

**JANUARY 21, 1994**

*Honourable Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly*

I welcome you all to the New Year Session of the Kerala Legislative Assembly and wish that the spirit of 1994 be characterised by sweetness and light. May this spirit set the tone for the deliberations of this august house in the days to come.

2. We ring out the old year and ring in the new one in an environment of hope and rejuvenation. The nation went through many tribulations in the year that is past. Prophets of doom and patrons of gloom predicted instability and chaos in the nation's political, social and economic life. There were times when imagination ran riot and pessimists said with deceptive delight that things fall apart, the centre cannot hold. Amidst this smoke screen of cynicism and bias the Narasimha Rao Government at the centre proved its mettle and the world at large looked at India with discernible appreciation as a democracy that has come of age and an economy that was determined to take an aggressive plunge. A truly democratic Government which believes in national consensus on national issues, a government which leaps to the future even as it leans on the present, a leadership that refuses to buckle under pressure, a Prime Minister who knows the way, who goes the way and shows the way: this perhaps sums up the national panorama as it unfolded itself on the world at large during last year. The communal and divisive forces which masqueraded in a political garb first tried to pull down the democratically elected government at the centre by surreptitiously trying to register no confidence in the people's government. But as contemporary history has revealed, those who came to scoff remained to pray. The self-appointed custodians of the people's will had to accept discomfiture in the elections that were held in six states. The communal parties exposed their fatal flaw and communalism was administered a near fatal blow at the hustings. People realised to their great relief that the nation has a government which governs, but without any fuss.

3. The messiahs of state control and the apostles of economic regimentation made conceitful predictions about the inadequacy of a minority government in ushering in sweeping changes in the economic sphere. The Union Government was a government with an agenda right from the beginning. We had no doubt that what does not make economic sense will not make political sense either. Throwing aside dogmatism and arm-chair models of economic development, the Union Government launched a down to earth and practical campaign for economic liberalisation integrating national economy with global economy. The result is there for anyone to judge. India's inflation rate has come down from a staggering 16.7 per cent to 7.7 per cent. The overall rate of economic growth during 1993-94 is expected to be 4.5 per cent compared to 4 per cent in the previous year. Our foreign exchange reserves which had reached a rock bottom level of less than Rs. 2500 crores suddenly received a shot in the arm and today we have a comfortable foreign exchange reserve of Rs. 25,000 crores. The foreign direct investment in the country has reached an all time high of Rs. 8,000 crores marking a quantum jump from Rs. 535 crores in 1991. The fiscal deficit has been brought down from 8.4 per cent in 1991 to 5.7 per cent during last year. Economic analysts and futurologists the world over have started seeing India as one of the emerging economic powers of tomorrow. We have burnt our boats and started making conquests. Those who tried to spread dark clouds with an evil eye to destabilise the process of economic emancipation through political chicanery soon found themselves in the doldrums when the Rao government increased its stature on the political scene and improved its credibility in the people's mind. Now with the increasing trust and confidence reposed in it by the people of India, the Government is determined to take the new year resolution of ensuring exemplary governance of the country till its constitutional term is over.

4. I can today make the confident assertion that my Government has come of age proving itself to be a dynamic Government which means business. Though my Government's policy has been to let bygones be bygones, I would remind you of the scenario which prevailed in the State when we assumed office so that facts can be projected in perspective. Without harping on the same strings of our miserable inheritance of empty coffers, break down of law and order, spiralling prices, demoralised bureaucracy and social tensions all round left behind by our predecessor government we forged ahead determined to fulfil the promises we made before the electorate. When we look back for a mid term review, my Government emerges resplendent with a rich array of promises fulfilled and results achieved.

5. We made a promise to the employees of the State that they would be given central scales of pay. Today at an additional annual expenditure of Rs. 168 crores my Government has been able to fulfil this promise. The youth were told that my Government would bring them succor by generating additional employment opportunities. The employment generation package drawn up by the Government is expected to generate continuing employment for 9.3 lakh persons and temporary employment for an additional 14 lakh by the close of the 8th plan. In the first two years of the 8th Five Year Plan it is estimated that as much as 8 lakh new job opportunities have been created of which approximately half would represent continuing jobs. Schemes like IRDP, JRY, Small Scale Industrial Ventures, Crop production, Agro Processing and Housing and Tourism are some of the specific areas which have contributed to the enlargement of employment opportunities in the State. As a commitment to the people to ensure them peace and tranquility in society we made a specific promise that the law and order machinery would be improved and to bring it into effect the working hours of policemen would be fixed. Our promise also included special allowance to policemen who have to be on duty during holidays, ration money and implementation of the recommendations of the National Police Commission. Suffice to say we have done more than what we promised and we will continue to improve the lot of the policemen.

6. We made a commitment to the students that education would be made free up to Pre-degree. The commitment as you know was honoured in no time. My Government was on record that consumption of electricity below 20 units will be made free. This benefit is now there for the economically weaker sections to enjoy.

7. The farmers were promised that agricultural development programmes suitable to each region would be formulated and implemented and five per cent subsidy of interest on agricultural loans restored. My Government's Agricultural Development Policy is hailed as a farmer's manifesto leading to increase in production and productivity bringing in maximum benefits to the farmer. The interest subsidy also has been restored for his benefit.

8. The UDF approached the people with a manifesto which emphasised specific programmes for the accelerated industrial development of the State. This promise included steps to be taken to set up more industries in the State, revamp the existing public sector and reopen industrial units that were locked up. It also promised more industries with NRI investment. The promises given in the manifesto found its way in the agenda of the State when the new industrial policy was declared. The industrial policy of my Government which contains specific incentives and action programme for accelerated industrial growth has made the State a focal point of attention by potential investors from within the country and abroad. New areas of industrial activity, new ventures by the leading industrial houses of the country and new approaches like intensive industrial development programme and the green channel scheme have made the State a place safe for investment.

9. It is said, in times of peace, prepare for war. That is precisely what my Government has done. After our initial efforts to bring back order and peace in society, we waged a war against poverty, economic deprivation, unemployment and stunted growth in the development front. We put the developmental process on firm footing and policies and programmes were drawn up with care and diligence. Implementation was done under proper supervision and guidance by an enlightened political executive. Peoples' participation was sought to be achieved in the implementation of developmental projects, be it the Rajiv One Million Housing Programme, the Self Reliant Village Scheme, the Jaladhara Scheme, the Grama Sabhas or the Intensive Paddy Development Programme.

