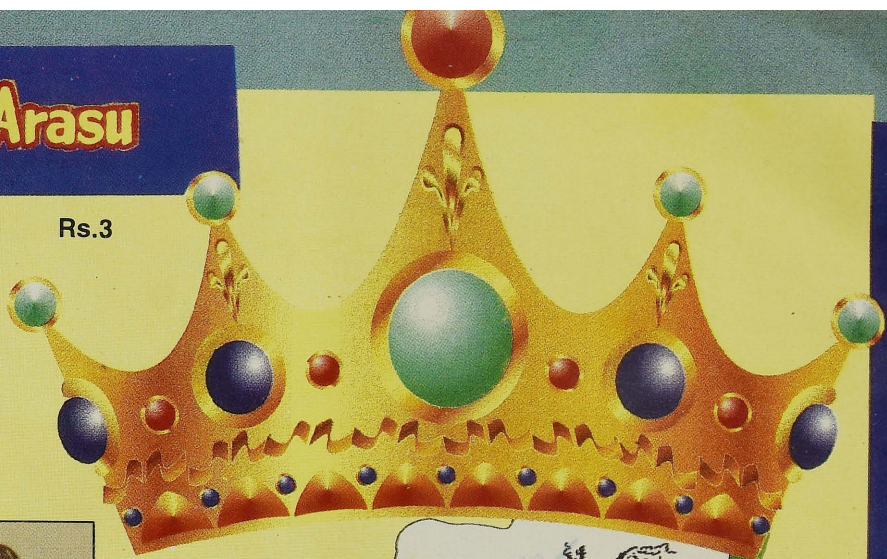


Tamil Arasu

MAY 1997

Rs.3



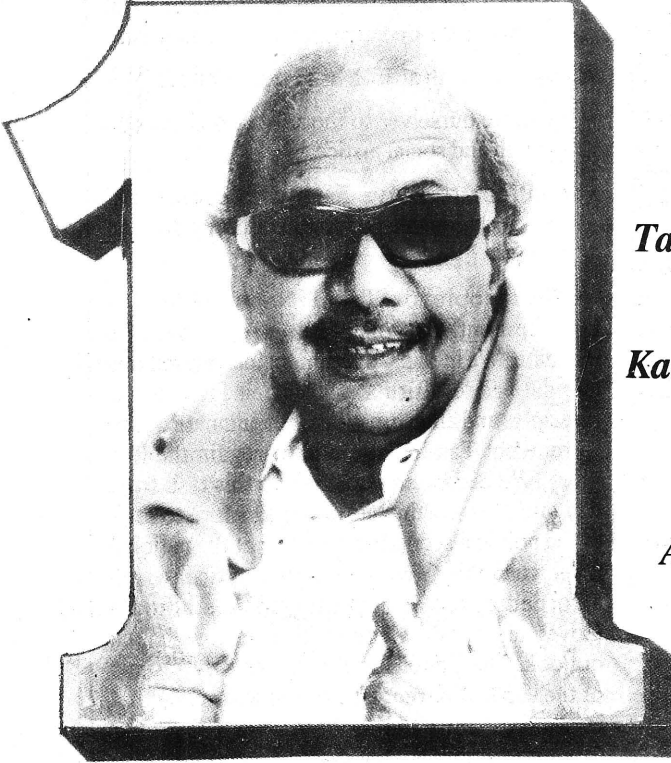
**ONE YEAR
ACHIEVEMENT
SPECIAL**



TAMIL ARASU

Magazine of the Government of Tamil Nadu

May 1997



*Tamil Nadu scales new heights
under the leadership of
Kalaighnar M. KARUNANIDHI*

A compilation of Records

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TAMIL NADU ON THE MOVE

THIS GOVERNMENT WILL LIVE UPTO THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE PEOPLE

- ALADI ARUNA
Hon'ble Minister for law

It was exactly one year ago that the Government, headed by Kalaaignar M.Karunanidhi took office following the massive mandate given by the people of Tamil Nadu. If I may take you back a couple of years, you may remember the sordid State of affairs in the State which was an affront to every self-respecting Tamil. Gone were the days when he held his head high and Tamil Nadu was in the forefront of virtually every field. One year back, the State was hitting the national headlines for the wrong reasons: rampant corruption, flagrant misuse of official machinery, police atrocities, ostentatious and vulgar display of wealth, near-complete paralysis of administration, violent communal clashes, break-down of law and order and a reign of terror, murder, mayhem, bomb attacks and explosions let loose by anti-social elements. The

- ★ create a congenial atmosphere for communal harmony
- ★ conduct the long-delayed elections to local bodies and co-operative societies immediately
- ★ putdown with an iron hand the criminals
- ★ dedicate ourselves to the all-round economic growth and social justice
- ★ continue to strive for a wholesome and genuine federalism with autonomy for the States.

The people of Tamil Nadu gave this Government, as you are aware, a massive mandate. We in this Government interpreted this mandate as re-affirmation of their faith in our principles and an expression of their innate desire to reinvent Tamil Nadu and to regain the lost glory. We dedicated ourselves to this task from day one. It is worthwhile at this juncture to look at the political scenario prevailing at the national level when this Government took office, which afforded a real opportunity for installing a Government at the Centre with a genuine federal outlook. The United Front represents the mosaic of the vastly different socio-political milieu that is India, and their Common Minimum Programme spelt out the shared aspirations of the numerous socio-political realities of this vast country. Expectedly, Centre-State relations have been taking the centre stage in the discussions of the Inter State Council. This Government is stead-fast in its resolve that only by giving more autonomy to the States will the varied interests of the multi-ethnic society be better served.



genuine interests of the State took the backseat. Against this backdrop, elections were held. Our party went to the electorate with the promise that if returned to power, we would

- ★ bring the corrupt minister, including the then Chief Minister and officials to book
- ★ establish an "ombudsman" like institution and provide an open, transparent and corruption-free administration

This Government believes in practicing what it preaches. We believe in decentralisation of powers ourselves. Within a few months of assumption of office, this Government fulfilled its poll promise of conducting elections to the local

bodies and the co-operatives; it has also delegated substantial powers to the local bodies and has ensured the flow of adequate funds to these bodies. We are also planning to involve the elected bodies and the Grama Sabhas in the process of plan formulation, implementation and monitoring so that there is genuine local self-Government in Tamil Nadu. Putting the administrative machinery back on its rails has been our top priority. The high and mighty, who had ransacked the State exchequer for their personal gains have been brought to book. Judges have been appointed by the High Court to speedily dispose of the cases against the erstwhile rulers and officials charged with corruption. Realizing that besides weeding out the corrupt elements from the body politic, the system requires structural modifications if we have to regain the confidence of the public at large in the Government, this Government has ushered in a number of policy initiatives, innovative programmes and procedural changes. To mention a few :

1. The Right to Information Act has been passed. Henceforth, every resident of this State will have unlimited access to the information available with the Government which was hitherto the privy of the privileged few.
2. A Human Rights Commission has been constituted to ensure the basic right of the people to a dignified life. A Rapid Action Force has been created in the police force for speedily dousing the embers of communal strife before it threatens to engulf communities.
3. The ubiquitous and scandalous "single tender system" wherein tender forms were made available to only those close to the corridors of power has been dispensed with. A legislation making the tender procedure transparent is on the avail.
4. Rule 39 of the Tamil Nadu Minor Minerals (Concession) Rules, which was a veritable gold mine for the erstwhile rulers, to give mining rights on nomination basis has been modified. Hereafter, the quarrying rights will be decided by the open-tender system only.
5. To make an in-depth study of the sources of corruption in the administration and to suggest systemic changes, a high-level committee headed by Justice Ramanujam has been appointed.
6. To demystify land revenue administration and to suggest procedural changes, another high-level committee chaired by Mr. Sabanayagam, the former Chief Secretary of the State has been constituted.
7. To suggest ways and means of improving dry-land farming in the State, an expert committee under the chairmanship of Dr. V.C. Kulandaisamy, former Vice-Chancellor of Indira Gandhi Open University, with eminent members like Dr. S. Swaminathan, the internationally acclaimed agricultural scientist, has been constituted.
8. A high-level committee chaired by the Chief Minister himself has been regularly interacting with the leading industrialists of the country to improve the industrial climate of the State.
9. "Industrial Area Development Authorities", the single-window authorities, vested with all the powers for local clearance to facilitate speedy implementation of industries, have been put in place in the industrial estates of the State.
10. Various committees are being constituted for the welfare of labour in the unorganised sector.
11. To simplify and rationalise the tax structure of the State, a committee was constituted headed by Mr. M.C. Thangaraj, a retired IAS Officer whose far-reaching suggestions to overhaul the sales tax structure have been implemented.
12. To streamline the registration procedure in the State, a specialist committee was appointed whose suggestions are being followed vigorously.

These are only illustrative of the earnestness of the Government in fulfilling its promises. The faith reposed in the Government by the industry and trade is being reflected in the innumerable projects under implementation in the State.

A NEW INDUSTRIAL CLIMATE

The industrial policies to the State have been fine-tuned to meet the needs of the entrepreneurs.

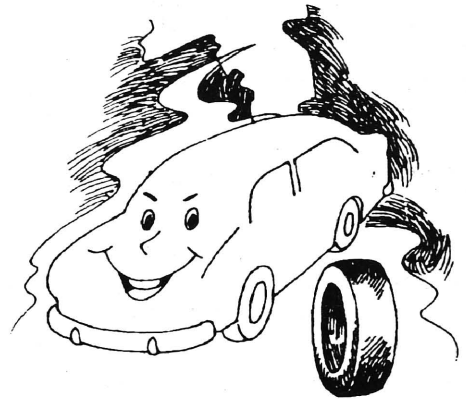
- ❑ Realizing that electricity is one of the thrust areas, twenty short gestation power projects have been tendered. Tenders have already been finalised in record time for eleven sites.
- ❑ A unique Act, providing for the issue of all clearances required for starting of new industrial enterprises in the industrial townships of the State at a single point has been passed ushering in a new and effective Single Window Clearance.
- ❑ Sales tax rates have been reduced in respect of industrial raw materials, spare parts and other inputs required for manufacture, along with the sales tax for finished products. This will enable the industries in the State to reduce their cost of production. They will also become competitive in various up-country markets, resulting in increased volumes of sales.
- ❑ Authority has been delegated to various levels to facilitate the speeding up of the decision making process.
- ❑ Sound infrastructure, a far sighted and sympathetic Government, skilled workers who put in hard work with sincerity and devotion to duty, Trade Union Leaders who display a commendable sense of responsibility, and rules and procedures which encourage transparent decision making, are together making Tamil Nadu the preferred destination for those looking for safe industrial investments.

