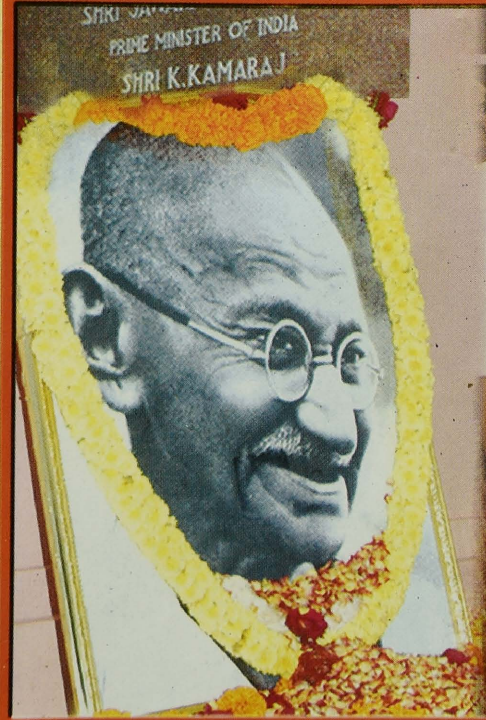


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Editorial

Editor and Publisher

Dr. A.C. Mohandoss, IAS.,

Director,

Information and Public Relations

Joint Editors

D. Thamarachelvam

Deputy Director (Publications)

M. Shrinagesh

Assistant Director

Associate Editors

S.P. Ezhilazhagan

D.R. Jayashree

R. Sekar

Assistant Editors

G. Rajarajeswari

R. Suresh

V.R. Navaneetha Krishna Kumar

R. Ilavarasi

Reporters

G. Shanmugam

Maya Khumaresun

Journal Assistants

D. Periyar Socrates

J. Jayasimhan

Photographer :

V. Radhakrishnan

Layout :

A. Mathan

R. Balaji

Printed at :

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Omandurar Government Estate,

Annasalai,

Chennai - 600 002.

Tel : 25368926 / 25364906

Fax : 25364906

E-mail : tamilarasu@tn.gov.in

Website : www.tn.gov.in

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ஊண்உடை எச்சம் உயிர்க்கெல்லாம் வேறுஅல்ல

நாண்உடைமை மாந்தர் சிறப்பு.

The food and clothing and the rest of other necessities, are all common to all human beings, but modesty is the specific feature of the good men of distinction.

Thirukkural : 1012

First Wrapper

: Floral tributes were paid to Annal Gandhi on his 139th Birth Anniversary by His Excellency the Governor & Hon'ble Chief Minister on 2.10.2007.

Second Wrapper

: Floral tributes were paid to Thanthai Periyar on his 129th Birth Anniversary by Hon'ble Chief Minister on September 17, 2007,

Fourth Wrapper

: Hon'ble Chief Minister presents a memento to Hon'ble Union Minister for HRD, Thiru Arjun Singh at the inauguration of the Central Research Institute of Classical Tamil on 18.8.2007.

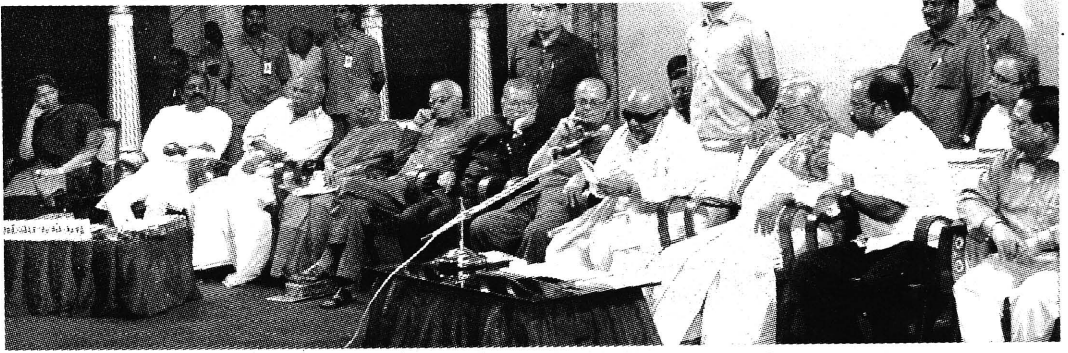


THE DREAM OF TAMILS NURTURED FOR CENTURIES FULFILLED

- Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi declared that the country could develop only if the people developed and the people would develop only if their language developed.





Presiding over the inauguration of Central Institute of Research in Classical Tamil in Chennai on August 18, 2007, the Chief Minister said, "Parithimar Kalaigarnar was the first Tamil Scholar, who demanded that Tamil should be declared as a Classical Language. His commemorative Stamp was released only on August 17, 2007 by the Union Government at Chennai. Today we are conducting this Historic Function. This is a rare co-incidence. I feel proud to say that Tamil is the first language, declared as a Classical Language".

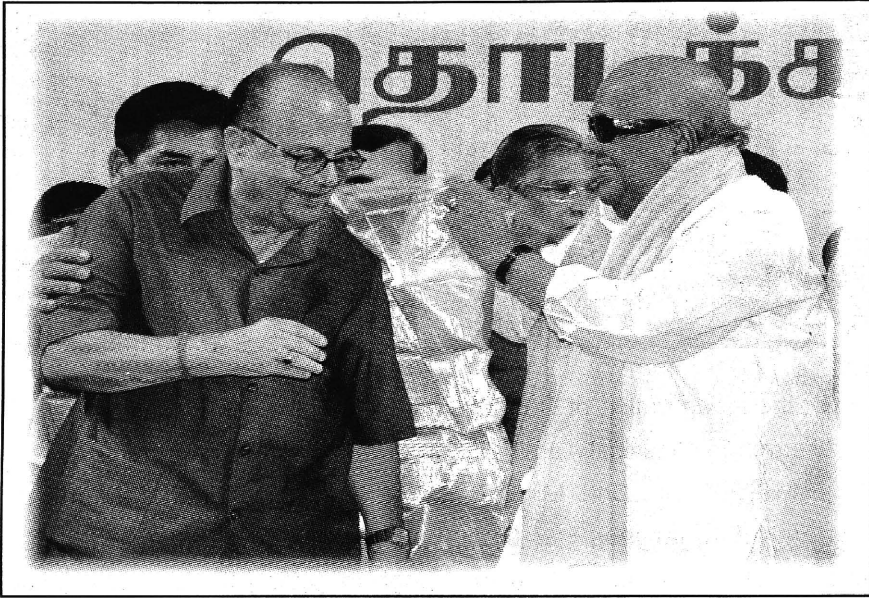
"This announcement fulfilled more than a Century-old dream of the Tamils. On behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu, and Tamils living across the world, I convey my gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Dr.Manmohan Singh and the UPA Chair-person, Tmt.Sonia Gandhi for this spectacular achievement".

"Tamils all over the world are equally grateful to Hon'ble Union HRD Minister, Thiru. Arjun Singh, for this Central Institute of Research in Classical Tamil at Chennai".

The Hon'ble Chief Minister said that, right from the initial stage, when the Central institute at Chennai was proposed, the amount of enthusiasm and effort shown by Thiru. Arjun Singh in getting the proposal materialise, is really unforgettable. "I am personally thankful to him for this landmark achievement", he added.

"Tamils and Tamil History will always remember three names in this regard - Tmt. Sonia Gandhi, Dr.Manmohan Singh and Thiru. Arjun Singh", the Chief Minister added.

The Chief Minister said that those who had come for the function had come out of their affinity for Tamil. "We did not bring any of you here and we never put up posters publicising the event to invite all of you in a big way. We did not invite anyone but you have all come here out of your love for the language. It is Tamil that has brought you all here. We took interest in getting the classical language status for Tamil and after achieving this we are a bit tired. This brief spell of weariness is quite natural," he said.



The Chief Minister said the Centre had fulfilled the dream of the Tamils nurtured for many centuries. The Centre had acted swiftly on his request for a Central Institute of Research in Classical Tamil at Chennai.

“We know Arjun’s (in the Mahabaratha) arrow is fast and accurate. But this Arjun’s arrow is even faster. It has caused love and not injury in my heart,” the Hon’ble Chief Minister quipped praising the Union Minister’s quick response to his appeal. Although, he had been ill, he did not disclose it for fear that Thiru. Arjun Singh might postpone the programme, the Chief Minister added.

The Chief Minister thanked the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, United Progressive Alliance Chairperson Tmt. Sonia Gandhi and Thiru. Singh for declaring Tamil a classical language. He explained the need for

***“We know Arjun’s
(in the Mahabaratha) arrow
is fast and accurate.
But this Arjun’s arrow is
even faster. It has caused
love and not injury in my
heart”***

establishing the Central Institute of Research in Classical Tamil.

The Chief Minister honoured Thiru. Udaya Narayana Singh, Director of the Central Institute of Indian Languages and Thiru. K. Ramaswamy, Deputy Director, for their support in making the Institute on Classical Tamil a reality. ★



PRIZE MONEY OF TOLKAPPIYAR AWARD INCREASED

The Centre has increased the prize money for various awards given to scholars to promote classical Tamil, Hon'ble Union Human Resource Development Minister. Thiru. Arjun Singh said on 18 August, 2007 at the inauguration of the Central Institute of Research in Classical Tamil at Chennai.

Stating that the Centre agreed with Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi's suggestion, Thiru. Arjun Singh said the National Tolkappiyar award amount had been increased from Rs.1 lakh to Rs.5 lakh. A similar hike had been made in respect of two international awards - Kural Peetam.

Five young scholars would be selected for an award of Rs.1 lakh each for which steps were to be taken shortly, he announced.

Thiru. Arjun Singh said the State Government has allotted about 29 acres of land for the Central institute of Research in Classical Tamil at Chennai. Apart from undertaking research, the institute should to teaching so that there was availability of students doing research on Classical Tamil.

The State Government could introduce a paper on Classical Tamil at graduate and postgraduate levels so that interested

students could feel into the new and highly specialised institute.

A set of Critical Edition of the Classical Tamil text was being given final shape to be printed at the Union Government's Press at Coimbatore and a number of informative television episodes on Classical Tamil would be produced before the end of the current year, he said, adding that he would request the Chief Minister to release them on January 14, 2008, to mark the Tiruvalluvar Day.

Calling for a comprehensive understanding of the country's history and culture, the Union Minister said "our philosophic, literary and spiritual heritage today has resulted from the confluence of two major streams represented by the two ancient languages, Sanskrit and Tamil. During the last two centuries, the Sanskrit contribution has been exhaustively studied because of the interest shown by many historians, archaeologists, epigraphists and philologists of both the East and the West. Tamil, an equal partner in the making of this composite Indian culture and the fountainhead of the twenty-odd Dravidian languages, deserves similar attention."

Thiru. Arjun Singh said a firm foundation had been laid with "mutual trust" and "partnership" for the impressive edifice of a

national level institute to come up as a joint venture in Chennai. He suggested that the State Government take steps to introduce a paper on Classical Tamil at graduate and PG levels helping interested students to take up research studies at this specialised institute. He said a set of critical editions of the classical Tamil texts were being given final shape to by the Union Government and would be produced before the end of the current year.

"Tamil is a special language in many ways but its greatest strength is that it is a living classical language. There is no doubt that it occupies a very special position in the history of Indian cultural traditions," he added.

Tamil predated the earliest literature of most other modern Indian languages by more than a thousand years and it was perhaps the only literary tradition indigenous to India that was not derived from Sanskrit, he said. "It is important that we study the linguistic, literary and cultural traditions of both Dravidian and Indo-Aryan groups to understand our composite culture," he Minister said.

Prof. K.Anbazhagan, Hon'ble Finance Minister and Dr.V.C.Kulandaisamy, Vice-chairman of the Central Institute of Classical Tamil, were among those who addressed the function. ★

"TAMIL NADU SHALL BE THE ICT HUB OF SOUTH ASIA"



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu inaugurates 'Connect 2007' on 17.9.2007 at Chennai

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi inaugurated the "Connect 2007" on 17 September, 2007. His address is as follows :

"To achieve what we have said and say what we achieve" has always been my motto.

It is exactly a year ago at 'Connect 2006' that I spoke about an ambitious vision that Tamil Nadu shall be the ICT Hub Information Communication & Technology of South Asia by creating knowledge driven ecosystem,

leveraging entrepreneurship and promoting socially inclusive growth to achieve a 25% production share of the Indian ICI Industry by 2011. I am happy to share with all of you that we are steadily marching ahead to achieve this vision.

The facts speak for themselves. Software exports from Tamil Nadu have crossed the Rs.20 thousand Crore mark. This marks a 46% growth over the last year. Large IT complexes are coming up all over the State. They are spreading their operations not only in Chennai but in other

***“Our journey continues
and we have indeed
miles to go before we
can build a Tamil Nadu
free from hunger,
want, unemployment
and inequality.”***

I am aware that to sustain the momentum, huge investments are required to strengthen the physical infrastructure. Our Government is committed to provide world class infrastructure in order to support the growth of Industry to general and the ICT Industry in particular in Tamil Nadu.

At the same time, I am acutely conscious that the human resources of the State have to be further strengthened. On my initiative, the Government of India is setting up an Indian Institute of Information Technology for Design and Manufacturing near Chennai. I have also requested the Government of India to set up an I.I.T at Madurai, I.I.S.E.R. at Trichy and an I.I.M at Coimbatore. Our Government has taken

special steps to strengthen the system of technical education in the State.

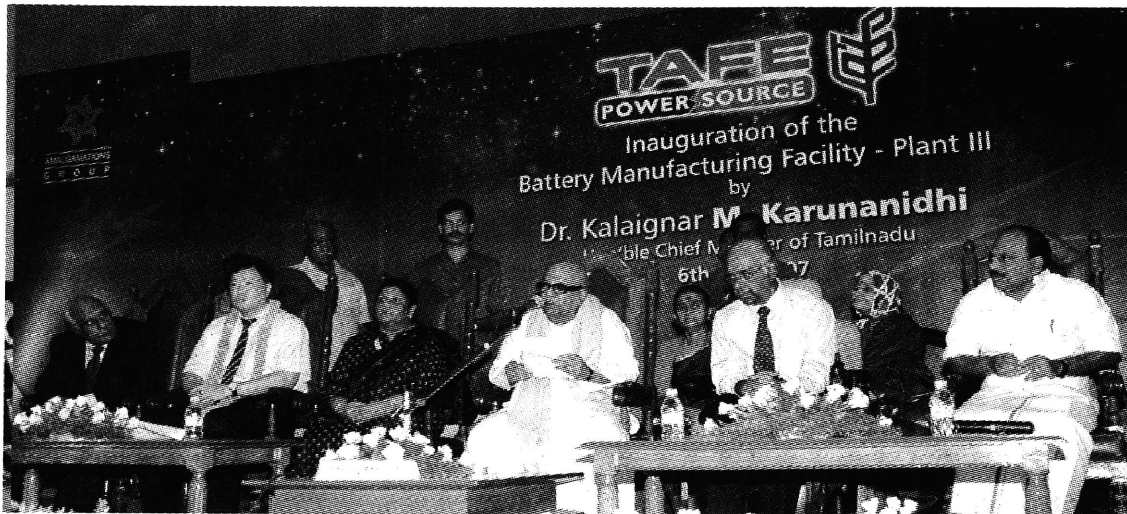
Training is a necessary input to improve the skill of the large number of technically qualified youth. CII can play a leading role in setting up Training Institutes in different parts of the State in collaboration with large Industrial Houses which will benefit the students as well as the Industries. I would also like to highlight a significant development that has taken place in the field of local language computing. During Connect 2006 last year, the Tamil Virtual University had handed over to me a set of recommendations on the need for bringing out a new set of standards for Tamil computing. I am happy to share with you all, that substantial progress has been made on this front and a new encoding system for Tamil is being evolved. This would be a historical step in the area of Tamil computing.

Action, they say, speaks louder than words. Our actions so far have clearly demonstrated our will to forge ahead. The results so far have been extremely satisfying, but we are not content to rest on our laurels. Our journey continues and we have indeed miles to go before we can build a Tamil Nadu free from hunger, want, unemployment and inequality. Together we will realise our goal and take Tamil Nadu and its people to the top in all spheres.

I am happy to note that Moserbaer has decided to invest Rs.2000 crore in Tamil Nadu.

I have great pleasure in inaugurating Connect 2007”.

★



TAMIL NADU TO ENSURE UNIFORM INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ACROSS THE STATE

The State Government will take steps to ensure uniform industrial development across the State, Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaaignar M. Karunanidhi said on 6 July, 2007.

People now desired the establishment of factories in villages and interior parts of the State, not just in and around Chennai, the Chief Minister said, inaugurating the third plant of a Battery Manufacturing Facility of the TAFE (Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited) Power Source at Maraimalainagar, about 40 km from Chennai.

Comparing the performance of his Government in the last 13 months on the industrial front with that of the previous regime,

the Chief Minister noted while five memoranda of understanding were signed for projects costing about Rs.2,200 crore when the previous Government was in power, 10 MoUs were signed by the present Government for projects involving an investment of Rs.9,710 crore.

Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaaignar M. Karunanidhi was responding to the plea of his old friend

Thiru A. Sivasailam, Chairman of the Amalgamations Group, who wanted the Chief minister's support for the manufacturing sector, the source of livelihood for thousands of people even in the IT age.

Recalling his long association with the (TAFE) family, the Chief Minister said that Thiru Sivasailam had gifted a Ferguson tractor to him when he toured London way back in 1971.

"As I had no land to cultivate, I promised to gift the tractor to the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) in Coimbatore," he recalled adding that as the sailors were on strike, the tractor never landed in Chennai and therefore could not be gifted to the TNAU.

Subsequently, an enquiry was ordered as to why the TNAU never got the tractor based on a complaint that he had used it for his personal use, Dr.Kalaingar said and thanked Thiru Sivasailam for having rescued him by producing the necessary

documents. The Chief Minister also remembered the humble beginnings of the TAFE power source that started with 12 workers and a production of 3000 batteries.

The third plant, with a huge initial investment, would manufacture valve regulated lead-acid batteries.

The Chief Minister referred to the establishment and growth of the battery manufacturing facility and said till now, 20 million batteries had been produced.

Tracing the growth of the group, Thiru Sivasailam said Rs.300 crore had been invested in the Maraimalainagar plant.

Noting that the State had become a destination of information technology sector, Thiru. Sivasailam requested Chief Minister to provide support to engineering, manufacturing and textile sectors, which employed thousands of people.

The company sources said the TAFE power sources had tied up with BB Battery Company Limited of China in a technology transfer partnership. This would result in TPS manufacturing and marketing high standard valve-regulated lead - acid batteries in India and a host of south Asian countries under the brand name of AMCO BEST.



Election Poll Promises Almost Fulfilled

*Proudly declares Hon'ble Chief Minister
Kalaighnar M. Karunanidhi*



Hon'ble Chief Minister M.Karunanidhi inaugurating of the Collectors and Police officers' conference at the Secretariat on 30th and 31st July, 2007.

Addressing the annual meeting of District Collectors, SPs, Heads of Departments and Senior Police Officers, the Chief Minister Kalaighnar M.Karunanidhi on 30th and 31st July 2007 proudly declared :-

"That as many as 107 of the 177 promises made in my party's election manifesto have been fulfilled".

The Chief Minister said the government was taking steps to fulfil the remaining 70 promises. With the active involvement of the officials, the schemes were working well, he added.

He listed the Rs.2 per kg rice scheme, three eggs for students as part of the nutritious noon meal, distribution of free colour television sets and free LPG stove and gas supply for the poor, land for landless farmers, granting of house pattas, financial aid scheme for unemployed youth, Anaithu Grama Anna Renaissance Scheme, Varmun Kappom health scheme, Rs.6,000 for poor pregnant women and social security scheme for farm workers among those being implemented well.

The Chief Minister said in the budget announcements for 2006-07, the Government had made a total of 185 announcements.

