

Tamil Arasu
AUGUST 1996 Rs.3



Tamil Arasu

MAGAZINE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
A u g u s t 1 9 9 6

2

Hyundai at Madras

A MoU was signed on 18.7.96 between Government of Tamil Nadu and Hyundai Motor Company for the establishment of a car project near Madras.

4

Self Conquest

An inspiring Tamil poem by Subramaniya Bharathi, translated by Prof. K. Swaminathan.

5

Anti Social elements being curbed

Tamil Nadu Police has launched a crack down on criminal and mercenary gangs. The Legislative Assembly lauds the effort. A Report.

7

Stories from Far East

Sometimes wise. Sometimes funny. These short stories make interesting reading.

9

Cover Story

Talks on Cauvery held

The Chief Minister of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu met on August 5th, to discuss the Cauvery issue, as directed by the Supreme Court.

11

Health Update

The regular Science Update is now devoted to Health.

16

Consumer Awareness

Dental care is expensive. We discuss on ways to control dental expenses. And on saving your teeth.

19

Small Industry

In the third part of our series, we focus on incentives and concessions for SSI.

21

Is your child gifted?

Look out for signs of genius in your child. And help them build.

24

News from Legislature

The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly is in session. Some announcements made on the floor of the House.

29

Aquaculture ?

Dr. Rajalakshmi of Madras University discusses the implications of the raging controversy.

Editor and Publisher : N.S. Palaniappan, I.A.S., Director of I & PR, Govt. of TamilNadu.

Administration : R.B. Karmeham, Deputy Director; M. Annamalai, Asst. Director.

Editorial Board : M. Shrinagesh, K. Mallika, R. Rajasekaran.

Photographs : Photo Section of I & PR Dept, Chennai - 9. **Printed at** : Tamil Arasu Press, Chennai - 2.

Arts : N. Kumarasamy C. Jayachandran, B. Kumar, T. Sampathkumar.

Tamil Nadu fast becoming the most favoured State for New Industries

MOU SIGNED FOR SOUTH KOREAN CAR PROJECT NEAR MADRAS

The Government of Tamil Nadu and the Hyundai Motor Company of South Korea have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 18.7.96 for the establishment of a Car Project at Sriperumpudur near Madras. While Thiru B.J. Park, President, Hyundai Motor Company, signed the MoU on behalf of his Company Thiru P.C. Cyriac, Secretary, Department of Industries, Government of Tamil Nadu signed it on behalf of the State Government.

Hyundai Motor has already incorporated a wholly-owned

Indian subsidiary, Hyundai Motor India Ltd., with its registered Office in Madras. The Company has proposed to establish facilities for manufacturing one lakh cars of the Accent 1.3 and 1.5 litre models initially. This will be increased to two lakh cars in Phase-II of the Project.

Mega Project

Hyundai has obtained the approval of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board for investment of upto \$ 700 million (Rs. 2,450 crores) in the first phase covering five years and \$ 400

million (Rs. 1,400 crores) in the subsequent five years. The Project is estimated to generate direct employment for 2000 to 3,000 persons and indirect employment to 20,000 persons.

High level of indigenisation

The Sriperumpudur plant will start with a high indigenisation level of 70 percent and the cars are expected to roll out of the assembly line in the latter half of 1998 (Because of this level of indigenisation and absence of CKD/SKD imports, this project is exempt from the requirement



of signing an MoU with the Director-General of Foreign Trade of the Commerce Ministry.) Full indigenisation will be reached by the year 2001.

Also for Export Market

Hyundai Motor has 1000 percent equity participation to the extent of \$350 million (Rs. 192 crores) in the next four years. The import of capital goods will be met out of Hyundai's initial investment. Exports from the plant are projected at \$ 54 million (Rs. 200 crores at current rates of exchange) by 1999 and \$ 267 million (Rs. 1,000 crores) by the year 2003.

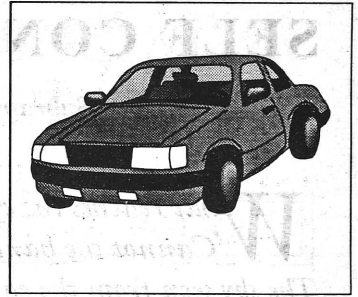
About ten major component suppliers of Hyundai Motor Company are also likely to establish facilities in Madras for supplies to the Sriperumpudur plant. This would involve investment to the tune of \$ 105 million (Rs. 370 crores).

Hyundai has chosen a site at Irungattukottai about 35 km from Madras, on National Highway 4. According to Thiru. Cyriac, Industries Secretary, Government

of Tamil Nadu about 543 acres of land required for the project would be handed over by the Government, out of 2,000 acres being acquired by it in the area. The Company's water requirement, estimated at 0.8 million gallons per day (MGD) would be provided by the Government which would also ensure availability of the required 30 MVA of power.

The Standard incentive package extended

The Hyundai project will be eligible for the Standard package of incentives available to Industries in Tamil Nadu including Sales tax (ST) waiver/deferral, power tariff concessions and capital subsidies. Hyundai Motor Company has a production capacity of 1.75 million cars in South Korea alone and commands a 55 per cent share of the car market in the country. Its turnover is in the order of \$ 13 billion (Rs. 45,000). It is the 13th largest car manufacturer in the world and exports cars to 170 Countries. It has assembling plants in Thailand, Indonesia, the Phillipines, Egypt and Botswana and a plant under construction in Turkey.



A small car to be manufactured later

According to Thiru Y.S. Kim, Executive Managing Director of Hyundai Motor Co and Thiru Jong D. Bae-Executive Director of the Company, the Company has set the target of 'GT.10' or becoming one of the 10 top global makers of cars by the year 2000. It produces cars of capacity varying from 1.3 to 3.5 litres. A small car is under development in South Korea and once it is successfully marketed in that Country, it will be produced in India (as a competition to the 800 cc cars from Maruti Udyog which dominates the low-capacity car segment), they announced.

Besides exporting components from the plant in Tamil Nadu to Hyundai's assembly units in other Countries, the Company would market the cars all over India. Hence, it requires a rail link to Sriperumpudur, they said. Availability of a Port in Madras, an educated workforce and a supportive State Government were among factors which favoured the location of the plant here, the Company sources said.

“ The Project is estimated to generate direct employment for 2,000 to 3,000 persons and indirect employment to 20,000 persons”.

SELF CONQUEST

- Subramania Bharathiar

What reaches the eye,
 Cannot the hand reach out to it?
 The sky seen from the earth,
 Can we not make it our own, is it beyond us?
 O Primal force
 That fills sky and earth, eye and mind!
 Are we merely to dream and dream
 And toil
 And in the end slump in a futile heap?

All that the heart yearns for,
 All gifts,
 Glory and merit and all else noble
 Can be ours
 Yea, if only we conquer self.
 So spake the sages
 Ages ago.

And we who hear now and know,
 Are we to stand, listless, nerveless,
 Sunk into nothing?
 Is it beyond us, this power,
 The power to win
 And rule the self

(‘Kannil teriyum’ translated by
 Prof. K. Swaminathan)

(India's Olympic debacle at Atlanta is well known. Can our sportsmen be inspired by Bharathiar's powerful verses and bring glory at the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games?)



ACTIVITIES OF ANTI-SOCIAL ELEMENTS BEING CURBED

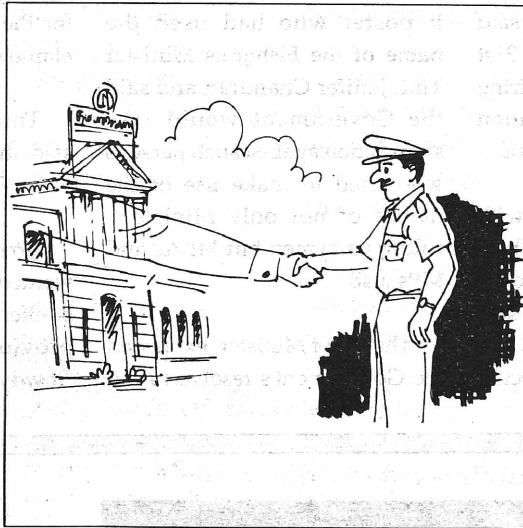
TAMIL NADU ASSEMBLY LAUDS EFFORTS OF POLICE

All the members in the Assembly of August 1st 1996 praised the police crackdown on "rowdy" and the mercenary gangs in Madras city during the last week of July and urged the Government to wipe out all such gangs in the State.

The Members' appreciation of the Police came when the shoot-out between Police and a gang in Chennai on July 31st was raised through a special calling attention notice.

The Chief Minister said that a "rowdy" gang under the leadership of Asai Thambi, Sera and Mano was indulging in committing crimes in Chennai and its suburbs in the last few years. Cases has been registered against Mano and Asai Thambi and they were pending ever since 1992. A Special Police force was formed following a complaint filled by an Industrialist, Thiru Bharathi who was abducted but escaped

from the custody of this gang. Though six of the gang members were arrested and some of their vehicles seized, Asai Thambi and Mano went under ground.



