

FEBRUARY 26, 1962

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Assembly,

This is the second and perhaps the last occasion that I have the privilege of addressing this August Assembly, since my term of office is to expire on June 10th. Before I launch upon the task of addressing you, I consider it my special duty to place on record my feelings of high esteem, respect and affection towards the people of Kerala. The quality of simplicity, combined with dignity of the people and the innate culture that is found amongst all have appealed to me greatly.

These two years of my stewardship as Head of the State have been the very best ones in my long public life which, I may say with pardonable pride, extends over four decades. Everyone of you, without distinction of caste, creed or political affiliations, has given me unstinted and unreserved co-operation and have borne with me patiently and with affection throughout these months. You, as members representing different political ideologies, have shown unbounded affection for me in various ways and I greatly cherish these feelings as a token of your goodwill towards me.

I must make a special mention of the wholehearted support and sympathy I received from my esteemed Chief Minister and the Council of Ministers in the discharge of my duties as Governor of the State and I wonder whether I would have been able to render my little bit of service to the State if I had not been fortunate enough to be the recipient of such sincere co-operation, regard and esteem at their hands. I may assure the Hon'ble Members that wherever I may be and in whatever capacity I may function in future, official or non-official, my heart will be with Kerala; so will my thoughts reflect truly the hopes and aspirations of the people of this great and beautiful land.

One year has elapsed since I addressed you last from the floor of this Assembly. It was an year which we can all look back to with justifiable pride, in the strenuous efforts we made and the substantial progress we achieved. I shall attempt a brief review of the major successes we have had.

With the close of the financial year, we shall be completing the first year of the Third Plan and soon we would be taking up the Annual Plan for the Second Year of the Third Plan. As you will know, the size of the State's Third Plan is Rs. 170 crores. The proposed Plan outlay is Rs. 25.01 crores for the current year (which is exclusive of the Central Share of Centrally Sponsored Programmes) and it is expected that the entire provisions will be fully utilised before the end of the year. As regards the second year's programme of the Third Plan, the Planning Commission has approved a total outlay of Rs. 30.26 crores which is exclusive of the Central share of expenditure on Centrally Sponsored Schemes. The Finance Department has been reorganised for securing greater speed in the implementation of the Plan Schemes. The reorganised set up will be brought into force with effect from the first of next month.

I mentioned in my previous address to you, that my Government had voiced the crying need for the establishment of large scale industries by the Central Government in the Public Sector in Kerala. The Government of India have decided to locate in Kerala a Precision Instruments Factory involving an investment of 8 crores of rupees. This undertaking will be in addition to the Ship Building Yard and the Phyto Chemical Project which the Government of India have already agreed to set up in Kerala. Apart from these the Government of India have also agreed to help finance the third stage expansion of the F.A.C.T. involving an investment of Rs. 8 crores. The question of finalising the location of certain other projects proposed to be set up under the Public Sector is yet to be decided by the Government of India and my Government hope that a few more public sector undertakings will be located in Kerala.

During the Third Five Year Plan the Government of India will be sanctioning the installation of 150,000 additional spindles. This is expected to give rise to 10 spinning mills and a new composite mill in the State, in the private sector. Among the other important private sector projects are the proposed Heavy Transformers Factory at Ankamali with an investment of Rs. 1 crore, the veneer factory at Pallipuram with an investment of Rs. 1½ crores, the Wire Rope Factory at Alwaye with an investment of about Rs. 1 crore etc. In addition substantial expansion of the major industries like Travancore Titanium Products Ltd., Travancore Cement Co. Ltd., Travancore Rayons Ltd., Indian Aluminium, Alwaye and Aluminium Industries Ltd., Kundara will also be undertaken. These measures are expected to give employment to the people to a great extent.

Last year the Kerala State Industrial Corporation Ltd. and the Kerala State Small Scale Industries Corporation Ltd., were registered and they have started functioning. An apex society for Handloom Co-operatives called Kerala Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society has been formed.

In pursuance of the programme of establishment of more Industrial Estates, steps are in progress to acquire the necessary land for establishing a large industrial estate costing rupees 15 lakhs at Kottiyam in Quilon District and a Small Industrial Estate costing rupees 5 lakhs at Vazhakulam in Ernakulam District. The Industrial Estate in Palluruthy the construction of which commenced towards the close of the Second Five Year Plan has been recently inaugurated.

