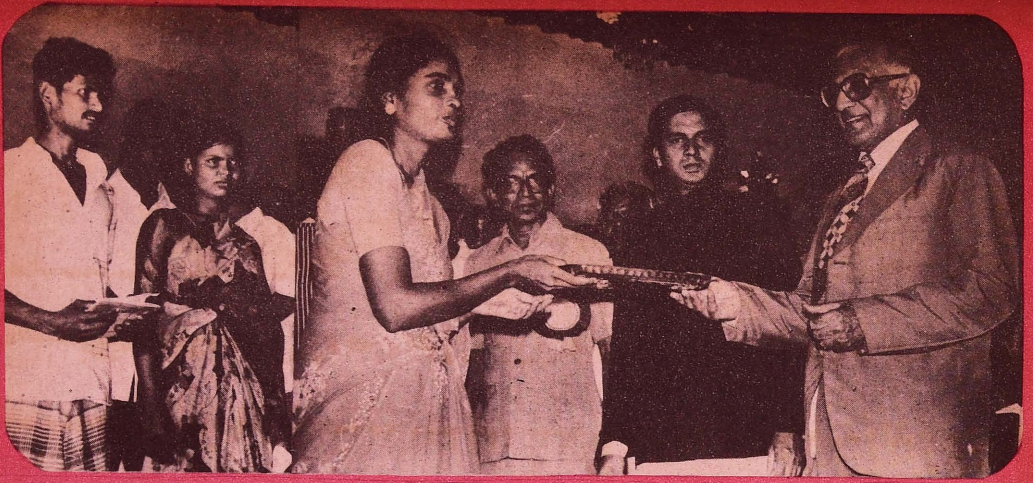
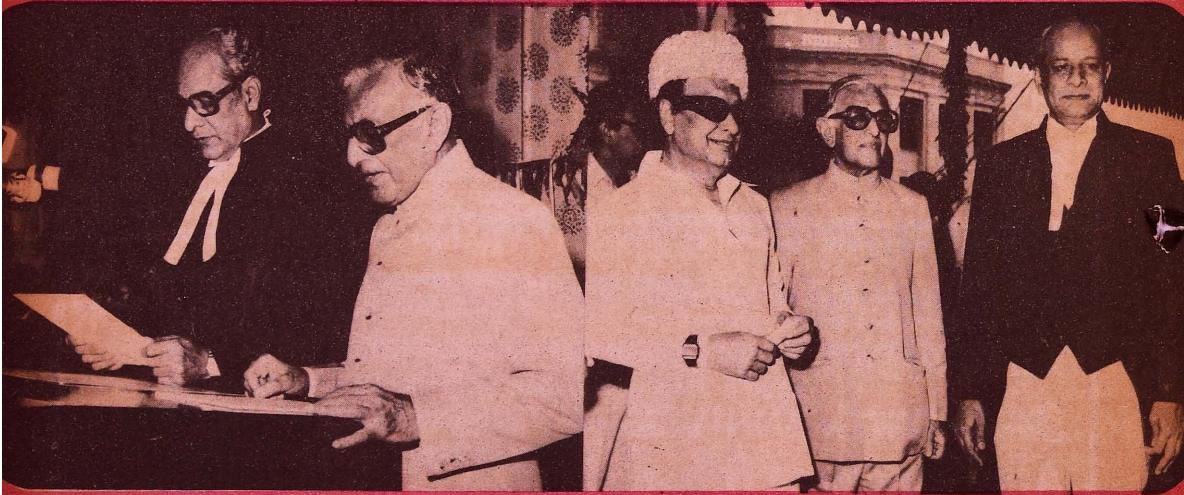




Tamil Arasu
May 1984 75 p.

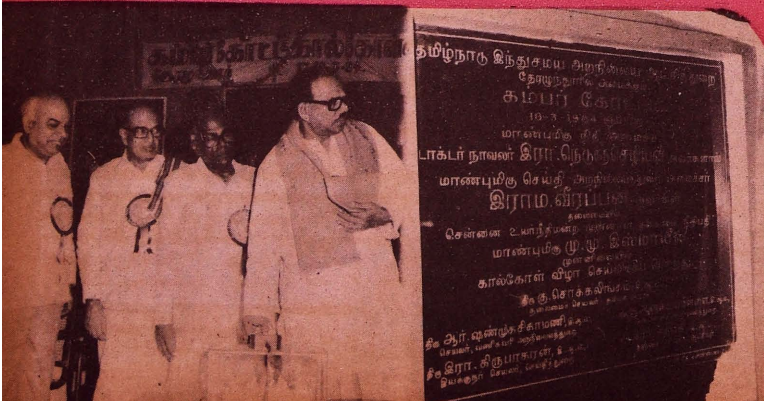


His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru S. L. Khurana distributed cash certificates to inter-caste married couples and a prize award to the best family welfare lady worker at Thanjavur on 23.3.84.



Thiru Madhukar Narhar Chandurkar was sworn in as the Chief Justice of Madras High Court on 2.4.84 and His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu administered oath of office at Raj Bhavan, Guindy.

Hon'ble Chief Justice Madhukar Narhar Chandurkar along with His Excellency the Governor Thiru S. L. Khurana and Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. M.G.R.



Hon'ble Minister for Finance, Dr. V.R. Nedunchezhiyan laid the foundation stone for Kamar Kottam at Therazhundur on 18.3.84 under the presidency of Hon'ble Minister for Information and Religious Endowments, Thiru R.M. Veerappan.

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Chithirai-Vaikasi

Tamil Arasu



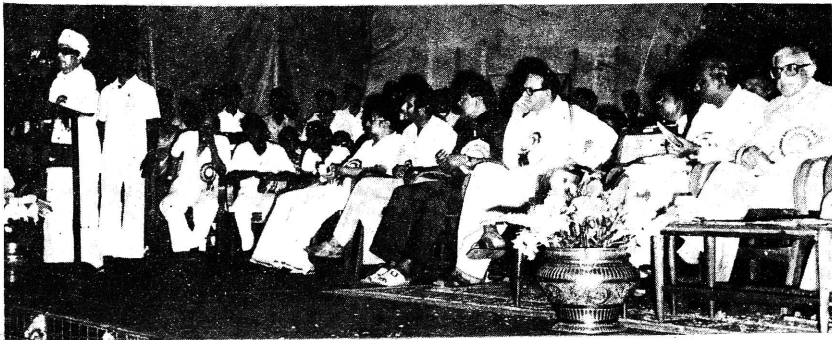
A GLITTERING FUNCTION FOR FILM AWARDS

A glittering function was got up by the Directorate of Information and Public Relations to present awards and subsidy to select feature films produced in Tamil during 1981-82 and medals for artistes at the Valluvarcottam on 13th April.

The Hon'ble Minister for Information and Religious Endowments, Thiru RM.Veerappan welcomed the gathering. He said that only under this Government, the Film-Industry, won recogni-

Film Producer's Association and Thiru Valampuri Somanathan, President, Tamilnadu Film Producer's Association, commended the State Government for the encouragement it gave to promote film industry.

His Excellency The Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru S.L. Khurana who presided advised the industry to produce only socially relevant films. Apart from being a good medium of entertainment



tion as an important aspect of life. This Government had done the maximum to promote the Film Industry, he added.

Hon'ble Justices Thiru P. R. Gokulakrishnan and Thiru R. Sengottuvelan who headed the committees constituted by the Government to select the best artistes and best films for awards and subsidy said that importance was given for the message the films conveyed and for their educational and cultural content.

Thiru S.S. Rajendren, President, Film Artistes Association, Thiru D. Ramanujam, President, All India Film Federation, Thiru A.R. Raju, President, South Indian Film Chamber of Commerce, Thiru G.Hanumantha Rao, President, South Indian





films should promote national integration.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamilnadu, Dr. M.G.R. presented the awards and felicitated the artistes.

The Chief Minister did not agree with the film industry's decision to boycott Information and Broadcasting Minister Bhagat and all Central Government bodies connected with film industry, including the Censor Board.

The Chief Minister advised the industry saying "this is not a correct approach, if the industry does not enter any film for consideration of national awards, the Centre would not be the loser and the film industry will not gain anything. Please end your boycott".

The Chief Minister said that the film industry would do well to fight from within. It should not resort to confrontation and agitation to get redress. If the Censorship guidelines were rigorous, the industry should meet the stipulations even while making representations against the rigorous rules and guidelines.

The State Award function should have been held on the Independence Day but it was not organised last year because of the ethnic violence in the island. The function was postponed from time to time.

Veteran of yesteryears Thiru K.Sarangapani was given the Rajasandow Memorial Award, carrying a cash award of Rs. 25,000/- and silver shield. He thanked the Chief Minister for the patronage he had extended to film artistes.

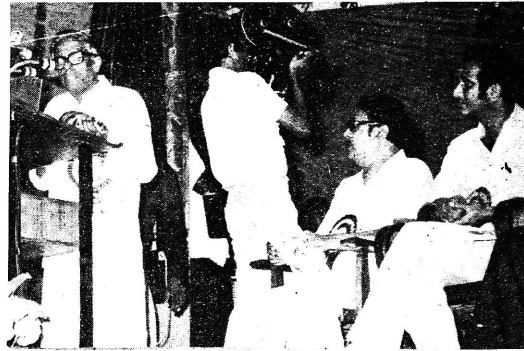
"Sumai", "Oru Varisu Uruvagirathu", "Avaloru Kaviyam", "Echil Iravugal" and "Rajapaarvai" were the five films which received Rs. 1 lakh each as special financial assistance.

Thiru Kamalahasan announced that he was presenting the cash award given to his film, "Rajapaarvai" to the Chief Minister for using it in whatever manner he wanted to. The Chief Minister handed over the money to Thiru Bharathi Raja for including it in the fund now being collected for helping indigent artistes in the State.

Thiru K.Sarangapani, Thiru Muktha Srinivasan, Prof.Prahasam, Thiru Bharathiraja, Thiru Karthik, Tmt. Manorama, Selvi. Radha, Selvi.

Sridevi, Thiru K.A.Thangavelu and Thiru Kamalahasan thanked the Government on behalf of awardees.

Thiru C.N.Krishna Bharathi I.A.S., proposed a vote of thanks.



AWARD WINNING FILMS-ARTISTES 1981-82

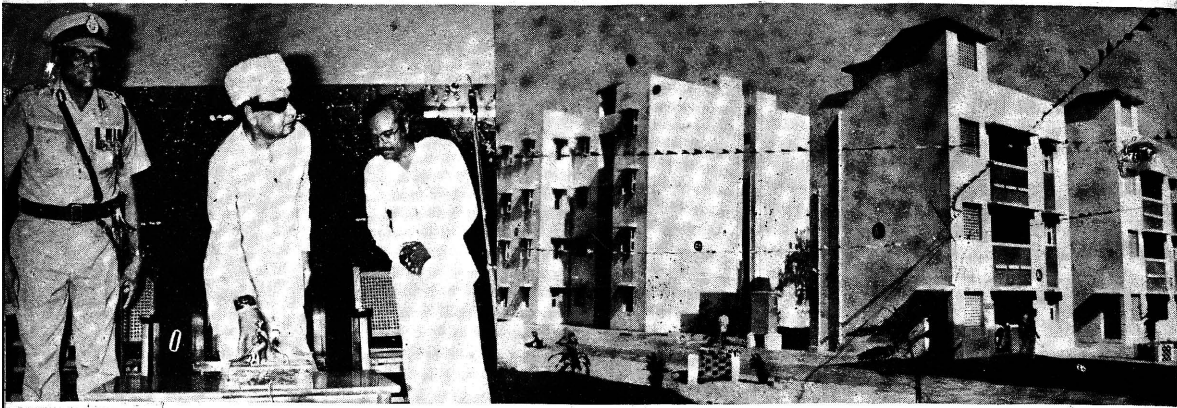
Best picture—First prize—Alaigal Oivathillai

Second prize—Keezhvanam Sivakkum

Third prize—Mundrampirai.

Best Documentary	—Amutham
Best Actor	—Thiru Kamalahasan
Best Actress	—Selvi Sridevi
Special Award-Actor	—Thiru Karthik
Special Award-Actress	—Selvi Radha
Best Director	—Thiru Bharathiraja
Best Story writer	—Thiru Manivannan
Best Dialogue writer	—Thiru Visu
Best Music Director	—Thiru IlayaRaja
Best Male play-back singer	—Thiru Jesudas
Best female play-back singer	—Tmt.Janaki
Best Lyrist	—Thiru Vairamuthu
Best Photographer	—Thiru P. Kannan
Best Comedy Actor	—Thiru K.A.Thangavelu
Best Comedy Actress	—Tmt.Manorama
Best Editing	—Thiru R.Bhaskaran
Raja Sandow Memorial Award	—Thiru K.Sarangapani

—G. Bhaskaran



RESIDENTIAL COMPLEX FOR POLICE

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. M. G. R. declared open a residential complex at Pudupettai behind Rajaratnam stadium in Madras for the Police, the largest police residential complex in Tamil Nadu, on the 1st May 1984, at a function organised by the Director General of Police. The complex consisted of 604 houses constructed on 5.35-acre land at a cost of Rs. 269.30 lakhs by the State Housing Board.