10. Apart from the subjective assertions made by the Government let me draw your attention to the findings of the experts. Agricultural Production in the State recorded a growth rate of 6 per cent in 1992-93 and informed opinion indicates the trend to be much better during the current year. Growth rate of industrial production has improved from 10 per cent in 1991 to 12 per cent in 1993-94. The State income or the Net State Domestic Product which showed a growth rate of 5 to 6 per cent in 1991 is expected to reach a level of 6 to 7 per cent in the current year. Kerala's Per Capita Income has been growing faster than the National per Capita Income during the last three years. From 4.9 per cent in 1990-91, it reached 5.29 per cent in 1991-92 and 5.4 per cent in 1992-93. These are certainly tell-tale indices pointing to the right direction which my Government have been taking. Our heritage as trend setters in the field of education, health care and public distribution system is being extended to the vital areas of economic development, thanks to the farsighted policies and determined implementation which have become the hall-mark of my Government ever since its inception.

11. The essence of our federal policy rests on mutual co-operation and inter-dependance between the States and the Centre. From an era of doctrinaire confrontation and insularity, Kerala woke up to an era of beneficial co-operation with the Central Government when my Government assumed office. This approach has benefited the State at large. Our sustained persuasion has prompted the Government of India to issue Pattayam to those who have occupied forest land prior to 1977. The valuable property of Government of Kerala in the Travancore House compound has finally been made over to the State. The wind-fall which accrued to the thousands of families in the State whose members are working in the Gulf countries as a result of the partial convertibility of rupee announced by the Union Finance Minister cannot be forgotten. The NRI deposits in the State increased from Rs. 3489 crores in September 1992 to Rs. 5138 crores by the end of September 1993, an increase of about 47 per cent by one year. The additional benefits to the State in the wake of the modification of the Gadgil formula which governs the allocation of resources from the Centre for the State plan is a good case study of how persuasive dialogue between the Centre and the State can lead to positive results. The increased allocation made in the central plan for the Cochin Oil Refinery, the VSSC, FACT, Rubber Board and the Cochin Shipyard all indicate how the Centre's actions have been beneficial to the State. The new lease of life given to the Kayamkulam Super Thermal Power Plant and the significant contributions made by the Railways in the State all remain as reminders of what constructive co-operation can achieve. We are beneficiaries of the Prime Ministers' Employment Assurance Scheme which has come as a boon for the unemployed in rural areas. The Prime Minister has also sanctioned a special programme for the paddy growers of the State and perceptible impact of this is felt even in the remote parts of the State. My Government is committed to continue the policy of mutual co-operation with the Union Government.

12. The vision which guides my Government and the initiatives which stem from our commitment to development have given birth to new styles and approaches in the development concept as a whole. The Mega project of the Southern Gas Grid which was evolved as the common wealth of the beneficiary state indicates the emergence of a new developmental strategy which promotes collective co-operation for constructive gains. This effort has demonstrated that in times to come development will know geographical barriers. That the Central Government has agreed to the project in principle shows that the nation has accepted our philosophy of action by all for development of all. My Government reiterates its commitment to use the potentials of the present for improvement of the future by joining hands with our neighbours in a spirit of mutual sharing and give and take.

13. When India started her proverbial tryst with destiny we, the people of India, found in our constitution an effective tool to assert the peoples' will. But there is a hiatus between the constitutional reality and the political reality. In tune with the Union Government, my Government also took a solemn vow to do all that is needed to transfer power to the people. The Rao Government has fulfilled the dreams of the people of India by amending the constitution to empower the common man of India to be the dispenser of his own destiny through the Panchayati Raj. I see my Government as an umpire in the historic process of transfer of power to the people. The Government machinery acted swiftly and with effortless ease in introducing the modalities to usher in the Panchayati Raj in the State. There is no looking back or taking rest till power is transferred to where it belongs.

14. My Government would like administration to be dynamic and vibrant. There is no room for inertia or sloth. Administration may be rule bound and procedure ridden, but for the bold and the imaginative there is always scope for innovation and improvement. My Government have encouraged and promoted a plethora of administrative innovations meant to keep the Governmental machinery well oiled and fighting fit. The Simplified Procedure for Early and Effective Disposal, popularly known as the SPEED Programme was conceived and implemented to make administration more responsive to the needs of the common man. I am glad that the earnestness to redress the grievances of the public without procedural wrangles or delay which characterise the SPEED Programme, has been acclaimed at the national level. My Government is quite clear in its mind that the SPEED Programme is not to be deemed as a success story in isolation but is meant to inform the spirit behind all governmental activities. The Self Reliant Village Scheme which aims at the overall development of rural areas in a time bound manner with peoples' participation is nothing but a recapitulation of Gandhiji's vision of Grama Swaraj. The content and implementation of the scheme will be improved and revitalised and the programme will be implemented with renewed vigour as a demonstrable forerunner of participatory development which forms the basis of Panchayati Raj. It is my Government's determination to keep administration trim and streamlined which prompted us to promote and encourage innovations such as the Family Planning Programme, Total Literacy Programme, District Tourism Promotion Councils, Nirmithi Kendras, Airport Societies and the Grama Sabhas and Taluk Sabhas.

15. My Government realise our obligations to society at large and consider natural calamity anywhere as a national calamity. When earth-quake sowed havoc and destruction among our unfortunate brethren in Latur district of Maharashtra my Government rose to the occasion and, inspired by the generous contributions made by the people of Kerala, we have adopted a village in Maharashtra for the construction of quake-resistant houses for the rehabilitation of the victims.

16. True to our tradition as the friend and protector of the minorities and the economically weaker sections, my Government have always been in the forefront in championing their cause within the State and at the national level. To ensure the economic development of the backward classes my Government will set up a Backward Classes Development Corporation. My Government have impressed upon the Government of India that all eligible backward communities in the State should be given the right envisaged in the Mandal Commission. The benefits envisaged for the Moppilas should be extended to all Muslims whose mother tongue is Malayalam. Always in the vanguard of initiating progressive measures my Government have introduced for the first time in the country a pension scheme for working journalists.

17. Though the State has been experiencing severe resource crunch, there was no let up on the development front. As a result of prudent fiscal management and effective monitoring of development programmes, it has been possible to step up the tempo of investment in the State. The progress of plan expenditure has also been much better as compared with the previous year and it is the expectation of the State Government that it would be possible to implement fully the current year's plan outlay of Rs. 1003 crores approved by the Planning Commission.

