

**Tamil Arasu**

December 1997, Rs.3



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# TAMIL ARASU

*Magazine of the Government of Tamil Nadu*  
THIRUVALLUVAR YEAR - 2028  
KARTHIGAI - MARGAZHI  
DECEMBER - 1997

## In this issue :

- |  |   |    |
|--|---|----|
| ● Statue of Nethaji Subash Chandra Bose unveiled   | - | 2  |
| ● Conference of Transport Ministers of Southern States   | - | 7  |
| ● Self Help Programme<br>-The 'brain child' of Kalaingar M.Karunanidhi   | - | 9  |
| ● New hope in the lives of farmers of Vinnamangalam Village<br>- The foremost Self Help Programme launched<br>by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. | - | 13 |
| ● All India Co-operative Week Celebration held at Chennai  | - | 15 |
| ● DUPONT   | - | 17 |
| ● Pulse Polio Immunization Programme at Chennai  | - | 18 |
| ● Right to Information Act   | - | 21 |
| ● Foodpro '97  | - | 26 |
| ● Fourth Meeting of the Inter-State Council at New Delhi   | - | 30 |

## WRAPPERS

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| I  | - Homage to Martyrs at War Memorial, Chennai.      |
|    | - Statue of Nethaji Subash Chandra Bose unveiled.  |
| IV | - Elephant at Mudumalai Sanctuary                  |
|    | - Tiger at Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur. |



**"WE HAD NEVER FORGOTTEN THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS;  
NEVER MISSED TO HONOUR THEM - WHILE IN THE OFFICE OR  
IN THE OPPOSITION"**

**- KALAINGAR**

'I feel proud to unveil the statue of Subash Chandra Bose, the brave son of India who had fought for the freedom of our Country and it is fitting that his statue is installed on Kamarajar Salai at the Marina where statues of eminent leaders, statesmen and poets have been installed under the guidance of Arignar Anna, during the II World Tamil Conference'- said the Chief Minister **Kalaingar M.Karunanidhi** after unveiling the statue of Nethaji at Marina on 15.12.97.

He said, while he was answering during debate on the Golden Jubilee celebrations of India's Independence, he had replied that permission would be granted to install the statue of

Nethaji at Chennai to the request made by Thiru Ayyanar Ambalam, Thiru Vallarasu and Thiru Santhanam. The permission was granted expecting that they would be installing the statue. 'But when they met me several days after, they informed me that since I had given the permission I had to install the statue. As I thought it was my bounden duty to respect the great leader, I entrusted the work of installing the statue with Thiru Mullaivendan, Minister for Information and Publicity. I was shown many photographs of Nethaji and as I was not fully satisfied with any of them, I had requested Thiru Jothi Basu, the Chief Minister of West Bengal to send a photograph of Nethaji's statue installed in Calcutta, when I

met him during a steering committee meeting of the National Front in New Delhi. The photo of Nethaji sent by the Chief Minister of West Bengal, stands before you as a statue, as I had expected and wished to be'.

'There is an artistic appeal in how a statue has to be moulded. When one thinks of Saint Vivekanandar, the image that comes to our mind is a person with a turban and a coat that accentuate his majestic look. There is a statue of Vivekanandar installed on this beach, but one can identify him as Vivekanandar only when he is told so, because that statue appears without his turban and coat. Statues of Nethaji without cap, wearing plain clothes have been made and



installed in places and painted likewise, but as I thought the statue should look majestic, I had requested and obtained the photo of Nethaji from Thiru Jothi Basu and the statue has been moulded accordingly and installed,' the Chief Minister said.

'It is more fitting that this statue is installed on this prestigious marina beach because, people who come to enjoy the sea breeze and for a stroll at leisure could have a better look at the statue and think of his great deeds for the society and the country. If the statue is installed on the traffic islands of busy roads or in crowded places, the foremost thoughts of the people will be to carry on with their immediate work than to indulge in thoughts on the statue. This road, on which the statue has been installed is named after Perunthalaivar Kamarajar, a renowned freedom fighter and former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu who had been imprisoned several times on various occasions fighting against the British during the freedom struggle. Though Nethaji had differed with some principles of

Mahatma-he had revered him as his leader and the Father of the Nation and whose statue is also installed on this Kamarajar Salai. So it is fitting that this statue of Nethaji is installed on this road. The memorials of Perarignar Anna and my beloved friend M.G.R. are situated on this road. Anna, MGR and myself have respected the freedom fighters irrespective of their party affiliations, as we respected and continue to respect our leaders and party cadres. We and MGR who was in the office for about ten years had never forgotten the freedom fighters. But this action of respecting and honouring the freedom fighters had been an one way movement. This broad mindedness should be acquired by all the parties. Peyriar had fought for the welfare of the Society and Country. Those people who say Periyar struggled to improve the life style of the poor and downtrodden by bringing an awakening in the minds of the Tamils, do not pay him respects even on his birth or death anniversaries. Likewise other party members do not even garland the statue of Arignar Anna on his birth or death anniversaries. But we, while in the office or in the opposition have respected the freedom fighters and this tract should be inherited by all parties.

'Thiru Ayyanan Ambalam in his speech said while steps were being taken to include the life history of Nethaji in the text books

of school children, it was stopped due to some unexplained reasons. That's why when I ask you, particularly the younger generation, to tell me Nethaji's age at his death, you would make a guess and tell me he was 60 years old. But actually he was 48 when he died. Within a span of 48 years he had been a leader respected by the whole Nation. The younger generation should strive hard and sharpen their intellect to serve the future society. Various leaders have been a guiding light to the future generation and still continue to do so. Thevar Thirumagan Pasumpon Muthuramalingam, till his death had been insisting that Nethaji was still alive. Even if that was true, he cannot be alive now. Because at the peak of the freedom struggle, aiming to chase the British from India, he had formed an army of more than 50,000 soldiers with the help of countries like Germany, Italy, etc and fought with them till his death. Further, when Thevar Thirumagan Pasumpon Muthuramalingam said Nethaji was alive, the Indian Government organised a search



- and informed the world of his death by an air crash. There is a truth in Thevar Thirumagan Pasumpon Muthuramalingam's statement. There is no death to persons like Nethaji. That's why he must have said Nethaji was alive. No one can say Periyar, Anna and Gandhiji are no more. They all live in our hearts; likewise Nethaji also lives in our heart. Nethaji will be alive as long as independent India lives. I think that must have been the reason why Pasumpon Thevar Thirumagan said Nethaji was alive. The elder statesman and renowned freedom fighter Thiru Chengalvarayan, Thiru Ayyanan Ambalam and Thiru Mullaivendan quoted Nethaji and said an equal society has to be created where there is no difference of caste, community and religion", the Chief Minister said.

He quoted Nethaji's words on casteless society and said, 'Thiru Ayyanan Ambalam remarked that people have forgotten the freedom fighters. I would like to inform how far they have forgotten. The congress party have brought out a souvenir in which Pattabi Seetharamaiah's photo had appeared with Kamarajar's name. They have dishonoured both Pattabi Seetharamaiah as well as Kamarajar. To this extent the people have forgotten the freedom fighters who had sacrificed their lives for the cause of freedom. The present situation is that they are unable to identify the leaders. In those days the

freedom fire was burning everywhere and our eyes were wide open. Presently we live in a period where the vision is blocked by a screen, viz. 'the seat of power'!. Even when we are seated in power, we have never failed to honour the freedom fighters who had suffered and sacrificed their lives for the cause of freedom, by honouring them with tribute and constructing memorials", he said.

The Chief Minister quoted various activities and measures taken towards the welfare of the freedom fighters in honouring them.

The adjacent 10 floor building of the Secretariat was named after Namakkal Kavignar, the national poet and a freedom fighter; memorial halls were constructed for Perunthalaivar Kamarajar and Mootharignar Rajaji; creation of Thillaiyadi Valliammai Nagar and a memorial Hall in 1969, who had participated in the resistance launched by Mahatma Gandhi against the British Colonial Government in South Africa; After the demise of Perunthalaivar Kamarajar his closest aide Thiru Vairavan was given employment in Kamarajar memorial house and a house was provided to him in Chennai; Thiru Balu who had been serving Thiru Baktavatchalam, former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, was provided a house and the Government helped to improve his lifestyle; Apart from naming the Warren Road as Baktavat-



chalam Salai, efforts are being taken by this Government to construct a memorial at the place where he was buried at Guindy; Marshalls road was named on 'Rukmani Lakshmi pathi Ammaiyar, the veteran freedom fighter and this Government took all efforts to bring out a stamp featuring the freedom fighter; The statue of Rukmani Lakshmi pathi and the pedestal had been made and was ready for installation awaiting the permission of the then Government for 5 or 6 years - this Government after assuming office gave the permission and the statue was installed; The house where Mahakavi Bharathi, the national poet was born in Ettayapuram was converted as a memorial even before 1976 by this Government; The Bharathi Illam at Triplicane, Chennai had been renovated without altering its old appearance; The oil press pulled by V.O.Chidambaram the renowned freedom fighter in his prison term was displayed to the public near Rajaji Hall, Chennai in 1969; The Tuticorin Collectorate was named after Annai Sivakami, in 1989; The Virudhunagar

Collectorate was named after Kumarasamy Raja, the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu; The Dindigul Collectorate was named after Subramania Siva, a veteran freedom fighter. The Collectorate building of Thirunelveli was named after Poolithevan and the administrative block was named after Sundaralinganar, the Lieutenant of Kattabomman.

The Chief Minister said that it was only during Arignar Anna's regime, pension was given to the widow of the renowned freedom fighter Vanchinathan - who shot Ashe, the District Magistrate of Thirunelveli.

'When the conspiracy to kill Ashe was hatched and when it came to who would kill Ashe between Vanchinathan and Gomathi Sankara Deekshidar, a close friend of Vanchinathan and former Member of the Legislative Assembly - Vanchinathan's name was drawn by a lot and accordingly he was sent to kill Ashe. If Gomathi Sankara Deekshidar's name had been drawn in the lot, he would have done that work. And so when he was a Member of the Legislative Assembly and when I was the Chief Minister, this Government honoured him and celebrated his birthday at Rajaji Hall, Chennai. During the "Pavala Vizha" of elder statesman and renowned freedom fighter, Thiru Chengalvarayan we had honoured him even though we were not in the office, but we

honoured him on behalf of our party. I am telling you not for the sake of pride but because I am grateful for the opportunity to honour him; the Chief Minister said.

