

**FEBRUARY 15, 1980**

ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മിസ്റ്റർ സ്പീക്കർ, ബഹുമാന്യരായ നിയമസഭാംഗങ്ങളേ,

മഹനീയമായ ഈ നിയമസഭയിലെ നവാഗതരേയും വീണ്ടും തിരഞ്ഞെടുക്കപ്പെട്ട പൂർവ്വാംഗങ്ങളേയും സ്വാഗതം ചെയ്യുവാൻ എനിക്ക് അതിയായ സന്തോഷമുണ്ട്. നിങ്ങൾക്കെല്ലാം നന്മ നേരുകയും, നിയമനിർമ്മാതാക്കളും ജനപ്രതിനിധികളുമെന്ന നിലയിൽ നിങ്ങൾ നടത്തുന്ന പരിശ്രമങ്ങൾക്ക് ഞാൻ സർവ്വ വിജയങ്ങളും ആശംസിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തുകൊള്ളട്ടെ. നമ്മുടെ സംസ്ഥാനത്തിന്റെയും, നിങ്ങൾ പ്രതിനിധാനം ചെയ്യുന്ന ജനങ്ങളുടേയും ക്ഷേമത്തിനായി നിങ്ങളേവരും നിങ്ങളുടെ പരമാവധി കഴിവുകൾ വിനിയോഗിക്കുമെന്ന് എനിക്ക് ഉറപ്പുണ്ട്.

The election that has brought you here has been of great significance to our State. It took place under circumstances which have led to a realignment of political forces not only in this State but throughout the country. Those who were sitting on the two sides of the House have changed places. This, in another form, took place in the Union Parliament as well.

The election results for the State Legislature have demonstrated that the people were eager to have a realignment of political forces. As such, I wish to emphasise that my Government will do everything possible to preserve, extend and consolidate the unity of left and democratic forces so that my Government will be able to undertake programmes capable of rendering maximum relief to the people. I hope that every attempt will be made by all concerned to preserve and strengthen democracy in the country.

The political complexion of this House and of its leaders sitting on the Treasury Benches is different from that at the Centre. It is also different from several State Legislatures, many of which in their turn are different from that of the Union Parliament. The situation that has thus arisen reminds me of the significant observation made by the first President of the Indian Union, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, who on his visit to Kerala after the Communist Ministry took charge, said that the existence of Governments with different political complexions at the Centre and in Kerala proved that the concept of peaceful co-existence is applicable not only to international relations but also to relations between the Centre and the State in India.

Much has happened since then in Indian politics. Governments of different political complexions succeeded one after another in this State and in several other States and now at the Centre as well. Every political party, which happens to be ruling in any State or at the Centre, should realise the changes that have taken place in India's political firmament and learn to live together.

This leads on to the question of Centre-State relations. Every patriotic Indian desires to see a growing strong India. None of us can be a party to any move on the part of anybody to weaken the unity of India. However, experience has shown that preservation of the unity and the integrity of India requires a realistic appreciation of the variety and multiplicity of the socio-cultural and national peculiarities of the peoples inhabiting the various parts of our country.

Committed as my Government is to the preservation and strengthening of India's unity, it holds that the very cause of Indian unity requires the strict observance of the Federal principle. My Government considers that what is required is greater decentralisation of powers and financial resources from the Centre to the States.

Together with the decentralisation from the Centre to the States, there should be decentralisation within the States. Most of the Panchayats, Municipalities and all the Corporations in the State were elected last year. My Government proposes to take effective steps to have early elections to the District Councils as contemplated in the legislation enacted by the last Assembly. My Government will also undertake an early examination of the question of delegation of powers from the State to the District Councils, Corporations, Municipalities and Panchayats.

With the coming into being of District Councils, my Government would be able to achieve the cherished objective of decentralising administration. The District Councils would then be in charge of district level administration including developmental planning and implementation. My Government hope that with a view to setting right regional imbalances, appropriate norms could be evolved soon to ensure distribution of plan funds equitably amongst the districts.

