

[Shri C. Subramaniam]

6. With these words, I seek the approval of the House to the Budget Estimates for 1976-77 in respect of the State of Gujarat.

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAGHUBAMAIAH): About the Gujarat Budget, subject to the passing of the Statutory Resolution approving the Proclamation issued by the President in relation to the State of Gujarat, subject to the completion of the discussion on the Statutory Resolution, we would like to take up the Gujarat Budget tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the House? Yes.

12.06 hrs.

TAMIL NADU BUDGET, 1976-77—
GENERAL DISCUSSION, *DEMANDS
FOR GRANTS (TAMIL NADU)
1976-77 AND
SUPPLEMENTARY *DEMANDS FOR
GRANTS (TAMIL NADU), 1975-76

MR. SPEAKER: We shall now take up the Tamil Nadu Budget. Items Nos

11, 12 and 13 will be discussed together. The time allotted is 2 hours.

Motion moved:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the order paper, be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of Tamil Nadu to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1977, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against demands Nos 1 to 57"

Motion moved:

"That the respective Supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the order paper, be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of Tamil Nadu to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1976, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against —

Demand Nos 1, 4, 9 to 12, 14 to 28, 30 to 39, 41 to 45, 48 to 53 and 55 to 57."

Demands for grants (Tamil Nadu) 1976-77

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant submitted to the vote of the House	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	2	3	
1	Land Revenue Department	3,90,73,000	..
2	State Excise Department	53,65,000	..
3	Motor Vehicles Acts—Administration	78,25,000	..

Approved with the recommendation of the President.

1	2	3
	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
4 General Sales Tax and Other Taxes and Duties— Administration	4,53,99,000	..
5 Stamps Administration	1,55,61,000	..
6 Registration	1,89,56,000	..
7 State Legislature	31,10,000	..
8 Elections	37,81,000	..
9 Head of State, Ministers and Headquarters Staff	10,89,92,000	..
10 Milk Supply Schemes	92,38,000	..
11 District Administration	15,24,18,000	..
12 Administration of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959	1,23,59,000	..
13 Administration of Justice	24,10,09,000	..
14 Jails	5,29,56,000	..
15 Police	28,79,09,000	..
16 Fire Services	2,09,08,000	..
17 Education	1,27,36,48,000	..
18 Medical	38,06,26,000	..
19 Public Health	19,42,65,000	..
20 Agriculture	33,32,34,000	..
21 Fisheries	1,83,56,000	..
22 Animal Husbandry	7,01,62,000	..
23 Cooperation	4,89,27,000	..
24 Industries	3,13,75,000	..
25 Cinchona	86,83,000	..
26 Handlooms and Textiles	2,19,98,000	..
27 Khadi	60,50,000	..
28 Community Development Projects, etc.	30,31,12,000	..
29 Labour-including Factories	3,47,57,000	..
30 Social Welfare	3,40,67,000	..
31 Welfare of the Scheduled Tribes and Castes, etc.	12,90,09,000	..
32 Welfare of the Backward Classes etc.	5,90,77,000	..

	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
33 Housing	5,22,35,000	..
34 Urban Development	7,82,42,000	..
35 Civil Supplies	3,47,44,000	..
36 Irrigation	20,96,43,000	..
37 Public Works—Buildings	2,86,25,000	..
38 Public Works—Establishment and Tools and Plants	4,56,56,000	..
39 Roads and Bridges	23,72,86,000	..
40 Road Transport Services and Shipping	1,89,81,000	..
41 Relief on account of Natural Calamities	8,34,000	..
42 Pensions and other Retirement Benefits	14,36,38,000	..
43 Miscellaneous	44,57,70,000	..
44 Stationery and Printing	6,11,97,000	..
45 Forest Department	3,96,68,000	..
46 Compensation and Assignments	11,27,39,000	..
47 Compensation to Zamirdars . . . . .	..	1,67,70,000
48 Capital Outlay on Public Health, Sanitation and Water Supply . . . . .	..	1,59,76,000
49 Capital Outlay on Agriculture . . . . .	..	43,20,61,000
50 Capital Outlay on Industrial Development . . . . .	..	5,98,16,000
51 Capital Outlay on Irrigation . . . . .	..	27,31,31,000
52 Capital Outlay on Public Works —Buildings . . . . .	..	7,59,78,000
53 Capital Outlay on Raods and Bridges . . . . .	..	5,45,29,000
54 Capital Outlay on Raod Transport Services and Shipping . . . . .	..	64,82,000
55 Capital Outlay on Forests . . . . .	..	2,51,26,000
56 Miscellaneous Capital Outlay . . . . .	..	8,05,43,000
57 Loans and Advances by the State Government . . . . .	..	53,62,28,000

Supplementary Demands for Grants (Tamil Nadu)
 1975-76

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant submitted to the vote of the House	
1	2	3	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	Lard Revenue Department	13,08,000	..
4	General Sales Tax and Other Taxes and Duties— Administration	36,31,000	..
9	Head of State, Ministers and Headquarters Staff	92,76,000	..
10	Milk Supply Schemes	5,56,000	..
11	District Administration	2,000	..
12	Administration of Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959	5,00,000	..
14	Jails	1,33,26,000	..
15	Police	18,46,000	..
16	Fire Services	3,57,000	..
17	Education	5,15,08,000	..
18	Medical	4,52,13,000	..
19	Public Health	1,92,45,000	..
20	Agriculture	12,000	..
21	Fisheries	7,99,000	..
22	Animal Husbandry	1,33,15,000	..
23	Cooperation	26,58,000	..
24	Industries	1,000	..
25	Cinchona	20,73,000	..
26	Handloom and Textiles	10,91,000	..
27	Khadi	7,00,000	..
28	Community Development Projects etc.	1,000	..
30	Social Welfare	41,00,000	..
31	Welfare of Scheduled Tribes and Castes, etc.	2,75,46,000	..
32	Welfare of Backward Classes etc.	1,000	..
33	Housing	9,76,000	..
34	Urban Development	40,85,000	..

1	2	3
	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
35 Civil Supplies	1,35,60,000	..
36 Irrigation	1,45,76,000	..
37 Public Works—Buildings	5,11,000	..
38 Public Works—Establishment and Tools and Plant	2,000	.
39 Roads and Bridges	2,71,25,000	..
41 Relief on Account of Natural Calamities	4,000	..
42 Pensions and other Retirement Benefits	3,22,11,000	.
43 Miscellaneous	1,000	.
44 Stationery and Printing	4,45,000	
45 Forest Department	48,95,000	
48 Capital Outlay on Public Health, Sanitation and Water-Supply		6,73,000
49 Capital Outlay on Agriculture		1,000
50 Capital Outlay on Industrial Development		26,02,000
51 Capital Outlay on Irrigation		2,36,61,000
52 Capital Outlay on Public Works—Buildings		1,18,44,000
53 Capital Outlay on Roads and Bridges		1,00,02,000
55 Capital Outlay on Forests		24,78,000
56 Miscellaneous Capital Outlay		4,09,78,000
57 Loans and Advances by the State Government		29,66,88,000

SHRIMATI PARAVATHI KRISHNAN (Coimbatore) Sir, at the time of discussing the Delegation of Powers Bill in respect of Tamil Nadu, we said that we should have more time for discussing the various Tamil Nadu issues in detail. At that time, we were told that we will be given an opportunity at the time of discussing the Tamil Nadu Budget. The time allotted is very short. We have to discuss many issues. I would appeal to the hon. Minister that some more time be allotted for it.

Otherwise, there will not be an opportunity for us to discuss on the very urgent issues before us.

SHRI K. GOPAL (Karur): Yes. This was discussed for 36 days; so we cannot finish it in two hours. Some more time may be allowed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: A minimum of four hours should be allowed.

MR. SPEAKER: All right, we will give some more time.

Now, there are some cut motions, Nos. 1 to 24 in the name of four Members and No. 25 by Sant. Parvathi Krishnan. I presume you want to move them.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head Motor Vehicles Acts—Administration be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to bring about uniformity in taxes on motor vehicles (1)].

"That the demand under the head General Sales Tax and other Taxes and Duties—Administration be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to decrease sales tax on misery goods to bring it at par with other States (2)].

"That the demand under the head General Sales Tax and other Taxes and Duties—Administration be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to decrease exorbitant and discriminatory sales tax on ayurvedic drugs (3)].

"That the demand under the head District Administration be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to remove distortions in administration and streamline the same (4)].

"That the demand under the head Police be reduced to Re. 1."

[Need to reorganise and streamline the police department (5)].

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced to Re. 1."

[Slow progress in procurement of paddy and need to restore the earlier purchasing price (6)].

"That the demand under the head Labour including Factories be reduced to Re. 1."

[Steps to be taken to set up an Apex Body on the lines of the National Apex Body (7)].

"That the demand under the head Irrigation be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to undertake long-term irrigation projects in the State such as Mordhana, modernisation of Kaveri delta canals, Keesiyar scheme and Pandiyae—Punnapu/ha scheme (8)].

"That the demand under the head Irrigation be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to undertake measures for a survey of ground-water resources in Tamil Nadu, particularly in drought prone areas (9)].

"That the demand under the head Roads and Bridges be reduced by Rs. 100"

[Need to undertake laying of new roads and maintenance of roads and bridges departmentally (10)].

"That the demand under the head Roads and Bridges be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to undertake metalling of river bank roads (11)].

"That the demand under the head Miscellaneous be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to set up at all levels popular Committees of representatives of all organisations and parties supporting the emergency and the 20-point programme for implementation of the same (12)].

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to bring changes in the land reform legislation in accordance with the Central guidelines (13)].

[Smt. Parvathi Krishnan]

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide adequate storage facilities for foodgrains (14)].

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Measures to set up a State Cotton

Corporation for monopoly purchase of raw cotton from agriculturists (15)].

"That the demand under the head Co-operation be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Measures required to convert loans of co-operative and institutional credit into long-term loans (16)].

"That the demand under the head Co-operation be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Introduction of jewel loans by co-operative and other commercial banks to the rural population (17)].

"That the demand under the head Industries be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to set up a salt-based industry in Vedaranyam area (18)].

"That the demand under the head Industries be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to take over all closed textile units in Tamil Nadu and reopen them immediately (19)].

"That the demand under the head Industries be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to take over and run the closed engineering units in the State (20)].

"That the demand under the head Community Development Projects etc. be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for sinking new community wells and deepening the existing ones particularly in the drought prone areas (21)].

"That the demand under the head Labour Including Factories be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Steps required to implement payment of wages to agricultural workers in keeping with the ordinance (22)].

"That the demand under the head Housing be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide house sites, as stated in 20-point programme, and to provide all developmental facilities as well as credit on easy terms for construction (23)].

"That the demand under the head Irrigation be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for a systematic scheme of deepening wells and digging new community wells with special attention to drought prone areas (24)].

"That the demand under the head Relief on Account of Natural Calamities be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to take up flood control scheme of Sangapur Pallam in Sarcar Sennakulam Firka of Coimbatore (25)].

MR SPEAKER The cut motions are also before the House

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA (Serampore): Sir, I rise to oppose this Budget which has been placed today, i.e. the 24th March, '76. The term of the Tamil Nadu Assembly would have expired only yesterday had it not been dismissed and dissolved. So, I would call this Budget an illegitimate production by the Centre and I want to record my emphatic protest. An opportunity should have been given to the people of Tamil Nadu to have a budget drafted by their own Assembly and their own men so that justice could have been done to them.

Now, regarding the dissolution of the Assembly, I find some discrimination here. In the case of the Gujarat Assembly, it was not dissolved but in the case of Madras it was dissolved. The Ministry was dismissed and the Assembly was also dissolved. I don't know why this difference should be there. The reason is obvious and the people will draw their own conclusions. In Gujarat you are resorting to most objectionable measures like defection from other Parties, but here you could not be successful. The DMK have an over-whelming majority and they could carry on and they could challenge that there should be fresh elections; but you had no courage to face that challenge. Had the Assembly not been dissolved, this budget would not have been placed here by Mr. Subramaniam but by some other person belonging to the DMK or another Party on the Floor of the Tamil Nadu Assembly. So, I want to record my emphatic protest against this. That is the first point I wanted to make.

Then, coming to the budget as it has been placed, it is mentioned here that even in this very short span of time, based on an intensive review of the needs of the State, the priorities of development have been provided here. But it is also mentioned here that it has been decided to increase the bus-fares. Without giving an opportunity to the people to record their voice of protest, the Government has announced and implemented the increase in bus-fares in all spheres of the State, for the suburban as well as for the long-distance buses. I am told that for travel from Madurai to Madras, one has to pay now Rs. 5 more because of this increase. In this way, they have started cutting the pocket of the ordinary people. The rich people do not use the bus; only the ordinary people use the bus and you have started cutting their pocket.

There are so many problems. Our friends belonging to the right CPI will also agree that the plight of the handloom weavers there is miserable. There is no service guarantee or security. The employers have reduced their wages to the extent of Rs. 18 per month and there is a movement by the workers belonging to all the trade unions, CITU, AITUC and even INTUC and the DMK-affiliated Unions; they have come together to protest against this sort of reduction in the wages of the handloom weavers. The employers have scaled down their wages so much. In Madurai alone 15,000 workers have been affected by this wage-cut. The employers there are insisting that either they may accept this wage reduction or they may go away. So, the question there is one of guaranteeing jobs to these poor weavers. I would request Mr. Subramaniam, who comes from the same State—he has better knowledge than I have—to look into the matter.

The State Government employees, including the teachers, have been demanding—even during the DMK rule they demanded that they should get the same rate of dearness allowance which the Central Government employees get. Why should there be this discrimination? This is not the demand of only the Tamil Nadu Government employees; this demand has been raised throughout the country by almost all the State Governments' employees. And taking this opportunity to speak on this aspect, I would request the Finance Minister to see that this discrimination goes. In Calcutta, Madras and other big cities, there are State Government employees as well as Central Government employees, and they do not obviously get their daily necessities at two different rates. Why then should this discrimination be allowed to continue?

Coming to the other issues, there is no job security for private college

[Shri Dinan Bhattacharyya]
teachers. So many colleges have
been closed due to the bungling and
mismanagement of the authorities ..

AN HON MEMBER Which
College?

SHRI DINAN BHATTACHARYYA:
Kamudi Thevar College in Ramnad
District and Sivagangai Raja's
College, Ramnad District. The stu-
dents are suffering, the teachers are
suffering and the guardians are suffer-
ing. The whole educational system
is at stake. So, I would urge upon
the Finance Minister to look into this
matter. I have been given this in-
formation that the UGC's recommen-
dations have not been implemented
in Tamil Nadu. I do not know why
this has not been done. Where is the
provision for this in the Budget that
has been placed here by Mr. Subra-
maniam? Where is the provision for
implementation of the UGC's recom-
mendations in the case of Tamil Nadu
teachers?

I have another point to make and
that—the teachers should be paid
directly and not through the manage-
ment. I do not want to blame any
particular management, but my plea
with the Government will be that the
teachers should be paid directly,
whenever any dearness allowance or
amount is sanctioned, it should be
paid directly to the teachers them-
selves.

Now coming to the conditions of
workers in the sugar mills—we have
got our centres in that area and I
had been myself there some time
back—the sugar mills are raising the
plea that they are not getting enough
sugar cane and the sugarcane growers
are saying that they are not getting
remunerative price. Consequently,
the sugarcane production has gone
down in Tamil Nadu to the extent of
40 per cent. In Tiruchy district, in
Fugalur sugar mill 250 workers have
been laid off on the alleged ground of

non-availability of sugarcane. This
is a serious matter and this must be
looked into by the Government.