He detailed various other steps taken by this Government towards the welfare of the freedom fighters and in honouring them that include : a statue of V.O.Chidambaranar installed in 1972; a fort at Panchalankurichi in memory of Kattabomman and houses for Kattabomman's heirs; A statue for Thevar Thirumagan Pasumpon Muthuramalingam at Madurai and efforts taken to establish colleges on his name at Usilampatty, Mela Neelitha Nallur, and Kamuthi; apart from constructing memorial for Maruthu brothers, in Thirupathur, Sivagangai District who had waged wars against the British.

This Government provide pension to the heirs of Marudhu brothers and Kattabomman; the widows and legal heirs of freedom fighters are allowed to travel free in Government owned buses, from last year; This



Government have passed orders to pay Rs. 1000 to the family of the freedom fighter on his demise immediately, to carry out the last rites; Orders have also been issued that an officer of not less than a Thasildar should attend the funeral and pay respects on behalf of the Government on the death of a freedom fighter. This Government paid pension to Parali S. Nellaiyappan, a Tamil Scholar from 1970; After his death in 1971, accepting the request made by his daughter and considering it as a special case, this Government had ordered to pay Rs. 500 as pension from 16.10.1980; Accepting the request of Tmt. Sethulakshmi, grand daughter of V.O. Chidambaranar, this Government ordered to pay pension from 9.3.1989; A pension of Rs. 1000 to the wife of Thiru Va. Ramasamy, the nationalistic thinker and patriotic writer, has been ordered by this Government, who was praised by Arignar Anna and a renowned freedom fighter who had participated in Salt Sathyagraha; Financial Assistance to Tmt. Nagammal, Sister of Perunthalaivar Kamarajar provided from the Chief Ministers' Public Relief Fund; Steps taken to establish a model village costing Rs. 60 lakhs to the heirs of Sundaralingam the general in Kattabomman's army; necessary actions are being taken to convert the neglected house of Poolithevan into a memorial in Nerkattum Seval; Apart from



installing the statue of Kakkan, the renowned freedom fighter on 31.8.1997 at Madurai, this Government has issued orders permitting the heirs of Kakkan to live without paying rent till their life - time in the house where Kakkan had been living from 1973 in Chennai. The house where Visvanatha Das lived in Thirumangalam was recently converted into a state memorial; The heirs of Viswanantha Das, Thiru Kasinathan, Pichammal, Thangathai and Muthiah Das - are provided pension by this Government.

'There is no need for anyone to be surprised that we have installed the statue of Nethaji. It is our duty and we have been doing it and honouring the freedom fighters by constructing memorials and helping the heirs of the great people who had sacrificed their lives for the cause of freedom. I did not have the opportunity of participating in the freedom struggle and so I am using that opportunity this way by honouring the great freedom fighters and I feel grateful for the opportunity to honour them - with this pride I have unveiled the state of Nethaji. The youngsters of this country should imbibe the qualities of Nethaji and should have in them the qualities that help to wipe out the black moles in the society'.

'On behalf of the All India Forward Block Party, I was presented a sword. When they were presenting the sword to me I had asked them to give it to me keeping the sword in the cover, but Thiru Vallarasu presented the sword removing it from its cover -



Let the sword be in its cover itself. I told him not to draw the sword from its cover because this sword, should not be drawn and extended to communal and religious clashes - Let us all take a pledge to follow the ideals of Nethaji for the upliftment of the Society', the Chief Minister Said.

Before concluding his speech, the Chief Minister thanked Thiru Ayyanan Amabalam and expressed his happiness and thanked the elder statesman and the renowned freedom fighter Thiru Chengalvarayan for participating in the function even at his elderly age. ●

## **Ist COVER**

**H**er Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu Justice **M. Fathima Beevi** and the Hon'ble Chief Minister **Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi** placed wreaths at the War Memorial near the Island grounds, Chennai and paid homage to the martyrs who had sacrificed their lives in different battles.

The war memorial was constructed near Fort. St. George in memory of the soldiers who had laid down their lives in the first world war in 1936. At a function organised to pay homage to the fallen heroes the Governor, the Chief Minister, Ministers, Officers of the three armed forces placed wreaths and paid homage.

# **“TAMIL NADU HAS ONE OF THE STRONGEST NETWORK OF PUBLIC SECTOR BUS TRANSPORT SYSTEM BENEFITING A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE”**

**- Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi at the Conference of Transport Ministers of Southern States**

**“I** am indeed very happy to inaugurate the Southern Zone Transport Ministers' Conference today at Chennai. It gives me great pleasure that the Conference is being held at Chennai, at the appropriate time. We are now making concerted efforts, to strengthen the Transport infrastructure, in the State. We are also making it an important component of our economic and social development.

On this occasion, I would like to place before you certain important issues. I hope, these will engage your attention during your deliberations.

the total vehicle population of the world, it accounts for nearly 6% of the deaths due to road accidents. With the increase in number of vehicles, the situation may worsen further. We will have to take suitable steps to prevent road accidents. Upgradation of the roads, training the drivers, educating the general public about road safety are some of the measures. The Tamil Nadu Government have already initiated some steps in this regard. A core group is looking into various aspects of improving road safety. A major investment in widening the roads is being considered. A programme to improve accident prone locations has



The uppermost concern in my mind is road safety. More than 60,000 people are killed on the Indian roads every year. Although India has less than 1% of the total vehicle population of the world, it accounts for nearly 6% of the deaths due to road accidents. Necessary funds for this task have been allocated by the Government. I understand that the Government of India have also allocated some

funds for improving the road safety in the country. I hope that the Conference will deliberate on the measures to be taken to reduce road accidents.

Another major problem causing concern is the pollution caused by automobiles. The automobile has become a major pollutant in the urban areas. The emerging technologies should be put to use. The people involved should be trained. The Government of Tamil Nadu have already issued instructions that the vehicles should get Pollution Certificates in the city of Chennai, and Districts of Kancheepuram, Thiruvallur, Dindigul and the Nilgiris. This measure requires the full co-operation of all the vehicle owners. This will certainly improve the urban environment. I am sure you would have occasion to discuss this important problem of automobile pollution in urban areas.

These problems need to be addressed by the officials of the Transport Department, who are now spending more time on collection of road taxes. They need to be trained and re-oriented towards these more important goals. The need for strengthening the Department with qualified Engineers, Environmentalists and Transport Planners has also to be looked into.

Tamil Nadu has one of the strongest net work of Public Sector Bus Transport System benefiting a large number of people. The working of the Transport Corporations is being reviewed constantly by the State Government. We have recently amalgamated a number of Public Sector Transport Corporations into a smaller number of more cohesive organisations. This will improve managerial efficiency, leading to better services to the public. One of the major concerns of the Public Sector Corporations is that their fare realisations are not in keeping with the rising costs. It is therefore, necessary to evolve an appropriate mechanism for revision of fares in line with the rising costs. You may consider this during your discussions.

We should ensure that the costs incurred by the Transport Corporations are not inflated by internal inefficiencies. It is essential that these Corporations should have financial viability.

There is also a need to examine the existing structure of taxation in the Transport Sector. I feel that there is considerable scope for simplification. This will avoid unnecessary correspondence between the States. The possibility of modifying the tax structure, could also be discussed in your Conference.

I would also like to invite your attention to the issue of technology. I am given to understand that we do not have customer built passenger buses in the country. The buses which are plying are essentially trucks on which passenger buses have been built. It may be necessary to promote integral buses to ensure greater safety and comfort to the travelling public. The country has achieved technological break-through in respect of smaller automobiles. But such a break-through is yet to come in the case of heavy vehicles. I wish that the fruits of advanced technology are made available to these heavy vehicles also. This will eventually lead to better passenger comfort and safety.

I shall be watching with considerable interest the deliberations of this Conference. I assure you that the Government of Tamil Nadu will be the forerunner in modernising the entire Transport Sector.

I wish the Conference all success. I hope that your stay in Chennai will be useful and comfortable.

Thiru K. Ponmudi, Hon'ble Minister for Transport, presided over the function. Thiru B.R. Crup, Minister for Transport, Kerala; Thiru P.C.R. Cindhya, Minister for Transport, Karnataka; Thiru A.M.H. Nazeem, Minister for Transport, Pondicherry; Secretaries and Commissioners of Transport departments of Maharashtra, Goa and Southern States participated.

# 'SELF HELP PROGRAMME'

- The 'Brain child' of Kalaighnar M. Karunanidhi

The scheme is being planned at the place of execution

After fifty years of Independence, the nation is celebrating the 'Golden Jubilee of our Independence'. In the midst of these festive movements, Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaighnar M. Karunanidhi, is experimenting, a silent revolution, a new approach such as giving full opportunity to the habitants in selecting their need based schemes and also

open grounds of the rural hamlets; under the shadow of lonely trees available on the drying yards; The grama sabhas are being organised under such natural surroundings, to choose their need based as well as priority schemes. Hence, it may be derived that the proposed scheme is being 'planned at the place of execution', that too by the real beneficiaries.



That is why this Self Help Programme is being given a new way in the democratic set up with a new spirit and enthusiasm by the rural masses.

By implementing this ideal scheme the common man gains a knowledge of the scheme and apart

involving their full participation in planning as well as execution on par with the Government.

In a democratic set up, it may be an essential duty of an average Government, in implementing rural development schemes. But, Kalaighnar's new creation, viz. 'Self help Programme' is 'a new diamond in the crown of democracy'. It creates awareness; self thinking; A new encouragement which involves a large number of masses in execution with a new spirit, treating it as their own.

This exemplary scheme is not only a programme, in providing the basic amenities, treating as part and part of the Government's day to day affair, but also gives full liberty to the beneficiaries to take part in initial planning by giving top priority to the need based schemes. In this new doctrine, apart from the participation of the public in implementing the schemes, they also have the chance to select the schemes on need base on top priority by the beneficiaries themselves. The right of such selection is also extended to the level of interior rurals. It is not a plan being prepared in the 'Air-conditioned chambers of multi storeyed Government buildings; But in the

from getting a chance to execute, awareness to maintain, protect and finally getting benefitted.

Hence, it is being defined as a new belief in the democratic way. By massive participation, it will create new world and it is a new trial with healthy atmosphere; and will have an inevitable chapter in the pages of the history of the economy of the nation.

The Self Help Programme is different kind of a new programme a new approach - a full and foremost training in democratic way - a new answer that would break the age old belief 'I am myself and the Government is something else', and bring about a change on both sides - a new phenomenon with a fresh resurrection - an epoch in the socio-economic development of the individuals-of the rural habitations.

