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"Bring up children as children, not as child labourers"

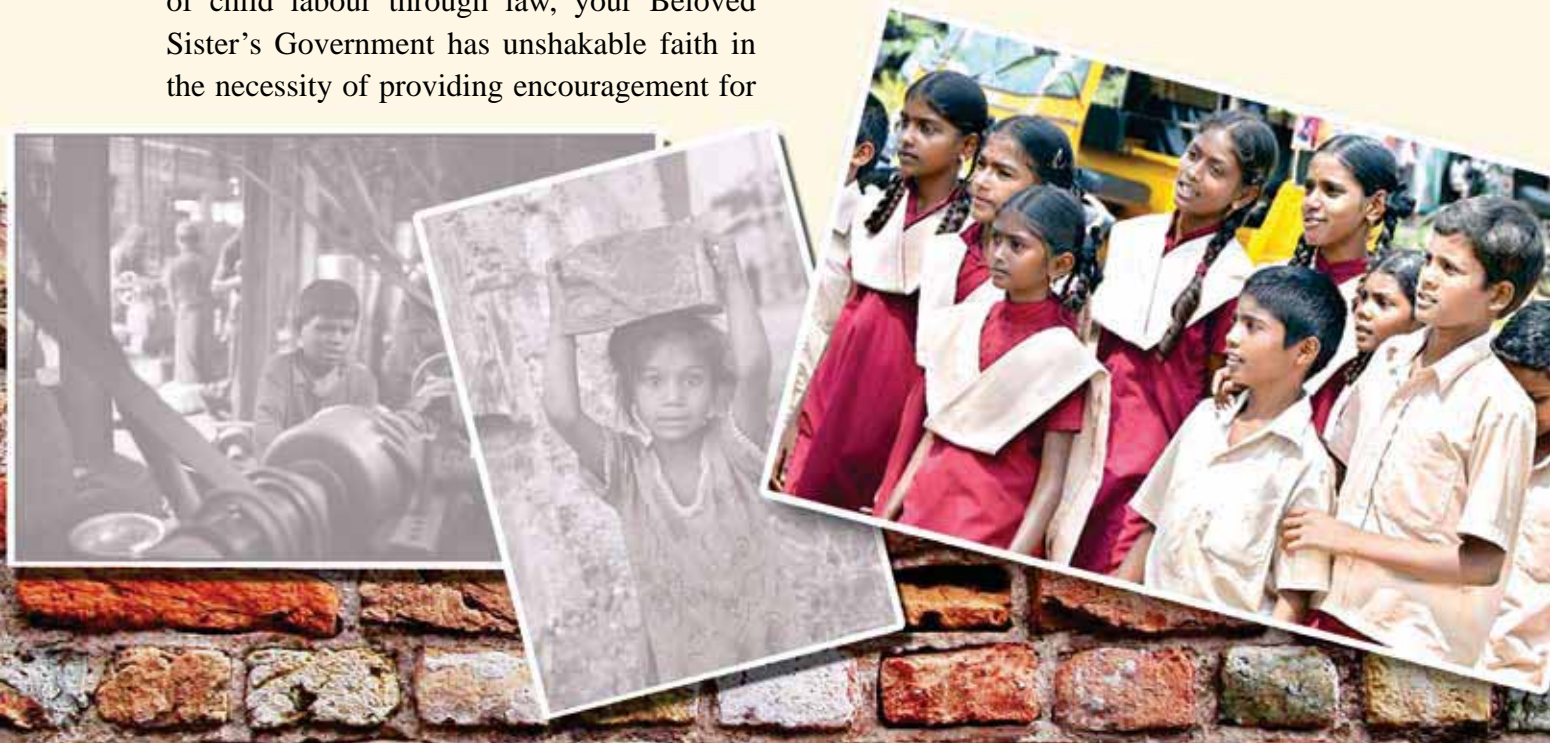
Message of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of
Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa**
on Anti-Child Labour Day
(English Translation)

Every year, on June 12, 'Anti-Child Labour Day' is being observed for recollecting the innate rights of children and to spread awareness worldwide against the practice of child labour. Childhood is the invaluable period of happiness not afflicted by any worry. There cannot be a greater cruelty than sending children to work when they should be carefree going to school, studying, making friends, and dancing, singing and playing.

While working firmly for the total abolition of child labour through law, your Beloved Sister's Government has unshakable faith in the necessity of providing encouragement for

uninterrupted education to all children. That is why my Government, in an unprecedented way, has been implementing several schemes like free education, nutritious food, school uniforms, text books, notebooks, educational accessories, school bag, footwear, bicycle, laptop, all at no cost, free bus pass and monetary incentives so as to ensure continuous education and to prevent dropouts.

My appeal is that all parents should make use of these valuable schemes and send their wards to school and help them acquire the wealth of education, a wealth which no one can take away from them. Each parent should take a pledge 'to bring up children as children; and not as child labourers and support the Government's efforts to banish the scourge of child labour from Tamil Nadu. ●



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"My Government will make the generation and use of solar energy a people's movement and will achieve a solar power capacity addition of 3,000 MW by the year 2015."

- Selvi J Jayalalithaa
Hon'ble Chief Minister

In this issue....

- Chief Minister lauds Rule 110 schemes, nails critics - 16.5.2013 (English Translation)4
- A bonanza of projects for Srirangam - 3.6.2013 (English Translation)..... 14
- 'Route Direct Cash Transfers through State Governments' - 10.6.2013.....30
- Chief Minister foresees friendly Government at Centre next year - 12.6.201344
- And now, vegetables at fair prices52
- Rescued London couple convey heartfelt thanks to Chief Minister.....56
- Tamil Nadu steps to facilitate Kuruvai cultivation - 14.6.2013 (English Translation).....58

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I Wrapper

Hon'ble Chief Minister **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** inaugurating the arch commemorating the diamond jubilee of Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly near War Memorial on Kamarajar Salai, in Chennai on 20.6.2013.

MEMORIAL ARCH FOR ASSEMBLY DIAMOND JUBILEE

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 20.6.2013 declared open the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Diamond Jubilee Celebration Memorial Arch, erected at a cost of Rs. 1.33 crore near the War Memorial on Kamarajar Salai, Chennai.

The Legislative Assembly was constituted as per the provisions of the Indian Constitution in 1952. With the completion of 60 years in 2012, the Diamond Jubilee of the Legislative Assembly was celebrated on 30.11.2012 in a grand manner under the presidency of His Excellency the President of India and in the presence of the Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa.

To perpetuate the memory of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations, the Hon'ble Chief Minister directed the erection of an Arch that

blends tradition and modern architecture and reflected the grandeur of the historic and hoary Fort St. George and matches the ambience of the War Memorial. The Hon'ble Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for the Arch on 29.10.2012.

The arch is 54 feet high and has a span width of 108 ft.



Chief Minister lauds Rule 110 schemes, nails critics

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** delivered in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 16.5.2013, expressing her thanks for the felicitations on the two-year achievements of the Tamil Nadu Government. *(English Translation)*

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, Perarignar Anna opined that our Constitution is not a frozen document because the people of a democratic country always have a right to change their Constitution. The AIADMK Government under my leadership, follows such seminal teachings of Anna in keeping only the welfare of the people as the foremost consideration, enacts laws according to this tenet, and formulates schemes with this end in view. Now it has completed two years in office and is stepping into the third year.

The leaders of various Legislative parties here, have praised the achievements, various welfare schemes and developmental programmes of the Government under my leadership in the past two years.

Those who don't have the heart to give credit for its achievements are issuing statements outside. Some address public meetings against this Government. I express my thanks to those who have praised the achievements of my Government here and also to those who have criticised them outside.

Those who have the welfare of the people of Tamil Nadu and the state in view, will definitely

praise the programmes and achievements of this Government. That's because this Government has formulated so many schemes for the people and is implementing them.

My Government is implementing many schemes with the aim that Tamil Nadu should emerge as the leading state in India in all spheres, there should be prosperity and plenty for all, nobody should experience any want or poverty, infrastructure facilities should be upgraded, and the oppressed and downtrodden should get their due in economic growth.

My Government has made greater allocations to departments like education and health because these areas are important for human resource development and for the country's growth.

If you take the Education department, we are providing free notebooks, textbooks, educational tools like geometry boxes, school bags, uniforms, laptops and cycles, free bus passes and incentives in the higher classes to stem drop outs. We are upgrading educational infrastructure facilities, improving the quality of education, and have made appointments to

more than 60,000 teaching and non-teaching posts in just two years to improve the standard of education, and filled up posts of lecturers in colleges. We have started new universities, new engineering colleges and polytechnics. With all this, this Government has sparked a revolution in the educational sector.

Similarly, in the health sector, we have built new hospitals, established electronics infectious diseases surveillance centres and upgraded the infrastructure facilities of hospitals. For the Indian systems of medicine we have established a separate research and growth division. We have appointed more doctors, nurses, technicians and other staff, and give financial assistance to expectant mothers. The poor and unprivileged now get quality treatment for their illnesses under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme. All these steps have led to a renaissance in the healthcare scenario in Tamil Nadu.

The Government under my leadership has taken manifold steps to protect the poor and unprivileged folk from skyrocketing prices. To curb price rise, through a special scheme



we are supplying free rice through the public distribution system as well as toor dhal, urad dhal, Palmolein and sugar at cheap rates. Through the Chennai Corporation, we are running budget canteens which sell dishes at subsidised rates. To control the price of rice in the open market, we sell rice at Rs. 20 a kilogram. Cooking gas has been freed from VAT to reduce the burden on consumers.

Apart from these steps, to improve the standard of living of poor and unprivileged people, we have distributed cows, goats or sheep under the no-cost distribution of milch cows and goats/sheep scheme. We are training disadvantaged people to improve their capability and are giving loans to start businesses.

We have the marriage assistance scheme to help financially poor parents in getting their daughters married and to promote the educational status of poor girls. The pension under the social security has been doubled. Free mixies, grinders and fans have been distributed to make life easier for our women folk. Under the Green House Scheme, the rural poor are recipients of solar powered houses.

As far as the Agriculture sector is concerned, the Government under my leadership has taken a slew of steps to spark a second green revolution in the State. Crop loans to farmers, drought relief for the first time in India, relief for farmers affected by the Thane cyclone, innovative methods to increase production, supply of equipment to micro and small farmers for drip and sprinkler irrigation at 100 per cent subsidy and to other farmers at 75

per cent subsidy are among the steps we have taken to improve agricultural productivity and to enhance the income of farmers.

On the drought relief front, farmers in the delta districts have been distributed relief to the tune of Rs. 524.25 crores, and farmers in the non-delta districts have been distributed Rs. 835.21 crores, making for a total of Rs. 1359.46 crores of drought relief. Moreover, it has been ordered that other drought-relief works be undertaken at a cost of Rs. 2,521.75 crores and the works are being completed. So, Rs. 3,881.21 crores has been totally spent towards drought relief.

With the aim of increasing the industrial growth of Tamil Nadu, 17 MoUs have been signed with various concerns in the past two years for starting industries with a total investment of Rs. 26,000 crores and the creation of 1.46 lakh jobs. The Government under my leadership has created a suitable environment for MNCs to start their businesses here and provided them the needed infrastructure.

Apart from all this, based on the feedback that we receive from the people through our enquiries, and on the representation of Hon'ble Members of the Legislature, schemes are being announced daily by me based on Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Rule 110.

Assembly Members who realise the benefits of such Schemes, the beneficiaries of such Schemes, and good-hearted Members of the public who are aware that Tamil Nadu is on the path to progress happily praise this Government and its achievements. It is only those who realise that though these

announcements will benefit the people, they themselves cannot profit by them and that their political future will be annihilated by such steps, are finding fault with the Government for such announcements and are making fun of them.

This Government's schemes are good or bad depending on the eye of the beholder.

Once, a disciple asked his guru whether the world was good or bad.

The guru answered the question with a question. 'Are the teeth of cat good or bad?', he asked.

The disciple was confused.

The wise have this method of answering questions with questions. They set the people thinking.

The disciple began to think.

And the master began to explain. If you ask the kitten whether the grasp of the cat is good or bad, it will surely say it is the abode of compassion.

This is so because the kitten is fully dependent on the mother cat. Many a time, the mother cat holds the kitten in the clasp of its teeth and takes it to a safe place.

Now if you ask a mouse about the cat's teeth what would it say about them? Why did the Lord create needle-like sharp teeth for the cat, it would lament.

Even so, depending on the vision of the person who sees it, the world is either good or bad, the master explained to his disciple. This set the disciple thinking all the more.

This is an explanation given by Bhagavan Ramakrishna.

All the people are praising this All-India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam rule which takes care of the Tamil Nadu people and Tamil Nadu itself like a mother takes care of her children. But some persons who are not able to stomach this state of affairs and are motivated by sheer jealousy and fear that their political future will be ruined, are heaping calumny on the Government. They raise questions about the schemes announced under Rule 110 and find fault with them.

In the two years of 2011-2012 and 2012-2013, I have made 63 statements under Rule 110 of the Legislative Assembly. In these 63 statements, 136 announcements have found place. Among these, full action has been taken under 127 announcements. Work is going on with regard to those that have to do with construction. The rest have been fully completed. I think it will be appropriate to speak about a few such works here.

On 30.08.2011, I announced that the Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation would provide good cable TV service at affordable cost from 02.09.2011 and that only Rs.70/- would be collected as monthly subscription. Following this announcement, the Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation started its service on 02.09.2011 and I would like to say that it has 61.63 lakh subscribers.

I announced on 12.08.2011 that a hundred Government, Corporation and Municipal High Schools would be upgraded as Higher

Secondary Schools and that 900 new Teacher posts would be created. On the heels of this announcement, 100 schools were upgraded and 900 Senior Teacher posts were filled.

I announced on 17.8.2011 that the compensation for lives lost due to attacks by wild animals would be increased, and likewise higher compensation amounts are being issued based on this announcement.

On 25.8.2011, I announced that the agricultural co-operative societies would build 1,166 godowns to create additional storage of 1,55,300 MTs for farm produce. Since then, 1,141 godowns have been built and are being used. The remaining 25 godowns will begin to be used in a few days.

I announced in this august Assembly on 10.9.2011 that a new and extended Farmers Protection Scheme would be started. This has been brought to force and in the last financial year Rs. 1,508.60 crores has been distributed as assistance to farmers.

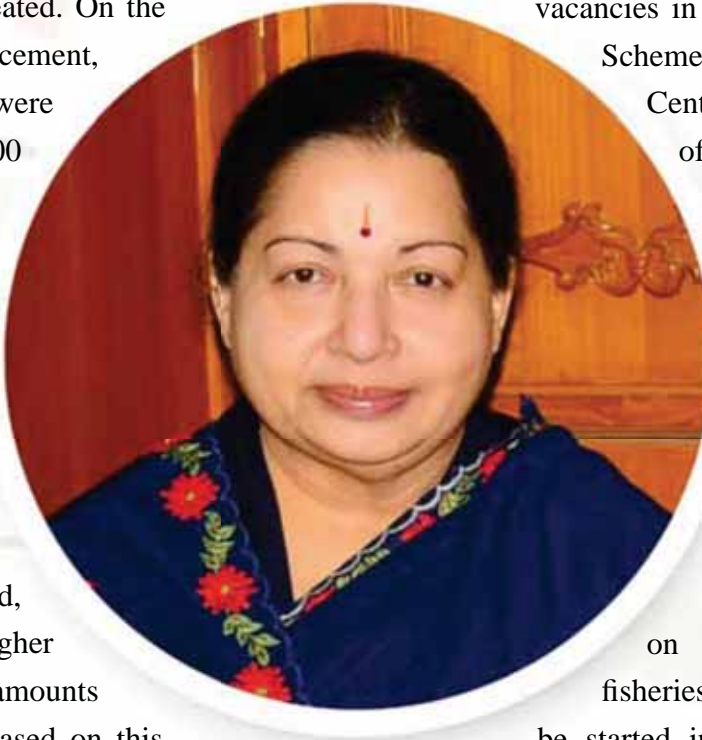
Like the above schemes, Government subsidy for Hindu pilgrims going to Mansarovar and Muktinath, creation of nine new circles in the Revenue department, opening

of new arts and science colleges, filling up of vacancies in the Nutritious Meal Scheme and Anganwadi Centres, establishment of a separate board for appointing Doctors and Medical Staff, provision of four sets of uniform for school children taking midday meals, are also being implemented.

I had announced on 13.9.2011 that a fisheries university would be started in the Nagapattinam

region, and acting on this the Tamil Nadu Fisheries University has been started and a Vice Chancellor and Registrar have been appointed. I inaugurated the certificate and diploma courses of this university through video conferencing on 20.2.2013.

Based on our analysis of the representations of members of the public, and the representations and suggestions of Members of the Legislature, we devise schemes that benefit the people, and announce them daily under Rule 110 of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Rules. These schemes have been enthusiastically welcomed and are receiving huge acclaim from the people and the elected representatives of the people. Former Chief Minister Thiru. M. Karunanidhi, who has not been able to stomach this fact, is criticising them through statements and public speeches.



Thiru. Karunanidhi has been raising the question whether the allocation for the schemes announced under Rule 110 come from the Budget that has already been presented or the Government would make fresh allocations. He has gone on to say sarcastically in his statement that perhaps only those who praise such schemes in the House know the answer. He has added that schemes running to crores of rupees are being announced everyday by the Chief Minister and asked why these schemes were not included in the Budget. He has asked why the announcements were not made by the Ministers in charge of various departments when they answered questions on the discussion on the demand for grants for their departments.

This raises the question whether Thiru. Karunanidhi who was Chief Minister five times and Finance Minister four times, has been holding these posts without knowing how allocations are made for the various schemes. Did he sign on various files without knowing about financial allocation? Or is he deliberately feigning ignorance now?

Every financial year during the preparation of the Budget, allocations are made in the Budget for continuing schemes. Similarly under Part II schemes, allocations are made for schemes to be newly implemented. Allocations are also be made for announcements made in the Budget. Under heads for which there could be expenditure, token provisions of allocation are made.

For schemes that are announced after the presentation of the Budget, it is not possible

to make allocations in the Budget as plan expenditure is not known. That is why separate G.O.s are issued for new projects for which budgetary allocations have not been made and they are considered as new projects and new supplementary projects and the required funds are apportioned in the revised estimates. When the project has to be completed fast, the Contingency Fund is used for it.

I would like to inform the Hon'ble Member Thiru. M. Karunanidhi, who avoids coming to the Assembly and remains outside, that subsequently, the allocation for the new projects would be included in the first supplementary estimate and the final supplementary estimate and the permission of the Legislature sought. Therefore, I would like to inform him that schemes announced under Rule 110 are allocated proper funds and are implemented.

I have pointed out how the schemes announced in the past two years have been implemented so that there isn't any need for Thiru. Karunanidhi to harbour any suspicion in this matter.

(Let me also point out that) Paper announcements are the domain of Thiru. Karunanidhi and he is a pastmaster in the art. When general elections for the Tamil Nadu Assembly were held in 2006, the DMK made the election promise that 55 lakh acres of barren land would be levelled and at least two acres of land would be distributed to every poor farmer and his family. I pointed out during my election campaign that this was a gambit to take the people for a ride because the Government had only 3 lakh acres of barren

land in its possession. Despite this, the 2 acre promise was part of the Governor's address in 2006 as well as the 2006-2007 Budget presented by the DMK government.

I took part in the Assembly debate on 27.5.2006 and spoke extensively on the matter and asked how they would distribute land that they did not have it in their possession.

Thiru. Karunanidhi, who replied said that even if it was land the size of one's palm, it would be given only to poor farmers. But till the end, the 2 acres of land promised to poor landless farmer families was never given. And quite to the contrary, the DMK men began to grab land from the poor and from landowners. Therefore, I would like to make it clear that making paper announcements is a charge that fits only Thiru. Karunanidhi.

The DMK chief has said that I have patted myself on my back for the foodgrain production surpassing 100 lakh tonnes. He has said that while I claimed that the steps I had taken to augment grain production had led to the record harvest, the DMK regime which ruled till 2011 May should also be given credit for it. On May 16, 2011 the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam Government under my leadership took the reins of Government. What cultivation activity can be undertaken in the months of April and May to increase the food production? I would like to inform Thiru. Karunanidhi that he should not rush to take the credit for achievements with which he has no connection.