My complaint is against the whole
system, not only this centre or that
centre; you are not giving proper
wages to the workers throughout the
country, not in Tamil Nadu alone.
We know what is happening at other
places also.

The textile mill owners in Tamil
Nadu are complaining about the ac-
cumulation of stocks. The workers
are apprehending as also our orga-
nizations, that 20—25 mills may be
closed within a short time. Although
an Act has been promulgated at the
Centre that there should not be any
lay-offs, retrenchments, or closures
yet it is going on in Tamil Nadu.
Specially in the case of textile mills,
I can say that lay offs and retrench-
ments are going on. I do not have
much time otherwise I would have
given you some examples. We know,
what is happening in Tamil Nadu;
we have our centres in all the dis-
tricts and we know what is what. In
Tiruchy district Kaveri Nagar Kaveri
Mill has been closed since 8th Decem-
ber 1975 affecting 1200 workers.
Various representations were made,
but no action has yet been taken. I
would urge upon the Minister to look
into this matter.

I understand that after the pro-
mulgation of President's rule in Tamil
Nadu they have announced new wage
scales for the agricultural workers,
but that is not adequate. There are
serious grievances. I know that
system. They have fixed a rate of
Rs 2 for the whole day for the wor-
kers who have got their own bullocks
or buffaloes. For others a very meagre
amount has been announced. I have
got the figures here. I can give you if
time is allowed by the Speaker. I
know one crore agricultural workers
in Tamil Nadu are getting 100—150
days' work in a year. So, how can
you remove poverty? How can you

make development in rural areas which you are claiming that you are orientating towards the development of the rural sector. How can you do it where the bulk of the rural population who are poor and who have no land are getting jobs only for 150—170 days in a year.

MR. SPEAKER: You please conclude now.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: I will conclude with your blessings and grace.

What we are demanding through our organization, through our Kisan Sabha organizations is that proper remuneration should be fixed so that the poor agricultural workers may make both ends meet, get a remunerative wage as well as the work is carried out throughout the year. Otherwise, what is the good of fixing up some abnormal rate? That they are getting at the harvest time. Everywhere they are getting it. What matters is that they are not getting the jobs throughout the year. So, my point is: please fix some wage which will satisfy them as well as guarantee some kind of job to them.

Then, coming to the prices. I can only mention that the Government is claiming that the prices are going down. But what is the price of chillies there? Has its price gone up or not? In the same way, the groundnut oil prices have gone up by 60 paise. This is the latest information I got from my organization people.

AN HON. MEMBER: That is wrong.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: I stand by it.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): That is because we have given price support to groundnut producers as its prices have crashed.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: I now come to the vital point. There is no democracy in Tamil Nadu after the removal of the DMK Government. I tell you. You have no right to hold meetings. You can hold a meeting inside the hall but there also their is restriction. You cannot criticise the Government. You cannot criticise the Prime Minister. You cannot sneak against emergency or against the system of Government that is prevailing in our country. What is the meaning of this democracy?

SHRI G VISWANATHAN (Wandiwash): Is it available in West Bengal?

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: This is not available there. That is also a fact I want to mention. Had I been given an opportunity.

MR. SPEAKER: Please confine yourself to Tamil Nadu.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: In this connection I might mention that anything and everything is going on including slander against our Party. Only yesterday—you kindly look to to-day's papers—the Prime Minister in a public speech has bracketed our party with some parties with which we have no connection. With the RSS we have been bracketed. Who has got the guts to say that we have anything to do with the RSS?

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Chireyin-kil): Your friend, Mr. Jyotirmoy went to Patna Central Jail to see Mr. Sarkar with Mr. Vajpayee.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: This kind of slander is going on. But you cannot have your own say nor can you publish it.

Even the speeches that we make here will not be published. We cannot publish it. That is the law. In the name of constitutional reforms you are passing some laws curtailing the fundamental rights of the people of India. So, I will request the Gov-

[Shri Dinen Bhattacharyya] ernment through you and also the Prime Minister, not to make this slander against our party. We never hide anything. If we have any programme we announce it to the people. The people will choose whether that programme is to be carried out or not. One-sided landering and propaganda against our party should be stopped. Otherwise the people will take their own course of action.

SHRI G. BHUVARAHAN (Met-
tur): Mr. Speaker, Sir I welcome the Budget, congratulating the Finance Minister presenting the Tamil Nadu Budget proposal in the Parliament after a lapse of 14 years. Our beloved Prime Minister gave great relief for Tamil Nadu people by removing the DMK rule.

The budget presentation has become an occasion for reappraisal of the economic performance of the Government during the previous years and for approving its policies in future. The budget has become an opportunity for the Government and the people to rededicate themselves for the promotion of the welfare of the people.

Unfortunately, for the past few years in Tamil Nadu budget had not reflected the real growth of economic development of Tamil Nadu. Our beloved Prime Minister and Finance Minister know the old traditional name and fame of the Tamil Nadu administration.

During the DMK regime they have purposely destroyed the name and fame of Tamil Nadu. Actually they were concentrating only on illuminating things, erecting statues, collecting funds and constructing memorials wasting the public money.

I request our beloved Prime Minister to give special assistance and attention for the development of Tamil Nadu as usual to reconstruct the good

image of Tamil Nadu which was destroyed by DMK rule.

Traditionally, whenever a request comes from Tamil Nadu people the Prime Minister gracefully agrees to give full assistance and help for the development of the State. Sir, for example, during the drought situation in Tamil Nadu a few years back and also last year, our Prime Minister sympathetically considered and gave nearly Rs. 25 crores for the relief purpose. But the fund was misused and most of the funds were not utilised for the specific purpose.

Sir, the Finance Minister himself stated in his speech that there has been a slackening in developmental outlays as well as the deviation from priorities in the last few years. In this context, our beloved Prime Minister ensured for the Tamil Nadu people to help for the reconstruction and to rejoin the mainstream of the national development, so that the plan outlay increased from 177 to 201 crores. We are happy to note that the increase Rs. 24 crores will be mainly utilised for agricultural development, irrigation, power, industry, drinking water supply, slum clearance, welfare of harijans and backward classes.

Regarding the power project, it is a most welcome thing, since Rs. 27 crores have been given for the advance Central assistance for Tuticorin Power Project and also Rs. 5 crores for the hydel power for the Pandian Panampuzha Scheme. I request the Finance Minister to give Rs. 2 crores to Neyveli for survey, drilling and other preliminary work for second mine cut which has been already committed to improve the generation and to remove the power scarcity in Tamil Nadu.

Sir, I also request our Prime Minister and the Finance Minister to show more interest on Hogenakal Hydro Power Scheme. Because of the prevailing better situation with Kato-

nataka Government, the Hogenakal Hydro Power project can be discussed and decided favourably. It is a boon for the economically and socially backward district, namely, Dharmapuri. Fortunately, it is in the Finance Minister's constituency. Naturally, the people of Dharmapuri district expect more from our Finance Minister.

Sir, I would like to say something about industrial development in Tamil Nadu. Nearly for a decade Tamil Nadu was totally neglected from the industrial growth. The then Government did not concentrate on industries but they were mainly concentrating on publicity, raising mere slogans and creating anti-Centre feeling.

Sir, Tamil Nadu did not get any major industry for the past few years. The only big industry there is Salem Steel Plant which was inaugurated in 1970 by our beloved Prime Minister after thorough examination of financial stability and other things. Sir, this industry also is not getting proper assistance and attention. This is high time to giving full assistance and attention to the Salem Steel Plant. Already the assurance was given by the Prime Minister when she was in charge of Planning and Finance. On so many occasions this was emphasised by the Congress Government in Tamil Nadu since 1963 onwards. The hon'ble Speaker when he was in charge of this Ministry, he initiated this project. Sir, I request our Prime Minister and the Finance Minister to give more funds for the Salem Steel Plant this year, at least Rs 16.5 crores. The amount which has been earmarked this year is meagre.

Regarding irrigation the State has already fully utilised the availability of surface water. Now, it is better to concentrate on desilting the major tanks and strengthening the bunds and modernising the canal system of all dams and also to evolve a scheme

to tap the under-ground water which is easily available in some of the districts in Tamil Nadu. During the past ten years most of the small tanks and ponds were neglected and they should be given priority and proper attention should be paid for their maintenance. We are happy and proud to say that the agriculture production in Tamil Nadu this year has increased much but the Government should come forward to give reasonable price for the produce. The agricultural commodity prices in Tamil Nadu are cent per cent less than what it was last year. Finance Minister is requested to consider these aspects and encourage the farmers to produce more and more by giving them reasonable prices.

Finally, I would like to say a word about taxation. Sir, usually in a welfare State the people expect the Finance Minister to pat the poor and tap the rich but the Finance Minister did not consider this aspect in Tamil Nadu budget even though the Finance Minister has given more tax relief in the Central budget this year.

Our Prime Minister gave great relief to us by imposing President's rule and removing the DMK administration. So I request the Finance Minister to give tax relief to the farmers and also road transport for the common man.

Before I conclude my speech, I want to say something about the mobilisation of resources. In sales tax, commercial tax and entertainment tax, there is a lot of leakages in collection. The concerned Department should be streamlined to collect arrears and plug loopholes and leakages. Sales tax is called *kamadhenu* in Tamil. It was first conceived and implemented by our great statesman, the late Rajaji. If *kamadhenu* is taken proper care of, it will give more benefit to our exchequer; and we need not go in for new taxes.

[Shri G. Bhuvarahan]

In this respect, I want to say that the Commercial Tax Department was utilised for collection of funds for DMK conferences and birthday celebrations. So they could not concentrate on tax collection for the past few years. Now it is high time the Government instructed and warned the department to concentrate on tax collection without any harassment.

Sir, one more thing I want to say.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude. You have already taken more than ten minutes.

SHRI G. BHUVARAHAN: Regarding the Electricity Board.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not go into a new subject.

SHRI G. BHUVARAHAN: One thing more.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri M. Kalyanasundaram.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM (Tiruchirapalli): When I begin to speak on the Tamil Nadu Budget in this august House, my mind goes back to the days when Shri C. Subramaniam was the Finance Minister of the State between 1952 and 1962, for ten years, and what he had been doing during that period. I was sitting opposite to him all those ten years. I had also participated in the preparation of the Second and Third Five Year Plan. He was the main architect of the Third Plan, although he was not there to implement it. At that time, in December 1961, if I remember aright, when he introduced his last Budget in the Tamil Nadu Assembly, he spoke with pride on the fact that the figure had reached the Rs. 100 crore mark. During the Third Plan period, it rose to Rs. 200 crores. When the DMK Government took over in 1967, it was a little over Rs. 200 crores. Today it is more than

Rs. 580 crores (Interruptions). My friends must have patience. His leader took pride in the massive increase from Rs. 200 crores to Rs. 587 crores, a three-times increase. But with what effect? In terms of finance, it has increased three times, but—this is the charge I level against them—with what result? Major portions of seven districts have become permanently drought-affected. After spending this amount, half of the population, or 52 per cent as pointed out by Shri Dinen Bhattacharyya, is below poverty line; and as I said earlier, half of the area is like that. Power crisis has become almost chronic. People contributed so much money officially and even non-officially. In spite of this massive increase in terms of rupees, what was happening in Tamilnadu? Now an attempt or a beginning has been made, taking advantage of this situation, to provide for more power, irrigation and take up the basic priorities. It is certainly a welcome thing. For development outlay, a sum of Rs. 200 crores had been allotted. If it is spent properly and if the schemes are implemented in time, it will mean a welcome change.

What is the position now in Tamilnadu? As was pointed out by Mr. Subramaniam himself, water is a rare commodity in Tamilnadu. DMK might have contributed towards worsening the situation. Let us be objective even in criticising the DMK. Kaveri is the only river and even that is not our river; we have to share it with Karnataka. (Interruptions). In respect of water and power we are in a very vulnerable position. Even if you allot Rs. 200 or Rs. 300 crores and tax the people more, it will not bring about a permanent solution. For a lasting solution, only the neighbouring States must come to our help. I appeal to our friends in Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra to come to the help of Tamilnadu. If the DMK's attitude has been offensive, so, will

ignore the people of Tamil Nadu for the fault of the DMK rulers. They might have committed mistakes. Their linguistic fanaticism was to some extent responsible for the isolation and economic ruin of Tamil Nadu. In spite of all that, the people of Tamil Nadu will remember with gratitude the Kerala government and the Kerala people for giving the Suruvani water to Coimbatore. Now Andhras, Karnataks and Maharashtrians have come to our rescue, to save Madras from its chronic water shortage by offering the Krishna water to Madras. This is not a new scheme and the Prime Minister did not discover it on the 15th of March; it is as old as 1963. DMK government failed because its approach was wrong; they could not approach the neighbouring states.

SHRI V. MAYAVAN (Chidambaram): In 1963 they were not in power.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: I am saying that they did not follow it up. Mr. Mayavan does not know what has happened even inside his party; he has come here to defend it! When the DMK came to power they were discussing the Veeranam project. People like me warned them: do not go in for Veeranam. We are already having difficulties with Mysore in respect of the division of Kaveri water. There was a report. There was an agreement that 15 KMC water would be allowed for Madras for drinking purposes. Then the Congress ministry did a mistake. They wanted water for irrigation for Chingleput. If they had confined themselves for drinking water to Madras city, it would have happened. It is as old as 1963. The D.M.K. never thought that they could do it because of their unfriendly attitude to the neighbouring States of Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra and the politics of confrontation with the Centre.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN (Tiruttani): I want to correct the hon. Member that in 1963, there was no question of irrigation in Chingleput District.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: These were the talks and there is nothing on record. So I cannot refuse his statement. But that is a different matter. Now, coming to the point, the lesson that we should draw is that the resources of our nation should be available to all. In respect of power, in respect of water, we are very backward and we need the help of the neighbouring States. That is why I will appeal to all the political parties and the people of the States of Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh to help us and in return we can give, the Tamil Nadu people can give, paddy and whatever we have got to the neighbouring States. So, some mutual help is necessary. The Centre also owes its duty. The Centre should explore the possibility of utilising sub-soil water, that is ground water. People say that there is a good scope in some areas for ground water but it won't be much in some areas like Ramnad and South Arcot districts where the possibility of getting ground water will be to the limited extent. Geological survey is being conducted by the Government of India, I would request that exploration must be pursued more vigorously and expeditiously so that, to whatever extent possible, sub-soil water may be brought out and used because our surface water sources are very limited. I would appeal to our Karnataka friends to be helpful to reach an early settlement in regard to Oganakal project which may be taken up as a power project. I would request the Central Government to see that the present political situation which is favourable for development and especially when you are anxious to bring Tamil Nadu in the mainstream of national development, is utilised in the best manner possible.

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and see that Tamil Nadu is saved from the present difficulties arising from power and water crisis.

MR. SPEAKER: You have taken more than 15 minutes.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Sir, I would request you to give me five minutes more. Sir, Mr. Bhuvaram has already mentioned about Neivel. So I do not think that I should emphasise on the point. But I would say that it is the most important project for the development of Tamil Nadu. No efforts have been taken even to initiate the scheme. That should be followed vigorously.

What about Kalpakkam? I think the negotiations are over and it will be possible to develop it with our own resources. Kindly see that it is completed early and further expanded.

