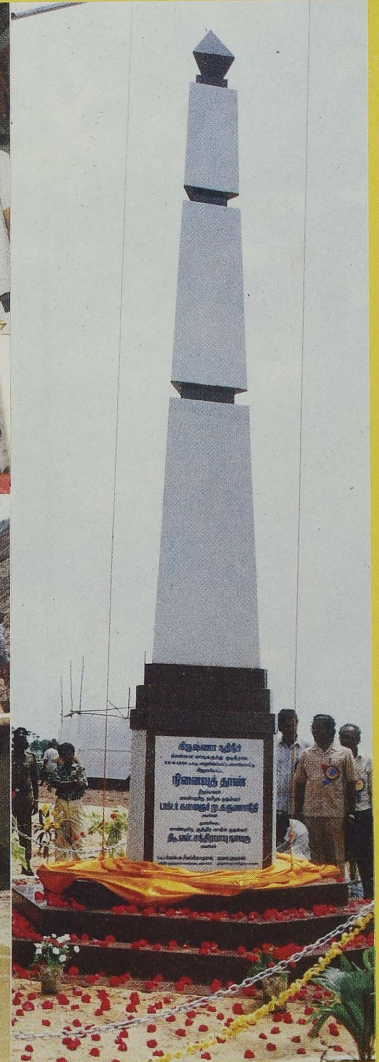


Tamil Arasu

NOVEMBER 1996 Rs.3





Tamil Arasu

Magazine of the Government of Tamil Nadu

NOVEMBER - 1996

★ Krishna Water released for Chennai	2
★ Telugu Ganga Project - an example of Inter-State Co-operation	3
★ “I expect preferential treatment will be given to Tamil Nadu in setting up liquid fuel based power plants” -Chief Minister Kalignar M. Karunanidhi at the Conference of Power held at New Delhi on 16.10.96	9
★ What kills children?	13
★ Knowledge -Subramania Bharathi	14
★ Science Update	16
★ Internet acronyms: Learn the Language	17
★ Unfinished Business -Monica Sharma & James Jullocl	18
★ Exploitation of Children	21
★ A new archaeological discovery	28
★ The art of parenthood	29
★ Contact Dermatitis -Dr. G.Ilangovan	30

Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu Participate

KRISHNA WATER RELEASED FOR CHENNAI

History was made on September 29, 1996 when water from the Krishna river in Andhra Pradesh started flowing into Chennai, heralding a new chapter in the relationship between Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. When the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, K. Jaganmohan Reddy 'accepted' the water from the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, N. Chandrababu Naidu, it marked the fruition of an Inter-State project launched 13 years ago.

At 11-15 a.m., a manually-operated shutter at the 'zero point' at Tamaraikuppam, a village on the border of the two states, about 65 km from Chennai, was lifted to let the water into Tamil Nadu. At this 'zero point', the Telugu Ganga Project in Andhra Pradesh becomes the Krishna Water Supply Project (KWSP) in Tamil Nadu.

It was for the first time in the country that water of an Inter-State river was being made available to a city situated outside the river basin. To symbolise the release, Thiru. Chandrababu Naidu pressed a button and a replica of the shutter kept near the dais went up.

About 300 cusecs was released to the final leg of the Satyamurthi Sagar in Poondi and then to the city.

"This will show the way for other States to evolve a constructive co-operation among themselves", the Chief Minister said. "We are together and we will work together. Our friendship will be permanent", the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister remarked.

At a function held to commemorate the water release, Chief Minister K. Jaganmohan Reddy unveiled a 20-feet-tall marble pillar and symbolically received the water amidst cheers from people belonging to both the States.

The Chief Minister said following the inauguration of the scheme, water supply in the city would be increased from the present 240 million litres a day (MLD) to 440 MLD.

The scheme was launched in 1983 when the late M.G. Ramachandran and N.T. Rama Rao were the Chief Ministers. When he returned to power in 1989, Thiru. Karunanidhi said, he gave



a push to the project by taking it up with the successive Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh.

Referring to Thiru. Naidu's statement that Thiru. Karunanidhi would be his leader for ever, the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister said he was overwhelmed to hear it and was fortunate to have such a 'general' ('thalapathi'). Thiru. Naidu's name would always be in his heart.

In addition to providing drinking water to Chennai, the scheme would benefit the Rayalaseema region. Water from the project would immediately irrigate 47,000 acres in the region.

Thiru. Naidu said he intimately knew Thiru. Karunanidhi for more than 15 years. "I have

always called Kalaigarnar Karunanidhi my leader. I proudly say that he will be my leader for ever".

The Tamil Nadu PWD Minister, Thiru. Durai Murugan, expressed the hope that the Krishna water supply scheme would lay the foundation for the linking of major rivers in the country. Dr. K. Sivaprasada Rao, Medium and Major Irrigation Minister of Andhra Pradesh, said the State had spent about Rs. 230 crores in the last year alone for the scheme.

Thiru. Murasoli Maran, Hon'ble Union Industries Minister, Thiru. N.V.N. Somu, Union Hon'ble Minister of State for Defence, Thiru. N. Veerasami, and Thiru. Ko. Si. Mani, Tamil Nadu Ministers and Thiru. K.A. Nambiar, Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary, were present.

TELUGU GANGA PROJECT - *an example of inter-state cooperation*

The successful bringing in of Krishna water to Tamil Nadu was hailed as a shining example of inter-state Co-operation and a spirit of true federalism by Kalaigarnar M. Karunanidhi and Thiru N. Chandrababu Naidu, Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

An air of festivity and rejoicing filled the air as Thiru Chandrababu Naidu, amidst thundering cheers, poured Krishna water from a silver pot into a vessel held by Thiru Karunanidhi to mark the joyous occasion at a function held at the Government estate in front of Rajaji Hall in Chennai on 29-9-96.

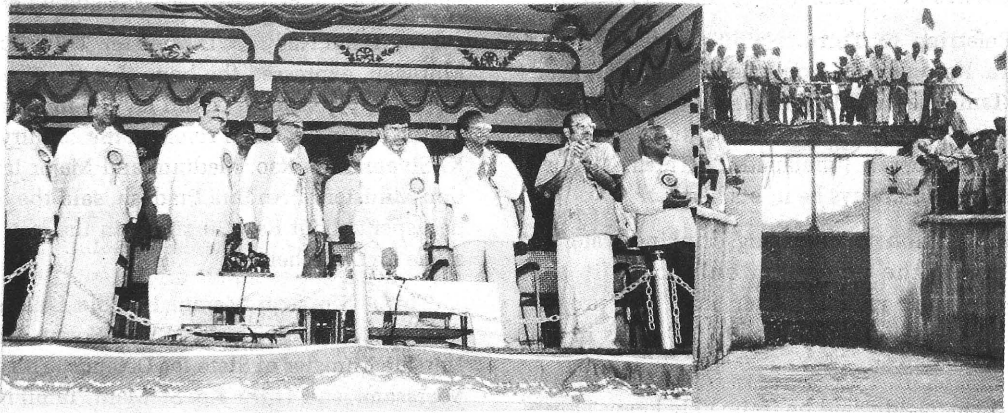
The Tamil Nadu Governor, Dr. M. Channa Reddy, Thiru Murasoli Maran and Thiru M. Arunachalam, Union Ministers for Industry and Labour respectively who participated in the function, congratulated both the States for having made history and having set an example of mutual love and cooperation for emulation by other States in the country.

Thiru Karunanidhi said it was time that the regional parties became strong and united to protect the unity, integrity and sovereignty of the nation and also further strengthen the united front Government at the Centre.

Referring to a plea made earlier by Thiru Maran for taking

up the Cooum improvement scheme in Chennai, Thiru Karunanidhi said that unlike the Krishna water project termed by the Union Industry minister as an example of true federalism minus centre, Cooum improvement project required Centre's help. If the Centre did not come forward to help, the State would approach the World Bank and other international agencies. More than that the Central Ministers from Tamil Nadu should extend their cooperation in the task.

The Chief Minister paid moving tributes to his counterpart for having shown keen interest in expediting the Krishna water project.



Thiru Karunanidhi had a word of praise for Thiru Durai Murugan, Tamil Nadu PWD Minister, for the way he struggled day and night to expedite the project.

"Thiru Chandrababu Naidu is my loving brother and he is one of dynamic forces who laid the foundation for the United Front. I would say that Thiru Naidu is one of the pillars of the United Front", Thiru Karunanidhi said.

The Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister who regaled the vast crowd by speaking in Tamil for a few minutes before switching over to English and Telugu, became little emotional as he referred to the cultural ties of Tamils and Telugus for generations.

He was happy that the Krishna water project could be completed to the satisfaction of Tamil Nadu. If States were to abide by the verdict of Tribu-

nals, there could be no inter-State water sharing problems on the Alamatti dam issue.

"Thiru Karunanidhi is my leader", Thiru Naidu said and added that regional parties in the country were going to play a very vital role in national politics hereafter. He assured the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister that he would work under his leadership in a spirit of true federalism.

Dr. Channa Reddy said that the country was getting into an era where all the political parties should learn to work together for fulfilling the aspirations of the people. He said the United Front Government at the Centre was a peculiar phenomenon. But it was a wonderful phenomenon.

Thiru Maran, said it was for the first time in the country that a scheme of this kind had been executed without the involvement of the Central Government.

