

# Tamil Arasu

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2004





# தமிழக சிறப்பு அதிரடிப்படையினர் மற்றும் வனத்துறையினரைப் பாராட்டி பாசிகள் வழங்கும்





# Tamil Arasu

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## **MY MISSION IS TO MAKE TAMIL NADU THE NUMBER ONE STATE IN THE COUNTRY IN ALL RESPECTS**

**I**t is my proud privilege to be here before you to participate in today's function, in which the International Human Rights Defence Committee, a chartered consultative body of the United Nations has seen it fit to confer upon me, the Golden Star of Honour and Dignity Award, in recognition of my services to the cause of gender equality and protection of the weaker sections of Society in Tamil Nadu and India. I stand before you in all humility to receive this award today. It has been my great good fortune to have been able to serve the people of Tamil Nadu, whom I love more than

my own life, and the people of this great Nation. My mission is to make Tamil Nadu the Number One State in the Country in all respects, in terms of economic development, social advancement and, in particular, to be the first in giving a fair deal to women and the weaker sections of Society.

The citation that accompanies this award has made some laudatory references to my services to gender equality and to the uplift of the weaker sections of Society. This is, indeed, a cause that is very dear to my heart and for this reason, the



Golden Star that you have chosen to confer upon me today shall always have a special significance in my life. I have tried to live my personal and public life in a manner that can be inspiring to millions of my sisters who struggle against unfairness, subjugation, exploitation, insult, humiliation and marginalisation in their day-to-day lives. In my own life, I have had to face similar and innumerable challenges and it was only the burning desire to demonstrate that a woman can overcome any injustice, any adversity, to achieve success and power, and the passion to work for a fair deal for women that gave me the steely resolve to overcome overwhelming odds and be where I am today. I am, therefore, deeply touched that the International Human Rights Defence Committee has recognised my public service and the deep association of my life with the cause of a fair deal for women and the weaker sections of Society. This ideal is, in fact, at the centre of my life's journey. I humbly thank the International Human Rights Defence Committee for conferring upon me this award, which identifies me closely with the cause of equality and justice for women and uplift of the weaker sections of Society.

This would be an appropriate occasion for me to share with you some of my thoughts on equal status for women. I firmly believe that a society that cannot protect the dignity and honour of its women, cannot be termed a civil society. As Swami Vivekananda has eloquently put it and I quote, "All nations have attained greatness by paying proper respect to women. That country and that nation which do not respect women have never become great, nor will ever be in future."

Being deeply concerned about crimes against women, I was convinced that a clear focus in dealing with crimes against women could only be achieved by a structural change within the Police Force itself. It has been my mission to transform the Police Force into a humane, caring, sympathetic protector, a friend in need and counsellor of the people, particularly women. It is this thought process and conviction that led to

the first All Women Police Station in India which I established in 1992, and has today done so much to instill a sense of security and well-being among women in every nook and corner in Tamil Nadu, with 195 All Women Police Stations functioning all over the State. Further, to make this a systemic movement, I have placed particular emphasis on the recruitment of women in the Police Force. Every regular Police Station in Tamil Nadu will have a women's unit headed by a Sub Inspector and this will completely resolve the problem of easy access for women. The formation of the first ever Company of All Women Police Commandos in the country and the first exclusive All Women Police Battalion which I have created are not just symbolic, but have served to infuse a sense of confidence among women in every strata in Society. The Mobile Counselling Centres established in every district ensure that every woman gets the opportunity to come forward and have her grievance redressed. I have also ordered that the entire Police Force should address the all important issue of crimes against women, imbued with a sensitive and responsive attitude. Another issue of access and quick redressal of crimes against women has been tackled by the establishment of Women's Courts.

I have also brought about amendments to the existing law, providing for stringent punishments to offenders who indulge in sexual harassment of women. These measures have led to much greater public awareness and a willingness to approach the Police, particularly, on the part of women.

Discrimination against women in our society starts early. In fact, in certain communities in certain parts of India and Tamil Nadu, it starts even in the womb. The Cradle Baby Scheme that I launched was intended to counter this scourge of female infanticide. Awareness campaigns in districts prone to the practice of female infanticide like Madurai, Theni, Dindigul, Dharmapuri and Salem, have been conducted and stern punitive action against the persons responsible for the perpetration of such crimes has been undertaken.





I have also given directions to the District Collectors to prevent female foeticide by taking stringent action under the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, against unscrupulous laboratories and diagnostic centres that resort to unauthorized amniocentesis. This will go a long way in rectifying the adverse female to male ratio in the population.

Gender inequity is apparent in something as innocuous as a name which, in the Tamil Nadu context, is predominantly patronymic. In order to set right this distortion, for the first time in the history of our State, I ordered that when a child is admitted in a school, the mother's name can also form the initial of the child's name, according an unprecedented primacy to the Mother and Womanhood in Tamil Nadu. Similarly, I have also ordered the addition of the term "Kudimagal" to the Tamil language. The term recognizes the feminine gender for the Tamil equivalent of "Citizen", hitherto referred to as "Kudimagam", which had an overt masculine connotation. The term "Kudimagal" translates as "Citizeness" and confers a political and civic feminine identity for the first

time in the Tamil language: it is a clarion call in the march towards gender equity and an important step towards women's empowerment in Tamil Nadu.

In fact, empowerment of women is an integral part of the ethos of the political party that I head, the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. It is with pride that I wish to state that for the first time in the history of any political movement in the world, it is only the AIADMK that has, under my leadership, introduced 33% reservation in all party posts exclusively for women, as also 33% reservation for women in elections to the Local Bodies in Tamil Nadu. This apart, the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam was the first to raise its voice to provide 33% reservation for women in Parliament and the Legislative Assemblies in the country.

The Constitution of India guarantees the right to education to all, but it is a fact that in many households, it is only the girl child who is forced to drop out of school to look after her younger siblings and is trapped in the drudgery of domestic

chores. Securing increased girl child enrolment in primary schools on par with boys is also a key Millennium Development Goal. I am deeply concerned about the plight of the girl child, marginalized and exploited in Society. To bring girls into the mainstream of education and economic progress, I announced the Girl Child Protection Scheme, a unique programme where the Government ensures that a girl child is financially secure and can never ever be deemed a liability.

burdens on their time, and multiple demands on their energy. Women are invariably both overworked and underpaid, and quite often unpaid. Their ability to avail on conventional, credit-linked anti-poverty programmes is also severely circumscribed by gender inequities that inhibit the banking system. The Women Self Help Group movement which I started in 1992 has today become the rallying point for lakhs and lakhs of women with a definite assurance of livelihood security.



Today, if you travel anywhere in Tamil Nadu you will see girls cycling away to school brimming with confidence. The free bicycle scheme for girls belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and Most Backward Classes has transformed rural society and enabled girls to take a giant leap forward towards the goal of true equity with boys.

Economic independence through continuous gainful employment is undoubtedly the key to the empowerment of women and to giving them an equal place alongside men in society. Our rural women have, by and large, been by-passed by technological advancement. There are multiple

It is also my firm belief that if only women are given a fair chance, they can excel men in every field, even those that are considered to be exclusively male bastions. In order to positively reinforce this sense of confidence, I have instituted an award entitled the "Kalpana Chawla Award for Courage and Daring Enterprise" in memory of the late Indian Astronaut Kalpana Chawla.

The process of economic development has to be inclusive - bringing hope and cheer to the millions of the poor and the weaker disadvantaged sections of society. I have devoted myself to making this happen. Tamil Nadu is well on its way



to achieving the Millennium Development Goals well in advance of the target dates. Besides rapid reduction in poverty, the focus is on quality of life, empowerment and building up of self esteem. I do believe that we should reach out to the weaker sections and those disadvantaged who are vulnerable, so that economic development is meaningful to them. It has been my constant endeavour to upgrade the quality of services so that the poor and disadvantaged are reached, bringing hope and cheer to them.

*are dominating others, but when we are in authentic relationship with others, when we are true to ourselves and our passions. Female power is a creative and nurturing force. It is not a fist. It is an open hand that can write, that can sculpt, that can dance, that can heal, that knows how to both give and receive".*

This definition of power is sublimated in our own Indian concept of "Shakthi", and it has been



We often speak very easily of empowerment of women, sometimes without understanding what empowerment or power is all about. To illustrate the true meaning of women's empowerment, I would like to refer to a few lines from Gayle Brandeis, author of "Fruitflesh - Seeds of inspiration for Women Who Write," and I quote,

*"Power is a misunderstood word. In our culture, power often means might, brute strength, sheer force. It brings to mind images like a fist, a boot, a bomb. It connotes power over others, power to destroy others. This is an archetypal masculine view of power. The feminine view of power is very different. As women, we find power not when we*

*my untiring endeavour to infuse this positive life-force into my fellow women. I have no hesitation in saying that the Golden Star of Honour and Dignity conferred upon me today, will inspire me to strive harder and harder to achieve this goal. I once again thank you for bestowing upon me this unique honour.*

Speech delivered by  
**Selvi J JAYALALITHAA**  
Hon'ble Chief Minister at  
"Golden Star of Honour & Dignity Award"  
function held at Madras University Centenary  
Auditorium on 11.10.2004. The Award was  
conferred by the International Human Rights  
Defence Committee, Ukraine.

# **I CONGRATULATE EACH AND EVERY MEMBER OF STF FOR THEIR TREMENDOUS FEAT OF VALOUR**



Statement of **Selvi J JAYALALITHAA** Hon'ble Chief Minister on 18.10.2004

It is with a sense of great pride and fulfilment that I wish to announce to the people of Tamil Nadu the good news that the notorious forest brigand, bandit, murderer and dacoit Veerappan, along with this entire gang, has been shot dead by the Special Task Force (STF) on 18.10.2004 in a daring and intrepid operation, bringing to a conclusion the manhunt that has been on for nearly two decades.

Thiru K. Vijay Kumar, IPS, Additional Director General of Police and Chief of the Special Task Force has informed me over phone that this daring operation took place between 10.50 p.m.

and 11.10 p.m. on 18.10.2004 between Papparapatti and Dharmapuri, 10 kms. from Dharmapuri on the main road, when the forest brigand Veerappan and his accomplices were trying to get away in a vehicle. They were intercepted by the STF and were asked to surrender and come out of the vehicle through the rear door. They responded by opening fire. Thereafter one more warning was issued. The forest brigand and his accomplices continued firing at the Police. Thereafter, the STF personnel opened fire in retaliation and overcame the forest brigand and his men. The STF seized deadly arms and ammunition from the brigand and his men.





The dreaded forest brigand Veerappan and his entire gang consisting of Sethukkuli Govindan, Chandra Gowda and Sethu Mani were killed in this operation.

I was filled with a sense of pride at the success of this daring operation by the Tamil Nadu Police and I immediately contacted His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu. His Excellency the Governor extended his congratulations to me and the Special Task Force for this splendid operation ridding Tamil Nadu of a scourge which has defied a solution for more than a decade.

It may be recalled that I created the Special Task Force in 1993 during my first tenure as Chief Minister to nab the notorious brigand Veerappan and to put an end to the atrocities perpetrated on the people of this State by Veerappan and his gang. The efforts to nab Veerappan continued unabated till the completion of my tenure in 1996.

The successor DMK Government led by Mr. Karunanidhi rendered the Special Task Force ineffective by shutting down its operations and

virtually demobilising it. When I came back to power in 2001, I immediately took steps to reconstitute and reinvigorate the Special Task Force and give it the necessary backing to go after the bandit Veerappan. Every political party in the State had mocked me for my stand in this whole operation, particularly the DMK, who not only shut down the operations of the STF, almost disbanding the force, but also played a dubious role in the Rajkumar abduction crisis. Even the Media have been sceptical about the whole operation and have indulged in lampooning the efforts of my Government to nab Veerappan. I did not flinch, nor waver in the pursuit of the dreaded bandit as I had immense faith in the professionalism and dedication of the Tamil Nadu Police, which I have always believed is undoubtedly the best Police Force in the country.

My unstinted support and relentless determination to back the STF operations has now been vindicated with the elimination of the most elusive bandit Veerappan and his accomplices. My unwavering stand, patience and perseverance, in the relentless pursuit of the dreaded bandit has now been completely vindicated.



தமிழக சிறப்பு இத்திரடிப் படைப்பினர் பதிலம்  
வனத்துறையினரைப் பாராட்டி  
பரிசுக் கிளப்பும் செயல்

From the Chief of the STF, the Additional Director General of Police Thiru. K. Vijay Kumar, IPS to the last constable in the STF from the officers to the cooks and orderlies, who have sacrificed their safety and the comfort of their homes, spending years away from their families, leading dangerous lives in the thick of the Sathyamangalam forests, braving hardship and sickness, courting danger and death every day, I congratulate each man and Officer for this sterling achievement of scaling the very heights of a risky mission, in ridding our society of the murderous menace that has defied us all these years, spreading pillage, destruction and death and destroying life and the ecosphere.

All their sacrifices have now paid dividends. This is indeed a feather in the cap of the Special Task Force, a precious jewel of my Government.



It exemplifies my proud record of perfect maintenance of law and order. It is also a tribute to the valour, dedication and professionalism for which the Tamil Nadu Police is nationally and internationally acclaimed.

At this proud moment, I congratulate each and every member of the Special Task Force for their tremendous feat of valour, even as we pay homage to the supreme sacrifice of the officers and men of the Tamil Nadu Police who have laid down their lives in the manhunt for Veerappan.

\* \* \*





## Hon'ble Chief Minister Calls on Hon'ble Prime Minister

**T**he Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa called on the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh at 4.15 P.M. on 16.9.2004 and presented a detailed Memorandum setting out various issues relating to Tamil Nadu.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Prime Minister the rainfall deficit situation in Tamil Nadu leading to drought conditions. The Hon'ble Chief Minister drew the attention of the Hon'ble Prime Minister to the detailed Memorandum on the drought situation in Tamil Nadu which has been furnished to the Government of India on 28.8.2004. The Hon'ble Chief Minister requested that a Central Team be constituted and deputed to the State urgently to assess the drought situation and recommend the assistance package to undertake drought relief operations with support from the

National Calamity Contingency Fund. The Hon'ble Prime Minister indicated that a Central Team, was being constituted and would be deputed shortly, and that based on the assessment of the Central Team, assistance from the Government of India for the drought relief operations would be provided.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Prime Minister the extremely difficult situation in the Cauvery Delta Districts caused by the failure of Kamataka to release Tamil Nadu's legitimate share of water based on the interim orders of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal. The Hon'ble Chief Minister brought to the specific notice of the Hon'ble Prime Minister the bitter fact that the farmers of the Cauvery Delta Districts had not been able to raise even one crop in the last two irrigation seasons. Even in the current year, the farmers have not been

able to raise the Kuruvai crop. Based on the available storage the farmers have now raised the Samba crop which will come to harvest only by January, 2005. Karnataka has a healthy storage of 97.38 TMC ft. while the Mettur Reservoir in Tamil Nadu has a storage of just 43 TMC ft. Karnataka has to release 35.36 TMC ft. to Tamil Nadu from its storage reservoirs to the Mettur Reservoir as per the orders of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal. The Hon'ble Chief Minister pointed out that the farmers of the Cauvery Delta Districts in Tamil Nadu are apprehensive that if Tamil Nadu's legitimate share of water is not released, the Samba paddy crop which has just been transplanted will be affected as in the past two years, and this cannot be allowed to happen. The Hon'ble Chief Minister requested the Hon'ble Prime Minister to convene a "Meeting of the Cauvery River Authority at the earliest and direct Karnataka to release Tamil Nadu's legitimate share of Cauvery water. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Prime Minister the attempt by Karnataka to stall the functioning of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal which is now at the final stage of finalising its award. The Hon'ble Chief Minister emphasized that as the Tribunal has already taken fourteen years, under no circumstances should any such attempt be allowed.

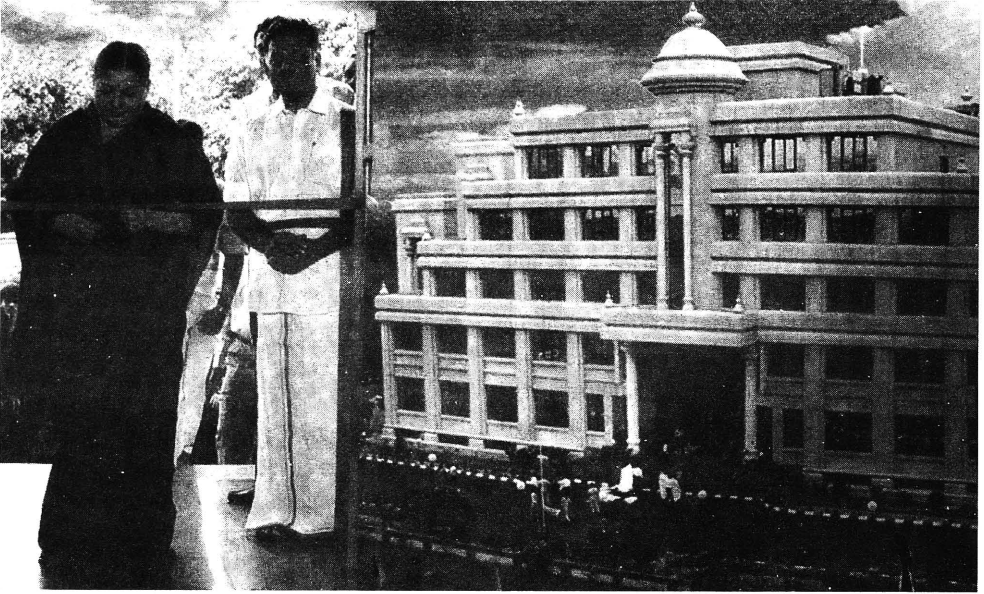
The Hon'ble Chief Minister drew the attention of the Hon'ble Prime Minister to the antiquity of the Tamil language and its rich literature. The Hon'ble Chief Minister stressed that Tamil should be declared as a Classical Language on par with Sanskrit, Persian and Arabic which have already been declared as Classical Languages. Further, the Hon'ble Chief Minister also emphasized that Tamil and other languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India be given the status of Official Languages of the Government of India. Thirukkural in the elegance of its literary form, the profundity of its concepts, in its masterly exposition of the tenets of justice and in its universalism is unparalleled in world literature. Bringing this to the notice of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, the Hon'ble Chief Minister requested, that Thirukkural be declared as National literature.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister brought to the specific notice of the Hon'ble Prime Minister that the repeal of POTA as proposed will denude the State Governments of their powers to combat terrorism. Any such move will leave States without a viable mechanism to counter the threat and danger from terrorist outfits and subversive elements. The Hon'ble Chief Minister emphasized that the demand of the Government of Tamil Nadu that the proposed move to repeal POTA, 2002, be reconsidered and dropped should be accepted.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also brought to the attention of the Hon'ble Prime Minister other issues relating to Tamil Nadu, viz., getting Katchatheevu Island on 'Lease in Perpetuity' terms to resolve the problems faced by Tamil fishermen at the hands of the Sri Lankan Navy and allotment of additional quantity of kerosene for the Public Distribution System, interlinking of rivers, particularly the grid linking Peninsular Rivers, a Constitutional Amendment to enable the two tier System of Panchayat Raj and revival of Hindustan Photo Films Limited at Udhamandalam, The Nilgiris.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister stressed the need to take-up development projects for Tamil Nadu viz., Sethusamudram Canal Project, Colachel Port Development, a New International Airport for Chennai and Liquefied Natural Gas Terminal at Chennai with a Gas Grid for Tamil Nadu. The Hon'ble Chief Minister requested financial support from the Government of India to the Government of Tamil Nadu to enable the Government of Tamil Nadu to take up a 300 MLD Desalination Project in the State Sector to provide water supply to Chennai City. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Prime Minister the need to include the restoration of tanks and small irrigation structures in Tamil Nadu under the guidelines of the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme as Tamil Nadu has exhausted its surface water potential and can only go for Rain Water Harvesting.

★ ★ ★



## Additional Guest House of the Tamil Nadu House inaugurated

**T**he Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa inaugurated the Additional Guest House of the Tamil Nadu House at Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-21, built at a cost of Rs.26.35 crores on 16.9.2004.

The Tamil Nadu House is located at Kautilya Marg, Chanakyapuri. It was constructed almost 3 decades back. The accommodation available and the facilities for holding conferences, exhibitions are quite inadequate. The Government of Tamil Nadu took up the Additional Guest House Project on a plot of land, measuring about 1.97 acres (7958.82 sq.m.) located close to Yashwant Place. This Additional Guest House is also close to the existing Tamil Nadu House.

The Additional Guest House has 79 guest rooms and is centrally air-conditioned. It is equipped with a good Auditorium with a seating capacity of more

than 100. Along with this Auditorium, a Conference Hall and a Business Centre have been built. The Additional Guest House also has a spacious basement car park besides dining halls. The building is set in a beautiful landscape.

The catering service has been outsourced and will be operated by a reputed caterer from Tamil Nadu providing the authentic cuisine of Tamil Nadu. This will also be open to the public who can sample the delicious fare of Tamil Nadu.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated this spacious, architecturally aesthetic, modern guest house by lighting a Kuthuvilakku. Thiru O.Panneerselvam, Hon'ble Minister for Public Works, Prohibition & Excise and Revenue, Dr. V. Maitreyan, Special Representative to the Government of Tamil Nadu at New Delhi, Members of Parliament, Thiru N. Narayanan, I.A.S., Chief Secretary (In-charge), Thiru Pavan Raina, I.A.S., Principal Resident Commissioner, Tamil Nadu House, New Delhi, Tmt. Sheela Balakrishnan, I.A.S., Secretary-I to Chief Minister, Thiru T.Pitchandi, I.A.S., Secretary, Public Department and Thiru N.S. Palaniyappan, I.A.S., Secretary, Public Works Department attended the inaugural function. ★



# TAMIL NADU IS WELL ON ITS WAY TO ACHIEVING THE MONITORABLE GOALS OF THE TENTH PLAN

- **Selvi J JAYALALITHAA** Hon'ble Chief Minister



**Hon'ble Deputy Chairman of the Union Planning Commission Dr. M.S. Ahluwalia**

Hon'ble Members of the Union Planning Commission and

Senior Officers,

At the outset I would like to extend my greetings to the Hon'ble Deputy Chairman and Hon'ble Members of the reconstituted Union Planning Commission. We are gathered here to discuss and finalise Tamil Nadu's Annual Plan for 2005-2006. I would also like to share with you some views on the Mid Term Appraisal of the Tenth Plan, which I had wanted to bring to your notice at the recent meeting you had convened at Bangalore, but which I could not attend, as I had to be unavoidably

present at the Session of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly.

