

SPECIAL NUMBER

JANUARY



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD 1979



Tamilarasu



50





# LET US ABOLISH ALCOHOLIC DRINKS TO USHER IN HAPPINESS



It appears that there can be no greater evil in the world, than the segregation of Harijans in India.

We will be paying our debt of gratitude to Mahatma Gandhi by eradicating this evil.



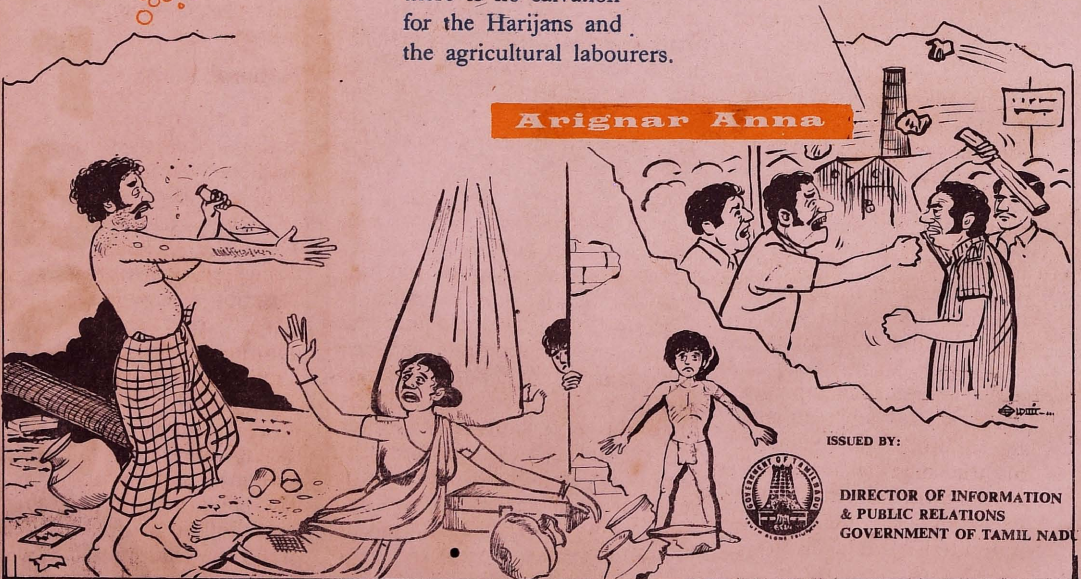
Alcohol destroys our body, our character and our wisdom.

Diseases like malaria affect only the body  
Alcohol and drugs destroy  
the soul as well as the body.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

If there is no prohibition  
there is no salvation  
for the Harijans and  
the agricultural labourers.

**Arignar Anna**



ISSUED BY:



DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION  
& PUBLIC RELATIONS  
GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU





# **International Year of The Child — Its Objectives**

**D**eclaring 1979 to be the International Year of the Child, the U. N. General Assembly has set out its general objectives as follows :—

- (a) To provide a framework for advocacy on behalf of children and for enhancing the awareness of the special needs of children on the part of decision makers and the public ;
- (b) To promote recognition of the fact that the programmes for children should be an integral part of economic and social development, plans, with a view to achieving in both the long-term and the short-term, sustained activities for the benefit of children at the national and inter-national levels.

India has always been a strong advocate of the cause of the child and played a notable role in getting the United Nations

General Assembly to pass a Resolution declaring the Universal Children's Day which is observed in India on 14 November, every year. India has also been a staunch supporter for declaring 1979 as the International Year of the Child and was the first country to announce its contribution of Rs. 900,000 to UNICEF for the purpose.

39 of the Constitution proclaims that the State shall, in particular, direct its policy towards securing that the health and strength of workers, men, women and the tender age of children are not abused and that children are not forced by economic necessity to enter a vocation unsuited to their age or strength. It further declares that childhood and youth are to be protected against exploitation and against moral and material abandonment. Consti-

tution also enjoins upon the State to provide free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of fourteen years.

## **National Board**

Keeping in view the constitutional provisions and the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child, Government of India adopted a National Policy for Children in 1974. The Policy recognises children as the "nation's supremely important asset" and declares that the nation is responsible for their "nurture and solicitude". It further spells out various measures to be adopted and priorities to be assigned to children's programmes with a focus on areas like child health, child nutrition and welfare of handicapped and destitute children. The Policy also provides for setting up of a high-level National Children's Board to focus attention on child welfare and child develop-



ment and to ensure, at different levels, continuous planning, review and coordination of all essential services directed towards children.

In accordance with the above general objectives, 1978, the year preceding IYC, is to be devoted to advocacy and preparatory work in connection with programmes of Child Welfare/Development, consolidation and strengthening of ongoing programmes for children and introduction of new ones where needed, so that a series of action programmes could be launched to realise concrete objectives laid down for the observance of the Year.

### Objectives

The specific objectives of the observance of the International Year of the Child in India shall be as under :

- (a) To make concerted efforts to significantly reduce the incidence of maternal and child mortality and morbidity by providing effective programmes and services for their health and nutritional needs.
- (b) To promote community, awareness and education about the crucial importance of the healthy development of the child and a happy family life as the foundation for the child's security and well-being
- (c) To facilitate optimum psycho-social development of pre-school children so as to prepare them for schooling by providing a network of Balwadis/Anganwadis/ Creches/day-care centres/nursery schools.
- (d) To strive for the speedy realization of the goal of

universal elementary education and to substantially reduce the rates of school drop-out.

- (e) To secure the basic rights of children and to protect them against neglect, cruelty hazards and exploitation by promoting effective implementation of existing legislation and enacting new ones where necessary.
- (f) To secure entitlement of all children in the poverty groups born on/after 1 January 1979 to public assistance for their survival, growth and development.

### The Approach Strategy

The objectives of the IYC are of a global nature encompassing all children in the age group of 0-14 years and call for massive inputs and viable infrastructures. However, in view of our resource constraints and differential degrees of ecological deprivation, our approach must be endowed with a certain focus and realism. The following guidelines may be kept in view while formulating action programmes for the observance of the International Year of the Child in India :

- (a) The general theme of IYC in India shall be "Reaching the Deprived Child."
- (b) The IYC should not be construed as a one-year programme. It should be viewed as a spring-board for vigorous and continued action during the residual part of the Century. The goals and objectives as spelled out should positively be achieved by the end of the Century and to this end, a perspective plan for the next two decades (1979-99) should be evolved.

(c) The emphasis during this period shall be on children of weaker sections of society, namely Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other poverty groups located in rural areas and urban slums. Within this target group, greater attention should be bestowed on children in the age group of 0-6 years, primary school children as also pregnant and nursing mothers. It has been estimated that out of 115 million children (1971 census) between the ages of 0 and 6 years in India, at least 46 million are below the poverty line. Of these, 9.2 million live in the teeming urban slums, 2.8 million in tribal areas, and 34 million in rural areas often inaccessible and beset by drought, flood and other hazards of marginal existence.<sup>1</sup>

- (d) Since it will be difficult to cover, during IYC, all children under health and nutrition programmes, priority should be given to cater to the needs of children below the age of 6 years, pregnant and nursing mothers.
- (e) During the IYC, an attempt should be made to reduce material and infant mortality rate by about five per cent.

In the light of the objectives and approach strategy as outlined above, the action plan has been divided into the following six broad heads, each spelling out concrete measures to be undertaken in respective fields followed by guidelines for their implementation :

- (1) Health and Nutrition including environmental sanitation and supply of safe drinking water.
- (2) Education including pre-school, elementary and community education.
- (3) Social Welfare, (4) Legislation, (5) Publicity and (6) Fund raising.





# Children are the Apostles of God



**PRABHUDAS B. PATWARI,**

Governor of Tamil Nadu.

**M**an has been waging a valiant fight to discover the mysteries of Nature. He has landed on the moon and searched for signs of life on the Mars. He splits the atom and builds Jets to streak across the ocean. Despite this stupendous progress in science and technology, he has been unable to rescue the vast majority of the world's children from the quagmire of poverty, hunger, ignorance, disease and despair. Children are our future citizens and they are humanity's most precious assets. Children are God's apostles. S.T. Coleridge said : "I have often thought what a melancholy world this would be without children." God sends us children to enlarge our hearts and to make us unselfish and full of kindly sympathies and effection.

To arouse the world's concern for them and evolve a global strategy, mobilising the resources of all nations, particularly the developed and industrialised, UNICEF has done a commendable service to the children of the world. UNICEF has travelled a long way in fund raising and other international activities to help the children. To-day, UNICEF, as a permanent organisation, has preferred to concentrate on long-range programmes geared to national development plans and to the promotion of permanent changes. In our country, its target is 120 million children under six years of age.

The United Nations General Assembly examined in detail the various aspects of child welfare and specific needs of the children in the less developed and developing nations of the world and recognised the fundamental importance in all countries, developing and industrialised, of programmes benefiting children not only for their well-being but also as part of broader efforts to accelerate economic and social progress, and proclaimed the year 1979 as "International Year of the Child."

## Needs of Children

The objects of the International Year of the Child, as defined by the United Nations General Assembly are (1) to provide a framework for advocacy on behalf of children and for enhancing the awareness of the special needs of children on the part of decision-makers and the public and (2) to promote recognition of the fact that the programmes for children should be an integral part of economic and social development plans. With a view to achieving both the long-term and the short-term results, sustained activities for the benefit of children at the national and international levels should be undertaken.





India has always been a strong advocate of the cause of the child and played a notable role in getting the United Nations General Assembly for declaring the Universal Children's Day which is observed in India on 14th November every year. India has also been a staunch supporter for declaring 1979 as the International Year of the Child and was the first country to announce its contribution of Rs. 9 lakhs to UNICEF for the purpose.

The needs of children and our duties towards them are enshrined in our Constitution. Article 39 of the Constitution proclaims that the State shall, in particular, direct its policy towards securing that the health and strength of workers, men and women and the tender age of children are not abused and that children are not forced by economic necessity to enter a vocation unsuited to their age or strength. It further declares that childhood and youth are to be protected against exploitation and against moral and material abandonment. The Constitution also enjoins upon the State to provide free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of fourteen years.

The policy of the Government recognises children as the "Nation's supremely important asset" and declares that the nation is responsible for their "nurture and solicitude." It further spells out various measures to be adopted and priorities to be assigned to children's programmes with a focus on areas like child health, child nutrition and welfare of handicapped and destitute children. The policy also provides for setting up of a high level National Children's Board to focus attention on child welfare and child development and to ensure, at different levels, continuous planning, review and co-ordination of all essential services directed towards children.

### Our Goal

The specific objectives of the observance of the International Year of the Child in India will be to make concerted efforts to reduce the incidence of maternal and child mortality and morbidity; to promote community awareness and education about the crucial importance of the health development of the child; to facilitate optimum psycho-social development of pre-school children and to strive for the speedy realisation of the goal of universal elementary education and to substantially reduce the rates of school drop-out.

The general theme of the International Year of the Child in India will be "Reaching the Deprived Child." Child Welfare is not a one year programme, but a continuous effort



to achieve the broad objectives within this century. Our emphasis will be on children of weaker sections.

Millions of children do not get enough food and clothing. No milk is available to many. There is no care for their health. As a result thousands get blindness and numerous diseases. There are hundreds of orphans also. Government will do their best, but the people's active participation for helping the child is most essential. Voluntary organisations must arrange dynamic programmes for launching movements for children's medical check-up and treatment, education, nourishment and care. What the best and wisest parent wants for his own child, that must be the community wants for all its children.

### Child in Society

In accordance with the general principles set out by the Centre, we have proposed to chalk out a detailed action-packed programme for implementation during the International Year of the Child, through various measures for generating social awareness of the need for giving the child its due place in society.

Child is the Father of Man. We have to concede the rights of the child. Humanity owes much to the children. They need our love, affection and understanding. They want special care, if handicapped, and require special atmosphere for development of their skill and individuality. We have adopted the slogan "Happy child, Nation's pride" as a guiding principle to frame our policy.

I appeal to all concerned, voluntary agencies, welfare organisations and institutions engaged in child welfare to render full co-operation and assistance to the Government to make the year a grand success. Let us remember "every child carries his own blessing into the world."



# STORY OF HIS BIRTHDAY

**R**ajaji never liked the idea of celebrating his birthday ; yet arrangements have been made not only in our country but also in many foreign lands to celebrate his centenary in a fitting manner. Rajaji always desired discussion, deliberation and exchange of ideas even in a small problem. Incidentally the date of his birth itself has been a matter of dispute. His friends and followers used to call on him in large number on December 8 every year to offer felicitations and pay respects on his birthday when he was alive.

His 70th birthday was observed all over the country in a fitting manner when he was the first Indian Governor of West Bengal. At that time his elder brother was living in Tamil Nadu. The Tamil journal "Hindustan" approached him and requested him to , search for the documents relating to Rajaji's birthday. When effort was made in this direction the horoscope " Chackaravarthi Rajagopal" written by his father Chakaravarthi Venkadaraya in Kannada was available. The "Hindusthan" translated the horoscope and published in Tamil in toto, in its special issue. When Raj Mohan Gandhi, the grandson of Gandhiji and Rajaji started writing the biography of his maternal grandfather, R. Narayana Iyenger who was a patriot and editor of "Hindustan" approached me to transfer important information carried by *Hindustan* to Raj Mohan Gandhi. The information revealed by the journal was that Rajaji was born on Tuesday the 10th December in 1878. He was born after the midnight of Monday the 9th December. So according to English calender his birthday falls on 10th December, 1878. The 10th December is being observed as "Human Rights Day" all over the world by the U.N.O.

**K. VEDAMURTHY.**



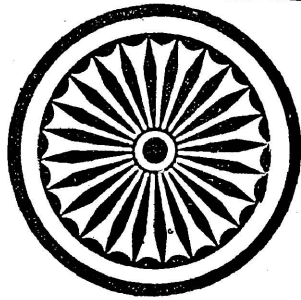
## COMMUNITIES IN THE GARDEN OF INDIA

**H**undreds of communities live in this country and if each thinks it is a separate entity, distinct and separate from the rest, there will be no meaning to the independence India has secured. All people should therefore regard themselves as the flowers and fruits of the same garden and in maintaining their own beauty, should add to the beauty and grandeur of the garden as a whole, to the benefit and advantage of all concerned. The Government

of a country should, like expert gardeners, tend all plants and flowers with equal care and love, and not some plants and flowers only to the neglect of others. Every community must be given full opportunity to retain its own characteristics, but all should blend harmoniously in the bigger aspect of the nation and the country as a whole like the plants and flowers of a garden.

—Rajaji.