During the last one year, due to the efforts of this Government, the following big projects were initiated in our State:

1. Hyundai Motor Car project of South Korea for manufacturing 1,25,000 cars during the first year itself;
2. Two Float Glass Plants-one from Pilkington of U.K. and the other from Saint Gobain of France;

3. Kumho Tyres of Korea;
4. Lancer Car project of Hindustan Motors Limited in collaboration with Mitsubishi of Japan;
5. Ashok Leyland's Expansion project and
6. TAFE expansion project

Our Government has taken certain initiatives to secure new investments from foreign countries like Malaysia and Singapore. The private sector in Singapore and Malaysia has shown keen interest in coming to Tamil Nadu to set up Industrial Parks, first class highways, modern satellite cities and power projects.



The Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited (TIDCO), has been fast acquiring the role of the chief facilitator of private sector investment in industries in Tamil Nadu.

- ★ TIDCO proposes to set up a Petrochemical Park in about 7,000 acres of land surrounding the new Ennore Port. A portfolio of chemical and petrochemical industries has been identified for this park. A liquefied Natural Gas Terminal and the associated power station will also come up here. With water being a critical input for petro-chemical industries, the Government has planned to set up treatment plants to convert treated sewage into good water which will be supplied to the industries in the new petrochemical and other complexes.

★ TIDCO has also proposed an auto-ancillary park near Chennai to enhance the availability of world-class auto components to the growing automobile manufacturers in Tamil Nadu and neighbouring states. Tremendous opportunity exists for more new ancillary units, despite of Tamil Nadu being the traditional home for auto ancillaries.

★ The Government intends to invite private sector participation in establishing modern ports at Cuddalore, Colachel, Nagapattinam and other places. An elevated expressway from the Chennai port to Ennore and also to Tambaram will be taken up. The expressways are proposed to be constructed with private sector investment who may collect toll for the road using vehicles. Agri-business, Floriculture and Food processing have emerged as thrust areas. TIDCO has taken active interest to set up new projects in these sectors.

★ An egg processing plant, involving an investment of Rs.40 crores, in association with the SKM Group, will be commissioned shortly.

★ International competitive bidding for an integrated mining and 500 MW lignite-based power project at Jayamkondam.

★ A project to manufacture particle board from bagasse, in association with the National Plywood Limited and the German company, Siemplekamp has been cleared by TIDCO recently, involving an investment of Rs.150 crores.

★ Using the technology of Tamil Nadu News Print and Papers Limited, the possibility of another similar project based on bagasse, near Cuddalore is under examination.

★ A TIDCO project to manufacture superior condoms will be set up shortly, at an investment of Rs.40 crores.

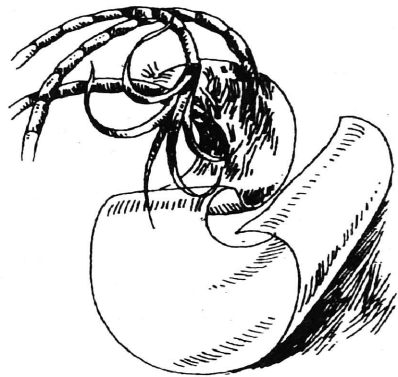
★ TIDCO has entered into a joint venture in associate sector with Advanced Lighting Resources of U.S.A. for setting up a 100% export oriented Metal Halide Lamp Project at

a cost of Rs.27 crores. The construction will be commencing shortly.

★ The State is not lagging behind in the chemical industries sector either.

★ Tamil Nadu Petroproducts Limited, a Joint Sector venture of TIDCO, is expanding its capacity of epichlorohydrin and is diversifying into epoxyresins in association with CIBA, with an investment of about Rs.90 crores.

★ A project for manufacture of bulk drugs is under execution in association with the NATCO group of companies at an investment of Rs.47 crores.



★ A project for manufacture of Alcohol from Tapioca is under the consideration of TIDCO.

★ TIDCO is working on projects to manufacture alcohol-based chemicals.

★ A project for manufacture of Benzyl chemicals is under the consideration of TIDCO.

★ TIDCO is promoting a fly ash utilization project in association with the Thapar Group for manufacture of fly ash based building materials.

★ TIDCO has signed a cooperation agreement for setting up a PVC plant at Ennore with Det Norske Hydro of Norway and W.S.Group of Tamil Nadu.

★ TIDCO has been awarded a license to set up a naphtha cracker and olefins complex and the spade work has commenced.

- ★ Proposals have been sought from reputed industrial houses to join TIDCO in projects for manufacture of yeast, biaxially-oriented polypropylene (BOPP), Bisphenol-A and activated Carbon.
- ★ The Southern Iron and Steel Company Limited (SISCOL), a joint venture of the reputed LMW group and TIDCO, has commissioned its Rs. 450 crores pig iron plant recently.
- ★ A project to manufacture secondary aluminium with value added products is under process.
- ★ The Rs. 1000 crores copper-smelter project set up by the Sterlite Group at Tuticorin has gone on stream.
- ★ The small ship-breaking facility at Valinokkam, near Ramanathapuram, is expected to be put to full use this year.

A number of well developed industrial estates are being promoted by this Government. A new industrial complex in Cheyyar taluk is being set up by the State Industries Promotion of Tamil Nadu Limited (SIPCOT) in the industrially backward Thiruvannamalai - Sambuvarayar District. SIPCOT is acquiring 1350 acres of land for establishment of this complex. A new industrial complex is being developed in Irungattukottai in Sriperumbudur Taluk, Anna District. SIPCOT has identified 1,829 acres of land for this purpose. Near Sriperumbudur, three other locations have been identified for development as new industrial complexes and townships.

Efforts are on for setting up a new industrial complex in Coimbatore (South) Taluk in Coimbatore District. The Tamil Nadu Corporation for Industrial-Infrastructural Development Limited (TACID) is setting up Growth Centres at Perundurai in Periyar District and Gangaikondan in Tirunelveli Kattabomman District at a cost of Rs. 110 crores and Rs. 39.68 crores respectively. TACID is also setting up new industrial complexes in Mammandur and Palamathur village in Madurantakam Taluk, Anna District; at Sunguvar Chathiram, Sriperumbudur

Taluk, Anna District, and at another site near Sriperumbudur.

A Software Technology Park with a satellite city will be set up by the Electronic Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited in 200 acres of land near Kelambakkam, South of Chennai. ELCOT has proposed to set up yet another software park at Coimbatore, in association with the Bharathiyar University.

Our attention has not been confined to major industries alone. Small industries also have got an equal fillip. During the last year more than 22,000 small scale industries were started in the State, providing employment opportunities for more than 1.4 lakh persons. The Government has been according priority for women entrepreneurs in allocating developed industrial sites and industrial sheds.

Under the scheme of Trade Related Entrepreneurship Assistance and Development for Women (TREAD) with the assistance of Government of India, 5,000 women will be selected in Chennai in the first phase and necessary management and technical training will be given to them and financial assistance provided for starting up business and industry with the assistance of voluntary organisations. Under this scheme, initially training and financial assistance will be given for setting up food processing, readymade garments and leather products industries. One third of this financial assistance will be given as grant and two thirds as loan.

In order to create the required infrastructure for information technology and to become a pioneer in the world in the field of Information Technology in the 21st Century, the Information Technology Institute of Tamil Nadu (ITIT) will be established for the first time at Chennai. Initially, this will be started as a self-financing registered society and gradually this will be developed into a self-financing University.

THE POWER SECTOR

There has been a 4.54 percent increase in the energy consumption during 1996-97. The energy requirement of Tamil Nadu at the end of the

Ninth Plan has been estimated at 42,481 MU and our endeavour has been to meet the demand without any restriction. A number of new power projects have been proposed in the public sector with private sector participation. Power generation from various sources like wind, co-generation, bio-mass, municipal waste and solar power is being implemented. Sixteen private sector power projects with a total capacity of 9,273 MW have been planned, and are in various stages of implementation. In the State sector, the following projects will be implemented.

- ★ Perungulam Gas Turbine Power Project (30 MW)
 - ★ Kovilkalappal GTPP (30 MW)
 - ★ South Chennai Thermal Power Project (2000 MW)
- The State's share in the new central sector projects are expected to be :
- ★ 168 MW from the expansion of Neyveli TS-I
 - ★ 138 MW from additional unit at Ramagundam
 - ★ 318 MW from Rihand Thermal Station in U.P.

Thus, our Government has been taking every effort to ensure that the power position in the State will be comfortable. This must be seen in the context that the previous Government in their five years rule did not start even one new power project.

TAX REFORMS

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had announced a long term taxation policy in the last year's Budget to foster a stable, clear and friendly taxation environment for stimulating industrial growth and commerce. Accordingly, many reforms were undertaken in the Sales Tax structure. Taxes were reduced in respect of several categories. Trade and Industry have welcomed these measures. The main objectives of this long term taxation policy were:

- ★ Rationalisation of the structure of tax rate and slabs to provide greater transparency of tax

rates and simplicity in assessment and collection;

- ★ Introduction of more modern systems and procedures of taxation;
- ★ Provision of incentives for industrial development in the State and encouragement for local purchase and local manufacture;
- ★ Relief to large number of small traders by way of exemptions compounding and self assessment procedures;
- ★ Reduction of tax burden on households.

Consequently, taxes were abolished for quite a few items, reduced for a number of other items and the surcharge has been totally abolished. Multipoint tax, a constant irritant to the trading community, has been abolished. The self-assessment procedure has been introduced for assessees with turnover of Rs.10 lakhs or less. The tax concession amounted to more than Rs.400 crores in 1996-97 alone.

ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

With a view to upgrading and strengthening the roads in Tamil Nadu, a project report called "Strategic Option Study" was prepared and 3,250 kms of road in 23 corridors have been identified. Consultants have been appointed for preparing feasibility study and detailed engineering design for 375 kms of the roads.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Though industrial development remained a thrust area for this Government, we were equally concerned about rural development. A sum of Rs.789.70 has been allocated for rural development for 1997-98 for implementing various State Plans and the Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

- ★ 82,000 group houses were built last year. Tamil Nadu has the unique distinction of providing concrete roofs for the houses built under this scheme. Nearly 5,000 kms of village and Panchayat Union roads were formed during the last year.
- ★ With a view to utilising the services of the rural

youth to promote adult education, to propagate awareness about the evils of drinking and to create an awareness among the villagers, orders have been issued creating 35,000 posts of Makkal Nala Paniyalargal under which each panchayat will have one male and one female worker.

In order to develop the villages in a phased manner, a new scheme known as "Anna Renaissance Scheme" has been formulated under which one village in each Assembly Constituency will be selected every year and developed into a modern village with all facilities.

The Manu Needhi Thittam (the Mass Contact Programme) will be revamped to pave the way for promoting among the people an attitude of "Self-Help" so that they come forward to fulfil their needs by themselves.

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

The Government aims to provide a primary school within a radius of one to two kms from every habitation with a population of 300 or more. In accordance with the policy of providing quality primary education, this Government sanctioned the opening of 85 new primary schools and upgrading of 21 Primary Schools to Middle Schools in 1996-97. For 1997-98, the Government of Tamil Nadu has decided to open 168 primary schools and upgrade 41 Primary Schools to Middle Schools.

