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‘Remember sacrifices of freedom fighters, build new India’

Independence Day Message of the Hon'ble
Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** for
15th August, 2013 (English Translation)

I offer my hearty Independence Day greetings to you all on this day that marks India's liberation from the shackles of British imperialism.

Mahakavi Bharathiar proclaimed to the world India's culture of unity in diversity by asserting that the people lived with a sense of unity despite the diversity of religion, language and race. In one of his immortal songs, he asserted that despite having as many faces as the members of its population, India had a single breath, and despite speaking in different languages it had a single mind. In the freedom struggle, selfless tyagis all over the country sacrificed their lives and property for India's independence. We have to honour their sacrifice, safeguard the independence they bequeathed us and live unitedly shunning caste and religious distinctions for the prosperity of the nation.

Tamil Nadu has a heroic history of several tyagis who had laid down their lives for the freedom of India. Your beloved sister's Government has raised memorials for them, not only to honour and pay tribute to them but to remind future generations of their sacrifices. You all know well that the Government has been executing several measures for tyagis like pension, family pension, enhanced medical allowance etc.

India can be turned into a super power and Tamil Nadu, the foremost state if we interpret the world 'independence' as 'duty' rather than 'right', and act accordingly. ■



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“Freedom has several dimensions including freedom of speech and expression, education, employment, and thought. True independence can be defined as the art of bringing out the potential in each individual without allowing socio-economic factors to curb it.”

- Selvi J Jayalalithaa
Hon'ble Chief Minister

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I Wrapper

Hon'ble Chief Minister **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** presented Laptops to students who got the first three ranks in the 10th and 12th standard Government public examinations and congratulated them. (26.6.2013)



‘Achievements in Education, Medical care, Agriculture and Industry’

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

Selvi J Jayalalithaa's Speech after hoisting the National
Flag at Fort St. George on Independence Day on 15.8.2013.
(English Translation)

Hon'ble Speaker of the Legislative
Assembly, Hon'ble Ministers, Chief Justice
(in-charge) of Madras High Court,

Judges of the Madras High Court, Parliament
and Legislature Members, Chief Secretary
to Tamil Nadu Government, Government
Officers and employees, Director General
of Police, Police officers and other police
personnel,

Respected Elders, Ladies, my veritable
gods who sustain me, My dear siblings who
are Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivar MGR's
blood unto blood and are dearer to me than my
own life,

At the outset, I offer my affectionate good
wishes and Independence Day greetings to
you all. I feel proud to hoist the flag on this
67th Independence Day. I extend my heartfelt
gratitude to the people of Tamil Nadu who
have given me this opportunity.

The word 'Independence' brings a sense
of pride and happiness in our hearts. It is
no exaggeration to say that the Poligars in
Tamil Nadu were the first to raise the
banner of revolt against the British. Among
them, the uprisings staged by Veerapandia



Kattabomman, Pooli Thevan, the Maruthu Brothers and Theeran Chinnamalai are significant. They indeed planted the seeds for the freedom struggle.

At the national level, several leaders like Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Annal Ambedkhar, and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose toiled for India's freedom. The role played by Tamils in the freedom struggle was great. Several leaders like Kappalottiya Tamizhan V.O. Chidambaranar Pillai, Mahakavi Subramania Bharathiyar, Tiruppur Kumaran, Theerar Sathyamoorthy, Subramania Siva, Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar, Annie Besant Ammaiyar, and Maaveeran Vanchinathan shed their blood and sacrificed their lives to secure independence for us from the British. I offer my salutations on this Independence Day to all the Tyagis who toiled for our freedom.

Freedom has several dimensions including freedom of speech and expression, education, employment, and thought. True independence can be defined as the art of bringing out the potential in each individual without allowing socio-economic factors to curb it.

Education plays an important role in tapping the potential of an individual. That is why education, bus pass, text books, note books, footwear, 4 pairs of uniforms, atlas and the

like are all provided free by my Government so that all can get education. Laptops are given to students in Higher Secondary Schools and colleges so that they can improve their intellectual powers. Students of 10th, 11th and 12th classes are given Rs. 5,000/- so as to completely eliminate the phenomenon of 'drop outs'. In the last 2 years alone, 1,075 schools have been upgraded. I am happy to announce that such steps taken by my Government have pushed up the students' enrolment in the State.

Along with school expansion, it is necessary for the required number of teachers for these new schools to be appointed. Taking this into account, 51,757 teachers have been appointed in the last 2 years.

To provide higher education to students in areas where there are not many colleges, 11 Arts and Science University-Affiliated Colleges and one Engineering College were started last year. Likewise, this year 12 Government Arts and Science colleges, 2 University-Affiliated Colleges, 3 Government Engineering Colleges, 11 Polytechnic Colleges, National Law School and Indian Institute of Information Technology will be started. Also, a Fisheries University, 2 Veterinary Colleges, 6 Livestock Research Centres and 2 Institutes of Fisheries Technology have been established.



Your beloved Sister's Government continues to take several measures to provide the best medical service to all the people of Tamil Nadu with the view that education should go hand in hand with physical well-being. In the last 2 years, 47 new Primary Health Centres have been upgraded into 30-bed hospitals. The scheme to test and provide continuous treatment for non-infectious diseases is implemented in all districts.

Under the Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Scheme, an assistance of Rs. 12,000/- the maximum in the whole of India is disbursed. This amount is given in 3 equal instalments, first during pregnancy, then at the time of delivery and finally after all the immunisations are administered to the child (Rs. 4,000/- each). This has brought down the mortality rate in mothers, infants and children. Under this scheme Rs. 1,339.36 crore has been disbursed to 15.31 lakh mothers till 31.7.2013.

Besides these, several other schemes like mobile hospitals, formation of Medical Services

Recruitment Board, upgradation of facilities in the 24-hour Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (CEmONC) centres, and emergency ambulance service are being implemented.

The Chief Minister's Comprehensive Medical Insurance Scheme designed to provide the best medical service to the poor and the marginalised is implemented at an annual cost of Rs. 750 crore. In the last two years, about 4.16 lakh persons have benefited to the tune of Rs. 916 crore through this scheme.

Also, several steps are being taken to increase the foodgrain production for ushering in the second green revolution in Tamil Nadu. Many new schemes such as 100 per cent grant to small and marginal farmers for micro irrigation, 75 per cent grant for other types of farmers; adoption of crop-wise modern technology, mechanisation of farming, providing farm machinery and other equipment on hire at low rates and establishing structures for re-charging ground water are being implemented.





Your beloved Sister's Government has taken several measures to improve the industrial growth of Tamil Nadu. Memoranda of Understanding have been signed with 17 companies and they are taking steps to start their industries here. Through this, more their 2 lakh job opportunities will be created. Orders have been issued to set up different industrial parks for industrialising south Tamil Nadu. Entrepreneurs who came forward to set up industries there, are given various concessions. Through this, industries will grow in those areas and employment opportunities will be created for lakhs of persons. My Government's transparent approach has brought about a revolution in the industrial sector.

The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India has submitted a report with the caption, "Achieving double digit growth rate in Tamil Nadu". It has said that the Government, the private and public sectors are

implementing 815 schemes costing Rs. 1.07 lakh crore in 2012-2013 alone. I consider it will be appropriate to point out at this juncture that the Prime Minister, while dedicating a unit of the Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. at Tirumayam has stated that Tamil Nadu was on the path to progress and it was a model for other states.

Even while undertaking development schemes, mixies, grinders and electric fans are distributed at no cost by way of protecting the interests of poor women. Under the Green House Scheme, 1.20 lakh houses have so far been constructed and assigned. Steps have been taken to construct 10,000 houses for weavers. Under the Indira Awas scheme, 2 lakh houses have been constructed and handed over in the last 2 years. Milch animals are distributed to improve the livelihood of rural people and usher in a "white revolution".

Pension under the social security scheme has been increased to Rs. 1,000/- from Rs. 500/-. Though my Government has been implementing several schemes to benefit the different sections of society, the people have been severely affected by the Central Government's wrong economic policy, petrol-diesel price fixing policy, nutrient-based fertilizer policy, foreign direct investment policy and reduction in the supply of the subsidised cooking gas cylinders. The prices of essential commodities are sky-rocketing on account of the fall in the value of rupee, and the frequent increase in the petrol and diesel prices effected by the Centre. Your Beloved Sister's Government has taken several steps to protect the poor and the down-trodden.

I have been taking several steps to curb price rise such as distribution of 20 kgs of rice at no cost under the Public Distribution System, supply of palm oil, toor dhal, urud dhal and sugar at subsidised rates, and supply of rice in the open market at Rs. 20/- per kilo through Amudham shops and co-operative establishments and special shops by way of market intervention. We have opened farm-fresh shops to link farmers and consumers through the co-operatives and the horticulture department to control the price of vegetables. Cancellation of the value-added tax on cooking gas and opening of Amma Restaurants in all Municipal Corporation areas to supply quality food stuff at reduced rates are also steps aimed at curbing price rise.



Now, the Central Government is bent on passing the National Food Security Bill in its present form to jeopardize the Public Distribution System in Tamil Nadu. If the Bill is implemented, Tamil Nadu will suffer a loss of about one lakh tons of rice in the quantum allotted for the public distribution system. Hence, I have requested the Central Government to incorporate suitable amendments. I firmly declare that the universal public distribution system will continue to be implemented in Tamil Nadu.

Apart from these, this Government has performed magnificently in establishing Tamil Nadu's rights like getting the final order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal published in the Central Government gazette, preventing the sale of NLC shares to private parties and arranging for their purchase by Tamil Nadu public sector companies, and advancing forceful arguments on behalf of Tamil Nadu in the Supreme Court in the Mullai



Periyar issue. In the same way, I believe we can establish our rights over Katchativu also.

To honour the leaders who fought for Independence, memorials and statues were erected during my rule at different periods. This Government has extended several concessions to tyagis. I am happy to announce that their pension will be increased to Rs. 9,000/- from Rs. 7,000/- from 1.8.2013, and the family pension to their heirs will be increased to Rs. 4,500/- from Rs. 3,500/-.

Once again, I extend the 67th Independence Day greetings to all who breathe the air of independence freely and with pride.

Tamil Nadu is my family; Tamil Nadu people are my children; their welfare is my welfare. I take leave saying;

Hail Bharat! Hail Senthamizh Nadu!

Anna Naamam Vazhga;

Puratchi Thalaivar MGR Naamam Vazhga!

Thank you, Vanakkam.



Hon'ble Chief Minister of
Tamil Nadu
Selvi J Jayalalithaa
laid a wreath at the War
Memorial on Rajaji Salai
on Independence Day
(15.8.2013), and paid homage
to army personnel who had
laid their lives for the cause
of the Country.



Deep dismay at decision to disinvest NLC Shares

D.O. Letter dated 22.06.2013 addressed by
Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to
Dr. Manmohan Singh, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

“I am writing to you yet again on the issue of disinvestment of the Central Government's shareholding in Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC). It is with a deep sense of disappointment and dismay that I took note of your letter dated 8th June, 2013, and the recent approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) for the disinvestment of 5 percent of NLC's shares. This is yet another instance in which the Central Government has ridden rough shod over the very legitimate and genuine concerns of the people of Tamil Nadu.

In my letter dated 23.5.2013, I had not only outlined the negative fallout of the decision to disinvest in NLC but had also offered two very feasible alternatives to overcome an artificially created regulatory crisis. I am deeply disappointed that the Government of India has dismissed both the alternatives without any serious consideration. I am surprised to find from your letter that signalling to financial markets has taken precedence over the welfare of thousands of workers and the concerns of the people of Tamil Nadu, as articulated by their democratically elected

Government. The Government of India appears to have placed the immediate possibility of raising just Rs. 466 crores by the sale of shares, above the aspirations of the people of Tamil Nadu to maintain intact the public sector character of NLC without any dilution. I wonder whether even the timing of the decision is well-advised given the recent fall in the share markets and whether the true value of the shares of a profitable Navaratna Public Sector Enterprise will be realised by the Government of India. The future should not judge the Central Government as having sold family jewels at throw away prices.

I find that the decision to go ahead has been taken without considering the consequences. You have mentioned in your letter that the management of NLC had already consulted the Trade Unions and Employees Associations and taken them into confidence. But almost all the Trade Unions have announced that they are planning agitations against the decision of disinvestment. The Central Government's hasty and poorly reasoned actions have left the Government of Tamil Nadu facing entirely avoidable potential labour unrest which could further exacerbate the difficult power situation in the State.

The NLC disinvestment issue should not be seen merely from the point of view of complying with the SEBI rules/guidelines or with sending out market signals. Rather, the wider ramifications must be kept note of. Hence, I hope that you will reconsider the matter in the light of the options I had already suggested in my earlier letter to avoid the proposed disinvestment in NLC.

I once again reiterate my request to reconsider the decision to disinvest 5 percent of shares of Neyveli Lignite Corporation and thereby fulfil the wishes of the people of Tamil Nadu to retain the public sector character of Neyveli Lignite Corporation without any further dilution.” ■



Centre urged to sell 5 per cent NLC Shares to Tamil Nadu PSUs

D.O. letter dated 25.6.2013 addressed by
Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to
Dr. Manmohan Singh, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

“The issue of disinvesting a further 5 per cent of the Government of India’s equity in Neyveli Lignite Corporation has been in the air for a number of years now. I had written to your predecessor on 22.4.2003 conveying my opposition to the proposed disinvestment in NLC. I had continued to oppose the disinvestment while I was in the Opposition in Tamil Nadu. I had written to you again on 23rd May, 2013, seeking reconsideration of the proposed disinvestment. I had outlined the potential ramifications and the likely negative fallout of the proposed decision. I had also offered some alternatives for your consideration to overcome the artificial regulatory crisis that has been created. You had replied on 8th June, 2013, indicating that it is not possible to reconsider the disinvestment.

According to media reports, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) also cleared the proposed disinvestment in NLC last week. Hearing of this, I had written to you again on 22nd June, 2013, highlighting the fact that the decision to proceed with the Neyveli Lignite Corporation disinvestment, completely brushing aside the legitimate apprehensions of the workers and trampling on the aspirations of the people of Tamil Nadu, has created an atmosphere of anxiety and uncertainty in the minds of the workers and the local people. This being a very sensitive issue, it has provoked almost all trade unions and they are in a highly charged mood and have announced a plan of agitation, including a notice for an indefinite strike from July 3, 2013. I am afraid that this unrest may spread and continue for a long



time, leading to the eventual shutdown of the power plants in Neyveli. You will appreciate that with Tamil Nadu already reeling under power scarcity, such a situation will badly hurt the State's economy and cause great hardship to the people.

While I still expect that the Government of India would reconsider the decision to proceed with disinvestment in NLC, there is an apprehension that the disinvestment would proceed under the recently amended "Offer for Sale" methodology prescribed by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) under which such a disinvestment could be executed with just one day's notice. Such a surreptitious move by the Government of India could seriously exacerbate the law and order situation in Tamil Nadu. Hence, I request you not to proceed in haste in this very sensitive and serious matter.