On July 5, the gang entered the Egmore Court and killed an undertrial prisoner, Viji and escaped. Following this, the police intensified their hunt and arrested 15 members of the gang. Still the police could not capture Asai Thambi and Mano.

A member of the gang, by name Sekhar alias Mattu Sekhar, was injured on July 22, when the Executive Director of the Southern Railway Mazdoor Union, Thiru Kanniah, opened fire in self defence when he was attacked by the members of the gang "rowdies" at Purasawalkam on July 27. The Police party was attacked with petrol bombs. A Deputy Commissioner of Police and an Inspector of Police were injured. However, the police arrested four persons—Senthil Kumar (26) of Tirunelveli District, Kumaragurubaran (30) of V.O.C District, Muthukumar (26) of Nagercoil and Kumaran (19) of Kanniyakumari. Senthil Kumar sustained bullet injuries.

The Chief Minister, narrating the incident near Loyola College, said that Asai Thambi, Mano and Gopal died of bullet injuries when they were being removed to hospital "two others of the gang has escaped. In the incident,

Superintendent of Police Thiru Gandhirajan, Inspectors Thiru Elango and Thiru Mohan, Sub-Inspectors Thiru Perumal and Thiru Elango and Thiru Thillai Natarajan sustained injuries. While Thiru Mohan had been admitted to hospital, others were treated as out-patients. The hostage Thiru Sudhir, was rescued from a house in Meenambakkam. A car, a motor-cycle, three revolvers, five petrol bombs, two swords and a cellular phone used by the gang were seized. Further investigation was on."

Before giving details of the shoot-out, the Chief Minister said in a lighter vein that the July 31st incident was the first police firing that had received approbation from the Members of the House.

The Chief Minister agreed with the INL member Thiru M.A. Latheef, that the incident was an unfortunate one but said that it could not be helped. An enquiry by the PA to the Collector,

Chennai had been ordered into July 31st incident. Search for those who escaped and efforts to put down the "rowdy" menace had been intensified. He announced amidst applause, at the House Government's resolve to control "rowdy" gangs not only in Chennai but in other parts of the State also. A dragnet will be spread for the capture of all extortionists. On 31st July a "rowdy" was arrested for threatening a trader and demanding Rs. 5000.

The Chief Minister also referred to the arrest of an imposter who had used the name of the Fisheries Minister Tmt. Jenifer Chandran and said the Government would take stern action against such persons who tried to make use of the names of not only Ministers, ruling partymen but MLAs and MPs also.

The Chief Minister expressed the Government's resolve to put

down the menace. The illicit liquor pots would also become the targets of police bullets in future, he warned.

Thiru R. Thamaraiyani (AIADMK) applauding the police action, urged the Government to eliminate the "rowdy" elements, to whichever party they belonged to. Thiru R. Krishnasamy (Devendrar Sangam) said that though the action was belated it was good for the State.

Thiru D. Mani (CPI-M) referred to the operation of such hired goons in other parts good for the State and demanded their elimination.

Thiru G. Palanisamy (CPI) said the 31st July police action was a feather in their cap.

Thiru Ranganathan (TMC) wanted the illicit liquor trade to be effectively curbed, as that alone provided sustenance to the "rowdy" gangs. ○



The Statue of the Freedom Fighter Tmt. Rukmani Lakshmipathi was unveiled by the Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi on 6.8.96 at Chennai. Former Governor of Maharashtra, Thiru C. Subramaniam, Minister for Public Works, Thiru Durai Murugan and others also participated.

Very short Stories from the Far East

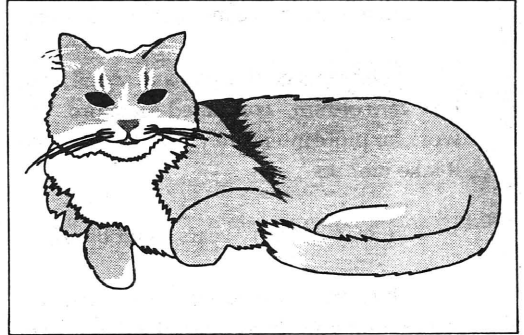
The Most Valuable Thing

Sozan, a Chinese Zen master, was asked by a Student, "What is the most valuable thing in the world?"

The master replied: "The head of a dead cat"

"Why is the head of a dead cat the most valuable thing in the world?" inquired the student.

Sozen replied: "Because no one can name its price."



Real Prosperity

A rich man asked Sengai to write something for the continued prosperity of his family so that it might be treasured from generation to generation.

Sengai obtained a large sheet of paper and wrote "Father dies, son dies, grand-son dies".

The rich man became angry. "I asked you to write something for the happiness of my

family! Why do you make such a joke as this?"

"No joke is intended," explained Sengai. "If before you yourself die your son should die, this would grieve you greatly. If your grandson should pass away before your son, both of you would be broken-hearted. If your family, generation after generation, passes away in the order I have named, it will be the natural course of life. I call this real prosperity".

The Taste of Banzo's Sword



Matajuro Yagyu was the son of a famous swordsman. His father, believing that his son's work was too mediocre to anticipate mastership, disowned him.

Matajuro went to Mount Futara and there found the famous swordsman Banzo. But Banzo confirmed the Father's judgement. "You wish to learn swordsmanship under my guidance?" asked Banzo. "You cannot fulfill the requirement."

"But I work hard, how many years will take me to become a master?" persisted the youth.

"The rest of your life," replied Banzo.

"I cannot wait that long," explained Matajuro, "I am willing to pass through any hardship, if only you will teach me. If I become your devoted servant, how long might it be?"

"Oh, maybe ten years," Banzo relented.

"My father is getting old, and soon I must take care of him," continued Matajuro. "If I work far more intensively, how long, would it take me?"

"Oh, may be thirty years," said Banzo.

"Why is that?" asked Matajuro. "First you say ten and now thirty years. I will undergo any hardship to master this art in the shortest time "

"Well, " said Banzo, "in that case you will have to remain with me for seventy years. A man in such a hurry as you are to get results seldom learn quickly."

"Very well, " declared the youth, understanding at last that he was being rebuked for impatience, "I agree".

Matajuro was told never to speak of fencing and never to touch a sword. He cooked for his master, washed the dishes, made his bed, cleaned the yard, cared for the garden, all without a word of swordsmanship.

Three years passed. Still Matajuro laboured on. Thinking of his future, he was sad. He had not even begun to learn the art to which he had devoted his life.

But one day Banzo crept up behind him and gave him a terrific blow with a wooden sword.

The following day, when Matajuro was cooking rice, Banzo, again sprang upon him unexpectedly.

After that, day and night, Matajuro had to defend himself against unexpected thrusts. Not a moment passed in any day or night that he did not have to think of the taste of Banzo's sword.

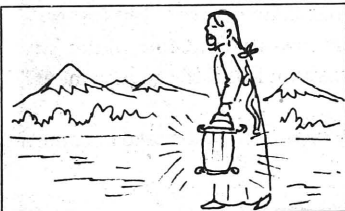
He learned so rapidly he brought smiles to the face of his master. Matajuro became the greatest swordsman in the land.

Teaching the Ultimate

In early times in Japan, bamboo- and paper lanterns were used with candles inside. A blind man, visiting a friend one night, was offered a lantern to carry home with him.

"I do not need a lantern, "he said "Darkness or light is all the same to me".

"I know you do not need a lantern to find your way, "his friend replied, "but if you don't have one, someone else may run into you. So you must take it."



The blind man started off with the lantern and before he has walked very far someone ran squarely into him. "Look out where you are going" he exclaimed to the stranger. "Can't you see this lantern?"

"Your candle has burned out, brother" replied the stranger.

Cover Story

Chief Ministers of Karnataka And Tamil Nadu Meet

CAUVERY TALKS HELD ON OPTIMISTIC NOTE

The hour long discussions between the Chief Minister of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu on Cauvery on August 5th ended on an optimistic note with both the heads of Government agreeing to continue the dialogue for evolving an "Interim arrangement" for sharing the waters for "Mutual benefit without prejudice to the interests of the farmers of both the States".

In his statement to the Assembly, Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi said the talks between him and Thiru. Patel took place as per the directive of the Supreme Court. "The talks took place in a cordial atmosphere," he added.

A decision had been taken to share, as an immediate "Interim relief", the Cauvery waters between the two States in a beneficial way with the intention of meeting the need of both the States and without affecting the interests of the farmers of Tamil Nadu

and Karnataka, he said.

The Chief Minister also conveyed to the House the happy news that Thiru. Patel had invited him to Karnataka for further talks and said that his trip would be some time after August 15.

Talking to media persons after the discussions, Thiru. Patel described the talks as a "Historic beginning to resolve a historic problem" and to clinch a historic solution. He assured, in response to repeated questions, that any solution should be for the mutual benefit of farmers of both the States whose interests should be primarily safeguarded. Pressed further, he agreed that he was of course, keen in protecting the interests of the farmers of Tamil Nadu without jeopardising the interests of

the farmers of Karnataka State.

