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The District Collectors play a pivotal role not only in maintaining law and order but also in implementing the developmental programmes

Address by Hon'ble Chief Minister
Selvi J JAYALALITHAA
at the Conference of Collectors
on 1-8-2001

I am extremely happy to be here today in your midst and to inaugurate the Annual Conference of District Collectors and Superintendents of Police. This is the first Conference after the new Government took over in May, 2001.

When I first assumed office as Chief Minister in June, 1991, while addressing the Collectors and Superintendents of Police, I expressed the Government's resolve to tackle the major task of restoring the people's faith in the ability of the Government to maintain law and order. As I now talk to you, 10 years later, it is unfortunate that I have to re-emphasize and reiterate what I said then, all over again. Among the major tasks the new Government faces once again is that of bringing extremist and secessionist elements under control. As mentioned in the Governor's Address, militant, anti-national and secessionist groups have once again reared their ugly

heads in the State. During the past five years, the forest brigand Veerappan and his gang have gone about unchallenged and they have also established links with anti-national groups. There has also been proliferation of extra-legal and extra-constitutional forces, enjoying the patronage of the powers that were, who have been indulging in unlawful activities and intimidating law abiding citizens. My Government is determined to put down such elements with an iron

that in various important spheres of Government, affecting the common people, there has been lack of focus, direction and thrust. The Government machinery, in order to work effectively, needs proper direction from the top and it is my belief that in the past five years, this lack of commitment and seriousness of purpose from the top has left things to drift about in a directionless manner. This trend has to be arrested immediately and the State put again on the road to prosperity

involvement and dedicated performance of the district administration, under the leadership of the Collectors. The detailed agenda for the meeting of the Collectors includes the various items which would require the attention of the Collectors and I do not intend to go into these at length at this stage.

I would however like to take this opportunity to highlight a few areas which occupy the highest priority in our Government's scheme of things. Our commitment to restore the number one position to Tamil Nadu in the country cannot fructify unless law and order is well maintained in the State. The district administration is therefore required to take firm and resolute steps to contain the nefarious activities of anti-social elements and to ensure peace and tranquillity, for the State to prosper. For the past 5 years, Tamil Nadu, which has always been known for the peaceful and harmonious co-existence of different castes and communities, has witnessed senseless clashes between the people. I believe this should not be viewed as being purely a problem of maintenance of law and order. The approach to this serious problem has to be founded on a proper understanding of the root cause thereof and an understanding of the social and economic issues which need to be addressed and resolved. I have directed the departments concerned viz. Rural Development, Municipal

The District Administration has to implement the various laws, regulations and rules with respect to issues affecting women, with commitment.

hand. This will be the first challenge the Collectors and Superintendents of Police will be facing and this is the first task I enjoin on you, to engage yourself with total resolve, purposefulness and efficacy.

Over the past eight weeks, I have had very useful and detailed interaction with all Secretaries to Government and Heads of Departments to assess the working of the Government in various spheres of social and economic life. While I was impressed with the enthusiasm and commitment of the officers, I found with some disappointment

and pre-eminence in the country. I believe I have been able to give a clear message to all the officers during the reviews that my Government possesses both the resolve and commitment to see that the schemes involving public expenditure are implemented in a manner that will enable the benefits to reach the beneficiaries for whom they are intended, without any leakage whatsoever. I would like to convey the same message to you, as District Collectors. It is clear to me, more than ever before, that the effective functioning of every department of the Government hinges crucially on the

Administration and Adi-Dravidar and Tribal Welfare to identify pockets where the problem is serious, in consultation with the District Collectors, and to take action for the integrated and co-ordinated development of the people of these areas, to give a better meaning to their life and wean them away from the machinations of anti-social, anti-national and disruptive elements. I request all the Collectors to take note and respond to this point, during their intervention later in the Conference.

Over the last half-a-century, successive Governments have been implementing various programmes for providing basic amenities and infra-structural facilities to the people. However, we have to admit that the needs of the rural people are yet to be fully met and that where facilities have been provided, they are not to the satisfactory level. There are cases where expenditure has been incurred but benefits have not flown to the persons they were meant for. The quality of assets created and the services provided need constant review and wherever necessary, suitable measures for up-gradation and gap-filling need to be undertaken.

I am rather concerned about the sad neglect of basic infrastructural facilities such as hostels for poor students which the Government has established over a period of time, especially for the benefit of students belonging to Adi-dravidar, Backward Classes and Most Backward Classes communities.

In spite of expenditure of crores of rupees year after year, the majority of these hostels do not have even the basic facilities such as water supply, electrification and toilet facilities, and the students have been living in pitiable, deplorable and depressing conditions. This surely is not the way to help them to achieve better standards of life through better education. My Government, as it is, sets a very high score on the development of the under-privileged sections of society to ensure their upliftment. It is totally unacceptable that public expenditure is not matched by effective implementation and realisation of the true objective of these schemes.

I can only say that, such a sorry state of affairs has come to pass only because of lack of personal

involvement and commitment on the part of the officers implementing the schemes. Social sector schemes succeed and yield results only if those involved in implementing them have a sense of dedication and see their work as a mission. The officers must develop the appropriate attitude to understand the needs of the people with sympathy and compassion, and acquire the ability and skill to formulate and effectively implement innovative programmes that are best suited to achieve our objectives. The support of the people can be ensured only by providing them with easy access to the District Administration.

I would like to draw your attention to the announcement made in the Governor's address



on 25.5.2001 regarding expeditious disposal of business in Government offices. In achieving the objective of this announcement, the Collector's role is crucial. Special attention must be paid towards redressal of public grievances. Properly acknowledging the petitions, setting a time limit for final disposal and effectively coordinating with the officials concerned for an early decision, are the essential ingredients of an effective grievances redressal mechanism. I appeal to the Collectors to involve themselves in these programmes with such a sense of missionary zeal. Since the new Government took charge, 2,18,688 petitions have been received at the Secretariat personally by me and in the C.M.'s Special Cell, until 31.7.2001. Out of these, 1,50,000 petitions have already been forwarded to the District Collectors and the Heads of Departments for necessary action. As on date, there are 60,000 petitions in the C.M.'s Special Cell, yet to be forwarded to the Collectors for necessary action. These are being handed over to you. All Collectors should take expeditious action to dispose of them. I would request you to accord top-most priority to the petitions received, not only from the C.M.'s Special Cell, but also from other sources and see that they are given fair and just disposal. During my previous tenure in Government, between 1991-96, I had instituted a prize for the Special Deputy Collectors manning the Public Grievances Redressal Cell in the Districts,

which was discontinued by the previous Government. Now, I am happy to announce the revival of that scheme. In addition, every year, shields will be awarded to the Best Districts starting from the current year. The Collectors who show exemplary devotion to duty and adopt innovative approaches to mitigate the sufferings of the masses, will be awarded the Chief Minister's Medal in the next Collectors' Conference.

There are also special schemes like the Puratchi

that a large number of the Nutritious Meal Centre buildings are in very bad condition, especially the centres in urban areas, which require urgent repairs. I expect the Collectors to make sure, without fail, that they will look upon all these social sector schemes as important items of work and improve the quality of implementation.

One major area which has been neglected over the past few years is the rising number of crimes against women. Women

A help line to render emergency services to women in distress will be established in all the 'All Women Police Stations'.

Thalaivar MGR Nutritious Noon Meal Programme where, due to lack of personal involvement and attention, the quality of food meant for the children has been allowed to suffer over the last few years. There have also been complaints of serious leakages and pilferages in the supplies meant for this lofty programme. The District Collectors and other officers in the districts are required to inspect a minimum number of these centres every month. I find from the notes of the Conference

now have political rights and have also gained some amount of representation in the political arena. Despite these advances, the status of women continues to be low and offences against women are constantly on the rise. Statistics confirm that the crime rate against women has increased over the last few years. The district administration has to implement the various laws, regulations and rules with respect to issues affecting women, with commitment. This is all the more



significant now as the year 2001 has been declared as the "Women's Empowerment Year". The Collectors are requested to activate the district level Women Advisory Committees.

It was with this objective that my Government, between 1992 and 1995, established 58 All Women Police Stations in the State. This was a landmark both in the history of the Police and in securing justice to women. Besides dealing with crimes against women, female infanticide etc. these police stations are supposed to function virtually as family courts. It is unfortunate that over the last five years, there has been a planned neglect of these Police stations, resulting in their degeneration. We have,

therefore, decided to revamp these All Women Police Stations with a new set of sensitized personnel. A help line to render emergency services to women in distress will be established in all the 'All Women Police Stations'. The Government has also decided to set up more All Women Police Stations all over the State. The details of these proposals will be given in the Budget to be presented on 16.8.2001. The Collectors and the Superintendents of Police are requested to work in close co-ordination for the successful functioning of these All Women Police Stations in safeguarding the interests of women in distress.

The status of women in society can be improved only by providing

them with easy access to education and employment. The economic empowerment of women is a sine-qua-non for their empowerment in all other fields. With this objective in mind, during my previous tenure as Chief Minister, between 1991 and 1996, the State Government started the Women Development Project with assistance from the International Fund for Agriculture Development. Forming women into cohesive and dynamic self-help groups is the underlying factor for the success of the programme. I am happy to note that this programme has been extended to all the districts in the State. Besides inculcating the habit of putting by savings and acquiring skills, these self-help groups play a silent but effective role in transforming the socio-economic status of the women in rural areas. The Collectors are requested to pay their personal attention to monitoring this programme through periodic meetings, inspections and interaction with the self-help groups.

Due to the sustained policy intervention in the agricultural sector over the years, the State could focus on increase in productivity, effective management of available water, adoption of new scientific techniques and encouraging capital investment in agriculture. As the growth rate in these areas has almost become static, our efforts need to be fortified in bringing waste lands in the State under cultivation. The State

Government has proposed to develop all the 20 lakh hectares of waste lands in the State within the next five years. The success of the programme hinges on the support and co-operation which we receive from the people and their effective participation in the implementation process. The Collectors can play a useful role in motivating them and enlisting their support in this mammoth task.

The achievement of the goal of 'Universal Education' involves several complementary steps to be taken in a co-ordinated manner. I am sure, Tamil Nadu must be the first State in the country to implement the transparent and teacher-friendly system of transfer of school teachers through counselling. Utilizing the high morale generated among the teaching community in the State due to the above policy, we need to implement the literacy programme in right earnest and improve the quality of education in Government Schools. The role of the Collectors in this regard can

be made effective through monitoring and co-ordination.

Another area that is causing grave concern is the steady increase in the number of road accidents and deaths. A phenomenal increase in the number of vehicles, lack of periodic maintenance of roads and their poor geometrics, lack of awareness among the road users about traffic rules and regulations, and ineffective enforcement of relevant acts and rules are some of the major causes of these accidents. The District Collectors can play a proactive role in implementing various road safety measures through the District Road Safety Councils.

Due to the failure of the north-east monsoon and inadequate planning by the authorities concerned, Chennai city is undergoing an acute water supply problem. The Government is taking all out efforts to tackle this problem. The south-west monsoon this year has not been satisfactory in many districts. Many districts in the State may

have to be prepared to face acute drinking water problems in case of failure of the north-east monsoon also. The Collectors are, therefore, requested to take efforts to augment the water supply and to distribute the available water in a carefully planned manner.

While Tamil Nadu can take pride in being in the forefront in the implementation of various poverty alleviation programmes, it is regrettable that the State has slipped in certain key areas. For instance, there has been a marked decline in the state's performance in reducing IMR (Infant Mortality Rate) and MMR (Maternal Mortality Rate) and in other family welfare programmes. The National Family Health Survey indicates that the unmet need for family planning services is 13% in Tamil Nadu. One of the reasons for this declining trend is lack of proper monitoring of health programmes at the district level. Though the State has been following a target free approach in family planning, the Collectors are still expected to monitor the performance and ensure quality health service to the people at Government Medical Institutions.

The State Government depends very much on the small savings collections in order to set right the difficult financial situation. The State was able to achieve the target of Rs.1,800 crores of small savings last year and the performance of most of the Collectors is commendable. All the Collectors and the

**I have directed the
Revenue Department to ensure
that every village has a
permanent office where
villagers can meet the Village
Administrative Officers.**

Commissioner, Corporation of Chennai, are requested to display similar zeal and achieve the small savings target of Rs.2,000 crores fixed for the current year.

Village Administration is the very foundation of the Government. I am pained to discover that even today, people living in villages are put to considerable difficulty in securing basic rights such as pattas, community certificates and so on. I have directed the Revenue

All the exercises done here at the Secretariat and the enormous amount of tax-payers' money allotted for various schemes will go waste, if the Collectors and the other field officers do not involve themselves seriously in the implementation process. The District Collectors play a pivotal role not only in maintaining law and order but also in implementing the developmental programmes. In that sense, you are the direct representatives of the Government in the districts.

Today, there is a system of recognising the good performance and achievements of the District Collectors. I feel this needs to be totally revamped, based on the revised priorities and the new thrust areas of the Government. The implementation of the welfare schemes for women and the under-privileged, Adi-dravidars and Tribals, Backward Classes and Most Backward Classes, the implementation of Family Welfare programmes, and the progress in distribution of patta pass books etc, will receive due weightage in the new system. I hope this will properly enthuse the Collectors to implement the schemes, competing with one another in a spirit of friendly rivalry, to achieve better results. Ultimately, such a spirit will not only improve the quality of life of the people but also ensure that public expenditure meant for the welfare of the people does not suffer any diversion or leakage.

I assure you that the Government will extend its helping hand to the District Administration and take all measures to protect the interests of the officers and boost their morale.

Department to ensure that every village has a permanent office where villagers can meet the Village Administrative Officers. Similarly, I have directed that the computerisation of land records should be accelerated, and the programme of distribution of patta passbooks should be completed in a year. There should be a healthy competition among the Collectors to achieve completion in their districts in the shortest possible time.

I request you to hold periodic meetings with the officers of various departments, review their performance, identify and remove the bottlenecks, and guide them to achieve excellence. Please see that both financial and physical targets are achieved. On our part, I assure you that the Government will extend its helping hand to the District Administration and take all measures to protect the interests of the officers and boost their morale.

I find from the notes given here that many more subjects on maintenance of law and order and developmental programmes are slated for discussion. I was able to cover only a few of the important subjects on the agenda of my Government. This should not lead to any inference that the other subjects are inferior or less important. I am sure that, though many of you may have been posted to the districts very recently, you have come fully prepared to offer your view points for a meaningful discussion on the various subjects.

Modernisation of Police Force will be the thrust area in the coming years

Inaugural speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Selvi J Jayalalithaa at the Conference of Police Officers on 2-8-2001



"The police is very fast losing its credibility and dependability. The gap between public expectation and the police performance is widening every day. The common citizen fears the police and avoids taking its help, whereas criminals violate the law of the land with impunity. The system which still functions in colonial mould needs to be revamped, so as to make it more re-assuring, public - friendly and effective in dealing with the criminals and anti-social elements and to meet the requirements of the new millennium"

The National Police Commission as well as various State Police Commissions have delineated some of the major weaknesses in the working of the Indian Police as follows:-

- a) The attitudes, behaviour and mind-set of the Police Force;
- b) Lack of fairness and impartiality in dealing with the public, and especially, in investigation of crime;
- c) A widely-held perception that it is a force to take care of the interests of the political and social elite;
- d) Rampant corruption at various levels; and
- e) Non-registration of crime.

Earlier, we had a joint session of Collectors and Police Officers to discuss the Law and Order situation in the State and certain other subjects, concerning both the Collectors and the Police Officers. Now, we are meeting to focus on issues which concern primarily the Police Administration in the State; I would like you to express your views freely and frankly.

In recent years, the Police have come in for some amount of criticism. To quote from the communication of the Government of India addressed to the Chairman of the Committee on Police Reforms:

While the above perception is in an all-india context and may not apply fully to the Tamil Nadu Police, which is, relatively speaking, better organised and better structured and a disciplined force, the demand for reform of the Police has come not only from the public but also from within the Police Department itself.

One major issue which has come to the fore in recent times is custodial violence, including torture and death in the lock-ups, which strikes a blow at the rule of law. Custodial violence is a matter of concern, particularly if it is by persons who are supposed to be the protectors of the citizens.

The Police are, no doubt, under a legal duty, and have a legitimate right to arrest a criminal and to interrogate him during the investigation of an offence, but the law does not permit use of third degree methods or torture of the accused in custody during interrogation and investigation, with a view to solving the crime. The end cannot justify the means. No doubt, in case of too much of emphasis on protection of fundamental rights and human rights of hardened criminals, such criminals may go scot-free, and, therefore, to deal with such a situation, a balanced approach is needed.

To the same effect is the statement of the learned Judge Hand:

"The protection of the individual from oppression and abuse by the police and other enforcing officers is indeed a major interest in a free society; but so is the effective prosecution of crime, an interest which at times seems to be forgotten. Perfection is impossible; like other human institutions criminal proceedings must be a compromise". The paradox has been enunciated sharply by Lewis Mayers :



"To strike a balance between the needs of law enforcement on the one hand and the protection of the citizen from oppression and injustice at the hands of the law-enforcement machinery on the other is a perennial problem of statecraft. The pendulum over the years has swung to the right".

The attitude and performance of the Police Force depends, to a large extent, on proper recruitment and training, interaction with, and support of, the public, motivation and high morale of the force. Unfortunately a number of complaints have been received in regard to the recruitment in recent years of the constabulary, notwithstanding the existence of a Uniformed Services Recruitment Board for the purpose. Improper management of manpower, faith in display of force and visibility to control law and order situations have led to a lathi-wielding force.

It is now our endeavour to streamline the recruitment process by providing for a common recruitment for Police, Prison and Fire Service personnel, and reducing the scope for malpractices in recruitment by increasing the weightage for the written test and reducing that for the physical efficiency test and viva voce. Again, over a period of time there has been considerable degeneration of the Police Force and this is very clearly

evident in the case of the All Women Police Stations. We have therefore decided, after a detailed review of the Police Department in June this year i.e., last month, that the existing personnel in the All Women Police Stations would be replaced and new personnel posted after sensitizing them regarding their role. A training programme would be commenced shortly in the Police Training College at Chennai to sensitize 4200 members of Women police personnel in batches. Separately, the other personnel would also undergo a sensitization course under the aegis of the regular Superintendents of Police in the districts. The faculty and syllabus are being reviewed, so as to make the training really useful.

The modernisation of the Police Force will be a thrust area for us in the coming days. Proposals under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Modernisation of the Police Force on a 50:50 sharing basis have been sent for 2001-2002 to the Government of India, for a total cost of Rs.210 crores. Separately, the Director General of Police has formulated, after a brain-storming session with his officers, proposals for transforming the Tamil Nadu Police into a highly professional force comparable to the best in the world. The Government are processing the proposals which include *Inter alia*, police training, formation of dog squads, computerisation, training in cyber crimes, improvement in crime investigation facilities and standards, training of commando force and providing essential equipment to them.

Several reforms will be introduced in the Fire Services and Prison Departments too which will be delineated specifically in the Budget, to be presented on 16.8.2001.

As you would appreciate, we are initiating several measures of reform in the working of the Police Department which will be outlined in great detail in the Budget. The tasks for the Police Force have become increasingly challenging due to a variety of factors like the growth of terrorist organisations, proliferation of weapons and explosives, dilatory judicial system, growth of tourism, organised crime and recently emerging cyber crime, which have added new dimensions to policing aspects.

We are not oblivious of the need to provide proper facilities to the Police in order to ensure that they are able to discharge their functions properly. The welfare of police personnel has been uppermost in my mind and, therefore, in the review of the Police Department taken up by me in June as mentioned earlier, decisions were taken in regard to several welfare measures covering the Police, Fire Services and Prison Departments, which will all be spelt out in great detail in the Budget, and which I am sure, will be widely welcomed by all Police, Fire Services and Prison personnel.

I have not outlined the numerous welfare measures, which would be taken up shortly because they are going to be announced in

the Budget. But please rest assured that your interests will be protected and your legitimate requirements will be fulfilled. It is incumbent on your part to create a better image of the Police so that, while performing your normal role in society, there is no resentment among the public. With your uniform and armed with vast powers, you are the most formidable symbol of State authority. While the negative part of Police duties cannot be reduced or diluted, some positive duties need to be performed so as to make your role in society more service oriented and acceptable and create a viable chemistry between the Police and the community. The use of excessive force should be avoided. No person likes being subjected to even legitimate and justified force. Normally, if the grievances of the people are redressed, there may not be any need to use force, and agitations and law and order situations can be prevented. It is, therefore, extremely important that before a situation develops into a law and order problem, the concerned departmental authorities are moved to look into the grievances of the people and to redress them. Failure to do so may result in unnecessary violence and use of force to maintain law and order. At the same time, law-breakers and criminals have to be dealt with firmly. A two pronged approach seems unavoidable, with the police being courteous to the people and solving their problems on the one hand and being tough and firm with the law-breaker and the criminal on the other.

Public servants
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in them

*Valedictory speech of the
Hon'ble Chief Minister
at the Conference of District Collectors
and Superintendents of Police
on 3-8-2001*

We have now reached the stage of concluding this conference. As I mentioned at the start of the conference, what was originally programmed as a two day conference has finally turned into a three day conference. The interest and enthusiasm shown by the Collectors and the Superintendents of Police in putting forth their views freely and frankly, and the fact that we were able to cover a wide range of issues concerning the people, justify the decision to extend the conference by a day. In fact, I have decided that in future we will plan a full three day conference so that all the issues could be covered to everybody's satisfaction.

Back in office as Chief Minister after five years, I have personally benefited out of the deliberations of

this conference. It has given me an opportunity to get first hand information from you about the conditions currently prevailing in the districts, the needs of the people and the readiness of the administrative machinery to handle the task of maintaining law and order and that of implementing various developmental programmes. This will enable me to plan, to fulfill the promises I have made to the people who have given a massive mandate to me and to the party which I lead.

If only funds were not a constraint, I would have readily accepted all of your suggestions and requests immediately, as I am aware they are the outcome of a great deal of thought and consideration all of you had put in at the district level. I have asked the Chief Secretary, Finance Secretary and other Secretaries concerned to make note of the suggestions and schemes proposed by you during your presentations in the Conference and I assure you that almost all of them will definitely go into our policy initiatives. Some of them will get reflected in the ensuing Budget itself.

There are certain important issues high-lighted by the Collectors and the Superintendents of Police which deserve to be accepted by the Government.

The Government accepts the request of the Collectors of the Coastal districts to make the patrol boats, available with the Fisheries Department, operational through the Poompuhar Shipping Corporation and to place them at the disposal of the Police Department for patrolling purposes in mid-sea. Sufficient funds will be made available in the Fisheries Department's budget to meet the recurring expenditure.

Steps will be taken by the Government for filling up all the vacancies of teachers, doctors and para-medical personnel in the districts within a specified period. In case persons posted do not join or go on long leave, the Government will resort to contractual appointments of willing, qualified and locally available persons.

The Collector's discretionary fund provided for in the Financial Code will be revived and each Collector will be sanctioned a sum of Rs. one lakh per annum. This is only for time being; after evolving suitable guidelines, this will be enhanced in future.

The Collectors, Range DIGs and Superintendents of Police will be supplied with cellular phones at Government cost wherever they can be operational. They are however advised to control the expenditure on call charges and use them with discretion.



The Government endorses the proposal made by many of the Collectors and Superintendents of Police to form Youth Clubs in the districts to engage the unemployed youth in constructive purposes. They will be provided with facilities for sports, training and self-employment. Besides dovetailing this to the existing schemes in departments like Small Industries, Youth Affairs and Rural Development, etc., new schemes will also be formulated.

As a major step towards controlling road accidents and ensuring timely care for the accident victims, Traffic Aid Centres will be established along National Highways and Major roads. Ambulances, Heavy Duty Cranes and Recovery Vehicles will be provided to every district. A Road Safety Cell will be established in the DGP's office under an I.G. of Police. Police will be associated with Regional Transport Officers in the issue of driving licenses.

Special emphasis will be given to training and providing incentives to the trainers in the training institutions in the Police department.

An institutional setup for redressal of grievances will be established for the benefit of Police personnel. The DIGs, Superintendents of Police and other senior police officers will devote one day every month to this purpose. The Chief Minister will set apart one day in every quarter for receiving grievances from Police personnel.

The Government will evolve a system by which the vacancies in the posts of Constables and Sub-Inspectors of Police that may arise in the next two or three years will be assessed well in advance and an annual plan of recruitment will be implemented by the Uniformed Services Recruitment Board.

A Special Programme will be drawn up for the reconstruction of weak and old arch bridges in Tiruvarur and other delta districts.

A Special Scheme will be drawn up for the removal of encroachments and for desilting in the channels in the Cauvery Delta districts in order to ensure that irrigation water reaches all the tail-end areas. A programme of constructing reservoirs in the rivulets in the Delta area will also be undertaken to bring to an end the woes of the tail-end farmers.

Special projects for water supply in Ramanathapuram and Dharmapuri districts will be taken up by the Government on top priority basis.

I have also taken note of the need to have special schemes to tackle the drinking water problem in Vellore, Pudukkottai, Dindigul, Perambalur and other districts; the need to improve the roads in Cuddalore and Ramanathapuram districts, especially the Ramanathapuram - Sayalkudi - Paramakudi road, and Ring roads for Thiruvannamalai and Erode towns. This Conference has provided a good database of useful suggestions for systemic changes and for fulfilment of the immediate needs of the people in the districts. The Government will draw inputs from this database for formulation of policies and programmes in the next five years.

Though most of you have taken over very recently in your respective districts, you have shown considerable understanding of the problems of your districts and have prepared well for a good presentation in the conference. You have done extremely well and I congratulate all of you for that. I have, therefore, no doubt that you will discharge your responsibilities with zeal and devotion and with sincere concern for the poor and the downtrodden. I have taken note of the innovations made by some of you in many areas which, I hope, would definitely be adopted and emulated by your colleagues.

Public service has no meaning if the public servants do not ensure that the people have easy access to them. Public servants should also work at building a good relationship with the people, which encourages the people to place their trust in them. I would like to recall the famous advice of Perarignar Anna to those who want to do public service,

*"Dear brother,
Go to the people
Live among them
Learn from them
Love them
Serve them
Plan with them
Start with what they know
Build on what they have"*

I should add two words to what Perarignar Anna said, "Dear brother" I will say "Dear Sister" also.