Based on the Mid Term Appraisal of the Tenth Plan, I am of the view that we should push for higher growth and seek rapid reduction in poverty. I welcome the idea of the Deputy Chairman that we should carefully utilize a portion of the foreign exchange reserves to build infrastructure and thereby once again kick start the growth process which has been seriously affected by successive droughts. May I request you to pursue this idea and also make available these funds to States willing to invest in infrastructure for rapid future growth?

2005-2006 is the fourth year of the Tenth Plan. Tamil Nadu is well on its way to achieving the monitorable goals of the Tenth Plan and also the

planned outlay of Rs.40,000 crores for the Tenth Plan which I had set out. As you are no doubt aware, we have reached this position coming out of the morass of a fiscal crisis which enveloped the State by the end of 2000-2001. I am glad we have achieved the Plan outlays set out each year. You will note that Tamil Nadu is one of the very few States which has consistently achieved the approved plan outlay. To ensure this we have implemented the Fiscal Responsibility Act 2003 and we are on track in implementing the Medium Term Fiscal Programme set out under this Act. You will note that we deliver on what we promise.

The mid term review of the Tenth Plan indicates that we have to develop a fresh strategy for rapid economic development. We have proceeded to do so. This strategy includes reinvigorating agricultural growth, improving the investment climate to facilitate accelerated growth in manufacturing and services, achieving fiscal correction and stabilization and above all ensuring poverty reduction. We have refashioned our economic strategy keeping these major objectives in mind.

First and foremost we have to impart new momentum to the Primary Sector. Tamil Nadu has had to face three successive drought years. This has led to a sharp contraction in agricultural output and income. This year with a good North East Monsoon so far, we hope to see the Primary Sector rebound and register good growth. The experience of successive droughts and the acute water crisis confronting Tamil Nadu, which has one of the lowest per capita water availability in the country, has made me refashion our cropping strategy. I have placed the greatest emphasis on crop diversification, going in for less water intensive crops such as sweet sorghum, sugar beet and jatropha and connecting this to a bio-fuel manufacturing programme. The crop diversification programme also places emphasis on higher value addition through a focus on horticulture.

I have also launched a Comprehensive Wasteland Development Programme to bring nearly two million hectares of current fallow and permanent fallow lands lying waste under green cover in phases. This year we will register good progress under this Programme. Our new strategy for the Primary Sector thus involves crop diversification, new technologies for higher farm productivity, better communication techniques for quicker adoption of new practices, efficient management of available water and improved market access.

A major growth constraint is the lack of fresh water. Tamil Nadu has almost entirely exhausted its surface water. No new major and medium irrigation projects are possible. It is in this context that I have been repeatedly asking for the guidelines relating to the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) to be modified, to enable the restoration of traditional water sources to be taken up in Tamil Nadu. I also took up this issue with the Hon'ble Prime Minister when I met him on 16.9.2004. May I request the Deputy Chairman of the Union Planning Commission to intervene and ensure that a water starved State like Tamil Nadu does not get neglected because of the current guidelines under the AIBP, more so with the significant step-up in the allocation for this programme? I request that at least an annual allocation of Rs.200 crores under this programme may be made available to Tamil Nadu with a revised set of guidelines.

I am also keen that we make an early start to the Inter - Linking of Rivers and this can start with the Peninsular River Water Grid linking Mahanadhi with the Gundar river in Tamil Nadu. China has made rapid strides implementing such projects and we should not fall behind.

I also wish to bring to your notice the need to encourage crop diversification by promoting the bio-fuel programme, I have written to the Hon'ble Prime Minister to approve a package of incentives to encourage bio-fuel production. This includes

exemption from import duty on technology and capital goods imported for this programme, treating the bio-fuel industry on par with the Infrastructure Sector like the Power Sector and providing similar concessions, exemption of bio-fuels from Union Excise Duty, and exemption of imported feedstock from Import Duty. The crisis caused by repeated increases in petroleum prices has to be addressed on a long term basis by giving maximum encouragement to the bio - fuel programme. May I request the Deputy Chairman of the Union Planning Commission to have this matter studied in depth so that a suitable package of incentives can be announced quickly?

I entirely agree with the views that you have expressed recently that the manufacturing sector has to be provided fresh momentum. I have set out a new Industrial Policy 2003 for Tamil Nadu. Initiating State level reforms, this policy framework places the focus on provision of quality infrastructure, adequate energy supply together with a focus on its reliability and quality, labour reforms encouraging mobility, deregulation and governance reforms to reduce transaction time and cost, and State level tax reforms. I am glad to inform you that we are making systematic progress on each of these issues and these reforms are yielding results.

Provision of world Class infrastructure is a must, if we are to compete with other economies in the world market. While Public Sector investment has to continue in a big way, we are also encouraging investments through Public - Private partnerships. Tamil Nadu is the pioneer in several such initiatives. I find that Public Sector investment is constrained by a ceiling on the borrowings of the State Government and Public Sector undertakings. There has to be transparency and clarity in arriving at any such debt ceiling and enough headroom to invest infrastructure has to be provided.

I know you have some concerns regarding the Power Sector. The Tamil Nadu Electricity Board,

which is a vertically integrated organization, has the distinction of providing reliable and quality energy to its consumers. 61% of the energy is metered, which is the highest in the country. Transmission and distribution losses are the lowest in the country. Despite this record, I am surprised to find that the assistance under Accelerated Power Development Reform Programme (APDRP) has been reduced considerably. May I request you to restore this? Issues in the Power Sector such as pricing of electricity for different consumers, unbundling and introduction of competition, universal metering are all quite complex. In view of the successive droughts and the sharp contraction in the agricultural output due to the water crisis, we have to nurse the Farm Sector and consequently reforms will have to be calibrated. May I request the Deputy Chairman to use his good offices to initiate a consultation process on all these complex issues relating to the power sector, so that a genuine national consensus can be arrived at in due course?

I wish to establish the Chennai Metropolitan Area as among the best cities in the world, attracting the very best talent. It is for this reason that I launched a Ten Year Investment Plan for the Chennai Metropolitan Area with an outlay of Rs.18,000 crores in 2003 - 2004. This has yielded good results. On a fresh assessment, I find the infrastructure needs are much more and have to be addressed quickly. I understand that you are looking into the needs of Delhi and Mumbai. The Chennai Metropolitan Area should not get ignored. May I request that the Chennai Metropolitan Area be included in this programme? May I also request your good offices for the clearance of a new International Airport of World class standards at Chennai?

Tamil Nadu, particularly Chennai, is attracting Information Technology investments in a big way. We are undertaking major investments in infrastructure to handle the huge expansion. This, you will appreciate, calls for a lot of investment by



the Government. Unfortunately, Tamil Nadu and Chennai in particular, do not get rewarded in any manner including revenues to the State for this effort. May I request you to find a solution, enabling such States to get an infrastructure fund linked to performance in this sector?

We are also executing e-governance projects including a State Wide Area Network. May I request special support for these e-governance initiatives?

children. I understand substantial funds have been allocated for this programme. Tamil Nadu is a world famous pioneer in these programmes. Although our annual cost is Rs.844.97 crores on all nutrition interventions, the support we get from the Government of India is meagre, amounting to just Rs.201.17 crores. If we take the primary school component alone, as against the expenditure of Rs.418.77 crores, the support we get is Rs.48.98 crores as the value of the rice provided. May



Tamil Nadu has done extremely well in the Social Sectors and the rapid rise in its ranking in the Human Development Index (HDI) in the last decade from 7 to 3 is indicative of this effort. I am glad to inform you that Tamil Nadu is on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. I have placed maximum emphasis on initiatives such as the Nutritious Noon Meal Programme, Girl Child Protection Scheme, Cradle Baby Scheme, Infant protection and care, reduction of maternal mortality and so on. We are making rapid progress.

The National Common Minimum Programme includes the midday meal programme for school

I request that full assistance for our entire programme be provided?

I find that under the National Common Minimum Programme there is a step-up in the assistance for certain programmes. May I request you to provide Tamil Nadu a substantial step-up in the support under the National Slum Development Programme where the amount allocated has been doubled? I am also glad that the allocation under the National Social Assistance Programme has been stepped up substantially. May I therefore request that an additional allocation of Rs.100 crores be made under the National Social Assistance

Programme for Tamil Nadu? This is required just to clear the arrear claims which are pending to the extent of Rs.80 crores.

The growth prospects of the Tamil Nadu economy which were quite dismal when I assumed office in May 2001, are now looking very bright. We need to be assisted in this effort. I find there is a tendency to penalize the efficient States for their performance and reward the laggard States on grounds of equity. While this argument may have had merit in the past, it is my considered view that the answer does not lie in pumping more funds into these States at the cost of other well performing States. This is what is happening with the big step-up of Rs.1600 crores as Special Plan Assistance. Planned development should not become a process of dragging down those who are doing well. You should take up capacity building and governance reforms in such States to make for better outcomes.

It is in this context that I would like to refer to the clearance of certain externally aided projects for Tamil Nadu. In May 2001, when I assumed office, Tamil Nadu had a very poor pipeline of new projects. With tremendous effort we have built up a new pipeline of major development projects for financing by the World Bank and other multilateral institutions. These include the Health System Project, Poverty Reduction Project, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project, Water Resources Consolidation Project II, Tamil Nadu Urban Development Project III, and Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Project III. Suddenly we are confronted with a new strategy designed to channelise these funds only to certain States, and restricting the same in the case of States like Tamil Nadu. This has to be corrected. May I request you to have this policy revised so that equal opportunity is extended to all States and those with a better record are not denied funds?

We have already forwarded proposals to the Union Planning Commission for the development of the "Eastern Ghats" and the "Coastal Areas" at a cost of Rs.411 crores and Rs.265.50 crores respectively for special funding. I would like to use this opportunity to request the Deputy Chairman to kindly consider the above two proposals, which will conserve our natural resources and preserve the ecology of these areas, besides leading to the economic uplift of the people.

I would now like to turn to the question of resources for the Plan. As you may have observed, we have done very well in setting right the State's finances and generating resources for implementing the State Plan without any shortfall. I am confident that Tamil Nadu can move to a higher growth trajectory if we are given full support for implementing the Plan. We are targeting a Plan outlay of more than Rs.9000 crores for 2005-2006 and the assessment of resources indicates that this is feasible. But this requires your full support in the form of a bigger step-up in Normal Central Assistance. May I also request a special allocation under "Other Central Assistance" particularly from the special allotment that you have? Tamil Nadu's fiscal rating is the best in the country. May I therefore also request that Tamil Nadu be given an additional allocation of market borrowings of Rs.300 crores? With this support we can definitely aim at a higher Plan outlay in 2005-2006 to impart fresh momentum to the growth process in Tamil Nadu.

*Speech made by Selvi J JAYALALITHAA  
Hon'ble Chief Minister during  
discussion with Deputy Chairman,  
Planning Commission at  
New Delhi on 30.11.2004.*

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# 'Tele - Justice' first of its kind in the country



Hon'ble Chief Minister  
Selvi J JAYALALITHAA

I am happy to participate in this Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of the High Courts, which has been convened, to evaluate the progress that we have made in firmly establishing the rule of law in the country, to chart out a new road map for the speedy resolution of disputes that would reinforce the majesty of the rule of law in the minds of the people. On this occasion, I consider it appropriate to share with you a few thoughts.

The idea of Development as Freedom is one that has been dealt with extensively by economists like Amartya Sen, who has linked the rights and opportunities of citizens in terms of political freedom, economic opportunities, social facilities, transparency

guarantees and protective security, as interlinked factors that contribute to the enhancement of human freedom. It seems to me that in civil society, apart from the five freedoms listed by Amartya Sen, the access or the capability to access the justice system must be viewed as an equally defining right that would enhance the freedom of the individual. The Constitution of this Country, no doubt, grants all individuals the Fundamental Right to Equality before the Law. However, there is no doubt that the same socio-economic factors that lead to the relative deprivation of the weaker sections of Society in being unable to access the educational system or the public healthcare system or even the market, also equally apply to their capacity to access the system of justice at various levels. This leads to a situation where the economic or political rights are taken away from them, because of their limited ability to seek speedy and effective judicial redress, by reason of ignorance, high costs and the inability to sustain themselves during prolonged litigation.

It is in this context that this Conference will have to assess whether we are adequately prepared and equipped to uphold the majesty of the rule of law, to sustain the fairness of our criminal justice system, which have been set out as guiding principles by the Founding Fathers of the Nation in the Constitution of India.

The Constitution of India is a brilliant tapestry, weaving into it the co-ordinated interplay of the three instrumentalities of the State, namely the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary. It has built in a system of checks and balances in a harmonious blend such that the domain of each wing is not





disrupted by the other. While the Executive has to maintain law and public order by keeping disruptive forces at bay, and strive to bring about rapid economic growth, and thereby provide a congenial atmosphere for both the Legislature, and the Judiciary to function, it is necessary that each institution should respect the other's domain, eschewing transgressions.

Before going to the specific subjects listed in the agenda, I would like to briefly dwell on the pith and substance of what this Conference should signify. It should signal an era where we can truly break free from the injustice manifest in William Gladstone's aphorism that, "Justice delayed, is justice denied". It would seem that we are inexorably caught up in the pendency of litigation before the Courts. The need of the hour is to infuse speed in disposal so that there is no disenchantment with the system. Therefore, an onerous duty is cast upon this Conference to devise new instrumentalities and approaches to seek and attain a dramatic reduction in the pendency before Courts.

Most States of the Union have a severely strained financial position and are faced with the compulsion to expend whatever resources they have on direct interventions for the poor and needy.

My Government has consistently ensured that the maximum resources are made available for the judicial system in Tamil Nadu. Funds to the extent of Rs.65.44 crores have been made available for the establishment of the Bench of the High Court of Madras at Madurai. This prestigious project has been completed and was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India on 24.7.2004. It fulfills a long pending demand of the people of the Southern districts of Tamil Nadu. This shows our commitment to the rule of law and administration of justice, as we have continuously provided unstinted support and resources for this project. It is a matter of pride that the Madras High Court has achieved the distinction of being one of the few High Courts in the country to record a higher rate of disposal per High Court Judge.

I consider that a liberal scheme of Central Government support to tackle the huge pendency of cases in a time bound manner is a must, if we are not to be mere by-standers watching the backlog grow. May I, therefore, suggest that a clear decision on an appropriate scheme of Central support for the establishment of new courts with adequate facilities be finalised as part of this Conference?

I have been passionate about securing the goal of true gender equity in Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu is undoubtedly the leading State in attaining the goal of equality before law for women. I have consciously promoted the achievement of this goal by taking the lead in the establishment of All Women Police Stations, Mahila Courts and Family Courts. I launched the first All Women Police Station in India in 1992. Today, I have ensured that in every operational Police Sub-Division, there is an All Women Police Station. A total of 195 such Police Stations entirely staffed by women have been established so far in the State. I have also established Mobile Counselling Centres, which constitute an outreach service to create greater awareness among women, so that they can come forward to put forth their grievances without fear of persecution. This awareness has resulted in a new demand for speedy redressal of grievances. Consequently, my Government has already established 6 Mahila Courts. I have recently given directions to constitute two more Mahila Courts, one at Cuddalore and another at Perambalur. May I suggest that the Ministry of Law and Justice approach the Twelfth Finance Commission to set apart adequate funds for all the States to establish at least one Mahila Court in each district, as part of the programme of upgradation of the standards of administration? This is an imperative need if we are to effectively deal with gender inequity, discrimination and

persecution that are deeply embedded in our Society.

We have also established 6 Family Courts under the Family Courts Act, 1984, in Tamil Nadu. Even though it is mandatory to establish such Courts only in Cities where the population exceeds 1 million, I am glad to indicate that we have established Family Courts in Cities like Madurai, Coimbatore and Salem where the population has not yet crossed 1 million. I am also happy to state that from the level of 4897 cases in 2001, which were disposed of by these Family Courts, the disposal has gone up to 7163 cases in 2003, and during 2004, 7381 cases have been disposed of so far. Unfortunately, the Centrally Sponsored Scheme introduced in 2002 - 2003 does not support the States which had established Family Courts even earlier. May I suggest that the Central Government also bring into the ambit of this scheme such Family Courts as have been already established, even prior to the launch of the scheme, and to provide them with funds? I also consider that the scale of assistance is very meagre and needs to be enhanced. A liberal scheme will enable the States to establish Family Courts in many more districts rapidly.

My Government has accorded priority to the Modernization Programme in order to facilitate the speedy disposal of cases and eliminate delays inherent in the due process of law. I am glad to inform this august assembly that Tamil Nadu is the first State in the Country to establish a "Tele Justice" System, which connects 9 prisons, including two exclusive prisons for women and 270 Courts in Tamil Nadu. This facility, which has been established at a cost of Rs.8.61 crores, covers 78 locations in the State and enables remand extension of prisoners, even while they remain in the prison premises, by the Judicial Magistrates seated in their Court

Chambers, through Video Conferencing. The cumbersome process of escort and production of prisoners before the Judicial Magistrates in the Courts is thus dispensed with. It is a win-win system since, not only does it eliminate the possibility of escape of prisoners during transit, or the possible smuggling of contraband into the prison premises, and overcrowding of Courts, but also results in substantial savings in the expenditure on the manpower involved in escort and fuel cost. I commend this scheme for adoption by other States and request the Government of India to liberally assist the State Governments in this regard.

Realising the importance of Information Technology, my Government has already provided, Rs.2.80 crores, which includes Rs.1.42 crores being the Government of India's share for the computerization of the High Court of Madras, and the High Court Bench at Madurai. However, we must go even further and implement a project to provide end-to-end IT solutions. Two such project proposals, for the High Court of Madras at a cost of Rs.5 crores, and another project for the High Court Bench at Madurai at a cost of Rs.2.54 crores, have been sent to the Government of India for sanction under the Centrally Sponsored scheme. May I request their early clearance?

Repairs to several dilapidated old buildings where many Courts are functioning have to be carried out. It is also important that adequate housing facilities are provided for judicial officers. My Government has sent a detailed proposal for the construction of Court Buildings and houses for the judicial officers at a cost of Rs.140 crores. It is my firm view that the Government of India should provide substantial assistance to the State to implement these proposals.

Tamil Nadu is in the forefront in the establishment of Fast Track Courts and so far, we have established 49 Fast Track Courts. This has enabled the disposal of 1,05,395 cases, which is the best performance in the country. We must sustain this momentum. Therefore, the Government of India should continue the funding of these Fast Track Courts beyond 31.3.2005 also, by an adequately funded scheme. If such financial support is forthcoming, it will be possible for us to increase the number of Fast Track Courts as has been requested by the High Court of Madras.

In Tamil Nadu, we have placed great emphasis on various Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms. The Lok Adalat scheme under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, has registered tremendous progress. We have recently provided an exclusive building for the State Legal Services Authority at a cost of Rs.1.85 crores. We have, also launched a scheme to build proper Legal Aid Centres in each District Court Complex. This is to facilitate the conduct of the Lok Adalat. We have also gone down to the Taluk level and 141 Taluk level Legal Service Committees are functioning.

Spreading legal awareness and creating legal literacy has been taken up as a campaign by the State Legal Services Authority. An Information, Education and Communication campaign has been launched by using different communication techniques, including the mass media, CDs, booklets and documentaries. A legal literacy campaign has already been held in 14,184 habitations in Tamil Nadu. The Lok Adalat has also been extended to cover new areas, including cases relating to the Negotiable Instruments Act. Special Lok Adalat are also held to settle cases relating to Public Sector Undertakings. I believe that we must



effectively implement a system of legal education which goes beyond legal literacy so that all citizens are aware of their rights as well as their duties. This should enable them to seek proper redress of infringement of their rights. Conciliation as a means of settlement of disputes, avoiding expensive litigation, should be encouraged.

The Prisoner's Adalat scheme is doing well in Tamil Nadu. First started in the Central Prison, Chennai, it has now been extended to other Central Prisons. This has proved to be a useful facility that allows prisoners easier access to the Presiding Officers of the Courts.

The independence of the Judiciary is the corner-stone of our Constitution. In order to ensure this independence to uphold the majesty of law, several reforms are required in the service conditions of the Judiciary. We ought to raise the retirement age of a Judge of the High Court from 62 years to 65 years,

and a Judge of the Supreme Court from 65 years to 67 years, in order to utilize their rich experience. The Judges of the Superior Judiciary should be treated as a completely different class, and I have no hesitation in affirming that they should be given all the benefits, including the provision, even after retirement, of all facilities that they received while in service, including pension at the level of the last pay drawn, vehicle, personal staff etc. After retirement, many Judges render invaluable service heading Commissions and Tribunals. It is but appropriate that they are extended the same facilities and privileges as serving Judges.

There has to be a special provision of at least Rs.50,000/- per year per Judge, to enable the Superior Judiciary to keep up-to-date with the latest law books, periodicals and journals. Governments should provide full support to enable Judges to attend Conferences at National and International levels, with no ceiling on such visits abroad. This facility should be extended to retired



Judges as well. We should utilize the services of retired Judges of the Superior Judiciary, drawing on their rich, experience. They should automatically be the first choice for appointment to high offices such as Ambassadors, Governors, etc.

I have briefly covered the issues listed in the agenda before us today. In the light of the Supreme Court's observations, every effort has been taken in Tamil Nadu to provide better amenities, service conditions and emoluments to judicial officers. States will have to be supported with a liberal scheme of financial assistance under various heads, which I have already outlined. I would once again like to reiterate the need for a completely new Centrally Sponsored Scheme to provide for the establishment of new Courts, including Fast Track Courts. This alone will enable fresh momentum to be imparted.

This Conference is indeed unique, since it brings together the Executive and the Judiciary in one forum, in an effort to evaluate and assess our position, to set out specific action plans geared to ensure the speedy delivery of justice. These deliberations will certainly be useful in providing the acceleration needed in the incessant race to keep up with the huge inflow of new litigation. It is clear that we have to pursue several fast tracks, including Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms, if we are to achieve our common goal of establishing and embellishing the rule of law and justice.

