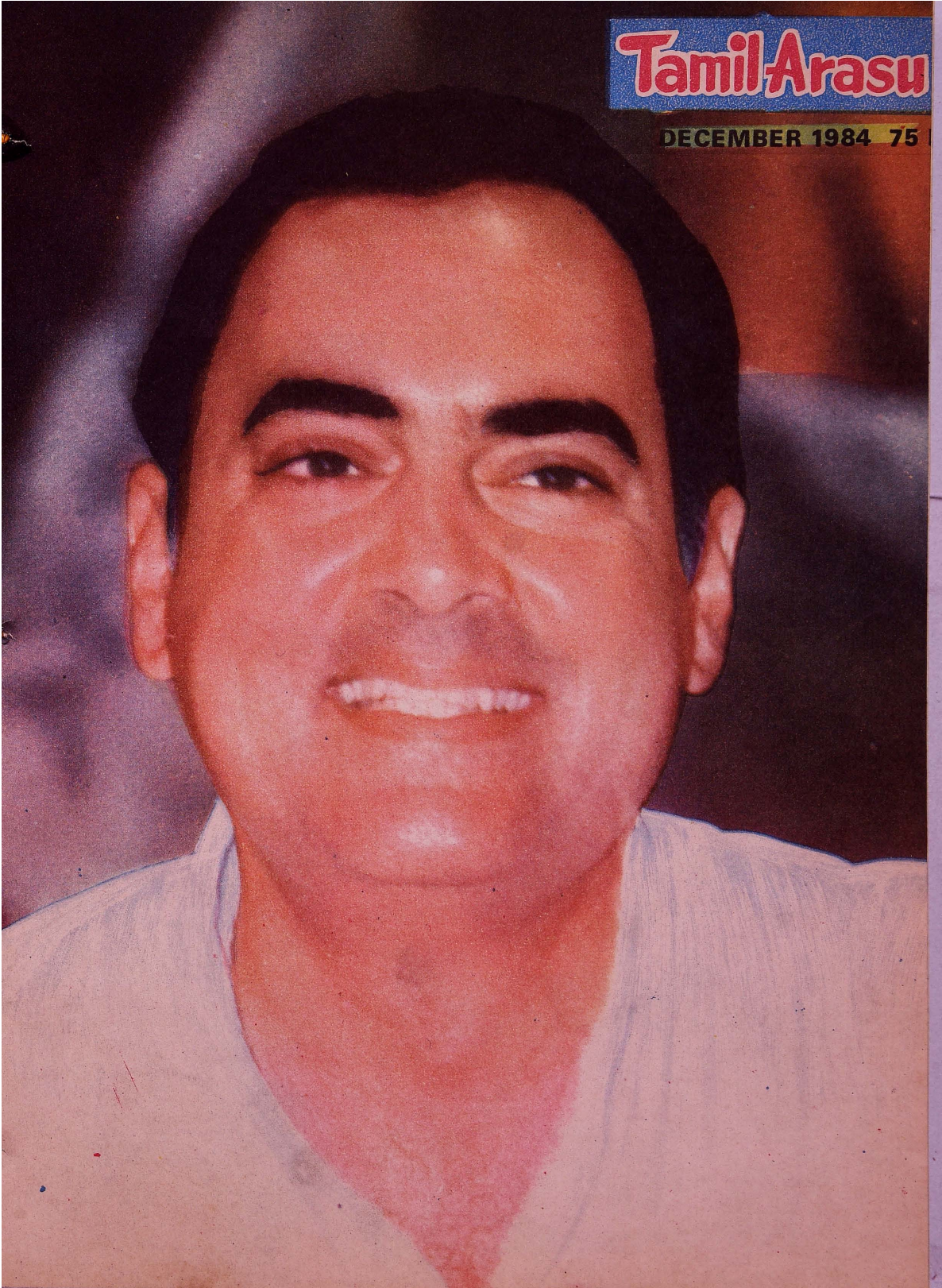


Tamil Arasu

DECEMBER 1984 75





Prime Minister at Madras

Hon'ble Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi arrived at Madras on 16th Nov. 1984 to visit the Cyclone and Flood-affected areas here.





OUR IDEAL

The taxes paid by the people must be utilised for the people. Anna said, "Go to the people. Live among them. Love them. Plan with them. Plan for them". I am doing only this. The Government is also doing this.

We are actualising the ideals of Anna in the manner in which they should be actualised. Our duty is to spend all that we get by means of taxes for the good of the people themselves.

Hon'ble Chief Minister
Dr. M. G. R.

Tamil Arasu

DECEMBER 1984 75 P.

Thiruvalluvar Year - 2015

Rakthatchi - Karthigai - Markazhi



Let us Build for An India of 21st Century

(Hon'ble Prime Minister
Thiru Rajiv Gandhi on a
broadcast to the Nation on
12th November 1984.)

Mahatma Gandhi breathed new life into our ancient land. He brought us freedom and taught us that the highest virtues are truth, love and non-violence. Jawaharlal Nehru laid the foundations of a politically and technologically modern India—democratic, secular socialist, non-aligned.

Indira Gandhi built firmly on these foundations. She made the sovereignty of the people a reality and strove to ensure that policies and laws secured their rights. She fought against fanaticism and narrowness in all their forms. She made the nation self-reliant in agriculture, industry and several branches of technology. She battled relentlessly against poverty. Hers was the foremost voice for international peace in our tense and troubled world.

Most important of all, she infused us with self-confidence and a sense of purpose. She gave us back our pride. This splendid heritage has been left to us by Indiraji. I pledge to preserve this previous legacy and to work for a united, strong and prosperous India, an India devoted to the cause of peace.

Nothing is more important than the unity and integrity of our nation. India is indivisible.

Secularism is the bedrock of our nationhood. It implies more than tolerance. It involves an active effort for harmony. No religion preaches hatred and intolerance. Vested interests, both external and internal, are inciting and exploiting communal passions and violence to divide India. Answering communalism with communalism will only help these subversive and secessionist forces. The combined might of the people and the Government will thwart their designs. There is only one India. It belongs to all of us.

Speedy removal of poverty is our basic objective. The Government is judged by the degree and quality of change it can bring about. Five years ago, when the people recalled Indiraji to office, she promised an effective Government and she kept her promise. Food production and energy output have touched record levels. Science has surged forward. Industry has resumed its dynamic movement. Employment opportunities are expand-

ing. The economy has withstood the most severe natural calamities and international crises. The political and economic standing of India in the world is higher than ever.

I reaffirm our adherence to socialism and planning. Without planning we could not have reached where we are. Our aim is continuous modernisation, higher productivity and rapid advance of social justice.

In our Plans, rural development will have priority; greater production of cereals, pulses and oilseeds; spread of irrigation; support for small industries and handicrafts and all-round induction of new technology. Large expansion of employment, specially for rural and urban youth, is essential to reduce economic disparities and to ensure social peace. For this, high rates of growth in agriculture and industry will have to be achieved.

The public sector has played a historic role in laying the foundation of a modern economy. It has to shoulder greater responsibilities; and to become more efficient to generate surpluses for investment.

Within the framework of national policies, the private sector has adequate scope to enhance the productive potential of the economy. But it should acquire the strength competition provides by reducing costs and absorbing new technology. Both public and private sectors must venture out into new fields, improve quality and develop indigenous technology.

Kisans and workers are the pillars of our economy. The focus of our policies on their welfare will be sharpened.

Government will remain unwavering in its resolve to improve the living and working conditions of the scheduled castes the scheduled tribes, backward classes, artisans, agricultural labour, women and the urban poor. The 20-Point Programme of Indira Gandhi, which aims to fulfil the immediate needs of the people, will be faithfully and effectively implemented.

Our greatest wealth is our people. We must enable individuals and families to realise their potential to the full. For this, we shall stress programmes of family planning, nutrition, welfare of women and children, control of disease, elementary and adult education, sport and better communication.

I am committed to improving the quality of service to the people. I want to tell all those involved in this task that if they work with integrity and dedication, they will have full protection from outside pressures and interference. But I also want to tell them that no quarter will be given to the corrupt, the lazy, the inefficient.

Our administrative system must become more goal-oriented. A new work-ethic, a new work-culture must be evolved in which Government is result-bound and not procedure-bound. Reward and punishment must be related to performance. A strong concern for efficiency must permeate all institutions.

The last few years have witnessed notable advances in science and technology. Indira Gandhi had a fine partnership with scientists, which helped the nation. I shall keep up this.

The creative arts give to life the vision of inner truth and beauty. We owe much to our craftsmen who have carried on centuries old aesthetic traditions and to our artists and writers. We have to conserve our priceless heritage and to create an environment in which Art will flourish.

Our educational system needs to be reconstructed as a dynamic force for national growth and integration. I intend to initiate a comprehensive review of the system and to build a national consensus for reform.

For nation-building, the first requisite is peace—peace with our neighbours and peace in the world. Our security environment has been vitiated. Sophisticated arms





have been inducted on a large scale into our neighbourhood and into the Indian Ocean. We can depend on our armed forces to ensure the country's inviolability. The Government will continue to do all it can for the modernisation of defence and the welfare of our service personnel and their families. I take this occasion to greet our jawans and officers, in whose hands the nation's honour and integrity are safe.

Eminent leaders and representatives of the world's nations came here last week bringing to us their peoples' sympathy. I made it clear to them that India will continue its work for international peace, friendship and cooperation.

Jawaharlal Nehru bequeathed to us a foreign policy which Indira Gandhi so creatively enriched. I shall carry it forward. I reaffirm our adherence to the United Nations, to the Non-Aligned Movement and to our opposition to colonialism, old or new. We are determined to work for narrowing international economic disparities.

We want to develop closer relations with each one of our immediate neighbours in a spirit of peace, friendship and cooperation. This is what we have offered to Pakistan. We have always believed that non-interference, peaceful

coexistence and nonalignment should be the guiding principles of our relationship. We shall further pursue the concept of common regional development of South Asia. Our relations with China are improving and we shall continue to seek a satisfactory solution to the difficulties.

We highly value the wide-ranging and time-tested relationship with the Soviet Union, based upon mutual cooperation, friendship and vital support when most needed.

We have always been friends with both the East and the West as they are called, and we want better relations between them.

With the United States of America, we have a multi-faceted relationship. We attach importance to our economic, technological and cultural cooperation with them.

