

FEBRUARY 13, 1976

ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മിസ്ട്രർ സ്പീക്കർ, നിയമസഭാംഗങ്ങളേ,

നിയമസഭയുടെ ഈ സമ്മേളനത്തിലേക്ക് നിങ്ങളെയെല്ലാം ഞാൻ സ്വാഗതം ചെയ്തുകൊള്ളുന്നു. ശ്രീ. ടി.കെ.ദിവാകരൻ്റെ അഭാവം നിമിത്തമുള്ള ഹൃദയഭാരത്തോടുകൂടിയാണ് ഞാൻ അങ്ങനെ ചെയ്യുന്നത്. അദ്ദേഹം എൻ്റെ മന്ത്രിസഭയിലെ ഒരു പ്രമുഖാംഗവും, സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യസമരയോദ്ധാവു, തൊഴിലാളി നേതാവും, കഴിവുറ്റ ഭരണതന്ത്രജ്ഞനുമായിരുന്നു. നിങ്ങളെവർക്കുംവേണ്ടി അദ്ദേഹത്തിൻ്റെ സന്തപ്തകുടുംബാംഗങ്ങളെ ഞാൻ എൻ്റെ ആത്മാർത്ഥമായ അനുശോചനം അറിയിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ മന്ത്രിസഭയും നിയമസഭയും 1975 ഒക്ടോബർ മാസം 5-ാം തീയതി തുടർച്ചയായ അഞ്ചു കൊല്ലം പൂർത്തിയാക്കിയെന്നത് സംസ്ഥാനചരിത്രത്തിലെ സുപ്രധാനമായ ഒരു നാഴികക്കല്ലാണ്. 1956 നവംബർ 1-ാം തീയതി കേരള സംസ്ഥാനം ഉടലെടുത്തശേഷം സംസ്ഥാനത്തിൽ ഇന്നോളം ഉണ്ടായിട്ടില്ലാത്ത ഒരു സംഭവമാണിത്. സന്തോഷകരമായ ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ ഞാൻ നിങ്ങളെയെല്ലാം അനുമോദിക്കുന്നു. ഭരണ കാര്യത്തിൽ സ്ഥിരതയും സംസ്ഥാനത്തിലെ എല്ലാ പ്രവർത്തനരംഗങ്ങളിലും പുരോഗതിയും രേഖപ്പെടുത്തിയ ഒരു കാലഘട്ടത്തെ ഇതു കുറിക്കുന്നു.

1975 ഡിസംബറിൽ കേരളാ കോൺഗ്രസ് പാർട്ടിയിൽപ്പെട്ട രണ്ടു പുതിയ മന്ത്രിമാർ മന്ത്രിസഭയിൽ ചേർന്നതോടുകൂടി മന്ത്രിസഭയ്ക്ക് അതിൻ്റെ ജനകീയ അടിത്തറ കുറേക്കൂടി വ്യാപകമാക്കാൻ സാധിച്ചു. അങ്ങനെ കൂടുതൽ ശുഷ്കാന്തിയോടും സുശക്തമായ രീതിയിലും പൊതുജനോപകാരപ്രദങ്ങളായ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ തുടർന്നു നടത്താൻ മന്ത്രിസഭ ശക്തിയർജ്ജിച്ചു. ഫെബ്രുവരി 4-ാം തീയതി ശ്രീ. പങ്കജാക്ഷൻ എൻ്റെ മന്ത്രിസഭയിലെ രംഗമായി സത്യപ്രതിജ്ഞ ചെയ്യുകയുണ്ടായി.

During the year under review our country was faced with a grave threat to its independence and internal security. External forces joining hands with right reactionary forces inside the country tried to subvert its secular, democratic, parliamentary system and economic order under the new fangled slogan of de-stabilisation. But thanks to the bold, and timely action of our Prime Minister in striking a pre-emptive blow at these dark forces by the declaration of the state of Emergency and the follow up action taken, our country has been saved from danger for the present. We should not however be under the mistaken impression that the threat has been warded off for ever. It is still very much there and its roots lie deep in the economic difficulties and sufferings of the common people, which the right reactionary and extreme left forces are utilising to create discontent among them. Unless these difficulties are removed, sufferings alleviated and a just and equitable social order created, the danger cannot be permanently warded off. It is a realisation of this truth that is reflected in the announcement of the Twenty Point Economic Programme closely following the promulgation of the Emergency. It is our duty to clearly grasp this essential truth and concentrate all our efforts in the implementation of the programme in letter and spirit. I call upon, not only you the Legislators, but the entire people of the State to co-operate with the Government in this supreme task of the hour.