While every effort will be made to provide the resources and the facilities for judicial administration to function effectively, it is ultimately up to the judicial wing to set for itself the highest professional and ethical standards and to maintain them in upholding the majesty of the Rule of Law. It is relevant to note that the accountability and discipline

of the Judiciary must be by means of self-regulation through procedures developed in house. It is not for the Superior Judiciary to be regulated by any external authority. We have every belief and confidence that the self-regulation exercised by the Superior Judiciary will only embellish and enhance the lustre of the Judiciary.

For all of us in public life, whether we serve the people of this country as leaders who have been elected to power, or as public servants appointed to serve them or even as those who rise to the Bench to dispense justice, I wish to put before you, the words of Henry Brougham and I quote, "It was the boast of Augustus that he found Rome of brick and left it of marble. But how much nobler will be the sovereign's boast when he shall have it to say that he found law ... a sealed book and left it a living letter; found it the patrimony of the rich and left it the inheritance of the poor; found it the two-edged sword of craft and oppression and left it the staff of honesty and the shield of innocence". (Unquote)

Cicero has said; "The Welfare of the people is the ultimate law". I believe that in a democracy, the *raison d'être* of government is the welfare of the people and all laws must be made only for the good of the people. It is a sacred duty cast upon the Legislature. The same holds good for the other pillar of our democracy - the Judiciary. It will, therefore, be our common endeavour to provide all the necessary facilities and support needed, not only for the speedy disposal of cases, but also to achieve a qualitative improvement in the dispensation of justice.

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*Speech delivered by*  
**Selvi J JAYALALITHAA,**  
*Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu*  
*at the Conference of Chief Ministers and*  
*Chief Justices of High Courts held*  
*on 18.9.2004 at New Delhi.*



## Hon'ble Chief Minister SELVI J JAYALALITHAA inaugurates TICEL BIO PARK

**H**on'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa inaugurated the TICEL Bio Park (Tidco Centre for Life Sciences) set up at a cost of Rs.62.5 crores with technical assistance from the Cornell University, USA, at Taramani, Chennai on 10.11.2004.

Hon'ble Chief Minister had laid foundation for the Bio Park on 22.4.2003 in order to provide a park with world class infrastructural facilities for research in Life Sciences which would generate thousands of employment opportunities.

TICEL Bio Park has been built at an outlay of Rs.62.5 crores by the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO) with the technical assistance of Cornell University of USA in an area of 1,32,642 sq. feet with 6 floors.

The ground floor with an area of 22,000 sq. feet, houses the Bio Resource Centre with six modern laboratories for the research activities in Microbiology and Fermentation, Molecular Biology, Plant Tissue Culture, Animal Tissue Culture, Downstream Processing and analysis. A training centre with video conferencing facility has also been set up in this floor.

The other five floors would be allocated to companies involved in bio technology research for

rent, lease or they can buy the required space. All the floors adhere to Bio Safety Levels (BSL - 2 and BSL - 3) in accordance with international standards, facilities like protected drinking water, compressed air, vacuum facilities and de-mineralised water have been provided. The labs have been provided with centralised air conditioner with 100 percent power back up and waste treatment and disposal facility. Rain water harvesting structures have also been built.

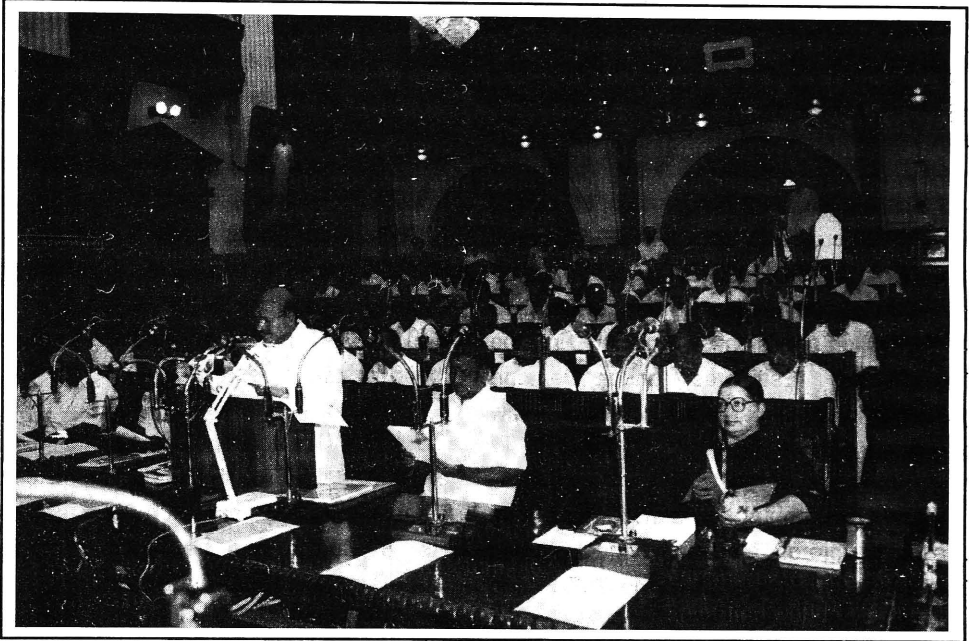
This TICEL Bio Park would generate 1,500 direct and indirect employment opportunities in the first phase. It is expected that by these activities Tamil Nadu would earn bio technology investment of Rs. 1,000 crores in 5 years time.

This world class TICEL Bio Park was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 10.11.2004. Hon'ble Minister for Industries Thiru. Nainar Nagendran, Chief Secretary Tmt. Lakshmi Pranesh I.A.S., Finance Secretary Thiru N. Narayanan I.A.S., Industries Secretary Thiru. Ramesh Ram Misra I.A.S., and Managing Director, Tidel Bio Park Thiru K.R.Viswanathan participated in the function.

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# SECOND SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES FOR 2004 - 2005

*Thiru. C. PONNAIYAN Hon'ble Minister for Finance*



**I** rise to present the Second Supplementary Estimates for the year 2004-2005. A detailed statement explaining the demand for Supplementary Grants is placed on the table of the House. The Supplementary Estimates placed before the House are for a sum of Rs.60.35 crores. Of this, a sum of Rs.53.12 crores is in the Revenue Account and the balance amount of Rs.7.23 crores is in the Capital and Loan Accounts.

The Supplementary Estimates are being presented mainly to obtain the approval of the Legislature for expenditure on "New

Service" incurred through advances from the Contingency Fund since the presentation of First Supplementary Estimates for this financial year on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2004 and to enable recoupment of the Contingency Fund.

To provide relief to Fishermen, Government has sanctioned a sum of Rs.1.83 crores as grant towards reimbursement of Central Excise duty on High Speed Diesel Oil supplied to the mechanised fishing vessels below 20 meter length. A sum of Rs.1.83 crores has been given as advance from the Contingency Fund to meet the expenditure initially. A sum of Rs. 1.83 crores has been

included in the Supplementary Estimates under "Demand No.7 - Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Department - Fisheries".

As a process of strengthening the Medical facilities in Government hospitals, Government has sanctioned a sum of Rs.1.95 crores for procurement of equipments to Government Rajaji Hospital, Madurai. A sum of Rs.1.95 crores has been included in the Supplementary Estimates under "Demand No.18 - Health and Family Welfare Department".

The Government has sanctioned a sum of Rs.369.90 crores to undertake 26 important Road works within the Chennai Metropolitan Area. This is to help improve traffic flow in these roads. A token provision is included in the Supplementary Estimates under "Demand No.20 - Highways Department" as this is a New Service.

The Government has sanctioned a sum of Rs.22.71 crores towards payment of cash award of Rs.3 lakhs each to the 757 Police Officers/Police men, who were deployed to the Special Task Force which has undertaken the successful operation for eliminating the forest brigand Veerappan and his gang. A sum of Rs.22.71 crores has been given as advance from the Contingency Fund to meet the expenditure initially. A sum of Rs.22.71 crores has been included in the Supplementary Estimates under "Demand No.21 - Home Department - Police".

In order to strengthen the infrastructure facilities of Government Medical Colleges and Hospitals, the Government has sanctioned a sum of Rs.187.29 crores for construction of College and Hospital buildings at Government Tirunelveli Medical College and

Hospital, Tirunelveli, Kanniyakumari Medical College and Hospital at Asaripallam in Kanniyakumari District, Government Thoothukudi Medical College and Hospital, Thoothukudi, Government Vellore Medical College and Hospital, Vellore and the Government Medical College and Hospital, Theni. A token sum of Rs.6,000 has been included in the Supplementary Estimates under "Demand No.38 - Public Works Department". Necessary funds will be provided based on progress of works.

A sum of Rs.15.61 crores is additionally required for the implementation of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan scheme. A token sum of Rs.2,000 is included in the Supplementary Estimates under "Demand No.41. School Education Department" and the rest will be found by reappropriation.

The Government has sanctioned a sum of Rs.87 lakhs for the rejuvenation camp of elephants for the year 2004-2005. A sum of Rs. 87 lakhs has been included in the Supplementary Estimates under "Demand No.45 - Tamil Development-Culture and Religious Endowments Department - Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments".

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I commend the Second Supplementary Estimates for 2004-2005 for the acceptance of the House.

- Speech of Thiru C.Ponnaiyan,  
Hon'ble Minister for Finance  
presenting the  
Second Supplementary  
Estimates for the year 2004-2005  
to the Tamil Nadu Legislative  
Assembly on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2004.



# **REVIEW OF TRENDS IN RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE IN RELATION TO THE BUDGET 2004-2005**

**T**he Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly has enacted the Tamil Nadu Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2003 (Act No. 16 of 2003).

According to Section 6 (2) of this Act, the Minister-in-charge of the Department of Finance shall review every half year, the trends in receipts and expenditure in relation to the Budget, remedial measures to be taken to achieve the Budget targets and place before the Legislative Assembly, the outcome of such reviews. Section 6 (3) of the Tamil Nadu Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2003, states that while placing before the Legislative Assembly the outcome of such review, the Minister shall make a statement explaining:

- a) Any deviation in meeting the obligations cast on the State Government under this Act,
- b) Whether such deviation is substantial and relates to the actual or the potential budgetary outcomes, and
- c) The remedial measures the State Government proposes to take.

The Minister for Finance, Government of Tamil Nadu, conducted a review of half

yearly trends in receipts and expenditure in relation to the Budget 2004-2005 on November 12, 2004. The outcome of this review is placed before the Legislative Assembly.

## **REVIEW OF REVENUE RECEIPTS**

The total revenue receipts of the Government include the following :

- a) Tamil Nadu's Share in Central Taxes
- b) State's Own Tax Revenues
- c) State's Non-Tax Revenues
- d) Grants-in-Aid from the Government of India.

The Budget for 2004-2005 estimates total revenue receipts of Rs.24,792.30 crores. According to the pre-actuals till end-September 2004, the Total Revenue Receipts of the State Government were Rs. 12,519.30 crores.

Thus, the Total Revenue Receipts till 30<sup>th</sup> September 2004, constitute 50.50 percent of the projections in the Budget Estimates. The following table provides details of the Total Revenue Receipts of the State Government in relation to the Budget Estimates of 2004-2005.

| TRENDS IN TOTAL REVENUE RECEIPTS OF GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU UPTO 30.9.2004 |                                        |                    |                            |                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
|                                                                             |                                        | B.E.2004-2005      | Pre-Actuals till 30.9.2004 | % of Budget Estimates |
|                                                                             |                                        | (Rupees in crores) |                            |                       |
| 1.                                                                          | Share in Central Taxes                 | 3709.82            | 1849.88                    | 49.86                 |
| 2.                                                                          | States Own Tax Revenues                | 17438.64           | 9086.10                    | 52.10                 |
| 3.                                                                          | State's Non-Tax Revenues               | 1899.90            | 1028.47                    | 54.13                 |
| 4.                                                                          | Grants-In-Aid from Government of India | 1743.94            | 554.85                     | 31.82                 |
| 5.                                                                          | Total Revenue Receipts                 | 24792.30           | 12519.30                   | 50.50                 |

**a) Share in Central Taxes:** Based on the Government of India's Budget Estimates 2004-2005 presented in July, 2004, the anticipated Share of Tamil Nadu in Central Taxes is Rs.4430.84 crores. This is higher than that estimated in the State's Budget Estimates, namely, Rs.3709.82 crores. This is worked out on the basis of the principles set out by the Eleventh Finance Commission. Tamil Nadu's Share in the divisible pool of net Central Taxes has been fixed at 5.385 percent by the Eleventh Finance Commission.

The receipts till end-September 2004 have been Rs. 1849.88 crores. This is 49.86 percent of the Budget Estimates. The final position will only be known after the Government of India finalises its Revised Estimates for the current year based on trends in the collection of Central Taxes.

**b) State's Own Tax Revenues:** The following table highlights the trends in collection of State's Own Tax Revenues.

| COLLECTION OF STATE'S OWN TAX REVENUE UPTO 30.9.2004 |                            |                 |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| (Rupees in crores)                                   |                            |                 |
| BE 2004-2005                                         | Collection up to 30.9.2004 | % of collection |
| 17,438.64                                            | 9,086.10                   | 52.10%          |

The Minister for Finance reviewed the trends in collection of the State's Own Tax Revenues. The summary of this review is given below.

Receipts under State's Own Tax Revenue till end-September 2004, according to pre-actuals, is Rs.9086.10 crores. This shows

an overall growth of 19.85 percent over the receipts in the previous year during the first six months.

The receipts from Stamps and Registration, Sales Tax & Entry Tax and other taxes and duties on commodities and services are keeping in line with the Budget Estimates.

### DETAILS OF COLLECTION OF STATE'S OWN TAX REVENUES UPTO 30.9.2004

| State Taxes                                                                                                                               | B.E.<br>2004-2005 | Collections up to<br>30.9.2004 | % of B.E     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| (Rs. in Crores)                                                                                                                           |                   |                                |              |
| Agricultural Income Tax                                                                                                                   | 0.00              | 0.29                           | —            |
| Land Revenue                                                                                                                              | 21.43             | 14.74                          | 68.78        |
| Stamps and Registration                                                                                                                   | 1350.23           | 736.68                         | 54.56        |
| Taxes on immovable property other than<br>Agricultural Land                                                                               | 14.72             | 5.97                           | 40.56        |
| State Excise                                                                                                                              | 2350.59           | 1060.25                        | 45.11        |
| Taxes on Vehicles                                                                                                                         | 1101.11           | 530.50                         | 48.18        |
| Taxes and duties on Electricity                                                                                                           | 222.72            | 93.02                          | 41.77        |
| Sales Tax and Entry Taxes                                                                                                                 | 12322.32          | 6571.60                        | 53.33        |
| Other taxes, and duties on Commodities and Services                                                                                       | 55.52*            | 73.05 *                        | 131.57 *     |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                                                                              | <b>17438.64</b>   | <b>9086.10</b>                 | <b>52.10</b> |
| * B.E. 2004 - 2005 is net receipt after devolution to respective local bodies whereas actuals upto September 2004 are the gross receipts. |                   |                                |              |

It is expected that State Excise Receipts will go up in the second half of the financial year with payment of the dues by TASMAL under special privilege fee.

Electricity Tax receipts have been lower than the Budget Estimates due to the retention of the collected tax by the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board. Electricity Tax is being remitted with a lag. With the collection of arrears during the second half of the financial year, the Budget Estimates are likely to be achieved.

**c) State's Non-Tax Revenues :** The collections till end-September 2004 are Rs.1028.47 crores against the Budget Estimates of Rs.1899.90 crores. Thus, the collection in the first half-year is 54.13 percent of the receipt estimates under Non-Tax Revenues. This shows a growth of 31.88 percent over the receipts during the first six months of the previous financial year.

#### **d) Grants-in-aid from Government of India:**

As against the estimate of Rs. 1743.94 crores in the Budget Estimates, total grants-in-aid receipts from Government of India till September 2004 have been Rs. 554.85 crores. This is 31.82 percent of the Budget Estimates. The bulk of the Grants-in-aid are received in the fourth quarter.

Overall the Total Revenue Receipts are likely to exceed the Budget Estimates and there will not be any shortfall. Total Revenue Receipts upto 30<sup>th</sup> September 2004 are showing a healthy growth of 23.42 percent over the collections during the first six months of the last financial year.

#### **REVIEW OF EXPENDITURE**

The Budget Estimates 2004-2005 provides Rs.28128.73 crores towards Revenue

expenditure. Further, the First Supplementary Estimates 2004-2005 provides Rs. 1008.21 crores towards Revenue expenditure. The Revenue expenditure till end-September 2004, according to pre-actuals, is estimated at Rs. 12056.80 crores. This is 41.38 percent of the total appropriation for Revenue expenditure. The Revenue expenditure till end-September 2003, was Rs. 10954.06 crores. Thus, the growth of Revenue expenditure over the previous year during the first half of the fiscal year is 10.07 percent.

The Budget Estimates 2004-2005 provides Rs.3335.01 crores towards Capital expenditure and Rs.250.33 crores towards Loans and Advances (net). The First Supplementary Estimates 2004-2005 provides Rs.595.89 crores towards Capital and Loan expenditure. The Capital expenditure including Loans and Advances (Net) till end-September 2004, according to the pre-actuals, is estimated at Rs. 1004.59

crores. This is 24.03 percent of the total appropriation available in Capital and Loan accounts.

The performance against the Plan outlay of Rs.8001.08 crores in 2004-2005 has been reviewed. The Plan achievement in the current year, for the first six months, has been 36.03 percent against the targeted outlay. This is keeping to the usual trend and the plan outlay for 2004-2005 will be achieved.

In 2003-2004, against a Plan target of Rs. 7000 crores, the total achievement till September 2003 was 36.60 percent. The Plan performance in the current year is almost at the same level as in the first half of the previous year. Instructions have been given to ensure that the Plan performance of Rs.8001.08 crores in 2004-2005 is realised.

The Plan performance in the first half of the current financial year is summarised below:

| <b>ANNUAL PLAN 2004-2005 (Expenditure up to 30.9.2004)</b> |                                 |                                |                                        |                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>(Rs. In Crores)</b>                                     |                                 |                                |                                        |                          |
|                                                            | <b>Sector</b>                   | <b>Estimates<br/>2004-2005</b> | <b>Expenditure<br/>up to 30.9.2004</b> | <b>%of<br/>Estimates</b> |
| 1                                                          | Agriculture and Allied Services | 622.51                         | 77.92                                  | 12.52                    |
| 2                                                          | Rural Development               | 892.62                         | 282.03                                 | 31.60                    |
| 3                                                          | Irrigation and Flood Control    | 539.53                         | 88.01                                  | 16.31                    |
| 4                                                          | Power                           | 1207.71                        | 519.69                                 | 33.03                    |
| 5                                                          | Industry and Minerals           | 321.11                         | 151.15                                 | 47.07                    |
| 6                                                          | Transport and Communication     | 1237.67                        | 334.19                                 | 27.00                    |
| 7                                                          | Science and Technology          | 2.78                           | 0.78                                   | 27.96                    |
| 8                                                          | General Economic Services       | 66.00                          | 47.60                                  | 72.12                    |
| 9                                                          | Social Services                 | 2958.10                        | 1362.32                                | 46.05                    |
| 10                                                         | General Services                | 153.05                         | 19.21                                  | 12.55                    |
|                                                            | <b>Total</b>                    | <b>8001.08</b>                 | <b>2882.90</b>                         | <b>36.03</b>             |



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## OVERALL FISCAL SUMMARY

The Government has presented a Medium Term Fiscal Plan (MTFP) to set right the fiscal health of the State in line with the targets set out in the Tamil Nadu Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2003 (as amended) namely to bring down the Revenue deficit below 5 percent of Total Revenue Receipts and the Fiscal Deficit to 3 percent of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) by March 2008. The guiding principle of the MTFP is to correct the fiscal imbalance without affecting the interests of the poor and the disadvantaged sections of the society.

The Revenue Deficit on Total Revenue Receipts was 23.28 percent in the year 2002-2003. As per Budget Estimates 2004-2005, the Revenue Deficit on Total Revenue Receipts was estimated at 13.46 percent as against the ultimate target of 5 percent to be reached by 2007-2008. Likewise, Fiscal Deficit in 2002-2003 was 4.39 percent of the Gross State Domestic Product. It was estimated to be 3.86 percent in the Budget Estimates 2004-2005 as against the target of 3 percent by 2007-2008.

The Budget for 2004-2005 had estimated a Revenue Deficit of Rs. 3336.43 crores. The Budget Estimates for 2004-2005 had forecast an overall deficit of Rs.590.47 crores. Together with the additional commitment of Rs. 1434.48 crores in the first and second supplementary estimates the projected overall deficit for the year 2004-2005 would have gone up considerably.

However by undertaking a series of measures and the improvements in the year,

it is now anticipated that the Revenue Deficit and the overall Deficit will be within the levels set out originally in the Budget Estimates 2004-2005.

As per the pre-actuals available till 30<sup>th</sup> September 2004 the growth in Total Revenue Receipts is higher than that of Total Revenue Expenditure. Eventhough there are higher expenditure commitments in the second half of the financial year based on the supplementary estimates, the overall trend reflected in the data for the first half year upto 30<sup>th</sup> September 2004 indicates that there will be an improvement over the estimates of Revenue Deficit and Total Deficit for the entire year 2004-2005.

The Medium Term Fiscal Plan presented along with the Budget Estimates 2004-2005 gives the road map for further fiscal correction towards attaining the targets prescribed in the Tamil Nadu Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2003. As a measure towards greater fiscal transparency, the Government has posted Budget related statistics and information on the Web to enable greater public debate and participation.

This Review for the period ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2004 indicates that the fiscal goals and trends set out in the Medium Term Fiscal Plan are being maintained.

**C. PONNAIYAN**

MINISTER FOR FINANCE

17th November 2004

\* \* \*

# TAMIL NADU HAS BEEN RANKED AS A “LEADER” STATE IN e - READINESS AND e - GOVERNANCE

- Hon'ble Chief Minister SELVI J JAYALALITHAA



**I** am glad that the Third India - ASEAN Business Summit has been organised today at Chennai, India's Eastern Gateway to the World. I welcome this opportunity to meet with all of you at this Summit, which has been organised jointly by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and the Confederation of Indian Industry, in association with the Ministries of External Affairs and Commerce & Industry, and the Government of Tamil Nadu. At the outset, I wish to extend my greetings and welcome to all the delegates, including Ministers from ASEAN countries, who

are assembled here today in our elegant city of Chennai, in the glorious State of Tamil Nadu.