The recruitment procedure for teachers was streamlined and 11,652 Secondary Grade Teachers posts which were lying vacant for 4 to 5 years were filled up last year.

The Government has introduced new schemes which will ensure that the Government will bear the cost of professional education in respect of the top 10 students from families not having any college graduate. From this year onwards, the Government has decided to bear the educational expenses on higher studies in respect of students who secure the first three ranks at the district level in the high school final and the plus two final examinations.

HEALTH

The Tamil Nadu Government has embarked on a comprehensive plan to construct 600 buildings for Primary Health Centres so that all the 1,420 Primary Health Centres in the State will have proper buildings. The Government has implemented a scheme whereby 124 Primary Health Centres work round the clock. This scheme will be extended to 420 Primary Health Centres in all, at the rate of at least one centre per Panchayat Union.

RURAL WATER SUPPLY

This Government has embarked on an ambitious plan by which before the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan period, all the rural



habitations in Tamil Nadu will be provided 40 LPCD of protected water and bring about a situation whereby there will be no village in Tamil Nadu without protected water supply. Rs.250 crores have been allotted for this purpose during 1997-98.

SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEMES, SCHEMES OF MONETARY ASSISTANCE TO WOMEN

- ★ A sum of Rs. 2,000 is given for the marriage of daughters of poor widows and a sum of Rs. 21 lakhs has been provided for this scheme in 1997-98.
- ★ The Government has enhanced the assistance under the Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Ninaivu Thirumana Udhavi Thittam from

Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 10,000. Under this scheme, a grant of Rs. 10,000 is given to girls from poor households who have completed 8th standard and above, on the occasion of their marriage. Rs. 20 crores has been earmarked for this scheme this year, which will benefit 20,000 poor girls.

- ★ The Government have allotted Rs. 5.81 crores under the Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Ammaiyar Ninaivu Mahaperu Udhavi Thittam, and also increased the assistance to Rs. 500 per beneficiary. Under this scheme, cash support is given to the women from poor households for the last two months of pregnancy and the two months immediately after delivery of the child, to compensate the loss of income during the period.
- ★ In order to promote self-employment of women through a network of Self Help Groups, the Government has announced a phased extension of the Tamil Nadu Women's Development Project to all Districts of the State. The estimated total cost of this project is Rs. 1,440 crores including institutional finance which will cover around 10 lakh women over a five year period.
- ★ On a pilot basis, 50 Women's Welfare Centres will be established in five backward districts. The centres will conduct awareness campaigns on various aspects of health, nutrition, family welfare and literacy.

SCHEMES FOR BACKWARD CLASSES AND SCHEDULED CASTES

Our Government has always been championing the cause of the backward classes and the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes of the State. Every effort is being made to get 69 percent reservation in educational institutions and in employment for these oppressed classes. Top priority is being given by our Government for the educational advancement and economic development of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and backward classes. Rs. 334 crores has been provided for the welfare of scheduled castes

and scheduled tribes in the State Budget for 1997-98. Rs. 64.3 crores have been allotted for the welfare of backward classes in the current year's budget.

40 new hostels were opened for the scheduled castes last year alone and another 40 are being opened this year. For the backward classes, 45 new hostels were opened last year. The Government has decided to construct buildings for all the scheduled caste girls' hostels functioning in rented buildings, within the next three years. A new hostel for post-graduate scheduled caste students is being opened this year. The Government has planned to build laboratory buildings for all the higher secondary schools run by the Adi-Dravidar (Scheduled castes) and Scheduled Tribes Welfare Department.

A massive scheme to give free house-sites to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other poorer sections of the society is being implemented at an estimated cost of Rs. 30 crores this year. For the first time, the scheme has been extended to cover poor families belonging to all castes.

THE ONE YEAR IN RETROSPECT

The new schemes and improvements to existing schemes and procedure brought forth by this Government during the last one year are numerous and the list will be long if we try to catalogue all of them. The narrative above was intended to give an indication of the direction in which we are moving. This Government is conscious of the enormous responsibility thrust on it and the high expectations of the people for providing an honest, efficient and clean Government. This Government, under the able stewardship of Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi, will doubtless live up to the expectations of the people of Tamil Nadu.

★★★

TAMIL NADU - the most preferred investment destination in the country

The basic objectives of the new policy of the Tamil Nadu Government are :

- ❑ Regain for Tamil Nadu its days of glory as the most industrialised State in India;
- ❑ Market Tamil Nadu as the preferred destination for investment in India and abroad;
- ❑ Plan, create and offer world-class infrastructure for industrial entrepreneurs;
- ❑ Dismantle barriers to investment and simplify rules and procedures;
- ❑ Set in motion a process of development which is ecologically sustainable;
- ❑ Ensure a transparent and investor-friendly administration;
- ❑ Harness the vast human-resource capital in the State.

The Government believe that competing with other States by offering more and more incentives alone will be not useful. Instead, we would concentrate on strengthening of the power generation capacity and the transmission and distribution arrangements, improving our road network, bringing in the most technologically advanced Telecom facilities, opening new ports and developing the existing ports, strengthening the technical training facilities and speeding up the broadgauge conversion of our rail lines.

Hence the Government declared that all decisions would be taken in the most transparent ways, that this Government would follow industry-friendly policies, that decisions would be fast and that strengthening of infrastructure would be the area of extreme focus.

The first Industrial Complex taken up was SIPCOT's Irungattukottai Complex. The plan was to acquire about 1750 acres of land on the Chennai-Bangalore National Highway and develop it into an Industrial Complex for Automobile Engineering and Auto-component Industries. M/s. Hyundai Motor Company from Korea agreed to establish their car manufacturing facility in a 540 acre plot here. This would be their biggest auto plant after their 1.5 million cars per annum plant at Ulsan, Korea. Other new Industrial

complexes are fast getting established at Thiruperumbudur, Sunkuvar Chatram and near Coimbatore, Cheyyar, near Ranipet and near Singaperumalkoil. SIPCOT will acquire about 10,000 acres of land for the various new Industrial Complexes.

TACID, another State Undertaking has identified 1500 acres for acquiring and developing them as Growth Centres.

A Petrochem Park over a 7000 acre area near Ennore would be developed by TIDCO. This complex will have a tank terminal which can store the imported petroleum products. The first L.N.G.(Liquified Natural Gas) terminal in India is also expected to come up here, bringing in 2½ million tonnes of LNG per annum to start with, along with a down-stream 2500 MW power station.

Several administrative decisions were taken for cutting out red-tape and speeding up decisions. In the area of mineral policy, the Government abolished the much abused Rule 39 of the Mineral Rules and boldly reintroduced the Tender-cum-auction system, thus highlighting its commitment to pursue policies designed to serve the public interest. A new legislation has been presented by the Chief Minister in the Tamil Nadu Assembly, for ushering in, an effective Single Window Clearance Mechanism for new industries coming up in the Industrial Complexes in the State. This bill has since been passed by the Assembly.

All these efforts on the part of the Government of Tamil Nadu have attracted new investment proposals both from India and abroad. Apart from M/s.Mahindra Ford and Hyundai, Mitsubishi of Japan, which is setting up a Car plant to manufacture their Lancer model, has also selected Tamil Nadu as its home in India. While competing with each other both Ms.Pilkington of U.K. and Saint Gobain of France have zeroed in on Tamil Nadu sites. Major industrial groups like Matsushita Industries and Fujikura of Japan, Kumho Tyres of Korea, Iveco of Italy in association with Ashok Leyland have also signed up with Tamil Nadu. ★

SPECIFIC THRUST TO RURAL AND SMALL INDUSTRIES

ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT

In the initial stages immediately after independence the first generation entrepreneurs came mainly from the trading community. Gradually the scenario changed and more and more educated unemployed youth are attracted towards starting their own Small Scale Industrial Units. Government supported programmes for entrepreneurship development have them in mind as target group.

As a first step in assisting them Government proposes to start an Entrepreneurship Development Centre at Guindy during 1997-98. The Centre will act as a nodal agency for monitoring all the Entrepreneurship Development Programmes implemented through Government Departments, Corporations and Banks. The Centre will also strive to assist them after the training to start their own units by arranging finance, providing technical information and marketing information. In order to assist women entrepreneurs, coming from a non-trading family who have difficulty in arranging the margin money required for getting institutional finance, Government has introduced a Margin Money Scheme. Women Entrepreneurs who are either destitutes or single-widows or divorcees are given 10% of the project cost (Max.Rs.50,000) as margin money assistance.

THE PERFORMANCE OF INDUSTRIAL COOPERATIVES FUNCTIONING UNDER THE CONTROL OF DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND COMMERCE

The Industrial Cooperatives have achieved a record turnover of Rs.329.27 crores in 1996-97 as against the turnover of Rs.282.54 crores achieved during the financial year 1995-96. The maximum contribution in this sector is by Salem Starch and

Sago Manufacturers' Service Industrial Cooperative Society (SAGOSERVE) during 1996-97. Similarly, the Nilgiris Small Tea Growers Service Industrial Cooperative Society (INCO SERVE) has also shown substantial progress in its performance during 1996-97.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN COIR SECTOR

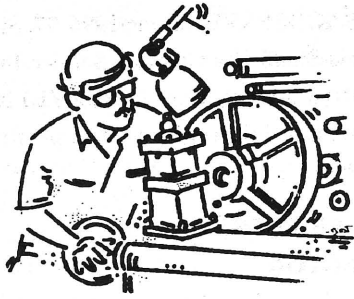
An Integrated Coir Development Project at a cost of Rs.16.71 crores with the financial assistance of National Cooperative Development Corporation and Coir Board is to be implemented in 3 years from 1996-97. During the year 1996-97, 19 Coir Societies have been identified under Phase I for modernisation at a cost of Rs.555 lakhs. This project is expected to create additional employment to 1230 workers.

PERFORMANCE OF THE TAMIL NADU INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT CORPORATION LIMITED FOR THE YEAR 1996-97

TIIC is a State Level Financial Institution started in the year 1949. The Corporation sanctioned term loan of Rs.43,070 lakhs during 1996-97. Of which 76% is for the Small Scale Sector. The Corporation also finances schemes like equipment Refinance Scheme, Quality Control Scheme, Small Transport Operators, Hotel Project, Hospital/Clinic and Registered Medical Practitioners. New business activities undertaken by TIIC.

TAMIL NADU SMALL INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED

Tamil Nadu Small Industries Development Corporation Limited (TANSIDCO) was set up in the year 1970 by the Government of Tamil Nadu with the specific object to promote and develop Small Scale Industries and disperse them in the backward and under developed areas of the State.



