarette-smoke damage organs, which it does not even touch?

It can and it does. Cigarette smoke is not just hot air. It's a fairly vicious fume, containing 4,000 chemicals, including 200 known poisons. Once these enter the system they cause changes in body chemistry, with far-reaching consequences.

First of all, smoking hits the headquarters of the digestive system - the liver. The effects of smoking on the liver are rarely mentioned, but researchers find that smoking alters the way the liver handles drugs (including medicines) and alcohol. The effect of these substances on a smoker is worse because his liver is less efficient at removing toxins. In medication, a smoker may need an altered dosage. If a heavy drinker also smokes, he is inviting greater damage from the same amount of alcohol.

Smoking seems to change the way in which normal food is processed by the body. The body of a smoker absorbs less nutrition and uses food less efficiently. So while the average smoker may weigh less than his nonsmoking equal, his fitness is worse and nutritional deficiencies are more. Just to stay on a par, smokers need to consume greater amounts of vitamins. The biggest digestive discomfort for smokers is acidity and heartburn, that burning feeling in the chest after a meal. This is often wrongly linked to spicy food.

The burning sensation actually comes from strong stomach acids which have flowed backward from the

stomach into the food pipe. Normally the valve at the end of the food pipe prevents this back flow. But smoking (among other factors) loosens this valve. So when the smoker lies down, bends over, wears a tight belt or has a big meal, stomach acids wash upward into the food pipe. Moreover, smoking increases acid production in the stomach. As if that is not enough, it invites backward movement of bile salts and enzymes from the intestine.

The result? The smoker's upper digestive tract is awash in strong acidic material. Cigarette smoke seems to directly injure the lining of the food pipe as well, so it is more sensitive to the acid.

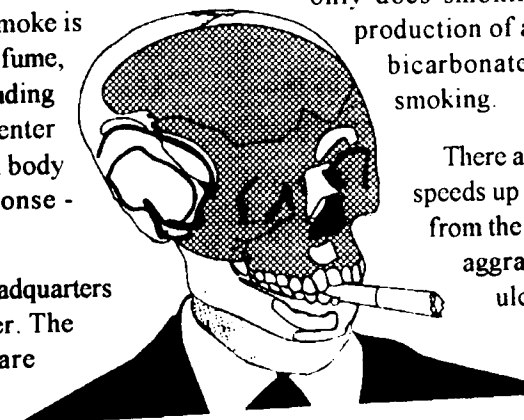
Researchers also know that ulcers (whose exact cause is unknown) are more likely to occur and are slower to heal, in a smoker. Experts have been investigating the connection. It has been found that not only does smoking raise acid secretion, the production of acid-neutralisers like sodium bicarbonate is temporarily reduced after smoking.

There are also indications that smoking speeds up the emptying of acidic material from the stomach into the intestine. The aggravated acidity could explain the ulcer-proneness of smokers. Any existing weakness of the stomach or intestine simply becomes worse or chronic with smoking, say experts. If cancers of the digestive organs are also more common in smokers, there are plenty of explanations.

It could be due to the 30 cancer-causing chemicals in tobacco smoke or due to the effect of enzymes and metabolites that the nicotine produces in the body. Then again, it could be the handiwork of free radicals released by the smoke. Take your pick!

Fortunately, a smoker is not permanently condemned to indigestion. There are indications that tobacco damage to the digestive system can be reversed if the smoker kicks the habit. He may not be able to actually see his cancer risk going down, but he will enjoy some relief from acidity and heartburn.

(The author is a member of Healthy Home Advisory Services (HHAS) and is also Head, Department of Microbiology, Tata Memorial Hospital). ★