I am confident that you will go back to your respective districts and, continue to work with renewed vigour for the cause of the people and add your mite in our endeavour towards restoring to Tamil Nadu the number one position in the Country.

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Leader, Guardian and Benefactor



Since the day she assumed the high office, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Selvi J. Jayalalitha has taken upon herself the task of building a prosperous state. In addition to her long working hours of administration, reinforced with her astute thinking, positive planning and speedy implementation of projects, she allots time for interaction with people. As she herself meets the poor and the needy and offers a helping hand and on most occasions brings light to their darkened life, the crowd gathering to meet her in person is growing everyday. The beneficiaries of Hon'ble Chief Minister's generosity and compassion find in no words to express their gratitude. When met at their own places, they narrated their story of happiness and conveyed their feelings of gratitude to the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

D. Mariyaal's every effort proved futile; the search for a job was strenuous for the physically handicapped girl and the lack of employment was agonising for her very poor family. But, however darker a tunnel may be, there is always light at the end. The helpless girl's life was made brighter by the Tamil Nadu people's beloved Chief Minister, Selvi J. Jayalalitha.

D. Mariyaal was born and brought up in Chennai in a poor surrounding with her father, who hails from Adisayapuram Village in Tirunelveli District, working as a coolie in a shop in north Chennai. She had enough zeal and zest to pursue her studies and complete her B.A. and B.Ed. She now awaits results for her M.A. examinations.

After four years of unsuccessful search for a job, she heard people talking about the Hon'ble Chief Minister's generosity and concern for the poor and the needy resulting in many people receiving financial assistance for studies of their meritorious children, employment for the deserving but disadvantaged youth and so on. With lot of hope, she came to meet the Hon'ble Chief Minister at the Secretariat. When officials offered to forward her petition, she said that she will give the petition to the Hon'ble Chief Minister directly. Hon'ble Chief minister, while receiving the petition, saw her physical condition and enquired about her problems. On hearing her plea for a job, the Hon'ble Chief Minister immediately ordered for a suitable appointment for the girl.

On 25-6-2001, Hon'ble Chief Minister handed over to D. Mariyaal the appointment order posting her as a teacher under Parent Teacher Association in M.P.T. Colony Corporation High School, Thandiarpet. The girl and her family were overjoyed and their gratitude was of no bounds. They thanked the Hon'ble Chief Minister profusely for one of the happiest moments in their life.

For D. Mariyaal, the generous gesture from the Hon'ble Chief Minister has laid the path towards a better and brighter future and has given her new hopes in life. Above all, the fond memory of meeting the Hon'ble Chief Minister, the leader of the common folk, remains the best of her personal experiences, says D. Mariyaal.

S. Kalaimani is a brilliant student hailing from a poor family of agricultural labourers living in Kiliyanur Village of Chidambarak Taluk, Cuddalore District. When he got admission into the degree course of M.B.B.S. his parents were overjoyed but their poor financial capacity threatened their beloved son's future. Someone brought to them the sweet news that the leader of Tamil Nadu and the protector of the poor people, Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa is extending all assistance to deserving poor students. Kalaimani and his parents met the Chief Minister at Chennai and explained the helpless situation they were in. The Hon'ble Chief Minister handed over Rs.1 lakh to the student for his medical education. He is studying MBBS now

at KAP Viswanatham Government Medical College, Tiruchirapalli. His parents find no expression to convey the magnitude of their gratitude. The entire village feels thankful to the Hon'ble Chief Minister for her gesture.

A. Rajkumar, despite losing his father while writing the entrance examination, got admission into MBBS in Government Medical College. The son of poor parents, whose mother is also an agricultural labourer could not find the means to remit the college fees. Hon'ble Chief Minister came to his assistance and he is now a first year student of Mohan Kumaramangalam Government Medical College, Salem. The boy from Mambazhapattu Village in Villupuram district recalls the golden moment in his life.

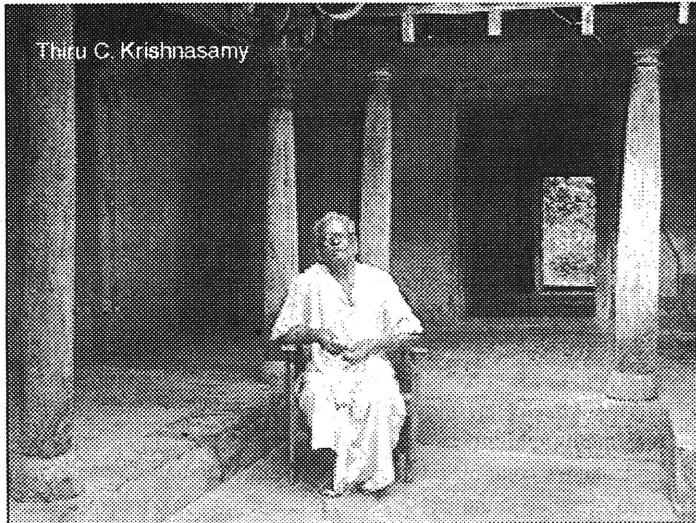
"I belong to most backward community. My parents worked as coolies to help me study. I scored



S. Kalaimani's Parents



Tmt. K. Janaki



Thiru C. Krishnasamy

Rs.3,000 and enquired whether I needed anymore help. I told her I have much pain in my legs. She immediately arranged for financial assistance for my medicines. I am extremely indebted to Hon'ble Chief Minister who honoured me by calling me to her office and granting me the pension that eluded me for so many years. Long live the Chief Minister and continue her assistance to poor people".

Thiru C. Krishnasamy,
living in Rambakkam Village in

good marks and got admission in Government Medical College. We are poor and did not know where to go for the money to pay the college fees. We heard about the Hon'ble Chief Minister helping poor people, went to Chennai and gave a petition. After a few days, collectorate staff took us to Chennai. We received Rs.1 lakh to pay my medical college fees from the Hon'ble Chief minister and her blessings for my future. Poor people like us are greatly indebted to Amma for her help and assistance to number of poor people". His proud mother, despite the recent loss of her husband, was happy over the greatest opportunity for her son and expressed her profound thanks to Hon'ble Chief Minister.



A. Rajkumar

Tmt. K. Janaki, freedom fighter residing in Thirumangalam-Madura Pudukuppam Village, recalls the story of her meeting with the Hon'ble Chief Minister, "My husband Thiru R. Kalirajan is also a freedom fighter and is a pensioner from 1972. I had accompanied him to various occasions of freedom struggle. I have met Gandhiji. I applied for freedom fighter's pension in 1983 and till recent past it was not sanctioned in spite of continuous efforts over all these years. At last, I gave a petition to Hon'ble Chief Minister at Secretariat and within 15 days she called me to her office. She gave me the government order for a monthly pension of

Villupuram district, considers it a great honour that the Hon'ble Chief Minister accepted his request for pension and gave it in person to him. Though he was an active participant in the 1947 Satyagraha protesting against sending Indians to fight for the British, he did not apply for freedom fighter's pension after independence. Only in 1983 he applied for pension which he had not received till recent past. He believes that only the Hon'ble Chief Minister's personal intervention in his case has enabled the grant of pension. He appreciated the Hon'ble Chief Ministers' continuing assistance to freedom fighters like him and thanked her for the help.

Tamil Nadu - Endeavours to make the most vibrant economy in the Country

The Hon'ble Finance Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru C.Ponnaiyan along with a team of officers held discussions on 8.8.2001 with the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission of India, Thiru K.C.Pant to finalise the Annual Plan outlay for 2001-2002. In that meeting, the speech of Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu was read out by the Finance Minister Thiru C.Ponniyan. After a detailed discussion the Annual a Plan Outlay for 2001-2002 demanded to be fixed at Rs.6,000 crores was enhanced to a higher level and was fixed at Rs.6,040 crores.

The speech copy of the Hon'ble Chief Minister follows:

The year 2001-2002 has special significance for Tamil Nadu. It is the last year of the 9th Five Year Plan and a time for stock taking before moving on to an accelerated pace of development in the 10th Five Year Plan. It is also significant as a new Government has taken over in Tamil Nadu which is fully conscious of its responsibility to fulfil the needs and aspirations of the people, especially those living below the poverty line and other disadvantaged sections of our society.

An analysis of the economy of Tamil Nadu shows that growth in the 9th Plan period has been highly volatile. As against a targeted growth rate of 7% per annum, the actual growth rates have been 7.92% in the first year, 3.81% in the second year, 7.04% in the third year and 4.13% in the fourth year. The average annual growth rate has been well below targeted levels at 5.74%. Both the agriculture and manufacturing sectors have registered sluggish progress. Agriculture's contribution to the Gross State Domestic Product has been negative in the last 2 years. It is a matter of concern that the contribution of agriculture to GSDP has actually come down in real terms in 2000-01, as compared to 1994-95. In the manufacturing sector, the slump is mainly due to negative growth registered in the Textiles sector, which is an important industrial segment in the State. Only the tertiary sector has registered impressive gains mainly due to the fast pace of growth of Information Technology and allied services.

Tamil Nadu has made significant strides in the last two decades in the fields of education, health, and welfare of women and children and poverty alleviation programmes. However, this had led to reduction in central support for our policies and programmes. For example, our share of assistance for poverty alleviation programmes calculated on the basis of the 1987-88 poverty ratio was 7.062% which fell to 4.987% with effect from 1998-99 when the formula was revised as per the Planning Commission's Expert Group's estimation of poverty. While it is a fact that poverty has gone down in Tamil Nadu, it is seen from the statistics that the persons who have crossed the poverty line are only just above it and still need the support of social welfare programmes. Similarly successive Finance Commissions have reduced our share of Central revenues. While the loss to the State is of the order of Rs.500 crores per year, we are to be given an incentive of around Rs.80 crores per year for fiscal reforms. This amounts to penalising the State for being progressive and responsive to the needs of the poor and needy. I urge upon the Union Planning Commission to recommend correction of such anomalies.

It will be the endeavour of the new Government to accelerate the pace of development and set the stage to make a quantum leap to the 8% target aimed at for the 10th Plan period.

In terms of achievements on the Plan front, Tamil Nadu has always achieved Plan targets in full, both in financial and physical terms. For 2001-02, our thrust areas will be on the social sectors with about 43% of projected outlay going to these sectors. In agriculture, our emphasis will be on increasing agricultural production and productivity through optimization of resources, including land use and scientific water management. Tamil Nadu has only 52% of its gross cropped area under irrigation and the balance holdings are rain-fed areas. In view of the very large proportion of the work force depending on agriculture (65%), the Government is embarking on a major programme for Dry land and Waste land development. We propose to cover 20 lakh hectares in a period of 5 years. The emphasis here will be on horticulture, tree crops and remunerative grass and fodder cultivation. The new schemes will be dovetailed with existing Centrally Sponsored Schemes like DPAP, IWDP and NWDPR. We seek the co-operation of the Planning Commission for making higher allocations for these schemes.

Other thrust areas are water supply and rural sanitation. All remaining uncovered habitations (around 4000) will be provided with safe drinking water. The Rural Sanitation Programme will be oriented towards women and girls. We are also working on a comprehensive health policy to ensure quality primary care and first level referral services. In view of increasing urbanisation in Tamil Nadu, urban health care will receive special attention. For the underprivileged groups of the population including SC & ST, we propose to set up school hostels and upgrade schools to ensure that there are no drop outs, especially among girls. A major thrust will also be given to self employment and empowerment of women by covering 5 lakh women in a phased manner by imparting suitable training and giving soft loans for starting small enterprises. Special schemes for protection of the girl child are also being revived. Though Tamil Nadu has made considerable progress in reducing the birth rate to stabilisation levels, we wish to give a further thrust in this area with special emphasis on the health of mother and child.

We are also formulating new EAPs (Externally Aided Projects) for some of the key areas like Water Supply, Women's Development and Health and we request the Planning Commission's support for these.

We have taken note of the concern expressed by the Planning Commission on certain aspects of Tamil Nadu's economy. Steps will be taken to correct the imbalances and we will endeavour to make Tamil Nadu the fastest growing economy in the country.

A MASSIVE SCHEME FOR TRAINING 5 LAKH WOMEN IN ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS

In the Governor's address to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 25-5-2001, it has been stated that a massive scheme for training 5 lakh women in entrepreneurial skills for self employment will be launched.

Accordingly, Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women Ltd. was appointed as nodal agency to design and monitor the entire EDP.

Towards achieving this goal during the years 2001-2006, it is important that a concerted effort is made to bring about uniformity in the quality implementation of the programme. In order to seek the assistance of various departments for pooling their resources and converging their EDPs, a Workshop on EDP for Heads of Departments, Bankers, Training Institutions and other agencies involved in EDP was held on 20-7-2001.

A tentative plan of action and syllabus was arrived at in this Workshop. It was resolved to convene a Core Committee from among the participants on a voluntary basis, to arrive at specific guidelines and programme of action.

The Core Committee consisting of 19 Resource Persons, the Chairperson & MD and the Executive Director, Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women Limited met on 26-7-2001 at TNCDW. This Core Committee evolved a draft proposal for the approval of the Government, such that the EDP can be launched on 2nd October 2001.

Our goal is to have a 'Mature Cataract Free State' in the near future

It gives me great pleasure to participate in this Inaugural Function of the Indian Intra-Ocular Implant and Refractive Surgery Convention today, amidst a galaxy of distinguished, learned personalities from the field of medicine from all over the world. I thank the organisers for this Convention for having invited me to inaugurate this memorable event wherein all the stalwarts of Ophthalmology have converged here in pursuit of excellence in their chosen field in medicine.

All of us are aware that our eyes are our window to the world and the gift of sight is an invaluable treasure to possess and safeguard. Of the 30 million visually handicapped persons in the world, 6 million are said to be in India, with a prevalence rate of 14 per 1000 population. Over the years, due to effective implementation of the World Bank Assisted Blindness Control Project by the Government of Tamil Nadu, the prevalence of blindness in Tamil Nadu is now 4 per 1000 population, as compared to 16.5 per 1000 population during 1976.

Medical experts say that 80% of blindness in the world is preventable and curable. World Health Organisation (WHO) statistics reveal that 51% of

Speech by Hon'ble Chief Minister
Selvi J JAYALALITHAA at the inaugural function
of Indian Intra-ocular Implant and
Refractive Surgery Convention at
Hotel Taj Coromandel, Chennai
on 24-8-2001

blindness in India is due to cataract. I understand that one of the major challenges of cataract control in ensuring a vision of 20 by 20 standard is to provide good-quality, accessible and affordable surgery with a high success rate. The Government of Tamil Nadu has been taking all out efforts in this direction to ensure this objective. Micro surgical ophthalmic equipment and laser machines have been provided to the teaching medical institutions, and the District and Taluk headquarters hospitals in Tamil Nadu. We are prioritizing strengthening of hospital infrastructure and availability of expertise, especially in the rural areas through the National Programme for Control of Blindness.

The astounding advancements in the medical field, especially in the surgical arena will be relevant only if such facilities are made available even to the common man at an affordable cost. It is towards this cherished goal that the Government of Tamil Nadu is surging ahead and the various progressive announcements made in the recently introduced Tamil Nadu Budget, including the upgrading of all Primary Health Centres



into 30 to 40 bedded Mini Hospitals will amply prove this fact. Efforts such as these will continue to be taken by us for improving the standards of both the rural and urban Government hospitals located throughout Tamil Nadu.

Our goal is to have a 'Mature Cataract Free State' in the near future. Coimbatore has already been declared as a 100% Mature Cataract Free District. Today I am proud to say that economically weaker sections are also undergoing Intra-Ocular Lens Implantation (IOL) surgery. I understand that public awareness has risen to such a great extent that people have started demanding IOL surgery. I am happy to state that in the last quarter of the current year, 84,626 cataract cases have undergone surgery in Tamil Nadu and at this rate, I am confident that we will certainly achieve the goal of 'Mature Cataract Free State' soon. The targets under cataract surgery are always met year after year in Tamil Nadu, and I am sure, this feat will continue to be performed in Tamil Nadu in future too.

Medical experts have conclusively stated that refractive errors are a preventable cause of blindness. The Government of Tamil Nadu has curtailed this disability to a large extent through its effective screening programmes conducted at the school level, whereby school children with refractive errors are identified and provided with free spectacles. The goal of ensuring a vision of 20 by 20 standard, by making refractive and low vision services available and affordable, is ably being achieved in Tamil Nadu by these long-term measures. At this juncture, I would like to urge all of you present here, to work on methods for providing economically feasible innovative medical facilities to all sections of society, especially the poor and the down-trodden.

2500 years ago, Sushruta, the author of 'Sushruta Samhita' an ancient Indian surgical treatise is said to have treated cataracts with needles. Today, Indian ophthalmology is still comparable to the best in the world with state-of-the-art surgical facilities made available all over India. It has been stated that by 2050 AD no one is going to wear spectacles. I learn that Lasik laser the latest technique used on the eye can correct even extreme cases of refractive errors. It is an honour for Chennai and India, that, the inventor of this technique, Dr.Pallikaris Ionnis from Greece is here with us today in this conference. Similarly, I am happy to note that this technology may even do away with reading glasses and I wish to congratulate Dr.Guillermo Avalos of Mexico, for his pioneering contribution in this field.

It gives me immense pleasure to mention here that Tamil Nadu too does not lag behind in such high-tech developments. The 'Phakonit' - surgical technique, in which cataract surgery through 0.9 mm incision is performed was introduced in Chennai by Dr.Amar Agarwal, which is a good example of such high-tech accomplishment. I congratulate him for his major contribution to the field of Ophthalmology. Besides, I also learn that medical experts in Tamil Nadu have perfected the technique of Manual Phaco, which has percolated even to most of the Government Ophthalmic services thereby bringing this affordable latest facility to the people without compromising on quality. I am sure, with such novel techniques, one can go home after the cataract is removed without any pad or sutures.

I have to also state that in this fast moving world where new challenges are constantly being thrown to the medical world, continuing Medical Education has become imperative. It is an honour for us that Indian Ophthalmologists will be conducting courses on the 'Phakonit' technique at the American Academy of Ophthalmology. While I am extremely happy about this ongoing process of life-long learning pursued by all of you. I urge each one of you assembled here to specialize in cost effective vision restoration, so that your expertise could be beneficial to the poorer sections of society.

I am glad to mention here that the Intra-Ocular Implant and Refractive Society of India has conducted this convention in an impressive manner and I congratulate them for having convened this prestigious Convention at Chennai, a city renowned for all round excellence in the field of medicine. I am happy to inaugurate this Convention, and I am sure, its three days of scientific discourses and live surgeries will benefit not only all the delegates assembled here but also the state of Tamil Nadu.

On this significant occasion, with all the superior learning that all of you possess, I urge each one of you to strive towards ensuring the ideal of providing everyone with a healthy 'vision' so that disabilities such as cataract, blindness etc. will be eliminated with ease, thereby enabling people to realise their ambition and vision.

I once again thank you for inviting me to inaugurate this important Convention and I would like to convey my best wishes to all of you for your continued success, prosperity and peace.

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Industrial Growth and Social equity can co-exist side by side

*- Speech by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa at the meeting of the
National Council of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on 13-7-2001
at Taj Coromandel Hotel, Chennai.*

I have great pleasure in participating in this meeting of the National Council of the Confederation of Indian Industry, comprising the Chief Executives of prominent industries from all over India.

The Confederation of Indian Industry has been playing a very effective role in presenting a proper perspective of the industrial scenario both at the national and the international levels. I am happy

to mention here that the CII has also played a significant role in policy formulation, relating to a wide range of matters such as, Taxation and Finance, Export and International Trade, Public Sector Reforms, Industrial Policy, Foreign Investment, etc.

I am happy to be amidst this very distinguished gathering, which I am sure with its combined synergies will rewrite the destiny of Indian Industry and take it to the pinnacle of glory soon. I thank

you for having invited me to this meeting and I hope that this interaction will be fruitful to both the members of the CII and the State of Tamil Nadu, in terms of ushering in an era of rapid growth of industrialisation in Tamil Nadu.

As you are aware, India, the largest democracy and the fifth largest economy in the world, is currently on the path of rapid economic transformation. Today, India has the second largest GDP among the Newly Industrialized

Economies (NIEs) based on purchasing power parity. While the first wave of reform process is complete, India is currently embarking on a second wave, particularly in the financial sector, insurance and infrastructure. Import duties have been reduced and attractive tax concessions have been offered to overseas investors under the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA). Thanks to these reforms,

the benefits of economic growth should result in all round development in all areas, particularly those languishing due to lack of potential or lack of social infrastructure. I feel that it is essential that all sections of society, especially those living in the rural areas, should reap the benefits of industrial growth.

I am proud to share with you the fact that Tamil Nadu has a diversified industrial base ranging

also. Tamil Nadu produces the largest number of under graduate engineers in India. Nearly 45,000 persons including 25,000 with Electronics and Information Technology background, graduate every year from the technical institutions located in Tamil Nadu. Chennai has the largest pool of individuals with specialised information technology skills. Several independent research studies have rated Chennai as the



many competitive advantages to both Indian and foreign investors have emerged.

I am proud to mention here that Tamil Nadu's position among the Indian States in terms of industrialisation is quite enviable. In directing the State further on its path of rapid growth, my Government has, in its policies and programmes, the broad theme of faster growth coupled with employment and equity. It is the policy of our Government that

from automobiles to textiles, leather, petrochemicals, information technology, etc. Our infrastructure development is rated very highly, in fact better than many other Indian States. With massive investments taking place in the power sector, I am confident that Tamil Nadu will attain self-sufficiency in power availability within the next one year. The literacy level in Tamil Nadu is one of the highest in India and Tamil Nadu is quite strong in Human Resources Development

best location for setting up Information Technology projects in India. Today, Tamil Nadu has about 770 Information Technology companies and their exports are close to 660 million U.S. dollars.

Apart from Information Technology, Tamil Nadu has emerged as a front-runner in other sunrise industries like Biotechnology, with its exclusive policy on Biotechnology. The Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited (TIDCO) is

currently in the process of establishing six 'bio-valleys' including a Genomics Centre for continuous genome sequencing by an American company. We have already tied up with the Cornell University in America to set up a Biotech Park in Chennai. Tamil Nadu will soon emerge as a "knowledge-driven" economy, thanks to the greater emphasis laid on such human resources development activities.

My Government has pledged to make Tamil Nadu the most attractive investment destination in India. To achieve this, we have proposed to initiate several business policies such as :

Investor-friendly and transparent decision-making

High priority to infrastructure development

Human Resources Development (HRD) and

Continuous efforts to improve power availability.

Our re-oriented strategy for development will focus on a strong policy and pro-active leadership by the Government, dynamism and competitive efficiency of the private sector, and enthusiastic participation of the people through local democratic institutions. We have undertaken reforms with the objectives of facilitating greater investment in the economy, enhancing the competitive edge of our industries and strengthening the role of the private sector. At the same time, we will continue to pursue our approach of

implementing reforms with a 'human face'.

I am of the firm opinion that development and growth can co-exist with social justice and equity, as they are neither mutually exclusive nor incompatible. The epoch making mandate given by the people of Tamil Nadu recently has reaffirmed their firm belief that only a government headed by me will succeed in fulfilling these twin tasks. I am happy to mention here that all-out efforts are being taken to make Tamil Nadu occupy the number one position in the country in Industries & Trade, with information technology and software development made to take pride of place in attracting greater investments in Tamil Nadu. Power projects based on hydro, thermal and non-conventional energy sources will be made fully functional, with the aim of making Tamil Nadu attain self-sufficiency in power at the earliest.

I hope this meeting will enable all of you not only to reflect on Tamil Nadu's vast potential for industrial growth, but also inspire you to come out with your best in our common endeavour to make Tamil Nadu the most highly industrially developed State in India.

In his address Mr. Sanjiv Goenka has made some requests to the Government of Tamil Nadu and placed some important points before me for consideration of the Government. One of them was the request for a separate manufacturing sector policy and another request was for setting up a Joint Task Force between the CII

and the Government of Tamil Nadu. This is certainly a very interesting proposition. I assure you that my Government will seriously consider these proposals. There was also an offer made by the CII for working with us in agricultural sector, which is certainly most welcome. We will discuss as to how this can be effected. There was also a mention about the urgent need for power reforms. We are aware of that and the Government is working on the policy of power reforms, which will be put in place and implemented during the next year.

I was also pleasantly surprised to see, when I entered this venue that there were some items of handicrafts put up for display outside. I wondered what the CII had to do with these handicrafts.

I was pleasantly surprised to learn that the CII has been engaging itself in social activities and has been encouraging Self Help Groups to produce handicrafts and has also been helping them to market these items. This is what I meant when I say that industrial growth and social equity are not mutually exclusive and are not incompatible and can co-exist side by side. I am happy to see that the CII has already started putting these noble ideals into practice. The interaction with the members of the CII today has been a most rewarding exercise.

I wish you all continued success, greater prosperity and peace.

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GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL

On 29-6-2001 when the convoy of the Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa was passing through the Chamiers Road, near Nandanam, some women residing at the First Street, Austin Nagar requested the Hon'ble Chief Minister to stop the convoy for a while and listen to their grievances. On seeing the women, the Chief Minister readily obliged and stopped the convoy and got down from the vehicle and enquired the women about their problems. The women informed the Chief Minister that they were not getting enough drinking water. There was also a request for improving the road. An elderly man, Thiru Nataraj, wanted a pair of

spectacles for him. Another man Thiru Antony Doss of Pycrofts Nagar requested provision of asbestos roof to his house.

The Chief Minister listened to all these grievances and promised them that all their requests would be looked into and appropriate steps taken immediately. Concerned officials were immediately directed by the Chief Minister to take up sinking of borewell in that street, besides attending to the grievances of the individuals at once.

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PREVENTION OF MALPRACTICE AND MISUSE THROUGH PRE - NATAL DIAGNOSTIC TECHNIQUES

The female infant ratio is going down in this state. The child sex ratio which was 948 female for 1000 male children in 1991, has now declined to 939.

The situation is worse in Theni, Salem, Namakkal and Madurai Districts where we have less than 900 female babies for 1000 male babies. This decline is attributed mainly due to female foeticide and infanticide. In order to prevent this malpractice the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act 1994 and Rules 1996 will be enforced effectively. Under the Act all such

organisations in Tamil Nadu involved in pre-natal diagnostic techniques should register themselves with the appropriate authority which is the Director of Medical and Rural Health Services, Teynampet, Chennai-6.