## **26th JANUARY**

**A Sacred Anniversary—Thrice Blessed.**

**This Day, 49 years ago,  
we proclaimed our resolve to  
achieve Purna Swaraj.**

**—This day, in 1950, we proclaimed ourselves  
a Republic and gave ourselves a Constitution  
enshrining the ideals of Justice, Liberty,  
Equality and Fraternity.**

**—Around this day, two years ago, we began  
our journey back to the democratic processes  
guaranteed by the Constitution.**

**—To mark the Anniversary— ●**

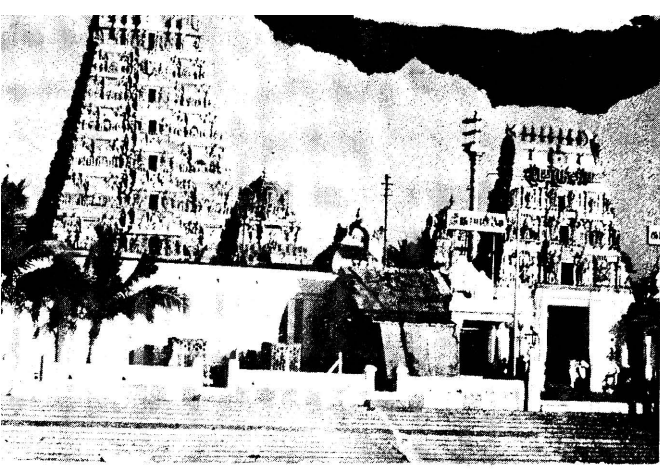
**Let us give thanks for the restoration  
of our liberties**

**Let us strive to fulfil the dreams of those  
who gave their lives in the  
cause of freedom and equality.**

**Let us rededicate ourselves to the early  
achievement of social, economic and  
political justice.**







## HOLIDAYING IN OLD SERENE MADRAS

**A**t long last the Department of Tourism appears to be doing something concrete about bringing tourists to the southern States. As recently as two years ago it would appear that the Department misread the Constitution slightly. *Judging by their actions it was not 'India that is Bharat' but 'North India that is Bharat,'*

And if they try to hide behind the bureaucratic argument that you cannot really influence the tastes of the foreign traveller, then it might be a good idea to consider shutting down the Department and saving all that valuable time, effort and money. It might be an even better idea to compute the amount of foreign exchange spent by the Department in hosting foreigners, sending delegations abroad and churning out mountains of paper (the apt word is not in the dictionary) on such an unrewarding activity. Given even half the budget of the Department, the State tourism organizations, the travel trade and travel writers of India could do twice as good a job, thank you !

But, as we said, someone conceived the idea of Destination South India, so a token effort, at least, was made to project the South. After a few months we shall attempt to assess the impact of this belated effort and turn our spotlight on the Department of Tourism again.

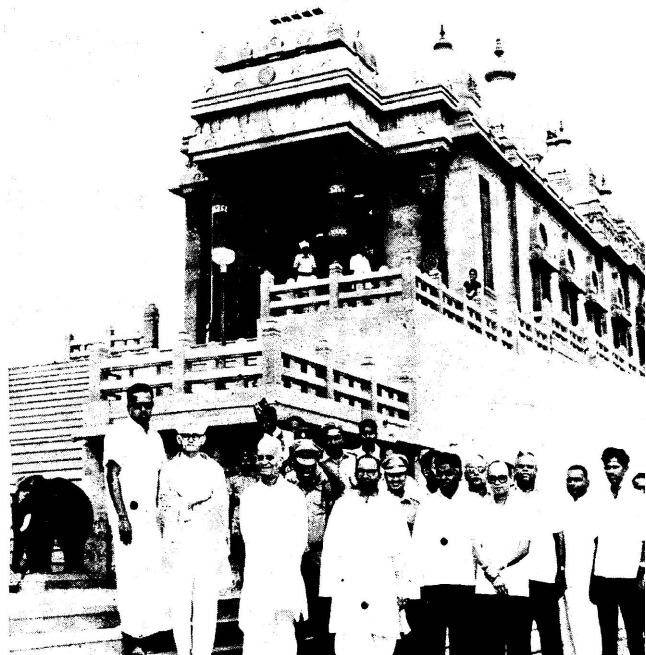
*For the present, however, we should like to remind our readers that the south is a virtually untapped treasure trove for tourists. And it is also cheaper, and often has more to offer than some better favoured northern destinations.*

*And we cannot think of a better base for your southern tour than the old and serene city of Madras.*

Accommodation has never really been a problem in Madras. Thanks to the pioneering efforts of the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation, the local tourism authorities have brought out a very useful little booklet listing such information. In this metropolitan city you can still find a single room for Rs. 15 and a double room for 30, both with baths attached. As we had recommended in our column on Bombay, we advise you to plan your holiday in advance by writing to the TTDC, No: 34, Anna Salai, Madras, specifying the type of accommodation you want. They will reply to you with suitable addresses and then you can correspond with the hotels of your choice keeping the Tamil Nadu Tourist Development Corporation informed when you run into any difficulties. And we assure you that they do reply to letters, and they are efficient. In fact, they were pioneers in Janata tourism long before this became a fashionable catch phrase in Delhi. *We have a great deal of regard for the pragmatic competence of the TTDC.*

Eating out in Madras is also inexpensive. A vegetarian meal in Madras should cost about Rs. 2, a cup of good South Indian coffee can be had for 40 paise, and a cup of tea for 20 paise.

Transportation in Madras is disciplined and the conductors are civilized and courteous. Courtesy, in fact, is a quality you will find all over Tamil Nadu and so you should not hesitate to ask directions. But, please, try and ask your questions in either English or Tamil, not Hindi. And if that bit of advice tends to unsettle you, ask yourself how many of the common people in the northern States understand Tamil, and do not make an emotional issue out of a communication problem.



Madras is well served by the Pallavan Transport System and we do recommend that you make your own itinerary and show yourself the places of interest in Madras. If however, you want it all done for you, you can catch the city sight-seeing tours run by either the TTDC or the India Tourism Development Corporation. But charge Rs. 15 a head and they cover Fort St. George, the Museum, the Art Gallery, Valluvar Kottam, the Snake Park, Kapaleeswarar Temple, Santhome Cathedral and Marina Beach. We would particularly recommend a visit to the Snake Park. Started by the dedicated efforts of Romulus Wittaker and a small band of enthusiastic workers, the park houses not only snakes but also reptiles and the hairy tarantula spider. Wittaker and his colleagues have done trailblazing work in making us conscious of the virtues of these oftshunned creatures. We learnt from the blond Wittaker that the snakes in the park are released to pursue their avocations in the wilderness when they have served their time of captivity. Your visit to the park will serve a truly worthwhile cause and help save the endangered wildlife of our land.

For those interested in history we also recommend a day for browsing around Fort St. George. This is where the British domination of the south began and the records and relics of those distant days are well preserved by the culturally alert Tamils. But it is not work going round the Fort and we were delighted to discover a milk booth run by the Tamil Nadu Dairy Development Corporation; excellent for a quick-pick-me-up in determinedly dry Madras.

Indian Christianity is almost 2,000 years old. It is certainly as old as Christianity itself and older than most European Christianity. Here, in Madras, are the churches most closely associated with Christ's apostle, Thomas. The Little Mount, where he hid from his pursuers, has a sweet-water spring and a cave where he is reputed to have lived in secret. St. Thomas' Mount holds the church built over the site of his death on an assassin's spear, and a picture said to have been painted by the Evangelist St. Luke. And the cathedral at Santhome built around the crypt where he was buried. All places of veneration for the devout.

For those who have a half day to spare, the TTDC's Rs. 20 trip to Mahabalipuram, also called, Mamallapuram, is a good investment. Mahabalipuram was an old port and the careful excavations of our scientists have revealed the most beautiful temples, stone chariots and carvings. The guides who accompany the tour are competent but we advise you

to buy your shells and triknetts from the vendors near the shore temple: the ones near the stone rathas are much more expensive. When you reach the famous Penance of Arjuna sculpture remind your guide to tell you the story of the penitent cat and his circle of duped mice like; all good allegories, it echoes current political postures with uncanny accuracy!

If you have allowed full day for out-of-Madras trips then take the longer tour that also covers Kancheepuram and Thirukalikundram. The visit to Kancheepuram is rewarding even if you have no religious sentiments attached to the place. The carvings in the temples are exquisite, and no one who is prepared to accept the formalities of dress and convention is barred entry.

Thirukalikundram is a shrine atop a high rock and the flight of steps leading up to it would test the tenacity of a Tensing. The legend here is that two eagles appear every midday, or thereabouts, eat from the pujari's hand, and then fly east for a sunset dip at holy Rameshwaram. And then they fly back north for their morning ablutions at Varanasi. The faithful believe that they are the accursed disciples of an ancient sage doomed to serve out their flying penance till the Kali Yug ends with the cleansing advent of Kalki, the last avatar. We saw them on one visit to this shrine, missed them on the next, but returned from both visits fitter in wind and limb, if nothing else. The view from the top of the rock is superb and particularly recommended for the photographer.

With such expansive thought we shall leave you. But if you find these short tours interesting, we believe you should consider taking the longer tours organised by the TTDC. We were most impressed with their 11-day tour but we understand that this is being reorganised into shorter, week-long trips. We plan to take one of them at the end of the year and shall let you know all about it when we return. But if you can not wait till then write to the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation for more information. And if they don't reply, write to us!

(Courtesy : By HUGH and COLLEN GANTZER-THE INDIAN EXPRESS dated November 25.)





# MADRAS INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH-NEW STRIDES OF PROGRESS

The Department of Pediatric Surgery, also the first teaching centre in India for Pediatric surgical diseases was created in 1962 and first chair of Professor of Pediatric Surgery was sanctioned in 1964 and this department also gives post-graduate training in Pediatric Surgery.

The Institute of Child Health and Hospital for children started functioning in new buildings on Halls Road, Egmore, on November 15, 1958. The Egmore Children's Hospital is a boon to the children as also mothers whose worry has been reduced considerably. The professors and readers have acquired appreciable medical expertise in child care and applied pediatrics.

The Madras Institute of Child Health and Hospital for Children is a modern medical institute with even latest equipment and aids for child health. The Departments functioning and rendering specialised treatment in this hospital can be divided into clinical departments and ancillary departments. The former includes pediatric medicine covering infectious diseases unit, Child Guidance clinic. New born services and baby unit, pediatric surgery, new born surgical unit, orthopedics, E.N.T. and pediatric dental department. The ancillary departments are five in number. They deal with radiology, bio-chemistry, bacteriology, clinical pathology and blood bank.

## Peripheral Pediatric Clinics

There are four Peripheral Pediatric Clinics run by the staff of the Institute and Clinics are situated in the same campus as maternity and child welfare centres of the Corporation of Madras at Choolai, Kilpauk. Now in each clinic about 6,000 families have been registered and more than one lakh children have been registered and all children below 12 years attend these clinics

for all minor ailments. (a) Registration of children, (b) maintenance of family folders, (c) Health Education of mothers regarding the care of children (d) Nutrition counselling and demonstration (e) Immunization (f) Home, visiting (g) teaching of medical and para-medical personnel and (h) research on common problems are the highlights in the functioning of these Peripheral Pediatric clinics.

After the establishment of this department, the quality of medical care rendered to the patients has reached high standards. The medical records serve as a mine of information which serve as a media for Post-Graduate and under Graduate Teaching. They provide adequate and accurate source of material which is essential for group study. The recorded observations serve as the basis for Scientific Research in Pediatrics. The case sheets are analysed and various administrative statistics are prepared which helped the hospital Administrator to identify the problems, to formulate remedial measures and to plan for the future.



Dr. K.A. KRISHNAMURTHI



than 100 post-graduates besides the staff members of this Institute. The list of journals available in the Library is attached.

### Integrated Child Development

The Government of India with the help of State Government have launched a package service programme in 33 selected areas all over the country, for the vulnerable population of 0-6 years and anter-natal and lactating mothers. Madras urban slum area is one among the 33 Projects. The Institute of Child Health and Hospital for Children, Madras, is actively involved in the planning, monitoring and services of the health components in this Integrated Child Development Scheme and in and others the training of Anganwadi workers.



A special feature of the Institute is the study of common salt fortified with iron. The fortified salt combats iron deficiency anaemia. The Egmore Institute is one among the four centres in India selected by the Government of India to conduct the field study. It has been proposed to create a PARENTCRAFT centre (Mothers museum) in the Institute to give health education to the parents visiting the hospital and to enter into correspondence with different categories of personnel connected with child health.



The hospital staff have had training in Health Education courses. As part of the health education given to the hospital staff a sanitary committee has been constituted by the grade four workers of the hospital who have concerned themselves with the work of keeping the hospital trim and tidy. It is no exaggeration that this is the first of its kind in the whole of India. The pediatric E. N. T. department and ortho department have made new strides of progress in diagnosis, treatment, cure, guidance and counselling. The special school for the physically handicapped children undergoing long term treatment in the hospital started in 1974 has brought new hope to them. In average of 20 students are taught per day.

### Medical Library

There is a Central Library in this Institute besides Departmental Libraries in the Departments of Pediatric Surgery, E. N. T. and Radiology. This is in addition to the Central Library in the Madras Medical College, Madras. It is reference Library. There are about 1000 Medical Books available. In addition, the Library subscribes to about 50 foreign and Indian Journals every year. The Library functions from 10.10 A.M. to 8.00 P.M. on all working days. The Library caters to the needs of more

The Child Guidance Clinic functioning on two days a week has set a new record of service. Multi disciplinary approach is made use of in the clinic. Not less than 100 cases attend the clinic everyday. Mental retardation, epilepsy, speech and school problems psychotic and neurotic problems are some of the types of cases that are attended to in this clinic.

In an interview to Associate Editor, Dr. M. S. Ramakrishnan said that the Hospital is a boon to the children, mothers and students as well. Medical advice is being given to parents from other states too.





# CHILD WELFARE PROGRAMMES IN TAMILNADU

**P. T. Saraswathi,**  
MINISTER FOR SOCIAL WELFARE

**S**pecialists in the field of Child Care and Child Development are unanimous in opinion about the foundational significance of pre-school age children, not only from the view point of health and nutrition, but also in the all round development of the child i.e., social, emotional and psychological. Besides, a widespread awareness of the importance of pre-schools in the context of child care and child development and its importance in the success of pre-primary education; the high incidence of mortality, morbidity and malnutrition prevailing among pre-school children and the fact that the child of this age group is not easily contactable unlike the school going child and the usefulness of a pre-school as a Day-Care-Centre for working mothers has led in giving importance to the pre-school programme by the Government of Tamil Nadu. The importance enjoyed by the programme can be seen from its wide coverage of 14 districts by more than 4,083 pre-schools all over the 374 Panchayat Unions in this State. The programme has been taken to the nook and corner of the rural areas of Tamil Nadu and tiny villages and tribal areas including primitive tribal areas, which are accessible only on foot.