Of these, 12 apartments are for Inspectors, 544 for Head Constables and Constables.

This housing scheme was started in 1982 and

has been completed within the specified time limit.

At this function, the Chief Minister's Medals were presented by Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. M. G. R. to the Police, Fire Service, Jail and Home Guard Personnel.

Seventy meritorious and bravery awards were given to the personnel.

Police Residential quarters have been constructed by the Housing Board at a total cost of Rs. 901.07 lakhs consisting of 2881 houses all over the state.

POLICE RESIDENCES CONSTRUCTED BY HOUSING BOARD ALL OVER THE STATE

Serial No.	Name of place	No. of Houses	Cost. Rs. (in lakhs)
1.	Raja Annamalipuram, Madras	288	92.51
2.	Anna Nagar, Madras	111	44.23
3.	Mylapore, Madras	24	7.33
4.	Thiruvarangam, Trichi	45	14.25
5.	Palayamkottai, Thirunelveli	104	29.55
6.	Coimbatore	668	138.84
7.	Thanjavur	132	37.00
8.	Chinthamani, Trichi	104	37.29
9.	Salem	256	76.69
10.	Nagapattinam	377	111.00
11.	Dharmapuri	132	30.80
12.	Erode	36	13.08
13.	Pudupettai, Madras	604	269.30
Total		2881	901.07

A Silent and Great SAVANT of TAMIL

PROF. A. S. GNANASAMBANDAN

A hundred years ago, in an obscure village called Nadukkaveri situate on the banks of river Kaveri, near Thanjavur, an illustrious son of Tamil Nadu was born, who was destined in later days to play a major part in the development of Tamil Language and Literature. Born in middle class family of agriculturists Thiru N.M. Venkataswamy Nattar did not possess the usual facilities necessary to study English nor even Tamil and there were none to guide him either. Those were days when literary men—let alone the learned scholars—were very few and they lived in villages difficult of access. Another peculiarity of those days was that these so called scholars were well-versed in one or two poetical works of middle or later day literature only. If one were to pursue another work, after studying what was taught by the scholar, the poor student had no other alternative than to go in search of another teacher in another village.

The breadth of Tamil literature as is known today was not widely known then, for lack of printed books. Scholarship in general, was restricted to Kamba Ramayanam, Villi Bharatham, Naidatam, and Nalavenba. A few men here and there were learned in Tholkappiyam, Sangam Literature, and the early Epics like Cilappatikaram and Manimekalai. In the study of grammar, later day works like Nannul, and Yapprungala Karikai were studied by a majority of people, and only a negligible minority took the trouble of studying Tholkappiyam, the ancient grammar. If one wanted to study grammar it was very difficult to find a teacher who could teach that subject. Even among these scholars who were familiar with grammar not all would have got a

complete knowledge of a particular work. One who might be well-versed in Eluttatikaram and Collatikaram of Tholkappiam might not know Porulatikaram. This was the situation when Thiru Venkatasamy Nattar came on the field to drink deep the Peirian spring of Tamil Literature.

Try as he did, he could not find a teacher. This dearth of teachers did not deter him from pursuing his private studies. A born scholar as he was, he had such faith in himself, that he methodically began teaching himself, line by line, book by book. When he had doubts, he lodged them in his mind so that

he might seek clarification when he had the good fortune to meet a scholar, who was well-versed in that particular work.

Thiru. Nattar was unbelievably sharp of intellect and was indefatigable and industrious by nature. In those days Madurai Tamil Sangam was the only organization which tried to spread the literary spirit by conducting examinations annually. The sangam examination was the beacon which attracted the youth from Nadukkaveri. Attempting the examinations of the Sangam was an index of abundant confidence to the self-taught youth, that he was really on the path of acquiring real scholarship. The sangam was conducting three examinations namely, PRAVESAM, BALAPANDITAM, AND PANDITAR. The youth who was made of sterner stuff took both the second and third examinations at one sitting and came off with flying colours in First class.

After obtaining the most sought after diploma of those days, he took up a job in Bishop Heber College in Trichirapalli at a very early age. Towards the far end of this tenure, he accepted a professorship in Annamalai University on the personal request of the authorities of the institution.

Perhaps the best time of his literary career was spent in the Annamalai University amongst peers of his



NAVALAR VENKATASAMY NATTAR

First cover is adorned by Navalar Venkatasamy Nattar, the great Tamil Savant whose Birth centenary was Celebrated by the Government of Tamil Nadu recently

calibre. Thiruvalluvar Swami Vipulanda of Sri Lanka, Navalar Somasundara Bharathiyar, Basha Kavisekara, Mahavidvan R. Ragava Iyanagar were some of the giants working in the Tamil Department, along with Navalar N.M. Venkataswamy Nattar. Each of them was a class by himself and when all of them gathered in one department it was a kind of paradise for those who went there to learn Tamil. That was the golden age of Tamil literary movement.

Thiru Nattar is one who relied on himself and himself alone for learning the entire breadth of Tamil Language and Literature including ancient and medieval grammar. In those days, when others took up either literature or grammar for specialisation, Navalar was unique in mastering both these branches and that too without the aid of any teacher. Among his contemporaries only a few could stand by Navalar in the field of erudition. He authored several books, in addition to writing learned commentaries on Cilappatikaram, Manimekalai and Ahananuru.

Apart from his scholarship, which entitled him to renown, he was a

man who would answer the description by Cardinal Newman of a Gentleman, cent percent. Such an erudite scholar as he was, it was a feast of learned reasoning to hear his literary discourses. His equanimity was such that he suffered even fools without once losing his temper. In those days literary discourses were rendered by scholars void of any humour or embellishments. Thiru Venkataswamy Nattar was one who would enlighten the audience on any branch of Tamil Literature. To listen to him was to read a book and acquire knowledge which remained riveted and screwed in one's mind. His teaching abilities were well known and those who had the good fortune to sit at his feet in class rooms, and listen to him will never be able to forget that experience, and the present writer is one of those who had that unique fortune. His concentration on, and devotion to the subject under discussion, is something to be seen and heard: In a sonorous and subdued voice, without much of modulation, when he talks on any subject it was just like the flow of a mighty river.

He lived such a deep and unosten-

tious religious life that he almost became a STITAPRANJA as expounded in GEETA. His equanimity was inborn and deep and hence he towered above the other teachers around him. When he read devotional songs or when he prayed in the temple nothing could distract him. This writer had personal experience of this great man's concentration while praying or studying. His religious life moulded his life-style and hence he neither spoke ill of others nor listened to backwounding calumny. He never breathed a harsh word against any one even in private and he was alien to gossiping, the favourite pastime of the Tamils. In spite of his tender love for all, he had a sober and severe look which did not permit all and sundry to come close to him.

In future, when the history of Tamil Literature of the Twentieth Century is written, Thiru Venkataswamy Nattar is assured of a niche amongst those who have rendered yeomen service to this language.

Over Rs. 12 Crores for ADI-DRAVIDAR WELFARE

A sum of Rs. 12.3 crores will be spent during 1984-'85 under the special component plan for the economic upliftment of Adi-Dravidars in the State.

According to the note on budgetary demand for Adi-Dravidar and Tribal Welfare, presented to the Assembly on 22nd March by the Hon'ble Minister for Adi-Dravidar Welfare Thiru S. Vijayarathiyar, during the seventh five-year plan the special component plan will be implemented with the objective of bringing up the rest of Adi-Dravidar families, not covered by the sixth plan above the poverty line. The overall total provision for Adi-Dravidar and Tribal welfare for 1984-'85 is Rs. 54.29 crore.

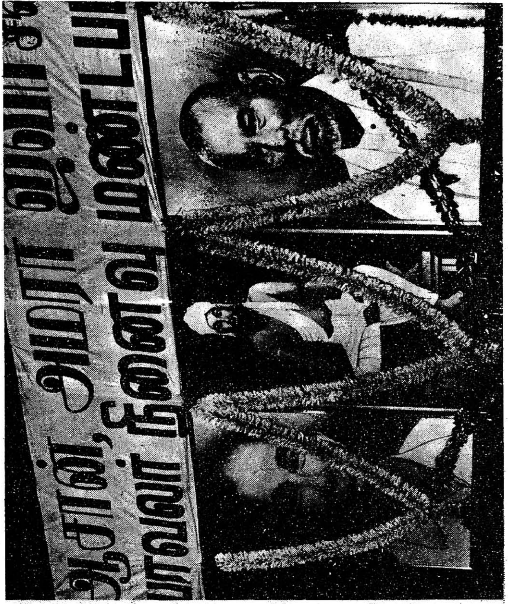
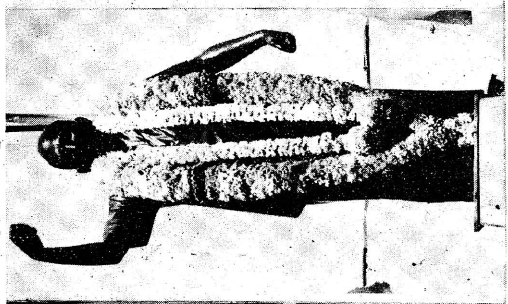
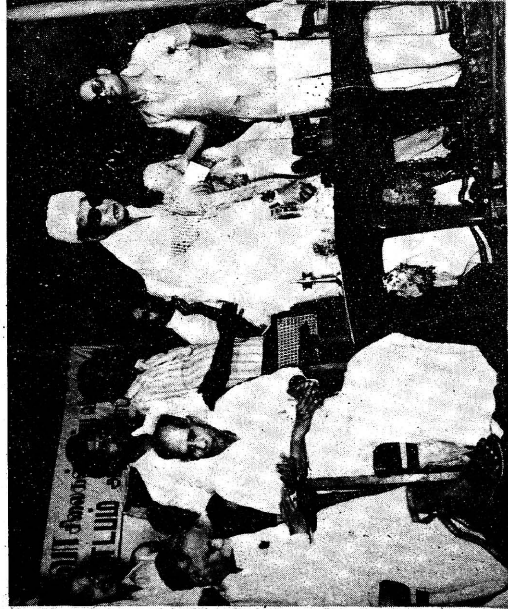
Out of this Rs. 26.17 crore will be spent on education alone. The incentive scheme of awards to bright Adi-Dravidar students gets an allocation of Rs. 3.20 lakh and Rs. 59 lakh has been provided for loan scholarships to Adi-Dravidar students pursuing professional courses. Adi-Dravidar welfare schools will be constructed at a cost of Rs. 1

A sum of Rs. 1.09 crore is set apart for the noon meal programme for Adi-Dravidar and Tribal Welfare schools. Rs. 5.50 crore is provided for new hostels and the maintenance of 705 hostels for Adi-Dravidar and Tribal students.

Feeder centres at Madurai and Tiruchi to provide pre-examination training for Adi-Dravidar and Scheduled Tribe students appearing for U.P.S.C. examinations will be opened at a cost of Rs. 1 lakh.

The Tamil Nadu Adi-Dravidar Housing and Development Corporation has been allocated Rs. 2 crore for the coming year. Rs. 29.12 lakh has been provided for drinking water wells for Adi-Dravidars, Scheduled Tribes and Adi-Dravidar converts to Christianity.

The demand note says that 11.27 per cent of the 18 per cent jobs reserved for Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes in government departments has been filled up and 12.43 per cent in public sector undertakings.



CHIEF MINISTER UNVEILED THE STATUES

The Hon'ble Chief Minister, Dr. M.G.R., unveiled the statue of the late great leader Jeevanandam at Anna Sports Grounds, Nagercoil on 29th April.

He also unveiled the statue of the renowned Tamil poet Athankotasan and laid the foundation stone for the memorial in honour of poet Seiguthambi. Athankotasan 2700 years ago, presided over the symposium at which the very ancient Tamil work Tholkappiyam was released.

The function was presided over by District Collector Thiru L.K.Tripathi, I.A.S.

The Hon'ble Chairman of the Legislative

Council, Dr. M.P.Sivagnanam, Hon'ble Irrigation Minister, Thiru Y.S.M.Yusuf, Tamil Nadu Congress Committee (I) President Thiru M.Palaniyandi, Thiru K.T. Kosalram, M.P., C.P.I. Leader Thiru M.Kalyanasundaram M.P., C.P.M. leader Thiru N.Sankarriah, Janata Party leader Thiru P. Mohammad Ismail M.L.A. and G.K.N.C. leader, Thiru K.Kumar Anandhan M.L.A. spoke at the function.

Thiru C.N.Krishna Barathy, I.A.S., Director of Information and Public Relations, welcomed the gathering.

The Chief Minister also distributed loans to people belonging to the weaker sections at the function.

First among States in sterilisation

Referring to the State's performance in the field of family planning, the Hon'ble Minister for Health said, Tamil Nadu occupied the first position in the country. The achievement this year was 124.4 per cent of the target. There was neck and neck competition between Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. With a larger number of IUD insertions, Maharashtra was statistically ahead of Tamil Nadu, but in respect of sterilisations Tamil Nadu was the first among the States. The State was far ahead of Maharashtra in achieving a reduction in birth rate—the figure was 26.5 compared with Maharashtra's 31.5. "Tamil Nadu is better off than Maharashtra in result-oriented programmes and so we are entitled to receive the Centre's first prize of Rs. 2.5 crores," he said.