Of this, 70 had been fully delivered and orders issued for another 63. On

the remaining 52, the Government was taking action to ensure that these were completed early.

In the budget for 2007-08, there were 183 announcements. In the four months that had passed. The Government had succeeded in fulfilling 38 of them. Orders had been issued on 52 announcements and for the remaining 93, the Government was in the process of taking action.

Record production

The Chief Minister said in 2006-07, the food grain production had set a new record of 96.24 tonnes. This year, the monsoon had been good so far.

The Government had decided to add 50 more Uzhavar Sandhais (farmers' markets) to the existing 103. Sites will be



finalised for locating these in the next two months, he said, and wanted the officials to make sure that the markets functioned well.

The Chief Minister said the next phase of distribution of 30 lakh colour televisions would begin in December this year 2007. The second phase was in progress in which 25 lakh television sets would be distributed by November-end. Till July 15, as many as 14,62,179 sets were distributed.

He said the Government was committed to reaching this to all households that did not have a television. If one village received the sets and a neighbouring one did not, there was no reason to worry, he said. That village or street, would also get its share.

Refugee's inflow

Hon'ble Chief Minister Mr. Karunanidhi said from January 12, 2006 till date 19,520 refugees from Sri Lanka had reached Tamil Nadu. There were 74,072 people from Sri Lanka spread across 117 camps in the State. The Government had doubled the financial aid and also extended various schemes to them.

House site pattas will be distributed to three lakh poor people by the end of March 2008, Hon'ble Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi said on 31 July 2007.

This was among the decisions taken at a two-day meeting of District Collectors, SPs, Heads of Departments and Senior Police Officers.

Speaking to presspersons later, Hon'ble Chief Minister said that the initiative of Free House site pattas was taken up as a special

scheme when his government came to power in 1996. Ever since, 14,87,696 poor people had benefited.

This is the first time that an ambitious target of giving 3 lakh pattas has been set. The highest number given so far in a financial year was 250,811 pattas in 1997-98. The meeting decided to set up a committee of select District Collectors to suggest ways to further streamline and improve the land distribution scheme for landless agricultural labourers.

Hon'ble Chief Minister commended the manner in which the scheme was operated and said so far, 91,576 families had been given a total of 1,00,623 acres.

Police stations had been instructed to record complaints lodged by people without any delay. If they did not, action would be taken against the officer and constables responsible.

Of the 7,000 route permits sanctioned for mini-buses in the State, only 3,965 had been granted. The meeting noted and wanted District Collectors to issue these by August 14, 2007. Officials were told to distribute saris and dhotis ahead of Pongal festival. A total of 159 lakh saris and 161 lakh dhotis would be distributed to the poor.

The Government also decided to use the services of private hospitals to clear the backlog of children of poor parents waiting to get heart related procedures done. If such families had an annual income less than Rs.50,000 the Government would provide Rs.70,000 for complicated open heart surgeries. Rs.30,000 for ordinary open heart surgery and Rs.10,000 for non-invasive heart interventions.





CHIEF MINISTER LAUNCHES ADYAR ECO - PARK PROJECT

Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M.Karunanidhi on 10, August 2007, vowed to take the entire State along the path of progress, braving all impediments and obstacles created by detractors.

Shortly after laying the foundation stone for the Rs.100 crore Adyar Eco Park restoration project in Chennai on 10.8.2007, he said such schemes

would provide the foundation for the development of the State.

At a time when prospects of restoring the trade and cultural glory had brightened, certain persons were bent upon stalling the growth, he added. Even if they could not contribute to the progress of the State, they could at least abandon their attempts to create stumbling blocks



to ensure implementation of the projects expeditiously.

Tamil Nadu had overtaken other States in industrial development. Though many central schemes such as the Sethusamudram Canal Project had come to the State, there was opposition to them too, he said. Steering clear of such obstacles with the help of the people, the schemes had to be executed, he added.

Unleashing a scathing attack against those who stalled the various projects of the State Government, the Chief Minister made a fervent appeal to the people to support the government.

"There are certain people who are determined to stall such projects for obvious reasons, which will ultimately benefit the people. However, neither me nor my party will succumb to the tactics. We will finally succeed with the support of the masses," the Chief Minister said.

They even approached the courts to stop the projects. Even the Adyar Park Project was taken to the court, the Chief Minister pointed out.

"The welfare schemes are not for me, for my family or for my party. They are for the people like Karuppan, Muthu, Kandan and Kadamban living in the remote areas. I am prepared to sacrifice my life for the welfare of the people," the Chief Minister said. He declared that he was educated and trained by his mentors to face the resistance and ultimately come out successfully.

The Chief Minister also presented a rotation fund of Rs.12.73 lakh to 1,273 members of 75 self-help groups.

Financial assistance to the tune of Rs.2.70 lakh was given to 18 beneficiaries with each person getting Rs.15,000 under the Moovalur Ramamirdham Ammaiyar Marriage Scheme.



Fifteen women received a total financial assistance of Rs.47,000 under the Dr.Muthulakshmi Reddy Pregnant Woman scheme.

Presiding over the function, Hon'ble Local Administration Minister Thiru.M.K.Stalin, who launched a website, said that a charitable trust, a governing council, an environment committee and consultants were appointed to create the world class Park. The Park, to be completed within two years, would become a famous tourist spot, he added.

Hon'ble Minister for PWD and Law Thiru. Durai Murugan said that if the three rivers-Coom, Buckingham Canal and Adyar-were properly maintained, Chennai would rapidly become a beautiful city. According to the Chief Secretary Thiru. L.K.Tripathi, the Adyar Park was an eco restoration project. Others

"The welfare schemes are not for me, for my family or for my party. They are for the people like Karuppan, Muthu, Kandan and Kadamban living in the remote areas. I am prepared to sacrifice my life for the welfare of the people."

who spoke on the occasion included Chennai Mayor Thiru. M.Subramanian, Tamil Nadu Infrastructural Finance Corporation Managing Director Thiru.Vikram Kapoor, Local Administration and Water Supply Secretary Thiru. K.Deenabandu, consultant Thiru. Jaws Brooks and Poet Thiru. Vairamuthu. Chennai Corporation Commissioner Thiru Rajesh Lakhani proposed a vote of thanks.



Hon'ble Local Administration Minister Thiru.M.K.Stalin on August 10, 2007 distributed appointment orders to 474 legal heirs of the employees of various State Transport Corporations who died on service, on compassionate grounds. As the first phase, the 474 were appointed as drivers and conductors.

It was 10 years ago in 1997 that such appointment were made by the present Government. It was stopped by the subsequent Government and re-introduced by the present Government now, Local Administration and Rural Development Minister Thiru. M.K. Stalin said.

The Minister also presented watches to around 80 drivers and mechanics, appreciating them for running buses without any repair for five lakh kilometres. The prizes were instituted by Ashok Leyland Limited. Minister also flagged off a 24-hour specially designed service van with modern gadgets to carry out repair works of the latest model Bs-III buses of the MTC.

Ashok Leyland would provide driver and mechanics for the van and bear all expenses. The van would also carry a laptop and cellphone. As many as 25 vestibules, three low -floor and 47 buses, 30 would be regular service buses and the remaining 17 LSS buses.

Presiding over the function, Hon'ble Transport Minister Thiru.K.N.Nehru said that the government had prepared an organisation chart, first of its kind in the State. "The chart would indicate the vacancies available and the promotion avenues open for the employees. All the vacancies would be filled and due promotions given to the deserving employees.

Appointment orders for 474 heirs of transport staff distributed



Compassionate Appointments:

Hon'ble Minister for Local Administration Thiru.M.K.Stalin on 9, August 2007 handed over appointment orders to 77 persons for the posts of Junior Assistant and Revenue Assistant in the Department of Municipal Administration on compassionate grounds.

An official release said the appointments were made after the Government revoked the ban on recruitment and appointments on compassionate grounds. The Minister had already handed over appointment orders to 15 doctors, 48 Assistant Engineers, 3 Town Planning Officers and 113 Health Inspectors in the department in June, 2007 the release added. ★

“LET US MOBILISE PEOPLE TO SAFEGUARD NATION’S UNITY & INTEGRITY

- Hon’ble Chief Minister **Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi**



“**L**et us uphold national integration by staying united and by mobilising the people” exhorted Hon’ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi, at the function organised in Chennai on 21 August, 2007 to mark the Birth Centenary of Communist leader Late P. Jeevanandam.

Presiding over the function, the Chief Minister said though he differed with Jeevanandam on various issues, they had a common objective of uplift of the poor and the downtrodden in society.

Jeevanandam was the first to demand in the Assembly that Tamil be made the medium of instruction in schools and colleges. He was firm on introducing Tamil in administration and courts. The present State Government was only implementing his vision.

The Chief Minister punned on the Tamil word “vizha” to convey the message that the government would not fall. “Vizha” means “function” as well as “will not fall”. Chief Minister called upon the leaders of the alliance parties to remain together and defeat those who wanted to destabilise the Government. Recalling his long association with



Jeevanandam, the Chief Minister said the communist leader was a great patriot who sacrificed everything for the country and his principles. "If he could not meet his daughter for 17 years due to the freedom movement and communist activities, one can judge his commitment and sacrifice," the Chief Minister said.

The Chief Minister said though he had differences of opinion with Jeevanandam and had criticised him in his writings, they had enormous respect for each other. "He stood among thousands of people in Paramakudi to listen to my speech. I need no other recognition other than having Jeeva as my audience," he added.

Emphasising that the legend of Jeevanandam would live on, the Hon'ble

Chief Minister said "Even after his death, he is continuing to remind me of the responsibilities and this government is fulfilling his wishes".

Hon'ble Information Minister Thiru Parithi Ellamvazhuthi spoke on the occasion.

CPI national executive committee member Thiru R.Nallakannu, Congress Legislative Party leader Thiru.D.Sudarsanam, State Secretariat member of the CPI (M) Thiru.A.Soundarajan, Thiru.M.Arumugham MLA, Thiru K.M.Khadar Mohideen, MP, and Thiru Thol Tirumavalavan of Viduthalai Chiruthaigal were among those who recalled the sacrifices made by Jeevanandam for the country's freedom and for the emancipation of the Dalit community.

* * *



Chief Minister Advocates Satellite Towns

Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M.Karunanidhi on 26 August, 2007 made a strong case for the creation of Satellite Towns and expansion of cities to ease traffic congestion and overcome health problems.

Participating in the Builders' Day Silver Jubilee Celebration of the Southern Centre of the Builders' Association of India, he urged all sections of the society to extend their cooperation.

Noting that several hurdles arose when the efforts were made to streamline urban

development in Chennai, the Chief Minister said the establishment of new cities had to be balanced with the concerns of those who were likely to be affected by such developments. Comparing Chennai with Puducherry, he said Puducherry established during the French rule, was well-planned with well-laid roads. But, Chennai was expanded to suit the requirements of those who migrated to the city.

"The problem is, our city is small while population here is more. Unless we expand the city and go for creation of new cities, we cannot solve the crisis.



When we reduce traffic congestion, it would also free the people from many diseases," the Chief Minister said.

As for construction workers, the Chief Minister gave an account of the schemes being implemented by his Government since May 2006. During the Previous Government (2001-2006), the number of people benefited by the welfare schemes for the construction workers was 66,320, and the assistance given was Rs.22.9 crore. But in the 15 months of his administrative rule, 60,525 persons had benefited from the schemes and Rs.18.9 crore was given as solatium.

Hon'ble Public Works and Law Minister Thiru Durai Murugan said the Government had taken steps for constructing buildings for the Assembly.

Hon'ble Information and Urban Development Minister Thiru.Parithi Ellamvazhuthi said the Second Master Plan for Chennai would come into force by the end of this year.

Association's former president Thiru.R.Radha Krishnan said the Centre had

granted permission for import of cement through Mines and Minerals Corporation Limited two weeks ago following Chief Minister initiating, as a result of which, cement might be imported from Pakistan in a month or two.

Thiru.L.Moorthi, Committee Chairman of the Association and Thiru.K.V.Rangaswamy, Executive Director (head), Construction, L & T, participated in the function.

CHIEF MINISTER DONATES HONORARIUM TO PUBLIC RELIEF FUND

Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi on 29 August, 2007 donated Rs.10,000, which he had received as honorarium for his article "Autonomy for the States, federalism at the Centre" published in *The Hindu* on 15 August, 2007 to the Chief Minister's public Relief Fund. Thiru N.Ram, Editor-in-Chief, *The Hindu*, had sent a cheque for Rs.10,000 for the article.



Hitech Luxury Buses for Chennai MTC

The Hon'ble Chief Minister **KALAINAR M. KARUNANIDHI**
inspects Buses at Chennai on 18.09.2007.

The Metropolitan Transport Corporation has introduced 10 Hi-Tech Air conditioned Low Floor Deluxe Buses (VOLVO) in 5 routes in Chennai Metro City in the following routes.

1. Route No.21G - Tambaram to Broadway
2. Route No.19G - Broadway to Kovalam
3. Route No.70 - Tambaram to Avadi
4. Airport to Broadway

SPECIAL FEATURES

This is a fully Air Conditioned Low Floor vehicle with kneeling function. The floor can be kept at 3 different levels with an electronically controlled Air Suspension for easy access to handicapped persons with or without wheel chairs and also for elderly persons. Further this electronically controlled air suspension is fitted in all the four wheels for a jerk free and comfortable travel to the commuters. Aesthetically

designed moulded seats are provided for a comfortable journey.

LED scrolling route boards are provided in the front, rear and side of the vehicle for easy identification of route to the passengers waiting outside.

Automatic doors are provided in the front and at the middle of the vehicle with sensors which makes the doors to open automatically if some one is got struck in between the doors while closing.

Provision for 'Laptop' connection and mobile phone charger are also given apart from Channel Music System and PA System for giving vital informations to the passengers inside the vehicle.

Further, Cameras are fitted in the Centre Door and Rear Body with a LED monitor fitted in the dash board to enable the driver to see easily the movement of persons in the entrance/exit and vehicular moment in the rear of the bus.



PASSPORT OFFICES SOON AT MADURAI & COIMBATORE

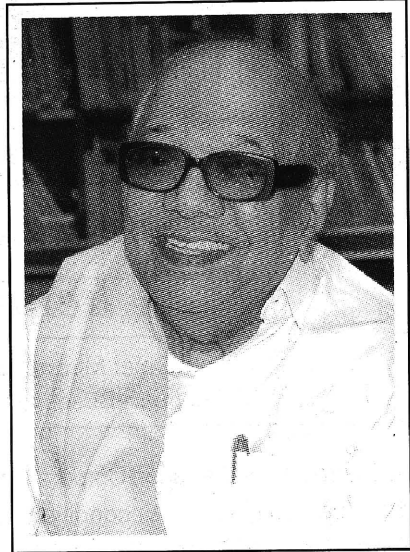
The Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaigñar M. Karunanidhi said the MEA office at Chennai had become an urgent need in view of the increase in foreign direct investments, the number of foreign delegations having offices in the city as well as the growing importance of Chennai as a favoured hub for many multinational companies.

The Chief Minister said Chennai had the highest number of diplomatic offices after New Delhi and Mumbai. The city housed permanent Consulates of ten countries, 27 honorary Consulates and two Deputy High Commissions.

Formally launching the Branch Secretariat of the Ministry of External Affairs in Chennai on 25 August, 2007, the Chief Minister said the Chennai branch of MEA will help liaise with these diplomatic offices and extending services such as duty free customs waivers, registration of vehicles and issuance of licences. Pointing to the 'unreasonable attitude' of certain overseas agencies that caused untold hardship to hundreds of immigrant workers, the Chief Minister said the branch office would be able to establish communication between despairing family members with the persons abroad and arranging assistance through diplomatic missions.

The MEA office would cater to the needs of the people in Tamil Nadu as well as other Southern States, the Chief Minister said.

Passport Offices will be opened at Madurai and Coimbatore by the year end to expand passport services in Tamil Nadu, the



Hon'ble External Affairs Minister Thiru Pranab Mukherjee said. Speaking in the occasion, he said that the new offices would bring passport services closer to the people of the State.

According to the Union Minister, the Ministry of External Affairs Branch Secretariat in Chennai would boost the already impressive economic growth achieved by the State over the last 15 years and considerably add to its status as a favoured investor destination.

The abundance of skilled manpower and favourable government policies had made Tamil Nadu one of the largest recipients of foreign direct investments. The State has been able to attract investments, technology transfers, joint ventures and foreign collaborations.

Noting that the State witnessed a spate of visits by foreign dignitaries accompanied by business delegations, the Union Minister said the establishment of the MEA office would accelerate the process by identifying suitable investors and business leaders through Indian Missions abroad and facilitating their Chennai visit.

The string of foreign consulates and honorary consulates located in Chennai will now be able to submit their requests directly to the new entity instead of approaching the Ministry through their embassies.

A host of services such as document attestation which required the involvement of the Consular Division the MEA could now be handled in the Chennai establishment, Thiru Mukherjee said. Routine tasks such as getting political clearance for government delegations visiting foreign dignitaries will also be much simpler now, he said.

Thiru E. Ahamed, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for External Affairs, also participated.

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Calling for substantial budgetary support, computerisation of the judiciary, more courts and judges, Hon'ble Chief Justice of India, Thiru. K. G. Balakrishnan, on 28, July 2007 congratulated the Tamil Nadu Government for taking a lead in allotment of funds for the Judiciary.

Laying the foundation for Combined Magistrate Court buildings at Egmore on 28th July 2007, the Chief Justice said pendency of over two crore cases was a major problem the Judiciary faced. The institution was being criticised by the litigant-public for the delay in disposals, he added.

Disclosing that he had received recommendations from various High Courts for increasing the number of Judges, he said he proposed to increase the strength after considering the number of cases pending in each court. He said the Tamil Nadu Government had increased its allocation to Rs.300 crore, from less than Rs.1 crore about 10 years ago.

Earlier, Hon'ble Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, Thiru A. P. Shah, said there was an imminent necessity to augment the strength of the High Court by another 20 Judges. At present, its sanctioned strength was 49. Despite an

impressive disposal rate, the highest in the country, the court was unable to keep the incidence of fresh cases below the disposal rate.

Justice Shah said the Tamil Nadu Government had taken a "very positive step" to construct 72 new court buildings, including 50

CJI,CJ, Judges laud TN Govt.

magistrate courts, in 2007. It would also construct combined court complexes in 12 districts.

Justice Shah announced that the State Government had cleared his proposal to establish evening courts in all districts.

No court in Tamil Nadu will function from a rented building in the next five years, Hon'ble Minister for Law and Public Works Department, Thiru. Durai Murugan, said. He said the Government had allocated Rs.300 crore for the Judiciary, as against a total of Rs.33 crore during the last five years. "This reflects the respect and esteem this Government has for the Judiciary." A sum of Rs.125 crore was allotted for building court halls and residential quarters this year.

★



Hon'ble Local Administration Minister Thiru M.K.Stalin earlier flagged off 145 buses of the MTC and five buses of the SETC on 17 September, 2007 at Chennai. It included 5 ultra-luxury air-conditioned buses for the MTC fleet. Thiru. M.K.Stalin said the introduction of electronically printed tickets would prevent misuse.

The Minister also officialy launched the online reservation system of the SETC, gave away the first batch of 5,000 subsidised auto rickshaw permits and inaugurated a computerised learner's licensing system to be tested in three RTOs in the city.

The Minister said the previous government was not active in developing the transportation infrastructure and accused it of trying to privatise the sector. "In their five years of power, they added only 380 buses. But in the last year and a half, we have added 720 buses," he said, and added that the State Transport Corporations would add another 1,000 buses within the next three months.

Hon'ble Transport Minister Thiru K.N.Nehru said six of the seven state-run transport corporations recently came out of the red due to the proactive measures taken by the State Government.

