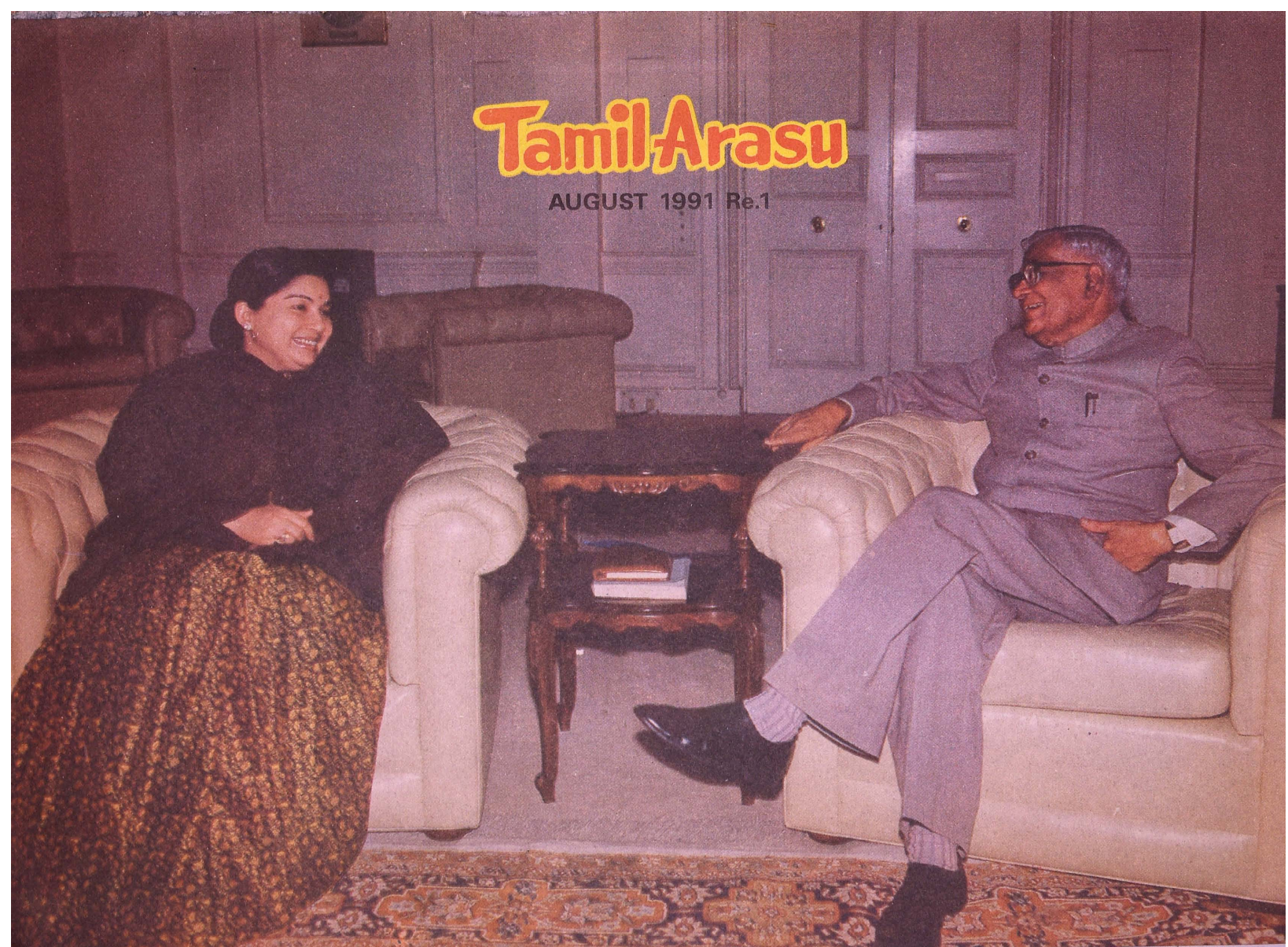
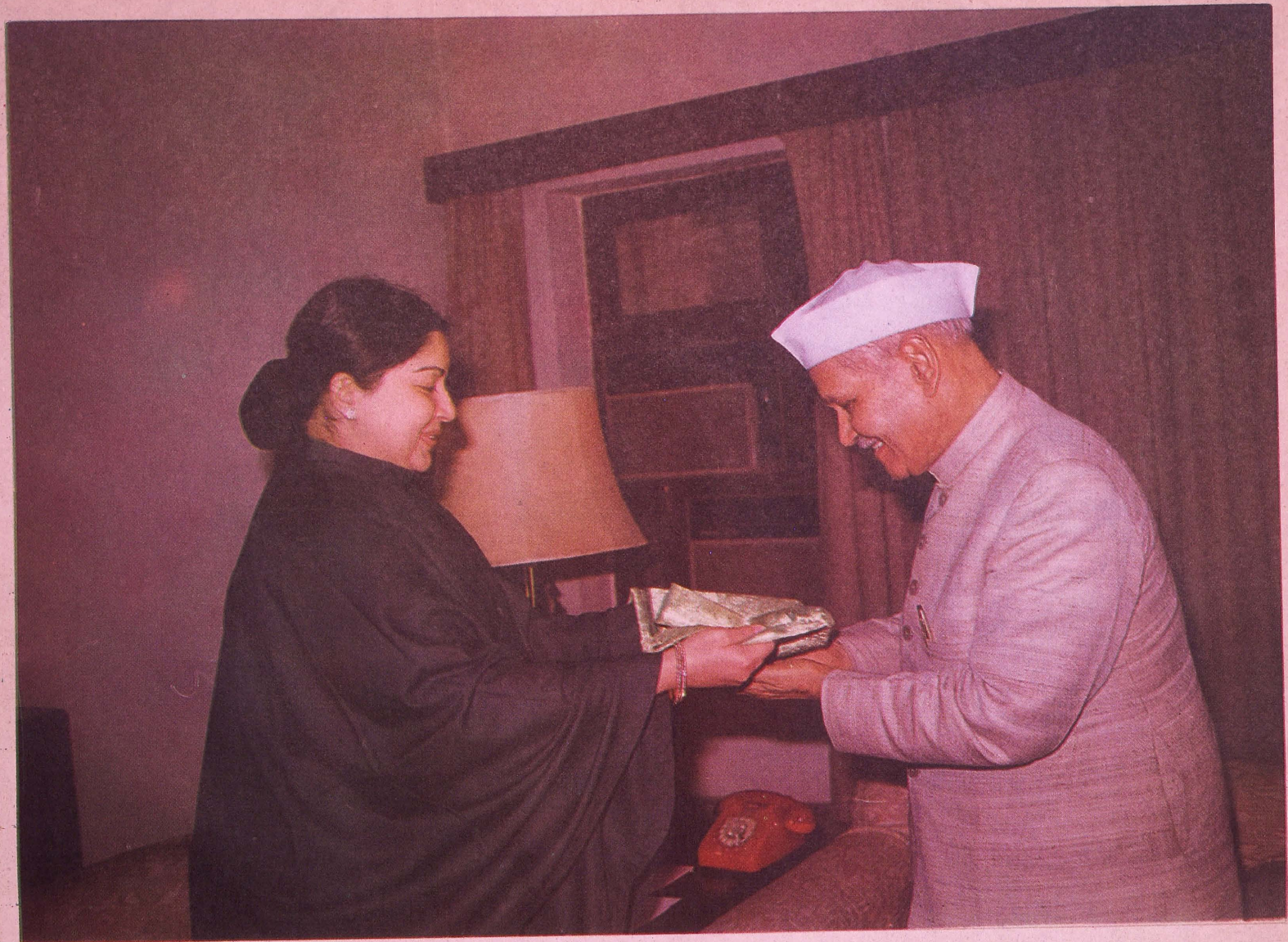


Tamil Arasu

AUGUST 1991 Re.1





TAMIL ARASU

A Monthly Journal of Government of Tamil Nadu

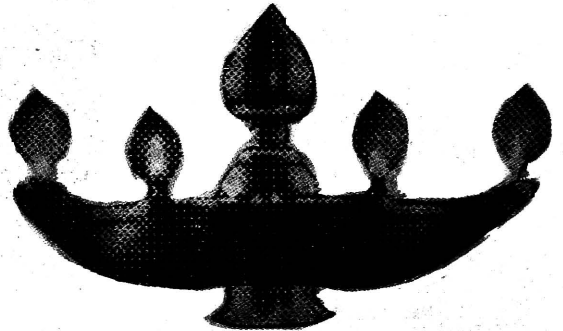
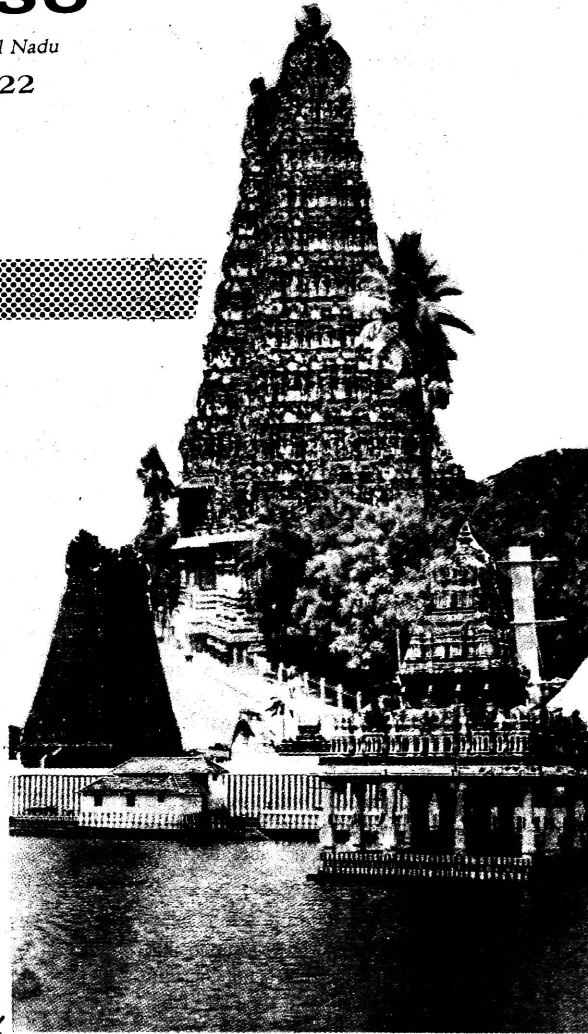
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Chief Minister's visit to New Delhi

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchithalaivi J. Jayalalitha left for New Delhi - her first visit to the capital as Chief Minister - on 15.7.91.

She called on the President of India, Thiru R. Venkataraman and the Prime Minister Thiru. P.V. Narasimha Rao.

She discussed with the Prime Minister various economic programmes and developmental activities of Tamil Nadu.

She quite categorically asserted that according to Article 256 of our constitution it is obligatory on the part of the Centre to issue direction to the Government of Karnataka to ensure compliance with the provisions of Inter-State Water Dispute Act and to implement the interim order of the tribunal. She also emphasised the needs for gazetting the interim order.

The Prime Minister and the Union Minister for Water Resources Thiru. V.C. Shukla offered to mediate

between the Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka and settle the issue amicably through negotiation. Nevertheless, our Chief Minister categorically stated that any negotiation should precede compliance of the interim order by Karnataka and gazetting of the same. She further stated that with all the brims of Karnataka reservoirs full, there can be no reason to postpone its compliance any further.

Besides, the Chief Minister urged the Prime Minister and other Central Ministers to launch the following pro-

jects that are vital to the economic development of Tamil Nadu.

★ Immediate launching of an aromatic plant at a cost of Rs.6,000 crores.

★ Immediate laying of Southern Gas Pipe line in Tamil Nadu.

★ Sanctioning of colour film unit at Ootacamund at a cost of Rs.250 crores.

★ To consider relaxation of Government policy to enable State Government to launch mining activities either independently or in collaboration with the Central Government.

★ To involve private sector in power generation activities. Central assistance to extract power from coal available at Jayankondam.

★ To expand first mine cut at Neyveli to launch two new thermal power stations (210 MW each) at a cost of Rs.2,500 crores- to launch third mine cut and to allot the entire power, generated at Neyveli, to Tamil Nadu alone.

★ To mechanise coal handling at Paradeep Port.

★ Power generation has been badly hit due to shortage of coal. TNEB leads a hand to mouth existence in this regard. Centre is requested to grant permission to import seven lakh tonnes of coal, which will last for a month.

★ Mettur is linked with Sinkareni for its coal. Coal is not available in Sinkareni. Therefore Mettur has to depend on Bihar and Orissa for its coal.



Coal has to be brought by rail and sea from Bihar and Orissa. The Centre is urged to bear the transportation charges, which costs the exchequer a sum of Rs.105 crores.

★ A satellite port has to be established at Ennore.

★ The Centre should take immediate steps to implement Sethu Samudiram Project.

★ The recently imposed 10% reduction in the diesel consumption, on the Road transport Corporation has to be lifted.

