

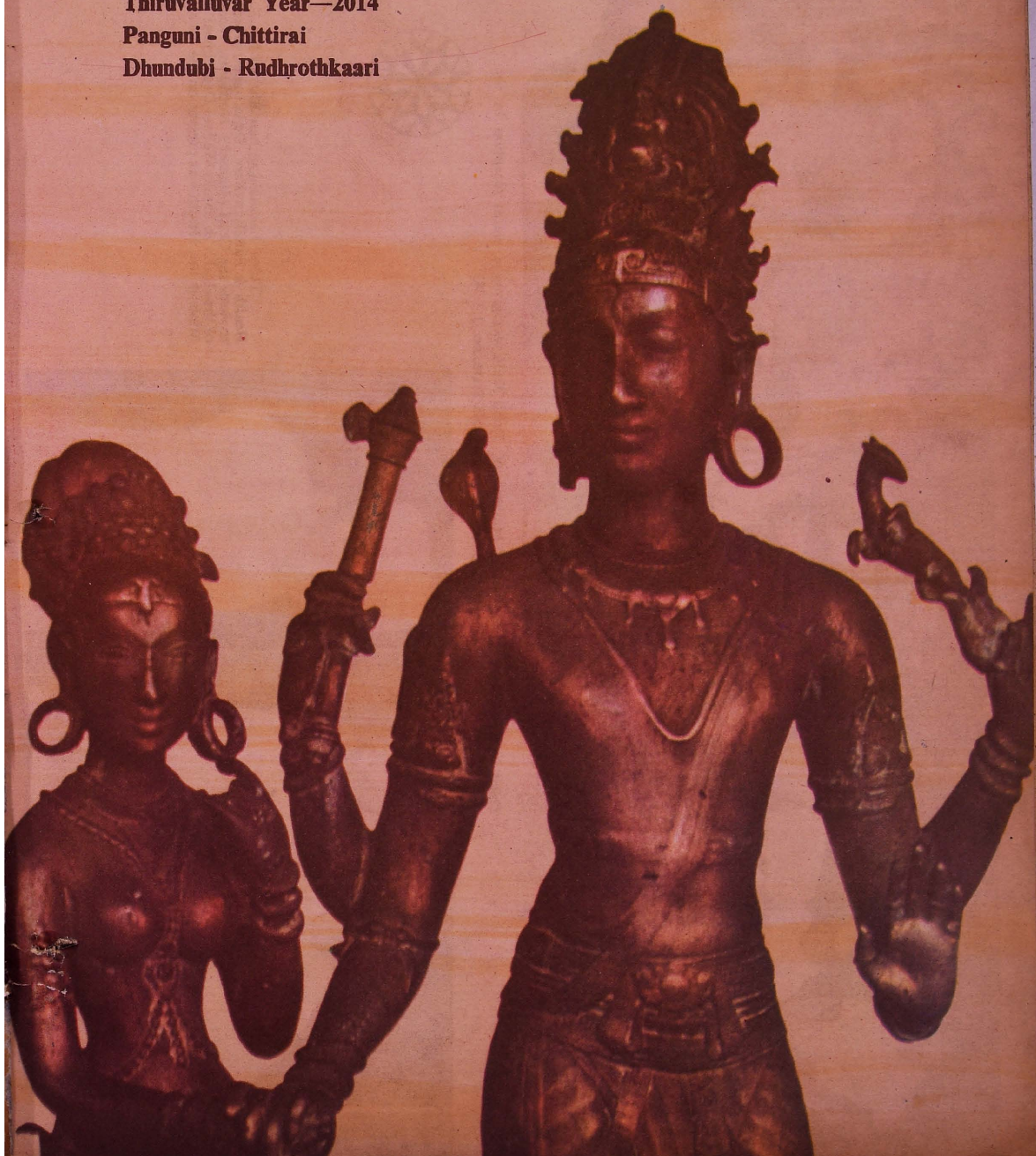
Tamil Arasu

April 1983 75 P

Thiruvalluvar Year—2014

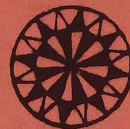
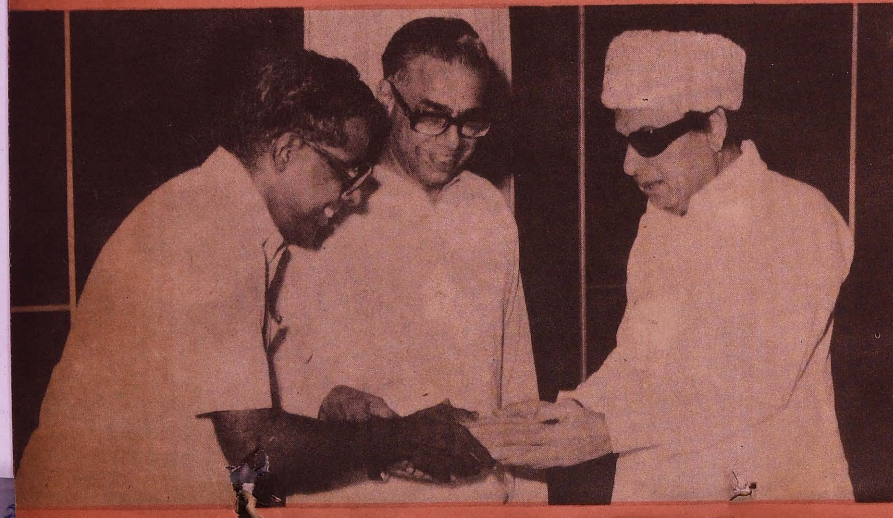
Panguni - Chittirai

Dhundubi - Rudhrothkaari





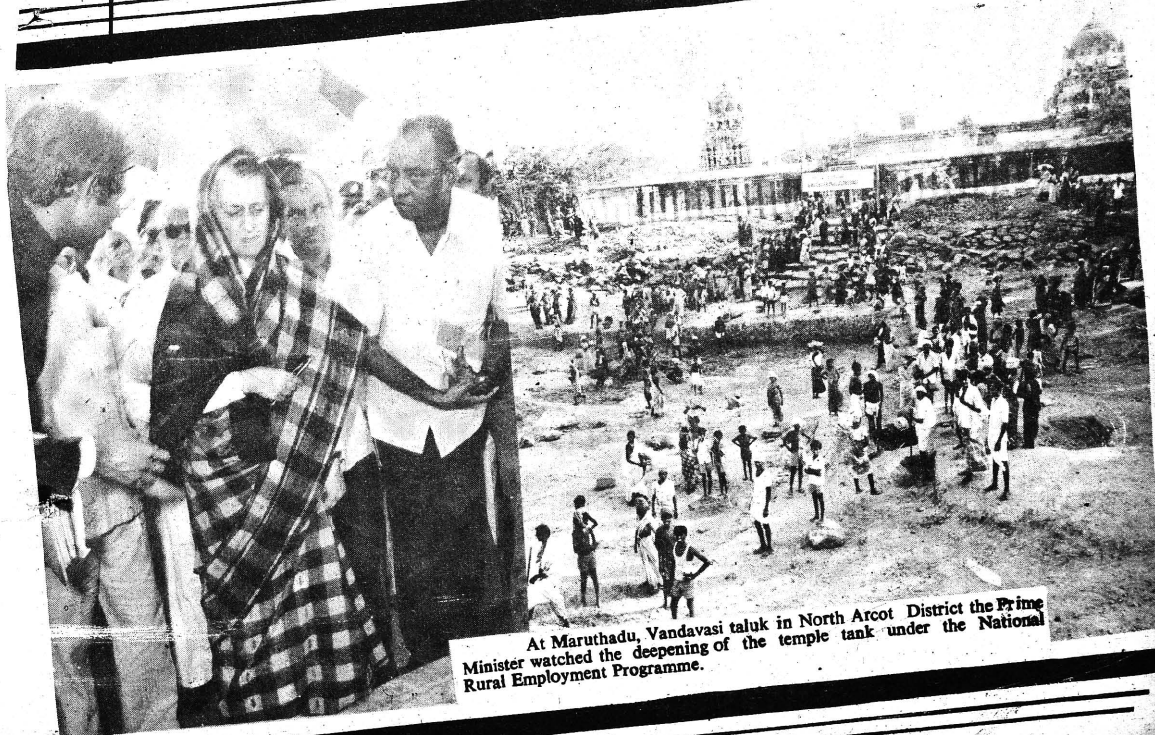
Thiru M. G. Ramachandran Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu was given a warm reception by the Corporation of Cochin, Kerala State, on 3.3.'83.



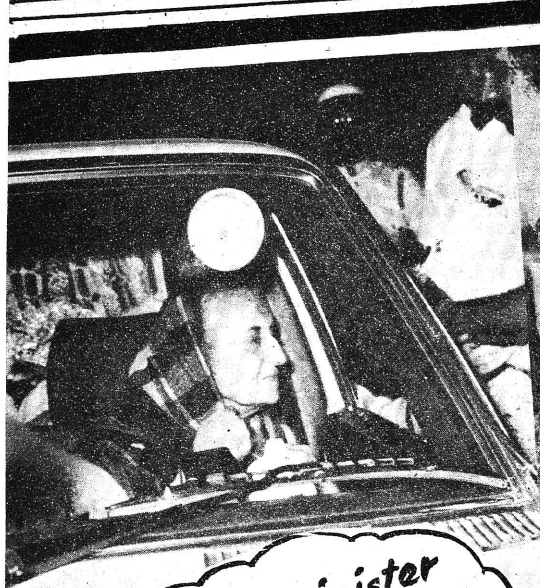
Thiru Lakshmikanthan Bharati I.A.S., Commissioner and Secretary Health & Family welfare Department presented a sum of Rs. 2,36,894-94, towards the Chief Minister's Nutritious Noon Meal Programme on behalf of the Health & Family Welfare Department on 17.3.'83 **Dr. H. V. Hande** Minister for Health was present on the occasion.



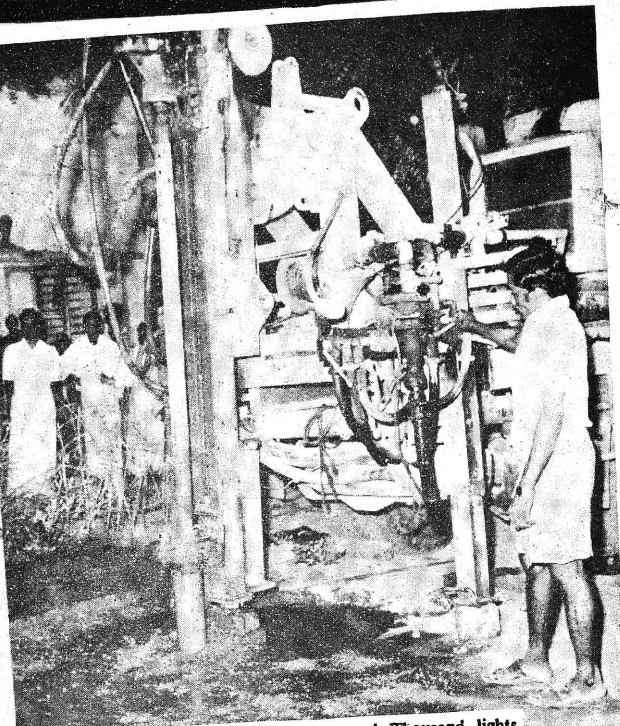
The Prime Minister Thirumathi Indira Gandhi paid a visit to Tamil Nadu on 28.3.'83 for an on-the-spot study of the drought hit areas. She was received at the airport by the Governor Thiru S. L. Khurana and the Chief Minister Thiru M. G. Ramachandran.