I have been requested to give the keynote address at this Summit, at a time when there is a flurry of activity between ASEAN countries and India. As I was reflecting on what is significant about this summit, and in fact, about this continuing dialogue, I was struck by the recurring theme of mutual interdependence, in a new global order. There was a time when India with its large population, did believe it could cocoon itself in a totally isolationist mode. Those days

are gone. Since 1991, India has been integrating with the rest of the global economy, in a sequence of steps labelled the First Generation Reforms. It was indeed a dramatic change, which prompted many Cassandras to predict doom. It is a tribute to the ingenuity of the Indian people, that they have adjusted to this cataclysmic change with aplomb.

It is against this backdrop of mutual interdependence, that we are gathered here today, to forge new alliances and initiatives, to strengthen the growing relationship between ASEAN and India. To my mind, it is a historical accident that this mutual interdependence between ASEAN and India has had to be reinvented, even though tradition and culture always predicated strong bonds between our nations. This is particularly exemplified by Tamil Nadu, which, as a coastal State, has a glorious tradition of close interaction with ASEAN countries. We have to build on these traditional ties, bringing new vigour to a relationship, which goes back several centuries. This Summit marks another significant milestone in this new journey of regional co-operation and mutual interdependence.

What do we have in common? First and foremost, geography. We are in the Asia-Pacific region and we need to connect. India and the ASEAN recognize the pluralistic nature of our societies, encompassing major religions of the world, and a wealth of diverse cultures. We have a lot in common, in understanding the aspirations of our people, in that particular Asian way which we are all familiar with. We have a common goal of ensuring that we create a modern society, with a high quality of life for our people and yet preserving values, which are dear to us. The very Asian trait of modernity and values, is what really binds us together and will, I am sure, add depth and vibrancy to our relationship.

With tradition and culture behind us, and the common goals of building modern societies nurtured on Asian values, economic ties and co-operation have to march ahead. More than three million people of Indian origin in 10 ASEAN countries are the brand Ambassadors of this new relationship. They are already forging new links and taking across the message of mutual interdependence. We have to build on this. The possibilities are immense. This is particularly true as we are witnessing a new convergence of ideas, after having pursued different paths in the already distant past. More trade and business leads to more economic activity, and is a sure recipe for success. It is important to ensure that the fruits of economic growth and development, brought about by free trade and commerce, reach the rural poor and that it is not at their expense. This is central to the whole thought process, on promoting free trade and mutual interdependence.

There is tremendous potential for building on the progress already achieved, between India and the ASEAN. The two-way trade of about 13 billion US dollars, does not appear commensurate, with the huge potential, provided by the total combined population of 1.5 billion, producing a trillion and half dollars worth of goods and services annually. There are so many opportunities for increasing trade and promoting growth. The best way to go forward is to have active and meaningful interaction with the Chambers of Commerce, and regular exchange of business delegations. A summit such as this, offers a great opportunity to review the entire gamut of activities, and chart out new plans of action.

Given the clear understanding that the ASEAN and India as a dialogue partner, do constitute a major trading formation, we need to look at all possibilities in promoting mutual

interdependence, including Free Trade arrangements. It is on this basis that the framework of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India, and ASEAN, has a built-in exchange of tariff concessions, and elimination of tariffs, on an agreed list of items, based on full reciprocity between India and ASEAN.

Naturally, when the old order is changing, and free trade winds are blowing, there are

Sugar Industry in Tamil Nadu, and the Sugar Industry in Thailand. It is possible to facilitate close interaction, leading to improved performance in the respective regions. Tamil Nadu, with its strength in Engineering and Capital goods, can certainly support new initiatives. We can jointly explore the possibilities of bio-fuel. We can share notes on restructuring the Sugar Industry. Similar is the scope in



bound to be some serious apprehensions. We have to use our ingenuity to smoothen out and calibrate this process, of facilitating free trade in the region. There are several opportunities for close interaction and co-operation. Traders from Tamil Nadu are known to have trade relations with Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Myanmar and other countries in the ASEAN region. Business between India and these Nations was quite famous. It is but natural that these ties are renewed, to promote trade and growth in the region. To my mind, there are several possibilities. Take for example, the

automobile components, leather, textiles, and so on. India, with its tremendous advances in Information Technology, can support the requirements of ASEAN. Thus, it can definitely be a two-way interaction, creating opportunities for all. We have to, of course, modulate these growth impulses with care, so that rural economies do not get rudely disturbed.

I would now like to turn to the second theme, that I wish to highlight in this address, a theme that is my favourite. Anatole France once said, and I wish to quote, "Existence would be



intolerable if we were never to dream". I dream of making Tamil Nadu the Numero Uno State in the country, achieving all round development, leading to prosperity for our people. I would also like to add that because I took the liberty to dream, two of my dreams, have come true. They were two things that everyone said could never happen. Two of my projects, one was the Veeranam Scheme to bring water to Chennai City from Veeranam Lake and the other pet project was the capture and elimination of dreaded forest brigand Veerappan. All political parties, political commentators, arm chair - critics, media persons every one said this will never happen. Veeranam water will never reach Chennai City and Veerappan can never be captured. I have made a success of these two projects. I have successfully brought Veeranam Project to Chennai City, which is now being supplied every day to 7 million people living in this City, and as you all are aware, it is only a day before yesterday our Police, our Special Task Force succeeded in capturing and eliminating the dreaded branded Veerappan who was menace to Society. So, because I had the courage to dream two of my dreams have now come true, and I am sure my other dreams for Tamil Nadu will also be realized in due course. In the wake of the liberalization of the Indian economy in 1991, Tamil Nadu registered rapid growth in the period 1991-1996, when I was Chief Minister. A significant reduction in poverty, together with a remarkable improvement in the human development index resulted. This growth momentum slowed down in the late nineties, and this was followed by successive droughts, affecting the economy. I have had to resurrect the economy with a bold new economic vision, which I have sought to realize with a set of policy reforms. Tamil Nadu is again on the move, with rapid strides with an outward orientation, which

is natural to Tamil Nadu as a Coastal State. This set of reforms encompasses reinvigorating agriculture growth, improving the investment climate for manufacturing and services, achieving fiscal correction and stabilization, and above all ensuring poverty reduction. I have launched this new economic vision statement for Tamil Nadu, with a clear understanding that it will not be easy, but is needed for the long term development of Tamil Nadu.

To make my vision a reality, my Government has initiated a number of innovative policy measures. In the Indian context of populous States, Industry cannot march ahead, unless there is robust all round growth in the Primary Sector, particularly in Agriculture. Tamil Nadu has seven diverse agro climatic conditions, and is a major producer of fruits and vegetables. Abundant agro resource potential offers plenty of opportunities for co-operation with ASEAN. We invite investments in value-added food processing. As we bring in new technologies, and open out the Primary Sector to new markets, the opportunities for growth are bound to be immense. It is for you, the captains of industry, to capitalise on these new opportunities with your investment plans.

My Government is committed to putting through, a package of Second Generation Reforms, with a view to promoting rapid growth in the Manufacturing Sector. This set of reforms includes rapid infrastructure development, assured supply of quality energy, deregulation to reduce transaction time and costs, labour reforms to promote retraining and mobility, and State level tax reforms with an emphasis on simplification of procedures.

My purpose in enunciating a New Industrial Policy 2003, is to strengthen Tamil Nadu's

competitiveness, as a global manufacturing hub. This policy statement sets out a clear road map to reach this goal. The publication brought out by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) for the month of July, 2004, gives the data that Tamil Nadu is among the top States in attracting new investments to the Manufacturing Sector. At the end of July, 2004, total outstanding investment in Tamil Nadu stood at 1,38,151 crore rupees, indicating a share of 8.4 per cent in the total outstanding investments in the Country. Tamil Nadu also ranks among the top three Indian States, in attracting Foreign Direct Investments (FDI). Site evaluation studies of the World Bank, Ford, Hyundai, Saint Gobain, Stanchart, ABN Amro Bank, Xansa, etc. have found Tamil Nadu to be their destination of choice. Tamil Nadu is a leading State in India when it comes to the Manufacturing Sector. Chennai has emerged as the Detroit of South Asia. Ford, the passenger car company has chosen Tamil Nadu for its Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Hyundai, the South Korean car manufacturer has its production facility at Chennai, to export cars to Europe and North American markets. Tamil Nadu is now a major base for manufacturing with 2621 foreign companies, investing more than 251 billion rupees.

Let me give you a quick report card on Tamil Nadu, which will clearly establish the proposition, that Tamil Nadu is the best destination of choice, for investment and trade in India.

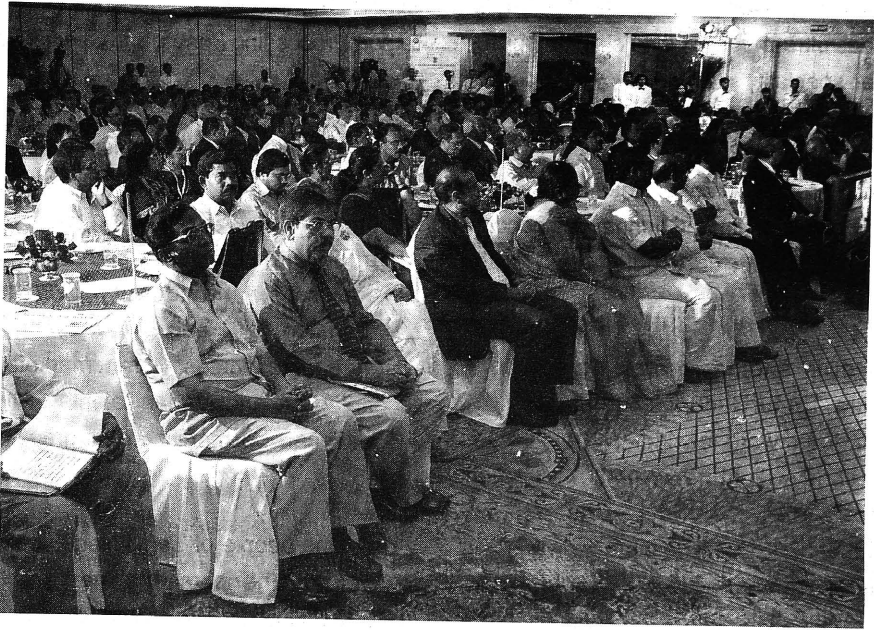
- ★ Perfect maintenance of law and order. Tamil Nadu ranks the best in the country.
- ★ Excellent infrastructure.
- ★ Best human resources, highly talented and the largest in India.

- ★ Inherent strengths in the manufacturing sector, information technology, biotechnology, trade and commerce.
- ★ Clear economic vision with a focus on long term development.
- ★ Coastal State with three major Ports.
- ★ Rapid strides in human development, now ranked third among Indian States.
- ★ Excellent connectivity, making Tamil Nadu, India's real and virtual Eastern Gateway to the rest of the world.

I have always believed in notching up distinctions in the report card. Tamil Nadu clearly achieves distinction in every subject. You will agree that it is a winner all the way.

Tamil Nadu has the best telecommunication connectivity, on par with the best available, anywhere in the world. The submarine Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) network, linking Chennai with Singapore, has the World's largest bandwidth. This has established Tamil Nadu as the best Indian State that is most well connected. Besides, a second submarine cable is being commissioned by VSNL. This will make connectivity a breeze. Bandwidth is no more a barrier and IT projects can have 24 x 7 reliable connectivity.

IT has powered the transformation of Tamil Nadu into a modern economy, clearly making it India's Eastern Gateway to the World, not just South Asia. Tamil Nadu has emerged as the second largest exporter of Software in India, with an annual export performance of about 1.7 Billion US dollars. It also has the finest IT human resources, with World class technical skills and capabilities. Besides, this work force is



disciplined and dedicated. Tamil Nadu has emerged as a very strong global leader, in some specific verticals of the ITES sector. These are Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI), Health Systems Management, Computer Aided Designing (CAD) and Computer Aided Engineering (CAE). Tamil Nadu has been ranked as a "leader" State in e-readiness and e-governance. ASEAN is known for its strengths in electronic hardware. Our strengths in software and your advancements in hardware industry, provide a win-win situation for us to foster mutual co-operation.

Tamil Nadu's TICEL Bio-Park, built at a cost of 12.5 Million US dollars (Rs.62.5 crores), according to the design and technical parameters provided by the Cornell University of the USA, is now ready, providing a platform for transforming bio-tech research into commercial technologies. On this occasion, I invite Biotech & Pharma Industry in the ASEAN region, to our TICEL Bio-Park. Besides, an Eco Enterprises Park in Nilakkottai, near Madurai,

and a Marine Biotechnology Park, near Chennai, are also planned. These Bio-valleys provide opportunities for enhancing our economic co-operation, in the form of trade and investment with ASEAN.

Tamil Nadu has a long coast line of 1000 kilometres, with 3 major ports and 15 minor ports. My Government looks for greater co-operation from ASEAN, in our Port Development Projects. We can benefit from ASEAN knowledge and expertise, to develop our fishing industry. Apart from Sea Ports, Chennai has excellent air connectivity with ASEAN.

My Government has proposed to establish Special Economic Zones (SEZ) with public and private sector participation in Ennore, Chennai and Thoothukudi. These Special Economic Zones will offer the ideal business eco system, for entrepreneurs to set up their enterprises.

Health care is yet another focus area, identified for this ASEAN Summit. Chennai is

often called the "Health Care Capital City of India". It has ultra-modern world class hospitals, and super-speciality clinics. Since the cost of major surgeries / organ transplantation in Chennai is a fraction of what it costs in Europe, without compromising on the quality of health care, and no waiting time, Chennai has become the favoured Health care destination in the region.

Tourism is another promising segment. Enchanting Tamil Nadu welcomes you. 10 years ago, there were few Indians travelling as tourists. Today, flights to Bangkok or Kuala Lumpur are full of tourists. This regional movement of tourists will help the growth of our economies. We must actively promote Indian-ASEAN tourism in a concerted manner. I see great potential in this segment.

The purpose of this India - ASEAN Business Summit is to encourage interaction and trade flows between India and ASEAN. In Tamil Nadu's New Industrial Policy 2003, my Government had indicated that entry tax would not be charged on imports from abroad, used by manufacturing units in Tamil Nadu. Keeping this in mind and the spirit of greater co-operation, based on the principle of mutual interdependence highlighted in this Business Summit, I am glad to announce that henceforth all the scheduled goods, when they are directly imported and used in the manufacture of goods within Tamil Nadu, will be exempt from entry tax, subject to a declaration that will be prescribed. This will include a complete list of goods and will facilitate the free movement of goods. Likewise, the entry tax will be exempted for scheduled goods, when imported and sold by any registered dealer, under the Tamil Nadu General Sales Tax Act, and used in manufacturing by 100 percent

Export Oriented Units, and Units in the Madras Export Processing Zones, and Special Economic Zones.

I am confident that this Third India-ASEAN Summit held today, offers a unique opportunity for Indian and ASEAN business leaders, to expand existing relationships, forge new partnerships, and identify new areas of collaboration, by creating new synergies. The vast natural resources, vibrant markets, diverse technologies, and human talents of India and ASEAN, can be mobilized for greater mutual benefit.

We, the people of Tamil Nadu, look forward to a comprehensive engagement, with all ASEAN countries. We would like to share our strengths, for the development of the whole region.

I congratulate the FICCI and the CII for hosting this important event in Chennai. To quote the poet Kahlil Gibran and I quote: "Progress lies not in enhancing what is, but in advancing toward what will be". I am quite convinced that, through this India-ASEAN Business Forum, we can create a solid foundation, of mutual co-operation, for equitable and mutual benefits for our countries, the region, and the world.

Keynote Address made by  
**SELVI J JAYALALITHAA**  
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu  
at the Third India-ASEAN  
Business Summit  
held at Chennai on 20.10.2004.

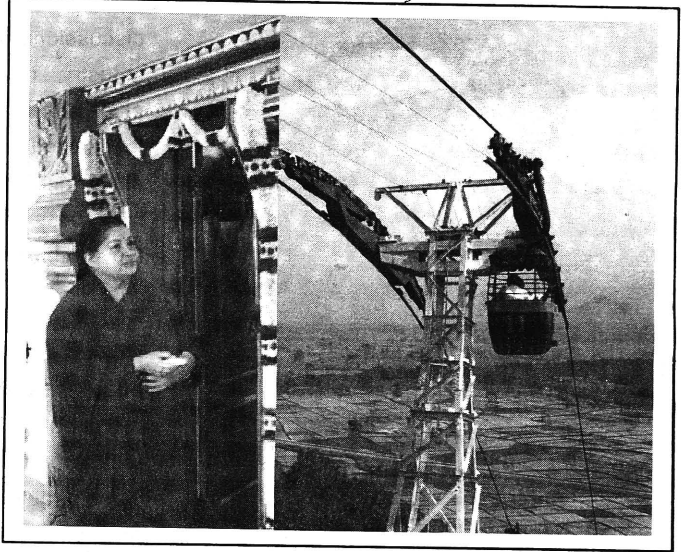
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# ROPE - CAR SYSTEM COMMISSIONED AT PALANI TEMPLE

**T**he Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa commissioned the Rs.4 crore rope - car system connecting the foot of Palani hill to the Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple at the top, on 3.11.2004. In a simple ceremony the Hon'ble Chief Minister pressed the switch to make the system operative and the colourful cars began their upward journey.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister had directed the erection of the rope-car system for the benefit of devotees coming to the shrine, since the three winches could not cater adequately to the large number of devotees coming to the shrine everyday. Pilgrims use either the flight of 693 steps or one of three winches. Each winch could carry only 34 persons and takes eight minutes to reach the top of the hill from the base station.



On the other hand, the rope - car takes only 2.45 minutes to cover the distance of 323 metres. There are 24 individual carriages, each of which could accomodate 4 persons. 800 persons could be carried every hour.

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## Wrappers

**I Wrapper :** Hon'ble Chief Minister presenting a bouquet to His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Surjit Singh Barnala at the Governor's swearing-in ceremony.

**II Wrapper :** Felicitation function for STF

**III Wrapper :** Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa lighting a Kuthuvilakku to inaugurate the rope - car facility in Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swami Temple at Palani.

**IV Wrapper :** Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa garlanding the statue of Pasumpon Muthuramalingam Thevar on the occasion of his birth anniversary.

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# A package of measures to help Tamil Film Industry

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Statement of Hon'ble Chief Minister  
**Selvi J JAYALALITHAA**  
on 27.9.2004

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**T**he entire Tamil film industry held a procession on 23.9.2004 and met me and represented all the problems faced by the Tamil film industry. During the meeting all the representatives of different associations of the film industry highlighted the various problems confronting the film industry and requested me to solve the problems and put the film industry on a revival path. As I have myself been part of the film industry earlier, I am aware of all the issues confronting the film industry. Based on the detailed

discussions with the representatives of the film industry, I have decided to implement a package of measures with the specific intention of helping the film industry of Tamil Nadu to come out of the slump and make rapid strides. This package of measures which will be implemented by my Government will consist of the following:-

The main problem confronting the film industry is the prevalence of video piracy which results in audiences staying away from theatres. The representatives of the film industry requested me to take new measures to put down the practice of video piracy which is affecting the film industry. I have already taken a strong stand against video piracy and given strict instructions that this menace should be curbed by effective action. It was only on my instructions that 6 Special Video Piracy Cells were created in 1995. These 6 Special Cells have been doing their best to arrest this menace. Earlier, in a period of 9 years ending December 2003, the total number of cases booked were 2354 and the property seized was Rs.12 crores by the Video Piracy Cell. On my strict instructions, in the first nine months of 2004, as many as 959 cases have been detected and property worth Rs.10 crores has been seized. This itself shows the efficacy of the special drive launched by my Government to check video piracy.

While appreciating this strong effort taken by my Government, the representatives of the film industry requested that very stringent new

provisions should be introduced to ensure that there is an effective deterrent against video piracy. I have had this matter examined thoroughly and I have decided to implement new measures which will serve as an effective deterrent against video piracy. Video piracy results in the unauthorised exhibition of films, including uncensored films, in a manner prejudicial to the maintenance of public order. My Government has decided to bring forth amendments to the Tamil Nadu Prevention of Dangerous Activities of Bootleggers, Drug-offenders, Forest offenders, Goondas, Immoral Traffic offenders and Slum Grabbers Act, 1982 (Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982) to include video pirates under its purview. This will act as a very effective deterrent against the widely prevalent practice of video piracy which is disturbing public order and causing loss of revenue to the Government. Organised groups of anti-social elements are indulging in this practice. The proceeds from this activity are also being used to fund other anti-social activities. This results in clashes between interested groups resulting in disturbance to public order. All these indicate that video piracy should be brought within the ambit of this law and my Government will take steps to do so.

In addition to introducing a new effective deterrent under Act 14 of 1982 against video piracy, my Government will also take steps to implement strictly the Copyright Act, 1957 (Act 14 of 1957 - Central Act). The offences under this Act shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than 6 months but may extend to 3 years and with fine which shall not be less than Rs.50,000 but which may extend to Rs.2 lakhs. My Government will also take steps to ensure that prosecution under the Copyright Act 1957 (Central Act) is made more effective. This will involve the production of witnesses and ensuring quick trial to secure proper conviction

including imprisonment. For this purpose 6 more Video Piracy Special Cells will be established in addition to the existing 6 Cells making a total of 12 and the existing 6 Cells will be strengthened immediately.

It will also be ensured that the Police Control Room which can be accessed by dialing Number "100" will alert the Video Piracy Cell on receipt of a complaint. This is for prompt action.

Another issue which was brought to my notice is the widespread practice of exhibition of pirated video films in buses. Strict instructions have been given to the State owned Transport Corporations not to exhibit any pirated video films in buses. It will be ensured that Government owned Transport Corporation buses do not exhibit such pirated video films. In addition, private bus operators have also been given strict instructions that they are not to exhibit such pirated video films in buses. Any such exhibition is an offence under the Tamil Nadu Exhibition of Films on Television Screen through Video Cassette Recorders and Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act, 1984 (Tamil Nadu Act 7 of 1984). Action will be taken under this act to book bus operators who violate the provisions of this Act. My Government will also undertake steps to amend Sec. 15 (2) of this Act to provide for punishment for a term which may extend to 2 years or with fine or both. The fine shall not be less than Rs.1 lakh but may extend upto Rs.5 lakhs. Sec.15 (2) will also be amended to provide for enhanced penalty for repeat offenders.

