



Tamil Arasu

MARCH 1993 Re.1

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45th BIRTHDAY OF HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER

The 45th Birthday of Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha was celebrated throughout Tamil Nadu on 24th February 1993. Special prayers at shrines of all religions, poor feeding and distribution of clothes marked the celebration in Madras. At the Parthasarathy Temple, Triplicane, 45 women performed 'Anga pradakshanam' and 'Vilakku Pooja'. A 'Homam' was also performed. Abishekams and Archanas were performed at the Vadapalani Temple and in other temples in Tamil Nadu. Special prayers were offered in Churches, Durgas and at places of worship of other religions also. The Ministers participated in these mass prayers. Feeding and free distribution of clothes were organised in several places.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Thiru P.V. Narasimha Rao, conveyed his birthday greetings to the Hon'ble Chief Minister over telephone. The Prime Minister was the first dignitary to greet the Chief Minister. The Prime Minister has also sent

greetings to the Chief Minister. In the greetings he has expressed his sincere good wishes and personal regards on her birthday. On this happy occasion, the Prime Minister wished her many more years of continued public service and normal well being.

His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu Thiru Bhishma Narain Singh met the Chief Minister at her residence and conveyed his birthday greetings in person.

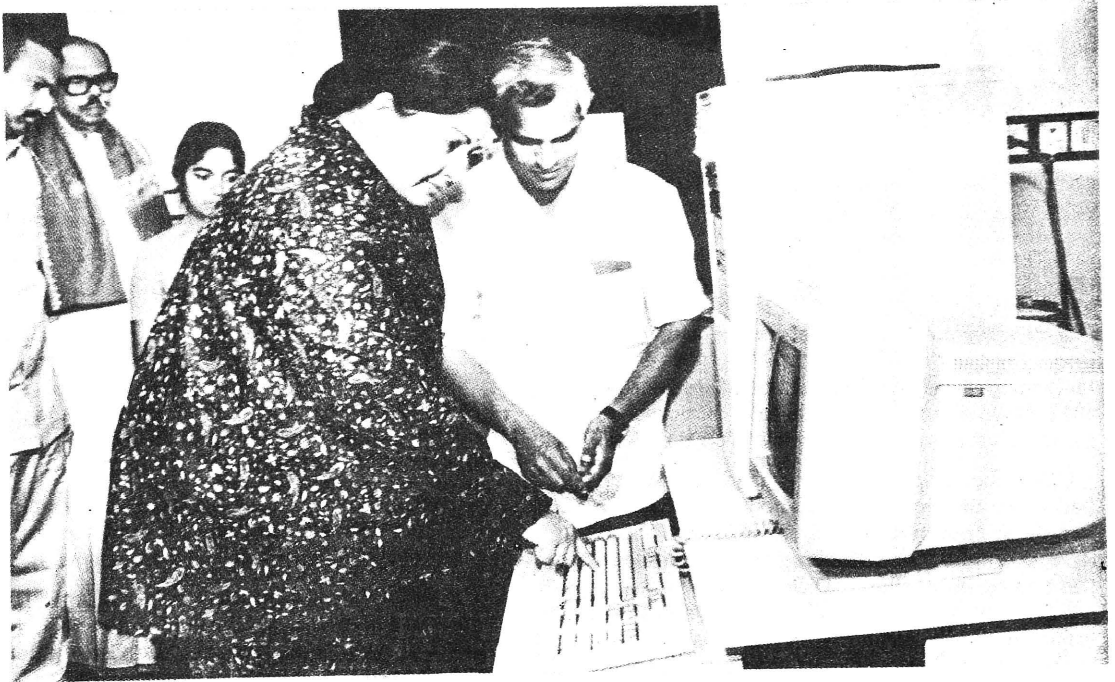
Hon'ble Speaker, Thiru Sedapatti R. Muthiah, Hon'ble Ministers, Dr. V.R. Nedunchezhiyan, Thiru K.A. Krishnasamy, Thiru S.D. Somasundaram, Dr. S. Aranganayagam, Thiru S. Muthusamy, Thiru K.A. Sengottayan, Thiru E. Madhusudhanan, Thiru S. Kannappan, Thiru Alagu Thirunavukkarasu, Thiru G. Viswanathan, Thiru S. Regupathy, Thiru Ku. Pa. Krishnan, Thiru T.M. Selvaganapathy, Tmt. R. Indirakumari, Thiru M. Anandan, Thiru D. Jayakumar, Thiru Nagoor Meeran, Deputy Speaker Thiru K. Ponnusamy, Special Representative of

Tamil Nadu at New Delhi, Dr. M. Thambidurai met the Chief Minister in person and conveyed their birthday greetings.

Members of the Parliament, Heads of Government Undertakings, Members of the Legislative Assembly, Chief Secretary to Government Thiru T.V. Venkataraman, IAS, Director General of Police Thiru S. Sripal, I.P.S., higher officials of the Government, Police Officials, party dignitaries and the public met the Chief Minister and conveyed their greetings.

Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Welfare Thiru K.V. Thangabalu in a message conveyed his good wishes to the Chief Minister.

On February 23rd the Minister for Social Welfare Tmt. R. Indirakumari, and 44 other women carried milk pots (Palkudam) to Vadapalani Murugan Temple for performing 'Abishekam' to Lord Muruga. 45 'Homams' by 45 vedic scholars for various Gods and Goddesses were performed. These were followed by a community feast.



C.M.'s PETITION CELL COMPUTERISED

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha, inaugurated a Rs.10 lakh computer centre on 1st March 1993 at the special cell dealing with thousands of petitions addressed to the Chief Minister by the people.

The petitions are entered in the computer district-wise. Abstracts on disposal of petitions are obtained

from the district authorities. The format for the abstract has been formulated by the special cell and sent to all the district head-quarters through the NICNET (computer communication system) and the abstracts reveal the percentage of disposal.

Out of 25,941 petitions presented to the Chief Minister in person, action had been taken on 20,196.



GOLDEN CHARIOT FOR KAPALEESWARAR TEMPLE

The Temple Administration Board, which met under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha on 23rd February 1993, decided to permit the sale of tickets for Laksharchanai and Koti Archanai in 56 temples.

Under the temple renovation scheme Rs.5 lakhs had been allotted for Magaranedun Kuzhaikadar temple at Thenthiruperai in Thirunelveli District Rs.76,000 more for Magalingaswami temple in Saduragiri in Madurai District, Rs.1 lakh for Madhavaperumal temple in Mylapore, Rs.66,000 for Naganathaswami temple at Nagoor, Rs.1 lakh for Vedagiriswarar temple in Tirukazhukundram, Rs.1,05,000 for Agastheeswarar temple at Panchetti in Ponneri taluk and Rs.40,000 for renovation of Mariamman temple at New Delhi.

A sum of Rs.11.29 crore had been sanctioned for meeting the expenses of 162 temples.

Three small temples which do not have any income will be attached to the nearby Tiruchendur Arulmigu Subramaniaswami temple, Srirangam Arulmigu Ranganathaswami temple and the Opliappan temple near Kumbakonam.

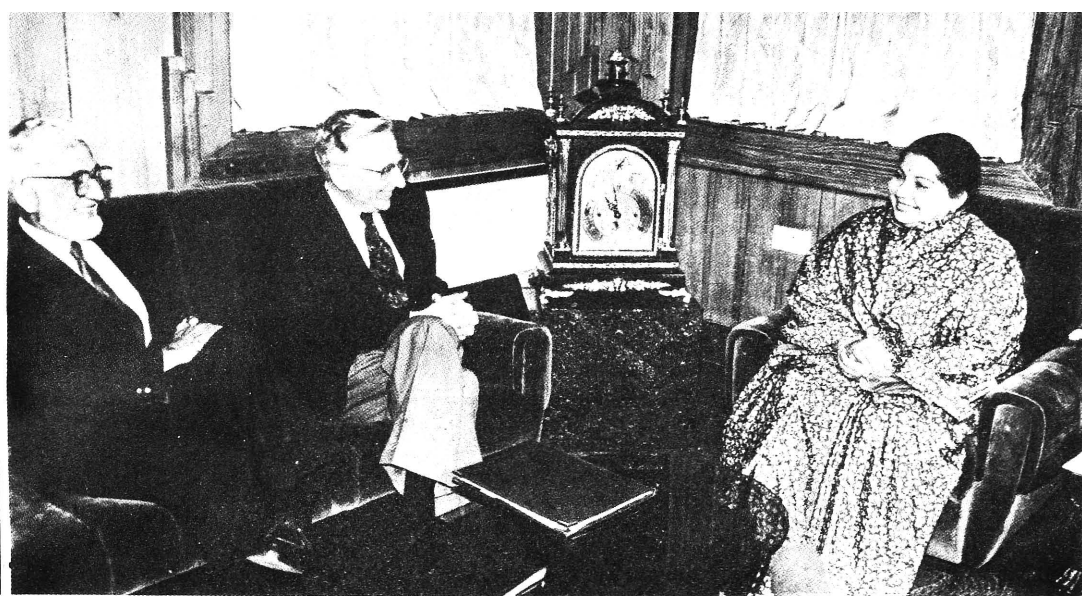
The Board decided to construct a 'Golden Chariot' for Kapaleeswarar Temple in Mylapore and entrust the work to the Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Development Corporation, 'Poempuhar'.

About seven kg. of gold, 87 kg of silver and 225 kg of copper, costing Rs.43.61 lakh would go into the making of the chariot.

It was also decided at the meeting to seek a report from engineers to lay a concrete bed at the Kapaleeswarar Temple tank and to recycle its water.

The work on construction of a prakaram for Mangadu Kamakshi Amman Temple has been entrusted to Tamil Nadu Construction Corporation. Besides, Rs.66 lakh already sanctioned, Rs.33 lakh more would be allotted. Steps will be initiated to renovate the tank at the Arulmigu Thiagaraja Swami- Vadivudaiamman temple in Thiruvottiyur.





WORLD BANK MANAGING DIRECTOR DISCUSSED WITH CHIEF MINISTER

Thiru. Ernest Stern, Managing Director of the World Bank, Washington called on the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha at the Secretariat at 11. A.M. on 18.2.93. Thiru. Stern was accompanied by Thiru. Oktay Yenal, World Bank, Delhi and others.

The Chief Minister high lighted the development perspectives of Tamil Nadu and expressed the hope that the World Bank would fully support Tamil Nadu's efforts to secure rapid improvement in the living standards of the people of the State. The Managing Director of the World Bank appreciated the excellent progress made by Tamil Nadu in the implementation of World Bank assisted projects.

The Chief Minister emphasised the need for taking up new projects in the State. She requested the Managing Director of the World Bank to take up for urgent consideration the Cyclone and Floods Mitigation and Reconstruction Project which Tamil Nadu has posed to the World Bank at a cost of Rs.2,560 crores. She emphasised the need for such a project to not only undertake restoration works

but also mainly to take up mitigation measures to contain damages in future cyclones.

The Chief Minister informed the Managing Director of the breakthrough achieved following her meeting with the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh in January, 1993, on the implementation of the Telegu Ganga Project. She explained the assurance given by the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister that the project would be completed by June, 1995, to bring Krishna water to Madras City. She also highlighted the fact that the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister had agreed that a study by technical officers would be taken up and completed in 3 months time to finalise the operational rules regarding the Telegu Ganga system. The Chief Minister impressed upon the Managing Director the need to clear the Second Madras Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Project at a total cost of Rs.1,100 crores. The Managing Director of the World Bank assured the Chief Minister he would have the project considered based on this latest development.

The Chief Minister expressed her keen desire that a State-wide Education Project should be

financed by the World Bank. She emphasised that the project would concentrate on girl child enrolment and retention, improved teacher training and motivation and better management of the school system. She requested the World Bank's clearance for a major project in the Education sector at a cost of Rs.1,200 crores.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the water resources situation in Tamil Nadu. She highlighted the fact that the surface water potential was almost

the Tamil Nadu Market Roads Project at a cost of Rs.328.40 crores.

