



Tamil Arasu

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a year of Service to the people

We complete one year of service to the people. The AIADMK Ministry assumed office on June 30, 1977. This Government's declared policy is to go all out to fulfil the aspirations of the people, even the lowest and provide a clean, efficient administration, devoid of the dividing walls between Administration and the people. We have taken all possible measures to tone up the administrative machinery and to make it shake off its old fibre.

Though admittedly one year is too short a period to tackle the various gigantic problems, most of them being off-shoots of the former regime, this Ministry has been able to deal efficiently with the problems without much fanfare of propaganda. Our approach to various problems and our ways of finding solutions even to the intriguing ones have really made a new mark in the governance of the State.

The development activities have recorded rapid progress all around. A new wave of change is visible in rural sector, the development of which is our first concern.

In order to supply relevant information to the people and keep them abreast with the trends and developments in Tamil Nadu, this "SPECIAL NUMBER OF TAMILARASU" carries the message of "ONE YEAR OF PROGRESS IN TAMIL NADU."

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1

CHIEF MINISTER'S PLEDGE

"In two years, I will make a success of Prohibition in Tamil Nadu. I have taken a pledge to accept Prohibition enforcement as a challenge and implement it effectively", said the Chief Minister, Thiru M. G. Ramachandran, addressing the Madras Reporter's Guild on June 11.

In his address he added :

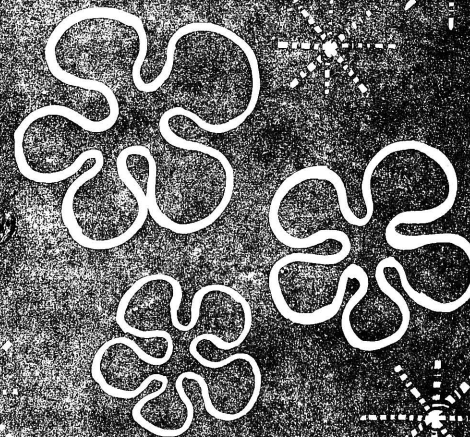
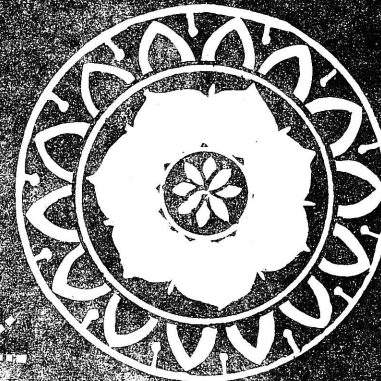
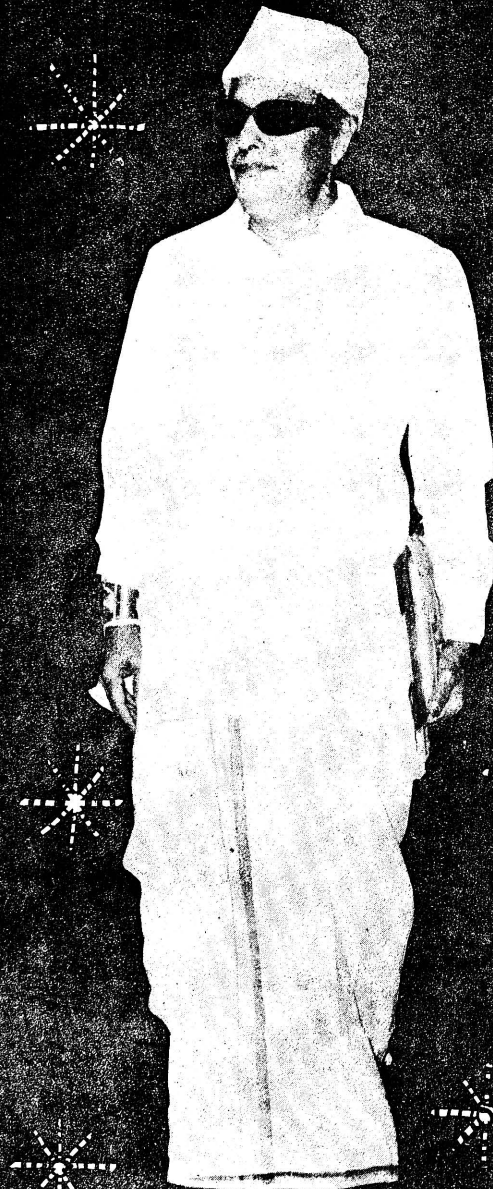
The Government of Tamil Nadu have been initiating many measures to root out the drink evil. The enforcement of Prohibition will be intensified. Drastic changes will be made in the dry law to give deterrent punishment to the bootleggers and other violators of the prohibition laws.

The argument that Prohibition may fail in Tamil Nadu because it is a failure in other States holds no water. The success or failure of Prohibition depends upon people's willingness and the conditions prevailing in certain States. We need not retrace our steps because the neighbouring States are hesitant to enforce Prohibition.

Language Issue

We have no hatred towards Hindi. We have valid reasons to oppose Hindi being introduced as official language. The non-Hindi people will be made second rate citizens if Hindi is made as the sole official language. Years ago, Dr. B. C. Roy, former Chief-Minister of West Bengal, warned the Centre "If Hindi is imposed on West Bengal, it will result in secession". We say that imposition of Hindi would endanger Indian Unity.

I want the Hindi-speaking people to understand properly our sentiments on the language issue. Some say that we can have English as link language between the States and the Centre; but I am not able to understand



these people when they say that Hindi can be the language of correspondence between the States. If we have English as the link language between the States and the Centre, why can't we have the same language (English) as link language among the States? The officers of State Governments who have correspondence in English with the Centre are well versed in English language. Hence, is it not convenient for them to have English as the medium for correspondence between the States? I am yet to understand why Hindi is required when English is accepted as a link language.

Press

My Government are not interested in executing any programme just for publicity. What we do is more important than being vociferous in indulging in publicity for what we intend doing. Such rattling benefits no one.

I am aware of the grouse that I am not meeting the Press as often as possible. I have a fear that how far the newspapers would report me correctly without distortion. If the reporting is in-correct, such reportage defeats the very purpose of the statements. That is why I am hesitant to meet the Reporters. This Ministry will be just completing one year of its service. Hereafter, I will avail all opportunities to meet the newsmen.

People's Faith

People have voted me to power with a belief that I am a good man. I don't think I have any other qualifications. I can't decide myself whether I am a good man or a bad man. Posterity alone can judge this. But I can declare that I will strive my level best to make myself worthy of the confidence that the people have reposed in me. That's why, in every action I take, I am very cautious and careful.

FIGHT AGAINST DRINK EVIL

TAMIL Nadu was the first State to introduce total Prohibition. Prohibition was suspended on 30-8-1971 and consequently liquor, arrack and toddy shops were opened throughout the State.

Respecting the public sentiments, the Government were forced to reconsider its policy and re-introduced Prohibition. Toddy shops were abolished on 30-8-1973 and arrack and foreign liquor shops disappeared on and from 1-9-1974. The State has been having total Prohibition once again.

With its reintroduction, intensive propaganda on Prohibition is being carried on. Apart from the programme brought out by the A.I.R. and Television, the Gramasevaks, Mukiyasevikas and other staff attached to the Blocks are attending to Prohibition propaganda and education of the rural masses.

Prohibition Committees

Village Prohibition Committees have been organised initially in Orathanadu Taluk of Thanjavur District and extended on a State-wide basis to enlist public co-operation in the enforcement of Prohibition. The influence of the Committee has had a radical effect in curbing drinking among the villagers.

The Tamil Nadu Prohibition Council, a non-official social body, is functioning in this State, as an

ancillary to the All India Prohibition Council. It has ramifications in the districts also. This Council enjoys the co-operation of Sarvodaya workers. An addict-free society has since come into existence on the initiative of Thiru Prabhudas Patwari, Governor of Tamil Nadu, and it is resorting to mass publicity besides transmitting information to the Police regarding Prohibition offenders.

District Committees

The highlight of the Gandhi Jayanthi Week during the year 1977 was the celebration of Prohibition Day. The District Prohibition Committee headed by the Collectors meet periodically and review the implementation of Prohibition in the Districts and take measures to erase pockets where Prohibition offences are committed.

A short film on the evils of illicit drink has also been produced by the Director of Information and Public Relations and screened in the Cinema Theatres besides exhibition of slides on the theme. The Director of Information and Public Relations has arranged for the dramas with popular themes to carry the message of Prohibition to the rural folks living in far-flung villages.

Concentration is now made on detection of illicit distillation, transport and sale of liquor with a view to striking the evil at its roots. The strength of the enforcement Police staff in Madras city has been strengthened so as to concentrate on these aspects in the city and its belt areas.

Permit Holders Decrease

The Government Servants Conduct Rules have been amended prohibiting the possession and consumption of liquor or any intoxicating drug by Govt. servants. The liquor permit rules have been tightened in 1977 with the result that the number of permit holders has drastically come down in the course of the last one year from 69,065 to 8,213 at the end of April, 1978.

There has been appreciable decrease in number of cases relating to smuggling of liquor from other States, illicit distillation, possession of arrack or spirit, illicit transport of drugs, offences under Dangerous Drugs Act and the miscellaneous cases of drunkenness.

We have launched a fight against the drink evil, and, with public co-operation, we hope, we can give a severe blow to this hydra-headed monster.



"In a nutshell, alcohol ruins one physically, morally, intellectually, and economically"

—MAHATMA GANDHI



IN his address to the people of Tamil Nadu, immediately after assumption of office, the Chief Minister, Thiru M. G. Ramachandran, asseverated that the people would have the benefit of a clean, corrupt-free administration.

True to his words, Chief Minister gave a new direction to the administration, and actions have been taken to gear up administrative machinery through administrative reform, restructuring, inspection and training. Training of personnel and inspection of their work have received an impetus and functionaries at various levels are being given training for promotion of functional efficiency and better service to the people.

The Principal, Civil Services Training Institute, Bhavanisagar and the Course Director, Secretariat Training Institute have received higher level training in theoretical and practical methodology. Considerable emphasis is laid on public relations particularly towards giving expeditious satisfaction to common man. Two officers were deputed for the diploma in Public Relations Course run by the Institute of Public Relations and Management and a third is currently on the course.

Twelve Tamil Nadu Middle Level Officers completed a two year Special Programme in Management at Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, in December, 1977. Some of these officers were pressed into service as Associate Faculty for a specially tailored Government of India Course at Madurai.

A part-time training course was got conducted at the Secretariat by Davar's College of Commerce, Madras, for Personal Assistants to Law Officers, with a view to improve their knowledge and skills.

Cleansing Administration

Immediately after the present Government assumed office, they gave a categorical assurance that they are determined to give the State **Clean Administration**. In pursuance of this assurance, an important step was taken to review the working of the Inspection Cells both at Head Quarters and in the Districts and make their inspections purposive, educative and effective.

The Central Inspection Cell functioning at Secretariat comprising three District Revenue Officers inspects each year 8 to 10 offices of Heads of Departments. Branches of Board of Revenue and Departments of Secretariat. In the

Districts, Inspection Cells function at the rate of one Cell per District except Chengalpattu, Dharmapuri, Nilgiris and Kanyakumari which are looked after by the adjacent District Cells.

The working of the Inspection Cells at the Head-Quarters and in Districts has been revamped after the present Government assumed office. A new feature is training in office procedure for Junior Assistants, Assistants and Superintendents, Regional and District Office Heads at District Head-Quarters and follow-up of Surprise Checks.

Courses on Office Procedure are to improve Office Procedure and Administrative efficiency, to remedy specific defects and to lay special emphasis on the need for the staff to attend to public complaints and grievances effectively and promptly. So far over 300 Ministerial staff and 75 District/Regional Level Officers have been trained in Office Procedure including Personnel Management and Public Relations.

DISTRESS OF THE MISA DETENUS ALLEVIATED

In October, 1977, Government reviewed the policy relating to the Government servants who had been dismissed or removed from service or suspended following their detention under MISA during the internal Emergency. All such persons except one who was involved in a criminal case have been reinstated in service. The Government have also ordered that the period between the date of dismissal/removal from service/suspension and the date of reinstatement of the employee concerned should be treated as on duty for purposes of drawal of increment and pension. They also receive full pay and allowances paid for the intervening period between the date of dismissal/removal/suspension and the date of reinstatement in service of the employee concerned. **

Surprise Checks

From 1-8-77 District Inspection Cells have been entrusted with the special function of conducting "Surprise Checks" in various Departments and Government Under takings especially at points and places which are sources of public dissatisfaction and complaint. Specific guidelines have been given to the District Inspection Cell staff on the procedures to be adopted. These checks ensure and restore vigorous and effective internal supervision, prompt and efficient response to public need and to prevent, remedy and punish delays or misconduct at points and places in Government Offices.

The Special Officers and the Superintendents of the District Inspection Cells separately visit offices in their Districts **without prior notice** and cause surprise checks to be conducted by the available departmental supervisory staff, listing specific instances of delay, harassment, irregularity or misconduct which effect clean and efficient administration.

Within a short period of nine months, these Surprise Checks have created an impact on the administration at the cutting edge levels and public offices are now more and more conscious of their work and their responsibilities to the public. The Surprise Checks have brought to light several avoidable lapses, delays and other defects such as orders passed by Heads of Departments not conveyed to the concerned parties, land assignment applications delayed, renewal of licence applications delayed, delays in grant of pattas, etc. Action is pursued at the highest level with the concerned Secretariat Administrative Department/Head of Department/Special Officer, Corporation of Madras to eradicate these delays/lapses/defects and to revitalize the departmental supervision and thus tone up the effectiveness of the administration, for achieving maximum citizen's satisfaction.

Emulation by Other States

The Government of India have appreciated the scheme of Inspection and Surprise Checks followed in Tamil Nadu and have commended it to other States for emulation. Other States — Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka and Orissa have addressed us for details regarding the working of the Scheme so that they could examine the feasibility of introducing the pattern in their administrative system. **

THE unprecedented cyclone and flood during 1977 and heavy rains have caused extensive damages to human lives, huts and houses, crops, cattle, land, irrigation sources, roads, buildings and installations in the districts of Thanjavur, Tiruchirappalli, Pudukkottai, Madurai, South Arcot, Salem, Coimbatore, Ramanathapuram, Chengalpattu and Tirunelveli. The total extent of the damages has been estimated approximately at Rs. 155 crores.

Heavy Damages

The break-up details for the damages of Rs. 155 crores during 1977 are given below :

I. Damage to Private Property

(Rs. in crores)

1. Crop	41.81
2. Sand casting of lands and wells	3.51
3. Cattle, Sheep and Poultry	1.82
4. Fishermen	1.35
5. Weavers	1.00
6. Housing	33.88

II. Damage to Public Property

7. Irrigation (Govt. sources)	14.23
8. Irrigation (Panchayat Union Tanks)	3.85
9. National Highways	3.50
10. State Govt. Roads	13.51
11. Panchayat Union and Panchayat Roads	13.15
12. Govt. Buildings	2.09
13. Panchayat Union and Panchayat Buildings	1.24
14. Sea erosion	1.27
15. Ports	0.57

III. Damage to Public Bodies

16. Public Sector Bodies	6.43
17. Madras Corporation	8.17
18. Municipalities	2.32
19. Educational Institutions	1.22

The Government have asked for Central assistance to the tune of Rs. 129.56 crores against the damages of Rs. 154.72 crores. Government of India have sanctioned only Rs. 48.31 crores (Rs. 33.91 crores plus 14.40 crores). This Government sanctioned Rs. 69.38 crores upto 31-3-78 in respect of all departments for relief and rehabilitation on cyclone and flood. The expenditure upto 31-3-78 is estimated at Rs. 70.28 crores.

Hutment Grants

During the cyclone in 1972, hutment grant was given upto Rs. 80 per damaged hut. 2,33,971 families were given hutment grants during 1972. The above hutment grant has been increased considerably and liberally upto Rs. 200/- as free

grant per hut during 1977 in view of increased cost of hutting materials. A sum of Rs. 10.3 crores has been dispersed approximately for 5,50,538 huts in the flood affected districts.

Land Tax Remission

Government have allowed full remission of land revenue, water cess, local cess, additional assessment, additional water cess and commercial crops assessment payable for Fasli 1387.

The collection of arrears of land revenue, water cess, etc., has been postponed to Fasli 1388. Panchayat Unions have been requested to order similar postponement of collection of arrears of local cess surcharge. On account of these remission etc., the loss of revenue

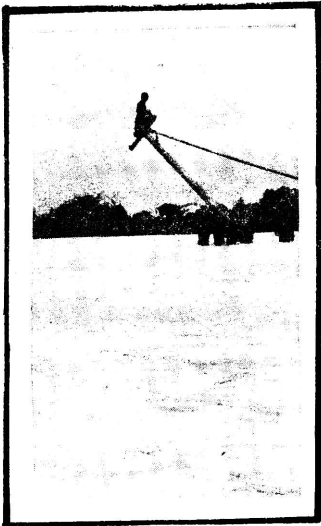


**CYCLONE AND
FLOOD RELIEF
MEASURES**

in the current year will be Rs. 5.32 crores. (Rs. 3.32 crores for land revenue etc. and Rs. 2 crores under loan postponement).

Community Shelters

In view of unprecedented flood and cyclone during 1977, Government have thought of taking long term measures of putting up community shelters of sturdy and weather resistant constructions on coastal lines at suitable places accommodating about 500-600 persons at a time. During ordinary times, these halls will be used for community purpose such as adult education, study hall for students, meeting place for villagers, etc. The Government have ordered so far the construction of 7 such shelter halls i.e., one in Pudukkottai, one in Thanjavur and 5 in South Arcot districts. The Indian Red Cross Society has offered



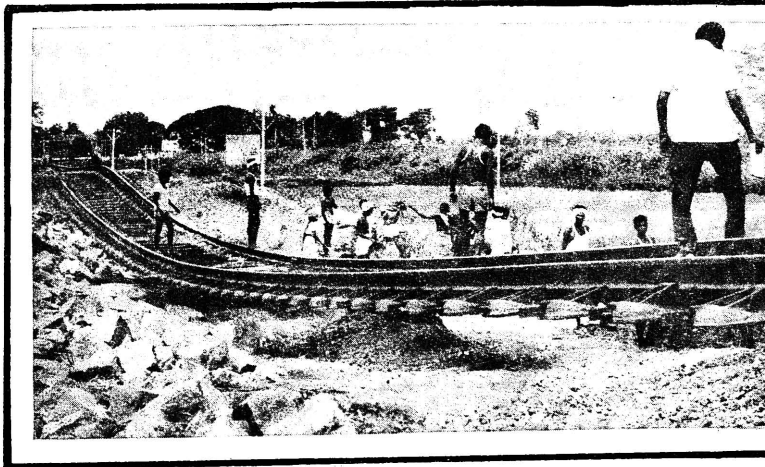
to construct 25-30 of these shelters on 50% matching basis.

Sophisticated Equipments

While our weather warning system is good, there is need to make it even more sophisticated. High powered bull dozers for removal of large extent of sand cast lands, equipment for forecasting and Radar systems, flow measurements for State Irrigation Departments, communications to State Police are required. Assistance has been sought for from the Government of India for procuring these equipments including those of foreign origin.

Coastal Management

For drawing up a programme for Coastal Management, the forma-



tion of a High Power Technical Committee to study and to draw lessons for the future, associating in it authorities of Meteorological Department, Naval Officers and Officers of the State and Central Governments has been suggested to the Government of India.

Shelters by Voluntary Organisations

Consequent on the appeal made by the Governor and Chief Minister to contribute liberally for the relief and rehabilitation of persons affected by flood and cyclone, voluntary organisations, individuals, organisations of other countries origin such

as "CARE", "UNICEF", "CASA" and Rotary International and other State Governments, i.e., Karnataka, Gujarat, Maharashtra, etc., have come forward to put up hutments and community shelters for the flood victims.

It has been proposed at the instance of the Governor to approach the Chambers of Commerce, and Industrialists to adopt a few most backward villages in the cyclone and flood affected areas so as to provide minimum infrastructure amenities in the villages. A campaign in this regard is being launched to involve such Organisation.

MANY unexpected changes have taken place in food front during the last one year after the present Ministry assumed office as a result of the changes in the food policy decision of the Centre.

The Southern Food Zone constituted in October, 1976, included all Southern States except Kerala. In 1977, the Government of India wanted to ascertain the views of the State Governments whether Kerala could be included in the Southern Food Zone.

Tamil Nadu and Kerala consume mainly boiled rice. Raw rice is the stable food in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka and they produce large quantities of raw rice. We were afraid that the interests of Tamil Nadu would suffer if Kerala is included in the Southern Food Zone. We pleaded strongly with the Centre that it was not possible for movement of boiled rice into Tamil Nadu from Andhra Pradesh and Karna-

able to succeed in managing the food situation in the State. This success amply speaks of the far-sightedness, pragmatism and flexibility that characterise the food policy of the State Government.

When the State was trying to adjust itself with the basic changes brought about in the food policy, cyclone-flood lashed at the end of 1977; yet there was no scarcity of rice and rice supply was normal in the open market with no increase in rice price, the public distribution system was not hampered

No Price hike

As a result of the various measures taken to increase food production, it is expected that food production during 1978-79 will increase to 64 lakh tonnes. This is sufficient to meet the demands of the State. The Government have decided to continue the public distribution

made in the procurement policy without affecting the interests of the farmers. Government are very keen to ensure that the farmers receive remunerative paddy price, bearing in mind the cost of cultivation. The Centre fix the paddy procurement price on the basis of the recommendations of the Agricultural Prices Commission.

When the question of fixing price for 1977-78 came up, the Government of Tamil Nadu made an emphatic plea with the Centre that the procurement price be substantively raised. The Centre passed orders fixing Rs. 77/- for coarse variety of paddy as against Rs. 74/- fixed earlier per quintal. The paddy price fixed by the Centre on all-India basis is applicable to all States. The Centre have also made it clear that the State should not increase the procurement price on any account in the form of bonus or additional amount or in any other form.

The question of fixing procurement price for 1978-79 will be reviewed in September, 1978. The Government will plead for increase in paddy price so as to meet the demand of the farmers. Since we have no power to raise procurement prices, the compulsory procurement system has been given up and the farmers are enabled to sell their paddy at profitable price to traders without any restrictions.

After October, 1977 we had been following the policy of procuring 20% of the rice hulled by the large millers instead of direct procurement from farmers. Out of 14,000 rice mills, more than 9,000 mills have been exempted from this levy on the ground that they are small hullers.

A levy of 20% in the case of paddy and 10% in the case of rice has been imposed when they are moved from surplus districts.

Rice Production

The total rice production in Tamil Nadu is 64 lakh tonnes, out of which less than 6 lakhs are collected by Government under the levy system. So, the quantity normally procured in a year is less than one-tenth of the total production. The procurement of rice through the levy on the traders and millers is less than one lakh tonnes during the last one year. The procurement at the fixed procurement price is only one-sixtieth of the total produc-

A year of Plenty in FOOD FRONT

taka to compensate the boiled rice that found its way into Kerala and that the *status quo*, with regard to Southern Food Zone should be maintained.

When negotiations were going on the Government of India abolished the Zonal system in October, 1977 without consulting the States and giving advance intimation to them, and declared the country as a single Food Zone.

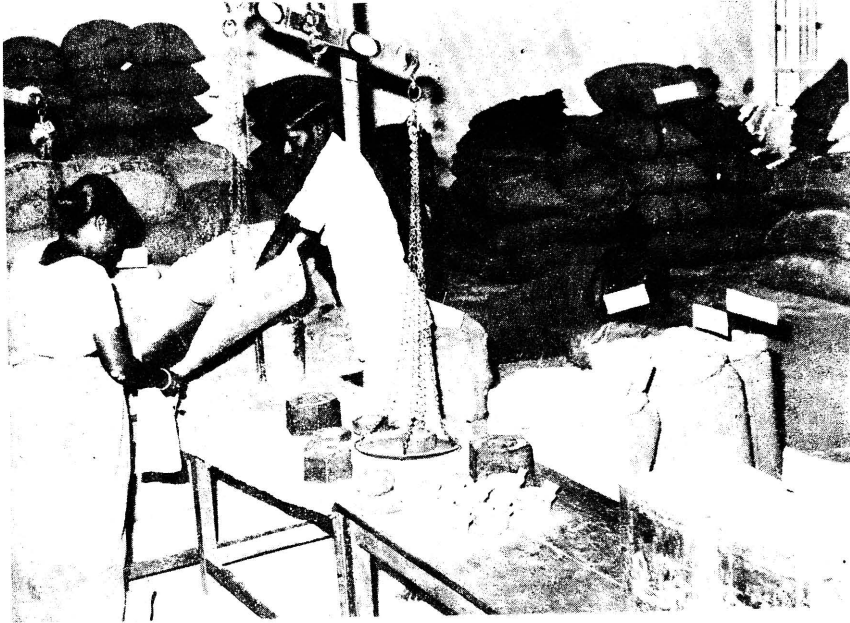
We look forward to implement the new policy whole heartedly since the Centre gave us the assurance that they would not allow the interests of the State get into difficulties as a result of the new food policy made on all-India basis;

It was not absolutely possible to predict the consequences of the new policy of treating the country as one food zone. Yet, we were

system to control the open market price of rice and keep the rice supply steady throughout the year at fixed fair price without allowing it being subjected to the vagaries of open market forces.

The most heartening feature of the food policy is that the food situation is normal when the present Ministry completes one year of its service to the people and Government have sufficient stock on hand to keep the supply at fair price through the public distribution channel without any increase in price and creating scarcity during the lean period.

Our decision to continue the public distribution system is not at the cost of the private trade. Government have created a smooth and congenial atmosphere for the free operation of the private trade in food grains. Changes have been



farmers have now the necessary facilities and freedom to sell their paddy at the prices they consider as profitable.

Direct Purchase

To give an impetus for higher paddy price for farmers, Government made arrangements to purchase paddy directly from the farmers at Rs. 95/- per quintal for medium varieties and Rs. 90/- for coarse variety through the direct purchase centres set up in rural areas by the Civil Supplies Corporation. More than one lakh tonnes have been purchased at this higher price which is in operation from February, 1978. The Centre has fixed Rs. 77/- for coarse variety but the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation buys the same variety at Rs. 90/-. This Corporation buys the medium variety at the rate of Rs. 95/- per quintal as against Rs. 81/- fixed by the Centre.

tion in the State during last one year.

No Levy

All this makes it obvious that the farmers have the freedom of selling their paddy at profitable price in the open market. In spite of the fact that the procurement is very low, the farmers had a grouse that they could not sell paddy in the open market at profitable price. The above mentioned facts leave no doubt that the complaint of the

farmers will hold no water ; yet the Government wanted to remove feeling from the minds of the farmers. Even this levy system was abolished with effect from May 11, 1978. This new policy will be in force on experimental basis till the end of this year. The food policy for next year will be evolved on the basis of the experience of this policy. One point is clear from all these measures viz., the State Government are anxious to help the farmers even though it has no power to increase procurement price. The

The Civil Supplies Corporation has opened hundreds of direct purchase centres in villages. This Corporation has arranged for purchasing paddy through the regulated market committee in North Arcot and Thanjavur districts. The arrangement made on experimental basis may be gradually extended to other districts. This arrangement has been made for the benefit of the farmers. Public have appreciated this which has invited the attention of other States. All this has been made to create normal situation in food

supply. It is relevant to point out that the interests of the consumers also weighed much with the Government and we have also taken many measures to protect consumers' interests, avoid price rise and to keep a vigil over the situation.

During 1975, the price level in surplus districts was Rs. 3/- per kilo as against Rs. 4/- in deficit districts. The medium raw rice in surplus district is now sold at a price between Rs. 1.50 to Rs. 1.65 and the price does not exceed Rs. 1.80 in deficit districts. The price level in June 1978 is the lowest when compared to price in the month of June during the last 5 years.

As far as pulses are concerned, the price is higher than the price level prevailed last year. The reason is not far to seek. Pulse production in Tamil Nadu is very small, and we import pulses from producing States where the price is ruling high.

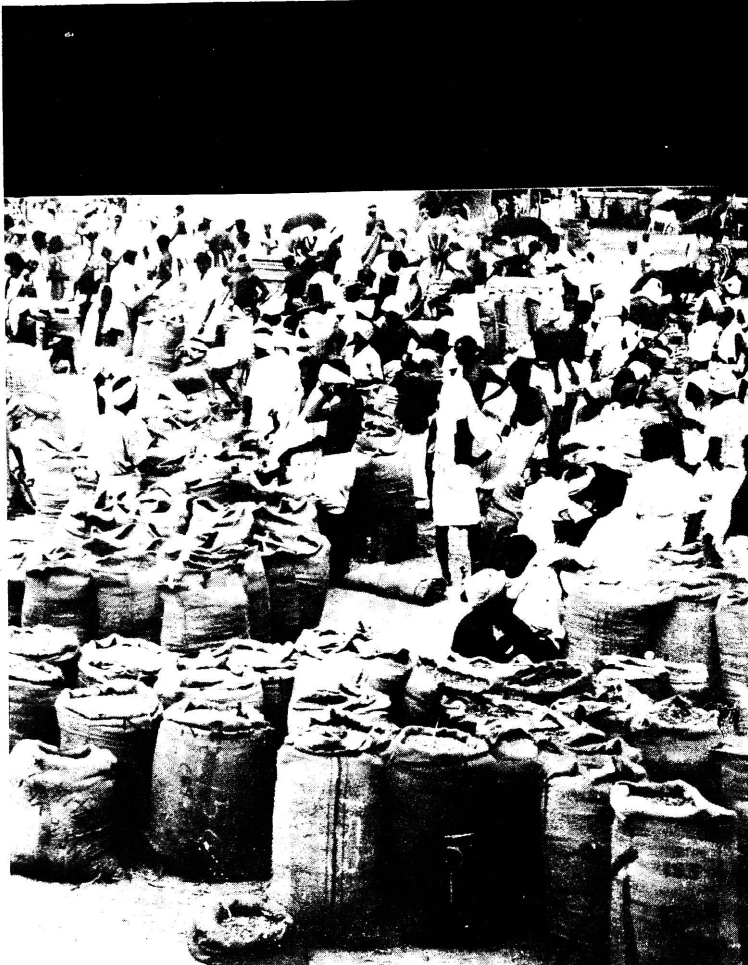
Decrease in Oil Price

The price of groundnut oil was Rs. 8.80 per kilo in 1975, Rs. 10 in 1976 and Rs. 11.70 in February, 1977. The groundnut oil is now sold at Rs. 6.50 to Rs. 7.00 per kilo. The rules regulating the export of groundnut kernel and groundnut oil have been removed to safeguard the interests of the farmers. Yet, the groundnut oil price is under control. This trend in price is giving us encouragement. The gingelly oil is also sold at Rs. 8.50 as against Rs. 10.15 per kg. last year.