The pre-school programme was started in 1962 with 747 pre-schools in 21 Panchayat Unions and during the 3 Annual Plan 293 pre-schools

were started covering a total of 47 Panchayat Unions. During the IVth Five Year Plan period 800 pre-schools in total were started in 4 years at the rate of 200 pre-schools per year. The scheme of crash programme for educated unemployed sanctioned by the Government of India was also launched during this period and under this 604 child Welfare Centres were opened giving employment to 5600 educated unemployed women as Child Welfare Organisers. In addition, 25 Day-Care-Centres were started in the Madras City slums. Out of the above 11 Day-Care-Centres have been merged with Integrated Child Development Services, City project and at present 14 centres are functioning in the city. We have proposed this year to start 150 general and 50 Harijan Pre-schools groups have also been functioning.

## Pre-Schools

To benefit children of Harijans, pre-schools have been opened in Harijan Colonies from 1975-76 onwards. So far 200 pre-schools have been opened in Harijan colonies out of which 50 pre-schools are run with funds from Harijan Welfare Department, and 50 more will be opened shortly this year. For 150 pre-schools, buildings have been constructed at a cost of Rs. 8,000/- per building by Tamil Nadu Harijan Housing and Development Corporation. During 1978-79 another 100 pre-school buildings may be con-

structed and pre-schools opened in the Harijan Colonies.

Under the Rural Reconstruction Project at Somangalam in Chingleput District, two pre-schools have been opened in Harijan Colonies. These pre-schools have been provided with buildings also. In addition to these, Government have also sanctioned construction of 8 balwadi buildings for the pre-schools run by the Indian Council for Child Welfare under this project. In Aziz Nagar settlement for denotified Tribes, five pre-schools have been started with the funds of the Department of Backward Classes.

## In Tribal Areas

10 pre-schools were opened in the Nilgiris District in 1976-77 for the benefit of Pania children. Under the Integrated Tribal Development Programme of the State, 49 pre-schools have been started between 1976-78 to benefit the children of the tribal population in Kalrayan Hills in South Arcot District, Javvadu Hills in North Arcot District, Pachaimalai, Kalrayan and Aranuthumalai in Salem District, Sitheri Hills in Dharmapuri District and Pachaimalai in Trichy District. During 1978-79, 25 pre-schools have been sanctioned to be started for the welfare of primitive tribes. Another 30 pre-schools will also be started in the tribal areas of South Arcot, North Arcot, Salem, Dharmapuri and Trichy Districts.

## Family and Child Welfare Project

The Central Social Welfare Board, New Delhi, through the Tamil Nadu Social Welfare Board, started 4 Family and Child Welfare Projects from 1971 onwards, at Villivakkam, Athur, Perianaickenpalayam and Kurinjipadi. The activities of each project included running of pre-schools, conducting training camps for young mothers. These projects are entitled to get assistance from the Central Social Welfare Board for a period of 6 years. After completion of 5 years the projects have been handed over to the State Government and these are being run with State Government funds. The 6 pre-schools started in each project now continue to function as this Department's general pre-schools.

## A Pilot Project

This project was started in Poonamallee as a pilot project with full assistance from the Government of India. The object of the project was to provide integrated services

to children below 6 years of age. Under this project 50 pre-schools and 10 creches were opened. In each pre-school, 40 children are enrolled. Each creche takes care of 10 children between 6 months to 2.5 years of age. After 5 years the projects are taken over by the State Government and functions under the control of the Chief Organiser. The project has a full complement of medical staff. One Doctor, one Public Health Nurse, two Health Visitors, 2 Health Inspectors, and two Maternity Assistants and Ayahs. Two Maternity Homes are also run under this project.

In all the pre-schools children are given supplementary feeding. Out of the 4083 pre-schools, in about 1002 pre-schools feeding programme with CARE assistance is implemented by the Director of Rural Development. In these pre-schools 120 beneficiaries (40 pre-school children, 40 non-pre-school children and 40 pregnant and lactating mothers) in each centre are fed. They are provided with 3 paise per day for 300 days as non-feed charges. In the remaining pre-schools, Balahar feeding programme with CARE assistance is implemented by this Directorate. In each centre 70 beneficiaries (60 pre-school children and 10 pregnant and lactating mothers) are given balahar. CARE organisation provides 80 gms. of Balahar and 7 gms. of Salad Oil per beneficiary.

#### Construction of pre-school buildings

Mostly our pre-schools are located in rent-free buildings which are given by philanthropic minded public. In places where pre-schools are run without adequate accommodation, buildings are constructed with CARE assistance. CARE has agreed to the construction of 1,000 buildings during 1974-75 to 1978-79. So far 600 buildings have been sanctioned to be constructed. Out of which 500 have been constructed. Among this 150 buildings have been constructed in Harijan Colonies by Tamil Nadu Harijan Housing and Development Corporation. The pattern of assistance is 3 : 3 : 3.

#### Educational Equipment

Educational and Play equipment worth Rs. 500/- are supplied to all the pre-schools at the time of starting. The value of unserviceable equipments have been ordered to be written off and additional equipment to replace them has been sanc-

tioned by the Government after a period of 5 years. This is done in a phased manner. This year 354 sets of equipment have been sanctioned for replacement.

#### Training for Balasevikas

The Balasevikas who man the pre-schools are generally local girls selected by a Selection Committee, who are given training of 2 months duration to equip them with special qualification to implement the programme in the pre-schools. But as the salary given to the Balasevikas is very low and due to various other reasons viz., marriage, illness and death etc. Some balasevikas relinquish their services. Hence there is a continuous need for giving training to untrained balasevikas, who are appointed as substitutes. This year also it is proposed to give training to 221 such untrained balasevikas.

#### Three Integrated Projects

The Integrated Child Development Service Scheme sponsored by the Government of India has been introduced in 3 places in Tamil Nadu viz., Madras City, Thally in Dharmapuri and Nilakottai in Madurai District. Each project has 100 pre-schools. Each project provides a package of services consisting of supplementary nutrition, health check-up, immunisation, referred services and pre-school education to children between 0-5 years and pregnant and nursing mothers. The Nutrition component under this programme is the State Government's responsibility. A novel scheme of Functional Literary programme for adult women is also being implemented in all the 3 projects to benefit women in the age group of 15-44 years.

In each project 100 anganwadis have been started. In each Anganwadi pre-school education is given for 40 children and supplementary nutrition provided for 40 pre-school age children, 30 infants below 2.5 years and 30 pregnant and nursing mothers. The indigenous food commodities are used in the feeding programme in these Integrated Child Development Service projects. Each anganwadi is under the charge of a trained anganwadi worker and helped by an ayah.

The Child Development Project Officer is incharge of the Integrated Child Development Service Project. She is assisted by 5 Supervisors in the supervision of the Anganwadis.

There is a separate complement of medical staff consisting of a Medical Officer, 8 A.N.Ms and one Lady Health Visitor. The Medical Staff are attached to the Primary Health Centre, and the entire staff deliver the health services contemplated under the Integrated Child Development Service programme. In Madras City the Health Staff are attached to the Institute of Child Health. For 1978-79 4 more projects have been sanctioned by the Government of India and orders are awaited from the State Government finalising the location of these projects.

#### Maternal and Child Health Services

Under the Madras Urban Development Project implemented with World Bank Aid, one of the components is Maternal and Child Health Scheme. This scheme also envisages delivery of a package of services as under Integrated Child Development Services of Government of India.

This scheme contemplates opening of 2 projects with 200 Child Welfare Centres in the areas of Villivakkam, Arumbakkam and Kodungaiyur over a period of 3 years from 1977-78-1980. The Child Welfare Centres will also have creche attached with 30 infants in them. So far 30 pre-schools have been opened. During 78-79, 70 more pre-schools will be opened. During 79-80 the second project with 100 Child Welfare Centres will be opened.

The scheme is implemented by the Director of Social Welfare. The Madras Metropolitan Development Authority is the Co-ordinating agency for all the schemes. The Madras Urban Development Project to be implemented with World Bank Aid envisages opening of 4,083 schools and centres which mainly include crash Child Welfare Centres, Child Welfare Pre-Schools, City Day CARE Centres, Harijan Colony Pre-schools and V Plan period, Tribal and Pania schools, Integrated Services, MMDA Pre-schools and ANP Pre-schools.

*Tamil Nadu never lacked behind in implementing Child Welfare Schemes and availing of all the grants and aids from the Centre and CSWB. Our team of officers engaged in this programme function with devotion and sacrifice. It is no exaggeration they have rich experience to share with other States.*



**T**amil Nadu never forgets the noble services rendered by illustrious sons and daughters of India. In the recent past Tamil Nadu Government organised functions to honour the galaxy of great sons. In the galaxy of such revered and beloved sons and daughters of Tamil Nadu Thiru Rajagopalachari who is popularly known as Rajaji occupies a unique place in Tamil Nadu. Government has erected a life size statue of Rajaji in the campus of Madras High Court facing the Tri-Junction of Parris corner. The Vice-President of India, who unveiled the statue and paying a glowing tribute to the memory of Rajaji described Rajaji as a rare combination of a saint and an astute man of the world. He was both a man of thought and a man of action, an idealist as well as a pragmatist, an intellectual as well as a warmhearted humanist. There had been few equalled his achievements in so many spheres, politics, administration, social service, religion, philosophy and literature.

The Vice-President said Rajaji had never sought office but was offered the highest of them, and in every one of the offices he held, he displayed a detachment and sense of duty which marked him out as a real KARMA YOGI. His was a life of service, sacrifice, struggle and fulfilment. He was an ardent patriot, a peerless freedom fighter and a true apostle of simple living and high thinking.

Thiru Jatti said politics and public affairs were never Rajaji's sole pre-occupations. He was a true representative and a rich repository of the best in Indian culture and spirituality. His translations of the Bhagavad Gita, Upanishads, Ramayana and Mahabharata with commentaries helped these philosophical and literary treasures reach readers who did not know Sanskrit. His translations into English of the Tamil classic Thirukkural had opened the world of Tamil thought to the rest of the country.

Thiru Prabhudas Patwari, Governor of Tamil Nadu, laid the foundation stone for a Rajaji Memorial Library to be raised behind the Rajaji Memorial at Guindy. He said Rajaji was a man of honesty, character and simplicity. In the year of Rajaji centenary we have to strive hard to extend all assistance to Khadi and Village Industries which were dearer to Rajaji.

The Chief Minister of Kerala, Thiru P. K. Vasudeva Nair who unveiled a plaque, renaming North Beach Road as Rajaji Road, said Rajaji, with his clarity of mind and perception and a penchant for original thinking, could offer solutions to very complex problems. He was a great champion of Hindu-Muslim unity and one of the most efficient administrators that India had ever seen. He initiated various measures for the benefit of agriculturists.

## RAJAJI STATUE IN MADRAS



Thiru M. P. Sivagnanam, Chairman of Tamil Nadu Legislative Council, Thiru Ramaprasad Rao, Chief Justice, Madras High Court, Thiru M. Bakthavatchalam, former Chief Minister, Thiru V. R. Nedunchezian, General Secretary of A.D. M. K. and others addressed the meeting.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister, Thiru M. G. Ramachandran said "I met Rajaji after the formation of the AIADMK. He took my hands in his palms and blessed me; his eyes did not well up; because of his will power-but people like me would have shed tears—he spoke with much determination. The abolition of prohibition has led the people astray. We must ensure their well-being." I said time will make it so. He replied "I should have to live to see the change". Eventhough he is dead his statue installed here will watch us, our programmes and policies.

The Chief Minister said the people of Tamil Nadu would not tolerate the imposition of Hindi and appealed to the central leaders not to hustle anything on the people that would endanger the national unity. The Chief Minister recalled how Rajaji who was once in favour of having Hindi in Tamil Nadu later saw the

danger of that language being imposed on the south and opposed it stoutly. When Thiru Anna stood up against the chauvanists, he had the full support of Rajaji.

Thiru M. G. Ramachandran said the people of Tamil Nadu had every right to promote their own language and the AIADMK Government would do everything to protect their interest. He and his party would not hesitate to join hands with any other political party, holding a similar view. He added that he would not accept the claim of the DMK leaders that they alone had the right to speak for the Tamils and protect them against Hindi.

Paying a tribute to Rajaji's courage of conviction, the Chief Minister said his Government was turning the dreams of Rajaji, especially in respect of Prohibition and removal of Untouchability and casteism, into reality.

### Rajaji Nagar

The Chief Minister announced that to commemorate the centenary the SIPCOT township near Hosur would be renamed Rajaji Nagar.

**T**he State Information Centre Government Estate, Madras, has been rendering very useful service since its inception in 1956 in dissemination of information and building up public relations with various sectors of society through its action-packed activities involving various communication media. The recent addition to the centre's varied functions is the opening on a Childrens Library Wing to cater to the needs of children whose thirst for good reading good literature are to be met on a planned manner.

The Children's wing of the library which was recently opened

on 13th November marks an important epoch in the history of the Information Centre. "To make your children capable of honesty is the beginning of Education", said John Ruskin. This library paves the way for our children to attain this first step towards education, in the proper sense of the word.

The children who make use of our library belong to the poor and lower middleclass society who are deprived of the opportunities to go through the costly and valuable books since these books are available only in private

institutions. The Children's library, started modestly in the available space in the Centre with 3000 books, attracts nearly seventy to eighty children every day. The serious and disciplined manner with which they make use of the books and replace them in their respective places show that the primary aim of this library that is to create reading habit and discipline in children is achieved. Teachers from near-by schools accompany the children in their leisure hours to the library. Weekly twice film shows for children are conducted in the mini-auditorium where films from foreign Embassies are screened. Such films are educational as well as entertaining. Boards of photographs of heroic children honoured by the State Government are also displayed.

"Give me four years to teach the children and the seed I have sown will never be up-rooted", said Lenin. The children's wing can be made more attractive and effective to mould the minds of the children to become responsible and valiant citizens of India.

## A CENTRE FOR CHILD EDUCATION



# SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

## —Governor's Message



In the spirit of a Crusader, Gandhiji focussed the attention of the country on the importance of adult education in promoting National development. His commitment to adult education was indeed deep. It is a fitting tribute to the memory and service of the Father of the Nation that the National Adult Education Programme is being launched all over the country on the second October, the day of his Birth Anniversary.

The task before the country is by no means small, as ten crores of illiterates in the age-group 15-35 are to be made literate in the next five years. The necessity of doing the job within a short period demands fresh thinking about the techniques and remodelling of the traditional systems to suit our present needs.

The promotion of literacy among adults makes it necessary to integrate all the school and out of School resources and not confine our efforts to schools only. It has been said and rightly so, that functional literacy must involve the whole society and not merely the Government. It demands the co-operation of all, particularly the local authorities, educational, scientific and cultural bodies, public and private enterprises, youth and women's organisations.

