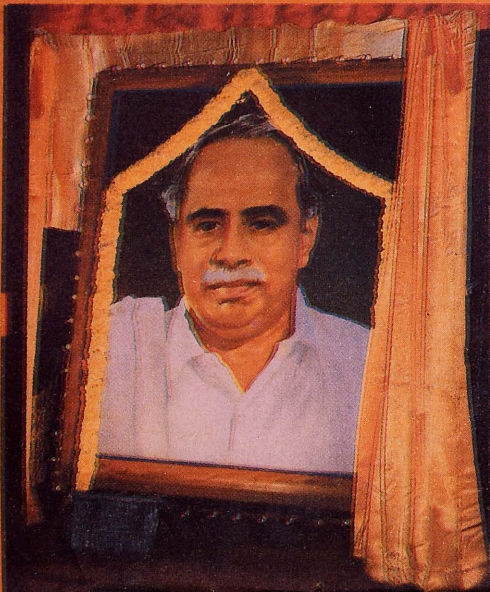
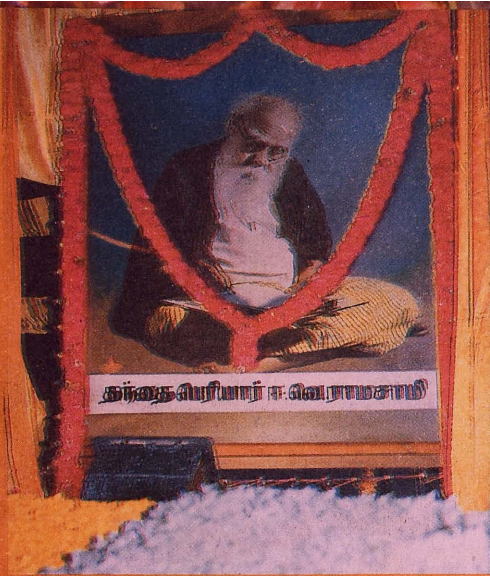


Tamil Arasu

OCTOBER 1991 Re.1







TAMIL ARASU

A Monthly Journal of Government of Tamil Nadu

**Thiruvalluvar Year 2022
Purattasi - Iyppasi**

OCTOBER - 1991

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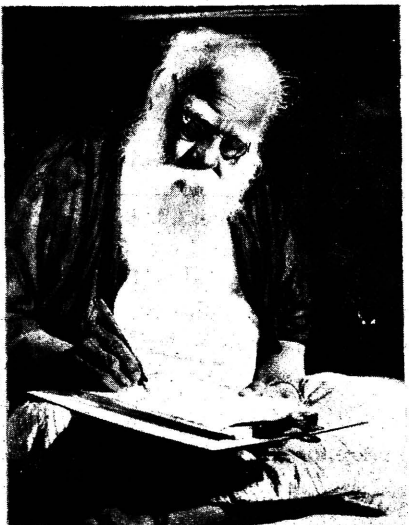
— *Dr. N. Rajalakshmi*

*Department of Economics
University of Madras.*

★ Rain Forest

— *M.N. Pushpa,*

*Assistant Curator
Government Museum, Madras.*



**A HUNDRED DAYS
OF THE TAMIL NADU GOVERNMENT
WELL-SET, WELL-GEARED,
TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF THE 21st CENTURY**

**WITH COURAGE, COMPASSION,
WISDOM AND ZEAL**

Following the pathway paved by Thanthai Periyar, guidelines set by Perarignar Anna, treading the track taken by Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. the Government under the leadership of Puratchi Thalaivi J.Jayalalitha, has a strong foundation, a firm foothold and a measured pace marching forward towards the Twenty First Century.



To meet the challenges of the New Century and to see that Tamil Nadu occupies a place of pride in the new era, care has been taken to prepare the plans with diligence, devotion and dedication. Dedicated to the welfare of the people. Plans and Projects to make the people prosperous. With the advent of a new regime, a new era dawns for Tamil Nadu.

SALIENT FEATURES

NUTRITIOUS MEAL SCHEME OF PURATCHI THALAIVAR M.G.R.

- * Provision of Nutritious Food for Children from 6 months to 2 years old.
- * Pregnant and Expecting Women and Nursing Mothers to be given Nutritious Food at Government cost.

HOUSING SCHEMES

- * House for Every Family in 5 years time. 10

Lakh houses to be built in 5 years time. 1,22,000 houses to be built in this year.

- * Concrete houses for Adi-Dravidars. 3 lakh houses to be built in Five Years Time. 50,000 houses, at an out-lay of Rs.6.5 crore to be built this year.

RURAL HOUSING SCHEME

Provision of Rs.30 crore for 30,000 houses.

- * Rural Housing Scheme for the current year.

- a) 5,763 houses to be built.
- b) 1,780 houses for Middle Class People.
- c) Rs.23.78 crore for House Building Loans.

HOUSING IN MADRAS CITY

- * 77,000 houses will be built for Hutment Dwellers at a cost of Rs.200 crore under the Slum Clearance Scheme.
- * For Low Income Group Citizens - 1 lakh houses will be built at a cost of Rs.40 crore.
- * Special Housing Scheme to Policemen 10,000 houses at a cost of Rs.5 crore.

EDUCATION

- * Importance to Basic Education.
- * Women Teachers exclusively upto 5th class in all schools.
- * An amount of Rs.57 lakh will be spent for a New Scheme, for Higher Education for Backward Class Students.
- * Tamil will be taught compulsorily in every school as desired by Perarignar Anna.

INDUSTRIES PROJECTS:

- * Lignite based Generation Plant, in Joint Sector, to be set-up at Jayamkondam, (Trichy District) at a cost of Rs.5,000 crore to produce 1,500 MW Electricity.
- * 9 New Projects to be set up at a cost of Rs.600 crore through TIDCO.
- * A new Complex to produce 1600 tonnes/annum of Organo Phosphorous Pesticide Plant at a cost of Rs. 17 crore at Cuddalore.
- * Setting up an Electronics City in Sholinganallur at a cost of Rs.40.65 crore by ELCOT.
- * Setting up of Permanent Trade Fair Complex with convention Hall at Taramani, in collaboration with Trade Fair Authority of India at a cost of Rs.25 crore.

* Industrial Estate for the manufacture of Readymade Garments Handloom Fabrics in Chengalpattu-MGR District to be set up by SIDCO.

* Software Park to be set-up by ELCOT at a cost of Rs.8 crore at Coimbatore with assistance from Government of India.

* Second Paper Plant to be established in South Arcot District, utilising Sugarcane Bagasse, at a cost of Rs.1000 crore.

* Establishment of a Graphite Factory at Sivagangai at a cost of Rs.15 crore.

* Establishment of a Granite Polishing Unit at a cost of Rs.15 crore at Dharmapuri by TAMIN.

AGRICULTURE

* New Schemes to develop 24,700 acres of Fallow and Waste Lands in 8 Districts - Total Outlay Rs.1.50 crore. Provision of Rs.75 lakh during the year.

* Under Extension Programme - Strengthening of State Seed Farms. Total outlay Rs.1.81 crore.

RICE DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

* Three more Districts - Ramanathapuram, Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar and Periyar to be brought under Integrated Rice Development Scheme at a cost of Rs.5.33 crore.

DEVELOPMENT OF DRYLAND AGRICULTURE

* Proposed to cover 2,20,000 acres in 14 Districts in 5 years at a cost of Rs.35.61 crore. During this year a target of 50,000 acres to be covered at a cost of Rs.2 crore.

OIL SEEDS DEVELOPMENT

* Seven Districts to be brought under Integrated Oil Seeds Development Programme at a cost of Rs.50 lakh.

HORTICULTURE DEVELOPMENT

* Special credit arrangements will be made to Strengthen Horticultural Units and Fruit Processing Units.

**OUR HUNDRED DAYS MARCH IS EPOCH MAKING
OUR COMMITMENT TO PEOPLE IS NATION BUILDING**

HIGHLIGHTS

* The first act of the Chief Minister after assuming charge - to keep the promise given to the electorate - Abolition of cheap liquor shops even at a loss of revenue of Rs.322 crore.

* Preference for women in all Industrial and Developmental activities. 30% Reservation for women in Industries and in other employment opportunities.

* Grant of Rs.1 crore for each Panchayat Union for implementing rural development programmes.

* Special supply of rice to pensioners and old age people as in the past.

* Medicare facilities, for the first time for 4 crore of people.

* Drinking water facilities for 2,483 houses at Rs.10 crore. Separate scheme for 1,007 families of Adiravida at a cost of Rs.7 crore.

* Supply of Modern Looms to 37,500 weavers at the rate of two per head. Over a period 10 years, it is expected to distribute 75,000 looms.

* Madras City to be beautified, in the next 5 years at a cost of Rs.1,250 crore.

* Tamil Nadu Newsprint will double its out-put at a cost of Rs.395 crore.

* Establishment of Rubber Industry at Kanyakumari at a cost of Rs.400 crore.

* Temple Administration Board for ensuring renovation and maintenance of renowned Temples.

* A full fledged Film City at Taramani at a cost of Rs.70 lakh.

* Special compensation of Rs.1 lakh to families of Policemen who die in harness.

* Enhancement of compensation to

weaver's family in the event of death, from Rs.10,000 to Rs.15,000.

* Training programme for women in Agriculture at an outlay of Rs.18 crore to train 9,000 women each year.

* A new Dairy Project at a cost of Rs.78.48 crore to be set up at Sholinganallur near Madras.

* A Textile Mill exclusively run by women weavers to be set up at Bargur.

RESPECTFULLY REMEMBERED

* Setting up a suitable Memorial for Thanthai Periyar at Vaikom in Kerala.

* Arignar Anna's literary works to be published by the Government.

* Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.'s Memorial to be suitably modified at a cost of Rs.70 lakh.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi J.Jayalalitha garlanded the statue of Thanthai Periyar, on the occasion of his 113th birth anniversary. (17.9.1991)





PERIYAR BIRTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



Thanthai Periyar - this is not just the name of a leader. It is the name of an era. Fearless leaders, great intellectuals, Philosophers, freedom fighters, Social reformers have appeared in this world. Thanthai Periyar appeared to have the dynamic force of all these luminaries unified in himself.

His 113th Birthday was celebrated by the Government of Tamil Nadu in a most impressive manner at Kalaivanar Arangam on 17th September 1991.

Dr.V.R.Nedunchezian, Minister for Finance, presided over the function. Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi J.Jayalalitha unveiled a portrait of Periyar and spoke on the occasion.

The Chief Minister recalled the services of Periyar in championing the progress of women in all fields.

"His honesty, integrity, sense of conviction and tireless efforts in achieving the goals he set before himself won for him the respect and regard from various parties in the State."

"The historic Vaikom agitation symbolised Periyar's determination to ensure self-respect for the oppressed sections of society. To perpetuate the memory of the struggle, the former

Chief Minister Dr. M.G.R., wanted to erect a memorial in honour of periyar at Vaikom and laid the foundation stone. But his successors neglected the project. The memorial would soon be put up at Vaikom," she said.

The Chief Minister announced: "a resolution urging the Centre to enhance the Mandal Commission reservation of 27 percent for backward classes to 50 percent will be adopted in the Assembly before the end of the Current Budget Session."

"The Government will also consider and take a decision on the question of appointment of temple archakas from all communities and inclusion of Periyar's preaching in school and college syllabi."