The chillies were sold between Rs. 15.50 to Rs. 20 per kg. The price trend is Rs. 6 to Rs. 7 during the month of June, 1978. The coriander price is between Rs. 4.50 to Rs. 5.50 as against Rs. 8 in June, 1977. The millets have recorded a downward trend and they are available for Re 1 or Rs. 1.25, a price reduction of 20 paise per kg.

Many trade regulations have been made to control hoarders, middlemen and speculators. The freedom of the merchants is not restricted and a congenial climate has been created to protect the interests of the consumers also.

The Government have chalked out a programme to open one fair price shop in every village so that the villagers may receive the essential commodities at fair prices.



Supply in Villages

The public distribution outlets numbering about 9,000 have been selling rice, wheat and levy sugar. Action is being taken to convert gradually these public distribution shops as 'fair price grocery shops' so as to sell commodities like chillies, tamarind, pulses and edible oils and also open such shops wherever necessary.

Under the 'one fair price shop for one village scheme,' 442 new fair price shops have been opened in villages in Tirunelveli district 1,046 new shops are being opened in Madurai and Ramanathapuram districts. It is proposed to extend this scheme to the districts of Salem and Dharmapuri in the light of the experience gained in running these shops in Madurai and Ramanathapuram districts. The important components of our food policy are : (i) increase in production (ii) provi-

sion of fair price to the farmers (iii) proper distribution (iv) creation of conducive atmosphere for freedom of the private trade and their realisation of social responsibility (v) intensive distribution of essential commodities through the public distribution outlets in order to control the price.

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

Time was when food problem was volatile ; the situation is now completely changed. There is now peace, plenty, self-sufficiency in food front. We are now in a comfortable situation due to the co-operation of the public, farming community and traders. The people of Tamil Nadu and the Government may take a legitimate pride in creating such a comfortable position in food front during the last one year.



Perspective on AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURE is the primary and core sector of the State both in terms of employment and income. We have been adopting various measures for the last one year to increase the productivity of the soil and profitability of the farmers. Our efforts to introduce new changes in the farming pattern and also to provide all facilities for the farming community have found fruition. The allocation for agriculture has been stepped up considerably.

The outlay for agriculture has been increased to Rs. 30 crores as against Rs. 22 or Rs. 24 crores in the preceding years.

Increase in Production

The rice production during 1976-77 was only 53 lakh tonnes and it reached 62 lakh tonnes during 1977-78. This is an all time high in rice production. This spurt in production removed scarcity in rice supply.

Irrigation

Water from some reservoirs was released belatedly in 1976-77. Water release is an important factor contributing for good harvest. Realising this need water was released in advance from almost all the

reservoirs and this has helped the farmers to a greater extent.

Cyclone and Flood

Tamil Nadu has been subjected to the fury of nature. The worst sufferers are the farmers. Flood and Cyclone lashed at Tamil Nadu in 1972. But the Flood and Cyclone of 1977 was un-precedented in the history of the State and the damages caused was heavy and severe. To give relief to the farmers, particularly small farmers and cultivating tenants Government supplied seeds and coconut seedlings free of cost. Subsidy was also granted for reviving sugarcane, plantain and betel-leaf farms. A note-worthy feature in providing relief to the farmers affected by Flood and Cyclone is that the allocation made in 1972 for land levelling was only Rs. 75 lakhs, but now we have allocated Rs. 230 lakhs for this work, apart from other relief measures provided for the farmers. The details of allocation made for different categories of work are given below :

1. 1,718 tonnes paddy seeds worth Rs. 30 lakhs had been distributed to the small farmers and cultivating tenants.
2. a subsidy of Rs. 87,532 was given to farmers and tenants who had raised sugarcane
3. small farmers and cultivating tenants who have raised plantain crop were granted Rs. 5,42,602 as subsidy
4. 98,164 coconut seedlings were distributed among small and cultivating tenants.
5. The amount granted for small as well as cultivating tenants for reviving their betel-leaf farms was Rs. 10,26,420.
6. an area of 7064 hectares has been reclaimed and revived. The small farmers were given this service free of cost.
7. farmers were given pesticides at a subsidised rate of 23% without any discrimination. The amount allocated for this category of relief was Rs. 1 crore.

Bumper crop

The new strain cultivation programme has been accorded priority in agricultural planning. The area

under High Yielding Variety both paddy and millets has steadily increased. The area under High Yielding Variety was 18.60 lakh hectares in 1974-75 but in 1977-78 it was 24.36 lakh hectares. The acreage under millets in 77-78 was 5.39 lakh hectares as against 3.56 lakh hectares in 1974-75. The new variety ADT, IET 1722, TKM 8, IS 3541 CS, 841, Kovilpatty High, CSH 5 and CSH 6 Jowar are very popular with the farmers.

Pulses

Our production of pulses is not sufficient to meet the indigenous demands in the State. We import pulses from neighbouring States. To increase production of pulses and the acreage as well we have been taking special effort. Farmers are being encouraged to increase the acreage and they are given phosphate and pesticides as incentive, and as a result the area under pulses has recorded an upward trend. The supply of basic seeds of pulses has been doubled and 3.60 lakh Nutrients have been supplied. This is a record in pulse production.

Oil Seeds

The production of oil seeds is below our requirements. We have been aiming at self-sufficiency in oil seeds production. The agriculture department produces nutrients for ground nut. An amount 332 tonnes of micro nutrients have been supplied for an area of 26,560 hectares. This is a land mark in our effort for increasing the production of ground nut. The ground nut harvest is also quite encouraging. The supply of gypsum has been increased and the supply has been stepped up to 11,374 tonnes.

As far as the ground nut is concerned it has yielded good results and plant protection measures have been carried out in 5,000 hectares. High yielding strains have been evolved and TMV 11 and TMV 12 have received good reception from the farmers.

Potent seeds of good variety of sun flower are now produced. Elite seeds to the tune of 13.5 tonnes have been supplied. We are able to meet the demands for sun flower seeds. Efforts are also being made in Tindivanam Seeds Farm to have high yielding seeds.

Coconut

In coconut development we have been advocating the tall variety so far.

Under the tall and dwarf variety, 28,000 seedlings have been distributed to farmers. The new scheme on hand is to produce tall and dwarf varieties of coconut seedlings. An intensive research programme has been taken up in Kanyakumari District to fight this pest. A new scheme for development of coconut in Coimbatore and Kanyakumari Districts has been launched during the year.

Cotton

We have made new land-marks in cotton cultivation. The seed of high-fielding cotton variety Varalakshmi had been imported from Karnataka at a cost of Rs. 200/- per Kg. We are trying to produce the seeds in the State. We have been able to produce this strain last year and the production is 25 metric tonnes. The seeds are sold at the rate between Rs. 60 to Rs. 70/- per Kg. This high breed variety of cotton is being raised in 31,515 hectares during the year. As a result of the concerted efforts in this direction, we have been able to bring 15,000 hectares of additional area under cotton crop and produce an additional quantity of one lakh bales of cotton. A new division has been opened in Aruppukottai under the intensive cotton development programme.

Sugarcane

In sugarcane production we have been able to succeed to a greater extent. An additional area of 12,000 hectares have been brought under sugarcane cultivation and jaggery to the tune of 15,000 tonnes have been manufactured as additional quantity. Orders have been issued for forming six regional nurseries and 5 regional nurseries are formed in Konerykuppam, Chengalpattu district, Katterly Mamandoor, North Arcot district, Vallavanur, South Arcot district, Ottapalli Papparapalayam, Dharmapuri district and Moova Nallur in Tanjore district. The sixth nurseries is to be formed in Tiruchy district.

Agricultural Input

The price of agricultural inputs like seed, fertiliser and pesticides have been on the increase. We have been trying to control the price of these inputs and as a result of our pleading with the Centre, the price of Urea has been reduced. The price of Urea which was at Rs. 1,920 per tonne

in 1974 has been reduced to Rs. 1,435/- in October, 1977.

The fertilizers were issued on the basis of cards from 1973. This system caused many hardships to the farmers. The card system has now been completely abolished and the fertilizers are available in large quantity to farmers. This is a breakthrough in supply of fertilizers. The supply of fertilizers has been doubled in the districts of Tanjore, Tiruchy, Ramanathapuram, Coimbatore and Pudukkottai during the current year.

Seeds Certification

The Government have been paying special attention to produce of quality seeds. Seeds Certification centre has been set up under the Quality Seeds Supply Act so as to enable the production of better quality seeds. This centre will function as a autonomous institution under the direct supervision of the Director of Agriculture. This arrangement will enable a large number of farmers to get certified seeds. A seeds testing centre has been established to prevent the supply of sub-standard seeds and also ensure the potency and better quality of the seeds. This will function in the districts of Madurai, Coimbatore and Salem with Coimbatore as its headquarters. Another seed production centre has been set up in Coimbatore to meet the increasing demands of the farmers. This centre will be able to meet the demands of the farmers in Coimbatore, Salem and Dharmapuri districts. A testing centre has been set up in Anna Farm in Pudukkottai district to test the quality and potency of the seeds.

Plant Protection

The pest "protenia" has caused unprecedented damages to the crops in Pollachi and Usilampatti areas. The agriculture department has taken immediate action for effective control of the on-slaught of the pests. The pesticides was sold to the farmers at 25% subsidised rate. An amount of Rs. 53,148/- was spent for spraying of pesticides in 4,372 hectares. It may be relevant here to mention that this is the first time that such concessions were granted to the farmers in controlling the pests. A special scheme to control paddy pest was implemented with the assistance of the Government of India. Under the pest control measure, we

spent Rs. 17.74 lakhs for controlling pests in an area of 20,000 hectares.

Under the intensive oil seeds development programme 5,386 plant protection implements have been supplied. 550 sprayers have been given to the farmers at subsidised rate and the intensive cotton development projects.

Indo-German Project in Nilgiris

The Indo-German Project undertaken in the Nilgiris in collaboration with the Government of West Germany was completed in Mar. 31, 1977. We have proposed to continue the project and spend the amount from our fund for the benefit of the people in the hill areas. Intensive measures have been taken to increase the production of vegetables and potatoes. The Nilgiris Vegetable Producer's Society has been able to export vegetable to the neighbouring States under this programme. 9,583 tonnes of vegetables were sold at Rs. 43.83 lakhs. This is another landmark in production of vegetables in the Nilgiris.

Nilgiris Hill Project

Under this project 9 schemes are being implemented. The Government have now increased the allotment of fund to Rs. 85.30 lakhs as against Rs. 41.15 lakhs in 1976-77. The allotment for 1978—79 is Rs. 110.38 lakhs. Under this project fruit seeds are being supplied at 50% subsidised rates. So far Rs. 18 to Rs. 20 lakhs was spent. Now the Government have allotted Rs. 24 lakhs for the benefit of the people in the hill areas.

The drought prone districts of Ramanathapuram and Dharmapuri districts receive special attention. This programme helps the farmers, particularly the small farmers to raise their standard of living and productivity. During 1976-77 programmes costing Rs. 219.43 lakhs had been implemented. The Government now attach more importance to this project and Rs. 299.02 lakhs have been allotted during 77--78.

Training Programme

Nine farmers training centres are functioning in the State. These centres are not able to meet the demands of the farmers for training. We propose to set up one training centre in each district. Accordingly the farmers training centres have been established in the districts of

FOR FARMERS : A PACK OF CONCESSIONS

THERE was a Power tariff rise in September, 1975. It was raised to 16 paise per unit. As it was done immediately after the Emergency, perhaps no agitation took place then or later.

When this Government assumed power, it immediately issued orders reducing power tariff for small farmers.

To go into farmers' problems was appointed a High Power Committee. It announced one set of concessions on Electricity Dues immediately in December, 1977.

Again Government announced another pack of concessions relating to increase in procurement prices, reduction of co-operative loan interest rates, pesticide cost, increase in sugar cane prices, etc.

Again on April 7, 1978, on the floor of the Assembly, postponement of collection of co-operative loans for two months was announced.

For all the flood affected areas, a series of concessions to land holders were announced earlier.

Despite all this, came the agitation by the Vivasayigal Sangam (Farmers' Association). It cannot be said that they were not aware of these concessions.

Despite all this, despite this agitation. Government held talks again and again. Chief Minister and other Cabinet Ministers participated in the talks as many as five days. At the end of the marathon discussions the Government announced further concessions in favour of Agriculturists, remitting loans of failed irrigation wells, reducing meter rent and interest for co-operative loans, etc.

These concessions will cost the Electricity Board Rs. 10 crores annually. This loss of 10 crores is in addition to the loss the Electricity Board is incurring in subsidising power rates for Agricultural pumpsets.

Pudukkottai, Kanyakumari and Dharmapuri. During the current year three more centres are to be started.

Water Management

Water management is an integral part of farm operations. We attach more importance to water management and soil conservation. Water and soil maintenance schemes have been started in Melur and Sivakasi. The Melur Centre will help the farmers in the Periyar Ayacut area and the Sivakasi Centre will help the drought prone areas.

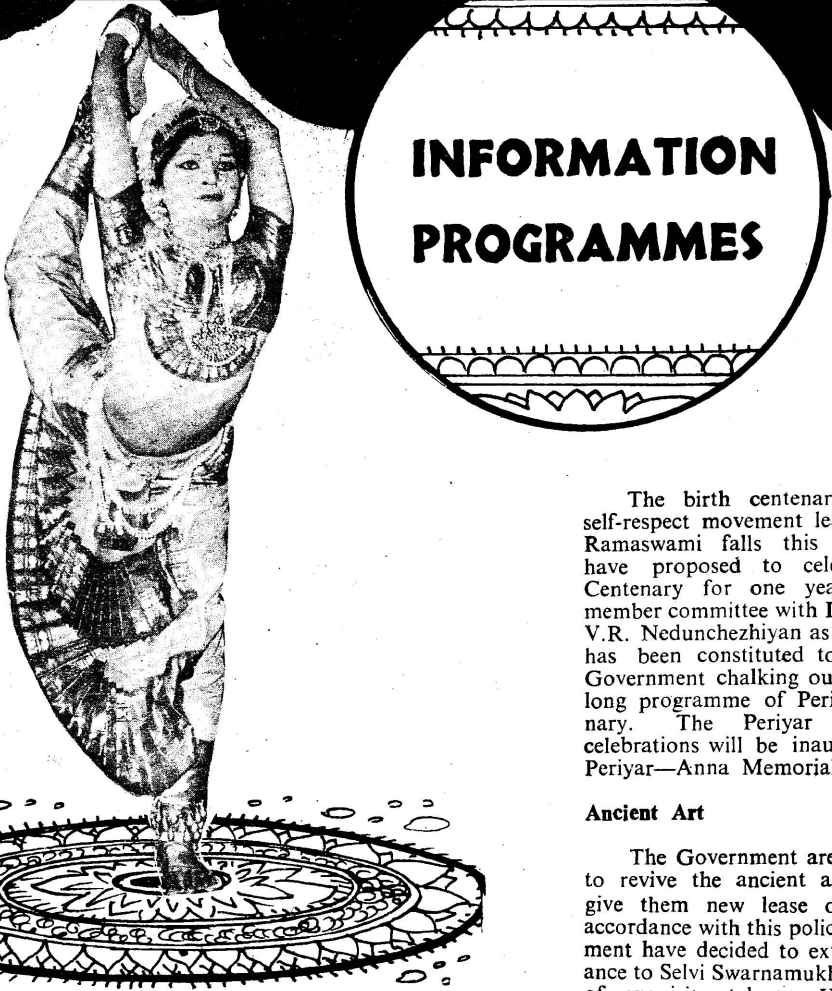
Land Reclamation

Bulldozers and tractors are being used to reclaim the lands. The reclamation scheme is being intensified to bring a larger area under the plough. The ploughing has been done in 29,324 hectares and an area of 4,600 hectares have been reclaimed. Tube well and filter point wells are also being utilised to help the agricultural production. 4,172 tube wells and 2,689 filter point wells have been constructed. The Department of Agriculture has imported four hammer drills for Rs. 116 lakhs. To control the winds, a new programme was launched in Nov. 1977 at a cost of Rs. 3.80 lakhs. Nearly 10,000 hectares are to be provided under this scheme and the scheme will be continued for five years.

Mobile Soil Testing Centres

Soil testing centres are functioning in three places in the State. A new soil testing centre has been set up during the year in Paramakudi to help the backward areas in the district. The demand for soil testing is increasing. The Government have set up two soil testing centres in Sivagangai in Ramanathapuram district and Theni in Madurai district. This scheme will be extended to other divisions also in future.

The State Government have been giving all assistance and incentives to the farmers to reap better harvest and enjoy prosperity through the adoption of modern methods of cultivation. The farmer is not alone in his farm operation. The State are fully seized of the requirement of farmers and the Government keep supply line always full so that agricultural inputs are available in time and enough quantity.



INFORMATION PROGRAMMES

The birth centenary of the self-respect movement leader E. V. Ramaswami falls this year. We have proposed to celebrate the Centenary for one year. A 24-member committee with Dr. Navalar V.R. Nedunchezhiyan as Chairman, has been constituted to help the Government chalking out the year-long programme of Periyar Centenary. The Periyar Centenary celebrations will be inaugurated at Periyar—Anna Memorial, Erode.

Ancient Art

The Government are very keen to revive the ancient arts and to give them new lease of life. In accordance with this policy, Government have decided to extend assistance to Selvi Swarnamukhi, a dancer of exquisite talents. Her talents have been highly commended by no less a person than Thiru Jayaprakash Narayan. The Viet-Nameese Cultural Troupe and the leader of Ireland have been overwhelmed by Swarnamukhi's exuberance in this art. Selvi Swarnamukhi has been able to make herself as a messenger of Tamil art and culture and our art has received recognition and acclaim not only in India but also in far—off lands through her powerful exposition.

The Government have given a fillip to drama and our patronage has given new pep and fervour to this art.

Field Publicity

We fight the evil of untouchability and drink with all seriousness. We have proposed to adopt 'drama' as an effective medium to propagate the message among the rural masses. A 'drama competition' was organised to select a few plays. Accord-

New Governments have been formed at the Centre and in many States after the last General Elections. It is the bounden duty of the State Governments to evolve a policy to make use of the Mass media like Newspapers, Exhibitions, Cultural concerts, Television, Publications and Film for dissemination of information on their programme.

The Information and Public Relations organisation in our State is engaged in this task. It is the primary duty of the Department to put across the message of the Government and disseminate information among the people of the plans and policies of the Government. This department projects the proper image of the Government and builds a bridge between the people and the Government. In short Information and Public Relations Department serves as the "eyes" and "ears" of the Government.

It was only after this Ministry assumed office on June 30, 77, the birthday of Arignar Anna was organised by Information and Public Relations Department as a Government function. This Department organises the birthday celebration of national leaders and freedom fighters, social reformers who carried the torch of knowledge, with active public participation. The Government organised the birthday celebrations of Poet Bharathi, V.O.Chidambaram, Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar, Quaid-E-Millat and the revolutionary Poet Bharathidasan. The 75th birthday of Kamaraj will be organised on a grand scale in July this year. The services of Sankaradass Swamikal, the bard of music, were remembered and recollected through the celebrations of his birthday organised in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Iyal, Isai, Nataka Mandram (Literary, Music and Drama Academy).

ingly five dramas "Vithiyin Pinnal" (Behind the Fate), "Iruttu" (Darkness), "Mullile Roja" (Rose in the midst of thorns), "Uruthi Mozhi" (Declaration) and "Sambandhi" (Matrimony) have been selected by an expert committee. Each drama was given a prize of Rs. 1,000. These dramas have been organised for the education of the people, particularly in rural masses.

Film plays a vital role in society. Film is a powerful medium to convey a theme or message. The film industry provides employment for thousands of people and it is also a good source of revenue to the Government.

Film Award

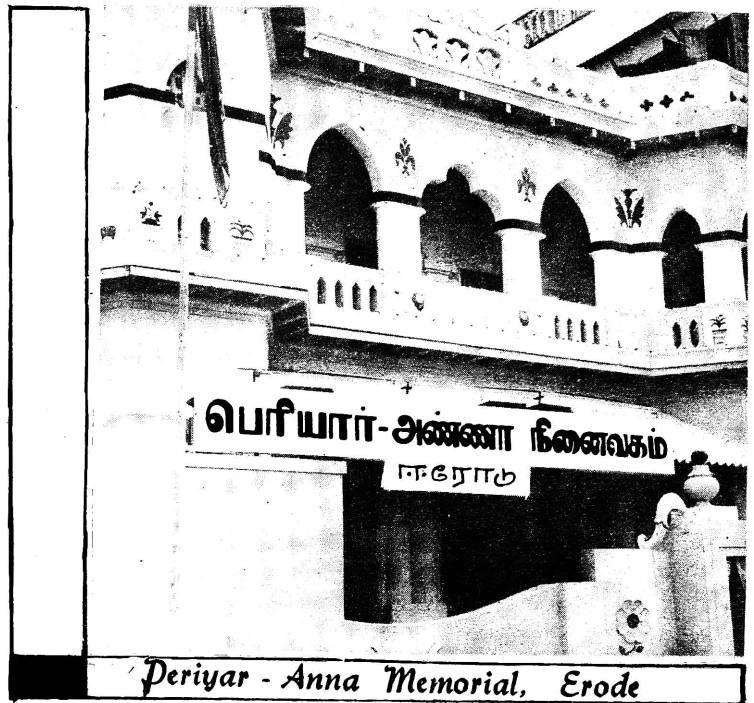
Our approach to film is this : Film should not be regarded as a mere entertainment medium. It should sow the seeds of noble ideas and thoughts in the minds of the poor. So, the Government announced a 'Film Award' scheme for standard films which promote, among other things, national integration and patriotism and explain the evil of the hydra-headed monster drink. For the first time, three feature films "Annakkili", "Sila Nerangalil Sila Manithargal" and "Santhathi" produced in 1976-77, have been selected for award of Rs. 1 lakh each. The Chief Minister, Thiru M. G. Ramachandran congratulated the producers and honoured them at a function held on the Tamil New Year Day. Addressing the meeting, Chief Minister said "the film award scheme gives new life to Tamil films". His speech was more appropriate.

The Government are examining the question of reviving the scheme of awarding prizes to the best films, artistes and technicians.

Innovation in Entertainment Tax

Hitherto, the touring talkies in the State have been given licences only for 2 years and 3 months. They have now been granted licences for 3 years.

The Government have introduced with effect from 26-12-77 the system of payment of a fixed tax per show in respect of theatres in Panchayat Villages, Panchayat Towns and Municipalities, third grade and second grade. The scheme provides for payment of tax at a fixed percentage of the gross collection capacity



of the theatres per show for the actual number of shows conducted in a week. The Act also provides for option to pay tax at a lower percentage of the gross collection capacity (ranging between 15% and 22.5%) for a fixed number of shows per week.

The present scheme of compounding has certain distinctive features over the earlier one which was in vogue for a short period from September, 74 to July 1975. Under the old scheme, even though the rates of tax on gross collection capacity ranged between 10 to 20 per cent the theatre owners opting to compound the tax dues should pay either the percentage of gross collection capacity or the average amount of all taxes payable per show during a given period, whichever is higher. The previous scheme was bristled with many difficulties in enforcement.

The new scheme covers about 1,000 theatres in all out of the total of 1,500 theatres in the State. It is significant to note that almost all the theatres have come forward to opt for the scheme of compounding. The amendment Act provides for stringent punishment to tax evaders. An offence of fraudulent evasion of tax is now liable to be punished with imprisonment which may extend to one year and with fine. The new scheme has proved

to be an effective step taken by the Government to arrest evasion of tax by the theatre-owners and to eliminate corruption of the tax officials.

Memorial

Action has already been taken to maintain Rajaji Memorial properly and acquire the houses of Periyar and Arignar Anna in Erode and Kanchipuram for converting them as Memorial.

The exhibition "History of Parliament" and stalls at "National Agricultural Fair" have been organised by Information Department.

"Tamil Arasu", official organ of the State Government, as fortnightly in Tamil and monthly in English, plays an important role to speak of the policies and activities of the Government.

The working of the Institute of Film Technology has been streamlined. A new building with all facilities is completed. The rules relating to acting has been relaxed.

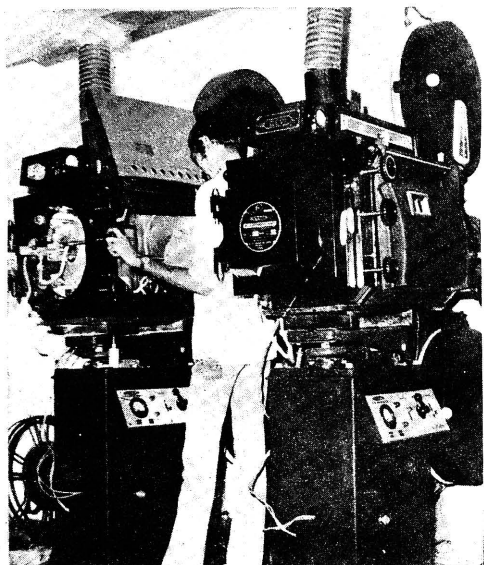
Helping Hand to Journalists

Information and Public Relations Department has a close relation with the Press. To cement the

relationship further, we have prepared to create a fund called "Journalists' Assistance Fund". This scheme envisages assistance to the retired journalists in indigent condition and the families of journalists who die in harness. The "Journalists' Assistance Fund," to begin with, will have Rs. 5 lakhs as capital. This fund will operate with contributions of the Journalists and Newspaper organisations and the Government. The Government will allocate Rs. 2 lakhs as their share. The monthly assistance under this scheme will vary from Rs. 100/- to Rs. 200/-

Another scheme to assist the small newspaper is underway. The Government is examining the possibility of importing newsprint through SIDCO and supplying them in large quantity to the small newspapers.

A few schemes and activities implemented during last year have been described in this feature. The activities of the Department will continue in the service of the people.



Succour
to the Needy

Mahalir Mandrams are functioning through out the State at the rate of one for each Panchayat and with a minimum of 36 mandrams in each Panchayat Union. It is the main forum through which exchange of ideas is brought out. There are about 12,356 Mahalir Mandrams functioning now in the rural areas, where they learn and practise better methods for progressive living. The Mahalir Mandrams also concentrate on Child Welfare.

The Government have issued orders sanctioning grants to the tune of Rs. one lakh to good voluntary institutions to encourage voluntary social service in rural areas particularly for the welfare of children in the age group of 0-6 years and physically handicapped. The grant will be placed at the disposal of the Tamil Nadu Social Welfare Board and will be given subject to certain conditions.

There are 3,154 child welfare centres functioning throughout the State. These centres are started in a phased programme as the policy is to have at least one centre in a Panchayat. During 1978-79 150 centres will be started.

EDUCATION has always been accorded top priority in our planned endeavour to better the life of the people. The outlay on education in 1978-79 is Rs. 176 as against only Rs. 123 crores in 1975-76. This represents 24% of the total State budget of Rs. 727 crores. Taking the period from 1960 onwards, the expenditure on education has never exceeded 22% of the State Budget in any year. It is only after the present Government assumed power that the outlay has been stepped upto 24%. The Government are taking a number of steps for the advancement of education at all levels and for ensuring that the people, even in the far-flung smallest villages, enjoy the fruits of educational outlay.

School Education

There has been rapid expansion of school education accompanied by qualitative improvement. During 1977-78, 36 elementary schools, 44 Higher Elementary schools and 29 High Schools were newly opened. During the same period, 2.19 lakhs of pupils of the age group 6—11, 94,000 pupils of the age group 11—14 and 30,000 pupils of the age group 14—17 were additionally enrolled. The total number of pupils, now studying in schools in Tamil Nadu, is about, 85 lakhs. Out of 2,53,000 teachers imparting education to these pupils, 1,56,000 were men and 97,000 were women. During 1977-78, 1,100 additional posts of teachers were sanctioned including 200 Tamil Pandits and 200 Physical Education Teachers.

There were complaints from many quarters that the revised school syllabi introduced in stages 1972-73, was very burdensome. The long standing cry against the revised school syllabus introduced in stages in 1972-73 was not paid heed to hitherto. The Government did not take any concrete steps to remedy this. However soon after this Government took charge they consulted educational experts, and have ordered the shedding of the excess burden under various subjects, especially Mathematics for all standards from 1978-79. From 1977-78, detentions have been abolished in Standards 1—3 of all schools. This measure will reduce drop-outs to some extent.

Science Teaching

In order to improve science teaching in schools, science laboratory grants of Rs. 55,000/- each

were sanctioned for 50 high schools in 1977-78 and 25 will be covered in 1978-79. 6 more mobile science laboratory vans were purchased in 1977-78, so that 42 out of 48 educational districts in Tamil Nadu are now each having one mobile van for catering to the Science teaching needs of rural High Schools without laboratory facilities.

After the advent of the present Government they have ordered the reinclusion of certain lessons (one on Periyar by Arignar Anna in the

for higher elementary schools at a cost of Rs. 1.50 lakhs ; supply of 16 MM film projectors to 5 high schools (50,000/-), supply of films worth Rs. 50,000/- to State Film Library. These schemes are continued in 78-79 also. A scheme of panel inspection of high school has been instituted under which the D.E.Os conduct inspection of high schools assisted by a panel of two or three subject specialists who are Headmasters of nearby high schools.

Hitherto, a student should pass all the subjects in the S.S.L.C.



school text books). The lessons were printed as a separate booklet and distributed as addenda to the books distributed early.

A new scheme of Government Medals for outstanding students has been introduced for the first time.

Quality Improvement

Among other steps taken for improving the quality of education in 77-78 were supply of library books for high schools at a cost of Rs. 5 lakhs, supply of science equipments

examination at one and the same sitting, if he is to go for higher studies. Government have now changed the previous procedure and adopted the system of compartmental pass in the S.S.L.C. examination. From 1978-79, free education has been introduced for Anglo—Indian pupils studying in Anglo—Indian Schools. This will cost the Government about Rs. 8 lakhs per year.

Till now, the number of fresh awards per year under the rural Talent Scholarships Scheme was only in each of the 375 Panchayat Unions in the State. This number



and non-Formal Education functioning with Central assistance.