The representatives of the film industry have requested that the Entertainment Tax may be brought down in view of the difficulties faced by the industry. I have carefully gone into all the issues relating to the levy of Entertainment Tax. I have decided to implement major changes in the

Entertainment Tax structure to provide the maximum fillip to the film industry.

The rate of Entertainment Tax applicable to Municipal Corporation areas and Special Grade Municipalities is currently 25% of the Gross payment for new films and 20% for old films. This will be reduced to 15% for new films and 10% for old films. This will also be applicable to permanent and semi permanent theatres within a radius of 5 kms of these local areas.

In other areas, Entertainment Tax is levied under compounding tax per show or compounding tax per week. I have decided to do away with the compounding tax system and instead introduce a simple system of levy of 10% tax on the gross payment for these areas.

90% of the Entertainment Tax receipts received are given to local bodies as a tax devolution at present. Due to the sharp reduction in the tax rate, local bodies may lose revenues. In order to protect the local bodies from any loss of revenue, a suitable compensation arrangement will be made.

There has also been a request from the industry for total Entertainment Tax exemption for low budget films with good themes. Low budget films with good themes useful for social mobilisation and propagating good values will qualify for total exemption from Entertainment Tax.

A request was made that the maintenance charges which were allowed before the last revision of admission rates may be reintroduced to facilitate the maintenance of theatres and cinema houses. In view of the request, maintenance charges will be allowed at the rate of 50 paise per ticket for non-AC theatres and Re.1 per ticket for A/C theatres.

Another issue which has been brought to my

notice is the levy of Sales Tax on lease of Outdoor units, Equipment hirers, Studios, Laboratories and Recording Theatres, Audio, Video, Satellite rights at 12% which is a great hardship in the current financial position faced by the film industry. I have therefore decided to exempt such lease transactions of the film industry from the levy of sales tax for a period of 3 years. In view of this decision, the penal action taken to recover sales tax on such leases will also be withdrawn.

The film industry has requested that the rates for location of shooting in public places may be lowered to promote shooting of films in Tamil Nadu and to help the ailing film industry. The rate for location shooting in Category-I locations such as Colleges, Kodaikanal and Ooty lake, sanctuaries, hospitals etc., is presently Rs.50,000 per day. This will be brought down to Rs.10,000 per day. The rate for Category-II locations which includes all other public places will be reduced from Rs.25,000 per day to Rs.5,000 per day. The rate for location shooting at Rajaji Hall which is Re.1 lakh per day will be reduced to Rs.25,000 per day.

In order to encourage the film industry, a subsidy scheme was implemented earlier which could not be continued due to the acute financial crisis which affected the Government from the year 2000. The film industry has now represented to me that in view of the difficult position faced by the industry this scheme should be revived. I am glad to announce that a new scheme of providing subsidy to low budget films with total prints not exceeding 25 and length not exceeding 3000 metres at an enhanced rate of Rs.7 lakhs per film will be introduced from the year 2003. This will be implemented at an annual cost of Rs.2 crores.





# Chief Minister Presents the Tamil Nadu Government Film awards



**H**on'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalithaa gave away the Tamil Nadu Government Film Awards to a galaxy of film stars, directors and technicians at a glittering function held at the Madras University Centenary Hall, Chennai on 3.12.2004.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister presented awards to the recipients in various categories. viz. Best Film, Film that upholds the dignity of women, family oriented social conscious quality tamil feature film, best actor, best actress, best villain actor, best comedy actor, best director etc, awards for the students of film and Television Institute of Tamil Nadu and veteran awards for the years 2000, 2001 and 2002.

The awards presented by the Hon'ble Chief Minister for the movies for 2000 were :

|    |           |               |                       |
|----|-----------|---------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | Best Film | First Prize   | <b>Vanathaipola</b>   |
| 2. | Best Film | Second Prize  | <b>Vanavil</b>        |
| 3. | Best Film | Third Prize   | <b>Vetrikodikattu</b> |
| 4. | Best Film | Special Award | <b>Bharathi</b>       |

- |    |                                                              |               |                            |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| 5. | Film that upholds the dignity of women                       | Special award | <b>Iniya Udhayam</b>       |
| 6. | Family oriented, social conscious quality tamil feature film | First Prize   | <b>Budget Padmanaban</b>   |
| 7. | Family oriented, social conscious quality tamil feature film | Second Prize  | <b>Mugavari</b>            |
| 8. | Family oriented, social conscious quality tamil feature film | Third Prize   | <b>Uyirile Kalanthathu</b> |

- |     |                               |                                                           |
|-----|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.  | Best Actor                    | <b>Murali (Kadal Pookal)</b>                              |
| 2.  | Best Actress                  | <b>Devayani (Bharathi)</b>                                |
| 3.  | Best Actor (Special Prize)    | <b>Jeyaram (Thenali)</b>                                  |
| 4.  | Best Actress (Special Prize)  | <b>Shalini (Alaipayuthe)</b>                              |
| 5.  | Best Villain Actor            | <b>Prakashraj (Vanavil / Appu)</b>                        |
| 6.  | Best Comedy Actor             | <b>Vadivelu (Vetrikodikattu)</b>                          |
| 7.  | Best Director                 | <b>Vikraman (Vanathaipola)</b>                            |
| 8.  | Best Story Writer             | <b>Manoj Kumar (Vanavil)</b>                              |
| 9.  | Best Dialogue Writer          | <b>Cheran (Vetrikodikattu)</b>                            |
| 10. | Best Music Director           | <b>Deva (Kushi), Uyirile Kalanthathu / Santhithavelai</b> |
| 11. | Best Lyricist                 | <b>Thamarai (Thenali)</b>                                 |
| 12. | Best Playback Singer (Male)   | <b>Harish Ragavendra (Bharathi)</b>                       |
| 13. | Best Playback Singer (Female) | <b>Bavadharani (Bharathi)</b>                             |
| 14. | Best Cinematographer          | <b>Aananda Kuttan (Kannukkul Nilavu)</b>                  |
| 15. | Best Sound recordist          | <b>Sivakumar (Rithm)</b>                                  |
| 16. | Best Editor                   | <b>Mohanraj (Seenu)</b>                                   |
| 17. | Best Art Director             | <b>G.Krishnamurthi (Thenali/Vanavil)</b>                  |
| 18. | Best Stunt Master             | <b>Stunt Siva (Mugavari)</b>                              |
| 19. | Best Choreographer            | <b>Brindha (Mugavari)</b>                                 |
| 20. | Best Makeup Artiste           | <b>Kirisan (Seenu)</b>                                    |
| 21. | Best Costume Designer         | <b>G.Krishnamurthi (Bharathi)</b>                         |
| 22. | Best Child Artiste            | <b>Yuvaganth (Mayi)</b>                                   |

In order to encourage the Tamil Film Industry, the Government of Tamil Nadu has instituted Film Awards to the best Tamil feature films, actors, actresses and technicians. Every year a committee is constituted by the Government to select the best feature films, actors, actresses and technicians. The following awards are presented to the selected films:

1. First Prize Rs.2 lakhs and a memento
2. Second Prize Rs.1 lakh and a memento
3. Third Prize Rs.75,000 and a memento
4. Special Prize Rs.75,000 and a memento

A cash award of Rs.1.25 lakh and a memento are presented to the best Tamil feature film which portrays women in good light and which promotes the cause of women and upholds their dignity. A five sovereign gold pendant and a memento are presented to the selected actors, actresses and technicians. Dubbing Artistes (both male and female) have been included for these awards from the award year 2000.

#### **VETERAN AWARDS**

Veteran awards are presented in the names of Arignar Anna, Kalaivanar, Raja Sandow, M.G.R., Kavignar Kannadasan, Nadigar Thilagam Sivaji Ganesan and Thiagaraja Bagavathar who have made indelible marks in the history of Tamil film industry and won the hearts of the millions.

#### **GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY**

To encourage production of low-budget, social conscious, quality Tamil feature films, the Government of Tamil Nadu is implementing a

scheme of granting subsidy to such films. Every year a Selection Committee is constituted by the Government to select quality Tamil films. The selected films are granted subsidy at the rate of Rs.5 lakhs per film.

#### **EXEMPTION OF ENTERTAINMENT TAX**

In order to encourage production of low budget quality Tamil films, entertainment tax is exempted for a period of four weeks from the date of release of the eligible films.

#### **GOVERNMENT EXTENDS THE FOLLOWING CONCESSIONS TO TAMIL FILM INDUSTRY**

1. The low budget quality Tamil feature films are granted subsidy at the rate of Rs.5 lakhs each.
2. Entertainment tax is exempted to low budget quality Tamil feature films for a period of first four weeks.
3. Cash awards, gold medals, mementos, etc., are presented to the best Tamil films, actors, actresses and technicians.
4. Veteran awards are presented to the doyens of film industry.
5. Permission is granted for film shooting in Government premises under single window system.
6. Committees have been constituted at district level and state level to resolve disputes in film industry.
7. A sum of Rupees One lakh is granted from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund to the family of stunt actors who die while shooting a film and a sum of Rs.50,000 is granted if he is incapacitated on the occasion.

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|-----|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 23. | Best Dubbing Artiste (Male)   | <b>Rajeev (Bharathi)</b>       |
| 24. | Best Dubbing Artiste (Female) | <b>Savitha(Piriyamanavale)</b> |

#### **Awards for the students of Film and Television Institute of Tamil Nadu for the year 2000 - 2001**

- |    |                      |                                |
|----|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. | Best Director        | <b>V. Arivazhagan (Pudnam)</b> |
| 2. | Best Cinematographer | <b>Vinodkumar (Sirakukal)</b>  |
| 3. | Best Sound Recordist | <b>Thamizhvanan (Velicham)</b> |

- |    |                     |                               |
|----|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| 4. | Best Film Editor    | Jaya (Iyya)                   |
| 5. | Best Film Processor | Narasimhalu (Sirakukal)       |
| 6. | Best Actor          | Vijai Ragavendra (Malarattum) |

**Veteran Awards for 2000**

- |    |                                          |                              |
|----|------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. | Arignar Anna Award                       | Thirumathi Anjalidevi        |
| 2. | Kalaivanar Award                         | Thirumathi Padmini           |
| 3. | Raja Sandow Award                        | Thiru Kunnakudi Vaidyanathan |
| 4. | M.G.R. Award                             | Thirumathi Jamuna            |
| 5. | Kavignar Kannadasan Award                | Thirumathi S. Varalakshmi    |
| 6. | Nadigar Thilagam<br>Sivaji Ganesan Award | Thirumathi Sukumari          |
| 7. | Thiyagaraja Bagavadar Award              | Thirumathi M.N. Rajam        |

**Tamil Nadu Government Film Awards for 2001**

- |    |                                                                 |               |                     |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| 1. | Best Film                                                       | First Prize   | Virumbukiren        |
| 2. | Best Film                                                       | Second Prize  | Pandavarboomi       |
| 3. | Best Film                                                       | Third Prize   | Anandam             |
| 4. | Best Film                                                       | Special Award | Nandha              |
| 5. | Film that upholds the dignity<br>of women                       | Special award | Jamila              |
| 6. | Family oriented, social conscious<br>quality tamil feature film | First Prize   | Sonnaldhan Kadhala  |
| 7. | Family oriented, social conscious<br>quality tamil feature film | Second Prize  | Poovellam Un Vaasam |

- |    |                              |                                                 |
|----|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | Best Actor                   | Surya (Nanda)                                   |
| 2. | Best Actress                 | Sneha (Virumbukiren / Anandham / Punnagaidesam) |
| 3. | Best Actor (Special Prize)   | Ajith (Poovellam Un Vaasam)                     |
| 4. | Best Actress (Special Prize) | Suvalakshmi (Jamila)                            |
| 5. | Best Villain Actor           | Alex (Mitta Mirasu)                             |
| 6. | Best Comedy Actor            | Vadivelu (Thavasi)                              |
| 7. | Best Director                | Susi Ganesan (Virumbukiren)                     |



- |                                   |                                                     |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 8. Best Story Writer              | Sara Abubucker (Jamila)                             |
| 9. Best Dialogue Writer           | Shajahan (Punnagaidesam)                            |
| 10. Best Music Director           | Vidhyasagar (Dhill / Thavasi / Poovellam Un Vaasam) |
| 11. Best Lyricist                 | Snehan (Pandavar Boomi)                             |
| 12. Best Playback Singer (Male)   | Unnikrishnan (Dhil)                                 |
| 13. Best Playback Singer (Female) | Sujatha (Dhil)                                      |
| 14. Best Cinematographer          | Rathnavelu (Nanda)                                  |
| 15. Best Sound Recordist          | Sathya (Choclale)                                   |
| 16. Best Editor                   | Kasi Viswanathan (Alavandhan)                       |
| 17. Best Art Director             | Prabhakaran (Poovellam Un Vaasam)                   |
| 18. Best Stunt Master             | Super Subrayan (Thavasi/Mitta Mirasu)               |
| 19. Best Choreographer            | Chinni Prakash (Thavasi)                            |
| 20. Best Makeup Artiste           | Nageswara Rao (Dhil)                                |
| 21. Best Costume Designer         | Sai (Poovellam Un Vaasam / Thavasi)                 |
| 22. Best Child Artiste            | T.R. Kuralarasan (Sonnaldhan Kathala)               |
| 23. Best Dubbing Artiste (Male)   | Sai Ravi (Dhil)                                     |
| 24. Best Dubbing Artiste (Female) | Srija (Dhil)                                        |



**The Following Awards were given for the first time**

1. Best Character Artiste (Actor) **Rajkiran (Pandavar boomi / Nandha)**
2. Best Character Artiste (Actress) **Easwari Rao (Virumbukiren)**
3. Best Comedy Actress **Kovai Sarala (Poovellam Un Vaasam)**

**Awards for the students of Film and Television Institute of Tamil Nadu  
for the year 2001 - 2002**

1. Best Director **Sampathkumar (Payanam)**
2. Best Cinematographer **Premkumar (Paramapatham)**
3. Best Sound Recordist **Jagan (Thatha)**
4. Best Film Editor **Balaji (Suvadugal)**
5. Best Film Processor **Sethu raguraman (Paramapatham)**

**Veteran Awards for 2001**

1. Arignar Anna Award **Thiru. Bharathiraja**
2. Kalaivanar Award **Thirumathi Raja Sulochana**
3. Raja Sandow Award **Thiru K. Balaji**
4. M.G.R. Award **Thirumathi B.S. Saroja**
5. Kavignar Kannadasan Award **Thirumathi Vanisri**
6. Nadigar Thilagam **Thiru Ravichandran (Actor)**  
Sivaji Ganesan Award
7. Thiyagaraja Bagavadar Award **Thirumathi Vijayanthimala**

**Tamil Nadu Government Film Awards for 2002**

1. Best-Film **First Prize Ramana**
2. Best Film **Second Prize Kanathil Muthamittal**
3. Best Film **Third Prize Unnai Ninaithu**
4. Best Film **Special Award King**
5. Film that upholds the dignity  
of women **Special award Guruvamma**

- |     |                                  |                                                              |
|-----|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.  | Best Actor                       | <b>Madavan (Run / Anbe Sivam / Kannathil Muthamittal)</b>    |
| 2.  | Best Actress                     | <b>Meena (Ivan)</b>                                          |
| 3.  | Best Actor (Special Prize)       | <b>Prabhu (Charile Chaplin)</b>                              |
| 4.  | Best Actress (Special Prize)     | <b>Nandita Das (Kannathil Muthamittal)</b>                   |
| 5.  | Best Villain Actor               | <b>Nazar (Thamizh)</b>                                       |
| 6.  | Best Comedy Actor                | <b>Vivek (Run)</b>                                           |
| 7.  | Best Director                    | <b>Manirathnam (Kannathil Muthamittal)</b>                   |
| 8.  | Best Story Writer                | <b>Susi Ganesan (Five Star)</b>                              |
| 9.  | Best Dialogue Writer             | <b>A.R. Murugadas (Ramana)</b>                               |
| 10. | Best Music Director              | <b>Sirpi (Unnai Ninaithu)</b>                                |
| 11. | Best Lyricist                    | <b>Ravishankar (Unnai Ninaithu, Varushamellam Vasantham)</b> |
| 12. | Best Playback Singer (Male)      | <b>Unnimenon (Unnai Ninaithu, Varushamellam Vasantham)</b>   |
| 13. | Best Playback Singer (Female)    | <b>Sinmayi (Kannathil Muthamittal)</b>                       |
| 14. | Best Cinematographer             | <b>Arjun Jana (Kathal Virus)</b>                             |
| 15. | Best Sound Recordist             | <b>Ganesan (Ramana)</b>                                      |
| 16. | Best Editor                      | <b>V.T. Vijayan (Run)</b>                                    |
| 17. | Best Art Director                | <b>Sabu Ciril (Kannathil Muthamittal)</b>                    |
| 18. | Best Stunt Master                | <b>Jaguar Thangam</b>                                        |
| 19. | Best Choreographer               | <b>Dinesh (King)</b>                                         |
| 20. | Best Makeup Artiste              | <b>V.P. Rajan (Anbe Sivam)</b>                               |
| 21. | Best Costume Designer            | <b>S. Rajendran (Anbe Sivam)</b>                             |
| 22. | Best Child Artiste               | <b>Keerthana P.S (Kannathil Muthamittal)</b>                 |
| 23. | Best Dubbing Artiste (Male)      | <b>Muralikumar (Run)</b>                                     |
| 24. | Best Dubbing Artiste (Female)    | <b>Anuradha (Roja koottam)</b>                               |
| 1.  | Best Character Artiste (Actor)   | <b>Janagaraj (King)</b>                                      |
| 2.  | Best Character Artiste (Actress) | <b>Anuhasan (Run)</b>                                        |



**Awards for the students of Film and Television Institute of  
Tamil Nadu for the year 2002 - 2003**

- |    |                      |                        |
|----|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. | Best Director        | J. Nandhini (Ottam)    |
| 2. | Best Cinematographer | Prabhakar (Pinkurippu) |
| 3. | Best Sound Recordist | Anbarasu (Sidarath)    |
| 4. | Best Film Editor     | Rajeswari (Ottam)      |
| 5. | Best Film Processor  | S.Suresh (Pinkurippu)  |

**Veteran Awards for 2002**

- |    |                                          |                            |
|----|------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. | Arignar Anna Award                       | Selvi Jamuna Rani          |
| 2. | Kalaivanar Award                         | Thiru P.B. Srinivas        |
| 3. | Raja Sandow Award                        | Thiru A.V.M. Saravanan     |
| 4. | M.G.R. Award                             | Thirumathi E.V. Saroja     |
| 5. | Kavignar Kannadasan Award                | Thirumathi M.S.Viswanathan |
| 6. | Nadigar Thilagam<br>Sivaji Ganesan Award | Thirumathi M. Saroja       |
| 7. | Thiyagaraja Bagavadar Award              | Thirumathi G.Sakunthala    |

Earlier the Hon'ble Minister for Information, Publicity and Local Administration Thiru. K.P. Anbalagan welcomed the gathering. Thiru. V. Ramadoss IAS., Secretary, Information and Tourism Department proposed a vote of thanks.

The function was attended by the Hon'ble Ministers, Members of Parliament, Members of Legislative Assembly, Chairpersons, Officials, Public and a large gathering of Tamil film industry.

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# TAMIL NADU IS MAKING RAPID PROGRESS IN ALL SPHERES



- Statement of **Selvi J Jayalalithaa**  
Hon'ble Chief Minister on 12.10.2004

I have always believed that workers and employees who form the back bone of our economy should be enabled to have a life of good quality which will motivate them to give of their best. It has always been my intention to provide better working conditions and benefits to workers and employees of Public Sector Undertakings, such as the State Transport Corporations, the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board etc., so that improved production and services can be realized for the benefit of the people. Eventhough this has been my unshakable belief, conditions were created by the previous DMK Government through mismanagement to ensure that my Government could not put through any measure at all for the benefit of workers and employees when my Government assumed office in May 2001, even though I had very much wanted to undertake such measures.

The previous DMK Government left the finances of the State Transport Corporations in total disarray. In the year 2000-2001, the financial position of the State Transport Corporations was

so bad that they were making substantial losses and were defaulting on all payments, including payments to financial institutions and even to Oil Companies which had supplied fuel. The position was quite hopeless and these Corporations were near closure. The accumulated loss as on 31.3.2001 in the case of State Transport Corporations was as high as (-) Rs.2031.19 crores. The loss in 2000-2001 alone was (-) Rs.228.87 crores. The situation had become so bad that even current payments for operational expenditure such as salaries and fuel were all seriously affected. A serious doubt on payment of salaries itself had arisen.

In the case of the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, the situation when my Government assumed office was equally hopeless. Upto the year 2000-2001, the previous Government covered up the position by showing huge amounts as subsidy payments from the Government, which were not paid at all. Consequently, when my Government assumed office and presented the correct position, the loss

that my Government had to face in 2001-2002 was (-) Rs.4851 crores. The result of this mismanagement by the previous DMK Government was that the TNEB could not make payments for purchase of electricity from Central Utilities and others, and also had serious problems in making regular payments for salaries, cost of coal and other costs. In short, the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board's operations were facing a complete stoppage when my Government assumed office.

Eventhough I wanted to immediately improve the wage levels and other benefits of workers in the State Transport Corporations and the TNEB, the gross mismanagement by the previous DMK Government made it impossible as the problem had become so serious that even regular monthly salary payments could not be made and operational expenses could not be met. Thereafter, my Government took resolute action to set right the financial position of both the State Transport Corporations and the TNEB. As the result of the various measures taken, considerable improvement in the operations of the State Transport Corporations and the TNEB has been achieved.

