

MARCH 11, 1988

Honourable Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the Fourth Session of the Eighth Kerala Legislative Assembly. This Session has an added importance in that it coincides with the First Anniversary of the Left Democratic Front Government in the State. I extend to each one of you my warm and sincere greetings in this my first address to the representatives of the people of this State and seek your whole-hearted co-operation.

2. We have completed forty years of independence. At the dawn of political independence a prosperous India was the dream of the Indian people. But that still remains an elusive dream and the nation is passing through a series of crises—political, economic and social. Sad to say, in many parts of the country disruptive, divisive, secessionist and communal forces are attempting to undermine the unity and integrity of the nation. In Punjab, Tripura and Assam such anti-national elements are very active. No day passes without news of the slaughter of innocent people from Punjab. In certain areas like the Darjeeling district of West Bengal, there are movements which threaten the unity of the existing state and to divide the people on ethnic lines. On the eve of the General Elections in Tripura hundreds of non-tribals were shot down by anti-nationals and the elections were marred in the wake of the whole State being declared as 'disturbed area' without taking the consent of the State Government. In the face of such grave threats to the unity and integrity of the country, we have to display unflinching determination to fight terrorism, isolate the anti-nationals and root out communalism, fundamentalism and other fissiparous tendencies.

3. The year that has elapsed is significant for the major political development in the country as a whole. As in Kerala where the caste, communal and other separatist forces were defeated in the March 1987 elections and then in the following bye elections in June 1987 to two constituencies, so in the whole country, the Left and left-of-the-Centre secular democratic parties are coming together for national unity and against divisive forces. This has opened the possibility of the emergence of a national political force which will provide an issue-based alternative to the alliance formed purely on opportunist considerations. The impressive victory of the Left Front in the recent Panchayat elections in West Bengal and the impressive electoral performance by the Left Front in Tripura, together with the performance of the Left Democratic Front in recent local bodies elections in Kerala show that the path of political advance for the country is a clear demarcation of lines between a combination of Left, left-of-the-Centre and secular forces on the one hand and opportunistic combinations of one or another kind on the other.

4. The economic situation in the country is alarming. The internal and external debt of the country has risen to dangerous levels. The increasing deficits of the Central budgets and the massive doses of taxation have resulted in the growth of money supply and high inflation which tell upon the budgets of the States and the living conditions of the people. Unemployment is growing at an alarming rate and the successive Five Year Plans formulated by the Central Government have failed to make any dent in this vital sector.

5. The Commission appointed by the Central Government some time ago to study Centre-State relations with Justice Sakaria as Chairman, has submitted its report. While recommending that the existing constitutional structure should be kept intact, the Commission has made several recommendations which we feel will lead to improved relations between the Union and the State Governments. The recommendations concerning the mode of selection of the Governor, relations between the Governor and his council of ministers, resort to Article 356 and other emergency provisions of the Constitution, the need for constituting an Inter-governmental Council and an Economic and Development Council, among others, are of particular significance. It is our hope that the Central Government will seriously consider them for acceptance and implementation in the spirit of "Co-operative federalism" as recommended by the Commission. This would establish the relations between the Centre and the States on a more enduring basis, considering that during the last two decades no single party has enjoyed monopoly of power in the Union and the States as was the case earlier.

6. The main business of this Session is the presentation and discussion of the Annual Budget of the State for the coming financial year as well as a vote on account to carry on the business of Government during the next four months.

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7. The financial year which is just ending has been an extremely difficult one for the State from the point of ways and means managements. My Government had to inherit the legacy of the previous Government which had left the finances of the State in a critical situation. Improvident drawals were made by the previous Government during 1985-86 and 1986-87 of Rs. 175 crores in advance against Central Assistance due to the State for subsequent years. This has to be viewed against the fact that a massive overdraft of Rs. 242 crores availed of by the previous Government was converted into loan not long ago in 1985. The situation was further aggravated by the severe drought which hit the State in 1987. All these factors resulted in persistent ways and means difficulties especially during the latter half of the year. The State has had to repay during this year, an amount of Rs. 260 crores to the Centre by way of loan repayment and interest. The Central plan assistance during the year was only Rs. 219 crores. This Assembly, realising the gravity of the problem passed a unanimous resolution urging the Centre to reschedule the State's loan repayments over a longer period and grant a moratorium on interest. But there was no response from the Centre. A crisis point was reached when the Reserve Bank of India abruptly stopped payments for a few days. To tide over the financial problem, my Government launched tax collection drives and measures to detect and prevent tax evasions. Emergency measures to check outflow of money from the Treasury were introduced to help the Government to pull through. Government have appointed an Expenditure Commission to review the entire gamut of Government expenditure. The Chief Minister presented memoranda on several occasions to the Prime Minister requesting (i) to raise the ways and means limit to Rs. 75 crores, (ii) to extend the overdraft period from 7 days to 15 days, (iii) to grant a special ways and means advance of Rs. 80 to Rs. 100 crores, (iv) allow a special market borrowing programme, (v) to write off interest on Central loans and (vi) to reschedule the repayment of Central loans. There has been practically no response from the Centre to any of these requests. This is in contrast to the liberal manner in which the Centre came to the rescue of the State when the previous Government was in power.