Offences under the Act such as non-registration and misusing the equipment to disclose the sex of the foetus are punishable as cognizable, non-bailable and non-compoundable offences, punishable upto 3 years of imprisonment and fine upto Rs.50,000. The doctors who are found indulging in malpractices are also liable to lose their

registration for medical practice. These equipments are strictly to be used for diagnostic purposes only.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has directed the Director of Medical and Rural Health Services to take stringent action against persons who are found committing offences under this Act.

Out of more than 2000 genetic medical scan centres in the state, only 600 are registered.

All unregistered centres are to register with the Joint Director of Health Services in their respective districts in prescribed format accompanied by a demand draft of Rs.200 drawn in favour of "The Director of Medical and Rural Health Services" payable at Chennai. In Chennai City application forms can be obtained from the office of the Director of Medical and Rural Health Services, Chennai-6.



I rise to place the Revised Budget Estimates for 2001-02 before this august house. It may be recalled that the previous Government had obtained a Vote on Account for incurring expenditure during the first six months of the current financial year through an Interim Budget presented to the Legislative Assembly on 29th January 2001. Taking into account the revenue and expenditure estimates of the remaining six months and after examining the overall fiscal position of the State Government, I seek the approval of the House for the Budget Estimates for the current financial year.

This is the first budget of the new Government, which was voted into office after a resounding victory in the elections to the State Assembly held in May 2001. These elections have demonstrated the unshakeable faith of the people of Tamil Nadu in the A.I.A.D.M.K and its visionary leader, our Honourable Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa. I wish to sincerely thank the people of the State for their unflinching support and assure them that this Government will always remain conscious of the enormous responsibilities bestowed on it.

This Government recognises that the quality of life of the people, and not statistical data, is the ultimate criterion for assessing the development of the State. The socio-economic advancement of the people of Tamil Nadu depends on the balanced growth of agro-economy, industrial economy and the services sector. It shall be our foremost endeavour to lay the foundations for the economic revival of the State. This

First Cover

Hon'ble Chief Minister
is committed to
eradicate poverty
and usher in development
in all sectors
of economy

Speech of Thiru C. Ponnaiyan, Minister of Finance and Law,
Government of Tamil Nadu, presenting the Revised Budget for
2001-02 to the Legislative Assembly on 18th August 2001.

Government will seek to improve the human development indicators of the State, which includes longevity, knowledge and decent standard of living of the people, through appropriate policy interventions. This Government will achieve these objectives by providing good, transparent, responsive and participatory governance.

In the past few months after assuming office, the Honourable Chief Minister has conducted a detailed review of all administrative departments and their existing programmes. The critical challenges have been identified and new policies for sustained socio-economic development of the State formulated. We pledge to resolutely face the challenges confronting the State with the active support of the people.

WHITE PAPER ON TAMIL NADU GOVERNMENT'S FINANCES

As promised in the Governor's address to the newly elected Legislative Assembly, I am placing a "White Paper on Tamil Nadu Government's Finances" on the Table of this House. The objective of the White Paper is to apprise the Honourable Members and the people of Tamil Nadu, of the precarious state of finances inherited by this Government.

Let me briefly touch upon a few highlights of the White Paper. An analysis of the economic and fiscal trends of Tamil Nadu since the mid 1990 shows some extremely disturbing features. The growth of Gross State Domestic Product, which represents the total value of goods and services produced in the economy during a year, declined from 6.66 percent per annum during 1991-96 to 6.22 percent per annum during 1996-2001. The performance of the agricultural and industrial sectors showed a decline during 1996-2001 compared to the performance during 1991-96. In contrast to the performance of the commodity producing sectors of the economy, the services sector showed growth in the corresponding period mainly through the contribution of the private sector.

The revenue deficit, which represents the gap between the revenue expenditure and revenue receipts of the State increased from Rs.311 crores in 1995-96 to Rs.3922 crores in 2000-01. This is because the revenue expenditure of the Government which includes salaries, pensions, interest payments, subsidies and grants has more than doubled during the last five years. In contrast, the rate of growth of revenue receipts

witnessed a decline during 1996-2001 compared to 1991-96.

The share of Tamil Nadu in the central taxes constitutes an important component of the overall revenue receipts of the Government. Successive Finance Commissions appointed by the Government of India have denied the State its due share in the devolution of central taxes. This is evident from the fact that the share of central taxes to the State's revenue receipts declined from 20 percent in 1992-93 to 16 percent in 1999-2000. The Eleventh Finance Commission has virtually penalised a well performing State like Tamil Nadu, by recommending a reduction in the State's percentage share in the divisible pool of central taxes. As a result, our State stands to lose Rs.2946 crores during 2000-05.

The Government can choose to finance its revenue deficit by either falling back on its cash reserves or by borrowing to cover the deficit. When this Government demitted office in 1996-97, it had left behind a cash reserve of Rs.874 crores. The cash reserves now stand completely depleted and the Government is managing its day-to-day expenditure by availing short-term loans like ways and means advances and overdrafts from the Reserve Bank of India.

The previous Government failed to clear bills and other expenditure liabilities of about Rs.700 crores on 31.3.2001. These liabilities payable to contractors, suppliers and other agencies implementing Government schemes have now been transferred to the current financial year. In addition, the Government is being forced to borrow heavily to fund its capital or development expenditure and also cover a portion of the revenue deficit. As a result, the fiscal deficit of the State, which loosely represents the total net borrowings of the Government, has jumped from Rs.1255 crores in 1995-96 to Rs.5781 crores in the Revised Estimates of 2000-01.

The immediate visible manifestations of the fiscal deterioration of the State can be summarised as follows:

- ★ The growth in the non-productive revenue expenditure of the State Government has taken away a large share out of the total available pool of investible resources.
- ★ There has been a decline in the share of development related expenditure in the budget from

77.9 percent in 1991-92 to 57.8 percent in 2000-01.

- ★ The Government has often been constrained to withhold clearance of bills from various agencies towards payment for services provided by them to the State.

The Government has a challenging task on hand and our Honourable Chief Minister is determined to put the state economy back on the rails. We are committed to reversing the erosion in the economic and fiscal health of the State without much hardship to the people. The fiscal reforms will necessarily have to be guided by compassion and justice. Under no circumstances will this Government allow the basic developmental needs of the people to be sacrificed because of the weakened fiscal situation. It is with this background, I invite valuable suggestions from the Honourable Members, intellectuals and the people of Tamil Nadu for evolving a consensus on the measures to be taken to put the economy back on the development mode.

ANNUAL PLAN

Given the unprecedented fiscal imbalance and the consequent resource crunch, this Government has decided to go in for a plan outlay of Rs.6040 crores in the current financial year. It represents a modest increase of Rs.340 crores over the plan outlay of Rs.5700 crores fixed during 2000-01. I shall now proceed to spell out the policies and programmes of this Government.

AGRICULTURE, IRRIGATION AND ALLIED SECTORS

Agriculture is the main occupation of a large segment of people in Tamil Nadu. The income from the agricultural sector of economy in the context of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) experienced a downward slide from 4.33 percent per annum during 1991-96 to 2.66 percent per annum during 1996-2001.

Our Government is of the firm belief that sustained and broad based growth in agriculture is an essential pre-requisite for eradicating poverty, generating employment and income, and ensuring the self-sufficiency of the State in agricultural production. Increased income of those engaged in this sector will translate itself into demand for goods and commodities

produced in the secondary (industrial) and tertiary (services) sectors.

A new agricultural policy is being formulated for improving agricultural production and productivity for enhancing the income of farmers including farm workers and accelerating growth in this sector. Improvement of agricultural productivity can be achieved through expansion of irrigation, watershed management, and extension services on the choice of crops, better agricultural practices, availability of inputs and better marketing services. We propose to strengthen the available rural infrastructure so as to provide backward and forward linkages between agriculture and industry, generate non-farm employment and reduce rural unemployment and eradicate poverty.

Agriculture and industry have traditionally been viewed as separate sectors in the context of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the State. This view is however changing. Agriculture is increasingly being identified as a form of industry where a combination of factors such as technology, mechanisation, scientific farm management etc. can increase productivity, improve quality and the returns to the farmer. **This Government has decided to create a new Department of Agri-Business to facilitate development of horticulture and food processing industries in the State.** Relaxation of land ceiling laws in order to promote agri-business and contract farming will also be considered.

There is an urgent need to review and coordinate our land use strategy for the development of agriculture in the context of agro-climatic zones in different regions of the State. An estimated 43 percent of the total land area in the State is now under cultivation. **Our Honourable Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa has already outlined her vision of reclaiming 20 lakh hectares of cultivable wasteland through a massive wasteland development programme to be implemented over the next five years. This programme will incorporate a micro-watershed development approach with focus on soil and water conservation.**

The programme on wasteland reclamation has three main components. The higher grade wastelands with assured rainfall will be used for cultivating medicinal and aromatic plants and creating horticulture orchards. In medium grade wastelands, oilseed plants comprising Paradise Tree and Jatropha will be planted



for producing edible and fuel oil. Biomass plantations of Prosopis and Casurina will help in generating electricity in the marginal wastelands. This programme will be implemented through the cooperation of the private sector and through people's participation. There are likely to be 10 lakh rural beneficiaries by the end of the fifth year of this project.

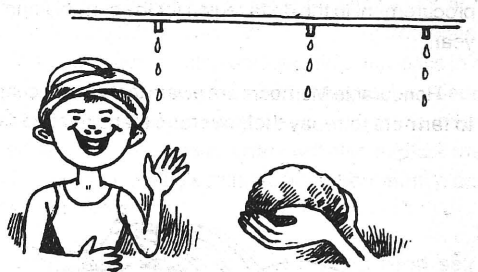
A new body called the "Tamil Nadu Watershed Development Agency" will be set-up to source funds from the Government of India, NABARD, National Horticulture Board and external funding agencies to implement large watershed development projects. A beginning has been made by making a provision of Rs.25 crores for this programme in the current financial year. Large horticultural farms of 200 to 1000 acres (i.e. 80 to 400 hectares) will be encouraged and efficient water conservation methods will be promoted. The programme will support conservation of pastures, fodder sources in villages and promote restoration of degraded forests with people's participation.

Tamil Nadu has been facing a severe shortage of water for irrigation and domestic consumption. The



new Department for Water Resources Conservation, conceived by our Honourable Chief Minister, will coordinate activities pertaining to water conservation at the highest level. It will also focus on rain-water harvesting through percolation ponds, check-dams, etc.

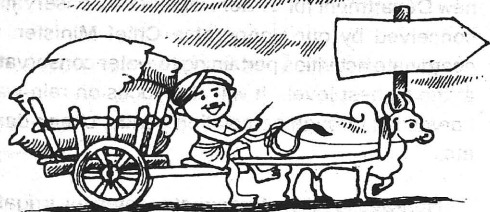
Non-availability of adequate water for irrigation purposes is an important problem confronting our farmers. This Government proposes to encourage drip irrigation to save water and increase productivity in agriculture and horticulture. On-farm development



works will be taken up and water management practices in irrigated areas will be improved to increase the efficiency of irrigation systems. A sum of Rs.18 crores has been provided for the new drip irrigation scheme. An allocation of Rs.23 crores has also been made for implementing soil conservation works across the State.

The prestigious irrigation project called the "Water Resources Consolidation Project" (WRCP) initiated by us in 1995 comes to a close on 31.3.2002. This Government will be requesting the World Bank to approve the WRCP-II as a follow-on to the first project. The WRCP-II will include system tanks which were left out in the first spell, other non-system tanks, eco-restoration works and a massive programme for modernising and increasing the water holding capacity of all lakes, ponds, irrigation channels etc through the active participation of users.

It has been a long-standing demand of the farmers in the Cauvery delta area that the restrictions on movement of paddy to other States should be lifted and they should be allowed to get the best price for their produce. There is no doubt that the recent decision of the Government to permit movement of



TKM-9 variety of paddy and rice without any restriction will benefit the farmers to a great extent. The Government will continue to assure a minimum support price to the farmers and a sum of Rs.50 crores has been set aside as production incentive for paddy procurement in the delta region for the current financial year.

Honourable Members are aware that as an incentive to farmers to repay their overdue loans availed from



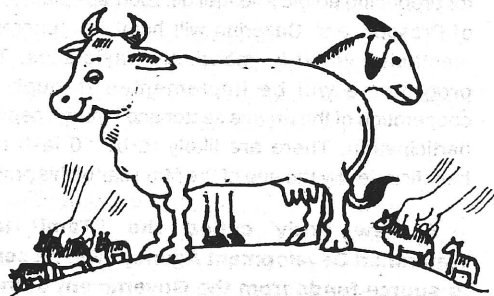
the cooperative banks, this Government decided to waive the interest and penal interest amounting to Rs.310.50 crores due from them. The response is very encouraging. The Government will reimburse the interest and penal interest dues of the farmers to the cooperative banks and an allocation of Rs.100 crores has been made in the current financial year for the purpose.

Livestock plays an important role in increasing the supplementary income of the rural households. This Government proposes to give an impetus to upgradation of livestock and better veterinary health services.

Availability of adequate fodder is a crucial input for proper rearing of livestock. The traditional grazing grounds in the villages have been indiscriminately used for construction and other purposes. In order to reverse this degradation and depletion, Government has

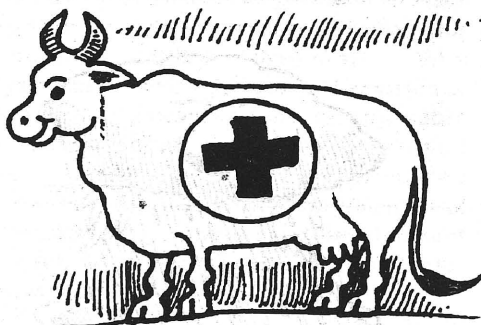
decided not to transfer the grazing ground poramboke into any other category unless alternative suitable land of the same extent is provided for use as grazing ground. Under the Wasteland Development Programme, suitable tracts of land will be developed for increasing the availability of fodder for the livestock.

A DANIDA-assisted Livestock Development Programme to link trained worker couples and target



farmers in various animal husbandry practices for increasing rural income, is being implemented in 49 panchayat unions. Considering the success of this programme, the Government proposes to replicate it in the remaining 336 panchayat unions within the next five years at a total cost of Rs.3.36 crores.

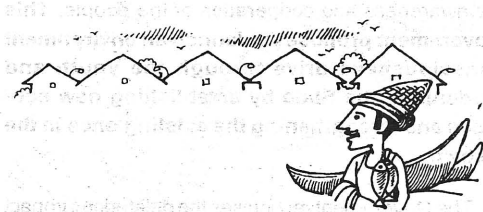
It is proposed to extend the on-going Cattle Protection Scheme (Kalnadai Padukappu Thittam) to



all village panchayats in the current year. A sum of Rs.12 crores will be made available for providing medicines to the cattle and livestock.

This Government recognises the need to give an impetus to the fishery sector in the State. The Government of India has been requested to provide assistance for constructing a fishing harbour at Rameswaram at a cost of Rs.53.86 crores and for the Pazhaiyar Fishing Harbour Stage II at a cost of Rs.10.60 crores.

Under the existing housing scheme for fishermen, only those who live near the sea-shore and have



3 cents of land are treated as beneficiaries. This Government has decided to extend the benefits of this scheme to the landless marine and inland fishermen and 4000 houses at a unit cost of Rs.37,000 will be constructed.

The Government of India has revised the pattern of contributions made under the Savings Cum Relief Scheme for Fishermen with effect from 1-4-2000. As per the new scheme, the contribution of the fishermen



was enhanced from Rs.45 to Rs.75 for the eight months and the returns to the fishermen were increased from Rs. 1080 to Rs.1200 in the four lean months. This is unfair because the returns to the fishermen are not commensurate with the additional burden imposed on them. The State Government has decided that the fishermen will pay only Rs.50 per month for the eight month period and the remaining portion of their contribution, i.e. Rs.25 per month, will be borne by the Government.

There have been growing instances of our fishermen being fired upon by the Srilankan Navy for inadvertently crossing the invisible International Boundary Line in the sea. **We propose to install floating buoys with beacon lights for day and night visibility in the sea - one at every four nautical miles - to enable the fishermen to remain within our fishing zone.**

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Rapid development of rural areas of the State is among the principal concerns of the Government. As per the directions of our Honourable Chief Minister, it is proposed to construct integrated sanitary complexes for women in all the 12619 village panchayats at a cost of Rs.2 lakh per unit with electricity and water facilities for toilet, bathing and washing purposes in a phased manner. A sum of Rs.92 crores has been earmarked for this programme during the current financial year. The Government will also explore the feasibility of installing a mini-sewage treatment plant wherever necessary.

With the objective of encouraging rural self-employment and savings, this Government will take suitable steps to promote youth self-help groups in the rural areas. Apart from improving their household income, the self-help groups will enable them to channelise their creative potential in constructive purposes. The on-going Savings-linked Micro Credit Scheme that seeks to organise rural women in self-help groups for improving their economic status and inculcating the habit of saving, will be revamped to extend its coverage in the State.

Honourable Members are aware that the absence of an office room for the Village Administrative Officers



(VAOs) comes in the way of efficient discharge of their duties. People in the villages are finding it difficult to approach the VAOs to redress their grievances. **This Government proposes to construct a building adjoining every panchayat office for the Village Administrative Officers at an estimated cost of Rs.60,000.** A sum of Rs.24 crores has been earmarked for the project during the current financial year. Nearly 4000 buildings will be constructed every year.

The annual allocation for every Member of the Legislative Assembly under the MLA Constituency Development Scheme is Rs.77 lakhs. **Honourable Members will be happy to know that we have decided to increase it to Rs.82 lakhs and a provision of Rs.192.70 crores has been made in the budget for this purpose.**

The village shandies are being conducted in most village panchayats without adequate infrastructural facilities. This Government intends to augment the basic infrastructure available for the conduct of shandies by providing drinking water facilities, lighting, public conveniences, approach roads etc., with the assistance from the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) of the NABARD. An estimated Rs.7.48 lakhs is to be spent for providing these facilities for each shandy.

ENVIRONMENT

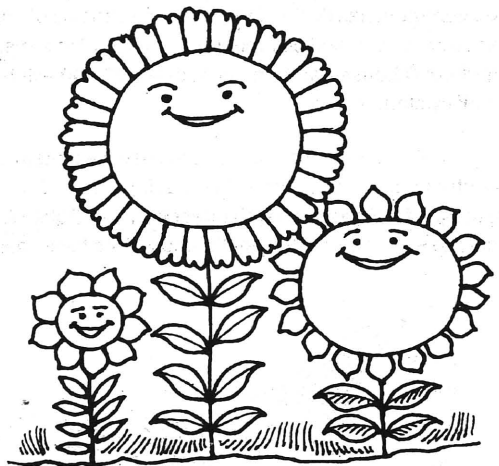
The Honourable Chief Minister has emphasised the need to adopt an integrated approach to all issues relating to ecology and environment such as preservation and development of forest wealth, optimum utilisation of wasteland, watershed development, biodiversity protection etc. This Government is totally committed to environment protection and conservation.

The Government is concerned about the inadequate and depleting green cover in the State. We propose to

launch a major afforestation drive in the next five years. Under the Tamil Nadu Afforestation Project being implemented in the State, it has been proposed to raise plantations over an area of 75250 hectares at a cost of Rs.100 crores during the current financial year. Part of this amount will be used for funding development activities in 200 villages under the Joint Forest Management concept.

The success of environment protection and conservation drive of the Government is contingent on the awareness and cooperation of the people. **This Government proposes to launch an environment consciousness drive through the youth and students in the State by establishing new eco-clubs and strengthening the existing ones in the districts.**

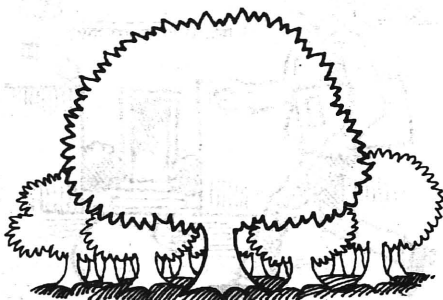
The Government recognises the deleterious impact of continued use of plastics on our environment. We

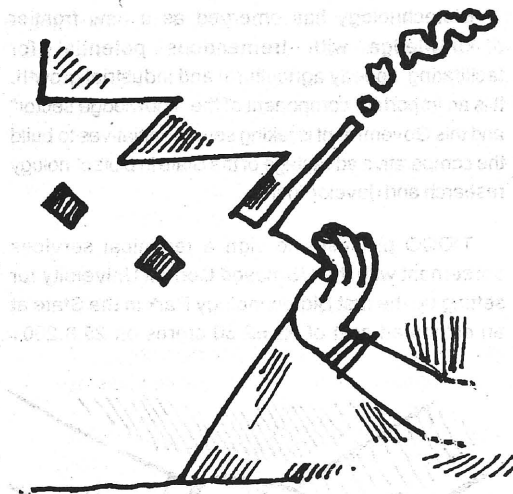


propose to educate the people against the use of plastics in their daily life.

INDUSTRY

The growth of the industrial sector in relation to the Gross State Domestic Product has seen a downward slide from 6.92 percent per annum during 1991-96 to 4.14 percent per annum during the last five years. The Honourable Chief Minister is committed to reversing the deceleration in the industrial sector and will strive to make Tamil Nadu the most industrialised State in the country.



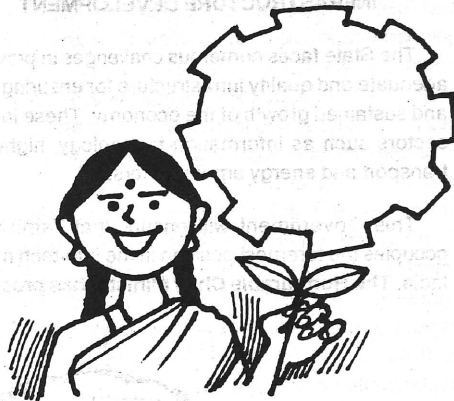


The small-scale industry plays a vital role in industrial production, employment generation and exports. In the context of growing domestic and international competition, our strategy will be to act as a facilitator for enhancing growth and dynamism of the small-scale sector and improving the quality of its products.

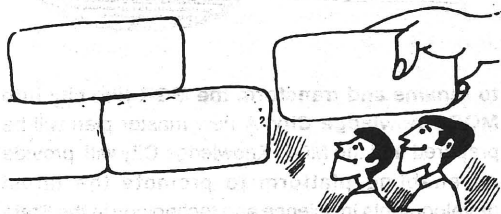
The Honourable Chief Minister had promised to withdraw the Government Order No. 75, Finance Department, dated 19-2-1997, which has been detrimental for the growth of small industries in our State. This Government Order had done away with the policy of according price and purchase preference in Government procurements for items manufactured in the small industries in Tamil Nadu. Necessary legislation will be introduced in the current session of the Legislative Assembly **to enable purchase or price preferences to not only the small scale sector in the State but also to State Public Sector Undertakings like Tamil Nadu Cements Limited (TANCEM) and Tamil Nadu Small Industries Limited (TANSI), which have manufacturing units of their own. We are confident that this measure will help revive the large number of small scale industries which are now languishing in the State and restore employment opportunities to thousands of people.**

The work on the development of a new industrial estate for small and tiny sector industries in Thirumullaivayal near Avadi over an extent of 290 acres through the SIDCO is going to commence shortly. This Government has already cleared a proposal for

establishment of an industrial park near Chennai exclusively for women in the small and tiny sectors. In addition, four such industrial parks for women entrepreneurs will be established in the districts.



In order to train new entrepreneurs, this Government is going to establish an Entrepreneurial Development



Institute at an estimated cost of Rs.4 crores. This will be the first of its kind in Southern India and will cater to the needs of new and existing entrepreneurs in the small and tiny industrial sectors. A sum of Rs.50 lakhs is being provided as the State's share in the project.

Taking into account the vast potential for employment generation, the Government has decided to give a major thrust to the development of industries in the State. We propose to come out with a progressive industrial policy. **In order to encourage participation of Tamil NRIs in industrial development of the State, action is being taken to set up a Tamil NRI consortium for industrial development as promised in the Governor's address.**

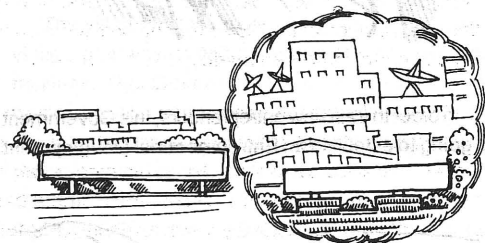
We recognise the imperatives of having an enabling environment for making the State an attractive

destination for investments. We propose to streamline laws, rules and regulations governing operation of industrial units at the field level in consultation with other regulatory departments.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

The State faces numerous challenges in providing adequate and quality infrastructure for ensuring rapid and sustained growth of the economy. These include sectors such as information technology, highways, transport and energy among others.

This Government will ensure that Tamil Nadu occupies the foremost position in the info-tech map of India. **The Honourable Chief Minister has proposed**

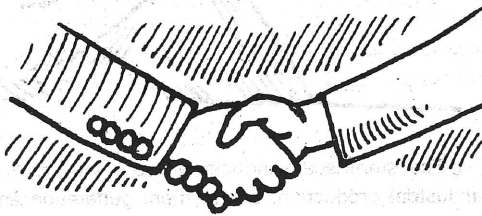


to rename and transform the MGR film city into MGR Knowledge City. A new master plan will be prepared and the MGR Knowledge City will provide an enabling platform to promote the latest developments in science and technology in the State. It will also have a world class Convention Centre, Knowledge Parks and hotels etc. We have given in-principle clearance for the construction of the new TIDEL-II project adjacent to the existing one. These developments will enable Chennai to emerge as a hub of info-tech revolution in the State.

For the creation of infrastructure facilities for locating software units, the Government has decided to follow a three-pronged approach. Firstly, the Government will itself take the initiative to set up facilities in Chennai and other cities of the State on the model of TIDEL Park. Secondly, we will encourage private sector initiative in setting up software parks on the outskirts of Chennai and other major cities with a possible equity support from TIDCO. Thirdly, TIDEL will provide consultancy and guidance services to real estate developers to ensure that the facilities created by them satisfy the requirements of software companies including foreign institutions.

