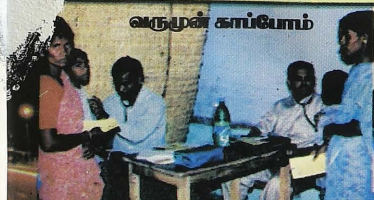


Tamil Arasu

Jan - Feb - Mar, 2001 Rs.15/-

**SPECTACULAR ACHIEVEMENTS
IN 5 YEARS**

Part - II



வருமன் கம்போம்



கணினிக் கல்வி



நடக்கு நாடே



TAMIL ARASU

Magazine of the Government of Tamil Nadu

Thiruvalluvar Year - 2032

Margazhi - Thai - Masi - Panguni

January - February - March, 2001

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Education a bountiful resource, forms the foundation for the enrichment of the individual's life, upliftment of the society and development of the nation. Education enables a person to make the best use of the opportunity that comes on the way and to distinguish rationally good from the bad.

The Government of Tamil Nadu over the past four and half years, has made significant achievements in the field of Education.

- In the year 1995-96 Budget allocation for education was only Rs.2,233 crores, whereas in the year 2000-2001 the allocation is being enhanced to Rs.4,949 crores, which is more than double.
- In the five year period between 1991-1996, 531 new primary schools have been started. But during this regime 1039 primary schools have been started.
- During the previous Government's 5 year period, 196 Primary Schools were upgraded into Middle Schools where as 512 Primary Schools were upgraded into Middle Schools by this Government.
- During the previous Government's 5 years period 134 Middle Schools were upgraded into high schools. This Government has

Education to all

upgraded, 380 Middle Schools into high schools.

- This Government has upgraded 303 high schools into Higher Secondary Schools, whereas only 80 high schools were upgraded by the previous Government.
- 8,450 secondary grade teachers were recruited by the previous Government. But this Government has appointed 41,887 secondary grade teachers as per the employment office registration seniority.
- Similarly 843 post graduate teachers were appointed by the previous Government whereas this Government has appointed 2,916 post graduate teachers.
- 838 graduate teachers were appointed in the previous Government, whereas 4,046 graduate teachers were appointed during this regime.
- In the previous Government not even a single special teacher was appointed. In contrast to this, during the past 4½ years of this Government, 2270 graduate Special teachers were appointed and also 238 teachers were appointed in the District teachers training institute by this Government.

• Due to the introduction of intensive Primary Education Scheme, 27,000 Children in the age group of 6 to 14 years have been enrolled additionally in Schools during 1999-2000.

• 59.13 lakh students studying from 1st to 5th Standard have been distributed text books free of cost worth Rs.25.31 crores from the year 1998-99.



- Class rooms have been constructed in 857 High Schools/ Higher Secondary Schools at a cost of Rs.40.49 crores; toilet facilities to 400 High Schools/ Higher Secondary Schools at a cost of Rs.3 crores; Laboratory buildings have been constructed in 662 schools at a cost of Rs.39.10 crores. Laboratory equipments have been supplied to 1544 schools at a cost of Rs.7 crores.



- Books have been provided for libraries in 400 schools at a cost of Rs.2 crores.

- "Vazhvoli Thittam" to take care of the health of School going children is being introduced in 1999-2000.

- In 1999-2000 a new Scheme was introduced, to issue Caste Certificate, residential Certificate and family income certificate to the students passing out of 10th Std and 12th std in the school itself. 14,11,173 Students were benefited by this scheme.

- A special Scheme for Secondary Grade Teachers' Training to Adi-Dravidar. Students is being introduced in 1997-98 at a cost of Rs.5.08 crores. Under this scheme 850 additional Adi-Dravidar students will be trained in 17 Government Teachers Training Institutes so as to fill up the backlog vacancies of Secondary Grade Teachers.

- The Government bears the expense of the higher studies of the top three rankers in the 10th and 12th standard public examinations in Districts as well as State level from the year 1996.

- The Government will meet the entire expense of education of the students who have secured the first ten places from 1996-97, hail from families that have no

graduate member and are interested in pursuing professional courses.

- The Government has reserved 15% of seats in all professional Colleges for the rural students from 1997-1998 for the first time. 864 rural students in 1997-98; 1,190 rural students in 1998-99 and 1,544 rural students in 1999-2000 have benefited by getting admissions in professional colleges.
- In 1999-2000 Computer Education was introduced for 11th and 12th standard students in 666 Government Higher Secondary Schools at a cost of Rs.112 crores. The remaining 516 Government Higher Secondary Schools will be covered in 2000-2001 at a cost of Rs.75.66 crores. 16 Corporation Schools in Chennai have been provided with Computers at a cost of Rs.1.92 crores, 12 Government Medical Colleges at a cost of Rs.2.79 crores, 5 Government Law Colleges at a cost of Rs.1.55 crores and 60 Government Arts and Science Colleges at a cost of Rs.28.22 crores for the introduction of Computer Education.
- A separate department was created for higher education in the secretariat in 1997.
- 31 Self Financing Engineering Colleges were started by the previous Government

whereas 81 Self Financing Engineering Colleges were started by this Government.

- In the past 4½ years, 72 Self Financing Polytechnics were started, but only 32 Self Financing Polytechnics were started in the previous 5 years.
- A Single Window System was introduced for Engineering College admissions from 1997-1998.
- Similarly a Single Window System of admission was introduced for polytechnics from 1998-1999.
- 125 new self-financing Arts and Science Colleges and 2 Government Arts and Science Colleges for Women were started by this Government is compared to the



65 new Self-financing Arts & Science Colleges started by the previous Government.

- Subjects such as B.B.A., M.C.A., etc have been started in 42 private colleges. Computer Science was introduced in 60 Government Arts and Science Colleges.
- An incentive of Rs.400 per student was given to 76,526 students who studied under-graduate courses in Tamil Medium, at an expenditure of Rs.3 crores.
- In 19.11.99 the Government issued an order stating that Matriculation State

Board Schools have to follow the mother tongue or Tamil as medium of instruction and Tamil or the mother tongue should be the first language.

- The order has been stayed by Government and the case is pending at the Supreme Court.
- In 1997-1998 the Government has established Tamil Nadu Institute of Information Technology (TANITEC).
- Teachers of Arts College, Engineering College and University are given UGC pay from 1-1-1996.
- A building for the newly started K.A.P. Viswanatham Medical College has been constructed at Trichi at a cost of Rs.12.73 crores and was inaugurated on 26.6.2000.
- A Government Medical College was started at Thoothukudi on 1.10.2000.
- A new Medical College is proposed to be started at Vellore at an early date. There is also a proposal to start a Medical College at Kanniya kumari.
- Periyar University was opened in Salem on 17.9.1997.
- A Law College was started in Tirunelveli in 1996. A Law University in the name of Dr. Ambedkhar was inaugurates in Chennai by Thiru K.R. Narayanan, the President of India on 20.9.1997.
- 28 Trusts (25 Lakh each) costing Rs.7 crores have been created in the Universities in the names of kings, leaders and eminent scholars.
- A high Power Committee headed by Chief Minister Kalaingar as Chairman, Education Minister as Vice Chairman and Dr. V.C. Kuzhandaisamy as implementing Chairman to findout the ways and means for introducing Tamil Medium in higher studies has been formed.
- An academy for Urdu was started in 1999 with an allocation of Rs.15 lakhs. ★

Revenue Department is the mother of all administrative departments. This is the department which touches upon almost all aspects of a citizen's life. It remains as the backbone of the administration and its contribution to the social and economic development is immense.



Whenever Kalaignar assumes office, the Revenue Department's performance is the best and its achievements are bountiful.

Abolition of basic assessment on lands

After the government assumed office under the leadership of Anna in 1967, the basic assessment on all dry lands was waived.

Manu Needhi Thittam

Manu Needhi Thittam was introduced and implemented by Kalaignar's regime on 15-9-1969. Under this scheme, instead of the public approaching the officers regarding their grievances, officers were instructed to meet the public, receive their petitions and redress their grievances on the spot as far as possible. Like wise during the five years from 15-9-1969 to 30-9-1974, 8,35,034 petitions had been received and 7,70,616 grievances had been redressed at a rate of 92.2%.

After Kalaignar assumed office for the fourth time in May, 1996 upto November, 2000, under Manu Needhi Thittam, 11,05,961 petitions have been received and 5,42,607 demands have been accepted.

In total the grievances of 9,73,794 petitions have been redressed.

Land Reforms

To eliminate social inequalities and to enable the poor agricultural labourer to own land in which he toils, Land Reforms Act had been enacted and land ceiling had been fixed. A law had been enacted and land ceiling was fixed as 15 standard acre and was announced in the year, 1970. As a result 1,78,880 acres of excess land had been acquired as against the 19,020 acres of excess land acquired by the previous regime and distributed to 1,37,236 poor landless agriculturists. Among the beneficiaries 61,985 persons were Adi-Dravidars and 204 were tribals.

A Special Act had been enacted in 1971 for the first time in India making the agricultural labourers owners of the residential plots where they were living.

Administrative Reforms Commission

An Administrative Reforms Commission had been formed in 1973 under the Chairmanship of Thiru T.A.Varghese and Thiru K.S.

FINE PERFORMANCE AND BOUNTIFUL ACHIEVEMENTS

Sivasubramanian, Thiru V. Karthikeyan, Thiru A.R. Subbaiah Mudaliar and Thiru V. Krishnaswamy as Members to speedily implement the schemes, formulated by the Government for the public, to regulate the proceedings of the Government departments, to inspect and recommend to the Government departments including Revenue department and Revenue Board. Most of the recommendations of the Commission have been accepted and implemented by the Government. The proposal to dissolve the Revenue Board was dropped as per the recommendation of the Commission and it was allowed to perform its duty in the year 1980 it was dissolved.

A Revenue Administrative Reforms Committee had been formed in 1996 under the Chairmanship of Thiru B. Sabanayagam, former Chief Secretary and 99 recommendations of the Committee have been accepted and orders were issued.

New Administrative Organisations

After a longtime, the boundaries of the Districts have been restructured and new districts are being formed. Pudukottai District had newly been created on 14-1-1974. During the period between 1989-91, the two districts Thiruvannamalai and Nagapattinam and Vellore Revenue Division and Paramathi Vellore Revenue Division have been newly created. After 1996, 4 districts namely Namakkal, Thiruvallur, Theni and Thiruvallur, 8 Revenue Divisions, viz. Thiruchengode, Maduranthagam, Tiruthani, Ponneri, Uthamapalayam, Thiruvallur, Kulithalai and Athur; 24 Revenue Taluks, viz. Edapadi, Gangavalli, Tambaram, Thirukazhukundram, Poonamalli, Ambattur, Theni, Bodinaikkanur, Kizhavelur, Manachanallur, Krishnaraya puram, Veppanthattai, Kunda, Pandalur, Ettayapuram, Thirukuvalai, Vazhappadi, Manamalkudi, Ilupur, Alankulam, Veerakeralampudur, Katpadi, Kariampatti and Thottiyam have been created. By bifurcating the Perambalur District a new district called Ariyalur had been created. Apart from this 11 new firkas have been created. Further, 22 villages in Sarugani Firka of Thiruvadanai Taluk in Ramanathapuram District

and one village in Ananthur Firka were attached with Sivagangai District from 1-9-1998.

Buildings for Revenue Department

During the previous regime between 1991 and 1996 Rs.10.12 crores were spent for the construction of buildings for Revenue Department. But after 1996 buildings for District Collectorate at Tuticorin at a cost of Rs.4 crores; Chennai at a cost of Rs.9 crores; Villupuram - Rs.4.3 crores; Thiruvannamalai - Rs.5.77 crores; Namakkal - Rs.6.14 crores; Karur - Rs.6.16 crores; Thiruvallur - Rs.6.93 crores; Nagapattinam - Rs.6.49 crores; Thiruvallur - Rs.5.61 crores have been constructed with Dravidian style and were inaugurated. Building for Theni District Collectorate at a cost of Rs.5.94 crores is to be inaugurated. In total 10 buildings at a cost of Rs.60.07 crores have so far been constructed. Apart from this, buildings for 11 Revenue Divisional Offices and 13 Revenue Tahsildar Offices have been constructed. Residential apartments for Revenue and District Revenue Officers have been constructed at a cost of Rs.1.07 crores. Infrastructural facilities for offices of Revenue Department have been provided at a cost of Rs.38.33 crores.

In order to industrialise Tamil Nadu a preamble for acquiring required lands had been put forth and approved by the President on 14-3-2000 and published in Tamil Nadu Gazette on 23-3-2000.

Vehicles for Revenue Department

During the previous regime, 129 vehicles have been purchased at a cost of Rs.3.39 crores for the



Revenue Department. As against this, during Kalaignar's regime for the past four and a half years, 196 jeeps and 60 cars at a cost of Rs.7.83 crores have been provided to this Department.

The aim of this Government is to provide basic facilities for the economically weaker sections of the society. Previously free house sites have been allotted for those whose annual income is below Rs.12,000. This has now been increased to Rs.24,000 per annum for urban people and Rs.16,000 per annum for rural people from 31-5-2000. From May, 1996 to September, 2000, 7,51,235 house site pattas have been distributed at free of cost. Among beneficiaries under this scheme are 2,44,879 Adi-dravidars, 8,654 Tribals and 4,97,702 belong to Most Backward and Minority Communities.

There are large scale encroachments of poramboke lands mostly by poor people for a long time. In order to help them, the Government have, based on the report of a High Level Committee, ordered on 27-3-2000 that such poramboke lands which are not required for Government purpose, can be regularised by way of assignment of pattas. Under this scheme, the first of its kind in Tamil Nadu upto 31-11-2000, 1,63,348 house site pattas have been distributed. Among the beneficiaries 41,159 are Adi-Dravidars; 3,488 Tribals; 50,233 Most Backward Class; 64,734 Backward Class and 3,734 belong to other communities.

Assignment of cultivable lands at free of cost

Under the scheme of assigning cultivable lands to landless poor people, between the period from May, 1996 and September, 2000 land pattas have been distributed to 13,753 Adi-Dravidars, 529 Tribals and 38,510 belonging to other communities. In total, 52,792 land pattas were distributed. During the previous regime only 29,591 land pattas have been distributed.

After 1996, upto 30-11-2000, 12,043 crores of cultivable lands have been assigned to 9,426 persons under Land Reforms Act.

New system in the assessment of water cess

Under Keezh Bavani Irrigation System, water cess is being assessed on the basis of area of land

instead of crops. Order has been issued on 21-11-2000 assessing water cess on flat rate.

Irrigation Development Taxation Act exempting tax on irrigation schemes of 1955, had been amended on 11-11-2000 increasing the maximum limit of estimated cost for irrigation schemes from Rs.1.5 lakhs to 25 lakhs.

Enhancement of relief assistance

Formerly, Rs.10,000 had been paid as relief assistance to the families of those who lose their life due to natural calamities. This Government has enhanced this assistance amount to Rs.15,000 from 16-10-1996. For the huts damaged fully, the assistance amount has been enhanced from Rs.500 to Rs.1,000 and for the partially damaged huts from Rs.250 to Rs.500 from 22-6-1996. Likewise, this relief assistance is being extended by the Kalaignar's regime to livestock which lose their life due to natural calamities. From 12-6-1996 for the cow, buffalo and bullock each Rs.5,000, cow and calf each Rs.3,000, for sheep and goat each Rs.1,000 have been given. During the period from June 1996 to 1999, Rs.342.71 crores have been spent for relief works due to cyclone and flood. Likewise Rs.138.36 crores have been spent for relief measures in the areas affected by drought from 1996 to till date.

Rs.8 crores had been allotted on 14-12-2000 for the relief works due to heavy rain and cyclone on 29-11-2000.

Renovation works for 91 centres located in the seashore districts in which public were accommodated during cyclone and rain were undertaken at a cost of Rs.87.50 lakhs.

The maximum limit of funds to the Revenue Department officials for providing relief assistances to the poor affected due to natural calamities without waiting for assistance from the Government have been enhanced from 1999 - for Commissioner of Revenue Administration from Rs.20 lakhs to Rs.50 lakhs, District Collector from Rs.10 lakhs to Rs.20 lakhs, Revenue Divisional Office from Rs.2 lakhs to Rs.3 lakhs and Tahsildar from Rs.1 lakh to Rs.2 lakhs.

Accident Relief Scheme

Under the Accident Relief Scheme, assistance is being extended to the families of the poor labourers who lose their life or lose their limbs due to accidents. This assistance amount to the families who lose their life has been enhanced from Rs.10,000 to Rs.15,000 from 28-8-1996. For incapacitation, previously it was Rs.5,000 to 10,000 depending upon the incapacitation and now this has been enhanced from Rs.7,500 to Rs.15,000 from 27-10-1999. Under this scheme, during the period from 1996 to 30-11-2000, 6,064 families have been benefitted to a tune of Rs.7.17 crores.

During previous regime, Rs.10,000 had been extended as relief assistance to the family of the deceased due to fire accident and this has been enhanced to Rs.15,000 from 16-10-1996. As far as Chennai is concerned, the huts totally damaged due to fire accident have been given an assistance of Rs.600 for each hut, for partially damaged hut Rs.300 each; in other districts for totally damaged huts and Rs.500 each, partially damaged hut Rs.250 each during the previous regime. This differentiation in extending the assistance had been rectified from 22-6-1996 and enhanced to Rs.1,000 each for totally damaged huts and Rs.500 for partially damaged hut. The scheme of extending assistance to livestock losing their lives due to natural calamities also being extended to the cattle losing their lives due to fire accident from 12-6-1996.

Family Benefit Scheme for weaker section

A scheme of extending financial assistance to the poor family on the death of the bread-winner is being enhanced from Rs.5,000 to Rs.7,500 from 28-8-1996. From 1-8-1998 this has been further enhanced to Rs.10,000. Under this scheme Rs.1,86,536 families were assisted to a tune of Rs.130.10 crores upto 30-11-2000.

Concessions for Ex-Village Administrative Officers

Village Administrative Officers who lost their jobs as per the Emergency Act introduced by the previous regime on 11-11-1980, were reinstated by Kalaignar when he assumed office for the third

time in 1989. The issue of awarding pension for them was also considered but before that the Government was dissolved. The Government which assumed office after that was not prepared to consider this issue. Ex-Village Administrative Officers acquired orders from the court in favour of them. Even then the order was not implemented. The Village Administrative Officers Society filed a case in the High Court for contempt of court. The previous Government appealed this in the High Court. After Kalaignar assumed office for the fourth time this appeal was withdrawn and orders were issued which benefitted 8,500 Ex-village Administrative Officers. Rs.175 along with allowances per month was granted by the order issued on 23-8-1996. Orders issued on 23-8-1996 for disbursement of Rs.100 per month to the family of the deceased Village Administrative Officer, who lost his job on 14-11-1980. Since this order had been issued with retrospective effect from 5-12-1996, all the Village Administrative Officers were made eligible for special pension.

As a result, each Village Administrative Officer received a special pension arrear of approximately Rs.23,000 in lumpsum.

This special pension amount had further been enhanced from Rs.175 to Rs.250; family pension from Rs.100 to Rs.150. As a result along with other allowances each Ex-V.A.O. is receiving approximately Rs.800 per month at present.

With the aim of extending more concessions to the Ex-village Administrative Officers this special pension was sanctioned on 9-9-1998 to the temporary employees who were terminated from services and who were on leave on 14-11-1980.

The Government issued orders on 7-7-1999 for appointing the legal heirs of those expired Village Administrative Officers who were in service after 1-6-1995 on compassionate grounds adhering to the adhoc rules.

Land Tax Written Off

Land tax to a tune of Rs.22.30 crores had been written off on 31-5-1996 after this Government assumed office on account of the drought during 1995 in 19 districts.

The land tax to a tune of Rs.2.42 crores had been written off in June 1996 in the drought affected districts of Virudhunagar, Thirunelveli, Sivagangai, Ramanathapuram and Thoothukudi in the year 1996. Likewise the land tax to a tune of Rs.87.85 lakhs to be collected from the districts of Cuddalore and Nagapattinam affected due to flood had been written off in the year 1996. As announced in the Legislative Assembly on 6-4-1998 land tax payable by the farmers affected by the north east monsoon to a tune of Rs.43.48 crores had been written off as a relief measure. During the past four and a half years alone this Government had written off land tax to a tune of Rs.69.08 crores.

The Tax Ratio for 2C Tree Pattas had been reduced and order was issued on 30-8-1996 for the continuation of old tax rate.

New system for issuing of certificates

The system of issuing income certificate, community certificate and nativity certificate to students completing school education to the pursuing higher education and seeking employment had been simplified and facilitated so as to issue these certificates in the schools. As such during 1999-2000, 19,68,375 certificates and during 2000-2001 upto November, 15,07,427 certificates have been issued.

Welfare of Agricultural labourers

In order to examine the ways and means of uplifting the standard of living of the poor and downtrodden, unorganised agricultural labourers, formation of a committee was announced on 5-3-1997. A committee under the chairmanship of Thiru P. Kolappan, I.A.S., had been formed on 27-8-1997 and the committee submitted its report on 17-2-1998. At the cabinet meeting held on 4-4-1999, the recommendations suggested by the committee on the fixation of minimum wages for agricultural labourers had been discussed and a proper decision were taken and announced on 5-4-1999.

Agricultural Labourers Welfare Board

The recommendation by the Kolappan Committee for the formation of a separate Board

for implementing welfare schemes for the unorganised agricultural labourers had been accepted by this Government and formed "Tamil Nadu Agricultural Labourers Welfare Board" on 27-11-2000, under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Minister for Revenue Department, with 8 higher officials of other departments, 9 representatives of land owners, 9 representatives of Agricultural labourers as members.

Computerisation of Revenue Department

Having a deep faith in transparent administration, this Government has computerised the Revenue department, so as to make the services of the Revenue Department reach the public in a speedy manner without any interruption. As such, offices of the Revenue Department have been computerised in the Districts of Thanjavur, Thiruvavur and Thiruvallur at district as well as taluk levels. 50 revenue taluks were provided with computers at a cost of Rs.1.33 crores and all the land records are being carried out through computers. With the result, the land owners in these 50 Revenue Taluks are facilitated to receive 'A' Registers and Sitta copies through computers. Further, works like pay bills and payment of pension are being carried out through computers. Computerisation of the rest of the 15.6 revenue taluks at a cost of Rs.4.17 crores are progressing. Computerisation of field sketches in the four revenue taluks of Chengalpattu, Kudavasal, Erode and Gopichettipalayam to a tune of Rs.1.24 crores have been completed. In order to provide computer facilities to all the people living in lower strata, computerisation of the land administrative proceedings starting from villages to district headquarters at a cost of Rs.42 lakhs have been started in Perambalur as a model scheme. Realising the importance of accuracy in land survey, order has been issued on 3-11-2000 for introducing 'Digital Kadastral' with global positioning system at a cost of Rs.1.20 crores in Ponneri Revenue Taluk as a model scheme.

The very first file signed by Kalaigarnar on 13-5-1996 as soon as he assumed office was the abolition of ground rent levied under Natham land tax in order to relieve the poor from the burden of paying the tax amount. •

In recognition of the fact that the farmers form the foundation of our Country and are pivotal in its economic development process and in order to improve their economic condition and thus the economy of the Country, various schemes are being implemented by the Government in the agricultural sector. Aiming to achieve increased agricultural production on a sustained basis in addition to quality farm produce, the Government

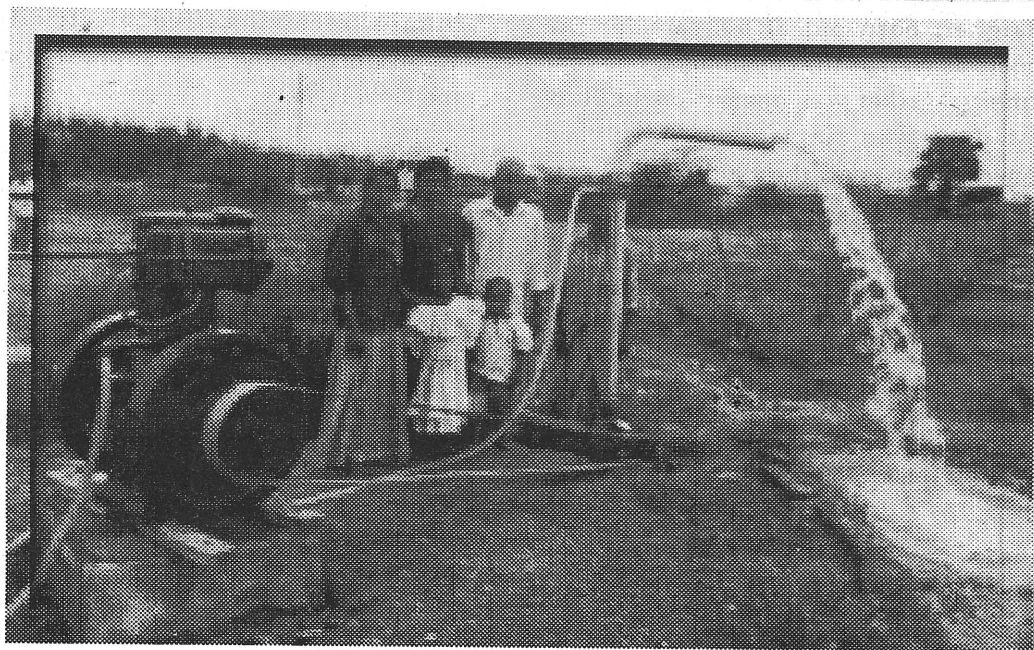


Welfare of farmers; well being of people

has been making continuous efforts to exploit untapped production potential, disseminate suitable technologies in cultivable lands and create green cover in wastelands. There has been an achievement galore in food production during the last four and a half years as shown below :

Food Production :

1995-96	-	64.05 lakh metric tonnes
1996-97	-	69.30 lakh M.T.
1997-98	-	81.04 lakh M.T.