I believe that this situation requires an unconventional and pragmatic solution. Therefore, I propose that the 5 percent Government of India's shareholding in Neyveli Lignite Corporation be offered to one or more of Government of Tamil Nadu's State Public Sector Undertakings, such as the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO), State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (SIPCOT) and Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation (TIIC). Such entities fall within the meaning of "public" as defined under Rule 2(d) of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957. Offer of shares to them will ensure that Neyveli Lignite

Corporation will be compliant with Rule 19 (2) and Rule 19A of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules.

I find that since SEBI had earlier indicated to Neyveli Lignite Corporation that under its guidelines it is possible for the shareholding in Neyveli Lignite Corporation to be divested, inter alia, through an Institutional Placement Programme or through any other method as may be approved by SEBI, on a case by case basis, the mechanism I have proposed can be facilitated by SEBI. The above-mentioned Government of Tamil Nadu's Public Sector Undertakings come within the definition of 'Qualified Institutional Buyers' (QIBs) and hence would be eligible to purchase the shares of Neyveli Lignite Corporation under an Institutional Placement Programme. SEBI may be asked to work out a special arrangement for such a placement of shares of Neyveli Lignite Corporation with Government of Tamil Nadu's Public Sector Undertakings at the approved rate.

To protect and preserve the "public sector" character of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation and to assuage the feelings of the workers of NLC and people of the region, I am suggesting this offer of sale of 5% of shares of NLC to Tamil Nadu Government's PSUs. I request you not to sell this equity to any other private entity.

I am sure you will consider favourably this alternative proposal now suggested by me. I look forward to an early and positive response in this matter."

'Take fresh look at NLC disinvestment proposal'

D.O. letter dated 7.7.2013 addressed by

Selvi J Jayalithaa, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to
Dr. Manmohan Singh, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India



“One of the most emotive issues in Tamil Nadu today is the proposed disinvestment of a further 5 per cent of the Government of India’s equity in Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC). NLC is the largest Navratna Central Public Sector Undertaking in Tamil Nadu employing more than 25,000 persons and generating 2,490 MW of power for the Southern Region. The proposal for disinvestment of NLC’s equity has raised very serious apprehensions in the minds of the workers and has led to major labour unrest. The people of Tamil Nadu are also strongly in favour of preserving the public sector character of NLC. Hence, all along, any proposals to disinvest Government of India’s equity holding have been consistently opposed by political parties and the State Government of Tamil Nadu. **I had written to your predecessor as early as on 22.4.2003 opposing the proposed disinvestment.** Now, when the issue of disinvestment came up again, **I have written to you thrice on 23.5.2013, 22.6.2013 and 25.6.2013 on this matter**, which clearly indicates the great importance of the issue to the State of Tamil Nadu.

I have already pointed out that the justification for the disinvestment based on the so-called mandatory requirement as per the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957, after the amendments effected in 2010, is specious and artificially created. To overcome this situation, I suggested two options of either buying back the shares of NLC from the public and thereafter delisting the company from the stock exchanges, or of amending the relevant Rule in the SCRR, 1957, to grant a special exemption to NLC. Both were viable alternatives that the Government of India chose to dismiss. In fact, in a reply to me dated 8th June, 2013, you had indicated that the option of buying back the shares would send negative signals to the financial markets. It is a matter of great disappointment to all of us that signalling to the financial markets took precedence over the welfare of thousands of workers and the deep felt concerns and apprehensions of the people of Tamil Nadu. By placing the immediate prospect of raising Rs.466 crore from the disinvestment in NLC above the aspirations of the people of Tamil Nadu to maintain the public sector character of Neyveli Lignite Corporation, we feel that the Government of India has displayed its insensitivity.

I have repeatedly brought to your notice the labour unrest that the decision to disinvest would cause and the probable impact of such unrest on the precarious power situation of the State. Tamil Nadu has been undergoing a severe power deficit, which was an unpleasant legacy thrust upon the State by the previous Government. **The present Government, under my leadership, has strained every nerve to resolve the power crisis.** The cumulative power shortage of 4,000 MW left by the lassitude of the previous Government had to be tackled by my Government by systematically planning, executing and commissioning new projects. Owing to the concerted efforts of the present Government under my direct supervision, the Mettur Thermal Power project of 600 MW capacity, two units of the Thermal Power Project at Vallur of 500 MW capacity each, and the North Chennai Thermal Power Project Unit II of 600 MW capacity, have all started generating power. These and other energy conservation measures taken have now yielded results and the State is poised to overcome the power shortage. Tamil Nadu is now able to manage the power situation with least inconvenience to the people and industry.

At such a critical juncture, when the herculean efforts taken by my Government are stabilising the power situation in the State, the totally uncalled for stand of the Government of India on a strategic issue of the shareholding in the NLC has forced a totally avoidable strike in the Public Sector Undertaking. This could have a crippling impact on the power availability in the State and undo all the hard work done by the present Government to stabilise the power situation. Out of the generation

from NLC units of 2,490 MW, the share of Tamil Nadu is 1,178 MW. The labour unrest will result in Tamil Nadu not only losing this 1,178 MW of power, but also will prevent the State from drawing an additional 200 MW because of the consequential loss of inter-state transmission capacity of power amongst the Southern States. If the unrest persists, an additional power deficit of 250 MW may occur due to the non-availability of lignite for TAQA Independent Power Producer (IPP), a private sector lignite based power plant at Neyveli dedicated to Tamil Nadu, which depends upon NLC for its fuel supplies. These shortages will entail additional power cuts and suffering for the people of Tamil Nadu. Not only this, the entire South will be affected by the loss of about 2,500 MW, making the management of the Southern grid extremely difficult.

In my letter dated 25th June, 2013, **I had clearly outlined a solution by proposing that the 5 % Government of India's shareholding in Neyveli Lignite Corporation be offered to one or more of the Government of Tamil Nadu's State Public Sector Undertakings** like the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO), State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (SIPCOT) and Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation (TIIC) which come within the definition of 'Qualified Institutional Buyers' (QIBs) and hence would be eligible to purchase the shares of Neyveli Lignite Corporation under an Institutional Placement Programme. Such entities also fall within the meaning of "public" as defined under Rule 2(d) of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957. Offer of shares to

these Public Sector Undertakings will ensure that the Neyveli Lignite Corporation will be compliant with Rule 19(2) and Rule 19A of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules. It is learnt that SEBI had formally offered to the Neyveli Lignite Corporation as one of the options, the possibility of arriving at a special procedure on a case by case basis for the off-loading of shares by the Government of India. Clearly, it appears that working out an arrangement to offload 5 per cent equity, or even 3.56 per cent of the equity, to meet the target of 10 per cent, to Government of Tamil Nadu owned Public Sector Undertakings is something that SEBI can quite easily work out. The Government of India should immediately accept my proposal to sell the minimum

required equity under the relevant regulations to State Public Sector Undertakings of Tamil Nadu and also direct the SEBI to quickly work out the modalities of such a transaction.

The delay on the part of the Government of India will put the people of Tamil Nadu to extreme hardship, which I have tried very hard to avert by offering you a number of feasible alternatives to avoid disinvestment in NLC, even at a great financial cost to the State Government.

Therefore, I urge you to take a fresh look at the whole issue in the light of the viable suggestions which have already been made to you by me and to help avert this wholly avoidable crisis affecting the people of Tamil Nadu.” ●



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** held a review meeting with ministers at the Secretariat on 26.6.2013, on the distribution of no-cost dhotis and sarees for the Pongal festival of 2014.

Chief Minister briefs Prime Minister on modalities of buying NLC shares

D.O. letter dated 13.7.2013 addressed by
Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to
Dr. Manmohan Singh, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

“I have received your letter dated 12th July, 2013, regarding the disinvestment of a further 5 per cent out of the Government of India's equity in Neyveli Lignite Corporation. You have agreed that the suggestion I had originally made in my letter dated 25th June, 2013, and reiterated in my letter dated 7th July, 2013, of State Public Sector Undertakings that are Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs), buying the shares proposed to be disinvested in an Institutional Placement Programme is possible to implement.

You have requested the Government of Tamil Nadu to nominate a nodal officer to give final shape to the modalities of an arrangement so that the disinvestment of a portion of Government of India's equity in Neyveli Lignite Corporation in favour of Government of Tamil Nadu's State Public Sector Undertakings is completed by 8th August, 2013. In this connection, the Secretary, Disinvestment, Government of India, had already written to the State Chief Secretary on 6th July, 2013, requesting that a nodal officer be nominated on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu.


On my directions, the Chief Secretary replied on 7th July, 2013, nominating the Principal Secretary, Finance Department, as the nodal officer. I deputed a team of Government of Tamil Nadu officers comprising Principal Secretary, Finance; Principal Secretary, Planning and Development; and Joint Secretary, Industries, to New Delhi for discussions with the Secretary, Department of Disinvestment, on 10th July, 2013 at his invitation. The team had extensive

discussions on the various modalities of the disinvestment including identification of the State PSUs which are QIBs and eligible to participate in an Institutional Placement Programme (IPP); the appropriate manner of drafting the eligibility criteria in the offer document to ensure that the disinvestment is carried out in favour of these entities; the pricing formula and the time line for effecting the transaction.

The total quantum of disinvestment to be carried out was also discussed by the officials in the light of the regulatory requirements. I had already indicated in my letter dated 7th July, 2013, that, while the State PSUs would be prepared to buy the entire 5 per cent of the equity of NLC proposed to be disinvested, since 6.44 per cent of equity is already with the public, it would be adequate if only 3.56 per cent is offered for sale to meet the regulatory norm of 10 per cent public holding.

I have also directed the official team from the State Government to meet Government of India and SEBI officials in Mumbai on 15th July, 2013, to finalize the modalities of the transaction. I expect that the details of the structuring and execution of the transaction will be finalized in this meeting. This would be a positive development which I am confident would enable an early resolution of the labour unrest in Neyveli.

“I look forward to a positive outcome of the further discussions to be held on 15th July, 2013, between Government of Tamil Nadu officials, Government of India officials and SEBI and the early completion of the transaction.” □



HOW TAMIL NADU'S TAKE ON NLC SHARES TRIUMPHED

Statement of the
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Selvi J Jayalithaa
on 15.7.2013 (*English Translation*)

It is no exaggeration to say that the Neyveli Lignite Corporation has several achievements to its credit in the field of fuel energy in the last 57 years. It is playing an important role in the socio-economic development of the country and has set a high standard in quality management. It continues to earn profits and is one of the Navaratna units of the Indian Government.

It is unfortunate that the Central Government decided to sell the shares of such a glorious institution. People of Tamil Nadu made over the land for the Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC). Most of the employees there are Tamils.

This establishment has been earning profit on account of the labour of Tamils.

It earned a net profit of Rs. 1,460 crore last year. As Tamils are sentimentally attached to this establishment, they all have been opposing the sale of its shares.

I have been continuously opposing the Central Government's proposal to sell NLC's shares to private parties. When the Central Government wanted to divest the shares in 2003, I opposed it and wrote a letter to the then Prime Minister on 22.4.2003. After that, the plan was dropped.

NLC employees met me when the Central Government again tried to sell NLC shares to private parties in 2006. I supported their plea and the AIADMK staged a massive demonstration in Tamil Nadu opposing the Central Government's plan. Following this, the Centre abandoned its plan.

In this situation, the Central Government amended in 2010 the Securities contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957 facilitating public shareholding to the extent of 25 per cent in private institutions and 10 per cent in public sector units. The rationale for this amendment was ensuring liquidity in share markets, helping public shareholders in the listed companies get a fair price for their shares, prevent artificial manipulation of share prices and mitigate the volatility of the prices of shares. But only private companies can manipulate prices in the share markets. The Public sector units cannot do that. Hence, the policy of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) that the PSUs should limit their shares to 90 per cent and ensure 10 per cent public shareholding is wrong.

However the Central Government decided to shed 5 per cent of NLC's shares. When the media broke the news, I immediately wrote a letter to the Prime Minister on 23.5.2013, opposing the move. In that letter, I contended that workers would agitate even if a small percentage of NLC shares were divested, resulting in the stoppage of power generation and this would affect Tamil Nadu's interests. I urged the Prime Minister to de-list NLC in the share markets by buying back the 6.44 per cent public shareholding. In the alternative, the Securities contracts (Regulation) Rules 1957 could be amended to exempt NLC.

The Prime Minister, in his letter of 8.6.2013 replied that SEBI was penalising private companies which flouted the rules and

that PSUs should not be exposed to such a risk. He further stated that by shedding 5 per cent shares, NLC would not lose its character as a PSU and became a private company and that the NLC Management was engaged in talks with trade unions and employees' unions to win their support for the proposal. Also, he said, exempting a listed PSU when the Government was trying to get more investment, would send negative signals to the stock markets and that there was no alternative for the Central Government other than setting 5 per cent shares.

The cabinet committee on economic affairs gave its consent to this decision of the Central Government on 21.6.2013. I again wrote a letter to the Prime Minister on 22.6.2013 informing him that all trade unions had decided to oppose the Centre's decision through agitations and urged him to review the decision. There was no favourable reply from the centre.

Since the Hon'ble Prime Minister went more by the sentiment of the stock exchange without respecting the sentiments of the employees or the request of the Tamil population as a whole, I requested him to take steps to divest NLC's 5 per cent shares to Tamil Nadu Government's PSUs. I made this offer by way of finding a practical solution to the problem and respecting the feelings of Tamils without even minding the financial burden that would devolve on the Tamil Nadu Government. I informed him that the State Government's PSUs like the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation,

Small Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu and Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation are qualified institutional buyers and the shares they buy come under the category of public holding. Hence, I had requested in that letter, that the shares of NLC be sold to Tamil Nadu Government PSUs without allotting them to private parties.

Reiterating this request, I again wrote to the Prime Minister on 7.7.2013. In that letter, I requested the Central Government to immediately endorse the proposal of divesting the share to the PSUs of Tamil Nadu Government and that SEBI be directed to devise the necessary modalities towards this end.

Following my insistence, the Centre decided to examine the Tamil Nadu Government's proposal and wanted Tamil Nadu government officials to be sent to Delhi to discuss the matter.

The Principal Secretary, Finance Department, Principal Secretary, Planning and Development Department and Joint Secretary, Industries Department discussed the issue with Central Government officials on 10.7.2013 at New Delhi. It was decided at the meeting to fix the number of qualified institutions to effect the purchase as five, to allot 25 per cent of the shares to be sold to Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation, 45 per cent to SIPCOT, 10 per cent each to TIIC (Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation), TUFIDCO (Tamil

Nadu Urban Finance and Infrastructure Development Corporation) and Powerfin (Tamil Nadu Power Finance and Infrastructure Development Corporation); and to fix the share price on the basis of the average price obtained for NLC stocks in the stock exchange in two weeks. It was also stressed that instead of 5 per cent divestment, 3.56 per cent shares could be sold to meet the norm of 10 per cent since the public shareholding was already 6.44 per cent in NLC.