I support what Shri Bhuvaram has said about the Salem steel plant. It is a very drought-affected area. Similarly, the new BG railway line under construction from Tirunelveli to Cape Comorin and from Cape Comorin to Trivandrum passes through a seriously drought-affected area with several villages having no drinking water. The amount allotted for this year is very meagre. For land acquisition alone, the amount required is Rs. 4 crores. The lands have been taken away from the peasants three years ago. The track has been laid but still the peasants have not been paid compensation. The amount allotted now will hardly suffice for the skeleton administration. In this period, if there is large scale retrenchment in the area, it will add to the misery of the people. I have sent a detailed note on this to the Prime Minister.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): Come to the Tamil Nadu budget. We are not on the Railway Budget.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Now about the accumulation of stocks of handloom, both in the cooperative and in the private sectors. Unless this accumulation is lifted, no relief can be thought of. The fall in wages referred to by my friend Mr. Dinen Bhattacharyya, is the result of the accumulation of stocks. Something should be done to lift those accumulated stocks, both in the private and the cooperative sectors. But, unfortunately, there is no reference to it in the budget speech. Anyhow, I would request the hon. Minister to examine this. As far as the tax proposals are concerned, it is a very serious matter. Whatever good thing is done, and whatever is given by the right hand, are taken away by the left hand. It is a very serious matter. Not that I don't want the mobilization of new resources. But it is a different job. The bus fare has been increased. When we hear that it is only one paise per Km., it looks very small, but when it is worked out by stages, it is far more. This is unnecessary. Without it, it can be managed. If the DMK had continued, that would have been necessary. That is why they did it. I agree that the DMK was responsible for it, because they have constituted six transport corporations, or may be 7. There are 8 corporations with heavy overheads. There is a lot of wasteful expenditure, as also pilferage. Those kazhagams, as they call them in Tamil, those corporations were intended for enriching the DMK and not for providing efficient transport to the people. Look at the financial position of these corporations. They require a radical investigation. I can give several instances; but I don't want to take the time of others. These corporations require re-organization. Their overheads must be reduced. There should be a review. If it is done, the revenue will increase. Pilferage can be stopped and wasteful expenditure can be prevented. Things can be improved and there will be no need to in-

crease the bus fare. The idea of increasing the bus fare came only to save the State sector corporations, and not the private sector. We are now taxing the private sector also. In Tamil Nadu, the private sector is mainly in the hands of small bus operators. Only less than 30 per cent of the buses are in the private sector, and more than 50 per cent in the State sector. What happens to the small operators? Some prosperous categories will be able to survive this heavy dose. They will also find it difficult. But what would happen to the small operators? They will quit the business and suffer. That would be the result of the tax proposal. Let me now come to the irrigation cess and commercial crop tax. On principle, the Communist Party is not opposed to a bearable dose of tax on the rural rich; but, here, it is levied indiscriminately. All the areas are levied; almost all, whether they yield or not. This is something which I cannot understand. Even in the case of land revenue, there is a provision for remission during the bad season; but where is the provision for this tax? If a man owning one acre of land cultivates banana, he has to pay Rs. 12 towards water cess and Rs. 25 towards banana cultivation. Why should the small farmers be taxed like this? It should be re-considered as much as possible, or a better, scientific, graded agricultural income-tax should be there. You should review it and revise the agricultural income-tax. There was a proposal. Kindly examine it. But till then, give some relief. Already, the prices are falling steeply. What is the cane-grower being paid in the other States? The worst-hit is the canegrower. He is getting only Rs. 90 per tonne, whereas the others are getting even to the extent of Rs. 150 in the other States. Why do you shift the burden on to the people who cannot bear? Now about chilly cultivation. In some areas, it may be very remunerative; but it is not so in the whole of Tamil

Nadu. When we speak about drought, we say that more than half the area is affected by drought. Chilly is not grown in the Thanjavur district or in the Kaveri delta. It is grown in the drought-prone areas. How are you going to protect the peasants? (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: Please don't interrupt. We are running short of time. I think you should conclude now, Mr. Kalyanasundaram.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: The Finance Minister comes from a village. He knows the problems. But here as Finance Minister probably he is not able to exercise his knowledge fully. Now about the Administration. Now, after the Advisers took over, for some days there was some fear among the various sections. To-day they are scot-free. They are following the same method which they were doing during the DMK rule, if not worse. I do not know whether there is any conspiracy among the officialdom to bring the President's rule into disrepute in the eyes of the common people. But all glory to the people of Tamil Nadu. They are disciplined. They don't get provoked. If they don't get provoked, don't take things lightly. There is a limit for it. The revenue officials, the police officials and commercial tax officials are behaving as though they are not bound by any government. What can the poor Advisers do? Do you know how they go and beat people—whether the latter belong to the Congress, Communist, DMK or the ADMK? Why should common people be beaten, while Karunanidhi and his associates are free to write as they like? The common people are suffering. What do they say when they attack? "Go and ask Indira Gandhi." In some places they say, "Go and ask Kalyanasundaram". Why should policemen behave like this? If they want to indulge in politics, let them throw off their dress and come out. Why

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should the police officials allow such a thing?

13 hrs.

SHRI V. MAYAVAN: They should be compulsorily retired.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: We should examine who were all recruited when you people were in power, and for what purpose. They must be corrected.

The Advisers may be very good, they may be honest men, they may be good, efficient men, but they have to run an administration which is not normal. They have inherited an administration which is corrupt, degenerate and demoralised. How to make that administration run well?

13.01 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

Can they do it? The Advisers themselves have to be given protection against bad and wrong advice. Then only will they be able to function. Who is to give them advice? Where is the machinery?

SHRI J. MATHA GOWDER (Nil-giris): Congressmen.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Congressmen should not behave in the way the DMK had behaved. The Advisers do not listen to anybody. They have their own way. Not that I have any grievance against them, but I find that such things are happening, and they are helpless and I am also helpless. What are we to do?

Our workers are being teased. For what? For supporting Indira Gandhi. So, the common man is likely to develop this attitude: "Why should I support Indira Gandhi's policies and the 20-point programme when I am being teased for it? I can as well join the

people who sabotage them." So, how are you going to rectify the administration? This is happening from the district level to the panchayat level there. Why is it happening? Because you have not taken corrective action against the administration. If necessary, some of them should be sent to jail also for treachery.

Shri Subramaniam says that he has allotted a massive sum, Rs. 111 crores, for the implementation of the 20-point programme. Welcome, I will go to rural development. The Communist Party of India and the kisans will certainly co-operate, but where is the opportunity for our co-operation? Who is listening to us?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have made the point. You are only repeating.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: At least bring into existence the council that you proposed, and make it function. Let us ventilate our views there. There must be a committee for the involvement of the political parties which believe in the 20-point programme, emergency, national unity and the independence of this country.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN (Tiruttani): By a strange quirk of fate, the responsibility for the Tamil Nadu Budget has again fallen on the shoulders of my hon. friend Shri C. Subramaniam.

He was responsible for the finances of the State of Tamil Nadu for over ten years, from 1952 to 1962. He had his schooling under Rajaji who was well known for his administrative ability, integrity and rectitude. From 1962 to 1967 I should say was almost a golden age in the history of Tamil Nadu. Shri C. Subramaniam and his able colleagues, Shri Bhaktavatsalam, Shri Venkataraman and others laboured literally night and day to bring the State, which was backward from the point of view of industrial-

isation, to a forward position. They succeeded to a great extent. Tamil Nadu, due to their efforts, became the third State in the matter of industrialisation, after Maharashtra and West Bengal. It is no small achievement. Some evil eye has fallen on Tamil Nadu and, for the last nine years, it went through a very dark period. It sank in the scale of development. It reached the lowest depths of moral degradation. It lost both aim and direction. It lost all values. From the pinnacle of glory and achievement, it fell into the bottomless pit of coarseness and corruption, wantonness and vulgarity, theatricality and sham. It got away from the mainstream of national life and stagnated into a backwater. Now, the task is to re-launch it on the rails of progress, harnessing is undoubted talent to constructive purposes.

This Budget is fully conscious of the above facts and it is in line with the spirit of the Central Budget. It has stepped up Plan outlay to Rs. 201 crores, that is, 40 per cent increase. It makes large investments in the priority sectors of development, namely, power, irrigation, fertiliser, etc. It also purports to prosecute all the items on the 20-point programme. All this is welcome. But what I would like now to say is that mere investment from out of the meagre resources of the State alone is not enough to uplift the State from the morass of backwardness into which it has slid. The Centre should come and play a large role in this. It is from this point of view that what my friends earlier, Mr. Bhuvarahan and Mr. Kalyanasundaram said becomes relevant.

I would like the hon. Minister to say that this is not a Railway budget or a Central Budget. Let us look at the picture. It is very relevant to the progress and development of Tamil Nadu. Let us take the question of steel. Out of a massive in-

vestment or outlay of Rs. 402 crores in the Central Budget, Bhilai gets 150 crores and Bokaro gets Rs. 150 crores. What does Salem get? A mere paltry sum of Rs. 3 crores. What does Vijayanagar get? Only Rs. 1 crore. What does Vizag get? Only Rs. 1 crore. So, out of Rs. 402 crores, you are able to allot only Rs. 5 crores to these three plants. That is the scale of Central investment in the southern region as a whole, let alone Tamil Nadu.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Are these regular steel plants or mini steel plants? I think, these are mini steel plants.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: No, Sir. I am sorry you are misinformed. They are not mini steel plants.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Projects.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Minister says, they are only projects, not plants.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: That is for detailed project reports.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The Salem plant has been going on for 4-5 years.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: By going into all these things now, don't spoil your case.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: If there is any deficiency in my argument, certainly, he will make up for it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is my duty to guide the discussion. Let the Members know what they talk. I am not talking about him. It is in the interest of the whole House.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: You are a very knowledgeable person. I know it.

Now, take, for example, the Neyveli project. You are going to invest only that much which will produce 6.5 million tonnes. You could not com-

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plete even that programme. I was there for a short while in the Ministry of Mines and then had passed an order on the second mine programme, but it has not seen the light of day. It is high time that the power requirements of a State like Tamil Nadu are taken care of and some action is taken, and the second cut should be immediately thought of.

Now, Kalpakam is being delayed unduly and we will get the power perhaps in 1978-79 from the first unit and from the second unit two years thereafter. That will not do; the progress has to be accelerated.

Again, in regard to railways, though it is not a Railway budget, I would say that there is a Madras-Tiruvallur suburban electrification programme. This also falls in my constituency. This began three or four years ago, and it is a project costing Rs. 3.5 crores—now it might have gone up to four or five crores. During all these three years only Rs. 35 lakhs spent on it and, do you know what they are going to spend in the budget year? It is mere 18000 rupees! Yesterday the Finance Minister was pointing out that the plan outlay should not be thinly spread and we should not take too long for execution. This is a point which he would do well to remember and, if he wants to give any more money to the Railway Ministry, he will take care of it. I suppose. Then, there is some mis-understanding about the Krishna waters. Long ago, when Mr. Md. Ibrahim was the Minister for Irrigation and Power and I was the Minister of State, an award was made on the Krishna-Godavari waters which was laid on the Table of the House on the 23rd March, 1963. This is on the question of Madras drinking water supply, which I quote.

"I was happy to know, during the course of my discussions, that all the States concerned were very sympathetic to the requirements of Madras

for drinking water and readily agreed to provide 15 TMC from the Krishna flows."

Evidently, the hon. Member, Kalyanasundaram, was confusing the issue. He was a Member of the Madras Legislative Assembly then. He was confusing this question with that of the Krishna Pennar project. This agreement only refers to the question of drinking water supply to the city of Madras. Now we are happy to know that, at the instance of the Prime Minister, the three Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra have agreed to make this over for the benefit of drinking water supply to Madras.

Here, again, I would like to point out that water will not come by itself. A dam on the Pennar river has to be constructed. I don't know what it might cost, it might cost about ten to fifteen crores and unless the Central Government goes to the aid of the Andhra Pradesh Government, they will not care to begin this project at all. So, here again, it is a question of investment by the Centre.

Now, in view of the importance of the farming sector, the investments which I was mentioning earlier, are sought to be made. But then, the additional water cess and the special assessment on commercial crops etc. take away, as the Hon. Member Mr. Kalyanasundaram has said, with one hand what the Government gives with the other hand. And this impost comes at a time when the farmer is not able to sell his produce. There is no buyer. Government agencies refuse to buy and there is no go-down space. It is at this juncture that the additional imposts come, which mean a greater difficulty for the farmer. So, a very sober paper like the Hindu of Madras wrote a very emotional editorial on this subject and said that inter district movement should be allowed so that the farmer may get some price for his produce.

Another point I would like to make is this. Yesterday the hon. Minister was expounding and expatiating on his scheme on integrated rural development, the strategy that he proposes to adopt, all that was sweet music in our ears. But what happens actually? Because you have imposed a ceiling on urban vacant land, you have already abolished the special wealth tax on urban property. It was pointed out in the House that the two are not connected—that that ceiling was not on urban property but on urban vacant land. Even so, the Central Finance Minister was very solicitous and he abolished the special wealth tax on urban property. But then what happens to the farmers? There is a tax called agricultural income-tax and that fetched last year more than what was budgeted for—from Rs. 1.5 crores we got Rs. 2.15 crores. Next year they expect Rs. 2.25 crores from out of this. It was promised, an undertaking was given on the floor of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, that, as soon as the land ceilings were imposed, the agricultural income-tax would be withdrawn. But no such thing has happened. It is a corollary to the Land Ceiling Act which Government have passed. I plead that this agricultural income-tax should be withdrawn. Why I am saying this is because, though the hon. Minister's thinking is oriented towards improving the lot of the rural people and is in line with what Mahatma Gandhi said, actually things seem to favour more the town people than the people living in the villages.

About land legislation. Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan has given certain Cut Motions. I think, whatever we may do by way of land legislation in order to bring our Acts in line with the guidelines of the Centre, one thing we should be careful about. If there is any gap or lacuna noticed in the present land ceiling Acts of Tamil Nadu, if any of them is not in line with the Central guidelines, that should be looked into and rectified. But if you make your legislation retrospective,

then you go in for all sorts of court cases and things get bogged down. Therefore, whatever legislation is proposed, it should have prospective effect and not retrospective effect.

When the additional imposts, I have earlier pointed out, have been imposed on the farmers, the bus fares are also going up; they are going up from four Paise to five Paise, which is a big increase—a 25 per cent increase. I do not know why this has been thought of. Because the Railway Minister has left the people in the rural areas free and has not increased the passenger fare, these people, perhaps, want to increase the bus fare. What is the additional result of this? The motor vehicles tax has been increased from Rs. 180 to Rs. 225 per seat—as much as Rs. 45. This is, certainly, too much. We have got financial experts and economic advisers galore; they display very sophisticated thinking which is beyond the ken of the ordinary people, but at times they do not display even ordinary intelligence. They think that, because the bus fare has been increased from four Paise to five Paise, they have also to increase the tax by the same ratio from Rs. 180 to Rs. 225. This will not work out that way. Then people will not get into buses. I am told that the railway fare happens to be cheaper. Therefore, people may switch over to travel by rail. This should be looked into. I hope the Finance Minister will do something about it.

Now I would say something about the land legislation and consolidation of land holdings. Here, I should pay a tribute to my friend, Mr. Nathu Ram Mirdha, President of the National Commission on Agriculture, for the report they have given; it is a very thorough report. It is too bulky, it will take a long time to go through the whole report. I went through the portion with regard to consolidation of land holdings. They have dealt with all the aspects of consolidation of land

[Shri O. V. Alagesan]

holdings in that report and have said that except the States of Tamil Nadu and Kerala, all the States have made some progress. Haryana, Punjab and U. P. have completed the process of consolidation. It is almost a corollary to the Land Ceiling Act. The land ceiling has been brought down to 15 standard acres. If there is still fragmentation it goes against the maximum agricultural production and productivity. In order to ensure maximum agricultural production and productivity, it becomes almost imperative that the State of Tamil Nadu enacts legislation as early as possible on the consolidation of land holdings.

