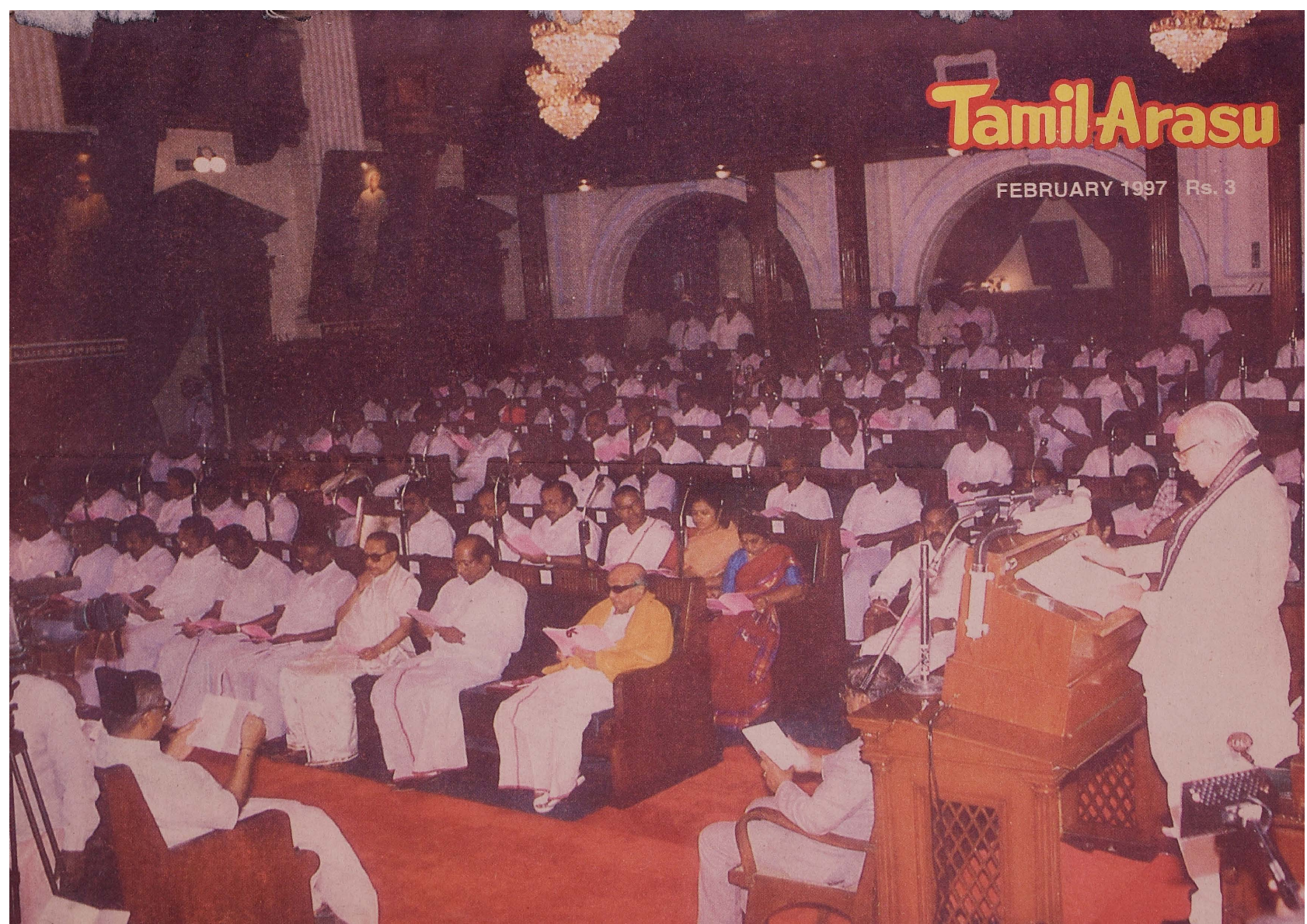


Tamil Arasu

FEBRUARY 1997 Rs. 3





Tamil Arasu

Magazine of the Government of Tamil Nadu

FEBRUARY - 1997

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GOVERNOR LAUDS TAMILNADU'S REPUTATION AS A PROACTIVE, TRANSPARENT, INDUSTRY FRIENDLY STATE

*His Excellency Thiru Krishan Kant's address to the
Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 22.1. '97*

- ★ THE PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM TO BE RESTRUCTURED
- ★ ALL AVAILABLE COURSES OF ACTION PURSUED TO SECURE WATER FOR THE CAUVERY DELTA.
- ★ A MASSIVE FORESTRY PROJECT IN THE OFFING
- ★ WATERWAYS IN CHENNAI TO BE CLEANED UP

- ★ ALL HABITATIONS WILL BE PROVIDED ADEQUATE POTABLE WATER SUPPLY.
- ★ GOVERNMENT COMMITTED TO ACHIEVE "HEALTH FOR ALL" BY 2000 A.D.
- ★ STANDARDISATION AND IMPROVEMENTS TO IRRIGATION TANKS BEING TAKEN UP.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Assembly,

I greet you on the commencement of the second session of the Eleventh Assembly, being held in the Golden Jubilee year of our Nation's Independence. Momentous changes have been brought about in the system of governance of our State in the last eight months through a decentralised democratic set up and simultaneous elections to all the local bodies in the State.

2. On this occasion we recall with sorrow the absence of Dr. M. Channa Reddy who addressed the Assembly last year. Dr. M. Channa Reddy had a distinguished record of public service, twice as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, as a Minister in the Central Cabinet of Tmt. Indira Gandhi and as the Governor of Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan before he took over as Governor of Tamil Nadu. A man of simplicity, patience and great ability and varied experience in public life, his demise has been a great loss not only to Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh but also for the whole country. I join you in paying tribute to this illustrious son of India and in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

3. Tamil Nadu had to face calamitous floods in the northern coastal districts of the State due to the unprecedented heavy rainfall during the first half of December 1996 resulting in the loss of 151 human lives and 3,738 heads of cattle. 58,313 huts were damaged totally while 6,29,987 huts were damaged partially. Crops were destroyed over an extent of 3,08,112 hectares

totally and damaged over an extent of 2,20,903 hectares partly. Further, horticulture crops were totally damaged over an extent of 15,437 hectares and partly damaged over an extent of 6,626 hectares. A very large number of roads have been severely damaged and irrigation tanks and canals breached. Under the personal supervision of the Chief Minister, the administration swung into action and provided rescue, relief and restoration measures to all those affected. Most of the immediate relief measures had been completed within 12 days of the havoc caused by the rains.

4. The total damage to crops and property during this flood is estimated to be over Rs 1,000 crores. This Government has already sanctioned an amount of Rs. 195 crores for immediate calamity relief operations. In addition, road works have been ordered to be taken up at a cost of over Rs. 150 crores. To help the tenant farmers of the flood affected areas, Government has decided to postpone payment of the current and arrear demand of lease rent as on 30.6.1997 by two years and to protect them from eviction from their lands for default in payment. Government has also taken a decision to convert short term co-operative loans into medium term loans and medium term loans into long term loans in these flood affected areas. The State Government has sought financial assistance from the Central Government to meet the calamity of such large magnitude. The Union Minister for Agriculture visited the State immediately after the flood and deputed a central team

of officers to tour the affected areas for an assessment of the damage and loss. It is expected that the Central Government would sanction substantial financial assistance. The yeoman service rendered by the general public in the flood relief measures cutting across party lines, and their liberal donation of Rs. 14.42 crores so far to the Flood Relief fund, pursuant to the appeal by the Chief Minister are praise worthy.

5. In fulfilment of its commitment to rejuvenate grass root democracy in the State, this Government has successfully conducted the long delayed elections to all the levels of local bodies in the State simultaneously. It is a matter of great satisfaction that these elections were conducted smoothly and in a free and fair manner. On the assumption of charge by the elected representatives of these local bodies, Government took the initiative of organising a State Level Conference of the Chairmen of local bodies to ascertain their views on providing an efficient and responsive local self-government and the measures required therefor.

6. This Government is committed to devolving additional powers and responsibilities to the local bodies and commensurate resources for fulfilling these responsibilities. The State Planning Commission has been requested to study the legal, administrative and financial aspects of the transfer of further responsibilities to the local bodies and its recommendations have since been received. The Government will take early decisions

on these recommendations and announce them during the Budget session of the Assembly.

7. The State Finance Commission set up in 1994 under the provisions of the Constitution has submitted its report recently covering various aspects relating to devolution of resources from the State Government to the local bodies, measures for improving their self-generated resources, measures for improving the quality of services provided to the citizens by the local bodies etc. The recommendations are being examined and the decisions of this Government on these recommendations will be taken soon and suitable financial provisions incorporated in the Budget to be presented next month. The requisite legislative measures for giving effect to the decisions regarding enhanced powers and responsibilities and resources to the local bodies will be enacted during the Budget Session. This Government proposes to bring a new common Act governing all the urban local bodies in the State replacing the existing Acts.

8. This Government has also kept up its word and conducted elections in respect of the Primary Cooperative Societies which had been postponed for the past five years. Elections in over 14,000 Primary Cooperative Societies have been completed. Elections to the milk co-operatives will be conducted before 31st March this year. In the case of remaining Primary Societies elections had been stayed by the Courts and

will be conducted as per the directions given by the Courts.