1998-99 - 94.12 lakh M.T.

Rice Production :

1995-96 - 52.90 lakh M.T.

1996-97 - 58.05 lakh M.T.

1997-98 - 68.94 lakh M.T.

1998-99 - 81.41 lakh M.T.

An all time achievement of 3,579 kg. per hectare in rice production; 1,34,156 kg. per hectare in Sugarcane production and 1,650 kg. per hectare in oil seed production, taking Tamil nadu to the first position in the whole of India. "The Business Line" dated 15.5.2000 has reported a study by ASSOCHAM saying that Tamil Nadu has overtaken Punjab in rice production and Haryana in oilseed production. In 1998-99, Tamil Nadu has earned first place in production of rice, sugarcane and oilseed. In sugarcane production, Tamil Nadu's

achievement of 134.16 M.T. per hectare is the highest in terms of production capacity in the entire World. The state ranks first in India in oilseed production capacity also. The "Financial Express" dated 14.2.2000 had vouched for the contribution of Tamil Nadu to stabilizing Indian economy during the food crises caused by floods in Orissa and West Bengal and drought in Andhra Pradesh.

The total production of vegetables during the previous regime in 1995-96 in Tamil Nadu was 39.57 lakh M.T. In 1999-2000, the total production was 49.13 lakh M.T. Fruit production was 36.20 lakh M.T. in 1995-96. whereas the fruit production during the present Government's rule has increased to 46.12 lakh M.T.

100 Farmer's Markets

The scheme of Farmers Market is the brainchild of Hon'ble Chief Minister

Kalaigarnar, born out of his care for the farmers as well as the consumers. The first Farmer's Market was opened on 14.11.99 at Madurai and 100 markets have been opened in one year; the 100th market was opened on 14.11.2000 at Pallavaram. So far, 12 Farmers' Markets in Municipal Corporation areas, 76 markets in Municipal areas and 12 in town panchayat areas have been opened.

17 crore 85 lakh. 51 thousand 130 kilograms of vegetables worth as Rs.120 crore 82 lakh 75 thousands were brought to farmers' markets till 23.11.2000. 18 lakh 8 thousand 914 farmers benefitted from this. Likewise 5 crore 10 lakh 92 thousand 740 consumers also benefitted. Studies have confirmed that the farmers get 20 to 25% more income than through sales to wholesale traders outside.

This Government has sanctioned various concessions to farmers. Following are some notable concessions :

★ For the first time in India, Kalaigarnar's Government gave free electricity to agriculturists in 1990; despite protests and hurdles, lakhs of farmers still continue to benefit with 16 lakh motor

pumps receiving free electricity because of the committed support from the Government.

- ★ 8,00,000 farmers' identity cards to avail fertilizers were distributed at an expenditure of Rs.11.41 lakhs.
- ★ Procurement price for paddy in 1995-96 for coarse variety was Rs.360 per quintal and for fine variety Rs.375; from 1.9.2000, the procurement price for coarse variety was Rs.510 and for fine variety Rs.540. This Government has increased the procurement price of paddy by Rs.150 for coarse variety and by Rs.165 for fine variety.
- ★ During the present regime, 32 direct purchase centres were established at a cost of Rs.2.40 crores.
- ★ Paddy procurement in 1995-96 was 2.45 lakh tonnes; in 1997-98, 16.78 lakh tonnes; in 1998-99, 11.81 lakh tonnes; in 1999-2000, it was 12.13 lakh tonnes.
- ★ During the previous regime, sugarcane commanded a price of Rs.50 or Rs.60 above the price fixed by the Central Government. But, the present Government fixed Rs.180 more in

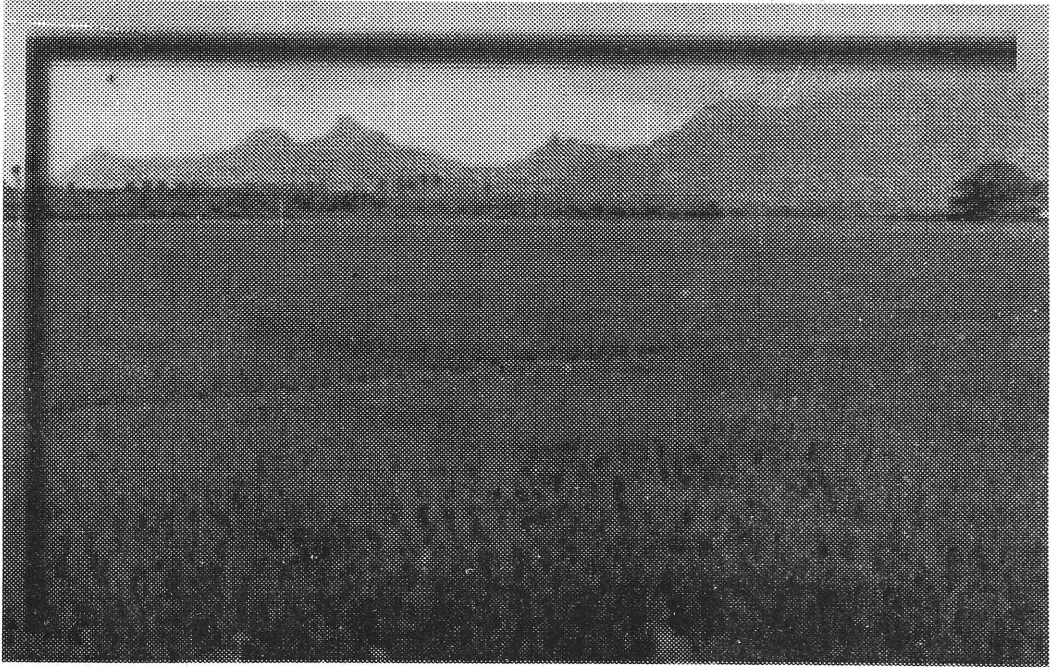


addition to the price fixed by the centre. In 1995-96, the recommended price of sugarcane with 8.5 percent sugar content per tonne was Rs.560. The recommended price fixed by this Government in 1999-2000 is Rs.740. Announcement has been made that Rs.1000 will be given for sugarcane with 10% sugar content.

- ★ Loan for cultivation of sugar has been increased from Rs.45,000 to Rs.55,000 and from Rs.25,000 to Rs.35,000 for other crops.

was increased to Rs.210 crores in 1998-99.

- ★ 10,05,166 farmers were given flood relief including the compensation for the loss of crops to the tune of Rs.55.15 crores in December 1996. Flood relief amounting to Rs.59 crores were disbursed in November 1997. 2,50,297 farmers benefitted by this. Rs.44 crores worth of land tax was written off to benefit farmers affected by heavy rains in 1997. Flood relief given to the affected farmers of Tiruchi, Karur, Thanjavur, Nagapattinam, Pudukottai,



- ★ The advance paid by this Government to public sector sugar mills and co-operatives to meet out the pending amount due to the sugarcane farmers during 1997-98 was Rs.76.41 crores. It

Thiruvavur in 1999 amounted to Rs.33.28 crores. Compensation given for the death of a sheep/goat due to natural calamity is Rs.1000, for cattle Rs.5000 and for calf Rs.3000.

- ★ The subsidy given for the purchase of oil engines with 5 hp instead of 3 hp is for small farmers - 25%, for small and marginal farmers - 30% and for farmers belonging to SC/ST community - 50%.
- ★ A cabinet decision was taken on 24.10.2000 to reduce the interest of 13% levied on the loans upto Rs.25,000 given to farmers through co-operative banks to 12% and to reduce the 16% interest on loans upto Rs.50,000 to 15%.
- ★ The short term loans given to farmers affected by the drought in 1996-97 and floods in November 1997 were changed as middle term loans and also the middle term loans as long term loans. Further, the penal interest of Rs.50 crores was written off to benefit farmers.
- ★ The Government incurred an expenditure of Rs.62.35 crores for changing the short term loans given to farmers affected by floods during 1997-98 as middle term loans.
- ★ The penal interest of Rs.13.20 crores levied on those who failed to repay the agricultural loans before 31.7.2000 with interest was written off benefitting 3,40,727 farmers.
- ★ An interest incentive of 6.25% of the loan amount was given to those who repaid the current due of their loans in 1998-99.
- ★ Rs.6.58 crores were paid as interest incentive to small and small and marginal farmers who paid their dues at Primary Agricultural co-operative banks in time for the period from 1.7.98 to 30.9.99. 1,47,654 farmers benefitted by this.
- ★ This incentive was increased to 7% in 1999-2000. 2,42,817 farmers have benefitted by this scheme.
- ★ The salestax on urea has been reduced from 4% to 2%.
- ★ The monthly pension given to landless farmers on the basis of their age has been enhanced from Rs.100 to Rs.150 in 1997. This pension has further been increased to Rs.200 in 2000-2001.
- ★ The track rent collected from the farmers for laying irrigation pipeline on Government land was written off in 2000-2001.
- ★ Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar convened a meeting of the representatives of various farmers' associations and discussed about their suggestions before drafting the State budget for 2000-2001.
- ★ A waste land developing authority was formed and 10,000 hectares of wasteland is being converted into fertile land in 10 districts.
- ★ As recommended by the committee headed by Thiru Kolappan, IAS, wages for agricultural labourers have been increased. Orders have been issued to establish a separate board for agricultural labourers.

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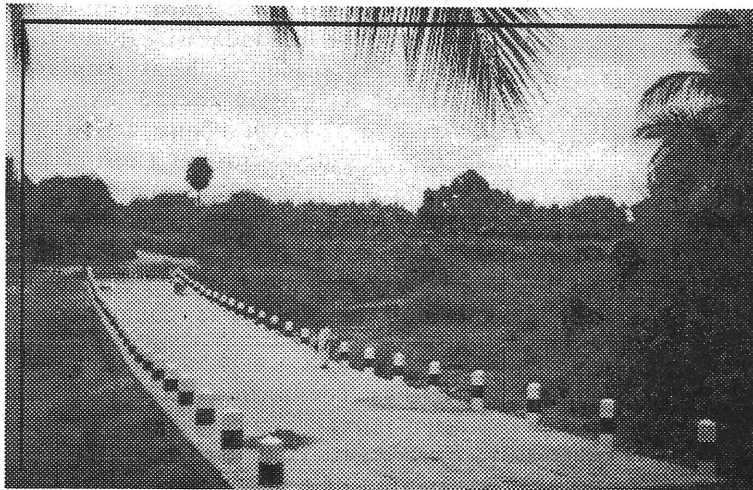
An exclusive department has been established on 1.8.1996 in the secretariat for paying special attention for the formation of roads and its continued maintenance so as to create the infrastructure required for the social, economic and industrial development of Tamil Nadu. It is well known that it is Kalaignar's Government that has devised the scheme of

Construction works in respect of 200 bridges are at different stages. Construction works of 86 bridges are under progress.

The details of completed bridges costing more than one crore are listed below:

In Madurai, the bridge across Vaigai river which links Madurai Anna Nagar 80' road and Kamarajar road was completed at a cost of Rs.7.25 crores and was opened on 30.4.1997. An overbridge near Madura Coats Mills at a cost of Rs.6.50 crores has been completed.

A High level bridge, in place of the stone causeway across the Vaigai river in Madurai, has been completed on 23.2.2000 at a cost of Rs.8 crores. Three high level bridges across Vaigai river in the ring road have been completed at a total cost of Rs.18 crores. Construction of a bridge in Melur-Poovanthi Tirupuvanam Road under



connecting villages with major roads even before 1996 and achieved considerable progress.

A separate ministry has been created for the Highways department on 26 March 1998 for the first time in the history of Tamil Nadu.

A sum of Rs.1,632 crores and 45 lakhs was allotted for the Highways department for the period from 1991 to 1995 during the previous regime whereas a sum of Rs.3,728 crores and 56 lakhs has been allotted after 1996 by this Government.

Bridges and Overbridges

247 bridges have been constructed and opened during the last four and a half years at a cost of Rs.292 crores with the financial assistance of NABARD, HUDCO and under various special schemes.

*Achievements
Manifested
in
Putting up
of
Roads
&
Bridges*

Tamil Nadu Agricultural Improvement Scheme was taken up at a cost of Rs.3.95 crores has been completed on 31.10.1997. Construction of a bridge at a cost of Rs.1.10 crores on Madurai-Tenkasi Road was completed on 30.7.2000.

In Tiruvarur district, construction of an underground bridge on Mayiladuthurai-Muthupet road was completed at a cost of Rs.5 crores on 31.8.2000.

In Cuddalore district, construction of a bridge on Kottacheri Kundiya-mallur road was completed at a cost of Rs.1 crore on 31.7.2000. Another bridge on Murugangudi-Killimangalam road across Vellaru was completed at a cost of Rs.1.21 crores on 31.5.2000.

In Tiruvallur district construction of a bridge across Arani river near Periyapalayam was completed at a cost of Rs.2.40 crores on 2.1.1999. Construction of another bridge on Tandalam-Perambakkam Road was taken up at a cost of Rs.2.34 crores and was completed on 31.5.2000. Construction of another over-bridge at Tiruvotriyur-Ponneri Road near Nappalayam at a cost of Rs.1.24 crore was completed on 2.1.1999.

In Ramanathapuram district, the construction of a bridge in Abhiramam-Mudukulathur Road at a cost of Rs.1.20 crores was completed on 31.10.2000.

In Sivaganga district, construction of a bridge on Ilayangudi Maravamangalam road at a cost of Rs.1.31 crore was completed on 31.3.2000. Construction of a another bridge in the Ilyangudi-Maravamangalam Road at a cost of Rs.1.11 crores was completed on 30.8.2000. An over bridge on Ilayangudi-Maravamangalam Road constructed at a cost of Rs.2.23 crores was completed on 30.9.2000.

In Tiruvannamalai district the construction of an overbridge in Vandavasi - Hosur road which is via Kodanallur - Setharakuppam road at a cost of Rs.1 crore and 15 lakhs was completed on 30.4.2000. Construction of a bridge on Pudupalayam road at a cost of Rs.1 crore and 26 lakhs was completed on 30.9.2000. Yet another bridge has been constructed on Polur-Jamuna-mathur-Alangayam road at a cost of Rs.1 crore and 7 lakhs and the work was completed on 31.5.2000.

In Chennai, construction of over-bridges on two major railway level crossings at a cost of Rs.17 crores was completed on 15.11.1999. Construction of another over bridge near Guindy Station at a cost of Rs.5 crores and 52 lakhs was completed on 30.4.2000. A bridge with a distance of 7 km from Chennai an Chennai-Kolkatta National Highway at a cost of Rs.3.22 crores was completed on 31.3.1998. On the same Chennai-Kolkatta National Highway, construction of a bridge across Kosasthalaiyar river under B.O.T. Scheme at a cost of Rs.2.05 crores has been completed and the works relating to approach roads are in progress.

In Tiruchirappalli, the laying of a link road joining Thillainagar road and By-pass road and the construction of a bridge on the road have been completed at a cost of Rs.8.15 crores on 31.12.1999. Expansion works in respect of



a bridge on Tiruchi-Namakal road were carried out at a cost of Rs.2 crores and 8 lakhs and expansion of another bridge in the same road was completed at a cost of Rs.1 crore and 26 lakhs on 31.10.2000.

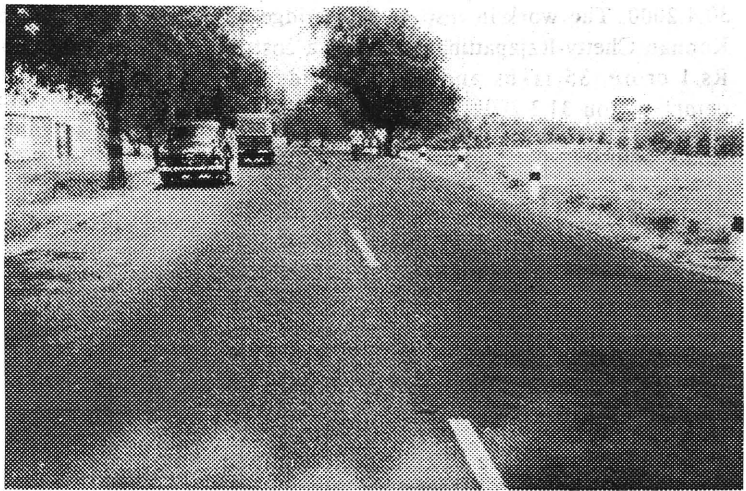
In Tirunelveli District, the construction of a high level bridge across Thamirabarani river and the Madurai-Kanniyakumari bye-pass road in Tirunelveli town was completed at a cost of Rs.8 crores on 31.12.1999.

In Coimbatore District, the Coimbatore Municipal Corporation road was improved and the construction of a bridge across Noyyal river was taken up and completed at a cost of Rs.1.50 crores on 28.5.1999. Construction of an underbridge on Coimbatore Periyakadai Street at a cost of Rs.3crores and 70 lakhs was completed on 15.11.1999.

In Perambalur district, expanded construction of a bridge in Alatthukarai-Kolakkanatham road at a cost of Rs.1 crore and 18 lakhs was completed on 31.10.2000, on Krishnapuram-Poolambadi Road, a bridge was expanded at a cost of Rs.1 crore, 10 lakhs and 38 thousands and the works were completed on 31.7.2000.

In Villupuram district, construction of a bridge on Vettaikadu-Kayatharu road at a cost of Rs.1 crore and 26 lakhs was completed on 30.9.2000. Construction of an under-bridge in the place of railway level - crossing on Villupuram-Chennai road has been completed at a cost of Rs.6 crores and 50 lakhs on 31.3.2000.

In Kancheepuram district, an under-bridge at a level - crossing near Palavanthangal railway station was constructed at a cost of Rs.4



crores and the same was opened on 2.6.1997. Expansion works of a bridge on the road leading to Thachur from Madurantakam-Vennagupattu Road was taken up at a cost of Rs.1 crore 10 lakhs and 95 thousands and were completed on 31.8.2000.

In Dharmapuri district, a bridge was constructed on Kaveripattinam-Kakkankarai road under HUDCO Scheme at a cost of Rs.5 crores and 4 lakhs and the work was completed on 31.2.2000.

In Vellore district a new bridge on Ammundi-Poottuthakku road was constructed and expansion of a bridge on Poottuthakku Thanbogi Road were put up at a cost of Rs.4 crores and the works were completed on 31.5.2000.

In Pudukottai district, expansion of a bridge on Pudukottai Eambal Road at a cost of Rs.1 crore and 49 lakhs was completed on 31.5.2000.

In Karur district, expansion to a bridge on Pallappatti Manmari road was provided at a cost of Rs.1 crore and 16 lakhs and the project was completed on 31.5.2000.

In Salem district a bridge was constructed on Salem bypass road at a cost of Rs.1 crore and 13 lakhs and the work was completed on

30.4.2000. The work in respect of a bridge on Konnan Chetty-Rajapattinam road at a cost of Rs.1 crore, 35 lakhs and 85 thousands was completed on 31.3.2000.

Road facilities

A scheme to provide link roads to villages with a population of more than 1500 persons was introduced by Kalaingar's Government on 1.7.1972.

The scheme was extended to more number of villages with a population of more than 1000 persons in 1990.

Under this scheme 517 villages obtained link road facilities after 1996.

It is a remarkable achievement that there is no village in Tamil Nadu with a population of 1000 which has not been provided with link-road facility.

In continuation of this scheme for the provision of link roads, 340 villages with a population of 500-1000 persons were provided with link roads at a cost of Rs.123.70 crores in 1999-2000. In 2000-2001, 140 villages were provided with link roads at a cost of Rs.90.75 crores.

It is to be noted that a sum of Rs.186 crores was allotted for the provision of link roads for the entire 5 year period during the previous Government.

But, this Government has the distinction of having allotted Rs.433 crores for the provision of link roads during the period of 4 years from 1996-2000. In addition, works at an estimated cost of Rs.72 crores are to commenced very shortly.

Village roads to the extent of 4,976.20 kms have been taken up for laying of roads and works to the extent of 4053 km have been completed at a cost of Rs.410.23 crores which was financed by NABARD Bank.

Major roads and other district roads totalling 4154.15 km have been taken up out of

which works relating to 3588 km were completed at a cost of Rs.271.09 crores.

After 1977, since required number of staff were not appointed for road works, highways were not properly maintained. To rectify this deficiency, 10,000 staff for road works have been appointed in 1998-99.

Radial Roads

Works for the laying of radial roads to a length of 251.60 km converging on Chennai City and for the construction of 24 bridges with the financial assistance of HUDCO have been proposed at an estimated cost of Rs.212.54 crores. Of these, construction works in respect of 11 bridges and the laying of roads to an extent of 120.90 km at a cost of Rs.103 crores and 24 lakhs have been completed. Works are in progress in respect of the remaining length of 122.70 km.

Since proposals in respect of land acquisition, removal of enroachments, shifting of lamp-posts and relocation of more than 50 transformers have been expedited, the works in respect of these radial roads are expected to be completed very early, when all the incoming roads to Chennai shall be strong and convenient.

By pass roads under construction

Works relating to Tambaram-Maduravayal-Chennai - bypass road to a distance of 18.89 km at a cost of Rs.49.85 crores are in advanced stages of construction.

Laying of roads to a distance of 24.70 km including 3 overbridges for Madurai by-pass has been completed at a cost of Rs.47.35 crores.

Laying of roads to a distance of 28.40 km to serve as by-pass at Coimbatore has been completed and the road is open to Public Transport.

Under the scheme for the relaying of roads to the extent of 1841.33 km by tar topping

through machine, works estimated to cost Rs.200 crores have been taken up for execution. Out of this relaying to the extent of 1241.88 km costing Rs.165 crores has been completed. The remaining road projects are expected to be completed by 31.12.2000.

In and around Tirupur town, works relating to by-pass road to an extent of 57.80 km and the construction of a high level bridge at a cost of Rs.15.60 crores have been completed under the economic scheme with multi-state importance.

Under the scheme for improvements to sugar-cane roads, works to the extent of 210 km at a cost of Rs.17.19 crores have been completed.

National Highways

During the previous Government a sum of Rs.118 crores only had been allotted by National Highways Department. But in these four and half years a sum of Rs.653.7 crores have been allotted for the purpose. Likewise for the construction of bridges a sum of Rs.9.54 crores only was allotted through National Highways Department. But during these four and half years, 31 bridges have been constructed at a cost of Rs.120.82 crores.

The total length of National Highways in Tamil Nadu in the year 1946 was 1637 km. It was 2002 km in 1991. The length remained at

2002 km in 1996 also. But now the length of all National Highways has become 3,864 km and during the last four and half years roads to a distance of 1,862 km have been added.

State Highways

The total length of State Highways in 1991 was 1896 km. In 1995-96 the length of State Highways in Tamil Nadu was 1934 km. Only 62 km had been added.

After 1996, however, State Highways have been extended by a distance of 2258 km and this brings the total length of State Highways to 4192 km.

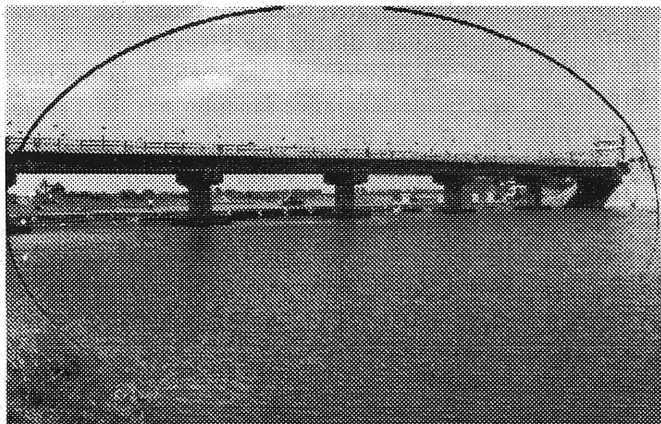
East Coast Road

The Kalaingar Government planned to construct major bridges in the coastal regions in 1970 under the scheme for the laying of the East Coast Road. Order were then issued for the construction of bridges in Vayalur and Thenpakkam across Palar river.