The Chellammal Women's College of the Pachaiyappa's Trust, Guindy, had arranged for various glittering functions and the Sports Day, Valedictory function of various Associations of the College and Tree Planting ceremony were all spectacularly conducted and celebrated on 30th March under the Presidentship of Thiru S.T.Kasirajan, I.A.S., Transport Commissioner and the Chairman of the Committee of the Pachaiyappa's Trust. Hon'ble Minister for Information and Religious Endowments Thiru R.M.Veerappan was the Chief Guest. The Minister inaugurated the Tree Planting ceremony before the commencement of other celebrations

The Principal, Dr. Tmt. Indira Somasundaram, welcomed the Minister and the gathering and read out a splendid poetic welcome address to the Minister eulogising his services and talents.

In his presidential address, the Chairman Thiru S.T. Kasirajan, I.A.S., said that, after 1979, there was a rapid progress in the college. Before 1979, the demands of the College were neglected even if they were pressed for whereas now concessions are granted spontaneously without any demand, he said.

The Hon'ble Minister gave away prizes to the winners of prizes in studies, sports and in fancy dressing. The Hon'ble Minister, in his inspiring special address, said :

"In your welcome address you have admired me very much, rather too much. If I accept your adoration in toto I would be only cheating myself. As one who failed to have the opportunity for education at the appropriate age, I cannot have an over estimate of my own self and I believe that you have praised me so much out of sheer love for me. You have showered on me your fraternal wishes and maternal blessings.

Thiru Kasirajan, the Chairman pointed out a difference in progress before and after 1979. Once, I saw a strike staged by our sisters here and I was worried that they had resorted to a hard struggle. At times of crisis, even the timid cat

A unique Fortune For CHELLAMMAL WOMEN'S COLLEGE

can become a terrible tiger. Our sisters here also have similarly acted. If necessary rules are framed to help the Religious Endowments adopt this College, I assure you, we will adopt this college.

I was able to know your grievances personally after coming here. The building here is cracking. It does not seem to be a college building where girls are studying.

I wish to make mention of what our Chief Minister Dr. M. G. R.



I praise your patience and devotion to duty and study carrying on your penance under unpleasant circumstances.

This College must be developed into a first rate institution with fitting facilities. You must all pay homage to the late revered Chellammal, the great philanthropist who donated all her hard-earned wealth for the institution with the noble ideal of providing education to the younger generations.

I wish to give you an assurance.

has pointed out. Our women are well educated and have progressed much. He warned our men of this competitive situation and advised them to be vigilant, diligent and studious enough to keep pace with them."

The Minister's speech was very interesting, instructive and inspiring and the students and the lecturers and Professors felt all enticed, encouraged and elated by his oration, praise and promise and there was a resounding ovation then and there till the end.



Rs
36
Lakhs
for

public good.

At a 'starry' show held on 19th April, the Collector of Madras, Thiru K.Sundaramurthy I.A.S., handed over to Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. M.G.R. Rs. 36 Lakhs, being the proceeds of the entrance fees for the cultural show put on board by eminent film artistes.

The Chief Secretary, Thiru K.Chockalingam, I.A.S., presided over the function. He said Tamil Nadu was foremost in providing relief to the downtrodden and the needy.

Accepting the princely purse presented by the Collector, the Chief Minister said that the money would be used to provide succour to the under-privileged sections of the community like widows and agricultural workers. In case of death of workers engaged in hazardous occupation, the family would be given Rs. 5,000 out of this fund, he said.

The Chief Minister said that it was necessary to have a substantial reserve fund to help people at times of natural calamities and tragedies. He was happy that the artistes were in the forefront of serving the community.

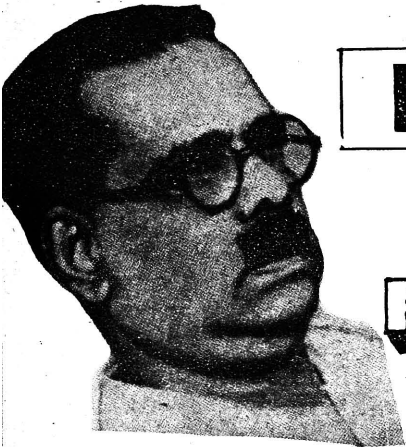
They have helped in this collection with out expecting anything in return, he said. He appealed to the artistes to continue their selfless service for the benefit of the society.

The Chief Minister said there were some persons who had a weakness for criticism of everything. And these persons were bound to say all kinds of things. The artistes should not bother about this spiteful criticism but should continue in their path of serving the masses.

Hon'ble Minister for Information and Religious Endowments, Thiru R.M. Veerappan who spoke at the function said that the artistes were part and parcel of the community. They shared the joy and distress of the people. It was appropriate that the artistes had helped in a massive way the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

On behalf of the Government, the Chief Minister presented gold rings to 70 artistes who had made the cultural programme, a big success and also to the Government officials and others who worked for it.





BHARATHIDASAN - POET OF REVOLUTION

Dr. N. Sanjeevi

Of the three thousand years of dynamic, delightful and developing history of Tamil literature, a unique phenomenon in the world of literature, Bharathidasan, otherwise known as Pavendar meaning the king of Poets or Puratci-kavingar meaning the poet of revolt shines as the latest and brightest literary luminary who rightly compels the attention and appreciation, admiration and adoration of literary scholars all over the world in view of the quantity and quality of his creative writings. The beauty and boldness of his varied literary forms are considered as a fitting sequel to the outpourings of Subramania Bharathi (1882-1921) whose acquaintance Bharathidasan was fortunate to secure when the former was in a political exile in a then French settlement namely Puducherry (Pondicherry) during the second decade of this century along with Sri Aurobindo, V. V. S. Iyer and others.

Bharathidasan was born in 1891 nine years after the birth of Subramania Bharathi and nine years before the birth of twentieth century in a middle class non-brahmin family. Although he became an avowed atheist and an intellectual revolutionary his respect for his mentor who was a believer and Brahmin by birth never diminished because Bharathidasan was fully convinced of Bharathi's zeal for social equality and emancipation, progress and peace. In short, not only the pen-name 'Bharathidasan' which he retained till the end of his life, but the statements in poetry and prose he has made whenever an occasion demanded about the qualities of head and heart of Subramania Bharathi stand testimony to Bharathidasan's qualities of truthfulness and gratitude.

Bharathidasan who lived a full life of 73 years died on the 21st April, 1965 at Madras and was buried at Pondicherry where the Government of Pondicherry has raised a memorial. By profession a Tamil teacher, by conviction an ardent follower of Periyar E. V. Ramaswamy, father of the Dravidian movement that ushered in a big political and social change in South India in fifties and sixties, a journalist, a political sufferer and a politician in later years Bharathidasan has created a deeper impact on the people of Tamilnadu which is more relevant in post-Independent era.

Besides being a poet of beauty, Bharathidasan's irrefutable credentials were his fiery opposition to blind beliefs, wornout traditions, socio-economic inequalities and imposition of Hindi. His pertinent contribution to Tamil poetry is his poems which encourage widow-marriage and birth-control. And his poems in praise of Lenin and socialism shall also be relevant for ever. Some of his poems are excellent examples of universal appeal.

We may now have a few examples in English translation (though inadequate as even any excellent translation may be) to have a glimpse of the heat and light of the volcanic personality of Bharathidasan.

(Sung in the style of the pole dancer's song)

Tiduthidum thiduthidum thiduthidum thiduthidum
 Tiduthidum thiduthidum thiduthidum thiduthidum
 Aha! salute you all
 Aha! sit all orderly please
 Ye all who have begotten children
 Hallo my Young brother!
 Hallo my brother old!
 Look here brother a skeleton!
 No flesh! no strength!
 Yes thiduthidum what is its name?
 What is the name of this medicine?
 When touched inside your soul it will be sweet
 that is that crystal-clear Tamil! Yes that Crystal-
 clear Tamil
 Now I smear this medicine over this skeleton!
 O! brother strike the drum
 thiduthidum thiduthidum thiduthidum thiduthidum
 look the Tamil skeleton laughs!
 blossomed our land that was barren and destroyed
 look our fresh-green Tamil land sings!
 O! mothers! O! fathers!
 no magic! no mantras!
 What is wanted is will
 What is wanted in the search for a way
 To get rid of our woes!

Lullaby song for a female child

O! casket of camphor
 to spread such a sweet perfume
 Overwhelming the awful bad odour of blind-
 beliefs!



O! Lady of ever-burning light
to dispel the darkness of unwanted caste-system!

Lullaby song for the male child

O! the hero of young and strong shoulders!
to catch and control those untamed bulls
that attempt to hit us when told
Of the evils of blind-beliefs
that causes cruelty and waste our valuable life !

On widow-marriage

When the woman dies
the widower seeks another woman
like that we shall ask
the widow to get a husband for her

Birth Control

While keeping the door for love open
We shall shut the door for conception
What harm is there
Otherwise what for is a child ?
to die or to languish ?

On a caste / Class free new communist society

O! the world is still in the dark dungeon !
Still the people who adhere to caste are alive!
Still are there the religious heads who threaten
and curse

The world marches towards the goal
where all get all

* * *

Let us create a new world
Where the war-lords shall be wholly uprooted

* * *

When the poor begging-bowls
Become warriors to beat the rich
There shall be no beggars and barons
All will become equal. O! man realize this.

Up up climb ! integrating 'country with country
Up up climb over the hills that hit the skies!
Up up climb ceaselessly!
Having climbed up look around all-over!
Look around all the people of the world all over!
Look around the thick of your human population!
Look around the army of men who were born
with you !

Enjoy looking at the human sea!
Cry out that you are the human sea !



LOANS TO WEAKER SECTION

SETTING UP OF A NEW DEPARTMENT

Some States have made much progress through Institutional Finance mainly because of the existence of a co-ordinating agency between the development departments of the Government and banks and term lending institutions. The banks had also felt the absence of such a co-ordinating agency. In order to fulfil the long-felt desire of the banks and to improve the economic status of the weaker sections in society the Government of Tamil Nadu have created a separate Department of Institutional Finance.

In Tamil Nadu, 57.2 per cent of the population (as against the National average of 48.13 per cent) is below the poverty line. Arignar Anna, the illustrious ex-Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, visualised that real freedom meant freedom to the poor and the weak. The objective of the Government of India as well as the Government of Tamil Nadu is to eradicate poverty. A number of welfare schemes like Nationalisation of Banks for distribution of loans to the people in rural areas, Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), National Rural Employment Programme (NREP), New 20-Point Programme etc. have been implemented in order to uplift the economically weaker section of the people and to enable the poorer section of the people, particularly the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, to cross the poverty line.

Under the IRDP, loans are given for Agriculture, Animal Husbandary, Minor Irrigation, Village Industries, Artisans and Industries Service and Business Sectors. The

Thiru V. Sundaram, I.A.S.

*Commissioner and Secretary to
Government,
Institutional Finance Department.*

total loans issued by Nationalised and Commercial Banks in districts other than Madras under IRDP during April 1982 to March 1983 is Rs. 6791.65 lakhs.

There are 3639 credit outlets in the State as a whole, of which 426 outlets (11.7%) are accounted for by the Co-operatives. These co-operative outlets in 1981-82 handled ten lakh accounts involving a disbursement of Rs. 198 crores. On the other hand, the State Bank of India and the Nationalised banks accounted for over 2,000 credit outlets involving a total disbursement of Rs. 438.7 crores in 1981-82. The private sector banks accounted for 965 credit outlets involving a disbursement of Rs. 37 crores. Agricultural loans to the tune of Rs. 97.50 crores were disbursed

through the co-operative institutions to a total number of 5,68,000 beneficiaries during 1982-83.

Co-ordinated flow of credit for development purposes should ensure the following:

- (a) all the credit institutions should have tailor - made loans according to the needs of specific areas and specific target groups;
- (b) the loans should be linked to the credit-worthiness of the purpose rather than to the credit-worthiness of the person;
- (c) the loans should be disbursed as part of an overall integrated programme which provides the necessary backward and forward linkages;
- (d) streamlined seasonal and periodical arrangements should be made for the effective disbursement of

the loans during the sowing season and the recovery of the loans during the harvest seasons.

SETTING UP OF A NEW DEPARTMENT.