9. With a view to promoting administrative efficiency, enabling effective supervision over the field level functionaries and to make the administration accessible to the people, this Government has decided to create smaller district units. On this basis, four new districts have been formed, namely, Tiruvarur A.T. Pannirselvam District with headquarters at Tiruvarur, Vaigai Veeran Azhagamuthu District with headquarters at Theni, Rajaji District with headquarters at Namakkal and M.G.R. District with headquarters at Tiruvallur. These districts have become operational from First January 1997. Besides, it is befitting that the district with **Kancheepuram** as Headquarters has been named after Arignar Anna and the district with Dindigul as Headquarters has been named after Mannar Thirumalai.

10. People of this State had given a special mandate to this Government in unequivocal terms to provide transparent and corruption-free governance. Conscious of this historic responsibility, as already announced, this Government has appointed a high level committee headed by Justice Ramanujam to recommend necessary measures for simplification of Government procedures and for prevention of corruption in Government. On receipt of its recommendations Government will examine them and will initiate necessary administrative reforms. Government is also

contemplating the introduction of legislative and administrative measures to impart transparency in tenders and purchase procedures. While looking into various measures for the elimination of corruption in the transactions of Government business, this Government has also assiduously investigated all allegations of corruption and has taken effective steps to prosecute the cases in Courts of Law.

11. Realising that peace and tranquility are the *sine qua non* for economic progress, this Government attaches the highest priority to maintenance of law and order in the State. Due to the sustained efforts of the Government, communal amity has been restored by and large. The police force is in the process of being transformed into a professional force, responsive to the concerns of the citizens. Orders have already been issued for setting up a State Human Rights Commission to enquire into citizens' complaints of human rights violations.

12. We have now taken up the preparation of the Ninth Five Year Plan. This Government has reconstituted the State Planning Commission with persons of eminence and vast experience as members. With the elected local bodies in position at all levels in the State, the preparation of the Ninth Five Year Plan will be on a decentralised basis taking into account the priorities and preferences of the people. Major thrust areas during the Ninth Five Year Plan will be, provision of basic minimum

services to all citizens, creation of employment opportunities, alleviation of poverty, rapid industrialisation of the State and the development of infrastructure.

13. Realising the importance of economic reforms for the accelerated development of the State and reduction of poverty, this Government will continue its initiatives in the area of tax reforms. In the last Budget, far reaching reforms were introduced in the commercial taxes structure. This will be continued. This year the Government proposes to introduce reforms in the areas of stamp duty and registration. The main objective of such a reform will be to simplify the rates and the structure of duties and to improve service to people.

14. Public Sector Undertakings constitute an important segment of the State's economy. In realisation of this, this Government will take measures to improve their performance through company specific studies and analyses and measures for managerial improvement and financial and organisational restructuring. A committee of eminent professionals has been appointed to recommend suitable measures in this regard.

15. Realising the need for large investments in infrastructure like roads, power, water supply and sanitation, ports, etc., it has been proposed to create an enabling environment in which private sector can participate along with the public sector in investing and

operating infrastructure. The State Maritime Board will take steps to secure private sector participation in the development of intermediate and minor ports in the State. In the power sector also, large generation capacities are proposed to be set up in the private sector with the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board purchasing and distributing the power produced by the independent power producers. Similar initiatives are being contemplated in other infrastructural areas. A new financial intermediary, Tamil Nadu Urban Infrastructure Financial Services Limited, has been set up in association with all India financial institutions to mobilise resources for investment in municipal infrastructure.

16. This Government realises that the key to the development of the poorer segments of society is the development and empowerment of women. It has been decided that a massive women's development programme would be launched in all the districts of the State, to help women form themselves into self-supporting, cohesive and dynamic groups to improve their income generating capacity and consequently the quality of their lives and their families.

17. Education is an area of priority for this Government. The challenge of achieving the goal of free and universal primary education for all by the end of this millennium has been taken up and a programme will be launched to enrol and retain all children of school going age in schools. The thrust will also be on improvement

of basic facilities in schools like buildings, teaching materials, etc., and in improving the quality of education imparted to the children. The World Bank supported District Primary Education Programme has been extended to three more districts during the year, extending the coverage to seven districts in all in the State. With a view to ensuring greater attention to the development of school education in the State the Education Department in the Secretariat has been bifurcated into the Department of School Education and the Department of Higher Education.

18. The floods of this year following the drought of last year have adversely affected the agricultural output, particularly of food grains, in the State. With a view to developing agriculture on a sustainable basis in the State, major investments are being made in improving irrigation systems. Under the Tamil Nadu Water Resources Consolidation Project, improvements to existing systems of medium and large irrigation are being taken up at a cost of Rs 807 crores. The standardisation and improvements to the large number of irrigation tanks in the State will be taken up in a phased manner with assistance from bilateral / multilateral agencies. A crash programme is also proposed to be taken up to clear supply channels to irrigation sources.

19. With a view to providing impetus to high technology agriculture based industries, this Government has decided to participate in the capital of a high-tech

agricultural finance company being set up by NABARD for encouraging commercial floriculture, horticulture and post harvest processing.

20. With a view to ensuring universal primary health care and improved medical facilities in rural areas, we have sanctioned equipment and other resources for the Primary Health Centres and Taluk level hospitals. As already announced, construction of buildings for 300 primary health centres at a cost of Rs 18 crores has already been taken up and construction of buildings for another 300 Primary Health Centres will be taken up during 1997-98. In order to make available quality medical care round the clock to the rural population, it has been ordered that all Block level Primary Health Centres will function 24 hours a day. A massive programme for immunisation against Polio has been successfully implemented in the State. This Government is committed to achieving the goal of 'Health for all' by 2000 AD.

21. Thanks to the sustained efforts of this Government, Krishna Water finally reached the water starved city of Chennai in September 1996. As a result of this historic achievement, daily water supply to Chennai city has been stepped up to an all time high of 440 million litres. With all reservoirs being full, Government is hopeful of maintaining the present level of supply in the coming summer months. Government has decided to delegate powers to Municipalities in the State to execute water supply schemes of value upto Rs 50 lakhs on their

own. During the next three years, all habitations in the State will be provided with adequate potable water supply.

22. This Government has vowed to restore the pride of place to Tamil Nadu in the industrial map of India. Within a very short period of taking office, this Government has established a reputation as a proactive, transparent, industry friendly State. Major investments by well known international companies like Hyundai for automobiles, and Pilkington and St. Gobain for float glass and automobile glass bear testimony to this. With a view to providing head start to new industries, this Government has already taken steps to acquire large tracts of lands for locating industrial complexes. Considering its large potential for ancillarisation and employment generation, this Government has decided to treat Automobile Industry as a thrust industry and a special package of incentives will be offered to this industry in the State. With these measures, a favourable environment has been created in which Chennai area will become the "Detroit" of India.

23. This Government has constituted a High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister for regular interaction with industrialists and for getting their suggestion for the rapid industrialisation of the State. The State Government will bring a legislation in the current session of the Assembly on single window clearance for industries in designated Industrial Areas where empowered Industrial Area Development Authorities will be constituted.

24. Recognising the importance of power for rapid industrial development of the State, Government has actively pursued a policy of private sector participation in power generation. Though there had been some attempts in this area in the past, the progress had not been satisfactory. This Government took sustained efforts and has successfully signed Power Purchase Agreements in four cases. TIDCO has received highly encouraging response for short gestation liquid fuel based projects in 20 locations. This Government will take quick decisions on the 73 valid bids received.

25. The Government has decided to take up a project for cleaning up the waterways in Chennai in order to reduce waterlogging in low lying areas in the city and to improve the environmental quality. In the first phase, the Government has decided to take up the abatement of pollution in the Coovum river and the Buckingham Canal and for the speedy implementation of the scheme, the Government has constituted a High Level Committee.

26. With a view to improving the green cover of the State, Government has successfully negotiated a loan of Rs.424 crores with Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), Japan to implement a massive State Forestry Project spread over 5 years. This Government has been able to curb the sandalwood smuggling effectively and realise an all time high revenue of Rs.47 crores in sandalwood auctions so far.

27. This Government has been taking continued initiatives for a lasting solution to the Cauvery River water dispute. At the instance of the Supreme Court of India, as an interim arrangement for the release of water from Karnataka for the current year crops, the Chief Ministers of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu held five rounds of discussions. Since the final round of talks on 5th January 1997 did not succeed, this Government has decided to pursue the matter in the Cauvery Tribunal. The proceedings of the Cauvery Tribunal had come to a standstill due to the resignation of the then Chairman from 1st July 1996. Due to the intervention by our Chief Minister with the Prime Minister, the Government of India has since appointed Justice Thiru N.P.Singh, sitting Judge of the Supreme Court as the Chairman of the Cauvery Tribunal. This Government will continue to pursue all available courses of action to secure the required quantum of water for the Cauvery Delta from Karnataka.

28. The offtake of rice in the Public Distribution System has gone up to 2.25 lakh tonnes per month. The Government of India has announced a new scheme of supply of rice from the Central Pool at subsidised rates only for families below the poverty line. Apprehending a considerable reduction in the monthly allotment of rice to our State from the Central Pool, our Chief Minister has pressed the Government of India to continue the monthly allotment of rice at the usual level. The Government has taken efforts to keep adequate stocks with it to manage the situation. Introduction of monopoly

procurement in the Cauvery Delta is one step in that direction. With a view to ensuring that the farmers in the delta area are not put to hardship because of this restriction, the Government has increased the production incentive to Rs.50 per quintal and reduced the grade cut from Rs.15 to Rs.5 per quintal.