He has said that I have claimed that a record Rs. 274 crores had been allotted for upgrading infrastructure facilities in the animal husbandry sector. "The 2013-2014 budget says that Rs.115 crores has been allotted to construct various buildings and that Rs. 25 crores has been allotted to renovate veterinary hospitals", he has said and wanted to know which claim is true. I had said that in the past two years, my Government had spent Rs. 274 crores to improve animal husbandry infrastructure in various ways, and that the DMK Government had spent just Rs. 12 crores in the two years of 2009-2010 and 2010-2011.

The figures in the 2013-2014 Budget pertain to schemes to be implemented this year. I would therefore like to tell Thiru. Karunanidhi that both figures are correct.

Similarly, Thiru. Karunanidhi has raised questions about the allocations for godowns for the Co-operation and Food and Consumer Protection department. For this scheme, we will secure loans from NABARD. It will be treated as a new project.

If Thiru. Karunanidhi, who has been Chief Minister five times, had wanted to implement schemes for the welfare of the people, he could have made announcements in the Legislative Assembly and implemented them. But the truth is that he never wanted to execute schemes for the welfare of the people.

Chief Minister dedicates Rs. 1,928.80 crores Hogenakkal water project



Speech made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa**
at the Secretariat on 29.5.2013, while inaugurating the Hogenakkal Integrated
Drinking Water Project through video conferencing. *(English Translation)*

I forthwith express my affectionate greetings to Minister of Municipal Administration, Rural Development, Law, Courts and Prisons, Thiru K. P. Munusamy, Higher Education Minister Thiru P. Palaniappan, Consul General of Japan, Mr. Masanori Nakano, Senior Representative of the Japan International Co-operation Agency Mr. Tomohide Ichiguchi, Chief Secretary Tmt. Sheela Balakrishnan, Municipal Administration and Water Supplies Department Secretary Thiru. G.K.Phanindra Reddy, Government officials, respected elders,

women folk whom I considered to be deities who have vouchsafed public life on me, and my dear brethren who are blood unto blood of the lord of our hearts, Puratchi Thalaivar MGR and whom I consider to be greater than my life itself.

The Hogenakkal Integrated Drinking Water Project is a long-felt need and dream of the people of Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri. I experience limitless joy today in inaugurating it for the use of the people.

When Puratchi Thalaivar MGR was Chief Minister in 1986, a detailed project



report was prepared for implementing the scheme at a cost of Rs. 120 crores. When I was Chief Minister for the first time, a report was prepared in 1994 at a cost of Rs. 350 crores. But as we did not get the needed financial help, it was not possible to take up the project.

When I became Chief Minister for the second time, the project report was corrected and a proposal sent on 18.8.2005 to the Central Government to complete the project at an outlay of Rs. 1,005 crores covering 3 municipalities, 17 town panchayats, 18 panchayat unions and 6,755 rural habitations in the two districts. On the basis of this report, financial aid was secured and the stone laid for its inauguration in 2008.

The Karnataka unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party opposed the project and conducted a protest. On 26.3.2008, I made an announcement that on 27.3.2008 a massive protest would

be held by the AIADMK at Hogenakkal. Consequent on this, a resolution was passed in the Tamil Nadu Assembly on 27.3.2008 and 1.4.2008 seeking the intervention of the Central Government to thwart the attempts in Karnataka to stop the project.

But suddenly on 5.4.2008, even without informing the legislative assembly, the then Chief Minister Thiru. Karunanidhi said, “Let the elections in Karnataka be over. After that if need be we shall have discussions and come to a decision”, and stopped the project.

To question this action of the former Chief Minister making the Karnataka elections a reason for thwarting the Hogenakkal project, I went to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 8.4.2008 and asked for a discussion on the subject. But the then Speaker, who belonged to the DMK did not give permission for such a discussion.



After permission was denied to me for raising the issue, I came outside and spoke to journalists. I then made the demand that the Chief Minister who did not have the courage to implement the project should quit and that the people needed a Government with the political will to cater to their needs. I also made it known that the AIADMK would provide such a Government.

After that, works on the Hogenakkal project began. In 2011, when I took the reins of power again, 50 per cent of works should have been completed. But only a bare 18 per cent had been finished. But after I came to power, I got the works speeded up and the project is being inaugurated by me now.

But Thiru. M. K. Stalin, who went to Krishnagiri last February did false propaganda saying that the project which should have been

completed in 2012 December had been put in the cold storage by my Government. But later, perhaps because he had by then come to know that the project was nearing completion, Thiru. Stalin went to Dharmapuri this month and said that if the project was given to him he would complete it in two months. It's quite laughable that Thiru. Stalin who could not complete the project in the two years that he was in Government now claims that he will complete it in two months when he is out of power!

I take pride in inaugurating this project completed at a cost of Rs. 1,928.80 crores for the welfare of the people of the districts of Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri. I again express my heartfelt greetings to all of you. I take leave of you saying, 'Victory to Anna's name'! 'Victory to the name of Puratchi Thalaivar'! Nandri..Vanakkam.

A bonanza of projects for Srirangam



Hon'ble Chief Minister **Selvi J Jayalalithaa's** speech on 3.6.2013, in the Srirangam Assembly Constituency in Tiruchirapalli district, at the Government function for laying foundation stones for various new projects, inaugurating completed projects and distributing assistance to beneficiaries. *(English Translation)*

Hon'ble Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, dear brother Thiru. Dhanapal who is presiding over this pleasant function,

Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education, dear brother Thiru. Palaniappan who has addressed this function,

Hon'ble Minister for Industries, dear brother Thiru. P. Thangamani,

Hon'ble Minister for Khadi and Village Industries, dear brother Thiru. Poonachi,

Government whip, dear brother Thiru. Manoharan,

Hon'ble Ministers, Representatives of Local Bodies, Tiruchirapalli District Collector Tmt. Jayashree, who delivered the welcome address, Thiru. Radha, Director (Planning), Tiruchirapalli District Rural Development Agency, who is to propose a vote of thanks, Respected Elders, womenfolk, my veritable

gods, my dear siblings who are Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivar MGR's blood unto blood and dearer to me than my own life...

At the outset, I express my affectionate respect to all of you. Tiruchirapalli District shines as the peak of sculptural art, the abode of pilgrim centres and the birthplace of the learned and the wise. The Srirangam Constituency is part of such a glorious district. I am extremely happy to participate in this elegant Government function held in this Srirangam Constituency, to see you all, lovable citizens, and exchange views with you. I am happy to inaugurate the completed schemes costing Rs. 41,98,62,000/-, lay the foundation stone for new works costing Rs. 1,752,69,65,000/-, and disburse welfare assistance to the tune of Rs.59,76,93,140/- to 1,40,002 beneficiaries. These works and welfare assistance total Rs. 1,854.45 crores.



My Government is implementing several schemes with a view to banish poverty, develop human resources and infrastructure facilities and ensure all-round participation in the economic development of Tamil Nadu. My Government has been implementing new schemes to take the State to the foremost position in agriculture, industry and service sectors. I announce ever-new schemes for the benefit of different sections of the people like Children, Students, Women, Scheduled Tribes, Adidraavidars, Backward, Most Backward, Minorities, Youth, Entrepreneurs, Workers, Farmers and the Senior Citizens.

Besides, I also carefully examine requests from the general public and the demands of the members of Legislative Assembly and announce many schemes for the welfare of the people under rule 110 of the Legislative Assembly. Unable to bear this, the DMK President Thiru. Karunanidhi has said insolently “these are mere announcements”. I have explained in the Assembly that of the 136 statements I made in the Assembly in the

2 years of 2011 and 2012, 127 statements have been acted upon. I gave some examples also.

In a volte face, the DMK President Thiru. Karunanidhi changed his position completely and accepted that these statements were implementable by saying that once an announcement had been made in the Assembly by the Chief Minister or a Minister they had to be implemented, lest ‘the Assurances Committee raise questions’. His son Thiru. M.K. Stalin dubs this regime as ‘110 regime’ and asks whether at least 50 per cent of these (announcements) will be implemented. He is duping the people by hinting in his speech that none of these announcements will be acted upon. As the announcements under Rule 110 are most beneficial to people, they are cheating the people by speaking in different voices.

I am reminded of a Russian story.

A father and his son were standing in front of a huge memorial. Passers-by queried them about the memorial. ‘A great saint has been interred here; we have built a memorial. If you tarry here for a while, you will get peace of mind’, they said. They also placed a hundi



there. Believing the story to be true, passers-by took rest for some time there and deposited money in the hundi. The offerings swelled. A quarrel also broke out between the father and the son.

Father told the son: “If we fight among ourselves people will misunderstand us. I will give you a donkey and some money. You eke out your livelihood on your own with that”.

The son consented and went to the next town with the donkey. But the donkey died on the way. Immediately he got an idea. He buried the donkey on the roadside. He built a small mandapam with the money he had. He told passers-by that it was the samadhi of a great saint. Crowds gathered. Money also flowed into the hundi. The son overtook the father and became a big man.

The father heard about the opulence of his son and went to see him one day. ‘How did you become so rich’, he asked. “It is due to your blessings,” the son replied.



“How?” the father asked.

The son replied: “The donkey you gave me died. I buried it and built a mandapam with the money you gave. I told all people that it is the samadhi of a great saint. I placed a hundi also. People believed me and money started to pour in. I became rich”.

“Only now have you acquitted yourself as my son”, the happy father told the son.

“How do you say that,” the son queried.

The father said: “You have now buried the young donkey and raised a mandapam. The mandapam we have raised in our place is over that of the mother of this donkey. I am earning

by lying to the people there that it is the samadhi of a great saint”.

Like this, the former Chief Minister Thiru. M. Karunanidhi and his son Thiru. M.K. Stalin are slandering this Government and its plans without rhyme or reason.

Though I am working with one-pointedness to make Tamil Nadu the number one State in India. I consider it is my foremost duty to meet you all, who shower your affection overwhelmingly on me and to fulfill my promises given to you during the election campaign. That is why I have come here for the fourth time and am addressing you.

When I came here for the first time on 19.6.2011, I laid the foundation stone for several schemes costing Rs. 190.18 crores. Subsequently, I laid foundation stones for schemes costing Rs. 160.21 crores on 13.2.2012 and for schemes costing Rs. 82.63 crores on 13.9.2012. Of the Rs. 433.03 crores worth schemes for which I have laid foundation stone so far, Rs. 65.03 crores worth schemes have been executed and I have already inaugurated them.

Last year, when I came here in February I laid the foundation stone for a National Law School on a 25 acre plot. Works on the project are on. With the available infrastructure, I am happy to announce that the first year classes will be started in the current year itself.

Works worth Rs. 41,98,62,000/- have been completed. I am extremely happy to inaugurate them today. I would like to outline some of the important ones among them.

- A Rs. 1 crore footpath with overhead roof from Amma Mandapam



to Sriranganathaswamy temple for the convenience of devotees who go to the temple by foot after bathing in the Cauvery river;

- Own buildings constructed at a cost of Rs. 1.69 crore for primary health centres at Somarasempettai, Maravanoor, Inaamkulathur, Nagamangalam and Anthanallur;

- An air-conditioned maternity ward, maternity centre and an operation theatre established at a cost of Rs. 2.15 crores at the Srirangam Government hospital;

- New buildings for veterinary dispensaries constructed at a cost of Rs. 1,06,64,000/- at Anthanallur, Alindur, Navalur Kuttapattu and Kuzhumani;





- Auditorium at the Agricultural College and Research Station and at the Women's Horticulture College and Research Station, both in Srirangam Taluk at a cost of Rs. 1.50 crore;

- 'Amma Restaurant' on the Srirangam Amma mandapam Road;

- Location of the Regional Centre of the Tamil Nadu Open University in the Srirangam Shivani College of Technology complex;

- 50 individual power (pump) schemes, check dams, drinking water schemes, mini power (pump) scheme and overhead tank set up by the Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board at Anthanallur, Manikandam and Manapparai Panchayat unions at a cost of Rs. 4.83 crores;

- Rural Business Process Outsourcing to create job opportunities for educated rural youth;

I have today commissioned for people's use several schemes including 923 completed works like provision of drinking water facility,

tar roads, cement roads, street lights, development of cremation/burial grounds, Public Distribution System (PDS) shops, school infrastructure development, and new buildings for Anganwadi centres in rural areas of the Srirangam Assembly constituency undertaken at a cost of Rs. 26,35,86,000/-.

I am happy to announce that I have laid the foundation stone today for works worth Rs. 1,752,69,65,000/-. I would like to point out a few important works.

Industrial areas in the State achieve quick growth.

Industries not only create job opportunities, but also promote ancillary industries and help in the economic development of the region. Hence, it is my desire that new industries should be fostered in the Srirangam Assembly Constituency which is bereft of big industries. I am happy to announce that an Industrial Park will be set up on an extent of 1,077 acres in Manapparai Taluk at a cost of Rs. 107 crores. This will attract an investment of Rs. 3,000 crores and 25,000 job opportunities will be created. A capital subsidy of Rs. 45 lakhs to Rs. 2.25 crores will be offered to companies starting industries there according to the capital they invest in. Besides, tax refund, incentive assistance for effluent plant and training for workers will be offered. Also, loans will be arranged through TIIC for industrial entrepreneurs at interest rate 3 per cent less than that of the open market rates.

I am happy to announce that a very big industry will be set up through the Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Paper Ltd. for the industrial

development of Srirangam and Manaparai Taluks. A factory with modern machinery to manufacture ‘multi layer double coated board’ will be set up at a cost of Rs. 1,200 crores in the revenue villages of Mondipatti, K. Periapatti North and Chettichatraum abutting the Kulithalai – Manaparai State Highway. Its production capacity will be 2 lakh tonnes per annum. It will provide direct and indirect employment to 2,000 persons.

I have also laid the foundation stone for Rs. 128 crores Indian Institute of information Technology (IIIT) at Sethurapatti Village in Srirangam Taluk, for a Rs. 60.84 crore Government Engineering College to come up on extent of 13.20 acres, and for a polytechnic college on 5 acres of land at a cost of Rs. 37.01 crores.

I have laid the foundation for several other works like repairing the damaged compound walls in the 5th, 6th & 7th Prakarams of Arulmigu Ranganathaswamy Temple to a length of 5,373 metres at a cost of Rs. 33.18 crores;

Rejuvenation of 6 ‘Theertha Kulams’ at Srirangam Melavasal including the ‘Vilva Theertha Kulam’ at a cost of Rs. 73.25 lakhs, raising a compound wall around the Arulmigu Ranganathaswamy Temple’s Nandavanam at a cost of Rs. 17.75 lakhs;

A Rs. 5 crores garden in the Arulmigu Ranganathaswamy temple premises containing stone inscriptions of the Divya Prabandham verses, a 60 lakhs hall for those waiting for Annadanam;

Several drinking water schemes through the Water Supply and Drainage Board in Anthanallur, Manikandam and Manaparai Panchayat unions at a cost of Rs. 2.63 crores;



An overbridge across Coleroon river at a cost of Rs. 81 crores; 763 ‘Green houses to be constructed at a cost of Rs. 16,02,30,000/- and 538 group houses to be constructed at a cost of Rs. 6,45,60,000/-; and provision of drinking water facility, street light, cement roads and laying of roads and construction of bridges in the rural areas of the Srirangam Assembly Constituency at a cost of Rs. 58,81,52,000/-.

Moreover, welfare assistance to the tune of Rs. 59,76,93,140 is to be disbursed to 1,40,002 beneficiaries. I will personally distribute the assistance to 16 persons, on this dais. For other beneficiaries, Ministers and Government officials will distribute the assistance today.

We have a lofty ideal; Our vision is clear; our victory is a foregone matter. With your support tomorrow’s Bharatham will be in our hands. I offer my good wishes and thanks to all of you for participating in the function with enthusiasm.

Itake leave, hailing ‘Anna Naamam Vazhga’; ‘Puratchi Thalaivar Naamam Vazhga’.

Nandri, Vanakkam!



Chief Ministers' meet reduced to annual 'routinised ritual'

D.O. letter dated 3.6.2013 addressed by Selvi J Jayalithaa,
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to Dr. Manmohan Singh,
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

“I have received the invitation sent by the Union Home Minister to attend the Conference of Chief Ministers on Internal Security on 5th June, 2013, which you would be presiding over. The Conference of Chief Ministers on Internal Security is, no doubt, a very important event since it concerns the primary function of the State viz. maintenance of Public Order.

It is my experience, however, that this Conference held by the Centre has become an annual ritualistic exercise where very little opportunity is given to the Chief Ministers to express their views on all items in the Agenda. This Conference too, carries a long and weighty Agenda of 12 subjects. Uttering just their titles would in itself take 10 minutes which, unfortunately, is the time being cavalierly allotted to the Chief Ministers to present their views. As Chief Ministers of democratically elected State Governments, we are equal partners with the Union Government in governance and expect to be able to make meaningful contributions to the discussions, so that the Centre is made aware of the true situation on the ground. Only this will enable us to formulate policies and allocate resources based on real need. Under the present dispensation at the Centre, the Conferences with Chief Ministers on important issues have been reduced to a routinised ritual, rather than a consultative process, with the

Chief Ministers being constantly guillotined to cut short their speeches. The current exercise too seems to be aimed at merely assembling the Chief Ministers of States to rubber stamp some measures pre-decided by the Government of India without adequately considering the views of the States. Further, the Chief Ministers are taken for granted and treated casually as was apparent at the last National Development Council Meeting held on 27th December, 2012, when I was forced to cut short my speech midway by a so-called time restriction, effected in a humiliating manner by ringing a bell.

Rather than attending a Conference where Chief Ministers are being rail-roaded to finish their speeches within 10 minutes and to merely lay a speech on the table, I am deputing a senior Minister of the State Cabinet, Thiru K.P. Munusamy, the Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration, Rural Development, Law, Courts and Prisons, the Home Secretary and the Director General of Police to attend the Conference on my behalf. I have given the most earnest consideration to all the Agenda items and my speech gives the detailed views of Tamil Nadu on all the subjects listed in the Agenda. The Hon'ble Minister will deliver my speech at the Conference, which may kindly be taken on record.”

Chief Minister bemoans drastic fall in Central funds for modernising police

Speech of **Selvi J Jayalalithaa**, Hon'ble Chief Minister
of Tamil Nadu at the Chief Ministers' Conference on
Internal Security at New Delhi on 5.6.2013 – read out
by Thiru K.P.Munusamy, Minister for Municipal
Administration, Rural Development,
Law, Courts and Prisons

“Hon'ble Prime Minister,
Hon'ble Home Minister,
Hon'ble Chief Ministers of other States,
and other dignitaries,

We are all gathered here today for the Annual Chief Ministers' Conference on Internal Security. The first and most vital function of the State is the maintenance of public order and peace in Society and ensuring the protection of its citizens. The trajectory of development and growth is inextricably intertwined with the internal security situation in the Country. Unless there is peace and tranquillity, we cannot have social and economic growth. This is a universal truth of which we are all aware. However, it is a matter of great disappointment and regret that in spite of the vital importance of the subject, the Conference on Internal Security is treated by the Government of India as a mere ritual. It is routinely convened each year to discuss an almost unchanging Agenda that fails to keep up with the emerging situation and makes no attempt at achieving a real breakthrough on pressing issues of concern.

All the Hon'ble Chief Ministers of the States are keenly aware of the need for modernization of the Police Force, strengthening Coastal and Border Security, strengthening the Intelligence machinery and developing Police training infrastructure. Year after year, Chief Minister after Chief Minister vociferously exhorts the Government of India to significantly step up the allocation of funds for the modernization of the State Police Forces. However, funding from the Government of India



remains extremely low and inadequate and even shrinks from year to year. Growing crimes and criminality, terrorism and other threats to the integrity of the Nation, are most effectively met by utilizing modern technology which in turn requires massive increases in funding. While States like Tamil Nadu are investing in this area, the Government of India can no longer shy away from its responsibility and must significantly enhance funding.

