





Tamil Arasu

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“OUR ENDEAVOUR IS TO ENSURE THAT NO CHILD WOMAN OR MAN GOES TO BED WITHOUT FOOD”

Speech of Hon'ble Chief Minister Of Tamil Nadu

KALAINAR M.KARUNANIDHI

at the Inauguration of

FOOD SECURITY EXPO 1996 on 9.11.1996.



This may be the right occasion to recall Article 47 of the Indian Constitution which states that “the State shall regard the raising of the level of nutrition and standard of living of its people and improvement of public health among its primary duties”. Tamil Nadu is in the forefront in providing food for all. The Government of Tamil Nadu introduced the nutritious meal scheme several years back which was hailed as an outstanding scheme of international standard. Mahakavi Bharathi said

“தனி ஒருவனுக்கு உணவில்லையெனில்
ஜகத்தினை அழித்திடுவோம்”.

The Government's foremost duty should be to eradicate illiteracy and hunger. Mahakavi Bharathi's words were echoed by Mahatma Gandhi when he said that the first duty of independent India should be to provide the daily food to every individual.

What we call food security today is nothing but what Mahakavi Bharathi said several years ago. A society can be said to be “Food secure” only when all persons can access food in adequate quantity to lead an active and healthy life. This access can be either physical or economic or both. While physical access can be provided by ensuring regular supply of food, economic access can be ensured only by improving the purchasing power of the people. If either of these are lacking or inadequate the result is food insecurity. Poverty is the main cause for hunger. While we can derive some comfort from the thought that the percentage of people below poverty line has been coming down due to the implementation of various income developing schemes. It is a matter of great regret that millions of people in our country even today are not able to get even one square meal a day. One way to overcome food insecurity is to transfer payments in cash or kind to the poor so that the real income is increased and to give them the means to increase their food consumption. A well known way to transfer income is to provide food at below market prices through Public Distribution System.

The Government of Tamil Nadu attaches the greatest importance to the

proper implementation of the Public Distribution System. Although people who visit Tamil Nadu tell me that Public Distribution System is very well implemented here, there are still some shortcomings which have to be removed. This is the reason why I appointed a Committee comprising legislators from all the major political parties, senior Government officials and representatives of consumer organisations to study the system of implementation in other States and give recommendations for improving the system in Tamil Nadu. You may all be aware that the Government provides a subsidy of more than Rs.1000 crores to ensure that even very poor people find physical access to food. In 1980-81 the total subsidy for food was only Rs.181 crores. One may argue that such a heavy subsidy affects the implementation of other welfare programmes like construction of roads and bridges, hospitals etc., However our Government is convinced that Public Distribution System should be complementary to employment generation and other poverty alleviation programmes and that it is necessary to provide food grains at subsidised prices in the interest of the welfare of the citizens. The off-take of rice under Public Distribution System in Tamil Nadu has been increasing steadily. It was only 1.25 lakh tonnes per year between 1978 and 1980. But today we require as much as 2.25 lakh tonnes per month. The Government of India are allotting only 1.45 lakh tonnes per month since January 1996. I must thank the Prime Minister for responding to my request a few months ago and allotting 20,000 tonnes of rice additionally for three months from August '96. I would request him to keep up this additional allotment atleast till we procure sufficient

quantity to take care of our requirements for Public Distribution System.

We in Tamil Nadu have realised that unless agricultural production is increased we will not be able to meet the demands of increasing population. It is a matter of great satisfaction that the agricultural production has increased significantly in the last few decades, thanks to the Green Revolution and the enterprise shown by the farmers. While the area under paddy was 17.4 lakh hectares in 1950-51 the production was 19.81 lakh tonnes only. The average yield was only 1130 Kilos per hectare. But today while the area under cultivation has gone up to more than 23 lakh hectares, the production has gone upto more than 75 lakh tonnes. The yield per hectare has gone up to nearly 3300 kgs. Even in respect of coarse grains, though the area has come down from 20 lakh hectares to 12 lakh hectares, because of increasing productivity, the total quantity of coarse grains produced has not undergone much of the change. The problem that we face today is not one of availability, but of equitable distribution. Unless the purchasing power of the people is increased through appropriate economic agricultural and social policies, there can be no escape from hunger and privation.

Another important scheme through which we try to combat poverty is the Nutritious Noon Meal Scheme. As I mentioned earlier, Tamil Nadu is in the forefront in the implementation of the scheme and the number of beneficiaries who have direct physical access to the scheme is more than 79 lakhs. These include children, students, old age pensioners, pregnant women and destitutes who require our support. The

funds sanctioned for the Noon Meal Programme has been increased from Rs.360 crores in 1995-96 to Rs.401 crores during the current year.

The Government have announced, in the Budget for 1996-97 a new scheme to eradicate hunger due to poverty and constituted a committee under the Chairmanship Dr.M.S.Swaminathan to advice the Government in framing and implementing the scheme. This new scheme will be started to coincide with the Pongal festival in 7 Taluks, namely, Keerapalayam in South Arcot Vallalar District, Pennagaram in Dharmapuri District, Vedasandur in Dindigul Mannar Thirumalai District, Budalur in Thanjavur District, Tiruppullani in Ramanathapuram District, Kuruthangodu in Kanniyakumari District and Kothagiri in Nilgiris District. Each District has

been selected from different agroclimatic zone.

On this occasion, i would request our Honourable Prime Minister to do the needful to introduce a hunger free area on all India basis in the nineth Five Year Plan in line with the new Scheme in TamilNadu. We will be happy to help, in whatever way we can, to implement such a scheme. I also request our beloved Prime Minister to discuss our scheme in the forthcoming World Food Conference in Italy as the Conference is held mainly to find ways and means to provide food for every individual. Our endeavour should be to ensure that no child, woman or man goes to bed without food.

(The address of the Hon'ble Chief Minister was read out in absentia by Hon'ble Minister for Health and Electricity, Thiru Arcot N. Veerasamy.)

★ **Many new Industries coming up in Tamil Nadu**

- * A Korean Car industry at on investment of Rs.2,450 crores being set up at Sriperumbudur near Chennai.
- * A factory for processing coconut at a cost of Rs.399 crores at Pollachi.
- * Acoconut by-products industry at a cost of Rs.18 crores at Kanniyakumari.
- * A modern glass industry at a cost of Rs.550 crores near Chengalpattu..
- * An optical fibre cable project at a cost of Rs.41.57 crores at Maraimalai Nagar near Chennai.
- * Rubber factory at a cost of Rs.500 crores in Kanniyakumari.
- * A new tyre factory at a cost of Rs.550 crores as a joint venture with a South Korean Company near Chennai.

GOVT'S ACHIEVEMENTS

★ **Revenue Increase to Government**

- * Increased Revenue to the tune of Rs.65 crores to the State Government by increasing the levy on the manufacturers of Indian Made Foreign liquors (IMFL).The levy does not affect the retailers or consumers in return.

★ **Manu Needhi Scheme re-introduced**

- * The "Manu needhi" Scheme for immediate redressal of grievances reintroduced.

★ **Dr. Radhakrishnan Award**

- * 'Best Teacher Award' renamed as 'Dr.Radhakrishnan Award'.

★ **New Schools Established**

- * Establishment of 85 new primary schools.

THE ROAD TO SELF ESTEEM

CLAIRE SAFRAN

The key to happiness and success is getting rid of all those negative thoughts and feeling good about yourself. Here's how to build self esteem and be a stronger more confident person.

Money can't buy it. Success doesn't ensure it. The most unexpected women, from Princess Di to Gloria Steinem, don't have enough of it.

It's self esteem, the catchword of the nineties. A few years ago, virtually no one talked about it, today everybody wants some. Self-esteem is being touted as the universal fix-it for women who eat, drink or love too much. It's the cure-all, experts tell us, for addictions, codependencies and other emotional problems.

WHATEVER IT IS, YOU WANT IT

But exactly what is self-esteem? The bottom-line definition: the state of feeling fine about who you are, deep down in your soul. According to the National Council for Self-Esteem NCSE, in Sacramento, California, self-esteem is the experience of feeling that you are worthy of happiness and capable of managing life's challenges. "Less officially it's a feel good combination of self-confidence (having the gumption to ask for a

job, promotion or a raise) and self respect (the inner grit that keeps you going no matter what the answer).

Self-esteem is elusive, changeable, hard to get and harder to hang on to. It's an idea that's turned into an industry, spurring thousands of scientific studies in the last ten years according to the NCSE, shelves of popular books and magazine ar-

good looks, can still be drowning in self-doubt.

A CRISIS

The cold, hard truth about self-esteem is that hardly anyone has all she needs all the time. The lack of it affects people in different ways. For some, low self-esteem is a road block to love, work, friendships and adventure. For others, like Ste-

"The bottom-line definition of self-esteem is the state of feeling fine about who you are, deep down in your soul."

ticles and hundreds of workshops and conferences.

"Self-esteem isn't everything," says Gloria Steinem "It's just that there's nothing without it."

In Steinem's best-seller, *Revolutions from within* a book of self esteem she admits to a lifelong struggle with "inner feelings of incompleteness, emptiness, self-doubt and self-hatred."

Her confession may be the worst news yet to come out of the self-esteem movement. She's telling us that a woman of her achievements, international acclaim, outer strength and yes,

inem, it's malevolent inner editor allowing them to function but deleting the joy from achievements.