She also sought clearance for a Human Resource Development Project in Agriculture with an outlay of Rs.300 crores. She expressed the view that Tamil Nadu would have to seek knowledge and skill development in agriculture to register accelerated growth in the future. She also indicated that a Forestry Project is under preparation and



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha hosted dinner to Thiru Ernest Stern, Managing Director, World Bank on 18.2.93 at Taj Coramandel, Madras. Hon'ble Chief Minister and Thiru Ernest Stern witnessed the dance performance presented by Dr. Srinidhi Rangarajan on the occasion.

fully utilised and the balance ground water potential available was also very low. She felt that water management was the key to future growth in agriculture. She requested early clearance of Tamil Nadu's Water Resources Consolidation Project at a cost of Rs.804 crores.

The Chief Minister also stressed the need to take up a major roads Project in Tamil Nadu. She requested the Managing Director of the World Bank to use his good offices in obtaining clearance for

the World Bank should consider this project.

The discussions also covered issues relating to Tamil Nadu's ongoing projects. The Managing Director complimented Tamil Nadu for the State's good record in implementing World Bank Assisted projects and the high disbursement level reached. He also assured the Chief Minister of the highest consideration for Tamil Nadu's new projects which he felt had been carefully prepared to address the development concerns of the State.



TOWARDS PEOPLE'S WELFARE AND PEOPLE'S PROGRESS

**Hon'ble Chief Minister
Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha**

the Hon'ble Members who participated in the discussions and who have given their valuable views.

Members belonging to various parties participated in this discussion and expressed their valuable views from their perspective. Some Members appreciated the achievements of this Government whole-heartedly; some other Members besides appreciation also gave good suggestions with the intention of helping this Government; some others instead of saying that they have no mind to appreciate; said something in an indirect manner. And some gave their opinions as if to say, "It is not our intention to appreciate; we have come here only to find fault".

It is to thank one and all those who appreciated the greatness of our rule and also those who had no mind to appreciate us—those who find fault with us—those who levelled allegations against us and those whose only aim is to blame us indiscriminately. I, on my part, do not draw a line between my party Members and opposition party Members in expressing my thanks.

Because, those who said that

"what is there in the Governor's Address. Nothing", have taken more or less half an hour to one hour to express their criticism; by this they themselves have proved that it is wrong to say that there is nothing in the Governor's address; therefore it is my duty to thank them also.

Powerful People's Rule

Here is a powerful people's rule of Dravidian Movement, a southern beacon light of the Indian Sub-Continent. This Government is following the foot steps of our "Ithaya Theivam Puratchi Thalaiver MGR" to fulfil the objectives of Perarignar Anna. The Government now in Tamil Nadu is a Government of the people, for the people and by the people and is making rapid strides towards achieving its motto "People's welfare - People's Service - People's Progress".

The details pertaining to the programmes-schemes and achievements of this Government have been expounded, explained and elaborated in the Governor's Address to this Assembly, and through this Assembly to the people of this State. Hence I feel it is my bounden duty to reply to the

"Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

For the past five days discussions have been going on, on the Third address of His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu detailing the policies of our Government which came to power by the deep affection and the attachment of the people of Tamil Nadu for AIADMK. Sir, I take this opportunity to convey my heartfelt thanks through the Hon'ble Speaker to

(Hon'ble Chief Minister's reply on the address of His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 13.2.93).

views put forth by the Hon'ble Members in this Assembly.

Generally all the Hon'ble Members who have spoken here, expressed their views with a political background. Even those who made it a point to find fault with us, have put forth the problems only in general terms. They have not made any specific charges or cited any specific instances referred to by some have drawn the attention of this Government to specific instances and the Hon'ble Minister concerned have given appropriate replies then and there. Hence I hasten to reply to certain important points with important problems in the background.

Performance of the Police Department and maintenance of Law and Order

This August Assembly is well aware of the appreciations rendered by the Members of the ruling party and the grave criticism of the Members of opposition regarding the mode of functioning of the Police. Particularly some Members of this House expressed the views that there is stagnation among police to a great extent and a lot is to be done to them.

As far as I am concerned, I feel that the grievances in a Department, whatever department it may be must be looked into. The staff should have satisfaction. Welfare measures should be implemented increasingly. I am very keen in this. As regards Tamil Nadu Police, I need not elaborate how bad was the law and order situation in this State when we assumed charge. Our Country is well aware of the fact that how this State have turned into a land of riots on several times in several places by extremists and LTTE with Gun culture. As soon as we assumed power, we, with the intention of maintaining law and order, and to ensure peaceful atmosphere for the public, took stern actions and

encouraged police forces and equipped them with modern equipments and created an atmosphere which would enable the police to drive away the LTTE from the Tamil Soil. Besides, the Tamil Nadu Police earned the encomium of everyone by undertaking and seizing the arms and ammunition and the ultra modern equipments and wireless sets, etc hidden by the LTTE. From then till now, LTTE had not dare to move around or indulge in atrocious acts in Tamil Nadu. Finally, they have run to their own Nation. Tamil soil has a great history. The women of Tamil Nadu are known for their courage. It was a Tamil woman who drove away the tiger with a winnow. And to-day this Tamil soil has driven away the LTTE. So, I think it is not wrong to point out that this was also achieved by a Tamil Woman.

The Devotion to the duty of the Police

The suppression of the LTTE in Tamil Nadu helped the Government and the Police to maintain Law and Order and at present peace prevails. The attitude of people, the political parties for extreme violence increasing number of criminals, keenness of some evil forces to create an atmosphere conducive unrest, chaos and confusion are posing and the increasing dimension of the anti-social elements are proving a great challenge to the Police Department in maintaining Law and Order and preventing crime. In spite of all these heavy tasks, it must be admitted that the Tamil Nadu Police has risen to the occasion in discharging their duties with a sense of duty and discipline. It is a pity that we tend to forget what they have achieved; instead we magnify what they have not done.

I can cite an example. When Babri Masjid was demolished in Ayodhya the entire country was in chaos. There were murders, burglaries, arson injustice

outrageous acts. I would like to question the Members of the opposition; was not peace maintained in Tamil Nadu, when the other States were struggling to maintain Law and Order? Secondly, you all also know how peace was maintained and tranquillity prevailed when the Prime Minister visited Tamil Nadu a few days after Thiruvattur, one of the Leaders of LTTE set fire to himself in a ship.

I would like to point out that when we assumed office, the incidence of crime was as high as 37,000. It has been reduced to 34,000. Not only that I have pointed out on several occasions that Tamil Nadu ranks in detecting the crimes and convicting the criminals.

I wish to inform with pleasure that the percentage of culprits who got punishment was 71 in 1990-91. We have increased this percentage to 72 after we assumed office.

Valuable articles and idols are being stolen from temples. I am very glad to inform this House that we have created a temple protection force consisting of 1000 personnel, to prevent the theft of idols from temples.

This House is well aware of the fact that a modernisation of police force with the assistance of Central Government at a cost of Rs.80.45 crore is being implemented with a view to purchase modern weapons, equipments, vehicles etc.

This Government is very keen in realising the requirements of the Police Department when they require it, and know how to fulfil it. If we analyse the various welfare schemes and the benefits delivered to the police Department in the past, our Government had achieved a marvellous performance during the 1½ years after we assumed office. Our Government have given so many concessions.



The Singapore Delegation headed by Thiru B.G. George Yeo, Minister for Information and the Arts and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs and Thiru Lim Boon Heng, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Trade and Industry called on the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha at Secretariat on 15.2.93.

Revamping of Police Department

Some Hon'ble Members pointed out that there is stagnation in the Police Department. I feel that it is my duty to provide some statistical data. I hope that these data will prove that this Government have done their best to the Police Department in a very short period.

Grade II constables constitute a major part of the Police Force. It is true that they did not get promotion for the past so many years. It is only our Government which came forward to give promotion. I would like to inform this House that this Government have decided to promote 21,000 Grade II Constables as Grade I Constables and 2,700 Grade I Constables to Head-Constables in one Government Order. About 10,000 Policemen will be benefitted in the current year.

I would like to point out that promotion opportunities have been given not only in the lower levels but also to the higher Grade Officers. In the past more recruitments were made to the posts of Sub-Inspectors by Direct recruitment than by promotion.

Only this Government increased the percentage of recruitment by

promotion from 30 to 40. By this, we have enhanced the promotional opportunity to the policemen in the lower levels. Similarly the posts of 50 Inspectors have been upgraded as D.S.P's. I would like to point out that the welfare of Police personnel have always been prime concern of this Government.

From 1987, there was no police recruitment and the previous Government postponed the recruitment and the posts were vacant. Only this Government changed this situation. Only this Government have created a separate Police Recruitment Board and doing a great job of appointing more or less 10,000 constables expeditiously and in a proper manner. I am elaborating all these facts only to point out that the works which were postponed by the previous Government are now revived and executed with new vigour. I would like to cite a small example. This Government have created a situation wherein the Police Housing Corporation has taken up the work and constructing not less than 1000 houses at a cost of about Rs.12.5 crore in a single year, whereas the corporation previously constructed only 1500 houses at a cost of Rs.12.5 crore in a

period of 10 years. A scheme of constructing several thousand houses for the constables is under the consideration of the Government.

Next, we have created new police stations as per needs. We have converted the Police outposts into permanent police stations. In order to accelerate the implementation of the scheme of issuing Jeeps to Police Stations to enable them to act swiftly, we have given 223 Tempo Trucks during this year. Almost all the police stations have been provided with one Motor Bike.

Steps to prevent Extremist Movements

One Member drew the attention of this House to the incident of blasting of Mahatma Gandhi Statue at the Office of the Villupuram Municipality and the statement given by the Government to the effect that there is no connection between the LTTE and this incident. Further, questioned me how could I disclose this information before the enquiry is over. Does the Hon'ble Member want me not to inform the fact to the House? Even after it was found out in the preliminary investigation of the Police Department that this in-

cident was the handwork of the extremist movement and there is no connection between the LTTE and this incident, or does the Member want that people of Tamil Nadu should not be informed of the fact? My statement contained only the authenticated information received by me regarding this incident. He has made baseless allegation against me with an aim of political gain.

Some of the Hon'ble Members made slanderous allegation in this Assembly that I am soft towards LTTE and also that I am safeguarding them. Recently LTTE took out a rally at Jaffna to pay homage to their demised leader Mr. Kittu. LTTE Supremo Prabhakaran also participated in it and garlanded the portrait of late Kittu. At the end of that condolence procession they had burnt effigies portraying me and the Indian Prime Minister Thiru P.V. Narasimha Rao. Don't the Hon'ble Members of this Assembly realise from this, that my name still figures in the LTTE hit-list and that they are still angry with me? If the Congress Members still have doubt over that, let them contact the Central Government and know the correct position (through CBI). If I had been friendly with LTTE or if I had any understanding with them, if I wish to safeguard their interests, could this type of incidents like burning of effigies, happen? The Congress Members would understand that this incident asserts the fact now for they are angry with me. I request that baseless and useless slanders should not be levelled against any one in this Assembly.

In the case of the blasting of Mahatma Gandhi Statue at Villupuram, one person called Natarajan of people Democratic Youth Forum has been arrested on 10.2.1993 at Vikravandi. At present he is under judicial custody. I wish to state that the Government will take stringent measures on those who are involved in this incident.

Cancellation of Bar Facility

Consequent of the decision taken in the cabinet meeting held during last May, 'Bar' facilities were permitted with retail liquor shops in Tamil Nadu. Accordingly now there are 3332 'bars'. After opening the bars, the existence of public protest had been brought to the notice of the Government. Many complaints had been brought to the notice of the Government regarding the hardship caused particularly to women due to this in many places. Moreover it was also known that illicit liquor is being sold in such bars. The Government reconsidered this issue after taking into account the adverse results instead of benefits expected at the time of opening these bars. Though the Government revenue would be reduced to the extent of Rs.25 crore per annum due to this, the Government decided not to issue permits to these bars with effect from 1.6.1993 in order to respect the public opinion. The sale of illicit liquor in those places would be abolished by these steps.

Special efforts in Developmental Schemes

In the Governor's address, it is clearly pointed out the efforts taken by our Government to make Tamil Nadu again to march towards development and the victories achieved in these efforts.

Our Government's policy is to make Tamil Nadu to find finest place in the list of developed States in India by giving importance to developmental schemes. To achieve this, we have to implement the Annual Plan. So, it is our main duty to implement this fully.

I would like to state that this year the developmental schemes are implemented in an effective manner. The plan schemes for Rs.1371.59 crore have been implemented in Tamil Nadu upto December 1992. I am happy to inform that the Annual Plan for cur-

rent Financial year would be to the tune of Rs.1800 crore which is in excess of the already approved plan outlay of Rs.1751 crore.