Although official level discussions have taken place with regard to the Annual Plan proposals of our State for 1980-81 it appears that in the changed circumstances it may take some more time for the Planning Commission to hold final discussions on the Annual Plan with the States. We are thus handicapped and my Government would have to present the Annual Plan for next year on the basis of its own priorities and needs. My Government trusts that the Central Government would show its utmost consideration in appreciating our problems and extending its assistance in order to implement an annual plan of adequate size for next year.

My Government has felt the need for re-structuring the planning machinery in the State and for this purpose would reconstitute the State Planning Board as a high level technical body which would examine in depth the strategies, policies and programmes so far adopted in developmental planning in the different sectors in the State, prepare at the earliest a long term perspective plan for development and suggest appropriate approaches, strategies, policies and programmes that may be adopted to achieve economic growth with social justice. My Government are anxious that such a body should be in overall charge of developmental planning in the State and of monitoring the implementation of the Plan, while leaving the implementation of the developmental programmes to the Government departments.

The State of Kerala is well known for the variety of its agricultural produce. The Land Reforms measures initiated by the State Government in 1960 and carried forward by subsequent Governments, have achieved a fair measure of success in removing some of the institutional constraints which had inhibited agricultural growth. Ownership has been conferred on the actual tillers of the soil and the burden of unconscionable rents has been lifted from the peasantry. At the same time a large class of small holders has also emerged. The organisation and motivation of the small holders and the provision of adequate extension support and other needed inputs are two of the main unfinished tasks which remain before us.

Taking into consideration the factors mentioned above, a Comprehensive Agricultural Development Programme, with a view to maximising the income and employment potential in rural areas especially of the weaker sections, will be launched. To increase production, maximum effort and incentive will be given to farmers, especially small farmers.

My Government are keenly aware of the intense distress caused to coconut growers especially the small holders in the southern districts of the State on account of the root-wilt disease for which no remedy has been found so far in spite of many years of research. My Government will undertake a review of research already done in this field with a view to intensifying the efforts in this direction under the aegis of the Kerala Agricultural University and other interested agencies so that relief can be provided to the long suffering cultivators in the quickest possible time. It is proposed to undertake during the next year a Comprehensive Coconut Development Programme for assisting the farmers to remove the senile and unproductive palms to increase productivity by replanting, intercropping, irrigation etc.

As Kerala accounts for about 60% of the total production of coconuts in the country, we would continue to exert pressure on the Government of India to locate the Coconut Development Board in Kerala.

Government also consider that the toning up of the arrangements for marketing agricultural products is necessary for the small cultivators to get a better price for their produce and that the setting up of regulated markets would be a needed step in this direction.

One of the main reasons for not getting adequate price for the Agricultural produces of the State is the unrealistic import and export policy which only helps the monopolists. My Government will exert pressure on the Central Government to change the present policies in favour of the Agricultural Producers of this State.

The Potential for livestock development as an instrument for providing additional income and employment especially to agriculturists has not been adequately realised in our State. The Calf Subsidy Programme implemented in Trivandrum and Trichur Districts is proposed to be extended to more districts.

My Government are anxious to step up the flow of institutional finance for developmental activities in this State. With the active participation of the Co-operative Societies and Commercial Banks, the new District Credit Plans for the Districts will be implemented. In order to step up the Co-operative credit in the agricultural sector, especially to the small and marginal farmers and the weaker sections of the Society, steps will be taken to revitalise credit societies and simplify the existing procedure. Necessary legislations will be brought-forth for this purpose.

Under Co-operative Housing Sector the existing primary Co-operative Societies will be re-organised and more Societies organised during the year. Co-operative Housing Colonies will also be launched where industrial workers, Government Servants etc., are concentrated.

To uplift the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the Harijan and Girijan Co-operatives will be re-organised by providing services of departmental inspectors, and financial assistance for taking up useful and remunerative activities.

