

March 2, 1984

Honourable Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly.

I am very happy to welcome you all to the fifth session of the Seventh Kerala Legislative Assembly. This is the second consecutive occasion on which I have been privileged to address you. Let me convey my very best wishes to you all, and through you to the people of Kerala.

I shall presently be touching upon the implementation of the policies and programmes outlined in my last address to you and shall also enumerate at some length the welfare and administrative measures my Government propose to take up during the next financial year. I am indeed happy to say that most of the programmes outlined in my last address have been fulfilled to a substantial extent. The maintenance of law and order continues to be satisfactory. Industrial relations have been harmonious and the labour front is peaceful, making the industrial climate ideal for investment by prospective entrepreneurs. I am particularly happy to point out that the current academic year has been remarkably free from violence in the campus, which has been for some time an unfortunate feature in our State. I take this occasion to express my hearty appreciation of the excellent work that is being done by the police force in Kerala.

My Government have made earnest efforts to reduce the impact of the rising cost of living on the common man by strengthening the public distribution system and widening its scope. The retail outlets supplying essential commodities to the common people at reasonable prices have contributed significantly to neutralise at least partially the burden of the people resulting from the increase in cost of living.

My Government have made remarkable strides in the welfare schemes designed to promote the well-being of the less fortunate section of society like Harijans and Tribals. My Government have also achieved commendable success in the fulfilment of most of the items enumerated in our beloved Prime Minister's New 20 Point Programme. It is also a matter of satisfaction that the Government of India have agreed to a modest increase in the annual plan outlay of the State. We may recall here that the year that has passed has been one of unusual stresses and strains for the Government from the financial angle, largely on account of the crushing effects of the unprecedented bad drought. In spite of the heavy outlay that had to be deployed on drought relief measures, I am happy that the Government have been able to husband their resources to the maximum and manage them with optimum efficiency.

These achievements should not however lull us into a mood of complacency. As you are aware, certain forces have been at work whose activities threaten the unity and integrity of our nation. We have to fight and defeat these forces of disintegration and disruption at any cost. In this hour of national crisis we have to sink our differences based on religion, caste, language or politics, and make an all-out effort to strengthen our nation and safeguard its unity and integrity.

At the State level also I am distressed to note certain destabilising forces in action. I would like to make it clear beyond doubt that my Government will not tolerate any attempt to create mutual hatred and disharmony among our peace-loving people on communal, political or other considerations. My Government will put down with a firm hand all anti-social forces who are seeking to subserve their narrow self-interests by trying to incite the feelings of the public. As all of you know, political instability has been one of the most tragic features of this State and perhaps the one single factor that has hampered its progress in spite of its being endowed with very rich natural and human resources. If Kerala is to make strides of progress in all fields of economic activities—as I hope it certainly will—the primary requisite is a stable Government with unity and firmness of purpose. I would earnestly urge you all to bear this vital fact in mind and fully co-operate with the efforts of my Government to improve the social and economic well-being of the people, to promote industrialisation and to modernise the socio-economic base of the State through the application of science and technology.

My Government's policy of constructive co-operation with the Central Government has borne rich dividends to the people of Kerala. Despite apprehensions raised about the shifting of the Naval Academy from Ezhimala and the difficulties in meeting the cost of land acquisition etc., we have succeeded ultimately in establishing the Naval Academy at Ezhimala itself. It became possible largely due to this policy of ours, the genuine

desire of the Government of India in appreciating our difficulties and the wholehearted co-operation of the people of Kerala. We have acquired the land and we are in the process of transferring the same to the Naval Authorities. Ere long, the formal inauguration of the construction of the Naval Academy will take place and the establishment of India's Naval Academy in Kerala will become a reality. Members of the House will appreciate that this important institution in the northern part of the State will certainly help catalyse and accelerate further development of that area. It will also give immense opportunities to the people of Kerala who are maritime inclined to participate in the Nation's defence of the seas.

Similarly we have transferred certain extent of land in Traivandrum to the Air Force authorities for the purpose of locating units of the Air Force. We expect that this would enable the skilled and semi-skilled persons of Kerala to become more aware of the opportunities available in the Air Force at present and benefit therefrom.

You are aware that the expansion of the Naval Physical Oceanographic Laboratory at Cochin has been sanctioned and they have asked for further acquisition of land for this purpose. Similarly, expansion of the Indian Telephone Industries at Palghat at a cost of Rs. 34 crores has been sanctioned. As you know, the Vellore Newsprint Project, another Central Project was inaugurated on 2nd February 1984.