The time and the quantum of water to be released would be decided soon, he said, when asked whether

In his statement to the Assembly, the Chief Minister said the talks between him and Thiru. Patel took place as per the directive of the Supreme Court. "The talks took place in a cordial atmosphere"

any decision had been taken for releasing a specific quantity of water within a time frame. He said, "We are ready to give water, your Chief Minister is ready to accept it. The modalities, we have to work them out".

When a reporter pointed out that with the total failure of the Kuruvai paddy crop in Tamil Nadu, a minimum of 170 tmc ft of water would be required to sustain the main Samba Paddy crop in the Delta on an extent of about 12 lakh acres till January end, Thiru. Patel replied, "Statistics and technical data had not resolved the issue for over 100 years. The welfare of the farmers in both the States would be the primary concern as other things were only of the nature of details".

"The tribunal exists, but we are trying to find a solution to the problem for safeguarding the mutual interests of the States", he said when asked whether a solution could be reached through negotiation within the ambit of the interim award of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal.

"I am happy to be here with my Cabinet colleagues and officials for the discussion with the

hope that a solution could be reached to protect the interests of farmers of both the States,"

Thiru. Patel said.

Thiru. Patel described the talks as a "Historic beginning to resolve a historic problem" and to clinch a historic solution.

KARNATAKA DELEGATION

The 15 Member Karnataka Delegation included Deputy Chief Minister Thiru Siddha Ramiah, Major

irrigation Minister Thiru K. Nage Gowda, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Thiru Nanaiah, Chief Secretary Thiru Cecil Naronha, Irrigation Secretary Thiru Pancha Gatti, Law Secretary Thiru Basavaraj and Irrigation Technical Advisory Committee Chairman Thiru K.C. Reddy.

TAMIL NADU DELEGATION

The 12 Member Tamil Nadu Delegation included Union Minister Thiru Murasoli Maran, P.W.D. Minister Thiru K. Durai Murugan, Law Minister Thiru Aladi Aruna, Chief Secretary Thiru. K.A. Nambiar, P.W.D. Secretary Thiru Naresh Gupta, Law Secretary Thiru A.K. Rajan, Agriculture Secretary Thiru N. Athimoolam, Cauvery Technical Cell Chairman Thiru. A. Mohana Krishnan and Cauvery Advisory Committee Chairman Thiru R. Thirumalai.

SCIENCE UP-DATE

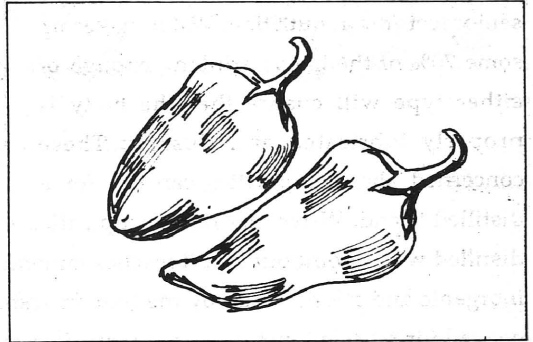
The Good News

It's teatime! Men who drink more than 4-7 cups of black tea a day may reduce their RISK OF STROKE 69% compared with those who drink less than 2-6 cups. A Dutch report indicates Tea along with Dozens of other foods is rich in flavonoids, vitamin-like compounds that appear to make platelets less prone to clotting.

Coffee as carcinogen neutralizer

The world' oldest cooking method-barbecue is also the most carcinogenic - especially for those who like their meat well done. Flame cooking adds flavour, but it also subjects food to oxidization, a process that adds cancer-causing chemicals to whatever gets put on the grill. At a meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research, Scientists revealed an unusual discovery. Coffee reduced the amount of genetic damage in mice subjected to barbecue carchinogens by 50%. Good news for picnicking rodents but will that cup of coffee have the same effect on us? Researchers say they are working on human trials now- One of the best ways to reduce your chance of barbecue induced stomach cancer is to cook meat moderately. People who eat their food well done have triple the risk of stomach cancer compared to those who only barbecue their meat to a rare or medium rare degree, claims the National Cancer Institute in the U.S. Specialists say for best results avoid the charred bits and have a cup of coffee after your meal.

The benefits of chilli peppers



People who love to eat scorching spices may not be as crazy as you think. Chillies, as many an embarrassed pepper-popper knows, make noses run and eyes water. But mucus production is actually a good thing, a defense mechanism that flushes germs and irritants out of the body. A quick way to clear your sinuses is to add a little cayenne pepper to distilled water, place a small amount of the mixture below your nostrils and sniff. A slight stinging sensation does, however, accompany this treatment. Chilli can also work as an antiseptic and astringent. Gargling with a mild solution of cayenne grains and water relieves gum irritations and sore throats. As article in U.S.A. weekend claims that in addition to these benefits, hot pepper sauce actually raises the metabolism by 25% burning 45 extra calories per hour. But, before you go in search of a suitably piquant potion, be aware that anything in excess has its price; too much hot stuff often means heartburn or diarrhoea.

Which type of water is better?

The boiled water section in supermarkets is always lined with a spectrum of brands some status-laden, others only genetic. But there are really only two types of water; distilled and mineral. Is one better for your health than the other? Yes and no, says Dr. Edmund Li, a University of Hong Kong senior lecturer in nutrition. Water makes up some 70% of the body; drinking enough of either type will ensure that the body is properly lubricated and flushed. Those concerned about impurities can opt for a

distilled brand. Water that has been purified by vaporization and then recondensed. Detractors of distilled water point out that it leaches minerals from the body. However, the minerals it drains are inorganic and are not used by the human system. Mineral water contains electrolytes, compounds needed for muscle function and energy. Extreme fluid loss due to exercise or vomiting can deplete electrolytes. When this happens, "distilled water is not the most appropriate method of fluid replacement," says Dr. Li. Mineral water or fluids formulated as sports drinks are better choices to replace the required electrolytes.



Fat is good for some things

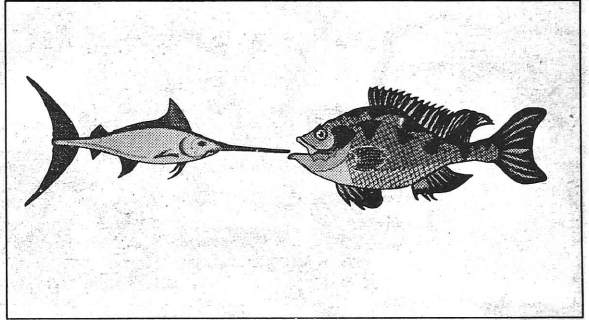
Just like wide lapels and long hemlines, different nutrients enjoy moments of being in vogue. What's hot right now is Vitamin E, an anti-oxidant that is rumoured to ward off cancer and heart disease. Vitamin E is stored in fat and found in fatty foods like eggs, corn, wheat, germ and peanuts. For years, nutritionists have urged people to eat fats, sparingly, spurring the evolution of fat-free salad dressings, "egg substitutes" and most recently, the artificial fat Olestra. According to a recent article in the New England Journal of Medicine, Scientists found that eating high-fat foods like margarine, mayonnaise

and other oil based products provides a dose of Vitamin E significant enough to reduce the chances of death from coronary heart disease by 62%. The study which spanned seven years, tracked the eating habits and illnesses of 34,486 post menopausal women. Although Vitamin E is widely available in capsule form, the study showed that supplements did not reduce the risk of damage to the body. Amount guidelines have yet to be set, but getting your daily Vitamin E dose is easy as sticking to normal habits of cooking with vegetable, sun-flower or corn oil.

Good News for sea food lovers

Cholesterol conscious seafood lovers who bemoan the high cholesterol content of seafood have reason to take heart nowadays.

A new study suggest that seafood is full of cholesterol but of the good type. In the University of Washington in Seattle, 18 men were made to eat seafood - including squid and shrimp in place of meat and dairy products. The results of the tests showed that those who ate crabs, clams, mussels and oysters showed a drop in their levels of LDL (the bad cholesterol), while the levels of good cholesterol (HDL) increased.



However those who ate shrimps and squids did not show any changes in their blood cholesterol. Conclusions point that a moderate consumption of seafood may not at all be detrimental to the heart after all. A problem would be in the way the seafood are prepared. Cooking these goodies in butter and saturated oil, water still raise 'bad' cholesterol levels. So it's best to eat them steamed or grilled in moderate amounts and you can have all the seafood diet you want!

Beware of that ginseng magic

Ginseng a much-touted Chinese herb and one of the most popular oriental elixirs to gain admiration in the West has built its reputation for its body-invigorating properties. But so many claims about ginseng's numerous psychological feats has left experts skeptical. Although studies prove that ginseng shows down aging, lengthens life spans and improves performance in athletes, none of these studies have proved beyond doubt that ginseng was responsible for the beneficial results, experts continue to keep an eye on this intriguing herb.