To discuss the modalities with SEBI, a meeting was held at Mumbai on 15.7.2013. The same team of officials participated from Tamil Nadu.

After detailed discussions, the Central Government and SEBI cleared the sale of the shares to Tamil Nadu Government PSUs as the norm of 10 per cent public shareholding would get fulfilled. As a result, I am happy to announce the above mentioned 5 PSUs will purchase the NLCs shares for about Rs. 500 crore.

Through this action of my Government, the sale of NLC's shares to private parties has been prevented. It is a great victory achieved by the continuous efforts put in by my Government, my personal efforts, employees' unity and their agitations and the unanimous demand made by Tamil Nadu people.

I request all the NLC workers to end their strike and return to work forthwith. ■

Chief Minister chides DMK chief for bid to belittle NLC victory



Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 22.7.2013 (English Translation)

Thiru. Karunanidhi's statement titled 'Oyyaarakondaiyam Thazhamboovaam' reflects the height of his frustration over the good name I have earned and the success my Government has achieved in preventing the disinvestment of Neyveli Lignite Corporation's shares to private parties and the State Government's public sector units acquiring the same shares. The statement is born out of jealousy and political malice.

The Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) is part and parcel of the Tamils' psyche. My Government was firm that its shares should not be relinquished to private parties. Without minding the financial burden on the Government, I stated that the Government's public sector units would purchase the shares, and requested that the shares be sold to them. The Central Government and SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) accepted the offer and the issue was resolved smoothly.

The former Chief Minister Thiru. Karunanidhi has boasted in his statement that it was he who stopped the sale of 10 per cent shares of NLC when the Central Government took such a decision in 2006. Though Thiru. Karunanidhi opposed the move initially, he suggested to the

Prime Minister later that the 10 per cent shares could be sold to the NLC employees themselves. I opposed this and issued a statement that the suggestion was impractical as each employee would be required to shell out Rs. 8 lakh if Rs. 1,100 crore worth of shares were sold. NLC employees too voiced their strong objection. The Central Government dropped its decision to disinvest the shares taking into account the All India Anna DMK's strong protest and the NLC employees various agitations including hunger strike. While the facts are such, Thiru. Karunanidhi's statement taking the credit himself is like 'hiding the pumpkin in a morsel of food.'

When the Central Government tried to offload NLC shares in 2013, I suggested that the Corporation be taken off the list of companies that should have public participation by taking back the 6.44 per cent NLC public shares in an appropriate way or by exempting NLC from selling shares through suitable amendments to the rules. There was no favourable reply from the Central Government. Respecting the sentiments of the NLC employees and the feelings of the people at large, I suggested the shares could be sold to the PSUs of the Tamil Nadu Government. After talks with Central Government officials at New Delhi



and SEBI officials at Mumbai, both agreed to make over the shares to the PSUs.

People at large, the media and political parties have acclaimed my efforts and suggestions to resolve the share sale issue. Unable to digest it and by way of duping himself and consoling himself, the DMK President Thiru. Karunanidhi has stated, “In the meanwhile, leaders of all political parties are supposed to have showered praise for the decision of Ammaiyar. Which are the parties that did so? Not even all the allies of the AIADMK but only one or two of them. For this, so much hullabaloo.”

The neutral media has hailed as a great feat the pressure exerted for the sale of NLC shares to Tamil Nadu PSUs. In its editorial, a daily has said: “If the Tamil Nadu Government had not shown enthusiasm and vigour, the doors would have been thrown open to private players. That is a fact. Private power generating companies were waiting to invest in these shares. In this situation, the pressure exerted by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalithaa has made them agree without a murmur. The decision to divest these shares to the Tamil Nadu Government is the result of the pressure exerted politically.”

Another daily, in its editorial has said: “NLC is a public sector undertaking of the Central Government. The Centre decided to sell 5 per cent of NLC’s shares. The Tamil Nadu Government and all political parties strongly opposed this decision of the Centre. The employees of the NLC too requested that 5 per cent shares should not be divested and commenced an indefinite strike. This would affect the mining of lignite and several other works down the line. Power generation would also have been affected. In this situation Chief Minister Jayalalithaa came out with a brilliant

idea. She pointed out: ‘You need not sell the 5 per cent shares to private parties. 5 PSUs of Tamil Nadu Government will purchase them for Rs. 500 crores.’ The Central Government acceded.

Another daily in its editorial pointed out, “From the beginning, the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister was firm that the shares should not be sold to private parties and that if the shares were to be divested, the Tamil Nadu PSUs would purchase them. She has won. By this, she has helped the NLC retain its public sector character. She deserves all the praise”.

A weekly has written an editorial saying that “the Chief Minister who retrieved Tamil Nadu from a severe financial crisis has come forward to save a Central Government establishment. This must be acclaimed”.

Another English daily has said: “The condition that arose in the NLC in Cuddalore district has been prevented from going out of hand by the quick and bold action taken by the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa. Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa came forward to purchase these shares through the PSUs by investing Rs. 500 crores, knowing full well the pulse of the people. It is a victory to the Chief Minister that even her opponents like the DMK president Thiru. M. Karunanidhi urged the Prime Minister to accept the proposal of sale of shares to Tamil Nadu PSUs. She has earned encomiums as a leader who can deal with the Central Government firmly”.

In the concluding part of his statement Thiru. Karunanidhi has stated: “Had the Tamil Nadu Government been firm in its initial demand that NLC shares should not be sold to any one, the Central Government could have given exemption on account of the pressure mounted by the employees through this indefinite hunger strike and withheld



its decision as was done in 2006.” He has raised the amended the Securities Contract (Regulations) Rules and he was in question, ‘Is it really a Himalayan victory?’. That Thiru. Karunanidhi has issued a statement out of so much frustration, jealousy and dejection will itself reveal well to the Tamil Nadu people what sort of victory it is!

Today, Thiru. Karunanidhi is speaking so loudly and so much. But what was he doing in 2010 when the Central Government amended the securities contract (Regulations) Rules and he was in power both at the Centre and in the State? Was he not responsible for the amendments brought by the Central Government by virtue of his partnership in the Government? Why did he not oppose it then? The amendment was that public shareholding in PSUs should be 10 per cent. If only he had opposed the amendment and prevented it from getting passed, a situation of the NLC having to to sell its shares would not have arisen now. There is no need to seek exemption also. Did not Thiru. Karunanidhi keep mum then? What right does such a person have to demean the victory my pressure tactics won in getting NLC shares sold to Tamil Nadu PSUs?”

I would like to point out to Thiru. Karunanidhi that had I not suggested that NLC’s shares should be sold to Tamil Nadu Government’s PSUs, they would have been certainly sold to private parties.

In his letter to me dated 8.6.2013, the Hon’ble Prime Minister stated that SEBI had been penalising private firms that did not adhere to the rules. He said that the PSUs should not be exposed to such a situation, and that by selling 5% of the shares, NLC would not become a private company or lose its specialty as a PSU. He added that the NLC management was engaged in talks with trade unions and

employees’ unions to win them over for effecting the sale. He also mentioned that at a time when the Government was taking efforts to increase investment, exempting a listed PSU would send negative signals to the stock exchange. Hence, there was no alternative other than offloading 5 per cent shares of NLC. Since the Hon’ble Prime Minister is according importance more to the stock exchange, it became imperative to put forth a practical proposition. Hence, I urged that the shares should be sold to the state’s PSUs, pointing out that they are qualified institutional buyers and the shares they purchase amount to public holding as per rules. As the request could not be rejected on any ground, the Central Government consented.

An opposition party MLA wrote in a bi-weekly that “the Central administrators got caught in a rat-trap. What answer can be given to the question – What if Government does not come forward to sell the shares to its own departments? They said ‘we are examining’; they asked themselves whether SEBI rules would permit this. As there was no other recourse, they finally agreed to divest”.

My Government’s proposal that Tamil Nadu Government’s PSUs should purchase these shares is the best decision and most timely.

I like to remind Thiru. Karunanidhi in this context of Saint Thiruvalluvar’s saying: “Doing things prohibited will result in disaster; not doing things that should be done will also result in disaster”.

The wise Tamil Nadu people will easily understand that Thiru. Karunanidhi’s statement titled, ‘Oyyaarakondaiyaam Thazhambuvaam’ lives up to the proverb with lice and dandruff strewn all over it and that it is nothing but an outlet to let off his frustration. □

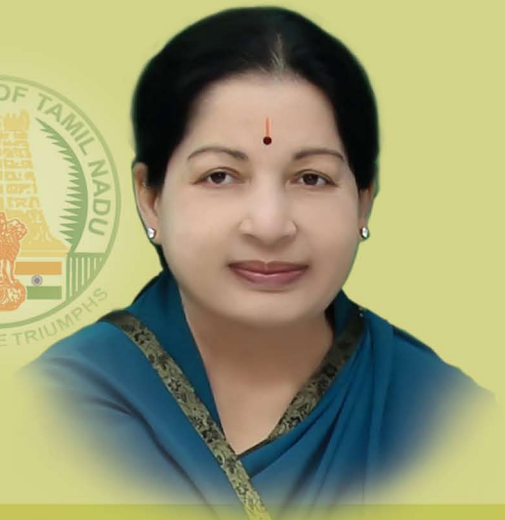


Chief Minister's Hearty Thanks to Prime Minister on NLC shares allotment

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa conveyed in the evening of 15.7.2013, her heart-felt thanks to the Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh over phone for his co-operation in getting the NLC's shares allotted to Tamil Nadu Government's public sector undertakings.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister said the Hon'ble Prime Minister's intervention in the talks held by Tamil Nadu Government's officials with Central Government and SEBI officials at Mumbai on 15.7.2013 resulted in a satisfactory agreement. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also stated that she had issued a statement, following the agreement, requesting the striking NLC workers to drop their agitation and return to work and that she hoped the workers would respond favourably.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister thanked the Hon'ble Chief Minister, conveyed his appreciation for devising measures to resolve the issue and stated that he had always maintained cordial relations with the State Government. □



Hefty allotment to modernise medical facilities

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has allotted Rs.43,39,60,000/- for providing modern medical facilities, equipment and for purchasing emergency ambulance vehicles.

Of this allotment, Rs.18.20 crore will be spent on providing modern medical facilities like surgical equipment, delivery cots and operation theatres in 55 integrated emergency maternity and child care centres so that quality treatment is provided to patients.

For purchase of equipment, Rs.10 crore will be spent. This will include purchase of modern x-ray equipment for medical college hospitals at Kilpauk and Stanely (Chennai), at Chengalpattu and at Tirunelveli (Rs.1.58 crore), several modern surgical tools for the Chennai General Hospital (Rs.3.20 crore), laparoscopy equipment for the Kilpauk Medical College Hospital (Rs.17 lakhs) and an M.R.I. scan for the Egmore Children's Hospital and Research Centre (Rs.5.05 crore).

For the purchase of 116 new emergency ambulance vehicles, a sum of Rs.15,19,60,000/- will be spent. These vehicles will replace the condemned ones. □



NEWS IN PICTURES



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** inaugurated on 20.06.2013 through video conferencing at the Secretariat, 22 modernised branches and 19 new branches of the Central Cooperative Bank with the objective of improving the services of cooperative banks. Hon'ble Chief Minister also inaugurated a unit for ripening plantains, a cooperative offices complex and cooperative godowns, totally costing Rs. 52.81 crore.



111th Birth Anniversary of Perunthalaivar Kamarajar



Floral tributes were offered on 15.7.2013 on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government to a decorated portrait of Perunthalaivar Kamarajar placed near his statue on Kamarajar road in connection with his 111th birth anniversary. Hon'ble Ministers, Members of the Legislative Assembly and High Officials paid their respects.

‘Congress move ‘a gimmick, fraud’

‘Exempt Tamil Nadu from Food Insecurity Bill’

**Statement of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Selvi J Jayalithaa on 4.7.2013 (English Translation)**

Without moving the National Food Security Draft Bill in Parliament and amending it based on the differing views, doubts, opposition and suggested changes of various political parties, the Central Congress Coalition Government has resorted to the short cut of promulgating an ordinance to implement the bill. This is outright cheating of the poor.

An Ordinance is promulgated only in extraordinary situations. Trying to enact the National Food Security Bill through an ordinance when a consensus has proved elusive despite years’ of discussions in various forums, is quite unacceptable.

The Central Congress Coalition Government has been taking several anti-people measures continuously in the past few years. It is unfortunate that it has resorted to this step of promulgation with the intention of reviving its popularity with the people.

I strongly condemn the Central Congress Coalition Government’s attempt to enact the bill through an ordinance without any intention to provide real food security to people and only as a political gimmick to cheat the people in the coming election.

Even when the Draft Bill was circulated to States in 2011 to elicit their views, I wrote a letter to the Prime Minister on 20.12.2011 opposing the Bill.

In that letter I had mentioned that Tamil Nadu had an excellent Public Distribution System (PDS) for several years by way of ensuring food security; that through the PDS, not only rice was distributed at no cost but articles such as wheat, sugar, urad dhal, toor dhal and palm oil were distributed at subsidised rates, that the distribution was through Co-operative Societies and the Civil Supplies Corporation, that the fair price shops were not run by the private sector, that the



“The history of the targeted public distribution system at the national level is one of siphoning off, of the concessions meant for the poor by others and no benefit to the really deserving. That is why Tamil Nadu has opted for a universal PDS.”

Tamil Nadu Government was providing a subsidy of Rs. 5,000 crores every year for the PDS and that there was good response from the people to the PDS.

I had also pointed out in that letter that the Central Government's food security bill was confusing and was full of mistakes; that Tamil Nadu Government would incur an additional expenditure of Rs. 1,800 crores if the Targeted Public Distribution System, mentioned in the Bill, was implemented; that there was no assurance from the Central Government on reimbursing this expenditure; that the division of the people into priority households and general households and providing subsidy at differing scales for the two groups for essential commodities envisaged in the bill was quite unacceptable, and that no reason had been advanced for limiting the coverage under the scheme to 75 per cent in rural areas and 50 per cent in urban areas. Besides, I had hinted that in a federal set up, the best way was to desolve the powers to frame and implement welfare measures to states themselves and the draft bill on food security was an act of usurping

the rights of the States. I had requested that Tamil Nadu be exempted from the National Food Security Bill.

Also, I had voiced Tamil Nadu's opposition to the National Food Security Bill at the National Development Council meetings held under the presidency of the Prime Minister at New Delhi on 27.12.2012 and on 10.6.2013.