It's no coincidence that Steinem's book and a gaggle of others arrived in the last year or so. We are in the midst of "a national crisis of self-esteem," says Susan Schenkel, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and author of *giving Away Success*. "As a nation and as individuals, we're apprehensive", says Dr.Schenkel. "We're not sure if we can rebuild our cities, our schools, our economy or our private lives. I see strong, confident women who are unemployed for the first time, and they are shattered. What's

wrong with me?' they ask. They don't blame the recession, they blame themselves."

This is also the era of the recovery movement, which started in the eighties and then exploded in the nineties, with more and more support groups for alcoholics, battered women, incest survivors and victims of other traumas. "Here were rooms full of people in pain, talking about feeling bad, struggling to repair their sense of themselves", says Dr. Schenkel. "Whatever the problem, self-esteem seemed to be a large part of the cure, and that helped give birth to a new movement".

For women, self-esteem is the issue of the day. In the nine-

POOR SELF-IMAGE STARTS EARLY

A growing body of research shows that many more women than men are feeling bad about themselves. According to a 1990 survey by the American Association of University Women (AAUW), from grade school to graduate school, women do as well as or better than men academically, but their self-esteem plummets over the years. When they start school, a healthy majority of both boys and girls say they are "happy the way I am. By high school, it has dropped to 46 percent for boys and only 29 percent for girls.

Girls languish in school, ac-

"Like so many things, self-esteem goes back to childhood. Most of us start off with a good supply of it. But even as babies, while every little success builds up our self-esteem every little failure can chip away at it."

ties, as we keep trying to have it all, many of us have reached "role overload" according to Maisha Hamilton Bennet, Ph.D., psychologist and President of Hamilton Behavioral Healthcare, a counselling and consulting firm in Chicago. "We are struggling against a backlash that blames us if we're not perfect at all our roles - marriage, child rearing, lovemaking, working, even saving the whales. So we've got all those balls in the air - and we feel like failures if we drop just one of them".

According to the AAUW, because they get far less attention, praise and encouragement than boys do.

It may be the squeaky-wheel syndrome-noisy and restless boys demanding the teachers attention-but being ignored and bypassed takes its toll on female self-esteem. So do puberty, sexual pressures and the effort to compete with the air-brushed, siliconed models in all those beer and blue jeans commercials.

Even the best and brightest women start to wonder about themselves. In a 1987 University of Illinois study of high school valedictorians both sexes won good college grades, honours and scholarships. When they graduated from college, one fourth of the men still thought they were "far above average" but, none of the women would say that about themselves.

As adults, the pattern continues. Twice as many women as men suffer from severe depression. According to Donald L. Nathanson, M.D., a prominent Philadelphia psychiatrist and author of *shame and pride*, classical depression (one kind of severe depression) is linked to weepiness, morbid thoughts about the future and guilt (bad feelings about what you have done).

A typical depression, another type of severe depression, which is more common than its name suggests, is linked to low self-esteem or deep shame (bad feelings about who you are). Outwardly some people with this form of depression seem to be functioning well, but they are haunted by an inner bleakness. This is the form of depression that did not respond to traditional medications, but doctors are now reporting good results with the drugs Prozac and the newer Zoloft.

FALSE PERCEPTIONS ABOUND

For many women the trait that blossoms from low self-esteem

is self criticism - especially of their bodies. In one psychological test people are shown an array of body silhouettes, ranging from skeletal to obese, and asked to pick the one that's closer to their own.

No matter what they actually weigh, men tend to pick a silhouette that's two or three sizes thinner. Women, whether they're anorexic, normal or overweight, point to a silhouette two or three times larger.

"The typical man always thinks he's this side of Robert Redford", explains Carol Burger, Ph.D., Director of the Women's Research Institute at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg. "And the typical woman, trying to live up to all those media images, never thinks she's thin enough or good enough"

That out of focus body image was part of Steinem's problem. Men pursued her, and other women wanted to look like her, copying her clothes, her aviator glasses, her cascade of long hair. All along, she was squinting in the mirror and seeing the forlorn "pudding - faced" child she used to be.

Like so many things, self-esteem goes back to childhood. Most of us start off with a good supply of it. But even as babies, while every little success builds up our self-esteem every little failure can chip away at it. "For a little child success or failure is in the eye of the beholder - the par-

ent" explains Dr. Nathanson. The trouble is that on a scale of 1 to 10, some parents want to behold a 12.

Some measure their child by an imaginary ideal. Others just can't help comparing her or him to other children. Who walks or talks sooner? Who is prettier? When she lives up to the parents ideal, the child feels pride, the emotion of healthy self esteem. When she falls short, she feels shame, a sense of being defective and unlovable, the emotion of low self esteem".

As we move through life, the comparisons continue. So does the need for approval- and the struggle to hang on to our self-esteem. "Think of self esteem as a moving point on an axis", suggests Dr. Nathanson. "It is the distance between your ideal self and the self you see at this moment".

The trick, he says is to see both these selves clearly. Some people, like Steinem, underestimate their current selves, and so the gap seems wide and full of shame. Others overestimate the ideal. Is it your personal best, tailor made to your own desires and abilities, a goal you can realistically chase after? Or is it a false idol, hammered together

with all the "oughts" and "shoulds", from parents and teachers, friends and employers, lovers and fashion ads?

HOW TO FEEL BETTER ABOUT YOURSELF

The first step on the long, winding road to self-esteem is to take a personal inventory. Dr. Nathanson urges his patients to make as long a list as possible of their positives, both big and small. Can you operate a VCR? Are you raising two wonderful children? Are you a good neighbour? A hard worker? A faithful friend?

When something goes wrong - whether it is a social gaffe, a missed job promotion, a lost love - consult that list, "that way", says Dr. Nathanson, you can isolate the event. You can see it as a specific experience, not something that defines your whole life. You can look at it as a particular failing, one trait among many others, an individual mistake that is part but not all of you.

"The cure for low self-esteem is to be specific about what has happened", he continues. "Are you crestfallen? Head bowed? Longing to run and hide? You can deny it, get angry, try to drown it in drink or food, or you

"Think of self-esteem as a moving point on an axis... It is the distance between your ideal self and the self you see at this moment."

can name the feelings and face the flaw that's been exposed. Then instead of giving up on yourself you can think about what you need to change and how you want to improve".

Once you have admitted those painful feelings, chase them away by doing something nice for yourself, Dr.Nathanson says. Treat yourself to lunch with a friend who cares for you- and lets you know it. Start a new hobby or take a course- something that will give you a small taste of success giving you a dose of "situational self esteem", as therapists call it.

Bouts with self-doubt are part of life, and with time, most of us get over them, For some people, though, low self esteem is chronic, as nagging as a toothache, as persistent as cellulite. "Some people may have a chemical imbalance, and they are the ones who need medication to help them through their remorseless, shame loaded depression", says Dr.Nathanson. Many others, though, can be helped by talking with a caring spouse or friend or therapist.

**GIOVTS
ACHIEVEMENTS**

Houses for Fishermen

Rs.6.75 crores sanctioned for the construction of 20,000 houses with power connections in 442 fishermen villages.

Pollution Control

Rs.40 lakhs sanctioned to control pollution in Cuddalore and Tuticorin.

**GIOVTS
ACHIEVEMENTS**

Books to be translated into Tamil

Rs.5 lakhs sanctioned for translation of selected books in other languages into Tamil.

Tamil on the internet

Facilities made to communicate in Tamil on the **internet**.

Perhaps they grew up in a shaming, name calling family. Perhaps they had a series of bad experiences or a single great trauma that hasn't been worked through.

"These people need to confront their experience and process them, perhaps they will find the mistake they made, confusing a single experience with a global view of themselves. Perhaps they will learn to see themselves more clearly, both who they are today and who they want to grow up to be".

All of the steps toward better selfesteem begin by taking some action. That can mean changing

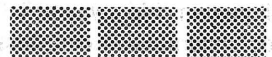
your thought patterns, your surroundings, even the people around you.

To make positive changes in her life, Steinem had to end a love affair that required her to be less than herself. To feel more deserving she redecorated her apartment, changing it from a crash pad to a real home. In midlife, she underwent treatment that let her get rid of the glasses she'd been hiding behind since sixth grade. At the same age, another woman, depressed about the progress of her career, went back to school to pursue an MBA.

"That's self - esteem", says Dr.Nathanson, "It is the courage to act, even if you may fail, even if you may humiliate yourself all over again. The real shame is to do nothing".

Courtesy:

The Healthy Woman



A TAMIL ARASU WELFARE GUIDE

How To Avail Social Welfare Benefits? And Whom To Approach?

NAME OF THE SCHEME / PROGRAMME	QUALIFICATIONS - CONDITIONS	OFFICER TO BE CONTACTED
Issuing of identity cards for physically handicapped.	Those with 40% disability, should apply with a copy of a photograph, Medical certificate and residential certificate.	Concerned District Rehabilitation Officer
Maintenance grant to the physically handicapped.	Should be a totally disabled person. Disability should be above 75% Annual income below Rs.6400/- Should not have availed anyother concessions of the Govt. Rs.100/- per month will be granted for 10 years.	"
Scheme for the Hearing impaired	Children aged between 5 and 10 years are admitted to nursery schools. Boarding and lodging free.	"
Distribution of sewing machines.	Widows, orphans, destitute women whose annual income is below Rs.12000/-belonging to the age group between 20 and 40, should know tailoring and have not already availed free sewing machine under this scheme.	Concerned District Social Welfare Officer.
Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Memorial Marriage Assistance Scheme.	The bride should be 18 years old and studied VIII Std. It should be the first marriage and applied before 15 days of her marriage. Annual income should not exceed Rs.12,000/- A villager should apply through Commissioner, Panchayat Union and belonging to Corporation through Commissioner of the Corporation. The grant is Rs.10,000/-	Concerned District Social Welfare Officer.