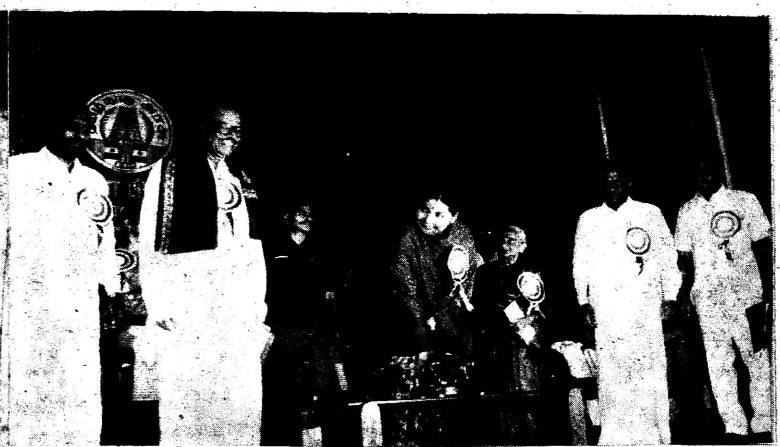
The Chief Minister donated Rs.5 lakhs out of party funds to Periyar Self-Respect Propaganda Trust.

Earlier, Thiru. Sedapatti, R.Muthiah, Speaker, Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, Thiru. K.A.Krishnasamy, Minister for Law, Thiru.S.D.Somasundaram, Minister for Revenue, Thiru. R.M.Veerappan, Minister for Education, Thiru. K.Rajaram, Minister for Food and Co-operation and Thiru.K.Veeramani, General Secretary, Dravidar Kazhagam also spoke.

The Chief Minister distributed prizes to students who won oratorical contests on Periyar and also gave away financial aid to the weaker sections to the tune of Rs.15 lakhs on the occasion.

Thiru. K.J.M.Shetty, I.A.S., Principal Secretary, Information and Tourism Department welcomed the gathering and Thiru.K.Ganesan, I.A.S., Director of Information and Public Relations, proposed a vote of thanks.





83rd Birth Anniversary Celebrations of Perarignar Anna

The 83rd Birth Anniversary Celebrations of Perarignar Anna was got up by the Information and Public Relations Department of Government of Tamil Nadu in a glittering manner at Kalaivanar Arangam on 15th September 1991.

taken to collect all speeches and writings of Anna from the Government, All-India Radio and even private sources and these would be compiled and brought out in audio and video tapes entitled 'Anna lives. His articles, essays,

dramas, short stories and speeches would be published in book form and sold at nominal prices so that many people could buy and read them, and added 16 mm film tapes on the life and activities of Anna would also be collected and con-

Participating in the celebrations, The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi, J.Jayalalitha unveiled a portrait of Anna and said that his slogans, quotations and speeches were a perennial repository of quotable quotes and it was aptly said of him "Anna had the force of a tempest and the calm of the Sea".

The Chief Minister announced that the Government will release video and audio tapes depicting the life of Perarignar Anna and his speeches, besides taking steps to nationalise his works and said available video tapes and his paintings would be arranged and released in chronological sequence. She also said that efforts would be





verted into video form in the proposed compilation.

The Chief Minister gave away the annual Anna Awards of the Government to 15 Highways and 14 Public Works Department Engineers in recognition of their service. She also distributed prizes to six students who participated in the oratorical and essay competitions. She also honoured Tmt. Rani Annadurai, wife of the late Chief Minister, with a ponnadai.

She handed over cheques, implements and aids to 355

beneficiaries under the various welfare schemes through the Madras Collectorate. Loans for purchase of auto rickshaws, tailoring machines, iron boxes, accident compensation and relief to destitutes worth Rs.14/- lakhs were also given away.

Dr. V.R.Nedunchezian, the Minister for Finance presided over the function.

Thiru Sedapatti R.Muthiah, the Speaker, Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly and Thiru S.Muthusamy,

the Minister for Health also spoke on the occasion.

The Principal Secretary, Information and Tourism, Thiru K.J.M.Shetty, I.A.S. welcomed the gathering.

Thiru K.Ganesan I.A.S., Director of Information and Public Relations proposed a vote of thanks.

The Exhibition wing of the Information Department had also organised a photographic display on the life of Anna at Kalaivanar Arangam, the venue of the function.





GANDHIJI AND DEMOCRACY

-Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

GANDHIJI'S conception of democracy has nothing to do with numbers or majority or representation in the ordinary sense. It is based on service and sacrifice, and it uses moral pressure. He claims to be "a born democrat". "I make that claim, if complete identification with the poorest of mankind, longing to live no better than they and a corresponding conscious effort to approach that level to the best of one's ability can entitle one to make it". This is his definition of a democrat. He says further:

Let us recognize the fact that the Congress enjoys the prestige of a democratic character and influence not by the number of delegates and visitors it has drawn to its annual function, but by an ever increasing amount of service it has rendered. Western democracy is on its trial, if it has not already proved a failure. May it be reserved to India to evolve the true science of democracy by giving a visible demonstration of its success.

Corruption and hypocrisy ought not to be the inevitable products of democracy, as they undoubtedly are today. Nor is

bulk a true test of democracy. True Democracy is not inconsistent with a few persons representing the spirit, the hope, and the aspirations of those whom they claim to represent. I hold that democracy cannot be imposed from without; it has to come from within.

This is certainly not western democracy, as he himself says; but, curiously enough, there is some similarity to the communist conception of democracy. A few communists will claim to represent the real needs and desires of the masses, even though the latter may themselves be unaware of them. The similarity, however, is slight and does not take us far; the differences in outlook and approach are far greater, notably in regard to methods and force.

Whether Gandhiji is a democrat or not, he does represent the peasant masses of India; he is the quintessence of the conscious and subconscious will of those millions. It is perhaps something more than representation; for he is the idealized personification of those vast millions. Of course, he is not the average peasant. A man of the keenest intellect, of

fine feeling and good taste, wide vision; very human, and yet essentially the ascetic who has suppressed his passions and emotions, sublimated them and directed them in spiritual channels; a tremendous personality, drawing people to himself like a magnet, and calling out fierce loyalties and attachments- all this so utterly unlike and beyond a peasant. And yet with all he is the greatest peasant, with a peasant's outlook on affairs, and with a peasant's blindness to some aspects of life. But India is peasant India, and so he knows his India well, reacts to her slightest tremors, gauges a situation accurately and almost instinctively, and has a knack of acting at the psychological moment.

What a problem and a puzzle he has been not only to the British Government but to his own people and his closest associates. Perhaps in every other country he would be out of place today, but India still seems to understand, or at least appreciate, the prophetic-religious type of man, talking of sin and salvation and non-violence. Indian mythology is full of stories of great ascetics who, by the rigour of their sacrifices and self-imposed penance, built up a "mountain of merit" which threatened the dominion of some of the lesser gods and upset the established order. These myths have come often to my mind when I have watched the amazing energy and inner power of Gandhiji, coming out of some inexhaustible spiritual reservoir. He was obviously not of the world's ordinary coinage; he was minted of a different and rare variety, and often the unknown stared at us through his eyes.

From 'Mahatma Gandhi'
by Jawaharlal Nehru.



HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER'S INTERVIEW TO 'THE HINDU'

Question: How do you assess the performance of your Government in its first three months? What do you think are the achievements and which are the grey areas calling for more attention?

Answer: I think we have done very well in the first three months. I became the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu at such a difficult time in its history, faced with problems of such magnitude on all fronts - from finances to law and order. No Chief Minister before me has taken office in such a critical juncture. Going through the Budgets of the past, in most cases they have had a surplus. But we have inherited a massive deficit of Rs.898 crores. Because of the abolition of the sale of cheap liquor, we lost another Rs.322 crores for the current year, making total deficit of

Rs.1,220 crores. Only the Rs. 322 crores was because of my decision, the rest was not due to any fault of our's, but was inherited from the previous regime.

Law and order situation

We also inherited a law and order situation which for the first time, necessitates such an elaborate security for the Chief Minister. It did not exist before. People must understand the gravity and the enormity of the challenges we are facing today. The Chief Ministership now is a crown of thorns and a chair of nails. And all these are due to the acts of commission and omission of the previous Government. Given these circumstances, we have acted against such odds in our first three months, making our performance doubly significant.

In the three months, we have tried to tackle very serious problems head on and our achievements have been significant. For instance, take the problem of the LTTE... when I assumed office, I was shocked to discover the extent to which they had penetrated and the sinister portents of their activities have now spread to Karnataka and Kerala also. The State Government with its limited resources is trying its best to contain this menace.

The Government tackled the militants problem with a political will and the police force was motivated to be tough in the crackdown on the LTTE and allied organisations. It is a measure of the effectiveness of the police action that the LTTE cadre fled to neighbouring States. There was this news report in the press, which is confirmed by our intelligence agencies, that Prabakaran has asked his cadres in Tamil Nadu to return to Sri Lanka because it was getting too hot for them here. But we are not complacent because of this. We are not taken in by the ruse either. It may well be a trick to beguile us into a false sense of complacency.

Evil of illicit liquor

Then, there was the tough crackdown on the evil of illicit liquor. The very first order I signed was to abolish the sale of cheap liquor. We fulfilled one of our main election promises. I promised womenfolk that as soon as we came to power, we would abolish cheap liquor and I kept my word. There were numerous reports from all over the State about the rampant sale of illicit liquor. So, again, we had to take a tough decision and that is why I announced that Village Administrative Officers (VAOs) and Sub-Inspectors would be held responsible if a racket was unearthed in their jurisdiction. After this there has been a great change. Even members of the legislature have

spoken about the notable achievement.

Supply of drinking water has been a source of concern and a priority area for us. We have identified 2,483 habitations which remain 'uncovered' by any scheme and over 1,000 Harijan colonies without an assured supply. We have taken up a crash programme to provide drinking water to all these habitations before the end of this calendar year and allotted funds for this purpose.

Generally, people find this Government responsive. We have instilled that confidence in the people during these three months.

We have taken steps to protect the lives and property of fishermen along our coast. They now find it a little easier to fish because the militants menace has decreased significantly. Even the Prime Minister has, for the first time, expressed concern to the Sri Lankan Government about its Navy's indiscriminate firing on our fishermen.

Important scheme

Another important development and an important scheme we have launched is the Self-Sufficiency Scheme to give Rs.1 crore to each Panchayat Union for provision of basic amenities. We have taken a Cabinet decision and I have let all the departments know that during our first year in office, the main thrust will be on provision of basic amenities to the people. The Panchayat Unions will utilise the funds to provide drinking water, roads and street lights. Except the ongoing schemes, the numerous requests for colleges, schools and buildings can be taken care of next year.

One significant project in the offing is our proposal to let the private sector participate in power generation. We wanted to tap the enormous lignite deposits in Jayamkondam in Tiruchi District.

But it was too cost-prohibitive for the State Government to take it up itself. So I broached this idea and the Centre has agreed in principle. We are waiting for the final clearance of the Rs.5,000 crore project from the Centre as it involves mining in the private sector.

You asked about the grey areas. Price rise is one of them. We are doing our best, but we are able to fix the ceiling on prices only with regard to certain commodities. We realise there is need for legislation to contain prices. If, on the one hand, we want to ensure reasonable prices for the consumer, we have on the other, to provide for freedom of trade. Any action we take is construed as infringing upon their rights. Perhaps Parliament can consider such a piece of legislation. We will also consult legal experts on this issue.

Cheaper edible oil

In the absence of palmolein in the PDS, we are racking our brains to find a cheaper substitute for it. Bran oil is equally costly. I have asked the Agriculture department to prepare a massive oilseeds programme for the State to increase production and for an increase in the production of edible oils by the Government agencies to be supplied to the people. But this will take time.

How do you view the security environment and the law and order situation in Tamil Nadu? Are you working out any arrangement with the Centre for the deportation of the Sri Lankan Tamil militants?

The intelligence agencies tell me that the danger is still there. The difference is, they (militants) had a free hand before and considered themselves lords of all they surveyed. Today, there is fear in them because this Government means business. The Government will not tolerate anti-national activities any more.

With regard to deportation, I

have already taken up the matter with the Centre - with the Prime Minister, the Home Minister and the External Affairs Minister. I was hoping to get a decision during the visit of the Home Minister last week, but it was called off abruptly. I think there should be no problem and I do not know why a decision is being delayed. Our Chief Secretary has again written to the Union Home Secretary.