Speaking at a function jointly organised by the Metropolitan Transport Corporation, Transport Department and the State Express Transport Corporation in Chennai, Thiru Nehru said at the time of the Government assuming charge, the cumulative

ULTRA LUXURY AIR-CONDITIONED MTC BUSES FLAGGED OFF

Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development
and Local Administration
Thiru **M.K. STALIN**

losses of the transport corporations were to the tune of Rs.560 crore, including an annual cash loss of Rs.158 crore. "But, thanks to the proactive measures taken in the last 10 months, we have turned it around to a profit of Rs.1.5 crore," he said.

Hon'ble Electricity Minister Thiru Arcot N. Veeraswamy, Thiru C.Kuppusami, M.P., Chennai Mayor Thiru M.Subramanian, Transport Secretary Thiru Debendranath Sarangi and Transport Commissioner Thiru C.P.Singh spoke.

There is no comparable Programme to the Rs.2-a-kg Rice Scheme in the Country

Hon'ble Chief Minister **KALAINAR M. KARUNANIDHI**



Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi has left it to the discretion of the people to decide on the future of the Government.

"It is up to you either to protect and safeguard the Government or to wreck it," he told the large gathering of people at an official function held on the Manjakuppam grounds in Cuddalore on 30 August, 2007.

Chief Minister Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi said he was using the power bestowed upon him to serve the people in the best possible

manner. In the past one year, his Government had implemented many welfare schemes, including the distribution of free colour television sets, gas stoves with LPG connections, and waiver of Rs.7,000 crore farm loans, with the support and cooperation of the people and the allies.

He said that there was no comparable programme to the Rs.2-a-kg of rice scheme in any of the States in the country or anywhere in the Indian sub-continent. He was not giving away the assistance either as gifts or largesse,

but imbibed with responsibility, he was discharging his duty for improving their standard of living.

But these achievements of the present Government were slighted in certain quarters that had saddened him. The Chief Minister said quoting Karl Marx, he was not the one who would expect gratitude for his actions. Having brought up by the ideologies of Thanthai Periyar and tutored by Arignar Anna, he was seasoned enough to bear all the insinuations.

Drawing an analogy to the rain-bearing clouds, the Chief Minister said when the farmers thought of thanking nature for the bounteous rains, the clouds would have disappeared. Similarly, he might not be there when the people start praising him for what all he had done.

There was no such thing as a "permanent Chief Minister". For that matter, nothing and nobody could be permanent. Only impermanence was permanent, he said. The Chief Minister said he was not born with a silver spoon either.

Having been born in a most backward class family in Thirukkuvalai, he was aware of the aspirations of the deprived sections. Therefore, he stood firm in his resolve to get 20 percent reservation for the MBCs.

Conceding the demand of T.Velmurugan, MLA, the Chief Minister assured that three engineering colleges would be set up at places such as Tindivanam, Panruti and Villupuram in the next academic year.

The government proposes to start 25 engineering colleges by next year in various parts of the state, the Chief Minister said adding the government is presently engaged in the process of selecting the locations for colleges.

"Engineering Colleges to come up at Tindivanam, Panruti and Villupuram ,,"

***- Hon'ble Chief Minister
Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi***

The Chief Minister while referring to increasing criticisms against the government claimed that Tamil Nadu is the only State in the country that extends a series of welfare measures viz., rice for Rs 2 per kg, free colour television, free LPG connection with gas stove and financial assistance to pregnant women among others.

"We are matured enough to tackle the criticisms from various quarters. However hard you work and struggle for the uplift of the backward and poorer sections, you are being criticised. I am neither sad nor angry over their comments," the Chief Minister said.

He reiterated that it is the duty of the government to work for the welfare of the people without any expectations from the public.

The Chief Minister gave away over 10,000 colour TVs and 300 gas stoves and inaugurated development projects.

Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education Dr.K.Ponmudi, Hon'ble Minister for Backward Classes Thiru.M.R.K.Panneerselvam, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Law and Justice Thiru.K.Venkatapathy, District Collector Thiru.Rajendra Ratnoo, MLAs Thiru.D.Ravi kumar, Thiru. K.Selvam, Thiru.Saba Rajendiran, Thiru.T.Velumurugan and Thiru. G.Iyyapan also spoke on the occasion. *

SEVERAL IMPEDIMENTS BEFORE INDUSTRIAL PROJECT MATERIALISED

- Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi at the launch of 3rd phase of providing monthly assistance to unemployed youth.



Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi on 29, July 2007 in Chennai, expressed anguish at "attempts by certain political parties and friends to stall" development projects initiated by the State Government.

Addressing a function after launching the third phase of the scheme to provide monthly assistance to over 3.38 lakh educated unemployed, he said, if some political parties and persons thought that their political interest could be promoted only through such activities, "we are prepared to step aside, leaving the issue to be settled between you and the people. These parties could gloat over the stalling of such projects but it would not benefit the public, he opined.

Though this Government to its credit had brought 11 major industries to the State during the last 11 months, he did not let arrogance or haughtiness or imperiousness to creep in, the Chief Minister said.

"However, I am agonised to see the attitude of certain persons, who are not prepared to understand this and extend their co operation", he said.

Several impediments had to be crossed before an industrial project materialised, he said, referring to the recent violence in West Bengal, owing to protests by farmers and workers at the "instigation of reactionary forces'.

He also cited the opposition by some sections to the four-lane project proposed by the Centre to

provide connectivity between the northern and southern fringes of Chennai.

There had been some miscreants and pests in society who were bent upon destabilising a Government, which otherwise would get its position consolidated and acquire strength by winning the people's support through the development of resources and setting up of industries, the Chief Minister said.

Everyone in society could not be satisfied, as there might be shortcomings here and there while implementing projects. The allies and elected representatives should help the Government through good advice and proper guidance to overcome the shortcomings, besides ensuring continuance of the projects, he said.

This Government had been performing to the best of its ability. If it was unable to move further, it would take leave. If anybody else came forward to achieve more, let them do so, he said.

"I am prepared to appreciate and commend them, besides showering encomiums on them," the Chief Minister added.

"We are doing what best we can, If we can't then we shall say we were able to do only so much and go our way".

"Lapses are always likely to be there. At such a juncture, one should provide suggestions and guide us to overcome shortcomings. Only then, we will be able to continue the good deeds".

"There are some vested interests who blocked development works by inciting people

by saying their lands would be acquired and houses destroyed if projects come. The Government would not be adamant (on setting up the factory) but would leave the issue to be settled between the people and parties instigating them," he added.

This Government repealed the ban on recruitment brought by the then his Government to provide jobs to 1.80 lakh persons in one years time. Financial assistance was provided to unemployed because jobs could not be provided immediately, he said. "The sum is not significant. But the intention behind providing the assistance displays the concern, empathy and duty consciousness of the his Government," the Chief Minister said.

This Government would not be rigid in implementing projects without taking people's interest into account. It wanted to ensure that its efforts did not lead to violence or affect peace in the State, he said.

The Government had released Rs.55 crore this year for the scheme to assist the educated unemployed, the Chief Minister said.

He also highlighted various measures initiated by the Government to generate employment opportunities.

Hon'ble Union Minister for Surface Transport Thiru. T.R. Baalu, Chief Secretary Thiru. L.K. Tripathy, Secretary (Labour and Employment) Thiru. Rameshkumar Khanna, Chennai Corporation Mayor Thiru. M. Subramanian, Collector Tmt. R. Jaya and Thiru. C. Kuppusamy MP spoke.

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GOVERNMENT COMMITTED TO FREE LAND SCHEME

- Hon'ble Chief Minister **KALAINGAR M. KARUNANIDHI**

The State Government is committed to fully implementing the scheme of giving free land pattas to the landless poor and so far 1,01,623 acres of land has been distributed to 91,576 landless farmers, Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi said in a statement on 29 July, 2007.

So far 24,774 people from among the Scheduled Castes, 2089 from among the Scheduled Tribes, 28,880 from the Backward Classes, 32,048 from among the Most Backward Classes and 3,785 from other communities had received the lands.

The Government had also announced that it would give free house pattas to 50,000 beneficiaries. During its previous tenure, the Government had constituted a committee in

February 2000 to categorise lands based on their usage to give away unused lands to those who had been living in houses constructed there for over ten years. A total of 1,63,348 house pattas were distributed.

During its present tenure, the Government had revived the scheme and passed a G.O on December 30 last year. In the last six months alone, 50,878 house pattas had been given to the poor. Due to the popularity of the scheme, it had been extended for six more months.

The Government was always committed to giving free house pattas to the poor. During its 1967 to 1975 tenure, 5,03,697 pattas had been distributed. In 1989-1990, 4,78,095 pattas were given away. During 1996-2001, 7,51,235 pattas were given.

In 1971, the Government had pioneered a scheme to give free house pattas to farmers. To study how the scheme was being implemented in other States, the Government had despatched a committee headed by the Revenue Minister to West Bengal in 2006. The team toured various parts of West Bengal and held extensive consultations with local officials.

The difference between West Bengal and Tamil Nadu was that the free land scheme was being implemented based on the lands acquired under the Land Reforms Act. As such lands were already under cultivation, they did not require to be further cured before handing over.

In Tamil Nadu, most of the lands being distributed were wastelands and hence the Government had to spend its own funds substantially for curing them before handing them over.

Responding to CPM State Secretary Thiru.Varadharajan's statement, the Chief Minister said the government was ready to retrieve the lands if the CPM leader released the name of the politicians who had occupied the lands.

The Chief Minister pointed out the CPM government in West Bengal did not have to spend any money to make the lands cultivatable since all the lands taken by the state government were fertile lands. "On the other hand only wastelands are being distributed in Tamil Nadu and the state government is spending a lot of money to make the lands cultivatable," he said.

"We always favourably considered the demands of the working class. Even now we are ready to do it," he said and added that if the Left-ruled states were in the forefront of implementing welfare schemes, the Government was ready to follow them.

Citing a report that appeared in *The Hindu* dated 24 August, 2007 the Chief Minister said the report was a vindication of the Government's stand that the scheme was yielding the desired benefits. The report was as follows :

"Now my daughter is treated with respect in her father-in-law's house and my grandchildren visit my house often. This is because of the grant of free land to me by the Government," said Tmt. Kannammal (42) of Kuthampatty near Erode told *The Hindu*.

Tmt. Kannammal said she was a landless, poor agriculture labourer and along with her family members she earned about Rs.250 to Rs.300 a week as wages. She said she could not give any money to her married daughter. So her daughter's father in-law and mother-in-law did not give her respect.

Knowing her plight, her neighbours informed her about a scheme in which the government granted free land and she applied for it. She got the land within a month in her own village.

The Government introduced the scheme of granting land to the landless poor on September 17, 2006 and till date it has granted 1,543 acres of land, worth Rs.7 crore in Erode district alone, to 1,509 persons.

Tmt. Kannammal levelled the land and agricultural departmental officials advised her to raise groundnut on half an acre. She did so using organic manure and got a good yield. In the remaining one-and-a-half acre, she raised sunflower, she said. She received 890 kg of yield from an acre and sold seeds for Rs.12,800.

Her enhanced economic status improved her relations with her relatives and also her daughter's in-laws who began respecting her.

Similarly, in Kasturipalayam village near Arachalure Pavayee Ammal received land from the Government in which she raised gingelly. She earned a profit of Rs.5,000 out of only Rs.3,000 she spent. He said after the monsoon she would raise paddy crop. In Gnanapuram, Sheela was given two acres of land where she raised maize and reaped a good profit.

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SCHEME PROVIDING THREE EGGS A WEEK LAUNCHED



Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaigarnar M.Karunanidhi on July 15, 2007 hoped that three eggs per week for school children under the nutritious meals scheme would encourage parents to send their children to schools.

The Chief Minister launched the scheme to provide a eggs thrice a week in the nutritious noon meal for children, at a function in Chennai to mark the birth anniversary of Perunthalaivar Kamarajar, which was being celebrated as the Educational Development Day.

The Chief Minister cited the example of serving boiled eggs under the nutritious meal scheme. The election manifesto in 2006 promised to

implement a scheme to provide eggs twice a week. The Government fulfilled it. Following the announcement in the budget for 2007-2008, the Government enhanced the benefit by providing three eggs a week, he said. Having fulfilled the election promises, his Government enlarged the scope of the welfare schemes, thanks to its stability, he added.

Expressing concern at the lack of interest on the part of parents in the State in promoting the physical activities of their wards, he said the scheme for supply of eggs would go a long way in ensuring the physical fitness of children besides enabling continuance of thier education. He said the eggs would make

the children stronger and added that India was lagging behind in all sports because the people were not strong enough to compete in the international arena. The parents should come forward to "make hay while the sun shines" and motivate their children to avail themselves of the benefits under the scheme, he said.

The Chief Minister also made it clear that the number of eggs provided would not be increased further as anything in excess is also not good for health.

The Chief Minister said that the scheme would benefit 71 lakh children in the group of 2 to 15 years through the noon meal centres and child centres under the Integrated Child Development Services scheme.

The government would also provide one egg every week to children in the age group of 1-2 years, he said, adding that about 2,40,017 children would benefit under this scheme.

The total expenditure for the scheme would be Rs.224 crore per annum, the Chief Minister added.

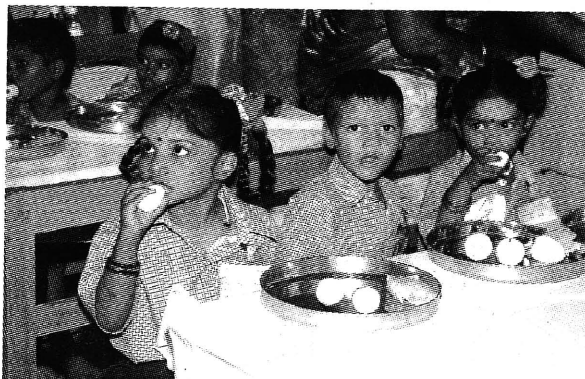
The Chief Minister, referred to the Act making it mandatory to celebrate the birth anniversary of Kamarajar as Educational Development Day in schools, as the Government wanted to commemorate the late leader's selfless devotion to service. The Act became necessary to ensure that successive Governments continued the celebrations, he said.

Hon'ble Minister for School Education Thiru Thangam Thennarasu said the

Educational Development Day was not observed as a ritual. Functions were held in schools to recall the services of Kamarajar, who sowed the seeds of educational revolution in the State.

The Minister referred to the various steps taken by the Government in the field of school education such as upgrading primary, middle and high schools.

Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare Dr.Poongothai Aladi Aruna said providing



eggs thrice a week was aimed at eliminating malnutrition in the State. The State had 27 percent of malnourished children in the age group of six months three years, she added.

The Congress Legislature Party leader Thiru.D.Sudarsanam said that Kamarajar during the nine years of office as Chief Minister had made remarkable contributions for the uplift of economically disadvantaged children.

Chief Secretary Thiru. L.K. Tripathy said about 71 lakh children in the age group of 2-15 years would be benefited under the scheme through 87,462 nutritious meal centres and anganwadi centres.





Golden Jubilee Celebration of Tamil Nadu Electricity Board

Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaigñar M.Karunanidhi announced a wide range of benefits for the staff of the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board on the occasion of its Golden Jubilee Celebration on 2nd July 2007.

An additional increment as incentive would be given to 72,723 employees, involving an expenditure of Rs.29.87 crore annually. A token amount of Rs.1,000 would be paid to all the employees, 46,035 pensioners and 27,055 family pensioners. This would amount to Rs.14.58 crore. About 21,400 contract workers and 5,646 part-time workers would get Rs. 500 each and this would cost Rs.136 crore to the Board.

Addressing a function held at Nehru Indoor Stadium that was filled with the employees and their family members, Hon'ble

Chief Minister said the question of pension hike would be taken up at the time of the formation of the Pay Commission.

The Chief Minister advised the TNEB staff to ensure uninterrupted and quality power supply. He laid the foundation stone for power projects of 2,500 megawatt capacity and dedicated 10,000 distribution transformers to the nation.

The Government decided to establish the transformers at a cost of Rs.160 crore, he said.

Hon'ble Electricity Minister Thiru Arcot N.Veeraswamy, who presided over the function, said regularisation of the services of about 21,400 contract workers in distribution circles would be carried out in a phased manner.

The Electricity Minister laid the foundation stone for the Golden Jubilee Block. Hon'ble Local Administration Minister Thiru. M.K.Stalin, released a souvenir.

About two dozen employees and several former chairmen of the Board were honoured on the occasion. Among them were Thiru B.Vijayaraghavan and R.Poornalingam, who headed the TNEB. Hon'ble Chief Minister commended the role of Thiru V.Appadurai, who played a crucial role in the formative years of the Board and presented a medal to his son, Thiru V.A. Subramanian. Chief Secretary Thiru L.K. Tripathy, TNEB Chairman Thiru Hans Raj Verma, Principal Energy Secretary Thiru R.Satapathy and Chairman of Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission Thiru S.Kabilan took part in the function. ✦



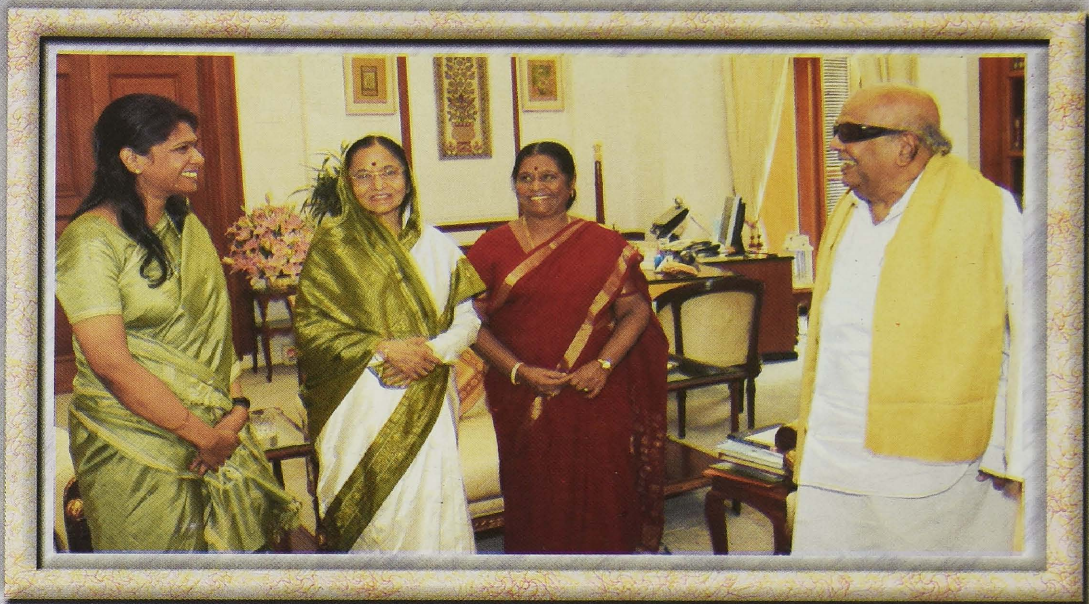
Schemes for the benefit of teaching community

Hon'ble Chief Minister K. Karunanidhi, in a statement has greeted teacher on Teacher's Day.

Chief Minister said the State Government had implemented many schemes for the benefit of the teaching community, such as raising the award amount for the Dr.Radhakrishnan Award for Best Teacher to Rs.5,000.

Hon'ble Chief Minister recalled the concessions extended to the teachers during the successive Governments and the concern shown for the welfare of the teachers who were involved in the noble profession.

More than 50,000 graduate teachers had been recruited through employment exchanges on a seniority basis, following the Government's decision to change the process of recruitment from selection based on written examinations and interview to one of seniority, he added.



Hon'ble Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Kalaaignar M. Karunanidhi called on Her Excellency President of India Tmt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil along with his wife Tmt. Rajathi Ammal and daughter Tmt. Kanimozhi, M.P., at New Delhi on 25, July 2007.



Hon'ble Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Kalaaignar M. Karunanidhi along with his wife Tmt. Rajathi Ammal and daughter Tmt. Kanimozhi, M.P., called on the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, at New Delhi on 25, July 2007. Hon'ble Union Minister for Surface Transport, Thiru.T.R. Balu was present on the occasion.



