

SHRI H. M. PATEL: I beg to move:

“That the Bill be passed.”

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That the Bill be passed.”

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up item Nos. 11 and 12 together.

Motion moved.

“That the respective sums not exceeding the Amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper, be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Tamil Nadu, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1978, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands Nos. 1 to 57”

Any hon. Member wants to speak on this.

15.33 hrs.

TAMIL NADU BUDGET, 1977-78—
GENERAL DISCUSSION AND DEMANDS** FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT, 1977-78

List of Demands for Grants on Account (Tamil Nadu) for 1977-78 submitted to vote of Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on Account	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	2	3	
1	Land Revenue Department	1,69,66,000	..
2	State Excise Department	25,83,000	..
3	Motor Vehicles Acts—Administration	37,79,000	..
4	General Sales Tax and Other Taxes and Duties—Administration.	2,08,52,000	..
5	Stamps Administration	23,25,000	..
6	Registration	88,63,000	..
7	State Legislature	11,13,000	..
8	Elections	11,71,000	..
9	Head of State, Ministers and Headquarters Staff	5,30,46,000	..
10	Milk Supply Schemes	41,54,000	..
11	District Administration	6,35,55,000	..

1	2	3	
		Revenue Rs.	
		Capital Rs.	
12	Administration of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959	54,91,000	..
13	Administration of Justice	1,00,39,000	..
14	Jails	2,19,29,000	..
15	Police	13,15,09,000	..
16	Fire Services	96,00,000	..
17	Education	61,29,18,000	..
18	Medical	18,08,17,000	..
19	Public Health	11,03,73,000	..
20	Agriculture	14,26,65,000	..
21	Fisheries	77,97,000	..
22	Animal Husbandry	4,11,97,000	..
23	Co-operation	2,22,58,000	..
24	Industries	1,35,69,000	..
25	Cinchona	38,23,000	..
26	Handlooms and Textiles	1,36,78,000	..
27	Khadi	25,84,000	..
28	Community Development Projects, Etc.	14,41,51,000	..
29	Labour Including Factories	1,64,00,000	..
30	Social Welfare	1,81,76,000	..
31	Welfare of the Scheduled Tribes and Castes, Etc.	6,19,54,000	..
32	Welfare of the Backward Classes, Etc.	2,64,01,000	..
33	Housing	3,93,96,000	..
34	Urban Development	3,47,97,000	..
35	Civil Supplies	1,60,44,000	..
36	Irrigation.	7,97,11,000	..
37	Public Works—Buildings	1,14,78,000	..
38	Public Works—Establishment and Tools and Plant	2,13,81,000	..
39	Roads and Bridges	9,94,38,000	..
40	Road Transport Services and Shipping	78,60,000	..

1	2	3	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
41	Relief on Account of Natural Calamities	5,000	..
42	Pensions and Other Retirement Benefits	7,25,08,000	
43	Miscellaneous	18,01,40,000	..
44	Stationery and Printing	2,60,12,000	
45	Forest Department	1,72,14,000	
46	Compensation and Assignments	5,45,18,000	..
47	Compensation to Zamindars	9,17,000
48	Capital Outlay on Public Health, Sanitation and Water-supply	30,38,000
49	Capital Outlay on Agriculture		5,14,35,000
50	Capital Outlay on Industrial Development		2,32,06,000
51	Capital Outlay on Irrigation		12,98,49,000
52	Capital Outlay on Public Works—Buildings		3,82,40,000
53	Capital Outlay on Roads and Bridges		3,38,52,000
54	Capital Outlay on Road Transport Services and Shipping		26,52,000
55	Capital Outlay on Forests		1,53,42,000
56	Miscellaneous Capital Outlay		3,17,18,000
57	Loans and Advances by the State Government	33,37,80,000

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN (Madras South): Madam Chairman, I rise to lend my support to the vote on account in the hope and I am sure that it will be shared by all sections of the House that the regular Budget of the Tamil Nadu Government will be presented to the appropriate Legislature, and that the hon. Finance Minister will be spared of the tedium of presenting it to this House. The Ruling Party is full of hopes and the Congress Party in Tamil Nadu is full of elation. Therefore, both of us are now in a mood to go to the polls and have a proper legislature constituted to discuss appropriate measures for the State.

