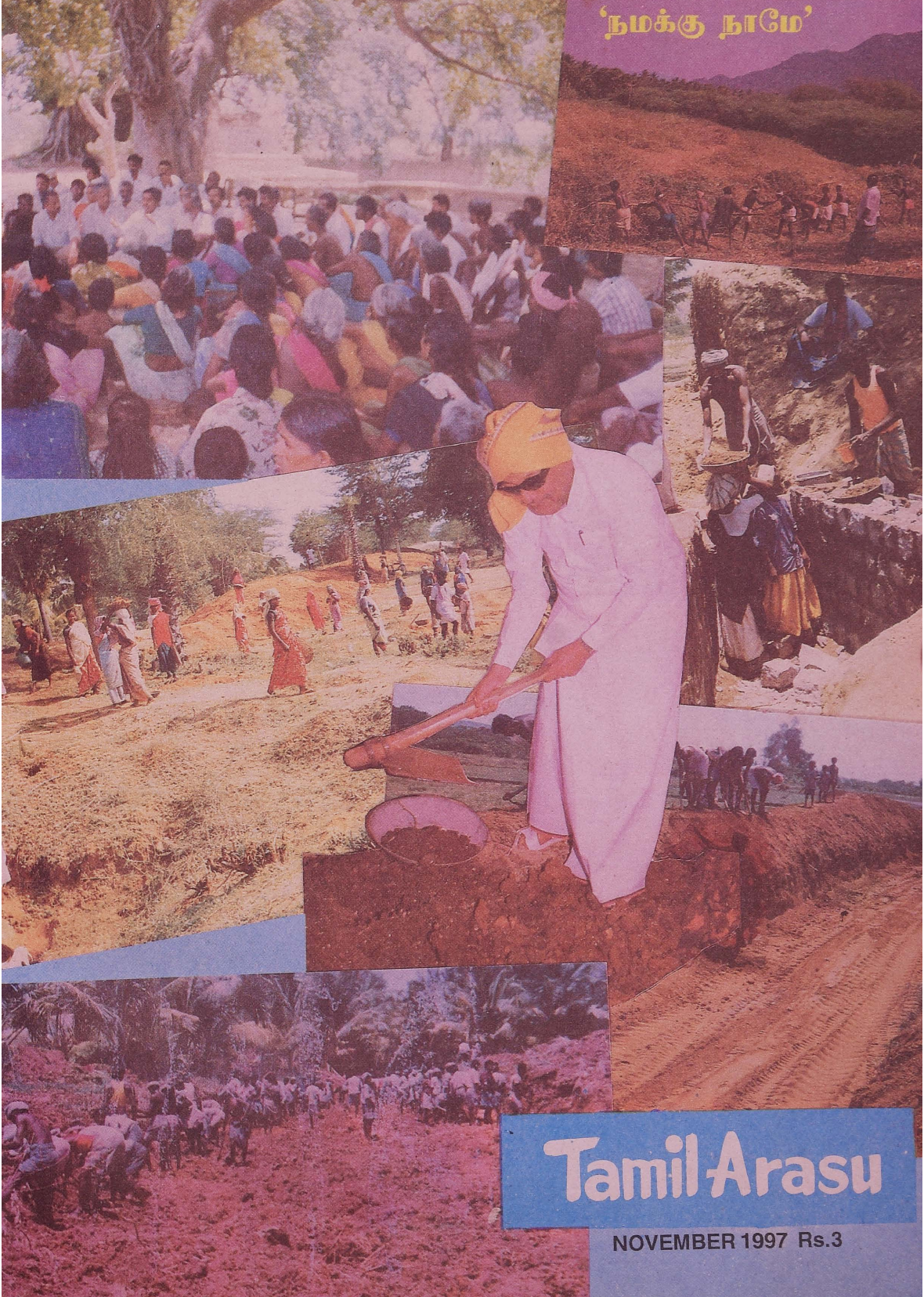


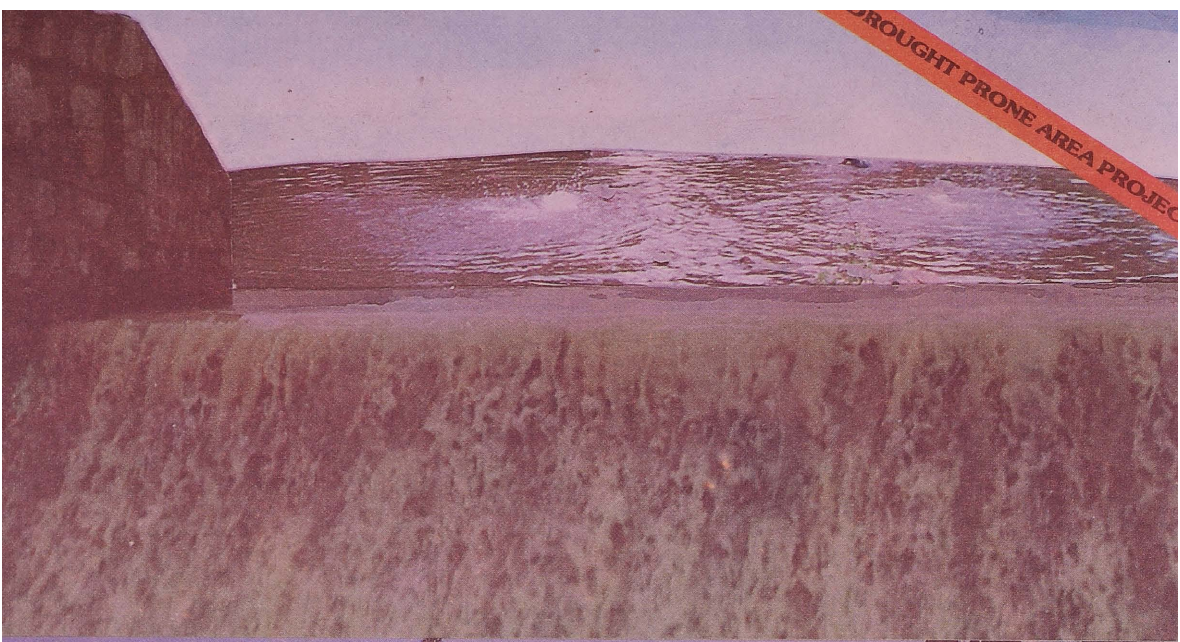
‘நமக்கு நாமே’



Tamil Arasu

NOVEMBER 1997 Rs.3

DROUGHT PRONE AREA PROJECT



Tamil Arasu

Magazine of the Government of Tamil Nadu
THIRUVALLUVAR YEAR - 2028
IPPASI - KARTHIGAI
NOVEMBER - 1997

In this issue :

- | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----|
| ❑ Our target is to make Tamil Nadu a 'Samathuvapuram' to the adoration of the entire Nation | ... | 2 |
| ❑ Development of Women and Children in rural areas (DWCRA) | ... | 5 |
| ❑ Thirukkural - The code of conduct for the mankind | ... | 9 |
| ❑ The Nehru Calendar | ... | 10 |
| ❑ "The goal is to create a culture of Human Rights, across the length and breadth of the Country"
- The Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi | ... | 17 |
| ❑ Under the auspicious guidance of Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi rapid implementation of Adi-Dravidar Welfare Schemes. | ... | 20 |
| ❑ Free power supply will continue for farmers
- The Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi | ... | 21 |
| ❑ The Government of Tamil Nadu, extends its support and honours the freedom fighters on its own, not awaiting the requests of anyone.
-The Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi in the centenary celebrations of Netaji Subash Chandra Bose. | ... | 23 |
| ❑ Tamil Nadu Scientist Award, 1996-97 | ... | 24 |
| ❑ All India Co-operative Week celebrated | ... | 29 |
| ❑ V. Jayalaxmi Pandit - The only sister of Nehru - Her role in freedom struggle | ... | 31 |

OUR TARGET IS TO MAKE TAMIL NADU A 'SAMATHUVAPURAM' TO THE ADORATION OF THE ENTIRE NATION

SAMATHUVAPURAM

Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaigarnar M. Karunanidhi inaugurated the construction of Samathuvapuram in Poigai, Vellore District on 24.10.97.

In his speech the Chief Minister said, "the Central Government is constructing concrete housing colonies for Adi-Dravidars at a cost of Rs.27,000. Apart from this, the Government is providing 5 cents of land and Rs.35,000 as subsidy for constructing houses in Samathuvapuram. If the residents wish to add more comfort to thier homes, the Government is prepared to avail loan for them.

The area of this Samathuvapuram is about 13 acres. Necessary orders have been issued to convert this grazing poromboke land for the construction of houses. This land is located near the National Highway opposite to the Government. Boys Higher Secondary School. A Primary Health Centre is to be constructed near this

Samathuvapuram. 100 persons will be provided 5 cents of land each for the construction of the houses in Samathuvapuram. The percentage ratio of house sites allocation are :

Adi-Dravidars-40%, Backward Classes-25%, Most Backward Classes-25%, Others-10%.

The 100 beneficiaries for this Samathuvapuram are being selected from 19 communities, especially from the families living below the poverty line.

Apart from the land allotted for residential purpose, the rest will be





utilised for providing basic amenities, such as: Over head tank with electric motor, street lights, park with play ground, television room, library, commercial complex, primary school, post office, community centre, Bank extension counter, roads for main streets, separate drinking water pipe line for each house, part time fair price shop and bus stop. 200 coconut sapling and other tree saplings will also be provided.

SELF HELP PROGRAMME

Self Help Programme announced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Kalaaignar M. Karunanidhi is not a scheme alone, it is a new approach in fulfilling the basic needs of the people.

The objectives of the Self Help Programme are:

People should come forward to participate in community development programmes.

Every citizen should involve himself in formulating and implementing development schemes.

Only then the Government will be able to assess the needs and problems of the village and redress them.

ANNA RENAISSANCE SCHEME

This scheme is to select a village in each Legislative Assembly Constituency, every year and develop it into a modern village with minimum basic facilities such as protected drinking water, primary education, primary health care, nutritious food, housing facilities, link roads and fair price shop.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated various Welfare schemes under 'Self Help Programme' and 'Anna Renaissance Scheme' in Vellianai, Karur District on 26.10.97 and announced that under the Self Help Programme, Welfare Schemes at an estimated cost of Rs.10 lakhs and under the Anna Renaissance Scheme at Rs.98 lakhs are to be implemented in Vellianai.



In this function, foundation stones for various schemes to be implemented in all districts have been laid at a cost of Rs.36 crores, the Chief Minister added, these include, the construction of a bridge for Karur-Amaravathi at an estimate cost of Rs.17 crores, the 'Master Plan Complex' including the collectorate at Rs. 10 crores. Besides these various schemes at a cost of Rs.5 crores were inaugurated.

5,124 beneficiaries were extended welfare assistance worth of Rs.57.13 crores.

To eliminate communal clashes caste difference between people, 'Samathuvapuram' shall be established in 50 places in Tamil Nadu during this year.

The habitants of Samathuvapuram should undertake the following pledge.

1. All the residents of Samathu-vapuram should live peacefully without any communal, caste differences.
2. The residents should conduct their religious rituals, marriages etc. only in the community centre to be constructed in Samathuvapuram and there should not be separate worship

halls in public place. There is no objection to construct their worship place in the sites allotted to them.

3. The residents of Samathuvapuram in case of death in their households should use one common burial ground, and in case of cremation they should use the one public cremation ground. The system of one burial ground and one cremation ground should be followed.
4. Installation of statues of any kind will not be allowed.

The Chief Minister his hopes that the Samathuvapuram in Vellianai will be extended all over the State, thereby making Tamil Nadu a "Samathuva - puram" to the adoration of the entire nation.

★

DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN RURAL AREAS

DWCRA

One cannot forget the fact that Gandhiji, sacrificed everything - his life, wealth and soul for the cause of freedom, enabling us to enjoy the fruits of freedom, by bearing the torture of non-violence and hence hailed as the 'Great Soul' by the whole world.