The annual loss of the State Transport Corporations which was (-) Rs.228.87 crores in 2000-2001 has been turned into a small profit of Rs.2.38 crores in 2003-2004. This is solely because of the sound measures that my Government has undertaken. All workers will recognise the sincere effort of my Government to save the State Transport Corporations from complete ruin, and thus protect their very livelihood which was under threat because of the mismanagement of the previous DMK Government. The workers and employees understood the extreme seriousness of the situation and co-operated with my Government in the measures undertaken to set right the position, so that real benefits can accrue to them in future. Today, thanks to the excellent co-operation extended by workers and employees of the State Transport

Corporations, the situation has been completely rectified and in 2003-2004, for the first time in 18 years, the State Transport Corporations have achieved a profit. I extend my appreciation to all the employees and workers who have made this possible. Even now there is a serious threat to the healthy finances of the State Transport Corporations, due to the increase in diesel prices announced by the Government of India. This has once again affected the State Transport Corporations in 2004-2005. We have to take measures to counter this new threat of increased cost by better efficiency, performance and productivity. I am sure the workers will extend their full support to the efforts of my Government to ensure profitable operations and therefore additional benefits to workers.

In the case of the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, in 1999-2000, the real loss was (-) Rs.850.65 crores and in 2000-2001 it was (-) Rs.1055.34 crores. This was shown to be covered up by release of subsidy from the Government which was not actually paid. These losses accumulated and had to be faced by my Government on assumption of office in May 2001. Consequently, in 2001-2002 all the accumulated losses which were shown to be covered by releases of subsidy from the Government, but which were not actually paid, had to be set right. The loss figure in 2001-2002 which reflected the true loss accumulated from the previous years and had to be faced by us was (-) Rs.4851 crores. Due to various measures undertaken by my Government in the year 2002-2003, we were able to turn around the situation. My Government arranged for the payment of the unpaid bills of Rs.1962 crores to Central Utilities left unpaid by the previous DMK Government. We also took measures to improve the revenue. With these measures in 2002-2003, the TNEB was able to record a net profit of Rs.112.57 crores.

In 2003-2004, the bad monsoon and the resulting drought had a particularly severe adverse effect on the generation based on hydel reservoirs



and the TNEB had to face a loss of (-) Rs.1166.42 crores. With improved hydel storage in 2004-2005 the financial position will improve. Thus it may be seen that from a totally hopeless situation, the position of the TNEB has been set right substantially, making good the loss which occurred during the previous DMK Government period, and also settling all the arrear liabilities to the Central Utilities left pending by the previous DMK Government. It is my Government which has rescued the TNEB from bankruptcy and put it on a new growth path. There are new threats to the financial position of the TNEB with a further increase in costs by Rs.167 crores in 2004-2005, due to the increase in coal prices effected by the new Central Government. Still, the measures we have already undertaken and the assured subsidy provided in cash by my Government has ensured a major improvement in the TNEB's finances.

Thus under my directions, the resolute measures that have been undertaken by my Government have substantially set right the totally impossible financial position faced by the State Transport Corporations and the TNEB.

I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to all the workers and employees who have co-operated with the Government in undertaking these measures to set right the financial position. Without their co-operation, it would not have been possible at all to provide a new lease of life to these organisations.

The wage settlement in respect of workers and employees of State Transport Corporations could not be undertaken earlier in view of a dispute which has been pending in the Madras High Court. In the case of the TNEB also, till recently, a dispute in the Madras High Court prevented the continuance of wage negotiations. I have carefully gone into the entire matter and I have decided that pending formal commencement of wage settlement negotiations, the workers and employees deserve appreciation for the unstinted co-operation they have extended for setting right

the fiscal position and better performance of the organisations. I have therefore ordered that an Interim Relief at the rate of Rs.250 per month shall be paid to all workers and employees of State Transport Corporations and the TNEB with effect from 1.9.2003. This interim relief is an interim measure and will be adjusted against the wage settlement when concluded. Both the State Transport Corporations and the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board will make all out efforts to commence negotiations on the revised wage settlement. I have every confidence that all the workers and employees will greatly welcome this announcement made by me, of providing interim relief without waiting for the conclusion of the wage settlement negotiations. This clearly shows the good intentions of my Government with regard to the welfare of workers and employees.

The additional cost for State Transport Corporations on account of the payment of this interim relief at the rate of Rs.250 per month will be Rs.34.52 crores per annum. This interim relief will be paid along with the monthly salary bill commencing from October 2004. The arrears for the period 1.9.2003 to 30.9.2004 viz: for a period of 13 months amounting to Rs.37.40 crores will be paid in cash. This measure will benefit 1,15,000 workers and employees in the State Transport Corporations.

In the case of the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, the additional cost on account of payment of interim relief at the rate of Rs.250 per month will be Rs.26.10 crores per annum. This will be paid along with the monthly salary bill commencing from October 2004. The arrears for the period 1.9.2003 to 30.9.2004 viz: for a period of 13 months amounting to Rs.28.28 crores will be paid in cash. This will benefit 87,000 workers and employees in the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board.

The workers and employees should always remember that the public are our real masters. The principle that we should never under any circumstances cause inconvenience to the public

was established in 2001. Therefore, as a measure of promoting goodwill with workers and employees with clarity on this salutary approach of my Government, I have decided to treat the period during which the workers went on strike prior to 31.12.2000 as leave to which they are eligible, except in respect of employees against whom criminal cases are pending.

In the wake of the huge financial crisis confronting both the State Transport Corporations and the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, urgent measures had to be taken to somehow set right the financial position and keep these organisations operational, as otherwise they would have gone bankrupt and closed down. My Government had to take measures to ensure that this catastrophe did not occur. As part of the package of measures, a temporary restriction on the facility of encashment of Earned Leave which is usually allowed for a period for 15 days in a year was imposed. In the case of TNEB the restriction on encashment of leave has already been kept in abeyance due to an Industrial Dispute. The workers and employees have now represented that this restriction may be lifted taking into account the special nature of work rendered in State Transport Corporations and the TNEB, requiring operational safety and high level of performance. I have decided that the workers and employees of State Transport Corporations and the TNEB shall hereafter be allowed to encash Earned Leave at their credit for 15 days in a year as per the annual cycle. I am sure the workers and employees will welcome this measure both to improve the overall productivity and performance of these organisations and confer cash benefits on them.

In the financial year 2003-2004, the State Transport Corporations have earned a profit for the first time in 18 years. In the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, due to adverse seasonal conditions, there has been a loss in 2003-2004 but the Board has been showing improved performance in 2004-2005. The workers and employees have co-operated in ensuring the turn around in the performance of

these organisations. Eventhough the financial position has not completely been rectified and although there are further cost additions, due to increased diesel prices and coal prices which will affect their financial position, it is necessary to encourage the workers and employees to continue to work with dedication, improved productivity and performance in their organisations. I have therefore decided to take a magnanimous view and I am happy to announce that for the financial year 2003-2004, besides the bonus of 8.33% , an ex-gratia of 1.67% totalling 10% will be paid to all the workers and employees who received bonus at 8.33% last year. This will cost the State Transport Corporations Rs.34.38 crores. This will cost the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board Rs.23 crores. I am also happy to announce that the same scheme of payment of 8.33% bonus and 1.67% of ex-gratia will also be applicable to the employees and workers of the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation. This will cost the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation Rs.3.5 crores.

I am committed to taking Tamil Nadu to the Number One position in the Country. Tamil Nadu is making rapid progress in several spheres. It is by better production, productivity, performance and efficiency that we can grow faster and reach this committed goal. The employees and workers have extended their co-operation in ensuring that Tamil Nadu goes forward towards its appointed place, by tightening the belt when needed. I fully appreciate their enormous contribution to the successful turn around of the State Transport Corporations, the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board and the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation. I greatly appreciate their total dedication and co-operation in this major effort. It is with a sense of satisfaction at the success we have achieved together, that I am glad to announce this new package of interim relief, bonus and ex-gratia and other concessions for employees and workers, so that we can go rapidly ahead in our journey towards securing Tamil Nadu's Number One place in the country.

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# POLICE MUST COMBINE VALOUR AND TOUGHNESS WITH SYMPATHY AND CONSIDERATION



It is indeed a pleasure to participate in today's function, a proud day for the Tamil Nadu Police. It is my privilege to inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for important additions to the infrastructure of the Tamil Nadu Police at a total cost of more than Rs.87 crores. The Tamil Nadu Police Academy and the new office of the D.G.P. are two major landmark buildings that will be the cynosure of all eyes.

I have a vision for the Tamil Nadu Police which already enjoys a very high reputation of professionalism in India. It must be celebrated as the Number One Police Force in the entire country. It is for this reason that I have accorded the highest priority to modernize, equip, train, arm and implement welfare schemes for the Tamil Nadu Police, not only to build up their professional core competence but also to build up their morale and *esprit de corps*. From May 2001, when I became Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and took charge of the Home portfolio for the second time

my Government has sanctioned a sum of Rs.514.54 crores towards buildings, equipment, weapons, training as well as housing for the Police. Such budgetary support is unprecedented in the history of the Tamil Nadu Police.

I am happy to lay the foundation stone for the new office of the Director General of Police, Tamil Nadu which is to come up here at Taramani at a cost of Rs.30 crores. The Director General of Police's office is presently located in an extremely old heritage building, and the delicate nature of its structure makes it impossible to carry out any expansion or modification. The new complex to house the office of the Director General of Police will cover an area of 24 acres of Prime Land at Taramani. It will have a built up area of 3 lakh square feet and will contain state-of-the art Information Technology based infrastructure and ultramodern communication hardware as would befit the office of the head of a highly professional force like the Tamil Nadu

Police. On completion, this command centre of the Police Force in Tamil Nadu will be the best of its kind in the country.

I am also happy to inaugurate the District Police Office Complexes at Thiruvannamalai and Villupuram, each built at a cost of Rs.3 crores. The Armed Reserve Complex at Thiruvannamalai built at a cost of Rs.87.66 lakhs - and the Regional Forensic Science Laboratories at Villupuram and Ramanathapuram built at a cost of Rs.85 lakhs and Rs.86 lakhs respectively. I shall continue to make adequate financial provisions for infrastructure to make the Tamil Nadu Police a thoroughly professional and effective force, capable of making Tamil Nadu a haven of peace and prosperity.

It would be a truism to state that no progress can be achieved if we do not guarantee the perfect maintenance of law and order. I have always been totally uncompromising, in making Tamil Nadu a haven of peace and tranquillity. This has not happened by chance. It has been achieved by meticulous planning and an indomitable will that has backed up your efforts in keeping at bay all anti-social, extremist and fundamentalist forces that try to disrupt the peace or breach public order. It is to this end that I have systematically planned the modernisation of the Tamil Nadu Police by generous budgetary support, to improve communications and mobility, arms and equipment, buildings and training.

I am proud to note that all the Police Stations in the State are now equipped with computers. 1365 video cameras have been provided for use at the Police Station level. We have been systematically strengthening communications by VHF and mobile sets. Microwave communications in the State have been digitalised. Significant additions have been

made to vehicle strength, apart from a programme of regular replacement of condemned vehicles.

However, I believe that modernisation of the Police Force, is more than just the provision of more funds or new technology. The Tamil term for Policeman is “காவலர்” which epitomises his / her role as the guardian of the law and the protector of the people. In this role of protector, the Police must combine valour and toughness with sympathy and consideration. These qualities must be honed by rigorous training, skill development, and capacity building by a professionally drawn up curriculum and regular in - service programmes. It is for this reason that I envisaged, the setting up of the Tamil Nadu Police Academy at Oonamancheri village, at a cost of Rs.48 crores. I am happy to lay the foundation stone of this most modern Police Training facility which will cater to the multifarious requirements of imparting foundational training for new recruits, as well as in - service refresher courses for other police personnel. This academy will have the infrastructure to train 800 police personnel of various categories with exclusive facilities for imparting world - class training, accommodation for trainees, a residential complex for the training staff, a shopping complex, a hospital and dispensary, and a modern gymnasium. This landmark institution, to be built over a sprawling area of 132.92 acres of land will have an elegant yet utilitarian design, a congenial environment, and an ambience of international standards. I have no doubt that it will become a premier training institution of Police personnel in India.

We are all aware that the preservation of public order has become a very complex operation. The new challenges before the police are those of terrorism and fundamentalism, remote controlled bomb explosions, organised crime and drug mafias. Crime and Criminality have become



extremely sophisticated with the Information Technology revolution spawning a new virus of cyber crimes. New strategies and a completely restructured training programme alone can prepare the police to deal with such problems. Right from its very inception, the Tamil Nadu Police Academy should focus, on the highest levels of physical fitness, capacity building in terms of computer training, bomb disposal, handling of sophisticated arms, special operations, crisis management and negotiation skills for officers apart from programmes to manage stress. I expect this academy to design and implement multi-layered training modules not only for new recruits to the Force, but for officers at different levels, to prepare them to meet the new challenges of modern day policing.

I have announced that a memorial should be built, within the precincts of the Tamil Nadu Police Academy to commemorate the supreme sacrifice of the officers and men of the Tamil Nadu Police, who laid down their lives in the operations against the forest brigand, Veerappan. Following

my clear and firm mandate to the STF and the wholehearted support that I extended to them, the brutal saga of murder, pillage and destruction of forest wealth that had plagued Tamil Nadu for nearly 20 years was brought to an end by the thoroughly professional, meticulously planned and efficiently executed operations of our special task force. The daring and swift encounter that brought down Veerappan has fired the imagination of the entire Nation and has brought name, fame and glory to the Tamil Nadu Police. It would, therefore be in the fitness of things that a Memorial comes up here in the Tamil Nadu Police Academy so that every single man, woman and officer of the Tamil Nadu Police Force, who will enter the portals of the academy will know of the brave sacrifice made by these heroes, and will pay homage to them, as well as be inspired to perform similar acts of bravery and sacrifice.

Keeping in view the ideals of empowerment of women and the creation of a society where women are free from exploitation, and a criminal justice system that guarantees them full



protection against crime and victimisation, I gave an entirely new orientation to the Police Stations in the State, by making them women friendly. From the first ever all women police station which I inaugurated in 1992, today 188 operational Police Sub - Divisions in the State have an all women police station. I have ordered the appointment of one woman Sub-Inspector and two women police constables, Grade II in each of the existing regular Police Stations in the State. I have also taken steps to commission the first ever company of all women commandos and an exclusive all women police battalion, making Tamil Nadu the first state in India to raise such all women forces. It is my vision that the metamorphosis of the image of the Police as a humane, caring, sympathetic protector, a friend in need and counsellor of the people, particularly women would originate in the all women police stations of Tamil Nadu.

I am, therefore, glad to declare open 7 new all women police stations in the commissionerate of Chennai at Egmore, Vepery, Ayanavaram, Vadapalani, Royapettah, Teynampet and at the Highcourt Complex. The commissionerate of Chennai will now have an all women police station in each one of its 27 ranges. I trust that this will go a long way in giving Chennai the image of a safe city, particularly for women.

You are aware that I have also announced and implemented a number of welfare schemes for the police force. Apart from police housing at a cost of Rs.224.75 crores, I have stepped up grants for officers, men and women who are killed or are grievously injured in heroic circumstances. A number of educational schemes for wards of police personnel have also been introduced. Similarly, a liberal Health Scheme for police personnel was also introduced by me. I have taken these steps to keep the morale of our Police Force high, so that they can be equal to any

challenge, and ready and willing to undergo any hardship, and make any sacrifice in the line of duty.

The Tamil Nadu Police has an impressive record and has always distinguished itself in very trying circumstances, showing exemplary commitment to duty, remarkable courage and professionalism. You must be sensitive to the problems of the weaker sections of society and the problems of women. The creation of a society without fear and the reinforcement of the people's sense of security should be uppermost in your mind. You must strive hard to make our State the model for humane, just and efficient policing.

My vision is to make Tamil Nadu the Number One State in the country in all spheres by achieving overall economic growth and development. The bedrock for this is the perfect maintenance of law and order. To make this vision a reality, I call upon the officers, men and women of the Tamil Nadu Police to give their unstinted co-operation and loyalty. I expect that you will live up to the highest standards of performance and professionalism, that you will sustain your credibility as a friend of the people, and protector of the poor, and that you will be a Model Police Force for the entire country.

*- Speech delivered by*

**Selvi J JAYALALITHAA,**

*Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu  
during the foundation stone laying function  
for the office complex of the  
Director General of Police &  
Police Academy and Inauguration  
of various police office buildings  
held on 10.11.2004.*

★ ★ ★

JAYALALITHAA  
CHIEF MINISTER OF TAMILNADU  
ON 22-09-2004



*Peace,  
development and  
good governance  
are the  
aspirations  
of the people*

Hon'ble Chief Minister  
Selvi J JAYALALITHAA

**M**inisters of the Government of Tamil Nadu,  
Tmt. Sheela Rani Chunkath, Home Secretary,  
Thiru I.K.Govind, Director General of Police, Tamil  
Nadu, Thiru S.Ramani, Director General of Police,  
Training, Distinguished participants from all over  
India, Officers of the Government of Tamil Nadu,  
Distinguished Guests, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I am indeed very happy today to inaugurate the National Workshop on 'Terrorism in India : Evolving Patterns and Police Response', organized by the Tamil Nadu Police. This is a welcome initiative taken by the Police Training College. I had, while addressing the recent conference of Police Officers on 10.8.2004, stated that "I will not countenance any slackness in dealing with terrorists, extremists and fundamentalists. Terrorist groups and fundamentalist forces have been kept at bay in the State."

Therefore, this initiative of holding a National Workshop is in tune with my vision that, not only Tamil Nadu but also the country as a whole, should address the issue of terrorism and deal with it firmly.

A year and a half ago in January, 2003, while inaugurating the National Seminar on "Crime Prevention Management - A Multi Pronged Approach" at this very venue, I observed that, "Today's world is marred by the threat of violence,

terrorism and crime that lurks everywhere. The scourges of serial bomb blasts and organised violence are no longer problems that some poor Third World countries have to battle alone. Terrorism has become a global phenomenon of epidemic proportions". We are yet to recover from the latest strike of mayhem by the terrorists who hijacked a school in Southern Russia resulting in the massacre of over 350 innocent school children, or the outrage of the 12 Nepalese nationals publicly executed by terrorists. So far as India is concerned, in the year 2003, the South Asia Terrorism Portal has published a very high figure of 658 civilian deaths due to terrorist attacks in Jammu & Kashmir alone. These are, indeed, deeply distressing statistics and call for effective counter measures.

Globalisation has opened up the World. Information Technology and Communication Technology have taken giant leaps forward and even antipodal points on the globe are now in instant communication with each other. But man has paid a heavy price for globalization. New horizons of crime and criminality have opened up leading to organized crime, economic crime, fundamentalism and terrorism, often each interlinked to the other. The character of modern day terrorism is that of the mythical, multi-headed Hydra, with world-spanning networks of cellular connections and Internet linkages. Modern day terrorism has many faces and varied sponsors. Narco-terrorism is interlinked with a flourishing trade in contraband arms. A variety of legitimate businesses and charitable and religious trusts are really fronts for insidious terrorist enterprise. Electronic banking transactions facilitate money laundering that funds terrorist activity. The modern terrorist possesses the ability to move chameleon-like across International borders, with scandalous ease and impunity, making a mockery of visa

procedures and passport controls. The ease with which the assassins of the former Prime Minister of India were able to penetrate not only our borders and the customs barriers, but also to infiltrate the security cordon of a protected VVIP, is a case in point that exposes the extraordinary reach and extreme mobility of the modern terrorist.

An entirely new dimension is, of course, State sponsored terrorism, which in the Indian context has over arching connections with our problems with Pakistan. Certainly, the incessant terrorist activity in Jammu & Kashmir, the dastardly attack on our Parliament and the attack on the Akshardham Temple in Gujarat represent a new high in the escalation of terrorist activity in India, that has active cross-border implications in terms of providing sanctuary, routing of funds and arms, locating training camps and setting up logistics support in Pakistan. The religious origins of terrorism, especially of the Jehadis belonging to the Jaish-i-Mohammed or the Lashkar-i-Toiba, have their links traced to a Pan-Islamic "Umma" (Community) of groups like the Al Qaida and the Hamas, which operate from the Middle East.

It is my firm conviction that terrorist and subversive elements that try to disrupt our peace and tranquillity must be dealt with firmly. The reason for my unwavering stand is my unflinching belief that if we take a soft stance and allow these elements a toehold, containment later on will become impossible. Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, the North East and Andhra Pradesh are all such examples. The rapid economic growth that we desire will be greatly jeopardized by our constant preoccupation with terrorists and their activities. It is better to be firm upfront and give no quarter at all to terrorist forces. Political parties that espouse such causes are doing so for their own short-term electoral gains, throwing



national security and the very peace that we desire to the winds.

You are all aware of my unswerving commitment to stamping out extremism and the fissiparous forces that it generates. Terrorist groups and fundamentalist forces have been kept firmly under check under my Chief Ministership. The LTTE's activities in Tamil Nadu have been totally contained. This organization was banned under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, as well as under POTA, 2002. Pointed intelligence was available regarding the support of other extremist groups in Tamil Nadu, like the Tamil - National Retrieval Troops (TNRT) and Tamil Nadu Liberation Army (TNLA) being extended to the LTTE. Therefore, these outfits were banned under the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 1908, and on the recommendations of the State Government, the Government of India also banned these outfits under POTA, 2002. The LTTE has a notorious and dubious record of duplicity. They have jettisoned the peace process in Sri

Lanka on more than one occasion, as is clear from the fresh bout of internecine killings by LTTE groups within Sri Lanka. The LTTE has also resorted to unauthorized naval operations in International waters and has abducted Indian fishermen, even while seeking to assume the mantle of legitimacy by claiming to have naval control of the International waters off the coast of Mannar. Since the role played by a deadly terrorist group like the LTTE in political developments in Sri Lanka has implications for the internal security situation in India, particularly Tamil Nadu, I have opposed the starting of a ferry service between Thoothukudi and Colombo as a serious security hazard which exposes our coastline to narcotic smuggling, infiltration of terrorists and asylum seekers. Thus, at every juncture, I have adopted an open stance of firmness in the context of the LTTE, even at the cost of great personal risk.

We have been keenly aware of the history of the criminal and extremist activities of the Communist Party of India - Marxist Leninist

(People's War) known as People's War Group, which is known to operate in Krishnagiri and Dharmapuri Districts of Tamil Nadu. Considering the fact that the Government of Andhra Pradesh has, in a policy shift, decided not to extend the ban on the CPI-ML(PW) in Andhra Pradesh beyond July, 2004, which could result in cadres and sympathizers infiltrating into Tamil Nadu, I have declared the CPI-ML(PW) and front organizations as 'Unlawful Organizations' under the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 1908.