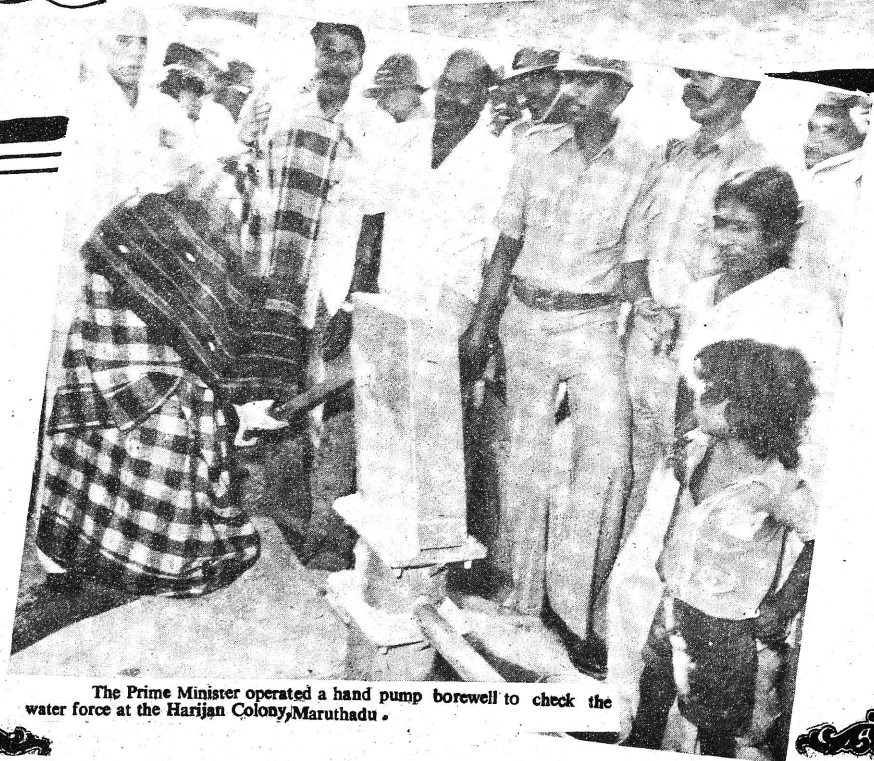
At Maruthadu, Vandavasi taluk in North Arcot District the Prime Minister watched the deepening of the temple tank under the National Rural Employment Programme.



*Primeminister
visits
Drought hit areas*



The Prime Minister visited West Mambalam and Thousand lights in Madras city where the drinking water shortage is acute.



The Prime Minister operated a hand pump borewell to check the water force at the Harijan Colony, Maruthadu.

POINT OF ORDER RAISED IN THE LEGISLATURE AND RELEVANT EXTRACTS OF PROCEEDINGS

I 24-3-83

In the matter of the case filed in the Court on the speech delivered on the floor of the House by the Chief Minister.

Thiru R. Umanath : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I bring to your notice an urgent matter on which you self and this House should take a decision.

A writ petition seem to have been admitted in the High Court yesterday against certain remarks of Chief Minister in the course of his speech on 2-2-83 and it has ordered that he should enter appearance in the cause either personally or through his Council.

I have carefully gone through the matter raised in the Court to see whether it is based on the speech delivered on the floor of this House or in the Council. If it is based on the speech made on the floor of the Legislative Council, then we could not raise that issue in this House. But in the affidavit extracts of the speech delivered on the floor of this House has been extracted.

This issue should not be looked at as though it is an issue concerning the Chief Minister. But it should be looked at in the angle that the Chief Minister is also a member of this House. As regards the question of law, identical privilege exists whether the speech is delivered by a member or by the Chief Minister. So, this issue should not be looked at in the angle of the Chief Minister. Hence, it should not be looked at—that it concerns the Chief Minister—with any party bias. It affects the fundamental rights of all the members of this House. Hence, in an issue like this, if any court notice is received, this House should decide whether the notice should be received by the Chief Minister, whether it should be responded by him and whether he should appear either in person or through his Council. It is a matter in which you should give your ruling on behalf of this House.

In my opinion, the Chief Minister should neither receive the notice, nor respond to it but should ignore it. I say this based on Constitution.

Hon'ble Speaker : Hon'ble Member has expressed his opinion. The issue appears as though there is a difference of opinion between the Judiciary and the Legislature. There is also a question whether the notice was served or not. The Leader of the House can express his views, if he wants, in the matter. Then we will decide about it.

Thiru A. Rehman Khan : We should also be given an opportunity to express our views in the matter.

Hon'ble Speaker : I do not propose to allow any debate on this.

Hon'ble Dr. V. R. Nendunchezhiyan : Speaker Sir, as expressed by you, we cannot take up this for discussion now. But I would like to bring to your

notice only one thing. You should consider the issue and give your decision to this House.

In Article 194 of the Constitution of India, there is a provision regarding "Powers, Privileges and Immunities of State Legislatures and their Members." It affords protection and safeguards the rights and privileges of the Members of the Parliament and those of the State Legislatures.

First two clauses of Article 194 of the Constitution are as follows :—

"(1) Subject to the provisions of the Constitution and to the rules and standing orders regulating the procedure of the Legislature there shall be freedom of speech in the Legislature of every State.

(2) No Member of the Legislature of a State shall be liable to any proceedings in any court in respect of anything said or any vote given by him in the Legislature or any committee thereof, and no person shall be so liable in respect of the publication by or under the authority of a House of such a Legislature of any report, paper, votes or proceedings." Thus, there is a clear provision in the Constitution in this regard. Hon. Chief Minister is only a Member of this House. This House should protect the rights of all the 235 Members thereof. Similar issues have arisen in some other States also. On the basis of the issue raised by Hon'ble Member Thiru Umanath taking into consideration the protection afforded in the Constitution and taking into consideration the proceedings of the Parliament and of the other State Legislatures on similar issues, you may advise this House ; However Sir, it is your full responsibility to protect the rights and privileges of all the Members of this House.

This House also has got that responsibility. Hence, under the circumstances, if you give your directions to this House and the Hon'ble the Chief Minister, they could act accordingly.

Thiru A. Rehman Khan : Point of Order Sir...

Hon'ble Speaker : I do not propose to make this an issue. I have to examine all aspects of this matter. After such examination, only, if it becomes necessary to bring the matter to this House for discussion then we can consider the same. I do not know what Thiru Umanath is going to say about it. (*Shouting and confusion*)

Thiru V. Krishnamurthy : Listen to our views also (Expunged as per orders of the Hon'ble Speaker) (*shouting and confusion*)

Hon'ble Speaker : All this will not be recorded in the proceedings of this House. The Press Reporters also should not publish them in the papers (*Shouting and Confusion*). Thiru Umanath had raised an issue all of a sudden. (*Interruption*). If Thiru Krishnamurthy wants to say anything about this issue on behalf of the D. M. K., he could say it.

Thiru V. Krishnamurthy : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, We have seen in papers to-day that a Writ Petition has been filed in the Madras High Court. In the writ filed in the High Court on the basis of Hon'ble Chief Minister's views, about high

Court Judges, on the floor of this House, Justice Sathyadev has formulated five questions—not finally—while admitting the writ petition. We have seen in the papers that in that writ petition notice has been ordered to the concerned persons requiring replies on the five issues formulated in the matter. That is all.

Article 211 is as follows : “No discussion shall take place in the Legislature of a State with respect to the conduct of any Judge of the Supreme Court or of a High Court in the discharge of his duties.”

The issue is whether the Provisions of Article 211 of the Constitution are subject to Article 194 or which of the two privileges is supreme. I shall read out Article 212 of the Constitution.

“The validity of any proceedings in the Legislature of a State shall not be called in question on the ground of any alleged irregularity of procedure.”

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, as regards this House, you are the supreme authority.

Hon'ble Speaker : I often forget about it only on account of Hon. Member.

Thiru V. Krishnamurthy : I will not be a cause for it. Within this House, it is only the Hon'ble Speaker who could decide. He is the supreme authority. What transpires here, how it transpires—all this should be decided by you and you alone. Rule 90 (vi) of the Assembly Rules is as follows :—

4 “(vi) reflect upon the conduct of the President or any Governor or any Court of Justice, or irregularly use the Governor's or President's name for the purpose of influencing a debate”.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, merely freedom of speech is conferred under Article 194 (1), if I begin to speak offensively attacking all the Judges of the High Court could it be permitted? Have not the citizens of Tamil Nadu any power to question it? Could it be discussed on the floor of this House whether the High Court should decide one way or other. The Judges of the High Court and of the Supreme Court possess equal independence in the same way as Members of this House has. Hence, a Writ Petition has been presented questioning the speech of the Chief Minister which seems to say how Courts should decide cases coming before them. Writ Petition has been filed against the speech made here. The Petition may be contested by Advocate General entering appearance and defending and clarifying what was spoken here—instead to initiate a discussion on the ground it amounts to a breach of privilege of this House is most unfortunate.

Hon. Dr. V. R. Nedunchezhiyan : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, the issue seem to have been raised not to initiate a discussion on it on the floor of this House. Hon. Umanath has not raised in that way. He has only raised that a constitutional issue has been involved and he wanted the privileges and rights of this House to be protected.

I have referred to Article 194 of the Constitution Hon'ble Member Thiru Krishnamurthy has referred to Articles 211 and 212 of the Constitu-

tion. So, you should examine all these three Articles namely, 194, 211 and 212 and taking into consideration the precedents of the other States Legislatures and of the Parliament, you should give your ruling in the matter. It is this that all the Members of this House desire. Even the Chief Minister only in his capacity as the Member of this House, is involved in this issue today. Therefore, we place before you our request to protect the rights and privileges of this House. You should analyse all these and I request you Sir, that you should give your advice as to how best we could act so that it could serve as a guidance to the individual Member and to this House as well. With this we can leave this issue at present.

Hon'ble Speaker :—Hon'ble Member has raised the privilege issue only on the basis of newspaper reports published today.

It is not appropriate for us to say that the Courts should not entertain any such case. But if a case filed in the Court questioning the privileges of the Legislature or affects the privileges of the Members, thereby preventing them from taking part in the proceedings of the House, it has been the parliamentary tradition to advise and direct the members that they need not obey the summons issued by the Court and that they need not subject themselves to the jurisdiction of the Court and direct the Government to apprise the Courts about the clear constitutional provisions in this regard, through their Law Officers.

As far as this issue is concerned, there is no information whether the Hon'ble Chief Minister has received any notice or summons from the

Court. If such a summon is received, and if this House is informed about it, steps would be taken to protect the rights of this House.

II

30-3-83

Hon'ble Speaker : In the point of order raised on 24-3-83 I have informed the House as follows:

' In this issue there is no information whether the Hon'ble Chief Minister has received any notice or summons from the Court. If any such summons has been received and if he informs about it to this House further steps would be taken to protect the rights of this House."

A letter has since been received together with enclosures from the Chief Minister yesterday afternoon. It says as follows :—

" I enclose herewith the notice in W. P. 2074/83 on the file of the High Court addressed to me, and delivered to the Chief Secretary. The notice and the affidavit filed by the Petitioner sent to me are enclosed. I am placing this before the Hon'ble Speaker in pursuance of the observation made by you on 24-3-83 and for suitable directions to me in the matter "

Annexures : The affidavit filed by the Writ Petitioner and the orders passed by the High Court thereon, forwarded to the Chief Minister through the Chief Secretary.

The Writ Petitioner Thiru N. Veeraswamy is a Member of the Legislative Council and the Head Quarters Secretary of the D. M. K. which is the main Opposition Party in the Legislative Assembly. The writ petition has been filed against (1) the Chief Minister (2) the Government of Tamil Nadu and (3) the Central Government.

Interim orders of the High Court on this Writ Petition received from the Registrar of the High Court through a letter are as follows :—

" The above said Petitioner has presented the abovesaid W. P. 2074 of 1983 praying this Court to issue a Writ of Quo Warranto, directing you, the first Respondent to show cause by what authority you claim to have, use, enjoy and perform the rights and duties and privileges of the office of the Chief Minister of the State of Tamil Nadu."

" I am to inform you that this Court has directed issue of notice to you on 23-3-83, and the said petition has set down for hearing on Monday, the 4th April, 1983. If you desire to oppose the petition arrangements may be made for your representation."

" I am enclosing herewith a copy of petition and affidavit filed in support of the said W. P. 2074 of 1983."

The Writ Petition filed in the High Court relates to a portion of the reply given by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 2-2-83 on the floor of this House in connection with the discussion on the Governor's Address. Hence, it is a case filed against a member of this House

who is also the Chief Minister for his speech on the floor of this House.

The remedy sought for in the Quo Warranto Writ Petition is to inquire the basis on which Hon'ble Chief Minister who is also a member of this House, is holding his post.

The Court proceedings have initiated questioning the speech delivered by him on the floor of this House. Even if we examine it superficially it clearly impinges not only the privileges of this House but also questions certain fundamental and basic concepts of our Constitution itself.

Part VI Chapter II of the Constitution of India deals with the Executive sphere of the State. Chapter III thereof deals with the Constitution of the State Legislatures and their powers,

Articles 163 and 164 of the Constitution provide for a Council of Ministers with a Chief Minister for a State. Article 164 (2) of the Constitution reads as follows :—

"(2) The Council of Ministers shall be collectively responsible to the Legislative Assembly of the State."