Although regarded as generally safe, ginseng

can cause minor problems because it travels through the blood thereby acting on different parts of the body, it has been presumably responsible for causing vaginal bleeding in post-menopausal women. Some other people react sensitively to ginseng in that they get jittery and have trouble falling asleep after taking it (much like what you feel when you've had too much coffee).

So if you do decide to have some ginseng and notice that you suffer some reaction to the herb, limit yourself only to a small portion of ginseng root; half an inch or the size of your little finger tip. ○

**An agreement for the establishment of a modern Glass factory at Sengundram Village near Chengleput by Messrs. Pilkington of England on an investment of Rs. 550 crores, was signed in the presence of the Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi on 16.7.96.*

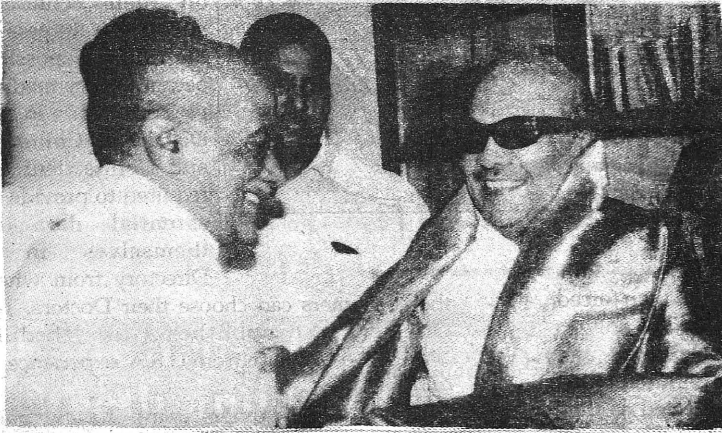
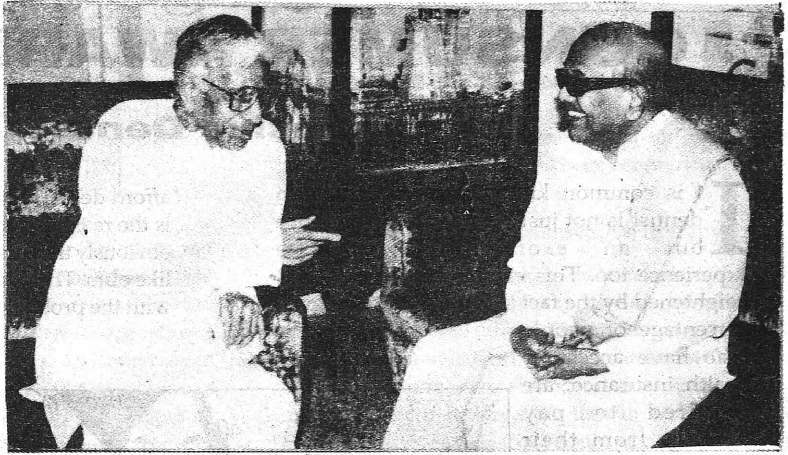


PHOTO FEATURE



The Director General of Coast Guards Vice Admiral B.J. Jacob called on the Chief Minister on 2.8.96.

* The former Governor of Maharashtra, Thiru C. Subramaniam called on the Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi on 2.8.96.



* The Central Minister for State incharge of Public and Personnel Grievances and Parliamentary Affairs, Thiru S. R. Balasubramaniam called on the Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi on 21.7.96.

* The Finland Ambassador to India Thiru Benjamin Passin called on the Minister for Education Thiru K. Anbazhagan on 17.7.96



CONSUMER AWARENESS

The Expensive Dental Care

It is common knowledge that going to a dentist is not just a traumatic experience but an exorbitantly expensive experience too. This expensive experience is heightened by the fact that even the negligible percentage of people who have access to health insurance, are required to pay directly from their pocket. Indeed, most insurance companies demand a higher premium if dental health care have to be included in their coverage.



The result of high dental costs have had a widespread negative impact. People (or consumers) are often forced to put off sorely needed tooth care, only to wind up with more paid, more expense, and tooth care in the long run. The children of the poorer sections are the most affected as they can't afford private dental care and Government hospitals with dental departments are extremely crowded.

A study at Vermont in U.S.A. showed that the majority of Vermont's families are in urgent need of dental care but they could not

afford dental care even for their children. If this is the reality in an advanced nation like U.S.A., obviously the situation must be worse in a nation like ours. The administrators of Vermont dealt with the problem by passing to the "Tooth Fairy

Bill" cutting the cost of children's dental care to Vermont's families between 50 percent and 75 percent depending on their economic status. The success of the bill was possible because every medical practitioner in the District of Columbia and Connecticut are required to provide all essential data on themselves in a Directory from where

the consumers can choose their Doctors. The Directory also publishes a fee schedule. May be we can learn from U.S.A. experience.

From the consumers point of view, good dental care need not be a luxury, nor need it be left to dentists alone. Consumers can find out what their teeth need and don't need. By good diet and proper home care, consumers can save their teeth even without dentists, and avoid fillings and extractions. If you do your part well you can have your teeth all your life.

Rights of the Consumers in managing their dental problems

The Right to Quality

The best dentist is one primarily in the prevention of dental disease. At your first appointment this dentist will obtain from you your medical and dental history. You should advise the dentist of any of your drug allergies and about

many medication you might be taking. He will ask for a record of your past dental treatment, including X rays. During your examination, note whether your dentist checks (1) your lips, tongue and throat (soft tissue) for any abnormalities that might

indicate cancer of the oral cavity (2) your gums for bleeding, unusual colouring, tooth mobility and other signs of disease and of course (3) your teeth (hard tissue). Throughout your examination and then your treatment consider how well organized your dentist is. One who is constantly interrupted or has to rush to meet a fast-paced schedule can be dangerous.

The Right to the knowledge of preventive technique

You should not feel uneasy about asking questions and your dentist should not be unhappy to provide answers you can understand. You should have some ideas of the risks involved with any treatment. When the dentist decides to give you an anesthetic, ask him about it. Ask him what specialized training he has had. Ask him how he is prepared for an emergency. And if you have even the slightest doubt about your dentist's judgement, ask the advice of another dentist or a dental specialist.

The right to minimize X-Ray exposures

Whenever a dentist says he needs X-rays of your teeth, ask him why. X-rays are capable of causing cancer and genetic damage and should be used sparingly. Nevertheless, it is estimated that over half of all diagnostic X-rays taken are unnecessary. Slipshod practice and poorly functioning equipment compound the problem. To guard against excessive

exposure to radiation, a dentist taking X-rays should cover his patient with a lead apron. A good dentist will not have to be asked to do this. To shorten X-ray exposure, he should also use ultraspeed dental film. The patient should request older X-rays from any previous dentists. Under normal circumstances, this will reduce the need for new X-rays, particularly full-mouth sets, which are necessary only every three to five years.

The right to the most conservative therapy

An extraction is the last taking you want from your dentist. If he advises a removal, ask him why he has rejected periodontic treatment or root canal therapy. Then, if you are still hesitant, go to a specialist who does not know your dentist. Loosing a tooth may appear more economical than saving it, but consequent dental problems can turn an extraction into a financial disaster. Be wary too of dentist who suggest capping before a more conservative therapy, or who without good explanation want to remove your wisdom teeth.

The right to written estimate of costs in advance of treatment

After your examination and before any dental treatment, your dentist should present you with a treatment plan, with a written itemization of costs and fees. After the treatment, you should be given an itemized bill, breaking down the charges.

Caring for Teeth and Gums

Prevention is better than cure, is an apt repeated statement. This is true in the care of teeth, which have a major role in speech, digestion, appreciation of food and even self-image. Tooth decay (caries), bleeding gums and bad breath can be prevented by cleaning the teeth at least twice a day and better, by brushing after every meal.

Diet

Eskimos rarely suffered from tooth decay until

they adopted a high sugar western style diet. It is also said, that during World War II, when sugar was scarce, there was less tooth decay. A sweet tooth is a bad habit and children must be helped not to develop one, by giving them fruits, nuts and raw vegetables instead of soft drinks (which contain a lot of sugar), chocolates, biscuits and sweets. A healthy diet, with as little sugar as possible, is the basic rule for preventing dental problems.

Fluoride

The introduction of fluoride toothpastes in USA brought about a sea change in dentistry in USA: Dentists had lesser patients. The mineral fluoride

has an important part in the development of dental decay, especially during the development of teeth and after they have erupted.

The most effective way of supplying fluorine salts is by adding fluoride to the public water supplies. It has been proved to good effect as residents become resistant to tooth decay when supplied fluoride in public water supplies.

Drinking water fluorinated at the level of one part fluoride to every million parts of water. When fluoride level reach the parts per million or more,

white or brown marks might appear on the teeth as it occurs when children are given certain antibiotics. Fluoride toothpastes, mouthwisher and fluoride paints help prevent tooth decay.

Gum care

More teeth are lost through gum problems than by tooth decay. Plaque collects around the gum margin, inflames the gum and eventually loosens the contact between gum and tooth, leaving a gap for the bacteria to breed and finally the tooth loosens.