In 1990, orders were issued for carrying out the initial stages of the works relating to the East Coast Road from Chennai to Cuddalore at an estimated cost of Rs.60 crores.

In continuation of this, when Kalaingar's Government came to power in 1996, these programmes were expedited and the schemes executed at a cost of Rs.102 crores and the East Coast Road between Chennai and Cuddalore was opened to traffic on 18.1.1998.

As an extension of this Scheme, action has been taken to obtain loan of Rs.350 crores from the World Bank to lay roads for a distance of 375 km to Thoothukudi via Chidambaram and Nagapattinam and to lay roads from Arcot to Tiruvarur via Polur, Tiruvannamalai, Tirukkoyilur, Ulundurpet Villupuram and Kumbakonam and to lay bypass road to a length of 80 kms



around 12 towns and to carry out maintenance work in respect of roads to the extent of 2600 km.

After 1996, out of the projects for road works to the extent of 21,555 km at an estimated cost of Rs.1640 crores, laying of roads to a length of 13775 km has been completed so far. Remaining Schemes of the projects are in progress and are likely to be completed one by one very soon.

Road Improvement Works through Rural Development Department

New rural roads have been laid to a length of 10,000 km Rural roads which have been tar-topped so far is 20,000 km which was done at a cost of Rs.1672 crores.

It has been decided to convert village roads as tar-topped ones to a length of 7669 km at a cost of Rs.900 crores before, the end of 2000-2001 and works are in progress. Out of this, projects relating to tar-topping of roads to the extent of 3600 km and provision of cement roads to the extent 2800 km have been take up for execution. The balance of works will be completed in 2000-2001.

Concrete roads to a length of 2905 km at a cost of Rs.290.50 crores have been laid.

Before 1996, the extent of concrete roads in townships had been 380 km. During the last 4 years it has increased to 909 km.

Tarred roads in townships which were 733 km in length before 1996 have increased to the length of 3421 km. With the Financial assistance of RIDF made available through NABARD, the cost of works undertaken for the laying of road and the provision of drinking water was Rs.780.5 crores.

10 Small Overbridges in Chennai City

Foundation stones were laid on 31.1.99 for the construction of 10 Small Over bridges (fly overs) in congested and busy road junctions in

Chennai City at an estimated cost of Rs.115 crores and 50 lakhs.

Construction in respect of these over bridges was commenced on 15.3.99. Of the 10 proposed over-bridges the ones at Peters Road-Conransmith Road junction and Sardar Patel Road - Gandhi Mandapam Road junction have been completed and inaugurated on 5.2.2000.

Next, the over bridges at Peters Road - West Cott road junction Dr. Radhakrishnan Road - Royapettah High Road junction and Sardar Patel Road - Dr. Muthulakshmi Road junction were inaugurated on 6.5.2000.

Again, after some months the over bridges at Dr. Radhakrishnan Road, - T.T.K. Road Junction near Music Academy and at T.T.K.Road - Sir C.P. Ramaswamy Road Junction were inaugurated on 12.8.2000.

The Over bridges at Doveton junction at Puraswakkam and at Egmore Pantheon Road were inaugurated on 2.12.2000.

Next the Over bridge that is being constructed at Perambur Railway Station according to a revised estimate of Rs.34.84 crores is going to be inaugurated very shortly.

The number of bridges constructed and completed during the 5 years by the previous Government was only 53 which cost Rs.26 crores and 10 lakhs.

Administrative sanction issued for railway over bridges during the 5 year tenure of the previous Government was only 5 during the 4 years; administrative sanction has been issued for 40 over bridges estimated to cost Rs.500 crores by this Government.

Construction of 10 Railway over bridges has been completed after 1996, the list of achievements of the present Government in the matter of laying of roads and building bridges is long and remarkable.

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- ★ Co-operative Organisations, Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation and Women Associations are distributing essential commodities like rice, sugar, wheat and kerosene for 1.58 crores family card holders through 27,306 fair price shops in Tamil Nadu.

- ★ Only after this Government has taken charge, the family cards with the family informations and the photo of the family head recorded by computers are distributed.

- ★ The maximum rice given was 12 kilos per month for a family card in the previous government until 31.12.1995.

- ★ Few months before the election, an order was passed to give 20 kilos for a family card as a temporary set up. But this government has made it permanent; 20 kilos of rice per month for a family card is distributed.

- ★ By the previous government one kilogram of rice was given at the price of Rs.3.75. In this government it is given at a less price of Rs.3.50.

- ★ The Central Government gave Tamil Nadu rice from its stock, for the people below the poverty line at the rate of Rs.5.90 per kilo and for the people above poverty line at the rate of Rs.11.80 per kilo from 1.4.2000. And from 26.7.2000 onwards, the centre is providing rice to the people below poverty line at the rate of Rs.5.65 per kilo and to the people above poverty line at the rate of Rs.11.30 per kilo. But our Tamil Nadu Government without burdening the increase in price on the people,

ENSURING FAIR PRICE FOR ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES

continuously provide the rice at same price (at the rate of Rs.3.50 per kilo.)

- ★ Price for the paddy procured from the farmers in the previous government (1995-96) was at the rate of Rs.360 per quintal for common variety and Rs.375 per quintal for good variety. Instead of this price, this government has given the farmers in this year a rate of Rs.510 for common variety and Rs.540 for good variety.

- ★ Only during this government, more paddy have been procured from the farmers. Instead of the procurement in the year 1995 of 3,38,000 tonnes only, this year



(upto November 30th) 17,57,000 tonnes have been procured. The farmers have also benefitted.

- ★ Having procured rice by giving high price to the farmers, the consolidated price of the rice distributed under the public distribution system is more than Rs.11.80 per kilo.
- ★ Considering the betterment of the farmers and the consumers, this government procures paddy from farmers by giving high price and distributes the rice at the rate of Rs.3.50 per kilo to all without differential treatment for people above the poverty line or below the poverty line.
- ★ In Kerala State, the price of the rice is at the rate of Rs.6.20 per kilo for the people below poverty line and Rs.10 per kilo for the people above the poverty line

In Andhra Pradesh, price is Rs.5.25 for the people below poverty line and Rs.12 for the people above poverty line.

In Karnatka, price is Rs.6.15 for the people below poverty line and Rs.12.25 for the people above poverty line.

In West Bengal, price is Rs.6.40 for the people below the poverty line and Rs.12.60 for the people above the poverty line.

- ★ In Tamil Nadu the rice is provided at the rate of Rs.3.50 (20 kilos for a family card) without differential treatment for people above poverty line and people below poverty line.
- ★ The Central Government do not allot sugar for the income tax payer's family cards from 1.4.2000. Eventhough the State Government allots sugar for all family card holders without any differentiation. Purchasing the unlevied sugar in the open

market, it sells it at the fair price shops at the rate of Rs.13 per kilo. Because of this, state government has to meet an additions expenditure of Rs.4.75 crores.

- ★ With a view to distribute kerosene to the poor in time and in correct measurement, a novel scheme has been introduced in Tamil Nadu for the first time in India. kerosene bunks have been established. Today 214 kerosene bunks are working. 300 kerosene bunks have been planned and works are being carried out.
- ★ In the end of the previous government, there were 20,266 full time shops and 1749 part time shops - totalling 22,015 fair price shops. Now there are 23,082 full time shops and 4,224 part time shops- totalling 27,306 fair price shops.
- ★ After this government assumed charge, a new scheme of fair price shops being conducted by ladies only was introducingly and accordingly 210 shops are functioning.
- ★ The Government has given orders to the district collectors to inspect the public distribution system weekly. A fixed calender system that shows the particulars of which are the commodities sent to fair price shops from godown with dates, has been prepared and is open to the public. And a 100 percent rice allotment for the fair price shops has been ordered and all these are in practice.
- ★ Advisory Committees for the public distribution system have been formed at the taluk and district level. Elected people representatives, volunteers, consumer societies' representatives are the mebers of these committess.
- ★ Authority has been given to members of Parliament, Members of Assembly, heads

and members of Local Bodies to inspect the fair price shops within their jurisdiction and report any illegal activities found to the district/taluk level committees of public distribution system.

★ The Citizen's Charter has been prepared and published in order to make the family card holders know about the public distribution system safeguarding poor people.

★ Orders have been given by rural development department to form the public distribution system advisory committee at village level to watch the public distribution system.

★ Now District Consumers' Courts are established in all districts. The total number of these are 30.

★ In order to give financial help to voluntary organisations for creating consumer awareness, Rs.20 lakhs were allotted in 2000-2001.

★ 8,109 shop buildings have been constructed for the fair price shops that have no own buildings through many government schemes including Jawahar Employment Scheme.

★ The rice reserve in 1996 march was 3.79 lakh tones. For providing rice without any shortage under the public distribution system and also considering the betterment of farmers, Government procured paddy and because of that, the reserve of rice increased to 10.57 lakhs tones in the year 2000.

★ The quantity of rice, processed through modern rice mills and rice mill agents were 3,26,754 tonnes in the year 1995-96. This

year 13,51,819 tonnes of rice was processed till now.

★ Price Monitoring Committee Meeting is held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary on every fair day. The price increase in out side market is closely monitored. If situation demands, the Government purchases the commodities through Co-operative Societies and Civil Supplies Corporations and distributes them, thus averting price raise.

★ Though price rise is a daily routine in this era of economic development, on the whole the price is under control. For an example, the price of dall was Rs.31.61 in November



1995. This year November, the price of dall is Rs.25.70. Groundnut Oil from Rs.38.85 to Rs.37.34 Gingely Oil from Rs.42.70 to Rs.37.05, Coconut Oil from Rs.48.55 to Rs.40.96, Dried Chilly Rs.47.87 to Rs.29.53, Tamarind from Rs.22.36 to Rs.22.20, the price has decreased in the month of November this year.

★ The environment was affected by using husk as fuel in the modern rice mills. A plan has been prepared to use Gasifier in the mills to control environmental defects

and the work of installing the machines is going on in Nagapattinam District. Experiments are being conducted in Thiruvarur Modern Rice Mill by using natural gas. There will be a saving of Rs.1 lakh per month for Civil Supplies Corporation because of using natural gas.

- ★ Knowing that Bio-fertilizer can be produced by using it was carried out with Agricultural University's technical assistance from April of this year (2000) at the modern rice mills at Kadaichanenthai, Erukkoor, Thiruvaroor, Pattukkotai, Chidambaram and Thimmavaram and the Bio-fertilizer has made available for sale. When this project is fully worked out, it is expected that the income for the Civil Supplies Corporation will be about Rs.40 crores per year.
- ★ 2,699 temporary loadmen of Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation have been made permanent after this government took charge.

Co-operative

- ★ Now the elected governing bodies are therein 23,000 co-operative societies. There are approximately 40,000 women members and approximately 20,000 are S.C. members. The elected members of Co-operative Societies have been given special training.
- ★ In order to appreciate the democratic way of conducting election for the co-operative societies to which no election was conducted for 20 years and to praise the well working co-operatives run by elected members, 'IFCO' which is one of the best fertilizers companies of the world gave SAKA HARITHA BANTHU award for 1998-99 to Tamil Nadu Co-operative Department on 19.11.1999 in New Delhi.

- ★ Since the margin money given to the Societies that carry out public distribution system is low many societies met financial crisis having studied the situation Government, issued an order on 19.7.2000 to rise the margin money from Rs.28 per quintal to Rs.45 unmindful of the additional financial burden. Like that, government has issued orders raising the margin money for kerosene from Rs.61.92 per barrel to Rs.72. Moreover government has issued orders raising it for wheat from Rs.17 per quintal to Rs.30.

- ★ The salary of salesmen who are working in fair price shops has been raised on 1.4.2000 from Rs.430-10-450-15-525 to Rs.1250-25-1325-45-1640. The salesmen getting consolidate salary have been given a raise from Rs.900 to Rs.1300. Packers' consolidated salary has been raised from Rs.800 to Rs.1150.

- ★ After this Government has taken charge, raise in salary has been given to 3292 co-operative urban bank staff, 1573 Co-operative Land Development Bank Staff, 3862 Co-operative Workers' Society Members and 22,548 Primary Agricultural/Co-operative Bank Employees.

Governmental Assistance to farmers through Co-operatives

- ★ The interest on short term crop loan was reduced from 13% to 12% from 13.11.1997.
- ★ Farmers have benefitted about Rs.50 crores of penal interest because short term loans were changed to middle term loans, middle to long term loans in consideration of the drought in 1996-97 and floods in November 1997.
- ★ Government spent Rs.62 crore 35 lakhs as assistance to farmers affected by floods



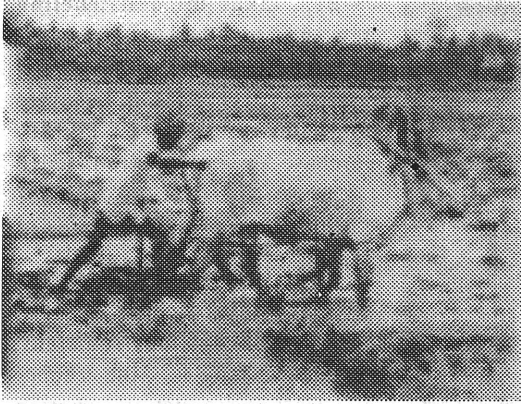
as Rs.5 lakhs for constructing new house, Rs.10 lakhs for constructing commercial complex, Rs.10 lakhs to setup computer centres, Rs.1 lakh to purchase agricultural land, Rs.10 lakhs to start a hospital or engineering service centre, to farmers directly.

★ Rs.761 crores of non-agricultural loans for handicrafts, carpentry, bangles, cane, rubber and leather production, printing press have been given of which

Rs.427 crores have been collected.

changing their short term loans to middle term loans during 1997-98.

- ★ An interest incentive of 6.5% was given to those who repaid their short term crop loan in 1998-99. 1,47,654 farmers benefitted upto Rs.6 crore 58 lakhs by this.
- ★ The interest incentive was increased to 7% in 1999-2000 benefitting 2,42,817 farmers who were given the incentive of Rs.19 crore 72 lakhs.
- ★ The jewel loan of Rs.25,000 per individual given in 1995-96 'was enhanced' to Rs.50,000 from 6.9.1996 and was further increased to Rs.1,00,000 from 27.5.1998.
- ★ Rs.3512.58 crores as short term crop loan and Rs.434.39 crores as middle term loan and Rs.867.42 as long term loans have been disbursed to farmers.
- ★ Following the introduction of farmer's loan card scheme in 1999, Kisan Loan Cards have been issued to 1,64,837 farmers through Primary Agricultural Co-operative Banks and Rs.606 crore 29 lakhs have been sanctioned as loan for these cards.
- ★ The Primary Agricultural Co-operative Banks with a deposit amount of Rs.5 crores and above have been disbursing loans, such
- ★ Pesticides worth Rs.14 crore 64 lakhs were distributed to farmers through Co-operatives from 1996 till October 2000.
- ★ Seeds worth Rs.10 crore 79 lakhs were distributed through Co-operatives from 1996 till October 2000.
- ★ Agricultural tools worth Rs.3 crore 13 lakhs were distributed from 1996 till October 2000.
- ★ Construction of modern buildings for 71 Primary Agricultural Co-operative Banks at an expenditure of Rs.6 crore 14 lakh have been completed from 1996-97 till 2000-2001. Modern buildings were constructed for 18 Primary Agricultural and Rural Development Banks at Rs.2 crore 34 lakhs. Construction is going on for 18 Banks.
- ★ Safety lockers and safety room facilities have been completed in 1643 Primary Agricultural Co-operative Banks.
- ★ Under computerisation scheme, 43 Banks out of the 127 Urban Co-operative Banks have been computerised.
- ★ A new Industrial Training Institute under the control of Tamil Nadu Co-operative



Union has been inaugurated at Thiruchuzhi in Virudhunagar district.

- ★ A new polytechnic has been opened at Lalgudi in Tiruchirapalli district.
- ★ Through the Co-operative Management Centres in Tamil Nadu, full time co-operative diploma training for 43,288 persons and co-operative diploma training through correspondence from 10,172 persons have been given.
- ★ Three Labourers' Industrial Contract Co-operative Societies have been started for the rehabilitation of those freed from bonded labour.
- ★ In order to uplift the tribal people, subsidies for investment, transport, interest of loans etc. are being given by the government to 18 Tribal Multi-purpose Co-operative Societies. Rs.90 lakhs in 1996-97, Rs.85 lakhs in 1997-98, Rs.90 lakhs in 1998-99, Rs.90 lakhs in 1999-2000 have been given as such assistance by the government.

Women's Small Trade Loan

The savings integrated small trade loan scheme for women was inaugurated in Chennai

on 1.1.1999 and was later expanded to other municipal corporations also. From 2.5.1999 the scheme has been expanded to all municipalities and town panchayats. Under this scheme, upto Rs.5000 is given as loan. So far 1.59 lakh women have benefitted by this scheme receiving about Rs.20 crore 2 lakhs as small trade loan. The scheme has now been expanded to villages also.

Women's Self Help Groups

As per the government order issued in 1999, 5123 women self help groups have been admitted till 31.10.2000 as members in Primary Agricultural Co-operative Banks and Rs.2 crore 49 lakhs have been disbursed as loan to 651 self help groups.

It is the duty of a good government to provide food, cloth and shelter to all people. The present government, which is always conscious of this, has been effectively



protecting the people from the burden of recurring rice price hike in rice in the past four and a half years. It shows how well the government is functioning as a guardian of the poor and the middle-class people.

• • •

Many a dreaded disease are spread through contaminated water thus making protected water supply the most essential aspect in today's world.

Realising this in advance, an exclusive board by name "Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board" was established in 1971 during Kalaingar's regime. HUDCO has presented a shield and certificate declaring TWAD Board as the best of its kind in India. World Bank has certified that METROWATER is the best in South Asia in executing water supply schemes with quality.

The previous government spent Rs.213 crore and 82 lakhs for distribution of water in 1995-96 whereas the present government has allocated Rs.842 crores during 2000-2001 for the purpose. From the day of independence till 1996, the number of overhead water tanks constructed in Tamil Nadu was only 17,501. But 24,793

water tanks have been constructed and opened during the past four and a half years, surpassing the performance over 50 years. Likewise, the number of handpumps fixed during the past five decades till 1996 was 1,44,102. During the past four and a half years, 33,576 handpumps have been fixed all over Tamil Nadu.

Rural Drinking Water Supply

In 1995-96, Rs.69.93 crores were allocated for rural drinking water supply schemes by the previous government. But it has been enhanced 7 times in 2000-2001 and Rs.500 crores have been allocated by which innumerable water supply works are in progress. During the period from 1992-93 to 1995-96, Rs.307 crore 43 lakhs were allocated for rural water supply whereas in the period from 1996-97 till 2000-2001, Rs.1503 crore 79 lakhs have been allocated by Kalaingar's government.

As per the G.O. issued on 9.12.1998, the local village panchayats have been authorised to give drinking water connection to the houses of those who agree to pay a desposit of Rs.1000 and a monthly water charge of Rs.30. In rural areas, 4,06,000 houses have been given drinking water connection; no other state has such a large number of rural water connections. At present 1,75,965 handpumps and 37,956 motor pumps are being maintained by village panchayats. As announced in 1997-98 budget, to reach the position where there are no houses in Tamil Nadu without protected drinking water supply, the goal has been attained. From 1996 till now, 24,720 rural houses have been given drinking water facility at

*An
applaudable
achievement
in
water supply*



an expenditure of Rs.1213 crore 91 lakhs. 40 litres of drinking water is provided per individual. But, only 14000 houses were given such facility during 1992 till 1.4.96. The quantity of 40 litres has now been increased to 55 litres per head for the first time in India.

Under "Anna Marumalarchi Thittam", 6134 water supply schemes in 846 village panchayats have been undertaken at an estimated cost of Rs.179 crores. Works have been completed in 4,414 schemes at a cost of Rs.145 crore 96 lakhs.

Water supply schemes at an expenditure of Rs.6 crore 85 lakhs at "Periyar Memorial Samathuvapurams" have been completed.

Under the scheme to provide a minimum of 1,000 litres of water per school planned for 18,511 government schools,

comprising government primary school, middle school, high school and higher secondary school, 4417 schools have benefitted so far at an expenditure of Rs.2 crore 58 lakhs.

In Ramanathapuram, 237 village houses have received drinking water facilities under the 11 desalination schemes at an expenditure of Rs.72 crore 20 lakhs.

Urban Drinking Water Supply

The fund allocation for urban drinking water supply during the period from 1992-93 till 1995-96 was Rs.128 crore 87 lakhs. From 1996-97 to 2000-2001, Rs.455 crores have been allocated. The governmental special financial assistance has been enhanced from Rs.50 crores and 80 crores. Last year, 12 municipalities and 25 town panchayats were allotted new water supply

schemes. This year, 74 towns has been allotted. The largest desalination plant in Asia was completed on 27.6.1999* at Naripaiyur in Ramanathapuram district.

In the past four and a half years, Nandhivasal, Guduvancheri, Thiruneermalai, Perungalathur, Thirukazhukundram, Sholinganallur in Kancheepuram district, Chenchu, Anandhapuram, Ulundurpet in Villupuram district, Thenkanikotta, Kaveripattinam, Hosur, Mathagiri, Kadathur, Krishnagiri in Dharmapuri district, Koradacheri in Thiruvallur district, Nangavaram, Ariyamangalam, Inam Karur, K. Abishekapuram, Pirattiyur in Tiruchirappalli district, Karur municipality, Puliur, P.J. Chalapuram, Pallapatti in Karur district, Alangudi, Ponnamaravathi in Pudukottai district, Jalagandapuram in Salem district, Alapalayam, Edapadi,

Rasipuram in Namakkal district, Ariyapakkam, Perundurai, Aappakoodal, Sathyamangalam, Chithodu, Periya Semur, Ilathur Nambiyur, Arachalur in Erode district; Shiyamalapuram, Soolinarapatti, Kinathukadavu, Sarcar Saamakulam, Veerapandi, Anaimalai, Pallapalayam, Mooperipalayam, Udumalaipettai, Veerakeralam in Coimbatore district, Thirunagar, Othakadai, R.V. Patti in Madurai district, Eriyodu, Ammainaickanur, Kannivadi in Dindigul district, Karaikudi, Tirupattur, Nattarasankottai in Sivagangai district, Kalakadu, Thiruvankadam, Ambasamudram, Thisayanvilai, Rayagiri, Achampudur, Thachanallur, Ayakudi, Ponpozhi in Tirunelveli district, Kolachal, Kaliyakavilai, Vadakarai Keezhpudugai, Kaattathurai in Kanyakumari district, Thiruvidadimarudur, Aaduthurai,



Papanasam, Thirunageswaram, Thiruvonum, Aanaikaranchathiram, Kumbakonam, Tharasuram, Pattukkottai in Thanjavur district; Nagapattinam, Vaitheeswaran Koil in Nagapattinam district, Kovilpatti, Thenthiruperai in Thoothukudi district, Keezhakarai, Rameswaram in Ramanathapuram district, Jayankondam in Perambalur district, Udhagamandalam in Nilgiris district, Mamsapuram in Virudhunagar district, Pudupalayam, Vandavasi in Thiruvannamalai district, Kadpadi, Tharapadavedu, Ambur, Kazhinjur, Gandhi Nagar, Udayendhiram, Panapakkam, Thakolam, Kaveripakkam in Vellore district and Naravarikuppam in Thiruvavoor district, totalling 98 water supply schemes have been implemented.

Following are the schemes to be completed in 2000-2001.

Tirunelveli District

- Palayamkottai combined water supply scheme at a cost of Rs.6 crore 63 lakhs.
- Vasudevanallur Town Panchayat Water Supply Scheme at a cost of Rs.1 crore 30 lakhs.

Thoothukudi district

- Sayarpuram Town Panchayat combined water supply scheme at a cost of Rs.1 crore 95 lakhs.
- Perungulam Town Panchayat Water Supply Scheme at a cost of Rs.1crore 11 lakhs.
- Kadambur Town Panchayat combined water supply scheme at a cost of Rs.1 crore 32 lakhs.

Virudhunagar district

- Combined water supply scheme at a cost of Rs.3 crore 25 lakhs for Rosalpatti and 11 other habitats.

Madurai district

- Peraiyur town panchayat water supply scheme at a cost of Rs.14 lakh 63 thouands.

