

JANUARY 22, 1993

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

It was hope for the best which marked my first address to the Assembly. There was a note of achievement in my second address. Today I am here with a sense of fulfilment, for my Government have been able to rekindle the fading hopes of the electorate which voted it to power. It was an uphill task for my Government to put law and order and the economy of the State back on the rails. Our enlightened policies and determined implementation have already started making perceptible impact in both the fields. My Government have weathered many storms. When the nation was reeling under the impact of the holocaust unleashed by the unfortunate events in Ayodhya, Kerala could withstand its fallout creditably. The miscreants and anti-social elements who tried to foment communal hatred and social tension here and there in the pretext of retaliation to the Ayodhya incidents soon found themselves outwitted by a Government determined to quell the tide and a people united to uphold communal Harmony. The efficiency of the police was put to test and they emerged as guardians of law and order and sentinels of peace.

2. In the recent past Kerala witnessed the unwelcome visitations of unprecedented floods causing havoc and destruction of a scale and magnitude hitherto unwitnessed. My Government rose to the occasion and plunged into relief operations with war like efficiency and promptness. The result is there for any one to see and judge. Requisitioning the services of the Army, Navy and Air Force and enlisting the enthusiastic participation of the District Administration, the Revenue Department, the police, the medical services, sister departments and the public, my Government could show how people's welfare could be taken care of in an hour of acute emergency. In crisis it is performance and not platitudes which determines the difference between strength and weakness, between success and failure. I would like to claim that my Government emerged from calamities and crises stronger and stronger. I would attribute this to the strength of our political fabric and the texture of our policy framework.

3. Calamities did not bewilder us nor the resource crunch dampen our spirits. Though we inherited virtually empty coffers we did not think it befitting a responsible Government to pass the buck and delude ourselves with impotent indignation. The short-sighted, and doctrinaire approach which characterised the economic management of the State in the recent past had left to us the legacy of an initial deficit of Rs. 100 crores. The burden imposed by the successive natural calamities was enormous. Yet slowly and steadily we formulated and implemented development projects in all sectors of the economy without let or hindrance.

4. When my Government assumed office we had two main tasks ahead. The first was to undo the damage done to the economic development of the State by those who guided it with a penchant for dogmatism. The second was to formulate progressive policies and streamline the administrative machinery to ensure effective implementation. We started off methodically and comprehensive policies were formulated in the key sectors of the economy.

5. Though the State has a predominantly agrarian economy there was no concerted policy to inform our developmental activities in this sector. For the first time in the State my Government have taken the initiative to formulate a comprehensive agricultural development policy which aims at imparting a new dynamism to the agricultural sector. With its focus on the development of infrastructure for augmenting production and productivity the agricultural development policy is expected to be an eye opener to all those who are concerned with the growth of agriculture and the welfare of the farmer. Our commitment to the farming community has been amply demonstrated by the ameliorative measures taken by my Government in writing off Rs. 20 crores of agricultural loans and providing another 20 crores as relief to the farmers affected by the natural calamities. To mitigate the adverse effects of the decontrol of fertiliser my Government have been able to provide Rs. 9.84 crores as subsidy. As a concrete step towards meeting our food deficit my Government proposes to increase the paddy cultivation in the State by observing 1993 as a year of paddy development. It is a mark of the Government's concern for the farmer that we propose to introduce a unique pension scheme which envisages the payment of a monthly pension of Rs. 1000 for the farmers who are

over 60 years of age. It is expected that this revolutionary concept would attract youth and retain them in agricultural operations. My Government considers the agricultural development policy a historic document which recognises the invaluable contribution of the toiling farmer to the economic wellbeing of the State.

6. Our industrial policy is the quintessence of pragmatism and liberalism. Despite the various vicissitudes on the economic front we have been able to push through our industrial policy with vigour and determination. Today industrialists from within and outside the country see in our State vast potential for safe and profitable investment. The highest priority given to the rapid industrialisation of the State through the instrumentality of the new industrial policy is evident from the fact that a Cabinet Sub Committee has been constituted to interact with the investors and take immediate decisions at the highest level. The Intensive Industrialisation Programme launched by my Government is expected to usher in a new phase of accelerated industrialisation of the State with accent on small scale industries.

7. The Water Policy announced by my Government is aimed at scientific management of the available water resources of our State. Long term and short term action plans are on the anvil to control floods and regulate the run off.

8. The power sector has received a short in the arm with Government of India's offer of financial assistance from the Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund for the Kayamkulam Super Thermal Power Project. The Lower Periyar Project is slated for commissioning in 1995 and the Kakkad Power Station even earlier.