The up'if'ment of weaker sections through institutional finance will be possible only when the banks are able to widen their activities in the State under the direction of a coordinating authority at State level. States like Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka have made much progress through Institutional Finance mainly because of the existence of a coordinating agency between the development departments of the Government and banks and term lending institutions at the Secretariat level. In Tamil Nadu, there was no apex body at the Secretariat level to look after the immediate problems. The banks had also felt the absence of such a co-ordinating agency at the Secretariat level for a long time. In order to fulfil the long-felt desire of the banks to have such an apex body at the Secretariat level and keeping in view the imperative need to improve the economic status of the weaker sections in society through institutional finance, the Government of Tamil

Nadu have created a separate Department of Institutional Finance in July 1983. This is currently attending to credit planning and the more important task of co-ordination of flow of credit and term-finance from various institutions for development purposes. This involves a catalytic role and also co-ordination as between the development departments and the banking and term-lending institutions. This department has generated an awareness among the weaker sections in the society to utilise credit for development purposes and thereby improve their economic status. Keeping in view the shift in policy, the Government have redesignated the Project Officers (ARDC Schemes) working in the Collectorates in the State as Project Officers (NABARD and Institutional Finance). These officers will hereafter assist the Collectors in the task of effective co-ordination in working as between developmental agencies and financial institutions in the districts. At the sixth meeting of the State Level Co-ordination Committee for co-ordination between Government and Commercial banks held on the 27th August 1983, under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, it was decided to launch a programme for giving loans to 1,00,000 beneficiaries before 15th September 1983. This

was put through successfully by a massive and crash programme. In all 1,70,564 beneficiaries have been benefited under the programme, out of which 56,966 belong to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Communities. The amount disbursed to the weaker sections under the Crash programme comes to Rs. 37.76 crores, of which Rs. 30.10 crores represents loans disbursed through banks and Rs. 7.66 crores represents subsidy given by the Government. In Madras City alone, as many as 15,000 beneficiaries have been covered under this programme.

CREDIT FOR AGRICULTURAL SECTORS :

Agriculture is the mainstay for the majority of the weaker sections in society. The Institutional Finance Department had taken up the task of assessing the credit requirements of agriculture sector for the months of October-December 1983. Accordingly, targets for the districts had been fixed and action taken to ensure that the credit requirements of the agricultural sector for October - December 1983 were met without any short-fall. It is heartening to note that the Commercial Banks have given about Rs. 100 crores as crop loan during the above period.



A State Level Co-ordination Committee on Institutional Finance for Agriculture with Agriculture Production Commissioner as Chairman and Commissioner and Secretary to Government, Institutional Finance Department as Convenor, has also been formed in November 1983 for monitoring and reviewing the flow of credit for agriculture and allied sectors.

SETTING UP OF A SPECIAL CELL :

The institution of credit is as old as man. It has now become

and technological methods by the loanees in utilising the loan for productive purposes ;

- (3) Developing the habit of savings ; and
- (4) Prompt repayment.

The newly created Department of Institutional Finance will have to play a dynamic role in identifying and removing the short-comings noticed in the better utilisation of credit by the weaker sections in society. The new Department func-

SELF-EMPLOYMENT FOR EDUCATED UNEMPLOYED YOUTH

Under this scheme which extends to all areas except cities with more than one million population and which aims at providing self-employment opportunities to educated unemployed youth through industry, service and business routes, the beneficiaries will be given a minimum provision of Rs. 10,000. A target of 17,500 units of entrepreneurs/services/business has been fixed for Tamil Nadu for 1983-84. They can obtain from the banks a



more a way of life than a mere principle. The chronic draw-back in our credit system is that it is very often utilised more for unproductive purposes than for productive purposes. Unless it is used consciously as a lever of development, neither the economic system nor the economic status of the weaker sections in the society can improve. The success of the credit system depends mainly on the following :—

- (1) The creation of a social awareness among the weaker sections in the society to utilise the loan for productive purposes ;
- (2) Adoption of latest scientific

tioning from the Secretariat can only function as a policy making body. In order to ensure that the aspirations of the newly created department are fulfilled, a separate Cell consisting of three Joint Directors have been set up by the Government in October, 1983.

The Cell is looking after the opening of branches in unbanked areas. The Joint Directors when they visit the districts also identify the need for opening the branches in new areas in consultation with the Lead Banks and District Collectors.

composite loan upto a maximum of Rs. 25,000. The assistance from the Government of India will be in the shape of an outright capital subsidy to the extent of 25% of the loan contracted from the banks. A sum of Rs. 30 crores is the target to be achieved by 31st March 1984. The Department of Institutional Finance is arranging for the bank loans. A sum of Rs. 3315.58 lakhs has been sanctioned as loans to 21,247 persons till 10th April 1984.

TRYSEM : (Training for Rural Youths Self Employment)

Government have recently launched a programme to provide credit facilities to unemployed and



under-employed educated and technically trained youths in the State so as to enable them to start and run new ventures under TRYSEM scheme. As a first step, around 10,000 are being given financial and other assistance both from Government in the shape of subsidy drawn from the Integrated Rural Development Programme funds and from commercial banks as loans. This will enable them to set up self-employment ventures in semi-engineering

trades. Beneficiaries will be selected by a Task Force set up under the Chairmanship of the District Collectors from out of 1,30,000 youths trained under TRYSEM in the various Industrial Training Institutes. The project profiles in a few selected trades prepared by the Director of Employment and Training are being used under the scheme. Each beneficiary will be given financial assistance from Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 10,000 depending upon the type of unit.

The financial assistance will be in the form of subsidy-cum-loan. The Department of Institutional Finance is arranging for bank loan. Till 31st March 1984 a total sum of Rs. 161.49 lakhs has been sanctioned as loans to 3,303 beneficiaries.

During the February - April 1984, loan assistance to the tune of Rs. 41 crores has been distributed through banks to 1,76,000 poorer sections of the people in Tamil Nadu State.

PURSE TO PURATCHI KAVIGNAR

In the year 1946 there was mammoth meeting in the play grounds of the Pachaiyappa's College at Esplanade, Madras. The Principal of the Salem College Thiru A.Ramaswamy Gounder, myself, Prof. Chokkappa and M.R. Sidhaiyan came from Salem to take part in the function.

Arignar Anna collected with his own efforts a sum of Rs. 25000 and presented a purse to the eminent poet Bharathi Dasan. Navalur Somasundara Bharathiyar presided. Prof. R.P.Sethu Pillai who was then the head of the Tamil Department of the Madras University spoke.

Navalar Nedunchezhiyan addressed the huge gathering amidst jubilant applause praising Arignar Anna and the poet.

Navalar Somasundara Bharathiyar in his concluding remarks said, "Arignar Anna is India's charismatic leader".

M. Rajagopalan

Member, Experts Committee for
Periyar Biography.

SPACE HEROES RETURNED SAFELY

Indian cosmonaut Rakesh Sharma returned safely to earth on 11th April with the two Soviet Cosmonauts, bearing the precious cargo of a space alloy, remote sense photos of half of Indian territory and data on the usefulness of yoga to conquer space sickness.

Their Soyuz T-10 landed at 16.19 hours IST, exactly on schedule, on the predetermined spot. Sharma reported immediately on landing to the pilot of the recovery helicopter that he and his companions were feeling fine. The landing site was between the Kazakh town and Molodozhnaya Village on the steppe. The event was witnessed by a team of space and medical experts and a large number of mediamen.

A team of doctors who entered the descent module seconds after the landing reported that Sqn.Ldr.Sharma and cosmonauts Yuri Malyzhev and Gennadi Strekalov were in "good health".

Fourth Cover

400th Birth Centenary of

Natana. KASINATHAN

Director of Archaeology

Thirumalai Nayak, the greatest among the Nayak rulers who ruled Madurai during 16th-17th centuries, had carved out a niche for himself in the history of Tamilnadu - born in 1584 A.D., had the chance of assumption as ruler of Madurai in 1623, A.D. and ruled till his death i.e. about 1659 A.D.

Being the son of Krishnappa Nayaka during whose time the notable event of the effective organisation of the Marava country under Sethupathis had taken place, he seems to have followed closely the footsteps of his meritorious father in the field of administration. Succeeding his brother Muthuverappa in 1623 A.D. Thirumalai Nayak became the best known ruler of Nayak dynasty within very short period by his virtuous activities. "In the field of art and architecture his reign was a period of pomp, splendour and magnificence."

Till 1634 Thirumalai Nayak was loyal to Vijayanagar ruler, though it was only a normal subordination. After that he ruled as an independent ruler and took large number of military campaigns. In 1634-35 A.D. he annexed Travancore region with his empire.

Thirumalai Nayak



"Thirumalai Nayakar was the master builder of his age and he made a significant contribution in the realms of art and architecture." He built both religious and secular buildings. For most among the religious edifices is the famous Pudemandapa in front of Meenakshi temple. The magnificent Palace to the South East of Temple is the masterpiece of all the secular buildings he erected. He also dug the

Vandiyur Teppakkulam and carried out considerable repairs and renovations to the Meenakshi Temple and began to build the Raja Gopura, but left it unfinished. He had constructed pillared mandapam in number of temples such as Tirupparankunram, Alagarkoil, Srivilliputtur etc.

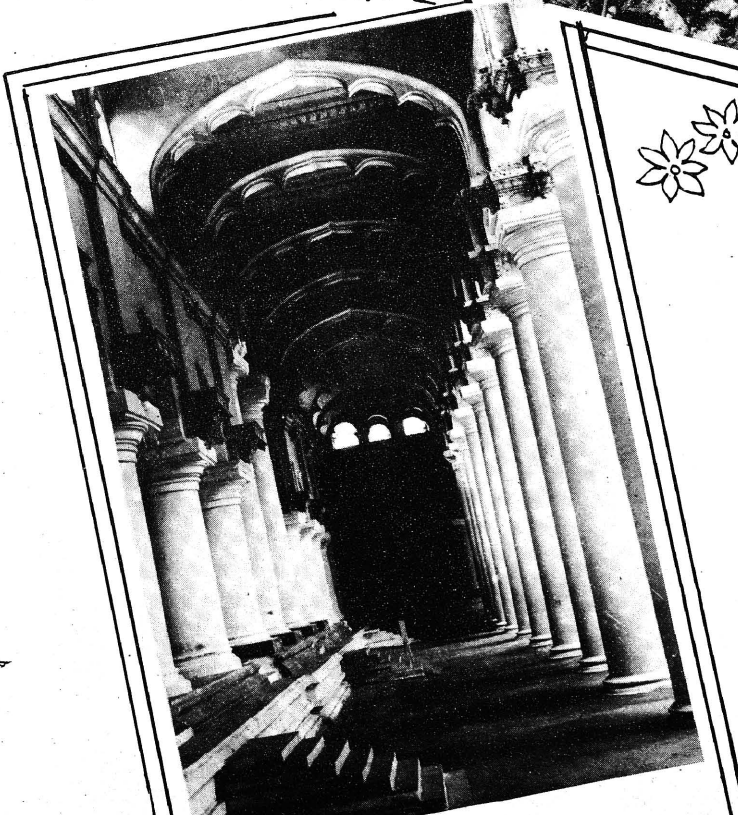
Thirumalai Nayak Palace, the magnificent secular structure which was built in 1636 A.D. attest the fact of the architectural skill of those people. They used not only the indigenous method but also mingled the Greek style for which an architect is said to have been brought from Italy.

"The building that we see today was the main Palace building, where Thirumalai lived. But it is believed that the original palace complex was four times bigger than what it is today. The grand palace as built by Thirumalai consisted mainly of two parts namely Swargavilasa and Rangavilasa.



Besides these two royal residence, there were a theatre, a palace shrine, queen apartment, an armoury, a building for housing palanquines and the like, and royal landstand, quarters for relatives and servants, a pond gardens etc. The whole was enclosed by walls on all four sides."

Thirumalai Nayak had become a renowned personality as he had enormous affection with his subjects. He never failed in praising and rewarding his subjects when they endeavoured in adventurous activities. On one occasion, while he was on pilgrimage to Srivilliputtur, he happened to see a woman with her children weeping on the road side. On enquiry he understood that her husband was killed by a ferocious tiger. Immediately he issued an order that the tiger ought to be killed and the helpless people saved. Muvaraiyattevan, a citizen of a Palaiyappattu came forward announcing that he would kill the tiger and killed the tiger as he promised. Hence Muvaraiyat-



tevan was rewarded with the gift of a village and was conferred a title 'Thirumalai Muvaraiyattevan.'

In another instance, Thirumalai Nayak had a plan of visiting Trichy and return to Madurai within three days. He wanted to go in Palanquin, but his palanquin carriers were not readily available to fulfil his plan. So he had to approach the Palaiyappattur of Ammaiyanayakkanur. The Palanquin carriers of Ammaiyanayakkannur came forward and fulfilled his plan. Satisfying with their talents Thirumalai conferred the right of fishing in some specified ponds and tanks as they pleaded.

Thus he had occupied an important place in the hearts of their subjects. To celebrate the 400th birth day of that great ruler of 17th century, Government of Tamilnadu has constituted a high level committee having our beloved Honqurable Chief Minister of Tamilnadu as patron and Honourable Thiru. MunuAdhi as Chairman.

THE FIRST AND FOREMOST POINT

Irrigation and Farm Technology

Tamilnadu stands foremost in the utilisation of the available surface water resources. The utilisation is of the order of 95%. This has been achieved through different storage and diversion works across the various rivers and streams. The meagre flows available in the tributaries of the rivers and the flash flows available in the jungle streams will also be utilised by the medium and minor schemes that are now in progress and proposed to be taken up in the coming years.

Under the major and medium irrigation programme, additional irrigation potential to benefit 18,480 ha. of new area is expected to be created in the current year 1983-84 as against the target of 14350 ha. The anticipated outlay to be spent during this year under this programme is Rs. 49.83 crores. The achievement will be through the completion of the following schemes.

1. A portion of P.A.P. Ayacut Extension Scheme (10,000 ha),
2. A portion of Modernisation of

Periyar Vaigai irrigation system (1500 ha.)