Massive Schemes for the amelioration of the Socio-economic conditions of the Fishermen Community are proposed to be launched. The six lakhs marine fishermen living in 248 Coastal Fishing Villages will be organised in to village level fisheries development and fishermen welfare societies. These Societies will be in-charge of credit, production, marketing, infrastructure, welfare and area development of the fisheries villages. All inputs, technical, financial and managerial, to the genuine fishermen, will be channelised through these village Societies and the fishermen will be released from the shackles of serfdom and exploitation of middlemen with distribution of low-interest institutional finance. Marketing will be organised through regulated markets of each village.

Government are proposing to start more Fish Landing Centres with a view to increase the fishing facilities.

A feature of the past few months has been the spiralling prices of articles of mass consumption. Stern action will be taken against black marketeers and hoarders. Recognising the need for a strong public distribution system, my Government intend to strengthen it.

The Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation has been the agency of the Government for the distribution of essential commodities. For increasing the activity, Government proposes to strengthen the Corporation.

In view of the low returns from paddy cultivation in this State, Government have been implementing an incentive scheme in the shape of purchase of limited quantity of paddy at a support price. My Government intend to continue this scheme and also the price support scheme for tapioca.

My Government will also consider the introduction of an effective permanent scheme for giving relief to Small farmers affected by natural calamities.

Acute un-employment and under-employment is widely prevalent in the State which is a serious problem. This has to be subjected to a multi-pronged attack if relief is to be given to the people.

The long-term solution for this problem is rapid industrialisation, for which the perspective outline in the second Five Year Plan for the country as a whole gives the general direction. This, however, has its limitations. Not only does it, even if it fully implemented, gives much-needed immediate relief, since most of such projects are capital intensive and thus absorb minimum labour. Moreover, the all-India economic situation (and even the world situation) is not favourable for the full implementation of this perspective.

We will therefore have to pay a good deal of attention to the starting of a network of medium and small scale industries. One difficulty here is that a number of existing small scale industries are, at the moment facing difficulties in procuring raw-materials as well as in marketing their products. My Government therefore proposes to set up the necessary mechanism for procuring raw-materials providing facilities for marketing and otherwise help the medium and small scale entrepreneurs.

The main problem of employment, however, is to find productive jobs for the large army-of the unemployed and the under-employed in the rural areas (both skilled as well as unskilled). At the same time every Panchayat area requires a large number of people to work in productive jobs such as digging wells for irrigation as well as drinking water, building village roads, widening and deepening inland canals for transport and communications, removal of silt in rivers and constructing buildings for the schools, hospitals, dispensaries etc.

The recently elected Panchayats and Municipalities, as well as the District Councils, to be elected, can play an effective role by utilising the unemployed labour force according to the requirements of the community in the above mentioned fields. My Government therefore will have consultations with the experts concerned in the technological and socio-economic fields to prepare a scheme on these lines which, I hope the Government will be in a position to present to the House along with the Budget.

Even with the introduction of the above programmes it may not be an easy proposition to give employment to all able-bodied persons in the present social set-up. To those who remain unemployed my Government would consider extending unemployment relief subject to the financial limitation of our State

Special Schemes will be continued to be implemented for Harijan entrepreneurs for starting industrial units. Special attention will be given for the rehabilitation of sick industrial units. The tempo of the development activities envisaged under the traditional industries like Coir, Handloom, Cashew, Handicrafts and Beedi will be further stepped up during the coming years.

In the traditional sector, the main objective of the development programmes is to bring more and more workers into the co-operative field. It is proposed to take effective measures to improve the employment potential of traditional industries and secure a fair minimum wage to the workers. Both the Handicraft Development Corporation and Handicraft Apex Co-operative Society have programmes for broad-basing the production of Handicrafts and for fully exploiting the export potential of different Handicraft products. A proposal to set-up an Artisan Development Corporation in the State for the promotion of the industrial enterprises of the Village Artisans is under consideration.

The important new projects under consideration are for the manufacture of precision measuring instruments, fibre glass, mineral water, veneer, ambicilin, kraft-paper and the establishment of a spices complex.

Encouragement will be given for women entrepreneurs for starting industries.

