

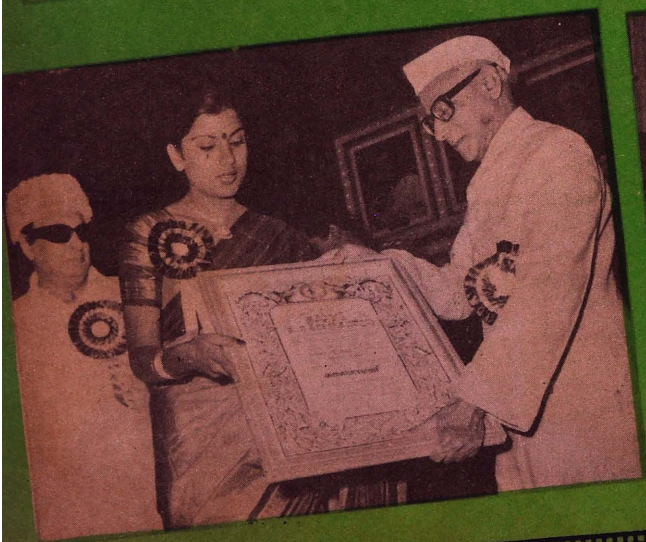
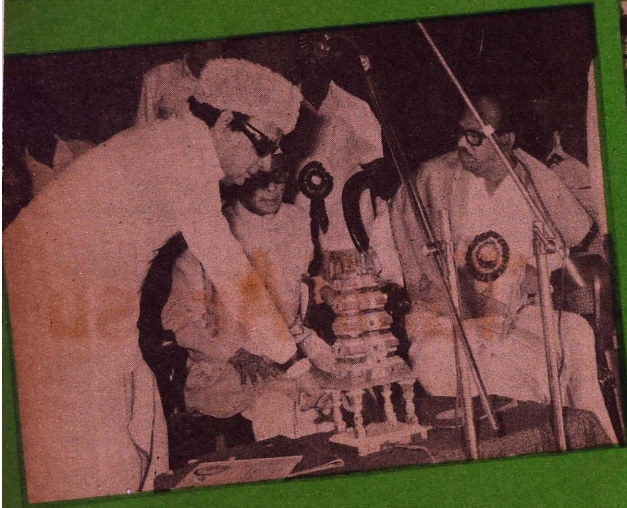
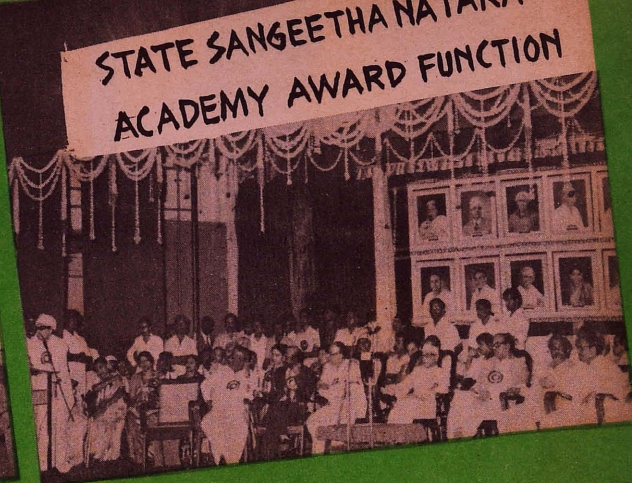


Tamil Arasu

MARCH 1981 50 Ps.



STATE SANGEETHA NATAKA
ACADEMY AWARD FUNCTION



Tamil Arasu

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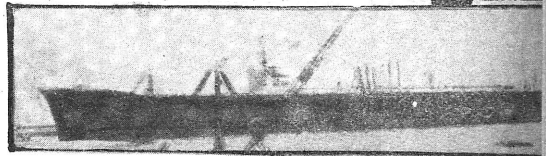
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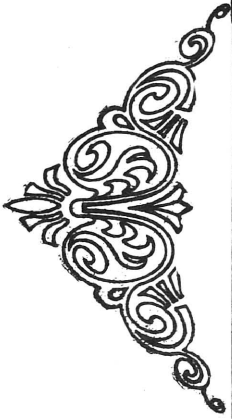
SADIQ ALI
Governor of Tamil Nadu

*Raj Bhavan,
Madras-32.*

MESSAGE

There are fifty to sixty million people in our country who suffer from one kind of disability or the other. There is a growing realisation among us now that this disability can be reduced or even overcome and a disabled person can lead a more or less normal life. There are many new inventions and new lines of treatment which make this possible. This is one of the obligations cast on a modern government to do all it can to help the disabled to conquer their disability to educate them, to help them to learn a craft or take up any profession and earn a decent livelihood. Apart from the Government the Society also has a part to play in assisting the handicapped people to live with dignity and self respect and give free expression to all the talents they possess. It is good that many voluntary agencies have sprung up to discharge an obligation which we all owe to a section of our countrymen who for no fault of theirs have become victims of a physical disability. I do hope this good work will continue and expand so that more and more disabled people may benefit by it.

(Sd.) SADIQ ALI.



M. G. RAMACHANDRAN
Chief Minister



Fort St. George,
Madras - 600 009.

MESSAGE

The year 1981 has been declared as the "International Year of the Disabled Persons" with the view to focus the attention of the people world over on our hapless brethren who are physically handicapped. They also form part of the society as much as we are and so are entitled to equality and equal participation.

The fact that these persons are disabled calls for our special attention and understanding. It is the moral duty of the society to care for them and to help them do their part of duty to the community in a manner that suits their physical condition. We should not merely look at their physical disability and consider them as a burden. But we should look for the talents and aptitudes latent in them. There might be among them persons with the genius of a poet or an orator or an artist or a scientist. What we have to do is to make them feel at home and bring out the best in them, in a useful way. Given the opportunity, they can also contribute to the progress of the society in good measure. Instead of thinking about what they are incapable of doing, let us take interest in what they are capable of doing.

The Government of Tamil Nadu is implementing several welfare schemes for the handicapped. But it will be difficult for the Government machinery alone to look after all their needs. Individuals, voluntary organisations, political organisations and Industrial undertakings should come forward to help this cause.

I would, therefore, appeal to all in the "International year of the Disabled Persons," to develop a positive and compassionate attitude towards the disabled persons and help their rehabilitation as useful citizens.

(Sd.) M. G. RAMACHANDRAN.



TMT. GOMATHI SRINIVASAN
Minister for Social Welfare
Government of Tamil Nadu

Fort St. George.
Madras - 600 009

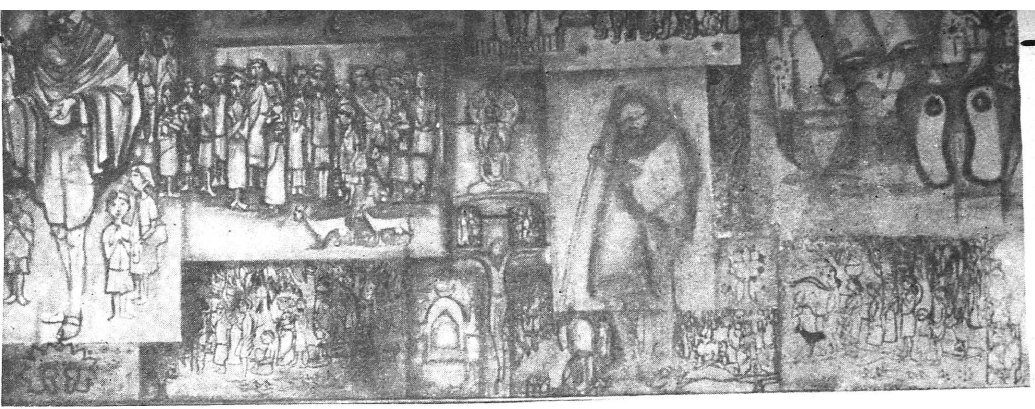
MESSAGE

The disabled have demonstrated time and again their indomitable will and unrelenting courage to surmount their handicap and bring meaning to their life. Innumerable instances have borne out that the handicapped can contribute greatly to the development of our society, culture, literature, economy and so on.

It is the responsibility of each and everyone of us to help them develop their abilities so as to enable them to lead a normal life. Government of Tamilnadu have initiated a number of schemes to better the lot of the handicapped and to rehabilitate them in life. Several new measures will also be undertaken during 1981, the International Year of the Disabled persons for rendering complete and comprehensive rehabilitation assistance covering all spheres such as Medical, Vocational, Economic and Social.

I have every hope that there will be co-operation and enthusiastic support from all welfare oriented institutions and individuals towards the stupendous task that still lies ahead of us in the rehabilitation of the disabled.

(Sd.) GOMATHI SRINIVASAN.



GANDHI ILLAM

A Museum on the Life of Mahathma Gandhi
(Opposite Rajaji Hall,
Government Estate, Madras-2.)
Open from 8 A. M. to 8 P. M.
On all days (Including Sundays and Holidays)
Facsimile of Gandhiji's Writings
Photographs depicting his life and work
Photographs of Gandhiji's visits to
Tamilnadu
The "Chekku" drawn by V. O. C.
When he was in Coimbatore Jail
AND MANY MORE ARE ON DISPLAY
ALL ARE WELCOME.



STRONGER SUPPORT FOR MGR

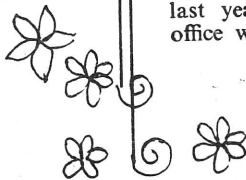
Chief Minister M. G. Ramachandran's "strong supporters" among the people of Tamil Nadu have increased from 33 to 38 per cent in the last year.

This interesting revelation is contained in an authentic and scientifically conducted State-wide survey by the statistics department of the Madras Christian College in the first fortnight of January, 1981.

About 80 students of the B.Sc. and M.Sc. classes took part in the survey. A sample of 1,400 adults of the State were interviewed using random sampling method from about 400 villages and towns, and the results processed with the aid of a computer.

The survey reveals that 49 per cent of the agricultural, landless labourers, strongly support MGR. Among the trading community 41 per cent, and among agriculturists 34 per cent, preferred him. Compared to last year, MGR's supporters have increased among office workers, traders and professionals.

Indian Express, February 3rd, 1981



V. KARTHIKEYAN, I.A.S.,
Chief Secretary,
Government of Tamil Nadu

Fort St. George.
Madras-600 009.

M E S S A G E

The International year of the Disabled aims at focussing attention on the multifaceted problems of the handicapped persons and the need for improving facilities for them in the fields of education, employment and training. In recent years there has been some progress in developing special services and facilities for the handicapped both by Governmental and voluntary agencies. These have, however, at best made only a beginning and much more remains to be done. The ultimate objective of all these services should be to enable the handicapped persons to help themselves and to assure them of a means of physical and economic independence.

I take this opportunity to appeal in particular to all industrialists and employers in both the public and private sectors and to all financing institutions to involve themselves in full measure and to contribute meaningfully towards provision of better and more varied opportunities for the best utilisation of the talents and capacity of the disabled. With their co-operation we shall strive even harder towards the fulfilment of the aspirations of our less fortunate brethren and help them become full and active citizens.

(Sd.) V. KARTHIKEYAN.

A. S. AHLUWALIA, I.A.S.,
Commissioner & Secretary to Government,
Social Welfare Department,
Government of Tamil Nadu

Fort St. George.
Madras-600 009.

M E S S A G E

The measure of progress of a society is very often indicated by the care and opportunities provided for the underprivileged and disabled. The creation of an atmosphere conducive to the smooth integration of those unfortunate sections into the mainstream of society is a continuous endeavour.

The declaration of 1981 as the International Year of the Disabled, makes it imperative for us to take stock of what we have done for the disabled, and what we hope to do for them in the future.

Sustained efforts by the Government and the voluntary associations in the fields of education, employment and training are essential for their positive rehabilitation and to take them towards greater self-reliance, and freedom from social and economic dependence.

During the International Year of the Disabled, let all of us who are involved in this cause, re-dedicate ourselves with understanding, enthusiasm, sincerity, compassion and love to the noble task of enabling the Handicapped to get their rightful place in society and their due share in its prosperity.

(Sd.) A.S. AHLUWALIA.



National Development Council

CHIEF MINISTER'S ADDRESS

Tamil Nadu Government would at the outset assure the Government of India of its whole-hearted support to the massive onslaught on poverty and backwardness which is sought to be mounted under the Sixth Five-Year Plan. While we are in broad agreement with the objectives and strategy of the Sixth Five-Year Plan, we would be failing in our duty if we do not draw the pointed attention of the National Development Council to certain problems, particularly with reference to the resources of the States for implementing the Plan.