There is a feeling that your pronouncements on issues such as the Cauvery dispute, Katchatheevu and 50 per cent reservations for BCs are in the nature of a confrontation with the Centre. Would you comment?

My relationship with the Centre is the same as it was always. If I stand up for the rights of the people of my State, it does not mean that I am embarking on a course of confrontation with the Centre.

In fact, I must say you have put the question very mildly, because the upcountry papers have accused me of indulging in Tamil chauvinism. That is the comment, particularly with reference to the Katchatheevu matter. I will only say it is a comment made by armchair commentators from their airconditioned offices, who move only between their offices and residences, who have no knowledge about the true state of affairs in Tamil Nadu and no concept about the Rameswaram fishermen. Why don't they make a survey? When I say India must retrieve Katchatheevu, they distort my statement and say Jayalalitha demands Katchatheevu for Tamil Nadu. I never made such a statement. I only said it must be retrieved for India. When these commentators accuse me of being chauvinistic, they must realise that about 50 Tamil fishermen have been killed since the ethnic conflict erupted in Sri Lanka for no fault of theirs - killed by the Sri Lankan Navy. On any of these occasions, has any of these newspapers bothered to

voice its condemnation? Even the Government of India had not lodged any protest with Government of Sri Lanka since 1983. Was it because our Rameswaram fishermen are only Tamilians? Are they not Indian citizens also? Do they not merit recognition by the Government as citizens of India?

Harassment of fishermen

They point to the 1974 agreement as though I was not aware of it. Under the agreement, our fishermen should enjoy full rights to dry their nets, visit the church and attend the festival without visa. But all these exist only on paper. What is the reality? whenever our fishermen approach the waters around Katchatheevu - and they have to go there because there is only shallow water all round and this area is rich in prawns - they are threatened and shot at by the Sri Lankan Navy. Their boats are confiscated, they are beaten up, captured and taken away, tortured and sent back only when they choose. And these poor fishermen do not know any other trade. What do they do for a living? Though the agreement is there, it has not been in practice.

After eight years of suffering and torture, our fishermen are turning increasingly restive. It is the State Government which has to deal with their demands. To provide security for them involves a lot of arrangements for which we do not have that kind of resources. They have to be allowed to earn their livelihood - as many as 87,085 families are involved - which is why I took up this question with the Centre.

Cauvery water row

On the Cauvery waters we have every justification to feel aggrieved. After a long drawn battle, Tamil Nadu got an interim award from the Tribunal which was still far short of our expectations. We accepted it with grace but both Karnataka and the Centre have tried

to deprive us of the benefit of the award. What is the purpose of constituting a tribunal - it was done by the Government of India under its own Act of 1956. If the award of this Tribunal is not honoured, there will be no place at all for any tribunal in future in the Indian scheme of things. I am only fighting for the legitimate rights of Tamil Nadu because it is a question of life and death. Karnataka has other rivers such as the Krishna or Tungabhadra, Cauvery is our only lifeline.

On the reservation issue, it was not out of any desire for confrontation with the Centre, but for social justice. If that is construed as confrontation so be it. After all, we are not preaching what we are not practising. When we have implemented 50 per cent reservation for the backward classes why not other States and the Government of India accept it. The list of BCs and most backward classes may be different from State to State and for India as a whole. But no one can deny that social justice is essential for the BCs. We will continue to press for 50 per cent reservation in the Central services, both in jobs and in educational institutions.

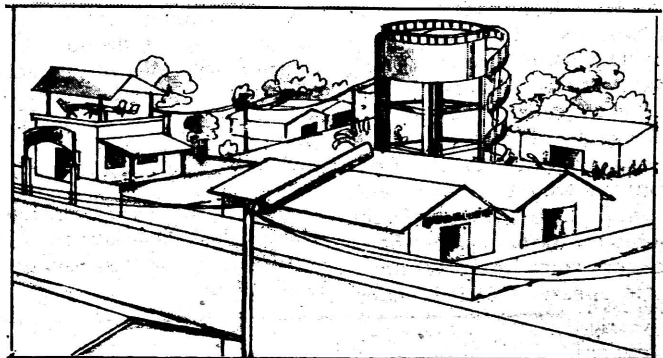
What is your perception of the AIADMK-Congress(I) alliance now, as compared with the Rajiv Gandhi days? How do you view the Centre-State relations?

There has been some change after Rajiv Gandhi's death,

because of a lack of a towering personality in the Congress(I) at the top. There was some strain and pressure on the alliance, but it has settled down and has been patched up. The alliance is there and will continue.

The general expectation in Tamil Nadu was that with a Congress(I) Government at the Centre, the State could look forward to a very friendly Government. But the Centre has let down Tamil Nadu very badly in the matter of Cauvery waters dispute. This is not just my personal view but the general impression shared by the people. It was mostly this issue that put enormous strain on the alliance. We are not for any confrontation, because it will not be beneficial to the State in any way, but at the same time, I am a person who likes to call a spade, a spade. So, no matter what may have been done to patch up the cracks in the relationship between the two parties, an underlying sense of bitterness exists at having been discriminated against so blatantly, on Tamil Nadu being treated in such a stepmotherly fashion by the Centre.

Besides feeling let down on the Cauvery waters dispute, the Centre's handling of the LTTE problem is also causing us concern. It is not a party problem relevant only to Tamil Nadu. They are expecting us to handle it all by ourselves. I should not be misunderstood if I voice the feeling of the people



that the Centre has not really appreciated the magnitude of the problem faced by the Tamil Nadu Government and is treating the whole matter rather casually. The State has already incurred large expenditure in providing adequate policing all along the extensive coastline and to maintain the militant and the refugee camps. We must continue to put pressure on the LTTE cadre hiding in Tamil Nadu. We have sought financial assistance from the Government of India for meeting the immediate requirements of modernising the Tamil Nadu Police and for special assistance, treating us as a border State. On top of all this, Tamil Nadu is going through an extremely difficult financial situation. The continued silence of the Government of India on such genuine requests for help has caused me a great deal of anguish. Our request is only that the Government of India recognise the problem of Sri Lankan Tamil militants as a national problem and not just of Tamil Nadu alone.

Your Government has been accused of vindictive action against the minuscule Opposition in the Assembly and launching of criminal prosecution against Opposition politicians and bureaucrats close to the DMK regime. How do you react?

This Government has never attempted to stifle the Opposition. How can I be responsible for the incidents in the Assembly? It was a clash between the DMK and the Congress(I). There is a tendency to blame the Chief Minister for all that happens in the State. I have given clear instructions to our party MLAs not to get provoked under any circumstances. When the DMK could not fault us on any issue, they turned to the Congress(I) and got into an argument. The DMK tried to paint a different colour to the incident and bring in caste and communal overtones. But the Speaker had suspended

the MLA for obstructing the proceedings.

As for the case against the former Home Secretary it has nothing to do with the Government. Following an attack on the office of a weekly, its proprietor and editor lodged a complaint with the police specifically blaming the official for involvement in the offence. Subsequent investigation led to his arrest. We have nothing to do with it.

On the other hand, some of the Opposition MLAs have acknowledged that there has been no political discrimination or vendetta on the part of this Government. When a CPI(M) member brought to our attention the fact of a eleven-year-old hospital building lying in disuse and (in a state of) disrepair in his constituency, immediate action was taken. Orders were passed in three days and within a week the hospital became functional with doctors, staff and medicines.

What do you intend doing to sustain the initial enthusiasm among industrialists to start new ventures in Tamil Nadu?

I Wrapper: Mahatma Gandhi

II Wrapper: Thanthai Periyar and Perarignar Anna - Birth Anniversary Celebrations.

IV Wrapper: The Chief Minister's Police Award Function.

Only because of the Assembly session I have not been in touch with industrialists. We have set the goal of making Tamil Nadu the number one industrialised State in the Country and we will sustain the interest of the entrepreneurs in achieving this. There will be no slackening of the pace.

Are you satisfied with the performance of your Ministers? Do you plan to revamp the party structure?

I am quite satisfied with the performance of my Ministers. The seniors are all experienced. The new entrants are very enthusiastic and hard working. They have given a good account of themselves and will improve as time goes on.

I have not had time to think of revamping the party. I see no problem in the Ministers continuing as party functionaries. But organisational elections have been long overdue. They were last held only in 1980. After the Budget session, we will think about it.

*Courtesy - The Hindu
23rd September, 1991*

THE IDEAL SOCIETY OF GANDHI

Perarignar Anna



There are people who say that he is our freedom fighter and a dauntless hero who shattered our shackles.

There are people who say that he is a socialist and a champion of the poor who paved the way for the downtrodden to lead a new life.

There are people who say that he is the man who tried to establish 'Gramaraj'.

Thus, there are different kinds of people who praise him with awe and wonder, each according to his own vision and insight. It is a question worthy of investigation for all time to find out in whose vision we find the totality of Gandhi's personality. The reason is that he should not be considered an individual man. He is a symbol of the times and uprising; he is an embodiment of the Renaissance.

If we view him as a politician, we will be content to admire his 'Satyagraha' (war of righteousness) with wonder. He has won tremendous success not only in the political field but also in other fields. He has stamped his mark in all fields. His life and service are modelled in such a way that people in different fields view with one another in claiming Gandhi as one of their own because he lived and served them. This is the reason why his birthday is celebrated by the people of different walks of life. He represents an era in the history of our country. He has given splendour and strength and brought about a turning point in all fields.

The progress of a country depends on its progress in all fields, and not in one particular field only. Only from the totality of the progress made, can we judge a country's improvement! We cannot come across such a period of progress often in the history of a country, not even once in a century. Therefore, this day is of special significance not only because it is the birthday of a great leader but also because it symbolises a golden period in the history of our country.

The excellence and splendour of to-day's function should be reflected in our thought and deed for ever. Our celebrations should not end with merely singing eulogies. On the contrary, we should follow in his foot-steps, strive for the ideals he cherished, to preserve and safeguard his heritage and to rekindle the inspirations he gave us.

TO-DAY is the birthday of Gandhi, the virtuous man of world renown. This day is celebrated all over the country as a day of rejoicing. People pay their loving tributes to Gandhi according to their heart's desire. They celebrate this day by garlanding his sacred portrait, singing songs in his praise, performing 'bajan' in his honour, spinning yarn and clearing slums.

There are people who say that he is a man of pure heart and a saint who has come into this world to remove the blemish of our religion.

The beauty of a garland lies in its fragrance. The utility of a lamp lies in its light. Likewise the value of celebrations lies in the excellence of our action.

Let us not be content with defying him as an AVATHAR worth of worship not with singing his fame and remarkable achievements. I would appeal to you to remember and strive for the society he dreamt of, the ideals he propounded and the moral integrity he exemplified.

He did not perform any miracle. But he made heroes of cowards, inspired them to blow the trumpet of freedom and instilled fearlessness in them even in the face of over-whelming obstacles and difficulties.

The poet Bharathi sang in a tone of melancholy thus. "People die of incessant fear and cowardice. There is nothing that they are not afraid of in the world". Gandhi wiped off that fear from our hearts. He raised an army of unarmed men who dared to defy death, facing even the challenge of a fully equipped army. He inspired the little sparrows with the courage to oppose even the mighty vultures. He

drove away diffidence from our hearts. He gave us the patriotic feeling that our country in a lienably belongs to us.

He achieved all these not by war but by non-violence, not by killing our enemies but by following the path of virtue, not by preaching hatred but by showing loves.

The exponents of KATHAKALASHEBAM have not seen by themselves the miracles said to have been performed by the great saints of the past. But we have the good fortune to see with our eyes the MIRACLES wrought by Gandhi. This SEMI- NAK-ED MAN gave a life of glory and honour to millions of our country men. What can be a greater miracle than this!

Even those who mocked at his leadership in the beginning accepted and admired him as the undisputed leader of India after he had performed this 'miracle'. To-day critics say that the path of virtue he showed will apply not only to India but also to all countries in the world which are trying to liberate themselves from the clutches of slavery.