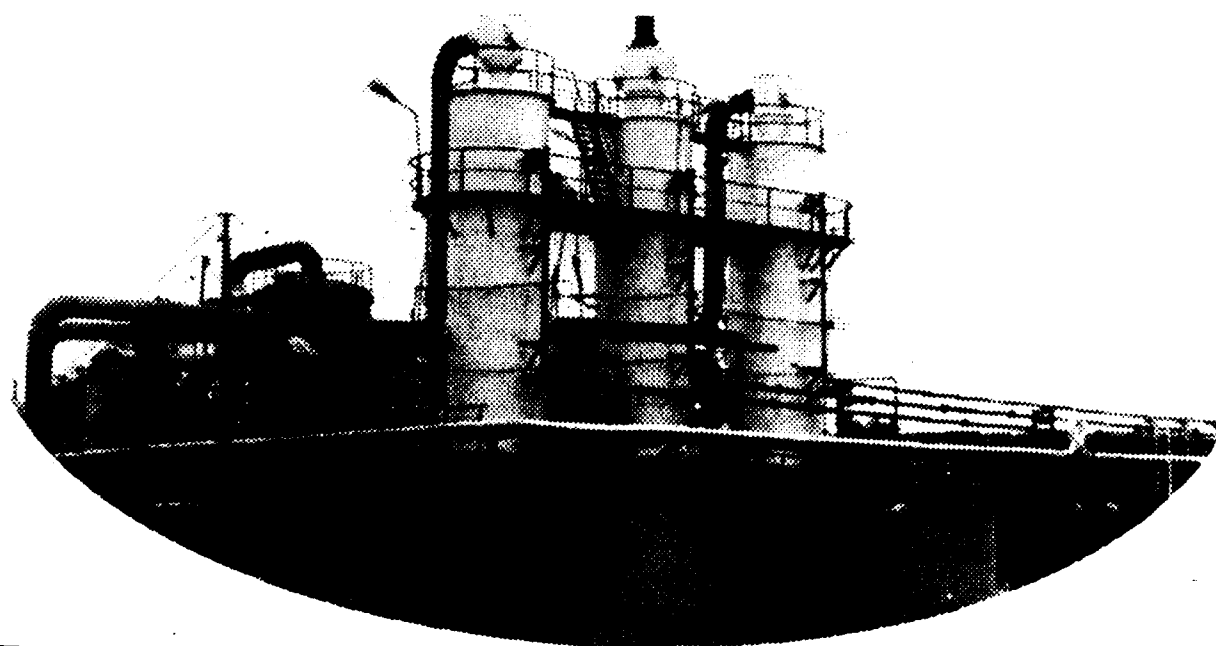


TAMIL NADU LEADS IN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Government has adopted a policy which is transparent and investor friendly which has motivated many reputed International Companies in a big way to choose Tamil Nadu State as an investment destination.

- ★ Rs.1,51,187 crores industrial investment have been made in Tamil Nadu.
- ★ Tamil Nadu is the leading State in the country regarding accelerated industrial development, rapid employment generation, alleviation of poverty, ensuring social justice and equality.
- ★ Tamil Nadu ranks first in starting cent percent export-oriented industries.

- ★ According to the analysis made by CMIE, Tamil Nadu ranks second in India in providing good quality infrastructural facilities.
- ★ The Government is taking effective steps for increased power generation. Against the present generation capacity of 7000 MW, Government is aiming to generate 12,000 MW power at a cost of Rs.40,000 crores in the next seven years and is confident of achieving the target.
- ★ Single Window System has been introduced for expediting approvals and clearances. Certain industries have been identified as thrust areas and specific policies for their development have been formulated.



- ★ According to the Centre for monitoring Indian Economy the position in May 1996 Tamil Nadu stood in the 5th place with an investment of Rs.90,650 crores, proposed and under implementation.
- ★ According to the latest report of CMIE, released in April 1999, which compares the various States in terms of investment inflows since May 1991 and up to the end of January 1999, Tamil Nadu has achieved the first rank in the whole country. The particulars are

<i>Tamil Nadu</i>	Rs.1,51,187 crores accounting for 11.50% of the total investment in the country approved and under implementation.
<i>Maharashtra</i>	Rs.1,51,058 crores (11.49%)
<i>Gujarat</i>	Rs.1,46,703 crores (11.16%)
<i>Orissa</i>	Rs.1,14,033 crores (8.67%)
<i>Karnataka</i>	Rs.1,07,703 crores (8.19%)
<i>Andhra Pradesh</i>	Rs.1,06,364 crores (8.09%)

