

# MADRAS INFORMATION



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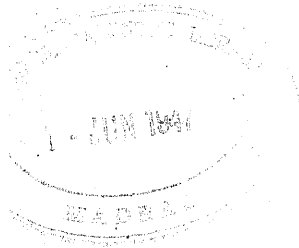
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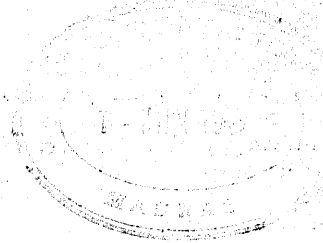


Readers are invited to send questions seeking clarification of the policy of the Government or allied matters. Answers will be published as soon as possible.

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# Madras Information

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WE SEEK TO SERVE AND NOT TO COMPETE

May 24, 1947

## Editorial Notes

### Food Position in Madras

The food position in the country is unsatisfactory ; but there is no need for panic. Provided provincial procurement is kept up and the stocks of local supplies are replenished by the steady release of produce by cultivators, the situation is bound to improve and gradually change from dismal to satisfactory if not bright, and we can tide over the difficult times ahead during the next few months. This is the essence of the statements and speeches made by the Hon'ble Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Member for Food and Agriculture in the Interim Government of India, during his recent visit to Madras.

The Hon'ble member repeatedly emphasized the consideration that the Centre might not be able to come to the assistance of the Madras province as it did last year. Nor was it possible for it to agree to an increase in the price of paddy or even to the payment of bonus. Expectations about a good wheat crop in the important wheat producing provinces entertained earlier in the year has been dashed owing to an unexpected destruction of a major part of the crop by 'rust.' The rice crop had been on the whole good and Madras too had a good crop ; but India taken all in all is a deficit country with regard to rice and the deficit which could have been to some extent mitigated by wheat from the surplus areas cannot be so filled in now that the wheat crop itself has been a disappointing one.

#### All India Problem

The Government of India's policy in regard to fixation of grain prices has always been clear. They regard it as an all-India question. " It is an all-India problem " said the Hon'ble Dr. Rajendra Prasad in his broadcast talk from Madras on May 14th, " which has to be handled in accordance with an all-India policy." It has an intimate

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inter-connection with the general level of prices and wages in the country and if prices of foodgrains are increased, the demand for an increase in wages from those who do not produce their own food or produce it inadequately will become irresistible. The consumer section of the population may be an indeterminate section even in a country which is a reputedly agricultural country, because a vast proportion of those engaged in agriculture are those who are in the category of landless agricultural labourers or small cultivating tenants, even if we leave out those who are wage-earners in industrial and other establishments. Price increase is thus ruled out, because all-India considerations are involved in it, and because the consumers cannot be constrained to bear an insupportable burden. "The plain fact is" said the Hon'ble Member for Food, "that neither the Government of India nor the provincial Government, nor the people can afford any further increase in the price of foodgrains anywhere in the country."

Payment of bonus in order to bring out stocks hoarded or withheld may be equally impracticable because it may be an unconscionable burden on the exchequer and if bonus is paid on stocks withheld and is not paid on stocks already released, it will mean discrimination in favour of those who have not discharged an important social obligation at a time of crisis and penalising those who have discharged it. The Government of Madras have more than once expressed their view that no bonus would be paid and in this, Dr. Rajendra Prasad said, they had and have the support of the Government of India.

#### Depend on Internal Resources

All in all, it seems imperative, and this was repeatedly emphasized by the Food Member, that Madras has to depend mainly and principally on her own internal resources for the rest of the year and with determination face the ordeal that

lies ahead. "I must tell you frankly", he pointed out, "that the position as I see it to-day, is not at all as it should be. . . . The stock of foodgrains in the provincial Government's hands is only about one-half of what it was at this time last year. The quantities so far procured are not appreciably higher, and in some parts of the province, very poor indeed. It is essential that this trend should be changed and changed immediately." At the present rate of rice procurement in the province, supplies cannot be maintained for the rationed population even on a 10 ozs. ration. The only barrier between further reduction in rations and maintenance of the present rate of ration for an already undernourished population is better and more intensive procurement and greater readiness on the part of the producers to sell their stocks.

#### South Indian Must Respond

Dr. Rajendra Prasad's fervent appeal in this connection bears quotation. "We are once again face to face with a crisis but without last year's moral and physical preparation to meet it. But I know that the will and determination to conquer the difficulty are still there—they are latent at present and have to be roused once again. We must realise the gravity of the situation and prepare to meet it. Let the South stand on its own legs, relieve the Centre of all anxiety and responsibility for it and set an example of self-help and self-sufficiency as it did of patience and self-sufficiency last year." South India must respond to the call of duty and should be prepared, if necessary, to make sacrifices for self-sufficiency even if self-sufficiency may mean a lower level of subsistence for all. The rationing system, which has sustained this province and country during a period of severe stress and strain on our internal resources, can be maintained in tact only if grain flows from the stocks of producers at the prices fixed by the Government.

## Teachers' Grievances

The Hon'ble Sri T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar, in his address at the inauguration of the Craft Training organised by the Elementary School Teachers' Association, North Madras Range, informed the teachers that he realised the needs of the teachers and would do whatever was possible to better their lot. The teachers' grievances were very much before the Government's view, assured the Education Minister. But he wanted them to realise the implications of their demand for a further revision of pay. The pay revision

proposals sanctioned by the Government cost the public exchequer Rs. 247 lakhs taking all the Government departments into account, and those employed in the Education Department were the beneficiaries to the extent of nearly Rs. 120 lakhs or fifty per cent by this revision of scales of pay. An extra expenditure of Rs. 60 lakhs is incurred by the local boards on pay revision of teachers employed under them which means a total of Rs. 180 lakhs of additional expenditure on education.

### Teachers' Demands

The main demands of the teachers at present are equality of pay for teachers employed by various agencies in charge of education, a minimum pay of Rs. 50 and free education for teachers' children. It was pointed out by the Hon'ble Minister that the financial implication of these demands would be nothing less than Rs. 6 crores, over and above the increases provided for in the recent pay revision. That consideration, the Education Minister said, should lead to a better and more realistic appreciation by the teaching profession of the impracticability of their demands being accepted, though, as he pointed out, the

Government would consider their grievances and strive to redress them as far as possible.

It is essential to draw attention in this connection to the note of warning struck by the Minister against indiscipline in the ranks of the teachers. Teachers, who are to be the strongest protagonists of discipline themselves, without which their work would be impossible, should not appear to be doing anything which smacks of a propensity to encourage indiscipline. Threats of strike by them heard from time to time are not a very commendable method of securing redressal of grievances of which Government are already aware and towards the removal of which they are not unsympathetic.

## "Grow More Food" Campaign in Madras

"The slogan should be not more money per maund, but more maunds per acre. If we succeed in achieving this object not only will the producers be benefited by the price they get for their extra produce, but the country as a whole would be benefited," said the Hon'ble Dr. Rajendra Prasad, in the course of his broadcast address in Madras, emphasizing the need for increasing production of foodgrains in the Province. It is indubitable that chronic shortage of foodgrains in the Province can be reduced and the permanent deficit therein can be covered only if there is intensified activity in pursuance of the grow more food campaign. Dr. Rajendra Prasad expressed gratification at the proposal under the consideration of the Madras Government for procuring the maximum possible supplies of manure and making it available at cheap rates to cultivators. He assured the full sympathy and active support of the Government of India to the Madras Government in any endeavour the latter may make in this direction.

oil-cake distributed by the Department in 1946 was: groundnut cake, 152,389 tons; castor cakes, 2,666 tons and other categories of cakes, 163 tons. To the poor and deserving ryots, manure is distributed free to an extent of Rs. 2,000 in each district except in the Nilgiris and Vizagapatam districts, where the limit has been fixed at Rs. 4,000. A scheme had been sanctioned for the conversion of town refuse into compost and also another scheme for rural compost making from the waste vegetable matter, which is working in certain districts. The Government have made arrangements with a fertiliser firm in Travancore for the production and annual supply of 20,000 tons of ammonium sulphate, and they have also made arrangements for getting a share of the ammonium sulphate produced by the Government of India at their factory at Sindhri which is expected to commence production soon. The quantities of imported chemical fertilisers allotted by the Government of India are taken over by the Madras Government and distributed partly through the Agricultural Department and partly through the Imperial Chemical Industries, Limited.

### Supply of Manure

In this connection it will be relevant to give a resume of the measures taken by Madras Government to increase the yield of land by the supply of manures, supply of seeds, supply of iron and steel implements and the supply of agricultural machinery. They have prohibited the exports of oil-cakes, bone and bonemeal, hoofs, horns, fishmeal and chemical fertilisers except under permits issued by the Director of Agriculture. The entire production of groundnut cakes from power driven mills and hand-presses so acquired by the Government in 1946, had been sold to ryots by the Agricultural Department through the agricultural depots. Thus the total quantity of

### Supply of Implements

As regards the supply of seeds a comprehensive scheme covering all the districts in the province for the multiplication and distribution of improved seeds of paddy and millets, pulses, groundnut and green manure, has been sanctioned by the Government. Quantities of improved seeds distributed from 1944-45 up to the end of 1946 are about 22,500 tons of paddy seeds, 200 tons of millets, 2,370 tons of other seeds, including green manure seeds, and about 540 tons of pulses. About 4 million acres are already under improved seeds of paddy and about 7 million acres more

are expected to be brought under the scheme. Seeds are supplied free to poor and deserving ryots up to a limit of Rs. 100 in each district.

It has been estimated that the annual requirements of iron and steel for agricultural purposes in this province are about 30,000 tons. In relation to this demand, the quota allotted by the Government of India to this province is far short of the requirements and even these small allotments are not received in time. The Madras Government have repeatedly pressed on the Government of India the need for increased and timely supplies of iron and steel implements. Arrangements are made for the supply to ryots through the Agricultural Department of agricultural machinery such as pump sets, oil and petrol engines, tractors and tractor implements. A number of pump sets are also maintained by the Department and are hired to the ryots on a subsidy basis.

It will thus be seen that the Madras Government have been doing something substantial to assist the ryots to secure cheap manure and agricultural machinery and seeds, and that the gratification expressed by the Food Member of the Government of India at their efforts to augment production of foodgrains is justified. It is nevertheless possible that what they have been doing in this regard may have to be increased both qualitatively and quantitatively. Reference may be made here to the schemes sanctioned for the free supply of manures on a large scale in two taluks of Malabar and one taluk in South Kanara districts during April to June 1946, resulting in an increased production of 33,500 tons of paddy and 73,350 tons of straw, which indicates that food production does respond readily to Governmental assistance.

#### Other Schemes

There are various other schemes under the 'Grow-More-Food' campaign which the Madras Government are undertaking such as, for example,

the well-sinking scheme of which there have been three in number, the scheme for increasing the production of protective foods like vegetables, the state trading scheme under which a permanent advance of Rs. 170 lakhs has been placed at the disposal of the Director of Agriculture for the purchase and sale of manures, seeds and iron and steel. The last mentioned scheme is financed from the free loan of Rs. 85 lakhs given by the Government of India up to the end of February 1947 towards half the permanent advance of Rs. 170 lakhs sanctioned to the Director of Agriculture. The Government of India have been giving a 50 per cent grant for the Grow-More-Food schemes and the additional staff employed therefor. Under the Five-Year Plan for expansion of food production the Government of India have programmed to produce an additional annual 3 million tons of foodgrains in British India during the period 1947-48 and 1951-52. In this target of increased production the share of Madras has been fixed at 6.5 lakhs tons of rice. This ultimate target of 6.5 lakhs is proposed to be attained by sinking 6,250 wells, by encouraging the digging of new private tanks in Malabar and other districts, by providing an increased number of private pumping sets, by the construction of 240 Public Works Department minor irrigation projects, by increasing the area manured with sulphate of ammonia, by increasing the manure supplies by phosphates and oil cakes, by the multiplication and distribution of improved seeds, by cultivation through mechanical means and by securing increased yield through contour-ridging and levelling of about 5,000 acres of land. The estimated cost of the Five-Year scheme so far as it relates to the Agricultural Department is 8 crores and 89 lakhs of rupees. The Chief Engineer for Irrigation has drawn up a five-year plan consisting of 298 schemes of irrigation estimated to cost Rs. 5 crores, and which are expected to bring in an additional area of 250,000 acres under cultivation.

## Madras Government Press Notes

### Development

#### B. and C. Mills Strike

Certain statements have appeared in the Press that the Government have rejected the terms suggested on behalf of the Madras Labour Union for the settlement of the strike in the B. and C. Mills. These statements do not represent the position correctly. The facts are that after the Government had informed the representatives of the

Union that they would be prepared to release Mr. Anthony Pillai if the strike was called off and the workers agreed to recognise the Court of Enquiry, Sri Suryaprakasa Rao and Sri Kalyanasundaram Mudaliar desired to discuss the Government's proposals with Mr. Anthony Pillai and were given necessary facilities to do so. Thereafter Sri Suryaprakasa Rao informed the Government

that the following terms should be conceded before the strike was called off :—

(1) There should a change in the personnel of the Court of Enquiry.

(2) While the quantum of bonus can be left to the Court of Enquiry to decide, an interim bonus should be determined and announced by the Government or by any other third party.

(3) Dearness allowance at 4 annas a point must be agreed to.

(4) The 52 workers dismissed in 1942 should be reinstated.

(5) Pending prosecutions should be withdrawn and arrested workers released.

(6) The question of payment for the strike period should be decided.

(7) There should be no victimization of workers for the strike.

The Government pointed out that once a Court of Enquiry was constituted, it was for the Court to decide on all the points in dispute and that it would not be fair or proper for the Government or anyone else to examine isolated issues and pre-judge the decision of the Court. Sri Suryaprakasa Rao promised to convey this to the workers but reported later that the terms suggested by him were unalterable.