3. Vembakottai Reservoir Scheme (3280 ha.)

4. Kullursandai reservoir scheme (1170 ha.),

5. Ichambadi anicut scheme (2530 ha.),

Correspondingly under special Minor Irrigation Sector (surface waters) an extent of 2530 ha. will be brought under new irrigation with an outlay of Rs. 2.52 crores during the above period (1983-84).

During 1984-85, the terminal year of VI Five Year Plan the target for creation of additional irrigation potential under major and medium irrigation programme is fixed at 24,000 ha. This is planned to be achieved through the completion of (i) A portion of work under P.A.P. Ayacut Extension Scheme.

(ii) The remaining portion of the Modernisation of Periyar Vaigai Irrigation system I phase and

(iii) The Sulagiri Chinnar reservoir scheme.

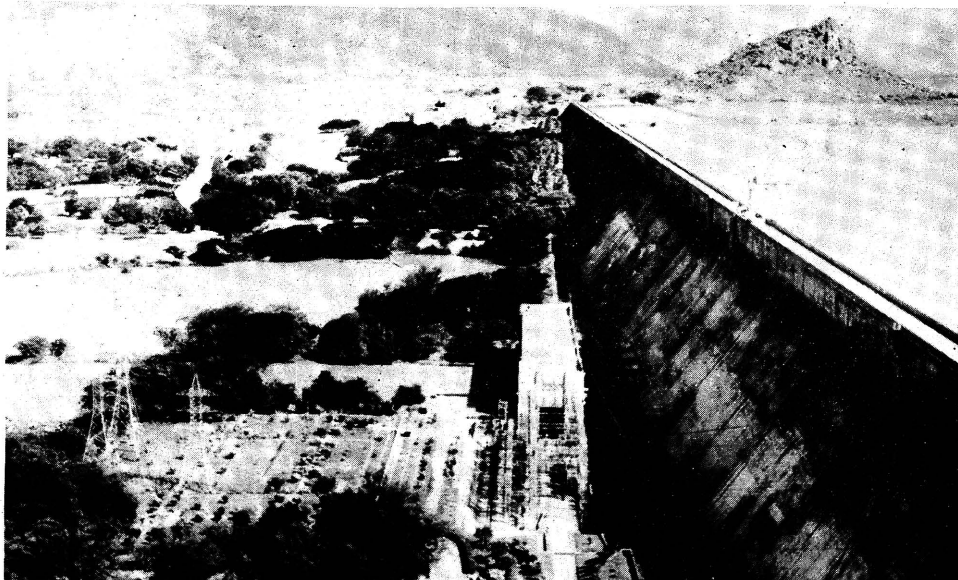
The financial outlay provided in the Budget estimate for 1984-85 for the execution of major and medium irrigation programme is Rs. 56.01 crores.

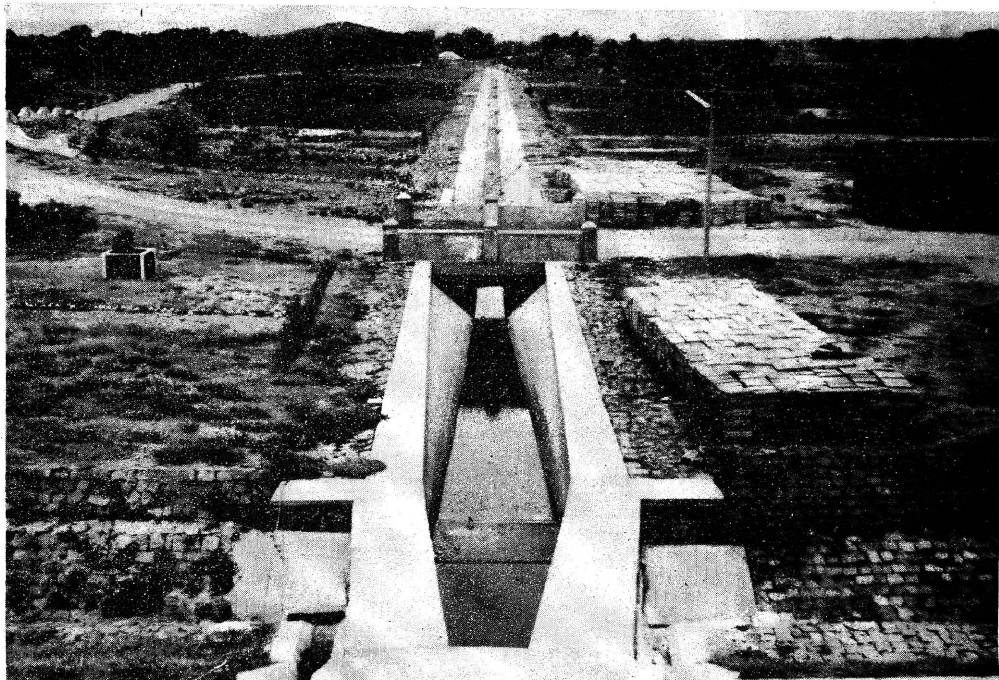
ROLE OF AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

Over the years, covering the past five year plans, Agricultural Engineering has been the architect of all Minor Irrigation Schemes in Tamilnadu. Since Agricultural Engineering has emerged as a full fledged department in the year 1981, it has pledged itself to exert even greater efforts to increase irrigation potential in the Country.

The following are the schemes being implemented by the Department of Agricultural Engineering in Tamilnadu. The achievements under each scheme since 1961 are given below.

	<i>Unit:</i> <i>Number of wells</i>
Private Tubewell Scheme	63,583
Filter Point Scheme	49,792
Deepening of wells	33,656
Boring in wells	30,152





Private Tubewell Scheme:

Under this scheme, the Department of Agricultural Engineering, hires out its fleet of 55 percussion drills, 11 Hammer drills, 65 Rotary Drills, 252 Hand Boring sets to the needy farmers for sinking tubewells and borewells in their lands to increase their irrigation potential and stabilise crop production.

Filter Point Tubewell Scheme:

Under this scheme, the Department hires out 103 hand boring sets to the needy farmers for sinking filter points in their lands to increase their irrigation potential and stabilise crop production.

Boring in wells Scheme:

Under this scheme, the Department hires out its fleet of 14 wagon/Inwell drills, 57 long hole equipments, 13 calyx drills, 55 hand boring sets, to the needy farmers to increase their irrigation potential by sinking bores inside the existing wells and thereby revitalising the dried up wells.

Deepening of well Scheme:

Under this scheme, the Department hires out its fleet of 103 Rock

blasting units to the needy farmers in rocky areas to increase their irrigation potential by deepening the wells by means of blasting.

Out of a net irrigated area of 2.70 million hectares, an area of 1.067 million hectares comes under Minor Irrigation (wells). During the recent droughts prevailing in the State over the past three years, irrigation in general suffered serious set backs. Due to failure of the regular monsoons, surface water has become scarce. The solution was groundwater, even for drinking water purposes. In Thanjavur delta, the entire crop was threatened and the same conditions prevailed through most of the other areas in the State. The Department of Agricultural Engineering rose to the occasion deploying the Minor Irrigation machineries belonging to the Department and concentrating efforts where demand was greatest by tapping further and deeper sources of ground water to meet the dire need.

This heavy drain on groundwater required corresponding steps for recharge of the depleted source. The Department embarked on a massive scheme of Percolation Ponds construction. 1751 Percolation Ponds were constructed during this critical period. These ponds provided the only means of recharge of ground

water so as to increase the irrigation potential in the surrounding wells.

To ensure that the target fixed for paddy cultivation in Thanjavur Delta, is not affected by failure of monsoons again and resultant scarcity of surface water, a massive scheme for the sinking of 5000 Filter Points in Thanjavur has been embarked upon by this Department. This scheme is intended to increase irrigation potential by exploitation of the available Ground Water resources in the delta. So far 2210 Numbers of Filter Points have been sunk successfully.

In the districts of Ramanathapuram, Pudukottai and Dharmapuri, Schemes for the sinking of Community Wells under Drought Prone Area Programme are in progress. In Ramanad district alone about 250 Community wells have been sunk under DPAP over the last five years creating new potential of about 10,000 acres, contributing to the welfare of the people, who were subjected to drought condition year after year. These schemes are intended to increase irrigation potential in these areas by sinking tubewells and digging openwells, to exploit the available ground water. These community wells are intended to benefit a group of farmers who cannot afford to sink individual wells of their own.

Under 10-b of the New 20 Point Programme Tamil Nadu Housing Board has put all its best efforts to construct houses for Economically Weaker Section group of people. The following schemes of Tamil Nadu Housing Board come under the programme.

SITE AND SERVICES SCHEME :

Tamil Nadu Housing Board has taken up this special land development scheme at Arumbakkam, Villivakkam, Kodungaiyur, under Madras Urban Development Project I and at Mogappair and Nerukundram under Madras Urban Development Project II. The Site and Services schemes are aided by the World Bank. This scheme aims at improving the housing conditions of urban poor who form 60% of the population of Madras by providing house sites with basic amenities like infrastructure facilities, hygienic atmosphere etc. at a cost affordable by the economically weaker section group. Adopting different pricing policy, plots/units are allotted to the poor at a subsidised cost. It also aims at mobilisation of allottees participation in completing the semi-built or incremental housing from out of their own resources.

For providing the basic amenities to Economically Weaker Section group of people 'A' type plots are provided with one core unit consisting bathroom and lavatory. An incremental development to 'A' type core unit is made in 'B' type units by providing two side walls apart from core unit which have common walls to the adjacent plots. The concept of providing a semi-built house ready for immediate occupation and allowing the allottees to complete the house in stages according to their affordability is utilised in 'C' type cluster units.

To enable the allottees to take up the construction by themselves a provision for basic shelter loan by way of supplying building materials is made in this scheme. For 'A' type Rs. 500 worth of building materials and for 'B' type Rs. 200 worth of building materials are given.

Nationalised Banks are providing financial assistance to the beneficiaries of the Sites and Services scheme. Type 'A' and 'B' allottees are being given loan to a maximum of Rs. 3,000 and 'C' type allottees are being paid Rs. 2,000 by way of bank loan. Rate of interest is being

ACCOMMODATION

FOR ECONOMICALLY WEAKER SECTION



charged at 4.25% for S.C. and Scheduled tribe while for other categories interest rate is 12.9%. The loan is repayable in 102 monthly instalments and the loan is given without any legal security as a personal loan.

The Madras Urban Development Project I consists of development of 12549 serviced plots in Arumbakkam, Villivakkam and Kodungaiyur adjoining Madras city limits covering a total extent of 173.94 Hectares at a cost of Rs. 1521.42 lakhs. The work is Arumbakkam is completed and the scheme at Kodungaiyur would be completed by 31st December 1984.

The Madras Urban Development Project II envisages a provision of 15,306 units at Mogappair and Nerukundram at a cost of Rs. 23.79 crores. The extent of Mogappair scheme is 123.50 Hectares and will provide 10,002 units at a cost of Rs. 16.08 crores. The scheme was started in Madras 1981 and so far an extent of 62 Hectares have been taken over. During this year 2005 plots would be marketed.

The Nerukundram scheme has an extent of 56.50 Hectares and this scheme would provide 5034 units at a cost of Rs. 7.71 crores. The scheme is yet to commence.

Under the new 20 Point Programme during 1982-83, 3000 units were provided at Mogappair and during 1983-84 upto the end of February '84, 1529 units at Kodungaiyur and 750 units at Mogappair have been provided under Site and Services scheme.

ECONOMICALLY WEAKER SECTION HOUSING SCHEME :

Tamil Nadu Housing Board has intensified its activities throughout the State and is striving hard to provide more houses for the Economically Weaker Section Community to keep up with the policy of the Government.

The beneficiaries under this are artisans, weavers, washermen, fishermen, and so on. The plinth area of each unit would be around 230 sq. ft. These units are allotted to those whose annual income is upto Rs. 4200. The interest rate charged is 7% and the cost repayment period would be 20 years.

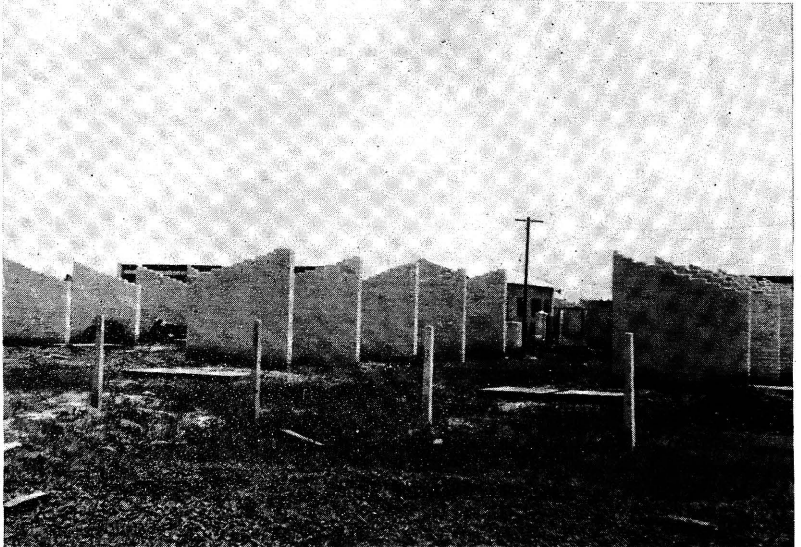
Under the New 20 Point Programme during 1982-83, 2135 units were provided and during 1983-84 upto the end of February '84 416 units at Padi, 156 units at Vellore, 40 units at Dindigul 68 plots at Gobichettypalayam and 200 plots at Hosur have been provided under Economically Weaker Section Housing scheme.