Dindigul district

- Palani municipality water supply scheme at a cost of Rs.9 crore 98 lakhs.

Coimbatore district

- Mettupalayam municipality water supply scheme at a cost of Rs.9 crore 51 lakhs.

Nilgiris district

- Combined water supply scheme at a cost of Rs.1 crore 45 lakhs for three habitats in Coonoor union.

Erode district

- Combined water supply scheme at a cost of Rs.4 crore for 127 habitats in Vellakoil and Kangeyam unions.
- Kangeyam Town Panchayat combined water supply scheme at a cost of Rs.6

Namakkal district

- Kumarapalayam municipality water supply scheme at a cost of Rs.9 crore 44 lakhs.

Salem district

- Combined water supply scheme at a cost of Rs.2 crore 44 lakhs for 49

habitats in Magudanchavadi and Konganapuram unions.

Thiruvannamalai district

- Polur town panchayat water supply scheme at a cost of Rs.65 lakhs.

Kancheepuram district

- Sevilimedu town panchayat water supply scheme at a cost of Rs.1 crore 64 lakhs.

Villupuram district

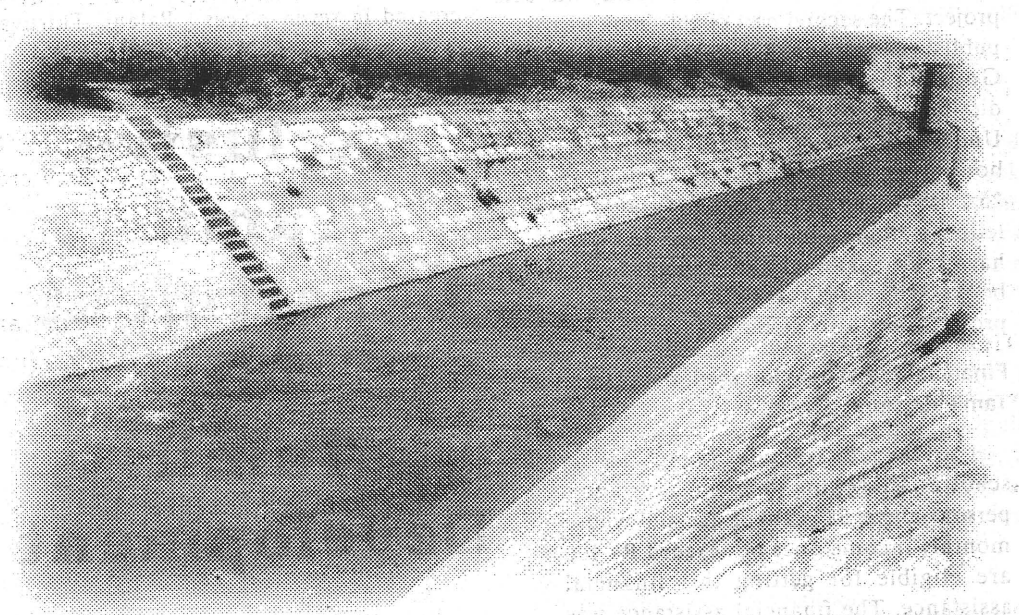
- Chinnasalem town panchayat combined water supply scheme at a cost of Rs.5 crore 84 lakhs.

Karur district

- Thanthoni town panchayat water supply scheme at a cost of Rs.4 crore 96 lakhs.

Tiruchirapalli district

- Tiruchirappalli municipal corporation



- Sembakkam town panchayat water supply scheme at a cost of Rs.3 crore 29 lakhs.

Thiruvallur district

- Combined water supply scheme for Puzhal town panchayat and 10 rural habitats at a cost of Rs.3 crore 98 lakhs.

drinking water development scheme at a cost of Rs.14 crore 23 lakhs.

- 48 drinking water supply schemes, inclusive of the above said schemes are to be completed at a total cost of Rs.129 crores. About 21 lakh people will benefit from these schemes. Apart from these, 119 new schemes are to be taken for implementation this year which will benefit 30 lakh people.

T

he directorate of Tamil Etymological Dictionary Project was created by Kalaighnars' Government in the year 1974.

Devaneyappaavaanar was appointed as its first director. Devaneyappaavaanar, even after a fully dedicated period of work from 1974 to 1980 was able to write upto "Asai Mozhi". Paavaanar passed away in 1981. First part of his book was published in January 1985. Because of Kalaighnar's encouragement to the etimological dictionary project, the second part of the book was created in 1989. Since Kalaighnar's Government was dismissed in January 1991, there was a delay in this project. The second part of this book was published only on 8.5.1992. After this Government had taken charge the dictionary project was given an impetus. Under this project the third part of the book was created and published in 25.2.1997. The words beginning with the letters commencing from "அ" to "ஔ" have been complied and brought out as books. The fourth and fifth part of the project have also come out.

Financial assistance for aged Tamil scholars

Under the scheme, aged Tamil scholars are getting financial assistance; persons above 58 years of age and whose monthly income does not exceed Rs.400 are eligible for getting this financial assistance. The financial assistance was enhanced to Rs.500 p.m. About 467 Tamil scholars have benefitted upto the year 1999. A sum of Rs.27.12 lakhs was disbursed during 1999-2000. For the year 2000-2001, a sum of Rs.27.12 lakhs has been sanctioned.

Tamil Correspondence course

Arrangements have been made to spread Tamil education through the University of Chennai by correspondence course; Mauritius, Rennion, Durban, Madagâscar will receive the correspondense education; The Mahatma

Gandhi Institution in Mauritius will act as the contact centre for this.

Government Oriental Manuscripts Library

The ancient library started in 1869 has 72,314 manuscripts in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Sanskrit and Islamic languages. To preserve the manuscripts, air-condition facilities were made at the cost of Rs.13.32 lakhs in 1996. To store all the manuscripts in microfilm, the requisite machine was bought at the cost of Rs.25 lakhs.

Government museums

After 13.5.1996, new museums have been created in seven places - Palani, Thiruvârur,

Exclusive Tamil Department for Tamil Development

Sivagangai, Kancheepuram, Nagapattinam, Ramanathapuram and Karur. Having decided to organise an exhibition of the 96 flowers said in "Kurinchipaattu" by Kabilar, the flowers were collected accordingly and kept for public view, the first of its kind in Tamil history.

Directorate of Asian Studies

This directorate received Rs.11 lakhs for research in Tamil studies before 1996. After



Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Mandram

The grant of Rs.25 lakhs given to Eyal Isai Nataka Mandram has been increased to Rs.45 lakhs after 1996. The deposit amount to give financial assistance for the indigent families of deceased artistes has been enhanced to Rs.10 lakhs from Rs.4.70 lakhs.

1996, Rs.19 lakhs in 1996-97, Rs.20 lakhs in 1997-98, Rs.20 lakhs in 1998-99, Rs.22.50 lakhs in 1999-2000 have been given to this directorate by the present Government.

Seminars on official language

After 1996, seminars on official language had been conducted in 29 districts. It is very useful to make Tamil, 100% administrative language in district offices.

Music schools

Before 13.5.1996, there were music schools in three districts-Chennai, Madurai and Coimbatore. After 13.5.1996, music schools have been started in seventeen places - Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi, Karur, Tiruchirappalli, Pudukottai, Thiruvapur, Salem, Cuddalore, Villupuram, Perambalur, Thiruvannamalai, Kanchipuram, Krishnagiri, Seerkazhi, Sivagangai, Ramanathapuram and Erode. Rs. 1 lakh was given to the music festival of Thiruvaiyaru. Construction work of memorial building for music stalwarts Marimuthapillai, Muthuthandavar and Arunachala Kavirayar at Seerkazhi is going on.

Prize scheme for IAS officers who have passed the IAS exam in Tamil

This scheme intends to appreciate those who write the IAS examination in Tamil and to encourage others to write the examination in Tamil. Under this scheme, three prizes are awarded every year.

4267 poverty-stricken artistes are getting financial assistance of Rs.500 each every month. The number of artistes receiving it every has been enhanced to 500 persons.

New Tamil Grammar Book

An expert committee has been constituted for the preparation of a Tamil grammar book on the basis of Tolkappiam, Nannool for the usage of the students of schools and colleges and to suit the present day needs. Efforts are in progress.

Prize scheme for the newspapers and journals to promote Tamil language

To encourage the newspapers and journals which serve the cause of Tamil language, a prize scheme has been created. A sum of Rs. 2 lakhs has been sanctioned to honour the prize winners.

United world Tamil organisations

The Tamil committee visited Mauritius and Singapore as part of efforts to strengthen relationship among the 87 lakh Tamils living in 36 countries. Under the scheme of sending books to 22 countries, 100 great books have been sent abroad.

International Institute of Tamil Studies

Perarignar Anna announced this in 1968 and it was established in 1970. This institute is getting Rs.48.5 lakhs after 1996 instead of Rs.29 lakhs before 1996. Rs.19.50 lakhs have

been given more for language lab, audio cassettes, release of Tamil journal publications and library extension.

Tamil Nadu Oviya Nunkalai Kuzhu

Rs.5 lakh only was allotted to this Oviya Nunkalai Kuzhu before 13.5.1995. Rs.15 lakhs have been allocated after 1995. The reconstituted management committee headed by actor Sivakumar is working well.

Encyclopaedia

One volume of drama, encyclopaedia through Tamil University, Literatures of Tamil Isai Encyclopaedia through Bharathidasan University, five volumes of Medical Encyclopaedia through Tamil Valarchi Khazhagam were published. Rs.10 lakhs have been provided for the preparation of the children encyclopaedia which was published by Tamil Valarchi Khazhagam.

Arts

For the first time, post graduate course (painting) has been started in Chennai College of Arts and Crafts which is functioning well for more than 100 years. Also, a post graduate course in visual communication has been started. Post graduate course in painting has been started in Kumbakonam College also. In the annals of these colleges, the post graduate courses have been started only after 1996.

Jawahar Siruvar Illam

Before 1996, there were three Siruvar Illams and after 1996 in all districts, siruvar Illams were started and are functioning.

Chennai - name change

Having changed the name Madras as Chennai on 30.9.1996, the city is called as Chennai in English language and other languages world-wide.

Typewriters

According to the official language act, 65% of the typewriters of Secretariat must be in

Tamil. So, 1000 Tamil typewriters at the cost of Rs.90 lakhs have been provided to the departments of Secretariat. 500 more Tamil typewriters have been provided to change the English keyboards of English typewriters taken from Secretariat. Tamil typewriters have been given to high court and sub courts to make copies, at the cost of Rs.65 lakhs.

Short hand book

Realising the need for the Tamil shorthand book, 5000 copies were reprinted in 1998.

Tamil development council

Before 13.5.1996, 3 Joint Directors, 8 Tamil Research Officers and Assistants and Typists in some places only were working in Tamil development department in 29 districts.

After 1996, all the Tamil Research Officers have become Assistant Directors to whom separate works have been allotted. 3 persons among the qualified Superintendents of the Directorate have become Assistant Directors. 2 more post graduates in Tamil who were working as Assistants have also become Assistant Directors. After getting the list of doctorate holders in Tamil from employment exchange 13 persons have been appointed as Assistant Directors through proper procedure. Two Regional Tamil Development Deputy Director's offices have been created in Salem and Tirunelveli.

Tamil Development Campus

The Government has given permissions to create a Tamil Development Campus in Chennai Museum compound. The Tamil Development Directorate, Archaeology Department, Palm leaf manuscript library and Tamil Etymological Dictionary Project Directorate will be in one place. So that the visitors from India and other countries will have information regarding Tamil in one place.

Science Books in Tamil

To study engineering in Tamil medium in future, Rs.64 lakhs had been given to 15 universities and all related books have been published.

Prize scheme for the best Tamil books

The best three books in Tamil falling under 15 different categories qualify for the award of prizes by the Government every year under this scheme of appreciation and encouragement. The first prize carries a cash award of Rs.10,000, the second prize Rs.5,000 and the third prize Rs.2000. From this year publishers of award winning books are also given a cash award of Rs.2,000 with certificates of merit. In order to give away prizes for the best 42 books published in the year 1998 and also to award Rs.2000 each to the publishers of the award winning books, a sum of Rs.3.70 lakhs was given.

Medicine in Tamil

The Government has issued order to write the prescription of medicines in Tamil. The labels of tablets distributed by the Government have Tamil on them.

Dravidian university

A Dravidian University was started in Kuppam town in order to establish the southern languages, their inter-relations and the cultural elements interlinked. When Kalaignar came to power for the fourth time, Rs.50 lakhs was given on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government and a further Rs.25 lakhs have been given last year as donation.

Special Words Supplementary Dictionary

As part of the work of adding new words of various

departments in the unrevised dictionary of 1972, first new words of 10 departments have been added and the dictionary is being prepared.

Tamil in trains

All the trains running in Tamil Nadu have name boards in Tamil as the result of the Government's efforts. Now Tamil words like கம்பன் விரைவு வண்டி, மலைக்கோட்டை விரைவு வண்டி, வேகத் தொடர் வண்டி are seen on trains.

Department of Archaeology

By conducting excavations at the historically important sites, rare archaeological things have been excavated. Excavation in large scale was conducted in Alankulam of Ramanathapuram District, Poompuhar of Nagapattinam and Kodumanal of Erode District. Excavations were conducted in different sites like Karur and Kovalanpottal in Thirukovilur. Some parts of the lost Poompuhar buildings, the European ship sunk in sea two hundred years ago were discovered by Poompuhar deep sea excavation. Deep sea Archaeological museum was created by using the things collected from Poompuhar land and sea excavations; Rs.8.25 lakhs have been allotted to get in print the 10,000 inscriptions copied from the excavations.



Public Service Commission

Arrangements are made to print all question papers first in Tamil and then in English.

Financial assistance for book publication

The Government gave Rs.5 lakhs as financial assistance to freedom fighter Jamathakni for the translation and publication of Karl Marx's "Das Capital" and Rs.3 lakhs to Mr.I.Shanmuganathan for the publication of his book "20th Century through the eyes of a Tamilian".

The Government gave Rs.77,800 to "International Institute of Tamil Studies" as financial assistance for the publication of late Professor of History, Mr.K.K.Pillai's "Tamilaga Varalaru Makkalum Panpadum", Rs.2 lakhs for the second edition of Tamil-English Dictionary edited by J.P. Radlar, Rs.3 lakhs for "Puthia Tamil Elakkia Varalaru" combining the Tamil literary history of Srilanka, Singapore and Malaysia as against the History of Tamil Literature based on only Tamil Nadu literature, Rs.1,60,420 for the printing cost of the 4 books "Kuralamudam", "Thirukural-Noolkal", "Thirukkural" - English translation and "Thirukkural" - English Essays that were published in connection with the unveiling of Thiruvalluvar Statue at Kanniyakumari, Rs.2 lakhs to Mr.S.Ramesan for "Thirukkural"-Malayam translation and publication and Rs.2 lakhs to Mr.Manavai Mustafa for the publication of "Kanini Kalaichol Kalaingia Agarathi".

Regional Centres of Art and Culture

Regional centres of Art and Culture were created at Salem, Thanjavur, Virudhunagar and Kanchipuram in the financial year 1997-98, now two more regional centres of art and culture are to be created.

Tamil in Nursery Schools

The Government has issued orders that Government recognition and assistance in

fees will be given only to nursery schools and elementary schools where Tamil is taught as a subject and all lessons upto V class should be in Tamil or mother tongue and that Tamil or mother tongue will be the first language. Since the High Court gave judgement against this G.O., the Government has filed an appeal in Supreme Court.

Financial Assistance for aged Tamil Scholars

Under this scheme, aged Tamil Scholars are getting financial assistance. Persons above 58 years of age and whose monthly income does not exceed Rs.400 are eligible for getting financial assistance. Tamil Scholars who are selected for the financial assistance are sanctioned Rs.500 p.m. About 467 Tamil Scholars have been benefitted upto the year 1999. A sum of Rs.27.12 lakhs was provided during 1999-2000. For the year 2000-2001, a sum of Rs.27.12 lakhs has been provided.

Donation to Valpanam Library

In response to the Srilankan Government's request, 2573 books have been sent to Valpanam Library.

History of Tamil Nadu

The books "Pallavar-Pandiar period part-2", the great chola kings' period part-1 and part-2 have been published. The task of compiling Tamil Nadu History in one volume, is going on.

Publicity Boards

The book "Vaniga Niruvana Peyarpala-kaikalil, Tamil containing 515 words was published. Singapore University has published this on internet. Orders have been issued to write the name boards, first in bold Tamil letters, next in English and in any preferred language. Actions are taken to see the orders are carried out properly.

Outside State

Rs.12 lakhs have been allotted to create Tamil Centres in Kolkotta and Mumbai. Tamil

Nadu Government has given Rs.10 lakhs to build a library building in memory of Prof.P.Sundaram Pillai at Thiruvananthapuram International Dravidian Linguistic Institute. Rs.10 lakhs has been given as grant to this institution in 1998-99.

Foreign Aid

Actions have been taken to send one Tamil teacher and one music teacher to Mauritius for one year training of Tamil teachers and music teachers at Mahatma Gandhi Institution.

Tamil Chair in Foreign University

Rs.50 lakhs have been allotted to create a Tamil Chair in the university of Malaysia.

The scheme of sending books to foreign countries

The Government has allotted Rs.5 lakhs to send books relating to Tamil language, literature and culture to selected foreign countries. As planned to purchase books and to send them to 20 different countries, books have been sent till now to Mauritius, Singapore, Yalpanam and Reunion. Preparations are going on to send books to other countries also.

Radio

A programme called Naalonru Pirakka, Sol Onru Arivom is being broadcast from 1.11.96.

Nationalisation of books

All the literary works and books of Bharathiyar, Bharathidasan, Pattukotai Kalyanasundaram, Devaneya Paavaanar, Peraringnar Anna, Thiru Vi.Ka., Kalki, Maraimalai Adigalar and the book "Viduthalaipporil Tamilzhagam" written by Ma.Po.Sivagnanam have been nationalised and the compensation amounts have been given to the legal heirs. In connection with the golden jubilee celebration of National Independence, the books of 13 Tamil national

authors have been nationalised and compensation amounts were sanctioned to the legal heirs of the authors. In the year 1999-2000, the books of V. Swaminatha Sharma have been nationalised and compensation amount was given. As this year is the centenary year of the great reformer Swami Chidambaranar, an eminent writer of self respect movement and who wrote commentaries on ancient Tamil Literature in a lucid style and of the Tamil Scholar Mayilai Seeni. Venkatasami who was a research scholar of eminence acclaimed by many universities, their works have been nationalised and an amount of Rs.10 lakhs each was paid to their descendants. The works of late Mudiarsan, poet of dravidian movement, were nationalised and a sum of Rs.10 lakhs was paid to his descendants. Works of Kaa.Appadurai were nationalised and Rs.10 lakhs compensation have been paid.

Short film for correcting pronunciation

An Expert Committee was formed to produce a short film for the purpose of correcting the Tamil pronunciation in news media and in general and production was begun.

Tamilians' contribution to 20th century

In order to explain and inform the contribution of Tamilians to 20th century, books of Tamil authors on politics, social reform, games, economics, history, education, fine arts, literature, science, engineering, technology and medicine are to be published in English and Tamil under the head of 'Tamilians' Contribution to 20th Century'. Poetries, short stories, novels, dramas and researches under the above topic are to be edited and published in 5 volumes. Rs.16,64,180 have been allotted for this purpose.

The work of writing essays and editing the creations are going on.

Vivekananda Memorial

Vivekananda, the greatman who proved to the world the greatness of our cultural heritage, stayed in the seashore house at Chennai. Government has given permission to Ramakrishna Mutt to conduct a cultural exhibition in the house.

Prize for dailies and journals

A prize scheme for dailies and journals published in Tamil has been created this year.

For dailies, first prize Rs.50,000 - second prize Rs.30,000 and third prize Rs.20,000 - for weeklies, first prize Rs.20,000, second

Pavendar Bharathidasan Award

Every year, a reputed Tamil Poet is honoured in memory of late Pavendar, on the Pavendar's Birthday. This award carries a cash prize of Rs.1 lakh and a gold medal (8'gms). The award for 1999 was awarded to Dr.Silomboli S. Chellappan on 24.12.99.

Thiru Vi.Ka.Award

An award to commemorate the memory of Tamil Thendral Thiru Vi.Ka. is given every year to the best literary writer from the year 1979. This award carries a cash prize of Rs.1 lakh and a gold medal (8 grams). The award for 1999 was awarded to Thiru Mannarmannan on 24.12.1999.

Bharathiyar Award

This award was instituted during the year 1997. It carries a cash prize of Rs.1 lakh and a gold medal (8 grams). The award for 1999 was awarded to Thiru Valamburi John on 24.12.1999.

Muthamizh Kavalari Ki.Aa.Pe. Viswanatham Award

This award has been newly instituted from the year 2000. This award carries a cash prize of Rs.1lakh and a gold medal (8 grams) with a citation. This award will be given to an eminent Tamil Scholar every year.

Kural Prize

The Thiruvalluvar statue unveiling function was held on 31.12.99 and 1.1.2000 at Kanniyakumari. At the above function, 23 students were selected for kural recitation who will get Rs.1000 p.m. during the whole of their life time.

AWARDS

Thiruvalluvar Award

Thiruvalluvar award is given to a scholar who is engaged in the propagation of the ideals of Thiruvalluvar. This award carries a cash prize of Rs.1 lakh along with a gold medal (8 gms). The 1999 award was given to Thiru T.C. Kannan.

A country's economic and industrial development depends on its consumption of electricity. The achievements of Electricity Department from 1996 after this Government came to power are as follows :



For the first time in India on 17-11-1990, the Tamil Nadu Government issued an order antedated 1-9-1990 for the welfare of the farmers in Tamil Nadu to provide free electricity. About 16 lakh farmers benefit by this scheme. In total power consumption, the amount of free electricity consumed for Agriculture is increasing every year and it is expected to increase from 25% to 27%, resulting in an expense of Rs.2,000 crores.

The Government has passed an order, allowing sugarcane farmers to use electricity to cut and crush sugarcane they have cultivated at free of cost.

The Indian Government has drafted schemes to give away awards to the thermal

power plants, that show splendid performance. The Thoothukudi and Mettur Thermal Plants, have received awards for proper functioning, low level oil consumption and low consumption of electric energy on additional apparatus, for the year 1997-98. The Ennore Thermal Plant has won the award for low consumption of oil. The Indian Government has granted an amount of Rs.39.35 lakhs to these 3 thermal power plants.

In the year 1998-99 and 1999-2000 also, the functioning of thermal power plants have been in such a way that they are fit to get awards again. The Central Power Commission have been sent a note in this regard.

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited and other companies have accepted to supply necessary spare parts, which are good in quality and cheaper in rate to the Electricity Board.

Wind mills with 19,355 megawatt capacity are functioning under the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board. By the date 30-9-2000 the total installation capacity of private wind mills per year is calculated to be 765,190 megawatts.

The Quantum of power generated

The installation capacity of joint power generation until now is 142.1 mega watts. A new joint power plant with a capacity of 19 megawatts is to be setup at Thiruvannamalai Arunachalam Sugar Plant soon. The Tamil

SELF-RELIANCE IN POWER PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

Nadu Electricity Board has given permission for 7 more power plants in sugar industries with 162 megawatts capacity. This step is taken to encourage private concerns in generating additional power from Sugarcane Waste at a rate of Rs.2.73 paise per unit on 1-4-2000. This rate will be increased by 5% every year for 9 years.

The Tamil Nadu Government has released self use power generating policy on 22-4-1998. By this, the electric energy produced can be used by the producers themselves. The sister concern of these self power generating concerns can also use the power generated by the private concerns.

After the present Government has taken charge an 8 megawatt hydro power plant at lower Bhavani on Feb.'98, 196 megawatt Basin Bridge Diesel Engine Scheme on February 99, Sattanoor Hydro Power Plant with a capacity of 7.5 mega watt capacity, on March 99, Parsans Valley Hydro Plant with the capacity of 30 mega watt on March 2000, Thirumoorthy Mini Hydro Plant with the capacity of 1.95 mega watt on March 2000, Mukkuruthi Mini Hydro Plant with the capacity of 0.70 mega watt on August 2000 were installed with a capacity of 244 megawatts power generation at a cost of Rs.942 crores.

It has been decided to install 60 new Sub Power Stations per year. So far, 233 Sub Stations with a capacity of 3,245 M.V.A. at a cost of Rs.1,720 crores have been installed by this Government.

When the previous Government was in charge, the highest power consumption was 4,424 megawatts. It has increased to 5,932 megawatts at present. Due to various steps taken by this Government, this high level consumption was achieved.