★ A national highway along the east coast may be laid at an early date.

★ The Karur Tuticorin broad gauge plan and the Mass Rapid Transit System in Madras may be completed at an early date.

★ Penninsular river water grid has to be constituted and rivers be nationalised.

★ A sum of Rs.40 crores may be allotted for the year 1991-92 for the implementation of rural water supply scheme.

★ Centre has to extend support for clearance of Rs.600 crores project by World Bank for receiving, storing and distribution of water from the Telugu Ganga Project, for the city of Madras.

★ Export Processing Zones have to be established in Tirupur, Ambur, Ranipet and Vaniyambadi.

★ Central Government has to help the State Government in modernising



police force, providing the police force with communication equipments, vehicles, special equipments, establishing Police Training Academy, Special Commando Training Academy, formation of a Marine wing for patrolling coastline and Rs.70 crores for coastline surveillance be provided.

★ In view of the long sea border, wide open coast line and proximity to Srilanka, a 100% special grant has to be extended to Tamil Nadu, as was done in the case of other States, penetrated by militants i.e. Punjab and Kashmir. Tamil Nadu cannot tackle terrorism, unless its police force is modernised.



★ The total plan outlay of the State is Rs.1,600/- crores.

And there will be a deficit of Rs.1,230/- crores. The plan assistance given to various other States are given below:

West Bengal	65.95%
Andhra Pradesh	36.5%
Uttar Pradesh	33.5%
Maharashtra	42%
Punjab	50.4%
Madhya Pradesh	20.71%

But only 9.7% was given to Tamil Nadu.

Therefore the special financial assistance shall be increased from Rs.450.17 crores to Rs.600 crores. The investment made by Unit Trust of India in Small Scale Industries must be raised from Rs.321.79 crores to Rs.450 crores.

The abolition of cheap liquor cost the exchequer a sum of Rs.322 crores during current year and a sum of Rs.390 crores in one full year. The entire loss has to be compensated by the Centre.

The Janata Dal Government has waived the agriculture loan upto Rs.10,000.

This burden has to be shared by the Centre and the State equally. Accordingly we owe to the Centre Rs.145 crores in three years and a sum of Rs.54 crores during the current year. The Centre must either waive the loan completely or extend the period of repayment.

The Chief Minister called on Tmt. Sonia Gandhi and conveyed the heart felt condolences of Tamil Nadu on the brutal assassination of Thiru.Rajiv Gandhi.

During this visit the Chief Minister also called on the Vice-President of India, Dr.Shankar Dayal Sharma, called on the Finance Minister Dr.Man Mohan Singh, Home Minister Thiru.S.B.Chavan, Minister for Water Resources and Development Thiru. V.C. Shukla, External Affairs Minister Thiru. Madhav Sinh Solanki, Agriculture Minister Thiru. Balram Jakkar, Minister of State for Labour Welfare Thiru. K.Ramamurthy, and discussed with them the above matters.

This visit will indeed be the first step in the victorious path towards a golden era in our State.





CAUVERY WATER DISPUTE

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchithalavi J. Jayalalitha on 21.7.1991.

The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu appreciates the sentiments expressed by the Chief Minister of Karnataka and the Speaker of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly on the need for continued friendly relations between the two States. She desires that such sentiments should be honestly reflected in every action that the Karnataka Government takes and should not merely be confined to words.

It was only in the spirit of good neighbourly relations that even after Karnataka unilaterally started flouting the provisions of the 1924 Agreement from 1974 onwards, that Tamil Nadu continued its efforts towards a negotiated settlement of the Cauvery Water Dispute. But, to its dismay, it found that in the negotiations there was no spirit of give and take on the part of Karnataka in arriving at an amicable settlement for the benefit of both the States.

Karnataka on the contrary took advantage of the long delay it was able to manoeuvre and went ahead with the unauthorised extension of its irrigation without any consideration for the established old irrigation in Tamil Nadu. Karnataka, which was using 177 tmc of water in 1972 came up with increasing claims of 360 tmc during the bilateral discussions in 1985 and 465 tmc in 1990 before the Cauvery Water Disputes

Tribunal. The increasing appropriation by Karnataka had an adverse effect on the inflows into Mettur, forcing Tamil Nadu to forgo the Kuruvai cultivation and face reduction in the area under Samba crop. Even this reduced Samba crop faced frequent failures due to inadequate water supply. Karnataka, which has been acting on its own and diverting all the flows in the river for its own use, now pleads for good neighbourliness and tries to pose as if all that has happened leading to the dispute could have been avoided.

Anyway all these have now become part of history. It is only the unlawful attitude of Karnataka that forced Tamil Nadu to seek legal remedy. The Tribunal constituted under the Inter-State Water Disputes Act 1956, have given their interim orders. The interim orders of the Tribunal must be implemented immediately. There is no alternative choice either for the State Governments or for the Central Government. Soon after the interim orders were passed, it was Karnataka which rushed to the Centre with a request that the interim orders should not be published in the Union Government Gazette or authorised for implementation. But, now the Chief Minister of Karnataka is reported to have said that only the final award of the Tribunal required notification and the interim orders need not necessarily be notified. This is how Karnataka has been changing its stand to suit its self-serving ends.

The Karnataka Chief Minister is further reported to have stated that all the time Cauvery waters were flowing into Mettur Dam from Karnataka all through the rainy season and presently it is estimated at 2 tmc daily and that

"The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu should appreciate the good intentions of Karnataka and come for discussions without insisting on the release of waters in terms of the interim orders of the Tribunal." The travesty of truth of Karnataka's professed good intentions and supposed release of Cauvery waters to Tamil Nadu will be clear from the fact that whatever has flown to Tamil Nadu so far is only the surplus overflow from Karnataka's reservoirs, which the reservoirs have been unable to hold and not due to any voluntary release by Karnataka.

The Chief Minister of Karnataka cannot expect the Cauvery river in Tamil Nadu to serve merely as the drainage outlet for Karnataka's surplus waters overflow, nor can he expect the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to take part in any further discussions on any basis other than the implementation of the Tribunal's orders.

All Party Meeting On Cauvery

An all - Party meeting was convened on 22.7.91 at the Secretariat by the Chief Minister to discuss the recent developments on the Cauvery water dispute and the further course of action needed on the part of Tamil Nadu.

The meeting was attended by the representatives of the Congress, DMK, CPI(M), CPI, Janata Dal, Samajwadi Janata Party, Janata Party, Pattali Makkal Katchi, MGRAIDMK Party, Forward Block, Republican Party and other Parties.

It was decided to observe a 12-hour bandh from 6 a.m. on 26.7.91 to condemn the Karnataka Government's failure to implement the interim orders of the

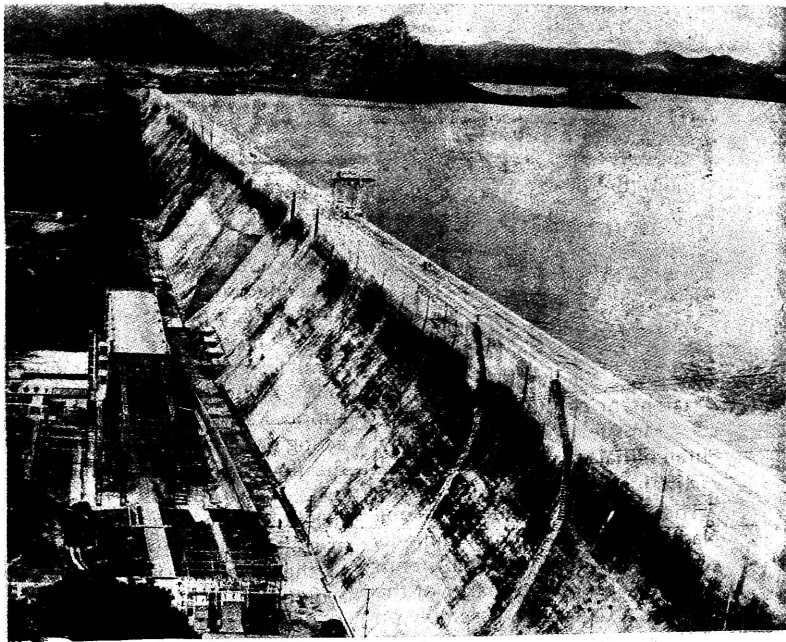
Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal. A resolution was adopted which urged the Centre to take immediate steps to ensure justice to the people of Tamil Nadu without any further delay.

Following a letter from the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu sent to the Prime Minister regarding the publishing of the Interim Award of the Cauvery Tribunal in the Gazette of the Government of India, the Prime Minister spoke to the Chief Minister on 25.7.91 over telephone.

Once again, in course of the telephonic conversation the Chief Minister reiterated Tamil Nadu's demand that under Section 6 of the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956, it is obligatory upon the Central Government to publish the said decision in the official Gazette.

Chief Minister's Statement on 25.7.91

The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister has seen a report of the promulgation of an Ordinance by the Governor of Karnataka with reference to the Cauvery Water Dispute. The State Chief Minister is advised that the ordinance, as reported, nullifies the very effects of the interim order passed by the Tribunal and clearly offends the provisions of the Constitution. The ordinance is repugnant to the provisions of the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956 and is therefore void under the Article 254 of the Constitution. This act of Karnataka Government erodes the very structure of federal set up enunciated in the Constitution and does not augur well for the future of federalism in our Country. It is against the legitimate interests of the people of one State and for Karnataka to promulgate an ordinance affecting the interests of people of another State, floating an order of a Tribunal validly set up under the Constitution raises issues of far-reaching legal and political consequences. The Tamil



Nadu Government is studying all the implications and will take necessary steps to establish the rights of the people of Tamil Nadu and to vindicate their stand.

Bandh

The 12-hour bandh called by the Government of Tamil Nadu was observed peacefully throughout the State on 26.7.91.

An emergency meeting of the State Cabinet was conducted on 28.7.91, which discussed in detail the recent development in the Cauvery water dispute. Various

ways of securing justice to the people of Tamil Nadu were discussed. And it has been decided by the Government of Tamil Nadu to go to the Supreme Court to get a solution to the dispute. As this dispute has caused an agitative mood among the people, it has been decided to postpone the elections to the local bodies.

Chief Minister's Statement on 29.7.91

According to press reports, the Central Government is stated to have sought the opinion of the Supreme Court on the Cauvery



water dispute with reference to the following:

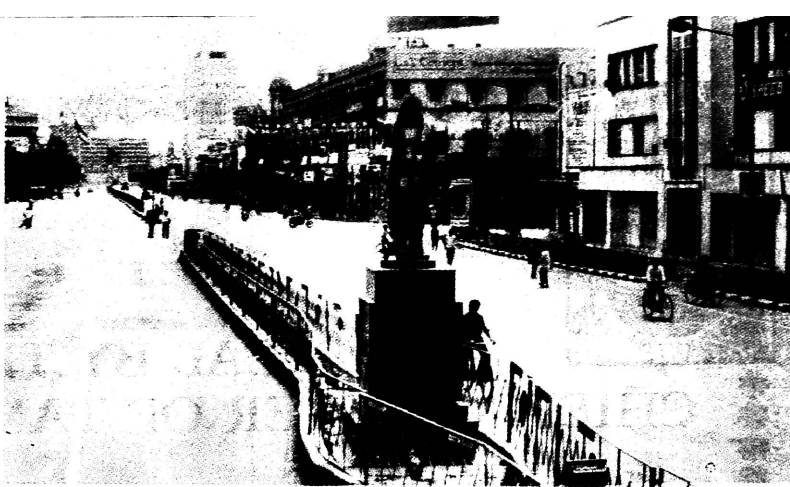
i) Whether the ordinance passed by the Karnataka Government is valid;

ii) Whether the interim order passed by the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal comes within the purview of Sec.5(2) of the Inter-State Water Disputes Act; and

iii) Whether an interim order can be passed by the Tribunal?

As regards the first question, Tamil Nadu Government have been advised that the ordinance promulgated by the Government of Karnataka lacks legal competence as it offends the provisions of the Constitution. Since the Cauvery Water Dispute is admitted, on all sides, as an Inter-State Water Dispute, the legislative power in this matter is vested only with the Union Government to make a law on the subject.

The Tamil Nadu Government, however, has strongly objected to a reference being made to the Supreme Court on the other two questions relating to the interim order passed by the Tribunal. It is necessary to recall the history of this matter. When the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal by an Order dated 5.1.1991 dismissed the application for the interim relief made by the Tamil Nadu Government on the ground that as per the Notification issued by the Central Government dated 2.6.1990, the Tribunal has no power to grant an interim relief, the Tamil Nadu Government filed a special leave petition before the Supreme Court and the special leave petition was allowed by the Supreme Court by its order dated 26.4.1991. The Supreme Court has clearly held that "the relief prayed for by the Appellant in the Supreme Court" (State of Tamil Nadu) came within the purview of the dispute referred to by the Centre under Sec.5(1) of the Inter-State Water Disputes Act 1956. The State of Kar-



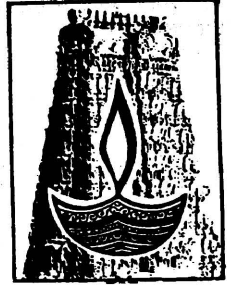
nataka is a party to the Supreme Court order dated 26.4.1991. It is therefore binding on Karnataka.