SLUM CLEARANCE SCHEME IN MOFUSSIL :

The slum improvement scheme is meant for slum dwellers who are mostly employed as domestic servants, milk vendors, daily wage labourers, artisans, sweepers, scavengers etc. Tamil Nadu Housing Board has been entrusted with the work of construction of slum

Physical Target and Achievement for the year 1982-83 on New 20 Point Programme.

<i>Name of Scheme</i>	<i>Target</i>	<i>Achievement.</i>
Sites & Services Scheme	3000	3000
Economically Weaker Section Housing Scheme	5000	2535
Total	8000	5535

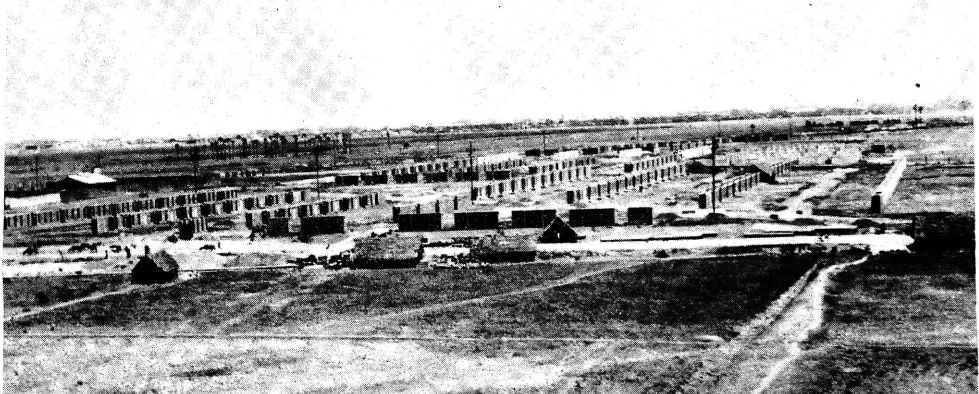


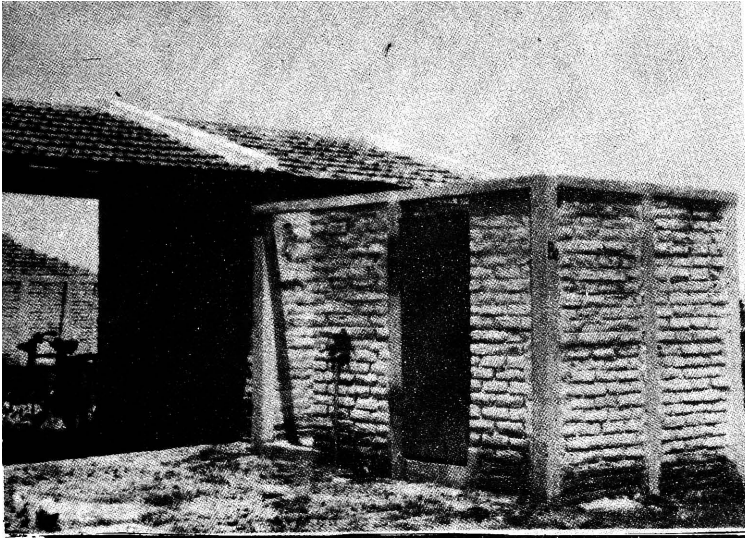
tenements in the mofussil while the work in the city has been entrusted to the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board from its formulation in 1971.

The slum dwellers living in huts in unhygienic and insanitary conditions are rehabilitated in storied

tenements. The Board constructs storied tenements each having a plinth area of about 200 sq. ft. The tenements are allotted to eligible slum dwellers at a subsidised rent of Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 per month.

Under the New 20 Point Pro-





PHYSICAL TARGET FOR THE YEAR 1984-85 on NEW 20 POINT PROGRAMME

Sites & Services Scheme	7085
Economically Weaker Section Housing Scheme	3100
Total	10185

programme during 1982-83, 400 tenements have been constructed at Perumpallam Odai, Erode and during 1983-84 1400 houses have been constructed in North Madurai, 160 tenements at Alwarpuram, Madurai and for fire victims, 1248 tenements at Pallipalayam, Salem under slum clearance scheme for economically weaker section group.

The programme of the Tamil Nadu Housing Board aims at construction of houses for the Economically Weaker Sections of society. The Board since its inception has completed 40927 dwelling units for Economically Weaker Section Community in various districts of Tamil Nadu till the end of February '84. During 1982-83 the Board has completed 2535 units for Economically Weaker Section group and 3000 units under Sites and Services scheme totalling to 5535 units

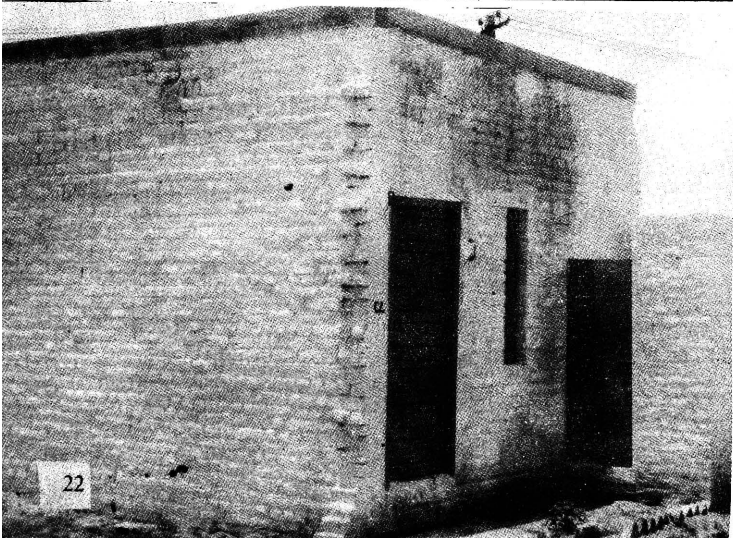
During 1983-84 the Board has programmed to complete 1052 units under Economically Weaker Section Housing scheme and 6455 units under Sites and Services scheme aggregating to 7507 units in all. Out of this target the Board has completed 2260 units under

Economically Weaker Section Housing scheme and 3707 units under Sites and Services scheme totalling 5967 dwelling units till the end of February '84

During 1984-85 the Board has a programme to complete 3100 units under Economically Weaker Section Housing scheme and 7085 units under Sites and Services scheme totally 10185 units.

Physical Target and Achievement up to 29-2-83 For the Year 1983-84 on New 20 Point Programme

Name of Place	Target	Achievement		
			Vellore	156 156
			Madurai District	
			Dindugal	40 40
			Madurai North	1849 1400
			Alwarpuram	160 160
Madras Padi, Madras	448	416		2049 1600
Besant Nagar	332	—		
Kodungaiyur	2180	1529	Salem District	
			Pallipalayam	1248 1248
Mogappair	750	750	Periyar District	
	3710	2695	Gobichettupalayam	68 68
Chingleput District			Dharmapuri District	
Kancheepuram	76	—	Hosur	200 200
North Arcot District :			Grand Total	7507 5967





For any state or country to be judged for its affluence and prosperity, one is to invariably look to the per capita consumption of electricity. In developing countries like ours, the per capita consumption of electricity is appallingly low compared with the highly developed countries like U.S.A., Canada, United Kingdom etc. The per capita consumption of electricity has been steadily increasing over since the country attained independence. It has grown from just 15 units in the year 1951, to 140 units till March 1982. The 9 fold increase, however, is a matter for jubilation. But considering the substantial progress already achieved it does not allow us to rest on oars. Our effort in the direction of bringing about steep increase in electricity consumption have to be doubled or trebled even. The Indian population, mostly residing in villages and their hamlets, it is necessary that electricity is carried to every nook and corner of the country so that the benefits accruing from the use of electricity are shared by the rural folk also. Electric power is an essential input for any type of developmental activity that can be thought of in rural areas be it agricultural pumping, paddy hulling, sugar cane crushing or any other agro-based industry. For the uplift of the rural economy and complete transformation of the life style of the rural people, no better tool can be thought of other than electricity.

ELECTRIFICATION OF VILLAGES IN TAMIL NADU

Tamil Nadu Electricity Board has been attaching great importance to the Rural Electrifi-

cation with a view to bring about marked improvement in the living conditions of rural folk and also to increase agricultural output to become atleast self sufficient. Over a period of years, 15,654 villages and 47,497 hamlets have been electrified till March 1984. This means that 99.5% of the total villages (15,735

Rural Electrification in Tamil Nadu

Nos.) in Tamil Nadu are already enjoying the benefits of electricity. At this juncture it is worthwhile to recall that only 2,430 villages were electrified at the beginning of the first five year plan (1951-56) in Tamil Nadu. The fact that all but 81 villages have been electrified over a period of 32 years brings no small satisfaction. This achievement has been possible by the enormous interest evinced and the sustained efforts of the Board and the State Government.

For declaring a village electrified, it should have the minimum benefit of atleast electric street lights and provision of lights for houses. In addition, the benefit derived by the energisation of agricultural pumpsets and other categories like domestic supply, industrial services etc. naturally follow. While declaring a village as electrified, utmost care

was taken to ensure that the village got benefited by electricity in any one of the above ways. The above criterion was meticulously applied and it cannot but be a matter for satisfaction to have already achieved the electrification of 99.5% of total villages.

The balance 81 villages and 341 hamlets remaining unelectrified till 1st March '84 are all situated in hilly areas not connected by any kind of road. These villages would have been electrified much earlier but for the difficulties in regard to transport of materials in the absence of jeepable roads and obtaining permission from the Forest Department to enter the forest land and cut certain trees or tree branches which is necessitated for erection of the required power lines.

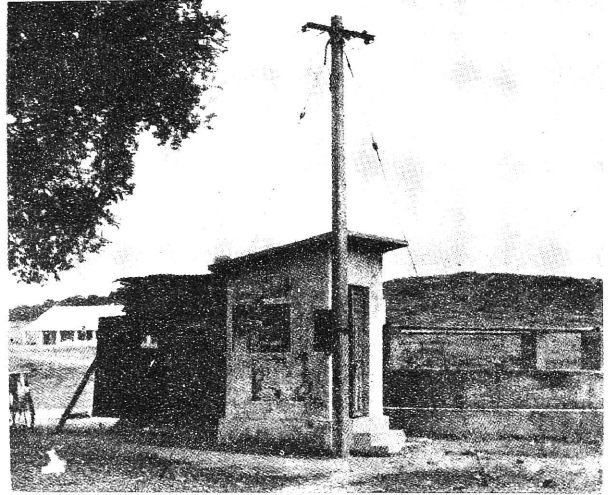
Village electrification forming part of the New 20 Point Programme, has acquired added importance and hence not withstanding the difficulties faced in executing the electrification of the balance villages and hamlets in Tamil Nadu, it has been decided to electrify 24 villages during the current year 1983-84.

The achievements in the electrification of villages under New 20 Point Programme for various years are given below:

Year	No. of Villages electrified
1981-82	25
1982-83	25
1983-84	18
	(upto2/84)

During the year 1982-83 more villages could not be electrified since permission to enter the Forests and cut the branches/trees which fall in the alignment of the proposed power-line is yet to be received. Hence it was decided to electrify some of the villages on experimental basis by erecting Diesel Generating sets. By this method the following 15 villages have been electrified.

Name of village	C.C.No	District
Kuthumtial	42	Salem
Kilakkavalavu- Ariyurnadu	48	"
Padasolai	68	"
Perumparappu- patty-Devanur nadu	52	"
Gundurnadu- Nattukulipatty	47	"
Veppady	28	"
Puliampatty	29	"
Maramangalam	50	"
Kodamathy	309	South Arcot
Chinna		
Thirupathy	329	"
Melmachi	49	North Arcot
Akkaraipatty	50	"
Pilapadynadu	69	Salem
Thadutha- palayam	369	South Arcot
Anaikadu	46	Salem



Government of Tamil Nadu to electrify solar power for a few of these small villages on experimental basis.

electrification of villages will be 117%.

ENERGISATION OF PUMPSETS:

Since electrification of the tribal villages is getting delayed due to difficulties in obtaining forest clearance it was decided by the

In the context, it was decided to electrify the following 5 villages with solar power:

Tamil Nadu occupies a unique place in the matter of energisation of agricultural pumpsets. The programme of energisation of pumpsets was taken up on a large scale even from the commencement of the First Year Plan. By electrification of villages, the major work envisaged, was energisation of agricultural pumpsets. The villagers mostly depending upon well water irrigation, realising the big help they have been able to get from the electric pumpsets, have been relying more and more on the use of electric pumpsets. As on 31st March '83 TNEB has energised 9,65,017 pumpsets which represent 19.5% of the total number of pumpsets in the entire country. The energy consumed by the Agricultural sector during the year 82-83 is of the order of about 2,500 M.U. and this works out to 29.8% of the total Tamil Nadu Grid Consumption.