Since terrorism has many faces, many sponsors, and many different modes of action spanning the entire globe, our approach to fighting terrorism will have to be multi-pronged, combining measures to strengthen intelligence and beef up security infrastructure, along with a developmental initiative that addresses the basic grievances underlying disaffection.

The alienation of the poorer sections of Society in certain pockets from the national mainstream, owing to extreme poverty, rural indebtedness, unemployment and exploitation, are important causes that make them easy targets for extremist propaganda, particularly of groups like the Communist Party of India - Marxist Leninist (People's War). There is also evidence of funding by external agencies that consider these to be fertile breeding grounds for destabilizing the State'. Here, the socio-economic problems need to be addressed if we have to root out extremism. It cannot be viewed as a policing problem alone and has to be tackled by a combination of developmental initiatives, and measures to involve the youth in gainful employment, and improving Police-Public relations. This will go a long way in ridding the youth of frustration and disillusionment which are primarily responsible for driving them to extremism and violence.

It is for this reason that so far as the containment of extremist activity in Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri Districts is concerned, I have taken special steps to sanction a sum of Rs.5 crores for the economic rejuvenation of the backward areas of the districts, with special focus on employment programmes particularly for the youth.

In the post September 11, 2001, context, the global security environment as well as the internal security environment in India, have undergone a sea change. It is well known that special situations warrant special laws. Terrorist activities, abetted by a slew of unscrupulous, internationally dreaded organizations and inter-linked to drug cartels, are spreading disaffection in many parts of our country. No State in India is safe from the disruptive violence that these banned organizations let loose. Their extraordinary reach and influence can only be countered by a special enactment like POTA. The repeal of POTA has now denuded the State Governments of their powers to combat terrorism. It also means that now the law enforcement agencies will not have any special law at their disposal to effectively tackle terrorists and extremist outfits, and they will have to rely upon the provisions of archaic laws, which have repeatedly proved inadequate, even to handle serious and heinous crimes. It is, perhaps, not very well known that "sabotage", which is an act of violence, particularly resorted to by terrorists, is not even defined in the Indian Penal Code! There is no doubt in my mind that if we are to effectively defend the territorial integrity of our Nation from the onslaught of terrorist forces, a special enactment like POTA should have been allowed to remain in the legal armoury of the law enforcement agencies. Its repeal has only resulted in their emasculation. I do not see much point in



the assurance that necessary provisions will be added to existing laws to compensate for the repeal of POTA. In fact, such a stand merely shows ambivalence and vacillation and only strengthens our stand that the repeal is ill-considered and has left behind a vacuum in our defence against terrorism.

I launched in 2002, in which more than Rs. 361 crores has been sanctioned to the Police Force for weaponry, equipment and sophisticated communication facilities, has also ensured that they have access to the latest technology in this war against terrorism.

The need to strengthen the intelligence machinery is another major area of concern. A



Since the terrorist groups are equipped with the latest arms and equipment including chemical weapons, there can be no half-measures in modernizing or equipping our Police Force. Therefore, in Tamil Nadu, I have strengthened the capability of the Police to restrict the ability of terrorist elements to thwart security systems, by inaugurating the Tele Justice System through Video Conferencing throughout the State, connecting 11 prisons with 270 Courts, covering 78 different locations in the State, at a cost of Rs.8.61 crores. Thus, in our war against terrorism, I have ensured that we are always one step ahead. The wide ranging Modernisation of Police Force Programme that

failure of intelligence has invariably been noticed in the postmortem of various violent terrorist acts. The ease with which terrorist organizations are able to find suicide squads to carry out their murderous missions and the extremely high levels of motivation and fanatic zeal of the terrorist groups, no doubt, have complicated the task of the intelligence machinery. A new approach is now called for. A surveillance system based on community watch organizations, along with a sensitization programme of the public, should go along with the provision of high-technology interception and surveillance equipment to the Police. The absence of co-ordination between State and Central Agencies

and turf wars, only inhibit the process of exchange of intelligence. Given that terrorism has multifarious dimensions like money laundering, syndicated crime and drug cartel networks, apart from links between terrorist groups of different origins, as for example, the LTTE with the ULFA, it is important that the State Police, the intelligence Bureau, the Customs and Internal Revenue Departments, the Narcotics Control Bureau, and the Coast Guard, apart from agencies handling external intelligence like RAW, are brought together under an institutionalized set up, with an IT - driven database, and information sharing protocol. At the State level, it should be under the Chief Minister of the State, and under the Union Home Minister or the Cabinet Committee on Security at the level of the Government of India.

The changed post-September 11, 2001 security environment has exposed the need to redesign the orientation of the State security infrastructure. A massive capability enhancement exercise and review of security arrangements will have to be undertaken. Apart from V.V.I.P. security, special plans to protect valuable economic infrastructure and installations like Nuclear Plants, Dams and Power Stations will have to be drawn up. Considering that terrorists now have access to weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and chemical weapons, training of security personnel in handling such situations will have to be imparted, going far beyond conventional explosives.

The State Police will also have to be trained to handle hostage crises by imparting special training in negotiation, bargaining psychology etc.

I believe that it is important not to capitulate to any pressures brought about by any terrorist action, including kidnappings, hijackings and hostage crises, irrespective of the pressures and the media mileage sought to be gained by such actions. India cannot afford to give the impression

of being a soft State or a soft target, that would be prepared to negotiate and compromise with terrorists under pressure. Above all, what is of paramount importance is the firm political will to fight terrorism anywhere and everywhere.

I have always emphasized that Peace, Development and Good Governance are the three basic aspirations of the people who have mandated us to power. A crime-free society and freedom from fear are the basic ingredients of peace. If we do not devise a comprehensive strategy to counter terrorism now, the world would necessarily revert to the state of nature so graphically described by Thomas Hobbes in his Leviathan and I quote,".....no arts, no letters, no society, and, which is worst of all, continual fear and danger of violent death, and the life of man solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short." (Unquote)

I wish that the deliberations of this all important Workshop on terrorism and the challenges that it presents to the Police, should bring out a set of recommendations that would rescue civil society from this Hobbesian state of nature. If violence can ever be legitimate, it must be so only in the war against terrorism.

In the end, I would like to remind carping critics and the people that, we sleep safe in our beds only because the Police stand ready in the night, to protect us from those who would do us harm.

Thank you

Speech of Selvi J JAYALALITHAA  
Hon'ble Chief Minister at the inauguration  
of the National Workshop on  
"Terrorism in India Evolving Patterns  
and Police Response"  
at Secretariat on 22.9.2004.



# THE PUBLIC ARE OUR REAL MASTERS

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**- SELVI J JAYALALITHAA**  
Hon'ble Chief Minister

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- Statement of Hon'ble Chief Minister on 20.10.2004

It is now a well-accepted fact that the delivery of services by a Government has to be improved in order to ensure that the planned benefits reach the poor. The importance of improved service delivery cannot be over emphasised particularly in the context of public finance where resources are always inadequate. While on the one hand all the employees have to be encouraged so that they have a better quality of life and can serve the people better, on the other hand we have to ensure that adequate benefits reach the poor promptly. The challenge of good governance is to ensure that a delicate balance between these requirements is actually found. Government employees and teachers who form the backbone of the Government's service delivery system need to recognise this dominant requirement of good governance.

It is this balance that had to be established in Tamil Nadu when my Government assumed office in May 2001. At that time, Tamil Nadu was confronted by a fiscal collapse of unimaginable proportions. The previous DMK Government which ruled the State between 1996 — 2001, while apparently pretending to confer huge benefits on Government employees and teachers was at the same time unable to honour these commitments. Thus, the previous DMK Government postponed the

payment of 60% of the balance of arrears of pay and allowances, to the year 2003-2004, following the implementation of the Sixth Pay Commission's recommendations. Likewise, the arrears in respect of pensioners were also similarly postponed by the previous DMK Government. No responsible Government can announce such concessions without the capacity to honour them.

Despite the fact that these commitments were not honoured by the previous DMK Government and were left to be settled in the future when there was no hope of doing so, my Government has recently come forward to settle all these arrears left by the previous DMK Government, in a phased manner. This itself will indicate the sense of responsibility with which my Government has been undertaking the management of public finances, keeping the requirements of the poor and needy uppermost in mind, while at the same time placing emphasis on improvements to the quality of life of Government employees and teachers so that they can serve the people better.

When my Government assumed office in May 2001, it is now well known that the State treasury could not even honour cleared payments and such bills were kept pending for several months

and even years. In fact by the end of 2001-2002, with the further reduction in resources from the Government of India following the Eleventh Finance Commission's recommendations, the situation became unmanageable with current liabilities and bills pending amounting to as much as Rs.4000 crores. With a similar situation in all the State Transport Corporations and in the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, my Government had no choice but to set right the fiscal ruin that the State had been pushed into by the previous DMK Government. It was impossible to carry out any new programme for the people nor was it possible to even maintain the existing benefits to Government employees and teachers.

It was for this reason, that I had counselled patience on the part of the Government employees and teachers so that the position could be set right. Unfortunately, last year in 2003, despite my appeal some Unions of Government employees and Associations of Teachers decided to enter upon a strike instigated by certain political leaders. At that time, my Government had to establish the principle that the Government, Government employees and teachers should all serve the people who are our real masters. This principle that all of us should never under any circumstances cause inconvenience to the public was established last year.

Once this was set forth with clarity, I ensured that there was no ill will or intention to hurt Government employees or teachers. The very fact that I have invited all the Unions and Associations for a meeting today (20.10.2004) itself indicates that my Government and I bear no ill will of any kind. I also announced a general amnesty to even those who were punished as recommended by the Panel of Judges. I announced this in the Legislative Assembly in February 2004 itself. In May 2004, I reiterated the fact that there was no ill will towards Government employees and teachers.

It is with great difficulty that my Government has retrieved the impossible financial position to a considerable extent from the deep abyss that the

DMK Government left it in. This required sacrifices by all. My Government had to ensure that the burden of this adjustment would not fall on the poor and the needy. It is this background that Government employees and teachers should understand. I have, in May 2004, announced a new package of support for the poor of the State. This has a major impact on the finances of the State. Yet, I am confident that the efforts we have taken to set right the fiscal position will provide the wherewithal to handle these essential requirements for the poor. At the same time we have not yet fully resolved the threat posed by new cost increases, particularly in the State Transport Corporations due to diesel price hike, and the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board due to coal price hike. We have to provide in cash the subsidy requirements of the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board to benefit farmers, hut dwellers and domestic consumers. We have to provide increased requirements of subsidy for the Public Distribution System. All these requirements have to be met. As I have said before, we have to find a proper balance between these requirements and the aspirations of Government employees and teachers.

It is with this background, particularly to establish the firm position that my Government has absolutely no ill will or bias against Government employees and teachers, as is made out by some leaders of political parties, that I invited representatives of Unions and Associations to hear their requests personally. I am glad that the Unions and Associations have extended their co-operation in the task of reaching out to the poor and needy which is our common agenda. I am glad that it has been possible to let bygones be bygones and to look forward to a constructive and meaningful future with a new resolve and dedication to serve the people better.

It is with this new spirit of mutual understanding that my Government has viewed all the requests that have been placed before the Government. It will be clear that my heart is willing to do the very best for Government employees and teachers but the finances still threaten.

My Government has considered with great care all the requests made. These requests have been examined in detail. Simultaneously we have reassessed the fiscal situation. My Government has also to keep in mind the obligations under the Tamil Nadu Fiscal Responsibility Act 2003. Above all, the people who are our real masters require better services which my Government is striving to provide.

Keeping all these aspects in mind and with the clear intention of promoting understanding between my Government and the employees and teachers, I am glad to announce the sanction of one instalment of dearness allowance at 4% of pay with effect from 1.7.2004. This will apply to all State Government employees and teachers. This will also apply to the teaching and non-teaching staff working in Aided Educational Institutions, employees under Local Bodies, Noon Meal Organisers, Child Welfare Organisers, Anganwadi Workers and others. This will also be extended to pensioners. This will increase the total Dearness Allowance from 55% to 59% with effect from 1.7. 2004. The arrears from 1.7.2004 will be paid in cash. An adhoc increase of Rs.20 per month for those who are drawing consolidated pay, fixed pay and honorarium above Rs.150 per month as on 1.1.1996 and Rs.10 per month to those drawing less than Rs.150 per month will be allowed from 1.7.2004. This sanction of Dearness Allowance will benefit in all 12.33 lakh Government employees, teachers and others, as also 4.37 lakh pensioners at a total cost of Rs.267.08 crores per annum. The arrears Rs.66.77 crores from 1.7.2004 to 30.9.2004 will be paid fully in cash immediately.

Government employees and teachers have also requested that the balance instalments of dearness allowance be sanctioned. I am glad to announce that the next instalment of Dearness Allowance of 2% basic pay will be paid with effect from 1.1.2005 at an annual cost of Rs.135.38 crores. This will bring the total rate to 61% with effect from 1.1.2005. Thus, a major effort to reduce the gap between the Government of India's rates of Dearness Allowance and the State Government's

rates of Dearness Allowance has been made, and it will be the endeavour of my Government to reduce the gap in future as the financial position improves further. I am sure Government employees and teachers will greatly welcome this measure of assured payment of Dearness Allowance.

Government employees and teachers requested me today that inspite of the financial strain, I should consider providing the facility of encashment of leave. The facility of encashment of leave does not exist in most States and not even in the Government of India. Even so, Government employees and teachers have requested that this benefit may be provided. I have given careful consideration to their plea and I have decided to sanction encashment of leave for 7 days in a year as per the regular annual cycle, so that the costs are incurred evenly throughout the year. This will take effect from 20th October, 2004. It will benefit all employees and teachers. The annual cost will be Rs.171.34 crores. Despite the requirements of public finance with the need to conserve resources, and the fact that this facility does not exist in most other States as well as the Government of India, I have decided to sanction this facility with a view to promoting goodwill and encouraging Government employees to give of their best in terms of service delivery to the poor.

As I have said before, the public are our real masters and we should never cause them inconvenience. Whenever requests are made, they should be done keeping this uppermost in mind. My Government has clearly set out the principle of 'No work, No pay' as a principle of public policy and this cannot be deviated from. Employees and Teachers Associations requested me today that a generous view may be taken and their period of absence during the last strike from 1.7.2003 to 24.7.2003, when they actually rejoined duty may be treated as duty. They have cited certain extenuating circumstances and highlighted that they had already expressed regret in the High Court and their willingness to end the strike and to rejoin duty very early during the strike. The discipline involved in the principle 'No work,



No pay' has to be upheld. At the same time, I have decided to treat the whole episode of the strike last year by the Employees Unions and Teachers Associations as a misguided unfortunate event which is best left buried in the past. In this spirit, I have decided to take a magnanimous view. The period from 1.7.2003 or 2.7.2003 upto and including 4.7.2003 will be treated as "No work, No pay". The remaining period upto 24.7.2004 will be treated as duty. This is a major departure from the principle of "No work No pay, but I am undertaking this to ensure that Government employees and teachers will fully reciprocate and respond by extending their unstinted co-operation to the Government in all its efforts for the benefit of the poor and needy.

It is necessary for Employees Unions and Teachers Associations to function responsibly in close co-operation with the Government so that services are rendered effectively and efficiently to the people. Never for a moment should Employees Unions and Teachers Associations forget this responsibility. There may be grievances and requests, but Employees Unions and Associations should always realise that the primary purpose of the Government itself is to reach out to the poor and needy and provide a better life to them. Employees Unions and Teachers Associations should never let themselves be carried away, forgetting this primary goal of governance. Their demands and requests will always be considered by my Government, but with a sense of balance, keeping the needs of the have-nots as the top priority. This approach has to be recognised. Accepting this, Employees Unions and Associations of Teachers have requested that their recognition which was withdrawn after the strike in July, 2003, may again be granted, indicating that they will discharge their responsibility with care and diligence in close cooperation with the Government. Keeping in mind the spirit of goodwill and cooperation extended by Government Employees and Teachers Associations, I have decided to restore the status quo ante prior to the strike in July, 2003. All the 37 Employees Unions and Teachers Associations whose recognition was withdrawn

following the strike will again be granted recognition. My Government expects that they will carry out their functions in a responsible manner and also inculcate among their members the mission of improved service to the people.

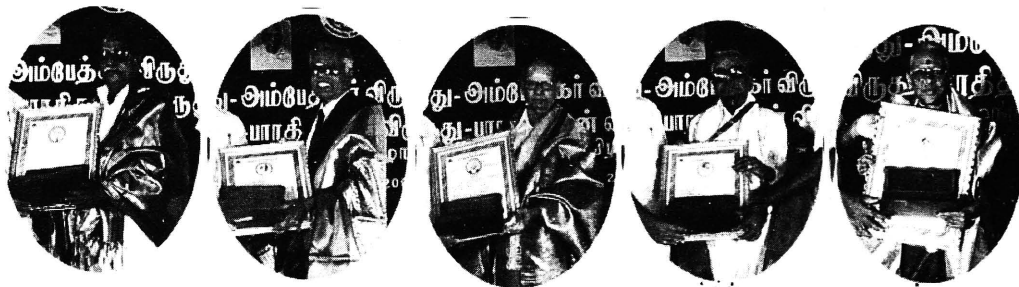
Today, many of the Employees Unions and Teachers Associations have represented that there are many minor issues, which can easily be resolved at the district level and the departmental level if a suitable forum is provided. I am glad to announce that at the District level, Department level and Secretariat Department level, "Service Delivery Improvement and Grievance Redressal Committees" will be constituted to focus on both improved performance and efficiency, as also redressal of grievances of Employees and Teachers. I am also glad to announce the reconstitution of a State Level Joint Council headed by the Chief Secretary, wherein such issues can be discussed and solutions found. I am confident that these measures will facilitate the ongoing dialogue between my Government and Employees Unions and Associations towards the common endeavour of better service to the people.

A plea was made that those in non pensionable service such as anganwadi workers, ayahs, cooks and helpers working in the Noon Meal Scheme and ICDS projects should be given certain benefits. Similarly, a plea was also made to suitably change school timings particularly in rural areas to be more convenient for both students and teachers. These will be considered favourably and separate announcements will be made.

I have evolved this package after careful consideration of all the views put forward by the Employees and Associations. I have done so in the hope that Employees Unions and Teachers Associations will extend full co-operation and support to my Government, in its determined bid to take Tamil Nadu to the Numero Uno position in every sphere.

\* \* \*

# TAMIL SAVANTS AND SCHOLARS HONoured



**T**o perpetuate the memory of great souls who had fought for the cause of freedom, tamil language and society, the Government of Tamil Nadu present awards to eminent tamil savants and scholars every year in the names of Periyar, Ambedkar, Thiru Vi Ka, Bharathiar, Bharathidasan and Ki Aa Pe. The awards for the years 2002, 2003 and 2004 were presented at a function held at Kalaivanar Arangam, Chennai on 17.9.2004.

Hon'ble Minister for Public Works, Prohibition and Excise and Revenue gave away the awards and delivered the

presidential address. In his address the Hon'ble Minister said he was happy to give away the awards in the names of Thanthai Periyar, Dr. Ambedkar, Thiru Vi Ka, Mahakavi Bharathiar, Bharathidasan and Ki Aa Pe since they had superior thoughts and had served the society selflessly. For a country to become a developed nation it should have selfless leaders he added.

Hon'ble Minister for Information, Publicity and Local Administration Thiru K.P. Anbalagan who presided over the function expressed happiness and congratulated the recipients.



Hon'ble Minister for Education and Commercial Taxes Thiru. C.Ve. Shanmugam, Hon'ble Minister for Adiravadar Welfare Thiru C. Karuppasamy and Hon'ble Minister for Backward Classes Thiru. Se. Ma. Velusamy also spoke on the occasion.



Thiru. V. Ramadoss, I.A.S., Secretary, Information & Tourism Department welcomed the gathering. Thiru. S.M. Shanmugasundaram, Joint Director, Public Relations, proposed a vote of thanks.

The function was compered by Thiru. R. Bharathan, Joint Director, Administration. The function was attended by a large gathering of Tamil Scholars, Officials, students of Schools and Colleges.

The following scholars received the awards.



### 2002

- |                        |                               |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1) Periyar Award       | - Thiru. Ka. Jegaveerapandian |
| 2) Ambedkar Award      | - Thiru. M. Damodaran         |
| 3) Thiru Vi Ka Award   | - Prof. T.V. Gopal Iyyar      |
| 4) Bharathiar Award    | - Thiru. K.V. Krishnan        |
| 5) Bharathidasan Award | - Dr. S.S. Ramar Elango       |
| 6) Ki Aa Pe Award      | - Dr. M. Thamizhkudimagan     |



### 2003

- |                        |                             |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1) Periyar Award       | - Thiru. Durai Govindarajan |
| 2) Ambedkar Award      | - Thiru. V. Subbarathanam   |
| 3) Thiru Vi Ka Award   | - Dr. M.R.B. Gurusamy       |
| 4) Bharathiar Award    | - Thiru. R.A. Padmanabhan   |
| 5) Bharathidasan Award | - Prof. A. Dakshinamoorthy  |
| 6) Ki Aa Pe Award      | - Dr. S.V. Subramanian      |



### 2004

- |                        |                              |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1) Periyar Award       | - Justice P. Venugopal       |
| 2) Ambedkar Award      | - Thiru. A. Sakthidasan      |
| 3) Thiru Vi Ka Award   | - Dr. S. Agathiyalingam      |
| 4) Bharathiar Award    | - Thiru. Seeni. Viswanathan  |
| 5) Bharathidasan Award | - Prof. L.P. Karu Ramanathan |
| 6) Ki Aa Pe Award      | - Dr. Rajarajeswari          |

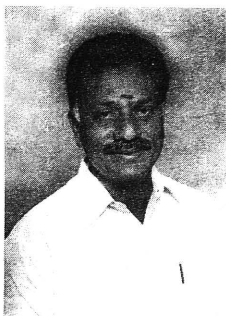


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# ***Tamil Nadu is first in South Asia to form river - basin board***

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**Thiru. O. Panneerselvam,**

Hon'ble Minister for Public Works, Prohibition &  
Excise and Revenue

**F**irst of all, I thank the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Idhayatheivam Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, for having permitted me to deliver the inaugural address on the "National Workshop on Integrated Water Resources Assessment, Development and Management".

I am very happy to state in the midst of you that this is one of the major areas in which the Government under Idhayatheivam Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has made remarkable achievement.

Water is one of the most vital, renewable resources. It is also crucial for the quality of life.