Distribution of Text books and note books to the children of widows.

Should be the child of a widow. Annual income should not exceed Rs.12,000. Note books will be given from first standard to eight standard. From 9th standard onwards till +2 text books will also be given along with note books.

Concerned District Social Welfare Officer.

Marriage of a widow's daughter

The bride's mother should be a widow and not remarried. Annual income not exceeding Rs.12,000/- The bride should be 20 years old. The grant is Rs.2000/-

Concerned District Social Welfare Officer.

Dr.Dharmambal widow remarriage assistance scheme.

The bride should be a widow and in the age group of 20-30, who have not availed any of the Govt.'s concession. She will be given a National Savings Certificate worth Rs.5000/-. The bridegroom should be below 40 years and a widower. Annual income not exceeding Rs.12,000/-

Concerned District Social Welfare Officer.

Destitute women marriage assistance scheme.

The bride should be an orphan. Annual income not exceeding Rs.12,000/-Age above 20 years. Only one member of one family may avail the grant. The grant is Rs.2000/-

Concerned District Social Welfare Officer.

Inter- caste marriage scheme.

Age should be above 20 years. Annual income not exceeding Rs.12000/- SC/ST person should have married backward class person, a backward class should have married SC/ST person, Forward class should have married a backward class or SC/ST person. Should be a registered marriage. Should apply within two years of marriage. The grant is in the form of National Savings Certificate for a sum of Rs.2000/- and Rs.3000/- in cash.

Concerned District Social Welfare Officer.

Labour oriented training scheme for poor women.

Should obtain 50% of marks and above in the Secondary School Leaving Examinations. Age between 16 and 30. Annual income below Rs.6400/- The grant is

Concerned District Social Welfare Officer.

Rs.15 for Typewriting Courses,
and Rs.10 for Shorthand courses,
per month.

Training Centre for
Tailors.

The age should be between 18
and 30 years. The annual family
income should not exceed
Rs.12,000/- Rs.250/- per month
will be given to each woman learn-
ing tailoring in a training centre
run with financial assistance from
Social Welfare Department. And
Rs.30 /- per month will be given to
each woman learning in the tailor-
ing Centre run with the financial
assistance from Adi- dravidar and
Tribal Welfare Department/Back-
ward Classes Department.

Concerned District
Social Welfare Offi-
cer.

Dr.Muthulakshmi
Reddy Maternity
Assistance Scheme.

Rs.500/-is being paid as assis-
tance to pregnant women. The
beneficiaries should have regis-
tered their names in nearby
Govt.Hospitals. They should have
a certificate obtained from a mater-
nity assistant. The annual income
of the family should not exceed .
Rs.12000/- The assistance is
given for the first two children.
The beneficiary should have com-
pleted 20 years of age.

Concerned Commis-
sioners of Panchayat
Unions and Corpora-
tions.

Government Child
Care Centre.

Girls between age group 5 and
18, (i.e. 1st standard to +2) boys
between age group 5 and 10
(i.e.1st standard to 5th standard)
who have lost either of the parent
or both are admitted in this Centre
and provided food, clothes and
shelter. The Guardians annual in-
come should not exceed
Rs.12,000.

Concerned District
Social Welfare Offi-
cer.

Welfare Scheme for
Girl child.

The parents of the beneficiary
(mother or father) should be be-
low 40. Should have undergone
the family planning operation after
1.4.92.

Concerned District
Social Welfare Offi-
cer.

The parents should have one or two girl children but not a boy child.

The girl child should be below 3 years.

The family should be below the poverty line.
The annual income should not exceed Rs.12,000.

Benefits:

The Government will make a fixed deposit of Rs.5,000/- in the child's name.

A gold ring worth Rs.800 will be given to her on her first birth day.

On enrolment in the first standard, she will be given Rs.250/- and Rs.500 will be given to her when she goes to sixth standard.

From 9th standard to +2 she will get Rs.50 every month for 40 months.

On completion of 20 years, she will be given Rs.20,000 which could be used for her higher studies or for meeting the marriage expenses.

ON THE COVER



Hon'ble Chief Minister K. Karunanidhi handed over the jeeps, ambulances, cranes, motorcycles, wireless communication equipments, computers and cameras costing Rs.6.57 crores to the Traffic Police at Secretariat, Chennai on 19.11.'96.

BENEFITS AND CONCESSIONS GRANTED TO GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES DURING THE LAST SIX MONTHS

- + Sanction of Third Interim Relief with effect from 1.4.96 at the rate of 10% subject to a minimum of Rs.100.
 - + Sanction of third instalment of interim relief with effect from 1.4.96 to employees on consolidated Pay/Honorarium/Fixed Pay at Rs.40 p.m. to those drawing Rs.500 and above and Rs.25 p.m. to those drawing below Rs.500.
 - + Sanction of increase in Dearness Allowance ordered with effect from 1.7.96.
 - + Adhoc increase in remuneration sanctioned to those drawing honorarium/consolidated pay of Rs.150 and above at Rs.20 p.m. and for those drawing below Rs.150 at Rs.10 p.m. with effect from 1.7.96.
 - + The amount of second interim relief impounded for the period from 1.4.95 to 30.6.95 allowed for withdrawal from G.P.F. as temporary advance or part final withdrawal.
 - + Independence Day and Republic Day are included in the list of Festivals that would enable Government employees to avail Festival Advance.
 - + Provision for availing second Marriage Advance while the first advance is pending recovery.
 - + Enhancement of monetary limit for Conveyance Advance as indicated below:
- | | (in Rupees) | |
|-------------------|-------------|--------|
| | From | To |
| Bicycle | 1000 | 1500 |
| Motor cycle (new) | 25,000 | 35,000 |
- Motor cycle (secondhand) 8000 12,000
 - Motor car (New) 1,40,000 2,00,000
 - Motorcar (secondhand) 60,000 90,000
 - + Health Fund Scheme has been introduced for extending financial assistance to employees of Panchayat Unions, Town Panchayats, Municipalities for major surgeries/special treatments like open heart surgery, kidney transplantation etc., with effect from 1.7.96.
 - + Pensioners were sanctioned second instalment of interim relief with retrospective effect from 1.4.95 instead of from 1.10.95 as in the case of serving employees.
 - + Pensioners were sanctioned third instalment of interim relief at the rate of 10% of basic pension/Family Pension subject to a minimum of Rs. 100 with effect from 1.4.96.
 - + Pensioners were sanctioned enhancement of Dearness Allowance with effect from 1.7.96.
 - + Qualifying service for pension has been reduced from 33 years to 30 years to those who retire from service on or after 1.7.96.
 - + Classification of 97% of pay as Dearness Pay for the purpose of calculation of gratuity to those employees retiring from service with effect from 1.4.95 instead of with effect from 1.10.95. The maximum limit of gratuity has been enhanced from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs.2.50 lakhs with effect from 1.4.95 instead of from 1.10.95.

- + Enhancement of Medical Allowance to Pensioners/Family Pensioners from Rs.30 to Rs.50 with effect from 1.12.95.
- + Encashment of 50% of leave on Private Affairs standing to the credit of the employees upto a maximum of 90 days at the time of retirement with full leave salary for those retiring from service on or after 1.7.96.
- + Full leave salary including Dearness Allowance and all other allowances allowed for Earned Leave exceeding 180 days at the time of retirement with effect from 1.7.96.
- + Enhancement of lump sum payment under Tamil Nadu Government Servants Family Security Fund Scheme from Rs.60,000 to Rs.1 lakh with effect from 1.7.96.
- + Lump sum payment under the Group Insurance Scheme for the employees of Local Bodies Aided Schools, Aided Colleges and Aided Technical Institutions including employees working under Nutritious Meal Programme enhanced from Rs.60,000 to Rs.1 lakh.
- + Interim Relief at a flat rate of Rs. 50 granted to the families of the deceased Contributory Provident Fund/non pensionable Establishment beneficiaries of State Government and the employees of former District Board who are in receipt of ex-gratia payment.
- + 50% of the pay last drawn or 50% of the average of pay drawn during the last 10 months of service whichever is higher is granted as pension to those retiring from service on or after 1.7.96.

BUCKINGHAM CANAL BEING CLEANED UP

Removal of sludge and silt in Buckingham Canal Central Reach from Cooum River confluence point to R.K. Mutt Road.

The Buckingham Canal was a Navigation Canal. As the Canal is abandoned and not maintained to the required conditions, it has become a dumping place for the encroached slums on the sides of the Canal Bank and also due to the implementation of the M.R.T.S. along the Buckingham Canal has almost become completely functionless from Chepauk to R.K.Mutt Road.

During the heavy and unprecedented downpour of rain on 13th, 14th of June 1996 and due to blockades and obstructions in Canal, the Triplicane and Mylapore have become

completely inundated for eight days and the residents of the area had lot of sufferings.

In order to give immediate permanent relief to the residents, the Government of Tamil Nadu have accorded sanction for an amount of Rs.190 lakhs for the removal of slit and sludge to restore the flood level of canal for a distance of 4 km. from confluence of cooum river to R.K. Mutt Road.

The work has been taken up immediately on war-footing and the works are in progress. In the subsequent heavy rains during third week of October '96, effective relief is felt in those areas and on completion of this work the area will be completely relieved of from the sufferings due to the rains in future.

Handloom Co-operatives

- Preserving our rich heritage

V.GUNALAN I.A.S.,

Director of Handlooms.