Under Sec. 5(2) of the Act, the Tribunal shall investigate the matters referred to it and forward a report to the Central Government. Investigation of the matters referred to the Tribunal would include "enquiry regarding the interim order". In as much as the Tribunal has completed the said enquiry with reference to the prayer for interim relief made by the Tamil Nadu Government, it is open to the Tribunal under Sec.5(2) of the Act to forward a report to the Central Government. Since the Supreme Court in its order dated 26.4.1991 has clearly stated that the interim relief prayed for by the Tamil Nadu Government comes within the purview of the dispute referred to by the Central Government and since in pursuance of the Supreme Court's order, the Tribunal, has, after due investigation made an interim order, such an interim order is binding on Karnataka State and it is not open to anybody, either the Karnataka State Government or the Central Government to seek to re-open this issue.

As regards the third question, whether the Tribunal can give an interim order, the answer is in the affirmative. The power of the Tribunal to pass an interim order derives its strength from the order of the Supreme Court dated

26.4.1991 and from a reading of Sec.5 of the Inter-State Water Disputes Act. The interim order in this case has been passed as per the Supreme Court direction with regard to a specific demand made by the Tamil Nadu Government. The interim order follows the existence of a water dispute between Karnataka State and Tamil Nadu State and the interim order is with reference to this water dispute. Hence the Tribunal has validly passed an interim order and its competence to pass such an order has been clearly established in the order of the Supreme Court dated 26.4.1991.

In the light of the above, the Tamil Nadu Government strongly feels that a reference to the Supreme Court by the Central Government is mainly intended to delay justice being rendered to the people of Tamil Nadu; "Justice delayed is justice denied". The whole approach of the Government of India in refusing to take note of a genuine request of the aggrieved party namely Tamil Nadu makes it appear that the exercise of referring the matter to the Supreme Court is to confuse the real issues on hand. The Tamil Nadu Government considers this reference to the Supreme Court as merely an eye-wash with a view to evading the solution to the problem. People of Tamil Nadu would be justified if they considered this an act of deceit.



AN APPEAL BY THE CHIEF MINISTER OF TAMIL NADU

Tamil Nadu is the home of ancient temples. But it is a fact that thousands of small temples are in dilapidated condition. No renovation work has been carried out in many of them for decades together. There are many more temples which are in such indigent circumstances that even daily worship is not possible.

I have been considering how best to help such temples. Large sums of money are needed for the renovation and maintenance of these temples. I have considered it desirable to attract funds for this laudable purpose from the public by way of donations and contributions.

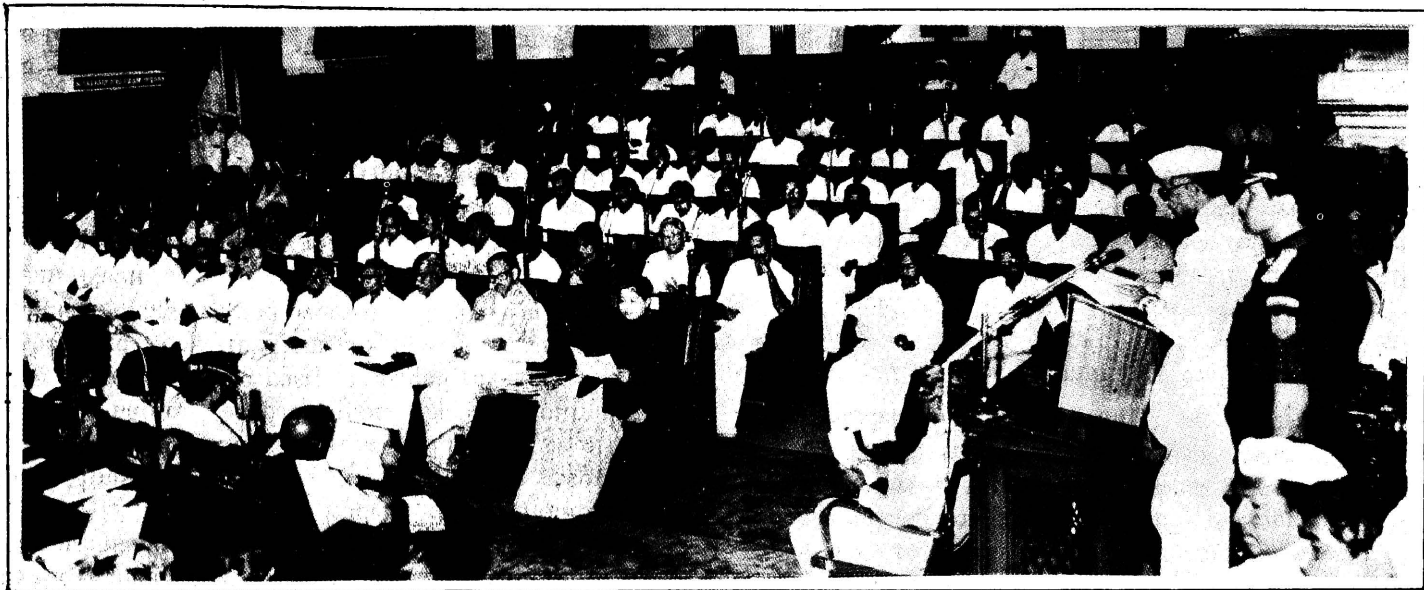
The Government of Tamil Nadu has therefore decided to constitute a "*Chief Minister's Temple Renovation and Maintenance Fund*". Donations and contributions can be made to this fund by Members of the public, Philanthropists, Industrialists and others. The funds will be utilised for renovation and maintenance of deserving temples. The Authority for sanctioning funds on application will be the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. The Secretary to Government, Commercial Taxes and Religious Endowments Department or any officer authorised by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu will verify the utilisation of the fund by the beneficiary temple.

I have made the first contribution of a sum of Rs.1,00,008/- (Rupees One lakh and eight only) towards this fund. The fund has been constituted with this donation.

I appeal to Philanthropists, Industrialists and all members of the public to come forward to donate liberally to this laudable cause.

J. JAYALALITHA
CHIEF MINISTER OF TAMIL NADU





**OUR AIM:
NEITHER DEPENDENCE, NOR INDEPENDENCE
BUT INTERDEPENDENCE**

Thiru BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH
GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU

Honourable Members of the Legislative Assembly,

It indeed gives me great pleasure to address the first session of the newly constituted Legislative Assembly of the State and to extend my felicitations and to welcome you all, the Members of this

August assembly, who have assembled here having been elected by the people in the recent elections. I must express my grateful thanks to the people of Tamil Nadu, who turned out in large numbers to exercise their franchise, and thus displayed a keen sense of responsibility and faith in the

democratic process.

I have full confidence, that, though many of you may have been elected to the Legislative Assembly for the first time, you will fulfil your duties, with devotion and dignity imbued with the highest principles of democracy. You will agree, that our people in electing an unprecedented large number of women legislators to this Assembly, have demonstrated the progressive thoughts of our society.

In these elections, the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and its allied front have won a resounding victory in all but 8 constituencies. This spectacular triumph is unprecedented in the history of the Indian Republic. These elections demonstrate the unshakable faith of the people of Tamil Nadu in the AIADMK and its leader, the Honourable Chief Minister. This great verdict of the people is a measure of justice for the several indignities of a political nature, heaped upon the Honourable Chief Minister in the past. I extend my very best wishes and congratulations to Selvi J. Jayalalitha, who is the first elected woman Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

It is with a heavy heart that I recall the cold blooded and brutal assassination by evil minded persons on 21st May of Thiru. Rajiv Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India in Tamil Nadu, which was always regarded as a "garden of peace". Our country lost a world renowned leader, mainly due to the "gun culture" which got systematically

"It is with a heavy heart that I recall the cold blooded and brutal assassination by evil minded persons on 21st May of Thiru Rajiv Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India in Tamil Nadu, which was always regarded as a "garden of peace". Our country lost a world renowned leader, mainly due to the "gun culture" which got systematically promoted in Tamil Nadu during the last few years. I wish to offer my homage to the memory of the departed leader in this Assembly. This Government will take immediate steps to establish a fitting memorial at the site where he was assassinated."

promoted in Tamil Nadu during the last few years. I wish to offer my homage to the memory of the departed leader in this Assembly. This Government will take immediate steps to establish a fitting memorial at the site where he was assassinated.

When foreign militants and extremists are trying to convert Tamil Nadu into a theatre of violence, disrupting the lives of our people, by creating undesirable law and order situations, this Government which has assumed office with the massive mandate of the people will strive to fulfil its responsibility with the full co-operation and support of the people of Tamil Nadu to restore law and order and ensure peace and tranquillity so that the people can live without any fear. All necessary steps in furtherance of this objective are being taken.

The prime duty of the Government which has just assumed office, is to fulfil the assurances given to the people and provide a corruption-free, honest and just administration which will be a model for all the other States in the Indian sub-continent.

India has an ancient civilization. In its culture, history and various other fields, we cannot but discern a clear sense of oneness. Therefore, my Government is of the firm belief that this country will progress only if this feeling of oneness is respected, divisive forces are opposed and the same sense of oneness further strengthened. This Government shall extend its fullest support and co-operation to the Centre which is committed to fulfil the policy of promoting economic development, social justice and in bringing about a peaceful atmosphere. At the same time, the principle that the progress of the Indian Nation depends upon the development of the constituent States is basic to our Government.

“My Government has ordered immediately on assuming the reins of office, the closure of all cheap liquor shops, thus fulfilling the assurance given to the people to wipe out the woes of many-a-mother and brighten lakhs of homes in Tamil Nadu. Total prohibition is the policy of the Government. Liquor has wrought havoc in the lives of the poor people of our State. It is with the intention of saving the people from ruin that this Government has decided to close down the cheap liquor shops even though the loss of revenue will be substantial.”

Following the path of Perarignar Anna, as spelt out by Dr. M.G. Ramachandran, our aim shall be “neither dependence, nor independence but interdependence”.

My Government will continue to implement the two language policy of Tamil and English formulated and implemented by Perarignar Anna. Steps will be taken for the increased use of Tamil in the State administration. My Government will vigorously formulate and implement schemes for the development of the Tamil language.

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Apart from extending full co-operation to the Centre, in the steps it takes for protecting the poor and the middle class from the effects of price

rise, my Government will fully utilize the Public Distribution System to control prices. The Public Distribution System will be reorganised in such a way that the essential commodities reach the people in the quantities prescribed. All efforts will be taken for removing the defects now found in the system.

This Government will implement schemes in the Agriculture sector, which is the backbone of our State's economy, so as to improve production and productivity, and thus enabling the farmers to derive greater benefits. As the surface water resources have been mostly tapped, the Government will encourage schemes for the economic use of water resources for agriculture. Funds will be allocated for organising training programmes in water management. Suitable administrative measures will be evolved for bringing into cultivation the waste and fallow lands. The tanks and ponds throughout Tamil Nadu are maintained poorly and are not being put to optimum use. The administrative machinery is being geared up to renovate the tanks and ponds to ensure assured irrigation facilities.

Members of this House are aware of the interim order of the Tribunal constituted to go into the Cauvery water dispute. Although this order provides for an assured supply, the interim order does not give us full satisfaction as the quantities allocated are inadequate in relation to our needs. I would like to stress that my Government will continue to take all necessary steps before the Tribunal to get

the required full quantity of water for the Cauvery delta areas.

On this occasion, I take pleasure in informing the House that the Government is actively considering the question of extending debt relief to farmers as outlined in the election manifesto.

During Dr. M. G. Ramachandran's administration, milk producers got an additional price in the lean season along with the basic procurement price. This policy was given up in the last two years and only a uniform price was extended. We shall adhere from the current year to the earlier policy of giving additional price in the lean season.

As part of land reforms, in keeping with the policy of "land to the tiller", a Bill to take over surplus benami lands and to distribute them to the landless poor was passed by this House, during Dr. M. G. Ramachandran's administration. Due to several reasons, this measure was not brought into force. This Government will take immediate steps to introduce fresh legislation to provide for the take-over of benami lands and distribution of these lands to the landless poor.

Although various schemes have been implemented for the past 40 years for rural development, a situation where even basic services are not available in rural areas continues. Basic infrastructural and other facilities like roads, drinking water supply, street lights, health services are not adequate. The existing services are not maintained properly. A new

“Special Self-Sufficiency Scheme” will be launched immediately to provide these basic facilities in the rural areas. Under this scheme costing Rs. 384 crores, this Government will provide Rupees one crore to each Panchayat Union.

This Government will take necessary action to increase the powers of Panchayats and Panchayat Unions. The Government will take steps to improve the resources of local bodies to enable them to implement their programmes. Elections to the Corporations, Municipalities, Panchayats and Panchayat Unions will be held early.