29. In order to ensure that the benefits of the Public Distribution System reach the poor and downtrodden in an effective manner, the Government is considering a proposal to restructure the Public Distribution System. People below poverty line will be given red colour family cards and they will be supplied all articles under the Public Distribution System. The affluent sections of the society which generally do not make use of the Public Distribution System will be issued green cards and all articles under Public Distribution System except rice will be supplied to them. There is a third category of people who may want additional quantity of either sugar or kerosene in lieu of rice. With a view to fulfilling the requirement of this category, they will be issued yellow cards and will be given an additional quantity, based on their option, of either 3 kgs. of sugar or 5 litres of kerosene in lieu of rice. The distribution of new cards is likely to commence in April 1997 in the Municipal Corporations and will be completed before the next Independence Day all over the State.

30. With a view to preventing leakages in the Public Distribution System and to improve its

performance, a Committee has been constituted comprising legislators, officials and a representative of consumer organisations to study the implementation of Public Distribution System in certain other States and make suitable recommendations to improve our system. The Committee has given its report to the Chief Minister on 9th January 1997.

31. Consistent efforts have been taken to provide a major thrust to the welfare of the Adi-Dravidars and Tribals in the field of education, economic upliftment and provision of basic amenities. Substantial increases in the allocation for these sections have been made by this Government. In addition to achieving the various targets fixed for these programmes, this Government will take steps to improve the quality of these programmes and will also ensure that the benefits reach the deserving.

32. The Government is committed to the welfare of fishermen in the State. As announced during the last Governor's address, the massive housing scheme of constructing 4000 houses for the fishermen every year will be continued this year also. Effort will also be made to provide infrastructural facilities to these habitations. To assist the fishermen who get stranded in midseas during cyclones etc., it is proposed to provide Walkie Talkie sets to 1500 Mechanised Fishing vessels at 25% subsidy. This Government is seriously concerned about the repeated attacks by the Sri Lankan Navy on our innocent fishermen who venture into the sea for their livelihood. The recent incidents of violence have been taken up with the

Government of India. When the Kachatheevu agreement was reached in the year 1974, it contained a clause to protect the fishing rights near Kachatheevu of Tamil Nadu fishermen and the rights of pilgrimage to Kachatheevu from Tamil Nadu. But, it is not known why this clause was not enforced after the DMK government was removed in 1976. This Government will continue to press the Government of India to enforce this clause again to solve the problem. The Central Government has assured that it would endeavour to find an appropriate solution to the problems faced by our fishermen. This problem was discussed by the Chief Minister with the Union Minister for External Affairs on the 17th of this month at New Delhi in a meeting in which the officers of the Central and State Governments participated.

33. This Government is conscious of the important role played by the Government employees in implementing the programmes of the Government and in ensuring that the benefits reach the target groups. This Government reiterates its commitment that the new pay scales fixed for Central Government employees arising out of the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission will be extended to the State Government employees without any undue time lag.

34. I conclude this address with the confidence that the deliberations in this House will bring to bear on issues your experience and your interaction with the citizens resulting in enlightened decisions which will benefit the citizens of the State and will promote their rapid economic and social development.

VANAKKAM



ALLOCATION FOR BASIC MINIMUM SERVICES SHOULD BE ON THE INCIDENCES OF POVERTY

Hon'ble Chief Minister K. Karunanidhi at the
National Development Council at New Delhi on 16.1.97

Let me at the outset extend my warm greetings to all assembled here to discuss the "Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan". The commitment to ensure basic minimum needs to the people as a central concern of the Ninth Five Year Plan is entirely welcome. I am in agreement with the objectives of the Ninth Plan and its identification of Agriculture and Rural Development, Basic Minimum Services, Social Sectors and infrastructure as the thrust areas.

I commend the accelerated growth scenario presented in the approach to the Ninth Plan which is based on an average annual growth rate of 7 per cent. Though this places a heavy burden on mobilisation of resources, a even higher growth rate should be aimed at to sustain our efforts for the eradication of poverty and for making a dent on unemployment and under employment. The country must be willing to make all necessary sacrifices to achieve the goal of removing poverty in as short a period as possible.

There should be no objection to the involvement of the States in the financial sectors in order to raise non-budgetary resources for financing infrastructure and other capital programmes. I had already raised the issue of States also participating in banking and insurance sectors. This is fully justified in the context of the discussion of private sector participation in these areas.

It is a matter of regret that the States share in the actual public sector plan expenditure in the Eighth Plan has not been at the level originally determined. With greater emphasis in the Ninth Five Year Plan on rural development and social sectors, in which the States have a dominant role to play, it is necessary that the States' share is significantly stepped up. This would call for the transfer of adequate resources by the Centre to the States. I may point out that it is the emphasis on growth with equity through human development the wide provision of social services and land reform that has been at the root of the suc-

cessful performance of the East Asian countries.

The accent on the creation and utilisation of irrigation potential is important as stressed in the approach paper. However I would voice a strong note of caution in the matter of the Government of India funding of projects on inter-state rivers, particularly when they are subject matters of dispute. No project should be funded or permitted to be taken up in an upper riparian State which would be to the detriment of on going irrigation in a lower riparian State without the consent of the concerned lower riparian States. Otherwise it will create tensions between States.

At inadequate income levels, State's interventions for providing basic minimum services becomes essential. I would therefore strongly urge that the allocation for providing basic minimum services should take note of the incidence of poverty rather than the per capital income or gaps in the levels of these services.

The approach paper rightly focuses on the pressing need to reduce unemployment. In order to generate large employment opportunities in the rural areas it is essential that programmes under IRDP and TRYSEM receive greater thrust. The strategic shift towards group oriented approaches and skill upgradation is welcome. In this connection I commend for support the programme initiated by Tamil Nadu to open industrial training institutes in every block of the States, to provide necessary training in skills suitable for current industrial requirements. This must also be backed up by mechanisms for absorbing skills generated in the rural sector.

I welcome the approach to involve the Panchayat Raj Institutions in the formulation of the plan. In the provision of basic minimum services, these institutions have a significant role to play. In Tamil Nadu steps have been taken within a short span of time to activate these institutions by conducting elections to all three tiers. Action has also been initiated to empower these institutions in sectors in which they have a crucial role to play.

Higher levels of growth contemplated in the Approach Paper cannot be achieved without increasing investment in infrastructure development. The Approach Paper has brought out the shortfall in the creation of installed capacity in the Power sector during the Eighth Plan period. Though the much desired private participation has been on the cards for sometime, it has not materialised to meet the targets.

In such a scenario, States cannot merely wait for the creation of the potential in the private sector and would themselves have to create adequate capacity. In this context I would urge the States be permitted to raise tax Free bonds just as has been done for the Central public sector undertakings. Ways to channelise low interest long term bonds are essential in order to keep the cost of these services within the affordable reach of the common man.

I have on many occasions and in many fora repeatedly drawn attention to the fact of declining central investment in Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu's share in the central investment in the country has steadily declined from 8% in the 70s to 5% at present. This decline has greatly hampered the progress of this State and it must be rectified in the Ninth Plan.

I welcome the initiative to introduce a chapter on federalism in the Approach paper for the first time in the history of planning. I am happy that the document reflects this approach and accords due recognition to the role of the States in nation building. The approach to give to the States greater flexibility and the responsibility of managing the implementation of centrally sponsored programmes is a desirable change. It should however be ensured that in transferring resources to the States for these programmes the methodology of working out their entitlements is determined in a transparent manner, in full consultation with the States.

While welcoming the approach to give greater responsibilities to the States in determining the size of the Plan, I would like to sound a note of caution that it should not result in an abdication of the role of the Union Planning Commission. The Union Planning Commission has an important role to play in securing adequate Central assistance required to meet the needbased plans of the States. This factor should not be lost sight of in any revised scheme.

In our efforts to set the Nation on a path of accelerated growth, the Centre and the States have complementary roles to play. Many of programmes of the States have to be supported by the Centre with investments in related sectors. Investment by the State to power sector requires the complimentary intervention of the Centre in development of coal fields, establishments of fuel linkages and development of ports. In this context we have been talking up the urgent need to develop Ennore and Tuticorin Ports. We have also stressed the need to improve the inter-state road connecting Tuticorin and Mangalore ports, through Chennai and Bangalore to benefit the industries located in the hinterland. I have also highlighted the need for implementing the Mass Rapid Transit System II for Chennai in order to take care of the increasing passenger needs in the outlying areas. I urge adequate funding for these programmes in the Ninth Five Year Plan.

I would like to raise the issue of the allocation of Central assis-

tance to major States for which no satisfactory solution has been found. In spite of the importance accorded to per capita income of the States below the National average the persistence of low levels of income in these States as brought out in the document itself, raises the question of the adequacy of the formula. The disadvantage placed on better performing States is yet another irritant in this approach while the document lays stress on growth with equity and reduction of unemployment, the allocation of assistance ignores two indicators viz. people below poverty line and unemployment rate which are critical factors to assess the success of the Plan. A reappraisal of this formula giving due weightage to these factors before the finalisation of the Plan is the most pressing need of the States.

Yet another issue on Central assistance is the proportion of grant and loan components. In the earlier Plan, the capital content used to be higher warranting the fixation of the loan component at 70 percent. However, over the years, the revenue component in the Plans has increased. With the opening up of the infrastructure sectors to private sector for investment the revenue component will increase further. There is justification for increasing the grant component of Central assistance to 50 percent, which I commend for adoption in the Ninth Plan.