That is why, in his speeches, Kalaighnar repeatedly insists, 'All cadres of the whole

village should assemble in a common place; Having discussed pros and cons, unanimous decision should be arrived, on priority as well as need based; Everybody should take part in every aspects. Schemes should be taken up and executed and the Government will extend its assistance.'

This new message which is undoubtedly going to establish 'new revolutions in the history of democracy with the new awakening amidst the rural masses' have already reached the ears of interior rural habitations of Madurai district.

#### **Pirandodi inflow channel. Vellinipatty village of Kottampatty Union**

The three kilometer long inflow channel from the 'Thirumani Mutharu' supplying irrigation water to 500 acres of irrigation land had been left neglected without maintenance for 60 years resulting in the shrinking of the Channel with bushes and the banks encroached by the nearby land owners. The farmers depending on the 18 tanks for water had been left to plight.

The people of four villages assembled and decided to renovate the inflow channel with the

help of Self Help Programme and raised an amount of Rs.75,000 collecting Rs.2 per 'cent' among themselves.

The District Rural Development sanctioned Rs.2,25,000 as Government's contribution and the scheme was planned at a cost of Rs.3 lakhs. The encrochers themselves vacated the banks of the channel. A member from each family went to work in the renovation of the channel, ensuring a bright future in the lives of 500 farmers.

#### **Vandakachozhan tank V. pudur-Kottampatty Union**

V. Pudur farmers were depending on the Vandakachozhan tank for their irrigation purposes but without proper maintenance for a long time the tank had shrunk with thorny bushes and filled with mud. The water collected by rain sufficed for two months only. Villagers assembled; they met the District Collector and handed their petition; they were advised to try the Self Help Programme. Again the Grama Sabha assembled in which the District Collector also took part. Rs.75,000 was collected and handed over to the District Collector as bank demand draft as the people's share. Rs.2.25 lakhs was given from the employment assurance fund on behalf of the Government. The work was planned at an estimated cost of Rs.3 lakhs. The public, without any contractor, themselves laboured for 30 days spending the sanctioned amount of Rs.3 lakhs themselves and renovated the tank. The tank was dug with 3 sections 10 feet deep and had a dimension of 50 x 100 feet. Now fish farming is possible including drinking water for the cattle, also 19 wells in the ayacut will have water resources ensuring a good harvest and an economic development in the area.

#### **Community Well - V. Pudur - Kunnarampatty Panchayat**

V. Pudur, a small hamlet with 50 families at the base of a hill, depended wholly on the rain for their harvest. They approached the District Collector seeking help. The Collector visited the hamlet and participated in the Grama Sabha and it was decided to form a society and dig a Community well under Self Help Programme. Rs.90,000 was Collected as peoples contribution and Rs.1.40 lakhs was sanctioned on behalf of the Government. It was planned to dig a community well, buy a diesel engine and to construct a room for the engine. The whole amount was spent by the society formed by the people and work completed. Now the lands are converted for harvesting paddy to the joy of the people of that hamlet.

#### **C.M.'S GIFT TO GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES**

- Rs.4000 sanctioned as advance from Pay Commission arrears.
- Rs.4000 would be given to College Teachers of U.G.C. and AICTE.
- Pensioners will get Rs.1000 as advance from Pay Commission arrears.

#### **Pongal Gift**

- Government employees will be given 27 days salary as Pongal Bonus as against 25 days.
- For A & B Group Government Employees Rs.725 as against Rs.625.
- Pensioners and employees of Local bodies, Government aided institutions, those getting consolidated or honorarium who have worked more than 240 days will get Rs.150 as against Rs.100.

## **Koopidacherry tank Mangalampatty - Kunnarampatty Panchayat**

The Koopidacherry tank with an ayacut of 22.60 acres wholly depended on the rain water. It was neglected without maintenance for more than 50 years with the banks damaged. Villagers assembled and decided to renovate it by Self Help Programme. They collected Rs. 10,000 among themselves and the Government gave them Rs. 40,000. They laboured for 20 days and renovated the tank. It is definite that more than 50 wells would realise water sources, apart from direct irrigation.

## **Melavurappanoor inflow channel Melavurappanoor - Thirumangalam Union**

The 6 1/2 KM long inflow channel of Melavurappanoor passing through 4 villages that reach vurappanoor tank which had been neglected without maintenance for more than 50 years had shrunk with bushes and mud. The villagers assembled and decided to renovate under Self Help Programme and formed a society to implement the scheme. They approached the District Collector and were advised to collect Rs. 50,000 and promised them the Government would provide Rs. 4,10,000 on behalf of the Government. The work started and each family sent a person to work in the channel. The work was completed in 30 days ensuring water resources to 150 agricultural wells and irrigation water to 1300 acre ayacut. It is noteworthy to mention that the Hon'ble Minister for Revenue Thiru Nanjil K. Manoharan visited the village and addressed the Grama Sabha of the village appreciating and encouraging the hard work of the people.

## **Ooranda Vurappanur tank Thirumangalam Union**

The tank of Ooranda Vurappanur which had been the main water resource for agriculture and day to day life had been shallowed by sand and bushes with depleating water resources for even to catering to the daily use.

Self Help Programme gave them confidence and they approached the District Collector, who visited the small village and had discussion with the villagers. They collected Rs. 50,000 amongst them and Rs. 2,22,000 was handed over to the society as the Government share. The work started to deepen the tank and got completed in 20 days. During the work itself, water started gushing in as in the well, and was pumped out by engine and the irrigation work started before the arrival of rain.

The people of this village who had benefited by this Self Help Programme who have seen their village moving in the

Victory path have themselves cleared the half a kilometer path to the cremation ground on their own, without expecting the help of the Government. This action by the people of this village proclaims the success of this scheme, which is the expectation of the Government to happen in future, that have already happened which is the most appreciable thing that could happen to a Government.

## **Uuvuri Water Channel Kallikudi Union**

Uuvuri is a small hamlet in Villur Panchayat of Kallikudi Union, habited mainly by Adi-dravidars. The channel bringing water to Uuvuri tank had not been renovated for more than 25 years resulting in the shrinkage of the channel and encroachment. Even the

**Chinna Ganesan, an elder Adi-dravidar habitant of Vuvuri hamlet joyously remarked as follows:**

*"The inflow channel got shrunked and shallowed with bushes, etc. Our channel vanished without a trace due to encroachments; 25 years have gone by. The agriculture lands which were pending upon this tank, became barren. Self Help Programme came to our rescue; with the rain the irrigation tank of Uvuri will be filled; and irrigation will flourish. Kalaingar's 'Self Help Programme' has come as a milk to our shrunken empty stomachs".*



timely rain could not help them since the rain water could not be collected in the irrigation tank. A situation arose for them to move away from their hamlet seeking employment. Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar's 'Self Help Programme' is a morning star that would help and guide such desperate people. But the habitants of this hamlet who had been under the spell of old habits lacking self confidence for a long time, very hesitantly approached the District Collector, Mr. Kasi Viswanathan. They informed the Collector that they were

fully ready to extend their hands only for labour but could not be able to raise a huge sum as their share needed for the renovation of the channel. The District Collector encouraged them and advised them to collect according to their capacity. They put in their hard earned money and collected Rs.19,000. The remaining fund needed for desilting the Channel amounting Rs.1,28,000 was sanctioned by the District Collector on behalf of the Government. The people of this small hamlet lent their labour in enthusiasm and the channel was desilted and the encroachments vanished. With the recent monsoon rains throughout Tamil Nadu, there is no doubt the tank would have been filled as the hearts of the people, with joy and agriculture work would start ensuring a bright future in their lives.

#### **Desilting of Kodikulam tank Renovation of Water inflow channel**

##### **Chellampatty Union**

The rain water from the Western ghats which was to reach Kodikulam tank was stopped since the inflow channel was damaged as well as converted to agricultural lands and coconut trees were grown by the encroachers. The 106 acre irrigation land depending on the 'Tank' were becoming barren for want of water. The grama sabha assembled and they sought the Government's assistance for desilting the inflow channel and the tank under 'Self Help Programme'. Their share was Rs.1 lakh and the Government's share was Rs.3.66 lakhs. Work got started. Seeing the village united, the encroachers vacated the place cutting down the coconut trees grown by them without intermediaries or contractors, the work was completed by the villagers to their pride.

##### **Desilting of Jothil-Manikam tank**

The money was handed over to the grama sabha - Rupees One lakh as the people's share and Rs.3 lakhs on behalf of the Government for desilting of Jothilmanikam tank. The tank which had an area of 178 acres and 2 1/4 kilometers length of inflow channel were

desilted by the people and 200 acres of agricultural land insured to get water after 20 years.

#### **Renovation of Thimmanatham inflow channel Usilampatti Union**

Thimmanatham is a backward distant village of Usilampatti Union. The rain water from Andipatti hills get collected in a 3 KMs long tank. As the Tank was not maintained properly there was wastage of water required for farming. Gaining knowledge of the Self Help Programme they approached the Government. They collected Rs.10,000 among themselves and the Government sanctioned Rs.1,10,000 and with that they themselves renovated the channel. Apart from having enough water resources for their cultivation they are assured of drinking water also.

#### **Renovation of Nattar Mangalam tank and desilting of the inflow channel**

##### **Chellampati Union**

The water has to flow from Thirumangalam Main Channel travelling a distance of 5.4 kilometers to reach Nattar Mangalam tank. As the inflow channel had not been desilted for several years, the Nattar Mangalam Tank had not been filled for several years. People of this village went to the District Collector seeking help under Self Help Programme. The work was estimated to cost Rs.7,98,000. Government sanctioned Rs.5,98,000 and the people collected Rs.2 lakhs as their contribution. Villagers themselves took part in the labour and renovated the tank and desilted the channel by themselves without any contractors. Now water is assured for their irrigation needs and no doubt a bright future awaits them.



**Gandhiji had repeatedly said that he believed that one should see India in villages and not in cities. Accordingly the foremost duty of anyone who loved the nation was the creation of self sufficient villages.**

**The dream of Mahatma is becoming a reality now by the Anna Renaissance Scheme and Self Help Programme of the Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar, implemented to provide all basic facilities in the villages for the socio-economic growth of all the habitants of Tamil Nadu.**

*Summarised by :*

**R. Bharathan, M.A.,  
R.Rajasekaran, M.A.,**

## New Hope in the lives of Farmers of Vinnamangalam Village by the 'Self Help Programme' first of it's kind launched by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M. KARUNANIDHI

**D**esilting of irrigation lakes and supply channels under the 'Namakku Naame Thittam' (self-help scheme), launched by the Chief Minister Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi at Vinnamangalam village in Madhanur panchayat union in Vellore district on June 26, have achieved excellent results in the initial work of desilting the 12 km-long supply channel taking water to the four irrigation lakes at Eraivankadu. Okkanavaram. Sethuvalai

in the lake to the fields. But this year, thanks to the desilting of the lake and the supply channel, the water was flowing to the field naturally, he said.