It will be an important endeavour of my Government to provide all basic facilities to promote industries in Tamil Nadu on a substantial scale, to stimulate the industrial sector, to increase employment opportunities for lakhs of technically qualified young people and thus to secure impressive progress in the economic development of our State. This Government will pay particular attention to the provision of sufficient incentives to entrepreneurs to start industries and to remove hurdles in the rules and regulations which stand in the way of industrial progress. The Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation engaged in the promotion of Joint Sector ventures will provide necessary facilities and incentives for this purpose. A new thrust will be given to industrial development by improving the working of the State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu. It is our aim and objective to reinvigorate industrial development in Tamil Nadu and transform

our State into the first among the industrially developed States of India.

Tamil Nadu is not gifted with abundant natural resources. Central investment is, therefore, essential for the industrial development of the State. The share of the Centre's investment in Tamil Nadu as a percentage of the total investment in the country has come down from 8 per cent to 5 per cent. My Government will urge the Centre to implement speedily the National Aromatics Project (NAPCO) and the project to bring natural gas to Tamil Nadu by forming the Southern gas grid.

“The prime duty of the Government which has just assumed office, is to fulfil the assurances given to the people and provide a corruption-free, honest and just administration which will be a model for all the other States in the Indian sub-continent.”

My Government will give the highest priority to power generation which is very essential for industrial development. Steps will be taken to promote new power plants in the private sector. While efforts will continue to develop conventional energy sources, my Government will take special steps to promote the use of solar thermal energy, solar photovoltaic energy, ocean thermal energy and wind energy for power generation.

The major share of electricity generated in Tamil Nadu comes to us from thermal power plants. Coal is essential for the thermal projects. We have to bring coal from other States in view of the non-availability of coal in Tamil Nadu. The generation in thermal power projects is affected by the various bottlenecks involved in the transportation of coal. Recently, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu discussed this issue with the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, who gave an assurance that immediate steps will be taken to despatch one lakh tonnes of coal for the thermal plants in Tamil Nadu. He has also

“Under the family security fund scheme an amount of Rs.40,000 is presently extended to the family of a Government employee who dies in service. This Government has decided to increase the benefit amount to Rs.60,000.”

assured that coal will continue to be supplied on a regular basis from Singareni Collieries after September 1991. I am sure Members of this House will welcome this.

“Health for all” shall be the goal of this Government. To reach this goal, we shall, besides increasing the number of hospitals and primary health centres, take steps to ensure the supply of necessary medicines and improve the service rendered by doctors. In addition to improving the rural health services,

steps will be taken to install modern medical facilities in District Headquarters Hospitals and Medical College Hospitals. The Government will pay special attention to the needs of pregnant and nursing mothers. Action programmes will be drawn up and implemented for this purpose immediately. The existing departments will be reorganised to provide for an integrated approach in providing health services to benefit people in rural areas.

Always having the welfare of the Backward Classes as an important objective, Dr. M. G. Ramachandran's Government increased the reservation for Backward Classes to 50 per cent making it the highest percentage of reservation in India for the Backward Classes. At the time when the recommendations of the Mandal Commission are to be implemented, this Government will urge that 50 per cent reservation for Backward Classes should be implemented by the Centre as a policy and this reservation should apply to employment in all departments and in admissions to educational institutions.

Although many measures have been initiated for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, they continue to live in abject poverty as proper policies for their economic improvement have not been implemented. This Government will strive for their uplift from poverty and secure for them equal status in society. Action programmes to achieve this objective will be drawn up and implemented.

This Government will take all steps to secure equal opportunities for women who constitute half of

our society. Education facilities and employment opportunities will be extended to women so that they will have the opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills to become self sufficient. The Government will appoint only women teachers upto standard—V in all primary schools. Steps will be taken to increase the employment of women teachers in middle schools and high schools.

Imbued by a vision of a healthy and strong new generation, the Nutritious Noon Meal Programme was implemented by Dr. M.G. Ramachandran's Government to benefit children belonging to poor families going without even a single meal a day. However, the basic objectives were not fulfilled owing to the changes effected during the period after his demise. The programme will be reorganised to ensure that its basic objectives are realised and all shortcomings removed. A High Power Committee will be constituted to oversee the implementation of this programme. Keeping in mind the requirements

“This Government shall extend its fullest support and co-operation to the Centre which is committed to fulfil the policy of promoting economic development, social justice and in bringing about a peaceful atmosphere. At the same time, the principle that the progress of the Indian Nation depends upon the development of the constituent States is basic to our Government. Following the path of Perarignar Anna, as spelt out by Dr. M.G. Ramachandran, our aim shall be “neither dependence, nor interdependence but interdependence”.

of the children, the provision of edible oil, pulses and other items will be increased.

Under the family security fund scheme an amount of Rs. 40,000 is presently extended to the family of a Government employee who dies in service. This Government has decided to increase the benefit amount to Rs. 60,000.

For the proper maintenance and administration of our renowned temples, a new Temple Administration Board will be established. The Board will look after the needs of these temples and take appropriate steps to renovate and ensure maintenance and observance of worship rituals in the temples.

Complaints have been received regarding the irregularities in the conduct of elections to the Co-operative Societies held during last year and malpractices in the nomination of members, resulting in the degradation of the entire co-operative movement. To eradicate these deficiencies, it has been decided to bring in suitable legislation.

This Government has assumed office at a difficult time when the State is in the grip of a severe financial crisis. The discontinuance of the sale of country liquor will entail a further loss of revenue of Rs. 322 crores. Additional resources are needed to implement the special self-sufficiency scheme under which each Panchayat Union will be given Rs. 1 crore and several other schemes listed in the election manifesto. In the changed situation we will

approach the new Government at the Centre, highlighting the difficult financial situation of our State and take special efforts to secure additional assistance for our State. I am confident that the Centre will give its full support to our State and extend additional financial assistance.

This session of the Assembly is for a short duration. The Assembly is to meet for the Budget session following this short session. The people have reposed their total confidence in electing you to this Assembly.

The attention of the House has been focussed on some of the policies which indicate the direction the Government will take for the development of the State. We are sure that through a vigorous and efficient implementation of these policies, we shall be able to bring about the overall socio-economic development of the State, benefiting all sections of the society. The deliberations in this House will, no doubt, benefit the Government in properly planning and effectively taking steps to accelerate the pace of development in different spheres of life.

I convey my best wishes for your success in the challenging tasks ahead.

Nanri, Vanakkam.

(Address by His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Bhisma Narain Singh
to the Legislative Assembly
on 4th July 1991)

I Wrapper:

Hon'ble Puratchithalaivi
J. Jayalalitha, Chief Minister of
Tamil Nadu and His Excellency
the President of India,
Thiru. R. Venkataraman.

II Wrapper:

Hon'ble Puratchithalaivi
J. Jayalalitha, Chief Minister of

Tamil Nadu and His Excellency
the Vice-President of India,
Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma.

IV Wrapper:

Hon'ble Puratchithalaivi
J. Jayalalitha, Chief Minister of
Tamil Nadu and the Hon'ble
Prime Minister of India,
Thiru. P.V. Narasimha Rao.

ONE LAKH TREES FOR BEAUTIFYING THE CITY

This year the Corporation of Madras proposes to plant one lakh Avenue trees on important roads like Sardar Patel Road, Gandhi Mandap Road, Harrington Road, Walajah Road, N.S.K. Road, Rajaji Road, T.H. Road, II Avenue Road, Anna Nagar, Periar E.V.R. High Road, E.V.K. Sampath Road etc.,

Rain Tree, Tabubia, Gulmohar and Pheltoforum trees will be planted. They grow tall and last long and during the flowering season flowers of different hues and fragrance will be enchanting.

As part of the programme The Special officer, Corporation of Madras, Thiru V.Manivannan planted saplings on 12.7.91 at Harrington Road, Chetpet. Over hundred trees will be planted there and they are being adopted by Heavenly Harrington Road Residents Association. The Assistant Commissioner, Corporation of Madras, Thiru T.Nagasundaram, famous cine magnate Thiru G.V. and a large number of residents of Harrington Road participated along with 200 pupils of Sevasadhan School.



ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE CHIEF MINISTER

Thanjavur District will be bifurcated during the current financial year. While West Thanjavur would be called Thanjavur District with Thanjavur town as headquarters, East Thanjavur would be named Quaid-e-Milleth District with Nagapattinam as headquarters. A Special officer would be appointed for this purpose.

Dindigul-Quaid-e-Milleth District would be renamed Anna District as it was called when Dr. M.G.R. was Chief Minister. The present Chengai-Anna District has been renamed Chengalpattu-MGR District.

The TAMARAI (Tamil Nadu Arasu Medical Science and Research Institute) is renamed Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Research Institute.

The Thalpathi Azhagiri Transport Corporation got back its old name, Pat-

tukottai Azhagiri Transport Corporation.

The Tamil Nadu Government Research Orchards at Vamban, near Pudukkottai, would be called Mahatma Gandhi Research Orchards.

★ ★ ★

A life-size portrait of the former Chief Minister Dr.M.G.R. will be installed in the Assembly.

The MGR Memorial on the Marina would be remodelled.

Responding to requests for putting up portraits of the former Prime Ministers, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, in the Assembly, the Chief Minister said they would be installed in the Rajaji Hall, which already had a portrait of the first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. A Memorial would be built at Sripierum-

budur, where Rajiv Gandhi was killed in a bomb blast on May 21st, 1991.

★ ★ ★

A capital subsidy of Rs.50 lakh for new industrial projects with a capital investment of more than Rs.100 crores and a subsidy of Rs.25 lakhs for projects costing between Rs.50 crores and 100 crores are the highlights of the announcement. Further a higher sales tax concession by way of exemption for six years or deferral for 12 years for industries with an investment above Rs.100 crores and exemption for five years or deferral for 10 years for industries with an investment range of Rs.50 crores to 100 crores was also announced.

★ ★ ★

The new industrial units proposed by the Government were a granite

polishing unit and a mango pulp unit in Dharmapuri District, a Rs.85 crores pig iron project in the joint sector at Mettur and a silicon project in the Joint sector. The graphite beneficiation project would be established on an initial expenditure of Rs.15 crores and this would facilitate location of ancillary industries at a total cost of Rs.200 crores.

★ ★ ★

While assuring greater efforts for enlarging employment potential for women, the rules in force would not permit women to work after 7 P.M. Exemption would be granted for factories which provided transport facilities to women to reach home in the night. This would enlarge employment opportunities for women.

★ ★ ★

In view of the financial crunch, a new scheme providing for industrial units to make the improvements and collect the expenditure by way of toll, would be implemented in Thanjavur District on an experimental basis. If it proved successful, the scheme would be extended to other Districts.

The Chief Minister could press the Centre for a special allocation of funds for providing infrastructure and basic amenities in towns like Tiruppur, Ambur, Ranipet and Dindigul which had a number of export-oriented industries.

★ ★ ★

Underscoring the urgent need for increasing power generation, the Chief Minister said the State had demanded inclusion of the Rs.6,000 crores third mine-cut in the Eighth Plan itself. To prevent theft of power, the special cell in the Electricity Board under an Inspector-General of Police would be strengthened.

★ ★ ★

When the new Government took over, there were eight closed spinning mills and steps were taken to reopen some of

them. She reiterated that the Government was hopeful of opening the Standard Motors Factory.

★ ★ ★

The Government has set a target of building 10 lakh dwelling units in the State in the next five years.

★ ★ ★

The Chief Minister said the private sector would also be encouraged to contribute its share to this project. Annually 1.2 lakhs houses would be built including those constructed by the Tamil Nadu Adi Dravida Housing Development Corporation, Rural and Urban housing programmes, the Tamil Nadu Housing Board, the Slum Clearance Board and Co-operative institutions. The balance would be from the private sector. All efforts would be made including for easy availability of finance and building materials, to realise the target. 2,483 habitations including 943 occupied by Adi Dravidars, which had no source of drinking water, would be provided protected water supply before December at a cost of Rs.10 crores. Efforts would be made on a war-footing to provide drinking water to 1,007 Adi Dravidar habitations in other villages at a cost of Rs.7 crores.

★ ★ ★

Twelve cooperative spinning mills would be modernised at a cost of Rs.25 crores securing financial assistance from the industrial Development Bank of India, the State's contribution being Rs.7 crores. Since handloom weavers did not get the full benefit of subsidy owing to insufficient allocation of funds, the State decided to allocate annually Rs.37 crores to find a permanent solution to the problem.

★ ★ ★

For increasing oilseeds production and also to remove cooking oil shortage, it was decided to implement a Rs.29 crore production project prepared by the Tamil Nadu Oilseeds Growers Cooperative Federation. A special oilseeds production programme would be taken up in Dharmapuri

District. More number of oil extraction units and bran oil units would be set up in the State.