Although it is a matter concerned with nonplan expenditure, I would like to draw the

“
Tamil Nadu is one of the few States which have kept their commitment to raise their own resources to the level assessed at the beginning of the Eighth Five Year Plan.
”

specific attention of the NDC to the relief measures that have to be undertaken in the case of damages caused by flood and cyclone. While many of the activities in the plan can ameliorate the sufferings of the people during droughts and generally with the onset of the monsoon the gravity of the problem abates, in respect of flood relief large investments required to set right the damages has to be borne immediately. This places a severe strain on the resources for the Plan. A suitable financing pattern for this has to be evolved to enlarge the Calamities Relief Fund which provides only for minimum relief.

Tamil Nadu is one of the few States which have kept their commitment to raise their own resources to the level assessed at the beginning of the Eighth Five Year Plan. Per capital tax raised by this State as a proportion of its per capital income is one of the highest in the country. While the States has been exploiting every possible source for revenue, it is a matter for regret that in items like levy of consignment tax and implementation of the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission in

expanding the divisible pool and enhancing the share of the States, there has been poor response from the Centre. On the issue of consignment taxes, there has been a series of discussions held with the States by the Centre ideas, the levy of this tax which intended to plug. The present juncture is the most appropriate time to take a decision in this matter so that additional resources envisaged for the accelerated growth scenario are realised.

The recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission to bring within the divisible pool all Central taxes and to enhance the State's share would go on long way to augment the resources of the States in order to fulfil the States' share of the public sector plan. A early decision on this issue has to be taken before the formulation of the Ninth Plan.

We are deliberating on the Ninth Five Year Plan which will take us to the twenty first century. It is the ambition of everyone of us that India should emerge as a major economic power in the next few decades. Let our deliberations have the way for launching the nation on the track for achieving this objective.

SCIENCE UP-DATE

TALLER PEOPLE ARE SAFE

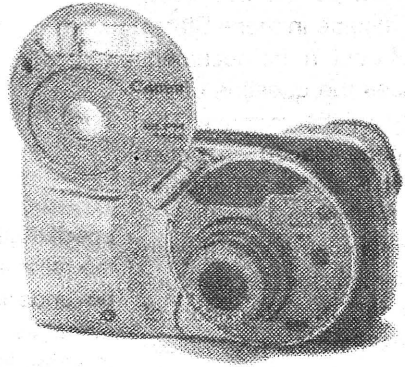
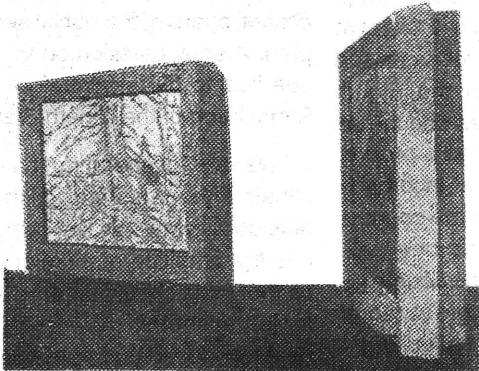
Stature may protect against STROKE. Research in Norway shows that for every 5-cm increment in height, there may be a 25% lower incidence of stroke in women and an 18% lower risk in men. The reason, researchers suggest, is that taller people tend to have slower heart rates and larger arteries.

DEPRESSION IS DANGEROUS

More depressing news about Depression: those who have had one or more episodes appear to have three times the normal risk of heart attack. That means the illness could rival hypertension or high cholesterol as a threat to the heart.

SLIM COMPUTER MONITORS

Once merely the stuff of a decorator's dreams, thin computer monitors to hang on the wall or adorn the desk are fast becoming a (costly) reality. Hitachi's high-resolution plasma-thin ovation is a skinny 7.6 cm deep, but it provides a 63.5 cm picture and can be hung as simply as a painting.

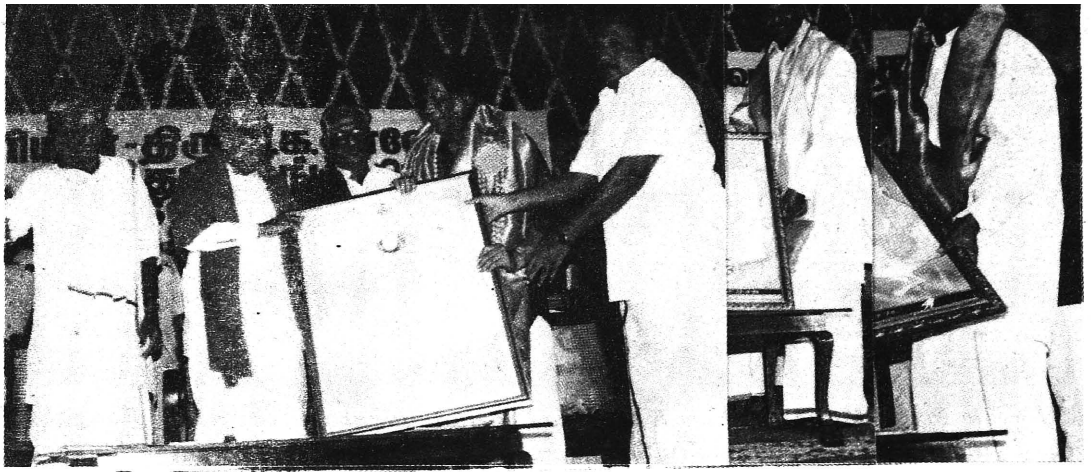


SWING OPEN CAMERA LENS

Yes, this tiny aluminum point and-shoot boasts a fool-proof loading mechanism and powerful zoom lens, but what makes it truly revolutionary? Efficient design that features a swing-open lens cover. Which turns the camera on and reveals a multi function flash unit and a red-eye-reduction lamp. This canny placement of the flash inside the cover increases the effectiveness of the lamp feature by positioning the flash up and away from the lens.

AIDS ON THE DEFENCE?

A new class of drugs known as protease inhibitors-taken with a number of other drugs in a "cocktail" may be turning HIV infection into a manageable condition. In tens of thousands of AIDS patients the amount of virus in the blood has dropped below doctors ability to measure it. The drugs are not perfect: they can cost \$20,000 a year in the U.S. and the virus may yet find a way around them. But they offer the first real hope since the epidemic began.



Periyar, Thiru-vi-ka and Pavendar Awards presented

Chief Minister announces "Periyar Chair" at Bharathidasan Varsity

A Chair in the name of Thanthai Periyar would be constituted immediately at Bharathidasan University in Tiruchy, to undertake research on the works and philosophy of the great leader, announced the Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaigarnar Dr. M. Karunanidhi at Chennai on 25.12.96.

The Chief Minister was responding to the plea of the recipient of the 'Social Justice Award' instituted on the name of Thanthai Periyar, Thiru Thiruvarur Thangarasu. The Chief Minister was addressing the function to present the Periyar Social Justice Award, the Thiru Vi Ka award and the Pavender Award, organised by the Tamil Nadu Government. Prof. M. Nannan and Thiru Vairamuthu were the recipients of the Thiru Vi Ka and Pavender Award respectively.

Paying encomiums to the awardees, the Chief Minister described Thiruvarur Thangarasu as a true follower of Periyar. Thiru Thangarasu was propagating the ideals of Periyar despite odds and deserves an encouragement, he added. He assured that the Government would consider extending assistance to the orphanage run by him at Tiruchy. The Chief Minister described Prof Nannan as a great teacher and a social reformer. He appreciated the quality of Thiru Vairamuthu's revolutionary poems and lyrics.

Hon'ble Education Minister, Prof. K. Anbazhagan, Hon'ble Minister for Tamil Culture and Tamil Official Language Thiru M. Tamizhkudimagan and Hon'ble Minister for Backward Classes, Thiru R.K. Panneerselvam, offered their felicitations on the occasion.

Earlier, Thiru. Thiruvarur Thangarasu announced that he was donating the cash award, Rs.20,000 to the orphanage he was running at Tiruchy and requested the Chief Minister, to present it at the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the orphanage to be held shortly. He requested the Chief Minister to nationalise the works of Periyar. Prof. Nannan and Thiru Vairamuthu thanked the Government for the award and said that they considered it as a great honour bestowed on them.

Thiru V. Pazhanichamy, Secretary, Department of Tamil Development and Culture welcomed the gathering. Thiru A. Panneerselvam Director (incharge) of Tamil Development Department later proposed a vote of thanks.

The award presented to Thiru Thiruvarur Thangarasu carried a gold medallion, a silver plaque, a cheque of Rs.20,000, a shawl and a citation. The awards presented to Prof. Nannan and Thiru Vairamuthu each carried a shawl citation and a cheque of Rs.20,000 each.



▲ Hon'ble Prime Minister Thiru H.D. Deve Gowda inaugurated the Salem-Bangalore broad gauge line at a function in Salem on 11.1.97. Flagging off the train along with the Prime Minister were the Chief Minister Kalaaignar M.Karunanidhi, the Minister for Railways Thiru Ram Vilas Paswan and the TMC Leader Thiru G.K. Moopanar. ▼



▲ The Mayor of Chennai Thiru M.K.Stalin flagged off deluxe buses of the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation at the Island Grounds on 7.1.97.



▲ Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaaignar M.Karunanidhi inaugurated the 23rd Tourism and Industrial Trade Fair at the Island grounds on 7.1.97.