Various other State Governments have also opposed the draft bill. A majority of political parties too have voiced their opposition to the bill in its present form.

Through the Food Security Bill, only 62 million tons of food grains will be distributed at the all-India level while 56 million tons of food articles are distributed under the present PDS. How can food security be guaranteed by supplying a mere 6 million tons of food articles?

The Bill will not provide any food security to the poor and the marginalised if it is implemented without streamlining the PDS at the national level, ensuring quick movement of essential commodities and without increasing the number of godowns to store food grains. The history of the targeted public distribution system at the national level is one of siphoning off, of the concessions meant for the poor by

others and no benefit to the really deserving. That is why Tamil Nadu has opted for a universal PDS.

Moreover, a suspicion lingers whether the provision that food security allowance will be given when foodgrains are not supplied, is a trick to make the PDS itself dysfunctional gradually. By stating that food security allowance will be given when foodgrains are not supplied, the Central Government has indirectly admitted that food security cannot be guaranteed. A scheme that does not ensure distribution of foodgrains is no food security scheme at all.

A comparison of the National Food Security Bill with the PDS implemented in Tamil Nadu will clearly reveal that this is no security bill but a “national food insecurity bill”.

It is regrettable that the Union Cabinet has cleared the proposal to enact through an ordinance such a confusing and empty legislation that is full of mistakes and does not benefit the people. This news has shocked the people, particularly those in Tamil Nadu. I strongly condemn this anti-people measure of the Central Government.

In this context, I would like to point out that it is undemocratic to pass the food security bill through an ordinance when the monsoon session of the Parliament is to start this month end.

When the Central cabinet decided at its meeting last month to pass the bill in a regular manner without resorting to the ordinance

route, the decision to promulgate an ordinance taken at its 3.7.2013 meeting is itself a ‘drama of deceit’.

The ordinance is to get the approval of Parliament within six weeks after the commencement of the session. The Central Congress Coalition Government intends to get the ordinance passed without any amendment. In the event of not getting Parliament’s approval, perhaps the Central Congress Government wants to escape by blaming it on those opposing the critics of the bill in its present form. In sum, it is very clear that the Congress party is seeking security to itself through this scheme rather than food security for the people.

As the PDS in Tamil Nadu has been widely acclaimed by the people and as all sections of the people are benefited through it, I strongly urge the Central Congress Coalition Government once again to respect the sentiments of the people of Tamil Nadu, exempt Tamil Nadu from this scheme and not reduce the quantum of rice supplied to the State at present.

I would like to inform that if the food security bill is implemented in haste through an ordinance, it would only vindicate the Tamil proverb, that “Hasty action goes waste”. This attempt of the Central Congress Coalition Government to hide its anti-people acts and its corruptions which have got deeply embedded in people’s mind will end up in a grand failure. ■



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 26.06.2013 presented laptops to 201 students of the Tamil medium stream at the Secretariat. These students had captured the first three ranks at the State level in the 10th and 12th standard Public Examination held in the academic year 2012-2013.

TAMIL ARASU BUILDING



Hon'ble Minister for Information and Special Programmes Implementation, Thiru. K. T. Rajenthralhalaji directly inspected the construction works for the Rs. 5.83 crore building of the Tamil Arasu Press, coming up at Taramani in Chennai, and reviewed the progress. The Tamil Development and Information Secretary, Dr. M. Rajaram, IAS and the Information and Public Relations Director Thiru. J. Kumaragurubaran, IAS, were with him. (07.08.2013)

News in Pictures



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** on 25.06.2013 declared open at the Secretariat through video conferencing, on behalf of the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj department, the Panchayat Union office building constructed at Cuddalore, as well as group houses, new buildings and bridges, totally costing Rs. 133.95 crore.

87th Birth Anniversary of Kannadasan



In connection with the 87th birth anniversary of Kaviarasu Kannadasan, Hon'ble ministers on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government, the worshipful Mayor of Chennai and Government High Officials paid floral homage on 24.06.2013 to a decorated picture of the poet kept near his statue at Thyagarayanagar.

31 Panchayat chiefs win Rs. 5 lakh each for clean villages



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 25.06.2013 presented at the Secretariat cash awards of Rs. 5 lakh each and shields to 31 village panchayat presidents whose villages were selected for the awards under the 'Clean Village Movement' scheme for the year 2011-2012.

The award winning villages are: Mudichur (Kancheepuram District), Paaparambakkam (Thiruvallur), Nattarmangalam (Cuddalore), Molachur (Villupuram), Veppankuppam (Vellore), Vadamathur (Thiruvannamalai), Pakkanadu (Salem), Pachudayampalayam (Namakkal), Sillaarahalli (Dharamapuri), Penneswaramadam (Krishnagiri), Attavanai Anumanpalli (Erode), Pongalur (Tiruppur), Kallipalayam (Coimbatore), Kodanadu (The Nilgiris), Regunathapuram (Thanjavur), Vadakarai (Nagapattinam), Aavur (Tiruvarur),

Vaangalkuppichipalayam (Karur), Pazhur (Tiruchirapalli), Periyavadakarai (Perambalur), Melanikuzhi (Ariyalur), Koppanapatti (Pudukottai), Rangapalayam (Madurai), Govindanagaram (Theni), N. Panchampatti (Dindigul), Kumbaram (Ramanathapuram), Nallamanayakkanpatti (Virudhunagar), Vetriyur (Sivagangai), Nallur (Tirunelveli), Nattathi (Tuticorin) and Maangodu (Kanniyakumari).

The Clean Village Movement was launched by the Hon'ble Chief Minister in 2003 and cash prize and awards were given for the villages in which 100 per cent hygienic conditions prevailed. The Scheme was not implemented from 2006-2007. It was revived in 2011 when the Hon'ble Chief Minister formed the Government for the third time. ■



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** inaugurated on 25.06.2013 through video conferencing at the Secretariat, the head office and training centre of the Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing and Development Corporation Ltd (TAHDCO), built on Cenotaph Road. On behalf of the Adi Dravidar and tribal welfare department, the Hon'ble Chief Minister also inaugurated newly constructed hostels for Adi Dravidar students, hostels for tribal students, community centres, additional class rooms, science laboratories and infrastructure facilities for schools and houses in various parts of the State, totally costing Rs. 30.98 crore.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** met top officials at her Kodanadu residence camp office on 25.7.2013 to discuss the state's law and order situation and connected subjects. The Chief Secretary, Principal Secretary, Home and Director General of Police took part in the meeting.



News in Pictures



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** opened through video conferencing at the Secretariat on 20.06.2013, new Regional Transport Office buildings, unit offices and driver selection yards built at various places, totally costing Rs. 7.39 crore. Also the Hon'ble Chief Minister presented 54 jeep purchased at a cost of Rs. 2.97 crore.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** inaugurated on 20.06.2013 through video conferencing at the Secretariat, bridges and buildings built all over Tamil Nadu and the office building of the Tamil Nadu Maritime Board in Chennai, built on behalf of the highways and minor ports department, totally costing Rs. 77.43 crore.

AND NOW, 'AMMA MINERAL WATER'

Statement of the
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

Selvi J Jayalalithaa

on 21.6.2013 (English Translation)



The wrong economic and financial policies of the Central Government have resulted in the fall of the value of the rupee. The price of all commodities including those of petroleum products have gone up. The poor and the middle classes are bewildered and are wringing their hands in dismay on how to meet the situation. In this situation, my Government has been taking several steps to protect the people from this cruel price rise and to safeguard them.

My Government has taken several constructive measures to control price rise like distribution of 20 kg of rice a month at no cost under Public Distribution System, sale of rice at Rs. 20/- a kilo through 'Amudham' shops, Co-operatives and supermarkets in the open market as effective market intervention, sale of palm oil at Rs. 25/- a litre, toor dhal and urad dhal at Rs. 30/- a kilo each under the special PDS scheme, payment of an incentive of Rs. 50/- per quintal for ordinary variety paddy and Rs. 70/- per quintal for fine variety over and above the procurement price to increase the purchasing capacity of the farmers, withdrawal of the value added tax on cooking gas in the interests of housewives, opening of 'Budget Restaurants' in all the wards of Chennai Corporation to provide food stuffs at cheap rates for the poor and 'Farm Fresh Vegetable Outlets' in Chennai and suburban areas for controlling the price of vegetables.

I am now happy to announce that I have directed the setting up of 'Amma Mineral Water' manufacturing units throughout Tamil Nadu on behalf of the State Transport Corporations to sell protected drinking water.

In the first instance, an 'Amma Mineral Water' production unit will be set up at Gummidipoondi (Tiruvallur District), with a capacity of 3 lakh litres a day. The Road Transport Corporation will procure the needed machinery for manufacturing 'Mineral Water'. The purified water will be packed in one litre plastic bottles and sold in long distance Government buses and in the bus stands in Chennai and in the suburban bus stands in the districts. While the railways and private companies are pricing a litre of water at Rs. 15/- and Rs. 20/- respectively, the Government Transport Corporations will sell them at Rs. 10/- a litre. This 'Amma Mineral Water' unit will be inaugurated on 15.09.2013, the birth anniversary day of Perarignar Anna and the sale will be commenced on the same day. Following the launch of this unit, steps will be taken to set up 'Amma Mineral Water' manufacturing units in 9 other places.

I believe this measure of my Government will reduce to an extent the financial burden on the poor and middle class people and help them have protected drinking water. ■

NEWS IN PICTURES



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** opened through video conferencing at the Secretariat on 20.06.2013, a granite polishing factory set up at a cost of Rs. 34.25 crore by the Tamil Nadu Minerals Ltd at Melur in Madurai district.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** on 25.6.2013 declared open at the Secretariat through video conferencing the new integrated office building complex for district employment exchange offices, constructed at a cost of Rs. 1.72 crore at the campus of the Government Industrial Training Institute for women at Guindy, Chennai.



CHIEF MINISTER RUES REPEAT HIKE IN PETROL PRICE

**Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 14. 7.2013
(English Translation)**

The fall of the Indian rupee value against the dollar is one of the main reasons for the weakening of the country's economy. The Central Government should have taken steps to remove the factors that contribute to the continued slide of the rupee and thereby averted the frequent price hike in petroleum products. Instead, the Central Government routinely increases the price of petroleum products as if to ruin the economy of the country. The Government's action reminds one of the Tamil proverb about the fence eating up the crop.

Within 15 days of increasing the petrol price by Rs. 1.82 paise per litre, to hike it again by Rs. 1.55 paise amounts to delivering a blow on the very survival of the poor and the downtrodden.

The poor and the middle class people use two wheelers fuelled by petrol. These vehicles also help rural people perform their work effectively. Parents take their children to schools on these vehicles. Half the number of office-goers depends on two-wheelers.

It is unjust to increase the price of petrol twice a month considering it is the fuel for two-wheelers that are so intertwined with the lives of the poor. Before acting, the Central Government should ponder how difficult it is for the common man if the petrol price is increased 24 times a year. But it is saddening

that instead of thinking about the burdens of the common man, the Centre has delegated the power to fix the price of petrol to oil companies and permitted them to increase the price.

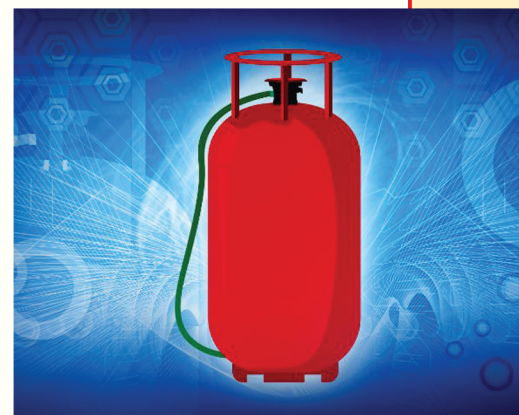
Profit is the sole motive of these oil companies. Hence, without regard for the livelihood of the people, they hike petrol price as they fancy. To put it in brief, they function to the letter of the proverb that one should make hay while the sun shines.

This price rise will trigger the price rise of essential commodities and the hiring charges of vehicles. The economy will further deteriorate.

Good Governance takes into account the economy of the country and the livelihood of the people and acts accordingly. However, the Central Congress Coalition Government is going in the opposite direction. It continues to torture the people. I strongly condemn this.

Saint Thiruvalluvar said that 'the country whose Government does not introspect into its actions daily and rectify them, will disintegrate'. I strongly urge the Central Congress Coalition Government to rescind the power given to the oil companies to fix the price of petrol, withdraw the hike effected at present and see that petrol price does not go up in future. ■

CENTRE URGED TO CHANGE ITS NATURAL GAS PRICING POLICY



**Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 1.7.2013 (English Translation)**

Without taking any step for economic development, industrial and agricultural production and for people's prosperity, the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance Government was in a state of policy paralysis from the time it assumed office at the Centre in 2009. However, of late, it has been taking, in haste and out of fear, several policy decisions detrimental to the economy in the name of reforms.

This is a sequel to accusations from various quarters on its inability to take decisions and out of fear that international rating agencies will downgrade Indian economy. The crash of the share markets is also a reason. All these successive new policy decisions are anti-labour, infringe on State Government's powers and are a betrayal of the common man. Going from policy paralysis to policy overdose, the Congress-led

Central Coalition Government is announcing new policies by the day. Innumerable anti-people policies have been announced recently such as permitting oil companies to fix the price of petrol, monthly upward price revision of diesel, linking the railway freight rates with diesel price and thereby paving the way for hike in freight rates, limiting the supply of subsidised gas cylinders to domestic consumers to 6 per year and then increasing it to 9, encouraging participation by many in the FOREX market, permitting foreign investment in retail trade, nutrients-based subsidy policy for fertilizers, direct transfer of money instead of subsidy, and disinvestment in public sector undertaking. All these policies have the effect of restricting subsidies to the poor and to farmers and reducing the cash assistance earmarked for social security schemes. And they help big industries and foreign investors to profit. In this sequence, it is the

turn of natural gas now. Recently, the cabinet committee on economic affairs has set out the policy for fixing the price of natural gas. The committee is headed by Dr. C. Rangarajan, Chairman of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Committee. This committee has recommended a complicated formula. It has suggested that the average price of the natural gas imported into India should be calculated on the basis of the average price quoted in the trade centres in North America, Europe and Japan. Based on this formula, the price of natural gas will be fixed at 8.4 dollars per one million metric British thermal unit from April 1, 2014 against the present price of 4.2 dollars. Such an increase in price is only to favour a big industrial corporate even while boasting that India will become a self-sufficient country in natural gas before 2030. That industrial corporate is producing far less natural gas in its KG D-6 bed than what it had guaranteed. Instead of penalising the company for its low production the new policy helps it to earn huge profits.