The Right to own your Dental X-rays and Records

When a dentist X-rays your mouth or records your treatment, you pay him to do it. You then have a right to the records. Before you move or change dentists, you should ask your last dentist for a copy of all your X-rays and records to give your next dentist. This saves needless expense and exposure radiation and provides your newest dentist with information he will require.



What is Dental Flossing?

Dental flossing is a way of maintaining the teeth and gums, just like brushing. Flossing helps to prevent the accumulation of food particles and helps stop breeding of bacteria.

HOW TO START A SMALL INDUSTRY?

In the third part of our series, 'How to Start a small Industry', we focus on incentives and concessions for SSI.

INCENTIVES AND CONCESSIONS FOR SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES

STATE CAPITAL SUBSIDY

-15% of fixed capital investment (cost of land, building, plant and machinery) subject to a ceiling of Rs.15 lakhs for the 82 backward Taluks, State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (SIPCOT)'s Industrial complexes and growth centres, Tamil Nadu Small Industries Development Corporation (SIDCO)'s Industrial complexes and other Industrial complexes developed by Government Agencies including the Madras Metropolitan Development Authority, Madras Export Processing Zone etc.,

-20% of fixed capital investment subject to a ceiling of Rs.20 lakhs for units in the 31 most backward Taluks in Tamil Nadu.

-The cost of second hand machinery should be excluded from the total amount of capital investment, for subsidy purposes.

- All new units and also existing units which go for substantial expansion/diversification will also be eligible.

- Power intensive industries like iron and steel smelting, aluminium smelting and calcium carbide units and small service establishments are ineligible.

- Application for subsidy is to be filed through the District Industries Centres.

ADDITIONAL CAPITAL SUBSIDY FOR EMPLOYING WOMEN

- 5% additional capital subsidy subject to a maximum of Rs. 5 lakhs is available for units in which more than 30% of the workers are women.

- This is not applicable to industries such as (a) Food

20 percent capital subsidy for units in the 31 most backward Taluks in Tamil Nadu

products; (b) Garment; (c) Leather products; (d) Hosiery and (e) Matches in which traditionally women are employed.

SPECIAL CAPITAL SUBSIDY FOR SELECTED CATEGORIES OF INDUSTRIES

- 20% of the capital investment upto a ceiling of Rs.35 lakhs for electronics, Rs.20 lakhs for leather and Rs.15 lakhs for other industries (exclusive of value of second hand machinery).

- This subsidy is available to

industrial units irrespective of their location, subject to the condition that where backward area subsidy is available, this subsidy will become part of such subsidy.

- New or existing small scale units involved in :

1. Leather Industry
2. Electronic Industry
3. Auto ancillaries
4. Drugs and Pharmaceuticals
5. Solar Energy equipment
6. Gold and Diamond jewellery for export
7. Jute Processing Industry in six Taluks namely Ambasamudram (Nellai Kattabomman), Madurai (Madurai), Musiri (Trichy) Kumbakonam (Thanjavur), Chingleput (Chengai Anna) and Panruti (South Arcot Vallalar)
8. Pollution control equipment
9. Sports goods and accessories
10. Cost effective building materials like aluminium, PVC doors and windows, window frames, etc.
11. Food processing industries.

- Existing industries which undertake expansions/diversification without any limit to the number of expansions/diversifications are eligible for subsidy.

STAGE BY STAGE RELEASE OF STATE CAPITAL SUBSIDY

- Vide order dated 27.2.1992, the Industries Department, Government of Tamil Nadu ordered stage by stage release of State Capital Subsidy as per the following procedure.

- In respect of land purchased and new building constructed, 25% of subsidy to be released after

completion of civil work, 50% after installation of plant and machinery and 25% after commencement of commercial production.

- In respect of ready built building purchased, 25% to be released after execution of sale/purchase deed, 50% after installation of plant and machinery and balance 25% after commencement of commercial production.

- In respect of premises taken on rent or lease or units being set up in own premises/ building without new civil construction, 50% to be released after installation of plant and machinery and 50% after commencement of commercial production.

**LOW TENSION POWER
TARIFF SUBSIDY**

- Available for 3 years from date of commencement of production or date of power connection, whichever is later, at 40% of actual energy charges paid for the first year, 30% for the second year and 20% for the third year, to all small scale industrial units consuming low tension power excluding areas falling under Madras Metropolitan Development Authority/Urban Land Tax jurisdiction and Urban Land Ceiling jurisdiction, namely Madras and its environs of 15 km and towns of Coimbatore, Madurai, Salem and Trichy, with 8 km belt area.

- For reimbursement of power tariff paid once in six months,

claim should be made through District Industries Centres with copies of permanent registration certificates and photostat copies of Electricity Board consumption

*Full waiver of sales tax
for a period of 5 years upto
ceiling of total investment
in fixed assets made in
new units in 31 most
backward taluks*

card and the receipt from the Electricity Board for having paid the charges. For bills paid from January to June, claim should be made before August 31, and for the bills from July to December before February 28 of the succeeding year.

**POWER GENERATION
SUBSIDY**

- 15% of the cost of the generator not exceeding Rs.5 lakhs. All high tension/low tension power consuming units are eligible.

- Generator purchased for replacement of old generator is also eligible subject to some conditions.

- Conventional, resource based and power intensive industries are not eligible (for complete list contact DIC).

- Prior permission of Tamil Nadu Electricity Board is to be obtained for installation of new generator sets.

- Generator should be purchased

from the manufacturer or from the dealer accredited by the manufacturer.

- After installation of generator, application should be filed for subsidy to District Industries Centre.

**INTEREST FREE SALES
TAX - DEFERRAL/WAIVER**

- Full waiver of sales tax for a period of 5 years upto a ceiling of total investment in fixed assets made in new units and a similar concession for existing units undertaking expansion/diversification in the 31 MOST BACKWARD TALUKS or

- Sales tax deferral for 9 years to the full extent of the total investment made in fixed assets for new units.

- Sales tax deferral for 9 years to the full extent of the total investment in fixed assets made in new units and to the extent of 80% of the additional investment made in fixed assets under expansion/diversification in the 82 Taluks declared as Backward Taluks. Sales tax deferral for 5 years subject to a maximum of 60% of the total investment made in fixed assets in the case of new industries and 50% of the additional investment in fixed assets made in the case of expansion/diversification in OTHER AREAS.

**SUBSIDY FOR QUALITY
PRODUCTS**

- Upto Rs.2,000/- for getting ISI certification. This is given only once for a product.

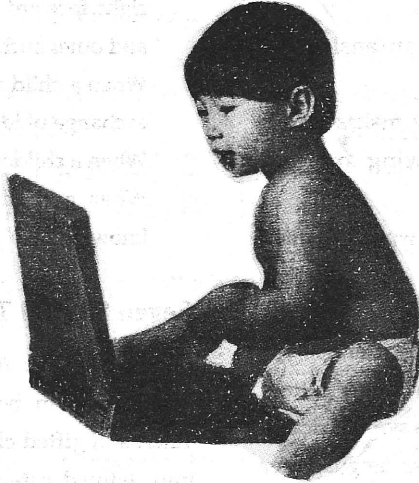
GUIDE YOUR CHILD TO EXCELLENCE

Is your Child Gifted?

Every parent thinks that his or her child is special or unique. But how many of you out there have wondered whether or not your child is talented or gifted? Gifted children are those who are developmentally advanced in many if not all areas. Truly gifted children may be advanced in most aspects of achievement and the acquisition of skills. They will enjoy all kinds of brain exercise and may even find some of them very easy. Such a child invariably learns early and is able to use that learning in a broad flexible way.

Again, the nature versus nature arguments has a part to play in the whole equation. There are numerous examples in which a child who is born normal has the potential to be gifted in the right environment.

Though there may be developmental milestones to establish what a child should do at different stages in life, consistent assessment is still tough as children progress at different rates. Some children progress by leaps and bounds while others may progress at a uniform rate. Some seem slow initially



but may catch up at an amazing speed.

When seeking to discover whether a child is talented or not, the parent is actually seeking approval that he is indeed a successful parent. Having a gifted child gives parent a sense of achievement that they

have something right. But the desire to create intelligent children should not escalate into a situation where parent push their kids into a position where they have to perform or be persecuted. Even intelligent children can recoil from such pressure and under perform due to the stress. Give children maximum room to express themselves and be confident in their own environment. If your child is not gifted he may have a special talent that's worth encouraging.

Looking out for signs of Genius

Although it's difficult to say what 'normal' intelligence is, many experts in the field of development can define the sequence and rate of mental development in the average child and use this to predict intelligence. So what should parent of preschool Children look out for in their children. In the book, Gifted Young Children, written by Drs. W.C. Roedell, N. E. Jackson and HB Robinson, there are some tips to look out for.