The Government have always been anxious to effect a settlement. Their offer to intervene was not accepted by Mr. Anthony Pillai and they had therefore to leave the matter for direct negotiations as desired by the labour leaders or for decision by a Court of Enquiry. As direct negotiations between the parties failed, there is no alternative to the Court of Enquiry. And as a Court of Enquiry has been constituted, the strike has become illegal under clause (iii) of Order No. LR 16 (10), dated 19th December 1945, issued by the Central Government under rule 81-A of the Defence of India Rules read with section 2 of the Emergency Provisions (Continuance) Ordinance, 1946.

[30th April]

### Housing Schemes

Shortage of housing accommodation in Madras City as well as in mufassals has become, as the public are aware, a serious problem, and Government have been devoting special attention to finding out ways and means for easing the situation in this regard. A scheme of building expansion has been planned and details are being worked out.

In this connection, the Hon'ble Minister Mr. Daniel Thomas met the Directors of the Coimbatore Co-operative House Mortgage Bank in the course of his recent tour in the district and discussed with them the question of expanding housing accommodation. Incidentally, the bank is having in hand a big scheme of house construction to relieve congestion. Already preparations for 49 houses are under way on an extent of 5 acres. In the course of the discussion, the Hon'ble Minister suggested that a more ambitious scheme might be taken up and an extent of not less than 100 acres in the neighbourhood might be acquired to expand building activities. The Directors were agreeable to this suggestion subject to certain conditions. The matter is being pursued further. In this connection the Hon'ble Minister inspected a site of 400 acres near Podanur. A Co-operative Township is envisaged and necessary steps to this end are being taken.

[1st May]

### Dispute in India Ceramics, Limited

There was a trade dispute between the workers and management of the India Ceramics, Limited, Nellore. As the parties to the dispute were unable to arrive at an amicable settlement, the Government referred the dispute to the District and Sessions Judge, Nellore, for adjudication. After enquiry the adjudicator had made the following recommendations :—

(1) The employers have agreed to disburse wages regularly on every Saturday, to provide for the supply of drinking water and to provide for rest-houses and canteen as laid down by law.

(2) Payment of wages to the workers for Sundays does not arise as the law does not provide for payment of wages for Sundays to daily wage earners.

(3) The existing leave facilities are adequate in the case of workers paid by the week. In the case of workers paid by the month casual leave on half pay for twelve days in the year may be granted in addition to the compensatory holidays and local holidays.

(4) The question of instituting provident fund can be considered only after the company is established on a firm basis.

(5) The company should frame standing orders by 15th April 1947 and prescribe a period of six months as the period of probation for all workers paid by the week as well as by the month.

(6) Daily wage workers need not be paid anything for the period of closure of the factory from 14th December 1946 to 2nd January 1947 but the monthly paid workers should be paid wages for the entire period of 18 days.

(7) The scale of pay for the monthly paid staff should be Rs. 45—1—60 for supervisors, Rs. 25—1—35 for watchmen, Rs. 30—1—55 for lorry drivers and Rs. 15— $\frac{1}{2}$  (annual)—25 lorry cleaners. Unskilled daily wage male cooly should be paid twelve annas and unskilled daily wage female cooly should be paid nine annas. In the case of skilled daily wage workers, the wage should be Rs. 1—8—0 for drivers, blacksmiths, carpenters, masons, and firemen, twelve annas for fitters. The wages for moulders, castors, and glazors should be fifteen annas for class I men, twelve annas for class II and class I boys, eight annas for class II boys and six annas for class II girls. No dearness allowance need be paid.

(8) The discharged workers referred to have no claim to be re-employed by the India Ceramics, Limited.

The Government agree with the recommendations of the adjudicator and accept his award in full. [2nd May]

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### Opening of Rural Dispensaries

In pursuance of the policy of the Government to encourage the development of Indian medicine,

they have approved the proposals of the Presidents of the District Boards of Nellore, Ramnad, Guntur, South Arcot and Malabar to open rural dispensaries of Indian medicine (16 in all) subsidized by Government, in their respective districts.

The Government have accorded sanction to the payment of subsidies to the 16 rural medical practitioners to be employed in the dispensaries. The Government have also approved the proposal of the District Boards of Guntur and South Arcot for the employment of a midwife in each of the dispensaries at Mandadam and Tsodayapalem in Guntur district and a midwife in the dispensary at Puduchatram of South Arcot district and to the payment of subsidy to them from provincial funds.

[5th May]

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### Concession to Agriculturists

The Madras Government have directed, in the interests of growing more food, that loans granted for the purchase of agricultural machinery should be free of interest for the first year and that repayment may start after three years. They have also directed that only persons who can obtain delivery of the machinery on a fairly certain date and who know clearly the price and their liability in the matter will be given loans with this concession, which will be available till 31st March 1950.

[10th May]

## Food and Clothing

### Hulling of Producers' Paddy

According to a Food Department notification, the Collector, for the time being of each district in the Province, is authorized to issue directions to the owner or person in charge of each of the rice mills situated within the district with regard to—

(1) the quantity of paddy belonging to the producers and to the procuring agencies appointed by him which the mill should hull;

(2) the rates at which he should charge for the hulling of different varieties of paddy;

(3) the period within which such paddy should be hulled and the rice delivered;

(4) the specification of the quantity of rice so delivered and the sharing of the by-products arising from the milling of such paddy.

The owner or person in charge of the mill shall comply with all such directions.

[16th April]

### Milling of Paddy

In supersession of the notification, dated 24th August 1945, issued by the Commissioner of Civil Supplies, Madras, the Government have directed that no owner or other person in charge of a mill in any area of this Province in which rationing is enforced by statutory orders, shall mill paddy brought to it for milling, except on production of permits or authorization issued by the Tahsildar, Rationing Officer or Grain Purchase Officer in the case of landholders and authorized wholesalers, or ration cards in the case of other cardholders.

The Government have further directed that the owner or other person in charge of a mill shall maintain accounts in which entries should be made regarding the number of the permit or ration card, or authorization or licence, and the name and address of persons who bring paddy, the quantity of paddy brought for hulling and the quantity of resultant rice. These accounts shall be open to inspection by the officers concerned.

[30th April]



### Food Control Prosecutions

There were about 177 prosecutions launched in the various magisterial courts of the province in respect of offences against the Foodgrains Control Orders and Rationing Regulations, during the fortnight ending April 15, 1947. About 123 cases have resulted in convictions and sentences, which have generally been deterrent.

Other cases of infringement of the Foodgrains Control Orders and Rationing Regulations are sub-judice and the results are awaited.

[2nd May]

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### Cut in Firewood Ration Continued

In a Press Note, dated the 16th April 1947 the Government announced a 25 per cent cut in the firewood ration in the city of Madras for a period of one month commencing from the third quarter of April 1947. As the supply of firewood in the city has not shown any appreciable improvement, the Government have decided to continue the cut for another month commencing from the third quarter of May 1947.

[2nd May]

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### Manure Dealers' Licensing Order

In supersession of the Madras Manure Dealers' Licensing Order, 1943, the Government have issued the Madras Manure Dealers' Licensing Order, 1947, under the Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Act, 1946.

According to this Order, no person shall, on and after 29th April 1947, carry on business as a dealer in manures in the province of Madras, except under and in accordance with a licence issued in that behalf by a licensing authority.

The Government have prescribed that applications for licences under the Madras Manure Dealers' Licensing Order, 1947, should be made to the licensing authority in the prescribed form giving particulars regarding the applicants name and address, place of business, duration of trade in manure and quantities of manure handled during 1945 and 1946, and at present in possession, and places where they are stocked.

[5th May]

### Rice Ration in Malabar

With a view to bring Malabar district on a par with the other districts in regard to the scale of rations, the Government issued orders directing the increase of rice ration from 10 oz. to 12 oz. with effect from the 4th May 1947. Even then the stock position in the district was such that the increase was not warranted, at least for some time. The Government hoped that imports from other provinces and states and also from overseas as well as procurement and movement of quotas from the northern surplus districts which are the main sources of supply to Malabar would enable the maintenance of the ration at 12 oz. They however felt it necessary to warn the public that if these supplies were not received in adequate quantities it would be necessary to reduce the ration again to 10 oz. or even lower, and they issued a press note, dated 21st April 1947 to that effect.

The present position is that to maintain a 12 oz. scale of ration, the Malabar district will require an average import of about 30,000 tons of rice per month. Against this requirement there was a stock of 29,500 tons on 30th of April 1947. On that date, against an allotment of 19,823 tons from the northern surplus districts, as much as 10,923 tons remained to be moved to the district. At the request of this Government, the Government of India have allotted a quota of 6,000 tons of broken rice from Sind to Malabar and of 2,000 tons of imported rice from overseas for the month of May. 1,600 tons of rice are still due to be received in the district from Coorg. Unless it is absolutely certain that these stocks as well as the allotments for May reach the district before the end of May, it would not be possible to continue the ration at the rate of 12 oz., sanctioned with effect from 4th May 1947. Due however to unsatisfactory procurement in the Circars and the uncertainty of supplies from overseas and the delay that is likely to occur in the receipt of rice from Sind and Coorg, it is utterly unsafe to count on the stocks reaching the district in time. The district stock of 29,800 tons represents only requirements of about 26 days and is held by 106 producers cum consumers co-operative societies spread all over the district and the stocks available in each area vary. It is not possible to even out stocks held by the societies. No appreciable quantity can be expected from local procurement as a major portion of the last crop has already been procured and what remains to be procured will not make any material difference to the stocks in the district. The Government cannot take the

risk of using up the existing stocks when replenishment in time is full of uncertainties specially as the monsoon is approaching. In the circumstances the Government have regretfully decided to put back the rice ration to 10 oz., with effect from 11th May 1947. They will however very carefully watch the situation and take all possible steps to intensify procurement and speed up movements to the district and they will take the earliest opportunity to raise the rice ration to 12 oz., in this district, if circumstances permit.

[8th May]

### Delivery of Surplus Grains

In a Press Note, dated 10th April 1947, the Government announced their decision to give the option to the producers to deliver their surplus grain in the shape of rice. Since then numerous representations have been received that the pro-

ducers are taking advantage of the concession to delay or evade procurement with the result that procurement operations are impeded. As the food situation in the deficit districts is becoming grave and as rice has to be rushed to these districts from the surplus districts without any delay, the Government are reluctantly put to the necessity of temporarily withdrawing the concession with immediate effect in the surplus districts of East Godavari, West Godavari, Kistna, Guntur, Nellore and Tanjore. This is, however, a temporary measure and the concession will be restored as soon as the food position in the deficit districts improves. As regards other districts, the Government have issued instructions to the effect that the producers who desire to deliver their surplus in the shape of rice should be allowed only 15 days time after the service of the demand notice for getting their paddy milled and delivered to the procuring agents.

[9th May]

## Miscellaneous

### Appointment of Honorary Medical Officers

In a Government Order, dated 15th March 1947, the Government laid down that roughly 66-2/3 per cent of all reserved vacancies of appointments of honorary Medical Officers in Government Medical Institutions should be allotted to candidates with war service and the remaining 33-1/3 per cent of vacancies may go to members of the public. It has now been decided that all honorary appointments should be filled up in accordance with the provisions of this Government Order.

Government have asked the Surgeon-General to advertise all the reserved vacancies including posts which are held by honorary medical officers who have rendered service for a period of five years or more and they will be filled in the proportions mentioned above. War service candidates will be eligible to apply for the vacancies allotted to members of the public though they may not be given any special preference therein by reason of the war service alone. The duration of the appointment of each selected candidate has been tentatively fixed at one year.

[16th April]

### Reinstated in Service

The Government have reinstated Sri S. Anantapadmanabha Bhatt, who was dismissed from

service for participation in the Civil Disobedience movement, as Patel of Bairampalli village, Udipi taluk, South Kanara District.

[30th April]

### Honorary Director of Homeopathy

The Government have appointed Dr. T. Janakiram, M.B., CH. B. (Edin.), as Honorary Director of Homeopathy for a period of three months from the date of taking charge for submitting to Government detailed proposals on the recommendations of the Board of Studies for Homeopathy constituted in 1946 and other matters connected with the recognition and development of Homeopathy.

[30th April]

### District Board Membership

The Government had fixed the 1st May 1947 as the date for the coming into office of the members newly elected to 23 District Boards. As the elections to these District Boards have not yet been held, the Government have directed that the members newly elected to these District Boards at the next ordinary elections shall come into office on the noon on the 1st day of August 1947.

[30th April]

### Donations for Government Hospital

The following gifts and donations have been offered by the gentlemen mentioned below, for the benefit of patients in the Government Hospital, Periakulam :—

(1) Janab S. A. Rahim Sahib and Brother—A frigidaire costing about Rs. 1,500.

(2) Sri B. V. Ramachandran—Four fluorescent shadowless mercury tube lights.

(3) Sri C. Soundiah, Advocate—A mercury lamp.

(4) Sri Kulandaivelu Pillai—A mercury lamp.

The Periakulam Municipal Council also has offered to make a gift of a Radio for the Hospital. The Government have gratefully accepted the offer.

[1st May]

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### Unqualified Medical Practitioners

Instances have been brought to the notice of Government where unqualified persons practising Medicine use bogus titles and commit other breaches of the provisions of the Indian Medical Degrees Act, 1916, as amended by the Indian Medical Degrees (Madras Amendment) Act, 1940. As it is possible that some of these cases may be due to ignorance of the Law and of the Rules on the subject, the Government desire to give due publicity to the relevant provisions, while emphasising the obvious fact that ignorance of law is no excuse.

Under section 13 of the Madras Medical Registration Act, 1914, only those practitioners are entitled to registration who hold the qualifications prescribed in the schedule to the said Act. Under section 6 of the Indian Medical Degrees Act, 1916, and section 6-A added by the Madras Amendment Act No. XX of 1940, no person shall add to his name any title, description, letters or abbreviations which imply that he holds a degree, diploma, licence or certificate as his qualification to practise any system of medicine unless he actually holds such degree, diploma, licence or certificate recognized by law, or conferred, granted or issued by competent authority as defined in section 3 of the Indian Medical Degrees Act No. VII of 1916 and the schedule, thereunder. Contravention of any of the provisions of section 6 or 6-A entails, in the case of a first conviction, a punishment which may extend to Rs. 250 and in the case of subsequent conviction to fine which may extend to Rs. 500.