9. Tourism has been a major thrust area of my Government. Kerala's vast potential for tourism development has not so far been tapped to the optimum. With unique and distinctive advantages for promotion of holiday tourism, culture tourism, pilgrim tourism and endowed with bewitching natural beauty Kerala has much in store to attract tourists of all hues from all over the world. An imaginative and pragmatic plan of action has been drawn up by my Government to augment infrastructural facilities, develop tourist resorts and market Kerala abroad. The formation of the Bekal Development Authority and observance of the Destination Kerala Year 1993-94 coupled with the activities of the District Tourism Promotion Councils to develop local infrastructure and tourism management are expected to go a long way in the transformation of Kerala into a unique haven of the tour and travel industry.

10. Welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes has always been at the core of my Government's priorities. Apart from streamlining the implementation of the special component plan and the tribal sub plan, my Government have launched a series of innovative schemes for the welfare of the Scheduled Caste and Tribes. To equip them to find self-employment through the medium of electronics and modern gadgetry my Government have launched a major programme.

11. My Government are quite aware of our commitment given to the settlers as far back as 1978 that those who occupied the forestland prior to 1977 will be given title deeds. We are taking all measures to fulfil this promise within the shortest possible time.

12. True to the best traditions of democracy my Government have always placed the will of the people at the centre of our Governmental philosophy. The common man should find the Government responsive to his needs and problems. That Government alone has relevance for him which brings immediate and effective remedy to his woes and worries. To bring immediate redressal of the grievances of the public my Government have launched a series of innovative schemes, prominent among which is the SPEED (Simplified Procedure for Early and Effective Disposal) programme. Conceived as an effective administrative exercise to listen to the grievances of the common man and take immediate action, the SPEED programme served as an eye opener to administration not only in Kerala, but also outside the State. My Government are determined to consolidate this programme and repeat it with more frequency. It was to institutionalise this effort and bring succour to the public with regularity that the Grama Sabhas and Taluk Sabhas were introduced in the State. We are committed to implementing these programmes with care and finesse. Redressing the grievances of the common man is, no doubt, the main priority of any responsible Government. Equally important is our obligation to bring up the backward areas of the State on par with their more developed counterparts. The Self Reliant Village Scheme has been visualised with the objective of accelerated development of rural areas with the people's participation in a time bound manner. To begin with, 113 village panchayats have been selected under this scheme and for the first time perhaps in the State specific action plans have been drawn up at the grass-root level with peoples' participation. My Government are determined to continue our efforts in this direction inspite of the resource crunch and the burden imposed on us by successive ravages of floods.

13. My Government made every effort to ensure that neither the continuing financial crunch nor the unprecedented natural calamities adversely affected the tempo of development. The new approach adopted in the Annual Plan for 1992-93 enabled the State to achieve positive results, especially in the expeditious completion of several ongoing programmes including some long-pending irrigation projects.

14. The State's VIII Five Year Plan represents a combined effort of the Centre, State and financial institutions to promote economic development. Government have constituted a high-level committee to ensure proper co-ordination between budgetary and institutional investments. High priority is given to externally aided and centrally sponsored schemes.

15. The Planning Commission has approved an Annual Plan outlay of Rs. 1000 crores for 1993-94. The Plan will focus on consolidating the progress already achieved, with emphasis on qualitative improvement in all areas. The Plan proposals in respect of agriculture, industry and water supply have been formulated in the light of the policy statements in these sectors. The emphasis has been on providing outlays for the timely completion of ongoing projects which have a reasonable chance of completion during the Five Year Plan period. Top priority has also been given for employment generation and poverty alleviation.

16. One hundred and thirteen village panchayats have been selected under the self-reliant village programme during this year, and more will be covered during the rest of the Five Year Plan period.

17. The overall law and order situation in the State was satisfactory. Although bundhs, communal incidents and the fall-out of the demolition of the Babri Masjid caused a severe strain on the law and order machinery, the situation was quickly brought under control. Effective police arrangements were made to deal with a series of agitations which took place on various issues. The communal situation in the State remained under control. The effective handling of riots despite these wide spread conflagration elsewhere in the country has come in for well-deserved praise from all quarters. As a reward, my Government sanctioned a sum of Rs. 1 crore to the police force.

18. The Police Department has proposed allocation of Rs. 150 lakhs for the UHF Radio Communication System during 1993-94. This will provide voice communication as well as other modern facilities. The Forensic Science Laboratory and the Photographic Bureau will be provided with sophisticated equipment.

19. My Government propose to establish a Police Academy at Thrissur. A new Armed Police Battalion is to be formed exclusively to deal with terrorism, communal riots and special operations. Special steps are being taken to fill up the vacancies of police constables and to complete training of all recruit constables during the coming year.