8. My Government took the earliest initiative in bringing out the one-sidedness of the terms of reference given to the Ninth Finance Commission, being loaded in favour of the Centre and against the States. My Government is of the considered view that the Centre should consult the States before evolving the terms of reference, and the constitutional status of the Finance Commission as an independent arbiter between the Centre and the States should be preserved without erosion. Our Chief Minister wrote to the Chief Ministers of all other States to bring about an understanding on the need for rectifying the imbalances in the terms of reference. Conferences of like-minded Chief Ministers were held and a memorandum setting forth an alternative set of terms of reference for the Ninth Finance Commission was presented to the Prime Minister. My Government hopes that the Centre and the Finance Commission will give due regard to the views of the Chief Ministers and accept the alternative set of terms of reference which will treat the Centre and the States on an equal footing and will not subjugate the interests of one to the other.

9. The year that is passing has been one of serious travail due to the unprecedented drought that the State had to face. Government took timely measures to provide drinking water in scarcity areas. Short and long term measures for providing water were taken up for execution. Relief Schemes and works were undertaken to provide employment. Agricultural inputs were supplied to small and marginal farmers to restore cultivation. Relief schemes were executed in the fields of Animal Husbandry, Supplementary nutrition, Medical and Health Care.

10. In spite of severe financial constraints, State Government has spent considerable amounts on drought relief activities. The assistance received from the Government of India for drought relief has been inadequate.

11. The Government is anticipating drinking water supply problem in the coming months and steps are being taken to see that it is tackled effectively.

12. My Government immediately on assuming office had announced its police policy. That policy is being effectively implemented and this has resulted in a sense of security among the people. A number of cases pending undetected for several years have been detected and the culprits have been apprehended. Government's policy and police vigilance have been instrumental in ensuring communal harmony in the State.

13. Government propose to start re-orientation courses for policemen with a view to enhancing their efficiency and improving their image as guardians of law and order.

14. Government appointed a Committee headed by Justice Shri P. Subramaniam Potti, former Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court to examine the question of releasing prisoners who had undergone imprisonment for ten years or more, and, on the recommendations of the Committee, 187 prisoners were released. A Committee has also been constituted to report on jail reforms.

15. My Government has been of the considered view that the provisions of the present law relating to prevention of corruption among public men are inadequate. Government have brought forward "The Kerala Public Men's Corruption (Investigation and Inquiries) Bill, 1987" which seeks to plug the several loop-holes and remove the deficiencies noticed in the existing law. The Bill has been reserved for the consideration of the President and it is the expectation of my Government that it will receive the assent of the President without delay. In the case of Government servants also Government intends to strengthen the existing set up for enquiry into allegations of corruption.

16. Government have taken a series of steps to remove the long-pending grievances of Government employees and teachers. Guidelines for transfer of Government employees and teachers have been issued. Regulations in the K.S.Rs. against the employees resorting to direct struggles on legitimate demands have been revoked. Proposals to constitute an Administrative Tribunal has been dropped. A Pay Commission has been appointed for Government employees and teachers after consultation with their representatives.

17. The problem of unemployment is getting more and more serious not only in this State but the whole country. There are nearly 1.5 lakhs closed mills and factories all over the country, while the number of applicants on the live registers of Employment Exchanges is growing from year to year. The several five-year plans that have been in operation during the last many years have provided no solution to this central problem of the country. While this is a national problem to which I hope the Central Government and the Planning Commission will pay due attention, my Government is determined to do all that is within its power to meet the challenge.