M/s Saint Gobain, a \$14 billion transnational company of France signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Tamil Nadu at Secretariat in the presence of the Chief Minister for setting up a float glass project, on an investment of Rs.450 crores at Irungattukotai Industrial Complex. Thiru Jacques Aschenbroich, President, Float Glass Division, signed the agreement with the Tamil Nadu Government.



▲ Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaaignar M.Karunanidhi inaugurated new bus routes in Salem on 11.1.97.





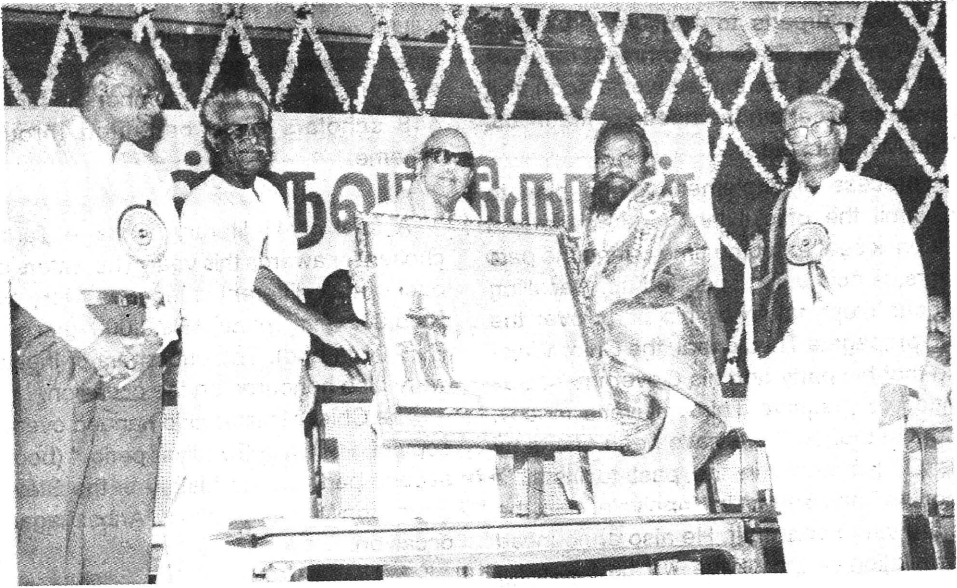
■ **Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaighnar M.Karunanidhi and His Excellency the Governor Thiru Krishan Kant received His Excellency the President Thiru Shankar Dayal Sharma at the Chennai Airport on 20.1.97.**



■ **The Malaysian Minister for Public Works Thiru Datho Samivelu held discussion with the Hon'ble Chief Minister on the possibility of constructing elevated roads in Chennai. (30.12.96.)**

A committee headed by the Industries and Commerce Minister of Singapore, Thiru Goh Chee Wee held discussions with the Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaighnar M.Karunanidhi on starting new Industrial ventures in Tamil Nadu, at the Chief Minister's residence on 24.1.97.





THIRUVALLUVAR DAY CELEBRATIONS

TAMILNADU GOVERNMENT COMMITTED TO PRESERVE THIRUVALLUVAR'S LEGACY

**-Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi
on 14.1.97 at Chennai**

Thiruvalluvar Day was celebrated under the presidentship of the Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi on 14.1.1997 in Chennai.

The Thiruvalluvar award for the year 1997 was conferred on Dr.K.Mohanaraju, Professor, Madras University on the occasion. The Chief Minister presented a citation, a shawl and a cheque for Rs. 20,000 to the recipient of the award, who is the 12th recipient of the award ever since its institution in 1986.

The Chief Minister while addressing said that

the State Government will render all assistance to impart tamil education in Mauritius. Tamils in Mauritius could speak the language but were unable to read or write Tamil. Many Ministers and delegations had visited the nation of islands from time to time, during the earlier regimes. The Tamil speaking population there had requested them for help as the islands did not have Tamil schools and there were no one to teach the language. Years later, only the assurances remain, the Chief Minister added.

But now, action is being initiated to fulfill their desires. The Government would interact with its

Mauritian counterparts to find out the inputs required. Once the State Government receives a formal request, a committee would soon visit the islands to ascertain the needs of Mauritius, the Chief Minister said.

The process of implementing the plan to make Tamil the official language which had taken a back seat for some time during the past few years, is now being speeded up. Recalling the various steps taken by his party over the years to propagate Thirukkural, the Chief Minister said that his party and his Government was committed to preserve Thiruvalluvar's legacy. He said that though there have been efforts by various Governments in the past to install a statue of the Tamil savant in Kanniyakumari, the efforts are yet to bear fruit. He also announced that installation of the statue will be taken up soon.

Seven Tamil scholars, two from Chennai and one each from Thiruvannamalai-Samburayar, Coimbatore, Kamarajar, Tirunelveli Kattabomman and Kanniyakumari districts were announced as selected under a scheme to help senior Tamil scholars in financial difficulty. They

will be given Rs.500 every month. The amount given under this scheme was enhanced from Rs.400 to Rs.500 in September. So far a total of 448 scholars have benefited through the scheme.

A total of 41 literary works in Tamil were chosen for awards this year. The writers of these books in 23 different categories, were awarded Rs.5,000 (first prize); Rs.3,000 (second) and Rs.1,000 (third). The publishers of these works were also honoured on the occasion.

The Chief Minister also handed over the first copy of 'Pallavar- Pandiyar period' (book three, second part) on the history of the State to the Education Minister, Thiru K. Anbazhagan on the occasion.

Hon'ble Minister for Education, Thiru Anbazhagan described Thirukkural as a complete work in all aspects. Dr. M. Tamizhkudimagan, Hon'ble Minister for Tamil Official Language presided. In his acceptance speech, Dr. Mohanaraju requested the Chief Minister to declare Thirukkural as the principal work in Tamil literature ("Talamai Nool").

Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M.Karunanidhi along with his cabinet colleagues garlanded the statue of Thiruvalluvar at Valluvarkottam, Chennai, on Thiruvalluvar Day (15.1.97).



PRIME MINISTER INAUGURATES BACKWARD CLASSES CONFERENCE



Extend 27 Percent Quota for Backward Classes to Education too

**-Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi
at the Conference of All India Federation of
Backward Classes Employees' Welfare Association
at Chennai on 19.1.97**

Hon'ble Prime Minister Thiru H.D. Deva Gowda inaugurated the Conference of the All India Federation of Backward Classes Employees' Welfare Association at Chennai on 19.1.97.

In his speech, the Prime Minister said the Centre would sincerely try to ensure that the fruits of reservation reached its beneficiaries. Programmes to mitigate the problems of backward classes and the weaker sections will be spelt out in the coming Union Budget and the Ninth Plan. A cabinet sub-committee had been formed to periodically review the progress of the implementation of job reservations in Government departments. "We will not give scope for any

injustice" he said.

Responding to a memorandum submitted to him by the Federation, the Prime Minister said that their demands would be taken seriously by the Government and that he would take honest steps, to implement them. He said the Government was early waiting for the verdict of the Supreme Court regarding reservation. Though the former Prime Minister, Thiru V.P. Singh had agreed for a 10 percent reservation for the economically weaker sections and the decision was later endorsed by the then Union Welfare Minister, Thiru Sitaram Kesari, no decision, could be taken because off the Supreme Courts interim

order limiting the reservation to a maximum of 50 percent.

Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi in his speech said Tamil Nadu was like a mother land for the advocates of the backward classes. Starting with Periyar, it had the history of protecting the downtrodden and raising their standards. As early as 1973, he had demanded reservations in employment and education for backward classes, he said.

He requested the Prime Minister to extend the 27 percent quota to education also. Though Thiru Mandal had submitted his report long time back, it was buried for 10 years before Thiru V.P.Singh became the Prime Minister. Thiru V.P.Singh had to sacrifice power for implementing the Mandal recommendations, he added.

Thiru V.Narayanasamy, Member of Parliament and President of the Federation requested

the Government to appoint liaison officers in all departments to ensure that the benefits of reservation reached the employees and to constitute a parliamentary sub-committee to monitor the implementation of the reservation policy. He said the 27 percent reservation should be applicable for promotion also.

Thiru B.S.Ramoowalia, Union Minister for Welfare, said the United Front Government was committed to the uplift of the backward classes.

Thiru N.V.N.Somu, Minister of State for Defence said Tamil Nadu had a long history of protecting the downtrodden and the Chief Minister Kalaingar M.Karunanidhi was a trend-setter in implementing reservations.

Thiru P.Vaiyapuri, Secretary, Reception Committee, Thiru G. Karunanidhi, General Secretary and Thiru J.Parthasarthy Secretary, also spoke.



The valedictory session of the three day National Convention of the Builders' Association of India (BAI) was held at Chennai on 19.1.97. Hon'ble Prime Minister Thiru H.D. Deve Gowda was the chief guest. Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M.Karunanidhi participated.

A TAMIL ARASU WELFARE GUIDE

Schemes of the Most Backward and Denotified Welfare Department

Name of the scheme and concessions

State Government's aid for text books

Approved free text books will be distributed through Tamil Nadu Text Book Society. Special fees and examination fees will be granted. Only students belonging to most backward classes studying in 9th and 10th standards can avail these concessions. Students belonging to Denotified community can avail from 6th to 10th standards. The aid amount need not be mentioned in the application form.

Grant for School Higher Studies

For boys and girls, tuition fees, special fees, cost of text books will be granted at the rate fixed by this Department.

Examination fees will be granted at the rate fixed by the University Examination officers. To the hostel students boarding and lodging fees will be granted in cash.

Should apply through educational institutions in prescribed forms.