I fervently hope that the Adult Education movement will spread rapidly throughout the country and

lead to the overall development of the Nation in the shortest time possible.

The Education Minister, Thiru C. Aranganayagam, says "Adult Education campaign symbolises the struggle of the illiterate citizens to attain the knowledge necessary to enable them to live decent useful lives and to understand the world about them. One of the major planks in the strategy of a society like ours, which is determined to achieve economic development, social transformation and effective social security, should be to educate its citizens to exercise whole heartedly the rights of democratic citizenship and to participate in its developmental programmes, willingly, intelligently and efficiently. Education for the adults needs to be made functional in character and linked up with the work and life of the people so that it serves as a purposeful instrument of rural regeneration. Accent should be laid on followup measures to make literacy effective by provision of rural libraries, large-scale production of books, conducive to the needs of neo-literates. I firmly hope that the National Adult Education Programme, will have a far-reaching and permanent impact on all citizens."

## SPECIAL REMISSION

### TO PRISONERS

### TO MARK

# RAJAJI CENTENARY



The Government of Tamil Nadu direct that on the occasion of the Birth Centenary of Thiru Rajaji on the 24th December, 1978, special remission shall be granted to prisoners serving in the Jails of this State following graded scales :—

The Prisoners undergoing sentence upto three years will get remission of 2 months, Prisoners undergoing sentence above three years to five years—3 months.

Prisoners undergoing sentence above five years or ten years—4 months and Prisoners undergoing sentence above ten years including lifers will have the benefit of remission —6 months.

The Special remission will not be admissible in the cases of civil prisoners and detenus and also in the case of persons convicted of offences under section 3 to 10 of the

Official Secrets Act, 1923, Sections 2 and 3 of the Criminal Laws Amendment Act, 1961, Sections 211 to 130 of the Indian Penal Code and Foreigners and Passport Act, persons sentenced to death but whose sentences were later commuted to imprisonment for life and those convicted by courts of Criminal jurisdiction of other States. This special remission is not applicable to prohibition offences. This order shall take effect from 24th December, 1978.





## TAMILNADU CHIEF MINISTER RETURNS FROM FOREIGN TOUR

The Chief Minister, Thiru M. G. Ramachandran, returned to India on December 9 after his foreign tour of 40 days. He landed at Meenambakkam airport where a sea of people, belonging to different sections of society including senior officials received him with warm welcome. A long line of people along the road leading to the heart of Madras city greeted him on his happy return.

Addressing the mammoth gathering at the airport the Chief Minister said "I had the privilege of touring abroad for 40 days and meeting eminent men in different walks of life and acquaint myself with some schemes useful to Tamil Nadu. On the eve of my departure, I spoke at this spot. I appealed to the political parties and people to extend their co-operation to the Government during my absence." The Chief Minister expressed his thanks to them for their compliance with his request. He expressed his thanks to the Chief Secretary and his colleagues

for proper discharge of their functions.

Thiru M. G. Ramachandran, Chief Minister, garlanded Anna statue on Mount Road and addressed the gathering from a specially erected rostrum. He thanked the representatives of the U. S. Government and U. S. Consul General in Madras for extending an invitation to him to visit the United States. "I will make use of the experience gained by me during the five-week foreign tour for bettering the common weal of Tamil Nadu," he added. The

Chief Minister recollected the statement of Anna that the working class should be uplifted and be given all facilities. That day would mark the real liberation of the country.

He indicated that several schemes would be formulated to generate employment opportunities based on the rich experience he had gained

during his five-week tour of the U.S. the U.K. and Japan. He said he found there was great demand for labour in all places he had visited, in contrast to the large unemployment at home.

He said during his visit to Singapore he had gathered information about how the local administration reclaimed land from the sea. Houses had been constructed in the reclaimed areas in the last five years, he added. The Chief Minister said his foreign tour had given him a chance to establish contacts that would promote industrial growth in the State and provide job opportunities to thousands of people.

The Chief Minister held brief discussions with his Cabinet colleagues, Chief Secretary, Thiru V. Karthikeyan, Heads of departments, Members of the Board of Revenue and Secretariat Employees Association.

The Chief Minister left for Ootacamund in the night to visit areas affected by landslides.



# தமிழரசு

தமிழ் நாடு அரசின் திங்கட்கிழமை நாடு



அமெரிக்க அயக்கிய நாட்டின் வெளி உறவுத்துறை (தெற்கு ஆசிய-அண்மைக் கிழக்கு நாடுகள்) துணை அமைச்சர் திரு. ஜேக் மிக்லாஸ் அவர்களுடன் தமிழக முதல்வர் திரு. எம்.ஜி.ஆர். அவர்கள் உரையாடுதல்.

## 1979 நாட்காட்டி

ஜனவரி	பிப்ரவரி	மார்ச்	ஏப்ரல்
சூ தி செ பு வி வெ ச * 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	சூ தி செ பு வி வெ ச * * * * 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 * * *	சூ தி செ பு வி வெ ச * * * * 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	சூ தி செ பு வி வெ ச 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 * * * * *
மே	ஜூன்	ஜூலை	ஆகஸ்ட்
சூ தி செ பு வி வெ ச * 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 * *	சூ தி செ பு வி வெ ச * * * * 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	சூ தி செ பு வி வெ ச 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 * * * *	சூ தி செ பு வி வெ ச * * * 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 *
செப்டம்பர்	அக்டோபர்	நவம்பர்	டிசம்பர்
சூ தி செ பு வி வெ ச 30 * * * * 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	சூ தி செ பு வி வெ ச * 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 * * *	சூ தி செ பு வி வெ ச * * * * 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 *	சூ தி செ பு வி வெ ச 30 31 * * * * 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29





## RAJAJI MEMORIAL IN TORAPALLI

The ancestral residence of Rajaji in Torapalli village in Dharmapuri District has been acquired by the Government of Tamil Nadu to convert it as a memorial. An expenditure to the tune of Rs.30,000 has been incurred by the State Government to shape it a library consisting of Rajaji's books is to be opened. A special feature that adorns the house is rows of photographs portraying the important events in the life of Rajaji.

A life size statue adds special spectacle to the place. Torapalli has small hillocks and farms. Hardly 60 or 70 families reside in this village. An exhibition organise in Torapalli on December 10 to conclude the birth centenary of Rajaji was declared open by the Finance Minister, Thiru K. Manoharan. He said historians should come forward to write the biography of Rajaji and assistance from Government would be available. The school where Rajaji studied will be renovated.

Rajaji's fight against the twin demons of Drink and Untouchability has left an indelible mark of his valiant, incessant and steady crusade against the social evils. His innovation of sales tax to compensate the excise revenue loss earned him the acclaim and appreciation from economists and the then ruling class as well.

The Salt Satyagraha at Vedaranyam in Thanjavur District under the presidentship of Rajaji is a historical event which had brought in its wake country wide awakening and feruour. Rajaji was a man of character and integrity and a symbol of simplicity. The Government of Tamil Nadu cherish his memory and have a plan to celebrate the centenary throughout the State in a fitting manner.



## **FAMILY PLANNING : A CHALLENGE TO RURAL COMMUNICATORS**

**G.N.S. RAGHAVAN,**

*Professor, Indian Institute of Mass Communi-  
cation, New Delhi*

India's population problem is a problem created by progress. The population growth rate has been high in recent decades even though the birth rate has been falling from 41.7 births per thousand of the population during the decade 1951-60 to 35 during 1974. The seeming paradox is explained by the fact that the death rate has been falling even more steeply from 22.8 during the decade 1951-60 to 15 in 1974. The fall in the death rate is on account of the control of epidemics such as cholera, small pox and malaria and increased availability of medical care, and the measures taken to prevent mass deaths from starvation even during years of severe drought. Infant mortality has come down, and the average Indian's expectation of life has gone up from 32 years at the time of independence to more than 50 years.

It was not till the results of the 1961 Census were known that the population growth rate came to be seen as a threat. The family planning programme, which began nominally during the first Five Year Plan, with reliance mainly on the rhythm method, was turned in the mid-sixties into a massive operation entailing both motivation and the provision of family planning advice and services. Population control, it was realised, was essential for conserving, in terms of per capita availability, the benefits of growth in agriculture, industry and the social services.

### **Distortions**

The programme suffered a set-back in the early 'seventies when the reliance on official agencies and the targets of sterilisation set for them led in some parts of the country, to distortions such as unfulfilled promises of land allotment to volunteers and the dragooning of ineligible cases such as the overaged or adolescents into vasectomy camps. Alarmed by the political repercussions, some leaders of the then ruling Congress party tended to shy away from the family planning programme and to argue that economic development was the best contraceptive as if over-population was not in itself a major hurdle in the way of economic development. It became the fashion in some intellectual circles, who were either unaware of or chose to ignore the determined family planning drive in Communist China, to regard fear of population growth as 'Rightist' and reactionary, and the playing down of the problem as 'Leftist' and progressive.

An even more severe set-back was suffered during the period of internal emergency from

mid-1975 to early 1977, when coercion was employed in some parts of the country, specially the northern States, to achieve high targets of sterilisation. When elections were held in March 1977 and the Congress party lost the power it had enjoyed at the Centre for three decades since independence, the outcome was in so small measure due to the people's revulsion against the way family planning was enforced during the emergency.

It is to the credit of the new Government formed by the Janata Party that, nevertheless, it unambiguously accepted the need for population control; only, it insisted that the programme should be wholly voluntary. Now that the principle of persuasive communication for the family planning programme has been re-established along with the restoration of democracy, the challenge before our family planning communicators is to bridge the gap between the urban and rural levels of acceptance of family planning.

The gap may be ascribed to several reasons. One reason is that, despite the expansion of health services since independence and the establishment of primary health centres and sub-centres in development blocks (into which each district in a State is divided), the availability of family planning advice and services—as of medicare in general—is much less in rural areas than in the cities and towns.

Secondly, the problems arising from excessive density of population are much more easily seen and more acutely felt by rural dwellers than by villagers. Few villages look over-populated, even if they happen to be in one of those river-delta districts where, over the centuries, high densities of rural population have developed. The argument for limiting family size cannot therefore be in terms of the pressure on housing and of civic services like transport, sewerage, schooling and medicare. The argument has to be relevant to the rural context. The farmer with land of his own can well understand the implications of the division of property between children over the generations. This argument has been used to considerable effect and the rate of acceptance, among the better off in rural communities has been encouraging. However, when we come to the landless agricultural workers, or to the village artisan—carpenter, blacksmith or potter—it is difficult to find a readily, convincing argument for limiting family size. There is hardly any property to be divided among children. When a child—boy or girl—grows to be about five years, it becomes a source of help to the family, whether for the collection of firewood, fetching drinking water, washing animals and clothes, cleaning the cooking utensils or minding younger babies. As they grow older, they handle more arduous tasks. 1979 is going to be observed as International

Children's Year, and doubtless there will be attempts in India, as in other countries, to strengthen the laws prohibiting child labour. But such laws, like other social legislation prohibiting dowry or regulating the minimum age of marriage, carry no guarantee of compliance in a large country with varying social traditions. The appeal to the village poor is usually to send their children to school so that they can attain a higher standard of living than the parents have had. But this is a debatable proposition. The kind of education that is imparted in most schools—based on rote learning of information with little or no reference to the physical and social environment in which the children live—often makes the children unfit for the traditional family occupation without equipping them for or guaranteeing other gainful employment. So far as the poorest among the rural population are concerned, therefore, perhaps the prescription of development as the contraceptive pill is right! Their aspiration level must begin to move upward through fuller and more gainful employment, so that they can envisage for their children a fuller and richer life than mere subsistence.

### Exposure to Media

Finally, exposure to the information media is much higher in cities and towns. Rural India is largely outside the reach of the modern mass media, though they have grown rapidly in recent decades. For example, the circulation of daily newspapers, which was about 2.5 million in the mid-fifties, has risen to nearly 10 million. The growth rate in circulation is higher among the Indian-language newspapers compared to those in English. These are welcome trends. But newspaper circulation is still predominantly urban. This is because the urban literacy rate (1971 Census) is 52.4 per cent as against the rural literacy rate of 23.7 per cent. The urban level of purchasing power is also greater. Therefore, exposure to the Press, which carries news and views about the population explosion, motivational advertisements, and information about the availability of family planning services, is higher in the cities and towns.

The number of radio receivers has gone up to about 20 million. However, only a fifth of these are in rural areas, where live 80 per cent of the population. The spectacle of the farmer carrying a transistor set to his field—what has been called the transistor revolution—is confined to areas like Punjab and Haryana where there has been a Green Revolution. Elsewhere, radio listening in rural areas is very limited. Community listening sets number less than 100,000 out of the total of 20 million. Out of the half a million TV receivers in India, less than 5,000 are community viewing sets. Since a medium can only address itself to the audience actually available to it, the programme content of Indian Radio and TV is predomi-

nantly of urban interest both in respect of entertainment and handling of themes like family planning.

Nearly ten million people visit the 9,000 cinema houses in the country every day. And these cinema houses are required to exhibit informational and motivational films of a certain length along with each screening of a feature film. However, most of the cinema theatres are in the cities and towns. The audiovisual vans of the Central and State Governments do conduct free screening of documentaries of educational value in villages, but the size of the audience covered by them is pitifully small compared to the number who go to cinema theatres. Moreover these documentaries, made mostly by the Films Division of the Government of India for the commercial theatre circuit, are generally made in urban location and have little local relevance in rural areas with their great diversity in the agro-climatic and socio-cultural environment. I remember a film on family planning which shows a father of five or six children standing pensively on the balcony of a Bombay flat, smoking a cigarette, while his children pester him for school fees and pocket money. When such a film is screened in a village, the audience is likely to regard the father not as the harassed head of an unduly large family, but as a rather lucky urbanite, draped in several yards of white clothing, who can afford cigarettes in contrast to the cheroot or beedi of the rural poor.

### Information Imbalance

The urban-rural information imbalance within the country is thus as acute as the global information imbalance which has been the subject of much debate recently. The problem has at last been recognised, and some bold solutions have been suggested. The present Government appointed a Working Group last year under the chairmanship of Mr George Verghese to study and make recommendations regarding the future pattern of growth, and the appropriate form of autonomous organisation of Radio and Television. The Verghese Group has suggested the establishment of a chain of local radio stations at district level, and, similarly, television stations with low-power transmitters for local coverage. The report of the Working Group stresses that the Station Manager should not only have the responsibility of running his station but of organising, listening or viewing groups within the range of his transmitters. This is a far-reaching recommendation. When implemented, it will provide rural access to Radio and Television for the first time on a very large scale.