The maintenance of Internal Security in the country is an exercise that requires functional co-operation and understanding between the Central Government and the State Governments and presupposes a relationship based on equality - the States are equal partners with the Centre in protecting the Nation from internal strife. However, the Government of India is increasingly taking unilateral steps and creating top down structures and parallel authorities that encroach upon the constitutional domain of the State Governments. This is an ill-informed and counter-productive approach best illustrated by the ham-handed manner in which the National Counter Terrorism Centre has been sought to be established, an issue to which I shall return later in my speech.

Let me now dwell upon the major issues concerning Internal Security as detailed in the Agenda. So far as the maintenance of law and order is concerned, I am proud to inform this august gathering that Tamil Nadu has largely been free of communal, left wing extremist, and religious fundamentalist violence. This is largely because I have provided a free hand and uncompromising support to the Police Force in maintaining law and order. Public order is well maintained in the State, making it a haven of peace and tranquillity.

My Government has made it clear that it will not spare anyone who tries to whip up

communal passions and create caste tensions and the Police have been given a clear mandate to curb such activities with an iron hand. The ability of the Government to understand and effectively articulate the just and fair sentiments of the people of the State on critical issues has been one of the important reasons for the proper maintenance of public order in the State.

Although persistent attempts have been made by Maoists to strike roots in the State, they have not been allowed to gain a foothold thanks to ceaseless vigilance particularly in the tri-junction area between Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala where some intelligence inputs indicated that Naxalites were likely to try to establish their presence. Similarly, firm action has been taken to quell the activities of some front organizations espousing left wing extremist ideology and attempting to build up a mass base. Tamil Nadu has also been free of religious fundamentalist violence.

While the Sri Lankan Tamil militancy problem is no longer a serious concern in our State, there are still about 67,000 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees in 110 camps and about 35,000 other Sri Lankan Tamils living outside the camps. The human problem of Sri Lankan Tamils being treated as second class citizens in their own land in post ethnic conflict Sri Lanka, is a major emotive issue in the State. The Government of India's insensitive handling of the issue as well as its inability to protect Indian fishermen, pursuing their livelihood in the Indian Ocean, from being regularly subjected to murderous attacks by the Sri Lankan Navy is a serious problem. I have repeatedly written to the Prime Minister protesting against the unprovoked, dastardly, murderous attacks upon and arrests of innocent Tamil Nadu fishermen in pursuit of their traditional livelihood on the high seas. These continuing attacks by the

Sri Lankan Navy, and the lack of a suitable and effective response by the Government of India, have agitated the entire fisherfolk community in Tamil Nadu, and this impinges upon the internal security environment in the State.

I have repeatedly addressed the Government of India to try to seek a permanent solution to the problem by getting back Indian sovereignty over the island of Kachatheevu, and its surrounding area which was permanently ceded to Sri Lanka in 1974 without the requisite mandate of Parliament.

I, therefore, use this forum to again urge the Government of India to take effective steps to:

1. Prevent unprovoked, murderous attacks on Indian fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy.

2. Retrieve Kachatheevu and its surrounding area as a permanent solution to this vexatious issue.

3. Press for the redrawing of the International Boundary Line.

There is a reference in the Agenda to the setting up of a separate cadre of investigation within the Police Force as a measure of professionalization. The proposal to set up a separate crime investigation agency under a Board of investigation with a separate cadre of Officers and men is an ill-conceived remedy which is worse than the malady.

In Tamil Nadu, in accordance with the orders of the Supreme Court, separate Crime Investigation and Law and Order wings have been created in every Police Station. However, integration between the two wings at the District level and at the State level is achieved through the institutions of the Superintendent of Police and the State Police Headquarters, respectively. Separating investigation and Police functions into water tight compartments by creating a separate cadre is neither practical nor expedient. This is why I also opposed the proposal in the

report of the Second Administrative Reforms Commission to create a Board of Investigation as an entity separate from the Police.

Tamil Nadu also has several specialized investigation units to investigate crimes including the Economic Offences Wing, the Idol Wing, the Commercial Crimes Investigation Wing, the Anti Land Grab Cells, Cyber Crime Cells and Video Piracy Cell. The expertise of Police Personnel can be developed only by proper training and not by strait jacketing them into artificially created compartments. Police Officers who have the aptitude for investigation and who have been trained to specialize in any of the above specialized wings, can be assigned investigative work, irrespective of normal tenure and depending on need. Hence, we see no merit in the suggestion to create a separate cadre for investigation.

A strong, efficient, well equipped and disciplined Police Force is the only answer to meeting the challenges posed by anti social elements who try to disrupt law and order. All the Hon'ble Chief Ministers who are present here today would agree that, mainly, it is financial constraints that stand in the way of the efforts of State Governments to modernize and upgrade the Police Force. I request the Union Government to substantially increase the levels of financial assistance for the modernization of the Police Force. **I wish to point out that the release of funds by the Government of India under the Police Modernisation Scheme to Tamil Nadu has come down drastically in 2012-2013. I am also disappointed to note that the Central share in the scheme of modernization, which was 75%, has been brought down to 60%, and the State Government's share increased to 40%, placing a much higher burden on the finances of the State Government.** In contrast, realizing the imperative need to improve the

infrastructure, mobility and weaponry of the Police Force, my Government has sanctioned Rs.619 crores in the last financial year. I, therefore, urge the Government of India to come out with a refurbished National plan for the modernization of the State Police Forces and substantially step up the allocation of funds to the States.

Mega cities have unique problems. They are often business capitals or financial hubs or IT capitals with a large presence of foreigners, foreign companies and diplomatic missions and people from several States of India. This makes them naturally attractive targets for terrorist attacks, requiring policing in these cities to be qualitatively different from other cities with emphasis on prompt response from the Police, which requires high mobility, high tech communication, surveillance cameras etc. Needless to say, Special Central Assistance is required to meet these costs. It has been indicated that the Central allocation of Rs.88.47 crores for Chennai, will have to be matched by the State on a 60:40 ratio, involving an expenditure of Rs.58.98 crores over a two year period, placing a heavy burden on the State's resources. **Considering the importance of mega cities from the national point of view, we are of the view that the Centre must bear the entire cost of modernization.**

Development of forensic capabilities is very important for scientific investigation and to ensure effective prosecution of crimes. Tamil Nadu has a strong Forensic Science capability with laboratories at the State, Regional and District levels. In this connection, I suggest that one of the areas that the Government of India should focus on is the creation of a national level database of fingerprints which can be accessed by investigating officers. It is a sad reflection on the state of affairs

that hardly 1000 cases are detected all over India on the basis of fingerprint technology. I may mention here with some pride that over 50% of these detections are contributed by Tamil Nadu. I am convinced that by the setting up of a National online database of fingerprints which is shared by the Police Forces of all States, there will be a quantum jump in the detection of crimes. A National project to be implemented in mission mode in computerized finger print applications is the need of the hour. I also suggest that bringing in the necessary legislation to enable the building up of DNA data bases should be given top priority by the Government of India.

The Tamil Nadu Police Technical Services Wing looks after the communication /electronics and IT network of the Police Force in the State. I am proud to state that the Tamil Nadu Technical Services Wing has established TETRA based modern control rooms in Salem and Tirunelveli. Upgradation of 2 Mbps to 34 Mbps leased line to the Central Server at State Headquarters has been established so as to enable more Police stations to log in concurrently to the Central Server. Provision of 500 more broadband connections to Police Units throughout the State has been undertaken at a cost of Rs.40 lakhs. All Police Stations and important Police Units have been provided with broadband internet connectivity. A Network connectivity survey has been conducted throughout the State, covering all Police Stations and Special Units for the establishment of the CCTNS project. Web based application software like CCTNS Tracker and SB CID DSR software have been developed.

The CCTNS has been successfully implemented in four pilot Districts in the State and is under implementation in the remaining Districts. I am glad to state that implementation in the State is well ahead of time. I strongly

suggest that there should be more flexibility in the implementation of the CCTNS and States should be encouraged to develop their own applications and decide their priorities, instead of trying to standardize Police Station records and practices by a centrally driven initiative. Basic protocols can be laid down for sharing of information, but it should be left to the States to design and implement computer projects.

Tamil Nadu has a well oiled Intelligence gathering apparatus with a number of specialised wings to look after various threats to public order. The Tamil Nadu State Intelligence wing is an effective and highly professional body which participates in the Subsidiary Multi Agency Centre by promptly acting on the information received by it and by sharing relevant information with the central agencies through this mechanism. The professional capabilities and strengths of the anti-terrorism and anti-militancy network of the State intelligence wing have been recognized nationally.

As in the case of criminal investigation, the Government of India has mooted the idea of a separate cadre for intelligence. I am of the view that such a move would be divisive and counter productive. The gathering of intelligence is a highly sensitive operation and the need for surveillance even within the intelligence unit to monitor integrity is continuous. The existing system of deputation from the main force into the intelligence unit has the advantage of choice and the opportunity to monitor internal efficiency and integrity. Such flexibility will be unavailable in an independent cadre. Our efforts to improve the functioning of the Intelligence Wing will be further strengthened if the Central Government comes forward to provide funds liberally for technological upgradation through the wide spread use of computers, CCTV coverage etc.,

for provision of infrastructure such as vehicles and for providing special allowances to motivate the personnel. **We have incentivized service in the Intelligence Wing by providing a special pay of 10% of basic pay to personnel in the Intelligence Wing up to the rank of Additional Superintendent of Police in order to attract the best talent. My request to the Government of India made last year at this same Conference has still not been acceded to.** I wish to reiterate that the Government of India should reimburse the special incentive paid to the Intelligence Wing by the State Government.

I now come to the contentious issue of the constitution of the proposed National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC). At the Conference held on the subject on 5th May, 2012, I had exhaustively conveyed the opposition of my Government to the formation of the NCTC based on a number of very valid, tenable and legal arguments, the least of which was that none of the State Governments were consulted before the unilateral notification of NCTC, which in itself was a totally undemocratic act on the part of the Government of India. Serious doubts exist about the operational effectiveness of a Central Agency totally manned by officials of the Intelligence Bureau, armed with powers of arrest and seizure. The Ministry of Home Affairs proposal revealed a total lack of understanding of ground realities and a big brotherly attitude that sought to make a mockery of all democratic norms and attempted to reduce democratically elected State Governments to the status of pawns on a chessboard. The exercise of intelligence gathering is greatly dependent on State Police networks and any exclusive Central agency, shorn of any understanding of the local languages, and locally established crime syndicates partnering with terror networks, could be a sure recipe for disaster at the operational level. The turf war

between the Intelligence Bureau and the Centre's own agencies like R&AW, the Directorate General of Military Intelligence are only too well known. Creating a further layer of contradictions through a dysfunctional structure would be counter-productive. Any National Counter Terrorism Institution can ill afford to work in isolation from the State Police. I had also raised the question of accountability to the innocent local people whose lives could stand compromised by a centrally operated action of which none, including the State Police, had a clue. These unanswered questions challenged not only the wisdom of a unilaterally constituted, centrally administered and manned structure, but also the very effectiveness of such an elitist isolated force, with unfettered powers over the lives and liberties of the people. Based on my cogent and vehement arguments which were endorsed by the overwhelming sense of outrage and protest by a majority of the Chief Ministers who attended the Conference, it was indicated that the constitution of the NCTC would be kept in abeyance until the matter was re-examined so as to devise an effective counter terrorist strategy.

In my letter dated 28.12.2012, I had conveyed to the Prime Minister that no proactive step should be taken to set up the NCTC without consultation with the States and to communicate to the States the draft of any proposal that may be prepared for the setting up of such an Institution at the National level to combat terrorism. The finalization of any such initiative should be done only after completion of the democratic process of consultation with all the States. The full contours of such a National Institution to counter terrorism have still not been shared with the State Governments. There are unconfirmed reports that the NCTC will now be constituted outside the Intelligence Bureau. I fail to understand

why the Centre persists in dealing with such a sensitive matter in such an insidious fashion, treating the State Governments as though they are adversaries to be suspected rather than partners, and continues trying to establish the Counter Terrorism Centre by stealth rather than in a spirit of co-operation and transparency and in partnership with the State Governments. Surely, in a federal democracy like ours, democratically elected State Governments are as interested in the territorial integrity and unity of the Country as the Union Government? The Government of India should shed the mantle of suspicion and distrust and seek the active co-operation of all the State Governments as its equal partners in our fight against the common enemy --- Terrorism.

I would like to reiterate what I already stated in the Conference to discuss NCTC on May 5, 2012. If terrorism is to be fought effectively, a nodal mechanism in the States should co-ordinate with the nodal central agency on matters of counter terrorism. A Rapid Action Counter Terrorist Force needs to be created in every State, which will function under the nodal State Agency. On receipt of information, the nodal State Agency should activate the force to organize appropriate operations. State Governments should be given liberal financial assistance by the Centre to raise such a force fully equipped with modern weapons and training. This would be, in my opinion, the appropriate strategy for counter terrorist operations. I am confident that all the Chief Ministers here will unhesitatingly endorse such a well designed, effective and democratically conceived measure to establish a structure that will effectively guard and protect India and all Indians from terror.

Tamil Nadu has a long coast line of 1076 km. The Coastal Security Group was established in Tamil Nadu in 1994, well

before the Government of India's scheme of coastal security, which came into effect only in 2005. Patrolling along the coast and filtering at check posts has been done by the CSG in Tamil Nadu to prevent possible infiltration from the sea route and also to prevent smuggling of contraband, especially explosives. Coastal Village Vigilance Committees have also been an important component of Coastal Policing in Tamil Nadu. So far, we have set up 12 Marine Police Stations, 12 Out Posts and 40 check posts and procured twelve 12-tonne boats and twelve 5-tonne boats. 30 more Marine Police Stations and 12 jetties and twenty 12-tonne boats have been proposed. Out of a sum of Rs.107.36 crores allotted by the Centre, only Rs.23.79 crores has been released so far. We had also proposed that All Terrain Vehicles may be supplied to the Marine Police Stations. However, since the Government of India did not agree, we went ahead and sanctioned 24 All Terrain Vehicles at a cost of Rs.1.56 crores. We consider that, in view of the sensitive nature of the Tamil Nadu Coast, the Government of India should come forward to sanction the purchase of All Terrain Vehicles for the Tamil Nadu Coastal Security Group in larger numbers.

I have always been passionate about securing the goal of true gender equity in Tamil Nadu. As a result of my efforts, Tamil Nadu is undoubtedly today, the leading State in attaining the goal of equality before law for women and has emerged as a State where women feel safe and secure. I wish to record here that my Government pioneered the setting up of All Women Police Stations in India more than 20 years ago in 1992. Today, there are All Women Police Stations in every Police sub-division in Tamil Nadu totaling 200. The proportion of women in the Police Force at 16.5 per cent is the highest in the country. The punishment in cases of sexual harassment was

made more severe and the burden of proof to prove innocence was transferred to the accused in cases of death or suicide resulting from sexual harassment under the amendments to the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Harassment of Women Act passed in the Tamil Nadu Legislature by my Government in 2002.

Impelled by the need to have an even stronger legislative basis to protect women from sexual violence, I have recently announced a fresh set of strong measures for the protection of women, a bold and innovative 'Thirteen Point Plan'. Accordingly,

1. Cases relating to sexual violence against women would be treated as grave crimes and investigation would be carried out as far as possible by Women Police Personnel and be directly supervised by Deputy Superintendents of Police.

2. The review of investigation of these crimes will be regularly done by SPs and DIGs from the date of registration till the case is concluded.

3. Zonal IGs of Police will take up review of all such cases relating to sexual violence which are under investigation and pending before the courts and submit reports to the Additional Director General of Police.

4. The Goondas Act will be amended to take strong action against perpetrators of such crimes.

5. Fast Track Mahila Courts will be set up in all Districts to quickly conclude cases relating to sexual violence and crimes against women.

6. Women Advocates will be appointed as Government Prosecutors in these courts.

7. Steps would be taken to ensure that cases relating to violence against women are heard on a daily basis and concluded expeditiously.

8. The Union Government will be requested to make necessary amendments in the legal provisions to accord stringent punishment to sexual offenders.

9. Special Training Sessions on the provisions of legislations for the protection of women and proper methods of investigating sexual crimes will be imparted in the Police Training Institutions.

10. The Tamil Nadu Government will bear the entire medical expenses of women subjected to sexual violence and extend necessary assistance for their rehabilitation.

11. A unified helpline for women would be set up.

12. The Government has made it mandatory to install CCTV cameras in public buildings. This would also aid in identifying persons indulging in crimes against women.

13. Police Personnel in plain clothes will be deployed to monitor public places frequented by women and tough action would be taken against persons found harassing women.

Tamil Nadu is probably the only State in the country which has ordered the constitution of 42 Mahila Courts to be located in all the 32 Districts of the State. These measures, I am confident, will guarantee a safe and secure environment for all women in the State, including women in the workplace.

The quality of Policing can be improved only through a transparent recruitment system, by imparting proper training to Police Personnel, permitting unhindered functioning of the Police Department and by creating support systems which will enable the Police to focus intensely on the core Police functions of maintenance of law and order and control and detection of crime. Tamil Nadu as a progressive State has been making steady and rapid progress on the path of innovation and Police reform. The Tamil Nadu Government has also put in place a fair, transparent and fool proof method of Police Recruitment through the Uniformed Services Recruitment Board. Training initiatives to

transform attitudes like gender sensitisation workshops for all ranks- from Constable to DGP- have helped to create and sustain enduring change and impact. The training infrastructure in the State includes a modern Police Academy at the State level and a number of Recruit Schools across the State.

I have taken up several welfare measures to ensure better working conditions and better housing for Police Personnel in Tamil Nadu contributing to a higher morale and esprit de corps essential for better delivery of service on the frontline. The Police Force has been provided with health cover, insurance cover, housing facilities, canteens and improved working conditions such as adequate rest, allowances for extra days of work and proper barracks and dormitories to house the constabulary, deployed in distant places in times of law and order disturbances.

After the Police, Prosecuting Machinery and the Courts, Prisons are the fourth major institution involved in the administration of justice as they lodge the offenders during the period of trial and conviction. I ordered the construction of a large, high security prison complex to house 3000 prisoners at Puzhal in 2003. We have modernized and upgraded security in prisons by putting in place X-Ray baggage scanners, conducting anti-sabotage checks by utilizing a dedicated dog squad and maintaining a high level of vigil. Video conferencing facilities to connect courts with prisons were first set up by me in 2004. These facilities have now been extended to cover 45 locations connecting all Central Prisons and Special Prisons in the State with 306 courts. It is my Government's intention to cover all courts and all jails in the State with video-conferencing to reduce the need for travel of prisoners improving security and reducing costs. Many novel measures have also been

undertaken for the welfare of the prisoners and to protect their human rights.

To conclude, there is, in modern Indian Society, a perceptible telescoping tension and intolerance, which threatens to make it more confrontationalist, belligerent and prone to overt acts of violence. These have thrown up major challenges to the Police Force in maintaining law and order and compromising the internal security environment of the State. Such a situation warrants not only a major increase in the number of Policemen per 1000 persons in the population, it also requires a huge increase in the investment on modernization of the Police Force in terms of equipment, mobility, weaponry as well as more sophisticated technological aids

in crime detection as well as surveillance. It also demands that the Government of India recognize that the maintenance of law and order and Police are State subjects in the Constitutional scheme and that the States should be treated as equal partners in a system where co-operation between State and Centre should prevail over narrow political considerations. The territorial integrity of our Country and the unity of our Nation are too valuable to be sacrificed at the altar of short term political gamesmanship. The effort must be to share intelligence, information, and resources between the States and by the Centre with the States, so that the war against the common enemy, Terror, Fundamentalism and Extremism can and will be won by us, together.” ■



His Excellency, the Governor of Tamil Nadu **Dr. K. Rosaiah** administered the oath of office to Thiru. S. P. Shunmuganathan, who has been appointed as Tourism Minister and Thiru. S. Abdul Rahim, who has been appointed as Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare Minister. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa**, Hon'ble Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Assembly, Hon'ble Ministers and the Chief Secretary to the Government participated in the function held at Raj Bhavan on 18.6.2013.