Tuition fee exemption - concessions to students studying in English medium schools (Tuition fee fixed by the Government). Need not apply through proper form. Provision of Community Certificate is accepted.

Other Concessions

The following concessions are

Qualification/Conditions

1. Should belong to Tamil Nadu
2. Should belong to one of the communities enlisted in the most backward community list published by the Tamil Nadu Government.
3. A Hindu Most backward, denotified community converted to Christianity can avail this educational concession.
4. Should study in a Government recognised school in Tamil Nadu.
5. Annual income of the parent/guardian should not exceed Rs.25,000.
6. Most Backward Community boys/girls should have passed scoring 40% marks in the previous standard. Denotified community students should have passed the previous standard.

The above mentioned conditions are applicable to this scheme. Should get the printed form from the educational institutions, fill it up and submit the form before due date along with necessary certificates. The assistance amount is granted to these students studying in Higher Secondary Schools, Colleges, Universities, Technical Colleges in Tamil Nadu and students of Tamil Nadu studying in JIPMER Hospital, Pondicherry, belonging to Most Backward and Denotified Communities.

All the students in Government and Government aided schools (Not applicable to private schools) Studying in 6th to 12th, studying in English medium belonging to Most Backward/Denotified Community will be granted these concessions irrespective of their parent's annual income.

Students studying in all Government and Government recognised Colleges

Whom to approach

Concerned School Headmaster/Headmistress/
District Backward and
Minority Welfare
Officers/Special
Deputy Collector
(Kallar Reclamation)
Madurai.

Special Deputy Collector
(Kallar Reclamation)
Madurai.

Head Master/Headmistress - District Backward and Minority Welfare Office/Special Deputy Collector - Kallar Reclamation, Madurai.

College Principals/District Backward and Mi-

given to those Most Backward and Minority Community Students studying B.A., B.Sc., B.Com., three year courses. irrespective of their parents annual income.

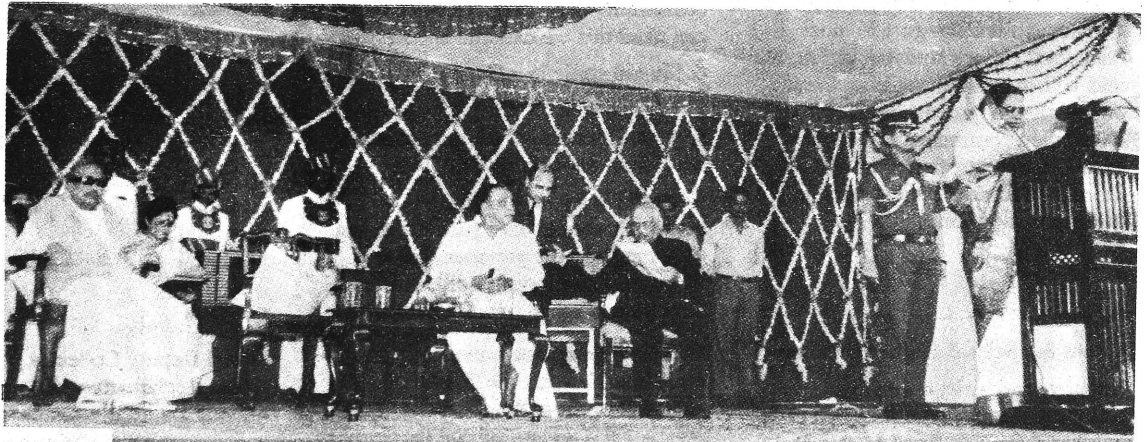
- 1) Tuition fees, Special fees, Examination fees as fixed by the Government (No income limit).
2. Cost of the text books as fixed by this Department (Annual income below Rs.25,000).
3. Fees at a fixed rate for boarding and lodging to hostel student (annual income below Rs.25,000).

in Tamil Nadu belonging to Most Backward, Denotified Communities can avail these concessions. These concessions are granted on the basis of the entries regarding community, made in the students enrolment register and the approved list sent by the Heads of their Institutions.

Need not apply in a separate application form. But should apply in a prescribed form for text books, boarding and lodging and their parents annual income should not exceed Rs.25,000.

minority Welfare Officer and Special Deputy Collector (Kallar Reclamation) Madurai.

to be continued....



Selvi. Fathima Beevi was sworn in as the new Governor of TamilNadu at Rajbhavan on 25.1.97. Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaaignar M.Karunanidhi honoured the Governor with a shawl.

THE FLOOD

Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai

The highest spot in the countryside was occupied by the temple. But even there the deity now stood in water up to its neck. Water! Water everywhere! The people of the countryside had all gone to look for dry places. If a house owned a boat, one person stayed back to guard the possessions. In the three-roomed upper storey of the temple there were sixty-seven children, and three hundred and fifty-six older people, dogs, cats, goats, and fowls together in peaceful co-existence.

Chennan had been standing in water for one whole night and day. He had no boat and his master had fled for his life three days before. When the water first began to peep into the house, he had already built a loft with sticks and woven coconut leaves. He spent two days on it hoping that the flood would quickly subside. Also, there were four or five clusters of bananas and a hayrick which some smart chap might carry off if he left the house. And so he remained.

Now there was knee-deep water above the floor-board of the loft. Two rows of the coconut leaf thatch on the roof were already under water. From inside Chennan called out, but who was there to hear him? A pregnant poor woman, four small children, a cat, and a dog—these were his

dependents. He was sure that within twelve hours the water would flow over the roof, and that would be the end of them all. For three days there had been no end to the rain. He broke open one row of the thatched roof and looked in all directions. There was a large boat paddling northward. He called in the loudest voice he could summon to make the boatman hear. Luckily they

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After a time the hut collapsed. There was nothing to be seen now in that endless expanse of water. Till his death the Dog had guarded his master's possessions. The crocodiles had him now and the hut also was finished.

”

understood the situation and turned the boat towards the hut. One by one Chennan pulled his woman, his children, the cat and the dog out through the opening. By that time the boat had drawn close. The children were climbing into it when Chennan heard a cry. "Hai Chennacha..."—someone called from the west, and Chennan turned towards the voice. That was Kunjeppan from Madiathara crying out from his housetop. Chennan hustled his wife into the boat. Taking the op-

portunity the cat leapt in. Nobody remembered the dog. He was at that moment stiffing around on the west side of the house, examining things on his own. The boat moved forward and its distance from the hut widened.

The dog returned to the spot where he expected the family to be—and saw the boat already far away. It seemed to be flying away. He began to howl in alarm. He produced a succession of sounds like a helpless human being in distress—but who was there to hear him? He ran on all four sides of the roof and smelt in places and howled on. A frog perched on the hut heard the cry and, frightened, jumped with a plop into the water. The dog stood staring in fear at the spot in the water ruffled by the frog's jump.

He wanted food and went searching for it all round the hut. A frog urinated into his nostrils and slipped of into water. The restless dog sneezed and coughed. With one of his front paws he cleaned his face. The rain started pouring again, and the dog crouched under its fury. Meanwhile, his master had landed safely at Ambalapuzha. It was night. A huge crocodile floated by slowly, almost brushing the hut. The dog howled in fear, tail down, but the crocodile passed along, not noticing.

The wretched animal sat on top of the hut and looked up at the dark sky and howled, and his sad cry must have been heard far and wide.

The kindly god of sound, Vayu, bore the cry to other shores. Some people heard it and perhaps murmured to themselves, "ayyo, a dog is left desolate on the housetop-what a shame!" Perhaps his master was having a meal on the shore to which he had gone-the dog always used to get a rice ball after his master had eaten. Perhaps now the master remembered the animal as he ate. The dog's howl, loud and long, began to grow feeble. He heard a voice chanting verses from the Ramayana, pricked up his ears and fell into silence for a time. Then as if his heart would break, he started howling again.

In the utter silence of that dark night the chanting of the Ramayana filled the air. The dog again pricked up his ears and listened intently as he stood motionless. The sweet tones of the chanting mingled with the cold unabating wind; and the only other sounds that could be heard were the sound of the wind. He found that his tender nose had become red and swollen.

In the afternoon two men passed along in a small boat. The dog barked and wagged his tail hopefully. He tried to make them understand his plight in as human a way as possible. He stood in the water, poised to jump into the boat. "Hey, there stands a dog" _shouted one man. As if he understood the compassion in that voice, the

dog wagged his tail in gratitude. "Let him Be", said the other men. The dog prayed with his eyes and tried twice to jump in to the boat; but the boat moved further and further away. As the dog started howling again, one boatman turned his head, looked back. "Ayyo"-no, that was not

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the boatman calling it was the human groan of the dog. That anguished, exhausted cry mingled with the shrieking of the wind and was heard once again above the ripple of the waves on the water.

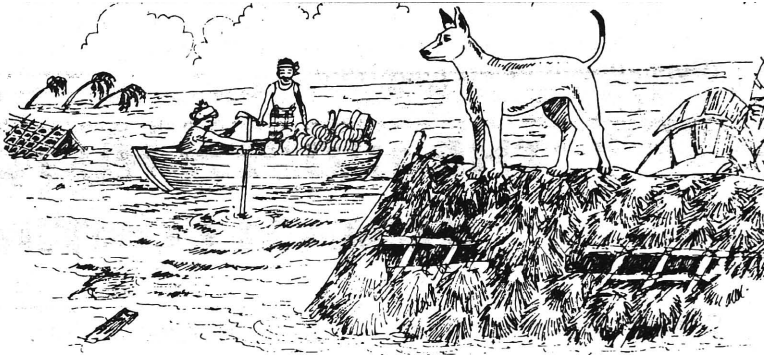
The dog stood gazing at the boat till it was out of sight. As if hating the world and saying goodbye to it, he mounted the top of the hut. Perhaps he was saying to himself that he would

never love man again. He lapped up some coldwater. He looked at the birds flying overhead, and at a watersnake gambolling in the waves. Through the opening from which Chennan had pulled out his family the watersnake got in. The dog watched. Goaded by the fear of death and gnawing hunger he barked loudly. Anyone could have understood him now, for the language he uttered was universal.