A lot of dust was raised by the recent elections to the Lok Sabha and a number of things which happened in the course of the year under review got somewhat dimmed from our perspective. During the year under review, Tamil Nadu went under a very severe strain and distress in the form of drought on the one side and floods on the other. In fact, the southern districts of Tamil Nadu, i.e., Madurai, Ramnadapuram, Tirunelveli, and Kanyakumari were afflicted with such a severe drought that the people had to stand in queue for miles together in order to get a pot of water. I had gone round and seen the conditions there at

that time. It was a most heart-rending and a pitiable sight. The people had to stand in queue even for getting drinking water. As if nature mocks at all of us, on the other side, we had floods in the city of Madras inundating all the low-lying areas and slum areas. Again, a lot of damage was done to the weaker and poorer sections of the society in the area. I am happy that the Union Government gave about 27 crores for drought relief for the areas affected by drought in the southern districts and spent about four crores of rupees for the purpose of relieving distress on account of floods.

This is not a casual phenomenon. This is a recurring thing. I take this opportunity to press on the Union Government the need to solve the problem of drought in the southern districts of Tamil Nadu in a permanent way. There are no easy methods by which this problem can be solved. I look forward to my friends and neighbours and also to the good offices of the Government of India to see that available water resources of the southern region are reasonably distributed in order to maximise the use and benefit to all the people in this area. I would also recall in this connection the famous scheme which was initiated by the former Minister of Irrigation, namely, that of linking Ganga with Cauvery so that floods in one part of the country may be harnessed for feeding hungry, starving and thirsty millions of people in other parts of the country.

In spite of these natural calamities, Tamil Nadu has made some progress during the year under review. The first and the foremost achievement is in the field of controlling food prices. The price of boiled rice which is a staple food of the people there and which was Rs. 2.50 per Kg. a year before was brought down to Rs. 1.40 and Rs. 1.75 during the year under review. Again, on account of lifting of some of the restrictions on the movement of foodgrains, it has been possible to enable free movement of grain from one part

of the State to another thereby ensuring easy and ready availability of foodgrains.

The Hon. Member from the State of Bombay was cutting a number of jokes yesterday about the 20 point programme. Life without humour is certainly dull and Parliament without wit is dreary and so, to the extent to which he referred to the 20 point programme in humour we all enjoyed it. But it was meant to cloud the real progress that has been achieved. I would only make one or two references to the excellent progress made during the year under review. I am not going to deal with the whole of the problem but will just mention one or two facts only.

So far as distribution of agricultural land to landless labourers is concerned, 13580 acres were assigned to the landless poor in the State in this one year to over 7000 people.

The second figure I would like to give is that 1,7,000 house sites have been distributed during the year to the people who were houseless. Of these, 58,000 were Scheduled Castes people and 2000 Scheduled Tribes people—because we have very few Scheduled Tribes people in our State.

Now, agriculture and handloom industry provide the largest employment in Tamilnadu. In fact, more than about a third of the population of Tamilnadu live by the handloom industry and its allied services. They were given assistance at the rate of Rs. 500 per loom and Government improved the production centres to provide new employment to a large number of people. Over and above that, 22000 handloom weavers have been brought into the cooperative fold, thus giving them various benefits.

Therefore, I would like to mention that, whatever might have been the performance of the 20 point programme in other parts of the country, the excellent performance of the 20 point pro-

[Shri R. Venkataraman]

gramme in Tamil Nadu is at least one of the reasons for the magnificent elections results that it has shown for the Congress.

Unfortunately though Tamil Nadu was in the forefront in regard to industrial development and power development about a decade ago, it became very backward in both these items and started trailing behind other States. In 1965-66 Tamil Nadu was the third among the industrialised States in the whole of India. Next to Maharashtra and West Bengal, Tamilnadu had the largest number of factories and the largest number of workers employed, the greatest volume of industrial production and also the highest value added trade. But unfortunately now, after a decade, particularly after the misrule of the Karunanidhi DMK Government, we have sunk from the third position to third from the bottom. We were about ten years ago third from the top and now we are third from the bottom. One of the reasons for this backwardness or deterioration is that no Central project of any importance has been given to Tamilnadu during this period. During the ten years preceding that rule, we were able to get the Bharat Heavy Electricals at Tiruchirapalli, the Tank Factory at Avadi and the Small Arms Factory at Tiruchirapalli. Neiveli is one of the projects which has given us assistance both in the matter of employment and in supplying the infrastructure for power.

I want the Finance Minister to make a note that, if the major project which is now on the anvil, namely, the Salem Steel Project, is not included in the Budget and given the highest priority, it will not only cause a deep disappointment in Tamil Nadu but drag the industrial development further backward and lead to further deterioration. The Salem Project was initiated during my period as the Industries Minister in that State. It has had a chequered career. All the time we have been

promised that it is being pursued. I find that, now, there is a rethinking on this after the Janata Government has taken charge. I wish to caution them that any attempt to either postpone or delay or abandon this project will be fraught with very serious consequences.