Under the instructions issued by the Madras Medical Council for Registered Practitioners, the employment by any Registered Medical Practitioner of an Assistant who is not duly qualified, and the countenancing or assisting of treatment by such unqualified person, are considered discreditable practices which will entail erasure of the practitioner's name from the Medical Register.

[3rd May]

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### Grant for Relief

Government have sanctioned the expenditure of a sum of Rs. 1,435 for the relief of distress caused by fire which occurred on 2nd March 1947 in Somapura agraharam in Srungavarapukottataluk in Vizagapatam district.

[3rd May]

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### Appointment of Assistant Public Prosecutors

It has been ordered that, with regard to the appointment of Assistant Crown Prosecutors in the Madras City and of the Assistant Public Prosecutors in the districts, the appointing authority should be the Government and not the Commissioner of Police and the District Magistrates respectively as has been the case till now. Appointments will be made by the Government on the recommendation of the Chief Presidency Magistrate, Madras, in the case of Assistant Crown Prosecutors and of the District Magistrates concerned in the case of Assistant Public Prosecutors.

The Government will hereafter be the authority competent to impose on Assistant Crown Prosecutors and Assistant Public Prosecutors, the penalties of compulsory retirement, removal and dismissal from service and other penalties referred to under rule 8 of the Civil Service Rules being imposed by the Chief Presidency Magistrate in the case of Assistant Crown Prosecutors and the District Magistrates concerned in the case of Assistant Public Prosecutors. An appeal will be made to the Government against any order of punishment passed by the Chief Presidency Magistrate or the District Magistrate, and His Excellency the Governor will exercise the individual judgment against such an order passed by the Government. The Chief Presidency Magistrate and the District Magistrates will have the power to grant leave other than special disability leave, to Assistant Crown Prosecutors and to Assistant Public Prosecutors respectively.

[10th May]

# Prohibition at Work

## Report for the month of March

The following report on the working of the Prohibition Act in the districts of Anantapur, Bellary, Kurnool, Cuddapah, Salem, Coimbatore, Chittoor and North Arcot during March 1947 is published for information.

### I—Enforcement

*Cases detected.*—There has been a considerable increase in the number of cases detected in the eight districts in March 1947 as shown below :—

October 751; November 1,320; December 1,291; January 1,763; February 1,541; March 2,352.

*Illicit distillation.*—The total number of cases of illicit distillation increased from 466 in February to 925 in March. The increase was appreciable in all districts except Coimbatore where there was a decrease of cases from 6 to 2.

(i) *Tapping of sweet juice without licence.*—There were 79 cases as against 73 in February 1947. Of these, 59 cases related to Coimbatore.

(ii) *Smuggling of liquor.*—The number of cases increased from 77 to 125. The increase in Bellary from 11 to 41 was marked. This is attributed to the low water in the Tungabhadra river and to the consequent smuggling of arrack and toddy from the Nizam's State.

The smuggling of liquor from Banganapalle State where additional shops have been newly opened has increased in recent months. The Hon'ble the Resident in Mysore has been asked to address the Durbar in the matter.

(iii) *Smuggling of intoxicating drugs.*—There was a slight decrease from 215 to 211.

(iv) *Denatured spirit.*—The consumption in North Arcot continued to be very high and the Board has pointed out that it is very necessary that the Collector should restrict sales to the barest minimum.

(v) *Border problems.*—Large number of persons are reported to be still visiting border areas for drink. Separate action is being taken to make it an offence under the Madras Prohibition Act for a person to be found drunk in the Prohibition areas, after having taken drink in the non-prohibition areas.

(vi) *Assistance by officials of other departments and by non-officials.*—The Police in the Ceded Districts, especially (in the district of Kurnool, Cuddapah and Anantapur) afforded very satisfactory co-operation in the detection of crime.

The work done by the village officers was satisfactory except in the Coimbatore and Bellary districts. The Board has directed that Collectors and Revenue Divisional Officers should, during their tours, instruct the village officers to take special interest in detection of crime and give proper assistance to the enforcement staff.

The work done by taluk and village prohibition committees towards detection of crime was poor. Collectors have been asked to impress on the members of the committees the necessity to render assistance to the enforcement staff in the detection and suppression of crime and the role they have to play in making the enforcement of prohibition a success.

(vii) *Sentences inflicted.*—The Board has asked Collectors to impress on the magistrates the importance of awarding deterrent sentences, particularly in grave prohibition crimes.

(viii) *General.*—The preventive work during the month was on the whole satisfactory.

### II—Ameliorative Work

*Substitutes for drink.*—In all the Prohibition districts except Chittoor there has been a further increase in the number of tea and coffee shops and these shops are having a large number of customers including ex-addicts. In the Coimbatore district, a number of stalls are supplying butter-milk free of cost.

(i) *Rural recreation.*—The following statement shows the work done by rural recreation officers in the eight districts :—

Number of villages visited.	Number of villages in which rural games were conducted.	Number of fika tournaments held.	Number of taluk tournaments held.	Number of divisional tournaments held.	Number of district tournaments held.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
456	335	26	12	1	1

The matches and tournaments between villages provided entertainment for a large number of people and are helping to promote unity in the villages.

(ii) *Bhajanas, Kathaprasanghams and Kalakshepams.*—Bhajanas have become a regular feature

in a large number of villages in the prohibition districts. Harikathas and Kalakshepams were conducted by the Ballad singers in some villages. In the North Arcot district, in a number of places Harijans took an active part in Bhajanas and even conducted them, mixing freely with the caste Hindus.

(iii) *Cinema houses*.—Cinema houses are attracting larger audiences and afford entertainments to an increasing number of ex-addicts and new cinema houses are being constructed in some of the districts. In the Salem district 20 cinema companies continued to extend the concession of free admission to about 20 ex-addicts for their daily shows.

(iv) *Dramas*.—Dramatic performances increased in number in all the prohibition districts.

(v) *Ballad singers*.—The Ballad singers continued to do useful work in the villages.

(vi) *Radio sets*.—The Board's proposal to install 234 radio sets is under consideration.

(vii) (a) *Rural uplift—Gramasanghams*.—Gramasanghams have been organized in all the prohibition districts. Almost all the big villages of Salem, North Arcot, Coimbatore and Kurnool districts have their sanghams. These sanghams have taken up various kinds of activities for the benefit of the villages—organization of co-operative societies, road works, village cleaning and drainage, street lighting, opening of schools, purchase of sports materials, library and reading room.

(b) *Promotion of thrift*.—The amount saved in Hundi boxes up to end of March was Rs. 54,243. The total savings under the National Small Savings Scheme in the 8 prohibition districts amounted to Rs. 4 lakhs nearly.

(c) *House building*.—Steps are being taken to construct houses between Vellore and Katpadi, at Sholinghur, Gudiyattam, Bellary and Hospet through co-operative societies.

(d) *Co-operative marketing*.—It is proposed to construct godowns in Kurnool, Coimbatore and Salem districts with a view to promote better marketing of agricultural produce and secure larger returns to ryots.

(e) *Uplift of women*.—The Indian Women's Civil Corps is evincing interest in contacting women in Bellary and Salem. The development staff in North Arcot did propaganda to educate the women in the villages in supplying substitutes for liquor for ex-addicts by preparing mild drinks in the evenings at home and introducing simple indoor games to engage the evening hours of ex-addicts.

(viii) *Co-operative jaggery manufacturing societies*.—Co-operative societies have been formed in the four undermentioned districts. :—

	Number of co-operative societies.	Number of licences issued.
1 Coimbatore .. ..	90	5,300
2 Salem .. ..	55	11,209
3 North Arcot .. ..	25	628
4 Chittoor .. ..	1	117

The employment of special senior Co-operative Inspectors is under the consideration of the Government.

(ix) *Other co-operative societies*.—An Iron Metal Workers' Co-operative Society and a Mat Weavers' Co-operative Society in the Salem district and a Co-operative Milk Supply Society for the labourers engaged in the Tungabhadra Project works were organized.

(x) *General beneficial results of prohibition*.—There is a considerable improvement in the social and economic conditions of the lower and middle classes as a result of prohibition. The ex-addicts are generally reported to enjoy better food, better clothing and are able to save out of their earnings.

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### Working of the Prohibition Act

Ever since the introduction of prohibition it has been the policy of the Government to keep in close touch with its working in districts, and with this end in view the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the portfolio as well as other Hon'ble Ministers have been touring prohibition districts from time to time. Such personal contacts have been found extremely useful in tackling the problems that arise in the day-to-day working of prohibition. The Hon'ble Mr. Daniel Thomas, Minister for Prohibition, toured Coimbatore district in the last week of April 1947.

On 26th April 1947 he attended a meeting of the District Prohibition Committee and discussed some of the problems connected with prohibition. It was revealed during the deliberations that cases of illicit distillation were sparse and this has been attributed to the existence of liquor shops on the border of the surrounding non-prohibition areas. However, it is considered that more vigilance may improve matters in this direction. The full complement of enforcement staff could

not be appointed owing to non-availability of suitable hands. The lower ranks of the prohibition staff—especially constables, need strengthening, and this also presents difficulty for want of suitable recruits. Government are nevertheless actively tackling this matter.

It has been suggested in the Committee that drunkenness should be made an offence under the Prohibition Act. The suggestion received more or less unanimous support although there may be practical difficulties in proving drunkenness in a Court of Law. The Committee was also of opinion that extra penalty should be imposed under Prohibition Act for second offences. It was also suggested that a portion of the fines imposed upon Prohibition offenders should be made available for distribution as rewards for informants. The question of further continuing the sale of opium and ganja, as well as the possibility of curtailing the quota per head needs examination and this is being done.

On the ameliorative side provision for those who have been thrown out of work consequent upon prohibition is receiving special attention. Seventy-four Co-operative Societies for the manufacture of palmyra jaggery have been organised so far in the district. They are awaiting to get

into their stride after the appointment of Senior Inspectors who will be chiefly responsible for the working of these societies. These Inspectors will also organise cottage industries like coir making, cattle breeding, poultry farming, etc., among ex-toddy tappers. Tapping of coconut sweet juice for the manufacture of coconut jaggery might, it was suggested, absorb a few of the unemployed but the apprehension was expressed that this would lead to abuses. It has however been decided to allow the tapping of coconut sweet juice in Erode taluk in the first instance and confine it to members of the jaggery co-operative societies.

Encouragement of indigenous sports is an important aspect of the social side of prohibition. Attention is being paid to this aspect. The Hon'ble Minister attended a Firka Tournament attended by nearly 5,000 people. Rural games and folk dances with a rural Exhibition in between formed the main features of this tournament. Silver shields, trophies and prizes evidenced local enthusiasm. Hundi boxes were distributed on the occasion in furtherance of the thrift campaign. At Perumanallur the Hon'ble Minister laid the foundation stone for a Radio House donated by a local gentleman. [1st May]

## Food Situation in the Province

### Report for the first fortnight of April

#### Season and Crops

During the fortnight rainfall occurred mostly in the Southern and West Coast districts of the Province. It was heaviest in the Madura district and fairly heavy in the districts of Ramnad, Tinnevely and Malabar. The heavy rains were reported to be slightly harmful to the standing crops.

Water supply for agricultural purposes was adequate in all the districts.

The level of water in the Mettur Reservoir was 109.50 feet on 15th April 1947 as against 12.55 feet on 15th April 1946.

Sowing or transplantation of paddy was proceeding in the districts of Cuddapah, Nellore, Chingleput, South Arcot, Chittoor, Coimbatore, Trichinopoly, Tanjore, Madura, Ramnad, Malabar and South Kanara, and of dry crops in the districts of Cuddapah, Chittoor, Coimbatore, Salem, Trichinopoly and Ramnad. The condition of the standing crops was fair except in parts of Guntur, Kurnool, Chittoor and Ramnad districts.

Harvests of paddy was proceeding in the districts of Nellore; Chingleput, South Arcot, Chittoor, Salem, Trichinopoly, Tanjore, Madura, Ramnad, Tinnevely, South Kanara and the Nilgiris, and of dry crops in the districts of Vizagapatam, Bellary, Cuddapah, Nellore, Chittoor, Madura, Salem and the Nilgiris.

#### Prices

There was no perceptible change in the prices of rice and other cereals.

As regards pulses the only noticeable features were an increase of 2.4 per cent in the price of redgram dhall and a fall of 1.1 per cent in the price of Bengalgram.

The price of chillies showed a fall of 2.2 per cent, that of salt, a fall of 7.5 per cent, and that of firewood, an increase of 2.9 per cent.

The position regarding the prices of oils, oil seeds, oil cakes, etc., was as follows:—

*No change—*

Copra and coconut oil.

	PER CENT.
<i>Rise—</i>	
Groundnut (shelled) .. ..	2.8
Gingelly oil .. ..	6.8
Groundnut oil .. ..	1.7
Gingelly oil cake .. ..	2.8
Groundnut oil cake .. ..	5.8
Cotton seed .. ..	1.5
<i>Fall—</i>	
Gingelly seed .. ..	0.7

**Procurement**

The following statements show the quantities of paddy, rice and millets locally procured and the quantities of cereals and pulses received from sources outside the Province:—

(a) *Local procurement during the fortnight ending 31st March 1947—*

Paddy—82,657 tons.	}	Together equivalent to 1,10,681 tons in terms of rice.
Rice—54,121 tons ..		

Millets—4,035 tons.

(b) *Receipts from other Provinces and States during the fortnight ending the 15th April 1947.—*

Rice .. ..	3,539 tons.
Millets .. ..	Nil.
Wheat .. ..	19 tons (from Hyderabad).

Wheat products.. Nil.

Pulses—

Blackgram ..	500 tons.
Redgram ..	Nil.
Greengram ..	209 tons.
Bengalgram..	410 tons.

1,119 tons.

(c) *Imports from overseas during the fortnight ending 15th April 1947—*

Rice .. ..	4,870 tons (ex-S S. Ismailia).
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Millets .. ..	}	Nil.
Wheat .. ..		
Wheat products..		

**Stock and Supply**

*Rice.*—The stock of rice in the Province was 276,044 tons on 10th April 1947 as against 290,045 tons on 27th March 1947.