18. My Government has been following a judicious policy in the allocation of resources for different sectors as a result of which the State could attain faster progress in the implementation of ongoing projects in sectors like irrigation and power. In the industrial sector, rational resource allocation has enabled us to reduce plan subsidies, and many of the loss making public sector units have been able to improve their performance.

19. As a result of effective monitoring, we have been able to bring about considerable improvement in the implementation of the 20 point programme in the current year. It is hoped that by the end of the current financial year, our position in terms of inter-state ranking would improve substantially over the last year's position.

20. The Planning Commission has approved a plan outlay of Rs. 1263 crores for the next financial year. This is 26% more than the outlay approved for the current year and represents one of the biggest step ups allowed to any State. As much as Rs. 697 crores out of this will be financed through Central assistance. Special effort will be put in to develop the crucial sectors of agriculture, industry and power in the next year's plan. Employment generation will be given the maximum emphasis. The other sectors which will be given emphasis are housing and tourism which have very high employment potential.

21. The State Government would also make serious efforts to mobilise maximum institutional finance for implementing the development projects in the State. Till now, the investment by the banking sector has not been adequate in the State compared to many other states. Our credit deposit ratio has been less than 50 per cent. On the initiative taken by the State Government, the Reserve Bank of India has constituted a special task force to go into this issue. It is hoped that the report of the task force would help in improving the future performance of the banking institutions in the State.

22. The picture of central investments in Kerala is also fast changing. With the proposed expansion of many of the existing central undertakings such as Cochin Refineries, Cochin Shipyard, FACT, HMT, Hindustan News Print the overall central investment is expected to increase substantially in the coming years.

23. With a sense of pride and satisfaction I can say that my Government have a glorious track record in law and order administration. The ever vigilant State Police machinery was successful in dealing with communally sensitive situations and anti social forces. The success of my Government in dealing with fundamentalist and antinational elements, trying to disturb communal peace and harmony, is clear from the fact that not only in comparison with other States in the country, but even compared to previous years in our State last year witnessed very few incidents of communal violence. It is a matter of pride not only to the Police and the State Government, but to the enlightened people of Kerala, that our long-established traditions of communal amity and brotherhood continue undisturbed.

24. My Government also give lot of emphasis to the modernisation of the Police Force, to equip it to deal with trying situations. The formation of Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad, introduction of Highway Patrol and Flying Squad, schemes to bring in the use of sophisticated computers, satellite system etc. are some of the major steps taken in this direction. It is proposed to have a direct communication through computer with all District Headquarters and Police Stations.

25. Welfare of Police personnel is a priority agenda of my Government. A number of administrative steps like reducing the workload of Policemen, action to increase the representation of Women in the Police Force, construction of more houses and projects for new housing schemes in the Districts of Malappuram, Wynad, Kasaragod, Thrissur, Kozhikode, Ernakulam, Idukki and Kollam are some of the major welfare measures undertaken by the Police Department. Implementation of the recommendations of M. K. Joseph Commission on Welfare of Police is also under active consideration of the Government.

26. While looking after the welfare of Police Force my Government is not blind to the welfare of Prisoners and Prison Reforms. The comprehensive recommendations of the Udayabhanu Committee on Prisons Reforms are under the active consideration of the Government.

27. It is expected that 13 fire stations will be started during the coming year. A massive modernisation programme is also expected to be launched in the current year.

28. My Government gives supreme importance to the administration of justice. Administrative sanction has been accorded for the High Court Complex at an estimated cost of Rs. 11.50 crore. Three new Motor Accident-Claims Tribunals have also been established. Two family courts will be set up in 1994-95.

29. Ours is basically an agrarian economy. My Government have launched various programmes for the development of crops, particularly major crops like paddy and coconut as contemplated in the Agriculture Development Policy. Programmes worth over Rs. 52 crores were sanctioned for building up infra-structural facilities for paddy. We were also able to re-start the Kole Land Project. Over 1,000 power tillers and 1,000 threshers were distributed. About 20,000 wells and 10,000 pumpsets have been provided for irrigation of coconut gardens. The overall production and productivity of paddy and coconut have increased substantially. Now my Government would like to formulate new schemes, with focus on technology and a package of efficient combination of —chemical, organic and bio-fertilisers combined with water management and mechanisation for the major rice growing District of Palakkad. Similarly, a new programme for conversion of 15,000 hectares of single crop paddy lands into double crop in Wayanad District will be taken up. Kuttanadu Development Authority, a long standing demand of the people of the Kuttanadu region, will be constituted with an experienced farmer as Chairman. I am happy to announce that my Government will initiate action to liberate the paddy farmers of Kuttanadu and Kole land from the loan liabilities under the Kerala Land Development Corporation Project involving a loan of Rs. 14 crores and interest thereon. It is proposed to launch a massive coconut development programme with an outlay of about Rs. 60 crores with emphasis on irrigation, plant protection, land development, intercrop, re-planting and marketing. Pepper, ginger, turmeric, nutmeg, clove and other spices require a new approach to ensure better production and productivity. Therefore, my Government would like to mount a Technology Mission for the development of spices during 1994-95.

30. State Government with the approval of the Central Government introduced a market intervention scheme for pepper, spending Rs. 5 crores from the State Budget and the programme resulted in increasing price of pepper. Now State Government is exerting pressure on Government of India to announce support price for copra.

31. Government would like to set up a Crop Insurance Agency to protect the farmers against natural calamities in respect of important crops.

32. The efforts made by the Government to augment production of milk, meat and egg have yielded substantial results. The production of milk has increased from 17.85 lakh tonnes during 1991-92 to 18.83 lakh tonnes during 1992-93. Out target for 1994-95 is 20 lakh tonnes. The dairy plant with a capacity of 60,000 litres per day at Kozhikode and another plant with a capacity of 40,000 litres per day at Palakkad will be commissioned in 1994-95. The first milk powder plant in the State at Alappuzha will also be commissioned soon. The Department of Animal Husbandry will be re-organised.

33. My Government realise the vast potential in the fisheries sector and intend to initiate a number of programmes for the development of this sector. It is proposed to evolve a land leasing policy to facilitate fish farmers to avail credit from the financing institutions. It is also intended to extent the crop loan facility to acquaculture also.

34. In order to augment fish seed production a number of Mini/Tiny hatcheries will be established. Our estuarine and brackish water areas have immense potential for culture of Mussels and Edible Oysters. An all out effort will be launched for commercial production of Mussels and Oysters.