The Sixth Five-Year Plan provides for a total outlay in the public sector of Rs. 97,500 crores. Out of this, Rs. 47,250 crores are in the Central Sector and Rs. 50,250 crores are in the States and Union territories sectors. The share of the States is only 51.54 per cent in spite of the significant efforts by the States to raise resources. It is our view that the total share of the States should be increased to atleast Rs. 55,000 crores, as a result of greater transfer of resources from the Centre to the States.

The main item of resources transfer to the States towards the Plan is under the Gadgil Formula. The amount proposed to be transferred under the Gadgil Formula to the 14 category A States through the Sixth Five-Year Plan period is Rs. 7,700 crores. Consistent with our view that the States' Plan should be atleast Rs. 55,000 crores, we consider that there should be a greater transfer of resources under the Gadgil Formula to the States.

The instruments of fiscal policy are primarily with the Centre and hence there is a basic imbalance in the amount of resources that can be mobilised by the Centre and the States. Most of the efforts towards eradication of poverty, provision of minimum needs, generation of employ-

ment, reduction of inequalities, will have to be undertaken by the States. It is, therefore, only reasonable that the resources transfers from the Centre are so worked out that the States have adequate resources at their disposal to effectively implement these vital programmes. Tamil Nadu Government would, therefore, suggest that the resources transfer under the Gadgil Formula be raised substantially over Rs. 7,700 crores indicated in the Draft Plan.

The application of the Gadgil Formula has been under debate and discussion for quite a few years. At the meeting of the National Development Council, held in August, 1980, Tamil Nadu had proposed certain modifications to the Gadgil Formula. We had suggested the following :—

- (a) 60 per cent. on the basis of population,
- (b) 10 per cent. on the basis of tax efforts excluding excise revenue,
- (c) 20 per cent. on the basis of backwardness to be distributed based on percentage of people below the poverty line,
- (d) 10 per cent. on the basis of special problems of the States.

The validity of relying largely on the population criterion in the revised Gadgil formula is itself open to question, because it would amount to penalising States which have done well in implementing family planning schemes. For example, Tamil Nadu, as a result of its concerted drive in family planning schemes has already had its representation in the Parliament reduced. On top of it, it has suffered financial loss also under the resources transfer system of the Gadgil formula. For this reason also, we would urge that greater reliance should be placed on the percentage of people below the poverty line. Relief to people below the poverty line is an internationally accepted principle in planning. We would urge that the transfer of resources from the Centre should largely be governed by the percentage of people below the poverty line.

It should also be noted that the focus of the Sixth Five-Year Plan is on eradication of poverty. The Gadgil Formula which links backwardness solely to per capita income below the national average was evolved before 1971, when there was no such pronounced emphasis in the plan priorities on the reduction of poverty. Further, there is a very harsh cutoff implicit in the concept of linking backwardness to per capita income below the national average, because even the States which have per capita income marginally above the national average stand totally deprived of any assistance under the 20 per cent. component in the modified Gadgil Formula although they may face more serious poverty and income distribution problems. The Sixth Five-Year Plan has correctly laid emphasis on the need to eradicate poverty through special programmes. In order to enthuse the State Governments to effectively apply themselves to this major task, it is necessary that the 20 per cent component under the revised Gadgil Formula is allocated on the

basis of poverty percentages. It is also seen that in allocating additional market borrowings in the Sixth Plan period, the per capita income criterion has again been adopted. We would strongly plead for the adoption of the poverty percentage concept to this element also.

A new entry was also sought to be included in the Union List to enable the levy of tax on the consignment of goods where such consignment takes place in the cause of inter-State trade or commerce. The tax so levied on the consignment transaction was to be assigned to the States. After due consultation with the States, a Bill providing for these amendments was introduced in Parliament in March 1979. This Bill however lapsed consequent on the dissolution of the previous Lok Sabha.

It is understood that these amendments are under consideration of the Government of India. Tamil Nadu would urge the Centre to undertake these amendments at an early date so that the resources generated would be available to the States for the maximum period in the Sixth Plan.

Additional Excise Duties in lieu of Sales Tax

The Tamil Nadu Government would like to refer to two important issues relating to the levy of Additional Excise Duties. The replacement of Sales Tax with Additional Excise Duties is entirely a voluntary tax-rental arrangement between the Centre and the States. Tamil Nadu would urge that there is no need to withdraw Sales Tax on more commodities and bring them under Additional Excise Duties. Further the National Development Council at its meeting in December 1970 came to the agreed conclusion that the incidence of Additional Excise Duties as a percentage of value of clearance would be revised to 10.8 per cent in a period of 2 to 3 years and also the ratio between basic and special Excise Duties on the one hand and Additional Excise Duties on the other would not exceed 2:1. It is observed that neither of these two directions has been observed in practice. The State Government would strongly urge that the Centre take urgent steps to implement these decisions of the National Development Council.

Tax on Railway Passenger Fares

The Seventh Finance Commission has specifically suggested that the question of increasing the grant in lieu of the tax on Railway Passenger Fares, which was withdrawn from 1st April 1961, should be referred to the appropriate Railway Convention Committee by the Government of India. The annual grant to the States remains at the level of Rs. 16.25 crores fixed in 1966-67. The current level would easily come to more than Rs. 63 crores. The State Government would request the Government of India to take an early decision on this issue.

Corporation Tax

One of the long standing pleas of the States has been to make the Corporation Tax shareable with the States as in the case of Income-tax. The States have to incur considerable expenditure in providing the infrastructure and maintain the services which help to promote new business and sustain the existing business leading to collection

of Corporation Tax. This tax has also shown great buoyancy. In the context of the Sixth Plan, it will be a good gesture if the Centre accepts the suggestion of the States to undertake a constitutional amendment to include the Corporation Tax among the taxes shareable with the States.

Most of the enterprises of the States are either utilities or are promotional Corporations. Any profit they make would be reserved for further development in key sectors. It is in this context that the State Government would also like to reiterate its request that State Enterprises may be exempted from Corporation Tax.

The States have to raise a substantial amount of additional resources during the Sixth Plan. The avenues for fresh taxation by the States are limited. It is in this context that we would like to urge the Centre to use the powers available under Article 269 of the Constitution and undertake measures to levy taxes on the following :—

- (a) taxes on railway passenger fares and freights,
- (b) taxes other than stamp duties on transactions in stock exchanges and future markets,
- (c) taxes on sale or purchase of newspapers and on advertisements published thereon

Powers of taxation under Article 269 could also appropriately be brought under the concurrent list.

Centrally-Sponsored Schemes

After several rounds of discussions in the National Development Council in the recent past, a carefully considered decision has been taken to limit the number of Centrally-Sponsored Schemes and keep the outlays on account of these schemes under constant check so that they do not exceed a proportion of Central assistance towards States' plans. Based on this decision, a careful exercise of listing the schemes that could be transferred to States was undertaken and Central resources meant for these schemes were also to be transferred to States under the I. A. T. P. Formula. While the 1978-83 plans was being finalised, it was agreed that assistance under this Formula will be transferred to States to cover the expenditure on transferred schemes till the end of the Plan. It is seen that Central resources transfers under this Formula in the Draft Sixth Plan provide for the requirements of States only for 3 years, namely, 1980-83, to meet this transferred liability. The remaining 2 years in the 1980-85 Plan are thus left uncovered. This would lead to the inference that the Centre has shifted the responsibility for some major schemes to the States without adequately transferring the resources. Further, the resource transfer under the I. A. T. P. Formula which is adequate only for 3 years is being spread over the 5 years of the plan. This will cause shortfalls in effective implementation of these transferred schemes.

The distribution of outlays in respect of sectors like Agriculture, Medical and Public Health, Education, etc., indicate a very high Central Sector outlay. It would be much better to transfer resources to the States and allow the States to execute plans in these sectors.

The following specific proposals are recommended :

- (i) The assistance to States under the I.A.T.P. Formula may be enhanced to Rs. 2,800 crores. The additional amount may be found by pruning Central Sector Outlays in sectors like Agriculture, Medical and Public Health. This amount of Rs. 2,800 crores may be released over the 5 years, 1980-85.
- (ii) The number of Centrally-Sponsored Schemes should be kept to the minimum as already decided and any new scheme should be introduced only in consultation with the States.
- (iii) In formulating and implementing Centrally-Sponsored Schemes, the States should be given freedom to settle the detailed staffing pattern, etc., whereas the Centre should concentrate on the physical targets. This will enable the States to adapt these schemes to their areas and also relieve the Centre of the responsibility of detailed formulation of schemes.
- (iv) Patterns/principles of assistance under Centrally-Sponsored Schemes should be intimated even at the time of annual plan discussions so that States can plan and implement these programmes properly. At present these are often delayed leading to late starts and tardy progress.
- (v) By definition, Centrally-Sponsored Schemes are of national importance. These schemes should be fully financed by the Centre on a 100 per cent grant basis.

Growth with Stability

In financing the plan, deficit financing is to be relied upon to the extent of Rs. 5,000 crores. The control of inflation and maintenance of stable price levels are crucial for the successful implementation of the plan. The States which are to implement the Minimum Needs Programme (all rural works) will find the real scope of the programme seriously eroded unless inflation is kept under control. Price stability during the plan period is absolutely crucial to its implementation. Recent experience indicates that bottlenecks in certain critical sectors like transport, iron and steel, coal and oil have a significant impact on price trends. While the Centre has reserved a substantial portion of the plan resources for investment in these sectors, unless improvements in managerial efficiency are speedily ensured, the States' plans will be seriously jeopardised. The instruments of control of these sectors are largely with the Centre and hence a determined effort to improve the performance in these sectors requires to be undertaken.

Agriculture Sector

The Tamil Nadu Government would like to draw specific attention to the problems facing the

Agricultural sectors. The Sixth Plan visualises an annual growth rate of 5.2 per cent. in respect of agricultural production. The plan documents also stress the need to adopt appropriate pricing policies by Central and State enterprises in order to achieve an adequate return on capital employed. In this process it is likely that the cost of farm inputs increase rapidly unless they are held back by appropriate subsidies. Withdrawals of subsidies may yield increased resources for plan investment. However, this would have a very serious impact on the farm sector, particularly on the small and marginal farmers. Every effort should be taken to provide remunerative prices for agricultural commodities which should fully cover the cultivation expenses and leave a reasonable surplus. However, fixation of remunerative prices alone would not be adequate as very often benefits of Government fixed prices do not reach small and marginal farmers as marketing of agricultural produce is still to improve. In view of this there is paramount need to continue subsidies on inputs to the farm sector.

In order to ensure the availability of essential commodities at reasonable prices to the consumers it is essential that the public distribution system is strengthened and made a permanent feature of our economy. Tamil Nadu has been effectively implementing a scheme of a fair price shop in each village and has opened 17,000 such shops all over the State. As these shops are in the rural areas, they cannot be expected to be commercially viable atleast in the initial period and the State Government is incurring an expenditure of about Rs. 4 crores every year as subsidy to these shops. As this scheme constitutes a major effort of the State to provide relief to the rural poor, Tamil Nadu would reiterate its request that the Centre should extend its support to this scheme under the Plan and come forward to bear atleast 50 per cent of the subsidy in the Sixth Plan.

Tamil Nadu welcomes the special emphasis given to Rural Development in the Sixth Plan. The National Rural Employment Programme is a well-conceived programme. However, in making allocations under this programme to States, greater weightage should be given to the poverty percentages. Further for a rice consuming State like Tamil Nadu, it is important that the prompt delivery of specified allotments of rice is ensured under this programme. In respect of the Integrated Rural Development Programmes, allocations are made to each block on a standard scale although the problem of poverty is much more serious in certain States. The Tamil Nadu Government would like to press for a higher per block allocation to the group of 7 States having the highest poverty percentages.

Tamil Nadu has always been in the forefront implementing progressive land reform measures. Substantial extents of agricultural land have already been declared surplus under the Ceiling Laws, taken over and redistributed to thousands of landless poor. To give a new thrust to land reforms in the Sixth Plan the State Legislature has passed the Tamil Nadu Land Reforms (Fixation of Ceiling on land) Second Amendment Bill 1980, which has been sent to the Government

of India. As soon as the assent of the President is received the new measures will be implemented, as a result of which benami transfers of land will be unearthed. Enforcement of this Act will make available even larger extents of land for redistribution to the poor.

The Tamil Nadu Government welcomes the new thrusts in the Sixth Plan for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The special component plan for Scheduled Castes is bound to be welcomed by all States. While implementing this plan, there should be a flexible approach allowing the States to adopt innovative ideas in framing schemes for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

It is heartening to note that the strategy for development of irrigation includes action to investigate feasibility of a national plan for inter-basin river water transfers. While this is a subject which is of paramount importance to ensure speedy development of backward and drought prone areas, concrete steps to ensure the early realisation of this objective have not been taken in the past. The Centre should complete the assessment of water potential of States quickly, draw up and implement definite schemes for optimum utilisation of waters.