During the month of November 1992, I met the then Vice Chairman of Planning Commission Thiru Pranab Kumar Mukerjee and stressed that plan outlay for the year 1993-94 should be in the manner giving special thrust to the development schemes in Tamil Nadu. At that time he pointed out the non-utilisation of the approved plan outlay in many States and praised the active implementation in Tamil Nadu. He stated that the plan outlay for the year 1993-94 will be approved to the tune of Rs.2101 crore.

I hope that this would help much for the development of Tamil Nadu. It is a big achievement also. Normally, the annual plan outlay will be increased only 10% in excess of previous year's outlay. But in respect of Tamil Nadu, the plan outlay for the year 1993-94 has been increased upto 20% in excess of the current year outlay. I am to state that this Government would take all possible steps actively to utilise the plan outlay fully and in addition to that this Government would take care to improve our action plan in order to exceed that target.

This Government are paying more attention to ensure that the poor should not be affected while taking steps to implement the plan schemes and to mobilise the resources for them.

Plan schemes for weaker sections

It is significant to note that only Tamil Nadu Government are sanctioning more grants as a measure to protect the welfare of poor people among other States in India. In addition to the speedy implementation of the Development works, this Government are sanctioning higher provisions for welfare measures by giving priority to this without affecting the poor even during financial constraint to Government.

I would like to state specifically that in the matters of the grants for rice supplied under Public Distribution System or the expenditure for Medical Assistance to Public; or the scheme of Free distribution of sarees and dhoties or the sanction of old age pension or any schemes beneficial to poor people, this Government from the day of its assumption of office, in order to protect the welfare of the poor, have been providing more concessions for the past 20 months.

Increased outlay for food subsidy

The cost of rice provided by the Government of India has been increased by 60 paise per kg during January 1993. One year back (i.e) during December 1991, Government of India increased the cost of ordinary variety of rice by 88 paise per kg. Within one year, the Central Government increased twice, the price of rice by Rs.148 per kg. Because of the increase within a short period, we are not able to bear the additional subsidy burden and as a result we are compelled to increase the price of rice slightly from 1.2.1993.

Even after the increase, the price

of the rice distributed by our Government through Public Distribution System is lower than the price of the rice provided by the Central Government. Though Government of Tamil Nadu increased the cost of the ordinary variety of rice to Rs.275 per kg. from 1.2.1993 this cost is very lesser than the selling price prevailing in other States under Public Distribution System. The cost of ordinary variety of rice in Kerala is Rs.4.19, Karnataka Rs.4.10, West Bengal Rs.4.86 and Andhra Pradesh Rs.3.50. But, I would like to state that only in Tamil Nadu, the cost of rice is Rs.2.75.

I would like to recollect here that I had already insisted in the National Development Council Meeting held during December 1991 and May 1992 and also in the 21st Southern zonal Council Meeting held in Madras during November 1992, to ensure that the price of rice which is being consumed by the poor people is not increased. Without considering the above, the Central Government have increased the cost of rice arbitrarily.

At the same time, I like to inform

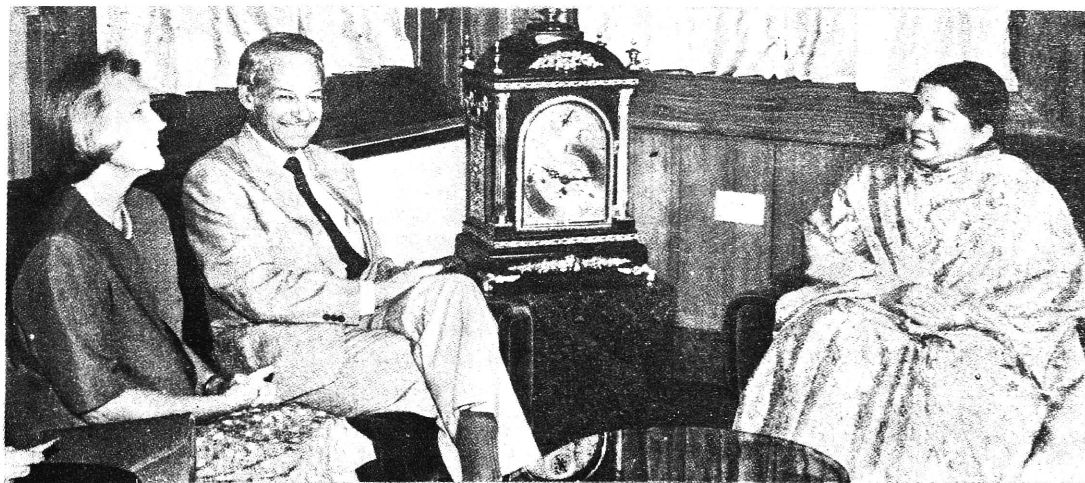
that our Government increased the minimum wages from Rs.15 to Rs.20 with effect from 1.2.1993 with the intention to safeguard the poor people.

At present, the rate of subsidy for food grains to be given by the Government has been increased to Rs.360 crore.

Even this small rise in the price of rice is also not made, Government have to provide Rs.100 crore additionally. I would like to inform this House that this Government have to increase the cost of rice when the Government are in a position neither to bear this additional subsidy, nor to increase its resources.

Taking into consideration, the position prevailed during the last ten years from 1980-81, to 1989-90 the Central Government raised the ordinary variety of rice 7 times. Because of this only 79 paise per kg has been increased. Government of India increased the cost of rice twice. i.e December 1991 (88 paise per kg) and in January 1993 (60 paise per kg). During the last one year, the Government of India had raised Rs.148 for the rice

The British High Commissioner in India Sir Nicholas Fenn King accompanied by his wife Lady Fenn called on the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha at Secretariat on 9.2.93.



provided by the Central Government. The cost of rice has not been raised to this extent at any time.

One of the Members of this House stated that the cost of the rice was not at all raised even once during the regime of Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. This is not correct. I would like to inform that during the regime of Ithayatheivam Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. also, the cost of the rice had been raised twice, i.e from 1.2.1981 and 1.11.85 because of unavoidable circumstances as is prevailing now.

During 1980-81, the subsidy for food grains provided by the Government was only Rs.1.81 crore. But, now it has been increased to Rs.360 crore. Apart from this, the Government are now in a position to provide Rs.100 crore additionally. If the Government bear the additional burden and come forward to give subsidy, most of the Developmental schemes in Tamil Nadu will be affected much. Beside this, we have to face the problem in obtaining Loan from the Reserve Bank of India and also we will not be able to implement the Public Distribution System.

When we consider this in All India basis, Tamil Nadu is the only State which bear the huge expenditure in giving subsidy for food grains. Therefore, I request through this House that all the political parties and the Public will realise this situation and render their full co-operation to this Government

Flood relief works

Flood and Cyclone that occurred during November 1992 in Tamil Nadu affected our State adversely. During November, 1991 also flood and cyclone caused heavy damages. A situation had arisen in which the Government have to bear the expenditure to set right the damages caused by the cyclone and floods continuously during the past two years.

The news was informed to me while I was attending the Union Planning Commission meet held at Delhi on 14.11.1992. On hearing this I returned to Madras and visited personally the affected areas, studied the situation and consoled the affected people. You all know that I have geared up the Government machinery to expedite the relief works. Since, I personally went to the affected areas and observed the situation, the flood relief works have been carried out very quickly and effectively.

I wish to state that this Government have permitted to implement the flood relief works immediately in a huge scale to the extent of Rs.68.52 crore inspite of financial constraints. However, according to particulars available at present, all measures have been undertaken for carrying out flood relief works to the tune of Rs.90 crore. About Rs.45 crore have been spent for these works upto 31.1.93.

Assistance has been extended to 1,71,375 affected houses. For the bereaved family Rs.30,000 had been given to each person (this includes the amount from Prime Minister's Relief Fund and State Government's aid).

Apart from this 5 kg of rice was also given to 1,71,375 affected families for immediate need. These special assistance were given to the concerned persons directly and immediately.

Bridges, roads, reservoirs, buildings and power stations were subjected to heavy damages. I wish to inform this House the details regarding the repair works undertaken and completed.

	Works under taken	Works already completed	Works pending
Roads/Bridges	9633	6031	3602
Reservoirs/Canals	3729	3546	183

Hence, as a result of immediate action taken for carrying out all necessary relief works by this

Government, the affected areas were restored to normal life within a short period. As the pucca houses i.e. concrete and tiled houses in Kanniyakumari District had been damaged completely by the flood, the Government decided as a special case, to grant subsidy of Rs.10,000 and Rs.5,000 respectively. Our Government have come forward to sanction additional funds of about Rs.5 crore to about 10,000 families affected by flood in that District. I could visualise the beautiful land scape and the distinct features of this District during my visit to the flood affected area. I felt that it was essential to provide additional relief measures to them. On this basis, this decision has now been taken.

The Public Works Department, Highways and the other departments have been allotted an additional amount of Rs.10 crore to complete their flood relief works by March end. So far Rs.90 crore has been sanctioned towards flood relief the already sanctioned amount of over shooting Rs.68.52 crore.

I would like to state that with today's announcement of Rs.15 crore, the total amount allocated during the current year for the flood relief measures would go up to Rs.105 crore.

Agricultural Development

When this State was ravaged by Cyclone and flood in November 1992, we gave an assistance to the tune of Rs.15.89 crore as a relief measure so as to provide agricultural inputs to more than 2 lakh farmers affected by flood.

During the year 1991-92 this State has made rapid strides in the production of rice and cereals. Further this Government have shown progress in the production of sugarcane, oil seeds and millets also. This Government have imported about 3 lakh palm oil seeds from Costarica in Central

America and introduced palm oil production by cultivating in an area of about 2000 Hectares.

Even though the prices of the chemical fertilizers such as potash and phasphate has gone up, we have taken adequate steps to provide fertilizers in a subsidised rate inorder to give relief to 40 lakh farmers. I have requested the Prime Minister to continue the "Scheme for the supply of fertilizers at subsidised rate and the

ting multi purpose scheme viz. a scheme for Agricultural Development with the World Bank assistance since 1991-92.

The Reservoirs Scheme provides an adequate employment opportunity to the agriculturists besides increasing the moisture condition of rainfed lands and increased the agricultural production.

The Government are implementing scheme with the assistance of DANIDA with a view to increase

2000 power tillers and other agricultural improved machinery. Because of the efforts taken by the Government in the fields of Crop Protection, Horticulture, Waste Land Development Scheme, Soil Conservation Scheme and Environmental Project, pave way for the increase in the standard of living of rural folks besides expeditory rural development.

Elections to Co-operatives

This Government have evinced



Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Human Resources Development (Women & Child Welfare) Tmt. BASAVA RAJESWARI called on the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha at Secretariat on 1.3.93.

Scheme for small and marginal farmers" for the year 1993-94 also.

The steps taken by the Government to ensure adequate supply of agricultural inputs, sanction of assistance and provision of agriculture extension training to farmers, I am sure will help to increase the production during the year 1993-94. We are expecting an increase in the production of cereals of more than 100 lakh M.T. during 1992-93.

This Government are implemen-

the agricultural potential of women and to implement reservoir scheme. Scheme for collective plantation scheme and scheme for drought prone area are being implemented. Because of these the income of the farmers in rainfed lands have enhanced.

As the prize amount has been enhanced, the crop cultivation competition has gained a great prominence among the farmers. We have increased the agricultural production capacity by providing

keen interest in conducting elections to Co-operative Societies. This Government have assured to the Supreme Court that the elections to the Co-operative Societies would be conducted by May 1992. However, Amendments have to be made to the Co-operative Societies Act and the By-laws made there under in order to ensure Co-option method replacing to nomination method in giving representation to women, Schedule Caste and Tribal people in Executive Committees of Co-

operative Societies. Therefore, this Government requested the Supreme Court to give time till 31.10.1992 to conduct the elections to the primary Co-operative Societies by 31.10.1992. In anticipation of the permission of the Supreme Court, a notification for holding of elections to the Primary Co-operative Societies was also issued in June 1992. All efforts to conduct the election were taken. Election Schedule was also published. But the High Court has granted stay consequent on the filing of writ petitions by some persons. This Government are taking all possible steps to vacate the stay. This case is pending with the Supreme Court. As soon as the judgement of the Court is delivered elections to the Primary Co-operative Societies followed by Central and State Co-operatives will be conducted.