The development of Industrial Estates in potential growth centres and planned construction of worksheds to suit the needs and entrepreneurial demands form crucial part of SIDCO's activities. The plots in the SIDCO Industrial estates have been provided with basic amenities such as water supply, sewerage connection, lighting etc. and these facilities are provided at various industrial estates spread throughout the State keeping in view, the needs of the entrepreneurs to start industrial activity. These are 72 industrial estates which form a sprawling network in the State. During the year 1996-97 the work is in progress for 141 worksheds and 210 developed plots against the target of 225 work sheds and 220 developed plots with a budget outlay of Rs.22.50 crores.

SIDCO distributes certain key raw-material such as iron and steel, coke, aluminium, wax to fulfil the requirements of Small Scale Sector. Apart from the above raw materials SIDCO also deals items like Zinc, Lead, IPCL Products, Potassium Chlorate etc. SIDCO has taken up the marketing assistance scheme to help the Small Scale Units to market their products at the competitive rates. SIDCO has proposed to establish new industrial estates at Pollupalli near Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri District, Anna District, Irungattukottai, Thirumudivakkam MGR District-Avadi.

The Corporation has planned to distribute about 29,532 MT of raw materials valued at Rs.7018 lakhs to the SSI Units during the year 1997-98.

★★★

Rs.10,000 FOR FIXING ARTIFICIAL LIMBS TO THE HANDICAPPED FROM CHIEF MINISTER'S PUBLIC RELIEF FUND

The physically handicapped clamour for opportunity and not for charity. Recognising this, this Government have been implementing a large number of programmes which will enable physically disabled to lead an honourable life. During 1997-98, the Government have decided to sanction upto Rs.10,000 from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to each of the needy handicapped below poverty line for getting the necessary artificial limbs fixed. This will enable the poor handicapped to stand on their own legs and eke out an independent and decent livelihood.

MOOVALUR RAMAMIRTHAM AMMAIYAR NINAIVU THIRUMANA UDHAVI THITTAM (MARRIAGE ASSISTANCE TO POOR GIRLS)

Moovalur Ramirtham Ammaiyar Ninaivu Thirumana Udhavi Thittam is a boon to the poor



girls. The cash assistance of Rs.5000 under this scheme which was introduced during 1989-90 was enhanced to Rs.10,000 during 1996-97. It not only offers cash assistance of Rs.10,000 to the poor girl for marriage, but also helps to achieve two laudable objectives viz. implementation of minimum marriage age for girls and ensuring minimum educational accomplishment (upto 8th Standard). Taking into account the large number of applications pending for, above the budget allocation of Rs.10 Crores during 1996-97, the Government have enhanced the number of beneficiaries under the Scheme from 10,000 to 20,000 at a cost of Rs.20 crores per annum from 1997-98 onwards.

**Dr. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDY
AMMAIYAR NINAIJU MAHAPERU
UDHAVI THITTAM (MATERNITY
ASSISTANCE SCHEME)**

The pathetic nutritional condition of the pregnant woman below poverty line is a well known fact. To help her out this Government are implementing a scheme of cash assistance of Rs.500 per beneficiary which is given to her to look after herself during the most vulnerable period i.e. 2 months before pregnancy and 2 months immediately after pregnancy. This scheme is thus a direct intervention to reduce infant mortality as well as maternal mortality rates. The cash assistance which was Rs.300 from 1989-90 has been enhanced by the Government to Rs.500 from 1996-97 onwards. About 2.9 lakh women get benefitted under this scheme.

**VISUALLY AND PHYSICALLY
HANDICAPPED ALLOWED CONCESSION
ON EXPRESS BUS ROUTES ALSO**

Realising the need for mobility existing among the physically handicapped persons to travel to schools / colleges / hospitals/training centres/ work spots, this Government have already permitted them to travel free of cost in all State



owned transport corporation buses except the express buses run by Rajiv Gandhi Transport Corporation and Thiruvalluvar Transport Corporations. During 1997-98, the Government have decided to extend the free-travel concession to travel by express buses also to the blind and lame persons.

**DISTRICT REHABILITATION CENTRE TO
BE STARTED IN ALL DISTRICTS**

While the rehabilitation Centres for the Physically Handicapped run by the Government as well as the N.G.O.s. are mostly spread in the State or District Head Quarters, there is hardly any institution catering to the needs of the poor physically handicapped living in rural areas. To fulfil this long pending need of the people in rural areas, the Government have decided to set up District Rehabilitation Centres, similar to the one functioning at present in Chengalpattu, in all the districts during 1997-98. These District Rehabilitation Centres will offer the following package of services at the doorsteps of the rural poor physically handicapped and help them come out of their predicaments :

1. Identification of the handicapped in the rural areas through camps at the village level;
2. On the spot assessment of their disability by the team of experts;
3. Arranging medical treatment and therapy classes in the district centre;
4. Supply of necessary appliances and the required training to use them;
5. Follow up of the use of appliances and carrying out repairs as and when necessary;
6. Assisting the handicapped in getting assistance under various existing schemes to enable them to sustain themselves.

This comprehensive package will no doubt be a boon to the unfortunate and ignorant physically handicapped people living in the rural areas.

★★★

PURCHASE OF 3600 NEW BUSES

The vehicle productivity of Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporations is the highest in the country. The vehicle productivity which stood at 395 Km/bus/day during 1993-94 rose to 402 Km/bus/day during 1996-97.



The fleet utilisation is 92.77% during 1996-97 and the State Transport Undertakings, are

operating 16,022/- buses out of which about 32% constitute mofussil services and 48% town services and the remaining the express services. During 1996-97 about 146 new routes were introduced for the benefit of 152 villages. In spite of this the State Transport Undertakings, are not able to meet the traffic needs of the public in full. Hon'ble Chief Minister has therefore announced that 3,600 new buses will be purchased for the Transport Corporation.

CONCESSION FOR FREE TRAVEL IN STATE OWNED BUSES EXTENDED TO +2 STUDENTS

During May 1990, the Government issued orders that students studying upto VIII Standard be issued free bus passes to travel from their residence to Schools and back in the town buses of State Transport undertakings. The same concession was extended by the Hon'ble Chief Minister to the students studying upto plus two in schools from the academic year 1996-97.

4,000 MORE HOUSES FOR FISHERMEN

During the Budget speech 1996-97, the Hon'ble Chief Minister announced a special scheme of construction of 20,000 houses with one electric light for fishermen over a period of 5 years, at the rate of 4,000 houses per year. Accordingly, for the year 1996-97, construction of 4000 houses with one electric light has been taken up at an expenditure of Rs.12.80 crores. The scheme has been named as "Tamil Nadu Government Ma.Singaravelar Memorial Housing Scheme"

The unit cost per house with one electric light has been fixed at Rs.32,000. The special scheme of construction of free houses for fishermen has been announced to provide permanent housing to the marine fishermen who are now living in huts in 442 coastal villages.



- Kattabomman and Kanniyakumari. Under the Scheme, 16,350 fishermen will be supplied 5000 units of fishing implements. During the Five year period of implementation, the scheme will yield an additional production of 55,350 tonnes of fish per year with an expected revenue of Rs. 5535 lakhs. The implementation of the scheme will strengthen the cooperative movement in the Coastal Villages which is the main aim of the scheme. The scheme will pave way for a modified pattern of marketing through the fishermen Cooperative Societies.

★★★

FREE EDUCATION TO FIRST TEN RANK HOLDERS FROM FAMILIES WITHOUT ANY GRADUATE

The Government have introduced a new benevolent scheme from the academic year 1996-97 to encourage students from families which do not have any graduate and are interested in pursuing professional courses. Under this scheme, the Government will bear the full cost of education in professional courses (i.e.) Medicine, Dentistry, Engineering, Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences of such students, who secure the first ten places among students from such families without graduates based on the marks obtained out of the total of 300 marks.

The Health Department has implemented the scheme during 1996-97. Accordingly 10 students in M.B.B.S.-I year course and 10 students in BDS-I year course are benefited under this scheme.

The above free education scheme will be continued in the subsequent years also.

From 1989-90 the Government of Tamil Nadu have been implementing the scheme for provision of free house sites to the families of Most

The 4000 houses are under various stages of construction. For the year 1997-98 also, 4000 more houses will be constructed under the special programme of construction of 20,000 houses. Action is being taken to select the villages with lands immediately available for construction of these 4,000 houses.

INTEGRATED MARINE FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT PROJECT TO BENEFIT 16,350 FISHERMEN

The Integrated Marine Fisheries Development Project is implemented in the State with the financial assistance of National Cooperative Development Corporation. The Phase I of the Project is under implementation in 44 villages in 5 Coastal Districts of Tamil Nadu at a block cost of Rs. 15.88 crores. The Phase II of the Project will cover 100 villages in 11 coastal Districts at a block cost of Rs. 48 crores. Under the scheme, the fishermen will be provided with Kattumarams, Vallams with Out-Board Motors and Inboard Motors, nets and other fishing implements. The Coastal Districts which will be covered under this scheme are Chennai, M.G.R., Villupuram Ramasamy Padayatchiar, South Arcot Vallalar, Nagai-Quaid-e-Milleth, Thanjavur, Pudukottai, Ramanathapuram, V.O. Chidamparanar, Nellai

Backward Classes/Denotified Communities who live below the poverty line and who do not possess land or house sites of their own. Initially a Budget provision of Rs. 1.00 crore was provided for this scheme. Subsequently a sum of Rs.2 crores has been allocated from 1996-97.

In order to implement this scheme more effectively and also to provide more number of house sites to the poor people below the poverty line who live in the villages, the Government have extended the scheme to Backward Classes and Forward Communities also with the following allocation of funds from 1997-98.

(in Rupees)

i. Provision of free house sites to Most Backward Classes and Denotified Communities	10	crores
ii. Provision of free house sites to Backward classes	5	crores
iii. Provision of free house sites to Forward communities	3	crores
Total	18	crores

★★★

Multi - Sector Project for Agricultural Development

The Tamil Nadu Agricultural Development Project is a World Bank assisted multi-sector project, being implemented in Tamil Nadu over a period of seven years from 1991-92 to 1998-99. 1997-98 is the seventh year of implementation of the project and schemes such as agricultural extension, seed production, watershed development, rural roads and rural drinking water supply would be taken up under this programme. An outlay of Rs. 103.79 crores has been provided during 1997-98.



ESTABLISHMENT OF PADDY MARKET COMPLEX BY MADURAI MARKET COMMITTEE

It is proposed to shift the existing Paddy Market in Nelpettai, which is in the heart of Madurai City to Mattuthavani on the Melur-Madurai Road to ease the congestion and also to provide spacious place to the paddy merchants for day-to-day business. This is one of the announcements made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on the floor of the House. In pursuance of the announcement, the Madurai market Committee has proposed to establish a regulated paddy market on the land belonging to Corporation of Madurai after purchase.

The project has been proposed to be implemented into different phases. The first one would be to develop Paddy Market and the next would be to develop flowers, fruits and vegetable markets. The original project cost was estimated at Rs. 12.80 crores. But now the project cost has been pruned to Rs. 9.28 crores.