Handloom Industry is playing a vital role in the cultural heritage of Tamil Nadu and Tamil Nadu is the pioneer state in the country in the field of Textile Industry comprising of Handlooms, Powerlooms and Mill Sectors. All the three sectors of the Industry are growing rapidly in Tamil Nadu and the State Government is providing all the required assistance for the harmonious development of all the 3 sectors.

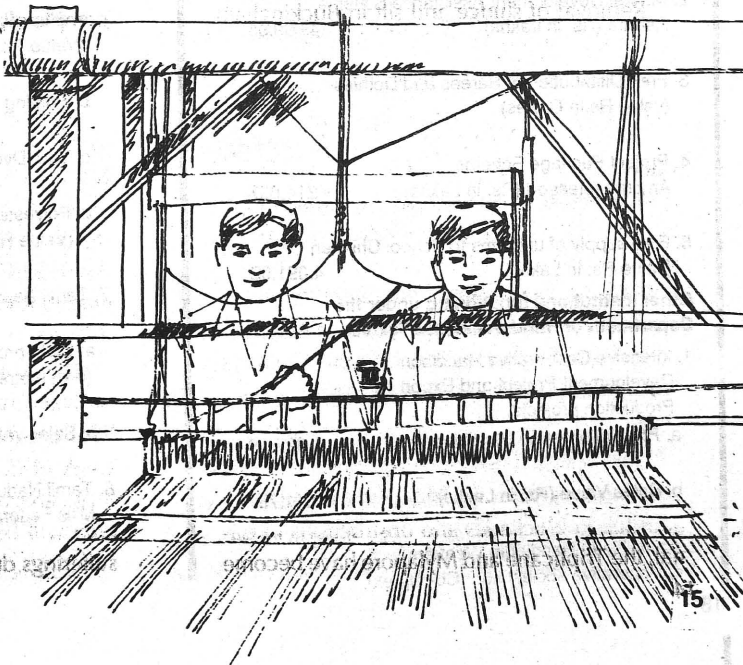
The Government of Tamil Nadu is the forerunner in designing, formulating and implementing various schemes for the well being of the Handloom Weavers. The Government of Tamil Nadu have also been implementing various welfare and development schemes of the Government of India effectively and sets an example to other States, especially in the implementation of Special schemes like Handloom Development Centres and Quality Dyeing Units.

For safeguarding the interests of the handloom weavers and to preserve, protect and promote the traditional skill of the land, the Department of Hand-

looms and Textiles plays a vital role. By implementing various programmes for the socio-economic Development through liberal assistance under Handloom Development Programme for those weavers who were brought into cooperative fold. More than 3.00 lakh of looms have been brought under Co-operative coverage in 1,439 Primary Weavers Co-operative Societies with a membership strength of nearly 4.00 lakh weavers. The looms covered un-

der Cooperative fold produces all varieties of handloom products and these societies produced 1233.86 lakh metres valuing Rs.435.76 crores and sold 1193.78 lakh metres valuing Rs. 455.66 crores during 1995-96.

The quantum of working capital availed by the Primary Weavers Cooperative Societies and Apex Weavers Cooperative Society in the year 1995-96 is Rs.350.93 crores and Rs. 400.00 lakhs has been provided as interest subsidy.



The Government of India have drawn up a comprehensive scheme to overcome the deficiency in the handloom sector by forming Handloom Development Centres and Quality Dyeing

Units. 99 Handloom Development Centres and 5 Quality Dyeing Units were approved by Government of India for 1995-96 to Tamil Nadu and sanctioned Rs.233.36 lakh.

The other Weavers Welfare Scheme implemented by the Department and expenditure incurred under each scheme are as below;-

Welfare Schemes

	1995-96
1. Savings and Security Scheme	
a. Number of Weavers on roll	1,00,334
b. Amount spent [Rs. in Lakhs]	485.00
2. Central Thrift Fund Scheme	
Amount released by Government of India [Rs.in Lakhs]	192.15
3. House-cum-workshed Scheme	
a. Number of units	1,000
b. Amount [Rs.in Lakhs]	190.00
4. Margin Money Assistance to Destitute Weavers	
a. Number of Weavers	1,926
b. Amount [Rs. in Lakhs]	19.26
5. Health Package Scheme [Rs. in Lakhs]	52.45

6. TamilNadu Cooperative Handloom Weavers Family Pension Scheme	
Number of Nominees benefitted	218

Other Schemes

1. Janatha Cloth Scheme Production (in Million Sq.Mtrs).	29.39
2. Market Development Assistance Scheme Rebate (Rs. in Lakhs)	4,099.55
3. Free Distribution of Sarees and Dohies (value Rs.in Crores)	76.29
4. Project Package Scheme Amount released (Rs. in Lakhs)	214.037
5. Free supply of uniforms to School Children (value Rs. in Lakhs)	4,091.03

Other Institutions functioning under the Department of Handlooms and Textiles

1. Intensive Cooperative Handloom Development Project and Export Production projects.	
a. Production value (Rs.in Lakhs)	927.09
b. Sales Value (Rs. in Lakhs)	1,011.75
2. Tamil Nadu Handloom Weavers Co-operative society ltd., (Co- Optex)	

a. Procurement (Rs.in Crores)	213.56
b. Sales (Rs. in Crores)	257.00

3. Cooperative Spinning Mills

a. production value (Rs.in Lakhs)	24277.00
b. Sales Value (Rs.in Lakhs)	23123.00

4. Tamil Nadu Handloom Development Corporation Limited;

Amount of loan sanctioned (Rs.in Lakhs)	366.49
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5. Tamil Nadu Zari Limited

a. Production (in marcs)	33613
b. Sales value (Rs.in Lakhs)	885.83

6. Tamil Nadu Cooperative Textile Processing Mills Limited;

a. Bleaching and dyeing (Value Rs. in Lakhs)	61.61
b. Printing (Value Rs. in Lakhs)	9.29
c. Yarn Dyeing (Value Rs. in Lakhs)	17.77
d. Polyester processing (Value Rs. in Lakhs)	90.51

7. Tamil Nadu Textile Corporation Limited

a. Cloth production in powerloom Complexes (lakh metres)	44.54
b. Sales value (Rs.in Lakhs)	4026.83

8. Tamil Nadu Cooperative Spinning Mills Federation

Procurement (Value Rs. in Lakhs)	53.73
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TAMIL NADU LEADS IN HARNESSING NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES

SOLAR ENERGY

Being in tropical country, Tamil Nadu is blessed with so much of solar energy and Government of Tamil Nadu is exploiting the maximum possibility of harnessing the Solar Energy for different applications. Under Solar thermal one can use the Solar energy for water heating and for Air heating purposes.

The Solar Water Heating Systems (SWHS) is mainly used in;

DOMESTIC

1. Bathing
2. Antigrease (dish washing)
3. Tea processing

INDUSTRIAL

1. Industrial boiler Feeding water
2. Surgical theatre
3. Canteens
4. Hostels, Hotels, Hospitals
5. Dyeing & bleaching
6. Milk dairy cleaning, operation.

The Solar Water Heating Systems concept was popularised among public/industries by provision of subsidy by State and Central Government until 1993-94 and was subsequently withdrawn. Due to removal of above there appears a slackness in the minds of people going for Solar Water Heating Systems. Hence an outlay is sought for in the 9th Five Year Plan for restoration of subsidy for Domestic and Industrial type Solar Water Heating Systems.

Though the subsidy was removed, Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency is currently

actively engaged in installing Solar Water Heating Systems in Government, institutions like Government Students Hostel, Government Hospitals, etc., by obtaining the Government orders every year.

During the last 6 months Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency has installed, 3 numbers of 2000 LPD 80°C bigger system.

1. Government Students ADW Boys Hostel, Udhagai - 2500 LPD 60°C
2. Government Students ADW Girls Hostel, Udhagai - 2500 LPD 60°C
3. Government Headquarters Hospital, Nagercoil - 2000 LPD 60°C

In addition to this, project sites have been cleared and tenders have been called for; for installing Solar Water Heating Systems at:

1. Government District Headquarters Hospital, Dindigul - 1500 LPD 60°C
2. Government Medical College attached Government Hospital, Coimbatore 4000 LPD 60°C
3. Government Adidravidar Students Hostel, Yercaud - 1500 LPD 60°C

In addition, the Government of Tamil Nadu have accorded sanction for the installation of 4 Solar Water Heating Systems of capacity 2000 LPD 60°C in Government Headquarters Hospitals and Government Students Hostel during 1996-97 under Part II schemes. For identifications of Project sites at Government Hospitals and Government Students Hostels with adequate water supply and

adequate space with RCC roof, the Director of Medical Education, Director of Health and Rural Service & Division, Chennai have been addressed. On receipt of the details of sites action will be taken by Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency to install the above 4 systems.

If the subsidy is restored for atleast for domestic system the common people may get benefit out of it to some extent, and we can increase the number of users of Solar Water Heating Systems, thereby future generation will be knowing the value of Solar Energy applications.

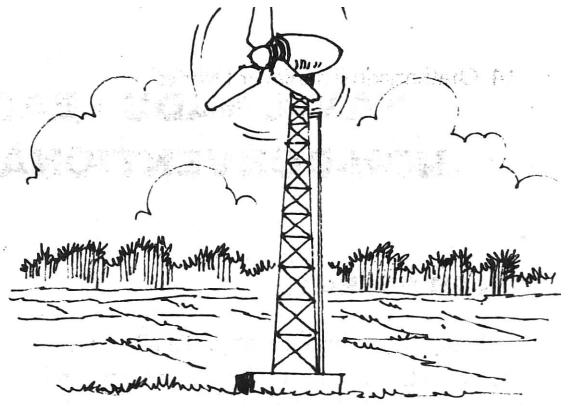
WIND MONITORING PROGRAMME

The following wind monitoring stations have been established under Relocation Programme of 12 Wind monitoring Stations sanctioned with the funding assistance of MNES and Government of TamilNadu upto 30.8.96.