Hence, so long as a State Chief Minister and his Council of Ministers command the support and the confidence of this House he is entitled to continue in office. It is not known whether there is any provision in any enactment that the State Chief Minister would become disentitled to hold that office on account of his speech on the floor of this House or on account of his having contravened the provisions of the Constitution. Further, the special prerogative of his House does not appear to have been transferred to any other body.

As I require some time to examine all these questions, till I give my final decision in this matter to this House. Hon. Thiru M. G. Ramachandran, as a member of this House and Chief Minister need not submit himself to the summons received by him from the High Court and he also need not enter appearance in the Writ Petition in compliance with the notice received from the Court.

I would give my ruling on this question within a week and place the same before the House for its decision. As the Government of Tamil Nadu has also been impleaded as the second Respondent in this Writ Petition I cannot comment anything about the Government complying with the notice of the Court. In this connection, I would like to make it clear, that it is upto the Government to decide in any way as it deems fit in its capacity as a Government.

III

5-4-83

HON'BLE SPEAKER'S RULING

On the Writ Petition filed by Thiru N. Veeraswamy, M. L. C. against the Chief Minister, I informed this House about my interim ruling in the matter. After a deep examination of the question, I have come to the following decision :—

Article 194 of the Constitution of India reads as follows :—

“ 194 (2) No Member of the Legislature of the State shall be liable to any proceedings in any Court in respect of anything said or any vote given by him in the Legislature.....

Hence, it is the fundamental right conferred on either House of a State Legislature and no Court can take any action or prosecute any member in respect of anything said or any vote given by him in the Legislative Assembly or Council. Whoever does not recognise this right of this House and questions or whoever attempts to contravene or diminish this right he would be committing a contempt of this House. No Court has any jurisdiction or right to question or prevent this privilege.

In order that a State Legislature or the Parliament should function independently, the members thereof should have a right to speak independently without any fear or favour. This has been enshrined in Article 9 of the Bill of Rights which ensured the fundamental right of the Members of House of Commons in Britain in the year 1688. Article 9 thereof reads as follows :—

“ That the freedom of speech and debates in proceedings in Parliament ought not to be impeached or questioned in any Court or place out of Parliament.”
(May 19th Edition page 76-77).

The expression “ Proceedings in Parliament ” has a wider connotation and it does not restrict itself only to the speeches delivered in this House alone.

Articles 208 to 212 of the Constitution generally deal with the Procedure in the State Legislature. Article 211 is as follows :—

“211. No discussion shall take place in the Legislature of a State with respect to the conduct of any Judge of Supreme Court or of High Court in the discharge of his duties.”



Accordingly, in section 90 (vi) of the Assembly Rules has drawn a rule of procedure.

Next, “ Courts not to inquire into proceedings of Legislature.” This has been laid in Article 212 which is as follows :

“212 (1). The validity of any proceedings in the Legislature of a State shall not be called into question on the ground of any alleged irregularity of procedure.”

The validity of any proceedings of this House shall not be called into question in any Court or

by anybody outside in any other manner, for any irregularity of procedure in this House.

Therefore, no one could appeal to any Court in respect of proceeding of this House pleading any irregularity of procedure or for contravention of any Constitutional provisions including Article 211 of the Constitution. Nor can they (Courts) assume themselves an appellate jurisdiction over this House.

Further, no proceeding could be initiated against any member on the ground that he has contravened the provisions of the Constitution while speaking on the floor of the House. Such a provision is not only incorporated in the Constitution but has been clarified and affirmed by High Courts and the Supreme Court. It is but appropriate to quote a few of them :

In a case between *Surendra v. Nabakrishna* in Orissa State in the year 1958 (A. I. R. 1958 Orissa 168), a suit was filed against the Chief Minister of Orissa for contempt of Court as he spoke derisively about the Orissa High Court. The speech which was in dispute was delivered by the Chief Minister of Orissa on the floor of the Legislative Assembly in Oriya language. An English translation of the extract of his speech is given below :

"I cannot say definitely. Even if we validate past actions yet in connection with what is likely to happen in future there may be necessity of going to the Supreme Court. At present our Constitution is new, the High Court is new. In many instances (Aneka kshetrate) the immaturity of the High Court is apparent. In many instances, the decision given by the High Court has been corrected by the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court also held that in many instances the High Court has abused (apa byabahar) the powers given to it."

Although this was construed to as a contempt of the Orissa High Court, as the speech of Chief Minister was delivered on the floor of the Legislative Assembly, it had the full immunity under Article 194 (2) of the Constitution of India and the High Court held that no action could be taken against him though it was a clear case of contempt of Court. In para 20 of the Judgement of that Court, it is mentioned as follows :

"Whatever that may be, the language of clause (2) of Article 194 is quite clear and unambiguous, and is to the effect that no law Court can take action against a member of the Legislature for any speech made by him there. That immunity appears to be absolute."

In 1964, in the conformation which arose between the Legislative Assembly of the Uttar Pradesh State and the High Court of that State, the President of India referred the matter under Article 143 of the Constitution of India for the opinion of the Supreme Court. (Special reference No. 1 of 1964). A Bench of Seven Judges of the Supreme Court was constituted to hear the reference. 6 Judges of the Bench gave a majority opinion. While Justice Sarkar, although he agreed

with the final opinion of the majority of the Judges, has given independent dissenting reasons for his opinion. Although they have not fully accepted the privileges of the State Legislatures, as enshrined in the Constitution of India even their restricted opinion has accepted this privilege and some excerpts are as follows :

"(32) Having conferred freedom of speech on the legislators, clause (2) emphasises the fact that the said freedom is intended to be absolute and unfettered. Similar freedom is guaranteed to the legislators in respect of the votes they may give in the Legislature or any committee thereof. In other words, even if a legislator exercises his right of freedom of speech in violation, say, of Article 211, he would not be liable for any action in any court. Similarly, if the legislator by his speech or vote, is alleged to have violated any of the fundamental rights guaranteed by Part III of the Constitution in the Legislative Assembly he would not be answerable for the said contravention in any Court.

If the impugned speech amounts to or becomes actionable or indictable under any other provisions of the law, immunity has been conferred on him for any action in any Court by this clause. He may be answerable to the House for such a speech and the Speaker may take appropriate action against him in respect of it; but that is another matter. It is plain that the constitution makers attached so much importance to the necessity of absolute freedom in debates within the Legislative chambers that they thought it necessary, to confer complete immunity on the legislators from any action in any Court in respect of their speeches in the Legislative Chambers in the wide terms prescribed by clause (2). Thus, Clause (1) confers freedom of speech on the legislators within the legislative chamber and clause (2) makes it plain that the freedom is literally absolute and unfettered.

"65. We are not impressed by Mr. Seervai's arguments. The fact that Article 211 appears under a topic dealing with 'Procedure Generally', cannot mean that the prohibition prescribed by it is not mandatory. As we have already indicated, in trying to appreciate the full significance of this prohibition, we must read Articles 211 and 121 together. It is true that Article 194(2) in terms provides for immunity of action in any court in respect of a speech made by a member or a vote given by him in the Legislative Assembly. But this provision itself emphatically brings out the fact that the Constitution was anxious to protect full freedom of speech and expression inside the legislative Chamber, and so, it took the precaution of making a specific provision to safeguard this freedom of speech and expression by saying

that even the breach of the Constitutional prohibition prescribed by Article 211 should not give rise to any action. Undoubtedly, the Speaker would not permit a member to contravene Article 211 ; but if, inadvertently, or otherwise, a speech is made within the legislative chamber

(Continued on page 25)



NOTHING LIKE SILK

K. S. Sripathi, I.A.S.,
Director of Sericulture.

Silk is gold. It has survived, inspite of the onslaught of man-made fibres through ages. Silk industry continues to be the lowest energy consumer industry compared to all synthetic fibres. The man made fibres have their own advantages being the product of latest industrial and technological developments. Silk goes back to the farthest antiquity and has kept its place as a thriving industry through the centuries and has been posing great challenge to the synthetic fibre industry despite all the resources of scientific and technological achievements in that field. The production of synthetic fibres is facing a lot of problems by way of escalation of cost and other such factors. The demand for natural fibres has increased and is likely to increase further.

The global demand for raw silk is estimated to be increasing at the rate of 5 % per annum. Since the production has gone down in major producing countries like Japan, as a result of industrialisation and shortage of agricultural labour, an agriculture country like India with plenty of cultivable land and idle labour has got immense potentialities for increasing the production. The declared policy of Government of India is to double the production of silk by the end of Sixth Plan.

Tamilnadu is one of the major consumers of raw silk in the country. The estimated requirement of raw silk by the handlooms sector in the State is 10 lakhs/Kgs. per annum and the present production is only about 2 lakhs kgs. Therefore there is an immense scope for stepping up production in

the State. The Government of Tamilnadu is very keen on attaining self sufficiency in silk production. By forming a separate Department of Sericulture with the Headquarters at Salem, the Government of Tamilnadu have heralded a new era and the State is preparing itself for a giant leap towards achieving this goal.

Sericulture is a highly labour-intensive agro-industry and is an ideal tool to generate useful rural employment. As mulberry is a hardy plant, it enables the sericulturists to have modest crops of cocoons even during drought seasons and thus insulate the poor agriculturists against total financial ruin when there is a failure of monsoon and consequent failure of other agricultural crops.

The important activities taken up by the Department of Sericulture for the allround development of the industry are

- i) Subsidised supply of mulberry seedcuttings.
- ii) Stipendiary training to farmers for three months at monthly stipend of Rs.150/- and supply of scientific tools worth Rs.300/- at 50% subsidised rate.
- iii) Rs.500/- per acre being 25% subsidy towards purchase of silkworm rearing appliances.
- iv) Rs.750/- per acre being 25% subsidy for construction of silkworm rearing shed.
- v) Rs. 1100/- being 50% subsidy per basin

towards cost of machinery and building for establishing small scale silk reeling unit of 4 basin, 5 basin, 6 basin capacity.

Apart from the above financial assistance, the department is providing the following technical services also.

Technical guidance for mulberry cultivation and silkworm rearing through extension workers.

Supply of quality silkworm seed (layings) at fair prices.

Distribution of chawkie worms (young stage worms) for increasing the yield.

Marketing facilities for cocoons and silk.

As a result of various development measures taken by the Government, the industry has spread almost throughout the State. The mulberry acreage has increased from 11460 acres in 1976-77 to 55042 acres by the end of February 83. The Silkworm seed production and raw silk production have also increased manifold. It has generated additional employment to 2.75 lakhs persons in rural areas.

Apart from continuing the financial and technical assistance to farmers and small scale silk reeling units, the Department has created infra-structural facilities such as Demonstration - cum-Training Centre, District Sericulture Centres, grainages, Chawkie Rearing Centres etc. The capacity of existing grainages were considerably increased and 4 new grainages were started during this period. Additional Cocoon Markets and technical service centres were established. 3 Modern Chawkie Rearing Centres were started. Licences were issued for 1312 additional cottage basins in the private sector during the period. 26 additional Silk Reelers Industrial Co-operative Societies were started. 100 graduates and 350 under graduates were trained at the Government Training School started during 1979-80 for training personnel, required for implementing the schemes. During 1982-83, a TRIMESTER Diploma course in sericulture has been organised



at the Tamilnadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore and 40 graduates have been trained so far. The production of silkworm seed, disease free layings, cocoons, and raw silk has appreciably increased during the year as is evident from the table.

A trial programme of introduction of Bivoltine rearing was taken up during 1981-82 in Coimbatore, North Arcot, Periyar, Salem, and Dharmapuri Districts during favourable seasons. Encouraged by the results, the programme was continued during 1982-83 also. About 10,000 farmers have been identified for rearing of Bivoltine layings.