'ROUTE DIRECT CASH TRANSFERS THROUGH STATE GOVERNMENTS'



Speech delivered by **Selvi J Jayalalithaa**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu during the finalisation of Annual Plan for Tamil Nadu for the year 2013-2014 with the Deputy Chairman, Union Planning Commission on 10.6.2013 at New Delhi.

Hon'ble Deputy Chairman of the Union Planning Commission, Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia,

Hon'ble Minister of State for Planning and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Rajeev Shukla,

Hon'ble Members of the Union Planning Commission,

Hon'ble Finance Minister of the Government of Tamil Nadu,

Senior officials of the Planning Commission, and Officers of the State Government,

I am here to discuss the Annual Plan for the year 2013-2014 as Tamil Nadu progresses on the path of rapid economic growth with distributive justice that my Government has always chosen to tread. In 2012-2013, the State had to overcome many challenges including a still anaemic global economic recovery a domestic national economy struggling to overcome policy paralysis and a severe drought with all Districts except Chennai being declared as drought affected.

All these factors did impact the growth performance of the State and the GSDP growth rate in 2012-2013 was 4.14 per cent with agricultural growth being particularly hard hit. However, through steadfast resolve and continued commitment, we have sustained levels of investment and expenditure so as to ensure that a platform is laid for much higher growth in the remaining years of the 12th Five Year Plan. With the sustained and focused efforts that my Government is taking across all sectors, the State would still be able to achieve the proposed 11 per cent GDP growth target for 2013-2014.

2. My Government has striven hard to ensure that adequate resources are raised for the numerous development programmes and the social safety net that my Government has designed and effectively implemented for the people of Tamil Nadu. Even in 2012-2013, notwithstanding a shortfall in releases of Central Assistance, we are confident of achieving the Annual Plan outlay of 28,000 crore rupees in full and perhaps even exceed it. I would therefore like to assure the Union Planning Commission that the Annual Plan target of 37,000 crore rupees proposed by my Government for 2013-2014 is backed by adequate resources. Under my stewardship, Tamil Nadu has maintained the proud record of always finding resources to fully perform and even exceed our Annual Plan outlay. Let me reiterate that we will ensure that this record will be met yet again.

3. I am disappointed to note, however, that

in spite of the State's own efforts to mobilize resources to finance its Plan, the Central Government's support to the State Plan has not been in line with the promises made. This, in fact, is evidenced by the huge 20 per cent cut made in the Plan expenditure in the Revised Estimates for 2012-2013 in the Union Budget. I am constrained to observe that announcing high plan allocations and subsequently reducing them, not only undermines the credibility of the entire planning and budgeting process, but also adversely affects scheme implementation and the States' finances. In 2012-2013, the Central Government budgeted a release of 3,473.48 crore rupees as Plan Assistance to Tamil Nadu. But finally, only 2,762.14 crore rupees was released. In spite of this, I am confident that Tamil Nadu will over-achieve the Annual Plan outlay of 28,000 crore rupees by filling the gap with the State's own resources.

4. I understand that a Group of Ministers has recently made certain recommendations regarding the restructuring of Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Additional Central Assistance Schemes, including the merger of 170 schemes into 79 schemes. This appears to be a watering down of the recommendations of the B.K.Chaturvedi Committee and calculated to reduce the scale of Central assistance to the States. I urge the Deputy Chairman to ensure that at least these recommendations of the Group of Ministers are implemented quickly so that Centrally Sponsored Schemes do not further pre-empt the untied sources available to States to finance their own initiatives. I also

understand that more flexible State specific guidelines are being proposed. While this is a welcome move, I suggest that as a measure of greater trust that the Central Government should place in the State Governments, ALL funds under Centrally Sponsored Schemes should be released only to the Consolidated Fund of the States and not to other special entities at the State or District level.

5. I must refer here to the many people unfriendly measures taken by the Government of India that have made life harder for the urban and rural poor who are already reeling under the impact of inflation and adverse seasonal conditions. I have strongly protested against the repeated increases in diesel prices, the reduction in allocation of kerosene for Tamil Nadu, certain provisions of the Food Security Bill, the removal of the levy system for sugar, all of which have serious consequences on the real incomes of the people. The State Governments are closest to the people and my Government's priority is to shield the people against the devastating impact of such ill advised measures. Understandably, this has thrown a greater burden on the State's finances. The Government of India should consult and heed the State Governments' views on such key livelihood issues which have a direct impact on the people's welfare.

6. The Centre's attempts to thrust ill designed schemes upon the State continue despite public and official protests by us. The latest example of such unilateralism is the

much hyped Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme. The Government of India launched the scheme with virtually no consultation with, or feedback from the State Governments. Tamil Nadu is not opposed to Direct Benefit Transfer per se. In fact, **the Government of Tamil Nadu has already adopted the mechanism of direct cash transfer through bank accounts of the beneficiaries for schemes which involve conditional cash transfers like Scholarships, Maternity Benefits and Social Security Pensions even before the Central roll out.** Our objection to the move of the Government of India and the Union Planning Commission is based on three very sound grounds.

7. **First**, we are strongly opposed to any move to monetize and transfer in cash the subsidy element of food grains and kerosene under the Public Distribution System and supply of fertilizers and other inputs to farmers. In such cases it is not just the quantum of subsidy but the access to and timely availability of commodities that are critical concerns. Food and energy security cannot be compromised.

8. **Second**, we are strongly opposed to the executive overreach by the Government of India and the attempt to insidiously bypass the State Governments through the Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme. The Union Planning Commission has issued a series of instructions and guidelines on a number of conceptual and operational issues relating to Direct Benefit Transfer with virtually no consultation with the State Governments. Clearly, the Union



Planning Commission is overstepping its advisory and allocational mandate and taking on an executive role. State Governments are expected to place their field machinery at the disposal of the Government of India and are reduced to becoming mere bystanders. The entire approach divorces authority from responsibility and accountability and is violative of the spirit of federalism and democratic decentralization.

9. **Third**, is the more practical issue of the design of the 25 schemes currently identified for the Direct Benefit Transfer roll-out. Many are schemes where both the Centre and the State share the costs. Some Central schemes are just belated attempts to replicate State schemes. For example, the Indira Gandhi Matritva Suraksha Yojana draws inspiration from a Tamil Nadu scheme, namely, the Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Scheme, under which I have provided a much higher benefit of Rs.12,000/- and a wider coverage. In many

scholarshipschemes, States meet the committed portion of the cost and the Centre reimburses the additional costs. Here, a clear demarcation of Central and State shares beneficiary-wise, is not possible. Therefore, in all such cases, direct release by the Government of India will lead to duplication of efforts and waste of resources. I personally feel that it would be administratively prudent to leave the implementation to the States as is being done now instead of trying to centralize it to the Ministries at New Delhi.

10. **I would like to put forward an alternative win-win proposal on the assumption and the hope that the intention of the Government of India is to ensure efficient delivery of benefits to the people. The Government of India should route its funds through the State Government which is already progressively switching over to the bank mode of disbursement for all beneficiary oriented schemes.**



The Government of India can monitor implementation more rigorously because the data will be seamlessly available for scrutiny. This would not only make the roll out of Direct Benefit Transfer faster but will also enable the inclusion of large schemes like the disbursement of Social Security Pensions. As I have been emphasizing time and again in various fora, the Government of India should treat the State Governments as equal partners in the march towards inclusive growth and development.

11. As the Commission is aware, my Government has revived the State finances from the doldrums in which we found them in May, 2011. Recently, we presented our third consecutive revenue surplus Budget. Continuing on the path of development, I have proposed a Plan size of Rs.37,000 crores for

2013-2014, which is 32 per cent higher than the Plan size of 2012-2013. This Annual Plan outlay has been proposed in the overall context of the Twelfth Five Year Plan's outlay of 2.11 lakh crore rupees. While 49.3 per cent of Plan expenditure will be on social services like health and education, the outlay for infrastructure sectors like transport and energy has been increased substantially. In terms of resources, 91 per cent of the Plan will be financed through the State's own resources supported by budgetary borrowing and we expect that 9 per cent of the Plan outlay will be met through Central Assistance. I request the Central Government to ensure that it meets this very modest share of Tamil Nadu's Plan financing commitment this year. I am hopeful that last year's disappointment will not spill over into this year.

12. Let me now briefly discuss the efforts that my Government is taking for the revival of the State's economy. We propose to step up the Plan allocation for agriculture and allied activities by 32 per cent to 3,340 crore rupees. The strategy will be to intervene in critical areas which are in dire need of investment, like agricultural infrastructure and timely supply of adequate inputs to increase both farm productivity and farm income. In order to augment farm income, there will be greater focus on allied activities. Along with the continuance of landmark schemes like Systematic Rice Intensification technique, Sustainable Sugarcane Initiative, precision farming to improve productivity and free distribution of milch cows, sheep and goats to the poor, my Government is launching new initiatives like the establishment of a revolving fund for the promotion of fertigation, increasing the coverage of micro-irrigation through a voucher system of benefit transfer and perimeter vegetable cultivation. I must acknowledge here that the National Agricultural Development Programme (NADP), which has been designed to give adequate flexibility to State Governments, has greatly helped in achieving the desired outcomes. I suggest that this design is worth replicating in other sectors. In 2012-2013, programmes worth 669 crore rupees were approved for Tamil Nadu under the NADP. During the current financial year, we have budgeted 700 crore rupees for NADP.

13. My Government is determined to implement permanent solutions for the

State's water woes. We have already started implementing two vital river link projects within the State and a third will commence shortly. The Supreme Court has directed the Ministry of Water Resources to constitute a Special Committee to look into the interlinking of rivers and to lay down guidelines for a reasonable time frame and cost. The Government of Tamil Nadu has already nominated its members to the Special Committee. The project profiles prepared under the Vision Tamil Nadu 2023 Document cover irrigation projects including inter-linking projects at an estimated cost of about 41,250 crore rupees, for which we expect substantial financial support from the Government of India. To enable this, the guidelines of the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) have to be modified to ensure that the requirements of a water scarce State like Tamil Nadu, which has already exploited almost all its surface water potential are suitably accommodated. I hope that all our pending irrigation projects and reimbursement claims will be processed early. I request the Deputy Chairman to assist us in securing timely sanctions.

14. Mr. Deputy Chairman, you had recently written to me enclosing a document entitled "Manufacturing: From Policy to Results", on the possible initiatives under the Manufacturing Strategy for the country. In this context, I would like to briefly outline for you some of the steps already taken by my Government. The Tamil Nadu Vision 2023 Document has, as its foremost goal, an increase in the share of manufacturing

in the State's economy to 22 per cent. It specifically aims at making Tamil Nadu the most favoured manufacturing investment destination in the Country and one of the top three investment destinations in Asia. To this end, the focus will be on providing quality infrastructure and human resources to foster a culture of innovation and to have a facilitative regulatory environment.

15. My Government has recently taken a number of initiatives to expand industrial growth to the backward regions of the State, especially in Southern Tamil Nadu. In the coming years, 9 new industrial parks will be created in 9 backward Southern Districts making available an additional area of 20,650 acres. Special incentives including waiver of stamp duty, land availability at concessional rates and increased capital subsidy will be provided to industries that are established in these parks.

16. I recently announced a package of measures for the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector since this is a high priority area for my Government. The capital subsidy for plant and machinery of MSMEs will be increased to 25%. The Small Industries Development Corporation will create a land bank of 2,000 acres for the MSMEs. Besides, 20% of the land in new industrial parks meant for large industries will be set apart for allotment to MSMEs. A single window system will be established for facilitating business start-up procedures. My Government will also incentivize

aggregation of scattered MSMEs into self-contained industrial complexes. A multi-storeyed industrial complex will be created on a pilot basis to relocate some of the MSMEs from their existing over-crowded locations.

17. We have identified more than 200 specific infrastructure projects to be implemented in Tamil Nadu over the next 10 years as part of the Tamil Nadu Vision 2023. To facilitate the completion of projects, a policy framework in the form of the Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Development Act, Rules and Regulations, has been put in place along with the Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders (Public Private Partnerships Procurement) Rules. I may mention here that a recent United Nations Report on Probity in Public Procurement has recognized Tamil Nadu as the first State to have a legislative framework to deal with Public Private Partnership procurement. I chair the Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Development Board, which will be responsible for implementing this policy framework. The objective is to improve the quality of project preparation and development, ensure transparent and efficient procurement, monitor and facilitate project implementation, and address any post implementation issues. The Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Development Fund (TNIDF) which will provide viability gap funding, and a Project Preparation Fund (PPF) have also been set up. In 2013-2014, 2,000 crore rupees have been provided for the TNIDF and 200 crore rupees for the Project Preparation Fund.

18. In order to significantly enhance the efficiency of project management and to expedite the implementation of projects, my Government will launch an ambitious Comprehensive Project Formulation, Execution and Management System, which will integrate and computerize the entire process from project formulation to works implementation and completion in the State. It will include all steps right from the stage of preparation of estimates, tendering, award of tenders, execution of works including measurements, up to the final payment of bills. Such a system will also include an e-procurement portal and the adoption of electronic tendering procedures in Government.

19. We have also launched the Tamil Nadu Investment Promotion Programme (TNIPP), with JICA assistance, a very innovatively designed programme, which aligns the policy priorities of the State Government with the expectations of investors including foreign investors. The innovative approach of this Programme came in for special mention during the recent visit of the Prime Minister of India to Japan. It will secure programme outcomes through a policy matrix containing a set of policy measures for investment promotion. These include the simplification of the application process for investment, improvement of the monitoring of regulatory clearances, human resource development and the acceleration of infrastructure development. A Small Infrastructure Project Pooled Fund to finance and speedily implement small projects

that are needed to overcome infrastructural bottlenecks in investment locations is also part of the programme loan.

20. When my Government assumed office in 2011, the State's power utilities were already reeling under a huge debt burden of over 40,000 crore rupees, a bitter bequest that the previous Government left for us. In the past two years, the State Government has allocated substantial resources to revive the State DISCOM to establish more power projects and to increase efficiency in transmission and distribution. Much before the announcement of the Financial Restructuring Plan for the State DISCOMs by the Government of India, the Government of Tamil Nadu had announced the taking over of 50 per cent of the DISCOM's short-term liabilities. The financial restructuring plan for the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Company is also at an advanced stage of finalization.

21. Ongoing projects have been fast tracked in order to ensure that new hydro and thermal generation projects, commissioned within this year will add a generation capacity of 3,230 MW to the grid. Procurement action has commenced for the newly announced 660 MW Ennore Expansion Project and for the 2x660 MW super critical units each at Udangudi and Ennore with a total capacity of 2,640 MW. More capacity addition has also been planned. The State is a leader in non-conventional energy generation and ranks first in terms of wind energy. To evacuate power from wind mills, a 400

kilovolt transmission corridor across the State is being strengthened at a cost of 4,000 crore rupees. Recently, my Government unveiled a comprehensive Solar Power Policy with many new initiatives. As in the case of the Rain Water Harvesting mission which was launched by me in the year 2001, my Government will make the generation and use of solar energy a people's movement and will achieve a solar power capacity addition of 3,000 MW by the year 2015. The State is also availing of financial assistance from the Japanese International Co-operation Agency (JICA) to upgrade the transmission network in the State. Together, all these efforts will go a long way in mitigating the demand-supply gap in the power sector. I request you, Mr. Deputy Chairman, to ensure that the delays in securing coal linkages and in the transportation of coal are overcome by more effective co-ordination between the Central Ministries and PSUs.

22. Tamil Nadu has been a front runner in providing Public Health Care for the poor at affordable costs. With its pioneering schemes, sustained efforts and infusion of funds in critical areas, Tamil Nadu has already achieved the Millennium Development Goals of reducing Maternal Mortality Rate and Infant Mortality Rate. The Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme launched by my Government has been a huge success. I suggest that, instead of implementing parallel schemes, the Government of India should facilitate the integration of the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) and the health insurance

schemes already operating in States like Tamil Nadu. We welcome the announcement on the new Urban Health Mission, which fills an important gap in primary health care in urban areas.

23. Tamil Nadu has provided the best services and infrastructure to its schools. The Pupil-Teacher ratio in Tamil Nadu stands at 27, which is one of the best in the country. The Government is ensuring that school going children are provided with text books, note books, atlases, maps, geometry boxes, colour pencils and other stationery items, school bags, school uniforms, footwear, transportation facilities and, of course, the nutritionally enhanced hot midday meal. The next focus area for my Government is the improvement in the quality of education. A number of measures are being taken to ensure that Government funded schools do not lag behind private schools in the provision of teaching and learning aids and technology. Focused attention is being given to the weaker sections of Society and to girls' education. It would be pertinent to note here that in the past ten years, the gender gap in terms of literacy has reduced substantially in Tamil Nadu, and the Government is fully committed to nullify the gap within ten years. What has been disappointing and holding up our efforts has been the huge and arbitrary reduction in eligible grants both under the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) and the Rashtriya Madhyamik Siksha Abhiyan (RMSA). Amounts committed at the time of approval of the Annual Work Plans are not being released by the Government of India, which badly

affects implementation and is a constraint in achieving our targets.

24. Highly skilled professional human resources are a prerequisite for sustaining the growth tempo of a modern economy. Under the Tamil Nadu Vision 2023, the goal is to have at least 50 per cent of the age cohort enrolled in higher education. Tamil Nadu already has the largest number of Engineering colleges. Besides, my Government is also focusing on humanities and basic sciences. In the past 2 years, we have established 22 new Arts and Science Colleges and one new Government Engineering College. In addition, an Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) in the public-private partnership mode and a National Law School are also being established through the special efforts of my Government. In the current year, another 8 Arts and Science Colleges, 10 Polytechnic Colleges and 2 Engineering Colleges will start functioning. These endeavors will enable our youth to participate more meaningfully in the growth story of the State.

25. Skill development is another area of major concern. My Government fully recognizes that Tamil Nadu, as an early adopter of the small family norm is at a cusp. This State has to adequately skill its present generation of workers and those entering the work force now in order to ensure that the demographic dividend is fully taken advantage of. The Tamil Nadu Skill Development Mission has an ambitious agenda of understanding and

matching the aspirations and needs of different stakeholders, including the student body, the labour force and Industry. The annual allocation for the Mission has been increased to 100 crore rupees from 75 crore rupees. The State's schemes of providing free laptop computers to all Higher Secondary School and College students and the provision of free mixies, grinders and fans to all poor households have to be seen in the context of improving skill levels of the student population and of enabling higher participation by women in the work force by freeing them from domestic drudgery. I am determined to ensure that Tamil Nadu grows rich before it grows old.

26. The demand supply gap in the housing sector has not reduced despite many years of sustained investment. My Government has launched a scheme for the construction of Green Houses with solar power which could be a model for other States. The unit cost of each house has recently been increased to 2.10 lakh rupees. The Centre has made no substantial addition to its investment in the housing sector and the increases have not even been covered for inflation. The unit cost of Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) houses even after the recent increase is only 70,000 rupees which is highly inadequate. Fixation of an artificially low unit cost effectively makes the scheme virtually non-implementable. It excludes the poorest of the poor from the schemes and restricts its benefits to those who can mobilise the additional funds necessary to complete the house. As of now, Tamil Nadu is contributing an additional

67,500 rupees per house to raise the unit cost to 1.20 lakh rupees. There is also an urgent need to revisit the space norms. Hence I strongly urge that the unit cost of IAY houses should be stepped up to at least 1.50 lakh rupees which may be shared in the ratio of 75:25 between the Centre and the States. On the urban side also, the housing shortage is huge, particularly for the people from the Lower Income Group (LIG). I regret to note that the much hyped Rajiv Awas Yojana has not made any headway. However, my Government, on its own has announced that we will build 50,000 homes in the next two years in the LIG category. We hope that the Government of India will extend support for this initiative and will help us reduce the gap in urban housing stock.

