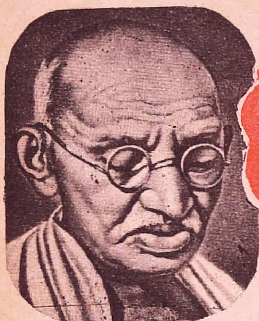




Tamil Arasu

OCTOBER 1978 - 50 P.



LET US ABOLISH ALCOHOLIC DRINKS TO USHER IN HAPPINESS



It appears that there can be no greater evil in the world, than the segregation of Harijans in India.

We will be paying our debt of gratitude to Mahatma Gandhi by eradicating this evil.



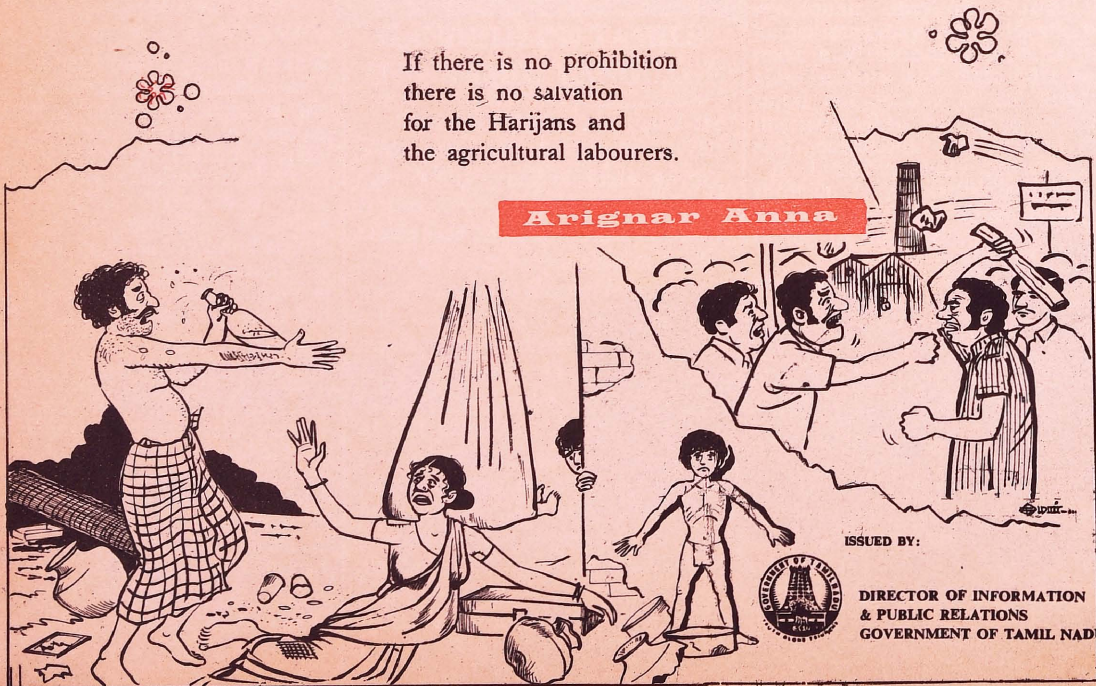
Alcohol destroys our body, our character and our wisdom.

Diseases like malaria affect only the body
Alcohol and drugs destroy
the soul as well as the body.

Mahatma Gandhi

If there is no prohibition
there is no salvation
for the Harijans and
the agricultural labourers.

Arignar Anna



ISSUED BY:



DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION
& PUBLIC RELATIONS
GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Editor's Page

For over five decades, Thanthai Periyar, the stormy petrel of the South, had been carrying the torch of knowledge to awaken the people from their long slumber in poverty, superstition and ignorance. His mission was to fight social evils, shenanigan, blind and bland beliefs.

The teachings of Periyar are of permanent value as they uphold the basic human rights. He has succeeded in igniting a social reformation movement aimed at the annihilation of mundane thinking and moribund attitudes of the people. Chief Minister has announced a 10-point programme to perpetuate the memory of Periyar.

The birth centenary of Periyar was inaugurated at Erode, the home town of Periyar, by the Union Defence Minister Thiru Jagjivan Ram. The State Government have chalked out a year-long programme to celebrate Periyar Centenary.

We observe Gandhi Jayanthi, Rural Development week and Wildlife Week during the month of October. This issue carries interesting features and snippets on these subjects of our nation-building endeavour.

Tamil Arasu

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The Message of Mahatma **GANDHI**



Through centuries, India has been spreading the message of tolerance and understanding. Even under alien domination, her endeavour has been to enrich human thought on art, philosophy, commerce and other manifestations of universal fraternity and cooperation. The twentieth century witnessed the emergence of Mahatma Gandhi as a guiding star for not only India but to the entire world. An apostle of peace, he blazed a new trail of universal love and non-violence leading to world peace and concord.

Humanism

"What would it profit a man if he gained the world but lost his soul". This sums up the message of the Mahatma to mankind. Material progress devoid of balancing spiritual strength is neither civilization nor happiness. Truth and love, sacrifice and restraint, discipline and humility, confidence and righteousness are the basic tenets of Gandhi's religion. His religion is not meant for separating men but to bind them.

The relevance of his message of fraternal love and peaceful means is gradually felt by the world community in its endeavour to uphold the dignity of man and nations. In a world of hatred, violence and constant threat of conflagration of nuclear war, Gandhiji's ideals of humanism are being recognised as a mascot for international peace and prosperity.

Mahatma Gandhi was not an individual but an institution, inviting men and women from all corners of the world to participate in his mission; his mission was not

merely the attainment of Independence of his country but the promotion of international cooperation and goodwill. Devoid of the dividing walls of race, religion and class, Gandhiji's creed of non-violence and love, even during his life time, permeated the world over. The impact was albeit gradual but not tenuous.

Universalism

Patriotism as adumbrated by Mahatma Gandhi, was not bellicose jingoism but consistent with the

GANDHIJI ON TAMILS AND TAMIL LANGUAGE

No other Indian can equal the performance of the Tamils in this fight (Satyagraha in South Africa). It therefore occurred to me that I should read Tamil with close attention if for no other reason than to tender sincere thanks to them at least mentally. Accordingly, the last one month was devoted mostly to the study of Tamil. The more I learn it, the better I appreciate the beauties of this language. It is a very fine and sweet language, and form its structure and from what I have read in it, I find that the Tamils have produced, and still produce, a large number of intelligent, thoughtful and wise men. Moreover, since India is going to be one country, some Indians outside Madras should also learn Tamil.

(From Indian Opinion : 5-6-1909)

"broadest good of humanity." "It is not nationalism that is evil, it is the narrowness, selfishness, exclusiveness which is the bane of modern nations", he said. He sought freedom for his country, but not at the expense or exploitation of others. His cult of nationalism was not for the extinction of other races but for weaving together all human heads to constitute a congregation of international community. Throughout his life, both by words and deeds, Gandhiji transcended parochial patriotism and said "The whole of my country may die so that the human race may live." He did not make any distinction between religions, nations and races. He thus stood out as one of the greatest internationalists known to the present generations. He believed that "if India reaches her destiny through truth and non-violence, she will have made no small contribution to the world."

Non-Violence

The concept of non-violence is another gem of India's ancient philosophy that Mahatma Gandhi bequeathed to humanity. The use of force and violence in achieving even the genuine ideals of a nation was abhorred by the Mahatma. "It is my conviction that nothing enduring can be built on violence", he said. If use of force in international politics is anathema today it is because of the rays of hope that radiates from Gandhiji's concept. The call of UNO to international community is for preservation and promotion of peace through right means and non-violent action.

When one reads and rereads the chapter of UNO, one is repeatedly

reminded that so many of its provisions reflect the very ideals that Gandhiji advocated and practised. His doctrine of non-violence inspired leaders of action and thought to show a way out of war and an-

ihilation. So long as there is violence in the minds of men of the individual level, the quest for peace at international level will not fructify. Gandhi's message has now

gathered tremendous momentum in a world stricken by nuclear threat.* He stirred in the world conscience new thoughts relevant to all generations to come.

Right Means For Right Ends

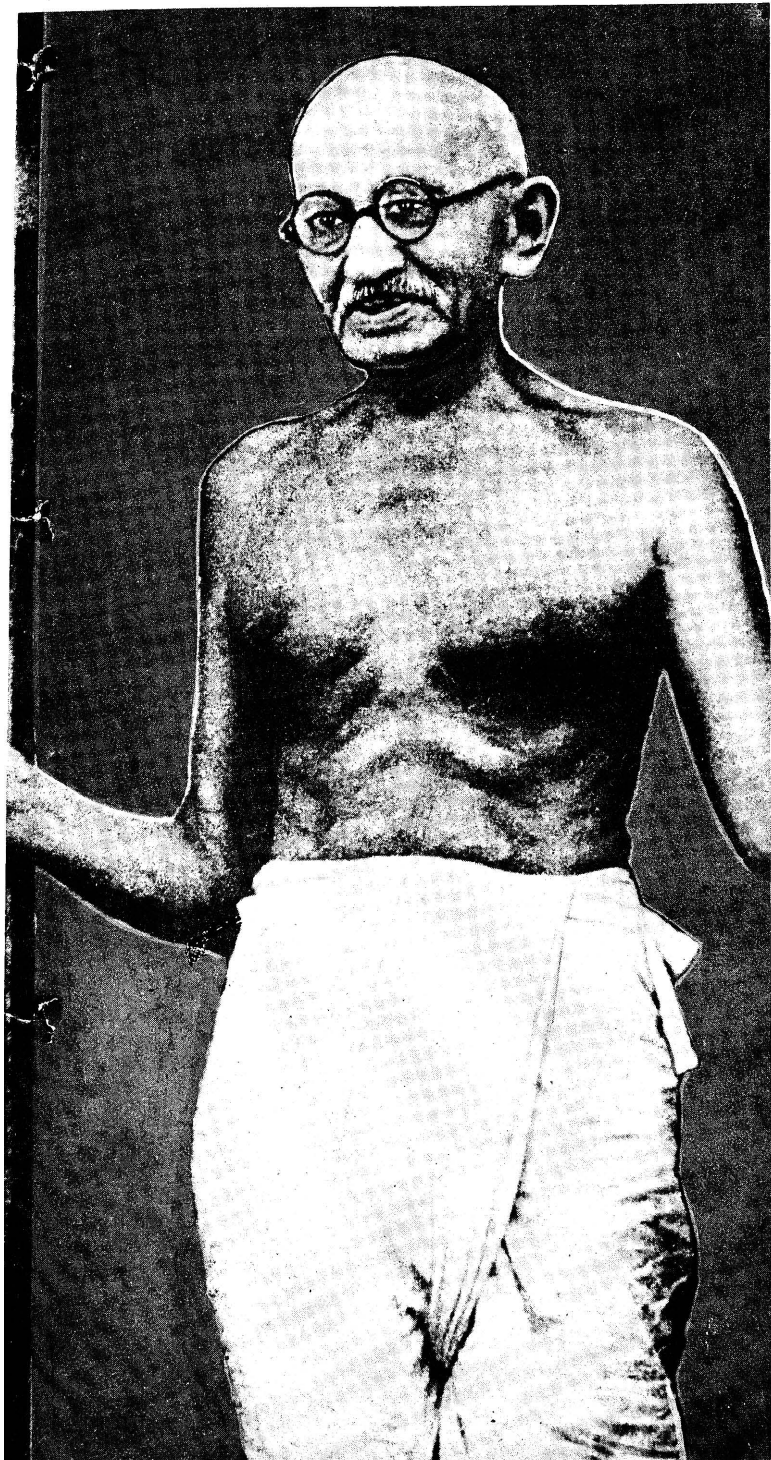
The Mahatma was at once idealistic and practical in his entire approach. A nation, as visualised by him prospers if it has ideals, that are applicable to a nation should be equally relevant to the whole human society; for a society is a living organism. Time and again national movements were bred on violence and carnage, leading to catastrophe of human race. Machiavellian doctrines of indiscriminate adoption of ignoble means for achieving national goals met an incorrigible critic in Gandhiji who asserted that purity of motive could never be a substitute for the purity of means. The success of his fight bears testimony, to the significance of this assertion. Besides, the principle of right means is now being recognised by all the civilised nations as the sheet anchor of international parleys aiming at collaboration.

The World is My Family

Mahatma Gandhi imbibed and assimilated the message of the West. A true democrat as he was Gandhiji acquired the grain of truth he found in the philosophy of Western thinkers like Tolstoy, Thoreau and Ruskin. Deeply rooted in the soil of his birth he never allowed himself to be walled by narrow national frontiers. "We are all tarred with the same brush; we are all members of the vast human family. Humanity is not divided into water-tight compartments." And he declared *"The world is my family"*

Gandhiji's life and teachings have universal appeal. He was truly a moral force appealing to the conscience of man. He conceived of a superior world order in future, in course of Man's evolution, a world order which would be based on the same principles on which harmony in a family rests. He stood resolutely against all divisions and for the non-violent solution of any human friction. His fundamental objective was to lift the whole of humanity from the gruelling level of misery, poverty, and bitterness to the plane of higher, nobler, more complete and more purposeful life.

—V. Paranjothi.





PERIYAR CENTENARY

INAUGURATION AT ERODE—LEADERS PAY HOMAGE

Sun was rising fast in the east, breaking the sooty low lying clouds over the tall coconut trees. The spimmering rays spotlighted the steady stream of people—men, women and children and unsophisticated mothers with babies in arms-trekking their way to Erode in Coimbatore district. All routes of road transport leading to Erode city and the railways carried people from far and near. The busy commercial centre of Erode was agog.