The Central Plan consists of an outlay of Rs. 4,725 crores on power. While the States have been constrained to cut back outlays on power generation due to the resources position, the Centre will be making a substantial investment in this sector. It is necessary to ensure that the benefits of this investment are shared on a rational basis among States. Tamil Nadu would like to press for a national grid and allotment of Central pool energy to each State on a rational basis. Early steps for the realisation of this objective should be taken.

Tamil Nadu is not well endowed with natural resources. The available irrigation potential of the State has been almost fully harnessed. Tamil Nadu accounts for the highest percentage of unemployed in the country. The State has one of the highest percentages of people living below the poverty line. While the State is poised to make a determined effort to achieve rapid growth in the Sixth Plan, it cannot do so without massive Central investment in the State. The Central Sector outlay in the Sixth Plan is very substantial. Central investment in Tamil Nadu has however come down appreciably in the past. It is in this context that we would like to urge the Centre to undertake a few major projects in Tamil Nadu in the Sixth Plan.

The Tamil Nadu Government has been requesting the Centre to take up the Sethusamudram Canal Project. Another Committee is to go into the feasibility of this project. We would urge the Centre to clear this project soon so that it can be completed in the Sixth Plan period. A significant effort is to be undertaken in the Sixth Plan to make the country self reliant in energy resources. The establishment of a new atomic power plant at the site near Tuticorin which has been surveyed should be included in the Sixth Plan. The Ocean Thermal Energy conversion plant in the Bay of Bengal is a promising new source of renewable energy. This should be taken up as a research

and development project in the plan of the Science and Technology Department of the Government of India. On-shore oil exploration in the Cauvery Basin and off-shore efforts in the Palk Bay need to be intensified.

A number of new broad gauge railway links are urgently required in Tamil Nadu particularly with the development of Tuticorin as a major port. The Karur-Dindigul broad gauge line, Tuticorin—Tirunelveli broad gauge line and the conversion of the Madras—Tuticorin metre gauge line into broad gauge are the main railway links which should be undertaken in the Sixth Plan to open up the entire southern half of Tamil Nadu. The State would like to urge commencement of work urgently on the East Coast Road from Madras to Kanyakumari as a new National High way. The Sixth Plan provides for a very small outlay for a third level air service mainly in the North Eastern Region. The State Government should be assisted in provision of the third level air service connecting important tourist centres in the State. The serious transportation problem in Madras City can be solved only through a rapid transit system. An exhaustive project report has been prepared. This project should be undertaken in the Sixth Plan.

The Sixth Plan provides for several new starts in petroleum refining, petrochemicals and fertilizers. Tamil Nadu would urge the Centre to locate a second refinery in Tamil Nadu along with a petrochemical and fertilizer complex.

Before I conclude my speech I would like to refer to two issues which in Tamil Nadu have assumed urgent significance. The closure of the B & C Mill have resulted in about 13,000 labourers being thrown out of employment. We would strongly urge that in order to protect the interests of these labourers the Government of India should take an early and favourable decision about taking over the mills and running it themselves.

There is clamour in Tamil Nadu for the writing off of loans of small farmers and this demand has been strongly and actively supported by all political parties in Tamil Nadu including the Congress (I) which is the ruling party in the Centre. Tamil Nadu has offered substantial concessions already to the agriculturists even beyond its means and has written off loans to the extent of about Rs. 80 crores. A satisfactory solution to this problem can be found only if the Government of India comes forward with substantial financial assistance to write off the loans of small farmers. As this agitation is threatening to become a law and order problem it is urgent that the Government of India should take bold and imaginative decision in the matter at an early date.

We are confident that the Government of India will appreciate our firm resolve to implement the Plan vigorously and come forward to give the most sympathetic consideration to the genuine difficulties we have pointed out and the ideologically sound and the eminently practical suggestions we have made.

(Excerpts from the speech delivered by Thiru M. G. Ramachandran, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, at the National Development Council meeting on 14-2-81.)



Rehabilitation of the Handicapped

O.P. SOSAMMA, I.A.S.
Director of Social Welfare

The era of technological progress, whose notable contribution to human thought has probably been the development of a rational and scientific approach to many human problems, has revolutionized the traditional concept of disability. In to-day's world physical disability is no longer viewed as a scourge and it is increasingly being realised that given the right type of opportunity, they can also play a very useful role in society. In fact, it has been rightly said that emphasis should be placed not on what a person lacks but on what he has. This, in essence, is the philosophy of modern rehabilitation services which aim at the complete integration of the handicapped individual into the community.

The present day concept of rehabilitation is of comparatively recent origin. In almost every country, including India, services for the handicapped were initiated by the missionary zeal of charitably disposed persons whose main concern was the alleviation of human sufferings. The primary purpose of most of the early institutions was to provide a sanctuary for the disabled and to offer training in pastime occupations. Consequently although educational and training

institutions have existed in India for about a few decades, it is only during the last few years that a concerted effort has begun to be made to place handicapped persons in remunerative occupations a step which is of paramount importance for the socio-economic rehabilitation of the handicapped.

Economic rehabilitation can be generally in four main forms viz., work, sheltered employment, open employment, and self-employment.

In some advanced countries, severely handicapped persons are often assisted in working in their own homes, welfare organisations undertake the responsibility to provide raw material, and to sell the finished goods and also to provide technical assistance wherever necessary. This form of employment has not developed in India, mainly due to the lack of proper communication facilities and the problems of finding suitable market for the finished goods.

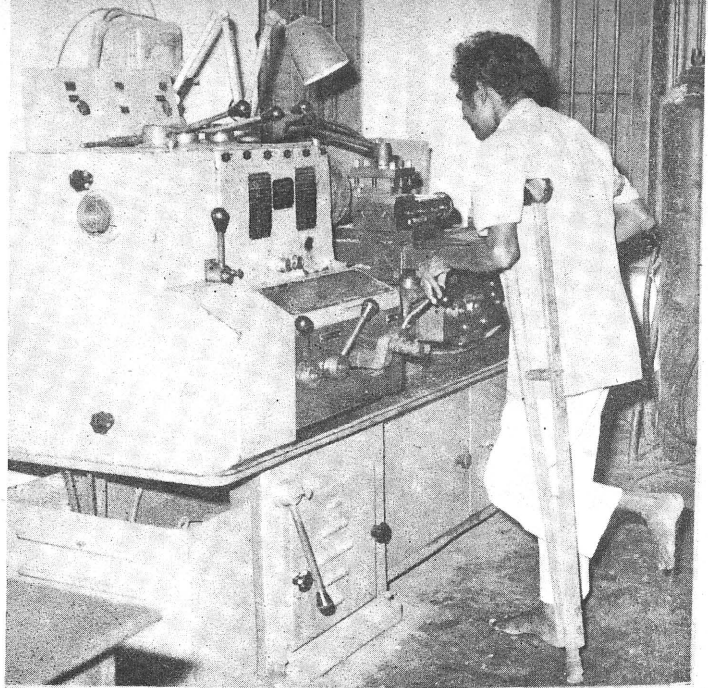
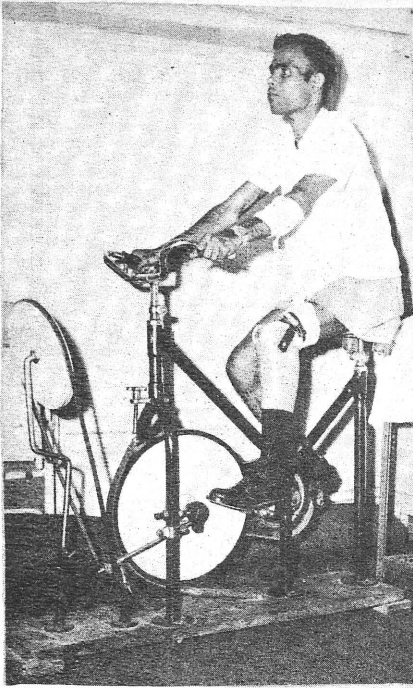
The main objective of sheltered workshops, where traditional crafts peculiar to a country are usually practised, is to provide employment under sheltered conditions to such handicapped persons as are unable

to hold their own in the open field. An important function of a sheltered workshop is to provide the initial working experience for those who can subsequently be placed in open employment. Establishment of



sheltered workshops for the handicapped has just commenced in India.

The most important and profitable form of employment for the handicapped is what is known as



“open employment.” This merely means the placement of handicapped persons in ordinary industry, commerce or public services.

The other important area in which handicapped could be economically rehabilitated is in the field of “*Self-employment*”. Under self-employment, disabled are assisted to take up self-employment ventures for which technical assistance is rendered, financial aid is given and other required help is provided. This form of employment is increasingly becoming popular among the handicapped and significant number of them are thus being rehabilitated.

Tamilnadu is one of the earliest States to provide rehabilitation services to the handicapped. Initially it is only the voluntary Agencies and Service Organisation which started rendering service in the field of education and training. School for the Blind at Palayamkottai, which was started in 1890, is one of the oldest institutions for the handicapped in the country. The Government school for the Blind at Poona-mallee, which is now managed by the Government, also came into existence as a joint effort of Madras Association for the Blind and the Victory Memorial Committee in 1930. But the Voluntary effort



was confined mostly to the field of education and it was also found to be very inadequate to commensurate with the needs of the handicapped. The Government realised the need and urgency for extension of these services in other areas and hence slowly started establishing schools for the handicapped in different places of the State. At present there are 45 institutions for the handicapped in the State of which



17 are Government managed institutions. Most of the private managed institutions are getting financial aid from the Government.

The Government also realized the need for providing vocational training to the handicapped and it therefore started the Light Engineering Project for the Adult Blind at Guindy in the year 1967. In the middle of seventies the Modern Training cum Production Workshop for the physically handicapped was started at Muttukadu and a Rehabilitation Home for blind women was also started in the year 1978.

An Institution for the Mentally Retarded is also to be established shortly by the Government. A Regional Rehabilitation Centre for the handicapped on the pattern of Vocational Rehabilitation Centre for physically handicapped of Government of India is also being established at Madurai which will undertake evaluation and placement of the handicapped on scientific and systematic lines. A Production-Cum-Weaving Co-operative for the Blind has also been sanctioned by the Government, which, when established, will rehabilitate 120 blind in self-employment.

The Government Institute of Rehabilitation and Artificial Limb Centre at Madras and the Artificial Limb Sub-Centres at Madurai,

Coimbatore and Thanjavur are rendering valuable service in the field of medical rehabilitation of the physically handicapped by supplying artificial limbs and appliances. Similarly the recently established Institute for speech and Hearing impaired at the Government General Hospital, Madras serves those with speech and hearing impairments.

Besides providing medical and vocational rehabilitation services to the physically handicapped by establishing Institutions, handicapped individuals are assisted for their medical, economic and social rehabilitation through various schemes of the Government. Free supply of hearing aids to poor, deaf children, free supply of tri-cycles to poor, Orthopaedically handicapped, free supply of wheel chairs to Paraplegic patients, free supply of calipers to poor Orthopaedically handicapped children are all important programmes of the Government aiming at medical rehabilitation and every year thousands of persons are benefited by these schemes.

In recent years, economic rehabilitation of the handicapped is also receiving special attention of the Government. Two important schemes for the economic rehabilitation of the handicapped are now being implemented by the Government of Tamilnadu. One of the schemes is to assist the handicapped for setting up of Bunk stalls in different places of the State by arranging

loan assistance from Banks and with the Governmental subsidy of Rs. 500/- to each handicapped beneficiary. The objective of the Government is to rehabilitate 1,000 handicapped persons under the self-employment programme. As per the other scheme of economic rehabilitation, each trained handicapped who has registered his name at the Employment Exchange is placed as an Apprentice in an industrial establishment on a payment of Rs. 150/- per month as stipend from Government during the period of one year of apprenticeship and the employer is to absorb the candidate on completion of apprenticeship. The Government aims to place all the 1,500 trained handicapped in suitable employment under this special apprenticeship programme.

Scholarship is also given to the physically handicapped in order to enable them to pursue their studies or training course or other vocational course. This scholarship is sanctioned by the Government of Tamil Nadu from the funds provided by the Government of India, and about 1,000 handicapped get the benefit every year under this scheme.

Both Governmental and the Voluntary Agencies in Tamilnadu have been taking concerted efforts for providing comprehensive rehabilitation services covering all aspects-medical, vocational, economic and social rehabilitation of the handicapped. It is expected that by expansion of the existing programmes and starting many new programmes in 1981, we will be able to rehabilitate considerable number of physically handicapped persons meaningfully and make them economically and socially independent.