Despite strenuous efforts made by the Government it has not yet become possible to build up stocks adequate for the enhancement of the rice ration to 12 ozs. in the districts of Malabar, the Nilgiris and Salem. In respect of Malabar, however, arrangements are being made for introducing the enhancement of the ration from 4th May 1947.

In some of the other districts in which the ration has already been raised to 12 ozs. its maintenance at that level has been constantly beset with difficulties owing to unsteady imports from the surplus areas. During the fortnight under report the stock position in the districts of Salem, North Arcot and Chittoor became low owing to the non-receipt in time of the allotted quotas which were mostly due from the Circars. In the case of Salem and North Arcot emergency supplies were arranged from the districts of Tanjore, Trichinopoly, South Arcot and Chingleput which had stocks to spare. In the case of Chittoor, instructions were issued to the Supply Officers of the supplying areas concerned to expedite the movement of the quotas to that district.

*Millets.*—The stock of millets increased from 16,328 tons on 27th March to 21,349 tons on 17th April, mainly due to arrival of the 5,000 tons of American milo on the 'Deepavu Victory'. Millets procurement continues to be much less efficient than last year. The off-take of millets in March was about 8,350 tons.

*Maize.*—Maize stocks decreased during the fortnight from 7,813 tons to 6,277 tons against an off-take of about 2,780 tons in March.

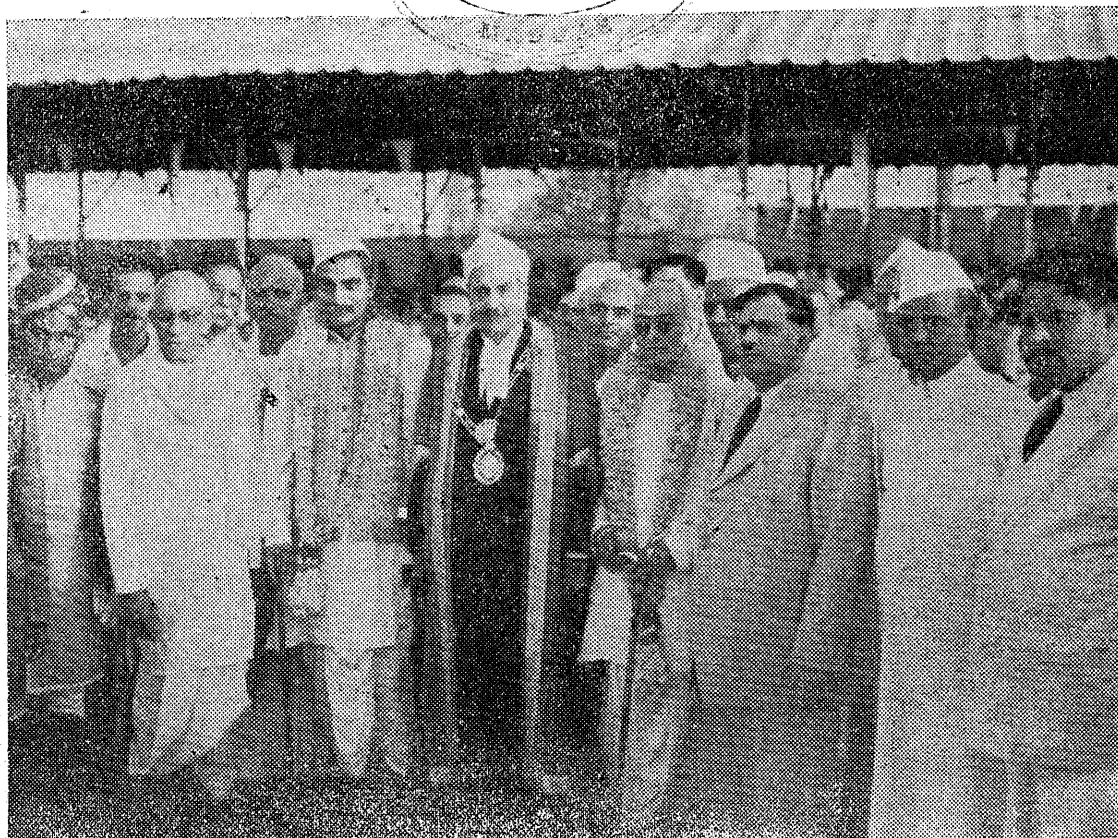
*Barley.*—Stock of barley has decreased from 1,644 tons to 1,236 tons. The off-take during the month of March was about 270 tons which is more than double the off-take in February.

*Wheat.*—Stocks of wheat have fallen from 5,898 tons to 4,953 tons. The off-take in March approximated to 2,170 tons. It is, therefore, anticipated that stocks will last until the end of June. Against the quota of 100 tons of sambe wheat from Hyderabad 74 tons have been received.

*Wheat products.*—Stocks have fallen from 3,178 tons to 2,745 tons. The off-take during March approximated to 1,028 tons. As in the case of maize and barley no imports of wheat products are expected.

*Pulses.*—Large imports of Bengalgram and a lesser quantity of greengram continued to arrive from Karachi. *S. S. Palamcottah* carrying 4,000 tons of Bengal gram and 1,000 tons of greengram arrived in Madras on 9th April. The *S. S. Jayabrahma* discharged 1,080 tons of gram flour at Cochin on the 8th and is proceeding to Madras to discharge a further 1,130 tons of bengalgram and greengram. The *S. S. Ghazana* arrived at Madras on the 13th with 1,600 tons of bengalgram and flour. The rationing of pulses was introduced into Madras city on 7th April. The stock position of pulses is generally satisfactory.

(Continued on page 16)



*Civic Reception at the Corporation Stadium to Dr. Rajendra Prasad and Dr. Rajagopalachari*

## Dr. Rajan Babu's visit to Madras

### Food Position discussed with Ministers

The Hon. Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Member for Food, Government of India, discussed the various aspects of the Grow More Food campaign in this province with the Hon. the Premier and Ministers of the Madras Government and the concerned departmental heads, at the Legislative Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 9-30 a.m. on the 12th of May.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad initiated the discussion by emphasising the point that India should in future as well as in the present rely mainly on her own internal production in the matter of food. Imports were very difficult to get for two reasons. Firstly, foodgrains are not available abroad. Secondly, there was the question of financing the purchases. Hence they had to rely

thoroughly upon their own resources. Realizing this, the Government of India have decided to give blockgrants to the provinces to increase their food production. He wanted to know what progress Madras Province had made in the matter of increasing food production, with particular reference to the last two years.

On behalf of the Madras Government, it was pointed out that Madras was perhaps the first province in India to launch a vigorous Grow More Food campaign at the beginning of 1942. Progress was satisfactory till 1945, more especially in 1944-45. But owing to cyclones, drought and unseasonal rains in 1945-46, though vigorous attempts were made to push through various schemes, the net result was not appreciable.



As for the future, it was stated that there were two serious weak links in the chain of agricultural production in this province. First is the problem of manure. The natural fertility of the soil down here has been exhausted by intensive cultivation and so the need for manuring is much greater in South India than perhaps in other parts of India. The main source of manure in Madras Province is groundnut cake supplemented by a meagre supply of ammonium sulphate. What with short imports and insignificant internal production, the actual amount of ammonium sulphate coming into this province is very very small. This fact accentuates the importance of conserving whatever ground-nut is available in this province for local use. However, as things stand to-day, in the absence of any restriction on the inter-provincial movement of groundnut cake and kernel, out of the total production of about 10 to 12 lakhs tons of groundnuts per annum, about 60 per cent are exported from this province. So much so, the needs of the ryots here are not adequately met. To provide sufficient manure, say at the rate of four bags per acre, the province requires 4 lakhs tons of groundnut cake to produce which 10 lakhs tons of seeds is required. This means that the whole production of the province requires to be conserved for internal use. If this is not possible at least two bags of groundnut cake per acre should be distributed to the ryot and at this rate we require 5 lakhs tons of groundnuts. In addition to the need for manure, there is the need for fodder, etc. Adding up all that, this province requires immediately at least 8 lakhs tons of groundnuts. In short, what Madras wants is that the Central Government should devise means for enabling the Madras Government to keep 8 lakhs tons of groundnuts within the province itself.

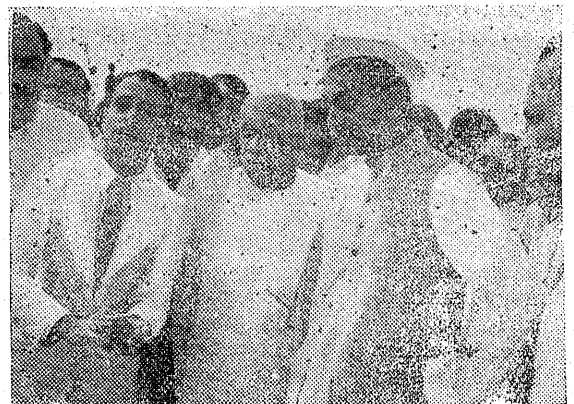
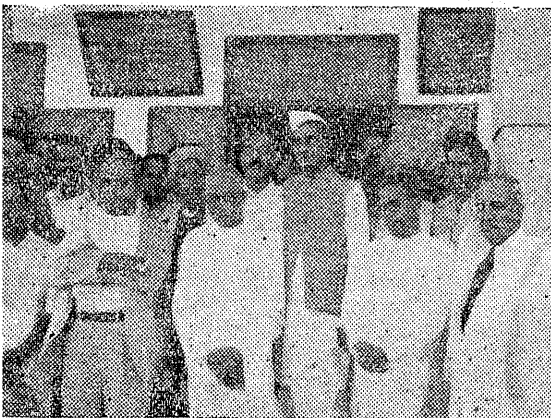
The second problem is that of water. This is a two-fold problem. On the one hand, certain areas had too much of water and the land is water-logged. So water has to be drained away from these areas. On the other hand, certain other areas have only too little of water and water has to be provided in these areas. Thus drainage and irrigation facilities are equally important. During the next year, the Madras Government have earmarked more than two Crores of rupees to be spent on the various Grow-more-food schemes. The Madras Government wanted in this connection that the Central Government should liberalize the terms under which aid and subvention are given to the Provincial Governments.

On behalf of the Government of India, it was pointed out that in the matter of production of food, whatever be the amount of subsidy that the Provincial Government give to the ryots, an equal amount will be given by the Central Government.

(The Conference, was adjourned at this stage, to meet the next day.)

When the discussion was resumed the next morning, the Hon'ble Member for Food referred to the food position in the country with special reference to the position in Madras.

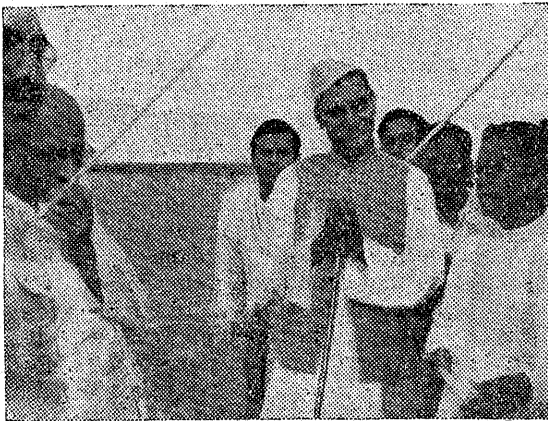
He stated that till a few weeks back, the expectation was that the wheat and rice crops in the country were normal. But in the course of the last few weeks very serious damage has been sustained by the wheat crop owing to rust. The estimated loss may be about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 million tons, and hence though the rice crop is more or less normal, the overall picture regarding the food position remains the same as last year. The only difference is that the areas affected this year are different from those affected last year. The only provinces that have any surplus at all are Punjab,



*Dr. Rajendra Prasad and Madras Ministers at Poondi*

Sind and Orissa, but the surplus is not considerable. As for imports, the actual position is not known yet. For the first half of this year 400,000 tons of rice was promised. But, so far, only 180,000 tons have been received. May be, by the end of June, India will get another 100,000 tons. Even then there is a disparity of 120,000 tons between what has been promised and what has been received. The maximum we may expect for the second half of the year will not be more than 200,000 tons of rice. There is a similar disparity between the wheat imports promised and the wheat actually received. In view of all this, this year, Madras may not get any further substantial allotments from the Central Government. If the procurement scheme in Madras succeeds there should not be the necessity for any large additional allotment.

The Hon'ble Member said that the crux of the food problem in Madras this year is what should be done to make procurement a success.



*Another happy snap at Poondi*

On behalf of the Madras Government, it was pointed out that the price paid to the cultivator should be raised a little, or alternatively a bonus should be given to the cultivator. It was also pointed out that except in Orissa, the price of rice in other provinces was slightly higher than that in Madras.

Referring to the question of increasing the prices, Dr. Rajendra Prasad said it was not quite feasible at the moment. For one thing, if Madras is allowed to raise the price every other province may demand a similar increase. Secondly, if the cultivator is to be paid more, the money has to come either from the consumer or from the Government or from both, and the total amount involved will be about Rs. 7½ crores. The Central Government may not be prepared to grant such

large subsidies. If, on the other hand, the consumer was to bear the burden, then one should remember that the consumers are much more numerous than the producers and include a large number of people in the villages who are agricultural labourers or who are themselves producers.

### The Narasaraopet Co-operative Stores and the Mahasivarathri Festival

“Kotappakonda” which is at a distance of about eight miles south of Narasaraopet town in the Guntur district is very famous for its historical hill shrine of Lord Shiva. Mahasivarathri festival is celebrated every year at this hill and it is largely attended by pilgrims from all over the district and from the districts of Nellore, Kistna, East Godavari, West Godavari, Cuddapah, Kurnool, Anantapur and Bellary. To cope with the work connected with the supply of rations to these pilgrims special arrangements are being made every year and for this purpose some temporary ration shops are also opened.