The Caprolactum Project at a cost of Rs. 148 crores which will help diversify product manufacture at F.A.C.T. and improve the working of that Company has been finally cleared and the work thereon will be inaugurated in the next few days. The expansion of Cochin Oil Refinery is nearing completion. My Government trust that as already announced in Parliament, the Government of India would sanction the Benzene Project of the Cochin Oil Refinery as part of the long term objective of establishing an Aromatics Projects in Kerala. You are aware that the Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation has been sanctioned a Nylon Project. The Phenol Project of the Hindustan Organic Chemicals at a cost of Rs. 75 crores is already under construction at Ambalamugal. The long cherished demand for establishing a Free Trade Zone at Cochin has been sanctioned and the Government of India are finalising its actual location at Cochin. The Integrated Project at Cochin Port has also been inaugurated. The long pending issues like the construction of link road, between Willingdon Island and Thripunithura Cochin Bye-pass and the construction of bridges across Cochin Bye-pass are getting solved.

We are still to get some of our long pending and legitimate demands fulfilled. We are yet to get sanction for more railway lines particularly the Guruvayoor-Kuttippuram and the Cochin-Bodinayakanur railway lines where survey work has already been completed. We have to get more roads, particularly the M.C. road declared as National Highways and the West-Coast Canal throughout the State declared as a National Waterway. Sanctions for the development of the Cochin Airport, the conversion of the existing Airport, Trivandrum as an international airport and the establishment of the Railway Coach Building Factory and the Wagon Repair Workshop in Kerala are yet to be given. We shall have to press for the establishment of more industries by the Central Government in Kerala. My Government would like to assure this august House that they are constantly pressing the Central Government for the fulfilment of these aspirations of our people and I firmly believe that this august House will extend unstinted and whole hearted co-operation to my Government in their endeavour.

My Government had put in vigorous and sustained efforts in overcoming a number of major challenges during the last two years. During 1982 and 1983 the State went through an unprecedented drought. This led to wide spread damages to the agricultural crops and loss of power generation and resultant huge revenue loss. My Government rose to the occasion and notwithstanding financial difficulties, launched programme like digging and deepening of open draw-wells, sinking of tube-wells, extension of water supply schemes and transportation and distribution of water through lorries and boats to the areas where acute shortage of drinking water was experienced, distribution of seed and fertilizer subsidy to the affected small and marginal farmers employment generation schemes like construction of roads, soil conservation and social forestry, deepening and desilting of minor irrigation works and opened special nutrition centres to feed children below 6 years of age, nursing mothers, old and the invalid. The challenge was boldly faced and permanent assets were created.

Honourable Members will appreciate during this period as many as 660 tube-wells were sunk in various parts of the State, 3020.38 kms. of pipe line was laid and 11,216 taps were provided. An amount of approximately Rs. 21 crores was spent on this score alone, providing potable water supply to a population of 40 lakhs.

in a short time. As against ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 46.56 crores approved by the Government of India despite the financial difficulties my Government spent Rs. 60.5 crores in launching drought relief operations to ensure that the people did not suffer.

My Government had always been pursuing a sympathetic approach towards the Government employees and their problems. Notwithstanding the difficult financial position, my Government appointed the Fourth Pay Commission last year and also recently granted interim relief to the Government employees.

Living upto the promise made to the people of Kerala and their determination to deal effectively with allegations of corruption against public men, my Government introduced the Kerala Public Men (Prevention of Corruption) Bill 1983. Steps have been taken to formulate the rules under the legislation and my Government will implement the Act at the earliest.

In the industrial sector, the current financial year has been eventful. We have commissioned the Malabar Cements Project at Walayar, the Three Wheeler Project of the Kerala Automobile Limited at Neyyattinkara, Vitamin A Project of the Kerala State Drugs and Pharmaceuticals, the Metalised Plastic Filament Project of Keltron at Thiruvalla and Printed Circuit Board Manufacturing Unit of Keltron at Kulathur, Trivandrum. My Government have set up the Kerala State Industrial Development Council to review the progress in the implementation of the new Industrial Policy and also the Kerala State Export Trade Development Council to review the progress in the matter of exports from our State and to assist the Government in framing suitable policies and programmes to step up exports.

For the purpose of toning up University administration and for improving the standards of higher education, my Government have set up a new University named after the Father of the Nation and further measures for consolidating the new University are underway.