27. We have waited in vain for 2 years for the second phase of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). India's cities cannot be starved of infrastructure financing any further. I strongly urge the Government of India to finalize the modified guidelines for the JNNURM-II, in consultation with the States and allow the States greater flexibility in the implementation of schemes based on the local needs and capacity differentials. The scheme design must not snuff out innovative loan based financing initiatives. Our State has already prepared a shelf of projects including DPRs for major infrastructure schemes including storm water drains, under-ground sewerage, water supply, and solid waste management and we would be

in a position to utilize JNNURM funds in full as soon as the programme design is finalized. Tamil Nadu is the most urbanized State in the Country and we have been virtually left alone to shoulder the entire responsibility of coping with the ever increasing infrastructure financing needs of rapid urbanisation. Two major missions - Integrated Urban Development Mission (IUDM) and the Chennai Mega City Development Mission (CMCDM) - have been under implementation for the past two years. An amount of 2,500 crore rupees has been allocated for the first two years.

28. An "Open Defecation Free State by 2015" is a high priority goal announced by me for Tamil Nadu. The Government has drawn up a three year comprehensive plan and launched the scheme for eradication of open defecation in urban areas from the year 2011-2012. The scheme will be continued in 2013-2014 with an outlay of 72.60 crore rupees. This scheme focuses on increasing public toilet facilities and IEC activities to sensitize the people. For rural areas, the unit cost of individual toilets under the Total Sanitation Campaign has been increased to 5,000 rupees. With additional State contribution and by dovetailing funds from the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), our State provides 11,000 rupees per toilet. Sanitary Complexes for Women in villages have been a great success and my Government is now establishing Sanitary Complexes for Men as well. These efforts are expected to ensure that there will be no open defecation in the State after 2015.

29. Desalination is an important alternative source of water supply for Chennai and other coastal habitations in Tamil Nadu in order to insulate them against sole dependence on monsoon based sources. The Nemmeli Desalination plant, which received Government of India support has started functioning at full capacity. The State Government is taking further initiatives to augment drinking water sources for Chennai City. The State has planned to establish another 400 mld treatment capacity desalination plant at Pattipulam, south of Chennai. The project cost is 2,500 crore rupees. I urge the Government of India to allocate the maximum financial assistance for this project.

30. Learning from the experience of the recent drought and the consequent water shortage in coastal areas, I propose to establish five desalination plants of 20 mld each along the coast line of the State. The approximate cost for these projects will be 700 crore rupees. I request the Union Planning Commission to extend Additional Central Assistance to the extent of 210 crore rupees for the desalination plants.

31. As I place proposals before you for Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for 2013-2014, I must also mention that the ACA for 2012-2013 has not yet been fully received. Out of the total sanction of 160 crore rupees, only 128.63 crore rupees have been released by the Union Planning Commission. The remaining amount of 31.37 crore rupees was not released in the previous financial

year. The non-release of ACA promised in the Union Planning Commission discussion at the level of the Deputy Chairman with State Chief Ministers, is a serious issue. I am sure that you would share our distress in this regard and hope that this is just an aberration which will be rectified immediately and that the ACA for the current year would be released in time.

32. Before I conclude, I once again call upon the Union Planning Commission to effectively perform its core function of indicative planning and to play its appropriate assigned role in the growth story of the Country. I also call upon the Government of India to adopt a consensus-based co-operative approach towards the State to ensure better and desirable outcomes for the people.

33. I note that there is a change in the pattern of official level discussions this year which is definitely a welcome improvement. I hope this will help both the Union Planning Commission and other Ministries in the Government of India to understand the aspirations and capabilities of the State better. It should lead to the commitment of more untied funds to allow for greater flexibility in framing State specific innovative programmes which can lead to more accelerated inclusive and sustainable growth.

34. I thank the Commission for this opportunity.

Vanakkam.

'RESTORE CREDIBILITY OF PLANNING, BUDGETARY PROCESS'

**Chief Minister briefs the Press
at Tamil Nadu House,
New Delhi on 10.06.2013**

“The annual Plan outlay for Tamil Nadu for the year 2013-2014 has been fixed at 37,128 crore rupees. We sought a plan outlay of 37,000 crores and over and above that the Union Planning Commission has agreed to give us 128 crore rupees as additional central assistance. So, the total plan size is 37,128 crore rupees .

There are some points that I would like to emphasize. A 20% cut was made by the Government of India in the plan expenditure in the revised estimates for 2012-2013. Last year in 2012-2013, the Central Government budgeted plan assistance for Tamil Nadu for 3,473.48 crore rupees. But finally the amount released was only 2,762.14 crore rupees. So, the credibility of the entire planning and budgetary process has been undermined and the State finances and scheme implementation have been adversely affected as a result. In spite of being let down by the Government of India, the Government of Tamil Nadu not only fulfilled but overachieved its plan outlay of 28,000 crore rupees fixed for last year 2012-2013 with the State's own resources. Not



only that. The Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for 2012-2013 last year was fixed at 160 crore rupees but only 128.63 crore rupees was actually released. The remaining amount of 31.37 crore rupees was not released in the previous financial year. The non-release of Additional Central Assistance promised in a meeting of the Union Planning Commission at the level of the Deputy Chairman with the State Chief Minister is a serious matter and we hope that this is an aberration and will not be repeated again this year and we hope

that whatever the Central Government or the Union Planning Commission has committed itself to this year will be released in full.

Coming to this year's plan outlay, I have already said it has been fixed at 37,128 crore rupees. In terms of resources, 91% of the plan will be financed through the State's own resources supported by budgetary borrowings and only 9% will come from the Centre. That is all that is to say about the meeting that took place today. This is a routine administrative business". ●

118th Birth Anniversary of Quaid-e-milleth



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa laid a floral spread at the memorial of Quaid-e-milleth on 5.6.2013, at the Wallajah Big Mosque in Triplicane on the occasion of his 118th birth anniversary.

Chief Minister foresees friendly Government at Centre next year



**Speech delivered by Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
at the Launch of the Diamond Jubilee Year of the Cancer Institute,
Chennai on 12.6.2013.**

It is with great pleasure, that I take part in this landmark event, that rededicates the services of this colossal institution, in its ardent and assiduous mission to save people from the claws of the killer disease- Cancer. In the words of Sir William Osler, “Medicine is an art, not a trade; a calling, not a business; a calling in which your heart will be exercised equally with your head”. The Cancer Institute has verily given life to this mission, it has indeed lived its mission in its 60 years of existence.

The Cancer Institute, founded by the illustrious icon Dr.Muthulakshmi Reddy, had its humble beginning on July, 18th, 1954, in a small hut on the land donated by Shri.Puniakoti Mudaliar. Dr. Muthulakshmi hailed from an era when it was considered

rebellion for girls to even think independently. True to her inner calling, she became the first woman doctor of India in 1912. Dr.Muthulakshmi along with two Europeans founded the Women's India Association (WIA) in 1918. She became the first Indian woman member of a Legislative Council in 1927. Her achievements as a legislator and social reformer have had a lasting impact on the lives of Indian womanhood.

To honour this great luminary, the Government of Tamil Nadu instituted the Dr.Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Benefit scheme. After I assumed power for the 3rd time in 2011, I increased the financial assistance under this scheme to Rs.12,000 to be given to pregnant women from poor families as maternal

assistance, in order to compensate the wage loss during pregnancy, to access nutritious food, and to avoid low birth weight babies. Improvement of facilities for institutional delivery and prevention of maternal and infant mortality was high on our list of priorities. On an average, 6 lakh women benefit from the scheme every year. During 2012-2013, 625.51 crore rupees have been disbursed. For the current financial year, 720 crore rupees have been allocated for this programme.

In 1949, Dr.Muthulakshmi Reddy initiated the cancer relief fund of the WIA to set up a Speciality Cancer Hospital. Started in the 'Sevagram' type hut-cottages with 12 beds, this 9 acres hospice has grown in the face of adversity and is today a famed Institute in cancer treatment and research.

The Cancer Institute would not have achieved its laurels but for the dedication of Dr. V. Shanta to the cause of cancer. The name of Dr.V.Shanta is irrevocably intertwined and is a homogenous entity with the Cancer Institute. Her commitment to the cause is compelling and riveting. Dr.Shantha answered her inner calling to serve the sick and needy, foregoing a lucrative career. In 1954, when Dr.Muthulakshmi Reddy founded the Cancer Institute with the Womens' Indian Association Cancer Relief Fund, Dr. Shantha had just then finished her Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) Course. In April 1955 she joined the fledgling Cancer Institute as its Resident Medical Officer. Dr. Shanta is now Chairperson of the Cancer Institute, Chennai. Her entire medical life of over 50 years has been dedicated to the mission of organising care of cancer patients, the study of the disease, its prevention and control and the generation of specialists and scientists

in different aspects of Oncologic Sciences. She has played a pioneering role along with Dr. Krishnamurthi in the development of the Cancer Institute (WIA) to the level of a major comprehensive Cancer Centre of National and International stature.

The Cancer Institute was established at a time when diagnosis of Cancer was considered a certain death sentence. It was the determination of these visionaries that led to the metamorphosis of the untreatable killer scourge into a curable and manageable disease. A paradigm shift in the treatment of cancer, making it affordable, accessible and equitable was also possible, thanks to this fine institution.

I personally have great respect and regard for Dr.Shantha who, through her tireless, selfless service was and is, a prime mover in the field of cancer research and treatment. After I assumed office as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for the 3rd time in 2011, my Government instituted the Avvaiyar award to honour women for their outstanding contribution in the fields of social reform, women's development, religious harmony, language, arts, tradition, culture, science, journalism and administration, among others. Dr.Shantha was rightfully chosen for the Avvaiyar Award for the year 2013. It was with great pleasure that I presented the award, on the occasion of International Women's Day, to Dr.Shantha. Besides, she is also the recipient of several other prestigious awards, the Padma Shri in 1986, and the Ramon Magsaysay Award for the year 2005, and the Padma Bhushan in 2006. Her astounding humility amazes us and her empowering persona, fills us with awe. She has raised the bar for all humanity, into a rare realm of selfless service, for a cause dear to her heart.



Living its mission of providing state-of-the-art treatment to people with all types of cancer, the Cancer Institute, equipped with world class medical facilities, houses 423 beds of which 297 are free, and treats over 1,25,000 patients annually. People from all over India and abroad are drawn by the healing ethos of this great institution. Over 66% of them are indigent, and are being treated free of charge. The Government of Tamil Nadu has been sanctioning a maintenance grant annually, to the Cancer Institute, in aid of its services to the poor. The maintenance grant is being given every year, starting with 9 lakh rupees from 1981-1982. Ever since 1992-1993, this grant was revised, with 10% increase annually. 2012-2013 saw the revision to 1.75 crore rupees. Currently, based on the request of Dr. Shantha, the maintenance grant for the Cancer Institute has been enhanced to 2.5 crore rupees, with an annual increase of 15%, in future.

The Institute has grown over the years into a comprehensive Cancer Centre, with a hospital, research division and educational facilities. The Institute has pioneered several concepts in cancer detection and therapy in India, such as conducting the country's first cancer survey, and setting up the first comprehensive pediatric cancer clinic, among others. We are all aware of the taboos and stigmas attached to

cancer, and the Cancer Institute seeks to break free, and liberate patients, by providing them with an encouraging atmosphere of healing. One-third of the patients, who walk in here, leave the campus fully healed and well. Though this is indeed impressive, we must agree that there are miles in cancer research to be traversed, to reach the goal of 100% survival. The commitment to wipe this scourge away from the face of the earth, is echoed in the words of Dr. Shantha when she says that, the best day in her life would be the day, when the Cancer Institute is closed down, because of lack of cancer patients.

The hospital is doing the optimum it can, as expressed in the famous quote, "to cure sometimes, to relieve often and to comfort always". Such is the service rendered by the doctors, nurses and support staff of this hospital, and they deserve all appreciation, for their undaunted efforts in alleviating the suffering of the patients brought here for treatment.

I salute all the doctors, nurses and staff of this institution, who have been continuing this saga of healing, with extraordinary skill and ability. The pain, the fear, the suffering; the huge psychological impact cancer has, on its patients, on their friends and families, and the cost issues, still linger. Yet, laced through all of that, is a

sense of accomplishment, of having artfully mounted a support system, in the face of cancer, something unthought of, a few decades ago. And this, is their achievement!

This place offers hope, and hope brings about healing. When the Japanese mend broken objects, they aggrandize the damage, by filling the cracks with gold. They believe that, when something has suffered damage, and has a history, it becomes more beautiful. This indeed is true, for the millions of cancer survivors, who have come out stronger, and more beautiful than before, and the Cancer Institute can justifiably be proud of its 60 year old heritage, of creating such wonderful people.

I have always considered the health of the people in Tamil Nadu, as my topmost priority. A healthy State, is a happy State. Productivity is high, and so is development, in a healthy State. I am happy to note here that Tamil Nadu stands, as one of the best performing States, in terms of implementing Reproductive and Child Health schemes, and has already achieved the National Rural Health Mission and Reproductive Child Health goals.

The achievements in macro indicators have been backed, by several pioneering landmark initiatives of my Government, with a view to ensuring Universal Health Care. The starting of the Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation in 1994; initiating maternal and child health initiatives, like 24 hour service at Primary Health Centres (PHCs); starting of one 30 bedded PHC in each block; providing adequate blood banks; creating facilities for night caesarean operations; opening neonatal stabilisation and intensive care units; and upgrading capacity for comprehensive obstetric and neonatal care; birth companion

programme; maternal audits; and universal immunisation programme, are some among them. In addition to consolidating the initiatives and the programmes, which are already being successfully implemented, the State has also launched, the menstrual hygiene programme; and the modified, Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme. Our focus now, is to provide equal attention to public health, and prevention of diseases. 385 Mobile Medical Units have been upgraded as 'Hospitals on Wheels', at a cost of 40 crore rupees, with necessary additional manpower, laboratory facilities and other diagnostic equipment, to provide high quality medical care, with focus on Mother and Child Health Services; Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases, covering all the remote villages and hamlets in Tamil Nadu.

It is my endeavour to make available, all procedures, techniques and medical skills, universally, to all the people of the State, irrespective of their socio-economic background.

Surgeries such as Liver Transplantation, Renal Transplantation, including post transplant procedure for immunosuppressant therapy; Bone marrow transplantation; Cochlear implantation, and stem cell transplantation, costing more than 1.50 lakh rupees and ranging from 3 lakh rupees to 22 lakh rupees are beyond the means of a large segment of people. Hospitals approved under the Health Insurance Scheme cannot also be compelled to perform the surgeries within a cost of 1.50 lakh rupees. My Government has, therefore, announced the creation of a Corpus Fund of 10 crore rupees, to help the needy and poor people, especially children, who have to undergo such expensive surgeries. The extra cost of the surgery,

exceeding the eligible amount of 1.50 lakh rupees per annum, will be met from this Corpus Fund. The entire cost of specialized surgery will be borne by the Insurance Company, up to 1.50 lakh rupees and the remaining amount will be met from the Corpus Fund. All such cases are cleared by an Expert Committee.

In Tamil Nadu, at any given point of time, there are several hundred patients admitted to various hospitals, with Blood cancer and Thalasaemia. Across the world, matching stem cells help over 60% of such patients to live normally. In the absence of an Indian stem cell bank, Indian patients, if lucky to find a match, have to import the same at a cost of over 25 lakh rupees. To ensure access to patients with Blood Cancer and Thalasaemia, my Government has sanctioned a first of its kind cord banking system, with a grant of 9 crore rupees to create a cord bank under Public Private Partnership. Under this scheme, 3000 cord blood donations would be collected and processed, and patients referred by the Government hospitals; Government employees and their dependents; and patients under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance scheme would be given the units free of charge. This will greatly benefit Blood cancer and Thalasaemia patients.

One important aspect that has hitherto been overlooked, is the provision of palliative care. Palliative care is a specialized area of healthcare, that focuses on relieving and preventing the suffering of patients. Caregivers are often neglected. It includes care of the patient and family; pain and symptom management; disease-modifying treatments; psychological, social and spiritual support, and bereavement support.

Home services inclusive of hydration, dressing, enema, ascites tapping,

maggot removal, pressure sore dressing, management with homemade diapers, sponge bath, eye care, and oral care are provided by a team of personnel with a proper protocol for clinical treatment. This service to give a dignified existence prior to death, was hitherto missing from our system.

Realising the importance of introducing this approach to ameliorate the suffering of terminally ill cancer patients, a Pilot Project was initiated in February, 2012, in one block each, in the districts of Kancheepuram, Tiruchirapalli, Tiruvallur and Villupuram, covering 169 panchayats and a population of around 4.2 lakhs.

Both ambulant and bedridden patients who needed pain and palliative care, and 196 terminally ill patients were given this facility in Elapuram Block; 296 in Kancheepuram Block; 198 in Koliyanur Block; and 156 in Andhanallur Block, enabling them to get treated in their homes in the villages.

6000 rupees per patient was provided, for covering the cost of drugs, dressings, procedures, mobility for the team, minimal manpower of doctors, nurses, and field staff with specialist care wherever needed.

Considering the success of the pilot initiative, I have announced 15 crore rupees for this scheme to be extended to all the Districts of the State.

It was brought to my notice by Dr. Shantha that, the Cancer Institute has applied for upgradation to the status of a Centre of Excellence, and that the proposal was pending with the Union Government for approval. I have written to the Prime Minister of India, regarding the pending request of the Cancer Institute, considering the excellent service

rendered for over 3 decades, even while functioning as an NGO; that its status should no more be that of a Tertiary Cancer Institute; but should be elevated to the status of a “Centre of Excellence – an Autonomous National Cancer Research Institute”. We are awaiting the approval of the present Government of India. If the approval fails to materialize, I solemnly assure Dr. Shantha the next year there will be a friendly Government at the Centre that will immediately afford necessary approval for recognition of the Cancer Institute as a Centre of Excellence.

The Institute has several other firsts to its credit. These include the first Cobalt-60 Radiation therapy unit - It was the first such unit in Asia; the first Department of Nuclear Medical Oncology in 1956; Pediatric oncology in 1960; the first centre in India to be selected as a ‘Regional Cancer Centre’ for cancer treatment and research by the Government of India, 1975; introducing Blood Component Therapy in 1978; the first centre to introduce the concept of Oncology and establishing the Super Specialty College of Oncologic Sciences, recognized by the Madras University, and Dr. MGR Medical University in 1984; and the first in the country to start M.Phil Psycho-oncology in August 2011. I wish the firsts continue in the bejewelled tradition of this great institute.

The Cancer Institute lives up to its motto: “With humanity and in wisdom.” It has journeyed through 60 years, fighting odds, battling vicissitudes and uncertainties, and



continues to hold aloft its guiding mantra, “Service to All.”

This is a place of miracles. The doctors and the staff have to tread softly, for they tread on hopes, fear and anxiety of families. They accomplish wonders with their professional skills. Every life saved from the jaws of death, is a living miracle; a reminder to us that every human being has a right to live, and succeed in his / her battle against whatever life threatening diseases threaten his/her existence. My Government is very conscious of such needs, and endeavours to ensure that state-of-the-art equipment and medical skills are made available to the needy.

“He who has health has hope; and he who has hope has everything”, says an Arabic proverb. The Cancer Institute is a provider of both and I wish and envision the Institute and all the dedicated staff working here a happy cruise to success in their crusade against cancer.

On this memorable occasion, I have pleasure in announcing that the Government of Tamil Nadu will give a special grant of Five Crore rupees for the building of the Diamond Jubilee to be constructed by the Cancer Institute.

Thank you.



Amma Unavagams in nine more cities, more items in Chennai

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa extended the budget restaurants called Amma Unavagam to nine more cities in the state and also inaugurated the expansion of fare in the extremely well-received Amma Unavagams in Chennai, through video conferencing at the Secretariat on 2.6.2013.

Amma Unavagams will now be extended to Madurai, Coimbatore, Tiruchirappalli, Tirunelveli, Salem, Tiruppur, Thoothukudi, Vellore and Erode. In the first stage, 10 Amma Unavagams will be opened in each of these Corporations to provide hygienically prepared nutritious food to the poor people and middle classes.

The Amma Unavagam restaurants were first started by the Hon'ble Chief Minister in Chennai on 19.2.2013 for the benefit of the poor, daily wage earners, drivers, loaders and others who work for low wages. The aim was to provide them subsidized food that is nutritious, healthy and made in hygienic surroundings. In these Amma Unavagam restaurants, Idli is

provided from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. at one rupee each. From 12 noon to 3 p.m. sambar rice is sold at Rs. 5 and curd rice at Rs. 3.