Higher Secondary Education

No firm decision was taken in the past to adopt the revised 10 plus 2 plus 3 pattern of education. Government paid special attention to this major educational problem and have taken concrete steps to solve it. In consonance with the view of educational experts, as well as this Government's policy of rural development, the Government decided that the plus 2 stage of the new 10 plus 2 plus 3 pattern of education should be located only in schools. More than 807 High Schools in the State, a large number of them in rural areas, have been approved for starting the Higher Secondary Course from 1978-79. All the steps necessary for adoption of this course have been taken including provision of qualified teachers.

College Education

The outlay on "College Education" has been nearly doubled after June 1977 as against only Rs. 10 crores spent on "College Education" in 75-76 and Rs. 12 crores in 76-77, about Rs. 21 crores were spent in 77-78 and about Rs. 23 crores will be spent in 78-79.

has been doubled to 4 from 1978-79 and this will be in accordance with the avowed policy of the Government.

Teacher's Welfare

In 1973, the then Government acted in a vindictive manner towards the teachers who agitated for higher emoluments, and forced them to give letters of apology. The periods of agitation were also treated as "breaks." This Government have cancelled the letters of apology. The periods of break have also been ordered to be treated as "leave to which they are eligible." Teachers who (though qualified to hold Secondary Grade post) were working as Higher Grade Teachers in elementary schools, have been provided with Secondary Grade posts. 1,500 teachers of this category benefited from 1-6-77 and 1,500 will benefit from 1-6-78. The Government have now decided to regularise the appointment of all the graduate teachers from the date of their original temporary appointment allowing them arrears of increment also in full; physical education teachers in the school now receive Rs. 50 per annum as uniform allowance.

Scholarships to Teachers' Children

The Government have sanctioned from 1977-78 a scheme for giving scholarships to the sons and daughters of the teachers (in service, retired or deceased) for prosecuting professional studies. 80 fresh scholarships will be awarded every year, 25 for Engineering, 25 for medicine 20 for Agriculture and 10 for Veterinary. Each scholarship will be a lump sum of Rs. 500 per year. Sanction has been accorded for constructing a teachers' home in Madras City for the benefit of teachers at a cost of Rs. 10 lakhs.

Adult Education Board

The Government are taking all possible steps for improving mass literacy. A State Board of Adult Education will be constituted shortly. A provision of about Rs. 40 lakhs has been made for Adult Education and non-Formal Education in 1978-79. During that year, there will be four centres of non-Formal Education for school drop-outs in rural areas in each of the 375 Panchayat Unions in the State. In addition, there will be about 1,400 centres of Adult Education

UGC Scale

The previous Government was shelving the issue on some pretext or other giving room for agitation by college teachers. However keeping the welfare of teachers in view, this Government have extended to teaching staff of Government and aided Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Law Colleges, Engineering Colleges and Polytechnics in Madras, Madurai and Annamalai Universities, the U.G.C. scales of pay effective from 1-1-74 with monetary effect from 1-1-77.

Demonstrators and Tutors who have put in 3 or more years of service as on 1-12-1977 and also possess post-graduate qualifications in their disciplines were straightaway upgraded as Assistant Professors/Lecturers with effect from 1-12-1977 and allowed to draw the U.G.C. scales of pay applicable to this upgraded category. With a view to ensure full and prompt payment of salaries to staff of Aided Colleges, the Government have introduced a revised pattern of grants from 1st July, 1977 under which the entire net deficit in salary expenditure is met by the Government. The teaching staff of aided colleges have also been made

eligible for medical leave for 18 months (as against 12 months previously).

New University

The Government have decided to develop the Presidency College, Madras, as an institution of Post Graduate Education and Research. The number of additional courses opened in Government Colleges in 77-78 was 8 Degree plus 1 Post Graduate. The number proposed for 78-79 is 12 Degree and 6 Post-Graduate. Most of these courses will be started in colleges in mofussil thereby meeting the needs of rural students. From 1977-78, the Govt. have stepped up on providing college students with amenities such as lunch room, indoor sports room and cycle stands. The Government propose also to pursue vigorously with the Government of India and the U.G.C. for starting of two more Universities in Tamil Nadu — one at Tiruchirappalli and the other at Coimbatore.

Consistent with their policies of promoting Tamil Development in all spheres, the Government have ordered that the incentive payments to Tamil Medium students in colleges shall be paid in cash from 78-79 (instead of in the form of books as previously). From 1977-78, full fee concession has been sanctioned to the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe students in colleges irrespective of the annual income of their parents. The income limit of Rs. 2,500/- per annum has been removed.

Technical Education

The U.G.C. scales are applicable to the teaching staff of Engineering Colleges and Polytechnics also. There are now in Tamil Nadu 12 Engineering Colleges, 39 Polytechnics and 14 Technical High Schools and the total strength in these institution is about 20,000. A number of new diversified and job oriented courses will be started in the Engineering Colleges and polytechnics in 78-79.

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



Art and Culture

Steps have been taken to preserve important monuments, such as the Thirumalai Naicken Mahal, Ramalinga Vilas in Ramanathapuram and the Danish Castle in Tranquebar and to have permanent museum in these places. A scheme for collecting and preserving loose sculptures and valuable old palm-leaf manuscripts has been taken up in four districts in the State.

A Music College will be established at Madurai from 1978-79. The H.R. & C.E. Department has sanctioned recently a scheme for giving stipends of Rs. 500/- p.m. each to five students of Nadaswaram and Rs. 300 p.m. each to five students of Thavil. Every year a cash award Rs. 5000/- will be given to one poet who composes in Tamil songs of traditional value. A similar award will be given to one who introduced new ragas and tunes without sacrificing the spirit of Tamil culture and in conformity with the traditions of Music.

Pension to Tamil Scholars

The Government are pursuing vigorously their policy of promoting Tamil language and literature. A scheme has been sanctioned to give pensions to Tamil scholars in indigent circumstances at the rate of Rs. 100 p.m. to each.

An expert committee has been set up to formulate a programme for the translation and publication of books in other languages into Tamil. Valuable Tamil classics will also be translated and published in other languages. A Tamil Cultural Centre at Madras to honour the memory of Tamil savants like Kambar and Vallalar will be established. A sum of Rs. 2 lakhs will be provided to establish a chair on Islamic Tamil Literature in the name of Umaru Pulavar in Madurai University.

The laudable scheme of having a Poet Laureate had been allowed to become moribund after 1953. (Thiru Namakkal Ramalingam Pillai was the Poet Laureate during 1948-1953). Government have revived the institution and appointed the renowned poet, Kannadasan, as the Poet Laureate of Tamil Nadu. On the occasion of the celebration of the birthday of poet Bharathidasan, the Chief Minister also announced a cash prize of Rs. 10,000/- to the best Tamil poet every year.

Any Government may feel a pardonable pride for having achieved all this within the brief span of one year from taking over the administration of the State.



TEMPLES occupy a unique place in social life of the people in Tamil Nadu. It is therefore necessary to tone up temple and endowments management so as to infuse public confidence in Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. The entire gamut of the administrative system is being streamlined for better management of temple organisation. Cultural and social welfare activities, connected with temples are being made more purposive and meaningful.

A sum of Rs. 21,33,982 has been sanctioned for renovation of temples during 1977-78. For renovation of temples located in Harijan colonies and in most Backward areas, it has been decided to set apart Rs. 1 lakh as Government grant. So far, an amount of Rs. 36,000/- has been distributed at the rate of Rs. 1,000/- per temple for thirty six temples. The balance will also be distributed shortly.

Study in Hindu Culture

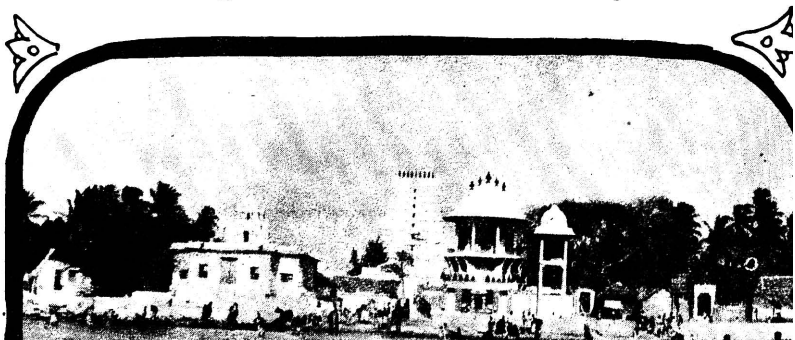
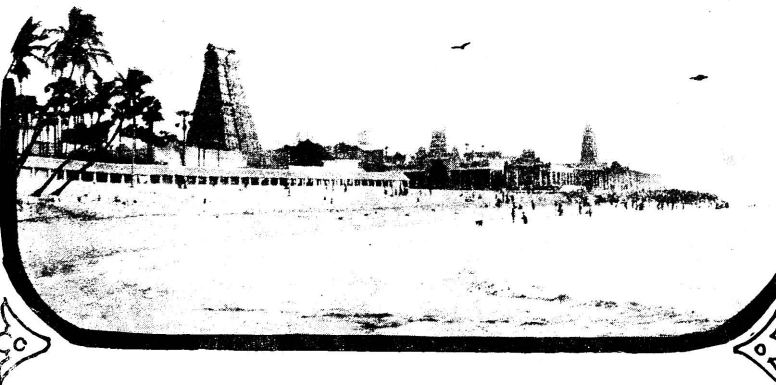
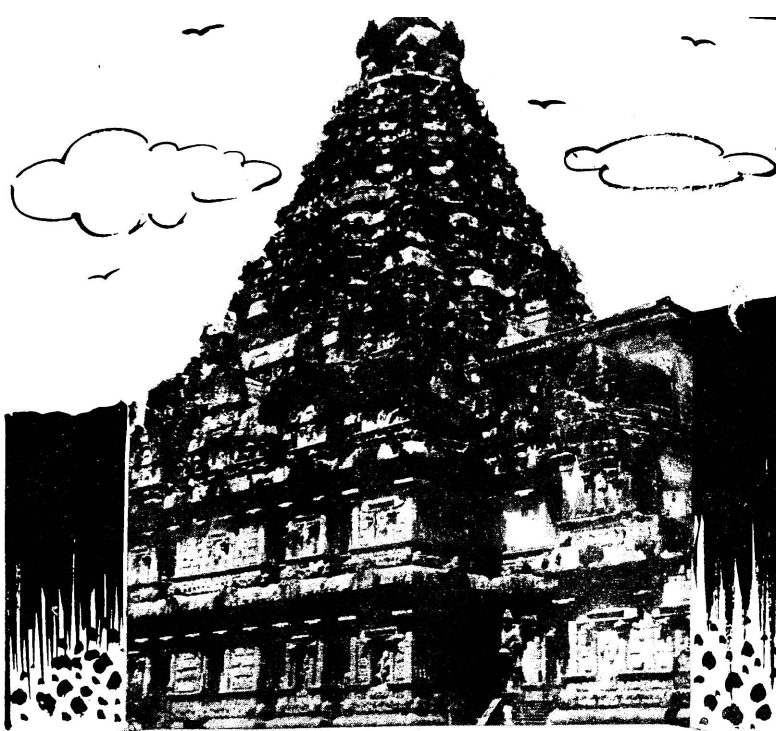
A diploma course in Hindu Arts and Culture has now been started by Ramanathaswamy Temple, Rameswaram.

With a view to provide incentive for the growth of Tamil Isai and to enthuse students to learn and master the arts of Nadaswaram and Thavil, a scheme of stipends to students of these arts who will undergo advanced training under reputed Vidwans after they completed the course of study in a Nadaswaram school in the State has been sanctioned. The stipends called "Vidwan late T.N. Rajarathina Pillai Memorial Stipends" of Rs. 500/- per mensem each for five students of Nadaswaram and a stipend of Rs. 300/- per mensem each for five students of Thavil will be awarded for a maximum period of five years.

Cash grant

A cash grant of Rs. 1,000/- per year is also being paid for three students of Thevara Patasala run by the various religious institutions under the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, who have obtained the first three ranks in their performance in the institutions with a view to enable them to have a living till they get suitable employment as Oduvars.

About twelve thousand temples are under the executive control of the Special officers. Action is afoot to appoint Trustees for temples. **





A PROFILE OF PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATIVE SECTOR

THE co-operative movement has brought under its fold a wide range of weaker sections. The Cycle Rickshaw drivers, washermen and barbers have now credit facilities. They enjoy a new lease of life. The co-operative societies, organised for bettering these sections have really contributed for their economic emancipation.

It is no exaggeration that the co-operative movement has shaken off its old fibre and people have now started reaping the benefits accruing from the co-operative institutions on a large scale.

The co-operative movement in Tamil Nadu which has spread to diverse economic activities continues to make steady progress especially

under agricultural credit, marketing, processing of agricultural produce and distribution of consumer goods. The co-operatives play a vital role in the economic uplift of the people in the State, particularly those belonging to the weaker section.

In Tamil Nadu, there are 45.63 lakhs agricultural families. Of this, as on 31-3-78, 38.72 lakhs agricultural families were enrolled as members of the agricultural credit societies and vigorous efforts are being made to achieve cent per cent coverage in as many societies as possible. Out of the 38.72 lakh agricultural families so far enrolled, 22.83 lakh families belong to the weaker sections, namely Small and Marginal Farmers.

Agricultural credit for short term and medium term loans provided by the co-operative credit structure in Tamil Nadu has gone up from Rs. 5 crores at the end of the First Five Year Plan to Rs. 125.00 crores in 1976-77 and to Rs. 127.00 crores in 1977-78. It is proposed to increase this quantum during 1978-79 to Rs. 145.00 crores.

Interest Rate Reduction

Recently, at the instance of the State Government the co-operative institutions have reduced the rates of interest at which agricultural credit is advanced. Short term agricultural credit will now be available to small farmers at 10.5% and at

12% for all other where as previously it was being advanced at 12.6% for all. The long term credit needs of the agriculturists in the State are being met by 223 primary land development banks affiliated to the State Land Development Bank. 45 Minor Irrigation Schemes involving a total financial outlay of Rs. 37.32 crores and 24 Non-Minor Irrigation Schemes with a total financial outlay of Rs. 9.97 crores are now under implementation. During 1978-79, long term loans to the extent of Rs. 19.00 crores (Rs. 11.10 crores under normal programme and Rs. 7.90 crores under A.R. & D.C.) will be issued.

Minor Irrigation

During the period July 1977 to April 1978, the Chief Engineer (Ground Water) has given clearance for 31,777 ground water units in 85 areas and the concerned project officers have been instructed to formulate suitable minor irrigation schemes for the utilisation of these units. Upto 30-4-78, 6,022 units of G.W. clearance have been utilised and schemes are under formulation for 12,000 units. During the period July 1977 to April 1978 1,747 electric pump-sets financed by the Land Development Banks were energised. Government provide subsidies to small farmers for sinking new wells subject to a maximum of Rs. 500/- per well. A provision of Rs. 5/- lakhs has been provided under this head in the Budget for 1978-79. During 1977-78 also a sum of 5 lakhs was spent over this scheme.

Relief to Flood Affected Borrowers

Whenever farmers are affected by natural calamities, relief by way

of conversion of short term loans into medium term loans and rephasing of earlier converted loans for a further period of two years is given. During the earlier period of 1977-78, when the State was affected by drought and later in November, 1977 by severe cyclone and floods, conversion and rephasing of the loans to the tune of Rs. 26.97 crores and 17.79 crores respectively were allowed. Further applications for conversion of loans to the tune of Rs. 1,621.04 lakhs and applications for rephasing of loans to the tune of Rs. 1,399.30 lakhs are now pending with the Reserve Bank of India. When these loans are sanctioned by the R.B.I., it will mitigate the hardships now experienced by the affected farmers to a great extent.

As a relief measure to the farmers affected by the cyclone and floods, the agricultural credit co-operatives are providing additional loans towards the purchase of fertilisers and issue fresh loans where the crops have been totally damaged. Government have provided a sum of Rs. 150 lakhs for payment of subsidy at 25 per cent of the cost of fertilisers subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 per acre in respect of Thaladi crop and Rs. 20 per acre in respect of Samba crop to the small farmers in the flood affected areas of Chengalpattu, South Arcot, Thanjavur, Tiruchirappalli, Pudukkottai, Madurai and Ramanathapuram Districts. Govt. have also provided for payment of subsidy at 25 per cent of the cost of pesticides supplied to all farmers through out the State upto 31st March, 1978.



Farmers' Service Societies

For provision of integrated credit and agricultural services to farmers, especially to small and marginal farmers under one roof, 26 Farmers Service Co-operative Societies, have been set up of which 14 societies were set up in November, 1977, with assistance from the Small Farmers Development Agency and the State Government.

In the context of debt relief legislation and consequent shrinkage of credit from non-institutional sources, the credit co-operatives are playing an important role in the provision of jewel loans. 658 agricultural Credit Societies, 312 branches of State and Central Co-operative Banks and 128 Co-operative Urban Banks are now engaged in the issue of Jewel-loans. During the year 1977-78 upto March a sum of Rs. 50.77 crores was issued. During 1978-79, 300 more agricultural credit societies will be brought





into the field for providing jewel loans and the total issue of loans will be stepped upto Rs. 70 crores.

Recently at the instance of Government, the rate of interest on jewel loans has been reduced from 16% to 15%.

Co-operative Marketing

Marketing of agricultural produce of the members to their best advantage, processing of agricultural produce and distribution of chemical fertilisers and other agricultural inputs are the main functions of the marketing societies. The 118 Primary Co-operative Marketing Societies, Tamil Nadu Co-operative Marketing Federation and Thanjavur Co-operative Marketing Federation have marketed Agricultural Produce to the extent of Rs. 7.95 crores during the period from 1-12-1977.

Rural Consumer

The Rural Consumer Scheme is meant to develop distribution of consumer goods in rural areas through the existing co-operative structure by linking the primary co-operatives with wholesale stores. At present 25 projects are being implemented by 20 lead societies through 557 village agricultural credit societies linked to them. During 1977-78, 43 proposals were sent to the National Co-operative Development Corporation for approval. Of which 30 were sanctioned. These 30 projects relate to Madurai and

Ramanathapuram districts at a cost of Rs. 39.81 lakhs. The scheme is expected to provide additional employment to 647 educated unemployed.

Controlled Cloth

Controlled cloth is distributed only through co-operatives in Tamil



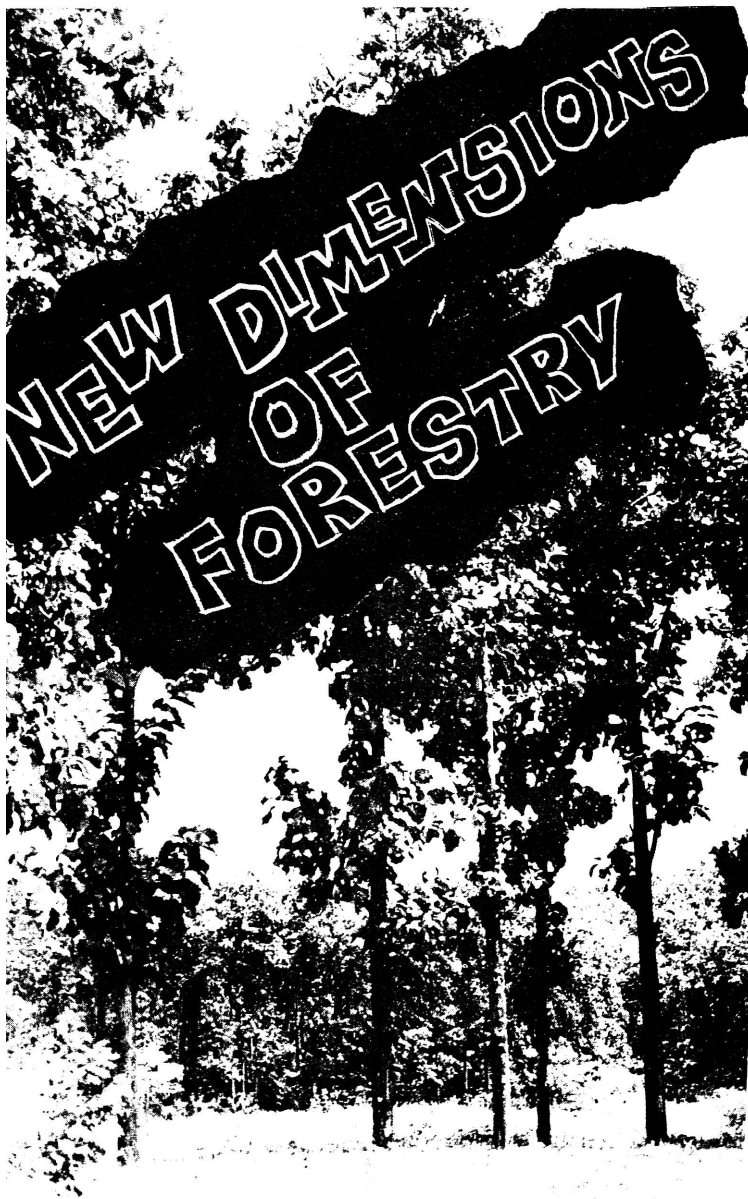
Nadu. Tamil Nadu is entitled to a monthly quota of 1,669 bales of controlled cloth. During the period from 1-4-77 to 31-3-78, 18,181 bales of controlled cloth were allotted to Tamil Nadu. 75% of the cloth allotted is diverted to rural areas for distribution to the weaker sections of the community.

Fair Price Shops

The State is well served by a net work of Public Distribution System. Out of the 10,000 and odd shops run in the State, about 7,000 shops belong to the co-operatives. The Government have recently taken a policy decision to open at least one fair price shop in each Revenue Village to ensure free availability of essential commodities at reasonable prices in rural areas. As a first step, Tirunelveli, Madurai and Ramanathapuram districts are to be covered. In Tirunelveli district, the scheme is being taken up by the TNCSG and in Madurai and Ramanathapuram districts, the scheme has been entrusted to Co-operative Sector. Government have sanctioned financial assistance of Rs. 43.71 lakhs for opening of 1,046 fair price shops by the Co-operative Societies in Madurai and Ramanathapuram districts in addition to the already existing 1,176 shops.

Multi-Purpose Societies

Seven Large Sized Multi-purpose Co-operative Societies have been formed for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes in the districts of Salem, Dharmapuri, North Arcot and Tiruchirappalli during 1976-77 and they are now functioning. Government have given liberal financial assistance by way of subsidy, loan and share capital to these societies. These societies have issued Production credit to the extent of Rs. 24.46 lakhs, consumption credit of Rs. 21,600 and medium term loans of Rs. 4.43 lakhs upto the end of February, 1978. Two more LAMP societies have been organised during the year 1977-78, one at Aranuthamalai in Salem district and the other at Pudur Nadu in Javdhu Hills in North Arcot district. Government have sanctioned liberal financial assistance to these societies also. LAMPS are to be provided with a "Revolving Fund." The object of the fund is to help the tribal people by way of loan assistance to liquidate their earlier debts. For this purpose, during 1978-79, it is proposed to sanction a sum of Rs. 5.00 lakhs towards the Fund. *



THE forestry has an important role to play in the economy of the State. The forestry policy has been designed for development, better utilization of forest produce and introducing new ideas in developing forest-based industry.

With the assumption of office of the new Government, a new orientation and diversification has been sought to be given to the activities of the Forest Department. There is better awareness now about the role of forestry for the assistance of Wood-based industries.

In order to augment the available forest resources, the auction of pulp wood has been stopped. This will only eliminate the middle man but also make larger quantities of pulp wood available for supply to the industry. It is also proposed to ban the export of pulp wood including bamboo and cane outside the State so that the pulp wood produced in this State will be available for wood-based industries in this State. It will also ensure availability of cane to Cottage Industries in Tamil Nadu.

Innovations Introduced

In the allotment of pulp wood to the Industries, certain innovations have been introduced. The supply of wood is no more on a long term basis. It is now made on annual basis only. This gives the Government certain amount of flexibility not only to revise the rates annually but also to review and to determine the quantity to be supplied to various industries.

Increase In Revenue

It will be worthwhile to mention that we have been able to increase the rates for supply of various kinds of wood. For example, the rate of eucalyptus supplied to M/s. Seshasayee Paper and Boards Limited has been increased from Rs. 60/- per metric tonne to Rs. 80/-. Likewise the rate of eucalyptus grandies for supply to South India Viscose has been proposed to be raised from Rs. 60/- to Rs. 90/-. Similarly the rate for supply of eucalyptus grandies to Gwalior Rayon in Kerala has been increased from Rs. 84/- to Rs. 100/- while the rate of debarked wattle wood to South India Viscose Limited has been increased to Rs. 80/- per tonne. The increases will not only augment the revenue generated by the forests but also rationalise the rates on which supplies are made and the price fetched by the end product like paper, rayon, fibre etc.

The Small Scale Match Industry in the State is handicapped for want of adequate quantity of soft wood coupes which are sold in auction. The Government have ordered that only those industries which manufacture veneers and splints for match industry would in future participate in auction when soft wood coupes are sold in auction.

Forest Offence Punished

A concerted effort has been made to tighten the security in forest areas. There is large scale smuggling of sandal wood from Coimbatore District abutting Kerala State. The Government have tightened the protective measures by organising patrolling of the border areas by Police Personnel. The idea now is to award deterrent punishment for various types of forest offences. Wherever a prima facie case has been made out against the forest official, deterrent action is immediately taken against him.

MADRAS Metropolitan Development Authority which was set up to tackle the growing problems of Madras Metropolitan Area (about 1,200 sq. Kms.) with a present population of about 40 lakhs has established itself as the apex planning body and has made rapid strides all round since June, 1977, to achieve its main objective through low cost solutions to its problems, benefiting predominantly the economically weaker section of the area. Its achievement during the past one year include formulation of a multi-sector integrated Urban Development Project and its implementation through line agencies, building of the urban node at Manali, creation of a New Town at Maraimalai Nagar and formulation of plans for providing City level facilities including a wholesale market and several office-cum-commercial complexes.

Important among the programmes that the MMDA has undertaken are :

1. Sites and Services
2. Slum Improvement
3. Roads
4. Bus Transport

5. Water Supply and Sewerages.

The total outlay is Rs. 4637.86 lakhs out of which Rs. 475.20 lakhs have been spent so far. The Manali Node and Maraimalai Nagar development Project may cost Rs. 462 lakhs. The outlay for 1978-79 is Rs. 1115 lakhs.

New Project at Arumbakkam

This project at Arumbakkam designed to provide housing for over 2,000 households which was commenced in 1977 has made considerable progress and the first settlers who will all belong to the economically weaker section earning less than Rs. 350/- will be in the area by October 2nd this year. These settlers will own plots or buildings serviced with roads, street lighting, protected water supply and underground sewerage. Community facilities are also provided under the project. Most of them will be required to pay only Rs. 22/- per month (for 20 years) for a plot measuring 40 sq. mts. and containing a bath and F.O.L. The financial outlay for 1978-79 is Rs. 275/- lakhs. Work will commence in

two more sites at Villivakkam and Kodungaiyur also during the year.

Under road and transport scheme, a project to add 285 buses to the city's fleet is under implementation. 92 buses of new design have been put on road, and 193 buses will be on the roads before the end of the year.

Slum Improvement

Improvement of slum areas with a population of about 4,000 families has mostly been completed and the residents will have all the basic amenities including education and community facilities for children and women required for healthful living. In the next two years a further 26,000 households will receive this benefit. This scheme is being implemented through the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board. The outlay for 1978-79 is Rs. 100 lakhs.

Manali Urban Node

The construction of 543 houses to provide housing mainly for industrial workers of Tiruvottiyur and Ennore areas has progressed and the first batch is ready for occupation. This is part of a large scheme to provide housing with

all facilities to over 40,000 households close to their place of work at Manali, Madhavaram, Tiruvottiyur and North Madras.

Maraimalai Nagar

A new town for a population of 100,000 is fast coming up, 43 Kms from Madras on the NH 45, midway between Tambaram and Chengleput. Sites for 42 industries, 170 small industries and sites for housing in 2 neighbourhoods have been got ready and construction of 144 houses is to commence shortly. The outlay for Manali and Maraimalai Nagar for 1978-79 is Rs. 65.00 lakhs.

In addition to the above, the MMDA has commenced work on the formulation of a second project which will be implemented from 1980. Several important studies have been initiated to frame this project. These are (1) A comprehensive study of requirements of Housing particularly to provide housing for EWS

2. A study for providing employment particularly in the cottage and informal sectors to the EWS and

3. A study of financial resources to facilitate taking up of a large scale development programme.





NEW PROGRAMMES FOR HARIJAN WELFARE

HARIJAN welfare is a social integration process, combining in itself the ingredients of a planned endeavour to usher in an egalitarian social order. The fight against social backwardness has not made much headway.

The reasons for such tardy progress have been identified and the lacunae removed. A new strategy is adopted in planning and implementation of Harijan Welfare Schemes. For instance, the Government have found a solution to the tricky question of land acquisition for Harijan colonies through a new legislation. We have witnessed a striking advance in Harijan and Tribal welfare during the last one year.

More Educational Facilities

Upto the end of 1976-77, pre-matric scholarships were sanctioned to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes Convert students in Standards I to XI, and the amount of scholarship was disbursed in cash to the students towards the cost of books and special fees. The examinations fee was also paid in cash wherever necessary in addition to the scholarships. For this purpose, the maximum annual income limit of the parents/guardians was Rs. 3,000/- p.a. From the year 1977-78 all the text books are supplied to the students from Standards IV to XI, irrespective of the income of the parents/guardians. The concession regarding reimbursement of special fees to the institutions concerned and payment of examination fees were also extended to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Caste Convert students, irrespective of the income of parents or guardians.

From 1977-78, the Government have made tuition fees free to all students belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes Converts regardless of the income of the parents or guardian for all courses of studies beyond P.U.C.

Exemption from Tuition Fees

The Government have directed that the Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Caste Converts, Backward Class, Most Backward Class and De-notified Tribes studying in the Physical Education Oriental Colleges (B. Litt. only) Institute of Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition and Central Training Institute for Instructors, be exempted from payment of tuition fees under Rule 92 of the Tamil Nadu Education Rules.

Orders have been issued in September 1977, for the opening of 50 Balwadies in Harijan Colonies, with 70 children in each. 50 Balwadies will be opened during 1978-79 also.

During 1977-78, 7 High School Hostels for Scheduled Caste Boys and 5 Hostels for Girls were opened. Two subsidised hostels were also taken over by Government.