This was an illustration to show how States could moot projects on their own and execute them. Like in U.S., the "Federalism minus New Delhi" should be evolved. The Centre should confine itself to framing guidelines for the functioning of States and act as a referee, he added.

Thiru. M. Arunachalam said there was a possibility to unite States, which were divided on the basis of languages through linking of rivers. He requested the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister to formulate projects which would benefit the public on the long run.

Dr. K. Sivaprasada Rao, Andhra Pradesh Major and Medium Irrigation Minister, said the visionary approach of elders combined with technological advancements, could help improve the quality of people. This was the uniqueness, of projects like the Telugu Ganga.

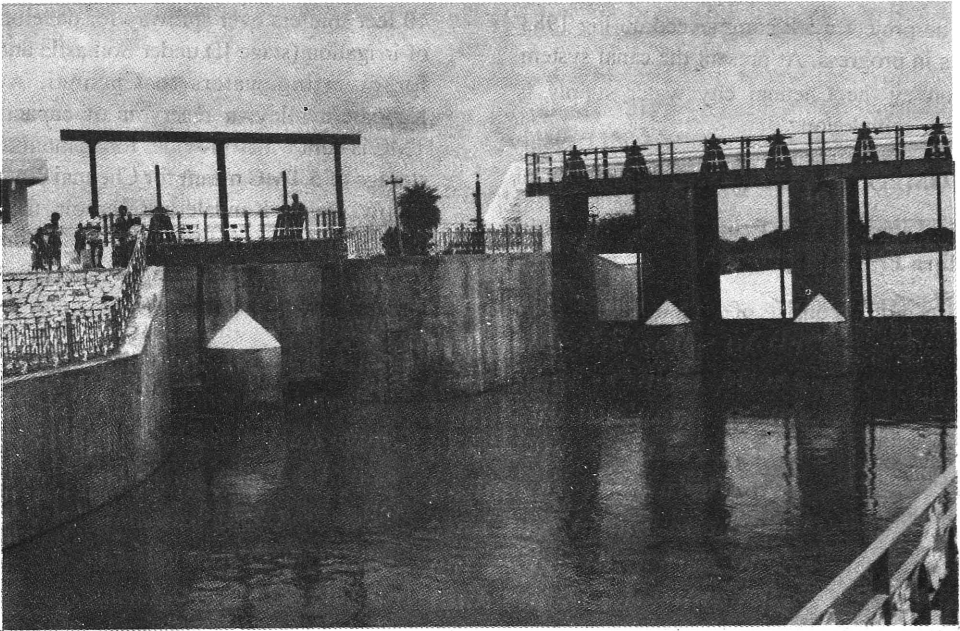
KRISHNA WATER SUPPLY PROJECT AND TELUGU GANGA PROJECT

The Project

On the initiative of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Tmt. Indira Gandhi in 15th February 1976, the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra mutually signed an agreement on 14th April 1976 to spare each 5 tmc annually from their share of Krishna Water to Tamil Nadu for Chennai city water supply. The Tamil Nadu Government also entered into an agreement with the Government of

The portion of the project falling in Andhra Pradesh limits and to be implemented by that Government is known as Telugu Ganga project. This includes works above Pennar and below Pennar. The portion in Tamil Nadu limits to be implemented by Tamil Nadu is known as Krishna Water Supply Project.

As per the agreement, the cost of the common components of the scheme is to be

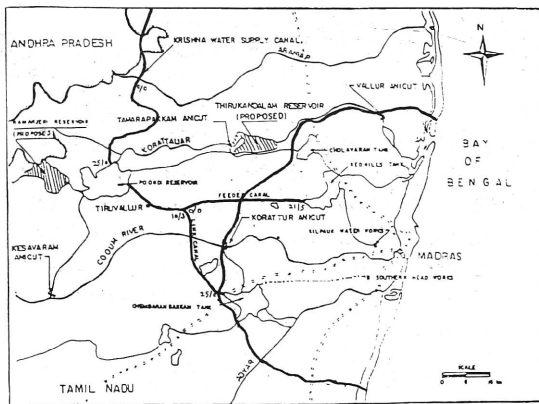


FEEDER CANAL LSOM HEADSLUICE

Andhra Pradesh on 18th April 1983 for the implementation of the project for the drawal of 15 tmc. of water from river Krishna for Chennai city water supply.

The project is being implemented as joint project for water supply to Chennai and irrigation for 5.75 lakhs acres in Andhra Pradesh within the frame work of the agreement.

shared in proportion to the contemplated utilisation in both the States. The quantity being ensured at the Tamil Nadu border on an annual basis, the manner of the drawal at the border month after month, the components of the project to be executed in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu limits and the guidelines for the cost allocation are specified in the agreement drawn on 18th April 1983, between Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.



KRISHNA WATER SUPPLY PROJECT FOR MADRAS - INDEX MAP

from Srisailem Reservoir to Tamil Nadu border for a length of 379 KMs with 3 Reservoirs enroute viz., Velugodu Reservoir, Somasila Reservoir and Kendaleru Reservoir. The total length of the canal from Somasila to Tamil Nadu border is 197 KMs.

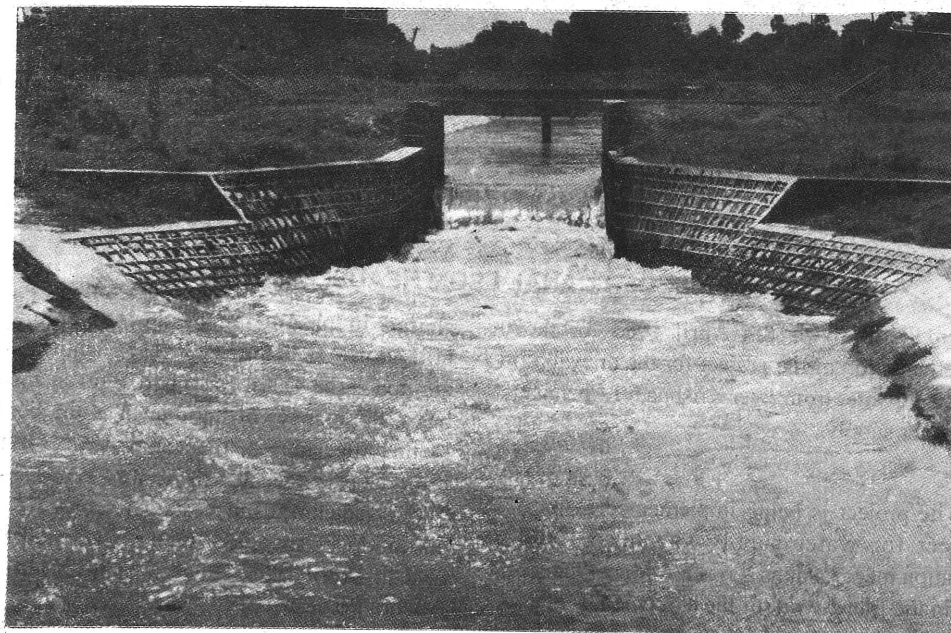
In the course of the canal, from Srisailem Reservoir on Krishna after the Mittakondala ridge cut and below Banakacherla Regulator, the Velugodu Reservoir is formed with a capacity of 17 TMC to serve the proposed irrigation of 1.25 lakh acres in Kurnool District and 1.50 lakh acres in Cudappah District. On Pennar, the capacity of the existing Somasila Reservoir is increased from 16 TMC to 78 TMC by creating 40 feet shutters over spillway for development of irrigation (stage II) under Somasila and also for diverting waters to Chennai. Across Kandaleruvalley, a reservoir of capacity 59 TMC is built which provides for an intermediate storage of 5 TMC meant for Chennai city water supply. Below Kandaleru Reservoir, the canal will be irrigating 3 lakh acres in Nellore and Chittoor Districts of Andhra Pradesh before it enters Tamil Nadu border.

The project work commenced during 1983 and is in progress. At present the canal system to convey the Chennai city water supply is nearing completion.

II COMPONENTS OF THE PROJECT:

1) Telugu Ganga Project Components in Andhra Pradesh Limits:

The project consists of the conductor system



The cost of the Telugu Ganga Projects on date is about Rs.2180 crores. An amount of Rs.512 crores has been given to Government of Andhra Pradesh towards the share of Tamil Nadu.

2. KRISHNA WATER SUPPLY

PROJECT COMPONENTS:

i) Kandaleru Poondi canal from Andhra Pradesh - Tamil Nadu border to Poondi reservoir:

This is a 25.28 KM long canal from Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu border to Poondi reservoir with discharging capacity of 1000 cusecs.

ii) Providing additional storage space in Tamil Nadu limits.

- Raising the F.R.L. of Poondi Reservoir.
- Raising the F.T.L. of Chembarambakkam tank.
- Raising the F.T.L. of Red Hills lake.