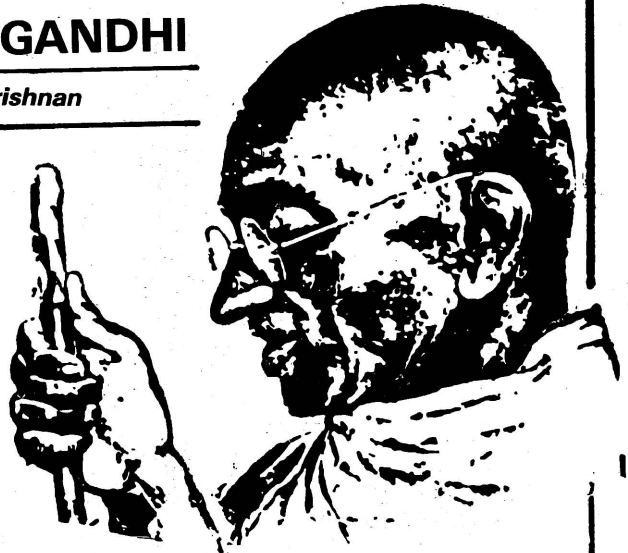
MAHATMA GANDHI

Dr. S. Radhakrishnan

MAHATMA GANDHI was a visva-manuse, a world citizen. His life was a battle for the new world. For him the world was the unit, not the nation-state. Unless individual nations are prepared to think in terms of human welfare to present scientific developments would mean danger and a waste of human effort. If we wish to prevent a world war we need world co-operation. We must get ready to live in the new world that faces us. Physical unification has been effected. Intellectual concord is growing. All men can be fed, housed and clothed by economic co-operation. Spiritual accord should be realized.

Gandhiji secured for us freedom so that we may be able to build a non-violent social order which may be of help to the world. He worked for a warless world. The resolution about disarmament passed unanimously by the U.N. the other day showed how he led our country in the right direction.

Wars are caused by the passions in our heart, by the blind, black, uncontrollable greed in us. Each one of us has to fight the battle within himself, Kurukshetra is within us. Each one of us has to decide between love which saves the world and hate which destroys it. We have to purify ourselves by our effort and save others by our action. Gan-



dhiji acquired the chastity of those consecrated to truth whose power is matchless by the practice of fasts, prayers and vows. Gandhiji occupies an important place in the spiritual evolution of mankind. He speaks to us of the promised land, the goal of our endeavours. Though some of us may not enter it we have to strive for it and salute it from a far. Whenever we think of Gandhiji, let us remember that the power of the human spirit is mightier than the mightiest bomb.

- From occasional speeches and writings.

In the 16th century the outside world knew of India only as a country that abounded in cloves and spices, gold and gems and as a country full of simpletons who knew not how to utilize them.

Although freedom-fight was begun like the morning star in the days of Tilak, it was only after Gandhi entered the Congress that the world realised that the whole of India was throbbing with a spirit of awakening and alertness. The world used to view India only through the bright rays of Gandhi's fame.

It was Gandhi who created an agitational attitude which was selfless and did not care for results. Prior to that, the country was dominated by learned people who begged for freedom by humble petitions.

His appearance, physique, talk, habits and manners were not such as to induce war mentality. But he was able to generate in the minds of millions of our countrymen the spirit of heroism which enabled them to defy even the mighty armies.

In all his public services we cannot come across a strong invective or an unjust act of any self-seeking plan. The influence of his selfless services brought name and fame not only to India but also to the whole of Asia and it spread in such a way as to instil terror even in the minds of the European imperialists who were highly proud and arrogant of colour bar. Heads of foreign Governments flocked to him to listen to his words with rapt attention. Even kings considered it an honour to stay in his humble cottage.

He never felt or said that 'Swaraj' was the end of our struggle. Nor did he fail to tell us how the country and the people should attain a healthy status.

He firmly believed that Swaraj was only a means to an ideal. He stressed that in the history of a country, Swaraj is, no doubt, a golden leaf but not the final one. He preached that slavery should be abolished at all costs because it is an impediment to the progress of the country.

The chains of slavery have been shattered. But let us ask ourselves whether we have succeeded in creating the India of his dreams. Let us have the moral courage to give a negative answer. Let this day instil in our minds the firm determination to create the India that he dreamt of.

He drove away from our minds the fear of the British Government. But have we become fearless in other fields? Certainly not. So long as society consist of the privileged and the underprivileged, the haves and the have nots, the mighty and the weak, how can fear be cast away?

Fear threatens us. Scarcity menaces us. Hatred drives us. Fear should be cast away and virtue

should blossom. When we are celebrating the birthday of this great sage, let us dedicate ourselves to this ideal.

We see abundant wealth and abject poverty, magnificent cities and poverty-stricken slums, big factories and bands of unemployed men, religious institutions and profiteers, swindlers, hoarders and black-marketeers side by side. He toiled throughout life not to see such a pathetic sight but to create a clean and ideal country free from these evils.

It is not a country where we see murder and theft, gambling and drinking. It is worse than a forest which is even free from these evils.

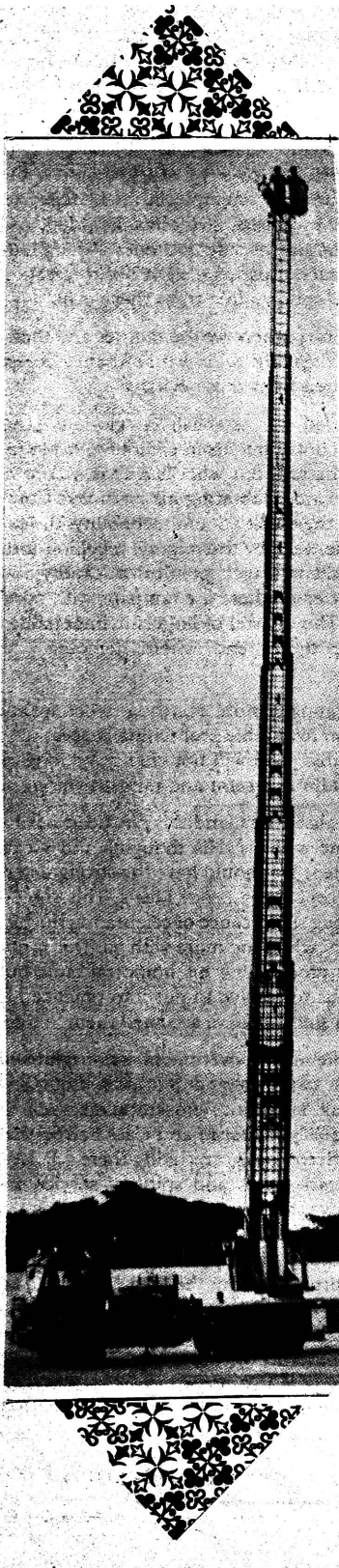
Gandhi desired to establish a glorious and unblemished country free from gambling, exploitation and class hatred. But what is it that we see in India, when we are celebrating his birthday? Communal clashes, the cruelty of untouchability, the exploitation of the weak by the mighty, rebellion-torn cities, woe-stricken villages, political chicanery and social consipracies-all these are rampant with none to curb them. The quarrel of linguistic imperialism has not come to an end where democracy is practised.

We are celebrating Gandhi's birthday when we are not in a position to enforce prohibition successfully. Such a deplorable state will not change so long as we reverse Gandhi as a saint and miracle-monger.

We should realise that Gandhi is not dead but he has become one with us. His thoughts and ideals have not perished. We should have the strong determination to accept them as our ideals. This should be the underlying significance of celebrating the birthday of Gandhi who is no more with us. This is not only a day for proclaiming his immortal fame but also a day for us to resolve to put into practice his excellent ideals since we have accepted them in toto.

In his days the alien Government was frightened to hear his voice of protest and quit India. But many things, such as falsehood, unscrupulousness, illiteracy, inadequacy, casteism and class hatred that should be driven out, are still there. Purity, truthfulness, fearlessness and spirit of service are necessary to drive them away. We are celebrating the birthday of Gandhi only in order to possess these qualities. I should like to remind you of what Jawaharlal Nehru said about the ideal India of Gandhi: "Even the poorest should consider this land as a land of theirs. They should realise that they have power and importance in its set-up. There should not be caste superiority among people. All communities should live in amity and peace. I shall strive to usher in an India of that type."

Radio talk by Anna on 2.10.1967



Awards to Police Personnel

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi J. Jayalalitha presented the Chief Minister's Police Medals and cash awards to personnel of the State Police, Prison, Fire Service and Home Guards at a function organised by Director General of Police at Nehru Stadium on 15th September, 1991.

While addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said that she

was aware of the hurdles in the way of policemen in discharging their duties and responsibilities. As she was also holding the Home portfolio, she said it was her duty to improve the quality of life of police personnel and several schemes for their welfare were under preparation and would be implemented soon.

The Chief Minister referred to

the demands of the policemen for increased risk allowance, conveyance allowance, uniform allowance, kit maintenance allowance, group insurance scheme and a special family benefit pension and housing facilities and said that she wished to make announcements at the function itself, but she could not do so as the Assembly was in session.

She sought the dedicated cooperation of each and every one in rooting out the evil of liquor in the State and said people had reposed their confidence in police as it alone could protect them. Hence, Policemen should make ef-

forts to ensure that the confidence was justified, she added.

Following an impressive parade led by the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Armed Reserve Thiru B.B. Singh, the Chief Minister presented gallantry awards to eight police and prison officials, while 71 police, prison, fire and home guards personnel were awarded for outstanding devotion to duty. The awards carry a citation besides cash awards ranging between Rs.2,000/- and Rs.3,000/-. Then a police band enthralled the audience.

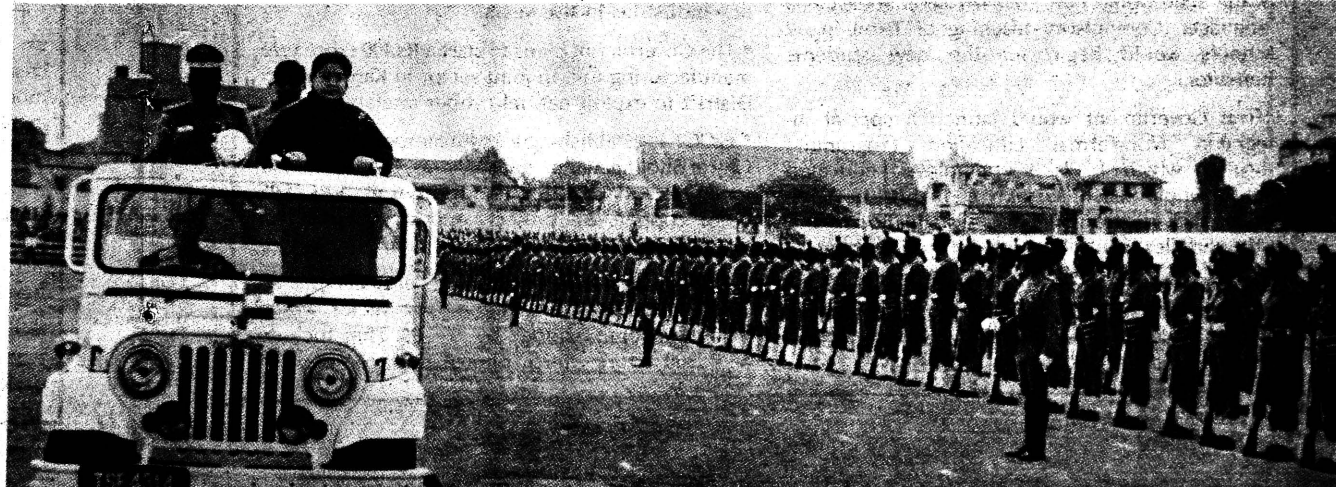
The Chief Minister dedicated a Morita turn-table ladder costing

Rs.2.84 crore to the State for use by the fire service.