★ ★ ★

In the health sphere, the Chief Minister announced that special incentives including priority in higher education, pay rise and deputation for foreign studies, would be provided to those doctors who opted to work in rural areas. They would be given housing facility also. The annual allocation for purchase of medicines in primary health centres would be increased from Rs.30,000 to 40,000. This would mean an additional expenditure of Rs.1.5 crores. An overall improvement scheme for district headquarters hospitals would be announced in the budget.

★ ★ ★

For maintenance of basic amenities in rural areas, the annual allocation for upkeep of about 1.2 lakhs pumpsets would be doubled to Rs.1.5 crores. A special grant of Rs.1 crore would be released for panchayat unions for payment of dues to the Electricity Board, and to avoid complaints about non-burning of street lights. For road improvements, the annual allocation would be increased from Rs.5.32 crores to 9 crores.

★ ★ ★

A special scheme would be evolved for providing intensive training to those appearing for Central services examinations.

★ ★ ★

It was decided to provide raincoats to nearly 39,000 conservancy staff working in local bodies, at a total cost of Rs.65.68 lakhs. Fifty percent of the cost would be borne by the local bodies, the other half to be contributed from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

★ ★ ★

The Government had allocated Rs.40 lakhs for provision of facilities to pilgrims attending the Mahamaham at Kumbakonam in February, 1992.

★ ★ ★

The Government would initiate all possible steps to ban child labour.

★ ★ ★

The State Government has drawn up a scheme to improve the functioning of the Police Department. It has sought an allocation of Rs.20 crores from the Centre for the current year for implementing this scheme.

The Government has also sought full Central assistance as it is being given to Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir to tackle terrorism.

Steps would be taken to create a crack force in the Armed Reserve Wing of the Police Department. Police Stations would get more jeeps and communication facilities would be improved to help the police tackle the problem posed by militant activities. Training would be given to police personnel at all levels. Some were being sent to other countries for training. A marine police wing would be created to check the activities of smugglers and Tamil militants.

The Government was keen on providing houses for the police personnel, especially the head constables and constables. The Police Housing Corporation, would be revived.

★ ★ ★

A special Rs.20 crore scheme for improving the Madras Corporation roads will be taken up this year. Traffic bottlenecks on roads and bridges in the city will also be removed at a cost of Rs.20 crores during the year.

The Government would give special attention to improving facilities in the Corporation area.

A detailed engineering report for Rs.100 crore elevated busway on Anna Salai was under preparation. Steps would be taken to implement the report at the earliest.

The Government would take measures to clean the waterways in the city using the technical know-how of 'Seven Trent', a British organisation, and funds from the ODA. It would lay sewer lines in about 800 streets during the year at a cost of Rs.18.50 crores.

★ ★ ★

The Chief Minister has written to the Prime Minister seeking a financial assistance package to the State including full compensation for loss on account of implementation of prohibition.

The Chief Minister said she had also requested for special allocation to deal with the disturbed situation arising out

of the presence of militants in the State.

Since Tamil Nadu had a major sea border with Sri Lanka, a special quota of assistance had also been sought as in the case of other States having border area problems.

★ ★ ★

Stating that her Government had taken over when the State was in the grip of a critical financial position, she explained that the Government ended 1990-91 with an overall deficit of Rs.209.86 crores. The shortfall in the previous year was Rs.153 crores.

The budget for 1991-92 presented to Parliament showed a deficit of Rs.307.31 crores. To this would be added Rs.220 crores on account of increased dearness allowance, higher subsidy on the Public Distribution System and debt relief to weavers and farmers.

Taking into account the estimated loss of revenue of Rs.322 crores on the abolition of the cheap liquor scheme as also the expenditure on new welfare schemes the total deficit might be around Rs.1,200 crores.

(The Chief Minister's reply to the discussion on the motion of thanks to the Governor's Address to the Assembly.)

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchithalaivi J. Jayalalitha garlanded the statue of Perunthalaivar Kamarajar on the occasion of his 89th birth anniversary (15.7.91).





Thiru. Vaidyanatha Iyer - A Stalwart of the Freedom Movement

Thiru Bhishma Narain Singh
Governor of Tamil Nadu

I am happy to be here this evening and participate in the birth centenary celebrations of Thiru Madurai Vaidyanatha Iyer. A stalwart of the Nation's freedom movement, Thiru Vaidyanatha Iyer had the privilege of being in direct touch with the leaders of the movement. He was a true Gandhian and his zeal to propagate Gandhiji's constructive programmes was unlimited. But more than anything else, Thiru Vaidyanatha Iyer will for ever be remembered for his dedication and sacrifices as the purpose and mission of his life. I congratulate the Centenary Committee for having organised the celebrations in memory of a noble soul who has carried a place for himself in the history of India and especially of Tamil Nadu and Madurai.

Even as a student, Vaidyanatha Iyer was attracted to the freedom struggle. He started involving himself in the struggle from 1922. Vaidyanatha Iyer suffered imprisonment in 1930 for his participation in the historic Vedaranyam Salt Satyagraha. He was sentenced to six months imprisonment in 1942 for his involvement in the Quit India Movement, but despite the expiry of the term, he was continued to be kept in Jail and released only in 1945 along with other national leaders such as Nehruji and Sardar Vallabhai Patel. His wife and son also participated enthusiastically in the freedom movement. While his wife Tmt. Akhilandammal was jail-

ed in 1932 and later in 1940 for offering individual Satyagraha, his son Thiru Sankaran was sentenced to six months rigorous imprisonment for picketing the Madras Secretariat in 1942.

Thiru Vaidyanatha Iyer was ever-willing to help people in distress. In 1922, when the flood waters of river Vaigai entered Madurai, he along with his co-workers, helped to save the lives of many women and children by swimming against the fury of the river. Later, when a large fire engulfed Madurai City, he saved the lives of many at a great personal risk. And when

(Address of the Governor at the Birth Centenary Celebrations of Thiru. Vaidyanatha Iyer on 11.7.1991)

Periyar E.V. Ramasamy Naicker was surrounded by an angry mob in Madurai, Thiru Vaidyanatha Iyer stood between them and Periyar, and ensured his personal safety. Public life to Thiru Vaidyanatha Iyer meant only service and sacrifice and embodied all that is good in public life by personal example and integrity.

Thiru Vaidyanatha Iyer's contribution to the eradication of untouchability and for the uplift of Harijans, made him the champion of the depressed classes. In the 30s, it ought to be remembered that nobody would come forward to speak for the Harijans and those few who initially took some

efforts and were repulsed, were looked upon with contempt. But for Thiru Vaidyanatha Iyer, the uplift of Harijans was a burning passion and his services towards the community unequalled.

Thiru Vaidyanatha Iyer arranged for intensive propaganda among caste Hindus to get their support and cooperation to allow Harijans into temples, as the law at the time did not permit entry of Harijans into temples. He travelled extensively in Southern India and canvassed for early legislation to permit Harijan entry into temples. After Thiru C. Rajaji took office as Premier in Madras in 1937, he demanded immediate legislation on this count. But, the legislation was getting delayed and Thiru Vaidyanatha Iyer felt no more time should be lost in removing this social disability. On 8th of July 1939, he entered the famous Meenakshi temple with four Harijans and four Nadars (Nadars were also not allowed entry then). This temple entry became a historic event and Gandhiji wrote in the 'Harijan', dated 22nd July 1939 which I quote: "The temple entry of Harijans at Madurai is a great event in the campaign for untouchability and the movement for the opening of temples to Harijans. The proclamation of opening of State temples of Travancore was no doubt a great step; but it was the prerogative of the Maharaja and he had in his Dewan brought about the transformation. But the opening of the celebrated temple

of Madurai is a great event in that it is the popular will that brought about the consumption. It reflects the decided conversion of the temple - goers of the Meenakshi temple. Thiru. Vaidyanatha Iyer and his co-workers deserve all the praise for the ceaseless effort they have put forth in educating public opinion".

Thiru Vaidyanatha Iyer was the President of the Tamil Nadu Harijan Sevan Sangh from 1935. Many Harijan families were helped from his earnings and he allotted a part of his earning towards Harijan welfare. He brought up Harijan children in his house, and among them, one later rose to become a Deputy Collector and another a Deputy Superintendent of Police.

Thirty six years after the passing away of Thiru Vaidyanatha Iyer, we cannot claim that the system of caste and the nefarious practice of untouchability has been rooted out from our society. Thanks to the enlightened leaders of the

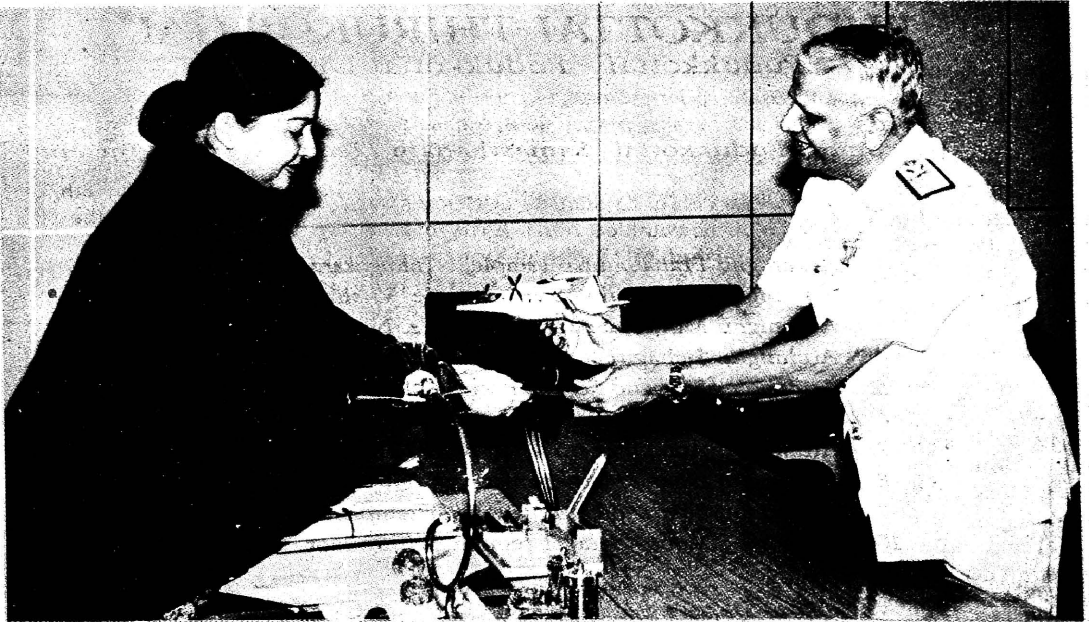
Freedom movement, caste consciousness was softened by the intermingling of different communities and castes at public demonstrations, public meetings and Satyagrahas. A cosmopolitan outlook is being brought by modern education, greater mobility and mass communication. But, neither the caste-structure has been demolished nor untouchability completely erased. The task is mammoth but can be achieved by a two-pronged approach. First, education must point out to children the irrelevance of caste to modern times. Children must be made to realise this point and their attitude towards these divisive tendencies should be modified. Secondly, a social consciousness must be developed in the people wherein they must learn to consider the Nation's economic and social development as the criteria for judging their fellowmen and not any other narrow or immediate consideration. The creation of this

social consciousness is the responsibility of media, voluntary organisations, educational institutions and religious and political leaders.

Probably the best tribute we can pay to the memory of Thiru Vaidyanatha Iyer is by maintaining communal amity in the country and by creating a castless society. The task is indeed difficult knowing the complex political and social structure of our Country. But by furthering the ideals of the leaders of our freedom movement, we would not merely be grateful to them - we would also be building a better and secure India for our children to live.

I once again express my happiness in participating in the Centenary Celebrations of the Great Gandhian, Thiru Vaidyanatha Iyer. I wish the celebrations all success.

Nandri, Vanakkam, Jai Hind!



Vice Admiral S.W. Lakhar, Director General Coast Guard called on the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchithalaivi J. Jayalalitha at Secretariat on 19.7.91.