- ★ The total investment at All India Level upto January 1999 is Rs.13,15,017 crores. Out of this, the investment in Tamil Nadu is Rs.1,51,187 crores.
- ★ The corresponding position in 1996 was Rs.10,72,753 crores at all India level and in Tamil Nadu Rs.90,650 crores. i.e. 8.45%.
- ★ **The increase in two and a half years is Rs.2,42,264 crores at All India level and Rs.60,537 crores in Tamil Nadu. This is 24.98% of the All India figure.**
- ★ Global auto majors like Ford, Hyundai, Mitshubhishi, etc., have chosen Tamil Nadu as their State for their investment. Hyundai

Motors with an investment of Rs.2,750 crores and Mitshubhishi Motors with an investment of Rs.320 crores were inaugurated and they have commenced their production.

- ★ The Rs.1,700 crores for car project has been inaugurated and it is expected to commence its commercial production in October 1999.
- ★ Closely on the heels of these auto majors, many foreign auto ancillary manufacturing companies have also chosen Tamil Nadu for setting up their manufacturing facilities involving a total investment of over Rs.1,000 crores. Of these Visteon, A.C.D., Ilgin auto, Valeo, etc., have already commenced production and many more are nearing completion.
- ★ In June 1998, foundation was laid for the Rs.24 crore Optical Fibre project. Quick progress has been achieved and the project is slated for commissioning in June 1999. The blood bags project coming up near Sriperumbudur at an investment of Rs.14.50 crores would commence production by March 2000. The Indian & Natural Medical Products company promoted by TIDCO at an investment of Rs.5.6 crore will be launching 18 aroma therapy products in the market. Sriram Auto Components Limited at a project cost of Rs.21 crores has commenced production in May 1998.
- ★ TIDCO has signed an agreement with M/s. Mahindra Realty and Infrastructure Developers Limited and IL & FS for an Auto Ancillary Park near Chennai in the associate sector at an estimated cost of Rs.210 crores.
- ★ Tamil Nadu Petrochem Park Limited, to implement the Rs.600 crores Petrochem Park project near Ennore, Chennai.

- ★ The Rs.320 crore TIDEL Software Technology Park, Taramani is under active implementation and is slated for commissioning in January 2000.
- ★ 'Tamil Nadu Technology City Limited' has been set up by TIDCO to implement the Hi-tech park project in Nanguneri taluk of Tirunelveli District in association with two foreign companies namely INFAC India Group, USA and AXES Technologies Jnc. USA. The estimated investment is Rs.800 crores.
- ★ TIDCO had successfully completed international competitive bidding for selection of developers for the multi-fuel power projects at 20 sites.
- ★ The consortium led by SIEMENS Germany has been selected by TIDCO to implement the Rs.6500 crore integrated LNG import terminal and 2000 MW Power Project on BOT Basis.
- ★ The consortium comprising M/s. Reliance Industries Limited, North American Coal Corporation, USA and Foster Wheeler and CEPA, Hongkong has been selected as the developer for the Rs.4000 crore Jeyamkondam Lignite Mining and Power Project. A separate company has been formed to implement the project.
- ★ In order to provide warehousing and storage space for various types of cargo handling, TIDCO is proposing to set up an Air-freight city complex near Chennai Airport, at a cost of Rs.75 crores.
- ★ The co-promoter for the Rs.20 crore Floriculture infrastructure park project at Hosur has been selected. Works are in progress so that the operation of this park will commence by October 1999.
- ★ TIDCO has signed a MOU with ATO-DLO, the Dutch Agency of the Netherlands to commission a detailed study on about 10 important fruits and vegetables of Tamil Nadu, which will cover harvesting, handling, transporting, storage etc.
- ★ Based on the study, a pilot project will be implemented. Tamil Nadu is one of the first States to avail the opportunity.
- ★ TIDCO is setting up a 100% E.O.U. Chicken processing in Pongalur, Coimbatore District at a project cost of Rs.30 crores in Associate sector with Pioneer Breeding farms as Co-promoters.
- ★ TIDCO is setting up a 100% EOU for manufacture of Frozen French Fries at a project cost of Rs.32 crores in Mettupalayam, Coimbatore District in association with Thiru R.C.Suresh, NRI, Kuwait, as Co-promoter.
- ★ M/s. NOVA c.m.p., Italy is setting up a new project for manufacture of Foamed and Free foamed PVC sheets (Synthetic wood) with a plant capacity of 8400 tonnes per annum in Chennai at a project cost of Rs.45.70 crores in Associate Sector with TIDCO. These products are wood substitutes and are extensively used in civil construction, furniture and industry.
- ★ TIDCO is promoting a 5.0 million tonnes per annum Refinery project with Nagarjuna Group, Hyderabad as the Co-promoter. The project cost is estimated to be around Rs.3,200 crores.

