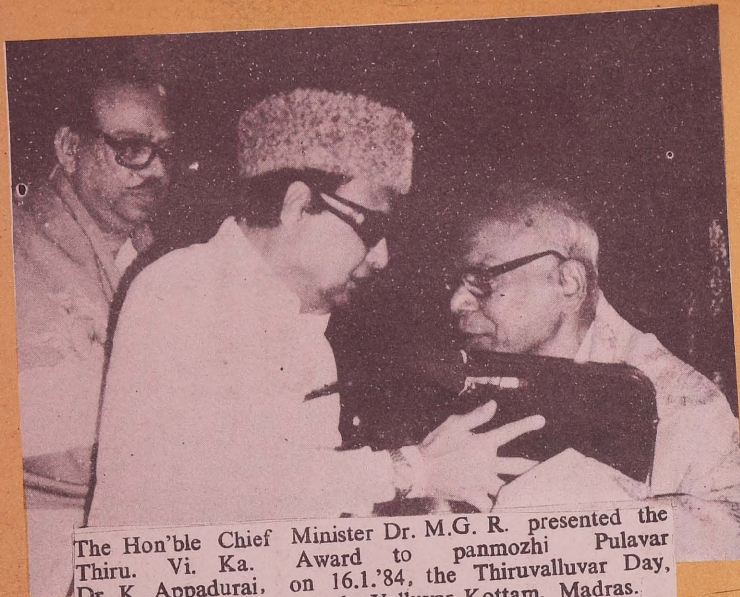




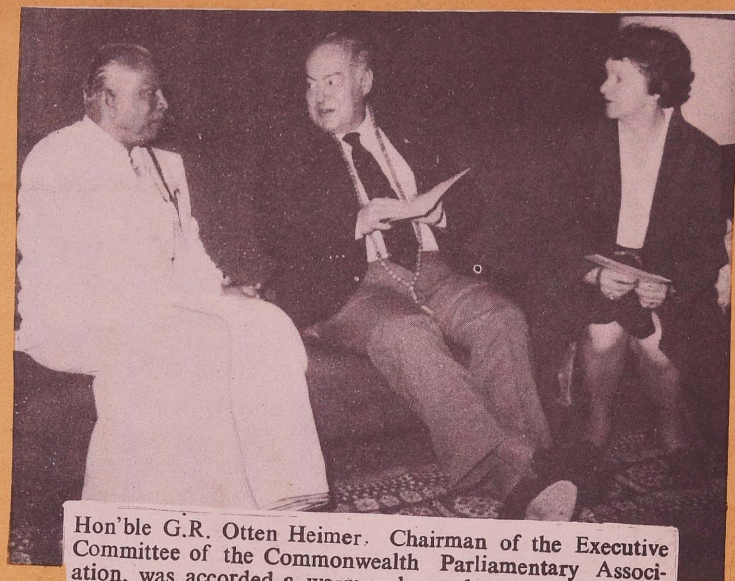
Thiruvalluvar Year 2015
Rudrothkaari,
Thai-Masi.

Tamil Arasu

February 1984 75p



The Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. M.G. R. presented the Thiru. Vi. Ka. Award to panmozhi Pulavar Dr. K. Appadurai. on 16.1.'84, the Thiruvalluvar Day, which was celebrated at the Valluvar Kottam, Madras.



Hon'ble G.R. Otten Heimer. Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, was accorded a warm welcome by the Speaker of the Tamilnadu Legislative Assembly, Thiru K. Rajaram at the Madras Airport.

A Catamaran Race was organised as part of the Pongal Celebrations on 17.1.'84 at Mamallapuram. Hon'ble Minister for Information and Religious Endowments, Thiru R.M. Veerappan inaugurated the function and Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries Thiru K. Kalaimani presided over the Function.



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Let us Endeavour for Excellence and Elevation

ADDRESS BY

Thiru SUNDAR LAL KHURANA

GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU

- ★ Rs. 10,000 as additional retirement benefit for Govt. employees
- ★ Compensation to construction workers
insurance cover too
- ★ More districts to be created by splitting large ones

Honourable Members of the Legislature,

At the outset, may I take this opportunity of wishing you a prosperous and happy New Year. I hope the year ahead of us, will prove to be one of allround economic development for the State.

While I did make a passing reference, in my address to you last year, to the drought conditions prevailing in the State and the various steps taken by the Government in alleviating the sufferings of the people, the full impact of the misery and suffering

caused by the consecutive failure of the monsoon became evident only later in the year. The State is only now getting out of what has been one of the most severe droughts to have gripped the State.

Against the Rs. 68.36 crores cleared by Government of India for drought relief works, the State has spent a sum of Rs. 114.28 crores. Apart from the items of expenditure approved by the Central Government, the State has had to take up several relief works on its own to meet the situation. These include mainly the sanction of loans

towards sinking of 5,000 filter point tube wells in Thanjavur district amounting to Rs. 7.5 crores the sanction of Rs. 5 crores towards loans for the deepening of private irrigation wells and the scheme for free distribution of janata sarees and dhoties to landless agricultural labourers in rural and municipal areas, costing over Rs. 10 crores.

The severe drought created a veritable water famine and the Government launched massive relief operations for the sinking of borewells practically throughout the State. Twenty one thousand and seven hundred bore wells were sunk at a cost of about Rs. 46 crores. The water scarcity was particularly acute in the city of Madras. Although piped water could be supplied only on alternate days for a few months, optimum level of supply was maintained by the installation of water tanks and daily supplies through lorries. In addition, 11,951 tube well pumps and 1,204 India Mark II pumps were installed in Madras city at a cost of Rs. 252.28 lakhs.

The drought had a widespread impact on various sectors of the economy. In addition to large scale relief operations, the Government had to take other measures to compensate for the drag imposed by drought on these sectors. The food sector was one of these where heavy State help was needed. In spite of monopoly procurement operations and the offer of Rs. 15 per quintal over and above the levy price, as drought allowance, the Civil Supplies Corporation could procure only two lakhs and twenty thousand tonnes of rice during the 1983 Samba season. Though the State received 15,000 tonnes of rice in April 1983 from Government of India which has been gradually raised to the present level of 35,000 tonnes per month, the commitment on account of the public distribution system could be discharged in full only by buying rice from markets outside the State at high prices. An average supply of 75,000 to 80,000 tonnes per month was maintained at the subsidised issue price which has been retained unaltered for the last few years. During the 1983 Kuruvai season it has been possible to procure a lakh and ten thousand tonnes of rice and it is expected that the procurement during 1984 Samba season will be higher. Government has announced a drought, irrigation and risk allowance of Rs. 35 per quintal over and above the procurement price fixed by Government of India from 8th September 1983 to 29th February 1984 for the rice purchased by the Civil Supplies Corporation in the monopoly procurement areas. Thus, the cost borne by the Government, in the current year, to maintain this essential service of supply of rice to the poorer sections of the people through fair price shops in the State has been enormous. Recently, Government of India have further increased the issue price of rice to the Civil Supplies Corporation and consequently, subsidies involved in rice supply through the public distribution system have gone up further.

Although the State Government spared no effort to alleviate the sufferings of the people hit by drought conditions, the limited resources at the command of the State made it necessary for us to present a supplementary memorandum to the Government of India for further assistance towards drought relief works. This memorandum is primarily intended to seek reimbursement of expenditure already incurred by the State Government rather than for new relief works. In response to the memorandum, the members of a central team visited certain districts of the State and although the outcome of the team's visit is not yet known the State Government is hopeful of a substantial financial assistance from Government of India.

As the Honourable Members are aware, even as the State was recovering from the drought and the economy was being restored to normalcy the districts of Thanjavur, Tiruchirappalli, South Arcot, Pudukkottai and Ramanathapuram were hit by torrential rains, causing large scale damage to property and loss of life. The Chief Minister undertook an aerial survey of the flood affected areas immediately after the disaster and personally supervised the relief operations in Thanjavur, Tiruchirappalli and Ramanathapuram districts. The Army authorities responded promptly by despatching their men who brought and erected three Bailey bridges in record time which served to reopen communications with marooned villages. Helicopters lent by the Navy and Air Force and inflatable boats lent by the Navy rendered valuable assistance through the air dropping of food packets to the marooned villagers and by rescuing them. The State Government takes this opportunity to place on record its appreciation for this timely service rendered by the Defence forces. Medical and health teams with adequate supply of medicines were rushed to the affected areas to take up preventive measures against the outbreak of epidemics. The police force rose to the occasion and rendered the necessary assistance for speeding up rescue and relief operations.

The State Government would like to thank the Indian Red Cross Society, the Tamilar Peravai, Bombay, the Ramakrishna Mutt, the N. S. S. and N.C.C. units who extended all possible assistance in expediting flood relief operations. The floods have caused extensive damage to 7,10,000 huts, 3,183 irrigation sources and 4,211 roads belonging to Panchayat Unions, and Panchayats. One thousand six hundred and fifty-eight relief camps were organised to feed 10 lakh persons affected by the floods.

The State Government has already sanctioned Rs. 37.54 crores towards restoration and repairs to roads, irrigation works and providing gratuitous relief. A memorandum seeking assistance of Rs. 128 crores has been presented to the Government of India. The Central Team has also visited the affected districts and the State is hopeful

of a substantial assistance from Government of India.

The barbarous acts of violence let loose on the Indian nationals and in particular on the Tamil population of Sri Lanka and the heartless massacre of Tamil speaking people which that country witnessed caused reverberating waves of indignation and anguish in Tamil Nadu. The Chief Minister convened an All Party Leaders' Conference first on 28th July 1983, followed by two more meetings in August, to express the solidarity of the people of Tamil Nadu with the Tamils of Sri Lanka. A general stoppage of work was sponsored by the Government on 2nd August 1983 in support of the cause of Tamils in Sri Lanka in which all political parties and departments of the Central Government participated. The Government of India also suspended air and train services in support of this general stoppage of work. This is the first time, in the history of the country, that air services have been suspended. We are grateful to the Prime Minister for the prompt and effective steps she has initiated to find a lasting solution to this problem.

There has been a massive influx of refugees from Sri Lanka to Tamil Nadu and apart from the people of Indian origin coming under the Indo-Ceylon Agreement of 1964, Tamils affected by the riots in Sri Lanka started streaming in from July 1983. Of the 35,394 persons who came to Tamil Nadu both by ship and air till January 1984 only 14,334 have returned to Sri Lanka. Transit refugee camps were opened to give immediate succour and relief to the helpless refugees. Government of Tamil Nadu has constituted a State Level Committee consisting of Members of the Legislature and important political party leaders, to receive and channelise the funds collected for Sri Lanka Tamils. An Advisory Committee of eminent industrialists has also been set up in addition to the district level committees in all districts. The Government has allotted flats to Tmt. Kuttimani and Tmt. Thangadurai, wives of two Tamil patriots who were killed in the riots and to Thiru Kuttimani's sister. Tmt. Kuttimani has also been sanctioned financial assistance of Rs. 1,000 per month for a year or till her family returns to Sri Lanka.

The late advent of the south-west monsoon last year and the resultant adverse seasonal conditions affected the timely planting of the Samba crop. The Government distributed seeds, fertiliser and pesticides to the tune of Rs. 464 lakhs, at subsidised prices, to the farmers hit by the drought conditions. In order to augment irrigation facilities, Government took up a massive scheme of sinking 5,000 filter point tube wells in Thanjavur district at a cost of Rs. 7.50 crores. Under the scheme, a maximum assistance of Rs. 15,000 is being given as loan to the farmer to enable him to sink a tube well and so far, loans for the sinking of 2,521 filter point tube wells have been given. Although the State was facing a severe power shortage, power for the agricultural pumpsets was made available for twelve

hours a day. In order to encourage farmers in the Cauvery Delta to go in for Samba cultivation, Government announced a procurement price of Rs. 171 per quintal this year, i.e. Rs. 35 more than the price announced by the Government of India.

Although it was expected that the various steps taken by the Government would result in a good Samba harvest, the torrential rains in the last week of December '83 unfortunately caused heavy damage to the standing crops in the Cauvery Delta area. The State Government immediately arranged for the distribution of 500 metric tonnes of pulse seed, at subsidised prices.

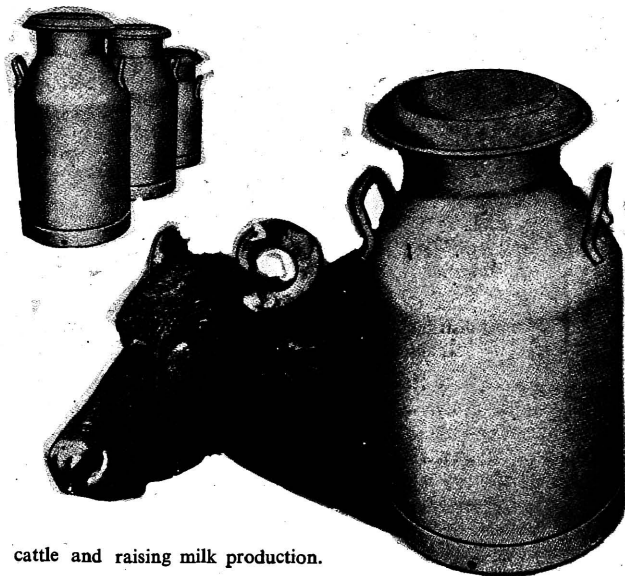
While the rain fall resulted in heavy damage to standing Samba crops in the Cauvery Delta area it helped to fill up various ponds and lakes in the northern districts of the State. The Government has taken advantage of this and launched a massive programme to bring under cultivation ten lakh acres under pulses, 7 lakh acres under Navarai paddy and 8 lakh acres under groundnut. It is hoped that this would to some extent compensate for the damage and loss in Cauvery Delta area.

Although the State's agro-economy suffered a serious setback due to successive natural calamities the various steps taken by the Government are expected to result in satisfactory food production. Despite a heavy overdue position the Agricultural Service Co-operative Societies have advanced crop loans to the extent of Rs. 58.04 crores upto December 1983.

During the year 1984-85, 95 lakh M.T. of food grain is targeted for production. The State Government has taken up various schemes to ensure the achievement of this target. Seed production and distribution systems will be strengthened so that large quantity of good quality seeds are made available to the farmers. Various schemes to maximise efficiency in water management in Cauvery, Vaigai, Sathanur and Parambikulam area river basins will be taken up. "5 Metric Tons of paddy per hectare" has been set up as the goal which the State Government will endeavour to accomplish in the year 1984-85.

The crop insurance scheme, now in operation is confined to paddy. The maximum amount that can be insured by a farmer, under the scheme, is Rs. 10,000 or 150 per cent of the crop loan whichever is less in respect of irrigated crops and Rs. 5,000 or 150 per cent of the crop loan whichever is less in respect of unirrigated crops. As the present scheme covers only paddy, the Government is considering making it a more comprehensive one to cover various types of loss of life and property.