While uniting the whole mass of Indians from Kanniyakumari to the Himalayas in opposing the British imperialism by his non-violence code, at one side he was grieved to see the Indian women

languishing in their homes, treated as slaves by the chauvinistic males. He had not hesitated in voicing his mind in support of the Indian women who are the embodiment of patience, and from the past centuries leading a mechanical life, ignorant of their power and not commanding any rights.

Speaking about women, he observed, "I do not find any difference between man and woman except in their physical appearance". He was insisting that the property rights enjoyed by men should also be given to women.

Thanthai Periyar, who had faith in Gandhiji's ideal of non-violence, while fighting for the freedom of the country also fought for the social justice. He said



true freedom would be attained, not alone by chasing the British but also by eliminating the superstitious beliefs and the differences caused by religion and caste. He staged several agitations and in that, he was particular in maintaining peace and non-violence. He was particular in giving equal rights to women. 'Women are not machines to provide babies; women should be given permanent social status' were his ideals. To create this social status for women, first they should be given the property rights, come out from the entangles of the superstitious practices and become educated as their male counterpart. He continuously preached in his speech and writings that women should come forward to be employed in all spheres as males and they should come out as free birds to show their power and capacities in proper way.

One cannot forget Perarignar Anna's contribution to the society, after Thanthai Periyar, in establishing social justice. To attain social justice, for the women to become equal in all spheres of life with their male counterparts, education is a must and opportunities should be provided for them to get proper education. He considered that providing education to women should be the foremost duty of an average democratic country.



With the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi, Thanthai Periyar and Perarignar Anna, Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaaignar M. Karunanidhi is implementing several social welfare schemes, to convert their dreams into reality.

The Chief Minister shows special interest in providing education to women of all status. It has become the inevitable duty of the mother to educate her children and shape the future generation for a better tomorrow.

So the law has been passed enabling women equal property rights in 1989-90 by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi.

Though the Government has made primary education compulsory, the success is limited, with regard to rural areas. It is naturally difficult to instill the thought of education to the downtrodden who are struggling to earn even a single meal which may be insufficient. It is not easy to attract them towards education, but it has to be done. As the first step, the Government is showing keen interest in eradicating child labour.

To create a knowledgeable society in future women have to be educated. But in rural areas the girls are burdened with household duties like bringing water, collecting fire woods, looking after their younger sister or brother etc. and naturally her education is deprived.

To instill the idea of education in the minds of the downtrodden and the poor, Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi, in the year 1989, introduced and implemented a marriage assistance scheme, in the name of Moovalur Ramamirthammayar, in which Rs.5000 was given as marriage assistance if the bride possessed the minimum qualification of Eighth Standard. But during the past few years this scheme was not given importance and the benefits of the scheme was left unrealised. But when Kalaingar assumed office as Chief Minister once again, he ordered the enhancement of the amount from Rs.5000 to Rs.10,000. By this, during the past two years, Rs.46 crores were spent and 46,000 poor brides benefited.

The Chief Minister who have strong belief in women's education, that they would make a better educated society in future, have announced that this scheme should be extended to all the eligible applicants without any target.

There is no doubt that the beneficiaries of this scheme, the educated women will definitely educate their children, which will pave way for creating a better and learned society.

Apart from the marriage assistance scheme, the Chief Minister with a distant vision of bringing a bright future and an educated society, has announced various other schemes to encourage the poor and downtrodden to take up education.

The Chief Minister had announced that the Government would meet the expenses of higher education of the top rankers hailing from families without any graduate. Accordingly, students of 100 such families were given assistance recently.

Likewise, E. V. R. Nagammaiyar women education scheme was introduced by Kalaingar, the first of his kind throughout India with an aim of educating women belonging to the economically weaker section, whose family income does not exceed Rs.24,000 per annum. Women are provided cash assistance to meet the tuition fees, for their graduation irrespective of their religion, caste and creed. For B.A. - Rs.500; for B.Sc./B.Com. - Rs.750 and for the orientation course - Rs.1000.

With regard to Engineering Colleges 15% seats are reserved for students hailing from rural areas and a 'Single Window System', the brain child of the Chief Minister, introduced by the Government, this year, enabled the students to get admission easily in the branches to their choice including in self financing Engineering Colleges. The Chief Minister has also announced that from the next academic year 15% seats will be reserved for the students hailing from rural areas in Medical, Agricultural, Dental and in Veterinary Colleges.

Orders have also been issued reserving 30% seats for women in the men's colleges, wherever there is no women's college in the rural areas.

These new schemes are being introduced by the Chief Minister with an aim of converting Tamil Nadu fully educated. By these various schemes, women's education have been widely spread all over Tamil Nadu.

Development of women and children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) is a scheme implemented with an aim of creating self reliance and self sustaining groups of poor rural women who are below poverty line.

The objectives of the scheme:

- ★ To improve the status of women in rural areas
- ★ To strengthen the economic base for rural women by availing of credit and subsidies provided under IRDP and thereby raise the health, nutritional and educational standards of their Children.



- ★ To enhance their bargaining power and decision making abilities through collectivisation.
- ★ To train them in productive skills and group dynamics.
- ★ To orient the development functionaries to respond positively to the needs and constraints of poor women and their potential capacity for development.

Groups of 15-20 women are formed to take up activity of Mutual interest to all. Viable economic activities are undertaken as identified by the

group suitably guided by a Grama Sevika and Assitant Project Officer (DWCRA). Training is imparted to group members under TRYSEM. Each group is given Rs.25,200 comprising Central share of Rs. 12,600, State share of Rs. 12,600, as revolving fund.

Adi dravidar women - Chettikurichi Village - boxes for matches

Adi dravidar women of Chettikurichi village in Tuticorin District earn their livelihood by manufacturing match box and arranging match sticks for pocketing. As they do not have the

capital to buy the raw materials intermediaries and agents had a field day, collecting huge profits by giving meagre pay for their labour.

15 Adi dravidar women of this village approached the Kayatharu Union Office requesting financial assistance under DWCRA schemes. They were given Rs.15,000 as revolving fund. These women themselves bought the rawmaterials and started producing boxes for matches and sold it to the nearby match industries directly without middlemen thus earning the wages as well as the profit.



As on June 1997, these 15 women have spent Rs.5,44,992 on the materials and Rs.2,24,000 as payment for labour totalling Rs.7,68,992. They earned Rs.8,06,400 by selling their products gaining a profit of Rs.37,408. Also they paid Rs.4,300 to their revolving fund and earned a monthly income of Rs.1,218.

By establishing; vegetable farms, flower gardens, mat eaving, making ornamental products using palm leaves, basket making, hearing milch cows, bags using nylon tapes, coir manufacturing, manufacturing Chairs using artificial pearls like material for the gypsies, making pappads, etc. and by their hard work and direct dealings in purchase and sales, these women have gained confidence and are elevated to equal status of men and has thus paved way for educating their children.

A success story of Narikurava Women

The Gypsies (Narikuravas) generally do not stay in a particular place permanently. They usually move from one place to another, staying in a place for a maximum period of one or two months. These women folk used to earn their livelihood by selling hand sewing needles, artificial pearl like materials used for making ornamental strings and chains. Men used to go for hunting

such as birds, etc. As this business does not earn them enough to fill their empty stomachs they are forced to beg, most of the time.

In an interesting way, a group of gypsies decided to live permanently in Gangaikondan village of Cuddalore District. But as they do not have permanent employment they were distressed. In 1990 the Narikurava women approached the Kammapuram Union Office for financial assistance for their work. There, they were explained of the DWCRA scheme. Twenty women formed as a group. They were provided Bank loan of Rs.6000 each, amounting to Rs.1 Lakh and 20 Thousand for their imitation pearl manufacturing business. Apart from this they were also given a revolving fund. With this fund they started their 'small business' and were able to earn a minimum of Rs.20 everyday by selling their products and were also able to pay back the loan. With this situation, now they think of sending their children to school. And there is no doubt that there is an enlightened future in their lives.

During the year 1997-98 Government of India have allocated a target of 1951 groups to be formed under DWCRA and till September this year, 619 groups have been formed and 8,324 rural women have been benefited.



Thirukkural - The code of conduct for the mankind

It has been proposed to publish the translation along with transliteration of selected couplets of Thirukkural in Tamil Arasu

மழல் இனிது யாழ் இனிது என்ப, தம்மக்கள்
மழலைச் சொல் கேளா தவர்

*Kuzhal inithu Yazh inithu enba thammakkal
Mazhalaichol Kelathavar*

‘Only those who have never heard their children's sweet lisplings will say, sweet is the pipe, sweet is the lute’.

மங்கலம் என்ப மனைமாட்சி; மற்றுஅதன்
நன்கலம் நன்மக்கள் பேறு.

*Mangalam enba Manaimatchi; Matruathan
Nankalam Nanmakkal peru.*

‘A virtuous wife is declared to be a blessing in a household. It is a fine ornament to the household if it is blessed with good children’.

அன்பிற்கும் உண்டோ அடைக்கும்தாழ்?ஆர்வலர்
புன்கண்நீர் பூசல் தரும்.

*Anbirkum Vundo adaikkumthazh? arvalar
Punkaneer poosal Tharum*

‘What bolt is there to restrain and conceal love? One tear drop in the eyes of those thou lovest will draw a flood from thine’.

வருவிருந்து, வைகலும் ஒம்புவான் வாழ்க்கை
பருவந்து பாழ்படுதல் இன்று.

*Varuvirunthu Vaikalum Ombuvan Vazhkai
Paruvanthu Pazhpaduthal indru.*

‘If a householder attends to the needs of honoured guests everyday, the prosperity and wealth of his household will grow from more to more and will never decline.’

பணிவுடையன், இன்சொலன், ஆதல், ஒருவற்கு
அணிஅல்ல மற்றுப் பிற.

*Panivudaiyan, insolan, athal, oruvarku
Anialla matru pira.*

‘Courtesy with pleasant speech born of humility is the real ornament to a person. All other ornaments are worth nothing’.

நன்றி மறப்பது நன்று அன்று; நன்றுஅல்லது
அன்றே மறப்பது நன்று.

*Nandri marapathu nandruandru;
nandruallathu
Andre marapathu nandru.*

‘It is not good to forget good things received by you. But certainly it is proper to forget evil done unto you’.

அஞ்சாமை, ஈகை, அறிவு ஊக்கம் இந்நான்கும்
எஞ்சாமை வேந்தற்கு இயல்பு.

*Anjamai, eagai, arivu, ookkam inangum
Enjamai ventharku eyalbu.*

‘Courage, liberality, wisdom, enthusiasm, these are the essential qualities of a king’.

Commentary

He must be personally courageous to inspire confidence in the various services. He must be liberal to have a contented army and administrative machinery. Wisdom is necessary for proper guidance and enthusiasm to insure success.



THE NEHRU CALENDAR

1889

Born in Allahabad on November 14 of Motilal and Swaruprani Nehru. Motilal, Swaruprani settled in Lahore. Jawaharlal was their first child.

1905

After having studied privately under European governesses and tutors, Jawaharlal sailed for England with his father, mother and baby sister, Swarup, who was born 11 years after Nehru. She is Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit.

Jawaharlal was admitted to Harrow, where in his two years he was never exactly at home. He then joined Trinity College, Cambridge.

1910

Nehru left Cambridge after taking the Natural Science Tripos in Second Class Honours. He wanted to join the I.C.S. but decided against it and instead joined the Inner Temple and qualified for the bar.

1912

Nehru was called to the bar in summer and soon after returned to India. His seven-year stay in England was broken by only two brief visits to home. On reaching India, he joined the Allahabad High Court Bar. He attended the Bankipore Congress as a delegate, marking the beginning of his political career. His first meeting with Gandhiji took place at the

Lucknow Congress in the last week of December.

1916

Nehru married Kamala Kaul, daughter of a prosperous Kashmiri business man, in Delhi on February 8. They spent their honeymoon in Kashmir.