To provide additional capacity to store water, the F.T.Ls of the above reservoirs have

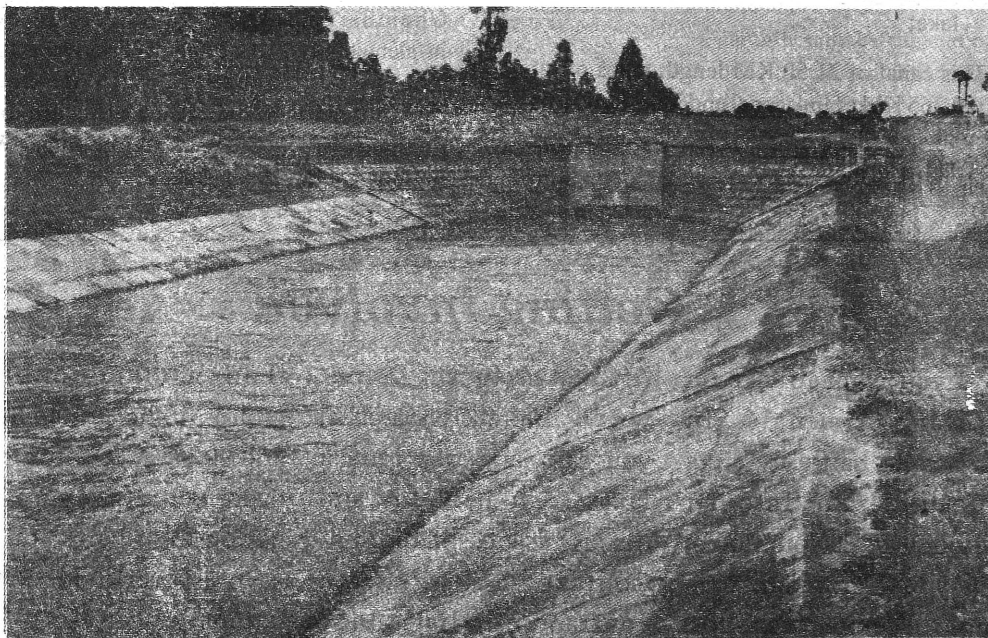
been increased by 60 cms and their bunds are strengthened to meet the additional requirement. Their capacities before and after improvements are as follows:

Tank	Capacity		Additional Storage
	before improve ments. Mcft.	after improve ments. Mcft.	
1. Poondi Reservoir	2750	3460	710
2. Chembaram-bakkam Tank	3120	3645	525
3. Red Hills lake	2850	3300	450
Total	8720	10405	1685

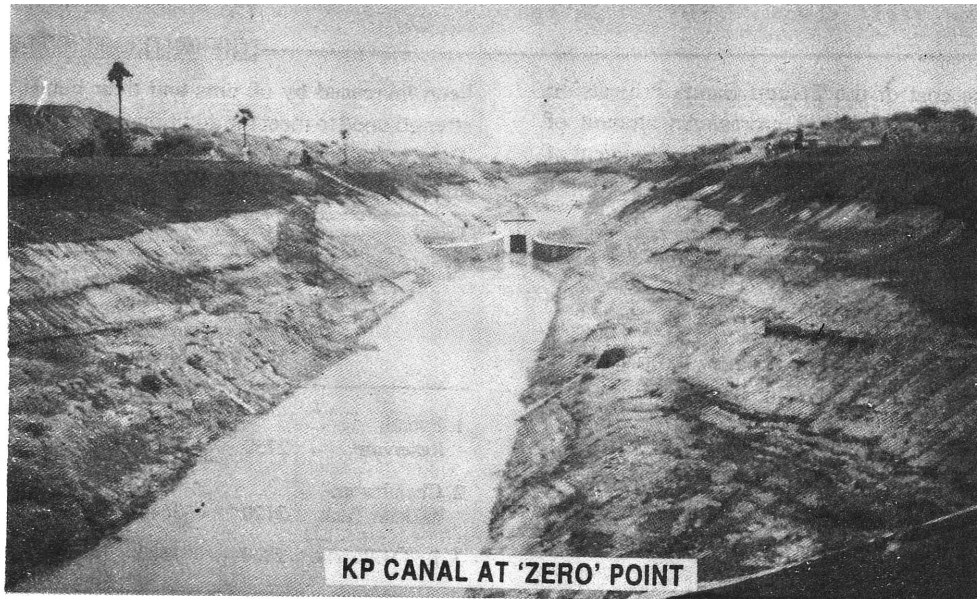
d. Formation of a new reservoir across Kosasttalaiyar river near Ramanjeri village: 1180 Mcft.

e. Formation of a new reservoir across Kosasttalaiyar river near Thirukandam village: 1000 Mcft.

The above new reservoirs are proposed to be



CANAL SYPHON AT LD 4217



KP CANAL AT 'ZERO' POINT

formed with an additional capacity of 2180 Mcft. and would be taken up for implementations as II stage components.

iii) Providing system linkages:

- a. Link canal from Poondi Reservoir to Chembarambakkam tank:

This canal is of 25.75 KM length with a discharging capacity of 1000 cusecs.

- b. Formation of feeder canal to Red Hills lake;

This canal of 21.50 KM length takes off at L.S. 10.365 KM of link canal and joins Red Hills lake with a designed capacity of 500 cusecs.

Up to date cost of the Krishna Water Supply

Project within Tamil Nadu State is Rs.182.00 crores as per 1995-96.

iv) Treatment, transmission and distribution works including waste water disposal:

The components in Tamil Nadu limits are intended solely for the purpose of water supply to Chennai city. While the components upto the terminal reservoir viz., Red Hills lake and Chembarambakkam tank are being implemented by the Public Works Department. The works connected with treatment, transmission, distribution etc., are being implemented by Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board.

Getting Involved

If you want to take on war criminals in Bosnia, battle attempts to regulate the internet without leaving your home, now you can thank to a couple of activist web sites.

At Inter Activism (<http://www.interactivism.com>) you can send free protest faxes, sign petitions and discuss issues of the day. Contact (<http://www.contract.org>) lists more

than 8,000 nonprofit groups in the United States and 90 other countries, and even helps the un-wired get on-line. Now you can save the world one byte at a time.

"I expect preferential treatment will be given to Tamil Nadu in setting up liquid fuel based power plants"

- Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi at the Conference of Power held at New Delhi on 16.10.96

As of now, Tamil Nadu Electricity Board has 6908 MW of installed capacity at its command including 1841 MW as share from the Central Generating Stations. I am glad to inform this gathering that Tamil Nadu had not imposed any restrictions on use of power during 1995-96 when all their Southern States were reeling under severe shortage. This was possible due to good inflows into our hydro reservoirs and sustained good performance of the thermal stations in the State. With the reasonable inflow into our hydro reservoirs during this South-West monsoon, the present position is satisfactory.

The performance of our Thermal Stations has been consistently very good. The combined Plant Load Factor of the three stations in the State for 1995-96 was 77.12% which was higher than the all India average of 60%. The Tuticorin Thermal Power Station continues to receive Government of India's meritorious productivity award. The combined auxiliary consumption of all the three thermal stations in our State is around 8.6% which is less than the norms of the Central Electricity Authority.

The Government of India has liberalised the Country's economic policies, paving way for private sector participation in power development in the Country. In the line with these policies, 17 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) have been signed for a total capacity of 10,880 MW in Tamil Nadu, with Independent Power Promoters (IPPs). However, these projects may start yielding



benefits only by the end of 9th plan period. Till then, there is bound to be deficit in both demand and energy due to constant load growth. A load growth of 10 percent each year is anticipated during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

The performance of our Thermal Stations has been consistently very good. The combined Plant Load Factor of the three stations in the State for 1995-96 was 77.12% which was higher than the all India average of 60%.

The Tamil Nadu Government has, in this context, advertised in news papers calling for tenders for installation of power plants on multi-fuel, of any capacity between 30

MW, to 150 MW in 20 Industrial Estates located at various places in the State, for a total addition of about 1500 MW capacity. The generation from these stations can be absorbed by the industries located in the respective areas. Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO), with the technical support of the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, is processing these tenders. These power stations are programmed to start generation within 20-22 months, as short gestation plants. The liquid fuel linkage for these stations has to be given by the Ministry of Petroleum. It is learned that the Government of India is working on a comprehensive liquid fuel policy. Tamil Nadu is situated far away from the coal fields and, naturally, I expect that preferential treatment will be given to Tamil Nadu in the matter of setting up of liquid fuel based power plants. Tamil Nadu will need immediate fuel linkage for these units.

Tamil Nadu is a pioneer in harnessing Non Conventional Energy Sources, especially Wind Energy. The State stands first in India in exploiting wind potential for power generation. Tamil Nadu Government aims to add the minimum of 100 MW of Wind Energy every year to its existing capacity of 565 MW.

The Government of Tamil Nadu is concerned about harnessing the solar energy for power generation and gives encouragement for its development. In the wind farms already existing, the land underneath the wind masts is otherwise un-utilised without any cultivation. But these

wind farm areas have high incidence of solar energy. The Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency (TEDA) has set up a solar photo voltaic plant of 15 KW capacity at Kayathar wind farm. Another solar photo voltaic plant of 100 KW capacity has been put up at Kethanur and it has been commissioned in July 1996. The cost per unit of energy generated in a solar photo voltaic plant is prohibitively high, being in the order of Rs.19/- per unit. Since adequate technology to develop cost effective solar power plants and funds for Research & Development in this direction are not available, projects on a large scale cannot be launched. I request the Hon'ble

Prime Minister to arrange to assist the State with the required funds to develop solar power projects, as vast land is available in and around the wind farms to set up the Solar Energy Plants in Tamil Nadu.

A very long coastal line is available in Tamil Nadu. The ocean energy available along the coast could be beneficially utilised for

power generation, for which proven technology is not available indigenously. The Govt. of India may therefore come forward to import relevant technology from the advanced countries and provide necessary funds also for setting up an Ocean Power Plant, which will be the first of its kind in the country.