I wish also to assure the peoples of other regions—the Arab world, South-West and South East Asia, the Far East and the Pacific, Africa, Latin America, the caribbeans, and Western and Eastern Europe that we are keen on Strengthening political and economic relations with them.

Indira Gandhi reminded us that the most important single

challenge before the world today is the threat of nuclear war. We shall continue her relentless crusade against the arms race. She was equally concerned about the global economic crisis. We shall persevere in the efforts to promote a dialogue between the North and the South and to build a just world economic order.

The assassination of Indira Gandhi is a grave and critical moment. There has been a churning of the subconscious of our people. It is in moments of crisis that India awakens and responds with clarity and new creative endeavour. Out of turmoil must arise an intelligence that builds a vital sense of togetherness, creates order and establishes a deeply human relationship between man and man.

Our heritage, the most ancient, and that left to us by the torch-bearers of freedom, rests on secularism and tolerance. Indira Gandhi gave her life in building an India which was rooted in these basic tenets. We have to fuse the wisdom of our seers with the insights and artifacts of science and technology. We have to conserve and cherish our heritage—political, cultural and philosophical. We have to establish a right relationship with our natural resources, strengthen our newly won self-reliance. With this, we must have the courage to boldly innovate, for exchange is demanded in our methods of work, in the absorption of new knowledge, in the values we generate for ensuring a meaningful and creative life for our people.

As we build today so will be the tomorrow. Together we will build for an India of the 21st Century. Together we will transform what needs transformation. Together we will face challenges and obstacles to progress. Together we will create an India that is strong, wise and great—a name of peace and tolerance.*



TO EVOLVE AN EGALITARIAN SOCIAL ORDER

Father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi narrated, "God comes to the poor in the shape of bread."

Arignar Anna said, "I see God in the smiles of the poor."

Tamil Saint Thiruvalluvar in his immortal Thirukkural had given specific characteristics of an ideal state as follows:

"Where there is no terrible famine, no cruel pestilence, no foreign enemy to ravage, where peace always reigns, that is the ideal land."

While on one hand India's population is nearing 70 Crores and a large part of our population is declared to be below poverty line, need there be any surprise at the sight of this off spring being any better? The majority of our children present a picture of poverty itself with sunken cheeks, pallid lips, lack lusture

eyes and emaciated bodies. Nor has it been a surprise that these children have been the despair of our doctors?

How the Scheme was evolved ?

"Poverty is admittedly a scourge; All the more poignant when it is the youth that has to bear the brunt of it." This is an old saying. It is true in the fullest sense. The child knows nothing but to cry while in hunger. The idea of providing whole-some food to the needy children stemmed from my own childhood experience of poverty. When hunger haunted my home, a lady next door extended a bowl of rice gruel to us and thus saved us from cruel death. Such merciful women folk elected me as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu having great faith in me.

I have decided to carry out this programme with a view to redress the sad plight of the

PRAISE FOR MEAL SCHEME BY

MOTHER TERESA

Mother Teresa who arrived at Madras from Calcutta on 1st March 1984, had a glimpse of the living conditions in the slums in the city.

She praised the Nutritious Noon Meal Programme of the Tamil Nadu Government and said it should be extended throughout the country.

—Courtesy: 'The Hindu' dated 2nd March '84

poor and downtrodden living below the poverty line and bemoaning their lot in not being able to provide even single whole-some meal to their children in spite of their efforts in all possible ways. I felt that it is my bounden duty to take immediate efforts to provide atleast noon meal to the poor children in order to eliminate the sufferings of the helpless women. The Government has, therefore formulated a scheme to provide poor children in the age group of 2 to 10 atleast one nutritious food at noon. This scheme will cover children below poverty line all over Tamil Nadu for the provision of a nutritious noon meal free of cost from 1st of July, 1982:

Selfless Service

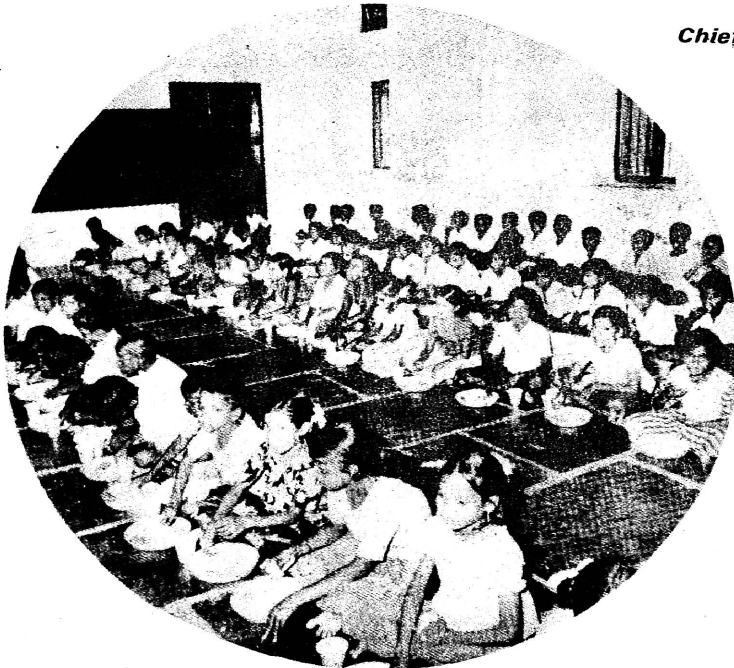
The programme is not just to appease the hunger of the children, though it is the most important of the aims. We have to build the character of the children in all possible ways and should see them as responsible citizens of tomorrow. The management of the

Creches should shoulder this great responsibility. The teachers should conduct this programme with greater responsibility not minding the extra work involved in it. They should think of the welfare of the 60 lakh children below the poverty line and should develop a spirit of sacrifice in feeding them. I hope that the Officers also will work hard to see the scheme functioning properly and success fully. We should see that this programme is functioning regularly and without giving any room for irregularity. We should see that the children get their meal round the year. I request the management of the child welfare centres and also the headmasters who are responsible for the functioning of this hundred crore feeding programme to eat with the children so as to enable them to know the taste and standard of the food stuff cooked for children. In this connection I will tell you that the basic aim of this Government is to evolve a scheme under which at least one member of every family will be given a job.

(Excerpts from the Speeches of

Dr. M. G. R

Chief Minister of Tamilnadu)



"I like being with children and even more, playing with them. Nothing saddens me so much as the sight of children who are denied education, sometimes denied even food and clothing".

—Pandit Jawaharalal Nehru



The Chief Minister's Nutritious Meal Programme for feeding the children in the age group of 2 to 4 and 5 to 9 was introduced in the Rural areas of Tamil Nadu from 1.7.1982. and in the Urban areas from 15.9.1982. The pupils in the age group of 10 to 14 who were the beneficiaries under the old mid-day meal scheme were also continued to be fed under this scheme for all the days in a year. This scheme was extended to the Old age Pensioners from 15.1.1983.

The children in the age group of 2 to 4 are fed in the pre-school centres where a trained Child welfare Organiser is in charge. Nearly 24.34 lakh children in the age group of 2 to 4 are fed daily in 27,897 pre-school centres functioning now.

The school-going children of the age group 5 to 9 are fed in the schools where they are studying. Nearly 39.84 lakh school children are fed daily in 34,087 school feeding centres.

The scheme has been extended to the school children upto the age of 15 from 15.9.84. About 15.53 lakh children in the age group of 10 to 15 are benefitted under the scheme. Nearly 3,360 new school centres have been opened from 15th September 1984. The Noon Meal programme is already in operation in 5281 High School centres.

From 15.1.1983 the scheme has been extended to the Old Age Pension beneficiaries also. The Old Age pensioners are taking their meals from the pre-school or school centres. The number of Old age pension beneficiaries enrolled are 1,99,158. Out of 1,99,158 beneficiaries about 1,10,799 are Old persons, 43,888 are destitute widows, 14,471 are physically handicapped and 30,000 are agricultural

NUTRITIOUS MEAL PROGRAMME *at a Glance*

labourers. From 1.5.1984 the scheme has been extended to 64,000 old persons who were kept in the waiting list for sanction of old Age pension. On the whole 2.63 lakh old Age pensioner are fed under the scheme at present.

From 1.1.1984 the scheme has been extended to 112 Ex-Servicemen-Widows of Ex-Servicemen who are receiving Old age Pension from out of Tamil Nadu Ex-Servicemen Personnel Benevolent Fund, out of which 41 are widows. They are fed along with the Old age Pensioners in the Pre-school centres nearest to their places of residence.

Free Meal is being served on all the days of the year except on Government Holidays. On the eve of these holidays, which are normally festival days, the children and Old-age Pensioners are given pre-cooked carry home food packets. The children in the age group 10 to 15 are fed only on working days which will come to about 220 days in a year.

All the beneficiaries of Nutritious Meal Programme are also supplied with scientifically prepared tooth powder free of cost.

The scheme has created massive employment opportunities especially to women both in rural and Urban areas. About 1,97,252 have been employed on consolidated pay. Widows and destitute women are given preference in the scheme during employment.

The estimated expenditure involved in this scheme would be about Rs. 180 crores per annum.

I. No. of CENTRES FUNCTIONING:

1. No of Pre-school Centres	27,897
2. No. of Primary School Centres	34,087
3. No. of High School Centres (Newly opened)	3,360
Total	<u>65,344</u>
4. No of High School Centres: (Where the scheme was in existence and where the scheme has been extended)	5,281

BENEFICIARIES OF THE SCHEME

	<i>In Lakhs</i>
No. of beneficiaries in Pre-school Centres	24.34
No. of beneficiaries among Old age Pensioners	2.63
No. of beneficiaries in Primary School centres	39.84

No. of beneficiaries in High School Centres	15.53
Total	<u>82.34</u>

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES CREATED UNDER THE SCHEME

(Age group 2 to 9)

	<i>Total</i>	<i>SC/ST</i>	<i>Widows destitutes</i>
1. Nutritious Meal Organisers	34,087	5,116	2,123
2. Child Welfare Organisers	27,897	5,383	2,152
3. Child Welfare Assistants	55,794	11,463	13,045
4. Cooks and Helpers	69,174	8,132	25,137
Total	<u>1,86,952</u>		

Additional Employment created under expansion of the Programme 10 to 15 age group

1. Nutritious Meal Organisers	3,360
2. Cooks and Helpers	6,940
Total	<u>10,300</u>



RESPONSIBLE ROLE OF THE PRESS

of Working Journalists as a clear manifestation of national integration and unity, which must be preserved at all costs. Working Journalists have come here from all parts of the country to symbolise India in its true spirit. You have thus set a supreme example in the task of fighting communal and other disruptive forces whose evil designs have been working to the detriment of what the country stands for—secularism and socialism.