Regarding power generation, it is a matter within the personal knowledge of the Finance Minister, Shri H. M. Patel, that Tamil Nadu was in the forefront in power generation a decade ago. As a member of the Committee which went into the working of the State Electricity Boards, Mr. Patel visited the electricity undertakings in South India; he came to Tamil Nadu and saw them for himself. From the position of the State which was able to supply the surplus power to the neighbouring States a decade ago, it has now deteriorated to a position that, in the last few years, we have introduced 75 per cent power cut, which is unheard of in any civilized society. How can any industry thrive or how can any new industry prosper or come into existence if the prospect of power is so bleak? Now I am told that we have only 20 percent cut. And, as I was entering the House, I was told that there is a suggestion with the new Janata Government—Mr. Ramachandran is my esteemed friend; we have worked together for 30 years; we have differed only in the last 13 months—to increase the power cut to 50 per cent. I would very earnestly and very humbly request him not to sign his first order cutting down power to Tamil Nadu. If he does, it will go against not only the interests of Party but also the interests of the people of the State. In order that the power situation may be retrieved, we have been anxious that the second Mire Cut in Neiveli should be expedited. We want that the power supply should be augmented by the establishment of a giant thermal station; the southern grid should be strengthened so that we may have adequate supply for our power needs. This is a matter which should receive the highest priority, and I am quite sure that the

Finance Minister, himself having been the Chairman of the Electricity Board, Gujarat, knows the problems connected with power supply and distribution and the vital role that power plays in industrial and economic growth, and will give his utmost priority to this problem.

As a result of the misrule of the DMK Government, Tamil Nadu has been reduced to a poor State. The number of people below the poverty line, at the end of their rule, has grown from 46 per cent to 60 per cent. Somebody this morning was saying that Orissa is the poorest State. I am sorry to tell him that we have beaten him in the race; Tamil Nadu is poorer than Orissa. I have with me a note prepared by the Research Department of the Parliament Library and I am grateful to them. People do not recognise the good work that the others do. I am very grateful for what the Research Department of the Parliament Library has done. Tamil Nadu is the poorest State in the country with 59.23 per cent of its people living below the poverty line. Orissa comes next with 56.58 per cent according to the National Sample Survey. In fact, the per capita Plan expenditure was the lowest in 1973-74; it was Rs. 35, the lowest in the whole of India. Thank God that during the President's rule, they have been able to increase it to Rs. 60 per capita. I am also thankful to the Finance Minister that for the 1977-78 budget, the allocation has been increased from Rs. 143 crores to Rs. 260 crores.

The final picture, as I have presented before you is that this State has suffered as a result of a corrupt misrule that has prevailed there for eight years. Not only has it been condemned as corrupt by the people, but the Commission appointed by the Government, on which a Supreme Court Judge presided, has given its findings. I know law enough not to transgress the limits and, therefore, I will read, what is permissible under the rules. The Sarkaria Commission in its first report

“The following charges have been established by cogent, convincing and reliable evidence, oral, documentary and circumstantial”

I will not read the charges, because these are pending. But this is the finding of the Supreme Court Judge, that *prima facie* a case has been established. There is a great apprehension in the minds of the people of Tamil Nadu that in spite of the *prima facie* findings by a Supreme Court Judge the cases are sought to be withdrawn by the present interested persons. I have great faith in the integrity of the Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai. He is not new to us; we have worked shoulder to shoulder for several years, but I only wish to caution that under no pressure should the Prime Minister yield to withdrawing the charges. Let the law take its course. After all, in the Address of the President, you yourself have said that there will be no interference with the judiciary. We welcome it and we do hope that this will be adhered to.

12.54 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

I would like to mention another thing. It is a well known convention, as lawyers know it very well, that when members of the bar are elevated to the Bench, they do not sit and decide cases which they have handled themselves. Sitting on the other side, the Law Minister has handled the case and, therefore, it would be appropriate that this norm, this standard, should be observed by him. I have no doubt that the Prime Minister who is in overall charge of these proceedings will see to it that the law takes its course and that the law is not interfered with and that justice is done. Whether it is in favour of the accused or the other side, it does not matter, but justice should be done.

MR. SPEAKER: I have done.

SHRI V. DHANDAYUTHAPANI (Vellore): Mr. Speaker, first of all I congratulate the Prime Minister and

[Shri V. Dhandayuthapani]

his colleagues for having provided an independent democratic government.