Industrial Development

During 1992-93, Government have approved the implementation of 18 New Industrial Projects at a total investment of Rs.8,500 crore under the Joint Sector, and Escort Sector of Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation and also under the Electricity Generation Sector. Out of this, Rs.2000 crore are to be invested in Tamil Nadu Industrial Technological Development Corporation alone. During the current year two industrial projects i.e. Ushtha De Biotech Industries Ltd and Dyna Lamps Glass Industries have been started.

During the current year, Government have approved five projects of Tamil Nadu Electronics Corporation Limited at a total cost of Rs.80 crore.

Electronic Hardware Technological Park is being set up near Madras, for which temporary sanction has been accorded by the Government of India.

Due to New Industrial Policy, it is possible to expect large in-

vestments in Private Sector, in this State.

Ashok Leyland's Project Schemes at the cost of Rs.675 crore have already been started.

The long pending demands of the State Government have finally met in the clearance of the Central Government. The Central Government have cleared the Aromatic Project at a cost of Rs.2000 crore in May, 1992. Government have approved the Southern Gas Grid in principle.

Power is indispensable for Industrial Development. In order to ensure adequate, power generation and supply, steps are being taken to start a Lignite mine project, in a very large scale, under the Joint Sector at a cost of Rs.7000 crore.

One Hon'ble Member has sought the details regarding the Letter of Intent recommended by Tamil Nadu Government to the Central Government to start new industries in Tamil Nadu. The Central Government have announced the New Industrial Policy in July, 1991. Accordingly to that new policy, for several projects the licence hitherto issued by the Central Government is not necessary. After the announcement of this policy, the importance of getting the Letter of Intent has lost its importance. In the list of industries which require licences for the starting of industries only 18 items are mentioned. The industries are started without the Letter of Intent or Licence, it is enough that the Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandum alone be registered with the Central Government.

In Tamil Nadu, from August, 1991 to the end of August, 1992, 341 Industrial Entrepreneurs have registered for Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandum with the Central Government.

From July 1991 till the end of December 1992, 119 cases were

recommended for Letter of Intent. Out of this, the Central Government have accorded sanction to the 42 cases of Letter of Intent. Out of the balance 54 cases of Letter of Intent have been rejected, on the ground that the Licence is not necessary as per New Industrial Policy and also for other reasons. I would like to say that the rest of 23 cases for the issue of the Letter of Intent are under the consideration of Central Government.

One Hon'ble Member has sought the details regarding the projects at a cost of Rs.8500 crore sanctioned in 3 days. I met several Entrepreneurs in 2 days on 4.12.92 and 5.12.92 (not in 3 days as told by the Member) and approved the project for Rs.8500 crore. The complete details regarding these projects have already been published in the dailies. However, I would like to inform the details to the Hon'ble Member; I met 24 Entrepreneurs, the total cost of the project is Rs.8,486 crore i.e. nearly Rs.8,500 crore.

New Courts in Tamil Nadu

From the time of taking charge, there has been a remarkable improvement in the development of the judicial Department and also in providing infrastructural facilities to the courts. Particularly for this Department the allocation has been enhanced to Rs.45.99 crore during the year 1992-93 as against the allocation of Rs.37.25 crore in 1990-91. The proposal for establishing new District Courts in Ramanathapuram, Pasumpon Muthramalinga Thevar and Kallarajar Districts, which were pending for several years, have been cleared. The Government have also opened new courts in Kodaikanal and Kothagiri for the benefit of the tribal people. Apart from these, five courts have been opened for trying the cases relating to Rajiv Gandhi's assassination and TADA. So far 20 courts have been opened by this

Government. By its tremendous efforts, this Government have brought the expenditure of Rs.123 crore under the plan scheme and forwarded to the Central Government with its recommendation.

Apart from opening of New Courts, this Government have also sympathetically considered and settled the long pending demands of the officials working in these courts.

Scheme to protect - Female Children

The Scheme to protect the female child, taking of legal measures against the persons concerned and the newly introduced "Cradle Scheme" in Tamil Nadu have gone a long way in stopping infanticide. So far, 30 infanticides have been prevented. This scheme has created a sense of vigil among the people. Sincere efforts have also been taken to improve the same. In order to eradicate social evils like Dowry, addiction to drink etc, the Social Welfare Department is also taking steps with the help of the voluntary Institutions. At present, the protected female children are being nourished by the Voluntary organisations under care of the Government. No doubt the Government will create a bright future for them.

Scheme for the free distribution of Sarees and Dhoties

You, the Hon'ble Members are fully aware that supply of free Sarees and Dhothies scheme was implemented in this year also with a view to provide Sarees and Dhothies to the landless, poor farmers who are leading a life below the poverty line and the poor who are residing in the rural areas in Tamil Nadu for Pongal Festival. The total number of men and women, benefitted under this scheme, is computed to be 1 crore and 20 lakhs upto 10.2.1993, 56,25,000 Sarees to the beneficiaries and 44,20,000 Dhothies to beneficiaries totalling

one crore forty five thousand Sarees and Dhothies have so far been supplied. Recently, by making a review of the implementation of this scheme, I have ordered the officials to complete this scheme of supplying Sarees and Dhothies to the remaining eligible people by the end of this month. During 1993-94 financial year also this scheme will be implemented during Pongal. Further, I have ordered that all Sarees, Dhothies for the ensuing year, should be manufactured exclusively by the Co-optex and the Co-optex should start the production now itself. The poor weavers will get job opportunities all through the year by this scheme.

Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department

I would like to point out that because of the excellent efforts taken by this Government the number of students in Adi-dravidar Welfare Schools who have passed in Public Examinations conducted last year for 10th and 12th standards, has increased by 20% more than the previous years.

Similarly, this Government has announced in the last budget session, two Industrial Estates, exclusively for Adi Dravidar, will be instituted, covering two hundred industries in the field of embroidery-knitting work with a view to make progress in life by instituting Industries. Hon'ble Members of this House are fully aware of the fact that this memorable scheme has been carried out and now advertisements are given in newspapers seeking applications from the entrepreneurs regarding this. I would like to point out happily that soon industrial estates will be made and this will make a big break through in improving the economy of the people.

Similarly, I would like to inform, that the sericulture Scheme for

the Adi Dravidar people announced in the last Budget session has already been implemented and Prawn Development Scheme will be implemented soon.

Mandal Commission

A permanent Committee will be constituted to study the problems relating to backward classes as per the judgement of the Supreme Court of India on the recommendations of the Mandal Commission. As regards the Supreme Court Order that the total reservation should be reduced to 50% is concerned in Tamil Nadu. The action taken by the Government to uplift the backward classes, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes over the years has been fruitful. Particularly, the Government is of the view that the reduction of percentage of reservation is not possible practically, since the backward classes, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are already benefitted by the 69% reservation in Tamil Nadu.

Further, this Government also views that elimination of such classes of people among the backward classes who are benefitted by the reservation policy will create practical problems; so the Government have decided to appeal to the Supreme Court to reconsider the orders issued by it in this regard.

Special schemes for the welfare of the people

During this year about 9,226 medical camps were conducted. Tamil Nadu had medical consultations with highly qualified doctors in the Primary Health Centres. These camps were praised by the news papers. The other States have heard about these camps and obtained data from this Government to conduct these camps in their States.

Government have issued orders for the purchase the apparatus for

cancer treatment at a cost of Rs.130 lakhs during this year. These apparatus will be installed in the Arignar Anna Cancer Hospital, Kancheepuram and Madras General Hospital. There is a scheme with the Government to supply these apparatus to other Government Hospitals in the ensuing year.

Government have ordered the purchase of 2 C.T.Scans. Their cost will be about Rs.250 crores.

Considering the rising cost of price, sufficient funds were allocated by the Government for adequate medical facilities in the Government Hospitals for the welfare of the poor. A sum of Rs.50,000/- have been allocated for each Primary Health Centre to purchase medicines. A sum of Rs.53 crores only was sanctioned for Government Hospitals for one year. This has been raised to about Rs.70 crores. Consequently the scarcity of medicines will go and the poor people will be benefitted to get necessary medicines in the Government Hospitals.

Forest development works Environment and Forest Department

During 1992-93 a sum of Rs.50.45 crores had been allocated for conservation and extension of Forests. During 1992-93, it is proposed to plant trees in 1,12,500 acres, (45,000 hectare), arial sowing of seeds in 46,000 acres (18,500 hectare) and sowing seeds in 5,000 acres (2000 hectare).

Government have proposed to introduce a new scheme for converting the rock areas into cultivable lands. It is our aim to plant trees in the barren lands of rocky areas thereby making them fertile. Under the social forestry scheme, the Government are keen to follow inter face forestry scheme in the community lands and reserved forests.

Employment opportunities for one and half lakhs of youths

Several Hon'ble Members of the House have enquired about the unemployment problem of youths in the Assembly and asked about the arrangements being made to generate employment opportunities. I am very much pleased to inform you about a massive employment scheme to be implemented during this year to benefit the society as well as to generate employment throughout the country. I hope you will be pleased to hear that employment opportunities for 15 lakhs educated youths by giving monthly salary under nonformal education effecting from the ensuing 1st March onwards.

At present nearly 1.09 lakhs youths are getting monthly doles under this youth Assistant Scheme which was started during the period of Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G.R. Rs.50/- for those who studied upto S.S.L.C. Rs.75/- for those who studied upto +2 Higher Secondary and Rs.100/- for Degree holders are given at present. New Non-formal Education Programme will be launched by introducing some special features in this scheme. The youth to be engaged in this programme would highlight the evils of liquor.

Educated youths who were unemployed for more than 5 years after registering themselves with the Employment Exchanges in every area would be enrolled in this scheme. Already those who were not getting any dole would also be enrolled in this scheme. About 15 lakhs educated youths from the families which are below the poverty line will be engaged in this programme.

Honorarium would be fixed to be atleast 50% more than the dole amount and on the basis of the number of students covered under non-formal education programme. So, I hope that the

educated youth will divert their fall attention in this programme. This scheme would form a massive effort by engaging the educated youth in social service.

It is estimated that Rs.20 crores will be incurred for the scheme of providing employment in massive scale.

Conclusion:

I hope that the points I have outlined in my replies would satisfy the Hon'ble Members. There may be some persons who are not satisfied with my reply. I know that they can't be satisfied. This House also knows that.

But, I consider that these are the replies for the debates held in this House and also this replies are for the information to the people who have elected us to this House. Only having this, in my mind I have given this explanation.

As, I have already stated in the introductory part of my speech our Government is

People's Government;

This Government aims only at the welfare of the people. I have stated emphatically that this Government least bothered about those who are against the peoples welfare and those who disrespect the people.

Generally as we say that our Government is peoples Government especially a poor peoples's Government. We have showed this through our schemes and actions implemented during the past 1½ years.

I state that our Governor's speech is a declaration that status-quo will be continued and I asked all the Hon'ble Members to pass the resolution proposed by our party member Thiru C.Gandhirajan to thank His Excellency the Governor.

URBAN COOPERATIVE BANKS - SMALL MAN'S BANK

Hon'ble Minister for Cooperation

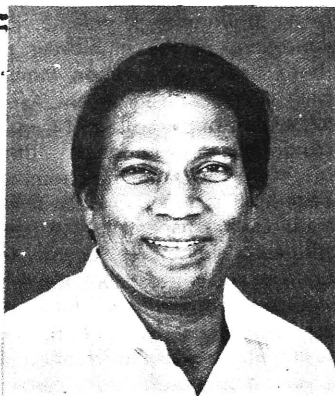
Thiru G. Viswanathan

Respected Chairman, Hon'ble Minister for Textiles Shri Patel, and respected participants.

It gives me immense pleasure to be present here on the Second day of the Sixth All India Conference of Urban Cooperative Banks.

As you all know Urban Cooperative Banks are basically small man's banks in urban and semi-urban areas. They mobilise resources mostly from the middle and lower income groups and utilise the same for lending to smaller people for certain specified purpose within the area of operation. As I could see, the main advantages as well as the special characteristics of Urban Cooperative Banks, vis-a-vis the District Central Cooperative Banks are: compactness of the area of operation, open membership, easy accessibility to the public, democratic management, local feel, personalised service, familiarity, close supervision and finally prompt recovery of credit.