- * When your child starts using advance vocabulary and asks about new words which she hears being used into a story or conversation.
- * When your child can use an analogy or metaphor.
- * When a child spontaneously makes up his own song or story drawing on new experiences.
- * When a child can play with words, rhymes, rhythms etc.,
- * When your child is extremely creative with blocks, playdough or drawing material.
- * When your child attempts to copy a pattern or when the pattern created is symmetrical.
- * When the child simplifies her language for younger children like shortening a sentence.
- * When a child understands the emotions of another child and sympathises with her feelings and needs.
- * When a child uses her verbal skill to end a conflict or influence another child's behaviour.
- * When a child displays special skills in solving puzzles.
- * When a child can comprehend several things at the same time.
- * When a child masters a new skill or concept with unusual speed.
- * When a child is able to carry out complex instructions to do several things in succession.
- * The child has an excellent sense of

direction and is able to locate herself in the environment.

- * When a child can readily identify left and right, forward and backward, before and after and other such concepts.
- * When a child use language for sophisticated exchange of ideas and information.
- * When a child has long attention span.
- * When a child is interested in and speaks knowledgeably about adult topics.

Seven Special Talents

Looking out for talent in many different directions can be confusing for the parent. Talents in gifted children can be easily divided into defined categories. Dr. Howard Gardner, an educational psychologist at Harvard University has done ample research in this topic and has defined seven types of intelligence to assess and stimulate the intelligence of preschool children. These include:

Linguistics : traditional IQ tests usually test for this intelligence which is defined as the ability to understand the meaning and order of words.



- * **Logics/mathematical** - the ability to comprehend mathematical concepts and logical systems. This is the other type of measure that traditional IQ tests use.

- * **Musical** - the ability to create and understand music.

- * **Spatial** - the ability to understand the visual world and recreate or alter it.
- * **Bodily** - Kinesthetic: the ability to use the body in a skilled manner or for self-expression.
- * **Intrapersonal** - To understand and be in touch with one's own emotions.
- * **Interpersonal** - the ability to understand other individuals, their feelings and goals.

According to Dr. Gardner, it would mean the application of several of these seven types of intelligence.

Stimulating your Child

If you have a gifted child it is important to provide him with plenty of stimulation, new games, new ideas for play and plenty of creative opportunities. Otherwise he is bound to become bored and frustrated if he is not being attached by play.

You can encourage your gifted preschooler in those crucial maturing years without stress and pressure. We show you how:

- * Devote ample time to your child.
- * Provide a bright play area with ample space to move about.
- * Cultivate independence and responsibility by allocating safe chores around the house.
- * Encourage drawing, painting, writing and all types of self-expression.
- * Opt for activities or toys that combine learning and play eg. word, games etc.
- * Read stories and discuss plots later.
- * Interact with your child, talk to her, ask her questions and respond to her queries with

interest and complete attention.

- * Expose your child to book stores and public libraries.
- * Let your child listen to a wide variety of music.
- * Travel with your child when you can.
- * Involve your child in your own activities and explain your actions to your child.
- * Get your child to solve some hypothetical solutions.
- * Don't 'baby-talk' - talk to her like an adult.

Special Needs

A gifted child may have special needs which may not be adequately provided for in schools. Added to that she may have specific emotional needs that are different from those of the average child. She may find it hard to relate with her peers. She may become impatient with her friends and find them slow. She will want to be like other children and be accepted as one of them. She may feel isolated and alone.



When a gifted child is denied the chance to exploit her potential she will feel alienated and thus sulk. She may be tantrumatic and may be bored by school subjects. Teachers may find her arrogant, precious and cheeky. Thus parent have to intervene and discuss their child's future with the school teachers before they misunderstand her behaviour and ability to perform.

News from Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly

SALES TAX RELIEF FOR MORE PRODUCTS ANNOUNCED

The Chief Minister Kalaigñar M.Karunanidhi announced Sales Tax relief on a range of products including Computers and TV Sets, readymade garment, Tirupur hosiery and pressure cookers on July 25.

Replying to the debate on the budget for 1996-97 in the State Assembly, the Chief Minister said that despite the revenue loss of Rs. 306 crores as a result of tax reforms and concessions in the budget, he was announcing further reliefs. The Chief Minister had received representations from trade and industry and to reduce the hardship the decision was to the public.

IDENTITY CARDS TO GENUINE FARMERS



The Tamil Nadu Government has proposed to issue identity cards to farmers to ensure

agricultural inputs supplied at subsidised rates reached them, announced the Agricultural Minister Thiru Veerapandi Arumugam at the Assembly on July 27. In the first phase 2.63 lakh Adi-Dravida farmers would be issued the identity cards which would cost the Government Rs. 13.15 lakhs.

RESOLUTION ON REVIVAL OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PASSED

A Resolution on the revival of the Legislative Council, moved by the Chief Minister, Kalaigñar M. Karunanidhi, was passed in the State Legislative Assembly on July 26.

This is the second attempt by the DMK Government to revive the Upper House, that stood abolished from 1986 during MGR's administration. The first effort by the DMK was in its earlier term of office in 1989 but the move did not fruitify as the National Front Government at the Centre had to quit and the DMK Government itself was dismissed. The AIADMK Government that followed later chose to nullify the DMK's effort.

The Resolution will now be forwarded to the Centre for the consideration and approval by Parliament.

In all 199 Members from the DMK and its allies supported the Resolution. Of the 12 Members who remained neutral 4 belonged to the AIADMK and 8 to the CPI. The sole CPI(M) Member registered his opposition.

Replying to the discussion, the Chief Minister said the second chamber of the legislature was abolished without following the procedure. As per the Business Rules and Secretariat Instructions, the dissolution of the Council should have first been discussed in the Cabinet. This was not done.

A letter written by MGR to Rajiv Gandhi seeking the Congress (I)'s support for the Resolution recommending the abolition of the Council was the only official communique from the State that decided the fate of the Upper House. The Resolution was passed in a hurried way and it was not forwarded to the Governor either. No doubt MGR was ill at that time and the Governor was kept in the dark per a note put up by the Deputy Secretary to the (then) Chief Minister which stated that the intention of the Chief Minister is that this need not be circulated to the Governor. In this haphazard way, the Council was abolished then, the Chief Minister added.

GOVERNOR TO CONTINUE AS CHANCELLOR OF UNIVERSITIES

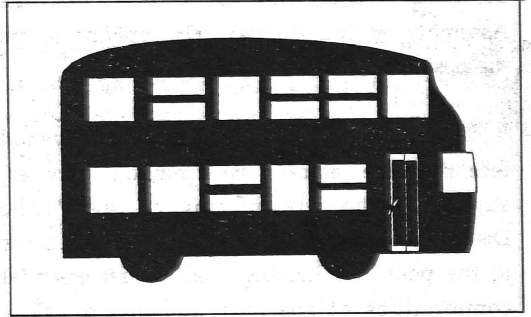
The Tamil Nadu Government had decided to withdraw the Bill passed by the previous AIADMK Government to make the Chief Minister the Chancellor of the Universities in the State.

The Education Minister Thiru K. Anbazhagan told the Assembly on July 30 that the present Government wanted the Governor to continue as the Chancellor.

Intervening during the discussion on the demands for grants for Education and allied subjects, the Minister said the Government also felt that the earlier Bill would seriously infringe on the concept of autonomy to Universities if the Chief Minister was to be made the Chancellor.

DOUBLE-DECKER BUSES TO BE INTRODUCED.

Double-Decker buses will be back on the roads in the City. The Transport Minister Thiru



K. Ponnudi on 5.8.96 announced in the Assembly that 20 Double-Decker buses are proposed to be introduced in Chennai on an experimental basis.

STATE TO SEEK CLASSICAL LANGUAGES STATUS FOR TAMIL

The State Government will urge the Centre to declare Tamil as a classical language, the Minister for Tamil Language and Culture Dr. M. Tamizhkudimagan, told the Assembly on 31st July 1996.

All Universities in Tamil Nadu had adopted a Resolution in this regard. Recently, the Centre had included Persian, Arabic and Sanskrit in the list of classical languages. Tamil was one of the oldest languages and it served as a root for several other languages, and the demand is obvious.

TWO TYPES OF FAMILY CARDS TO BE ISSUED FROM APRIL

From April 1997 there will be two categories of family cards one for those "below the poverty

line" and the other for the rest of the population.

The two would be of different colour for easy identification. Every card would have a photograph of the head of the family for which it was issued, the Food Minister Thiru. K.N. Nehru, told the Assembly on 2nd August 1996, replying to the discussion of the demands for grant.

The Chief Ministers Conference convened recently by the Centre on "basic minimum services" suggested the streamlining of the Public Distribution System (PDS) by issuing special cards to the poor and helping them to get essential commodities at specially subsidised prices according to the policy note on Food placed on the table of the House.

REVENUE COMMISSION TO BE SET UP

A Revenue Commission to stream-line and activate the Revenue Department would be set up, the Chief Minister Kalaighnar M. Karunanidhi said on 6.8.96.