Mr Speaker, one poignant appeal I want to make is regarding the memorial erected for our late lamented leader Shri Kamaraj at Guindy next to the Gandhi Mandapam. As originally planned by the previous Tamil Nadu Government, there was a bold Charkha adorning the top of the memorial. When Mrs. Gandhi, the then Prime Minister, came to open the memorial building, the Charkha was demolished and thrown down. What a strange kind of reverence to Sri Kamaraj! One side they demolish the Charkha and on the other pay lip service to the glory of Sri Kamaraj. I request the Government to restore the Charkha on the top of the memorial which is only a fitting tribute to our great leader. The Charkha symbolises Gandhian philosophy and the inspiration of the entire freedom movement.

Mr. Speaker and the hon. Members, I will be failing in my duty if I do not mention the activities of the Tamil Nadu Governor. At the outset I want to recall the attention of the people that yesterday the former Finance Minister, Sri Subramaniam, mentioned about the pattern of voting in Tamil Nadu. I would only recall his attention to what has happened in the Dindigul bye-election. Mr. Venkataraman has said that due to the 20-point programme, they have won in Tamil Nadu. I want to say only one thing. I do not know whether he will accept it or deny it. Hon. Mr. Subramaniam, as soon as he became the Finance Minister in the last government, having been elected from the Krishnagiri constituency, said that it was the victory of the DMK. Now he can say that his victory will be that of AIADMK. I would say that it was because of their alliance with AIADMK the Congress has got some seats in the Parliament. Otherwise he would have lost even his deposit as their candidate lost in the Dindigul bye-election. You cannot deny it.

Then, Sir, during the election time and before, the Governor of Tamil Nadu was touring the districts for Congress election work. I say this from my own personal experience. There is a specific instance. He has also toured my constituency and others. One day when I was sitting in a hotel, the opponent candidate was also staying in the same hotel. There was a call from the Raj Bhavan. I took the telephone. Then they said that the call was for my opponent. I was simply shocked. Sir, the Raj Bhavan was converted into Congress Party Office. There are two Bhavans in Madras. One is the Satyarnurthy Bhavan which houses the Cong. (O) office. Now the Raj Bhavan is looking after the Congress. The Governor has misused his powers in this way.

16 hrs.

The other point I want to emphasise is that the agriculturists in Tamil Nadu are suffering. As far as paddy and sugarcane are concerned, I know personally that sugarcane price as such is at a lower percentage as compared to other States. The recovery is equivalent to that of Maharashtra and Bihar. I request the Government to raise the sugarcane price to Tamil Nadu farmers.

Credit facility has been closed both in the private source as well as in the Government source. Therefore, many small industries are closed for the past two years. The Government was talking always about the industrialisation especially regarding Steel Re-rolling Mills. I request the Government to give more credit facilities to the small industries like steel-re-rolling mills and match industry.

Ever since S/Shri Subramaniam and Mohan Kumaramangalam became the Steel Ministers, the Government has always been talking about the Salem Steel Plant. But even now it has not been completed. The Ministry demanded Rs. 16 crores, but the former Government allotted only Rs. 3 crores. I

request the Finance and Industry Ministers to allot more funds for the Salem Steel Plant.

Since there is no hydro-electric potential left unused in Tamil Nadu, the Neyveli Thermal Power Plant has to be expanded. Thermal Power Plants at Ennore and Tuticorin should be improved.

During the election time, the former Government gave many assurances about the Kalpakkam Atomic Plant. Much expectation was aroused. It should have been completed long back. If Kalpakkam Atomic Plant is completed, it will help whole of the Southern Region.

The former Government announced so many programmes about the weavers. But it was all drama. It has not helped the weavers. To help the weavers, the Government must take more steps for exporting the handlooms.

A year back the former Prime Minister and the former Finance Minister promised that drinking water would be provided to the city of Madras by bringing Krishna water. That was just a melodrama on Marine Beach. Their promises have been written on the water of Krishna. The people of Madras have not tasted Krishna water, but they tasted only coo'm' water. I request the Government to take immediate steps to bring Krishna water to the city of Madras to solve the drinking water problem.

The proposal to increase the bed capacity of T.B. Sanitorium, Vellore has been pending for a long time. The beds should be increased. Early action should be taken in this regard.

Pending irrigation scheme in North Arcot, Moorthana Dam foundation has been laid near Gudiyattam. An assurance was given in the Parliamentary Consultative Committee that necessary sanction will be given. Now the Government could give top priority to the scheme.