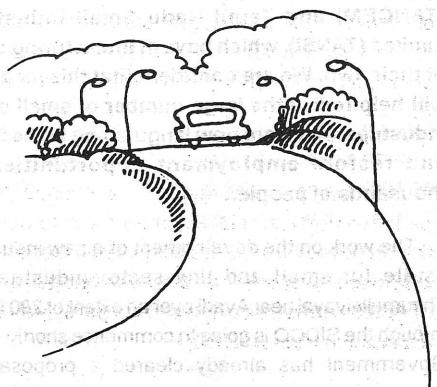
Biotechnology has emerged as a new frontier of knowledge with tremendous potential for facilitating speedy agricultural and industrial growth. It is an important component of the "knowledge sector" and this Government is taking several initiatives to build the comparative advantage of the State in biotechnology research and development.

TIDCO proposes to sign a technical services agreement with the US-based Cornell University for setting up the first Biotechnology Park in the State at an estimated cost of Rs.62.50 crores on 25.8.2001.



This Park will have customised laboratories functioning with the technical support of Cornell University. Action is being taken to set up a Genomic Centre with world-class facilities in the field of bio-informatics and gene sequencing for which MoU was signed last year. This will emerge as an asset to the health and pharmaceutical industries in the country. **The Government is also exploring the possibilities of establishing a Marine Biotechnology Park near Chennai and a Medicinal Plants Biotechnology Park near Dindigul.**

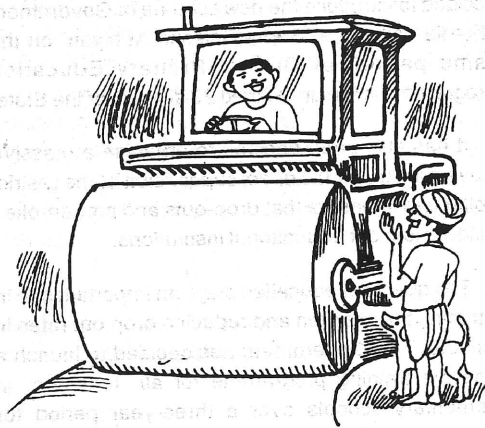
Roads are key infrastructural facilities, which sustain industrialisation, economic growth and social integration. **As proposed by the Honourable Chief Minister, a comprehensive Road Policy will be**



formulated which will include not only the engineering and economic aspects of highway construction and maintenance, but also environmental and social issues. The objectives of the new Road Policy include:

- ★ Road development in order to maximise socio-economic benefits.
- ★ To leverage market resources through public-private participation.
- ★ To upgrade road construction, design, planning and execution through state-of-the-art technology.
- ★ Professional management of highways assets and resources.

In 1994, this Government had invited the World Bank to assist in the Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project (TNRSP) aimed at improving State Highways, Major



District Roads and Other District Roads. After a gap of nearly five years, we have been given the opportunity to take up this project with renewed vigour and commitment. The total project cost is estimated to be Rs.1900 crores and this project is to be appraised by the World Bank shortly.

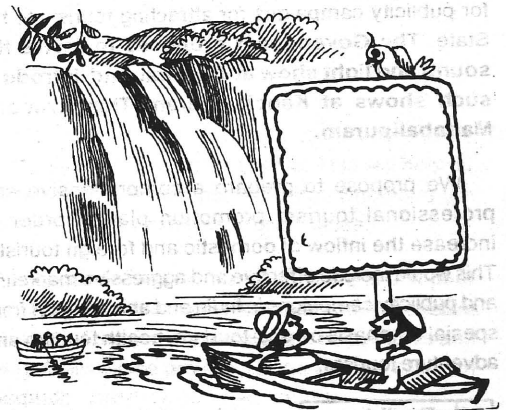
Many bridges built during the pre-independence period in the delta districts are unable to cope with the increased traffic intensity. This Government proposes to reconstruct 204 such bridges at a cost of Rs.200 crores through private participation and assistance from NABARD.

Adequate availability of electric power is an essential pre-requisite for economic and industrial development. This calls for continuous investment for enhancement of generation and upgradation of transmission and distribution. When we demitted office in 1996, the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB) had revenue surplus. There has been a steady deterioration in the health of TNEB during the last five years and its revenue deficit is pegged at Rs.3000 crores in 2001-02. Losses to TNEB on account of free and subsidised power during the current financial year are expected to be Rs.4938 crores. Recurring deficit of this magnitude is unsustainable. A White Paper on the financial position of TNEB is being brought out for a more informed debate and awareness on the maladies afflicting the power sector. The TNEB has requested the Government to provide at least Rs.2000 crores as subsidy-support but, because of the precarious financial position of the Government, an allocation of Rs.500 crores has been made in 2001-02.

The public transport sector in the State is reeling under severe financial stress on account of mounting losses. The reasons therefor have been elaborately outlined in the White Paper. The Government has proposed to provide a subsidy reimbursement of Rs.165 crores in the current financial year for the Free Bus Pass Scheme for students. We are also exploring the possibilities of merging different State Transport Undertakings for reducing administrative expenditure.

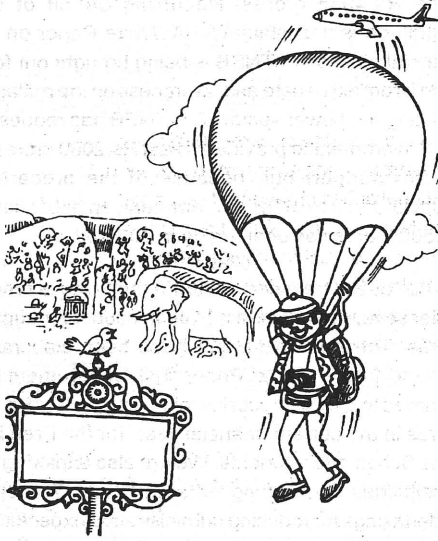
TOURISM

The tourism sector has not received the attention it deserves in the last five years. The budget allocation to this vital sector has been only of the order of Rs.4.89



crores in 1996-97 and Rs.5.75 crores in 2000-01. **Our Honourable Chief Minister has directed that a fillip be given to the tourism infrastructure in the State.** The total allocation made to the tourism sector in the budget is Rs.17.50 crores and this represents a quantum jump compared to the previous years. This will be stepped up further in the coming years.

The Government proposes to concentrate on tourism infrastructure development, which includes

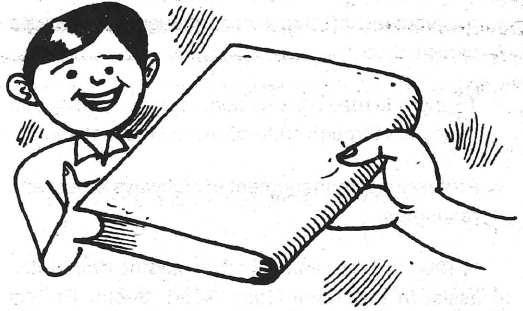


giving incentives to the private sector to set up star hotels in places of pilgrimage and other destinations of tourist attraction. Apart from this, budgetary support of Rs.5 crores is being provided for upgradation and creation of new infrastructural facilities in various tourist spots. A sum of Rs.5.5 crores has been earmarked for publicity campaigns for attracting tourists to the State. **The Government proposes to revive the sound and light show at Madurai and introduce such shows at Kancheepuram, Thanjavur and Mahabalipuram.**

We propose to prepare a comprehensive and professional tourism promotion plan in order to increase the inflow of domestic and foreign tourists. This would include effective and aggressive marketing and publicity campaigns in India and abroad apart from special emphasis on eco-tourism, health tourism and adventure tourism.

EDUCATION

In order to achieve the goal of "Elementary Education for All", this Government proposes to completely eliminate the phenomenon of children dropping out of

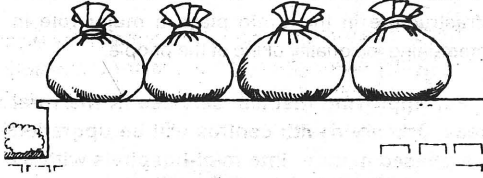


school and ensure 100 percent enrolment. It has been decided to introduce the new scheme of Government of India called the "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan" on the same pattern of District Primary Education Programme in the uncovered 22 districts of the State.

It has also been decided to organise a massive movement under the direct supervision of the District Collectors to ensure that drop-outs and non-enrolled children join our educational institutions.

The quality of education plays an important role in retaining the children and reducing drop out rates in schools. This Government has decided to launch a massive training programme for all teachers in elementary schools over a three-year period for knowledge and skill upgradation. Action will be taken to impart refresher course training to all teachers in the high schools. Compulsory participation in the refresher courses will be linked to grant of annual increments. The vacant posts in schools will also be filled up. We are contemplating authorising the Parent-Teachers associations to appoint teachers in schools located in remote hill areas so that children do not suffer on account of absence of Government teachers.

There has been a steady deterioration in the quality of infrastructure available in our schools. Government High and Higher Secondary schools do not have adequate infrastructure in terms of number of classrooms, laboratories, drinking water facilities and toilets. **We propose to obtain financial assistance**



from NABARD under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) to provide necessary infrastructure in the schools. In the first phase, Rs.30 crores will be obtained as loan to improve the infrastructural facilities during the current year.

This Government is committed to providing easy access to schools for all our children. Orders have been issued to upgrade 100 Middle schools to High schools and 125 High schools to Higher Secondary schools in the current year for the benefit of rural students.

The Director of Teacher Education, Research and Training is responsible for admissions to the Teacher Training Institutes run by the Government. In other cases, the responsibility vests with the managements of the institutes. To override the difficulties experienced in the past, it is proposed to introduce single window system for admissions to the Teacher Training Institutes from the current academic year.

In order to encourage women to join All India Services and Central Services in larger numbers, it is proposed to start exclusive coaching programmes for



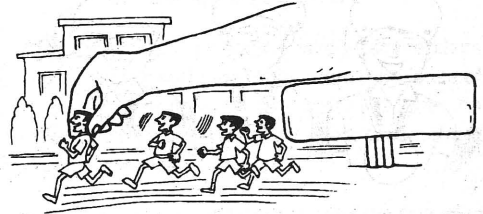
them at two centres, one at Chennai and the other at Madurai. We will seek the assistance of the Union Planning Commission and the Government of India for implementing the scheme.

SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

Sports are an integral part of our educational curriculum. We are committed to improving the sports infrastructure available to our youth. We will also take adequate steps to tap and encourage sporting talent in the youth. It is the vision of our Honourable Chief Minister to transform Chennai into a world-class sports centre in terms of infrastructure and quality of sportspersons.

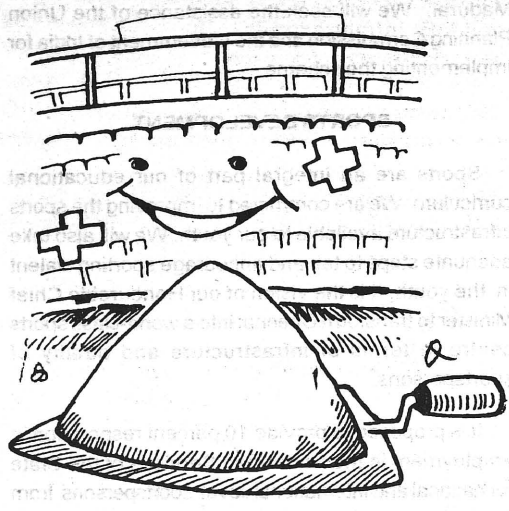
It is proposed to provide 10 percent reservation in employment in the Uniformed Services of the State for national and international level sportspersons from Tamil Nadu. This will be compatible with the reservation now being provided for the people from the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and Most Backward Classes. Steps will be taken to revitalise sports teams in the State Transport Undertakings, Electricity Board and other Public sector Undertakings.

This Government proposes to implement a "World Beaters Talent Spotting Scheme". This would include a comprehensive battery of tests for

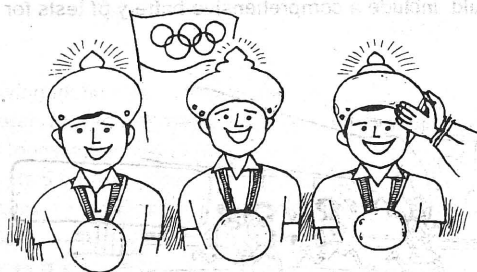


students in standards VI to VIII to discover their potential in specific sporting events. This will help us identify and encourage those children who have the requisite sporting talents in specific fields.

The sports infrastructure in the State is in a poor shape. We propose to undertake repairs and renovation of all stadia with private participation. Flood-lights and astro-turf will also be provided in the Hockey Stadium in Chennai.



As announced by the Honourable Chief Minister in our Election Manifesto, we will honour all those who bring laurels to the country in international sporting events and national championships. The gold, silver and bronze medal winners in the Olympics and World Championship events from Tamilnadu will be awarded Rs.1 crore, Rs.50 lakhs and Rs.25 lakhs respectively. **The gold, silver and bronze medal winners in**



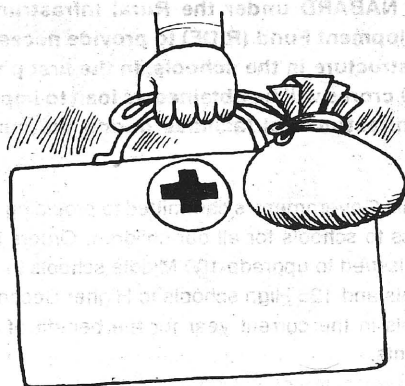
the Asian Games will get Rs.20 lakhs, Rs.15 lakhs and Rs.10 lakhs respectively. In National Games, the winners of these medals in individual events will be honoured with a prize money of Rs.1 lakh, Rs.50,000 and Rs.25,000 respectively. In case of team events in National Games, the prizes will be Rs.20,000, Rs.15,000 and Rs.10,000 for the first three positions.

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

The importance of providing quality, accessible and affordable health facilities to the people is among

the foremost aims of this Government. The health infrastructure in the State plays a major role in determining the quality of life of the people.

For improving medical services in the rural areas, primary health centres will be upgraded in a phased manner into mini-hospitals with 30



beds and specialist doctors will be appointed. We propose to have one such mini-hospital in every panchayat union so that quality medical care is easily accessible. In addition, we also propose to set up Mobile Health Care Units in the State to cater to the needs of the disabled and the aged. Speciality health camps will also be organised and a sum of Rs.3.85 crores has been earmarked for this purpose.

As part of our commitment to improve the infrastructure available in the hospitals, we



propose to provide air-conditioning facilities in all operation theatres in a phased manner. During the current year, 20 headquarter hospitals will be taken up.

As promised in the Governor's address, we will provide uninterrupted power supply to all hospitals through generators in a phased manner. An allocation of Rs.1.32 crores has been made in the current year for the purpose.



We are seeing an increasing incidence of mouth cancer due to the use of tobacco products and also an alarming increase in the incidence of submucous fibrosis (inability to open the mouth) because of paan masala and gutka products use. We are also seeing this habit increasing among school children. **This Government has therefore decided to enact a legislation for banning chewing tobacco, paan masala and gutka products.**

Comprehensive health care cannot be provided unless there is adequate para-medical staff in our hospitals. We are aware of the existing deficiencies in the system. **The Government is, therefore, exploring the possibilities of establishing a Nursing College in every Government Medical College in the State.**

An area of grave concern is the steady increase in the number of road accidents and deaths. Valuable lives can be saved if immediate medical assistance is made available to victims of road accidents. **This Government will implement a scheme for establishing well-equipped Accident Trauma Centres at appropriate locations, which will provide timely medical help to victims of road accidents.**

HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

It has been seen that the process of allotment of free house site pattas has not been received well by the people because of absence of infrastructural facilities in places where pattas have been given.

Keeping this anomaly in mind, to begin with, a sum of Rs.10 crores has been earmarked for providing infrastructural facilities like roads, water, electricity etc at such places.

It has also been proposed to sell 13972 plots developed under the Tamil Nadu Urban Development Project and 8000 houses and flats developed under regular schemes of the Tamil Nadu Housing Board to the needy people. We would also use the machinery available with the district administration and other local bodies to identify beneficiaries for making the allotments.

A high level committee will be set up to streamline the activities of Tamil Nadu Housing Board in order to make their schemes cost effective. The Government feels that Tamil Nadu Housing Board should henceforth concentrate on developing plots and restrict its construction activities given the large stock of unsold houses.

The Government proposes to construct multi-storeyed slum tenements in Chennai, Coimbatore and Madurai. An initial allocation of Rs.9 crores has been made for the purpose in the budget.

The Government proposes to construct 1341 toilet complexes with water facilities in urban areas to provide sanitation facilities for women. A sum of Rs.42 crores has been earmarked for this purpose.

DRINKING WATER CRISIS

This Government pledges to take effective steps to ameliorate the suffering of the people because of the recurrent drinking water problem in the State. An outlay of Rs.690 crores has been made for augmenting rural and urban water supply.

In the rural areas, we intend to take the following steps:

- ★ Mini power pumps will be installed in areas where the water level has gone down.
- ★ In places where the water quality is poor, on-site low cost treatment plants of appropriate technology will be set up.
- ★ It is proposed to provide deep bore wells fitted with ground level service reservoir with active participation of and coordination with the women's groups.

A token provision of Rs.10 crores has been made in the Budget for preliminary works relating to some major water supplying schemes including Hogenekal Water Supply Scheme, and the Ramanathapuram Bulk Water Supply Scheme. International Funding Agencies have been approached for financing these schemes.

The Government recognises the benefits of harvesting rainwater to augment the receding surface and ground water levels in the State. **We propose to undertake massive awareness campaigns and disseminate information on appropriate rainwater harvesting structures for rural and urban areas.** Existing town planning regulations will be suitably amended and enforced to ensure that all private, public and Government buildings meet the roof-top rainwater harvesting requirements.

Chennai city is experiencing an unprecedented water scarcity due to successive failure of monsoons. As already announced by the Honourable Chief Minister, this Government is taking the following steps to deal with the crisis on a war footing:

- ★ **As a short term solution, a sum of Rs.75 crores have been earmarked for supplying potable water through lorries and rail to the people of Chennai.**

- ★ **The Chennai Water Supply Augmentation Project-I will be implemented within two years by drawing water from the Veeranam lake. This project will be funded partly by the State Government and partly by national financial institutions.**

- ★ **This Government also proposes to implement the Chennai Water Supply Augmentation Project-II at a cost of about Rs.493 crores. The objective of this project is to prevent rain water from running off into the sea by constructing check dams, reservoirs, percolation tanks etc. to store surplus water in Koratalaiyar, Cooum, Adyar and Palar rivers. A detailed project proposal is being prepared and will be posed for funding to international financial institutions. This project will include:**

- ★ **Construction of reservoirs at Tirukkandam, Zamin Korattur, Tiruneermalai and Pallikaranai.**

- ★ **Construction of check-dams across rivers Koratalaiyar, Cooum, Adyar and Palar.**

- ★ **Augmentation of storage capacity in Redhills, Madhavaram lake, Korattur lake, Ambattur lake and Rettai Eri.**

Our Honourable Chief Minister is very keen that a permanent solution to the recurring water problem in Chennai must be found. Accordingly, all projects for drawal of water from river Cauvery will be taken up for investigation immediately. These include the Pallipalayam open canal project, Pallipalayam closed conduit project, drawal of water from Mettur through pipes and drawal of surface water from Tiruchirappalli upstream of Grand Anicut.

SOCIAL SECURITY

This Government is deeply committed to the welfare of women, children, disabled and the aged. The "Cradle Baby Scheme" started by the Honourable Chief Minister during her last term in office was not implemented properly by the previous Government. **This scheme will be revived by setting up full-fledged reception centres at Madurai, Theni, Dindigul and Dharmapuri districts at a cost of Rs.12.96 lakhs and revitalising the existing centre at Salem.** The primary health centres in the vulnerable districts will be equipped to receive these babies and a massive State-sponsored campaign against the evil practice of female infanticide will be launched.

The Honourable Chief Minister had introduced the revolutionary Girl Child Protection Scheme in 1992 to promote family planning, to eradicate female infanticide and to discourage preference for male child. **This scheme has now been completely restructured to confer increased financial benefit to the girls belonging to poor families.** In cases of families with only one girl child and no other children and if either of the parents has undergone sterilisation, an initial deposit of Rs.20,650 will be made by the Government in the name of the child. The interest accruing from this deposit will take care of a monthly payment of a minimum of Rs.150 throughout the period of school education of the girl. A terminal benefit of Rs.80,000 will be given to the girl at the end of 20 years which would enable her to pursue higher studies or defray marriage expenses. For families with two girl children and no male child and if

either of the parents has undergone sterilisation, an initial deposit of Rs.14,450 will be made for each girl child by the Government. Apart from a monthly payment of a minimum of Rs.150, each of the two girls will be eligible for a terminal benefit of Rs.40,000 at the end of 20 years. An allocation of Rs.22.70 crores has been made in the current year for this scheme.

There is an urgent need for improving the access of women to resources and ensuring their rightful place in economic development. With this objective in mind, Honourable Chief Minister has formulated a new scheme for training 5 lakh women in entrepreneurial skills for self-employment. At the end of the training programme, the beneficiaries will be provided with loans to set up small enterprises. During the current year, six new community resource centres will be set up at a cost of Rs.15 lakhs to enable members of Women Self-Help groups to undergo training programmes besides providing them with exposure to computers and the Internet.

At present, the financial support being given through various marriage assistance schemes varies from Rs.7000 to Rs.10,000. I am happy to announce that as desired by the Honourable Chief Minister the amount of assistance under the various schemes will be rationalised and Rs.10,000 will be uniformly given under all the schemes. At the same time, under the Inter-Caste Marriage Scheme, an assistance of Rs.20,000 will continue to be provided if one of the spouses belongs to SC/ST. The age criterion under all these schemes will be revised to twenty years, which is the age of marriage promoted by the Government.

Considering the imperative need to involve women in decision making as a step towards empowerment, the Honourable Chief Minister has taken a laudable and bold decision to provide 30 percent reservation to women in all Statutory and Non-Statutory Committees.

We are taking steps to strengthen the Puratchi Thalaivar MGR Nutritious Noon Meal Centres by ensuring that repairs are carried out wherever necessary. A sum of Rs.25 crores is being provided for carrying out repairs to the Puratchi Thalaivar MGR Nutritious Noon Meal Centres.

This Government will pay special attention to the needs of the physically handicapped. We have decided to guarantee loans proposed to be taken from the

National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation for the welfare of the physically challenged. Provision of barrier-free environment is a priority for the disabled and we will construct ramps at Government offices in a phased manner.

This Government has also decided to scrap the existing income ceiling criterion for providing free bus passes to the mentally disabled children along with one attendant. This decision will go a long way in ensuring better mobility to the mentally challenged children in the State.

WELFARE OF THE SCHEDULED CASTES, SCHEDULED TRIBES, BACKWARD CLASSES, MOST BACKWARD CLASSES, DENOTIFIED TRIBES AND MINORITIES

The Government is fully committed to ensuring that the fruits of economic development are shared by all sections of our society, including the underprivileged. The welfare of the depressed sections of our society - the Adi-Dravidar communities, Scheduled Tribes, Backward and Most Backward Classes and the Denotified Tribes - is a high priority for us.

Programmes for spreading education amongst the Adi-Dravidar and Tribals will be implemented with renewed vigour. We have decided to launch a new programme for providing free education up to the post-graduate level in Government colleges to girl students belonging to the Adi-Dravidar and Tribal Communities.

As promised in the Governor's address, the Honourable Chief Minister has taken action in implementing the laudable scheme of providing free bicycles to all SC and ST girl students studying in Classes XI and XII in Government schools from the current financial year. An allocation of Rs.20 crores has been made in the budget for the purpose.

It has been decided that children studying in Adi-Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Schools will be gradually brought into the mainstream education system. For this purpose, a committee comprising members of the Parent-Teachers associations, district education officials and members of the SC/ST community will be formed to ensure that adequate number of SC/ST children are admitted in the regular schools.

This Government proposes to strengthen the educational infrastructure for the Adi-Dravidar and

Tribal Communities by constructing buildings for hostels in a phased manner. A sum of Rs.25 crores has been provided in the budget for this purpose.

Since the existing food allowance in the Adi-Dravidar and Tribal Welfare hostels is inadequate, we have decided to increase the allowance from Rs.225 per month to Rs.300 per month per student.

In order to ensure financial empowerment of SC and ST families in the State through agriculture, the Government proposes to encourage the cultivation of nutritious dry crops like Cumbu, Ragi, Cholam, Varagu, Samai, Thinai and certain pulses through the Special Component Plan of the Agriculture Department.

The Government is aware that the allocation for the Special Component Plan for Adi-Dravidar and Tribal Welfare is not commensurate with their total population. We propose to review the progress and achievements under the Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan on a regular basis. The TAHDCO will be restructured to source more funds from the Government of India for Adi-dravidar and Tribal Welfare schemes.

We also propose to organise SC/ST women into self-help groups and give them job-oriented vocational training for self-employment.

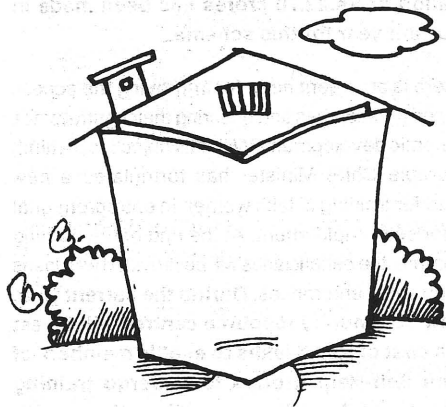
This Government proposes to construct 43 hostels in schools and colleges for students belonging to the Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and Denotified communities at a cost of Rs.19.63 crores. This cost will be shared between the Central and State Governments. This Government also proposes to tap other sources of funding for completing construction of the remaining hostels, which are now housed in rented buildings in a phased manner. A provision of Rs.25 crores has been made during the current year.

We have decided to enhance the food allowance payable to every boarder residing in school hostels run by Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and Minority Welfare Department from Rs.225 per month to Rs.300 per month.

This Government will provide financial assistance to the Tamil Nadu Wakf Board for construction of a new office building at a cost of Rs.40 lakhs. This will meet a longstanding demand of our Muslim brethren.