S. No.	Location	District	Date of Establishment
1.	Kayathar II (Ayyanaruthu)	Chidambaranar	2.11.95
2.	Overi	Tirunelveli	3.3.96
3.	Vagaikulam	Chidambaranar	4.3.96
4.	Thoopakudi	Tirunelveli	6.3.96
5.	Mangalapuram	Tirunelveli	7.3.96
6.	Achsankundram	Tirunelveli	8.3.96
7.	Pushpathur	Dindigul	9.5.96
8.	Myvadi	Coimbatore	9.5.96
9.	Authiyur	Coimbatore	10.5.96
10.	Panangudi	Tirunelveli	5.7.96
11.	Vinayagapuram	Tirunelveli	8.7.96
12.	Vedaranyam	Nagai Quaid-E-Milleth	12.9.96

WINDMILL PROGRAMME

Under waterpumping windmill programme sanctioned with the subsidy of Government of



India and Government of TamilNadu during 1995- 96. Number of Gear Type wind pumps have been installed at the beneficiaries sites upto 30.9.96 as against the 14 numbers sanctioned.

IREP SCHEME

IREP scheme is implemented during 1996-97 in the following 15 blocks:

1. Wallajah-North Arcot Ambedkar District
2. Palani-Dindigul District
3. Harur-Dharmapuri District
4. Parangipettai-South Arcot Vallalar District
5. Alathur-Perambalur Thiruvalluvar District
6. Thirumangalam-Madurai District
7. Thiruthoraipoondi-Nagai Quaid-E-Milleth District
8. Dharapuram-Periyar District
9. Kunnandarkoil-Pudukkottai District
10. Nanguneri-Tirunelveli Kattabomman District
11. Rajakkamangalam-Kanniyakumari District
12. Bargur- Dharmapuri District
13. Thirupathur - Pasumpon Muthuramalingam District

14. Orathanadu-Thanjavur District

15. Ramanathapuram-Ramanathapuram District

Physical achievements made under distribution of energy saving devices to the beneficiaries during 1996-97 (i.e.) upto 30.9.96 is furnished below.

1. Improved Mud chulahs-1795 Nos
2. Improved Metalstoves-1315 Nos
3. Frictionless Footvalves- 455 Nos
4. Windmill for water pumping -3 Nos

SOLAR AIR HEATING SYSTEMS (SAHS)

Another application of Solar Energy is Solar Air Heating Systems. It is mainly used for preheating the ambient air upto 30° to 40°c and as input to conventional heaters, where the preheated solar air will be heated again for 100° to 200°c for different applications in tea plantations industry/fruit process, grain drying industry.

The main use of the SAHS, is to remove the moisture content upto 5° c so that roasting and powdering can be perfect in the case of grain drying and bacterial infection may be avoided in fruit processing industry thereby decaying may be avoided.

TamilNadu Energy Development Agency had commissioned a grain drying unit (chilly and coriander) at a cost of Rs.16.12 lakhs at Theni and Government of India offered a subsidy of Rs.4.00 lakhs to the units, which used to export the dried and powdered grain to Gulf countries and earned enormous foreign savings.

SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC REFRIGERATORS

Under Part II scheme 1996-97, the Govern-

ment of Tamil Nadu have accorded sanction for the procurement and supply of 2 Solar Photovoltaic refrigerators for use in Government Hospitals and preserving life saving medicines and vaccines at a total cost of Rs.4.00 lakhs. TamilNadu Energy Development Agency is taking action to procure the Solar Photovoltaic Refrigerators from M/s BHEL, Hyderabad for installing in Government General Hospital, Government Children Hospital, Chennai during this year.

SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (SPV) TECHNOLOGY

Solar Photovoltaic Technology converts sunlight directly and instantaneously into electricity in an environmentally clean and reliable manner. The Tamil Nadu Government is very keen on this Solar Photovoltaic Technology and its applications such as Solar Photovoltaic Lanterns, Solar Photovoltaic Pumping, and Solar Photovoltaic Power Plant which are particularly useful in unelectrified villages and are capable of bringing the benefits of electricity even to remotest locations. A conscious effort has been made by Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency to increase the efficiency of solar cells, in development of newer materials and to bring down the production cost of photovoltaic materials and products.

Among the different applications of Solar Photovoltaic Systems in Tamil Nadu Solar Photovoltaic Pumping Systems are considered to have significant potential in rural areas of Tamil Nadu for irrigation purposes, especially in places where the conventional power is always not available. These systems are mainly used for pumping water from shallow and deep wells. These pumps are working very well and creating a lot of impact. The Tamil Nadu Agriculturists are highly benefitted with these pumps by the encouragement and subsidy benefits offered by Government of Tamil

Nadu. At present, State Government offers a subsidy of Rs.59000 - per pumpset, being a portion of the cost of pump Rs.2 lakhs to 2.5 lakhs. In addition to Government of India subsidy of Rs.125 - per watt. During the past 6 months, 9 Solar Photovoltaic Pumpsets have been installed in Tamil Nadu and more number of pumpsets are to be energized in the coming years.

Apart from Solar Photovoltaic Pumps, Solar Photovoltaic Lanterns are distributed for the benefit of tribal people of hilly region under Hill Area Development Programme HADP and Western Ghats Development Programme WGDP. The cost of one Solar Photovoltaic Lantern is Rs.4100-

During the past 6 months, Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency distributed 1298 Solar Photovoltaic Lanterns as detailed below:

Under WGDP Programme 1995-96 = 60 Nos

Under HADP Programme 1995-96 = 34 Nos

Under Govt of India subsidy scheme = 1204 Nos

Total = 1298 Nos.

BIO ENERGY

During the half year ending 30.9.96 of this current financial year 1996-97 four biogas plants in private farms and one in co-operative sugarmill have been installed. Government have sanctioned a grant of Rs 5.20 lakhs for the installation of 2 community biogas plants and 10 institutional biogas plants in co-operative/TASCO sugarmills. Currently, work in biogas plants in 3 co-operative Sugarmills are under progress and concurrence of six more sugarmills are awaited. Apart from this seven more biogas plants are proposed to be installed in private farms without the subsidy of Government of Tamil Nadu.

The State Government has also sanctioned Rs.4.00 lakhs for the installation of a 20 KW Gasifier for electrical application in a Government farm. The Commissioner of Agriculture, Chepauk has been asked to selecting a suitable farm for this purpose.

With the financial assistance from MNES, five Energy Parks are proposed to be installed and Biomass assessment study is to be undertaken in 9 Taluks of Tamil Nadu and 2 1/2 months long programme has been entrusted to six institutions.

FREE TRAVEL CONCESSION EXTENDED

The free travel concession to the students studying upto VIII Standard has been extended to the students studying upto Plus two.

The widows and legal heirs of freedom fighters who are drawing Central Pension or State Pension or both pensions and the wife or husband and minor legal heirs of those who participated in the language stir to protect Tamil Language who are recipients of financial

assistance from the Government of Tamil Nadu have been allowed free travel concession in all the buses of State Transport Undertakings.

The Government have constituted a High Level Committee and a Sub-Committee to decide on the price and terms and conditions of supply of all items of purchase by the State Transport Undertakings.

Happiness is not pleasure, It is victory

In 1965, I was speaking at a seminar in Kansas City with six of America's top speakers. When the seminar ended on Saturday evening, I prepared for a solitaire dinner. However, as I stepped of the elevator into the lobby of the Muhlbach hotel, I heard the booming voice of Bernie Lofchick from Winnipeg, Manitoba: "Where ya going, Zig? Standing impeccably dressed, he called out across the lobby and flashed his ever-present grin. "I'm going to dinner, Bernie," was my reply. Then, with a sparkle in his eye, he said, "I'll tell you what I'll do, Zig. If you'll go to dinner with me, I'll buy."

Well, I have a standing policy. When anyone offers to buy my dinner, I let him. As we sat down to dinner, Bernie and I established a rapport that has grown until we are more like brothers than friends, in fact, I call him Brother Bern. We asked the usual questions that night. What are you doing here? What business are you in? How much family do you have? This kind of thing. After a few minutes I commented to Bernie that he had certainly come a long way to attend a sales rally. "yes", he

replied, "but it was worth it because I got lot of good ideas that will help our business grow". I persisted by pointing out it was a long way from Winnipeg to Kansas City and it costs a lot of money to travel that far. Bernie smiled and said, "Yes, but thanks to my son, David, I don't have to worry about the money." "That sounds like a story, I said, "would you tell it?" With this invitation, Bernie opened his heart and poured out one of the most thrilling stories I've ever heard.

"When our son was born, our joy literally knew no bounds. We already had two daughters and when David was born our family was complete. However, it was't long before we realized something was wrong. His head hung too limply to the right side of his body and he drooled too much for a normally healthy child. The family doctor assured us nothing was wrong and David would outgrow this problem. Deep in our hearts, however, we knew better. We took him to a specialist who diagnosed the problem as a reverse of club feet. They proceeded to treat him for this condition for several weeks.

We knew that the problem

was still more serious, so we took David to one of Canada's top specialists. After a very thorough examination, he said to us, "This little boy is spastic. He has cerebral palsy and will never be able to walk, talk or count to ten." He then, in effect, suggested we put our son in an institution* for his own good' and for the good of the 'normal' member of the family." With his eyes spitting fire, Bernie said, "you know, Zig, i'm not a buyer, I'm a seller and I couldn't see my son as a vegetable. I saw him as a strong, happy, healthy baby who was going to grow into manhood and live a full and productive life. With this in mind i asked the doctor if he knew some place we could go for help. The doctor rather adamantly said he had given us the best advice available and stood up to indicate the interview had ended."