20. A priority list of 11 new fire stations has been prepared to modernise the Fire Force Department.

21. New Courts are being established in a phased manner in consultation with the High Court. Establishment of three Motor Accident Claims Tribunals and one Sub Court will be taken up this year. The Planning Commission has already taken steps to make construction of court buildings and residences for judicial officers, a 50% centrally sponsored plan scheme; the State Government's proposal in this regard will provide better infrastructural and other facilities to courts.

22. A proposal has been submitted to the Government of India to upgrade the Viyyur Central Jail into a high-security prison with 100% assistance from the Centre. The latter are also considering our proposal to extend the term of the scheme to modernise Prison Administration for three more years. Various aspects of prison administration and of the welfare of prisoners are under consideration of the Jail Reforms Committee.

23. The Official Language (Legislative) Commission has translated about 25 enactments including amending Acts during 1992-93.

24. As promised, my Government announced the State's Agricultural Development Policy, the first of its kind in the country. The policy aims at restoring vitality and dynamism to agriculture and dignity and recognition to farmers. Certain basic changes in approach have been initiated during 1992-93. The focus has been on building up infrastructure for increasing production and productivity. Consequently crops prospects are good despite the successive natural calamities of 1992. Prices of major crops except coffee and pepper are also reasonable. My Government were able to persuade the Central Government to waive the export cess on pepper.

25. A sum of Rs. 20 crores was earmarked for providing timely and effective relief to farmers affected by natural calamities. This is the highest amount provided for relief in the State. Agricultural loans of over Rs. 20 crores was written off. An amount of Rs. 9.84 crores was provided for payment of subsidies to stabilise fertilizer prices. Paddy farmers are being given an exclusive subsidy of Rs. 200 per hectare per season during 1992-93, in addition to the regular fertilizer subsidy.

26. My Government intend to declare 1993 as an "Year of Paddy Development" and to invest Rs. 50 crores for this purpose. This programme will focus on building up infrastructure, reclamation of uncultivated land, conversion of single crop into double crop, etc. An additional area of 25,000 hectares will be brought under paddy. Restarting of the Kole Development Project which was at a standstill for some year now is a major feature. About 1000 power tillers, 1000 threshers and other agricultural implements will be distributed to group farming samithies. The additional production expected it about 1 lakh MT of paddy. This will be the biggest programme taken up in Kerala for development of paddy in a single year.

27. A major Rs. 12 crore programme to develop minor irrigation facilities in coconut gardens is proposed during the summer of 1993. One hundred units to convert coconut into copra will be set up during the rainy season. An inter-disciplinary team of scientists will be constituted to intensify research into the rootwilt disease. Higher financial support will be given to develop spices like pepper, ginger, turmeric etc., and for vegetables and cashew.

28. Livestock development and dairy farming will be promoted by devoting more attention to backyard system and more facilities for cross-breeding and veterinary services. Commercial production of fodder and feed will be encouraged. A massive programme to distribute birds and piglets will be launched to reduce Kerala's dependence on neighbouring States for meat and egg. This is in addition to the programme under implementation or distribution of young livestock to school children.

29. There was a substantial increase in milk production during 1992-93. The Thiruvananthapuram dairy plant was commissioned. Implementation of the Swiss-aided North Kerala Dairy Project will be expedited.

30. My Government will soon announce a Comprehensive Policy for the planned development of the fisheries sector while conserving fisheries resources. Joint ventures will be started to develop aquaculture, hatcheries and feedmill, and for boat building. The Fisheries Department will be reorganised to make it more effective.

31. Fisheries stations will be set up to deal with conservation regulation and development of fisheries resources. A third National Fish Seed Farm will be set up. New generation craft which are more efficient will be popularised.

32. A fisheries Harbour Authority will be set up and eight Regional Fisheries Technical High Schools will be reorganised to make their courses truly technical. Financial assistance will be sought from the World Bank and other institutions to provide permanent houses to all fishermen.

33. My Government will expand the scope of "Project Rosewood", a scheme to protect and propagate rare and important species of forest trees, so as to cover six more species. A comprehensive scheme is envisaged to protect endangered Shola forests of the State. The promotion of "ecotourism" in suitable forest areas in order to enhance the awareness about forestry among the general public is being organised. A Forestry Information Bureau will be set up this year itself to disseminate more facts about our forests among the people. A Comprehensive Forestry Development Project involving Rs. 120 Crores for rehabilitating degraded forests, improving communication facilities in forests and strengthening forestry research has been submitted to the Central Government for seeking external assistance. It is hoped that this scheme can be implemented from this year onwards. It is also proposed to establish a 'Clonal Orchard' of local mangoes in Palakkad District in order to preserve the local mango varieties which are now fast-disappearing from the State.