The Home Secretary, Thiru K. Malaisamy, I.A.S., also spoke on the occasion.

Thiru S.Sripal, Director General of Police, welcomed the gathering.

On arrival, the Chief Minister was received by the Director-General of Police, the Inspector-General of Police, Law and Order, Thiru W.I. Davaram, the Inspector-General of Prison, Thiru V.Vaikunth, the Director of Fire Service, Thiru G.Veeraraghavan and the Madras Police Commissioner, Thiru R. Rajagopalan.





ANNOUNCEMENTS MADE IN THE ASSEMBLY BY THE HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER AND OTHER MINISTERS

EDUCATION

* The Government would provide compulsory education till the fifth standard to all children in five years time in a phased manner.

* A State Advisory Committee on Education and a State Council for Higher Education would be constituted soon. The advisory panel would consist of experts, educationists and Vice-Chancellors as members. The Council being set up on UGC's recommendation would function as a link between the Commission and the Universities. The Council which would have educationists and Vice-Chancellors as members will look after clearance and monitoring of UGC grants and projects. It would give a momentum to higher education in the State.

* Tamil would be made compulsory in schools in the State. Every student studying in all the schools of the State would have to learn Tamil atleast as a language. (Compulsory teaching of Tamil in all schools would begin for the new students hereafter.)

* The Government would launch a special integrated Non-Formal Education Programme through which 15 lakh unemployed educated Youth would teach 15 lakh drop-outs bringing them back to the education system. Books and other articles would be supplied free to them.

* The Centre had allotted Rs.72.2 lakh for an Educational television studio in the DPI complex. This will prepare educational cassettes for television and radio.

* The total Literacy Campaign would be extended to seven more Districts. By 1995, it was proposed to make 70 lakh people literate.

FOOD AND CO-OPERATION

* Efforts would be made to enroll women members in the Societies which comes under the Co-operative department to the extent of 30 percent.

* The Government has announced a wage hike for the seasonal employees working in the monopoly paddy procurement centres. The maximum wage will now be Rs.210 and the minimum Rs.120.

INDUSTRY

* 15,400 registered small units would be set up this year providing employment for 1.66 lakh persons. Efforts would be made to launch 1,00,000 small and tiny industries in five years.

* The Government plans to start a Rs.400 crore tyre manufacturing unit in joint sector in Kanyakumari District to exploit natural rubber available there.

* ELCOT is establishing a Rs.40.65 crore electronics City at Sholinganallur, near Madras. It has planned to set up a Rs.8.15 crore tool room unit, a Rs.44.95 crore copper foil project and Rs. 6 crore fax machine unit in Madras.

* TIDCO would promote nine projects on an outlay of Rs.600 crore in the joint sector which would be commissioned by 1994-95. They include a Rs.300 crore nitro phosphates complex at

Chidambaranar District, a Rs.10 crore fruit processing complex in Dharmapuri District, a Rs.40 crore heat transfer fluid project in South Arcot District, a Rs.100 crore acrylic complex in Thanjavur, Rs.75 crore aluminium rolled products and Rs.20 crore coconut based products in Kanyakumari District, Rs.30 crore diketene derivatives Rs.20 crore extra neutral alcohol in South Arcot District and a Rs.5 crore fly ash bricks project in Chengalpattu-MGR District.

* A compact export promotion cell would be set up in the Directorate of Industries and Commerce to provide advice and guidance to prospective exporters.

* An NRI cell would be set up in SIPCOT to advise NRI entrepreneurs and to help in selection of projects.

* An Industrial Estate would also be set up at Kakalari in Chengalpattu-MGR District for making ready made garments and handloom fabrics.

* It has been proposed in the first phase for the lignite based power project of 500 MW in the joint sector with an outlay of Rs.1,500 crore in five years time.

* TAMIN will begin work on Rs.15 crore Graphite beneficiation project at Sivaganga in Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar District.

* The Government has instituted an award for entrepreneurs who achieve excellence in quality production.

TRANSPORT

* The Government has proposed to start a new bus Corporation, named after MGR. The Corporation would be called 'Puratchi Thalaivar MGR Transport Corporation'. It will have its headquarters in Kancheepuram.

* The Transport Corporation would establish motels at Sriperumbudur, Ulundurpet and Thozhudur for tourists and passengers.

HEALTH

* Tamil Nadu Government has declared 1991-92 as the 'Year of Safe Motherhood'. The Government will concentrate on reduction in maternal mortality and infant mortality, safe delivery and birth spacing, enforcing proper age for marriage and educating women in these aspects.

* 76 Primary Health Centres would be established.

* From the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund Rs.1 crore has been sanctioned to purchase a whole

body scan for the Government General Hospital's Neurology Department in Madras.

* Government will launch a major drive on AIDS awareness. A separate cell has been started in Madras Medical College, Madras, for research in the prevention of AIDS in Tamil Nadu.

* Primary Health Centres would be upgraded in 15 Taluks. 14 Taluk hospitals would be taken up for increase in bed strength to 32.

* 22.25 acres of vacant land of T.B. Sanatorium have been given to Dr.MGR Medical University for locating the Administrative buildings of the University.

LABOUR

* The Government would amend the Industrial Establishments Act to grant compulsory holidays to workers on polling dates and other important occasions.

* A special cell for women would be set up in the office of the Labour Commissioner to look after the problems of women and child labour. Besides promoting education, training, welfare and advancement of social and economic status of women, it would collect, analyse and disseminate information on various aspects of women labour in various economic sections.

* A survey would be undertaken to identify women workers employed in beedi rolling at home so that they could avail benefits under labour laws.

* Thousand houses, each costing Rs.15,000 would be constructed for beedi workers at Mukkudal and Melapalayam in Tirunelveli Kattabomman District.

* It has been proposed to introduce a two wheeler taxi service, a scheme designed to generate self-employment opportunities to the educated unemployed youths. Licence would be given to some mopeds which will have a distinct colour to carry passengers on the pillion. The charge would be fixed by the Government depending on the distance. This would help the people to commute within the city at fares lesser than those charged in auto-rickshaws. This service will be first started in the city and if found successful, it would be extended to other cities.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

* A Rs.400 crore World Bank aided drinking water programme has been drawn up by the Government. This would provide drinking water facilities

to 10,000 habitations in five years time. 500 habitations would be covered in the current year.

* For the plan to provide '10 lakh Houses in five years the Government agencies would construct 1.22 lakh houses this year.

* With an outlay of Rs.108.31 crore for the current year, the Housing Board, has proposed to construct 2,655 LIG houses, 2,535 MIG units 1,475 HIG houses, 174 MIG flats and 361 rental flats for the Government employees.

ADIDRAVIDAR AND TRIBAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT

* 10,000 Wells would be sunk which would be totally subsidised, for the benefit of farmers. Power connections would be given to 9,000 wells on priority basis in this year itself.

* The amount given to perform the last rites of persons belonging to Adi Dravidar Community on their death would be increased from Rs.100 to Rs.200.

* 40 hostels would be constructed at a cost of Rs.32.42 lakh. In the hostels for SCs and STs, an additional 1000 students would be admitted.

* It has been proposed to provide house-sites to 75,000 Adi Dravidar families at a cost of Rs4 crore. 50,000 houses for SC and ST would be constructed this year for which Rs.11.50 crore has been allotted in the budget.

* Special Tahsildars would be appointed for the purpose of acquisition of lands and distribution of pattas for construction of houses for Adi Dravidars.

HANDLOOMS AND TEXTILES

* 2,000 houses at a cost of Rs.5 crore would be constructed during the year for the weavers. Medical check-up centres would be established at Erode, Arni and Kancheepuram.

* The Government has taken up a Rs.348 crore project to convert 37,500 old- type handlooms into 70,000 powerlooms. A sum of Rs.30 lakh has been allotted during the current year for taking up initial work of the project. The project will be executed over a period of 10 years, co-financed by NABARD.

* The Government has proposed to modernise 50,000 handlooms at a cost of Rs.42.30 crore as a five year project.

* A Rs.6 crore multi-storey building would be constructed at Kancheepuram for selling silk clothes and a similar sales complex would be built in Erode at a cost of Rs.3 crore. Co-optex centres

would be set up in six places at a total cost of Rs.5 crore.

* For modernising co-operative spinning mills, a programme has been prepared with an outlay of Rs.26.28 crore for which IDBI assistance is sought. Rs.7 crore has been set apart for rehabilitation and modernisation of co- operative spinning mills.

* A scheme to provide a pension of Rs.250 per month for ten years to the family, in the event of death of a weaver who is a member of any co-operative society, would be introduced.

REVENUE

* 50 lakh house-site pattas would be distributed to persons belonging to weaker sections of society, in five years time.

* The Government has sanctioned Rs.2.40 crore for drought relief works.

* The Government is planning to recruit 5000 document writers. Preference will be given to the physically handicapped.

* To encourage the growing of trees it had been decided to permit planting of trees on poromboke land. Whoever plant and nurse the trees could enjoy the benefit from such trees.

* A Rs.13 crore programme has been sanctioned for modernisation of the Government Central Press in Madras.

SOCIAL WELFARE

* A Rs.3.07 crore scheme to improve facilities at the nutritious noon meal centres in 9 Districts in the State would be set in motion before February 24, 1992. Industrialists and philanthropists have come forward to fund this scheme.

* A sum of Rs.1 crore has already been released for the maintenance work of noon meal centres and Rs.1 crore for the purchase of new vessels.

* A new programme for entrepreneurship development among women would be launched in the current year to the benefit of 800 persons.

* Rs.5 crore has been earmarked for the marriage assistance scheme to poorer sections in the current year. Rs4 crore has been allotted to the assistance scheme for pregnant women. Rs.30 lakh would be allotted for the inter-caste marriage aid scheme.

* The age limit of the hearing impaired and orthopaedically handicapped who are travelling free in buses have been extended from 15 to 20.

POLICE AND FIRE SERVICES

- * The State Government has drawn up a Rs.80.45 crore modernisation programme for the Tamil Nadu Police and sought full grant from the Central Government.
- * Formation of bomb disposal squads and sniffer dog squads, training at the National Security Guard Training Centre, mine sweeping at the MEG, Bangalore and Commando Training at the National Security Guard with a VIP security course would be the highlights of the training programmes for the police force.
- * Government would revive the Police Housing Corporation.
- * It has been proposed to open a new police station at Puthiamputhur near Ottapidaram in Chidambaranar District at a cost of Rs.6.14 lakh and a control room at Kumbakonam at a cost of Rs.20.82 lakh.
- * Six new fire stations would be opened. The Kamarajar division of the fire service would be bifurcated with the headquarters in Ramanathapuram and Virudhunagar.
- * Under the Japanese aid scheme, last year Tamil Nadu have acquired a Rs.3.32 crore turn table ladder mounted on a vehicle which would reach 46 metres, two air-conditioned ambulances, nine portable pumps and six fire suits.
- * The families of the policemen killed while discharging their duties would be granted Rs.1 lakh each from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. They will be entitled to get the last drawn pay as pension till the scheduled retirement of the concerned policemen and the usual family pension later.
- * It has been decided by the Government to set up a police station on experimental basis in the city, fully manned by women.
- * Food allowances, Uniform allowances and kit maintenance allowances given to police personnel have been increased considerably.
- * The yearly contribution to the policemen's welfare fund by the Government would be doubled to Rs.10 lakh.
- * The Government would increase its contribution to the fire service personnel welfare fund from Rs.60,000 to 15 lakh.
- * The proposed Police Housing Corporation will construct 1000 tenements during the current year.