Once the electronic media are decentralised and ruralised, a second major problem of persuasive developmental communication will also get solved. This is the problem of cultural distance between the communicator and his audie-

ence. Typically, the radio and television programmer of today is urban-bred and English-educated. The local station of tomorrow will and should be manned by local talent. Only locally recruited programmers will be capable of drawing on local folklore and legend, locally popular forms of song and stylised narration, and be able to employ locally prevalent forms of speech as distinct from chaste literary style. Take for example Hindi, which is the most widely spoken language of India. It is not one language except in its literary usage. Spoken Hindi is many dialects and languages, such as Garhwali, Haryanvi, Rajasthani and Brij Bhasha.

### Local Recruitment

However, though the prospect of local radio and television stations is alluring, it is rather distant. A great deal of money and time will be required to cover the country with local stations. In the meanwhile, audio-visual aids must do service for local broadcasting. The cassette taperecorder must try and do today as much as possible of what the local radio station of tomorrow is expected to do. Similarly, photographic exhibition kits, filmstrips and graphics must deliver today as much as possible of the localised visual coverage which local television and localised films will attempt tomorrow.

Above all, rural communication must rely on the extension personnel of family planning at the village, development block and district levels. It is they who will use, and must help in the preparation of the localised audio-visual aids envisaged above. This requires that the extension personnel must be locally recruited. Some years ago on a visit to Rajasthan as member of a study team on family planning communication, I found that a large percentage of the female extension workers (the Auxiliary Nurse Midwives) were drawn from far-away Kerala. These young women Hindi, but not the local speech which is the distinctive local variant of Hindi, i.e. Rajasthani. They could make themselves understood, but could not follow that the local women said. In family planning, as in other spheres of development communication, it is necessary to relax educational standards to the extent necessary to ensure the recruitment of local personnel for work at the grassroots level, and to make good the lag in formal education through intensive functional training. A beginning has been made in strictly local recruitment in the scheme of community health workers which was launched last year.

It is necessary to decentralise the responsibility for message formulation and for drawing up the strategy for message dissemination, because of the very diverse conditions under which live India's rural population. Message formulation requires study of the socio-economic structure and needs of a specific rural community. The study might well lead to the

conclusion that population control is irrelevant, for a given community in a desert or hilly area and that family planning is necessary only as an aid to maternal and child health through spacing. This will avoid the pitfalls of centrally planned messages for "national family planning fortnights" and the like.

After message formulation comes the framing (or coding) of the locally relevant message in local language and idiom that will be understood and appreciated; then the determination of the appropriate message delivery system (whether in person or through the use of low-cost audio-visual aids or through the mass media or a combination of these); and finally the securing of feed-back—both of the effectiveness of specific modes of message presentation and of the over-all impact of the communication effort.

### Inherited Attitudes

The family planning worker's task is much harder than the canvassing by agricultural extension workers of improved agricultural practices which can be demonstrated, and readily seen, to lead to increased production and income. Despite the streak of renunciation and other worldliness in the Hindu tradition—as indeed in other major world religions—there is no religious taboo on improving one's material condition through better crop yields or dairying. Family planning, on the other hand, impinges on private life and social esteem. A newly-wed young woman who quickly establishes her fertility, specially if she produces sons, is highly esteemed by her in-laws and by the community, and looked down upon if she fails to do so.

Attitudes that have been inherited as part of tradition can be modified more effectively by pressing into service traditional forms of communication than the still alien modern mass media, even supposing that they were accessible to rural audiences. Here again, only the locally recruited communicator will know, in each dialectal or cultural sub-region, the traditional folk forms of entertainment and ethical instruction which have transmitted social values from generation to generation. If he can build bridges between the providers of family planning advice and services who know little or nothing about the local folk media, and the local practitioners of these media who know little or nothing about family planning (at many places, the vasectomy operation is referred to by villagers as 'castration'), the family planning communicator will have performed a signal service. Here is an exciting and challenging field which awaits exploration by the rural communicator.







## Rural Sanitation Work By Students

**N. RANGANATHAN,**

*Field Publicity Officer, Tirunelveli*

**F**ifty N.S.S. student volunteers of the Thakshinamara Nadar Sangam College, T. Kallikulam, conducted a ten-day camp at Kallikulam, their adopted village from 23rd November to 2nd December. Though it was one of the many such camps, the formation of a two and half Kms. road linking Kallikulam and Thirumalapuram was really a commendable work. The Radhapuram Panchayat Union supplied the required metal for the road and the volunteer offered their labour. The road has been completed and declared open to the public on the final day by Thiru T. Paulsamy, Principal of the College.

Kallikulam is one of the backward areas both educationally and economically in Tirunelveli district and the present camp by the NSS students has no doubt relieved the sufferings of the people in this locality to some extent.

### Sanitation

Taking the environmental hygiene into consideration the volunteers have provided 6 soak pits in the hamlet. They had already dug 64 soak pits one to each of the 64 houses in Durakudiyi-uppu village about five miles from the college.

The students cleared the entire village during their camp days and also constructed one low cost latrine. They also alerted the public about diseases and hygiene by way of personal talks and also conducting film shows by the Field Publicity Department, Government of India.

With the assistance of the veterinary and health officials a free medical check up was conducted and the children in the area were given preventive injection like triple antigen and B.C.G. The volunteers formed three adult education centres and planned to open seven more.

To encourage the campers, Thiru N. Renganathan, Field Publicity Officer, Government of India, Tirunelveli Region, conducted quiz and elocution competitions. The questions covered a wide range of subjects. The students vied with one another to answer the questions. It was really heartening to see that students in a rural area possess a deep knowledge of current events pertaining to India and world affairs as well.

Thiruvalargal Jothiran and Gladson Solomon, Camp Officers assisted the students in their activities.

## MANDAPAM CAMP SHIFTED

**T**he Transit Camp at Mandapam was set up to provide temporary accommodation to Sri Lanka repatriates immediately on their arrival in India till they are sent out by providing rehabilitation assistance. The buildings in the Transit Camp were originally used as Quarantine Camp by the Sri Lanka Government and were subsequently purchased by the Government of Tamil Nadu in the year 1965.

It is found that the Transit Camp at Mandapam has been in existence for over six years. The buildings were now found to be dilapidated and the drinking water and sewage system require renewal and replacement. Instead of spending a huge amount of over Rs. 40.00 lakhs in addition to the annual maintenance expenditure towards such renewal and replacement, it has been suggested that the Transit Camp may be shifted to a new location. An extent of 25 acres of Government waste lands in K.K. Pallam village, Manamadurai Sub-Taluk of Ramanathapuram district has been selected to locate the new Transit Camp. The new Camp will accommodate 500 families besides providing for office, dispensary and stores at an estimated cost of Rs. 37.23 lakhs. Necessary proposals for sanction of the expenditure have been sent to the Government of India. The construction of the new Transit Camp at Manamadurai will be taken up immediately after receipt of orders of Government of India.

### Tea Plantation for Sri Lanka Repatriates

A scheme for raising tea in the Nilgiris district in an extent of 3,750 acres at an estimated cost of Rs. 674.03 lakhs for providing employment to 1,875 families (3,750 members) of Sri Lanka repatriates is under implementation by the Tamil Nadu Tea Plantation Corporation (TANTEA). So far 1,535 families of Sri Lanka repatriates have been resettled by providing employment.

## TAMIL NADU TO HOST 8TH NATIONAL

# JAMBOREE

Tamil Nadu is to play host to the Eighth National Jamboree of Bharath Scouts and Guides to be held at Maraimalai Nagar, 45 km. from Madras. This "new town" being developed by the Madras Metropolitan Development Authority is agog with activity. About 20,000 scouts and guides from India and overseas are expected to participate in the jamboree which is being held in this State for the first time. The five-day jamboree commencing from January 18 is to be inaugurated by the Prime Minister Thiru Morarji Desai.

With this jamboree, the Bharath Scouts and Guides will be celebrat-

ing 60 years of scouting for boys and girls. It is pointed out that when scouting came to India it was not made open to the Indian boys. It was through the efforts of Mrs. Annie Beasant, Dr. Arundale, Dr. Hridayanath Kunzru, Pandit Sri Ram Bajpal and others that scouting for Indian boys was started in 1918 in Madras.

The Tamil Nadu Government is going all out to provide amenities to the campers. Maraimalai Nagar which is near Kattangolathur was chosen as the venue as 500 acres of developed land with roads, water supply and underground drainage systems is readily available. The MMDA has cleared the sites of bushes and levelled it to make it suitable for pitching tents.

The participants will be accommodated in 3,000 tents, according

to Thiru R. S. Dhiman, Director of the Jamboree. To enable the campers to visit Madras for sight seeing, special trains will be run from Kattangolathur. The P.T.C. has agreed to spare buses for sight seeing in Madras and the visit to Mahabalipuram, he said.

The contingents will make their own arrangements for food. Provisions, milk, vegetables, fuel and other articles of consumption will be made available at reasonable rates at the jamboree shopping centre. The MMDA will construct an arena with a dais-cum-platform for about 1,000 invitees, besides a separate dais for meetings and a saluting base with a flag staff 20 ft. high.

The previous national jamboree was held in Faridabad in 1974 with nearly 19,000 scouts and guides participating.

# A Sheaf From Tamil Nadu Draft Plan

The Draft Proposals of the Five-Year Plan 1978-83, prepared by the State Planning Commission, have a special significance in so far as the final plan that would emerge from these proposals would be the first of the kind to be fitted in the pattern of Rolling Plans.

In a democratic set up, the ideal development plan should be one which aims at the welfare of the masses and at bringing about development by evoking their enthusiasm and by enlisting their support and co-operation. But if this is to be achieved, the two glaring evils of mass poverty and unemployment are to be controlled and eliminated. In drawing up the Draft proposals, these objectives have been kept in view.

### Objectives

Specifically, these objectives are: (1) reduction in economic and social inequalities; (2) substantial increase in State income; (3) reduction of unemployment; (4) eradication of the worst forms of poverty and an appreciable reduction in the number of people below the poverty line in the State; (5) provision by the State of some of the basic needs of the people in the low income groups.

In conformity with the objectives set forth, the Plan for 1978-83 lays stress on the development of the primary sector—particularly Agriculture and Rural development

and also on Irrigation and Power development. The substantial increase on power development is justified by the fact that electric power is utilised not only for the running of large industries but also for operations concerned with agricultural production and small industries. As regards social services, though as a percentage of total plan outlay there is a decrease, yet in absolute terms the increase is by nearly 100%.

Compared with the Fifth Plan, the outlay on the 1978-'83 Plan represents an increase of 115.9%. In the latter Plan, greater emphasis is laid on agriculture, irrigation and power development. Power development takes up 41% of the total outlay compared with 31% in the Fifth Plan, irrigation and agriculture and allied programmes 8% and 14% respectively compared with 7% and 12% of the previous plan.

### Income Generation

The execution of the various plan programmes would result in income generated from the agricultural sector to go up to Rs. 684.70 crores projected from Rs. 620.11 crores in 1977-78 estimated and from mining and manufacturing industries to Rs. 481.60 crores projected from Rs. 396.02 Crs. in 1977-78 estimated. The aggregate income

of the State would increase from Rs. 1732.84 crores at the end of the Fifth Plan estimated to Rs. 2078.33 projected at the end of the next plan. This means that agricultural income will increase at the rate of 2.0% per year, income from industry 4.0% per year and general income 3.8% per year.

Special provisions have been made in the Plan for the eradication of two main evils confronting the State—(1) Unemployment; (2) Poverty.

(1) *Unemployment*: The number of unemployed people in Tamil Nadu at the end of March '78 is estimated at 26 lakhs. Adding to this, the increase in the labour force in the Five-Year period 1978-83, the total employment that will have to be created will be of the order of 38 lakhs. It is expected that the investment envisaged in the public sector in the Plan, 1978-83 together with expansion of the activities in the private sector will result in employment generation to the extent of 27 lakhs, leaving a balance of unemployment of 11 lakhs at the end of 1982-83.

(2) *Poverty*: According to a recent estimate, the number of people below poverty line in the State is 53.3%—55.0% in Urban areas and 52.5% in Rural areas.

# RESEARCH FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

DR. J. CHANDRAMOHAN,  
Regional Research Centre,  
Kaveripattanam.

**Physics Features the Regional Research Station, Kaveripattanam** is situated ideally on the national highway No. 7 at Paiyur Village at a distance of 5 Km from Kaveripattanam on the Bangalore-Salem route. The station has an extent of 45.7 acres comprising 43.27 acres of cultivable lands of which 23.27 acres are under rainfed condition and the rest irrigated by the KRP canal and supplemented by an open well during periods of non-receipt of water in the canal. The soil is red non-calcareous sandy loam to loamy sand with 84.8% of coarse fraction and 4 to 5% of clay. The annual average rainfall is 840 mm.

Dharmapuri district, which has been classified as a backward district of the State has immense potentialities for agricultural development with its characteristic and varied agro-climatic features permitting the cultivation of almost all the crops grown in Tamil Nadu from rainfed samai to wet rice, dryland vegetables to cold vegetables like cabbage and cauliflower, tapioca to sugarbeet, gingelly to sunflower, horsegram to redgram, drought resistant cotton to hybrid cotton, grapes to mangoes, sugarcane to betelvine and crossandra to roses. Over eighty percent of the cultivable area in this District is grown with dryland crops. The need for a full-fledged Research Centre to cater to the needs of the farmers of this region cannot be over emphasised. This centre will benefit the farmers by providing high yielding varieties possessing multiple resistance to pests, diseases and stress conditions to replace the local varieties, developing appropriate technologies by way of improved agronomic practices particularly dry farming techniques along with effective remedial measures for control of pests and diseases and formulating cropping systems to make agriculture increasingly a profitable proposition ultimately enhancing the economic status of the farming community especially the marginal and small farmers. With these objectives in view a Regional Research Station at Paiyur started functioning from May 1973 under the auspices of the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore.

**About the District Geographical position:** Dharmapuri District came into existence on October 2, 1963 after the bifurcation of Salem district. The district lies between 11° 25' and 13° 13' O' North latitude and 77° 25' and 78° 50' East longitude. The district is bounded on the north by Karnataka, south by Salem District of Tamil Nadu, East by Andhra Pradesh, South and North Arcot Districts, West mostly by Karnataka and partly by Coimbatore. The geographical area of the district is 9,62,913 ha. The land is highly undulating with a number of rocky hillocks and patches which are exposed to erosion hazards. The net area sown constitutes only 39.2 percent (3,77,463 ha.). Next to the cultivated area, is the area occupied by forests viz. 3,17,294 ha. which constitute 32.9 per cent of the total area. The elevation of the district ranges from 450 to 950m above mean sea level. The climate of the district varies from one region to another, the south being relatively hot, becoming cooler and moderate towards the centre and west, finally colling further at Denkanikottai and Hosur.