WELFARE OF JOURNALISTS

I am happy to inform the Honourable Members and the members of the Fourth Estate that the Honourable Chief Minister has proposed enhancement of



assistance under the Journalist Family Fund Scheme from Rs.50,000 to Rs.2 lakhs. It is also proposed to enhance the pension to accredited working journalists who have put in more than 20 years of service.

The Government is also formulating an attractive instalment scheme to enable journalists to purchase houses built by the TNHB.

The Honourable Chief Minister has also agreed that press accreditation cards be issued to the electronic media journalists.

LABOUR WELFARE

Labour welfare is an important priority for this Government. We are examining the possibilities of providing pension to the construction workers through their Welfare Board. We will try to provide a creche and reading room in all the 71 labour welfare centres.

FOOD SUBSIDY

Tamil Nadu is the only State that provides food security to its entire population through the public distribution system at an exorbitant cost. There are innumerable complaints of leakages and poor quality of commodities being supplied through the PDS outlets. A committee of Legislators will be constituted to examine the maladies afflicting the PDS system and for suggesting methods for

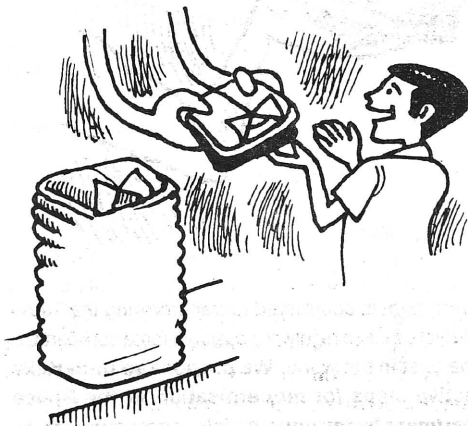


improving the services and rationalisation of the food subsidy regime. The Committee will be asked to submit its report within three months. Pending receipt of the Committee's recommendations, we have decided to provide Rs. 1540 crores during the current financial year for food subsidy.

HANDLOOMS, TEXTILES AND KHADI

The Government has provided an amount of Rs. 129 crores for the Free Dhoti and Saree Scheme in the budget. These will be distributed to those living below the poverty line in rural and urban areas. The identification of beneficiaries for the distribution of sarees and dhotis will be done through the grama sabhas in rural areas, Executive Officers in Town Panchayats and Commissioners of Municipalities and Corporations in municipal and corporation areas.

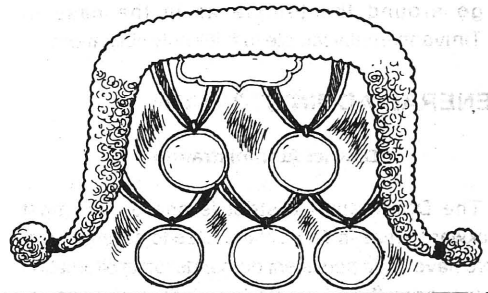
The Government has provided Rs. 55 crores for free supply of uniforms to school children covered under the Nutritious Meal Programme.



In order to promote opportunities for Khadi weavers, rebate on the sale of Khadi will be provided for the whole year in addition to the rebate offered by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission. Besides increasing the sale of Khadi, it will provide additional employment to Khadi weavers throughout the year.

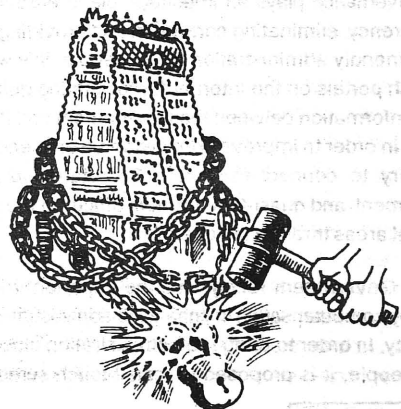
TAMIL DEVELOPMENT AND HINDU RELIGIOUS ENDOWMENTS

The Government is committed to extending the use of Tamil in day-to-day functioning of the administration. Steps will be taken to move the Central Government



to declare Tamil as one of the official languages of the Union. It has also been decided to institute awards in the name of Tamil savants like Vallalar, Karaikal Ammaiyar, Arunagirinathaar, Thevara Nalvar and Alwars who have not only added glory to Tamil but also devoted their lives to the development of spirituality.

The Government will take steps to promote Tamil music, folklore, street plays, dance and dramas to cherish and protect Tamil ethos and culture.



We propose to set free our temples from political interference and other corrupt malpractices by streamlining temple administration. **We will also revive the scheme, which provides for the performance of at least one pooja every day in the temples.**

It is proposed to fulfil two longstanding demands of the devotees of the Palani Temple.

- ★ Cable car facility will be provided for large number of devotees who are unable to walk up to the top of the hill.
- ★ Girivala Pathai will be provided for the devotees to go around the temple as in the case of Tiruvannamalai temple to fulfill holy obligations.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

District Administration

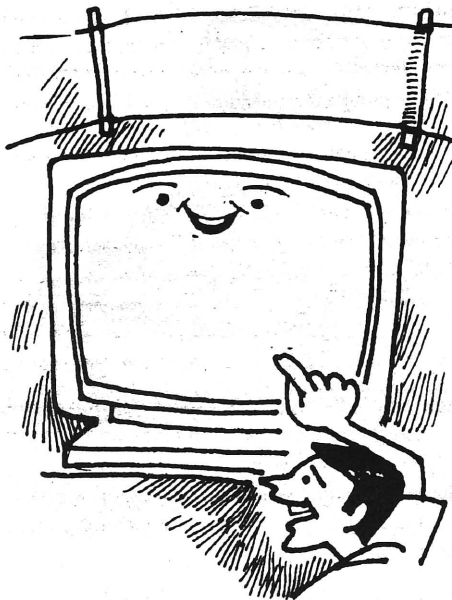
The Dharmapuri District is one of the most backward areas in Tamil Nadu. Due to its large size, there have been persistent demands for its bifurcation so as to bring the administration closer to the people. This Government has decided to bifurcate the existing Dharmapuri district. The newly created district will have its headquarters at Krishnagiri.

Streamlining Office Procedures

The Government has implemented its promise made in the Governor's address of implementing "File Closing Week" in all administrative institutions. The process for redressing public grievances is being streamlined to ensure speedy and quality disposal of petitions.

E-governance plays an important role in ensuring transparency, eliminating corruption and providing a citizen friendly administration to the people. We will establish portals on the Internet for facilitating quick flow of information between the Government and the people. In order to improve administrative efficiency, we will try to connect the State Secretariat to all Government and quasi-Government offices in urban and rural areas through the Internet.

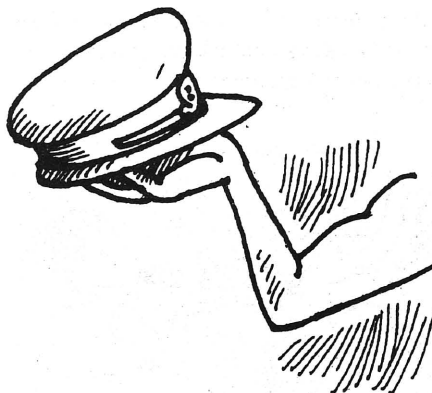
This Government recognises the important role played by computerisation in enhancing administrative efficiency. In order to bring the administration closer to the people, it is proposed to install touch screen



computers, to start with in select taluk offices in districts during the current financial year. This will enable people to access the desired information on their own and with great ease.

Police Administration

Maintenance of law and order is an essential pre-requisite for economic and social development. The



Government is committed to transforming the Tamil Nadu Police into a highly professional force comparable to the best in the world. **We propose to undertake effective steps for modernisation of the Police Department by introducing latest communication**

equipments, vehicles, hi-tech weapons, computerisation and improved techniques for crime detection. An allocation of Rs.107.57 crores has been provided in the current year for this purpose.

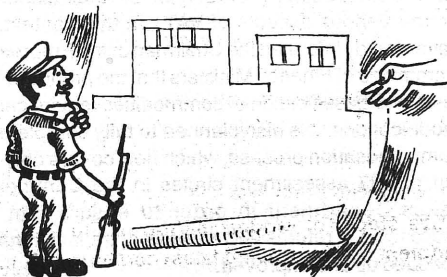
In recognition of the fact that offences against women need to be treated on a different footing, the Honourable Chief Minister has decided to have at least one All Women Police Station in all the 184 Police



Sub-Divisions in the State. During the current year, it is proposed to set up 50 such All Women Police Stations and an allocation of Rs.3 crores has been made for the purpose.

The Honourable Chief Minister has also ordered the posting of one Woman Sub-inspector and two Women Police Constables in all the 1217 Police Stations in the State within the next 2 years at a recurring cost of Rs.25 crores per annum. This has been proposed with the objective of enabling women to have easy access to all Police Stations without any fear or apprehension.

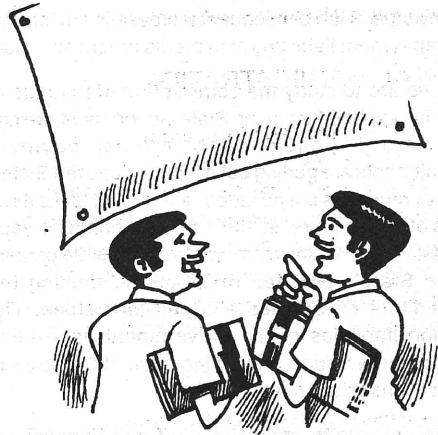
It is proposed to construct 3000 quarters at an estimated cost of Rs.115 crores for police personnel across the State through the Tamil Nadu Police Housing Corporation during the current year. Special emphasis would be paid on developing open space for children's play ground, park, public library and community centres.



Welfare of Government Employees

The Government employees are the bed-rock of any administrative set up and we recognise the vital role played by them in running day-to-day administration.

This Government is aware of the space constraints faced by the employees in the State Secretariat. The Honourable Chief Minister has given her consent to the proposal for constructing an additional Secretariat building at an estimated cost of Rs.10.70 crores.



FINANCIAL POSITION

This is going to be a very difficult year for the new Government because of the poor state of finances inherited by it. While on one hand, we have to reckon with an ailing State economy, we have to also face a situation where well-performing States like Tamil Nadu are being given a raw deal by the Union Government.

The Interim Budget had projected a revenue deficit of Rs.3659 crores in the current financial year. The revenue expenditure was estimated to be Rs.24294 crores while the revenue receipts were pegged at Rs.20635 crores. After taking into account the expenditure and receipt of the Government during the last six months, the revenue deficit of the Government is now expected to be Rs.3748 crores. It is estimated that the revenue receipts of the Government will be at Rs.20774 crores while the revenue expenditure will be Rs.24522 crores during the current financial year.

The overall deficit of the current financial year is likely to be Rs.827 crores as against Rs.996 crores projected in the Interim Budget.

I assure you that inspite of all odds, we will put through a credible programme for equitable and planned development and economic revival of the State with special emphasis on the marginalised sections of our society. We intend to undertake a fiscal course correction exercise after a proper debate based on the constructive suggestions given by the Honourable Members of this House and the people of the State.

Our main concern is the unsustainably wide revenue deficit, which is attributed to the uncontrolled growth of the salaries and pension liabilities of the Government. The sharp increase in the Government borrowing and the consequent increase in the interest and repayment liabilities also merits urgent attention.

If we are to study the composition of revenue or recurring expenditure of the State Government, we find that salary, pension and interest payment commitments are getting out of control, and the State's own tax revenues are not adequate to meet these three items of expenditure. In the previous financial year, for instance, the Government spent about 94 percent of the State's own tax revenues in meeting the expenditure on salaries and pensions alone. The pension liabilities of the Government have been showing an average annual increase of 30 percent, which is unsustainable.

We propose to appoint a Staff and Expenditure Review Commission to examine the scope of curtailing avoidable expenditure in administration.

I take this opportunity to announce an expenditure policy to be followed by this Government to help restrict the abnormal pace of growth of revenue expenditure. We shall conduct a Zero Base Budgeting exercise for various Departments in the Government and its agencies to ensure efficiency and economy in expenditure.

The Honourable Chief Minister has asked all the Ministers to conduct a comprehensive review of the Departments under their control to identify new sources of revenue. This would include revising the existing user charges for various services being provided by the Government to realistic levels and cutting down avoidable and wasteful expenditure.

COMMERCIAL TAXES

Commercial Taxes are the largest source of revenue for the Government. Hon'ble members may be aware that a decision has been taken at the all



India level in the Conference of Chief Ministers and State Finance Ministers, presided over by the Hon'ble Union Finance Minister at New Delhi on 5.7.2001, that all the States must comply with the Uniform Floor Rates of sales tax latest by 31.7.2001 and they should also implement the Value Added Tax (VAT) regime from 1.4.2002 onwards. Based on the recommendations of the Empowered Committee of Finance Ministers, the Union Finance Minister has also announced in the same Conference that Central Assistance would be withheld for the States which do not comply with the Uniform Floor Rates.

Based on an understanding among the States and Union Territories to conform to a discipline of uniform floor rates with effect from January 2000, the previous Government has already complied with 40 items of taxation under the floor rate regime. We have now reviewed the remaining deviations and have decided to take appropriate measures. While doing so, we hope that the other States and Union Territories, especially the neighbouring ones, would also ensure full compliance in order to enable us to sustain the Uniform Floor Rates and prevent diversion of trade and tax revenue from Tamil Nadu.

As regards the implementation of VAT in Tamil Nadu, our Government has undertaken a comprehensive examination of all the issues involved. The Government has very recently issued orders for setting up a VAT Cell to analyse and process the various aspects of VAT and the steps that need to be taken towards this goal. It is also proposed to constitute an Empowered Committee to guide and monitor the preparations required for the implementation of VAT. We also propose to hold detailed consultations with trade and industry as well as consumer bodies in order to obtain their responses on the various aspects of VAT. In this context, we have already informed the Chairman of the Empowered Committee of Finance Ministers that the proposed VAT rates and classification of commodities require certain modifications. It is also planned to fully complete the computerisation process, which now covers only 140 out of 323 assessment circles in the Commercial Taxes Department in order to ensure that the processing of returns and analysis of transactions are speeded up and improved.

It is proposed to set up at the level of the Commercial Taxes Department suitable mechanisms for regular interactions with manufacturing and trade bodies. The intention would be to use the suggestions and the feed-back thus obtained for the review of forms and procedures and to simplify classification and broad band related items.

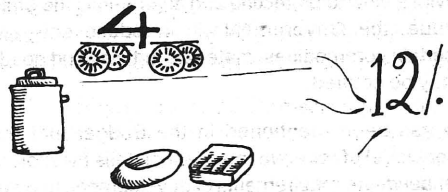
I now turn to the taxation component of the Budget. While the system of taxation need to have revenue mobilisation as a major objective, it is also necessary to keep in mind the impact of such taxation on trade, industry and consumers. The Government of India has firmly indicated that the system of uniform floor rates of taxes as already decided should be implemented before 31.7.2001, failing which it would withhold the central assistance being given to the States. Under these circumstances, some tax changes are inevitable. It is therefore proposed to raise the present TNGST rates to 4% for copra, maize products, man-made fibres and yarns, jari of all kinds, cumin seeds, cotton, dressed skins and hides. Bicycle locks now being charged at 11% and bicycle seat covers now being charged at 1% will be taxed at a uniform 4% on par with other parts and accessories of bicycles.

The tax on tractor tyres and tubes, photographic films, plates, etc., printing and writing paper, sewing machine parts and accessories, butter and ghee branded or unbranded, footwear whether branded or unbranded, unbranded bakery products, unbranded confectionery and chocolates, compact fluorescent lamps and cellular telephones will henceforth be charged at 8%. However, keeping in mind the interest of the lower income groups and the poorer sections of society, the present tax exemption in respect of footwear costing Rs.50/- or less, will stand raised to Rs.100/-. Straps of footwear will continue to be exempted. The existing rate of 4% for unbranded biscuits and the exemption for bakeries with a turnover up to Rs.5 lakhs will continue.

The tax rate on two wheelers, three wheelers and four wheelers other than earth moving machinery, articles of stainless steel other than household utensils, handmade soaps will henceforth be charged at the floor rate of 12% Synthetic gems, which are now exempt, will henceforth be charged at the floor rate of 1%.

We have also undertaken an exercise to simplify and reduce the number of taxation rates presently in existence. The First Schedule to the Tamil Nadu General Sales Tax Act, 1959 has, as of now, 14 parts. It is proposed to eliminate Part-A of the First Schedule which as of now has only three items, viz. poultry feed supplements and concentrates, parched gram or fried

gram and flour of pulses and gram. Since poultry feed is already exempted and as cattle feed supplements and concentrates, fried groundnut kernels, wheat flour, rava and maida are already taxed at 4%, it is now proposed to raise the rate on the three items in the Schedule from 2% to 4% and merge it with Part-B of the First Schedule.



As a further step towards rationalisation, it is proposed that except butter and ghee sold under registered brand name, camphor, caustic soda, bicycle locks, other goods not specified elsewhere and unspecified dyes, weighing machines of all kinds, pressure lamps, paraffin and slack wax, and animal drawn vehicle tyres and tubes, all other items under Part-D of First Schedule will be raised to 12%. As mentioned already, all varieties of butter and ghee branded or unbranded will be taxed at 8%. The tax on camphor will continue to be at 4%. Unspecified dyes now being taxed at 11% will be taxed along with specified dyes at 8%.

In the budget for 1999-2000, the tax on electrical goods was reduced from 16% to 8% with the expectation that there would be an increase in the turnover and compensating increase in revenue. However, it is observed that the attendant revenue has fallen by Rs.18.94 crores. It is therefore proposed to increase the rate for electrical goods to 12%. Plastic products, which are now being charged at 8%, will be henceforth charged at 12%, though HDPE/PP woven fabrics will continue to be taxed at 8%.

The Government proposes to reduce the tax on silk cotton seeds from 11% to 4% and paper cups from 11% to 8%. Hand pumps, parts and accessories of kerosene stoves and an additional 12 number of adisaraku items that are widely used by the weaker sections, will be exempted from the payment of tax.

Parts and accessories of electronic voltage stabilizers will be included with parts and accessories of electronic goods now being taxed at 4%. The tax on sales to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited of telecom cables will be reduced to 4% under TNGST and also under CST, with or without 'C' Form.

A number of new recreation parlours, which provide for games like bowling, billiards, snooker, etc, catering to the upper echelons of society have come up in some of the major cities in Tamil Nadu. Though these parlours charge heavy amounts from the users, they do not bring any revenue to the Government. It is proposed to levy entertainment tax at 20 per cent of the charges on these facilities.

With a view to protecting and augmenting the State revenue, the Government will introduce entry tax on certain commodities, materials, articles and goods as may be notified.

It has been mentioned in the Budget that the present level of revenue mobilisation falls far short of the expenditure requirements of development. In order to mobilise additional revenue, it is proposed to levy 1% Additional Sales Tax on assesseees with a taxable turnover exceeding Rs.10 crores but not exceeding Rs.25 crores per annum.

It is expected that all the above measures of taxation would result in a net additional revenue mobilisation of about Rs. 135.38 crores in the current financial year.

The Government is also keen to revitalise the Traders' Welfare Board, which now has a membership of 38,569 traders. Attempts would be made with the cooperation of Traders' Associations to widen the membership base, and to improve the service of the Board, particularly to those who are indigent..

FISCAL MANAGEMENT

One of the important sources of revenue for the Government is the long term loan given by the Government of India on the basis of the net small savings collections during the year. We received a loan amount of Rs.1290 crores last year. We have projected a loan of Rs.1700 crores in the estimates. The Honourable Chief Minister desires that housewives be involved more in this important task. We intend to introduce attractive schemes, prizes and incentives which will help us mobilise larger savings.

Honourable Members are aware that the Government of India has been repeatedly requested to revise the royalty on lignite retrospectively from August, 1990. In March 2001, the Government of India revised the royalty on lignite on par with Coal (Grade F and G) prospectively, and released an advance of Rs.250 crores towards royalty payable over 2001 - 2003. We consider this to be extremely unfair because our Government has been denied the flexibility of using future royalty receipts, besides being denied the benefit of retrospective revision. We propose to take it up very

strongly with the Government of India and expect a favourable response.

The overall deficit in the budget estimates will come down to Rs.692 crores after taking into account the proposed changes in taxes. We expect to bridge this gap by stepping up the collection of arrears and through various economy measures.

Honourable Members are aware that our Government faces many challenges in implementing the tasks given to us by the people. These challenges emanate from the poor fiscal situation inherited by us and the urgent need to restore the financial health without compromising on the basic development needs of the people of the State. We propose to achieve the daunting tasks bestowed on us by evolving a consensus through peoples' participation in the process of decision making for the betterment of this State.

Honourable Speaker Sir,

Despite the unprecedented deterioration of the State Finances, the Honourable Chief Minister is committed to eradicate poverty and usher in



development in all sectors of economy. This budget has been prepared with this objective in mind.

I express my deep sense of gratitude to the Honourable Chief Minister, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi, for her valuable guidance and constructive suggestions in the formulation of the budget.

I also express my heartfelt thanks to the Finance Secretary, Thiru. R. Santhanam, I.A.S. and his dedicated team of officials in the Finance department, who worked untiringly and Secretaries and officers of other departments who rendered all assistance in preparing this budget.

I request the House to kindly approve the Annual Financial Statement for the year 2001-02.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ 'White Paper on Tamil Nadu Government's Finances' laid on the Table of the House.
- ❖ New Agricultural Policy to be formulated.
- ❖ Massive programme for reclaiming 20 lakh hectares of wastelands over the next five years through co-operation of the private sector and people's participation.
- ❖ Allocation for MLA Constituency Development Scheme increased from Rs.77 lakhs to Rs.82 lakhs per constituency.
- ❖ Chennai Water Supply Augmentation Project-I will be implemented at a cost of Rs.720 crores by drawing water from the Veeranam Lake within two years. Chennai Water Supply Augmentation Project-II to be posed to the World Bank for funding.
- ❖ MGR Film City to be renamed as MGR Knowledge City and master plan to be prepared.

- ❖ Committee of Legislators to study the maladies afflicting the Public Distribution System and submit a report within 3 months.
- ❖ Dharmapuri District to be bifurcated and the new district to have its headquarters at Krishnagiri.
- ❖ Staff and Expenditure Review Commission to be constituted to identify avoidable and wasteful expenditure in Government.

PROVISION FOR IMPORTANT SCHEMES

- ❖ Total outlay on rural and urban water supply is Rs.690 crores. Rs.75 crores earmarked for supply of potable water to residents of Chennai through lorries and rail.
- ❖ Rs.92 crores earmarked for setting up Integrated Sanitary Complexes for women in rural areas while Rs.42 crores is being earmarked for Integrated Sanitary Complexes in the urban areas.
- ❖ Allocation for Drip Irrigation Scheme is Rs.18 crores while Rs.23 crores has been earmarked for soil and water conservation works.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BUDGET 2001-2002

- ❖ Massive movement for enrolling dropouts and non-enrolled students. Plan for improving infrastructure in the schools proposed.
- ❖ 10 percent reservation for national and international level sportspersons from Tamil Nadu in the Uniformed Services.
- ❖ Cradle Baby Scheme and the Girl Child Protection Scheme to be restructured and implemented with renewed vigour.
- ❖ Massive scheme for training 5 lakh women in entrepreneurial skills for self-employment will be launched.
- ❖ Feeding charges for boarders in school hostels belonging to the SC/ST/BC/MBC/Denotified communities enhanced from Rs.225 to Rs.300 per month.
- ❖ Allocation for MLA Constituency Development Scheme is Rs.192.70 crores.
- ❖ Rs.25 crores provided for phased construction of new hostels for SC/ST students. New hostels to be constructed for students from the BC/MBC/Denotified Communities and Rs.25 crores have been allocated for this purpose.
- ❖ Rs.25 crores provided for the repairs of PT MGR Nutritious Noon Meal Centres.
- ❖ Rs.22.70 crores allocated for the restructured "Girl Child Protection Scheme".
- ❖ Rs.20 crores allocated for providing free bicycles to SC/ST girls in Government Schools.
- ❖ Allocation for the Tourism sector increased to Rs.17.50 crores.

TAXATION

VALUE ADDED TAX

1. VAT cell set up to analyse and process various aspects of VAT.
2. Empowered Committee to guide and monitor preparations for the VAT regime.
3. Modifications in the proposed VAT rates and classification of commodities suggested to the Government of India.

REVISION OF TAXES

1. Exemption in respect of footwear costing Rs.50 or less raised to Rs.100.
2. Tax on bicycle locks now charged at 11 percent reduced to 4 percent. Bicycle seat covers to be taxed at 4 percent as against the existing rate of 1 percent.
3. Copra, maize products, man-made fibres, yarns and jari of all kinds etc., to be taxed at the floor rate of 4 percent.
4. Cellular Phones to be taxed at 8 percent.
5. Tax on electrical goods increased from 8 percent to 12 percent.
6. Plastic products to be taxed at 12 percent instead of 8 percent.
7. Entertainment tax of 20 percent on recreational parlours having bowling, snooker, billiards etc.
8. Additional sales tax of 1 percent on assesses having a taxable turnover of more than Rs.10 crores and less than Rs.25 crores per annum.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Overall Deficit : Rs.827 crores

Net Additional Resource

Mobilisation : Rs.135.38 crores.

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CHIEF MINISTER'S MERIT AWARD SCHEME

Since 1995, every year, students belonging to Adi Dravidar / Scheduled Tribe / Converted Christian Adi-Dravidar who scored high marks in the 12th Standard Public Examination are being granted 'Chief Minister's Merit Award Scheme'. **This Scheme benefits one thousand students who secured the top one thousand marks.** Under this scheme, students who go in for higher education after +2 studies or after a gap of one year are given Rs.1,500 per year for five years. The minimum marks required for the benefits under the scheme since 1995 are as follows:

Year	Boys (Marks)	Girls (Marks)
1995	907	904
1996	909	913
1997	949	951
1998	974	983
1999	968	982
2000	980	997
2001	993	995

Students who have secured the above marks and above since 1995, and who have not benefited can also apply now to receive the merit awards.

Eligible students can apply to the Commissioner of Adi-Dravidar Welfare, Chepauk, Chennai - 600 005, with copies of the 12th Standard, marksheet, Community Certificate, marksheet of their higher education along with a Certificate of the head of their educational institution.