Boarding Grants Increased

The rate of food charges in Government hostels have been increased from Rs. 65 to Rs. 80 per month in Madras City. From Rs. 55 to Rs. 65 in mofussil college hostels and from Rs. 40 to Rs. 45 for students in High School Hostels.



KUMAR

Training in Radio, T. V. Mechanism

A new course has been started in the Shri Seva Mandir to give training to 20 women belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Madras City in Radio and Television Mechanism, for a period of two years at a cost of Rs. 17,000/-.

Co-operative Milk Societies

Considering the increase in the price of milch animals orders have been issued increasing and revising the financial assistance to Harijans to form Milk Supply Co-operative Societies. Under the revised scheme, each Harijan member in the Society is given financial assistance at the rate of Rs. 1,500/- per animal. He is eligible for a subsidy of Rs. 500 from Harijan Welfare Funds and Rs. 1,000/- as loan from Nationalised Banks per animal. Each individual is entitled for the above financial assistance for purchase of two animals only. During 1977-78 subsidy was granted to 1,200 beneficiaries by the Harijan Welfare Department.

Assistance for Irrigation Wells

The scheme for sanction of financial assistance for sinking of irrigation wells has been revised from Feb. 1978. According to the revised scheme, the Government

will bear one-third cost of sinking of irrigation wells, filter points, tube wells and pumpsets as subsidy, and Land Development Banks will provide the remaining two-thirds cost. The beneficiaries under this schemes, shall approach the Land Development Banks for financial assistance and will get the entire amount (loan and subsidy) as estimated by the Bank. The subsidy portion will be later claimed by the Bank from the Harijan Welfare Department direct. There is no restriction in the number of beneficiaries for each year under this scheme. No beneficiary will have to incur additional expenditure apart from the actual cost of the well, since the entire cost of work is met by the Government and the Bank.



All India Services

The Government have issued orders in July 1977 sanctioning a sum of Rs. 1,000/- to each of the candidates (belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) of the Tamil Nadu who come out successful at the All India Services Examinations to meet the expenditure during their training period at Mussorie or elsewhere.

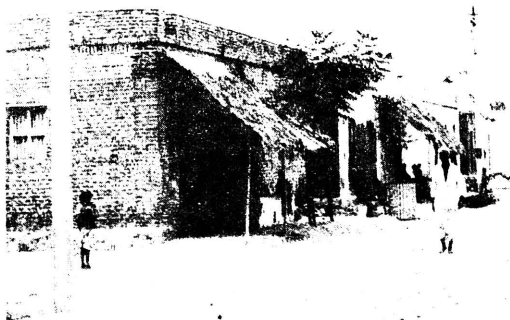
New Pattern of House Site Acquisition

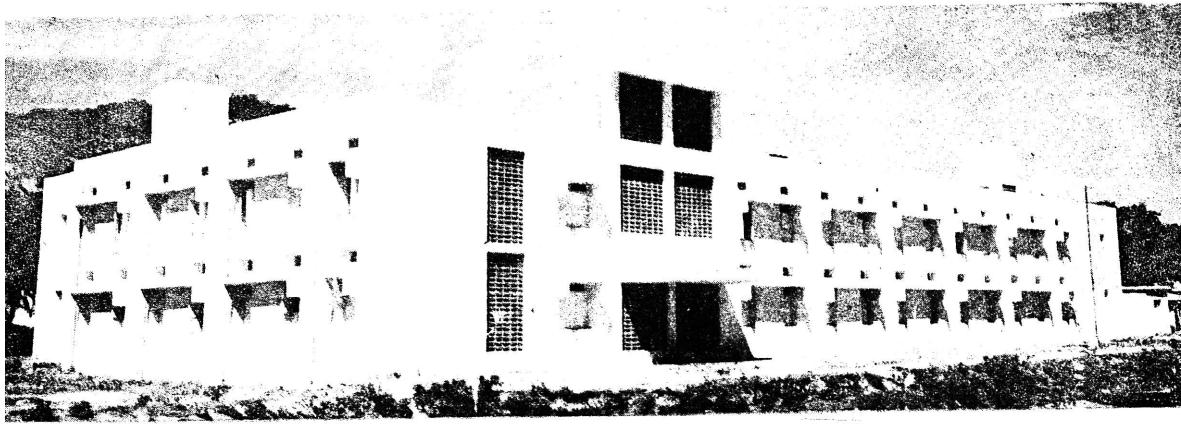
Government poramboke lands, wherever available are assigned as house sites to Harijans. Wherever Government lands are not available, private lands are acquired for the purpose. The extent of each site ranges from 3 to 5 cents per family. In 1977-78 a sum of Rs. 63 lakhs has been spent for providing about 20,800 house sites and an extent of 1,282 acres were acquired under the programme. A sum of Rs. 100 lakhs has been provided for 1978-79 for the programme.

In order to quicken the pace of acquisition, the Government passed a bill in April, 1978. This provides for full delegation of powers to the Collectors of the districts to acquire the land speedily and also for providing payment of compensation in instalments instead of in one lump sum as at present.

Housing

There were complaints that the houses constructed for Harijans, Scheduled Tribes, etc. were leaky and the accommodation was inadequate. The Government have therefore approved a revised type design providing a plinth area of 237 sq. ft. for a house and with R.C.C. roof. Brick jelly will be provided in front to admit the verandah being converted and used as a room. The cost per house will be Rs. 6,000





in plains and Rs. 9,000 in hilly areas. The Tamil Nadu Harijan Housing and Development Corporation Ltd., (THADCO) is taking up the construction of houses for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Scavengers. Orders were issued for the construction of 5,000 houses for Harijans according to the new type design during 1977-78 and a sum of Rs. 200 lakhs was allotted for this purpose.

Houses for Sanitary Workers

The THADCO has taken up the work of constructing 116 houses for the sanitary workers of which 62 houses have been completed and the work relating to the remaining houses is in progress. In May 1978, Government have issued orders that the sanitary workers occupying the quarters allotted to them by the local bodies concerned should be allowed to occupy the quarters without payment of rent, so long they are in the employment of the local-bodies concerned.



Tribal Welfare

According to the 1977 Census, the Tribal population in Tamil Nadu is 3.11 lakhs. The Government are taking several welfare measures for the uplift of the Tribals.

During the Fifth Five Year Plan period a Sub-Plan was formulated for the welfare of the Tribals. Under this Sub-Plan, from 1976-77 onwards, several schemes under the integrated Tribal Development Programme have been implemented by the Government. Under this programme, several development schemes like Agricultural Development, Animal Husbandry, Minor Irrigation, Education, Medical Facilities, Forestry, Road Schemes, Electrification, Drinking Water supply, establishment of Kuzhanthaigal Kappagam, etc., were implemented.

Residential Schools

Seven Tribal Residential Schools were opened in 1977-78 and one Tribal Residential Middle School was upgraded into High School. It is proposed to open two Tribal Residential Schools in 1978-79.

Stipends for I.T.I. Students

In order to reduce the drop-outs from the Industrial Training Institutes, and as an incentive for Tribal boys and girls to continue their studies, their stipend has been increased from Rs. 60 to Rs. 82.50 p.m.

A sum of Rs. 153 lakhs was proposed to be spent during 1977-78 on various socio-economic schemes designed to help the tribal population.



Sub-Plan Schemes

During 1978-79, under the Tribal Sub-Plan, a sum of Rs. 200/- lakhs is proposed to be spent. For the successful and proper implementation of the various programmes it is essential that a conducive atmosphere free from exploitation prevails among the tribals. At present, most of the tribals are being cheated and exploited by others in dealings relating to land-holdings, settlement of loans, etc. as most of the Tribals are illiterate and less articulate. To protect them from such forms of exploitation, the Government have taken steps to bring forth two important legislations namely: Debt Relief to Tribals and Prevention of Land Alienation in Tribal Areas.

New Hope for Tribals

When both the above Acts come into force, it will support the process of implementation of the various developmental schemes for the uplift of the tribals. Besides all the above it has been proposed to implement schemes for the Dispersed Tribals and for Tribals who are "Primitive", during 1978-79.

By implementing all the above schemes, it is hoped that the welfare of the Tribals who are the weakest of the weaker section of the society will be properly taken care of.

TOURISM to-day is one of the global industries of immense benefit potential. It has contributed considerably to the economy of many nations in the world. Realising the benefit potential of tourism the present Government has paid special attention to the development of tourism in Tamil Nadu.

Since the new Ministry assumed office immediate steps have been taken to formulate a plan for an integrated development of tourism in this State.

Promotion and Publicity

As hosting Travel Agents and Travel Writers is an effective measure to increase the tourist traffic, the Government of Tamil Nadu hosted 60 Travel Writers from all over the world under "Destination South India" project organised in co-operation with the Central Department of Tourism, Air India, Indian Airlines and Southern States during September, 1977.

A seminar was specially organised on various aspects of South Indian culture and tourist attractions. The Chief Minister and the Minister for Information and Tourism addressed the delegates. After visiting Madras, Mamallapuram and Kancheepuram, the Travel Writers were taken on a tour of South India in three groups. On this occasion special supplements highlighting the tourism potential of the State have been brought out in various newspapers. As a feedback, the Travel Writers have written

articles and published photographs worth several thousand dollars in foreign exchange.

Several groups of Travel Agents from France, U.S.A. and other places have been hosted, and special cultural shows have been organised for them.

The Pacific Area Travel Association (PATA), a leading international tourism promotion organisation, held its workshop at Colombo, Sri Lanka, preceding their 27th Annual Convention at Delhi which was attended by 2,000 high ranking travel executives around the world. This Department had the privilege of hosting more than hundred of the tourism promoters who passed through Madras from Colombo to New Delhi. Several of the delegates who passed through Madras on their way to Colombo for the workshop were also hosted by this Department. Special reception arrangements were made at the airport and then they were taken on sight seeing tours to Madras and to nearby places, according to the time available. As a feedback, several letters of appreciation were received for the excellent work done by this Department and many of them have assured tourist traffic to Tamil Nadu through their organisations. Great publicity was achieved through this opportunity of hosting the international delegates to PATA '78 and by participating in the "Pacific

on Parade" Exhibition held at Hotel Ashoka during PATA '78 convention.

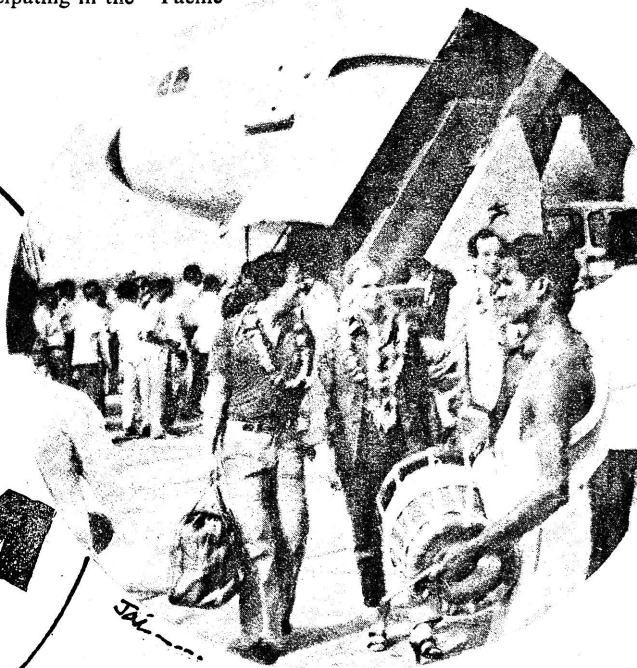
Cultural Panorama

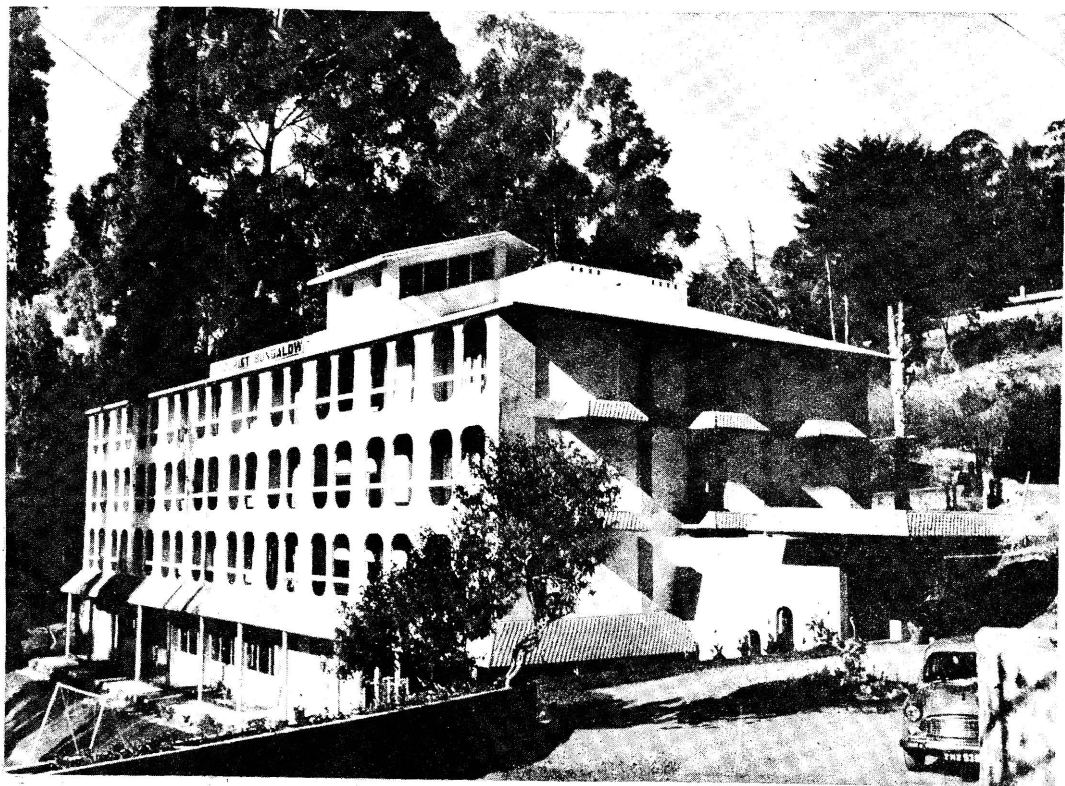
The 28th Annual Convention of the Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) was held at Bangalore from 7th to 12th April, 1978. The Tamil Nadu Government participated in the convention in a big way (i) by participating in the All India Exhibition organised by the TAAI on a competitive basis for various Departments of Tourism and (ii) by hosting a Tamil Nadu Evening at West End Hotel, Bangalore, with a specially designed programme "Cultural Panorama of Tamil Nadu," highlighting the various seasons and the various types of folk and classical dances and music. The dinner highlighted Tamil Nadu's vegetarian and non-vegetarian specialities. There was a unanimous praise for the Tamil Nadu Evening. The Minister for Information and Tourism, Government of Tamil Nadu, personally met the delegates to the TAAI convention and assured co-operation of the Government.

The Tamil Nadu pavilion highlighted the handicrafts, handloom, ceramics and the tourism potentials. Specially made colour photographs were used for display. The panel of judges headed by Thiru Inder Sethi, Commercial Director,

A
STRATEGY
FOR

TOURISM
PROMOTION





Air India, cited during the prize awarding ceremony that the Tamil Nadu pavilion met all the requirements of the TAAI Convention and awarded the first prize—the Vasanth Kotak Trophy — to Tamil Nadu Government. This was well published nationally and was another feather in the cap of the Department.

publicised in all the Tourist journals and in All India papers and magazines especially in tourism supplements.

The Department of Tourism also participated in the National Agricultural Fair held in November, 1977.

As a follow up of the Travel Agents Convention, Minister for Information and Tourism convened a special meeting of the representatives of the Travel Trade in Tamil Nadu on May 11, 1978 and was attended by all the leading hoteliers, airlines operators, travel agents; etc., who explained the various efforts the Government may take for promotion of Tourism.

This department has brought out a set of 25 picture post cards in high quality paper.

A multi-colour folder on Tamil Nadu giving comprehensive information about the tourist centres in the State has been brought out.

The places of tourist interest and their special features were

INCREASE IN OUTLAY FOR EDUCATION

* The allocation for Education in 1978-79 is Rs. 176 crores. It is 24% of the State Budget.

* Nearly 1,100 teachers posts were created.

* Orders have been issued to sanction 1,000 posts of High School teachers, 200 posts of Tamil Pandits and 200 Physical Instructors.

* Financial outlay for collegiate education has been doubled.

* Tamil Pandits in indigent conditions now receive a grant of Rs. 100 each.

* Teachers in Government-aided colleges also are to receive U.G.C. scale of pay.

* Anglo - Indian students in Anglo-Indian School will receive free education.

* It has been decided to set up a Tamil Cultural Centre to honour Tamil Savants like Kambar and Ramalinga Swamigal.

* Higher Secondary Education will be available in 800 schools.

* Compartmental examination system has been introduced.

* No detention in I to III standards.

* Technical University will be set up in Madras.

* The post of Poet-Laureate has been revived. Poet Kannadasan is honoured with this title.

The Tourism Department pavilion of Thavil and Nadaswaram in the Tourist Trade Fair was highly popular and drew large crowds, especially for the Sound and Light show set up inside the pavilion in a novel and attractive manner this year.

The photographs of various tourist attractions were compiled and were also distributed to visiting journalists and the overseas offices of Air India and Government of India and foreign Travel Agents.

The printing of a guide map of Madras City, Multicolour posters and a prestige brochure on Tamil Nadu have been commissioned.

Development Schemes

In Kodaikanal Hill Station the two Telescopic Houses one at Coaker's walk and another at Kurunji Andavar Temple were commissioned in September 1977. The Telescopic houses were constructed at a cost of Rs. 1.60 lakhs each under the Western Ghats Development Programme. These telescope houses are very popular as people could distinctly see the panoramic view of the distant Vaigai Dam and the Palani Andavar Temple from Kodaikanal using the Telescopes. A sum of Rs. 58,100 has already been sanctioned for the beautification of the lake at Kodaikanal and the work is to commence shortly. Further, an additional amount of Rs. 2.03 lakhs for its further development has been provided in the budget for the year 1978-79.

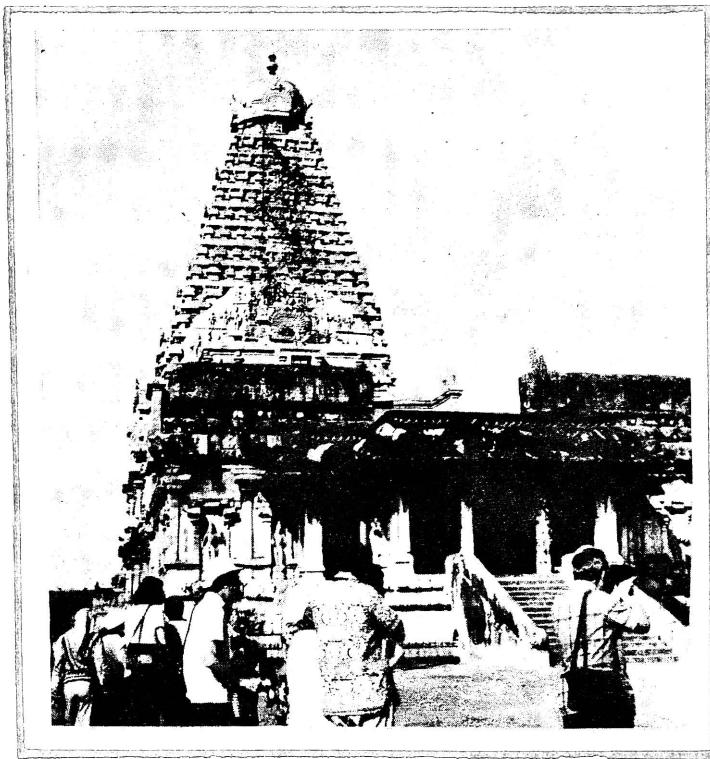
Yercaud Lake

For the development of Yercaud Lake, a sum of Rs. 2.06 lakhs has already been sanctioned and the work is also in progress. Further an additional sum of Rs. 1.5 lakhs has been provided for its further development during 1978-79.

A sum of Rs. 1 lakh has been sanctioned for laying an approach road to the fossil wood area at Thiruvakkarai in South Arcot District and the work is expected to be completed shortly.

Now Schemes

The following development schemes, which have been approved for implementation during 1978-79 are being implemented by the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation on behalf of this Dept.



Further Development of Kodai and Yercaud lakes.

Provision of rest shed and boat jetty at Mandapam which will benefit tourists proceeding to Rameswaram and Kurusadai Island at a cost of Rs. 2 lakhs.

Provision of basic amenities like boat jetty and boat house at Pichavaram at a cost of Rs. 3.5 lakhs.

Construction of accommodation complex at Mamallapuram for the middle and low income group including land acquisition at a cost of Rs. 3.10 lakhs.

Provision of basic amenities at Avudaiyarkoil and Viralmalai at a cost of Rs. 75,000/- each.

In addition to the above development schemes of the Department, the T.T.D.C. has on hand a number of schemes to put up tourism infrastructure on the commercial side at Mamallapuram, Pichavaram and Mandapam.

Tourist Bungalows :

The Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation maintains a chain of 13 Tourist Bungalows in 12 places of tourist importance and

operates conducted and package tours. In addition the Boat House at Ooty is also run by the Corporation. The Corporation has a Tourist Bungalow with 76 rooms at Ooty. This T.B. maintains 80% average occupancy throughout the year. As additional accommodation was a felt need at our Complex, the Corporation has taken up the construction of 8 cottages in 2 blocks. The cottages will be ready in a few months' time. During the year 1977-78, we have completed the construction of Conference Hall at Mamallapuram and Kodaikanal. We have spent on capital works nearly Rs. 30.28 lakhs during this year.

Motels :

During the year 1977-78, the Corporation took up the construction of Motels on the National Highways at Ranipet and Ulundurpet as a measure of providing way-side amenities to the tourists. The Corporation has just completed the Motel at Ranipet at a cost of Rs. 8 lakhs and it will be thrown open for public during the month of July, 1978. These Motels will provide not only way-side amenities like toilet facilities and restaurant facilities, but also an overnight stay facilities to the tourists.



THE Government had hardly completed two months in office when the workers of the four Transport Corporations, resorted to strike demanding revision of basic pay, incentive bonus, leave facilities etc. They struck work from 27-8-1977.

Immediate arrangements were made to reduce the hardship caused to the travelling public as a result of the strike. While the Pallavan Transport Corporation itself operated a majority of its buses with the help of loyal workers, private buses were also requisitioned by the Government for operating the service in the City of Madras in the interest of the public.

No repressive measures were taken against the workers. The Government held several rounds of conciliatory talks with the Unions and the strike was called off on 3rd September following the acceptance by the Union of the Government's offer of an *ad hoc* increase in their emoluments from 1st September, 1977. This approach indicates how the present Government are interested in promoting the welfare of the workers. This is in sharp contrast to the attitude of the previous Government during the strike in Tamil Nadu State Transport Department and the Pallavan Transport Corporation in June, 1975.

In fact, this Government have rectified the wrong done to 98 workers of the Pallavan Transport Corporation by the earlier regime for participating in a strike in 1973.

Conciliation

Detailed talks continued with the representatives of the workers and the conciliation machinery of the Labour Department was also used to the fullest extent to strive for a satisfactory settlement with the

workers. On 8th May, 1978, the Joint Action Committee of the representatives of Union in the Transport Corporations announced that they would go on strike from the midnight of 16th May. The Minister for Transport and Labour Minister held several meetings with the representatives of the Unions and the management of the Pallavan Transport Corporation. The Chief Minister personally intervened and the threatened strike by the Pallavan Transport Corporation workers was called off on 16-5-78 following a settlement reached at between the representatives of the Trade Unions and the Management. The concessions given to the employees of State Transport Corporations within the short span of a year by this Government are very many. Some of them are :

Concessions

The employees attached to all Transport Corporations were given an increase of Rs. 27/- in emoluments from 1-9-1977. The basic pay was increased by Rs. 10/- and the Dearness Allowance by Rs. 35/- for each employee. For drivers, a further increase in basic pay of Rs. 5/- was allowed. The fixed Dearness Allowance payable to the workmen is now Rs. 110/- at 320/- points of Madras City Consumer Price Index No. for the working class Base 1960. The employees are to get 90 paise per point of increase in the cost of living index. Earlier the base was 323 points and the rate for increase over 323 was only 75 paise per point.

The number of days of sick leave have been enhanced from 6 days to 8 days per year. The provision of canteen facility has been introduced. In addition, a 25% subsidy is given to provide food articles at cheaper cost.

The Government voluntarily ordered the issue of free bus passes to the children of employees of Transport Workers to go to schools and colleges of their choice. 4 % of basic pay and D. A. subject to a maximum limit as Rs. 40/- per month is given as health allowance and also ordered that this concession be given effect to for the last two years.

Sun-glasses are now given to drivers to protect their eyes from the hot sun. So far, the employees of Pallavan Transport Corporation working in mofussil districts had not been given passes for their travel to their place of work. This Government issued orders to provide free passes to such employees also.

The incentive of Rs. 25/- for accident free driving has been increased to Rs. 100/- for the first year and for each successive year of accident -free driving, the amount is increased by Rs. 25/-. With a view to help the families of employees who die in harness, the Corporations will provide employment opportunity to one of the legal heirs of the deceased in relaxation of rules.

The Government have arranged for sanction of increments from the 1st day of the month in which the employee completes a year of service.

A number of persons had been retrenched during the emergency. Harsh punishments had been imposed even for small offences. All such cases have been reviewed. Where punishment was too severe it has been reduced and some—dismissed employees reinstated. Retrenched employees are being given priority in making recruitment. Many of the above concessions have been granted by Government voluntarily without any demand. The interest of the workers is constantly in the mind of the Government. During the last one year, the total emoluments of a driver have increased by Rs. 69/- and of other workers by Rs. 62/-. These increases will cost the Corporations Rs. 3.53 crores. In addition, the other concessions given to all the workers will cost the Corporations about Rs. 24/- per worker. The total additional benefits given to the workers of State Transport Undertakings during the year amounts to Rs. 4.38 crores per annum. These benefits are enjoyed by 43,000 workers of the State Transport Corporations and the Engineering Corporations.

At present Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited (TIDCO) has on hand five projects in the public sector. Production in two projects i.e., Alangulam Cement Works and Tamil Nadu Steels, Arakkonam, had already commenced and the remaining three projects are under various stages of implementation. The details regarding the project outlay and total employment opportunities created are furnished below :

Ariyalur Cement Project

An industrial licence was obtained for setting up a new dry process cement plant at Ariyalur in Tiruchirappalli district at a capital cost of Rs. 28.76 crores with a capacity of 5 lakhs tonnes of Portland Cement per annum. The construction and erection work had gained momentum and the first kiln is expected to be commissioned during September, 1978. The project will provide employment for 1,100 persons.

Asbestos Cement Sheet Project

It is proposed to instal an Asbestos Cement Sheet Project at Alangulam in Ramanathapuram district with a capacity of 36,000 tonnes per annum at an estimated project cost of Rs. 166 crores. The project is expected to be taken up for active implementation during 1978-79. On completion, it will provide employment for 270 persons.

Steel Rolling Project

With a view to diversifying the product range of Tamil Nadu Steels and to make it more viable, the possibilities of installing a rolling mill with facilities for re-rolling special steel billets at a capital cost of Rs. 8 crores is under consideration of TIDCO. The project is expected to be taken up for implementation during the year 1978-79.

News-Print Project

A proposal to set up a News-Print Project in the public sector at a capital cost of Rs. 100 crores using sugarcane bagasse as raw material is under the consideration of the Government in consultation with the TIDCO.

Magnesium Metal Project

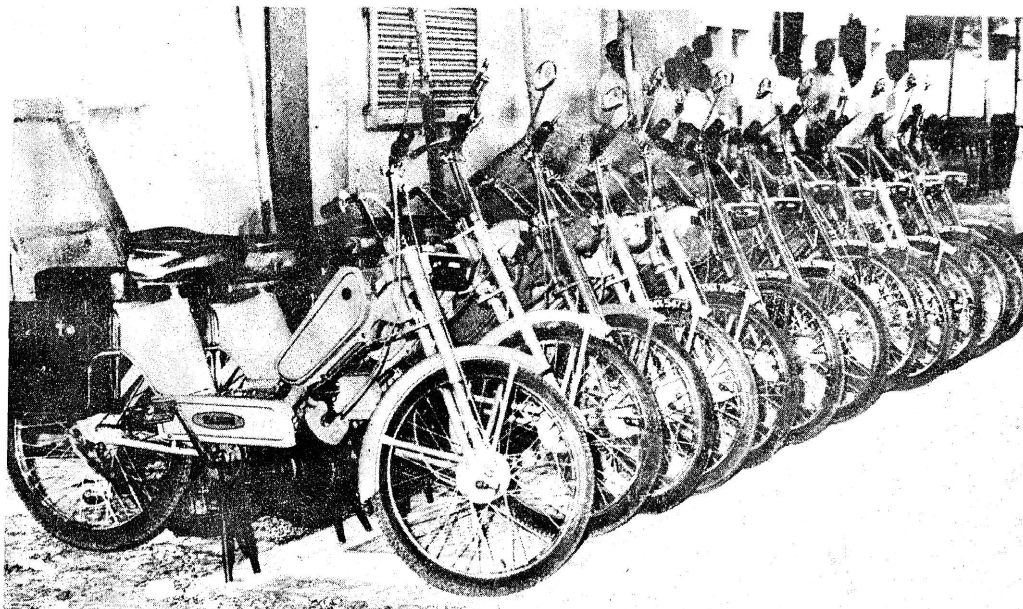
In April, 1978, the Government approved the proposal of TIDCO to implement the Magnesium Metal Project in the public sector in association with the Central Electro Chemical Research Institute and National Research Development Corporation. The project cost is about Rs. 200 lakhs and will provide employment to 200 persons.

Joint Sector Project

TIDCO has also been playing an active role in sponsoring projects in the joint sector in association with entrepreneurs having resources and necessary expertise. After the present Ministry assumed office, the following joint sector projects came into existence.

Gangappa Paper Mills Ltd.

The paper project at a capital cost of 350 lakhs will be set up in Vadakuthu Village in South Arcot District and it will provide direct employment to 400 persons and



indirect employment to 2,000 persons.

Tamil Nadu Chemical Products Ltd.