The Operation Flood II programme is now being implemented in nine districts of the State. In view of the encouraging results obtained under this programme, the Government has approached the Indian Dairy Corporation to bring in three more districts under the programme. A frozen semen bank and a network of 400 sub-centres with frozen semen is being established for the upgradation of the



cattle and raising milk production.

A major policy of the Government has been to bring new areas under irrigation as also to stabilise the existing irrigation facilities. As against a sum of Rs. 189.79 crores set apart for major and minor irrigation and flood control schemes in Sixth Five-Year Plan a sum of Rs. 80.73 crores have been spent in the first three years of the plan period. A sum of Rs. 55.14 crores has been provided for these schemes in the current year and Rs. 60.62 crores next year.

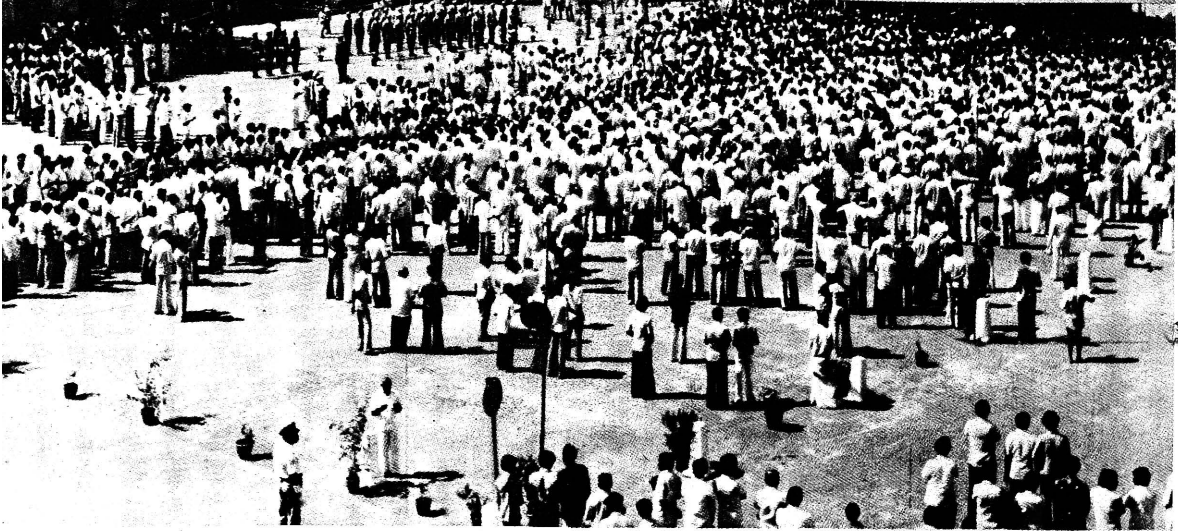
Irrigation potential for an area of 78,000 hectares was to be created in the Sixth Plan period. In the first three years of the Plan, the State has created irrigation potential for an area of 36,656 hectares and it is proposed to bring a further area of 16,880 hectares under irrigation in the current year.

A lasting solution to the long standing problem of providing adequate drinking water-supply to the City of Madras was found through the agreement entered into between the Government of Tamil Nadu and the Government of Andhra Pradesh on 18th April 1983 for drawal of 15 tmc. of water from the river Krishna, a standing monument to inter-State co-operation. This project would harness the waters of Krishna river for irrigation in Andhra Pradesh and for augmenting drinking water-supply to Madras City. Out of the estimated project cost of Rs. 760 crores, Tamil Nadu's share would be Rs. 200 crores. The Government has also accorded administrative sanction for an expenditure of Rs. 30.15 crores towards the first stage of the project. The excavation of the canal from the border of the State to the Poondi Reservoir is under execution by us while the rest of the work is being undertaken by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. With the completion of the Krishna River Water-Supply Scheme, the per capita daily availability of water in Madras will go up from the present 65 litres at the peak supply period to 127 litres.

Tamil Nadu has very little potential left for exploiting surface water resources for cultivation. Ground water exploitation has also reached its full potential in some areas and with about 50 per cent of the cultivable areas in the State still to be irrigated, the need to resort to more prudent and scientific water management has become inescapable. The Government of Tamil Nadu has taken several steps like creation of new percolation ponds, modernisation of the transmission systems of major and medium irrigation projects towards development of better water management practices. More than 39,000 rain-fed tanks are the sources of irrigation to 9 lakh hectares and this sector would bear the next highest priority for modernisation and water management. The Government has succeeded in getting a grant of Rs. 25 crores from the European Economic Community through the Government of India for modernisation, of the minor irrigation system in the State. From its commencement, the scheme will take in all five years. The tanks in five districts of Tamil Nadu, viz., Chengalpattu, North Arcot, South Arcot, Pudukkottai and Ramanathapuram will be taken up for modernisation, effecting a saving of around 20 per cent of the water now used resulting in both stabilisation of the existing ayacuts and their extension.

In order to study the measures and monitor their implementation for improving the efficiency in usage of water and enhancing the productivity of land, the State Government has decided to set up an Irrigation Management and Training Institute. This Rs. 10 crore project, to be implemented with the assistance of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), would commence shortly and will be spread over 7 years. The share of the Tamil Nadu Government in the project cost will be Rs. 4.4 crores and rest would be advanced by USAID, Rs. 1.4 crores as loan and the balance amount of Rs. 4.2 crores as grant.

Another sector which periodically faces the full impact of the adverse seasonal conditions is Power. Tamil Nadu is in the unenviable position of having a greater mix of high-cost thermal power in its total generation system. An immediate result of consecutive failure of monsoons is the dwindling of hydel generation adding to the loss of the Electricity Board which, in turn, places a heavy strain on the financial resources of the State. It was only on account of judicious operation and management of the hydel stations and the efficient handling of other generating stations that the State could relax the power-cut on H.T. industries, which, the members may recall, had to be 100 per cent for a short period last year. The power-cut has now been brought down from 75 per cent on demand and 60 per cent on energy to 30 per cent for power-intensive H.T. industries and 15 per cent for other H.T. industries, on both demand and energy. H.T. industries started after 1st October 1981 have been completely exempted from power-cut till 30th June 1984. The ban on industries from availing electric



Silence was observed for two minutes from 11.00 A.M. to 11.02 A.M. on the 30th January, 1984 to pay homage to those who gave their lives in the struggle for India's Freedom at the Military Parade Ground, Fort St. George. Immediately

after the observance of the two minute silence, the Hon'ble Chief Minister administered the pledge against untouchability in Tamil to Hon'ble Ministers, officials and staff who had gathered at the parade ground.

Martyrs' Day Pledge

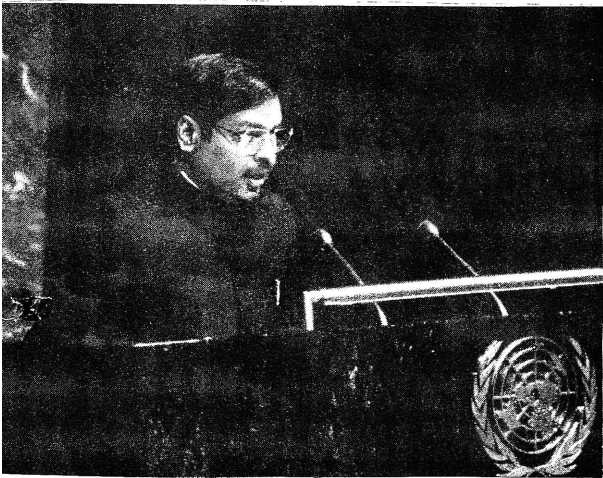
"As an Indian Citizen who has a deep regard for the Indian Constitution, I am aware of the fact that untouchability has been outlawed by the Constitution. I hereby solemnly affirm that I will not practise untouchability with or without knowledge in thought, word or deed.

It is my duty to work truthfully and honestly for the creation of a society free of difference in caste and religion, as envisaged in the Constitution. Moreover, I shall work with the realisation that it is our duty to eradicate the feeling of untouchability, amongst the people who have been subjected to the evil of untouchability. I pledge that this will be a permanent evidence of my regard for the Indian Constitution".

THE VOICE OF A TAMILIAN IN THE U.N

The Hon'ble Minister for Electricity Thiru S. Ramachandran was a member of the Indian delegation to the U.N. General Assembly session in New York and took part in the debate of the Sri Lankan Tamils problems and returned successful.

When the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Tmt. Indira Gandhi felt that it would be appropriate if a person from Tamil Nadu participated in the United Nations, she got in touch with the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. The privilege of



being chosen by the Hon'ble Chief Minister fell on him.

The Hon'ble Minister for Electricity attended the session for 70 days out of the 88 days for which the Assembly sat.

The Hon'ble Minister for Electricity was interviewed on behalf of Tamil Arasu journal, on 6th January '84.

How many of you attended on behalf of India ?

The Hon'ble Prime Minister Tmt. Indira Gandhi led a eleven member team. The Prime Minister, the External Affairs Minister, Thiru P.V. Narasimha Rao and Thiru Kamal Nath, M.P. returned to India after six days. Later, eight of us participated in the Assembly meetings.

The newspapers have covered your speech at the United Nations. Did you meet the United Nations Secretary General Thiru Perez de-cuellar. Can you tell us what you discussed with him.?

I met him on the 25th November 1983. I explained to him how for the past 35 years the

Tamils in Sri Lanka are being neglected and how their rights are being curtailed. I also told him how the Sri Lankan Tamils are being persecuted by the Sinhalese fanatics and police since 1956. Not only did he listen to me intently, but also took down notes with the help of officers.

What did he say after listening to your narration ?

He said that the United Nations cannot interfere directly into the internal affairs of any nation; but that this, being a human rights problem, would be approached with sympathy. While listening to me, I noticed that he grew sorrowful. Even now, I have received a letter from him. He has written saying, "I very much enjoyed our meeting on 25th November and the plate will serve as a reminder of the occasion." This letter alone suffices to show of how much he has been affected by the Sri Lankan problems."

(So saying, the Minister shows us the letter. We peruse the letter and go ahead with our questions.)

Were your speeches in the United Nations, translated into any other language?

Yes, my speeches were translated into French, Russian, Chinese, Arabic and Spanish languages.

How did they receive your speeches ?

The members of the United Nations body listened to my speeches very carefully. When the Sri Lankan representative took objection that it was wrong to have brought this issue to the United Nations, I placed my points which served as a suitable reply. While speaking I addressed my remarks to the President and did not notice the reaction of the Sri Lankan representative. Later, the Sri Lankan Tamils from the visitors gallery congratulated me saying that my arguments really shook a senior diplomat like Thiru I. B. Fonseka. Only then did I realise the effect of my speech on Sri Lankan representative.

(The Hon'ble Minister for Electricity narrated this with elation.)

You had an opportunity to meet the Sri Lankan representative ?

Yes, I met him at a reception. I would like to mention here the opinion he expressed about the politicians of Tamil Nadu. "Thiru Karunanidhi stages agitations and demonstrations regarding the Sri Lankan Tamils problem, only because he is in the opposition. If he had been the Chief

Minister, he would not do this. When Tmt. Bandaranayake was the Prime Minister, he was cooperating with us in Tamil Nadu."

What do the Sri Lankan Tamils think ?

I find that the Sri Lankan Tamils, especially those abroad, are very shrewd. They accept whichever leader supports their cause. I feel it is wrong to think that they accept us as their leaders, just because they accept our actions on this issue. Their activities indicate that they accept support from wherever it comes since they cannot afford to find fault with their well wishers. But they have assessed our political leaders correctly.

With a smile, he continues :

The Sri Lankan Government did not even know the identity of the freedom fighter Kuttimani till Karunanidhi handed him over. It is only after that the Sri Lankan Government knew him and took his pictures. This startling information was revealed to me by a co-prisoner of Kuttimani who escaped from the prison earlier.

Since the inception of the United Nations it is the first time that India and Sri Lanka raised this problem in the U.N. and that too, by a Tamilian in the Tamils cause.

What was the reaction in the United Nations to the Indian approach and role in the Sri Lankan problem ?

It was well received.

Was there any reference to some of the speeches made here asking India to invade ?

Thiru Hamid who met the United Nations Secretary General said : "If a nation invades its neighbours on the basis of a racial problem, solely on the ground that the neighbouring country also has people of the same race, there will be no peace in many countries where there are a number of races. He has also cited as a proof of his statement the instances of certain opposition parties in India inciting the Government of India to invade Sri Lanka.

When I met the United Nations Secretary General, I said that, had India wanted to invade Sri Lanka under some pretext or other, it would have done so long ago. But India wants a political solution and this has been emphasized by the Indian Prime Minister. The United Nations Secretary General also agreed with me that the Prime Minister of India is capable of finding a solution to this problem."

What did the Sri Lankan Tamils tell you about this problem ?

Though all the nations are sympathetic, India is the only nation capable of helping the



Sri Lankan Tamils and the Sri Lankan Tamils all over the world have pinned their hopes in the Indian Prime Minister. Knowing the limitations of a State Government of Tamil Nadu, they say that, "she is the only hope."

Since this was your maiden speech in the United Nations General Assembly, did it inhibit you ?

Since I was inspired by the thought of Perarignar Anna, it did not affect me at all—he replied with a smile.

To fight Sinhalese racism, humanism is more effective than Tamil nationalism. When mention is made of mass raping and killing of a young girl by the Sinhalese chauvinists, they were shocked and exclaimed saying "it is so barbarous."

This is more a humanitarian problem than the problems of the Tamils. This light attracts the attention of the nations of the world. The United Nations Assembly looks for depth and not rhymes in any speech.

When you met the Prime Minister on your return, did she refer to your participation in the United Nations ?

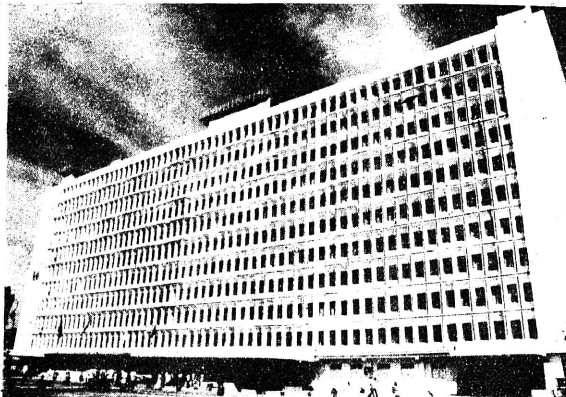
She congratulated me for having done well at the United Nations. While thanking her, I humbly told her that her felicitations should go to Tamil Nadu and the Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. M.G.R.

Do you have anything special to add ?

We keep talking of our ancient glory only. The foreign delegates whom I met do not even know the existence of Tamil Nadu. They know India, Delhi, our Prime Minister Tmt. Indira Gandhi; that is all! In such circumstances, I had the opportunity of meeting people from all over the world, to whom I extolled the virtues of Tamils, the Tamil language, the culture of ancient Tamilnadu and the ruling party of Tamilnadu. They were surprised to learn that our Chief Minister also entered politics from the film field like the American President Reagan.