I need not emphasise or discuss at length at this juncture the importance of role of Urban Cooperative Banks before this august gathering. You would have already discussed at length the historical background, the growth profile, the problems faced by the Urban Cooperative Banks in the earlier days and the issues that are faced by them currently in the changing economic scenario. It is



an admitted fact that even though as a matter of policy and political conviction, if I may so, each and every State Government is according top most priority for the rural development, the urban sector is growing faster much disproportionate to the infrastructure available therein to take care of the common needs of urban society. We are also witnessing a situation wherein the distinction between the semi-urban and urban areas is getting completely blurred. It is therefore felt that there is abundant scope for the Urban Cooperative Banks to develop further and play an active role in taking care of the changing needs of the middle and lower income group of the urban population. But at the same, you should appreciate that this urban cooperative sector will have to operate in a highly competitive en-

vironment prevailing in the banking industry. This situation calls for a critical review on the style of functioning of the Urban Cooperative Banks and the imperative need for taking suitable steps to improve their overall managerial and operational efficiency. It is in this context that I would like to make an attempt to indicate briefly some of the common deficiencies which are responsible for the malfunctioning of some of the Urban Cooperative Banks. They are:

1. Defective lending policies and procedures.
2. Predominant issue of loans for unproductive purpose which do not generate income and necessary repaying capacity.
3. Sanction of loans in excess of the repaying capacity.
4. Inadequate or absence of system of verification of the purpose for which loan has been sanctioned.
5. Concentration of loans in the hands of the few preferred individuals and delay in recovery proceedings.
6. Poor quality of service to the customers.
7. Injudicious management of resources.
8. Lack of professional management.
9. Political interference.
10. Insensitive approach to genuine local needs.

I understand that a cumulative effect of all or anyone of the above mentioned factors contribute towards the ailment of some of the sick Urban Cooperative Banks. It is really disheartening to find that as against 1389 banks in the whole country, as many as 236 banks are reported to be sick. This situation warrants a closer look at the working of these institutions and drawing up of appropriate turn around

strategies for their revival by Reserve Bank of India as well Cooperation Department.

I feel that I should also place some statistical information about the state of affairs pertaining to Tamil Nadu in this forum. We have in Tamil Nadu, 131 Urban Cooperative Banks in all out of which 6 urban banks are not functioning while the remaining 125 banks are extending commendable service to the public. Of the 125 banks functioning 69 Urban Cooperative Banks are having working capital of more than 2 crore. All of them are working at profit except 9 urban banks. We have 6 weak urban banks which are covered under the programme of rehabilitation. The Reserve Bank of India and the Cooperative Department are closely monitoring rehabilitation programme of these banks. I am told that the States like Maharashtra and Gujarat are doing better in Cooperative Urban banking activities and I take this opportunity to congratulate the representatives who have come from the two States.

As Minister for Cooperation, I had occasion to review the performance of the various types of Cooperatives in the State. I also happen to review the performance of the Cooperative Urban Banks. My experience with banking sector gives an indication that the representatives of Cooperative Urban Banks have a feeling of alienation among themselves. This is because they feel that they are neither identified with the Central Cooperative Banks nor with the Primary Agricultural Cooperative Banks and they also have a feeling that they are not given due importance like Cooperative Central Banks and Consumer Cooperative Stores, even though they serve people equally well or otherwise. They also had a feeling that they did not have an apex federation of their own. But this long felt need

has been fulfilled in our State with the creation of a separate apex federation for Cooperative Urban Banks. This was started in the year 1988. Even though, at present its role continues to be purely advisory in nature, the mere fact that a federation has come into existence will improve the image of the Urban Cooperative Banks in the long run.

Another aspect which I would like to mention here is that there is no uniformity in the service conditions of the employees of these Cooperative Urban Banks. Each Cooperative Urban Bank follow its own pay scale and service conditions, even though they discharge the same functions. A beginning has been made in Tamil Nadu in this aspect. I have constituted a Committee recently to examine and suggest common service conditions with reference to the recruitment, promotion, pay scales, etc. and also for creation of a common cadre for certain managerial positions. I hope with the creation of a common cadre and uniform service conditions, the employees of the urban banks will feel more so secured and thereby discharge their functions more efficiently without any feeling of not being treated on par with the employees of commercial banks.

Yet another aspect which I would like to point out here is that there is a general feeling among the public that the Urban Cooperative Banks are primarily engaged in issue of jewel loans and they are not very much involved in other lines of credit. This was broadly true in the case of Cooperative Urban Banks till 1991 in Tamil Nadu. The position was reviewed and instructions were issued to all the urban banks in our State to give preference for the issue of loans to small entrepreneurs belonging to weaker sections giving priority to women. In fact, this is one of the policy decisions taken by our Govern-

ment and a good beginning has been made in this regard. Our urban banks have so far issued loans to the extent of Rs.58.6 crore within a period of 6 months to 1.13 lakh beneficiaries, of which more than 40% are women. I strongly believe that the Cooperative Urban Banks should basically address themselves to the problems of weaker sections particularly women and if they could allocate a fixed percentage of their sources for lending to women, it will go a long way in improving their standard of living and fulfilling the basic objectives of the Cooperative Urban Banks.

Finally, I would like to state some of the practical difficulties faced by the Cooperative Urban Banks which require attention by the agencies concerned.

a) Undue delay in the grant of licences by Reserve Bank of India for the opening of branches by Cooperative Urban Banks. The State Registrar may be empowered to, to accord permission as in the case of Central Cooperative Banks for opening branches by Cooperative Urban Banks in potential areas.

b) Provision of concessional rate of finance to sick urban banks by Reserve Bank of India to tide over the financial crisis.

c) The Deposit Insurance and Credit Corporation of India is extending guarantee for the advances sanctioned by urban banks. There is a case for reduction of premium from 15% to 1.0%. There is no justification for inclusion of the secured advances under the scheme.

In conclusion, I would like to mention that Urban Cooperative Banks play an important role in promoting economic interests of middle and lower income groups in the urban area. This role could be effectively played by them only if they mobilise adequate resources from the public, deploy



RAILWAY BUDGET — COMMON MAN WILL BE AFFECTED ADVERSELY

I strongly criticise the proposals to increase passenger fares and freight rates as announced by the Union Railway Minister in the Railway Budget presented to the Parliament on the 24th February, 1993. The steep increase in the passenger fares, particularly for second class travel will affect the common man directly. The increase in the freight rates and the withdrawal of concessions in freight rates for the transportation of essential commodities will fuel the inflationary forces and will indirectly add to the burden of the common man. As a result of freight rate changes the cost of living is bound to go up steeply and the poor people will be the worst sufferers. While the Central Government has been claiming to control inflation by various measures, what it does in practice is different and the railway budget proposals of passenger fares and freight rate increases only go to show that the Central Government is not earnest in its intentions.

Second Class travel fares have been raised both in express and ordinary categories. Second class travel is resorted to only by the common man in search of his livelihood. This will directly affect him. Travel by train for the common man used to be the cheapest mode. It has now become much more expensive than bus travel. It should have

been the Central Government's effort to cross subsidise and keep travel for the common man cheaper.

The steep increase in suburban fares in every class will greatly affect fixed income persons and small vendors. The direct impact due to the hike in passenger fares on the common man could well have been avoided.

The increase in freight rates with its inflationary impact will hit the common man. The withdrawal of concessions in freight rates for essential commodities like grains and pulses, diesel, sugar and oil cake will lead to a steep increase in the prices of these basic commodities. When the declared goal is to control inflation, it is surprising that such an increase in freight rates, particularly in the rates for essential commodities has been proposed.

I strongly urge the Union Railway Minister to reconsider the proposals made by him for increasing the passenger fares and freight rates in the interest of the common man and for the stability of the economy.

Dr. J. Jayalalitha
Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

them in productive channels, earmarking at the sametime certain percentage for meeting the commitments of social objectives and run on sound principles of professional management. The urban banks should have clear defined objectives and carry on their activities in accordance with the laid down objectives. At the same time,

the reasonable aspirations of the employees should also be fulfilled. In other words, a comprehensive management approach integrating the goals of the organisation with that of the employees, keeping in view, the complex environment in which the banks are operating, and the changing needs of the society, is

the only long term solution, for ensuring sustained growth of the urban banks in our country.

Thank you all.

(Speech of Hon'ble Minister for Cooperation at the 6th All India Conference of Urban Cooperative Banks at Bangalore on 14.2.1993)



TAMIL NADU ELECTRICITY BOARD

TENDER NOTICE COAL-10

For and on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, sealed tenders are invited under TWO PART TENDER SYSTEM for the supply of following so as to reach the undersigned on or before the due date prescribed.

Description of material : Two million tonnes of imported Steaming Coal.

Specification No. : Coal-10, dated 12.2.1993

Cost of Specification : **A) For units located in Tamil Nadu**

1. Rs.1000 if obtained in person

2. Rs.1050 if sent by post within India

B. For units located outside Tamil Nadu

1. Rs.1000 if obtained in person

2. Rs.1150 (inclusive of CST at Rs.100) if sent by post within India.

E.M.D. : Rupees one crore only.

Due date and time for receipt of Tender: 14 hours 10.3.1993

Time of opening of tender : 14 hours on 10.3.1993.

Place of opening of tenders : At the office of the Director/Coal II Floor, KRR Maaligai, Western Wing, 800 Anna Salai, Electricity Avenue, Madras-600 002.

Copy of specification can be obtained by remitting the cost either by cash or by Money order to the Chief Internal Audit Officer, Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, I Floor, KRR Maaligai, 800, Anna Salai, Madras-2 noting the specification No. and sending the cash receipt or Money order receipt as the case may be to the Director/Coal II Floor, Western Wing, KRR Maaligai, 800 Anna Salai, Madras-2, with a requisition furnishing the complete postal address. Tenders should be submitted in triplicate to the undersigned before the due date and time mentioned.

The specification could be persued at the office of the Director/Coal, II Floor, Western Wing, KRR Maaligai, Electricity Avenue, 800 Anna Salai, Madras-600 002 between 11.00 am and 4.00 pm on any working day from 19.2.93 to 9.3.93.

Tenders received after the due date and time will be summarily rejected. The Board will not be responsible for the loss of the copy of specification or for the delay in postal transit. Extension of time will not be allowed beyond the due date.

Copies of the specification will be available for sale from 19.2.1993.

Copies of specification will not be available for sale on the due date for submission of tenders.

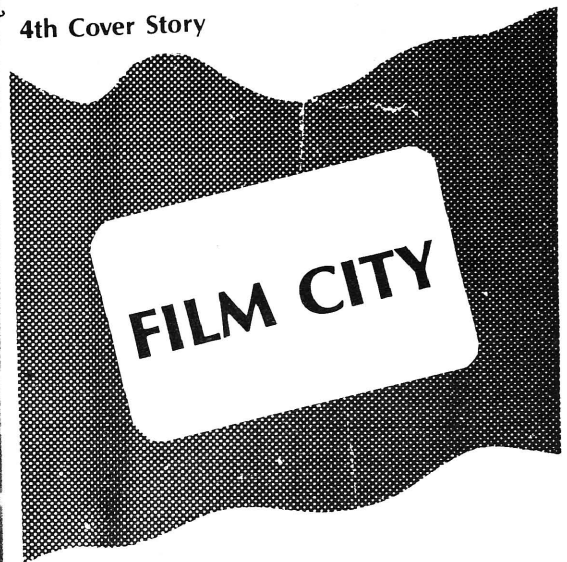
Chief Engineer/Mechanical/Coal

II Floor/Western Wing, NPKRR Maaligai,
800 Anna Salai, Madras-600 002.

Telex No: 041-7261

Fax: 91-044-831210

DIPR/233/MS/93



M. Shanmugam
Special Officer,
Film City,
Madras-600 113.

Indian sub continent, the second largest populated country in the world has got a vast cultural heritage from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. The population may have linguistic differences, but cultural integration.

Indian culture in the present century has been vastly influenced by mass media which includes cinema. While Indian cinema has got a popularity in the world cinema, Tamil cinema has proved to be the pioneer in the Indian cinema. The cinema which is otherwise called the film industry, has got greater liking in the Southern part of India, particularly the State of Tamil Nadu.