This project has been set up by TIDCO in Kalanivasal Village, Karaikudi Taluk, Ramanathapuram District for the manufacture of Sodium Hydrosulphate. The plant has commenced production with effect from 16-12-1977 inspite of various difficulties. The number of persons employed as on 31-3-1978 is 250.

Alloy Foundry Project

The Government have approved the proposal of TIDCO (in May, 1978) for setting up an Alloy Foundry Project in association with a technocrat, at a capital cost of Rs. 120 lakhs. The project will provide employment to 320 persons. The project will be set up in an industrially backward area viz., Hosur in Dharmapuri District.

Vanavil Dyes and Chemicals Ltd.

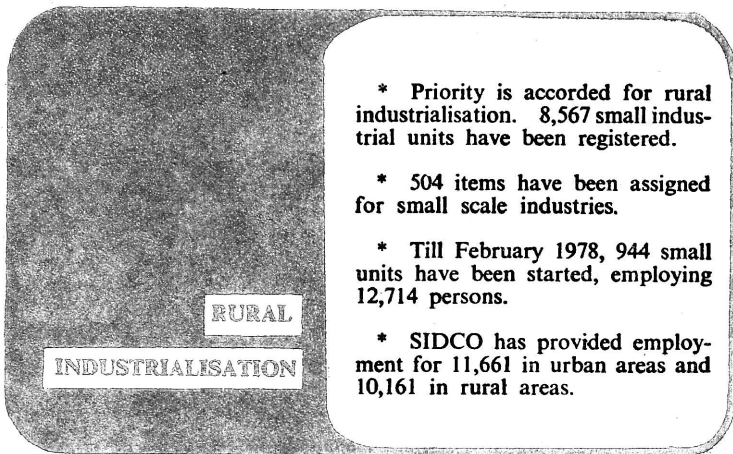
The Government approved the proposal of TIDCO to set up the project by name Vanavil Dyes and Chemicals Limited for manufacturing naphthols and fast colour bases required for handloom weavers in Tamil Nadu at a cost of Rs. 3.5 crores. This project is being set up in association with Co-optex. Site has been selected at Cuddalore in South Arcot District. Employment potential will be 400.

Dynavision Ltd.

This joint sector company sponsored by TIDCO has got a good reputation in the market for its popular T.V. set 'Dyanora'. The total T.V. Sets manufactured in the year 1976 was 4,308. The above project gives employment to 240 persons.

Assistance to Sick Industrial Units

In the year 1969 the Government of Tamil Nadu enacted the Tamil Nadu Relief Undertakings (Special Provisions) Act, 1969 to give protection to sick units for a limited period, in respect of industrial relations, financial applications and other like matters in relation to industrial undertakings, the running of which is considered as essential as a measure of preventing or of providing relief against unemployed. The provisions of the above Act, were made applicable



* Priority is accorded for rural industrialisation. 8,567 small industrial units have been registered.

* 504 items have been assigned for small scale industries.

* Till February 1978, 944 small units have been started, employing 12,714 persons.

* SIDCO has provided employment for 11,661 in urban areas and 10,161 in rural areas.

by the present Government in respect of 17 companies in this State. Out of this 17 companies 7 companies were given relief under the above Act for the first time during 1977-78. The companies are:—

1. Southern Switchgear Ltd., Madras.
2. South India Glass and Enamel Works, Ltd., Salem.
3. Ravindra Mills Ltd., Coimbatore.
4. Madhu Spinning and Weaving Mills Ltd., Coimbatore.
5. Prakash Mills Ltd., Coimbatore.
6. Coimbatore Kamala Mills Ltd., Coimbatore.
7. Somasundaram Super Spinning Mills, Muthanendal, Ramanathapuram district.

The present Government have also given loans and ways and means advance for purchase of machinery and working capital to the following four units :

1. Southern Structural Ltd., Madras.
2. Sakthi Pipes Ltd., Madras.
3. Textool Company Ltd., Coimbatore.
4. Lotus Mills, Coimbatore.

Re-opening of Closed Industrial Units

INDIA METERS LIMITED

M/s. India Meters Ltd., Madras, which has been declared as a relief undertaking under the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Relief Undertaking (Special Provision) Act, 1969 since September, 1973, remained closed since November, 1974. The Government took active part in the discussion held between the Financial Institution, Industrial Reconstruction Corporation of India,

Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd., and the Government of India in drawing up a reconstruction scheme for the revival of the company. In accordance with the reconstruction scheme the Government of Tamil Nadu have given a guarantee to Central Bank of India for a sum of Rs. 4 lakhs to be advanced by it towards the additional working capital of the company and also ordered the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board should purchase 50,000 meters in the first year and 1,00,000 meters every year in the next four years at a price preference of 25%.

The Company has been re-opened on 8-12-1977. The company has so far taken back 436 workers.

Textile Mills

As on 30-6-77 8 textile mills remained closed. The Government took earnest steps and got the following textile mills re-opened.

2. Sivakumar Spinning Mills, Tirunelveli.
3. Prakash Mills, Coimbatore.
4. Lotus Mills, Coimbatore.
5. Somasundaram Super Spinning Mills, Muthanendal, Ramanathapuram district.

The Government also extended guarantee assistance for the bank loans of Rs. 120 lakhs and sanctioned a loan of Rs. 30 lakhs to the above textile mills. Out of the above five mills, the Government took over the management of Somasundaram Super Spinning Mills, Muthanendal, Ramanathapuram District.



AGENCIES FOR SMALL INDUSTRIES PROMOTION

In the development of rural-based industries, the Tamil Nadu Small Industries Development Corporation SIDCO also plays its role. The Corporation has recently formulated a scheme to provide unique opportunities for rural artisans of Tamil Nadu like welders, blacksmiths, carpenters, etc., to develop their trade. Small workshops are offered on hire purchase basis. The artisans are required to pay Rs. 413/- initially and at the rate of Rs. 3/- per day thereafter. After 10 years the artisan becomes the absolute owner of the workshop.

Workshops

Till the end of 31-1-78, 347 entrepreneurs have benefited to the value of Rs. 319 lakhs in various places in Tamil Nadu by purchasing workshops from SIDCO on hire-purchase basis. SIDCO proposed to construct 200 workshops in Ambattur, Hosur, Ranipet, Tirupur, Mathur, Tiruchengodu, Namakkal, Krishnagiri and Vadalur. This project would provide employment to 1,070 persons in rural areas and 980 in urban areas. Further 200 sheds with a total outlay of Rs. 14 lakhs are also proposed to be constructed to cater to the needs of the "Tiny Sector" at places like Ambattur, Guindy, Salem and Dindigul.

During 1977-78 (upto 31-1-1978) 1,050 small entrepreneurs have bene-

fited by purchasing machineries on hire purchase basis to the value of Rs. 1,686 lakhs. In the same period, raw materials valued at Rs. 2,91 lakhs were procured and distributed to small entrepreneurs. SIDCO had sanctioned Central Subsidy to the tune of Rs. 57.34 lakhs in respect of 233 cases; during 1977-78 (upto 15-3-1978). SIDCO manages all the conventional industrial estates and developed plots estates, offers marketing assistance and renders export assistance to small scale units.

Employment Potential

SIDCO will have a turnover to the extent of Rs. 1,672 lakhs providing an employment opportunities for 21,822 persons of which 11,661 will be in rural areas and 10,161 in urban areas. The Corporation also proposes to undertake a survey of the units in the industrial estates and those assisted by SIDCO to identify the sick units and to rehabilitate them.

TANSI

The Tamil Nadu Small Industries Corporation Limited (TANSI) took over from the Department of Industries and Commerce the small scale industries units to run them on commercial lines. The Government have been assisting the Corporation with loan and equity to meet the cost towards the

purchase of machinery, etc. The Corporation has been making efforts to run the units as commercially viable production centres. Its new subsidiary company called 'Tamil Nadu Mopeds Limited' has undertaken production of Mopeds under the brand name 'MAYURAM.' The new projects undertaken by the Corporation during 1977-78 are :-

- (i) Machine Tools Project, Ranipet.
- (ii) Black Granite Stores, Kunnam.
- (iii) Watch Assembly unit, Ootacamund.

TANSI has concentrated on diversification of its activities with a view to augment production by way of setting up new industries and to generate additional employment potential.

Guindy Unit

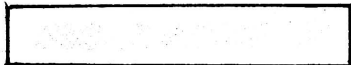
TANSI has been maintaining cordial relations with its labour. The workers in one of its units, Tansi Glasswares, Guindy, numbering about 200 were laid off from 1-10-74 due to break down of furnace, accumulation of stocks and uneconomical working. The layoff which was in force for about 3 years was lifted completely with effect from 21-10-77 and production of the new product — double walled glass shells for thermos-flasks — commenced from November, 1977.



STATE Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu, (SIPCOT) set up in 1971, has forged ahead in its effort for promoting and developing medium and major industries in private sector. This Corporation is a catalyst in backward areas. The Ranipet and Hosur growth centres are important achievements of SIPCOT. The area allotted under area development during the period from 1-7-1977 to 31-5-1978 at Ranipet was 29.45 acres. During the same period the area allotted at Hosur was 388.94 acres. Term loan sanction of Rs. 213.55 lakhs was made during the period from 1-7-77 to 31-5-78 and the disbursement effected during the same period was Rs. 95.27 lakhs. Underwriting/direct subscription sanction of Rs. 11 lakhs have also been made during the same period.

Agency Function

Under interest Free Sales Tax Loan Scheme sanctions/commitments to the extent of Rs. 132.43 lakhs and disbursements to the extent of Rs. 92.89 lakhs were made during the period from 1-7-77 to 31-5-78. During the same period under Central Investment Subsidy, sanctions of Rs. 190.40 lakhs and disbursements of Rs. 168.35 lakhs were effected by SIPCOT. During the period 1-7-77 to 31-5-78, it is estimated that the sanctions/commitments under various schemes would have generated direct employment potential for 6,500 persons.



At the commencement of the sugar season (1977-78), there were



20 Sugar Mills in the State. The total crushing capacity of the Mills were 34,750 tonnes of cane per day. Another sugar mills in Public Sector with 1,250 tonnes per day at Eraiyur village in Tiruchirapalli district was under erection. To provide employment opportunities to the rural people, expeditious action was taken to complete the project and the Sugar Mill started its trial crushing during the month of February 1978. About 700 persons were employed in the Mill. The Mill has made a remarkable achievement by crushing over 1.30 lakh tonnes of cane in its trial crushing. It is reported that no other Sugar Mills in the country had crushed so much of cane in its trial crushing. At the commence-

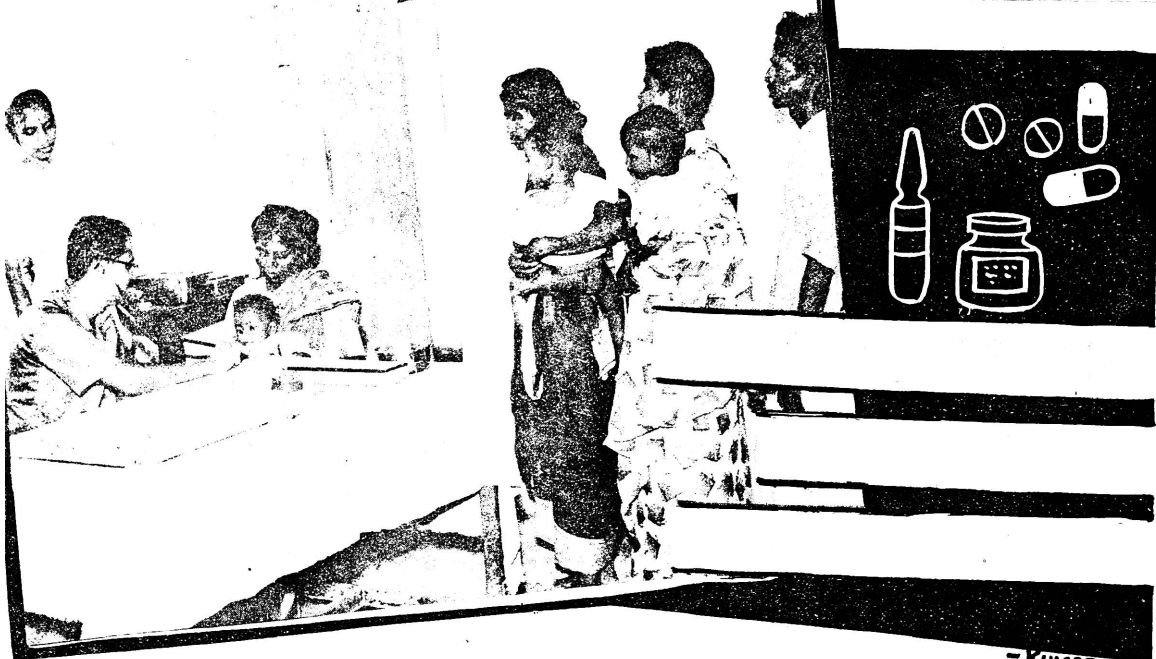
ment of the sugar season, four Co-operative Sugar Mills expanded their crushing capacity with the result the total crushing capacities was increased by 3,000 tonnes per day.

To avoid frequent strike on the bonus issue, Government evolved a formula for the payment of production incentives to the employees of the Co-operative Sugar Mills. Production incentive will be paid to the employees of the Co-operative Sugar Mills for the year 1977-78

and 1978 - 79 as per the formula evolved by the Government.

Higher Production

On account of implementation of modern techniques in the cultivation of cane and also due to payment of attractive price for cane over and above the price fixed by the Government of India for this season (1977-78) about 56 lakhs tonnes of cane is expected to be crushed. By this about 4.50 lakhs tonnes of sugar would be produced. This would be 40% more than last year's production. It is also to be noted that production would be the highest when compared to the production of any of the Sugar Season so far.



- KUMAR - III

EVEN though the Primary Health Centres have been started to provide a package of health services to the rural masses the Medical Officers could not be able to meet the needs of all villages in a Block. To fulfil this gap in health services, the mobile health teams, instituted in 1977 under the new health policy render services to the villages. Accordingly, one medical officer of the Primary Health Centre where three medical officers are serving, will stay at the Primary Health Centre in the morning and evening to attend to the patients. The other two medical officers will attend to prevention, cure and post-treatment need of the patients in the villages. Every team will visit six to eight villages a day. The team's visit to villages is fixed in advance and before the turn of the week, the team would have visited all the villages in the Union. Complicated cases will be referred to the nearby Government Hospital. The Health Inspector will be liaising between the villagers and the team. The patients are prepared by the Health Inspector for examination by the Health Team. This new scheme helps the villagers to receive the treatment in their own villages instead of availing it in the Primary Health Centres.

Centres which implement the new pattern of health services. The fuel supply has also been increased. Every Primary Health Centre has been granted Rs. 14,000 for purchase of medicines. In addition to it, a sum of Rs. 10,000 has been allocated for in Mobile Health Team. Every team will have a compounder also.

The Government of India introduced the "Social Health Worker Scheme" on 2nd October, 1977

in order to extend health and medical services to the villagers. The Centre requested the State to implement this scheme and they would bear the extreme expenditure. We did not accept to implement it because there was no public support for this scheme and the interest of the medical students, medical teachers and post-graduate teachers were also taken into consideration. As an alternate to the Centre's scheme, the "Mobile Health Team"



This scheme has been started at a cost of Rs. 7.16 lakhs in 24 Primary Health Centres where the strength of the medical officer is three. There are two vehicles in the Primary Health





They operate only in 11 places. These teams visit even the far-flung villages and hamlets and render medical assistance. Their service is only curative, and they do not attend to prevention and after-care health service. The mobile team aims at providing these three types of services to villagers in their habitations.

Incentives to Staff in Leprosy Clinics

The Government want that all the staff working in leprosy hospitals should take real interest in their work and pay full attention to the patients. To induce them to evince keen interest, the Government issued the following orders in February, 1977

programme was envisaged and is under implementation.

Out of 383 Primary Health Centres and 288 sub-centres, 130 Primary Health Centres only have three medical officers. Considering the increase in the number of out-patients, the Government have ordered for appointing the third Medical Officer in 100 Primary Health Centres. The Mobile Health Team has already been functioning in 24 Primary Health Centres. The Mobile Medical Team will start

functioning in two more Primary Health Centres during 1978-79. To implement this proposal, it has been decided to appoint 100 additional doctors, 200 compounders and buy 50 vehicles and appoint 50 drivers. The Government have also decided to appoint 153 more doctors to serve as third medical officers in the Health Centre and 125 mobile medical teams during 1979-80, and also sanction 134 mobile Health teams

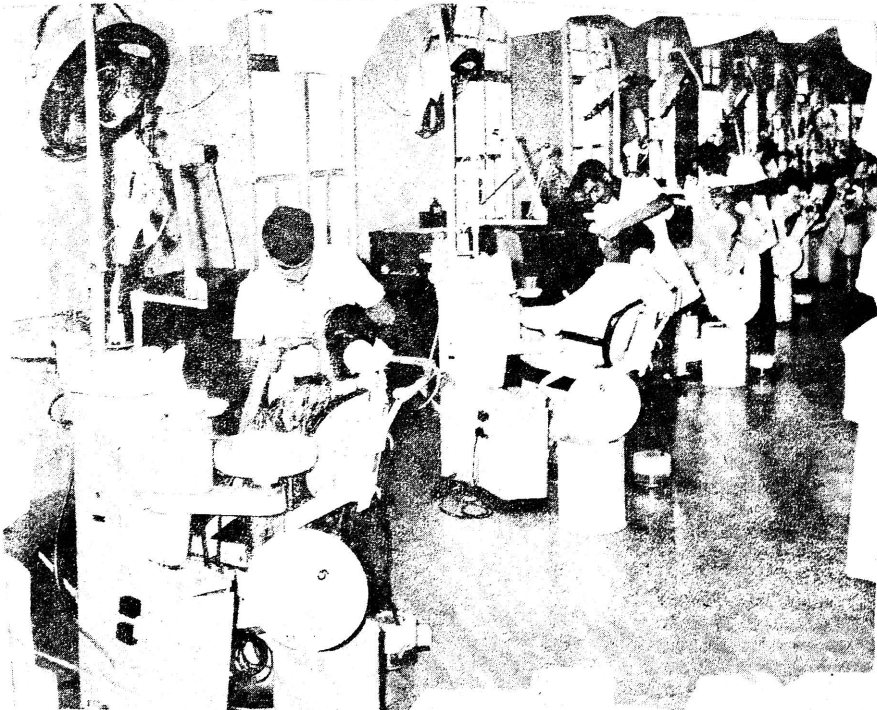
The Mobile Medical unit is already functioning in Tamil Nadu.

1. The private practice by the Medical Officers be prohibited.

2. The scale of pay of Medical Officer has been increased to Rs. 575-25-600-40-1,000 as against Rs. 525-25-60-30-690-35-900.

3. Rs. 100/- has been sanctioned as non-practice allowance instead of Rs. 75/- paid as compensatory allowance.

4. The leprosy service allowance has been enhanced to Rs. 200/- instead of Rs. 125/-.



Medical Check-up of School Children

Children are more susceptible to leprosy. Children in Balwadis and below 11 years are easily affected by malnutrition and other curable diseases, particularly leprosy. The Government have sanctioned a scheme to examine school children and diagnose the incidence among the tender children.

This scheme will be implemented in the urban and rural areas in the districts of Chengalpattu, North Arcot, South Arcot, Salem, Dharmapuri, Tiruchirappalli, and Pudukkottai and in the endemic areas of Thanjavur, Madurai and Coimbatore districts. A short-term course for 240 Health Inspectors is being organised to make them familiar with leprosy symptoms of the disease.

Medical Officers in T.B. and Leprosy Hospitals

Fifty posts of Senior Medical Officers recently have been sanctioned for one year so as to help the Graduate Medical Officer to take live interest in leprosy work. Twenty-five of them will work in leprosy clinics and the rest in TB Centres. They will receive proper training for two months in all aspects of leprosy and TB treatment, prevention before their actual placement in the hospitals.

Mobile (Accidents) Medical Team

The cell for medical assistance for attending to accident cases received from the public or the police will be attended at once. The Government have sanctioned creation of a Mobile (Accidents) Medical Team in Government Hospitals, Madras and Royapettah Hospital. The Medical Teams consist of three medical officers, three theatre assistants and 3 drivers. This team renders first aid at the accident spot itself, and, if necessary the person involved in the accident will be taken to the hospital for further treatment. We have to spend an additional sum of Rs. 1,38,000 as recovering and Rs. 1,20,000 as non-recovering. The services of these mobile units are completely satisfactory.

Free Eye Camps

The Free Eye Camp Project, started in 1972, has some deficiencies which were brought to the notice of the present Government. The



cataract patients directly received anti-biotic eye ointment in the past and sutures were not made. Uniform spectacles were supplied to the patients without examining the operated person's eyes. The spectacles were sub-standard in quality and not durable. No proper care was taken to operate the patients and operations were hurriedly done with an eye on the number of operated cases. More than 400 operations were performed in a day. The present Government examined these defects and wanted to adopt new methods to rectify them. Now sutures are made, and eye ointment costing Re. 1 is supplied free to relieve the pain and the patients are taught now how to use the ointment. We have now adopted a new system of examining the operated individuals after six weeks and spectacles worth of Rs. 20 each are supplied to them, with due care to individuals requirement at their residents. The spectacles supplied are very strong and of good standard and quality. We are very particular to provide quality service and avoid failures. The number of cases operated at a camp should not exceed 300 and not more than 150 cases should be operated upon in a day. A Medical Officer should perform only 30 operations in a day. In view of the changes, the eye camps are

now infusing confidence in the minds of the public and camps are well organised.

Mini-Health Centres

The Government want to create a small comprehensive health centre to meet the medical and health requirements of the villagers. Dr. K.S. Sanjeevi, Director, Voluntary Health Centre, Adyar, has a plan of Mini-Health Centres. His plan was examined in detail by Government, and in March 1977, Government ordered for setting up of 34 Mini-Health Centres.



A Mini-Health Centre serves 1,000 families or 5,000 people without any discrimination of caste or religion. The annual expenditure for one Mini-Health Centre will be Rs. 18,000. The centres are run with the financial assistance of State and Central Governments and voluntary agencies at the rate of 1 : 1 : 1. We have agreed to meet 50% of the expenditure incurred in setting up Centres until the Central assistance is received. The Government have accorded sanction to voluntary agencies to set up 54 Mini-Health Centres during 1976-77 and 1977-78. We have a proposal to open 50 more Centres under Part II scheme at a cost of Rs. 4.50 lakhs during the 1978-79. **

MEDICAL EDUCATION — ADMISSION TO MEDICAL COLLEGES

THE selection of candidates for admission to I Year Integrated M.B.B.S. Course, July 1975 session, was made by adopting interview system.

19 Writ Petitions were filed in the High Court, Madras, by the candidates who were not selected for admission to I Year Integrated M.B.B.S. Course for 1975-76 Session, challenging the selection made by the Selection Committee. All the above Writ Petitions were dismissed.

During 1976-77 Session, the selection of candidates for admission to I Year M.B.B.S. Course was made on merit-oriented basis by adopting interview system. No Writ Petition was filed in the High Court, Madras, by any of the unselected candidates. But this might have been due to the Emergency.

During 1977-78 Session, selection of candidates for admission to I Year Integrated M.B.B.S. Course was made on merit-oriented basis by adopting interview system. Only 5 Writ Petitions were filed in the High Court, Madras, by the unselected candidates. Four writ petitions were dismissed except one writ petition which has been referred to the Bench. The above writ petition relates to separate reservation for Scheduled Tribe candidates. The Court's order is awaited. The percentage of Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other communities selected overall inclusive of reservations for admission to I Year Integrated

M.B.B.S. Course for the last 4 years of India and decided to continue the existing reservation for Backward is furnished below :

	1974—75	1975—76	1976—77	1977—78
Backward Classes	51.6%	51%	54.7%	55.1%
Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes	18 %	18%	18.1%	18.4%
Other Communities	30.4%	31%	27.2%	26.5%

Reservation in P. G. Course

The selection during July 1977 was very fair as the selections were made on merit oriented basis. The selections for Post-Graduate Degree and Diploma Courses in April 1977, October 1977 and April 1978 sessions were also done on merit basis. The Medical Council of India wanted that there should not be reservation for Backward Classes, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates in respect of selection for Post-Graduate Courses. The Government examined the above proposal of the Medical Council

Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for admission to Post-Graduate Courses. The above decision of the Government is based on the conditions prevailing in this State owing to the social and economic backwardness of the people and the responsibility of the Government to promote the interests of socially and economically backward classes. The Government of India and the Medical Council of India have been informed that there should be continued reservation for Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. **

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A YEAR OF PROGRESS : STATISTICAL INDICATORS

The survey made by the Statistics Departments reveals that there has been spectacular progress in all fields for the past one year and the Government maintained vigilance over the movement of prices of various commodities.

The quick estimate of net State domestic product (State income) at constant (1960-61) prices registered an increase of 4.7%.

The food-production increased from 70.68 lakh tonnes in 76-77 to 81.1 lakh tonnes in 77-78 resulting in an increase of 14.7%. The per capital real income has increased by 2.7%.

The Government have achieved for the first time, the increase in the rate of State Domestic product than the increase in the rate of population.

In industrial sector, the production growth was 4.9%.

The year 77-78 witnessed a reversal in the trend of rising prices compared to the preceding years. An over-all fall of 5.9% in the All India Commodities (Composite) Index was noted during 1977-78. Out of this the food-grain group recorded a steep fall of 10.5% and the price of rice declined by 15% for first sort and 16.2 for second sort as against 11.7% and 18.3% respectively in 1976-77.

The total expenditure during 1977-78 under development expenditure accounted for 71.4% as compared to 70.4% in 76-77, the non-development expenditure came down from 29.62% in 76-77 to 28.60% in 77-78.

WE have immense sea-food resources. Of late, various measures have been taken to exploit the wealth beneath the waters and to introduce modern fishing operation methods. In all such planning, the welfare of the fishermen community has been accorded priority.

Deep Sea Fishing

Two out-rigger trawlers "Nellai" and "Thanjai" of 23.5 metres in length were imported from Mexico at a total cost of about Rs. 80 lakhs. These trawlers are equipped with modern equipments like fish finder, Radio Telephone, Hydraulic trawl winch, etc. Along with the insulated fish hold, there is a provision to store the catch with chilling arrangements. The launching ceremony was done by the Chief Minister on 11-3-78. This effort is the first step in the right direction for the exploitation of the resources of the deep sea. They have started fishing with base at Madras. The catches from these trawlers would initially help the Tamil Nadu Fisheries Development Corporation to expand its marketing activity and later to enter the export field.

Small Mechanised Boats Programme

The introduction of additional small mechanised fishing boats would be done cautiously for the benefit of the fishermen community taking into consideration the optimum numbers that could be introduced on our coast without affecting the resources of their operations and also without affecting operation by the traditional small scale fishermen.

In future, the distribution of small mechanised fishing boats would be restricted only to the actual fishermen and under no circumstances the facilities available with the Tamil Nadu Fisheries Development Corporation would be allowed to be utilised by the non-fishermen or middlemen even indirectly. Efforts will also be taken to see that the boats already distributed by the Department of Fisheries and the Corporation would stay with the actual fishermen and in case if they are not with the allottees action will be taken to eliminate the middlemen.

Diversification of Fishing

At present there are about 2,000 country fishing boats in operation in Tamil Nadu. Almost the entire mechanised fishing fleet go only

for prawn fishery on account of the high price, available for it in the market. If this trend continues, there would be over exploitation of the prawn resources and on the other hand, other resources would remain unexploited. In order to reduce the pressure on prawn fishing as well as to conserve the stock and further to exploit all available resources judiciously, schemes have been formulated to encourage the fishermen to go for diversified fishing.

The Government have constituted an expert committee under the Chairmanship of a retired Director, Marine Products Export Development Authority consisting of five members to undertake a study on the requirement of infrastructural facilities in Tamil Nadu for the development of Fisheries and Fishing Industry. The committee has submitted its report to Government which is now under examination. After finalisation of this report suitable follow up action will be taken for providing the required infrastructural facilities to help the rapid development of fisheries and fishing industry in Tamil Nadu.

Hill Fisheries

In order to improve the hill fishery in the Nilgiris District under the Hill Area Development Programme, a Induced Carp Spawning Centre, Laboratory, Nurseries and Store room have been constructed at the Wilson Fish Farm at Ootacamund at a cost of Rs. 200 lakhs. Under the same programme, a sum of Rs. 1.78 lakhs has been sanctioned for construction of an Aquarium at Ooty during 1978-79.

Fish Farmers Development Agency

With a view to train the inland fishermen and private parties interested in pisciculture in inland fishing and acquaint them to take up private fish culture, a scheme to impart training through 'Fish Farmers Development Agency' by allotting them one or two hectares of inland water spreads and guiding them in stocking and exploitation of inland waters is functioning at Thanjavur from 5-5-76. This agency has trained 82 fish farmers so far and 12 more candidates were also selected for imparting training. An area of 160 hectares of water spread has been distributed to these fish farmers for undertaking fish culture. An additional area of 80 hectares has been identified and will be brought under this scheme in due course.



Three more such agencies have been sanctioned by the Government at Dharmapuri, Madurai & Tiruchy. They are expected to commence functioning shortly.