35. My Government has supreme concern for the traditional fishermen. Five new kerosene depots will be started to meet the requirement of this group. In addition the distribution of fishing inputs will be extended to inland sector also.

36. Construction of two new fish landing centres for traditional fishermen at Arthungal and Punnapra will be started in the current year. The work of the third stage of Vizhinjam Fisheries Harbour will commence this year.

37. Preservation and protection of forests and forest wealth form the priority agenda of Forest Department. Taking into account the importance of preserving the biodiversity my Government proposes to establish an International Centre for Tropical bio-diversity Studies at Aripa in Thiruvananthapuram District. It is also envisaged to establish 3 field stations covering different bio-geographic and vegetation zones. A comprehensive package for environmental sanitation and providing basic amenities to Sabarimala pilgrims will be established at Pampa.

38. The Co-operative Credit Societies and Banks in the State have registered rapid growth in mobilisation of deposits and distribution of credit. Efforts are also on to enhance the flow of credit, consistent with my Government's commitment to employ the funds in the co-operative sector for the development of the State and its people. With this aim, consortium lending by Primary agricultural society was instituted to meet the working capital requirement of Public Sector Undertakings, local bodies and co-operative institutions. The consortium lending will be given additional thrust during 1994-95.

39. Action is also afoot to strengthen weak primary co-operatives. In order to strengthen the consumer co-operative structure, an Integrated Rural Consumer Development Scheme is proposed to be implemented by Kerala Co-operative Consumer Federation with the assistance of NCDC.

40. Kerala State Co-operative Hospital Complex and the Centre for Advanced Medical Services Ltd. was registered with the intention of setting up a super speciality hospital and a Medical College in Kannur District. It is proposed to put the project on ground this year.

41. Action has been taken to register an Infrastructure Development Leasing and Financial Services Co-operative with a view to taking up infrastructure projects, leasing activities etc. The possibility of setting up a tyre factory in Kerala in the co-operative sector is being explored by my Government.

32. My Government have been able to maintain smooth and effective distribution of essential commodities. The aim of the Government is to open new ARDs at the rate of one for every 250 families.

43. Through sustained efforts, the State have succeeded in increasing the quota of allotment of boiled rice to the State. Increased allocations of rice, wheat and sugar were obtained during the Onam season.

44. The Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation acted as a major force in bringing down the prices of essential commodities through its Maveli Stores and other outlets. During the current year the Corporation has widened its activities by distributing vegetables also.

45. Opening of 140 new Maveli Stores in each of the LA Constituencies is well on its way and this is being done without creating new posts in the Corporation.

46. The Corporation has rendered meritorious service by opening special markets and fairs during festival seasons in all district headquarters and even at the Panchayat level.

47. The State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission as well as the 14 District Consumer Disputes Redressal Fora constituted under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 are functioning effectively. The large number of cases filed in these fora and their disposal is a clear reflection of the growing consumer awareness in the State. The high rate of disposals, despite severe resource constraints, is an indication that our Consumer Disputes Redressal Fora have really risen to the occasion and justified the confidence we have in them.

48. Apart from the normal ration my Government could supply 10 to 40 Kg. of rice as special ration to card holders. Through a thorough revision of ration cards we could give new ration cards to about five lakhs families and cancel large number of bogus ration cards. Advisory Committees consisting of representatives of political parties and elected representatives were formed in Panchayat, Municipal, Taluk and District levels to make ration distribution efficient. This could bring down black marketing and hoarding of ration articles and ensured supply of actual quantity of ration articles.

49. The Industrial Policy announced by my Government has begun to yield concrete results. There has been substantial improvement in performance in the small scale sector as well as in the large and medium sectors. A number of very large industries are in various stages of finalisation for implementation. Major Industrialists in the country have evinced interest in establishing industrial enterprises in Kerala.

50. My Government proposes to capitalise on the changing industrial environment in the State and to give a big thrust to industrial development this year. The highest priority will be accorded to the establishment of small scale industries in the State. An Intensive Industrialisation Programme has already been initiated and the target is to establish as many as 30,000 industries during the two years, 1993-94 and 1994-95. The programme is showing promising results and the achievement of the target seems assured.

51. Another high-focus area of activity will be the development of industrial infrastructure. The Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation has already come into existence and has formulated several major programmes for setting up Industrial Estates and Parks. My Government's efforts will be to ensure that a number of Industrial Estates and Parks are established in various parts of the State with modern facilities conforming to international standards, so that the State can offer developed land as well as built up factory space to industrialists.

52. A sustained campaign has been launched by my Government to promote foreign investment in the State. Government's objective is to create a continuing relationship with Non-Resident Indians and potential foreign investors through regular personal contact and correspondence. Our experience in Oman and Singapore indicates that there is immense interest in investment within Kerala, provided the industrial environment in the State remains congenial and investor friendly. To promote investment and to increase global trade, a Trade and Investment Promotion Board is proposed to be established this year.

53. Public sector undertakings in the State have been on the turn around path during the past two years. By restructuring their finances and facilitating private participation, my Government propose to bring about further improvement in this field. The erstwhile Internal Audit Board has already been reconstituted as a Public Sector Restructuring and Internal Audit Board for this purpose.

54. In the traditional sector, my Government has already formulated an Integrated Coir Development Programme which has secured the approval of National Co-operative Development Corporation as well as the Government of India. The first project under the scheme has already been commissioned and it is expected that all project reports will be finalised and work commenced on a large number of defibering units and spinning units during this year. With the twin objectives of liberalisation and modernisation all controls and restrictions on trade, procurement, transport and processing of husk which were in force in one form or other since 1973 have been scraped. It has ensured free flow of husk to the industry and its consequent increased availability. Defibering mills are being set up in the northern Districts to convert the husk now being wasted there into fibre and to make it available to the scarcity areas. In the spinning sector motorised rats are proposed to be introduced in a big way to improve quality of yarn and to remove the drudgery of spinners. The Co-operative Societies will continue to enjoy preferred treatment and support. Their financial base will be strengthened by increased Government Share participation and extended subsidy for husk purchase. In the handloom sector, four new schemes have been initiated for the benefit

indigenous handloom weavers. In the mining sector, the development of value-added projects using mineral Sands available on the Kerala coast will receive the highest priority. A joint Indo-French project for exploration of placer gold has been approved by Government of India and work is expected to commence this year.