Dharmapuri District being a semi-arid region, its soils are mainly influenced by the parent material and their physiographic position. The soils have a close relationship to the geological parent material, since the plant and animal life excepting homo sapiens species are scanty in the area resulting in poor addition of organic matter to the soils; as such the physical processes of soil formation predominates over the chemical process. The effect of topography altitude, rainfall and irrigation facilities have had a profound influence on the soil properties and profile development. As such we have soils ranging in colour from chestnut red to black. There are five soil types viz. red non-calcareous, brown non-calcareous, brown calcareous, black calcareous and colluvial calcareous. Of these, the red non-calcareous soil dominates covering 53.9 percent of the total geographical area of this district. The soils of this type are medium textured, having good drainage with moderate

permeability and are mostly under dry cultivation. In general the soils of this district are low in nitrogen and potassium and medium in phosphorus. The low organic content of the soil do have an adverse effect on the yield of crops.

Out of the total 3,77,463 ha. of net area sown 81.8 percent i.e., 3,08,765 ha. are under dry cultivation and only 18.2 percent (68,698 ha) have irrigation facilities. The main sources of irrigation of the districts are wells (60.7 per cent) tanks (27.4 percent), government canals (9.4 percent) and other sources (2.3 percent). There are 86000 wells and 2171 tanks. The Krishnagiri Reservoir project having a command area (ayacut of 3645 ha.) is the only major irrigation project and the rest of the area constitute 33 ayacut inclusive of the recent Chinnar and Akkathangai Project.

The main crops cultivated in this district are Ragi, Chulam, horsegram, groundnut and rice followed by cumbu, minor millets like samai, varagu and sugarcane. The food crops constitute 87.48 percent of the total cropped area. The major crops are under rainfed condition except rice and sugarcane which are occupying a fairly larger irrigated area. Cereals occupy 440311 ha. as against 87,200 hectares under pulses which constitute only 19.81 percent. Information on area under different crops are given below.

## Objectives of the Station

Evolving suitable dry farming techniques for conservation of moisture and agronomic practices for individual crops to enhance the production under dry condition. Breeding of high yielding short duration drought resistant or drought escaping varieties, hybrids of different crops suitable for the peculiar rainfall pattern of the district. Formulating suitable package of practices for dry land crops. Evolution of varieties with multiple resistance to pests, diseases and stress conditions. Development of alkalinity tolerant rice varieties suitable for both the seasons. Evolution of high yielding



rice varieties suitable for ill drained soil conditions. Evolution of high yielding photo-insensitive fine grained (GEB. 24 grain type) rice variety to replace the predominant kitchidi samba of this tract. Development of high yielding cold tolerant varieties suitable for late planted conditions. Fixing suitable high yielding varieties of vegetables like tomato, brinjal, bhendi, cabbage and tuber crops. Fixing varieties in each of the flower crops like rose, jasmine, tuberose, crossandra etc., suitable for Dharmapuri District. Introduction of new crops like sunflower, sugarbeet. Formulation of suitable water management practices for irrigated crops with high production per unit of water. Evolving cropping systems for increased economic return both under rainfed and irrigated conditions.

To evolve appropriate mixed farming techniques with a view to increase income and employment of marginal farmers. Evolving suitable techniques to reclaim saline and alkaline soils and package of practices for such soils.

#### About the Centre

This Regional Research Station was started at Paiyur in June, 1973 by the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University to cater to the needs of the farmers of Dharmapuri District.

At present Research is conducted on various aspects of cropping such as varietal improvement of crops, development of varieties with multiple resistance to pests and diseases, responses of crops to manures and fertilizers, irrigation, introduction of new crop varieties, working out the economics of different systems of farming etc. for the immediate and long-range benefit to the farmers. Research projects numbering twenty four are in operation. Almost all crops viz. rice, millets, pulses, oilseeds, vegetables, agronomy, soil science and horticulture are dealt with both under irrigated and rainfed conditions. Besides the funds of the Tamilnadu Agricultural University, other agencies like Indian Council Agricultural Research, Indian Cotton Mills Federation, German Democratic Republic, Hindustan Lever Limited, Dharmapuri District Development Council and Dharmapuri District Co-operative sugar Mills. Palacode are participating in the research projects in operation this station by giving financial assistance.

Crop varieties developed and techniques evolved at the station are being tried in the farmers' holdings spread over the district under their existing conditions. This station will, in course of time, become one of the most important Regional Research Centres of the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University for multi-disciplinary research, oriented to the needs of the tract with facilities for extension work and Post-graduate research leading to M.Sc. (Ag.) and Ph. D. degrees.

#### Adoption

The research findings so far obtained are summarised such as Alkalinity Tolerant Rice Varieties for Dharmapuri District: After screening a large number of improved alkalinity tolerant varieties and hybrid derivatives of different crosses, two high yielding rice cultures viz. DPI 598, with a duration of 115 days and DPI 599 of 140 days duration were isolated as suitable for large scale cultivation. The rice culture DPI 598 established well in alkaline soils in the farmers' holdings even with a pH range of 8.52 to 9.2 recording the highest survival percentage of 91.75 as against the 65.4% by Dasal and 48.98% by Gettu. The rice variety DIP 598 also recorded a high yield of 7843 Kg as against 3586 Kg/ha and 2443 Kg/ha of the Dasal and Gettu varieties respectively. The long duration variety DPI 599 has also recorded a high grain yield of 8643 Kg/ha with a high survival percentage of 83.17%. During the next season, these two rice varieties will be tried on a large scale in the alkaline tracts of this District.

The ruling variety of the tract Kichidi samba (GEB. 24), though blessed with a fine grain is yielding only up to 3.5 tons/ha and is suitable specifically for the samba season. For improving the yield potential of this variety and to replace the same with a high yielding variety possessing equally fine quality rice, hybridisation work was initiated at Coimbatore and a large number of hybrid derivatives were tested. As a result, the following 7 superior varieties were isolated and they are under advanced trials in this station. They are DPI 136, (GEB. 25 x Jagannath), DPI, 316 (GEB. 24 x Jagannath) DPI. 342 (GEB. 24 x IR. 22), DPI 343 (GEB. 24 IR. 22) DPI, 355 (GEB. 24 x IR. 22), DPI. 591 and TNAU4372.

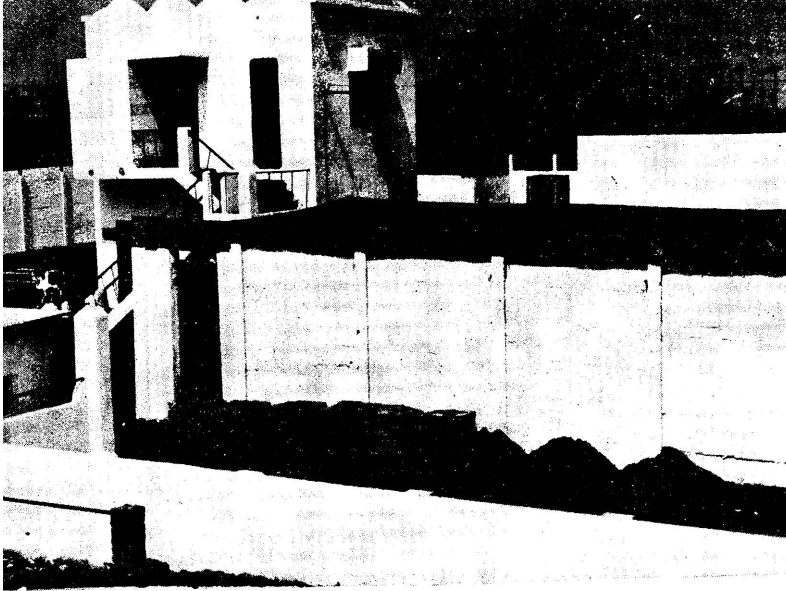
As a result of intensified research with different varieties of cowpea

and other pulses like greengram, blackgram and horse gram under rainfed conditions for the past 4 years, a new variety of cowpea viz. C. 152 has been identified for large scale cultivation in this District of Dharmapuri. The variety C. 152 has recorded consistently highest yields with an average of 1153 Kg/ha. as compared to 673 Kg/ha recorded by the existing improved variety of cowpea viz. Co. 2 and 500 Kg/ha by horsegram. C. 152 cowpea has a duration 65 to 70 days and is highly drought resistant.

Two varieties of cotton viz CRH. 71 and SRT. 1 have been found to be highly drought resistant and suitable for cultivation under rainfed conditions in Dharmapuri District. As a result of systematic researches done in varietal improvement of cotton from 1974 onwards under a research project financed by the Indian cotton Mills Federation, Bombay with different varieties, hybrid progenies the above two varieties were isolated. CRH. 71 has given the highest yield of 1681 kg of kapas per hectare with a ginning percentage of 38.3 and fibre length of 22.6 mm while SRT. 1 has given an equally good yield of 1680 kg of kapas per hectare with a ginning percentage 38.5 and staple length of 26.4 mm an against an yield of 1373 kg of kapas per hectare with 34.6% of ginning percentage and a fibre length of 24 mm for MCU 6 variety. From the trials conducted in the farmers holdings it is seen that a net return of 3,500/ha. can easily be obtained by growing any one of these varieties under rainfed conditions.

#### Sun Flower

Dharmapuri District offers vast scope for the cultivation of a newly introduced crop viz. sunflower on a large scale. In view of the potentialities available, 2 research studies were undertaken to find out the most suitable variety of sunflower for the tract along with other aspects of sunflower cultivation, both in the research station and in the farmers' holdings. A special project was in operation for sunflower research financed by the Indusant Lever Limited. The following findings which will benefit the farmers immediately have emerged. Variety E. C. 101495 was found to be superior to other varieties both under rainfed and irrigated conditions. Clover spacing of 30 cm (1,11,000 plants/ha) in red soil and a wider spacing of 45 cm x 22.5 cm (98,000 plants/ha.) in black soil were found to give maximum yields.



# OPEN AIR CINEMA - FIRST THEATRE IN INDIA

**S**omangalam village in Kunrathur Panchayat Union, adjoining the Madras city limits, acquired a place of pride in the integrated rural development map of India. The Somangalam cluster of villages has a population of 5748. The integrated rural uplift project under implementation in this village has opened up new vistas in rural reconstruction-task and the time bound programme has already played a miracle to raise the percapita income and improve the rural landscape.

Somangalam has won one more feather to its cap. The open air cinema theatre, the first of its kind in India, has been opened recently in Somangalam. This theatre has been created on commercial basis. The State Government have granted 0.51 acre of land for building this theatre and the relevant rules have been framed as to enable the theatre get converted as permanent. The expenditure for construction of the theatre amounts to Rs. 92,000 excluding the land cost. The State Bank of India has given financial assistance. The capacity of the theatre is 473 seats,

the 45 paise admission section has 28 seats and the rest are filled up by 70 paise admission tickets. The total, collection if the house is full will be Rs. 260.

## Wall as Screen

The projection room has two side rooms called Emergency halls with a capacity of 150 seats each. In case of rain, the audience can conveniently sit in these side-halls and continue to enjoy the cinema. The unique feature of the open air theatre is that the wall is used as screen instead of cloth screen. Rain or wind can't disturb the film projection.

The open air theatre has all sanitary and public hygienic facilities. The news reels, documentaries and quickies screened are of much use and value to the rural audience.

The theatre and population ratio in India is not encouraging. We have one theatre for 80,000 while the U. S. A. has one theatre per 10,000. France, Italy and Japan have cinema theatres for 8,000, 5,000 and 14,000 respectively. The ratio in the U. K. is 1:22,000 and the U.S.S.R. is 1:5000. The

film is a good medium of communication, and in a developing society like ours we need more theatres in rural areas. The open air theatre comes handy to us. But the theatre construction cost is a great constraint in the expansion programme of cinema theatres. Not less than 8 lakhs of rupees are required to build a theatre with equipment and other facilities. But the open air theatre can be built at a cost of Rs. 90,000. Such low-cost consuming open air theatres, if the programme catches up well, can help the country to have one theatre for 50,000.

## Boon to Villages

The open air theatre is a boon to the rural masses. They get entertainment at low entrance fee. Besides feature films, the documentaries and news reels disseminate very useful information and message among the village community on matters that concern their daily life. We can now see a large number of villagers, both men and women, galloping in the evenings to the cinema theatres situated away from their habitats.

## First in India

The Somangalam-open Air Theatre, the first open air cinema in India, has been constructed by Thiru N. Krishnasamy. It was declared open by the Governor. Thiru Prabhudas Patwari, under the presidency of Thiru R. M. Veerappan, Minister for Information and Religious Endowment. Thiru Veerappan commended the efforts of the pioneers in this field and said that all assistance would be available to build such useful theatres in rural areas.

The open air cinema theatres have a better role to play in extending entertainment facility at cheap admission rate and the cinema theatres will be within their easy reach. Entrepreneurs and traders in this field will certainly have the assistance from the Government since we have committed to make a thrust on rural rejuvenation work with time-bound result-oriented programmes.

# HAPPY STRIDES IN HANDLOOM INDUSTRY



*Jmt. Subbalakshmi Jagadeesan,*

MINISTER FOR HANDLOOM.

**H**andloom Industry which is the largest Cottage Industry in the unorganised sector has in its fold about 5.58 lakhs of handlooms providing employment to about 10 lakhs weavers. Out of 2,300 million metres valued at Rs. 150 crores are produced by the industry in this State. The main objective of the various schemes being implemented in this sector is to bring at least 60 per cent of the working weavers into co-operative societies and provide them full and gainful employment throughout the year. At present about 37 per cent of the weavers are in co-operative sector and it is proposed to bring from private sector into co-operative fold 85,000 weavers with handlooms and 40,000 loomless weavers during the VI Plan period 1978-79 to 1982-83 by forming weavers co-operative societies of ordinary and industrial type.

## Janatha Cloth Production

The Government of India fixed target of 17 million metres for production of Janatha cloth upto 31-3-1978'. As against this target, the primaries were able to produce and supply 10.46 million metres. The Janatha varieties are being sold to poorer sections of population through the selling units of Co-optex within and outside the State. For 1978-79, a target of 20 million metres has been fixed for production of Janatha cloth. So

far 9 million metres of Janatha cloth has been produced in this State. In order to step up production a number of common varieties which are not covered by the scheme has been suggested for being brought under the scheme and if this proposal is approved by the Government of India better performance could be shown.

## Handloom Development Projects

Another important step in the direction of handloom development is the setting up of Four Intensive Handloom Development Projects each to cover 5,000 handlooms at Kancheepuram, Salem, Erode and Madurai and Two Export Production Projects each to cover 1,000 looms at Karur. They have so far covered 6,200 looms and the total production of these projects amount to Rs. 241.60 lakhs per annum at present. It is proposed to increase the coverage to 22,000 looms in the course of the next two years.