1917

Their only child, Indira, was born at Allahabad on November 19.

1919

Along with his father, Nehru started the newspaper, "Independent", in Allahabad on February 9, and looked after its general supervision. The paper was closed two years later.

1921

He was arrested for the first time, under Section 17 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, at the time of the visit of the then Prince of Wales to India.

1922

He was arrested again on May 11 and detained in the Lucknow District Jail. In August, he was released, only to be re-arrested in October for alleged "intimidation of foreign-cloth dealers" and sentenced on December 17, to six months' imprisonment and a fine of Rs.1,000 under Section 17(1) of the Criminal Law Amendment Act.

1923

Nehru was elected as Chairman of Allahabad Municipality. On September 22, he was arrested and after a trial at Nabha, then a princely State, was sentenced to two and a half years' rigorous imprisonment, in the alternative to leave the State. He left Nabha.

1926

In March, Nehru left for a tour to Italy, Switzerland, England, Belgium, Germany and Russia accompanied by his wife, Kamala, and his eight-year-old daughter, Indira. He attended the Congress of Oppressed Nationalities (which established the League against Imperialism) at Brussels in February as the official delegate of the Congress from India.

1928

Early in the year Nehru was subjected to a lathi-charge by mounted police, while leading a procession against the Simon Commission in Lucknow.

On December 27, he moved an amendment to Mahatma Gandhi's resolution on Dominion Status at the All-India Congress Committee held in Calcutta, and reiterated the demand for "complete independence".

He also founded at this time, the short-lived Independence for India League, demanding complete severance of India from the British, and became its General Secretary.

1929

On September 20, Gandhiji recommended Nehru's name as the next President of the Congress.

1930

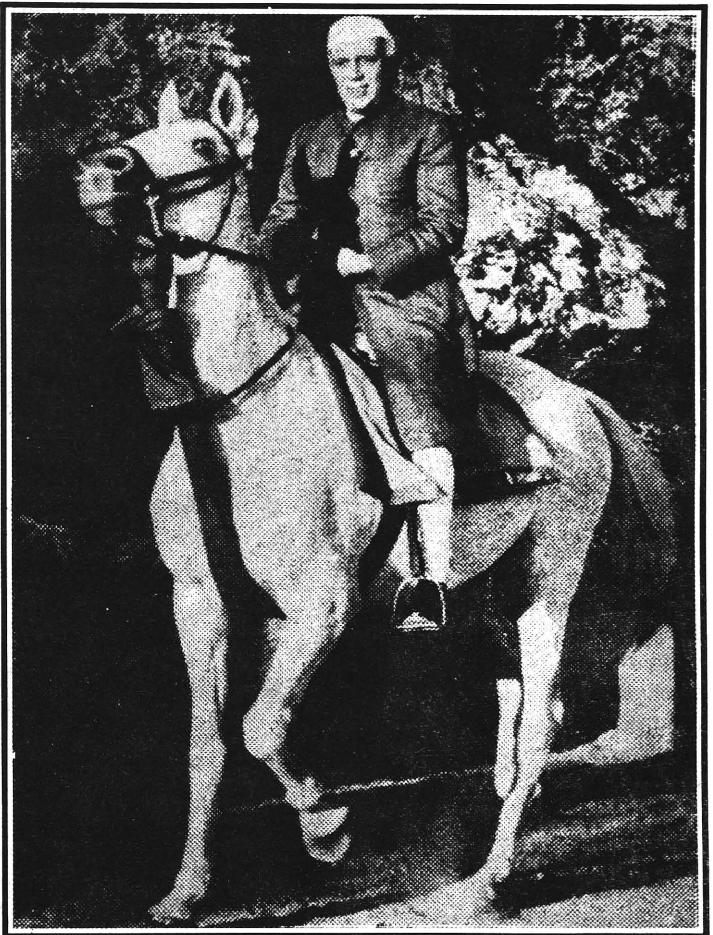
Along with thousands of others, Nehru was arrested on April 14 during the civil disobedience movement, which began on January 26. He was sentenced to six months' simple imprisonment for breaking the salt law and jailed in the Naini Central Prison where he stayed till his release on October 11.

He was re-arrested for participating in a peasant conference at Allahabad. He was sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs.600. On December 29, his wife, Kamala, was also arrested.

1931

His father, Motilal, died on February 6.

On December 26, he was again arrested for a breach of an internment order prohibiting him



from leaving the municipal limits of Allahabad issued in connection with the agrarian movement in the U.P. and sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment.

1933

In view of the serious illness of his mother, Swaruprani, Nehru was released from jail on August 30, twelve days before the expiry of his term.

1934

In February, he was again arrested at Allahabad for his speeches in Calcutta.

1935

• On February 14, while in Almora District Jail, Nehru completed his Autobiography.

On September 4, Nehru was set free owing to the critical condition of his wife, who had already been taken to Europe for urgent medical treatment. The next day he flew to Europe and saw his wife on September 9 in Switzerland. He paid a brief visit to London along with his daughter who was studying in Switzerland. During his stay abroad, he was elected President of the Congress for the 1936 session.

1936

On February 28, Kamala died in Switzerland. In April, his Autobiography was published.

1936

On June 2, he formed and drafted the provisional constitution of the Indian Civil Liberties Union and took an active interest in its work.

From April 1936 to February 1937, he toured the country, covering 45,000 miles, for election propaganda and talked to about 20 million people.

1938

Nehru was much saddened by the death of his mother, Swaruprani. He visited Spain which was involved in a civil war at the time, and expressed his active sympathy with the Republicans.

1940

As the second satya - grahi chosen by Gandhiji in the individual satya graha movement started by him, Nehru was arrested on October 31 and sentenced to four years' rigorous imprisonment.

1942

He participated in the negotiations started by Sir Stafford Cripps on behalf of the British Government for a settlement with India. On August 7, he explained to the All-India Congress Committee in Bombay why the Cripps Mission had failed and endorsed the call made by Gandhiji to the British to quit India, by himself moving the famous resolution at the AICC meeting in Bombay.

Nehru was arrested in Bombay and taken to Ahmednagar Fort. It was Nehru's ninth as well as longest and last detention.

On April 13, 1944, he began to write 'Discovery of India', which he completed five months later.



1945

The Allied victory became certain and on January 15, Lord Wavell, who was the then Viceroy of India, released Nehru and other Congress leaders, and initiated talks for a settlement with the British Government.

1946

In March, Nehru published his Discovery of India.

On March 17, he left on a tour to South-East Asia where he saw for the first time the new awakening that had taken place as a result of the Second World War.

On May 9, he was elected Congress President for the fourth time and took charge of the office from his predecessor, Azad, at the All-India Congress Committee meeting held in Bombay on July 6.

On August 12, he accepted the Viceroy's invitation to form an Interim Government; he was sworn in as Vice-President and Member in charge of External Affairs on September 2.

On September 26, Nehru explained for the first time what India's foreign policy would be.

On December 4, Nehru, accompanied by Baldev Singh, Member for Defence, Liaquat Ali Khan, Member for Finance and Jinnah went to London for discussions with the British Government on certain interpretations of the Cabinet Mission's plan.

1947

In March, he visited the riot-affected areas of the Punjab. On March 26, the Mountbattens came on the scene.

In two speeches before the Constituent Assembly on August 14, Nehru, along with others, paid tribute to Gandhiji as "the architect of this freedom", and declared, "We shall never allow the torch of freedom to be blown out, however high the wind or stormy the tempest".

Power was transferred to India and the 'India's Independence' was declared at midnight of August 14/15. The next day, in a broadcast from All India Radio, Nehru

unfolded his programme as free India's first Prime Minister.

1948

On February 17, he gave the Constituent Assembly, for the first time, an outline of free India's new foreign policy, based on non-alignment and the freedom to judge all issues on merit.

On August 20, Nehru addressed the first meeting of the newly-formed Atomic Energy Commission, and himself took charge of the department.

On October 25, Nehru left for Paris where on November 3, he addressed a special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

1949

On April 19, Nehru left for London to attend the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference.

On October 24, he addressed both Houses of the Canadian Parliament at Ottawa. On November 2, he received the honorary citizenship of San Francisco. On November 6, he was awarded the American Spingarn Medal for services in the Negro cause.

1950

On January 26, India became a Republic under a new Constitution of her own making.

In March 1950, the Planning Commission was set up, with Nehru as its Chairman.

1952

On May 11, he was re-elected leader of the Congress Parliamentary Party in the new Lok Sabha and was called on by the President of India to form a Cabinet

at the Centre. On June 7, he opened a scheduled tribes and scheduled areas conference, and addressed a tribal conference in New Delhi, advocating the preservation of the tribal way.

1953

On March 8, he inaugurated the Backward Classes Commission. On April 13, he explained to a mammoth meeting in New Delhi the significance of the Five-Year Plan.

On August 1, he inaugurated the nationalised Air Corporations. On August 12, he inaugurated the Central Social Welfare Board.

1954

On June 25, he welcomed to India the Chinese Premier, Chou En-lai, and his party and held talks with them. A joint statement issued

at the end of their talks embodied the Five Principles or Panchshila, which became the sheet-anchor of India's foreign policy.

1955

At the 60th session of the Congress held at Avadi, near Madras, under the presidentship of U.N. Dhebar, Nehru redefined the Congress goal as the establishment of a socialistic pattern of society in India, in place of its original objective of a co-operative commonwealth.

On March 1, he protested to the Government of Ceylon against the mass rejection of citizenship applications from residents of Indian origin in that island.

On April 3, he inaugurated the first national convention of Indian



On arrival in London, May 1905. From left: Brijlal Nehru, Swarup Rani, Swarup Kumari, Jawaharlal and Motilal Nehru.

farmers and urged them to improve their methods of farming so as to increase production.

Accompanied by the two dignitaries and their parties, Nehru left New Delhi on April 15 and arrived at Bandung the next day for the historic Afro-Asian Conference. Delegates from 21 African and Asian countries attended the Conference and formulated a statement of Ten Principles in elaboration of the Panchshila.

The next day, he left on a tour to the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Italy and Egypt. On his first lap of the journey, he halted in Cairo and conferred with Premier Nasser of Egypt. On June 6, he flew to Prague for talks with the Czechoslovakian Prime Minister, Antonin Zapotacky, and members of his Government. On June 7, Nehru arrived in Moscow and was received by Prime Minister Bulganin and members of the Soviet Government, and Khrushchev, the First Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party.

On July 15, President Babu Rajendra Prasad held a State banquet in Nehru's honour and conferred on him the highest national award, "Bharat Ratna".

On July 26, Nehru declared in the Lok Sabha that Portugal's hold over Goa was a continuing interference in Indian affairs.

He inaugurated in Bangalore, on October 6, the Hindustan Machine Tools factory.

Speaking at a civic reception to the Russian leaders in New Delhi on November 19, Nehru declared, "We stand for peace above everything because it is essential for us and for the rest of the world, and we are, therefore, comrades of all who are for peace."

On December 10, Nehru laid the foundation stone of South India's biggest river valley project - the

Second Five-Year Plan to Parliament.

Nehru welcomed the delegates to the ninth UNESCO conference in Delhi on November 5. Referring to the gathering as "the conscience of the world community", he exhorted the delegates to pay heed to "the collapse of conscience and good morals that we see around us".

On December 20 he addressed an informal meeting of the members of the U.N. General Assembly, where about 3,000 delegates were present.

Formally opening Asia's first atomic reactor in Trombay, near Bombay, on January 28, Nehru gave a categorical assurance that India would never use atomic energy for evil purposes.

With the conclusion of the general election, the new Central Cabinet, headed by Nehru, was sworn in by the President in New Delhi on April 17, 1957. This was Nehru's third Cabinet in succession since independence.

1959

Intervening in the Lok Sabha debate on a resolution recommending that English should be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution on August 7, Nehru said that English would remain an additional official language as long as the non-Hindi-speaking people of India desired to retain it.