55. Some projects in the large scale sector are in various stages of development for implementation. These include the Textile Garment Complex at Palakkad, with 50 feeder units and one Central Processing Unit at approximate investment of Rs. 80 crores, the Mineral Complex based on beach sands in Kollam District with approximate investment of Rs. 330 crores, the Cement Clinker Grinding Unit at Edayar with total investment of about Rs. 115 crores, the Octanes Project at Ambalamugal based on feedstock from Cochin Refineries Ltd., with investment about Rs. 60 crores, the Industrial Alcohol and other Special Chemicals Project at Palakkad based on Corn with total investment of about Rs. 245 crores, etc.

56. Efforts are on to complete the Hydro-Electric projects as per schedule which are in various stages of implementation. It is expected that Malampuzha, Mattupetty and Peppara projects will be commissioned in 1994 itself. Work on Brahmapuram 100 MW power generation plant has started in October 1993. The Wind Farm project at Kanjikode in Palakkad District with an installed capacity of 2 MW will be completed during 1994-95. It is also intended to draw up new projects to tap non-conventional energy with private participation. Five 220 KV, Four 110 KV and Five 66 KV sub-stations under construction with the World Bank aid and several other substation projects undertaken by the Kerala State Electricity Board with its own funds, will be completed during the current year.

57. The Electrical Inspectorate has instituted two awards for each of the five categories of industries for energy conservation which will be conferred from 1994 onwards. The novel schemes introduced by my Government will help in controlling the rising trend of costs inherent in installation of expensive power generation plants. It will also help greatly in protecting the environment.

58. A notable and redeeming feature in the labour front is the peaceful labour and industrial climate. Labour strikes and lock-outs were only minimal.

59. The various welfare schemes administered by the Labour Department will continue. It is expected to bring about 3.5 lakh beneficiaries under the Agricultural Workers' Pension Scheme during 1994-95. My Government also intend to enhance the Agricultural Workers' Pension to Rs. 80 p.m.

60. For ensuring the health of the labourers Government have launched an Occupational Health Scheme and propose to issue occupational health cards to all factory workers.

61. Government also propose to import technical training to educate youth through ITIs and ITCs with the assistance of World Bank. Two new Related Instruction Centres at Malappuram and Kannur will be opened during 1994-95. It is also proposed to start Town Employment Exchanges in the remaining 11 taluks in a phased manner.

62. The ODEPC will continue its efforts to find employment avenues in new territories.

63. Six major District roads in the State have been declared as State Highways by the Public Works Department.

64. The Public Works Department is taking vigorous action to sanction works under the new MLA work scheme in all constituencies.

65. Action for implementing Coastal and Hill road development schemes, with advice of a consulting agency, has been initiated.

66. Sabarimala Road Development Scheme is an important work taken up by the Department recently. The first phase of this 10 crore project is also over. In Mannarkulanji - Plappally road, 20 Kms, have been completed in all respects and 75% of the works have been completed in the balance 11.98 Kms.

67. For the implementation of the World Bank assisted Kerala Urban Development project in the cities of Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam and Kozhikode, 'Urban Roads and Traffic Engineering Unit' has been established in the Public Works Department, with headquarters at Thiruvananthapuram.



68. The Public Works Department has constituted a Committee to study the reasons for accidents on our Highways and to suggest suitable remedial measures.

69. Widening of NH-47 for the entire length, except bye-passes of Alappuzha, Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram-Neyyattinkara combined are completed. In NH-47, major work of Calicut bye-pass and Varapuzha bridge are to be taken up this year. The Cochin-Madurai road was declared as NH-49 and detailed investigations are going on. Work on the NH-47 A, link road connecting Cochin-by-pass and Wellington Island has commenced. In addition, some major works like the Aroor-Arookutty bridge and Kumbalangi-Perumpadappu bridge have been taken up under the Central Road Fund. Though Government are taking all efforts to maintain our roads incessant monsoon in the State impedes progress.

70. It is proposed to undertake the integrated development of the islands around Kochi. This will involve construction of certain important bridges to connect the islands with Kochi. A special scheme will be launched in the course of the year for this purpose.

71. During the year, works in the additional block for Government Secretariat at Palm Lands compound, Board of Revenue Office at Public Office Compound, building for PSC Office., Thiruvananthapuram are in progress. New work like Civil Station at Pathanamthitta will be taken up for execution shortly.

72. Command Area Development (CAD) activities are undertaken in 14 completed Irrigation Projects viz., Malampuzha, Walayar, Pothundy, Gayathri, Mangalam, Pecchi, Vazhani, Cheerakuzhi, Chalakudy, Neyyar, Chitturpuzha, Periyar Valley, Pamba and Kuttiady. The total cultivable command area of these projects has been increased to about 1,80,000 ha. this year from 1,73,000 ha. last year. It is expected that CAD activities will be completed in all these projects by the end of VIII Plan.

73. A scheme for utilisation of Ground Water for irrigating garden and vegetable lands in Corporation and Municipality areas of the State is proposed to be implemented in the year 1994-95. The physical target proposed for the year is construction of 500 numbers borewells and filterpoint wells fitted with suitable electric pumps/hand pumps. The scheme will make the farmers self-sufficient in vegetable and horticultural production.

74. A project viz. Community Irrigation Project with Dutch Assistance has been sanctioned at a total cost of Rs. 21.132 crore.

75. Muvattupuzha Valley Irrigation Project will be partially commissioned during this year. Substantial progress has been achieved in the field of Minor Irrigation. During 1993-94 an outlay of Rs. 2,250 lakhs has been provided for creating an additional potential of 14,275 ha. For 1994-95 the outlay proposed is Rs. 2,700 lakhs to create an additional potential of 17,125 ha.

76. 'Jaladhara Scheme' and 'Janakeeya Jalasechana Padhathi', based on popular participation, are progressing well and the scheme will be extended to more places this year to benefit the public.

77. A project assisted by European Economic Community for increasing food production through assured irrigations at an estimated cost of Rs. 64 crores will be taken up this year.

78. The work of constructing a Regulator-cum-Bridge across Chaliyar at Kavanakallu is in good progress. On completion it will provide irrigation facilities to 2,000 hectares of land in addition to drinking water facilities to Kozhikode City at an estimated cost of Rs. 820 lakhs.

79. The outlay for anti sea erosion activities proposed for 1994-95 is Rs. 1,000 lakhs and it is proposed to construct 4.1 km. of new sea wall and another 3.6 km. of reformation work.