34. My Government intend to strengthen and streamline the co-operative sector. The Kerala Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Act, 1992 has fixed the term of the managing committees of co-operative Societies as three years, restricted rule by administrators to just one year, and introduced an identity card-system for voting. A Deposit Guarantee Scheme has been introduced. Classification of primary societies

and apex organisations revised. Action was initiated to implement the pension scheme. The Welfare Fund was liberalised. An institute of Co-operative Management was opened at Kannur.

35. In the coming year institutional arrangements and policy initiatives for successful deployment of the surplus funds of co-operatives is contemplated. The problems of weak co-operatives, especially co-operative hospitals and primary agricultural credit societies, will be studied and acted upon. Projects to strengthen marketing, processing and consumer co-operatives are proposed with funds from NCDC and elsewhere. A Co-operative Medical Complex will be set up at Kannur.

36. Two new projects, both fully funded by the Centre, have been taken up in the sphere of Rural Development. The Prime Minister's scheme for supplying modern tool kits to rural artisans is under implementation in Thiruvananthapuram, Kozhikode and Malappuram districts. The Integrated Wastelands Development Project is under implementation in Thrissur, Palakkad and Malappuram districts. Government are preparing proposals to cover additional watersheds in these districts and to extend the project to other districts.

37. My Government will further streamline implementation of the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and the Integrated Rural Development Project. A survey of families below the poverty line has been conducted. New marketing outlets for products made by IRDP beneficiaries will be opened.

38. During the current year the department has received considerable assistance from UNICEF for schemes for women's development, and more is expected during 1993-94. Vigorous efforts will be made through People's Action for Development (Kerala) to get more assistance from the Council for Advancement of People's Action & Rural Technology.

39. My Government have maintained smooth and uninterrupted distribution of essential commodities through the Public Distribution System (PDS). The Centre was persuaded to increase our monthly allotment of rice from 1.42 lakh MT to 1.50 lakh MT, the bulk of it boiled rice. Raids and inspections have been conducted on a massive scale to curb black marketeering. Food Advisory Committees, Janakeeya Sabhas, Monitoring Cells, Special Surprise Squads and Labour Conciliation Committees have been constituted to watch over the PDS. A renewed attempt is being made to ensure people's participation at the ARD level under the revamped PDS.

40. The number of ration cards for each authorised ration depot has been reduced to 250 and Government are trying to ensure that no card holder travels over a kilometre to the nearest ration shop. The number of cards has increased to 52.84 lakhs. A scheme for a welfare fund for ration dealers has been formulated.

41. The number of Maveli Stores has increased from 342 to 551 and the Mobile Maveli Stores from 8 to 18. During 1993-94 every Panchayat/Municipality/Corporation will have at least one society and one selected ARD to distribute essential commodities under the auspices of the Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation. In addition to the 18 Mobile Maveli Stores, 30 more Maveli Stores have been sanctioned by Government of India for distributing essential commodities in tribal areas, hilly areas, and fishermen blocks. More Maveli Stores will be set up during 1993-94.

42. Retail Supermarkets will be started in six more districts. Maveli Stores in Municipalities will be upgraded. "Sulabha" vegetable outlets will be set up in each Assembly Constituency. Earnest efforts are underway to introduce substantial modifications in this sector with people's participation and thereby ensure an efficient public distribution system.

43. The new Industrial Policy was announced in September 1991. Most of the measures outlined therein have already been implemented. Government have, in many cases, gone beyond the industrial policy and implemented several other measures considered necessary for rapid industrial development. The industrial policy has already had substantial impact; during April to December, 1992, the Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation signed 50% more Memoranda of Understanding and completed 83% more projects than during the corresponding period of the previous year. Sanction of financial assistance also recorded a 49 per cent increase. Many large groups have evinced interest in starting industrial ventures in Kerala

44. My Government will further strive to improve the environment for Industry in the State. Close liaison is being maintained between the Industries and Power Departments to ensure that power generation keeps pace with industrial development. Similarly, the industrial relations climate has improved and the Industries Department is working closely with the Labour Department to further improve the situation. The Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation has already been formed and efforts will be made to develop land suitable for industry in all districts. Various procedures have been simplified and further streamlining is intended. My Government will endeavour to bring about attitudinal changes at all levels and amongst all sections of society to ensure the creation of an atmosphere conducive to heavy industrial investment.