It is not only vital for sustenance of life but is also essential for socio economic development. With the growth of population, rapid urbanisation and industrialisation, increased standard of living and life expectancy, improvement in sanitation etc. the demand for water is increasing. There is heavy competition among the main sectors, namely,

Domestic, Agriculture, Industries, Power sectors etc. Land and water are two basic resources of the nation. Productive land is the source of human survival and security.

The volume of water on earth is 1,400 Million cubic kilometres. Out of this 2.8% is fresh water and surface runoff accounts to 40,000 cubic kilometre. The average per/capita availability of water per year in the world is around 7400 cubic meters. The world population is six billion (Jan first 2000) and the forest coverage is 2370 Million Hectares in the year 2000.

India has got 329 Million Hectares as geographical area (2.45% of the World area) and population 1.027 billion (16% of the World population) cultivable area to 184 Million Hectares per/capita availability of water per year in 2001 is 1820 cubic meter and forest coverage is 65 Million Hectares (20% of Geographical area) of the country.

India faces twin problems, population growth and poverty. Its economy is based on agriculture, irrigation and agriculture have always been given priority in development plans to make the country become self reliant on food front.

Tamil Nadu is a water starving state next to Rajasthan. It is not self sufficient on food either. With 4% (13 Million Hectares) of the land of the country and 6.4% (62.11 Million) of the country's population it has to sustain with less than 3% of country's water resources.

Barring the degraded and wastelands all cultivable area is being sown with appropriate crops.

Attempts are now on way to find out ways and means of reclaiming the wastelands and degraded lands as well, so as to augment production. Only about 47% of the area sown is presently being irrigated by all available water resources. The intensity of cropping is only around 120% Irrigation and drainage systems are environmentally degrading.

Groundwater development has proceeded with little consideration of environmental implications. There is insufficient water available in river basins to address environmental and ecological considerations. The forest coverage is 2.28 Million Hectares (17.5% of geographical area).

Having harvested 95% of surface water potential and 75% of ground water potential, conservation and management of water, land resources and other allied resources is the need of the hour.

There are 34 river basins in Tamil Nadu including one west flowing river Parambikulam Aliyar and for hydrological studies they have been grouped into 17 river basins.

With large scale water development and increased utilisation of water for various uses, many areas and concerns needing attention have emerged. The supply demand gap is widening in order to solve the various issues encountered in the basin. There must be an organisation for water allocation, management and monitoring of the resources.

Hence for integrated planning monitoring, management and development of water, land and other natural resources with the active participation of stakeholders to achieve socially and environmentally sustainable development of the resources in the river basin, the Tamil Nadu Government have formed river basin management and development boards for Palar and Tambaraparani river basins with basin management committees and a common Technical Secretariat. Tamil Nadu is first in South Asia to form river basin boards. The issues encountered in the basins are sorted out by involving stakeholders, Water Users Association, Line departments, MLAs, MPs & Ministers.

Based on the successful completion of the present water resources consolidation project, on the advice of Hon'ble Chief Minister Idhayatheivam

Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, a proposal for about Rs.2900 crores, under Water Resources Phase-II, has been sent to the World Bank and the World Bank has accepted to take up the follow on project. A project concept document is under preparation to enable a successful and effective implementation.

In order to integrate the activities of various line departments Hanaumanadhi sub basin is taken up for modernisation, water conservation, micro irrigation like sprinkler and drip irrigation, soil conservation, afforestation, fisheries, watershed management etc as a pilot sub basin for integrated water resources management involving the participatory approach at a cost of Rs.61 crores.

Government of Tamil Nadu have introduced groundwater legislation. The act is called "Tamil Nadu ground water development & management act 2003".

Under the able guidance of the Hon'ble Chief Minister Idhayatheivam Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, Tamil Nadu is fore-runner in implementing rainwater harvesting structures and artificial recharge schemes to augment water resources in all the houses and office buildings including irrigation structures all over Tamil Nadu in one stroke.

To evolve effective utilisation of water resources and equity, farmers organisation and turn over is being implemented in the state under Tamil Nadu farmers management of irrigation system Act. In order to tackle pollution and other issues relating to water, remedial and preventive measures are taken up in the water resources sector. Importance is being given to solve site specific problems by field oriented applied research. I hope the two days workshop on water resources would emerge with new findings and conclusions.

I wish the workshop all success.

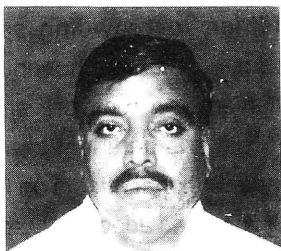
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*Inaugural Address by  
Hon'ble Minister for Public Works,  
Prohibition & Excise and Revenue*

*Thiru O. Panneerselvam  
at the National Workshop on  
Integrated Water Resources Assessment,  
Development and Management (IWRADM)  
on 23.9.2004 at GRT Grand Hotel, Chennai.*



# NUTRITIONAL EFFECTS ON FLUOROSIS



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**Thiru. K.P. ANBALAGAN,**  
Hon'ble Minister for Information &  
Publicity and Local Administration

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I consider it a great privilege to be with you in this august assembly for the important purpose of deliberating issues related to health effects due to consumption of excess fluoride from drinking water and food, the preventive measures and strategies to be followed for mitigation of the diseases and safeguarding the future generation from the resultant ill effects of fluoride toxicity.

Due to over extraction of water sources, continued depletion of water table and poor rain fall, deterioration of quality of the water sources has been noticed. Of all water quality parameters, fluoride can be

considered as the most health significant parameter.

As you all know, the problem of fluoride is due to nature of rocks and soils containing fluoride minerals. Excessive fluoride in water causes different types of fluorosis. Fluoride affects the teeth in children. It affects the skeleton of all age groups. In addition, other symptoms like pain in the joints, neck and bones are also experienced by the people. Fluoride is considered as non-reversible and prevention and proper nutrition intervention is essential. Fluoride is present in water, food, air (Industrial gases), cosmetics, some kinds of toothpaste and drugs. Fish, tobacco and tea are reported to contain high levels of fluoride. The fluoride entering human body directly acts with bones and teeth where calcium is present, The permissible limit for fluoride is 1.0 mg/litre and under no circumstance it can exceed 1.5 mg/litre. The presence of excess fluoride in water is the main cause for fluorosis. Statistics show that aged persons, persons affected by heart diseases, kidney diseases, malnourished children, people living in tropical areas, people exposed to sunlight are the most affected by the intake of water with high fluoride water.

In India about 17 States are reported to be having fluoride problem. States like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh Rajasthan and Gujarat are severely affected. The latest resurvey of habitations reveals that there are totally 5574 water quality affected habitations as against the 81787 habitations in Tamil Nadu. Of these habitations, 1899 habitations are considered as non safe source habitations with respect to fluoride only. The districts of Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Salem and Erode are severely affected. Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri Districts alone account for 1065 fluoride affected habitations.

In Tamil Nadu, various water supply schemes have been implemented with alternate distant fluoride-free sources. The fluorosis mitigation programmes include creating awareness under IEC activities, providing safe and alternate source, promoting defluoridation activities, etc.

I am also happy to inform you that a state level "Multi-Disciplinary Fluorosis Control Cell" has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary to Government, Municipal Administration and water Supply Department. The fluorosis control cell periodically reviews the status of fluoride affected areas to take appropriate mitigation measures. The Cell guides in the implementation of various water supply programmes in fluoride affected areas.

With the assistance of Gandhigram Rural Institute and other private institutions, defluoridation plants were installed in Dindigul and in Dharmapuri Districts on

experimental basis and the results were found to be encouraging. But, the installation of onsite plants cannot help the Districts like Dharmapuri where the problems are so acute in many habitations. Therefore, major water supply schemes with River Cauvery at Hogenakkal as source is under active consideration for solving the problem permanently in Dharmapuri district.

In addition to providing safe and alternate source, there are other options like nutritional intervention for both prevention and cure of fluorosis. It is pertinent to note that medicinal and nutritional effects on fluorosis have not been debated adequately so far and therefore, I am happy that this workshop is rightly timed with the experts representing all different sectors on the subject.

I am sure that the deliberations in the two days seminar would generate lot of new ideas and suggestions for taking appropriate actions at National and State level to completely eradicate the problem of fluorosis from the country.

I once again wish the Workshop a great success.

*Speech of Thiru. K.P. Anbalagan,  
Hon'ble Minister for Information &  
Publicity and Local Administration,  
at the National Workshop on  
"Nutritional Effects on Fluorosis"  
on 19th & 20th November 2004  
at Chennai.*

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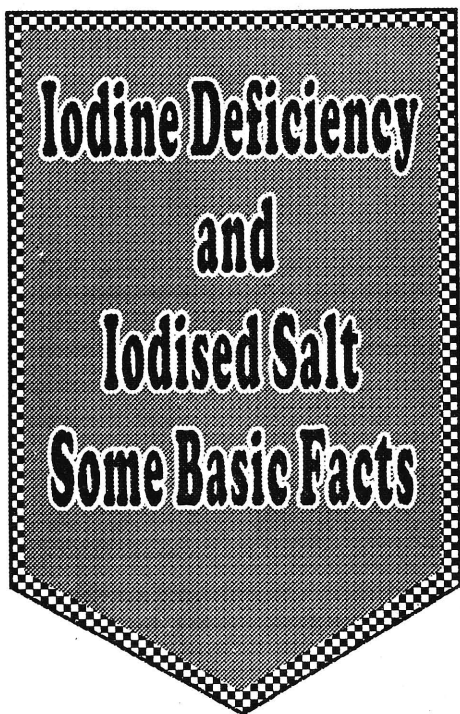
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### **What is iodine and why is it so essential for human beings?**

Iodine is a natural element, which is essential to human life. It is an essential component of the thyroid hormones i.e., thyroxine (T4) and tri-iodothyronine (T3). Iodine is essential for the normal growth, development and functioning of both the brain and body.

Lack of iodine can cause iodine deficiency disorders. Iodine is particularly essential during early childhood, puberty, pregnancy and lactation. A pregnant woman who is deficient in iodine is likely to give birth to a child with impaired mental and physical abilities. This condition of the child can worsen as she/he grows older.

### **How much iodine does a person normally need ?**

Conditions such as age of an individual and pregnancy and lactation in women determine the quantity of iodine required by a person. The average daily requirement of an adult is 150

micrograms and that of a pregnant and lactating woman is 200 micrograms. The age specific daily requirement of iodine of a child is as follows:

|                  |              |                |
|------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Infant           | 0-11 months  | 50 micrograms  |
| Child            | 12-59 months | 90 micrograms  |
| School age child | 6-12 years   | 120 micrograms |

### **From where do we normally get iodine?**

Iodine is present as salts in soil and water. Normal requirement comes from food grown on soil with adequate iodine. But, when the soil of any area lacks iodine, the crops grown on such soil are also deficient in iodine. Consequently, those people who live in iodine-deficient areas and eat locally grown food items regularly, do not get their daily requirement of this essential element in their food.

### **Are there any special foods that are rich in iodine ?**

Except for certain types of seaweed there are no foods that are rich in iodine. All foods derive their iodine from the soil on which they grow. If the soil is poor in iodine content the foods grown on it are also low in iodine content.

Contrary to the general belief, seawater is not a rich source of iodine. Seawater contains about 0.05 milligram/litre (0.05 ppm) of iodine. Only the specific variety of seaweed located near coralreefs have inherent biological capacity to concentrate iodine from the sea water. The reef fish that thrive on this variety of seaweed is rich in iodine. Thus, population consuming a specific type of seaweed and reef fish have high intake of iodine, as is the case in Japan.

### **Are all sea foods rich in iodine?**

It is wrongly believed that all sea foods are rich in iodine. It is also wrong to say that salt made from sea water is rich in iodine. Sea salt contains only 0.28 ppm iodine. Only seaweed growing near

coral reefs and reef fish feeding on such seaweed are rich source of iodine. In fish, the thyroid gland that is rich in iodine is located in the head. As the head of fish is not commonly consumed, iodine intake is limited even among those who eat reef fish.

### **What is the relationship between goitrogens and iodine assimilation?**

Goitrogens in certain kinds of foods such as cabbage, cauliflower, radish, turnip, sweet potato and casava prevent the uptake of iodine. The excess of thiocyanate in these foods, if consumed in large quantities, can trigger off goitrogenic action.

### **CONSEQUENCES OF IODINE DEFICIENCY**

#### **What happens if a person does not get enough iodine?**

A number of physical and mental disorders, some serious, some mild, result from iodine deficiency. The most visible and easily recognisable sign of iodine deficiency is goitre (goitre is an enlarged thryroid gland). Iodine deficient women frequently suffer abortions and stillbirth. Iodine deficiency can also lead to hypothyroidism, mental retardation, growth retardation, cretinism, low IQ, impaired mental abilities and decreased child survival.

Among adults this deficiency can result in low productivity and lack of energy. Inadequate iodine during pregnancy leads to decreased availability of iodine to the foetus, which leads to decreased synthesis of thyroxine. The decreased availability of thyroxine prevents the normal development of the foetal brain and body. Such brain damage is permanent and irreversible and irrevocably limits intellectual growth in later years.

Studies have documented that iodine deficiency results in lowering the average intelligence of the entire school age population by

as much as 10-15 IQ points

### **What are Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD)?**

Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD) form a spectrum of abnormalities which affect every stage of life. The following table summarises IDD.

| <b><u>The Spectrum of Iodine Deficiency Disorders</u></b> |                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <b>Stage in life</b>                                      | <b>Effects</b>                             |
| <b>Foetus</b>                                             | Abortions                                  |
|                                                           | Stillbirths                                |
|                                                           | Congenital Anomalies                       |
|                                                           | Increased Perinatal Mortality              |
|                                                           | Neurological Cretinism                     |
|                                                           | - mental deficiency                        |
|                                                           | - deaf-mutism                              |
|                                                           | - spastic diplegia                         |
|                                                           | - squint                                   |
|                                                           | Myxedematous cretinism                     |
| <b>Neonate</b>                                            | - mental deficiency                        |
|                                                           | - dwarfism                                 |
|                                                           | - Psychomotor defects                      |
|                                                           | Neonatal goitre                            |
| <b>Child</b>                                              | Goitre                                     |
|                                                           | Mental retardation/<br>learning disability |
|                                                           | Juvenile hypothyroidism                    |
| <b>Adolescent</b>                                         | Impaired mental function                   |
|                                                           | Retarded physical development              |
| <b>Adult</b>                                              | Goitre with its complications              |
|                                                           | Hypothyroidism                             |
|                                                           | Impaired mental function                   |

#### **Why does a child become a cretin?**

A baby growing in the mother's womb needs a regular supply of iodine for the normal growth and development of its brain and body. Only the mother's body can provide this essential iodine. If the mother is iodine deficient, the foetus too is deprived of iodine. If the woman's iodine deficiency





is severe, the child's brain and body development is permanently stunted and the child becomes a cretin, is unable to walk, talk or think normally. If the mother's deficiency is minor, the child will still be affected, even though she/he may look normal. The damage caused to the brain shows up in later years of life as poor school performance.

#### **Can a cretin child be cured?**

No Cretinism is permanent and incurable. It is not curable but a preventable condition. It can easily be prevented by regular consumption of



iodised salt by pregnant mothers to meet their daily requirement of iodine and help normal foetal development.

#### **Is it true to say that iodine deficiency is prevalent in hilly regions only? Are people living in plains and coastal areas not prone to iodine deficiency?**

No, iodine deficiency is widely prevalent not only in hilly regions but also in the plains and even coastal areas of our country. Surveys conducted

by the Government of India, State Governments and other National Institutions indicate that no State or Union Territory is free from iodine deficiency. Of the 310 districts surveyed in the country, 283 have been found to be endemic with Total Goitre Rates above 10 percent.

### **IODISED SALT**

#### **What is iodised salt?**

Iodised salt is common salt to which a very small quantity of an iodine compound is added. Iodised salt looks, tastes and smells exactly like common salt and is to be used in the same way in our diet as common salt. It can be used for cooking as well as table salt.

#### **How is common salt iodised?**

Iodine in the form of potassium iodate ( $KIO_3$ ) is added to common salt. In order to ensure 15 ppm of iodine at consumption level, 50 mg of  $KIO_3$  (equal to 30 ppm, iodine) is added per Kilogram of salt. The average daily per capita consumption of salt being 10 grams, iodised salt of that proportion will provide a minimum of 150 microgram or 15 ppm of iodine.

#### **Why is salt used as a vehicle for iodine?**

Salt is considered the most viable means of providing the daily requirement of iodine to the population. All the people consume salt every day - around 10 grams per day. When this salt is iodised and contains at least 15 ppm iodine, the entire population gets the required amount of iodine every day.

#### **Is there no alternative to universal consumption of iodised salt?**

In India, where majority of the districts surveyed (283 out of 310) have been found to be endemic, it is technically, administratively, financially and operationally not possible to provide two kinds of salt for human consumption. Neither is it cost effective to supply two different types of salt to the iodine deficient and iodine sufficient

districts. Between 1962 to 1984, an attempt was made to supply only iodised salt to the endemic districts but the results were highly unsatisfactory.

### **Can iodised salt be stored like common salt?**

The iodine in iodised salt decreases on prolonged exposure to moisture and heat. Therefore, at the household level it is important to store iodised salt in airtight and moisture proof containers away from fire. Transporters, wholesalers and retailers must also exercise care not to transport and store iodised salt exposing it to atmospheric conditions (such as sun and rain) to prevent loss of iodine.

### **How much of iodine is lost from point of production of salt to the point of household consumption?**

Improper packaging, transporting in open trucks and railway wagons and storage conditions, like rain and sun, that expose the iodised salt directly to atmospheric conditions are the main factors for loss of iodine. These losses vary from 20 - 40 percent, depending on the storage conditions, type of packaging and type of transportation used. Keeping this in view iodine content in iodised salt at production level is prescribed at a higher level (30 ppm) to ensure a minimum of 15 ppm at consumption level.

### **Has universal salt iodisation resulted in increase of price of salt?**

It is important to note here that one must always compare like with like. In terms of price difference, one must compare the price difference between loose common salt and loose iodised salt. Similarly, one must compare packed common salt with packed iodised salt.

At salt production centres, iodised salt is available in loose crystal form at about 45 paise per kilogram and powdered iodised salt at about Re.1 per kilogram. Transportation charges by rail/road and wholesalers'/retailers' margin of profit

forms a big share in deciding the final retail price. The retail price of iodised salt per kilogram even in the remotest areas of the country are as follows:

Crystal iodised salt loose

Rs.2.00 - 2.50

Powdered iodised salt loose

Rs.2.50 - 3.00

Powdered iodised salt packed

Rs.3.00 - 4.50

Refined iodised salt (branded)

Rs.6.00 and above

Only a small quantity of iodised salt is required daily, viz., 10 grams, which amounts to 300 grams per head per month, i.e. 1.5 kilograms for a family of five members. The monthly expenditure of a family of five members will be about Rs.3.00 - 9.00 depending on the variety. This is a small price to pay for the enormous benefits a family gets by being free from IDD.

### **What is the cost of iodisation?**

The additional expenditure of iodine in salt iodisation is 4.5 to 5 paise per kilogram. Other expenses like power, labour, etc. work out to 5 paise per kilogram.

Thus, if common salt is iodised in the crystal form i.e., without crushing or powdering and sold loose, the price would increase only by about 10 paise per kilogram.

|                      |                           |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Cost of salt         | Rs.300 per metric tonne   |
| Cost of iodisation   | Rs.100 per metric tonne   |
| Cost of bags (75 kg) | Rs.120 per metric tonne   |
| Freight              | Rs. 1000 per metric tonne |
| Total                | Rs. 1520 per metric tonne |

This, in effect, works out to Rs.1.52 per kilogram.

### **Will salt iodisation render thousands of salt labourers jobless?**

No. Iodisation of salt has created more employment opportunities by employing people in the process of iodisation, crushing, powdering and packing of salt.



### **Is salt iodisation benefiting the big and multi-national companies?**

In India, as of 31st March 2002, there are 878 salt iodisation plants with an annual capacity of producing 112 lakh tonnes of iodised salt. Details in this regard are as follows:

| <b>Plants installed by</b>                        | <b>No. of plants</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Small common salt manufacturers (upto 10 acres)   | 323                  |
| Medium common salt manufacturers (10 - 100 acres) | 79                   |
| Other common salt manufacturers (above 100 acres) | 114                  |
| Traders                                           | 333                  |
| Refineries                                        | 29                   |
| <b>Total</b>                                      | <b>878</b>           |

There is not even a single multinational company in iodised salt production. However, one multinational company is providing marketing assistance to some salt refineries. The country is self sufficient in production of common salt. Iodisation plants are also fabricated indigenously.

### **SAFETY OF IODINE INTAKE**

#### **Is potassium iodate safe?**

Potassium iodate is totally safe in the quantity consumed, i.e. the quantity that is added to salt for iodisation. The average per capita salt consumption in India is 10 grams per day. The 50 ppm of potassium iodate added to salt at the

manufacturing level to ensure presence of 30 ppm of iodine, is well within safe levels of consumption.

#### **Is excess of iodine intake harmful?**

A safe daily intake of iodine has been estimated to be 1000 micrograms. When iodised salt is consumed, the daily iodine intake is expected to be in the range of 150 to 300 micrograms. This quantity of iodine intake is 6 to 3 times, respectively, less than the upper limit set for iodine intake. Also, about 90 percent of iodine consumed is eventually excreted through urine.

#### **If a person lives in an area that is not iodine deficient, can the extra iodine in the salt consumed be harmful?**

Our body needs only a small amount of iodine to function normally. If this iodine is available to the body through dietary intake, additional quantities will be excreted through the urine.

#### **Does the dietary consumption of iodine cause allergy?**

No. To date, there has been no report of allergy to iodine when it is consumed in physiological levels (required level of iodine to maintain normal body functions). In response to general appeal in the Annals of Allergy in 1974 to report cases of allergy to iodine, no case has ever been reported.

#### **Can iodised salt cause goitre?**

No. Only a very large dose of iodine, viz., 200,000 micrograms can lead to "Iodine Goitre" and very rarely cause hyperthyroidism. This is 1300 time more than the average intake of an individual consuming iodised salt.

*Courtesy : Salt Department,  
Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion,  
Ministry of Commerce & Industry,  
Government of India,  
Jaipur.*

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