I shall now briefly review what my Government has done during the course of the last seven months in this regard.

With the declaration of Emergency in June 1975, and the Twenty Point Economic Programme my Government has taken vigorous steps to make life in general more disciplined and peaceful. In fields and factories, in schools and colleges, in Government offices, in all walks of life a new sense of discipline and purposiveness has been created.

Administration has been so geared up, that it has facilitated the speedy implementation of a number of timebound welfare programmes in the State. Incompetent and corrupt officials have been compulsorily retired. The vigilance machinery has been strengthened and streamlined to help Government to pursue prompt action in this direction. In the wake of the National Emergency, this Government has taken action against more than sixty odd officials on bona fide charges of corrupt practices, dereliction of duty or official indifference. In order to increase the work output of administration the number of holidays have been reduced; punctual attendance, devotion to the work on hand during office hours, courteous behaviour to the public and quick despatch of business has been strictly enforced. In order to reivew the implementation of the Twenty Point Economic Programme announced by the Prime Minister, Implementation Committees at the State and district levels have been constituted.

The Annual Plan for 1976-77 was finalised recently at Rs. 111.50 crores. Topmost priority has been given in it to on-going irrigation and power projects and the implementation of the Twenty Point Economic Programme, especially Land Reforms measures. The above sectors account for about 63% of total allocations. During the current year the State Finances was subjected to severe strain on account of payment of eight instalments of Dearness Allowance to its employees as well as increased commitment by way of implementing the Twenty Point Economic Programme. We were able to meet the situation by collecting arrears of taxes and increased collection of existing taxes by plugging all loop-holes for evasion. In spite of all these, the resource position continues to be difficult and we will have to maintain utmost vigilance and strict economy, and further increase our resources.

The past year was characterized by a great improvement in the food situation and in the field of the supply and distribution of all essential commodities. With the strong measures taken by my Government for the effective implementation of the Twenty Point Economic Programme, the prices of almost all essential commodities especially food grains registered a steep fall since the end of June, 1975. At the same time the availability of these commodities increased and malpractices such as hoarding and black-marketing on the part of traders and other middlemen declined sharply.

Because of the improvement in the food situation the State Government was able to increase the scale of rice ration from 80 gms to 100 gms per adult per day from 30-11-1975 and again to 110 gms per adult per day from 1-2-1976. My Government has also permitted people to obtain wheat at the rate of 10 kg at a time from ration shops at controlled prices, irrespective of whether they have a ration card or not. These steps have gone along way towards holding the price line in check.

At the end of the year 1975, all the ration cards in the State numbering about 36 lakhs were renewed and fresh ration cards issued to those eligible to get ration cards. This has satisfied a long felt need of the people of Kerala.

Since the declaration of Emergency a total number of 362 cases were booked under the Essential Commodities Act and 36 cases under the Defence of India Rules. Further, 195 arrests were made under the Essential Commodities Act, 39 under the Defence of India Rules, and 34 under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act. All these were in connection with offences relating to Food and Civil Supplies alone.

The Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation brought about a salutary and stabilising influence and substantial reduction in the prices of essential commodities in the open market. The Corporation has entered the field of purchase of food grains, pulses and other essential items for distribution. Recently the Corporation started petrol bunk and distribution of Note Books to the student community. It has opened eight main depots in the District Headquarters and intends to open about 5,000 retail outlets by March 1976, by making use of existing agencies.

In the field of agriculture my Government is making big effort to implement the Twenty Point Economic Programme by increasing production. Rice production is expected to reach a level of 14.19 lakh tonnes at the end of 1975-76. The expected production level at the end of 1976-77 is 15.10 lakh tonnes.

In order to intensify rice production efforts, the departmental extension machinery has been commissioned to do concentrated work in the ayacuts of Kuttiyadi, Malampuzha, Pamba and Neyyar. During 1976-77, it is anticipated that additional crops will be raised over an extent of 14,400 hectares in the ayacuts of Kuttiyadi Chitturpuzha, Periyur, Valley and Pamba. A special scheme has been prepared for the development of high lands and problem areas for paddy production. By the completion of the Thanneermukkam barrier, the first step in making the entire Kuttanad a double cropped area has been taken.