- ★ A toll road management project has been promoted by TIDCO along with IL & FS, Transroute International France and CCF, France. The promoter agreement for this project is mainly for development of Highways, Bridges, By-Passes in the State.
- ★ SIPCOT has successfully developed various Industrial Complexes.
- ★ Gummidipoondi-II is being developed with an area of 667.75 acres. SIPCOT is also adding another 246 acres as an expansion of Phase-II.
- ★ Cuddalore Phase-II has been planned over an area of 220 acres and land acquisition proceedings are in progress.
- ★ For extension of Hosur Phase-II an extent of 128 acres of patta land has been acquired and 56 acres of poramboke land is yet to be alienated.
- ★ A new Industrial Park in Cheyyar is being set up in industrially backward Thiruvanna malai District.
- ★ A new Industrial Park is being setup in Irungattukottai in Sriperumpudur Taluk in Kancheepuram District.
- ★ An area of about 2469 acres of land was identified for setting up of an Industrial Park by SIPCOT in Pondur, Sriperumpudur-C, Irungulam, Mambakkam, Thirumangalam, Sirumangadu and Sandavellur Villages of Sriperumpudur Taluk in Kancheepuram.
- ★ Another site measuring about 2429 acres was identified for setting up of a Satellite Township by SIPCOT in Nemili, Sriperumpudur-B, Ayakolathur, Mannur and Valarpuram Villages.
- ★ A site measuring roughly about 1408 acres behind IGGI Resort for setting up of an Industrial Park by SIPCOT at Sriperumpudur in Sriperumpudur-C, Vadamangalam, Mambakkam and other villages.
- ★ There is a proposal to set up a Satellite Township at Gummidipoondi. The land has to be identified for the project.
- ★ The proposal for setting up of an Export Promotion Industrial Park has been approved by the Government of India with their participation of Rs.10 crores. For this 224 acres have been earmarked in Gummidipoondi Phase-II for setting up this project at a cost of Rs.19.90 crores.
- ★ The infrastructure projects undertaken by TACID comprise promotion of Industrial Growth Centres, Complexes, augmenting and improving infrastructure in areas which have developed as industrial complexes on their own, provide facilities for growth of exports etc.
- ★ TACID is setting up two industrial growth centres at Perundurai and Gangai Kondan and two industrial complexes at Nilakkottai and Bargur.
- ★ To boost exports, TACID is setting up a Permanent Exhibition Centre at Nandambakkam in Chennai.
- ★ TACID has identified large extents of land for acquisition so as to create "Land Bank" for offering to entrepreneurs for setting up industries.
- ★ Government of Tamil Nadu has established a composite paper mill at Pugalur in Karur District to manufacture 50,000 tonnes of

Newsprint and 40,000 tonnes of Printing and Writing paper annually using bagasse as the principal raw material.