World Bank India Director Ms. Isable Guerrero held discussions with Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Kalaaignar M. Karunanidhi at Secretariat on 27, July 2007.



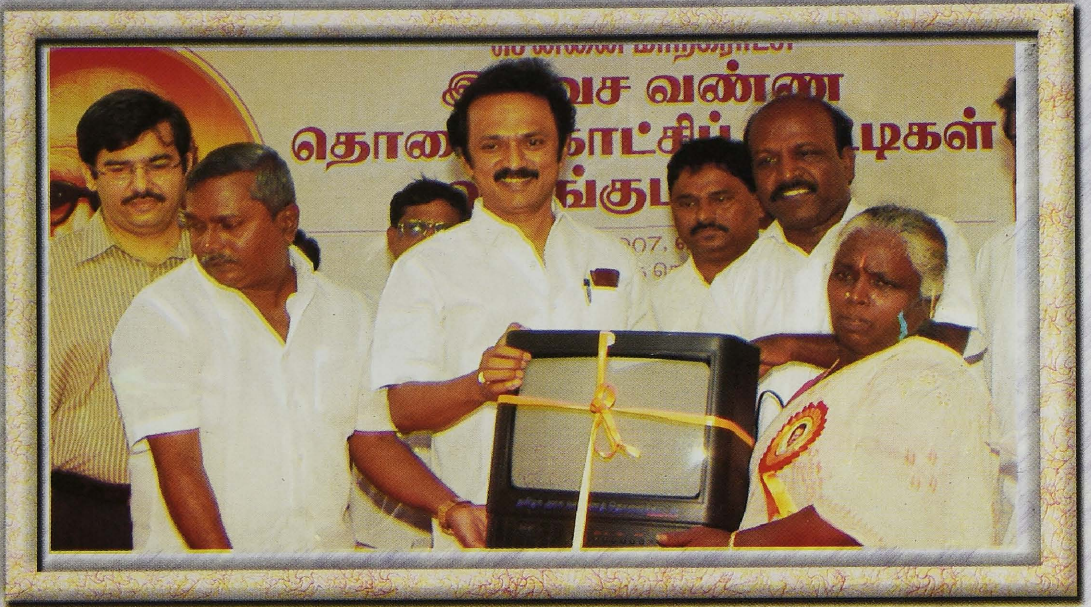
Hon'ble Minister for Local Administration & Rural Development, Thiru. M.K. Stalin called on the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on 4, July 2007 at New Delhi.



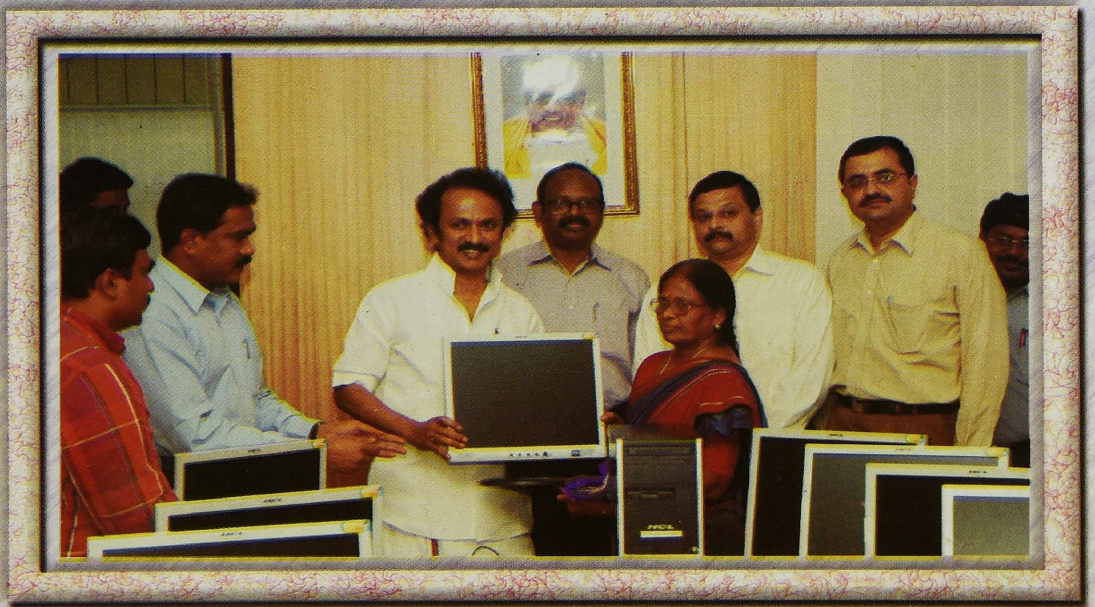
Hon'ble Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Kalaaignar M. Karunanidhi greeted Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha, Thiru. Somnath Chattarjee on his birthday at New Delhi on 25, July 2007.



The Governor of Reserve Bank of India, Dr.Y.V. Reddy called on Hon'ble Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Kalaaignar M. Karunanidhi at Secretariat on 11, July 2007.



Hon'ble Minister for Local Administration & Rural Development, Thiru. M.K. Stalin distributed Free Colour Televisions to poor families of Thousand Lights and Dr. Radhakrishnan Nagar constituencies on 24, August 2007.



Hon'ble Minister for Local Administration & Rural Development, Thiru. M.K. Stalin distributed 582 computers worth Rs.4 crores to 561 Town Panchayats, at Secretariat on 17, August 2007.



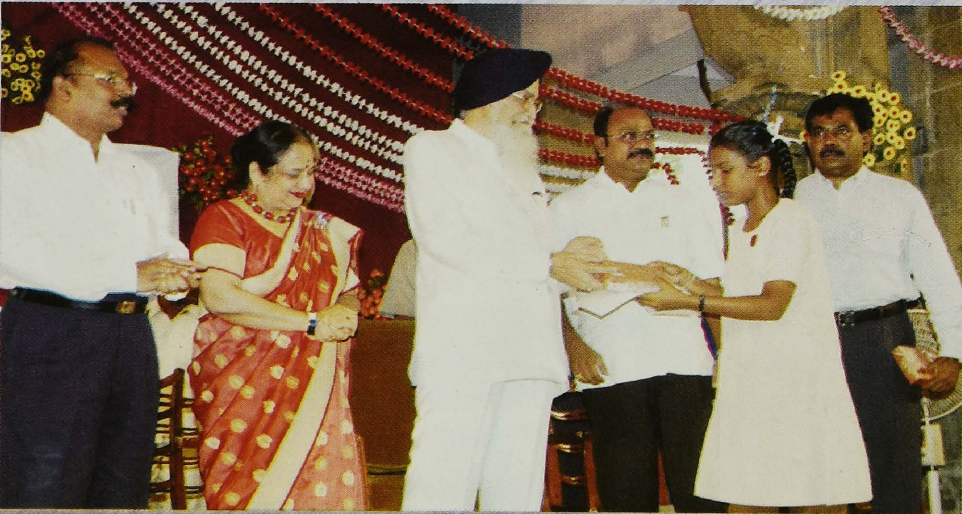
Hon'ble Minister for Local Administration & Rural Development Thiru. M.K. Stalin laid the foundation stone for development schemes and distributed welfare benefits at Namakkal on 30, August 2007.



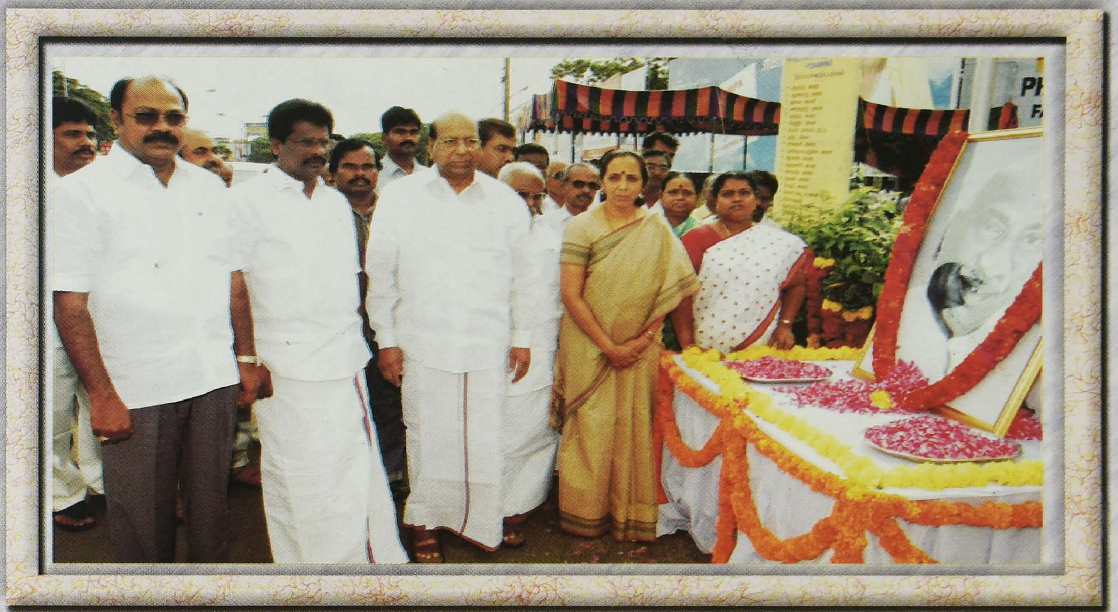
Hon'ble Minister for Local Administration & Rural Development Thiru. M.K. Stalin distributed the identity cards to the Panchayat Presidents at the Regional Conference of Panchayat Presidents on 23, August 2007 held at Virudhunagar. Hon'ble Ministers Thiru. K.K.S.S.R. Ramachandran, Thiru. I. Periyasamy, Thiru. Suba Thangavelan, Thiru.Thangam Thenarasu were present.



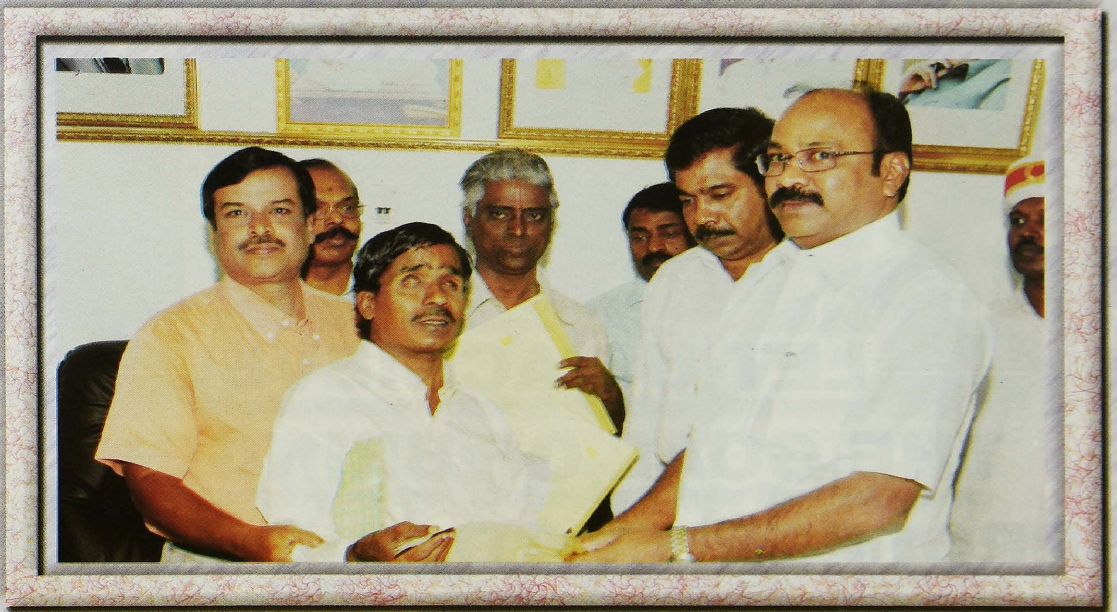
Hon'ble Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Kalaigarnar M. Karunanidhi launched fifth phase of freeland distribution and distributed free house pattas at Pudukottai on 28.9.2007. Hon'ble Electricity Minister Thiru. Arcot N.Veerasswami and Union Minister of State for Environment and Forest Thiru. S. Raghupathy were present.



Annal Gandhi's 139th Birthday Celebrations were held at Gandhi Mandapam, Chennai on 2.10.2007. His Excellency the Governor Thiru. Surjit Singh Barnala presided over the function and distributed prizes to the winners of competitions held on the occasion. Hon'ble Information Minister Thiru. Parithi Ellamvazhuthi, Secretary to Governor Dr.(Tmt.) C.K. Gariyali, Secretary to Tamil Development, Religious Endowments and Information Department Thiru. D. Rajendran, and Director of Information Department Dr.A.C. Mohandoss were present on the occasion.



Hon'ble Ministers Thiru. Arcot N. Veeraswami, Thiru. Parithi Ellamvazhuthi, Dr. Poongothai, Tmt. P. Geetha Jeevan, Thiru. U. Mathivanan paid floral tributes to Perunthalaivar Kamarajar on his 105th Birthday on 15, July 2007 at Chennai.



Hon'ble Information Minister Thiru. Parithi Ellamvazhuthi distributed the appointment orders for 9 visually handicapped persons in Government Central Press at Secretariat on 23, August 2007. Secretary of Tamil Development, Religious Endowments and Information Department Thiru. D. Rajendran and Director of Information Department Dr. A.C. Mohandoss were present.



LET US ACHIEVE THE GOAL OF BRINGING PROSPERITY TO THE STATE

— Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaaignar M. Karunanidhi

15th August, 2007



Participating in the Independence Day Celebration on 15th August 2007, Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi inspected the ceremonial - guard of honour and presented awards for the outstanding social activities and social organisations working for the welfare of the disabled and women.

The Chief Minister after hoisting the tricolour at the historic St. George Fort, addressed the people of the State from the Fort ramparts.

"Let this day, the 15th August, inspire us to imbibe the immortal adage of Arignar Anna that "one can see the divine personification in the smiles of the poor". Instead of remaining merely in books, letters, words, inscriptions, let it reverberate as a revolutionary song in our heart beat and breath.

When we introspect that the number of women who participated in the freedom struggle is almost equal to the number of men, the fact that an outstanding woman Tmt. Pratibha Patil has assumed office of President of our Country at the beginning of the 61st year of Independence serves as a successful signal ushering in the dawn of a golden era.

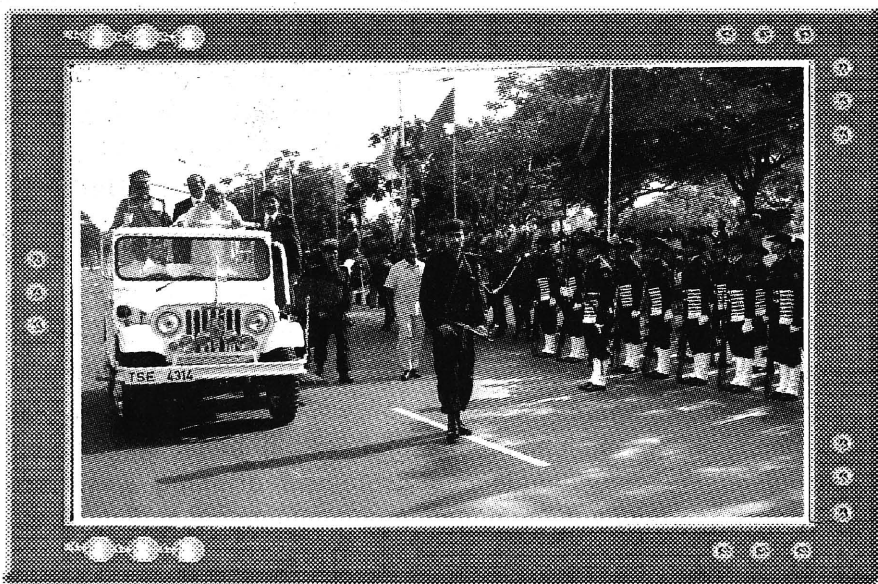
In accordance with the aphorism of Uthamar Gandhi that "Villages are the backbone of the Nation", the development works of this Government are extensively implemented even in the micro habitations. The development schemes of the Government are conceived with the avowed objective of fulfilling basic needs such as protected drinking water, roads, electricity, medical care, food, clothing and shelter.

In consonance with the vision of Poet Bharathiar who emphasised literacy in every home and establishment of schools in every street and in the footsteps of Perunthalaivar Kamarajar, who established schools all over the State, this Government has laid focus on Education particularly on Higher Education. Because of the endeavours of this Government that facilitate the growth of educational institutions and on account of the innumerable concessions extended to students and youth, the number of graduates has continued to register an impressive growth. To meet the employment requirements of the multitude of educated youth, within a period of 15 months of assuming office, this Government has facilitated generation of 1.25 lakh

employment on an investment of Rs.11,083 crores resulting in commencement of 11 new Industrial Units.

The Information Technology Industry has been responsible for creation of jobs in a large number in and around Chennai and its suburbs. This Government has taken measures for the growth of such industries in the municipal areas of Madurai, Coimbatore, Tirunelveli, Trichirapalli and Salem.

The schemes now being executed like the Sethusamudram Project with an outlay of Rs.2,427 crores, the declaration of Tamil as a classical language in fulfillment of a century old dream, the National Automobile Testing and Research



Project at Oragadam near Chennai with an outlay of Rs.500 crores and the upgradation of Salem Steel plant to international standards by establishing a new Cold Rolling plant at an outlay of Rs.1,553 crores are hallmarks of the harmonious Centre - State relationship.

You are also aware that with a lofty goal of ensuring that the fruits of

are selling pulses, palmolein oil, rava, maida and now atta also at cheap rates.

Unheard of in the annals of history so far, co-operative loans of agriculturists amounting to Rs.7,000 crore were written off. This has perceptibly benefited many farmers in the villages.



freedom reach every individual, a number of welfare schemes are being implemented benefiting every family.

A kilo of rice at Rupees Two has been ensured to reach all your homes.

To the delight of poor and down-trodden women folk, fair price shops

The scheme of distribution of free colour Television is continuously implemented. Apart from making the recipients happy, the colour televisions throng to reach those who are entitled.

To alleviate the woes of women condemned to the kitchen, three lakh gas connections along with free gas stoves have been distributed. During



the current year, another 15 lakh families will receive these benefits.

Under the scheme of providing land to the landless, 1,01,623 acres have been distributed to 91,576 poor agricultural labourers. This scheme contemplates distribution of land once in three months.

Free House site pattas have been granted to 61,211 families who had built homes and have been residing on Government poramboke lands for more than 10 years.

In urban areas, 1,51,453 dwellings have been regularised.

With a view to fully satisfy the basic amenities such as Roads, Drinking Water, Medical Care and Electricity in rural areas, a sum of Rs.1,015 crores at the rate of Rs.20 lakhs per panchayat has been sanctioned under the Annaithu

Grama Anna Marumalarchi Scheme to 5,075 panchayats.

Every Town Panchayat is provided with Rs.50 lakhs and an amount of Rs.280 crores was sanctioned to 561 Town Panchayats under the Annaithu Peruratchi Anna Marumalarchi Thittam. All basic amenities are being fulfilled in Town Panchayat areas under this scheme.

The remaining Panchayats and Town Panchayats will also benefit by the extension of these programmes.

The fact that the health of 71 lakh children and school children is being cared for by providing three eggs along with nutritious meals every week has earned universal acclaim.

In order to stem the disgruntlement of the youth in search of employment and motivate them, a monthly cash allowance scheme was introduced. 3,38,818 youth have been benefited. Some of these youth

could be from your family or your neighbour.

This Government takes pride in having issued orders to 1,80,797 youth and ensuring employment.