Mr. Muthu said about 150 local villagers engaged themselves in



and Virinjipuram in February much before the adoption of the concept as a State-level scheme in June. Thanks to the desilting, all the four lakes having a total ayacut area of 280 hectares have filled up, following the north-east monsoon rain this year. The work on desilting of the irrigation lake in Vinnamangalam, which was inaugurated by the Chief Minister, has been completed much to the satisfaction of the local farmers.

A visit to Vinnamangalam lake showed that the lake was full of water, thanks to the desilting, which was completed in four months, with the local people giving their labour at low wages. Under the Namakku Naame Thittam, 60 per cent of the funds allotted were spent on labour and the remaining 40 per cent on hiring of machinery and purchase of materials.

Mr. G. Muthu of the Vinnamangalam Lake Irrigation Farmers Association said the lake would not fill up even if it rained for 45 days, but now it had filled up with just 10 days rain. Mr. R. Sathiyamoorthy, another member of the association, said last year, the farmers had to spend Rs.20,000 to divert the water

desilting of the lake. While the Government paid them a daily wage of Rs.32, the farmers association gave another Rs.8 as their contribution, thus enabling the workers to get a daily wage of Rs.40.

In the process of desilting, agricultural encroachments on the supply channels and the lake were removed. Fifty acres of encroachments were removed while desilting the supply channel. This brings to the fore the problem of encroachments which have either completely closed or reduced the width of several supply channels and restricted the water-holding capacity of the irrigation lakes. The PWD Minister, Mr. Durai Murugan, has committed himself to remove the

encroachments and desilting the lakes and supply channels and has offered all help on behalf of the Public Works Department.

In Sedhuvalai, the labourers worked right through till the completion of the desilting of the channel.

On seeing the initial success of the scheme in Sedhuvalai, many panchayat presidents sought funds for desilting supply channels in their villages with the assurance that they would mobilise the labour for undertaking the work through the concept of self-help. On the lines of the Sedhuvalai channel, the Kavanur-Anaimathu channel in Arcot taluk, the Veppaneri channel in Gudiyatham taluk and the Ayyathambattu channel in Vaniyambadi taluk were also desilted. The district administration provided wages to the workers under the employment assurance scheme while it diverted

the funds from the 'one million wells scheme' and the minor irrigation scheme for financing the machinery component.

In Vinnamangalam, the farmers said they were confident of sowing two crops this year, thanks to assured irrigation made possible by the desilting of the lake and the supply channel as against only a single crop till last year when they did not have enough water for irrigation owing to the silted up lake and channel.

*Courtesy: The Hindu (29.11.97)*



## Chief Minister administers pledge to 'work for an AIDS free world'

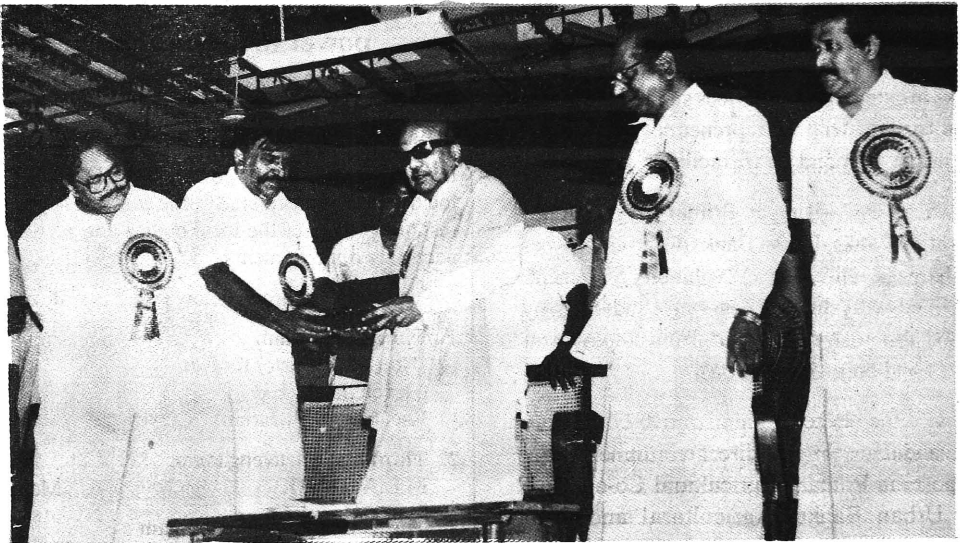


**H**on'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar **M.Karunanidhi** stood in the human chain, joining hands with an eight year old HIV positive girl and other school children and led the State in campaign to combat AIDS, on the occasion of the World AIDS day, on 1.12.1997.

He participated in a 4 KM long human chain formed by school and college students and HIV positive people on the Marina. He has also administered a pledge to the participants to '*work for an AIDS free world*', and later flagged off an AIDS awareness propaganda van that would tour the State.



## RATE OF INTEREST FOR SHORT TERM LOANS FOR AGRICULTURE REDUCED!



**T**he Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaigarnar **M. Karunanidhi** while addressing the valedictory function of the All India Co-operative Week Celebrations held at Chennai on 25.11.97, recollected the sayings of the National Leaders of India on Co-operation. He said:

"In Gandhiji's words, "For a well-built society every one should be interdependent; it does not mean dependence; it becomes co-operation. There is pleasantness in co-operation, there is no controversy between strong and weak among people who live together".

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru points, "Co-operation suits economic and social thoughts. Co-operation is the first step for attaining equality. It is essential for forming corruption-free world. There is no doubt that one day entire world would become a Co-operative society".

"Co-operative societies being a giant organisation may not be able to function successfully of prefer formation of one society for one or two villages" Nehru adds:

Thanthai Periyar stresses: "If the high ambition of co-operation is achieved, it would pave way for the people in our country to lead a comfortable, peaceful and happy life without worrying about tomorrow. We shed off our individualism and infuse the spirit of co-operation among ourselves. We should not think whether it is possible. I am sure we can certainly achieve this".

Perarignar Anna points out: "There is nothing wrong, if co-operation gets the influence of political parties. But that influence should not be utilised by the people involved in co-operative movement for their own welfare; they should not hide their mistakes with political powers; co-operative movement should be beyond politics; they should work for the welfare of others, without giving priority for themselves".

The Chief Minister said, "all who spoke before, pointed out that the elections for co-operative movement was conducted only by this Government. People gathered here are all involved in co-operative movement. I welcome and wish you all.

The Chief Minister also announced some of the demands that would be fulfilled after taking into consideration.

- ★ Enhancement of Family Welfare Fund to Rs. One lakh for the benefit of Co-operative employees.
- ★ Elections for State Main Unions at an early date.
- ★ District Central Co-operative Banks would be improved and modernised on par with nationalised Banks in extending its services such as providing loans to industrial entrepreneurs, practioners, Engineers, Demand Draft facilities, etc.

The vacancies arising in Primary Agricultural Co-operative Banks, Urban Banks due to employees dying in harness, retirement and voluntary retirement, may be filled with suitable desrving candidates by the elected administrative board, from employment exchanges and on promotion basis.

Likewise the elected administrative board may appoint candidates through direct recruitment in the vacant posts in Primary Agricultural Co-opeative Banks, Urban Banks, Agricultural and Rual Development Banks adhering to some conditions, the Chief Minister added.

As soon as this Government assumed office, elections for co-operative societies have been conducted. In continuation, elections for Central and State Main Co-operative Unions would be conducted very soon.

In order to Channelise the distribution of Kerosine, it is proposed to institute 120 kerosine distribution Bunks this year, through co-operative Department. 12 Centres are already functioning. Preliminary arrangements have been made to start 500 centres before the end of next year," the Chief Minister Said.

Powers for construction works for identified primary co-operatives will be accorded to the selected administrative offices, the Chief Minister said.

An important announcement made by the Chief Minister was that the State Main Co-operative Bank has reduced the rate of interest from 5% to 4% for the short term loans extended to Agricultural and Rural Development Bank. In turn the Primary Agricultural Co-operative Banks reduce 1% of interest to the farmers for their short term loan. The short term loans will be issued at the rate of 12% rather than the present rate of 13%. ★

## Hon'ble Chief Minister has ordered to constitute a committee to find the ways and means to provide more power to the local bodies

Accepting the recommendations of the State Planning Commission, the Government of Tamil Nadu has constituted a committee with a view to go into the devolution of powers already given to the local bodies and to study the powers, rights and responsibilities of the local bodies and recommend necessary improvements.

The members are as below :

- |   |   |          |
|---|---|----------|
| 1. Thiru Ko. Si. Mani,<br>(Hon'ble Minister for Rural<br>Development and<br>Local Administration) | - | Convenor |
| 2. Thiru P. S. Thiruvengadam,<br>M.L.A. (D.M.K.)  | - | Member   |
| 3. Thiru Paramathy Shanmugam<br>(D.M.K.)  | - | "        |
| 4. Thiru N.R. Azhagiri,<br>M.L.A., (T.M.C.)   | - | "        |
| 5. Thiru N.R. Azhagar Raja,<br>M.L.A., (T.M.C.)   | - | "        |
| 6. Thiru M. Abdul Latheef,<br>M.L.A., (INL.)  | - | "        |
| 7. Thiru P. Karuppasamy,<br>M.L.A., (A.I.A.D.M.K.)  | - | "        |
| 8. Thiru A. Rajendran alias<br>Dheeran, M.L.A., (P.M.K.)  | - | "        |
| 9. Thiru L. Santhanam,<br>M.L.A., (A.I.F. Block)  | - | "        |
| 10. Thiru G. Ramakrishnan, (CPI-M)  | - | "        |
| 11. Thiru A.M. Gobu, (CPI)  | - | "        |
| 12. Thiru P. Ayyakkannu, (J.D.)   | - | "        |
| 13. Dr. V. Maithreyan, (BJP)  | - | "        |

Other parties in the Legislative Assembly have not recommended their representatives to include them in this committee.

The committee will recommend the Government in providing additional powers, if necessary and changes required in the administration of the local bodies and submit its report to the Government in six months.