Some of the country's great-men have sacrificed their lives in combating communal and anti-national forces. The names of two Gandhis come readily to one's mind. The third Gandhi who is also threatened by such forces, deserves all our support in putting down such evil forces. The Tamil Nadu Government, I assure you, will support all ventures like those of the Indian Federation of Working Journalists and the Madras Union of Journalists here to promote national integration and unity. Journalists have a very important role to play in society today, more so in today's complex world, especially during the sensitive political situations and communal outbursts. I appeal to the press to observe restraint in such situations, and maintain high standards of journalism, observe ethics and objectivity, in the interest of the people as a section of them could easily be whipped up into orgies of momentary violence.

Generally, I must say, the press has been functioning in a responsible and restrained manner, though there have been a few unpleasant exceptions.

Rather than the Government enter the picture and try to reform or pull up such erring newspapers, I trust you would yourselves do the needful in the matter of self-regulation. Self-introspection' and self-criticism are as important as the right to

It is a matter of great honour and pleasure for me to participate in the inauguration of the National Council Meeting of the Indian Federation of Working Journalists.

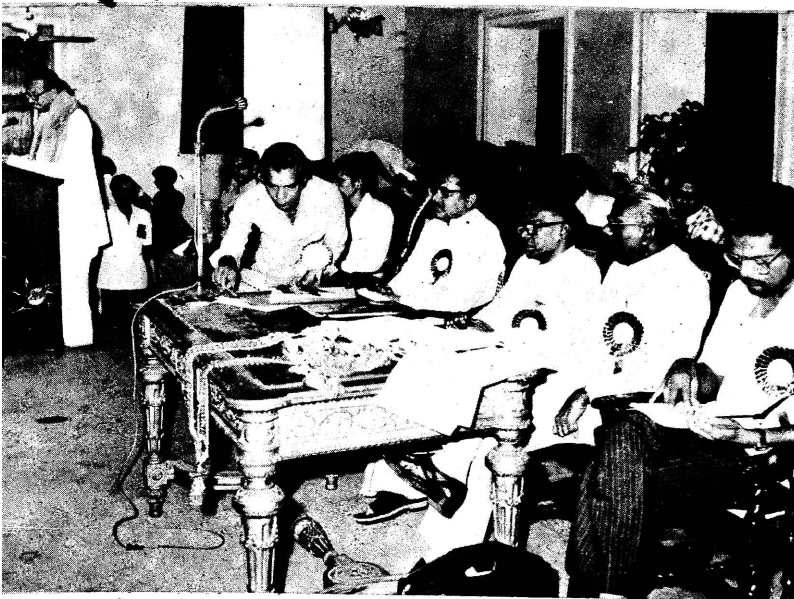
The Tamil Nadu Government is proud to associate itself with a conference of all-India journalists of all-India importance, and we are glad to host it in our own humble way.

Our Chief Minister, Dr. M. G. R. would have been very happy to participate in today's function on behalf of the people of

Tamil Nadu but as you are aware, he is indisposed.

On behalf of the Chief Minister, the Council of Ministers and the Tamil Nadu Government, let me extend to you our warm and fraternal greetings for the success of the Conference.

I understand that the National Council of the Indian Federation of Working Journalists is meeting here after a gap of more than three decades. In fact, I see the National Council Meeting of the Indian Federation



criticise, freedom of speech and expression. I am glad that you are going to discuss in-depth a code of conduct for journalists. While some sections of the fourth estate want all other sections of society to behave themselves according to the norms of public life, a few sections of the press refuse to work with any kind of norms and ethics, and think they are above the law of the land.

They misuse and abuse the freedom of the press for political gains or commercial exploitation. I leave it to you as to how to deal with such elements, who work against the overall interests of the people whom we are all meant to serve. The Government on its part is firmly committed

to ensuring the freedom of the press. We encourage free fair views on any aspect of Government functioning.

The Government here has provided several facilities to the journalists, in particular, keeping in mind their occupational hazards, their exposure to risks, their odd hours of work and the high-stress nature of their work. I am often amazed to see journalists being on duty almost round the clock, with dedication and devotion, and with deep commitment for democratic norms and institutions.

I wish you all success in your deliberations, and I join you in your demand for a new wage board or tribunal for employees

of newspapers and news agencies all over the city.

I once again assure you of the State Government's support to all noble causes of your organisation and am glad that important people from different walks of life are here to express similar support to you the journalists who have to play a leading role for the future of the country's unity, secularism and communal harmony.

(Speech of Hon'ble Dr. Navalar V. R. Neduncheziyan, Minister for Finance, Government of Tamil Nadu during inauguration of National Council Meeting of Indian Federation of Working Journalists on 24th November 1914 at Rajaji Hall, Madras.)

CONQUEST OF THE PALM TREE

Man has conquered the palm tree! Till now, man had to hobble up nature's skyscrapers, using his brawn, with a cloth tied around his legs as a secure foothold. Using his hands and legs, his progress up a palm tree or down was very much like that of his predecessors in the wild. With the fabrication of a machine to climb palms, the tedium has been eliminated from the laborious and dangerous job of tree climbing.

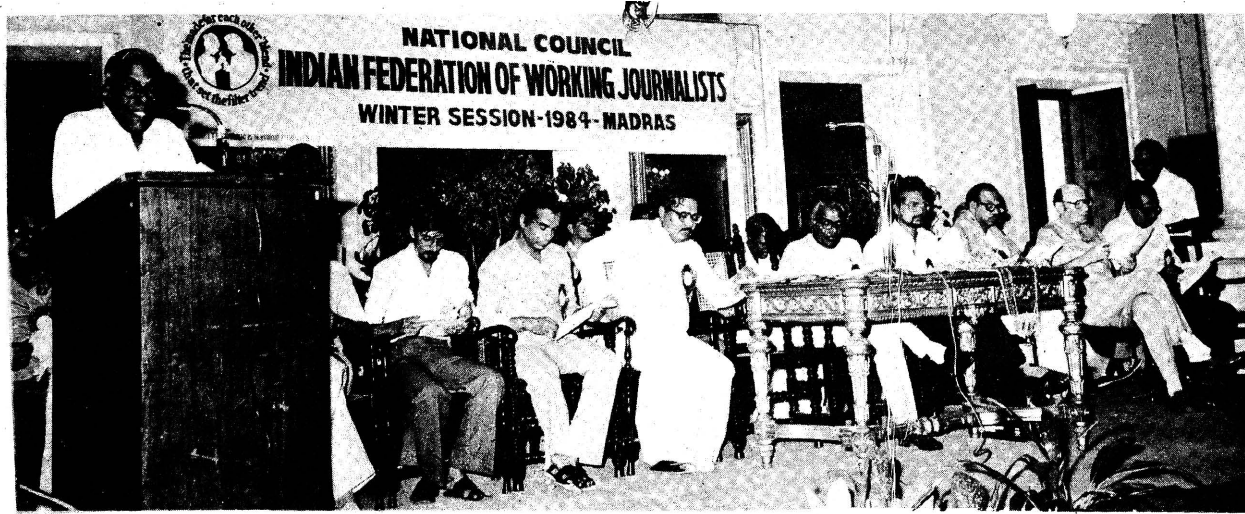
The credit of fabricating this climbing machine goes to Devaraj, a graduate of Kollapalur, in Tamil Nadu. His equipment is portable. It is made of steel tubes and pulleys and it costs Rs. 500 a piece. It weighs 95 kgs. only.

The machine can be used to climb palmyrah, coconut and arecanut palms. It is operated manually to carry man up and down. Even the old can use it effortlessly. And the danger of a fall is totally eliminated, besides abrasions on the hand and the chest. The contraption can be moved round the trunk.

Devaraj is a born innovator. A plough he designed can leave three furrows and sow seeds at pre-fixed intervals in all of them. He has also designed a protective goggle which will leave the welder free to use both his hands.

But Devaraj's conquest of the palm tree is the most unique of them all.





THE PRESS - EDUCATOR for DEVELOPMENT

I thank the organisers of this convention for the unique opportunity given to me to share a few thoughts with you today.

On behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu and on my own behalf as Minister for Information, I extend a warm welcome to the delegates and working journalists from other States. I hope that all will enjoy the pleasant climate in Madras, natural as well as political, and also the hospitality of the people of Tamil Nadu.

First of all, I would like to convey the affectionate greetings of our beloved Chief Minister Hon'ble Dr.M.G.R to each one of you assembled here. It is a well-known fact that Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. M.G.R has been a great champion of the cause of working journalists.

I recall, on this occasion, the intimacy that Hon'ble

Dr. M.G.R has developed with the working journalists and the reverence in which he is highly held by the journalists.

I know my limitations and I am conscious of the fact that I have been called upon to do a job, normally beyond the range of a person of my make.

I am no teacher. I do admit, I am only a student.

Dr. Radhakrishnan was assertively right when he said that no one is a teacher unless he continues to be a student.

Most of our national leaders were also journalists and writers. Lokamanya Tilak, Mahatma Gandhi, Mahakavi Subramanya Bharati, Rajaji, Perarignar Anna are the pace-setters in Indian journalism. Their powerful writings generated new awakening in Indian society under foreign rule. "Harijan" and "Young India" edited by Gandhiji and "Dravida Nadu"



and "Home Land" of revered Anna speak, volumes of the potency of journalism for building a better social order. Perarignar Anna kindled social awakening among the masses, and created a new force for social transformation.

Journalism today is no longer confined to the printed word but embraces words and pictures transmitted over ether. It is a multi-media output. Each medium has grown as an industry with complex machines and materials manned by armies of men.

In our social set up, the Press deals with the areas of Public affairs and power. As such, the Press is to be considered as a public service rather than an industry.

I am happy to learn that the Indian Federation of Working Journalists founded by the doyen of Indian Press, the late Chalapathi Rao whom you affectionately call as MC, has now over ten thousand members. The Federation fights not only for the rights of the journalists but also for the freedom of the Press. I am aware that they are vigilant in safeguarding the rights and privileges of the fraternity. I am also aware of the fact that almost all the working journalists are free from the fetters of the management, even though there are stray cases where we find that the editorial wing has to fall in line with the policy of the management.