The Tamil cinema from the silent era entered into talkie in the early

1930s. Over a period of 50 to 60 years, it underwent vast changes from the Art to Technology, from black and white to colour, from 16mm to 70mm, from single track sound to multi track sound, from manually operated equipments to computerised equipments, the present trend of adopting both live and animation with a mixture.

The entire Indian Film Industry from the Artistic to Technological superiority, wholly depend on Tamil people. You may call them a Cameraman, a makeup man, an art director, a dance master, a stunt master, a playback singer, why even a carpenter. Such is the demand from Madras and from Tamil Nadu.

Film making is an art. The artistic film industry is now slowly

getting converted into Technological ART Industry. People of Tamil Nadu, in particular and people of South India in general, immediately accept any new introduction to the film industry. That is one of the reason the films of Tamil, Telegu, Malayalam and Kannada medium are being produced in and around Madras to the highest number in the country. For that matter, even Hindi films are off late with its best quality, meeting the International population around the world with the making at Madras. In the recent years, English films required for Foreign Countries are being produced in Madras.

Countries like Russia, America, Great Britain, France, have already produced joint venture films of various languages from the Madras Film Studios.

In the late Sixties and early Seventies of this century, most of

the films were produced in the Indoor Studio Floors with its vast luxurious sets costing very heavily to the producer. In the later years, particularly in the Eighties and early Nineties, most of the Producers and Directors have found the outdoor shooting locations to be more attractive to the people with its ethnic and nativity liked by various sections, various communities of the State of Tamil Nadu. The mountainous place, a river bed, a paddy field, a rural scene, a rich bungalow, everything is available in various places outside Madras City.

Producers now off late find it extremely and equally costly of yester years in going out to find out locations, filming it there, for completion of films. Not less than 50 to 100 people for an outdoor shooting location have to move for even a single day's outdoor shooting thus costing huge budget for the Producer when he gets the return or not.

The Government which is aiming at promoting the quality Tamil Film Industry, is encouraging with its subsidy to the low budgeted producers and also encourages Film Artistes and Technicians with the State Awards every year

costing the exchequer of this State. More quality films aimed at social obligations apart from the entertainment approach brings revenue to the State equally.

Our Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, with the vast experience, has formulated the Film City project which was the greatest demand of the film industry, to be established at Madras particularly in the heart of the City.

The Film City, Madras, has no comparison to the other existing two Film Cities at Trivandrum and at Bombay. The setbacks and the difficulties and anomalies of those existing Film Cities have been eliminated. The senior most and well experienced film industry personalities have got themselves amazed with the concept of the Film City conceived by our Hon'ble Chief Minister. This Film City had a very silent, simple inauguration by our Hon'ble Chief Minister, but had the maximum mass reached during its inauguration in the month of May, 1992.

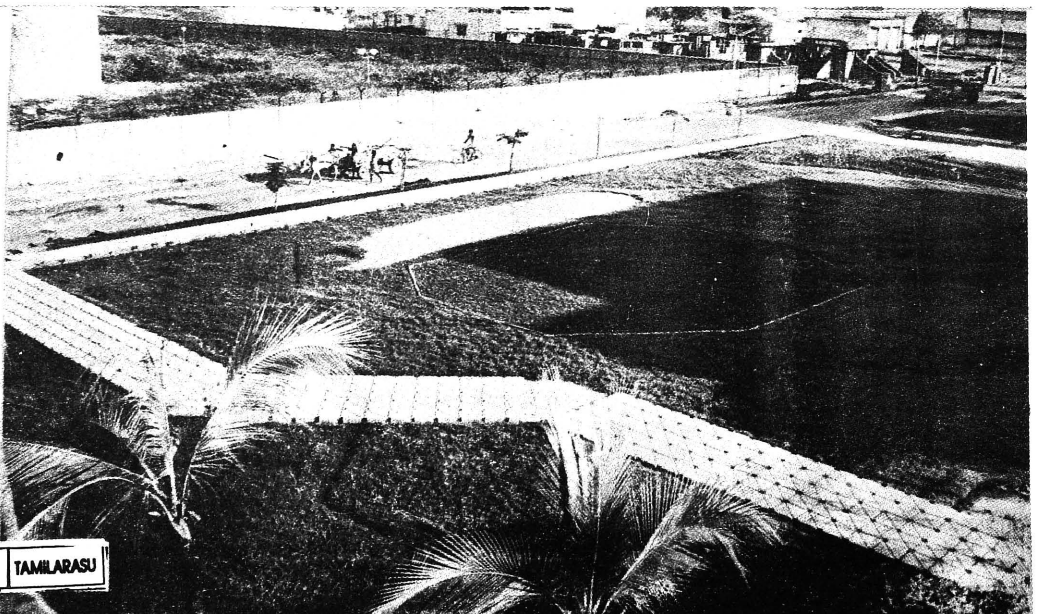
An extent of 86 Acres of land at Taramani has been earmarked for the establishment of the Asia's

Hollywood. This prestigious location will provide numerous shooting locations as well as outdoor locations for the benefit of the Film and Video Producers particularly those who are aiming at quality oriented low budgeted film under one umbrella.

This City has agricultural lands of paddy, coconut grow, mango grow, casurina grow along side of a typical village which incorporates a village temple with its tank, an agraharam street, a bazaar street, village pond, school, a railway station and a big banyan tree for Panchayat. While an Ayyanar statue and a Kathavarayan statue are erected at the entrance of the village scene, you will enjoy a scenic urban multi storied buildings also.

A middle class, a low class buildings with its co-operative store, a milk booth, a post office, answers to the urban demand.

In the recent years, Government of India has raised the rental and the deposit charges for a railway scene. Hence, the script writer have no other go except to avoid a railway station shot. This Madras Film City comes in hand to the script writer with a middle class



railway station and village railway station with its typical jatkan stand.

Again, due to administrative reasons, the jail, lock up, court, temple, church, have been either banned or restricted. To this requirement of the producers, the Film City has got a church, mosque, temple with multi faces where different Deities can be placed at the Sanctorium.

A street scene with a bus stop, a classroom with its verandah, a hospital with its operation theatre and such other every film's requirements are being meticulously conceived in this project.

A beautiful lake connected to the island in the middle by a bamboo bridge will be an added attraction with its boating facility. The 1 1/2 km length canal will have different type of style of bridges for not only transport but also for shooting requirements. The bank of the canal will have a typical of slum dwelling area to an adjoining area of a cluster of middle classes, a rich bungalow with its interior and exterior will be the real requirement of a producer for a shooting. There, it is being answered.

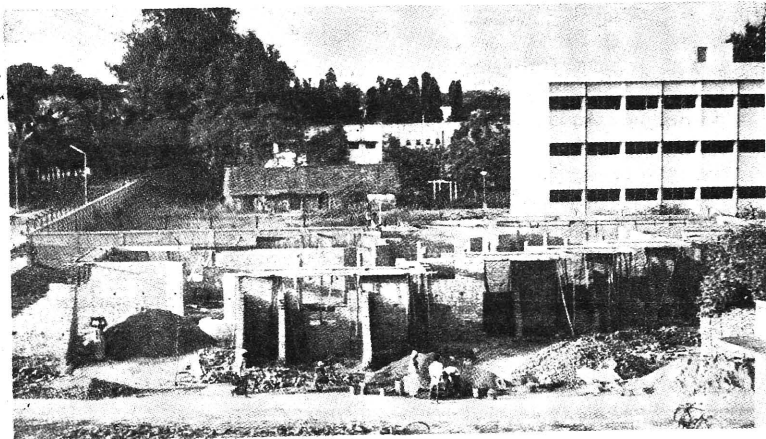
The biggest studio floor in the campus has been totally restructured with its international standard has got a sentimental effect to the minds of the producers and the leading artists of Tamil and Telugu. The sentiments are such that this floor will have box office hit films.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister's announcement that this Film City will have post production centres like re-recording theatre, Dubbing theatre, Video studio, Editing section, Processing section etc., will be of international standard and is being carried out very meticulously.

The researchers, the scholars and the students are never left in the

Film City. A beautiful Film Archive, a book library and such other requirements are being taken care even at the conception of the project.

No person need to go to Kashmir or Delhi to enjoy a Mogul garden when such a garden is available here. Amazing English meadow, an Italian garden will be one of the horticultural concentration. A typical Japanese type garden with its vast area will have remembrance of Japan. A Japanese house, a Japanese temple, meditation dry garden will create an effect as if he is in that country.



Our tourist who may be from the Madras City itself but mainly from the rural area of the State, flock the studios of Kodambakkam for a glimpse of a Hero or Heroine and now-a-days even a Film Director or a Music Director. To such innocent rural folks of us, we give them a guest treatment unlike a mere spectator status by providing a mock shooting facility using the open air theatre with every day's action packed or thrilled and duet songs for specific hours of the day. Entertainment to such visitor is so enormous while spending hours together inside the City. He will be thrilled when he goes out to tell his friends and relatives in his village. The technology and the innovations of the film industry

while the producers and the artists and technicians are practically in operation here, the visitors equally learn it and enjoy it while they see the same shot at their village theatres.

The Country Club with its highest standard facilities like cottages, swimming pool with under water photography facility, a club house, a gymnasium, health club, tennis court, a conference hall and a preview theatre will be one of the highest demand for the producers of the day.

By these facilities, what the producer has to do is to come with their artists inside the Film City with

their script and go out with their finished product at a low budgeted quality films.

The unparalleled Film City conceived by our Hon'ble Chief Minister, which is likely to be available to the producers before the end of this year dedicated to the highly needing film industry, will be one of the legacy of this century in the city of Madras as well as to the entire Nation. This is not a mere statement but the opinion of the international visitors who happen to be present at the City in the recent months from countries like United States of America, United Kingdom, Germany, France, Switzerland, Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan.

OVERSEAS MANPOWER CORPORATION

IN FLYING COLOURS IN THE PRESENT RULE



S. RAGHUPATHY, I.A.S.,
Managing Director
Overseas Manpower Corporation

The people of India are ready to go abroad in search of job opportunities. We see people being cheated with false promises by few private agencies and promoters. To help people seeking job abroad, the Government of Tamil Nadu established the Overseas Manpower Corporation Limited at Madras in the year 1979. Situated in Krishnama Street in Nungambakkam the Corporation has so far helped about 5000 applicants to be employed abroad.

It was only due to the dedication in work and proper functioning of the OMC (Overseas Manpower Corporation) that, it was able to bear the accumulated loss of Rs.18 lakh and in the current year OMC is proposed to make Rs.20 lakh profit because of heavy deployment.

After the Gulf war, there was a spurt in job opportunities and the people who had fled the Arab countries were taken back by the agency which had selected them earlier.

Though manpower is available for smaller wages from Philippines, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka the demand and respect is for Indians only. So the private agencies have

raised their fees. But the OMC charge reasonable sum for recruitment. This Corporation charges rupees one hundred as the registration fee and files the particulars in the computerised Data Bank. When the need arise the Manpower is located from the Data Bank. If an exact Match is not available in the Data Bank, advertisement is made through the right media, to attract the right

type of people. Then OMC's team of competent professionals test and screen the applicants through a series of interview to choose the right candidate. The choosen candidates are medically tested for fitness. OMC's close liaison with Regional Passport and Emigration Offices helps selected candidates to get their passports, visas and emigration clearance at the earliest. On selection the appli-

* OMC is a Government organisation. Its vast experience and knowledge of international business practices, ensures the best for the applicants.

* OMC is a service oriented, not profit oriented organisation.



* OMC offers trade testing facility for industries like Airconditioning, Autobomobiles, Bakery, Construction, Dry Docks, Electricals, Electronics, Fabrication, Hoteliering, Line Bricks, Petrochemicals, Refinery, Refrigeration and Sewerage.

cant has to pay a small sum as service charge as prescribed by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

After the Gulf war, the OMC has selected 458 applicants and of that 208 candidates have been sent to Gulf countries for employment.

Middlemen and commissions are prevented since the officials and employers who offer employment, themselves meet the applicants to conduct the interview in OMC.

Professionals in the field of Medicine, Engineering and Technology, sales etc. are being sent to Gulf countries and South Eastern Countries by OMC for a minimum charge.

As the demand for medical personal is in large number of Saudi Arabia the OMC is presently engaged in sending 802 doctors and professionals in the field of medicine. This is the highest number in the history of OMC.