Lack of appreciation of the potentialities of the handicapped worker is probably the most serious obstacle in the way of placement of handicapped persons in suitable employment. Let us not be disheartened by what the disabled cannot do ; Instead let us be encouraged by what they can do. All the rehabilitation measures should aim at making the physically handicapped self-reliant ultimately. This has been beautifully summarized by Henry Kessler in his following words :—

“The object of help is to make help superfluous. This is the ideal and the motivating power behind rehabilitation. No Nation can afford the luxury of wasted man power”



100 years

PORT of MADRAS

What had been a tiny hamlet called CHENNAIPATTINAM housing a few fishermen always looking upto the mercy of Mother Nature for their daily bread has been transformed into a metropolitan city housing various types of industries with a population of nearly eight millions. This is the stage in a nutshell of the development of Madras into a sprawling metropolis as it stands today. Such a development was possible primarily due to the development of Madras Port.

Towards such an effort, a small and humble beginning was made 200 years ago with the arrival of the British in this area. The East India Company had to carry on its trade from the Fort St. George. Cargo which arrived by ship from alien lands had to be carried by small boats known as 'Masula Boats' from ship to shore and then to the Fort St. George. This operation was indeed hazardous from the point of view of the risk involved for the men engaged in such an operation and the loss of cargo on account of surf. This situation attracted many a thinking public and the then Government towards the creation of a haven for the merchant

navy ships. The construction of an Iron screw pile pier was the small beginning of to-day's Major Port of Madras. The then traffic was a few thousand tonnes particularly merchandised and finished goods. As years passed, the screw pile pier could not cope with the increased traffic and then came the imperative necessity for an enclosed basin for the ships to be safe at moorings. 15th December, 1875, a red letter day in the history of Madras City as well as the Madras Port, was the day on which the harbour works were commissioned. Two breakwaters forming an artificial harbour with an eastern entrance were nearly completed in 1881 and there came peace for the merchant navy ships. The Madras Port had been born. The traffic then slowly picked up to a few lakhs tonnes.

In 1886, the management of the Madras Port was transferred to a Board of Trustees. Since then, the Madras Port has never looked back. From a small embryo to an intermediary level and then to a Major Port of 20 alongside berths and 3 mooring berths, Madras Port has been transformed into a Major Port on the East Coast. It is no exaggera-

tion to say that it became the Eastern Gateway of India. From 2.5 million tonnes in the year 1952, the traffic has increased to 10.17 million tonnes to-day. The commodities imported and the cargo exported form a wide variety:—

<i>Imports</i>	<i>Exports</i>
Fertiliser	Iron Ore
Cement	Barytes
Oil	Skins and hides
Coal	Textile goods
Raw materials for fertiliser factories	Condiments
Other general cargoes	Granites

The Madras Port has now completed 100 years of its useful existence in the development of the national economy and the foreign trade. Although the achievement in the past was considerable, there is still tremendous scope for more and more modernisation of the Port operations in Madras which will bring more traffic and bring about economic prosperity to the country in general and to the hinterland, covering the areas of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka in particular.

A few development plans which are in the offing are enumerated below:

OUTER ARM:

The Bharathi Dock on the northern side of the port is capable of handling giant tankers upto the draft of 46'. It has a turning circle of 49' draft. From October 15 to January 15 the monsoon period caused by the North East Monsoon serves as a deterrent in using this dock to the permitted draft for the vessels coming in with oil for discharge and the ones loading iron ores to the distant countries like Japan, Korea and Rumania. Madras Port is now engaged in the task of constructing a wall into the sea of 1005 Mtrs. length to give tranquility to this dock. This work is expected to be completed by 1982. The water spread area between this wall and the eastern breakwaters of the Bharathi Dock may help the future planners to go in for yet another harbour according to the exigencies of demands.

FISHERIES HARBOUR:

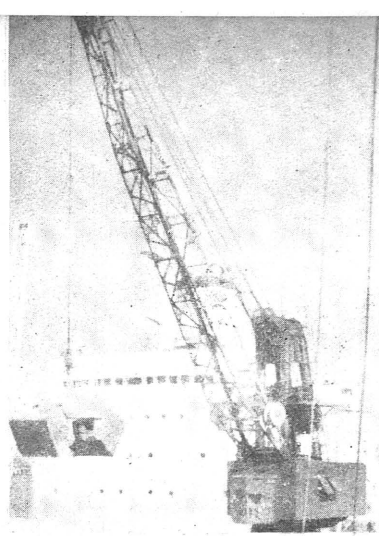
The eastern coastal region is abundant with sea-food. To modernise fishing and to alleviate the difficulties and the sufferings experienced by the fishermen of this area, the Madras Port has undertaken the construction of the Fisheries Harbour as a Deposit work for the Union Ministry of Agriculture. The fisheries Harbour with the spacious auction hall and sophisticated handling equipment for the catches is expected to be ready in the year 1981-the centenary year of the Port. With the commissioning of the Fisheries harbour, 40,000 tonnes of sea food could be handled scientifically. The Harbour could be a haven for 150 trawlers and 500 pablo boats. The harbour basin will have 48.56 hectares water spread area and will have a depth of 6 metres. The cost of the project is about 11 crores.

REMODELLING OF BOAT BASIN AND PROVIDING REPAIR FACILITIES TO THE TRUST'S FLOATING CRAFTS

In order to attend to the repairs of the Trust's dredgers, tugs and other floating crafts, it is proposed to remodel the boat basin at an estimated cost of Rs. 372 lakhs and also to construct a dry dock capable of catering to bigger vessels upto 20,000 DWT Tonnes.

CONTAINER HANDLING FACILITIES:

Transportation of cargo through containers is on the increase. The



Port has planned to keep itself fully equipped with the container handling to match the international standards. The facilities will be created in two stages. In the first stage, containers would be unloaded in the Jawahar Dock and moved to Bharathi Dock, where container stacking yard, freight station and other infrastructure would be created for stuffing, destuffing and stacking of the containers. In the second stage, a full-fledged container berth with a draft sufficient to berth the vessels of 42' with ship-to-shore container quay cranes and other supporting infrastructures would be provided. The total cost of the Project will be around of Rs. 25 crores.

MULTI FUNCTIONAL GRAIN TERMINAL WITH SILOS:

The Food Corporation of India is planning a bulk grain terminal at Madras Port at a cost of Rs. 12 crores for export of rice and wheat and import of wheat when it becomes necessary. This installation will consist of fully mechanised equipment for handling foodgrains and storage complex consisting of larger circular bins of capacity 25,000 tonnes duly incorporating a bag delivery system and a despatch building equipped with automatic bagging and stitching machines. Necessary land in the Port area has been allotted by the Port to the Food Corporation of India.

EXPANSION OF JAWAHAR DOCK

The Jawahar Dock is located inside the main harbour. The dimensions are 518 Mtrs. x 152 Mtrs. It is designed to take 3 vessels of 150 Mtrs. length of the wharves on either side. 15 years ago, this dock was commissioned. Of late,

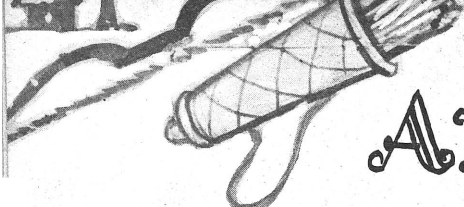
the port is receiving modern vessels which are longer and are of the order of 185 to 200 Mtrs. The berthing of such vessels at Jawahar Dock results in the adjacent berth becoming unutilised. This is a major impediment in handling of vessels. In view of this, it is now proposed to expand Jawahar Dock sufficiently to accommodate two vessels of 200 Mtrs. length and one vessel of 150 Mtrs. length on either side, with sufficient space earmarked for handling of LASH barges at the southern end of the dock. The Project is tentatively estimated to cost about Rs. 15 crores. The feasibility report has been submitted to the Government of India for approval and the same is expected to be cleared shortly.

DRY DOCK:

A slipway of 950 tonnes capacity is now available at Madras Port to carry out the essential repairs to the Port crafts. The dredgers of the port 'Cauvery' and 'Coleroon' cannot be accommodated in the existing slipway and therefore they are sent to other ports for their maintenance repairs resulting in huge expenditure on loss of useful working days in sailing to and fro and in waiting for accommodation in the out side dry docks. Considering all these aspects, it is proposed to construct a dry dock at this Port to meet the essential needs of the Port crafts. Plans have been drawn up to design this dry dock to take up vessels upto 20,000 DWT. The feasibility report on the dry dock has been presented to the Government and sanction from the Ministry is awaited.

There are a few other plans on hand which will help to increase the berth capacity and the traffic passing through the Madras Port. These projects will not only bring economic development to this region but also create a lot of employment opportunities.

The Madras Port, on the threshold of the second century of its useful existence, is preparing itself to meet the needs of the commercial public and the growing traffic. It has a greater role to play in the promotion of exports and in the development of its vast hinterland. The central aim is to render maximum service at minimum cost. The task of motivating human effort to improve performance will be a continuous one. So also will be the effort to look ahead and respond in time to economic managerial and technological developments. With a look back with pride on its past, Madras Port looks forward to the future with hope and determination.



AESTHETICS OF KAMBAN

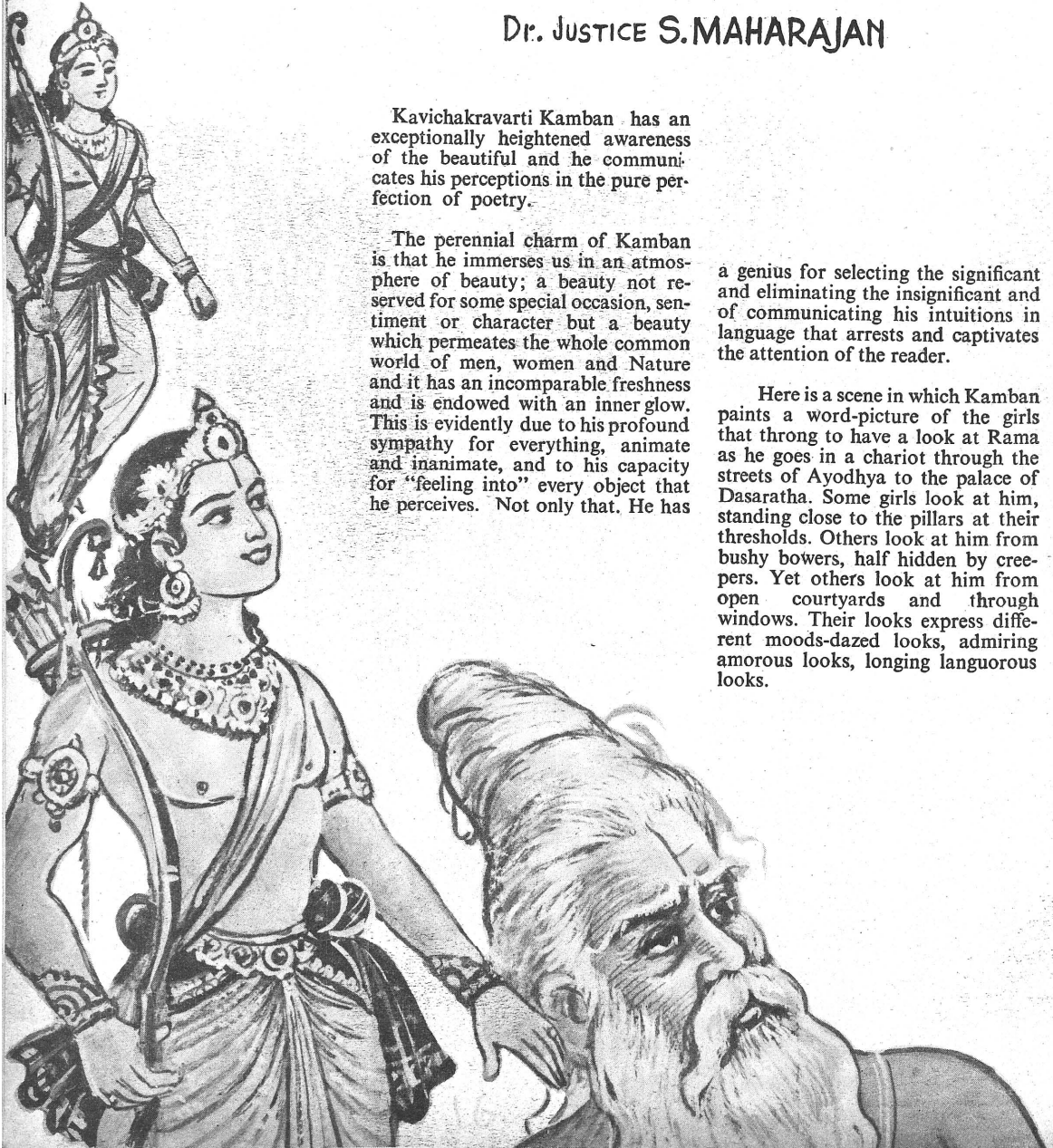
Dr. JUSTICE S. MAHARAJAN

Kavichakravarti Kamban has an exceptionally heightened awareness of the beautiful and he communicates his perceptions in the pure perfection of poetry.