As Brother Bern related the story to me he made a significant statement. "The only thing the specialist had done was to convince us to find a doctor who was interested in solutions and who wasn't over whelmed with problems."

Before the Lofchick's search had ended, they had taken

David to well over twenty specialists, each one told them essentially the same story and gave them the same advice. Finally, they heard of a Dr. Pearlstein in Chicago. He was reputed to be the world's foremost authority on cerebral palsy. Patients came to him from all over the world and he was booked solid for well over a year. Since, Dr. Pearlstein worked only through other doctors, Bernie enlisted the aid of his family physician. All the tests that had been made on David were sent to Dr. Pearlstein and contact was made for an appointment. Unfortunately, Dr. Pearlstein was so heavily booked he advised the physician to contact him again at a later date. When the doctor gave Bernie this information and said there was nothing more to be done, Bernie took matters in his own hands. He decided to see if he could get an appointment with Dr. Pearlstein for David. After much effort, Bernie finally reached him by telephone one evening. He persuaded him to place David on standby for the next cancelled appointment. A break came just eleven days later and David had that appointment with Dr. Pearlstein and with destiny. Hope at long last had reared its beautiful but elusive head. It was a welcome sight and the Lofchick's embraced it warmly.

The disease, Goliath, didn't know it but had a brand new

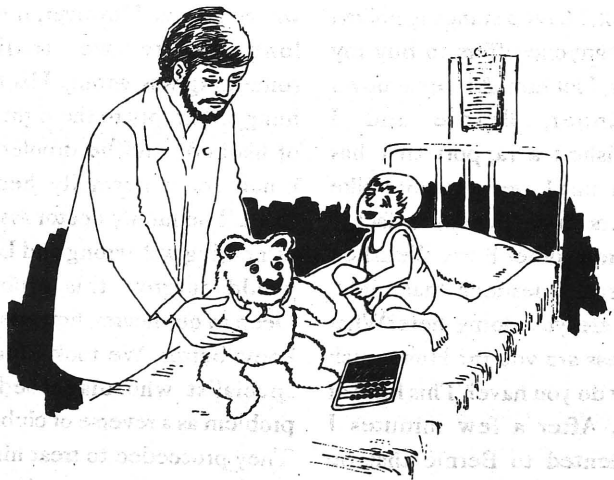
opponent. After several hours of examination, the diagnosis was the same David was a spastic. He had cerebral palsy. But there was hope, provided Bernie was willing to undertake the enormous and never-ending battle. The Lofchicks felt that no price could be too high to give their son his chance in life. So, they eagerly inquired what must be done.

Dr. Pearlstein and his therapist spelled out their instructions in minute detail. They were told that they were going to have to work David until he dropped and then they would have to work him some more. They would have to push him beyond all human endurance and then push him some more. He made Bernie and Elaine completely aware that it was going to be a

long, difficult and sometimes an apparently hopeless struggle. He stressed that once they started this course of action they would have to continue indefinitely. He emphasized that if they gave up or slacked off, David would go backwards and all the work they had done would have been in vain. Yes, the battle for David against his Goliath affliction had really begun. The Lofchicks now had hope and the hope had believability. They headed for home with a lighter step, a lighter heart and prepared for the battle ahead.

A physical therapist and a body builder were hired and a small gym was built in the basement. Physical effort and mental toughness became the order of the day.

After months of excruciating





and dedicated effort, small rays of hope began to appear. David acquired the ability to move. Even though it took him a long time, he was able to move the length of his own body. A giant milestone had been reached.

Still another one was reached with a phone call from the therapist who excitedly told Bernie he should leave his office and come home. When Bernie reached home, the Stage was set and David was ready to prepare for a supreme effort. He was going to attempt a pushup. With an effort seldom equalled by an adult, much less by a six-year old boy, David called on all his reserves. As his body started to rise above the mat, the emotional and physical exertion was so great there was not a dry inch of skin on his little body. The mat looked as if water had been poured on it. When that one pushup was completed, David, the therapist, Mother

and Dad all freely shed the sweet tears that clearly prove *happiness is not pleasure, it is victory.*

The story is even more remarkable when you understand that one of America's leading Universities had examined David and found that he had no "motor connections" to the right side of his body. That his sense of balance was such he would have serious difficulty learning to walk and he would never be able to swim, skate, or ride a bicycle. Yes, the disease, Goliath, was taking a licking. More importantly while whipping his Goliath, David was learning from experience and teaching by example, some of the truly great lessons in life. His progress was steady and according to the medical experts even spectacular. David is truly a remarkable boy who has made enormous progress, which is not surprising because his parents

saw David as a vibrant growing boy who was going all the way to good health.

Today, this "LittleBoy" has virtually discarded his forth bicycle except for those occasions when it is either too warm for him to iceskate or when he's not driving his car. Learning to ice skates was painful. Even though it took nearly a year just to learn to stand on those skates with the aid of a hockey stick, he went at it day after day. He did what was necessary to overcome his obstacles and succeeded so well he played left wing on the local hockey team. Even after these successes, the doctor still said it would probably take him two years to float, but he was floating in two weeks and swimming before the first summer was over. David has done as many as 1,000 pushups in a single day and once ran six miles without a break. At age eleven, he took up golf and applied the same enthusiasm and determination to it that he applied to every thing he has tackled. Result - he has already broken ninety.

It's exciting to watch David grow and to know that all of the characteristics he is developing and principles he is applying to succeed physically and academically, will take him just as far in his chosen field of endeavour. It is also exciting to know anyone can develop the

same characteristics, apply the same principles and succeed in life to the same degree that David is succeeding.

Mentally, David is in as good shape as he is physically. In September of 1969, he was accepted at the St. John's Raven Court School for Boys. It is one of the most demanding private schools in Canada. While in the 7th grade, David did quite well in 9th grade mathematics. That's not bad for a little boy who the doctors said was never going to count to ten. On October 23, 1971, my wife and I had the privilege of attending the convocation of Mitzvah of David Lofchick. I wish you could have been there to see David take that

giant step into manhood. With clear eyes a steady voice and unfaltering steps, David amidst a large group of loving friends and relatives from the United States and Canada, became a man. His performance was understandably outstanding since he'd been preparing all his life for the occasion.

Yes, Goliath is clearly on the deck, but just as clearly he hasn't been knocked out and probably never will be, David must exercise extensively and regularly for the rest of his life. Even a few days off takes a toll. Like any active 19-year-old there are times he would much prefer to be with his friends. However, when exercise time comes, David understands what

he must do and heads for the gym. Of course, it's not all work because in addition to his parents he has those two big sisters, a host of friends, and a large number of relatives who represent a lot of companionship and quite a cheering section.

One of the high points for David occurred in February, 1974, when a \$ 100,000 whole life insurance policy was issued on David's life. The policy was issued on a standard basis which, to the best of my knowledge, marked the first time a victim of cerebral palsy has ever qualified for such a contract.

(Courtesy: Zig Ziglar's 'See you at the Top'.)



Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi called on his Excellency the Vice President Thiru K.R. Narayanan at Raj Bhavan, Chennai on 24.11.'96

We present a G.O. every month,
for the benefit of readers.



FINANCE (PENSION) DEPARTMENT

G. O. No .462, Dated 31st July 1996
(Thadhu, Aadi 16, Thiruvalluvar Aandu 2027)

INTERIM RELIEF - Grant of Interim Relief to the State Government pensioners / family pensioners including pensioners / family pensioners of local bodies and aided educational Institutions - Revised Orders - Issued.

READ - the following :-

G.O.Ms.No.763, Finance (Pension) Department, dated 27.9.1995.

ORDER:-

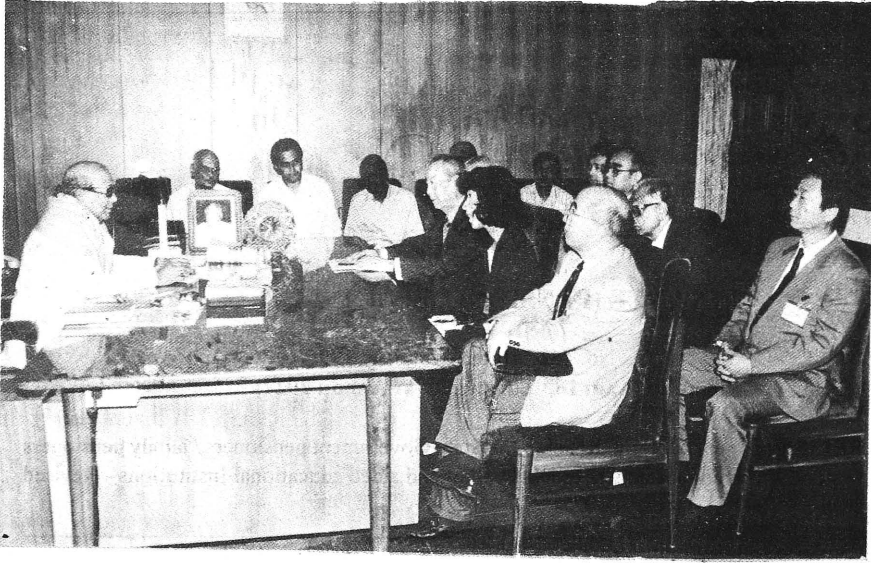
In the Government Order read above, orders have been issued sanctioning the payment of Interim Relief to the State Government pensioners/family pensioners including the pensioners/family pensioners of local bodies and aided educational Institutions at a flat rate of Rs.50/- (Rupees fifty only) per mensem and in addition, 10% of basic pension/family pension with effect from 1.10.1995.