Apart from this, on request from Medina and Saudi Arabia eligible Muslim professionals in the field of Carpentry and painting are to be selected and sent soon. Further selection for house-maids would be made soon for Bahrain and Singapore. There is a possibility for 2,000 persons to go abroad before the end of this year if the existing vacancies abroad are filled by the OMC.

As in Tamil Nadu, OMC's are functioning in the cities like New Delhi and Trivandrum but the

** Only OMC can arrange the deputation of experts currently working in Government Organisations in India, to work your Organisation.*

** Since it is an approved agent of the Ministry of Labour, Government of India, you need not remit any emigration deposit to the Protector General of Emigrants, New Delhi.*

** Out of 13 years OMC sustained loss in 10 years. During 1992-93 total accumulated loss was about Rs.18 lakh. But during the last six months because of the encouragement of Hon'ble Chief Minister, the Corporation has earned profit more than Rs.20 lakh, wiping out the entire previous losses.*

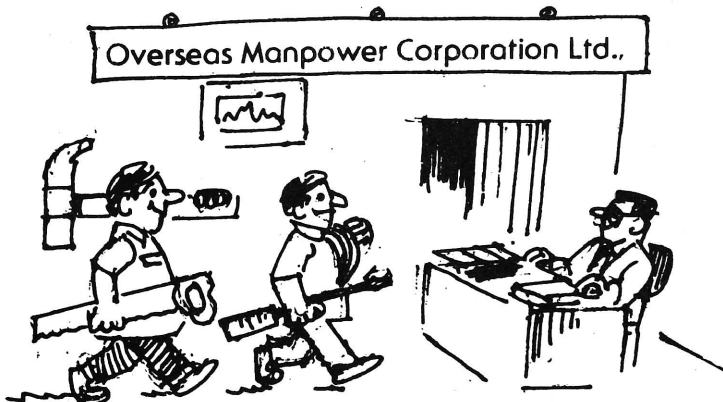
Tamil Nadu Overseas Manpower Corporation is considered as the one which send skilled efficient and qualified personnels.

So far 16,000 professionals in various fields have registered in OMC's data bank. Government employees can also register their names but work experience is an essential qualification.

Further OMC is taking steps to obtain passports for the public in the Districts of Madras, Chengalpattu-MGR, North Arcot-Ambedkar, South Arcot, Tiruvannamalai-Sambuvarayar, Salem, Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Periyar and Nilgiris and Pondicherry. So far 400 people got their passport through this OMC.

Persons who want to be employed abroad through this OMC can register their names by sending Rupees one hundred and ten only through Demand Draft to the following address.

Managing Director,
Overseas Manpower Corporation,
12, First Floor,
Krishnama Road,
Numgambakkam,
Madras-34.



THE SOCIO-ECONOMICAL DEVELOPMENT

ACTIVITIES OF TAHDCO IN DHARMAPURI DISTRICT

Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing and Development Corporation (TAHDCO) is implementing the following schemes for the social and economical development of Adidraviders in Dharmapuri District.

Self employment schemes

This scheme envisages setting up of self employment ventures by the beneficiaries identified in urban and rural areas so as to enable them to stand on their own legs by improving their standard of living. This has generated self confidence among the beneficiaries of the scheme to eke our livelihood with the financial assistance provided by TAHDCO. The maximum unit cost under this scheme is Rs.10,000 out of which 50% will be given as subsidy from TAHDCO and the remaining 50% will be given as loan from the participating financial institutions. Under this scheme, the financial assistance is given for provision stores, petty shops, vegetable vending, sound system, cycle shop, leather goods manufacture and sales, cutpiece cloths, utensil stores, wet grinder, tiffin stall, mutton stall, country treewood, milk depot vending, carpentry, blacksmithy, nylon basket knitting, radio and TV repairing, groundnut candling, pickles manufacturing, etc.

The physical target is 200 and the financial target is Rs.10 lakh for implementing the scheme in Dharmapuri District during the year 1992-93.

Self employment training scheme

This is one of the most important plans provided under poverty alleviation programmes implemented

by TAHDCO, for the benefit of Adi Dravidars youth (both for men and women) in the pattern of TRYSEM (Training of rural youth for self employment) for a period from 6 months to one year to enable them to seek self employment ventures with the financial assistance provided by banks and subsidy by TAHDCO. This scheme, besides creating motivation, helps to develop the immediate potential and skill of the trainees also to secure huge employment in industrial units. The school drop-outs beside qualified youth get the benefit under this scheme. Under this scheme a sum of Rs.250 is paid as stipend per month to the trainee. Raw material at a cost of Rs.25 and trainees fee of Rs.75 per trainee is given every month. Tool kits worth Rs.500 is also given at the end of the training to each trainee. The entire cost of the training is given as cent percent subsidy under special central assistance.

In Dharmapuri District the following trainings are given at present:

Sl. No.	Name of the Institution	Course of Training	Male	Fe-Male	Total
1.	Velavan Technical Institute - Dharmapuri	Tailoring	-	14	14
b.	Velavan Technical Institute- Dharmapuri	Radio&TV Training	14	-	14
2.	Sri Krishna Engineering Works - Dharmapuri -	Motor-Rewinding	10	-	10
b.	Sri Krishna Engineering Works - Dharmapuri -	Oil Engine Madhanism	10	-	10
3.	Harur Town Women Tailoring Institute and Training Society- Harur	Tailoring	-	20	20
4.	a. Institute of Agronomy Kaveripattinam	Tailoring	-	14	14
	Institute of Agronomy, Kaveripattinam	Simple Wiring	18	-	18
Total			52	48	100

For implementing the training scheme in the District during the year 1992-93 the physical target has been fixed as 100 and the financial target has been fixed as Rs.2.60 lakh.



Petty Trade Scheme

This scheme, as the name suggests, envisages providing credit linked subsidy and Margin Money assistance to poor Hindu Adi-Dravidars and Adi Dravidars converted to Christianity for starting petty self employment ventures. Under this scheme the financial assistance is given for printing press, carpentry, shoe making, petty shop, flour mill, provision store, tea stall, tailoring shop etc (Numbering 33 such trades). The unit cost of the scheme is Rs.5000 out of which Rs.1000 is given as subsidy from TAHDCO, 25% of the unit cost as Margin Money loan from TAHDCO with 4% interest recoverable in 10 years and the remaining amount from the financing commercial banks.

For implementing this scheme in this District during 1992-93 the following physical and financial targets have been fixed.

	No. of families	TAHDCO subsidy Rs. in lakhs
1. Hindu Adi-dravidars	25	0.25
2. Adi-dravidars converted to Christianity	5	0.05
Total	30	0.30

20 Point Programme

Under this scheme the financial assistance is provided to Hindu Adidravidadars and Scheduled Tribes for starting self employment ventures such as printing press, petty shop, provision stores etc (numbering 32 such trades) as in the case of petty trades scheme. The unit cost of the scheme is Rs.5000 out of which Rs.1000 is given as subsidy from TADHCO, 25% of the unit cost as TAHDCO. Margin Money loan at 4% interest recoverable in 10 years and the remaining amount as loan from commercial Banks.

For implementing the scheme in this District during 1992-93 the following physical and financial targets have been fixed.

	No. of families	TAHDCO subsidy
1. Hindu Adi-dravidars	35	0.35
2. Schedules Tribes	5	0.025
Total	40	0.375

Agriculture and allied activities

Of all the economic development schemes implemented by TAHDCO most importance is given to Agriculture and Agro-oriented Projects with a

view to improve a lot of poor Adi-dravidars who predominantly depend on Agriculture for their livelihood in the rural areas. To raise up the economical status of the Adi-dravidars small and marginal farmers TAHDCO has taken concerned effort to provide a package of assistance to alleviate the problems and giving financial assistance every year to over come the problems experienced by them. To implement the Agriculture and Agro-oriented Projects the physical and financial targets have been fixed as follows:-

	No. of families	TAHDCO subsidy Rs. in lakhs
1. Centrigugal Pumpset (Diesel 5 HP)	10	0.60
2. Power sprayer with one cycle	5	0.1125
3. Bullock cart with pair of Bullocks	50	2.50
4. Pneumatic tyre cart with pair of Bullocks	75	5.8125
5. Plough Bullocks	50	1.125
6. Gem cutting cum polishing machine	30	2.25
Total	220	12.40

Individual entrepreneurs scheme

The most serious and depressing problem among Adi-diravidars has been the lack of adequate opportunities for employment, the magnitude of which has taken unparalleled dimensions. In order to tackle this problem TAHDCO has launched the innovative scheme called the 'Individual Entrepreneurs' scheme from 1990-91 onwards. The centre piece of its strategy is to give priority to creation of assets which are technically feasible, commercially profitable and economically viable costing upto Rs.5 lakh and more. It make a water shed among all the programmes implemented by TAHDCO to bring about a radical change in raising the standard of living of entrepreneurs among Adi-dravidars in the State. Under this scheme a sum of Rs.15,000 is sanctioned as TAHDCO subsidy to an individual entrepreneur, 20% of the Project Cost of Rs.85,000 which ever is less is sanctioned as TAHDCO Margin Money Loan with 4% interest recoverable in 10 years and the remaining as bank loan. The scheme encompasses most spectrum of income generating economic activity such as Lorries, Tractors with Trailors, Oil Tankers, Mini Vans, Tourist Taxies, Tourist Mini Buses, Auto Rickshaws, Dairy farms, Poultry Units, Hospitals, Clinics, Leather Industries, Export garments, Granite Polishing Unit, Computer Centres, Xerox machines and other such projects.



The following are the physical and financial targets fixed for this District for the year 1992-93

	Physical Target		Financial Target Total (TAHDCO)		
	Project cost	Subsidy	Margin money	Bank loan	
		(Rs. in lakhs)			
1. Individual Entrepreneur Scheme	60	93.00	9.00	12.00	72.00

A sum of Rs.46.675 lakh have been provided for implementing the TAHDCO scheme to benefit 650 Adi-dravidars during the year 1992-93 in Dharmapuri District.

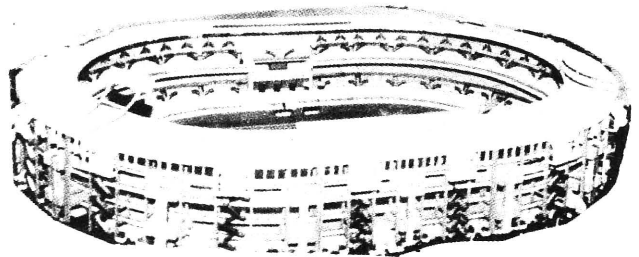
The individual (families) who have already availed subsidy under TAHDCO schemes or under any

other State Government Offices or under any State on Central Government Departments or Undertakings are not eligible for availing the subsidy or any other benefits under TAHDCO scheme.

The Adi-dravidars who are willing to avail the benefits under TAHDCO schemes may get the prescribed application forms from the Office of the District Manager, TAHDCO, Dharmapuri and the applications should be sent to the District Manager, TAHDCO, Dharmapuri in duplicate (Triplicate in case of Individual Entrepreneurs scheme) along with pass port size photos, community certificate, income certificates, Ration Card in duplicate through the Extension Officer (Adi-dravidar Welfare) of the Panchayat Union concerned.