A woman worker dedicating Panchet Hill Dam across Damodar River, 6 December, 1959.

Nagarjunasagar Project.

1956

Nehru announced on April 30 the new industrial policy of the Government of India in the Lok Sabha, envisaging a rapid expansion of the public sector and a fortnight later presented the

Replying to a parliamentary debate on Sino-Indian relations on September 12, Nehru said China's claim was "wholly unacceptable" and would never be conceded "whatever the consequences". He said India refused to make a "gift of the Himalayas to the Chinese". He assured Sikkim the Bhutan that India would honour her obligations in respect of their defence.

Addressing a public meeting in Meerut on October 24, Nehru said that the Sino-Indian border conflict was causing "grave anxiety", but added: "I do not say that there will be war with China on this issue". Again, he told a public meeting in New Delhi on November 1 and said that the Chinese attacks on India's borders were a challenge "which would be met with firmness, determination and strength." He said, "we have confidence in our strength and determination to meet this challenge and meet it effectively. We will defend our country with all our might. I want to tell you frankly that there is no fear in my mind of any danger that somebody will attack us and sit on our chest. We can look after ourselves and defend ourselves."

Replying to the debate on November 27, Nehru said that China had committed a breach of faith with India.

Another point of interest made by him was that the Chinese had violated the Geneva convention on prisoners-of-war in regard to the interrogation of the Indian policemen captured by them in Ladakh on October 21-22.

Nehru declared that any aggression against Nepal and Bhutan would be treated as

aggression against India. This was a grave responsibility and the Government knew what it involved.

1960

Nehru visited Egypt, Turkey, the Lebanon and Syria in May. President Nasser of the UAR and his entire Cabinet received him in Cairo. At the site of the Aswan High Dam, Nehru detonated eight tons of dynamite, and exploded a rock to inaugurate the work on the diversion channel of the Dam. Hundreds of cheering Nubians greeted Nehru with slogans "Long live Nehru" as he inaugurated the diversion channel.

1961

On January 16, Nehru formally inaugurated the Canada-India reactor at Trombay, near Bombay.

Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh paid a State visit to India in January-February. Speaking at a civic reception to the Queen in Delhi on January 28, Nehru paid a magnificent tribute to the friendly relations between India and Britain and praised the role of the Commonwealth in maintaining world peace.

On May, 19, Nehru and Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson, then U.S. Vice-President, who was on an official visit to India issued a joint communique that described the conquest of ignorance, poverty and disease as the first steps to world peace.

Nehru declared at a news conference in Delhi that India was not prepared to discuss the Kashmir question with Pakistan unless she withdrew her army from the occupied territory.

On September 6, Nehru reached Moscow from Belgrade on a State visit at the invitation of the Soviet Government. During his discussions with Mr. Khrushchev, he handed over an appeal from the non-aligned "summit" urging Mr. Khrushchev to meet the U.S. President as a step towards an enduring world peace.

Nehru paid an official visit to the United States at the invitation of the U.S. President in November.

In his welcome speech in Washington, President Kennedy described Nehru as a world leader of the stature of Abraham Lincoln and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

On December 5, Nehru disclosed in Parliament that while claiming that it had instructed its troops not to approach within 20 km. of the frontier with India, the Chinese Government had threatened that its forces would cross the McMahon Line if India did not desist from stepping up its military activity and establishing new posts.

On December 10, Nehru inaugurated Asia's largest power house, on the left bank of the Bhakra in Nangal.

India had to undertake action in Goa as there was no other alternative left to her. He said: "It was no pleasure to us to undertake armed action, but the Portuguese left us no choice"

1962

Nehru inaugurated on January 1, India's first public sector oil refinery in Nummati.

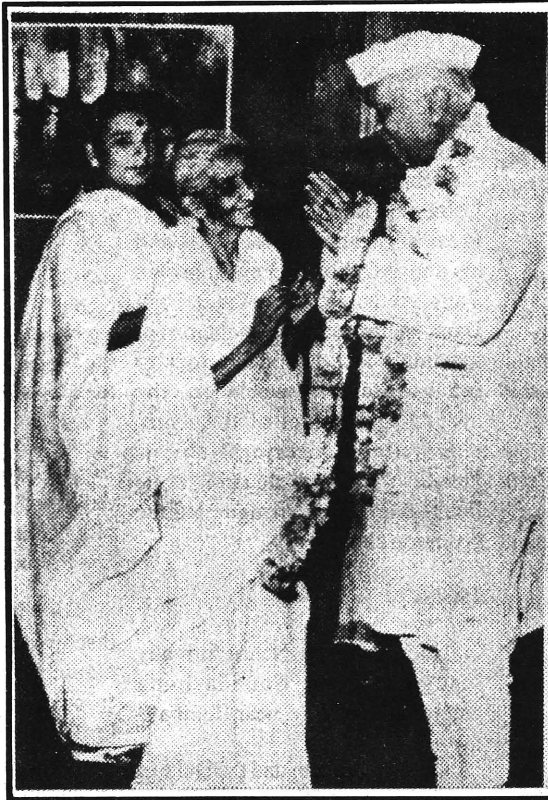
Following the general elections, Nehru was elected as leader on

April 30. His Cabinet was announced on April 9 and sworn in the next day.

On the outbreak of Chinese aggression against India's northern borders, Nehru called the nation, in a broadcast on October 22, to "grid up its loins" to face Chinese aggression, which he described as the greatest menace to India since the attainment of independence. He said, "India had to face a powerful and unscrupulous opponent, and had therefore to build up our strength, and prepare to face this situation adequately and with confidence." He exhorted the people to present a solid united front against all those who seek to endanger our freedom and integrity.

The nation gave magnificent response to Nehru's appeal. All parties pledged to support the defence effort. Workers gave a 'No Strike' assurance, hundreds of persons volunteered for service or gave blood, gold or cash to the 'National Defence Fund'.

Nehru announced in Parliament on November 22 that 32 days after their invasion of India, the Chinese forces had ceased fire on November 21 along the entire Sino-Indian border. Indian troops had also stopped firing.



1963

On January 7 1963, Nehru inaugurated at Pipri, 130 miles from Varanasi, a giant hydro-electric project, built on the river Rihand.

On May 10, Nehru laid the foundation stone of India's third oil refinery in the public sector at Koyali, near Baroda.

On November 15, Nehru formally opened in Ranchi the heavy machine building plant, the first of four major projects of the Heavy Engineering Corporation designed to furnish the essential needs of basic industries in India, and thus free the country from its present crippling dependence on foreign sources.

On May 1, Sheikh Abdullah, the Kashmir leader who had been released from detention, was received by Nehru for discussions on the future of the State.

He began a second round of talks with Sheikh Abdullah on May 20. Two days later he addressed a press conference, the first after his recent illness. To a pointed question about his health, he breezily replied that he did not think that his end was so near as to be troubled with the question of a successor. He seemed to be fit, he had resumed a fair share of his duties. In fact, two days later he held discussions with President Abboud of Sudan. His

convalescence still called for some rest, and he took a brief holiday of three days in Dehra Dun. He returned to New Delhi on May 26. The next morning, around 6.30, he suffered a serious heart attack. He lost consciousness and was placed under oxygen. He never recovered. For eight hours, doctors were engaged in a desperate effort to save the idol of millions. At 2 p.m., Nehru passed away.

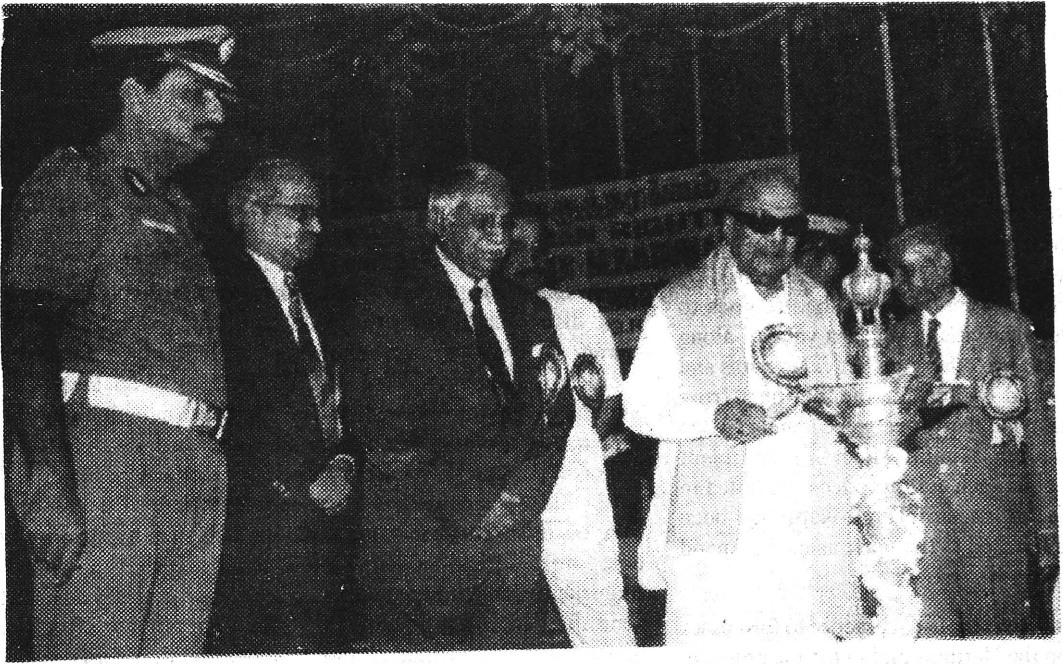
Not only India, which loved him as she had loved none before, but the whole world, mourned his loss.

Courtesy :

'A study of Nehru'
edited by Rafiq Zakaria

"THE GOAL IS TO CREATE A CULTURE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, ACROSS THE LENGTH AND BREADTH OF THE COUNTRY"

- Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi
inaugurating the Seminar on Human Rights on 5.11.97 at Chennai



The peace on the earth will exist only if the culture of human rights is being developed at the level of family as well as society.

Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi inaugurated the seminar on human rights at Kalaivanar Arangam, Chennai on 5.11.97. In his inaugural address, the Chief Minister while welcoming the former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Thiru M.N. Venkatachalaiah who is also the Chairman, National Human Rights Commission, congratulated his exemplary work and quoted the following passage from his speech.

"The task of the protection and promotion of Human Rights is complex one, and requires the co-operation of all sections of society; political parties, non-governmental organisations, lawyers, judges, public servants, teachers, police, media-persons and others.

I appeal to all of you, to observe human rights in your homes, at the work place, in your neighbourhood and everywhere. The goal is to create a culture of Human Rights across the length and breadth of the country".

He said discrimination was practised in the name of religion and castes. He said, Dr. Ambedkar had mentioned a particular incident of caste discrimination that happened in Tamil Nadu, even after independence in the book 'writings and speeches of Baba Saheb Dr. Ambedkar'.

Swamy Anand Theerth was Harijan Seva Sang's regional leader. When he came to Tamil Nadu and visited the Melavalavu village near Melur in Madurai District. "There are two types of glasses kept in tea shop to serve the caste Hindus and people belonging to Adi-Dravida Community. An Adi-Dravida person goes there and asks for tea in the cup meant for highclass people and he is beaten up by the public.



even an MP's father's life had been threatened in 1952. If they had not gone supporting the false case their life would have been endangered, the Chief Minister Kalaignar added.

"This discrimination of human rights prevailed not only in Tamil Nadu or in India but throughout the world and that's why a conference on Human Rights was organised at the end of the second world war. National Human Rights Commission was established in India under the chairmanship of Justice Renganath Misra on 12th October 1993 and it is noteworthy to mention that Her Excellency Justice M. Fathima Bhcevi the present Governor of Tamil Nadu was a member of the commission, he added.