Due to the unanimous acclaim that these budget restaurants received from the common people, the Hon'ble Chief Minister announced in the Tamil Nadu Assembly that they would be started in nine more cities in Tamil Nadu. She also announced the expanded menu of the restaurants in Chennai. Their menu will now include pongal-sambar, as well as curry leaves (kariveppilai) rice and lemon rice at Rs. 5/-.

The function at the Secretariat was attended by the Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration, Rural Development, Law, Courts and Prisons, the Worshipful Mayor of Chennai Corporation, the Chief Secretary to Government, Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department Secretary, Municipal Administration Commissioner and Chennai Corporation Commissioner and other high ranking officials.

One-horned rhinoceros sought for Vandalur Zoo

D.O. letter dated 18.6.2013 addressed by
Selvi J Jayalithaa, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to
Shri. Tarun Gogoi, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam

“I am writing to you both in my capacity as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and also as the Chairperson of the Zoo Authority of Tamil Nadu.

Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur, is the largest Zoo in the Country and one of the largest in South-East Asia. More than two million visitors visit the Zoo annually. Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur, is categorized as a “Large Zoo” based on species diversity, number of endangered species and area. The Zoo is known for following modern captive animal management principles in its day-to-day administration.

The Zoo has in its collection, 1400 individual animals consisting of

143 species. The greater one-horned rhinoceros was in our collection from 1985 to 1989. The animal died in 1989 and after that there has been no representative of this magnificent animal in our Zoo. Considering the number of visitors to the Zoo and the popularity of the Indian rhinoceros it would be very fitting if Vandalur Zoo could once again have these animals in our collection. We have sufficient numbers of Indian gaur, which we can give in exchange to the Government of Assam. The Indian gaur is one of our flagship species.

Hence, I request you to spare one pair of greater one-horned rhinoceros in exchange for one pair of Indian gaur.”



And now, Vegetables at fair prices



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu SelviJJayalithaa on 20.06.2013 declared open at the Secretariat through video conferencing, 31 Farm Fresh Consumer outlets as a direct market intervention by the Government to control the prices of vegetables.

The vegetables will be procured directly from the farms and the purchase centres of the

Co-operative societies. They will be graded before being taken to Chennai. As the farmers are paid on the same day of procurement of their vegetables by the Co-operative societies, their dependence on middlemen is curbed. As the procured vegetables are sold at cost price, the consumers too benefit.

The Co-operative societies will procure vegetables from areas where they are grown



in plenty like Thangampatti, Maniakarapatti, Palani, Chathirapatti in Dindigul district, Arani in Thiruvallur district, Bagalur and Berigai in Krishnagiri district, Tindivanam and Vellimalai in Villupuram district and the Nilgiris district. The procured vegetables will be stored in the refrigeration room of the Kamadhenu Co-operative supermarket complex in Teynampet, Chennai.

The procured vegetables will be sold in Chennai through the TUCS at Teynampet, Royapettah, Triplicane, Raja Annamalaipuram, Velacheri, Saidapet, Villivakkam, Kilpauk, Periyar Nagar, Kannammampet and Thoraipakkam, through the Park Town Co-operative wholesale shops at Anna Nagar, Villivakkam and Shenoy Nagar, through the Kancheepuram Co-operative wholesale shops at Tambaram East, Chromepet, Porur, Pallavaram and Alandur, through North Madras Co-operative wholesale shops at Mathur and R.V. Nagar, through the primary Co-operative shops at Adyar and Washermenpet and through the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation shops at Anna Nagar, Nandanam, Kilpauk, Gopalapuram, Indira Nagar and Choolaimedu. They will also be sold through 2 mobile shops functioning under the TUCS in Mylapore and Koyambedu.

Thirty-one types of vegetables directly procured by the Co-operative societies from the farmers like potato, onion, tomato, brinjal, ladiesfinger, cabbage, beans, carrot, beetroot, drumstick, chillis, coconut and plantain(raw) will be sold at cheaper rates than in the open market.

The prices(per kilo) of vegetables sold at the Farm Fresh Consumer Outlets as on 20.06.2013:

Bellary onion (Big)	-	Rs. 20
Sambar onion	-	Rs. 60
Tomato (Naveen)	-	Rs. 30
Tomato(Naattu)	-	Rs. 30
Potato	-	Rs. 20
Carrot	-	Rs. 40
Beans	-	Rs. 50
Cabbage	-	Rs. 18
Chow chow	-	Rs. 25
Brinjal(Disco)	-	Rs. 20
Radish	-	Rs. 16
Coconut (one number)	-	Rs. 8
Ginger	-	Rs. 140
Lemon (one number)	-	Rs. 1.50
Snake gourd	-	Rs. 25
Ladies finger	-	Rs. 24
Drumstick	-	Rs. 30
Country Beans (Avarakkai)	-	Rs. 40
Plantain (raw)- one piece	-	Rs. 5
Beetroot	-	Rs. 20
Cauliflower- one piece	-	Rs. 15
Noolkol	-	Rs. 15
Senai	-	Rs. 25
Kovaikai	-	Rs. 20
Green chillis	-	Rs. 30
Cucumber	-	Rs. 15
Mango	-	Rs. 15
Paagalkai	-	Rs. 25
Bottlegourd	-	Rs. 10
Karunai-root	-	Rs. 30
Coriander leaves(one bunch)	-	Rs. 6

Chief Minister takes swift action to bring back stranded Tamil pilgrims



Statement of the
Hon'ble Chief Minister of
Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa**
on 20.6.2013

A detailed review meeting was held at the Secretariat today (20.6.2013) under my chairmanship to consider the steps to be taken to bring back Tamil Nadu pilgrims who have been stranded at Kedharnth and Badrinath in the District of Rudraprayag and Samoli in Uttarakhand State on account of heavy rains and landslides.

On hearing the news about the plight of the pilgrims from Tamil Nadu, I directed the opening of a Information Centre at the Chennai City Police Commissionerate. The Centre started functioning from Yesterday.



Tamil Arasu

54



July 2013

It is learnt that a total of 399 pilgrims from Tamil Nadu are unable to return. The districtwise break-up is Chennai – 37; Thiruvallur – 4; Kancheepuram – 19; Villupuram – 37; Salem – 41; Coimbatore – 13; Tiruppur – 16; Madurai – 62; Virudhunagar – 64; Ramanathapuram – 1 and Thanjavur – 105.

As a measure to bring the pilgrims back to Tamil Nadu immediately, I ordered the despatch of a high level committee consisting of the Chief Commissioner of Tamil Nadu House at Delhi, Secretary, Revenue Department, Tamil Nadu and State Relief and Revenue Administration Commissioner and headed by the Tamil Nadu Government Special Representative at Delhi to Dehradun, the capital of Uttarakhand State.

I have directed the High level committee to co-ordinate with the Uttarakhand State Government and bring the stranded Tamil Nadu pilgrims to Dehradun immediately by helicopter at Government expense, then to Delhi and later to Chennai by flight.

Besides, I have directed the opening of a Centre for Assistance at the Tamil Nadu House in Delhi for the relatives to get information about stranded pilgrims. Two phones – 011-24193455 and 011-24193456 – have been installed at this Centre.

Likewise a toll-free phone – 1070 – has been installed at the Relief Commissioner's office at Chennai. Relatives of pilgrims can make use of this phone also.

I wish to state that the stranded pilgrims in Uttarakhand State are all safe, that Tamil Nadu Government will extend all assistance on a war-footing to bring them back to Tamil Nadu and that relatives of the pilgrims need not worry about this.

Following the Hon'ble Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa's direction, 83 pilgrims to Uttarakhand from Tamil Nadu were brought to New Delhi and were provided boarding and lodging facilities at the Tamil Nadu House. They were brought to Chennai on 21.6.2013 by flight at the expense of the Tamil Nadu Government. On the directions of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, they were received at the Chennai Airport by Hon'ble Minister for Transport and Hon'ble Minister for Tourism.

The pilgrims conveyed their heartfelt gratitude to the Hon'ble Chief Minister for providing food and accommodation and for arranging for their speedy return to Tamil Nadu.

After providing food, 67 of the 83 pilgrims who were from Chennai were sent to their homes in 4 special buses. The remaining 16 pilgrims were taken to Koyambedu Bus Terminus and sent to their native places by bus free of cost.



Rescued London couple convey heartfelt thanks to Chief Minister

Thiru. Ganapathy Pillai Thavaraja, the London-based Sri Lankan industrialist and his wife Tmt. Jalaja who were rescued from kidnappers by the Tamil Nadu Police met the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa at the Secretariat on 5.6.2013 and expressed their gratitude with emotion.

The couple were kidnapped by some persons when they landed at the Chennai Airport on 29.5.2013. The kidnappers contacted Thiru. Ganapathy Pillai Thavaraja's daughter Selvi. Dharshini at London and demanded a ransom of Rs. 2.75 crores for the release of her parents. They also threatened her saying that seeking police help would cost her parents their lives.

On receipt of this information, Chennai Police, on the orders of the Hon'ble Chief Minister swung into action. They could trace the kidnappers to Mandharakuppam in Neyveli, Cuddalore District on the basis

of the mobile phone talk the kidnappers had with Selvi. Dharshini. Of the 8 teams set up by the police, the one led by the Additional Commissioner Thiru. Thamaraikannan and Joint Commissioner Thiru. Shanmugavel rushed to Cuddalore on 1.6.2013, rounded up the kidnappers and rescued the couple. All the kidnappers except one Sathya were arrested and brought to Chennai.

At the meeting at the Secretariat, the Hon'ble Chief Minister conveyed her good wishes to the couple. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also congratulated the Police for rescuing the couple and nabbing the kidnappers. "I have always maintained that the Tamil Nadu Police is the best Police force in the whole of India and equal to London's Scotland Yard and you have proved it now by your performance. Congratulations. We are all very proud of you," she told the Tamil Nadu force.



'Form Cauvery bodies speedily to implement final order'

D.O. letter dated 17.5.2013 addressed by Selvi J Jayalithaa,
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to Dr. Manmohan Singh,
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

“You may recall that I had written to you on 22.2.2013 and 11.3.2013 to forthwith constitute the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee as the commencement of the irrigation year is fast approaching. However, the Government of India has not shown the necessary alacrity in constituting the above machinery for the implementation of the Final Order, even though the said Final Order was published in the Gazette of India on 19th February, 2013.

On an application filed by my Government to direct the Government of India, Ministry of Water Resources, to constitute the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee for the effective implementation of the Final Order of the Tribunal, the Supreme Court, in its order dated 10.5.2013, had recorded the submission of the Additional Solicitor General that “the follow up action pursuant to the notification dated February 19, 2013, is under active consideration of the Central Government” and ordered the constitution of a Supervisory Committee under the Chairmanship of the Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Water Resources, to ensure the implementation of the Final Order of the Tribunal till the Cauvery Management Board is constituted.

In my view this arrangement, at best, is only an interim arrangement and the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order has also categorically stated that “the arrangement

made herewith is purely pro term measure for the purpose of ensuring implementation of the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal dated February 5, 2007, notified vide Notification dated February 19, 2013”.

Therefore, I am of the firm opinion that the formation of the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee as per the Final Order of the Tribunal would be the only lasting solution to end the travails and tribulations of the farmers of Tamil Nadu in the Cauvery Delta. Many lakhs of farmers of Tamil Nadu cannot be made to wait any longer for justice which has long been delayed to them as they face season after season of acute agrarian distress forced upon them by a neighbouring State.

To alleviate the misery of the farmers of Tamil Nadu, the Government of India should immediately take steps to operationalize the Tribunal's Final Order which has been Gazetted after a long delay of 6 years. Surely, the constitution of the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee is a logical corollary of the notification of the Final Order and it cannot be delayed any further?

I, therefore, exhort you to order the Ministry of Water Resources to constitute the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee without any further delay.” ●

Tamil Nadu steps to facilitate Kuruvai cultivation



Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa**
on 14.6.2013 (English Translation)

Whatever be the odds, whether Nature fails or Karnataka refuses to release water, the people of Tamil Nadu know very well that my Government is meticulously working towards improving remarkably the agriculture industry and in enhancing the standard of living of farmers.

As of now, the water level in the Mettur dam is only 17.65 feet against the full level of 120 feet. In this situation, a detailed review meeting was held at the Secretariat today (14.6.2013) on undertaking Kuruvai cultivation in the Cauvery delta districts. I presided.

Hon'ble Finance Minister, Hon'ble Minister for Electricity, Prohibition and Excise, Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration and Rural Development, Hon'ble Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Hon'ble Minister for Public Works, Hon'ble Minister for Revenue, Chief Secretary to Government, Chairman, Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, Principal Secretary, Finance Department, Secretary, Public Works Department, Secretary, Agriculture Department, Advocate General, Secretary, Law Department and other high officials participated.

The meeting was informed that the present storage in Mettur dam was only 3.45 TMC ft of water and the inflow was at the rate of 60 cusecs. Water could be released from the dam for Kuruvai cultivation only when the storage was sufficient and the inflow was good. As the water level in the dam now is 17.65 feet, it is not possible to release water from the Mettur dam.

It was also informed that the rainfall in 2013 was 156 mm against the normal level of 180 mm. As the rainfall was deficient in the current year and in last year, the ground water level has also gone down.

Though water could not be released from Mettur dam, the South West monsoon has been active in the districts of Thanjavur, Tiruvarur and Cuddalore for some days now. Officials told the meeting that cultivation work had been undertaken, taking advantage of the rains, and nurseries had been grown in some acres of land.

I discussed with officials on extending necessary assistance to farmers in this dire situation for taking up Kuruvai cultivation in a larger scale and in adopting new technological strategies. I am happy to announce that the following measures will be taken up on the basis of the discussions. Accordingly,

(1) 3-phase power will be supplied as was done last year for 12 hours to delta district farmers who take up paddy cultivation, for tapping ground water;

(2) 6,000 HDPE pipes of 180 metre length and 90 mm diameter will be supplied to farmers at no cost for conveying water from water sources to the fields. This will cost the Government Rs. 12 crore;

(3) As an incentive to farmers who have taken up Kuruvai cultivation, bio-fertilizers, micro-

nutrients and insecticides will be supplied at no cost. On account of this, Government will incur an expenditure of Rs. 6 crores.

Due to these Government measures, it is possible to take up Kuruvai cultivation in one lakh acres.

I hope the rainfall in the coming days will be normal in the Cauvery catchment areas and in Karnataka. Resolute steps will be taken to get the water, that Karnataka has to release to Tamil Nadu. These will enhance the acreage under Kuruvai cultivation.

When the Tamil Nadu Government's interim petition for the constitution of a Cauvery Management Board came up for hearing in the Supreme Court on 10.5.2013, Karnataka suggested the setting up of a temporary supervisory committee. The Supreme Court accepted it and passed orders accordingly. When the temporary supervisory committee met on 12.6.2013, Karnataka took the stand that the committee was not properly constituted and as such it could not take any decision. It is evident from this that Karnataka has taken a stand not to release water to Tamil Nadu. To say that the temporary supervisory committee set up on the request of Karnataka, has no power to take decisions, amounts to insulting the Supreme Courts order. Hence a contempt of court case will be filed against Karnataka on behalf of Tamil Nadu. As the final order of the Cauvery Water Disputes tribunal has been gazetted, a petition likewise will be filed in the Supreme Court for the immediate constitution of the Cauvery Management Board and Cauvery Water Regulation Committee.

I hope these measures of my Government will provide satisfaction and fulfilment of farmers.



DMK chief's query on Kuruvai lambasted, betrayals recalled

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** on 15.6.2013 regarding Kuruvai cultivation

The DMK President Thiru. Karunanidhi, who was in deep slumber for 4 years while in power at the Centre and State and did not lift even his little finger for getting the final order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal published in the Central Government's Gazette, issued a mischievous statement on 12.6.2013 under the heading "Will there be Kuruvai Cultivation this year?". It is like the devil quoting scripture.

It is a well known fact that Mettur dam will be left with some storage of water during the periods when the monsoon is normal; that the inflow into the dam will begin after the monsoon sets in Karnataka in June and that water will be released from the reservoir for Kuruvai Cultivation on June 12 only when there is sufficient storage.

When I assumed office as Chief Minister for the third time in 2011, I advanced the date of water release to June 6 from June 12 as there was sufficient storage of water in the dam. Due to this and the adoption of several new techniques, the foodgrain production in

Tamil Nadu in 2011-2012 rose to 102 lakh tonnes against 76 lakh tonnes in 2010-2011. The record production fetched an award also to the State from the Centre. Forgetting and concealing this, Thiru. Karunanidhi has issued a statement saying that, 'After Jayalalithaa assumed office as Chief Minister, water from Mettur dam was not released on June 12, even once'. This is akin to concealing a pumpkin in a morsel of food.

Last year, both the South West and North East monsoons failed. Though my Government insisted on it several times, the DMK-supported Congress Government at the Centre and the Cauvery River Authority headed by the Prime Minister did not consent to the sharing of water as per the distress sharing formula; and Karnataka did not release water to Tamil Nadu as per the distress sharing formula. All this resulted in the level remaining at 17.65 ft., that is a storage of 3.45 TMC. In this situation, it is impossible to release water from the dam. Cauvery delta farmers too know about this very well.

However, the DMK President Thiru. Karunanidhi, out of political malice, with the evil intention of slandering me and my Government, has issued a ridiculous and incomprehensible statement saying, “The AIADMK Government should wake up at least now and clarify whether or not there will be Kuruvai cultivation this year; whether or not irrigation is possible and what the farmers should do?”

I am not only vigilant to protect the farmers’ interests but act in a way as to create awareness among them. That is why steps were taken to increase agricultural production in 2012 when monsoon failed the State and Karnataka did not release water, by explaining to farmers about high technology and new strategies. Besides, several other steps were taken by my Government for promotion of paddy cultivation in the delta districts even in the face of drought, like the Rs.68 crore special Samba package, additional special assistance costing Rs.69.88 crores to save the withering paddy crop, large scale subsidy for micro-irrigation, 70,000 farm ponds to improve water resources, increased mechanisation to offset the scarcity of agricultural labour and improving the agro-marketing infrastructure facilities.

My Government was the first in the whole of India to provide relief for drought; not only that, it paid the premium on behalf of farmers to enrol all the farmers under the National Crop Insurance Scheme. On account of this, Rs.524.25 crore, at the rate of Rs.15,000/- per acre was disbursed to 3,52,613 farmers in delta districts who had suffered a crop loss of more than 50 per cent. Through this, 3.61 lakh acres were covered. Moreover, a relief of Rs.756.22 crores was provided to

16.03 lakhs farmers in non-delta districts at the rate of Rs.5,000/- per acre for paddy crop loss of more than 50 per cent, Rs.4,000/- per acre in respect of other crops raised with irrigational facilities, Rs.3,000/- per acre to farmers who raised crops with no irrigational facilities and Rs.4,000/- for those who raised long-standing crops including coconut. Totally Rs.3,881.65 crore was allotted for drought relief. The Village Administrative Officers and the agriculture department officials, in a co-ordinated work, identified the affected farmers in each village and deposited the relief amount in their individual bank accounts. The disbursement of relief was carried out in a transparent way and without giving room for any irregularity.

Thiru. Karunanidhi’s statement, ‘at least now wake up....’ against my Government which protects the farmers carefully reminds me of the proverb, ‘One can wake up a sleeping man but not one who pretends to be asleep’.

Thiru. Karunanidhi did not take any steps while in power both at the Centre and in the State to get the final order of the Cauvery Tribunal published in the Central Government Gazette. It is ridiculous and surprising that

he brags about his convening an all-party meeting here as a counter to the Karnataka Chief Minister's statement that he would raise the issue of a review of the final order of the Tribunal before the temporary Cauvery supervisory committee as 5 years have elapsed since the order was issued. When the issue was raised by the Karnataka Government at the temporary supervisory committee on 12.6.2013, a fitting reply was given by the Chief Secretary on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government. I would like to inform Thiru. Karunanidhi, who functions in a 'selfish' way, that the Tamil Nadu Government will never allow this (review of final order).