More Concessions for Fishermen

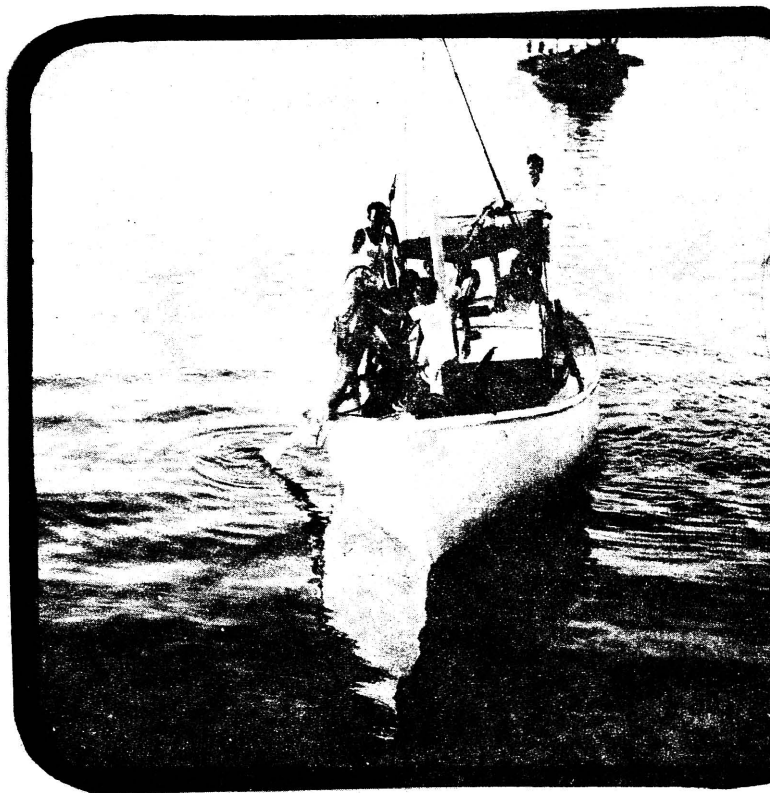
The amount given as relief to the family of fisherman who dies while fishing has been enhanced from Rs. 1,000/- to Rs. 5,000/- with effect from July 25, 1977. Assistance to the extent of another sum of Rs. 5,000/- will be given to the widow for rehabilitation and for higher education of the children of the deceased fisherman. Government have set apart Rs. 2 lakhs from State Funds and another Rs. 2 lakhs from Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund every year and have ordered the creation of a new fund called the "Tamil Nadu Fishermen Welfare and Distress Relief Fund" for this purpose. The object of the fund is to extend financial assistance to the family members solely dependent on the fishermen who die during fishing operations, to extend financial assistance to the children of the fishermen towards payment of full fees for vocational or job oriented training in fisheries science or fisheries technology and the like and to grant scholarships for children of fishermen to provide assistance by way of food, clothing and other essential articles to fishermen during times of floods.

The question of enacting a law to give debt relief to fishermen whose income is Rs. 200/- p.m. and below is under the consideration of the Government. There was no such relief given earlier. This Government have ordered that the mechanised fishing boats should be allotted to actual working fishermen and not to anyone else.

Chank Fisheries

The Government have reclassified the full sized chanks and also revised the procurement price with effect from the Chank Fishing Season 1977-78 in Tirunelveli District. The revised rates are Rs. 2 for chanks of 2.5" dia, Rs. 2.50 for chanks of 2.25" dia. and above.

During May, 1978, the Government have enhanced the daily wages of Divers, Par Mandady & Oarsmen from Rs. 10, Rs. 8 and Rs. 5 to Rs. 20/-, Rs. 15/- and Rs. 10/- respectively in view of the hazardous and hard work involved in these jobs.



The Government have proposed that the Chank Fisheries throughout the coast of Tamil Nadu be treated as Government Monopolies and operated departmentally with effect from the 1st April, 1978 in order to help the chank divers and to eliminate the middlemen. During April, 1978, the Government have issued a notification in this regard calling for objections or suggestions from the public.

Housing Programme

A provision of Rs. 1 crore has been made during 1978-79 for accommodation to all coastal fishermen families. 904 houses had been completed under special housing scheme executed by the Tamil Nadu Harijan Housing and Development Corporation during '77-78. Housing programme for inland fishermen will also be given due consideration.

Assistance to Co-operatives

A pilot scheme for revitalisation of fishermen co-operatives by providing them necessary financial

assistance for taking up fish marketing is proposed to be implemented in 1978-79. The Government will provide a sum of Rs. 2.12 lakhs towards share capital participation in the fishermen Marketing Unions selected for the purpose. The Government will further provide managerial assistance to the extent of Rs. 0.88 lakhs for supervising the implementation of the scheme. With the money invested by the Government by way of share capital participation, the Fishermen Co-operative Marketing Unions would be able to obtain adequate financial assistance from the District Co-operative Central Banks under the scheme of financial assistance offered by the Reserve Bank of India for purchase of crafts and equipments to implement the marketing scheme. The Unions will also obtain assistance from the National Co-operative Development Corporation for purchase of Transport vehicles, cold storages, etc. It is expected that the selected Marketing Unions would be securing a total financial assistance of about Rs. 12.00 lakhs for implementing this programme.



ACHIEVEMENTS OF REVENUE ORGANISATION

WITHIN a short span of one year, the District Administration has been reorientated towards the goal of a clean and efficient administration for quickening the pace of realising the objects of democratic life.

Rameswaram firka in Ramanathapuram District was constituted into an independent sub-taluk with effect from October 8, 1977, for better administration and convenience to the public of this area which has limited communication facilities with the main land.

Sub-taluks are being upgraded into taluks in a phased programme. Out of 43 sub-taluks, 11 had been upgraded into full taluks before July 1, 1977 under this programme. The sub-taluks of Uthiramerur in Chengalpattu district, Yercaud in Salem district and Virudhunagar in Ramanathapuram district were upgraded into full taluks from October 15, 1977. Kattumannarkoil

taluk in South Arcot district has also been decided to be upgraded into a taluk. Coonoor taluk in the Nilgiris district was bifurcated into Coonoor and Kotagiri taluks from May 1, 1978. Padmanabhapuram Revenue Division in Kanyakumari district which was the only Revenue Division covering the whole district was bifurcated into Padmanabhapuram and Nagercoil Divisions from 17th April, 1978.

Village Officers

The Government have granted increased honorarium to Village Officers and Servants by Rs. 5/- with effect from September 15, 1977 and raised the annual consolidated travelling allowance by 20% with effect from October, 1977. An interim relief of Rs. 5/- per month from 1-4-1978 was also sanctioned. The village establishment now enjoys various other facilities.

Land Assignment for Poor

For the period from July 1, 1977 to 28th February, 1978, 35,350 house-sites have been assigned to the houseless poor. For the period from 1-7-77 to 28-2-78 an extent of 30,110 acres was assigned to 25,306 landless poor for cultivation purposes. In order to protect the houseless poor from eviction from Government land encroached by them, Government have ordered that encroachments by hutments by houseless poor, existing as on 30-6-1977, should not be evicted, but action taken to regularise the encroachments according to the standing instructions.

Formation of Peoples' Committees

The Government have proposed to constitute Peoples' Committees at the village level for assisting the authorities in the proper implementation of all agrarian laws including the Tamil Nadu Agricultural Labourers' Fair Wages Act, 1969 as well as the Minimum Wages Act. The Committees will help to mobilise public opinion in villages in disseminating information regarding Agrarian Laws, bring up information regarding cases of violation not only of law relating to Wages but concealed tenancies, benami holdings which have relevance to Land Reforms and Tenancy Laws in order to bring out the true state of affairs prevailing in the villages, so that appropriate action can be launched by the authorities concerned wherever necessary.

Whenever flood or drought affects any part of the district, the Revenue organisation rises upto the occasion and works with all earnestness and renders assistance to the people to mitigate the sufferings.





Text Books and note books are being supplied free of cost to all Denotified Tribes students studying upto VIII Std. in the Denotified Tribe Elementary and Higher Elementary Schools in the Districts except Madurai and to all Denotified Tribes Students studying upto XI Std. in Kallar Elementary and High Schools in Madurai District.

EVERY segment of the society has to be provided with all facilities and opportunities to develop itself in all branches of human welfare. The welfare of the backward classes is ensured and the various socio-economic programmes undertaken during the last one year have largely helped the backward classes to retrieve themselves from the clutches of social backwardness and their old moorings. Educational facilities including schools and residential accommodation have opened new vistas for better living.

Education

8 new Hostels for Backward Classes Boys, 5 Hostels for Backward Classes Girls have been opened during 1977-78 and 10 more new Hostels will be opened in 1978-79.

A sum of Rs. 1,000/- has been sanctioned for each of the 9 High Schools run by the Backward Classes department for purchase of Library Books. Financeaid provision has been made for purchase of science models and furniture. 275 schools will receive this assistance.

Child and Women's Welfare

In August, 1977, Government issued orders for the opening of a new Tailoring Centre for 20 girls in the Aziz Nagar Settlement in South Arcot District for the benefit of the House-wives and young educated girls in the settlement in order to provide them with some source of supplemental income. The training will be free and the trainees will be paid a stipend of Rs. 30/- per mensem each. Four tailoring

centres have been opened in Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Kanyakumari and Tirunelveli districts. Five Child Welfare Centres have been sanctioned for providing nutritious food to pregnant mothers and for taking care and providing food to the children below the age of 6 years in Aziz Nagar Settlement.

The Government have since raised the income limit for the payment of half tuition fees to students belonging to Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and Denotified tribes in the income group of Rs. 2,000/- to Rs. 2,500/- per annum for their courses of study beyond P.U.C. level.

Free Tool Supply to Boyars

Government have issued orders for the free supply of tools to 100 Boyars every year in Salem, South Arcot, Coimbatore, Madurai and Tiruchirapalli districts. The cost of one set of Tools is Rs. 100/-.

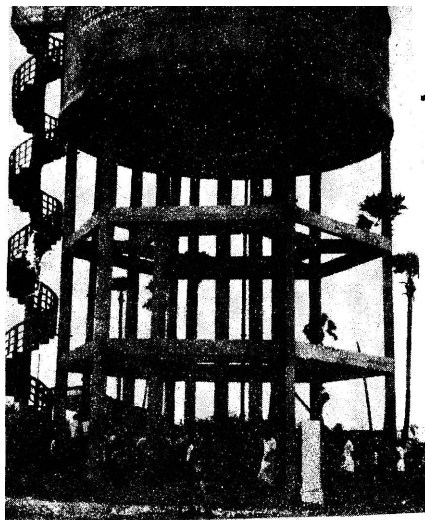
The annual income limit of the parents or guardians of Denotified Tribe students for admission in the subsidised Hostels for Denotified Tribes has been raised to Rs. 2,500/- for the purpose of claiming Residential Scholarship to Denotified Tribe children.

Government have issued orders directing that the annual income limit of the parents and guardians for admission of their children in the Government Backward Classes Hostels be raised from Rs. 2,000/- to Rs. 2,500/- on and from the academic year 1978-79. The ceiling for grant of residential scholarship has now been raised to Rs. 2,500/-.

It has been decided to increase the number of beneficiaries for free supply of tools to Barbers and dhobies and Govt. have sanctioned an additional expenditure of Rs. 1 lakh over and above the provision of Rs. 6 lakhs made in the Budget Estimates for 1977-78 towards free supply of tools to dhobies and barbers during 1977-78.

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WE have embarked upon a crash programme to provide drinking water to the villages which are in dire need of water supply. Our efforts have given relief to many villages. The rural habitations in Tamil Nadu have been classified scientifically into six types on the basis of an extensive survey of the needs of water supply of the habitations. The Government have decided to tackle immediately 5,794 worst habitations of Tamil Nadu where there is no source of water at all or where there is only non-potable water sources. The total population of these 5,794 habitations is 23,66,175.

After detailed investigation, depending on the technical feasibility, either individual schemes or comprehensive Water Supply Schemes have been taken up in the various habitations. As many as 1,329 habitations have been provided with protected water supply benefitting a population of 4,80,798. Apart from these, under Minimum Needs Programme (Drought Relief Works) as many as 1,205 villages have been provided with protected water supply benefitting a population of 9,80,381.

In addition, the works of providing protected water supply in 1,411 habitations are under various stages of progress, which will cover a population of 7,95,000. Further, investigation and planning are under various stages for 2,540 habitations, which will cover a population of 9,11,886.

In Nilgiris District providing protected water supply for 45 habitations are under various stages of progress. This will benefit a

population of 19,839. So far Rs. 5,00,000 have been spent on the above works.

Comprehensive Scheme

The special feature in these programmes is that wherever there are worst habitations or types I and type II for which providing independent protected water supply schemes will be highly costly, all such villages have been grouped and comprehensive water supply schemes have been formulated which will not only provide protected water supply to the worst habitations, but also reduce the cost considerably.

The unique feature of this programme is scientific testing of quality of the water in the villages and preparation of schemes which will give permanent remedy to these villages against future droughts. The Government have chosen the best schemes irrespective of the cost to ensure the permanent usefulness of these Schemes.

Maintenance

The Government have launched a programme of maintenance of completed schemes to ensure that the gains of the capital investments are not frittered away. A systematic maintenance programme for the hand pumps has been launched throughout Tamil Nadu with the help of UNICEF. The maintenance of about 3,000 power pumps in the Districts of Chengalpattu, North Arcot and South Arcot has been taken over by Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board from 1-4-78 onwards. A systematic assessment of the repairs required for

sick pump units has been made and the pumps are being brought to beneficial use.

Urban Water Supply

The total urban population of 740 towns is 155 lakhs. Out of the 740 urban towns in the State, water supply is available in Madras and Madurai Corporations, 88 Municipalities, 5 Municipal Townships, 8 Panchayat Townships and 101 Town Panchayats. The population covered is about 105 lakhs, representing 68% of the total urban population. New water supply schemes are under execution in 50 towns and are under investigation in 138 towns.

Eleven water supply schemes costing Rs. 302.45 lakhs have been sanctioned since July 1977 and taken up for execution. 13 water supply schemes costing Rs. 274.56 lakhs and 2 drainage schemes costing Rs. 142.82 lakhs have been brought into beneficial use since July 1977.

An outlay of Rs. 849.35 lakhs was proposed in the Revised Estimate for 77-78 for the execution of water supply and sewerage schemes in towns other than city of Madras during 1977-78. Provision was made for loan assistance from the LIC of India to the tune of Rs. 518 lakhs and a sum of Rs. 307.17 lakhs from the State Government. During the year 1977-78 the LIC of India have released a sum of Rs. 518 lakhs and the State Government have released a sum of Rs. 251.907 lakhs as loan for the execution of water supply and drainage schemes.



POWER is the barometer of progress. Our policy of power generation, distribution and maintenance has yielded desired results. The rural electrification work during the last one year has been speeded up. The entire administration is now poised for a better service to the consumer.

The staggering power cut has been in force in this State from 1972. We had 30% power cut in June last year. This power cut was lifted with effect from July 1, 1977. A heartening feature of power management is that there is no power cut during this year.

We emphasise on proper utilization of power. The total quantitative of electricity consumption during the last 12 months was 938 crore units, recording an increase of 20% over the preceding year. The demand for power during last year reached 1,641 M.W. as against 1,313 M.W. recorded in the previous year, showing an increase of 25%.

Additional Unit in Kundha Project

A note-worthy feature of power policy is that a 60 MW unit has been set up in the III Hydro-Electric Station under the IV stage of Kundha Hydro-Electric Project. One more unit with 50 MW capacity is to go on stream shortly in the IV stage.

New Projects

The construction works for setting up a power generation unit with 35 MW capacity in Suruliyar Hydro-Electricity Scheme are to be completed shortly. The work is being done expeditiously, and it may formally be commissioned in August this year. The work of the staff, engaged in this project has been very satisfactory and they have completed the work according to schedule. In appreciation of their hard work, the employees have been given a bonus of one month salary.

The pace of work connected with Tuticorin Thermal Station is also accelerated. Every nerve is strained to commission the first 210 MW unit of Thermal Plant in December, 1978. The employees will also receive a bonus of one month salary. It may be mentioned that Electricity Board has ventured for the first time to give incentive bonus to its employees.

The Planning Commission has given clearance to the following

schemes and preliminary works have been taken up :

1. Kadamparai Pumped-Storage Hydro-Electric Scheme.
2. Shervalaru Hydro-Electric Scheme.
3. Pandiyar Punnappuzha Hydro-Electric Scheme.
4. Nallithurai Hydro-Electric Scheme.

Mettur Thermal Plant

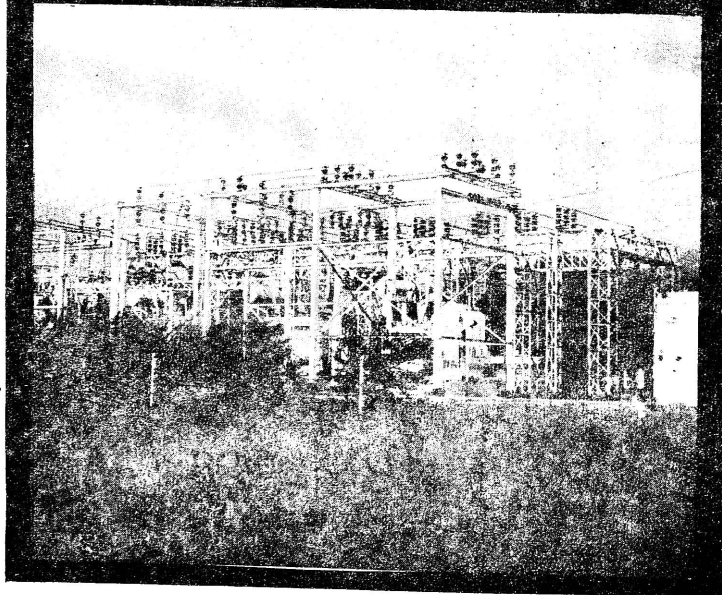
Many industrial units which use large quantity of power are located in Mettur and adjoining areas. The Salem Steel Plant is coming up and its energy requirements will be very large. More than one lakh of energised pumpsets are operating in Salem and Dharma-

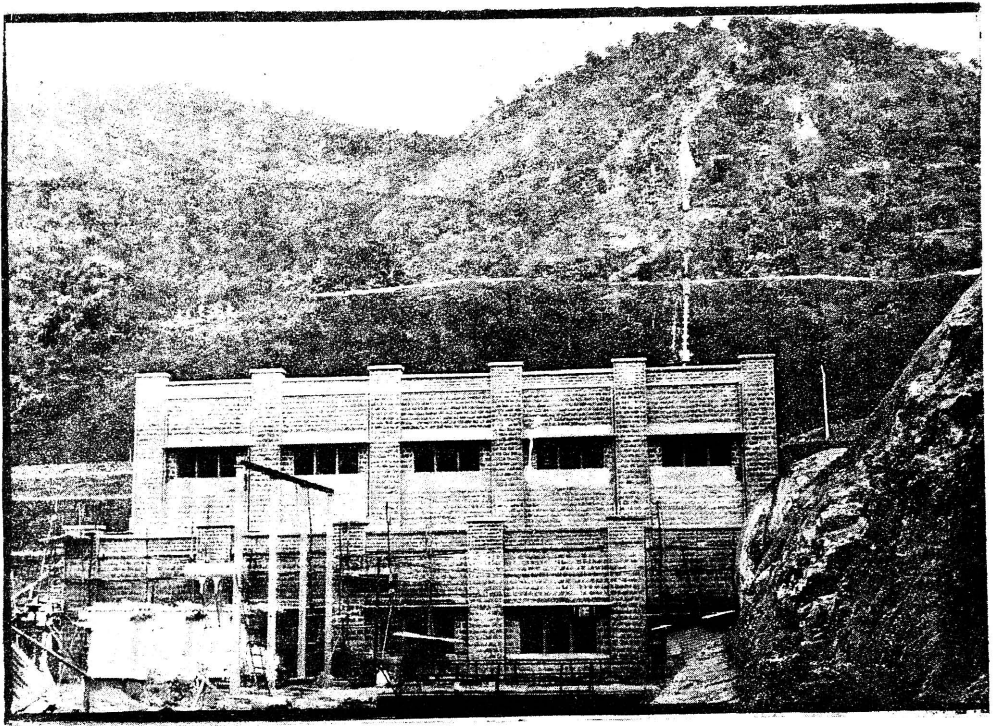
puri districts. To meet the ever-increasing power needs of Mettur and adjoining areas, it is necessary to establish a Thermal Station in Mettur. The Electricity Board has prepared a plan and sent it to the Centre for clearance. Two power generators of 210 MW capacity each will be set up. The outlay for the scheme is estimated at Rs. 140 crores. This project, when completed, will be a new mile stone in our effort to meet the ever-increasing power needs of the State.

We attach more importance to this project for, when the proposed Thermal Plant operates to its full capacity the power cry of the State will vanish and Tamil Nadu will become power-self-sufficient. The bangs of power-cut may disappear.

Mettur Lower Dam

The Electricity Board has prepared an ambitious plan to construct





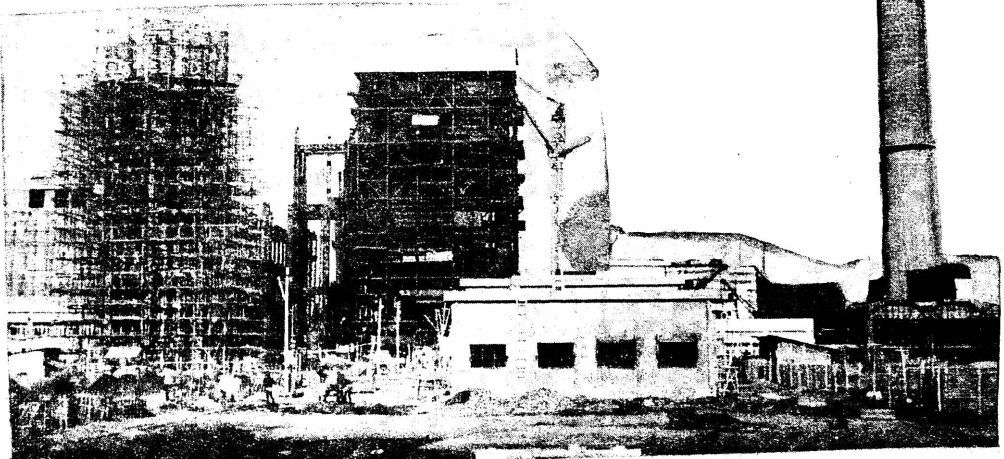
four small dams across the Cauvery between Bhavani and Mettur and generate 120 MW of power. The scheme has been forwarded to the Centre. The annual power generation of this scheme is expected to be 537 million units. We have been requesting the Government of India to give their clearance at an early date.

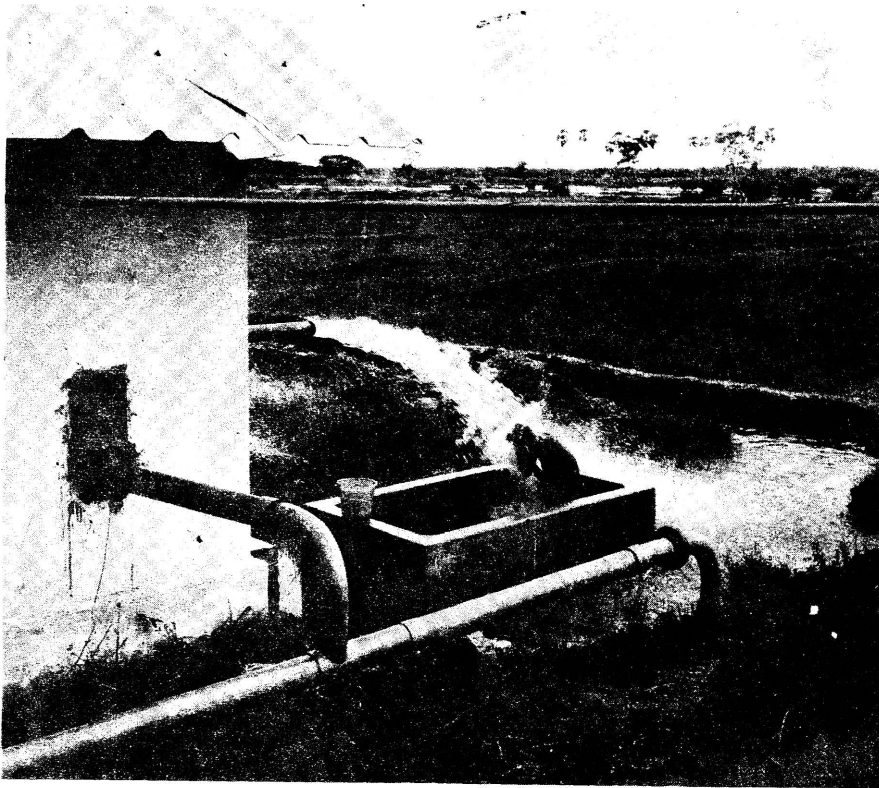
Rural Electrification

Tamil Nadu covers an area of 1,30,069 sq. Km. with 439 Towns, 15,736 inhabited census villages as per 1971 census in addition to

about 48,000 hamlets and about 24,800 Harijan colonies adjoining the villages. Out of a population of 41.20 millions in Tamil Nadu as per 1971 census, 28.73 millions or 60.74% live in villages. Since there are no adequate perennial rivers in the State, the agriculturists have to mainly depend on well irrigation and as such power is playing an important part in lift irrigation. Special importance is always assigned for Rural Electrification, as it is closely interlinked with food production besides giving more employment opportunities to rural population and is key factor

in the socio-economic transformation in rural areas. The Tamil Nadu Electricity Board has devoted much of its attention to the task of carrying power to villages, particularly to agricultural pumpsets and it continued to lead all other States in Rural Electrification.





The number of irrigation wells in this State is 12 lakhs. We have energised 8,09,838 wells till May 31, 1978. 22,373 irrigation pumpsets were energised during the last 12 months. 48,000 pumpsets will be energised during the current year.

Electrification of Harijan Colonies

Power supply has been extended to 205 Harijan colonies, and 691 colonies are yet to be electrified. Electrification of Harijan colonies is being carried on and these habitations will get power before the end of the year. We are proud that, with electrification of 698 colonies by the year end, all Harijan colonies in Tamil Nadu will have electricity.

Power Extension to Villages Hamlets

Tamil Nadu is proud of its rural electrification work. There

are 64,198 villages in Tamil Nadu. The number of villages and hamlets which have been electrified till May, 1978, is 63,345. Over 60 villages and hamlets received electricity during last 12 months. Action will be taken to electrify the remaining 853 villages and hamlets before December 31, 1978.

Concessions to Farmers

The power tariff has been reduced from 16 paise to 14 paise per unit from July 1, 1977 in the case of small farmers. This rate has again been reduced to 12 paise per unit from 14 for small farmers and to 14 paise from 16 paise in case of other large farmers from June 1, 1978. Small farmer, according to the classification, is one who has five or less than five acres of dry land and 2.5 or less than 2.5 acres of wet land. The meter rent was also reduced from Rs. 5/- to Rs. 4/- per month.

Staff Welfare

Following the pay increase ordered in February, 1977, for third and fourth category of employees, the pay of 5,000 staff was raised from June. Besides, the special pay and dearness allowances of all employees were revised. As a result of such revision in pay and allowances, the Electricity Board incurred an additional expenditure of Rs. 5 crores annually. During the period 1977-78, the Board sanctioned an additional amount of Rs. 12 crores.

It has been decided to grant thermal plant allowance to those working in Thermal Stations. Accordingly, an amount of Rs. 40 or Rs. 100 will be granted per month on the basis of pay of the employees.

With vision and pragmatism, the Electricity Board marches ahead in unleashing the power for progress and prosperity.

AGITATION: GOVT'S APPROACH

Agitations by Associations and students, whether peaceful or violent, cause anxiety to the public and they pose a problem to the authorities dealing with law and order. May be that the agitation, as a weapon to ventilate grievances of a section of the society or a segment of labour, is a permissible instrument to extract a possible acceptance of the demands of agitators. The vital point in this predicament situation is the **Approach of the Government.**

Within a short span of a year, we have come across agitations of agriculturists, N.G.G.Os and strikes by students, teachers, etc. In all such occasions, the Government studied the situation with calmness and composure and sympathy. Government thought that it was their prime duty to bring the agitationists to conference table and find solutions. Government was always conciliatory and flexible, pragmatic. The Government are fully aware that the farmers are the back-bone of our economy and their interests should be protected. The students are the future Citizens and their problems need careful study and settlement. We never forgot that the public should not be allowed to undergo unnecessary hardships due to agitations and strikes. These factors are always borne in mind whenever agitational approach was adopted by a section. Here are described briefly a few agitations and Government's approach to tackle and solve them, beneficial to the agitating sections.

STUDENTS' AGITATIONS

We had to face a series of students' agitations. Students of various colleges took out a procession on 26-7-1977. Their demand: All route concession passes for students instead of point-to-point route passes.

Trouble opposite to Pachayappa's College arose between travelling public and students on 27-7-77. Students took out procession to Secretariat. Law College students entered the Secretariat. Chief Minister himself came out to the lawns and gave a patient hearing to the students demands. He conceded some demands straightaway.

The Chief Minister again met the representatives of the Students' Associations on 4-8-1977. The agitation was called off as a result. He convened a meeting of the Principals, Parents and Students on 29-8-1977 at Madras and discussed the problems.

This sums up in a nut shell the approach of the Government to the Students' Problems.

1. Sympathetic to their genuine problem, mutual consultation with Students, Principals, Parents, Reaching solutions.
2. Chief Minister readily meeting the students, thrashing out their problems.
3. No Police confrontation with students except to separate students and others when they came to a clash.

Disputes between Transport crew and students were solved amicably on 12-12-77 by holding a meeting of the Representatives of students, parents, Transport crew, Trade Union Leaders and College Principals in the presence of the Minister for Transport.

Protesting against the scheme of Barefoot Doctors, House-Surgeons and students of medical colleges picketed in front of the Hospitals. Conciliatory talks were held. Chief Minister personally intervened and the strike was called off.

Madurai College

When the agitation by students of Madura College turned violent and some students got hold of N.C.C. rifles and boyonets, Police had to rush and settle the agitation with minimum force.

Chief Minister personally sent a Physician from Madras to attend on an injured student and he himself visited the injured students in the Hospital. Students Agitation always poses a tricky problem. They are the future citizens of the country, future rulers, future Doctors, future Advocates. This Government is aware that nothing

should be done to arrest their development for future leadership. When their agitation sometimes takes a violent turn, their violence should not hurt the common man, the innocent public or any other the people not concerned with them.

TEACHERS

One of the first orders to be issued in respect of the teaching community of the State after the Government assumed charge is the introduction of the University Grants Commission Scales.

In December, 1977, the teachers of the Madurai University Teachers' Association boycotted the invigilation work of University examinations at various centres.

Their Demands

Implementation of the University Grants Commission scale of pay with retrospective effect from January, 1974, to promote University Tutors and Demonstrators, and to ensure job security in private colleges, etc.

On December, 10, 1977 the Government ordered the immediate release of all arrested persons

and invited the representatives of the Madurai University Teachers' Association to meet the Chief Minister at Madras.

The Chief Minister, the Minister for Education and the Chief Secretary to Government held detailed discussions with the teachers and issued the following subsequently such as (1) implementation of the scales of pay with effect from 1-1-74 with monetary effect from 1-1-77 (2) Assistant Professors and Professors have been allowed a uniform scale Rs. 700—1,600; (3) Staff of aided colleges have been allowed to avail leave on medical grounds for 18 months with full pay, etc.,

The General Council of the Madurai University Teachers' Association which met later at Tirunelveli on 15th December decided to suspend the agitation in view of the positive gesture shown by the Government in meeting its demands.