The perennial charm of Kamban is that he immerses us in an atmosphere of beauty; a beauty not reserved for some special occasion, sentiment or character but a beauty which permeates the whole common world of men, women and Nature and it has an incomparable freshness and is endowed with an inner glow. This is evidently due to his profound sympathy for everything, animate and inanimate, and to his capacity for "feeling into" every object that he perceives. Not only that. He has

a genius for selecting the significant and eliminating the insignificant and of communicating his intuitions in language that arrests and captivates the attention of the reader.

Here is a scene in which Kamban paints a word-picture of the girls that throng to have a look at Rama as he goes in a chariot through the streets of Ayodhya to the palace of Dasaratha. Some girls look at him, standing close to the pillars at their thresholds. Others look at him from bushy bowers, half hidden by creepers. Yet others look at him from open courtyards and through windows. Their looks express different moods—dazed looks, admiring amorous looks, longing languorous looks.





Some eyes look ferociously fascinating like long spears, and some others are crimson like blood-stained daggers and yet others are like darting fish or flitting bees. The faces of these girls are like lotus blossoms, fresh and fair. Kamban focusses his camera upon these eyes that speak and faces that bloom. He says :-

In the long-pillared portals,
in the bowers,
where creepers unfurl their
leaves,
and in the moonlit courtyards,
long spears sparkle with blood-
shot daggers,
flashing fish mingle with flitting
bees
and swoon,
and even in the casement-
windows
the lotus flowers are in bloom.

This poem is marked by a rare rococo charm, with its delicacy of colour and freedom of brushwork and the gay magic it weaves out of women's eyes and faces.

Here is another scene laid in Mithila before Rama's wedding with Seeta. A procession round the city is arranged for Rama. The maids of Mithila rush into the street to watch the procession. They gambol like deer and sail around like peacocks, their eyes twinkling like stars and their slender waists quivering like lightning. As Rama's chariot moves on, the girls rush through parks and flower gardens to overtake the chariot. Kamban is struck with their

agility and says that their spirited movement has the dynamics of water rushing animatedly down a deep depression. The load of flowers on their heads gives them a momentum and their delicate waists feel the strain of the load. They run fast, as if in hot pursuit of their own mind which have sped far ahead of them in search of Rama.

They come in time to see the enchanting figure of Rama seated in his chariot. They are utterly absorbed in his Charms, and Kamban perceives and suggests that their absorption has a mystical undertone:-

Muthu

Those, who gazed at his shoulders,
 kept gazing at his shoulders,
 Those, who gazed at his lotus feet,
 kept gazing at his feet,
 Those, who gazed at his mighty arms,
 did likewise;

which is the girl that could unhinge
 her gaze
 and drink in his total form?
 They were verily like the differing
 Faiths,
 each catching but a glimpse of
 His Form.

How true and modern is the verdict
 of Kamban on the limitations of the
 established Faiths!

The procession ends in front of
 the Wedding Hall in which Vasistha
 and Visvamitra are waiting. Blue-
 hued Rama wears a garland of
 dazzling diamonds around his neck
 and the garland swings to and fro as
 he prostrates himself before the
 Rishis and throws off flashes of light
 upon his blue skin. The contrast
 of colours fascinates the Poet who
 says Rama is like a seasonal blue-
 cloud gently settling down at the
 feet of the Rishis—a cloud which is
 coruscating with lightning.

By exploiting colour words
 and vivid imagery and
 the littlest of significant details,
 Kamban produces not a still
 photograph, not a motion picture,
 technicolour film, but a three dimen-
 sional drama staged right in front
 of us. This is the result of what Sri
 Aurobindo would call the inspired
 style. According to Sri Aurobindo
 there is something superior
 even to the inspired style and
 it is the style of supreme inevitability,
 which produces pulsing palpable
 life itself, catching us up in multi-
 farious incalculable patterns". In
 fact Kamban at his heights touches
 the supremely inevitable and produ-
 ces "convincingly perfect utterance".

In Kamban's Epic, we find the
 physiological effects of sounds and
 colours most adroitly exploited.
 When the drums beat and the trumpets
 blare and the doors slam suddenly,
 our hearts beat more quickly
 and we breathe fast. We thus find
 that sounds affect the human organ-
 ism in a striking way and great
 emotional effects are produced by
 sounds.

Colours also have distinct physio-
 logical effects. Some colours cheer
 us up and some others depress us.

Further we associate certain
 colours and sounds with certain

occasions—Weird, bizarre, mournful.
 Thus both by reason of their intrinsic
 nature and by association of ideas,
 sounds and colours become expres-
 sive. In some subtle way, Kamban
 gives sounds and colours an ex-
 quisitely aesthetic expressiveness.

Here is an illustration: After
 catching a glimpse of Sita, Rama
 falls head over heels in love with her.
 He had never before been smitten
 with love. It is a new experience
 which overwhelms his whole being.
 In the palace of Janaka, Rama is al-
 lotted a bed in the balcony. He is all
 alone there. As he is musing over
 Sita, darkness closes in, adding
 poignancy to his musings. His condi-
 tion is aggravated by the appearance
 of the rising moon. Is he alone? No,
 says Kamban. Solitude, Darkness,
 the Moon, his own tormenting self
 and his Sita keep him company.
 In the company of these tormenting
 thoughts Rama spends most of
 the interminable—seeming night and
 ultimately falls asleep. Kamban,
 who, unlike Valmiki, depicts Rama
 as the embodiment of God, is moved
 by the human agony that afflicts
 Rama. The love-torn Rama and his
 anguish inspire Kamban to point out
 to us the condescending grace of
 God, who, out of compassion for
 Man, comes down upon earth, im-
 prisons himself in Time and Space
 and subjects himself to agony in order
 to redeem Man. The Poet sings of
 the waking up of Rama at dawn in
 words of untr. slatable charm:

The sweating Sun,
 riding in his chariot,
 borne on wheels of light,
 Dipped and bathed himself in
 the western sea,

and rose, refreshed and cool,
 in the Eastern sky
 And, with his tender arms of light,
 touched the feet of Rama
 and stirred him out of sleep.
 And Rama reached the shore
 of that endless agonising night—

The Joyous One, who might
 have slept
 in the Sea of Infinity
 On his native couch of a thousand
 dazzling lights
 chose, instead,
 to turn and writhe in pain
 on this constricting couch of
 Space and Time.

God's infinite freedom in His un-
 conditioned sea of infinity, on his
 native couch of a thousand dazzling
 lights, is described in words which
 have sounds and colours suggesting
 the dazzling splendour and exuber-
 ance of the freedom of Infinity, while



the love-sickness of the embodied
 God, who is imprisoned in Time and
 Space, is narrated with words, sounds
 and colours that suggest the inten-
 sities of mortal sorrow and pain.
 The Poem has been suffused with
 such inspired music that the resulting
 rhythm haunts and the haunted
 reader finds himself slipping out of
 the prison of cause and effect.

In certain other poems of Kam-
 ban, he aesthetically fuses his words
 with their meanings. Learning of
 Rama's exile after his return to
 Ayodhya, Bharatha resolves to go
 to the forest and bring back Rama
 and enthrone him. He takes Satru-
 gana and the Dowager Queens
 Kausalya, Sumitra and Kaikeyi into
 the forest where they meet Guha, and
 receive from him a demonstration of
 his spontaneous love and devotion
 for Rama. Guha carries the Royal
 family in a boat across the Ganges
 and on the boat Bharatha intro-
 duces Guha to Kausalya. At once,
 Guha falls at her feet and sobs.
 As Guha weeps, the eyes of Bharatha
 and Satrugna became wet with tears.
 Kausalya comforts them all
 in a song, which breathes the very
 spirit of serene benediction and
 defies the translator's art.

Grieve you not, my sons, grieve no
 more; it is well indeed
 that the warriors of Truth renounced
 the realm

and came to the wilderness;
 Befriend this mighty warrior
 who stands like a heroic elephant,
 with a trunk as strong as the
 hills;

and, befriending him,
 may the Five of you, becoming one
 govern this Earth
 for many and many a year!

In the mellowness of her grief,
 Kausalya's mother-heart embraces
 the lowly hunter as one of her own
 blue-blooded sons. There is in this

song a certain epic nobility of thought which lifts the reader above human pettiness.

Kamban's variety of musical accomplishment is prodigious. In fact, he works in larger musical units than any other Tamil or English poet. In this stanza which consists of four lines, each line comprises 19 or 20 syllables. To be able to control so many syllables and words at once is a sure sign of exceptional mastery, and to be able to arrange them in such a musical order as to set them to a key appropriate to the relevant emotion is the most conclusive evidence of his supremacy in poetry.

Beethoven said once that Goethe was in D-major. Likewise, everything and everybody seem to present themselves to Kamban in a certain key, and Kamban communicates them in a key most appropriate to them by resorting to musical phrases and rhythmical devices which produce the intended impression on a sensitive and penetrating reader.

The question, "what do we mean by Kamban's aesthetic greatness," can be answered by the counter question, "What do we mean when we say that Shakespeare's King 'Lear' is greater than his 'As you like it'". The values expressed by Shakespeare in the former play are certainly greater than those expressed in the latter. In King Lear, the spectacles of human love, mortality courage, romance and religious experience are presented as spectacles which go to the roots of our being and profoundly transform us. In Kamban's Ramayana, a stupendous range and variety of human experience is aesthetically organized and a series of significances are merged into one harmonious significance so that the reader experiences the inter relatedness of the whole Universe and realises that he is in the presence of great poetry. The totality of Kamban's inclusiveness naturally includes not only the mystical, the religious, the tragic and the profound but also the comical, the slight, the whimsical and the bizarre, each in its proper proportion and relevant place.

Describing the aridity of a parched desert, he can, with his tongue in his cheek, compare it with the detachment which marks alike the common prostitute and the Saint aspiring for Jeevan Mukti. Describing the building of a bridge across the ocean, he can mention, with loving and cinematographic details, the feats of a monkey carrying three hillocks all at once—one rolling

under its heels, another borne in its upstretched arms and the third, firmly held in its looped up tail. He can narrate with a gift of immediacy and a sense of personal involvement a variety of battles, each conceived and executed on a different pattern from the rest, and all packed with thrill, suspense and intense tempo. As a connoisseur of the human heart, he can reveal the most secret springs of human action. He can neutralize the stiffness of the Epic with the suppleness of Drama and suffuse both with the glow of his lyrical intensities.

To illustrate the dramatic aspects of Kamban, I shall take up a particular situation in the Epic and contrast its treatment by the great poet Valmiki with that of Kavichakravarti Kamban. After Kaikeyi extorted the two boons from Dasaratha in the bed-chamber, Dasaratha falls into a stupor. Kaikeyi, however, is filled with a sense of fulfilment and she summons Rama and tells him: "The King has ordered that your brother Bharatha shall rule his Kingdom and you should go out into the jungle, and return in fourteen years", Valmiki's Rama is shocked by this command and laments repeatedly that the wickedness of Kaikeyi has given him endless pain and suffering. But Kamban's Rama is cast in a different mould. He rejoices at this command and the Poet says that Rama's face, which before receiving the command resembled the lotus in freshness and charm, outshone the freshly-blown lotus after hearing the command. Rama tells kaikeyi:

"Were it not the King's command but yours, would I disobey it? Is not the wealth conferred on my younger brother the wealth conferred upon me? I can think of no greater fortune than carrying out your command. This very moment I take leave of you and set out for the forest."

Kamban's Rama knew that his father was in the inner chamber, but he did not go in to take leave of him. He offered his salutation in the direction of his father, and after prostrating himself at the feet of Kaikeyi again, he left for the palace of his mother, Kausalya. On the contrary, Valmiki's Rama, before leaving for the forest, seeks an interview with Dasaratha, who, after summoning his wives to his presence, calls Rama in and tells him, "I have been defrauded by

Kaikeyi to grant those two boons. You must, therefore, ignore my command and become King of Ayodhya. This statement compromises with the concept of Dasaratha as an uncompromising champion of Truth and provokes Valmiki's Rama to preach a homily to his own father and to dissuade him from breaking his pledged word. Kamban cuts out this awkward confrontation scene for sound artistic reasons. Firstly, the pathos of separation would be more dramatic and intense if Rama went into the wilderness without taking leave of his grief-stricken father. Secondly, Dasaratha's love for Rama and love for Truth are so lofty that the totality of either will be impaired by overstringing the other. The numerous situations in the Epic are thus altered and dramatised by Kamban with the keen aesthetic sensibility of a Hollywood Director.