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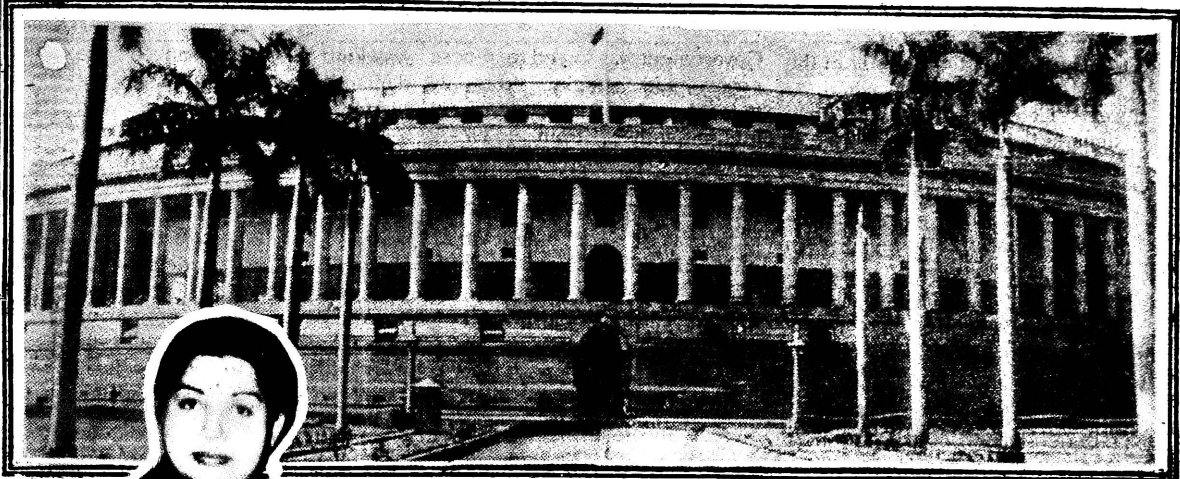
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- 5. Arulmighu Siva and Perumal temples, Thirumayam*
- 6. Arulmighu Naganathaswamy temple, Peraiyur*
- 7. Arulmighu Arangulanathar temple, Thiruvarankulam*
- 8. Arulmighu Dhandayuthapaniswamy temple, Kumaramalai*
- 9. Arulmighu Sughandaparimalaswarar temple, Thirumananchery*
- 10. Arulmighu Vamsotharagar temple, Perungaloor*

M.Sethuramalingam B.A.,
Executive Officer

K. Shanmugam
Assistant Commissioner/Fit Person



REPRESENTATIVE OF THE WEAKER SECTIONS

Hon'ble Puratchithalaivi J. Jayalalitha
Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

Mr. Deputy Chairman, I thank you for having given me this opportunity to express my views on the subject under discussion - the working of the Ministry of Energy.

Since the hon'ble Member who spoke before took exactly thirty

have distinguished themselves in diverse fields.

Much comments has been made in the Press recently about the present infusion of "young blood" into this House of Elders. I hasten to reassure you, Sir, and all the senior Members here that they

THE MAIDEN SPEECH OF THE HONOURABLE CHIEF MINISTER PURATCHITHALAIVI J. JAYALALITHA, WHEN SHE WAS MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT IN THE RAJYA SABHA. THE SPEECH WAS DELIVERED ON 23rd APRIL 1984, DURING THE DISCUSSION ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY.

minutes, since this is my maiden speech, I would request you, sir, to give me at least 15 minutes.

At the outset, I wish to assure you, sir and all the hon'ble Members here that I am fully aware of the noble traditions of this August Assembly which, since its inception has been and continues to be a meeting place of some of the finest intellects in our Country - of scholars, statesmen and towering personalities who

need harbour no apprehension on this score. I give you my solemn word that I shall never fail to uphold the dignity, prestige and decorum of the Rajya Sabha and I shall do nothing to detract from the lustre that has been added to it by the luminous personalities who have graced these hallowed portals, who are no longer with us, and to whom I pay my respectful homage as a new entrant.

I deem it a great honour to stand

here and speak on the floor of the very same Rajya Sabha where 22 years ago, in 1962 our great departed leader Anna rose to make his forceful maiden speech which electrified the entire nation. While Anna electrified the whole country with his maiden speech, the theme of my maiden speech today is going to be dedicated mainly to the subject of electricity.

My leader, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. M.G.R., the founder leader of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, to which I have the honour to belong, has sent me here, together with my colleagues in the party, to echo the voice of the people of Tamil Nadu in this national forum. In particular, I have come here as the representative of the weaker sections of our society, the toiling masses, the crores of humble workers - farmers, poor agricultural labourers and women - to give oral manifestation to their feelings, aspirations and legitimate desires and make them known to the rest of the Country.

There are many senior Members here, who are far more knowledgeable than I am, and vastly richer in experience. Some of them may disagree with some of the views I put forth. They may dispute a certain point I make and by virtue of their debating skills they may even win the argument. But such a victory will be only a victory of words, and not a triumph over truth.

I wish to emphasize the fact that the fundamental purpose of my speaking here in the Rajya Sabha is not to engage in wordy duels with other Members, but to state positive truths to the best of my knowledge and to draw the attention of the Nation to certain crucial issues.

Tamil Nadu has been facing acute shortage of electricity for more than a decade. The State

Government was forced to impose power cuts ranging from 25 percent to 100 percent intermittently from 1971-72 onwards to overcome the shortage. As the result of the repeated power cuts, the industrial and agricultural production in the State has been affected adversely and drastically.

Tamil Nadu has very meagre hydel potential. Most of the economical hydel potential has either already been exploited or is already on the anvil. The balance potential is either tied up in inter-state disputes or is too small and seasonal for economic exploitation. The only fossil fuel

I deem it a great honour to stand here and speak on the floor of the very same Rajya Sabha where 22 years ago, in 1962 our great departed leader Anna rose to make his forceful maiden speech which electrified the entire Nation. While Anna electrified the whole Country with his maiden speech, the theme of my maiden speech today is going to be dedicated mainly to the subject of electricity.

that is available in the State is lignite, and efforts have already been undertaken to utilise this potential in an optimum manner.

Tamil Nadu has almost exhausted its hydel resources and has no coal resources at all. For setting up more coal based thermal stations, there are formidable constraints in that coal has to be hauled over long distances, either from Singareni in Andhra Pradesh or from Bengal or Bihar, rendering the cost too high and the availability of coal uncertain.

It was in this context that the State Government pressed for the location of a nuclear plant in the State and the Government of India

was kind enough to concede the demand by sanctioning the Madras Atomic Power Project with a generation capacity of 235 MW in 1967. Later in the Fourth Five Year Plan the second unit also with a generation capacity of 235 MW was also sanctioned. At that time there was a clear understanding between the State and the Central Governments that the entire output from Kalpakkam would be allocated solely to Tamil Nadu to meet the urgent, pressing needs of the State.

In the year 1968 when the necessary lands were acquired for the project the Government of Tamil Nadu agreed to make available free of cost, 2,500 acres of land required for the project. The lands were at that time valued at about Rs.53 lakhs. This commitment was based on the confirmation given by the Madras Atomic Power Project authorities to the effect that in return the entire energy output from the project would be sold to the Government of Tamil Nadu or its nominee and the cost of energy of MAPP would be calculated excluding the value of land gifted by the State Government. This amounts to an irrevocable, immutable contract which cannot be repudiated or rescinded by the efflux of time.

The Annual Power Survey Reports - the third published in 1965, the fourth published in 1966, the fifth published in 1968 and the sixth published in 1970 - assessed the full benefits from Kalpakkam for Tamil Nadu. In effect, the above-mentioned Annual Power Survey Reports clearly showed that the entire power generated from Kalpakkam was intended only to meet Tamil Nadu's needs, and the forecasts of power requirements and availability were projected accordingly. It was only in late 1970, that the then Minister for Industries and Power - Dr. K.L.Rao, suggested that the power from the second unit might be shared equally by Tamil Nadu and

Andhra Pradesh. Even at that time, no questions were raised about the allotment of the entire power produced by the first unit to Tamil Nadu.

It was in these circumstances that on 3rd June, 1971, the Prime Minister, while answering a question in the Rajya Sabha - Q.No.590 - raised by Mr.N.R.Munuswamy - gave a categorical assurance that the entire output of the first unit, and half of the output of the 2nd unit of the MAPP would be made available to Tamil Nadu, and the balance output of the second unit would be earmarked for the neighbouring States in the Southern Region.

The Tamil Nadu Government prepared a scheme for the Kadamparai pumped storage project, based solely on the assumption that the State would positively be able to avail of the entire power produced by the Kalpakkam nuclear plant.

In fact, this project was conceived at the instance of the C.E.A. - Central Electricity Authority - to enable the Kalpakkam plant to operate at its full capacity all the 24 hours of the day. The C.E.A., when it conducted integrated studies to examine the operational feasibility of Kadamparai, took into account the availability of the full output from Kalpakkam.

The Planning Commission gave its concurrence to the Kadamparai project in its letter No. I-26(3)/2/72-P&E dated 13th February 1973, only after satisfying itself that adequate off-peak power would be available; and in its forecasts, the entire output of Kalpakkam was taken into account.

If the entire power produced by the Kalpakkam plant is not made available to Tamil Nadu, the expenditure on Kadamparai may become infructuous.

With the severe financial constraints it is already burdened

with, this unfruitful expenditure is something the State Government can ill afford.

The Planning Commission, while clearing new projects for Tamil Nadu, has all along been reckoning the full output from Kalpakkam for Tamil Nadu in its calculations. It must be noted that new projects are cleared only if the State is expected to face a deficit after taking into account the availability from Kalpakkam.

As late as 1977, the Planning Commission, while affirming clearance for the Tuticorin plant vide its letter No.I-26(3)/76-P&E dated the 14th July, 1977, issued the

"The working of the federal structure all these years has created a sense of frustration in the minds of the States. The States are fast becoming dole-getting corporations. They feel that they are relegated to the background and there is the very natural instinct in them that they should be given more power".

sanction only after satisfying itself that the State would be facing a deficit even with the full output computed to the Tamil Nadu account. The Tamil Nadu Government has been repeatedly pressing the Centre for the allotment of the entire power from Kalpakkam to Tamil Nadu.

The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in his DO. letter dated 1st June, 1982 to the Prime Minister, once again emphatically stressed the need to allocate the entire output from Kalpakkam to Tamil Nadu. The Union Minister for Energy, in his letter dated 15th October, 1982 in reply, while accepting the commitment made earlier, stated that the power from Central projects would have to be shared by all the States in the

Region. The Government of Tamil Nadu cannot agree to this proposition. Firm commitments made by the Centre at a point of time cannot become void simply because of the efflux of time. The Energy Minister stated that the new scheme proposed for Tamil Nadu would be cleared quickly. In this context; it is necessary to accentuate the fact that in the Sixth Five Year Plan the share of Tamil Nadu is 630 MW which is dismally low as compared to 19,666 MW for all-India. The primary reason is that adequate schemes were not sanctioned for Tamil Nadu. Between 1967 when the Kalpakkam nuclear plant was sanctioned and now, Tamil Nadu sent 27 schemes for sanction to the Centre. But only 11 schemes were cleared by the Planning Commission and that too after considerable delay. The main reasons for this state of affairs are that the hydro-electric schemes proposed by the State are small, seasonal and disproportionately costly as compared to schemes in the other parts of the southern region, and coal supplies could not be linked, sanction for the Mettur thermal project was delayed for more than six years simply because coal linkage could not be established. Because of the aforementioned constraints, all the Governments that were in power in the State have been pressing for the establishment of a second nuclear plant in Tamil Nadu. However, no favourable decision has yet been taken by the Centre in this regard.

Tamil Nadu continues to face a severe deficit, and it must be emphasised that the State is still, expected to face a deficit, even after taking into account all the already sanctioned schemes and the share from central projects like Ramagundam, the Neyveli Second Mine Cut etc. The State has sent two proposals - One for the North Madras Station, with an estimated generation capacity of 1050 MW and another proposal for exten-

sion of the Tuticorin thermal station, with an estimated generation capacity of 420 MW, as early as 1981. Clearance for these schemes is still pending because coal linkage could not be established.

These facts which I have stated clearly articulate the exigent need to allocate the entire power output from the first unit of Kalpakkam to Tamil Nadu. I wish to impress upon the Centre, that the State Government is pressing for the allocation of the entire power from Kalpakkam, not for the sole reason that the Centre had made a commitment and the State insists upon its fulfilment as a mere technical formality; but because the situation genuinely of such import and seriousness that the interests of the State would be affected adversely, indeed grievously, if the full output is not made available to Tamil Nadu. But the Union Minister for Energy in his letter dated the 31st March, 1984, has informed the Government of Tamil Nadu that the power from Central projects would not be firmly allocated to one State or States but that the Centre would decide the distribution of power from time to time, taking into consideration the respective power position in the different States in a region. The Union Minister of Energy has also indicated that the Central Power Station can only supplement the efforts of State Governments.

According to the principles evolved by the Government of India in 1978, the power generated from the Central sector power stations to be constructed by the National Thermal Power Corporation, NTPC, is proposed to be allocated between the various States in a region on the basis of past energy consumption and quantum of Central assistance giving equal weightage to these two factors, and after providing for an additional 10 percent allocation to the home State, and keeping 15 percent unallocated

with the Centre for distribution subsequently, on the basis of actual deficits at any point of time. This formula is irrational as it reduces the allocation to power deficit States which can absorb more power, and allots more power to power surplus States which do not need the allocation. The formula has no relevance at all to the actual power needs of each State, and allocated power to all States of the region irrespective of their deficits or surpluses. This will lead to an anomalous situation wherein a deficit State will continue to be deficit even though the region may be surplus.

The deficit States will have to continue to buy power from the surplus States whose power from the surplus States whose surplus keeps on increasing because of this illogical formula. The logical, acceptable principle that should be adopted would be to allocate the power of the central sector power stations in direct proportion to the respective deficit of each individual State as assessed by the Annual Power Surveys conducted by the Government of India. Tamil Nadu has the largest deficit among the Southern States and is forced to buy power every year from the surplus States of the Region at exorbitant rates. The inappropriate formula already mentioned is now sought to be applied to the Second Power Station being constructed by the Neyveli Lignite Corporation.