The programme for Intensive Paddy Development Units continued to yield excellent results. In addition to the existing two hundred and eighty nine units, two hundred more units will be established by the end of 1976-77. As a result of the work done by these Intensive Paddy Development Units, per hectare productivity has been increased ranging upto eight thousand four hundred kilogrammes in private farmers' fields. During 1976-77, 1.5 lakh hectares will also be additionally brought under high yielding variety.

My Government has taken adequate safeguards for plant protection, since ravages by pests on crop can seriously lower food production. Last year the Pest and Disease Surveillance Organisation did systematic work in forecasting the pests and diseases situation from week to week, with the result that Kerala has been comparatively free from serious attacks of pests and diseases. During 1976-77, it is proposed to establish fifteen additional pest surveillance units. A flying squad for Plant Protection activities equipped with 200 sprayers has already been established and another squad with 200 power sprayers will be established in 1976-77.

Some of the important schemes under Agriculture to be taken up in 1976-77 will be the establishment of a Soil Testing Laboratory at Trichur, bringing in 22,500 hectares of paddy land under soil amelioration measures, improvement of irrigation facilities in drought prone areas with 25 per cent subsidy for farmers, and undertaking irrigation works and pulses cultivation in an additional area of 25,000 hectares.

Recognising the commercial importance of coconut cultivation my Government has made further efforts to develop the same. Coconut package units covering 93,500 hectares have been created to provide financial assistance for pumpsets, fertilizer application and intercrops. The Kerala State Coconut Development Corporation has already proposed some concrete price stabilisation measures for coconut prices. My Government has also impressed upon the Central Government the urgent need to set up a Coconut Board on the model of the Rubber Board.

To cater to the needs of small farmers in the State, the term of the small Farmers Development Agencies, Quilon and Cannanore have been extended for another three years by the Government of India. Two new Small Farmers Development Agencies have also been established in Trivandrum and Trichur.

Under the Twenty Point Economic Programme, a proposal has already been taken up for the establishment of a separate ground water organisation to tap the ground water resources of the State in a big way.

During the year 1975-76, Co-operatives in the State continued to make significant progress in all directions, which was especially marked in the sphere of agricultural credit. The new economic programme formulated by the Government of India, resulted in significant activity particularly in the field of Consumer Co-operatives.

The conservation and protection of our forest resources is the avowed policy of my Government. The Kerala Forest Development Corporation Limited has prepared a Project Report for a massive programme for raising plantations like Eucalypts, Wattle, Tropical Pines, etc. My Government have also started a Forest Research Institute which will undertake forestry research on a broad basis.

The implementation of the Dairy Development Schemes at Idukki and Attappady taken up under the Western Ghats Development Programme are progressing. Another scheme for afforestation in land development and agricultural improvement in Idukki which is awaiting approval by the Centre will soon be implemented.

The first unit of the 3 x 130 MW Stage I of the Idukki Hydro Electric Project was inaugurated for commercial operation by the Prime Minister on 12-2-1976. The second unit will be brought to commercial operation by the end of March, 1976. Full utilisation of the benefits of the Idukki Hydro Electrical Project is planned from the next monsoon season onwards. Special emphasis had to be given in the last few years for completing the Idukki Project with the result that the provision for improving transmission and distribution facilities had been inadequate. Despite this, a special effort was made during the current year from September to clear the backlog of pending connections. About 63,000 new connections have already been given but new applications are piling up. During 1976-77, it is programmed to give special emphasis to the Idamalayar Hydro Electric Project which is the only long-term solution for salinity control in the Periyar river in the industrial belt near Alwaye.

Recognising the importance of completing all irrigation projects in the State, my Government proposes to spend Rs. 14 crores on irrigation projects this year as against an expenditure of Rs. 7.7 crores last year. A significant development among others during the current year has been that the Pamba Project, intended to utilise the tailrace waters on the Sabarigudi Hydro Electric Project has finally become ready to serve part of the area by the completion of all the works on the main canal. An additional avacut of 8600 hectares (net) is expected to be commissioned during 1976-77.

In the field of Communications, besides the completion of several bridges in the National High Way and State High Ways, the newly started Construction Corporation has been entrusted with the construction of the three important bridges in the Alleppey-Changanasseri Road and the two big bridges in the National High Way by-pass in Cochin. The sanctioning by the Central Government of National High Way 17 from Kuttipuram to Edappally along the West Coast in addition to the already existing National High Way 47, is a big achievement so far as our State is concerned. Survey for Kuttipuram-Guruvayoor Railway line has been completed and Project Report ready. Traffic survey for the Cochin-Alleppey line is nearing completion. I hope these will be sanctioned soon. The Ministry of Civil Aviation has agreed to the lengthening and strengthening of the run-way of the Cochin Aerodrome so as to take in 737 Boeing Aircraft.