With these few words, I conclude.

SHRI V. ARUNACHALAM (Tirunelveli): On behalf of All India Anna D. M.K., I say a few words about the budget. It was thought that the Minister will seek remedy by imposing new taxes or increase old taxes. But our hon. Finance Minister has assured this House that he would overcome the deficit by better collection of overdues to the Government and by improving the performance and results of Public Sector Corporations.

If the Budget had been placed in the Assembly of Tamil Nadu, there would have been chances of detailed discussions and deliberation. But here we are rushing through without adequate debate and discussions. Thereby, we fail to represent the feelings of the people concerned. I, therefore, request the hon. Prime Minister through the chair to conduct the State Assembly election as early as possible.

Our beloved leader Parachthalaivar asked the previous Government to conduct the State Assembly elections along with the Parliamentary elections. Unfortunately, the previous Government refused to conduct the elections. At least this Government, in order to respect their democratic sentiments may conduct the elections without further delay.

Yesterday, our Home Minister assured the people of Jammu and Kashmir that they will conduct elections within three months. I think such an assurance should be given to our Tamil Nadu people also.

Sir, our Finance Minister in allotting the amounts under various heads has adopted the salient principles with care. There is remarkable increase in the allotment of State outlay. It was Rs. 201 crores in the last year. Now, it has increased to Rs. 260.12 crores. It has increased the allotment for education from Rs. 125 crores to Rs. 141 crores; for medical care from Rs. 42 crores to Rs. 47

[Shri V. Arunachalam]

crores; for power projects from Rs. 20 crores to Rs. 31 crores. Similarly, the assistance from the Centre to the State Plan in the last year had been assumed at Rs. 72.26 crores. Now it is assumed at Rs. 91.65 crores. It will be unfair on my part if I fail to mention that the government has failed to allot adequate amount for small scale industries. The allotment for small scale industries has decreased year after year. In 1975-76, the allotment was 98 lakhs. Then it was reduced to 88 lakhs. Now it has fallen to the level of 84.5 lakhs. Similarly, allotment for research and training on the industrial side has been decreased without any valid reasons. The people of Tamil Nadu expect from this government that the lapses and errors committed hitherto will be rectified by the present government.

Sir, the ex-Finance Minister imposed a tax on cash crops. It is against the interests of agriculture. All the farmers of Tamil Nadu are against it but they were not able to register their protest against it due to emergency. Then, Sir, the previous government enhanced the electric charges by 4 paise per unit. It is highly unjustifiable. It is an additional burden on the expenses of our farmers. In order to measure the seriousness of the problem, I will give an example. When the State Government was under the control of Mr. Karunanidhi, he enhanced the electric charges for pump sets by one paise. The entire State agitated against it and in that agitation 10 persons were shot dead. I hope the Finance Minister will look into this with all seriousness.

Sir, it is unfortunate that the government failed to allot adequate amount for bringing drinking water to the city of Madras. The water dispute between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka is still pending. The previous

government failed to use its good offices to settle this dispute. It is pending for a long time. I, therefore, request the Prime Minister to use his good offices to settle this dispute as early as possible.

Sir, free and fair elections are the essence of democracy. We are much grateful to the previous government for having conducted the elections in Tamil Nadu freely and fairly. In Madurai, the election was peaceful but after the formation of the Janata Ministry at the Centre the law and order situation in Madras is highly disturbed by anti-social elements with instigation of DMK people. They are taking advantage of the situation and are trying to take the upper hand among the officials. In North Madras some of our workers have been attacked who have sustained injuries. No action has been taken by the police against those who are responsible for this trouble.

Sir, therefore, I ask the Home Ministry to look into the matter and take action against those who are responsible for these disturbances. The House is aware that Karunanidhi Ministry was dismissed by the previous Government due to corruption, malpractices and misuse of power. To examine the corruption charges, a Commission was ordered under the Central Act. Sir, Justice Sarkaria has submitted his interim report on seven charges. Now, I understand some of the lieutenants of DMK are loitering on the lobby of the Central hall for pressurising the Government to withdraw the cases.

Sir, the actions of the previous government have been approved by the mandate of the people in the poll. You must keep this in mind because if you favour them, I duly remind you that it is not only against the interests of the people, it is against the will of the people.

In the Presidential Address you have mentioned about the indepen-

dence of judiciary. You are against non-interference. If so, you please allow the law to take its own course.