Storm and rain started again. The roof was becoming unsteady because of the continuous lapping of the waves on its foundations. A long head looked out of the water; it was a crocodile. Fowls were crying in Unison from somewhere nearby. The dog heard Human voices again. "From where is the dog crying? Haven't the owners abandoned the hut?" There, near the banana tree, the dog saw moored a boat filled with bunches of bananas, straw, coconuts. He turned towards the boatmen and barked angrily, edging close to the water. One of the men in the boat reached up to the banana tree. The other warned: "Be careful; it looks as though that dog will jump." He did jump, so that the man let go his hold and fell into the water. The other man helped him back into the boat. Meanwhile the dog swam out of the water and perched again on top of the hut. The robbers cut every single cluster of banana. Hearing the dog's furious bark they said, "wait and we'll show YOU" They piled more straw into their boat. Finally, one man climbed on to the top of the hut. The dog fastened his teeth on the man's leg,

bit off a mouthful of flesh. Crying in agony the man jumped back into the boat, while the other man gave one resounding blow on the dog's head with his oar. The dog cried in a faint voice- myawoo, myawoo. Soon, even that sound could not be heard. The man who was bitten lay in the boat and cried aloud, and the other, bidding him be quiet lest they attract notice, steered the boat away. For a long time the dog kept on barking at the receding boat. It was midnight by then. A large dead cow came floating by and was caught near the hut. The dog came near it and looked at it, but did not dare climb down. Slowly the carcass grew disintegrated, moving downstream. The dog sprang on it then. Tail wagging, he dug his teeth into the carcass and gorged himself on the plentiful flesh.

Abruptly the dog disappeared as the carcasses went under for while. After that one could only



hear the howl of the storm, the croaking of frogs, and the sound of the waves on the river. The dog was silent; his heart-rending cries and moans were no longer heard. Rotten carcasses floated down the river crows pecking at them undisturbed. There was desolation everywhere, and nothing to prevent thieves from plying their trade.

After a time the hut collapsed. There was nothing to be seen now in that endless expanse of water. Till his death the Dog had guarded his master's possessions. The crocodiles had him

now and the hut also was finished.

The water began to recede. Chennan came swimming towards his hut to find out what had happened to his dog. Underneath a coconut palm he saw the dead body of a dog gently swayed by the ripples. With his fingers Chennan turned the carcass over and looked at it. He doubted whether it was his dog. One ear had been bitten off; the skin had rotted and that made it difficult to tell the colour.

Translated from Malayalam
by: SAMUEL MATHAI.

Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalamazhar M.Karunanidhi delivered the Silver Jubilee address at the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in Coimbatore on 12.1.97. He laid foundations to buildings and flagged off 40 new buses of Cheran, Jeeva and Mahakavi Bharathiar Transport Corporations.



THE HIDDEN HISTORY OF KUMARI CONTINENT

Cilappathikaaram

From Cilappathikaaram one of the twin epics in Tamil literature, we learn that the river Pahruli and the city Kumarikkodu along with a huge range of mountains disappeared in a great deluge. The Sangham works Kalittokai and Kurunthokai also mention the lost continent of Kumari. The river Pahruli in Kumari Continent is also mentioned in Purananuru. The land South of Sri Lanka according to Mahavamsa covered a distance of 700 Kathams or 4900 miles southwards. The great deluge is also mentioned in the Holy Bible.

Tholkaappiyam

Adiyarkkunallar, the commentator of Cilappathikaaram gave a fine description of Kumari Nadu and added that the land was made up of 7 big divisions named Thanganaadu, Krumpanai naadu, Madurai naadu, Munpaalai naadu, Pinpaalai naadu, Kuntra naadu and Kunaagarai naadu and they were divided into seven small divisions each. Thus the whole landmass was divided into 49 divisions. According to Iyayanar Kalaviyal Urai, the first Tamil Sangham was held at then Madurai (South Madurai), the capital of Pandyas and after the fall of then Madurai, the capital was shifted to Kapaadapuram where the second Tamil Sangham was

Dr. S. Padmanabhan
General Secretary
Kanniyakumari Historical and
Cultural Research Centre
Nagercoil.

held. As a result of the deluge the literary and poetical works of the first Sangham have not survived except a few fragments of Agathiyam and Aindiram. A number of works seem to have been produced during the period of the second Sangham, but only Tholkaappiyam has survived. When Kapaadapuram was also deluged by the sea the capital was shifted to the present Madurai which became the capital of Pandyas and also the seat of the third Tamil Sangham. The literary works of the third Sangham are the main source of the ancient history of the Tamils. Reference in Tholkaappiyam show that there existed a certain amount of literature in Tamil before its composition. The author of Tholkaappiyam has cautiously acknowledged to his previous authorities in 260 places by mentioning "they say" and "the learned say" etc. It reveals the glorious literary antiquity of the Tamils.

Poomhuhar

The facts culled from these old literary works cannot be brushed aside as mere imagina-

tion and exaggeration. The archaeological findings found at Alagankulam near Ramana-nathapuram and the oceanic explorations held in Poompuhar confirm the detailed description of the places mentioned in ancient literature. The Director of Archaeology in Tamil Nadu Government, Natana Kasinathan who participated in the Oceanic explorations conducted in Poompuhar port remarked "The artefacts strangely confirm that the city Poompuhar was swallowed by the sea and a number of structures of the lost city are still under Sea". So much so, if any excavation in the land and exploration in the sea are undertaken around Kanniyakumari the truth about the lost Lemuria or Kumari continent will come to light.

LEMURIA (KUMARI CONTINENT)

Many Research scholars have spoken about the existence of a great landmass extending beyond the present Kanniyakumari in the Indian Ocean. An examination of these views confirms the Lemurian theory. Sir Walter Raleigh in the "History of the world" says "India was the planted and peopled country after the flood". The December, 1990 issue of the "Science of Man" says "the locality of the origin of the earliest race from

the most recent researches appears to have been on the land now submerged beneath the Indian Ocean". Sir John Evans in his presidential address to the British Association in 1897 mentions southern India, as the cradle of the human race. The same view is held by Maclean the author of "Manual of the Madras Presidency". Scott Elliot in his treatise held the view that the original abode of man was in the Indian Ocean. Dr. A. Chandrasekhar, Professor of Linguistics, Delhi University while delivering the presidential address at the 9th All India Conference of Dravidian Linguistics, pointed out, "The Dravidian civilization is not only the oldest in India but the oldest in the world and Dravidians had spread not only to the whole of India but also the world over". These statements confirm the glorious history of Kumari continent in the Indian Ocean situated on either side of the equator.

The very sculpture of the legendary animal Yali found on the pillars of several temples in Tamil Nadu leads us to think that the extinct animal would have lived in the lost continent of Kumari. Here it is interesting to note that the national Bird of Mauritius namely Dodo can be seen only in the Museum at Port Louis. The reconstruction of the legendary bird was made from the bone fragments found in the sea around Mauritius. Similarly it is possible to get the fossil of Yali in the Indian ocean.

Prof. Haechel had pointed out that the Indian Ocean formed a continent which extended from

the Sunda Islands along the Asian coast to the eastern coast of the African continent and affirmed that it was the cradle of the human race and the first nursery of man. Sir John Evans, the British Scholar felt that southern India was probably the cradle of the human race. The significant fact is that geologically the oldest part of India and in the world is South India according to the well known archaeologist Dr. H. D. Sankalia. Astronomical calculations have also supported their contentions. But some of their conclusions require to be further tested by oceanic explorations. Even though experts in USA and USSR have accepted these views and have begun further enquires, more research requires to be undertaken for rewriting the history of man and the hidden history of Kumari continent.

RAMAYANA AND KUMARI CONTINENT

Dr. M. M. Rao, a research scholar in the History Department of Osmania University in his research paper on "Ramayana and Kumari Continent" found out several astonishing facts confirming the theory of the lost continent of Kumari. According to him Asuras lived in the vast land which includes Africa, Australia, Antarctica and a portion of the present America. It is interesting to note that the language of the aborigines of Africa, Australia, Peru and Mexico resemble that of the Tamils. According to ancient Indian literature the figure of Asuras was gigantic. Dr. Rao showed the persons with an abnormal height of 18 feet in

Suku clan of African continent who resembles that of Asuras in appearance described in ancient literature. According to Rao, Kumbhakarna lived in Antarctica. The very fact that the people had 6 months night and 6 months day in Antarctica is a clear indication of the fact that Kumbhakarna followed the same pattern as sleep for 6 months and kept awake for the other 6 months.