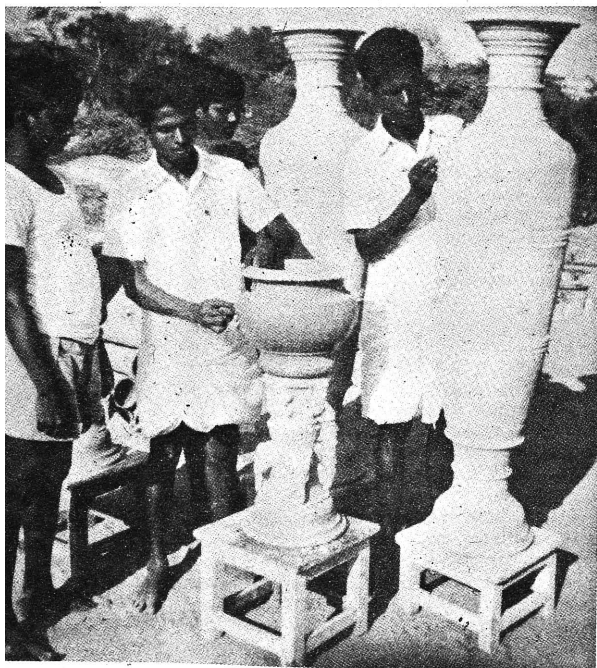
The policy of the State Government is to continue to assist this agro-based industry which has proved to be a boon to the drought prone and energy starved rural areas in the State.

TABLE

	79-80	80-81	81-82	82-83 (upto Feb.83)
Area under Mulberry (in acres)	31470	40961	47042	55042
No. of farmers engaged in Sericulture Industry.	41000	54000	63000	76000
Employment Generation (cumulative)	1,57,350	2,04,355	2,39,540	2,75,210
Production of DFLS. (in Lakhs)	60.12	64.14	65.65	97.00
Production of cocoons (in lakhs Kgs.)	14.75	18.40	27.53	26.00
Production of raw silk (in lakhs Kgs)	1.06	1.49	1.51	1.50
Production of Bivoltine layings (in lakhs)	0.50	0.67	1.48	6.26
Production of Cocoons (in lakhs Kgs)	0.18	0.23	0.52	2.00

In India there are more than 15 Lakhs Traditional Potters engaged in the production of terracotta wares. Out of these 15 lakhs, 1.03 lakhs artisans are occupied in Pottery industry in Tamilnadu. An average Indian traditional potter is backward, socially and economically.

The ancient Craft of Pottery, though embodying high level of traditional skill, still permits these artisans to lead a life of misery and poverty. Therefore it is no wonder that the children of potters are keen to take other vocations for better life. This may result in depletion or even death of their fascinating skill to the detriment of national wealth. It will be particularly tragic in view of the fact that there is definite need and ever expanding scope for pottery. Of course, with the expansion of mechanised pottery, especially glazed white ware pottery, now traditional persons also taking to pottery as their profession is in increasing numbers.



But it will be much more desirable to preserve and improve upon the unique skill of pottery by encouraging the offsprings of traditional potters to modernise their industry and make it more paying and attractive. It can be done by using modern science and technology in a judicious manner. Scientific and innovative extension programmes including the arrangements for demonstrations and on the spot training may also pave the way for modernising this industry.

The Government of India and the Government of Tamilnadu are taking keen interest in the upliftment of potters. The Khadi & Village Industries Commission and the Tamilnadu Khadi & Village Industries Board, have organised numerous programmes for the development of the pottery industry. These have thus far covered mainly the following aspects :

1. Propagation of improved tools and equipments.
2. Propagation of improved kilns.
3. Encouragement to diversify production.
4. Financial assistance to set up new units.
5. Providing of training facilities.

So far, 66,000 pottery artisans have benefitted from out of the schemes enumerated above. The remaining lakhs are yet to be benefitted through our help. Therefore, the Government is taking active steps to extend all possible assistance to the artisans and particularly to those who are living below the poverty line.

The following financial assistance is made available



C. N. Rajendran,
Chief Executive Officer

ble by the Tamilnadu Khadi & Village Industries Board under Village Pottery Industry every year.

I. INDIVIDUAL POTTERY UNITS : (HOME UNITS)

For	Rs.	Rs.
1. Improved tools and wheel	300	1437.50
		as grant.
2. Construction of workshed & kiln sheds	2500	
3. Working capital	1000	2462.50
		as loan



4. Miscellaneous expenditure.	100
	<u>3900</u>

II. For shaila wheel (power driven wheel (single phase) ..	3066	1533 grant 1533 Loan
III. For setting brick clamp unit:	10,000	Entire amount is working capital loan

The above said loan amounts has to be repaid in 4 equal instalments in 5 years. At present 4% interest is being collected for the loan amount.

Many efforts have been made to develop the village pottery industry through our schemes. Tremendous improvements have been made in processing, introduction of new techniques and modernisation of tools and equipments. Better facilities have been ensured to the potters, who are generally scattered, by organising them together through cooperatives. A good number of potters, who were eking out a precarious existence, were assisted by the Tamilnadu Khadi & Village Industries Board to undertake diversified production like building materials, glazed white ware etc., for which the demand has been growing, thereby enabling these potters to earn better wages.

As an illustration, the improvements introduced by the Khadi & Village Industries Board in the potter's wheel, has resulted in increasing their production capacity and average earnings as shown in the chart given below :

Potter's wheel	Cost of wheel Rs.	Average Indian potters earning capacity perday. Rs.
1. Traditional wheel	30	1.50
2. Improved wheel with ball bearing	300	3.00

3. Power driven wheel (shaila wheel)	3066	5.00
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Time saving and energy saving are also there in the power-driven wheels.

Training in pottery is arranged by the Khadi & Village Industries Commission and the Tamilnad Khadi & Village Industries Board. "Master Pottery" training course for a period of 5 months to 10 months is conducted in the Regional Pottery Training Centre, Sevvapet, Chingleput district. Candidates in the age group of 18 to 35 are eligible to join the course. Traditional artisans are given first preference for the training. A sum of Rs. 150 per month is being paid as stipend during the training period. To and fro II Class fare is also being paid to the Trainees from their homes to the training centre. In addition to the training programmes in the Regular Training Centre, Pottery Demonstration squads are also functioning in all districts. Each squad consists of a Technical Instructor and Potters Training is being given at the door steps of potters by the pottery demonstration squad. Improved implements are shown to the traditional artisans. New shaping methods are taught to the traditional artisans. In this way the spot demonstrations are carried out in the potters colonies.

SPECIAL SCHEMES DURING 1982-83 :

The Tamilnadu Government has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 7,68,000 on a cent percent subsidy basis to establish one store ware pipe unit at Sevvapet in Chingleput district. More than 50 Pottery artisans will get full time employment, in this modern pipe manufacturing unit.

General orders of the Government of Tamilnadu for the Welfare of Potters in Tamilnadu :

- Pottery artisans are allowed to take upto 800 Cart loans of sand/clay or both without paying seigniorage charges from the Government Poramboke lands.
- The Government have also issued instructions to reserve suitable clay occurring sites free of cost for the benefit of potters.

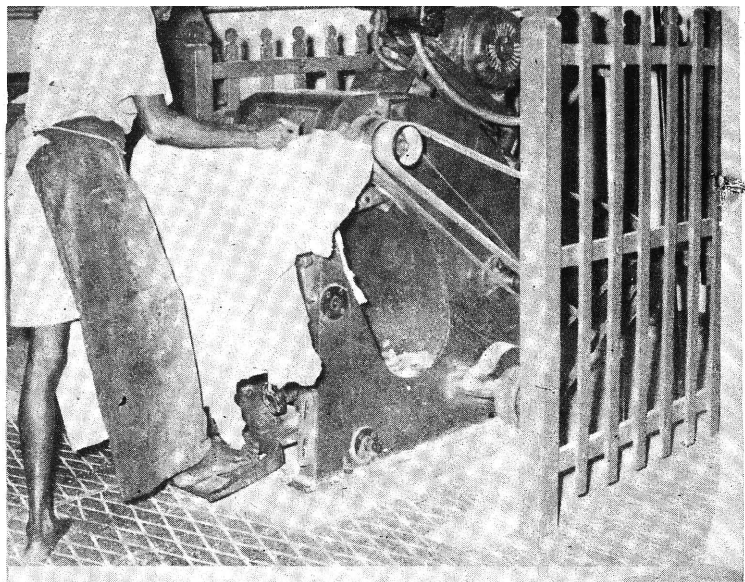
The future of Indian Pottery is no doubt bright. All that is required is imagination, perserverance, devotion and ability to keep pace with the changing times.

Man has known for thousands of years the art of dressing the skins of animals to preserve them and to make them soft and flexible. The early cavemen had discovered that the skins could be made into foot covering and clothing. It is no surprise therefore that the use of leather and leather articles figure in our ancient literature.

The hides and skins of all animals can be tanned. Cattle hides are by far the most important raw material for tanners. But the skins of calves, sheep and goats are also tanned on a large scale. Other types of leather are provided by skins of reptiles such as snakes, alligators, and lizards.

Today leather is important for its use in shoes. Leather is also exceedingly important for other uses, such as industrial belting for power transmissions, harnesses and saddles, gloves, jackets and other clothing, luggage, upholstery and sports equipment.

The use of leather to protect oneself from the cold in the cold countries is widely practised. Gloves and closed shoes are considered essential items of wear.



The unique insulating properties of leather are useful in making leather garments. In the cold countries there is a great demand for leather clothing. This is highly significant for our country. Since India is one of the biggest producers of goat and sheep skins that are

most suited for production of garment leather.

Leather a foreign exchange earner :

India has a fine tradition in the exports of leather and holds an





important place on the leather map of the world. It earns a sizeable amount of foreign exchange and occupies the second place in the list of export commodities. Export of leather alone earned Rs. 415 crores in 1981 by way of foreign exchange, representing 76 percent of our total exports in that year.

India has been exporting E. I. tanned hides and skins which used to be the raw material for the importers in the west. Today, the pattern of leather export is slowly changing. The contents of finished leathers and leather manufactures in exports has been steadily increasing.

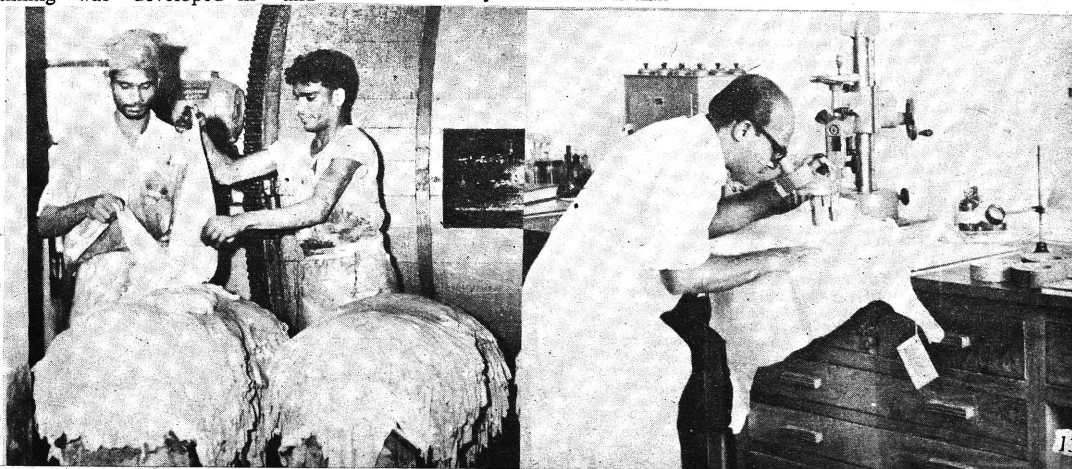
Tanning is one of the oldest crafts known to man. A unique process known as East India (E.I.) tanning was developed in and

around Madras about 200 years ago. The products viz., E. I. semi-tanned leathers are exported from India to all parts of the world, specially the developed countries where they are much sought after. The E.I. tanned goat and sheep skins of superior quality are especially prized in the western markets where they are converted into sophisticated leather goods. East India tanned leather is famous all over the world. The tannage is peculiar to India and cannot be duplicated elsewhere. Good tensile strength is a characteristic of hides and skins tanned in India. Tanning in India has been raised to the level of an art.