During the last Mahasivarathri festival, the Narasaraopet Co-operative stores volunteered to take up the management of the special ration shops. The President of the stores with the assistance of a Senior Inspector of Co-operative Societies made timely arrangements for opening five ration depots at places suggested by the Rationing Officer. All the five depots were kept open both day and night on all the festival days. An employee of the stores was specially deputed to supervise the working of the depots and to see that all the pilgrims were served properly by the depot managers. The President himself took a keen interest in the matter and personally supervised the work of the depots on the most busy days of the festival. The five depots catered to the needs of 3,776 ration cards involving 32,665 persons and distributed 237 bags of rice.

*(Continued from page 13)*

#### Rationing

During the fortnight under report instructions were given to the Rationing Officers at Hill stations in the province to the effect that visitors from outside the province may be given rice against their ration if the stocks of wheat and wheat products are not adequate for the purpose.

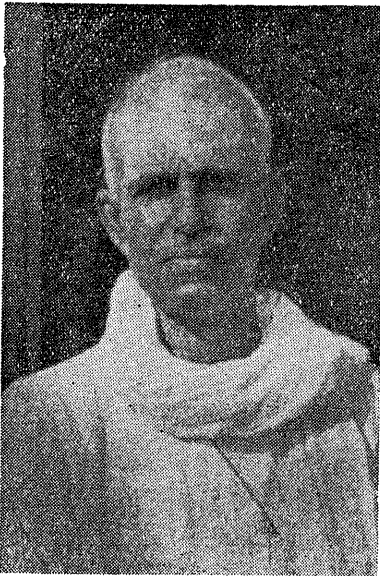
#### Miscellaneous Commodities

Firewood was reported to be inadequate in parts of Coimbatore, Guntur, and Ramnad districts. There was a steady decline in the stock of firewood in Madras city. Scarcity of matches was reported from the districts of Nellore, Vizagapatam, the Nilgiris, Cuddapah, Malabar and Chingleput.

# A New Social and Economic Order Through Co-operation

## The Hon. Premier's Speech

The following is the full text of the speech delivered by the Hon. Mr. O. P. Ramaswamy Reddiar, at the recent All-India Conference of Co-operative Registrars.



It is now forty-three years since the co-operative movement was introduced in this country. During this period, officials and non-officials have contributed their best to the progress of the movement. It has had varying fortunes; it has developed well in certain provinces and states; it has progressed feebly in certain others. Nevertheless, it has now definitely come to stay. There was a time (1928), when the Royal Commission on Agriculture observed in a despondent tone: "If co-operation fails, there will fail the best hope of rural India." But we have now reached a period when we realise that Co-operation has not failed but is a live movement rich in promise. We have so far been inclined to confine our activities only in the Co-operative Credit side. We note with satisfaction that recently in some parts of the country the co-operative credit structure is so strong that it has made it possible to launch and finance non-credit co-operative institutions on a pretty large scale. The producer-consumers' co-operative societies are one of our greatest experiments in the co-operative field. They have been successful in Malabar and

it is a pity that the timing of their beginning to function in the Circars and the lack of trained personnel has led to a temporary partial suspension of their activities there. But I have no doubt that the principle is good and those societies deserve to succeed. If you will forgive me a bit of local pride, 25 crores of rupees worth of business a year in the co-operative stores of this province, three crores of transactions in the land mortgage banks, four crores of sales in the handloom weavers co-operatives and over 1/2 crore of milk produced in co-operative milk supply societies are some indications of the benefits which co-operation can confer on the masses. But even this is not enough. The co-operative movement must identify itself with the cultivator. I am sorry to see that even co-operative institutions are charging the cultivators nearly double the rate of interest at which money is available in the open market. This situation must be remedied. Some banks are refusing credit to co-operative institutions on the ground that they are interfering with the activities of normal trade channels. On behalf of the Government I want to sound a note of warning to them. If banks become mere tools of vested interests and try to stand in the way of people developing a spirit of self-reliance and developing the co-operative movement, these tactics will not be tolerated for a moment. I request the Government of India to take note of the situation and do the needful. I am envisaging the time, at a not distant future, when all the financial transactions of the Governments and institutions like the insurance companies will be with the co-operative banks. We look upon co-operation as the harbinger of a new India built on new economic foundations. We realise that in it, the greed for profit which animates capitalistic endeavour is subordinated to the desire for mutual well being. We see in it a means of conferring the highest good upon the largest number, without sacrificing the stimulus for individual gain which is so necessary for economic progress. More than all, we are convinced that a new economic system can be established in the country through co-operation without having to go through the travails of a



*Rajaji opens the T.B. Sanatorium, Trichinopoly*

revolution. My own dream for the villages of our country are villages, like Gosaba in Bengal started by Sir David Hamilton.

#### **All-India Planning**

This is presumably the reason why the last Registrars' Conference which met at Bombay in 1944 suggested the constitution of a committee to plan out the economic progress of this great land on co-operative lines, and the Government of India set up the Planning Committee on Co-operation in 1945. I understand that your chief work during this conference will be to discuss, dissect and decide upon the elaborate recommendations made by this committee. Some of them are of far-reaching importance like the constitution of an All-India and Provincial Co-operative Councils, the establishment of an All-India Research Institute and Provincial Co-operative Colleges, the setting up of Promotional Agencies for small industries, the creation of Agricultural Credit Co-operatives, etc. I am sure that both the Government of India and the Provincial

and State Governments will have your considered opinion on these subjects\* based on your wide practical experience in the field of co-operation. It will be a representative opinion because this conference is constituted with delegates coming from all the eleven provinces and as many as eleven of the Native States, besides representatives of the Government of India, the Agricultural Research Council, the Central Marketing Board, the Reserve Bank of India and the All-India Association of Co-operative Banks and Institutes.

#### **State-aid**

If I may make one observation to the Conference on the recommendations of the Planning Committee, I should draw attention to the fact that the bulk of their recommendations relate to State-aid. I recognize that in any scheme of planning, the agency which plans out the scheme should meet the cost of the plan in very large measure. At the same time, it should not be ignored that co-operation is essentially a system based on self-help. Dependence on the State

for progress will detract the spirit of self-reliance and independence which make for true progress. The co-operative movement should enter all walks of life like industry, dairy-farming, co-operative commerce, agriculture and agro-industries. Co-operative insurance institutions should take up new lines like, crop insurance and cattle insurance. There must be an Agricultural Finance Corporation on the lines of Industrial Finance Corporations and the various Governments, Central and Provincial, should help towards that end. The benefits of co-operation should be brought home to the children at school as also to the grown-ups. It is not too much to say that this spirit should be inculcated in persons in power as well as officials. I am, however, conscious of the fact that if co-operation is to expand and develop as it should, a considerable degree of State-help that can be given by any provincial Government or State will depend on the extent of their own resources which are pretty limited and on which there are various demands. I hope the Government

of India, under the able guidance of our beloved leader, the Hon'ble Dr. Rajendra Prasad, will supplement the resources of local Governments liberally so that we may attain the rapid and stable expansion of the Co-operative movement which we all desire. We have benefited a great deal under his leadership. Not only Bihar but the whole of India owes him a deep debt of gratitude for his selfless endeavours in the case of political emancipation. The right to rule our land has been won, thanks in a considerable measure to his counsels and his deep sacrifice. The freedom from famine in India in these hard days of food scarcity is due to his able administration of the Food Department of the Government of India. But may I be permitted to request him to reconsider the question of prices of foodgrains in Madras so as to give the agriculturist a fair price and make him produce more grain. May we not hope that the establishment of a new economic order based on co-operation in this vast land will also owe much to his leadership and generosity?

## Hon. Mr. Kurmayya's Tour in Malabar

The Hon'ble Sri V. Kurmayya, Minister for Rural Development, left Madras by the Mangalore Express on the 5th evening and arrived at Calicut on the 6th afternoon accompanied by the Deputy Director of Fisheries (Marine), Madras.

On the 6th May, the Hon'ble Minister motored to Chaliyam and visited the Malabar Fisheries Company. After this the Hon'ble Minister visited the Government Coir School at Beypore where the teachers of the Fisheries' School undergo training in the coir craft. The fishermen of Chaliyam and Beypore waited on deputation on the Hon'ble Minister and submitted a memorandum describing their difficulties in securing yarn for their requirements. As the Hon'ble Minister actually wanted to satisfy himself by seeing the nets to determine whether their demand was really genuine, he ordered them to bring specimen nets and show him. Accordingly the nets were brought. Later he discussed various items relating to the uplift of the Harijan community with the President of Malabar Harijan Sevak Sangh. Then the Hon'ble Minister interviewed the district officials of the various departments including the Collector of Malabar. The Hon'ble Minister spoke to the Collector stressing the requirements of fishermen, viz., yarn for the manufacture of nets.

On the 7th May, the Hon'ble Minister motored to Kandankulam to see the inland Fisheries demonstration pond. The next place to be



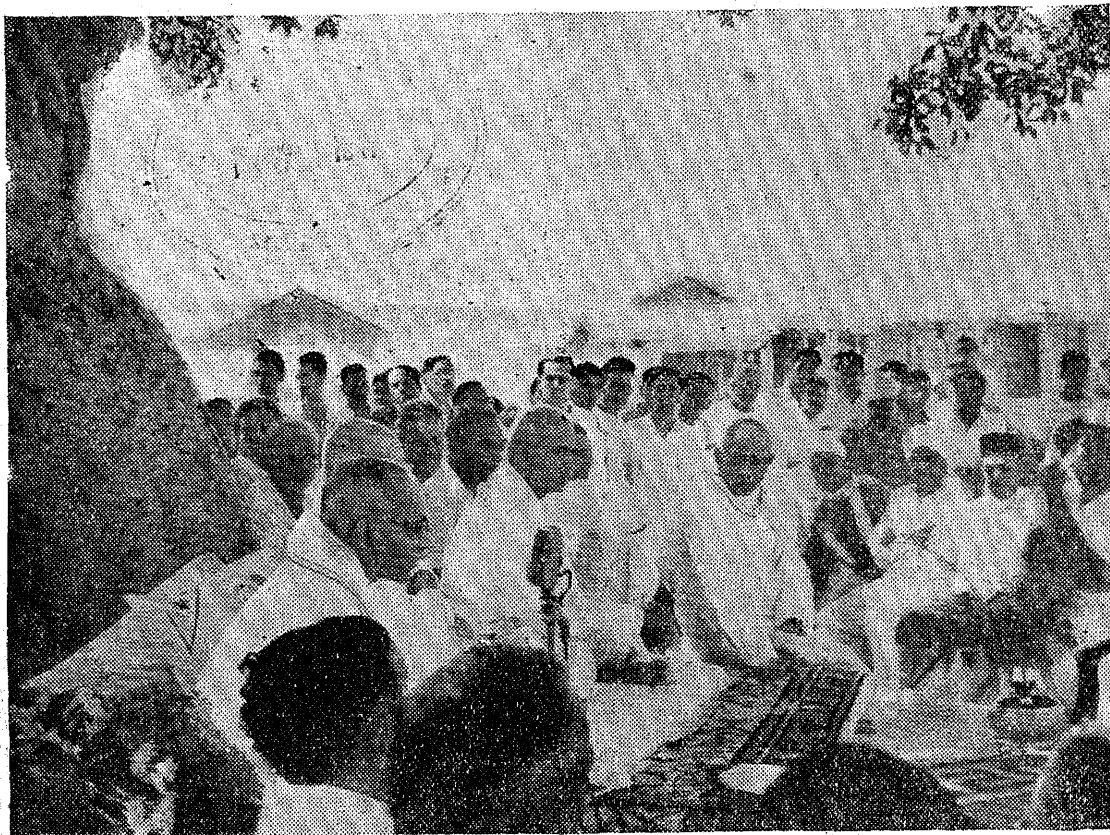
visited was the Government Oil Factory. The Hon'ble Minister promised to request the Central Government to recognise this useful oil and order its supply to all the hospitals run by Government and private agencies. Then the Minister visited the Kerala Soap Institute, Polytechnic and the West Hill Biological Station.

Then he drove to Tellicherry. After inspecting the sites selected for the Fisheries Technological Station Polytechnic, Hydrogenation Factory and Oil Technology Station at Tellicherry, he visited the Fish Hook Factory run by one Mr. M. Kumaran and the separate building yard of Mr. Rever of Mahi who has undertaken the manufacture and supply of small boats for the inland fisheries work. Then the Minister returned to Calicut and addressed a public meeting arranged for the Harijans from 7 to 9 p.m. In the public meeting the Hon'ble Minister spoke at length about the various efforts taken by the Congress Government to improve the status of the Harijans. He also mentioned a few details of his personal efforts to secure some concessions to Harijan students undergoing Law course. He deprecated the idea of asking for separate colonies for Harijans. He specially appealed to the people of Malabar to throw open the temples to their fellow Hindus who are unfortunately classified as Harijans. He pointed out the example of the Christian Missionaries who have more than 12 crores of rupees in India to popularise

their religion by building schools and hospitals. He requested the Hindu friends to raise such funds to help in the uplift of the Harijans.

In answer to a question from one among the audience regarding the proposed abolition of Producers'-cum-Consumers' Co-operative Societies, he pointed out that these societies in the surplus areas failed to procure the required food-grains and cereals for want of funds, and proper organization. Even though deficit districts like Malabar organized good societies with adequate funds, several other societies could not organise themselves properly in their districts and appealed to the Government to liquidate them. The Hon'ble Minister said that the Government have not yet decided to abolish these societies and that they are still considering this question.

On the 8th morning the members of the Harijan Sevak Sangh of Malabar met the Minister and represented their difficulties. The fishermen of Calicut brought their Memorandum and submitted it to him. The Minister promised to do the needful



*Hon'ble Sri A. B. Shetty addressing the gathering at the opening ceremony of the T.B. Sanatorium, Trichinopoly*

In the matter. Later he left for Olavakkot. The party motored to the Nayidi colony, Olavakkot and the Minister inspected the Labour school containing about 120 children of the Scheduled class. On behalf of the Nayadis the labour leader presented a memorandum to the Hon'ble Minister requesting that the lower elementary school there may be raised to a higher elementary school and that the members of the Nayidi community may be granted free house sites for building their huts. The Minister promised to consider the question of granting house sites to these families who have not been granted required houses. Owing to the existence of another

higher elementary school in close proximity, the Minister said that it may not be possible to raise the present school to the standard of a higher elementary school. Then he visited the Arundathi colony at Palghat where the Harijans presented a memorandum stating that one Nambudri gentleman was objecting to the Harijans' burying their dead bodies in a land which they had used for a very long time as a cremation ground. The Minister advised the Harijans to settle this question with the help of the local Revenue officials and the Tahsildar who was present promised to do the needful for the Harijans. The Minister returned to Madras on 9th morning.