We took leave of the Hon'ble Minister for Electricity with a glad heart after having learnt many useful things from this learned participant in the debates at the United Nations General Assembly.

Cover Story



New office complex for TNEB

The new 11-Storeyed building of the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board on Anna Salai was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. M.G.R on 26th January 1984.

Built at a cost of about Rs. 2.21 crores, the massive office complex, with a total plinth area of 21,000 Sq. metres, can accommodate 200 officers and staff on each of the eleven floors.

The additional office capacity afforded by this building has enabled the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board to dispense with the office space it had taken up in private buildings around the city, paying a rent of Rs. 20.26 lakhs per year.

The building was named after the late stage and cineactor Nadipisai Pulavar K. R. Ramaswamy.

Thiru B.Vijayaravanan, I.A.S., Chairman Tamil Nadu Electricity Board welcomed the gathering and referred to criticisms of the Board's performance and said its efficiency depended not only on the employees, but also on factors like rainfall, coal supply and quality of machinery.

The Chief Secretary to Government, Thiru K.Chockalingam I.A.S., who released a publication entitled 'Dams in Power Projects'-Tamil Nadu asked engineers to devise ways of protecting dams against soil erosion and silting.

Hon'ble Minister for Electricity, Thiru S.Ramachandran presided over the function. He had a dig at those who criticised the Government for maintaining cordial relations with the Centre. He pointed out that because of inadequate water and mineral resources, Tamil Nadu's industrial and economic development depended largely on thermal and atomic sources, which could not be developed without the active co-operation of the Central Government. The State Government had got the Centre's clearance for schemes like the Tuticorin thermal plant, Neyveli second mine cut, Mettur expansion and North Madras power project. In spite of difficulties, the Government had extended electricity to the poorest sections of society, providing atleast one light to 5,47,000 huts.

Inaugurating the building, the Chief Minister said that, because of the poor monsoon last year,

the state faced a shortage of 2000 million units in power generation.

The cost of power for pumpsets worked out to 35 paise a unit, but the agriculturists were charged only 12 paise, resulting in the Electricity Board losing Rs. 150 crores a year. The State Government which made up the deficit year after year, was not getting its dues from the farmers. It was strange he said that the same persons who advocated cheaper electricity for farm operations and a reduced issue price for rice were demanding a higher procurement price for paddy and instigating the farmers not to pay their dues to the Government and threatened to launch agitations to secure their demands.

"As long as this Government is in power, no one need start an agitation or go on strike to achieve genuine demands. The Government is ever ready to find solutions to problems through discussions", the Chief Minister declared.

If the employees could help prevent theft of electricity that would improve significantly the Board's income, he said.

The Chief Minister announced that to mark the silver jubilee of the Board its 87,700 employees would be paid an ex-gratia amount of Rs. 100-each. Their demands for an advanced increment would be sympathetically considered at the appropriate time when the Board got over its difficult period.

Naming the new building after 'Nadipisai Pulavar'-K.R. Ramaswamy, the Chief Minister recalled his long association with the drama artiste whom he described as a social reformer.

Thiru L.R. Saphtharishi, Technical Member, proposed a vote of Thanks.

—G. Bhaskaran



State can Promote its Language

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. M. G. R. while participating in the Thiruvalluvar Day Celebration organised under the auspices of the Directorate of Tamil Development at Valluvar Kottam, appealed to "his younger brother" and Kannada film artist, Rajkumar not to oppose the Karnataka Government's decision to provide an opportunity for its non-Kannadiga employees to learn Kannada language for their official work.

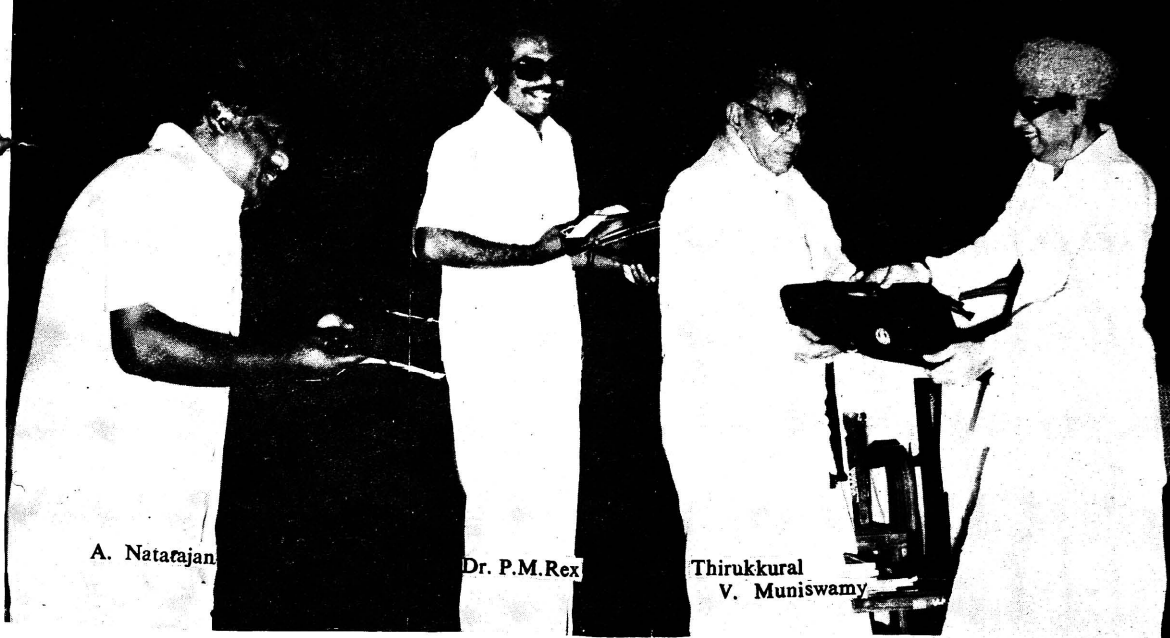
If every State should insist on appointing only those speaking the local language as advocated by Rajkumar and his mandrams, it would lead to serious complications and national unity and integration would become a big question mark, he said.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also added that every State was justified in trying to promote its own language and carry on its business in that language; it was not separatist or anti-national. Also, India was one country and anybody could seek employment anywhere; those Government employees from outside the State should be given at least one year for learning the local language. Even if there was reluctance on the part of a few to learn, that could be due to their age and not out of hatred for the language. His own experience was that, initially when the Tamil Nadu Government issued an order directing the non-Tamils to acquire a working knowledge in Tamil within one year, there was pessimism, but he was proud to say, now there was full co-operation from the officials.

Referring to his Government's decision to lay stress on vocationalisation of school education, the Hon'ble Chief Minister announced a reward of Rs. 500 to those who compiled poems conveying scientific thoughts to children. "It is easy and effective to teach children through poetry" he said. A committee of poets and headed by the Hon'ble Education Minister would be constituted for selecting the works.

The function combined a number of programmes in keeping with the Government's decision to celebrate the Thiruvalluvar day as a day of rededication for Tamil development. A linguist and Tamil scholar, Dr. K. Appadurai was presented by the Hon'ble Chief Minister with the annual THIRU. V. K. Award carrying Rs. 10,000 for the best writer. Thirty indigent aged Tamil scholars were given the State pension of Rs. 250 a month under the scheme launched in 1978, taking the total number of beneficiaries to 182. He also presented awards to Tamil writers and scholars. Among those who received awards were Former Vice-Chancellor, Dr. N.D. Sundaravadivelu, Thiru. A. Natarajan, Thiru. Vikraman, Thiru. Thirukural Muniswamy, Thiru. Thamarai Manalan, Thiru. Pattukottai Rajendran, Thiru. P.V. Giri, Thiru. Mohan Raj, Thiru. S.V. Subramanian, Dr. P.M. Rex and others.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister announced a new scheme to be effective from September 15, under which all those who had obtained the "Pulavar" title and were in want would receive



A. Natarajan

Dr. P.M. Rex

Thirukkural
V. Muniswamy

State help. For this purpose a detailed assessment of the economic status of "pulavars" would be made shortly.

Towards encouraging and assisting publication of good Tamil books, the Chief Minister gave away prizes to nearly 50 books which were brought out in 1981 and 1982. Besides the seventh volume of Tamil Bibliography prepared by the Directorate of Tamil Development, he also released a glossary of banking terms (English-Tamil) published by State Bank of India, Madras Local Head Offices.

The Hon'ble Finance Minister, $\ddagger$ Dr. V. R. Nedunchezian, and the Hon'ble Information Minister, Thiru RM. Veerappan highlighted the steps taken by the Government for promoting Tamil language. The Hon'ble Education Minister,

Thiru C. Aranganayagam, who presided, appealed to publishers to accept the script reform brought in by the Government a couple of years ago as a measure to quicken the pace of development of Tamil.

Thiru Kapil Dev Nayar, Chief General Manager, State Bank of India, Madras and Thiru V.M.T. Joshi, General Manager (Planning), pointed out that the 15,000-word glossary would not only bridge the communication gap between banks and customers but be useful to the students of banking and the general public as well. Thiru S.Chellappan, Director of Tamil Development, welcomed the gathering.

—K. Malika.



P.V. Giri

Pattukottai Rajendran

Pulavar
Gnanasambandam

On 3rd Feb 1969

It was on 3rd February 1969 that the entire population of Tamilnadu literally crowded into Madras city. It was on that day that the news of the demise of our revered leader 'Anna' reached the nook and corner of Tamilnadu, and came as a shock to each and every individual. From that moment, people began pouring into Madras city to have the last glimpse of their dear departed leader. They had come from the distant towns and villages, perched on the roofs of over-crowded trains and rickety buses and on foot. In one of the worst tragedies of the time, at least 28 persons were crushed to death and over 70 persons were injured due to their journey on the roof-top, when the Madras-bound Janata Express was passing across the Coleroon Bridge between the Cole-

eroon and Chidambaram stations. No vehicles were permitted to go anywhere except to Madras city on that particular day, whether they were trains, buses, lorries, motor-cars, taxis, tractors or any other form of conveyance. The grief struck almost every household not only in Tamilnadu, but also wherever the Tamils lived in other States and other countries. Such was the universal sorrow felt by the Tamils all over the world on the loss of 'Anna', who loved them above all else.

At Rajaji Hall, he was laid in state amidst the weeping and wailing of millions. In their singleminded determination to pay homage, they were not deterred by a wait under the blistering sun, or by hunger and foot-sore weariness. The sobbing people outside Rajaji Hall were such that even the entire police force mustered to control them could not do so, and had reluctantly to burst tear-gas shells several times.

As the funeral procession went along Mount Road, now known as Anna Salai, a huge multitude of people witnessed it from the terraces, balconies, and precariously perched themselves on the sunshades of the long line of buildings on both sides. The military van carrying the body looked like a floating ferry on the surging waves of the masses. So also, when it reached the Marina, it was once again afloat on the vast expanse of a sea of heads. Many were atop trees and most others filled the entire Marina Beach and a few other resourceful people climbed aboard the grounded ship Stamatis. The size of the crowd was beyond estimate. Some estimated it to have been over five million. The Guinness Book of Records has it that 'the funeral of 'Anna' was attended by the largest number of people in the world.'

Another striking feature of the entire funeral procession was the predominance of ordinary

people like sweepers, scavengers, slum-dwellers and hut-dwellers. In fact, when they tried again and again to break through the cordons to see the motorcade carrying the body of Anna and were prevented by the police lest they should be run over by the passing vehicles—one woman braved the police and cried, "Anna is gone and I don't mind being run over." The woman kept running for some time but she could not stay in the race for long. Such was the deep sentimental attachment the downtrodden had for their dear Anna who lived to make their life a little more worth living. Even today the abiding emotion the people of Tamilnadu have for him can be seen from the never-ending stream of visitors to the 'Anna Memorial Square.'

(An extract from the Introduction to the book 'ANNA SPEAKS' given by Hon'ble Minister for Electricity Thiru S. Ramachandran)



SAROJINI NAIDU and WOMEN'S EMANCIPATION



Tmt. Sarojini Varadappan
Sheriff of Madras

Sarojini Naidu was a versatile genius, a great political leader and a staunch supporter of Hindu Muslim Unity. She organised demonstrations against the Rowlat Act and protested against the Government of India Act 1919. In 1925, she was elected President of the Congress. She renounced her title of Keiser-i-Hind as a protest against the British apathy towards Indians. She was in charge of Dharsana Salt Raid in 1930 and was imprisoned many times for her patriotic activities. She began to be idolised by the people for her idealism and devotion to nationalism.

Before Mahatma Gandhi came to the forefront of the National movement and became its indisputable leader, three women with outstanding talent and personality, two foreigners and the third an Indian were having a deep impression on the mind of the Indian women and gave impetus to them to participate in the freedom struggle. They were Annie Besant, Margaret Cousins and Sarojini Naidu.

As a result of the women's movement in India women could secure equality of status with men as embodied in the constitution of free India. The real advance was in terms of the change in men's outlook towards them and their own role in the socio-political set up of the country. It also revealed the hitherto dormant qualities of Indian womanhood. They felt an inner urge for service to motherland. After all, they realised that their mission in life did not end only with becoming good wives and wise mothers they accepted their real position as useful members of a civilized community. Thousands of women came out to undertake responsible jobs outside their homes. The women's movements in

India rightly struck a new path and opened a new vision. It aroused new hopes and aspirations of service in the wider arena of global life.

The suffering women of India received the first relief when western ideals began penetrating into the country. The liberal humanitarianism of the west provided a soothing effect to the bleeding sores of Indian women. The national spirit and scientific enquiry led to a fresh analysis of their weal and woe. Western impact brought about a correct diagnosis of long existing ills and provided a real remedy to them.

At the turn of the century, women's movement in the country gathered momentum. The most outstanding among these was the All India Women's Conference, which took up the cudgels against orthodoxy, injustice and discrimination and worked successfully in the field of women's education in India. Sarojini Naidu is one of the founders of this great women's movement.

When enthusiasm for political freedom gained momentum, it was realised that freedom for women was an integral part of national freedom. Indian women had succeeded in the suffrage movement only because Indian men were liberal enough to recognise their worth. Women had thrown themselves and had shown their fine capabilities and strength to suffer the tortures and privations of public life. Their participation in politics paved their way for their complete emancipation from traditional bondage.

The impact of education on the economic status of women has been as strong as on other aspect and their economic horizon, once limited to house-

hold chores or labour on the farm has expanded considerably. Teaching, Medicine, Journalism, Business, Aviation and other fields were thrown open to women. Many outstanding women now hold positions of high honour and act as the mouthpiece of the inarticulate millions of their sex. Women of India have succeeded in penetrating almost every field of endeavour. They also take interest in voluntary service.