My Government are happy to note that as a result of the liberalisation of rules for the grant of loan to the Small Scale Industries and the appointment of the Kerala Financial Corporation as Agents of Government for giving such loans above Rs. 10,000 a considerable number of applicants have come forward to take advantage of the scheme for developing and starting Small Scale Industries and that about Rs. 23 lakhs have so far been given during the current year as loans to Small Scale Industrialists.

The distribution of rice from Fair Price Shops at subsidised rates which was begun in 1960-61 was continued in 1961-62 also. It had its effect on the level of prices and the food problem was well under control. Even though the giving of a subsidy entails a heavy burden on the State's economy, my Government considered it necessary to continue the policy. For this year the Government of India have allotted two lakhs tons of rice for our State and requests are being made to increase the quota. But my Government fully realise that the long term solution lies only in increased production. Consequently the total financial outlay of various Agricultural Programmes for the year 1962-63 would be Rs. 504.98 lakhs as against the outlay of Rs. 386.46 lakhs during 1961-62.

The Intensive Agricultural District Programmes have been started at Palghat and Alleppey Districts. An F.A.O. Conference with special emphasis on coconut cultivation was held at Trivandrum and international experts participated in it. The decisions taken are expected to have effect on the control of coconut diseases. The Rubber Plantation Programme initiated last year was fully implemented.

During the year 1961-62, 16 new Veterinary Institutions were opened. The two Key Village Centres at Peermade and Munnar commenced operation. A scheme for cattle development in the high ranges with Swiss Collaboration is likely to be sponsored by the Government of India with a view to introducing exotic milk strain in the local cattle, without sacrificing their resistance to adverse climatic and other conditions.

The Central Fisheries Training Institute is being established at Ernakulam.

My Government have already accepted as a policy the formation of Village Co-operatives. Steps are being taken to organise Village Co-operatives on the basis of the Village Community as a Primary Unit, the responsibility and initiative of the economic development at the village level being placed fully on them. 750 service co-operatives have been formed during 1961-62 and another 350 societies have been selected to function as service co-operatives. There would be a net work of service co-operatives in the State and shortly there will be no village without a Co-operative Society and more than 85% of the rural population will come within the co-operative fold during the Third Plan Period.

The problem created by the encroachment and cultivation within the water spread and working areas of the projects has been a hindrance to the progress of work of the irrigation and power projects. Government have appointed a Special Officer of the rank of a District Collector for the expeditious removal of such occupations. A Committee have also been constituted with the Special Officer as the Chairman to consider the problems of the encroachers and Kuthakapattom lessees within the Reserve Forest areas of the State. A draft Bill for the Acquisition of Private Forests of Malabar has been prepared, to facilitate the preservation of these forests as items of national wealth.

A significant landmark in land legislation has been the implementation of the Kerala Agrarian Relations Act. The Sections of the Act relating to tenancies, fixity of tenure, fixation of fair rent and constitution and functioning of land tribunals and the Land Board have already been brought into force. Those sections providing for ceiling of ownership and possession of lands, surrender of surplus land to the Government, payment of compensation for surrendered land, assignment of such lands and the management of such lands until they are assigned, are yet to be brought into force. These provisions will be brought into force as soon as fair rents are settled on holdings. Government have constituted a Land Board and 23 Land Tribunals for the implementation of the provisions of the Act. Certain amendments have been necessitated due to the judgment of the Supreme Court and other reasons, and an Ordinance has been promulgated. An Act for the purpose to replacing it will be introduced in this Session of the Assembly.

The Kerala Panchayat Act and the Kerala Municipalities Act have come into force and arrangements for the conduct of the Panchayats and Municipal Elections are well under way and my Government hope to complete the elections and instal the new local bodies before the end of May, 1962.

My Government have welcomed the proposals of the Government of India for the execution of works, programmes for the utilisation of rural man power. Steps have been taken to organise at least 15 Pilot Projects costing rupees 2 lakhs each under the Planning Commission's Schemes for Pilot Projects for rural man power utilisation.