Indian newsmen, by and large, stand comparison with the best talented journalists in any part of the world. They love their job and bring out reports skilfully and imaginatively.

It is needless to say that the journalists are the creative forces. Creativity is construction and not destruction in any form.

The Fourth Estate is, of course, one of the powerful pillars of Democracy.

Every one speaks about the imperative necessity of a free Press, as a basic factor for the smooth functioning of Democracy.



But, let us put a pertinent question to ourselves-

What is freedom?

Freedom is not licence;

Freedom is not uncontrolled verbal exercise;

Freedom is not the negation of rules and regulations.

On the other hand, freedom without checks and balances is futile.

Freedom without meaningful restraints is the pathway to chaos.

Freedom should not be understood in the most generalised fashion.

What is freedom to a highly developed society may not be the same for a developing Nation. In a developing Nation like India, Press is linked with the concept of a welfare society.

It is, therefore, imperative that free Press should have a meaningfully responsible connotation in the Indian context.

Otherwise, the so called free Press itself will strike at the very roots of Democracy.

If someone asks me whether I would stand for freedom without restraints or growth with responsibilities, I will stand for the latter.

I stand for a free Press with a new code of conduct evolved in the greater interests of the country. I do not deny that people have got a right to knowledge and information. But, if that knowledge becomes a destructive instrument in the hands of anti-social elements, it is necessary to withhold the information, temporarily at least. In the larger interests of the

country as a whole, we refrain from divulging certain information. In a democratic society, this is a dire necessity in the interest of social harmony and peace.

We can draw a lesson from the conduct of the daily affairs of our families. Families may have unpalatable happenings. It is but natural that we are not communicating each and every incident to all members of the family.

Some information is withheld from parents.

Some information is not within the reach of children. It is all done in the best interest of the family as a whole.

A nation is a larger family.

Then, are we not right in withholding certain information from the public in their own best interest?

India is a melting pot of all races.

India is a land of many religions.

India is a conglomeration of many languages.

So, in Indian society there is more chance of friction.

There is more chance for the clash of interests.

In such a vulnerable society, working journalists have the greatest responsibility of guiding the society. They must be more careful and far-sighted in their approach. Even a piece of wrong information can cause great damage to society like the wild fires engulfing the green forests. I appeal to the members of the Indian Federation of Working Journalists to provide certain norms and guidelines to avoid sensational reporting and rumour mongering.

It is my duty to remind my veteran journalist friends here that it is high time that Indian Journalists rededicated

**Speech by Hon'ble Minister
for Information and Religious
Endowments Thiru RM.
Veerappan at the National
Council Session of the Indian
Federation of Working
Journalists on 24th November,
1984 at Rajaji Hall, Madras.**

themselves to the economic and social development of India and National Integration.

During our freedom struggle, the Press was a weapon to our just fight. The same weapon, aided by modern science and technology, has to be used to serve the people who are our masters.

It enjoins upon the working journalists to fight ceaselessly against sectarianism, superstition, disunity, dissension, discord, disruptive forces and, above all, violence. You are the educators for development. You have to rise to the occasion and serve the Nation.

We have horizons to reach—

We have bridges to cross—

We have paths to pass—

We have miles to go.

Jawaharlal Nehru said: "Freedom is in peril. Defend it with all your might".

Today we are at cross-roads. It is the responsibility of all sections of the society including the journalists to work for a new social order which is our national goal.

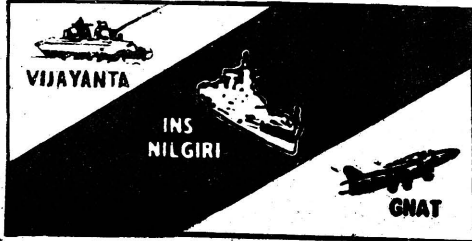
I appeal to all the working journalists to stand united and to promote peace, national prosperity and make our land a worthy place to live in amity.

On this occasion, we assure you of our assistance in all possible manner for the promotion of professional efficiency and service to the society.

With these words, I release the Souvenir with great pleasure.



SCHEMES FOR EX-SERVICEMEN



Since Independence, India has been observing 7th December of each year as the Flag Day to honour the valiant dead, to salute the veteran brave and to renew her pledge with the services personnel who are in active service.

The Flag Day collection is the main and only source of income to the Tamil Nadu Ex-services' Personnel Benevolent Fund. Various schemes for resettlement and rehabilitation and alleviation of distresses of ex-servicemen and their dependents are financed from this Fund. During the year 1983-84, 13,633 ex-servicemen and their dependents were benefitted to the tune of Rs. 26 lakhs. The grants include monthly grant to the destitutes, lumpsum grant, marriage grant, pocket money to the TB/Leprosy/ Cancer patients, Immediate Relief Grant as spot assistance, funeral grant to give a decent funeral of dead ex-servicemen, flood/fire relief grant, educational scholarship/Stipend to the children of ex-servicemen undergoing training in the Tailoring Units and Typewriting and Shorthand Institutes etc.

Rehabilitation Schemes such as establishment of Jai Jawan Stalls, assisting ex-servicemen in Self-Employment Scheme, Bank Loan and Interest Subsidy Scheme are implemented. 204 Jai Jawan Stalls have been established all over the State at a cost of Rs. 6 lakhs so that ex-servicemen and their dependents could rehabilitate themselves and lead a decent life. Further a proposal for establishing 10 more stalls in each District duly financed by the Government of India is under consideration.

12 Bedded wards for Ex-servicemen and their dependents in 18 Taluk/District Head quarters Hospitals at a total cost of Rs. 15 lakhs have been established.

Widows receive considerable assistance in the form of grant for various purposes. Marriage grant of Rs. 500 is paid to all widows of defence personnel towards the celebration of one daughter's marriage. Widows who have lost their husbands in various operations after Independence receive Rs. 600 every year as a token of gratitude and re-

membrance. Such widows are paid Rs. 1,500 towards celebration of their daughter's marriage. Housing grant of Rs. 5,000 is also sanctioned to their widows. So far 98 widows were sanctioned. Housing grant to the tune of Rs. 4,71,000. Destitute widows/ex-servicemen who are above 60 years of age are given a monthly pension of Rs. 50 till their death. So far 125 ex-servicemen/widows have been paid a sum of Rs. 1,38,449.75. Widows of Defence Personnel who retired prior to 1st January 1964 with service pension and died subsequently are not eligible for family pension. In order to help these widows, they are sanctioned a sum of Rs. 50 p.m. and child allowance of Rs. 10 p.m. restricted to two children. So far 1339 widows have been paid to the tune of Rs. 17.88 lakhs. Under a new Scheme of sanction of interim relief to the widows whose pensions are pending sanction, 31 widows have been paid Rs. 17,900.

A sum of Rs. 2,11,737 has been spent towards imparting training in Tailoring to the women dependents of serving ex-servicemen. 5 Leprosy ex-servicemen/

widows have been sanctioned a sum of Rs. 50 per month till their death under a new Scheme introduced recently. A new scheme of sanctioning monthly financial assistance to the ex-servicemen, whose cases have been referred to Indian Red Cross Society for sanction of financial assistance till the time they get sanction has been introduced. Sanction of monthly financial assistance of Rs. 50 per month to totally blind ex-servicemen, who are not in receipt of any financial assistance from any other source has also been

have availed loans of about Rs. 10,36,240 from various Nationalised Banks and State Financing Institutions and a sum of Rs. 27,655 has been released as Interest Subsidy.

“Jawans Bhavans” have been constructed at Vellore, Coimbatore, Tiruchirappalli, Salem, Thanjavur and a Shopping Complex at Vellore with 72 shops at a total cost of approximately Rs. 37 lakhs. “Jawans Bhavans” at a cost of Rs. 23 lakhs are nearing completion at Madurai and Sivakasi. Additional construction in the existing Jawans Bhavan, Thanjavur is nearing completion at a cost of Rs. 7.75 lakhs. It is also proposed to construct ‘Jawans Bhavans’ at Cuddalore and Ramanathapuram. A multi

A Book Binding and Paper Cutting Unit has been started for widows and women dependents at a cost of Rs. 50,000 and the unit has since been converted as Printing Press also at a further cost of Rs. 65,000.

Suitable sites have been purchased at a cost of Rs. 42,275 at Coimbatore and Saidapet for the establishment of an Industrial and Ex-services Centres respectively.

In order to familiarise the Ex-servicemen with the various competitive examinations held for appointment in State Government/Nationalised Banks, coaching classes are organised every year and the trainees are paid stipend.



introduced. The quantum of pocket money to TB/Leprosy/Cancer patients undergoing treatment in TB/Leprosy/Sanatoria has been increased from Rs. 1.50 per day to Rs. 2.50 per day. The quantum of funeral grant has also been increased from Rs. 150 to Rs. 250.

Under the Bank Loan interest Subsidy Scheme, 103 persons

storeyed building styled as Ex-services Centre at a cost of Rs. 44.58 lakhs to cater to the needs of ex-servicemen serving personnel who are passing through this State Capital and to accommodate the office of the Directorate of Ex-servicemen's Welfare is nearing completion. A sum of Rs. 14.10 lakhs has been spent towards construction of Jawans Bhavan / District Ex - services Centre during 1983-84.

All these schemes need large amount of funds. When compared with the sacrifices they made for defending our Motherland, the amount being spent now is very meagre. Since the Flag Day is to remember the valiant defence personnel for their heroic deeds, it is the best opportunity for the general public to honour and to remember them by contributing their mite liberally to the Flag Day Fund.

CHIEF MINISTER Dr. M.G.R RECOVERS





The State University Hospital, Brooklyn, New York, where Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. M.G.R is undergoing treatment.