The production level of Thermal Plants during the previous Government was 66.7%. Now it has increased to 80.24% Due to this, Electricity Board has saved Rs.174 crores.

After this Government has taken incharge the Limited tender scheme has been changed

into open tender scheme, which has saved the electricity board Rs.108 crores per year.

By calling up new tenders for transporting coal from harbours to various places from 1-12-97, the Electricity Board has saved Rs.128.64 crores.

The price of electricity purchased from a private concern called the G.M.R. Vasavi was high, so the Government had decided to make a change in the purchasing system. Under this new plan, 196 megawatt current is purchased at peak hours and the electricity purchased at night is reduced to 100 megawatts, this action has saved the Government about Rs.6 crores.

In the previous regime, power service to 1,43,706 street lights was given whereas in the past four and half years till 30.11.2000, 2,73,973 street lights have been given power connection.

In the previous regime power connection was given to 15,90,276 houses, whereas in the past four and half years 23,69,459 houses have been given power connection.

Compared to the previous Government which had given power supply to 2,29,834 commercial concerns, in the past four and a half years, 3,77,245 business companies have been granted power supply.

From 1991 to 1996, 10,694 high level and ground level water tanks were provided with power connection, whereas in the past four and half years, 24,721 power connections have been given.

In the previous regime only 179 sub power stations were started. But, this Government has started 233 sub power stations so far.

From 1991 to 1996, 216 M.V.A.R. capacitors were installed. In the past four and half years 1645 M.V.A.R. capacitors were installed.

In the previous regime 48,237 power connections were given to low voltage Industries. In the past four and half years 73,311 power supplies were given to low voltage Industries.

Under the Scheme of providing "a lamp per hut", in the past four and half years 2,07,597 huts were provided with power supply. In 1999-2000 two villages in Pachamalai Hill, Trichirapalli District and in 2000-2001, 4 villages there, were provided with electricity. In the past four and half years 1,64,290 farmers have been given free power supply.

The electrical consumption rate of the year of 1991 has not changed during the last regime remaining at 24,610 Million unit. But in the past four and half years this level has increased to 30,434 million unit.

As a result of the necessary steps taken by the Government, Samalpatti power station with the capacity of 106 megawatt in February 2001, Pillai Perumal Nalloor power station with the capacity of 330 megawatt in April 2001, Samayanalloor Power Scheme with the capacity of 106 megawatt in May 2001, Tiruvarur power station with the capacity of 107 megawatt in February 2001, Ennoor Thermal Power Station with the capacity of 330 megawatt in February 2001, are now at final stage of completion. After the completion of these schemes there will not be power failures in Tamil Nadu, even at summer season. The farmers will be provided 3 phase electricity for six hours, even in day time.

The Central Government has sanctioned for Neyveli Lignite Power Station with a capacity of 250 megawatt. The Reliance Industries Company has been selected as agent for the Jayakondam Thermal Power Plant which has a capacity 500 megawatt. The Mumbai Dakshin Bharat energy consordium has been selected as agent for Ennoor L.N.G. Natural Gas Power Scheme which has a capacity of 1885 Megawatt.

The Weaving Industries, Paper Mills, Chemical factories, Sugar Cane Industries which generate electricity themselves are exempted from tax. The power generated using Wind, Solar Power and Sugarcane Waste is given permanent tax exemption.

To Speed up Power Supply to Industries

This Government has set up easy ways to speed up power supply to high voltage industries and low voltage industries. By these regulations, high voltage industries upto 500 K.V.A. applying for new connection or additional power capacity, will be granted new connection by just checking the strength of the high voltage transformer.

In the same way, power connection for the low voltage industries under 5 horse power will be given, if there is no need for wire extension. If wire extension is needed, connection will be given within 15 days. For the Industries between 5 horse power and 150 horse powers, power connection will be given within 15 days, if wire extension is not needed. Otherwise the connection will be provided between 15 to 30 days. For low voltage industries where other works to be completed, connection will be given within 90 days of the receipt of money.

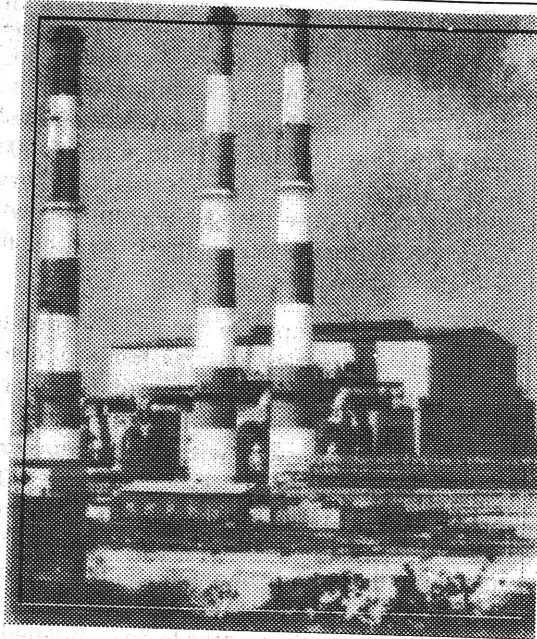
Complaining about Power Break through Internet

A complaint cell has been opened at the head office of Tamil Nadu, Electricity board for registering the complaints of the public and taking necessary steps then and there. Moreover, an internet website has been installed to receive complaints. With the help of this site, complaints can be sent to the head office from anywhere in Tamil Nadu. The head office take necessary steps immediately on these complaints.

In the whole of India, Tamil Nadu is the first State to introduce this system.

Registering Complaints through two way Telecommunication Equipments

A seperate cell, installed for registering complaints on power break is functioning for the past one year. Due to this, and the various steps taken by the electricity board in Chennai, the number of complaints has decreased



considerably. After receiving a complaint that the telephone lines in "fuse off call office" are busy, a latest cell called "I.V.R.S" is functioning. Complaints of consumers are sent to the concerning office through fax, and necessary steps are taken in time.

SCADA Scheme

A new system called SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System) which was installed with Rs.19 crores, first at Chennai, is successfully functioning. This system which is connected to the 96 sub stations in Chennai redirects the power supply to stations which are in need of power. This system is to be extended to all the sub power stations in Tamil Nadu.

The national power loss was 21 percentage. Because of the steps taken by the Tamil Nadu Government and Tamil Nadu Electricity Board the power loss of Tamil Nadu has decreased to 16.75 percentage. As new power storage systems have been installed this year the power loss is expected to decrease about one percentage. As standard power scales are used

now, the power loss is expected to decrease more.

Power Censor

In Tamil Nadu, the rate for power consumption in residential houses has been 134 paise per unit from 7.1.2000. In Andhra it is 350 paise per unit from 4.6.2000. In Karnataka it is 183 paise per unit from 15.7.1998. In Maharashtra from 1.5.2000 it is 215 paise per unit.

For the high voltage industries, Tamil Nadu charges 388 paise per unit, whereas in Andhra it is 450 paise, in Karnataka it is 428 paise, in Maharashtra it is 453 paise. For high voltage business concerns in Tamil Nadu, the electricity board charges 460 paise per unit. In Andhra 518 paise, Karnataka 527 paise and Maharashtra 444 paise. For low voltage industries, it is 340 paise in Tamil Nadu, 407 paise in Andhra, 505 paise in Karnataka, 425 paise in Maharashtra. The Low voltage business concerns are charged 383 paise in Tamil Nadu. In Andhra it is 502 paise, Karnataka 460 paise, Maharashtra 440 paise. In Tamil Nadu, thermal power is produced more and the hydro power production is considerably low. Yet, the electricity charge in Tamil Nadu is low.

Labourers Welfare

7704 Contract Labours working at 4 Thermal plants, 151 Contract labourers working at Gas Turbine Power Plants were made permanent as field helpers. 40% pay increment has been given to workers and a committee has been formed to discuss on wage increments.

This government that has set records in production, and unbroken power distribution, has maintained its number one position in India. The State that had suffered in lack of power, a few years earlier, has now reached a stage of self reliance, a historical achievement.

Chennai, the capital of Tamil Nadu is the largest municipal corporation in the state; Its population is 45 lakhs. The Chennai district has 14 legislative assembly constituencies. To fulfil the water needs of the city people, various schemes were planned of which only a few were successful. However, the Governmental efforts continue to solve the water problems.

M E T R O

38.41 lakh people benefitted during 1995-96 through Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board. But during 2000-2001, the population of the people in Chennai and its suburbs who have benefitted through the board has increased to 60 lakhs.

As a result of repeated discussions with the Government of Andhra Pradesh and relentless efforts after 1996, we started receiving Krishna river water as follows :

70 million cubic feet in 1996,
2417 million cubic feet in 1997,
2806 million cubic feet in 1998,
1833 million cubic feet in 1999.
The daily supply of water to the city was 24 crore litres in 1996-96; this has increased to 48 crore litres

after we received Krishna water.

The length of the large size water pipes was 183 kilometer in 1995-96 which has increased to 275 kilometer in 1999-2000.

In 1995-96, there were only four supply stations in Chennai; at present there are 13 stations in the city. The number of

drinking water connection in 1995-96 was 1 lakh 92 thousand which has increased to 2 lakh 37 thousand now.

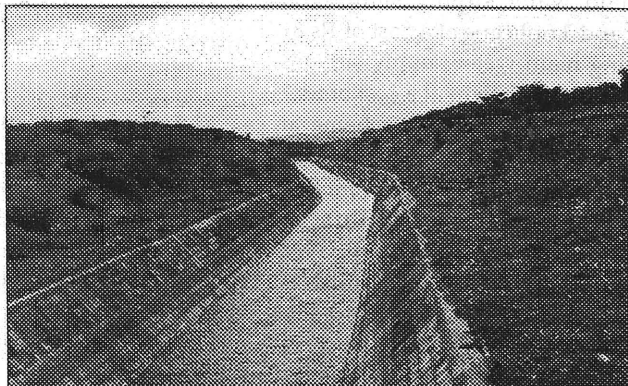
From 1991-95 in the previous regime, Rs.312 crore 51 lakhs were spent for the developmental works of metrowater whereas Rs.958 crores have been spent for the purpose by the present Government during the past four and a half years.

The services of metro water are extended to 97% area of the city as regards drinking water supply and to 96% area as regards sewerage pumping. The quality assessment committee of the World Bank came and studied metrowater services and had commended the services as the best in South Asia. The World Bank delegation which came in 2000 has commended metro water's performance in meeting the drinking water demand of the population.

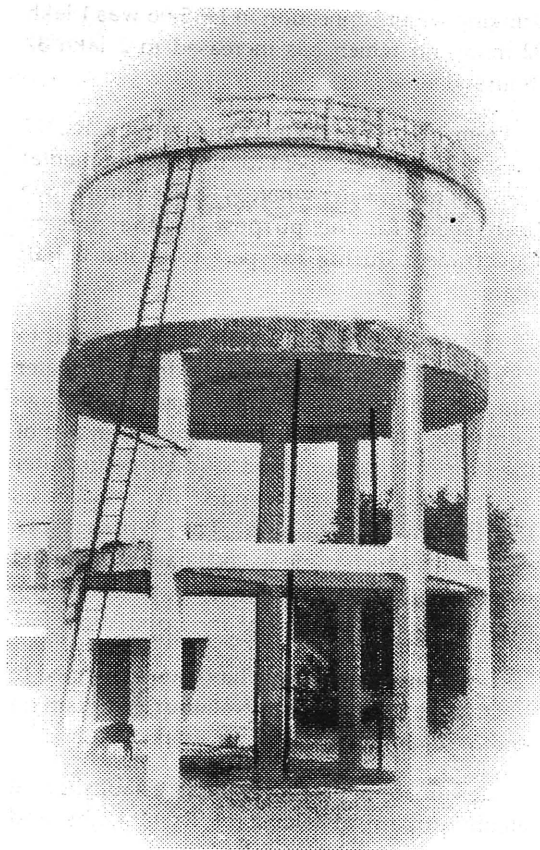
Drinking water supply has been expanded to Velachery, Kodungaiyur, Kolathur, Saligramam and Virugambakkam.

Desalination plant has been established at Nochikuppam at a cost of Rs.44 lakhs and 1,50,000 litre water is supplied from here daily.

Sewerage works have been completed in Adi-Andhra dwellings at a cost of Rs.5 crore 7 lakhs.



W A T E R



Government has waived the outstanding water charges of Rs.3 crore 70 lakhs to be paid by slum dwellers. Further, Rs.1 crore 50 lakhs will be waived every year. The scheme of laying water pipes to take purified water from Puzhaleri to Porur at a cost of Rs.84 lakhs, constructing main water supply stations at Valluvarkottam and Triplicane at a cost of Rs.81 lakhs, constructing main water supply stations at Ekkattuthangal, Choolaimedu at a cost of Rs.7 crore 12 lakhs, sewerage pumping scheme at Vyasarpadi lake area, Kodungaiyur and Kaanagam-Taramani at a cost of Rs.2 crore and 81 lakhs, sewerage pumping facility at Dr.Radhakrishna Nagar at a cost of Rs.81 lakhs and at Velachery at a cost of Rs.84 lakhs, projects for Alandur at a cost of Rs.12 crore and 11 lakhs have been completed with the assistance of HUDCO.

It has been decided to provide additional supply of water from Chennai drinking water system to Alandur Municipality, Pammal, Anagaputhur, Pozhichalur, Meenambakkam, Thomaayar Malai, Ramavaram, Ullagaram, Puzhudhiwalkam, Porur, Valasarawalkam, Madhuravayal Panchayats and the municipal areas of Ambattur and Avadi from January 2001 and related works are under progress.

Everyday about 7.5 crore litre to 10 crore litre water is being pumped following reverse pumping method, from Porur lake by means of 3 power pumps each with a capacity of 250 horse power and taken by cement pipeline to Kilpauk purifying station near Sengundram, purified and then distributed to the city as drinking water.

The deep borewells at Panchetti and Meenjur have been improved and new deep borewells have been sunk; 8 crore litres of groundwater is taken from these borewells and supplied to Chennai.

Certain areas are unable receive water due to less quantity of water supply through pipeline. So, 338 water lorries are used to distribute water, making 2,850 trips daily. 2000 water tanks have been erected in addition to the existing 2,525 tanks. Despite failing monsoons, the Government has managed to distribute 250 million litres of water every day.

In 1993 when there was water shortage, Rs.49 crores were spent; yet only 22 crore litres of water was supplied on alternate days. By virtue of this Governments' efforts, 25 crore litres of water is distributed at the expenditure of only Rs.10 crores.

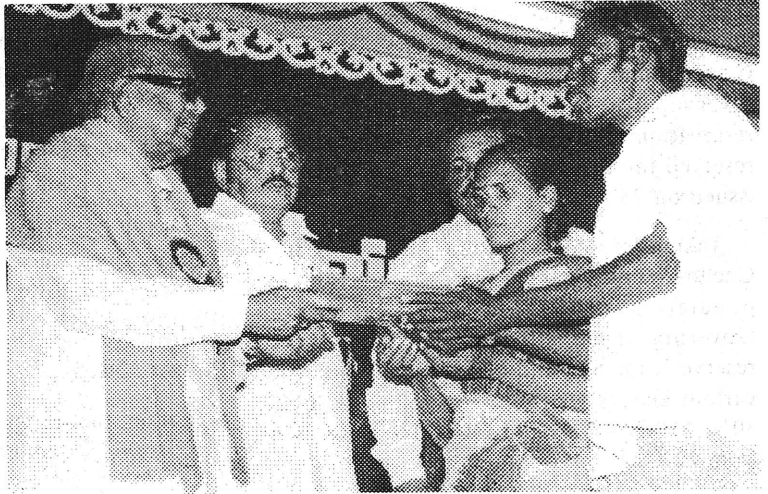
Metro water has implemented multi farious schemes to manage water supply to Chennai and suburbs and has been quite successful sofar with the assistance of HUDCO, TUFIDCO and Japanese financial aid and above all, the encouragement and guidance of the Government which has the people's welfare as its policy and makes policies for implementation accordingly.

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The year 1951 was a turning point in the history of backward classes. When Indian constitution was framed, objections were made to the implementation of the Class-wise reservation G.O. Thiru. Senbagam Durairajan and Thiru. Venkataramana filed cases against implementing class-wise reservation in educational institutions and in the recruitment to Government services respectively. The High Court in its judgement had ordered that the G.O. was invalid as the Class-wise reservation is contradictory to the Indian Constitution. Consequently there were agitations all over Tamil Nadu. Consequent to these agitations amendment to Indian Constitution was made for the first time by including a new division 15(4) and based on that, reservation for communities that were backward in education and social status came into existence. The then Prime Minister Pandit Jawarharlal Nehru in his speech in Parliament remarked that the amendment to the Indian Constitution was made only due to the incidents that occurred in Tamil Nadu and there was no necessity to hide it.

Though many times it was insisted to review the reservation policy in Tamil Nadu, it was for the first time in the year 1969 when Kalaiznar took charge as Chief Minister, a Commission for Backward Classes under the Chairmanship of Thiru. A.N. Sattanathan was formed. It was the first Commission formed for the welfare of backward classes/most backward classes to review the action taken until then by the Government and to recommend the action

to be taken by the Government to uplift their status in various aspects viz. education, Government services, boarding grants, housing facilities etc. Based on the recommendations of this Commission, the reservation that existed viz. SCs & STs: 16%; BCs:25%; OC:59% was changed as SCs/STs:18%; BCs:31%; and OC:51% with effect from 7.6.1971 and orders were issued to that effect.



The condition that those belonging to Backward Classes and whose annual income is not exceeding Rs.9,000 could avail the concessions given to backward classes was withdrawn by the Government on 1.2.1980, due to the agitations of the public on 2.7.1979

WELFARE OF BACKWARD CLASSES

and to the Parliament Election results which was not in favour of the then Chief Minister Thiru M.G.R.'s rule. The Government also raised the percentage of reservation to Backward Classes from 31 to 50 on the same day i.e. on 1.2.1980.

The feeling of dissatisfaction among various Communities in the Backward Class list, that they could not avail their share of concessions in education and employment, paved way for separate reservation for MBCs & DNCs and during the Chief Minister-ship of Kalamnair the Government ordered that 20% should be reserved for MBCs & DNCs in the 50% reservation of BCs and the balance of 30% is reserved for BCs and orders to this effect was issued on 28.3.1989.

Taking into consideration the judgement of Chennai High Court in this year 1990 and the population of STs in Tamil Nadu, the Government has allocated 1% from O.C. to reserve it for STs and ordered reservation for various classes viz. SCs -18%; STs -1%; BCs - 30%; MBCs - 20% and OCs-31%, with effect from 22-6-90.

Further, the Chief Minister Kalamnair had stressed that the reservation should not only be followed in educational institutions and employments in the State but should also be implemented nationwide. In continuation of this, Kalamnair had proposed in his address thanking the resolution in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly said that the Assembly congratulates the National Front Government headed by Thiru V.P. Singh for having fulfilled the longself desire of the backward class people by declaring 27% reservation for BCs on 7th August during the Parliament Sessions by accepting the recommendations of Mandal Commission. Most of the schemes in Government budget are for the weaker sections; however the benefits received by BC/MBC/DNC/Minorities are as follows:

Seperate Department in Kalamnair's rule

A seperate Directo-rate for BCs was formed by the Government in the year 1969. It was

only in the reign of Kalamnair in the year 1971, a seperate Minister was appointed for the welfare of BCs and policy demand was introduced.

A seperate Depart-ment for BCs/MBCs was formed in the year 1989 in the Secretariat to formulate plans and methods of implemen-tations for their welfare.

Further, a seperate Directorate for the welfare of MBCs and DNCs was also formed only during the reign of Kalamnair in the year 1989 to implement the schemes exclusively for MBCs.

Higher Budget Allocation

The Budget Allocation for the welfare of BCs/MBCs/DNCs for the year 2000-2001 was Rs.175 crores which was threefold greater than the Budget allocation of Rs.47.27 crores during the previous rule in 1995-96.

Periyar Award

Earlier, the receiptents of Periyar Award for their services rendered for the upliftment of BCs/MBCs were given a Gold Medal of 5 Sovereign, but in the years 1996 & 1997, the receiptents of the award were given Rs.20,000 cash and 3 Sovereign Gold Medal and from the year 1998 onwards, it was enhanced to Rs.1 lakh and 1 sovereign gold medal. The receiptents of Periyar Awards from the year 1996 in this regime were as follows :

1. Thiru Thiruvarur K. Thangarasu
2. Thiru S. Thavamani Rasan
3. Thiru Nathigam Ramasamy
4. Thiru Nannilam Natarajan
5. Thiru Tiruchi N. Selventhiran

Free supply of house plots

The Budget allocation for the supply of free house plots to the MBCs living below the poverty line was Rs.1 crore during the last regime. It was raised to Rs.2 crores in the year

1996, to Rs.10 crores in 1997 and to Rs.14 crores for the year 2000-2001. The budget allocation for supply of free house sites to MBCs during the last regime 1991-1996 was Rs.5 crores only. But the budget allocation from 1996 to till date was Rs.46 crores.

The scheme of supply of free house sites has also been extended to BCs, OCs to those living below the poverty line with an allotment of Rs.5 crores and Rs.3 crores respectively from the year 1997 onwards.

From 1996-97 to 30-9-2000, 55,193 MBCs were provided with free house sites and from 1997-98 to 30-9-2000, 35,541 BCs and 1875 OCs were provided with free house sites. Families with an annual income not exceeding Rs.12,000 were considered under this scheme and this income limit was enhanced to Rs.16,000 in rural and to Rs.24,000 in urban areas from 27-11-2000 onwards.

Concessions to the students

The annual family income limit for availing scholarship was Rs.12,000 for the BC/MBC students in the year 1989. With a view to raise the number of beneficiaries under this scheme, the parental annual income limit was enhanced to Rs.25,000 in the year 1996 and from 31-5-2000 it was further enhanced to Rs.50,000 per annum.

After 1996, 137 new hostels were opened for BC and MBC students in the past 4½ years. A sum of Rs.1.67 crores had been spent for this purpose in the past 5 years.

The scheme of supply of free text books to all the students of 10 Standard was in existence from the year 1996. Similarly



from the year 1999-2000, supply of free text books scheme was extended to students of Std.IX also. The expenditure was Rs.64.48 lakhs.

In order to eliminate dropouts among MBC girl students and to motivate their education, Government accorded sanction of Rs.6 crores to give as incentive of Rs.500 per year each to 60,000 MBC girl students

studying in Std.III to Std.V and Rs.1,000 per girl student to 30,000 MBC girl students from the year 1999-2000.

The annual income limit of the family was enhanced from Rs.15,000 to Rs.50,000 for availing boarding and lodging facilities in BC/MBC hostels.

Special prizes of Rs.1500 each per year for 5 years are awarded to 500 MBC boys and 500 MBC girl students who secure high marks in +2 Examination from the year 2000-2001.

Free Education Scheme has been extended to BC/MBC students from non-graduate family studying in Polytechnic diploma Courses from the year 1998 onwards.

The food charge to the boarders in Special Training Institute which gives special coaching to BCs/MBCs to appear in UPSC Examinations, was enhanced from Rs.250 to Rs.500 p.m. in the year 1996. The number of beneficiaries under this scheme was raised from 50 to 100 in the year 1998.

The Special Training Institute which gives special coaching for UPSC Examinations to

BCs/MBCs and a similar institute run by AO & TW Department have been merged and handed over to the Anna Institute of Management so as to improve the coaching, and to increase the number of beneficiaries in the year 1999-2000.

JOT

1. In the year 1999-2000, computer training was given to 1,500 BC/MBC/DNC students at a cost of Rs.59.66 lakhs.
2. In the year 2000-2001, orders were issued to impart higher level computer education to 5,000 BC/MBC/DNC students at a cost of Rs.6.90 crores.
3. The course fee for 3 months Heavy Vehicle Training given to 2000 BC/MBCs/DNCs was enhanced from Rs.9,000 to Rs.12,200 by this Government in the year 1998-99. Further, the Government has accorded sanction of Rs.1.25 crores to meet the additional expenditure in enhancing this course free to Rs.15,500 with effect from 30-12-1999.

In addition to this, Automobile Engineering, Air condition and Refrigeration course, Cloth Manufacture, Computer aided Textile Design, Fashion Technology, Telephone, Typewriting, Stenography course are also being imparted to 2,477 BC/MBCs from the year 1996 onwards at a cost of Rs.8.15 crores.

Free training for one year in Nursing Assistant was given to 21 women candidates and this was raised to 250 women candidates.

Free training in Computer Aided Textile Designing Course was given to 60 women candidates in NIFT at a cost of Rs.11.80 lakhs from the year 1998-99.

The budget allocation for JOT schemes after 1996 was Rs.27.15 crores which was 20 times greater than the budget allocation of Rs.1.24 crores during the previous regime in 1991-96. The budget allocation under this scheme for this year 2000-2001 alone was Rs.20.38 crores.