45. My Government propose to launch, during the next few weeks, an Intensive Industrialisation Programme aimed at actively promoting the establishment of small scale industries in all parts of the State. The district administrations will be closely involved in this task. In the field of medium scale industry, KSIDC will further intensify their efforts. In the field of large industry, my Government's emphasis will be on petro-chemicals and mineral-based industries. Government are now preparing strategies for the long term revival growth of all public sector undertakings. In the traditional sector the Integrated Coir Development Project is already under implementation. A scheme to start 33 co-operative handloom village projects has been forwarded to NCDC for sanction. Another scheme to establish one lakh powerlooms by retraining handloom weavers is under preparation. We will work in accordance with clear schedules and time bound programmes. The establishment of industry is essentially a time consuming process. Since our objectives are clear, we have no doubt that we will proceed rapidly towards our goal.

46. My Government have completed construction of the fully computerised Madakkathara 400 KV sub station. As a short-term measure, three Diesel Generating Stations will be set up at Kasaragod, Kozhikode and Brahmapuram. Work will soon begin on the 420 MW Kayamkulam Thermal Project. Smaller hydel schemes at Peppara, Malampuzha etc., are to be commissioned in another year.

47. Efforts are being made to control transmission and distribution losses. Capacitor Banks will be commissioned in 16 sub stations by the end of 1993 to enable improved power supply during peakloads.

48. My Government welcome private sector participation in power generation. The KSEB has already signed an MOU for eighteen small hydel schemes.

49. To promote energy conservation, my Government have made energy audit mandatory for all EHT/HT and other establishments. Government also propose to grant various incentives to encourage energy conservation.

50. My Government are taking all effective steps including constitution of Industrial Relations Committees to maintain industrial peace in the State. Various welfare funds are being constituted for the benefit of the labourers in both the organised and the unorganised sector. Government will take effective steps for the security, health care, and welfare of Factory labour, and to regulate their working hours. Wherever necessary, workers will be brought under the occupational health scheme. Government will continue to implement existing schemes like placement service, vocational guidance, special coaching for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, payment of unemployment wages, etc. More Town Employment Exchanges will be opened.

51. Steps have been taken to modernise, diversify and strengthen vocational training with World Bank assistance. To promote overseas employment opportunities, my Government propose to open an office of the Overseas Development and Employment Promotion Consultants Limited at Bombay, as a joint venture of ODEPC and Government of Maharashtra.

52. The Public Works Department has prescribed a minimum guarantee period for works and introduced restrictions on payment for materials. Display of certain crucial information is obligatory for works about Rs. 10 lakhs. Revision of the PWD Code will be done soon. The progress of works is regularly reviewed in meetings with elected representatives of the people.

53. The first phase of the development of roads to Sabarimala is over. There has been good progress in several other works. A new MLA work scheme has been announced. Major projects like survey of NH 49, construction of NH 47A and the ADB project for widening the Aluva Cherthala stretch of NH 47 have been sanctioned. A special division has been formed for Wayanad ghat roads.

54. The road infrastructure was extensively damaged due to successive floods in 1992. Despite financial constraints the PWD have taken up repair works on a war-footing. A project to avail of World Bank assistance to prevent recurrence of major damage in future has been presented.

55. The working of the Department will be streamlined. Norms will be drawn up for completing works expeditiously.

56. More accident-prone areas will be improved. Some junction improvement on state highways and major district roads is contemplated.

57. The Department will try to complete the old MLA road scheme in the next two years.

58. The Irrigation projects at Chittoorpuzha, Periyar Valley, Pamba and Kuttiadi have been included in the Command Area Development Programme this year. Henceforth major irrigation projects like the Chaliyar scheme will be implemented as multi-purpose schemes. Schemes to construct check-dams across rivers and for preparation of a Master Plan for developing water resources have been sanctioned. Major irrigation projects like Kallada (Phase I), Pamba and Periyar Valley will be completed this year.

59. Government have launched the 'Jaladhara' scheme and the 'Janakeeya Jalasechana Padhathi' both based on popular participation. Ground water resources will be recharged and conserved. Ground water potential in hard rock areas will be evaluated.

60. There are 12 ongoing major irrigation projects in the State, the original estimated cost of these was Rs. 112 crores. The non-completion of these projects within the stipulated time, has resulted in the revision of estimate, thereby increasing the total cost to Rs. 1150 crores. My Government have taken steps for the periodical review of the progress of work of the projects to see to it that all the projects are completed and commissioned on schedule to save further escalation of construction cost.

61. Water supply will be extended to cover an additional 16 lakhs people in rural areas by the end of March 1993, by commissioning 172 out of 360 ongoing rural water supply schemes.