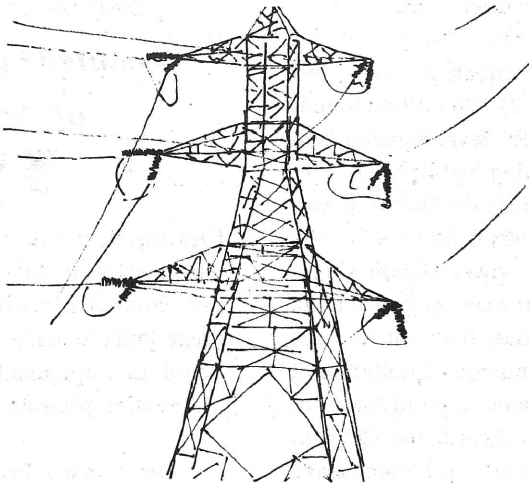
There are 36 Sugar Mills in operation in Tamil Nadu. Co-generation Plants with a total capacity of 55 MW have already been established in 5 sugar mills. The aim of the Government is to see that the remaining 31 Sugar Mills are also encouraged to install co-generation plants within

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***Tamil Nadu Government
aims to add a minimum
of 100 MW of Wind Energy
every year to its
existing capacity of
565 MW.***
”

the next 2 years. A capacity addition of 300 MW is expected from these non-conventional sources.

Generation through Non-Conventional methods like generation of power from hot waste flue gases and co-generation by refineries using waste residual oils are being encouraged. Whenever such proposals are received, the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board accords 'in-principles' approval, indicating its willingness to purchase power from these plants, at a negotiated tariff.

Regarding captive power plants, the concept of a group of industries putting up captive plants for catering to their own needs has been accepted. The TNEB wheels the power for the participating industries. There are about 2200 MW of captive generating sets available in various industries at different voltage levels. Tamil Nadu Government is considering various options to bring these captive sets under beneficial use to the grid.



A paisa saved is a paisa earned, goes the saying and the same holds true in respect of reducing the loss of power during Transmission and Distribution. The transmission and distribution losses in our State is assessed at 17%, as against the country's average loss of about 21%. We are aiming to reduce the losses to not more than 15% before the end of 9th Five Year Plan. In this direction, Tamil Nadu Government has evolved measures like implementation of urban improvement schemes, addition of shunt capacitors at the high tension feeders, standardizing the conductor size in LT

distribution net work, etc. It is estimated that, on an outlay of Rs. 500 crores will be required for implementing the Action Plan to reduce the T&D losses by about 2% before the end of 9th Plan Period. Providing such a massive outlay for improvements alone is a main constraint in taking up schemes to reduce the losses.

We are taking several steps to improve the operational efficiency and to economise on expenditure. Still, the negative effects due to the steep periodical increases in the cost of inputs and interest burden on loans have made it difficult for the Board to bridge the gap between expenditure and revenue. Nearly 75% of the revenue goes to meet the cost of fuel and payment to central generating stations for purchase of power.

Energy generation through thermal power stations has to be given high priority in the National Agenda of future policy making. This encompasses maximum reliance on domestic resources, minimum dependence on imports and assured supply from stable and reliable sources. In the foreseeable future, coal will be the mainstay of energy supply and therefore, ways and means must be explored to augment coal production through private investments and upgrading infrastructure through provision of transportation facilities. Transportation of unwashed coal over long distances by rail amounts to costly and wasted effort in transporting ash. This apart, the problem of flyash disposal has to be tackled to avoid adverse environmental impacts. A new and innovative strategy of more extensive

washing of coal needs to be explored besides pithed generation.

Having exploited all the major hydel sources in the State, we have to necessarily depend on the establishment of mega projects based on fossil fuels, that is, coal, lignite and petroleum sources. Tamil Nadu does not have any coal deposits. Coal required for its four thermal power stations is supplied by M/s. Coal India Ltd. (CIL) from the mines located in West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa States and hauled over very long distances through rail cum sea routes, resulting in high cost of coal at the power station sites.

The State is however fortunate in having vast reserves of lignite, of over 24,370 million tonnes in Neyveli, Bahour-Pondy, Jayamkondan and Mannarkudi Belts. Obtaining fuel linkages from Northern/Eastern coal fields to the thermal power stations in Tamil Nadu is very difficult. Also the cost of coal delivered at power station site is very high due to transport over long distances. In view of these difficulties, it is felt that the Govt. of India should encourage exploitation of huge lignite reserves available in Tamil Nadu. To make a beginning in this regard, the Govt. of India may encourage and give necessary assistance to Neyveli Lignite Corporation to open a third mine cut in the Neyveli Lignite belt together with the establishment of a Super Thermal Power Station, by clearing the proposal already submitted by the NLC. This will be cost effective compared to transporting coal from far-away coal belts as also importing coal from foreign countries.

Power evacuation transmission schemes for the generation being planned by Tamil Nadu Government in the next 6 years is a priority programme. An outlay of Rs. 389 crores has been approved by the Tamil Nadu Government for the year 1996-97 for expanding its transmission and

distribution net work. This is bound to increase in the coming years. For some of the transmission schemes included in the State Plan, Power Finance Corporation Loans are being obtained. But, still, the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board is

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***Under Kutirjyoti Scheme,
the Tamil Nadu Government is
giving free supply of power to
huts in rural areas,
occupied by the poorest
of the poor.***

”

finding it difficult to cope up with the transmission budget. The Central Government can come up with an alternate financial programme to assist the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board in implementing its transmission and distribution projects.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister who is fully committed towards the uplift of rural masses is aware of the importance of various welfare schemes now being executed for the benefit of rural areas. Under Kutirjyoti Scheme, the Tamil Nadu Government is giving free supply of power to huts in rural areas, occupied by the poorest of the poor. A portion of the expenditure towards this scheme is being given as grant by the Central Government to Tamil Nadu Electricity Board through Rural Electrification Corporation (REC). I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to announce 100% grant for the scheme.

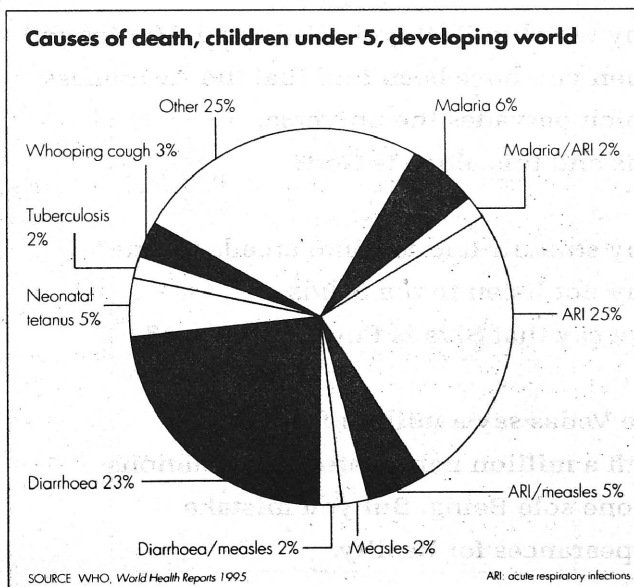
(Excerpts from the text of the address)



WHAT KILLS CHILDREN

Classifying deaths by disease hides the fact that death is not usually an event with one cause but a process with many causes. In particular, it is the conspiracy between malnutrition and infection which pulls many children into the downward spiral of poor growth and early death.

It is now accepted that about half of all child deaths are associated with malnutrition. Action on both fronts to improve nutrition and to protect against diseases could save many more lives (and be significantly more cost-effective) than action on either front alone. And more than three quarters of all these malnutrition - related deaths are linked not to severe malnutrition but to mild and moderate forms.



KNOWLEDGE

Subramania Bharathi



Ye, foolish folk, who roam about
In search of myriad fancied gods,
Have you not heard the myriad scriptures
Declare knowledge alone is God?

Why worship Bull-god, Wood-god, Hunter god
When you have been told that the Awareness
Which pervades the universe,
This and this alone is God?

Why stumble and fall into creeds insane?
Why not listen to the *Srutis*
That say that Siva is Pure Awareness?

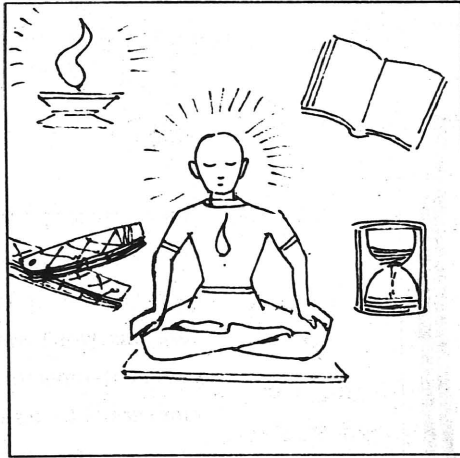
The Vedas say a million forms
With a million names are manifestations
Of one sole Being. But you mistake
Appearances for Reality.

All states and moods are states and moods
 Of one sole Sakti, Power supreme.
 The highest vedantic state discovered
 By the sages *santi*. Heaven is
 But a good life lived here on this earth
 Free from all care. Why must you think
 Of rice and munch dry husk? The Self,
 The light that shines within all beings,
 Is the Brahman you deem inaccessible.