18. Kerala's power system is based totally on hydel energy. It has an installed capacity of 1476.5 MW and an annual energy generation potential of 5270 MU from its ten completed projects. No major power project has been started during the last decade while many other States have doubled their generation during this period.

19. In the immediate term the Government's strategy is to improve the power availability by moving the Centre to allocate more power from the Central sector power stations and force the pace of construction of ongoing power projects. Also it is proposed to take up short gestation micro and mini hydel schemes.

20. For the longer term Government has initiated steps for the installation of two thermal power stations one at Kayamkulam and another at Thrikkaripur. The 240 MW Pooyankutty Hydro Electric Project which has been cleared by the Planning Commission is awaiting environmental clearance from the Government of India.

21. The notion that the State can safely depend on its high hydel potential has been disproved by the recent drought. Like elsewhere we have to tap all the available sources of energy— hydro, thermal, nuclear solar, wind and tide. My Government will seek the help of experts to work out a long-term plan in this regard.

22. My Government attaches top priority to expediting completion of several lingering ongoing irrigation projects. The Kallada Irrigation Project would be completed to bring benefit to an additional 40,000 hectares. It is expected that the Chimoni Project can be partially commissioned. Water will be released through the high level canal of the Periyar Valley Project. Realising the needs for training for Irrigation Engineers, Agricultural Officers, Field Workers and Farmers in Command Area Development, my Government proposes to establish an Irrigation Management and Training Institute.

23. A series of measures have been taken up to mitigate the sufferings of farmers hit by the drought of 1987. Apart from distributing seeds, seedlings, fertilisers, pesticides and other inputs (with liberal financial assistance) to the farmers to continue the agricultural operations, construction of irrigation wells and tanks has also been taken up to provide irrigation facilities and also to increase employment opportunities, in rural area.

24. A net work of Krishibhavan has been established to make the agricultural extension service available within easy reach of farmers and to formulate and implement location-specific agricultural development schemes. This will be assisted by Karshaka Vikasana Advisory Samithies comprising public men, farmers and farm labourers.

25. The recommendations of the Janardhanan Nair Commission on paddy cultivation are being implemented in a phased manner.

26. A Co-operative Federation has been established to implement a comprehensive coconut development programme utilising the services of the Co-operative Societies in the State. A crash programme to improve vegetable production has been launched.

27. A programme is under way to enlarge the activities in the Animal Husbandry sector with the objective of additional income accruing to the rural sector.

28. Forest conservation efforts will be further strengthened during the coming year. The Forest Department will be reorganised with emphasis on rationalised jurisdiction and better communication, transport and other facilities for the protecting staff. Amendments to the Kerala Forest Act to deal more strictly with offenders are under consideration. The restrictions on felling of trees in natural forest areas will be vigorously enforced. Afforestation and farm forestry programmes will be strengthened with assistance of voluntary public organisations and more extensive public participation. More planting materials of local varieties will be distributed under social forestry.

29. Government have taken effective steps to improve distribution of essential commodities like rice, wheat, sugar, kerosene and palmolein etc., to all people, especially the weaker sections. A new scheme for the sale of pulses, groceries etc., through selected ration shops and co-operative stores has been started from 1st December, 1987 onwards in the State. A total of 1028 outlets are already in the job and the coverage will be doubled by the end of March, 1988. The procurement and distribution of the above commodities at wholesale level is being done by the Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation. These efforts have resulted in arresting the rise in prices of these commodities.

30. The Co-operative Societies Act was amended last year with a view to fully democratise the Co-operative institutions and to restrict the Government nominations to a very few Apex and Central bodies. Efforts have been made to strengthen the Co-operatives and also to revive the weak primary co-operatives. In the coming year Government propose to strengthen, generally, the structure of the Co-operatives and intensify efforts for deposit mobilisation. The scheme to strengthen the District wholesale Consumer Co-operative Stores and also Consumer Federation will be implemented.

31. The Apex Marketing bodies will be strengthened so as to handle more agricultural produce. It is also proposed to implement the ICDP Scheme in Wynad district.

32. During the year 1987-88, my Government has taken a number of measures to increase the pace of small scale industrialisation. As against the target of 4000 the number of small scale industries set up during the year will exceed 6000. The emphasis on small scale industries will be continued in the coming year also. Government have also initiated steps to rehabilitate over 2,000 sick industries in the small scale sector with the help of banks and financial institutions. In the public sector, steps have been initiated to revive Companies which were closed for a long time, like Kerala Ceramics and Kerala Soaps & Oils Ltd. In the private sector, Government have initiated steps to help the rehabilitation of some major units. The Gwalior Rayons Factory at Mavoor has been under closure since July, 1985. In spite of the best efforts of the State Government it has not been able to reopen it so far. But persistent efforts are continuing in this direction.