Anand Theerth files a case in the Magistrate Court. The penalty given was a mere 10 Rs. fine. Distressed by this, Swamy Anand Theerth goes to another village 'Keezha valavu' along with two other Adi-Dravida youths and asked for tea for them. Apart from denying they are also beaten up by the people. Anand Theerth's comment about such evil practices prevailed in the villages of Tamil Nadu had been published in the book as such: Anand Theerth says:

"It is the usual practice to foist cases on the Harijans and to get the police to take immediate action. When it was discovered that the Harijans had sustained serious injuries, the villagers realised that they would get into trouble. It is learnt that Shri Poosari Kakkan, the 80 years old father of Shri P. Kakkan, M.P. who is working as the village Thotti, was therefore asked to give a false complaint that some articles in the Harijans temple were found missing since the previous evening and a report was sent to the police by the village munsif, that these articles were recovered from the Harijan Youths by Shri Poosari Kakkan and his relation, another village Thotti, named Etti Kakkan are said to have brought these articles and given to the village munsif".

Poosari Kakkan and Etti Kakkan had to support this false case because

A letter was sent to Chief Secretaries of all States and Union Territories by the Principal Secretary of the Commission Thiru R.V. Pillai, which was received on 14 December, 1993 by the then Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu. The content of the letter was: "A review on the Deaths and rape incidents occurring in police stations were discussed at a meeting held on 6th of this month by the commission. With the increasing incidents of this kind, it has been decided by the commission that, the District Magistrates and Superintendents of Police should be advised to submit a report on such incidents within 24 hours or soon after hearing them, to the Principal Secretary of the Commission, so that such incidents could not be hidden and mislead in the course of time. If the report is delayed, there is a chance for assuming that such happenings are being mislead and hidden. So it is requested that the District Magistrates and Superintendents of Police are properly advised to send their reports immediately to the undersigned after such happenings". State Human Rights Commission were formed in six, seven or eight states only, the Chief Minister said. Though, the above letter was received by the then Government in 1993, no effort was taken, to establish the commission; the issue was simply slipped over by the mere word, May (i.e. In the content of the letter, it has been stated that the State Governments may constitute a State Human Rights Commission). But, the present Government took appropriate action to constitute the commission at State level to 'Protect the Human Rights'.

Based on that it was announced in the Legislative Assembly and the State Human Rights Commission was started on 20.12.1996 with the former judge of the High Court Justice Thiru Nayinar Sundaram as the Chairperson and Thiru Sami Durai, Thiru Rathinasamy, Tmt Susila and Thiru Abdul Gani as members. so far 712 petitions had been received and sent to concerned departments for action.

He said, state Legislation alone cannot bring about a change in the society. It is associated with the minds of the people; there has to be a change of attitude and more tolerance is essential. As announced in the conference on eradication of untouchability, held on 31st August at Madurai, the Children are taking pledge to

eradicate untouchability in educational institutions throughout Tamil Nadu, he added.

The Chief Minister said Human Chains are being organised in different places wherever he tours to promote communal amity. He said the sole objective of establishing 'Samathuvapuram' is to promote communal harmony and mutual good will among all communities and castes who would live together. Such schemes are being implemented in 50 centres, 40 out of 100 houses in each unit would be set apart for Adi dravidars and the remaining for non-Adi Dravidars. He said, he was happy that a couple of Brahmin families had come forward to reside at 'Samathuvapuram' to be established at Poigai of Vellore District. The forward communities, who were assumed to be the creators of the caste divisions, were not fighting with the people of backward classes now, but surprisingly it was the clashes between the backward and the Adi-Dravidars, he said.

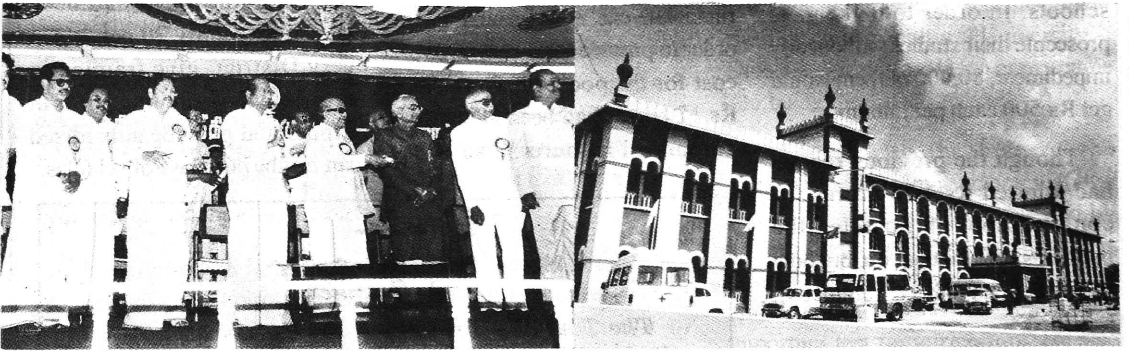
Promotion of inter caste marriages alone could end caste clashes, he said. During the past two years Rs.46 crores had been sanctioned to 46 thousand brides belonging to downtrodden sector with the minimum qualification of VIII standard as marriage assistance of Rs.10,000. During the conference on the eradication of untouchability held at Madurai, the Chief Minister had announced an enhanced assistance of Rs.20,000 to the inter-caste marriages if the bride or the bride groom belonged to the Adidraavidar community and accordingly the scheme was being implemented, he added.

He concluded by saying:

*“where there is purity of heart,
there is beauty of character;
where there is beauty of character,
there is harmony in the home;
where there is harmony in the home,
there is order in the nation;
where there is order in the nation,
there is peace on the earth.”*

This is possible only if human rights culture is developed at the family and the societal level”

Thiru M.N. Venkatachaliah, Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission, Thiru S. Nainar Sundaram, Chairman and Thiru K. Swamidurai Member of the Tamil Nadu Human Rights Commission, Thiru R. Poornalingam, State Home Secretary and Thiru K.K. Rajasekharan Nair, Director General of Police spoke.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi inaugurated the Judicial Court extension building at Vellore on 25.10.1997 and said that when he was the Chief Minister in 1989-90, the model drawings of the proposed High Court extension building was shown to him by the then Justice Thiru Mohan and he had suggested that all the Court Buildings not only in Chennai, but everywhere in Tamil Nadu should be identical, depicting the Indo - Saracenic style of Court Building. Accordingly, designs of the Court Buildings were prepared and constructed by the Public Works Department. The Court Building constructed at Vellore is the first of its kind.

**UNDER THE AUSPICIOUS GUIDANCE OF
HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER KALAINAR M. KARUNANIDHI
RAPID IMPLEMENTATION OF ADI- DRAVIDAR WELFARE SCHEMES
WITH THE BUDGETARY PROVISION OF RS. 334 CRORES**

The State Government had allocated Rs.36 crores for extending scholarship, incentive and prizes for the Adi Dravida students and the funds formed more than 10 percent of Rs.334 crores allotted for the activities of the entire Department. Of that Rs.152.4 crores had been allotted for education alone.

While the students hostel had been apportioned Rs.8.5 crores, free uniforms cost Rs.8.14 crores and free text books Rs.8 crores. During the current year instructions have been issued to distribute books and note books even before the re-opening of the schools. In order to make girls prosecute their studies without any impediment, 80,000 of them would get Rs.500 each per annum.

Though the previous regims had allotted Rs.4.25 crores for construction of hostels, the buildings were not put up, but now all of them have been completed, he added.

The boarding grant for the hostel inmates had been raised from Rs. 138.75 per month to Rs.250. In the case of college students, the grant had been raised from Rs.197.90 to Rs.300 per month. The income limit of the parents for admitting their wards in those hostels had been raised

from Rs.15,000 to Rs.50,000 per annum. 2.75 lakh students are studying in the 1,251 schools under the control of the Adi Dravida Welfare Department.

There are as many as 1,049 hostels exclusively for them. The total number of Adi Dravida children studying in various schools in the State worked out to be more than 26 lakhs.

Adverting to poverty alleviation programmes, he said, 5,000 poor Adi Dravidas would be selected on the basis of 100 per village and would be given one acre free during the current financial year. Apart from this, in order to provide three cents free of cost for the poor Adi Dravidas, Rs.17 crores had been allocated. 26 bonded labourers had been

released in Namakkal District. who have been provided with Rs.1,000 each for their immediate expenses, they would be provided Rs.10,000 each with 50 percent subsidy for engaging themselves in some self-employment.

The Hon'ble Minister for Adi Dravidar Welfare, Samayanallur Thiru. Selvaraj had announced that the Adi Dravidar Youth would be extended subsidised loan for purchase of 1000 lorries in places where Sugar Mills are located.

He said that permission had been granted to 100 Adi Dravidar Youths to set up STD booths in the Sate. In addition, it had been planned to identify 20 persons in every District, give training in Autorickshaw driving, obtain permits and provide subsidised loan for the purchase of vehicles.



The Tourists throughout the world can access to all details about the places of Tourist Interest in Tamil Nadu and about accomodation facilities and package tours provided by Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation through INTERNET.

Arrangements have been made in this regard by Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation Ltd., The details are :-

INTERNET WEB SITE ADDRESS

<http://www.tamilnadutourism.com>

FREE POWER SUPPLY WILL CONTINUE FOR FARMERS

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar while inaugurating the new building of the Directorate of Agriculture Department in Chepauk, Chennai - on 23.10.97, expressed his happiness that the function was being organised in his Legislative Constituency. He felt proud in participating in the function, not only as the Chief Minister, but also as the representative of Chepauk Legislative Constituency. The Agriculture Dept. is an essential department not only to Tamil Nadu, but also to India as a whole, he added.



India is an agricultural country. The poets, scientists and the scholars have stressed this in their verses and writings.

In Thirukkural, Agriculture occupies an important position. In Tamil Nadu, agriculture is being considered important and celebrated as a festival during Pongal. Eventhough Tamilians celebrate many festivals, Pongal is celebrated, in order to convey our gratitude not only to the farmers, but even to the animals which work for us in fields. We worship Sun on that day since it provides the essential light and heat for the crops.

He said that the farmers in Tamil Nadu should emulate the example of their counter parts (*Referring to the remarks of Thiru. Veerapandi Arumugam, about the creation of Agricultural University at Coimbatore*) the Chief Minister said that the idea of establishing such a University originated in him in 1969-70 while he was touring Punjab as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu at the invitation of the then Chief Minister of Punjab and his close friend Mr. Kurnam Singh.

In the course of his tour, he visited Amritsar and Ludhiana where he was requested to inaugurate a science Laboratory in the Agricultural University. While going round the Agricultural University, he was explained how the Agricultural production

was improved with the help of the advanced technologies of the Agricultural University. He stayed there one full day 'along with his friends and announced there itself that, "As soon as I go back to Chennai, I will establish an Agricultural University" Thus the Agricultural University came into being, he said.

"Today with the help of the Agricultural University along with the Agricultural Colleges established by us, we have achieved tremendous targets. Hon'ble Minister Ko.Si. Mani spoke about soil research as an important test for agriculture. He also pointed out that he had spoken about this in the Legislative Assembly in 1962-63 itself and then Government allocated Rs. 18,000 for that purpose"

In those days, the Budget allocation for Tamil Nadu was only Rs. 200 or 300 crores. Along with Perarignar Anna and Prof. K. Anbazhagan, we were fifteen in the Legislative

Assembly during 1957-58. The Finance Minister Mr. C. Subramaniam while presenting the Budget said, "I am going to strike century today". The fans of cricket game know about century well. The Minister said that he was going to submit a Budget for Rs. 100 crores. "Do you know about today's Budget allocation? The allocation is Rs. 15 thousand crores for Tamil Nadu alone", the Chief Minister said.

According to the statistical data given by Mr. Veerapandi Arumugam, the Minister for Agriculture, there are 15 permanent centres and 15 Mobile Soil Research Centres in the State - 85,570 experiments have been undertaken in Kancheepuram District, 73,570 in Vellore, 31,000 in Dharmapuri, 31,000 in Salem. Totally 7.30 Lakh Research Works have been carried out by the 15 Permanent Centres, 2.70 Lakhs Reserches were undertaken by the Mobile Research Units. In total 10 Lakh Research Works have been carried out, he added.