Most of the public sector industrial units are now running at a loss. It is proposed to re-organise them with a view to make them viable.

There are a few proposals for locating large scale industries in Kerala now pending clearance of the Central Government. The Aromatic complex, the Caprolactum Project, the expansion of the Cochin Shipyards and the establishment of a Railway Coach Factory at Palghat, etc., are some of the proposals which require early clearance. My Government trust that the Central Government would find it possible to sanction these projects early and thus help in the process of industrialising the State.

Due to the fall in shipping activities in the minor and intermediary ports of the State the regular port workers are facing unemployment. In order to give them employment and to activate the ports, it is proposed to examine the starting of a coastal shipping service with the important ports of India and Gulf countries.

It is also proposed to establish a Search and Rescue Organisation in the Ports Wing.

Kerala has been taking special efforts to extend the health programmes and services even to the remote rural areas.

Action will be taken to improve the service facilities available in all hospitals and dispensaries. Special efforts will be made to allot sufficient quantity of medicines to all the medical institutions. The High Power Committee appointed by the Government under the Chairmanship of Dr. K. N. Pai has submitted its report. Expeditious action will be taken to implement its recommendations.

The facilities in the Medical Colleges, Alleppey, Kottayam and Calicut will be improved and efforts will be made to raise Trivandrum Medical College to an Institute of national importance.

Government of India have already accepted the proposal for the setting up of a National Institute of Ayurveda. Action will be pursued for the immediate commencement of the Institute.

An agricultural farm is proposed to be started to rehabilitate the mentally handicapped.

My Government have finalised a proposal for taking up roads of Inter-State and economic importance utilising the State's share in the central road fund (allocation).

The Government have a programme for improving the standards of State Highways, District Road and Village Roads. The construction of a Coastal road parallel to the National Highway is contemplated. My Government will be taking suitable measures to run the existing Kerala Construction Corporation more profitably.

There is a proposal to construct a Hill Highway starting from the southernmost point of the State and passing through the Highranges to the northern boundary. The construction of this will open the inaccessible areas in the Highranges.

There is a programme for constructing quarters for Government employees at various places.

We have been investing limited budgetary resources for Rural Water Supply Schemes because of certain technical difficulties expressed by the L. I. C for lending money to Panchayats. To get over the difficulty the setting up of a Water and Sewerage Board is under the consideration of my Government. Our objective in regard to Rural Water Supply Scheme is to cover all the rural population giving priority to weaker sections of the community and problem villages with protected water supply as early as possible.

In the case of schemes already completed adequate and effective supply of water will be assured. Special emphasis will be given for improving the Water Supply Schemes in all urban areas.

There are a large number of problems facing the employers and the labourers. Many of these problems are of an All-India character—such as Bonus, Dearness Allowance etc. Some others, like the rectification of the cost of living index for labour are particularly relevant to the employer-employee relations in our State. It is absolutely necessary for the employers, the employees and the Government to have a correct approach to these problems, so that while improving the living and working conditions of the employees, the employer-employee relations are so regulated that there is minimum disturbance to industrial peace. My Government will therefore undertake a detailed survey of the situation, industry by industry and in consultation with the employers and employees, for taking suitable actions.

Special emphasis will be given for implementing the Agricultural Workers Act with full vigour. The Agricultural Workers Provident Fund Scheme introduced in Palghat District is proposed to be extended to other Districts.

The E.S.I. Scheme will be extended to more industries.

Efforts will be taken to realise the benefits of the ongoing major irrigation projects according to a time schedule. As part of this effort, four of the major projects, viz., Kallada, Muvattupuzha, Idamalayar and Kakkadavu are being posed for World Bank assistance. Investigation regarding Payaswini Irrigation Project and other potential projects will be continued.

Considering the necessity to continue the work of protecting coastal lines susceptible to sea-erosion, anti-sea-erosion works are proposed to be taken up next year for protecting more coastal areas. It is the view of my Government that the problem of sea-erosion should be treated as a national problem and the Central Government should meet this entire expenditure on anti-sea-erosion works as a grant programme.