As promised, my Government promulgated an Ordinance amending the Abkari Act which provides for deterrent punishments including death sentence in certain cases for adulteration of liquor or intoxicating drugs endangering human life or causing grievous hurt to human beings. The concerned Bill is pending before House for enactment.

On the whole, I am glad to say that my Government have been able to fulfil the commitments made to the people and realised in a large measure the goals set forth in my address to you last year.

Despite the difficult financial position faced by my Government when it assumed office in 1982, which got aggravated due to the unprecedented drought and the attendant problems along with loss of revenue, the State was able to secure higher plan outlays of Rs. 320 crores and Rs. 355 crores for the years 1983-84 and 1984-85 respectively. Hon'ble members will agree that this was possible thanks to the perseverance of my Government in effectively pressing the State's claims before the Central Government and the helpful attitude of the Government of India. The Central Government have approved of this order of plan outlay without taking note of our current difficulties and my Government are grateful to them for the understanding shown during this year.

As a step towards improving the planning process, my Government had set up High Level Committees to examine and recommend policy measures, taking into account the perspectives of development upto 2000 A.D. These Committees are expected to submit their reports shortly. The Planning Board has been reconstituted with a full-time Vice-Chairman. My Government expect the Planning Board to prepare the draft Seventh Plan taking note of the long-term perspectives of development and the need to ensure that the fruits of planned development reach the grass-root level.

The district plan approach, boldly introduced by my Government last year, has proved to be useful in decentralising implementation of the Plan Schemes for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes at the local level. My Government would extend the decentralisation of plan formulation and implementation of certain categories of schemes at the district level during the coming year.

My Government continue to attach paramount importance to the welfare of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and have declared 1984-85 as the year of "Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes". Special emphasis will, therefore, be laid on making all the settlements of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes habitable by providing water supply, electricity and sanitation facilities. The pace of development programmes for them will be accelerated with a view to achieving the Sixth Plan targets in full.

My Government also propose to initiate action to survey all tribal pockets in the State, plant survey stones on tribal land-holdings and prepare record of rights to be given to the tribals. My Government will take all necessary steps to ensure that the rights and benefits of the tribals are protected.

My Government have succeeded in raising the percentage of representation for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in Government services and Public Sector Undertakings and will take all possible steps to attain the prescribed percentage of representation in all categories. Specialised training programmes for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in technical and para-medical courses will be imparted with a view to enabling them to secure employment both within the country and abroad.

Implementation of the provisions of the Kerala Land Reforms Act particularly those relating to tenancy and Kudikidappukars has been given top priority during this year. Of the 3,773,654 tenancy cases filed before the Land Tribunals upto the end of November, 1983, 3,761,387 cases have been disposed of. Also out of 451,409 applications for purchase of Kudikidappu received so far, 448,093 cases have been disposed of. The total number of beneficiaries in excess land assignment till 31-12-1983 comes to 100,075. During 1983-84 an extend of 1067 acres has been assigned.

Delays in disposal of revenue matters in the Districts has been a matter of persistent complaint. Evidently, it is due to some inherent defects in the system and it has to be tackled in a practical way. It is therefore, proposed to take up one district during the next year as a case study and take steps to clear all pending cases on a time bound basis. In a District one taluk will particularly be selected and all the pending cases in the Taluk Office and Village Offices under it will be cleared. This measure will evidently have a salutary effect in the toning up of the district administration generally.

Pathanamthitta District started functioning during the year. The report of the Special Officer for the formation of a Kasaragode District has been received and orders of Government will be issued so that the District starts functioning soon.

Bifurcation of unwieldy villages has been a measure announced already with a view to toning up administrative efficiency at the grass root level. Orders have been issued for the bifurcation of 203 villages.

My Government will devote attention to the strengthening of development machinery and have appointed a Special Officer to submit a report in this regard. During the year 1983-84 (till the end of January 1984) 82,286 families have been covered under the Integrated Rural Development programme. The percentage of scheduled castes/scheduled tribes population benefited by this scheme during the year 1983-84 upto 31-1-1984 works out to 28.35 % and the target of 30% for the State for the year will be achieved. During the year 1984-85 it is targeted to cover one lakh families under this scheme at a cost of Rs. 12.08 crores. With a view to increasing the financial aid to these families, 30% of the financial targets is also being earmarked for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

My Government have earnestly implemented a scheme called TRYSEM, which aims at improving the skills and training to equip the rural youth to take up self employment in rural areas. The target under this programme is to train 40 persons per block per year. After the training, the youth are assisted under the Integrated Rural Development Programme to establish trades. During the current year 5,795 persons have been trained out of which 1,728 belong to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. During 1984-85, it is targeted to cover 10,000 rural youths in innovative schemes to engage in self-employment.