2. The Government have now decided to grant Interim Relief sanctioned in the Government Order read above with retrospective effect from 1.4.1995 as in the case of Central Government pensioners / family pensioners. Accordingly, the Government direct that the Interim Relief sanctioned in the Government Order read above to the State Government pensioners/family pensioners including the pensioners/family pensioners of local bodies and aided educational Institutions be given retrospective effect from 1.4.1995.

3. In respect of pensioners/family pensioners for whom expenditure is met from State funds the expenditure shall be debited under the sub-detailed head "2. Interim Relief" under the detailed head "27. Pensions" under relevant minor sub-head under the major head "2071. Pensions and other Retirement Benefits." In respect of pensioners/family pensioners of local bodies for whom expenditure is met from the fund maintained by the Director of Local Fund Audit or Municipal Fund, as the case may be, the expenditure shall be met from the respective funds referred to above.

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

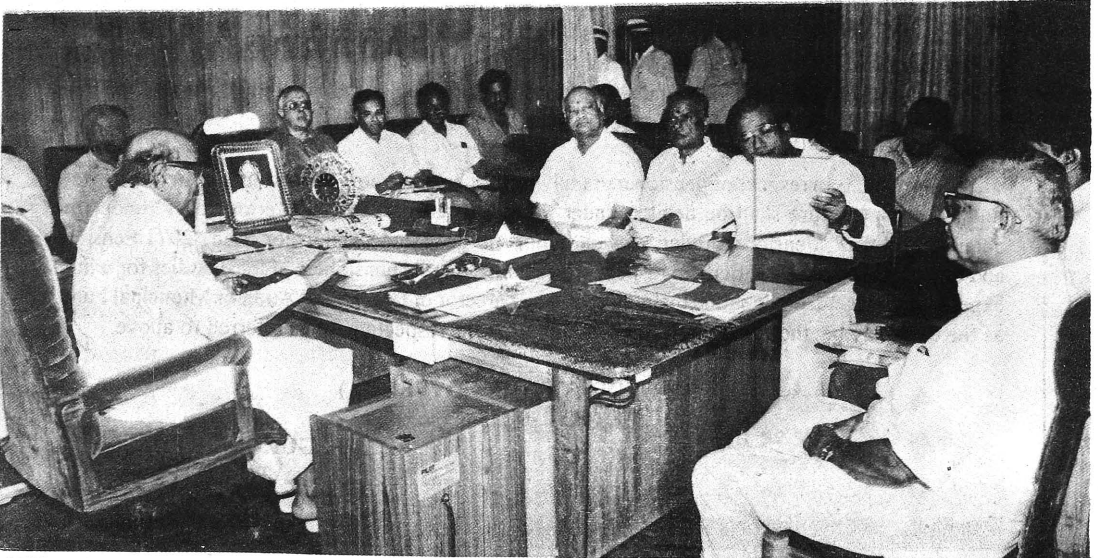
S. GURUMURTHI,
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT



A Small and Medium Enterprises Trade Mission from Japan called on the Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaigñar M. Karunanidhi at Secretariat, Chennai on 15.11.96.

PHOTO
FEATURE

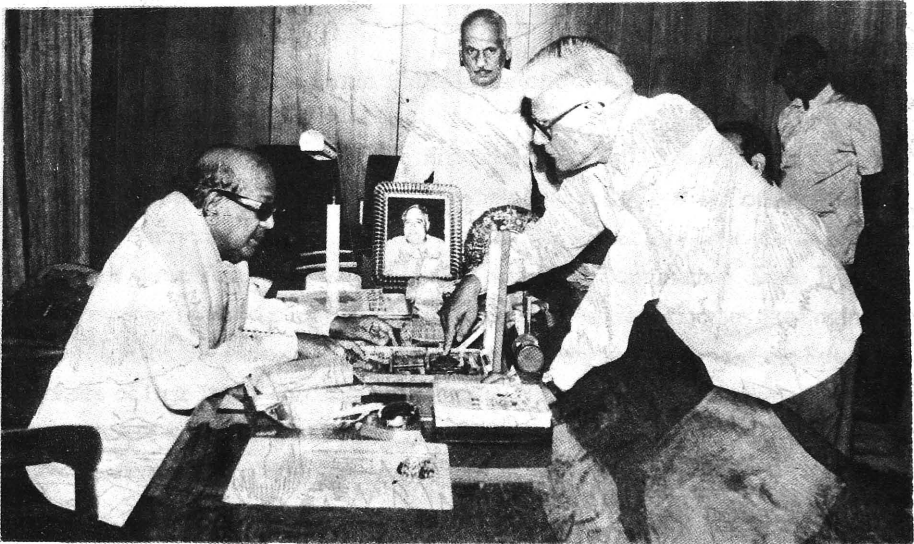
Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaigñar M. Karunanidhi held discussions with the management of Binny Mills and representatives of Trade Union of Binny Mills at Secretariat, Chennai on 18.11.96. Thiru Arcot N. Veerasamy, Minister for Health and Thiru A. Rahmankhan, Minister for Labour were also present.





The Tamil Nadu Flag Day Standing Committee met on 18.11.1996 at Raj Bhavan. His-Excellency the Governor Dr. M. Channa Reddy presided. Prof K. Anbazhagan, the Minister for Education, Thiru K.A. Nambiar, the Chief Secretary and other members participated in the meeting.

Prof. Chidambaram, a Member of State Planning Commission and a Member of the panel to improve the languishing American Diamond industry in Tamil Nadu explained the details on the Diamond Industry to the Hon'ble Chief Minister at Secretariat, Chennai on 15.11.1996. Earlier, the three member panel that also included Thiru S. Murugaiah, General Manager, SIDCO and Thiru Manivannan, Development Officer, TIDCO submitted a report to the Chief Minister.



Kuyil

- Subramania Bharati

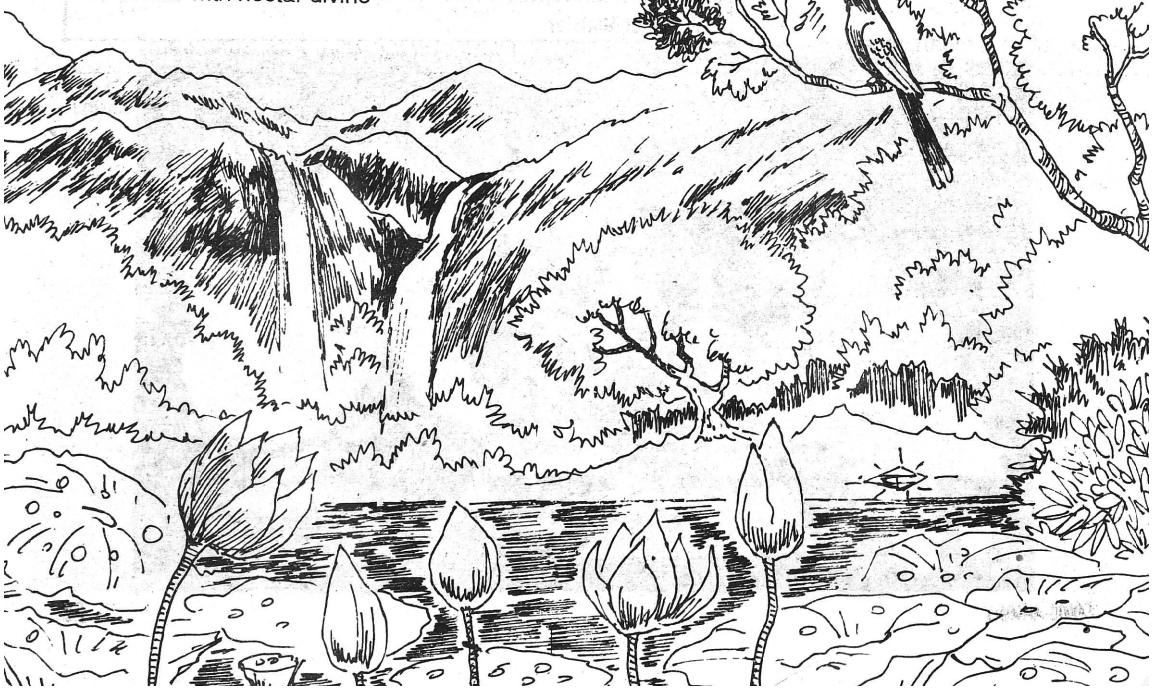
A little distance to the west
Of the famous town Pudukkottai
In Tamil Nadu in the South
May be seen, a mango grove.
In the morning sun the blue sea-
Its billows hugging the opulent coast
Singing their regular Vedic chant-
Provides a combination of colours
Azure against red, like glittering gems,
From all four sides the huntsmen come
To that large grove to shoot birds.

In that grove one blessed morn
Free from the hunter's incursion,
A female koel caught my eye
Sitting pretty on a branch.

She thrilled the males of the koel clan,
Destroyed their peace, set their hearts on fire
Ravished all the birds in that grove
And made them forget their morning chores,
Filled the air with nectar divine

And scattered lightning in thin streaks
A koel in shape, a siren from heaven
With her enthralling music she was casting a spell.