AGRICULTURE

- * The Government has instituted prizes worth Rs.10 lakh for farmers recording the highest yield, with the first prize of Rs.50,000 for paddy. The awarding of prizes would be started this year. Ten seats will be reserved in the Tamil Nadu Agriculture University for children of the farmers winning these awards to study undergraduate courses if they fulfil all the eligible criteria.
- * Rupees one lakh will be given as prize to the scientists and their group who produce good varieties of seeds which proves to be popular among farmers and which last for a long time.
- * The Government has decided to restore G.D.Naidu Agriculture University to its old name as Tamil Nadu Agriculture University.
- * The scheme to bring 25,000 acres of dry land under cultivation would be implemented this year at a cost of Rs.15 crore in Dharmapuri, Madurai, Anna, Ramanathapuram, Kamarajar, Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar, Tirunelveli-Kattabomman and Chidambaranar Districts.
- * Rural roads would be laid to help farmers transport their produce to markets.
- * 400 Village extension centres would be built shortly. 9,000 women will benefit every year learning various aspects of farming in these centres. The cost of this scheme would be Rs.17.98 crore.

LAW

- * Three District courts would start functioning at Ramanathapuram, Sivaganga and Srivilliputhur.
- * A Rs.57 lakh project would shortly be sanctioned under the central scheme for the modernisation of prison administration.

FOREST AND FISHERIES

- * The Government has proposed to spend Rs.60 crore for the forest improvement works during the current year.
- * A Rs.8.73 crore project has been prepared by the Tamil Nadu Forest Plantation Corporation to cultivate high yielding eucalyptus trees in 30,000 hectares in six years time.
- * There is a proposal to raise 70 million fish seedlings by co-operative societies which would be implemented with external aid.
- * A proposal for establishing a prawn farmers co-operative marketing society in Chengalpattu-MGR District is under consideration. An aquaculture industrial estate at a cost of Rs.4 crore will be developed.

* An oceanarium at a cost of Rs.3 crore would be established on the Marina in Madras.

* Forest Department will start using Micro-lite aircraft to check illegal felling of trees during night time.

* A sum of Rs.50 lakh has been set apart to provide sophisticated weapons, vehicles and communication equipments for forest officials to control smuggling of sandalwood.

LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

* All the sanitary workers of Corporation, Municipalities and Town Panchayats in Tamil Nadu will be issued with rain coats. 50% cost will be met by the local bodies and remaining by the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

* Vacuum cleaners would be tried as an experimental measure for clearing carbage.

* All the cattle in the city will be shifted out over the next five years. As the presence of cattle in the city create problems of health and hygiene and affect the traffic flow, the Government has decided to move out the cattle in a phased manner out of Madras.

* Tiruchi and Salem Municipalities will be upgraded as Municipal Corporations.

* The Government has allocated Rs.3 crore for changing fused bulbs and better street lighting in rural areas.

TAX RELIEF

* Products made of sea shells are exempted from sales tax.

* Tax on imported raw silk has been reduced to two percent from six percent.

* Sales tax is totally exempted for rabbit, monkey and pig feeds.

* Tax has been reduced to four percent from 10 per cent for baby milk foods.

* The Government is considering the setting up of a high level committee on sales tax, to suggest ways to simplify and to provide an efficient tax system.

HINDU RELIGIOUS AND CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS

* During the current session of the Assembly new bills will be introduced for appointment of non-hereditary trustees to temples and for better administration.

* Temple lands will no longer be given for long term lease. The maximum period of lease would be five years.

* To preserve and promote the vedas, agamas and sastras a 'Tamil Nadu Institute of Vedic Science' will be set up. One of the works of this institute would be to translate the Sanskrit works into Tamil.

* Some of the temples from Madras and Salem regions would be brought under a new unit in Vellore. Madurai region would be bifurcated to create another establishment at Sivaganga.

* The insurance scheme is being modified so that the solatium to the families of temple staff who dies in harness is doubled to Rs.20,000.

* The Government has sanctioned Rs.10 lakh to carryout repairs and renovation of the Mahalingaswamy temple and the Mahamaham tank.

* The pension for the 'Oduvars' with 10 years service and who have crossed 60 years would be increased to Rs.300 from Rs.250.

PUBLIC WORKS

* A Rs.150 crore special programme for relaying 8,000 km of roads in the State would be launched soon. This would be carried out in 5 years time.

* A Rs.45.28 crore project would be taken up this year to improve 800 km of rural market roads.

* Work on the East Coast Road from Madras to Cuddalore at a total cost of Rs.53 crore has commenced. The State has urged the Centre to upgrade the road from Madras to Kanyakumari as national highway.

LEGISLATURE

* Members of the Assembly will get Rs.250 a month as constituency allowance.

* The rail allowance for the Members is being hiked from 4 paise to 10 paise per kilometre, and the bus fare allowance from 12 paise to 25 paise per kilometre. For travel on non-bus routes they will get 50 paise a kilometre against 25 paise at present.

* Members would be entitled to bring with them their spouses for coming to Madras for Assembly session. The Government would meet their to and fro rail fare.

* Allowances of the Assembly staff have been hiked.

LIFE SAVING SERVICES OF THE SURGICAL GASTROENTEROLOGY AND PROCTOLOGY DEPARTMENT

- Prof. Dr. N. Rangabashyam

The Surgical Gastroenterology Department was started in the year 1975 at Government General Hospital, Madras and is doing yeomen service to the needy for the past one and a half decades.

Some of the speciality services that are rendered and available here are unique of their kind in the whole of India.

A. Specialised surgical procedures are:

- a. Oesophageal Surgery
- b. Gastric Surgery
- c. Colorectal Surgery
- d. Hepatic and Pancreatico-Biliary Surgery
- e. Proctology Services

B. STAPLER SURGERY

C. LASER SURGERY

D. ENDOSCOPIC SERVICES

E. EMERGENCY SERVICES

a. OESOPHAGEAL SURGERY

Among the various diseases that affect the gullet, strictures and cancer require major surgical correction. Such diseases are treated with the help of sophisticated equipments and specialised techniques. The other speciality services are also utilised for this. At present, the cancer is cleared surgically without opening into thorax, a procedure available only in selected centres throughout the world. In advanced cancers, patients are treated without surgery, using laser which enables the patient to eat well.

b. COLORECTAL SURGERY:

Among the diseases involving the large intestine cancer stands at the foremost again. Treatment on par with that available in developed countries is available in this department.

Early lesion are removed with endoscope itself without surgery. Some of the lower rectal cancers needing permanent placement of Ostomy on the abdominal wall are managed effectively by ostomy therapist and are eminently accepted by most of the patients.

More and more steps are taken now a days to preserve the normal passage (anus) and staplers are used to construct otherwise difficult anastomosis. This is the trend world over.

Patients with diseases where the entire large intestine has to be removed were left with ileostomy. This has been an event of the past. Now a days pouches are constructed what will act like large intestine and allow patients to pass motion via naturalis. Such construction of neo anus is a pride of the department and the department has remained for long, as the only institution, to offer such treatment in India.

c. HEPATIC SURGERY:

Major surgical procedures like removal of part or one lobe of liver

Prof. Dr. N. Rangabashyam, Ph.D., FRCS. Ed., is a renowned surgeon and a peerless professor and has an academic and professional career of national and international repute. He has to his credit several awards from the National and International Arena. He is the Honorary Doctor to the President of India. He is the Chief of the Gastroenterology and Proctology Department of the Government General Hospital, Madras, and he gives details of the special treatment of diseases in his unit.

(hepatectomy) is being routinely carried out in this department. Laser is effectively used for this. In the management of Hydatid disease of liver cryocone helps to prevent the spread of the disease and such facility is available, for over a decade in this department.

d. PANCREATO-BILIARY SURGERY:

On par with the rest of the fields, diseases of biliary system and pancreas are managed effectively here. The mortality of a major pancreatic surgery, for eg. Pancreatico duodenectomy compares well with that of the best centres elsewhere in the world. At present, the department is aiming to introduce laparoscopic cholecystectomy, a technique by which the diseased gall bladder can be removed through laparoscope.

e. PROCTOLOGY SERVICES:

The Proctology clinic caters to the most common anorectal problems like piles, fissure, polyps etc. Simpler office procedures like injection therapy, Banding, laser therapy of piles and other office surgical procedures are undertaken in this clinic. Patients with bleeding per rectum, pain in the anal region etc, due to these diseases are treated and send home the same day.

B. STAPLER SURGERY:

This is a relatively new field in surgery. With the help of staplers even difficult anastomosis of various parts of bowel can be easily performed. With the availability of disposable staplers, the surgical time is also considerably reduced. Again the Department takes the pride, in being the first to offer such facility in our country.

Staplers are used in the management of oesophageal, gastric, intestinal and colorectal surgery.

C. LASER SURGERY:

With the availability of Nd Yag Laser in the Department the treatment of several diseases have been simplified. With the laser instrument, it is possible to treat even advanced oesophageal cancers and cancers of the rectum and anal canal. Gastro intestinal bleeding and other lesions are also treated with laser. It is also used in liver surgeries. The advantages of laser are precision surgery and relatively bloodless field.

D. ENDOSCOPIC SERVICES:

This department is the pioneer in endoscopy work in South India. In addition to diagnostic work, many diseases like jaundice, blood vomiting etc., are successfully treated using endoscope in this department.

All sophisticated endoscopes like Gastroduodenoscopes, Colonoscopes and sigmoidoscopes

are available and are routinely put to use. The latest addition is the video-endoscopy which enables many people to view the procedure and has also got the facility to store the images for future reference. This instrument is a boon to students. In addition, the undergraduate and post graduate students of Madras Medical College, Surgeons from all the district hospitals are also taught about the various aspects of endoscopy work.

In addition to the diagnostic work up endoscopes are used to treat many diseases like blood vomiting (variceal sclerotherapy for oesophageal varices, laser coagulation of ulcer bleed and so on), cancer of the gullet and rectum (laser ablation of oesophageal cancer), stricture of the gullet (dilatation), biliary stone (removal), removal of ingested foreign body colonoscopic polyp removal etc is also done in this department to find out problems like liver cancer, cirrhosis, tuberculosis of the abdomen etc.

E. EMERGENCY SERVICES:

In addition to the routine work, many of the patients who require emergency surgery are effectively operated in this Department. Examples of such diseases treated include blood vomiting and intestinal obstruction, among various other illnesses.

OSTOMY SERVICES:

The Department has a well equipped ostomy clinic which is looking after the needs of ostomates (i.e. patients with colostomy, ileostomy, ureterostomy etc) and is manned by well trained ostomy therapists. Ostomates from all the Southern States (Andhra, Kerala, Karnataka, Pondicherry and Tamil Nadu) are members of this clinic and they benefit from its services. Its main functions are to provide psychological support before and after surgery for patients who

need any ostomy, to supply ostomy appliances and to teach the patients as well as family members about the care and management of the ostomy. The clinic also conducts seminars and conferences to improve the public awareness.

On the Academic front the surgical gastroenterology department offers its services to:

- i) Undergraduate students (MBBS)
- ii) Postgraduate general surgery students (MS)
- iii) Superspeciality Gastroenterology students (MCh)
- iv) Surgeons all over the State and from elsewhere in India in the fields of endoscopy.
- v) Ostomy nursing students.

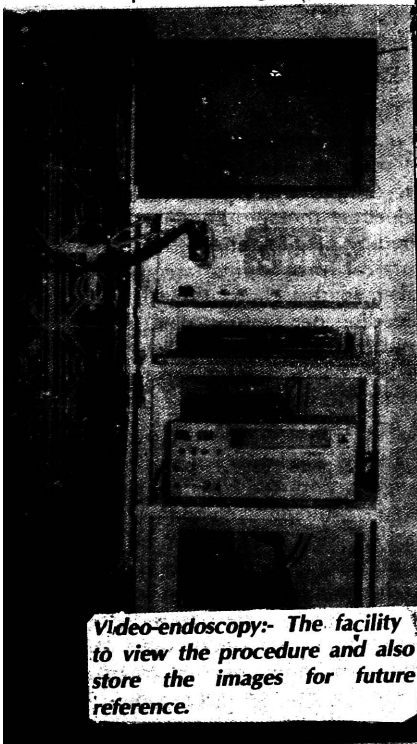
II. a) M.Ch. SUPERSPECIALITY COURSE:

The Department is the first in the Country to start Superspeciality Course in M.Ch. Surgical Gastroenterology. Surgical Gastroenterology is a field which is advancing in leaps and bounds and training surgeons in this field of Superspeciality to keep pace with the developments that are taking place in the rest of the World is mandatory. The course started in this Department is fulfilling such an aim. The course was started in the year 1985 and so far ten candidates have passed.