- ★ The Ministry of Commerce, Government of India has accorded the "Export House" status to TNPL during September 1998.
- ★ TNPL has installed a multifuel power boiler in Kallakurichi Co-operative Sugar Mill Unit-II for augmenting the availability of bagasse to meet its raw material requirements at a capital outlay of Rs.26 crores.
- ★ TNPL has signed a MoU with Quena Newsprint, Egypt for providing technical assistance and support for erection and commissioning of a Newsprint and Paper mill in Egypt.
- ★ Tamil Nadu Cements Corporation Ltd. has commenced modernisation/process conversion project works to enhance its production capacity from 4 to 5 lakh tonnes per annum at a total project cost of Rs.160 crores.
- ★ In 1998-99, TAMIN has produced about 17059 CBM of black and colour granite blocks, 25,008 sq.mts. of finished granite products and 1,59,040 MT of major minerals. In 1999-2000 TAMIN will produce 21,690 CBM of Black and Colour granite 36,350 sq.mtr finished granite and 1,39,500 M.T. of major minerals.
- ★ TAMIN is taking steps to set up a molybdenum beneficiation plant at a total estimated cost of Rs.100 crores at Velampatti village Harur taluk in Dharmapuri District.
- ★ For setting up of downstream industries based on Graphite, Projek Kayangan Sdn. Bhd, Malaysia has proposed to set up Exfoliated Graphite cum captive power project in Sivagangai District.
- ★ During the year 1998-99, TANMAG has produced 56,541 metric tonnes of magnesites.
- ★ Tamil Nadu Salt Corporation Limited has developed 2300 acres to produce Industrial and edible salt out of the effective area of 4825 acres available for salt development in Mariyur Valinokkam Salt Complex, Valinokkam, Ramanathapuram District. By 1999-2000 the production would be increased from the existing level of 1,30,000 MT to 2,00,000 MT and the expected turnover would be increased from the present level of Rs.5 crores to Rs.15 crores.
- ★ Tamil Nadu Salt Corporation Limited has a proposal to set up a plant at Valinokkam at a cost of Rs.6 crore for production of refined free flowing iodised salt with a capacity to produce 36,000 TPA of free flowing salt and 3000 TPA as salt fines.
- ★ There are 35 sugar mills functioning in the State, of which 16 are in Co-operative sector, 3 in Public sector and 16 in Private sector. Out of the 16 Co-operative sugar mills, 10 are financially weak. Rehabilitation package for revitalising the financially weak mills is under consideration.
- ★ Co-generation plants had already been set up in two sugar mills.
- ★ Feasibility of implementing the co-generation scheme in 9 sugar mills in Co-operative sector and one sugar mill in Public Sector under joint venture is under consideration.



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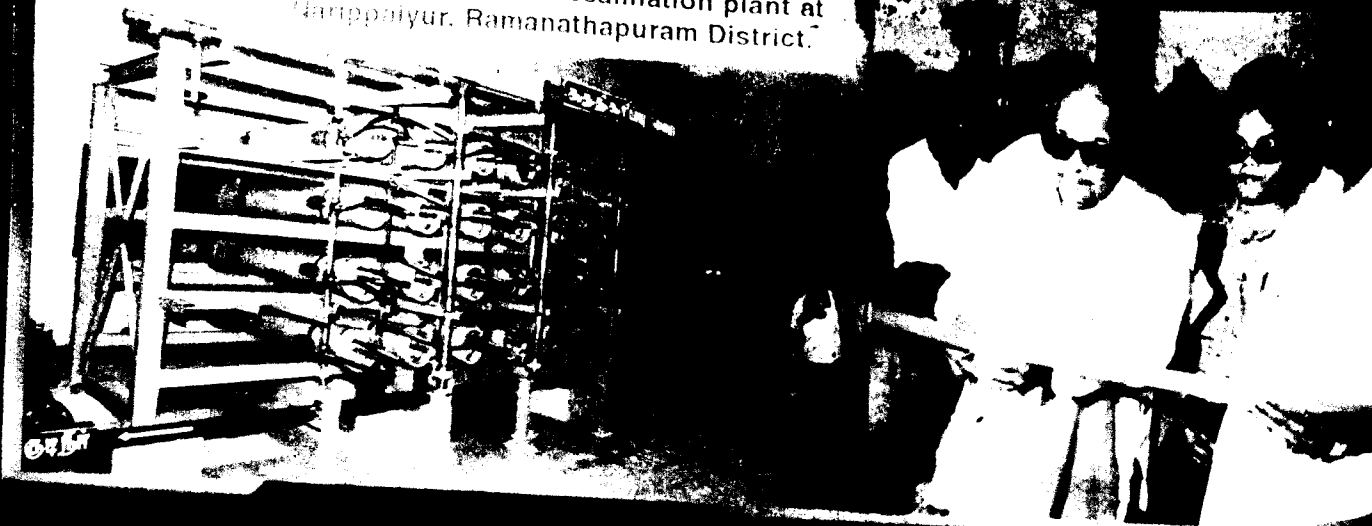
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