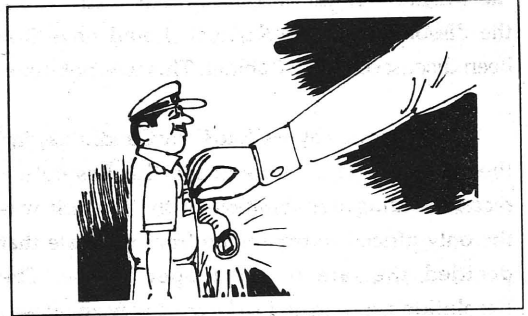
Replying to the discussions on the demands for grants, for Tax and District Administration, the Chief Minister said the Commission would be similar to the Police Commission constituted during the DMK's earlier rule.

He also offered to constitute a Committee to examine the changes being made in the Districts set-up following the creation of New Districts and act on its recommendations.

CHIEF MINISTER ANNOUNCES AWARD FOR POLICE PERSONNEL

The Government will institute an award in the name of Mahatma Gandhi for Police Personnel

who have put in exemplary Service in the eradication of illicit liquor, the Chief Minister



Kalaighnar M. Karunanidhi announced in the Assembly on 7.8.96.

The award carrying a medallion and a cash grant of Rs. 10,000/- would be presented on January 26 every year.

He said the institution of the award was to break the nexus between the Police and illicit distillers.

TAMIL NADU REGISTRATION ACT TO BE AMENDED

The Tamil Nadu Government will amend the Registration Act to invalidate transaction of properties located within the State, if they are registered outside the State. Thiru. I. Periasamy, Minister for Rural Industries in-charge of Registration, who disclosed this while replying to the discussions on demand for grants for the Department under his charge, said the Act provided for the re-validation of registrations done in other States. Though, sale of properties situated in Tamil Nadu worth several crores had been registered in the neighbouring States in the last 5 years, they had not been re-validated in Tamil Nadu resulting in heavy loss of revenue to the ex-

chequer. The amendment was to prevent such transaction in future.

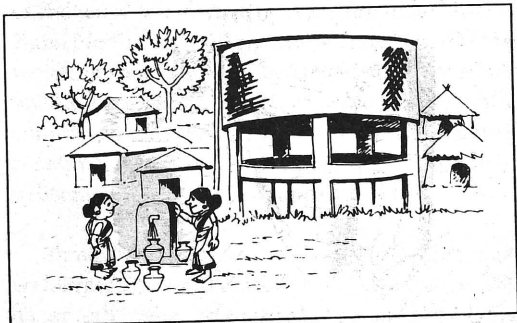
WATER FACILITY FOR ALL PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Drinking water facility would be provided to all the Primary Schools in the State within the next six months, the Local Administration Minister Thiru Ko.Si. Mani said in the Assembly on 9.8.96.

This would be done either by giving a tap connection from the nearest overhead tank or the integrated water supply source or by providing a hand pump, he said.

RS. 894 CRORES RURAL WATER SUPPLY SCHEME ON THE ANVIL

A Rs. 894 crore Water Supply and Sanitation project for rural areas has been forwarded to the Centre for World Bank Assistance, the Local Administration Minister Thiru Ko.Si. Mani said in the Assembly on 9.8.96.



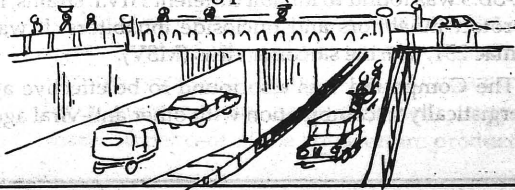
Moving the Demands for his Ministry, he said the scheme now under the active security of the Centre would be the phase-II of the programme. The components of the scheme, included construction of 45 major comprehensive water supply schemes for 4938

habitations (Rs. 443 crores), provision of deep borewells for 5000 rural habitations (Rs. 375 crores) and sanitation facilities through construction of 60,000 latrines and sullage drains including final disposal pits in 40 rural town panchayats (Rs. 64 crores).

RS. 71.33 CRORE FOR MAJOR PROJECTS IN CITY

The Local Administration Minister Thiru Ko.Si. Mani announced a package of schemes costing Rs. 71.33 crores for the development of Chennai on 9.8.96 in the Assembly.

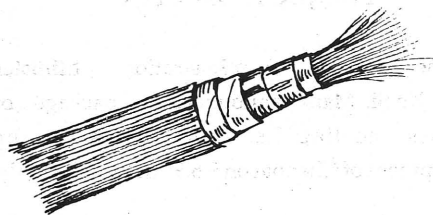
The major projects to be undertaken included a railway overbridge connecting Perambur Cooks Road and B.P. Road (Rs. 25.77 crores), an overbridge over Sterling Road Junction in Nungambakkam (Rs. 10.23 crores), a bridge near Napier bridge (Rs. 5.20 crores), a bridge near Basin bridge (Rs. 3.75 crores), a subway at Mint and at Basin bridge (Rs. 2.50 crores), a subway near Luz Junction (Rs. 1.38 crores), a foot path on either side on the Perambur Subway (Rs. 1.30 crores), a Subway near Ezhilagam (Rs. 1.05 crores), 3 storeyed parking lot for vehicles at Loan Square in Prakasam Salai (Rs. 9 crores), a commercial complex at the junction of Anna Salai and Thiru Vi. Ka. Salai in Thousand Lights (Rs. 3.50 crores), a commercial complex at the junction of Theagaraya Road and G.N. Chetty Road (Rs. 1.60 crores) and renovation of old shops and construction of new ones in Theagaraya Road (Rs. 2 crores), a recreation-cum informative park at the Dr. Visveswaraya park at Anna Nagar (Rs. 3 crores) and a dancing fountain near the Marina swimming pool (Rs. 1 crore).



Signs of PROGRESS

TTL SIGNS MoU WITH JAPANESE FIRM

Tamil Nadu Telecommunication Ltd (TTL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Fujikura Ltd of Japan on 2.8.96 for manufacturing Optical Fibre Cables (OPC).



The agreement was signed in the presence of the Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi by Thiru A.S. Bansal, Chairman and Managing Director of TTL, Thiru Akira Tsujikawa, Senior Managing Director, Fujikura and Thiru P.C. Cyriac, Industries Secretary, Tamil Nadu Government who is also the Chairman and Managing Director of SIDCO.

SEIZED DRUGS PILFERED FROM GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL

The Government drugs seized from a private clinic on G.N. Chetty Road have been found to be pilfered from the peripheral Hospital, Tondiarpet. Investigation revealed that an employee of the Peripheral Hospital

had been taking medicines from the Pharmacy in the names of non-existent patients. He used to fill OP (out patient) tickets with bogus names and prescriptions to account for the stolen drugs.

NEW ANTI-HIV COMPOUNDS DISCOVERED

Researchers including a former chemistry Professor from IIT, Chennai, claim to have discovered a new class of Compounds with anti-HIV properties.

According to Prof. S.R. Ramadas, a key member of the team, the compounds could prevent HIV infection if applied externally as one percent ointment. Clinical trials to assess their efficacy and skin reactions were on, he said.

The Compounds were developed by Prof. Ramadas and Ms. Sabina Jhaumeer, Faculty of Science, University of Mauritius in collaboration with Prof. Erik De. Ckerqc, Professor of Microbiology and Dr. Myriam Witvrouw of Rega Institute, Belgium.

Prof. Ramadas said the new compounds contained a disulfide benzamide structure. One of the compounds SRR-SB.3 was found to inhabit different HIV.1. strains, including clinical isolates and HIV.1. strains, resistant to protect inhibitors and nucleoside inhibitors. It was also found to be effective against HIV.2 strains, SIV.mac 251, murine sarcoma virus (MSV).

The Compound was also found to be effective against chronic HIV.1 infections 'in vitro' and to act synergistically in combination with other anti-viral agents such as AZT, DDC and D4T.



THE MELTING POT

AQUACULTURE-What are its true implications?

There is debate on between Environmentalists, Industrialists and locals on the impact of Aquaculture on society. Dr. N. Rajalakshmi of Madras University discusses the implications.

Tamil Nadu has a long coast line of 1,000 k.m. along the south east coast of India, and a short distance on the south west coast of India. It has a continental shelf of about 35,000 sq.km and an estimated off-shore region of 22 lakh hectares; the coastal stretch affords excellent scope for fishing operations throughout the year. The major rivers flowing in Tamil Nadu are the Cauvery in the Coromandel coast, the Vaigai in Palk Bay coast and the Thambaraparani in the gulf of Mannar region. The fishery resources in the coastal waters have been traditionally exploited. Tamil Nadu which is situated on the South-Eastern extremity of the Indian Peninsula accounts for 17 per cent of the coast line of India. The continental shelf of Tamil Nadu occupied an area of about 41,400 K.M. which is smaller when compared to other states on the east coast. Those are upto 50 M. depth constitute 23,000 km. and of 50-2000 depth constitute 18,000 km. The entire fish catch is within a distance of 35 K.M. and upto a depth of 75 M.