Other Benefits

In the previous regime, 20,000 free iron boxes at the total cost of Rs.2.30 crores were distributed in 5 years. On the contrary, in this 4½ years rule, Rs.3.90 crores was spent for free Iron Boxes to 32,000 beneficiaries.

From the year 2000-2001, a sum of Rs.500 was given for cremation purpose to the family of the deceased MBC/DNCs.

Financial assistance to the family of those who died in Social Justice Agitation

It was ordered to admit Rs.1,500 pension and Rs.3 lakhs relief assistance to the families of 23 persons who sacrificed their lives in this social justice agitation held in 1987 demanding 20% reservation.

High Level Committee to research the share in the posts

A high level committee under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister for Backward Classes was set up on 1-6-1988 to analyse the representation of BCs/MBCs in government departments and Government organisations. The members of Legislative Assembly belonging to all parties Thiruvalluvar V.Veluchamy, M.A.Vaithyalingam, Vasuki Murugesan, R.R.Sekaran, P.Veldurai, N.Periasamy, A.V. Abdul Naser, R.Thamaraikani, G.K. Mani, L.Santhanam, D.Mani, A. Rajendran (a) Deeran, A. Venkatachalam were members of the committee. The recommendation of this High Level Committee was analysed and on 21-9-1999, the rule that the reservation should be followed only where the number of category of posts are 10 and above 10 was amended.

The rule of reservation to be followed where the number of category of posts is even one or more was framed on 21-9-1999. The carry forward system of unfilled up posts was extended even to BCs/MBCs on 2-5-2000 as in the case of SCs/STs. The carry forward system of unfilled up posts in the direct recruitment

system which existed in the case of SCs/STs/MBCs/DNCs was also extended to universities w.e.f. 28-10-1999. If there is no required representations of SCs/STs/MBCs/BCs/DNCs then that shortfall of posts may be appointed in Entry Level Post in that Department from 1-4-1989 onwards; orders were also issued that those who don't follow the rotation process should be severely punished by taking disciplinary action under Tamil Nadu Civil Conduct Rules.

when recruitment was made in Government Service, one place was given to MBCs in the first 10 places from 13-8-1992 and this was changed to 2 places for MBC in the year 2000-2001. This has ensured 2 places for MBCs in every 10 places.

White Paper in Assembly

A white paper about the reservation of SCs/STs/BCs/MBCs in Government jobs, their present representation and the action taken by the Government in this regard was placed before the Legislative Assembly on 11-5-2000 as stated by Kalaingar in his budget speech for this year 2000-2001 on 24-3-2000 in the Assembly. Not only it was announced that the backlog of 5,263 posts for MBCs/DNCs as stated in this report, will be filled up within 5 years, action is also being taken suitably to do so.

Kallar Reclamation

As regards Kallar Reclamation Department, 20 Elementary Schools were upgraded to middle schools, 7 middle schools to high schools, 7 high schools to higher secondary schools and all these were done at a cost of Rs.1.62 crores from the year 1996 to till date. Lab facilities were provided to 28 schools at a cost of Rs.42.72 lakhs. Toilet facilities at a cost of Rs.45.27 lakhs were provided to 57 Kallar Reclamation Schools from the year 1996 to till date.

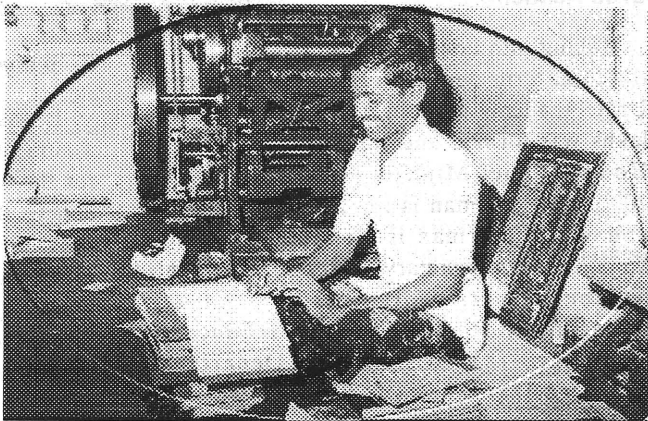
Special Repairs have been made in Kallar Reclamation Schools, BC/MBC/DNCs hostels at a cost of Rs.135 lakhs since 1996.

TABCEDCO

The loan amount sanctioned during the last regime by this Corporation from 1991-96 was Rs.9.46 crores. But in this regime, Rs.16.78 crores have been lent as loan to BCs/MBCs/DNCs to start small industries and thereby improve their economic status.

Tamil Nadu Minorities Economic Development Corporation

In order to uplift the minorities, a Minorities Economic Development Corporation

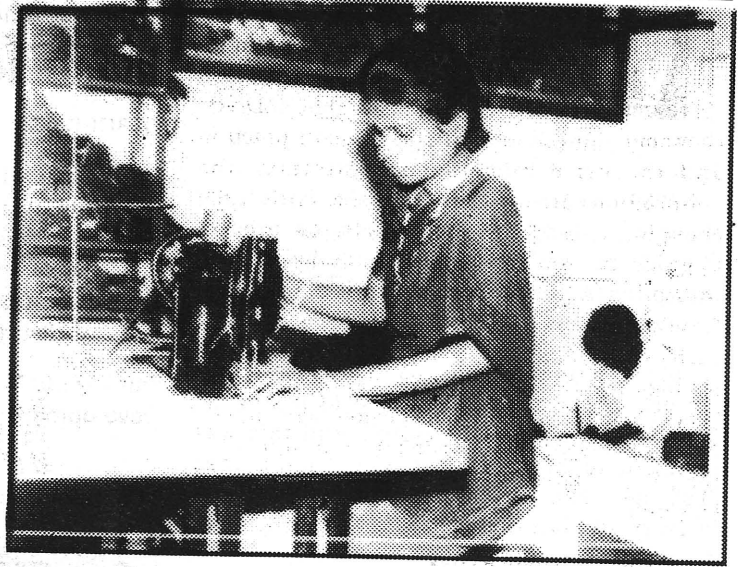


was formed on 1-7-1999. It's Chairman is Thiru Abul Hasan. Loan amount to the tune of Rs.2.51 crores was sanctioned to 591 persons from minorities section until 31-10-2000.

State Minorities Commission

SMC was first formed on 13-2-1989 in the regime of Kalaingar in Tamil Nadu. Its Chairman was Thiru V.M. Abdul Jaffer, Vice-Chairman was Prof.A.S.M. Maria Nallu and the members were Thiru M. Shantilal Jain, Thiru K.B. Kottarakara, Thiru B.Obul Reddy, Thiru K.S.Shetty.

In the year 1996, it was re-constituted and functioning with Bishop Esra Sargunam as Chairman, Thiru Salem Amanullakhan as Vice-Chairman, Arul Thiru Vincent Chinnadurai as organiser. Assembly members Thiru Haji Mohammed Ismail, Thiru Daman Prakash and Tmt.Saroja Sadhasivam as members. This commission analyses the grievances of the minorities and recommends remedial measures to the Government.



Urdu Academy

Taking into consideration the long term demand of the Muslim people, Urdu Academy with an initial capital of Rs.15 lakhs was formed and was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar on 21-7-2000. Its Chairman is the Education Minister and Vice Chairman is Dr.Syed Safiullah. It functions with Secretary & Registrar appointed by the Government, Secretary to Law Department, Secretary to Higher Education, Secretary to BCs/MBCs Department, Prof.Dr.Nizar Ahamed, Prof.D.Syed Sajjed Hussain, Thiru V. Kavish Pattri, Dr.Parveen Fathima, Dr.Syed Jalaludeen, Dr.B. Ahmed Basha, Thiru Sabarool Hag Shakeer, Maulvi Basheerul haq, Tmt.Safa Musthafa, Thiru Harbajan Singh, Thiru Syed Bazulla and three selected members as its members.

Pension to Ulamas

The pension of Ulamas was Rs.400 p.m. during the last regime but this has been enhanced to Rs.500 p.m. by this Government in 1996-97. The beneficiaries under this scheme after 1998 were 2200 whereas the number of beneficiaries during the last regime were 2000. This scheme is extended from 19-7-2000 onwards even to those working in Dhargas.

Subsidy to Wakf Board

It was for the first time in the year 1998-99, a sum of Rs.5.95 lakhs was given as subsidy for the maintenance of Wakf Board's Madurai college Buildings. The Government for the first time in the year 1999-2000 has allocated Rs.40 lakhs towards the maintenance of the Wakf's assets. The subsidy of Rs.30 lakhs that was sanctioned every year for the administrative expenditure of the Tamil Nadu Wakf Board has been enhanced to Rs.45 lakhs since 2000-2001.

Subsidy to Haj Committee

The subsidy of Rs.5 lakhs that was sanctioned every year towards the administrative expenses of the Tamil Nadu Haj Committee has been enhanced to Rs.7 lakhs since 1998-99. The process of conducting draw to select Haj Pilgrims with a ceiling of not more than 1,800 pilgrims was given up and from the year 1999 onwards, the Government has made provisions to send all those who apply for Haj pilgrimage.

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Weaving is one of the most ancient industries of Tamil Nadu. It occupies a place next only to agriculture in the State's economy. Despite a shortage of quality cotton and the price hike in raw materials, the cooperative handloom spinning mills take enough care of the weavers' needs. In order to upgrade the weavers' living standards and help them in their profession, the Tamil Nadu Government is implementing several schemes such as Weavers' House-cum-Workshed Scheme, Savings and Security Scheme, Group Insurance Scheme, Weavers' Family Pension Scheme etc. Numerous efforts have been taken to strengthen the co-operative spinning mills and rehabilitate sick units.

An exclusive textile policy

For the first time in the history of Tamil Nadu, an exclusive textile policy was formulated in 1997 by this government. Subsequently, the State Textile Council was established to monitor the implementation of this policy. The council actively engages itself in solving the problems that arise in the sector now and then.

Co-optex Board

After 1971, only in 1998 elections were held in all Primary Weavers Co-operatives Societies and the Tamil Nadu Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society Ltd.(CO-OPTEX) and the management board is functioning from 1.9.1998.

Guardian of Handloom Weavers

Handloom High Level Committee

A pathetic situation prevailed in 1995-96 in Tamil Nadu's textile sector. Products of the Co-operative Societies were stranded without sales.

Yarn was not available and weavers had a tough time counting their work. When this Government came to power in 1996, a High Level Committee was formed to solve this problem. The committee went on tour over the entire state, met handloom weavers, learnt all about their problems and made its recommendation in just one month. Based on the recommendation, Government took immediate decision and made

24 announcements in the legislative assembly in this regard. The handloom rebate had been given only for 100 days per year. From 1.4.98, The 20% rebate is given throughout the year with the Government paying an annual grant of Rs.75 crores to the weavers.

As a result of the strenuous efforts of this Government, the sales of CO-OPTEX has increased from Rs.257 crore 55 lakhs during 1995-96 to Rs.326 crore 79 lakhs during 1999-2000. Owing to the 30% rebate given





by the Government, the retail sales of CO-OPTEX reached Rs.163 crore 77 lakhs during 1998-96.

During the past five years of this Government's rule, CO-OPTEX which was functioning in loss in 1995-96, has begun earning net profits every year subsequent to the 7 point programme implemented by the Government for this purpose.

Insurance Amount Enhanced

The insurance amount being paid to the nominees of the handloom weavers, who expire before the age of 60, was increased in 1996-97 from Rs.15,000 to Rs.25,000 which was increased to Rs.40,000 in 1999-2000 and was further enhanced to Rs.50,000 from 1.4.2000. Rs.68,26,000 have been disbursed to 324 weaver families from 1996-97 till now.

Wages for weavers were enhanced by 10% in 1997 and also the Government has been giving 10% dearness allowance to weavers.

During the previous Governments' rule, considerable quantity of handloom products were purchased from other States which severely affected the Tamil Nadu weavers. From 1996-97 onwards, the procurement from Co-operative Societies in the State has considerably increased. A production scheme has been formulated to stabilize production at Primary Co-operative Societies and to let them know in advance the

purchase demand of CO-OPTEX as a routine. From 1991-92 till 1995-96, the procurement was Rs.720 crore 14 lakhs. But from 1996-97 till now handloom cloth worth Rs.1067 crore 3 lakhs have been procured from Primary Co-operative Societies.

The scheme of distributing free sarees and dhoties every year on the occasion of Pongal festival has been an ensuring factor in handloom weavers' well being. Orders have been issued to increase the distribution by 5%.

During the previous Government's regime, sarees and dhoties measuring less in length and width and purchased from other States were distributed. This practice was completely stopped. Procurement was made from societies in Tamil Nadu and quality cloth has been distributed so far. In the past four years, 77 lakh women and 70 lakh men every year benefitted through this scheme. 155 lakh men and women will benefit this year.

In addition to the margin money being given by the Government to women weavers, Rs.1000 each as margin money is being given by CO-OPTEX to the women weavers.

Export by CO-OPTEX

Through the export wing of CO-OPTEX established in 1975, table cloth, bedspread, towels, napkins, curtains and other household clothes are exported. These export products are manufactured in Chennimalai, Kavunthanbadi, Vijayamangalam, Erode, Coimbatore, Madurai and Karur. During 1995-96, goods worth Rs.1 crore 74 lakhs only were exported whereas in 1999-2000, the export has reached Rs.5 crore 1 lakh.

The Co-operative Spinning Mills setup by the Government in Tamil Nadu were unable to achieve profit due to various reasons and the Government has issued orders sanctioning funds and other relief measures to the total extent of

Rs.185.26 crores to rehabilitate these Co-operative Spinning Mills.

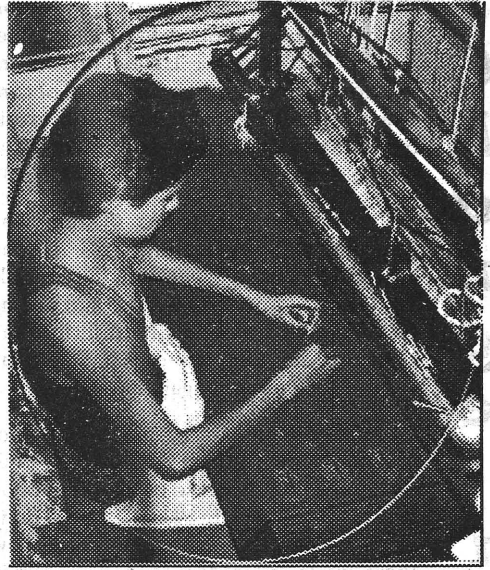
Tamil Nadu Khadi and Village Industries

In the past four and a half years, the Tamil Nadu Khadi and Village Industries Board has recorded an achievement of Khadi and Silk Cloth Production worth Rs.104 crore and 17 lakhs. Khadi and Silk clothes worth Rs.115 crore and 90 lakhs have been sold by this board.

Government has ordered financial assistance of Rs.20,000 to the families of the deceased spinners and weavers who work under the Khadi and Village Industries Board. After this Government assumed charge, proper elections were held for 1416 Primary Co-operative Societies under the control of the Board. In continuation of its support to the 33% reservation for women, this Government has decided to register 24 all women co-operative societies; orders have been issued to register 14 co-operative societies so far.

A weaver's handbook containing details of all Government schemes in the interests of the weavers has been prepared and distributed to all weavers.

Under house-cum-workshed scheme, Rs.7 crore 51 lakhs have been disbursed from 1996-97 till 1999-2000 as Government grant for constructing 3120 house-cum-worksheds. Trade



complexes named "Loom World" have been opened in Chennai and Coimbatore to sell handloom cloth produced at weavers' co-operative societies. Since the public response has been good, it is planned to open such complexes at other towns also.

To promote export and to serve as an intermediary between weavers and exporters, an export interaction centre has been established at other handloom directorate.

The Tamil Nadu Government has issued order sanctioning 30% rebate for Khadi Cotton and Khadi Polyester varieties and 20% rebate for Khadi Silk valid throughout the year in order to uplift the rural workers and to provide continuous employment to the spinners and weavers.

The department of handlooms and textiles is involved in the effective implementation of Government policies and oversee the function of the weavers' co-operative societies at the grass root level.

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Traders are also a part of the Nation and are entitled for a happy life. At the same time, consumers should also receive their due share of care and benefits. The Government's role in this regard is pivotal and its achievements have been remarkable.

In 1989-90, single tax system was implemented by Kalaignar with the Government doing away with the multiple tax on numerous goods. The succeeding Government followed the multiple tax system again. Only after 1996, single tax system was brought again into force.

Kalaignar announced the formation of a Tamil Nadu Traders' Welfare Board but could not do it because of the dissolution of his Government. In 1996, Kalaignar came to power and established the board. Now there are 35,352 traders as life members in the board.

Financial assistance has been given to the members from the fund of Rs.2 crores which the Government had sanctioned initially and Rs.35,49,000 received from the Government as compensation. Rs.1,06,000 to 49 persons as educational allowance, Rs.3,41,000 to 15 persons as medical assistance, Rs.1,30,000 to 27 persons injured in fire accident, Rs.20,000 to 6 students as stipend, Rs.36,65,000 to 118 families as family benefit assistance and Rs.5,000 to a sportsperson for winning at State level competition, totalling Rs.47,67,000 have been extended as financial assistance to 217 poor traders.

For the first time, all dealers' association and traders' associations were invited and their opinions were heard before the 1999-2000 budget. Likewise, on 11-3-2000 such a meeting was held before the budget of 2000-2001.

Sales Tax Reforms Committee was formed under the retired IAS Officer Thiru C.Thangaraj to recommend required changes to sale tax and other procedures; the committee's several recommendations have been implemented. The tax concessions provided yearwise are as follows :

1996-97

The surcharge of 15% and the additional surcharge of 5% on salestax has been waived from 17.7.1996. Exemption was granted from additional salestax levied on traders with a sale less than Rs.100 crores. This was reduced to Rs.25 crores during 1998-99.

The 3% tax on handmade safety matches has been waived. Exemption of tax has been granted for coconut fibre, paddy husk, aluminium utensils. 11% tax was reduced to 4% for computers and its spareparts, photofilm, paper and chemicals.

The 11% tax was reduced to 8% for cooking gas, electronic cash register, tabulating and calculating machines, electronic instruments, voltage stabilizers, tree, electric pump, footwear, betelnut, pressure cooker, dry cell, ink, electric fan, electric bulb, tube lights, fittings, choke and starters, camera, enlarger, lens, brass and copper vessels, audio cassettes etc.

The 8% tax was reduced to 4% for butter, ghee, biscuit, chocolates, writing paper, printing paper, plastic carrybags and readymade garments.

1997-98

For urea fertilizer, salestax was reduced from 4% to 2%.

Tax on drip irrigation and other irrigation equipments was reduced from 11% to 4%.

Fish feed and cattle feed was given full tax exemption. Salestax was waived on bamboo boards, baskets, coconut shell, curd, 39 siddha medicines, drugs for cancer, leprosy and TB, tricycle meant for physically handicapped, educational timetables, maps, tourist handbook, tourist maps, solar cell, clay used for manufacturing bricks, footwear costing below Rs.50, gold sold by MMTC to exporters of jewellery.

The 11% tax on briefcases, oil engine spares, tables chair, branded butter and ghee was reduced to 10%. Salestax on spectacles and typewriters was reduced from 20% to 8%. Tax on paperbags,

umbrellas, handicrafts, tarpaulin was reduced from 11% to 8%. The 20% tax on Tamil typewriters was reduced to 4%. The 16% tax on glassbeads, masqito repellents, destroyers and mats was reduced to 4%. The 11% salestax on fried groundnut, helmets, dolls, electronic parts and accessories and students' painting instruments was reduced to 4%. Tax reduction was given for numerous such essential goods so as to benefit the people.

1998-99

The 4% salestax on cooking oils was exempted. The 16% tax on branded icecream was reduced to 11%. The tax on food products of bakeries without brands was reduced from 8% to 4%. The 16% salestax on branded and brandless masala powder was reduced to 4% and 2% respectively. Entertainment tax of 40% on new feature film was reduced to 30% and for old feature films to 20%. Tax exemption was granted for Intra ocular lenses and several other items.

1999-2000

Sales tax on trailers of powertillers was reduced from 11% to 4%. Tax on gold and silver bar was reduced from 2% to 0.5% which was later changed to 1% from 23.1.2000 in accordance with the policy of uniform floor rates of salestax.

The 16% sales tax on gems was reduced to 4%. Tax on rusk was reduced from 11% to 1% and that on compact fluorescent lamps was reduced from 16% to 2%. Tax on cellular phone was reduced from 11% to 2% and tax on UPS was reduced from 8% to 2%. The Tamil Nadu sales tax rule was amended so as to allow submission of Form-17 every year instead of every month.

Sales tax on numerous essential electronic and consumer goods was reduced. Tax was exempted on several items such as solar lamps, saree falls, footwear upper, cane basket, prawnfeed etc.

2000-2001

The 20% sales tax on mosaic bricks, ceramic wall and floor tiles was reduced to 12%. Similarly, tax on marble tiles was also reduced to 12%. Purchase tax was reduced on used glass bottles from 16% to 4%. Salestax was reduced from 11% to 8% for pager, ceramic bricks and bleach liquid. Sales tax on all glass containers and other products and metal plating was reduced from 16% to 12%. Sales tax on transformer oil sold to electricity board and Neyveli Lignite Corporation was reduced from 16% to 4%.

Sales tax exemption was granted on Nithyakalyani leaves and roots, hearing aid cord, processed milk, brandless masala powder and dried vegetables, tamil daily calendars, paper bags etc. The 4% sales tax on lease of cinema theatres was waived. The entertainment tax under Section-4, paid for new films by theatre owners was reduced from 30% to 25%.

The Sales Tax Reforms Committee has reduced tax on 39 categories agreeing to the Tamil Nadu Governments' insistence during the All State Finance Ministers' Meeting on uniform floor rates of tax.

Rs.353 crores in 1996-97, Rs.143 crores in 1997-98, Rs.81 crores in 1998-99, Rs.25 crores in 1999-2000 and Rs.76 crores in 2000-2001 were announced as yearwise tax concessions. Taking into consideration the fact that they recur, the total tax concessions sanctioned in the past five years amount to Rs.2700 crores.

Tax Defferel scheme

So far, Rs.992 crore 51 lakhs have been utilised by industries under the scheme of interest free tax-deferral and tax waiver schemes.

The 'Samadhan' scheme was introduced through Commercial Taxes Department from 1.6.1999 which benefitted 1706 traders and a tax due of Rs.19 crore 93 lakhs was collected; Rs.47 crore 6 lakhs of tax due was waived.

The stamp duty on sale deeds given to allottees by Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board was exempted from sale tax from 8.1.1998. The stamp duty for family partition deeds was reduced from 4% to 2% from 13.8.1997. Stamp duty on lease agreements has been reduced from 7% to 4%. Since the stamp duty of 13% for mortgage of properties to get housing loan has been reduced to a mere 0.1%. Various housing finance companies are able to disburse a higher loan amount to their customers.

The department of registration is being computerised so as to issue certificates without delay. As this Government follows the principle of discussing issues with the representatives of traders, had accepted the recommendations of the Reforms Committee and because of policy changes, the tax revenue of Rs.5023 crore in 1996 has increased to about Rs.8000 crores despite concessions of Rs.2700 crores in the past five years. It is a sign of victory for the Government's tax policy and its cordiality with traders.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar, in his budget address on 24.3.2000 stated that Tamil Nadu Government's revenue was Rs.18,406 crores. In this, Rs.12,500 crores was the income through tax collection. The expenditure for the payment of salary to the government employees and pensioners was Rs.12,100 crores. 96% of the income from tax is spent on this. It doesn't mean that such a big amount is given to individuals. Government schemes are inclusive of the salary paid to employees. So whatever amount of expenses is caused for paying salary to the employees should be treated as expenditure for the schemes.

As soon as Kalaingar assumed office for the third time in 1989 an additional expenditure of Rs.443 crores was incurred for the implementation of the recommendations of the State Pay Commission to raise the salary of the State Govt employees on par with that of the central Government employees. Again, when Kalaingar came to power for the 4th time, the recommendation of the Fifth Pay Commission has been implemented and the pay scales were revised to be on par with that of the central government employee with effect from 1.1.1996. This was the first Government in south India which gave new scales of pay incurring an additional expenditure of Rs.1,230 crores per year.

Considering the requests regarding the anomalies in the pay commission, an one man commission was organised and based on its recommendations all secondary grade, graduate and post graduate teachers were given a revision in their pay at an expenditure of Rs.75 crores.

Salary for the nutritious meal scheme employees was revised which resulted in an additional expenditure of Rs.60 crores.