A major scheme to relieve flood problems in Cochin city is proposed to be taken up in the next year's programme.

Two more new inland waterways are proposed to be taken up during the next financial year if the Project reports sent to Government of India for approval are got sanctioned. They are improvements to Cochin-Udyogamandal Canal and improvements to West Coast Canal from Cochin to Quilon section.

My Government is fully aware of the difficulties faced by the students to secure admission in the Schools and Colleges. Necessary steps to ease the situation will be taken. Another serious problem is lack of transport facilities. This is under the active consideration of my Government. Suitable steps will be taken in the matter.

My Government will consider opening new Schools in socially and economically backward areas.  
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While starting new schools preference will be given to the public sector. Due recognition will be given to the role played by the private sector in the field of education. Government will also take effective measures to eradicate the social evil of corruption prevalent in the education field, especially in the appointment of teachers and admission of students.

For solving the problems and difficulties in the field of education suitable steps will be evolved with the active participation of the students, parents and teachers.

It is proposed to form an organisation for the promotion of school buildings and common facility centres. Considering the urgent necessity of improving the conditions of the existing schools and the lack of adequate finance, availing of institutional finance for this purpose is under the consideration of my Government.

In the field of Higher Education, proposals are being considered by the Government for the upgradation of the Government Engineering College, Trivandrum, into a Higher Institute in the field of Engineering. Courses on Dock and Harbour Engineering and Coastal Engineering at the post-graduate level are proposed to be started this year at the College of Engineering, Trichur.

Government have asked the Commissioner for Educational Development and Research to make a study on the working of General Education system and allied matters in Kerala and on receipt of the report necessary corrective measures will be taken to make the system more beneficial and effective.

It is of utmost importance that we increase our power generating capacity. Otherwise we will have to face shortage of power in the immediate future. As far as our State is concerned generation of Hydro-Electric power is the most suitable proposition. So it will be the endeavour of my Government to complete all the on-going projects expeditiously and take-up new projects with the available finance. It shall be the policy of my Government to give more emphasis to the utilisation of power within our State itself. The aim of my Government is to give connections to all the pending applications within the course of an year. With this end in view the transmission and distribution system will be strengthened and expanded.

My Government will be implementing immediately a Master Plan for the three cities of Trivandrum, Cochin and Calicut for strengthening distribution system and stabilising supply.

The question of abolishing minimum guarantee is under the active consideration of my Government.

The Planning Commission has accorded approval for the Stage II of the Idukki Hydro-Electric Project. A proposal for Canadian assistance to finance the project awaits final clearance of the Central Government.

As Members are aware the SILENT VALLEY HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT had been earlier sanctioned by the Government of India and work on it had commenced. Subsequently due to changes in the designs the matter was submitted again to the Central Electricity Authority and the Central Government for fresh sanction. In the mean time a Task Force of the Centre had made certain recommendations suggesting the dropping of the project, and if that was not possible, the undertaking of certain safeguards. The previous legislature and State Governments considered the matter and decided to go ahead with the execution of the project after implementing the safeguards suggested. After detailed discussions and the enactment of the appropriate legislation by the previous legislature to ensure the safeguards in that area, the then Prime Minister cleared the project. Thereafter preliminary work was continued. Then a section of scientists in Kerala as well as from outside, however, made a strong case against the project. Another section of the scientists and experts supported a view that the balance of advantage lies in the implementation of the project with all the safeguards proposed by the experts concerned and the Union Government. It is pointed out that the alternative proposed, namely, a thermal plant is equally dangerous from the ecological point of view. It also raises a number of practical difficulties, since coal has to be transported from a long distance leading to repeated break-downs in the process of electricity generation inevitable. My Government consider that a balanced view has to be taken.

Since experts differ on the merits of the project, the Government will take into consideration the conflicting views expressed by the Scientists on this question and take a final decision immediately.

The scheme for granting subsidy to films shot in Kerala will be extended. At the same time it has to be ensured that the films keep a minimum standard. With this end in view the scheme is proposed to be suitably modified.