Exclusive Welfare Boards have been set up for the benefit of those in the unorganised sector such as agricultural labourers, construction

has not only been revived by this Government but also the assistance under the scheme has been enhanced to Rs.15,000 as evidenced by your personal experience or from the benefit derived by the beneficiaries in your neighbourhood.

The Varumun Kappom Thittam of this Government is your health



workers, etc. and financial assistance is channelised through them.

You are aware that the Old Age Pension has been raised to Rs.400 per month from Rs.200 per month.

The Marriage assistance of Rs. 10,000 to girls who had studied upto 10th standard was discontinued. You may appreciate that this scheme

protection scheme. I request you to avail the benefits of the scheme.

Under the principle of providing "one medical college for every district", new Medical colleges are being established in Villupuram, Tiruvarur and Dharmapuri Districts.

2,327 new buses have been added to the fleet strength of Public

Transport. Another 3,000 new buses will be serving the public during the current year.

You would not have forgotten that the Uzhavar Sandhai scheme, that brought succor to poor farmers and poor consumers, had been crippled. These Uzhavar Sandhais have now been revived. Another 50 new Uzhavar Sandhais will be added in a month or

If we have to preserve the welfare of the poor and down-trodden, we have to ensure that the fruits of Freedom should reach everyone. All required measures and schemes should be continuously implemented by the Government. This concern has never been distanced in our contemplation. Everyday we discharge our responsibilities with this unswerving commitment in our mind.



two in addition to the existing 103 Uzhavar Sandhais.

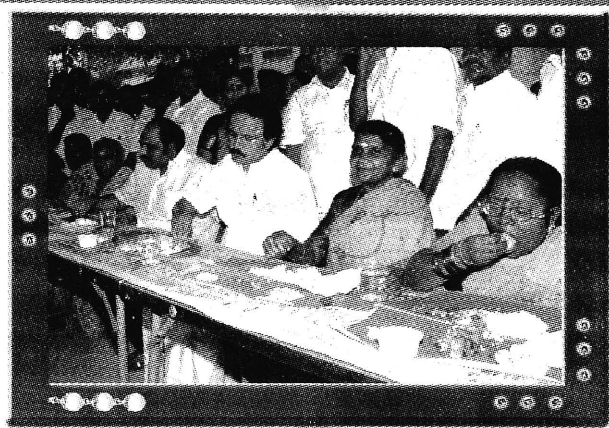
In order to protect the common man from the menacing heart diseases and to extend a helping hand to children needing heart surgeries, this Government have decided to sanction financial assistance of Rs.10,000 for ordinary heart surgery, Rs.30,000 for ordinary open heart surgery and Rs.70,000 for complicated heart surgery.

Having made promises and secured your votes and formed the Government, I contemplate all development plans from the moment I took over the responsibility of the Government and uptill now, only with a fond sense of my Tamil Nadu, my Tamil people and my beloved Tamil Language. I implement them with the support of like minded friends. I am ceaselessly striving for your well being and for the prosperity of Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu remains a forerunner in many areas of development for other States in India. We should endeavour to make Tamil Nadu a model State for any scheme. That status should also be firmly anchored. I therefore make an earnest appeal on this august day to you, the people of Tamil Nadu, to extend your continued cooperation for all such schemes that are carried out by this Government in achieving the goal of bringing prosperity in the life of each and everyone in the State.

Long Live Freedom !
Long Live Tamil Nadu !
Long Live Tamil People !
Vanakkam.

- Speech of the
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi while
hoisting the National Flag at the
ramparts of Fort. St. George on
15.8.2007



Hon'ble Minister for
Rural Development and
Local Administration
Thiru. M.K. Stalin participated in
the "Samabanthi Virundhu"
(Common feast) at
Arulmigu Agatheeswarar and
Prasanna Venkatesa Perumal
Thirukoil held in
connection with the
Independence day on 15.8.2007.



Hon'ble Information Minister
Thiru. Parithi Ellamvazhuthi
participated in the "Samabanthi
Virundhu" (Common feast) at
Arulmigu Athipurieswarar and
Athikesava Perumal Thirukoil at
Chennai held in connection
with the
Independence day on 15.8.2007.

IF THE VILLAGES ARE DEVELOPED THE COUNTRY COULD PROGRESS

Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi



Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M.Karunanidhi on 3rd September, 2007 launched the Rs.280.50 crore Anna Renaissance Scheme for Town Panchayats (ARSTP) at Mamallapuram in Kancheepuram district.

The Chief Minister announced that all basic infrastructure facilities would be created in all the 561 Town Panchayats in the State under the scheme.

Explaining the salient features of the Scheme, the Chief Minister said that in the first phase, a total of 140 Town Panchayats would be covered during this financial year.

The Chief Minister thought that it would be apt to call the sculpture town "Mamallapuram" rather than "Mahabalipuram." Tamil scholars would also agree with the suggestion made by him, he said.

Recalling his association with Mamallapuram for over 60 years, the Chief Minister said in 1950s he was staying at Mamallapuram along with MGR and his brother M.G. Chakrapani to write script and dialogues for the film 'Naam'.

Narrating the mythical story behind 'Onam festival' celebration in Kerala, he said the name of the emperor 'Mahabali' or 'Maavali', who is said to have been duped and killed by Mahavishnu, had no relevance to the name of the place. This place was named after Pallava king Narasimavarman who ruled this part of Tamil Nadu. He was a great wrestler (hero of Malyutham) and defeated Chalukya king Pulikesi who invaded the kingdom.

The Chief Minister called upon the people to know the distortions given to 'our history', civilization and culture and the need to set them right.

It was his dream to make Mamallapuram as a historical tourist centre and it was realised after his assuming the office of Chief Minister. Similarly his dream of creating 'Poompuhar' at Kavaripoompattinam came true. It was of his effort that the place is connected with Chennai by a wide and beautiful road.

The Chief Minister said he was terribly impressed by the improvement made in 'Kunnapattu' hamlet which he had visited earlier and said every village and hamlet should be provided with all the facilities and opportunities available in urban areas. Only if the villages developed the country could progress, safeguarded, unity fostered and an equitable economic order established by eradicating poverty, Chief Minister said. Chief Minister

congratulated the Local Administration and Rural Development Department which were engaged in the task.

Lauding the Kancheepuram district administration for executing infrastructure development works under the All Village Anna Renaissance Scheme at Kunnapattu village in Tiruporur block, the Chief Minister said the perfection with which the works were executed at Kunnapattu had made him think whether his native village Thirukuvalai in Tiruvarur district could also be made a perfect village with all basic infrastructure facilities.

Hon'ble Local Administration Minister Thiru.M.K.Stalin expressed confidence that the ARSTP would bring a drastic change in appearance and availability of basic facilities in Town Panchayats as several of them were tourist centres.

Thiru.Stalin hailed the participation of Thiru.P.A.Yashwantrao, in the Government function as an historic event. "To my knowledge none of the elected representatives from the previous Government had ever participated in the government functions in the recent past."

Chief Secretary Thiru. L.K.Tripathy expressed hope that the scheme would help reduce overcrowding in cities and major towns in the State.

★



Tamil language and culture can be protected and preserved only by collective effort and not by fostering enmity, Chief Minister Kalaighnar M. Karunanidhi said.

Distributing 'Kalaimamani' awards for the year 2006 to 69 persons in Chennai on 1st September, 2007, Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaighnar M. Karunanidhi who himself was the recipient of the award in 1967 from the then Chief Minister Arignar Anna, said it was time to protect, preserve and celebrate Tamil.

Such awards were recognition of the services rendered by the artists to their respective art forms, the Chief Minister said, adding that actors

and technicians of television medium too were being honoured this year onwards.

Stars of small screens were included in this year's list as they had represented to him even before he became Chief Minister this time, Chief Minister recalled.

Recalling that this institution was earlier called as 'Sangita Nataka Sabha' as if Tamil equivalents had no divinity and only after the government took office under the leadership of Anna the State was rechristened as Tamil Nadu and according to his (Chief

Minister's) suggestion, the Sabha was rechristened as 'Tamil Nadu Iyal, Isai, Nataka Mandram'.

**“Let us
protect,
preserve
and
celebrate
Tamil”**

**Hon'ble
Chief Minister
Kalaighnar
M. Karunanidhi**

Referring to the earlier thanks giving speech of actor Thiru Parthiban, on behalf of the awardees, he said that he felt like receiving 'Tamil Nadu itself while receiving the award from Chief Minister, the Chief Minister humorously remarked that many people were awaiting to



take away the State without 'our' knowledge but Tamils including the actor were not so naive (to allow it).

Dedicating the compliments offered to him to his mentor Anna, Chief Minister recalled that Anna presented him the award in 1967.

"Even if we happen to fall, Tamil shall live and let others live", he said.

The Chief Minister made a fervent appeal to the people to protect the Tamil language from onslaughts.

"We are in a compelling situation to preserve and protect the language. Forget the differences. Do not blame each other in the name of or in the process of protecting the language. Remain united in achieving the goal", Chief Minister said.

The Chief Minister said the people of Tamil Nadu should be wary of those who claim to be the custodians of the language.

The Chief Minister recalled the idiom normally heard on Dravidan movement platforms that "we won't mind sacrificing our lives to save Tamil".

"It will survive all crises", he added. Chief Minister wondered whether the newspaper that advised Kalaingar TV to save Tamil was following its own advice. He then read out the Sanskrit words that appeared in the newspapers. "Before giving advice to others you must follow it", he added.

Rajya Sabha Member Poet Tmt.Kanimozhi, received a souvenir released on the occasion.

Earlier, President of the Tamil Nadu Iyal Isai Nataka Mandram Thiru Rama.Narayanan said the Government had raised the monthly dole for indigent artists from Rs.500 to Rs.1,000.

The Government had allocated about Rs.2 crore in all to fulfil various demands and representations from the Mandram, he added.

Tourism and Culture Secretary Thiru T.S.Sridhar said over 1,700 persons were conferred Kalaimamani awards so far and added that a total of 9,603 indigent artists received the monthly assistance.

In all, 69 artistes in and two organisations Sri Lalithalaya Stage and Muthamizh Peravai, received the Kalaimamani awards, which carried a citation, a three-sovereign gold medal and a shawl.



GOVERNOR'S ADVICE TO FILM ARTISTES

His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru Surjit Singh Barnala lamented that sometimes unhealthy forms with sensuality came into arts. "Vulgarity and violence are seen on the stage and screen. Cinema is a powerful medium and of late the small screen has had much influence on the lives of children and society.

Speaking at the Kalaimamani awards distribution function, he said, "Artistes should take it as their responsibility to make valid contributions to build up a healthy society".

His Excellency said that the small screen had, of late, started to influence the children and the society.

"The ills in our society like the caste system, untouchability, exploitation of women, corruption and violence can be successfully brought down by the exquisite exposition of the celluloid medium" he said.

His Excellency pointed out that art should not be a medium of vested interests.

Expressions should be creative. The vibrant cultural and artistic expression of the South, especially Tamil Nadu, should be seen at its best, in line with the national ethos. Tamil Nadu has reflected its culture in art, architecture, carnatic music, classical dance, theatre, handicrafts, folk forms, paintings and so on" he added.

An artiste, howsoever gifted he or she might be, required two things above all - inspiration and recognition. Inspiration was something which came from within, an urge for self-expression, the Governor said.





The Transformation of Village Panchayats

Hon'ble Minister for
Local Administration
Thiru M.K. Stalin
inspires a grass root
change as
never before

The Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi said the spirit of India lies in villages. He passionately advocated the cause of villagers administering their areas and carrying out micro-level economic activities independently for self sufficiency and self-dependence. But very little effort was made for the realization of his dream and empower village panchayats by delegating more powers and provide them with the required funds to provide basic amenities to the people.

On assuming office as Minister for Local Administration and Rural Development, Thiru M.K.Stalin, brimming with confidence and with a sense of commitment, took a series of steps in the direction of empowering these grass-root level bodies.

A State-level meeting of local body chiefs was held in Chennai on 18 March, 2007 in which Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi participated and gave detailed guidelines and counselling for an efficient and people-friendly administration at the local level.

The Chief Minister advised the best use of funds allotted by the State for various welfare schemes. The Chief Minister assured that the Government would consider all demands of the Local Bodies.

Local bodies are roots; Govt the tree

"If I am a ruler in a sense, the elected representatives of local bodies are also rulers in the same way at a micro level. I am elected to shoulder the responsibility of governing state. Similarly you are elected to shoulder the responsibility of governing a Village, a

and how it functions with linkages at different levels of different departments like Agriculture, Education, Highways, Revenue, etc. "Above all you have the Local Administration Department and a separate Minister." He likened the state government to a big tree and its different departments to the branches of the tree. If the roots were not strong, the tree would collapse. Similarly if local bodies failed to function properly, the state administration would be affected.

The Chief Minister explained that the government cannot directly attend to the



panchayat, a Town or a City. Ooratchi, Nagaratchi, Maanagaratchi are different levels of *Atchi*. Those in the responsible positions with power in serving the people should be honest, clean and sincere. Only then the people in the Hamlets, Villages, Towns and Cities will live in comfort, leading a cheerful life", Hon'ble Chief Minister exhorted.

Hon'ble Chief Minister took pains to explain the mechanism of the government

needs of the people living in thousands of Hamlets, Villages, Towns and Cities. The benefits accrued to the villages, the infrastructure developments such as provision of streetlights, supply of protected potable water, laying of roads, imparting education to children, etc cannot practically be provided by the government directly. The government has different institutions to provide linkages like Village Panchayats, Town Panchayats, Municipalities, Corporations, etc to take the benefits to the

people at their respective places. He elaborated further and said, "you ask for money for the development of your area. Yes. The money is granted. You receive the money. It is not possible for us to go to every place to monitor whether the money was properly utilised for the purpose for which it was sanctioned. We hope and believe that you spent the money sanctioned to your area as per the rules and directions. Such rules apply to every one. It applies to you and also to me. It applies to each one of the Ministers here".

The Chief Minister set the agenda for the efficient functioning of local bodies in general and village panchayats in particular.

Zonewise interaction

Following the advise of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, the Hon'ble Rural Development and Local Administration Minister Thiru M.K.Stalin started the process of interacting with these elected representatives zonewise.

It is a fact that no Minister who has held the portfolio earlier had embarked upon an exercise to meet elected representatives at the lowest rung of the Panchayati Raj in the State. The idea was conceived by Hon'ble Minister Thiru M.K.Stalin and his team of officials.

"It was during a tour of the districts that we thought we have to meet as many elected local body representatives as possible. The aim is to give them the feeling that we are with them in trying to find solutions to their problems," he said.

Hon'ble Minister M.K. Stalin and his team have completed a tour of all the districts, spending two to three days in each district in a bid to find solutions to long-pending problems.

Specific problems ranging from pollution to drinking water and from livelihood concerns to transport facilities were addressed at the district meetings.

"After we completed that exercise, we began the exercise of engaging local body representatives in a dialogue," he said and added that the Chief Minister was the driving force behind the meetings. "He told me that I cannot do rural development sitting in Fort St. George [where the State Secretariat is located]," Thiru Stalin said.

Thus began a series of meetings with elected representatives at many tiers of governance.

The department had completed the process for urban local bodies. Now the focus was on rural local bodies. Since there were 12,618 Village Panchayat Presidents, it was not feasible to meet all of them at one venue. Hence, the State was divided into four Zones. Three meetings had already been held-Erode (West), Tiruchi (Central) and Tiruvannamalai (North).

Thiru. M.K.Stalin said the response was amazing. "There was over 90 per cent attendance. We need to listen to them closely to find out the situation on the ground. We have to shape our responses based on these."

In West zone, of the 1734 Presidents, 1561 turned up while in Central, 2618 of the 2839 Presidents attended. But North zone received Thiru M.K. Stalin's special attention because of the huge numbers involved.

There are 648 elected Presidents in Kancheepuram, 540 in Tiruvallore, 753 in Vellore, 860 in Tiruvannamalai, 337 in Krishnagiri, 682 in Cuddalore and 1104 in Villupuram.



The responsibility of logistics for the meetings was entrusted to Hon'ble Food Minister Thiru E.V.Velu. Their inputs would be considered and debated at length by a high power commission, which is looking into the question of devolution of powers to local bodies.

Local Bodies powers to be restored

This Government will restore within two to three months the powers and privileges of local bodies that were withdrawn during the earlier regime, Hon'ble Minister Thiru M.K. Stalin assured on July 25, 2007 at the Zonal conference of Village Panchayat Presidents in Trichy. Hon'ble Minister Thiru.M.K. Stalin said he expected the two committees formed to analyse larger power delegation to local bodies to submit their reports by then. While one committee is involved in the study of the power structure in Corporations, Municipalities and Town Panchayats, the other is analysing the requirements in Panchayats and Panchayat Unions.

After assuming power, the Government ensured that reservation for women in local bodies exceeded the 33 percent mark envisaged in the Panchayat Raj introduced by late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, he added. During the course of the Conference, Panchayat Presidents narrated their difficulties on power supply, road development, inadequate travel allowance, and encroachment of poramboke lands. Responding to their grievances, Thiru.M.K. Stalin said that a survey of the road requirement was under way.

Advising the district administrations to furnish the details of poramboke land to Village Panchayats, he wanted the Police and Revenue departments to evict the encroachments and restore the land to the Panchayats. Promising to enhance travelling allowance for the Panchayat presidents shortly, he also announced that they would be provided with photo identity cards.

"All requirements of local bodies will be met in five years and in 2006-07, Rs.500

crore was spent for 2,540 local bodies. For 2007-08, Rs.507 crore has been sanctioned by the Government to 2,534 local bodies and their basic infrastructure needs will be met with the funds," said Hon'ble Local Administration Minister Thiru M.K. Stalin on 7, August 2007. Thiru M.K. Stalin was inaugurating a Regional level Panchayat Presidents' meet in Erode.

He said out of 1,734 Panchayat Presidents of Erode, Salem, Namakkal, Dharmapuri, Coimbatore and Udagamandalam 1,562 attended the meet. He spoke about the powers of the Panchayat chiefs and said a lot of powers were granted to them under the Panchayat Raj Act and other Acts. He said for women 33 per cent reservation was granted in the local bodies and there were 56,516 Women Chairpersons, Presidents and Members in various Panchayats and Municipalities in the State.

The Minister advised them to give full attention for panchayats and also wanted them to give priority to water supply, road, drainage and sanitation. He wanted them to conduct Gram Sabha meetings properly and disclose details of the Panchayats' schemes, revenue and expenditure. He said the State Government would urge the Centre to sanction more funds for the Total Sanitation Programme.

Earlier, the Panchayat Presidents wanted the State to give subsidy to the local bodies for electricity consumption charges. They said all Presidents should be provided with free cellular connections. They also desired free bus passes.

Thiru M.K.Stalin promised that he would represent their grievances to the Chief Minister. He released a Guide on rural water supply and health development and Hon'ble Rural Industries Minister Thiru. Pongalur N.Palanisamy received it.

Village Panchayat Presidents sought more powers and resources from the State Government at the Zonal Meeting in Tiruvannamalai on August 3, 2007.

Panchayat Presidents who were paying obeisance even to petty officials and were scared of voicing any grievance, are now thus emboldened to stand up to the Minister and make demands rightfully, which itself was a success to the exercise undertaken by Hon'ble Minister Thiru. M.K. Stalin.

Most of the 71 Panchayat Presidents who spoke at the zonal meeting wanted the Minister to make sure that the common problems of villages were solved. The issues raised included water scarcity, lack of transport and medical facilities, a further reduction in power tariff, more funds for emergency use, greater say in implementation of schemes such as the free colour TV and free gas and LPG stove programmes and enhancement of money given to build houses under the Indira Aawaas Yojana (IAY).

Hon'ble Thiru M.K. Stalin and Rural Development Secretary Thiru Ashok Vardhan Shetty said action had been initiated to solve many of the long-standing problems. As many as 7,500 of the 12,618 Panchayat Presidents did not have a basic phone connection.