Festoons, arches, colourful serial light illumination, decoration stands bearing lushy arecanut bunches gave Erode a festive look. Local citizens wore a proud smile, treading and liling.

A steady stream of people was surging towards the CSI School playground—the venue of the function. A spacious maidan sprawling over a neatly kept vast

area, the play ground had a tastefully decorated Pandal. It was 9 in the morning. There was a sea of human beings in this spot.

Thiru Jagjivan Ram, Union Minister for Defence, Governor Thiru Prabhudas Patwari and the Chief Minister, Thiru M.G. Ramachandran garlanded the statue of Periyar in Panneerselvam Park before going to the venue of the function.

WELCOME BY INFORMATION MINISTER

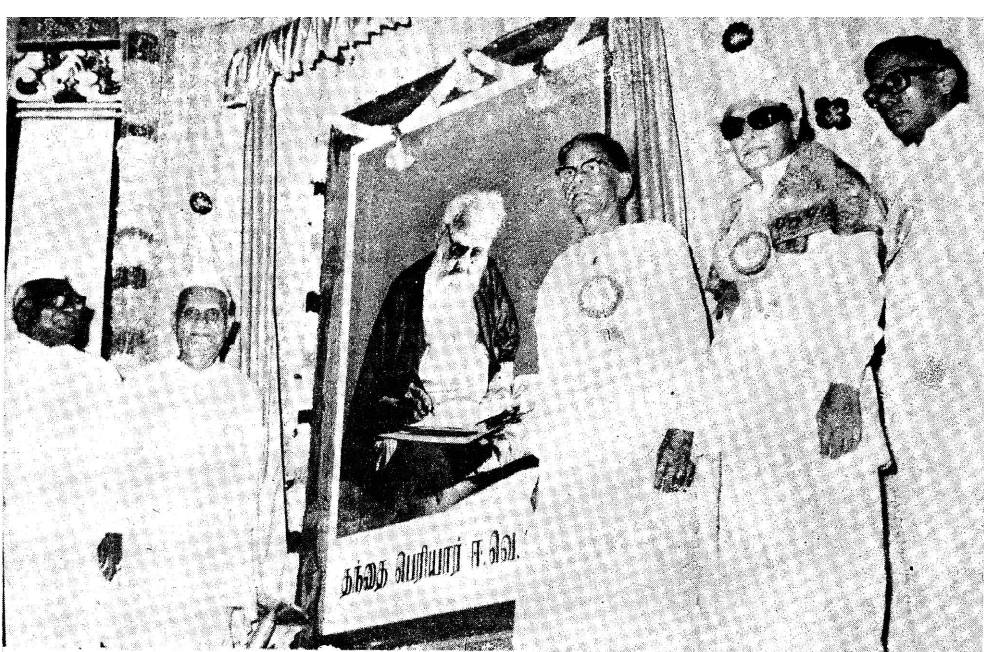
Thiru R. M. Veerappan, Minister for Information, welcoming the gathering said that the function marked the beginning of the year-long centenary celebrations of Periyar in Tamil Nadu. It would be concluded at a fitting function at Madras on 17th September next year.

Thiru R. M. Veerappan said that in view of the distinct services rendered by Periyar in the cause of the uplift of the socially backward people, the State Govern-

ment had decided to celebrate the centenary of the departed leader this year. He said it was a glorious day that they should be celebrating the birth centenary of Periyar at his native place, Erode, which took a leading part during the freedom struggle, where Periyar was in the forefront of the battle called out by Gandhiji. It was in Erode that Periyar left his lucrative business and jumped into the struggle for freedom, along with his wife Nagammal. It was also unique that Thiru M. G. Ramachandran, an ardent follower of Anna and Periyar, should head the Government and conduct the celebrations for the greatest social thinker and reformist of Tamil Nadu, who had restored the past glory and self-respect of Tamils.

Homage to Periyar by Jagjivan Ram

Thiru Jagjivan Ram, Union Defence Minister warned the nation



that caste conflicts and atrocities on weaker sections of society might endanger the unity and integrity of India.

Inaugurating the Periyar E. V. Ramasami birth centenary celebration, Thiru Jagjivan Ram said "It is the duty of the Government and the public to ensure establishment of a society where all sections of the society feel secure and equal. No caste howsoever affluent and dominant it may be should be allowed to eliminate any other caste, howsoever weak and poor".

The Union Minister described late Periyar not only as a great Indian and a great social reformer but also a great man. He was not merely an individual. He was an institution himself. Periyar wanted to establish a society based on rationalist lines. 'Indian society is rid with social inequality and caste distinctions and discriminations. E.V.R. wanted to erase the evil of casteism and he was a rationalist through and through.'

The Minister pointed out that in a society where caste oppression, inequality and degradation of citizens were prevalent, it might be difficult for the majority of the people to appreciate the rationalist teachings. Periyar was much mis-

understood in the country. It was fortunate that he was born in Tamil Nadu and it was also a happy sign that Periyar had a large number of followers in Tamil Nadu.

Thiru Jagjivan Ram opined that it was not doing justice to call him only as a great Tamilian. He was truly a great Indian. He had inspired several persons in North India also. His teachings and philosophy were not only of contemporary value but they had permanent value and relevance. His teachings were quite relevant and appropriate even at this moment, when caste conflicts were rearing their heads through out the country. Unless caste distinctions and inequalities were eliminated, as advocated by

Periyar it was difficult to stop atrocities on weaker sections.

Lakhs of people who jampacked the tastefully decorated pandal and several hundreds outside heard Thiru Jagjivan Ram with rapt attention when he said : 'Let us rededicate ourselves to the teachings he gave us. Let us rededicate to restore the self-respect for every citizen of India. Let us rededicate ourselves to restore human dignity to every individual and to provide opportunity to every Indian to develop the best in him or her. That will be the greatest homage to the memory of the great man.'

He expressed the hope that the Government of Tamil Nadu. under



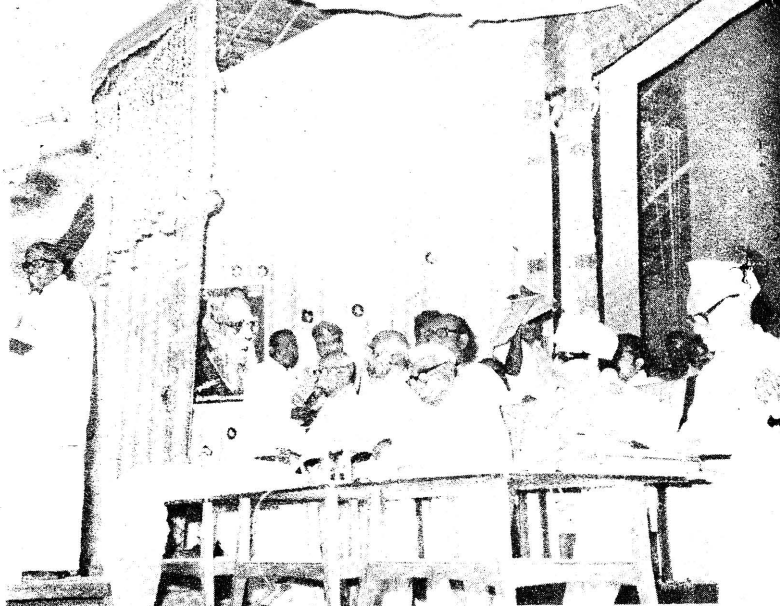
the able leadership of Thiru M.G. Ramachandran would implement the teachings of Periyar and also late Anna. 'Let Tamil Nadu become the torch-bearer and spear-head for establishment of an egalitarian and just society. Let Tamil Nadu take the place of pride to create a new society of justice and equality in the country.'

C.M.'s Homage to Periyar

The Chief Minister, Thiru M. G. Ramachandran, who presided, thanked the Centre for having brought out the special Periyar Stamp. He said though Tamil Nadu had been pleading for release of a stamp in honour of Periyar it was their good fortune that their wishes had been realised on the occasion of the centenary celebrations.

He said that Periyar was a historical figure, who championed the cause of the oppressed, and fought a relentless battle against superstition and obscurantism. He was a source of inspiration for millions of young men in Tamil Nadu, and those who had closely watched the social scene in Tamil Nadu for the last 50 years could see the radical changes that had taken place thanks to his teachings. He would go down in history as a social reformer par excellence.

He said Thanthai Periyar had the courage of conviction to say what he felt and believed. Neither brickbats nor abuses daunted him. When they paid their homage to Periyar they also paid their silent homage to those who had suffered, along with him, social boycott and ostracism.



The Chief Minister said his Government would implement the ideals and teachings of Periyar and Anna faithfully.

FESTIVAL BY GOVT.

Thiru M. G. Ramachandran said "This is not a private function but organised by the Government. It is a festival organised with the assistance of the rationalists all over the country. Men and women, children, the labour and the industrialists can be proud of this function.

"I was introduced to Periyar by the late N. S. Krishnan. It is my habit to speak of what I can do. I never failed to carry out message that we have inherited from Anna. We will oppose any language making transgression on Tamil. If Hindi is imposed as the only official and national language we will fight it tooth and nail. If Urdu or Bengali is inducted in the

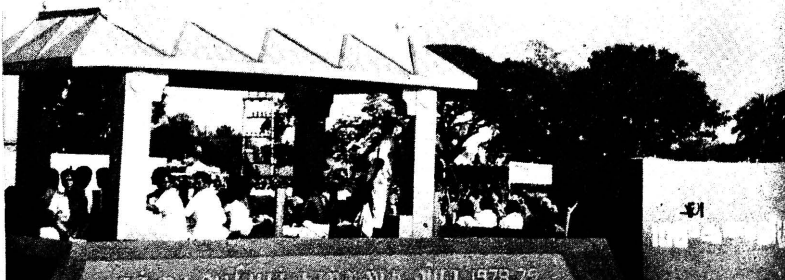
place of Hindi, we can't accept it. . . During the Anti-Hindi agitation, Anna exempted artistes from participation and asked them not to join the fray. I was wearing a black badge to show my opposition to Hindi while I was not in the agitation.

STAMP RELEASED

The Governor, Prabhudas Patwari, unveiled a life size portrait of E.V.R. and released a Periyar commemoration stamp issued by the P & T department. The Defence Minister received the Periyar stamp album from the Governor.

The Governor described Periyar as "singularly a unique leader" and said he was a vigorous social reformer, a tireless crusader against social evils. His religion, if there was one, was the religion of man.

Thiru Prabhudas Patwari appealed to the masses to adopt



a rationalistic and scientific view of life adjuring all superstitions born of "fossilised tradition and intellect-dwarfing customs."

The Governor pointed out that Periyar fought for the equality of sexes and appealed to Government to remove all social disabilities to which women were subjected. The essence of EVR's teaching, according to Thiru Prabhudas Patwari was that one must always have self-confidence and pursue one's goals with fairness and earnestness.

LANGUAGE POLICY

The State Ministers and leaders of various political parties participated in the second day function. A large gathering attended second day also. The ardent followers of Periyar, forming a considerable section, were conspicuous by their black shirts. The Chief Minister Thiru M. G. Ramachandran delivered the valedictory address.

Reiterating that Tamil Nadu would not allow imposition of Hindi on any ground, the Chief Minister said they wanted that English should also be recognised as one of the national languages as it was spoken by one of the minority communities in India, namely, Anglo-Indians. Tamil Nadu also wanted all the 14 lan-

guages recognised as national languages and accorded equal status. While regional languages would be the language of administration and correspondence, imposition of Hindi in the name of three-language formula would not be acceptable to Tamil Nadu, he said.

The Chief Minister said it was a good augury that all political parties, barring the Janata, were united on the language issue. He added it was time all parties in the State rallied and jointly opposed Hindi imposition in any form.

Addressing the meeting the Minister for Co-operation, Thiru K. A. Krishnasami recalled the social scene in Tamil Nadu 30 years ago when every community used to have its own exclusive bathing ghats and said the social transformation that had since taken place in Tamil Nadu was indeed remarkable and credit for this should go to Periyar. The Revenue Minister Thiru S. D. Somasundaram said the self-respect movement launched by E.V.R. had as much relevance now as before and it should be continued.

The Chairman of the Legislative Council, Thiru M. P. Sivagnanam, urged that the social reform movement initiated by Periyar should be continued until they succeeded in establishing a casteless society. Books on science and technology should be brought out in Tamil increasingly as science removed superstition and ignorance.

The former Union Finance Minister, Thiru C. Subramaniam, M.P., said it was deplorable that despite the yeoman services rendered by Periyar it could not be said that caste oppression and disabilities had completely disappeared from society. On the other hand casteism was assuming new forms and acquiring new dimensions.

The only way to help the Harijans or other weaker sections was to lift them from the morass of poverty and economic backwardness. Government should initiate a series of progressive measures towards that goal. The Marxist leader, Thiru N. Sankaraiah, M.L.A., recalled Periyar's association with the nationalist and communist movements and said Marxists fully supported Periyar's atheism and the need for social reform.

Thiru K. S. Abdul Wahab, M. L. C., said after Gandhiji, Periyar was the only leader who spurned power and yet won the hearts of the masses by his dedicated service. Thiru M. Kalyanasundaram, C.P.I. leader, said the battle Periyar had launched against casteism should be continued to the end. Thiru Kumari Ananathan, M.P., of Gandhi - Kamaraj National Congress said Nehru's assurance to non-Hindi speaking people should be incorporated in the constitution.