TAMIL NADU REVISED BUDGET 2001-2002

Items	1999-2000 Accounts	2000-2001 Revised Estimate	2001-2002 Interim Budget Estimate	2001-2002 Revised Budget Estimate
1	2	3	4	5
CONSOLIDATED FUND	(Rupees in Crores)			
Revenue Receipts	16,327.53	18,395.95	20,634.59	20,774.09
Expenditure met from Revenue	20,727.83	22,318.23	24,293.89	24,522.36
Surplus or Deficit on Revenue Account	(-)4,400.30	(-)3,922.28	(-)3,659.30	(-)3,748.27
PUBLIC DEBT - Receipts	8,545.81	10,090.91	6,981.59	13,503.49
PUBLIC DEBT - Repayment	5,438.15	5,747.97	2,820.06	9,252.51
PUBLIC DEBT - (Net)	(+)3,107.66	(+)4,342.94	(+)4,161.53	(+)4,250.98
Expenditure met from Capital excluding Public Debt and including Loans and Advances (Net)	982.02	1,858.30	2,519.55	2,738.27
Deficit or Surplus on Capital Account	2,125.64	2,484.64	1,641.98	1,512.72
Total-I, Consolidated Fund (Net)	(-)2,274.66	(-)1,437.64	(-)2,017.32	(-)2,235.56
CONTINGENCY FUND (Net)	---	---	---	---
PUBLIC ACCOUNT (Net)	(+)2,408.96	(+)1,006.36	(+)1,021.73	(+)1,408.28
TOTAL TRANSACTIONS (I+II+III)	(+)134.31	(-)431.28	(-)995.59	(-)827.28
Opening Balance	(-)55.95	(+)78.36	(-)352.92	(-)352.92
Closing Balance	(+)78.36	(-)352.92	(-)1,348.51	(-)1,180.19



On behalf of the thousands of farmer families in the Cauvery Delta who are put to hardship and are facing a crisis with their cultivated crops withering, we, Minister for Education and Minister for Public Works, Government of Tamil Nadu, the Members of Parliament from Tamil Nadu, leaders of all the political parties of Tamil Nadu and the farmer's representatives, under the leadership of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu are submitting this memorandum to the Hon'ble Prime Minister for urgent consideration and immediate redressal of our grievance.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Selvi J Jayalalithaa has already brought to your kind notice the critical situation faced by the Cauvery Delta farmers of Tamil Nadu and sought your personal intervention for the release of Cauvery waters by Karnataka for saving the standing Kuruwai crops.

The inflows into the Mettur Reservoir this year have been low from the first month of June itself and as of now until

Memorandum submitted to the Prime Minister on 10-9-2001 by the All Party Delegation on Cauvery Water Issue

8.9.2001, Tamil Nadu has received only 51.11 TMC ft. as against 115.90 TMC ft. prescribed by the Tribunal, leaving a shortfall of 64.79 TMC ft.

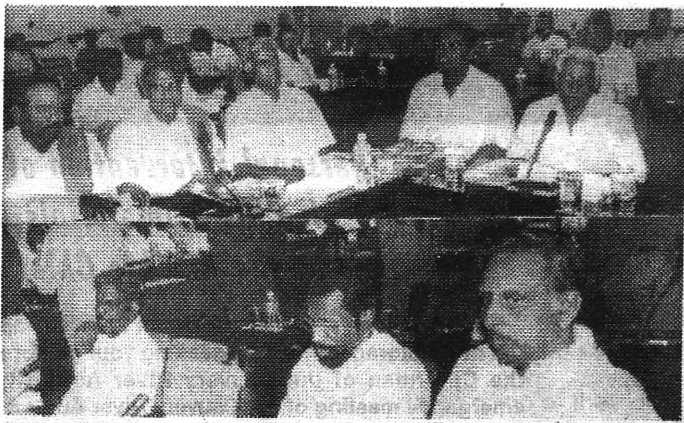
At the request of Tamil Nadu, the 9th (Emergency) Meeting of the Monitoring Committee under the Cauvery River Authority was convened on 6.9.2001 to review the critical situation of inflows into the Mettur reservoir and the

problems of the Cauvery Delta farmers of Tamil Nadu. The Monitoring Committee decided to review the situation in five days for deciding the further course of action. The storage at Mettur Dam is 11.24 TMC ft. as on 8.9.2001 including the dead storage of 5 TMC ft. and it is fast depleting and will reach its dead storage within the next five days. The minimum requirement for Delta irrigation for saving the standing Kuruwai

crops and transplantation of Samba crop is 1.0 TMC ft. per day and the available water in Mettur will not last beyond 5 days.

Karnataka has pleaded its inability before the Monitoring Committee, saying that they have drought conditions in their State. As far as the Cauvery catchment in Karnataka is concerned, Madikeri which is the main rainfall station has recorded rainfall at near normal

level. Karnataka has impounded all the waters in its reservoirs and has a comfortable storage built up besides drawing heavily for its requirements during this crop season. We learn that they have 97 TMC ft. in their four major reservoirs as against the gross storage of 114 TMC ft. We are aware that they have enough water to spare to save the withering crops in the Cauvery Delta.



The Kuruwai crop has already started withering and only if water is supplied at this crucial phase can further damages to the Kuruwai crop be averted. If this situation continues further, the agriculture labourers who are mainly dependent for their livelihood on Cauvery irrigation will be thrown out of employment. Moreover, the commencement of agricultural operations for the Samba crop will also be affected if the situation is not redressed.

In the All Party Meeting convened by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 8.9.2001 to take stock of the critical situation now faced in the Cauvery Basin of Tamil Nadu, all the participants in the meeting have in unambiguous terms expressed their deep concern over the non-implementation of

the interim orders of the Tribunal by Karnataka. Their considered view was that the Hon'ble Prime Minister should intervene in this matter at once and prevail upon the Government of Karnataka to release at least 1 TMC ft. of water per day till the end of October, 2001 to mitigate the problems of the Cauvery Delta farmers of Tamil Nadu. A resolution passed in that meeting is appended.

In the above circumstances, we, the representatives from Tamil Nadu, request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to use his good offices with the Chief Minister of Karnataka and prevails upon him to release at least 1 TMC ft. of water per day from now onwards till the end of October 2001, to

overcome the critical situation prevailing in the Cauvery Delta of Tamil Nadu.

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**Resolution passed
unanimously in the All
Party Meeting convened
by Hon'ble Chief Minister
on 8-9-2001 on Cauvery
Water Issue**

Resolved that under the leadership of Hon'ble Minister for Education and Hon'ble Minister for Public Works, a delegation of the Members of Parliament (both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha), leaders of all Political Parties of Tamil Nadu and Representatives of Cauvery Delta Farmers Associations shall meet the Hon'ble Prime Minister and impress upon him the immediate need for release of water by the Karnataka Government in view of the very low storage in the Mettur Dam for saving the standing Kuruwai crop and for raising Samba crop in the Cauvery Delta.

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Personal Intervention of the Hon'ble Prime Minister sought by the Hon'ble Chief Minister

With the water level in the Mettur Reservoir approaching almost the dead storage level, I am seeking your personal intervention as the Chairman of the Cauvery River Authority to convene an emergency meeting of the Cauvery River Authority.

On the request made by us, the 9th (Emergency) Monitoring Committee Meeting was held on 6.9.2001, wherein Tamil Nadu highlighted the critical position prevailing in the Cauvery delta. No decision was taken in the meeting, except to review the situation within the next five days. Since then 8 days have passed, but no further steps seem to have been taken by the Monitoring Committee.

As resolved in the All Party Meeting convened by me on 8.9.2001 a delegation of all party leaders met you on 10.9.2001 and presented a memorandum. You were kind enough to promise that you would take up the matter with Karnataka. The delegation also met His Excellency the President of India on 11.9.2001 and presented a Memorandum seeking his help to save the crops withering in the Cauvery Delta.

I am sure you are aware of the precarious situation prevailing in the Cauvery delta and the plight of the delta farmers, who are helplessly watching the crops withering and who are faced with economic ruin. The effect of this on the economy of the State will be disastrous. Apart from the loss of the Kuruval crop, the prospects of the main Samba crop also look very bleak. Without water, the raising of nurseries has also been seriously affected.

We learn from press reports that the All Party Meeting convened by the Chief Minister of Karnataka yesterday (13.9.2001) has come to the conclusion that Karnataka cannot release water to Tamil Nadu now. We cannot afford to wait any further and lose vital time.

An emergency meeting of the Cauvery River Authority needs to be convened immediately to discuss the request of Tamil Nadu for release of at least 1 TMC. feet per day till the end of October 2001 as already requested through our Memorandum presented to you. We request you kindly to relax the time limit considering the emergent situation prevailing as envisaged in Clause VII (i) of the Cauvery River Authority (Conduct of Business) Rules 1998 and convene the meeting.

*Copy of the letter dated 14.9.2001 addressed to the
Hon'ble PRIME MINISTER by Selvi J JAYALALITHAA,
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.*

Chief Minister's Anna Medal

With a view to recognise the Meritorious Services of the Police personnel in the State and also to encourage them, it was decided to award the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Medals on the occasion of Perarignar Anna's Birthday on 15th September, every year. This year, 96 Police personnel from the rank of Additional Superintendent of Police (ADSP) to the rank of Constables, 9 Fire and Rescue Service personnel from the rank of Divisional Fire Officer to Firemen, 9 Prison Service personnel from the rank of Assistant Jailor to Warder, 5 Home Guards personnel from the rank of Company Commander to Assistant Section Leader have been awarded the

Second Cover

Free Bicycles to Adi-dravidar Girl Students

In commemoration of the 93rd birth anniversary of Perarignar Anna on 15.9.2001, the Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalitha garlanded the statue of Anna at Anna Salai and paid tributes.

The scheme of distributing free bicycles to all the Adi-dravidar and Tribal community girl students studying Plus I and II in all Government Higher

"Chief Minister's Anna Medal" in recognition of their outstanding devotion to duty.

Tvl. C.Sylendra Babu, IPS,
S.S.Krishnamoorthy, IPS, 4 Inspectors,
1 Sub-Inspector and 4 Police Constables
have been awarded the "Chief Minister's Police Medal" in recognition of their acts of gallantry.

The recipients of the "Anna Medal" for outstanding devotion to duty from the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) and below are eligible for a lumpsum grant of Rs.5,000 , Rs.3,000 and Rs.2,000 according to the ranks. The recipients of the Gallantry Medal will be paid a monthly allowance of Rs.100 irrespective of their ranks.

★ ★ ★

Secondary Schools has been inaugurated on the occasion by the Chief Minister. 25 girl students studying in Government Schools in Chennai, Kancheepuram, Thiruvallur, Vellore, Thiruvannamalai, Villupuram and Cuddalore Districts have been given free bicycles. Under this scheme nearly 80,000 Adi-dravidar and Tribal Community girl students studying in Government Higher Secondary Schools in Tamil Nadu will be benefitted. For this scheme, Rs.20 crores has been allocated during this financial year.

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Magnetic

Resonance

Imaging

MRI is a modern Bio-Medical equipment which is very useful to diagnose the minutest details of a human body. This sophisticated scanner is used to diagnose multiple sclerosis, tumors of the

MRI system which do not use ionizing radiation is a comfort to many patients as is the fact that MRI contrast materials have a very low incidence of side effects. Another major advantage of MRI is its ability

cost of this equipment is Rs.4.80 crores.

None of the Government hospitals in TamilNadu is having this equipment. The patients coming to Government

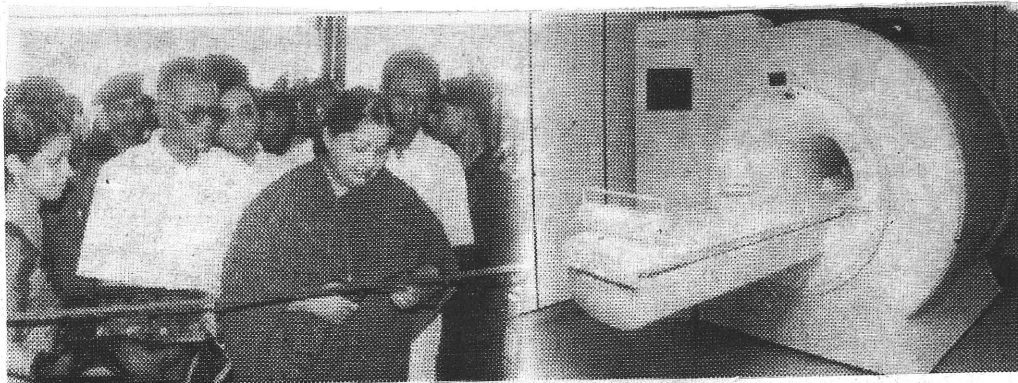


The Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa inaugurated the MRI scanning equipments on 23-8-2001 to be used at Government Hospital, Chennai and Government Rajaji Hospital, Madurai.

brain, infections in the brain, spine or joints, strokes in their earliest stages. Visualizing musculoskeletal injuries, evaluating masses in the soft tissues of the body, evaluating bone tumors, cysts and herniated discs in the spine.

to image in any plane. C.T.Scan is limited to one plane (i.e.) axial plane. MRI System can create axial images as well as images in the sagittal plane and coronally or any degree in between, without the patient ever moving. The

hospitals for expert scanning of this nature are referred to private hospitals since this facility of superior scanning is not presently available in Government hospitals. The private hospitals charge huge amount for MRI Scanning



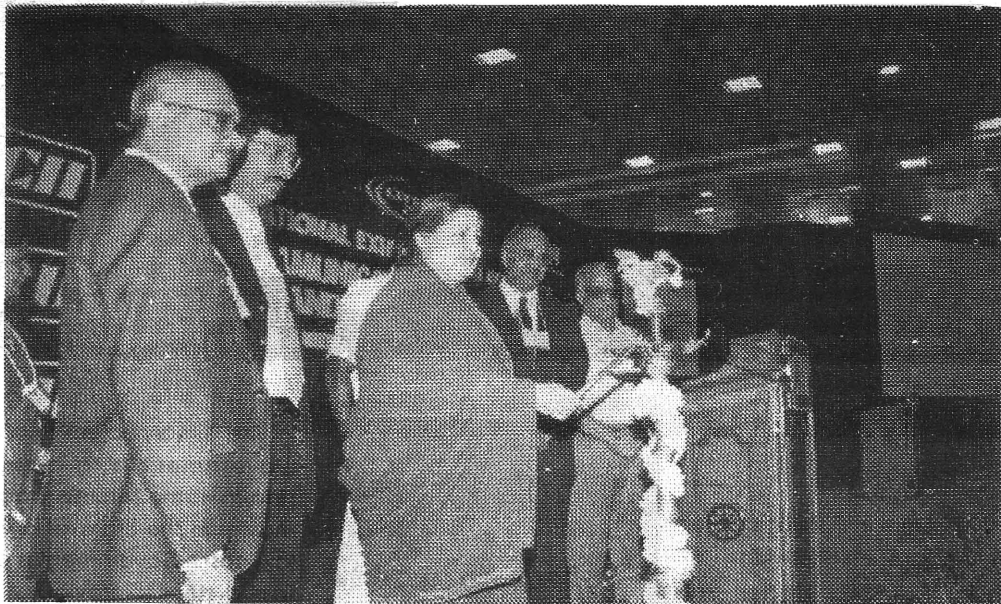
which the general public may not afford to pay.

At present in the state there are only four MRIs, three in Chennai and one in Coimbatore. With the addition of two MRIs at Government General Hospital, Chennai and at Government Rajaji Hospital, Madurai Government of Tamil Nadu will be able to provide the state-of-the-art equipment for the benefit of the public. Patients from the southern districts need not come all the way to Chennai to get their MRI done.

Keeping this in mind the Government have accorded sanction to TNMSC to procure, install and maintain MRI Scanner one each at Government General Hospital, Chennai and Government Rajaji Hospital, Madurai to cater to the needs of patients coming to the Government Hospitals. This MRI Scanner of 1.5 tesla is the latest model available in the medical field.

***The charge
proposed to be
collected from
the patients
will be
about 50% of
the charges
levied by the
private
hospitals.
In addition,
poor patients
will be
scanned
free of cost.***

The Primary objective of this Government is to provide health care for the poorer masses in the State at a very low cost. Government is also taking steps to provide all the Government hospitals with latest equipments so that these facilities are available to the common public. This MRI Scanner supplied and installed at Government General Hospital, Chennai and Government Rajaji Hospital, Madurai by M/s Siemens Ltd, will be very much useful for the people from middle class as well as poorer sections of the society. The charge proposed to be collected from the patients will be about 50% of the charges levied by the private hospitals. In addition, poor patients will be scanned free of cost. Necessary infrastructure facilities like registration cum delivery counter, Patients' waiting hall have also been provided. 125 KVA generator has also been installed for providing uninterrupted power supply to the MRI System.



Tamil Nadu will be a force to reckon with in the Global IT Map

I have great pleasure in associating myself with the Inaugural Function of 'CONNECT 2001', a mega IT event organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry in Chennai.

On behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu, I am immensely happy to extend a very warm and cordial welcome to all of you and I invite you to experience not only the richness of IT in Chennai, but also the warmth of our hospitality in Tamil Nadu.

I understand that 'CONNECT 2001' is the first International Conference and Exhibition on Information Technology, Communication Technologies and Bio-Informatics to be conducted in Chennai, the Capital of Tamil Nadu.

As the Chief Minister of a progressive State, endowed with a rich IT Culture, I am delighted to be associated with the CII as a co-sponsor in this path breaking initiative. I view this historic event as one more example of the continuing

Speech by the Hon'ble Chief Minister,

Selvi J JAYALALITHAA at the

Inauguration of "CONNECT 2001"

*International Conference cum Exhibition
on Information Technology Communications
and Bio-Informatics at Chennai Trade
Centre, Nandambakkam on 13-9-2001*

commitment of the Government of Tamil Nadu to fostering fruitful partnerships between public resources and private enterprise which would accelerate all our development efforts.

My Government is deeply committed to providing good governance on all fronts. After assuming office, I have announced a number of progressive and growth-oriented policy initiatives. I am happy to mention here that Tamil Nadu offers excellent physical and social infrastructure, top class human resources and availability of these

inputs at very reasonable costs, besides a very proactive Government, as far as IT is concerned.

I am aware of the fact that it is difficult to quantify 'Good Governance'. However, I shall attempt to describe a few indicators that attest to good governance in Tamil Nadu after my assuming office as the Chief Minister.

- The National Commission on Population has recently ranked all the districts in India based on a composite index covering 12 important socio-economic indicators. I am happy to share with you the fact that with 93.3% of its districts in the top 100 districts of the country, Tamil Nadu fares better than every other state in the country.
- I am extremely happy to share with you at this memorable forum, some information that would delight not only investors who have made investments in various projects in Tamil Nadu but also the people of Tamil Nadu in general. A study made by the Industrial



Assistance Secretariat, based at New Delhi has stated that Direct Foreign Investments in Tamil Nadu have increased, after the AIADMK Government headed by me assumed office. The report has revealed that during the month of June 2001 i.e. this year, Direct Foreign Investments to the tune of 32.65 Crore US Dollars have been made throughout India. The statistics released in the month of June reveal that Tamil Nadu State alone has obtained Direct Foreign Investments worth 4.38 Crore US Dollars and thereby occupies the first position, as compared to 3.20 Crore US Dollars worth

of Investments made in Maharashtra and 2.90 Crore US Dollars worth of Investments made in Delhi which occupy the second and third positions respectively. I assure you all that this happy transformation of the industrial climate in Tamil Nadu from its sluggish pace during the previous regime, to a rapid pace after my taking over the reins of Government will continue in the future also. I am sure that this feather in the cap of Tamil Nadu will inspire all entrepreneurs in Tamil Nadu, especially in the IT Sector, to attain greater excellence in their trade.

The Relative Index of infrastructure development compiled by the Center for Monitoring Indian Economy places Tamil Nadu with a score of 145.62 just after Punjab with 171.92 and Kerala with 162.42, among the major states against an All India index of 100. Similarly, the urban district of Chennai at 472.48 is the highest ranked among all South Indian cities and is placed only after Delhi with 730.62 and Chandigarh with 625.73.

- With 85.5% of its villages having access to a telephone within a range of 2 kilometers, Tamil Nadu has the best rural connectivity in the country according to the recent 'India - Human Development Report'.

The fact that Tamil Nadu is firmly established as a frontline major IT player in India is by now beyond any dispute, as has been eloquently stated in the publication of the Center for International Development at Harvard University. The growth of the IT industry in Tamil Nadu has been spectacular. We have more than 750 registered software exporters accounting for exports worth more than two thirds of a billion US Dollars.

Now, I will describe some of the major initiatives taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu for sustaining the rapid IT Development that Tamil Nadu has been witnessing for quite some time.

Tamil Nadu has been a pioneer among other states in India in formulating separate policies for

IT and Biotechnology. A "Tamil Nadu IT Council" chaired by the Chief Minister has recently been constituted to address, on a continual basis, all policy issues relating to the IT industry, human resources for IT and the use of IT in governance. Tidel-II near the existing Tidel Park, for which work is under progress, will provide state-of-the art facilities to meet the burgeoning demand for quality IT infrastructure in Chennai.

I am happy to mention here that in collaboration with the Cornell University, U.S.A. an agreement was signed between the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO) and the Cornell University in my presence on 25.8.2001 for setting up a world class Biotech Incubator and Park at Taramani, Chennai at an estimated cost of Rs.62.50 crores. This pioneering effort, a unique and first of its kind venture in the entire country, is a landmark for Tamil Nadu's enterprise in the fast developing field of Bio-technology.

The Siruseri IT Park, promoted by the State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (SIPCOT) on the Old Mahabalipuram Road extending over 1000 acres of developed land, has been well received by the I.T. Industry and several IT firms have been allotted land here to set up their own units. As the Old Mahabalipuram Road has rapidly emerged as hi-tech IT corridor, it is being four laned with good access to both the National Highway No.45 and the East Coast Road. The Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) is also making its intervention for ensuring balanced development in this area.

To stimulate a wide-spread growth of the IT Industry in Tamil Nadu, the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) is commissioning new Satellite Earth Stations at Tiruchirappalli, Madurai and Tirunelveli this month. This is in addition to its existing facilities at Chennai and Coimbatore. A high bandwidth optic fibre based communication backbone is now part of the essential infrastructure of any modern State. Thanks to our well-received policy on the use of the public right of way along roads and highways on a non-exclusive basis, more than 1400 Kms of cabling has already been done by the private sector in the State. Under the same policy guidelines, permission has also been accorded to the formation of a submarine optic fibre cable access from Singapore to Chennai. This is likely to become operational by the end of this year and will provide practically unlimited international bandwidth to Chennai.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has extended its support to an innovative project promoted by the IIT Madras, the MIT Media Lab and the Harvard University to make telephone and internet access available in rural areas through low cost wireless technology. A pilot project is underway in Madurai district. As part of its continued commitment to delivering good governance to its citizens, the Government of Tamil Nadu has identified certain specific departments such as Registration, Transport, Survey & Land Records and Commercial Taxes for massive computerisation. I am happy to state that computerisation in these departments has made very significant progress and has already started benefiting a large number of the public.

I am extremely glad to mention here that Tamil Nadu is the only state in the country to have successfully used an innovative public private partnership process to set up computer labs in each of our 1258 Government Higher Secondary Schools, Arts & Science Colleges, Medical and Law Colleges in every corner of the State, as part of our renewed commitment to creating a "digitally literate State" at the earliest.

Therefore, I have no doubt that by working together harmoniously, we will succeed not only in making Tamil Nadu the top IT state in the entire country, but also in making Tamil Nadu a force to reckon with in the global IT map. Let me assure you all, that the Government of Tamil Nadu is completely with you, in translating this stupendous task into reality very soon.

I hope that the CII will make this event an annual feature in Chennai and I assure you that the Government of Tamil Nadu will be happy to extend its support to this useful venture.

I have great pleasure in inaugurating the International Conference and Exhibition "Connect 2001" today.

I am glad to learn that "Connect 2001" has kindled tremendous interest among the delegates from different parts of the country and all over the world. I am sure that this Information Exhibition and Conference will emerge as an ideal platform for exciting discussions and meaningful deliberations on various nuances of Information Technology that would yield far reaching benefits to the State and the country as a whole.

I wish to convey my warm greetings to all of you who have assembled here, and I wish each one of you success in all your endeavours. •

In 1992, the Government headed by Selvi J Jayalalithaa during her earlier tenure as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, accorded sanction for the creation of an "All Women Police Station" (AWPS) in Chennai City. This was a landmark event both in the history of the Police Force in India, and in bringing justice to women. Encouraged by the success and popularity of this Police Station, more All Women Police Stations were opened and this number went up to 58 by 1995. No new All Women Police Station was sanctioned after 1995.

In recognition of the fact that offences against women need to be treated on a different footing, and considering that women are discriminated against and live in constant fear of violence, it was decided in the review of the Police Department taken up in mid-June, 2001 by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa, that the number of All Women Police Stations would be increased so as to have one All Women Police Station in each of the 184 Police Sub divisions in the State. Accordingly, orders have been issued to set up 126 All Women Police Stations in

the State, in a phased manner as follows:

2001-2002	50
2002-2003	40
2003-2004	36

These will be provided with necessary infrastructure such as vehicles, telephones, VHF sets, etc. The total cost will include Rs.16.52 crores of recurring expenditure and Rs.7.93 crores non-recurring expenditure.

ALL WOMEN POLICE STATIONS

To be in greater proximity to the women of the State, especially in areas where there are no All Women Police Stations, orders have also been issued for positioning one Woman Sub-Inspector and 2 Women Police Constables at each circle Headquarters Police Station. Thus, each of the

1217 Police Stations in the State will have a Woman Sub-Inspector and 2 Women Police Constables within the next 2 years. So that women will have easy access to all Police Stations without fear or apprehension.

It has also been ordered by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa to take up the recruitment of women police personnel to meet the requirements for the next 2 to 3 years. ★



மகளிர் ஆதிகாரப் பகிர்வு ஆண்டு
Women's Empowerment Year 2001

TAMIL NADU SETS UP PIONEERING BIO-TECHNOLOGY PARK IN THE COUNTRY

Cornell is one of the World's top research institutions in Biotechnology. Many of their findings in these areas are patented and licensed for commercialization. The Cornell Business and Technology Parks have been in existence for several years and have supported several technology-based ventures.