The Joint Action Council of the Madurai University Teachers' Association, the Association of University Teachers and the Tamil Nadu Government College Teachers' Association met at Madurai on 2nd April and passed resolutions thanking the Government for conceding most of their demands.



Agriculturists' Agitation

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

In 1971 the power tariff was 9 paise per unit. It was increased to 12 paise per unit with effect from 1-1-1972 by the previous regime and an agitation was then mounted against the Government in July

1972. After the agitation the Government reduced the cost of power used for agricultural pumpsets to 11 paise per unit for consumption above 100 units. But subsequently the D.M.K. Government, raised it to 14 paise per unit in October, 1974 and again in September, 1975 to 16 paise per unit.

After the present Government came to power, one of the first

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

In December, 1977 the Government constituted a Committee con-

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

Concessions in December, 77

Simultaneously with the constitution of the Committee, the Government also announced the following concessions to the agriculturists :

- (i) To defer collection of the electricity dues to agriculturists pumpsets accrued from 1-3-1977 to 31-11-1977 until the report of the Committee on agriculturists' demands became available and the Government passed orders on the same. Consequently there would be no disconnection of supplies on account of such arrears ;
- (ii) To restore the connections to pumpsets, if any, which had been disconnected for non-payment of dues during the drought period and to permit the payment of arrears relating to that period in instalments ;
- (iii) To see that the current bills for consumption charges were collected from 1-12-1977 onwards at the existing rates. If on the basis of the recommendations of the Committee any concessions were granted the consequent excess in collection for the period from 1-12-1977 would be adjusted against subsequent demand ; and
- (iv) To withdraw cases filed against the agriculturists in connection with the offences committed by them.

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

- (i) Procurement price for paddy was enhanced to

Rs. 90/- per quintal for coarse variety and Rs. 95/- per quintal for medium quality.

- (ii) The interest payable on Co-operative loans was reduced from 12.6% to 12% Penal interest was also reduced ;
- (iii) Pesticides are being distributed with 25% concession for cotton and bajra crops in Coimbatore and Madurai districts ;
- (iv) For cane with 8.5% Sugar content, even though the All India Price is Rs. 85/- per tonne, this Government fixed Rs. 100/- to Rs. 125/- per tonne as payable by Co-operative Sugar factories.

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

Agitational Approach

Even while this announcement was made on the floor of the Assembly on 7-4-1978, certain sections of the Tamil Nadu Agriculturists' Association stepped up their violent activities by putting up road blocks on National Highways, and setting fire to Police jeeps when they went to remove the road blocks. Public Transport buses were stopped at the road blocks, the passengers unceremoniously pulled out and the buses were set on fire. This happened in Salem, North Arcot and South Arcot districts.

The tactics used by the agitators were to place road blocks, paralyse traffic, to blow culverts by using gelatine sticks and to burn transport buses. They also resorted to cutting open the roads and constructing mud-walls across the road. The unlawful activities indulged in by certain violent elements in the name of agriculturists' agitation was pre-planned to upset law and order and create anarchy in the State. The blowing up of bridges with explosives, gelatine, etc. could hardly be the work of poor, innocent agriculturists. Ex-

perienced agitators were at work in the destruction of bridges and culverts, burning of buses etc something which no unsophisticated farmer would either have the means or the inclination of attempting at.

Government's approach

The Government never adopted a vindictive attitude towards the agriculturists and always had a conciliatory approach towards their problems. Discussions were held on as many as five occasions by the Chief Minister and other Cabinet Ministers with the representatives of various agriculturists' associations. After these discussions the Government offered further concessions in the matter of power-tariff for agricultural pumpsets even though the concessions would affect the finances of the State Electricity Board to the extent of a further amount of Rs. 10 crores per annum. These concessions are listed out below :

- (i) Reduction of power tariff from 16 paise to 14 paise per unit for big farmers and from 14 paise per unit to 12 paise per unit for small farmers with effect from 1-6-1978.
- (ii) Reduction of meter rent from Rs. 5/- to Rs. 4/- p.m. with effect from 1-6-78
- (iii) Facility for payment of arrears of power charges in instalments with one arrear and one current bill to be settled per month.
- (iv) Even though the 1978-79 Co-operative lending programme is for a sum of Rs. 140 crores which would be possible only if repayment of the loans to the Co-operative Banks to the extent determined by the Reserve Bank is ensured it was decided that no coercive steps or distraint proceedings against small farmers for recovery of co-operative loans would be taken.
- (v) In addition to the short term loan of Rs. 12 crores already converted as medium term loans, the Reserve Bank will be approached for similar conversion of another sum of Rs. 16 crores out of the Rs. 121 crores of short term loans

issued in 1977-78. It is also decided to extend the three year period of repayment of medium term loans to a 5 year period for a sum of Rs. 14 crores outstanding in addition to the sum of Rs. 4.30 crores medium term loans already so extended.

- (vi) Reduction of interest rates for short term co-operative loans to small farmers.
- (vii) General Remission of 75% of the loan amount in respect of failed wells dug after 1971. In case of small farmers it will be remission of 90% of loan.
- (viii) The State Electricity Board will be asked to provide power connection to wells dug with loans from the Land Development Banks even if they are unremunerative.
- (ix) In addition to the postponement of loans in areas affected by floods and cyclone, collection of only one instalment of Government loan arrears in this Fasli will be ordered in areas not affected by cyclone and floods.
- (x) Cess on certain commercial crops ordered for Fasli 1386 was already written off by this Government in 1977. In addition further collection of this cess will not be made pending examination of this issue by the High Level Committee.
- (xi) Continuation of facility of purchase of paddy by the State Civil Supplies Corporation directly from the ryots at the rate of Rs. 90/- per quintal for coarse and Rs. 95/- for medium varieties.
- (xii) No restriction or regulation on movement of paddy or rice within the State.
- (xiii) Free movement of groundnut to other States would not be hampered.

The Government immediately passed orders withdrawing cases registered during the Agriculturists' agitation except those in which

bleeding injuries were inflicted on persons or damage to property was caused. All the agitators were released unconditionally or on bail. These steps are clearly expressive of the Government's sympathetic and liberal attitude towards the agriculturists and their problems.

N.G.G.O.'s Strike

IMMEDIATELY after this Government took over, they announced the appointment of the Third Pay Commission to look into the demands of State Govt. employees and submit its recommendations. Even while the Third Pay Commission was busy with its work, the N.G.G.Os launched an agitation in February/March, 1978, raising 15 demands.

One of the first items of work the Government attended to on assuming office was the constitution of the Third Pay Commission. Two of the demands relating to staggering of office hours and liberalisation of GPF withdrawals were already implemented. The Pay Commission deliberations would take care of most of the demands raised by the N.G.G.Os Association.

Government allowed the agitation to pass off as long as it was peaceful. Only when the striking N.G.G.Os wanted to march to the Assembly when the Assembly and Council were in Session, the Government had to take action to stop them near the University, and pur-

sue them to disperse. Again the N.G.G.O who picketed in front of the various offices were allowed to picket peacefully. Only when the picketeers resorted to intimidatory tactics of staff who came to attend action was taken.

No vindictive action

The recognition of the Association was not withdrawn as was done in February, 1975. The Chief Minister personally discussed the problems with the various Associations on 27-2-1978 and 13-3-1978. In between, the other Cabinet Ministers also met the Association representatives and discussed the problems. On all demands which were not before the Third Pay Commission and on which there were agreements, decisions were announced immediately.

An Interim Relief of Rs. 15/- to N.G.G.Os drawing a salary of more than Rs. 200/- p.m. and Rs. 10/- p.m. to others effective from April, 1978, was announced. All suspension orders were revoked with immediate effect.

Orders have been issued for the periodical meetings of the representatives of the recognised service Associations and Heads of Departments to be convened by the Secretaries to Government once in two months to discuss all outstanding day-to-day problems concerning the subordinate services of the concerned Department. This arrangement is in addition to the already existing Tamil Nadu Civil Services Joint Council, which is meeting once in a quarter.

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NEW CONCESSIONS FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

AFTER the present Ministry assumed office, certain benefits were announced for the employees of the State Government, Local Bodies, Aided Educational Institutions, etc. by the Government. The concessions given are:

- (a) with effect from 15-9-1977 pension was increased by Rs. 5/- p.m. and Rs. 10/- p.m. for the employees who retired on or after 1-6-61 and prior to 1-6-61 respectively.
- (b) the practice of deducting one month's emoluments from the death-cum-retirement gratuity payable to the retiring employees was discontinued with effect from 28.2.78.
- (c) medical examination was dispensed with for employees retiring on or after 28-2-78 who apply for commutation of their pension within one year of retirement.
- (d) an *ad-hoc* interim relief of Rs. 10/- per month to employees drawing pay below Rs. 200/- per mensem and of Rs. 20/- per month to employees drawing pay of Rs. 200/- and above per mensem was sanctioned with effect from 1-7-77. This was increased to Rs. 20/- and Rs. 35/- per month respectively with effect from 1-4-78.



Rural Development- Integrated Plan

VILLAGE development forms the integral part of all our development programmes. Village is the centre around which the entire gamut of planned endeavour revolves for, the villagers are the backbone of Indian society.

The Community Development Programme designed for rural uplift has been accorded much importance during the last one year. The entire planning pattern is making a thrust on rural development. As a result of our planned efforts to introduce new changes in the form and formulation of community development as also Panchayat development programmes the rural population now reap the fruits of planning and new changes have taken place. For instance we have accorded top priority for supply of protected drinking water to as many villages as possible. The ground watercell, water supply and drainage board and panchayat administration have been asked to take up this work on war footing and implement as time bound programme for water supply and rural health services. The villagers form the back bone of rural economy and there should not be any gap in the relationship between the administration and people. The success and failure of any scheme depends upon the active participation and involvement of the people in such programmes.

Advisory Committee

People's committees have been constituted in all panchayat Unions with the Divisional Development

Officer as Chairman. The local M.L.As and M.P.s are also included as members of the 12-member peoples committees. Panchayats also have such committees and the Chairman will be a non-official and wherever necessary the Village Munsiff may also be taken as a member. People's Advisory Committees have been constituted in almost all the municipalities and also in the Corporations of Madurai and Madras.

Outlay for Unions increased

The outlay for Panchayat Unions has been increased. During 1977-78, the financial allocation was Rs. 1,32,55.30 lakhs as against 1,16,25.40 lakhs in 1976-77. During the current year the allocation has recorded an increase of 38.23 per cent.

Rural Water Supply

A survey has been conducted by the Tamil Nadu Water Supply

and Drainage Board to identify the water resources in villages and the survey has made six categories of classification of the villages. 5,783 villages and habitations do not have drinking water sources or potable water resources within the one Km. Nearly 17 lakhs of people are living in such villages.

The Government have given priority for drinking water supply. Orders have been issued to make immediate arrangements for supply of drinking water to the above mentioned categories of villages and also to the habitations of Harijan and Tribes. Before August, 1978 4,010 villages will have the benefit of protected drinking water. The water supply work is being carried out in 1,558 villages. After completing the water supply work to the first two categories of villages the other categories of villages will be attended to. For water supply



schemes the financial allocation for 1978-79 is Rs. 130 lakhs.

In order to help the villagers living in the Periphery of the city of Madras enjoy the civic amenities available to the citizens of Madras six town panchayats in this area have been amalgamated in the Corporation of Madras.

Direct Election of Union Chairman

The direct election of Panchayat Union Chairman has been introduced. This scheme helps the village community to elect the chairman of the panchayat union who has powers to plan for the entire union area, and this system promotes a healthy local leadership.

Whole Village Development

The Government of India have set up a National Commission on Agriculture to make recommendations for the improvement and modernisation of agriculture with a view to promote the welfare of people in rural areas who mainly depending on agriculture. The Commission had discussions with the Planning Commission for developing Gramdhan villages and Sarva Seva Sangam. The Commission felt that the approach could be tried on a pilot basis particularly in Gramdhan areas where the right to village lands was already available there. The Commission also felt that if the scheme is implemented in Gramdhan areas, this would get wider acceptance and attract neighbouring villages to participate in such programme.

The National Commission on Agriculture had selected (1) Chinna-koilan Kulam, (2) Naduvakurichi (Major), (3) Naduvakurichi (Minor), (4) Pattadaikattai villages of Mela-

neelithnallur Block in Tirunelveli district in Tamil Nadu for implementing the Whole Village Development Programme.

The whole village development scheme is under implementation. It has given a new experience to the villages. The economic conditions are improved and the villagers evince interest in the programme.

Special Project

A special rural development scheme which is under Government examination. It aims at creation of employment potential, increase in production and raising economic conditions of the rural population. This project will be implemented in 10 integrated clusters of villages in the districts of Ramanathapuram, Pudukkottai, Coimbatore, North Arcot, South Arcot, Madurai, Kanyakumari and Chengalpattu. In

the light of the experience gained in this project its extension will be considered.

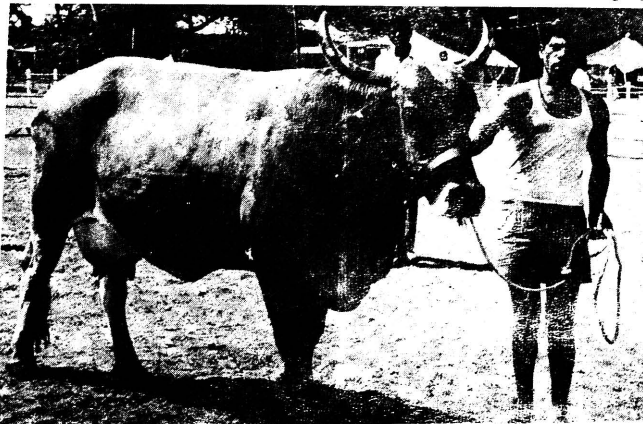
Minor Irrigation

The Minor Irrigation sources have been statutorily entrusted to the Panchayat Unions for protection and maintenance. The Panchayat Unions have been maintaining the sources according to a programme for maintenance on the basis of which each source will receive attention at least once in five years. The Panchayat Unions continue to maintain the Minor Irrigation sources with an ayacut below 100 acres. The Government give the present level of grants to the Panchayat Unions for maintenance of tanks without any reduction even though only tanks with an ayacut of less than 100 acres will be under their control. It is expected that the Panchayat Unions will be in a position to maintain these tanks under their control in a better condition.

Health Services

The Primary Health Centre is a multipurpose unit established to render preventive and curative medical services to the community and to build up the health of the community in course of time. The Primary Health Centres have been established in all the 374 blocks. In ten blocks an additional Primary Health Centre has been established.

It is the responsibility of the Panchayat Union Councils to promote Maternity and Child Welfare Services





in their areas. To enable the Panchayat Union Councils to meet the expenditure on this scheme, two-thirds of the total expenditure on the maintenance of Maternity and Child Welfare is being met by the Government as grants-in-aid. The total number of Maternity and Child Welfare Centres maintained in Panchayat Union areas is 2,820.

Social Education

There are at present 13,392 Social Education Centres. These Centres are organised for the adult folk in the village to give them an opportunity for free discussion on current topics. The local school teachers or other educated persons are appointed as Convenors to these Centres to read newspapers and magazines and to initiate discussions.

A vigorous programme for the installation of radio sets in the Panchayat Headquarters was pursued and by the end of Third Five Year Plan, all the Panchayats in this State were provided with radio receivers. Having covered all the Panchayat Headquarters, the programme is now being extended to hamlets and villages also. As on date, 41,105 radio sets have been purchased and installed in various villages and hamlets in the State. With a view to evoke the interest of the people in the Five Year Plans and for eliciting their response to constructive activities and measures, Radio Rural Forums have been organised which is a listening-cum-discussion group. So far, 14,220 Radio Rural Forums have been formed. **



Fishermen Disputes

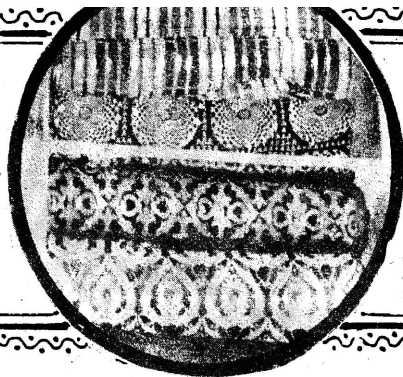
DUE to the large-scale introduction of Mechanised Fishing Boats, disputes and clashes between the Mechanised Fishing Boats operators and Catamaran Fishermen in the coastal districts over the mutual fishing areas. No doubt when a new economic system is ushered in by introducing modern fishing techniques, the conventional operators are bound to be piqued. Their fears of encroachment of their fishing areas by large scale fishing trawlers is in a way genuine. The Government have, therefore, to approach the problem very carefully, keeping in mind the need for a balanced approach between modernisation of fishing industry and safeguards to traditional fishermen.

Wherever such disputes arise, the Collectors and Fisheries Department officers intervened and brought about a settlement, then and there. The Minister for Food and Fisheries convened a series of conciliation meetings in November, 1977. And also in March and April, 1978 with the representatives of mechanised fishing boat operators and

traditional fishermen from the coastal areas of Madras, Chengalpattu, Thanjavur and Pudukkottai districts and settled their grievances amicably. Actions have been taken then and there to settle this problem amicably.

Arrangements have been made for the vigilant patrol of the coastal area between Ennore and Tiruvanniyur (falling within Madras and Chengalpattu districts) with Police and Fisheries Departmental boats to ensure that mechanised boats operate beyond 3 miles from the shore. The fisheries Department has arranged for patrolling with departmental boats with Police personnel on board in the coastal areas of Thanjavur, Pudukkottai, Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari districts coastal areas during prawn season. The Fisheries Department has laid flagged buoys between Ennore and Covelong to indicate the 3-mile limit from the shore for the mechanised boats to keep to their side of fishing and also a sea way corridor to enable them to move to and from the fishing grounds to their base at Kasimode. **

A HELPING HAND TO HAND-LOOM PRODUCTION AND MARKETING



Handloom is an important industry in Tamil Nadu providing employment to a large number of weavers and their families. The Government have been evolving various measures to bring the weavers under co-operative fold so that the weavers could get due wages and retrieve themselves from the exploitation of master weavers.

There were 750 weavers co-operative societies in 1976-77 with a membership of 1.50 lakhs. Nearly 6,000 weavers were brought under co-operative sector every year. Even though many new societies were formed, many of the societies had been liquidated. As a result the number of weavers in co-operative sector remained more or less the same.

A new programme is under-way to help a larger number of suffering weavers come under the co-operative sector. About 60% of the weavers are to be brought under co-operative fold. After July 77, 81 new weavers societies have been formed enlisting 22,489 weavers as members of the new societies. Due to the importance that the Government attach to welfare of the weaving community, the number of societies now functioning has increased to 946 with 2.07 lakhs of members.

So far no scheme was evolved to help the weavers in private sectors. In order to provide permanent employment to the weavers and provide other facilities the Handloom Intensive Development Centres have been established by the Government.

Intensive Development

The Kurunchipadi Handloom Export Centre has 400 looms and 300 to 350 looms are functioning in Salem Intensive Handloom Centre and Madurai Co-operative

Intensive Development Centre. It is relevant to mention here that the Madurai Intensive Handloom Development Centre has been formed as a co-operative society. Madurai Centre has a sub centre at Kadayanallur in Tirunelveli District to provide permanent employment to 100 private weavers.

Likewise a centre has been established in Pethaturpettai in Chengalpattu district to give employment to 300 private weavers. This centre is functioning successfully.

Loan Assistance

The Reserve Bank of India has been granting loan to the co-operative societies on the basis of 25% of the production value of the societies in the preceding years.

The Handloom societies have been demanding for quite long time that the loan given by the Reserve Bank of India on this norm was insufficient but their demand was rejected by the Reserve Bank of India. We have been insisting upon the Handloom Development Commissioner, Government of India that the rate of loan should be increased

and as a result of our effort the rate of loan has been raised to 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ %. The Co-operative societies received Rs. 15.57 crores in 1976-77 and Rs. 24.29 crores in 1977-78. The rate of interest claimed by the Reserve Bank of India has also been reduced to 6.5% from 8.2% with effect from April 1, 1978.

The Government have been giving rebates for promoting sales during the festivals like Deepavali, Ramzan, Christmas, Pongal and All India Handloom Week. Apart from these special occasions of rebate the Government granted 10 per cent rebate for handlooms for 15 days coinciding with the birth day of Periyar and Anna. The sale proceeds during the 15 days period was Rs. 3.64 crores and it was a great relief to the Handloom Societies.

No effort was made in the past to raise the standard of handlooms and quality development. We have now started giving more importance to quality development and standard of the handloom product.



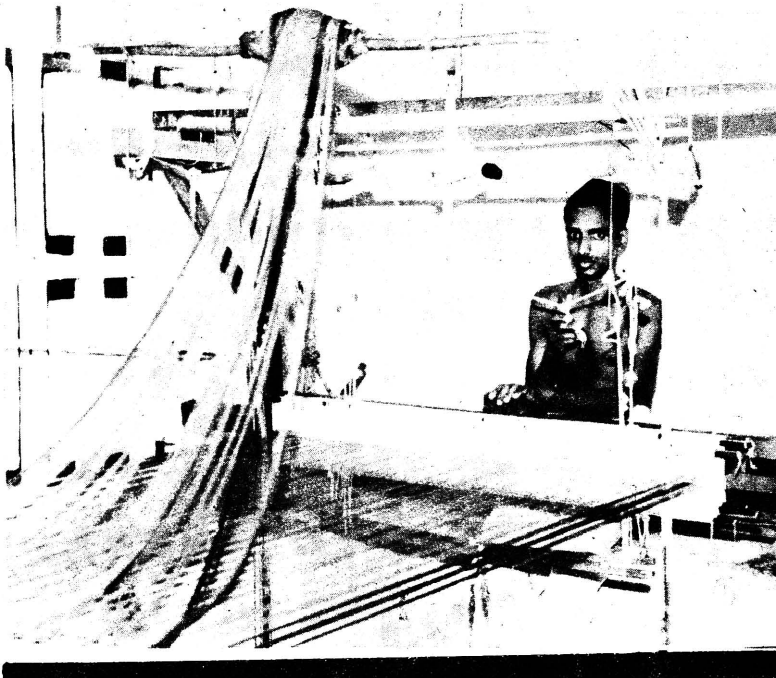
New Designs

The handloom societies have been producing only traditional categories of handloom goods, and glut of such goods has been a regular feature. Now many varieties in sparkling design are being produced, and more attention is being paid to produce polyester and nylon in handlooms. A design cum service centre at a cost of Rs. 3.5 lakhs has been set up in Madurai to supply new designs and render technical advice to the co-operative societies in improving the design and pattern of the handloom products. It is also proposed to open design-cum-service centres in Salem, Coimbatore and other places in the State. The Government accord appreciation in design and marketing of handloom cloths. New design and standard products are now the watch word of the handloom societies. People are being enticed by mercerised cloth but the handloom sector did not pay much heed to this aspect. The reason is that starched handlooms are subjected to the levy of excise duty as in the case of mill cloth. We pleaded with the Centre for exemption from excise duty.

EXPORT

Handloom was never exported through co-operatives. The Handloom Finance and Trading Corporation and Co-optex have received orders during July and August for exporting handloom goods to U.S.A., U.K., France, Singapore, Japan and Malaysia. Two Trade teams visited these countries and obtained export orders worth of Rs. 10 crores for supply of towels, lungis and shirting cloths.

Art silk yarn was used to be supplied to Tamil Nadu through a sub-committee in Salem. This system was replete of many irregularities. The above mentioned fact makes it clear that the real weavers are not able to get the yarn at fair price. This is the case with them for quite long time. The Government did not stop with it. And have been corresponding with the Centre Handloom Development Commission. As a result the Director of Handlooms and Textiles has now empowered to distribute the art silk yarn to the weavers. This is a case of our new approach to the real problems affecting the weaving community. The weavers at last stand to gain much due to



pragmatic policy of the Government.

Health-Care

The weavers engaged themselves in weaving day and night under unhygienic conditions. They are susceptible to the attack of tuberculosis etc. They suffer from these scourges. A mobile medical examination centre at a cost of Rs. 25 lakhs will be set up in Salem and Coimbatore districts. One such centre will serve the weavers in Madurai and Ramnathapuram districts. The centre will have X-ray and other medical facilities to provide effective medical advice and other amenities.

Housing Work :

The cry of the weavers for a permanent housing scheme was unheeded to so far. The Government have now considered this question with sympathy. Their housing scheme was an integral part of rural housing scheme. It has been proposed to construct 2,000 houses during 78-79. No labour law is applicable to the weavers. They do not enjoy the benefit of statutory laws providing minimum wages, employment guarantee and benefit, etc. A committee under the chairmanship of Thiru Raja Subramaniam

was constituted to go into these questions and the recommendations of this committee have been accepted by the Government. The action to provide such facilities and amenities to the weavers is afoot.

The weavers in Karur, Aruppukkottai and Paramakudi organised agitations and demonstrations against the retrenchment of weavers by master weavers on the ground that there is no price rise and glut of handloom products. As far as the agitation in Karur was concerned the matter was settled in the presence of the Chief Minister after discussion. The agitation in other places came to a peaceful end after settlement of the matter by the District Collectors and Handloom Development Officers of the Handloom Department.

Nearly 5,000 weavers suffered heavy losses of their properties and houses during the unprecedented rain and flood in Tanjore, Tiruchy, South Arcot, Tirunelveli, Madurai and Coimbatore districts. The Government sanctioned Rs. 40.26 lakhs as relief to them. Weavers who lost their looms were given Rs. 500/- each as loan and grant and Rs. 125/- as subsidy. Arrangements had been made to form 10 co-operative societies and provide employment to 1,000 weavers affected by flood.



TRANSPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT

DEVELOPMENT of roads and road transport is essential for balanced development of the State. In order to achieve full co-ordination between development of roads and road transport, both the subjects were brought under the same Minister and subsequently under the same Secretary to Government. This has made it possible to relate growth of roads to the needs of traffic and ensure that any new road is immediately put to use.

Nationalised Transport is growing steadily in this State. Out of about 10,000 State Carriages in the State over 52 percent are in the nationalised sector. The growth in the size of the nationalised sector has been matched by a steady improvement in the performance of the seven State Transport undertakings, improvement in the quality of service to the public and improvements in benefits to the workers. Though a few of the State Transport undertakings are still having financial problem, the sector as a whole has performed very well in 1977-78 and a profit of over Rs. 3 crores is anticipated for the year. This improvement has been effected by better maintenance of vehicles, better scheduling of the services and prevention of leakage of revenue, aided by higher productivity among the labour encouraged by incentive schemes for all categories of staff.

Qualitative Improvement

The State Transport Undertakings have now given importance to the tasks of providing service to

more villages and to improve the quality of the existing services through addition of buses where necessary and replacement of old buses by new buses.

In 1977-78, the Transport Corporations put 681 new buses on road at a total cost of Rs. 10.22 crores. Out of these, 492 buses were for replacement and 189 were additions to the fleet.

A rural orientation has been given and the Transport Corporations have been asked to lay emphasis on opening of new services in the country side. Where the volume of traffic or the condition of the roads does not permit introduction of a normal size bus, mini-buses are being introduced. The new services introduced during the year, opened up 325 habitations benefiting a population of about eight lakhs. For better amenities to the passengers and the crew, the Corporations spent about Rs. 2.38 crores during the year.

Madras City is witnessing a large programme for improvement of the city transport service. With the assistance from the International Development Agency, 550 new buses will be added to the P.T.O. (Metro), for replacement and augmentation in the period of 3 years from 1977 to 1980. 8 Bus terminals, 400 bus shelters, 2 major depots and 1 minor depot will be constructed as part of the project which would cost in all about Rs. 6.55 crores.

No Increase In Fare

The price of diesel and tyres has recorded an upward increase during the last one year. Yet, the passenger

fare has not been increased. A significant point to remember is the fare in Express buses is reduced to five paise from six paise per Km.

Nationalised Transport

Nationalised transport is a joint venture of the workers and the community. While increasing the quality of service to the public, every effort is also being made to see that the workers get their due share. During the year, a number of just demands of the workers have been conceded even though the resultant cost to the Transport Corporations is very considerable. As a result of negotiated settlements, each worker in the transport sector now gets additional emoluments by way of salaries and allowances amounting to about Rs. 62/- (in the case of drivers Rs. 69/-) in addition to other benefits amounting to about Rs. 24/- per worker. Some of the additional facilities given to the workers are subsidised canteen facility, free transport for school/college children of the workers. Cooling glasses to the drivers; Fair price shop provisions at low prices; better facilities for medical treatment; supervisory staff under T.A. rules instead of batta; Employment to one dependent of any worker who dies while in services, etc. In order to promote safe driving habits, a scheme for substantial cash awards to drivers for each year of accident free-driving has been introduced.

It is the desire of the Government that workers in the Transport Sector should get decent wages and they, in return, should give courteous service to the public.

THE Housing Board can look back upon the year 1977-78 with a sense of satisfaction and pride in having created many records. Its expenditure of Rs. 1,741 lakhs on schemes represents 300% increase over the expenditure in 1969-70 and twice that in the subsequent three years.

In physical terms, the Board completed and handed over to its allottees 5,108 dwelling units. Another 1,318 units were also completed but for minor finishing items and service connections. In the earlier year, this number was 5,419. For the economically weaker sections 1,866 units were completed during the year and 599 more units were in progress. Rs. 96.91 lakhs were spent on this scheme. For the low income group Rs. 275.99 lakhs were spent to complete 1,368 dwelling units and 3736 units were in various stages of construction. Out of 2,604 units intended for the middle income group 1,238 were completed and handed over. The amount spent on this scheme was Rs. 478.57 lakhs.