In addition six more candidates are presently undergoing training in this Department. Few of those who have passed out have started full fledged Superspeciality Departments at Stanley Medical College and Hospital, Kilpauk Medical College and Hospital, Peripheral Hospital, Anna Nagar, Madurai and in Kerala.

b) DIPLOMA IN OSTOMY TRAINING:

Ostomy management through ostomy clinic at Ward 10 was started first in South India in this Department in 1983. Now the



Video-endoscopy:- The facility to view the procedure and also store the images for future reference.

clinic has expanded so much and is spreading its services to several other centres in all southern States.

As ostomy training course (Diploma in Ostomy Therapy) has been started in the Department and thanks to the kind efforts of Government of Tamil Nadu. Four staff nurses were admitted to this course and are undergoing training at present. This course will help to train more stoma therapists so that the services can be extended to all parts of the State.

c. ENDOSCOPY TRAINING:

As the Government of Tamil Nadu has equipped all the District Hospitals with Gastrointestinal Endoscopes, the surgeons from such hospitals are being trained in the endoscopy procedures at this department. The availability of video endoscope has made this training more efficient, now a days. In addition, doctors from various parts of the Country are also being trained in advanced endoscopic procedures.

III. The other notable features of the Department include:

a) The Department has the distinction of carrying out an ex-

tensive clinical trial on pre-operative irradiation and chemotherapy in rectal malignancies with the collaboration of Radiotherapy Department. This control trial has proved its usefulness and this has been accepted as a good modality of treatment for cancer of the rectum.

b) On the academic front the Department of Surgical Gastroenterology has published more than 150 articles in National and International Journals and over 200 papers have been presented at International and National Conferences.

A text book on Gastroenterology and Proctology in Tamil edited by me has been published at the request of the Tamil Nadu Text Book Society.

Every year the Department is conducting postgraduate lecture series as part of continuing medical education. Many expert teachers from all over the country and abroad are called to deliver the lectures here.

A treatise on Ostomy management has been translated in Tamil

which is being utilized in this country and abroad.

The Department has also a well-established library with reference books and journals. Many distinguished surgeons from India and abroad have visited this Department and participated in Clinical demonstrations and lectures.

Mr. James Ross PRCS, Mr. Wilkinson, Mrs. G.D. Chisholm PRCS, Mr. Peter Edmond, Secretary Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, Sir Ian Todd, Mr. Bill Heald, Sir. Geoffrey Slaney, Mr. David Rosin, Mr. John McFarland, Mr. Russell, Mr. Owen Daniel, Mr. N.V. Addison, Sir James Fraser PRCS, Prof. Somasundaram and Mr. Mohan Chellappa of Malaysia and a team of British Association of Surgical Oncology surgeons and a team of Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh visited the Department. Every year foreign medical students especially from UK, USA and Canada are attending the Unit as part of their Elective Postings.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi J.Jayalalitha garlanded the statue of Perarignar Anna on the occasion of his 83rd birth anniversary. (15.9.1991)



DISTANCE EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Institute of Correspondence Course and Continuing Education of Madurai Kamaraj University was started in the year 1971. It is one of the oldest of its kind in India. The unique feature of this Institute from its very inception has been that it has highly qualified and experienced teachers appointed on a full-time basis. These teachers are endowed with the necessary skills in writing learner-based lessons and delivering condensed lectures at personal contact programmes. It is one of the few privileged distance education institutes in the Country to offer student support services like periodical broadcast of well-prepared lessons over a network of AIR Stations in Tamil Nadu. The use of this media results in the penetration of education even into remote rural areas where a large bulk of our educationally disadvantaged people live.

The Institute offers undergraduate and post-graduate courses in various disciplines catering to the needs of not only our countrymen but also those of the ethnic Indians living in Malaysia and Singapore. Besides, it offers certificate and diploma courses in a wide variety of subjects. It offers the highest number of certificate courses in the whole Country. In all, it provides education by correspondence in a record number of seventy-nine disciplines. Of them forty-seven are of a traditional nature. The rest are highly innovative and socially relevant.

Many of them are employment-oriented. A couple of them are on environment and energy management in keeping with the increasing global concern over them.

The Institute provides two streams of distance education. One stream enrolls the students on the basis of conventional eligibility norms or educational qualifications while the other admits them on the basis of a stipulated minimum age without regard to their previous educational qualifications. Under the latter pattern the minimum age limits for direct admission to U.G. and P.G. courses are twenty and twenty-five respectively.

In an effort to establish personal contact with the students and also to ease their learning process contact classes are held, mostly on Saturdays and Sundays in such select centres of Tamil Nadu as Madurai, Trichy, Tirunelveli, Coimbatore and Madras. For U.G. and P.G. Classes four rounds of two days each are held at all centres except Madras where two rounds of three days each are held. Apart from the teachers of the Institute, others drawn from various Universities and Colleges are also liberally used for the purposes of teaching in these classes.

A significant feature of the distance education system of the Institute is its strong sense of commitment to the society which is evidenced by the fact that it has thrown its doors open even for the

convicts. This, it is hoped, coupled with the efforts of the Government and several voluntary organizations, will go a long way in their rehabilitation and re-absorption into the normal social life. Appreciating our endeavours in this direction the Jail Administration of Tamil Nadu has allowed them to attend the personal contact programmes with police escort. On the successful completion of their course, they are awarded their degrees at special functions organized on the Jail premises themselves. Another important measure of its social concern is the provision of fee concession to the SC and ST students.

This academic year, the Institute has added a few more feathers to its academic cap. It has launched certificate and diploma courses in the following subjects:

1. Environmental Law.
2. Energy Management.
3. Environmental Management.
4. Educational Planning and Management.
5. Portfolio Management.

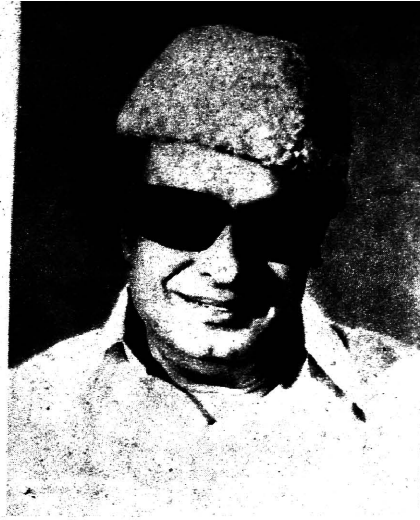
The certificate courses are of six months duration while the diploma courses are of one year duration. Some of these courses are offered by correspondence for the first time in the Country.

It is proposed to introduce personal contact programmes for the Certificate Course in Film Appreciation and Journalism as well as for the Certificate Courses in functional Arabic and functional Telugu. A Certificate Course in Public Affairs and Administration has also been launched this year. This course is intended to equip our politicians and other public men and all those who are engaged in administration or interested in public life with the necessary knowledge which will enable them to discharge their administrative or civic responsibilities better. Legislators,

Members of Civic Councils and Civil Service Personnel may also find this course extremely useful. In addition to these courses, Certificate Courses in Functional English, Document Writing, Sports Journalism, Stock Market Investment and Entrepreneur Development has also been started. P.G. diploma courses in the following branches of study introduced this year may provide new learning and job opportunities. They are:-

1. Energy management.
2. Environmental Management.
3. Environmental Law.
4. Pre-school Education.

The new post-graduate courses- M.A. in Journalism and Mass Communication and M.A. in Labour Studies- will further enrich the already diversified distance education opportunities. The first of these two will be run in active collaboration with the Press, the AIR, the Doordarshan, the Field Publicity Department, Film Institutes and Film Chambers of Commerce. The second course will seek the support, expertise and resources of the Ministry of Labour, Government of India, Department of Labour, Government of Tamil Nadu, State Labour Institute, prominent trade unions, industrial establishments in the private and public sector, State ESI, Management Education Institutes and various specialized and professional organizations. The press and the industrial establishments may give wide publicity to these courses. They can encourage their employees to join these courses. They may even make these courses a part of the traineeship or in-service training of their top-echelon cadres. While recruiting personnel for the work requiring competence in these fields, they may prefer the candidates who have undergone these courses to others.



Important Programmes of the Information and Public Relations Department for the year 1991-92

Remodelling of Bharat Ratna Dr. M.G.R. Samadhi:

Government has decided to remodel Bharat Ratna Dr.M.G.R. Samadhi and reconstruct it in a grand manner. The architectural design plans have been approved and the construction of a model to scale is now in progress. The reconstruction of the Samadhi is estimated to cost around Rs.70 lakhs.

Thiruvalluvar Memorial:

Government has decided to install a granite stone statue of Thiruvalluvar of a height of 133 feet on the minor rock adjacent to Vivekananda Rock in Kanyakumari. Government has sanctioned a sum of Rs.36 crore for the above work. This work has been entrusted to the well known sculptor Thiru V.Ganapathi Sthapathi. The raising of this memorial will be executed through the Tamil Nadu State Construction Corporation Limited. A sum of Rs.50 lakh has so far been released and the work is in progress.



CHILD LABOUR: A MULTI-DIMENSIONAL APPROACH

**"The Childhood, shows the man
As morning shows the day"**
(Milton.....)

Child labour is a social problem in so far as it arrests and retards the natural process of a child into full adulthood. It is an economic problem as it retards the production capacity of human resource. In India, it is a condition of despair, grief and agony.

United Nations declaration states: "Every child has got the right to affection, love and understanding, to adequate nutrition and medical care; to free education, to full opportunity to play and recreation." Right from the beginning of the industrial era of mass production, industrialists began to employ children on a large scale. This has resulted in the problem of child labour prevalent the world over. Modern capitalistic industrialisation in the specific historical context of India has created a new army of child workers whose conditions are

even more hostile than those described by Marx in the context of British capitalistic development in the nineteenth century.

It is the chronic poverty which is responsible for the prevalence

United Nations declaration states: "Every child has got the right to affection, love and understanding, to adequate nutrition and medical care; to free education, to full opportunity to play and recreation."

and perpetuation of child labour. Children from poor families are compelled to join the labour force by the need to supplement the family income. In families with high fertility and low income, children have to work due to economic necessity. In case of parental incapacitation, children became the sole bread winners.

The number of industries where

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Department of Economics
University of Madras

the child labourers are predominantly seen are as follows:

1. The match industry
2. The diamond polishing industry
3. The precious stone polishing industry
4. The glass industry
5. The brass-ware industry
6. The hand-made carpet industry in Uttar Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir
7. The lock making industry
8. The slate industry in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh

Preference for Child Labourers

There are ample reasons why employers prefer children to adults. Children have a less developed ego and status consciousness. The adaptive capacities of children are more superior to those of adults. Employers find children more amenable to discipline and control. They can be coaxed, disciplined, pulled up and punished for defaults without jeopardising relations. The children can be engaged in almost the same amount of work with lesser cost. Children are also more active, and quick and feel less tired in certain tasks. They are also

better candidates for tasks of a helper, assistance, housemaid etc.

In the agricultural sector, children work as helpers in sowing, weeding, harvesting and threshing. A majority of them are casual workers. The majority of children in India are employed in the unorganised sector. So they are commonly found in small plantations, wayside restaurants and small hotels, cotton ginning and weaving, match making, stone breaking, handicrafts, automobile and metal workshops. Child

labour has increased sharply both in the traditional handicraft as well as in the labour intensive industries.