I conclude my speech with these words.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN (Arkonam): Sir, may I congratulate you on your elevation to the high office of Speaker? Your good humour is already having its impact on all sections of the House. You have started disciplining the House without appearing to disciplining it. I wish you well.

May I also congratulate the new Prime Minister and the members of the new Government? I wish them well. I wish them a full tenure in office so that they will translate all their election promises into effective programmes of action.

Sir, if I am given an opportunity to speak on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address, I propose to say something about the election results as a whole. Now, I would like to interpret the verdict of the people of Tamil Nadu. The verdict of the people of Tamil Nadu was both against and for. It was against the oppressive black rule of Karunanidhi's DMK Government for the past seven long years. The verdict also demanded that Government should take action and prosecute Shri Karunanidhi and his colleagues on the findings of the Sarkaria Commission. Then, Sir, the verdict was also for a stable Government at the Centre under Shrimati Indira Gandhi. Let us not mistake it. It is true that this latter verdict has been cancelled by people elsewhere in the country. We respect the verdict of the Indian people as a whole. Similarly, let us hope others will also understand, appreciate and respect the verdict of the people in Tamil Nadu. Otherwise, imbalances in governmental action are bound to develop causing injury to national interests as a whole.

Sir, I am sorry that allegations should be made against the Governor of Tamil Nadu. It was voiced on the floor of this House also. It is very unfair to level such allegations against the Governor who did serve Tamil Nadu interests well. The office of a Governor is a political one and it is not a very enviable one. The Governor is liable to suspicion that he always sides the Party that runs the government either at the Centre or the State. As I said, I hope such accusations will not be made and the Governor has made the unusual gesture of resigning his post. I hope that will be appreciated that having served the people of Tamil Nadu when he found a different government at the Centre he chose to resign his high office. That resignation may be accepted and a new incumbent may be put in his place, but I hope allegations against the Governor will not hereafter be made. As the hope was expressed earlier, I expect that elections to the Tamil Nadu Assembly will be held as early as possible. In fact, this assurance was given by the Prime Minister himself in his first News Conference. In the meanwhile, I would plead that the MPs Committee on Tamil Nadu be constituted so that it is enabled to tackle the problems of Tamil Nadu as a whole. I hope the regular budget will be prepared by the new Government and will be passed by the new Assembly. Now, we are only concerned with Vote on Account. Here I wish to make a few remarks.

Sir, a mention was made about the Electricity Department as to how it has deteriorated over the years under the DMK rule. Now, I am sorry to say that the Advisers' regime has not had enough time to completely overhaul the Department. It has been saddled with too much personnel. It is suffering under gross inefficiency and the cost of the inefficiency has been passed on to the poor farmers. That is the most tragic aspect of the whole case.

[Shri O. V. Alageson]

New revenue schemes were introduced by the Electricity Board. One was the additional deposit scheme and the other was surcharge on pump sets. This is a highly unnecessary impost which has been levied by the Electricity Department. I am told that they hope to collect Rs. 7.5 crores from the people. I am told that the collection of these two imposts was suspended before the elections and I hope that they will be given up altogether. Similarly, they hope to increase their revenue collections by about Rs. 3.71 crores by charging an additional wet cess of Rs. 20 per acre. This is also a heavy burden on the farmers and I hope the new budget will see that this is scrapped. Yesterday, some people in a lighter way were making fun of the 20-point programme. My friend, Mr. Venkataraman, recited some of the benefits that have flowed to the poorer and weaker sections of the society from the 20-point programme, especially in the matter of house-sites and housing for Harijans. For providing house-sites about 500 acres have been acquired at a cost of Rs. 28.0 lakhs and they were allotted to the weaker sections of society. Similarly, a huge sum has been spent on housing for Harijans. Much more is yet to be done in this direction. When some hon. Members make fun of 20-point programme, it means that they want to make fun of the former Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi. This 20-point programme deals with the life problem of the poorer sections of the society. When they make fun of the 20-point programme they forget that they do not make fun of the author of the programme but the beneficiaries of the programme. I hope good sense will prevail and they will desist from making fun of the 20-point programme because it has benefited weaker sections of society.

Now, in the handloom sector, we find some problems. They are more or less common: The minimum

wages have electrified the landless Harijan agricultural labour. That is one reason why they voted massively for the alliance candidates, apart from the fact that they belonged to AIADMK or Congress. So, minimum wages should be enforced uniformly throughout the State. There is a machinery that has been brought about for this. I hope it will be made to function effectively and before long minimum wages will be operative in all the villages of Tamil Nadu.