A few years ago, the Central Government, in principle, encouraged fertilizer manufacturing establishments to adopt natural gas technology in their units. On account of this, today, 81 per cent of productivity in the urea manufacturing fertilizer companies in India is based on natural gas. Likewise, several electricity generating units use natural gas as fuel. Due to the dearth of natural gas, generation of 28,000 MW of electricity at the all-India level has been hindered. When the price of natural gas is pushed up to the level of 8.4 dollars, these power generating units and urea manufacturing companies will be forced to curtail their production. In the alternative, the price of electricity and urea will go up considerably. This price rise will have to be

borne by the poor, the middle class and the farmers.

I have been pointing out on several occasions that the present policy for fixing prices for petroleum products is itself wrong. I have been stressing to the Central Government that the price of petroleum products should be based on the prices of the imported crude oil, the indigenously produced crude oil and their refining costs. But the Central Government is fixing an artificial price citing 'trade parity price'. In this situation, no one can accept a similar artificial price for the locally produced natural gas also. The price should be fixed solely on the production cost of the indigenous natural gas. Fixing of such a price alone will enable the natural gas-based power generating units, and the urea fertilizer manufacturing companies to offer their products at low rates to people. Moreover, the price of natural gas should be fixed in rupee value, not in dollar value.

Natural resources like natural gas are no individual's property. They belong to all Indians. The real owners of these resources are the general public. We cannot allow the exploitation of these resources in the name of Government policies. Hence, I strongly urge the Central Government to immediately withdraw this natural gas price fixing policy. The Congress-led Central Government which has a mandate to rule upto May 2014, has no moral authority to fix a price that is to come to effect from April 2014. It is only proper that the new Government that comes into office next year should fix the price. After the Lok Sabha elections next year, the AIADMK under my leadership will be in a position to shape the Central Government's policies. If the present Central Government does not withdraw the natural gas price policy, I declare the AIADMK will take steps to change this policy. ■

A centre to cater to differently-abled children



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 25.06.2013 inaugurated at the Secretariat through video conferencing, the State Resource Centre for Inclusive Education, the first of its kind in the whole Country. The Centre has been set up under the 'Education for All' Movement at a cost of Rs. 46.42 lakh at Santhome, Chennai. It will devote itself to the differently abled children.

The Centre will identify the particular nature of the handicap of these children, provide appropriate treatment through specialist doctors and experts, distribute needed implements, certificates, assistance and the like and offer counselling for shaping a better life for them.

The Centre has facilities such as physiotherapy, speech therapy, vision stimulation, communicative devices, assessment centre and counselling centre. A training centre for teachers and differently-abled children coming from districts, a library with special books and an information centre

of national institutions have also been located at the centre.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister had announced in the Legislative Assembly that such a centre would be established in Chennai for providing equal opportunities to the differently-abled in contributing to the social and economic growth of the Country, improving their standards of living, and for promoting self-confidence in them.

Taking into account that basic infrastructure facilities are essential in schools for providing quality education and for motivating students to learn, the Hon'ble Chief Minister commissioned additional infrastructure facilities in 91 High and Higher Secondary Schools and declared open new buildings for 11 Government High Schools, 6 Model Schools, 2 Offices for Primary education, 2 Government Teacher Training Institutes and for 2 district libraries, all at a total cost of Rs. 117,77,66,000/-.

The break-up for them is: class rooms, laboratories, drinking water and water facilities and compound walls in 91 Government high and higher secondary schools (Rs.87.34 crores); newly constructed school buildings in 11 Government high schools which have been upgraded from middle schools in Saravanampatti (Coimbatore district), Bommahalli (Dharmapuri district), Salangapalayam and Kasipalayam (Erode), Kumbaram and Sevvur (Ramanathapuram), Arulapuram (Tirupur), Kadapakkam and Valluvapakkam (Kancheepuram) and Chinnalapatti and Devarappanpatti in Dindigul district (Rs.5.46 crores); office building for the district elementary education officer

at Nagapattinam (Rs. 17.16 lakhs), office building for Deputy Elementary Education officer at Marungapuri in Tiruchirapalli district (Rs.17.50 lakhs); additional buildings at the Teachers' Training school at Samoogarapuram in Tirunelveli district, and at Jogilpatti in Virudhunagar district (Rs.1.20 crores), modern library buildings in Tiruchirapalli and Erode Metros (Rs. 5.73 crores) and new buildings for the model schools at G.Ariyur, Rishivandiam and Kallakurichi in Villupuram district, Panrutti and Nallur in Cuddalore district, and at S.Puthur in Sivagangai district (Rs. 17.70 crores). ■



BULK SUPPLY OF RICE TO 3,000 MOSQUES

**Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 5.7.2013 (English Translation)**

“My Government, which has great concern for the welfare of minorities, had issued orders on 9.11.2001 during my earlier regime, for the bulk supply of rice to mosques for the preparation of ‘Kanji’ (broth) in the holy month of Ramalan. Accordingly, permits for bulk supply of rice are being issued for mosques. Islamists have unanimously welcomed this gesture.

As in the previous years, this year too, I have received requests from Islamists for the supply of rice to mosques. Acceding to their requests, I have given orders for the issue of

permits for bulk supply of rice to mosques so that they can get rice without difficulty for the preparation of ‘Kanji’ in the holy month of Ramalan.

District Collectors have been advised adequately for the issue of permits to mosques for bulk supply of rice.

I am happy to inform that over 3,000 mosques in the state will benefit and 4,000 metric tons of rice will be issued to mosques through this bulk supply order. ■

‘Have a heart for the common man, scrap diesel price hike’



Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 1.7.2013 (English Translation)

Through a statement, I condemned the decision to permit oil companies to fix the price of diesel even when it was taken by the Cabinet committee on Political Affairs on 17.1.2013. I warned that this decision would pave the way for an increase in diesel price and was not for a healthy economy. I had also said that the fate that has overtaken petrol price will also affect diesel also through periodical rise. I stressed the Central Government should withdraw this policy decision in the interests of the poor and the marginalised.

The Central Congress Coalition Government which doesn't have an iota of concern for the poor did not heed my advice. The result of the oil companies are raising the retail price of diesel every month.

From midnight today (1.7.2013), the oil companies have further raised the price by 50 paise a litre. They have cited the sliding rupee value against the American dollar and the mounting price in the international market as reasons for the price rise. Hiking the price of diesel every month this way only reminds me of the Tamil proverb which says, 'Give

room to a scorpion and it will never cease to sting'.

Price rise will further hurt the poor and the middle classes who are already suffering on account of the Indian economy's slide, and the consequent unemployment and inflation. The decline in the rupee value is due to the Central Government's economic, financial and import-export policies and various other seasons.

The impotent Central Government which is unable to arrest the fall of rupee value, shifts all the effects of its inefficiency on the common man. This cannot be endured. This act of the Central Congress Coalition Government only shows how insensitive it is to people's feelings and how it has distanced itself from the people.

This diesel price hike will result in transport charges going up and consequently the prices of all commodities will rise further. This will further push up inflation. The common man will suffer. Hence, I strongly urge the Central Congress Coalition Government to rescind this diesel price rise. ■



Chief Minister Flays raising of FDI Cap, predicts day of reckoning for UPA Government

Press statement of
Selvi J Jayalithaa,
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **23.7.2013**

The Indian rupee has depreciated sharply in recent months and is creating new historic lows against the US dollar. It is a direct reflection of the inept macro-economic management of the UPA Government over the past several years. Totally bereft of ideas, in a weak bid to show some pretence of a policy response to an adverse economic situation, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has recently approved the raising of the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) caps in some sectors.

These measures raise a number of serious concerns. Far from protecting the interests of workers and the common people of the country, the UPA Government appears to be acting at the behest of foreign interests and some external Rating Agencies which are frequently threatening to lower the Sovereign Rating to 'Junk Status' and thereby cowing down the weak UPA Government at the Centre, making it bend to its whims and fancies. The decision also raises serious security and related concerns, which have been totally

ignored. The adverse impact on domestic industry, including on Central Public Sector Enterprises and employment has also not been factored in.

In the Telecom Sector the FDI cap has been raised from 74% to 100%. This has implicit security concerns since foreign companies will be able to control the entire telecom network. Data security and privacy issues will arise, which will be very difficult to regulate. This was also witnessed recently in the case of a Private Service Provider who had laid more emphasis on individual privacy rather than National Security. It is reported that even the Home Ministry at the Centre is against this move. Perhaps this move will only benefit the Foreign Companies which have reportedly incurred losses on account of the orders of the Supreme Court in the issue of 2G Licenses. Even advanced countries restrict foreign investment in the Telecom Sector precisely for security reasons, whereas the Government of India seems to be oblivious of these concerns.

I have been opposing the raising of the cap on FDI in the Insurance sector. We have strong Public Sector Insurers in this country who provide very good service, with the public interest in mind. Tamil Nadu's flagship scheme, the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme and the Government Employees' Health Insurance Schemes are both being operated very successfully. This is done exclusively through Public Sector Insurance Companies. The support that even a State Government is willing to provide to Central Public Sector Insurance Companies is not being provided by the Government of India. The Government of India appears keen to repeat in the Insurance Sector the scenario in the Telecom and Aviation sectors, in which the Public Sector Undertakings bear the social obligations, while the private operators have been given a virtual free ride. This has forced the Public Sector Companies into a loss making situation. Meanwhile, the Insurance Law (Amendment) Bill, 2008, is still pending in Parliament; the UPA does not have the numbers in Parliament to have the Bill passed. Perhaps the Congress led UPA Government at the Centre is confident that its erstwhile allies like the DMK will vote in favour of the Government though

they speak vociferously against these moves of raising the FDI caps in the same manner as they had voted against the Motions moved in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha against permitting FDI in retail even though the DMK had issued statements against FDI in Retail. In fact the DMK's opposition to these moves are an eyewash since Thiru. Karunanidhi in his statement has let the cat out of the bag in the end by stating that the Government of India should ponder over whether such stern measures should be taken at this juncture when the General Elections to Parliament are slated to be held next year.

In the Plantation Sector the FDI cap has been raised up to 49% on the automatic route and up to 100% with FIPB clearance has also been permitted. Tamil Nadu has a large number of small tea growers whose livelihood has to be protected. We cannot allow foreign investment in this sector to tip the scales in favour of the larger plantations and jeopardize the livelihood of the small growers. Such a move could reduce Small Tea Growers to labourers within a few years. The interests of plantation labour also need to be protected and their apprehensions and fears allayed. There must be adequate consultation with State Governments before



granting of clearance by FIPB for investment in the plantation sector in order to ensure adequate safeguards for the small growers and plantation labour.

In the Defence Sector, the FDI limit is to remain at 26% but it has been announced that the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) may consider higher investment levels for state-of-the-art technology. This announcement totally lacks clarity. In the absence of clear guidelines on what state-of-the-art technology is, the opacity plaguing defence procurement in the country would only be further perpetuated. There are also grave security and self sufficiency concerns in allowing FDI in this very crucial sector. We must not allow the national interest to be compromised in any way.

The increase in the cap on FDI in single brand retail up to 100% on the FIPB route and 49% on the automatic route is the thin end of the wedge. Since single brand retail involves setting up of sale outlets by manufacturing or marketing companies at different locations, decisions in this area should be made subject to the clearance of the State Governments, as in the case of multi-brand retail, so that small retail trade which provides livelihood to millions of small traders and shop owners can be effectively protected.

The FDI relaxation announced by the Government of India is neither an effective nor an appropriate measure to tackle the macro-economic imbalances faced by the country. Much more has to be done by way of policy initiatives to promote exports and to set right the current account imbalances. Above

all, investors are shying away from India because of the poor governance record of the UPA Government, its notoriety for corruption and scams and its inability to act effectively to improve the infrastructure and investor environment in the country.

Announcements of this nature are only a knee-jerk reaction to the problem of the falling rupee. A depreciating rupee is not just a blow to the Nation's prestige and sense of well-being, it also contributes to inflation, making life difficult for the common people who are already regularly buffeted by the increases in the prices of diesel, petrol and domestic gas. Stock Market indices and the views of the external credit rating agencies and fickle foreign investors on how liberal our economy is, are not barometers for measuring the wellbeing of our people.

Short sighted policies of increasing FDI caps will not help the rupee to strengthen. Concerted policy action to promote exports, curb imports of non-essential items, and to eliminate speculative trading in the Forex Market are all essential for the rupee to remain strong. The UPA Government is responsible for heaping hardships on the common people. The utter insensitivity of the Government of India towards the condition of the poor and needy, the middle class and virtually every section of Society, by its acts of commission and omission, will take their toll in the not too distant future. The day of reckoning is near. ■



EXPERTS' TEAM TO GO INTO COALBED METHANE PROJECT

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa**
on 17.7.2013 (English Translation)

My Government has been taking constructive measures to usher in a second green revolution in Tamil Nadu to encourage agriculture. My Government believes in plans for the people, not the other way round.

Though my Government is for industrial growth and through it, the development of the State's economy, it is firm that industrial development should not be at the cost of agriculture. A good example of this is my statement in the State Legislature on setting up industrial parks for promoting industrial growth in southern districts. I said they would be set up according to the conditions prevailing in different areas.

In this situation, my attention was drawn to agriculturists' concern in the districts of Thanjavur and Tiruvarur. The Central Government has permitted a private sector firm to explore and tap coalbed methane gas in these districts. Farmers are worried that if the project is implemented, the fertility of the soil in the region will be greatly affected, groundwater will diminish, agricultural lands will turn into salt pans and people will be exposed to the risk of contracting several severe diseases if any leakage of methane, a poisonous gas, occurs.

I summoned the concerned files, scrutinised data and discussed the matter with officials.

The Central Government allotted in 2010 through auction, 691 sq.km area in the districts of Thanjavur and Tiruvarur to M/s Great Eastern Energy Corporation Ltd. for exploration and production of coalbed methane gas. The Central Government also entered into a 'Production sharing agreement' with that company on 29.07.2010.

Following this, the Central Government directed the Tamil Nadu Government to issue the petroleum exploration licence to the firm to help it commence the exploration and production work. The firm too applied for the licence to the Tamil Nadu Government on 28.10.2010 for starting its work on 691 sq.kms covering 50 villages in these two districts. The earlier minority DMK Government issued the licence to M/s. Great Eastern Energy Corporation Ltd. for 4 years on 1.1.2011.

By way of implementing the scheme, the earlier minority DMK Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the company on 4.1.2011. In this Memorandum, it has been mentioned that Tamil Nadu Government will assist in getting the necessary licences from various departments for the project, in getting environmental clearance, laying pipes and in building infrastructure facilities.