Thiru G. Karuppiiah Moopanar, T. N. C. C. (I)—President, said



while it might take some time for ensuring economic justice, they should continue the fight for social justice, as preached by Periyar. Dr. A. Krishnaswami recalled Periyar's ardent support for the study of English which alone, according to Periyar, would introduce modernism in the country. Dr. Krishnaswami opposed exclusive colonies for Harijans. Others who spoke included Thiru S. Ramachandran, Electricity Minister, Thiru S. Muthu, Mayor of Madurai, Thiru P. U. Shanmugam, former Minister, Thiru Chidambaram Krishnaswami, D. K. leader and Thiru S. M. Dorairaj, M.L.A.

Thiru K. H. Moinuddin, I.A.S., District Collector, proposed a vote of thanks.

NEW SCHEMES TO PERPETUATE PERIYAR'S MEMORY

The Chief Minister, Thiru M.G. Ramachandran, announced a 10-point programme to perpetuate the memory of Periyar E.V. Ramasami.

One of the points was opposition to Hindi imposition in any form. The Chief Minister declared that Tamil Nadu would not accept



Hindi as the sole official language of India on any account. He administered a pledge in this connection to the audience.

Schemes

1. Action would be taken, if necessary, through legislation, to ban the use of caste appellations in street names in every town and village. 2. Children born of inter-caste marriages or

widow re-marriages would be treated on par with Scheduled Castes and Tribes for purposes of educational and other concessions with a view to encouraging inter-caste marriages and widow re-marriage.

3. The Tamil script would be reformed and simplified, reducing the number of letters. 4. Government would take steps to set up a planetarium or scienti-



fic museum in memory of E.V.R. in consultation with experts. The advice and help of international bodies like the World Bank would be sought. Financial constraints will not be allowed to come in the way of this ambitious scheme.

5. A ban on casteism and social order based on castes. The Chief Minister pointed out that, on one hand, there was demand for reservation of jobs and grant of concessions on communal grounds and on the other, there was demand for abolition of castes. If caste abolition was to be accepted, then communal reservation for Scheduled Castes or Backward Classes would have to go, which might not be acceptable to the weaker sections of society. So, they had to strike a via media which would pave the way for abolition of castes and caste-based privileges but without endangering the "protection" now enjoyed by the underprivileged sections like Harijans. He said the State Government would take up this matter with the Centre and see how best this objective was achieved through legal and constitutional means.

Periyar University

6. The proposed university at Coimbatore could be named "Periyar University". 7. Government could take steps to bifurcate Coimbatore district, the biggest district in Tamil Nadu with a population of 45 lakhs, and form a new district with Erode — the birth place of E.V.R. — as headquarters and name the new district as "Periyar District". 8. Propagation of the teachings of Periyar. An expert committee will be constituted to prepare books and literature in Tamil for supply to libraries and educational institutions.

9. Volunteers, numbering 1,000 will be enrolled from each district to propagate the teachings of Periyar. The 15,000 young volunteers from all over the State will conclude their work by the end of the centenary year.

The State level centenary celebrations committee will continue its work for a year and will constitute district level committees to organise celebrations and other programmes.



Water for Erode

The Chief Minister also announced amidst cheers that a Rs. 194-lakh improved water supply scheme for Erode would be taken up and completed in a year and the street where E.V.R. lived would be named after him.

GOVERNOR'S

ADDRESS

Addressing the Joint Session of Tamil Nadu Legislative on August 30, the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru Prabhu Das Patwari, said during the last year, our State had set up new records in the production of agricultural commodities like paddy, millets, pulses, oilseeds and sugarcane. A separate directorate for marketing of Agricultural produce was established last year. Members of various District Agricultural Regulated Marketing Committees, who were elected many years ago, continued to hold their office even after the completion of their terms, since fresh elections have not been held. In view of the irregularities in the administration of market committees and since the members did not take sufficient interest in the administration of the Committees, Government has issued an Ordinance dissolving these Committees without waiting for enacting comprehensive amendments to the Agricultural Produce Markets Act. A Bill is proposed to be introduced during this session to replace this Ordinance.

Comfortable Food Situation

The food situation in our State is very comfortable. Foodgrains are freely available, at reasonable rates, in the open market and the coming Kuruvai crop is expected to be good. The Government is also holding adequate stocks of rice to meet the demand under the public distribution system for the next one year. It can confidently be said that at no time in the last few years has the food situation been so comfortable as it is today. Thanks to the vigilant action taken by the Government, the prices of essential commodities are generally under control.

Multi-purpose Shops

Under this scheme, more than 4,000 of the existing shops have been converted into multi-purpose shops, selling various provisions in addition to the commodities under controlled distribution. Shops supplying all the daily necessities for the people, have started functioning in all the revenue villages in these three districts. More than 2,000 shops in the Co-operative sector in the districts of Salem, Dharmapuri, Coimbatore and Thanjavur will now get converted into multipurpose shops. Action is also being taken to open more than 2,500 new shops in these four districts.

The Governor said that the Tamil Nadu Small Industries Development Corporation is taking steps to set up 900 industrial sheds during this year in towns with not more than 50,000 population, for tiny units with an investment not exceeding Rs. one lakh on plant and machinery. During the

first three months of this financial year, it is estimated that employment for about 25,000 persons has been generated.

In order to expand the medical facilities available in rural areas, so far 230 doctors have been appointed as third medical officers in the Primary Health Centres. During this year, 100 mobile teams have also been newly formed. Government has also permitted the opening of 50 mini health centres, with the assistance of service minded private organisations. The Government has taken new measures to curb the misuse of life-saving drugs and ensure their ready availability to needy persons. It is also noteworthy that two Special Committees have been set up, one for suggesting improvements to the practice of Indigenous medicine and another for suggesting improvements in the working of the major hospitals in Madras City.

Language is emotionally intertwined with the life of the people. It is therefore, necessary that the language policy is evolved with due care and caution. I would like to emphatically state that this Government will not tolerate imposition of any language on Tamil Nadu, in whichever form or manner it may be. It is also my duty to point out that any such imposition will lead to serious consequences. The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister deserves congratulations for convening the Southern States 'Chief Ministers' Conference to discuss various problems including the language issue. In this conference all the Chief Ministers pointed out instances of Hindi imposition by certain Central Ministers against the Prime Minister's assurances and unanimously requested the Prime Minister to put an end to this.

Periyar Stamp

State Government is determined to protect and promote the welfare of the weaker sections of the society, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes. The Government, which is wedded to this philosophy, requested the Union Government to release a postal stamp in memory of the "morning star of reformation", the great rationalist leader Periyar E. V. R., who, by demolishing their superstitions, brought forth renaissance particularly in the lives of the down-trodden people steeped in ignorance and poverty. I congratulate the Union Government who have signified their concurrence to this request. There is no gain-saying that the generally peaceful and harmonious atmosphere in this part of the country, without any bickerings on accounts of caste or religion, has been in not a small measure, due to Periyar's earnest endeavours in this direction.



Sandal Wood The Money Spinner

Natural sandal (Santalum album) occurs in the plateau and the hill tracts in North Arcot, Coimbatore, Nilgiris and Salem districts. It is also found to some extent in the Pachamalai hills in Tiruchi district, Alagarkoil Valley in Ramanathapuram district and Courtallam hills of Tirunelveli district. Sandal is also seen sporadically in Madurai district. Dead sandal trees are extracted on a felling cycle of three years and the final cleaned sandalwood is sold in auctions at the Government depots at Tirupathur and Sathyamangalam. The present annual production is about 1,500 tonnes.

Oil of sandalwood is highly valued in the perfumery industry all over the world and India holds monopoly in the world trade of sandalwood oil. Almost the entire quantity of sandalwood in India is produced in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka and only small quantities are obtained in other States like Kerala and Andhra Pradesh. In Karnataka, distillation of oil and marketing are done by the State Government, whereas in Tamil Nadu the wood is being sold in auctions to private distillers. The auctions of Tamil Nadu Forest Department are attended by merchants from all over India.

Sandal Oil

The Government of Tamil Nadu has under its consideration a pro-

posal to set up a sandalwood oil distilling factory. The Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited has been requested to prepare a detailed project report for setting up the industry. A unit to distil 1,500 tonnes of sandalwood annually is estimated to cost about Rs. 120 lakhs and will provide employment to about 175 people. From the spent wood obtained after distilling the oil, agarbathy can be manufactured. This unit is estimated to cost about Rs. 20 lakhs and will ensure employment for about 500 persons. In due course, other ancillary industries like soap, detergent, perfumery, cosmetics can be set up based on sandalwood oil.

In addition to distillation of oil, sandalwood also is used in carving and the sandalwood paste is used in religious functions. Both the wood and oil have long been employed in medicine.

Javadhis Hills

Major part of sandalwood in Tamil Nadu is obtained from Javadhis hills in North Arcot District. There are two Forest Divisions, covering Javadhis, with headquarters at Tirupathur and Vellore. The extent of sandalwood forests in Javadhis is 86,797 hectares.

Quantity of sandalwood extracted from the two divisions during 1974-75 to 1976-77 and the was 3,522 tonnes valued at Rs.

8,93,2,790. In the recent years there is a phenomenal increase in the value of sandalwood and due to this, activities of the smugglers have gone up inspite of the best efforts and vigilance by the staff of the Forest Department.

Prevention of Smuggling

Smuggling of sandalwood takes place in different manners and the consignments are despatched to ultimate destinations through various agencies. The local agents of the smuggling group employ certain persons and these persons gather the wood and conceal the billets either inside the Reserved forests, or in a tank or river bed, well or field near the road sides, from where they are transported by cars to places like Tiruchirapalli, Madras, Trichur, Calicut, Hyderabad, Calcutta etc., carefully concealed and labelled as fruit baskets, spare parts, etc.

Sometimes sandalwood is cut into small pieces and packed in bales purported to contain to textiles or scrap and despatched to different places through regular roadways parcel services to places like Tiruchur in Kerala, Mysore, Bombay and even to places like Tripura in the North East Frontier. The subordinates have been given instructions to be alert and also to check the transport vehicles at the parcel offices frequently in order to prevent sandalwood smuggling. Also on

the basis of proposals made by the Sandalwood Study Group set up by the Forest Department, Government have ordered sanction of liberal rewards to those informants who provide valuable information about sandalwood smuggling. With this a preventive intelligence system has been built up to check sandalwood smuggling.

In the past 2 years, 13 Ambassador cars and one Scooter which were used in the smuggling operation were seized in Salem Circle. Even during the last month, 3 cars and 1 lorry involved in the smuggling of sandalwood in the Chitteri of Dharmapuri division were seized, besides 1 lorry with sandalwood in Krishnagiri Range of Hosur Division. On 6-8-1977, Rs. 31,000 worth of sandalwood was seized in a surprise raid in Javadhis. In Javadhis the Special Mobile Patrol Party, Tirupathur, seized sandalwood worth Rs. 18,000 and 12 persons were arrested.

Police Cell

The Forest Act as it is now, is not sufficient to deal effectively with the smugglers. As at present, the offence is non-cognizable and bailable and can be tried by the 2nd Class Magistrate. Hence punishments, are not severe enough to keep away the smugglers from their activities. Further, to gather intelligence and put down the smuggling effectively it is necessary that a separate Cell

with Forest, Police and Legal Officers is necessary. Based on the above suggestion, proposals to form a Police Cell in this Department to check the sandalwood smuggling is under the consideration of Government.

Sandal occurs both in reserved forests and Patta lands. Provision has been made in the revised Indian Forest Act to declare the sandalwood trees occurring in Patta lands also as the property of the Government. Also provision is being made in the proposed Indian Forest Act for confiscation of the vehicles involved in the forest offences. These provisions will be applicable to all the States in India with effect

from the date on which the revised Indian Forest Act comes into effect.

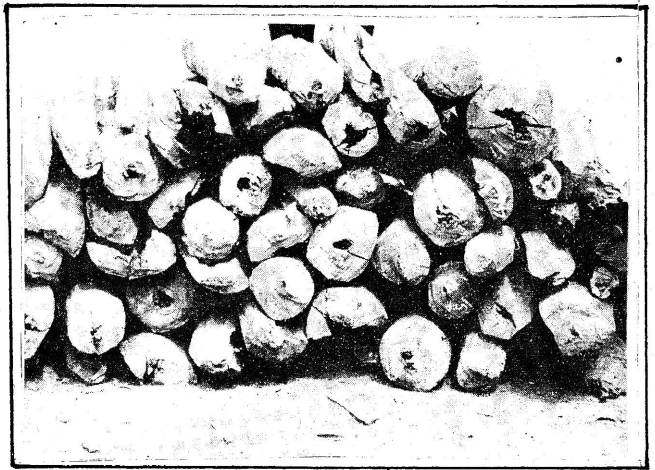
At present offences relating to sandalwood are non-cognisable and are tried. In order to make the punishment, deterrent, provision has been made in the revised Indian Forest Act for enhancing the existing punishment to 3 years R. I. or Rs. 5,000 fine or both. The punishment proposed will make sandalwood offences triable by First Class Magistrates.