The Minister announced that they would get one in the next two months. On the IAY scheme, Thiru Stalin said he had taken up with the Centre the need to increase funding for construction of houses.

An average of 93 per cent of the village chiefs from Villupuram, Kancheepuram, Tiruvannamalai, Krishnagiri, Tiruvallur, Cuddalore and Vellore attended. Kancheepuram recorded the highest turnout- 632 of the 648 elected Presidents participated.

All Village Panchayat Presidents in the State will be given identity card from August 23, 2007 when the fourth regional meeting of Village Panchayat Presidents of the southern districts will be held at Virudhunagar, Thiru Stalin announced. He said the demand emerged at the second regional meeting of Village Panchayat chiefs held in Tiruchi. The Panchayat chiefs wanted it to identify themselves wherever necessary.

The card would contain their name, name of the Panchayat and district and duration of their tenure. The last was to ensure that the

On the recommendation of the Chief Minister, the TNEB chairman issued orders that with effect from 1st August, 2007, it would not carry out inspections of Village Panchayats for ascertaining whether any deposit payment was due. Payment of deposit would not be insisted from Panchayats already inspected. The Government had agreed to bear the burden of the additional deposits, he said.

On the plea of the Village Panchayat chiefs for enhancement of their travelling



Panchayat chiefs did not misuse the cards after expiry of tenure.

Referring to the demand made at the Tiruchi meeting for waiver of additional deposit (ranging from Rs.50,000 to Rs.1 lakh) required to be paid by the Panchayats to the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board for additional connections, the Minister said the demand was discussed at the recent Collectors' conference in Chennai.

allowance, Thiru. M.K.Stalin said after consulting the Chief Minister and the officials concerned, it would be increased reasonably. He urged the Panchayat chiefs to fill forms issued to them at the meeting and express their views in it. "We will go through the forms, process them and take suitable action based on your views". Thiru Stalin noted out of the 4,922 Village Panchayats in the seven northern districts, Presidents of 4,585 attended the meeting at Tiruvannamalai.

Rural Development Secretary, Thiru K. Ashok Vardhan Shetty, said following the complaint of Village Panchayats that 70 per cent of their revenue went towards payment of the power bill, the tariff for Village Panchayats had been reduced from Rs.3.30 to Rs.3 per unit, and penal tax on arrears payable to the TNEB reduced from 12 per cent to 6 percent.

Marked increase in funds

The days of scarcity of funds in Panchayats are over. Village Panchayat Presidents are worried for a different reason these days: how to effectively utilise the huge increase in funding coming their way. Compared to last year, the 12,618 Village Panchayats together in the State will get Rs.400 crore more, which will ensure that a lot of money will be at the disposal of the elected body to take up pending and urgent development work. This was one of the main points highlighted Thiru M.K. Stalin at the three zonal conferences he has held so far. He explained that this was achieved through three methods.

One was to increase the total amount of State's Own Tax Revenue (SOTR) transferred to local bodies. In 2006-07, the rural local bodies (the Village Panchayats, the panchayat, Unions and District Panchayats) shared between themselves Rs.1,225 crore.

In 2007-08, because of the one per cent increase in transfer, the amount to be shared between the rural local bodies rose to Rs.1,586 crore. The changes did not end there. The share for each tier of the rural elected bodies is decided on the basis of the State Finance Commission recommendation. In 2006-07, the District Panchayats received 8 percent of the amount, the Panchayat unions 45 percent and Village Panchayats 47 percent.

After the third SFC submitted its report, this was redrawn and the Village Panchayats got a significant hike-60 per cent of the funds.

The allocation for District Panchayats remains unchanged. Apart from this a fixed Central grant of Rs.174 crore was being shared between the 385 Panchayat Unions and Village Panchayats in the ratio 20 per cent to 80 percent. Now, the whole money will be divided among the 12, 618 Village Panchayats.

The larger picture that emerges is this; in 2006-07, the total amount available for devolution was Rs.714 crore (Rs.575 crore from the SOTR and Rs.139 crore from Central grants). This has jumped to Rs.1,126 crore (Rs.952 crore from SOTR and Rs.174 crore from Central grants). With these villages can now finally pay their power bills, pay their staff and also take up development work. "This situation is unprecedented," a senior official said.

Most local bodies frequently complain about the high power bills that are imposed on them. The arrears run into over a few hundred crores of rupees. The Local Administration department, after consultations with the Electricity Board, had announced a waiver of all outstanding dues and a reduction in power charges.

Most importantly, giving in to the demand from Village Panchayats, the Board has announced that it would install electricity meters in all Village Panchayats and has also reduced the amount charged for putting up an electricity pole.

Thus a history is in the making of Village Panchayats in Tamil Nadu, which is destined to become a role model to emulate by the rest of the country, thanks to the tireless and dedicated work put in by Hon'ble Minister Thiru M.K.Stalin.



SINGULAR SCHEMES OF TAMIL NADU GOVERNMENT

SUPPLY OF QUALITY RICE AT Rs.2/- PER KG.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi on assuming power on 13.5.2006 announced the first order of distribution of 1 Kg. of rice at Rs.2/- which brought happiness on the faces of the poor and the downtrodden. This scheme is being implemented from 3.6.2006 onwards in Tamil Nadu. From the inception, this scheme has won the appreciation of the general public. The happiness of the poor and the downtrodden people while obtaining their commodities from the fair price shops is quite evident throughout the state.

This heavily subsidised rate is much lower than the price at which the



Government of India supplies rice to people below poverty line. Supply of rice at such a low price in the state will go a long way in eliminating hunger by enabling the highest levels of affordability and utilisation by the poor. This scheme assures food security to the poor and the needy.

Since the price at which rice is supplied through the Public Distribution System in Tamil Nadu is the lowest in India, the price of open market rice is kept under control for the past one and half years. It is also ensured that good quality of rice is being issued under this scheme to the public.

PULSES & EDIBLE OILS AT FAIR PRICE SHOPS

On the orders of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, the Government of Tamil Nadu procures essential commodities such as pulses, edible oil, rava and maida at reasonable prices and distributes them through the fair price shops in order to keep the open market prices under control. This scheme was launched on the Tamil New Year's Day i.e. 14.4.2007 in Chennai City. In the second phase, this scheme was extended to all the fair price shops in the

remaining districts of Tamil Nadu from the month of May 2007. Accordingly, Toor Dhall, Urad Dhall and Palmolein are being procured and supplied to the fair price shops by Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation for distribution to all the card holders. 15,000 M.Ts of wheat allotted by Government of India at the open market rate has been purchased by Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation Limited and they are converted by private Roller Flour Mills as Rava and Maida. Now, Rava and Maida are also being distributed to the card holders of Tamil Nadu through fair price shops.

Due to the implementation of the special public distribution system, the open market prices of Toor Dhall and Urad Dhall, have been reduced to the level of PDS rates. Hence, the Government revised the rate of Toor Dhall under the PDS from Rs.34/- to Rs.32/- per Kg. Similarly, the rate of Urad Dhall has been reduced from Rs.40/- to Rs.36/- per kg. This scheme has kept the spiralling open market prices of these essential commodities under check.

This scheme has been well received by the public. The present prices of these essential commodities distributed through fair price shops are as follows:

Sl. No.	Name of the Commodities	Issue price
1.	Toor Dhall	Rs.32/-(1 Kg)
2	Urad Dhall	Rs.36/-(1 Kg)
3	Palmolein	Rs.40/-(1 Litre)
4	Rava	Rs.17/-(1 Kg)
5	Maida	Rs.16/-(1 Kg)

Government have decided to implement the scheme on a continuous basis. Based on the orders of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu another important aspect of the scheme is distribution of Toor Dhall and Urad Dhall in lesser quantities i.e. 250 gram and 500 grams also to the card holders.

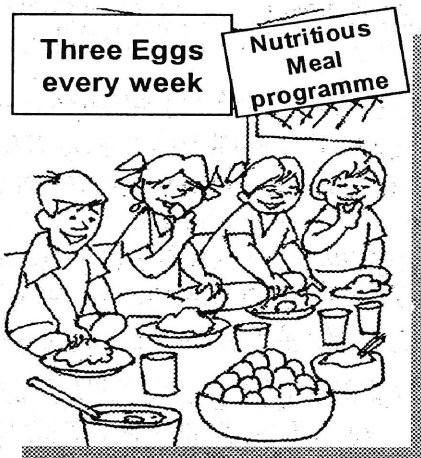
THREE EGGS PER WEEK FOR CHILDREN

The Government under the leadership of Kalaaignar M. Karunanidhi takes keen interest in the welfare of children and their development in order to improve the potential of future generations in Tamil Nadu.

Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaaignar M. Karunanidhi launched a new scheme on 03-06-1989 for providing one boiled egg in a fortnight for the children and the students in the age group of 2-15 years in Anganwadi and nutritious meal centres in schools. Subsequently, this was modified during April 1998 by the Government under the leadership of Dr.Kalaaignar to provide one boiled egg every week for the nutritious meal beneficiaries.

It has been announced in the election manifesto for the year 2006, that two boiled eggs will be provided every week. In order to implement this announcement, Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaaignar M. Karunanidhi immediately on assuming office, signed the concerned file and passed orders for providing two boiled eggs every week. This is a pioneer event in the history of democracy.

It was announced in the Budget for 2007-2008 that three boiled eggs will be provided every week along with nutritious meal. On that basis, it has been ordered that three boiled eggs will be provided every week from 15-07-2007, the birthday of Perunthalaivar Kamarajar. As a result, 71 lakh children and students in the age group of 2-15 years are benefited under this scheme through 87,642 Nutritious meal centres and Anganwadi centres functioning under MGR Nutritious Meal Programme and Integrated Child Development Services Scheme.



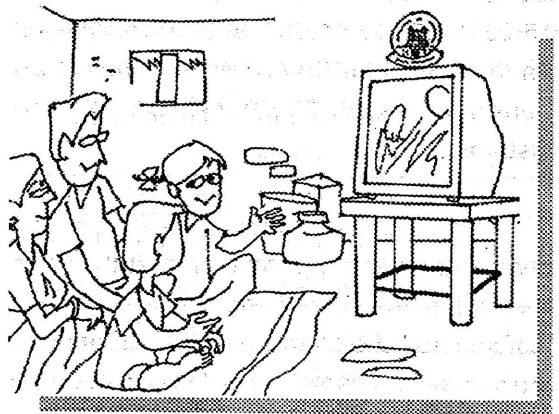
Further, Hon'ble Chief Minister has ordered to provide one boiled egg every week to the children in the age group of 1-2 years also. About 2,40,017 children is benefited by this new scheme from 15-07-2007. The total expenditure for these schemes will be Rs.165 crores per annum.

The Supreme Court of India has advised that nutritious food with 300 calories of energy and 8-12 grams protein for a

minimum of 200 days may be provided. However, nutritious meal is provided on all the 365 days throughout the year with 435 calories of energy and 10.6 grams of protein for the children and students in the age group of 2-10 years and for 220 days for the students of 11-15 years. Apart from this, it is significant to note that students are receiving 238.8 calories of energy and 18.36 grams of protein additionally every week since 3 boiled eggs are provided every week with nutritious meal.

DISTRIBUTION OF FREE COLOUR TELEVISIONS

In order to expand General Knowledge and to enhance Entertainment Value to Women, the Government have decided to implement the Scheme of Distribution of Free Colour Television, to families who do not possess Colour Television. Families holding Ration Cards and no Colour Television will qualify to receive Free Colour Television. It has been enumerated that 1.75 Crore families are in this category. An Advisory Committee was formed including All-party MLAs for the successful implementation of the scheme. To



ensure transparency in the selection of beneficiaries, Committees were also be constituted locally to select the beneficiaries at the level of Village Panchayats / Corporations / Municipal Corporations and Special Grade Village Panchayats and also a Technical Expert Committee was formed for procurement of Colour Televisions.

In pursuance, the Government have ordered in the first phase to distribute 30,000 Colour Televisions in all the districts on 15.9.2006, the birthday of Arignar Anna at all the Periyar Memorial Samathuvapurams where all caste people are living together, and to all the scheduled tribe families living in the Nilgiris district and also to the people living in Slum Clearance Board tenements one each in South and North Chennai. This scheme has been completed successfully on 16.9.2006.

The Government also directed the distribution of 25 lakhs of Colour Televisions in the second phase in the year 2007, approximately 10,000 Colour Televisions per each assembly segment. This scheme was launched by Hon'ble Chief Minister on 15.02.2007. 16,51,284 Colour Televisions have been distributed to the qualified beneficiaries till 02.09.2007 in all the districts.

One Deputy Collector at the district level and other supporting staff at the taluk level have been appointed to implement the scheme. For the effective implementation of the schemes, 164 Bolero Jeeps with required

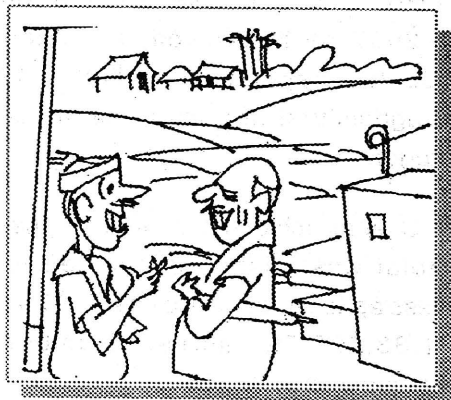
fuel were being allotted to the Deputy Collectors and Tahsildars at a total cost of Rs.7.70 crores and Rs.6.25 crores had been allocated to meet contingent expenditure.

LAND TO LANDLESS POOR AGRICULTURAL FAMILIES

As announced in the Budget speech for 2006-2007, the special scheme for distribution of Government Waste Lands to landless poor agricultural families was evolved. This is being implemented in the following three categories:

- i) Assignment of Government Poramboke lands free from encroachment.
- ii) Assignment of Government Poramboke lands encroached upon by landless, marginal and small farmers.
- iii) Development and Reclamation of Patta Waste lands owned by small and marginal farmers.

Certain Special measures have been introduced to ensure that the selection of



beneficiaries by the Village Committees is open and transparent and it is subsequently placed before the Grama Sabhas. This apart, the land is distributed to the landless beneficiaries only after necessary land development and reclamation wherever required, dovetailing with various schemes being executed by the Departments of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The first Phase of the distribution of land under this scheme was launched by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr.Kalaaignar on 17.9.2006 in Thiruvallur District. During the first phase, a total extent of 25,282.11 acres under all the 3 categories mentioned above has been reclaimed wherever necessary and distributed to 24,358 landless and poor agricultural families. The Second Phase of distribution was launched on 17.12.2006 by the Hon'ble Chief Minister in Villupuram District. This has benefited 26,749 landless and poor agricultural families covering an extent of 25,805.53 acres. For the Third Phase distribution on 17.3.2007, an extent of 26,029.61 acres was distributed to 20,648 poor agricultural families.

For the IV Phase distribution on 17.6.2007 at Tirunelveli, an extent of 24,505.86 acres was distributed to 19821 poor agricultural families in all the above 3 categories.

Over all achievement under V phase of the total waste lands distributed to the landless agricultural families as on 28.9.2007 is 1,33,688.72 acres. Number of beneficiaries is 1,16,508.

REGULARISATION OF ENCROACHMENTS IN GOVERNMENT PORAMBOKE LANDS

The Government issued orders to regularise the encroachments made in Government lands by way of construction of houses and living there for more than 10 years. This one time Special Scheme was in force upto 31.3.2001 and 1,95,957 house site pattas have so far been issued.

As this scheme did not reach certain sections of people and did not achieve the expected result and in view of number of petitions received from public and a large number of questions raised by Members of Legislative Assembly, the issue was discussed with the Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaaignar M. Karunanidhi and after detailed consideration, orders were issued to implement this scheme again.

According to this new Government order, the District Collectors have been empowered to regularise the encroachments made in all Government poramboke lands, (except the lands in and around Temples, Mosques and Churches which are classified for public purposes and not in use of their said classification but in use as Natham) by way of construction of houses and in occupation for more than 10 years and producing proper evidence for it. Certain ban orders imposed for more than 10 years and producing proper evidence for it. Certain ban orders imposed for assignment in

objectionable poramboke lands are relaxed for this special scheme.

Since the time limit for implementing the one time special scheme expired on 30.6.2007, orders have been issued on 30.6.2007, extending the time limit by six more months. As per this special schemes 76,907 house pattas have been issued till 15.8.2007.

During the District Collectors Conference held on 30th of 31st of July, 2007, the Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaigñar M. Karunanidhi had announced that 3 lakhs house site pattas will be issued before March, 2008. To achieve the above target, the Special Commissioner of Land Administration has fixed a target for each District Collector. A High Level Officers Meeting by Chief Secretary was held on 20.8.2007. Accordingly this special scheme has been extended upto 31.3.2008. Many clarifications and instructions were also issued to District Collectors. Certain powers were delegated to them for effective and successful early achievement of the above target. The Secretaries of Highways, Rural Development & Panchayat Raj, Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Public Works Departments were requested to issue necessary instructions to their Heads of Departments and district level officers to co-operate with the District Collector in the process of regularisation of encroachment for achievement of the target of issue of 3 lakh house site pattas as announced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

ANAITHU GRAMA

ANNA MARUMALARCHI THITTAM (AGAMT)

The Government have launched a new scheme called the Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam. The scheme aims at substantial mobilization of resources into the Village Panchayats and improvements of infrastructure in all the 12,618 Village Panchayats in the State over the next five years. In terms of allocation, this is the biggest scheme among all the Centrally and State sponsored schemes presently under implementation. After the implementation of the scheme there should be visible impact and distinct improvement in the quality and quantity of the amenities available in the Village Panchayat.

Based on the per capita income of Village Panchayats worked out by the districts, the list of villages to be taken year wise has been communicated to the districts. Under this scheme, in order to improve the basic infrastructure facilities in the Panchayats, priority has been given to the Village Panchayats in which the per capita income is very low. Based on this, one fifth of Village Panchayats in each Block has been prepared according to ascending order of per capita income and improvement of rural infrastructure will be taken up over a period of five years.

Under this programme, every Village Panchayat would get a direct State assistance of Rs.20 lakhs each. Out of this Rs.15 lakhs is for the tied component and Rs.5 lakhs is for the united component. However, this ceiling

can be exceeded by drawing a part of the untied component. However, a school sports centre can be developed for Rs.2 lakhs by taking Rs. 50,000 from the untied component of Rs.5 lakhs.

For each of the AGAMT Village, a committee consisting of the following members will be given the responsibility for the selection of the works and finalisation of the exact location of the works

- i) Village Panchayat President concerned
- ii) Block Development Officer (Village Panchayats)
- iii) Assistant Engineer / Union Engineer of the concerned Block
- iv) Village Administrative Officer concerned.

5. The works taken up under AGAMT Scheme funds can be broadly grouped into two categories namely

- (A) Compulsory works
- (B) Optional works

Compulsory works :

There are five components under this category.

- (i) One pond/oorani/tank per village
- (ii) Sports centres
- (iii) Libraries
- (iv) Burial Ground/Cremation Ground
- (v) Water supply

Optional works :

The Following optional works can also be taken up under this scheme.

- (i) Cement concrete pavements
- (ii) Extention of street lights and installation of sodium vapour lamps / compact Fluorescent lamps (CFLS) / Fluorescent Tube lights
- (iii) Fish ponds
- (iv) Shandies

The works not permitted under MLACD Scheme will not be permitted under this scheme also. One percent of the total annual allocation will be earmarked for Information, Educational and Communication activities pertaining to this scheme. A total of 2540 Village Panchayats have been selected and works were taken up during 2006-07 under this scheme at a cost of Rs.513.08 Crores. 2534 Village Panchayats are being taken up under AGAMT during 2007-08. Hence, at the rate of Rs.20 lakh per Village Panchayat, a total of Rs.506.80 crores is allocated. In addition, 1% of the allocation (i.e) Rs.5.068 crores is allocated for Information, Education and Communication component of the scheme. Totally, an amount of Rs.511.868 crores is allocation for AGAMT during 2007-08.