The predominant tanning areas are in and around Madras and in certain other centres like Ranipet Peranampet, Vaniyambadi, Ambur, around Katpadi and Vellore, Erode, Dindigul and Trichy. There are about 375 tanneries in these centres

Special significance of the Leather Industry in the State is that

this industry not only contributes in highest foreign exchange earning in the country but also plays an important role in the economy of the State by employing over approximately 5 lakhs workers mostly from the weaker sections of the community. This State has been originally exporting mainly semi finished leathers which is known as E. I. Tanned (Vegetable Tanned) hides and skins. The Government of India in their International Trade Policy imposed severe restrictions on the export of semi finished leathers by introducing quota system and also levying export duty at the rate of 25% in two stages. This was introduced during 1973. The intention of the Government of India in bringing restriction was to encourage the export of finished leather and leather manufactures instead of exporting semi finished leathers. Tamil Nadu has received the change in the policy of Government of India inspite of initial difficulties faced by the trade. Since 1973, the Leather Industry in Tamil Nadu has entered into a



new era of diversification from semi finished leather to finished leather. Tremendous development has taken place in modernising the tanneries with sophisticated machineries for producing finished leather to international standard. The infra-structure available in the State helped the industry to switch over from semi finished leather to finished leather. The leather industry in the State did not stop with the diversification for finished leather production alone, but started diversification from finished leather to footwear and leather goods. So far, four factories have collaborated with foreign firms to start manufacturing of finished shoes. They are :

1. Indo-Italian Footwear Corporation, Madhavaram.
2. South-East Footwear Factory, Ambur.
3. Florind Shoes (Pvt.) Ltd., Ambur.
4. Madras Shoe Fabric, Ranipet.

Besides, many other tanners have switched over to the manufacturing of Closed Shoe Upper mainly for export purpose.

The finished leather industry in Tamil Nadu is also assisting the finished products manufactured in the whole country by making available the required finished leather for their products. Thus, Tamil Nadu Leather Industries does not only play a very significant role in the earning of available foreign exchange for the Country, but also helping the finished products industry to develop in the Country.

Assistance from State Corporations :

The assisting organisations i.e. the State Corporations with diversified assistance programme is also helping the tempo of progress of the Leather Industry in the State.

Sidco :

The Tamil Nadu Small Industries Development Corporation Ltd. has provided the following sheds for the Leather Industry in different areas.

Ranipet—17 Nos. Ambattur—13 Nos., Guindy—5 Nos. (on rental basis).

The financial involvement in the 30 sheds at Ranipet and Ambattur is around Rs. 45.00 lakhs. One functional Industrial Estate for finished leather and leather goods is also functioning at Madhavaram,

which is in the vicinity of Madras. 24 Workshop sheds have already been allotted and 5 more sheds are under construction. Tamil Nadu Small Industries Development Corporation have also in its offering two more functional Industrial Estates, one at Erode and the other at Ambur.



T. I. I. C.

The Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation is also assisting the Leather Industry by giving concessional term loans both in rupee and foreign currencies. It had made its beginning even during 1957. But the major utilisation have started from early 70's. The T. I. I. C. extends assistance for the conversion of semi finished leather into finished leather and for the manufacture of leather goods from finished leather. The T. I. I. C. extends assistance both for small and medium scale units. The maxi-

mum loan assistance that can be considered for a proprietary/partnership industrial units is Rs. 15.00. The corporate bodies that is private limited companies, public limited companies including co-operative societies can have the assistance upto Rs. 30.00 lakhs. The assistance by Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation for the year 1981-82 (Upto October, '81) for 18 units is Rs. 54.10 lakhs.

The Corporation has also participated in equity capital aggregating Rs. 10.50 lakhs in respect of three units.

SIPCOT :

The State Industries Promotion Corporation is also assisting the Leather Industry in the form of term loan etc.

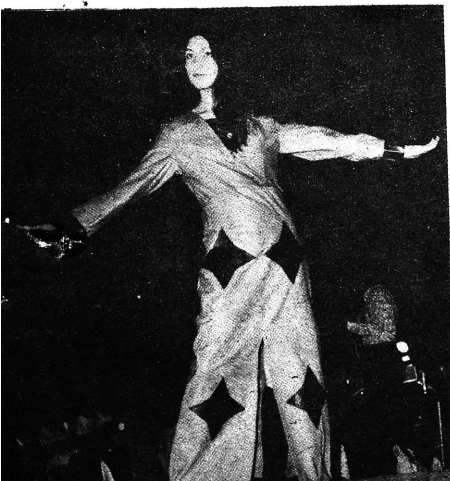


The SIPCOT also has contributed substantially for the growth of Leather Industry in the State which is to the tune of Rs. 3.29 crores.

TIDCO :

Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation is also playing its role in the development of the Leather Industry in the country. TIDCO has also established one tannery at Ranipet which is known as Inter Continental Tannery which produces about 4. to 5 lakhs pieces of goat and sheep skins annually for 100% export. The unit will produce about 9 lakhs pieces annually when it reaches the full capacity. At the moment, the Company employs about 100 workers and with full capacity the employment potential is for 150 workers.

Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation has also started the Tamil Nadu Chromates and Chemicals at Ranipet which produces the main tanning chemical for the Leather Industry (i.e.) B.C.T Powder and Sodium Dichromate. The cost of the project is Rs. 191.00 lakhs and the TIDCO's share is Rs. 10.40 lakhs. The employment is around 550 workers. The TIDCO is now starting another joint venture company which is known as Madras Shoe Fabric with American Collaboration. The Company is expected to produce about 6.00 lakh pairs of Industrial Boots per annum with its full capacity. The financial participation of TIDCO in this company is Rs. 8.45 lakhs. This Company is expected to go into production by April '82. There will be an employment of 300 workers in the Company.



With all this, it can be seen that the State Government is all out to improve the prosperity of the Leather Industry with an objective to provide substantial employment to the weaker sections of the society and also to improve the economy of the Country.

Leather Development Corporation:

Tamil Nadu State have also formed a Leather Development Corporation for assisting the Leather Industry in an appropriate manner. This Corporation will start functioning very soon. The broad outline of the programme of the Leather Development Corporation is envisaged as follows :

- (a) To start Service Centres in all the areas wherever concentration of tanneries are available which are Ranipet, Dindugal, Ambur, Pernambut, Erode etc.
- (b) To start Service Centres for assisting the leather goods and footwear industry in potential areas.
- (c) Providing package programme for the manufacturers in cottage industries by providing raw material and cut components to them and marketing their products.
- (d) Organising design and development centres and providing technical consultancy service to the small tanners and footwear and leather goods manufacturers.
- (e) Creating more of Industrial Estates or Complexes particularly for the leather and leather auxiliary industries.
- (f) Providing maintenance, services to the small tanners to maintain their machineries as well as common effluent treatment plants.

There will be many other programmes which can be adopted by the Leather Development Corporation for the benefit of the Industry in the State depending on the problems the Industry may face.

Nucleus Centre for Leather and Leather Products :

It has been announced by the



Government of India to offer incentives and assistance for setting up of Nucleus Leather Complex in backward areas. Dindugal in Tamil Nadu has been identified as a centre for the Nucleus Complex. The following functions are envisaged in the Complex. This project has also been approved of by the Government of India.

- (a) A collection centre of raw hides and skins.
- (b) Units for finishing of leather and manufacturing finished products like leather goods, shoe upper, footwear etc.
- (c) Raw material (Finished Leather) and grinders bank for providing to the small manufacturers of finished products.
- (d) Design development and testing laboratory.
- (e) Training Centres.
- (f) Common Service Centres for finished leather and leather products.
- (g) Common Effluent Treatment Plant.

This Complex will be a model for developing such Nucleus Complexes in other areas after its successful implementation. All the different units suggested will have linkage with each other for exchange of different requirements.

News

Thiru S. D. Somasundaram, Minister for Revenue North Madras. Tmt. Sulochana. Sampath, Chairman, Slum Clearance Board was also present on the occasion.



Dr. Manmohan Singh, Governor of the Reserve Bank called on Thiru M. G. Ramachandran, Chief Minister on 7.3.'83 at Madras.

in

Pictures



Dr. Mahadir Mohammed, Prime Minister of Malaya who visited Madras on 6.3.'83 was presented with a Thanjavur plate by Thiru K. Rajaram, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. Thiru C. Aranganayagam, Minister for Education, Dr. H. V. Hande, Minister for Health, Tmt Gomathi Srinivasan, Minister for Social Welfare were present on the occasion.



Thiru Abdul Karim, President of the Maldives was received at the Airport on 10.3.'83 at Madras by Thirunavukkarasu, Minister for Industries.

TRIBES of Palani hills

Madurai District is one of the biggest and the most prosperous and popular districts of the Tamilnadu State. Madurai city is the second capital of the Tamilnadu State and it was the centre of activity in the field of Art and Culture right from the very early ages. It was the capital of the Kingdom of Pandians who ruled this part of Tamilnadu and the imprints of their glorious rule are seen all over the District, from the left over gopurams, temples, mandapams, inscriptions etc.

Likewise, Madurai is also famous for its religious activities apart from its social and cultural holdings. The famous Meenakshiamman temple at the urban level stands gigantically with splendid architectural style, while on the rural side on the hill, stands the famous Palani temple, dedicated to the Lord Muruga, which attracts numerous pilgrims all over India at all seasons. Just lower to the Palani Hill, as an extension of the Western Ghats, stretching over to many miles are the Low Palani Hills or Cardamom Hills. These hills are the abodes of the tribes such as Muduvans, Paliyans, Pulayans, Mannas, Kattunaiyakans, Irular, Sholagas and Paniyans.

Muduvans live in clusters of about fifteen families at a village namely the Thambiran Pullukudi, about fifteen kilometers from the main hill bus stop of Kuran-kani Hills. The houses situated on the slopes, are built with mud plastered walls and thatched sheets covered by wild grass. Unlike other agricultural tribes of Tamil Nadu, they do not have lands of their own for cultivation. Both the sexes are employed as labourers in the hillslope

estates of coffee, lime, oranges, pomogranates and receive daily wages of Rs.4.50 paise or a measure of rice for men and Rs. 3- or three fourth of a measure of rice for women. Their staple food is ragie and rice too, apart from the tubers and honey which they collect from the forests. They domesticate cattle, fowls, and dogs and secondarily they are given to hunting, especially the wild boar, by using noose and automatic traps. The men use both the simple bow and the pellet bow while hunting.

The Paliyans are noted for their dwellings, especially they still live in caves in Thenmalai region of the

N.Devasahayam
Curator for Anthropology,
Govt. Museum, Madras.

hill Sirumalai in Madurai District. However they are scattered and are sandwiched in between the estate plantain gardens and the forests. The hill estates are mainly of plantains, lime, pomogranates, jack fruits, gouvva etc., and they are employed in these estates as labourers for planting the seedlings, removing the weeds, cutting the plantain leaves and fruits when ripe and for these types of work they get Rs. 22 per week. The other minor jobs are collecting honey from the trees and from the rocks and valleys by using long ropes, the operation at times is quite risky and dangerous. The gourd vessels are used by them for collecting





honey. They catch rats with indigenous automatic but simple traps and in their leisure time they roam about in the forest collecting roots and tubers.

Mention must be made here of the memorable meeting of one Alagar, a veteran Paliyan in Iyanthumarathupallam village in Sirumalai Hills at his lonely residence in the midst of a plantain grove. Even at the age of 120 and after a fourth marriage he looks young for his age and is active in directing and lending a hand in all the operational duties of the entire joint family.

The establishment of a new tribal village—the V. S. R. Puram, near Pannaikadu in Kodaikanal Hills is quite interesting. With the formation of a local "Service Club" (an allied branch of KHIDS-Kodai Hills Institute of Development Services) by a group of dedicated and educated youth from the plains, to uplift the poor and down trodden Paliyans, funds are raised and thus ten Paliyan families were resettled in the newly built brick houses.

With the aid and grant from the Government, the KHIDS now runs a creche in V.S.R. Puram, a balvadi a residential hostel for the poor tribal and rural children and a tailoring institute for young rural girls in Pannaikadu village.



The Pulayans of Thandigudi Hills of Madurai are in a better position since they have got a group of new concrete houses (10) built by the Government by the side of Plains people of Mangalam Kombu colony, while the Pulayans of Kottakudi village in Kurankani Hills are still in their original thatched mud brick wall houses, giving a vivid picture of a typical tribal settlement with about 30 houses. Pulayans like Paliyans and Muduvans are employed as coolies, in ploughing, in removing the weeds in the fields, the men getting Rs. 6 and women Rs. 3 per day. They too do not have their own lands.