My Government has launched a systematic programme for the development of industries in this State. Since the majority of large scale industries in Kerala are in the Public Sector, Government has to play a very active role in their working. The Travancore Cochin Chemicals Limited have completed its fourth stage expansion. The Transformers and Electricals are on their third stage expansion programme which will be completed in 1976-77. The United Electrical Industries Limited have diversified into production of Plastic Film Capacitor. They will soon be starting the production of Carbon Film Resistor. The Tracco Cable Company Limited have implemented the Telephone Cable Project and are preparing for a second Cable Manufacturing Unit at Thiruvalla. The Kerala State Industrial Enterprises have been taking very vigorous steps to resuscitate the subsidiary companies bringing in major diversification and expansion programmes. Financing of all these projects has been taken up in a big way with the National Financing Institutions.

As far as the new projects in the Public Sector are concerned significant progress has been made by the Kerala State Electronics Development Corporation, Steel Industries Kerala Limited and the Kerala Minerals and Metals Limited. In the Central Sector the Indian Telephone Industries has commissioned their project at Palghat of the Electronic Switching Factory. The Cochin Ship Building Yard has already reached the production stage. The keel for their first ship, 75,000 tonnes bulk carrier for the Shipping Corporation of India, was laid two days ago by the Prime Minister of India. The News Print Project of the Hindustan Paper Corporation is making good progress.

My Government believes that the major contribution to the development of the economy of Kerala has to be from the small scale sector. The Department of Industries has therefore been streamlined to cope up with the development of the small scale sector. The programme envisages setting up of 10,000 new small scale units and reviving 2,500 sick units in the State during the 4 years of the Fifth Plan. The programme will involve an investment of Rs. 100 crores and 80 per cent of the finance required for the programme will have to be mobilised from commercial banks and other financing institutions. The current years target is to establish 110 mini Industrial Estates in as many Panchayats consisting of 1100 small units in all. Of these 110 units have been completed. Further 22 new estates are in the process of construction and will be completed shortly. The Governmental institution for building up the infrastructure has been strengthened by the formation of a new Corporation, the Kerala State Industries Development and Employment Promotion Corporation.

The traditional industries of Kerala, viz. Coir, Cashew and Handloom are among the major foreign exchange earning industries in the country and the major labour intensive sectors providing employment to large numbers of people in the State. My Government have therefore devoted special attention to this sector. Re-structuring of the coir industry has started as a phased programme. But the entire programme would require an outlay of Rs. 41.72 crores, which is pending sanction of the Government of India.

The handloom industry in the State has been given a new direction with the starting of the Weavers Service Centre in Trivandrum by the Kerala State Handloom Weavers Apex Cooperative Society and at Cannanore by the Government of India. Other sectors like Handicrafts, Khadi and Village Industries Lapidary, Bamboo mat and Beedi industries are being reorganised on cooperative lines so as to maintain employment and boost up exports wherever possible.

Fisheries are another important industry in our State, and the long coastline of Kerala is being developed in this direction. An ambitious project report for the Integrated Fisheries Development Projects at Vizhinjam, Neendakara and Beypore with assistance from the World Bank has been prepared and its approval will definitely give a fillip to the fisheries development activities in the State. The mechanisation of fishing boats by the Fisheries Department made much headway and the Department already has 1200 boats. The Kerala Fisheries Corporation has been reorganised on commercial lines and has entered deep-sea fishing activity with two Mexican trawlers already acquired. In spite of all these the lot of the poor fishermen leaves much to be desired. My

Government is therefore examining the question of setting up an organisation through which loan on easy terms can be provided to fishermen to acquire boats, net, etc., and to market their catch to the best advantage. The programme of providing houses to the fishermen is making good progress. 1557 houses have already been handed over to them. Another 1000 houses have been completed and a further 1000 are under various stages of construction. There is also a proposal for building 5000 houses by the State Housing Board for fishermen. The development of Ports is also being carried on and Azhikode (Cranganore) has been declared as a minor Port. The Kerala Shipping Corporation is expected to take delivery of its first ship in the third week of February, 1976.