TIDCO has signed an MoU with Cornell University, USA for providing technical collaboration and allied services to set up a state-of-the-art Biotech Park in 5 acres of land adjacent to TIDEL Park. The Bio-Tech Park can only be successful when mechanisms are there to access the best technologies and biological materials for commercialization. The experience of Cornell will foster the development of our Biotech Park. This is the only knowledge based and technology net working Biotech Park in the country and the parks proposed by the other States are real estate models. This will be the only initiative in India of Cornell University.

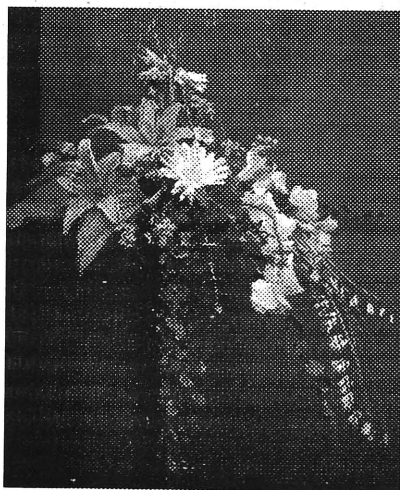
The technical service agreement between Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited (TIDCO) and Cornell University, USA for the Bio Technology Park was signed on 25.8.2001 in the presence of Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu at the Secretariat, Chennai. The Hon'ble Chief Minister expressed her thanks and gratitude to the Cornell University for giving preference to Tamil Nadu for setting up this collaborative pioneering Bio Technology Park in India.

The persons participated in this event are:

Tvl. R.Vaithilingam (Hon'ble Minister for Industries), P.Shankar, IAS (Chief Secretary), M.B.Pranesh, IAS (Secretary, Agriculture), M.A.Gowri

Shankar, IAS (Secretary, Industries), R. Santhanam, IAS (Secretary, Finance), M.Madhavan Nambiar, IAS (CMD, TIDCO), Dr. Ronnie Coffman (Dean, Cornell University, USA), Dr. K.V.Raman (Associate Director (Spl. Projects) Cornell University, USA), K.Vijayaraghavan, (Coordinator in India, Cornell University)

Biotechnology is a new and emerging area which offers immense scope for generating employment opportunities and economic development of the State. Creation of a biotech park by TIDCO is one of the initiatives identified by the Government of Tamil Nadu to promote the growth of biotech industries in the State.





The Biotech Park will have two major facilities viz

- a) Bio-Resource Centre of 18,000 Sq.ft. and
- b) Common tenancy area (Customarised labs of 1,20,000 Sq.ft.)

The Biotech Park will provide complete technical and other services under one umbrella including technology transfer, mentoring, networking, contract research work, Product validation, patent rights, documentation, commercialization, training etc. This park will explore the Indian genetic pool, exploit the germplasm base as available and leverage on the existing pool of Indian Biotechnology Scientists and low cost local software skills. This park proposes to attract fresh investment of Rs.1000 crores from 50 new companies to be set up in the park.

The feasibility report has already been completed with the help of Cornell University. The total cost of the project would be Rs.62.50 crores. TIDCO will be investing Rs.9 crores as equity in this project. TIDCO has already approached the Technology Development Board, Government of India, International Finance Corporation, EXIM Bank, State Bank of India etc seeking financial assistance of Rs.33 crores. Financial closure is expected to be achieved shortly.

The Technical Service Agreement signed today in the presence of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, will help TIDCO to finalise various parameters of the Park. TIDCO's investment of Rs.9 crores and also for transferring of 5 acres of land at concessional rate (by adjusting the land cost as

Government equity/ preference capital) are crucial to kick-start the activities of prestigious project by August 2001 and complete the park in full shape by July 2002.

Tamil Nadu is the only State with whom Cornell has such a collaboration. Cornell University has made it clear that only after the implementation of the Chennai park would they take up similar Parks in other States.

This park will be called as TICEL (TIDCO Centre for Life Sciences). This is an important initiative of the Government of Tamil Nadu in promoting Bio-Technology industries in the State under the leadership of Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

★ ★ ★

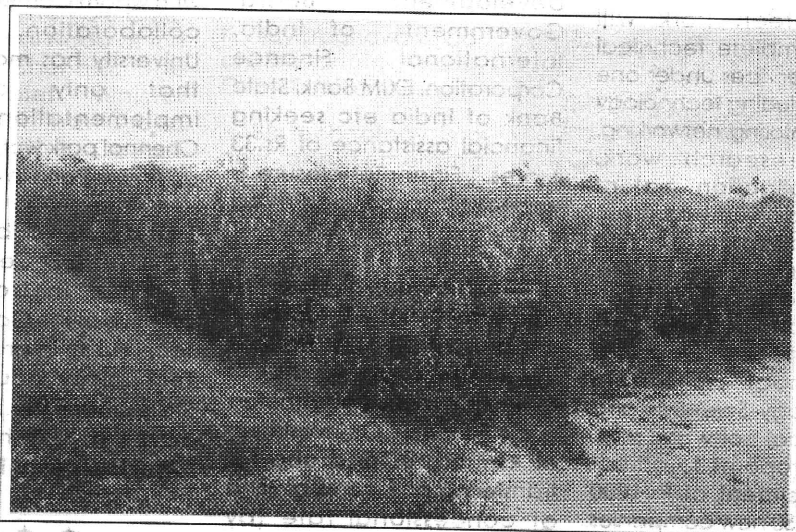
This Government has set the goal to make Tamil Nadu as Number One State in India through Agricultural revolution, by improving Agriculture production and productivity through scientific technologies and through the Wasteland Development Programme.

Twenty lakh hectares of cultivable wasteland will be brought under cultivation through a massive "Wasteland Development Programme" to be implemented over the next five years. This will pave the way to enrich rural economy in a speedy manner. The Programme on "Wasteland Development" has three main components. The high-grade wasteland with assured rainfall will be used for cultivating medicinal and aromatic plants and developing horticulture orchards. In the medium grade wastelands, oilseed plants like Paradise Tree and Jatropha will be planted for producing edible and fuel oil. Plantations like Prosopis and Casuarina which help in generating electricity will be developed in the marginal wastelands. This programme will be implemented through the co-operation of the private sector with people's participation. By this programme, it is expected that 10 lakh rural people will be benefitted in five years. A beginning has been made by making a provision of Rs.25 crores for this programme in the current financial year.

Priority will be given for establishing "Integrated farming" comprising of Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Mushroom Culture, Poultry Development and tree planting.

This Government will also undertake programme for

- increasing the productivity
- Improving the quality of the produce



- Increasing the income and employment opportunities
- Promoting and developing small agricultural farms

By adopting high technology and scientific horticultural techniques, valuable commercial crops will be produced and exported. To achieve the above objective, the following steps will be taken.



7. Forecast warnings on flood and drought, using satellite data.

Encouragement will be given for promoting cultivation of hybrid rice, hybrid cotton in the State. Information Technology will be used to provide latest information about Agricultural production and price at all Marketing Centres in the State.

An amount of Rs.1163,52,91,000 under demand No.20 Agriculture and Rs.948,11,000 under Demand No.52 Capital outlay on Agriculture, has been provided in Revised Budget Estimaste 2001-2002.

1. Soil Conservation and rain water harvesting.
2. Integrated Plant Protection Measures.
3. Integrated Water Management.
4. Bio-technology.
5. Information sharing.
6. Fair price for agriculture produce.



REASONABLE AND REMUNERATIVE PRICE FOR THE SMALL PRODUCERS OF GREEN TEA

During the previous DMK regime, the price for the Green Tea produced by the small farmers of the Nilgiris District fell drastically. During 1998-99 the price of made tea per kg was Rs.69 approximately. But afterwards its price has come down to as low a level as Rs.33 per kg. This price reduction has hit the small farmers producing green tea in the Nilgiris District very badly and they were very much agitated over this. This had also turned into a very big law and order problem in the Nilgiris District during the previous DMK rule.

After assumption of office, the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Selvi J Jayalalithaa was determined to get a reasonable and remunerative price for the small producers of green tea of the Nilgiris District. Moreover, when the Chief Minister, Selvi J Jayalalithaa met the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Thiru A.B. Vajpayee at New Delhi on 5-6-2001, among other things, she also reiterated the need for the urgent intervention of the Government of India, by way of providing more funds as support price to mitigate the sufferings of the small farmers producing green tea in the Nilgiris District. Apart from these measures, with a view to providing immediate relief to the small farmers of the Nilgiris District, the Hon'ble Chief Minister conducted a review meeting with the officials of the Small Industries Department on 10-7-2001 and discussed this issue. Even though several measures, such as giving of subsidy, reduction of sales tax, increasing the import duty on imported tea were being taken, the price of green tea has been continuously on the decrease. Hence the Chief Minister decided that the only way to help the small farmers producing Green Tea in the Nilgiris district is to let the Government participate in the tea-auction, buy tea and sell it at a reasonable price. Based on this idea, it has been decided that the Government-owned institution which has the expertise in dealing with tea products, namely INCOSERVE would take part in the tea-

auction and procure tea, besides blending and packaging it and also sending it to the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation (TNCSC). Thereafter the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation would sell this tea in small packets through its fair price shops and also through the Co-operative Public Distribution System outlets. To start with, it has been decided to procure and sell about 200 metric tonnes of tea per month, as decided by the Chief Minister.

By the introduction of this new scheme, the small farmers producing green tea in the Nilgiris District who have been suffering for a long time due to fall in price would get a better and more remunerative higher price, i.e. nearly Rs.75 per kg of made tea. Moreover the consumers also would be benefited by the availability of good quality tea. The Chief Minister also ordered that this scheme benefiting the small farmers producing green tea of the Nilgiris district should be implemented at once.

INTEREST ON FARMERS' LOANS WAIVED

The Hon'ble Chief Minister, Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 13-6-2001 announced that the entire interest and penal interest to the tune of Rs.310.51 crores to be paid to Co-operatives Societies by the farmers will be waived. Seven lakh farmers will be benefited by this scheme provided they paid their loans before August, 2001.

The Government would pay the interest to Co-operative Societies on behalf of the farmers and the scheme would be applicable to short-term, medium-term loans and medium-term converted loans. Of the total amount of Rs.310.51 crores, the interest to be paid by the farmers would be Rs.241.47 crores and the amount of penal interest would be Rs.69.04 crores. As per the scheme, the farmers who come forward to remit the overdues as on June 30, 2000 and also the amount that becomes due between July 1, 2000 and August 31, 2001 would be eligible for the relief.

Chief Minister sanctions compensation to Tea Growers

The Hon'ble Chief Minister, Selvi J Jayalalithaa, after compassionately considering the recommendations of the State Human Rights Commission, ordered for immediate compensation to 20 tea growers from Nilgiris who were affected during the agitations in May-July last year, to a tune of Rs.31.30 lakhs. Rs.3 lakhs each was given to three victims, Rs.2 lakhs each to 10 tea cultivators and Rs.50,000 each to three.

WHAT IS EDUCATION?



Education is not for mere earning to live! If we sincerely mean that education is for gaining knowledge, it must be for attaining self-respect and freedom. It must make the people live with love towards all and have no hatred towards any one. It must create a sense of unity. No one should think of harming or insulting others. Everyone must be made to feel for others and lead a disciplined and honest life.

Understanding the value of education, Thiruvalluvar had long ago stated that one who declines to suit himself to the world, cannot be considered to be educated at all, even if he be distinguished in the field of education. In short, he says in his couplet curtly that such people are illiterates. In another couplet Thiruvalluvar defines that an educated person is one who aspires the entire world to enjoy all things he enjoys. In another

couplet he says, that he who does not compare with others and take the good for his own development is merely one amongst the dead.

Now, I would like to ask you as to what you do to evaluate our education on these lines. What are we going to gain by merely tutoring children, that a dog has four legs- a cat has a tail-the blind have no eyes—do not steal-do not beat and so on. Ah these things the children could learn by themselves, without the help of a teacher. They know that if one beats a person, he would weep and abuse. They know that if one steals he would be caught and beaten black and blue. They know which animal has four legs and a tail, the moment they see the animal. So, I am of the opinion that there is no need to spend so much money and precious time to teach all these things. It is not also necessary to make such a gullible propaganda about primary education.

To start with, you must impart to children what self-respect is. You must first teach the children what manly actions are. You must teach things to make them safeguard their dignity, honour and prestige. Teach them to live with equality. Teach them to be kind towards all. They must be taught about universal brotherhood. They must be taught to be patriotic. I would like to ask you now whether you are all able to do so. It is for you to think over the matter yourself.

In the olden days if one fails to repay the loan, a cow and a calf would be tied in the backyard without providing grass, hay, oil cake and water. Realising that it is condemnable to leave the cow and calf without food, the debtor would remove

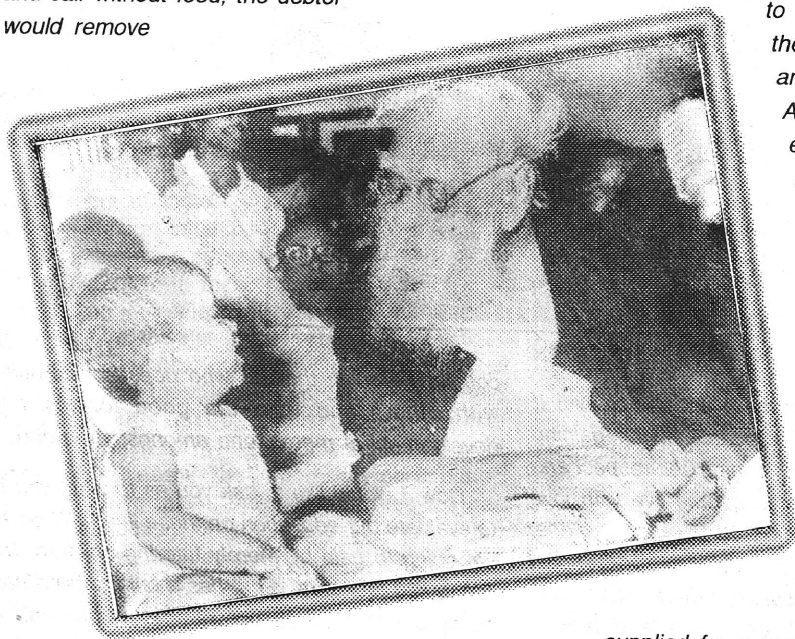
enough to do anything good or bad. That is the reason why we now find so many magistrates, munisif courts, session courts, high courts., Were all these found in the olden days, when people were uneducated? Is not our modern education system that is responsible for the degradation amongst our people? Is not our education responsible for the increasing dishonesty? What is wrong if I say that our modern educational system has ruined the nation and the people.

In the olden days, the teachers had no worry about their life. It was enough if they simply had a small hut. A

small 'pandal' in front of the hut was enough for the students to learn. It was enough if there were a few palm leaves and a cartful of sand to learn. Any pointed, thin stick was enough for writing. Teachers had no worry about anything else. If the teacher puts a word to the boys during the harvest season, many baskets full of food grains would come to his doors. It would become very difficult for him to find adequate space to store up the grains.

So, he will have to say 'enough' to the boys. Firewood will be

supplied for a month. Vegetables would be gifted to him daily. During festival days, he would get the new clothes needed for his entire family. To meet his other expenses the parents would whole-heartedly give lumpsums, out of gratitude. If anything good or bad takes place in his family, the parents and boys would extend help voluntarily and make the function a grand success. The teachers took up the responsibility to educate the boys entrusted to their care. The parents shouldered the responsibility to look after the teachers welfare.●



even

the 'Tali' from the neck of his wife and sell it to repay the loan. It is only after settling the dues, he would walk in the streets with a raised head. My father told me about all these. If one should do like that in these modern days, the educated lawyer would counsel his client to milch the cow and get the milk to him. He would boldly say that he would face the disgrace. In this sort of way, the lawyer would make his client bold



This is the first article written by PERARIGNAR ANNA, when he was a student of the Pachaiyappa's College, in 1933, which was published in the College Magazine.

MOSCOW MOB PARADE

C. N. Annadurai.

Meet a Soviet citizen and ask him what is the meaning of all the noise that he makes - why. seek Stalin himself and put him the same question. "Oh! it is a mighty world revolution against capitalism! Damn it! We crushed it. Yet we want to wipe it out of the face of the earth" would Stalin or the Soviet thunder forth.

Communism is Leninism. Leninism is applied Marxizm. Arm chair critics may brand Marx as a dreamy politician and destructive economist. Some considered him as revolution personified. To the 'proletarian world', however, he is a demi God, His works, 'Capital' and 'Communist Manifesto' are the two testaments to the proletariat. The melody of Marx, was so sweet, so nice, so hope-giving that the labourer became crazy when he heard and reheard it. It made him a devil of course, but in the course of his devilish dance, he did vanquish the demon of capitalism.

Karl Marx was not a proletariat. In fact the English Fabian Society tried to brand him bourgeois, son of a rich Jewish lawyer of Rhenish Germany. Marx had facilities for a sound education. His susceptible mind had been greatly impressed by the cunning, cruelty and ambition of the capitalist class. He brought to light horrible yet sober facts about the evils of capitalism. Just as Jean Jacques Rousseau's 'Social Contract' let loose the winged doctrines of Equality - Liberty - Fraternity - so also Marx's 'Capital' supplied the theory of 'Surplus value' which forms the backbone of Socialism of various types. Marx did not get reputation for nothing.

Labour is the chief source of production of wealth. Without recognizing the fact, the Capitalist robs the labourer, forces him to live in slums, and dictates him to be content with a vey small share-4d in a shilling according to Marx. "Capitalists are human parasites - vultures who live upon the flesh of the labourers" said Karl Marx in his piping voice. Accumulation of wealth and the subsequent utilisation of the same by rich Capitalists are not an increase in the National

Dividend, for the same could satisfy more intense wants of the labourer and thus could be better utilised. But the ratio of distribution is unjustly proportioned.

That Capitalism is the apotheosis of civilisation is the dogma of some. They argue that since Capitalist gives employment to the labourer, he helps society substantially. So a capitalist is not a human parasite but a benefactor, and capitalism should not be condemned but ought to be welcomed. Any elementary book on economics will tell us that Land, Labour, Capital and Organisation are the four agents of production. It is true to say that Capital is as necessary for production, as labour is. But the problem is,

which of these deserves more consideration. A labourer works hard but the direction comes from the Capitalist. Whether the concern gets profit or not, a labourer gets his annas and never cares for either the prosperity of the Capitalist or the comfort of the consumer. Whereas, the Capitalist spends sleepless nights in devising plans, and determining the nature and quantity of the demand that is likely to arise. Failure means to him not only a risk of parting with his capital, but also a good-bye to honour. A failure means an 'I.P.' and it is by no means a decent degree. So when through his efforts, the Capitalist gets profit he demands a greater share in it. Or, when the Capitalist is not capable of 'brainwork', he hires the services of a 'D. Com' and shares the profit with that organiser.

Periyar is the image of the great intellectual revolution. What the people of other countries could achieve in two hundred years, Periyar has done in twenty years. If we take up the continent of Europe, a chain of great thinkers as Voltair and Rousseau had to strive hard for two or three centuries to create a great awakening against a government established in fifty years. To create a rationalistic outlook which dawned in two centuries there, Periyar boldly ventured to achieve in twenty years. He planned and acted accordingly. In other words, he put centuries in capsules. Even as a druggist packs a number of medicines in capsules, he consolidated 200 years of useful work in twenty years. He wanted to achieve everything in his lifetime. He did not mind who joins him or parts with him. He had his eyes on the quantum of achievement. He crusaded throughout his life with a good motive".

- Anna

Bearded Bernard Shaw of 'Apple Cart' fame shattered the first argument. "Want you to praise the Capitalist? Say you that since he gives employment to the labourer he ought to be honoured?" It is bunkum: A motor driver by killing a man gives ample opportunity to the departments of police and Judiciary not to mention his great service to 'sensation spreaders'. Why, then, should we not raise a marble statue in his honour?" questions the dramatist. In fact Capitalists give employment, but never enjoyment to the labourers. They make life a bed of thorns.

The Socialists, as Dr. Marshall points out, were men who had felt intensely and who knew something about the hidden spring of human action of which the economist took no account. Buried among their wild rhapsodies says the same author, there were shrewd observations and pregnant suggestions from which philosophers and economists had much to learn. In the Parliament, in the press and the pulpit the spirit of humanity, of erring suffering humanity was to be found. Careful diagnosis will show that in the womb of our modern society, slumbers the awfully bad child of revolution, ready for its birth. When Karl Marx the illustrious theorist of the proletariat; said the private property in Capital

was both the result of past spoliation and a means of continuing the same upon the wider scale, he was only epitomising the cries of the oppressed. Robert Owen, a century before Marx, who thundered forth that what the Capitalist calls 'profits' and which economists try to defend was the fundamental cause for all kinds of economic and social ills. Justice demands, a fair consideration and adaptation of atleast some of these non aggressive and salient facts.

Capital is essential, but not Capitalism, Even Capital is, to quote Panson 'labour stored up'. The division of society into rich and poor is the root cause for all the subsequent evils. Are we not witnessing the spectacle of poverty amidst plenty? Is it right for a fashionable young bachelor to spend lots upon 'suits' in continental hotels, and upon Parisian beauties, while a widow works hard to bring up six naughty children getting for her labour less than a shilling per week? Do we not realize that the very structure of society is hollow, unsound and inhuman?



Then why should we shirk to find solace in the socialist doctrine? Industrial organisation of the Capitalists is nothing but outrageous robbery. Given proper facilities, and allowed to move in a good atmosphere, Tom and Harry could manage things as well as Jones or Smith, for human nature is greatly modified by environment.

Honey and milk run abundantly because of his labour, 'Ironkings' and 'Lacequeens' are having a 'tete-a-tete' in a fashionable night club and the labourer witnesses the 'tete-a-tete' of his hungry children and bony wife. This kind of intensified capitalism gave birth to socialism. The literary prophets first revolutionised the mind of the labourer. Passing from the cold and calm realm of speculation, the socialist theories found a place in a revolutionary realm. The proletariat agitated. Lenin came! From out of the womb of agitation, was born the naughty child of revolution. Powers which were passionately stirred, when unchained caused a revolutionary eruption. Law became impotent. 'Necessity knows no law' said Niebutin, and it became only too true.

***Every problem has several
aspects. Opinions may differ;
that is but natural in
democracy. We should critically
examine and analyse the
different opinions and choose
the best one for efficient
implementation. This is the best
way of solving problems***

- Anna

So, the parade began-not a 'Love Parade' with 'Maurice', but a Mob Parade with Lenin. Just as Mr. Winston Churchill famed for his thundering oratory and thoughtless dictums tried, according to the cartoonist in the 'Current History' to keep the revolting elephant India, so also loyalists, capitalists, and apostles of peace, tried in vain to chain the labourer once more. Angered by hunger, oppressed by tyranny, the proletarian rose with irresistible force; down came capitalism, and the flag of the labourer was planted.

The period of 'smoke and blood' passed away. The period of construction came. With equal force, did he launch socialism. The process of socialization of the means of production, distribution and exchange was adopted. The spirit of brotherhood and goodwill was set up, as the ideal. The motto of St. Paul 'He that will not work, shall not eat' was applied. Plato's visualisation, became practicable. The Russians are now making a new pilgrim's progress to a land, where all would be happy, and all would be equals.

But the world brands the Russian as a savage; his methods are condemned and his policy is mocked at. Till recently America refused to take Russian timber on the ground that their production involved forced labour. The leading capitalistic nations find an absence of Christian ethics in everything Russian. But why all this accusation? Socialists allow no illegal marriage, they recognize the right of divorce, give economic basis to every individual, and look to labour as a dignified method of living. Palaces and pleasure seats of plutocrats are kept wide open for the enjoyment of the labourers. The educational side of socialism won the approval of no less a person than Dr. Tagore. Then what need is there for accusing that system? Is it because the communists drove out idle lords and extravagant ladies? Is it because they adopted certain cruel methods during the war with capitalism?

*I have heard nobody has kept
aloft the image of India so well,
consistently and with such
beautiful splendour as
Annadurai has done.*

- Dr.A.L. Mudaliar

Time is the great healer and it would certainly modify things. Anarchy being a negation of all laws could not remain permanent, and since socialism stands today firmly, it is not anarchism as some suppose it to be. Paul Vinogradoff, a moderate, assures us that "they (Russians) will throw the whole weight of their influence in the scale of international pacification and justice."

The socialistic idea is not Russian in origin. The Fabian society was started in London and Marx spent his last years by the side of the Thames. The presence of the I.L. Party, the various labourer organisations, and strikes go to prove that the labourer of today is not content with his lot. Without spending years in condemning Communistic methods, the Capitalistic countries, if they try to solve the labour problem, by extending State control over branches of industry, by suppressing 'red tapism' by recognizing the potentialities of labourers, they would not only get the laudation from labourers, but could found a paradise upon this earth. Moscow Mob Parade, with all its grain facts is worthy of study, and is a veritable warning to humanity at large, and more than that, it is capable of yielding morals of a no mean order. ★



THIRUKKURAL

The code of conduct for the mankind

THE GREATNESS OF A KING

படைகுடி கூழ் அமைச்சு நட்பு அரண் ஆறும்
உடையான் அரசருள் ஏறு.

PadaiKudi KoozhAmaichu NatpuAran Arum
Udaiyan Arasarul Eru.

'Army, people, sound finance, a council of ministers, allies and defensive fortifications, these six things if a king possesses, he is a lion among the kings.'

COMMENTARY

In India the sovereign state was always associated with a monarch. Speaking about the characteristics of the sovereign state, the author speaks of a king as the sovereign. He must have an efficient army to defend the state from foreign aggression. He must have loyal people devoted to the state. He must have sound financial resources. He must also have a council of ministers to help him in administration. He must have allies to help him in moments of crisis. He must also have defensive fortifications to protect the country.

If any one of these is missing, there will be no security for the nation and the State. Hence Thiruvalluvar says all these things must be owned by a king to maintain his sovereign power intact.

★ ★ ★

அஞ்சாமை ஈகை அறிவு ஊக்கம் இந்நான்கும்
எஞ்சாமை வேந்தற்கு இயல்பு.

Anjamai Eekai Arivu Ookkam innankum
Enjamai vendharku Iyalbu.

Courage, liberality, wisdom, enthusiasm, these are essential qualities of a king.