The people of Tamil Nadu know fully well that the DMK President Thiru. Karunanidhi is capable of playing duplicitous games and mortgaging the interests of the people for political gains, selfish interests and for the promotion of his family's welfare.

Thiru. Karunanidhi had recently issued a statement by way of replying to my letter to the Prime Minister, voluntarily defending the Centre. In that letter, I had stated that the Centre was playing a double game and pointed out that military training was being given to Sri Lanka army personnel at Wellington even while the Defence Minister had said at a press interview last month that such training would

not be given in Tamil Nadu. When the DMK had already quit the Central Government why did not Thiru. Karunanidhi oppose this training? Perhaps it is because he needs the support of the 5 Congress MLA's to get his daughter Kanimozhi elected to the Rajya Sabha.

It is such betrayals by Thiru. Karunanidhi in the Cauvery issue that have dragged this matter till date. It is the betrayals of Thiru. Karunanidhi in the Cauvery issue that are responsible for the drying up of Cauvery to this extent and now they have made Thiru. Karunanidhi raise the question whether there would be Kuruvai cultivation this year.

Such a person has issued a statement which is totally contrary to facts. He has said the tendency to "rush to the Supreme Court for anything and everything and absolve oneself by blaming the Centre" has affected the Tamil Nadu farmers in several ways.

I wish to point out to Thiru. Karunanidhi that it is completely due to my Government's representation in the Supreme Court that our rights on the Cauvery waters have been established, and the final order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal has been Gazetted.

But what did Thiru. Karunanidhi do? The Tribunal gave its final order on 5.2.2007. He saw to it that the order was not Gazetted for 4 years till he relinquished office. Immediately after I assumed office for a third time, I filed a petition in the Supreme Court about this. When the case connected with the Cauvery waters issue came up for hearing, this Supreme Court asked when the Tribunal's final order would be published in the Gazette. The Central Government was ready to publish it.

In such a situation, on the advice of Thiru. Karunanidhi, the DMK MPs met the Prime Minister. Whether or not due to this development, the Central Government dropped the idea of publishing the final order of the Tribunal in the Gazette. On my Government's insistence in the apex Court, the Tribunal's final order was published in the Gazette on 19.2.2013 on an order from the Supreme Court.

Even after this, the Congress-led coalition Government in which the DMK was a part, did not form the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery River Regulation Committee. After my Government approached the Supreme Court a Cauvery supervisory committee has been set up as an interim arrangement. The first meeting of this committee took place on 1.6.2013. At this meeting, it was stressed on behalf of Tamil Nadu that 63.18 TMC ft. of water should be released to Tamil Nadu; 10 TMC ft. of water in June along with last year's shortage of 53.18 TMC ft. of water. The committee's second meeting took place on 12.6.2013. At this meeting also, it was again reiterated on behalf of Tamil Nadu that 63.18 TMC ft. of water should be released.

However, the Chairman of the committee postponed the decision on releasing water to Tamil Nadu to the first week of July since he felt that the four big reservoirs in Karnataka had not received enough flows and there was no possibility of releasing water to Tamil Nadu now.

Thiru. Karunanidhi anticipated that my Government would issue a statement on Kuruvai cultivation immediately after the conclusion of the supervisory committee meeting on 12.6.2013. On the same day, he

issued an illogical, malicious and contradictory statement. Thiru Karunanidhi's illogical averment drives one to think that he does not want water to flow for Kuruvai cultivation.

With just a storage of 3.45 TMC ft. of water in Mettur dam, steps on taking up Kuruvai cultivation this year could be decided upon after taking into account the quantum of rainfall in the catchment areas of Cauvery in early June and the receipt in Mettur dam. In this situation, it is ridiculous for Thiru. Karunanidhi to raise the question whether there will be Kuruvai cultivation on June 12 itself.

My Government is taking all steps to get Tamil Nadu's share of water as per the final order of the Cauvery Tribunal. Once the rain sets in, in the Cauvery catchment areas, we will get our share of water.

I point out to Thiru. Karunanidhi that cultivation works have commenced in the delta districts as it has been raining there for some days now. I wish to state that cultivation work will soon start in one lakh acres. I have announced on 14.6.2013 a scheme to assist the farmers who have taken up paddy sowing in the delta districts.

Also, I wish to state that Tamil Nadu Government will approach the Supreme Court for the constitution of the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee.

We will certainly get our share of water in the Cauvery due to Nature's mercy, enough rainfall on account of people's good wishes and the action of my Government. This will pave way not only for increased Kuruvai coverage but in smashing the evil intentions of the DMK President Thiru. Karunanidhi. ■

Chief Minister's steps pay dividends, Tamil Nadu creates record in adult literacy



Tamil Nadu, under the leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has attained the distinction of being the foremost state in India in implementing the Saakshar Bharat literacy scheme (Karkum Bharatham). The State has achieved the target of making 17.26 lakh adults literate.

The Saakshar Bharat scheme was launched on 8.9.2009 during the 11th five year plan period for adult literacy among the Adi Dravidars, Scheduled Tribes, Minorities and Oppressed communities, with a special focus on women. This scheme which is implemented by the Central and State Government goes by the name of Karkum Bharatham in Tamil Nadu. Going by the 2001 census status, Thiruvannamalai, Ariyalur, Perambalur, Salem, Dharmapuri and Erode were identified as the 7 districts in which there is less than 50 per cent literacy among women. A total of 17.46 lakh persons were identified in these districts as being illiterate.

Under the Karkum Bharatham scheme, 6,304 co-ordinators in 3,152 centres took classes on week days between 3 p.m.

and 7 p.m. for adults who had missed the opportunity to access formal education. At the end of March 2011, only 2,67,555 such adults had been made literate.

After Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa was elected for the third time, she ordered the establishment of 40 Model Adult Education Centres that combined conventional teaching methods with new techniques. These centres taught adult learners using computer, LCD and educational software.

The Chief Minister encouraged more participation of women by introducing classes for making soap, candles, artificial jewellery and also tailoring. She also ordered citation and cash award of Rs.50,000/- each for 30 Panchayat Level Federations with 100 per cent literate members in all Self Help Groups. The idea was to encourage collective group effort by educated Self Help Group members to teach other illiterate members in their group.

Because of the constructive efforts taken by Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa, not only have 17,26,000 persons been made literate under the scheme, but also Tamil Nadu has emerged as the only State in India to have fulfilled its target under the Saakshar Bharat Scheme.

Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Human Resources Development, Mr. Shashi Tharoor, has written to Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa congratulating her on Tamil Nadu's achievement. ■

‘Respond strongly to Lankan attacks on fishermen’



**D.O. letter dated 17.6.2013
addressed by Selvi J Jayalalithaa,
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
to Dr. Manmohan Singh,
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India**

“I have been repeatedly writing to you regarding the continuing instances of unprovoked assault upon and the abduction and illegal detention of innocent fishermen belonging to Tamil Nadu on the high seas by the Sri Lankan Navy. The last such instance took place on 5th June, 2013, when 49 Tamil fishermen were abducted by the Sri Lankan Navy and were arrested and remanded by the Sri Lankan authorities.

Despite my strong letter of protest dated 6.6.2013 and request to the Government of India to take effective measures at the diplomatic level to secure the release of the fishermen, it is a matter of regret that there was no strong reaction from the Government of India. The Ministry of External Affairs has continued to maintain a stoic and apathetic silence and there appears to be no effort to engage the Sri Lankan Government in any dialogue to resolve the issue.

In fact, the apathy of the Government of India has emboldened the Sri Lankan Navy to continue their predatory onslaughts on Tamil Nadu's fisherfolk with impunity. Even as the 49 Tamil Nadu fishermen abducted on 5th June, 2013, are in Sri Lankan custody, another outrageous

incident of apprehension of 8 innocent and poor fishermen from Rameswaram by the Sri Lankan Navy has taken place on 15.6.2013. These fishermen who ventured out into the sea in two mechanised fishing boats bearing registration nos. IND/TN/10/MM/56 & IND/TN/10/MM/423 on 15.6.2013 were apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy and remanded to custody by the Magistrate at Mannar, Sri Lanka for 12 days up to 27.6.2013. Needless to say, the incident has caused great agitation and unrest among the fishermen community in Tamil Nadu, who now feel alienated by the Government of India's apparent inaction and callous apathy in failing to protect its own fishing community from peacefully pursuing their livelihood on the high seas. The numerous incidents of arrest and attacks upon Tamil Nadu fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy need a strong and co-ordinated diplomatic response by the Government of India at the highest level.

May I, again, exhort you to take up the matter with the Sri Lankan Government and arrange for the immediate release of all the 57 fishermen of Rameswaram now in Sri Lanka's custody, along with their boats and also secure the release of the 5 innocent fishermen who have been languishing in Sri Lankan jails since 29.11.2011?.” ■

'Take urgent measures to Retrieve Katchatheevu from Sri Lanka'

D.O. letter dated 20.5.2013 addressed by **Selvi J Jayalalithaa**,
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Dr. Manmohan Singh**,
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

"I would like to inform you that the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly has passed a unanimous Resolution dated 3.5.2013 regarding the retrieval of Katchatheevu back to India. A copy of the Resolution is enclosed herewith.

In this connection I would like to recall that the 1974 Agreement signed between India and Sri Lanka by Smt. Indira Gandhi and Smt. Sirimavo R.D. Bandaranaike on 26-6-1974 had determined Katchatheevu as a part of Sri Lanka, and the islet was ceded by the Government of India unilaterally to Sri Lanka, without obtaining the approval of both Houses of Parliament for a Constitutional amendment in this regard. The stand of the Government of Tamil Nadu is that Katchatheevu has always been a part of India, geographically, culturally and historically and needs to be retrieved back, keeping in view the livelihood interests and security of thousands of Indian fishermen.

As the incidents of shooting, attacks against and harassment of Tamil Nadu fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy continued unabated, I had, in my personal capacity, as General Secretary of the AIADMK, filed a W.P. (Civil) No.561/2008, before the Supreme Court of India in 2008 to consider the 1974 and 1976 Agreements, which have been the root cause for the untold misery of Tamil Nadu fishermen, as null and void in the absence of the mandatory

Constitutional amendment required and to retrieve Katchatheevu back to India. The matter is under the consideration of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

After my Government assumed power in Tamil Nadu, in May 2011, the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly passed another Resolution unanimously on 3.6.2011, to implead the Revenue Department of the State in the Writ Petition W.P. (Civil) No.561/2008, filed before the Supreme Court of India in 2008.

In the background of continued attacks on the fishermen of Tamil Nadu and keeping in view concerns about the safety and security of the fishermen, the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly unanimously passed a Resolution on 3.5.2013 stating that, in view of the legal invalidity of the 1974 and 1976 Agreements, the Government of India should take steps to retrieve back Katchatheevu and its surrounding areas.

I, therefore, request you once again to kindly take urgent measures to get back Katchatheevu and the surrounding areas from Sri Lanka. Further, the IMBL needs to be redrawn after the retrieval of Katchatheevu, which will enable our fishermen to carry on fishing in their traditional fishing waters without concerns of safety and security."





D.O. letter dated 23.5.2013 addressed by Selvi J Jayalithaa,
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to Dr. Manmohan Singh,
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

“I learn that there is a proposal to disinvest a further 5% of Government of India's equity holding in Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) in order to meet an artificially placed regulatory requirement under the recently amended Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules 1957.

As you are aware, the Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) is the largest Central Public Sector Unit in Tamil Nadu. It was also the largest Central power producer located in a backward region of the State providing employment to more than 17,500 persons. The employees of NLC have a justifiable apprehension regarding any move to disinvest even a portion of Government of India's equity in the Company. Instead of reassuring the large work force, the concerned Ministry and the company management seem to be trying to justify the disinvestment based on specious and artificial regulatory requirements. The State Government's co-operation is being sought to convince the labour unions to accept the proposed disinvestment. My Government has been consistently and strongly opposed to privatising any portion of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) and we are of the firm view that the Public Sector character of Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) should be maintained without any dilution. In this connection, I find that the Government of India is attempting to create an artificial regulatory crisis based on certain recent amendments to the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957. Quoting these rules

as the basis for dilution in the Government of India's holding in Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) is neither appropriate nor desirable.

Any proposal to disinvest even a small portion of the share holding will lead to considerable labour unrest. Given the current acute power shortage in the State, any disruption of power supply from Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) would very adversely affect the interest of the State. Hence I strongly urge you to explore alternatives to the proposed disinvestment.

It is incorrect to state that there is no option to disinvesting a further 5% of the share holding in Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC). There are clearly two options. Neyveli Lignite Corporation can be delisted by buying back the 6.44% currently in public hands through the buy back mechanism available under SEBI regulations. Alternatively, the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957, can be amended to make a special exemption for Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) by introducing a necessary proviso under Rule 19(2)(c).

In these circumstances, I urge you to take necessary action to ensure that there is no further disinvestment or dilution of the share holding of the Government of India in Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC).

I would be grateful for an early response in this regard.” ●

Chief Minister speaks up against partial decontrol of sugar sector



D.O. letter dated 30.5.2013 addressed by **Selvi J Jayalalithaa**,
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Dr. Manmohan Singh**,
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

“This is with reference to the decision of the Government of India to remove the levy obligation on sugar mills and to decontrol the regulated release mechanism. At the outset, I would like to register my strong protest against this decision taken by the Government of India as it will adversely impact the supply of sugar through the PDS and hence the welfare of the poor and downtrodden in the long run.

At present, levy sugar released to Tamil Nadu by the Government of India is only 10835 MT per month which meets only one third of the total requirement for distribution under PDS. The State Government is already incurring heavy expenditure towards providing subsidy for the supply of sugar through the PDS. Under the new dispensation, the Government of India will provide a subsidy of Rs.18.50 per kg only for the quantity committed under levy, but to be procured in the open market, with a rider to retain the retail price of Rs.13.50 per kg at Fair Price Shop levels. As per the communication received this subsidy by the Government of India will be available only for the financial years 2013-2014 and 2014-2015. There is no clarity on whether this arrangement will continue beyond 2014-2015. The sudden

withdrawal of levy obligation on Sugar Mills will expose the supply of PDS sugar to the vagaries of the market and the resultant volatility. Further, any price fluctuation over Rs.32 per kg. in the open market will have to be borne by the State, which is already saddled with a huge subsidy burden. Further, this arrangement will only create uncertainty in ensuring adequate supply of sugar through the PDS at affordable cost to the poor, as the State will have to procure the entire stock from the open market.

As the present decision of the Ministry of Food and Public Distribution to do away with the levy obligation on sugar will have a severe impact on the welfare of the poor and downtrodden who depend fully on the PDS for sugar, I request you to reconsider the decision of withdrawing the levy sugar obligation on Sugar Mills and continue with the existing levy system of sugar in the interest of the public, or to guarantee that the entire difference between the open market price of sugar and issue price in the PDS would be borne as subsidy by the Government of India and continue the subsidy beyond 2014-2015 as well. ●



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 19.6.2013 presented cash awards and certificates to the first three state-level rank holders in the 12th standard public examinations from the Tamil medium stream in the 2012-2013 academic year and to girl students who got in the first rank in the 10th standard public examinations.

Cash awards to the tune of Rs. 3.40 lakhs were presented to 13 rank holders in the 12th standard examinations. They are S. Jayasurya and S. Abinesh (1st rank) – Rs. 50,000/- each; S. Palaniraj and R. Ahalya (2nd rank) – Rs. 30,000/- each; and N.G. Rajeswari, E. Kalaivani, V. Vishnuvardhan, A.K. Kanmani,

U. Manodhini, K. Raveena, A.S. Nivedita, Pooja S. Kumar and S. Muthumanikandan (3rd rank) - Rs. 20,000/- each.

The 1st rank holders in the 10th standard examination are: S. Anushya, Dheepthi, M.Gayatri, Martiasherin, K.R. Ponsivasankari, C.S. Charumathi, Sonia, R. Sri Durga and S. Vinusha. They got Rs. 25,000/- each. All the prize winners were given certificates assuring that the Tamil Nadu Government will bear the cost of their higher education.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister wished the prize-winners a bright future and advised them to work for the progress of society and for the welfare of the Country.



Pay hiked for Cooperative bank staff



Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 7.6.2013

(English Translation)

By extending loans and other financial services to agriculturists, self-help groups and the general public at fair interest rates, the Tamil Nadu Apex Co-operative Bank and the District Central Co-operative Banks have been doing well in welfare activities for marginalised people.

The profitable run of the Apex Co-operative Bank has continued and it has earned a net profit of Rs.41.51 crore in 2011-2012. Of the 23 Central Co-operative Banks functioning under it, 19 continue to earn profit and the

rest have opened their profit account from the current year.

The wage accord to hike the salary of the employees in these banks once in 5 years, expired on 31.12.2010.

On assuming office as Chief Minister, I directed the Registrar of Co-operative Societies to examine effecting wage increase to the employees of co-operative banks from 1.1.2011.

The Registrar has recommended the categorisation of the banks into 4 groups

and wage increases to employees, according to the performance of the banks. The Apex Co-operative Bank which has an annual transaction of over Rs.16,000 crores and continues to earn profit constitutes a group of its own; banks whose annual business is over Rs.1,700 crores and earn profit continuously, banks whose annual business is up to Rs.1,700 crores and earn profit continuously and banks who have cumulative loss though they have earned profit in the current year constitute the other 3 groups.

A review meeting was held at the Secretariat today (7.6.2013) over this issue. I presided. Hon'ble Minister for Co-operation and other high officials participated. After a detailed review, I ordered that the following wage increase be effected for the employees of these banks. Accordingly,

1) Employees of the Tamil Nadu State Apex Co-operative Bank will be given a 21 per cent wage hike with retrospective effect from 1.1.2011 along with the arrears;

2) As on 31.3.2012, 9 Central Co-operative Banks viz., Chennai, Coimbatore, Cuddalore, Dharmapuri, Erode, Kancheepuram, Salem, Trichirapalli and Villupuram have done an annual business of over Rs.1,700 crores and have shown net profits continuously. The employees of these banks will get a wage hike of 20 per cent with retrospective effect from 1.1.2011 along with arrears;

3) As on 31.3.2012, 9 Central Co-operative Banks viz., Kumbakonam, Dindigul,

Kanniyakumari, Pudukottai, Ramanathapuram, Tiruvannamalai, Virudhunagar, Thoothukudi and Madurai viz., have done annual business up to Rs.1,700 crores and have shown profit continuously. Employees of these banks will get a wage hike of 15 per cent with retrospective effect from 1.1.2011 along with arrears;

4) As on 31.3.2012, the net profit of the Vellore District Central Co-operative Bank is very low. Employees of this bank will get a 15 per cent wage hike with retrospective effect from 1.1.2011, but the arrear amount will be disbursed from 1.1.2011;

5) Though the 4 Central Co-operative Banks at Nilgiris, Sivaganga, Thanjavur and Tirunelveli have accumulated loss, they have earned profit in the current year. Taking into account the financial position of these banks, employees of these banks will be given a 7 per cent hike in the wages and the arrears calculated from 1.1.2011 will be disbursed from 1.1.2013.

These wage increase will be disbursed as per statutory procedures.

Through this pay hike, the 4,784 employees in the apex and district Central Co-operative Banks will benefit by a minimum of Rs.1,630/- and a maximum of Rs.15,760/- in their pay. The additional expenditure to these banks through this wage increase is to the extent of Rs.55.82 crores a year. ●

'Secure immediate release of 49 fishermen, boats'

D.O. letter dated 6.6.2013 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 yet another outrageous incident of capture and arrest of 49 innocent fishermen from Tamil Nadu who ventured out in 10 mechanised boats on 5.6.2013 for eking out their livelihood on the high seas. It is reported that 24 fishermen belonging to Rameswaram set out in 5 boats and they have been illegally abducted by the Sri Lankan Navy and taken away to Mannar in Sri Lanka where they are being held in custody. Further, another batch of 5 boats from Rameswaram with 25 fishermen on board have been captured in the high seas and detained by the Sri Lankan Navy at Kayts Island. Further, it was also shocking to learn that one boat, TN10/MFB/1004 which was chased away ruthlessly by the Sri Lankan Navy actually capsized and five fishermen on board were rescued by their fellow fishermen and reached our shores safely.