## Tamil Nadu is today rapidly emerging as one of the most industrialised States of the Country

- Chief Minister KALAIIGNAR at the inauguration of the Dupont Plant on 11-12-97



I am very happy to be here with you today on the occasion of the formal inauguration of the DuPont plant. Industrial development is a precondition for economic growth. In the process of setting up industrial projects in various sectors, the natural resources are also consumed for producing output. One of the inevitable outcome of increased industrial activity in the past decades had been environmental degradation and pollution. Apart from endangering human health, this also posed a threat to economic activity.

The Rio declaration of 1992 of the United Nations on sustainable development was a direct outcome of the awareness of the global community. The world felt the need to protect environment and public health. With a view to ensuring this, the environmental protection regulations and pollution prevention measures

have been tightened in all countries including India. They are being implemented and monitored strictly. As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, environmental protection measures are being enforced by the State Government very strictly. This will ensure that our future generations will also find this place inhabitable and safe.

DuPont Nylons were granted Environmental Clearance by Tamil Nadu Government in September 1995. The State Pollution Control Board gave them consent to establish their unit in October 1995 for the manufacture of industrial yarn and fabric. I learn from my officials that the unit has installed full scale waste water and air treatment plants, for both domestic and trade waste. Based on this, the State Pollution Control Board has granted them permission to operate Phase I of

the Project being inaugurated today.

Tamil Nadu is today rapidly emerging as one of the most industrialised States of the country. It has been very successful in attracting foreign direct investment in many industrial activities. We are aware that industrial development and environmental protection are not opposed to each other. They are complementary aspects of the same agenda! In this context, I am happy to note that DuPont, one of the most reputed and well-established American companies, has chosen Tamil Nadu to set up their Nylon-6 unit. I am confident that Mr. Daley will use his good offices to tell other industrialists of his country about the specific advantages Tamil Nadu offers. He may prevail upon them to make their investments in Tamil Nadu. On behalf of the State I wish to assure the American delegation that we will extend our fullest co-operation to the foreign investors. They will find our State ideal for forging a meaningful partnership.

## **CHIEF MINISTER KALAINGAR INAUGURATES THE PULSE POLIO IMMUNIZATION PROGRAMME AT CHENNAI.**

**T**he Hon'ble Chief Minister **Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi** inaugurated the Massive campaign of Pulse Polio Immunization Programme on 7th December 1997 at the Government Kilpauk Medical College Hospital (KMC), Chennai by administering Oral Polio drops to three Children. 65.34 lakh children under the age of five years received Oral Polio drops in the first round of Pulse Polio Immunization Campaign in Tamil Nadu. The target fixed for the campaign was 62 lakhs. By administering Oral Polio drops to 65.34 lakh Children, the Government of Tamil Nadu achieved 106 percent in the immunization programme. The second round will be held on January 18. While the Chairpersons inaugurated the programmes in Municipal areas, the District Collectors led the campaign in the District Headquarters.



### **POLIO WILL BE TOTALLY ERADICATED IN TAMIL NADU BEFORE 2000**

**DR. SYED FIAZ PEERAN**  
Additional Director of Public Health (M.C.H.)

#### ● **The Pulse Polio**

Pulse Polio Immunization has been planned on a positive strategy to eradicate the Poliomyelitis caused by Wild Polio Virus from environment. 155 countries in the world have so far eradicated Polio by adopting this strategy. India has also taken up this strategy from 1995 onwards. Pulse Polio is done on a campaign approach in two doses with one month apart on a very lean period of the disease incidence. In India December and January are the lean season for the disease and the country as a whole is adopting two doses of Oral Polio Vaccination during the months of December and January, on a mass campaign as a community movement.

● **Tamil Nadu leads the country in immunization by administering Polio drops to Children under Five Years.**

The first round of Pulse Polio was started all over the country During December 1995 and January 1996. Tamil Nadu chose the target group as 0 - 5 years of age while the country adopted 0 - 3 years of age. This age group of 0 - 5 years was adopted because

this is the age which is most prone to this Infantile Paralysis or Poliomyelitis. The Government of India in the subsequent years also followed Tamil Nadu and raised the target group of 0 - 5 years of age.

### ● **Why Pulse Polio Immunization**

The Pulse Polio Immunization is not a substitute for routine immunization of infants. To prevent the disease in an individual it is necessary that the individual is protected with potent vaccine at the most susceptible age by primary vaccination. World Health Organization has prescribed four doses of Oral Polio Vaccination to be given to infants before the first birth day of the child. However, Tamil Nadu has adopted 5 doses of Oral Polio Vaccination as a primary immunization on a routine basis as per the recommendations of Indian Academy of Paediatrics. Pulse Polio Immunization is given to all the children at the susceptible age for Poliomyelitis so that the oral live polio vaccine which is administered to children on a single day will start multiplying in the guts of all the immunised children under five. This will not allow the guts to get wild virus to grow. Hence the Pulse Polio Immunization acts to replace wild virus with vaccine virus, thus eliminating the wild virus from the guts. The virus cannot survive outside. Such Pulse Polio Immunization efforts for three to four years will make extinct the disease causing wild virus from the environment

### ● **Pulse Polio Immunization's Past Performance**

Tamil Nadu has a population of 65 lakhs of children in 0 - 5 years of age. Every year the age group has been covered under Pulse Polio Immunization from 1995 onwards. In both the rounds 1995 - 96 and 1996 - 97, Tamil Nadu has stood on 100% achievement under Pulse Polio Immunization. During 1996-97, the independent "Coverage Evaluation Survey" conducted by Government of India with the assistance of UNIEF and O.D.A. have also acknowledged the rural coverage 99.2% in Tamil Nadu. However, the urban coverage was only 94%. The short coming in the Urban Coverage has been identified due to the unawareness of the importance of Pulse Polio Immunization among the urban elites. These unimmunized children may act as a link in transmission of wild virus to the subsequently born infants who are unprotected before they were immunized with regular vaccination. Hence the urban elites who are satisfied in protecting their children against Poliomyelitis should also understand the role of transmission of virus if their children are not immunized during the Pulse Polio

Immunization days. This is the very important educational point to motivate the urban elites to immunize their children on Pulse Polio Immunization day for eradication of Poliomyelitis in the larger interest of the community.

### ● **Present Pulse Polio Immunization Arrangements**

The Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine has taken intensive planning efforts six months before the launch of Pulse Polio Immunization campaign. The gross root micro plan has been developed to enumerate the children under 5 by door to door enumeration. All 65 lakh children are enumerated and enlisted immunization post wise so that the attendance of children on Pulse Polio Immunization days could be marked to know the drop outs. A day or two before Pulse Polio Immunization, the individual identification slips are issued to the beneficiaries personally by the Field Public Health Functionaries in the Villages and Towns. This gives an opportunity for the functionaries to brief the parents on the significance of Pulse Polio Immunization - "a dialogue of inter personal communication". Based on the enumeration list, immunization posts are established at the rate of one post per 1,500 - 2,000 population. The vaccine requirement is worked out and supplied. To keep up the potency of the vaccine, cold chain equipments have also been supplied. This year for the public to know the potency, a chemical indicator on the label of the vaccine vial is printed, which changes colour on exposure to

higher temperature indicating the doubtful potency of the vaccine. This system is called as Vaccine Vial Monitor (VVM). Besides this, the department has also arranged to lift vaccines from different immunization post on a random basis for checking the potency by the King Institute of Preventive Medicine, Chennai. The Department has thus ensured high quality services to eradicate Poliomyelitis through a successful Pulse Polio Immunization campaign. This year 40,000 immunization posts were established and 65 lakh of 0 - 5 years local children were expected to be covered. Around 2 lakh Government Staff were drafted for Pulse Polio Immunization on December 7th, Sunday the Immunization Day. The Non - Governmental Organizations and Voluntary Agencies whole heartedly co-operated with State Government in the Pulse Polio Immunization campaign. We specially mention the role of Rotary International in community mobilization services for Pulse Polio Immunization and the individual involvement as volunteers to administer Polio Vaccine.

The Department has also conducted briefing workshops to Municipal Commissioners, Municipal Health Officers, Health Department Officers, Field Public Health Functionaries, Medical Practitioners and also other Para Professionals. On Pulse Polio Immunization days the Collectors had been requested to draft vehicles from

different departments for distribution of vaccines to all immunization posts. The Immunization Posts functioned from 07.00 A.M. to 06.00 P.M. without any break. The District Collectors also appointed independent observe to go round to see the Immunization Posts as a process monitoring feed back system. Different Co-ordination Committees were formed to discuss the issues and rectify the deficiency if any at State and District Level. The National Informatic Network is fully utilized to rapidly transmit the data from the district to State and Centre.

We hope soon Polio will be included in the list of eradicated diseases like Small Pox, Plague, Guinea Worm, Yaws and Kala Azar etc. from Tamil Nadu.

♦ ♦ ♦

## THE LONG PENDING DEMAND OF MEDICOS ARE BEING ACCOMPLISHED BY THE HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER KALAIIGNAR

On the frequent requests made by the House-Surgeons and students of M.B.B.S., P.G.courses studying in different colleges in Tamil Nadu, the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Kalaaignar M.Karunanidhi, had ordered for the enhancement of financial assistance as given below:

The enhanced financial assistance for House-Surgeons is from Rs.1550 to Rs.2550 and for P.G./Diploma students, who are not Government employees is Rs.2500 per month, instead of the present amount of Rs.1600. For the P.G.students who are Government employees and who are getting half month's pay with 72% Dearness Allowance now, will get full month pay with 100% Dearness Allowance, here afterwards.



190 students will be benefitting by this order. This costs an additional expenditure of Rs.6.34 crores to the Government exchequer.

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# **RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT**

An Act to make provision for securing the right to information in the State of Tamil Nadu and for matters relating thereto.

WHEREAS it is necessary that every Governmental action should be transparent to the public;

AND WHEREAS to achieve this object, every citizen should be able to get information from the Government;

BE it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Tamil Nadu in the Forty-eighth Year of the Republic of India as follows:-

1. (1) This Act may be called the Tamil Nadu Right to Information Act, 1997.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, -

(1) "Competent authority" means any authority, officer not below the rank of Deputy Collector or an Officer of an equivalent grade and above empowered by the Government by notification, to be the competent authority for the purpose of this Act;

(2) "Government" means the State Government;

(3) "information" includes copy of any document relating to the affairs of the State or any local or other authorities constituted under any Act for the time being in force or a statutory authority or a company, corporation or a co-operative society or any organisation owned or controlled by the Government.