In order to equalise the pay of the teachers of State Government on par with the central Government teachers and rectify the anomalies regarding their pay difference an addition of 5% personal pay was given to the employees with effect from 1.9.1998. 5% personal pay paid to the ministerial and other equal cadre employees resulted in an additional expenditure of Rs.83 crores.

In total, due to the implementation of pay revision to the Government employees, teachers and nutritious meal scheme employees, the Government incurred an additional expenditure of Rs.1,448 crores.

Apart from all these, Rs.462 crores have been incurred additionally for the revision of pay and other benefits to the pensioners and family pensioners.

Due to the revision of the pay scales the Government has incurred an expenditure of Rs.2400 crores from 1.1.96 to 31.3.98.

Following requests from the Government employees, the House Rent Allowance has been increased to 100% which resulted in an additional expenditure of Rs.100 crores per year. The City Compensation Allowance enhanced on par with the Central Government employees costs the Government exchequer Rs.20.17 crores per year.

Enhancement of leave travel allowance resulted in an additional expenditure of Rs.10 crores.

New pay scales to village assistants has been revised from Rs.600-10-750 to Rs.1800-20-2240. 26,250 employees were benefitted by this revision.

Pay scales of nutritious meal employees has been revised from Rs.200-5-250-10-400 to Rs.600-10-700-20-110. Totally 91,000 employees were benefitted by this revision.

A CARING GOVERNMENT AND HAPPY EMPLOYEES

On the model of the recommendations by the 5th pay commission being implemented for state government employees, employees working under the consolidated pay and honorarium and fixed pay were given increase in pay upto 40%, i.e. a minimum raise of Rs.50. About 2,04,571 employees were benefitted by this.

During these four and a half years, dearness allowance to the state government employees have been accorded from the date of its implementation for the central government employees.

Other facilities : Previously Independence day and Republic day were not included for claiming festival advance, but later in 96-97 these days were also being included.

A scheme of awarding promotions, awards and cash prizes to government or police officials, whoever render exemplary service was introduced during this regime in commemoration of India's Golden Jubilee Independence day.

Marriage Loan : Restriction to get a second loan for marriage of ward if an employee has his first loan pending repayment has been cancelled during this period.

The scheme of city compensation allowance to government employees was first introduced in 17.10.1967 during Perarignar Anna's regime.

Accordingly the CCA allowed to Chennai and Madurai has been extended to Coimbatore on 15.11.1971 and to Salem, Tiruchy on 21.3.1975 and Thirunelveli from 11.9.2000.

The scheme of appointing any one of the legal heirs of the government employee on his death has been implemented from 15.2.1972 and the scheme is being continued.

Vehicle advance for government employees

The scheme of vehicle advance to government employees was introduced in the year 1971-72. Under this, an amount of Rs.25,000 paid previously has been enhanced to Rs.35,000 for two wheelers and for a new

car the amount of Rs.1,40,000 has been increased to Rs.2 lakhs from the year 1996-97.

Government employees' family benefit fund

A scheme of extending financial assistance of Rs.10,000 to the family of the government employee on his death while in service, the first of its kind in India, was introduced in Tamil Nadu in the year 1974. The financial assistance under this scheme, which was so far, Rs.20,000 has been enhanced to Rs.40,000 in 1989. In 1996, the financial assistance has further been enhanced to Rs.1 lakh from Rs.60,000 by this government.

Financial assistance for the welfare of local administration employees

An order has been issued for formulating welfare schemes same as the government employees for the town panchayat, panchayat unions, municipal and corporation employees also. For this, government pays Rs 20 lakhs as its share ever year; according to this scheme, for medical expenses for special treatment or major operations, an assistance of Rs.1 lakh or 75% of the cost of treatment, whichever is less, will be given.

Pongal Bonus for government employees

The long time request for issue of bonus for the government employees was implemented for the first time by Kalaigarnar's regime on 27.12.1990 with 15 days pay as bonus. Last year, it was hiked as 29 days pay.

Special Family Benefit Fund

Government's contribution to the special family benefit fund has been increased

The special family benefit fund given to a government employee on his retirement has been increased to Rs.10,000 from Rs.5,000 with effect from 15.9.2000.

New & special provident fund scheme

Tamil Nadu government employees special provident fund 2000 is being implemented with effect from 1.10.2000. Under this scheme, an employee paying

Rs.70 from 1.10.2000 is eligible to get Rs.1,00,000 at the time of retirement after 25 years.

If a government employee or his family member suffers due to severe disease, medical reimbursement is made eligible even if they undergo treatment in various private hospitals.

Enhancement of house building advance

House building advance has been enhanced to Rs.6 lakhs from Rs.4 lakhs with effect from 1.4.2000 and an allocation of Rs.102 crores has been made for this.

Accepting the request of the government employees, an order has been issued on 8.9.2000 that the posts of junior assistants and typists will be treated as separate posts as it was before 1995.

An order has been issued on 21.8.2000 for filling up the vacant posts in the government hospitals with substitutes, who are either orphans or widows.

Likewise an order has been issued on 29.9.2000 for appointing the employees on daily wages in leprosy department on permanent basis.

Nearly 682 employees who were working in high ways on daily wages have been made permanent.

An order for filling up the vacancies in the co-operative audit department has been issued on 20.9.2000.

Employees working in Anganwadis and Child Health Organisers were given relaxation of age limit to receive nursing training based on their seniority for which order has been issued on 7.9.2000.

An order has been issued for allowing the government employee in districts to reside in the government quarters allotted to him even if he has been transferred to a place beyond 16 kilometres from his residence.

Previously, the government employee had to pay rent of the house allotted to him from the date of vacant position of that house, even before his occupation. This practise has

been cancelled by this government and order has been issued on 11.9.2000 that the employee, could pay the rent for the house allotted to him from the date of allotment.

Late Thiru Siva Elango rendered great service to government officials for the past 25 years. He has been a bridge between the government and government officials. Considering his services for the welfare of the employees and also to honour him the road near his house at Periyar Nagar, Chennai has been named after him and will be called as Siva Elango Salai with effect from 19.10.2000.

Teachers' welfare

The pay scales for teachers in government schools have been increased on par with that of the central government teachers, considering the recommendations of fifth pay commission with effect from 1.1.96, the first of its kind in India. A revised pay has further been revised by the one man commission. The state government accepted its recommendation and implemented it.

Secondary grade teachers

The scale of pay for secondary grade teachers has been increased to Rs.4500-7000 from Rs.4000-6000. For selection grade as Rs.5300-8300, and special grade Rs.5900-9900. 1,02,477 secondary grade teachers benefitted through this revision.

Graduate teachers

The scale of pay for graduate teachers have been increased from Rs.5000-8000 to Rs.5500-9000; for selection grade teachers Rs.6500-10500, and special grade Rs.8000-13500. 42,859 graduate teachers benefitted through this revision.

Post graduate teachers

Revised scale of pay for post graduate teachers is Rs.6500-10500 from Rs.5900-9900, for selection grade Rs.8000-13500 and special grade Rs.9100-14050. 17,445 post graduate teachers benefitted through this revision.

Primary school headmaster

Primary school headmasters were given a revision in their scale of pay as Rs.5300-8300

from Rs.5000-8000. For selection grade Rs.6500-10,500, and special grade Rs.8000-13500. 30619 primary school headmasters benefitted through this revision of pay.

Middle school headmasters

The scale of pay for middle school headmasters has been revised to Rs.5900-9900 from Rs.5000-9000, for selection grade Rs.8000-13500 and special grade Rs.9100-14050. 5503 middle school headmasters benefitted through this revision.

High school/Higher secondary school headmasters

The scale of pay for high school headmasters is Rs.6500-10500 and for higher secondary school headmaster Rs.8000-13500. Apart from this a personal pay of Rs.500 for high school headmaster and Rs.600 for higher secondary school headmaster were sanctioned with effect from 1.9.1998. 3274 high school headmasters and 1583 higher secondary school headmasters benefitted through this revision.

Considering the recommendation of the University Grant Commission, the central government revised the scale of pay for university and college professions. Based on this the state government also revised the scale of pay giving retrospective effect from 1.1.96. 28,000 college professors, university and engineering college professors benefitted. Rs.178 crores have been dispersed to them as arrears.

As per the order issued that secondary grade teachers should be appointed only on seniority at employment offices, about 41,887 teachers belonging to the poor and downtrodden have been appointed as teachers.

The 'Nallasiriyar Virudhu' awarded to the teachers for their best performance was named as "Dr.Radhakrishnan Award" in 1997. The cash prize of Rs.500 has been enhanced to Rs.1000 in 1989 and Rs.2000 in 1997.

An order has been issued on 13.9.2000 to the effect that before appointing new teachers in the existing vacancy, the

applications for transfer of place should be given top priority.

An order has been issued for sanctioning two incentive increments to those who acquired post graduate degree through open university and B.Ed.

Teachers who were working in private schools with government aid were paid Rs.5000 at the time of their retirement under family benefit fund scheme. To avoid the delay in paying this amount, an order has been issued on 27.9.2000 for sanctioning the amount from the treasury itself.

An order has been issued on 5.9.2000 that similar to the government employees, teachers also should be given a special grade fixation in higher post, considering their total service rendered as selection grade and special grade employee.

The order issued for regular pay to the craft teachers who were working for Rs.800 as consolidated pay, was implemented by the previous regime. Orders were issued to regulate this on 7.9.2000.

Though teachers employed in municipal schools, were announced as government employees, adhoc rules for them were not in existence. The adhoc rules were formed and issued on 28.8.2000.

An order has been issued on 20.9.2000 for allocating funds for miscellaneous expenditure to corporation schools as allocated for panchayat union and municipal schools.

Concessions for pensioners

An order has been issued on 1.7.1996 reducing the number of years of service from 33 years to 30 years for getting full pension. The government servant will get 50% of his basic pay on his retirement as pension. An order has been issued on 1.7.1996 for fixing the pension on the basis of either 50% of his last month pay before retirement or 50% of his average pay during his last 10 months before his retirement and whichever is high.

This scheme is the first of its kind which has not been so far implemented either by

the central government or by any other state government.

The long pending request of the government employees to allow them to surrender this half pay leave on private affairs has been accepted.

Previously the government servant on his retirement is eligible for drawing full salary on surrendering his 180 days of earned leave allowances. Under the scheme of surrendering 240 days of earned leave, he is eligible for getting his allowances only for 180 days of earned leave. Now the government servant is eligible for getting all the allowances for the rest of the days above 180 days as per the order issued by this government.

Just as the pay for government employees was revised, the pensioners were also given a 40% raise and the minimum pension for pensioner/family pensioner has been increased to Rs.1275 from Rs.375. About 3,27,488 pensioners and family pensioners benefitted by this.

From 1.1.1996, the maximum gratuity of Rs.2,50,000 sanctioned to the government servant has been enhanced to Rs.3,50,000, at the time of his retirement or death. An order has been issued that for an employee retiring on or after 1.4.1998, the gratuity amount should be calculated on the basis of the basic pay and dearness allowance last drawn by the servant.

40% of pension amount is being permitted for commutation instead of 1/3 of the pension on the retirement of a government servant retiring on or after 1.4.1998.

Medical allowance of Rs.30 has been increased to Rs.50 per month for the pensioners and family pensioners from 1.7.1996.

A new scheme of Pensioners' family welfare fund was introduced on 1.1.1997. Under this scheme, if a pensioner pay Rs.50 per month for more than one year his family will be given Rs.25,000 as Family Welfare Fund.

The 40% balance amount of pay commission arrears for pensioners committed on 1.1.1996 has been disbursed to the pensioners.

Welfare of the Former Village Administrative Officer

The former village administrative officers who lost their job during the previous regime in 1980 were paid Rs.175 along with other allowances and an order has been issued on 23.8.1996 to pay Rs.100 per month as family pension to family member of the deceased VAOs.

According to this order, former village administrative officers are eligible for availing special pension after 5.12.1996. Each village administrative officer has been paid an arrear amount of Rs.23,000 under this scheme.

Later in 22.7.1998, the special pension of Rs.175 has been enhanced to Rs.250 and the Family Pension to Rs.150 from Rs.100. As a result, the pensioner is drawing approximately Rs.800 along with other allowances.

In order to extend more concession to Ex-village Administrative Officers, the Government extended on 9.9.1998 the benefits under Special Pension Scheme also to those who were under suspension on 14.11.1980 and who were on leave during that period.

During Perarignar Anna's regime granting of pay in lieu of surrender of earned leave was introduced on 10.9.1968.

The long pending demand for the cancellation of confidential report for Non-gazetted officers from the British rule during 1940 has been accepted by Kalaignar's regime on 20.2.1972.

But during the President's rule in 1976, this system of maintaining confidential report was implemented and again it was cancelled when Kalaignar assumed office in 1990 for the third time.

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Honourable Members of
the Legislative Assembly,

I have great pleasure in
addressing you at the
commencement of the first
session of the year 2001. I
extend my warm New Year
greetings to all of you.

This is the concluding
session of the Eleventh
Legislative Assembly. In the
last five years this House has
witnessed many outstanding
debates in each of the
sessions and has given shape
to the progressive policies of
the Government. I am happy
to congratulate you for your
contribution in guiding the
Government and ensuring
the welfare of the State.

**The
Government
has
honoured
the
vital
mandate
given
by the
people**



Address by
Selvi Justice M. FATHIMA BEEVI
Governor of Tamil Nadu
at the
Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly
on
19-1-2001

The political scene in our country has changed dramatically over the last 50 years. In order to strengthen the unity and integrity of India, this Government will continue to urge that the Constitution should be amended to provide greater autonomy to the States with additional devolution of powers and a federal set up at the Centre.

This Government has honoured the vital mandate given by the people of this State for providing a corruption free and transparent administration. The Government has taken appropriate decisions on the recommendations of the committee headed by Justice Ramanujam and has implemented them to prevent corruption in administration. Tamil Nadu is the first State to enact legislation imparting transparency in tender procedures,

Maintenance of law and order has been accorded high priority by this Government. It has successfully taken steps to ensure social harmony and peace in the State by holding meetings with the leaders of all political parties and ascertaining their views. Most of the recommendations of the Justice Mohan Committee to prevent caste clashes have been accepted and implemented. As a result of the steps taken by this Government, there has been a sharp decline in the number of persons affected by caste and communal violence in the last two years.

This Government has successfully maintained law and order by modernizing the police force, collecting information on potential problems and amicably resolving them by taking appropriate steps. The State Human Rights Commission set up to enquire into complaints of human rights violations is functioning effectively.

The High Level Committee set up by this Government is monitoring the prices of

commodities that are necessary for the daily life of the people such as foodgrains, edible oils, pulses and vegetables. About 1.59 crore families are getting essential commodities at fair prices through the public distribution system. The Government is likely to incur an expenditure of Rs.1,700 crores towards food subsidy in the current financial year. Tamil Nadu is the only state which provides rice at a subsidized rate of Rs.3.50 per kg to all sections of the public without any distinction between those living below the poverty line or above the poverty line. Hon'ble members are aware that the present system of distribution of essential commodities including rice, sugar and kerosene is being continued. To ensure that farmers get a good price for their paddy, this Government is implementing the parallel procurement system for the current Samba season. This is the only State which provides Rs.40 per quintal as incidental charges to farmers over and above the minimum support price fixed by the Central Government.

As a result of the precautionary measures taken by the Government, major damages have been averted when Tamil Nadu was hit by cyclones twice in the last two months. Apart from giving immediate relief to the affected people, prompt action has also been taken to repair the damage caused by the cyclones.

Recognising that strong infrastructure is a pre-requisite for the economic development of the State, this Government has implemented projects for increasing power generation, upgradation of roads, construction of bridges and augmentation of water supply. As a result of these measures, and the industry-friendly policy adopted by the Government, Tamil Nadu has attracted large industrial

investments and has emerged as one of the leading states in the country.

An Information Technology revolution is successfully taking place in Tamil Nadu without much fanfare. Consequently, the number of software development firms as well as software production and exports are growing. The Government has been encouraging large scale private sector investment to establish a high speed optic fibre cable network. This basic facility will enable the spread of Information Technology throughout the State. To promote establishment of software firms and generation of employment opportunities not only at Chennai and Coimbatore, but in other parts of the State as well, Satellite Earth Stations are being established at Madurai and Tiruchirappalli. A Point of Presence linked to the Madurai Earth Station is also being set up at Tirunelveli. The magnificent Tidel Park set up with all modern facilities at Taramani in Chennai is functioning successfully. Consequently, the Government has decided to create a second Tidel Park close to the existing one. Internet kiosks are now widespread in all towns and cities. Such kiosks will soon come up in villages also. A pilot project will shortly be implemented in Madurai district to provide internet-telephone connectivity in villages based on indigenous wireless technology developed by Indian Institute of Technology in Chennai. This will be the first of its kind in India.

I am happy to announce that the Tamil Virtual University will be launched in February. This University will enable people all over the world to learn Tamil and to know about the history, art, literature and culture of the Tamil people using the Internet.

Like the IT revolution, Biotechnology will also play a major role in the coming years in creating job opportunities and improving the standard of living of the people. Hon'ble Members are well aware that in recognition of this fact, this Government has announced a Biotechnology Policy and has set an example for other states. For the first time in India, a Bio technology Park for women entrepreneurs has been set up at Siruseri village near Chennai and it was inaugurated by Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaaignar on 24.11.2000. Following this, the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO) has signed an MoU with Genome Technologies of USA on 5.12.2000 for setting up a Bio-informatics and Genomics Project in Chennai. Further, an MoU has been signed with the prestigious Cornell University of USA on 15.1.2001 for setting up a Bio-Technology Park in Chennai. This Park will not only foster closer linkages between research institutions and commercial biotechnology enterprises but will also provide a framework for economic development on par with internationally renowned biotechnology parks.

In pursuance of the announcement made in the last year's budget speech, the Government of Tamil Nadu will embark upon a cooperative venture in Telemedicine with Montefiore Institute of Minimally Invasive Surgery and Telemedicine (MIMISAT) of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York for providing modern health services to the people. The initial focus would be on improvement of community health services especially for women and children and for providing medical education and training using tele-education technology.

Computerisation paves the way for speedy implementation of works,

transparency in administration and simplification of procedures. Taking this into account, computerisation of district administration has been taken up and extended to activities such as issue of certificates and distribution of old age pension in 50 Taluk offices. This process will be completed in the remaining 156 Taluks by March, 2001. Besides the 25 offices which have been fully computerised in the Registration department, computerisation of another 100 offices will be completed in a few days time. This work in respect of 200 additional offices is progressing at a rapid pace.

Tamil Nadu is one of the States in India with a very large urban population. Keeping this in view, this Government has made large investments in providing basic infrastructure such as roads, streetlights, water supply and drainage facilities in urban areas. The construction of nine flyovers in Chennai, the Ring Road in Madurai and a bridge across the river in Karur are shining examples of the competence of the urban local bodies in taking up major basic infrastructure projects. A massive project at a cost of Rs.1700 crores is being taken up for environmental protection through works such as creating underground sewerage facilities, and desilting of waterways and lakes. This project will be implemented with Central and State assistance in Chennai, Trichy, Madurai, Tirunelveli, Karur, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Kumbakonam, Myladuthurai, Rameswaram, Tiruchendur, Udthagamandalam and Kodaikkanal. Hon'ble Members are aware that this project was inaugurated in Chennai by Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar on the 1st of this month.

This Government has accorded very high priority to rural development. It has taken

action to ensure that 40 litres of water per capita per day is made available in all rural habitations of the State. Since this Government assumed office in 1996, this scheme has been completed in 27,274 habitations. For the first time in the State, cement concrete has been laid on village streets for a length of 5,900 km. at a cost of Rs.472 crores. In addition, a programme for conversion of 22,289 km. of rural link roads to black-topped roads in five years has been taken up and so far, 20,900 km. length of roads have been converted at a cost of Rs.1463 crores. During the current financial year, the Central Government has accorded approval for upgradation of roads under the Prime Minister's Grama Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in 17 districts in the first phase at a cost of Rs.78.76 crores. It is expected that approval for the remaining districts will be received shortly.

Under the Varumun Kappom Thittam, introduced by this Government, specialists in various medical disciplines are visiting the villages to provide health care to the rural people especially to those living below the poverty line. So far, 84.58 lakh people have benefited through 8481 health camps. Medicines worth Rs.4.58 crores have been distributed to these beneficiaries free of cost. The information obtained under this scheme will provide data about the diseases affecting the people, which will enable effective preventive action against such diseases in the future.

Considering the close linkage between livestock and rural life, this Government has introduced a Livestock Protection Scheme to provide free veterinary services in the remote villages of the State. Under this scheme, 4570 camps have been held so far in which 1.07 crores livestock have been given treatment.

Medicines worth Rs.1.94 crores have been dispensed free of cost.

In order to create linkages between rural and urban economies this Government has formulated and implemented schemes like Uzhavar Sandhai and Poomalai. The Uzhavar Sandhais are playing a major role in ensuring a better return to the farmer as well as providing increased benefit to the consumer. Since 14.11.1999, 100 Uzhavar Sandhais have been started in phases and vegetables worth Rs.160 crores have been sold through them so far. The Poomalai Scheme is helping the rural artisans get a fair price for their products.

The Namakku Naame Thittam, which is one of the most important schemes of this Government, has met with an overwhelming response from the public. With the Government providing Rs.98.15 crores and the public contributing Rs.52.76 crores, the Namakku Naame Thittam continues to be implemented as a scheme of the people, by the people and for the people. Further, under the Anna Marumalarchi Thittam, this Government has provided all basic amenities such as education, roads, drinking water and public health in 844 villages at a cost of Rs.694 crores. Moreover, under the MLA Constituency Development Scheme, each constituency has been allotted Rs.77 lakhs during the current year. No other State in the country has provided such a large amount. I am very happy to inform you that the works under this scheme are progressing speedily and effectively. With the objective of creating a casteless society, this Government has been setting up Periyar Ninaivu Samathuvapurams. So far, 98 Samathuvapurams have been inaugurated and another 20 are ready for inauguration. The Government is taking

effective action on the recommendations of the High Level Commission headed by Justice Ratnavel Pandian constituted to formulate schemes for generation of employment opportunities and overall development of the southern districts.

Many schemes of this Government are being drawn up with the farmer as the focus. To ensure self sufficiency in food production, adequate returns to the farming community and increased agricultural productivity, this Government has accorded high priority to wasteland development as well as management and conservation of soil and water resources. With this in mind, a massive scheme of desilting rivers, canals, tanks and drainage structures is under implementation. So far, since 1997-98, 907 tanks and 10,637 k.m. length of rivers, canals and drainage structures have been taken up for desilting at a cost of Rs.178.65 crores. This programme will continue. In the year 2000-2001, 30,000 hectares are being covered under wasteland development.

It is important not only to develop irrigation potential but also to maintain the existing irrigation sources properly. Hon'ble Members are well aware that an Act has been passed to form Water Users' Associations and to entrust the responsibility of operation and maintenance of irrigation sources to these farmers associations. As a follow up, the Government will provide all help including financial assistance to enable these associations to discharge the responsibilities vested in them.

As already announced by this Government, the "Tamil Nadu - Manual Workers Social Security and Welfare Board" has been set up to provide social security

for more than 60 categories of manual workers in the unorganised sector. Furthermore, 11 separate boards have been set up for the welfare of different categories of unorganised labour. All these labour welfare schemes will be implemented through a Social Security Fund to be created for this purpose.

The progress in the implementation of the Mahalir Thittam, named in memory of Perarignar Anna's mother Bangaru Ammaiyar, is indeed gratifying. This scheme which facilitates socio-economic empowerment of women was started in the rural areas of 28 districts and has subsequently been extended to the Town Panchayats and Municipalities. More than 10 lakh women have benefited so far through 58,391 self-help groups. The Savings-Linked Micro Credit Scheme introduced by this Government exclusively for women engaged in small businesses in Corporation areas has since been extended to municipal towns and rural areas. As on date, 1.59 lakh women have received loan assistance to the extent of Rs.20.02 crores.

This Government is effectively implementing the elementary education programme which seeks to impart free and compulsory education to all children upto Class V. The concept of "joyful learning" has been introduced in primary schools to motivate all children to join schools and continue their education. Primary schools are being established so that all villages with a population of more than 300 have access to a school within a distance of 1 km. Tamil Nadu is the first State in the country to provide computer education in all Government Higher Secondary Schools. Under this scheme, 60,851 students are being trained during the current year. The computer education scheme has been launched for the students of Government Colleges this year.