Out of 630 Magawatts to be produced by the second unit, it was intimated in 1980, that only 176 MWs would be allocated to Tamil Nadu. It is significant to point out in this context, that before planning the second unit of Neyveli, the Government of India had asked for and obtained in 1973, a guarantee from Tamil Nadu that the entire power produced would definitely be absorbed by Tamil Nadu.

To put it in a nutshell, the project was finalised only on the basis of this firm assurance and categorical commitment confirmed by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

The expectation that the entire power of the second unit of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation would be allotted to Tamil Nadu has been the foundation on which the State has drafted its power planning throughout.

Given these circumstances, if the entire power from the Neyveli Lignite Corporation is not allotted to Tamil Nadu, the power scarcity in the State will prove disastrous to its interests.

A Resolution was moved in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 7th March 1984 and in the Legislative Council on 8th March 1984 pressing for the allocation of the entire power output from Kalpakkam and Neyveli to Tamil Nadu.

In conclusion, I quote from our great departed leader Anna's speech in the Rajya Sabha in December 1963.

"The working of the federal structure all these years has created a sense of frustration in the minds of the States. The States are fast becoming dole-getting corporations. They feel that they are relegated to the background and there is the very natural instinct in them that they should be given more power".

Anna's words hold good even today 21 years later. I reiterate, Tamil Nadu genuinely feels it should be given more power, in 2 contexts. Firstly, more power in the general sense that Anna meant i.e., more power for the States. And secondly, in the immediate specific sense that Tamil Nadu feels it should be given more power in the form of electricity from Kalpakkam and Neyveli.

Thank you.

The Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency (TEDA), a Government of Tamil Nadu Undertaking is functioning from 1st February 1985, registered under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act.

The main activities of TEDA are as follows:

- i) Promoting use of new and renewable source of energy.
- ii) Promoting energy conservation activities.
- iii) Rural energy programmes.

During the last 6 years TEDA, which is a small organisation consisting of a dozen engineers and non-technical personnel had achieved notable results, especially during the last two years. The achievements are in the following fields.

ACTIVITIES OF TAMIL NADU ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

1. WIND ENERGY - PROGRAMME

Under this programme, the first wind farm for power generation was commenced in 1986 at Mullaikadu in Chidambaranar District. Encouraged by the performance and availability of good wind potential as on date we have got 95 Wind Electric Generators with an installed capacity of 14,085 M.W. These wind electric generators have so far fed of about 42 millions of units of electricity to the Electricity Board for distribution.

Tamil Nadu which is found to be a high wind potential area has so far identified

three places for establishing wind farm for power generation.

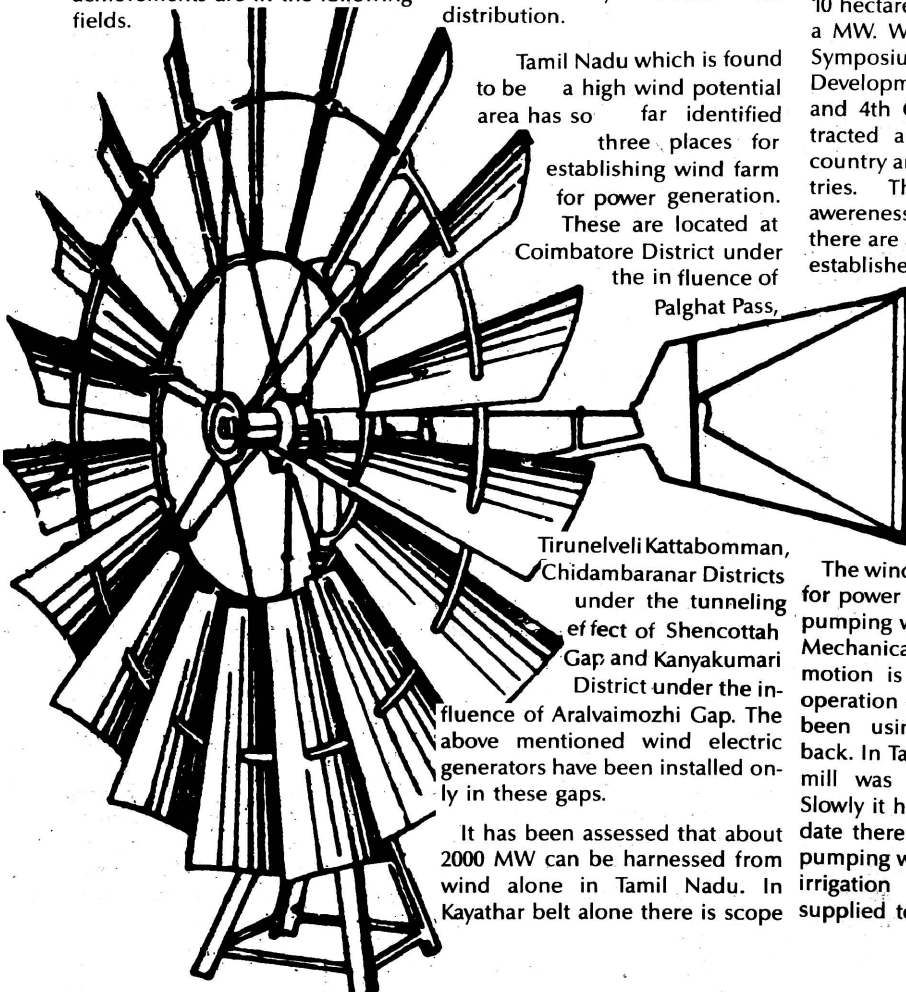
These are located at Coimbatore District under the influence of Palghat Pass,

Tirunelveli Kattabomman, Chidambaranar Districts under the tunneling effect of Shencottah Gap and Kanyakumari District under the influence of Aralvaimozhi Gap. The above mentioned wind electric generators have been installed only in these gaps.

It has been assessed that about 2000 MW can be harnessed from wind alone in Tamil Nadu. In Kayathar belt alone there is scope

for about 600 MW for which master plan has already been prepared. Even the World Bank took keen interest in establishing a wind farm around Kayathar belt. The team had visited and inspected the sites and on satisfaction, further action are under process and is likely to be finalised soon for establishment of a 75 MW in Tamil Nadu. Power from wind energy is clean, and pollution free. Approximate cost works out Rs.2 crores per MW and about 10 hectares of land is required for a MW. We conducted a National Symposium on Wind Power Development at Madurai on 3rd and 4th October 1990, which attracted all the people over the country and also from other countries. This has created an awareness among the people and there are about 13 firms who have established private wind farms totalling a installed capacity of 5 MW. The TNEB purchase power from these private wind farms at Rs.1 per unit and also allows transmission through their grid at 2% commission.

The wind power is used not only for power generation but also for pumping water by converting into Mechanical Energy. The circular motion is transferred to vertical operation to lift water. Man has been using this method long back. In Tamil Nadu the first wind mill was installed during 1985. Slowly it has picked up and as on date there are 650 wind mills for pumping water, mostly utilised for irrigation purposes. These were supplied to the beneficiaries and



installed free of cost. Now improvised gear type wind mill which can pump water from 40-50 metres have been installed with 80% Government of India Subsidy. 19 such wind mills are functioning.

In addition to this, small wind electric generators of capacity 4 KW are used for Railway signal and communication, where conventional electrical energy is remote.

SOLAR ENERGY

Under this, with the nomenclature Solar Thermal Extension programme for each year is being implemented with the financial assistance of Department of Non-conventional Energy Sources/Government of India. The main item which TEDA promotes is the Solar Water Heating System (SWHS). This is useful both for domestic and non-domestic purposes. For domestic use, a system of 100 litres per day at 60°C will be sufficient. By using Solar Water Heater a sizeable quantity of electrical energy and firewood can be saved. For example, a system with a capacity of 10,000 lpd at 80°C can annually save 1.5 lakh units of electricity. On the non-domestic side, Solar Water Heaters can be used for canteen, Hospitals and Hotels and pre heated water for Industries. In Tamil Nadu so far 1100 systems had been installed for domestic uses and 203 system for non-domestic purpose. Sufficient subsidy is available for the above. For a domestic system of Rs.4,500 (Rs.3,000 From Government of India and Rs. 1,500 from Tamil Nadu Government) is given as subsidy and for other systems 30% or 40% subsidy for Private Sector and Public Sectors as the case may be.

Apart from heating purpose there is another use of Solar Energy viz. Solar Cooker. This cooker is fuelless, smokeless and portable. This is a box type of square size and cooks food for about 2/3 persons (Rice, Dhal,

Vegetable and one more item). As there is no fuel, there is a lot of fuel saving viz. Gas, Electricity, Kerosene and fire wood. Sufficient subsidy is available. Now it is Rs.250. There is a proposal to enhance this to Rs.400. By this, it is hoped that the people of Tamil Nadu will go for purchasing Solar Cookers.

Solar Energy can be used for drying purposes also. Corn, leaves, fruits etc., can be dried more cleanly and effectively using Solar Energy. These solar driers can be designed according to the requirements. For distilled water, Solar Stills can be used.

TEDA has appointed a Consultancy to furnish a Techno-Economic Survey for establishing a 30 MW Solar power plant in Tamil Nadu. If this is materialised this will be the biggest Solar Plant in India.

Apart from the above usage of Solar Energy, it has been found out and technologically proved that when sun light falls on certain metals, they emanate electricity. Such system is called Photovoltaic system. Silicon metal which is having this property is most commonly used for generating power. These metals in the shape of thin wafers form photovoltaic cell on which when the Sun's rays fall, produces electricity. This electricity can be stored in Battery. As generated one is D.C. it is converted to A.C. through inverter for our use. By connecting these cells in series or parallel the required voltage and current can be obtained. Once current is produced it can be used for any appliances to suit our requirements. The main use of these Photovoltaic system is for lighting. In Hilly areas, and forest areas where the transmission lines cannot be taken easily, this Photovoltaic system is very useful and reliable. Eventhough about 1000 Photovoltaic Street Lights have been installed in hilly

and tribal areas because of lack of maintenance, most of them are not burning now. In addition to lighting purpose, there is photovoltaic Sprayers which are useful for sprinkling water or pesticide. This Solar Photovoltaic systems can be used for pumping water also. About 30 pumps are working in Tamil Nadu. This is of a smaller capacity about 300 W.

Photovoltaic TV, Photovoltaic Lantern, Photovoltaic Sprayers are also operating with photovoltaic principle. At present there is no subsidy for Photovoltaic system.

BIO-ENERGY

Under this TEDA executes Biogas Plants for Institution and Community under subsidy pattern (i.e.) for community 100% subsidy and for institution it is 70%. There is not dearth of cattles in Tamil Nadu, and there is good scope to install Biogas plants. So far about 30 Biogas plants have been installed. These Plants which produce gas are used for cooking, lighting and also for power generation. The normal feeding for these Biogas Plants are cow dung mixed with water equally. Now "Press Mud" collected from Sugar Factories is also being used instead of cow dung. It also produces gas useful for cooking etc.,

Under Bio-energy, Cassifier and Stirling engines are being installed using Bio-mass as fuels. These Bio-mass such as wood chips, wood waste, agricultural residues etc. are burnt and "Producer Gas" is manufactured. This gas is fed into dual fuel engine which is coupled with a pump. This is called Cassifier and so far 11 such engines have been installed. Because of this about 80% of Diesel is saved. Similarly Stirling engines work with paddy husk, saw dust etc., 30 Stirling engines had been installed. Sufficient subsidy is available for the above items.

There is no dearth of barren, uncultivable land in Tamil Nadu. Such lands are chosen and quick growing trees which yield, fire wood are planted with the financial assistance of DNES. Under this projects viz. Energy Plantation, about 523 hectares of land in Devarkulam Muthammalpuram in Tirunelveli Kattabomman District have been brought under this scheme, to demonstrate that improvement of degraded lands is not only possible but also in the long run, highly profitable.

MISCELLANEOUS

Certain villages selected as Energy Villages with the financial assistance of DNES, Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency implements all Non-conventional Energy Devices to make these villages self-sufficient with regard

to energy. In 45 villages such programmes are being implemented.

The same pattern of work at Block level is taken up to implement all kinds of energy to have the optimum mix of energy. In 11 blocks TEDA is implementing these programmes. Rural Energy Survey was done for these programmes.

In these projects, Improved Chulahs, Metal Stoves, Biogas Plants, Windmills, Tropicultors, Replacement of Foot Valves etc. are being done under subsidy.