62. All the 7 World Bank assisted rural water supply schemes are targeted for completion during 1993-94. They will cover about 10 lakh people. Six of the eight Dutch-assisted water supply schemes have been commissioned as originally planned. These schemes have since been revised to increase the population coverage to 90%. The revised schemes will be completed within the next 2 years. Two of the 3 Danida-assisted schemes will be completed, and one partially completed, during 1993-94. The Dutch and Danida-assisted schemes will together benefit 33 lakh persons.

63. A special scheme to cover 958 waterless SC/ST habitations, being implemented with Central assistance under the Dr. Ambedkar Centenary Programme, will be completed by March, 1993. Thirtythree rural water supply schemes under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme will be taken up during 1993-94. When completed, these schemes, with a total estimated cost of Rs. 56 crores, will benefit 15 lakh persons.

64. Seventy per cent of the urban population is already covered by water supply schemes. Twentytwo Urban Water Supply Augmentation Schemes are under Implementation, of which 12 are financed by LIC/ HUDCO. When completed these schemes will benefit an additional 10% of the urban population. Water Supply schemes for Varkala and Koothattukulam are to be taken up during 1993-94 with finance from LIC.

65. My Government propose to computerise the Motor Vehicles Department and to modernise its equipment. The KSRTC will be revamped by reorganising offices, resheduling operations, improving

collection, and through direct recruitment of officers. The objective is to make KSRTC a viable organisation that provides better service to the public. The Kerala Transport Development Finance Corporation will mobilise public deposits and provide funds to the KSRTC so that the latter does not require budgetary support. The transport sector will be run on sound commercial lines like an industry.

66. A joint exercise will be conducted by the Transport Department, the Police and the PWD to reduce the incidence of road accidents.

67. The declaration of the Kollam-Kottappuram sector as a National Waterway is expected to attract substantial investment for inland water transport and allied activities. This will also encourage tourism and industrialisation, and increase the role of the Kerala Shipping and Inland Navigation Corporation and of the State Water Transport Department.

68. My Government are making vigorous efforts for the development of minor ports in Kerala. Cargo operations commenced at Vizhinjam for the first time. The development of Vizhinjam Port, now initiated, will pave the way for the accelerated development of south Kerala in general and Thiruvananthapuram District in particular. A project drawn up with an outlay of Rs. 11.69 crores for the development of Azhikkal Port will accelerate the development of northern Malabar. Dredging operations could be completed at Azhikkal and Munambam Ports in a single year during 1992. A project report to set up a Maritime Corporation for the development of minor ports in Kerala is under preparation.

69. A special campaign called "Destination Kerala Year 1993-94" will be launched to streamline the existing infrastructure for tourism, and to create new facilities. The objective is to tap Kerala's vast potential as a tourist destination. At the same time, entrepreneurship in this sector will be promoted. A Tourism Development Bank will be set up and institutional credit made available to entrepreneurs. A healthy relationship will thus be fostered with the private sector, so that substantial employment can be generated.

70. My Government have formulated various schemes for ameliorating the lot of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections. The training centres under the Scheduled Caste Development Department will be converted to Industrial Training Centres affiliated to NVTC and imparting training in modern trades that have employment opportunities.

71. Government propose to bring the Coaching Centre for Civil Service Examinations at Thiruvananthapuram and the Modern Residential Schools for Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribes students under autonomous bodies for efficient management and better results. A new Residential School for the Cholanaiikans and Kattunaikans will be started at Nilambur.

72. To achieve effective implementation of Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub Plan, my Government are considering whether some flexibility for inter-sectoral adjustment of funds can be given to district level working groups. The Intensive Habitat Development Programme will be extended to 360 Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes habitats during 1993-94.

73. My Government will keep up the tempo of the Tribal Literacy Project launched last year and achieve total literacy of tribals. Government propose to set up a Tribal Archery Centre and a Tribal Medicine Centre in Wayanad district.

74. The State Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Development Corporation has recently undertaken a major diversification programme to prepare a shelf of viable and modern schemes. Its financial achievement during this year is likely to touch an all time high of Rs. 30 crores. My Government propose to implement a new Housing Scheme for Christian Converts from Scheduled Castes and Recommended Communities.

75. The Intensive Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS) has helped to improve the health and institutional status of children below six years and women. The sixtyeight blocks not covered by ICDS will be brought within the scheme in a phased manner. A scheme for constructing buildings for Anganwadis has been taken up. A scheme to provide protective care and vocational training to adolescent girls in the age group of 11 to 18 is being implemented in selected blocks. A welfare fund has been constituted for Anganwadi workers. Income generation activities for women will be given high priority, especially in rural areas, by promoting schemes under the auspices of the Women's Development Corporation. The Kerala Dowry Prohibition Rules, 1992, have been issued.