Why go collecting gods and stories
 And spreading false beliefs? One, one
 Sole Brahman is the Awareness in you.

The one eternal Brahman, the one
 True Being, is the Awareness in you.

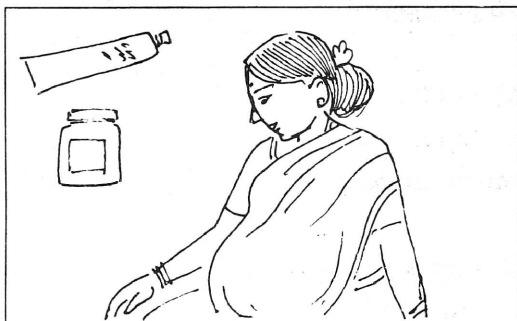
Translated by Prof. K. SWAMINATHAN



SCIENCE UPDATE

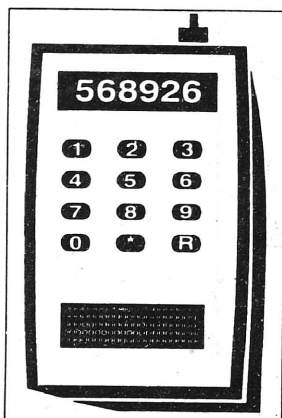
Remove Stretch Marks

The pimple and wrinkle fighter Retina-A may alleviate another skin woe: **STRETCH MARKS**. When rubbed on daily for six months, the cream



shrank the marks 14% in length and 8% in width; with a placebo, they grew. The scarlike lesions tested were relatively new ones, all with still smooth skin.

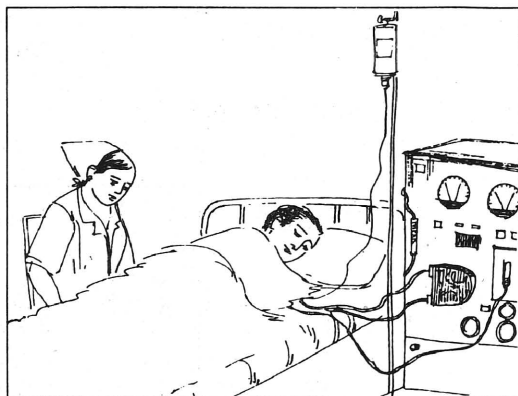
Cellular phone affect pacemaker



Electromagnetic fields from Cellular Phones can cause pacemakers to slow down, speed up or stop altogether. The effect, which appears to last only as long as the phone is on, usually occurs when the antenna is placed close to the pacemaker—for example, when the phone is inserted into a breast pocket.

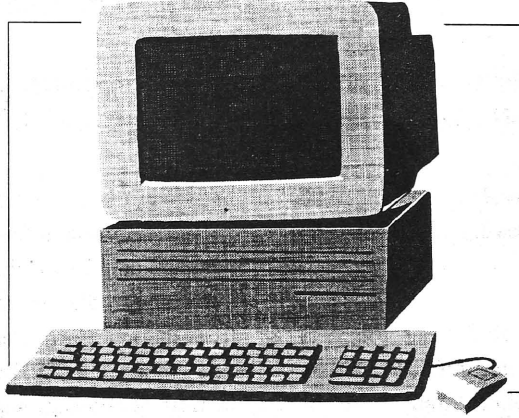
Warmth reduces infection

Keeping patients warm during **SURGERY** can reduce infection. Anaesthesia inhibits the body's



ability to regulate temperature, yet operating rooms tend to be kept chilly so heavily gowned surgeons won't sweat under bright lights. If a patient's temperature is kept normal, blood flows more easily to the skin to fight germs.

INTERNET ACRONYMS: LEARN THE LANGUAGE



INTERNET: The network created when computers worldwide communicate with each other over telephone lines, cables, and other means.

INTRANET: A network linking computers within a company.

URL: Uniform Resource Locator--the Internet address for document located on the Internet.

Hypertext: a text link to other documents containing more information on the same or a related topic. Hypertext links are identified as different-colored text with an underline. To retrieve the related document, click on the hypertext.

documents containing more information on the same or a related topic. To retrieve the related document, click on the hypertext.

HTML: Hypertext Mark up Language--a Language (or format) used for creating hypertext documents on the World Wide Web.

HTTP: Hypertext Transfer Protocol--an information retrieval mechanism for HTML documents.

FTP: File Transfer Protocol--the standard protocol for transferring files from one computer to another over the internet.

Hyper graphic: a graphic image link to other

Courtesy: News week (dated Sep. 2, '96)



UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Monica Sharma and James Jullocl

Diarrhoeal diseases and respiratory infections account for, over half the deaths in developing world

Children in rich countries do not die from the common preventable diseases of childhood. Children in poor countries do.

Except in rare and isolated cases measles, diarrhoea, malaria, pneumonia and malnutrition no longer claim the lives of children in the Industrialized world. But in poor countries, these five conditions kill more than 8 million children a year and account for two thirds of all under five deaths.

As the 20th century draws to an end, it is or ought to be a source of profound international shame that over 8 million children are allowed to die each year from problems that have long ago been overcome in others parts of the world. A famine that kills 10,000 an earthquake that kills 1,000, a plane crash that kills 100 all of these may stir the world to pity and protest. But the deaths of almost 25,000 children every day from five causes for which we long ago discovered inexpensive means of prevention or cure are allowed to pass with barely a murmur. It is as though a cure for heart disease or cancer or AIDS

had been discovered but not used. And if the comparison seems far-fetched let it be remembered that diarrhoeal diseases claims half as many lives as heart disease, respiratory infections more lives than cancer, measles more lives than cancer, measles more lives than AIDS. And the victims of these preventable conditions are, in the main, children under the age of five.

“

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”

The extraordinary lack of protest can be put down to two principal factors. The first is that these 8 million deaths do not happen in a particular place at a particular time. They do not, therefore, meet the criteria of the new media. Second, they are almost always the deaths of children from the least-regarded families in the

world, families on the margins of life, families without political influence, without economic power, without media access.

PROGRESS SO FAR

If the tragedy of preventable child deaths has passed largely unrecognized, then so too has the progress that has been made in recent years.

Over the last decade and a half, UNICEF and WHO have led a world wide effort, working with Government and non-governmental organizations (NEOs) all over the world, to begin reducing the toll of the ordinary diseases of childhood.

In that time, immunization has been extended from about 25% to almost 80% of the developing world's children, preventing more than 3 million deaths a year from diphtheria, measles, whooping cough, and tetanus. By the same means, polio cases have been cut from approximately 400,000 a

year to just under 100,000. Also since 1980, the technique known as oral rehydration therapy (ORT) has been put at the disposal of most poor communities, averting approximately 1 million deaths a year from diarrhoeal dehydration. More recently, a sustained advance has also been made against

the Vitamin A deficiency which renders common diseases more likely to be fatal and is associated with between 1 and 3 million child deaths each year.

This effort has not been directed only at saving lives. Prevention and proper treatment of common illnesses also help to protect the growth and normal development of far larger number of children. In particular, the campaign to iodize salt and so eliminate iodine deficiency disorders, long the world's biggest cause of prevent-

able mental retardation is now close to success in 30 nations.

In sum, the progress made in one generation means that as many as 5 million fewer children each year are dying, and that at least three quarters of a million fewer are being disabled, blinded, crippled, or mentally retarded.

Although little noticed in the Industrialized nations, this advance must be ranked as one of the great achievements of the second half of the 20th century.

“

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A JOB HALF DONE

In an attempt to maintain this momentum, the 1900 World Summit for children brought together a majority of the world's Presidents and Prime Ministers to discuss current opportunities for

further reducing the toll of ordinary childhood illnesses. The result was agreement on a set of basic goals to be achieved by the year 2000.

Around the consensus of what could and should be done, United Nations agencies are working with Governments and NGOs to put known solutions into practice on the necessary scale. UNICEF has dedicated most of its efforts and its advocacy to this cause for the last 15 years. WHO has provided the scientific guidance and helped to train over a million health

diseases of childhood. Both organizations have devoted themselves to the planning, implementation, and evaluation of well-defined priority health interventions.

But despite the progress made, the job of preventing ordinary illnesses from killing, disabling, and malnourishing so many millions of children is less than half done. And over the next decade, the priority must be to finish what has been started. Recent years have shown that, with some support from the international community, almost all governments can now command the knowledge, the technology and the outreach capacity to enable most families to protect the lives and the

normal growth of their children. If there was little excuse for the deaths of millions caused by ordinary diseases in 1980, there is none at all now.

As in so many other arenas of the possible, the weak link is still the relatively low level of political commitment, in many countries, to doing what can now be done.

The other main danger is a complacency born of two common misunderstandings.

First, the dramatic increase in immunization is not a once-and-for-all achievement but an

effort that must be renewed with each generation of infants. Over 120 million babies are born into the developing world each year, and all of them need to be vaccinated on four or five occasions during the first year of life.

Second, there is a widespread if unspoken belief that reaching 40% or 50% with ORT and 70% or 80% with immunization is good enough.

But the fact is that frequent illness, poor growth, and early death are concentrated among the poorest—the minorities, the geographically remote, the despised, and the discriminated against.

In other words, they are concentrated among those who have not yet been reached.