The Housing Scheme to the Journalists will be extended and expedited.

With a view to developing tourism in a big way, my Government propose to set up a Tourism Complex on the banks of the Vembanad Lake at Kumarakom.

Economy type hostels are proposed to be started at Trivandrum, Cannanore and other places for the benefit of middle class tourists.

It is also proposed to introduce conducted tours connecting important tourist centres in the State and Boat Cruises.

A contented Civil Service is essential for the efficient administration of the State. My Government are well aware of the many problems of the Government employees, Teachers etc., and are anxious to solve them. The view of the service organisations will be duly considered while taking decisions on solving the problems.

My Government will be taking necessary measures to revise the Service Rules on the basis of the recommendations made by the Rules Revision Committee headed by Sri Sankara Narayanan Thampi.

My Government propose to improve the administrative efficiency of the service by suitable delegation of powers and other administrative measures.

The proposal to constitute a service tribunal is under the active consideration of my Government. An early decision will be taken in the matter after considering the constitutional aspects.

The Law and Order situation in the State is comparatively peaceful. Elections were conducted to the Local Bodies, Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly without serious break-down in the law and order situation. This was mainly due to the self restraint shown by the people. Government also recognise the role played by Government servants, particularly police force in this connection.

My Government wish to give sympathetic consideration to the problems faced by the Police personnel in the discharge of their duties. It is proposed to provide residential accommodation to 80 per cent of Police Constables and Head Constables and 60 per cent to officers above their rank by the end of 1983-84. As a first step towards this direction Government have already sanctioned the formation of a Police Co-operative Housing Society for granting loans to Police personnel for constructing houses. It is also proposed to take up other questions affecting the working conditions of the Police personnel, the most important of which is to ensure that nobody will ordinarily have to work for more than eight hours a day and that, if at any time this time limit has to be exceeded, it should be properly compensated for. This would require additional personnel in the force, since with the present number it cannot be ensured. These and other problems of the working and living conditions of the officers and men will be taken up for detailed consideration and appropriate decisions taken in consultation with the Associations of Policemen and Police Officers.

This being the approach of the Government to the Officers and men of the Service, I trust that a new chapter will be opened in the relations between the police personnel and the Government on the one hand and the people and police on the other hand. I take this opportunity to appeal to all officers and men to see that no ground is provided for complaint that the Police in the State is an oppressive force. While no mercy should be shown to anti-social elements who should be brought to book, the law of the land should be strictly enforced even in the prosecution of anti-social elements. Nor should the Officers and men allow themselves to be used by the local vested interests against the common people or by one political group against its rivals. I also hope that the Opposition in the House as well as the political and other organisations outside will help my Government in carrying out an enlightened Police policy.

Necessary steps for the modernisation of the police force in the State will be taken. Government also intend to form the fourth Kerala Armed Battalion in the State during the next financial year. The police set-up will be reorganised to make it an effective machinery to deal firmly with anti-social elements and to ensure peaceful life to the people. Special attention will be given to ensure that the weaker sections of the public get justice.

My Government propose to establish a few more Civil and Criminal Courts in the State with a view to bringing down the pendency of cases.

Steps will be taken to improve the amenities provided to prisoners in the various prisons in the State. My Government also wish to provide necessary accommodation and other facilities to the Staff working in the various prisons.

Steps for eradicating corruption and misconduct on the part of Government Servants and Public Men will be taken.

Government propose to pass the Kerala Public Men (Investigation and Misconduct) Bill into law with suitable amendments to make the law effective.

Priority will be given for the expansion of public transport. Nationalisation of more routes with the ultimate aim of complete nationalisation is the policy of my Government. To solve the difficulties faced by the travelling public immediate steps will be taken. With more investment including resources from institutional finance and the active co-operation of the Workers, the working of the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation will be improved.

Government of India will be moved for the early construction of the Air-port at Calicut, the further Development of the Cochin Air-port, and the expansion of the Trivandrum Air-port.