Magnitude of the Problem

A look into the entire child population is essential before identifying the magnitude of child labourers. According to 1981 census the child population in the age-group 0-4 happened to be 93,098, in the 5-9 age-group was 88,523 and 82,563 in the 10-14 age-group totally it stood at 26.42 crore. By 1991, it is projected that it will rise to 27.38 crore as stated in the report by the Ministry of Human Resources. In Tamil Nadu the total child population stood at 1.620 crore which is projected to be 1.629 crore for 1991. According to 1971 census, the estimated number of child labourers was 10.7 million and several authorities believe that this is gross under-reporting. The NSS has estimated that the child labour for the year 1973 to be 16.33 million and the projected figure for 1983 is 17.36 million. As per the 1984 report of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, only 87 per cent of children in the age-group of 6 - 11 years and 44 per cent in the age-group of 11 - 14

years are being provided education in the classes I to VIII.

School-going children stood at 620 per 1000 in Tamil Nadu by 1971 which has increased to 718 per 1000 by 1981. This is to say that the rest are either partially employed or fully employed thus denying them the opportunity to equip more skill and thereby to increase their earning capacity. In Tamil Nadu itself -Kanyakumari District stands first i.e. above the State's average at 849 per 1000 and Dharmapuri lags behind as the last at 661 per 1000. In the rural areas, child education is much less and

is extremely low in Dharmapuri District at 391 per 1000.

Child labour is more prevalent in rural areas than urban areas. Male children, as the main and marginal workers, constitute 10.1 per cent in rural and 3.7 per cent in urban areas. Female children population engaged as the main and marginal workers constitute 7.8 per cent in rural and 1.5 per cent in urban areas. Whatever be the percentage and composition, the magnitude of the problem with associated evil effects attracts the attention of social and economic forums.

Child Activity in India: 1981 Census

Activity	Rural		Urban		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
	Percent of Children aged 5-14 the specified activity					
Main worker	9.2	5.2	3.6	1.3	7.9	4.4
Main and Marginal worker	10.1	7.8	3.7	1.5	8.7	6.4
School going	48.3	27.4	69.3	60.4	52.9	34.7

Source: Computed from; Census of India 1981 Series-1, India Part II Special, Report and Tables Based on 5 per cent sample data, Controller of Publications, Delhi, 1984, pp.2-3, 200, 204 in part II Tables.



Legal Provisions

The Constitution of India provides safeguards for children through certain directives. Articles of 15, 24, 39, 42, 43 and 45 were passed to take care of their interests. The National Policy Statement runs like this: "Children shall be protected against neglect, cruelty and exploitation". The Factories Act 1948 (Amended in 1949, 1950, 1954) prohibits the employment of children below 14 years of age. Several enactments have been passed. These protective provisions of the enactments do not cover children employed in smaller establishments. In reality, the majority of the child workers actually work in the small scale sectors. Though several acts and policies have been promulgated to eradicate child labour, it still exists since poverty and inequality are in existence even after three decades of planning.

The existing laws do not touch the important segments of the economy. The Encyclopaedia of social work in India records: the existing legal provisions still do not cover a large number of children engaged in unregulated employment such as domestic service, public recreation, street hawling etc. Gurupadaswamy Committee (1979) was unable to find in most cases the practice rationale for the varying definition of 'Child' for purposes of employment. A survey conducted by the labour Bureau in 1979 into the problems of child labour in a number of units in the organised sector in different States found that in most of the factories, the hours of work

It is the chronic poverty which is responsible for the prevalence and perpetuation of child labour. Children from poor families are compelled to join the labour force by the need to supplement the family income.

The long term goal of eradication of child labour might be possible through universalisation of primary education, rapid economic growth, economic and social equity, abandonment of poverty and increasing the earning capacity of parents.

as prescribed under the Factories Act were not being strictly adhered to. Harbans Singh Commission report says (1976) the children are employed longer than the stipulated hours of work. The protective legislations are cunningly evaded by the employers. Hence the problem persists and the blatant violation of the law goes unchecked. Actually the law-breakers are much more manipulative.

India contributes to one-third of Asia's child labour and a fourth of the world's working children. It has the dubious distinction of having the largest number of working children in the world. There are numerous occupation of hazards like health problem, accidents, ex-

ploitations, unsatisfactory working conditions, insecurity of employment, long working hours, low wages and bonded child labour.

The eradication of child labour is nothing short of utopian, at least in the present juncture. The practical approach should be to minimise the exploitation and improve the total lot by education and proper health care in the short run. Eradication of child labour can be aimed at as a long-term measure.

The problem is multi-dimensional. The line of action should be directed towards provision of non-formal education, security of employment, prevention of night work, fixation of minimum wages and maximum working hours, provision for paid holidays, enactment of comprehensive legislation and formation of trade unions. The long term goal of eradication of child labour might be possible through universalisation of primary education, rapid economic growth, economic and social equity, abandonment of poverty and increasing the earning capacity of parents.

The ulcer of untouchability has gone so deep down that it seems to pervade our life. Hence the unreal differences. When untouchability is rooted out, these distinctions will vanish and no one will consider himself superior to any other. Naturally, exploitation too will cease and co-operation will be the order of the day.

— Mahatma Gandhi.

A rain forest is one of nature's most astounding creations packed with the richest variety of plant and animal life. It is a self-contained system in which each living organism is linked with all others and wherein life-cycles are so well established that there is perfect recycling and no waste whatsoever. A rain forest is lush and green and warm and teeming with life, parts of which might still not have come into the focus of man.

Rain forests abound in the equatorial region. At present, the Trans-Amazon, East African and the Indo Malayan are the main areas in which rain forests flourish. It is mainly in the Amazon basin, that one finds tracts of rain forests at their pristine best, still untouched by the exploitation of man. In India, it is mostly in the Western Ghats that the rain forest is seen. It was in the news very recently when there was a hue and cry from nature lovers and environmentalists over a proposal to clear it for constructing a hydroelectric project.

An impressive feature of a rain forest is that it has a four-layered structure made up of plants at 1. the ground level, 2. the low-canopy level 3. the mid-forest level and 4. the canopy level.

Found at the ground level are the fungi, bacteria and other insects that act as decomposers. It is a nursery for seedlings of plants. Present in the low-canopy level are the shrubs that grow like dwarf trees. Distributed in the mid-forest level are the tall, straight trees, clothed with mosses and lichens. The top most canopy consists of three component strata of trees namely 60', 60' to 120' and 120' to 200' in height. Orchids, ferns, pepper and bromeliads are some of the plants seen here. The layers of the canopy act like the roof of a green house, trapping heat and

RAIN FOREST

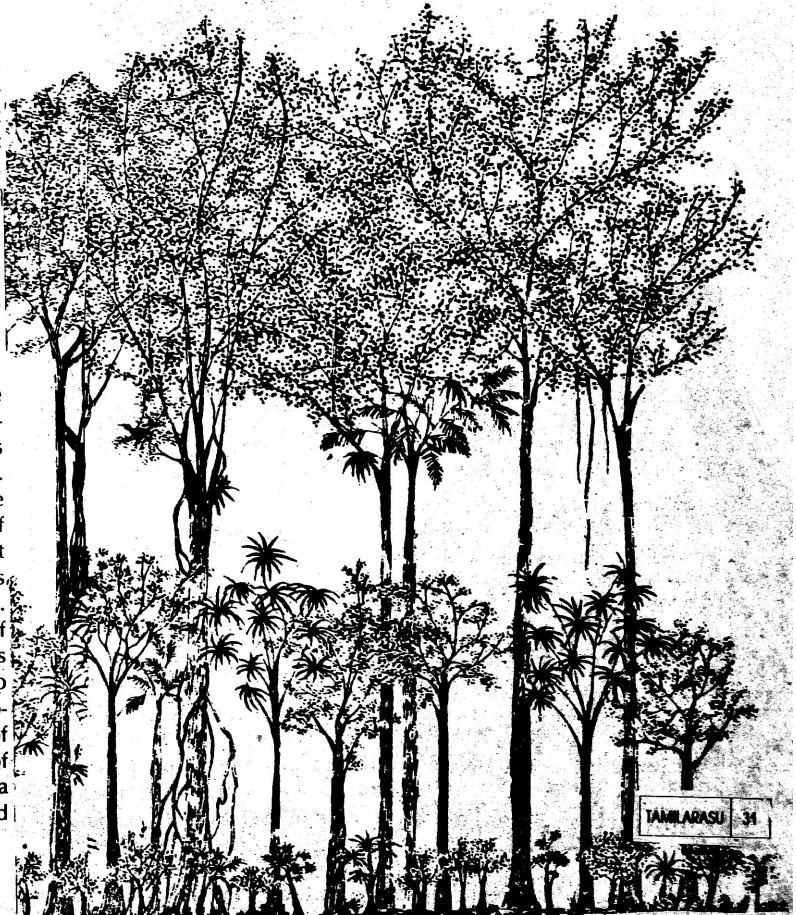
M.N. Pushpa
Asst. Curator,
Govt. Museum,
Madras.

moisture such that there is hardly a dry season in the rainforest.

A characteristic of plants and animals seen here are that they are abnormal in size. Thus shrubs that are normally 4' to 5' in height grow like dwarf tree. In the forests of East Africa there are giant sized grasses growing upto a height of 30' to 40'. A land turtle from the rain forest weighs about 400 pounds. A moth is ordinarily a small creature. In a rain forest there are moths whose wings alone span about 12".

As for the fauna of a rain forest, these consists of howler monkeys, birds, tree frogs, snakes, lizards and army ants. The army ants move in huge colonies and would attack any creature that crosses their path. They leave a scent behind as they move thereby helping other intruders to avoid crossing their path. At the canopy level the vegetation contains drip-tips which prevent stagnation of water at the top. It also has extension of the trunk buttresses, to prevent the trees from toppling.

At the ground level a type of climbers called Lianas are present. They climb up other trees reaching great heights. These are long and trailing and achieve astonishing dimensions with the woody stem as much as 2' thick. Lianas are sun-lovers that they



braided their stem from branch to branch, from tree to tree that even if a tree is severed at the bottom it cannot fall. Found in the canopy level are the epiphytes or air plants. The trees found in the rain forest also has some defence mechanism. Thus found in the Palm trees are sharp spinous structures that prevent the animals feeding on the trees and at the same time providing food to the canopy dwellers.

Rain forests are the place where we could see the co-operative and interactive relationships, between plants and animal. Thus found in the bull-horn acacia (it is a species name) are a colony of ants that feed on the nectar and protein, which in turn drives away the other insects and also prevents the growing of vines and strangler upon the trees.

In a rain forest the soil is very poor due to constant leaching by rains. However the decomposers work so efficiently that the shallow roots absorb the minerals immediately and circulate it to all parts of a plant forming a 'stable

scented flowers. Mimicry is very commonly seen among the insects just for the purpose of safeguarding themselves.

These rain forests which have the best eco-system and evolutionary reservoirs, at present are fast disappearing due to destruction by man for various purposes. Thus many of the rare plants and animals are in danger of extinction. Most of the plants and animals of the forest are immune to virus diseases and studying them may give a clue to scientists to find out means of immunity against such diseases. The destruction of the rain forest may lead to scarcity of timbers and also some of the important medicinal plants. Ultimately, due to the destruction of the rain forest the weather pattern is also likely to be disturbed.

The trees of the rain forest are described as "Green robed senators of mighty woods" by a reputed naturalist. If we do not take care of them, we would be losing for ever one of the wondrous creations of nature.



Strangler fig

system'. In this system no dead leaf or animal remains on the ground for more than 24 hours.

Since flowers are produced at different levels, trees in the mid-forest level have 'cauliflory', that is flowers directly arising from the trunk. They also have pendulous blossoms and brightly coloured,

Buttresses

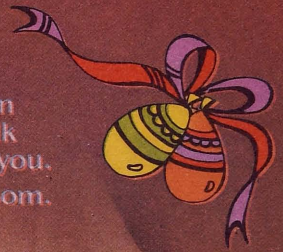


Stilt roots



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