Drunk already on poetry
I lost myself in this daydream
Which seemed to come quite out of this world
Hearing this koels pristine song
Ecstatic, rapt out of my senses,
"why cant I", I asked myself,
"my human form for a koels change
Then should I from this sweet bird
Never be separated at all
And the two of us together should
Live and love and enjoy ourselves,
How sweet if in her fiery music
Both of us should be consumed!"



So I thought, mused much and yearned
The very gods could never have heard
Such sweet music as I heard that day
In the kuk-kuk of that koels song
A lot of meaning seemed enclosed.
That would I fain reveal to the world
But as for the wonderful voice, dear friends,
Where do you thing that I should go.

THE KOEL'S SONG

Love,love, love
Love departing, love departing
Death, death, death!

Light, light, light
Light obscuring, light obscuring
Blight, blight, blight.

Cheer, cheer, cheer
Cheer if ended,cheer if ended
Drear, drear, drear.

Tone, tone, tone
Tone enfeebled, tone enfeebled
Moan, moan, moan.

Time, time, time
Time if ill-kept, time if ill-kept
Crime, crime, crime.

Style,, style, style
Style abandoned, style abandoned
Vile, vile, vile.

Fame, fame, fame
Fame if sullied, fame if sullied
Shame, shame, shame.

Firm, firm, firm
Firmness cracking, firmness cracking
Worm, worm, worm.

Entwine, twine, twine
And later if the lad departs
Pine, pine, pine.

Flute, flute, flute
And if a rift should there appear
Mute, mute, mute.

Note: Koel is Kuyil in Tamil

Translated by: Thiru P.S. Sundaram

Academic Excellence encouraged

The Educational expenses of the first three Top Rankers of the S.S.L.C.Public Examination (State Board) for continuing their Higher Secondary Course will be met by the Government. Likewise, the Government will meet the Educational expenses of the first three Top Rankers of Higher Secondary Examination (State Board) for continuing their further College studies including Professional Courses like Engineering and Medical, as the case may be. Further, the Government will meet the Educational expenses of First Three Top Rankers of S.S.L.C.(State Board) and Higher Secondary Examination (State Board) at District Level also, from the year 1996-97 to those who appear for Examination during March / April 1997.

SIGNS OF CRISIS IN WORLD AGRICULTURE

Agricultural policies in practically all countries have focused on output growth. Despite this, it has proved far more difficult to raise world agricultural output by a consistent 3 percent a year in the mid-1980s than it was in the mid-1950s. Moreover production records have been offset by the appearance of linked economic and ecological crises; Industrialized countries are finding it increasingly difficult to manage their surplus food production, the livelihood base of millions of poor producers in developing countries is deteriorating, and the resource base for agriculture is under pressure virtually everywhere.

IMPACT OF SUBSIDIES

The food surpluses in North America and Europe result mainly from subsidies and other incentives that stimulate production even in the absence of demand. Direct or indirect subsidies, which now cover virtually the entire food cycle, have become extremely expensive. In the United States, the cost of farm support has grown from \$2.7 billion in 1980 to \$25.8 billion in 1986. In the EEC, such costs have risen from

\$6.2 billion in 1976 to \$21.5 billion in 1986.

It has become politically more attractive, and usually cheaper, to export surpluses—often as food aid—rather than to store them. These heavily subsidized surpluses depress the international market prices of commodities such as sugar and have created severe problems for several developing countries whose economies are based on agriculture. Non-emergency food aid and low-priced imports also keep down prices received by Third World farmers and reduce the incentive to improve domestic food production.

The environmental consequences are:-

- ☆ Lower productivity as soil quality declines due to intensive soil cultivation and overuse of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.
- ☆ The destruction of the countryside, through clearing of hedgerows, park belts, and other protective cover and the leveling, occupation, and cultivation of marginal land and watershed protection areas.
- ☆ Nitrate pollution of ground

water aquifers due to the often subsidized overuse of nitrate fertilizers.

A particular area of concern is the impact of the current incentive policies on developing countries. They depress international prices of products, such as rice and sugar, that are important exports for many developing countries and so reduce exchange earnings of developing countries. They increase the instability of world prices. And they discourage the processing of agricultural commodities in producing countries.

NEGLECT OF THE SMALL PRODUCER

The new technology behind increases in agricultural productivity requires scientific and technological skills, a system for technology extension and other services for farmers, and commercial orientation in farm management. In many parts of Asia, in particular, small farmers have shown a remarkable capacity to use new technology once they are given incentives and adequate financial and infrastructural support. Small cash-crop farmers in Africa have demonstrated the potential of the small holder

on that continent, and in the last few years successes have been recorded in food crops also. But ecologically disadvantaged areas and land-poor rural masses have not benefitted from advances in technology and will not until governments are willing and able to redistribute land and resources.

Agricultural support systems seldom take into account the special circumstances of subsistence farmers and herders. Subsistence farmers cannot afford the high cash outlay of modern inputs. Many are shifting cultivators who do not have a clear title to the land they use. They may plant a variety of crops on one plot to meet their own needs and are thus unable to use methods developed for large stands of a single crop.

Women farmers, though they play a critical role in food production are often ignored by programmes meant to improve production. In Latin America, the Caribbean, and Asia they form a large agricultural labour force, while most of sub-saharan Africa's food is grown by women. Yet almost all agricultural programmes tend to neglect the special needs of women farmers.

DEGRADATION OF THE RESOURCE BASE

Short-sighted policies are

leading to degradation of the agricultural resource base on almost every continent; soil erosion in North America; soil acidification in Europe; deforestation and desertification in Asia, Africa, and Latin America; and waste and pollution of water almost everywhere. Within 40-70 years, global warming may cause the flooding of important coastal production areas. Some of these effects arise from trends in energy use and industrial production. Some arise from the pressure of population on limited resources. But agricultural policies emphasizing increased production at the expense of environmental considerations have also contributed greatly to this deterioration.

LOSS OF SOIL RESOURCES

Increases in cropped areas in recent decades have often extended cultivation onto marginal lands prone to erosion. By the late 1970's soil erosion exceeded soil formation on about a third of US cropland, much of it in the midwestern agricultural heartland. In Canada, soil degradation has been costing farmers \$1 billion a year. In the USSR, the extension of cultivation to the so-called Virgin Lands was a major plank of agricultural policy. But now it is believed that much of this land is marginal.

In India, soil erosion affects 25-30 percent of the total land under cultivation. Without conservation measures, the total area of rainfed cropland in developing countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America will shrink by 544 million hectares over the long term because of soil erosion and degradation, according to a Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) study.

Erosion makes soil less able to retain water, depletes it of nutrients, and reduces the depth available for the roots to take hold land productivity declines. Eroded topsoil is carried to rivers, lakes, and reservoirs; silts up ports and waterways; reduces reservoir storage capacity; and increases the incidence and severity of floods.

Poorly designed and implemented irrigation systems have caused waterlogging salinization, and alkalization of soils. FAO and the UN educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation estimate that as much as half the world's irrigation schemes suffer in some degree from these problems.

IMPACT OF CHEMICALS

Chemical fertilizers and pesticides have played a large role in production increases since the Second World War, but clear warnings have been raised against over-reliance

on them. The run off of nitrogen and phosphates from excess use of fertilizers damages water resources, and such damage is spreading.

Using chemicals to control insects, pests, weeds, and fungi enhances productivity, but overuse threatens the health of humans and the lives of other species. Continuing, long-term exposure to pesticide and chemical residues in food, water, and even in the air is hazardous, particularly to children. A 1983 study estimated that approximately 10,000 people died each year in developing countries from pestitude poisoning and about 400,000 suffered acutely. The effects are not limited to the area where pesticides are used but travel through the food chain.

PRESSURE ON FORESTS

Forests are crucial for maintaining and improving the productivity of agricultural land. Yet agricultural expansion, a growing world timber trade, and woodfuel demand have destroyed much forest cover. Although this destruction has occurred worldwide, today the greatest challenge is in developing countries, particularly in tropical forests.

Growing populations and the decreasing availability of arable land lead poor farmers in these countries to seek new

land in forests to grow more food. Some government policies encourage the conversion of forests to pastures and others encourage large resettlement schemes in forests. There is nothing inherently wrong with clearing forests for farming, provided that the land is the best there is for new farming can support the numbers encouraged to settle upon it, and is not already serving a more useful function, such as watershed protection. But often forests are cleared without forethought or planning.

Deforestation most severely disrupts mountainous areas and upland watersheds and eco systems that depend on them. The uplands influence precipitation, and the state of their soil and vegetation systems influence how this precipitation is released into the streams and rivers and onto the croplands of the plains below. The growing numbers and growing severity of both floods and droughts in many parts of the world have been linked to the deforestation of upland watersheds.

The process of desertification affects almost every region of the globe, but it is most destructive in the drylands of South America, Asia, and Africa; for these three areas combined, 18.5 percent (870 million hectares) of pro-

ductive lands are severely desertified. Of the drylands in developing countries, Africa's Sudano-Sahelian zones and, to a lesser extent, some countries south of this zone suffer the most. In their arid and semi-arid lands are to be found 80 percent of the moderately affected and 85 percent of the severely affected people.

Land permanently degraded to desert-like conditions continues to grow at an annual rate of 6 million hectares. Each year, 21 million additional hectares provide no economic return because of the spread of desertification.

Desertification is caused by a complex mix of climatic and human effects. The human effects, over which we have more control, include the rapid growth of both human and animal populations, detrimental land use practices (especially deforestation), adverse terms of trade, and civil strife. The cultivation of cash crops on unsuitable rangelands has forced herders and their cattle onto marginal lands. The unfavourable international terms of trade for primary products and the policies of aid donors have reinforced pressures to encourage increasing cash crop production at any cost.

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