Apart from the irregular territorial division staff, there are two special units under the control of the Assistant Conservator of Forests, one at Tirupathur and the other at Vellore and they spend much of their time in patrolling vulnerable areas of the Javadhis. With the staff available the department is taking adequate precautionary measures to check and minimise smuggling of sandalwood from forests.

Besides the above there are a number of check posts, to check the smuggling of sandalwood at six places.

Proposal for setting up more check posts and also strengthening the Forest Department staff in Javadhis with view to tighten up protection of sandal forests and also to improve the sandal wealth by intensive regeneration operations is under consideration.

For the first time in the history of Forest Department, the State Government have come forward to remove the lacunae in sandalwood marketing and strengthen the organisation to prevent smuggling and fishy dealing.





VEDANTHANGAL- THE HOME OF WATER BIRDS

— A. S. DHARMAKKAN

Long before the concept of one world gained currency in international affairs, a certain species of birds had acquired the in-born racial instinct of crossing over the barriers of land and water and nesting for a while in a foreign climate to breed and rear their young ones and then return home in a flock. The lake at Vedanthangal in Chingleput district, Tamil Nadu, has

been the nesting home of migrating birds from the 1880s' and extends hospitality to water birds from countries far and near.

As a result of the enormous interest and love shown by ornithologists and naturalists in the present century, Vendathangal has been given rightful place on the tourist map of India. The sanctuary is one of the most fasci-

nating of its kind. The 53-mile drive to this lake to the south of Madras city is itself a refreshing experience. The last 15 - mile stretch branches off the main road and threads through evergreen woods. The local villagers were unanimous even before the lake became a "sanctuary," not to disturb the homestead of these 'guest' birds. Shooting was forbidden. Situated amidst sylvan



surroundings nurturing a huge cluster of sturdy *Barringtonia acutangia* trees which form a huge canopy of leaves, the Vedanthangal Lake sprawls over 74 acres.

FOR BREEDING

Each year thousands of water birds flock to this lake for nesting and breeding. The luscious green trees on either side of the bund of the lake give shelter to the visitors who sit on the bank to watch the winged visitors, screaming and croacking in their nests. Here they can roost and rear their fledgelings without fear of wild-cats and mongoose that try to snatch eggs and prey on young birds.

DEFENCE UMBRELLA

The unique feature of the birds flocking here is that birds of varying colours and species live amicably and give joint defence umbrella to chick population and eggs against the attack of vultures and marauding hawks. Differences of species and group do not deter their co-operative spirit to fight the intrusion of common enemies. They mix freely, even spending the nights together in the same nests.

The visitor to this lake is enticed by the congregation of the birds, strutting and diving in the water. The birds drift elegantly, row after row, in small groups. Some are seen diving and some are seen with their heads above the water like half-immersed submarine. Among the bevy of birds one can



see here the Cormorana, Darter, Egret, Stork, Heron, Spoon bills, Ibises, Pelican, Black winged stilt, Coots, Reals and Grebe. Egret, Heron, Cornorant and the Ibis form a major portion of the birds population in the lake. Most of the birds are migrants—depending on conditions of food, heat and drought — and are seen frequently on the marshes, jheels and the lake.

HARMONIOUS MIGRATION

A detailed study of the mode and methods of migration is highly rewarding. There is absolute punctuality, harmony and orderli-

ness in the movement of birds. When they move to Vedanthangal from different countries and centres, the male leads the female and immature birds, while this order is reversed when they leave Vedanthangal. How do the young birds know the flyway? They have inherited the instinct of migration and traits of flying through migratory parents over millions of years. They come in groups year after year, in a particular period. The Golden Plover, a regular winter visitor to India from Western Alaska and Siberia, could fly non-stop a distance of 2,000 miles over the seas.

The Coot and Ibis visit India from Mongolia, the Commonteal and Makard from Russia. The average flying speed of ducks and teals in favourable weather is 40 to 80 miles an hour. In a day a bird flies five to ten hours, depending upon species, size and capacity. Woodcock and Plover could fly about 300 to 600 miles an hour.

The lake in Vedanthangal is a veritable paradise during the period of September to March. Besides waterbirds, one can see quite a large number of common resident birds on the trees around the lake—Indian Robin, Copper-smith, King Fisher, Ring Dove, Weaver Bird, Blue Jay etc.

The Tourist Department of the State Government extends all assistance like conveyance, accommodation and observatory towers to tourists to enjoy the trip to Vedanthangal. It is advisable to visit the Sanctuary between September and March.

The villagers are, in fact, proud of their village being the 'maternity centre' of the feathered visitors. They are thankful to these birds, for the excrement of the birds, being rich in nitrogen and phosphorus serve as fertilizer to the crop. Many countries indeed do reap the benefits of bird droppings for soil fertilization. Peru is one such country. Waterbirds, at least, reciprocate sufficiently the hospitality of cultivators!

PERIYAR IN 'YOUNG INDIA'

Gandhiji appreciated the Prohibition propaganda work in Erode where Periyar E. V. Ramasami was ardently engaged in Prohibition.

"Madras and Andhra have been gradually leading the work. It may not surprise me if 1,500 persons are arrested there as in the case of Bengal. Erode has been lonely doing Prohibition work without fear. As a result, Ramasamy Naicker has been awarded one-month simple imprisonment. 37 persons have already been convicted in this small village. Now, Naicker's wife and his sister are going to picket the toddy shops".

(GANDHIJI—*Young India* 23-12-1921.)

HOW TO STOP DRINKING

FRANCIS A. SOPER



For anyone desiring to stop drinking, there are a number of simple, practical methods that will be of real help. Briefly, here are ten.

1. The stronger the drinking habit becomes, the less confidence the drinker has that he can quit his habit. He comes to feel that there is no use for him to try.

But any such person must make an effort for himself. Individuals or organisations may work diligently for him, but such efforts will not be very effective until he is aroused to help fight the battle in his own behalf.

2. The drinker needs to understand the force of his own will. This should be the governing power in his life. Each person has the right of choice, of decision for himself. He need not sit back helplessly as the mere victim of circumstances.

3. Drink dependency cannot be thought of as a natural way of life. In order to make a change, there must be a return to simple, basic principles of healthful living. This refers to the fundamental health habits that may seem so easy but at times are difficult to follow consistently.

Some of these habits include the use of pure water, both inside and out, regular exercise, preferably in the open air, sunshine whenever possible, refreshing rest at proper times, and simple food.

4. Speaking of simple food, this is so essential that it can be noted as a separate category. This is a good time to do away from highly spiced, complicated, rich food and drink. The closer food is to its natural state, the better. Choose the most nourishing, wholesome types of food and drink, as the body can build up its resistance to the inroads of drink.

5. Essential also is the condition of the person and his surroundings. Each person should have opportunity for physical cleanliness and clean clothing. This is itself is a great morale booster.

6. The person struggling to kick a drinking habit need not feel he is alone in the effort. Whether or not he is a church member or a religious person as such, he can always call on a Power outside himself. All this power can be secured merely for the asking. "Ask and it shall be given you," says the scripture; "seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Matt. 7 : 7).

7. Mental attitude is also important. No one can be morose and gloomy and expect to live a serene, happy life. Cheerfulness is a dimension of life that can be a help over many rough spots. The mind should be the controlling factor — the capital of the body. To a great extent, as goes the mind, so goes the body.

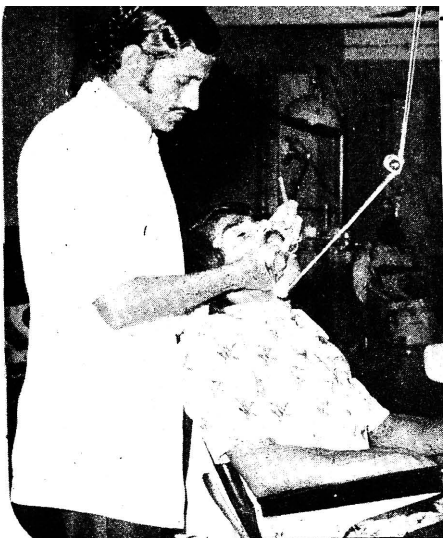
8. Many persons become involved with drink simply because their companions lead them into it. When trying to kick such a habit, these victims need to have the advantage of well-chosen, strong companions. This helps to reinforce personal decisions and resolutions. Perhaps this would necessitate to be away from their previous companions.

9. Those endeavouring to reform should, more than at any other time, keep busy with useful employment. As far as possible, they ought to work to contribute to their own support. Where possible, outdoor work such as gardening or yard care is excellent. Occupation of both mind and body is most essential.

10. Anyone seeking permanent victory over a damaging habit can receive added strength by working for others. The telling of his own experience to those in similar trouble can be a helpful start, followed by active effort to rescue and aid those who may be in worse condition than himself.

The less a drinker continues to focus on his own problems, however, the more outgoing his life can become, and the greater the chance he has to return to normalcy himself and become a more productive part of his home, community, business, church, or society.

[Courtesy : TEMPERANCE ALERT]



Madras Dental Department

—A PROUD RECORD OF SERVICE

From fledgling beginnings, the Dental Wing of Madras Medical College has sprouted wings and is now able to fly strong and powerful, in the upper firmaments of the medical profession. Among them any feathers in its cap of achievements during the span of 25 years are its work in the field of community service, dental care, teaching and research. It is heartening that as part of its Silver Jubilee the rich professional experience, expertise and knowledge gained by the doctors belonging to the Dental Department are going to be utilised for the benefit of the rural population of Tamil Nadu in the shape of State-wide rural dental camps and exhibitions. This would obviate the criticism that our hospitals are only disease-palaces, that our learned professors and researchers live in ivory towers and do not have bent of mind to disseminate the knowledge and experience gained for the benefit of the weaker sections of the community. The Dental Department of the Madras Medical College, which broke new grounds is poised for an era of growth and dedicated service to our people.

Dental Wings—Twenty Five Years

The Dental Wing of Madras Medical College and General Hospital came into existence, year 1953. The Dental Wing was housed as an extension on the first floor of the outpatient block of the General Hospital. It had a staff of two, and 15 students were selected in the first batch for the B.D.S. course with the representation of various linguistic groups of the then composite Madras State. It was a

small family with dedication, struggling to put dental education on the map of the country.

Subsequently new entrants of the teaching cadre trickled in, like Assistant Professors, part time Lecturers, Demonstrators etc. In 1956 a mobile dental van donated by the Czechoslovakian Government, to the Dental Wing and commissioned to tour all over the state carrying Dental Health Care to the rural people.

In 1957 the first batch of BDS students graduated and were absorbed into various teaching posts. Between 1954 and 1958 many staff members joined the Dental Wing. Consequent to the developments of various specialities and increased load of work, a separate building was planned and executed as part of the Second Five Year Plan Scheme. This period also saw the Government endeavour to send the staff for higher education in India and abroad.

By 1962 the Dental Wing was located in its new premises and most of the specialities were well organised and functioning efficiently. The number of admissions to the course was increased to 45 and there was a rapid development not only on the academic aspects but also in the rural hospital services to the public by appointments of Dental Surgeons at various District and Taluk Head quarters Hospitals. The years 1966-67 marked the period of maximal growth of Dental Education when Post graduate courses, in Oral Surgery and Periodontology were com-

menced. Later post-graduate courses were started in other specialities like Operative Dentistry and Orthodontia. Auxillary courses like the Dental Hygienist and Dental Mechanical courses were also started to provide the necessary assistance in Dental Health Care. The Dental Wing also made advances in research. Various research schemes under PL 480, ICMR grants and the State Research funds were conducted at the Dental Wing.

The Staff of this department have taken an active part in various National and International conferences. Most of the Senior Professors of this Department have gone abroad for higher training under various fellowships schemes sponsored by WHO, Commonwealth and Colombo Plan. The staff of the Dental Wing through the membership in the Indian Dental Association has organised many health camps in rural areas to spread an awareness among our rural people on the importance of teeth and care.



HARIJAN DAY

—APPEAL BY GOVERNOR

We are celebrating the 109th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The State Government have given instruction to the District administration to celebrate the birth anniversary in a fitting manner and to involve the various sections of the population, particularly the youth who have to imbibe the ingredients of Gandhiji's teachings.

The Governor of Tamil Nadu Thiru Prabudhas Patwari, has

'Harijan' (man of God) be substituted for the word Antyaja (the last-born) that is being used for untouchables. It was a word used by the great saint Narasimha Mehta, who by the by belonged to the Nagar Brahmana community and who defied the whole community by claiming the untouchables as his own. I am delighted to adopt that word which is sanctified by having been used by such a great saint, but it has for me a deeper mean-

ing than you may imagine. The untouchable, to me, is, compared to us, really a Harijan — a man of God, and we are Durjan (men of evil). For whilst the untouchable has soiled and miled and dirtied his hands, so that we may live in comfort and cleanliness, we have delighted in suppressing him. We were solely responsible for all the shortcomings and faults that we lay at the door of these untouchables. It is still open to us to be Harijan ourselves, but we can only do so by heartily repenting of our sin against them.

Harijan means 'a man of God.' All the religions of the world describe God pre-eminently as the friend of the friendless, help of the helpless and protector

of the weak. The rest of the world apart, in India who can be more friendless, helpless or weaker than the forty million or more Hindus of India who are classified as untouchables? If, therefore, any body of people can be fitly described as men of God, they are surely these helpless, friendless and despised people. Hence in the pages of Navjivan, I have always adopted Harijan as the name signifying untouchables. Not that the

GANDHIJI REFERRED TO CRIME OF CASTE IN MADRAS

An extraordinary case that was tried in a Madras Presidency Court brings vividly to light the



asked the people in the State to celebrate the Gandhi Jayanthi as "Harijan Day". He has also appealed to the public to feed the members of Harijan community in their homes for a meal, and such gesture would go a long way in bringing about a change of heart to consider the Harijans as their own brethren.