When I see that West Bengal has come up wonderfully well in the matter of wheat production—their foodgrains production this year is above 10 million tonnes—where it is a humid climate, and a lot of water is there, Ganga flows there, and when wheat can be grown in such a place, there is some hope that the experiment of cultivation of wheat could be tried in Tamil Nadu as well.

Now, I would like to say something about technical education. When Shri Subramaniam was Finance Minister, he was Minister for Education also, and he did a lot to promote the cause of technical education. Several poly technic institutions were established between 1958 and 1960 and they were all under private management. Some philanthropist people came forward and established these institutions and they have been working very well and they have contributed to the industrial progress. Many youngmen who have passed out of these institutions man industries and other technical services. There is one difficulty that has been felt by the private management and that is that originally, they were asked to contribute only a certain portion and it came to a certain amount. Now both the recurring and non-recurring expenditure have increased and they have to contribute much more

than they were asked to contribute at that time. I would like the Government to restrict the management's contribution to the original amount contemplated and not take more than that.

Now, I want to say one or two things about my constituency, and this being the Tamil Nadu budget, I hope, you will allow me

We have been pleading for a bridge near Pallipattu on Kusasthali river. This is a river very near the Andhra border and this road is an inter-State road connecting my constituency to the constituency of my friend, Shri Reddy. The previous Government did not do it. I hope, now they will look into this matter and put up a bridge here.

Now, I would like to mention about the medical college in my town Chingleput. We took a lot of interest in establishing the college there, but after 1967 nothing has been done by way of additional buildings or additional facilities for that medical college. I hope, this will also be taken care of by the new advisers' regime.

Now, one more thing and I would have done and that is about the statues. The DMK Government almost specialised in the erection of statues. But for the fact that they were thrown out on the 31st January, they would have just studded the whole country and every street in Madras with statues. Let them have all the statues, we have nothing against the statues, we had nothing against those people even when they were living, now we cannot have anything against the statues. What I would like to plead with the present authorities is that these statues may not be obstruction to traffic. They may be removed to a particular place; you can have a park for all the statues and put them there. So that we may know that this is the statue of the person who has worked for the independence of the country or this is the statue of the person who has worked

against independence or this is the statue of a person who stood for utter madness, etc.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let us conclude with a museum of statues.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: You have put in rightly with your superior knowledge. I am pleading for a museum of statues so that all these statues that are proving obstructions to traffic are removed and kept in the museum and people can move freely on the roads.

*SHRI J. MATHA GOWDER (Nilgiris): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when our hon. Finance Minister, Shri C. Subramaniam, was presenting the Annual Budget of Tamil Nadu during the years 1957 to 1962 in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, in his capacity as the Minister of Finance of the Government of Tamil Nadu, I was in the Congress Party, not in the Opposition then. I had observed that Shri C. Subramaniam used to take personal interest in formulating the Budget proposals. But now, without knowing what to do about the Budget proposals of Tamil Nadu which have been formulated by somebody else here or elsewhere, the Finance Minister seems to have just signed them. Some Adviser here or sitting elsewhere has proposed certain things in the Tamil Nadu Budget and I regret to say that the personal stamp of Shri C. Subramaniam is unfortunately missing in these proposals.

Sir, everyone from the Finance Minister to the Prime Minister has been saying that the Plan investment in Tamil Nadu has substantially gone down during the D.M.K. rule. I want to point out that the D.M.K. Government did approach the Planning Commission and asked for a Plan allocation of Rs. 227 crores for Tamil Nadu. The D.M.K. Ministers came to Delhi and met the authorities of the Planning Commission and also the Finance Minister in this connection. But the Plan allocation was reduced to Rs. 177

crores. A sum of Rs. 50 crores cut in spite of repeated requests for sum of Rs. 227 crores. The ulterior motive seemed to be that the D.M.K. Government in Tamil Nadu should not be given what was asked for. There seemed to be no other excuse for this cut of Rs. 50 crores. If all the States had been given less than their demand on account of financial constraints at the Centre, then it would have looked different. But within 1½ months, the Central Government has raised the plan allocation to Rs. 201 crores. From where did they get the money now? The D.M.K. Government asked for Rs. 227 crores and the Centre refused to give the entire amount. But now, after the dismissal of the D.M.K. Government.....(interruptions).

I will come to what was eaten upto 1964. I was then with the hon. Member opposite. I feel that a sum of Rs. 50 crores was cut just to point out later that the plan outlay during D.M.K. rule has gone down considerably. Today, the Centre has given Rs. 201 crores after the removal of D.M.K. Government. Does it not look so glaring that the Centre wants to impress the people of Tamil Nadu that the Central Government is always interested in their welfare? It looks as though this is meant for propaganda purpose. Some clarification is required here also.

Out of this Rs. 201 crores how much is going to come from the Central resources? That is going to be only Rs. 80 crores. Out of this Rs. 80 crores from Central funds, 70 per cent will be given as loan and 30 per cent as grant to the State. The Centre can only misguide ignorant people by saying that Rs. 201 crores have been given as plan outlay for Tamil Nadu. I am yet grateful that Tamil Nadu has been given Rs. 201 crores; in fact it should be raised to Rs. 227 crores.

It is stated in the budget papers that with the return of normal seasonal conditions Tamil Nadu has achieved a good increase in agricultural production. Sir, it should not be forgotten that during this year throughout the

*The original speech was delivered in Tamil.

[Shri J. Matha Gowder]

country the agricultural production has gone up substantially on account of heavy rains, and Tamil Nadu is no exception to that.

It has been pointed out that the money given for drought relief has been spent extravagantly for some other purposes by the D. M. K. Government. I would like to point out that with the drought relief money we dug up wells, constructed roads and exploited fully the under-ground water resources in the State. The monsoon supplemented this, leading to substantial increase in agricultural production. It cannot be stated that seasonal conditions alone led to increased agricultural production.

Coming now to irrigation projects, it is mentioned in the Budget papers that Marudanadhi, Kodaganar, Vattamalakkarai Otai and Palar-Porandalar projects will be completed. From this it looks as though that the Central Government have initiated these projects for the benefit of the farmers in Tamil Nadu. The proper phraseology should have been that these irrigation projects had been started by the erstwhile D. M. K. Government and now they will be completed. Perhaps, the Finance Minister Shri C. Subramaniam has not read this portion of the statement. That is why perhaps the Finance Minister chose to lay on the Table of the House these papers and did not himself read it on the floor of the House.

Sir, a sum of Rs. 17.45 crores has been allocated for the welfare of Harijans and backward classes. It has been mentioned that this is being done bearing in mind that the welfare of Harijans is one of the 20-point economic programme adumbrated by the Prime Minister. I personally feel that this is an insignificant allocation and efforts should have been made for a much higher allocation for Harijan welfare.

In regard to the supply of drinking water to Madras city, talks have been going on about the supply of Krishna waters to Madras city. Many hon. Members referred to it. Shri Kalyanasundaram referred to it. Shri Gopal also will be referring to it. From 1963 talks have been going on. But till today it has not been implemented. I wonder how can it be said that the D. M. K. Government is alone responsible for this. From 1963 to 1967 the Congress Party was in power in Tamil Nadu. I was a Congress M.L.A. then in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly. (Interruptions).

I will come to what atrocities were committed by the then Congress Government in Tamil Nadu. The Congress Government neglected the interests of the people of Tamil Nadu, who in their turn hounded them out of power in 1967. The main reason for the defeat of the Congress Government in Tamil Nadu in 1967 was that the Congress Government ignored the interests of the people. As a result the D. M. K. came to power in Tamil Nadu. So it is not proper to say that the D. M. K. Government alone is responsible for the failure in getting Krishna waters to Madras city. During her visit to Madras on 15th February 1976, the Prime Minister announced in public that she had a good news for the people of Tamil Nadu. She announced that the Chief Ministers of the neighbouring States have agreed to give drinking water to Tamil Nadu more particularly to Madras city.

SHRI M. KALAVANESUNDARAM
Did you ask them?

SHRI J. MATHA GOWDER: The Prime Minister is here for the past 10 years. We have asked about this repeatedly. It should not be forgotten that Tamil Nadu is a constituent part of the country. Any party may be in power there. It is mentioned in the Budget papers that drought conditions prevail in many parts of Tamil Nadu. In Coimbatore District Avinashi, a part of my constituency is afflicted by

drought. Did we not ask for the implementation of Pandiyar-Punnampuzha scheme? How many times did we ask for its expeditious completion? But, six months before, when the Finance Minister, Shri C. Subramaniam, visited Avinashi, he said that none had asked for Pandiyar-Punnampuzha scheme; he would look into it and complete it quickly.

It is good to know the real position about Pandiyar-Punnampuzha scheme. The Kerala Government has insisted that it should not be used for irrigation; it should be only for generation of electricity. An agreement was entered into with the Kerala Government in this matter. The D. M. K. Government did not do that. When I was in the Congress, the then Industries Minister of Tamil Nadu, Shri Venkataraman, entered into agreement with the Kerala Government for the utilisation of Pandiyar-Punnampuzha scheme only for generating electricity. It was the mistake of the then Congress Government in Tamil Nadu for not thinking about utilising this project for irrigation purposes also. Now the Kerala Government says that it should not be used for irrigation purposes.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM: You will spoil what we are likely to get

SHRI J. MATHA GOWDER: While the Prime Minister chose to announce the readiness of the neighbouring States to give water to Madras city, after the removal of the D. M. K. Government, no effort was made for so many years now to complete the Pandiyar-Punnampuzha scheme and to use it for irrigation purposes in the drought-prone areas. The D. M. K. Government is not responsible for the lapses of the Congress Government in Tamil Nadu. I request that efforts should be made to get this project completed expeditiously and it must be allowed for irrigation purposes also.

It is mentioned in the Budget papers that the previous D. M. K. Government had made an upward revision of bus fares in Tamil Nadu. Following this revision it is possible to siphon off a

part of the additional revenues of bus-fleet operators by enhancing a motor vehicles tax. I am thankful that at least this action of the D. M. K. Government has been accepted by the Centre, while all other things have been rejected. The D. M. K. Government increased the bus fare from four paise to five paise. I do not know which Adviser felt that this additional income should not be taken away by the proprietors. The motor vehicles tax has been increased from Rs. 180 to Rs. 225; that is to say, 25 per cent increase. In Kerala it is Rs. 70; in Karnataka Rs. 35, in Andhra Pradesh Rs. 135; in Pondicherry Rs. 100; in Tamil Nadu it was Rs. 180 till now. It has now been raised to Rs. 225. While it is Rs. 35 per seat in Karnataka, the bus fare is 5 paise; in Andhra Pradesh the bus fare is 5 paise; in Tamil Nadu it was raised to 5 paise only now. Now, on this score, the motor vehicles tax has been increased to Rs. 225 from Rs. 180. It is not proper to say that this burden will not be passed on to the shoulders of the common people. Similarly, it has been pointed out that the D. M. K. Government had committed a mistake in giving exemption in regard to commercial tax upto Rs. 50,000. Now additional tax has been imposed from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 5 lakhs. Naturally the people who buy these commodities will be affected by the additional tax. Any levy will ultimately affect the common people.

In conclusion, I would say that it is not in the interest of the unity of the country to isolate Tamil Nadu and to talk about it as if it is not a constituent unit of the country. The D.M.K. Government was dismissed for some reasons. When it was felt that the Congress Party would not be able to defeat the D. M. K. in elections, it was decided that the D. M. K. Government should be dismissed. Some reasons were found for dismissing the D. M. K. Government.

Instead of blaming the erstwhile D. M. K. Government for every ill of the State, a conscious effort must be

[Shri J. Matha. Gowder]

made by the Central Government for endearing itself to the people of Tamil Nadu, by attending to their needs.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI K. GOPAL (Karur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Finance Minister on having presented a first-class budget with a plan outlay of Rs. 201 crores. This is an increase from the original plan outlay of Rs. 177 crores for 1975-76. It is a 40 per cent increase over the current outlay. I am also happy to see that Rs. 111 crores, about 55 per cent, is going to be spent on the implementation of the twenty-point programme. I am also glad that in the course of 7 months in Tamil Nadu, more than 5,200 landless people have been given land.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Seven weeks.

SHRI K. GOPAL: Seven weeks. Thanks for the correction. It is also proposed to energise more than 32,000 pumpsets before the end of the year.

Much was said by my colleagues with regard to development in the State. Our friend, Shri Alagesan, spoke about the central sector. It was not relished by our Minister. All the same, the central sector has also got a share in the investment in development expenditure. In this connection, he mentioned Neyvelli. I am also glad to see that Rs. 27 crores is going to be spent on the Tuticorin Thermal Station project. He also pointed out that only Rs. 3 crores is going to be spent on the Salem Steel Project of Rs. 500 crores. This money is just enough to maintain the staff. They are sitting idle there. We have got brilliant engineers there. They say that an idle brain is a devil's workshop. At this rate, I think a lot of devils are going to be created in the Salem Steel Project.

Much was said about the rise in irrigation rates by Mr. Kalyanasundaram and Mr. Alagesan. I disagree with them. I should like to tell them that since 1963 there was no upward revision of the rates whereas it was raised four times in our neighbouring state of Andhra and even after the increase it is not higher than what is obtaining in States like Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat. In his speech the hon. Finance Minister says:

"Irrigation rates have not been revised in Tamil Nadu since 1963. Irrigation projects in the State are making an overall loss of about Rs. 10 crores. It is proposed to cover a part of this loss through the measures. Firstly, an additional water cess of Rs. 12 per cent acre on lands using water from I class sources and of Rs. 10 per acre in the case of II class sources is proposed to be levied.... The special assessment will be at the rate of Rs. 25 per acre for grapes, sugarcane, plantain, coconut, and Rs. 15 per acre for irrigated cotton and irrigated groundnut."

So, if the hon. Members say that the cost of inputs has gone higher and ways should be found to subsidise them, I will readily agree with them but I do not agree with their criticism. This measure is absolutely right.

It was being felt that the ground water resources in Tamil Nadu had been tapped to the maximum. Is that really so? For example in my constituency, there is a scheme called Moyyal Reservoir scheme. This was conceived in 1959 and it was estimated to irrigate about 10,000 hectares and the cost was estimated at about Rs. 2.5 crores. During the time of elections, you will find some persons coming and marking the places but nothing happens afterwards. At current prices it is estimated that it would cost about Rs. 9 crores. When I made representations, they agreed that it was a viable and good scheme. Projects like this must be taken up

immediately. It is a drought area also. So, top priority should be given to that scheme.

My hon. friend was referring to the increase in bus fares in Tamil Nadu. More than 10,000 buses are there and out of them about 5,000 are in the private sector. I want to quote what the hon. Finance Minister said yesterday; they are still a fresh in my memory; he said: in a mixed economy private sector has got to exist and he said: I do not like to throttle them. This is what he said. I am not holding any brief for private bus operators. Today the position is that 20 per cent of the buses are off the road and it is the common man who suffers. I am for 100 per cent nationalisation of the bus services but as long as this system exists, they have to be reasonable and the common man should not be put to suffering. The fare revision was from 4 to 5 paise. So the tax has been raised from Rs. 180 to Rs. 225. My friends who spoke said that it was Rs. 70 in Kerala, Rs. 60 in Mysore, Rs. 155 in Andhra, that buses can be plied even at four paise per mile and operators will do it provided it is kept at par with the neighbouring states. I quite agree that we cannot have uniformity in the matter of taxes in all the states. Take for instance, a border like Palghat-Coimbatore or Bangalore-Ho-ur. This man pays Rs. 220 while that man pays only 70. If the taxes on buses are reduced—not that I am holding any brief for bus operators—certainly fares also can be reduced and thereby the common man will benefit.