Consequent on the announcement of the Twenty Point Economic Programme with Land Reforms as a major component my Government took the following policy decisions fixing specific targets to be achieved within a period of one year;

- (i) All the kudikidappu cases to be disposed of within a period of six months;
- (ii) All the tenancy cases to be disposed of within a period of one year;
- (iii) All the ceiling returns to be disposed of and the take over and distribution of excess lands completed within a period of one year.

Necessary additional staff was provided, targets and work-load fixed at each stage of operation and procedures simplified. As a result of the stepped-up pace of operations the rate of monthly disposals by the Land Tribunals has gone up from around 23,000 per month to over 92,000 per month, while during the same period the rate of disposal of cases per month per Tribunal has increased from 161 to 368. The improved level of performance assures the realisation of targets within the stipulated period of one year. Conferment of proprietary rights on cultivating tenants upto the end of December 1975 has been finalised in 997,871 cases and conferment of purchase rights on kudikidappukars in 851,566 cases. 38,354 acres of land have been declared surplus of which 22,189 acres have been taken over. This will be distributed immediately. There will be in addition to over 3.4 lakhs acres of land already distributed under the Land Assignment Schemes which have so far benefited over 3.52 lakhs of landless families of which 67,002 are those of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. These measures will not only hasten agrarian development but also restructure the rural economy in favour of the vulnerable sections of the community.

Another big stride in the socio-economic reorganisation of our State has been taken by the starting of three joint farming co-operative societies of landless agricultural labourers in 1,600 acres of Kuttanad Kayal Land, which have been declared as surplus land. The harvesting of the first crop raised by these joint farming societies, which was inaugurated on 18th January 1975 was celebrated as a festival of rejoicing by the agricultural labourers of Kuttanad. The formation of these joint farming societies shows the way forward for landless agricultural labourers and small farmers with very small holdings to increase their income and yield by adoption of the latest scientific advances in methods of cultivation. In fact this is a pointer to the entire State, so far as the future of our agriculture is concerned.

In consonance with the Twenty Point Economic Programme, my Government have enacted with effect from 14-10-1975 the Kerala Debtors (Temporary Relief) Act, 1975 (Act 30 of 1975) to give temporary relief to the indebted artisans, landless labourers and kudikidappukars. The Act provides for a moratorium for a period of one year from the commencement of the Act on the defined categories of debt incurred by the above-said categories of persons. My Government also intend to bring in legislation before the expiry of the period of moratorium for writing off the debts upto a certain limit of the poorest sections of these debtors and to scale down the debts of others and provide for easy instalments to clear the debts so scaled down. Simultaneously steps are being taken to provide alternative sources of credit so that these people will not again fall into the hands of unscrupulous money lenders.

The task of improving the economic and social conditions of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is being taken up with increased vigour. A new department has been created by Government exclusively to look after matters connected with Scheduled Tribes. Besides the provision of education and economic facilities to tribals, other infrastructural facilities like irrigation, electricity, forest based industry, credit facilities, etc., will also be provided to them.

Under the Twenty Point Economic Programme it is proposed to construct 2,000 houses for Scheduled castes and 1,000 houses for Scheduled Tribes. 242 houses for Scheduled Castes and 120 houses for Scheduled Tribes have already been taken up, which will be continued in the next year also. Of the 42,000 houses completed

under the One Lakh Housing Scheme 50 per cent have been given to Harijan families. A proposal is being examined for providing loans on easy terms to kudikidappukars for building houses of their own in the sites over which they have now gained complete ownership. The Kerala State Development Corporation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes continues its various programmes for the uplift of these weaker sections. Under the scheme of special recruitment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes 100 Gazetted posts and 2,726 non-Gazetted posts have been filled up by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes so far. An important event in the task of upliftment of these weaker sections of society was the enactment of two legislations, namely (i) The Kerala Scheduled Tribes (Restriction of transfer of land and Restriction of alienated lands) Act, 1975 and (ii) The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1975.

Under the Twenty Point Economic Programme, a new era has been ushered in on the labour front. The abolition of Bonded Labour, fixation and revision of Minimum Wages for Agricultural Labour, Apprenticeship Programmes, participation of labour in management are some of the highlights of this programme, which are being implemented in this State.

Under the apprenticeship scheme my Government is actively taking steps to locate trades, give opportunities to the apprentices with preference to the weaker sections such as the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and physically handicapped. As a result of the special drive, the number of apprentices undergoing training has increased from 1,397 in June 1975 to 3,690 in December, 1975.

A comprehensive legislation known as The Kerala Agricultural Workers Act was brought into force from 1st October 1975. This Act regulates wage and working conditions, provides settlement machinery to sort out agricultural disputes, and affords social security benefits such as Provident Fund to them.