While analysing the "people and their works," there are certain similarities among all the three tribes, thus described. Firstly all the Low Palani Hills of the Madurai are not so high and they range between 2000 to 3600 feet above sea level. Further all the three hills are connected to the mainland by transport service. The tribes in these three hills are employed generally as labourers and they do not possess any individual piece of land. All the three tribes are shy no doubt like other typical aboriginals and there is no trace of marked impact of modernisation. Their culture seems to be pure, however, simple and there is no disturbances from outsiders. They are satisfied with what they have

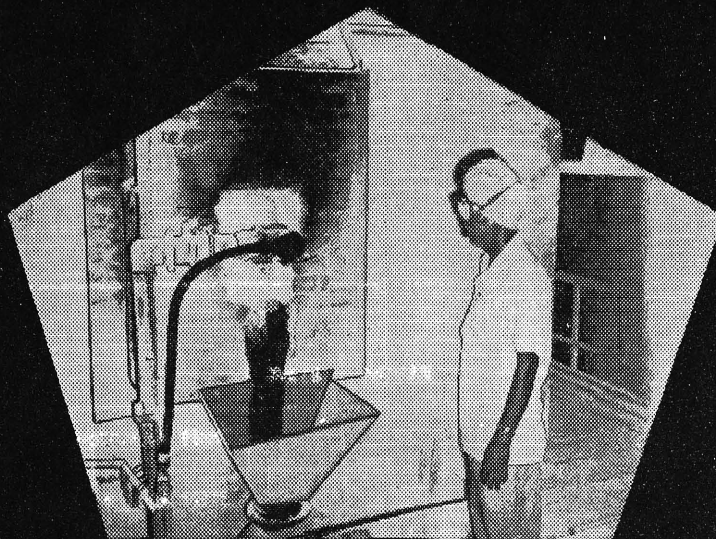


and what they earn every-day.

The marked difference is the absence of the LAMP (Large Scale Multipurpose Co-operative Societies) society in these three hills. The fact is that a lot of plains people as labourers are daily going over to the hills to work in the estates, probably work along with tribal labourers and also because of efficient transport service, the tribals also go over now and then to the plains for doing shopping, purchases etc. It is also ascertained that these hill tribals were once owning their lands in the hill forests but soon the plains-people coaxed them and for small sums of money their lands were purchased for establishing estates and finally the tribals were necessitated to go to still higher ranges in the hills, to the present areas where they are now residing.

Altogether about 50 ethnographic objects such as the chopper, knife, hoe, spade, digging stick, sickle, baskets, rat and squirrel traps, gourd vessels, simple and pellet bows were collected from the Muduvans, Paliyans and Pulayans of Madurai District, not only to enrich the Anthropological collections in the Government Museums at Madras and Madurai but also to depict in sequence the life and works of the hill-dwellers in one part of Tamil Nadu.

AN 80 CRORE PROJECT IN SUPPORT OF A GREAT FUTURE...



**Coming up from the producers of
one-third of the country's magnesite.**

Established in 1979, Tamilnadu Magnesite Limited, a Government of Tamilnadu Undertaking stand today as leaders in magnesite production in the country.

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This in addition to generating further employment in the rural areas.

Used primarily for refractory bricks in steel plants, magnesite is also used in animal feeds, fertilizers and railway and mosaic flooring.

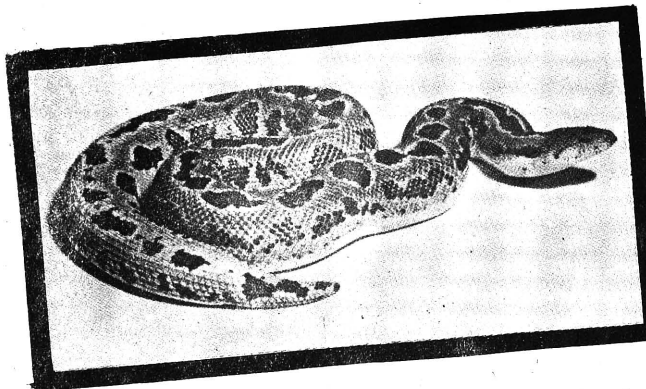
With a present monthly production of 10,000 MT, Tamilnadu Magnesite Limited is all set to achieve higher targets in the future



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ECOLOGICAL ROLE PLAYED BY

SNAKES

Plant and grain protection plays an important role in the growth of agricultural output. Rat Control, Lecust control and pest control etc. are important plant protection measures. In our ancient thought this economic aspect, i.e., control of rat population by snakes and the preparation of medicine for human welfare from snake venom has been highlighted and the snakes are venerated on two days in the year in some areas of the country as an act of thanksgiving. Nagpanchmi festival which falls in July-August i.e. sewing season and the Anant - Chaturdashi that falls in September i.e. at the time of harvesting of crop are the reminiscent of the old traditional agriculture-oriented operations.

W.H.O. has estimated in 1967 that if the rat population of the town of Bombay be controlled for one year it would save enough food to feed 9,00,000 (nine lakh) human beings for one year. According to a rough estimate 7 to 9 percent of damage to crops and grains in storage is being done by rats. An esti-

mate was made in 1962 at the Hattkin Institute, Bombay which revealed that in one year 21,000 persons were admitted to Bombay Hospitals for rat bites and only 4 for snake bites.

Snakes are natural predators of rat and keep a check on the rat population. One snake eats approximately 4 rats per week. Indiscriminate killing of snakes will definitely increase the population of rats as rats breed more quickly and frequently than snakes. Widespread use of rodent poison is not economically viable for our poor farmers and is also injurious to health and the environment. During the monsoon when the fields are full of water, no amount of rodent poison can prevent the rats from damaging crops in the fields. The use of cyanide as burrow fumigant in the barns and godowns to kill rats is also not possible during this season. It is snakes that control the rat population at such times. In fact in Australia live snakes are put in some godowns of foodgrains to kill or scare away the rats. Dr. Pradhan, Head of the

Entomology Department of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, had proposed a scheme in 1970 to import snakes and lizards from Africa with the help of the Canadian Government for releasing them in Rajasthan deserts to control locust nymphs.

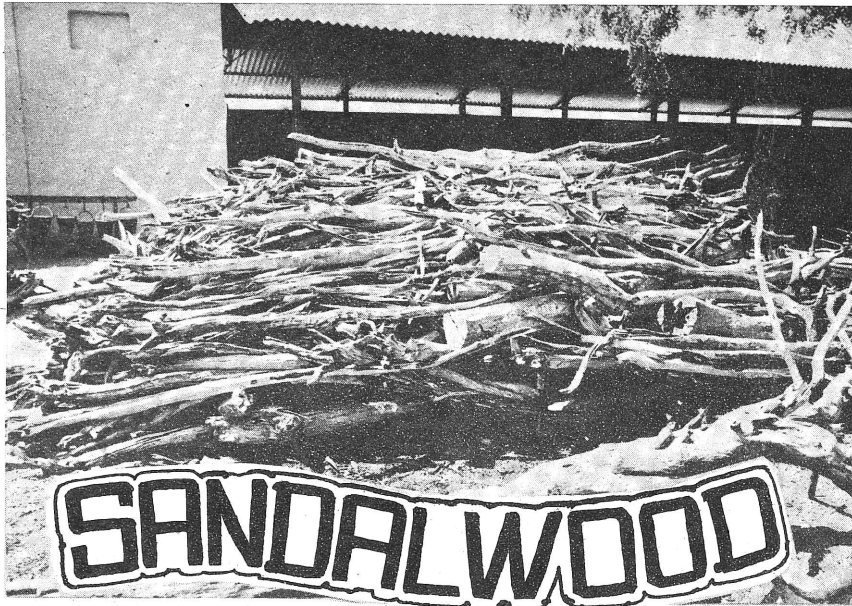
Plague which is carried by rats, killed more than 1 crore human beings during 1894 to 1947. Increase in rat population will not only cause increased damage to food grains but is also dangerous to human population as it spread many diseases, including plague. Rats must, therefore, be controlled and predators like snakes are one of the cheapest way nature has devised to keep the rat population in check.

Ours is a developing country and we are getting urbanised speedily. With the growing population and its need for more land, the forests are getting reduced. The commercial exploitation of forest resources is another cause of disturbances to the forest ecology. The rapid aggression and increased disturbances in the forest habitats has been the prime cause for the decline of Wild-

life. The ecology in the forests in India are today seriously threatened due to these human interferences. The snakes play an important role in maintaining the ecological balance in the forests. Wanton killing of snakes in the scarce forest lands would further endanger wildlife in the country.

Breeding and rearing of snakes in captivity is not feasible and success is only possible in very rare cases. For these reasons it is not possible to achieve breeding on a large scale for commercial exploitation even if it was thought to be desirable.

Snake skins and their products are in great demand in the world market. These also fetch highly remunerative and attractive prices. The trade, therefore, has a tremendous incentive to export snake skins and products made thereof. Such attractive prices however, are not available in the domestic market. If export trade is resumed, it is likely to have a very adverse affect on the population of snakes in the country leading to consequential damage to agriculture, general environment and ecology.



earnings fill the coffer

M. Ramachandran,
District Forest Officer.

Sandalwood as a source of fragrance and medicinal value is well known, right from very early times. There are many references to it in our ancient literature, where it is often associated with religious rites and also as a specific in the treatment of diseases.

The tree '*Santalum album*' as it is botanically nomenclatured, is commercially known as the East Indian sandalwood. At present its occurrence is confined only to our country and it is mostly restricted to Karnataka and Tamil Nadu States.

In Tamil Nadu, sandalwood is found in large quantities in the districts of Nilgiris, Coimbatore, North Arcot, Salem and Dharmapuri and occurs scattered in the districts of South Arcot, Tiruchirappalli, Ramanathapuram & Tirunelveli.

Exploitation of sandalwood is confined only to dead trees. The death of trees may be due to natural causes or disease. Such trees are exploited from the forests and transported to the sale depots at Sathyamangalam where they are cleared off their sapwood and stored for sale. It is the heartwood of this tree that possesses the essential oil responsible for the fine fragrance, and not any other part of the tree. The oil is obtained from the sandalwood by steam distillation and the essential constitute about 90% to 95% of the oil. A yield of oil varies with the different parts of the tree, from about 2.5% in some of the stem portions to 7% in the root portion. Thus it is the root that contains the highest percentage of oil. About 95% of the sandalwood produced is converted into sandalwood oil and the bulk of it is exported abroad where it is used as a base in perfumery and in the manufacture of soaps and to some extent for medicinal purposes.

Sandalwood on date contributes about crores to the state exchequer apart from the foreign exchange to the country. This is a very valuable asset to the state. Therefore, it is of paramount importance that this gift of nature to us is nurtured, maintained and improved, so that it will continue to serve its cause by the state and the country.

The Sandalwood trees which were elevated to the status of 'Royal Trees' during the period of Sultan's domain, comprises of two working circles (viz) the Reserve Sandal working Circle and Village Sandal Working Circle in this division. The trees come under the above two working circles are enumerated & extracted as per the prescriptions of the Working Plan and transported to the Government Sandalwood Depot at Sathyamangalam for further processing. In addition to the Sandalwood Tree from this Division, trees from other forest divisions like Tirunelveli, Ramnad, Madurai South and North, Trichi, Pollachi, Erode and Nilgiris North and South are processed here for sale.

PROCESSING IN THE SALE DEPOT :

As soon as the uncleaned Sandalwood trees are received, a test check regarding the measurement of the trees is made by the Single Lock Officers with reference to the entries in the invoice. After bringing the consignment to stock Form 'A' Register, the uncleaned wood are rough cleaned initially. The work of rough cleaning is chipping off the sapwood (leaving a thin layer of sapwood) and other foreign materials like stones, earth etc., from the sandalwood trees. The length and girth, of rough cleaned pieces of each tree are measured,



Press Reporters viewing the sandalwood tree

weighed and recorded in the E & C Form. Separate weightment is made for Roofs, trunks & billets of each rough cleaned trees and accounted for in stock register Form 'B'. The sapwood, chips and sawdust are also weighed for each consignment and recorded.

Final cleaning involves of removing the remaining thin layer of sapwood and other impurities found in the hollows of the pieces. Only the billets without any defects are planed smooth and the chips obtained in the process are kept separately. Similar entries, as done in the case of rough cleaned wood, are made in E & C Form and Stock Register Form 'B' in respect of final cleaned wood also.

The final cleaned sandalwood is classified according to their respective length, girth and weight.

After observing the following formalities, the final cleaned sandalwood is accounted in Form 'C' Register and added to the Stock of Double lock godown.

(i) As soon as the wood of each consignment is ready the officer will reconstruct all the trees and satisfy

himself that no part is missing.

(ii) Hammer mark the pieces with his hammer.

(iii) Classify the wood.