The term "Harijan" has received recognition the world over. But the genealogy of this term is unknown to many of the younger generation. An extract from Gandhiji's writing published in the following columns gives one clear picture of the background.

WHY HARIJAN ?

"The other day a friend suggested to me that the word

sad plight of our suppressed countrymen. A simple cleanly dressed Panchama entered a temple in a perfectly devotional spirit without the slightest intention of hurting anybody's feeling or insulting any religion. He had been in the habit of paying his respects at this temple every year though he did not enter it. But last year in his ecstatic mood he forgot himself and entered the temple. The priest in charge could not distinguish him from the others and therefore accepted his offering. But when he regained self-possession, he was terrified to find himself in a prohibited place and ran away from the temple. But some who knew him caught him and handed him to the police. The temple authorities when they discovered the

crime, had the temple duly purified. Then followed a trial. A Hindu Magistrate convicted him and imposed a fine of Rs. 75 or one month's rigorous imprisonment for insulting his own religion! An appeal was filed. There was an elaborate argument over it. Judgment had to be reserved! And when conviction was set aside, it was not because the court held that the poor Panchama had a right to enter the temple but because the prosecution in the lower court had forgotten to prove the insult. This is no triumph of justice of truth or religion or morality.

The only consolation to be derived from the successful appeal is the Panchama will not have to suffer imprisonment for having

in his zeal for worship forgotten that he was a prohibited entrant. If however he or his fellow-Panchamas again dare to enter the temple, it is highly probable that they would be severely punished if they are not lynched by those who look down upon them with contempt.

It is a curious situation. We resent, and properly, the treatment meted out to our countrymen in South Africa. We are impatient to establish Swaraj. But we Hindus refuse to see the incongruity in treating a fifth of our own co-religionists as worse than dogs. For dogs are not untouchables. Some of us nowadays even keep them as drawing-room pets. [The Caste must go and the Sin of Untouchability.]

..



ANNA BIRTHDAY AT KANCHEEPURAM

The Government of Tamil Nadu have been honouring the Tamil savants, freedom fighters. Their birth anniversary celebrations are organised by the Government to recollect their self-less service. The celebrations have helped the younger generation understand the ideals and philosophy of life that they upheld and spread among the people. The birth anniversary celebrations organised by Government include the birthday of V. O. Chidambaram, K. Kamaraj, Poet Bharathi,

Pasumpon U. Muthuramalinga Thevar and revolutionary Poet Bharathidasan.

In the galaxy of renowned sons of the State, Anna occupies a pre-eminent place. The 70th birthday of Anna was organised as a Government function in all the District Headquarters by the District administration. This was the first time that the Government organised the birth anniversary of Anna.



In Kancheepuram, the Government organised the Celebration in a fitting manner. Kancheepuram has a hoary past. Its history is mingled with Tamil culture, literature, handicrafts, religion and modern social thought. Thanthai Periyar introduced three resolutions at the Tamil Nadu Congress Conference held in Kancheepuram in 1925 under the Presidentship of Tamil savant Thiru Vi. Kalyanasundaram. The dissenters of Congress, headed by Periyar rose in revolt against the mundane, moribund social principles of the Congress.

Kancheepuram, as students of contemporary history know, acquired new dimension through Thiru Annadurai, our revered leader who was born in Kancheepuram.

GOVERNMENT FUNCTION

Kancheepuram was the venue of the 70th birthday celebration of Anna. Kancheepuram wore a festive look. For a regular visitor to Kancheepuram, the 15th September '78 gave a different countenance of the city. Kancheepuram was agog from the small hours of the day. Buntings, aflags, colourful arches reminded a tourist or a new comer that Kancheepuram was witnessing a day joy and jubilation. The one day Anna birthday celebration commenced in the morning with a Seminar. The socio-economic philosophy, that is the Facets of the Personality of Anna - was the main theme of the Seminar organised under the presidentship of Dr. Avvai D. Natarajan. His prologue to the Seminar and the papers of various reputed speakers including that of Thirumathi Subbulakshmi Jagadeesan, Minister of Handlooms, revealed new areas of the philosophy of Anna who was the father of new style of rhetoric and public speaking. Anna has left behind countless myrmidons of his style.

The evening function was held in a spacious, open Maidan under the Presidentship of Dr. Navalar

V. R. Nedunchezhian. Thiru R. M. Veerappan, Minister for Information, Thiru S.D. Somasundaram, Minister for Revenue, Thiru K.A. Krishnaswamy, Minister for Co-operation and Thiru S. Ramachandran, Minister for Power participated in the function.

REAL PUBLIC SERVICE

A large crowd, with sizable women section, heard the Chief Minister Thiru M.G. Ramachandran, with rapt attention. He rose to speak at 11:00 p.m. and the entire crowd applauded and cheered him loudly when he said that the State Government would strive hard to translate the ideals of Anna. Politics was an instrument to regulate, reform and reconstruct social, economic life of the people. In political life, Anna set an example, and it was he who exemplified as to how a political leader should be a friend, philosopher, and guide with parental care. He also taught us as to how we should approach a subject and analyse a piquant political problem, Chief Minister added.

The Chief Minister referred to the problems of the depressed classes, the backward and the physically handicapped. It was the responsibility of all to establish an egalitarian social order to provide succour to the weak and the needy.

The State Government would plead with the Centre to have English as the official language till the people in the country would accept one language as official language. We would fight not only the imposition of Hindi but any language imposed on us.

The Chief Minister pointed out that for the first time in Tamil Nadu, Anna's Birth Centenary was organised by the Government. He appealed to the people to lend their support for the enforcement of Prohibition which is a social programme, dear to Anna.



WHAT WE DO FOR THE PEOPLE

Disputes in Mettur Beardsell settled

Mettur Beardsell Limited, Mettur Dam, have been introducing new varieties of Fabrics based on changing market trends. On the plea that the weaving of new varieties of fabrics has resulted in loss of earnings, the weavers numbering about 750 resorted to strike with effect from 26-6-78 resulting in complete stoppage, affecting 2,000 workers.

The 37-day old strike has been called off with effect from 2-8-78 as a result of settlement reached before Thiru S. Rajasubramanian, Special Deputy Commissioner of Labour, Madras, on 1st August 1978. The settlement provides for average wage increase of Rs. 40 per weaver. The weavers are also being paid Rs. 100 each, subject to a minimum of Rs. 30 as an exgratia amount and in addition all workmen affected by strike are being granted recoverable pay advance of Rs. 150 each.

ACCOUNT SLIPS FOR SUBSCRIBERS TO G. P. FUND

The Accountant General, Tamil Nadu, has issued the accounts slips for 1977-78 for all the subscribers With the GPF number suffixes of G.A., G.A./P, Pol, Judl, C. T., Regn., Misc., S & P., A.I.S., G.P.F. (M), T.S.P.F., L. R., Jails.

The slips have been sent to the Heads of Departments Subscribers to GPF are requested to contact the heads of Departments to collect account slips.

Accord in Dalmia Cement Factory

The 29-day old strike by the workmen of Dalmia Cement Factory Dalmiapuram, Trichy District, has been called off as a result of settlement reached before the Commissioner of Labour, Madras and Regional Labour Commissioner (Central) Madras between the Management represented by Tvl. M. Palaniyandi and I.M. Moynudeen. According to the settlement the management agreed to pay Rs. 3.5 lakhs to all the workers as an adhoc grant. In addition to this, they have agreed to give to the quarry workers an adhoc amount of Rs. 300 and an increase of Rs. 2 in daily wages.

Anti-Strike Ordinance-Lapse

The Tamil Nadu Government has decided to allow the ordinance prohibiting strikes in essential services to lapse in response to representations made by labour. This announcement was made by Thiru M. G. Ramachandran, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

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AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION FOR MORE EMPLOYMENT

Dr. G. RANGASWAMY,
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IN a broad sense Agriculture is defined to cover all branches of applied activities which deal with scientific exploitation of land, water and sunlight to produce food, feed, fodder and fibre to meet the basic human needs. In this respect field crop production, horticulture, animal husbandry and veterinary medicine, fisheries, forestry, agricultural engineering and post-harvest technology, home economics and human ecology, marketing, co-operation and the related basic science and humanities are inter-dependent and closely knit. In India about three-fourths of the 660 million people live in villages and are directly dependent on agriculture. Rural economy is mainly, if not solely, dependent on agricultural development, which in turn depends on application of latest scientific technology for increasing the productivity of land and water. Agriculture in India is slowly growing from a tradition-bound localised art into a progressive science-based rural industry. Our future, therefore depends on our ability to transfer the relevant technology from the scientific literature, research laboratories and experimental farms to the farmers, fields and rural homes. This calls for mass education on the basic and applied aspects of scientific agriculture and rural development. Such an educational programme should cover all levels of the curricula. Only then there will be better all-round realisation of the needs of the country.

It is necessary that every citizen knows the basic aspect of agriculture and its economic contribution to the nation. Therefore, in order to impart general knowledge on agriculture there should be obligatory courses in the subject taught to the middle and high school students. Further more, with the ever increasing population continuously throwing increasing challenges, we have to find gainful employment for the people in rural areas lest it will get shifted to urban areas when it would become more difficult to solve. Only through scientific development of agriculture we can expect to absorb the unemployed and underemployed rural labour force. Such a development would pave the way for agro and agribased industries in rural and urban areas. This again calls for a strong infrastructure of technical man-power for development of the various rural sectors. With this background let us examine the past, present and future of agricultural education in India.

Saidapet Institute

Early in the present century (during 1900-1910), five agricultural colleges at Coimbatore, Nagpur Kanpur, Poona and Allahabad were started to offer collegiate level education in professional agriculture. Prior to this, a few institutions were set up in different parts of the country to offer diploma, certificate or licentiate courses in

agriculture. One of the earliest of such institutions was set up in 1876 at Saidapet near Madras which got merged with the Coimbatore Agricultural College in 1907. The graduates who passed out of such institutions were mostly employed as extension workers in Government Agriculture Departments. From time to time the British rulers brought in a few new ideas in Agricultural science from the United Kingdom and tested and verified them for adoption under Indian conditions, for which purpose they organised a few research centres; one of the earliest was set up at Pusa in Bihar State, which got shifted to New Delhi during 1920s and later got renamed as the Indian Agricultural Research Institute. This New Delhi Institute has been serving a leading Post-graduate Research and Training centre by far the largest in the East, for over half a century now. It has trained a good number of agricultural scientists who have played and continue to play leading roles in the development of scientific agriculture in the country.

Development in recent past

Today there are 73 Agricultural Colleges with an annual admission strength of about 10,000. As against eight Veterinary Colleges admitting annually about 400 students in 1951, today there are 20 Veterinary Colleges with a strength of about 1,100. During the past 20 years,

eight Agricultural Engineering Colleges have been set up in different parts of the country with a total annual admission strength of about 250 students. There are two Fisheries Colleges, one at Mangalore in Karnataka State established in 1968 and the second in Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu established in 1977, with a total annual admission strength of 60. There are seven rural oriented Home Science Colleges attached to the Agricultural Universities with an annual admission strength of about 800 students. The Forest College and Research Institute at Dehra Dun and the Southern Regional Forest Rangers College at Coimbatore are the two main centres imparting higher education in Forestry in India, leading to diploma and certificate in Forestry respectively. There has also been a rapid growth in post-graduate education leading to Master's and Doctoral degrees in some branches of agricultural sciences, at selected leading institutions in India. As against only four institutions admitting about 150 candidates for post-graduate degree/diploma courses in 1951, today about 40 colleges in the Agricultural Universities and a few General University Agricultural Colleges offer post-graduates courses admitting annually about 1,500 students for Master's degree and about 200 for Ph.D. degree programmes. There are about 100,000 Agricultural graduates in the country of whom about 20,000 are post-graduate degree holders. Similarly, there are about 13,000 Veterinary graduates of whom about 1,200 are post-graduate degree holders. Only a limited number of Agricultural Engineering graduates have taken post-graduate degrees, whereas a fairly good percentage of Home Science graduates undertake post-graduate studies leading to Master's degree.

Of the nearly 24 lakh students who are enrolled in more than 3,500 colleges in India, 4 per cent of them are in Agricultural Colleges and about 1 per cent in Veterinary Colleges. Thus, it would be evident that our educational programme is not oriented to fulfil the developmental needs of the country. While about 45 per cent of the VI Plan provisions is allotted for Agriculture and Rural Development, the technical training of manpower is not geared towards that end as at present. We have to chalk out a well knit programme to train the required numbers of technical men

and women at various cadres, including the skilled labour force for different field operations.