I will now turn to the plight of farmers in the rural areas. In Tamilnadu there is a peculiar situation. A number of financial corporations have come up in recent months. If I want to borrow Rs. 100, I will get only Rs. 70 after deducting Rs. 30 by way of interest and I will have to sign a bond for Rs. 200/- and I will also have to sign a blank bond. That is the situation. I think a policy decision should be taken, not only in respect of Tamil Nadu but in respect of the whole coun-

try, that any transaction over Rs. 500 should be registered. Here administrative measure is required because this sort of thing can be avoided if this is taken. So, the revenue that we have lost on account of prohibition—the State was earning nearly Rs. 56.0 crores—is to be found out by means of taking some other measure. I am not going to say that prohibition should be removed. But even taking into account that there will be 25 per cent increase of excise duty during 1976-77, there should be a gap to the tune of Rs. 80.0 crores. One thing I want to submit is that there is prohibition in Tamil Nadu and Gujarat and on account of this there is a loss of revenue to the State. To meet this loss, the Centre should give assistance. Similarly, in Tamil Nadu Lotteries have been abolished, just because Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan had advised Mr. Karunanidhi. If the Lotteries and race are allowed to continue, they will not affect the common man at all. Then a number of Lift Irrigation Societies in Tamil Nadu was to be opened. More than 2300 societies were to be opened. But out of these 2300 societies, 80 per cent are existing on paper. These societies were supposed to help the farmers in the rural areas. What I want to say is that all these societies should start working forthwith and they should really be of some use to the common man.

Now, I come to the implementation of 20-point programme. Whether we like it or not we have got to implement these programmes through bureaucratic machinery. Nothing will better be substituted than a popular Government. In a popular Government both reason and rules will be observed. But now they can only observe rules and not reason. I can give an example. In my own constituency, more than one thousand people have been cultivating lands adjoining the river Kaveri for the past 25 years. Levy has been collected from these people and they have been paying the levy regularly all these years. These people are landless Harijans and freedom fighters and

[Shri K. Gopal]

they have been allotted lands. But they have not been given 'pattas' for these lands. Now what has happened is that all of a sudden, after the proclamation of President's rule, they have been asked to pay Rs. 2500 per acre. I would submit that the Government should ask them to pay a reasonable amount for the lands which are used by them for cultivation. I have also sent in a representation to the Government in this regard. I am not saying that those people should be given the 'pattas' I am not talking of those encroachers who have already lands elsewhere, but I am talking of those small land holders. Harijan land holders. I had sent my representation in 1964-65 also but I am sorry to state that the replies to that representation and to the present one are the same. Nothing has been done so far. Then in regard to handloom weavers in Tamil Nadu, I am happy to know that the Centre is giving grants. A grant of Rs. 400 lakhs is being given for setting up the Weaver Centre in my own constituency.

My friend, Mr. Kalvanasundaram, spoke emotionally regarding the administration and in a way I would like to agree with him on this because more than 50 per cent of the police force at the Sub-Inspector's level were recruited by the D M K regime. During their regime these people were recruited just to bring down the reputation of the Prime Minister and also to bring the President's rule into disrepute. They acted in such a manner that the common people were afraid of telling the harassment meted out to them. No action has been taken against them. I wish and hope that the present advisors will see that the people are not harassed and the State is engaged in the economic development.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN (Wandiwash): Sir, on 31st January, 1976, the notorious and corrupt Karunanidhi Government was dismissed because power was abused and funds were

misused. It was thrown into the dustbin and it went unwept, unsung and unhonoured. The fall of the Karunanidhi Ministry should teach a lesson and should be an eye-opener to those who are in power or those who aspire to come to power. After the imposition of President's rule in Tamil Nadu, the prices have come down considerably and we are very happy that this budget is presented by Mr. Subramaniam, who has vast knowledge of finance and economics, particularly of Tamilnadu.

We are happy that the plan outlay has been increased to Rs. 201 crores which will lead to accelerated growth of the economy of the State. Top priority has been given, well deservedly, to power which gets Rs. 70 crores. We are very thankful to the Centre for giving Rs. 20 crores assistance to the Tuticorm thermal plant which is very necessary.

Let me take up a few of the tax proposals which the Finance Minister has been advised to bring forward, because it is not wholly his budget. I do not know why a sober man like Mr. Subramaniam should have chosen the same target as the previous regime and taxed the motor vehicles further. This is a much-maligned industry which has been under the constant attack of the previous Ministry for the last few years. Many hon. members have pointed out how this tax is the highest in the whole country and what is the difference. I will point out how quickly it was increased; It was Rs. 96.50 on 31-3-74. It was raised to Rs. 130 on 1-4-74, to Rs. 140 on 1-10-74 and to Rs. 180 within three months, i.e. on 1-1-75. It is not only an unjust but ill-conceived tax and I request the Finance Minister to reconsider it. There should be some uniformity between the neighbouring States of Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamilnadu.

For the first time a tax has been levied on commercial crops. I have no doubt that resources should be mobilised from the rural rich but it is for consideration whether even the small

farmers having 1 or 2 acres should be taxed. I want that at least those owning 3 acres or 5 acres should be exempted from this tax. Already the farmers are under great stress and strain in our State. Mr. Kalyanasundaram has dealt with this. Rural credit is almost frozen. Cooperative and commercial banks are not giving loan even on the security of jewels. Though we hear a lot about rural banks, I have not seen any in southern India. In this atmosphere, a few days ago they have started again procuring grains and this time they are giving Rs. 10 lesser than the old price. The Central should advise the State Government to give the earlier price.

Industry is a sector which has been neglected, for the last one decade in Tamilnadu by the Centre. No major industry has been given to that State. At least now the Centre should give particular attention to this and the pending schemes should be implemented immediately.

Other members have spoken about the Salem steel plant. It was inaugurated by the Prime Minister in 1970. So far they have spent Rs. 10 crores and all infrastructure work has been completed. Technical feasibility, economic viability and profitability of the project have been agreed to and the Government of India is satisfied. The detailed project submitted by the Dastur Company was scrutinised by an experts committee and it was agreed to in 1974. Till 1973 the project was going on well, but in the next two years the budget was cut down. For 1974-75 the Steel Ministry recommended Rs. 15 crores, but only Rs. 4 crores were allotted. Again for 1975-76 Rs. 15 crores were recommended but only Rs. 3 crores were allotted. Because of this considerable delay, the project cost has gone up from Rs. 340 to 516 crores. At least now the Central Government should wake up from its deep slumber and do something to implement this project. The first phase to produce stainless steel will cost Rs. 116 crores over a period of 4 years, i.e. about Rs.

30 crores a year. I think the Centre will not grudge allotting this amount. A doubt has been created in the minds of the people whether this project would come into existence at all. The Finance Minister should clear this doubt here and now. The Centre should go ahead with the implementation of this project and finalise the technical know-how agreement with the international makers of stainless steel. Global tenders for plant and machinery should be immediately floated because it will take a long time.

We have been hearing for a long time about the second mine cut in Neiveli. At least I have been hearing it for the last nine years in this House. When I was elected in 1967 I spoke about it and the Steel Minister, Shri Jaganatha Rao at that time, replied that it will be taken up as immediately as possible. For the last ten years we have been hearing the same reply. Where do we stand now? Are we going to have a second mine cut in Neiveli or not? I want a straight answer.

14 hrs.

We have been hearing about something called Kalpakkam for the last 10 or 15 years. What has happened to it? Sometimes we read in the papers that the Candians or somebody else are coming, but so far nothing has been done. I want the Centre to give particular attention to this atomic plant which is very much required in that State. No State in India is so much power hungry—I mean electrical power, not political power—as Tamilnadu which has 7 lakhs of pump sets. In my district of North Arcot alone more than 2 lakhs pump sets are there. Pending applications run into thousands. We want more power and more electricity. I want the Central Government to bestow their best attention on Tamil Nadu in this matter. The Finance Minister has talked about better tax collection. And I also learn from the budget papers that the Entertainment Tax Flying Squads and Sales Tax Squads have been sanctioned; and money has been allotted. I

[Shri G. Viswanathan]

would like to point out to the House that there is a large scale tax evasion in these two sectors; and mostly, with the connivance of the officials. About 3 or 4 days back when I was leaving for Delhi, a person came to me and said that he was a cinema theatre owner; he told me that he used to pay the 'mamul' to these officials, even up to the D.C.T.O. and to the Flying Squad who were making surprise visits. But after the President's rule, the cinema owner told the officials. "I will not pay you the 'mamul'". Otherwise I am afraid I may be arrested under MISA. But the official insisted. "You must give me the monthly 'mamul' You may do whatever you like, but you should give the 'mamul' which you were paying." The cinema owner asked me. "What to do?" This is happening regularly.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Is the word 'Mamul' a Tamil word?

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN: It means a periodical payment or an amount paid regularly.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Is it a Tamil word.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN: It is a word common to all Indians. Sir, not only to Tamilians. If this is stopped, I think the collection of tax from entertainment and the commercial tax will go up

We have given a number of cut motions. I have no time to cover all of them. One says that the police force in the State should be streamlined and re-organised. I do not want to talk much about the police, because Shri Kalyanasundaram has already done it. At least the Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Wing of the police should start functioning now. It is the police force which should stop crimes and corruption in other departments. But if the police itself is corrupt, then who is going to stop corruption in other depart-

ments? Let us start with the police. If we cannot do it in this atmosphere, in this emergency, coupled with President's Rule, when and where are we going to do it? So, I would request the Governor and his Advisers to give top priority to this subject. As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, let 1976 be a year of removal of poverty as well as corruption. If it is only removal of poverty in other States, in Tamil Nadu we must give priority to removal of corruption and poverty.

Coming to irrigation, four projects have been taken up. We want one or two more, which we have mentioned in our cut motions, particularly Mordhana, which is in my district, and of which foundation has been laid.

The previous Government was incurring a lot of expenditure on publicity. I want the present Government to cut it down. You cannot step into the same shoes and spend the same amount of money on publicity. The expenditure on information and publicity should be drastically cut down.

A lot has been said about the State Public Service Commission, especially recruitment to Group I Services. The Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission is well known, at least in Tamil Nadu, as the private Service Commission of the Ministers. It makes recruitment to Group I services like Deputy Collectors, Deputy Superintendents of Police and Deputy Registrars of Co-operative Societies. So far they were choosing only the candidates of the particular Ministers. At least hereafter I hope the Service Commission will be a real Service Commission, which will recruit candidates on the basis of merit.

There are a number of things which the new administration has to take up. The people expect a lot from the new administration. President's Rule should not mean substitution of the corrupt DMK Ministers by the corrupt officials. We must see that the officialdom is freed from corruption and that the hopes and aspirations of the people are fulfilled.

*SHRI A. M. CHELLACHMI (Tenkasi): Hon. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to say a few words on the Tamil Nadu Budget for the year 1976-77. Sir, I pay my humble tribute to the hon. Finance Minister, Shri C. Subramaniam, who has presented this Budget in this House after a lapse of 14 years. On 31st January, 1976 the President's rule was promulgated in Tamil Nadu. For nine long years, the economy of Tamil Nadu was mauled and maimed by the D. M. K. Government. During a short period of 45 days, the whole economy of Tamil Nadu was reviewed and the economic needs of the State were assessed. The hon. Prime Minister initiated active steps for assessing the financial requirements of the State. I am grateful that this meaningful and constructive Budget for Tamil Nadu has been presented before this House.

I am very happy that a sum of Rs. 201 crores has been allocated for this year's Plan investment. Sir, out of this amount of Rs. 201 crores, 56 per cent will be sent in the implementation of our Prime Minister's 20-point economic programme. Sir, to effectively implement our Prime Minister's 20-point economic programme, in each district of the State, a non-official Committee should be set up immediately so that adequate supervision can be done. Besides that, the Prime Minister regretfully announced that over the years the State of Tamil Nadu has slid down to the lowest rung of the ladder so far as plan investment is concerned. Now, through this Budget, a conscious effort is being made to bring back Tamil Nadu to its pre-eminent position.

Sir, the D. M. K. Government claimed that there were 2350 Lift Irrigation Societies in the State. Now, the new Administration in the State has found out that 1800 societies are bogus and has directed that they should be wound up. It is found to our dismay that a

sum of Rs. 80 crores allotted to these societies have been lifted away by the D. M. K. men.

My hon. friend, Shri J. Matha Gowder bemoaned that the Central Government reduced the plan outlay by Rs. 50 crores, when the D.M.K. Government demanded Rs. 227 crores. In this connection, if the Central Government had given Rs. 50 crores also, it would also have gone the way the sum of Rs. 80 crores had gone. It was a good thing that the Central Government did not accede to the demand of Rs. 227 crores.

Now the Central Government have given Rs. 24 crores more than the outlay of Rs 177 crores as demanded by the D. M K. Government. I am glad that this sum would be utilised for strengthening the irrigation and power base in Tamil Nadu.

Sir, the new Administration in Tamil Nadu has found out that nearly 900 co-operative societies have not been audited for quite a number of years now. If they are audited now, probably many more malpractices may come to light. I am happy that the new Administration has directed immediate auditing of these 900 co-operative societies.

Coming now to Land Mortgage Banks, they are meant to help the rural people. In Tamil Nadu there are 223 Branches spread over throughout the State. The new Administration has directed a thorough probe in the functioning of these branches of the Land Mortgage Bank in the State, as so many allegations have been made against them.

The D. M K Government used to boast that they have made significant progress in the State. Now, it is found that nearly 1500 villages with a population of 2000 and above have no schools at all. While the all-India average in the progress of education has been 5 per cent per annum during the past few years, in Tamil Nadu it shows a decline of 3.5 per cent per annum for the past few years during the D. M. K.

*The original speech was delivered in Tamil.

[Shri A. M. Chellachmi]

rule. It should be ensured that there is at least a primary school in these 1500 villages with a population of 2000 and above.

Similarly, the D. M. K. Government constructed model huts on both sides of National Highways and they served as effective instruments of propaganda, so far as slum clearance was concerned. Nobody went interior in the rural areas and tried to assess the housing needs of the people. Neither the District Officers nor the Ministers tried to visit interior in the rural areas for this purpose. It is gratifying to note that one of the 20-point economic programme adumbrated by the Prime Minister is provision of housing accommodation for the indigent rural mass. Sir, I request that energetic and effective steps should be taken for providing housing to the Harijans and Backward classes living in the interior of rural areas in Tamil Nadu.

Sir, the southern part of Tamil Nadu, i.e. the districts of Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari are afflicted by drought. The D. M. K. Government did not do anything for tackling drought in these parts on a permanent footing. In fact, the Congress Government in Tamil Nadu from 1952 to 1967 also did not attend to this problem in this area. Drought has become a permanent feature of this area. Starvation deaths have become a normal feature. I have seen it with my own eyes. The Governor of Tamil Nadu also has visited this area. If drought relief assistance is given on a temporary basis, 50 per cent of it is eaten away by the Engineers and other Officers. Drought relief works are not completed. Sir, it is necessary to do something on a permanent footing for tackling drought in the districts of Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari. In fact, a major irrigation project has to be undertaken in this area. Such a major irrigation

scheme is possible also. In my district some rivers are flowing in the Western Ghats. They have been surveyed many many years ago. In fact, surveys have been going on from 1887. Here I wish to mention about the Ghiriyar project which has a long history behind it. Representations were submitted to Government now and then since the year 1887 pressing for the implementation of the scheme. Investigation works were launched from 1887 to 1955 and several proposals were formulated only to be abandoned subsequently.