(iv). Weigh each class of wood and enter them in the stock Register of the sale Depot in Form 'C'.

(v) Furnish the required certificates in form B & C.

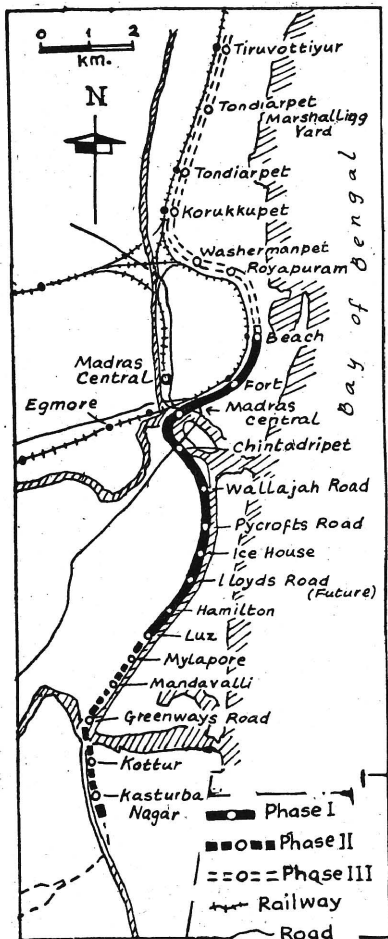
The annual stock verification is done by the District forest Officer.

The sandalwood thus stored in the Double Lock godown is sold in Public auction twice in a year i.e. during July and December. Merchants from all over India participate in the sale which comprises a major revenue of the Forest Department.

After confirmation of the sale by the Government of Tamil Nadu, the consignment is delivered to the purchaser duly affixing the hammer mark of the delivery officer.



RAPID TRANSIT SYSTEM



The Planning Commission has approved the Rs. 54 crores project for laying a 8.4 km mass rapid transit system (MRTS) in Madras, from Beach to Luz.

The Railway Ministry, which has been awaiting for the Planning Commission clearance since December 1980 is now seeking the formal approval of the Union Cabinet for the execution of the project. Work is expected to begin during 1983-84.

The project will open up a commuter railway service through one of Madras heavily traversed corridors, running north-south on the city's eastern edge and connecting such population concentrations as Mylapore, Triplicane and the central business district.

An estimated six lakh passengers are likely to use this train service every day, when it is commissioned some six years from now.

Besides helping to relieve the congestion on the roads in and around the central business district as also on Mount Road, the train service will itself provide a rapid way of hopping across the city. The electric trains will cover the 8.4 km. route in 17 minutes, compared to the 30 minutes that the Pallavan Transport bus takes to go from Luz to Parry's Corner in peak hour traffic.

The engines and coaches to be used on this rapid transit system will be similar to the ones plying on the broad gauge suburban railway operating out of Madras Central station. Interrunning of trains is therefore quite feasible, and it is conceivable that a commuter could pick up a train at Luz and travel all the way up to Gummidipoondi or Trivellore.

Eight stations :

There are to be eight stations along the route, the track being set at ground level for about 3 km and on elevated structures for the rest of the way. The line will run alongside the Buckingham Canal between Luz and Adams Road.

The Tamil Nadu Government has already extended its support for the project by agreeing to hand over the Government land needed for the scheme free of cost.

Courtesy -The Hindu.

which contravenes Article 211, the Constitution-makers have given protection to such speech from action in any court. The House itself may and would, no doubt, take action against him.

"66. It is also true that if a question arises as to whether a speech contravenes Article 211 or not, it would be for the Speaker to give his ruling on the point. In dealing with such a question, the Speaker may have to consider whether the observations which a member wants to make are in relation to the conduct of a Judge in discharge of his duties, and in that sense, that is a matter for the Speaker to decide. But the significant fact still remains that the Constitution makers thought it necessary to make a specific provision by Article 194 (2) and that is the limit to which the Constitution has gone in its objective of securing complete freedom of speech and expression within the four-walls of the legislative Chamber."

So, inspite of the fact that Article 211 of the Constitution of India prevents any discussion taking place in the Legislature of the State with respect to the conduct of any Judge of Supreme Court or of a High Court in the discharge of his duties, if any member happened to discuss about it on the floor of the House in contravention thereof, it is only the Speaker who could prevent it and no Court could take cognizance of it. This is the clear-cut opinion given by the Supreme Court in its opinion.

Justice Sarkar in his judgement has very clearly stated that under Article 194 of the Constitution of India, all the powers and privileges ensured to the Members of the British Parliament have been ensured to the Members of the Indian Parliament and the State Legislatures.

(174) Before I part with the present topic I will take the liberty of observing that it is not for us to start new ideas about the privileges of the House of Commons, ideas which had not ever been imagined in England. Our job is not to start an innovation as to privileges by our own researches. It would be unsafe to base these novel ideas on odd observations in the judgments in the English cases, torn out of their context and in disregard of the purpose for which they were made. What I have quoted from these cases will at least make one pause and think that these cases can furnish no sure foundation for a novel theory as to the right of the House of Commons to commit by a general warrant"

Further, in 1979 in a case between Thiru Subbiah and the Karnataka Legislative Council, a similar question was sought to be raised. This writ petition was not admitted even at the admission stage itself on the ground that it related to the proceedings of the Legislative Council and so it was dismissed *in limine*. (*Subbiah v. Karnataka Legislative Council* (A.I.R. 1979 Karnataka 24). Some excerpts of the judgment delivered in that case are given below and I think that they would be appropriate to this question.

".....The Presiding Officer of the

House is the supreme authority with regard to the regularity or otherwise of the proceedings. The question whether a member while exercising his freedom of speech has contravened Article 211 or any other provision of the Constitution is a matter which falls within his exclusive jurisdiction as observed by the Supreme Court and that the Courts have no say in the matter. This Court cannot go into that question and express any opinion on it. Hence, the question of sending for the records and quashing any such proceedings does not arise.

14. It is unfortunate that an occasion has arisen in this Court to hear a case of this nature. But at the same time the Court cannot take any action which interferes with the immunity which a member has been granted under Article 194 (2) of the Constitution merely because what he may have said is in violation of Article 211 of the Constitution. Was it not Voltaire who said like this "I do not agree with you, but I will fight for upholding your right to disagree with me till the end of my life." In the same spirit, this Court which has a special obligation to uphold Article 194 (2) of the Constitution and the immunity guaranteed to the members of the Legislature thereunder, leaving it to them to uphold Article 211 of the Constitution in their deliberations. I am of the view that no action is called for in this case. The petition is dismissed."

I cannot elucidate this question more clearly than this.

Likewise, a case came up to the Supreme Court in *Tej Keran v. Sanjiva Reddy* and others A. I. R. 1970 SC. p. 1573. In that case, the followers of His Holiness Puri Sankaracharya have filed for damages against Thiru Sanjeeva Reddy, the then Speaker of Lok Sabha and the Home Minister Thiru Y. B. Chavan and certain other Members of Parliament on the ground that in a call attention notice in Parliament some Members spoke defaming His Holiness Puri Sankaracharya and claimed a compensation of Rs. 26,000/- in a defamation suit. The Delhi High Court dismissed the suit on the ground that such a suit was not maintainable. Against the orders of the Delhi High Court an appeal was filed in the Supreme Court. While rejecting the appeal, It stated as follows in para 8 of the Judgment thereof :—

"8. In our judgment it is not possible to read the provisions of the Article in the way suggested. The article means what it says in language which could not be plainer. The article confers immunity *inter alia* in respect of "anything said in Parliament." The word "anything" is of the widest import and is equivalent to "everything". The only limitation arises from the words 'in parliament' which means during the sitting of Parliament and in the course of the business of Parliament. We are concerned only with speeches in Lok Sabha. Once it was proved that Parliament was sitting and its business was being transacted, anything said during 25

the course of that business was immune from proceedings in any court. This immunity is not only complete but is as it should be. It is of the essence of Parliamentary system of Government that people's representatives should be free to express themselves without fear of legal consequences. What they say is only subject to the discipline of the rules of Parliament, the good sense of the members and the control of proceedings by the Speaker. The Courts have no say in the matter and should really have none."

This will equally apply to State Legislatures,

So, what emerges from the decisions of the Courts is this : These two institutions viz. the Judiciary and the Legislature should admit and respect the rights of each other and also one should protect and uphold the rights of another. In case any irregularity in procedure takes place in the Legislative Assembly it would not be proper for the Court to entertain suits filed on the basis of the proceedings of the Assembly. This has been made clear.

In the discussion on the Governor's address which took place on the 2nd February 1983 Hon'ble Chief Minister only commented on the functioning of certain Courts in general and did not seek to discuss the conduct of any Judge in the discharge of his Judicial duties.

This House votes the salaries of the High Court Judges and all its administrative expenditure. As these items are charged items, these items are not voted. Though the House has no right to reject those items of expenditure, this House has full right to discuss these items.

However, only to ensure that the discussions should not exceed the bounds, they are completely obviated. While so obviating, I would like to clarify at this juncture that the House imposes itself a self restriction or denial and not on the ground that it does not have any right to discuss them at all.

Therefore, when a question arose about the appointment of a Chief Justice of the supreme Court of India in 1973 there was a detailed discussion on the 2nd May 1973 in Parliament about that appointment. If we look into the proceedings of the Parliament, we could see how several members spoke about the way in which Courts functioned in a manner obstructing the several social welfare measures and other Legislations passed by the Parliament. Thiru H. N. Mukerjee who participated in those discussions averred as follows :—

"The alacrity with which the Court admit writ petitions against Government measures of take-over, the way dishonest employers are treated leniently for attacking the workers and are given back factories inspite of proved fraud and misdemeanour of different descriptions, the way their dishonesty is sugarcoated when their cases are pleaded by black money-grabbing and eminent jurists—some are occasionally found even in this House all these

vividly show that at last class policies are being cleverly quoted in velvet legal phrases and are being assisted by the judicial process as is administered in our country today (Col. 362-363 IS Debates May 2, 1973).

Moreover, the late Thiru Mohan Kumara Mangalam, the then Minister for Steel and Mines had expressed in Parliament as follows as to how policies and programmes of the Government were being put at naught by the Courts.

"..... Let us not forget the last six years of background of what can only be described as a confrontation between Parliament and the Government on the one hand and the court on the other. I do not think we should forget that fact. Some Hon. Members may feel that the court was right and we were wrong. That is not the point. The point is that there has been an atmosphere of confrontation. There has been an atmosphere in which the court looked at things in one way and we looked in another way....." (Col. 370)."

"Therefore the experience in the last six years has been an unfortunate one; in these six years we have had this conflict throughout step by step, in which there are two aspects which we have to bear in mind; one the uncertainty which was introduced into the very interpretation of the Constitution, so that we did not know whether tomorrow something else we did would or would not be set aside even where we proceeded on the every basis of the judgments of the Court itself; and secondly, major decisions of the Government and of Parliament in relation to major economic matters being set aside by the Court one after the other....." (Col. 372).

Similarly, when Roosevelt was the President of the U. S. A., the New Deal Legislation

which he brought, were torn to pieces by the American Supreme Court. It would be appropriate to recall an excerpt of a speech of Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of United States of America.

"When the Congress has sought to stabilize national agriculture, to improve the conditions of labour, to safeguard business against unfair competition, to protect our national resources and in many other ways to serve our clear national needs, the majority of the Court has been assuming the power to pass on the wisdom of these Acts of Congress and to approve or disapprove the public policy written into these laws..... The court in addition to the proper use of its judicial functions has improperly set itself as a Third House of the Congress—a super legislature as one of the justices has called it—reading into the Constitution words and implications which were not there and which were never intended to be there. We have therefore reached the point as a Nation, where we must take action to save the constitution from the Court and the Court from itself..... We want a Supreme Court

which will do justice under the Constitution not over it. In our Courts we want a Government of laws and not of men."