EXPERT COMMITTEE HEADED BY Dr.V.C.KULANDAISAMY

The Expert Committee constituted with a view to ushering in "Second Green Revolution" and to develop waste and manavari lands using the latest technology under the Chairmanship of

Dr. V.C. Kulandaiswamy is about to complete its work. On receipt of the details of recommendations of this Committee, Government would take expeditious action.

NABARD has set up a high-tech Agricultural Finance Company in Tamil Nadu with a view to providing loans for production and export of commercial agro based industries in floriculture, vegetables and mushroom culture. The share capital of this financial institution would be Rs. 20 crores. It is noteworthy that Tamil Nadu is one of the first three States in India in which this project is being taken up.

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TAMIL NADU TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

10 NEW COACHES PURCHASED

TTDC was facing lot of problems in the past few years operating old and wornout coaches.

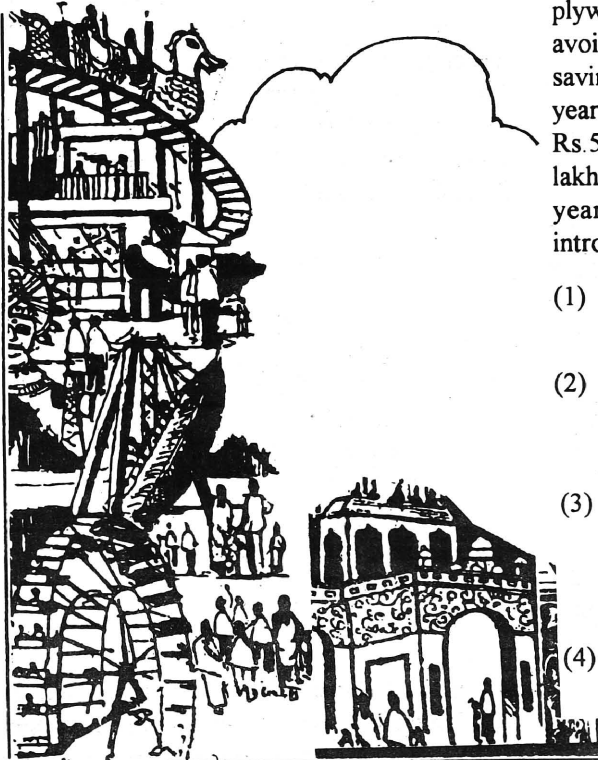
During the year 1996-97, 10 old coaches were replaced with new coaches of which two were A.C. This was done by obtaining loan from TDFC. This has resulted in TTDC having a young fleet of less than 3½ year old coaches which is a major milestone in the Corporation history.

TTDC has adopted the technological innovation by incorporating by inducting the Air-suspension Billow in three new coaches. This function as a major shock absorber adding comfort to the traveller.

INDIA TOURIST & INDUSTRIAL FAIR '97

TTDC has been organising the Annual Trade Fair at the Island ground in Chennai for the past 23 years since 1974. This year Fair was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister during January '97. At the time of inauguration, the Chief Minister rendered valuable advice emphasising the need for avoiding wasteful expenditure incurred in erection of giant size plywood cut outs, electrical cut outs etc. TTDC avoided such wasteful expenditure resulting in a saving of Rs. 15 lakhs. This has helped the current year to achieve all time high record profit of Rs. 50 lakhs compared to the profits of Rs. 20 lakhs achieved during last year. In the current year Fair the following novel items were introduced.

- (1) Attractive prizes were introduced on entrance ticket.
- (2) Concessional ticket at the rate of Rs. 1 per head was distributed to the various schools in the city.
- (3) The science pavillion, MRL children's pavillion were erected with the objective of educating the students about the basic laws of science.
- (4) Lakshadweep participated in the Trade Fair for the first time in the history of Fair.



- (5) Several attractive pavillions depicting the model of Poompuhar, Ripon Building were erected during the current year Fair attracting the crowd in large number

This year Fair has proved to be a trend setter arresting the declining trend in crowd attendance in the fair, witnessed for the past 10 years. During the current year Fair the crowd attendance has increased more than 2 lakhs compared to the previous year which is a major break through for TTDC.

FINANCE PERFORMANCE

TTDC has been suffering huge loss in the past two years to the tune of Rs.63 lakhs and Rs.89 lakhs respectively. The Corporation was on the verge of bankrupt and was finding it difficult to meet the day-to-day expenses. This has occurred mainly due to several financial irregularities committed during this period.

However immediately after the new Government assumed office the administration was cleared and several steps were taken to re-vitalise the Corporation which was in very poor shape.

Several steps were taken to cut down wasteful expenditure and improve the financial performance.

This has paid rich dividends and the Corporation is anticipating a net profit of Rs.6 lakhs in the current year 1997-98 which is a tremendous achievement compared to the bad performance recorded in the past two years.

24 HOURS SERVICE IN THE PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRES

PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRES

The Government have issued orders for construction of buildings for all the 600 Primary Health Centres which are not in Government building, within two years.

Accordingly sanction was accorded for construction of buildings for 300 Primary Health Centres during 1996-97 at a total cost of Rs.18 crores.

The construction of buildings for the remaining Primary Health Centres in the State will be taken up during 1997-98 under Part I Scheme at a total cost of Rs.21 crores.

INTRODUCTION OF 24 HOUR SERVICE IN THE PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRES

The Primary Health Centres at Block Level have been functioning from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. so far. As there were representations from the public that medical help was not available to them beyond the working hours which resulted in hardship. The Government have therefore decided that all the Block Level Primary Health Centres shall function for 24 hours a day throughout the week without any holiday. Medical Officers required for the same have been provided from the available Medical Officers. With the provision of additional doctors, 124 Primary Health Centres have started functioning for 24 hours a day. Steps are being taken to make the remaining Block level Primary Health Centres also function for 24 hours a day in a phased manner. This effort has been commended by the Union Planning Commission recently. The Government have also



ordered that Primary Health Centres which are functioning in Government buildings will attend

to "delivery cases". This will benefit the pregnant women in rural areas greatly and help to reduce infant and maternal mortality.

ENHANCEMENT OF OLD AGE PENSION TO HEREDITARY SIDDHA MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

The Scheme of payment of Pension to Hereditary Siddha Medical Practitioners of 60 years of age and above was introduced by the Government in the year 1986. The hereditary Siddha Medical Practitioners who are above 60 years of age have been getting a pension of Rs.150 per month, subject to the following conditions :-

- i) The beneficiaries should be Registered Hereditary Siddha Medical Practitioners.
- ii) They should be incapacitated to work or to earn a living.
- iii) Their annual income should not exceed Rs.3,600.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu while presenting the Budget for 1997-98 on 5.3.1997 announced that the pension of Rs.150 will be enhanced to Rs.500 per month. Accordingly orders have been issued to the effect that the Hereditary Siddha Medical Practitioners of 60 years of age and above will be paid Rs.500 per month with effect from 1.4.1997.

FREE EDUCATION TO TOP TEN RANK HOLDERS FROM FAMILIES WITHOUT ANY GRADUATE

The Government have introduced a new benevolent scheme from the Academic Year 1996-97 to encourage students from families which do not have any graduate and are interested in pursuing professional courses. Under this scheme, the Government, will bear the full cost of education in professional courses (i.e.) Medicine, Dentistry, Engineering, Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences of such students, who secure the first ten places among students from such

families without graduates based on the marks obtained out of the total of 300 marks.

The Health Department has implemented the scheme during 1996-97. Accordingly 10 students in M.B.B.S - I year course and 10 students in BDS-I year course are benefited under this scheme.

The above free education scheme will be continued in the subsequent years also.

EMPHASIS ON ENLARGING OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIRL STUDENTS

Towards achieving the goal of qualitative improvement in schools and hostels, besides the grant for opening 40 new hostels which is a substantial increase over the number sanctioned in the past, the new Government after assuming power decided to give emphasis on enlarging opportunities for girl students. Therefore, a policy announcement was made to provide buildings to all the 122 girls hostels within a period of three years. The Government also sanctioned Rs.8.50 crores for construction of 28 girls hostels during the year 1996-97.

Realising the hardship faced by scheduled caste students who could not get free hostel accommodation, in defraying the maintenance expenses the Government very spontaneously announced a quantum jump in loan scholarship, i.e. from Rs.2,500 to Rs.7,000 per annum. All the scheduled caste students in degree classes will now can avail of an annual loan scholarship of Rs.6,500 and those pursuing post graduate and professional courses Rs.7,000.

Towards modernising and improving the content of education in 101 higher secondary and high schools run by the Department the new Government has taken care to provide computer courses in 40 these institutions.

These schools have also now been provided with buildings and equipments for laboratories at a cost of Rs. 72 lakhs.

Immediately after the new Government assumed power a message loud and clear was conveyed to all the District Collectors that the word 'Bonded Labour' should be taboo and be eradicated from the face of the State of Tamil Nadu which upholds the dignity of mankind and respect for labour. Sloppiness of the past was shown the backdoor and the Vigilance Committees in all the districts were revitalised.

Prosecution of cases is being closely monitored not only by the District Collectors at the District Level but also by the Secretary to Government, Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department at the State Level.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has yet again given a lead to all other States in the country by making a budgetary allocation of Rupees one crore for providing relief to the victims of atrocities.

Four Additional Sessions Courts have also been sanctioned for trying the offences under the Act. In order to ensure speedy trials the Government have also sanctioned one exclusive Public Prosecutor for each of the revenue districts in the State to prosecute the offences under the Act. This again is another first of its kind in the country.

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WELFARE SCHEMES FOR THE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Ad-hoc increase in remuneration sanctioned to those drawing Honorarium/Consolidated pay of Rs. 150 and above at Rs. 20 p.m. and for those drawing below Rs. 150 at Rs. 10 p.m. with effect from 1.7.96.

Independence Day and Republic Day were included in the list of Festivals to enable Government employees to avail Festival Advance.

Provision for availing second Marriage Advance while the first advance is pending recovery.

Enhancement of monetary limit for Conveyance Advance as indicated below :

	From Rs.	To Rs.
Bicycle	1,000	1,500
Motor cycle (new)	25,000	35,000
Motor cycle (second hand)	8,000	12,000
Motor car (new)	1,40,000	2,00,000
Motor car (second hand)	60,000	90,000

- ★ Health Fund Scheme has been introduced for extending financial assistance to employees of Panchayat Unions, Town Panchayats, Municipalities for major surgeries/special treatments like Open Heart Surgery, Kidney Transplantation, etc., with effect from 1.7.96.
- ★ Qualifying service for drawal of full pension has been reduced from 33 years to 30 years to those who retire from service on or after 1.7.96.
- ★ Enhancement of Medical Allowance to pensioners/family pensioners from Rs. 30 to Rs. 50 with effect from 1.12.95.
- ★ Encashment of 50% of Leave on Private Affairs standing to the credit of the employees upto a maximum of 90 days at the time of

retirement with full leave salary for those retiring from service on or after 1.7.96.