Indian women showed themselves at their best in the Salt Satyagraha campaign initiated by Gandhiji on the 6th April, 1930 by his breaking the salt law. At first Gandhiji was reluctant to permit women to join the Salt raid, and asked them to confine their activities to picketing liquor and foreign cloth shops. But in the light of the new freedom they found and the equality they asked for women felt it their duty, to shoulder the responsibilities connected with the national struggle on an equal footing with men. The spirited letter sent to Gandhiji by Mrs Margaret Cousins on behalf of the Women's Indian Association, would show the reaction of women to Gandhiji's decision, that the letter complained. Gandhiji has left the care of his Ashram entirely to women. This division of sexes in a non-violent campaign seems to us unnatural, and against all the awakened consciousness of modern womanhood. In these stirring critical days of India's destiny there should be no water tight compartments of service. Women ask that no Conferences, Congress or Commissions dealing with the welfare of India should be held without the presence on them of women. Similarly women must ask that no marches, no imprisonments, no demonstrations organised for the welfare of India should prohibit women from a share in them.

Gandhiji had to reluctantly choose few women to break the Salt Law, but thousands of women all over the country broke the law without being called upon to do so. When Gandhiji was arrested, Sarojini Naidu took his place, and in her wake came Ruckmini Lakshminipathi, our first woman Health Minister of Madras. Women became dictators of War councils, set-up to direct the day to day activities. The question of enfranchising women, along with men, for electing candidates for legislatures was first mooted in India.

It may be recalled that adult franchise for women was granted only as late as 1928 in England, and as such the British were not in a hurry to franchise Indian women. When the Montague Chelmsford reforms were contemplated, there was considerable difference of opinion not only among British but among Indians themselves about the advisability of enfranchising women. When Mr. E.S. Montague, the then Secretary of State for India, came to India in 1917 to study conditions in the country for framing a new Constitution based on limited franchise, Indian women decided to present their case before him. Accordingly, a deputation of them waited upon him in Madras on the 1st December, 1917 and presented a memorandum detailing the various reforms Indian women wished to recommend for the new Constitution. The memorandum demanded the enfranchisement of Indian women and pointed out, with considerable pride, that in the Indian National Congress, since its inception, women have voted and been delegates and speakers and which,

this year, finds its climax in the election of a woman as its President. This President was Mrs. Annie Besant, the first woman to honour the Presidential Chair of the Congress.

Mr. Montague has recorded, in his diary, his impressions of the women's delegation for the benefit of posterity. The relevant entry reads :

"We had an interesting deputation from the women asking for education for girls, more medical colleges etc., etc. The deputation being led by Sarojini Naidu, the poetess, a very attractive and clever woman, but I believe a revolutionary at heart. They asked also for women's votes. The woman who drafted the address, Mrs. Cousins is a well known suffragette from London. They assured me that the Congress would willingly pass a unanimous request for women's suffrage."

The deputation received a patient hearing and a courteous reply but the women of India were considerably surprised to find that Montague-Chelmsford scheme, when published had no provision for the enfranchisement of women. Indian women continued their agitation for enfranchisement. Again Mrs. Naidu, Annie Besant and Miss Herabai gave evidence in favour of their demand to the Joint Committee of both the House of Parliament in 1919. The Parliament left the question to be decided by the elected legislatures of India. Madras enfranchised its women soon after, in 1921, Bombay followed close to Madras, Bengal in 1925, Punjab in 1926 and the Central Provinces in 1927, Bihar in 1929 and thus by this date all Indian States and Provinces had enfranchised their women. Madras was the first province to put up women candidates for the Legislative Council.

Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddi was nominated to the Council as the first woman. It was through women's movements like the A.I.W.C. and Mrs. Sarojini Naidu as its President in 1931, drafted a memorandum demanding, the immediate acceptance of adult franchise without any sex distinction and the AIWC and Women's Indian Association could speak authoritatively for the women of India.

The Indian National Congress endorsed this demand and embodied it in the Declaration of Fundamental Rights of Citizenship in India under the new Constitution.

The Women's Indian Association's object was to present to women their responsibilities as daughters of India, as wives and mothers they have the task of training, guiding and forming the character of the future rulers of India. This was the Key-Note of the evening adult classes and lectures in many subject which, combined with the promotion of recreation clubs and social service projects, made women ready between 1900 and 1919 to request that when political reforms were instituted, women should have in them the same status and responsibilities as citizens as their menfolk.

In 1926 the A.I.W.C. concentrated and unified, awakened women in all parts of India. When civil disobedience brought about the Round Table Conference, this A.I.W.C. which agitated for women's representation at these conferences voiced women's demands that there should be joint electorates. Sarojini Naidu was a pioneer in this women's movement who directly brought about the present political status of women in India through her personal con-

tact with the members of the British Parliament along with Annie Besant, Mrs. and Miss Tata Radhabai Subbaroyan, Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddi, Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur and Mrs. Hamid Ali, Smt. Sarojini Naidu was the most outstanding woman of those years.

Sarojini Naidu was the daughter of Dr. Aghore Nath Chattopadhyaya of Hyderabad, founder of Nizam's College. She obtained a liberal training and a catholic social outlook in her cosmopolitan home. She went to England in 1895 with a State Scholarship and studied there. In 1898 after her return to India, she married Dr. Govindarajulu Naidu an inter-caste and underprovincial marriage.

Sarojini Naidu's work for the improvement of women's status in India went hand in hand with her support of the traditional Indian concept of the ideal woman. In a speech to Hindu Women at Bombay in 1916, she said that the names of Sita and Savitri have inspired us for centuries, because they embody reverence and courage. She added—"No one can be greater than a good woman." Sarojini Naidu did not espouse the cause of Indian women in the spirit of Trade Unionism. It was just the matter of so many votes or so many reserved seats though she recognised the importance of such demands. It was certainly not her aim to guide Indian women along the lines of the campaign for emancipation in western countries. Her emphasis was on harmony and comradely cooperation between men and women in the common struggle for freedom and progress—not on confrontation.

Sarojini Naidu devoted a lot of attention to the urgent need for women's education. She also raised her voice against social practices which led to discrimination against women. Her first major speech on the Women's role in the National Movement was made in 1917 at the Calcutta Session of the Indian National Congress. In the same year she joined Margaret Cousins' and Annie Besant in a deputation which waited on the Secretary of State Edwin Montague to press for women's franchise. A few months later Sarojini addressed the Bijapur Session of the Bombay Provincial Congress, which was specially called to discuss the issue of voting rights for women. She said, "The Indian Woman of the Modern Age is imbued and inspired by a profound renaissance consciousness of her special, too long forgotten place and purpose, privilege and responsibility."

In 1919 Sarojini led a deputation to the Southborough Commission on Franchise Reform. The Commission accepted some of the demands made by the deputationists on behalf of women. But the Government turned down the Commission's recommendations, and responded negatively to suggestions for the improvement of the women's place in the society. However, the women's movement under the guidance of Sarojini and other leaders, gradually, joined momentum. In 1926 women were made eligible for membership of legislatures, but only by membership—not by election.

Sarojini Naidu was the President of the Indian National Congress in 1926. At this time she also became closely associated with the All India Women's Conference. Under Sarojini's leadership, the A.I.W.C. began to reflect the deepening political consciousness of the women of India.

Thus Sarojini Naidu became the point of contact between leaders of the Reform Movement and leaders of the movement for Independence.

Not only did Sarojini Naidu link up the women's movement with the National struggle but she also worked for the solidarity of Indian women with women of other countries. On the initiative of Sarojini Naidu the Patna Session of the women's Conference was specially assigned to the campaign against Purdah. Even Gandhiji who inaugurated the Conference exhorted Indian women to discard the veil. Though she was proud of the stability of the Indian family, Sarojini also campaigned for women's right to a divorce if the circumstances warranted it.

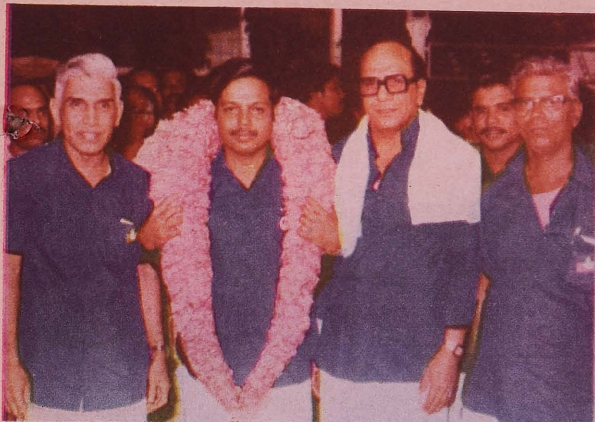
In U.S.A. Sarojini delivered a series of lectures on the women of India. In brief, Sarojini Naidu gave systematic and organised forum to the nebulous women's movement in India. She helped Indian women realise the intimate connection between their own progress, and the progress of the nation towards economic and political freedom. Further she stressed the special role that women could play in national life through patient service and through their aptitude for recognising and reconciling divergent interests and attitudes.

Sarojini Naidu also encouraged the women of the upper classes to turn to the villages and make a beginning in taking the women's movement to the masses. Sarojini approached the question of women's progress from many different angles and dealt simultaneously with many different issues—franchise, seclusion, economic security, political representation, right of divorce, and the importance of women for India's cultural progress. Finally, Sarojini helped to save the women's movement in India from an uncritical imitation of the West. While admiring the boldness, self-confidence and independent spirit of western women, she also pointed out the superficiality that was creeping into their lives, and the tensions that were playing havoc with their families. Particularly towards the end of her life Sarojini became more and more convinced that Indian women should look upon their own heritage, as the true source of their own inspiration.

In conclusion, I would like to quote Sarojini Naidu's own inspiring and eloquent words that, in my opinion, sum up the quintessence of the women's movement :—

"I am not afraid of the ultimate sacrifice. I am only a woman. I am only a woman, But I am the standard bearer of your honour, and I will see to it—the women of India will see to it—that you men shall no more betray the heritage of our nation. The Indian woman calls, Oh! my men, stand up and say—what is manhood but sacrifice, what is life, except to die, that our children may return in their heritage of freedom. And if men falter, as they have done through centuries go your homes and let me, a mere woman let me go to the world and say : Mother rise, we redeem you from bondage, rise from the nightmare slavery. Shall it be left to the women to say that thy sons were faithless but thy daughters have saved thee."

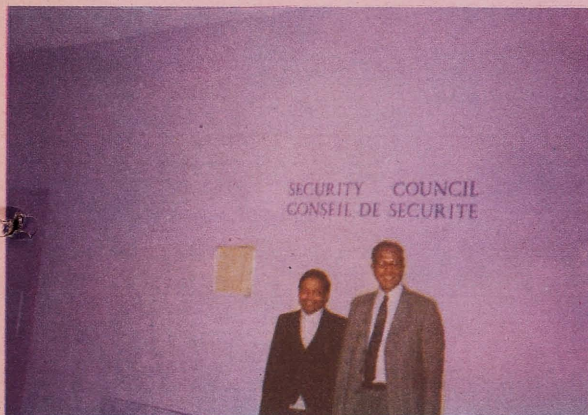
I can add nothing to these striving words but with this article I offer my tribute to a great daughter of Bharat.



Hon'ble Minister for Electricity Thiru S. Ramachandran, was a member of the Indian Delegation to the U.N. General Assembly to take part in the debate of the Sri Lankan Tamils problem and he was given a warm send-off at the Madras Air Port by the former Tamil Nadu Ministers Thiru S. Madhavan and Thiru P. U. Shanmugam.



The United Nations Secretariat Building.



The Hon'ble Electricity Minister at the Security Council of the United Nations.



Starting for visiting the spot where the late John F. Kennedy, President of the U.S.A., was shot dead.



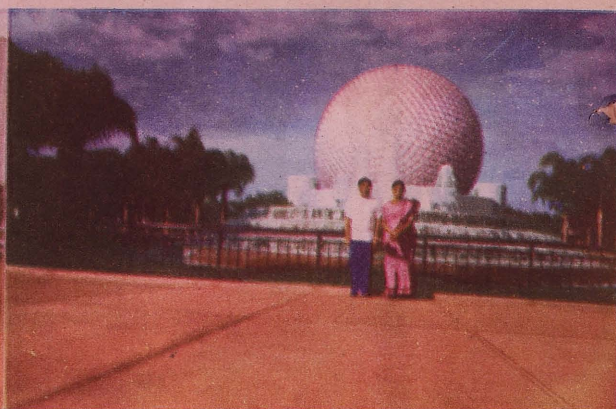
In conversation with the Tamils of India and Sri Lanka at Dullas.



At a Reception given by the Sri Lankan Tamils in New York.



Reception accorded by the Sri Lankan Tamils' Association.



At the Energy Research Centre, Orlando.



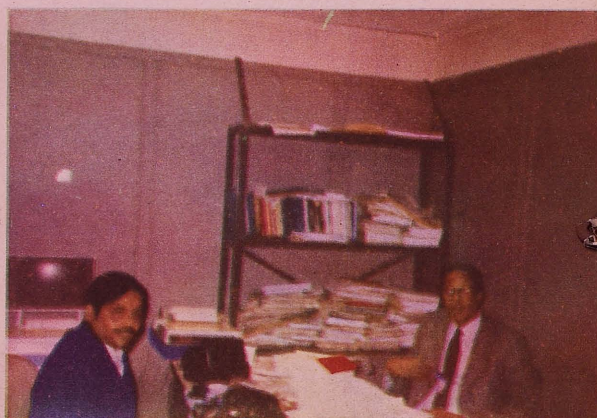
At the Energy Research Centre, Orlando.



Addressing the Sri Lankan Tamils' Association, New York.



With the Officer of the Permanent Mission of India at New York.



Conversing with the P.T.I. Correspondent.



The Hon'ble Minister and his wife with the family of Thiru N. Krishnan, Indian Ambassador to the U.N.



Addressing the New York City Tamils' Association.



Reception by the New York Tamils' Association.