76. During 1993-94 the focus will be on improving the qualitative aspect of the health care delivery system. Sophisticated techniques and services will be introduced for health care and the prevention and cure of disease. More inputs like staff, beds, modern equipment, etc., will be provided. Speciality services like cardiology, neurology and diabetic and geriatric clinics will be opened. My Government also propose to open 15 more Primary Health Centres (PHC) in rural areas, to construct inpatient wards in 50 PHCs, and to upgrade facilities in Community Health Centres.

77. Twenty-four more dispensaries practising the Indian Systems of Medicine and 14 new rural Homoeo dispensaries are proposed to be opened. A Naturopathy wing in the District Ayurveda Hospital in Ernakulam and two speciality wings are also to be started.

78. The package programme for Child Survival and Safe Motherhood will be extended to Kozhikode, Kasaragod, Kannur and Wayanad districts. The Mahila Swasthya Scheme will be extended to more districts. It is proposed to implement the Urban Revamping Scheme for intensifying family welfare activities in urban slums in Thiruvananthapuram, Kozhikode and Kochi Corporations.

79. My Government propose to deal with AIDS on a war-footing so that this scourge does not spread. Modernisation of methods of treatment by applying the latest techniques available in developed countries will be effected.

80. In keeping with its promise to improve the quality of education, my Government have submitted a scheme to the Centre to convert the State Institute of Education into a State Council for Educational Research and Training. A District Institute of Educational Training is functioning in every district for inservice training to teachers. Schemes are also on the anvil to develop education technology, provide infrastructural facilities and improve the standards of academic supervision in schools. Revision of syllabus on the NCERT pattern will be completed by the academic year 1994-95 upto class X.

81. Government have constituted task forces in different disciplines to implement the New Education Policy. Pre-primary education has high priority and my Government would like to introduce a common pattern of instruction for pre-primary schools in Kerala. Efforts are on to start a society for promoting the education of disabled children, and to streamline and co-ordinate the activities of voluntary agencies in this field.

82. The second phase of the total literacy programme is now being implemented with active people's participation.

83. My Government have decided to start two self-financing Engineering Colleges to satisfy the growing demand, especially in the emerging areas of electronics and computer science. These Colleges will be started under the auspices of the Institute of Human Resources Development for Electronics and the LBS Centre for Science and Technology.

84. The Government of India have already set up a committee to examine the question of starting an IIM in Kerala. Two sub centres of the Kerala State Audio Visual and Reprographic Centre are to be started to train 500 youth during the year. The World Bank assisted Technician Education Project will improve the quality of the faculty and provide polytechnics with equipments and buildings.

85. The Canadian Government will provide Rs. 5 crores to develop polytechnics under the Canada India Institution Cooperation Project. Manpower development in the field of electronics and computers will be promoted with a grant of Rs. 1.30 crores from the Swiss Aid Project.

86. The Priyadarshini Planetarium, one of the best of its kind in India, is expected to be opened in April, 1993. Considerable progress has been achieved in the establishment of a Sanskrit University. My Government propose to bring in a unified University Act. Steps are also being taken to bring Pre-degree and Plus Two Education under a common umbrella.

87. In the area of Science & Technology the objective is to harmoniously integrate environmental concerns with the need for economic development. My Government have already submitted projects for creating 10,000 jobs during the next financial year under the Centre's MEGASAT programme. It is proposed to establish an institute for Mathematical and Statistical Sciences, a Remote Sensing Centre, a Coastal Zone Authority, and a River Protection Authority. Panchayat Level Resource Mapping activity will be extended to all Panchayats of the State. Development of Non-conventional Energy will be promoted. The Integrated

Rural Energy Programme will be extended to 3 more blocks. An Environmental Protection Council is being constituted. Projects on Flood Control, Western Ghat Development, Conservation of Forests and Fresh Water Lakes, Solid Waste Disposal, development of useful materials from industrial effluents, etc., are also under active consideration.

88. My Government will make a policy statement on culture, aimed at involving the people in protecting our heritage and promoting cultural activities. The Sree Chithra Thirunal Enclave will start functioning during the current year.

89. For the first time awards were instituted for television programmes telecast in Kerala. The SAARC festival was successfully organised. Institutional arrangements will be made for timely dissemination of information to the public.