Thus the state Legislatures have a right to express their views about the consequences of Judgments of High Courts and Supreme Court or about their functioning. It is left to the Hon'ble Speaker to allow such discussion or disallow them and no Court could take any action against such proceedings. When no suit could be instituted in any Court, against a Member for the speech delivered by him on the floor of the House, it is also not possible to take any action against a Minister or the Chief Minister by alleging that he has contravened Article 211 of the Constitution and any other Articles thereof in a speech on the floor of the House. The Oath of Allegiance taken by him that he would discharge his duties according to the provisions of the Constitution and that he would protect and preserve the Constitution. The High Court Judges and Supreme Court Judges also take Oath of Allegiance in the same manner as Ministers take oath of allegiance to uphold the provisions of the Constitution. Just as a Chief Minister—is sought to be disqualified to hold the office of Chief Minister by the very similar oath of allegiance to the Constitution the Judges are also expected to protect, preserve and uphold the privileges and immunities of this House and of every member guaranteed under Article 194 (2). Hence, if any one approaches the Court with questions of this sort and if the Court comes to know that the cause is based upon a speech made on the floor of the House or it relates to the proceedings of the House, the Courts should immediately reject those petitions even at the stage of admission itself on the ground that process of Courts would not be permitted to be used against the privileges of Members and this House. It is only in this manner, that the case filed by Thiru Subbiah in the Karnataka High Court in 1979 was rejected by that High Court even at the admission stage itself.

By so doing the respect and tolerance between the Judiciary and Legislature would not only be mutually upheld but the same would be enhanced in the estimation of the people in respect of both the institutions. On the other hand, if these two bodies engage themselves, in confrontational attitudes I need hardly say both would fall in estimation of people. Although the Courts are

aware of all these things, it is a matter for regret, sometimes cases are admitted on the plea to examine whether the Legislature really possesses such privileges.

As far as I am concerned, the writ filed against the Chief Minister, the speech delivered by him on the floor of this House is not in any way violative of Article 211 of the Constitution. Even if it is violative, it is against the Constitution to initiate any action against him in any Court. That will not only affect the rights and privileges of this House, but it would also be a gross contempt of this House.

If a Court holds that a legislation enacted by a State Legislature or the Parliament is *ultra vires* of the Constitution and therefore it is not valid and thereafter is it open to any one to say that the Legislature or the Parliament which enacted the impugned legislation has contravened the Constitution of India by enacting such legislation and that the Members of the Legislature thereby failed to protect the Constitution as affirmed by them in their Oaths of Allegiance and therefore all of them have forfeited their seats either in the Legislature or Parliament? If anyone raises such a question would it be proper or appropriate? The present writ petition is similar to this, even if for arguments sake it is deemed to have violated Article 211 of the Constitution and thereby he has no right to continue in office.

Further, as already declared by me on 30-3-83 so long as the Ministry retains the confidence and support of this House, it could continue in office. On the other hand, unless the Courts transform themselves as the Legislatures, they cannot vote the Chief Minister out of office having contravened certain provisions of the Constitution. So, I hold, following precedents and privileges followed in Parliament and other State Legislatures under similar circumstances and also in pursuance of the privileges of this House, the Hon'ble Chief Minister shall not appear in Court and argue this case. But law Officers of the Government should bring it to the notice of the Court about the special privileges guaranteed in the Constitution of India for the State Legislatures and impress upon the Court the need to dismiss the case against the Chief Minister which is based on the proceeding of the House.

(Relevant Extracts of proceedings and the Ruling of the Speaker.)





"It is a crime against God and man to call the union of children a married state"

Mahatma Gandhi

The Mahatma was one of hundreds of enlightened people who fought to abolish early marriage. This was a brutal custom by which little girls, physically and mentally immature, were given away in 'marriage'.

The early bride's life was one of total dependence on her 'husband', emotionally and economically. Childbirth was a serious danger to her health, and even her life. And she faced the terrible possibility of early widowhood, followed by Sati, or joyless, degrading years of a widow's existence.

To put a stop to this vicious circle, and to give women their due status in society, Raja Ram Mohan Roy spearheaded the social reform movement with a demand for the abolition of Sati, which was effected in 1829. This was followed by the recognition of the right of widows to remarry. And then by Acts raising the legal age for marriage.

In today's context, women's rights and welfare are particularly important.



The Hindu Marriage Act, the Indian Christians Marriage Act and the Child Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Acts currently in force, set the minimum age for marriage at 18 for a girl and 21 for a boy.

Violating the Acts is a cognizable offence. The penalty: fine, imprisonment or both. And such a marriage is legally void.

Early marriage has no place in a society that is working towards an improved status for women through better education, social awareness, and improved employment prospects. It has no place in a nation that faces an alarming population growth, and holds family welfare as one of its 'National Objectives'.

The 1981 census forecasts that our population will cross 100 crores by the turn of the century. This fact brings the importance of family planning into sharp focus.

The Tamil Nadu Government's efforts to promote family planning programmes have shown results - a growth rate of 17.23%, the lowest in the last decade.

Early Marriage. It's illegal.
Minimum age for boys 21, for girls 18

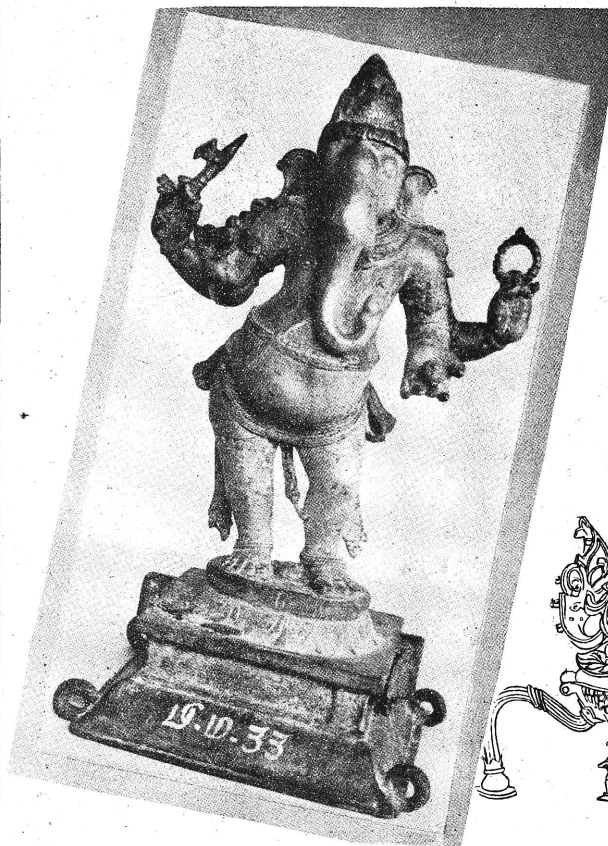
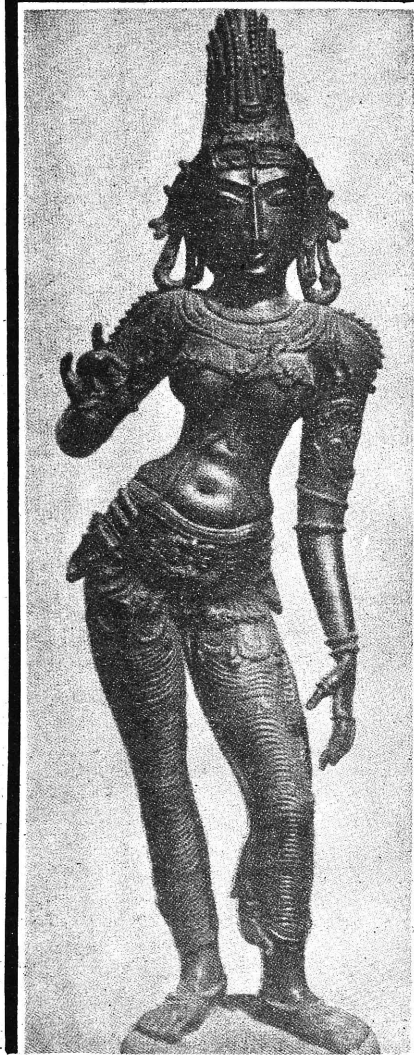
Issued by
Health and Family Welfare Department
Government of Tamil Nadu, Madras.

artistic skill of **DRAVIDIANS**

The people in ancient Tamilnadu used metal, wood and stone as medium of expression of certain ideas. Their fascination for art and literature and love of Nature as well found fruition in creation of exquisite art works in stone and bronze. This creative art was highly patronized by temples and kings.

The contribution of Tamil kings like the Cholas, the Pandiyas and the Cheras to temple art and architecture as visual manifestations of Dravidian aesthetic perception and artistic skill, is highly commended by historians and chroniclers of arts. The use of metal to foster religious art became very popular, resulting in casting of several hundred bronze images for worship and festivals. The temples, the most beneficent institutions of society, gave new impetus to the development of the fine arts including Sculpture, Music and Dance. People cherished the democratic ideals and institutions. The village life was happy and peaceful. The village Assemblies protected temple property, art and culture. Such conducive social life and royal patronage were responsible for flowering of temple art.

An exhibition of the masterpieces of early South Indian Bronzes was held during the recent non-aligned summit in Delhi. A message from the souvenir.



**UNRIVALLED IN
FORM AND
ELEGANCE**

The earliest representation of the Art of making figures in metal goes back to the third millennium B. C. in India, when the glorious Harappan civilization was flourishing on the banks of the river Indus, in the North West of India. Russian, Finnish and Indian scholars working with aid of computers, have come to the conclusion that the Indus Valley Civilization is Proto-Dravidian. The Dravidian contribution to metal art, especially in the dancing girl from Mohanjodaro, is a marvel in the Ancient world. Ever since, Dravidian artists have contributed immensely to the enrichment of bronze casting. In the extreme South of India, on the banks of the river Tamiraparani, the ancient village Adichanallur, has yielded outstanding figures made of copper representing a mother goddess, animals and birds ascribed to 7th century, before Christ. The Sangam literature of the Tamils refer to the artists working in various media, including metal, in ancient capitals like Kaveripoompattinam, Madurai and other centres. The Tamil artists have specialised in sculptural art, carving images in stone, from about the beginning of the 7th century A. D. when hard granite outcrops cut into Monolithic rathas as found at Mamallapuram. Even the temple looks like a sculpture designed and carved by the Pallava artist at places like Kanchi. With the advent of the Cholas, from the end of the 10th century to the

end of 13th century, an era of great flowering in the field of literature, art, music and dance was ushered in sculptures reaching 14 to 16 feet in height are found in the temple of Tanjore and several hundred stone temples with exceptionally beautiful sculptures are found all over the Tamil country, dating back to Chola age particularly from 10th-11th century A. D. The sculptures at Gangaikondacholapuram and other Chola temples, witness the height to which the art reached. The main emphases laid by the Cholas on the sculptural art, extended beyond the medium of stone. Several thousand bronze images were made and consecrated in the temples for performing worship and procession. Such a large volume of metal images speak of the ability of the Tamil people and also the importance given to the artists specially by the Chola rulers which has undoubtedly received the admiration of the entire world. The creation of the image of Nataraja, which is almost in every Siva temple, is considered as one of the greatest contribution of Tamil genius to World's aesthetic thought. In form, in proportion and in elegance, they stand unrivalled. The long tradition of making metal images, for over 2,000 years, is found nowhere in the world, consecrated with such religious fervour. The festivals, in which these metal images are carried attract millions of people all over the Tamil land as a living faith.



An exhibition of the masterpieces of early South Indian Bronzes was held during the recent non-aligned summit in Delhi. A message from the souvenir.



NOTIFICATION
SALE OF FOREIGN ASSIGNMENT
REGISTRATION FORMS

THE Foreign Assignment Division of the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms, Government of India, maintains ready lists of experts in various fields of specialisation for nominating suitable candidates against the vacancies reported by various developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America from time to time.

These lists/Panels are maintained for enabling the Department to process quickly the requirements of the foreign Governments and avoid delay in filing nominations. The eligibility conditions for a registration of experts on these panels are as under:

- (i) Experts should have a minimum degree or higher level qualifications in their fields of specialisation;
- (ii) He/She should have minimum 3 years professional experience; and
- (iii) The Persons should be less than 60 years of age.

In the past, the registration forms for Foreign Assignments were being supplied only by the Foreign Assignments Sections of the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms from New Delhi.

It has since been decided by Government of India to price these forms at Rs.5/- each for enrolling names on the assignments to the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. The sale of application forms will be made through Government of India Sales Emporium at L.L. Auditorium, Anna Salai, Madras-2, various Sales Depots/Counters of the Department of Publications of the Government of India and Prominent private Agents dealing with Government of India Publications.

The applications will also be available for sale at the Tamilnadu Government Publication Depot, 317, Anna Salai, Madras-2 and at the State Information Centre, Madras-2.

PERSONNEL & ADMINISTRATIVE
REFORMS (TRAINING) DEPARTMENT,
Government of Tamilnadu.

(Issued by the DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS,
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