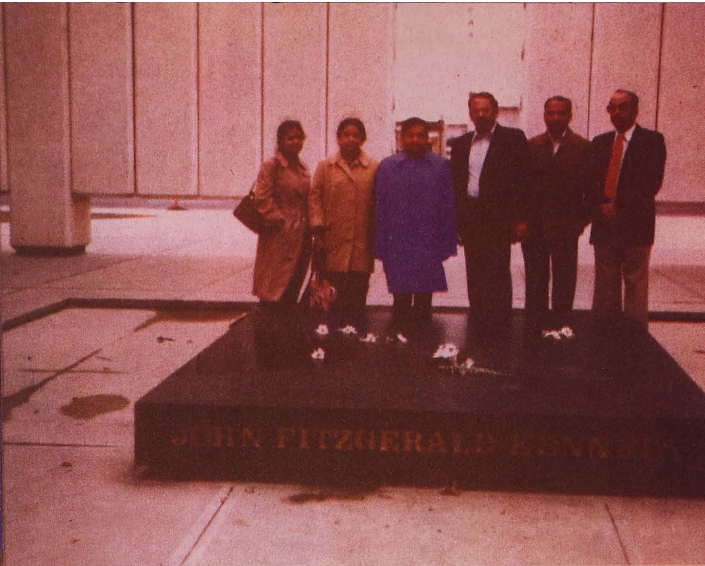
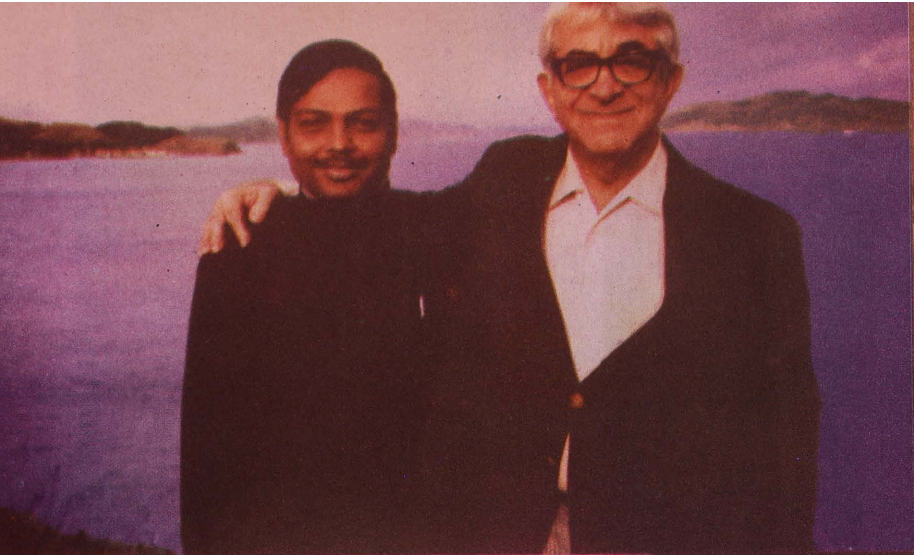
At an Indian Cultural Programme in Cleveland.



Being received by the Mayor of Boston Thiru Eugene Brown.



Receiving the Award for Advocating the cause of Human Rights from the Governor of Massachusetts Thiru Maichel S. Ducocis.



With the Officer of the Wind Energy Station in Sanfrancisco while visiting the station.

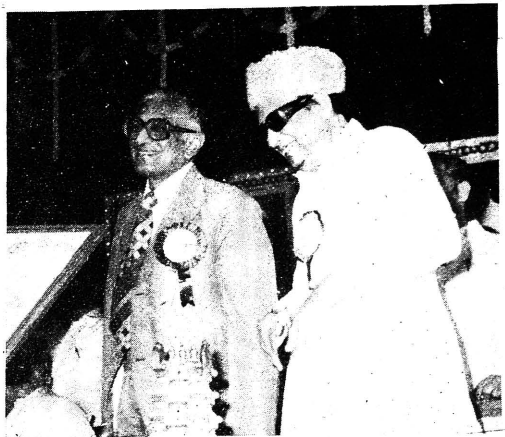
The spot at Dullas where the late lamented President John F. Kennedy's body was placed for homage by the public.

With Thiru K.R. Narayanan; Indian Ambassa-
dor to the U.S.A., at Washington.

Kalaimamani awards were conferred on 30 persons in recognition of their services in the fields of literature, music, dance, drama, cinema and folk arts, at a function organised under the auspices of Tamil Naidu Eyal, Isai, Nataka Manram at Kalaivanar Arangam on 26.1.'84.

The Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru S. L. Khurana gave away gold pendants to the awardees. While presiding over the function, he said that artistes should live in an atmosphere free from tension and worries. Art flourished where the rulers patronised the artistes. A society that honoured artistes honoured itself. A society, which neglected arts and artistes could never progress. With the flowering of arts came peace and harmony in society, he added.

He commended the Chief Minister for his interest in the welfare of artistes.



He extended his appreciation for the formation of Sabhas in Tamil Nadu and said that Bharata Natyam was more popular in Delhi than Kathak or any other dance form.

He also added that Tamil Nadu had produced 487 films out of 936 made in the country in 1982, and there were 4800 theatres in South.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. M.G.R., conferred Kalaimamani titles on 30 persons in recognition of their services in the fields of literature, music, dance, drama, cinema and folk arts.

While felicitating the awardees, the Hon'ble Chief Minister appealed to artistes to transcend barriers of caste or religion, for they were the "property of the nation". They should not live in isolation. They should portray high values through their works. They should have a sense of dedication, live for the cause of the nation and uphold its rich cultural heritage. They should create a style for themselves and not slavishly imitate others, he added.

SCHEME TO HELP INDIGENT ARTISTES

He regretted that there were hundreds of talented artistes all over who had not achieved fame. They should devise means to bring their talent to the fore front.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister, unveiled portraits of the eminent artistes of yester years.

Presenting cash awards to 14 Kalaimamani awardees, now in indigent circumstances, the Hon'ble Finance Minister, Dr. V. R. Nedunchezian, stressed the need to inculcate aesthetic sense in the younger generation. He also pointed out that the Government had so far conferred the Kalaimamani title on 631 persons including the present 30 awardees.

Thiru D.V. Narayanaswamy, Secretary of the Iyal, Esai, Nataka Mandram, who read a report on the Mandram's activities, said that the Mandram would produce films based on Tamil Nadu's rural folk arts and themes from Sangam literature. He also said that a proposal had been sent to the Government for the construction of theatres in every district for the development of arts. Hon'ble Justice Thiru P.R. Gokulakrishnan, Chairman of the Manram, welcoming the gathering said, so far 631 artistes had been conferred the title of Kalaimamani and 109 persons given cash awards of Rs. 1000 each.

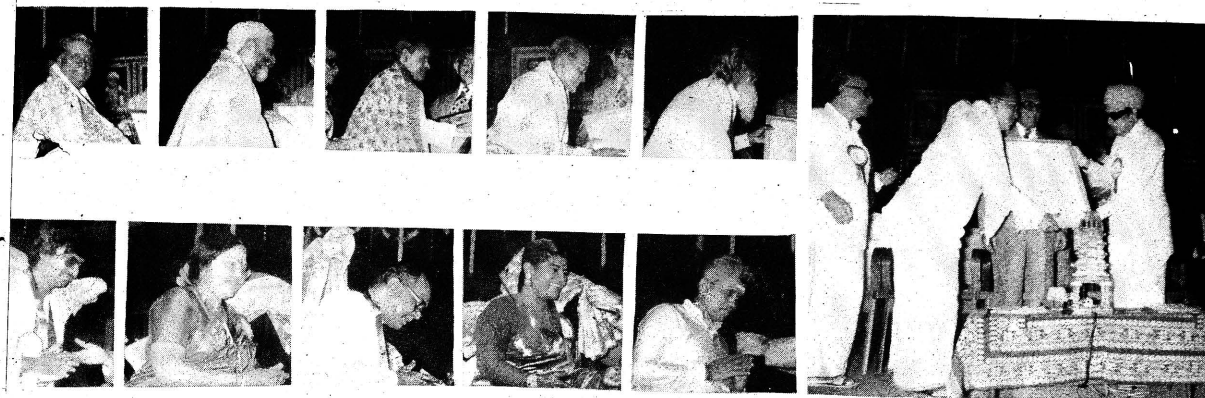


The Kalaimamani awardees :

Thiru Thirukkural V. Muniswamy ..	Eyal (Tamil Literature)
Thiru S. M. Gourisankara Sthapathiar ..	Versatile Artiste
Thiru D. K. Jayaraman ..	Vocal Artiste
Thiru V. Thiagarajan ..	Violin Artiste
Thiru T. R. Srinivasan ..	Mridangam Artiste
Thirumathi E. Gayathri ..	Veena Artiste
Thiru Kottur N. Rajarathinam ..	Nadaswaram Artiste
Thiru Kottur N. Veerasami ..	Nadaswaram Artiste
Thiru Thenchittoor S.N. Sundaram ..	Tavil Artiste
Thiru Pithukuli Murugadas ..	Devotional Music Artiste (Spl.)
Thiru S. Namasiyaya Oduvar ..	Devotional Music Artiste
Thiru K. R. Radhakrishnan ..	Bharathanatyam Teacher
Thirumathi Malathi Domnic ..	Bharathanatyam Artiste
Tmt. S. Rajeswari ..	Bharathanatyam Music Artiste
Thiru P. S. Venkatachalam ..	Drama Actor
Thirumathi N. Vijayakumari ..	Drama Actress
Thiru Manasai Pa. Keeran ..	Drama Playwright (Special)
Thiru Trichy Bharathan ..	Drama Playwright
Thiru R. Murugesha Kavirayar ..	Drama Lyricist
Dr. A. N. Perumal ..	Drama Research Scholar
Thiru M. R. Muthusami ..	Musical Drama Actor
Thirumathi M. K. Kamalam ..	Musical Drama Actress
Thirumathi M. R. Kamalaveni ..	Musical Drama-Harmonium Artiste
Thiru K. Bhagyaraj ..	Film Actor
Thirumathi Rajasulochana ..	Film Actress
Thiru Y. G. Mahendran ..	Film Cine Actor
Dr. Banumathi Ramakrishna ..	Film Director
Thiru Valampuri Somanathan ..	Film Playwright
Selvi L.R. Eswari ..	Film Playback artiste
Thiru P. Chinnappa ..	Folk Artiste (Villupattu)

Heron Theatres, Madras received the Silver rolling shield endowed by Former Tamil Nadu Governor, Thiru K.K. Shah for the best professional drama troupe.

The best Sabha award was received by Sri Kachaleeswar Gana Sabha, Madras.



Kalaimamani artistes who received cash awards :

Thiru T. G. Pavul Pillai ..	Bharathanatyam Mridangam Artiste
Thiru M. Ramasubramanya Sharma ..	Katha Kalakshepa Artiste
Thiru Melattoor G. Swaminathan ..	Bhagavatha mela Dance Artiste.
Thirumathi K. P. Meygnanavalli ..	Musical Drama Actress
Thirumathi N. Ayyammal ..	Folk Artiste
Thiru S. S. Sivasuryan ..	Drama Actor
Thiru Sattampillai K.N. Venkataraman ..	Drama Comic Actor
Thiru Rajaraja A. P. Perumalraj ..	Drama Actor
Thiru Kannadi Master C.A.N. Raj ..	Musical Drama Artiste
Thiru "Ennathay" Kanniah ..	Drama Comic Actor
Thirumathi S.S. Janaki ..	Musical Drama Actress
Thiru Mannargudi N. Rajagopal ..	Thavil Artiste
Thiru B. Damodaran ..	Artisan of Musical Instruments
Thiru T. K. Ramachandran ..	Drama Actor

The portraits of the late eminent artistes unveiled were :

Veteran Tamil Scholar ..	Pandithurai Thevar
Musical Composer ..	Trivandrum Lakshmana Pillai
Sangeetha Vidwan ..	P.K. Arunachala Annavi
Mridangam artiste ..	Palani Subramanya Pillai
Nathaswaram Artiste ..	Sembanarkoil Govindaswamy Pillai
Nathaswaram Artiste ..	Sembanarkoil Dhakshina Moorthi Pillai
Thavil artiste ..	Thirumullaivoil Muthuveeru Pillai
Bharathanatyam Teacher ..	Tiruvadaimarudur Kuppiah Pillai
Bharathanatyam Teacher ..	Tirukazhikundram Duraiswamy Nattuvanar
Drama Actor ..	T. K. Bagavathi
Drama Actor ..	C.S. Samamma
Drama Playwright ..	P.T. Sambandam
Film Actress ..	Savithri
Musical Drama Actor ..	M. M. Mariyappa

On behalf of the awardees, Thiru ThirukkuralMuniswamy, Thiru Gowri Sankara Sthapathiar, Thiru Pithukuli Murugadas, Thiru K. Bhagyaraj, Tmt. Banumathi Ramakrishna and Tmt. Malathi Domnic replied to the felicitations and thanked the Tamil Nadu Government and the Manram for the encouragement given to the artistes.

K. Mallika



Anna

our

History



"History is itself the biographies of great men"—it is said.

The life of PERARIGNAR ANNA is an apt illustration of this saying. To know the history of today's Tamil Nadu, one has to know the biography of Anna. But for Anna, Tamil Nadu would not have come to be called by her own name.

Anna was born in Tamil Nadu, nay, Tamil Nadu as it is to-day was born on the 15th September 1909.

It was Anna who roused the slumbering Tamils to realise their past history and glory and it was Anna who named the Madras State as Tamil Nadu and helped Tamil Nadu to be known to the world by her own historical name highlighting the glory and grandeur of Tamil and Tamil Land.

The term 'Anna' in Tamil means elder brother. The very name 'Anna' inspired millions of people. He was also known by another term 'Perarignar' meaning great genius. He was an erudite scholar, an astute politician, a wise

statesman, powerful orator, revolutionary writer, fine novelist, noted play-wright, great social reformer, an ardent rationalist, a staunch socialist, a great diplomat, a true democrat, an eminent leader and, above all, an affectionate elder brother (Anna) to the Tamils in and outside Tamil Nadu.

After taking his M.A. Degree, instead of seeking the usual refuge in the white-collar profession, Anna entered the political scene devoting himself to moulding the destiny of the masses. He became a staunch

S. NALLARASU.

follower of Thanthai Periyar E.V. Ramaswamy, the most revolutionary social reformer India has ever seen. Anna boldly took to the hard path of social reform. The Self-Respect Movement started by Periyar attracted him. He made use of all the media of propaganda namely the press, the stage and the screen to propagate his ideals.

Anna gave a vivid picture of the

glorious past and the degraded later state of Tamil Nadu. In his words:

"Our literature, art and architecture are fine specimens of human intelligence, but they bear the ravages of time and also the effect of currents and cross-currents so that, to-day, we have to listen to the foreign historian or scholar in order to realise the glory and grandeur of Tamil Nadu. Our culture and civilisation are hoary but we have allowed scars and wrinkles to disfigure them. It is our duty, therefore, to re-discover and re-construct what is ours.

Truly great has been our achievements in the field of literature. To be able to announce to the world that we, Tamilians, do possess great literature and to represent to the world and the entire humanity, the great Thirukkural is something about which we can have pardonable pride."

Portraying the picture of Tamil Nadu in his unique style, Perarignar Anna made a clarion call to the young graduates in the following words :



"Graduates, please carry on the crusade against caste which cannot co-exist with democracy; against superstition which cannot co-exist with science and against tyranny of various dimensions which cannot co-exist with liberty, equality and fraternity."

Anna's call attracted a continuous stream of zealous young men with a spirit of service. Anna was the only leader who knew best about the youth and channelled their energy for constructive purposes.

Anna was not born with a silver spoon in his mouth; instead, he was born with a 'silver tongue.' He was equally proficient in Tamil and English. With his gift of the gab, Anna attracted—rather hypnotised, any kind of audience, young and old, literate and illiterate. His speeches were interesting, instructive and inspiring.