My Government have also implemented a scheme named "Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas". The objective of the scheme is to focus attention on the women members of the families of the target group so as to enable them to take up income generating activities. This scheme is being implemented in Wynad and Palghat Districts only. Child-care facilities are also envisaged under this scheme. During 1983-84, the scheme was started in 3 blocks of Wynad and 6 blocks of Palghat Districts. During 1984-85, the programme will be extended to all the 12 blocks in Palghat District. During this financial year, about 10,000 women will be benefited by this scheme.

Energetic steps have also been taken to implement the "Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme" announced by our Prime Minister. The objective of this programme is to provide employment to at least one member of every landless household upto 100 days in a year. My Government have taken up construction of 1203 kms. of identified 550 rural link-roads upto black topping stage at a cost of Rs. 24.05 crores.

Construction of 800 group houses in 702 identified Harijan Colonies and settlements for the benefit of scheduled castes/scheduled tribes and provision of basic amenities such as wells, latrines, roads, fencing, etc., at a cost of Rs. 10 crores has also been taken up. Under the "National Rural Employment Programme", 75.45 lakhs of man-days of employment have been generated during the current year upto 31st January, 1984 at a cost of Rs. 9.55 crores. The programme will be continued next year also increasing the employment potential for the landless labour.

My Government will continue their whole-hearted efforts to accelerate the tempo of development in the co-operative sector. To achieve the targeted loaning operations, the share capital base of credit co-operatives will be further strengthened. New projects for financing agricultural development with assistance from NABARD will be taken up. Co-operative Urban Banks will be equipped to take up financing of cottage and small scale industrial units on a larger scale with assistance from the IDBI. The Kerala Co-operative Housing Federation will be strengthened to avail larger institutional finance. Co-operatives meant for the benefit of Harijans and Girijans will receive priority attention of my Government and efforts will be continued to register new societies for the benefit of the weaker sections wherever there is potential. My Government are also keen on implementing the new legislation for improving the working of the Agricultural Development Banks in the State as soon as it is enacted.

My Government will spare no pains to complete the irrigation projects started in the second and third Plans in all respects. It is also proposed to rectify and improve the canal systems of the old projects to achieve better utilisation of water by reducing losses. My Government have given sanction for Meenachil River Valley Project and Chamravattom Regulator-cum-Bridge and work on these two projects will be started during the next financial year. Detailed investigation will be taken up of Payaswini, Thupanad, Moonnamkadavu, Maruthappuzha, Aralam and Chaliyar Basin Projects. Proposal for modernisation of Neyyar Project has been sent to the Central Water Commission. Minor irrigation schemes will be taken up wherever there is potential and steps will be taken to achieve optimum utilisation of ground water resources.

Under the Command Area Development Programme comprehensive measures will be introduced to ensure equitable and efficient distribution of water resources.

Anti sea-erosion and flood control efforts will be continued without any let up. Work of widening and deepening the leading channel to Thottappalli Spillway intended to relieve floods in Kuttanadu area and investigation work for preparation of long range basin-wise master plan for flood control are some of the projects proposed for the next financial year. My Government have plans to take up construction of dry dock and workshop at Ernakulam and for re-constructing the existing dry dock at Alleppey.

My Government will devote due attention to the development of inland navigation to utilise effectively the network of water-ways, available in the State. Steps will be taken for construction of new jetties and provision of terminal facilities in addition to improving the conditions of the existing jetties and terminals.

My Government will relentlessly pursue rapid industrialisation of the State in accordance with the Industrial Policy announced last year. My Government have decided that the Kerala State Small Industries Development and Employment Corporation will have a new wing for development of infra-structure facilities for industrialisation of the State and they have also set up Task Forces for development of industrial infra-structure in the two "No-Industry Districts" of Wynad and Idukki. My Government will continue their efforts in successfully implementing the 'One industry in every taluk' scheme by motivating private investment. Continued attention will be paid to the implementation of the scheme for providing self-employment to the educated unemployed youth announced by the Prime Minister.