Name of village C.C.No. District.

Kalliparai	280	South Arcot
Kannor	281	"
Undakkalvalavu	292	"
Neyyamalai- Akkaraipatty	134	Salem
Periakalrayan Hills, Melnadu	137	"

For the year 83-84, it has been decided to electrify 24 villages. Upto the end of February 84 eighteen villages have been electrified. It is expected that ten more villages as follows will be electrified during the month of March 84.

Name of village C.C.No District

Karnampattu	282	South Arcot
Methikadi	286	"
Keelthukkadi	284	"
Maniam- palayam	289	"
Eachangadu	278	"
Aravankadu	277	"
Nakkalvalavu	288	"
Mathur	312	"
Gangapady	300	"
Thorachipattu	330	"

The achievement of energisation of pumpsets during the previous years are as follows:

Year	No. of pumpsets energised
1981-82	26,358
1982-83	19,497

Against the target of 24 for the electrification of villages during 83-84, it is expected that 28 villages will be electrified exceeding the target. The expected achievements in the

During the current year under instructions of State Government, the TNEB has launched a programme of connecting 20,000 pumpsets. Till February 1984, pumpsets numbering 14,924 have been energised.





94th Birth Anniversary of BHARATHIDASAN

A function was held at Coimbatore on 29th April to celebrate the 94th Birth Anniversary of Paavendar Bharthidasan. The Tamil Nadu Government's Paavendar Bharathidasan award, comprising cash of Rs.10,000 and a four sovereign gold medal, for this year was presented to 42 year old Kavignar N. Kamarajan of Madurai, by the Hon'ble Minister for Finance, Dr. V.R. Nedunchezhiyan.

The Finance Minister explained various steps taken by the Government to promote and to cherish the memory of great Tamil savants. He said nearly 190 Tamil poets were being given a monthly pension of Rs.250. Poor artistes were also helped.

The Hon'ble Minister for Education, Thiru C.Aranganayagam, unveiled a portrait of Bharthidasan.

The Hon'ble Minister for Information and Religious Endowments Thiru R.M. Veerappan, who presided, paid tributes to Bharathidasan.

Earlier in the day, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Thiru K.Kalimuthu, inaugurated a symposium on Bharthidasan's works.

Dr. Avvai Natarajan, Secretary, Tamil Development and Culture, presided. A "Kaviarangam" was held in the afternoon.

KATTABOMMAN STATUE IN MADRAS

In his presidential address at the Kattabomman Vizha celebration at Panchalankurichi on 12th May, 1984 the Hon'ble Minister for Information and Religious Endowments Thiru R.M. Veerappan announced that a statue of Veerapandia Kattabomman seated majestically on a horse would be installed in Madras as ordered by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. M.G.R.

KATTABOMMAN STAMP

Speaking at the function at Kattabomman Kottai, Panchalankurichi, the Hon'ble Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha Thiru G. Lakshmanan assured that the stamp of Kattabomman would be released in 1985.

A MULTI-FACETED SAVANT

N. Rajagopalan
Librarian, Secretariat Library

“No great men live in vain: The history of the world is but biography of great men” said Thomas Carlyle in his Heroes and Hero worship. This view point is echoed in the words of eminent Emerson, who has opined as “There is properly no history, only biography”. This is conspicuously true in the history of literature, since, the biographies of literati form part and parcel of the said field. That is why, the posterity pays homage to stately stalwarts of the lovable literature on their birthdays, especially in their centenary year.

NA. MU. Venkatasamy Nattar, the literary luminary whose birth centenary falls this year, was born on 12-4-1884 in Nadu-K-Kaveri, Thanjavur District. His parents, Muthusamy Nattar and Thailammal belonged to the mellowed middle class. Except for a short period, in which he was taught the three R's., (i.e. Reading, Writing and Arithmetics) by the traditional teacher on the dais of his dwelling, Venkatasamy Nattar, studied simple books

only under his father and learnt lessons in music from his uncle.

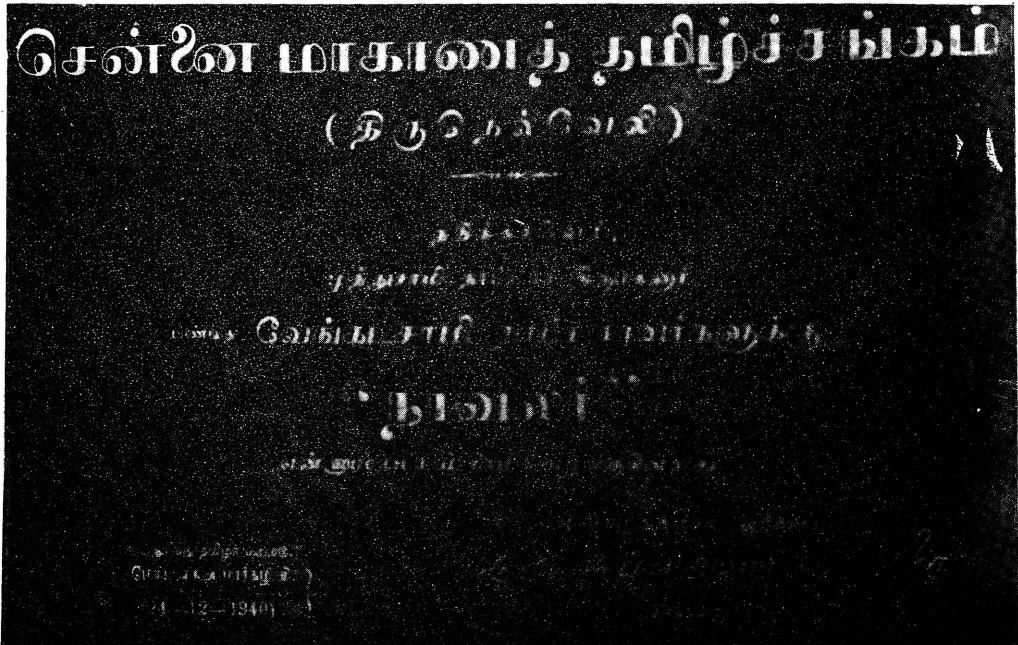
He never went to school, since he could not afford it. But, due to burning desire for knowledge, he taught himself like Abraham Lincoln, and mastered whatever masterpieces, he could come across. His thirst for scholasticism induced him, to appear for the exacting examinations conducted by Madurai Tamil Sangam. Without the aid or guidance of any teacher, he prepared himself and appeared for the three consecutive examinations of the significant sangam. And he got through all of them. Not only that, he passed them in the first class. And more than that, he came first in the second examination and got a gold medal. Again, he won the first place in the final examination, as a result of which, a glittering gold ornament was inserted in his hand by no less a person than Pandidurai Dever, the famous founder of the Fourth Tamil Sangam, in addition to the title of Pandit.

In 1907, he married Indirani. He served as a Teacher for a brief period in the leave vacancy in Bishop Heber College, Tiruchi. Subsequently, he joined St. Michael High School, Coimbatore as Tamil Pandit and once again he entered the portals of Bishop Heber College which he adorned for 24 years.

In 1933, he joined Annamalai University and served there for seven years. After his retirement, he settled in Thanjavur. But, he was requested to be the Principal of the famous Institution, Karanthai Pulavar Kalloori which he obliged for two years. Only by his self efforts, he became a renowned scholar of supreme wisdom and this itself was a great phenomenon.

This achievement, will instantly instil infinite interest in the young minds who are tottering in the lower rungs of the society.

He was a great Teacher, who infused incomparable love for the



**AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY
CONVOCATION IN
MADRAS.**

The X Convocation of the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University was held at Madras Veterinary College, Madras at 11.00 A.M. on 5th May 1984. His Excellency Thiru S.L.KHURANA, Chancellor of the University and Governor of Tamil Nadu, presided over the function and Dr.O.P.GAUTAM, Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi delivered the convocation address. Hon'ble Thiru Dr.K.KALIMUTHU, Pro-Chancellor of the University and Minister for Agriculture, Tamil Nadu instituted prizes in honour of the Chief Guest. Dr.V.RAJAGOPALAN, Vice-Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, delivered the welcome address.

A total of 596 candidates received their Degrees in Person. The breakup figures are as follows for

the various faculties.

Ph.D.	— 59
Masters degree	— 140
P.G.diploma	— 35
Bachelors degree	— 362

A total of 536 persons received their Degrees in Absentia.

Sixty Five Medals and Prizes were awarded to the students for their proficiency in various subjects.

The members of the Board of Management and Academic Council of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University also attended the Convocation.

DEAN,
MADRAS VETERINARY COLLEGE

mother-tongue. All the students would be spell bound in the class, even though there was scant respect for Tamil in those days, due to the foreign rule. Some of his students later on strove to carry on the torch of learning and subsequently shed light, treading on his foot-steps.

Venkatasamy Nattar was a great orator. The words, "His speech is burning fire" of the Poet Swinburne were most suited to him. Like Thiru. Vi. Ka. he spoke in chaste but simple Tamil. He delivered lectures on literature and religion in so many societies, such as Sanmarga Sangam (Melai Sivadurai) Thiruvalluvar Sangam (Thenkasi), Karanthai Tamizh Sangam, Thanjavur, Saiva Siddhanta Sabai (Tiruchi) Saiva Siddhanta Samajam (Madras). His talks were broadcast from the Tiruchi Station of All India Radio. He chaired multi-farious conferences. He toured the length and breadth of Tamil Nadu and had been to Ceylon also to propagate the greatness of Tamil, to project the image of age-old literature and to protect the decaying tenets of daily life. Hence, the grateful society bestowed on him the title 'Navalar', i.e orator of high order in the Presidency Conference of Tamils at Madras.

It is a common saying that a person with a well versed tongue will not be found in the field of writing. But Navalar Nattar was an exception. He contributed thought provoking articles to the leading periodicals

such as, Senthamizh, Tamizhpozhil, Sentamizh Chelvi, Eezhakesari, Anandabhodini etc. Later on, these were compiled and published as books which are still worth reading.

He was a foremost commentator of the modern period. Since he himself had struggled while studying without the assistance of Teachers, he thought that the younger generation should not face the same hurdles like him. He wrote comprehensive commentaries and annotations for Agananooru the Sangam literature and epics like Silappathikaram, and Manimegalai, to a great religious work Thiruvilaiyadalpuranam and to ethical works Aathichoodi, Konraiventhan, Moodurai, etc.

He pioneered in the field of research and thus paved the way for the posterity by his monumental research works eg. Nakkirar, Kapilar, Kannaki Varalaru, etc.

His publications, History of Cholas (Pt.I), History of Kallar, History of Velir, proclaimed him of a prominent historian.

He did memorable service as member of the Board of Studies in Madras University. He strove to strengthen Madurai Tamizh Sangam through his sincere service.

He thrice convened conferences for the development of Tamil Language and for the uplift of Tamil Teachers.

Above all, he earnestly desired to found an exclusive institution for welfare of Tamil, but this could not be accomplished due to various reasons. But his longing desire has now taken the splendid shape of the Tamil University in the very soil of his birth founded by the present Tamil Nadu Government.

The eminent Engineer Thiru Pa. Ve. Manickka Naicker and the celebrated Tamizhavel Thiru Umamakeswaran Pillai were two of his close friends who had much respect and regard for him.

Just two months before his 60th birthday this great savant passed away on 28th March 1944. The Committee which planned to celebrate his 60th birthday converted his tomb into a small temple, the first of its kind in Tamil Nadu. They founded Nattar Peravai in memory of this Scholar.

This reputed Scholar led simple and straight forward life. He had profound knowledge of language and literature which he conferred to one and all. He spent every second of his life time for the development of Tamil.

Similar to the maxim of Edmund Burke, he was a "great man, guide post, and a land mark" whose inspiration and service may be emulated by everyone of Tamil Nadu.



UMAMAHESWARANAR. THE PEERLESS PATRON

Uma Maheswaran Pillai, popularly known as Uma Maheswaranar the greatest philanthropist and patron, who patronised Tamil Institutions and Tamil Scholars out of sheer love of the Tamil language, Tamil literature and Tamil culture, was born of a rich family at Karanthai in Thanjavur district on the 7th of May, 1883. His father was Vembu Pillai and his mother was Kamatchi Ammai. He had two sisters and two brothers. His father was a rich landlord.

Uma Maheswaranar started his career as a clerk in the Collectorate. Later on he became a lawyer. He was an advocate not of all cases but of only genuinely just cases. He was not so greedy as to advocate the cases of thieves and murderers.

Uma Maheswaranar was a lover of Tamil and he patronised Tamil Institutions and helped Tamil Scho-

lars. He was the patron of the great Tamil Savant, Venkatasamy Nattar.

He was the first elected President of the Taluk Board and served as President for 12 years from 1920. He was a member of the District Board also. He did much for the promotion of education and helped in creating new schools.

At Raja's Sanskrit College at Thiruvaiyaru, Tamil students had to study Sanskrit also compulsorily. Uma Maheswaranar insisted that Tamil Scholars must be allowed to study Tamil alone and he succeeded in this. Tamil Scholars were thus freed from the burden of compulsorily learning Sanskrit and learning of languages was made optional in the college.