3. (1) Every person bonafide requiring information may have access such information in accordance with the procedure specified under this Act.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), no person shall be given information relating to-

(a) information relating to defence security;

(b) information whose disclosure will prejudice the security, integrity and sovereignty of the Nation and the State;

(c) information whose disclosure would harm the conduct of international relations or affairs;

(d) information received in confidence from foreign Governments, foreign courts or international organisations;

(e) information whose disclosure would harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion, including:-

(i) proceedings of Cabinet and Cabinet committees;

(ii) internal opinion, advice, recommendations, consultation and deliberation;

- (iii) projections and assumptions relating to internal policy analysis; analysis of alternative policy options and information relating to rejected policy options;
- (iv) confidential communications between departments, public bodies and regulatory bodies;
- (f) information relating to confidential communications between Ministers and the Governor;
- (g) information whose disclosure would prejudice the administration of justice, including fair trial and the enforcement or proper administration of the law;
- (h) information whose disclosure would prejudice legal proceedings or the proceedings of any tribunal, public inquiry or other formal investigation (whether actual or likely) or whose disclosure is, has been or is likely to be addressed in the context of such proceedings;
- (i) information covered by legal profession privilege;
- (j) information whose disclosure would prejudice the prevention, investigation or detection of crime, the apprehension of offenders;
- (k) information whose disclosure would harm public safety or public order;
- (l) information whose disclosure would endanger the life or physical safety of any person, or identify the source of information or assistance given in confidence for law enforcement or security purposes;
- (m) information whose disclosure would increase the likelihood of damage to the environment; or rare or endangered species and their habitats;
- (n) information whose disclosure would harm the ability of the Government to manage the economy, prejudice the conduct of official market operations, or could lead to improper gain or advantage to any person;
- (o) information whose disclosure would prejudice the assessment or collection of tax, duties, or assist tax avoidance or evasion;
- (p) information including commercial confidences, trade secrets or intellectual property whose unwarranted disclosure would harm the competitive position of a third party;
- (q) information whose disclosure could lead to improper gain or advantage or would prejudice.

- (i) the competitive position of a department or other public body or authority;
- (ii) negotiations or the effective conduct of personnel management or commercial or contractual activities;
- (r) information held in consequence of having been supplied in confidence by a person who,
  - (i) gave the information under a statutory guarantee that its confidentiality would be protected; or
  - (ii) was not under any legal obligation, whether actual or implied, to supply it, and has not consented to its disclosure.
- (s) information whose disclosure is prohibited under any enactment, regulation or international agreement;
- (t) information whose release would constitute a breach of Parliament/Legislative Assembly/Council Privilege;
- (u) the documents referred in sections 123 and 124 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.
- (v) any matter which is likely to, -
  - (i) help the commission of offence;
  - (ii) help or facilitate escape from legal custody or affect prison security; or
  - (iii) impede the process of investigation or apprehension or prosecution of offenders

- (3) (a) Any person who wants to have access to the information may make an application in the manner prescribed to the competent authority in such form with such particulars, as may be prescribed.
- (b) Where an application is made under clause (a) and the information is not available with the competent authority but is available with another department or authority, the competent authority may transfer the application to the competent authority with whom such information is available and inform the applicant accordingly. The competent authority to whom such application is transferred shall furnish the information within thirty working days from the date of receipt of the application from the competent authority from whom it has been referred or received.

- (c) Where an application is so transferred to a department or authority, the head of the department or authority shall be deemed to be a competent authority.
- (d) (i) Upon the receipt of an application requesting for an information, the competent authority shall consider it and pass orders thereon either granting or refusing the request, as soon as practicable and in any case, within thirty working days from the date of receipt of application.
- (ii) In other cases, the competent authority shall take all reasonable steps to inform the applicant of its decision on the request as soon as practicable.
- (4) (a) If in the opinion of the competent authority any information, if disclosed, is likely to cause breach of the peace or cause violence, or disharmony among the section of the people on the basis of religion, language, caste, creed, community or if it is prejudicial to public interest, the competent authority shall refuse to give information.
- (b) Any application made under clause (a) shall be rejected, for reasons to be recorded in writing; if in the opinion of the competent authority-
  - (i) any such information sought falls in any one or more categories of items listed under section 3(2), or
  - (ii) the disclosure of the information sought would be prejudicial to the maintenance of public order, or maintenance of essential services and supplies.
- 4. (1) Any person aggrieved by an order of the competent authority or any person who has not received any order from the competent authority within thirty working days may appeal to the Government or to such other authority as may be notified by the Government, subject to such rules as may be prescribed.
- (2) The decision of the Government or such other authority as may be prescribed shall be final.
- (3) No order adversely affecting any person shall be passed except after giving that person a reasonable opportunity of being heard.
- 5. No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against any authority or person for anything done in good faith or intended to be done in pursuance of this Act or the rules made thereunder.
- 6. If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Government may, by an order published in the Tamil Nadu Government Gazette, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act and appear to them to be necessary or expedient for removing the difficulty:

Provided that no such order shall be made after the expiry of two years from the date of the commencement of this Act.

7. (1) The Government may make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.
- (2) (a) All rules made under this Act shall be published in the Tamil Nadu Government Gazette and unless they are expressed to come into force on a particular day, shall come into force on the day on which they are so published.
- (b) All notifications issued under this Act shall, unless they are expressed to come into force on a particular day, come into force on the day on which they are published.
- (3) Every rule made or notification issued under this Act shall, as soon as possible, after it is made or issued, be placed on the table of the Legislative Assembly, and if, before the expiry of the session in which it is so placed or the next session, the Assembly makes any modification in any such rule or notification or the Assembly decides that the rule or notification should not be made or issued, the rule or notification shall, thereafter, have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be, so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule or notification.

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### Tamil Nadu stands first in implementing rural development works in the whole of India under the magnificent leadership of KALAI GNAR

Soon after this Government assumed office in 1996, it was found that 1,14,143 numbers of rural works were left undone as against the targets stipulated. Due to the accelerated rapid steps, taken by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi 99,956 numbers of rural works have been taken up and those exemplary task completed, that include 73,004 group houses. Further 1,22,526 rural works have been completed out of 3,40,548 works estimated to be implemented during 1996-97 and 1997-98; as a remarkable achievement, during the past 16 months 2,22,482 rural works have been completed that include 1,12,342 group houses built for Adi-dravidars.

In the first part of the year, Rs.472.91 crores were earmarked that include Rs.134.68 crores as opening balance and Rs.338.23 crores as first spell of the Central and State Governments for implementing seven

centrally assisted schemes like Jawahar Velai Vaaipu Thittam, Indira housing scheme, etc.

A request for the second spell of assistance for implementing such schemes, can be sent only on completion of the work before 31.12.97 by sanctioning 50% of the total amount, for employment assurance scheme and 60% for other schemes from the 1st spell and the opening balance.

The emphasis put forth by the Chief Minister Kalaignar in the conference of the Deputy Collectors held on 14th and 15th of June and 2nd and 3rd of September, works were implemented at a fast pace and Rs.312.52 crores-65% of the earmarked assistance were spent and work completed, two and a half months ahead of schedule stipulated and the Central Government have been requested to release Rs.244.41 crores-the second spell of assistance to Tamil Nadu.



Admitting this admirable achievement of Government of Tamil Nadu which no other State accomplished so far, the Centre has released Rs.94.2 crores in a before time of 2½ months.

It is noteworthy to mention that the Districts of Madurai, Vellore, Coimbatore, Erode, Kanniyakumari, Theni, Salem, Thirunelveli and Nilgiris have done a commendable work in implementing Rural Development works.

## "OUR INFRASTRUCTURAL INDEX IS ONE OF THE HIGHEST IN THE COUNTRY" - claims KALAINAR

I am extremely happy to participate in the Food Pro '97 organised by Confederation of Indian Industry. I am delighted to know that Agro Business Houses, Food Processors and various International Institutions are participating in the 4 day International Conference and Exhibitions. In 1995, Confederation of Indian Industry organised a similar exhibition. The theme was on promise for food processing sector in India. The present conference and exhibition focuses to assess the performance so far achieved. This will bring out the vast potentialities available and problems to be overcome. I am sure in your deliberations, you will look into various aspects of agricultural and horticultural exports.

Please examine the changes in the composition of major exportable agricultural commodities over time.

You may study the growth performance of the commodities in terms of export values, quantum and unit value of exports.

I understand that the export value, of major exportable agricultural commodities had a declining trend between 1975-76 to 1992-93 in India. Thereafter, there has been steady increase in the export of agricultural commodities and processed food from India to the international market. The composition of major exportable agricultural commodities had changed entirely during this period. In eighties, tea, coffee, cashew kernels and tobacco were the main agricultural commodities, which were exported from India. From 1990-91, the major agricultural commodities exported were marine products, oilcakes and rice. In the recent years, processed foods, fruits and vegetables, meat and meat preparations are the newly-identified non-traditional agricultural commodity groups for exports. During the eighties, the domestic price of major exportable agricultural commodities was generally lower than the world market prices. This increased the demand for the Indian products by the importing countries.



I request you to compare the domestic and international market prices of the major exportable processed food and agricultural commodities;

Please identify the newly emerging processing and marketing technologies for agricultural commodities which have a great potential for future exports.

Under the new economic policy, with the positive factors available for agro-based industries, there is more scope for producing and exporting processed food products. Marine products, have vast potential for raising their production. Hence a better aquaculture technology needs to be developed.

Since June 1991, India has been witnessing far reaching Economic Policy Reforms. Some of these policies have affected the agricultural sectors to some extent. But the signing of the treaties on World Trade Organisation (WTO) has opened up our country's boundaries to the global agricultural environment. In this context, We have to keep in mind the food security needs to meet our domestic demands while promoting export.

Food processing sector in Tamil Nadu has been dominated by about 34 Thousand small and cottage industries in unorganised sector. In the organised sector 3 Thousand 600 food processing units contribute to the value addition of Rs. 7 Hundred and 90 crores, out of the total value addition of Rs. 4 Thousand 800 crores in food processing industries. Agro Processing Parks in Nilakottai and Ambattur, Horticulture Park in Hosur with Horticulture Auction Centre at Chennai will provide much needed infrastructure for promoting exports of processed food products and cut flowers from Tamil Nadu.

Mango pulps of Krishnagiri, Zenthophil extracts of Marigold from Bhavani, Egg powder from Pollachi, Grapes of Cumbum Valley, Fresh vegetables from Tirunelveli, Dry flowers from Tuticorin, Tea from Coonoor, Coffee of Kodaikanal, Onion of Dindigul, Garlic of Kodaikanal, Gerkin of Maraimalai Nagar, Mangoes from Salem, Orchid from Chengleput, Roses from Hosur, Jasmine from Madurai, Cassandras from Coimbatore find their best export markets in Europe, U.S.A., U.K., and West Asia. Tamil Nadu, with diverse agro climatic conditions, with excellent and receptive farmers and enterprising agroprocessors, can take the lead role in the country in food processing sector.