(Courtesy : Mr. Albert, Supervisor photography, Down State Medical Centre, Brooklyn, New York)



POLICE to POSSESS HOUSES

Wayback in 1979 when a few Senior Police Officers of the Tamil Nadu called on the Hon'ble Chief Minister for a discussion on the various benefits that can be given to the police personnel, one of the suggestion which the Hon'ble Chief Minister himself made was to have a scheme for building houses for serving as well as retiring police personnel on "OWN YOUR HOUSE SCHEME" basis. The idea of the Hon'ble Chief Minister was that while during service time the police personnel may be given rent free quarters or rent allowance where rent free quarters are not available. what with the round-the-clock onerous duties which the police personnel are expected to perform, they will hardly find time to look after their personal comforts, much less to supervise the construction of houses on their own in these hard days with their limited income and ultimately they will be in lurch without any roof over their head once they retire. It is in this context that the scheme contemplates a roof over the head of every policemen when he retires from service. This scheme is hence unique in many ways and it is a touching recognition of the

policemen's arduous duties while in service.

This proposal was followed up with a formal announcement by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. M.G.R on the floor of the Assembly on 8th November 1979. After an initial exercise over the type of the organisation we have to have in this connection and the legal formalities to be gone through in this regard, it was again announced on the floor of the Assembly on 29th July 1980 that the organisation for this purpose will be a Corporation to be registered under the Com-

V. VAIKUNTH, I.P.S.,
D.I.G. of Police & Managing
Director of Police Housing
Corporation.



panies Act. What was initially started as a Housing Cell under the Director-General of Police was later registered as a Company on 30th April 1981 under the Companies Act with an authorised capital of Rupees One Crore.

The enlightened Tamil Nadu Government have many FIRSTS to their credit and this scheme is that way the FIRST of its kind in the Country as a whole. Whereas a number of States in the Country have been having some organisational set-up or other to look after the housing programme for the serving police personnel for building quarters for them during their service-either rent free quarters or on rental basis, only in Tamil Nadu there is a separate scheme and an organisation to construct houses for the policemen on "OWN YOUR HOUSE" basis and the cost of the houses are adjusted towards House Building Advance which they are eligible and sanctioned by the Government. That way, it is for the FIRST TIME that we have launched a scheme for the welfare of the policemen.

No wonder senior officers heading the police housing orga-

nisation from all over the country are visiting us with a view to learn from our experience and with a view to knowing from us as to how to go about this scheme.

When a scheme like this is undertaken, naturally it is our look-out to see that the cost is kept as reasonably low as possible without sacrificing the quality. It is here that the Government have come to our help in a big way by assigning lands—either poramboke or other types of land at a reasonably low cost, which is a big factor in reducing the cost of the houses. Equally important is the fact that the Tamil Nadu Government has been helping us in a big way by giving loans at reasonable rates of interest and we are also getting levy cement for construction. Added to these benefits conferred to this Corporation, towards reducing the cost of the houses several new systems and measures have been introduced to streamline the procedures with a view to having a proper supervision and check over uncalled for, irregular and extravagant expenditures—both administrative overheads and works expenditure. This has again resulted in the reduction in the cost of the construction. Houses are built again having an eye on cost reduction techniques and use of good materials and by way of bringing down the cost of developmental works like roads, drainage, water supply facilities etc. Having these in mind during the last six months, a number of co-ordination meetings have been held with Collectors of the concerned districts and other departmental heads of the districts to ensure a prompt and purposeful co-ordination so that there is no delay and consequent escalation of cost.

With the result the houses built under this scheme with the same plinth area but with better quality as certified by the Experts in the field are costing far less than such houses built elsewhere.



Funding:—Apart from the Government's assistance by way of Share Capital, loan and ways and means advance, we are also getting loan from HUDCO, New Delhi, with the interest rate which is higher than the normal rate of interest chargeable on Tamil Nadu Government's loans.

The construction of houses under the "NAVALPATTU" scheme which was started in the middle of 1982 has been completed in record time with all the infrastructure facilities like roads, drainage etc. This was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 15th September 1984. We have also proposed to build Hospitals, Schools, Super-Market and Library which will be completed soon which the Collector of Trichy has undertaken to initiate action under the N.R.E.P. scheme.

The total cost of this project is Rs. 164 lakhs.

Totally there are 682 houses of all types— 72 MIG-I, 45 MIG II, 432 LIG-I, 108 LIG-II, and 18 EWS types. The plinth area and cost of the various types of houses is given below:

	sq.ft	Rs.
i. MIG I	513	45,450
ii. MIG II	420	36,960

iii. LIG I	383	27,640
iv. LIG II	350	25,670
v. E.W.S.	210	15,820

The plot area of the house very from half ground to one ground.

In view of pressing demand from non-police personnel who are also not that economically well-off, for allotment of houses under this scheme—particularly because of the low cost of the houses—we have extended this particular scheme to a limited extent to them as well as on Government's prior approval sanction.

The Navalpattu scheme which was inaugurated by the Honourable Chief Minister on 15th September 1984 is only our maiden venture. We have the second scheme half-way through in Coimbatore. We have again acquired lands in Vadapalani near Madurai and Thimmarajapuram near Tirunelveli where we are proposing to start the construction soon.

The "Own Your Own" house scheme has thus proved to be a great boon to the policemen and their families who will be ever grateful to the enlightened Tamil Nadu Government and the Honourable Chief Minister Dr. M.G.R for their fine gesture.



SOCIAL BANKING ANTI-POVERTY PROGRAMME IN TAMIL NADU

V. PARANJOTHI, M.A., D.J.,
Information and Public Relations Officer.

For quite a large section of the people in India, particularly in Tamil Nadu, the easy credit facility, even to the minimum of Rs. 500, available with the banks for productive purpose, was unknown till recently. It is also true that the banking institutions never dared to keep their net wide open to cover the socially and economically disadvantaged groups in society.

The nationalisation of banks in 1969 opened new opportunities to the poor and the hitherto neglected sections to avail themselves of the credit facilities on easy and reasonable terms and interest. The banks in India have passed through three phases namely, 'no role', 'passive role' and 'active role.' The banks are now social institutions, discharging their conventional functions as also the new role assigned to them to realise the social objectives of the Planners. The role of the banks in India has since undergone a sea-change.

We speak of the poor and their deprivation. Who are the poor? Where are they? The economists and sociologists are

yet to see eye to eye in accepting the universality or compatibility of the definition of 'poverty' expounded at great length by Rath and Dandekar. Let us be a little pragmatic and accept the findings of recent applied economic surveys. The recent studies show that 75% of the poor people live in rural areas. They are the landless, farm workers, small tenant farmers and the cultivators owning small strips of land that yield no sufficient yield to sustain them and rural artisans including the community service section like the barbers and washermen. The remaining 25% live mostly in urban slums. They are all migratory population from villages, seeking green pastures in growing industrial centres. Their problems have eluded the Indian Planners for a very long time, even after six five-year plans. How can we tackle this ticklish issue? Even in the early twenties Mahatma Gandhi wrote in 'Young India': 'To a people famishing and idle, the only acceptable form in which God can dare appear is work and promise of food as wages.' The hungry millions ask for one poem—invigorating food. They cannot

be given it. They must earn it." Taking cue from Gandhiji's exhortation and rich experience gained through various anti-poverty programmes including rural self-sufficiency work, Tamil Nadu has left no stone unturned in bringing succour to the poor.

Tamil Nadu is not a fledgling in rural rejuvenation work. Tamil Nadu has been a pace setter in rural development and self-sufficiency programmes. True to its tradition, the Government of Tamil Nadu created the department of Institutional Finance in July 1983 to serve not only as a coordinator between the banks and the weaker sections but also a directing force, giving new pep and fervour to the development agencies implementing IRDP, TRYSEM and NREP, etc. The fixation of targets and monitoring of the programmes is being done by this Department. The beneficiaries selected mainly include Scheduled Castes and Tribes, Backward Class, physically and socially handicapped, widows, destitutes, ex-servicemen, and families of serving personnel and the rural artisans and small craftsmen. Till March, 1984 the various categories of weaker sections who received the loans numbered 1,75,000 and the loan amount disbursed was Rs. 40 crores. The success story of

many a self-employed rural loanee is an eloquent example of the active role played by the Department of Institutional Finance in mobilising the financial resources of the banks and helping the socially and economically backward sections to fight unemployment and under-employment.

Pudukottai is a backward district in Tamil Nadu; as a geographical district administration unit it is only 10-Year old. Transitory migratory character of the people explains the absence of self-employment opportunities and viable self-employment generating openings. Private credit flow or industrial investment in this district is also meagre. Under this condition the district administration wanted to adopt a new strategy to generate employment opportunities for the benefit of the prospective youths, skilled or semi-skilled or unskilled with the assistance of the nationalised banks. The block agencies have been directed to identify such eligible persons and specify the trade in which they can be gainfully placed. The self-employment scheme has helped a considerable number of persons and also generated confidence in the minds of people regarding the benefit and assets accruing from the loan assistance made available by the banks. To illustrate the success of the self-employment scheme in Pudukkottai district, two study cases, in brief, are given hereunder.

Ayyakkannu, aged 40, was employed in a cycle shop for a



meagre daily wage in the village Aranmanaipatti in Pudukkottai district. He is an adept in cycle repair work. He left for Cochin where he worked as a lorry cleaner. His technical skill was not recognised; nor was rewarded suitably. Frustrated with this job, Ayyakkannu returned home. The skill of Ayyakkannu was known to all; his poverty is a barrier to get himself employed usefully to eke out his livelihood. He could not escape from the sight of the Grama Sevak who is a frequent visitor to Aranmanai-patti. With the assistance and guidance of the Grama Sevak, he was identified as eligible for a bank loan to start a cycle shop in the village. Satisfied with the integrity and technical capacity of Ayyakkannu, the State Bank of India sanctioned Rs. 3,400 and arranged for purchase of cycles to let them on hire to the villagers. Cycle is a main mode of transport in this area. Ayyakkannu is all smiles now. He earns Rs.15 a day. He is regular in repaying his monthly instalment of Rs. 125. As a matter of fact, he is not a lotus-eater. He hopes to add a few more bi-cycles to his fleet.