The inter-relatedness of things is brought out by Kamban by means of subtle and startling similes. Here is a description of Rama's killing of the giantess Thadakai. Kamban says that the arrow shot by Rama was as sharp and hot as an unkind word and the arrow pierced her chest and shot past her heart, like good counsel given by the virtuous to the wicked.

Here is another Simile. Surpanaka after her mutilation by Lakshmana bursts into the City of Lanka. Kamban says: The dark-eyed giantesses of that boundless city were shocked as they saw the sister of His Imperial Majesty in this mutilated form: they wrung their hands and stared in awe, they ran, helter-skelter, uttering words, which, like incoherent pieces of clotted milk, floated disconnectedly. Words thrown out of syntax have a striking similarity to the isolated clots floating in coagulated milk. There is something fantastically original about a Poet who can perceive this little-noticed similarity.



Take again the Poet's description of the intriguing movements of golden deer, in which words gambol enchantingly like the deer:

It treads the ground
softly, slowly

and stares and stares in panic
and in panic it leaps into the air.
Pricking up its ears,
pressing its four limbs against
its chest,
it gallops high into the sky
it gallops faster than wind and
mind,
seeming to impart speed to
Speed.

It climbs up the hill
and leaps into a bunch of clouds
As Rama nears it, it trots away
and as he pauses, tired,
it would come within reach of
hand;
feigning to stand still, it goes far,
far away,

it moves like the mind of the
flower-bedecked beauties,
who project goldward
their changing affections.

As the reader is absorbed in the physical movements of the deer, Kamban transports him, by means of an apt but shocking simile, to a different plane of reality, and makes him see the vacillating mental movements of the sad, gay girls that ply for hire.

We shall turn now to another scene. Rama's arrow has pierced the chest of Vali and Vali is lying on the ground in a pool of blood. His son Angada rushes to the scene and falls wailing upon his father. Both Vali and Angada are white-complexioned. How did he fall? A simile describes it:

Upon Vali, who lay
like a Moon lying upon the
Earth
Angada fell like a lightning falling
from Heaven.

This simile reminds us of Shakespeare's description of the function of a Poet:

"The Poet's eye, in a fine frenzy
rolling,
doth glance from Heaven to
Earth
and Earth to Heaven",

As for the lyrical treatment of Kamban, it is also aesthetically edifying and convincing. After the death of Vali, his bereaved wife Tara be-

comes inconsolable. Kamban uses words of austere intensity to bring out her great grief. In her lamentation Tara resorts to a piece of devastating logic to shatter the delusion that she and Vali had been dwelling in the hearts of each other. Here is her song of lamentation:

"Oh! Lord of battle-happy
shoulders!
Were I a dweller of your heart,
the arrow that pierced it
ought to have sucked my life,
too!
and were you a dweller of my
heart,
you ought to be alive!
Neither has lived truly in the
heart of the other.

Even while propounding his philosophic values, he suffuses them with his aesthetics. Throughout the Epic, Kamban speaks with the assurance and self-surrender of one, who has discovered the controlling centre of life. Take, for instance, the Hiranya Vadai Padalam, in which he creates an intensely original dramatic situation. In this scene, Brahma, the creative aspect of God, confronts Vishnu, the Ultimate Reality, and conducts a cosmic dialogue with Him. At the invocation of Prahlada (the son of Hiranya), God breaks asunder the shell of the Macrocosm and after shattering the roof of the Cosmos, descends to the Earth in human form with a lion's head before the unbelieving Hiranya, and red in tooth and claw, destroys him. As Narasimha (Man-Lion) is roaring in infinite fury, Kamban, with his sense of exquisite artistry and humour, introduces Brahma into the scene in an attempt to appease the Lion of Heaven. In accents of great devotion, not unmingled with loving irony, Brahma exclaims:

By precipitating Thyself in this
form,
Oh! Lord of Lords,
Thou hast proved
that Thou must have created
Thyself!
But, by indulging in this act of
self-creation,
My Lord,
Hast Thou not encroached upon
my jurisdiction
and set at nought Thy purpose
in creating me
for creating the multitudinous
forms!

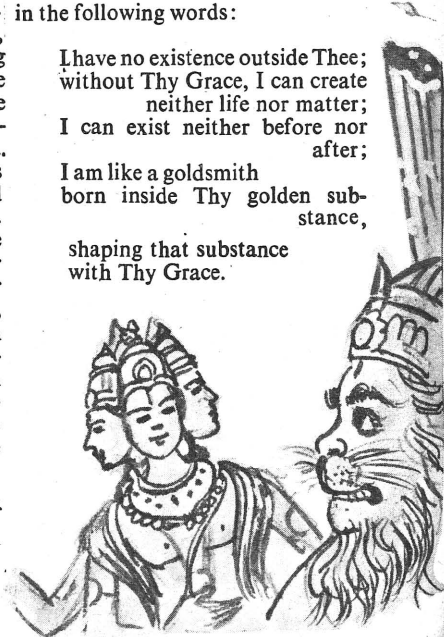
There is more devotion than logic in the mock complaint of Brahma that the Sovereign, who has power - to delegate his jurisdiction,

has no power to trench upon it. But there is truth in the following charge that Brahma levels against his Principal:

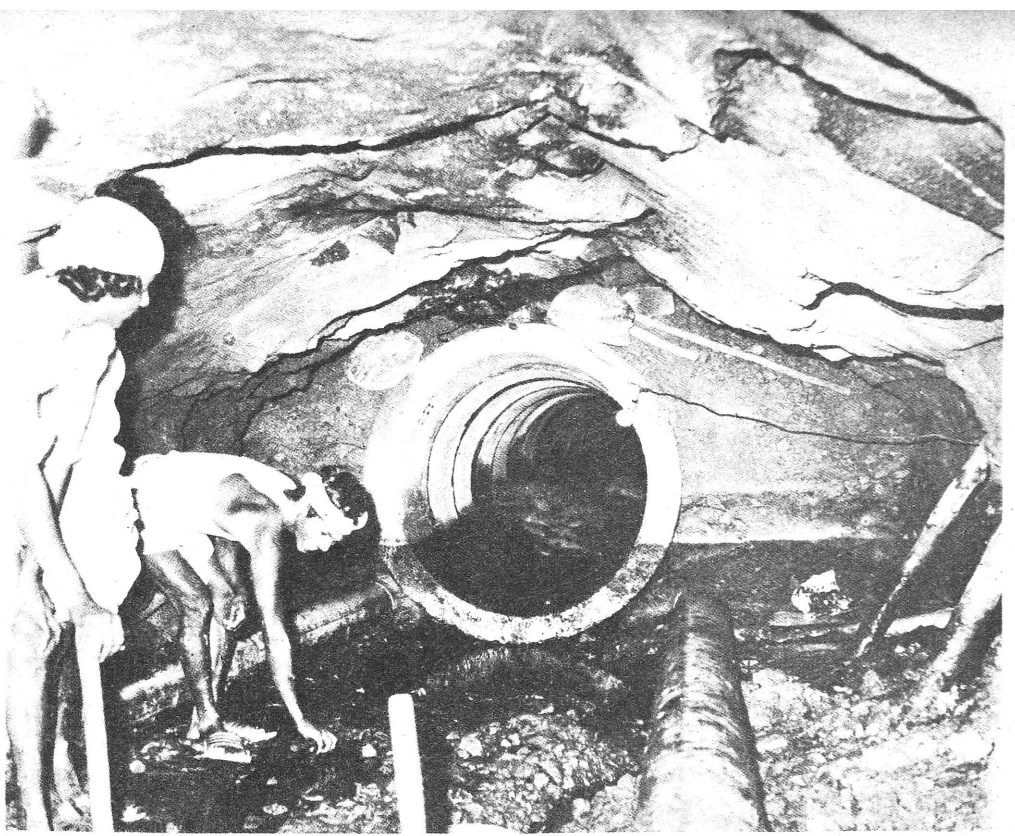
The myriad stars and planets
linger in Thy Primordial Substance
like the unlingering bubbles in
the Arctic seas;
Thou art the myriad forms,
but, alas! by assuming this singular
form,
Hast Thou not needlessly imposed
a narrowing constraint
upon Thy Infinite plurality!

After demonstrating the incongruity between the Infinity of God and the unflattering finitude of his manifestation, Brahma brings out the paradox between Gods' immanence and God's transcendence in the following words:

I have no existence outside Thee;
without Thy Grace, I can create
neither life nor matter;
I can exist neither before nor
after;
I am like a goldsmith
born inside Thy golden substance,
shaping that substance
with Thy Grace.



Thus does Kamban argue metaphysics with his Maker in a series of poems, which, in the amplitude and boldness of their vision, in the sweep of their reverential humour and pathos, and in the overwhelming splendour of their poetry and dramatic power can equal the best in the literatures of the world. It is difficult to find in the world's Epics a situation and a passage which has such metaphysical and aesthetic profundity. Such indeed is the *attar* of Kamban's aesthetics that by common consent of the Tamils, Kamban has been acclaimed as the Emperor of Tamil Poesy. In fact, Kamban has strong claims to be considered the Emperor of World Poesy.



PROTECTED DRINKING WATER

V. KARUPPAN, I.A.S.,

Managing Director,

Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board

Next to Air, water is the most important element for the survival of human beings as well as animals and plants. When man lived under natural surroundings with less pollution problems and with more resistive powers drinking water is no problem and man lived in more healthier and better surroundings. But with the advent of civilisation environmental pollution has increased, an untreated and unprotected water for human consumption has become a health hazard which creates economic, social and physical problems. Therefore, it becomes an urgent and immediate need to provide protected wholesome adequate water to quench the thirst of the millions and millions of people.

By providing protected water, the following benefits are assured. It saves people from water borne diseases like cholera, malaria, and the like. Investment on water will increase the economic activity of both the rural and urban areas. Providing water at the door steps of every household will reduce the labour of procuring the water from distant places and labour thus saved could be used for productive purposes. Protected water supply helps in the long term economic growth and increases the potential of water based industries. It reduces mortality and morbidity and preserves the health of the people and decreases health hazards.

Unfortunately, water like any other commodity is very scarce and always the demand is more than the supply. This situation makes it incumbent on us to plan for the economic application and judicious use of the available water to the betterment of the human beings. Water creates floods and non availability in-adequate quantity creates drought. That is, the availability of water is distributed in such a way that it is not available in a place where it is needed most and available where it is least required. This imbalance will have to be corrected and used for the betterment of the living things.

Existing statistics show that water is only 3% on our planet of the total mass of things available. Even of this, 97% of the water is saline and non-potable and 74% of the water is available only as ice and the surface water like river water, lake water, water in the vapour, water in the soil as moisture and ground water constitute the other 26%. One can imagine the magnitude of the shortage compared to the needs of the growing millions and millions in the world. This compels the scientists and the technologists to conserve water and reuse by using high technology and scientific methods.

Like any other element of God's creation, water also cannot be destroyed, but can be transformed from one shape to another. This helps us to plan for the judicious use of the water to satisfy the needs of millions and millions of people. It requires high level management,

sophisticated technology and scientific development to bring water where it is needed and protected from the atmosphere pollution and supply to the people as fresh protected adequate water. This situation exists all over the world.

So far as Tamilnadu is concerned, the availability of water resources is still worse and the quantity is very small compared to the needs. At the Centre, the Government of India has the ambitious programme of providing water supply to all the sixty five crores of people wholesome and protected water supply. Tamilnadu Government has also geared the machinery for this achievement by providing a separate organisation viz. the Tamilnadu Water Supply and Drainage Board (TWAD) as early as 1971 and has also provided sufficient funds for its activity.

To give a little more of statistics, there are about 12,000 and odd Town and Village Panchayats in the State in addition to about 100 Municipalities and two Corporations. In view of the vastness of the requirement of the City Corporation, the Government constituted a new Board viz., Madras Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (METROWATER) to deal with the need of the Madras City Water separately. The TWAD Board takes care of all other rural areas including the Municipalities and the Corporation of Madurai.

Though the water supply programme has commenced right from the date of our independence, much head-





way could not be done. The rapid development commenced only after the formation of the TWAD Board.