Government are experiencing difficulties in the expansion of medical facilities to the people in the State due to the dearth of qualified doctors and other trained personnel for manning even the existing hospitals and dispensaries. With a view to overcome this a third medical college is being established at Kottayam. The first batch of students has already been admitted. Adequate attention has also been given to the question of family planning in the State and 50 family planning centres were opened in 1961-62. 50 Maternity and Child Welfare Centres have been started and 40 more are programmed for 1962-63. Seven Ayurveda dispensaries, one Homoeo dispensary, seven new Allopathic dispensaries, 15 Primary Health Centres and 4 T. B. Clinics were opened during this financial year. Two more Ayurvedic dispensaries and 3 more Homoeo dispensaries will be opened during this financial year itself. The two new hospital buildings at Manjeri and Badagara have also been completed and opened.

My Government fully appreciate the importance of protected water supply and have undertaken many urban and rural water supply schemes. Trichur, Kottayam and Palghat water supply schemes have been commissioned and works relating to Quilon and Ernakulam-Mattancherry Water Supply Schemes are in good progress. Taking into consideration the increasing demands of the growing Trivandrum City a comprehensive scheme for the city costing rupees 332 lakhs has been prepared. The first part of the scheme costing a crore of rupees has been sanctioned and is being implemented.

The services of the Employment Exchange are being extended throughout the entire State. A significant measure to be introduced this year is the establishment of two special employment exchanges, one to cater to the needs of physically handicapped employment seekers and the other to attend exclusively to employment problems of ex-service personnel.

Most of the housing schemes of my Government have been successfully implemented. I may make a special mention of the Low Income Group Housing Scheme in which both the financial and physical targets have been achieved.

The old age pension scheme initiated by Government in November 1960 is being implemented successfully. So far pension has been sanctioned to about 4500 persons.

In the Public Works Department, 17 major bridges have been opened and a major highway, Peermade-Palai has been inaugurated. All tolls were abolished throughout the State. The Plan provision for roads and bridges alone for 1962-63 is Rs. 150 lakhs. During the Third Plan period the largest of Development works undertaken is the construction of a lighterage port at Neendakara at an estimated cost of Rs. 111 lakhs. This is a scheme fully financed by the Government of India. Work is in progress for the completion and improvement of the West Coast Canal System stretching from Hosdurg in the north to Trivandrum in the south. Under the major irrigation works, the Malampuzha, Walayar, Mangalam, Vazhani and Peechi have been commissioned. The spill over schemes such as Chalakudy, Cheerakuzhi, Periyar Valley, Gayathri, Neyyar II and Pothundy are in full swing. The first stage of Gayathri, namely Meenkara has been completed and commissioned. The work of the second stage namely Chulliar dam has been started. The execution of the new major irrigation projects such as Kallada, Pamba, Kuttiadi, Kanjirampuzha, Chitturpuzha and Valapattanam have been included in the Third Five Year Plan. The preliminary works in the Kallada and Pamba have been started and the others will be taken up for execution soon.

For the Third Five Year Plan, the outlay envisaged on power development is Rs. 43.56 crores. The physical programme includes mainly the implementation of the Panniar, Sholayar and Shabarigiri projects carried over from the Second Five Year Plan and taking up of 2 new schemes Kuttiadi Project and Idikki Project. The Neriamangalam Power Station has already been installed. Forty-eight rural centres have been electrified during the year, and the target for consumer's connections has been exceeded. Works on Sholayar, Panniar and Shabarigiri projects are in good progress. Preliminary works on the Idukki and Kuttiadi projects have been commenced. The outlay estimated in the Annual Plan for 1962-63 for power schemes is Rs. 770 lakhs.

With a view to securing more efficient administration of the Education Department, the department was reorganised by dividing the State into three zones, each in charge of a Regional Deputy Director. Decentralisation of powers has also been given effect to.

The successful implementation of the midday meal scheme is a significant achievement of my Government. My Government have incurred an expenditure of about a crore of rupees on that account during 1961-62. Under an agreement with CARE, that organisation is supplying to our State as gift, milk powder, corn meal and vegetable oil. CARE programme will continue for the next year also.