Setting up of Agricultural Universities

Soon after Independence, the University Education Commission headed by one of India's leading Educationists, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan brought out in its report in 1949, the need for orienting Agricultural Education in India toward solving farmers problems and recommended major modifications in the curriculum for higher education in Agriculture so as to relate such an education to rural development. The ways and means of implementing the recommendations were examined by successive High Level Expert Committees appointed by the Government of India. The First Joint Indo-American Team headed by Mr. K. R. Damle (1955) the Second Joint Indo-American Team headed by Dr. M. S. Randhawa (1960), the Agricultural Research Review Team headed by Dr. M.P. Parker (1964) and the Education Commission headed by Dr. D. S. Kothari (1966) have all brought out the role Agricultural Universities could play in achieving the objectives of the Radhakrishnan



Commission. The first blueprint for Agricultural Universities in India was prepared by Dr. H. W. Hannah (1956) which was further refined by an Expert Committee headed Dr. R. W. Cummings (1962). The concept of Agricultural Universities in India, was evolved on the basis of the success achieved over the past one century and more by the Land Grant Colleges in the United States of America in which country rapid growth of agro-industries took place through intensification of farming practices on scientific lines.



First Agricultural University

The first Agricultural University of India was inaugurated in 1960 at Pantnagar in Uttar Pradesh. Since then 20 more Agricultural Universities have been set up, one in each State, except four in Maharashtra and three in Uttar Pradesh. The Indian Agricultural Research Institute at New Delhi has been given the status of a 'Deemed University.' Thus, out of 110 Universities and ten 'Deemed Universities' in India, nearly one fifth are fully devoted to development of Agriculture and related fields, covering almost the entire length and breadth of the country. While the Agricultural Universities are much smaller when compared with the student enrolment of the conventional Universities, their objectives and responsibilities are much different.

Objectives of Agricultural Universities

The objectives of Agricultural Universities are three fold, viz., (i) imparting collegiate education leading to undergraduate and post-graduate degree and short duration diploma and certificate courses in various branches of Agricultural Science, (ii) Research work in every

branch of Agricultural Science involving utilisation of natural resources of soil, water, energy and other agro-climatic factors to produce food, feed and fodder and on their economic utilisation and (iii) Extension education to disseminate scientific knowledge in different branches of Agricultural Science for the benefit of the common man, particularly that of the farming community in the rural areas. The distinctive features of the Agricultural Universities as given in the Cummings Committee Report are :

Each Agricultural University recognise the responsibility and is responsive to the needs of cultivators in contrast to be only a seat of learning and scholarship, it assumes a responsibility for work towards the economic development as well as the improvement of living standards of the people.

In an Agricultural University, the teaching staff, in addition to having a responsibility for resident instruction, will also have a responsibility for applied as well as fundamental research in Agriculture ; such research is not merely limited to the laboratories and experiment stations, but goes beyond, into the fields and homes of the rural people living under varied conditions in different parts of the State.

The curricula and the training programmes in the Agricultural University are modelled in a manner as to be in keeping with the needs of the State on one hand, and with the aptitudes and needs of the students on the other ; this means that the curriculum is flexible and is capable of being offered in the form of specialised courses covering a wide ground of subject matter. The chief medium through which the farmers derive the benefits of progress in agricultural research and education, under the Agricultural University, is the extension education organisation of the University which is for that purpose fully integrated with its teaching

and research organisations ; this ensures a smooth and effective flow of the results of research and the benefits of the training programme to the farm population and in return ensures easy transmission of the problems of the farmers to the research staff so that they can be tackled promptly and effectively.

The jurisdiction of the Agricultural University in respect of agricultural and related sciences includes the entire State, or a region of the State, if there are more than one University in the State, keeping with the principles and responsibilities stated above.

Extension Education

The objectives of the 21 Agricultural Universities so far set up in India, differ significantly in many respects from those of traditional or conventional, affiliating or residential types of Universities. These twentyone Universities are in different stages of development and not all of them have fully achieved the main objectives. There have been, and in most cases continue to exist, several hurdles in the pathway for development. While in some Universities there is built-in capacity to overcome the hurdles the other have to gain experience with time, emulating the examples of the more successful ones. It may be stated, in this context, that as these Universities grow. (i) more of integration of teaching, research and extension education within the University is expected to take place ; (ii) State-wide research responsibility in diffe-

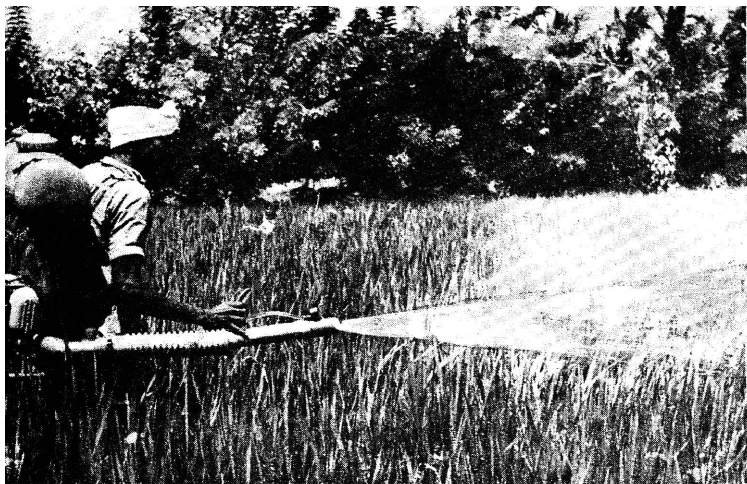
rent branches of Agricultural Science, in support of the developmental activities of the State Government would rest with the University ; (iii) the extension programmes of the State Government would be closely linked to the University's extension education programmes ; and (iv) the required leadership and in-service training for strengthening each of the developmental activities in the State would be provided by the University.

In the course of next few years, an Indian model for Agricultural University with the required details on infrastructure, administrative set up, etc., would emerge. Such a model would not only be much different from the conventional or traditional University in India, but also different from the Agricultural Universities in other parts of the world.

Middle Level Technical Training

While we have developed a strong higher educational programme in different branches of agriculture, we are yet to develop the middle-level technical training programme to meet with the needs of the changing future in agriculture. We have today programmes for training agricultural assistants, stockmen, dairymen, forest rangers, fisheries technicians and a few others through short-term diploma/certificate courses. These are offered mostly by Government or quasi-Government institutions such as Rural Institutes, of which there are 87 in the country.





Besides, there are also short-term training programmes for school/college drop-outs so as to prepare them for supervisory work under rural development programmes. Gramsevak and gram-sevika training programmes, farm-maistries training programmes, etc. fall under this category. There are in all about eight Agricultural Schools training school drop-outs for field mastery's work. However, the total number of such middle level technical personnel in the country is not adequate to meet the growing needs. If all the farm holdings in the country are to be effectively serviced with technical know how in different disciplines of agriculture, we need several folds more number of persons and with much higher technical competence than at present. The quality of each of the training programmes needs also to be streamlined, on nation-wide basis. Another important aspect which is often overlooked is the competence of the trained personnel over a long period of their service, for which frequent in-service, on-job training is essential. Thus, we need to strengthen the quality and quantity of our technical educational programmes, to place our agriculture on sound scientific footings.

Farmer's Training Programmes

Institutional training programmes for the farmers started soon after independence. Today there are 138 Farmers' Training Centres distributed all over the country. So far about four million farmers have been given one or the other type of training and have been exposed to scientific farming practices. A majority of them have been trained under production-cum-demonstration training camps. More recently, the concept of Farm Science

Centres (Krishi Vigyan Kendras) has been accepted and 25 such centres have been established in the country. These centres are to train with a multi-disciplinary approach, progressive farmers, farm women and youth on different aspects of scientific farming and also offer pre-service and in-service training to middle and lower level technical and skilled farm operators so as to strengthen integrated rural development. During the Sixth Plan period 50 more such centres are likely to be set up, covering the entire nation and locating them in economically more backward districts of the country.

Rural Labour

Thus, attempts are being made to impart technical skills in the farm families and rural labour force and also in the supervisory and extension staff with a view to facilitating rapid transfer of technology of farm research institutions to the rural areas. There are also several innovative radio and door-darshan programmes to educate the farmers. In order to make such a transfer effective, receptivity of newer knowledge at the rural level, should be continuously im-

proved. It is, therefore, important that the seed is sown early in the minds of rural school-going children about the importance of agriculture and the need for developing it into a science-based technology. The high school and college drop-outs should be given specialised training in different branches of agricultural sciences so that they gain the required skill and got absorbed into the various agricultural operations and agro-based small scale industries in rural areas, instead of migrating to urban areas in search of job and basic comforts in life. For example, where sericulture is important the technical skill to improve mulberry cultivation, silk worm rearing, reeling of the cocoons and others related to the cottage based industry should be covered through need-based educational and training programmes.

Higher Returns

Today in India one hectare of irrigated land is supporting about four persons and the rainfed land about one to 1.5 persons by providing job opportunities for each person for about 180 to 220 days a year. In the agriculturally advanced and thickly populated countries like Japan, Taiwan, China and South Korea, the number supported by each hectare of arable land is about three to four times more. This is mainly because of high technical input for more intensive farming practices in these countries, resulting in higher economic returns which in turn has enabled better absorption of rural labour force in agriculture. It should, therefore, be possible for us in this country to develop such an agricultural economy, for which a strong basic as well as technical educational programme is essential. We need to restructure our educational curricula and courses to meet with these basic requirements of the country.

COURTESY: "YOJANA"





The Southern Zonal Council meeting was held in the Conference Hall of Tamil Nadu Secretariat, on September 25, under the Presidentship of the Prime Minister Thiru Morarji Desai. The meeting discussed a wide range of subjects concerning the States.

The Chief Ministers of Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Lt. Governor of Pondicherry and Pondicherry Chief Minister attended the conference. The Prime Minister appreciated the arrangements that Tamil Nadu Government made for holding the Zonal Conference after a long interval.

PUNISHMENT FOR ADULTERATION

One of the items of interest to all States that came up before the Council was measures to prevent adulteration of food arti-

cles and drugs. The Tamil Nadu Finance Minister, Thiru K. Manoharan, raised the question of stones found in rice and urged the measures contemplated for awarding deterrent punishment to those who indulged in adulteration should cover even cases of mixing stones with rice. The Prime Minister expressed concern over this evil practice and said this should be put down with a heavy hand.

TONING ADMINISTRATION

On the question of toning up the quality of administration, the Prime Minister urged the Chief Ministers to see that the grievances of the public were redressed with the least possible delay. The Chief Ministers indicated the steps already taken in this direction; Particularly, the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister pointed out that in his State complaints cells had been set up both at the Secretariat and at the

district levels, and arrangements made to acknowledge the receipt of petitions and to dispose them of speedily.

Regarding steps for increasing production of cotton in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, the A.P. Chief Minister emphasised the need for higher price support for cotton so that the diversion from cotton to more remunerative crops could be prevented.

FAMILY WELFARE

The Prime Minister asked the Chief Ministers to take greater interest in the family planning programme. He said that no welfare programme could succeed unless the families were small. He said that there should be no coercion, but the people should be educated and persuaded to realise that the small family norm was for their own good.

Minister, Thiru M. G. Ramachandran, the Finance Minister, Thiru K. Manoharan, the Electricity Minister, Thiru S. Ramachandran and the Food Minister, Thiru G. R. Edmund. They were assisted by the Chief Secretary, Thiru V. Karthikeyan, and the Finance Secretary, Thiru K. Venkatesan.

P.M. APPRECIATES PLEA OF TAMIL NADU

The Chief Ministers of Southern States have agreed to consider the Tamil Nadu Government's suggestion for a 25-kilometre dry belt around the State for effective enforcement of its total prohibition policy.

The suggestion was made by Tamil Nadu at the Southern Zonal Council meeting as part of its efforts to control smuggling of liquor from the surrounding wet States.

SOUTHERN ZONAL COUNCIL MEETING AT MADRAS

DRY BELT

The Prime Minister, Thiru Morarji Desai, who is known for his strong convictions in favour of introducing Prohibition throughout India, appreciated Tamil Nadu's point of view and emphasised that the dry belt should come about without any delay.

Tamil Nadu also raised at the meeting the need for inter-State co-operation and co-ordination for implementing the Prohibition policy and stressed in particular aspects like control of inter-State transport of liquor and control on movement and sale of methanol. Though there was no detailed discussion on the modalities of co-operation, the States pledged their support and co-operation to help Tamil Nadu make its Prohibition policy a success.

THE TAMIL NADU FINANCE MINISTER

The Tamil Nadu Finance Minister Thiru K. Manoharan, pointed out that the linking of Central assistance with the performance in family welfare programme led to coercive methods. But the Prime Minister made it clear that he was against adoption of coercive methods and the linking up of grant of funds with the performance did not amount to coercion as apprehended.

A suggestion by Kerala for removal of disparity in wage rates in beedi industry, cashew, handloom and fisheries in the region, was remitted to the conference of Labour Ministers for consideration. The Prime Minister felt it would be difficult to have uniformity on matters like this as conditions differed from place to place.

At the meeting, Tamil Nadu was represented by the Chief

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES SERVICE TO SOCIETY

The Tamil Nadu Archives, better known by its old name, the 'Madras Record Office' at Egmore just opposite the Railway Parcel Office may not have registered itself in the minds of many, in spite of its location in a fairly central place of the city. There are a few shady trees around the building ; for a persons passing on through Gandhi-Irwin Road in a fast moving vehicle, the extensive branches of these trees and parts of the red brick walls of the building, become visible in quick succession, and the red colour vaguely brings to memory something British. The familiarity of a few others is also marred by an imaginary and remote identity of 'archieves' with archeology and 'museum.'

The Tamil Nadu Archives is one of the pioneer archives in the world, like the Archives Nationale of Paris, the Public Record Office, England, and the National Archives, Washington. Having its origin as a small record room of the Secretariat in 1805 during the days of Lord William Bentinck, Governor of Madras, the Tamil Nadu Archives has grown to an internationally reputed institution. It was housed in the present building in 1909.