A number of important projects in the public sector like the 'Titanium Dioxide Plant' and 'Kerala Minerals and Metals Limited' at Chavara, 'the Steel Forging Unit' of SILK at Trichur, the Foundry Project of Kerala Electrical and Allied Engineering Company, the 'Digital Electronic Watch Factory' of Keltron at Wynad, the 'Telephone Instruments Project' of Keltron at Palghat, to mention a few of them, are expected to go into production during the year 1984-85. My Government will also expedite the implementation of the expansion Project of 'Transformers and Electrical Industries Limited' at Quilon, the 'Traco Cable Company' at Ernakulam, the 'Aspirin Project' of the Kerala State Drugs and Pharmaceuticals and the 'Alternator Project' of Kerala Electrical and Allied Engineering Company.

In the field of electronics, the Kerala State Electronics Development Corporation will promote industries in the joint sector with professionally managed private sector companies.

As far as cashew industry is concerned, my Government will continue the policy of support price which proved to be a success last year. As a next step, my Government have now decided to promote Cashew Workers' Co-operative Societies to take over private factories which had remained closed during 1983 cashew-season.

In the field of coir industry, my Government will continue to implement with vigour the Government of India scheme for co-operativisation which provides assistance for share-capital loan, managerial subsidy, modernisation of equipments and implements and opening of sale depots. Government of India have agreed recently to lift husk control. Retting of husks will be allowed without obtaining permit. Levy in respect of retted husk will be imposed which would safeguard the interests of Coir Co-operative Societies.

In the handloom sector also, my Government, are implementing the co-operativisation scheme with Central assistance. My Government will continue to give rebate on the sale of handloom cloth during festival season and implement various schemes for the welfare of the workers as well. The action of my Government in increasing the number of days on which rebate of 20% would be given to 101 days has been widely welcomed. I am happy to inform the House that NABARD has substantially increased their cash credit facilities to various handloom societies including the Apex Societies. My Government are taking all possible steps to set up an Institute of Handloom Technology in the State.

My Government will give top priority to the development of Small Scale Industries. I am happy to say that the permanent as well provisional registration of small scale units in the State has shown a substantial increase during the current year compared to previous years. As against a total of 24,884 permanent registration of units during 1982-83, 27,182 units have been registered upto 31-1-1984 during 1983-84. As against provisional registration of 7,428 units during 1982-83, 7,101 units have been registered upto 31-1-1984 during 1983-84. My Government have decided to institutionalise the entrepreneurial development and training programme by associating M/s. KITCO and Centre for Management Development in collaboration with the Centre for Entrepreneurial Development, Ahmedabad. More training programmes will be conducted during 1984-85. The scheme for giving self-employment to the educated unemployed youth announced by the Prime Minister is being implemented in the State in all earnestness. More than 15,000 unemployed youth will be benefited by this scheme. This will be continued in 1984-85 also.

The Kairali Beedi of the Central Beedi Society at Shoranur will be in the market soon. My Government will also form yet another Central Beedi Co-operative Society with primaries in Alleppey, Quilon, Pathanamthitta and Trivandrum Districts. My Government have also taken up with the Government of India, the question of exempting Beedi Societies from payment of central excise duties with a view to enabling them to compete with private manufacturers.

My Government will continue their efforts with vigour, to fully implement the scheme for providing at least two additional roads in each constituency. A number of major works including the construction of legislature complex, National Highway bye-pass at Trichur and Calicut, and a number of road works and bridges are at various stages of construction.

Going by experience of the State during the last two years, it is evident that the State cannot afford to depend entirely on the hydel systems of power generation. It is therefore, absolutely necessary to have thermal and nuclear power sources also and my Government will take all possible efforts to get favourable decisions from the Government of India in this regard.

My Government will take vigorous steps to commission the Idamalayar Power Station, Idukki Stage II and Stage III Projects and the Sabarigiri Augmentation Power Project during 1984-85. The Lower Periyar Hydro Electric Project has been approved by the Planning Commission and my Government are trying to get foreign aid for implementation of this project. In addition, the Central Electricity Authority has cleared the 240 Mega Watt Puyankutty Hydro Electric Project Stage I at a cost of Rs. 250 crores and smaller power projects at Malankara, Mattupatty and Malampuzha and steps will be taken to implement these schemes during the Seventh Plan period.

In the power distribution sector, my Government propose to effect one lakh new connections to domestic and industrial consumers and to install 10,000 street lights during 1984-85. In addition 13,000 agricultural pumpsets will also be energised during the year. Electrification of Harijan/Girijan Colonies will be continued with vigour.