## Labour Situation in the Province

Report for the fortnight ending 10th May 1947

The strike in U.K.S. Saw Mills, the South Indian Saw Mills, the Premier Saw Mills and U.B. Dutt and Company, Kallai, was called off on 1st April 1947, on the advice of the Commissioner of Labour to await the result of the Court of Enquiry proposed to be appointed for the timber and saw mills industry in the West Coast.

The Secretary, Kerala Rubber Estate Workers' Union, Aruvankundu, wired on 1st May 1947 stating that one thousand estate workers had struck work on 28th April 1947 demanding 25 per cent bonus and 50 per cent dearness allowance. The District Magistrate, Malabar and the Labour Officer, Calicut, have been asked to bring about a settlement of the dispute.

It is reported that 26 workers in the Pottery department of Messrs. Parry and Company, Limited, Ranipet, have been dismissed for refusing to work as per Adjudicator's award, and that another batch of 25 workers have been suspended for a week for refusing to do shift work on Sundays.

About 200 workers of the milk powder repacking department are also reported to be on strike demanding payment of bonus on the same scale as the workers of the main factory.

The Government have informed the Secretary of the Ranipet Labour Union that the award of the Adjudicator regarding pottery workers has been accepted by them and enforced on the parties, and that the management of the factory can take disciplinary action against the workers if they fail to abide by the Adjudicator's award.

In spite of Government Order of 29th April 1947 prohibiting the continuance of strike the

workers of the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills, Madras, have not yet resumed work.

The Management of Messrs. Vummudi Ramaiah Chetty and Guruswamy Chetty and Company's Jewellery and Silverware Workshop, Madras, declared a lockout on 1st May 1947, on account of the misbehaviour of one of the workers and the apprehended trouble in the factory. The Commissioner of Labour is looking into the matter.

The workers of East Asiatic (Oil Mills) Company, Royapuram, Madras, struck work from 2nd May 1947, as a protest against the dismissal of 118 workers. The Commissioner of Labour is looking into the matter.

The Honorary Secretary, South Indian Cinema Employees Association, Madras, has issued a notice of strike, dated 5th May 1947, to the proprietors of all cinema theatres in the City intimating that the workers will go on strike on any day after 20th May 1947, if their demands for fair wages, bonus of three months salary, leave facilities, provident fund, etc., are not conceded by the proprietors. The Commissioner of Labour is looking into the matter.

The President, Coimbatore District Coffee and Tea Supply Workers' Union, Puliakulam, has issued a notice of strike, dated 1st May 1947, to the United Coffee Supply Company, Limited, Coimbatore, intimating that the workers will go on strike from 5th June 1947 if their demands for a minimum wage of Rs. 35 to each worker and an annual increment of Rs. 2 to each worker are not conceded by the management. The Commissioner of Labour has instructed the Labour Officer,

Coimbatore, to bring about a settlement of the dispute and to advise the workers not to go on strike.

The workers of the Dhanalakshmi Mills, Tiruppur, struck work from 2nd May 1947, as a protest against the dismissal of three workers for misbehaviour. The Labour Officer, Coimbatore, has been asked to bring about a settlement.

The Secretary, Tiruppur Mill Workers' Union, Tiruppur (Communist), has issued 14 days notice of strike to the management of the Dhanalakshmi Mills, Tiruppur, on 5th May 1947, intimating that the workers will go on strike if their demands for reinstatement of discharged workers, withdrawal of notices of warning, stoppage of the practice of suspending and fining the workers, etc., are not conceded by the management. The Commissioner of Labour has instructed the Labour Officer, Coimbatore, to bring about a settlement of the dispute and to advise the workers to await the award of the Industrial Tribunal.

The Collector of Coimbatore has informed the management of Sri Palamalai Ranganadhar Mills, Limited, Periyayanayakanpalayam, on 2nd May 1947, that it is advisable for them to keep the mill closed till a settlement is reached between the workers and the management, as it is not possible for the Police to give protection to the loyal workers.

On the advice of the Commissioner of Labour, Madras, during his visit to Madura, the strike committee of the workers of the Kothandaram Spinning Mills and the Rajah Mills, Madura, called off the strike in the two mills.

The workers of the Kothandaram Spinning Mills, Madura, resumed work on 8th May 1947.

The workers of the Rajah Mills, Madura, resumed work on 10th May 1947.

The Secretary, Calicut Textile Workers' Union, has issued a notice of strike, dated 30th April 1947, to the management of the New Textiles, Puthiyara, intimating that the workers will go on strike on any day between 15th and 29th May 1947 if their demands for refund of wages recovered from some weavers, stoppages of the recovery of wages from weavers, reinstatement of a worker in his old post, continuance of old concessions, etc., are not conceded by the management. The Commissioner of Labour has instructed the Labour Officer, Calicut, to advise the workers not to go on strike but to come to an amicable settlement with the management.

The Secretary, Calicut Textile Workers' Union, Calicut (Communist), has issued a notice of strike, dated 5th May 1947, to the management of St. Vincent's Industrials, Calicut, intimating that the workers will go on strike between 19th May 1947 and 3rd June 1947 if their demands for production of the management's accounts before people's

committee, supply of necessary quota of yarn, etc., are not conceded by the management. The Commissioner of Labour has instructed the Labour Officer, Calicut, to bring about a settlement and to advise the workers not to go on strike.

The President, St. Vincent's Industrials Labour Union, Chalapuram, has issued a notice of strike, dated 5th May 1947, to the management of St. Vincent Industrials, Calicut, intimating that the workers will go on strike from 19th May 1947 if their demands for bonus of three months' wages, increase of wages, etc., are not conceded by the management. The Commissioner of Labour has instructed the Labour Officer, Calicut, to bring about an amicable settlement of the dispute and to advise the workers not to go on strike.

The President, Press Workers' Union, Vellore, has issued a notice of strike, dated 5th May 1947, to the proprietors of the presses in Vellore intimating that the workers will go on strike from 23rd May 1947 if their demands for increase of wages and dearness allowance, bonus, leave facilities, etc., are not conceded by the proprietors of the presses. The Commissioner of Labour has instructed the Labour Officer, Vellore, to bring about a settlement of the dispute and to advise the workers not to go on strike.

The Labour Officer, Vellore, has reported that the management of the South Indian Silk Mills, Gudiyattam, have no intention of re-opening their mills as they have incurred loss and are trying to sell away the factory.

The workers of Sri Krishna Jute Mills, Ellore, struck work from 8th May 1947 as a protest against the dismissal of six workers by the management. The reports of the District Magistrate, West Godavari, and the Labour Officer, Bezwada, are awaited.



Rajaji and the Hon'ble Sri O. P. Ramaswamy Reddiar on a visit to the Srirangam Temple



# Deep and Abiding Interest in the Welfare of Teachers

Hon'ble Mr. Avinashilingam's Assurance



The following is the address delivered by the Hon'ble Sri T. S. Avinashilingam, Minister for Education, on the occasion of the opening of the Seventh Conference of the Mayavaram Municipal Teachers' Association :—

The Government are aware of the various problems which are disturbing the minds of the elementary school teachers throughout the province to-day. The teachers have a feeling that they have been let down in the recent salaries revision. The result has been agitation throughout the province and in some places, notices of strikes have also been given. I do not like to refer now to the advisability or otherwise of teachers resorting to strikes, but I would certainly like to remove certain misunderstandings which exist in the minds of the teachers.

## A Misunderstanding

There has been a feeling expressed in various parts of the province that the Government are not sympathetic towards the teacher and that particularly, I as the Minister for Education, have not been so. These are far from the truth. The Government have got deep and abiding

interest in the teachers, who are instrumental in educating the children of the province and I as one, who has lived and moved with the children and teachers for the major portion of my life have a great and abiding faith, respect and sympathy for teachers. I am one of those people who believe that in the interest of our children, we must be able to recruit good type of men and women for the teaching profession and for doing that, their pay should be fixed at such levels which will attract such men and women. But it must be made clear that with all the best wishes in the world, the Minister for Education cannot do anything by himself. For, questions of policy and matters of large expenditure are, and must be, governed by the decisions of the Cabinet as a whole. The Cabinet again has limitations within which it has to work and that is, the financial condition of the province.

## Ministry must have Time

The Ministry has been in existence only for about one year and its hands have been full with such great and urgent problems as scarcity of food and clothing and unrests of all kinds in the province. It will be only the bare truth to say that this country has not had such a difficult situation in the last half a century. And so, they have barely had time to do such reorganisation, as many of our friends would like us to do. While we may agree with many of their suggestions, the Government must require time to put them into action. Many have been dissatisfied with the salaries revision but I would like to point out the immensity of the problem. The revision of salaries in all the services of the Government has cost about 247 lakhs of which more than half is in the Education Department alone. Besides the expenses incurred as above by Government it has cost 60 lakhs more of extra expenditure for the local boards and so, by the revision, the Government will be spending nearly one crore and eighty lakhs and more. This has not given satisfaction to the teachers. The Government are not unaware of the feelings among the members of the teaching profession in this matter. They are actively considering certain proposals in this regard.



*An elephant garlanding the Hon'ble Sri O. P. Ramaswamy Reddygar at the Srirangam Temple*

### **Financial Implications**

In this context, I would like to point the financial consequences of certain of the demands made by the elementary school teachers associations. Their main demands have been three: (1) Equality of pay in all the agencies of education; (2) a minimum pay of Rs. 50; and (3) Free education to their children. They have made other demands also such as provision for old-age, leave with pay, interim allowances and such other things which for the present, I do not take into consideration. Let us see what will be the cost of the important items alone. The cost of these will be about six crores of rupees in addition to the nearly two crores which we have already provided for in the recent revision of salaries. In the present state of the finance of the province and with prohibition on hand, I leave it to you to find out how practicable it will be to find out this large amount of money from the present provincial budget which is already a deficit one by nearly ten crores. Besides it must be remembered that education is a growing expenditure which must be provided in a larger measure every year.

### **Suggestions about Loans**

There are certain friends who have suggested that this expenditure can be met out of loans. I am afraid, and I hope people won't mistake me when I say, that such people have no sense of public finance. Capital expenditure which will last for many years or an expenditure like a war expenditure which is a struggle for life and which comes once in a life-time might be financed out of loans, but recurring expenditure and an expenditure, which by its very nature is bound to be growing every year, cannot by any stretch of imagination be financed by loans and no student of economics will agree to this suggestion. In fact, the Government will not get loans if they resort to such expenditure out of loans.

### **A warning and an assurance**

All these do not mean that the Government are unsympathetic towards the legitimate demands of the teachers. They are earnestly giving their attention to them and I hope before long, the Cabinet will be able to announce its decision in the matter. Before concluding, I would like to say

one word about notices of strike which have been given in various places. I should think that in the interest of the teachers themselves that it is not a measure to which they should resort to.

The Government have found of late that there has been a lot of intemperate talking in certain parts of the province. That a popular Government is functioning in the province should not make anybody feel that they can take law into their own hands or they can go without discipline. While the Government will be very sympathetic towards the legitimate demands of teachers as well as others, I must give a warning that serious breaches of law and discipline will be properly dealt with. Before closing, I would like to assure you of my deep sympathies towards the cause of the teachers and personally, I shall try my best to do what I can in raising their status.

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## Government Departments at Work

### Revenue

A scheme for the reclamation of certain undeveloped lands for wet cultivation in the project areas in Trichinopoly district was sanctioned from fasli 1355 (1945-46).

The following concessions were granted :—

Undeveloped lands in the old project areas.	(1) Remission of water cess for faslis 1355 and 1356.
Ayacut lands under the Kattalai High level channel.	(2) Grant loans under certain conditions to ryots at Rs. 100 per acre for ordinary land and Rs. 150 per acre for stony land and
	(3) Grant of subsidy at the rate of Rs. 10 per acre under certain conditions for bringing lands under paddy cultivation.
Undeveloped lands in the new project area.	(1) Remission of water cess for faslis 1355 and 1356.

A special Public Works department staff was appointed for advising ryots on the method of reclamation and for organizing a drive among them for the cultivation of the undeveloped lands.

The Government of India sanctioned a grant of Rs. 20,855 to meet half the cost of staff and subsidies. As this cost came only to Rs. 9,370 the Government of India was informed that Rs. 4,685

## Contagious Diseases among Animals

### Report for March 1947

There was a considerable fall in mortality from contagious diseases among animals in the Province during the month of March 1947 as compared to February 1947. The total number of outbreaks reported and deaths recorded were 280 and 1,300 respectively as against 280 and 1,647 in the previous month.

*Rinderpest.*—There was a slight rise in the incidence of but a great fall in mortality from this disease during the month as compared to the previous month, the figures being 56 outbreaks and 276 deaths as against 51 outbreaks and 720 deaths in the previous month. The disease was comparatively severe in the districts of Vizagapatam, West Godavari, Nellore and Cuddapah.

*Haemorrhagic septicaemia.*—There was a rise in the incidence of and mortality from this disease during the month as compared to February 1947, the figures being 81 outbreaks and 463 deaths as against 71 outbreaks and 383 deaths in the previous month. The disease was comparatively severe in the districts of Nellore, Chittoor, Tanjore and Malabar.

*Black-water.*—There was a slight rise in the incidence of and mortality from this disease during the month as compared to the previous month, the figures being 104 outbreaks and 446 deaths as against 94 outbreaks and 405 deaths in the previous month. The disease was comparatively severe in the districts of Nellore, Chittoor, North Arcot, Salem, Chingleput, Coimbatore, Trichinopoly, Madura, Ramnad and Tinnevely.

*Anthrax.*—There were 11 outbreaks and 108 deaths during the month as against 11 outbreaks and 130 deaths in the previous month.