- ★ Enhancement of lump sum payment under Tamil Nadu Government Servants Family Security Fund Scheme from Rs.60,000 to Rs.1 lakh with effect from 1.7.96.
- ★ Lump-sum payment under the Group Insurance Scheme for the employees of Local Bodies, Aided Schools, Aided Colleges and Aided Technical Institutions including employees working under Nutritious Meal Programme enhanced from Rs.60,000/- to Rs.1 lakh.
- ★ The Government have introduced the Tamil Nadu Government Pensioners' Family Security Fund Scheme with effect from 1.1.97. Under the above scheme, a uniform contribution of Rs.20 will be deducted from the pension till the death of pensioners towards the Tamil Nadu Government Pensioners' Family Security Fund and the Fund will be operated after 12 months from 1.1.97. In the case of death of a pensioner after one year of contribution to the Fund, a sum of Rs.25,000 will be paid to the family from the Fund.

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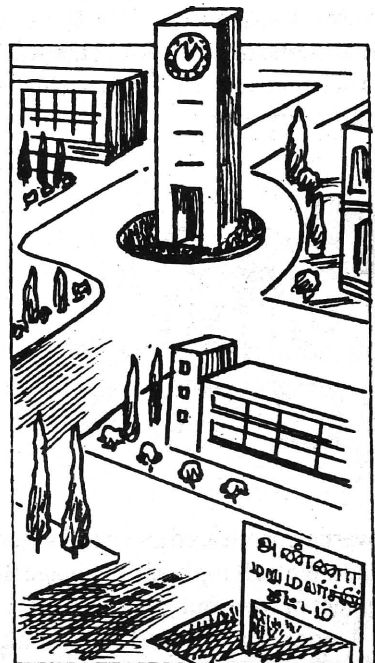
ANNA RENAISSANCE SCHEME TO DEVELOP ALL VILLAGES

The Hon'ble Chief Minister had announced in the Budget Speech 1997-98 that from this year onward a scheme called "Anna Renaissance Scheme" will be implemented with a view to develop all the villages with modern facilities. The scheme will be implemented by selecting one village in every Legislative Assembly Constituency in this State. Each member of the Legislative Assembly shall have the prerogative to select a

village of his/her choice every year. The basic objectives of this scheme are to provide the seven basic minimum services under the prioritised sectors of (a) Drinking water (b) Primary Education (c) Public Health (d) Nutritious Meal (e) Habitation (f) Rural Roads and Link Roads and (g) Fair Price Shops.

The above scheme will be implemented by a Co-ordination Committee headed by the Collector of the District. The scheme will be monitored by the Director of Rural Development and by the Government in Rural Development Department. All the activities under the scheme will be completed in full before the end of March 1998.

Elections to rural local bodies was last held in February 1986 and the term of office of the elected representatives was over in February 1991. Consequent on the enactment of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act 1994 and in fulfilment of the general election manifesto, the present Government conducted elections to Panchayats, Panchayat Unions and District Panchayats in



October 1996 and the elected representatives have assumed office.

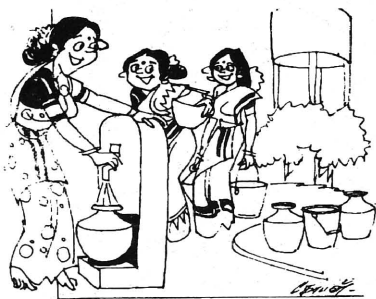
When this Government assumed charge in 1996 there was a substantial backlog of uncompleted works running to more than 1,14,000 works in different districts. During the last one year, the total work load taken up by the department is more than two and half times the normal work. During 1997-98 the department will be building on the strength of the achievements in 1996-97.

STREET LIGHTS

A total of 9,27,074 Street Lights including Sodium Vapour and Mercury Vapour Lamps are maintained by Panchayats. The Government is sanctioning every year, Rs.3 crores to weaker Panchayats towards clearance of Electricity consumption charges due to Tamil Nadu Electricity Board and maintenance of Street Lights.

RURAL WATER SUPPLY

Panchayat Unions are maintaining 1.49 lakhs hand pumps and 29,405 power pumps and a sum of Rs. 5.65 crores was sanctioned by Government for maintenance and rejuvenation of these pumps. Under this scheme, the Government sanctioned Rs.100 lakhs every year.



The Government released a sum of Rs.8 crores to Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board for replacement of worn out pipelines for the year 1996-97. Under Tamil Nadu Agricultural Development Project, out of 12500 borewells

targetted, 2126 borewells were drilled during June '96 - April '97.

TRAINING FOR RURAL YOUTH IN SELF EMPLOYMENT (TRYSEM)

The objective of the scheme is to provide training to rural youths to enable them to take up Self Employment in certain industries.

During 1996-97, Rs.619.24 lakhs had been earmarked for this scheme. Both Central and State Governments had released their first instalment of Rs.154.805 lakhs and Rs.131.505 lakhs respectively. State Government have released the second instalment of Rs.154.305 lakhs. The release of Central Government share is awaited.

Financial assistance in the form of subsidy is extended to institutions belonging to Central and State Government training institutions and training institutions run by voluntary organisations which offer training to youths under TRYSEM. The Government run institutions are eligible for 100% subsidy, whereas 50% assistance is given to other institutions. During 1996-97, Rs.1,91,60,000 had been earmarked for this scheme.

15,877 Youths have completed their training at the cost of Rs.598.22 lakhs for the year 1996-97. Trained candidates will be provided modern tool kits with 100% Central Government Financial Assistance.

SELF EMPLOYMENT GENERATION PROGRAMMES (IRDP)

This programme is in operation in the State from 1980-81 with 50% assistance from Government of India. The thrust of the scheme lies in raising the standard of living of the rural population below povertyline (with annual income below Rs.11,000 per family) by assisting them to acquire income generating assets through subsidy and Bank Credit. During 1996-97, 51,550 SC/ST, 46,357 women and 1,565 physically handicapped benefitted upto February 1997 under

this scheme. A provision of Rs.37.69 crores has been made in Budget Estimate 1997-98 for this scheme.

During 1997-98, 70,905 SC/ST, 65,905 women and 2,787 physically handicapped persons have benefitted upto April 1997 under this scheme.

DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN RURAL AREAS (DWCRA)

This scheme was launched in 1983-84 as a component of IRDP to improve the status of women, by providing opportunity of Self-Employment on a sustained basis. Expenditure of this scheme will be shared by the Centre and State in the ratio of 50:50 basis. Each group is provided with one-time-grant of Rs.25,200 which is shared equally by State and Central Governments. During the financial year 1996-97, 1265 groups have been formed benefitting 18,025 women in 28 districts. A provision of Rs.2 crores has been made in Budget Estimate 1997-98 as State's share for the scheme. During the financial year 1997-98 upto March '98, 1549 groups have been formed benefitting 22,550 women.

EMPLOYMENT ASSURANCE SCHEME

This employment oriented scheme is implemented in all districts of the state with 80% assistance from Government of India. The thrust of the scheme is to provide gainful employment for 100 days in a year atleast for two members in a family during the lean agricultural season, by providing work within the area of the block.

During 1996-97, 282 blocks out of 384 blocks have been covered. The Government of India have released Rs.108.95 crores and the State Government have sanctioned Rs.27.24 crores for implementation in 1996-97. 1,13,128 SC, 15,246 ST and 1,27,515 people belonging to other communities benefitted upto February 1997 under this scheme.

A sum of Rs.34.05 crores has been provided in Budget Estimate for 1997-98 as State's share for this scheme.

Details of Implementation of the Scheme 1996-97

a) No. of persons Registered under EAS as on date	11.178 (lakhs)
b) Employment generated	468.424 (Lakh Mandays)
c) Total No. of works completed (Nos.)	23970
d) Works under Performance(Nos.)	8526 (as on date)
e) Total expenditure	Rs.17014.19 lakhs

Physical Performance

	Employment generated (in Mandays)
Scheduled Caste	212.999
Scheduled Tribes	25.464
Others	229.961
Total Mandays	468.424

REJUVENATION OF EXISTING WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES

On the formation of this Government in May 1996 this Government realised the importance of the rejuvenation of the existing water supply schemes and immediately took over the task of rejuvenating the rural water supply schemes in a big way during 1996-97 at an approximate cost of Rs.52 crores.

By this rejuvenation programme, about 3100 individual power pump schemes and 225 combined Water Supply Schemes have been rejuvenated at a cost of about Rs.39.00 crores.

WATER SUPPLY IN RURAL AREAS

During 1996-97, in addition to the task of rejuvenating the existing schemes, TWAD has taken up the works and provided water supply facilities for the Rural habitations under the following categories through regular and special

programmes.

- a) Under Regular Rural Water Supply Programme: 1600 nos.
- b) Water Supply to not covered habitations : 49 nos.
- c) Water Supply to fluoride affected habitations 70 nos.
- d) Desalination programme: 4 plants
- e) Special component plan for Adi Dravidar colonies (part of regular RWS programme): 844

PROVIDING WATER SUPPLY IN URBAN AREAS

Water Supply Schemes have been provided to 11 Urban Towns comprising of 3 Municipalities, 8 Urban Town Panchayats, 16 Rural Town Panchayats were also provided with Water Supply Schemes during the year 1996-97.

MAKKAL NALA PANIYALARGAL SCHEME

The Hon'ble Chief Minister announced on the floor of the Assembly that the Makkal Nala Paniyalargal Scheme will be revived and employment will be provided for 25,000 rural youths on an honorarium of Rs. 500 per mensem.

The Government have since issued orders on 24.2.1997 for implementing the scheme by creating 25000 posts of Makkal Nala Paniyalargal.

INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT OF TRIBALS IN INDIRA GANDHI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

The Government of India has sanctioned a sum of Rs.132 lakhs for the project on Development of Tribals in Indira Gandhi Wild Life Sanctuary of the Anamalai Hills in Coimbatore District under Special and Innovative Employment

Scheme.

The State Government have accorded sanction to the release of Rs. 33 lakhs as its matching share of assistance for the implementation of the Project.

JAWAHAR VELAI VAIPPU THITTAM

National Rural Employment Programme and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme were merged and a new scheme known as Jawahar Velai Vaippu Thittam was launched in April, 1989. People below poverty line are the target group, but preference is given to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes and 30% of the overall employment opportunities is reserved for women.

The expenditure is shared between Centre and State on 80:20 basis.

Under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana the Government of India have released their total share of Rs.5805.53 lakhs and the State Government has also released its share of Rs. 1451.633 lakhs to the implementing agencies for 1996-97.

INDIRA AWAAS YOJANA

The Indira Awaas Yojana is implemented as a separate scheme with effect from 1.1.96. The cost of the scheme is shared between Centre and State on 80:20 basis.

Under Indira Awaas Yojana the Government of India released their total share of Rs. 4004.44 lakhs and the State Government has also released its share of Rs. 1451.633 lakhs to implementing agencies for 1996-97.