## Co-operative Spinning Mills

12 Co-operative Spinning Mills in the State with an installed capacity of 2.50 lakhs spindles are producing various counts of yarn ranging from 20s to 120. Two Mills at Srivilliputhur and Nazareth had already expanded their capacity upto 25,000 spindles each. Of the remaining 10 mills, 9 mills embarked on schemes of substantial expansion

of their installed capacity upto 25,000 spindles each involving a total project cost of Rs. 12 crores. The mills at Salem, Vellore, Melur, Mayuram, Dharapuram, Kancheepuram and Karur have completed their expansion programme. The expansion projects of the mills in Kanyakumari and Thirunelveli Districts are expected to be completed before 31-1-1979. All the mills have now taken up schemes of modernisation involving a total project cost of Rs. 6 crores of which a sum of Rs. 4 crores has been sanctioned by the Industrial Development Bank of India as soft loan. These mills have taken up the modernisation programme with a view to increase production and improve quality of yarn. All the 12 Co-operative Spinning Mills have earned a total gross profit of Rs. 431.56 lakhs (before depreciation), during the period from January to September, 1978 as against the gross profit of Rs. 223.24 lakhs during the year ended 31-12-77. The production during the period January-September, 1978 was 116.78 lakhs Kgs. as against 91.83 lakhs Kgs. during the corresponding period of the last year (1977).

## Zari Production

The Tamil Nadu Zari Ltd., Kancheepuram, is producing pure gold zari and distributing it to the Silk Weavers Co-operative Societies with an installed capacity of pro-

duction 4,000 marcs per annum. Out of the 20 spinning machines, only 10 machines were working last year due to certain technical problems which have since been tackled and the capacity utilisation of the unit has since increased to 20 machines. The production during the period from April to September, 1978 was 885 marcs valuing Rs. 4.79 lakhs as against 532 marcs valuing Rs. 2.38 lakhs during the corresponding period last year. The unit has been able to make a break and make a marginal gross profit of Rs. 0.02 lakhs during the period from April to September, 1978 as against the gross loss of Rs. 1.35 lakhs during the last year. To tide over the financial problem of this unit, the Government have since sanctioned a term loan of Rs. 3 lakhs to this unit.

## Purchase of Raw Silk

The Silk Weavers Co-operative Societies in Tamil Nadu were purchasing raw silk from Bangalore from private dealers and Zari from the Surat Manufacturers at Kancheepuram and Kumbakonam. There were a lot of irregularities in this regard. A Central Raw Silk and Zari Purchase Committee has therefore been constituted with representatives of silk weavers societies at Kancheepuram to purchase good quality raw silk at reasonable prices and at present purchase and distribution of raw silk and zari is now being made to silk societies by this Committee. Instead of depending upon local agents of Surat Manufacturers, direct supplies are now being secured from Surat.

## Processing Facilities :

The Tamil Nadu Co-operative Textile Processing Mills at Erode increased its utilisation from 17.15 lakhs metres in 1977 to 20.00 lakhs metres to September, 1977 and showed marginal profit of Rs. 2.56 lakhs upto Sept. 78. The unit has now taken up an expansion scheme for achieving balancing of capacity among the various sections of the plant at a cost of Rs. 22.50 lakhs with assistance from National Co-operative Development Corporation and the State Government. When the expansion scheme is completed by March, 1979 the bleaching capacity will increase to 10 lakhs metres per mensem. The unit has opened a printing section recently and also set up a Modern dye house. With a

view to provide dyeing facilities to the primary weavers co-operative societies in the State, this mill is taking steps to set up 8 more Modern dye houses one each at Salem, Coimbatore, Madurai, Tirunelveli, Trichy, Srivilliputhur, Kancheepuram and Vellore. For the first 5 dye houses, the National Co-operative Development Corporation has approved the scheme involving a total project cost of Rs. 60 lakhs, which is being financed by National Co-operative Development Corporation and the State Government. For the remaining 3 dye houses, the Government of India have provided financial assistance to the extent of Rs. 30 lakhs. Preliminary arrangements are being made for setting up these dye houses. Of the 8 modern dye houses proposed, 5 dye houses will be commissioned by 31-3-1979 and the rest during 1979-80. This unit is also drawing up proposals for the creation of processing facilities for processing of synthetic fibre at a capital cost of about Rs. 33 lakhs.

## Units under the Department

(1) The Tamil Nadu Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society.

(a) To evolve new designs and provide technical guidance to the Primary weavers co-operative societies it has set up a design-cum-service centre at Madurai in 1978. During the current year this centre

has evolved about 300 new designs and out of which about 250 designs have been admitted by the weavers societies in the Southern districts of Madurai, Ramnad and Tirunelveli.

(b) It is also implementing a programme to open showrooms at important cities throughout the country and also to modernise its existing showrooms in phased programme. During the current year it has opened 15 new showrooms and modernised 8 existing showrooms.

(c) The Co-optex is assisting the primary weavers co-operative societies in the production of polyester blended and synthetic fabrics by providing technical guidance as well as financial assistance for effecting suitable modification to the handlooms. It has already put on sale worth about 1.50 lakh metres of polyester shirtings which were well received in the market. The notable feature of this programme is that the weavers wages has been substantially increased when they take up weaving polyester blended fabrics. The Co-optex has also stepped up its procurement and marketing operations as indicated below :

From	From
1-4-78	1-4-77
to	to
31-10-78	31-10-77



Procurement 1150.00 950.00  
(from Primaries)

Sales 1800.00 1150.00

It has set a target of Rs. 30 crores sales for the current financial year as against Rs. 23 crores sold during last year.

## (2) Handloom Finance and Trading Corporation

(a) The Tamil Nadu Handloom Finance and Trading Corporation was established in 1964 with the object of providing financial assistance to the persons engaged in handlooms, powerlooms and ancillary industries outside the co-operative sector. The Corporation granted financial assistance to the extent of Rs. 83.52 lakhs during the period from 1-1-78 to 31-10-78 as against

Rs. 78.05 lakhs during the corresponding period of last year.

(b) To assist the weavers outside the co-operative sector 4 Intensive Handloom Development Projects at Kancheepuram, Salem, Erode and Madurai with 5,000 looms each and 2 Export Production Projects at Karur and Kurinjipadi with 1,000 looms each have been set up to provide continuous employment to 22,000 weavers in a phased manner in the next 3 years. Upto 31-10-78, all the 6 projects have enlisted 6,244 looms as against 3,701 looms covered upto 31-10-77.

## (3) Tamil Nadu Textile Corporation

The Tamil Nadu Textile Corporation is in charge of the management of the two taken-over mills namely Cauvery Spinning and Weaving Mills Ltd., Pudukkottai and

Somasundaram Spinning Mills Ltd., Muthanandal with a spindle capacity of 25,200 and 13,260 respectively. Besides, the Government have also given guarantee assistance to the above sick mills.

The Cotton Purchase Cell of the Tamil Nadu Textile Corporation is in charge of cotton purchase to the extent of Rs. 25 crores per annum for all the 12 Co-operative Spinning Mills and the two taken-over mills. This Corporation has proposed to set up a Cotton and Yarn Testing Laboratory at Coimbatore at a cost of Rs. 8.25 lakhs during 1978-79. It is also proposed to set up 10 powerloom complexes in backward areas of the district with a capital outlay of Rs. 175 lakhs during the VI Five Year Plan. These projects will produce the varieties of cloth valued at Rs. 20 crores per annum and progressively compete with mill sector.

# FACTS ABOUT SURFACE AND GROUND WATER POTENTIAL IN TAMIL NADU

1. The average normal rainfall of the Tamil Nadu is 945.7 mm and the maximum precipitation is received through the North East monsoon as here under.

S.W. monsoon (June-September)  
S.W. Monsoon 307.3 mm  
(June-September)

N.W. Monsoon 440.7 mm  
(October-December)

Dry season rainfall 188.7 mm  
(January-May)

2. There are about 46 rivers in Tamil Nadu of which the Cauvery alone is an inter-State perennial river while the others are seasonal.

3. The total surface water resources has been estimated to be in the order of 30 M.A.C. ft. ; out of

which nearly 28 M.A.c. It has already been utilised and there is no surplus surface water resources available for being utilised.

4. The groundwater potential of the State has been estimated to be 12 M.A.C.ft. The total withdrawal of groundwater is estimated to be 7 M.A.C. ft.

## Hydrological Position

1. Monthly Rainfall data for 330 raingauge stations for 50 years were obtained out of 330 stations, 189 of them have been selected and are being studied, in detail.

2. Annual rainfall data for 344 raingauge stations were collected and are being analysed.

3. Water level fluctuation study, Geological and Geophysical investi-

gations and Quantification of Groundwater are being attempted now.

## Groundwater Pollution

1. Surface Water Pollution — easily detected and treated.

2. Groundwater Pollution — last long and treatment method is also complex.

3. Sources of Pollution —

(i) Seepage from agricultural land (in the form of nitrates and phosphates).

(ii) Sewage.

(iii) Industrial wastes (sugar factories, sago factories and tanneries, fertilizer and refineries).

4. Case Study—

(i) Sago industries in and around Salem.

(ii) Sugar factories in the State.

(iii) Tanning industries (400 tanneries in the State). Examples of Ground water pollution due to Tannery are Pallavaram, Chrompet, Ambur, Ranipet, Pernampet and Vaniyambadi and Palar River bed in North Arcot.

# PAMBAR RESERVOIR PROJECT IN DHARMAPURI DISTRICT

S. SIVASUBRAMANIAM, I.A.S.,  
Collector, Dharmapuri.

The scheme is proposed across Pambar river near Marampatti village at a distance of 3 km. from Uthangarai on the Uthangarai — Singarapettai Road, in Uthangarai Taluk of Dharmapuri district. The river Pambar is a tributary to Ponniar.

The river takes its origin in the Alangayam hills of eastern ghats in Vaniyambadi Taluk of North Arcot district. After traversing in Tiruppathur Taluk of North Arcot district and Krishnagiri and Uthangarai Taluks of Dharmapuri district in south-eastern direction, the river joins with the main river Ponniar. As the river originates in hilly tracks, heavy floods occur, especially during the North-East monsoon.

The catchment area of the river Pambar at the dam site is 1,736.00 Sq. Km. (670.23 Sq. Miles). Total yield available at the dam site is 51.72 M. Cubic Metres (1,826.35 M. C. Ft.). Out of this quantity, it is proposed to utilise 14.93 M. cubic metres only. Further, there is no existing irrigation lower down in the river. Hence no lower down irrigation will be affected by the formation of this reservoir.

## Salient Features

Formation of an earthen dam for a length of 650.30 metre length (2,134.62 ft.) at a cost of Rs. 25.00 lakhs. Construction of a head sluice at a cost of Rs 2.5 lakhs with a vent size of 3'-0" into 4'-0", capable of discharging 1.46 CM per second. Construction of a spillway costing 65 lakhs with five vents of size with 40' into 15 f' filled with radial shutters capable of discharging maximum flood of 54,438 c/s per second.

Excavation of a left main canal for a length of 29.50 Km. including three distributaries. Lining is proposed to the Canal. The cost of canal works is Rs. 85.50 lakhs.

It is proposed to acquire 550 acres of land for dam and water spread area. Similarly about 200 acres are to be acquired for canal. A Special Tahsildar has been appointed for looking after land acquisition proposals for this project. Speedy action is being taken for acquiring the lands required for this scheme and hand them over to Public Works Department with the Co-operation of land owners, consent statements have been obtained and the work is being carried out in the lands required for the project.

The Tamil Nadu Government have accorded administrative sanction to the scheme. The Government of India have agreed to bear an expenditure of Rs. 140.00 lakhs from D.P.A.P. funds. The balance amount including excavation will be met with from the State funds.

The estimate has been revised to Rs. 248 lakhs due to before starting the work, the adequacy of the provisions made for various works in the estimate has been re-examined. Further, considering the yield available in the river, it is proposed to increase the height of the dam by 1.5 m, thereby increasing the storage capacity of the reservoir and since good foundation rock is available in the middle of the river, it is proposed to construct the spillway in the middle of the river, instead of providing the same at the left proposed.

The maximum flood discharged has been reexamined and computed as 54,438 cubic fete/sec. Accordingly, the length of the spillway and the number of shutters to be provided have been increased. To minimise the loss of water due to seepage, lining is proposed to the bed and sides of the main canal. Provisions

have been made for escalation in the cost of materials and labour.

## Benefits of the Scheme

About 4,000 acres of lands in 14 villages in Uthangarai taluk, and 4 villages in Harur taluk have been benefitted by this scheme. The details of the ayacut are Uthangarai taluk 2,714 acres and Harur Taluk 1,286 acres. The scheme is proposed mainly to raise a single dry crop in the months of September to December. Further by the implementation of this scheme, drinking water facilities and the subsoil water in the adjoining area will be improved. These are the indirect benefits of this scheme.

The additional food production anticipated by this scheme is 5,634 tonnes. The rate per tonne of additional food production is Rs. 4,402. The project works have been commenced in the year 1977 and expected to complete before October, 1980. Atleast a portion of the ayacut will get irrigation facilities before the end of the year, 1979. Detailed investigation, formation of approach roads, and purchase of machineries required for the project have been done as the first stage in 1977.

## Progress of Work

Quarters for the staff at Uthangarai and for the Executive Engineer at Dharmapuri have been constructed and allotted to the concerned officials. Further a rest shed for the convenience of Inspecting Officers has also been constructed at Uthangarai and provided with the minimum amenities. Works on the earthen dam on the two sides have been started and about 40% of the same completed.

Excavation and laying of foundation concrete for the spillway have been completed, except in river portion. Masonry work has also been commenced. About 30% of works in the spillway portion has been carried out.

Foundation concrete and construction of sluice barrel have been completed in the head aluice. About 40% of works have been completed. Out of 29.50 km, excavation of main channel has been done upto 9 km and lining the canal has been done for a length of 8,500 metres. 12 cross masonry works have been completed and works in 3 more are in progress.

## VILLAGE AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

There has been a demand for furnishing a list of village and khadi industries. The details of the industry numbering twenty-six are given hereunder for the benefit of the public.

Khadi, Processing of Cereals & Pulses, Ghani Oil, Village Leather, Cottage Match, Manufacture of Cane Gur and Khandasari, Palmgur Making and other Palm Products, Non-Edible Oils and Soap, Hand-made Paper, Beekeeping, Village Pottery, Fibre, Carpentry and Blacksmithy, Lime Manufacturing, Gobar (Methana) Gas, Collection of Forest Plants & Fruits for Medical Purposes, Shellac, Manufacture of Gums & Resins, Manufacture of Katha, Fruit Processing & Fruit Preservation, Bamboo and Cane, Manufacture of Household Aluminium Utensils, Handloom, Silk, Silk fabrics, Coir Products and Units in handicrafts such as cotton durries, studded bangles, pottery, toys and dolls etc.