My Government wish to eliminate gradually the private contract system in the Forest Department and to create a separate wing for logging and marketing. Government are also considering to take up export of timber through Government agencies.

Action is also under way by the Forest Development Corporation to register a subsidiary company under it for the establishment of a wood based industry complex using teak, rose-wood etc., from the reserve forests.

For the proper utilisation of the private forest lands taken over by the Government, my Government proposes to constitute a vested Forests Development Authority.

As regards Minor Irrigation it will be the policy of my Government to give priority for completing spill-over works to get the maximum benefit expeditiously.

At present there is no effective machinery for a judicious techno-economic survey of the long range potential for Minor Irrigation. The Government proposes to create an organisation for the above purpose.

The Government also have a proposal for the formation of a Minor Irrigation Corporation. The idea is to mobilise institutional finance to take up more works, particularly for providing irrigation facilities to cash crops and Plantation crops.

It is proposed to undertake an aggressive programme for tapping ground water resources.

At least one feeding centre per ward of all the Panchayats in this State will be made to function under the auspices of Mahilasamajams in all the Blocks for providing nutritious food to the pre-school children.

All the 10,000 feeding centres run by the Blocks will be gradually converted into Balwadis under Composite Programme for Women and Pre-school children.

My Government will be taking necessary measures for improving the working conditions of the teachers in the Balawadis run under the auspices of the Community Development Blocks.

Panchayats or Sports Associations/Youth Clubs who are willing to come forward with land for constructing play grounds will be assisted by the Blocks under Food-for-Work Special Scheme.

It shall be the policy of my Government to cover all destitutes by the Destitute Pension Schemes. An intensive drive is also being initiated to bring all orphan children under orphanages run by voluntary organisations.

As part of scheme of providing creches for the children of working women a start will be made by providing creches for the children of Coir Workers, Agricultural Workers, Cashew Workers and Government employees.

Re-organisation of a Wakf Board is contemplated to make it more effective. More facilities will be provided to Haj Pilgrims.

A new cosmopolitan hostel, more welfare hostels and more Balawadis-cum-feeding centres are proposed to be opened for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Government also propose to establish a technical institute to impart training to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in modern trades such as electronics, marine engineering, refrigeration and air-conditioning.

A Scheme is under consideration of Government to launch a training programme in collaboration with various departments to impart training in vocational trades for which qualified Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are not available with the Employment Exchange.

There is a programme to start mini shopping centre in all important cities and towns in the State to help enterprising Harijans to start business with financial assistance from Kerala State Development Corporation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Nationalised and Scheduled Banks.

During 1980-81 mini Industrial Estates will be started in major colonies at Thonnakkal, Nilamboor, Karikkattoor etc., to settle educated and unemployed Harijans.

It is proposed to give assistance to the tribal students who fail in the S.S.L.C. Examinations to continue there studies in reputed tutorials.

My Government propose to evolve suitable measures for the timely disbursement of educational concession to the students belonging to the weaker section of the Society.

For rehabilitating the 60 families released from the bonded labour it is proposed to start a collective fairs.

Drinking water facilities will be provided to the tribal people by sinking wells and taking up minor water supply schemes.

My Government would also ensure the provision of minimum facilities like water supply, road, communication and electricity in all the Harijan Colonies and settlements in the course of next three to four years.

The Kerala State Development Corporation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will be introducing certain new schemes such as loans for securing employment in foreign countries, construction of another 10,000 low cost subsidised houses, grant of loan to persons for roofing and tiling their existing houses, settlement of Harijans by providing land and other amenities, organising multi-purpose co-operative societies etc. The Corporation will also be taking up for implementation certain family oriented schemes in collaboration with the financial institutions for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

It is proposed to start a Development Corporation during the year for Christian Converts and Recommended Communities. A Project Report received from the Special Officer for the purpose is under the active consideration of the Government.

In order to help the agricultural workers and artisans who are without any house sites, my Government would implement the revised minimum needs programme of provision of house sites with vigour and complete the allotment to such landless workers within the course of four to five years.

Housing Scheme for the benefit of other weaker sections the community such as fishermen, Harijans etc., will engage the special attention of my Government.