Source Material

The occultness, however, does not minimise the significance of the service the Tamil Nadu Archives has been rendering. The Tamil Nadu Archives houses the Dutch Records from 1657 to 1845 ; the Danish Records from 1777 to 1845; the Persian Records from 1670 to 1847 ; the English East India Company Records from 1670 to 1857 and the records of the successive Governments of Madras from 1858 to 1972. The different District Collectorate records transferred to the Archives range from 1767 to 1857. These are valuable source materials for local history. Besides, the archives has centralized the Inam records, the Church records from 1749 to 1907, the District Court records from 1804 to 1858, the High Court (Supreme Court) records from 1801 to 1862, the Sheriff's records from 1789 to 1920, and the records of the Receiver or Carnatic Stipends from 1845 to 1847 and the Confidential records.

The Tamil Nadu Archives has a long list of publications to its

credit. The records were published in — extense, and in the form of selections, select documents and calendars. Printing in—extense has now been given up as many historians have already worked upon the East India Company records and many of the important records of this period are already known. Publishing of select documents from the records of the first half of the present century has been undertaken now.

Research Hall

The Tamil Nadu Archives has good finding aids in the form of indexes, press lists, guides, calendars and reprints. The Research Hall in Tamil Nadu Archives is well equipped and furnished and is the best in India. The research hall admits scholars from all parts of the world for their research leading to a research degree or otherwise according to the rules prescribed in this matter. Recently the rules have been so liberalised as to conform to international standards. According to the present rules, only the records of the last 30 years are withheld from research as against the 50 year-limit prescribed previously. The researchers have abundant materials here on all conceivable topics from individual claims, to discussions of public policy. A Research Officer attends to the needs of the scholars in their research work.

The records are dusted, brushed and cleaned systematically by the help of vaccum cleaners and hand dusters. Such of them as are brittle are repaired with chiffon (a thin transerent silk gauze) or hand laminated with acetate foils and tissue paper. Before doing so, the paper is decacidified to remove acidity in paper which otherwise would ear away the cellulose melecule in paper and would make it decay. The records are also fumigated in small wooden chambers with para dichlore benzene or thymol to destroy any insect parasites in them. The quantity of records to be repaired and reconditioned is so large that manual operations alone are not likely to yield substantial results in any reasonable time. Machine lamination has, therefore, become a necessity.

Useful Service

With the growth of archives consciousness, the activities of the

Tamil Nadu Archives will be better understood by the learned members of the public and that its importance will be appreciated more in the coming years. Archives in its real sense, does not belong to Government alone. It is a part of the way of life and system of values of a people. Participation by the people themselves is essential, if the archival system should work well in the country. It is not simply in the hands of a few Government officials or highbrow scholars. It is the responsibility of every citizen. By destroying or losing by any other way, an important letter or document, we should realize that an evidence of our civilisation is lost ; an important link in the chain of human relation is broken.

Creating records is a process in which all of us are engaged, either directly or indirectly. Of course it cannot be gainsaid, all the records are not equally important. We cannot allow them to accumulate without any discretion. But we should also remember that if a record is destroyed, it is lost once for all. In day-to-day life, occasions in which people feel sorry for having destroyed a record are not rare. The correspondence with eminent men, important institutions and so on, undoubtedly deserve very careful thinking before destruction. The same is very much true in the Nation's life. The Archives discharges the responsibility of preserving the important records, arranging them in good order and also making them available for the purposes of reference and research. Unless this service is done efficiently, many books could not have appeared ; many events could not have been properly analysed ; and many schemes could not have been formulated.

It is true that not all can benefit directly from the archives. But everybody unknowingly enjoys the fruits of archives' labour. And, archives is always ready to advise and assist in the matters related to preservation of records ; and to share its collections with the scholars engaged in research.

Archives is a repository of records, a treasure house, useful to not only scholars and researchers but also to the society at large, for the social growth takes its fabulum from such institutions of eminence.

GOVERNMENT ACCEPT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THIRD TAMILNADU PAY COMMISSION

The Government have announced their decisions on the recommendations of the Third Tamil Nadu Pay Commission. A pay structure based on the principle of "Broadbanding", smooth avenues of advancement to employees based on the principle of "Flexible Complementing", substantial fitment benefits, an egalitarian ratio between minimum and maximum remunerations, rationalisation of House Rent Allowance, City Compensatory Allowance, increase in the honoraria of the Village Officers and increase in pension are some of the salient features of the Pay Commission's recommendations.

While the Government have accepted the recommendations of the Commission securing substantial benefits to 7.6 lakh employees of the State Government, educational institutions and local bodies, they have further liberalised the benefits particularly in respect of fitment in new scales of pay, avenues of advancement for the Last Grade Government servants and employees of local bodies, etc., and recovery of rent from employees occupying Government accommodation in rural areas. The recommendations of the Pay Commission as accepted by the Government will involve an ultimate expenditure of Rs. 67 crores per annum. The immediate annual commitment will be Rs. 37 crores.

Pay Rationalisation and Revision

The revised floor remuneration in the Government will be Rs. 250 per month and the maximum salary, Rs. 2,500 per month. Under the revised pay scale, the pre-tax disparity ratio is 10 : 1 and the post-tax disparity ratio about 8.8 : 1. This is among the lowest in the country, signifying an egalitarian pay structure.

The highlights of the Commission's recommendations, which have been accepted by the Government, are rationalisation of the large number of existing pay scales and their reclassification according to the skill, work and effort factors in the job content and the provision for almost automatic advancement of employees. The existing number of pay scales, which is 76, will be reduced to 20 new scales of pay under the recommendations of the Pay Commission. The Commission has followed the principle of 'Broadbanding' in classifying employees into 20 pay groups. The revised pay scales have been constructed after merging the entire Dearness Allowance and interim relief sanctioned in 1977 with pay. The new pay structure is linked to the All India Consumer Price Index (AICPI) of 320 (1960-100). As per the recommendations of the Pay Commission, accepted by the Government, Dearness Allowance will be sanctioned when the 12 months' average of AICPI increases by 8 points over the AICPI of 320. The present average figure is 326. Payment of Dearness Allowance will become due when it reaches 328.

Promotion and Advancement Avenue

Under the new scheme of 'Flexible Complementing' recommended by the Pay Commission and accepted by the Government, most of the employees upto the middle management levels completing ten years' service can move up to the higher posts, Selection Grades or Special Grades on higher scales of pay irrespective of the availability of vacancies. In other words, advancement prospects of these categories of employees will hereafter be linked to the length of service and not merely to the vacancies in the higher posts. To cite a few examples, on completion of ten years' service, a Deputy Tahsildar will move up to the post of Tahsildar, a Senior Inspector of Cooperative Societies, to the post of Cooperative Sub Registrar, a Sub Inspector of Police, to the post of Deputy Inspector of Police and a GramaSevak, Livestock Inspector or Police Constable in Grade II, to Grade I. Likewise, on completion of ten years' service, an Assistant, Superintendent, Tahsildar, Dy. Commercial Tax Officer, Asst. Engineer, Junior Engineer, Inspector of Police, Deputy Collector, Deputy Supdt. of Police, Dist. Agricultural Officer, Dist. Educational Officer, Asst. Executive Engineer and Civil Assistant Surgeon will move up to Selection Grades on higher scales of pay. These are only illustrative cases and many other categories will benefit in this way. In addition to Selection Grade, Special Grades on higher pay scales are being opened up for Graduate Teachers, Secondary Grade Teachers, High Grade Teachers and Tamil Pandits. Teachers completing ten years' service in the Selection Grades will advance to the Special Grades.

L. G. Servants

While recommending time-bound advancement avenues for most of the categories of employees, the Pay Commission recommended that this arrangement need not cover the Last Grade Government Servants. The Government have considered the position of the Last Grade Government Servants and equivalent categories with concern and compassion and decided to open up Selection Grade for them also. This will benefit about 30,000 Last Grade Government Servants and another about 20,000 employees of equivalent categories. Further, the Government have accepted the Pay Commission's recommendations aimed at enabling the Last Grade Government Servants to move up to clerical positions as well as to acquire skills and secure better employment in other areas.

Additional and Stagnation increments

While employees belonging to most of the categories upto the middle management levels would benefit by the scheme of advancement outlined in earlier paragraphs, the others would, on completion of a service of ten years, receive two annual increments instead of the

usual single annual increment and this benefit would be with cumulative effect. Persons reaching the maximum of the scale will be permitted to continue to draw increments upto the pay of Rs. 1,500 per month.

Fitment Scheme

The Government have accepted the recommendations of the Pay Commission on fitting the pay of employees in the new pay scales; the minimum benefit arising out of such fitment has been increased by the Government. Under this scheme, the pay of employees as on 31-3-1978 will be increased by 5% and the Dearness Allowance and interim relief sanctioned in 1977 will be added to it. The pay of the employees will be fixed at the corresponding stage in the new scales and if there be no such stage, at the stage above it. The Pay Commission has recommended that the pay in the revised scales so arrived at should be at least Rs. 25 more than the emoluments drawn on the 31st March, 1978 inclusive of the quantum of interim relief of 1977. In other words, the Commission has recommended a minimum benefit of Rs. 15 compared to the emoluments comprising the pay, Dearness Allowance and Interim Relief as on the 31st March 1978. The Government have increased this minimum benefit to Rs. 20. The maximum benefit will be Rs. 130. This increase will include the interim relief sanctioned with effect from 1-4-1978. The Government's decision in enhancing the minimum increase will benefit a large number of employees, especially in the lower pay ranges.

Central D. A. Formula to be adopted

Yet another important recommendation of the Pay Commission accepted by the Government relates to Dearness Allowance. At present, the Government of India sanction Dearness Allowance to their employees with every 8 points increase in the All India Consumer Price Index over 200 (1960-100). This Dearness Allowance is given as a percentage of pay depending on the pay range. In future, employees in the State will also receive Dearness Allowance under a similar formula with suitable adjustments for the All India Consumer Price Index of 320 to which the revised pay structure in the State is linked.

Relief to Pensioners

Pension of the existing pensioners is being increased by 5% subject to a minimum additional benefit of Rs. 10 and maximum benefit of Rs. 25.

Social Security-cum-Savings Scheme

At present, employees contribute Re. 1 per month and the families of employees dying in harness receive a sum of Rs. 10,000. Under the scheme proposed by the Pay Commission which was in force a few years back and later discontinued, each employee will contribute Rs. 10 per month. The Government will also make a contribution. An employee retiring after 30 years' service will get Rs. 7,200.

Village Officers

Honoraria of the Village Officers have been increased by Rs. 15 per month over what they were receiving as on the 31st March 1978. The increase over the present rates of honoraria will be Rs. 10 per month. The Consolidated Travelling Allowance of the Village

** The Third Tamil Nadu Pay Commission was the first pay panel in the State to be headed by a retired High Court Judge.*

** The Third Pay Commission held discussions with the largest number of (1361) service Associations.*

** The Third Tamil Nadu Pay Commission submitted its report to the Government in a record time of less than a year.*

** The Government have implemented the main recommendations of the Pay Commission with effect from 1-4-1978.*

** The disparity ratio in the revised pay structure is the lowest ever in Tamil Nadu pre-tax 10:1 and post-tax of about 8.8:1.*

** The existing 76 scales of pay have been rationalised and reduced to 20.*

** Provision has been made for service based, virtually automatic, advancement to a very broad spectrum of employees on completion of ten years' service, without linking the promotional prospects merely to the vacancies in the higher posts.*

** For the first time in this State, the rental on Government accommodation in rural areas is being drastically reduced. Employees occupying Government accommodation in these areas will hereafter pay only 5% of their pay as house rent as against 10% at present.*

** In future, Dearness Allowance will be granted based on the movement of the average All India Consumer Price Index, as is being done by Government of India.*

As a result of the above decisions, about 7.6 lakhs persons will be benefitted.

Officers has been increased from Rs. 12 to Rs. 30 per annum depending on the distance of their villages from the Taluk Headquarters.

Pay Ceilings for H. R. A. / C. C. A. Allowance Removed

House Rent Allowance and City Compensatory Allowance have been liberalised. At present employees above a particular pay are not eligible for these allowances in cities and towns other than Madras. This restriction has been removed and all employees working in cities and towns to which these allowances apply, will benefit from them.

Employees of Local Bodies

The Government have accepted the recommendation of the Pay Commission to treat the teachers in the local bodies and aided educational institutions on par with the Government teachers, providing the same scales of pay and similar avenues of advancement to higher grades. However, the Pay Commission has observed that the pay structure of the other employees of the local bodies need not be the same as that of the Government servants. It has recommended a lower scale of pay for the Junior Assistants in the local bodies than in the Government and has not recommended Selection Grades or avenues of advancement to higher posts to the employees of the local bodies as in the case of Government employees. The Government have not accepted this part of the recommendation. Keeping in view the past practice and working conditions of the employees of local bodies, the Government have decided to open up advancement avenues to the employees of the local bodies on the lines of those for the Government employees. This decision of the Government, which envisages a very liberal framework of pay structure and prospects of advancement for the employees of local bodies is a marked improvement on the Pay Commission's recommendations.