As a writer, Anna has been compared with Bernard Shaw, Ibsen

and Galsworthy. The pen is mightier than the sword. Anna's tongue was mightier than the pen. As an orator, Anna was verily a combination of Demosthenes, Ingersoll, Winston Churchill, Edmund Burke and Macaulay. All his speeches are there in volumes. Euphonic alliterations and rhymes, apt and arresting similes, and revolutionary thought are the special features of his speeches and writings.

Anna moved his tongue and the whole Tamil Nadu moved behind him. It obeyed his orders.

Anna is the fore-runner of the Renaissance in Tamil Literature and art. He developed a style of his own. His way of writing and speeches are emulated by a host of writers and speakers. His oratory is inimitable.

Anna translated his ideals into action. He ushered in a new era. Apart from the social changes, Anna brought about a glorious revolution in Tamil Nadu, the least

violent, but the most beneficial change.

After ascending the seat of power, Anna encouraged intercaste marriages through state awards. No other State in India had done it and it was greatly appreciated by Thanthai Periyar. Anna gave legal recognition to Self - Respect Marriage to the satisfaction of Periyar.

His amiable disposition, his tact, sobriety, statesmanship, brotherly feelings for all and magnanimity towards his political opponents endeared him to all. He was an embodiment of all the faculties.

Anna rebuilt Tamil Nadu, and he presented a vivid picture of the grandeur of Tamil Nadu before the foreign delegates on the occasion of the Second International Conference Seminar of Tamil Studies held in Madras in 1968.

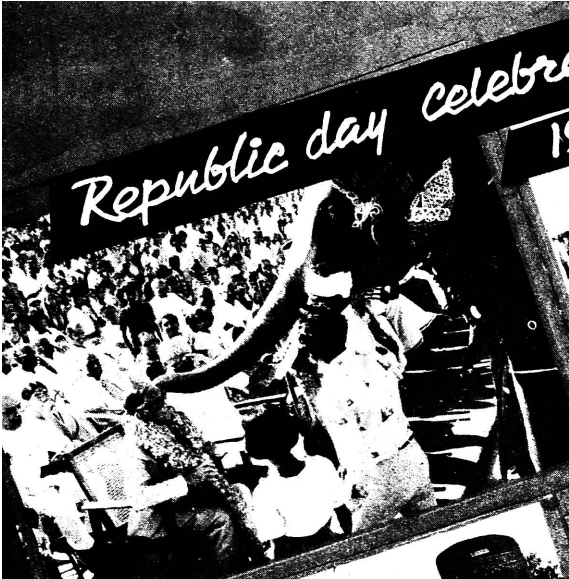
It is a matter of pride and pleasure to record that the Yale University in the U.S.A. honoured Anna by conferring on him the Chubb Fellowship. Anna was given that unique honour. Anna was the first non-American to have received that honour. This shows his greatness in the inter-national plane.

At the time when Anna was born, the Tamils had not realised the greatness and depth of their history. When he left, the Tamils had come to realise their history and feel proud of it. Anna made them feel proud of it.

Anna proposed in the Legislative Assembly the naming of the Tamil land, which was previously known as Madras State, with her own historical name 'Tamil Nadu', and the whole Assembly unanimously seconded and echoed his voice. The credit of christening Tamil Nadu goes to Anna and it was his life's ambition to name Tamil Nadu. He roused the people of Tamil Nadu to identify Tamil Nadu and to demand for her naming, and he himself accomplished it.

Anna discovered Tamil Nadu and named her. He identified his 'mother' and 'christened' her. He was the only son who, in history, ever named his mother. And the Story of Anna's life is itself the History of Tamil Nadu.

Republic day celebrations 1984



by I.A.F. This was followed by a carnival of School Children, Tamil Nadu Folk Dance Ensemble and pageantry procession.

There was a procession of floats depicting the various developmental activities of the Government, Madras Collectorate and Departments of Agriculture, Industries, Adi-Dravidar and Tribal Welfare, Education, Fisheries, Police, Forest, Handloom, Atomic Energy, Integral Coach Factory, Neyveli Lignite Corporation and Tourism participated.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister and the Chief Secretary received the Governor at the saluting base near the Gandhiji Statue at Marina. The Chief Minister introduced the Service Chiefs in Madras, the Director General of Police and the Inspectors General of Police to the Governor. The Governor unfurled the National Flag and the national anthem was played. The Governor took the salute.

The Republic Day was celebrated this year in Madras city on the Marina near the Gandhiji Statue at 8.00 A.M. on 26th January. There was a ceremonial march past in which contingents of the Army, Navy, Air Force, C.R.P.F., Ex-Service-men, State Police, Railway Protection Force, N.C.C., City Police, Home Guards, Fire Service, St. John's Ambulance, Bharat Scouts and Guides, Students of Approved Schools and school children took part. There was a display of defence equipments and floats by the Army, Navy and Air Force. After march past, there was a fly past of Aircrafts



தமிழ்நாடு சுற்றுலாத் துறை

ANNA MEDALS FOR GALLANTRY



The Government of Tamil Nadu award Anna Medal for Gallantry for Civilians. The award carries a medal worth of Rs. 1,000 and a Draft for Rs. 1,000. Three persons have been selected for this award for 1983-84.

SELVAN N. PADMANABHAN.

On the noon of 15-3-1983 M. Tamilselvi, a 4th Standard pupil accidentally fell into a local well in Karur and the other pupils who stood around the well were crying. Selvan Padmanabhan, a 4th Standard pupil aged 9 jumped into the well immediately to save Tamilselvi, least caring for his life, unmindful of the pleadings of his sister. He caught hold of the hair of Tamilselvi and brought her out of the well. The heroic act of this young student deserves appreciation.

THIRU JOHN BOSCO :

On 20-2-1982 an excursion party was proceeding to Velankanni from Salem in a private bus. At about 7.15 p.m. the bus dashed against a narrow bridge on the Poondi Main Road, rolled itself twice and fell into the river. John Bosco

one of the traveller was thrown out from the bus. Others were crying inside the bus for life without being able to come out. At that darkness of the night, John Bosco climbed upon the bus and broke open the glasses of the bus with his bare hands and saved 30 people. The nerves in his hands were cut off when he broke open the glasses. On account of his timely heroic deed, all the 30 passengers inside the bus were saved.

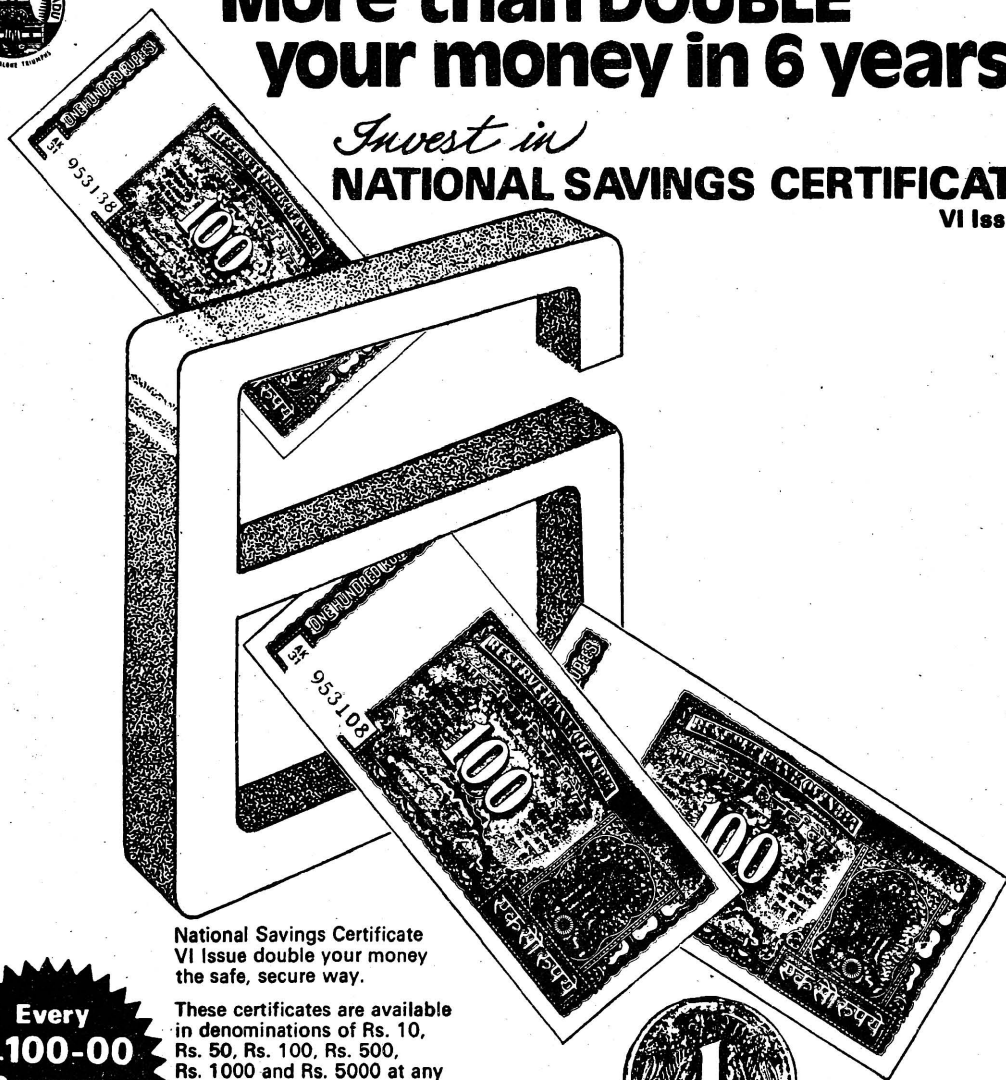
THIRU M. KESAVAN :

On 23-8-1981 at 13.30 hours, number of people both men and women were taking bath in the river Cauvery at Bhavani. Tmt. Sakunthala, aged 30 years was caught in the whirlwind under current and dragged to a distance of about 30 to 40 feet towards the midstream. Thiru M. Kesavan a homeguard, aged 24 years saw a hand of woman on the surface of the river. He immediately jumped into the water and caught hold of her hair and swam to the bank. Thiru Kesavan immediately rendered first aid which was taught in the Home guard training and brought Sakunthala back to life.



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Anna was born in an Age when there was a great national resurgence all over India. He became immensely proud of his cultural heritage. At the same time, he was also keenly alive of the predicament of the modern Tamils. He keenly aspired for the re-establishment of the glory that was 'Tamil Nadu'.

ANNA, THE CUSTODIAN OF TAMIL CULTURE

L. PALANIAPPAN, M.A.

Anna strongly felt that a spirit of freedom and democracy can be established only through one's language, only if one's mother tongue was freed from the shackles of the foreign languages and given its rightful place in the Socio-Cultural sphere, it can generate a feeling of self-confidence and assurance. Hence Anna's love for Tamil was not a mere filial affection; it was the realisation of a great leader who strove for the social upliftment of the fellow men who were servile and downtrodden. When Tamil was the language of the Pandit, it was he who popularised it to the masses. His interpretation of the message of Tamil literature was so effective that even the illiterate masses of Tamilnadu could feel and understand its greatness. It was Anna's genius which conceived a style which, at once, had a literary flourish and yet was simple enough to appeal to the masses at large.

He wanted each individual and each group to develop originally to the maximum so that the individual or the group can contribute the utmost to the formation of the composite culture of the nation and even mankind. He exhorted that for the success of democracy it was essential for each individual to develop his personality. If Anna wanted TamilNadu to deve-

lop its individuality, it was because that was the only means by which TamilNadu can contribute to the development of the modern Indian culture.

He was proud of all aspects of his cultural heritage. He was a good connoisseur of Carnatic music. He once remarked that he liked Nagswaram because it was the unique Art of Tamils. His firm conviction and affection towards the whole of Humanity in general and Tamil Society in particular, had won him great admiration from one and all throughout the world. The welfare of the Tamil and the Tamils had been his main goals all through his life. All the activities of our beloved Anna were aimed towards that end. Anna had become the spokesman of the masses and classes by his sole identification with the problems of the man in the street and his dedication to solve them. It is he who bridged the gulf between the intellectuals and the masses.

Anna's contribution to Tamil Literature and thereby to Tamils and Tamil culture has become the source of inspiration and continues to be so to the younger generation of Tamil Nadu. Anna worked hard for the total annihilation of caste system in our country. Tamil is the



only language which has a glorious past and a continuous literary tradition till date. The modern glory of Tamil has been popularised by Anna only. Tamil renaissance was his unique achievement. Anna's aesthetic appreciation is found in all the spheres of his activities. His utilisation of all the available resources to the cause of Tamil and Tamils needs special mention. Through his speeches and writings he has awakened even the common man of Tamil Nadu to have a pure and true love towards his mother tongue. The Second World Tamil Conference held at Madras during 1968, which reminded the ancient golden era of Tamils, stands as a remarkable testimony to the greatness of Anna. He was a trusted and sincere friend of each and every one.

Let us once again rededicate ourselves to preserve Tamil and Tamil culture which has been the only aim of Anna.

Long live Anna's ideals.



IF YOU DRINK DEEP

"My language is two thousand years old. If you drink deep of the nectar of the Tamil classics, you will want only Tamil to be the National Language."

—ANNA—

SOCIALISM

"Socialism is not mere welfare. because socialism is something other than guaranteeing welfare. It works to create Equality."

"I am aware....that equality is not identity of treatment, but affording equal opportunities for all."

—ANNA—



WELFARE

of ADI-DRAVIDARS

Tamil Nadu Government which is taking effective measures to ameliorate the conditions of the Adi-Dravidars and Scheduled Tribes in a Developing Society bearing in mind all the interests of these people is giving a helping hand as a friend and guide.

The Adi-Dravidars and Scheduled Tribes represent 19.41 per cent of the total population of Tamil Nadu.

It is my bounden duty to record here with pleasure that a sum of about Rs. 44.61 crore has been allocated during this current financial year to implement the various welfare schemes for the people and those schemes are effectively implemented.

Education is the basic need for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Tribes. Tamil Nadu Government is giving all kinds of encouragements to give the education. The Adi-Dravidars and Scheduled Tribes Boys and Girls are offered all edu-

cational facilities in addition to Boarding and Lodging facilities. This Department (ADTW) is running 947 A.D. Welfare Schools, 137 Tribal Residential Schools and one Non-residential Tribal School. From the year 1977-78 onwards, in the past six years a total number of 59 Tribal residential schools have been opened and they are functioning well. This Department is maintaining 675 A.D. students hostels and 20 Tribal students hostels.

Before 1-7-'82 AD & Tribal students who were studying in Standards 1 to 8 were given midday meals at the rate of 22 paise per meal. But after 1-7-'82 under the Hon'ble Chief Minister's Nutritious Noon Meal programme, the students in the age group of 5 to 9 are fed at the rate of 45 paise per meal.