The population distribution between the rural areas and the urban areas are 66 2/3% and 33 1/3%. The TWAD Board has programmed to supply wholesome protected water supply to all the urban areas numbering about 740 and rural areas numbering 43000 habitations. Of this, water supply has been provided to 231 urban units. There are about 448 Town Panchayats to be taken up under the urban water supply schemes and of this 245 are proposed to be taken up during the sixth Five Year Plan. The TWAD Board has moved the Government as well as other financing agencies like L.I.C. of India and the world Bank for financing the programmes and to complete the water supply schemes in the urban areas before the end of 6th Plan.

Similarly, in the case of rural areas the Government have proposed a crash programme to cover all the

rural habitations on the basis of an area approach. To start with, the Government of Tamilnadu has proposed to cover all the habitations in about 69 Panchayat Unions at the rate of 5 Panchayat Unions per District and wanted the TWAD Board to complete the water supply programme in all the 69 Panchayat Unions covering 2,200 habitations with wholesome protected water supply before March 1981. Similarly, for the year 1981-82 the Government have programmed to extend the same water supply scheme to another 100 Panchayat Unions. During the next two years of Sixth Plan, it may be possible to cover all the 43,000 habitations in Tamilnadu with protected wholesome water supply schemes which will bring the economic efficiency of the people and prevent disease and morbidity. The TWAD Board has been assigned this stupendous task of completing this work in record time and it has dedicated itself to complete the work on the targeted dates.



A black and white illustration of children playing on a tree structure. In the foreground, a young boy is climbing a vertical wooden post, holding onto a horizontal branch. Behind him, other children are visible, some standing and some climbing. The scene is set outdoors with a tree trunk on the left and some foliage in the upper left corner.

make 1981
**A happy
New Year**

**for the handicapped
and
the disabled also.**

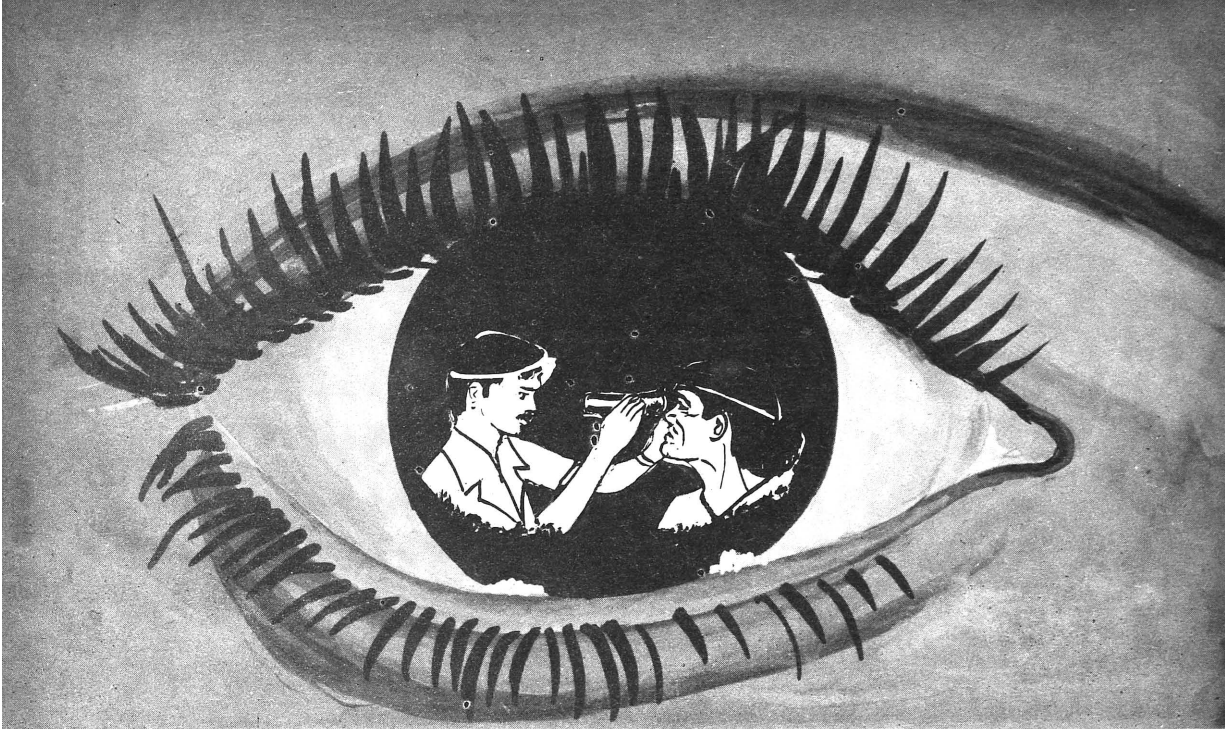
The General Assembly of the United Nations has proclaimed 1981 as International Year of Disabled Persons

The Government of India endorses the Objectives set forth in the Resolution of the General Assembly

For further details, contact
**Ministry of Social Welfare,
Government of India**
Shastri Bhawan,
New Delhi-110001



davp 80/308



CARE OF THE EYES

The care of eyes should commence from the time, the baby to be borne is conceived in the mother's womb. Proper antinatal care of the mother by prompt treatment of discharges and infection of the birth canal and provision of nutritious food and vitamins to the pregnant woman will ensure the birth of a healthy baby with good eye sight.

The new born baby should be bathed and its eyes washed with clean water and antibiotic drops instilled. Any watering from an infant's eyes should be viewed with suspicion and the doctor consulted because the tears are secreted only six weeks after birth. The baby's eyes should be protected from bright light and contamination by flies.

The child's eyes should be examined by a specialist once at the pre-school age and then periodically at the school atleast once in two years. A child who has an eye defect may exhibit the following signs. Inability

DR. E.T. SELVAM
Professor of Ophthalmology,
Madras Medical College, Madras &
Superintendent, Government Ophthalmic Hospital, Adviser in Ophthalmology, to the Government of Tamil Nadu.

to see the black board from distance, tilting of the head, frequent opening and closing of the eyes, rubbing of the eyes or screwing them to obtain clear vision. The school teacher should spot out these signs and advise the parents for their children to have a specialist examination.

At the age of forty even normal persons will require glasses for reading and other near work—This is a physiological phenomenon. But, for the prescription of glasses we should consult a specialist and not purchase glasses straight from the Optician shop, because the specialist besides prescribing the proper glasses will

also examine your eyes thoroughly and detect early stages of diseases like glaucoma, diabetes and high blood pressure.

Squint eyes

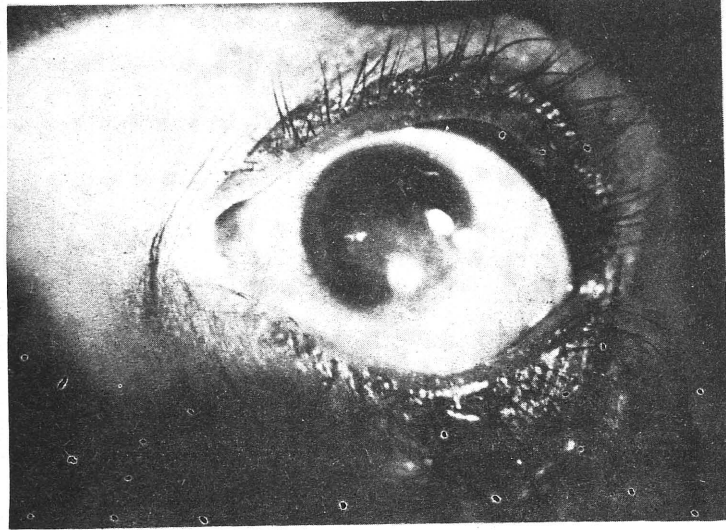
Squint may be hereditary in certain cases and has a tendency to occur more frequently in certain families particularly the offspring of marriages amongst close relations. Other common causes of squint are birth injuries, faulty muscle attachments, excessive farsightedness and certain illness. Squint is not a sign of good luck. It cannot be outgrown nor will it improve by itself. Treatment, directed toward straightening the eyes can involve suitable glasses, patching, eye drops, surgery and exercises, singly or in combination. To obtain the best results, treatment should be done as early as possible preferably between the ages of five and six. If the treatment is delayed all that be achieved is straightening of the eyes but the

KERATOPLASTY

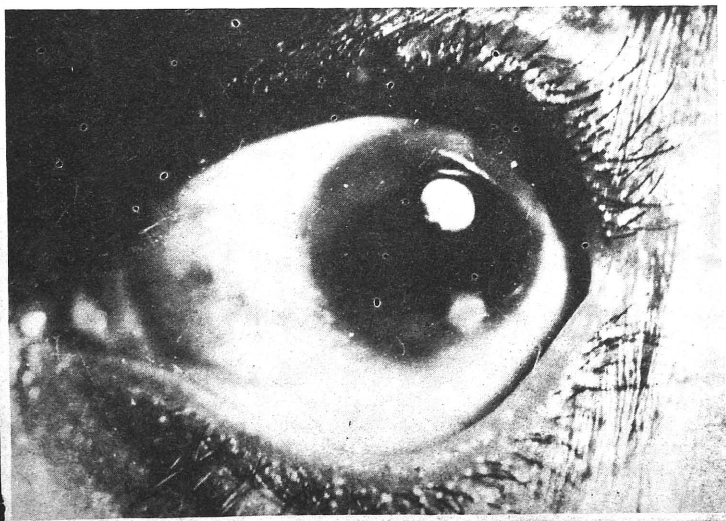
(Corneal

Transplantation)

Before Operation



After Operation



function of the eye may be lost.

Myopia or short sight:

Majority of the cases are of the simple variety with a moderate degree of defect and without serious consequences. Higher degrees of defect known as pathological or malignant myopia is a serious condition. The vision may not improve very much even with correcting spectacles and complication which may develop is retinal detachment requiring a major surgical procedure. There is a common belief that if a child with myopia does not wear the spectacles constantly, the defect is likely to increase. This is not so. Children with short sight live in a small world. They do not take part in sports and games like other normal children just because they are not able to see distant objects and hence prefer to read and become book-worms. The reason for insisting on the myopic child wearing the glasses constantly for distant and near work is to encourage them to take more active interest in the outside world. This will not only widen their visual horizon but also their mental horizon.

Keratoplasty (Corneal Transplantation)

The whole eye cannot be transplanted. If the cornea (the clear front portion of the eye) becomes opaque and defective, this portion could be replaced by a fresh cornea from a dead person. This is what is meant by keratoplasty. The first Eye Bank in India was started in the Government Ophthalmic Hospital by the late Dr. R.E.S. Muthayya in 1948. Now there are about thirty eye banks in the country. Even in spite of requests through media like the T.V. and A.I.R. the public are reluctant to come forward to donate their eyes after their death. The number of voluntary donations are very few. The main source of donor eyes to our country is from Sri Lanka, where the Buddhists and Christians routinely donate their eyes to the eye bank after their death. Sri Lanka export about 2000 eyes per year to other countries, including India. There are a number of patients including women and children waiting for keratoplasty in the Government Ophthalmic Hospital, Madras. Please donate your eyes to the eye bank so that your blind brethren could see through your eyes after your death.

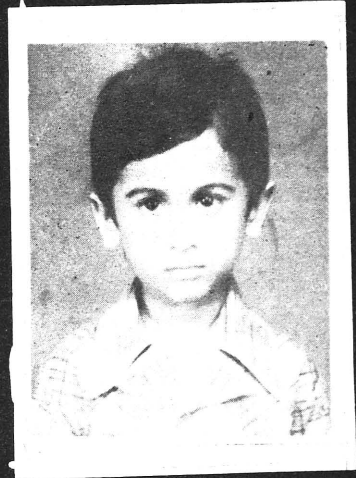
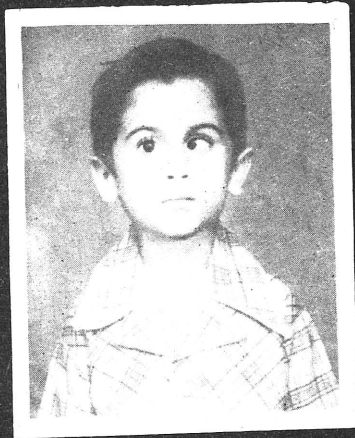
Cataract:

Just like the lens in a photographic camera there is a clear lens

SQUINT.

Before Operation

After Operation



in the eye which is necessary to produce a clear distinct image upon the screen known as the retina. If this lens loses its clarity and becomes opaque the condition is known as cataract. Cataract is the major cause of curable blindness and it accounts for about 50% of the total blindness in our country. Cataract can be cured by a simple operation of removal of the diseased lens and prescription of glasses. It is estimated that there are several lakhs of people afflicted by cataract in our State. A crash-programme on Eye camps launched by the Government of Tamilnadu has been able to restore vision to about 2 lakhs of people affected by cataract during the last eight years, but there is still very much to do.