My Government have streamlined a scheme for 'Search and Rescue operations in the sea' of fishermen and will implement it vigorously from the coming year onwards to minimise incidence of mishap to fishermen at sea and to render expeditious assistance to those in distress.

Complete re-organisation of the fisheries sector is proposed to be undertaken during the year. The accent of my Government's policy will be on providing more benefits to the traditional fishermen who have until now not gained significantly from the development that has taken place in the fisheries sector. With this aim, efforts are being made to organise District Fisheries Co-operative Societies which in turn will be federated into an apex body at the State Level. Schemes are also being drawn up for integrated development of the fishermen villages as a whole with a package of measures.

With a view to reducing the strain on fishermen in earning their livelihood, a large-scale modernisation of fishing craft will be undertaken during the year, which will also result in increased production. A comprehensive welfare scheme for the benefit of the fishermen community will be started in the form of 'Fishermen Welfare Fund' and necessary legislation for the purpose will be introduced soon.

In the inland-fisheries sector, our development strategy aims at farming of both brackish and fresh-water areas and will be implemented with assistance from Government of India and financial institutions. Fresh water reservoirs covering an area of 3000 hectares will be leased out to Girijan and Harijan Co-operative Societies. Two more "Fish Farmers' Development Agencies" will be launched to cover the entire State in the field of fresh-water fish culture.

Measures taken by my Government to improve the efficiency of the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation and for the reduction of the age of the vehicles have started yielding results and will be continued. A pension scheme applicable to all the employees of the Corporation and a housing scheme for their benefit will be introduced soon.

My Government stand by their commitment to provide adequate health-care facilities to the people. The Multi purpose Health Workers' Scheme introduced by my Government last year will be continued with added vigour with a view to achieving the goal of providing a male and a female health worker for every 5,000 people by the year 1990. With a view to improving the health status of the backward districts of the State and for increasing the infrastructural facilities for successful implementation of family welfare programmes, my Government will implement the World Bank aided "Indian Population Project III" in the Districts of Palghat, Malappuram, Wynad and Idukki during the next five years. Having set up a Directorate of Medical Education, my Government will pursue their efforts to bring about qualitative improvement in the field of medical education and training. My Government will also encourage other indigenous systems of medicine like Ayurveda and Homoeopathy.

It is the policy of Government to ensure that all children below the age of five are protected against the preventable diseases like Diphtheria, Whooping cough, Tetanus, Poliomyelites, Measles and Tuberculosis through intensifying the immunisation programme. My Government hope that by embarking on a programme of total immunisation, Kerala will achieve the distinction of being the first State in India, to have achieved immunisation. It is also the intention of the Government to insist upon total immunisation of the child, as prerequisite for school entry.

My Government, being aware of the importance of pre-primary education in the overall growth and development of a child, propose to set up model pre-primary schools under the control of Government in each of the 153 educational sub-districts. Vocational Higher Secondary Courses will be extended to more number of schools. Work experience programme will be extended to more areas.

My Government will take further steps to consolidate the progress achieved in the field of Higher Education and the thrust will be on the improvement of infrastructure facilities in colleges. The faculty development scheme in the college education sector will be continued. A new Scheme has been sanctioned to set up training centres for coaching of students for various competitive examinations as a measure to improve chances of candidates for employment. Efforts are afoot to impart population education in selected colleges with the assistance from World Bank. Considering the necessity for increasing the availability of trained manpower, the thrust on extending facilities for Technical Education and to consolidate the existing infrastructure will continue during the next financial year also.

Proposal for establishing a Regional College for Physical Education at Trivandrum is under the active consideration of my Government.

It is proposed to establish Childrens' Palaces at all the district headquarters in Kerala. The first of its kind will be established during 1984-85. The Childrens' Palace is a concept now being adopted in many progressive countries in the world. The purpose of Childrens' Palace is to provide children between the age of 3 and 14 with ample opportunities to develop their personality and character, to identify the talent latent in them, to cultivate national feeling and international perspective and to curb their angularities by improving their behaviour in an atmosphere of affection and freedom. This will go a long way to create a national discipline and outlook among children and to make them worthy citizens of this country.

As a measure to control prices of essential commodities, my Government supply them at a reasonable price through 1137 Sahakarana Maveli Stores established in all the villages in the State. Civil Supplies Corporation will be setting up Departmental Stores in the three Corporation areas through which more of essential commodities required by the public will be distributed at reasonable prices.