MULTIMEDIA PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS

Instead of people approaching the Government for benefits, the Tamil Nadu

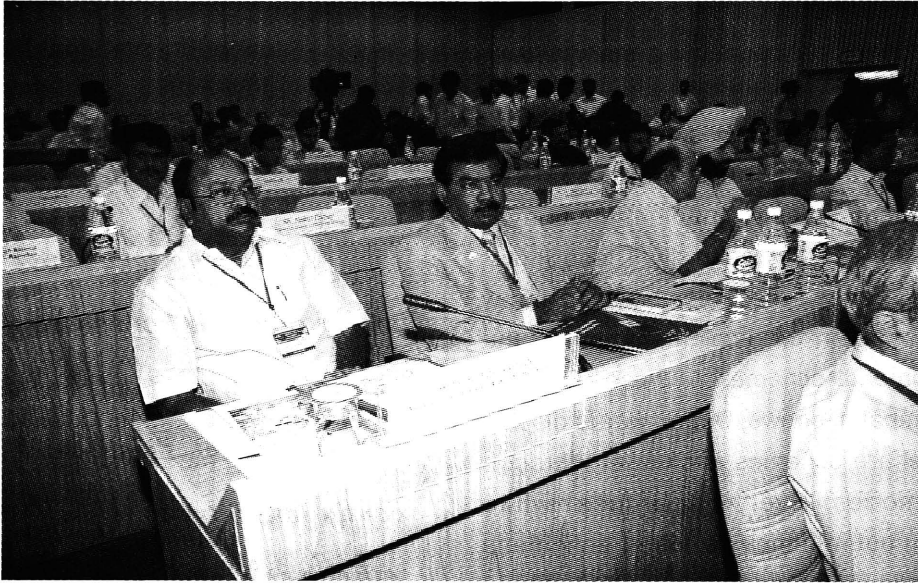
Government reaches out to the public and embraces them with the schemes which provide benefits. This is the focus of the Multi Media Publicity Campaigns held in Tamil Nadu. Here, the District administration integrates all the Departments and organises exhibitions in the Rural Areas after assessing the necessity for conducting such shows. The exhibition displays to the beneficiaries through Photos and Movies, the details about Schemes and achievements of the Government, so as to enable them to avail the benefits of schemes easily. These shows bring awareness among public and throw transparency in the implementation of the developmental schemes. At these exhibition cum campaign shows, Departments display their welfare schemes exclusively through these modes. Every department while reaching out with their activities, enlightens on the eligibility for availing the benefits of the schemes. Apart from this, petitions are received from the public during the camps or shows and redressed then and there on priority basis. Medical camps, Livestock camps are also conducted along with the shows and exhibition for the public. In the evening, folk dances and cultural programmes are conducted as entertainment to the public as well as to educate them on the welfare schemes.

For the purpose of organising Multimedia Campaigns, the Government have sanctioned Rs.1 lakh per district and Rs.30 lakhs for the entire state last year.



“Those who take active interest and toil hard to develop the arid barren land into an arable lot, those who continuously try to improve the efficiency of the machines in the factory and increase the working results and those who are sincerely involved in improving the quality of life of the people by proper and equitable distribution of the generated wealth of the society are my worthy comrades. I salute them heartily.”

“TAMIL NADU - a pioneer in empowering the fourth estate”



Facilitating the work of Press

Hon'ble Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Hon'ble Information Ministers from all over the country, Secretaries to the Governments and friends,

I deem it a honour to participate in this 26th Conference of State Information Ministers convened by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting , Government of India. I bring to you all the good wishes and greetings of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr.Kalaignar who has brought in a renaissance in the Film and Television Industry in Tamil Nadu and put the many important arms of the Information Department on fast track to make it vibrant and effective.

Tamil Nadu has been a pioneer in empowering the Fourth.estate and facilitating their work. Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr.Kalaignar introduced the Journalists' Family Benefit Scheme in 1997 wherein the family of a working journalist with 20 years of service was sanctioned Rs 25,000 if he died in harness. Now the scheme has been modified and the Journalist's family receives Rs Two Lakhs if the Journalist had served more than 20 years prior to his death, Rs 1.5 lakhs if the Journalist had served 15 years, Rs One Lakh if he had served more than 10 years and Rs 50,000 if he had served 5 years and above. Thus a Journalist who served for 5 years has now become eligible for pension and the family entitled for relief fund.

Tamil Nadu also implements the Journalists' Pension Scheme for the benefit of retired senior Journalists. Our Government has enhanced the monthly pension from Rs. 3,000 to Rs 4,000 and 73 retired journalists are presently receiving pensions. Journalist Family Pension was introduced by our Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr Kalaignar in 1998 wherein the family of Journalist who had received Journalist Pension is entitled to receive pension. The pension amount has now been enhanced from Rs. 1,500 to Rs. 2,000 per month. A Housing Scheme for accredited Journalists is also being implemented in a tie up with Tamil Nadu Housing Board and State Bank of India.

It is common knowledge that Tamil Nadu is world renowned for Film Industry and is one of the major points of film production on earth. With world class artistes and technicians, the Industry provides employment to thousands in the State including the 1,662 theatres that are located in the State. But Tamil Nadu badly needed a fillip to sustain the Industry for various reasons, when our Government took over. The Industry saw slow decline in Film production, theatres were being converted into Shopping malls and Marriage halls and the Public hardly visiting theatres as it was not a financially viable proposition and preferred to watch Television in house.

With more than a year of the Government assuming office in Tamil Nadu, Tamil Nadu's Film Industry has seen a sea change in scenario as never before. Public have now started flocking the Theatres again and more movies run for an unusually longer period of time thereby bringing cheer in the lives of thousands involved in the Film Industry. In fact more movies are being made now and released than they were during the early years of this decade. Please let me amplify the State's Success trail here for common benefit so that

TamilNadu's model might be replicated in other states too.

Curbing Video Piracy

To begin with, Video piracy was considered one of the main rivals of the Industry. The Government decided to put an end to this menace with an iron hand. The Legislation of incorporation of Video Piracy offenders as one of the categories of persons eligible for detention under Act 14 of 1982 for maintenance of Public Order and following it up with strict enforcement has resulted in the detention of 43 hard core offenders in the State. Act 14 of 1982 is an Act made under item three of the concurrent list of the constitution, which empowers the State Governments to make laws of preventive detention for purpose of maintenance of law and order. The incorporation, I am pleased to inform you have been twice upheld by the High Court of Madras. TamilNadu has also enhanced the penalties for violation of licensing regimes and copyright violations under TamilNadu Exhibition of Films on Television Screen through Video cassette recorders and Cable Television Network Regulation Act, 1984.

To control Video piracy, Acts such as Copyright Act 1957, TamilNadu Exhibition of Films on Television Screen through VCR and Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act 1984 and the Cinematography Act, 1952 are also invoked. Steps are also taken to curb smuggling in and out of pirated DVDs and VCDs at Airports and Seaports in liaison with the Custom authority. This multi pronged approach has successfully curbed video piracy in the state.

In addition, Police officers and constables dealing with Video piracy are given specialized training on relevant legislations and regulations on video piracy. The State Police officers have

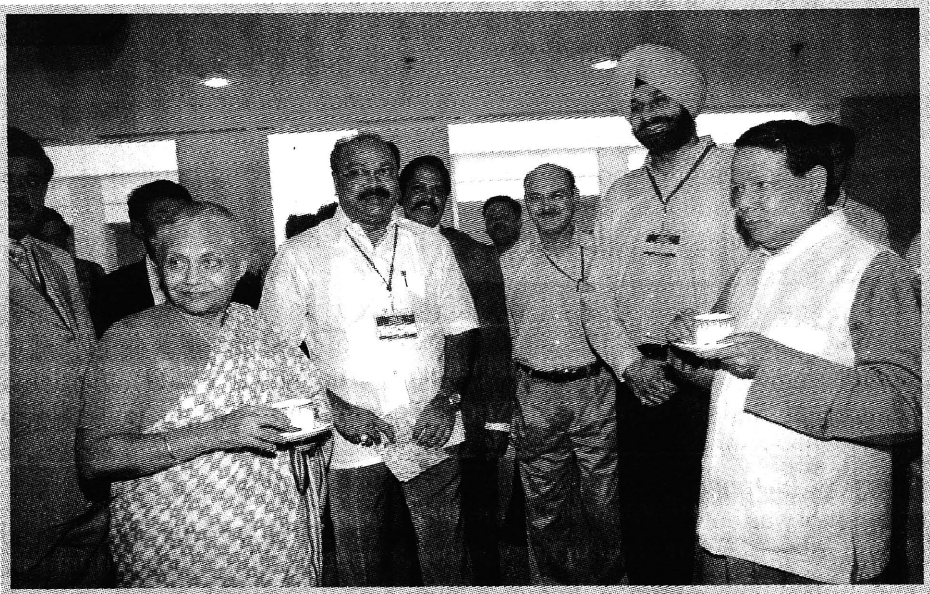
been sensitised regarding the importance of enforcement of piracy laws so much so that the State Police machinery is well focused on the matter.

Renaissance in the Film Industry

I call your attention to an item on the Agenda which states that Film Exhibition Sector has been gradually shrinking in size in the country. This was mainly due to the poor patronage by the public which has other

view to ultimately pass on these benefits to the public.

In response to the requests made by the Tamil Film Producers Council, Film Chamber, Film Distributors Association and Chennai City Theatre Owners Association, Tamil Nadu Government revised and re fixed the rates of admission to Cinema theatres with minimum and maximum rates based on the category of the local bodies wherein the Theatres are



reasons such as insufficient facilities in theaters, prohibitive cost of tickets, popularity of television and the like.

After assumption of office by our Government last year, a bouquet of concessions was offered to the Film Industry. Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. Kalaingar took landmark decision to provide total exemption from Entertainment tax for old and new films having titles in Tamil, substantial reduction of rates for film shooting in public places with a

located. The Government also cancelled the previous order which allowed the licensees of cinema theatres to charge rates without ceiling being fixed for a period of two weeks from the date of commencement of exhibition of new film in theatres. The Government has also directed that if the Licensees of Cinema Theatres desire to charge below the maximum rates fixed by the Government for a specified period, they may be allowed to do so with due notice to the licensing authority and commercial tax authority.

Based on the representation received from the owners of Multiplexes and Chennai City Exhibitors Association, the Government has fixed the rates for Multiplexes based on the number of facilities they provide. The Government has also fixed the rates for entry into Family Entertainment Centres with more than three screens thus enabling the Public to frequent theatres, multiplexes and family entertainment theatres more often as they have become purse friendly to lower and middle class families. Joint inspection of Theatres to ensure that theatres are maintained hygienically is also done periodically for the benefit of the movie going masses.

Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. Kalaingar also directed reduction in the rates for Film shooting charges in Public places drastically and they are now as cheap as Rs. 3,000 per day for most locations. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has also reduced shooting charges for Television serials to 50 percent of the rates fixed for film shooting.

In addition to the Annual Awards for Best Feature Films, Artistes and Technicians, TamilNadu has introduced Annual awards for Television Artistes and Technicians. Tamil films that receive international awards are now encouraged by a new incentive scheme. And a subsidy of Rs Seven lakhs for each Low Budget Quality Tamil films continues to be in vogue.

As a result of these radical measures changes are already visible in TamilNadu. Theatres are now being thronged by the public, films find it easy to become commercially successful and Film and Television industry in TamilNadu feel more secure than ever before. This new born security enables film producers and directors to focus on the many facets of film making. This indeed has been a

renaissance period for the Film and Television industry in TamilNadu and this was achieved within hardly a year of the Government assuming power.

Rules ought to change with technologies

I would place a request to the Government of India to some ideas for favourable consideration so that we can ensure a safe place for the Film industry.

Rules governing theatres are outdated and have not kept pace with the change in rapidly changing technologies. The licensing procedure and clearance required from many authorities for construction of theatres and screening of films is truly long and cumbersome. And it is common knowledge that despite, the grant of Industry status, no subsidy or tax break is available for establishment of theatres in most parts of the country. As providing leisure activity to the common man is important to the quality of life of the society, cinema theatres need to be encouraged. This Conference could think of ways to simplify and upgrade laws and suggest them to the State Governments as well as providing incentives to the Film industry in the country.

In this regard, I am pleased to inform you that in TamilNadu we have constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of the Commissioner of Land administration to suggest modifications to the existing TamilNadu Cinemas(Regulation) Act, 1955 in line with advancements in Cinematography.

Prashar Bharati

The Government of India has been requesting for availing of exemption from various taxes for Prashar Bharati. TamilNadu had provided land and other facilities to Doordarshan and All India Radio at prime

places as they were direct units of the Government of India. Now these two bodies have come into the wings of the Prashar Bharati Corporation, an autonomous body. Prashar Bharati Corporation envisages "revenue maximization as one of its primary goals". Yet the Corporation continues to enjoy many benefits and concessions provided by the State.

Prashar Bharati has been requesting TamilNadu for honouring Form-D. Form-D has been withdrawn under Central Sales Tax act, 1956 and Government departments cannot avail reduced tax rate of CST at 3 percent and have to pay tax at the rate applicable in the respective state with effect from 1-4-2007. I request the Government of India to understand and appreciate our position on this matter.

Prashar Bharati's contribution to further the State Government's purposes and objectives has been quite negligible. As a so called "Public Broadcaster", Prashar Bharati must supplement Regional aspirations and provide specific time slots to propagate and enlighten people on the Policies, Programmes and Schemes of the State Governments. We have been repeating this request in many SIMCONs and it is time the Central Government directs Prashar Bharathi to work in co-ordination with the State governments.

Arasu Cable TV Corporation

TamilNadu has been a fore runner on matters regarding Film and television industry. Recently our Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. Kalaiginar directed the start of Cable TV operations by the State as a Multi System Operator (MSO) in Chennai Metropolitan area and as Cable Operator in the other areas of the State to provide quality feed to the televisions at homes. This meant that signals

from Broadcasters directly will be received and delivered to local cable television operators. A new company called " Arasu Cable TV Corporation Limited" has been formed by the TamilNadu Government , in this regard.

I am happy that Government of India has proposed to develop and market India as a favourite shooting destination for films. TamilNadu has a multitude of heritage centers, a rich and vibrant culture, long and wide beaches and salubrious hill stations that can enrapture people from allover the world leave alone a film crew looking for wonderful destinations. We support this idea of the Government wholeheartedly and will support any endeavours that show cases our state to the world. I would request the Government of India as well as the National Film development Corporation to co-ordinate with us in deciding the locations in TamilNadu and give us a fair share of destinations.

I am very happy that this conference has provided an opportunity to voice the opinion of State Governments on various challenges faced by the Information Departments in the country.

I would request that this Conference is held every year so that we can take stock of ourselves and carry forward the objectives enshrined in our constitution by our founding fathers. I look forward to positive responses by the Government of India to the many issues raised by us here.

Thank You,
Vanakkam.

Address of Honourable
Minister for Information
Thiru. **Parithi Ellamvazhuthi** at the
Conference of State Information Ministers
(SIMCON XXVI)
at New Delhi on 19.09.2007

PROS' MEET TO TONE UP THEIR FUNCTIONING



Addressing the two day conference of “Public Relations Officers” in Chennai on 27th & 28th August 2007, Hon’ble Information and Urban Development Minister Thirü. Parithi Ellamvazhuthi said “Public Relations Officers of the State Government should discuss how to carry out their functions more swiftly and tone up their functioning in an era of knowledge economy”.

The Conference focussed on the Review of efforts taken for propaganda of the special schemes announced by Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu with the help of officers of the Information Department. The Minister said “that even as the officials were

handling the modern technology, they should strengthen their core functions. He urged the District Public Relations Officers to send Press Releases on events in their areas to the Chennai offices of news papers, besides supplying them to the local editions. They should up date the data base of their districts regularly. He pointed out that the Press Releases and Photographs issued by the Administration in the districts need to be uploaded to the Government’s Websites. They should have updated information about the beneficiaries of Government Schemes too”, he added.

The special schemes announced by Hon’ble Chief Minister and the method in

which the schemes are taken to the general public for them to be benefited was also discussed in the conference.

The hindrance caused while propagating the schemes and the benefits derived from the scheme were exchanged at the Conference.

The Hon'ble Minister for Information further added that "this Conference was a yardstick to measure work regarding the announcement of the Government schemes. This Department is a vehicle to take the Government announcements of the schemes and its achievements and to the common public. The department should be tone up their functioning in an era of knowledge economy. They should be make more utilisation of the recent info techniques.

The amplification of all the Government schemes and the news should be easily and quickly taken to the public .

Usage of computer should be increased. Each office should maintain a data base. Government website should carry the schemes along with photographs and has to be updated and made available immediately.

"Arasu Seithi" a poster printed and published by Tamil Arasu should be pasted at places where common man can read. The work of preparing and pasting the posters should be speedened, he added.

On the second day of the conference on 28.8.2007, the Chief Secretary to Government Thiru.L.K.Tripathi addressed the officers.

In his speech, the Chief Secretary said "that in India, Tamil Nadu is the only State where poverty is mostly eradicated, people have a square meal, the rice is sold at Rs.2/- per kilo at PDS. Moreover, students in the school are given egg thrice a week which is a marvelous.

The toiling labourer at the end of the day can be entertained with the colour television distributed to the Government. This helps the rural man to know about the happenings of the World. The educated unemployed youth are given financial assistance.

The Marriage assistance scheme, the Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar scheme and the assistance to the pregnant women of a sum of Rs.6000/-. They make the common public vigilant of the schemes now and then announced by the Government" the Chief Secretary concluded. Later he conversed with the PRO's from the districts.

Secretary to Tamil Development, Religious Endowments and Information Department Thiru.D.Rajendran and Director of Information & Public Relations Department, Dr.A.C.Mohandoss lead the discussions at the Conference. ★



Ensure quality of development works

Hon'ble Minister for
Rural Development &
Local Administration,
Thiru **M.K. STALIN**

All development works being taken up in rural areas should be completed within the stipulated time and quality ensured in all the projects, said Thiru.M.K.Stalin, Hon'ble Minister for Local Administration.

He was inspecting various development works and inaugurating new buildings constructed under the Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam in Dindigul on 8, July 2007.

Completion of works in time would help people enjoy the benefits, he said. Collector Tmt.R.Vasuki who accompanied the Minister briefed the cost of each on going project and duration of completion. The Minister also inspected an open drainage canal work at RM Colony and a slaughter house.

Later, he spoke to the locals after inspecting a rural tank at Paraipatti, inaugurated a library constructed at a cost of Rs.3 lakh at Paraiyur, checked the quality of cement road at Mullipadi and a rural road connecting Bojarajanpatti and Kalathupatti at a cost of Rs.9.50 lakh near Vadamadurai. Hon'ble Revenue Minister Thiru.I.Periasamy and Hon'ble Minister for HR&CE Thiru K.R.Periakaruppan accompanied him.

Thiru M.K.Stalin on 7th July 2007 distributed fund allotment certificates to five town



panchayats, which are among the 45 selected for development works under the Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns.

A sum of Rs.63.24 crore has been allocated for the 45 town panchayats, which include Tirukkazhukundram, Musiri, Kalakkad, Kombai and Cheranmadevi. Works on roads, platforms, rainwater drainage and underground sewerage facilities would be taken up under the scheme.

'MANIMEKALAI AWARDS' GIVEN AWAY

Hon'ble Local Administration Minister M.K.Stalin distributed the newly-instituted, Manimekalai awards for self help groups in the State to leaders of the winning groups.

Five Panchayat - level Federations were awarded Rs.1 lakh each and 10 self help groups Rs.50,000 each, at the function at Kalaivanar Arangam on 25, September 2007.

federation at the Panchayat-level will be chosen for a cash prize of Rs.50,000 and three SHGs will also be chosen in each district for cash awards.