AFRICA

Several research scholars are of the opinion that there are many similarities between Dravidians, Africans and Australians in terms of language, food habits, family relationship, social rites and aesthetic appreciation. The flora and fauna of these three countries also have similarities. It is surprising to note that certain Tamil words are in vogue in African language and they are used without affecting the basic meanings. To cite an example the Tamil word Paatti meaning grandmother is constantly used in African languages. Dr. Cyril A. Kromnik, an American scholar who conducted field research in East Africa, whom I met in Mauritius in the year 1989 emphatically stated that Africa was a part of the last Lemuria and pointed out that the people of the eastern coast of Africa use the Tamil Term Teppam and Mithappu to denote their country boats.

Dr. Thayammal Aravanan in her book "Dravidians and Africans - A Comparative Study" pointed out that 'aval' a popular Dravidian food made out of paddy is also a favorite diet of the Africans. She showed that Man-

think, a section of the people in Senegal prepare aval exactly as is done by the Tamils. Africans like the Dravidians make use of 'ural' stone (mortar) and 'ulakkai' (wooden pestle) for pounding purposes. Like the Tamils the Africans drink palmyra toddy and neera and eat the kernal of the tender palmyra fruit. With regard to the family relationship and rights similarity can be found between Dravidians and Africans. Maternal uncle occupies the pride of place in the family. In the use of ornaments, jewels and tattooing, the Africans resemble Dravidians. Like the Tamils women desert the use of ornaments after the demise of her husband. Just as the Tamils have the mountain God Muruga the Africans also worship Murungu as their mountain God. In the Eastern Africa 25 tribes used to worship Murungu. The female deity in Africa is called as Morima, a derivative form of Mariamma. The folk games of the Tamils, Kalarchi (a game with molucca beans), Ammaanai (a game played by girls throwing up and catching three or more balls), Pallaankuzhi (a game in thick plank with 14 hollows), Paaandiaatam (a game played by girls on the square spaces drawn on the floor like chess board) and the games of merriment Kummiaattam (dance with clapping hands) and Kollattam (dance with small sticks) are in vogue even in Africa. According to Dr.K.P.Aravanan the Sahara desert and its adjacent parts might be the Paalainadu or desert land in the last continent of Kumari.

Congo, the central part of Af-

rica is peopled by Pandus, a very important section of the African population. Tradition has it that they might have been migrated from Asia and settled there several hundred years ago. Their language culture and civilization are said to be more than 2000 years old. This might have happened in either way. That is, these people might have migrated from Old Pandyanadu in the continent of Kumari fearing the frequent deluges or the territory of ancient Pandyanad would have extended upto Africa before deluge. Alexander Kondrotov, a Russian research scholar relying on oceanographic evidences observed that in the early ages, a land bridge connected South India with Africa. This was substantiated by the resemblance of flora and fauna between the two regions. Bearing in mind the cruelty of the deluge the Africans consider the sea as a cruel deity and used to offer human sacrifice.

AUSTRALIA

Some racial anthropologists held the view that the South Indian tribes have affinities with those of Australia. Sir William Turner, an authority in this field, studied the Dravidians and the Australians from the stand point of Craniology. According to him, the aborigines of Australia are closely associated with the Dravidians. Some other scholars consider them as a branch of Dravidian stock. William Turner writes: "Many ethnologists of great eminence have regarded the aborigines of Australia as clearly associated with the Dravians of India. The affinities be-

tween the Dravidians and Australians have been based upon the employment of certain words by both people apparently derived from common roots; of the use of Boomerang similar to the well-known Australian weapon by some Dravidian tribes (boomerang is a curved missile so balanced that it returns towards the thrower.) Some Dravidian tribes use this weapon even now. Both Dravidians and Australians have dark skins approximating to black dark eyes; black hair either straight, wavy or curly, nostrills, usually short of stature". The rites and rituals of Australian aborigines and the Dravidian tribes have resemblances.

The great Research Scholar, Wisher S.Carve in his study of the continent of Lemuria gives certain facts which are very interesting. The people who lived in the Lemuria continent or Kumari nadu had an eye on their forehead which resembles that of Siva, otherwise known as Mukkannaar, the three eyed God. The research work "gems from pre-historic past" edited by Dr.N.Mahalingam asserts that the ancient Lemurians worshipped Siva.

The learned scholar K.Apapurai in his book "Kumarikandam" connected the ancient Tamil grammer with the organ of the third eye. In Tamil the nearness or proximity is to be noted by the letter "E" (ஏ) and distance was noted by the letter "A" (அ). The long distance or unknown factor was to be shown by the letter "u" (உ). According to him the third ye of the Lemurians could

see factors and scenes which could not be perceived by the other two eyes. It is interesting to note that the three eyed people of Lemuria worshipped Siva, the three eyed God. The native tribes of Australia have the dance named Siva dance and this is referred to in the book, "The Native tribes of Central Australia" written by Spencer and Gillen. The dancers used to have drawn on their Foreheads a third eye which indicates Siva and also the supernatural eye of the Lemurians. Dr. Padma Subramaniyam who witnessed the tribal dance in the name of Siva find several Tamil words in their language. In Africa also Sivalinga in the name of Venka is still worshipped at Takkolam. Thus Siva cult which is widely prevalent in Africa, South India, Sri Lanka and Australia is also a clear evidence to prove the Lemurian theory.

Some scholars are of the opinion that the first man was born not in Africa or Australia or South India but a common place between these countries which was swallowed by the sea. According to them the Dravidians, the Africans and the Australians might have descended from the same ancestors. Before the separation of these countries from one land mass known as Lemuria this might have happened and the common ancestors must have lived in the South of Kanniyakumari now under the sea. After the deluge India, Africa and Australia were separated and several islands in the Indian and Pacific oceans were formed. Because of the distance

WHAT IS IT TO BE THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF UNITED NATIONS?

PERKS OF THE JOB

- ★ \$205,809 annual salary
- ★ \$25,000 annual entertainment allowance
- ★ town house on Sutton Place with 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, a dining room and studio.
- ★ a chauffeur-driven Mercedes-Benz
- ★ 24-hour protection from the New York Police Department and a full-time U.N. Security guard.

and dislocation and passage of time several changes took place in the separated countries in spite of several common factors still prevalent among them.

KUMARI

The common ancestors native home of the Tamils and the aborigines of Africa, Australia and other Pacific islands must have been in the lost Lemuria or Kumari continent. To commemorate this common ancestor's lost home Kumari Nadu, the Tamils called their capes as Kumari, Africans call a place as Komar and Australians have Kannuda and Kooma. The historical significance of the word "Kumari" is pretty mind-boggling when one considers how many places derive names from it. The old name of the island Madagascar near Africa was "Kumar". The people of the Island were called Komari. The sea between Africa, Madagascar and Mosambi and an is-

land nearby are known as comores and comroñ respectively. A part in Western Africa is called Cameroon.

A female deity Kumari was worshipped in Cambodia and Indo-China in the 6th Century A.D. One cape in Cambodia is known as Kumari and the people called Khomers. An Arabian traveller Abu Syed of the 9th Century A.D. called the area of these parts as "The country of komri" in his Travelogue. In all probabilities the popular word Komer is only a derivative form of the Tamil word Kumari. From the recently published volume "Dravidian Encyclopaedia" it is learnt that the word Sumeria is derived from the Tamil word Kumari. From all these facts one can understand the historic background of the Tamil word "KUMARI" which contains the hard consonant, nasal consonant and middle consonant like our sweet Tamil.

to be continued....



FINANCE (PENSION) DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 488, Dated 12th August 1996

(Thadhu, Aadi 28, Thiruvalluvar Aandu 2027)

RETIREMENT BENEFITS - Encashment of leave at the time of retirement - Encashment of leave on private affairs and payment of full leave salary for the period of earned leave exceeding 180 days - Orders - Issued.

READ - the following papers:-

1. G.O. Ms. No.999, Personnel and Administrative Reforms Department, dated 31.10.1987.
2. G.O. Ms. No. 545, Personnel and Administrative Reforms Department, dated 30.9.1989.

ORDER:

At present the entire earned leave subject to a maximum of 240 days at the credit of the employees shall be entitled for encashment at the time of retirement and the leave salary for the period of earned leave upto 180 days comprises of Dearness Allowance, House Rent Allowance, City Compensatory Allowance, etc., as admissible under the rules and for the period of earned leave exceeding 180 days, the leave salary comprises of Pay and Dearness Allowance only. Further, at present, the half pay leave on private affairs at the credit of the retiring employees shall lapse.

2. The Government have decided to accept the long pending demand of various associations of employees to surrender half pay leave on private affairs at the time of retirement and also to grant full leave salary for encashment of the entire earned leave at credit of retiring employees. Accordingly, Government pass the following orders:-

(a) At the time of retirement, 50% of the leave on private affairs standing to the credit of the employees, upto a maximum of 90 days, be entitled for full leave salary. The Head of Office shall draw the leave salary on encashment of leave on private affairs, as in the case of encashment of earned leave; and

(b) Full leave salary including Dearness Allowance and all other allowances normally admissible while going on leave during service be allowed for the entire period of earned leave encashment at the time of retirement.

3. The above orders shall apply to All India Service Officers serving under the State Government.

4. These orders shall also apply to the following categories of employees:-

- a) those retiring on medical invalidation;
- b) those retrenched from Government service;
- c) those permitted to retire from service without prejudice to the disciplinary proceedings pending against them;
- d) in the case of death of an employee while in service
- e) to those going on voluntary retirement; and
- f) those sent on compulsory retirement.

5. These orders shall take effect from 1st July 1996.

6. Necessary amendments to Tamil Nadu Leave Rules, 1933 will issue separately from Personnel and Administrative Reforms Department,

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

S. GURUMURTHI,

SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT



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