Special Pay

The Government have accepted in principle the recommendations of the Pay Commission on special pay. While the special pay of employees with professional qualifications such as Typists and Steno-typists has been substantially increased, a number of anomalies in the scheme of special pay have been removed. Typists and Steno-typists are now in receipt of special pay ranging from Rs. 15 to Rs. 75 depending on their qualifications. They will hereafter receive special pay in the range of Rs. 20 to Rs. 125. Certain restrictions on the special pay to the Tamil Typists have been removed. Likewise, the executive cadres in the Government Agriculture and Livestock Farms will receive substantial special pay. The Government have also accepted in principle the recommendations of the Pay Commission for abolition of special pay attached to many posts. However, in order to avoid a sudden and steep fall in the emoluments of these employees, the Government have decided to phase out the special pay attached to these posts over a period of four years.

The Pay Commission has also made a number of recommendations on expansion of rural services and employment by appointment of persons drawn from the local areas on part time basis, delegation of responsibility and authority to lower levels and decentralisation of powers. The Government have accepted these recommendations in principle.

STAFF ASSOCIATIONS WELCOME PAY RAISE

The revised pay scales announced by the Tamil Nadu Government, on the basis of the Third Pay Commission's recommendations have been welcomed by the Tamil Nadu Secretariat Association and the Tamil Nadu Secretariat Officers' Association.

The President of the Tamil Nadu Secretariat Association, Thiru S.N. Rangarajan, thanked the Chief Minister and the Finance Minister for the pay rise. Thiru T.A. Sundararajan, President of the Tamil Nadu Secretariat Officers' Association, said the scales were "by and large beneficial".

Thiru. R. Muthanandam, President of the Tamil Nadu Arasu Aluvalar Kazhagam (C and D group employees) commended the fixation of the minimum basic pay of Rs. 250/- for last grade servants and said the Chief Minister had earned their gratitude by this gesture. He particularly welcomed the removal of the disparity in the D.A. between the Central and the State Government employees.

The Secretary of the Tamil Nadu Asiriyar Koottani, Thiru S. Muthusamy, welcomed the creation of special grade pay scale to teachers but expressed regret that there was no mention about the scale of pay to Higher Secondary teachers.

New Concessions Granted only by Tamil Nadu

The Finance Minister, Thiru Manoharan, on Saturday regarded as "unfortunate" the N.G.O. Union President's criticism of the Government's decisions on the Third Pay Commission's recommendations. The demand of the President was unprecedented.

Thiru Manoharan said, in the past, two pay commissions had been appointed and their recommendations implemented, but Government had not consulted the unions before announcing its decisions.

The present demand "is strange and surprising". He said representatives of employees had conveyed to him that some of the concessions announced were quite new and not implemented in any other State. Generally, all had welcomed the concession to those who were stagnating without promotions; all had expressed satisfaction that considering the present financial stringency, no Government could have done better, he said.

RETIREMENT AGE NOT RAISED

The third pay commission, set up by the Tamil Nadu Government, recommended raising the retirement age of Government employees from 55 to 58, but the Government rejected it keeping in view the limited employment opportunities in the State, Finance Minister K. Manoharan, told newsmen on 26th inst. However, in certain specialised categories, the Government could consider extension of service, he said.

The decisions on the pay commission recommendations would be implemented retrospectively from April 1, 1978 and the arrears from that date would be paid in cash shortly. The Government would issue separate orders providing the option to come under the new scales either immediately or after annual increments. Government favoured fitment in the new scales in the appropriate slab against the pay drawn as on March 31 and then offering the increment in April and the ten-year qualifying period for consideration for promotion, selection grade or special pay would refer only to the service period and not the period under a particular scale of pay.

Thiru Manoharan said the additional financial burden on account of the revision of pay scales of Government employees would not be passed on to the people. A "favourable" award by the Finance Commission, better collection of taxes, the Centre's proposal to make good at least part of the loss due to the implementation of prohibition and its readiness to share the excise duty revenue from power generated would help the State bridge the gap, Thiru. Manoharan said. "So far as our Government is considered, the picture of tomorrow is not bleak, though not rosy", the Minister said.

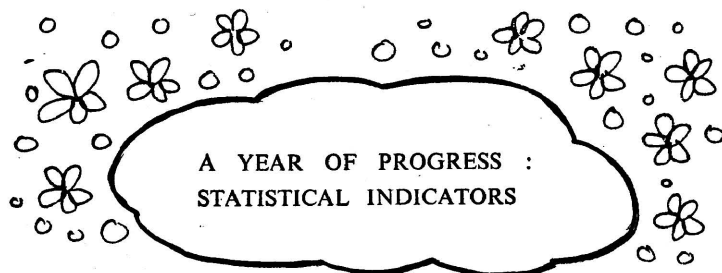
INDUSTRIAL GROWTH CENTRES

STATE Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu, (SIPCOT) set up in 1971, has forged ahead in its effort for promoting and developing medium and major industries in private sector. This Corporation is a catalyst in backward areas. The Ranipet and Hosur growth centres are important achievements of SIPCOT. The area allotted under area development during the period from 1-7-1977 to 31-5-1978 at Ranipet was 29.45 acres. During the same period the area allotted at Hosur was 388.94 acres. Term loan sanction of Rs. 213.55 lakhs was made during the period from 1-7-77 to 31-5-78 and the disbursement effected during the same period was Rs. 95.27 lakhs. Underwriting/direct subscription sanction of Rs. 11 lakhs have also been made during the same period.

Agency Function

Under interest Free Sales Tax Loan Scheme sanctions/commitments to the extent of Rs. 132.43 lakhs and disbursements to the extent of Rs. 92.89 lakhs were made during the period from 1-7-77 to 31-5-78. During the same period under Central Investment Subsidy, sanctions of Rs. 190.40 lakhs and disbursements of Rs. 168.35 lakhs were effected by SIPCOT. During the period 1-7-77 to 31-5-78, it is estimated that the sanctions/commitments under various schemes would have generated direct employment potential for 6,500 persons.

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The survey made by the Statistical Departments reveals that there has been spectacular progress in all fields for the past one year and the Government maintained vigilance over the movement of prices of various commodities.

The quick estimate of net State domestic product (State income) at constant (1960-61) prices registered an increase of 4.7%.

The food-production increased from 70-68 lakh tonnes in 76-77 to 81.1 lakh tonnes in 77-78 resulting in an increase of 14.7%. The per capital real income has increased by 2.7%.

The Government have achieved for the first time, the increase in the rate of State Domestic product

than the increase in the rate of population.

In industrial sector, the production growth was 4.9%.

The year 77-78 witnessed a reversal in the trend of rising prices compared to the preceding years. An over-all fall of 5.9% in the All India Commodities (Composite) Index was noted during 1977-78. Out of this the food-grain group recorded a steep fall of 10.5% and the price of rice declined by 15% for first sort and 16.2 for second sort as against 11.7% and 18.3% respectively in 1976-77.

The total expenditure during 1977-78 under development expenditure accounted for 71.4% as compared to 70.4% in 76-77, the non-development expenditure came down from 29.62% in 76-77 to 28.60% in 77-78.



POSTAL LIFE INSURANCE

CALLING

ALL EMPLOYEES OF CENTRAL & STATE GOVERNMENT

**OVER FIVE LAKHS GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES HAVE ALREADY
INSURED WITH PLI BECAUSE OF :—**

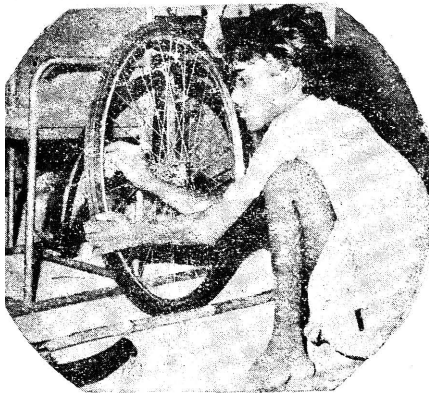
- * Low Premium; Rebate is admissible on advance payment of premiums in cash for a year;
- * High Bonus (presently Rs. 25 and Rs. 33 per thousand sum assured per annum, on Endowment and Whole Life Policies respectively);
- * Premiums deductible from pay bills;
Premiums can be paid in cash also;
- * Premiums eligible for income tax rebate;
- * Prompt payment of loans/claims.

Your policy accounts are maintained by the Postmaster General of the State in which you are posted. Please keep your Postmaster General informed whenever you are transferred from one post to another.

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FOR YOUR FAMILY'S
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IMPROVEMENT IN

ADMISSION SYSTEM FOR

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING

INSTITUTES

The State Government Industrial Training Institutes in TamilNadu invite applications in the month of June every year from young men and women desirous of learning a wide variety of trades such as fitting, turning, moulding, welding, blacksmithy, carpentry, repairing air-conditioning and-refrigeration equipment, repairing radio and television sets, hand-composing and stenography. For 7357 seats in all the Industrial Training Institutes together, over a lakh of applications are received every year.

For the year 1978 admissions, Department of Employment and Training have received 80,754 applications for 2882 seats, bringing the ratio of about 29 applications for every seat. To take up this enormous task, in a free and fair manner, it was necessary to evolve a strict code of regulations to be followed by all the authorities in charge of admissions. This code was evolved for the admissions of 1978. The details are :

Mark System

The Principals of Industrial Training Institutes who are directly responsible for the admissions have been informed to be completely impartial and fearless in carrying out the instructions of the head office

For 18 engineering trades such as fitter, welder, moulder, plumber, carpenter and turner, qualification until 1977 was education upto IX Standard. Applicants for these, trades are now required to have appeared for S.S.L.C. It is also required that for the 18 engineering trades of this group, they must have a minimum of 30% marks in Science and in Mathematics. For the 4 non-engineering trades of this group, this condition does not apply.

Out of 29 engineering trades taught in the various Industrial Training Institutes, Aptitude Test will be conducted for 19 trades covering admission of 6410 seats (amounting to 87% of the total seats). Aptitude Test is a non-cultural test evolved by experts of International Labour Organisation and Officers of Government of India. These tests include the—Number Series, Analogy, Spatial Visualisation, Computation, Three Dimensional Space, etc. Validity of these tests was checked last year after the 1977 admissions. It was found that it is truly culture-free as rural boys had done as well as urban boys in these tests. The following figures will speak for themselves :

Rural Boys also fare well

Out of 2170 rural boys admitted into Industrial Training Institutes after Aptitude testing, 2016 (93%) had passed the test. As regards urban boys, out of 3202 boys admitted into industrial Training Institutes after aptitude testing, 3010 (94%) had passed in the Aptitude Test. This year also Aptitude Tests was conducted for 38,460—candidates (i.e. six times the total number of seats to be filled for aptitude tested trades). Thus, not all the applicants who fulfil the educational qualifications would be automatically called for aptitude testing. They will have to come within the six times the number of seats of a given industrial Training Institute. Those who rank below that number will not even be called for aptitude testing. It is at this point that influence and pressures are expected to be effectively nullified.

The final results for the 19 Aptitude tested trades affecting 6410 seats will be declared strictly on the

basis of marks obtained by the students in Science and in Mathematics in the S.S.L.C. Examination, and marks scored in Aptitude Test.

This year, there was no interview. This is another major improvement which is expected to check corrupt practices. For the non-engineering trades, total marks obtained in the S.S.L.C. Examination would be taken into consideration and selection made.

RESERVATION

For every trade, rule of statutory reservation will be strictly followed. This would mean reservation of seats for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes 18%, Backward Classes 31%, Handicapped 3% (This reservation is included in the reservation in the first three items).

It is to be hoped that this streamlined admission procedure will result in admissions strictly according to merit and it is also expected that this will bring about an over-all improvement in the functioning of the Industrial Training—Institutes.

ISSUE OF GENERAL PROVIDENT FUND ACCOUNT STATEMENTS FOR 1977—78

Account Statements for 1977-78 in respect of all General Provident Fund Account Numbers with the following suffixes have been sent to the Heads of Offices.

*EDN, MEDL, PH, AGRI, VETY, CVD, CO-OP, IND, PW, FOR, EL, SCI, PORT, and CPF (WC)

Subscribers are requested to take delivery of their Account Statement from the Offices where they were working during March, 1978.

CASTELESS SOCIAL SYSTEM IS THE FOUNDATION OF A SOCIALIST SOCIETY

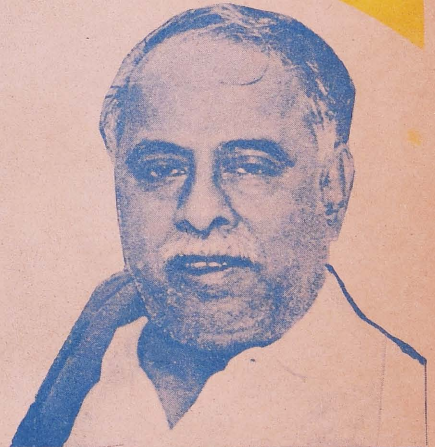


Feeling of high and low birth adds fuel to the ever — increasing communal conflict in our country. So, this feeling should be destroyed and real knowledge that all human beings are one should grow and gain strength among people.

—THANTHAI PERIYAR

Caste is the first force that creates discrimination among the people in this country. It is a venom mixed in the blood of our people. It is a system that has paralysed the mind. Hence, Caste should be annihilated first if we are to usher in a casteless society based on equality and socialism.

—PERARIGNAR ANNA



LET US ALL REDEDICATE
OURSELVES TO ACHIEVE
OUR GOAL OF AN
EGALITARIAN SOCIAL ORDER

Regd. No. 8676—A