## RENOVATION OF HOLDSWORTH ANICUT IN PUDUKKOTTAI DISTRICT

The river Vellar has its origin in Velamalai Hills in Marungapuri Zamin and enters Pudukkottai district in Kulathur taluk. After traversing a distance of about 61 Km (38 miles) in Pudukkottai area, it enters Aranthangi taluk and finally it falls into the Bay of Bengal near Manamalkudi, thus covering a total distance of 137 Km (85 miles).

There are Nine Pucca Masonry Anicuts across Vellar, out of which the Holdsworth Anicut is the fourth one. The left side channel taking off from the Anicut having a length of about 7800 metres (0.8 km) feeds 12 lower down tanks having a total ayacut of 2,640 acres. The right side channel having a length of about 2,548 metres (2.55 km.) feeds 20 Lower down tanks having a total ayacut of 2,755 acres. Thus the total indirect ayacut under this system is 5,395 acres all indirect ayacut through the tanks.

The Old Holdsworth anicut consisted of an over flow section with Dam stones for a length of 139' with scouring sluices on the right side of the Anicut. The scouring sluices adjoined to the old anicut have 6 vents of size 4 ft. into 5 ft. and the other set at the right flank has 12 vents of size 8 ft into 5 ft.

The Tamil Nadu Government is to launch a small-scale fisheries project with the assistance of FAO along the coast of Thanjavur. The experimental project costing Rs. one crore would be carried out along the coast from Nagapattinam to Kodikarai. He said the main aim of the project was to expose the small-scale fishermen to use of better technology and system of marketing.

Inaugurating a seminar on the "Role of small-scale fisheries and coastal aquaculture in integrated rural development," organised by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute in Madras, the

Food Minister, Thiru G. R. Edmund said the Government had drawn up a programme to assist the small-scale fisheries sector. The proposal included motorising 3,400 catamarans and vallams with a subsidy of 50 per cent on the engines and 2,000 fibreglass boats of 18 and 20 feet size were also to be distributed to replace the country craft, with a 33.3 per cent subsidy.

The Minister said a sum of Rs. 20 lakhs had been allotted for subsidising nylon gear. Rs. 200 lakhs were to be allotted in the sixth plan for the construction of link roads in order to facilitate rapid transport of fish from landing centres to marketing places.

## MATCH FACTORY FOR WOMEN

**T**amil Nadu Government believe not in ostentations publicity but in action-packed programmes designed to eliminate disparity in income and raise the people, particularly rural population from enertia. We lay more emphasis on dispersal of low cost intensive rural and village industries that absorb the unemployed and Women. The Match industry is one such unit that provides employment to women and children and it has a good market also.

Thiru P. C. Cyriac, I.A.S. Collector of Madurai, a well trained administrator and Engineer as well, said that a Match Factory, with 10 units, would be set up in Tirumangalam, Madurai district, to provide employment for 500 women. Women will be given one-month training in this work, with Rs. 30 each as stipend. This laudable project would be extended to three more rural centres shortly.

The left side flood bank of the old HOLDSWORTH ANICUT was washed away during heavy floods and cyclone experienced in the month of November '77 for a length of about 200 metres and the river course itself got diverted

at this place through the breach.

The total discharging capacity of the anicut as existed with the existing surplus arrangements was only 13,744 c/s. while the Flood discharge realised in November 77 was computed as 23,390 c/s. Hence the anicut was considered quite imperative to discharge the balance quantity of water.

Therefore, renovation of the anicut by extending the anicut portion to a length of 100 metres was taken up. The flood bank has also been strengthened.

## Latest Design

This new anicut has been designed according to the latest methods and founded on the existing sand bed. Since this extended length is at an angle to the existing length suitable dissipation arrangements for the flood flow have been made. The flood bank connecting the extended anicut to the existing bank has also been designed to be safe against further large floods.

In general the renovated anicut is much safer and will be able to withstand large floods of the size experienced in 1977. To renovate the old Holdsworth anicut an estimate has been sanctioned for Rs. 6.25 lakhs. The work has been completed within a period of six months.



## NEED FOR PROTECTED WATER-EFFECT OF WATER ON HEALTH

DR. R. PITCHAI,

*Professor of Public Health Engineering,  
College of Engineering,  
Guindy, Madras.*

The five principal objectives in any public water supply schemes are i Safety ii cleanliness iii adequacy iv convenience and v economy.

Safety implies that the water supply shall be free from pathogens and any toxic or hazardous substances injurious to the health of the consumers. Cleanliness implies that the water shall be wholesome and potable i.e., free from colour, turbidity, taste and odour. Adequacy ensures that the amount of water supplied will be sufficient to meet all the projected needs, now and for a reasonable time in the future. Convenience demands that the water is supplied at all points of demand, which will be possible only with a complete distribution. Economy, a universal goal, call for a scheme which will involve the minimum cost while fulfilling all the other objectives.

In the following discussions we shall attempt to deal briefly with the safety, cleanliness and adequacy aspects of public water supplies. Best usage is not necessarily that is requiring the highest quality. For example, municipal water may be supplied to certain industries for process uses. Some process uses such as for manufacture of synthetic fibre, high pressure boiler feed and others might call for water of a higher chemical quality than what might be feasible in a public municipal supply. Such uses may call for additional treatment and preparation over and above what the public supply may provide. However, in this discussion let us concentrate immediately on the drinking water quality requirements.

### Drinking water quality standards

Drinking water quality standards have evolved over the years

reflecting the state of treatment technology and the economic feasibility in a given region. There are a number of standards applicable for various regions of the world. The U.S. Public Health Service drinking water standards for inter-state carriers is a classical example of a standard which has undergone evolution and updating over the past 50 years and is now incorporated in the American Water Works Association standards. The World Health Organisation has indicated in their monograph, illustrative international standards for drinking water. In our own country there have been standards prescribed by the Indian Council of Medical Research, State and Central agencies and, more recently, the Central Public Health Engineering and environmental Organization, Ministry of works and Housing Government of India. These standards usually reflect the state-of-the-Art with reference to the treatment technology, the size of the scheme, the economic parameters such as the discount rate and planning time horizon and the degree of significance of the parameter.

Safety and cleanliness together are reflected in the bacteriological, physical and chemical standards prescribed. Bacteriological quality is usually reflected in the coliform standards. The physical standards prescribe limits on parameter such as the turbidity, colour, taste and odour and radio-activity. The chemical standards generally encompass several chemical indicators including pH, total solids, hardness, iron and manganese, chlorides, sulphates, fluorides, nitrates, heavy metals and others. In each case it will be desirable to understand the reasons for prescribing the upper and lower limits.

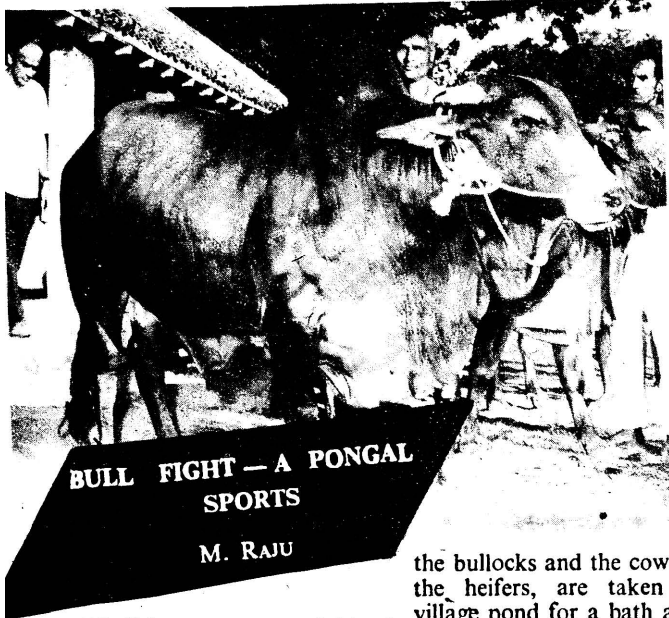
## PUBLIC SECTOR UNITS TO ADOPT DICS IN TN

Public sector units under the control of the Central and State Governments in Tamil Nadu have been asked to adopt one district industries centre each and to explore possibilities of setting up a training centre attached to each DIC. The Tamil Nadu Government has so far set up DICs in eight districts - Chengalpattu, Pudukottai, South Arcot, Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli, Kanyakumari, Salem and Dharmapuri. The remaining six districts of Madras, North Arcot, Tiruchi, Thanjavur and Coimbatore will be covered by the end of the current financial year. The Coimbatore DIC will cover Nilgiris also.

The proposed training centre will essentially be a localised workshop which can provide facilities for common services, improved production techniques, quality control systems for imparting necessary training skills. The design and content of the workshop will necessarily have to be oriented to the pattern of industrial growth in the district.

Investment in this workshop will range from Rs. 5 to 10 lakhs and will be manned by the public sector undertaking which adopts the DIC.





Bull has been a good friend of man. But it is also a deadly beast.

The 'Bull fight' common in the southern districts of Tamil Nadu is a good rural sport, offering an opportunity to the rural youth to display their valour, courage and manliness.

Bull fight, commonly known as Jallikattu, has a direct and religious connection with Thai Pongal of Harvest festival for Tamils, Thai Pongal is a solemn festival. Joy of the community is at its peak and the period of prosperity begins with Thai Pongal. The thanks giving festival or the thanks giving day of Harvest on the first day of the month of Thai falling in the second week of January is celebrated for two days with publicity, pomp, pageantry and joy. Religion or caste has no place in this function. It is a secular festival, celebrated by urban and rural communities.

### Thai Pongal

The first day is the Pongal proper and second the Mattu Pongal honouring the cattle. For two days, the whole village is agog, presenting a festive look, and the women and the children are all smiles wearing new dresses. A feeling of self-reliance and abundance pervades the village;

the bullocks and the cows including the heifers, are taken to the village pond for a bath and their horns are painted in dazzling colours; bright brass bells adorn their necks. Women cook the Pongal rice-pudding with ghee and gur in the cattle-yard and the animals are fed with this sweat. They feast from the hands of their masters whose prosperity is the result of their sweet and strain on the farms. The bull-fight (jallikattu) is organised in the evening.

Jallikattu is a popular sport in Tamil Nadu. The bull-fighter's joy and pride is limitless when he controls the bull by the hump. Special type of bulls are reared for the fight and a jallikattu bull will cost not less than Rs. 5,000. Many landlords and zamindars in the Madurai and the Ramanathapuram districts owned jallikattu bulls as Status-symbols.

Tamil Nadu kept a number of ferocious bulls. Such bulls pin the catchers to the ground and trample upon them.

### Religious Sanction

The origin of jallikattu is not known but evidently this rural sport has been extant since ancient times. References are also found to this effect in Tamil literature. Time was when the villagers had felt that the wrath of the village gods had wrought on them contagious diseases such as the smallpox, cholera and plague. They believed in the mistaken

notion that by organising jallikattu, inviting their relatives from the nearby villages to witness the sport and distributing gruel to the visitors, they could please the gods and save themselves from such onslaught. Thanks to the spread of education among the rural population, this belief is now extinct. Yet the diehards have also their say. A few villages even now organise jallikattu to ward off infectious diseases.

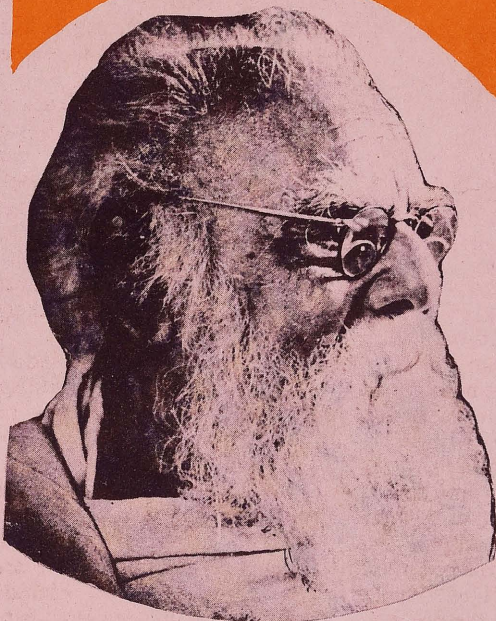
The bull-fight in Spain and Brazil has a political history. Bull-lancing tournaments continued to be the favourite sport of the aristocracy of Spain from the 15th century. The royal houses of Spain, France, Portugal, Italy and even the Catholic Churches in Spain had interest in bull fight.

Jallikattu in Tamil Nadu is a collective common rural sport organised in the village on a fixed date, decided by the village leaders. The owners of the bulls in distant villages are invited in the traditional way by village representatives. The village thoroughfare is generally selected as the arena and bullock-carts are placed as barricades and spectators sit or stand on there carts as human barricades.

The catchers are strong and sturdy and also experienced in controlling the savage bulls. Infuriated by the whistle and hustle the bulls jump out only to see on either side the tacklers, alert, calm and composed. They embrace the bull or follow it, keeping the pace with the gait of the experienced bull. It is a thrill to watch the bull looking askance at either side and turn back to chase his catchers. They are sometimes gored to death if the horns of the virile bulls are sharp. The catchers pounce upon the bull and control it either by the horn or the hump. The entire crowd applaud such daring youth men and congratulate them.

The Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation organised jallikattu on two days in Madras and Madurai as part of their function to attract tourist traffic from abroad.

## **CASTELESS SOCIAL SYSTEM. IS THE FOUNDATION OF A SOCIALIST SOCIETY**

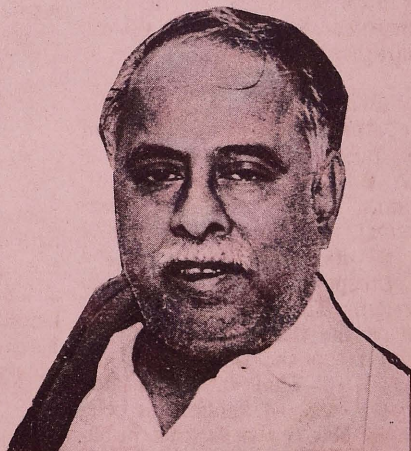


Feeling of high and low birth adds fuel to the ever — increasing communal conflict in our country. So, this feeling should be destroyed and real knowledge that all human beings are one should grow and gain strength among people.

—THANTHAI PERIYAR

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

—PERARIGNAR ANNA



**LET US ALL REDEDICATE  
OURSELVES TO ACHIEVE  
OUR GOAL OF AN  
EGALITARIAN SOCIAL ORDER**