Tamil Nadu possesses an estimated brackish water resources of 0.08 million ha. besides 1,20,000 ha of salt pans, coastal lagoons and low-lying coastal areas. About 27,000 ha of brackish land are reported to be available for immediate utilisation in the seven coastal districts.

Ecological Impact

The environmental impact of shrimp farm effluents is a matter of controversy. The Ecological

Impact on coastal resources are as such -

- Impact on coastal land use
- Impact on soil
- Coastal Ecological System
- Salination of ground water and surface water.
- Health impact



It is a obviously unwise to leave an unproductive, degraded environment to future generation. One has to opt for sustainable management of resources in harmony with nature and exploit the resources keeping in view the current and future potential. Even though it is possible to multiply production and increase export, these temptations may be resisted in the interest of long terms sustainability of production.

In the coastal areas, the integration of aquaculture into integrated coastal area management should be a strongly encouraged as a means of ensuring equitable use of resources.

Socio-Economic Impact

Apart from lucid foreign exchange earnings with possibilities of increasing production, a socio-economic survey of the coastal Tamil Nadu region shows remarkable positive implications of shrimp production. The dramatic expansion of aquacultural industry in India has introduced new concerns, especially in terms of environmental degradation and on socio-economic impacts. Nearly 50 per cent of the aquaculture production

in India as well as of the world originated from brackish and marine environment, especially from the coastal zone. The coastal areas offers large opportunities in terms of larger resources of coastal waters, bays, estuaries, lagoons and the saline lands.

Shrimp farming has created new job opportunities such as construction of ponds Shrimp harvest, feeding, maintenance of equipments, etc. The villagers with higher income, better economic status and higher purchase power have how access to consumables such as radio, tape recorder, television and cycle etc.

The standard of living of people in coastal areas have increased. Among the people studied, 35 per cent have an annual income of Rs. 4000-5000, along 21 per cent have Rs. 5000-6000 and 41 per cent have Rs. 10000 and above. The consumption capacity has also improved simultaneously; 67 per cent own radio sets, 17 per cent own tape recorders, 34 per cent own televisions and 21 per cent own some kind of vehicles (mostly two-wheelers). There is a significant improvement in consumption pattern of 56 per cent of the people studied.

With improvement in economic conditions of the people, access to better transport letter roads and communication facility, the people have benefited. Employment opportunities have increased.

Infrastructural development and their Impact on Habitants

	Percentage
New Roads	46
New Houses	48
Improvement in Communication	32
Market facilities	25
Change in employment	51
Employment for women	39
People benefited by Banking Institutions	65

Education improvement	63
Transport	100

Income and Consumption Pattern

Income	Percentage	Consumption	Percentage
Rs. 4000-5000	35	Radio	67
Rs. 5000-6000	21	Tape Recorder	17
Rs. 10000-20000	41	Television	34
		Cycle	21
		Improved consumption pattern	56

Conclusion

There is a hue and cry made by N.G.Os and Voluntary Organisation about the environmental impact of aquaculture. When it is analysed in depth. this export oriented economic activity with positive socio-economic implication cannot be completely wound up more so because some corrective steps are being taken by the Government. At the sametime a feasible way for sustainable shrimp production has to be evolved rather than trying to ban or stop production. Sometime the alarm given against environmental degradation seem to create awareness; at other times i.e. as it happens to aquaculture, it tries to stop production.

Shrimp culture in the country is at the cross roads and the directives for the future are being expected. Cases of over concentration and intensification can cause degradation of water qualities. Scientific studies have to be done and data base has to be created based on current knowledge and experience. It is however better to plan, guide and regulate aquaculture in order to keep the ecological balance as well as reap the positive socio-economic impacts. The successful functioning of the enormous potential in aquaculture will lead to the upliftment of the socio-economic condition of not only the people living around the areas, but also to the entire country. O

The Government to avoid the Extravaganza of the previous Government.

The excess amount incurred in the maintenance of Selvi. Jayalalitha's house during her term of office as Chief Minister would be recovered by the Government, the Chief Minister declared in the Assembly on 6.8.96.

He said Rs. 31.54 lakhs had been spent on the maintenance of her house during her five year term. There was a ceiling for the expenditure on this head and the additional cost that had been incurred would be recovered from her, the Chief Minister said to the cheers of the members.

Giving more details the Chief Minister said the expenditure on functions (excluding the World Tamil Conference and the SAF Games) in which Selvi Jayalalitha participated was Rs. 27.56 crores. Over and above this, on travelling a stupendous expenditure of Rs. 3.08 crores had been incurred. Her telephone bill ran to Rs. 35.89 lakhs cumulatively during the five year period.

Referring to the concern voiced by Selvi. Jayalalitha as to how the present Government was

going to manage the huge Budgetary deficit in the current year, he said he was confident of getting over the hurdle by curtailing the extravaganza his predecessor has indulged in during her tenure.

The Chief Minister said the charges for chartering planes for Selvi. Jayalalitha's travel came to Rs. 4.08 crores. In addition, the charges paid for using the Government helicopter and plane came to around Rs. 60 lakhs. Over and above these, a Cessna aircraft was purchased for Rs. 19.85 crores and a helicopter for Rs. 19.69 crores. The Chief Minister said, the Government had decided to

dispose them as their maintenance cost Rs. 80 lakhs per year besides, a ground rental of Rs. 20,000 per month.

Compared Selvi. Jayalalitha's ostentatious spending with the austere style of this functioning

while in office during 1989-91. He said in the two year period, the maintenance of his house had cost the Government only Rs. 1.46 lakhs. The expenditure on Telephone was Rs. 6.93 lakhs and that on travel just Rs. 9.27 lakhs.

The Chief Minister also said that Public Works

“ *“ The huge budgetary deficit in the current year, can be managed by curtailing the extravaganza of the previous Government, ” says the Chief Minister* ”

Department alone had claimed Rs. 51.34 lakhs for arrangements made for a Government function at Bargur on January this year in which Selvi. Jayalalitha participated. The expenditure was in respect of 47 items. Towards erection of pandal and decorations on expenditure of Rs. 32.62 lakhs had been claimed. Other expenses included Rs. 1.74 lakh for levelling of grounds, Rs. 1.68 lakh for putting up barricades, Rs. 10.45 lakhs had been claimed. Other expenses included Rs. 1.74 lakh for levelling of grounds, Rs. 1.68 lakh for putting up a helipad, Rs. 1.05 lakh for the rostrum, Rs. 3.09 lakh for putting up toilets on the dais and Rs. 72,000 for putting up steps to the dais. Apart from this expenditure claimed by the PWD, other expenses like that on electricity has also been incurred, the Chief Minister said.

Turning to her style of administration, he said that an enquiry by the Additional District Magistrate was conducted into the stampede that occurred at the Mahamagam tank in Kumbakonam in 1992 in which 48 people were killed and 66 injured.

The Magistrate had sent a report but the file was closed on May 6, 1996, with the comment 'no further action was needed'. Had any one heard of this report or was it ever placed in the Assembly, he asked.

He said the enquiry officer in his reports had lamented that he could not summon any witness with authority as it had not been made clear under what a statute the enquiry had been ordered. The Video Cassette by Doordarshan was not produced as evidence. Some Officers did not turn up even after issue of summons.

The Additional District Magistrate rejected the police theory and said the stampedes had occurred at around 12.15 p.m. on that day when the Chief Minister had just left the Mahamagam tank or about to leave the tank.

The Magistrate had also dismissed the police contention that the distribution of food packets to the crowd at the nearby Bangur Choultry had caused the stampede. The theory of food packed was only imaginary, created by the police for reasons best known to them, the magistrate had observed. The Chief Minister added that to this extent the facts about the stampede had been hidden.

He also stated the Magistrate had pointed out the smooth way in which Mahamagam went off in 1968 when he (Kalaigarnar M. Karunanidhi) was P.W.D. Minister.

Yet another instance was that though the Tamil Nadu Flour Mills Association has forfeited eligibility for any tax remission, the AIADMK Cabinet took a decision on 7th June 1995 to waive the tax. This cost the Government Rs. 20 crores, the Chief Minister said.

In another instance, the AIADMK Government took a decision favouring a firm in respect of tax liabilities with retrospective effect for the LAB Feed Stock it used. The total loss to the Government was Rs. 46.2 crores.

ON THE WRAPPER

- I Chief Minister Kalaigarnar M. Karunanidhi with the Chief Minister of Karnataka Thiru Patel at Madras, after the talks on Cauvery water sharing (see Cover Story)
- II Chief Minister with the Police team that was credited with the recent smashing of criminal gangs in Madras city.
- IV Comrade P. Jeevanandam, a great social reformer of yester years; and late Kalaivanar N.S. Krishnan, a fine movie star and social activist of Tamil Nadu.



◆
PURE
silk

PURE
zari
◆

◆
Royal purples...
daring reds...
bright yellows...
exquisite silks
in almost every
imaginable hue.
From Co-optex.



◆

Co-optex
TAMILNADU HANDLOOMS