During the unprecedented drought period, my Government had succeeded in their efforts to get increased allotment of rice and edible oil from the Central Pool. My Government will also devise new methods for further controlling of prices of essential commodities.

In the field of agriculture, my Government will continue their efforts to attain the cherished goals under the New 20 Point Programme. Development of micro-water sheds for intensified cropping of identified areas provision of fuel for domestic use by construction of bio-gas plants and development of pulses and oil seeds through distribution of minikits will continue to be the principal areas of thrust.

Target for rice production during 1984-85 is 14 lakhs tonnes and our strategy will be one of increasing productivity by popularising high-yielding varieties.

A comprehensive coconut development scheme will be implemented on an intensified scale. My Government had drawn up a scheme for helping the drought affected farmers to rejuvenate the coconut gardens with institutional finance. In order to increase production of cashew, the multi State Cashew Project and Cashew Spraying Scheme are being intensively implemented.

I am glad to say that a Social Forestry Project with an outlay of about Rs. 50 crores is ready for implementation with World Bank assistance from 1984-85 onwards. This will help meet the increasing demand for, softwood and fuel and yield additional income to farmers in the coming year.

With a view to protecting and developing the forests, my Government had reduced the acreage for clear-felling and selection-felling last year, despite the loss of revenue involved. My Government have also set up a High Level Committee of Experts to examine the present status of forests and recommend both short-term and long-term measures for increasing our forest wealth and the ecological balance. In the meantime, my Government have also promulgated Ordinances to review cases relating to the release of private forest areas to individuals so as to ensure that public interest in preserving forests predominates. My Government also have promulgated another Ordinance for the prevention of cutting selected species of trees.

Veterinary services will be further improved and the thrust during 1984-85 will be in carrying veterinary services to the farmers' doorsteps by introducing more mobile units. The programme for establishing disease-free zone will be continued. Schemes for provision of cattle-insurance cover will be intensified.

The Quilon Dairy Plant and the Cattle Feed Factory at Thuravoor will be commissioned during 1984-85. The dairy plants at Alleppey and Trichur have reached advanced stage of construction. After the Kerala Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation took over the dairy units of Kerala Livestock Development and Milk Marketing Board, there has been over 50% increase in the marketing of fluid Milk. My Government will further step up their activities in the field of dairy development.

The Oil Palm India Limited has launched an ambitious three phased programme for the cultivation of oil palm in an extent of 4160 hectares. So far, they have been able to cultivate oil palm in 3434 hectares. During 1984-85, a Crude Mill for crushing oil palm fruits at a total cost of Rs. 3.24 crores will be erected. A refining unit at a cost of Rs. 75 lakhs will also be put up during the next year. The Oil Palm India Limited will be shortly launching a scheme for popularisation of cultivation of oil palms around the existing estates at Anchal and Kulathupuzha. My Government will also formulate a scheme for the expansion of the area under oil palm cultivation in the State.

My Government will continue their efforts for the development of artistic talents of the people with particular emphasis on the vernacular arts. The Department of Cultural Publications, set up by my Government last year, will continue its efforts to republish classics from the Malayalam literature and make cheap editions available to the common man. With a view to promoting cultural integration, my Government have decided to establish 'Bharat Bhavan' at Trivandrum which would house all the cultural associations of various language-groups in the City, and also conduct an Inter-State Cultural Festival during the National Integration Week in November every year. A theatre for classical performing arts will also be established at Trivandrum.

My Government will take vigorous steps to achieve the target set up for the 'International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade'. A number of new schemes will be taken up with funds provided by the L.I.C. and with assistance from World Bank and other Countries. At least 150 exclusive colonies for Harijans and Girijans will be provided with safe drinking water facilities during the year. My Government have also decided to set up an Asbestos Cement Pipe Factory at Kalletinkara in Trichur District with a capacity to produce per year 30,000 tonnes of Asbestos Cement Pipe for use in water supply and waste-water schemes. My Government have also established a Water Supply and Sewerage Board.

My Government will continue their efforts, with greater thrust, in slum clearance, integrated development of towns and improvement of sanitation facilities.

A proposal for modernization of slaughter-houses in urban areas is under active consideration of Government and it is hoped that it will be possible to implement the scheme during the next year in selected urban areas.