Finishing the job, reaching the unreached, and ending the shameful toll of the ordinary diseases of childhood, must therefore continue to be a priority in the remaining years of the 1990s.

At the same time, a continued effort is required to strengthen the basis for sustained progress in improving health through guaranteeing basic health services, adequate nutrition, safe water and sanitation and family planning services, to all communities.

Courtesy : The Progress of Nations 1996

Published by Unicef



EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

In recent times, there has been a growing body of opinion which has advocated the need for not regarding the prostitute as a criminal or an object but as a victim of circumstances and as a human being. There is also increasing concern that children, predominantly girl children, have been inducted into the trade and were subjects of shocking sexual abuse for commercial purposes.

The problem of child prostitution is of growing concern. Following the Supreme Court Order of 2nd May 1990, a Central Advisory Committee on Child Prostitution was established with the Secretary, DWCD as the Chairperson. A report was completed by this Committee on the subject and is circulated for the forthcoming workshops.

Convention on the rights of the child

The Conventions on the Rights of the Child and to initiate appropriate measures, national, bilateral and multilateral, to let every child enjoy the right to be free from all forms of sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking. (Articles 34, 35 and 36).

Causes for Trafficking of Children

Social economic conditions and marginalisation of the poor, low perception of girl child, non-availability of employment potential in the rural areas, decline in purchasing power, rural-urban migrations have been admittedly some of the major supply factors. However, we need to understand and pin point, if any, poverty-creating conditions as an offshoot of policies in other sectors.



For example displacement, retrenchment and industrial depression and sickness make such areas clearly prone to this problem. In this context liberalization policies and their socioeconomic impact needs to be closely studied. It was feared that elimination of child labour without a proper rehabilitation package might swell the rising tide of sexual exploitation and trafficking.

The demand dimension of sexual exploitation of children is equally critical for any effective intervention. Comparable to the mafia-driven world of narco-terrorism, several micro-studies have revealed that abductions, kidnappings, disappearances from fairs and melas and parting with a child under duress by guardian account for a phenomenal increase in sexually exploited children. The popular belief is that having sex with a child reduces the chance of contracting life-threatening diseases like HIV/AIDS. The aiding, abetting and culpable indifference displayed by law enforcing machinery to organized trafficking ensures the entrenchment of such a demand phenomena.

Today, tourism is also seen as a profitable source of building up income-generating capacities of those areas in the hinterland of tourists spots contri-

buting to sex-tourism by pedophiles. The absence of law in India vis-a-vis tight laws to prohibit and counter this menace and the reluctance of Governments to check anything which affect tourism, facilitate sex-tourism in the country.

Development of data-base: Magnitude and dimension

To understand the trafficking dimension, survey in the catchment areas such as brothels, etc. and other prominent red light areas there is little doubt that the source and catchment area surveys/studies together can throw up more complete and meaningful indicators of the extent and the characteristics of the problem. Source area studies would also not account for the extra-territorial supplies, which is a very important feeder-category for such purposes. But, catchment area surveys are more easily prescribed than practiced. It is undoubtedly, a challenging task to penetrate the fortresses of red light areas, where any outsider intervention is resisted and thwarted. Hence, non cooperation and non-divulgence of crucial information such as age of the child, and the exposure and insecurity caused to such social workers, in pursuit of such information, needs to be kept in mind. The feasibility and practicability of such surveys and the training needs and methodology will require detailed discussions in the workshops.

Prevention in Source areas

One of the important outcomes of a well conducted study would be to confirm supply areas

“Comparable to the mafia-driven world of narco-terrorism, several micro-studies have revealed that abductions, kidnappings, disappearances from fairs and melas and parting with a child under duress by guardian account for a phenomenal increase in sexually exploited children.”

and such knowledge helps prevention.

It is possible to develop through social action groups, counselling, educating and awareness-building programmes in such areas. To educate on child rights and parental responsibilities and duties towards the child; to value, especially, the girl child; to induce the spirit of questioning prostitution as a physically, morally and

psychologically acceptable way of life, explode religious myths and traditions behind devadasi and jogin practices. Package of audio-visuals and other communication media could be used to show the negative fall-outs of sexual exploitation of children for commercial purposes.

Experience of participants in implementing programmes of income generation, health education, skill and vocation building in source areas to address problems of poverty needs to be discussed and documented. Macro-policies to prevent rural depopulation by bringing about agrarian reform, provision of irrigation facilities to make land more productive and setting up small industries are necessary to provide adequate employment potential in rural areas. Guardians who have lost children for conscionable and unconscionable gains due to poverty, women abandoned after a life of prostitution and wanting to break the trans-generational cycle of placing children for such exploitable purposes need to be covered under programmes of social defence.

While many of the source areas of pre-meditated migrations (charted routes) can be

identified, mechanisms to sound and hear danger signals in potentials areas needs to be worked. Can such at risk zones be recognised and indicators formulated for this, to enable advance action plans to be implemented? Besides this, surveillance in fairs and melas where prospective recruitment and disappearances of children take place, provision of approved educators supported by city and public authorities for street children could be other preventive measures in potential areas.

POLITICAL AGENDA-Setting by Pressure Groups.

Issues such as child rights, crimes against children do not find a place in political agendas, election manifestos of political parties. Hence it is imperative for the building and strengthening of such pressure groups, from among children. NGO', to influence the political agenda and evoke commitments to such fundamental issues in r e s p e c t i v e constituencies; to look for ways and means to rally local support to give strength and reality to well-intentioned i n t e r n a t i o n a l declaration, so that, global thoughts could form part of local action.

Promotion of media watch-groups to oversee depiction of cheap-sex formulation of appropriate laws and policies to counter commodotising of women and children and sex objects, strengthening and intensification of drives against

those found in the possession of pornographic and other materials should help in reducing the demand for children for sexual exploitation.

Respect for human life, dignity, equality between sexes should become an integral part of school curriculum and its moral and civic training.

Networking among NGO's for information sharing and surveillance functions, for bilateral and regional co-operation to prevent extra-territorial supplies of children (Nepal and Bangladesh), qualitative improvements in the systems of governance, sensitisation programmes to law-enforcing agencies could contribute effectively to prevention.

Exploding myths and popular beliefs that child-sex is not prone to contraction of HIV/AIDS and other diseases is an important aspect of AIDS-control and prevention of sexual exploitation of children.

Role of Religions

The role of religions, through its spokespersons-temple, church leaders and mullahs etc. in decrying sexual exploitation of children is potent. Once declared as a moral crime, social crimes arising out of non-

adherence to moral values can be accuser to the accused, where the community is called to look down upon those involved in wanting child sex or found siding and abetting it. Social repression for such crimes through through exposure and

“It is possible to develop through social action groups counselling, educating and awareness-building programmes in such areas. To educate on child rights and parental responsibilities and duties towards the child; to value, especially, the girl child; to induce the spirit of questioning prostitution as a physically, morally and psychologically acceptable way of life, explode religious myths and traditions behind devadasi and jogin practices.”

ostracising can make this an unprofitable business and bring down the demand for child-sex.

Social programmes to counter the impact of consumerism, materialism should be encouraged and supported.

Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation is the price paid for criminal social and political neglect of the problem over too many years.

However, rehabilitation has in practice come to mean physical recovery and rescue followed by placement in State - sponsored remand-homes. Rehabilitation should mean, for example, making alternative choices of living both visible and possible to such victims, to make it possible for them to see that they are victims of circumstances and help overcome feelings of guilt. It involves the providing of a supportive of a supportive environment for the inner healing to take place through integrationist not isolationist approaches. The ultimate test of rehabilitation is absence of recidivism. As in prevention, rehabilitation is neither the responsibility nor the prerogative of any particular wing of society. The outrage on society must be confronted squarely by a coalition of social forces.

The process of rehabilitation keeping the above criteria in view, is a multi-dimensional packages. It should provide for professional counselling services and access to child-abuse therapists. Access mechanism to such

“Respect for human life, dignity, equality between sexes should become an integral part of school curriculum and its moral and civic training.”

professional aid and its incorporation in law (Both ITPA and JJ Act) should be ensured. Providing adequate housing facilities, easy procurement of food through public distribution systems, facilitating saving systems and securing free access to health and legal services in court cases skill and vocation building for economic well-being are important components of a rehabilitation package..