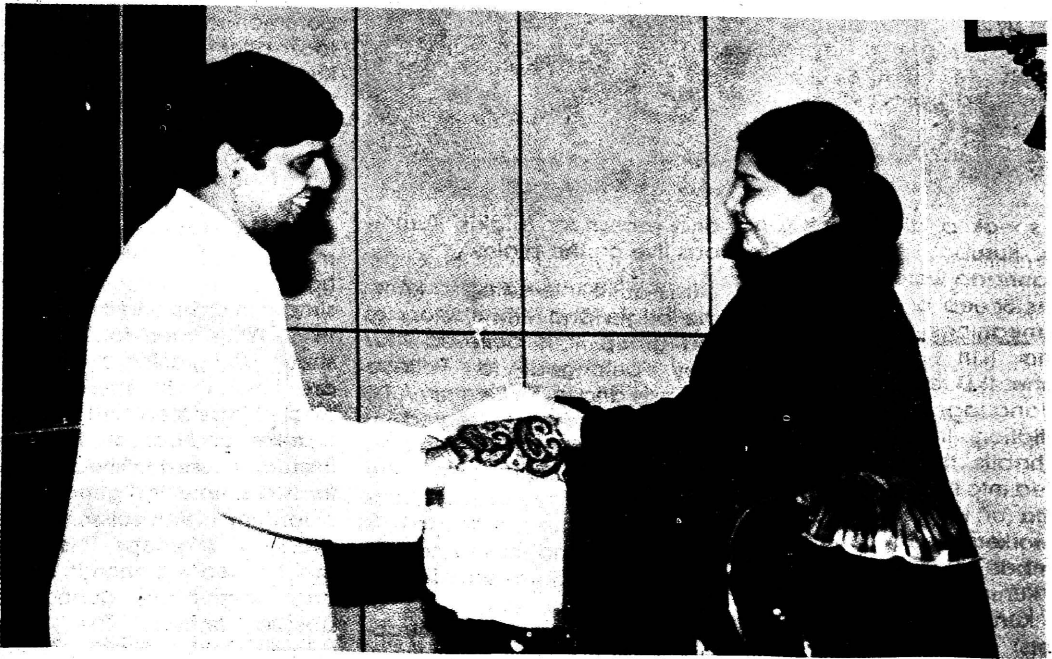
There are lakhs of pump sets both Diesel and Electrical in Tamil Nadu. Most of these pumpsets work with less efficient footvalves, unwanted bends, G.I. Pipes etc., with Government of India's financial assistance TEDA replaces

these footvalves with high efficient footvalves and replacing G.I. Pipes etc., so far about 10,350 cases had been done.

TEDA takes initiation in Energy Audit. Some financial assistance to the extent feasible is given by TEDA for industries which will go in for energy audit.

In addition any device which conserve energy is taken up TEDA and forwarded to the Government for financial assistance. One such case is an Improved Bullock Cart designed by Regional Engineering College, Trichy.

A sum of Rs.369.61 lakhs out of Government of India grants and a sum of Rs.463.77 lakhs out of Government of Tamil Nadu grants were spent during the years 85-86 to 89-90 on various schemes of Wind, Solar and Bio Energy etc.,



The Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Surface Transport, Thiru. Jagdish Tytler called on the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchithalaivi J. Jayalalitha on 8.7.91 at Secretariat.

Kuruman, Kurumban, Kuruban are the three common names given to a large shepherd tribal community in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and in some Telugu Districts.

alone it works out to about 11,000 (1981). In Tamil Nadu, Kurumbas are found in North Arcot, South Arcot, Salem, Periyar, Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Nilgiris and Pudukkottai Districts

adjacent plains have mixed with the local existing caste groups and took several names - the Ponai, Kuduvai, Ande, Goundu and Alu, still retaining the shepherd's status.

THE KURUMBAS OF DHARMAPURI DISTRICT



They speak a dialect of Kannada. 'Kuruba' is derived from the Kannada word 'Kuru' which means 'Sheep' or 'Goat'. One of the meanings of the word Kuruba in Kannada is 'Shepherd'. Due to the usage of their language and of slight differentiation in their customs and habits, the Kurumbas are divided into five groups - namely Betta (or) Hill Kurumbas (Bamboo workers); Jen or Jenu or Ten Kurumbas (Honey collecting) Urali Kurumbas (farm Coolies); Alu Kurumbas (tea estate workers) and Mullu Kurumbas (bow man). The Betta Kurumbas and Mullu Kurumbas are the oldest and the most primitive among the Kurumbas. The total population of Kurumbas in Tamil Nadu is about 7 lakhs while in Dharmapuri District

and except for Nilgiris, Kurumbas live on the plains.

It is quite interesting to know the origin and ethnohistory of this group. It is believed that they belonged to Pallava Dynasty and in 7th Century A.D., the Pallavas were defeated by the invading Kongu, Chola and Chalukya Kings and the defeated Pallava descendants (Pallava Kurumborai) fled to hills and forests. And those who fled to the hills got mixed with the local primitive inhabitants of the hills and gradually got absorbed into tribals. While those who had fled to forests and ad-

One such plains Kurumbas - the Ponai or Punai (which denotes bamboo vessel used for carrying food) Kurumbas of Anjoor, Sulamalai and Kanthikuppam in Krishnagiri Taluk in Dharmapuri District were surveyed recently by the Madras Government Museum and their objects of domestic interest were also collected for the establishment of the District Museum at Krishnagiri.

These plains Kurumbas, are the shepherd folk, tending sheep - a special breed called "Kurumba". These Kurumbas are nothing to do with Yadavas and Idayans, who are also the common shepherd castes who look after the cattle. But the Kurumba shepherds like to retain their identity. In some areas these Kurumbas are engaged in cultivation, but mostly they are tenants and agricultural labourers and coolies. They speak Tamil and those in Dharmapuri and Coimbatore areas have better literacy and are simple in dress and smart in activity. While men take care of sheep and grazing, the women are involved in shearing the wool of the sheep and weaving blankets and carpets. The chief instrument used in shearing the fur is a simple, indigenous one, a lengthy metal scissors in the shape of a forceps. This instrument is cleaned once in a year and worshipped during the Dasara festival. The same scissors which is used for cutting the fur from the sheep is also used for cutting the hair of boys once in 5 years, - a ceremony in propitiation to the God Veerabadra. The whole colony is invited for this family function and lunch is served to all. The

Dr. N. DEVASAHAYAM
Curator (Anthropology)
Government Museum
Madras

elders feel that as per the community's tradition and belief, only the maternal uncle should do the removal of the hair with the help of this scissors. They sacrifice a goat and its head is offered to God Veerabadra.

The other noteworthy equipment used by these Kurumbas is the spindle whirl, which is more than a foot length with a coconut half shell shaped wooden portion attached to the bottom. The fur is cleaned, beaten, and spun over in the spindles and yarned into blankets and carpets. These wooden blankets are rather coarse, thick, lengthy, indigenous and with less designs and patterns. Every Kurumba has got a blanket and he wears it when he sets out with the sheep. Yet another interesting material got from the Kurumba is the metal cattle bell, which is rather heavy and is just the one used by the other plains people in their domestic worship. A cylindrical drum used by the Kurumbas for the family function and community festivals is another interesting piece collected from the Kurumbas.

Socially, the Kurumbas are a closely knit group with many social and cultural affiliations. They have their own village administration in the form of panchayat or village council, manned by the leader, the goundan, who is assisted by other elders. All the disputes are settled by this council. They prefer arranged marriages, however, elopement, widow remarriage, child marriage etc. are allowed. They marry within their clan. For all the social functions, like marriage, death, etc. all the members of the colony are invited.

With regard to their religious life, the Kurumbas are animists no doubt however they worship Hindu Gods and have belief in ancestral spirits. For the God

Veerabadra, a few temples are erected recently in their locality and the annual festivals are held enthusiastically and many Kurumbas take part by breaking a number of coconuts on their heads as a token of vow for Veerabadra. They believe in superstitions and a goat is sacrificed for the speedy recovery of illness of the patient.

Thus, the social and religious customs and habits are changing since these people are living in the midst of other caste plains people and come into contact with them invariably on all occasions. Wearing of blouses by women has started, and discarding bangles on one hand and a silver ring in the other too are noticed prominently. Attachment to God Veerabadra, a Hindu God is so great with firm faith and belief. For protecting their sheep from wild beasts, they formerly engaged dogs but now they are replaced with country guns. These are all a few cultural changes towards modernity.

However, the oldest Kurumbas - the Beta (Hill) Kurumbas and Mullu Kurumbas who inhabit the hills in Mysore, Nilgiris and Kerala still hold fast their typical tribal elements and traditions. It is all because of their isolation in the hills, having a distinctive dialect from Kannada, as being animists, and with the usage of primitive techniques in their economic pursuits.

Now, the plains Kurumbas in all the Districts of Tamil Nadu (except those in the Nilgiris Hills) are grouped under the category of Most Backward Class by the State Government and been confirmed by the Sattanathan Commission on the Backward Classes (1970). It is all because the plains Kurumbas want to retain their separate identity as shepherds and not be par with Yadavas and Idayans. They are educational-



ly backward on the whole. Still the Central Kurumbas Association of Tamil Nadu has a grievance that the Kurumba in the Nilgiris Hills is treated as a tribe and derives the benefit from the Government, whereas their counterparts in the plains - the plains Kurumbas in the other Districts are deprived of these concessions and are grouped as the Most Backward Class. Therefore they want the whole Kurumba Community in Tamil Nadu to be treated as Scheduled Tribe, as adivasis, but their representations were unable to produce evidence to establish their status as adivasis or tribals. But however there are a few tribal elements still in their social life, such as continuity of monogamy, widow remarriage, the custom of their caste priests to conduct their marriages, discontinuing the joint family system and discouraging the idea of untouchability.

The Sattanathan Backward Commission of Tamil Nadu reports that assistance is needed in improving the breed of the sheep and encouraging wool industry. It concludes that they are in no way, worse off than the Idayans and there is no justification for treating them as tribals. It is felt that educationally they are definitely backward, partly owing to their way of life.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION – THE KEY FACTOR

The fact that the future of the mankind is closely linked with the invisible heritage of this earth, whose resources have sometimes been overestimated, generates the need for 'Environmental Education'

Future of the mankind

The awareness about environmental protection started building up only during the last twenty years. Education on environment is a vital need not only for the millions of the illiterate rural masses and tribals, but for everyone concerned with the future of the mankind.

Environmental consciousness

The human environment infact begins at home. Often problems relating to environmental protection are considered local in character. This is how it began in India, the Chipko movement in the Uttarkhand region, the pollution of the Ganga at Varanasi, the shifting cultivation in Arunachal Pradesh, protecting 'Kherji' trees in desert Districts of Rajasthan, being some examples.

Negligence and thoughtlessness in environmental matters arise from the fact that we are unable to predict the consequences of our action in life on soil, air, water and nature. We have to think of our environment in a new dimension, as an immediate extension of our homes. What we need is the creation of an environmental consciousness and a sense of responsibility towards our fellow citizens as a matter of decency resulting in self-protection in the long run.

SCHOOL LEVEL

The scheme of 'Environmental Education' designed to create an awareness about the environment and the steps for its conservation covers more than 11,000 schools in the Country. Special syllabi on environmental education are prepared. Accordingly text books on the subject are prepared by the environment project authorities in consultation with environment experts, Teachers' Training Institute and State Councils for Education, Research and Training. It ensures that these books meet the local requirements and make the eco system studies realistic and nearer to home for the students.

Higher studies in environment have been introduced at the University level. Many Universities have included Environmental Sciences as one of the subjects at the post graduation level or as a part of the courses in Zoology, Botany or Civil Engineering. Many Universities are also offering research degrees in the subject.

Voluntary Agencies

Voluntary agencies active in the field of environment are provided financial assistance by the Government for carrying out field programme for school teachers and students. The funding for the environmental orientation scheme for schools is done by the Union Ministry of Human Resources Development and the States get hundred percent assistance for the implementation of this Scheme. Proposals for the Eighth Five Year Plan provide an allocation of Rs.60 crore for studies of environmental studies

as part of school education. There is a provision of Rs.2 crore for the purpose for the year 1990-91 alone.

Lifelong Process

The first international conference on environmental education with more than 60 Countries including India participating, was held at Tbilisi, Capital of Soviet Georgia in the 70's. The realisation that environmental education is really a matter of life and death in many Countries where industrial workers deal with chemicals, farm workers, handle pesticides, where the well-being of millions depend on better use of the World's water resources generated the need for the conference. The Tbilisi Declaration called for an environmental ethic or environmental conscience and described environmental education as a "comprehensive lifelong education.. recreating an overall perspective which acknowledges the profound interdependence of the natural and manmade environment and revealing the enduring continuity which links the acts of today to consequence of tomorrow"

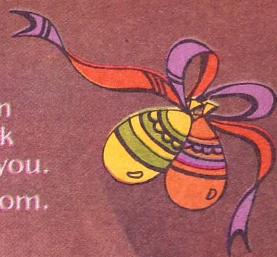
It is often assumed that progress depends on man's ability to conquer nature. But lack of adequate knowledge is leading to the manipulation of environment, almost exclusively on the basis of technological criteria without much concern for its biological and psychological effects.

This calls for an immediate need to extend environmental education to all levels so that every member of the society can play an important role in protecting our dear earth.

Courtesy: Press Information Bureau

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