The Karanthai Tamil Sangam was founded in 1911 with the help

of Maheswaranar to help speak and write chaste Tamil. Later, the Karanthai Pulavars' College was founded by him and Venkatasamy Nattar, the great Tamil Savant started teaching there.

Maheswaranar asked Venkatasamy Nattar to write books on the great poets Nakkirar and Kapilar and he published them.

He was the founder editor of Tamil Pozhul, a Literary Research Magazine. As a Member of the District Board, he was responsible for introducing common examination for the 6th, 7th and 8th standards at the school level.

He was a member of the Justice party and he participated in the Anti-Hindi agitation also. He helped the growth of Tamil with his riches positively and also by fighting against the onslaught of another language.

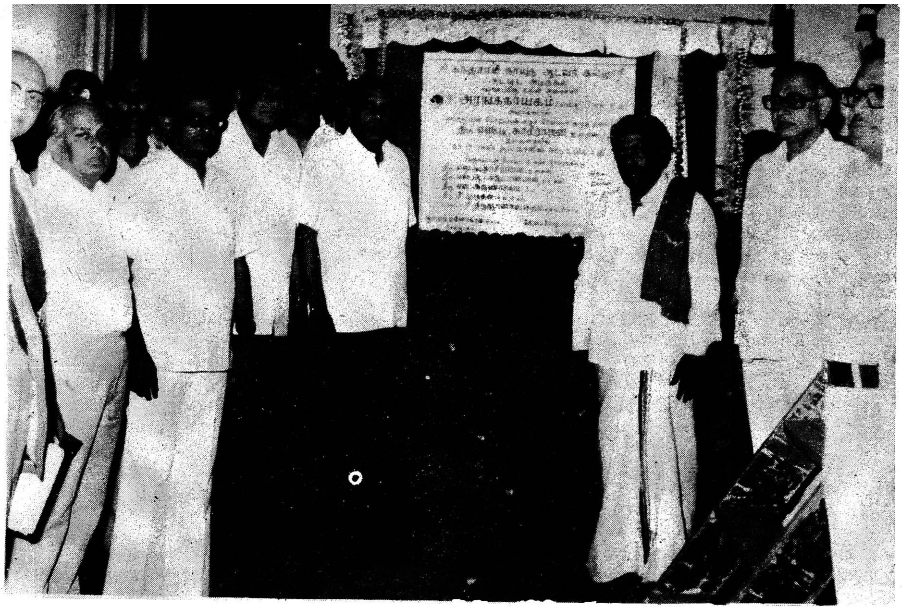
In honour of his great patronage and love of Tamil, Gnaniar Swamigal of Thiruppapuliur conferred on Maheswaranar the title of "Thamizha Vel" meaning illustrious learner, lover, patron, protector and son of Tamil.

He desired to found a Tamil University and he undertook a tour to North India to study the functioning of the Universities there with the purpose of starting similar University in Tamil Nadu. But while on tour with this noble purpose, he died in North India.

The Centenary of this great Tamil patron and that of the great Tamil savant Venkatasamy Nattar have fortunately co-incided and are fittingly celebrated by the Government and the people of Tamil Nadu.

Let us be proud of them and bow to them in respect, reverence and gratitude.





PACHAIYAPPA'S TRUST COLLEGE PROSPERS

The Pachaiyappa's Trust, after coming under Government control, has started providing necessary amenities to students and teachers to facilitate proper functioning of the educational institutions.

The Kandasamy Naidu College, at Anna Nagar, Madras, run by the Pachaiyappa's Trust was functioning at thatched rooms and it did not have buildings for a long time. After the Trust was taken

over by the Government, the institution under the Trust have come to get new amenities, and the Kandasamy Naidu College is getting a New Building thanks to the interest taken by the Tamil Nadu Government.

"Pachaiyappa, the founder of the Trust, was a great philanthropist with Poet Bharathi's spirit of Righteousness and the Mercifulness of Vallalar," said the Chairman of

the Pachaiyappa's Trust Management Committee, Thiru S.T. Kasirajan I.A.S. at a function held on 22nd March 1984, in memory of the founder of the Trust.

Laying the foundation stone for the New Building for Kandasamy Naidu's College, on 23rd March 1984, the Hon'ble Minister for Education, Thiru C. Aranganayagam, said: "This is an historic occasion and this day is an historic day. As the financial position of this College was bad, the University was about to close down this College. Students started an agitation and the Government came to their rescue and took over the administration of this College. Many people started talking whimsically about this step of the Government. But, to-day, we find that this College is going to have a new building of its own.

The arrears of revenue were traced out and collected and I admire this commendable action. The students of this institution must cherish good ideals and the traditions of our culture."

Thiru S.R. Karuppanan, I.A.S. a member of the Pachaiyappa's Trust, welcomed the gathering and said that classes had been conducted under thatched roofs for a long time, and a permanent new building was going to be constructed.

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS OF NAVALAR AND THAMIZHAVEL

The Centenary Celebrations of Navalar Na. Mu. Venkatasamy Nattar and Tamizhavel Uma Maheswaran Pillai were organised by Tamil Development Department and Karanthai Tamil Sangam were jointly held at Thanjavur on 21st and 22nd April. Dr.K.A.P. Viswanatham inaugurated the celebrations. Hon'ble Minister for Finance Dr. V.R.Nedunchezhiyan, Hon'ble Minister for Revenue Thiru S.D.Somasundaram and Tamil scholars participated in the function and paid glowing tributes to the two noble sons of Tamil Nadu who helped preserve, present and popularise Tamil literature.

Supplementary feeding programmes constitute one of the most promising and effective measures to overcome malnutrition. In Tamil Nadu, until 1st July 1982 several feeding programmes were in operation for the vulnerable groups. However, these were rather sporadic in approach and isolated in implementation and evaluation. It is highly commendable that on 1st July 1982, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. M. G. Ramachandran embarked on a new programme of feeding the poor children in the age groups of 2 to 10 years in the state at an estimated cost of Rs.120 crores (Department of Social Welfare, 1982). From September 1984 the programme will be extended to cover children up to 15 years of age.

Under this programme, children from the rural and urban areas now receive one full meal, at noon, free of cost. This feeding programme replaces all the other existing pre-school feeding programmes and school lunch programmes in Tamil Nadu, thus bringing the nutrition intervention programmes under one umbrella.

The feeding programme for pre-school children is organised through the Balwadies (Child Welfare Centres existing and the newly started ones) and Anganwadies of the ICDS and for the school going children, in the primary schools. The programme benefits nearly seven million children in the two to ten-year-age group; 38.15 lakhs are in the five to ten-year group in 36,000 primary schools. There are over 20,000 Balwadies (Child Welfare Centres, CWC) for the age groups 2-5 years. In each CWC, 70 to 150 children in the age group of 2 plus to 5 are being fed.

The meal for the preschool children consists of 80g. rice, 10g. dhal, 5 g. oil and 50 g. vegetables (25 g. green leafy vegetables and 25g. other vegetables) and minimum condiments. A provision of 44 ps. has been made for each beneficiary per day for all the 365 days, in the year. The food is cooked in the CWC itself in the form of different rice preparations and the children are served in a cheerful atmosphere. For this purpose one part time Cook and Assistant have been appointed at Rs.2/- and Re. 1/- per day respectively. Suitable utensils for cooking and serving and the required number of plates and tumblers have been provided.

In the programme for the 5 plus to 9 plus age group (primary schools) also, the children are being fed on all 365 days in the year, in their schools. The Government has appointed a Nutritious Meal Organiser in every primary school. She is responsible for running the programme and for the maintenance of various records. The teachers are not disturbed for this work. The meal consists of 100 g. rice, 15 g. pulses, 5 g. oil and 50 g. vegetables (25 g. green leafy vegetables and 25 g. other vegetables) are provided per child per day in the form of mixed rice preparations. One part time cook has been appointed for 500 children at a wage of Rs. 2/- per day and one assistant at a wage of Re.1/- per day. The Civil Supplies Corporation has arranged for the nearest Cooperative Stores to supply all the food items once in 15 days at the door step of the CWC/Primary School. The cash grant given to each feeding centre is at the rate of 11ps/day for meeting the cost of fuel, fresh vegetables and condiments. The meal centres have been advised to maintain a garden and utilise the produce for the feeding programme (Director of School Education, 1982) Every school/CWC has a Committee of 10 members which include the Headmaster, selected parents, social workers, women and well wishers. They meet once a month to discuss about the conduct of the programme and assist in its effective implementation.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister's Nutritious Meal Programme in Tamil Nadu has created a very favourable climate for the education, health, growth, and overall well being of the future citizens of the country. It is a tribute to the human values the Chief Minister possesses and practises. The results of this study show that if the present tempo is maintained, a healthy generation of young people will emerge with commitment and capability for work.

Dr. Rajammal, P. Devadas

Director.

Sri Avinashilingam Home Science College, Coimbatore

Monitoring the Programme:

At the apex level, a high-level committee, headed by the Chief Minister, steers the programme. At the official level, the programme is administered and monitored through a powerful, committed chain of officials, headed by the



IMPACT OF THE NUTRITIOUS MEAL PROGRAMME

Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu. At the district level, the District Collector is in over all charge in a particular revenue district. While the Panchayat Union Officials administer the pre-schools through the extension officers under the supervision of the Director of Social Welfare, the Director of School Education monitors the primary school sector.

A network for feed-back and information has been built up, weaving together official and non-official agencies. The school meal organisers, child welfare organisers and local committees keep regular records of attendance, accounts and stock of commodities. Periodical reports, using forms and proforma prescribed for the purpose, are despatched by them to the Panchayat Union Office and District Education Officer, who, in turn, report to the District Collector. The Collector is responsible to report the same to the Chief Secretary. To evaluate the scheme, a checklist has been prepared, and frequent visits are made to ensure that food is prepared hygienically and served on time and there is no pilferage.

Evaluation:

Frequent evaluation is necessary to throw light on the impact of the programme on children, mothers and their families, and the lacuane present in the existing administration and provide guidelines for further improvement. Hence some studies were undertaken by Sri Avinashilingam Home Science College to:

1. Evaluate the nutritional impact of the programme on the children.
2. Evaluate the scope of introducing nutrition education in the programme and
3. Elicit the opinion and problems of the children, Child welfare Organisers, Parents, Local Leaders and the Teachers.

Keeping in view the objectives of the study, Devadas and co-workers selected 29 CWCS from the rural areas, eight from the urban areas, 26 primary schools from the rural areas and seven from the urban areas for the evaluation studies. The

number of pupils participating in the CMNMP in these 70 centres was 1681 boys and 1538 girls ranging in age from two to nine years. The nutritional outcomes of the nutritious meal programme were studied over a period of four months in terms of anthropometric measurements, weight, clinical picture and dietary intake of the children.

The scope for Nutrition Education in the Programme:

Two CWCS in Vaiyampalayam (control) and Athipalayam (Experimental) Villages of Sarkarsamakulam Panchayat Union, operating the CMNMP, were selected. From each of the centres 50 children were selected, randomly.

After assessing the initial nutrition knowledge and the food habits of all the 100 children, nutrition and health education was conducted in the experimental centres alone. Nutrition education was imparted with the help of audio-visual aids through 23 visits of 45 to 60 minutes each. At the end of the four months period the knowledge of both the groups of children and their food habits were assessed and the impact determined.

Other significant Benefits:

The impact of this programme on the enrolment of children in the primary schools is tremendous. An additional 2.63 lakhs children in the 6-11 age group have been enrolled in Standards 1 to 5, within 10 weeks of its inception. The target set up by the Planning Commission for the year 1982-83 is enrolment of an additional 1,00,000 children in this age group. This target has not only been reached by far surpassed. The scheme, in addition, has generated gainful employment for some 1,47,000 women, mostly widows and destitute women. In terms of narrowing social differences, the food cooked and served by Scheduled Caste women is freely eaten by children belonging to all castes and communities. This is a significant achievement. The scheme has come as a God sent to the poor of Tamil Nadu-most of these children had never eaten vegetables before, even a daily meal of rice and dhal until now has been a dream for them (Jaya Lalitha, 1983).



Conclusion:

The Hon'ble Chief Minister's Nutritious Meal Programme in Tamil Nadu has created a very favourable climate for the education, health, growth, and overall well being of the future citizens of the country. It is a tribute to the human values the Chief Minister possesses and practises. Those who remark that it is a waste or foolish venture at the cost of the development of the State are only mocking themselves because this programme is a wise investment in human resource development, which is essential for national development. The results of this study show that if the present tempo is maintained, a healthy generation of young people will emerge with commitment and capacity for work.

The programme needs to be strengthened with regard to physical facilities, assistance and incentives for the workers, nutrition education of the parents, community and the beneficiaries, involvement of leaders and nutritional assessment of the participating children. A fool proof system of built-in evaluation must be created so that periodical compilation of the observations would help the Government to evaluate the outcomes of the heavy investment in feeding and educating the poor. A strong monitoring system is an immediate need.



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prints. Rich variety enchanting
fresh in a wealth of colours
and designs.



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