Glaucoma :

This is a condition where there is increased pressure in the eye which may damage the optic nerve resulting in blindness. It is usually common in the older age group above fifty years but may rarely affect even children and young adults. The treat-

ment of this condition may be both medical and surgical but it is very important to detect these cases early and institute appropriate treatment. That is the importance of routine periodical examination by specialists particularly after the age of forty.

Night Blindness:

The most common cause of blindness is deficiency of Vitamin A and the condition could be treated with oral or injections of vitamin A. Persons suffering from this condition should be advised to take food stuffs rich in vitamin A viz. green leafy vegetables, carrots, pappaya, fruit, seafish etc. Vitamin A deficiency is usually associated with protein deficiency particularly in children and they could be provided with food stuffs rich in vitamin A and also protein rich food.

There is a more serious cause of night blindness due to a hereditary disease known as Retinitis Pigmentosa the cause of which is not

known and there is no useful treatment. For the time being, the only suggestion is that persons suffering from Retinitis Pigmentosa should not have children so that they don't propagate the disease.

TELEVISION:

Is viewing T. V. harmful to the eyes? No, provided the following suggestions are observed.

The T.V. set must be a good standard one.

The picture must be clearly focussed.

The screen and the eyes should be at the same level.

Comfortable view of distance of 8-10 feet.

One additional light in the room which should not be too bright.

Infact, there are certain advantages due to T.V. Some persons detect their eye defect for the first time while viewing the T.V. because they are not able to see as clearly as others.

RATION CARD HOLDERS!

HELP US TO SERVE YOU BETTER..



AN APPEAL.... in your own interest

Your Ration Card ensures regular supply of essential commodities like rice, sugar, kerosene etc. You also pay only Fair Prices. It is your bounden duty to see that your ration card stands up to scrutiny by the concerned authority.



Malpractices deprive many people of their legitimate share of essential commodities

Under the Tamil Nadu Scheduled Commodities (Regulation of Distribution by card system) order, 1974, Issued under Essential Commodities Act, 1955, the following are offences.

Where a family card...

- i) is obtained in the name of a person who is non-existent or fictitious; or
- ii) contains the name of any person who is non-existent or fictitious; or
- iii) contains the name of any person whose name is already included in any other family card issued to any household;
- iv) contains any entry which is deliberately incorrect or false; or
- v) is transferred or pledged to any other person;
- vi) is used by a person to whom it was not issued but was issued to some other person.



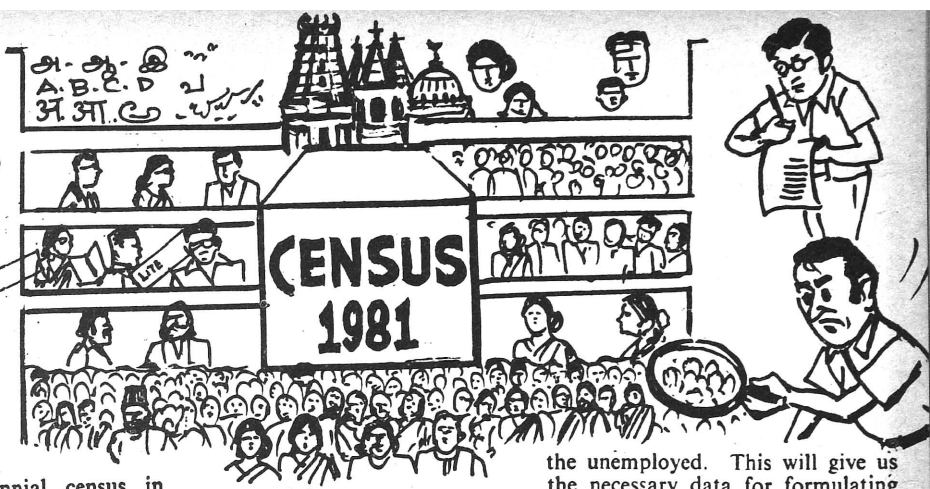
- b) to obtain a card by giving false information
- c) to alter or destroy a family card issued to him without lawful authority.

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE PUBLIC

For any request concerning issue of family card or any changes therein, the public are requested to approach directly the offices of the Assistant Commissioner of Civil supplies and not to be misled by any other person.

**THE DIRECTOR OF
INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS**
Fort St. George, Madras-600 009.

- It will also be an offence under clause 12 of the said order...
- a) to dishonestly apply for or receive a family card if he knows or has reason to believe that his name has already been included in any family card



The 1981 decennial census in our state commenced on the 9th February 1981. It is a complete process of collecting and compiling economic, social and demographic data pertaining to all persons in the country at a given point of time. The reference date for the ensuing census is the sun rise of 1st March 1981. The census is conducted simultaneously throughout the country and has to cover the entire population without any omission.

For us in India census is not a new feature. It is taken every ten years. According to historical records, censuses were taken even in ancient India. The first regular census was however in 1872 followed by successive decennial censuses beginning from 1881. The present census is the fourth one since independence.

A carefully planned and executed periodical census is of vital importance for efficient public administration and planning especially in a developing country like ours. Thus the most important use of the data collected at the census is to be found in our planning efforts for the socio-economic development of our masses. If the resources at the disposal of the Government are to be wisely and effectively utilised for the welfare of the people, the Government must have correct basic data. The census gives us this data for the country as a whole as well as for States, districts, towns and villages. Under our constitution, the delimitation of constituencies for elections to the Parliament and the State Legislatures is made with the help of the census figures. But this is not all. The census figures serve as a useful frame for many surveys and studies conducted by research organisations, scholars and industrialists.

A. P. MUTHUSWAMI, I.A.S.,
Director of Census operation.

Since 1981 is the International Year of handicapped, data have already been collected about their number covering the totally blind, crippled and dumb. This information is being tabulated and will be released in due course.

Two schedules will be canvassed in the forth coming census - the household schedule pertaining to each and every household and the individual slip which will be filled up for every person in the household. The houseless population will be covered in a one-night enumeration on February 28th.

Following are some of the salient features of the present enquiry. The household schedule has been so designed as to collect data on housing, facilities available including drinking water, electricity and toilet facilities (only in urban areas), details of ownership of land, house, house site and tenancy.

In the individual slip, apart from the usual questions relating to sex, age, marital status, mothertongue, religion, scheduled caste or scheduled tribe and literacy, specific information on school and college going population is collected for the first time in our census. Information regarding workers and non-workers is also obtained. As regards workers, further information relating to their secondary work is gathered. For the first time in the census, information is being sought regarding

the unemployed. This will give us the necessary data for formulating specific schemes for relieving unemployment in our country.

Information on migration pattern and fertility will be obtained on a sample basis. The question on migration will seek information on the reason for migration like employment, education, movement of family or marriage. The migration data will be generally useful in population studies and in particular for urban development planning. The answers to questions on fertility will give the age at marriage pattern, the current fertility level and the like which will be very useful for demographic studies and in the implementation of family welfare measures.

The enumerators will be visiting every household for collecting information. In Tamil Nadu, about a lakh of people have been engaged for this national task who are mostly drawn from the teachers and Government staff. They are doing this job as a part-time arrangement in addition to their normal duties. In fact they are doing this arduous job as a labour of love. It is therefore our duty to show them utmost courtesy and answer the questions truthfully. The questions asked are simple and straightforward. The information furnished by an individual is treated as confidential and cannot be used in any judicial or administrative proceedings. This has been ensured in the Census Act itself. Citizens must therefore give them correct and complete details as accuracy and coverage are the hallmark of a good census. It is hoped that the people of Tamil Nadu who have led many a progressive national movement in the past will live up to their high traditions and make the census enumeration a total success.

V WORLD TAMIL CONFERENCE
MADURAI, 1981

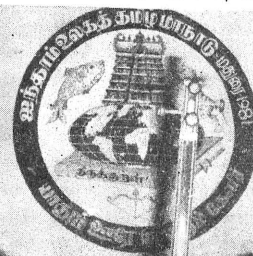
CULTURAL Programmes



DRAMA



V WORLD TAMIL CONFERENCE MADURAI, 1981



DANCES



EDITED AND PUBLISHED BY THE DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS, GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
AND PRINTED AT THE TAMIL ARASU PRESS, GOVT. ESTATE, MADRAS-600002.

A woman is shown from the chest up, wearing a light-colored sari with a floral pattern. She is looking towards the camera. In the top right corner, there is a white butterfly illustration. The background is a dark, textured surface.

YOUR SEARCH FOR COLORFUL PRINTS

ENDS AT

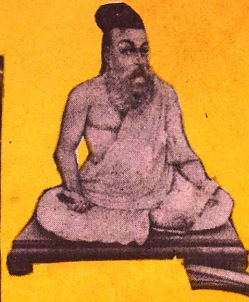
Co-optex
Bright and
beautiful
of colour

Co-optex

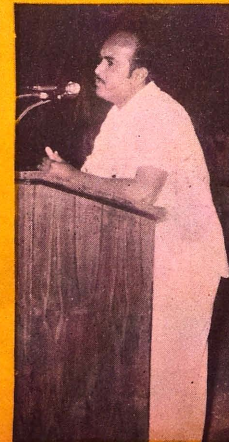
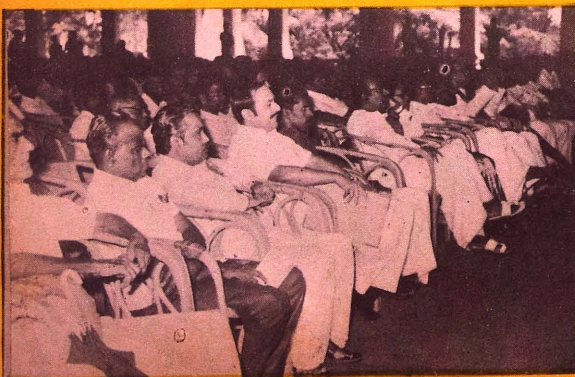
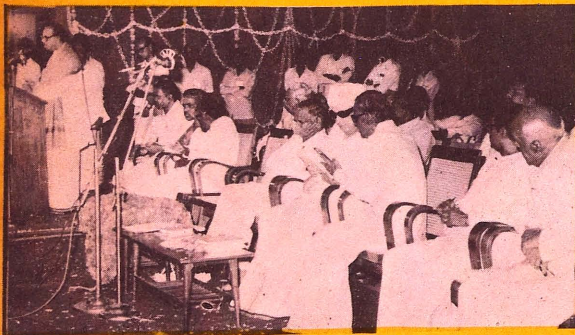
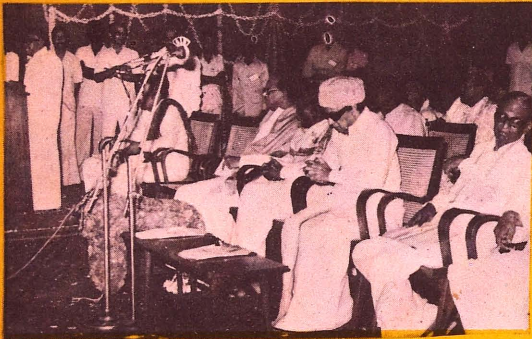
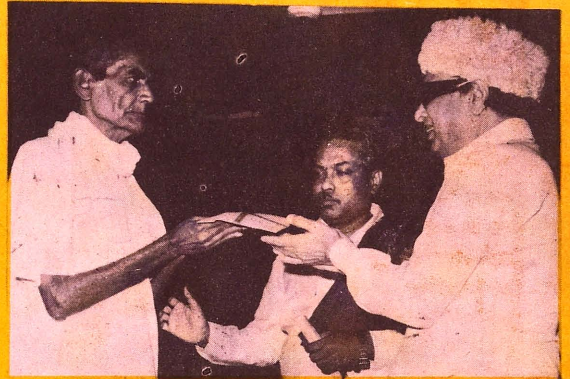
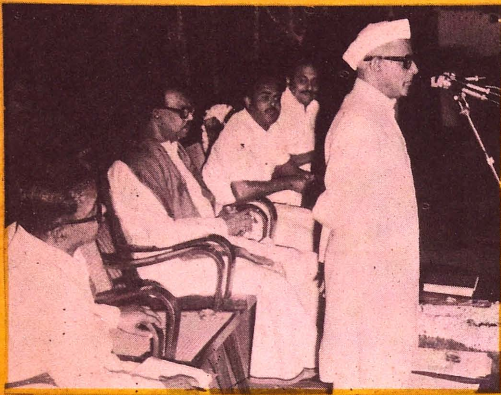
prints. Rich variety enchanting
fresh in a wealth of colours
and designs.



Co-optex
HANDLOOMS



**TIRUVALLUVAR
DAY
[15-1-'81]**



**VALLUVAR KOTTAM
MADRAS**