GROUP HOUSES

The Government have sanctioned Rs. 15 crores for repairing Group Houses of Adi Dravidars constructed under REP/RLEGP/JVVT.

The Government have also sanctioned Rs. 15 crores for reconstruction of collapsed and damaged group houses of Adi Dravidars constructed prior to 1989-90 under NREP/RLEGP etc. The DRD has apportioned Rs.30



crores to 28 Districts and orders will be issued entrusting the above works to the beneficiaries themselves.

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REVOLUTIONARY CHANGES IN SALES TAX STRUCTURE

- ★ As a measure of encouraging the growth of new Industries and sick units, a sum of Rs.40 crores has been deferred.
- ★ Sales Tax abolished on a number of items such as :

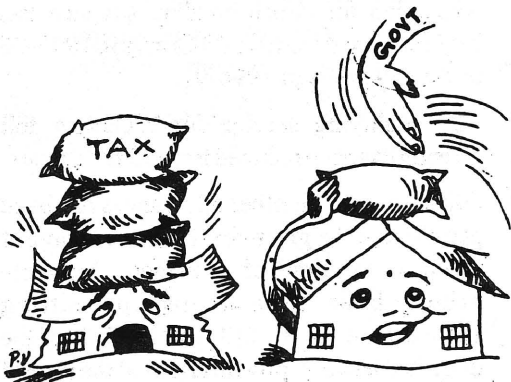
39 items of Country drugs and Life Saving drugs for the treatment of Cancer, Leprosy and Tuberculosis.

Solar Cells, Footwear costing below Rs.50, Cattle feed, Thonnai, Gum Benzoin (Sambirani), Cycle Carriage for invalid persons, Clay for making bricks and tiles, Senna leaves, pods and leaves of Nilavagai Plant, Tapioca Kapi and thippi, Hosiery goods, Gold sold to exporters of Gold, Jewellery by MMTc, Wheat Bran, Vibhoodhi, Namakatti, Pulichakkeerai rope.

- ★ Sales Tax has been reduced on number of items such as :

Tamil Typewriters, Spectacles, Lens, Typewriters, Glass Beads and Glass Marbles (Goli Gundu), Mosquito repellents, destroyers and Mats, Electronic Parts and accessories, Helmets, Biomass Briquettes, Blue Metal, Toys, Stationery items used by students for painting, Fried Groundnut Kernel, Sprinkler drip irrigation equipments, Paper bags, Umbrellas, Handicraft articles, 30 Adisarakku items, Tarpaulin, Suit cases, Parts of Oil Engine, Furniture such as Tables and Chairs, Butter and Ghee with brand name, Zari, Man made Yarn and Fibre, Flavoured Milk, Waste Paper, Scientific equipments sold to Educational institutions, Sewing and embroidery machine parts and needles thereof, Unbranded Footwear, Domestic Vessels made Brass Copper and Stainless Steel, Urea, Coconut and Copra, Cotton, Plastic scrap, Fish net, Old Brass, Copper and Eversilver vessels.

- Tax Relief worth Rs.306 crores was announced in the Tamil Nadu Budget for 1996-97.
- Revolutionary changes in the Sales Tax structure: Surcharge on Sales Tax and additional surcharge on Sales Tax merged with basic Sales tax.
- Firms with total turn over of less than Rs. 100 crores exempted from payment of Additional Sales Tax.
- Value added Tax introduced for the first time for resellers with turnover of more than Rs.7.5 lakhs.



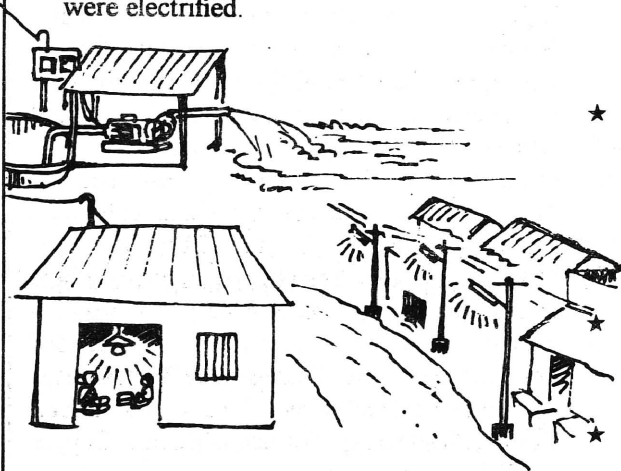
Fish feed, Coconut Shell and Chips, Groundnut Shell, Shikakai Powder, Curd, Panjambirham, Educational Charts, Maps, Tourist guides and Maps, Sledge Hammer, Old Silver Metty, Kolusu and Araigann, Thatti, Muram and Baskets made of Bamboo.

- ❑ Concessional rate of tax on inputs reduced to 3% and the benefit extended to capital goods as well with a total tax concession loss of Rs.200 crores.
- ❑ Effective tax on LPG(cooking gas) reduced from 11.8% to 8%
- ❑ Effective tax on diesel reduced from 19.2% to 18%
- ❑ Effective purchase tax on Sugarcane reduced from 14.7% to 8%

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57950 HUTS ELECTRIFIED

- ★ A total of 37891 Numbers of agricultural pumpsets were provided with electricity.
- ★ Under one light one hut scheme, 57950 huts were electrified.



- ★ New Industrial services totalling to 22763 were connected.
- ★ About 4.33 lakh domestic and commercial services were given supply.
- ★ 31,808 numbers of street lights and 2129 numbers of over head tanks were connected.
- ★ Additional wind mills with a total capacity of 118 MW have been installed. 1108 MU of energy have been generated from these wind mills.
- ★ 100 KW Solar Photo Voltaic Cells have been additionally installed.

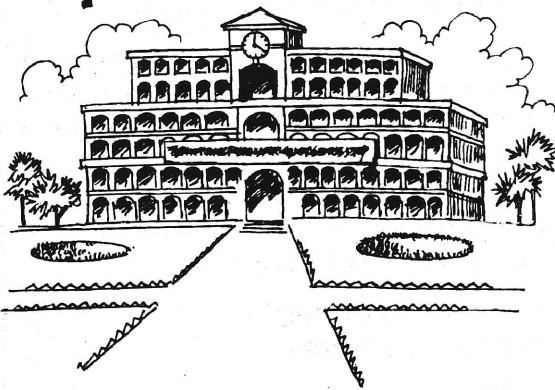
- ★ 11 numbers of power plants using liquid fuels totalling to 1250 MW have been approved by the Government and these plants are expected to generate power in the year 1999. For 9 more power plants with a total capacity of 900 MW, fresh tenders have been called for.
- ★ In the past one year, a total of 43 numbers of substations were commissioned. Extra High Tension Transmission lines to a total length of 569 Ckt.Kms.were erected and commissioned. High Tension Shunt Capacitors to a total capacity of 217 MVAR were put into operation to improve the voltage conditions. To cater to, the increased load demand, the power transformer capacity was enhanced in 28 numbers of substations.
- ★ As a result of aggressive negotiation in Board's contracts for purchase of materials/execution of works, an amount of Rs.35.88 crores has been saved.
- ★ Under the employees health fund scheme, a total sum of Rs. 17.28 lakhs has been granted as financial assistance to 36 employees of the Board for undergoing special treatment like Coronary by-pass surgery, Renal Transplant, Cancer etc.
- ★ Allocation for house building advance has been increased from Rs.29 Crores in 1995-96 to Rs.31 Crores in 1996-97.
- ★ The qualifying service for receiving full pension has been reduced from 33 to 30 years.
- ★ Full salary and all other allowances has been permitted to be given for the earned leave at credit at the time of retirement. Similarly orders have been issued permitting encashment with full salary, 50% of the unearned leave on private affairs at the time of retirement subject to a maximum of 90 days. For the calculation of retirement gratuity, 97% of the Dearness Allowance along with pay will be taken into account. The ceiling for the death cum retirement gratuity has been enhanced from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 2.5 lakhs with retrospective effect from 1.5.95.

- ★ Medical allowance to the pensioners has been enhanced from Rs. 30/- to Rs. 50/- per month.
- ★ For the pensioners, a Family Security Fund Scheme has been constituted, according to which a sum of Rs. 25,000 will be paid to the spouse/legal heirs in case of the death of the pensioner. In addition, a health fund scheme for the pensioners to provide financial assistance upto a maximum amount of Rs. 25,000 for medical treatment, has also been evolved.

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A NEW UNIVERSITY AT SALEM

- ★ A New University at Salem, is to be started on 17.9.1997
- ★ Proposals for the introduction of vocational courses during 1997-98 in 13 Government Colleges have been sent to UGC. The UGC will be assisting at the rate of Rs. 3 lakhs for



Arts course and Rs. 9 lakhs for Science Course per year. The Colleges can use this money to create infrastructure, prepare teaching materials, employ guest-lecturers etc.

- ★ B.Sc., Computer Science Course and MCA courses have been introduced in 8 Government Colleges. Employment oriented subjects like Micro-Biology, etc. have been introduced to increase the employment opportunities.

- ★ Besides Budget allocation of Rs. 2 crores for the maintenance and repairs of 65 Government Colleges, an additional sum of Rs. 3 crores have been sanctioned for the construction of new buildings, additional class-rooms, Laboratories, Auditoriums etc. in 15 Government Colleges.
- ★ A sum of Rs. 10 crores have been sanctioned for construction of Buildings in 4 Engineering Colleges.
- ★ The Vivekananda House, wherein Swamy Vivekananda stayed for nine days in March 1897 has been given to Ramakrishna Mutt as a goodwill gesture.
- ★ Under the World Bank assisted second Technical Education Project, to revitalise and upgrade 21 Government and 31 Government aided Polytechnics in the State, an amount of Rs. 75.60 crores have been allotted.
- ★ The Management of Self-Financing Engineering Colleges were extorting huge amount of money for Branch allotment during second year from the students. The Government have issued instructions for Branch allotment which will completely eradicate this evil.

New courses in Jewellery Development at Dr. Dharmambal Government Polytechnic for Women, Chennai in collaboration with the World Gold Council, Mumbai, which has great employment potential has been started. This is the second of its kind in the whole country.

- ★ To create the required infrastructure for information and to become a pioneer in the field of Information and Technology in the 21st Century, a sum of Rs. 10 crores have been provided to establish Information Technology Institute of Tamil Nadu.
- ★ Single window system of allotting subjects in the Engineering Colleges during the first year

admission itself shall be followed from 1997 onwards.

- ★ 15% seats have been allotted for the students coming from rural areas in Engineering Colleges from 1997-98.
- ★ It has been ordered to teach subjects in Tamil Medium in the Government Colleges and in selected Government aided colleges of Education from 1997-98. Action has been taken to teach in Tamil Medium in all Polytechnics and in some selected Engineering Colleges and in Universities.