Another interesting story is that of Subramaniya Gurukkal, a priest in a temple. Poojaris or Gurukkals are very poorly paid; many temples in Tamil Nadu are not out of woods as far as their finances are concerned. The payment he receives from the temple is not sufficient to sustain his family of six children. His children looked emaciated, with chunken cheeks. He yearned for a better future; it was far away from him. His innocent enquiries regarding the Integrated Rural Development Programme gave him a new ray of hope. He received Rs. 2500 as loan from a nationalised bank to buy a milch animal. He was regularly paying his bank loan with no default. The milk production earned him good monthly income. He also

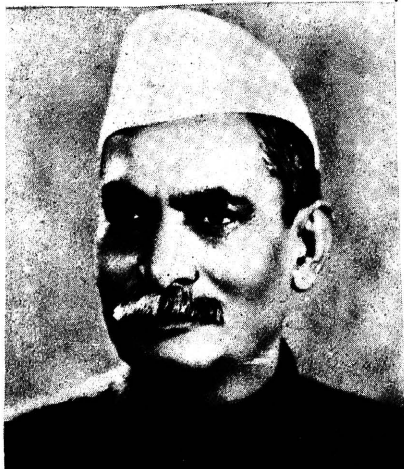


received second loan. The calves of both buffaloes raise their ears eagerly, with fumble and numble of their salivary mouths, to hear the happy words of their master. Within a couple of years, Subramania Gurukkal will be able to close the loan account and have the milch animals and the calves as his assets to build a prosperous future.

The poverty alleviating programmes merit careful examination in detail and serious implementation so that the real beneficiaries enjoy the fruits of the schemes. This will help our endeavour to raise the standard of living of the people. In the absence of such serious efforts and sincerity of purpose, the widening gap between the affluent and the poor, the 'haves' and the 'have nots' can't be bridged in a foreseeable future in a country like India. I think it is relevant to remind ourselves of the Manifesto against Hunger by 52 Nobel Laureates issued in 1981.

"If only people are told what is happening, then the world's future which now seems to threaten everyone in it may be changed. But only if we take action."

"Now is the time to create; now is the time for us to live in a way that will give life to others."



The First President of Indian Republic

Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the first President of the Indian Republic, was in many respects a true representative of all that is good and worth cherishing in our cultural and social heritage. His contemporaries often described him as a model of simplicity and nobility. He came to be known as "the gentleman of Indian politics". If Gandhiji used to call him *ajataшатru*, one who has no enemies, Sarojini Naidu in her poetic vein once said that he (Rajendra Prasad) is one of those who have never dipped their pen in gall. Truly he was a man who in all the heated controversies of party strife and conflicts of political warfare never caused or received a single bruise. There was nothing like bitterness in him and political acerbities always left him

unscathed. He was essentially a man of peace, a real humanitarian with goodwill towards all.

With all his simplicity and unassuming nature, one could not, however, fail to see that his nobility was marked by infinite contrasts in his total personality. Always anxious to hear more than to say, Rajendra Prasad was rather economical in the use of words when he did choose to speak. His natural equanimity and innate tolerance made him widely known as a very amicable negotiator and pleasant conversationalist, so much so that in 1946-47 when differences between the Congress and the Muslim League seemed to have become unbridgeable, Mr. Jinnah went out of his way to name Dr. Rajendra Prasad in preference to other Congress leaders for discussing the main points of difference between the two parties. It, however, goes without saying that with all his rustic bearing, his "simplicity was supported by an urbanity of the most cultured and polished type. A plebeian out and out, he was almost regal in his bearing."

Early Life

Rajendra Prasad was born on December 3, 1884 in a middle class family in village Zeradei of Saran district in Bihar. He acquired fame while still in his teens, when as a student he topped in successive examinations of the Calcutta university. His teachers and many others who came in contact with him thought him to be a prodigy, for Calcutta university of those days encompassed the whole of North-Eastern India, including Bihar, Orissa and Assam, in addition to Bengal.

He brought to bear the same brilliance on his professional work when he started practising as a lawyer at the Calcutta and later at the Patna High Court. His first contact with Gandhiji in Champaran in 1918 snapped his ties with the legal profession at a time when he had begun to command a lucrative practice, and, what is more significant, at a time when his needy family required his help most.

At the Feet of Gandhiji

For years his elder brother, Mahendra Prasad, had been carrying on the burden of the whole family on himself, but hopes of a brighter future which awaited Rajendra Prasad had made light of this burden. Rajendra Prasad, however, disappointed his brother, and leaving the family almost in the lurch decided to give up his legal practice in preference to joining the Congress movement under Gandhiji's leadership. This was, indeed, a rare example of sacrifice.

The First President of India

It was characteristic of Rajendra Prasad to have announced, soon after his election as President, a voluntary cut in his salary. The result was that he was left with less than five thousand rupees after income-tax deduction out of the salary of Rs. 10,000 allowed to him by our Constitution. And he seldom felt the pinch, for by habit he was very economical—almost parsimonious by current standards—and he hated conspicuous living.

That as President he could not help living with the all-round glamour of Rashtrapati Bhavan was another matter. He often thought he was a prisoner in that vast Bhavan. He said once, "Before I joined the Government in 1946, I had very little contact with English officials or with the Governors and Government Houses... Time takes its own revenge and I have been a prisoner of the type I then complained of, for the last ten years or so. I have often told friends that while we were in prison, one warden used to guard dozens or even more prisoners; while in the Rashtrapati Bhavan there are dozens of guards on one man who is grandiloquently called the Rashtrapati, but is, in fact, a prisoner not of law, but of customs, inhibitions and conventions which are no less galling...."

But all the paraphernalia of Rashtrapati Bhavan, its ceremonials and glittering environs left him entirely untouched. In his personal life he continued to be as simple and unsophisticated as ever. He would not connive at any attempt to regularise by making it "official" any expenditure which he knew was incurred on his guests or family. He is known to have once called the officer concerned to explain to him why the bill for his personal telephone calls was so low when he had a number of guests who were using the phone liberally for contacting friends or relations in Patna. On the officer's admission that most of the trunk calls of that nature had been put in official account, Rajendra Prasad expressed his displeasure and asked him to look into the matter again. Subsequently, he paid from his own pocket for most of the personal calls made by his guests.

Orthodoxy discarded

Born and brought up in an orthodox family, in earlier life Rajendra Prasad observed all the taboos in the matter of eating that were the hallmark of Hindu orthodoxy. While studying at Calcutta and later while practising as a lawyer there and in Patna, he never ate anything cooked by a non-Brahmin. But soon he was to change his entire outlook on coming in contact with Gandhiji. In his autobiography he had confessed that a revolutionary change came in his day-to-day life as a result of his close contact with the Mahatma, "I was, for example, a strict observer of caste



Dr. Rajendra Prasad with Mr. N.A. Bulganin and Mr. N.S. Krishchew at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in November 1955.

Then followed a quarter century of agitation and suffering, involving periodic going to and coming out of jail. Rajendra Prasad was elected President of the Indian National Congress thrice. He had come to be counted among the first six top leaders of the Congress. Such was his erudition and so close was he to the seat of power that he acquired the reputation of being the draftsman of the Congress. Most of the documents issued and official resolutions adopted by the organisation bore the imprint of Rajendra Prasad's drafting.

In 1946, when the first national government was formed under Jawaharlal Nehru's leadership, Rajendra Prasad was included in it and allotted the portfolio of Food and Agriculture. In the following year he was elected President of the Constituent Assembly—an assignment which he carried out with exceptional ability and dignity. Three years later when India became a Republic, he was unanimously elected its President. He held that august office for over twelve years, a performance which no successor of his is ever likely to repeat.

An Educationist

In his own right, Rajen Babu was also a bit of an educationist. He had made a thorough study of the current system of education in India and could well expatiate on its merits and demerits as also the reforms which, he thought, were necessary to make it a truly national system for the people's benefit. In 1937 when Gandhiji set up a committee for preparing a scheme of Basic Education, along with Dr. Zakir Hussain, Rajen Babu was also one of its members. His discussions with the successive education ministers whenever they visited Rashtrapati Bhavan used to be pretty long and detailed. In his inaugural address to the first National Integration Conference, among other things, he dwelt on this subject also. Referring to the problem of standardising school education throughout the country, he said:

"I feel that in all principal towns of the South and other non-Hindi speaking regions, particularly in towns where the Union Government staff is stationed, we must have model schools and colleges established on behalf of the Union Education Ministry, providing for education through the medium of Hindi as well as English, but primarily Hindi. I am told in many cases transfers of the Union Government staff mean disruption of their children's education, because the medium of instruction differs from place to place. We could remove this hardship at least partly by opening such schools and colleges at important places. It will be a good idea to start our experiment of national education with these schools...."

This was the beginning of the Central schools of which we have now a few hundreds spread in all parts of the country. Seeing that they are proving to be a great boon, parents have good reason to look back to the source of this idea with gratitude.

A Prolific Writer

Dr. Rajendra Prasad also wrote a number of important books. While in jail during 1942-44, he wrote *India Divided* which at once became a classic for both the opponents and the protagonists of the division of the country as demanded by the Muslim League. He was the first top Indian leader to have written his autobiography in Hindi, the *Atma Katha*, for which the Nagari Pracharini Sabha of Varanasi honoured him with the highest award, the Mangala Prasad Paritoshik. A sincere Gandhian as he was, his *Bapu Ke Qadmon Men*, written after his election as President, soon assumed the status of a text book for all who subscribed to Gandhiji's thinking and his way of solving the country's political and socio-economic problems.



Dr Rajendra Prasad, the first President of India signing the constitution of India.

1959, he posed a similar question. Referring to the legislators he said:

"One of the things which I have sometimes considered rather unfortunate is that while we have provided rather meticulously for the independence of our judiciary and have also provided in a way for the assistance to be given to judges by lawyers in administering the law, there is no provision anywhere that those who make the law know any law at all...."

He raised such questions, of course, in an academic spirit and in a most harmless way, for he believed it was one of the ways of educating the people as regards the Constitution and of stimulating in them sense of responsibility in making the best of it in national interest. Having posed the question he himself sought to answer it by saying that "in a democracy you can only count heads, you do not care to know what lies in those heads!"

rules and restrictions. I would never eat any food touched by a non-Brahmin, which was not ordinarily eaten by my caste people. Gandhiji told us if this sort of culinary separatism continued we would not be able to carry on public work.....”

That was the beginning of the process of discarding orthodoxy, a process which he had perfected by the time he was elected President. Little wonder that in Rashtrapati Bhavan both of his bearers were Muslims. In this regard he had risen above not only caste but also religious denominations.

It was but natural that such liberalisation of views should also change his social outlook. Early in life, Rajendra Prasad had raised his voice against social evils, particularly the evil of dowry which was widely prevalent in his own caste. “When in 1916, I moved from Calcutta to Patna, a few Kayastha friends asked me to sign a pledge that at the time of my sons’ marriages, I would not take from the brides’ parents in cash or otherwise more than Rs.51/-. I readily signed the pledge because I was at one with that view.” When the time of his two sons’ marriages came, it need hardly be said, he acted strictly in accordance with the above pledge.