It is heartening to find that Confederation of Indian Industry has published McKinsey Report on the Food Industry in India. The Food and Agriculture Integrated Action Report (FAIDA) intending to modernise the Indian food chain, highlighting the hidden and unexploited potentialities in the spheres of Poultry, dairy, cereals, fruits and vegetables is an eye opener, a watershed, for the bright future for our toiling million farmers in rural areas. There will be substantial gain to the food producers, if processing improves value addition. You have underscored that India will become "World's largest food factory" by the year 2005 with estimated trade of about Rs. 48 Thousand crores. This will have a multiplier impact in raising agricultural yield, creating employment, raising the standards of living of large number of villagers. We need to take note of the changing patterns of food consumption, increased expenditure on protein rich food

and processed food, high percentage of loss and wastage in food chain. We should bring about an integration from the levels of producers right upto consumers. Integration of production, procurement, storage, processing, and marketing will call for large scale investment and development of latest technologies.

In this context, I look forward to our guests from abroad. Please tell us what steps and supports are needed to stimulate technological upgradation and heavy investment in Tamil Nadu. For little over a year we have improved the investor friendly climate. Our infrastructural index is one of the highest in the country. Our single window approach has given confidence to the investors. International Automobile majors find Tamil Nadu best destination for investment. I request the international food processing chains to utilise the agro-horticultural opportunities available in Tamil Nadu. They may take advantage of our favourable policy environment, and favourable food production and processing climate for investment. I assure you that my Government will provide all support for the development of food processing sector in the State. Recently, we have conducted a study on "Changing structure of Demand for Agricultural Products in Tamil Nadu" through TATA Economic Consultancy Services. This Report predicts the demands for 2001 for foodgrains, sugar, edible oil, fruits, vegetables, milk, meat and eggs.

We are at cross roads. We have passed over first 50 years of independent existence. We are anxious for change, for progress and development before we enter the next millennium. In the past we have made excellent strides in many sectors. We have not made so much in few sectors. The next fifty years we have to do more to expand the opportunities, to enhance the production potentials and to take our economy to the higher levels. What shape our economy takes ultimately depends on what we make of it. The future is very much in our hands.

We in Tamil Nadu, will draw up a long term perspective Food Processing Policy, which, I am sure will include many of your suggestions. You may be aware that my Government has already announced Floriculture Policy for the State, which is attracting foreign direct investments. In this regard, we are pioneer in the country. In the food processing sector also, we desire to be forward-looking. This conference and exhibition will provide ample technical and managerial input to us.

With these words, I inaugurate and declare open the Conference. I wish your deliberations a grand success.

- The Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar at the inauguration of 'FOODPRO 97'

## HON'BLE UNION MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE

### THIRU N.V.N. SOMU DEMISED

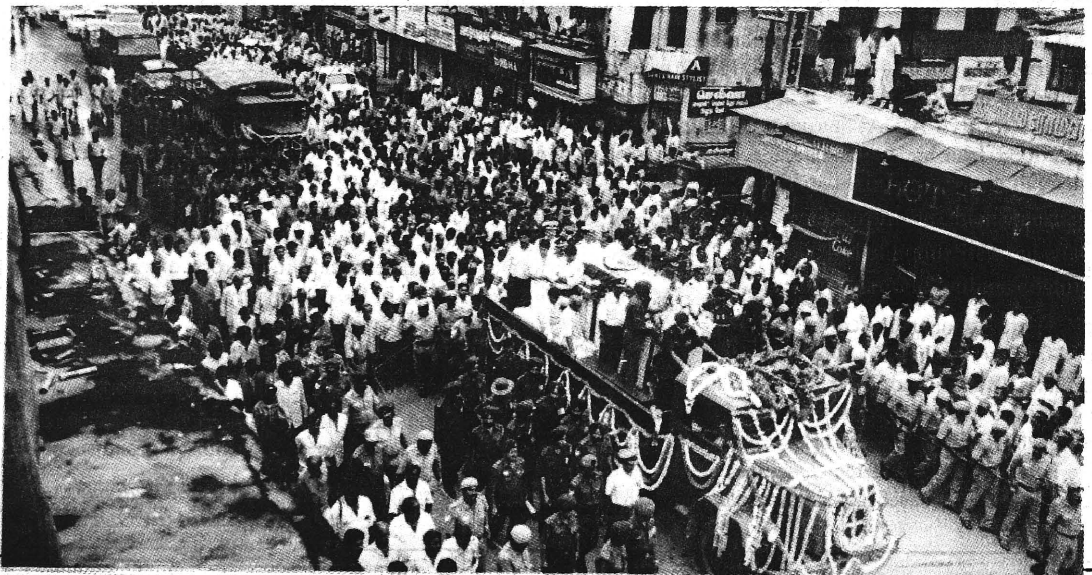
**H**on'ble Union Minister of State for Defence Thiru N.V.N. Somu breathed his last around 9.30 AM on 14.11.97 in an air crash. He was on his way to inspect the Indo-China border and was being flown in a 'cheetah' helicopter from Davhank. The tragedy occurred over Lankar which is 1½ km from Davhank at an altitude of 4000 meters.

His mortal remains were flown in to Chennai by a special IAF Aircraft past midnight and taken to his residence. His coffin was placed in his house for the public to pay their last respects.



Her Excellency the Governor, Justice M. Fathima Bheevi paid respects on behalf of the President of India by placing a wreath. Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaigarnar, Hon'ble Ministers, Hon'ble Union Minister for Industries, Thiru Murasoli Maran, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Petroleum, Thiru T.R. Balu, President of the Tamil Manila Congress Party, Thiru G.K. Moopanan, various political leaders, the Worshipful Mayor of Chennai, Thiru M.K. Stalin, various labour Union leaders and their comrades, party people and public in large number paid their respects by placing wreaths over the body of Thiru N.V.N. Somu.

The next day on 15.11.97 Hon'ble Prime Minister **Thiru I.K. Gujral** accompanied by his wife, Hon'ble Union Minister for Defence **Thiru Mulayam Singh Yadav**, former Prime Minister **Thiru Vajpayee** also flew to Chennai and paid homage to the mortal remains of Thiru N.V.N. Somu.



## RS.7.40 CRORES ALLOCATED BY KALAIGNAR FOR THE RENOVATION OF THREE MAJOR INLET CHANNELS/ MINOR DAMS, TANKS ETC. IN RAMANATHAPURAM DISTRICT

**T**he Hon'ble Chief Minister, Kalaaignar M.Karunanidhi had issued orders for the allocation of Rs. 7.40 cores for renovating the inlet channels, tanks etc. to bring water to the drought prone areas like Kamudhi and Mudukulathur in Ramanathapuram District. These areas get water from Gundaru through, Narayana Cauvery channel-Mandala Manickam Dam, Ragunatha cauvery channel-regulator, Kamudhi regulator, Sankarathevan channel Dam.

- For renovation work in Narayana Cauvery and its connected Mandala Manicka Dam - Rs.5.7 crores
- For renovating Ragunatha Cauvery Channel and its connected Kamudi Regulator - Rs.1.10 crores
- For renovating Sankara Devan Dam and Channel - Rs.55 Lakhs



After renovation 110 lakes will get water, 22,000 acres of land will get irrigation facilities and drinking water resources will be increased considerably to the people living in these drought prone areas. It may be noted that these renovation works have not been taken for more than 2 to 10 decades.

### Rs.807.49 crores for improving Water resources in Tamil Nadu

Schemes for improving and renovating the water resources in Tamil Nadu, with World Bank Assistance, to a tune of Rs.807.49 crores are being implemented and executed in a proper manner.

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## GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU SANCTIONS RELEASE OF RS.59.58 CRORES TO PANCHAYATS FROM EQUALISATION AND INCENTIVE FUND.

**G**overnment of Tamil Nadu having accepted the recommendation of State Finance Commission reserved Rs.59.58 crores towards incentive and Equalisation Fund. Honourable Chief Minister has approved the release of Rs.59.58 crores for the said purpose.

There are financially weaker Village Panchayats where arrear of electricity consumption charges could not be paid to Tamil Nadu Electricity Board and they could not meet the operation and maintenance cost of Combined Water Supply Schemes maintained by TWAD Board. Government decided to clear the arrears on those two counts upto 31.3.97. Thus Rs.10.09 crores will be

released to Tamil Nadu Electricity Board towards the arrears of electricity consumption by the Village Panchayats. Further Rs.17.48 crores will be released by the Government on behalf of the village panchayats to Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board towards the arrears of maintenance cost of Combined Water Supply Schemes.

Government have decided to release Rs.12.01 crores to Village Panchayats and Panchayat Unions (Rs.5 crores to Village Panchayats and Rs.7.01 crores to Panchayat Unions) in hilly tracts, areas frequently affected by floods and cyclone and backward areas for meeting the operation and maintenance costs of the infra

structures and services which frequently face stress and strains due to adverse and disadvantageous environment. Out of the above amount 50% will be released to hilly and coastal area Village Panchayats and Panchayat Unions, balance 50% for the financially weaker Village Panchayats and Panchayat Unions.

Government have sanctioned Rs.20 crores to provide matching incentive to Village Panchayats for house tax collection in the ratio of 2:1 between incentive and collection. So far house tax matching grant was 1:1 and the present decision doubles the incentive to encourage Village Panchayats to collect effectively and fully the house taxes in their respective areas.

**'EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE FOR PROJECTS MAY BE PASSED  
ON TO THE STATES 50% LOAN AND 50% GRANT,  
INSTEAD OF 70% LOAN AND 30% GRANT'**

**- KALAIgnAR.**



**I** am happy to participate in the fourth Meeting of the Inter-State Council. I am happy to note that the United Front Government has been convening its meetings at regular intervals.