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KUDIMARAMATHU SYSTEM REVIVED

The system of Kudimaramathu by which farmers undertake maintenance of irrigation schemes has become defunct and the farmers have become dependent on the Government for maintenance of the irrigation schemes. Therefore, organisations of local farmers will be formed under the Tamil Nadu Water Resources Consolidation Project so as to enable their gradual participation in the maintenance of irrigation schemes.

BATHALAPALLI MALATTAR RESERVOIR SCHEME

This Government has sanctioned the scheme of formation of a reservoir across Malattar, a tributary of Palar near Bathalapalli Village in Gudiatham Taluk of North Arcot Ambedkar District. The cost of the scheme is Rs.25.49 crores. It is proposed to complete the scheme within a time frame of three years. This scheme will benefit 1125 ha of land in Gudiatham Taluk. Besides, this scheme will provide drinking water to Pernampet town and wayside villages.

KUPPANATHAM RESERVOIR SCHEME

The scheme of formation of a reservoir across Cheyyar, a tributary of Palar near Kuppanatham village in Chengam Taluk of Tiruvannamalai Sambuvarayar District has been sanctioned by this Government, at a cost of Rs.25.46 crores at current price. The time frame for completion of this scheme is three years. This scheme will benefit 3130 ha of land in Chengam and Tiruvannamalai Taluks.

VARATTAR-VALLI MADURAI RESERVOIR SCHEME

This Government has sanctioned the formation of a reservoir across Varattar near Valli Madurai in Harur Taluk of drought prone Dharmapuri District. The cost of the scheme is Rs.19.20 crores. This is a time bound project to be completed in three years. This will benefit an extent of 1157 ha of single crop dry lands in Harur Taluk.

ANDIAPPANUR ODAI SCHEME

This Government is pleased to sanction the formation of a reservoir across Andiappanur Odoi a tributary of Palar near Andiappanur in Vaniambadi Taluk of North Arcot Ambedkar District. This scheme will benefit 810 ha of double crop dry lands. The cost of the scheme at current price is Rs.18.28 crores.

SHENBAGATHOPPU RESERVOIR SCHEME

This scheme has been sanctioned by the Government at an estimated cost of Rs.21.33 crores. This scheme contemplates the formation of a reservoir across Kamandaluru, a tributary of Cheyyar in Shenbagathoppu Village of Polur Taluk of Tiruvannamalai Sambuvarayar District.

This scheme will benefit an extent of 2709 ha of ayacut in Polur and Arani taluks of Tiruvannamalai Sambuvarayar District.

WELFARE MEASURES TO INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE POLICE FORCE

Maintenance of Law and Order is the primary responsibility of any Government which strives to achieve rapid economic development and better living standards to the people.

The agitations launched by political parties, labour unrest and communal tension have been handled well in the State. Rowdiness which was rampant in the past has been curbed with an iron hand in Chennai city and other parts of the State resulting in the restoration of the faith of the



public in the police.

Communal clashes which took place in certain parts of the State were contained effectively by deft handling of all such incidents by the police. The Government have ordered the formation of special force to deal with communal tension realising the need for containing the communal virus effectively. Accordingly, an elite force called 'Swift Action Force' has been formed to prevent and control communal clashes that may occur in any part of the State.

The performance of the Tamil Nadu Police has been remarkable in detecting crime in the recent months. During the year 1996, 69% of property offences were detected as against 66.7% in the year 1995.

A notable achievement on the crime front during the year 1997 has been the prompt detection of temple theft case at Chitrakulam Vedantha Desigar Temple at Mylapore in which gold jewels, diamonds and other temple properties worth Rs.8,37,504 were recovered.

To improve the functioning of the police at the cutting edge level and in order to provide immediate relief to the public, 12 out-posts have been upgraded into Pucca Police Stations. New Police Stations are going to be opened particularly to deal with forest offences including smuggling of sandalwood. Rs.5.87 crores were sanctioned by the Government for purchase of 342 vehicles for the Police Department.

Improvement of infrastructure inputs and upgradation of skills of police personnel are the twin objectives of modernisation of police force.

During the financial year 1996-97, the Government have sanctioned funds to the tune of Rs.1183.47 lakhs for purchase of vehicles, communication/office equipment/aids to investigation/training equipment and light weaponry.

The Government have also accorded sanction for purchase of vehicles (Rs.2.46 crores), communication equipment (Rs.3.03 crores), signal equipment (Rs.67.95 lakhs), Rs.6.57 crores for improvement of Traffic Management under Tamil Nadu Urban Development Project Scheme in 10 selected towns including Chennai, Madurai and Coimbatore.

The Government sanctioned the recruitment of 10,000 police personnel in the year 1995 out of whom 3265 men and 1680 women have been

sent for training. In addition, 5000 women Police Constables have also been sanctioned by the Government.

Several welfare measures have been undertaken in the State to boost the morale of the police personnel and increase their efficiency. The most important of these are :

- ★ Inclusion of family members of police personnel in the scheme of financial assistance upto Rs. 1 lakh under the Tamil Nadu Police Health Fund Scheme for specialised surgeries/treatment in reputed private hospitals.
- ★ Increase of Uniform Allowance from Rs. 25 to Rs. 30.
- ★ Increase of Driver's Special pay from Rs. 40 to Rs. 60.
- ★ As an incentive to the AR personnel, the proficiency pay for AR Police Constables have been increased from Rs. 3 to Rs. 10 and for Head Constables from Rs. 5 to Rs. 15.
- ★ All Police Constables including women Police Constables who have completed 15 years of service are being promoted as Head Constables.
- ★ Good Service Allowance for the unblemished services of above 15 years has been sanctioned to police personnel at the rate of Rs. 5 onwards upto Rs. 20 p.m. depending on their length of service.
- ★ 329 posts of Assistants have been upgraded into those of Superintendents, creating promotional avenues for the ministerial staff.

In order to enhance the housing needs of police personnel, during 1996-97, the Government has sanctioned Rs. 1982.47 lakhs for the construction of 1602 Police quarters by the Tamil Nadu Police Housing Corporation.

In addition, new buildings for District Police Office and Range Office at North Arcot Ambedkar District have been sanctioned at a cost of

Rs. 207.50 lakhs.

As a number of police personnel could not get House Building Advance in recent years due to shortage of funds, the Government has enhanced this grant from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 3 crores.

To give due protection to women in distress, 57 All Women Police Stations are functioning in the State.

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PENSION TO WEAVERS

- ★ Action on to provide pension of Rs. 150 to weaver above 60 years of age.
- ★ The loan sanctioned for construction of houses to weavers was enhanced to Rs. 45,000 from Rs. 35,000. The relief provided to the handloom weavers family on the demise of a handloom weaver has been enhanced from Rs. 3000 to Rs. 5000.

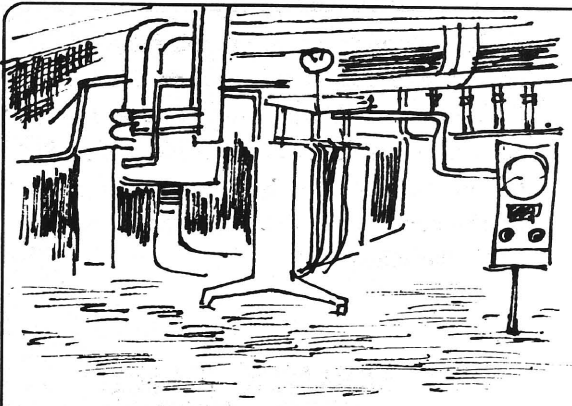


- ★ The insurance and savings scheme for the weaver is being enhanced from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 25,000.

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DAIRY DEVELOPMENT

- ★ The milk chilling capacity at Karaikudi dairy was upgraded to 60,000 litres from 50,000 litres per day.



- ★ The milk chilling capacity at Sivagangai and Paramakudi chilling centres were upgraded to 30,000 litres from 20,000 litres per day.
- ★ The capacity at Tirunelveli dairy has been increased to 1 lakh litres from 50,000 litres per day.
- ★ The Chilling Centre's capacity at Sankarankoil Milk Chilling Centre has been increased to 50,000 litres from 30,000 litres per day.

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NUTRITIOUS MEAL

- ★ Women's Welfare Centres will be started in 50 noon meal centres. Here information will be



provided on health, nutrition, family welfare, self employment training, arivoli and life style oriented education.

MUSIC SCHOOLS IN FIVE DISTRICTS

- ★ Music Schools will be started in 5 districts with a view to encourage children who are interested in learning music.
- ★ The works of Maraimalaiadigal will be Nationalised Rs.20 lakhs will be allotted for this purpose.
- ★ Tamil will be taught as Part -I language and English will be Part-II language as compulsory languages for the students upto fifth standard.

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STREAMLINING THE PDS

- ★ Recruitment office in the Districts to select salespersons for the Ration Shops.
- ★ 10 kg. of rice or wheat will be sold at half the price every month to the people below poverty line.



- ★ To streamline the Public Distribution System, Family Ration Cards will be issued in three different colours.

- ★ Actions will be taken according to the recommendations of the committee formed to eradicate the misdeeds in the Public Distribution System.

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SUBSIDY TO LOW BUDGET TAMIL FILMS RAISED

- ★ Families of Film stunt artistes who lose their lives while on film shooting will be given Rs. 1 lakh and those who become incapacitated will be given Rs. 50,000, from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund. Order have been issued in this regard.
- ★ The subsidy given to low budget Tamil Feature Films produced with less than 25 prints will be enhanced from Rs. 3 lakhs to Rs. 5 lakhs. Entertainment tax for those films will be exempted for the first four weeks from the date of their first release.
- ★ It has been decided to install the bust size statues of Arignar Anna, Kamarajar and MGR at the entrances of their memorials.

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PENSION SCHEME FOR POOJARIS

- ★ Orders issued to provide Rs. 500 per month to Rs. 1500 Village Poojaris under Poojari Pension Scheme.



- ★ Rs. 3000 is being spent per marriage of the poor Hindu Adi-Dravidars and Backward Communities, from the Temple Fund, according to a policy of the Government. So far, 50 marriages have been conducted. A list of 157 couples have been drafted to benefit under the scheme.

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BEST TEACHER AWARD NAMED AFTER DR. RADHAKRISHNAN

- ★ 168 Primary Schools will be started during the current year. 41 Primary Schools will be upgraded to Middle Schools.
- ★ 11,652 vacant teachers posts have been filled.
- ★ In the forthcoming Academic year 14 Colleges will be made autonomous colleges.
- ★ The Best Teacher Award has been renamed as "Dr. Radhakrishnan Award"
- ★ Action on to enhance the amount of Dr. Radhakrishnan Award from Rs. 1000 to Rs. 2000.
- ★ The cash amount of Dr. Radhakrishnan Award will be given away to two college Principals increased from Rs. 2500 to Rs. 5000.
- ★ Government will meet the expenses of the education of 10 first rank holders every year for technical education, whose families do not have any graduate.
- ★ Government will meet the expenses of higher education for the first three rank holders in +2 examinations and SSLC examinations.



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