33. An Industrial Advisory Committee consisting of experts in various fields has been appointed to advise Government on matters relating to setting up of new industries, revival of sick industries etc. The Public Enterprises Selection Board has been activated.

34. In the traditional sector, the Government has taken prompt action for the distress purchase of coir yarn and coir products. The rebate scheme in the coir sector was implemented during the year 1987-88. Steps have already been initiated to start the coir factory in the corporate sector under the Kerala State Coir Corporation. Two more factories in the co-operative sector will be set up during 1988-89. The new bamboo board factory of the Kerala State Bamboo Corporation will also be commissioned during 1988-89.

35. The State Government have already set up yarn banks to alleviate the problems of the handloom weavers. The State Government proposes to submit to the Central Government a Rs. 10 crore modernisation scheme for the handloom sector in the State.

36. My Government has also decided to introduce monopoly procurement of raw cashewnuts within the State.

37. My Government is committed to the utilisation of maximum financial assistance from the financing institutions and banks. A project to develop industrial estates and industrial areas taking assistance from the IDBI will be implemented during 1988-89. Special incentives will be given to industries based on rubber. A single-window system for clearing of application from entrepreneurs will be set up.

38. My Government has been following a policy which will protect the legitimate interests of labour. In accordance with the promise, welfare funds for workers in the construction industry, beedi and cigar industry and bamboo industry are already given shape and a draft Bill providing for statutory welfare funds for handloom workers is ready. Workers employed in production and sale of arrack and IMFL will be brought under a welfare fund scheme on the model of Toddy Workers Welfare Fund. A scheme for the welfare of tailors is being contemplated. The Schemes for motor transport employees and head load workers will be restructured and extended to more areas. An alternative scheme to replace the abandoned Agricultural Workers' Provident Fund will be evolved. Government proposes to revitalise and strengthen the implementing machinery of the Labour Department. The passing year has witnessed the speedy settlement of labour disputes by the active intervention of the Labour Department. Government will enforce strictly minimum wages fixed in various industries and will also seek to achieve uniformity in the minimum wages in the Southern States. In order to obtain better labour relations, an Industrial Relations Board comprising all interested groups will be established. ESI programmes will be enlarged and the working of Employment Exchanges improved. The unemployment assistance scheme will be scientifically re-cast to ensure an integrated policy for self-employment.

39. As promised at the time this Government came to power, elections to the local bodies of the State were held in January 1988 and the administrations have taken charge. My Government is committed to decentralisation of power and to involve the people in development through elected representatives in local bodies. All of these elected representatives of the people can be made the links between the State Government at the top and the working people below. There are, besides, tens of thousands of activists working in the trade unions and other mass organisations of the working people as well as of political parties. While these are naturally divided on ideological and political lines, they are and should be interested in working together to solve the problems facing the people. I hope that the Planning Board, the State Secretariat and the various departments of the Government will tap the energy of the tens of thousands who are involved in activities of all these non-official and semi-official organisations to put the State on the path of development.

40. Government have decided to implement a comprehensive 11 Point Programme for all round development of the Panchayat areas covering these sectors with the active participation of the people. The sectors are: provision of drinking water supply, lighting of public places, village communication, village housing, village industries and industrial training, education and culture, welfare of women and children, promotion of health, provision of better market shopping centres, hygienic slaughter houses and improvement of general living amenities. For implementing these schemes measures will be taken to improve the financial resources of the local bodies.

41. Vigorous steps for implementing programmes under Rural Development during the current year have been taken up with people's participation. During 1988-89 it is proposed to assist 63,420 new families under the IRDP. Under TRYSEM 6,040 rural youth will be trained and settled.

42. A number of buildings for police stations and courts and quarters for policemen and judicial officers have been constructed under the award of the Eighth Finance Commission.

43. In the field of transport, KSRTC, operations have been stabilised and the results of KSRTC have shown improvement. The Corporation operated more schedules during the year and earned more per month.