COMMENTARY

He must be personally courageous to inspire confidence in the various services. He must be liberal to have a contented army and administrative machinery. Wisdom is necessary for proper guidance and enthusiasm to insure success.

★ ★ ★

துறங்காமை கல்வி துணிவுடைமை இம்மூன்றும்
நீங்கா நிலன் ஆள் பவற்கு.

Thungamai Kalvi Thunivudaimai Yimmundrum
Ninga nilan aazh pavarku.

Vigilance, knowledge, strength of will to take decisive action, these three the ruler of the land must always have.

★ ★ ★

அறன் இழுக்காது, அல்லவை நீக்கி, மறன் இழுக்காது
மானம் உடையது அரசு.

Aran izhukhathu Allavai niki maran Izhukha
Manam Udaiyathu Arasu.

Unfailing maintenance of justice, preventing injustice with due punishment, never-failing courage and maintenance of honour, these make a real king.

★ ★ ★

இயற்றலும் ஈட்டலும் காத்தலும் காத்த
வகுத்தலும் வல்லது அரக.

Iyatralum Eetalum Kathalum katha
Vahuthalum valladhu Arasu.

*One who maintains wide sources of taxation,
efficiently collects his revenue and guards his
finance by careful budgetting of expenditure,
that is a real ruler.*

COMMENTARY

The strength of the sovereign depends upon financial stability. The King must be able to devise ways and means of financial resources. He must maintain an efficient machinery for revenue collection, and he must administer the State finances by careful budgetting for maintaining a surplus budget in order to secure financial stability

★ ★ ★

காட்சிக்கு எளியன் கடுஞ்சொல்லன் அல்லனேல்
மீக்கூறும் மன்னன் நிலம்.

Kaatchiku Elliyan Kadunjollan Allanel
Mikuru mannan nilam

*If a king is easily accessible to all, who never
uses harsh words in addressing his people, him
all the people of the land will praise as a noble
king.*

COMMENTARY

Generally the subjects who approach the King with their petitions are those that are tyrannised by powerful officers or those that are living on the verge of perpetual poverty. They go to the King seeking redress. The King must be easily accessible to them and must receive them kindly and listen to their grievance patiently. Such a King will be praised for his noble character by all his people.

★ ★ ★

இன்சொலால் ஈத்து அளிக்க வல்லாற்குத் தன்சொலார்
தான்கண்ட அனைத்துஇவ் வுலகு.

Insolal eethu allika vallarku thansolar
thanganda anaithiv vulahu.

*If a King is pleasant in speech., generous in
giving, and protects his people with clemency,
the nation over which he rules will loyally carry
out his command.*

★ ★ ★

முறைசெய்து காப்பாற்றும் மன்னவன் மக்கட்கு
இறைஎன்று வைக்கப் படும்.

Muraiseidhu kapatrummannavan makkatku
Iraiendru vaika paadum

*A King who safeguards the welfare of his
subjects by just and upright rule will be
considered a divine being in human form.*

★ ★ ★

செவிகைப்பச் சொல்பொறுக்கும் பண்புடை வேந்தன்
கவிகைக்கீழ்த் தங்கும் உலகு.

Sevikaippach solporukkum panbudai vendhan
kavikaikkeezh thangum ulaghu

*A king who has the patience to listen to frank
but bitter words from his councillors will have
the pleasure of having the whole world under
the shade of his umbrella.*

★ ★ ★

கொடைஅளி செங்கோல்குடி ஓம்பல் நான்கும்
உடையான் ஆம் வேந்தர்க்கு ஒளி

Kodaiali sengolkudi yombal nangum
udaiyanam vendharkku Oli

*Generously giving to the poor and the
deserving, mercy in administering justice,
uprightness in his rule, protecting the welfare
of his subjects, a King who has these four
characteristics is a shining light among the
Kings.*

The Social Life of the ANCIENT TAMILS

The social life of the ancient Tamils was enclosed within what may be described as concentric circles of companionship and fraternity. Outside there was the *naadu* (நாடு) within which there were the units of settlements which were variously known as *mudhur* (மூதூர்) or *kurichi* (குறிச்சி) in the montane region; *kurumpu* (குறும்பு) in the arid region; *cheri* (சேரி) or *paadi* (பாடி) in the pastoral region; *perur* (பேரூர்) in the riverine plains; and *pattinam* (பட்டினம்) or *pakkam* in the littoral region.

Within these settlements there were the corporate companionships or brotherhoods of elementary families comprising the members of the clans or gens [who regarded one another as 'relatives' (சுற்றம்) of the common lineage] and the kins within the elementary family [who were known as *Okkal* (ஓக்கல்), *kelir* (கேளிரர்), *utror* (உற்றோர்), or *tamar* (தமர்), in the sense that they were affinal relatives].

Within these 'brotherhoods' or companionship and kinship groups, there was the still narrower circle of the elementary family as the basic unit of the kinship structure. The members belonging to

each elementary family of this kind lived in dwellings which were variously known as *irukkai* (இருக்கை), *kurampai* (குரம்பை), *kudi* (குடி), *manai* (மனை), *il* (இல்), and *akam* (அகம்).

Let us now examine the various elements of the early Tamil social structure in some detail.

THE NAADU (நாடு) :

The term, *naadu* would seem to have been used in the classical Tamil poetry very often in the tribal sense which might be said to correspond with the ancient Greek 'nation'. The various ideas of the poets of the classical period would seem to indicate that the *naadu* or 'nation' did dominate the social relations of everyone who belonged to it. Sometimes it would appear that the ideas concerning the *naadu* were the only factors which could suddenly arouse a great wave of patriotic or tribal feeling which could unite a whole people in common endeavour and common sacrifice of the most unlimited kind as very often manifested on such occasions as the tribal wars. The question now is, what actually constituted the *naadu*?

There are a number of poems especially in the

Purananuru anthology of the classical Tamil poetry, which would seem to throw some light on the early Tamil concept of a *naadu*?

In its physical aspect, the ancient Tamil speaking world of the three centuries before and three centuries after Christ was a distinct geographical entity, situated as it was between the Tirupati hills in the north and Cape Comorin in the south. Water-logged on all sides except the north which was bounded by a chain of mountains, the peninsular Tamil country seemed almost an island. Nevertheless, to call the ancient Tamilakam an 'island' is to belie its possibilities. It was in fact double-naadured — the littoral or coastal regions of the 'island' far better adapted to boats and sails, and a peninsula, bordered on either side by long ranges of hills (the Western and the Eastern Ghats) from which flowed the life-giving waters of the chief rivers eastwards and westwards to the seas, passing through the populous pastures and plains. This double-naadured geographical situation of the ancient Tamil country had its own peculiarities, some of which had important bearings upon the constitution of the various

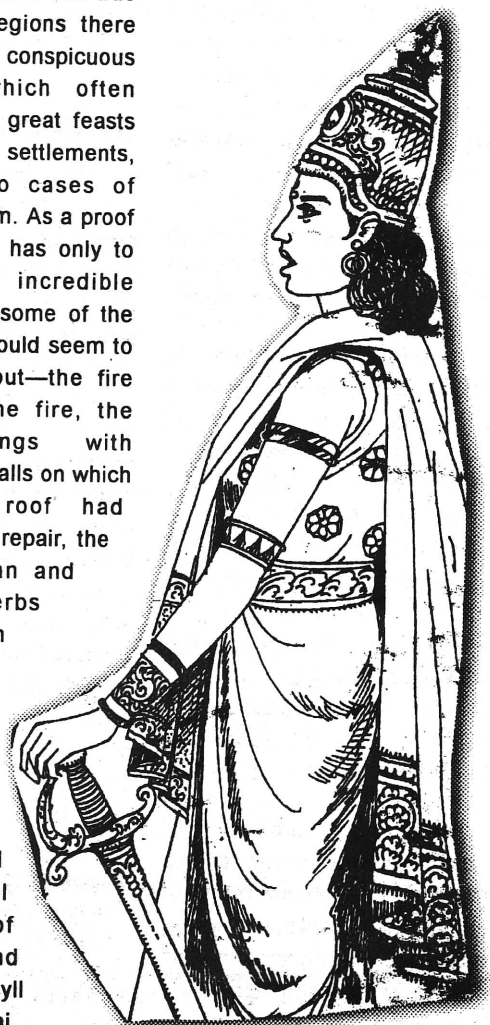
and numerous tribal entities which were known as *naadu*. For example, some units of the *naadu* had the sea, the rivers, the forest, or even the long range of hills as boundaries, from which one is able to infer that a *naadu* was a distinct entity often limited by a boundary or *ellai* (எல்லை).

The next important feature of the *naadu* which has been frequently emphasized by the bards and poets of the classical age, is that the *naadu* to be worthy of its name, should have the perennial sources of the various means of subsistence which were essential for the inhabitants as food, and for the chieftains as revenue. The importance of the various subsistence resources could be inferred from the clear reference of the classical poet, Kuttuvan Kannanar, to the fact that the inhabitants of a territory, after the able chieftain's death, shifted to other territories because they could not bear the hunger which was caused obviously by the disruption of resources, following the death of the chieftain. The author in his poem mourns the death of his erstwhile patron-chief, and describes how his *naadu*, once a prosperous territory, became a ruined and desolate place.

In this connection, it must be mentioned that not all the territories of the ancient Tamil country were blessed with such perennial resources of

naadure's bounty. When one normally thinks and speaks of the early Tamils as the pioneers of their great civilisation and wide commercial contacts with the West in the early centuries of the Christian era, one unconsciously credits their territories with an abundance of material resources, and one often forgets that there were some regions which were more or less completely lacking in the essential means of subsistence. While it was true that in certain regions there were extremes of conspicuous consumption which often characterized the great feasts at the chieftains' settlements, there were also cases of extreme pauperism. As a proof of the latter, one has only to remember the incredible poverty in which some of the travelling bards would seem to have moved about—the fire place without the fire, the ruined dwellings with dilapidated mud walls on which the thatched roof had collapsed beyond repair, the meals that began and ended with herbs plucked from refuse heaps, and the barking bitch with milkless teats. The poet, *Nathathanar* has vividly portrayed the old Tamil atmosphere of poverty and discomfort in his idyll of *Sirupanatrupadai*.

The bards and poets who were clearly aware of this state of affairs, strongly exhorted their patron-chiefs to take definite steps to avert this sort of dire poverty. One such exhortation was for the provision and maintenance of water resources upon which the regular growing of crops was so much dependent. One way of providing for the perennial supply of water for the paddy



fields was to build reservoirs and dams to store the surplus water which overflowed from the rivers when they were periodically flooded as a result of heavy monsoon rains. The chieftain who had been instrumental in building such reservoirs and tanks, the poet assured, could count upon his name and fame being established permanently upon the memory of his people for generations to come.

Some of the chieftains and rulers were not satisfied with merely providing these facilities. They also took it upon themselves to obtain fresh resources of food for their subjects. For this purpose, when the need arose, they decided to expand their territories by conquest. In order to obtain new resources of food by means of conquest, they also had to have a powerful army. To develop this manpower, they would seem to have adopted the system of universal conscription: every able-bodied person of each household was a warrior in those days: it was the primary duty of the village blacksmith to furnish the warriors with weapons. Having maximized the number of warriors whom the chieftain could call to arms at any time to the beating of war drums which were hung at public places, they had also to equip them with the weapons and keep them in constant readiness.

Though some of the tribal wars might have been presumably for the purpose of expanding the resources of food for the subjects through conquest of other territories, ironically enough such expeditions often resulted in wanton destruction of the riches of the conquered territories. Apart from the incidental destruction of the enemy's territory in the course of pitched battles, to reduce to ashes every settlement in the enemy's territory was the severest penalty that a conqueror could inflict upon an enemy in those days. Sad to say, some of the ancient Tamil chieftains would seem to have been cruelly fond of such callous and barbarous destruction, mostly by setting fire to the settlements (a sort of 'scorched-earth' policy), oblivious of the fact that the war impoverished the country by annihilating the wealth which had been previously accumulated. The tragedy of the waste to which the ancient settlements were cruelly reduced, was aggravated by the circumstance that the human victims were the elite of the country, the brave young men of the tribe. While the machinery of naadure worked for the survival of the fittest, the winnowing of such tribal wars resulted in the elimination of the fittest.

THE CHIEFTAIN

Let us now turn to the chieftain of the tribe or the clan.

According to Nedunchezhiyan of the Pandya clan, himself a ruler and poet of great repute, the tribal chief or ruler was chosen from among all the members of the clan, irrespective of age, by consensus of the whole body, and the personal qualities of intelligence and knowledge of affairs determined the choice. There were also certain personal qualities of a person which have often been associated with a tribal chieftain or ruler of men - qualities such as leadership, valour, dedication, perseverance and liberality.

It was the duty of the head of the tribal clan, with the unswerving aid and advice of the older men of the group, to watch over the welfare of the whole group. The chieftain had the power and the duty to settle private disputes between any of his fellow members of the group so that peace and solidarity could prevail in the group. For this purpose, the chieftain of the group is known to have made himself available daily to the members of the group, usually in a public place under an umbrageous tree, so that he could personally listen to the complaints and appeals from the people and issue his decrees of justice. (This day-to-day practice of the early chieftains would seem to have later become a formal ceremonial in the royal courts, at which the ruler, seated on his throne, granted 'audience'

to his subjects, and administered justice, the ceremony being known as 'Nalolakkam' (நாளோலக்கம்).

Now apart from the physical presence of the chieftain at the 'assembly', one of the most important features of the 'ceremonial court' was the chieftain's custody of the ancestral regalia or instruments of insignia belonging to his lineage, such as the Umbrella and the Sceptre which had soon become important and sometimes even sacred emblems of his status and authority. Of these regalia, the royal umbrella of later days, which consisted of light circular canopy of white silk cloth supported by a thick stick, and which was carried in hand by a bearer or fixed at the back of the ruler's throne to form a canopy over the head of the occupant, would seem to have had some connection or resemblance to the umbrageous trees, under the shade of which the earlier chieftains are known to have been present to settle disputes. (It is worth noting that those trees that are so trained that its branches droop in umbrella form are called 'umbrella-trees').

However, the fact that the royal insignia of the white umbrella ("வெண்கொற்றக் குடை") was definitely not meant to be used as an ordinary kind of umbrella for mere protection against the sun (or rain) for the

chieftain was dearly enjoined upon the chieftains by it is evident from the subtle warning given to Killi Valavan of the Chola clan by Vellaikkutinakanar.

The sceptre of the ancient Tamil chieftains and rulers was known as *kol* (கோல்) and usually it was referred to as *senkol* (செங்கோல்) if the rule of the chieftain, wielding the symbolic sceptre, was a righteous one, and if on the other hand he happened to be a despot who was also notorious for his cruel deeds and edicts, then his rule was branded as *kodunkol* (கொடுங்கோல்) and he himself was called *kotunkolan*. As for its origin, two interpretations might seem possible. First, the sceptre could have been originally the spear which was also an important emblem and weapon always carried by the warrior-chieftain wherever he went. Secondly, it could also have had its origin in the ancient practice of pastoral chiefs of the shepherds carrying with themselves the pastoral staff or rod, usually when they were tending the droves of cattle. (In English language, the term, 'pastor' means both the shepherd and the clergyman of a congregation, while the crosier - a tall staff forming part of a bishop's insignia - is also headed like a shepherd's crook. The herdsman in the ancient Tamil country is said to have had such a crook. It is also significant to note that the original Tamil term, *kon*

denoting the shepherd or herdsman, later came to be applied to the king as well. All this is, of course, based on the assumption that kingship might have had its origin in the pastoral chieftainship, in the sense that the herdsmen might have succeeded in exercising domination over others by virtue of their possession of cattle. This aspect however, requires much detailed and separate study in conjunction with the evolution of kingship in South India, which is not within the scope of the present study.

Now, coming back to the chieftain of the ancient Tamils, as mentioned above, he was the main representative of the group in its 'political' and legal relations with other clans and communities, and as such he had the power and the duty to protect his people from the incursions of the enemies. Though, on those occasions, the chieftain himself took the lead in organizing corporate obligations, the bards and poets of those days would also seem to have played an important role in mediating or settling not only the disputes between leaders of rival clans, but also the internecine quarrels among men of the same family or clan who aspired for leadership. With regard to the latter role, the poets sometimes appealed for reason and commonsense, but at other times tried to avert clashes between siblings or brothers by appealing to them

to uphold the prestige of the clan to which they belonged. With regard to the former, the feud which occurred between *Kopperuncholan* and his children would seem to have been settled by the poet *Pullatrur Eyitriyanar* who pointed out the futility of an aged father fighting with his own children on an issue of succession to the chieftainship and his property, for after all, his children were going to inherit it. With regard to the dispute which arose between the brothers, Nalankilli and Netunkilli, the poet, Kovur Kilar, intervened, and asked them to cease fighting between themselves (i.e. two persons belonging to the same Killi or the Chola clan whose emblem was the *atti* flower, and not the palmyra flower which belonged to the Chera clan nor the *margosa* flower which was the emblem of the ancestors of Pandya clan) - because, if one of the Killi brothers should suffer defeat which was inevitable, then the other clans would be only too pleased to see that the solidarity of the Killi clan was impaired. On this occasion, the totemic affiliation, particularly the existence of the emblem of the clan, would seem to have done much in strengthening the social ties of the clan, by subordinating the personal interests of individuals to the interests and prestige of the clan. What is seen in the appeal or reference of the poet to the 'totemic' emblem of *atti* flower is indeed that the totemic

tie was deemed more binding than even that of blood.

While the bards and poets did their very best in mediating and sometimes settling the internecine disputes among members of the same clan and thus strengthened the solidarity of the clan concerned, they also did all they could by way of bolstering up the enthusiasm of the members of the group when they came to fight for their rights against the members of the rival clan. The commonest occasions on which the unity and solidarity of the clan received public expressions, were the tribal wars, led by the chieftain of the clan. Very often, the bard and poet found themselves on the battle-field, giving encouragement to the warriors and praising their victories. Of course, this important role of the bards and poets was not confined to tumultuous periods of life alone; it was also manifestly evident in times of peace when the poets were helpful in an advisory capacity.

Besides the poets' sagacity on which the chieftain and ruler could safely rely, there were also times when he sought the advice of those elderly men of his own clan who were noted for their never-failing wisdom on matters pertaining to the clan and its members. As those men were known to have freely voiced their opinions without fear or favour, the ruler dared not swerve from the righteous

path, for fear of risking condemnation and ridicule of the sagacious few.

SETTLEMENTS

Now, having seen something of the *naadu* and the chieftain who was in charge of it, let us turn to the various kinds of settlements that were found in each of the tribal territories of the ancient Tamil country.

In the montane region, the settlement was known as *kurichi* or sometimes *mudhur* (முதுர்), and it would seem to have been characterized by the smallness of its communal aggregates, and consequently by a greater social homogeneity. A greater proportion of the montane dwellers' social contacts were face to face and therefore their relationships with particular individuals tended to have longer duration and to be even more hospitable to guests and visitors like the bards and poets.

As for the settlement in the arid region, the following graphic account of Uruttirankannanar in his idyll, *Perumpanatruppadai*, may be cited: "There were thatched dwellings of the community of 'Eyinar'. Their greased spears were ranged on the walls of the dwellings. Besides, there were also thatched ramparts to which fierce hounds were tied by means of chains. The bows and the quivers full of arrows hung on the 'beehive' sheds.

These shelters and other dwellings were fenced with thorny creepers, while separate palisade-like wickets served as gates to these dwellings.

The pastoral settlements in the ancient Tamil country had also thatched huts (the thatch was one of straw) with doors made of wooden sticks tied together. The huts were propped on short sticks or posts on which leafy twigs were hung for the ewes to munch. There were front yards in which cattle were tied to the pegs by means of long ropes. The shepherds pastured their cattle and sheep upon the adjacent grazing ground for which a close row of thorny bushes served as hedge or fence.

The fourth type of settlement was the permanent agricultural settlement with a number of dwellings either placed close together or sometimes irregularly in and around the paddy and sugar-cane plots, or even sometimes away from the cultivated fields in a row of streets. Besides the farmers' pretty little huts of thatched roofs with courtyards in which children played with their toy-chariots, and the cattle kraals which were attached to the farmers' dwellings, the agricultural settlement was also marked with the heaps of paddy-grains, and the smoky sugar-houses where sugar-cane was being crushed and probably made into sugar-crystals." (In the riverine plains

there were also towns which became distinguished from the rural settlements by the term, *perur* (பேரூர்). While the towns in the interior were mainly centres of internal trade, the coastal towns and cities (known as *pattinam* — (பட்டினம்) became increasingly associated with foreign trade and commerce.

The fifth type of settlement was the coastal or littoral settlement of the fisherfolk who inhabited the long littoral tracts of sandy territory lying on the eastern and the western sea-board of the ancient Tamil country. In a typical settlement of the littoral dwellers, the huts were thatched with *taruppai* (தருப்பை) grass. Besides there were also sheds built of the branches of the laurel tree. The fish baskets and the knotted nets lay on the banks of the deep fishing pools. A little further away from these settlements, there were many-storeyed mansions located in a network of streets, where the traders and merchants lived with their womenfolk.

Thus, the ancient Tamils are known to have lived in various kinds of settlements—the hill-dwelling *kuravar* and *kurattiyar* living high upon the mountains and the highly advanced traders and merchant - princes with their womenfolk living in the sky-high mansions in the urban areas of the coastal region as well as in the interior, and other people — the

agriculturists, the pastoralists, and the hunter-like *maravar* — living in the humble dwellings or thatched huts located on the rich plains pastoral regions, or on the arid tracts of the ancient Tamil country. It was within these settlements that each elementary family had a dwelling.

Whether the dwelling was a cave-shelter or a thatched hut on the slopes of the hills or a 'beehive' hut in the pastoral hamlet, in the riverine plain in the littoral or arid tract, or whether it was a sky-high mansion in the cities and towns of the ancient Tamil country, it must have risen originally out of the elementary need for protection from wind and weather. Although the various terms denoting the variety of dwellings such as *malaivida rakam* (மலைவிடரகம்), *kurampai* (குரம்பை), *irukkai* (இருக்கை), *kudi* (குடி), *manai* (மனை), or *maadam* (மாடம்) do not actually mean 'family' the various types of dwellings which were denoted by these terms, undoubtedly provide the framework for the development of the primary form of social life, i.e. the domestic life of the elementary family.

(Excerpts taken from the book "Social life of the Tamils - the classical period" authored by Dr.S.Singaravelu, Prof. of Tamil (Retd.) Dept. of Indian Studies, University of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur.)

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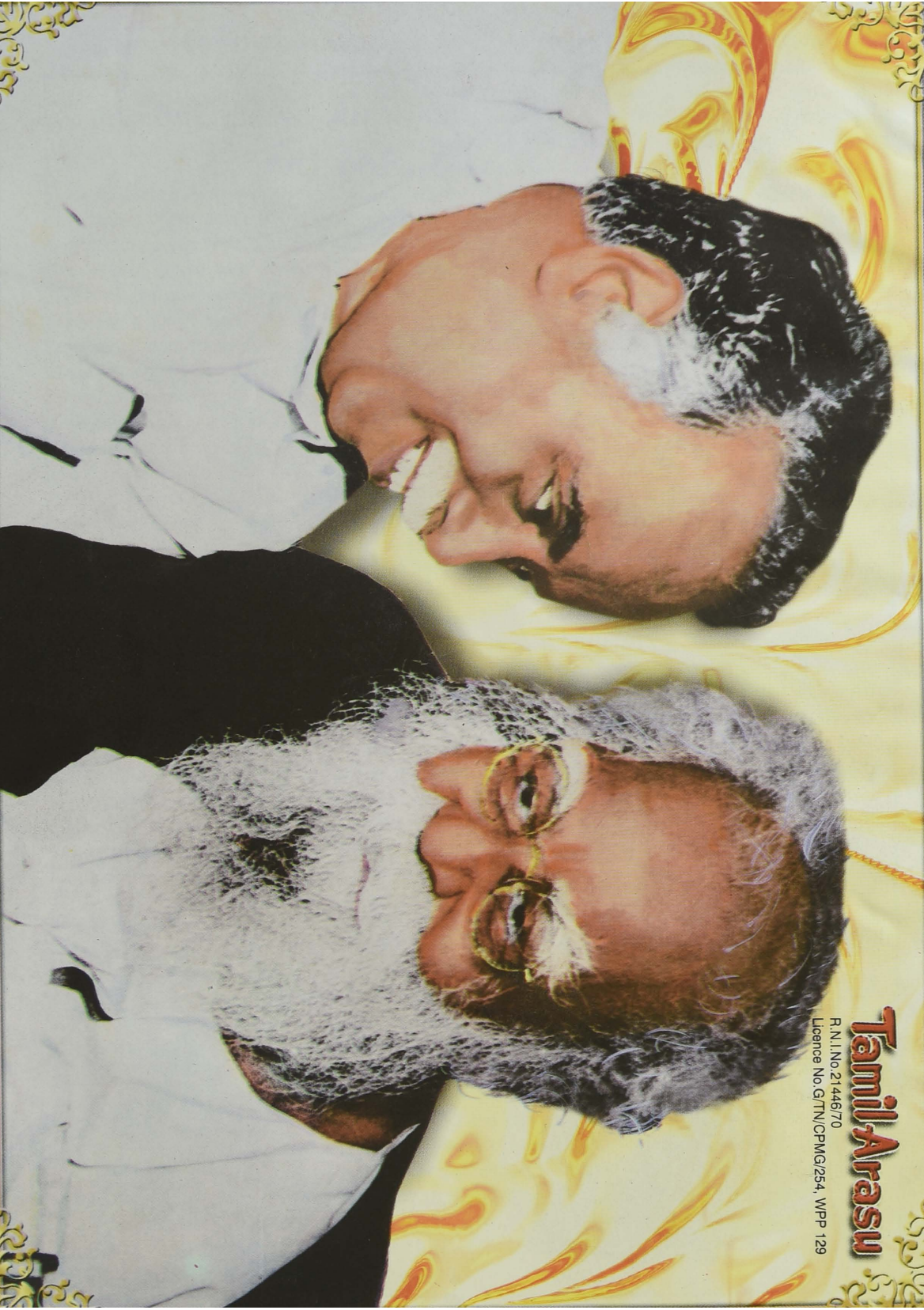


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