Child Abuse and Trafficking

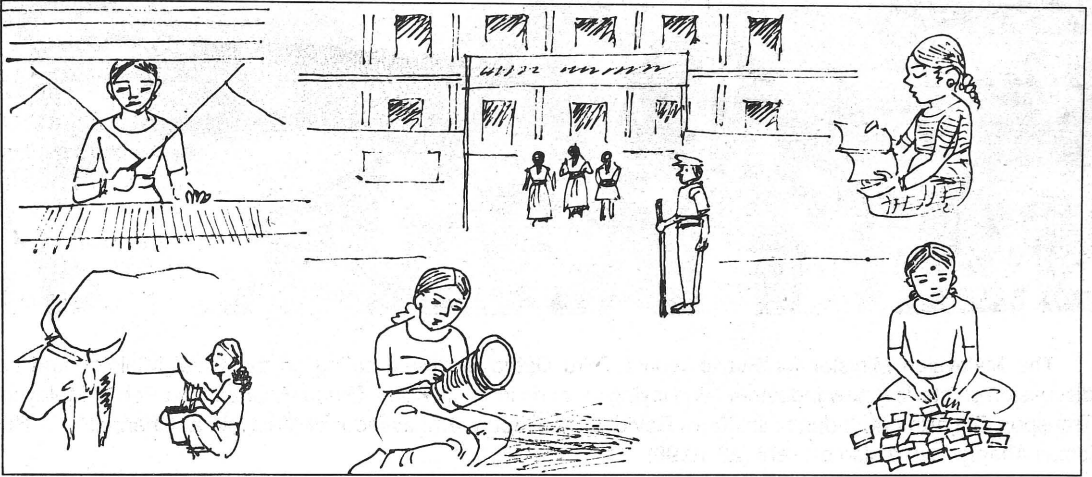
The UN International Convention held in New York in 1950 gave a call to all nations for suppressing trafficking in persons for exploitation for immoral purposes. In the Convention on the Rights of Child, of which India is

a signatory, adopted on 20th November 1989 by the UN, the following Articles cast important responsibilities on States Parties signatory to the Convention. They are :

ARTICLE 34

State Parties undertake to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. For these purposes, States Parties shall in particular take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent:

- (a) The inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity.
- (b) The exploitative use of children in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices;
- (c) The exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and materials.



ARTICLE 35

States Parties shall take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent the abduction of the sale of or traffic in children for any purpose or in any form.

ARTICLE 36

States parties shall protect the child against all other forms of exploitation prejudicial to any aspects of the child's welfare.

The Government of Tamil Nadu as a pioneer in devising ameliorative programme for the vulnerable sector (Children and Women) constituted an Advisory committee for Eradication of Child Prostitution consisting of official and non official members and voluntary agencies to advise the Government in the following matters:-

- i) to suggest measures to eradicate child prostitution.

- ii) to suggest welfare programmes to be implemented for the Care, Protection, Treatment, Development and Rehabilitation of the young fallen victims.

- iii) to suggest measures for providing adequate and rehabilitative homes manned by well qualified, trained social workers.

“The ultimate test of rehabilitation is absence of recidivism. As in prevention, rehabilitation is neither the responsibility nor the prerogative of any particular wing of society. The outrage on society must be confronted squarely by a coalition of social forces.”

The Director of Social Defence is the Member-Secretary of the Advisory committee. The Advisory Committee has met once and suggested for the effective implementation of the Immoral Traffic prevention Act, 1956 as well as the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 so as to give all fair chances for the better development of the girl children found to be living

either in a brothel or with a prostitute or is found to be associate with any prostitute or any other person who leads an immoral, drunken or depraved life. This also include a child being or is likely to be abused or exploited for immoral or illegal purposes. ☐



The Malaysian Minister for Public Works Thiru Datho Samivelu called on the Chief Minister and had discussion on starting new Industries, and laying of roads in Tamil Nadu. Datho IR Chuasoon Poh of Malaysian Transport Department, Industrialist Thiru Ravidharan, Deputy Ambassador of Malaysia at Chennai Thiru Ismail Ahamed were also present (28.10.96).



Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaigmar M. Karunanidhi picked the lucky winners for "Win the World", a promotional scheme by Air India at Chennai on 23.10.96. Hon'ble Minister for Health Thiru Arcot N. Veerasamy was also present.

His Excellency the Governor Dr. M. Channa Reddy called on the ailing Chief Minister Kalaigmar M. Karunanidhi at his residence on 2.11.96.



The newly elected President of the South Indian Film Chamber of Commerce Thiru M. Balasubramanian and Thiru AVM Saravanan called on the Chief Minister at his residence on 23.10.96.

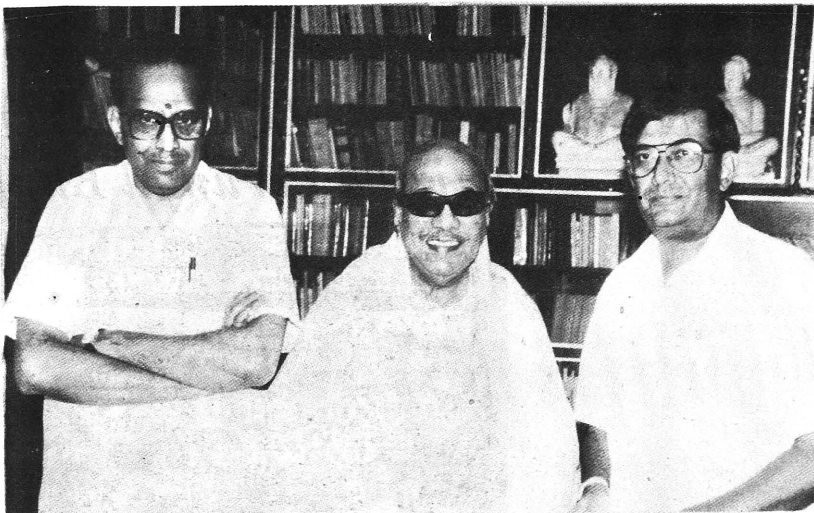
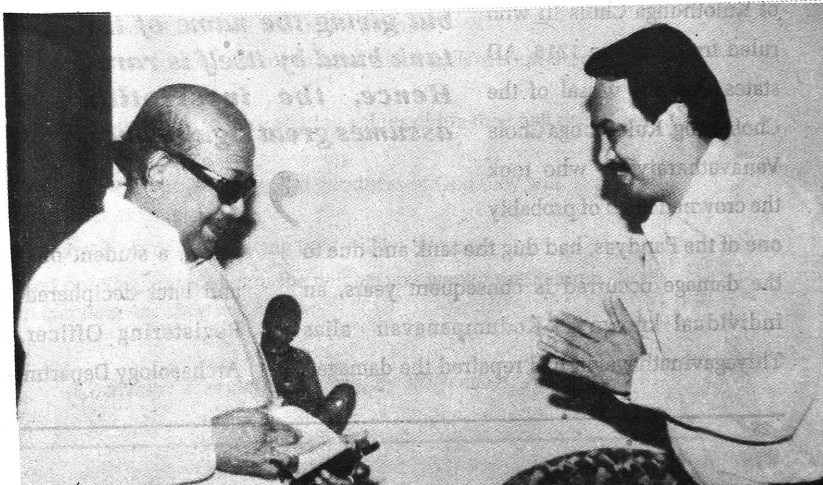


PHOTO FEATURE

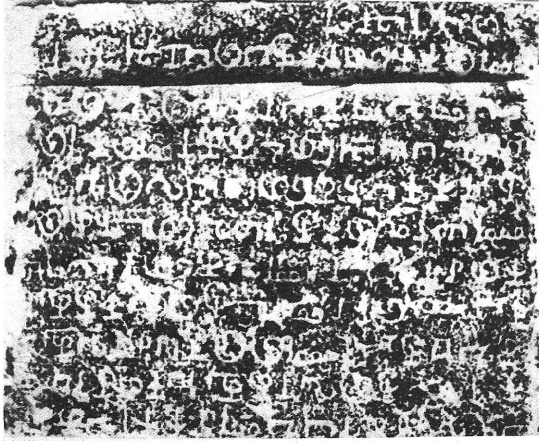
The Chairman and Managing Director of Tamil Nadu News Print Ltd. Thiru. Gopalan, R. IAS on behalf of TNPL presented a cheque for Rs.8.67 crores to the Chief Minister on 23.10.96.

Thiru Sunil Usha of Navrang Cultural Academy presented Rs.50,000 to the Chief Minister for the Chief Minister's Welfare Fund.



A NEW ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERY

Anjatha Perumal Bund



An inscription mentioning the name of a Tank bund as Anjatha Perrumal Bund has been dis-

covered as Devimangalam Akkaraipatti in Lalgudi taluk of Tiruchirapalli Perumpi dugu Mutharaiyar District. The inscription is engraved on a rock which is a part of the tank bund. The inscription written in the 20th Regnal year of Kulothunga Chola III who ruled from 1178 to 1218. AD states that the vassal of the Chola King, Kulothunga Chola Vanavatharaiyar, who took the crowned head of probably one of the Pandyas, had dug the tank and due to the damage occurred is consequent years, an individual known as Kodumpanavan alias Thiyagavinathavelan had repaired the damaged

portion and named the tank bund as "Anjatha Perumal Bund."

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It is very rare to encounter the name of the tank bund in inscriptions. Generally the name of the channels, rivers, the highways, the name of the land are found mentioned but giving the name of the tank bund by itself is rare . Hence, the inscription assumes great significance.

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This inscription was noticed by Thiru. J. Murugesan, a student of the Institute of Epigraphy and later deciphered by Thiru. K. Sridharan, Registering Officer, Tiruchy of the State Archaeology Department.



THE ART OF *Parenthood*



Of all the commentaries on the Scriptures," wrote John Donne, "good example are the best."

In practicing the art of parenthood an ounce of example is worth a ton of preachment.

Our Children are watching us live, and what we are shouts louder than anything we can say.

When we set an example of honesty our children will be honest.

When we encircle them with love they will be loving.

When we practice tolerance they will be tolerant.

When we demonstrate good sportsmanship they will be good sports.

When we meet life with laughter and a twinkle in our eye they will develop a sense of humor.

When we are thankful for life's blessings they will be thankful.

When we express friendliness they will be friendly.

When we speak words of praise they will praise others.