In the field of Housing, the demand and supply is widening. However during 1983-84, 3,549 house-sites have been allotted to the landless rural workers. 10,094 houses have been constructed for the economically weaker sections under various schemes. In addition, under the 'Subsidised Aided Self Help Housing Scheme' with the co-operation of Voluntary Agencies, construction of another 13,000 houses has been started. Nearly 6,000 houses were financed under the Kudikidappukars' Housing Scheme.

A perspective plan for the next 10 years has been drawn up in the context of the 'International year shelter for Homeless, 1987'. In this plan, an annual construction activity of 2 lakhs houses is contemplated.

Under the Kudikidappukars' Housing Scheme, the construction of houses already taken up will be completed during 1984-85 and another 5,000 houses will be financed. Considering the desire of Overseas Malayalees to own houses in Kerala, my Government propose to launch a housing scheme exclusively for them.

Social Welfare Schemes particularly the schemes meant for the betterment of children and women will continue to receive due attention of my Government. Sixth Five Year Plan target for starting 61 integrated Child Development Scheme Projects has been achieved during 1983-84 itself. Integrated Child Development Scheme is a package of services for the intensive health check-up, immunisation against major diseases, provision of drinking water supply and the supply of nutritious food to children. It is proposed to upgrade 2,225 Special Nutrition Programme Centres to the level of Anganavadi centres by the end of 1983-84. Implementation of the fourth phase of the World Food Programme will be started shortly. The scheme provides for the continued supply of food items worth Rs. 25 crores per annum to improve the health and well-being of pre-school children, expectant and nursing mothers. My Government also propose to improve the facilities for the protection and care of inmates of the various Social Welfare Institutions—like home for mentally deficient children, abala-mandirams, rescue homes, home for physically handicapped and children's home by enhancing the per capita maintenance allowance of the inmates. My Government are making all possible efforts to provide accommodation to the working women by constructing hostels under the centrally sponsored scheme. My Government also extend financial assistance to the destitutes and disabled of all types. The disabled persons are sanctioned Rs. 75 per month as pension. Financial assistance is also extended to the disabled persons for self-employment and for the purchase of aids and appliances.

Apart from continuing the successful implementation of the Agricultural Workers' Pension Scheme, my Government will extend welfare measures for the benefit of coir, cashew, handloom, construction and quarry workers.

With a view to rendering free legal aid, in a better manner and on a wider scale to the weaker sections of the community, my Government have constituted the Kerala State Legal Aid and Advice Board. The Board will have power to constitute legal aid committees in each District and Taluk Headquarters and there will be a separate Legal Aid Committee for the High Court.

As yet another significant step in their bid to ward-off the danger of spurious liquor, my Government have taken steps to form a State owned Corporation for supplying genuine liquor to shops and consumers. The Corporation, which will also deal with the sale of foreign liquor, will come into existence from the 1st of April this year.

Police machinery in the State will be further fortified. Steps to complete the full sanctioned strength of the Police Force taken during the last year will be completed during next year. My Government intend to utilise institutional finance and funds provided by the L.I.C. for stepping up the activities of the Police Housing Co-operative Societies so that larger number of policemen will be benefited. Activities of the State Vigilance Department will be further stepped up. My Government's policy is to open fire stations in all municipal towns and major panchayats and the Fire Force will be further equipped with modern fire-fighting appliances.

My Government will take all possible steps to promote tourism in the State. Our unique waterways system will be exploited fully to attract tourists from within the country and from abroad by organising popular water sports, long distance cruises and by providing boating facilities at selected places.

In the field of sports and games, my Government will continue their efforts with vigour. As a recognition of the outstanding performance of our sportsmen and women in the IX Asian Games, my Government have ordered that all the participants from Kerala in the Coaching Camps for the Games be given employment in Public Sector Undertakings of the State, if necessary by relaxing educational qualifications. Construction work of the proposed Sports Complex in the State will be started during 1984-85. While the Indoor-Stadium at Calicut has already been opened, the civil works for the Indoor-Stadium in the Water Works Compound, Trivandrum have already begun. My Government will set up a Swimming Centre at Alleppey and a Regional Sports Centre at Ernakulam expeditiously.

Honourable members, I have presented before you the salient features of my Government's policies and action programmes for the year. I would like to reiterate that my Government will devote the fullest attention to the economic growth of the State and ensure peaceful and prosperous life to the citizens. I earnestly appeal to you all to co-operate with my Government in the larger interest of the people of the State whom you represent.

I wish you all success in your endeavour.

JAI HIND