The District Collectors of Thanjavur and Tiruvarur held public hearing meetings on 29.12.2011 and 23.1.2012 to elicit the views of the public about the project. On the side of farmers, several issues like contamination of ground water and environment were raised. Their views and doubts were all forwarded to

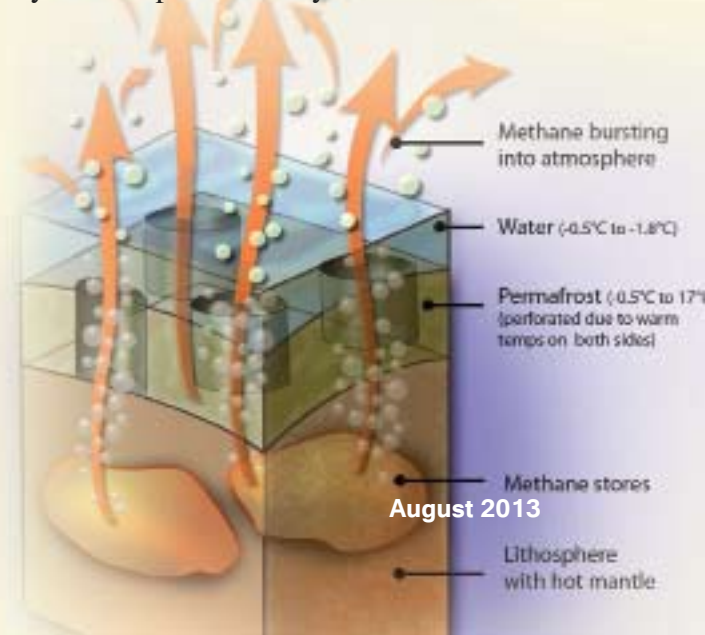
the Central Government through Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board verbatim and in toto.

However, the Central Government's Environment and Forests Ministry gave environmental clearance with some conditions to the Great Eastern Energy Corporation Ltd. through its letter of 12.9.2012 without offering any explanation to the doubts raised by the farmers.

Though the Central Environmental Ministry has cleared the project, the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board alone should give permission for taking up exploration work with deep-bore drilling. The Corporation's application for this permission is still pending with the Board.

The Great Eastern Energy Corporation Ltd has informed that the delta region where the methane gas is proposed to be tapped is similar to the Powder River Basin landscape in Wyoming and Montana States of USA.

A pilot report taken up in the Powder River Basin region has pointed out that the water pumped from the coalbed methane areas contains excess sodium and that it affects soil fertility. The report also says that the water



level in drinking water wells has gone down very much; artesian springs adjacent to the coalbed have disappeared and the water table has gone down to 200 feet.

Another report has pointed out that some of the chemicals used to pump out methane are poisonous, soluble in water and radioactive.

Recently, my Government has launched a 5 year project with loan assistance of Rs. 1,560 crore from the Asian Bank for protecting the Cauvery delta region from salinity. Due to climatic changes, the sea level is likely to rise in another 40 years in the coastal districts of the Cauvery delta. As a result, a situation may arise in which agricultural lands will be affected due to the intrusion of saline water and the ground water brackishness will increase.

Cauvery delta region farmers have also raised various doubts about the coalbed methane project, and test reports also have tended to strengthen their views. In these circumstances, the coalbed methane project can be permitted only if it is guaranteed that farmers' interests will not be affected in any way.

My Government will not permit this project if the agricultural lands in the Cauvery delta region, the granary of Tamil Nadu, and the interests of farmers are affected even slightly. It is imperative to conduct an investigation to assess the damage the project can cause.

Hence, I have directed that a team be set up to conduct this investigation. Experts from Anna University, Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, M.S. Swaminathan Research Centre and officials from the departments of Public Works, Agriculture, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation will constitute the team. It will present its report within three months.

I would like to inform that I have instructed officials not to permit M/s Great Eastern Energy Corporation Ltd. to take up any work on the project till the Government takes a decision on the basis of the above mentioned team's report. ■



Without taking steps to arrest the fall of rupee against the American dollar and preventing price rise, the Central Government has made it a habit of increasing the price of petrol and diesel often thereby pushing up inflation. This is a sheer torture of the poor and the downtrodden. I register my strong condemnation of this act of betrayal by the Central Government.

Not even 15 days have passed since the petrol price was increased. The Central Congress Coalition Government has once again raised the price of petrol from today by Rs. 1.82 paise per litre. This is the worst betrayal. The reasons adduced for this price rise – the continued slide of the rupee and the uptrend of international market prices – can in no way justify the act. Without arresting the fall of rupee value, raising the price of petroleum products arbitrarily, is a good example of the Central Governments' administrative inefficiency and incapacity. The Central Government's wrong economic policies and the oil price fixing policies are responsible for the ever-increasing prices of petroleum products. The Central Government and the Reserve Bank can take steps to prevent the historic slide of the rupee against the American dollar. Without attempting that, to shift the burden on to the people is totally unacceptable. By hiking the price of petrol for the third time within a month the Central Government has only shown how insensitive it is to the feelings of the people.

If the Central Government is incapable of arresting the fall of the rupee value, it could have at least taken steps to bring to India money that is reportedly stashed away in foreign

CHIEF MINISTER RAPS CENTRE FOR PETROL PRICE HIKE

'Arrest fall of rupee, bring back Black money in foreign banks'

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 29.6.2013 (English Translation)

banks. If this had been done, India would have gained in resources and there would have been no necessity for the Central Government to increase the price of petroleum products. But the Congress Government at the Centre not only continues to be silent on retrieving black money but also is partial to those having black money ; it supports them, patronises them.

On account of this price rise, common people using two-wheelers and auto-rickshaws will be severely affected. Industries using petrol as fuel will be forced to bear additional financial burden. The price of their products, in turn, may go up. In short, the present price hike will not only subject the people to misery but will pave the way for an all-round increase of price in all commodities. This will further pull down the value of the rupee. Inflation will mount. Hence, I strongly urge the Central Government to roll back the petrol price in the interest of the poor and the marginalised and to take firm steps to arrest the fall of the rupee value. □



'Pressurise Sri Lanka Government against repeal of 13th amendment'

D.O. letter dated 14.7.2013 addressed by

Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to
Dr. Manmohan Singh, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

“I write to you on an issue of serious concern regarding the political future of the Tamil community in Sri Lanka - the possible dilution or even repeal of the 13th Amendment to the Sri Lankan Constitution.

I had written to you on several occasions conveying the strong sense of outrage and anguish amongst the people and political parties in Tamil Nadu and Tamil people all over the world regarding the ethnic pogrom and genocide by the Sri Lankan Army against the Tamil population in Sri Lanka in the closing stages of the civil war and the failure of the international community to hold the Sri Lankan regime accountable for these acts. I had also pointed out that human rights abuses against the Tamil population continue and Tamils in Sri Lanka are being subjected to harassment, discrimination and torture. I had drawn attention to the fact that there were no signs that Tamils would be given equality of status with Sinhalese and devolved autonomy and democratic rights.

It was in this background that the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly

had passed a Resolution on 27th March, 2013, calling for, inter alia, a referendum on a “separate Eelam” amongst Tamils in Sri Lanka and Tamils displaced from Sri Lanka and resident in other countries. While the aspirations of the Sri Lankan Tamils can be realised only through a Tamil Eelam, the process of securing the right to self determination, through the devolvement of democratic decentralisation by the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of Sri Lanka, should not be jeopardised in any manner. There are disturbing signs that the Sri Lankan Government is not serious about rehabilitating and restoring the lives of the Tamil minority.

It appears that our worst fears regarding the intentions and motives of the present Sri Lankan regime are coming true. The Sri Lankan President, Mr. Mahinda Rajapakse, has announced the setting up of a Parliamentary Select Committee to review the 13th Amendment to the Sri Lankan Constitution. The hawkish Sinhalese right wing groups have been resorting to agitations and protests to pressure

the Sri Lankan Government to repeal the 13th Amendment prior to the elections to the Northern Provincial Council proposed to be held in September later this year. In public statements, the Sri Lankan Defence Secretary, Mr. Gotabhaya Rajapakse, has directly called for the repeal of the 13th Amendment. A recent delegation led by Mr. Basil Rajapakse, Minister for Economic Development, Sri Lanka, had also met the Union External Affairs Minister of India, presumably to justify their stand in this matter.

You will appreciate that the people of Tamil Nadu are justifiably alarmed and dismayed over what appears to be a clear attempt to set the clock back and to renege on an international agreement, namely the Indo Sri Lankan accord, 1987, which was entered into in order to resolve the ethnic strife in Sri Lanka, to bring peace to the surcharged security environment in the region and to secure equality and dignity for the Sri Lankan Tamils.

“It is a fact that the Government of Sri Lanka has never been serious about genuine devolution of power to the Tamils and that it has regularly gone back on assurances and reneged on promises made in this regard. The merger of the Northern and Eastern provinces into one administrative unit as contemplated in the Indo Sri Lankan accord was, in fact, dismantled by the Government of Sri Lanka in January, 2007, following an order of the Sri Lankan Supreme Court nullifying the merger. It is significant that this order was obtained by the sustained pressure and petition of the Janata Vimukthi Peramuna Party to form

a separate council for the East, in which no other interested parties were allowed to be heard. The demerger of the North Eastern Council has to be construed as a serious setback to the Indo Sri Lankan accord and, perhaps, as a sinister first step leading to the eventual abrogation and repeal of the 13th Amendment, which has starkly appeared on the agenda now.

We are of the considered opinion that India cannot afford to be a passive bystander at this juncture. We have a commitment to protect the life and liberties of the Tamils in Sri Lanka, whose distinct identity and cultural presence in Sri Lanka, particularly in the Northern and Eastern regions, was the guiding principle behind the Indo Sri Lankan accord that led to the notification of the 13th Amendment to the Sri Lankan constitution. We also have a commitment to ensure that the process of reconciliation, rehabilitation and reconstruction of the broken lives of the Sri Lankan Tamils, by the establishment of democratic institutions of Self-Government, is not derailed by the insidious attempts now being made by the Sri Lankan Government to jettison the 13th Amendment. Such a development will spell doom for the lives and liberties of the Sri Lankan Tamils, who will again face the prospect of a return to thralldom under the Sinhalese military and majority. This will seriously impact the peace process itself and again endanger the security environment of the region.

Tamils in Tamil Nadu and the Tamil Diaspora spread across the world are justifiably outraged and incensed over the impunity with which the Sri Lankan Government is

ignoring international sentiments and binding Resolutions relating to reconciliation and rehabilitation and the ongoing gross human rights abuses against Sri Lankan Tamils. For Tamil Nadu, this turn of events will also mean a threat to its coastal security, the internal security environment of the State and the prospect of a renewed influx of refugees into the State.

I wish to reiterate the Resolution of the Tamil Nadu Assembly dated 27th March, 2013, regarding the holding of a Referendum on Eelam. In the present turn of events, when the Sri Lankan Government is acting with impunity to take away even the limited political rights available to the Tamils, I strongly urge the Government of India to

take all possible steps to bring pressure to bear upon the Sri Lankan Government not to take any steps to repeal or even dilute the 13th Amendment in any manner. The Government of India should ensure that the process of democratic decentralization, which is integral to the survival of the Tamils in Sri Lanka, is in no way jeopardised. This should eventually lead to the Tamils of Sri Lanka realising their legitimate aspirations. I hope that the Government of India, as a leader in the region and as a champion of human rights and democracy, will decisively take a bold stand in support of the much discriminated against and long suffering Tamil minorities in Sri Lanka.” ■

BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF RETTAMALAI SEENIVASAN



On behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government, Hon'ble Ministers and the Worshipful Mayor of Chennai and high Government officials paid floral homage to a decorated picture of Rettamalai Seenivasan kept near his statue, on his birth anniversary on 07.07.2013.

'SUMMON ENVOY, TELL LANKA TO DESIST FROM ARRESTING FISHERMEN'

D.O. letter dated 8.7.2013 addressed by **Selvi J Jayalalithaa**,
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Dr. Manmohan Singh**,
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

"I wish to bring to your notice yet another instance of high-handed, blatant and illegal abduction and detention of 21 Indian fishermen, by the Sri Lankan Navy. These 21 fishermen of Ramanathapuram District set sail for fishing in 5 boats bearing registration numbers IND/TN/10/MM/474, IND/TN/10/MM/302, IND/TN/11/MM/117, IND/TN/11/MM/259 and IND/TN/10/MM/008 on the night of 6.7.2013 and they have been abducted on the high seas. It is learnt that they have been remanded up to 19.7.2013.

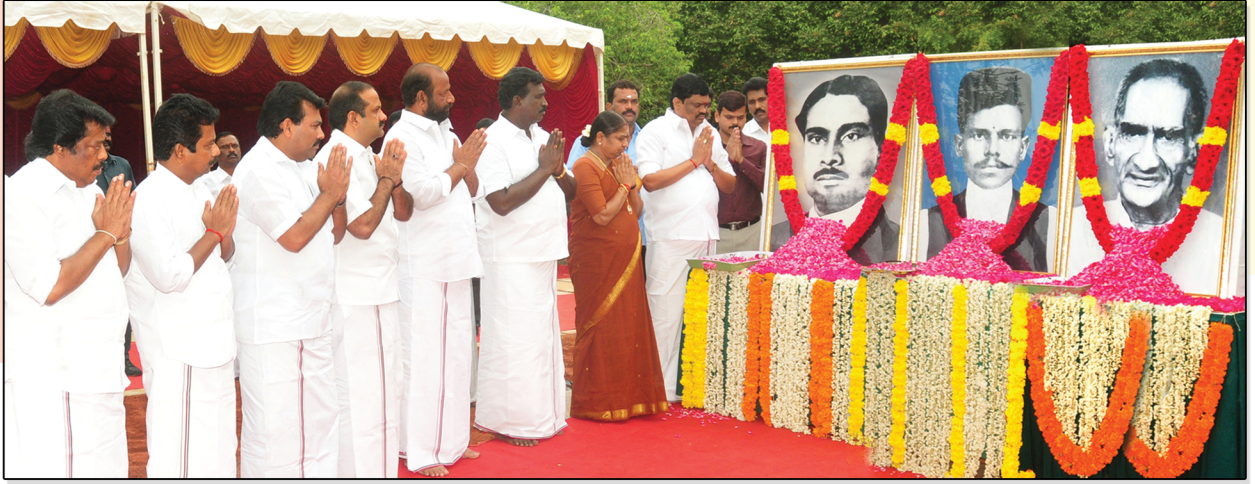
I have been repeatedly writing to you regarding the continuing instances of unprovoked assaults upon, and the abduction and illegal detention of, innocent fishermen belonging to Tamil Nadu on the high seas by the Sri Lankan Navy. As you are aware, 49 fishermen in 10 Boats were apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy on 5.6.2013. Of these, 24 fishermen have been released on 2.7.2013 and another 25 fishermen on 3.7.2013 after nearly a month of illegal detention. Another 8 fishermen were apprehended in two boats on 15.6.2013, and those fishermen are still languishing in Sri Lankan jails. Besides these, 5 fishermen of Rameshwaram have been in Sri Lankan judicial custody since 29.11.2011 on foisted charges. These rapacious onslaughts of the Sri Lankan Navy upon innocent and unarmed Indian fishermen are perpetrated with

a view to intimidating and browbeating them to prevent them from venturing out to the fishing waters in the vicinity of Katchatheevu, which my Government has always claimed to be a part of the traditional fishing areas of Indian fishermen. Such unprovoked and violent acts of the Sri Lankan Navy unfortunately remain uncountered by the Government of India. This will only exacerbate the situation and create more unrest amongst the fishermen community of Tamil Nadu.