*Foot and mouth.*—Twenty-eight outbreaks with seven deaths were reported during the month as against 61 outbreaks and nine deaths in the previous month.

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representing half of this expenditure would be utilized from this grant.

According to this scheme, about 2,000 acres of land were attempted to be reclaimed up to the quarter ending 31st December 1946 and about 930 acres were actually reclaimed.

# Working of the Cotton Cloth and Yarn Control Order

Report for March 1947

*Cotton yarn.*—The Textile Commissioner, Bombay, has arranged to make good the short deliveries of yarn in the Province during the months of November and December 1946, in three monthly instalments in April and May 1947.

*Handloom cloth.*—At the first meeting of the Provincial Handloom Wages Board which was held on 16th April 1947 under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Minister for Industries, recommendations were made as to the maximum weaving wages to be notified under the Madras Handloom Cloth (Control) Order, 1947, and certain other matters connected with the enforcement of that order. The Government have accepted the recommendations of the Board and this new

price control scheme will be brought into operation shortly.

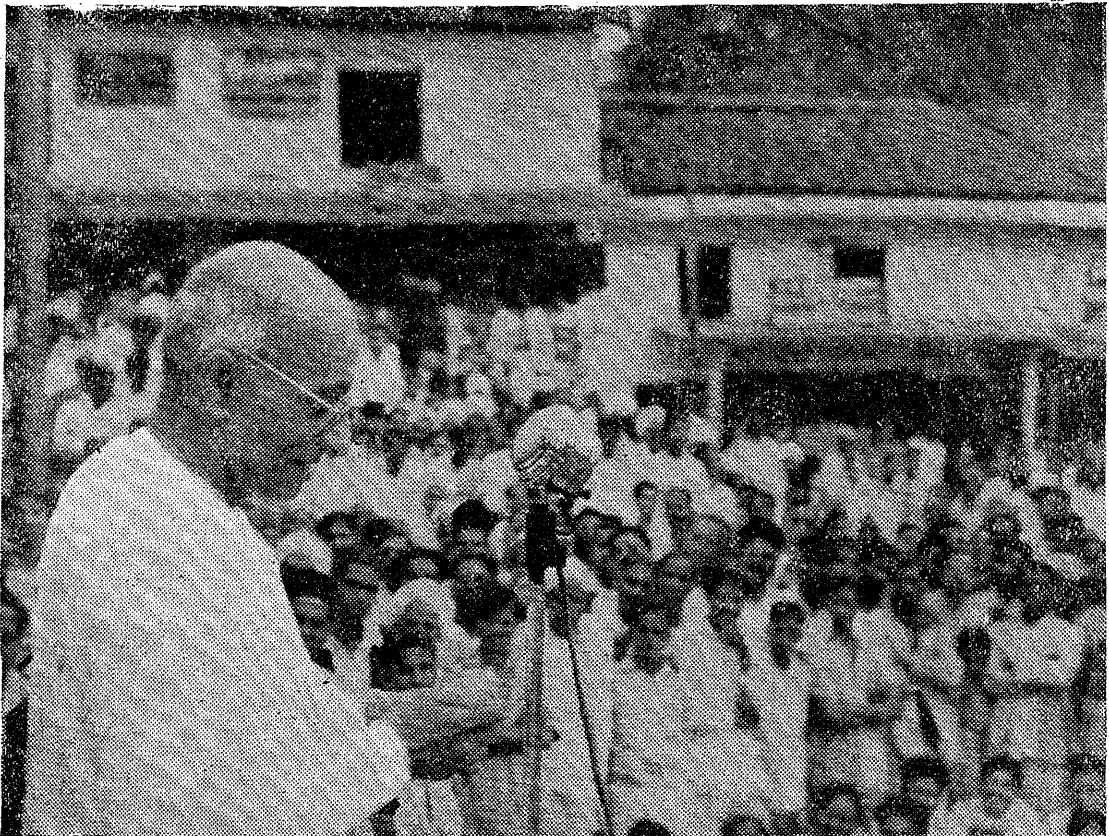
*Mill cloth—Progress of procurement from the Bombay Surplus Area—1946—*

(1) *Pre-September quota of the Bombay centre.*—

The entire quota of 4,482 bales from Bombay has been purchased and 70 bales are awaiting transport.

(2) *September quota.*—The entire quota of 3,365 bales at Bombay and 4,460 bales at Ahmedabad has been purchased.

(3) *October quota.*—Out of a quota of 4,531 bales at Bombay about 139 bales have still to be released by the Textile Commissioner and 28 bales are awaiting transport. At Ahmedabad,



*Hon'ble Sri C. Rajagopalachari addressing a public meeting at Coonoor*

the entire quota of 4,849 bales has been purchased and 3 bales are awaiting transport.

(4) *November quota*.—Out of a quota of 4,780 bales at the Bombay centre about 66 bales have still to be released by the Textile Commissioner and 23 bales are awaiting transport. At Ahmedabad the entire quota of 4,966 bales has been purchased and 238 bales are awaiting transport.

(5) *December quota*.—No allocation.

(6) *1947 January quota*.—Out of a quota of 3,678 bales at Bombay about 3 bales have still to be released by the Textile Commissioner and 117 bales are awaiting transport. At Ahmedabad, the entire quota of 2,557 bales has been purchased and 1,204 bales are awaiting transport.

(7) *February quota*.—At Bombay, out of a quota of 4,147 bales, 56 bales have still to be released by the Textile Commissioner and 2,263 bales are awaiting transport. At Ahmedabad, the entire quota of 2,264 bales has been replaced by an equal allotment from the Bombay centre. Out of this about 1,467 bales have still to be released by the Textile Commissioner and 508 bales are awaiting transport.

(8) *March quota*.—635 bales out of a quota of 2,122 bales from the Bombay centre have still to be released by the Textile Commissioner and 332 bales are awaiting transport. At Ahmedabad, 942 bales out of a quota of 1,223 bales have still to be released by the Textile Commissioner and 269 bales are awaiting transport. The entire quota of 250 bales at Sholapur and 250 bales at Baroda has been purchased. The 250 bales from Baroda are awaiting despatch while those from Sholapur have been despatched.

(9) *April quota*.—According to information so far received, the Textile Commissioner has promised to release from Bombay 5,046 bales against the arrears due for March 1947, 2,505 bales against the allocation for April 1947 and 5,000 bales as an advance against future allocations and has so far released a part of this quota. Some varieties released are reported to be not attractive and unsuitable for this Province and the Government have telegraphed to the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, to allot acceptable varieties and to defer releases for a week pending decision on this point.

The quota from Ahmedabad is 2,436 bales and part of it has so far been released. The Agent reports that there are fairly large stocks of varieties suitable for this Province at Ahme-

dabad and the Government have telegraphed to the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, to increase our allotment from this centre to the utmost extent possible.

At Baroda and Sholapur, the entire allotment of 250 bales at each centre has been released by the Textile Commissioner.

(10) *Transport*.—The railway restrictions on booking from Bombay to Madras and to the centres in the south are delaying despatches of goods purchased by our Representative Buyers. All booking from Bombay to Madras was stopped during the second week of April, and though opened again early last week, was again stopped by the week end. The Government have already telegraphed to the Regional Controller of Railway Priorities, Bombay, in the matter on 24th April 1947.

*General*.—The strike in the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills and the Mettur Industries is still continuing. The Radhakrishna Mills, Limited, Coimbatore, was closed from 8th April 1947 to 15th April 1947 on account of labour trouble, while there was heavy absenteeism during the month in the Coimbatore Kamala Mills. Labour troubles are thus continuing to aggravate to a serious extent, the yarn and cloth position in the Province.

The prosecution of the Lotus Mills, Coimbatore, for blackmarketing in yarn has ended in the conviction of all the accused.

*Mill cloth*.—(i) Local mill production—2,056 bales of 1,500 yards each.

(ii) Receipts from Bombay Surplus Area—12,380 bales of 1,500 yards each.

(iii) Imports of mill cloth from outside Madras Province but inside the South Zone—910 bales of 1,500 yards each.

(iv) Cloth made available for distribution by the Mills in the South Zone—2,612 bales of 1,500 yards each.

(v) Cloth imported from other countries into the Province—100 bales of 1,500 yards each.

*Handloom cloth*.—Local production in the Province—20,400 bales of 1,500 yards each.

*Yarn*.—(i) Local mill production—34,000 bales of 400 lb. each.

(ii) Imports from outside the Province—1,775 bales of 400 lb. each.

# Government's Industrial Policy Outlined

## Hon'ble Mr. Sitarama Reddi's Clarification



In a press interview, the Hon'ble Sri H. Sitarama Reddi, Minister for Industries and Information, explained the present Government's policy, regarding the development of the old and establishment of the new industries in the province. He said that, as Minister, he had definite plans for this purpose. The following questions were answered by the Minister :—

*Question.*—What are the natural resources of the Andhra Province and how best to tap them ?

*Answer.*—The Andhra territories of our Presidency have immense resources and potentialities. Paper mills, cement factories, textile mills and other industrial concerns, aided by forest wealth, are a few of the industries that could be developed. Besides, there is the mineral wealth, which has not been tapped at all until now. In the interests of national progress, the Government will always help, with money or other facilities, those who come forward with information and suggestions regarding the utilization of the potential wealth and possibilities of the land, and those who are willing to start and run different industries. We would be willing to aid the industrialists, in their practical schemes of development, through contributing towards share capital

and for investments, giving and obtaining technical advice and help and procuring sites for establishing the industries and supplying power. Andhra areas have numerous possibilities of improving cottage industries. Development of cottage industries is of equal importance in our plan of industrial expansion, though, according to some, these may not be given too much importance. Of all things, first in importance are the textile industries, spinning and weaving. Electrical expansion is an imperative need. Japan has achieved a lot by utilizing electric powers for the promotion of cottage industries. We have got to study how the Japanese Nation, as industrialists, could achieve so much. We have to follow their methods and in relation to our own circumstances formulate a clear-cut programme and plan for the development of cottage industries.

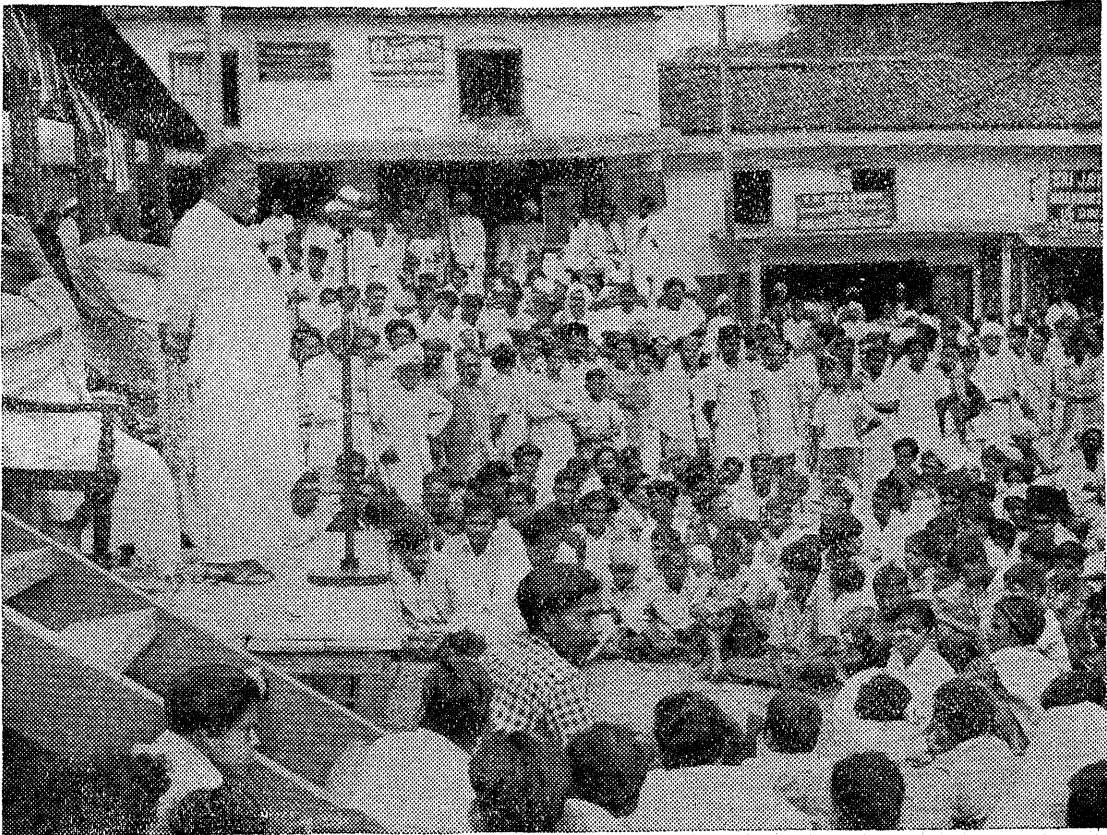
### Large and Small Industries

*Question.*—What is the best way to correlate the large-scale industries and small-scale industries or crafts ?

*Answer.*—Circumstances being what they are in this Presidency, there is scope for both to co-exist and develop. Our chief aim ought to be to see that the large-scale industries do not hamper or stifle small industries and village crafts. That is the main principle. Secondly assuming the unity and indivisibility of India as a nation and a country, we must take into consideration the needs of our particular province in relation to what is being done in other provinces and formulate a sensible policy. We have to study what the other provinces have been doing, and thus, draw up our own plans for success. So long as we visualise a united India, and work towards that end, we have to think in terms of all-India and draw up our plans accordingly. We should do nothing to suggest, that we are going out of the all-India economic picture. But, at the same time, we cannot sacrifice our legitimate rights or privileges. We have to harmonise the best interests of our province with the larger interest of the nation.

### Decentralization

*Question.*—What is your own view regarding the essential need for decentralisation of the production of essentials of human life—food and clothing ?



*The Hon'ble Sri M. Bhakthavatsalam addressing a public meeting at Coonoor.*

*Answer.*—Decentralisation is not an abstraction or a philosophical doctrine. It is a relative term, in this world of relative values. It varies with different territories and times and the interpretation naturally may also vary. We have to rationally discuss and decide things, basing our decisions on facts and figures, and the practicability or otherwise any particular step.