In the wake of Emergency, the industrial relations system has also undergone a sea change. A tripartite State Apex Body headed by the State Labour Minister has been set up, to consider the general problems arising from the Emergency and to lay down broad guidelines of action for labour and management. A Watch Dog Committee consisting of the Labour Minister and the Industries Minister with the concerned officials assisting has also been set up, to deal with specific cases of lay-off and retrenchments and other related matters.

The Equal Remuneration Ordinance promulgated in September 1975, which is a significant legislative achievement during the International Women's Year has done away with the disparities existing between the wages of men and women in certain occupations. The Employees State Insurance Act which has been extended to most of the areas where concentration of industrial workers is large, now covers over 2.58 lakhs of families.

The drive towards modernisation of the Police forces by equipping them with vehicles, scientific and wireless equipments gained further momentum during this year with the assistance received from the Government of India. My Government have also implemented some of the recommendations of the All India Committee on Police Training such as, period and syllabus of recruit training, introduction of refresher courses for Sub Inspectors, etc. The S.S.L.C. Standard is proposed to be fixed as the minimum educational qualification for recruitment of constables. Following the Emergency, crime has declined and there is an all round improvement in discipline and order. The drive against banned organisations, black marketers, smugglers, foreign exchange racketeers, left extremists and anti-social elements was very effective.

In the field of education my Government has made important strides. Government have decided to sanction a number of schools in the private sector, to be started from the next academic year along with Government Schools. I hope this will allay the fears some religious minorities entertained about Government policy in the matter. Six new Junior Colleges have been started. The Twenty Point Economic Programme envisages among other things the supply of Text Books to the student community at reasonable rates. There were already 6,700 College and School Co-operative Stores even before the introduction of the above programme and after its introduction 244 School Co-operative Stores have been newly organised for supplying books and stationery goods to students. Steps have also been taken to establish book banks in schools and colleges for the supply of text books to the students of the weaker sections like Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. College Hostels are being supplied with essential commodities by the State Food and Civil Supplies Department so as to give food at reasonable prices to Hostel Students.

My Government has made significant progress in providing health care to the people of the State. The total number of medical institutions has risen to 880 now with roughly 25,000 beds. Barring Idukki, all other districts now have District Hospitals. Within the financial constraints operating, permanent buildings are being constructed for Primary Health Centres under the Minimum Needs Programme. Five Co-operative Hospitals and 60 Co-operative Dispensaries inspired and subsidised by Government are now functioning, which have extended medical relief to rural areas and provided job opportunities to medical and paramedical staff. The Special Employment Programme launched by the Health Department has relieved unemployment of Doctors and other para-medical personnel to a great extent. The Kerala Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited started in the public sector is now manufacturing about 56 essential items of drugs for supply to Government medical institutions at cheaper rates, which is a novel attempt in the field of supply of medicines. The Shri Chitra Thirunal Medical Centre, which is modelled on the All India Institute, for treatment in the specialities of Neurology and Cardiology and for advanced research in the specialities will start functioning shortly.

In order to give a fillip to the Family Planning Programme it is proposed to revive the Programme of mass sterilisation camps in the forthcoming year.

The above in short are some of the achievements of the last year and the perspective for the coming year. The sustained and vigorous endeavour continued through the last five years for bringing about a radical reorganisation of our socio-economic structure has met with considerable success. The down-trodden sections of society like Harijans, tribals, fishermen, landless agricultural labourers and working peasants including tenants and smallowner-cultivators have gained a new confidence in their strength and their ability to reshape the social order according to their aspirations. This has strengthened the basis of democracy in Our State.

Before concluding my speech I wish to make a sincere appeal to those Opposition Parties who have chosen to oppose the Declaration of Emergency and non-co-operate with the Government without realising the grave danger that our country is facing and the real threat to all our cherished values and legacies. It is never too late to realise their mistake. Seeing the beneficial results that have accrued to the Nation through the imposition of discipline all round and dedicated hard work, I hope they will revise their attitude and join with others in the challenging task of building up our country and its economy based on a just and egalitarian social order. If the national discipline engendered by the Emergency can be metamorphosed into a national habit by all round voluntary co-operation our people and our country will have gained much.

The Legislative programme before you is pretty heavy. Besides replacement of several Ordinances I have promulgated, you have also other important legislative business on the Agenda.

I wish you all success in your work.

JAI HIND