Detailing the history of the self-help group movement in the State, the Minister said it was among the earliest such movements in the country. What began as an experiment in



A CD about the activities of Women Development Corporation was released in the form Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development Thiru M.K.Stalin, Director of Information and Public Relations Dr. A.C. Mohandoss received the First CD.

The federations were from Erode, Dharmapuri, Villupuram, Karur and Tiruvallur districts and the SHGs from Erode, Tiruvannamalai, Vellore, Pudukottai, Kanyakumari, Perambalur, Namakkal, Chennai, Villupuram and Tiruvallur.

Thiru. Stalin also launched an education project for self help group women. Speaking on the occasion, he urged the women to be equally aware of the needs of the nation and society and serve them, even as they used their empowerment to look after themselves and their families better.

More awards in the offing

He said more awards for SHGs at the district-level were in the offing: one SHG

Dharmapuri in 1989 had now grown to include over 3.5 lakh groups comprising about 56 lakh women members. Every year an additional 25,000 groups were being formed.

"It was a matter of pride that in Tamil Nadu, women's representation in local bodies was far higher than the 33 per cent reservation promised by the law" Local Administration Minister Thiru M.K.Stalin said.

Women leaders from some of the winning SHGs shared their experiences with micro finance, microenterprise and activity based learning.



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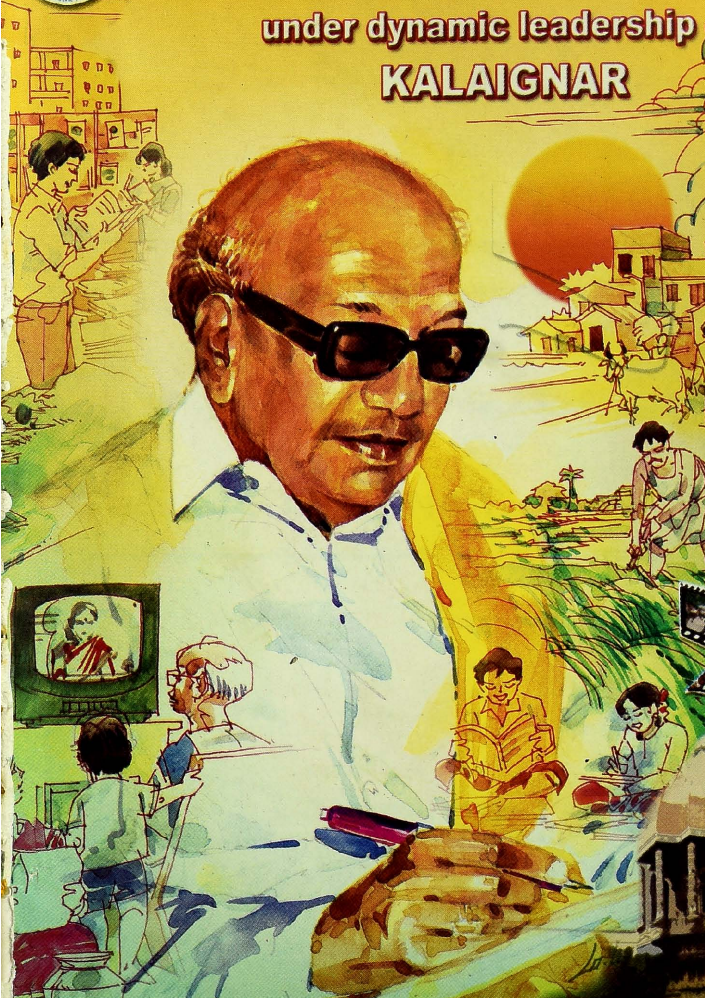
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UNIQUE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF TAMIL NADU
UNDER DYNAMIC LEADERSHIP
OF
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SUPPLY OF QUALITY RICE AT

Rs.2/- PER KG.

**தமிழரசு
அலுவலகப் பி.**

The Hon'ble Chief Minister on the day of assuming power on 13.5.2006 announced the first order of distribution of 1 Kg. of rice at Rs.2/- which brought happiness on the faces of the poor and the downtrodden. This scheme is being implemented from 3.6.2006 onwards in Tamil Nadu. From the inception , this scheme has won the appreciation of the general public. The happiness of the poor and the downtrodden people while obtaining their commodities from the fair price shops is quite evident throughout the state.

This heavily subsidised rate is much lower than the price at which the Government of India supplies rice to the below poverty

people .

Supply of rice at such a low price in the state will go a long way in



eliminating hunger by enabling the highest levels of affordability and utilisation by the poor. This scheme assures food security to the poor and the needy.

Since the price at which rice is supplied through the Public Distribution System in Tamil Nadu is the lowest in India, the price of open market rice is kept under control for the past one and half years. It is also ensured that good quality of rice is being issued under this scheme to the public.

PULSES & EDIBLE OILS AT FAIR PRICE SHOPS

On the orders of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu , the Government of Tamil Nadu procure essential commodities such as pulses, edible oil, rava and maida at reasonable prices and distribute them through the fair price shops in order to keep the open market prices under control. This scheme was launched on the Tamil New Year's Day i.e. 14.4.2007 in Chennai City. In the second phase, this scheme was extended to all the fair price shops in the remaining districts of Tamil Nadu from the month of May 2007. Accordingly, Toor Dhall, Urad Dhall and Palmolein are being procured and supplied to the fair price shops by Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation for distribution to all the card holders.

15,000 M.Ts of wheat allotted by Government of India at the open market rate has been purchased by Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation Limited and they are converted by private Roller Flour Mills as Rava and Maida. Thus Rava and Maida are also being distributed to the card holders of Tamil Nadu through fair price shops.

Due to the implementation of the special public distribution system, the open market prices of Toor Dhall and Urad Dhall, have been reduced to the level of PDS rates. Hence, the Government revised the rate of Toor Dhall under the PDS from Rs.34/- to Rs.32/- per Kg. Similarly, the rate of Urad Dhall has been reduced from Rs.40/- to Rs.36/- per kg. This scheme has kept the spiralling open market prices of these essential commodities under check.

This scheme has been well received by the public . The present prices of these essential commodities distributed through fair price shops are as follows:

Sl. No.	Name of the Commodities	Issue price
1.	Toor Dhall	Rs.32/-(1 Kg)
2	Urad Dhall	Rs.36/-(1 Kg)
3	Palmolein	Rs.40/-(1 Litre)
4	Rava	Rs.17/-(1 Kg)
5	Maida	Rs.16/-(1 Kg)

Government have decided to implement the scheme on a continuous basis. Based on the orders of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu another important aspect of the scheme is distribution of Toor Dhall and Urad Dhall in lesser quantities i.e. 250 gram and 500 grams also to the card holders.

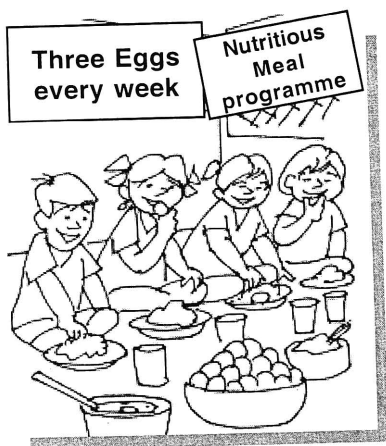
THREE EGGS PER WEEK FOR CHILDREN

The Government under the leadership of Dr.Kalaaignar takes keen interest in the welfare of children and their development in order to improve the potential of future generation in Tamil Nadu.

Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr.Kalaaignar launched a new scheme on 03-06-1989 for providing one boiled egg in a fortnight for the children and the students in the age group of 2-15 years in Anganwadi and nutritious meal centres in schools. Subsequently, this was modified during April 1998 by the Government under the leadership of Dr.Kalaaignar to provide one boiled egg every week for the nutritious meal beneficiaries.

It has been announced in the election manifesto for the year 2006, that two boiled eggs will be provided every week. In order to implement this announcement, Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr.Kalaignar immediately on assuming office, signed the concerned file and passed orders for providing two boiled eggs every week. This is a pioneer event in the history of democracy.

It was announced in the Budget for 2007-2008 that three boiled eggs will be provided every week along with nutritious meal.



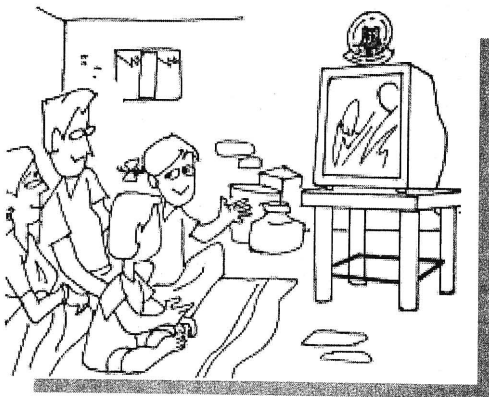
On that basis, it has been ordered that three boiled eggs will be provided every week from 15-07-2007, the birthday of Perunthalaivar Kamarajar. As a result, 71 lakh children and students in the age group of 2-15 years are benefited under this scheme through 87,642 Nutritious meal centres and Anganwadi centres functioning under MGR Nutritious Meal Programme and Integrated Child Development Services Scheme.

Further, Hon'ble Chief Minister has ordered to provide one boiled egg every week to the children in the age group of 1-2 years also. About 2,40,017 children is benefited by this new scheme from 15-07-2007. The total expenditure for these schemes will be Rs.165 crores per annum.

The Supreme Court of India has advised that nutritious food with 300 calories of energy and 8-12 grams protein for a minimum of 200 days may be provided. However, nutritious meal is provided on all the 365 days throughout the year with 435 calories of energy and 10.6 grams of protein for the children and students in the age group of 2-10 years and for 220 days for the students of 11-15 years. Apart from this, it is significant to note that students are receiving 238.8 calories of energy and 18.36 grams of protein additionally every week since 3 boiled eggs are provided every week with nutritious meal.

DISTRIBUTION OF FREE COLOUR TELEVISIONS

In order to expand General Knowledge and to enhance entertainment value to the Women, the Government have decided to implement the Scheme of Distribution of Free Colour Television, to families who were not having a Colour Television. Families holding Ration Cards and no Colour Television will qualify to receive the Free Colour Television. It has been enumerated



that 1.75 Crore families are in this category. An Advisory Committee was formed including All-party MLAs for the successful implementation of the scheme. To ensure transparency in the selection of beneficiaries, Committees were also be constituted locally to select the beneficiaries at the level of Village Panchayats / Corporations / Municipal Corporations and Special Grade Village Panchayats and also a Technical Expert Committee was formed for procurement of Colour Televisions.

In pursuance, the Government have ordered in the first phase to distribute 30,000 Colour Televisions in all the districts on 15.9.2006, birthday of Arignar Anna at all the Periyar Memorial Samathuvapurams where all caste people are living together, and to all the scheduled tribe families living in the

Nilgiris district and also to the people living in Slum Clearance Board tenements one each in South and North Chennai. This scheme has been completed successfully on 16.9.2006.

The Government also decided and ordered the distribution of 25 lakhs of Colour Televisions in the second phase in the year 2007, approximately 10,000 Colour Televisions per each assembly segment. This scheme was launched by Hon'ble Chief Minister on 15.02.2007. 16,51,284 Colour Televisions have been distributed to the qualified beneficiaries till 02.09.2007 in all the districts.

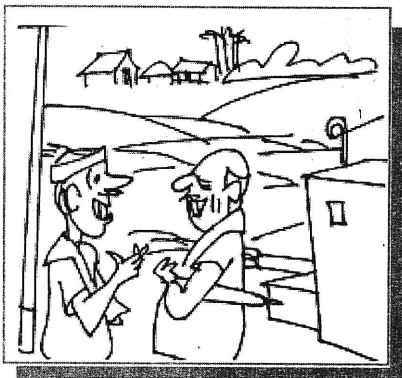
One Deputy Collector at the district level and other supporting staff at the taluk level have been appointed to implement the

scheme. For the effective implementation of the schemes, 164 Bolero Jeeps with required fuel were being allotted to the Deputy Collectors and Tahsildars at a total cost of Rs.7.70 crores and Rs.6.25 crores had been allocated to meet contingent expenditure.

DISTRIBUTION OF WASTE LANDS TO LANDLESS POOR AGRICULTURAL FAMILIES

As announced in the Budget speech for 2006-2007, the special scheme for distribution of Government waste lands to landless poor agricultural families was evolved. This is being implemented in the following three categories:

- i) Assignment of Government Poramboke lands free from encroachment.
- ii) Assignment of Government Poramboke lands encroached upon by landless, marginal and small farmers.
- iii) Development and Reclamation of Patta Waste lands owned by small and marginal farmers.



Certain Special measures have been introduced to ensure that the selection of beneficiaries by the Village Committees is open and transparent and it is subsequently placed before the Grama Sabhas. This apart, the land is distributed to the landless beneficiaries only after necessary land development and reclamation wherever required, dovetailing with various schemes being executed by the Departments of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The first Phase of the distribution of land under this scheme was launched by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr.Kalaaignar on 17.9.2006 in Thiruvallur District. During the first phase, a total extent of 25,282.11 acres under all the 3 categories mentioned above has been reclaimed wherever necessary and distributed to 24,358 landless and poor agricultural families. The Second Phase of distribution was launched on 17.12.2006 by the Hon'ble Chief Minister in Villupuram District. This has benefited 26,749 landless and poor agricultural families covering an extent of 25,805.53 acres. For the Third Phase distribution on 17.3.2007, an extent of 26,029.61 acres was distributed to 20,648 poor agricultural families.

For the IV Phase distribution on 17.6.2007 at Tirunelveli, an extent of

24,505.86 acres was distributed to 19821 poor agricultural families in all the above 3 categories.

Till date 1,01,623.11 acres of Waste lands have been distributed to the 91,576 poor agricultural families.

For the V phase distribution to be held on 17.9.2007, a target of 31,548.00 Acres of land has been fixed to the Collectors in all the above 3 categories. This scheme will continue to be implemented.

REGULARISATION OF ENCROACHMENTS IN GOVERNMENT PORAMBOKE LANDS

The Government issued orders to regularise the encroachments made in Government lands by way of construction of houses and living there for more than 10 years. This one time Special Scheme was in force upto 31.3.2001 and 1,95,957 housesite pattas have so far been issued.

As this scheme did not reach certain sections of people and did not achieve the expected result and in view of number of petitions received from public and a large number of Legislative Assembly Questions raised by Members of Legislative Assembly, the issue was discussed with the Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr.Kalaignar and after detailed

consideration, orders were issued to implement this scheme again.

According to this new Government order, the District Collectors have been empowered to regularise the encroachments made in all Government poramboke lands, (except the lands in and around Temples, Mosques and Churches which are classified for public purposes and not in use of their said classification but in use as Natham) by way of construction of houses and in occupation for more than 10 years and producing proper evidence for it. Certain ban orders imposed for more than 10 years and producing proper evidence for it. Certain ban orders imposed for assignment in objectionable poramboke lands are relaxed for this special scheme.

Since the time limit for implementing the one time special scheme was expired on 30.6.2007, orders have been issued on 30.6.2007, to extend the time limit by six more months. As per this special schemes 76,907 house pattas have been issued till 15.8.2007.

During the District Collectors Conference held on 30th of 31st of July, 2007, the Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr.Kalaignar has announced that 3 lakhs house site pattas will be issued before March, 2008. To achieve the above targets, the Special Commissioner of Land Administration has fixed a target for each District Collector. A High Level Officers Meeting by Chief Secretary was held on 20.8.2007. Accordingly this special scheme has been extended upto 31.3.2008. Many clarifications

and instructions were also issued to District Collectors. Certain powers were delegated to them for effective and successful early achievement of the above target. The Secretaries of Highways, Rural Development & Panchayat Raj, Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Public Works Departments were requested to issue necessary instructions to their Heads of Departments and district level officers to co-operate with the District Collector in the process of regularisation of encroachment for achievement of the target of issue of 3 lakh house site pattas as announced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

ANAITHU GRAMA
ANNA MARUMALARCHI THITTAM
(AGAMT)

The Government have launched a new scheme called the Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam. The scheme aims at substantial mobilization of resources into the Village Panchayats and improvements of infrastructure in all the 12,618 Village Panchayats in the State over the next five years. In terms of allocation, this is the biggest scheme among all the Centrally and State sponsored schemes presently under implementation. After the implementation of the scheme there should be visible impact and distinct improvement in the quality and quantity of the amenities available in the Village Panchayat.

Based on the per capita income of Village Panchayats worked out by the districts, the list of villages to be taken year wise has been communicated to the districts. Under this scheme, in order to improve the basic infrastructure facilities in the Panchayats, priority has been given to the Village Panchayats in which the per capita income is very low. Based on this, one fifth of Village Panchayats in each Block has been prepared according to ascending order of per capita income and improvement of rural infrastructure will be taken up over a period of five years.

Under this programme, every Village Panchayat would get a direct State assistance of Rs.20 lakhs each. Out of this Rs.15 lakhs is for the tied component and Rs.5 lakhs is for the untied component. However, this ceiling can be exceeded by drawing a part of the

untied component. However, a school sports centre can be developed for Rs.2 lakhs by taking Rs. 50,000 from the untied component of Rs.5 lakhs.

For each of the AGAMT Village, a committee consisting of the following members will be given the responsibility for the selection of the works and finalisation of the exact location of the works

- i) Village Panchayat President concerned
- ii) Block Development Officer (Village Panchayats)
- iii) Assistant Engineer / Union Engineer of the concerned Block
- iv) Village Administrative Officer concerned.

The works taken up under AGAMT Scheme funds can be broadly grouped into two categories namely

(A) Compulsory works

(B) Optional works

Compulsory works :

There are five components under this category.

- (i) One pond/orani/tank per village
- (ii) Sports centres
- (iii) Libraries
- (iv) Burial Ground/Cremation Ground
- (v) Water supply

Optional works :

The Following optional works can also be taken up under this scheme.

- (i) Cement concrete pavements
- (ii) Extention of street lights and installation of sodium vapour lamps / compact Fluorescent lamps (CFLS) / Fluorescent Tube lights
- (iii) Fish pond
- (iv) Shandies

The works not permitted under M.L.A.C.D.Scheme will not be permitted under this scheme also. One percent of the total annual allocation will be earmarked for Information, Educational and Communication activities pertaining to this scheme. A total of 2540 Village Panchayats have been selected

and works were taken up during 2006-07 under this scheme at a cost of Rs.513.08 Crores. 2534 Village Panchayats are being taken up under A.G.A.M.T during 2007-08. Hence, at the rate of Rs.20 lakh per Village Panchayat, a total of Rs.506.80 crores is allocated. In addition, 1% of the allocation (i.e) Rs.5.068 crores is allocated for Information, Education and Communication component of the scheme. Totally, an amount of Rs.511.868 crores is allocation for AGAMT during 2007-08.

MULTIMEDIA PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS

Instead of people approaching the Government for benefits, the Tamil Nadu Government reaches out to the public and embraces them with the multi schemes which provide benefits. This is the motto of the Multi Media Publicity Campaigns held in the State of Tamil Nadu. Here, the District administration integrates all the Departments and organises exhibitions in the Rural Areas after assessing the necessity for conducting such shows. The exhibition displays to the beneficiaries through Photos and Movies the details about Schemes and achievements of the Government, so as to enable them to avail the benefits of schemes easily. These shows bring awareness among public and

throw transparency in the implementation of the developmental schemes. At these exhibition cum campaign shows, departments display their welfare schemes exclusively through these modes. Every department while reaching the targeted with their activities, enlightens on the eligibility for availing the benefits of the schemes. Apart from this, petitions are received from the public during the camps or shows and redressed then and there on priority basis. Medical camps, Livestock camps are also conducted along with the shows and exhibition for the public. In the evening, folk dances and cultural programmes are conducted as entertainment to the public as well as to educate them on the welfare schemes.

For the purpose of organising multimedia campaigns, the Government have sanctioned Rs.1 lakh per district and Rs.30 lakhs for the entire state last year.