There are more than 30,000 families of handloom weavers in my constituency alone. They have been suffering from high prices of yarn. This hardship should be removed. Commercial banks were asked to grant loans to individual weavers. I think the limit was Rs. 500 for admission to existing societies or forming new societies. A large number of applications for loan are pending with commercial banks. I hope the Finance Minister will give instructions to the banks to grant these loans as expeditiously as possible.

Mention was made about drought-relief and flood-relief works. A sum of Rs. 27.52 crores was given by the Centre for drought relief and Rs. 4.1 crores for flood relief. I pay a tribute to the Governor and the other officers including the Advisers who worked day and night to relieve the distress caused by the flood. They have also carried out a very effective programme of drought relief. As many as 6000 bore wells have been sunk to provide drinking water. I hope they will be properly maintained so that the capital expenditure incurred on them will not go waste. All these Rs. 31 crores and odd have been well spent. In contrast, most of the amount of Rs. 17 crores which the DMK Government got at the time of the previous drought went into the pockets of the ministers and members of the DMK. That is the qualitative change brought about in the situation in Tamil Nadu under President's rule.

Another instance can be given to show how the old cobwebs were cleaned and that is in the matter of admissions to the engineering and medical colleges. You ask any parent whether he was able to admit his son or daughter into a medical or engineering college without bribing somebody and he answer will be 'no'. After the President's rule was introduced, ask any parent whether he has given any money for the admission of his son or daughter to any medical or engineering college. The answer will be 'no'. That is the difference between the DMK regime and the President's rule.

A committee was appointed to go into the question of avoiding damage by floods to the Madras city. This committee has made several useful proposals which may be examined. But they have made one proposal which is not commendable. They have made a curious suggestion that the Chambarampakkam tank which irrigates a large area in Chingleput district should be converted into a source of water supply to the Madras city. It is based on the fallacy that if an irrigation source is converted into a drinking water supply source, the flood problem will be automatically solved. That is not the case. I hope they will not do anything of this type which will harm the ryots of Chingleput district.

There is a proposal to convert the general hospital at Madras into post-graduate institute. My suggestion is that this will be not in the best interest of the State. If a post-graduate medical institute is to be started in the South a new one can be started and set up slowly so that it attains the status of a real research organisation.

With these words, I support the Vote on Account on Tamil Nadu.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR (Dindigul): Regarding Tamil Nadu Budget, I welcome the vote on Account pro-

posed by the new Finance Minister. But, I demand more and more money to be given to Tamil Nadu because the people of Tamil Nadu had been facing untold hardship under the terrible regime, most corrupt regime led by the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Shri Karunanidhi.

Shri Karunanidhi has raised two slogans. One slogan is autonomy of the State. He had said that on 9th May, 1975 at Marina Beach that they would knock out Tamil Nadu, work for a separate Tamil Nadu State from the Indian territory. He made open speeches. Shri Karunanidhi, Shri Nedunchazian, Education Minister, Shri Ambazagan, Health Minister, these three Ministers had made this statement on a public platform in Marina Beach. So far no action has been taken. Now the Janata Government is invited by the Anna DMK representing 5 crores of people to take action. We want national integration and not disintegration. We want only to be Indian. Now after the election the people dealt him an irrecoverable blow and voted in favour of Congress and Anna DMK parties. He is again raising ill feeling between the north and the south.

His another slogan is "sons of the soil". He has got two theories, one, autonomy of the State and another theory is "sons of the soil". It means Tamil people must work in Tamil Nadu, Kerala people should work in Kerala, Delhi people should work in Delhi, Bengalis should go to Bengal. Where can we go? We are all Indians (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to the point. You told me that you wanted to mention something about transport (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR: There is a black law passed by then DMK Government. The hon. Speaker also knows law. I am also a lawyer.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not a lawyer.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR: There are so many lawyers here. There are so many educated people here. Mr. Ramachandran also knows law. There is a law enacted by them called Public Men's Conduct Act. Under this law, public can make complaint if they have any allegations of corruption against MLAs, MPs, Ministers and public men. In this law, wonderful law. I have never come across any legal jurisprudence whether IPC, Cr. PC or any law of the land in India or international law that the complainant should go to the court against alleged corruption, against Ministers or public men and if the complainant fails to establish a case, he is convicted automatically by the same court for seven years imprisonment, which I have never heard of in jurisprudence as a criminal lawyer for 15 years in the Madras High Court. It is a black law. This is a bad law. This is not at all law but this is 'Abdula law'. Therefore, in the legal sense, in the sense of conscience, in the sense of morality I pray that Government must withdraw and repeal this black law, inhuman law, illegal law, unlawful law, unconstitutional law. It should be repealed immediately. (*Interruptions*).