The Ghiriyar site is appended to such representations showing the west flowing Ghiriyar river with locations of adjacent places likely to benefit from the above said Ghiriyar scheme. Ghiriyar is a west flowing river in Kerala State and it is a tributary of Kakkiar river which in turn is a major tributary of Pambaiyar, also a west flowing river in Kerala State. A portion of water from Ghiriyar can be diverted eastern side after constructing a dam across Ghiriyar; this may involve construction of a tunnel of length 12,000 ft. leading the water to storage works and supply this water benefitting about 20,000 acres of land under wet cultivation in Sriviliputhur, Sankarankoil, Kovilpatti, Rajapalavam and Sathur taluks in Tamil Nadu. This may yield an additional food production of 15,000 tonnes. Besides, it gives scope for bringing 5000 acres of land capable of producing double crops. This scheme, in addition, will help in raising the subsoil water table in the wells located in the above said areas which will further solve the irrigation and drinking water problems.

Sir, if this scheme, which is under consideration for nearly 100 years now, is implemented, it will be virtually a boon for the long-suffering people of this area afflicted by recurring drought. This area will become fertile producing double crops.

The people of Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari will ever be grateful if this scheme is implemented immediately.

The hon. Finance Minister has mentioned about the integrated rural projects and also about a provision of Rs. 15 crores for this. I wish that this scheme should be implemented in Tamil Nadu with verve and vigour.

Sir, the Doctors in the Government hospitals do not care to attend the patients. The reason for this that they have got private dispensaries and nursing homes and they advise the patients to come there for proper treatment. How can you expect the poor people to go to private nursing homes and pay heavily for their treatment? Sir, it is imperative that the Doctors in the Government hospitals should not be allowed to have private practice or private dispensaries. A directive must be issued to this effect.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasise that in the interest of the long-suffering people of Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari the Ghirya Irrigation Project should be taken up for implementation immediately.

With these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI S. RADHAKRISHNAN (Cuddalore): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the people of Tamil Nadu are so lucky to have a benevolent President's rule.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN: The President is benevolent.

SHRI S. RADHAKRISHNAN: Now, they are fortunate enough to have a precious bouquet of Rs. 200 crores Plan outlay in this Budget. Our Finance Minister has taken pains to say that with a more disciplined and careful spending we can open the gates of a heavenly kingdom of joy and mirth to rejoin the mainstream of national administration, and he has

stated that he is increasing it by Rs. 23 crores over and above the requirement of Rs. 177 crores. I am one, like some other Members, who has had the privilege of seeing our Hon. Finance Minister presenting the budget fourteen years back 1952 was the first occasion, I think, when the Hon. Member Mr. Kalyanasundaram and myself happened to see our Finance Minister present the budget—then in the State Assembly and now in Parliament. Now, there is some distinction between Mr. Kalyanasundaram and myself in regard to the angle from which we are looking at Mr. Subramaniam's presenting the budget. When he was presenting the budget in the State Assembly, both of us were opposing the budget then in varying circumstances. I don't know whether now, after this long period, he is still opposing; in fact, I think he is vehemently welcoming the budget now.

But, for some important reasons, I am opposing these budget proposals; that fact cannot be concealed. The main thing which I want to place before the House is that Tamil Nadu has achieved a good increase in agricultural production—which is not a result of the President's Rule. This must be result of the out-going Ministry. There are other States all over India which cannot compete with Tamil Nadu in agricultural production. They cannot say that they have achieved the target to that extent in the past seven years. Nobody in the ruling bench can say that any other State Government has achieved the planned target in agricultural production. (Interruptions).

My intention in bringing this out is to show the step-motherly treatment being meted out by the Centre. It is a summary disposal to say that all that has been done by the DMK Ministry is wrong.

I will only refer to what some other Members are talking about—in

[Shri S. Radhakrishnan]

regard to the increased outlay of Rs. 200 crores. When Mr. Subramaniam talking about this 200 crores he stated that it was a matter of 'personal satisfaction'. I don't know what is the personal satisfaction he feels. When he says that the crossing of the 200 mark is a matter of personal satisfaction, does it show that he has taken so much pains? Or does it mean that nobody has so far asked for such a high amount for Tamil Nadu? In that context I want to refer to a statement made in the State Assembly. Long ago, in March, 1972; as Shri Matha Gowder has stated, the DMK Ministry were arguing with and insisting that the Central Government should increase the assistance and outlay

AN HON MEMBER: You did not agree at that time.

SHRI S. RADHAKRISHNAN: I remember, we were jointly making a procession to the Prime Minister's house with certain demands. Can he forget it? Unitedly we were making a procession to the Prime Minister's house in connection with the Cauvery water dispute. In certain matters, let us have a joint action to represent to the Centre

I wanted to mention certain specific facts—about the nature of approach or the mode of thinking that has been prevailing ever since the formation of the DMK Ministry. From 1972, this has been repeated by the DMK Ministry. It has been a regular form of representation made to the Central Government. The Chief Minister, while presenting the Budget in the State Assembly in 1972 said:

"We pointed out that provision of such a reduced amount will hamper the rate of progress and retard the growth. Even so, the Government of India insisted that the Plan

for 1970-71 should be reduced to Rs. 79.30 crores and that for 1971-72 to Rs. 80.20 crores. We pointed out to the Government of India that at least Rs. 575 crores should be spent on development schemes of the State during the Five-Year Plan period and that this would involve an annual outlay between Rs. 100 and Rs. 125 crores."

This point for greater outlay has been stressed ever since the formation of the DMK Government.

Coming to the next point, the Finance Minister was mentioning about fertiliser availability being comfortable. It is a very reasonable thing. Fertiliser is available all over Tamil Nadu. But the ability of the farmer to purchase fertilisers is at a standstill; he is not in a position to purchase the available fertilisers, to purchase the fertilisers provided now by any Government. Did anybody stress the need for the low-cost of fertilisers?

In this Budget there are two things which I would mention. When he was stating about the power position, not even a single word has been said about Neyveli and Salem plant. The Salem plant, if I remember right, would not have matured if late Shri Mohan Kumaramangalam had not been the Minister here. That is my humble opinion. There was a lot of uproar that he had done so much regarding Salem and also about Neyveli. But now the situation is that people are entertaining a doubt whether the Salem steel plant Neyveli II mini cut will come up at all.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You just mention what you want to be done. Many others have referred to these two points. You have taken almost ten minutes. You may now conclude.

SHRI S. RADHAKRISHNAN: I am very pleased to see that the hon.

Minister has mentioned about the acute water scarcity in the Madras City. A mention has been made about the Veeranam Project also. The people of Tamil Nadu have a bitter experience on this. The erstwhile DMK Ministry, coming out with ambitious projects, proposed Veeranam . .

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What do you want to be done with 'Veeranam'? It is a famous name

SHRI S RADHAKRISHNAN: But they have only erected the statue of a lady 'the Mother Cauvery' in the southern border of the Madras City with an empty pot, without water - the statue of Mother Cauvery with an open pot, without water. The people of Tamil Nadu now think whether this Krishna Project may have another statue of a lady in the northern border of the Madras City with an empty pot

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I think the statue era is now over

SHRI S RADHAKRISHNAN: As I was saying, the Krishna Project should not have only another statue in the northern border of the Madras City with an open pot. Our present Governor has devised a new system of structure for the administration of the State and he has started this festival of petitions in Tamil Nadu. Daily he is going somewhere and visiting some places, attracting huge crowd, and getting petitions on hand. I do not know, how much he is interested in them and how he is going to deal with them. I do not know, whether this Committee that are going to appoint for the State will be a formal committee and a real committee. I want to have an assurance that the functioning of this committee will be helpful in redressing the grievances of the people and removing the doubts that are prevailing in the minds of the public in Tamil Nadu.

In the budget it is stated that the President's rule has brought about a

sense of discipline in fiscal administration and we can expect a better collection of revenue. But already, the revenue officers have started lifting up the irrigation pump-sets which are meant for lifting the water. They are taking these away from the farmers

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is a very quick solution

SHRI S RADHAKRISHNAN: By this coercive method we may expect the things to go from bad to worse

Sir, the bus operators have already been evicted from Tamil Nadu. They have started their journey towards Delhi and they are thinking of winding up their operations and settle at Delhi itself

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: And they are bringing all the buses here. That will solve the transport problem in Delhi

SHRI S RADHAKRISHNAN: For the last two weeks, they have made several representation and have met various Ministers and have been waiting here. They expected some reduction from the rate of Rs 180/-, instead the motor vehicle tax has been increased from Rs 180 - to Rs 225/- per seat per quarter. That is not fair

Lastly, I would like to mention about the additional water cess. The agricultural production has already exceeded 80 lakh tonnes in Tamil Nadu but this additional taxation is going to curtail the production next year. That is what I wanted to say

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have just four more speakers. Even if I give ten minutes to each that will take about forty minutes. So, we will call the Minister at 3.15; I think, that would be all right

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR (Dindigul): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, now we are discussing the demands of the Tamil Nadu budget. As per the papers I have gone through, I find that the total outlay for the States in the Central budget inclusive of Union territories for the last year comes to about 2812 crores. But in this financial year, 1976-77, this goes upto Rs. 3762 crores. We are told that there is an increase in the total outlay to the extent of 31.6 per cent according to the papers placed before the House and 40 per cent, according to Mr. O. V. Alagesan. According to the share for Tamil Nadu State in the total outlay for this financial year, we are getting an increased amount of Rs. 24 crores. This comes to about 15—18 per cent of the total outlay which is intended to be allotted to the States along with Union Territories for the financial year 1976-77. I request the Finance Minister and the Government of India that if the government of Tamil Nadu or the people of Tamil Nadu are to enjoy the fruits on par with the Central Government or other States, we are entitled to get not a Rs. 24 crores increase but about Rs. 50—60 crores. Therefore, I request the hon. Finance Minister to reconsider and grant more funds treating Tamil Nadu on par with the other States, in the total outlay for the coming financial year.

I request the Governor through the Government of India and the President to dismiss or supersede all the Panchayats and Councils because their elections were due for more than three years. Three or four times the Tamil Nadu Assembly extended the life of the Panchayats and Councils because they were afraid of facing elections because of my leader, Mr. M. G. Ramachandran. It is a long-standing matter. Therefore, I want the Government of India to instruct the Governor to supersede the Councils and the Panchayats. My further request would be that early elections

be held for these local bodies. People are ready for the elections. This is quite unheard of in the history of Tamil Nadu—no elections for three years.

Regarding weavers, there are six centres selected in Tamil Nadu to create employment opportunities for the suppressed and poor classes. But six centres are not adequate. In my constituency—hon. Finance Minister knows very well—there is that famous Chinnalampatti whose series are famous, even in Delhi. They are famous even world-wide. There are 25,000 weavers in my own constituency without employment for a long time. Therefore, I draw the attention of Tamil Nadu Government through the graceful hands of the Central Government and the hon. Finance Minister whom I request to instruct the Governor and the Tamil Nadu Government to start more weaver centres in Chinnalampatti, Dindigul and other areas which are left out in Tamil Nadu.

Shri R. V. Subramaniam, one of the Advisers to the Governor, has suggested recently that if private entrepreneurs come forward to set up industries, the government is prepared to give maximum aid. I am not supporting this view. I do not welcome this view. Nor do I appreciate it because we are a socialist government and we want to build up a socialist society. Therefore, I request the government to come forward to set up public sector industries, full-fledged public sector units. Please do not allow either co-operative schemes or private entrepreneurs because these weavers have already suffered at the hands of master weavers. Absolutely it is of no use at all, it will not serve any practical utility or purpose of weavers if once again you entrust it to master weavers. You should start public sector weaving centres for the welfare, safety and uplift of the long suppressed and depressed class of

weavers There is a Vaigai Dam scheme which is going to be extended by the World Bank and a sum of Rs 20 crores is being spent for the purpose This was for Nilakottai, Usilampatty and Thumangulam areas There are 25,000 acres which are not irrigated in the above said three areas I request the Government to irrigate those areas Then the surplus water can be taken to other areas

There was a great scandal in the Madras State Police Commissioner's Office Shri Shenoi, IPS was then the Police Commissioner A case was registered against the Commissioner of Police, Deputy Commissioner and others which amounted to misappropriation This case is registered under Crime No 17 of 1975 (file of the Director of Vigilance Anti Corruption, Madras) No action has been taken on that Shri Shenoi may please be transferred and further action in the matter may be taken

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER Individual cases like this should not be brought on the floor of the House

SHRI K MAYATHEVAR There is a big fraud committed by the police officers I have sent complaints to the Prime Minister and Home Minister They also replied to my complaint Therefore, it should be investigated We are lawyers We know the law The accused are Heads of the Departments of Investigation I request the Home Department to investigate and transfer him somewhere Legal investigation in this case may kindly be made

Regarding Salem Steel Plant the Central Government has sanctioned Rs 3 crores whereas the actual requirement is Rs 20 crores The present sanction of a sum of Rs 3 crores amounts to giving pop corn to a hungry elephant.

There is one Censorship Officer, Shri Venkataraman (Interruptions)

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER I am saying these individual cases, especially of officers, should not be brought on the floor of the House In spite of warnings you are going on like a steam engine

SHRI M R LAKSHMINARAYANAN (Tindivanam) I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak in this House

The Budget for Tamilnadu has been presented by an efficient and experienced Finance Minister Shri C Subramaniam It is the best one ever presented having taken care of all sections of the people in the State I congratulate him for presenting such a well balanced budget

The taxation proposals will effect the affluent section of the people who can afford to pay these taxes Regarding the outlay and other things the previous speakers spoke and enlightened the Members of this House I endorse their views.

Coming to the point that there are certain problems which came up after the proclamation of President's Rule I would enlighten the House I would request the Minister to kindly see that these things are removed Sir the collection of loan arrears is a big problem in our State Last year there was drought This year there was surplus production The Government have stopped procuring paddy Now the people are finding it very difficult to pay off their loan arrears The Government officials while trying to collect the loan arrears are actually harassing the people there and it is the poor people there who are affected Mr Viswanathan said that they have even removed pumpsets If pumpsets are removed in this manner, how can they continue their agricultural operations? This is a very important thing. I know this. If people wanted to pay

[Shri M. R. Lakshminarayanan]

in instalments they were told that it will not be accepted unless it is paid in full; they refuse to accept them saying, we have President's rule, go and ask the President, go and ask the Prime Minister etc. This is the state of affairs there. This is the sort of things which are happening in the state. This should be looked into. If people really want to pay in instalments they should be allowed to do so and this should be accepted. Instead of that the officials remove things from their houses. I can tell you about one case. An agriculturist was manufacturing jaggery. He took loan and he had to pay back that money to the Government. The officials went and asked him for that. He said, please give sometime, my sugarcane will be converted into jaggery and as soon as I sell that, I will pay you off. But they did not accept that proposal. They removed the machinery that was with him. If such sorts of things are going on I do not know how these people are going to collect their money at all, and will these not ruin the poor people?

The prices of paddy in Tamil Nadu has been reduced by 15 rupees per quintal after the Presidential rule. It is really a very sad state of affairs in the State because the people think that the Central Government is trying to suppress the poorer sections and weaker sections in the State. This has to be looked into because this price was fixed by the former Government, over and above the Central pool price and people sold their produce. Only the weaker people in the State could not sell it. The State Civil Supplies Purchasing Centres were opened only recently. Only the rich people who could influence the Civil Supplies authorities have already sold their produce and it is only the poorer sections who have not sold the produce. Now the price is reduced; procurement is stopped. Hence the poorer sections do not find any outlet to sell their produce. These things have to be looked

into and some sort of relief should be given.