This Government has been showing great concern in protecting the social rights of Adidraavidars, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes, and Denotified Communities. Not only has a White Paper on reservation been brought out, steps have also been taken to clear the backlog in appointments in five years. Orders have been issued to fill up such posts wherever there are provisions for direct recruitment. The progress in this regard is being monitored by a Committee headed by the Chief Secretary. Out of the total of 1,12,64 backlog posts to be filled up, the target for the current year is 2,250. So far, 2,374 posts have been filled up in all the four categories, namely, A, B, C and D. I am very happy to inform that among these, 1,467 belong to the Adidraavidar community, 217 to Scheduled Tribes and 690 to Most Backward Classes.

Keeping in view the important role played by Government employees in discharging developmental as well as regulatory responsibilities, this Government has extended the Central pay scales to its employees and pensioners with retrospective effect inspite of financial constraints. In addition it has paid enhanced dearness allowance and Pongal bonus to the employees.

I have presented before you the policies, programmes and achievements of this Government. While we can look back with pride on this splendid record, let us strive to maintain similar progress in the future as well. I conclude this address with the firm belief that the ensuing debate will serve to strengthen our democratic ethos and tradition.

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*Address by the
Hon'ble Chief Minister,
Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi
presenting the
Interim Budget
for 2001-2002
to the Legislative Assembly
on
29th January 2001*

Honourable Speaker Sir,

I am proud to present the Revised Estimates for the year 2000-2001 and the Interim Budget for the year 2001-2002 before this august House at a time when we have just completed the celebrations of the golden jubilee year of the Indian Republic. The Vote on Account for the expenditure in the first six months of the next financial year will be

obtained through this budget. The main budget will be presented in the newly elected Legislative Assembly.

அருவினை யென்ப ஊவோ கருவியாற்
கால மறிந்து செயின்

**What is hard for him who acts
with proper means and time and
tacts?**

**ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
WITH
A
HUMAN
FACE**

This Government having deeply imbibed this teaching of Ayyan Tiruvalluvar has served the people of Tamil Nadu and the cause of the Tamil language with humility and conviction, following the principle of secularism promoting communal harmony and the brotherhood of man. We have always respected those with differing views and accepted their reasonable suggestions, without in any way deviating from the social perspective of Thanthai Periyar and the principles of duty, dignity and discipline advocated by Perarignar Anna.

As the people of the country were joyfully celebrating the Republic Day, a terrible tragedy occurred - an earthquake rocked various parts of India, particularly the State

of Gujarat, causing enormous damage to life and property. In addition to conveying the heartfelt sympathies and condolences of the people of Tamil Nadu, I would like to inform that this Government has sanctioned Rs.5 crores for relief work in the earthquake affected areas of Gujarat. This Government has come forward to provide all possible assistance including medical assistance and material assistance to the affected people. Further, I request all those who wish to contribute funds for relief through the Tamil Nadu Government, to send their contribution in the form of cheque or draft drawn in favour of "The Gujarat Earthquake Relief Fund" to the Secretary to Government, Public Department, Secretariat, Chennai.

Economic Development

This Government's policy of "Economic Development with a Human Face" has been responsible for the State attaining a sound economic position in the last five years. In the period between 1996-97 and 1998-99, the Gross State Domestic Product at constant prices registered an average annual growth of 6.05 percent. Due to the various steps taken by this Government, the growth rate has increased to 7.04 percent in 1999-2000. I am happy to state that Tamil Nadu is one among the three most economically developed States in India.

The per capita income of this State has gone up from Rs. 11,894 in 1995-96 to Rs. 18,786 in 1999-2000.

Centre-State Financial Relations

Tamil Nadu has suffered a huge financial loss on account of the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission. The Tamil Nadu Government had urged that the States' share of the gross tax revenues of the Centre be fixed at 40%. As against this, the Eleventh Finance Commission

recommended the devolution of only 29.5% of the net tax revenues. Moreover, since the Eleventh Finance Commission has given greater weightage to the backward states while fixing norms for sharing these revenues, well-performing states like Tamil Nadu have been adversely affected. As a result, the revenue loss that Tamil Nadu will suffer in the five years from the year 2000 is estimated to be Rs.4711 crores. The states affected by the recommendations of the Finance Commission had submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister on 21-8-2000 requesting that this unacceptable and inequitable situation be rectified. We had also urged that an Incentive Fund for extending grants to well-performing states may be created. In its supplementary report, the Eleventh Finance Commission has recommended a total incentive grant of Rs.5304 crores for all the states for the next five years. The fact that our total share of this grant for five years would only be Rs.402 crores amounts to severely punishing well-performing States like Tamil Nadu.

Local Bodies

I am happy to announce that the funds released to the local bodies by way of various grants from the State Government, share in tax revenues and allocation for schemes has increased from Rs.787 crores in 1995-96 to Rs.1997 crores in the last year. This has further increased to Rs.2401 crores in the current financial year.

Besides this, arrangements have been made for the local bodies to obtain resources to the tune of Rs.110 crores from the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for upgrading basic amenities in rural areas and Rs.341.80 crores through the Tamil Nadu Urban Development Project-II (TNUDP-II) for urban infrastructure development. This Government has enacted comprehensive legislation to enable urban local bodies to



mobilise funds from the market and financial institutions and to enable private sector participation in urban civic services.

Urban Development

A major scheme for renewing 732 km of roads in the Chennai Corporation has been taken up in the current financial year at a total cost of Rs.55 crores. Roads for a total length of 2,822 km are being taken up for improvement at a cost of Rs.200 crores in the other corporations, municipalities and town panchayats. In order to widen and improve the radial roads around Madurai city, a scheme will be implemented with HUDCO assistance at an estimated cost of Rs.112 crores.

To prevent sea-erosion in the Ennore area and to improve the road linking the Chennai and Ennore ports to National Highways, a scheme will be jointly implemented by the Government of Tamil Nadu, Chennai Port Trust and the National Highways Authority of India at a cost of Rs.150 crores in the next financial year.

It was announced in the Governor's address that a scheme costing about Rs.1700 crores to clean the rivers Cauvery, Vaigai and Tamaraparani and to protect the environment would be taken up with assistance from Central and State Governments and the local bodies. I am pleased to inform you that the Union Cabinet has given its approval for the scheme.

A scheme to improve the Thirumanimuthar in Salem town and to form a bypass road has been approved by this Government and this work is under implementation. Sufficient funds will be provided for this scheme.

In the last four years, drinking water schemes have been implemented in 140

towns. In the current financial year, such schemes will be completed in 62 more towns. Drinking water schemes are under implementation in 248 towns at a cost of Rs.772 crores.

Rural Development and Employment

Schemes such as the Namakku Naame Thittam, Anna Marumalarchi Thittam, Periyar Ninaivu Samathuvapuram Thittam, Uzhavar Sandhai, Varumun Kappom Thittam, Livestock Protection Scheme, Rural Roads Improvement Scheme, Scheme for conversion of village streets to cement-concrete roads, Computer education scheme for students, MLA, Constituency Development Scheme etc. have received an overwhelming response from the public. These schemes will continue to be implemented vigorously.

In these four and a half years, buildings for 7038 primary schools, 1323 high and higher secondary schools, 8258 fair price shops, 327 milk cooperative societies, 1592 noon meal centres, 613 primary health centres, 400 health sub-centres and 812 panchayat offices have been constructed.

This Government has undertaken construction of 2,91,551 concrete houses for rural poor at a cost of Rs 843 crores in the last four and a half years and 2,60,654 houses have been completed.

Since this Government assumed office, 27,274 rural habitations have so far been provided with drinking water at 40 litres per capita per day. In the coming financial year, the remaining 4,202 habitations will also be provided with drinking water at 40 litres per capita per day.

The recommendations of the consultant regarding the Avinasi-

Athikkadavu drinking water scheme have been received. An Expert Committee has been set up to examine these recommendations and pursue action. The report of the Committee will be received shortly, based on which, funds will be provided and further action taken.

Public Distribution System

During the current year, an allocation of Rs.1700 crores has been made towards Government subsidy for the distribution of essential commodities through the public distribution system. This provision will be increased to Rs 1870 crores in the next financial year.

In the last four and a half years, 5291 fair price shops comprising 2816 full time and 2475 part time fair price shops have been additionally opened.

Honourable Members are aware that this Government has issued orders fixing the sale price of kerosene at 60 paise per litre below the price fixed by the Central Government with effect from 1.1.2001.

Agriculture

As announced in the last budget, the penal interest on agricultural loans to the tune of Rs.13.2 crores has been waived, benefiting 3,40,727 farmers. **On the same basis, penal interest of 3 percent will be waived for agricultural loans which were overdue as on 30.6.2000 for all those farmers who repay their loan with interest on or before 30.6.2001.**

Last year, Government granted an interest incentive of Rs.21.63 crores to 2,47,023 farmers who have repaid their loans in time. **As was done last year, farmers who repay their loans without any**

overdues will be given an interest incentive of 7 percent in the current year also. This concession will also apply to those who have already cleared their loan dues in the current year. More than 6 lakh farmers will benefit by this scheme.

A penal interest of 3 percent is now being charged from those farmers who do not repay the crop loans taken from co-operative banks in time. Farmers have been demanding that this interest should be reduced. **Accepting this demand, I am glad to inform you that co-operative banks have come forward to reduce the penal interest on overdue loans from 3 percent to 1 percent from 1.7.2000. The penal interest on co-operative crop loans will only be 1 percent in future.**

Accepting the demand of the agriculturists in the Parambikulam-Aliyar Irrigation Project area, the turn system for release of water for irrigation has been brought into effect.

The track rent which had been levied on pipelines laid by farmers in Government lands for drawing irrigation water has been withdrawn.

In order to overcome the difficulties of the Lower Bhavani Irrigation Project ayacutdars, the system of crop based water cess has been replaced and a flat rate of water cess based on acreage has been introduced. The collection of arrears of penal water cess payable by them has also been waived.

Besides this, a High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of the Agriculture Secretary was set up last year to examine the practical difficulties and suggest ways to simplify the procedure for marketing agricultural produce through the Regulated Market Committees. This Committee has

submitted its report on 8.1.2001 and the following decisions have been taken based on its recommendations:-

★ **Steps will be taken to ensure that farmers who bring their agricultural produce to the Regulated Market Committees are paid the full amount due to them on the same day.**

★ **No market cess will be collected from farmers transporting their own agricultural produce for sale.**

★ **During the harvest season, temporary marketing centres will be set up in important places. Arrangements will be made to set up cold storages wherever necessary and to establish marketing centres and godowns separately for crops such as onion, banana and tomato in the areas where they are produced.**

★ **Depending on the arrivals of agricultural produce at regulated market centres, building complexes with facilities such as shops, godowns, drying yards, grading centres, exchange halls and rest houses will be set up over 20 to 200 acres of land.**

★ **If the notified agricultural produce brought within a notified area is sent or sold outside the State, in a processed or unprocessed form or returned to the producer within 60 days, then no market cess needs to be paid. Steps will be taken to amend the Act for this purpose.**

Irrigation

Since this Government assumed office, adequate funds have been provided to activate nine reservoir schemes, the

implementation of which were held up for want of resources. Four of these schemes, namely, Mordana, Nambiyar, Poigaiyar and Raja Thoppukanaru have since been completed. The Sothuparai reservoir scheme will also be completed by the end of the current year. The remaining schemes namely, Adavinayinar, Kodumudiyar and North Pachaiyar reservoirs and the Kirudumal Anicut will be completed in the next financial year. The Sadayaneri channel scheme in Toothukudi district will be completed in the current year.

The scheme undertaken by this Government since 1997 to desilt rivers, canals, lakes and drains will continue to be implemented keeping in view the tremendous response received from the farmers. **The World Bank has now given its approval for the modernisation of 620 tanks in the Palar, Tamaraparani and Vaigai river-basins will be modernised at a cost of Rs.106.26 crores.**

Roads and Bridges

Under the scheme of this Government to link villages to main roads, 480 villages with population above 500, not having any link roads, were provided with road facilities at a cost of Rs.214 crores in the last two years. **In the next financial year, link roads will be provided to 160 more villages at an estimated cost of Rs 70 crores.**

In order to improve road facilities, this Government is implementing schemes by raising loans from financial institutions in addition to deploying its own resources. Since 1996-97, roads for a total length of 21,624 km have been taken up for improvement at a cost of Rs. 1650 crores, out of which 14,696 km have been completed. Construction work of 601 bridges have been undertaken at a cost of Rs.1185 crores. So far, 325 bridges have been completed.

In order to link Namakkal and Karur districts, a high level bridge will be constructed across the river Cauvery between Mohanur and Vangal. Another high level bridge across the same river connecting Lakhapuram Parisalthurai in Modakurichi Panchayat Union with Kokkarayanpettai in Thiruchengode will be constructed which will link Erode and Namakkal districts.

Necessary funds will be provided and work will be commenced for repairing the 18 km long road between Kadamalaikundu and Koraiyuthu in Theni district, which will benefit 14 villages. This will be executed through the Highways department at an estimated cost of Rs.2 crores.

This Government has proposed to sign an agreement with the Malaysian Government shortly to seek their assistance in exploring the possibilities of upgrading the Kolachal port in Kanyakumari district as a major port of international standard and to initiate action on that basis.

Transport

Since 1996, the State Transport Corporations have purchased 9923 new buses. During this period, 1474 new bus routes have been introduced.

The bus fares in Tamil Nadu are lower than those prevailing in other states in India.

In order to provide transport facilities to the villages, the Mini-bus Scheme has been introduced in 1997-98. Currently, 3030 mini-buses are in operation. **This number will increase further.**

Electricity

New power projects with an installed capacity of 547 MW will be commissioned

within the next six months. As a result, Tamil Nadu will attain self sufficiency in power and power cuts will be avoided. **This will ensure uninterrupted power supply for agriculture for 6 hours during the day and 8 hours during the night.**

A new scheme "Power connection in a day" has been introduced for the benefit of consumers in Tamil Nadu with effect from 1.4.2000. Two and a half lakh power connections have been given so far.

Industrial Development

Encouraged by the overwhelming response received by the software park (TIDEL park) established at Taramani at a cost of Rs.338 crores built to international standards over an area of 12 lakh sq.ft., **steps are being taken to set up a second software park with a built up area of 20 lakh sq.ft.**

A hi-tech industrial park of international standard will be set up by TIDCO at Nanguneri in association with American entrepreneurs. The foundation for this scheme will be laid in a few days time. In order to encourage exports from this Region, the Commerce Ministry of the Central Government has declared this area as a Special Economic Zone.

The Trade Centre established at Nandambakkam in Chennai jointly by the India Trade Promotion Organisation and TIDCO is to be inaugurated day after tomorrow. **The India International Leather Trade Fair 2001 will be the first exhibition to be held here.**

Keeping in view the growth of industry and commerce in Tamil Nadu, we have been urging the Central Government to establish a new International Airport at Chennai. It is expected that the Central Government will approve this proposal soon.

Information Technology

Tamil Nadu is in the forefront in the field of Information Technology. The Old Mamallapuram Road between Taramani in Chennai and Thiruporur in Kancheepuram district is fast developing as an Information Technology Highway. Steps have been taken to provide infrastructure facilities such as electricity, roads, transport and water supply to the companies in this area.

Biotechnology

In order to implement the Biotechnology policy announced by this Government, the State Biotechnology Board has been set up under the chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan. Further, a new fund called the "Emerging Technologies Fund" has been created to extend financial assistance to biotechnology industries in the State.

Education

The total allocation for education has increased from Rs.4949 crores in the current financial year to Rs.5472 crores in the next financial year.

This Government has opened 1039 primary schools in these four and half years. It has upgraded 512 primary schools into middle schools, 380 middle schools into high schools and 283 high schools into higher secondary schools. Laboratory buildings have been constructed in 662 schools at a cost of Rs.39.1 crores. Laboratory equipments have been supplied to 1544 schools at a cost of Rs.7 crores.

To provide opportunities for students who wish to join agricultural colleges, agriculture has been introduced as one of the subjects in 100 schools. Appropriate action will be taken to implement the scheme effectively.

Dr. MGR Nutritious Meal Scheme continues to be implemented for the benefit of school children. A sum of Rs.580 crores has been provided for nutrition schemes in the next financial year.

Youth Welfare

Pursuant to the announcement in last year's Budget that sports centres would be set up in rural and urban areas to provide facilities for sports, physical training and recreation for the younger generation, 7000 such centres have been set up. **This scheme will be extended to all areas.**

The committee constituted under the chairmanship of Thiru Venkitaramanan, Member, State Planning Commission, to explore the possibility of setting up a financial institution for self-employment of youth has submitted its report. **Accepting its recommendations, the Government has decided to set up a "Tamil Nadu Centre for Self-Employment Promotion" in order to co-ordinate the self-employment schemes run by various departments and financial institutions in the State and implement them effectively.**

Tamil Language and Culture

Hon'ble Members are aware that the Tamil Sangapalagai Kural Peedam has been established and the first Kural Peedam Award has been given to the noted Tamil scholar Prof. A.S. Gnanasambandam. Translations of 16 books and short stories in five languages - English, Hindi, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam - have been published through this Sangapalagai.

The books of the linguist-poet Ka. Appadurai have been nationalised, and a royalty of Rs.10 lakhs has been paid to his family.



An old edition of the "Tirukkural Madhura Keerthanai" written by Mayiladuthurai Viswanatha Shastri was given to me by the eminent musician Semmangudi with a request that the Government should take steps to publish it afresh. Accepting this request, the first volume of the book was published by this Government last month. The request to publish the other two volumes of "Tirukkural Madhura Keerthanai" and to grant Rs.5 lakhs to popularise Shastriyar's musical works among the public has also been accepted by the Government.

This Government considers that honouring and keeping alive the memories of Tamil scholars, patriots and martyrs has been one of its most satisfying duties. Accordingly, since 1996, this Government has erected the towering statue of Ayyan Tiruvalluvar and constructed memorials such as Annal Ambedkar Manimandapam, Thyagigal Manimandapam, Jeeva Manimandapam, Thyagi Viswanatha Dass Memorial House, Maaviran Pulithevan Memorial, Pattukottai Kalyanasundaram Memorial, Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Manimandapam, Periyavar Bhakthavatsalam Manimandapam, Udumalai Narayana Kavi Manimandapam, Marudu Pandiyar Memorial, Mozhipor Thyagigal Manimandapam, Thyagasheelar Kakkan Manimandapam and Thavathiru Kundrakudi Adigalar Ninaivu Mandapam and established Theeran Sundaralingam Nagar. Further, I am happy to announce that a Manimandapam for the revered and respected Quaid-e-Millath at Chennai and Veeran Azhagamuthukone Manimandapam at Kattarankulam in Toothukudi district will be constructed.

It has been decided to compile and publish the ancient history of Tamil Nadu in

eight volumes. Five volumes have already been published. One volume is in print and two more volumes are to be published.

Health and Family Welfare

The allocation for Health and Family Welfare department which was Rs.689 crores in the year 1995-96 has been increased in a phased manner to Rs.1311 crores in the next financial year.

As a result of the vigorous steps taken by this Government to completely eradicate Polio from this State, the Pulse Polio Programme has been successfully implemented, so as to ensure that the disease does not rear its ugly head again.

In order to protect the physical well being of school going children, the Vazhvoli Thittam is being implemented in all Government and aided schools. Under this scheme, physical examination of 60 lakh children has been carried out so far, of whom 34 lakh children have been given necessary treatment. Spectacles have also been provided free of cost to students with defective vision.

Vazhndhu Kaattuvom

I am happy to announce that the 58,391 self help groups formed under the Mahalir Thittam, started by this Government in 1989-90 with the objective of socio-economic empowerment of women through self employment and training, have not only saved more than Rs.64 crores so far, but have also received loan assistance of Rs. 131.12 crores from the banks.

In Vellore and Tiruvannamalai districts, a scheme of providing loan assistance for purchase of gas stove and cylinder is being implemented through the co-operative banks. **Considering the extremely good response,**

co-operative banks in other districts have also been requested to implement this scheme.

Adi-Dravidar and Tribal Welfare

The allotment of Rs. 194 crores for Adi-dravidar and Tribal Welfare in the year 1995-96 has been increased to Rs.626 crores in the current financial year.

Since 1996-97, 85 Adi-dravidar Welfare High/Higher Secondary schools have been provided with computers. Job oriented training in computer and typewriting skills, plastic and fashion technology is being given to the Adi-dravidar youth.

In order to encourage the education of girls, an incentive of Rs.500 per student per annum is being given to 60,000 Adi-dravidar/Scheduled Tribe girl students continuing their studies from 3rd to 5th standard and an incentive of Rs.1000 per annum is being given to 30,000 Adi-dravidar/Scheduled Tribe girl students studying in 6th standard. A sum of Rs.6 crores will be incurred under this scheme in the current financial year.

In the past four and a half years under the scheme of free distribution of house-site pattas for Adi-dravidars/Scheduled Tribes, 3.07 lakh house-site pattas have been distributed at a cost of Rs.65.73 crores.

As announced in the Budget last year, a separate Directorate for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes has been formed and is now functioning.

Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare

The allocation of Rs.47 crores made for the welfare of Backward Classes, Most

Backward Classes and Denotified Communities in the year 1995-96 has been increased to Rs.175 crores in the current financial year.

First generation students belonging to the Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and Denotified Communities are being given free education in diploma courses in polytechnics from the year 1998.

Steps have been taken to construct 21 hostel buildings for students belonging to the Backward Classes; Most Backward Classes and Denotified Communities at a cost of Rs.8.27 crores to be shared equally between the Central and State Governments.

From the year 1999-2000, assistance of Rs.6 crores is being given to girl students belonging to the Most Backward Classes and Denotified Communities at the rate of Rs.500 per annum to 60,000 girls studying from third to fifth standards and at the rate of Rs.1000 per annum to 30,000 girls studying in 6th standard.

The Urdu Academy constituted recently by this Government with 21 members and the Hon'ble Education Minister as Chairman and Dr. Syed Safiullah as Deputy Chairman, has commenced functioning. It has held three meetings so far and drawn up a future plan of action which includes the conduct of Kavi Sammelans and seminars.

This Government, which is committed to promoting communal harmony has decided to institute an award in the name of Coimbatore Kottai Amir who worked for religious harmony and lost his life at the hands of religious fundamentalists. The award was presented for the first time on the occasion of the Republic Day this year to

Nagapattinam at a cost of Rs.60.54 crores, in the last four and a half years is a historic achievement of this Government.

Welfare of Government Employees, Teachers and Pensioners

This Government has always been keen to protect the welfare of Government employees. Accordingly, suitable action has been taken on the decisions announced during the conference of the Tamil Nadu Government Officials' Union. In the current year, the Pongal bonus for the C & D categories of Government employees has been raised to one month's pay subject to a maximum of Rs.2500.

Accepting the demand of Government employees, this Government has introduced a new retirement benefit scheme called the Tamil Nadu Government Employees Special Provident Fund and Gratuity Scheme, 2000.

Annual Plan

The Government of Tamil Nadu has consistently achieved the approved plan outlay every year. In the current year also, the plan outlay of Rs.5700 crores will be fully achieved. The year 2001-2002 is the terminal year of the Ninth Five Year Plan. The plan outlay for that year will be finalised after the general elections in consultation with the Union Planning Commission.

Financial Position

When the current year's budget was presented to this House in March 2000, the estimate of revenue receipts was Rs. 18,406 crores and that of revenue expenditure was Rs.21,565 crores. In the Revised Estimates for 2000-2001, the revenue receipts will be Rs.18,396 crores and the revenue

expenditure will increase to Rs.22,318 crores.

In the Interim Budget estimates for the year 2001-2002, the revenue receipts are expected to be Rs.20,635 crores and revenue expenditure is expected to be Rs.24,294 crores.

In 1999-2000, the deficit in the revenue account was Rs.4400 crores. In the Revised Estimates for 2000-2001, this has come down to Rs.3922 crores. This deficit will be Rs.3659 crores in the Interim Budget for the year 2001-2002.

In the current financial year, the overall deficit in the Revised Estimates is likely to be Rs.431 crores. This is less than the overall deficit of Rs.668 crores projected in the Budget Estimates of the current year. The overall deficit in the Interim Budget for the year 2001-2002 has been estimated at Rs.996 crores. This level of deficit would not have arisen had the Eleventh Finance Commission been fair to us. Hence, as one of the measures for raising resources, we will continue to urge the Central Government to increase the incentive grant to the State Government.

I have prepared this Budget keeping in view the limitations of an Interim Budget and presented it here. I make an appeal to you, as a friend to offer your constructive suggestions to further develop and encourage and add strength and lustre to the spirit of goodwill which has prevailed in this House, notwithstanding our differences in policy and perception.

I thank the Finance Secretary, Thiru. R. Santhanam, I.A.S. and Government officials who have fully co-operated with me in preparing this Budget.

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Tamil Arasu

Regd. No. M. 8676A

Licence No. G/TN/CPMG/254/WPP-129