Our State is high in the ladder as regards the density of population when compared to other States and naturally the pressure on land is on the high side. In fact the whole of Kerala can be said to be an extended city from one end to the other. This has caused the haphazard development of the Cities, Towns and other suburban areas and has created many problems for the further development. My Government will be evolving measure for the urban as well as rural development in a planned manner which is proposed to implemented in a phased manner.

My Government have a plan to open community halls, in all the Panchayats. For this, institutional finance will be availed of. Government also propose to introduce a scheme for starting Public Burial Places in all Panchayats.

To avoid the hardship caused to the public in getting documents registered in time the Government propose to arrange a detailed study of the working of the Registration Department with a view to prescribing work norms, and simplyfying procedures.

Among the revenue receipts, excise revenue has the second place. It is essential that illicit distillation and trade is completely eradicated. With this end in view, a scheme to strengthen the enforcement machinery of the Excise Department is under the consideration of my Government.

As regards Land Reforms, the Kudikidappu and tenancy applications and the ceiling cases have almost been disposed of. Special efforts will be made to dispose of all the remaining cases as well as taking over the surplus lands and distribution to landless poor peasantry and agricultural workers. Issue of pattas will be expedited in all cases. The hardship of small-holders of land who were adversely affected by Land Reforms measures will engage the special attention of my Government.

New Section 6C of the Kerala Land Reforms Act, 1963 inserted by the Kerala Land Reforms (Amendment) Act, 1979 which recognises certain tenancies created after 1-4-1964, will be repealed by necessary legislation.

While implementing the provisions of the Land Reforms Act special care will be taken to protect the interests of small holders particularly those belonging to the minority communities. This, however, will not be allowed to stand in the way of allotting the major portion of the surplus land to the landless, particularly those belonging to the Harijan and Adivasi communities.

Government propose to bring in legislations for the purpose of abolishing the remaining tenures of Viruthi, Karaima and Oodupully.

The scheme for providing houses to Kudikidappukars with Bank loan and by giving grant from the Kudikidappukars Benefit Fund is proposed to be extended to all Taluks. The Scheme for giving financial assistance to assignees of surplus land is also being modified by increasing the quantum of grant to the beneficiaries.

Though resurvey of the State has been taken up on a big scale, so far, the work of translation of resurvey records to revenue records has not been taken up. Government propose to prepare revenue records also side by side with resurvey and for this purpose would undertake necessary amendments to the Survey and Boundaries Act.

It will be the policy of my Government to pursue vigorously the introduction of Malayalam as official language at all levels, taking necessary steps to safeguard the interests of linguistic minorities.

The broad approach of my Government is that communal reservation for the present will continue not only for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (which is accepted by all sections as a necessity), but also to the Backward communities excluding those belonging to the higher strata of these communities. Adopting this broad approach, my Government will hold discussions with interested parties and come to a final decision on which sections of the community are entitled to get the benefit of reservation. However pending these discussions and final decision, the present position will continue. At the same time my Government will extend more financial assistance to the weaker sections belonging to forward communities.

My Government will take all steps to protect the rights guaranteed by the Constitution to the religious minorities. Special attention will be paid for the development of backward areas like Kasaragode, Idukki, Wynad, Attapady etc.

The country is passing through a very difficult economic situation, causing anxiety over the soaring prices of essential commodities and downward trend in the production in vital sectors. Unemployment is increasing. Inflation is rampant. This difficult national economic situation is creating serious problems to the economy of the State, some of which are beyond the capabilities of the State alone to tackle. It is most essential at such a critical time to make earnest efforts on the national plane to evolve effective new policies, envisaging basic structural changes in the economy. But I can assure the House that my Government will be making all possible efforts to grapple with these problems.

Before I conclude I would urge all sections of the Assembly to lay the controversies and conflicts of the past behind them and to approach the urgent problems confronting the State in a spirit of co-operation and harmony keeping in mind the welfare of the people.

I wish you all success in your efforts.

"JAI HIND".