When we confront failure, defeat and misfortune with a gallant spirit they will learn to live bravely.

When our lives affirm our faith in the enduring values of life they will rise above doubt and skepticism.

When we surround them with the love and goodness of God they will discover life's deeper meaning.

When we set an example of heroic living they will be heroes.

Don't just stand pointing your finger to the heights you want your children to scale. *Start climbing and they will follow!*

(Courtesy: The Art of Living, by Wilfred A. Peterson)

CONTACT DERMATITIS

- Dr. G. Elangovan

Incidence of Industrial and Occupational disease is steadily rising with the increasing pace of development. In India and many Asiatic countries, no reliable statistics are available because the labour is not fully organized, agricultural sector is backward, causes of occupational dermatoses are not reported. According to Schwartz 72 percent of all Occupational diseases pertain to skin, 1 to 2 percent of all workers have occupational dermatitis and 2 to 10 percent of all skin diseases are occupational in origin.

Different substances coming in contact with skin, act in different ways to produce what is known as "Contact Dermatitis". Some act as irritant and produce irritant contact dermatitis. Others induce immunologic changes in the individual to produce Allergic contact dermatitis (ACD).

Classification:

1. Allergic Contact Dermatitis (ACD)
2. Irritant Contact Dermatitis (ICD) A Strong Irritants (Acids and Alkalies) and a Weak Irritants (detergents)
3. Contact urticaria
4. Photo contact dermatitis.

Types of contact dermatitis

Any rash resulting from a substance touching the skin can cause dermatitis by both allergic and non-allergic mechanism. When an allergic mechanism is involved, it is called Allergic

Contact Dermatitis (ACD) and when a non allergic mechanism is involved and chemically damages the skin, it is called Irritant Contact Dermatitis (ICD).

Clinical evaluation of ACD

Allergic contact dermatitis is an inflammatory reaction mediated by type IV Hypersensitivity i.e. contact sensitivity. Almost all of the allergens that induce and elicit ACD have relatively low molecular weight and belong to haptens immunological. The skin and its regional lymphnodes play an important role in induction and elicitation of ACD. The mechanism involved in contact sensitivity is divided into two parts. The regional lymphnode as the centre, from the skin to the lymphnode as afferent limb and from the lymphnode to skin as efferent limb.

Most allergens of ACD are of low molecular weight and they are called simple chemicals. These simple chemicals are haptens and they must link with proteins before they are able to sensitise. Some are chemically changed in the skin before forming the reactive haptens. (e.g) hexavalent Chromium is converted into Trivalent Chromium before inducing sensitivity. The haptens penetrate quickly through the epidermis within six hours. A large amount of hapten is excreted into the urine within twenty four hours, while a small amount of hapten remains in the epidermis and binds certain molecules of the epidermal cells.

Haptens when they invade the skin of sensitised individuals penetrates through epidermis to form hapten carrier protein complexes. Macrophages and or Langerhan's cells receive the antigenic information to transmit to their effector T cells which stimulate their protein synthesis to release special molecules called lymphokines.

Langerhan's cells are the antigen processing and antigen presenting cells as established by several studies in ACD. In the regional lymphnodes Langerhan's cells are found mainly in the paracortical regions. The antigen carrying langerhans cells encounter additional specifically sensitized T lymphocytes, react with them and induce an immuno-proliferative reaction resulting in a significant increase in circulating specifically sensitized. T lymphocytes which gradually accumulated at the site of challenge and release various lymphokines.

Histologic and clinical evaluation of ACD

Due to the release of various inflammatory mediator substances vascular dilatation with edema, and monocellular infiltrate occurs in the upper dermis. This infiltrate extends into the spongiotic epidermis. More and more intercellular edema (spongiosis) and intracellular edema form in the epidermis. The sequence of inflammatory changes in the dermis and intra and intercellular edema in the epidermis clinically manifest as

erythema, swelling, papules which constitute the primary signs of ACD.

If the number of vesicles is great and the intracellular edema is more, a multilocular bullae results which is clinically reflected as vesicle. When these vesicles rupture a weeping dermatitis occurs. The usual symptom is intense itching. If contact dermatitis persists because of continued or repeated exposure the stage is set for a subacute or chronic dermatitis.

Predisposing factors

Age

Age had little influence in the capacity of sensitization. Sensitivity to nickel and poison Ivy had been reported in Infants. In children and old persons exposure to potential allergens is less than in other age groups. Hence they are likely to develop ACD.

Sex

This is due to the variation in their exposure to different sensitising chemicals. For example, Nickel sensitivity is more common in women and chromium sensitivity is more common in men.

Pregnancy

Pregnancy may either improve or aggravate ACD. In some a premenstrual flare up of ACD, seems to occur.

Genetic

Certain individuals may have inherent resistance of sensitization. For example, even a potent allergen such as DNCB cannot induce sensitization in a small segment of population, while certain other individuals have an increased tendency to become

sensitized which may be due to genetic factors as indicated by certain studies.

Tolerance

American Indians do not develop ACD to rhus plants because they ingest the leaf of the plant early in life. Tolerance is another factor responsible for the inability of certain people to get sensitised to certain chemicals. Some industrial workers may acquire resistance to occupational allergens.

Local Factors

Damaged skin

Contact sensitivity is easily acquired if the allergen is applied to the damaged skin. Inflamed or damaged skin is more prone to contact dermatitis healthy skin provides protection against contact sensitivity.

Seasonal changes

High temperature and humidity have been found to be directly responsible for increased number of cement dermatitis in a study in Kuwait. Experimental sensitization in man with DNCB is easily achieved in winter than in summer.

Area of skin

The greater the skin area exposed to allergen, the greater are the changes of inducing sensitivity because larger amounts of allergen are absorbed into the skin.

Associated disease

Patients with debilitating diseases such as cancer, Hodgkins disease have impaired capacity for contact sensitization. Patients with atopic eczema are certainly prone for developing irritant dermatitis.

Persistence of contact sensitivity

ACD tends to persist for many years because large number of patients with clean skin have been found to be giving positive reactions on repatch testing after many years even after cessation of all known contact with the allergens to which the patients were originally sensitized.

Diagnosis

The diagnosis of contact dermatitis is based on careful history with a knowledge of common allergens and irritants in the environment. The lesions of ACD can mimic almost any type of eczematous eruption. A selective and probing history and physical examination are essential and should be confirmed by patch testing.

History

A selective and probing history will help a lot for diagnosis. Routine enquiry should be made about occupation, hobbies, vocational, use of cosmetics, topical medicaments and systemic drugs and enquiry should be made about previous skin diseases, known allergies and about family history of skin disease.

Management

Corticosteroids are the main stay of treatment. Systemic corticosteroids and topical corticosteroids help a lot. It is possible to replace allergens in an industrial set up; proper protective measures such as cleaning, barrier creams, protective clothing and gloves and improved ventilation may be useful.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU 1996

FINANCE (PENSION) DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 464, Dated 31st July 1996
(Thadhu, Aadi 16, Thiruvalluvar Aandu 2027)

MEDICAL ALLOWANCE to pensioners/family pensioners-Enhancement of medical allowance to the State Government pensioners/family pensioners including pensioners/family pensioners of local bodies and aided educational Institutions-Orders-Issued.

READ the following:-

1. G.O. Ms.No. 314, Finance (Pension) Department, dated 8-4-1994.
2. G.O. Ms.No. 110, Finance (Pension) Department, dated 16-2-1995.

ORDER:

1. In the Government Order first read above, orders have been issued enhancing the rate of medical allowance from Rs. 15/- per mensem to Rs. 30/-per mensem to the State Government pensioners/family pensioners with effect from 1-4-1994. In the Government Order second read above, orders have been issued enhancing the rate of medical allowance from Rs. 15/-per mensem to Rs. 30/-per mensem to the pensioners/family pensioners of local bodies and aided educational Institutions with effect from 1-1-1995.
2. The Government have now decided to enhance the medical allowance of Rs. 30/-per mensem now paid to the State Government pensioners/family pensioners including the pensioners/family pensioners of local bodies and aided educational Institutions to Rs. 50/- per mensem with effect from 1-12-1995. Accordingly, the Government direct that the medical allowance of Rs. 30/- be enhanced to Rs. 50/- (Rupees fifty only) per mensem to the pensioners/family pensioners including the pensioners/family pensioners of local bodies and aided educational Institutions with effect from 1-12-1995.
3. In respect of pensioners/family pensioners for whom expenditure is met from State funds the expenditure shall be debited under relevant minor sub-heads under the major head "2071. Pensions and Other Retirement Benefits". In respect of pensioners/family pensioners of local bodies for whom expenditure is met from the funds maintained by the Director of Local Fund Audit or Municipal Fund as the case may be the expenditure shall be met from the respective funds referred to above.
4. The Government also direct that the family pensioners whose spouses died in harness and who wish to draw medical allowance till the normal date of retirement of the deceased employees are permitted to exercise option for drawal of this medical allowance within three months from the date of this order. The Pension Disbursing Officers are responsible for obtaining the above option from such family pensioners whose spouses had died in harness and who wish to draw medical allowance. Future family pensioners shall exercise such option within three months from the date of receipt of family pension.
5. These orders shall also apply to All India Service pensioners and family pensioners who opt for State Medical Reimbursement Scheme.

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

S.GURUMURTHI,
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.



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PURE
 silk

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