80. Till last year about 40,000 ha. of land have been protected from the ravages of flood by spending Rs. 27.37 crores and an additional 4,000 hectares will be taken up next year. Out of the 431 ongoing water supply schemes in the State 139 schemes are expected to be completed during this financial year. This will give water supply facility for 10 lakhs people and thereby increase the coverage status to 48% at the end of this financial year. All the remaining ongoing schemes are planned to complete within a short span of 2 years.

81. There are 7 ongoing World Bank supported Kerala Water Supply and Sanitation projects and all these projects will be fully completed during 1993-94. The total estimated amount for the projects is 12,788.30 lakh and will benefit a population of 16.05 lakhs. 8 schemes are implemented in the low cost sanitation with

financial assistance of the Royal Netherland Government. The Water Authority has proposals to implement water supply schemes in Greater Kochi and Kozhikode and drainage scheme in Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation areas with World Bank aid under the Kerala Urban Development Project. Proposals in this regard have been made. The total estimated cost of the project is Rs. 323.40 crore.

82. Government of India has sanctioned 33 Rural Water Supply Schemes (RWSS) at total estimated cost of Rs. 5,600 lakhs and the benefited population is 15 lakhs. 28 new RWSS estimated to cost 5,148.89 lakhs benefiting an ultimate population of 9.90 lakh are under various stages of sanction. Also 13 new RWSS have been posed to LIC for assistance estimated to cost Rs. 14½ crores. All these schemes will be implemented during 1994-95 and will be complete within 3-4 years. A special programme for coverage of 958 waterless SC/ST habitation under Ambedkar Centenary Programme is ongoing and is estimated to cost Rs. 295.83 lakh benefiting an ultimate population of 1.65 lakh. This is proposed to be completed by March 1994. Under drought 1993 a programme for providing water supply schemes has been implemented with the assistance of internal resources estimated to cost Rs. 11.66 crore.

83. 6 new urban water supply schemes are also proposed for implementation with the financial assistance from LIC/HUDCO during 1994-95 estimated to cost Rs. 53.96 crore.

84. Under the Technology Mission, a comprehensive Water Supply Scheme to Kuttanad in Alappuzha District estimated to cost Rs. 800 lakhs has been submitted to Government of India for sanction.

85. The Motor Vehicles Department will be strengthened with additional field staff and better transport and communication facilities. The existing check posts will be improved with better infrastructure facilities and new check posts established to plug leakage of revenue. The Department will also be modernised with computer facilities. With a view to control vehicle pollution which has become a great environmental hazard, steps would be taken to ensure checking of vehicles for pollution levels. The department by these measures would be galvanized to fulfill the tasks of co-ordinating vehicular movements and ensuring optimum collection of revenue.

86. Several measures have already been initiated on the basis of recommendations of the Resource Commission to revamp the operational and organisational set up of KSRTC to make it self-reliant as well as to equip the organisation to meet its obligations as public utility concern. Government propose to continue measures in order to enhance revenue and reduce expenditure so that the mounting losses are controlled and the Corporation becomes self-reliant and profit-making in the near future. Government also have great hopes on Kerala Transport Development Finance Corporation, which would, during the coming year, enhance its equity base as well as mobilise large amounts by way of public deposits so that the finance needs in the transport sector are met at reasonable cost.

87. It is needless to point out that the development of minor ports and intermediate ports numbering 13 in the coastal area is linked with the development of coastal areas. I am happy to state that the cargo wharf with a length of 100 metres at Vizhinjam will be commissioned during 1994. The construction work of the breakwater for the development of Azhikkal port will be commenced this year. The formation of a Dredging/Maritime Corporation is in its final stage.

88. The third National Waterway Project from Kollam to Kottappuram is proposed to be taken up in full swing during the coming year which will give a tremendous boost to trade, industry and tourism in the State. Steps will also be initiated for the development of Airport at Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode and for establishment of new Airport at Cochin with public support and Central assistance.

89. This Government fully understands the economic significance and the employment potential of tourism. Tourism can be utilised effectively to generate employment to the educated youth. Imaginative programmes are being drawn up to tap employment potential of tourism in Kerala. In fact, the new slogan would be 'Tourism for Development and Tourism for Employment'.

90. Government will aim at consolidating the infrastructure already created in tourism sector in the State. Upgradation of facilities already created will receive paramount importance. Special emphasis will be given to destination upgradation programmes, especially on the backwaters and selected tourism centres of the State. Tourism sector holds considerable opportunity for investment. Concerted efforts have to be made to attract investment in the tourism sector and Government will devote attention to encourage domestic as well as foreign investment.

91. Development and Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Tribes is a major concern of my Government. A number of new schemes for the development of these sections have been taken up by the Government. The Kerala State Development Corporation for SCs and STs has diversified its activities considerably and 121 new schemes have been added with total cost of Rs. 8 crores in 1994-95.

92. It is also proposed to launch a programme to provide nutritional food, health care and health and nutritional awareness to the tribals of Wynad District with the co-operation of various Government Departments and Agencies.

93. My Government also proposes to introduce a composite package insurance scheme for the entire tribal population of Wynad District.

94. It is also proposed to start a vocational training centre at Chettiampara in Thiruvananthapuram District for STs with the assistance of the Government of India for imparting training to ST youths.

95. The Kerala State Development Corporation for Christian Converts and Recommended Communities proposes to start a small and tiny Industrial units for X'an Converts and is expected to provide direct employment to 2,000 unemployed youths and indirect employment to about 6,000 others.

96. The Planning and Evaluation Wing of the SC Development Department will be rebuilt to ensure effective co-ordination and evaluation of various schemes. It is also proposed to strengthen the Taluk level Administrative set up of the SC Development Department.

97. Social Welfare Department will continue to focus its activities for the welfare of children, women and the disabled. The ICDS programme is now being successfully implemented in 90 Blocks in the State. Nine new ICDS projects have been started during last year. As part of providing ample infrastructure to Anganawadies 500 new Anganawadi buildings at a cost of Rs. 25,000 per unit are expected to be completed with public participation in the coming year.

98. The Women's Development Corporation has diversified its schemes and are planning to take up various employment generation and training schemes in various fields. The assistance and collaboration of Agencies like Agricultural Finance Corporation is sought for in this venture.

99. The legal assistance scheme now in existence will be expanded to cover cases of dowry related harassment, divorce etc.

100. The Kerala State Handicapped Person's Welfare Corporation is launching a major scheme to supply aids and appliances to all deserving handicapped persons in a phased manner. A financing scheme with an element of subsidy is on the anvil to cover 1,000 handicapped to start self employment ventures.