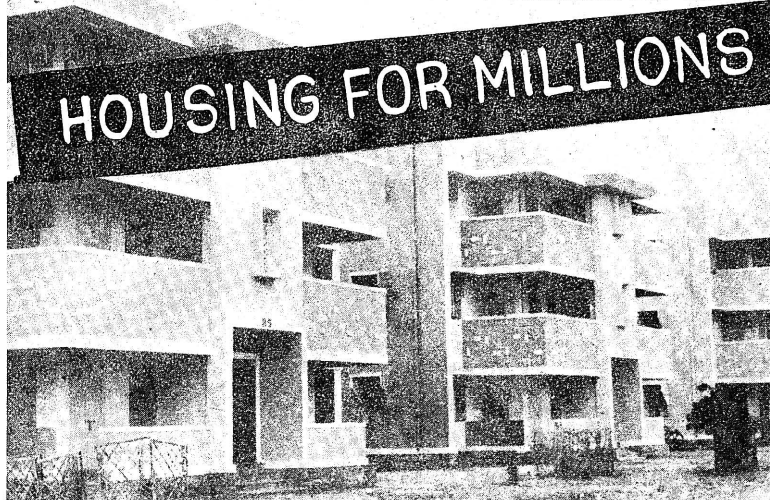
To the stock of houses for Government servants under the Tamil Nadu Government Servants Rental Housing Schemes the Board was able to add 636 units in the year. The work on 855 more quarters was started. Rs. 172.47 lakhs were spent. Sites and Services

The sites and services scheme at Arumbakkam which consists of 499 plots in 34.02 hectares of land is under progress and it will be completed by September, 1979. During the year 1977-78 Rs. 86 lakhs were spent; out of a total of Rs. 184.20 lakhs. The scheme at Villivakkam which will provide 4,024 plots in 43.10 hectares of land has partly commenced. The total cost of this project is Rs. 294.26 lakhs.

Kodungaiyur Scheme

The Scheme at Kodungaiyur will make available 6,944 plots in 87.30 hectares of land; land acquisition for the scheme is in progress. Last year Rs. 40 lakhs were spent on acquisition of lands and preliminary works. The cost of the scheme is Rs. 454.42 lakhs.

Another feather in the cap of the Housing Board is the Integrated Urban Development Programme for the execution of which the Board has been chosen as an agency, among some others, in the State.



It is not only in the field of construction that the Board has set a new pace. On the administrative and production sides also it has set up records. The Cellular Concrete plant at Ennore reached a peak production of 51,649 Cu.M. during the year valued at Rs. 77 lakhs. The working of the Wood Working Unit was also extremely satisfactory. It manufactured 63,438 frames and shutters for doors and windows. The value of production was Rs. 27.97 lakhs as against Rs. 18 lakhs in the previous year.

The happy performance of 1977-78 has given the Board the confidence to do better in the year 1978-79 and provided a fillip to set for itself the goal of spending Rs. 24 crores and making available 10,000 houses in Tamil Nadu during 1978-79.

Co-operative Housing Societies

The ban against the entertainment of fresh loan applications imposed with effect from 1-7-75 was lifted in January 1978 and fresh loan applications have been invited from the Public through the primary housing co-operatives.

During the current year, it has been programmed to sanction loans for construction of 10,000 houses in rural areas and also disburse Rs. 2 crores in the same year. There will thus be 5 times increase in the number of houses financed in one year. Further about 25% of the resources of the Apex Society will go towards construction of houses in rural areas.

For Harijans

A noteworthy feature is that 25% of the loan sanctioned to members of

taluk and divisional level co-operative housing societies are earmarked to persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Further the State Government have undertaken to reimburse the interest so that persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will get interest free loans and repay only the principal part of it over a period of 20 years which works out to only Rs. 250 p.a. for the maximum loan of Rs. 5,000/-.

Village Housing Project

This is a State Plan Scheme for increasing the housing accommodation in the Rural Areas. The beneficiaries under the Scheme are the rural folk belonging to mostly the economically weaker sections. The scheme envisages the development of the rural areas by construction of dwelling houses in an orderly manner with adequate sanitary and other facilities. Under this scheme loan assistance to the extent of 80% of the cost of construction subject to a maximum of Rs. 5,000 is given to the villagers who own house sites of not less than 2 cents. The loanee is required to meet the balance by way of labour, local materials and savings gathered in the course of work. The loan is repayable with interest in twenty equated annual instalments.

The Village Housing Scheme has been implemented through a separate wing of the Highways and Rural Works Department called the Rural Housing Cell with headquarters at Madras. Under this scheme 8,427 houses were completed till the end of 1977-78. The provisions made under revised estimate for 1977-78 are only to meet expenses in respect of committed cases.

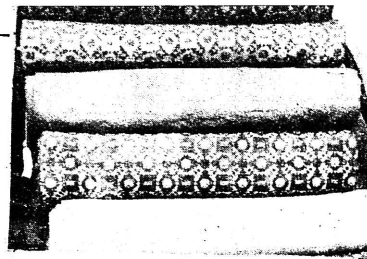
Tamil Nadu is one of the pioneer States to develop rural-based industries. The basic objectives of the rural industries project programme are to hasten the growth of cottage and small scale industries and creation of opportunities for fuller and additional employment in rural areas in order to improve the levels of earnings of the artisans and entrepreneurs. These programmes, with Central assistance are implemented in Salem, Dharmapuri, Chengalpattu Tirunelveli and Ramanathapuram districts. The rural industries projects mainly concentrate on industries which can be developed in rural areas and activities ancillary to them with a view to promote integrated rural development, leading to increased employment opportunities in such areas. In the five rural industries project areas, 2,693 new industries were registered during 1977-78 as against 2,163 units in 1976-77. In 1976-77, 304 industrial units were commissioned and in 1977-78, this number rose to 357. During 1977-78, 3,198 industries were involved in operational problems as against 2,628 units during 1976-77.

District Industries Centres

As a part of their new industrial policy, Government of India (Ministry of Industry) have suggested the setting up of District Industries Centres in every district so as to provide through a single agency all the industries. These centres are to assist in the formulation of viable schemes, arrange for procurement of raw materials and machineries and also help in securing necessary credit facilities and in marketing the products. The District Industrial Centres are also to be an operational mechanism for according sanctions and other facilities for setting up of industries and for ensuring their continued viable operations by developing close linkage with all the concerned institutions. Towards this end these centres are also to be delegated with sufficient powers.

The State Government have accepted the recommendation of the Government of India and have decided to set up District Industries Centres in the districts of Chengalpattu, Dharmapuri, Salem, Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli, South Arcot, Pudukkottai and Kanyakumari.

With a view to creating employment opportunities in large numbers, specially in rural and backward areas, these centres will lay emphasis on promoting small indus-



Advance In Small Scale Industries

tries — village industries, cottage industries and tiny industries — and small business ventures. These Centres, will, apart from themselves discharging the functions of some of the agencies like the Directorate of Industries and Commerce including the Rural Industries Project at the District level also effectively liaise with other agencies concerned with providing of assistance to small industries and small business ventures.

Industrial Areas

With a view to give a powerful thrust to the disposal of small industries in backward areas, growth centres with all infrastructure facilities have been set up in Ranipet in North Arcot district and Hosur in Dharmapuri district. In these industrial complexes contiguous areas have been allotted to the Tamil Nadu Small Industries Development Corporation for construction of sheds for small scale units. The costs of developed plots is Rs. 10,500 per acre.

A third industrial area is fast coming up in Maraimalai Nagar, near Chengalpattu. This complex is ideally suited for setting up clean type of industries which do not cause pollution problems.

Khadi and Village Industries

The Government immediately on assumption of office focussed their attention on the unemployment problem which is so acute in the rural areas and identified that the Village and Cottage Industries alone could generate large scale employ-

ment opportunities in the rural areas of Tamil Nadu in the immediate future. During the last one year the Government provided additional employment to 9,634 artisans through Khadi and Village Industries by providing financial and other assistance.

Production

During the period from 1-4-77 to 31-3-78 Khadi cloth to the value of Rs. 511.01 lakhs has been produced as against the production of Rs. 381.51 lakhs of Khadi during the previous year. In order to popularise Khadi and to enable the public to buy them a special rebate of 10% for a period of three months was sanctioned.

Khadi Sales

In view of this and the Chief Minister's appeal to the public to buy more Khadi, the Board is able to increase its sales considerably which in turn has generated additional employment potential in the villages engaged in the production of Khadi. The Board established an unprecedented record in the sale of Khadi during the year, an increase of nearly 20%. The Board sold Khadi worth of Rs. 607.64 lakhs as against the sale Rs. 405.55 lakhs during 1976-77. The Board exported Khadi cloth of 3.88 lakhs meters worth of Rs 26.31 lakhs during the years to Italy through the Madras Branch of Handicrafts and Handlooms Export Corporation Limited. This is the first year the Board has exported such a bulk quantity. This had opened a new vista, and the Handicrafts and Handlooms Export Corporation has asked for additional quantity of cloth.

The Government have recognised the Khadi weavers on par with Handloom weavers and sanctioned a sum of Rs. 2 lakhs by way of 50% grant and 50% loan towards the purchase and supply of weaving accessories at subsidised cost. A sum of Rs. 1.75 lakhs was sanctioned by the Government as subsidy for the distribution of 4,000 Beehives and other accessories to 400 tribals under tribal development programme for 1977-78. For the first time, a sum of Rs. 9.74 lakhs was sanctioned by the Government as grant and loan, as a relief measure to Village Artisans who were worst affected during the natural calamities that affected Tamil Nadu in November, 1977.

TAMIL Nadu is marching towards industrial peace. The policy of the Government is to enforce strictly the provisions of all beneficial legislations and also to bring "in provision" to safeguard the interest of the working class with a view to reduce the clashes between the workers and the managements. With this object, the Government have set up a High Power Committee comprising of representatives of the Government, the Management and Trade Unions and the Legislators to suggest amendments to the existing labour laws.

Consultative Committee

The Government have also set up a Standing Committee consisting of seven popular Trade Union leaders to be consulted in case of industrial strikes in essential indus-

Madras ; Union Carbide India Ltd., Madras ; and Karur Mills, Karur, etc.

Seven Industrial Units Reopened

As a result of the efforts taken by the Government, the following establishments have been re-opened and are now functioning :

- (i) Sivakami Mills Ltd., Tirunelveli.
- (ii) Somasundara Super Spinning Mills, Muthanandal.
- (iii) India Meters Ltd., Madras.
- (iv) Prakash Mills (P) Ltd., Coimbatore.
- (v) Lotus Mills, Coimbatore.
- (vi) Raja Mills, Madurai and
- (vii) Tamil Nadu Spinning Mills Tiruppur.

Multi-storeyed building at Teynampet, Anna Salai, Madras.

A building of 40-bedded Guest House with catering and other boarding facilities is being constructed for the use of Trade Union Leaders when they come to Madras for conciliation talks. They are now paying abnormal lodging charges ranging between Rs. 10/- and Rs. 30/- They will be only charged nominal rent for their stay at the Guest House.

Minimum Wages

We have fixed minimum wages for—

- (i) Printing Presses ;
- (ii) Loading and unloading in marketing places ; and
- (iii) Employment in Automobile workshop.

Minimum wages has been increased in respect of bricks and tiles, match and fire work, Agro industries and tanneries. New wages are proposed to be fixed and revised in employment in Oil Mills, Laundries, Shops, Motion picture industry and Timber industries.

E. S. I. Scheme

ESI Scheme has already been extended to new sectors in two phases — Second and third phases ; second phase from 14-2-78 and third phase from 14-5-78 covering 17,000 workers.

In the first phase the following areas have been included namely — Districts of Coimbatore, Salem and North Arcot. The areas covered are Palladam, Tiruppur, Udumalpet, Uthukuli, etc., in Coimbatore district ; Arni, Gudiyatham, Vaniyambadi and Vellore in North Arcot district ; and Mettur and Salem in Salem district.

The next two phases cover the Districts of Madurai, Tiruchy, Tirunelveli, Thanjavur, Ramnathapuram, South Arcot and Pudukkottai.

Apart from this, ESI benefits are being extended to areas not covered hitherto. The new areas are: Arakonam, Sankari and Thanjavur Town. This involves a total labour force of about 5,000. Government will incur an expenditure of Rs. 2,44,338 per year. ESI Scheme has also been extended to employees working in Hotels and Restaurants.

tries. This is the follow-up action on the promise made by the Chief Minister on May 17, 1978 when addressing the Trade Union leaders in connection with the Transport strike.

There are 10,374 establishments in the State employing about 6,61,245 workers including 92,141 Plantation workers. Out of 10,374 establishments, there are now only 15 cases of strikes and lock outs involving about 4,469 workers. As a result of conciliation 5,375 cases were settled during the period.

A number of major disputes have been settled during the last one year. Some of the major industrial units concerned are : Triplicane Urban Co-operative Society, Madras; Pallavan Transport Corporation, Madras ; Neyveli Lignite Corporation, Neyveli ; English Electric Company, Madras ; Madras Rubber Factory, Madras ; Buckingham and Carnatic Mills, Madras ; EID Parry Ltd., Ranipet ; T.V.S. Unit at Padi ; Enfield India at

Free Legal Aid

With a view to give legal aid to the people of insufficient means, three Labour Legal Advisory Cells have been located at Madras, Coimbatore and Madurai. These cells are manned by a retired Judicial Officer or by a retired Labour Officer.

Orders have been issued remitting the affixing of court fee stamps on the petitions and applications filed by the workers before the Labour Department officials or Labour Courts or Industrial Tribunal. Four reading rooms have been established, two at Madras and one each at Coimbatore and Madurai at an estimated cost of Rs. 26,000 for the benefit of the workers.

Guest House For Union Leaders

Hitherto the Labour Leaders were experiencing untold hardship in coming to different places when they were invited for discussion. The Conciliation Officers now are located under one group at the



LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT

IN our country, the majority of the population live in the villages. More than 70% to 80% of these people belong to the lower strata of the society such as small farmers, marginal farmers and the landless agricultural labour. Livestock play an important role in the economic conditions of these sections.

Tamil Nadu Government are well aware of this, and greater thought has been given to the subject of Animal Husbandry and its by-products. Improved techniques are being introduced in respect of all species of farm animals. The Animal Husbandry programmes involve activities such as breeding, fodder resources maximisation and disease control.

As the first phase, intensive animal husbandry development schemes, and Key Village development schemes have been resumed. At present, 4 Intensive Cattle development projects, and 39 Key Village Centre have been revived. Apart from these, 2 chick hatcheries and 29 poultry production centres are under control of the Department. The Tamil Nadu Government give priority to rural welfare and these livestock programmes accelerate the pace of rural uplift.

The main achievements and progress of the Animal Husbandry Department during the year 1977-78 are as detailed here-under.

The problem of disease control received greater recognition as there is enormous economic loss of livestock due to highly infectious diseases. Maximum production in livestock can be ensured only when these animals are promptly protected against various contagious diseases.

Ranipet Institute

The Institute of Veterinary Preventive Medicine, Ranipet, has

done commendable work in this field. This Institute attends to research work for diagnosing diseases and manufacture of new vaccines. It is involved in the production of antisera vaccine and improvement. In the last one year it has produced the single Dose Rabies vaccine. The people's long felt need for the Rabies vaccine was thus fulfilled.

Animal Diseases Intelligence Unit

Chemical laboratories have been established at Madras, Tirunelveli, Vellore, Coimbatore and Cuddalore.

Exotic Breeding Farm, Eachankottai

Eachankottai farm, an annex to the District Livestock Farm, Orathanad, is functioning as Central Cattle Breeding Farm with the assistance of Danish Government, to raise pure Jersey breed herd. It has 50 pairs of Jersey cattle and 2 bulls. This farm will be able to raise exotic calves in and around Thanjavur district.

Veterinary Health Services

To improve veterinary health services 12 new veterinary dispensaries were established. Already existing 5 dispensaries were upgraded as veterinary hospitals.

During the year 1977-78 primary hospital and 3 mobile clinics have been started. 3 laboratories and 1 mobile clinical centre and 15 key village centres have been set up. 20 sheep breeding co-operative societies have been established. Under the Green Fodder Development Scheme 450 people have been benefited.

Small Farmers Development Agency

Under this scheme, 4,303 marginal farmers and agricultural labourers were provided with cross-bred calves. Apart from this 2,450 sheep rearing

units and 29 poultry units were started. The Small Farmers Development Agency in the district look after this programme with financial assistance.

Drought Prone Area Programme

Under this programme 258 milch cattle were distributed to selected farmers. 43 persons were given training in farming. 595 farmers were given subsidy for rearing cross-bred calves. Apart from these 699 sheep units and 19 poultry units were newly started.

These programmes are implemented in the districts of Salem, North Arcot, Madurai, Tirunelveli, South Arcot, Coimbatore, Chengalpattu, Dharmapuri and Ramanathapuram.

Hill Area Development Scheme

This scheme is being implemented for the welfare of the tribal people. During the year 1977-78 200 sheep development farms were established. Nilgiris district has been selected for implementing this special programme.

Western Ghats Development Programme

Under the Western Ghats Development Programme 500 selected farmers and marginal farmers were given assistance in the form of feed subsidy for rearing 1,000 cross-bred calves upto production stage.

Sub-Plan for Tribals

In Tamil Nadu there are nine tribal areas in the districts of Salem, South Arcot, Tiruchirappalli, Dharmapuri and North Arcot. The total tribal population in the nine individual tribal pockets is 1,45,416. Hilly areas are the most suitable places for rearing livestock in view of the abundant grazing facilities. Family oriented approach is ideal for hilly areas with proper tie-up arrangements for veterinary health cover.

420 milch cows were distributed among the tribals. 128 sheep rearing centres were established. 105 piggeries were started and 135 poultry centres were established. This has ensured a steady supplemental income to the tribal families. A Sub-Plan exclusively for development of animal husbandry in tribal areas costing Rs. 16.50 lakhs has been sanctioned for the year 1977-78.

SLUM-

A WITHERING

LEAF

THE Slum Clearance Scheme aims at rehousing the slum dwellers in permanent multi-storeyed tenements provided with all amenities. 17 schemes under State finance and 8 schemes under HUDCO aid have been completed at a cost of Rs. 323 lakhs providing 4,318 tenements.

Ambitious Programmes

Three major schemes to rehabilitate the people affected by sea-erosion at Labour Stadium, Keerai Thottam and Nagooran Thottam by constructing 2,512 tenements have been sanctioned at a cost of about Rs. 200 lakhs and it is proposed to take up the scheme under HUDCO aid. Another major scheme has been proposed at Kesava Pillai Park at and around Basin Bridge at a cost of Rs. 172 lakhs and this scheme on completion will benefit 1,552 families. Estimates have been sanctioned and put to tenders. Seven schemes under HUDCO and another scheme under State funds to benefit 1,880 families at a cost of Rs. 146 lakhs have also been sanctioned and on receipt of the approval of the HUDCO, these schemes can be taken up for execution.

World Bank Assistance

Under Slum Clearance, only about 3,000 families benefited per year at a cost of Rs. 3.5 crores. Nevertheless, the slum population is increasing at the rate of 7,000 households annually. So the phase of construction of tenements could not even keep pace with the increase in population even though large amount is spent. So the World

Bank Mission recommended to the State Government that the clearance programme be phased out in a few years and the improvement programme substantially expanded which result in major benefits to the most of the slum population within few years.

The World Bank Project will cover 30,500 slum families at an estimated cost of Rs. 6.06 crores and will be completed by 1980-81. During this period 4,174 families will benefit at a cost of Rs. 29.89 lakhs. This project envisages better basic amenities for slum families. 8 new schemes are being taken up in the current year benefitting 16,310 families at a cost of Rs. 212 lakhs.

Commercial Complexes

Under the remunerative enterprise scheme, construction of new office complex buildings and shops, etc are under-taken.

The two schemes taken up during 1977-78 and will be completed by 1-7-1978 are (1) Construc-

tion of Commercial buildings and one block of 24 in 1 for slum dwellers at Venkatanarayana Road for Rs. 6.10 lakhs and (2) Construction of commercial buildings and three blocks of 24 in 1 for slum dwellers at Alaiyamman Koil for Rs. 13.03 lakhs.

In 1977, flood occurred again and the slums were very badly affected. The flood affected slums in Madras are given relief by undertaking various repair work. Top priority is being given to preventive measures in Kotturpuram, Sreenivasapuram and Vyasarpadi slums.

Maintenance

About 30,000 slum tenements in the entire city of Madras have been maintained effectively. During last year, the maintenance grant was fully utilised by doing the colour and whitewashing to the maximum number of colonies based on the collection of rent and allocation of funds and thereby the colonies have better look.





LEGISLATION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

During the period from 1-7-1977 till 3-12-1977, ten Acts were passed by the State Legislature. From 1-1-78 to till date, 25 Acts have been passed by the State Legislature. Six Bills which have been passed are awaiting assent of the President.

So far as legislation relating to social justice is concerned, particular mention may be made of the Moratorium Laws. The moratorium laws postponed the recovery of debts in respect of poor persons. The laws, viz., the Tamil Nadu Indebted Agriculturists (Temporary Relief) Act, 1976, the Tamil Nadu Indebted Persons (Temporary Relief) Act, 1976 though enacted during President's rule have been extended upto 15th July, 1978. The beneficiaries under the legislation will be the weaker sections of people, both in urban and rural areas.

The Tamil Nadu Cultivating Tenants (Protection from Eviction) Amendment Act, 1978 (Tamil Nadu Act 3 of 1978) gives protection to cultivating tenants from evictions upto 15th July, 1978. The Tamil Nadu Cyclone and Flood affected areas Cultivating Tenants (Temporary Relief) Act, 1978 (Tamil Nadu Act 7 of 1978) is an important legislation.

There had been cyclone and widespread floods during the months of October and November, 1977 in Tamil Nadu causing loss of human lives and cattle and damage to property and standing crops in

many areas. The cultivating tenants in the cyclone and flood affected areas are not in a position to pay the rent for the current fasli year ending with the 30th June 1978 (fasli 1387) or the arrears relating to the earlier fasli years.

It is in the interest of the cultivating tenants in the cyclone and flood affected areas that, at the present time, they be spared the distractions and expenditure involved in litigation launched by the landlords or public trusts, by giving them protection upto the 15th January, 1979 from proceedings for recovery of rent or eviction on the ground of non-pay-

ment of the said rent, and for restoration of possession of their holdings if they had been evicted on or after the 1st October, 1977 and before the date of commencement of the Act or the date of publication of the notification including any area as cyclone and flood affected area in the Schedule to the Act.

Acquisition of Land for Harijan Welfare Schemes Bill

This is awaiting the assent of the President. The object of the bill is as follows :

Provision of house sites, pathways, burial grounds or any other amenities for the benefit of Harijans is a socio-economic measure and the necessity to provide them needs no emphasis. This Government find that the existing Land Acquisition Act, 1894 (Central Act I of 1894) does not help achieving this object in a short period as there are number of provisions in the Act which are time-consuming. This Government, is, therefore, of the view that it is necessary to quicken the process of land acquisition by conferring powers to prescribed officers and also making provision for payment of compensation in instalments for phasing the financial commitment of the Government.

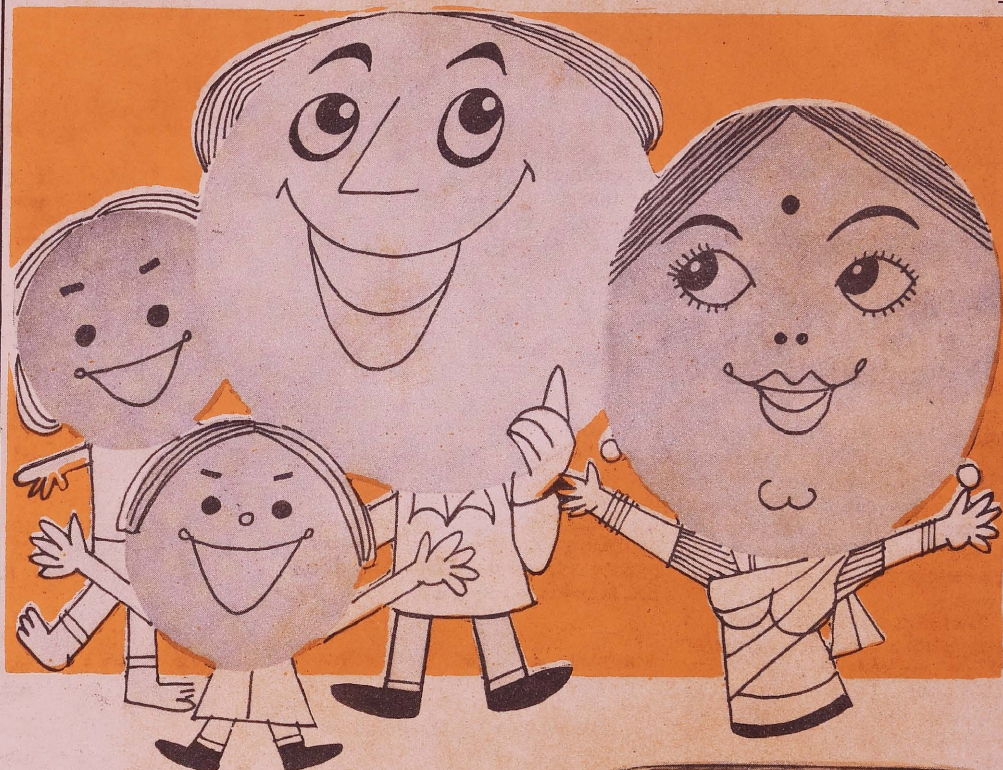
The Tamil Nadu Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1978 (Tamil Nadu Act 24 of 1978) seeks to remove the hardships and inequities found in the Tamil Nadu

Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976 (President Act 34 of 1976). The present Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulations) Act contains very liberal provisions.

The details of some of the important Acts passed from July 1, 1977 to till date are given hereunder. The titles of some of the important Acts are :

1. The Tamil Nadu Debt Relief Laws (Second Amendment) Act, 1977 (Tamil Nadu Act 1 of 1977).
2. The Tamil Nadu Public Men (Criminal Misconduct) Repeal Act, 1977 (Tamil Nadu Act 6 of 1977).
3. The Tamil Nadu Entertainment Tax (Amendment) Act, 1977 (Tamil Nadu Act 8 of 1977).
4. The Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Amendment and Validation) Act, 1977, (Tamil Nadu Act 9 of 1977).
5. The Madurai University (Amendment) Act, 1977 (Tamil Nadu Act 10 of 1977).
6. The Tamil Nadu Debt Relief Laws (Amendment) Act, 1978 (Tamil Nadu Act 2 of 1978).
7. The Tamil Nadu Cultivating Tenants (Protection from Eviction) Amendment Act, 1978 (Tamil Nadu Act 3 of 1978).
8. The Tamil Nadu Cyclone and Flood Affected Areas Cultivating Tenants (Temporary Relief) Act, 1978 (Tamil Nadu Act 17 of 1978).
9. The Tamil Nadu District Municipalities (Amendment) Act, 1978 (Tamil Nadu Act 23 of 1978).
10. The Tamil Nadu Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1978 (Tamil Nadu Act 24 of 1978).
11. The Tamil Nadu Land Reforms (Fixation of Ceiling on Land) Amendment Act, 1978 (Tamil Nadu Act 25 of 1978).

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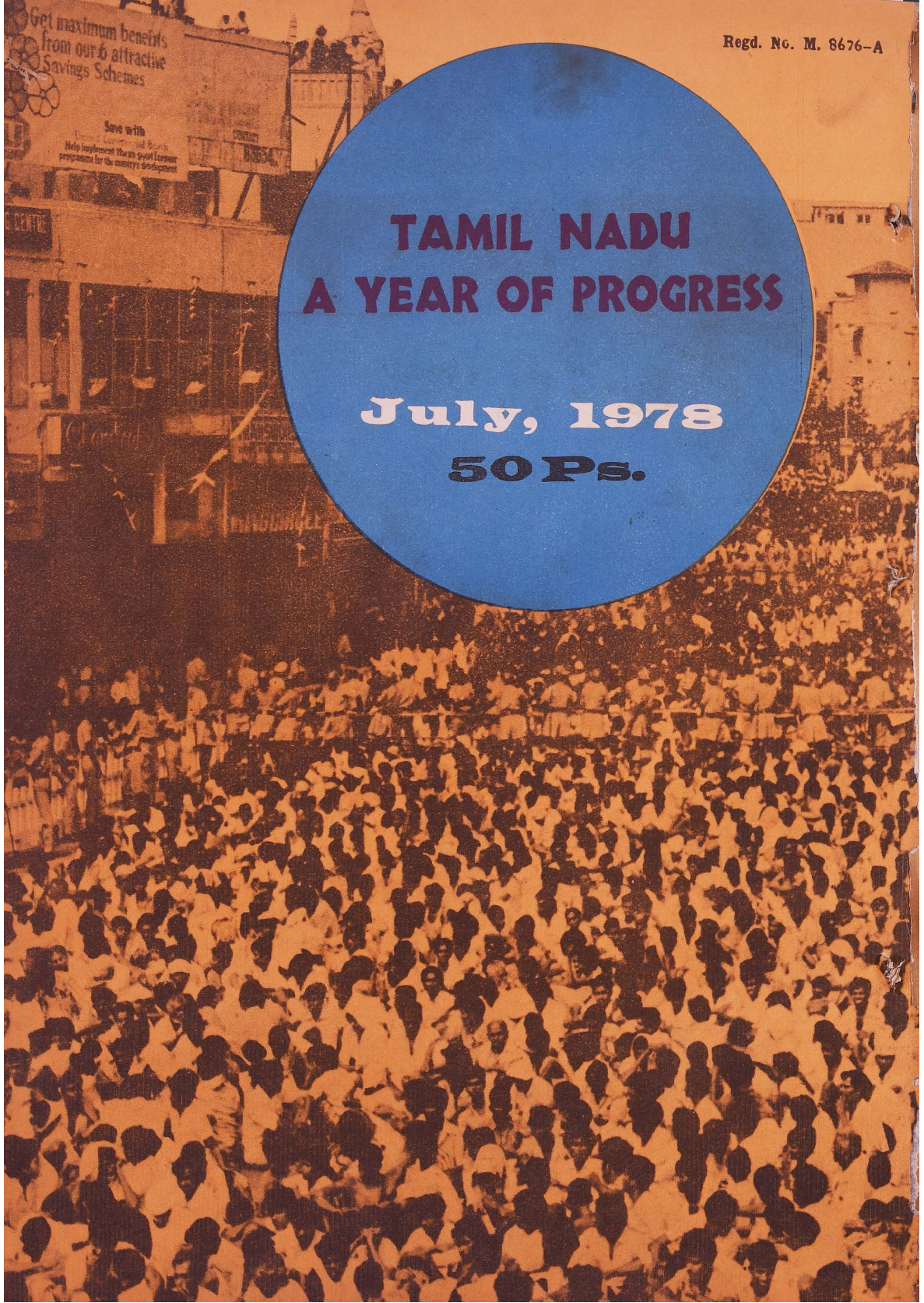


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