The Chief Minister was happy over that, this Government after assuming office, had allocated Rs. 10 Crores for the construction of Offices for 23 Assistant Directors, 5 Joint Directors of Agriculture Department.

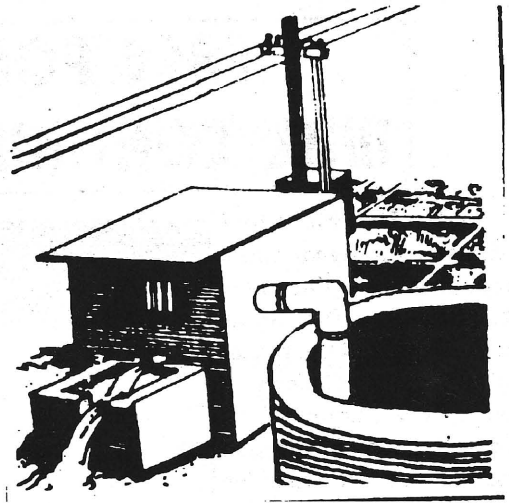
The Chief Minister was also proud that for the construction of the additional building - ground floor, basement and first floor for the Directorate of Agriculture alone, Rs. 2.25 crores had been allocated by the Government.

During this financial year a sum of Rs. 17.22 crores is being allocated for the construction of 9 Joint Director office complexes and 26 Agricultural Asst. Directors Information centres. The construction works are being undertaken by the Public Works Department.

"We never neglect farmers and we have never failed to protect them. As the worshipful Mayor Stalin mentioned the farmers are the backbone of India. This Government would not tolerate any harm to that backbone".

"As quoted by Mr. Veerasamy, electricity is being supplied free of cost not only to the poor farmers but to all the farmers only by the DMK Government in India as a whole. From 1974-75 to till date, free power supply is being extended to the farmers.

During cyclone and flood in the months of June and December '96 we have extended Agricultural assistances for more than Rs. 55 crores to the affected farmers in order to alleviate their sufferings.



There are two categories of procurement. One is compulsory procurement when the stock of rice, paddy is not sufficient with the Government and the other is when the Agriculturists are unable to sell their paddy at a reasonable rate. As far as this Government is concerned. If the farmer hints at his difficulties by his mere look, the Government is ever ready to redress his grievances. Now 5 lakh metric tonnes of paddy have been procured in Tirunelveli, Thanjavur, Trichy.

We have opened 400 procurement centres and procured the paddy which was not done by any other Government so far, he added.

"Thiru. Veerapandi Arumugham after assuming office as Minister for Agriculture in my cabinet, like other Ministers who are experts in their concerned portfolios, has all the statistical data in his finger tips and has cordial relations and good approach with the officials of the agriculture department. I convey my greetings to him. I thank and appreciate the Public works Department for completing this building at the earliest". ★

THE GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU, EXTENDS ITS SUPPORT AND HONOURS THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS ON ITS OWN, NOT AWAITING THE REQUESTS OF ANYONE

This Government extends its support and honour the freedom fighters on its own, not awaiting the requests of anyone;

This Government stands first in providing assistance to the freedom fighters;

A Memorial Hall will be constructed in honour of the freedom fighters;

A statue of Netaji Subash Chandra Bose will be installed in Chennai; announced the Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi, participating in a private function of the Centenary celebrations of Subash Chandra Bose in commemoration of the Golden Jubilee of India's Independence, at Chennai on 22.10.1997.

Showering praises on the renowned freedom fighter Thiru Nijalingappa who is 96, the Chief Minister has lauded that, 'he is fully present in the entire century and also present in the hearts of the Indians. We see him as the person who has taken the place of Kamarajar. He said he felt glad to see him and other freedom fighters who had prepared themselves to shed blood and lead the masses for the cause of freedom.

When I lighted the stage, I was introduced to Thiru Dhillon and when he hugged me in greeting, I felt the strength of him and wondered, if he is still strong enough, how powerful he could have commanded his battalion under the leadership of Netaji and how powerful his battalion could have been'.

'Thiru Kumari Anandan in his speech recited a song which was sung against the British who wore black dress and red hat. The black and red being the colour of the British dress might have threatened the people and the freedom

*- The Hon'ble Chief Minister
Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi in the
Centenary Celebrations of
Netaji Subash Chandra Bose
in commemoration of the
Golden Jubilee of India's Independence
at Chennai on 22.10.1997*

fighters in those days. But I head the party under the flag of red and black and head the Government which is dedicated to the welfare of the freedom fighters'.



He said Thiru Nijalingappa thanked him for enhancing the pension given to the freedom fighters from Rs.1500 to Rs.3000 for which he replied that was his duty.

The legal heirs of Viswanathadas had been identified and pensions were granted in 1973-74 when I was the Chief Minister. but it was Thiru Kumari Anandan through his article in the weekly Kumudham had

informed that the house of Thiyagi Viswanathadas stands neglected and damaged, and had requested the Government to convert into a State Memorial.

On reading his article, the Chief Minister said, he contacted the District Collector, and understood the house had been sold in auction. He asked the District Collector to contact the buyer and see if he would give back the property for which they obliged and demanded a sum of Rs.11 lakhs. He ordered that the amount be paid. He assured that the house at Thirumayilam would be renovated restoring the old appearance and in addition a community hall would also be constructed.

He announced that a bronze statue of Netaji is being moulded and that would be installed near War Memorial at Chennai. In response to the request of Thiru Kumari Anandan, the Chief Minister has announced that a Memorial hall in the remembrance for freedom fighters would be constructed in Chennai. ★

TAMIL NADU SCIENTIST AWARD

TANSA - 1996-97

The Hon'ble Minister for Education Prof. K. ANBAZHAGAN had honoured ten Scientists with the 'Tamil Nadu Scientist Award' (1996-97) for their exemplary inventions in various fields, on behalf of the Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology on 7-11-97, in a function held at the Anna University, Chennai.

While speaking the Minister emphasized the importance of the study of Science. He also pointed out that the people could use their mental faculties optimally only through Science. The endeavour of Scientists ought to be such that their works would result in raising the quality of life of those who are backward in society.

The Vice-Chancellor, Anna University, Dr.R.M. Vasagam presided over the function.

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

- Dr. P. Pillaiyar

Dr. P. Pillaiyar was born on June 1, 1942 at Rajapalayam in Virudhunagar district. He took his B.Sc. and M.Sc. degree in Agriculture from the University of Madras in the years 1962 and 1964 respectively. He obtained his Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering in 1993 from the Annamalai University. He has also done special courses on Post-harvest Rice Technology in the University of Philippines; a course on scientific methods of storage and inspection of foodgrains at the Food Grain Research and Training Centre, Hapur and another on wheat and wheat products analyses in the Central Laboratory, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Government of India.

Dr. Pillaiyar's work on various facets of rice pre-harvest and post-harvest technology at the Paddy Processing Research Centre had earned him distinction as an authority in Paddy Processing Research. His work on rice parboiling and rice bran utilisation is well recognized world over.

Dr. Pillaiyar has implemented many research projects sponsored by the ICAR, the Food Corporation of India, the Department of Food and the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India. He has written five books and published 220 papers on rice pre-harvest and post-harvest technology. His well documented book 'Rice: Postproduction Manual' has been acclaimed as a standard reference book on this subject world over.

In view of the significant contribution that Dr. Pillaiyar has made in the field of rice research, the Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology is privileged to award him with the Tamil Nadu Scientist Award (TANSA) 1996-97 in the field of Agricultural Sciences.

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

- Dr. T. Subramoniam

Dr. T. Subramoniam was born on March 3, 1941 at Edayavillai Sakthi Gramam of Kanyakumari District. He did his M.Sc.(Zoology) in Teagarajar College, Madurai and obtained his

Ph.D. Degree in 1970 from the University of Madras. He was conferred the D.Sc. Degree in 1986 by the University of Madras. He has been with the University of Madras since his graduation as faculty member and is presently a Professor in the Department of Zoology. He is also the Co-ordinator of the newly formed Department of Biotechnology and Dean of Research programmes.

Dr. Subramoniam has published 130 research papers including review articles and chapters in books. Besides, he has edited two books on invertebrate Reproduction. He has guided 30 Ph.D. and 40 M.Phil. scholars.

Dr. Subramoniam is largely responsible for founding the Indian chapter for the International Society of Invertebrate Reproduction. He is the founder secretary of the Indian Society of Crustacean Biologists.

In recognition of the significant contribution that Dr. Subramoniam has made in the area of reproductive biology, the Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology is

privileged to award him with the Tamil Nadu Scientist Award (TANSA) 1996-97 in the field of Biological Sciences.

CHEMICAL SCIENCES

-Dr. Boreddy Siva Rami Reddy

Dr. Boreddy Siva Rami Reddy was born on January 1, 1950 in a small village near Nandyal, Andhra Pradesh. He obtained a B.Sc. in Chemistry in 1970 from Andhra University, and a M.Sc. in Chemistry from S.V.U. Post-Graduate Centre, Anantapur, in 1972. He carried out research in the High Polymer Laboratory, Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), Chennai and received the Ph.D. degree in 1978 from the University of Madras.

Dr. Reddy took interest in the field of Polymer Science and did research for over a decade at four of the leading Universities in Britain. In 1983, under the National Programme of enlisting Young Scientists of international reputation in National Laboratories, he joined the Central Leather Research Institute in Chennai. Currently he is a Professor at the CLRI and is also a visiting Professor in the Universities of Bristol and Bath in England.

Dr. Reddy is an avid researcher, and his main areas of research include synthetic polymer chemistry and functional polymers for emerging technologies in chemistry, engineering, biotechnology and medicine. Dr. Reddy is the author/co-author of a total of 75 research

papers in leading journals of international repute. He has guided Ph.D, M.Phil. and M.Sc. students of different Universities. He is also a regular reviewer of articles in leading journals of the area of polymers.

Dr. Reddy has been the first member to be elected from the CLRI as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC), London.

For Prof. Reddy's outstanding contribution in the field of Polymer Science and its Technology, the Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology is privileged to award him with the Tamil Nadu Scientist Award (TANSA) in Chemical Sciences for 1996-97.

ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

-Dr. K.R. Palanichamy

Dr. K.R. Palanichamy was born on June 12, 1945 at K.G. Valasu in Erode District, Tamil Nadu. He obtained his B.Sc. (Physics), B.E. (Electrical Engineering), M.Sc. (Applied Electronics and Servomechanism) degrees from the University of Madras in 1966, 1969 and 1971 respectively. He obtained his Ph.D. in Control Systems from IIT, Kharapur, in 1980.

Dr. Palanichamy's main area of research is control systems. He has been carrying out post doctoral research work on Analysis and Control of Systems Via Single Term Walsh Series (STWS) and Block Pulse Functions (BPF). He has published more than 70

research papers in reputed national and international journals. His papers have been cited in books, Ph.D. theses, reviews, annual reviews and proceedings of various systems conferences. He has reviewed research papers for the National Systems Conference (NSC '92) and for the International Conference in Trends in Industrial Measurements and Automation (TIMA '96). He has contributed more than one hundred technical papers in Tamil in the field of Electronics, Computers and Communications. He has guided 5 Ph.D. scholars and more than 60 B.E. students.

Dr. Palanichamy joined the Department of Technical Education in 1971. He has held various teaching positions and has become a Professor. At present he is posted as Principal to Government College of Engineering, Tirunelveli.