M. THANGADURAI, I.A.S.

Director, Adi-Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Dept.,

It is a well known fact that these young children numbering 1.73 lakhs in the schools run by this Department are fed to their hearts content and thereby they are enabled to evince interest in their studies.

During the year 1982-83, the Adi-Dravidars and Scheduled Tribes were given 24,498 house site pattas. Based on this, a target of 25,000 house site pattas were ordered to be issued during this year, and instructions were issued to the Collectors to achieve this target. So far as Housing Scheme is concerned, houses are constructed at an estimated cost of Rs. 4,000 with a plinth area of 201 square feet, and a sum of Rs. 3,250 is given as subsidy to enable them to construct. The balance of Rs. 750 is met as of their own beneficiary contribution by way of labour. Now the estimated cost of Rs. 4,000 is increased as Rs. 6,000. I would like to mention here that a sum of Rs. 5250 will be subsidy and Rs. 750 will be beneficiary's contribution.

To encourage the inter-caste married couples, a sum of Rs. 4,000

in the shape of National Savings Certificate, Rs. 300 as each grant for marriage expenses, one appreciation certificate, and one gold medal of 14 carat purity of 8 gram weight are given. In addition to this, the children born to these inter-caste couples are allotted seats in medical and engineering colleges at 6 and 5 seats respectively. If we have a close watch over the implementation of the scheme continuously, we would realise that the dream of Perarignar Anna coming to reality.

The Special Component Plan is being implemented with the aim of achieving a target to 1.80 lakhs of families to help cross the poverty line in each year. To mention a few schemes included in the Special Component Plan, Agriculture Sector is one under which all kinds of assistance are rendered to the Adi-Dravidar Agriculturists. I would like to point out on this occasion that under the scheme of I.R.D.P., most of the Adi-Dravidars are benefited. In addition to this, one third portion of the concession under I.R.D.P. schemes is treated as subsidy. This Government is taking all efforts to encourage these people in the veterinary development. There is now an awareness among the Adi-Dravidars to join the White Revolution. Accordingly, subsidy portion of 33 1/3% is now converted as 50% subsidy for Milch Animals and thousands of Adi-Dravidars are benefited under this scheme. The present condition is that besides eking out their livelihood through this scheme they also meet the demands of the country.

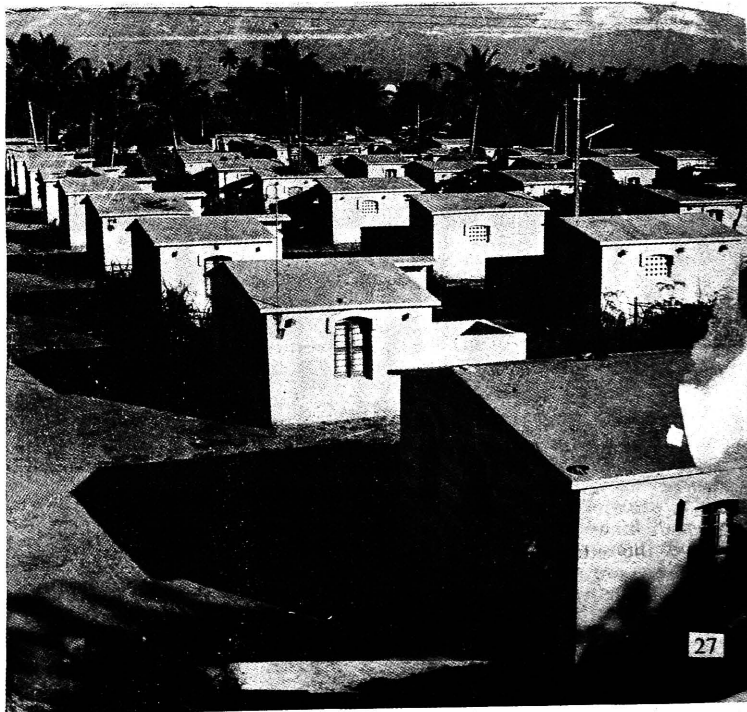
In order to improve the employment opportunities to the educated Adi-dravidar youths in the Armed Forces and Police Services training exclusively for Adi-Dravidar youths is imparted from the year 1981 onwards, and the physical fitness and intelligence are improved. The Government has permitted to impart training for a period of two months for 200 Adi-Dravidar youths at the rate of 100 in each of the Districts of Ramnad and Tirunelveli. If these training camps are found to be useful, it has been ordered by the Government that in the month of August '82 in each District 100

Adi-Dravidar youths will have to be selected to impart training for 60 days. A sum of Rs. 11,16,800 has been ordered to be released from the special Central Assistance, for this purpose. 642 youths and 167 youths respectively out of those given the training were selected for Armed Forces and Police Services.

Though the population of Scheduled Tribes is only 1.07 per cent out of the total population of Tamil Nadu, as is being done for the welfare of Scheduled Castes under the Special Component Plan, special steps were taken under the Tribal Sub Plan for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes. This Sub Plan is implemented from the year 1976-77 onwards. During the year 1976-77 the budget allocation was a sum of Rs. 101.82 lakhs. This has been increased as Rs. 600.58 lakhs during the year 1983-84. Under this scheme the several development departments of this State are implementing various developmental multi purpose schemes (viz.) Horticulture, Co-operative Animal Rearing, Conservation of Forests and through these schemes, the Government of Tamilnadu is striving hard to bring at least 50% of the total population of Scheduled Tribes (i.e.) 15,000 families above the poverty line.

Under the cluster development programme in all the districts except Madras one Panchayat Union is selected in each district and thus a total of 15 Panchayat Unions are selected. In each selected Panchayat Union, this programme is implemented in pockets where 1,000 and above number of Adi-Dravidar families are living. A total number of 15,000 Adi-Dravidar families were benefited under this scheme during last year. By implementing this scheme in another 15 Panchayat Unions during this year, it is expected that another 15,000 families of Adi-Dravidars will be benefited. I would like to mention here, that through various Industrial Development programmes under the Scheme the Adi-Dravidars of the respective areas will get the benefit of a permanent source of income.

The P.C.R. Act is effectively implemented from the year 1976 onwards. A senior Deputy Inspector-General of Police exclusively to look after the effective implementation of P.C.R. Act has been appointed in this State. To enforce the various provision of P.C.R. Act and to ensure the proper implementation of the P.C.R. Act, the State level committee under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Chief



minister has been constituted. The Collectors and the District Superintendents of Police were instructed to enforce strictly this P.C.R. Act. The Government has instructed all the Collectors to provide employment opportunities under N.R.E.P. Scheme, for those who are affected under P.C.R. Act and those who are giving witness while the criminal case is under trial. This is given in order to enable them to give evidence in the court without any fear and to avoid possible threats by the landlords concerned. The Tamilnadu Government has constituted the Tamilnadu Legal Aid Committee to help the Adi-Dravidas/Scheduled Tribes by way of legal assistance. This committee is assisting to redress the grievances with the assistance of Executive Officers, Tribunals and courts to get compensation in respect of motor vehicles accident cases, Workers compensation Act, etc. The victims of Adi-Dravidas and Scheduled Tribes and their families due to the atrocities committed by the members of the other communities due to the caste consideration are given monetary relief ranging from Rs. 250 to 2,000 under the

Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund.

Twenty mobile police squads are functioning in this State to enforce the P.C.R. Act. Four Special courts have been formed in Tirunelveli, Trichy, Kumbakonam in Thanjavur District and Madurai to dispose of cases registered under this Act. In order to give wide publicity a film on the evils of untouchability is being produced for screening throughout the State. I would like to mention here, that to implement and to supervise the welfare schemes intended for Adi-Dravidas, Extension Officers (Adi-Dravidas Welfare) at the rate of one for each Panchayat Union in all the 378 Panchayat Unions were appointed.

Tamilnadu Government are receiving special central assistance for the welfare of Adi-Dravidas.

The Special Central Assistance is utilised as subsidy for implementing income generating economic development and employment oriented programmes, to the Adi-Dravidas in rural areas. Especially to

uplift the economic conditions of Scheduled Castes, permanent job opportunities, through Co-operative Industries by way of establishing or expanding by this assistance. To mention a few schemes implemented in this regard, with the funds from Special Central Assistance, a Co-operative Spinning Mill has been set up in East Ramanathapuram with an estimated expenditure of Rs. 439 lakhs. The production will be started soon. Power looms have been established in seven places and most of them are functioning. In others power looms production will be started after the construction is over. Steps are being taken to provide 14 more power looms. Moreover for the Government owned Transport Corporation subsidy is given on conditions that Drivers etc. belonging to Scheduled Castes should be given employment opportunities. So far 414 Adi-Dravidas were given employment under this scheme. If the Adi-Dravidas and Scheduled Tribes realise these factors well and offer their co-operation they can prosper along with the other sections of the people in all aspects and find a bright future.

WORLD BANK TEAM HAPPY WITH THE PROGRESS OF PROJECTS

A six-member team of the Executive Directors of the World Bank, which visited the projects aided by the Bank in and around Madras has been impressed by the work done so far.

Thiru Benachen Hou Mourad, a team member, told that the team was able to assess the efficiency and involvement of the Bank-aided projects and the manner in which money was being used in India, a major shareholder of the Bank.

He congratulated the Tamil Nadu Government and its people benefiting from the loans. The team was told about a World Bank-aided

scheme by which children from two months to 2 years were being given supplementary food to prevent sickness linked to malnutrition. Also, the parents were taught how to bring up their children through a system of extension services.

He said that they saw two films on the nutritious noon meal scheme of the Tamil Nadu Government. Though they could not follow the commentary which was in Tamil, the film effectively conveyed the message.

They visited a project relating to agricultural extension service. The scheme helped farmers get quality seeds and adopt modern techniques of production, particularly with reference to rice.

They also visited a government institution near the city where farm extension service officers were being trained. Yet another item of visit related to the financing of cooperatives through agriculture banks.

Today, the team inspected the sites and services projects of the State Government in Arumbakkam and the project for housing the middle income group in the city and the suburbs.

"We have been very much impressed by the commitment, involvement and efficiency of the civil servants, who are working under very hard conditions. We have also been impressed by the receptivity of the people to the ideas behind the projects."

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power during peak hours has been lifted. The power-cut on all L.T. services was lifted from 11th July 1983.

Any permanent solution to the power shortage in the State will be only through substantial increases in thermal capacity. Government of India has since cleared the Mettur Thermal Extension Project of two units of 210 MW each. A project report for the establishment of five thermal units of 210 MW each at Neyveli utilising the lignite has been formulated and forwarded to the Government of India in June 1983. Our Government has also requested the Government of India to open a third mine cut at Neyveli and earmark the entire lignite for this project. The State Government has also been urging the Government of India to start another Atomic Power Project in the State, which would help relieve the chronic power shortage faced by the State, at least to some extent.

In spite of the revision of tariff in May 1983, the electricity charges collected from the consumers do not meet even the cost of production, let alone achieve a 3 per cent return on investment as urged by the Union Planning Commission. This position has been further aggravated by the recent 25 per cent increase in the price of coal. The Electricity Board has to depend heavily on the State not only for its capital projects but also to cover its operational deficits.

Provision of protected drinking-water to the rural population has been given high priority by the Government. According to the survey conducted in 1976-77 out of 47,273 habitations in the State, 18,167 were categorised as problem habitations. Due to adverse seasonal conditions in the recent past, there have been further additions to this number. These habitations are expected to be covered by the end of March 1985.

It has been proposed to undertake a water-supply and low-cost sanitation project with the assistance of the World Bank. Under this project water-supply schemes will be taken up in the 3 major towns of Coimbatore, Salem and Madurai, 75 other towns and 740 rural habitations, in addition to low-cost sanitation for 14 municipalities. The total estimated cost of the project, spread over four years and six months is Rs. 149.42 crores.

The EEC has agreed to finance a project covering 726 habitations in Periyar and Coimbatore districts, where the water has a high fluoride content. The project, at an estimated cost of Rs. 15.20 crores, is expected to be completed in a period of 30 months.

As the Honourable Members are aware, the major thrust in the activities of the Government has been towards the removal of poverty. It is not possible to achieve this avowed objective without overall economic development and the creation of

more job opportunities. It was with this end in view that the Government launched a scheme of providing one job for each family. The State Government has recently laid down that preference in employment in Government Departments and the Public undertakings will be given to those candidates who come from families below the poverty line where no other member is employed. Up-to-date statistics has also been collected regarding the number of families beneath the poverty line in rural areas and the details of members in such families, willing and qualified to take up self employment activities.

It is also well known that appropriate skills are not available in the rural areas. Any self employment programme, therefore, will have to focus on skill development. Training programmes under various projects will have to be dovetailed and schemes already under implementation for tapping institutional finance in setting up self employment schemes have to be co-ordinated. The Prime Minister's scheme for providing employment opportunities to the educated unemployed and the Integrated Rural Development Programme, financed both by the State and the Centre have been taken advantage of, and suitable institutional agencies set up in order to divert the benefits of these programmes to those below the poverty line.

The Government has created a separate Department of Institutional Finance from 15th July 1983 to serve as a catalyst for the flow of credit to the weaker sections of society. It is note-worthy that during the first few months after it was set up, loans to the tune of Rs. 30.16 crores were distributed to 1,70,564 persons in the State including 56,966 Adi-Dravidars. The newly constituted department of Employment Services has organised a drive to obtain bank credit for 10,000 ITI-trained unemployed persons, by providing seed capital assistance.

The Government of India have allocated a sum of Rs. 8.90 crores in the current year and Rs. 44.50 crores in the next year for the programme of providing employment to the rural landless labour. The State Government has already obtained Government of India's approval for projects costing Rs. 44 crores.

Under the ongoing National Rural Employment Programme funded equally by the State and the Centre, it has been proposed to spend Rs. 36 crores in the current year. 1,64,867 works have been completed under this programme from 1979-80 upto the end of November 1983. It is proposed to set apart Rs. 40 crores for this programme, in the plan for 1984-85, 50 per cent of which would be financed by the Government of India.

The problem that confronts our society today is one of ensuring job opportunities to the

increasing numbers of students who will be thrown up by the prevailing educational system. Non-specific and generalised educational system at all levels creates an unabsorbable labour force whose growing sense of dis-content and frustration adds to the social unrest and tension. Government is keen on re-orienting the educational system, in such a way, that relevant and location-specific job training is provided at all levels of education, so that young boys and girls are equipped with the appropriate skills which can either enable them to obtain jobs in industries, or find self-employment. Such a multi-dimensional programme would necessarily exceed the limited financial resources of the State. The State Government had therefore, sought the assistance from the Central Government, through the Eighth Finance Commission award, for implementing this massive programme throughout the State. Though the interim report of the Commission has not covered this point, a detailed blue-print is being prepared to seek Government of India's assistance for this proposal.