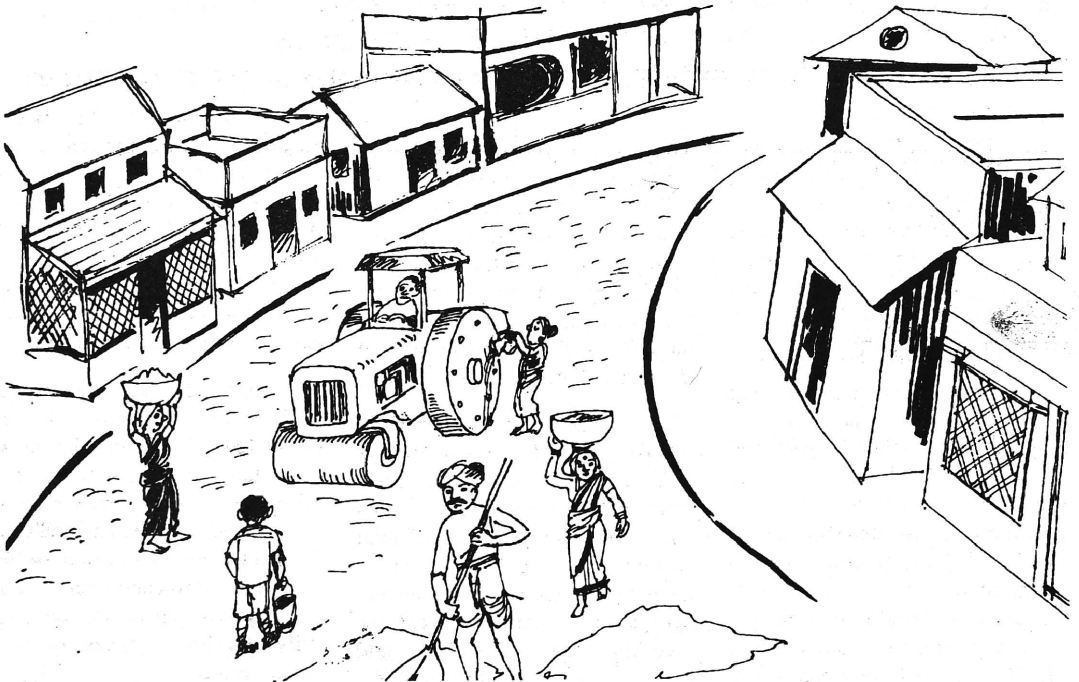
The first item on the Agenda is to consider the proposed consensus paper on the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission on Centre State Financial Relations.

We concur with the proposed consensus subject to the following observations/suggestions.

On Article 268 of the Constitution, which deals with the duties levied by the Union but collected and appropriated by the State, the possibilities of transfer of the taxes under this Article to the State list may be considered by the Government of India. At present, stamp duties and excise on medicinal and toilet preparations as are mentioned in the Union list come under this category.

Before finalising the constitution and the Terms of reference of the Finance Commission, we are of the view that the State Chief Ministers must be consulted.

On the introduction of tax free Municipal Bonds we strongly urge the Government of India to permit Urban Local Bodies to raise resources through tax free bonds with a view to enable them to step up their investment in urban infrastructure.



At present, external aid received for projects is being passed on to the State Governments as 70% loan and 30% grant. We suggest that it may be passed on to the States as 50% loan and 50% grant in view of the larger revenue expenditure components in these projects.

The second item on the Agenda is to consider the recommendations of the Standing Committee on the Sarkaria Commission's recommendations - Chapter 4 - Role of Governor.

Our considered view is that the institution of Governor should be abolished. If the above view is not acceptable, he shall be appointed by the President with the concurrence of the Chief Minister of the State. The discretionary powers of the Governor should be taken away. The Governor should not be appointed for two or more States. The provisions of the Constitution should be amended for this purpose. The abolition of the post of Governor will save huge expenditure incurred from the State exchequer on the office of the Governor and attached establishment. For this purpose, Articles 153 to 162 may be omitted and necessary consequential amendments to Articles 163, 164, 166, 167, 168 and other provisions of the Constitution may be made. The powers now exercised by the Governor shall be exercised by the Chief Minister. In case the above view is not acceptable, the following views are suggested for making necessary amendments to the constitution.

- ◆ Article 155 shall be amended;
- ◆ The Governor shall be appointed by the President with the concurrence of the Chief Minister of the State;
- ◆ The proviso to Article 153 and clause (3-A) of Article 158 which provides for the appointment of the same persons as Governor for two or more States may be omitted;
- ◆ Article 163(1) conferring discretionary power on the Governor may suitably amended so as to be in line with Article 74(1) of the Constitution relating to the President;
- ◆ Article 163(2) dealing with the discretionary power of the Governor may also be omitted;
- ◆ The advise of the Chief Minister to the Governor to dismiss any Minister shall be accepted by the Governor;

- ◆ Provisions may also be made in the Constitution for issue of instructions to the Governors.

The third Agenda item is to consider the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Sarkaria Commission's recommendations - Chapter 17 - Inter-State River Water Disputes.

In the area of sharing inter-state waters, I would regretfully say that much is desired to be done by the Union Government. My Government has consistently been advocating certain amendments to the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956, with reference to the recommendations made by the Sarkaria Commission. As early as in the year 1990, my Government had requested the Union Government to accept the crucial recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission and bring appropriate amendments to the Act. Again when the Union Government in the Ministry of Water Resources wanted our comments on the modifications proposed to the Act, we had given our views in April, 1997.

I take this opportunity to once again reiterate that the Act should be amended to make it more purposeful and effective. The main areas which require immediate amendments are that-

- a. it should be mandatory that the Union Government constitutes a Tribunal within a period of three months from the date of receipt of written request from any State or States. In this regard, there is no need for the Union Government to act suo moto for constituting a Tribunal.
- b. the award of Tribunal should be made effective atleast within five years from the date of constitution of the Tribunal. In fact, I prefer to have this period limited to three years.
- c. the Tribunal's award should have the same force and sanction behind it as an order of the decree of the Supreme Court so that it is binding on the parties to the dispute.

The subject, "evolving broad principles for sharing of river waters by States", I presume, refers to allocation of sharing of inter-state river waters amongst the States. If it is so, I would like to draw the attention of this forum to the unwanted extensive exercise already made in the Ministry of Water

Resources to frame National Policy Guidelines for allocation of inter-state river waters amongst the States and the adverse reactions conveyed by several State Governments. The Ministry of Water Resources prepared a draft "Guidelines" in February, 1994, modified it in July 1994 and brought it for discussion in the third meeting of the Water Resources Council held on the 6th February, 1996. My Government had in unambiguous terms communicated its views against evolving any guidelines for this purpose at every opportunity including in the Water Resources Council meeting and lastly in September 1997. We are of the firm view that there is no need to issue any Guidelines for water allocation amongst the States nor can they have any legal force. They are totally impracticable in respect of inter-state rivers already in use.

In the light of this background, I firmly and earnestly reiterate to this august body that there is absolutely no need to have any Guidelines on this subject of sharing or allocation of inter-state waters amongst the States and particularly to discuss it by the Inter-State Council. On the other hand, what we need immediately is to amend the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956 to make it more effective and purposeful.

The fourth item of this Agenda is to consider the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Sarkaria Commission's recommendations - Chapter 11 - Economic and Social Planning.

I fully support the recommendation that the States should be involved in all stages of plan formulation. Further, I would like to make a strong appeal for increasing the grant component of the Central Plan assistance to the States from the existing level of 30% to 50%. We have already conveyed our views that the Centrally Sponsored Schemes should be transferred to the States along with the corresponding resources. Till then, sufficient flexibility should be allowed to the States in adapting the contents and coverage of Centrally Sponsored Schemes to the local conditions. The recommendation that officers from Union Planning Commission and the State Governments at middle levels should serve at each others' places is very welcome in the spirit of cooperative federalism in planning. While I feel that the present system of National Development Council should continue, I feel that it should meet regularly and discuss important economic issues of national

significance. Further, National Development Council may constitute Standing Committees or other sub-committees on special issues as and when necessary.

The fifth item on the Agenda is to consider the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Sarkaria Commission's recommendations-- Chapter 15 - Forests.

It is pertinent to note that even though the subject "Forests" comes under concurrent list and Section 2(iii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and the guideline 1.7(i) does not envisage the State Government to get the prior approval of the Government of India for its own use of forest lands, proposals are sent to Government of India for its concurrence. Though the forest lands with its flora and fauna are owned by the State Government, the delay in getting the approval and compliance reports required by the Ministry are bottlenecks in the development projects of the State Government. In my opinion, proposals for diversion of forest lands for use of the State need not be referred to Government of India.

Once the proposal is approved by the Government of India, regarding leases or mining of forest lands, the power to continue the lease and other matters should be left to the State Government.

In the last Inter-State Council Meeting held on 17th July 1997, I had suggested that we agree on 31st March 1998 as a time limit for taking decisions on all the recommendations at the Sarkaria Commission. I would like to reiterate that suggestion. The Inter-State Council has proved to be an effective forum for exchange of views between the Union Government and the State Governments and this promoting genuine federalism in India. With the implementation of the accepted recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission, I am sure, the country will move towards greater devolution of powers to the States in the Union of India.

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Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister,  
presented by Thiru. K. Ponmudi, Hon'ble  
Minister for Transport at the fourth meeting of  
the Inter-State Council, held at  
New Delhi (28.11.97)

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# அச்சாக அப்பாவைப் போல்...



உங்கள் மகனாக அவன் பிறந்தபோது, உறவினர் “அச்சாக அப்பாவைப்போல்” என்றார்கள். உங்கள் மகிழ்ச்சிக்கு எல்லையே இல்லை.

அவன் தவழ்ந்த போது, தளர் நடை பயின்றபோது, மழலை பேசியபோது நீங்களும் உங்கள் மனைவியும் உலகையே மறந்தீர்கள். உங்கள் உலகமாக அவனை நினைத்தீர்கள்.

உங்கள் மகனைப் பற்றிய கனவுகளால் மனதை நிறைத்துக் கொண்டீர்கள்.

ஆனாலும்.... உங்கள் வாழ்வின் உயிர்த்துடிப்பான உங்கள் மகனை மறந்து, சில நிமிடத் தடுமாற்றங்களால் தகாத உறவுகளைத் தேடிப்போவது நியாயம்தானா? எய்ட்ஸ் என்னும் கொடிய நேரையை விலை கொடுத்து வாங்குவது தேவைதானா?

எங்கோ சுகம் தேடுமுன்  
ஒரு நொடி சிந்தியுங்கள்



தமிழ்நாடு எய்ட்ஸ்  
கட்டுப்பாட்டு அமைப்பு

417, பாந்தியன் சாலை, எழும்பூர், சென்னை - 600 008.  
தொலைபேசி: 825 5467/825 5261/825 4917.  
24 மணி நேர ஹாட்லைன்: 825 6882/825 6864



ஆணுறை - குடும்ப நலம் காக்கும்.  
எய்ட்ஸ் பயம் போக்கும்.