As I have already pointed out in my letter dated 17.6.2013, the Ministry of External Affairs continues to maintain a stoic and apathetic silence. There appears to be no effort to engage the Sri Lankan Government in any dialogue to permanently resolve this vexatious issue. The numerous incidents of arrest of Tamil Nadu fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy, especially in the recent past, need a strong and co-ordinated diplomatic response by the Government of India at the highest level. I, therefore, request you to summon the High Commissioner of Sri Lanka in New Delhi and strongly advise the Sri Lankan Government through him, to stop these continuing unprovoked assaults upon innocent Indian fishermen on the high seas by the Sri Lankan Navy.

I also request you to insist upon the Government of Sri Lanka to release the Tamil Nadu fishermen forthwith without retaining them in custody." ■

THIYAGIGAL DINAM



Hon'ble Ministers and High officials paid floral tributes to the portraits of freedom fighters Thiyagigal Shenbagaraman, Sankaralinganar and Bashyam alias Arya kept near their statues in Gandhi Mandapam, Chennai to mark Thiyagigal Dinam on 17.07.2013.

World-class oceanarium for Mamallapuram

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has ordered the setting up of a Rs. 250 crore world class oceanarium by Tamil Nadu Tourist Development Corporation with public-private participation and the technological assistance of the fisheries department.

Marine plants and aquatic animals will be kept at the museum in their natural marine environment. Aquatic mammals like dolphins, seacows and sharks, marine decorative fishes and other fishes, seaweeds, sea moss, coral reef and the like will be placed in controlled habitats. Visitors will feel the oceanic environment when they see sharks surfacing in acrylic tunnels.

The oceanarium will have several facilities like exhibit rooms with coloured fish tubs, lounges with restaurants, exhibition of

colour fishes in open-air tanks, artificial lakes, musical fountains, open-air theatres, thematic auditorium, lawns and laboratory.

It will be located on a 15 acre area in Mamallapuram near Chennai. It will create an awareness on protecting and managing the marine environment and its wealth. It will attract people, research scholars and students, especially children.

The Tamil Nadu Urban Development Fund will act as the consultant to select the firm for preparing a detailed project report for setting up the oceanarium. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has allotted Rs. 2.5 crore for the preparation of the project report.



CHIEF MINISTER'S FIRM STEPS SECURE RELEASE OF FISHERMEN

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa's firm and persistent action has secured the release of 49 Rameswaram fisherman from Sri Lanka Prisons. They will return to Tamil Nadu in a day or two.

The 49 fishermen were taken into custody by the Sri Lankan Navy on 5.6.2013 in 2 batches – 24 while they were fishing in the palk straits in 5 trawlers and another 25 fishermen while they were fishing in the sea in 5 trawlers. The first batch was taken to Mannar and later lodged in prison: The second batch was taken to Kayts Island and later incarcerated.

On learning of the detention of the 49 fishermen, the Hon'ble Chief Minister brought the matter to the attention of the Prime Minister through a letter. The Hon'ble Chief Minister pointed out in that letter that the Central Government had not taken any action despite the strong protest continuously voiced by the Tamil Nadu Government over the attacks on Tamil Nadu

fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy and was keeping mum without pressuring the Sri Lankan Government through diplomatic initiatives. The Hon'ble Chief Minister had also urged the Central Government to strongly condemn these excesses and issue India's strong warning by summoning the Sri Lankan High Commissioner in Delhi.

Over and above this, the Hon'ble Chief Minister directed the Tamil Nadu Government officials to get in touch with the Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka and take steps to secure the immediate release of Indian fishermen lodged in prisons there.

Following the Hon'ble Chief Minister's directive, the Government officials were engaged in ceaseless efforts through the Indian High Commission office in Sri Lanka to get the 49 fishermen released. Following these efforts, 24 fishermen arrested by the Sri Lanka Navy were released from the Anuradhapuram prison on 2.7.2013 and the other 25 fishermen from the Jaffna prison on 3.7.2013. □





Speedy action sought to retrieve fishermen from Iran Jails

D.O. letter dated 27.7.2013 addressed by
Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to
Dr. Manmohan Singh, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

"I wish to bring to your notice the pathetic plight of 16 fishermen belonging to the districts of Ramanathapuram, Nagappattinam and Kanniyakumari in Tamil Nadu who are languishing in jail in Iran.

The matter came to my notice when the families of the arrested fishermen presented a petition on 24th July, 2013, seeking my intervention and assistance to secure the release of these fishermen who are the sole breadwinners of their families. I have been informed that these fishermen were engaged as contract labourers in fishing boats by a private company based in Saudi Arabia. It is reported that these fishermen, in the course of their fishing activities, ventured into Iranian waters and were arrested and taken into custody by the authorities in Iran in December, 2012. Further, without access to legal aid, they were tried and convicted by an Iranian court to undergo six months imprisonment and pay a fine of 5,750 US dollars each. Even after having served the term, for want of resources to pay the fine, these poor fishermen continue

to languish in jail. What is more shocking is that they have not even been able to contact the Indian Embassy. No effort has been made by the Indian Embassy to establish contact with them or to provide legal assistance to them or to put any pressure on the employer Company which engaged them to secure their release by settling the fine amount.

I am bringing this matter to your notice seeking your immediate and personal intervention to instruct the Embassy of India in Teheran to take effective legal steps to secure the release of these poor fishermen from Tamil Nadu, who have undergone the period of imprisonment, but continue to languish in jail for want of means to pay the fine amount. I also request you to instruct the Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia to take steps to settle the fine amounts and ensure the release of the fishermen.

May I again exhort you to take up the matter immediately through diplomatic channels to secure the immediate release and repatriation of the 16 fishermen from Tamil Nadu languishing in jail in Iran?" ■





Chief Minister condemns killing of BJP leader, orders speedy action

**Press statement of Selvi J Jayalalithaa,
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu - 21.7.2013**

I was shocked to learn of the brutal killing of Auditor V.Ramesh, the General Secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party of Tamil Nadu, at Salem on 19.7.2013. I strongly condemn this heinous incident. I wish to convey my heartfelt condolences to the family of the departed leader.

Violence and violent crimes, irrespective of whether they are politically motivated or otherwise, have no place in a civilized society and should be rooted out by stern and strong measures.

My Government accords the top most priority to the maintenance of law and order. The Tamil Nadu Police, under my leadership, has been given a clear mandate to proceed against all criminal elements with utmost firmness and to pursue and apprehend lawless and criminal elements, while taking impartial action to protect the innocent. The Police have been provided an atmosphere which is free from nepotism and interference so as to enable them to operate freely to uphold the law. This has resulted in Tamil Nadu emerging as a haven of peace and harmony. I am proud of the fact that Tamil Nadu has largely been free of communal, left wing extremist, and religious fundamentalist violence. I wish to emphasise here that we will not allow anti-social elements or forces to vitiate the atmosphere in the State and resort to violence and murder, either for personal or political gain,

or to foment communal violence or extremism in any form.

The Tamil Nadu Police has always taken prompt and effective action to detect crimes including politically motivated crimes. The Tamil Nadu Police has a Special Investigation Team which handles cases of fundamentalist violence. A recent significant achievement of this team was the arrest of an accused wanted in the pipe bomb case in Thirumangalam of 2011, in which the target was the BJP leader Thiru. L. K. Advani.

I have now instructed the Director General of Police to immediately constitute a Special Investigation Division to speedily investigate the murder of Auditor Ramesh. This Special Investigation Division will also take over the ongoing investigation of the murder of Thiru Vellaiyappan, State Secretary of the Hindu Munnani on 1.7.2013 at Vellore. The Special Investigation Division will function under the overall control of the DGP (CBCID) who will be provided with all the resources and manpower necessary to take up and complete the investigation at the earliest and to bring the culprits to book.

The Tamil Nadu Police is known for its professionalism and efficiency. In the light of the clear and firm directions given by me to bring the perpetrators of these heinous crimes to book at the earliest, I am confident that the guilty will be apprehended soon and dealt with as per law.



Immediate release of Rs. 5 crore for Uttarakhand relief

Press Statement of **Selvi J Jayalalithaa**,
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
on 23.6.2013

The heavy rainfall and landslides in certain districts of Uttarakhand State have caused extensive loss of life and property and untold suffering both to the residents of the affected areas and a large number of pilgrims and tourists present in the area, visiting the holy shrines of Kedarnath, Badrinath, Gangotri and Hemkund Sahib.

I have already announced the measures taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu to mitigate the suffering of stranded pilgrims from Tamil Nadu. On 19th June, a control room with a phone number accessible by relatives of the stranded pilgrims was opened under my orders in the office of the Commissioner of Police, Chennai.

On 20th June, 2013, I held a high level review meeting to ensure that the stranded pilgrims from Tamil Nadu are brought back safely. On my instructions, a team of officers headed by the Special Representative of the Government of Tamil Nadu in New Delhi and comprising the Additional Chief Secretary and Commissioner of Revenue Administration, Disaster Management and Mitigation, and the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department has been deputed to Dehradun to co-ordinate the evacuation of stranded pilgrims from Tamil Nadu. These pilgrims are being transported to New Delhi, where they have been accommodated at the Tamil Nadu House and given immediate medical attention and other facilities. On my instructions they are being flown to

Tamil Nadu at the State Government's cost. The first batch of 83 pilgrims arrived in Chennai on 21st June, 2013, and they were received by senior Ministers and officers of the Government of Tamil Nadu. Thereafter, arrangements were made to transport them to their respective destinations in various Districts. As on 22nd June, 2013, 275 pilgrims have been brought to Chennai by the Tamil Nadu Government and similar facilities have been extended to all of them. My Government will ensure that these facilities are extended to all pilgrims belonging to Tamil Nadu returning from the disaster zone in Uttarakhand.

On behalf of the State Government and people of Tamil Nadu, I convey my heartfelt condolences to the family members of all those who have lost their lives in this colossal tragedy. The State of Uttarakhand is faced with a very major task of ensuring effective and immediate rescue, relief and rehabilitation and reconstruction of the devastated area in the coming days. As a token of the support and solidarity of the Government and people of Tamil Nadu with the Government and people of Uttarakhand in their hour of need, I have ordered the immediate contribution of a sum of Rs. 5 crores from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund to the Government of Uttarakhand. The Government of Tamil Nadu stands ready to render any other assistance as may be required by the Government of Uttarakhand. ●



'More Shops for Selling Rice at Rs.20 a kg'

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has ordered the opening of more shops as per need, to sell rice at Rs. 20/- a kilogram by way of market intervention by the Government to control the price of rice in the open market.

This was disclosed by the Hon'ble Minister for Food Thiru. R. Kamaraj at the State-level review meeting of the Distribution Officers of Districts held at Chennai on 21.6.2013.

At present, 18,175 quintals of rice are being sold under the plan through the 274 special shops, he said. The Hon'ble Chief Minister had provided full food security by distributing at no cost 3.16 lakh metric tons of rice per month to 1.85 crore card holders, he added. The State had sufficient rice stocks to last for 5 months with 8.63 lakh metric tons on hand under the Public Distribution System and 6.91 lakh metric tons in the godown of the Food Corporation of India.

The Hon'ble Minister urged the Deputy Commissioners of the Civil Supplies Corporation to keep a strict vigil to ensure the smooth functioning of the 'Farm Fresh Consumer Shops' which were inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 20.6.2013 and which have been acclaimed by the people.

The renewal of family cards for the year 2013 by affixing additional sheets continued without fixing any time limit. So far 1.94 crore family cards had been renewed.

Till now, 6.65 lakh New family cards had been issued after Amma's Government

assumed office. In last May alone, 18,808 new cards had been issued.

The Hon'ble Minister for Food directed that applications for new family cards should be cleared within 60 days. He urged the officers to advise subordinate officers to deal kindly with people who come to them with requests to get their new address registered in the family cards or for the inclusion of the names of additional members of their families.

Other points made by the Hon'ble Minister included monitoring of the PDS godowns and the working of PDS shops, movement of only quality goods to PDS shops from the godowns, Civil Supplies Corporation officials ensuring the movement of only quality rice from the Food Corporation of India, movement of stocks from the godowns to fair price shops as per the schedule drawn and not crowding them at the end of the month, and strict action against hoarders and smugglers of essential commodities.

The Hon'ble Minister Food said that Rs. 4,900 crore had been set apart as food subsidy for the year 2013-2014. He urged department officials to work with a sense of dedication and ensure that the benefits of the scheme reached the targeted population. ■





BETTER ROADS, BRIDGES

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has given administrative sanction to take up works for replacing the damaged iron bridge connecting Srirangam and Tiruchi on the Chennai-Dindigul National Highway with a new four-lane bridge, for constructing a small bridge across the Ayyan channel on the approach road and for improvement of the road junction at a total cost of Rs. 81 crore.

The link (iron) bridge was constructed in 1927. As it is greatly damaged, heavy vehicle traffic is not allowed through it now. This has resulted in enormous delay in reaching Srirangam from Tiruchi and vice versa. Hence the replacement.

Administrative sanction has also been accorded for widening roads to a length of 17 kms in Kodaikanal to accommodate 2 lane traffic, construction of small bridges and Retaining walls for road edges at a total cost of Rs. 18.25 crore.