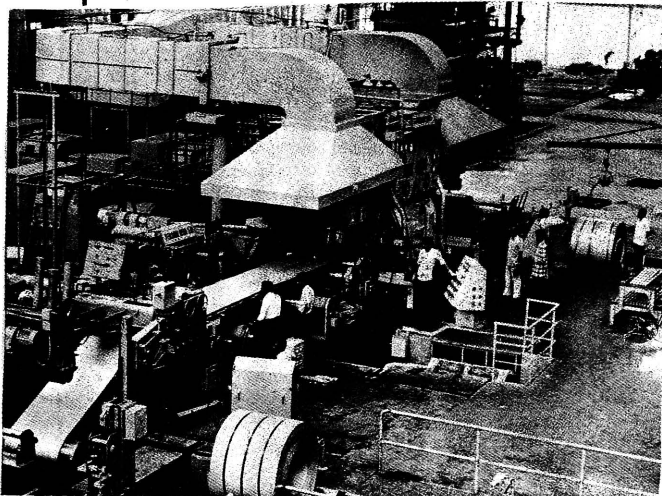
Apart from the various concessions and incentives offered by the State Government to facilitate the growth of industries, steps have also been taken to set up public sector units involving huge financial commitments. The Tiruttani Co-operative Sugar Mills being set up in Tiruvalangadu in Chengalpattu district at a cost of about Rs. 10 crores is expected to commence its crushing operations in the middle of April this year. In order to ensure smooth running and to avoid large scale retrenchment of labour, the State Government has taken over the administration of Madura Sugars Limited in Madurai district.

As the Honourable Members are aware, the Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Limited, promoted by the State Government is setting up a newsprint-cum-paper project in a backward area at Pugalur in Tiruchirappalli district. This Rs. 195 crores project, funded by the World Bank to the extent of 50 per cent of the project cost, has been planned to produce 50,000 tonnes of newsprint and 40,000 tonnes of paper annually. The project when commissioned would save foreign exchange to the tune of Rs. 40 crores annually. Construction works for the project are under progress and the project is likely to be completed by September-October this year as originally scheduled.

Government of India has recently cleared the proposal for establishing a free trade zone in Madras and a stretch of about 150 acres of Government land has already been identified for its location. The work on the development of the area has been entrusted to SIPCOT.

The work on the Pamban Bridge, which after completion will provide an un-interrupted road transport facility up to Dhanushkodi, the tip of Rameswaram Island, would be restarted soon. It is expected to cost Rs. 16.65 crores now.

The performance of the State Transport Corporations continues to be highly satisfactory and the Union Planning Commission has ranked the Tamil Nadu Corporations amongst the best in the Country. The three new transport corporations, viz., Jeeva Transport Corporation at Erode, Nesamony Transport Corporation at Nagercoil, and Marudhu Pandiyar Transport Corporation at Karaikudi have started functioning independently from 1st April 1983. Although during the last financial year, the operations of all corporations excepting three, resulted in profits, it is difficult to maintain this financial performance in view of the periodical increases in the administered price of diesel. Between 1980 and now, the price of diesel oil has gone up by more than 100 per cent and these increases have resulted in an additional expenditure of Rs. 115 crores for the State transport undertakings in the last three and half years.

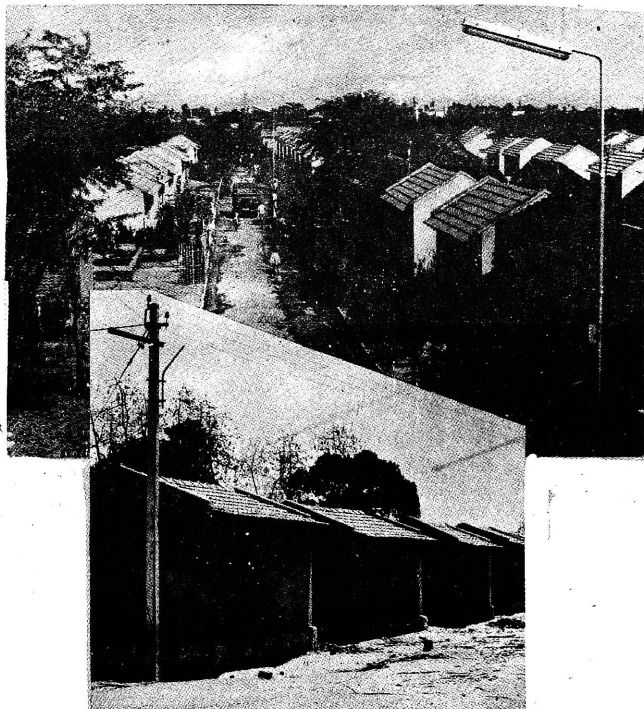


Provision of health care in rural areas has been one of the major policies of the State Government. In pursuance thereof, a health sub-centre is being established for every 5,000 population. In the current year, it is proposed to establish 712 additional sub-centres. This would be an addition to the 4,586 sub-centres existing in the State.

The DANIDA assisted health care and family welfare project, being implemented in South Arcot district and Salem district has entered its third year. Under this Project, so far 449 health sub-centres have been established and works are in progress on 313 sub-centre buildings.

It is gratifying to note that the special attention to the Family Welfare Programme has paid rich dividends and the State stands first in the country in having done 3,77,827 sterilisations by the end of January 1984 as against the annual target of 3.99 lakhs which is expected to be exceeded substantially by the end of this year. Government has sanctioned the purchase of 26 laparoscopes at an estimated cost of Rs. 7.8 lakhs for distribution to taluk hospitals.

A separate department for Environment Control was created from 15th July 1983 in order to implement effectively the various laws governing environmental pollution. The entire State has been notified "Air Pollution Control Area" with effect from 1st October 1983 and with the notification of the Tamil Nadu Water (Prevention and control of Pollution) Rules 1983 and the Tamil Nadu Air (Prevention and control of Pollution) Rules 1983 on 30th September 1983, the State is qualified for uninterrupted Central Government sanction for setting up of new industries in the State.



The Honourable members are aware that the State Government has taken up a scheme for the construction of 2 lakh houses under the Rural Housing Scheme in the Sixth Plan period. As against the target of 40,000 houses, 40,092 houses were constructed during 1982-83 and in the current year upto the end of October 17,894 houses have been constructed out of which 15,058 houses have been constructed for Adi-Dravidars. 20,759 houses are under various stages of construction. The estimated cost of a house has been increased to Rs. 6,000 from the existing Rs. 4,000 from the beginning of this financial year.

A noteworthy result of the Chief Minister's Noon Meal Programme is a marked increase in the enrolment of students in the schools. It has also proved to be a fruitful investment in human capital. A sample survey conducted by Shri Avinashi-

lingam Home Science College for Women, Coimbatore has shown that over a period of four months all the children covered by the survey showed a general improvement in health and an increase in their mean height and weight. A detailed scheme for providing health cover for the pre-school children covered by the scheme has also been drawn up.

The Members may recall that Tamil Nadu was adjudged best in terms of performance under the Twenty-Point Programme in 1982-83 by the Union Planning Commission. This tempo has been maintained in the current year also, with the State having already achieved more than 70 per cent of the target set in respect of production of oil seeds, creation of mandays under National Rural Employment Programme, surplus land resumed for allotment, Scheduled Tribe families assisted to cross the poverty line, villages provided with drinking water-supply, allotment of house-sites, tree plantation, setting up of bio-gas plants, number of sterilisations done, establishment of Public Health Centres, coverage under Integrated Child Development Services, enrolment in the age-group 6-14 and coverage under adult literacy.

In the light of the experience gained from the year 1981-82 on the working of the Tamil Nadu Prohibition Act, the State Government decided that in public interest, the wholesale trade in arrack and Indian-Made Foreign Spirits throughout the State should be taken over, managed and regulated by a fully-owned Government undertaking. The Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation Limited was set up and the wholesale supply of arrack and Indian-Made Foreign Spirits was taken over by the Government and entrusted to this Corporation from 1st June 1983.

In order to make district administration more effective, the Government has decided to divide some of the larger districts of the State, in stages. Accordingly, Ramanathapuram district would be divided into Ramanathapuram district with headquarters at Ramanathapuram, Pasumpon Muthuramalingar district with headquarters at Sivagangai and Kamarajar district with headquarters at Virudhunagar. Tirunelveli district would be bifurcated into Tirunelveli district with headquarters at Tirunelveli and Chidambaranar district with headquarters at Tuticorin. North Arcot district would be divided into North Arcot district with headquarters at Vellore and Sambavarayar district with headquarters at Thiruvannamalai. Madurai district would be bifurcated into Madurai district with headquarters at Madurai and Anna district with headquarters at Dindigul. Thanjavur district would be divided into Thanjavur district with headquarters at Thanjavur and Valliammai district with headquarters at Tiruvarur. South Arcot district would be bifurcated into South Arcot district with headquarters at Cuddalore and Vallalar district with headquarters at Villupuram. Tiruchirappalli district would be

divided into Thiruvalluvar district with headquarters at Perambalur and Tiruchirappalli district with headquarters at Tiruchirappalli.

An expert committee will be set up to make recommendations to Government on the area covered by the new district, the taluks to be included in them, the various infrastructural facilities that have to be created, etc. The Government will consider the recommendations of the Committee and take necessary action to implement, in stages, the decisions taken on the report of the Committee.

The Government has been viewing with utmost concern the various demands from the employees. There has been a long standing request for enhancing the retirement benefits to the Government servants by paying a lumpsum of Rs. 10,000 in addition to the normal gratuity. The Government has decided to implement the scheme by enrolling the employees on the basis of a contribution of Rs. 20 per month till it adds upto Rs. 5,000 with interest. The Government would contribute Rs. 5,000 from their own funds in order to enable the employees to receive Rs. 10,000 at the time of retirement. However, those who retire earlier will also be paid Rs. 5,000 by the Government in addition to their own contribution with interest. This scheme, drawn up in consultation with the representatives of employees, would come into operation from 1st April 1984.

Recently the Government has extended the benefit of the Liberalised Pension Rules to all those Government servants who retired prior to October 1979.

The Government is also aware that all the Government servants have been anxiously looking forward to the constitution of the Fourth Pay Commission. I am happy to inform the Hon'ble Members that a decision on this will be announced this year itself.

The Government is aware of the hardships caused to the families of the building construction workers who happen to lose their lives while engaged in building construction activities. The Workmen's Compensation Act of 1923 has been made applicable to such workers by incorporating a suitable provision in the Tamil Nadu Building and Construction Workers (Conditions of Employment and Miscellaneous Provision) Bill, 1983. This will reduce to some extent the hardships caused to the families of building construction workers who die while engaged in building construction activities. The Government also proposes to bring an official amendment to the

provisions of the Tamil Nadu Building and Construction Workers (Conditions of Employment and Miscellaneous Provision) Bill, 1983. As per this amendment, the employers of these building construction workers are required to take up adequate insurance to cover loss of life or limb to the workers during employment. For those who are not benefited by the above provision, the Government has decided to provide for a payment of Rs. 10,000 as compensation from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to the bereaved family. The building construction workers will have to register themselves with the Labour Department on a payment of Rs. 5 to get the benefit of this scheme.

The Government had earlier decided to conduct the panchayat and municipal elections during February 1984. All the preliminary arrangements were also made accordingly. However, due to the recent heavy floods in certain parts of the State, viz., Thanjavur, Pudukottai, Tiruchirappalli and South Arcot districts heavy damage was caused to properties leading to disruption to communication facilities in those areas. The entire Government machinery in these districts was fully engaged in relief works on a war footing. Restoration works are still in progress. Several persons have been displaced from their houses in districts like Thanjavur. Only after they either return to their houses or settle down in newly constructed houses, will they be able to enrol themselves as voters and exercise their franchise in this election. It has therefore become necessary to postpone the panchayat and municipal elections. The Government has proposed to conduct the Panchayat and Panchayat Union Elections on 19th April 1984 and 23rd April 1984 in two batches and the Municipal Elections on 28th April 1984, after the Budget Session of the Legislature is over. I am sure the Honourable Members would welcome this news.

The Government has decided to upgrade the Tiruchirappalli, Salem and Tirunelveli municipalities into municipal corporations. The Government has also proposed to frame a common act for all the municipal corporations in this State.

I have briefly touched upon the steady progress made by the State in various prominent areas of the economic and social scene despite the successive natural calamities we had to face. I have also attempted an overview of the future plan of action for removal of poverty and creation of employment opportunities in the State. May I seek the co-operation of the House in this stupendous endeavour in which the Government is engaged.

Vanakkam.

JOINT SESSION OF THE TAMIL NADU LEGISLATURE
Thiruvalluvar Year 2015—Ruthrothkari—Masi I

13th February 1984

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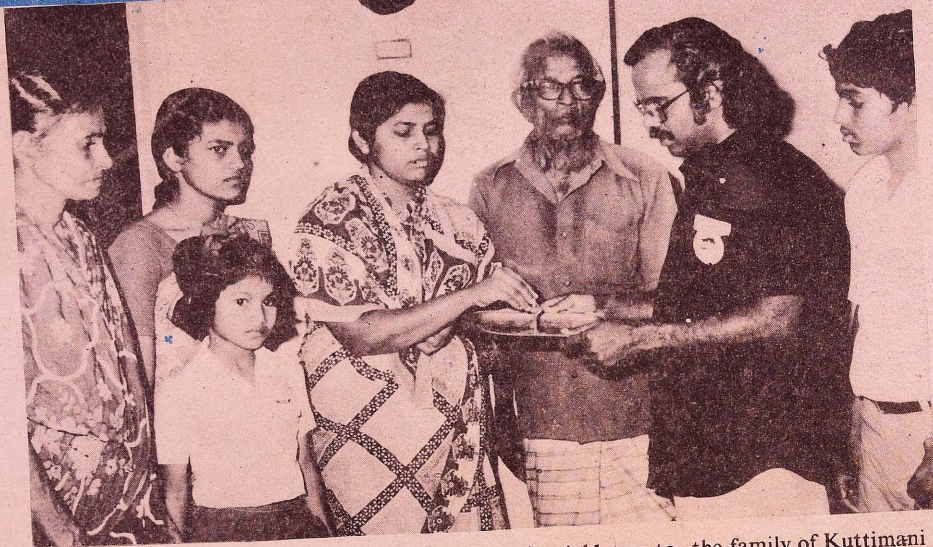
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The Tamil Nadu Government allotted a free residential house to the family of Kuttimani who was killed in the Velikkadai Prison massacre in Sri Lanka. The Tamil Nadu Housing Board Chairman, Thiru A. Chelliah handed over the key to Kuttimani's family. This was done on the orders of the Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. M.G. Ramachandran.

A free residential house was allotted by the Government of Tamil Nadu to the family of Thangadurai who was killed in the Velikkadai Prison massacre in Sri Lanka. Thiru A. Chelliah, Chairman, Tamil Nadu Housing Board, handed over the key to Thangadurai's wife. This has been done on the orders of the Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. M.G. Ramachandran.