I have repeatedly written to you about the travails of innocent Tamil Nadu fishermen who face harassment, abduction and assault at the hands of the Sri Lankan Navy, which continues with its menacing and predatory acts in the face of pusillanimous responses and apathy by the Government of India. Things have come to such a pass that fishermen from Tamil Nadu are unable to access their traditional fishing waters for fear of being kidnapped or attacked by the Sri Lankan Navy.

The entire fishermen community in Tamil Nadu is agitated, incensed and in a volatile mood.

Despite my repeated protests, the Government of India has taken no firm stance in the matter and has exerted little or no diplomatic pressure on Sri Lanka to bring about a permanent solution to the problem of harassment and arrests of innocent fishermen from Tamil Nadu.

I request you to instruct the Ministry of External Affairs to immediately summon the High Commissioner of Sri Lanka in New Delhi and lodge the Government of India's strong protest against this latest act of illegal and highhanded abduction of such a large number of innocent fishermen in the Palk Bay by the Sri Lankan Navy. The Government of India should convey in no uncertain terms its indignation at this latest act of abduction of innocent Indian fishermen and ensure that the Sri Lankan Navy is restrained from making such unprovoked assaults on innocent fishermen from Tamil Nadu.

May I also request you to firmly instruct our diplomats in Colombo to immediately take up the matter with the Government of Sri Lanka and secure the immediate release of the 49 fishermen and their boats?

I solicit your immediate action in the matter." ●





‘Withdraw petrol price hike, stop rupee slide’

Statement of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa, on 16.6.2013.
(English Translation)

Instead of arresting the fall of the rupee against the American dollar, the Congress Coalition Government at the Centre is citing it as the very reason for hiking the price of petrol and diesel twice a month in a routine fashion. And it is deriving enjoyment from the plight of people on account of this price rise. I record my strongest condemnation at the Government’s anti-people attitude.

On the 1st of this month, the Government’s oil companies increased the price of petrol by 75 paise per litre and that of diesel by 50 paise per litre. In a fortnight’s time, the petrol price has been hiked by Rs. 2/- from today, citing the declining value of the rupee. This is an act of betrayal of the poor.

The Union Finance Minister and the Union Petroleum Minister aver that the fall of rupee value is a short term phenomenon. Citing that as a reason for increasing the price of petroleum products is unacceptable.

For the sixth continuous week the Indian Rupee is sliding against the American dollar. If only the Central Congress Coalition Government had taken precautionary steps, the current petrol price hike could have been averted. By this, a way would have opened to improve the Indian economy to some extent.

The rupee value against American dollar was Rs. 38.48 in October 2007. It nosedived to Rs. 44.17 in April 2011 and now to Rs. 58/-. Sluggish growth, deficit finance, fall in exports, deficit in current account and dependence on foreign exchange receipt are the reasons for the continued fall of the Indian rupee. Multi-national companies

are welcome to invest in industrial ventures. But the Foreign Financial Institutions have made it a practice to invest mostly in share markets and Indian debentures. The inflow of foreign exchange this way does not increase the value of the Indian rupee. At the same time the flight of foreign capital invested in share market and debentures by their sales not only brings down the value of the rupee but makes it highly fluctuating. No constructive steps have been taken by the Central Congress Coalition to rectify the situation.

Since the Congress party has forsaken the country’s interests and taken a different direction, people have been pushed into an unfortunate situation where they have to bear additional burden twice a month.

The Central Congress Government’s anti-people and anti-nation activities will only push up inflation, downgrade the value of rupee and the Indian economy further. They will not take the country forward.

The Central Government should take steps for exploration of new oil and gas sites for increasing their indigenous production. Instead of doing this, the oil import lobby is threatening Petroleum Ministers ‘not to scale down oil imports’ as disclosed by the Central Petroleum Minister himself. This is posing a threat to the security of the country itself.

I strongly urge the Central Congress Coalition Government to change the method of fixing the petrol price on the lines I have already indicated at least hereafter in the interest of the country, and take steps to stop the slide of the rupee and take up new exploration for oil and gas and withdraw this price rise at once.

Pantry and toilet in bus to Srirangam

Great Journeys in Tamil Nadu with many more buses



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 20.6.2013 flagged off 189 new buses and 55 re-modelled buses at the Secretariat to mark the inauguration of their services.

The Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporations are daily operating 20,507 buses catering to 2.10 crore passengers. The Hon'ble Chief Minister's Government is introducing new buses and new routes to meet the needs of the people.

Among the 244 buses inaugurated on 20.6.2013, 2 luxury buses have been designed

with pantry and toilet facilities. The two buses will ply between Chennai and Srirangam. This is the first time the State Express Transport Corporation is operating buses with pantry and toilet facilities.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also inaugurated 66 buses exclusively for women and children in new routes in Chennai metro, monthly bus passes at concessional rates to commuters travelling by suburban buses, 4 new transport Zones for Ooty, Karur, Nagapatinam and Thoothukudi and a scheme to provide 10 per cent rebate in bus fare for group reservation of 10 or more persons in long



distance buses except during festival seasons. The Chief Minister also inaugurated a scheme to promote voluntary blood donation among Transport Corporation workers by treating the day on which blood donation is made as a paid working day and the next day as a paid holiday and the CT scan equipment installed at the Transport Corporation's Perundurai Medical College Hospital at a cost of Rs. 1.28 crore for the benefit of the general public, Transport Corporation employees and their families.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also presented Rs. 17.34 crores, as pension benefits for 822 employees who had retired from the Transport Corporations.



Overbridge at Virudhachalam, new boat to Vivekananda rock



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 20.6.2013 declared open at the Secretariat through video conferencing, an overbridge across a railway level crossing at Virudhachalam and pressed into service a new boat M.L. Vivekananda, at Kanniyakumari for people's use.

The 773.89 metre-long overbridge has been constructed to replace the railway level crossing 170 at Virudhachalam in Cuddalore District at a cost of Rs. 19 crores by the Highways and

Minor Ports Department. The overbridge will benefit thousands of passengers who wish to go to Athur, Salem areas from Cuddalore, Chidambaram and Virudhachalam regions.

The new boat purchased for Poompuhar Shipping Transport Corporation at a cost of Rs. 1.08 crore has a capacity to ferry 150 passengers to Vivekananda Rock in Kanniyakumari. It will replace the Corporation's M.L. Bhagirathi which was in service for 36 years.





D.O. letter dated 8.6.2013 addressed by
Selvi J Jayalithaa,
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to
Dr. Manmohan Singh,
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

“I wish to bring to your immediate attention a matter of grave import that greatly offends the sensitivities and sentiments of the people of Tamil Nadu. Despite the overwhelming groundswell of public opinion in Tamil Nadu against the continuing atrocities upon the civilian Tamil population in Sri Lanka by the Sri Lankan Government, the Government of India has, in an act of astounding insensitivity, again invited two defence personnel to join a training programme at the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington, The Nilgiris, in Tamil Nadu. I understand that these officers – Wing Commander M.S.Bandara Dassanayake and Major C.S.Harishchandra Hettiarachchige have already reached Wellington and are undergoing a pre-training orientation programme which began on 27th May, 2013.

'Stop training Lankan defence personnel in India'

Please recall my D.O. letters dated 16.7.2012, 25.8.2012 and 28.8.2012 wherein I had strongly conveyed the deep sense of outrage felt by the people of Tamil Nadu at a similar move by the Government of India to impart training to Sri Lankan defence personnel in Tamil Nadu.

You are well aware that there is a widespread feeling of revulsion and shock amongst the people of Tamil Nadu against the genocidal pogrom and continuing human rights violations affecting the innocent Tamils in Sri Lanka. Further, the entire fishermen community in Tamil Nadu is agitated and exercised over the repeated brutal attacks and arrests of innocent Tamil fishermen on the high seas by the Sri Lankan Navy. We have repeatedly conveyed our protests to the Government of India in writing and also by Resolutions of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly condemning the hostile actions of Sri Lanka.

In spite of all these vehement protests, with utter disregard for the emotions and feelings of the people of Tamil Nadu, the Government of India has again clandestinely permitted two more Sri Lankan military officers to undergo training in the Defence Services Staff College at Wellington in the Nilgiris.

What is even more surprising is the fact that on 27th May, 2013, on the very day that the two Sri Lankan officers commenced pre-training at Wellington, the Union Defence Minister Thiru. A.K. Antony, speaking on the sidelines of a function in Thanjavur, was quoted as stating that “Responding to the sentiments of the people of Tamil Nadu, we have taken a decision not to provide training to Sri Lankan military personnel in Tamil Nadu”. I am amazed that the Union Defence Minister was unaware that his policy announcement was being flouted by his own Ministry. This is a very sorry commentary on the Government

of India’s ambivalence and adhocism on a serious and emotive issue that affects the people of Tamil Nadu.

I strongly urge you to give suitable instructions to immediately discharge the two Sri Lankan officers from the training course at the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington, and to send them back to Sri Lanka forthwith. In addition, the Government of India should issue a clear policy directive not to provide training or to engage in any form of co-operation with the Sri Lankan Armed Forces until satisfactory and credible action is taken by the Government of Sri Lanka to completely stop the human rights violations against the Tamil population in Sri Lanka and to stop illegal attacks on fishermen belonging to Tamil Nadu.

I request urgent action in this matter.”



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** held a review meeting at the Secretariat on regulating the traders doing business on the Marina on 7.6.2013. Hon'ble Minister for Finance, Hon'ble Minister for Electricity, Prohibition and Excise, Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration, Rural Development, Law, Courts and Prisons, Hon'ble Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Advocate General, Secretary, Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department, Commissioner, Chennai Corporation, Commissioner of Police, Chennai and other high officials participated in the meeting.

THE HINDU

Low-cost idlis sell like hot cakes

Special Correspondent

CHENNAI: A day after their formal inauguration, 90 outlets of 'Amma Unavagam' in nine cities of the State sold over one lakh idlis on Monday.

Of the nine cities, Tuticorin witnessed the maximum sale of 15,990 idlis followed by Vellore 14,809, according to a senior official here. The total number of idlis sold was around 1.07 lakh.



Amma Unavagams' in other cities. A scene at an

Amma Unavagams are sold everywhere as the food items are sold in one to two hours, the official adds.

Indian Express

Food for All in Nine More Corpsns

Budget canteens aimed at taking care of the calorific and nutritional needs of the working class in the State

Express News Service

Chennai: Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa on Sunday inaugurated Amma unavagams in nine corporations across the State.

The Chief Minister had made an announcement in the Assembly on May 15, during the Budget Session, in this regard.

At a function held at the Secretariat at Fort St George on Sunday, Jayalalithaa inaugurated Amma unavagams in Coimbatore, Madurai, Tiruchy, Thirunelveli, Salem, Erode, Vellore, Tirupur and Thoothukudi.

Each city has received 10 Amma unavagams, totalling up to 90 of the centres.

Sources in the government



Children enjoying a tasty meal at the Amma Unavagam in Vellore on Sunday | S. S. S. S.

have said that officials pulled all stops to handle the civil works and other logistical challenges to implement Chief Minister's announce-

ment in 15 days. Like the 200 Amma unavagams in Chennai, the 90 inaugurated on Sunday are being run by local urban self help groups.

These unavagams would follow a similar pattern as the ones in Chennai. They would serve idlis, sam-

bar, and sambar rice at ₹5 and curd rice at ₹3 between noon and 3 pm.

Jayalalithaa also inaugurated the expanded menu for the 200 Amma unavagams in Chennai. They will now serve pongal-sambar for ₹5 in the mornings and curd leaf rice/lemon rice for ₹5 for lunch. The only thing pending from Jayalalithaa's announcement is the serving of two chapathis for ₹3 from September.

The Amma unavagams are a part of the AIADMK government's bid to provide subsidised food to take care of the calorific and nutritional needs of the

NEWS TODAY

From Monday, it's Pongal at Amma Canteens

NT Bureau

Chennai, May 24:

Starting Monday, the menu at Amma Canteens, the low-cost eateries run by the Chennai Corporation, will get a new addition, as Pongal will be served to customers.

On a trial basis, the dish was served free of cost to early visitors today. 'They said the quality and taste was very good,' sources said.

Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa had recently announced the expansion of the menu in the canteens with pongal, rice preparations and chapathi. Currently, idli is sold for Re 1, sambar rice for Rs 5 and curd rice for Rs 3. Breakfast is supplied from 7 am to noon. Lunch is served till 3 pm.

She announced in the Assembly recently that similar eateries would be started in nine more cities across the State. The canteens, which provided just breakfast and lunch earlier, would also extend its working hours to include an 'evening tiffin' as well, a traditional but popular eating habit. For they will serve rotis and dal too from September.

'Going by the tremendous response from people, we have decided these canteens to Madurai, Trichy, Coimbatore, Thirunelveli, Salem, Tiruppur, Tuticorin, Vellore and Erode by month-end,' said Jayalalithaa. The Chief Minister has reasons to cheer. The queues have



only got longer at the Amma canteens with the poor and cost-conscious middle class discovering that they could have two meals here everyday and it would still not be a pinch on their purse. 'Ten canteens will be inaugurated in each of these cities,' Jayalalithaa said.

'People in Chennai have requested to introduce new dishes in these canteens in the city. Accepting their request, Pongal and Sambar will be served for Rs five during

mornings and Lemon Rice or Curryleaves Rice will be served during afternoons,' she said.

The Chief Minister further said: 'Since it will take some time to float tenders and to acquire Chapathi-making machines to offer Chapathi in these canteens during evenings, Chapathi will be introduced in these outlets from September this year. From then on, two Chapathis with dal will be provided for Rs three in all 200 canteens in Chennai city.'

July 2013

Oppn hails Jaya's achievements

NEWS TODAY

Rich praise showered in Assembly as CM completes two years in office

NT Bureau

Chennai, May 16: Leaders from various Opposition parties and State Ministers showered rich praise on Chief Minister J Jayalitha in the Assembly today, as she completed two years in office.

Finance Minister and Leader of the House O Panneerselvam said the needs of all sections of society are being addressed by Jayalitha. 'Worldclass education, quality healthcare facilities, low-priced food, excellent maintenance of law and order are some of the achievements of her government,' he said.

Electricity Minister Natham R Viswanathan said it was difficult to list out the achievements of Jayalitha, since they are innumerable. 'The earlier regime left Tamil Nadu in a crisis. But with her unique talent and skills, she has put the State on the growth path again,' he said. Viswanathan said the Chief Minister was handling the law and order situation in an effective manner.

'She has stopped violence with just one announcement (that parties indulging in violence would be banned). She alone is capable of such things,' Viswanathan also said the power crisis is being addressed in a remarkable manner.

Minister for Municipal Administration



In one voice

Following are some of the achievements by Chief Minister J Jayalitha that are lauded by almost all the MLAs who spoke in the Assembly today. Effective maintenance of law and order, launching of Amma canteens, coal-free rice, various measures to boost agriculture production, laptops to students, victory in the Causality Issue and inauguration of many schools and colleges in the last two years.

Minister K P Munusamy said Jayalitha has made so many achievements in the past two

'Ammavum Neengale, Appavum Neengale...'

DMK MLA R Sundararajan, representing the Madurai Central Assembly constituency, today sang a few lines from the evergreen song 'Ammavum Neeye, Appavum Neeye...' in the Assembly. While winding up his speech in the House, he hailed Chief Minister J Jayalitha and her achievements of her government, amid thumping responses from other MLAs.

years. 'This cannot be matched by any other leader,' he said and added that Jayalitha has emerged as a national leader.

Social Welfare Minister B Valarmathi

said that in the past two years, the growth rate of the State has been impressive.

He also said that the Government has taken many steps to improve the living standards of the people.

Valarmathi said that Jayalitha has put an end to a family government and paved way for people's government.

From the Opposition benches, legislators from the DMK, CPI(M), AIADMK, and Maniyantha

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Jaya for PM

Ministers and MLAs who spoke in the Assembly today expressed hope that Chief Minister J Jayalitha would become the Prime Minister of India. They said that she should extend her services to the whole country and should make India a super power in the global arena.

led by Jayalitha. Law and order is being maintained well in Tamil Nadu,' he said.

Sundararajan of the CPI(M) said despite many hurdles from the Central government, Jayalitha has been implementing many schemes.

He also said that the Government has taken many steps to improve the living standards of the people.

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Speaker lauds Jaya for good regime

Tamil Nadu Assembly Speaker P Dhanapal today lauded Chief Minister J Jayalitha, on her completion of two years in the office. Speaking after MLAs from various parties spoke in praise of Jayalitha, he said that various schemes have been announced and implemented in the last two years. He said Jayalitha has made so many historic achievements, benefiting all sections of the society. 'She has recreated Tamil Nadu with her vision and action.'

THE TIMES OF INDIA

City corpn may get men to pitch in at budget canteens

Pratiksha Ramkumar/TNN

Chennai: Since February, when Amma canteens sprung up across the city, women manned the counters, handing out plates of hot idlis and rice dishes to eager customers, who flocked to the canteens.

Come September, however, they might be joined by men to help them handle the evening rush hour and the new menu of rotis and dal. Chief Minister J Jayalitha announced on Wednesday that rotis, lime leaf rice



NEW AVENUES

rough

Canteens, which were opened to provide employment to women self-help groups, may start hiring men purely for security reasons.

Officials suspect that the evening shift is unlikely to be popular with women. 'We go home at 6.30pm and have no time for our families,' Ramala, who works in

in Alandur, canteens, which pm, will now be extended to 6.30pm after the introduction of new items on the menu. After cleaning up, she is likely to leave only at 9pm. 'If we function, we may have to stand for long hours,' she said.

TRINITY MIRROR

Pongal, lemon, curry leaves rice added in Chennai menu

Jayalalitha opens budget canteens in 9 Corporations

Public profusely thank CM

Chennai, June 2:

Setting in motion the setting up of her much popular 'Amma Unavagams' in more parts of the State, Chief Minister Jayalalitha today launched a series of these budget canteens in nine corporations including Madurai, Coimbatore and Tiruchi. Nine municipal corporations will have 10 budget canteens each. Already budget canteens have come up in all the 200 wards of Chennai and as there were strong representations from other parts of the State, Jayalalitha ordered opening of the same in other places also.

Soon after opening of the canteens in other parts, thousands of people profusely thanked the Chief Minister and there was heavy rush in almost all the newly opened ones.

Following requests for including pongal and variety rice in the menu of the budget canteens in Chennai, today Jayalalitha also inaugurated sale of pongal, lemon rice and curry leaves rice in Chennai canteens.

This was in line with the announcement made earlier and benefit daily wage labourers and others earning substantially low wages. Idli is sold for Rs 1 and sambar rice, pongal, lemon and

curry leaves rice Rs.5 and curd rice for Rs. 3.

Now the budget restaurants has come up in Madurai, Tiruchi, Coimbatore, Tirunelveli, Salem, Tirupur, Tuticorin, Vellore and Erode. Every Corporation will have 10 restaurants. The price will remain the same as it is in Chennai. Jayalalitha has launched this to ensure healthy food to labourers, drivers, load-men and migrant workers. As the quality is good people from all walks of life were queuing up before these canteens in the city.

With the prices of essential commodities skyrocketing the cost of food items being high hotels, the lower income and middle income groups find Amma Unavagams as a boon. Two idlis in regular hotels now cost Rs. 20, vadai is priced at Rs. 12, curd vadai Rs. 32, Poori Rs. 33, dosa Rs. 33, Rava dosa Rs. 33, ghee roast Rs. 45, masal dosa Rs. 33, onion dosa Rs. 42, meals ranging from Rs. 50 to Rs. 75 and special meals from Rs. 75 to Rs.100.



File photo

Tamil Arasu

July 2013

NEWS IN PICTURES



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** administered the anti-terrorism day pledge at the Secretariat on 21.5.2013 in memory of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.



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Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** speaking while inaugurating the Hogenakkal Water Supply and Flouride Mitigation Scheme through video conferencing at the Secretariat on 29.5.2013.