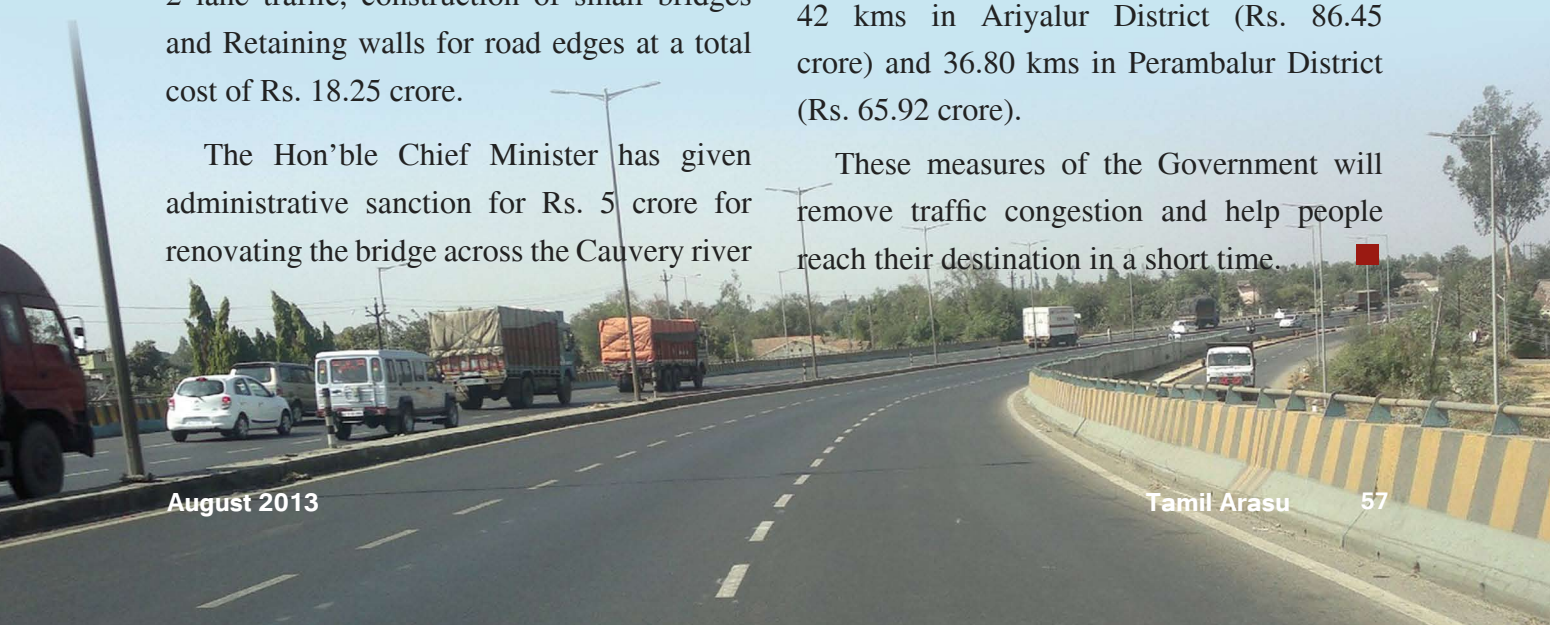
The Hon'ble Chief Minister has given administrative sanction for Rs. 5 crore for renovating the bridge across the Cauvery river

at Palakarai on the Vikravandi- Kumbakonam-Thanjavur Road.

To avert traffic congestion in Salem city, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has directed the construction of flyovers at the 5-Road junction and at the Kuranguchavadi junction. Rs. 1.08 crore has been allotted for preparing a detailed plan report for the construction of these flyovers.

Ariyalur and Perambalur Districts are rich in limestone deposits and the area has many cement factories. The heavy vehicle traffic in these Districts has damaged the roads there very badly. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has directed that these roads should be renovated so as to take the heavy vehicle traffic. Administrative sanction has been given to streamline roads to a length of 78.80 kms in these 2 Districts at a cost of Rs. 152.37 crore. The break up for the two Districts is 42 kms in Ariyalur District (Rs. 86.45 crore) and 36.80 kms in Perambalur District (Rs. 65.92 crore).

These measures of the Government will remove traffic congestion and help people reach their destination in a short time. ■



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has directed the laying of a synthetic hockey surface in Kovilpatti town, Thoothukudi District at a cost of Rs. 7 crore for providing infrastructure facility to the district where hockey is the most favourite sport. The aim is to produce hockey players of world class. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has also directed that facilities such as rain water drainage, electric lights and sprinklers to wet the court be provided.

For producing excellent men and women players in badminton, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has directed the setting up of a Badminton Academy in each of the districts of Chennai, Madurai, Cuddalore, Tiruchi and Dharmapuri. Orders have been issued to allot Rs. 70 lakh at the rate of Rs. 14 lakh for each academy towards incurring expenditure for training, participation in matches, video recording of the sport practices for self-evaluation and development. In this

academy, 15 players, men and women, will be given training for 25 days in a month, 10 months continuously.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has also ordered that inter-university sports competitions be organised every year at the state-level to encourage students (boys and girls), to participate in games in a greater measure, get the best training and help teams of various Tamil Nadu Universities emerge victorious in all-India level inter-university events. The State-level competitions cover athletics, badminton, football, hockey, kabadi, table tennis, tennis and volleybay. Rs. one crore has been allotted for these events. The first three prizes will carry an award of Rs. 10,000/- each (for 194 winners), Rs. 7,500/- each (for 194 winners) and Rs. 5,000/- each (for 50 winners). Similar sports competitions will be conducted for the private universities also in Tamil Nadu.

By way of recognising the work of trainers in shaping sportspersons, their monthly honorarium has been increased to Rs. 15,000/- from Rs. 8,000/-.

CHIEF MINISTER Scores goals for Tamil Nadu Sports





Sanction for 37 more modern godowns for storing foodgrains

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has given administrative sanction for the construction of 37 modern godowns in 19 districts at a cost of Rs. 117.20 crore and with a capacity of 1,46,500 metric tons for storing foodgrains.

This is the first phase of the project of constructing 47 modern godowns in these districts. The Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation will take up the construction of these godowns.

The districts where these godowns will come up are: Thanjavur, Coimbatore, Krishnagiri, Villupuram, Pudukkottai, Sivaganga, Namakkal, Kancheepuram, Thiruvannamalai, Tiruppur, Thoothukudi, Tiruvallur, Tiruchi, Karur, Ramanathapuram, Erode, Dharmapuri, Salem and Vellore.

At present, the Civil Supplies Corporation has godowns with a total capacity of 6.68 lakh metric tons.

Chief Minister conveys sympathies to IAF pilot's family

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 27.6.2013 (English Translation)

I was extremely sad to hear the demise of pilot Flight Lieutenant Praveen of Meenakshi Street, TVS Nagar, Madurai District in an Indian Air Force helicopter crash at Gowrikund on 25.6.2013, while he was engaged in the rescue operations of pilgrims stranded at

Guptakasi and Kedarnath in Uttarakand State due to sudden floods and landslide there.

I convey my deep condolences and sympathies to the family of Flight Lieutenant Praveen. I have directed the disbursement of Rs. 10 lakh to the family of Thiru. Praveen. ■



Allotment raised for Green houses

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has enhanced the estimation cost of the solar-powered Green houses to Rs. 2.10 lakh from Rs. 1.80 lakh from the current year (2013-2014) in view of the increased price of building materials.

Of this amount, Rs. 1.80 lakh will be for construction works and the balance for setting up solar energy panels to generate electricity.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has allotted Rs. 1,260 crore for construction of this year's target of 60,000 houses.

After assuming office as Chief Minister for a third time, the Hon'ble Chief Minister launched the solar powered Green House Scheme to provide houses to the marginalised sections in rural areas. As per this Scheme, houses, each on a 300 sq.ft area, are constructed at a cost of Rs. 1.80 lakh per house. The target is three lakh houses over a period of 5 years at the rate of 60,000 houses every year.

In 2011-2012, 60,000 houses were constructed at a cost of Rs. 1,080 crore. The targeted 60,000 houses for 2012-2013 are to be completed shortly. ■

Controlling Prices

Under the State Government's market intervention plan to control the price of rice in the open market, inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Selvi J Jayalalithaa, 2,525 tons of rice have so far been sold through co-operative shops for Rs. 5,05,06,800/-. Under this plan, rice is sold at Rs. 20/- per kilo.

Through the farm fresh shops, 755 tons of vegetables have so far been sold for Rs. 2,00,82,494/-



Farm 30.7.2013, the price of Naveen tomato has been reduced to Rs. 25/- a kilo from Rs. 30/- and that of the country tomato to Rs. 18/- from Rs. 20/- a kilo.

Three hundred and twenty nine tons of West Bengal rice has been sold for Rs. 82.33 lakh till 31.03.2013. ■



Boost to road infrastructure

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has allotted Rs. 2,950 crore in the current year for the Integrated Road Infrastructure Plan. The allotment was Rs. 2,262.50 crore last year..

Under the plan, several works like widening and strengthening of roads, renewing or relaying of damaged roads, improving the quality and effectiveness of the infrastructure, construction of by-pass roads and improving drainage facilities, will be taken up.

A total of 2,420 works will be executed with this year's allotment. Among the state Highways, intermediate lane roads to a length of 55 km will be widened into two lane roads, the quality and effectiveness of 1,170 Km long

road infrastructure will be improved, 30 bridges and culverts constructed and land acquisition and other works taken up (totally 624 works costing Rs. 1021,26,56,000/-). In important District roads, 912 kms of single lane roads will be widened into intermediate lanes, roads to a length of 945 km will be strengthened and improved, 20 bridges and culverts constructed

and land acquisition and other works taken up (totally 854 costing Rs. 1,178,88,44,000/-). As regards other district roads, roads to a length of 290 Km will be widened, the quality and effectiveness of 1,061 Km-long road infrastructure will be improved, 41 bridges and culverts built and other works taken up (totally 607 costing Rs. 467,89,00,000/-). Widening of roads to a length of 167 km in villages whose predominant population (more than 50 per cent) is Adi-Dravidar, improving the quality and effectiveness of 691 kms of road infrastructure, construction of 10 bridges and culverts and other works (totally 335 costing Rs. 281.96 crore) are also to be taken up.

The 2,420 works also include: widening 22 kms on the Chennai-Tiruttani-Renigunta road to 4 lane traffic road and strengthening

it (Rs. 98 crore), laying by-pass roads in Thanjavur District (Rs. 52 crore), improving 81.53 km long urban roads in the districts of Chennai, Tiruchi, Pudukkottai, Sivagangai, Tiruvannamalai, Tiruppur and Tirunelveli that were left out when the Indian National Highways Authority laid out by-pass roads (Rs. 85.66 crore), improving in Kancheepuram district, Other District Roads that link the East Coast Road (Rs. 11.24 crore), improving in Ariyalur and Perambalur Districts, State Highways to a length of 2.4 km, important district roads to a length of 15.7 km and 4 km long other district roads that were damaged due to heavy vehicle traffic to the cement factories (Rs. 50.33 crore), widening 20.14 km long

roads to fire-cracker factories in Virudhunagar District (Rs. 7.40 crore), 2 multi-level flyovers in Tiruppur District and works connected with the preparation of project report for laying link road to Noyyal bridge, land acquisition and project report works for a by-pass road to Elupur town in Pudukkottai District (Rs. 4 crore), renovation of roads not maintained by the National Highways Authority (Rs. 16.50 crore), construction of bridges across Noyyal river on the Thondamuthur-Maadhampatti road in Coimbatore District (Rs. 3.82 crore) and raising retaining walls, protective walls, central medians improving road junctions and providing drainage facility, all in Salem District (Rs. 20.11 crore). ■

CHIEF MINISTER PAYS SURPRISE VISIT TO ELEPHANT CAMP



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalithaa on 30.07.2013 made a surprise visit to the Theppakadu elephant camp and Mudumalai wildlife sanctuary, and inspected the way the animals were kept and maintained.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister reached these places by road from Kodanadu, in the Nilgiris District. At the Theppakadu camp, the Hon'ble

Chief Minister enquired about the types of food given to the elephants and later fed them with jack-fruit, plantains, sugarcane and the like.

On the way to these places, people accorded an enthusiastic welcome to the Hon'ble Chief Minister who reciprocated their good wishes with equal joy. ■



ACCEPT APEX COURT'S VERDICT, DROP ANY MOVE TO REINTRODUCE NEET

D.O. letter dated 28.7.2013 addressed by
Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to
Dr.Manmohan Singh, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

“ I wish to draw your attention to the recent landmark judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India pronounced on 18th July, 2013, by which the Notification of the Medical Council of India and the Dental Council of India introducing a National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) for the Under Graduate and Post Graduate Medical and Dental courses has been found ultra vires of the Constitution and has been quashed. This has finally brought to an end a long pending and vexatious issue relating to a policy by which students aspiring for Medical and Dental seats at the Under Graduate and Post Graduate levels had to go through the agony of an uncertain selection process which militated against their interest and the interests of the State of Tamil Nadu. The majority judgment has rightly upheld all the valid objections raised by Tamil Nadu along with the contentions of the other petitioners. This judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court has been widely welcomed.

However, instead of abiding by the judgment of the Hon'ble Apex Court, a Press Statement attributed to the Union Health Minister Thiru. Ghulam Nabi Azad has indicated that the Government of India may move the Supreme Court for a review of the judgment. This has again created confusion and frustration in the minds of thousands of students of

Tamil Nadu who have already been covered by a fair and transparent admission policy laid down by the Government of Tamil Nadu which has been working well. Tamil Nadu **strongly objects to any such fresh purported attempts by the Government of India to seek a review of the judgment of the Supreme Court and efforts for reintroduction of NEET in any manner as it infringes upon the State's rights and admission policies to medical institutions in Tamil Nadu.**

You may recall that I had written to you on this issue twice, expressing the opposition of the State of Tamil Nadu to the introduction of NEET. The Government of Tamil Nadu had taken a number of deliberative steps starting from 2005 which culminated in the abolition of the Common Entrance Examination for professional under graduate courses in the State. The Common Entrance Examination would have put the rural students to great disadvantage because they lack the resources to enroll in training institutions and access materials available to urban students. Consequently, a large number of socially and economically backward meritorious rural students have benefited by the decision to abolish the Common Entrance Test in the State.

Most importantly, Tamil Nadu has followed the policy of upholding social justice by following 69% reservation for Backward and Most Backward Communities and Scheduled Castes and Tribes in professional courses. You

may be aware that, on my instructions, the Government of Tamil Nadu had enacted the Tamil Nadu Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation of seats in Educational Institutions and of appointments or posts in the Services under the State) Act, 1993 (Tamil Nadu Act 45 of 1994) providing 69% reservation in education and employment for the depressed sections of Society and got it included in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution. The introduction of a Common Entrance Test such as NEET would have created confusion and a plethora of litigations and confounded the smooth implementation of this reservation policy both in undergraduate and postgraduate medical and dental admissions in Tamil Nadu.

For the Post Graduate courses, the Government of Tamil Nadu gives preference to those who have served in rural areas, giving special weightage to those working in hilly and tribal areas. The Government has also successfully obtained and enforced bonds from

those completing post graduate education in Government Medical Colleges to serve the State Government for a minimum period, which has helped us to meet the need for specialist medical manpower in Government Hospitals. The introduction of NEET would confound the implementation of these policy initiatives and socio-economic objectives of the State, since we would have to fall in line with the regulations of the national test, which did not have such enabling provisions. The national test would be out of tune with the prevailing socio-economic milieu and administrative requirements of Tamil Nadu.

The reported move of the Union Health Minister in seeking to file a review petition before the Supreme Court of India to reintroduce NEET should be immediately dropped. The Government of India should accept the decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court without seeking a review.” ■



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The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa flagged off a total of 244 buses consisting of 189 new buses and 55 renovated buses of the State Transport Corporations, at the Secretariat on 20.06.2013.