90. My Government have taken up several new schemes including Centrally sponsored ones to develop the sports infrastructure. There is a proposal to develop a state level sports complex at Thiruvananthapuram with facilities of an international standard, and to set up an academy of adventure and environmental awareness for youth. Government wish to develop a State Youth Centre at Thiruvananthapuram with two regional sub centres to develop the cultural and sports activities and to counsel youth regarding employment opportunities.

91. My Government propose to house the Rajiv Gandhi Sports Medicine Centre at Thiruvananthapuram in a building complex. Its services will be extended to all district coaching centres soon. Two sports schools will be established at Malappuram and Kottayam districts within the coming financial year to train young children.

92. Although the term of local bodies is due to end shortly, elections can be held only after certain procedural formalities are completed. Moreover my Government propose to make substantial changes in the laws relating to local bodies so as to make them stronger. Government have therefore decided to extend the term of the existing elected local bodies, in keeping with the principles of democracy, and to ensure proper implementation of various programmes including the schemes for self-reliant villages. However, Government are keen to hold elections within the shortest possible time.

93. My Government propose to establish a State Urban Development Agency and to strengthen the District Urban Development Agencies to co-ordinate, minor and supervise various poverty alleviation programmes including Nehru Rozgar Yojana, Urban Basic Services Programme, and the scheme for Environmental Improvement in Urban Slums.

94. My Government took immediate steps to extend relief to victims of the flash floods in October November, 1992. A multi-disciplinary and integrated project is being formulated at an outlay of about Rs. 3000 crores for ensuring long-term measures to withstand flood damage in future. This project will be posed for assistance from the World Bank.

95. It has been the consistent policy of the State Government from 1978 to issue title deeds to cultivators who had occupied forest lands before 1-1-1977, and my Government stand committed to the same. Preliminary steps including joint verification in 11 districts have been completed, and joint verification in the remaining districts of Palakkad, Kasaragod and Wayanad will be completed soon. Following several rounds of discussion with the Central Government, the Government of India have assured that sanction to issue pattas in such areas will be accorded immediately, and a formal announcement in this regard is expected very soon.

96. The Rajiv One Million Housing Scheme is progressing well. The sanction of Rs. 20 crores by the National Housing Bank for constructing housing complexes to rehabilitate the landless and homeless merits special mention. Two hundred and forty-five Panchayats have been identified for implementing this scheme. The Thrikkakara Housing Complex is complete and steps have been taken to start construction of such complexes in 52 more Panchayats immediately. Other components of the ROMHS including the Working Journalists' Housing Scheme are being implemented. The scheme for repairing houses under the One Lakh Housing Scheme and providing sanitary facilities has been launched. Construction of Revenue Towers in 56 Taluk headquarters through the Kerala State Housing Board will be started soon. An Action Plan is being drawn for a special drive by District Collectors for mobilising necessary resources for the programme.

97. The dying-in-harness scheme has been simplified. More companies will be brought within the purview of the Kerala Public Service Commission. Exemption from passing departmental test has been given to SC/ST employees till 31-12-1993, and permanent exemption for SC/ST employees who entered service before 31-12-1985 is contemplated.

98. Twenty District Treasuries are being computerised so that the ways-and-means position can be constantly monitored. Four new Sub Treasuries will be opened in the next financial year. Identity cards will be issued to all state pensioners. The Kerala Local Fund Audit Bill is under active consideration. A District Insurance Office will be opened at Kasaragod from 1st April, 1993.

99. This is the hour when we are called upon to discharge our obligations to history and duty to posterity. Our forefathers have handed down to us the noble legacy of tolerance and understanding which informed the Indian way of life for centuries. We prided in calling ourselves 'the great Indian melting pot' and the crucible of divergent cultures. Today our noble heritage of communal harmony, amity and brotherhood are precariously perched on a precipice threatening self destruction at the slightest tilt. This is the State which has given birth to Adi Sankara. This is the land which embraced the Malik-dinar from Arabia with both hands. These shores were blessed by the advent of St. Thomas who brought the lessons of love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ much before its shadows fell on the West. Only the genius of such a land could produce a great sage reformer like Sree Narayana Guru who could visualise the entire humanity knit together by the silken bond of One God, One religion, One caste. It was this heritage which history left to us to guard as its Trustees. If we fail in protecting this tradition, we fail in our duty to ourselves, to our forefathers and to our grandchildren. If the flame of communal harmony is put out in this enlightened State, darkness will envelope us and spread to other parts of the country too. This is the time when the people of Kerala led by the enlightened legislators should join hands and enter into an open covenant of perpetual harmony, openly arrived at. My Government consider it the need of the hour to suffer and to sacrifice so that the State will become a symphony of faiths and an epitome of harmony.

JAI HIND