Now, Sir, purchase of paddy was completely stopped by the Government as well as by the traders and the position has come to a standstill. People are not in a position to sell their produce which they have already harvested. They find it difficult and this is something which must be immediately looked into and something should be done in this direction.

In our State 17 sugar factories are there out of which 10 are in the hands of joint stock companies. Ever since dual price policy came into operation, they were not paying proper price to sugarcane growers. In 1973-74 season Tamilnadu Government fixed a price to be paid by all factories. Almost all factories have accepted the price and paid except four factories in private sector. This information was given to me in the House in reply to my question. When I raised supplementary question, I was told, it is the State Government which has imposed this price and they should enforce this price.

Now, the State Government is directly under our Administration. We should take up the matter and see that the growers in these four factories get a fair price. I shall give you a small example to make my position clear. There is one small factory at Padalam and one at Mundiampakkam within a range of 70 miles. While the price at the Padalam factory is at Rs. 136/- the Mundiampakkam factory has paid only at Rs. 91.60. You have to see there is a glaring difference of Rs. 44.40—in one area the price is at Rs. 136 and in the other area it is at Rs. 91.60. Why should there be so much of difference, I am not able to understand. Even the Government has fixed the price at Rs. 104 for Mundiampakkam factory, but they refuse to pay this price. So many representations were sent to the State Government as well as the Central Government but the State Government puts the blame

on the Centre while the Centre on the State Government. The State Government says that they do not have the powers, the Central Government alone has got the power. Now that the State is under the Central Administration I would request the hon. Minister for Finance to take up this matter personally and see to it that this injustice is removed.

Furthermore, the State Government has already recommended nationalisation of these ten factories under a joint sector company. I do not know what has happened to it. I had put a question about this—when the State Government has recommended nationalisation of these sugar factories, why has not the Central Government taken any decision? Many times I raised this point even in the Consultative Committee and at other forums. It was said that the State Government might take it over and acquire the factory. This was what the Minister for Agriculture himself said. I would request the Minister for Finance to take a decision. Sir, I am not one for nationalisation of everything. But, wherever the people do not carry out the schemes framed by Government or do not reflect the views of the Government then they should be nationalised definitely. This should be looked into and I request the hon. Minister for Finance again to take necessary action in this direction.

Finally, the State Government and also at the national level the agricultural wages are fixed at Rs. 6. On what basis has this Rs. 6/- been fixed—I want to know that. Sir, the agricultural labourers do not get work throughout the year; this is only a seasonal work and as some of the former speakers said they only have work for 120 days. I want to know whether they get any provident fund or gratuity or any other benefits. Sir, we want to banish the poverty from this country. Why should they not get at least what the class IV employees get? They should get a minimum wage of Rs. 10 a day. These

are things which our beloved Prime Minister wants to implement through her 20-Point Economic Programme. We have removed the Government which was not in line with the implementation of 20-Point Programme. Now, we should see that these poor people are given a good relief.

I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak here.

SHRI B. V. NAIK (Kanara): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I shall confine myself to the State of Tamil Nadu not knowing the details about it. As a Southerner, I deem it a privilege to take part in this debate on the budget of Tamil Nadu. I think the Finance Minister presented a budget which shows a very heavy loss of revenue to the State on account of the imposition of prohibition. Of course, it has been laid down in the Directive Principles of State Policy that the losses incurred by the State Government during the year 1974-75 to the General Revenue was to the tune of Rs. 56 crores. If the revenue increase had been kept up, it would have brought in a revenue of about Rs. 80 crores during 1976-77. I think it was unwise and unstatesmanlike on the part of the previous Government to have scrapped prohibition before a comprehensive all-India Prohibition Policy on this vexed question is evolved. (Interruptions). Perhaps my hon. friend who interrupted me has got a twelve-point cock-tail formula! I am not going into the morals of it; I am only trying to see the economics of it. What would have been otherwise a sort of surplus budget of a substantial extent has gone into a deficit.

Now, I come to the next point regarding inter-State relationship in regard to the sharing of waters of the river Cauvery. Political compulsions had in the past made the two State Governments or more particularly the three State Governments of Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu

[Shri B. V. Naik]

to take some impossible pestres. It was complicated further by the fact that there was a government belonging to the party of comrade. Smt. Parvathi Krishnan and—

AN HON. MEMBER: How!

SHRI B. V. NAIK: She is married in Kerala. I know more details.—the Government of DMK in the State of Tamil Nadu and our Government in the State of Karnataka. Under the President's rule, I think, this long-standing decade-old question of the sharing of the Cauvery waters will be settled for the satisfaction of all parties.

As far as the finances of the State are concerned—as stated in the Budget—it has been very much re-inforced by the voluntary disclosures as the largest number of smugglers who have been absconding in this country are to be found from the State of Madras.

Lastly, Sir, if you can bear repetition of one point may say that it is not only the question of Salem but it is also the question of Hospet and Vizag. In the budget allocations during the year 1976-77—as has also been pointed out by some other hon. Members—not even a naya paisa has been provided. Unless it is provided in the twohundred and odd crores of budget of steel Authority of India, I think, there has been no allocation. This needs to be looked into and sympathetically considered.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Chiravinkil): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, it is a pleasant coincidence that Mr. Subramaniam who had the opportunity of controlling the finances of the then Madras State for ten year has to shoulder the responsibility to present the budget and control the finances of Tamil Nadu for some time to come

The very pleasant feature of the budget is the emphasis given to the 20-point programme and its implementation. It is true the deficit of Rs. 12.32 crores because of the capital expenditure has gone up to Rs. 18.64 crores. Without adding much more extra duties and taxes—which is the only way to increase the revenue—he has confined to the available revenue. He has laid much emphasis on drought relief. We all witnessed and know how the people of Tamil Nadu, especially the neighbouring districts of Kerala, had a great suffering of drought. There was not a drop of water to drink or to feed the cattle heads. He has laid special emphasis for some kind of relief for drought stricken districts of this State.

In this connection, I would make an appeal to him about one point. He is well aware that drought relief funds had been collected by the erstwhile Government. A huge amount has been collected. There is a lot of complaints in the distribution of the funds. I do not want to mention names. But I would appeal to him to look into whether the funds have been properly utilised or not, and see that they are properly utilised.

15.00 hrs.

Then there is the drinking water problem in Madras City. I often go to Madras City. I know, the drinking water problem there is the biggest problem the City faces. The hon. Minister has made a provision of Rs 1 crore for supplying Krishna water to the City. He has also given thought over it.

In this connection, I want to make a mention of the Veeranam Project. I do not want to go into details. He himself admitted that it is counter-productive and has created problems. I do not want to mention names or the incident of the suicide of a contractor and a lot of other things. The only thing I want to emphasise is that

however counterproductive it had become he should re-examine the whole project and see whether it can feed water to Madras City, even though many misdeeds had been committed by the erstwhile Government, as for instance, corruption in the Corporation of Madras and other affairs etc.

There is another important thing in the Budget. Shri Viswanathan was happy because of the fact that medical check-up for students had been provided in his district. I would make a suggestion here. This facility is given only for four districts in the Budget. There are 14 districts in the State. Medical check-up of students is a necessary thing. So I would appeal to the Minister to see that this facility is extended to all the districts so that students get proper care and proper medical check-up.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN: It is for all the districts.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Here only four are mentioned.

The hon. Minister mentioned about the educational standards. Once upon a time we were all proud that people from Kerala and Tamil Nadu were able to infiltrate into different sections of Indian society and get employed in different areas. Unfortunately now in Tamil Nadu—if my friends there will pardon me for saying so—they have confined themselves to a water-tight compartment in regard to their educational system. It has closed its doors for the future generations, for people to go to even Meghalaya, Bombay or Delhi, because of the lack of proper education, due to which they cannot speak the language of people outside the State. The hon. Minister has emphasised the need to improve the standard of education in Tamil Nadu educational institutions. I hope this will provide opportunities for the younger generation to earn their

bread outside Tamil Nadu by the provision of better education.

About medical colleges, I want to say this—Sir, kindly do not stare at me.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am appreciating your point; I am not staring at you.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Fortunately, once upon a time people were proud to go to Madras and study in the medical colleges or the Loyala College or the Presidency College, which were prestige institutions. Today, I am sorry to say—I am not blaming anybody—they do not keep up that tradition which produced men like Krishna Menon, other men of letters and others once upon a time.

I will give a recent example. A friend of mine told me that he received a cheque of Rs. 15,000 back because his candidate could not get admission in a medical college. At least they are honest to that extent. The standard of medical colleges has gone down. Students are selected not on the basis of merit or standard. Even third class candidates are taken in the medical colleges. They are going to deal with the lives of you and I. This is unfortunately the system which has developed in the last few years. While mentioning it in the Budget, I hope the Minister will take steps to improve the standard of the medical colleges also.

Then for houses for the Harijans, a provision of Rs. 50 lakhs has been made. I think this is insufficient for the purpose. I do not know the statistics, how many houses and house sites have been given to Harijans. Perhaps Shri Viswanathan or Shrimati Krishnan may be knowing and may be able to say how many houses have been given to Harijans. But Government should give more facilities and more money should be provided for

[Shri Vayalar Ravi]

the distribution of houses to Harijans because they are the poorest of the society. Therefore, I hope this provision of Rs. 50 lakhs will be improved upon.

Coming to slum clearance, much propaganda has been made. Statues had been erected, buildings had been named after. Very good! But I am proud to say that it was during the time the late Shri Kamaraj and when Shri C. Subramaniam was leading the finances of the State for a long time, that the basic foundation of a sound industrial development and a stable economy was laid in Tamil Nadu. We see this because we often visit the State. It is on the foundation that has been so built that other Ministries have flourished. Unfortunately, in the last five or six years, there have not been any new industries, in the private or public sector, which have come up which could be counted even on one's fingers, which have provided more employment. I only understand that the money which has flowed out of this foundation built earlier has been lavishly spent and looted in other ways.

One more point. This is about what transpired in the question hour this morning. Shri Lakshminarayan made a very important point. Some employees now use the President's rule to malign the central government. A section of the employees has been brainwashed by DMK and they are utilising Emergency for harming the people and to harass people; they say: this is President's rule, this is emergency, be careful. That is to create the negative effect. I want the hon. Minister to take serious action on this kind of negative attitude so that this is not repeated. With regard to retirement of officers, you will be surprised that an honest person, known to me, son-in-law of a former minister of Madras State, a veteran freedom fighter of my State, died due to heart attack within three days of being

compulsorily retired. He was an honest officer and the only crime was that he was a Malayalee....(Interruptions). I have many cases like that. I can challenge anybody to prove. Retirement has been done without any justice. Then the next point is, that you will be surprised to know, 30 per cent tax is imposed by the state government on ayurvedic medicine, sales tax. It is impossible to sell ayurvedic medicines. This point has to be considered by the hon. Minister. Lastly, in the electricity board there are a lot of complaints of corruption. The hon. Minister should take steps to stop this corruption. We are supplying electricity to Madras State and do not lose it to the corrupt elements there. Lastly, one word of praise to you and me, because....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Me? I do not deserve any praise.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: You will appreciate the service done by the Vellore Christian Medical College. That hospital has done great service. But they were attacked and Mr. Viswanathan had to court arrest to protect them? The hon. Prime Minister visited that hospital and spent more than three hours; it was a gracious occasion to show that the Government of India will protect the institution from the atrocities of anybody. With those words, I support the budget.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have a request from three hon. Members of the CPI to give them two minutes each. Of course I cannot accommodate all of them but it being the women's decade, I give the crown to Mrs. Parvathi Krishnan for five minutes.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN (Coimbatore): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I am grateful to you for giving me a few minutes to say a few words on the Budget. Within these five minutes I want to refer speci-

fically to one or two points. I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to an extremely important thing in Tamil Nadu today, namely, the continuing drought conditions, there should be a long-term perspective for irrigation schemes for ensuring drinking water and other supplies. I do not see a reflection of that kind of thing in this budget. For instance, we are told that there is going to be a hydel project, Pandiyar-Ponnabil which would be taken up. But what about the irrigation scheme? Why should it not be started? If you take up only the hydel scheme, what are you going to do with the irrigation project, for a very large area depends on that irrigation project and it is included in the drought prone area. This is something serious and the irrigation project should also be taken up.

Then there is the question of support price and the procurement price for the levy paddy; since many hon. Members already have referred to it, I do not want to repeat it. I support those points. There are two specific matters. The hon. Minister himself knows an area which is known for its hosiery products and when the DMK came to power they imposed a high sales tax on that product; with the excise duty and a high sales duty the hosiery industry had been adversely affected and they are unable to compete in the traditional markets in Calcutta and Bombay, where such a sales tax does not exist on hosiery products. Why is there no provision in the budget to give relief to these people? Why has not the hon. Finance Minister taken steps to set right the distortion that has come up in the economy of Tamil Nadu during the DMK rule? Perhaps it might mean cutting into something and mopping up certain revenues. I do not see any reference in his speech to the various arrears that are yet to be collected. All the mal-administration that is going on in the Sales Tax Department and in

the Entertainment Tax Department, to which Mr. Viswanathan referred, should be set right immediately. We should get an idea of how much more money we can expect from these Departments. This is not considered; but you are only going in for the traditional things and you are not giving relief to these sections such as Ayurvedic practitioners, to those sections who are being penalised and being neglected and harassed by the erstwhile State Government. When you have dismissed the DMK Ministry for their acts of mal-administration, apart from all other charges, your first budget should at least reveal to us in what way you are going to overcome these distortions and mal-administration.

Lastly, I would like to emphasise once again on the great importance of setting up the Implementation Committees at all levels because it is those distortions that have come in the way of administration, because of those distortions that the atrocities are being committed by the police even today. The distortion is there in the Excise Department where in spite of the prohibition, a lot of bootlegging is going on and a lot of hanky-panky is going on, if I may use the phrase. To set right these things, you want our full co-operation. Fuller co-operation can only come through the setting up of those committees where you will have representatives of those organisations and parties which have supported the Emergency and the 20-point programme. Why do we support them? It is because we think it is correct and because of that we will also help in finding out the ways and means to get rid of the obstacles that are holding up the progress of Tamil Nadu. We will give our fullest co-operation to the positive propositions. There is no point of just having an Advisory Committee of the Members of the Parliament. We are all constituency-minded, if I may say

[Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan]

so. It is only at the grass root level that this can be done, because when you have those representatives who have their fingers on the pulse of the people every hour of the day, if you start with your Committees at this level, then certainly it will percolate and you will come with a positive proposition.

Thank you very much, Sir, for having given me an opportunity to speak and for whatever has been left out, I will write to the Minister and I hope he will try to do some further improvement on the Tamil Nadu budget.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I particularly appreciate the points made by the lady Member just now. I wish I had the time to go into the various details of all the financial aspects and also other administrative aspects in Tamil Nadu and be in a position to present a much more balanced budget, if I may use the word. Unfortunately, the time was short and I had to make the best of this short time. I thought the first priority will have to be given, particularly in presenting the budget, to push up the development tempo. That is why within this short time, I tried my best to see that the plan investment figure was considerably increased from Rs. 177.0 crores to Rs. 201.0 crores. We have also tried to deploy this amount of Rs. 201.0 crores, particularly to the priority sectors. Some of the Hon'ble Members were kind enough to refer to my having been the Finance Minister for ten years in the erstwhile Madras State.

15.16 hrs.