44. In the field of revenue administration, the decision taken earlier to integrate the cadres of the revenue and village establishment will be implemented during the coming year. This step will increase the efficiency of revenue administration. Steps will be taken to bring forward a legislation for the issue of Pattayam pass books to all land-holders. Government also proposes to revamp resurvey operations and finalise survey records in all the areas where survey work has been completed.

45. Steps have already been taken to accelerate the pace of assignment of available lands to the landless. This work will be continued with vigour and pattas will be given to all eligible people.

46. Though Government of India had agreed in principle to the grant of title deeds to pre-1977 occupants of forest lands the required sanction of the Central Government has not been accorded. My Government has already taken active steps to pursue the matter with the Government of India and has made considerable progress in the matter. The Government proposes to issue pattas after obtaining Central Government sanction during the coming year.

47. The State Government has made considerable progress in the implementation of the Rehabilitation Housing Scheme Stage I and have completed 94,000 houses and have made very good progress in the implementation of Stage II of the programme covering 50,000 houses. In the III stage of rehabilitation housing, Government intend to construct 50,000 more houses in the coming year. Special schemes have been drawn up for houses for Government employees and teachers, beedi workers and handloom workers. Government propose to set up Nirmithi Kendras in all Districts to enable the poor people to get construction materials and technical knowledge for the construction of low cost houses. My Government propose to continue with the new programmes with increased vigour in the coming year.

48. The main thrust of the Government in the field of medical and public health is towards providing effective health care services to the community living in the rural areas through Primary Health Care. This programme is implemented through a net-work of Sub-Centres, Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres. 600 Sub-Centres, 163 Primary Health Centres and 25 Community Health Centres are targetted to be established this year. A 3-shift system for nurses has been introduced in some hospitals and this will be introduced in a phased manner in other hospitals also.

49. In the field of medical education, various expansion programmes are under way in the five Medical Colleges in the State. Special efforts are being made to provide all necessary minimum facilities at Trichur Medical College to facilitate its recognition by the Medical Council of India.

50. It was pointed out in the last address that Government would take early steps to improve the quality of education. Steps have already been taken to improve the quality of methods and contents of teaching, at the school level. Project reports have been prepared for implementation of Operation Black Board, District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) and further development of Vocational Higher Secondary Education and for improvement of Science Education. Government of India have already sanctioned this year's programme of Operation Black Board and DIETS. Government will be setting up DIETS in every Revenue District, to give inservice training to teachers atleast once in five years. Upgradation of teachers training colleges is also being undertaken.

51. A project has also been formulated to implement the centrally sponsored scheme on improvement of Science Education in Schools. This project includes provision of Science Kits to upper primary schools, upgradation of science laboratories in High Schools, supply of library books to high schools and training of Science Teachers of upper primary and high schools.

52. The question of setting up a Sanskrit University at Kalady is being processed. Government will pursue vigorously the question of getting UGC approval for institutional development of Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam. Technical and technological education will be given its due importance by my Government.

53. The Social Welfare Department has expanded its activities to help the more vulnerable sections of the society and has tried to provide a better life to the women and children, destitutes, mentally retarded and physically handicapped in the Society. Special care has been taken to see that the benefits contemplated under the various social welfare and social security schemes reach the real beneficiaries. The honorarium of Anganwadi workers and Helpers has been revised during the year giving substantial relief to them. A Women's Development Corporation has been set up to improve the lot of this vulnerable section of the Society and to assist them to stand on their own feet.

54. My Government attaches high priority to the implementation of programmes under the Special Component Plan and the Tribal Sub Plan. Government proposes to take up an ambitious housing programme to rehabilitate landless and house-less scheduled castes. The target is to construct 22,000 houses over a period of next four years and 5500 houses to be completed during 1988-89. Special schemes will be taken up to improve the traditional skills of Scheduled Caste craftsmen and to impart them training in modern technology.

55. My Government is keen to use the services of the scientists and experts in the State Science, Technology and Environment Department for the advantage of the people of the State.

56. The State Planning Board was reconstituted in September, 1987 with the Chief Minister as Chairman and Prof. I. S. Gulati, a reputed Economist as Vice-Chairman with a view to strengthening the planning process at the State level. A planning Advisory Council consisting of five eminent economists in the country has been set up under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister. The Council would render advice to the Planning Board on matters relating to plan formulation, implementation and related issue such as resource mobilisation.

57. My Government is making a serious effort to popularise Malayalam as the official language. Official correspondence is being carried on in Malayalam in 18 departments.