101. My Government is proud of the achievements of the State in the health sector. My Government is aware that special attention needs to be paid to the health of the people living in the coastal areas. With this aim in view a Coastal Health Project to improve health care facilities in the coastal panchyats of the State at an estimated cost of around Rs. 10 crores will be implemented this year.

102. With a view to improving the functioning of the five Medical Colleges, Government propose to give considerable autonomy to these colleges.

103. Government are committed to improving the facilities for mental patients at the three mental health centres at Thrissur, Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode. The construction of the pavilion ward at the mental health centre, Kozhikode at an estimated cost of Rs. 190 lakhs has already been sanctioned by Government. Rehabilitation programmes for mental patients would get priority in my Government.

104. My Government would shortly commence a Pilot Project with World Bank assistance for the control of TB in Kozhencherry Taluk. On the successful completion of the pilot project, the scheme with World Bank aid, would be extended to the entire State.

105. My Government is committed to improve the service conditions of the Government Medical Officers and with this aim in view, has set up a one man Commission which would look into the career prospects of the Government Medical Officers. This Commission would also examine the career prospects of the Nurses of the Health Services Department.

106. My Government also propose to set up this year a para Medical Council.

107. My Government is aware of the growing menace of HIV infection. A massive scheme to create awareness of this among the people of the State has already commenced. To ensure availability of safe blood for transfusion purposes, Blood Banks are being set up initially in all the Districts Hospitals.

108. The approval of the Netherlands Government for the project for upgrading the facilities and infrastructure of the Kerala State Pollution Control Board at a cost of Rs. 8.12 crore has been received. My Government propose to start the implementation of the project during this calendar year itself.

109. The Government of India have also accorded their administrative approval in principle to the setting up of the Regional Institute of Ophthalmology at Thiruvananthapuram. Steps will be taken to formally establish this Institute at the earliest. A Trauma Care Centre will also be fully established at the Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram this year.

110. Having attained total literacy and total enrolment in schools my Government will focus their attention on quality improvement in schools. Detailed surveys have been conducted in most of the Districts with the help of District Councils, Teachers, Organisations and Voluntary Agencies and programmer have been launched for quality improvement. The roaring success of this programme in Kasargod District was an eye opener in this direction. This programme envisages the active participation of teachers, mothers, social organisations and voluntary workers in each District.

111. Switching over to the NCERT syllabus from Class-V to X will be over in the year 1994-95. Discussions are progressing to implement the Social Safety Net Programme in Kasargod, Malappuram and Wynad Districts with the assistance of World Bank. My Government is very much concerned about the educational needs of the handicapped and minorities and two new schemes for this are being prepared and submitted for Government of India assistance.

112. With great pride I can state that Kerala is the first State in India to achieve total literacy among tribals. Kerala has gone a long way in the field of literacy work, but I realise that lot more has to be done to sustain and consolidate the present achievements. The third stage of 'Saksharatha Programme' will give priority in continuing education. In all Districts the Jana Vidya Kendras and Akshara Sanghoms have been established. As part of the decentralisation programme the running of these units will be entrusted with the Village Panchyats. My Government is also actively thinking of extending all possible incentives to the literacy workers.

113. With a view to improve the facilities of Higher Education in the backward Districts of Kasargode, Wynad, Malappuram and Idukki, Government have granted the starting of one course each at graduate level in every college in these Districts. Government have also granted courses at graduate and post-graduate level in 83 other colleges in the State. It is also proposed to start MPhil. course in 13 subjects in the University College, Thiruvananthapuram during the next academic year.

114. Two self-financing Engineering Colleges, have been established at Chengannur and Kasargode.

115. Elections as contemplated in the Kerala Public Libraries (Kerala Granthasala Sanghom) Act, 1989 will be completed by March 1994. This will herald a new era in the administration of our local libraries with a firm democratic and participatory base.

116. As part of the various incentives given to youth organisations like NCC, from this year onwards two seats for MBBS course have been reserved for NCC Cadets.

117. In the area of Science & Technology the objective of the Government is to use S&T as a tool for development and integrated environmental concerns with the need for economic development. It is also the policy of the State Government to consciously promote research and development with a view to alleviating poverty and catalysing speedier economic development.

118. A State Environment Policy is under preparation for legislation during the year.

119. The MEGSAT (Mission for Employment Generation through Science and Technology) scheme will be strengthened during the year, so as to create 10,000 employment opportunities in the State at a cost of Rs. 150 lakhs. 75% of these employment avenues will be for the weaker sections.

120. The Panchyat level resource mapping programme which has already attained national level attention will be extended to all districts. The programme is most timely at this juncture when the State is about to pass the Panchyati Raj—Nagarapalika Bill and ultimately will pave the way for implementing the Gandhian dream of Gramaswaraj.

121. R&D input required for mitigating the after-effect of recurring drought and flash flood in the State will be given priority.

122. The activities of the National Gene Bank for medicinal and aromatic plants by the G-15 group of countries set up in the Tropical Botanic Gardens & Research Institute will be expanded.

123. Mapping of the coastal regulation zone to implement the Coastal Zone Management Policy of the State, systematic study of landslides to map and evolve a model with predictive potential for application to the entire landslide prone areas in the State, monitoring the coastal marine water for indentifying areas and levels of pollution, integrated study of river basins, study of the State in regard to its earth quake proneness and other natural calamities extension of Inegrated Rural Energy Programmes in more districts, development of inland waterways with the perspective of developing tourism in the State integrated road development activities with special emphasis on rural roads and hill roads, enhancing productivity of man-made forests eco-restoration of degraded forests and afforestation by community participation, strengthening and extending activities of Paryavaram Vahinis, development of bio-fertilisers, training of efficient use of water resources etc. will be undertaken during the year.

124. This Government have always pursued a policy of promoting excellence in the field of culture. With a view to heralding a cultural renaissance in Kerala, Government have already initiated draft cultural policy which is being widely debated and discussed. After arriving at a consensus on major points Government would declare its cultural policy which will provide a clear perspective on cultural development activities.

125. Government are proposed to make comprehensive legislations on Panchyat Raj and Municipal Administration on line with the mandatory provisions in the Constitution's Seventy-third and Seventy-fourth Amendment Acts. It has been decided to constitute Panchayats at Village, Block and District levels. These laws will contain provisions for the devolution of powers and responsibilities to the Panchayats at the appropriate level and to the Municipal bodies, in respect of preparation of plans and implementation of schemes for economic development and social justice as may be entrusted to them including those in relation to matters listed in the Eleventh and Twelfth Schedules of the Constitution. The opportunity provided by the historic Constitutional amendments will be fully utilised to establish vibrant, democratic and responsive self Government Institutions in the State.