[SHRI C. M. STEPHEN in the Chair]

A reference was also made to the formulation of the third plan in

which I had the privilege of participating. In every plan—the first, the second and the third—we gave priority to power generation. As a matter of fact, as Finance Minister at that time, if I may recall the figures, at least one-third of the plan investment was in the power sector. So much so power was always in surplus and it was on that basis that the industrial development took place in that State. Unfortunately, after that Madras went into evil days and instead of continuously being surplus, it became one of the chronic deficit States in power. Sometimes that was even 100 per cent cut. But unfortunately the shortage was converted into a vested interest. With better management they could have managed with a smaller cut of 15 or 20 per cent, but the expert advice given was not heeded to. They squandered the resources in a few months and again there was a larger deficit of 40, 50 or 70 per cent. As soon as the advisers took over, we wanted that the State Electricity Board should be set in order. There are 1 lakh persons employed in the State Electricity Board and on assessment, it was found that 24,000 of them are surplus and not needed. They have used the Electricity Board for providing for their own men, whether their services were needed or not. Perhaps their services were needed elsewhere for their party purposes and they were employed in the Electricity Board. If that is the sort of administration we had, you can well imagine the consequences. It is a very technical subject and the Chairman of the State Electricity Board should have the competence to know the various technical and administrative aspects of power generation, transmission and distribution. We had a very distinguished man as the Chairman of the State Electricity Board there—Mr. Appadorai, who is even now an internationally recognised electrical engineer. After him, they started appoint-

ing the IAS officers. I have nothing against them, but if they were allowed to continue for a reasonable time to understand the technicalities and administer them, it would have been something. But there were 8 Chairmen in 9 years! If there was any complaint from any party man, the Chairman was removed. How can we have any worthwhile administration. One of the Chairmen was there for 2 years. So, the others must have been there only for one year or even less. Some Thambi went and complained to Anna and immediately the Chairman was changed! That seems to have been the pattern not only in the Electricity Board but in other cases also. It will be interesting to investigate why every Chairman was removed, but not here. I am sure in other forums it will be investigated. What is important now is to see that we are not starved for power in that State. Apart from political power, unless you have this power, you cannot have industrial development. That is why we have tried to give some importance to power generation in this Plan. As against Rs. 41 crores in 1975-76, we have allotted Rs 70 crores for 1976-77. Naturally, the resources for hydro-electric projects are very limited. That is why we are taking up this Pandiyar-Punnampuzha scheme. It is not that we are unmindful of the irrigation potential there, which can be made available to Tamil Nadu. I am sure that this scheme would not stand in the way of taking the water for irrigation. In fact, when I go to Madras, I shall go into it in greater detail and try to find out whether this hydro-electric project should be taken up immediately, or whether we should first negotiate with the Kerala Government. And I am sure the hon. lady Member would be of some use in that regard. I would try to see .

... (Interruptions) Of course, their help is always there; but more than that, the help of our hon lady Mem-

ber is much more important. Therefore, I shall certainly try to look into this aspect and to find out as to how to deal with this situation. Then, irrigation is naturally another important aspect; and we were claiming that we have almost exhausted all the rivers.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: That is why I had preferred ground water.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I said, all the rivers; I did not say, ground water. But here and there, there were small rivulets on which also, during the DMK regime, they have constructed a few more irrigation projects and on that basis, the surplus, whatever surface water resources were available within the State, had already been exhausted.

SHRI K. GOPAL. What about the Noyyal project?

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: What about the maintenance of the canals?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I am coming to that. Therefore, if we have to get, apart from utilizing to the best advantage—to which I shall presently refer—more water for irrigation purposes, it has to be done only on the basis of having the cooperation and help of the adjoining States, particularly of Kerala. Apart from Pandiyar-Punnampuzha, I am told that there are quite a few other schemes. When a particular river is in a particular State, priority will have to be given to the requirements of that particular State. It is only about the surplus water that we can even dream of. Therefore, on that basis, we should study whether any surface water could be diverted, as we did divert in the Parambikulam project which is one of the mighty projects where we have tunnelled the western ghats and diverted the west-flowing river towards the east, to

[Shri C. Subramanian]

irrigate thousands of acres. So, there also, for the purpose of completing some of the projects that are uncompleted, the small and medium projects, we have now given Rs. 21.4 crores as against Rs. 12 crores. In this, there is a significant sum allotted for the modernization scheme, modernization of the existing ancient ayacuts. The Kaveri delta scheme is one of the ancient ayacuts there, but unfortunately, it is linked with the Kaveri dispute. As a matter of fact, everybody should be interested in modernizing that system, so that more water would be available, but unfortunately even Mysore, i.e. Karnataka had objected to the modernization programme, even though as lower riparians, we can certainly not affect the flow above us; but still, even this has been objected to. And, therefore, it is at a standstill. Therefore, apart from taking to Kerala and trying to get fresh water, we will have to come to some agreement with Karnataka as quickly as possible. I am glad that the hon. Member Mr. Naik had made a very relevant point. Now that there are propitious circumstances, it should be possible for us to come to an agreement. As a matter of fact, the first statement I had made as the Planning Minister was in regard to these inter-State river disputes. We are fighting as if we are different nations. As a matter of fact, what does it matter if a few million acreage of water goes to one State or another? We will have to take a national look. If only we approach this from the national point of view—but in regard to the ayacuts which have already been developed it certainly cannot be stopped; that aspect will have to be kept in mind—and go into the merits of the dispute, I have no doubt that the three States concerned, viz Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka—Karnataka and Tamil Nadu being the major shares, but Kerala is also in the picture, because a portion of the

waters of Kaveri passes through Kerala, at least tributaries go through Kerala also—will be able to find a meeting point. Therefore, we have to come to an agreement as quickly as possible and, on that basis, take up the modernisation scheme of the Kaveri Delta, for which the World Bank has already committed funds. Unfortunately, for the last six or seven years, even though funds have been committed by the World Bank, it has not been possible to take up the modernization scheme. So, we have to pay some attention to this.

As I have already said, after dealing with the developmental aspects, which has to be done before the budget is finalised, naturally we are now engaged in removing the cobwebs that have come into existence in the administration. Unfortunately, as was pointed out by my colleague, Shri Alagesan, the whole system has got into disarray, to put it mildly, whether you take the executive or even the judiciary. We are in the very sad plight, shameful plight, that even the highest amongst the judiciary has to take leave, because there is some investigation against it. This is the state of affairs to which we have been reduced in a State which had the highest reputation with regard to efficiency on integrity of administration. A High Court, which had the highest reputation in the country, has been reduced to such a sorrowful plight. The atmosphere in the academic institutions has been completely spoiled. So far as professional institutions are concerned, as had been pointed out by Shri Ravi, admissions etc have not been on the basis of merit, but completely on extraneous considerations, I need not say what those considerations are. Those matters are under enquiry and I am sure many of them would come into the open. In this process, the standard has been completely shattered.

Coming to the various developmental organs of the State, particularly cooperative institutions, I find that there were 8 Registrars of Co-operative Societies in 9 years. So, a series of transfers have taken place, because they did not toe the line. Anybody who does not toe the line has to be removed and somebody else has to be appointed. Today, the entire co-operative movement is in a mess. I do not know how the Home Minister is going to deal with the situation, because it is his main responsibility to deal with the situation in the State. I am glad he is present here. I am sure he would have been listening to the very interesting debate which has gone on.

The police administration has also been completely demoralised. I have been given a list of transfers that have taken place at the district level, inspector's level and sub-inspector's level, on flimsy grounds, because somebody has complained against them, some party man has complained against them. This is how it has gone on. I have a very interesting information in connection with the transfer of a police officer, which I am passing on to the House as an information. There were two meetings organised in the same place. The first meeting was by the ADMK and the second by the DMK. It was found that there was less crowd in the DMK meeting. Since it was supposed to be the responsibility of the police to gather men for the DMK meeting and since they did not do that work properly, that police officer was immediately transferred!

DR. KAILAS (Bombay South): A very classic example has been cited.

SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: This is how things have been done. Therefore, the officers have been completely frustrated. Still, I would like to pay a tribute to the officers belonging to the Tamil Nadu administration.

Most of them are very talented men with great integrity. But when Government is functioning there, they have to do certain things under the orders of the Government. Therefore, I am sure many of them cannot be blamed because in a democracy whoever is in power is entitled to issue orders laying down policies, and it is the duty of the officials to implement those policies. So, even though some of those policies might have been wrong, certainly for that we cannot find fault with the officers. But I know there are some officers who were colluding with the administration, who were more loyal than the King, and they will have to be identified. Those who cannot be mended will have to be identified, and they will have to be weeded out.

Many complaints have been made. Hon. Sri Kalyanasundaram was making some allegations, various Members are making allegations that the behaviour of some of the police officials is not tolerable even under President's rule. I am sure there is bound to be room for complaint because the whole thing cannot change overnight, and we are in the process of seeing that the administration is put on its rails. Therefore, I would plead with them that they should not immediately jump to the conclusion that it is not possible for us to manage the situation and to mend matters. This requires a good deal of patient effort, and it will have to be done. It is easy to destroy a thing, but it is much more difficult and it is time-consuming to construct a thing. It is very easy to tamper with the administration, but to bring it back again to a certain level of integrity takes quite a long time and patient work. The Advisers are there. They are very well known officers, known for their efficiency, for their drive and for their integrity also, and I hope and trust that they would be able to take necessary action.

[Shri C. Subramaniam]

The other point which the hon. lady Member made is certainly worth consideration. Can the officers by themselves bring about this transformation, or should there be popular participation, people's participation, for this purpose? That will also have to be taken into account but at the same time I would like to strike a note of caution in this. We should not again repeat what had happened during the DMK regime. I hear some disturbing news that those who were going with red and black border towels are not going with tricolour towels and doing what was being done before. Therefore political parties, particularly, in the present juncture will have to set up codes of conduct for themselves. Otherwise, the same story will be repeated. Removing just black and red and substituting it with tricolour is not going to bring about a new situation. This we will have to keep in mind. On this occasion I would like particularly to impress upon my own party men that in this respect they should try to set an example. Then certainly we can tell others that this is the restraint that we have put upon ourselves and, therefore, they should also put a restraint on their party members. I hope and trust that particularly the hon. Members coming from Tamil Nadu be longing to my party, will take this to their organisational level and see that we set an example for others to follow as far as this is concerned.

The other question is about the Parliamentary Advisory body. I am sure it would be set up soon, and I would plead with my colleague, the Home Minister who is here, that it should meet as early as possible, giving an opportunity for the hon. Members to express their various points of view and also to ventilate the grievances. Naturally, the officers also would be present and that would be perhaps the beginning of popular participation. As to what should be done at the State and district level, perhaps we can discuss it in that body once it is

constituted, and try to take some decision for the purpose of popular participation at every level, how it should be brought about. Particularly, at the present juncture, certain actions will have to be taken free from some constraints. So, by our popular participation those actions which are necessary should not be blocked. This is also something which we will have to be kept in mind, because popular participation means sometimes there may not be a unanimity of approach, that should not become a block for taking further action on this.

Therefore, this is what I want to tell the hon. Members that we have just made a beginning for this purpose seeing that things become better in Tamil Nadu. The results cannot be achieved overnight. But as far as I am concerned—not only because I am the finance Minister of India, but as a person belonging to Tamil Nadu—I want to give the hon. Members an assurance in my personal capacity, that I shall try to do my best to see that Tamil Nadu regains its pre-eminent position among the States. All the hon. Members have expressed concern about Salem Steel Plant. As a matter of fact, I do claim that this project started when I was in the Madras State. Therefore I had some sort of attachment to this project. This is now being considered at the highest level and the hon. Members belonging to Tamil Nadu have gone and made representations to the Prime Minister also. Let us hope that favourable decisions will be taken and those decisions will also be taken as early as possible. Beyond that, I am sorry I am not in a position to give further assurance, as far as that is concerned. I am also, apart from being a Minister, coming from Tamil Nadu. I will also strive along with you to see that this project comes to fruition.

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATTIA (Amritsar): You join the deputa-
tion,

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: But you should not be inhibited because you come from that State.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: But you think that I would like to take more time.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Neiveli.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: That is one of the projects under consideration. Perhaps that is the only source from which we could generate more electricity for the State. Therefore, that is also being looked into (Interruptions). Simply because I did not answer those things it does not mean that they are not being looked into.

I heard hon. Members referring to taxation proposals. They would not let me go without making a statement with regard to the taxation measures. We have carefully analysed the reactions to the Budget proposals in the Press, among various Associations and from the public in Tamil Nadu. I have also taken note of the comments expressed by Hon'ble Members on the floor of the House. Against this background, I have decided to make the following concessions

It has been represented that the increase in Motor Vehicles Tax on mofussil services is on the high side. This increase from 4 paise to 5 paise was made by the D.M.K. Government. Now, taking advantage of that, naturally this gives more money to the operators. I thought something should come to the Treasury. It is only on that basis that we have levied tax. We have also made some calculations. We are only talking one-third of the extra money that they would be getting. But still having regard to what we have done for the Express Services, we have decided that the tax per seat per quarter on Mofussil Services will be reduced from the proposed level of Rs. 225 to Rs. 215. (Interruptions) Accordingly, the increase of Mofussil Services will be about 20 per cent as in the case of Express Services.

The proposed commercial crop cess on grapes, sugar cane, plantains, coconut, betelvines and turmeric will be reduced from Rs. 25 to Rs. 20 per acre. The proposed commercial crop cess on tobacco, chillies, irrigated cotton and irrigated groundnut will be reduced from Rs. 15 to Rs. 12.5 per acre.

The estimated loss in revenue as a result of these concessions will be about Rs. 2 crores in a year. The hon. Members will appreciate that these are substantial concessions considering the difficult financial position that we face in Tamil Nadu and the imperative need to find resources for increasing the increased Plan outlay of Rs. 201 crores in 1976-77.

I am sure, the hon. Members are aware of the threat which the DMK gave, not now, even much earlier that they would see no other Government will function which succeeds them. They have made it in a systematic manner, giving up as many resources to the revenues as possible and making as many commitments as possible for extra expenditure, not for developmental expenditure. Unfortunately, we are in that sorry state

Coming to prohibition, Rs 60 crores were being collected by the Government. These Rs 60 crores were given by the people apart from what they paid for liquor as such. What I am trying to collect, out of Rs. 60 crores only a paltry sum of Rs. 10 crores. Therefore, from the community which has been benefited to the extent of Rs. 60 crores, I am just trying to take only to the extent of Rs. 10 crores. I am sure, if we only make a proper assessment, something more also could be done. But there is very little time for that. Perhaps, it will be the responsibility of somebody else to do it. I leave that responsibility to those who will be coming to power. I think, it is my duty to do the best for Tamil Nadu and, for developmental purposes, to have at least this amount of taxation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the House agrees, I shall put all the cut motions together to the vote of the House.

15.43 hrs.

TAMIL NADU APPROPRIATION BILL, 1978*

HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I put all the cut motions, No. 1 to 25, to the vote of the House.

All the cut motions were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the order paper, be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of Tamil Nadu to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1977, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against demands Nos. 1 to 57."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the order paper, be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of Tamil Nadu to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1976, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against:—

Demand Nos. 1, 4, 9 to 12, 14 to 28, 30 to 39, 41 to 45, 48 to 53 and 55 to 57."

The motion was adopted

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Tamil Nadu for the services of the financial year 1976-77.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Tamil Nadu for the services of the financial year 1976-77."

The motion was adopted

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I introduce the Bill I beg to move:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Tamil Nadu for the services of the financial year 1976-77, be taken into consideration."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Tamil Nadu for the services of the financial year 1976-77, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

*Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, section 2, dated 24-3-78, introduced/moved with the recommendation of the President.