Though temperamentally calm and exceptionally mild, he knew how to appreciate dissidence and bear with difference of opinion. As for the working of the democratic system, Rajendra Prasad vested valid criticism with much value. Addressing a public meeting at Salem (Tamil Nadu) in August, 1960, he said: “The fundamental fact of the Constitution is that we have a Government which is the elected Government of the people, and it is within the competence and power of the people to dictate their wishes to the Government which is none other than their own representative Government. I, therefore, do not need to plead that there shall be no criticism. We may have criticism of the Government policy and programme. Without criticism the Government may go wrong....”

Views on Constitution

Dr. Rajendra Prasad firmly believed that nothing can be truly great which is not right. In all spheres of life, official or private, he was a stickler for correctitude. This attitude he brought to bear particularly on matters of constitutional and democratic import. Alluding to our own Constitution which is a written one as against the unwritten one of the United Kingdom, he often stressed the importance of healthy conventions which in course of time acquire the force of law. While addressing a public meeting in Madras in August, 1960, he said that though we had adopted a written Constitution, we should not be scared away by the idea that for that reason

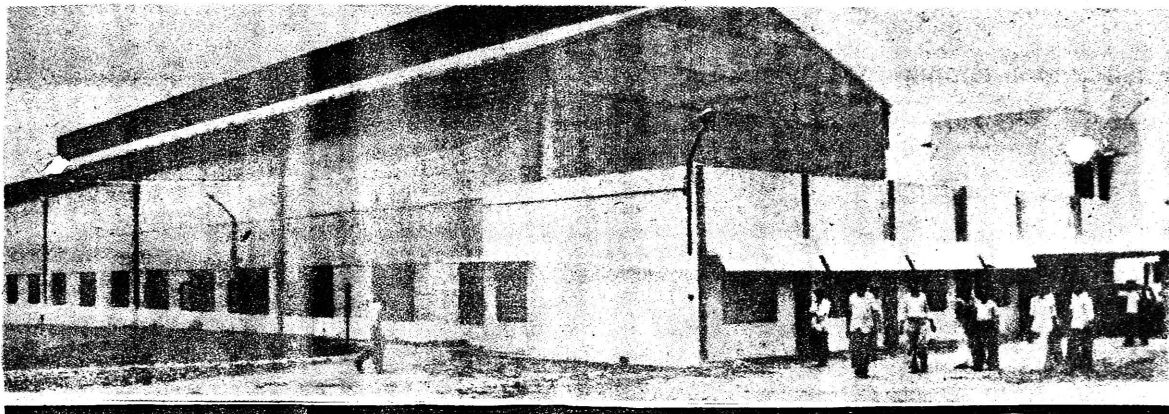
we are completely rigid. He added: “What I feel is that in this country we should develop the conventions which go with democracy in England, and those conventions govern not only the governments but also the people. The elected representative is as much governed by these conventions as the electors themselves. The members of the Government and the party which is in the majority are governed by those conventions as much as the members of the Opposition.....”

May be, it was with this view in mind that Rajendra Prasad had earlier decided that the President should stay in South India for a month or so and preside over the Independence Day celebrations in the capitals of South Indian States by turn. In pursuit of this decision, which, as we know, he succeeded in turning into a convention, he had a separate Rashtrapati Nilayam set up at Hyderabad where every successive President has been spending four to six weeks every year. Dr. Rajendra Prasad’s idea was to let some part of the glamour associated with Independence Day celebrations be shared by the South as well.

Legislators and Law

In spite of his wide reading and undisputed erudition, Rajendra Prasad was ever willing to hear others. Even if he did not accept the other man’s point of view on a given question, he would always appreciate it. What was most striking about him was that one would ever find him open to correction. His all too evident simplicity and modesty seldom failed to disarm his critics. About the Constitution itself, which was framed by a body over which he presided, he would sometimes think aloud and wonder if an amendment here and a change there would not have served the nation better. One of such topics that attracted him related to our legislators and the voters. Would it not have been better, he thought, if our Constitution had prescribed certain minimum qualifications for both. “Our Constitution has been based on the assumption that every adult is not only entitled to express his opinion but that he also does as a fact express that best opinion for the country at large. This assumption may not always be well founded, especially in an age of transition. After all what suits best the largest number is not always the best for the country, all things considered. It would, therefore, seem that something more than mere age should be considered essential for enabling a man to decide on questions relating to a country or nation...what is even more glaring is the absence of any qualification, besides age, even in the person to be elected as a representative.”

Again, while addressing the Bar Association of Poona in November



speedy and sure support to small industry— that is **SIDCO**



The Tamil Nadu Small Industries Development Corporation popularly known as 'SIDCO', an enterprise of the Government of Tamil Nadu, was set up in the year 1970 as a Private Limited Company and was later converted into a Public Limited Company in 1971, with the main objective of developing and assisting the Small Scale Industries in Tamil Nadu. The schemes now being implemented by SIDCO, for the benefit of the small scale industries in Tamil Nadu are:

- (i) Marketing support for Small Scale Industries.
- (ii) Provision of infrastructural facilities to Small Scale Industries which includes—
 - a) Industrial Worksheds and developed plots in Industrial Estates
 - b) Built-up sheds for Tiny sector Industries in Rural and backward areas
- (iii) Sanction of Central and State Capital Investment Subsidy
- (iv) Making available Key Raw Materials
- (v) Sanction of Interest Free Sales Tax Loan
- (vi) Sanction of L.T. Power Tariff Subsidy
- (vii) Rehabilitation of Sick Small Scale Industries

The scheme of rendering marketing assistance to Small Scale Industrial units, commenced during the year 1978-79. Though it is the sixth year of operation of the scheme during the last four years, tremendous progress has been made under this scheme.

The supply of tooth powder under Chief Minister's Nutritious Noon Meal Programme, commenced last year continues to be maintained satisfactorily. Under this scheme, at present 47 small scale industrial units located all over the state, are manufacturing and supplying tooth powder. Besides this, 12 units are engaged in the manufacture of chemicals and 25 units in the manufacture of packaging materials required under the above scheme. As a result of the scheme, 1,500 persons are directly provided with employment opportunities.

The supply of educational aids required for the Child Welfare Cen-

tres under the Nutritious Noon Meal Programme is continued by SIDCO, and during the year 1983-84 8,184 sets of educational aids at a total cost of Rs. 49.10 lakhs were supplied by the Small Scale Industrial Units. 18 Small Scale Industrial units participated in this manufacturing activity.

The scheme of converting the dental factory sheds in the various Government Industrial Estates and making them available on hire purchase basis has been fulfilled by the Government last year. The scheme covers 783 factory sheds in the 33 Government Industrial Estates that are under the administrative jurisdiction of SIDCO.

SIDCO has so far constructed 1,169 sheds in 29 locations (13 Government Estates and 16 SIDCO Estates) and allotted 983 developed plots in various Industrial Estates to Small Scale Industries Units. In addition to the above, worksheds are under construction in Kurichi (Coimbatore) Thuvakudi (Tiruchirappalli), Dindigul and Madhavaram.

In the Industrial Estate at Alathur (near Tiruppur) exclusively set up for Drugs and Pharmaceuticals

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from 1st April 1984 and the Government of India have categorised the backward areas as 'A', 'B' and 'C' categories and announced 25%, 15% and 10% respectively to these areas. There is no 'A' category backward areas in Tamil Nadu. Under 'B' category 30 taluks are made eligible for 15% subsidy and under 'C' category 62 taluks are made eligible for 10% subsidy. The details of sanctions over the years in respect of Central Capital Investment Subsidy are as follows :

Year	No. of units	Value (Rs. in lakhs)
From 1974 - 75 to 1979-80	1245	293.86
1980-81	638	219.69
1981-82	544	213.38
1982-83	2369	894.78
1983-84	672	229.20
	<u>5,468</u>	<u>1,850.91</u>

Compared to the sanctions accorded during the six year period commencing from 1974-75 to 1979-80 the sanctions accorded during the last four years is more than three times. During the last two years alone, the average number of units assisted per one year works out to 1,520 to the value of Rs. 587 lakhs per year.

Tamil Nadu continues to occupy the first place in the country in the matter of availing itself of the benefits of Central Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme.

The scheme of 15% State Capital Subsidy in respect of small scale industrial units situated in the notified 24 taluks, is implemented by SIDCO with effect from 17-12-79. Subsequently Government have extended the scheme to nine more taluks, namely, Thovalai (Kanyakumari District), Rasi, uram (Salem), Avinashi (Coimbatore), Coonoor (Nilgiris) Dharapuram (Periyar) Radhapuram (Tirunelveli) Palani (Madurai), Vanur (South Arcot) and Gandaryakottai (Pudukkottai). Thus, at present, 33 taluks in Tamil Nadu, are eligible for State Capital Investment Subsidy. During the last four years SIDCO has assisted 655 units to the value of Rs. 151.39 lakhs, as detailed below :-

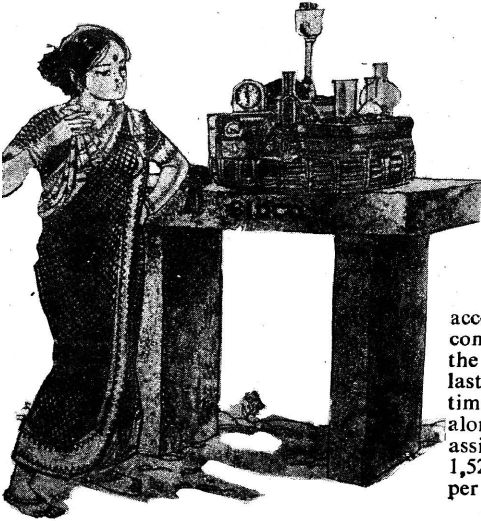
Year	No. of SSI Units assisted	Value Rs. in lakhs
1980-81	104	6.09
1991-82	140	28.65
1982-83	137	22.71
1983-84	274	93.94
	<u>655</u>	<u>151.39</u>

SIDCO also implements the scheme of 10% State Subsidy for selected category of industries introduced by the Government for the benefit of small scale industries since the year 1983-84. To ensure that adequate employment opportunities are created, this scheme is linked to the employment to be generated by the selected category of industries. 10% of the value of capital assets created, or Rs. 20,000 per any employee on the permanent roll of the company, whichever is lower is sanctioned under this scheme, subject to a ceiling of Rs.10 lakhs per unit. This subsidy is available for four categories of Industries namely (i) Ancillary automobile units (ii) drugs and formulation of scheduled drugs, (iii) Electronics and (iv) Manufacture of equipment, machinery etc., to tap solar energy for domestic and other industrial uses. This subsidy is available even for urban areas not covered by Central/State Capital Subsidy Schemes. Under this scheme so far 7 SSI units have been assisted to the extent of Rs. 5.96 lakhs.