In view of the significant contribution that Dr. Palanichamy has made in the field of Control Systems, the Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology is privileged to award him with the Tamil Nadu Scientist Award (TANSA) for the year 1996-97 in the field of Engineering and Technology.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

-Dr. SM. Ramasamy

Dr. SM. Ramasamy was born on September 10, 1948 at Avarangudi in Sivaganga district. He obtained his B.Sc. (Geology) degree from

Alagappa College, Karaikudi and M.Sc.(Geology) degree from Annamalai University, Chidambaram in the years 1969 and 1971 respectively. He obtained his Ph.D. from Andhra University, Waltair in 1985. Dr.Ramasamy started his career as a Geologist in State Groundwater Directorate, Tamil Nadu. In 1974, he joined the Geological Survey of India as a Geologist and served for over 13 years in different parts of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. During 1986-89, he served as a Scientist in the Institute of Remote Sensing, Anna University, Chennai. At present he is with the Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirapalli, as Professor and Head, School of Earth Sciences and Director, Centre for Remote sensing.

Dr.Ramasamy's notable contributions are in the field of Environmental Sciences

Dr.Ramasamy has published 80 research papers in reputed International/National Journals and has written 60 popular science articles. He has also edited 2 proceedings volumes and a book. He has implemented more than 40 research projects.

For his outstanding contribution in the field of Applied Remote Sensing in active tectonics, environmental geomorphology, coastal geomorphology and environment and micro and macro sustainable development planning through information systems, the Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology is privileged to

award the Tamil Nadu Scientist Award (TANSA) in Environmental Sciences for the year 1996-97 to Prof.SM.Ramasamy.

MEDICAL SCIENCES - Dr.K.M.Cherien

Dr.K.M.Cherien was born on March 8, 1942 at Kayamkulam, Kerala. He took his M.B.B.S. Degree and M.S. (General Surgery) from Kasturibai Medical College, Manipal, in the years 1964 and 1968 respectively.

Dr.Cherien joined the South Indian Railway Head Quarters Hospital, Perambur, Chennai in 1975 and later became the Medical Superintendent and Chief of Cardio-Vascular Surgery. During his tenure he employed several pioneering techniques in Cardia Surgery in our country. His notable achievements include the first successful Coronary Artery Graft (1975); the first Mitral Valve Replacement for Endomyocardial Fibrosis (1976); introduction of profound Hypothermia and circulatory arrest for correction of cardiac defects in infants (1976) and first Internal Mammary Artery Graft (1976); Introduction of Cardioplegia for Myocardial preservation in India (1979) and Transarterial Repair of Tetralogy of Fallot; Transarterial Repair of Double Outlet Right Ventricle, first correction of Transposition of Great Vessels using Senning Techniques, Successful Correction of Transposition, VSD, Pulmonary Atresia using extra cardiac conduit; Arterial Switch Operation for TGA with VSD and PDA with single Coronary Artery

and Bilateral internal Mammary Graft in India. During the twelve years at the Southern Railway Hospital, Dr.K.M.Cherien performed nearly 3,000 cardiac surgeries. At the time of leaving Southern Railway Head Quarters Hospital, Perambur, Chennai, he was the Medical Superintendent and Chief of Cardio Vascular Surgery.

Dr.Cherien's intense desire to develop a World Class facility for "TOTAL HEART CARE", led him to start the Madras Medical Mission and its Institute of Cardio Vascular Diseases (ICVD) in 1987 which is now known as one of the best cardiac care centres. In a decades time over 10,000 cardiac surgeries have been performed at the ICVD, of which over 3500 are on neonants and children. The pioneering spirit has again achieved for Dr.K.M. Cherian and his team many firsts.

Dr.Cherien is a recipient of many honours and awards. He received in 1991 the Govt. of India's PADMASHRI AWARD. He has been the Honorary Surgeon to the President of India (1990-1993). He has been the International Special Fellow in Peadiatic Cardiac Surgery at the University of Alabama in Birmingham, Alabama, U.S.A. from 1978 to 1979 and also a Visiting Professor in the University of regan, Portland, Oregon, U.S.A. from June 1984 to May 1985. He is currently Emeritus Professor of Cardiac Surgery of the Tamilnadu Dr.M.G.R. Medical University, Chennai.

In recognition of the pioneering and outstanding contribution that Dr. Cherian has made in the area of Cardia Surgery the Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology is privileged to award him with the Tamil Nadu Scientist Award (TANSA) 1996-97 in the field of Medical Sciences.

MEDICAL SCIENCES

- Dr. Philip Aloysius Thomas

Dr. Philip Aloysius Thomas was born on July 10, 1955 in Trivandrum. He obtained a M.B.B.S. degree from the Stanley Medical College, University of Madras, in 1981 and the M.D. (Medical Microbiology) from the University of Madras in 1984. He was selected for the Biotechnology National Associateship by the Department of Biotechnology in 1988. In 1991, he received a Ph.D. (Microbiology) degree from the Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli.

Over the past decade and a half, Dr. Thomas has worked on the detection, susceptibility patterns and pathogenic mechanisms of fungi in corneal ulcers. He has investigated systematically several thousand cases of eye infections in Tamil Nadu to determine the epidemiologic characteristics and predisposing factors. He has described, for the first time, corneal infection by *Arthrobotrys oligospora* (a nematode pathogen). Most of his studies are of an original nature, and have contributed substantially to the literature of fungal infections of the eye.

Dr. Thomas has written chapters for 8 books and has authored and co-authored 50 research papers, many in international journals. His papers have been cited 66 times by other workers, both in textbooks on ocular infection as well as in articles in reputed journals. He has guided Ph.D. scholars and a number of MS (Ophthalmology).

In view of the significant contribution that Dr. Philip Aloysius Thomas had made in the field of treating corneal ulcers, the Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology is privileged to award him with the Tamil Nadu Scientist Award (TANSA) 1996-97 in the field of Medical Sciences.

PHYSICAL SCIENCES

- Dr. V. Rajendran

Dr. V. Rajendran was born on November 2, 1962 at Edayapatty in Namakkal District. He obtained his B.Sc. (Physics) degree from the University of Madras in 1984. He obtained his M.Sc. in Physics, M.Phil and Ph.D. degrees from the Annamalai University in the years 1986, 1988 and 1992 respectively.

Dr. Rajendran has been carrying out research in the area of Ultrasonics. He was instrumental in setting up of the indigenous Ultrasonic Research Laboratory in Mepco Schlenk Engineering College. Initially he carried out research in molecular interaction studies in liquid mixtures through ultrasonics measurements. Later he diversified his research activities into materials science and solid state physics.

Dr. Rajendran has published 36 research papers in reputed International and National journals. He has published two books on Applied Physics and he has edited a National Conference Proceedings. He is undertaking collaborative research work with National and International Laboratories.

In recognition of the significant work that Dr. Rajendran has carried out in the area of Ultrasonics, the Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology is privileged to award him with the Tamil Nadu Scientist Award (TANSA) 1996-97 in the field of Physical Sciences.

SOCIAL SCIENCES

- Dr. V. Karuppaiyan

Dr. V. Karuppaiyan was born on June 17, 1941 in Budalur in Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu. He received the M.A. degree in Sociology from the University of Rajasthan and M.Litt. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Madras in 1974 and 1996 respectively. He has been conferred in 1987 a D.Sc. degree by the Medicina Alternativa of Srilanka.

Dr. Karuppaiyan has been a guide and examiner to 15 Ph.D. scholars and 10 M.Phil. scholars registered in Indian and foreign Universities. He has attended more than 40 national and international seminars and conferences and has visited Malaysia, Singapore, Denmark, U.K. and Italy on academic assignments.

Dr. Karupaiyan has written a book on Kinship and Polity and has published more than 25 research papers. His findings on Osmotism, Caste-Class Contingent, and Kinship and Polity, explicating the socio-economic and political processes in Tamil Nadu villages, have been well received by the academic communities in India and abroad. His recent findings on 'Female Infanticide, as an in-built system in the Traditional Societies in influencing population has been discussed in the Inter-Congress Session of "Biodemography and Human Evolution" organised by the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences in Trento, Italy. His research work concentrates on social institutions, customs, caste, tribal culture, folklore and ethnomedicine. He has also been a reviewer of books on Anthropology and Sociology. He has contributed much to tribal medicine in South India.

In view of the significant contribution relevant to society that Dr. Karupaiyan has made, the Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology is privileged to award him with the Tamil Nadu Scientist Award (TANSA) for the year 1996-97 in the field of Social Sciences.

VETERINARY SCIENCES

- Dr. V. Purushothaman

Dr. V. Purushothaman was born on August 4, 1954 at

Chennai. He obtained his academic degrees from the Madras Veterinary College: B.V.Sc. in 1975, M.V.Sc. in 1980 and Ph.D., in 1990. He has carried out Post Doctoral Research in the area of Morbilli virus at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and also at the Nippon Institute of Biological Sciences, Tokyo, Japan.

Dr. V. Purushothaman has been with the Madras Veterinary College as a member of faculty and is at present Professor of Microbiology.

Dr. Purushothaman started his research career with interest in bacterial diseases, especially salmonellosis, a bacterial disease of importance of livestock, poultry and man. His work recorded for the first time in India the isolation of *Salmonella Gallinarum* a causative agent for fowl typhoid. He recorded the presence of infectious bursal disease from a field outbreak at Namakkal, the poultry pocket of Tamil Nadu, for the first time and brought out its significance. He has standardised the method of blood collection in filter paper as a method for diagnosis of raniket disease by Microhaemagglutination. He has also worked on standardisation of the application of plasmid DNA finger printing as a diagnostic tool for the strain identification of *E. Coli* and *Salmonella*.

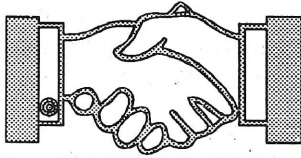
In collaboration with the Scientists at the Indian Institute of

Science, Bangalore, Dr. Purushothaman confirmed the outbreak of the disease des Petits Ruminants (PPR) called also goat plague, that occurred in Villupuram District in 1988 by applying DNA probes. This identification resulted in the coverage of sheep and goat as well in the Rinderpest Eradication Programmes of the Government. His work thus had a major impact on the rural economy of India. His findings in this area of research has been published in journals such as the British Veterinary Record and Letters in Applied Bacteriology.

Dr. Purushothaman has presented papers in various seminars on animal diseases in different parts of the country and has chaired sessions. He has also acted as a resource person in a number of training programmes and workshops. He has completed two research projects, one on Shrimp Viruses and another on Blue Tongue Virus, funded by the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India.

For his significant contribution in the area of Microbial Diseases on Livestock and Poultry, the Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology is privileged to award Dr. V. Purushothaman, the Tamil Nadu Scientist Award (TANSA) for the year 1996-97 in the field of Veterinary Sciences. ★

CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN TAMIL NADU



TAMIL NADU PALM PRODUCTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD

The Palmgur Co-operative Societies were under the control of Co-operative Department till 1956. Thereafter the Palmgur Co-operative Societies were placed under the control of Industries of Commerce. During 1960 they were brought under the control of Tamil Nadu Khadi and Village Industries Board.

As on date 1509 Primary Jaggery manufacturing Co-operative Societies, 7 District Palmgur Co-operative Federations and one State Level Apex Palmgur Co-operative Federation are functioning.

The apex level Tamil Nadu State Palmgur and Fibre Marketing Co-operative Federation functioning with Head Quarters at Chennai having 21 branches throughout Tamil Nadu.

In 1996-97, there were about 142 crores of production and 152 crores of sales in Palm products such as Neera, Palmgur, Brushes, Palm Lead articles, etc. Palm Fibre worth of Rs. 118.97 lakhs were exported during the year 1996-97 to the countries like U.S.A., U.K., Belgium, France, Italy. The Palm brushes produced by the State Federation have got good marketing potentiality due to its quality.