126. For conducting the elections the State Election Commission has already been appointed. Elections will be held soon after the comprehensive legislations are enacted.

127. A State Finance Commission will also be set up shortly under the provisions of the Constitution to review the financial position of the local bodies and to make recommendations regarding the principles for tax sharing, tax assignment and grants in aid and regarding measures for improving the financial position of the local bodies.

128. All the schemes now being implemented in the Village Panchayats and Urban local bodies such as United Fund Scheme, Self Reliant Village Scheme, Slum Improvement Scheme, Urban Basic Services for poor, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns Scheme, Low cost Sanitation Scheme, HUDCO assisted Development Scheme etc. will be continued in 1994-95 with more peoples participation and enhanced physical targets.

129. Housing has always been at the core of my Government's priorities. In tune with the United Nations decision to provide shelter for all by the turn of the century, my Government have launched an ambitious housing programme viz. the Rajeev One Million Housing Scheme. Under this scheme, it is proposed to construct one million houses over a period of five years. The project is sought to be implemented with the active involvement of Government, public sector, co-operatives, banks and private sector. The scheme is making desired progress and has won acclaim [at the national level]. The model housing scheme in the villages, house sites to the landless workers and various housing programmes for occupational groups belonging to the economically weaker sections form part of this massive effort. The employment potentials of this scheme has also been estimated to be substantial.

130. The total number of houses completed under the Rajeev One Million Housing Scheme so far is 1,32,802. A new Housing Scheme for flood prone areas in Kerala is under consideration. The programme is to construct 31,520 houses at a total estimated cost of Rs. 47.28 crore. The funding of this scheme will be 40% loan from HUDCO 30% grant from Central Government and 30% grant from State Government. The unit cost of a house is Rs. 15,000 against which beneficiaries will get Rs. 9,000 as grant. This is being implemented on a priority basis.

131. Vigorous efforts will be made for the speedy implementation of schemes such as Satellite Townships and Revenue Towers. The housing projects meant for different economic strata are drawn up and implemented by the Kerala State Housing Board. It is a matter of great satisfaction that the Kerala State Housing Board has been adjudged by HUDCO as the best housing agency.

132. The unique experiment of Nirmithi Kendra to start Production Centres all over Kerala for providing low-cost building materials has received recognition of the United Nations Commission for Human Settlements which at its 14th Session held at Nairobi on May 25, 1993 has recommended the establishment of similar institutions at national level, provincial level and local levels the world over, to ensure wider application of cost effective building materials and technology.

133. The computerisation of Revenue and Expenditure Accounts of the State already implemented in District Treasuries is being extended to sub-Treasuries also in stages.

134. As declared by Government earlier, the scales of pay of State Government employees and Teachers have been revised at Central rates with effect from 1-3-1992. By this exercise, the salary including HRA, CCA, etc. of employees have considerably increased, entailing an additional expenditure of Rs. 160 crores per year. The question of revision of pensionary benefits of State Government pensioners consequent on the revision of pay scales is also engaging the attention of the Government.

135. Determined and stringent measures adopted by the State Government aimed at reducing non-plan expenditure and mobilising maximum revenues have started showing positive results.

136. The Expenditure Commission and Resources Commission constituted by Government have recommended various measures for raising the revenues and effecting economy in expenditure. Many of these recommendations have already been implemented.

137. As the representatives of the Government at the cutting edge level of administration, the Revenue Department has emerged as an effective instrument in bringing the fruits of Governmental actions to the common man by organising Grama Sabhas and Taluk Sabhas. Through those institutions, a new dynamism has been imparted to the implementation of Governmental scheme with people's participation. Through sustained efforts it has been possible to remove the bottlenecks which stood in the way of granting Pattayams to those who occupy forest land prior to 1-1-1997. The proposal of the State Government for the assignment of forest land occupied prior to 1-1-1977 has been approved by the Government of India. The first phase of the proposal is to regularise the occupation in an extent of 28,588 hec. in Thrissur, Ernakulam, Idukki Pathanamthitta and Kollam Districts. Out of this, 25,363 hec. relate to the Idukki District. Applications received for assignment of forest land in Idukki District as on 30-12-1993 is 65,617. The number of holdings verified is 23,689 covering an extent of 5,579 hec. Mahazars have been prepared in 12,908 cases. The number of 'pattas' ready for distribution is 10,652. All these pattayams will be issued as a time bound programme.

138. A crash programme has already been announced to the effect that all pending applications for pattayam in Revenue land will be processed and finalised on a priority basis. To achieve this objective, Government have issued orders that the list of all pending applications for pattayam will be published in the Taluk Sabhas and that steps would be taken to dispose of all pending applications expeditiously. Substantial progress has been achieved in the matter and all the pending applications will be finalised as quickly as possible.

139. Government have cleared the introduction of the Torrens system which is a major watershed in streamlining of the maintenance of land records in the State. The issue of Revenue Cards is making good progress. As part of the upgradation of standards of the Revenue Offices the construction of 100 Village Offices will be taken up during this year. Collection of revenue being the basis of the success of developmental programmes in the State, the Revenue Department has been geared up to maximise collections and we will spare no efforts in bringing to book the wilful defaulters and the evaders.

140. Running its third year in office, my Government is Janus-faced in looking backwards and forwards. When we look back we see a trail of petals and bouquets left behind by our actions and vision. When we look forward we get an inspiring glimpse of the resurgence of a brave new Kerala which holds promises of a prosperous and glorious living for its citizens. As in the case of men there is a tide in the affairs of States also which, if tackled properly, leads on to fortune. We are at a vantage point in recent history when the voice of the people of Kerala is heard wherever it matters. We should use the strength of the present to build fortifications for the future. We should use present opportunities for future possibilities. Instead of looking into ourselves we should reach out and look at the vast world outside. Insularity and complacency have no place in my vision of the future. My Government will therefore give aggressive thrust on total development of the State in all spheres of life. We will spare no efforts in turning this State into a model of development for other to emulate. My Government will strive for a development consensus which cuts across political differences divergent view points, and sectarian considerations. Development for all and development without deprivation will form the essence of my Government's administrative philosophy. Whatever we do whatever we decide, the minorities and the economically weaker sections should become the prime beneficiaries of government's developmental efforts. We have made the resolutions. We have miles to go before we sleep.

JAI HIND