SIDCO procures and distributes scarce industrial raw materials such as Iron and Steel, Coke, Match Wax Paraffin wax, Lead and Zinc, Potassium Chlorate, Fatty acids etc.. Due to the persistent efforts of SIDCO over the years, the availability of almost all the raw materials that were scarce during the earlier years has since improved so as to meet the full requirements of SSIs in Tamil Nadu. Particular mention should be made about all sections of Iron and Steel and various grades of wax.

The Schemes of Interest Free Sales Tax Loan, Power Tariff Subsidy and Rehabilitation of Sick Small Scale Industrial units are the other schemes continued to be implemented by SIDCO for the benefit of small scale industries.

Under the various schemes implemented by SIDCO employment opportunities have been provided to nearly 1,27,400 persons.



industries, construction of work-sheds is now in progress. In the first phase, eleven sheds would be ready for occupation before the end of June 1984. Besides the above 13 plots are being developed for allotment. The total capital outlay both by SIDCO as well as the entrepreneurs at Alathur is expected to be around Rs. 500 lakhs. In all 35 factory sheds and 40 Developed Plots would be allotted in 3 phases. The Industrial Estate at Alathur is the Seventh Functional Industrial Estate of its kind in Tamil Nadu.

SIDCO implements the Central Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme as well as the State Capital Subsidy for the benefit of the Small Scale Industries from 1974-75 and from 15-80-81 respectively.

The Scheme of 15% Central Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme has been slightly modified with effect

GOVT. LOANS FOR 4 LAKH PERSONS

The Institutional Finance Department of the Government of Tamil Nadu has helped about 3.9 lakh persons belonging to weaker sections to secure loans amounting to about Rs.103.87 crore during the first 6 months of the current financial year from various nationalised banks in Tamil Nadu.

Loans disbursed last year amounted to Rs. 9.76 crore benefiting about 3.75 lakh persons.

Under the scheme of providing employment to educated unemployed youth the banks helped over 21,240 persons with a loan of Rs.33.15 crore during 1983-84.

IN THANJAVUR DISTRICT

Under the Self-Employment Scheme 2,066 persons have got loan from bank and have started industries of their own. Among these 274 are women including 2 widows.

IN CHENGALPATTU DISTRICT

The St. Thomas Mount Panchayat Union stood first in the sale of Khadi in 1983. On the occasion of the celebration of Mahatma Gandhi's birth-day at Kuralagam on 2nd October 1984, Hon'ble Education Minister Thiru C. Aranganayagam, presented the Shield to the Union Commissioner Thiru K. Aranganayagam.

City Electricity system to have another division:

The City electricity system has been trifurcated to improve services to the 5.77 lakh consumers.

From November, 1, there are three divisions - Madras South, Madras Central and Madras North - each under the charge of a superintending engineer.

Originally, the whole city and the suburbs formed one compact system. In 1976 with the growth in number of consumers to 3.1 lakh, the system was bifurcated into Madras South and Madras North. In the last eight years, the number of consumers has gone up to more than 5.77 lakh.

The Chairman of Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, said that a separate Anna Nagar division had also been created.

The Nectar



It is indeed a pleasure for me to be here amongst you. But I have a grievance. You have spoken of the nectar of the sound of Tamil but you have given us little occasion to listen to it just now. Many years ago I made an effort to learn Tamil... I have tremendous respect for all the languages of India and Tamil occupies a very high place. All of you are aware, it is one of our very oldest languages, one with a known and beautiful literature. All of you here have quoted Subramanya Bharati, which is a name known not only in India but anywhere in the world where people respect good writing. I am told and I am happy to learn that modern Tamil writing is also of a high quality, fine and powerful and modern in its expression.

It is a little difficult to give my views on literature when I am in the midst of literary people. The

pen, indeed, is said to be mightier than the sword, and I would like to remind you of an old, old story. I think it refers to a Roman emperor who asked somebody who was with him; what is the best thing in the world? And he said, "Words, language". What is the worst thing? He said, "Words and language". It is not what a thing is but how you use it that matters.

Tamil is not only an Indian language, it is now an international language and many people in Malaysia, in Singapore, in Sri Lanka, speak it. Perhaps you have branches of your Association there which are helping Tamil to grow and flourish in every way and also enabling Indians who are abroad to project a correct picture of India, not only with our difficulties but also with our achievements.

(At Tamil writers Association)

Rupees one crore relief to farmers

Outbreak of Stemborer, a serious pest and blast disease has been noticed due to existing cold weather condition in parts of Tamil Nadu and the Agriculture Department is vigilant in operating the post Surveillance Programme with Rs. 1 crore as operational subsidy and cost of chemicals to the farmers.

Rs. 58.2 lakhs has been specially sanctioned for the stemborer pest programme and Rs. 42.78 lakhs specially sanctioned for the issue of fungicides for the control of blast disease on paddy in about 50,000 hectares. The unprecedented showers in the start of North East Monsoon coupled with Cyclonic storm made the downpour widespread throughout the coastal districts of Tamil Nadu and beneficial to the standing crop of Samba and Thalady paddy. Dry millets like Cholam and Ragi and Pulses were also benefited by rains.

A recorded area of 4.49 lakh hectares is under various Pulses like Redgram, and Greengram this year. To popularise improved varieties of Pulses, seeds worth about Rs. 1 crore are distributed to the farmers in the form of Minikit free of cost. In all, about 400 M.Ts. of quality seeds in 2 kgs. and 4 kgs. Minikit along with Rhizobial culture and DAP will be distributed before March, 1985.

The Department of Agriculture has poised to increase the Cotton area considerably this year to step up the cotton production and offering various subsidies and incentives to the Cotton growers. The cotton production is expected to be 5 lakh bales this year.

Under the special incentive programme for the paddy procurement, chemical fertilisers worth of Rs. 1.66 crores has been distributed in selected taluks of Tanjore, Trichy, Pudukottai and South Arcot Districts

January	1st Tuesday	New Year Day
"	14th Monday	Pongal
"	15th Tuesday	Tiruvalluvar Day
"	16th Wednesday	Uzhavar Thirunal
"	26th Saturday	Republic Day
March	22nd Friday	Telugu New Year Day
April	3rd Wednesday	Mahaveer Jayanthi
"	5th Friday	Good Friday
"	13th Saturday	Tamil New Year Day
May	1st Wednesday	May Day
June	20th Thursday	Ramzan
"	30th Sunday	Half-Yearly closing of Bank Accounts
August	15th Thursday	Independence Day
"	27th Tuesday	Bakrid
September	18th Wednesday	Vinayaka Chathurthi
"	26th Thursday	Muharam
October	2nd Wednesday	Gandhi Jayanthi
"	22nd Tuesday	Auydha poojai
"	23rd Wednesday	Auydha poojai
November	11th Monday	Deepavali
"	26th Tuesday	Meelad-un-Nabi
December	25th Wednesday	Christmas
"	31st Tuesday	Annual closing of Bank Accounts

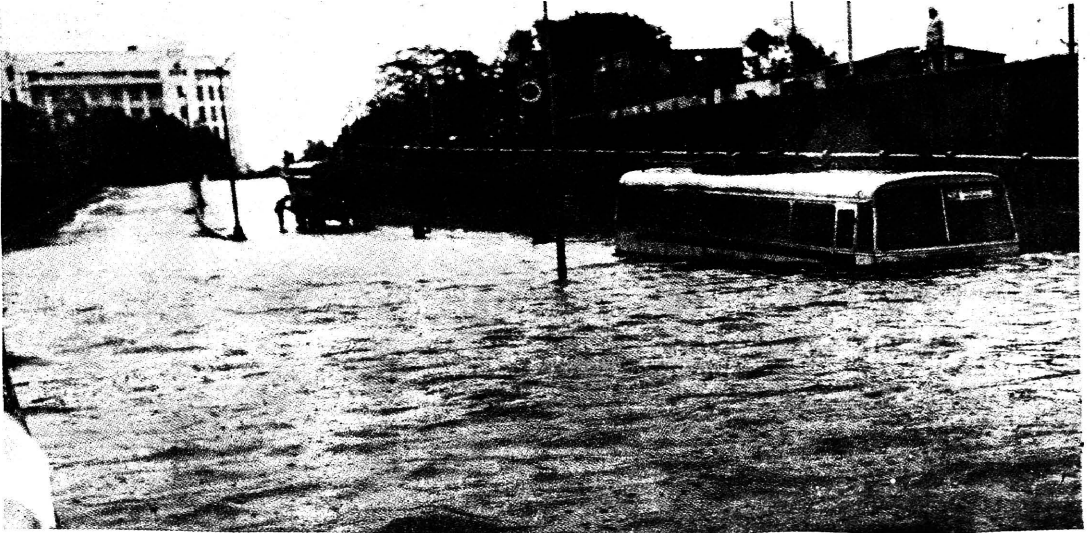


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IMMEDIATE RELIEF

Hon'ble Prime Minister Thiru Rajiv Gandhi sanctioned ways and means advance of Rs. 7 crores to Andhra Pradesh and Rs 5 crores to Tamil Nadu for taking up cyclone relief works.

He also promised that each State would be given Rs. 15 lakhs from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for helping individuals who had lost their kith and kin and property in the cyclone that lashed the two States recently.

The Prime Minister who airdashed to Madras

on 16th November and had an aerial survey of the cyclone-affected areas of Nellore district and also went by road to the affected areas in Madras, said that the ways and means advance was being announced by him on an ad hoc basis without waiting for the memoranda from the State Governments.

He was accompanied by the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Thiru N.T.Rama Rao, the Tamil Nadu Finance Minister, Dr. V.R. Nedunchezian and the Union Energy Minister Thiru P. Shiv Shankar.





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