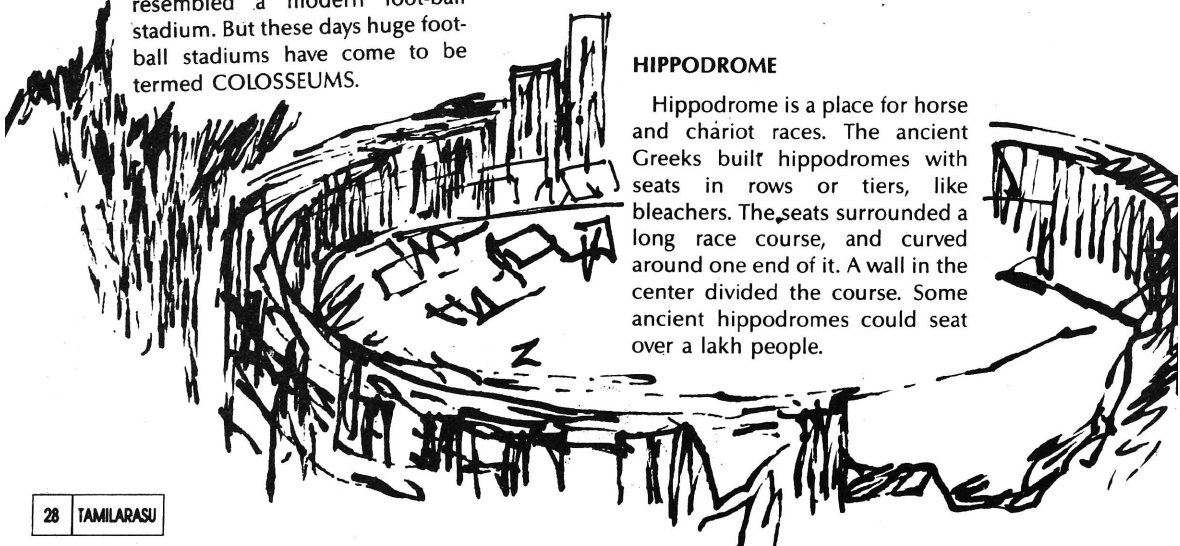
COLOSSEUM:

The word COLOSSEUM comes from the Latin colosseums which means gigantic. The word was commonly referred to amphitheatres. In shape, the colosseum resembled a modern foot-ball stadium. But these days huge foot-ball stadiums have come to be termed COLOSSEUMS.



HIPPODROME

Hippodrome is a place for horse and chariot races. The ancient Greeks built hippodromes with seats in rows or tiers, like bleachers. The seats surrounded a long race course, and curved around one end of it. A wall in the center divided the course. Some ancient hippodromes could seat over a lakh people.





NEHRU STADIUM THE SITE, ITS HISTORY

RANDOR GUY

The site of the prestigious 'Nehru Stadium' is hallowed and historically interesting as part of the history of Madras City. A vast area in that part of the city was known as the People's Park and the present Stadium occupies a part of that Park. The famed botanical garden of the city popularly known as 'My Lady's Garden' and the city zoo which was a noted attraction of the city for many decades formed part of this sprawling park.

The name 'Park Town' with division number 3 of the city postal district is derived from the People's Park. Before the city was

divided into numbers by the postal department, the entire area was known as (P.T. Madras) Park Town, Madras.

While the practical disappearance of the People's Park, people today wonder why this area is named Park Town.

During the 19th Century, People's Park was the venue of the annual Christmas Fair, a great event of excitement, fun and charm for not only the citizens of Madras but also to people of the old Madras Presidency and surrounding areas. During the British regime, the Madras Presidency with its 26 districts covered almost

entire South India minus the 'native states' ruled by a Maharaja or Nawab like Mysore, Travancore, Cochin and Nizam's Dominions. Madras was indeed the cultural capital of South India- which it continues to be even today- and thousands of visitors- men, women and children thronged to the city during the Christmas week to attend what was popularly known as the Park Fair.

The Fair featured fancy bazaars of diverse description with shops and show windows displaying a variety of articles from even every part of the world. (Those were the days a bewildering range of articles of every kind were freely available in the city. Even cases of beef from Argentina). There were magic shows, mechanical dolls with the seemingly incredible figure of a man smoking two cigarettes simultaneously, holding one in each hand! There was also a 'magic car' show with a motor car running around endlessly in circles with no driver inside!

Another attraction was thirty

feet-tall man wearing very very long pants, obviously a stilt walker who went round the Fair greeting people and also scaring kids.

At nights when the lovely, velvety blue tropical sky turned dark there was a scintillatingly colourful display of fire works, dazzling the sky, a sight for angels which could be seen for miles around. There was also a permanent band stand seated on which the Madras Corporation Band played mostly Western Music. There were shops where one could buy any article for one anna (6 paise). A white monkey was another great attraction which some people treated with reverence bowing often before it.

The entire atmosphere was gay and lively, and to quote the Hindu of January 1887 "Men... Women and children clad in their choicest holiday attire and bedecked with all the ornaments at their command joyfully walked round and round, now trying their luck in a Japanese shop, now witnessing the white monkey, and now entering the refreshment room. Many of the gentry, European and native after going the first round within the band enclosure".

During January 1887, a fire broke out at the Fair and hundreds lost their lives and thousands were injured. An enquiry was ordered by the Government of Madras into the tragedy. Among the several witnesses examined by the coroner were the legendary British barrister and a man of history - Eardley Norton, and the celebrated educationist and principal of the Madras Christian College Rev. Dr. Miller.

There was some evidence of sabotage but nothing more could be found out about the cause of the tragedy.

The trauma of the tragedy was so deep that the park fair was not revived until 1901.

Another attraction in the later

years was the 'Rekla' race. The Rekla was a kind of an open pony cart on which stood the driver and raced the pony to the accompaniment of screams, shouts and loud noises from every one around except the poor animal. The event was very popular with the lower strata of the society. Betting on the out-come of the races was also rampant leading to argument and fistcuffs later. Indeed it was a world of fun and excitement, of a different era, different life style.

All of this has vanished, never to return again, leaving behind only memories.

Another attraction of the People's Park was a Corporation run swimming pool with a grandiose name, 'Royal Bath!' Those were the days Madras City did not boast of many swimming pools and the Royal Bath (had nothing royal except the name) was popular with economically weaker section of the society, as the phrase goes, and visiting British and foreign sailors and such out-doorsy folks. During weekends there were more people than water leading to frayed tempers and frequent fistcuffs accompanied by shrill feminine screams of encouragement and despair!

And then times changed. The

WORLD CUP LOST

A 1966 pre-world cup sensation was the theft of the trophy itself. Stanley Gibbons, the stamp dealers, proudly presented it at a stamp exhibition and a thief took them at their word. All was well eight days later when a dog called Pickles found the cup undamaged in his garden. His proud owner collected the reward.

People's Park began to lose its importance and soon the Indian rulers of the city and state planned to have a stadium on this historic memory rich sight. And befittingly it was called the Nehru Stadium.

During the 1950s, the Nehru Stadium became the venue and focus of international cricket played at Madras. For a short period of time, the cricket scene shifted from the famed Madras Cricket Club (MCC) to the Nehru Stadium. Australia, Pakistan and New Zealand Cricket teams played test matches on this ground. Superstars of the cricket world like Garfield Sobers, Wesley Hall, Raymond Lindwall, Neil Harvey, Ian Johnson, Nawab of Pataudi, S.P. Gupte, Vinoo Mankad, Pankaj Roy and several others have left their foot prints on the Stadium. It was on this ground Vinoo Mankad and Pankaj Roy established the world record for the first wicket partnership in a test match playing against New Zealand during 1950s.

Many sports events beside cricket took place in this historic Stadium. Thousands of sports fans are sure to have in their memory-banks the highs and lows, the cheers and groans, the fun and excitement of many a moment gone over the horizon.



THE FOSSILS

By

D. JAWAHAR PRASAD RAJ

Curator,

Geology Section

Government Museum, Madras.

On the other day, a batch of students from nearby school were standing near the huge fossil wood exhibit (stationed in the Government Museum open air garden) and, they were amazed on seeing the tree trunk's colour, while, others were Curious to know how the original green trunk of a tree after many years had turned into a brownish golden tint colour with the hardness that of a stone. Actually it is no doubt a stone but geologically it is a wood turned into a stone like object called "WOOD FOSSIL".

The term "PALAEONTOLOGY" is a science which deals with the study of fossils. Fossils are recognisable remains of once living plants or animals, most of which have been extinct for many thousands of years. The remnants of plants or animals of the past geologic ages preserved in the rocks of the earth crust by natural process are known as fossils. Fossils are mostly preserved in sedimentary rocks. It may comprise the remains of the complete animal.

It also occurs in the form of impressions of footprints or leafprints and not the original part of the organism. Fossils might be also in the form of casts or mould.

It is well known that millions of animals and plants had lived, died and were destroyed without leaving a trace. But it has been observed that the following factors are most important for the preservation of organism as fossils. They are the possession of hard-parts like shells, bones, skeleton and quick burial of the remains by different process to prevent destruction by scavengers and decay. Any animals or plants satisfying the above condition can be preserved as fossils under normal condition.

Fossilization may occur in several ways. Sometimes that soft parts may remain unaltered in fossilization. In some cases only hard-parts remain unaltered and in some other cases hard-parts may also be altered. Sometimes, hard-parts preserved within the accumulating sediments may be totally removed

in solution. As a result, hollows are left within the rock beds which are called moulds. When the moulds are filled up subsequently with mineral matter, it is known as casts.

The study of fossils constitute an integral part of any investigation leading to the discovery of new deposits of coal and petroleum. It helps in establishing the geological age of the rock beds and their correct order of succession in any area. It is also used for correlating rock beds of one area with those of the another. Moreover, the study of fossils is of highest importance to the Biologist not only because they include the ancestors of modern species but, because among fossil forms we find many groups which are altogether extinct and which often throws light on the relationship of existing animals and plants.

The collection of fossils in the Geology Gallery of the Madras Government Museum are arranged according to the different periods to which they belong. The gallery begins with a coloured chart of the geological time scale in which the



various geological periods, their duration and the important animals and plants which lived during those periods are explained. The fossil collections are mainly comprised of invertebrate fossils and the cretaceous fossils are mainly from Trichy cretaceous formations.

Among the exhibits in this gallery, the most interesting to mention a few are the plaster model of BRONTOSAURUS, photographs of TRACHODEN, STEGOSAURUS,

the Gigantic Ammonite fossil specimen from Trichy District and the fossil elephant skull from Rameswaram. During the MESOZOIC Era, (i.e. in Trassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous periods) giant reptiles known as DINOSAURUS dominated the earth and became extinct at the close of that Era. Brontosaurus is an extinct reptile which lived during Jurassic period (about 150 million years ago). It was a voracious eater living on the Vegetation. The specimen ex-

hibited in the gallery is a plaster model 1/25th size of the original reconstruction in America. Stegosaurus and Triceratops lived during Jurassic and Cretaceous periods respectively.

Plant fossil and fossil wood are also well exhibited in the Geology Gallery. The fossil wood discovered in 1940 near SATHANUR was 86 feet long and 54 inches in diameter. It is also found in "TIRUVAKKARAI" near Pondicherry which was about 70 feet long and 3 to 5 feet in diameter. Among the plant fossils, the Gondwana specimens and the specimens from Britain are of interest.

The fossil specimens exhibited under Cretaceous periods are exclusively from Trichy district in Tamil Nadu. A Gigantic Ammonite specimen from Trichy area and the huge fossil skull of an elephant from Rameswaram attracts the attention of most of the visitors in the Geology Gallery. Moreover, a visit to the Geology Gallery is very useful and helpful for the students of geology and of general public.

STILL IN THE WOODS

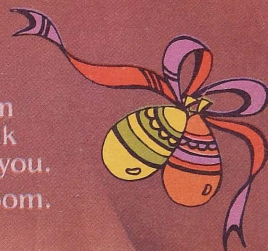
ALL are mine;
 Nothing else to remain.
 River, sky, sea feel shy;
 When I walk with pride and high.
 Gold! or Silver! What I have;
 Bring the world be in my sleeve
 Hats are up, Do you believe?
 When I hope and see people alive.
 Stop!
 You are going bad to worst;
 Behold! the shivering frost and drought.
 All are ruined under your feet;
 Ask anybody saying against this truth?
 You made out the palace, How?
 by minding the Earth to bow!
 Green shades are drawn to ground;
 And grinding Earth brought to halt around.
 Groaning of lives; you don't bother;
 Going on to set things in disorder.
 Wood and river you had spoiled;
 Old or new that won't you care.

Where do you stand; Can I say!
 At a withering edge soon wilting away!
 Is it? ... Yes!
 I feel it quick, something to take;
 Will you help and make me quiet.
 Oh! Nobody; Water or Wind! I want to breathe,
 YAH! I made them all Scenting filth.
 Wait!
 Don't you lose your hope to live;
 Devil or spirit nothing to believe.
 Be with us! and bear with us!
 Benefit with us and be side with us.
 The world is to all that who loves;
 Rich or poor, old or young but true.
 Nature is true! True is Nature!
 Never be in the woods still again.

M. Madasamy,
 Divisional Development Officer-
 Personal Assistant to
 the Collector-The Nilgiris.
 Tamil Nadu.

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