My Government propose to continue with greater enthusiasm, the good work they have done in the field of education. The Regional Engineering College at Calicut and a Sainik School at Trivandrum have been opened. Ten Model Nursery Schools have been started in 1961-62. Two more Nursery training schools with attached nurseries and nine more nursery schools will be opened next year. Yogic system of physical education will be introduced in selected schools. My Government have accepted the principle of the abolition of shift system in primary classes. As a first step, shift system in Standard IV has been ordered to be abolished. My Government are considering a proposal for the establishment of a model institution for the handicapped at a total cost of Rs. 3 lakhs. Next year five more Junior Technical Schools are proposed to be opened. Among the important schemes proposed under Technical education for 1962-63 are the establishment of a Women's Polytechnic at Trichur, the starting of the Chemical Engineering Degree Course in the Engineering College at Trichur and the starting of an institute for Chemical operators at Kalamassery. My Government also propose to reorganise and constitute the Kerala Kalamandalam into an Academy of Fine Arts. A Lalithakala Academy will also be constituted.

It is an undisputed fact that this beautiful State has great potentialities to attract tourists. To develop these potentialities into concrete attractions and to organise the tourists industry on sound and efficient lines, my Government are considering a proposal to constitute an autonomous Tourist Development Corporation. It is the intention of my Government to celebrate Onam in the coming years also with greater enthusiasm as an occasion for attracting tourists.

Following persistent demand from the business community and the public, a High Level Sales Tax Committee was constituted by my Government to enquire into and report on the administration and working of the Sales Tax Law in the State. The Committee after detailed enquiries into the matter submitted a Report and a Draft Bill. After examining the recommendations of the Committee, a new Bill has been prepared and it will be introduced in this Assembly shortly.

As in the previous years the problems of the Harijans will receive their due share of attention by my Government. A Tribal Development Block will be opened in Attapadi area next year. A special scheme for grant of interest free loans to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes for starting small industries, trade or profession is under the consideration of my Government.

The Police Department underwent a steady expansion during the last year. The railway police unit was reorganised and established as an effective force for service to the public. The establishment of a Forensic Science Laboratory, on a phased programme, spread over four years has been sanctioned. The police housing programme has also made good progress.

The preliminary work in connection with the open prison schemes in the Nettukaltheri Reserve in Trivandrum District has been started.

My Government have been pursuing a vigorous policy, for eradicating corruption from the services. The machinery for administrative vigilance has been improved. Vigilance officers have been nominated in 19 major departments and the Heads of Departments have been made fully responsible for combating corruption and malpractices in their departments.

Generally speaking as far as law and order was concerned this year was one of calm, which ensured the smooth functioning of my Government, in their manifold activities. The situation created by the agitation by the Kerala Karshaka Sangham was met by the police with commendable restraint and a high sense of duty.

During the months of June and July unprecedented floods, landslips and sea erosion caused extensive damage to life and property in various parts of the State. It was indeed gratifying to see that my Government and officers rose to the occasion. I am glad to mention that Non-official Co-operation was also available in adequate measure. Immediate arrangements were made, relief centres were started, medical facilities were made available, financial assistance was given for reconstruction of houses and loans were given to those cultivators whose crops were destroyed. The floods and consequent devastation to life and property have also brought into focus the urgent necessity for the formulation of a flood control plan for the State. Details of flood control measures are under the consideration of my Government. Last year thirty-four Bills were introduced in this Assembly. Twenty-nine of these Bills, as also twelve Bills pending from the previous year were passed into law. Besides the pending Bills, the following are some of the important Bills that have to be dealt with by you, during this year.

1. The Kerala Ryotwari Tenants Protection Bill, 1962, (Bill to replace Ordinance 1 of 1962).
2. The Kerala Agrarian Relations (Amendment) Bill, 1962, (Bill to replace Ordinance 2 of 1962).
3. The Kerala Local Authorities Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1962, (Bill to replace Ordinance 3 of 1962)
4. The Kerala Enquiries and Summonses (Amendment) Bill, 1962.
5. The Kerala General Sales Tax Bill, 1962.
6. The Kerala Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill.
7. The Kerala University (Validation) Bill.

I have come to the end of my address. I have very briefly outlined some of the major achievements of my Government. They show one thing, that my Government are fulfilling the pledge that has been given to the people of this State. The success that we have had, is the result of hard and sincere efforts on the part of my Government and the unstinted co-operation which you have rendered. I am sure that the same unity of purpose and persistency in action, which characterised the year which has gone by, will continue in coming years and our State will progress unimpeded in the path of planned prosperity.