58. My Government will protect the legitimate rights and interests of all minorities both religious and linguistic. The weaker sections of the society—the Scheduled Castes and Tribes in particular and women in general will also be taken special care of.

59. The Inland Navigation potential of the State is very high. Steps to develop the inland water ways in the northern part of the State have also been taken.

60. There was an over-all acceleration in the development of the fisheries sector in the State during 1987-88. The various schemes implemented were provision of infrastructure facilities, supply of fishing implements, promotion of aqua-culture, provision of houses for fishermen etc. The various welfare programmes like old age pension, group insurance relief schemes etc. were implemented by the Fishermen Welfare Fund Board. 81 Primary Fishermen Development Welfare Co-operatives were formed replacing the 222 Village Welfare Societies. The various developmental schemes already taken up will be continued during the year 1988-89 and a few more schemes will be introduced. The Fishing Harbour at Neendakara will be commissioned during this year. The construction of Vizhinjam Harbour will be speeded up. The new fishing harbour at Pudiappa sanctioned recently by Government of India will be started. Construction of fish landing centres at Cheruvathoor, Vallikunnu and New Mahe will progress substantially during the year and work will commence on two more newly sanctioned landing centres.

61. Activities in the Inland fisheries sector will be expanded substantially. The newly constructed National Seed Farms at Polachira and Malampuzha will be commissioned during the year. A new Hatchery will be set up at Mopla Bay which will augment production of prawn seed. A new fish farmers development agency will be set up at Alleppey. for helping the prospective fish farmers in the districts of Alleppey, Kottayam and Idukki.

62. It is proposed to extend the benefit of NCDC assisted integrated fishermen development project to more areas and more fishermen with the full involvement of the newly formed Primary Fishermen Welfare Co-operative Society. A new scheme for introducing beach landing craft made with fibre glass, meant mainly for offshore fishing, will also be introduced during the year.

63. Action already initiated to organise Co-operative Societies of fishermen covering the entire inland fisheries sector of Kerala will be completed during 1988-89. These Societies will be affiliated to the Apex Federation of Matsyafed so that the assistance of NCDC can be availed of on a large scale.

64. My Government attaches high priority to completing ongoing water supply projects. The LIC aided water supply schemes for Pathanamthitta, Thodupuzha, Thrrippunithura and Kothamangalam Municipalities will be commissioned during 1988-89. Six externally aided water supply schemes are scheduled to be completed and commissioned during 1988-89. Besides 60 spill over rural water supply schemes will be commissioned. 65 schemes benefiting scheduled castes/scheduled tribes are also proposed to be commissioned. An additional rural population of 5 lakhs is expected to be covered by water supply schemes during 1988-89.

65. Eleven schemes with bilateral assistance from the Netherlands Government and Danish Government costing Rs. 60 crores are in progress. Seven water supply projects and two low cost sanitation projects involving an expenditure of Rs. 97 crores are now under implementation with assistance from World Bank.

66. Under the Technology Mission, with the objective of providing drinking water supply to all problem villages in the country with cost-effective methods, Palghat District has been selected as one of the 50 Mini mission areas in the country. Activities already started in Palghat during 1987-88 will be accelerated during the coming year. All the problem villages of Palghat District are proposed to be provided with protected water supply under the programme during 1988-89.

67. Notwithstanding the crippling financial constraints faced by it, the State Government was successfully able to carry out its commitment to stage the National Games which has left the State with an infrastructure for sports which are assets for all time to come. Government have decided to recognise the performance of Gold Medal winners from Kerala suitably in Government/Public Undertakings jobs. Among the other major events which were conducted were the International Film Festival, the All India Police Games and the Dakshinotsavam.

68. With a view to giving a proper sense of direction to film production and activities connected therewith the State Government is working on a film policy for the State also in the light of the experience gained from the Filmotsav. The film subsidy of Rs. 75,000 has been raised to Rs.1,00,000. The preliminary work for the formulation of a cultural policy for Kerala has been started.

69. Honourable Members, this year has witnessed the solution of many problems which the State faced at the time this Government came to power. However, we are aware of the general direction in which the remaining problems have to be dealt with i.e., the direction of united endeavour in which the treasury and opposition benches in this house, with their supporters outside, have to address themselves. I am sure that you will dedicate yourself to the tasks that lie ahead, with confidence and involvement. I hope the deliberations of the Session will facilitate fruitful exchange of ideas. I wish you good luck.

JAI HIND