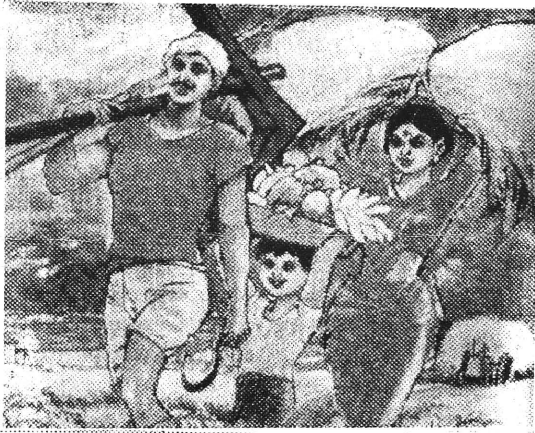
SALIENT FEATURES OF THE TAMIL NADU APEX CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.

The Tamil Nadu State Apex Co-operative Bank Ltd., was started in November 1905 and has completed 91 years of useful services to the people of Tamil Nadu. The role of the Apex Bank in the service of the Primary weavers' co-op societies and co-optex is significant. Similarly, the Apex Bank has been playing a major role by providing refinance facility for the successful running of the public distribution system in the state.

The Bank's investments in Government Promissory Notes (both Central and State) Debentures of the State Land Development Bank, Bonds of the TNEB and other Trustee Securities, shares etc. aggregated to Rs. 394.22 crores as on 31.10.97 as against Rs. 300.44 crores as on 31.10.96.

The Apex Bank has sanctioned limits aggregating Rs. 753.25 crores to Central Co-operative Banks for various non-agricultural purposes such as, Jewel loans, Employees Societies, Spinning Mill, Sugar Mills, Wholesale Stores, Public Distribution System etc.





The Bank has sanctioned a cash credit limit of Rs.2.50 crores to TANSI under consortium basis where Canara Bank is the leader. The Apex Bank has also sanctioned term loan of Rs.5 crores to Kallakurichi Co-op Sugar Mills unit II. The Bank sanctioned a cash credit limit of Rs.4.60 crores to Arignar Anna Co-op Sugar Mills under consortium basis where IOB is the leader. The Bank has been providing direct term finance to Spinning/Sugar Mills in the state. It has also been providing project finance pending disbursement of loans by IDBI/IFCI/ICICI. The Bank has also been accepting usance bills by the Spinning and sugar mills for purchase of machinery under deferred payment terms.

The Apex Bank is providing 50% subsidy to PACBs selected in Intensive Development Programme for putting up of modern banking counters and provision of furnitures and fittings. The total subsidy provided by the Bank amounted to Rs.42.74 lakhs benefitting 787 PACBs upto 31.10.97. The Apex Bank has supplied four vehicles each to all CCBs to enable them to make use of the same for effective collections at a cost of Rs.215.81 lakhs. The Bank has supplied 150 safes to 150 PACBs to enable them to diversify their activities at a cost of Rs.60 lakhs. The Bank has also provided computers and printers, air-conditioners, UPS etc. to all the DCCBs to computerise their operations at a total cost of Rs.32 lakhs.

The Apex Bank and the State Government have signed Memorandum of understanding with NABARD assuring successful implementation of the Development Action Plan in the State. A State Level Monitoring Committee has also been

constituted by the State Government under the Chairmanship of the Secretary to Government, Co-operation, Food and Consumer Protection Department. The above committee meets once in a quarter to review the progress, made in the implementation of various covenants of the MOU as well as the progress made under DAP by the Apex Bank, DCCBs and the PACBs.

THE TAMIL NADU STATE CO-OP. AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT BANK

The Tamil Nadu State Co-op. Agricultural and Rural Development Bank is the head of 181 Co-op Basic Agricultural and Rural Development Banks which are rendering a great service to Agriculture and Rural Development with a capital of Rs. 147.92 crores.

The Bank has set a target of Rs.1.10 crores and it is issuing loans to buy milking cows, tyre carts and bullocks, ploughing bullocks under the scheme of integrated rural development. The bank has also been issuing loans of Rs.16.30 crores targeting Rs.55.70 crores to dig up wells, bore-wells, to buy pump-set motors, oil engines under the small irrigation scheme, to set up farms of coconut, grape and mango trees and also to cultivate coffee, tea, rubber, rose and jasmine, etc.

The Tamil Nadu State Rural Development Bank is the only institution which is issuing jewel loans to the people through the Basic Rural Development Banks since 1994.

T.U.C.S.

The T.U.C.S. was started on 9.4.1904 at Triplicane. Later it developed and branches were started at Mylapore and Egmore considering the requests of the members. The T.U.C.S. celebrated its Silver Jubilee Year in the month of January, 1930 having 25 branches and 5781 members in the aggregate with a share-capital of Rs.1,04,650.

The T.U.C.S. had an important role and did a remarkable service to supply all the food needs to the people during the time of the Second World War in 1942.

The T.U.C.S. is now operating the functions of Super-Market, Self Service Department, Mini Super-Market and Cooking gas. ★



Vijayalaxmi Pandit - The only sister of Nehru

- Her Role in Freedom Struggle

Born on 18 August 1900 at Anand Bhavan, Allahabad, with the proverbial silver spoon in her mouth, Vijayalaxmi, the younger sister of Jawaharlal Nehru, inherited from her mother great physical beauty and the family name Swaroop. She had all the most expensive luxuries at her command, since her father Motilal Nehru, who lived in a great style according to western standards, was then at the zenith of his popularity and prosperity. Swaroop, when quite young, was accustomed to see caste distinctions and orthodox prejudices frowned upon by her father and her elder brother, who both were irreligious but not anti-religious, taking a pride in the cultural heritage of India. She espoused the cause of the equality of women as a sacred cause. Education and International contacts made her the first woman in many fields - at a journalist's desk, as a Minister in the British empire, as a diplomat, as the UNO Chairman.

All the three children - Jawaharlal, Vijayalaxmi and Krishna - were put in charge of an English governess, Miss Hooper. Vijayalaxmi was brought up by her very carefully. The children were given ponies for riding. In accordance with the custom of the time, Swaroop never went to school and received all education at home.

She was married to Ranjit Sitaram Pandit at Allahabad in May 1921 with great pomp. The

match-maker was Mahadev Desai, Secretary to Gandhiji. Mahadev asked her one day to read an article entitled "At the Feet of the Guru" in the Modern Review by R.S. Pandit, and this literary introduction developed into a love marriage. Ranjit, a cultured Barrister-at-Law from Kathiawar, said: "I have come many miles and crossed many bridges to come to you - but



in future you and I must cross our bridges hand in hand". The marriage was blessed by Gandhiji.

Vijayalaxmi was very much attached to Jawaharlal. She writes: "Out of the many good things fate gave me at my birth one of the best was surely my elder brother. To have known him and loved him and been so near to him would have been ample justification for having been born."

Her younger sister, Krishna, has called her "docile", "obedient", "tactful" and eminently suited to be a Minister.

Vijayalaxmi was influenced by the historic role of Rani Laxmi Bai of Jhansi and impressed by Sarojini Naidu who had championed the cause of women as early as in 1917. The Nehru family celebrated all festivals - Hindu, Muslim and Christian. Swaroop went to church too with Miss Hooper. Equal regard for all faiths thus became natural for her. The Gita and the Ramayana she read, and these made a deep mark on her.

A few utterances of Vijayalaxmi amply sum up her attitude on different matters:

"The interest of our own country demands unity in the face of a common and grim danger. Let us not hold back because remember... If India dies, who lives; if India lives, who dies?"

"The world today, seems to have shrunk and consists only of two groups - those who suffer for an ordeal and those who inflict the suffering. It is tragic that in this age of civilization - so called - the human race should be incapable of adjusting its differences without inflicting sorrow and suffering on one another in such a great measure"

"It seems to me a cowardly and despicable thing for the strong to afflict the weak"

It is ironical that Vijayalaxmi, who occupied a journalist's desk in the Independent, had, later in life, harassed by the press, been brought

to remark: "It is my opinion that the greatest pests in the world today are the telephone and the journalists - telephone can, however, be disconnected but the journalist cannot."

Among her publications may be mentioned: 'The Evolution of India' (1958), 'So I became a Minister' (1939), 'Prison Days' (1946), and 'Role of Women in the Modern World' (1957).

In 1915 Vijayalaxmi went with her father to the Bombay Session of the Congress and returned unimpressed, because "One wore one's prettiest clothes and had a good time meeting people from other parts of India". Gandhiji came to stay at Anand Bhavan in 1919 and his magic spell brought Vijayalaxmi effectively into politics. She came into the Non-Cooperation Movement as a soldier of non-violence. That year she attended the Amritsar Congress presided over by her father. Jawaharlal presided over the Congress Session in 1929. That was a great day and the brother's new post meant for her complete involvement in the national movement. She delivered fiery speeches, organised hartals, led processions and was arrested on 27 January 1932. She was sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment with a fine.

In 1936 the Congress swept the polls in many Provinces, including Uttar Pradesh. Vijayalaxmi won from Bilhour (Kanpur) rural constituency. On 29 July 1937 she took the oath of a Minister in the Pant Government. Pantji being unwell, she piloted the resolution

rejecting the Government of India Act, 1935, in the Assembly which was carried. In 1939 Britain was a party in the Second World War and dragged India involuntarily in. All Congress Ministries resigned in protest. The Mahatma started the individual satyagraha and on 9 December 1940 Vijayalaxmi was arrested, to be sentenced to four months' imprisonment. In August 1942 the Quit India Movement started and Vijayalaxmi was arrested on 12 August. After nine months she was released on grounds of ill-health. Despite ill-health she organised the Bengal Famine Relief (1943). Then came the hour of her supreme grief. She was widowed. R.S. Pandit's death was widely mourned. He too was released on grounds of ill-health, but medical efforts could not save him. On 14 January 1944 he breathed his last.

In the meantime - the Congress still banned as illegal - as Assembly of released Congressmen was floated and Vijayalaxmi's role therein was very significant. Subsequently, in 1945 she left for America with her daughter.

She rose in public life in 1936 after her election as a member of the Allahabad Municipal Board. She entered the U.P. Assembly in 1936 and again in 1946. As Minister in charge of Local Self-Government and Public Health she piloted the Panchayat Raj Bill. From 1940 to 1942 she was President of the All India Women's Conference. She was Vice-President of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and had attended the Pacific Relations Conference at

Hot Springs, Virginia (U.S.A.), as leader of the Indian delegation sponsored by the Indian Council of World Affairs. She was present in San Francisco when the U.N. first met there, and through numerous and well-attended public lectures she challenged the British-nominated delegates' right to represent India therein. On return she received a hero's ovation in India.

When India became free, she was the leader of the Indian delegation to the U.N. In 1946, 1947 and 1963. She was the Ambassador of India in the U.S.S.R. (1947-49), and the U.S.A. (1949-52) and Mexico (1949-51) concurrently. She was India's Ambassador to Ireland and Spain. (1954-61) as well as India's High Commissioner in England concurrently. She was elected to the Lok Sabha in 1952 and 1964 and was Governor of Maharashtra in 1962-64. She has received sixteen Doctorates (honoris causa) from Indian and foreign Universities, besides many honours and awards for her social work which has been acclaimed universally. Many programmes of social service of today, such as drinking water for villages, the milk scheme for children, provision of playgrounds and athletic exercises for young men in villages, fairs, markets and exhibitions owe their origin to the brain waves of U.P.'s first woman Health Minister.

In short, Vijayalaxmi, by her words, deeds and her life, stands out in the world not as what man has made of an Indian woman but as what she herself can and must make of her.

★



◆
PURE
silk

PURE
zari
◆

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





"We should shed off our individualism and infuse the spirit of Co-operation among ourselves. We should not think whether it is possible. I am sure we can certainly achieve this", quoting the words of **Thanthai Periyar**,

the Hon'ble Chief Minister

Kalaignar M. KARUNANIDHI

at the valedictory function of the All India Co-operative Week Celebrations held at Chennai

on 25-11-1997, announced that the functioning of the District Central Co-operative Banks would be improved and modernised on par with nationalised Banks in extending its services such as providing loans to industrial entrepreneurs, medical practitioners, engineers, demand draft facilities, etc.