#### **Nationalization of Industries**

*Question.*—What is your opinion about nationalisation on industries? State ownership of Mills and factories?

*Answer.*—Indeed, for industries to be state-owned and managed should be good, because, that brings in more finance into the Government exchequer. But the fact remains, that even in England, industries like steel manufacture, etc., have not yet been taken up by the Government. It has not been yet possible for the Britishers, even though people with socialist outlook are at the helm of affairs. In the taking over, by the

Government, of the entire coal mines and coal industries in England, a lot of expert advice and investigation have had to be made. Opportunities were given to the people to criticise or assess the value of the policy. At long last, after a good deal of controversy and discussion when useful suggestions were invited and taken, the coal industry had been transferred to Government management. Likewise, we have to think much, and weigh the pros and cons, with regard to each particular industry, before nationalising it. The ultimate objective may be, that all things should be state-owned; at the same time there is absolutely no cause or discouragement for enterprising industrialists. It is my earnest appeal to them that they should not run away with the fear, that some day, the industries which they start will be taken away from them by the Government.

I would assure all on behalf of the Government, that all possible aid will be rendered to our industrialists, who would plan intelligent and

practicable programmes of development and come forward with initiative and resources. We have so far been backward in industrial development. I assure all, however, that the Government would go into the matter carefully and investigate the workability or otherwise of the scheme of nationalisation of industries, taking all facts and available details into consideration. I want to make it clear that some time would be needed, as a matter of course, for state-ownership and working of industries, to become efficient and workable propositions. State Motor Transport will be useful to bring in more income for the Government. This can be immensely expanded. While the Central Government have taken over the charge of all Railways, I do not see any impediment in the way of our Provincial Governments running all buses and lorry-services. Now, it is not possible for the Government to take over paper-making, cement and other industries right away, because the Government will have to pay for the existing factories. There are many financial and legal complications in this process which are not easy to deal with. For the present, this whole Province has only one paper-mill. But, in due course, we can have more paper mills in

forest areas, and thus, increase their number and output. The Government will help this industry in every way.

*Question.*—Don't you think that a planning board, with expert advisers, is necessary for the Government in all such matters?

*Answer.*—Quite so.

*Question.*—In the recent budget, provision has been made by Sri Prakasam for an Industrial Financial Corporation. How, do you think, it will help the development of industries?

*Answer.*—The Central Government is bestowing great thought on this matter. Such an institution is very much necessary for expansion of industries. That was the reason for the provision in the budget.

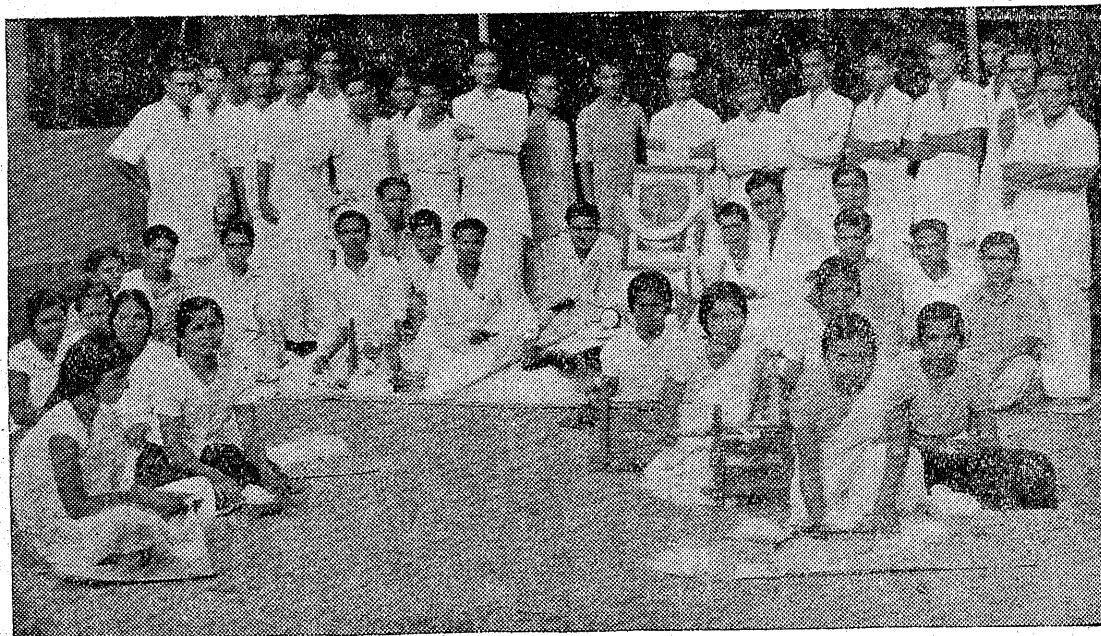
#### People's Clothing Needs

*Question.*—Don't you see that ordinary people and the middle classes are not able to get their requirements of sarees, dhoties, etc.? But too many of voils and too much of coating cloth, are available. Is there no means for altering such conditions?

(Continued on page 31)

## Madras Government's Intensive Khadi Scheme

A.I.S.A. Khadi Vidyalaya, Payyanur, Malabar



Students demonstrating all vit processes from ginning to Dupatta



## Report on the Cultivation of Blackgram

The area sown with blackgram in 1946-47 is estimated at 300,600 acres. When compared with the actual area of 307,604 acres according to the Season and Crop Report of the previous year, the present estimate reveals a decrease of 2.3 per cent.

The crop is mainly grown in Vizagapatam, East Godavari, Kistna, Guntur, South Arcot, Coimbatore, Tanjore, Madura, Ramnad, Tinnevely and South Kanara. The area estimated is the same as that of the previous year in Bellary, Anantapur, Chittoor, North Arcot, Trichinopoly and Malabar. An increase in area is estimated in Vizagapatam, East Godavari, Guntur, South Arcot and South Kanara and a decrease in the other districts of the Province.

The crop has been harvested in most of the districts. The yield per acre is estimated to be normal in West Godavari, Tanjore, Malabar and South Kanara and below the normal in the other districts of the Province due to insect attack and

the adverse seasonal conditions on account of heavy rainfall in November and December 1946. The seasonal factor for the Province as a whole works out to 88 per cent of the average. On this basis the yield works to 36,000 tons as against the corresponding estimate of 34,900 tons for the previous year which shows an increase of 3.2 per cent.

(Continued from page 30)

*Answer.*—Yes. This is a fact. The Government will have to take action in this matter. The thing is, the commercial interests only have the privilege of buying the allotted quota of cloth for this Province and the curious fact is that profitability is based on yardage, and the price thereof. But the vast majority of the people need thicker and cheaper varieties of cloth. I cannot assure you just now that any decision could be taken in this connection. But I shall soon come to a decision on the advice of the Provincial Textile Commissioner, who is the technical adviser to the Government, which will help the largest number of our Province's population.

# Women's Cottage Industries Co-operative Society

## Lady Nye's Tribute to Good Work Done

Her Excellency Lady Nye paid a visit to the Women's Cottage Industries Society at T'Nagar on 4th March 1947. She congratulated the members on the good work done by them.

The T'Nagar Women's Cottage Industries Co-operative Society is one of the seven women's cottage industries societies doing good work in the City. These seven societies are working at Georgetown, Mylapore, Rayapetta, T'Nagar, Rayapuram, Pudupet and Seven Wells. They are under the general supervision of an Executive Sub-Committee of 12 members with Mrs. K. Sathianadhan as its president. The committee meets frequently, discusses questions relating to the development of the societies and guides their activities. The membership and share capital of these societies increased from 255 and Rs. 716 on 1st July 1945 to 616 and Rs. 1,791 respectively on 31st December 1946. The present average monthly production and sales are nearly Rs. 5,000

and the monthly wages earned by members are about Rs. 1,500.

In the initial stages, the Madras Provincial Co-operative Bank gave financial assistance to these societies by the grant of subsidies for the purchase of necessary machinery and for meeting the cost of establishment, rent and other contingencies. Since 1st December 1944, Government were pleased to sanction an annual subsidy of Rs. 3,650 for meeting the cost of establishment and contingent charges. Out of the subsidy two group clerks for maintenance of accounts, two lady instructors and a peon have been appointed. Government have also sanctioned the post of a Woman Special Officer for the supervision of these societies. She visits the societies frequently and assists the members in their work. She arranges for the supply of raw materials like cloth, thread, etc., required by the members and for the marketing of the finished goods of the



*Her Excellency and the Chief Organizers of the Society*

societies. The societies have been undertaking several items of work such as tailoring, needle work, embroidery, crochet knitting, etc., and have produced articles like shirts, jumpers, skirts, blouses, knickers, napkins, lace embroidered pillow cases, pappadams, pickles, etc. A training instructress was appointed by the Committee for imparting training to the members in needle work. Another instructress was deputed to Guntur for training in doll making, so that the industry might be introduced in the societies in the City. Some of the members in one Centre were also given training in hand-loom weaving on a frame-loom. The goods of the society command good sales. They are sold through the emporium of Provincial Co-operative Marketing Society at Mount Road.

The question of expanding the activities of these societies has been under consideration. The Ex-Sub-Committee for the development of these industries in the City has resolved to introduce charka spinning. So far 10 charkas have been purchased and distributed to the members of the societies. They have also applied for Government subsidy for purchase of a few more charkas. The societies, most of which undertake the manufacture of ready made garments from mill cloth, have not been able to make more headway, in view of the present cloth scarcity. Attempts are, however, made to overcome this difficulty and to induce the members to take up other activities as hand-spinning, hand-sewing, preparation of pappadams, preserved vegetables, etc. It has also been suggested that the societies may take

up bulk purchases of special or quality articles not commonly available in the nearby shops, and their sale to members. The question of running training classes in knitting, embroidery, etc., in addition to sewing and the supply of these manufactured articles to institutions and hospitals is under consideration.

The following observations of Her Excellency during the course of her visit to the T. Nagar society are of particular significance for the furtherance of Co-operative movement among women :—

“I was glad to visit the organisation to-day. The rapid increase in the membership and turnover shows enthusiasm and ‘drive’ on the part of those responsible. I congratulate them on the work they are doing. I feel it is terribly important that we should bear in mind that this movement exists for the benefit of the poor and that hand-sewing is within the means of all and can be very lucrative, if it is properly taught in the first instance. There are proportionately few homes that can afford to buy a machine even on the instalment system. I realise that the difficulties of getting cloth are immense and as there is such a shortage, I think, the members would find it more profitable to make such material as they can get into wearable garments rather than clothes, etc., though these were extremely decorative and well embroidered. I very much hope that more well-to-do ladies may be prepared to adopt my suggestion of giving their work to the society and expecting no return but allowing all the profits to be used for the purchase of unrationed and more expensive materials to be made up by poorer members for sale. This would at least do something for the organisation to tide over the present cloth shortage.”



*Needle work—  
One of the Jobs  
undertaken by the  
Society*



# INDIA'S CHARTER OF FREEDOM

**THIS** Constituent Assembly declares its firm and solemn resolve to proclaim India as an Independent Sovereign Republic and to draw up for her future governance a Constitution:

**WHEREIN** the territories that now comprise British India, the territories that now form the Indian States, and such other parts of India as are outside British India and the States as well as such other territories as are willing to be constituted into the Independent Sovereign India, shall be a union of them all: and

**WHEREIN** the said territories, whether with their present boundaries or with such others as may be determined by the Constituent Assembly and thereafter according to the law of the Constitution, shall possess and retain the status of autonomous units, together with residuary powers, and exercise all powers and functions of government and administration, save and except such powers and functions as are vested in or assigned to the Union, or as are inherent or implied in the Union or resulting therefrom: and

**WHEREIN** all power and authority of the Sovereign Independent India, its constituent parts and organs of government are derived from the people: and

**WHEREIN** shall be guaranteed and secured to all the people of India justice, social, economic and political: equality of status, of opportunity, and before the law: freedom of thought, expression, belief, faith, worship, vocation, association and action, subject to law and public morality: and

**WHEREIN** adequate safeguards shall be provided for minorities, backward and tribal areas, and depressed and other backward classes: and

**WHEREBY** shall be maintained the integrity of the territory of the Republic and its sovereign rights on land, sea and air according to justice and the law of civilised nations: and

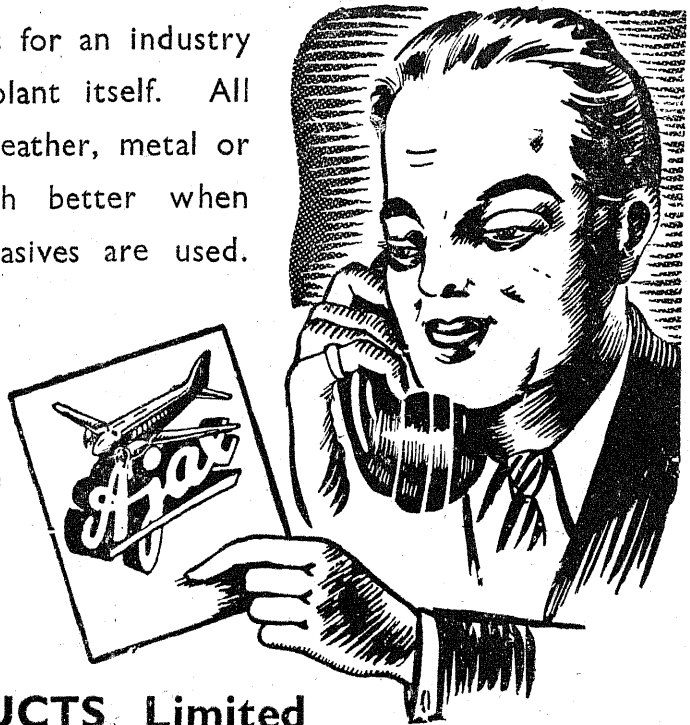
**THIS** ancient land attain its rightful and honoured place in the world and make its full and willing contribution to the promotion of world peace and the welfare of mankind.

This is the text of the Resolution unanimously adopted by the Constituent Assembly of India on the 22nd January 1947.

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