There is a transport strike going on in the Madras city. It has affected nearly 40 lakhs of people in Madras city. The strike has been withdrawn partially, and not totally. It is going on partially. More than 50 per cent of the workers are on strike. Lakhs of students are unable to go to their examinations. Government is spending Rs. 50,000 for transporting students and officials to their destinations. Therefore, the maintenance of transport facilities and the role of the Governor should be looked into. The Chief Secretary of the Tamil Nadu Government should be asked to bring the strike to an end and make buses run normally.

It is said in the papers circulated to us that Rs. 13.82 crores will be the figure for deficit financing. This deficit financing is the result of the relief works implemented by the then government in Tamil Nadu. Even now, relief work has to be done throughout the State of Tamil Nadu, or at least in 4 districts. Madurai district did not get any rain during this year, as also in 1976-77. Ramnathapuram, Madurai, Salem and Dharmapuri are affected by drought conditions. I request the government to instruct the Tamil Nadu government not collect land revenue in these 4 districts, to postpone the collection of the agricultural loans given by government and to start drought relief work once again. I am told that no machinery from the Central Government has gone to Tamil Nadu. The State Government should be given a green signal to recommence the relief work in some more districts, in addition to the 4 districts I have mentioned.

Earlier, there was political corruption in Tamil Nadu. Now political corruption has been put an end to, by the operation of the democratic process of elections. However, official corruption is there on a large scale in Tamil Nadu, especially in the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission. For group I posts, a sum of Rs. 45,000 was previously paid to the ministers. Now, I do not know who is receiving it. The Home Ministry should look into this. For posts in group I, i.e. for posts like deputy superintendents Rs. 45,000 are charged; for group II posts, Rs. 25,000, for group III posts Rs. 15,000 and for group IV Rs. 10,000 are charged. The sons of the poor agricultural farmers are unable to get into any job (*Interruptions*). This is happening even under the President's rule. What does it mean?

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude now. We are losing time. Nagaland and Pondicherry are yet to be taken up.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR: I am finishing in 2 minutes. Now about the price rise in Tamil Nadu.

MR. SPEAKER: Your party man has already spoken on it. You are now repeating it. I will now call the hon. Minister. Mr. Alagesan said that there was no corruption. You say that there is corruption.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR: There is another thing I would like to mention. The Janata Government has been formed at the Centre. But the janata meal which was being supplied in Tamil Nadu at the rate of one rupee per meal, has been suspended. Hoteliers are not supplying janata meals after the lifting of the Emergency. What is the reasons? Kindly take note of this and ask the Governor to ask the hoteliers to supply janata meal to the public. People should not ask what the janata government is doing. Janata meal should be supplied by the Janata government.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

***SHRI S. G. MURUGAIYAN** (Nagapattinam): Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Communist Party of India, I rise to express my views on the Budget of Tamil Nadu.

At the very outset, I would like to demand that Elections to the Legislative Assembly in Tamil Nadu should be held immediately without any further delay. Today's newspapers gave an indication that the Elections might be held in June, 1977. I do not know how far it is true. The Parliamentary Elections, so far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, have proved beyond any shadow of doubt that the Central Government's dismissal of the corrupt Karunanidhi Government in Tamil Nadu was proper and correct. On behalf of the Communist Party of India, I wish to stress that the Elections to the Assembly must be held as early as possible so that the people of Tamil Nadu can have the Government which they like.

The Sarkaria Commission has given its verdict on seven charges out of so many allegations made against the Karunanidhi Government. The Central Government should take action on these proved 7 charges against the Karunanidhi Government. The Government should also pursue vigorously their inquiry against the other allegations too. Many allegations of malpractices of the D.M.K. Government in Tamil Nadu, particularly with reference to the Department of Cooperation and the Department of Religious Endowments, should be investigated with greater seriousness. I understand that some henchmen of Karunanidhi Government are hovering around Parliament House to get some relief from the rigours of persistent inquiry in the scandals. I would like to sound a word of caution to the Central Government that they should not show any signs of encouragement to these hangers-on. Those, whose misuse of power and indulgence in corrupt practices have been proved should not be pardoned. The people of Tamil Nadu have expressed their wish through the recent parliamentary elections and I am sure that the Central Government would not take any action against the wish of the 5 crore people of Tamil Nadu.

I would like to reiterate that the people of Tamil Nadu should be given the earliest opportunity to have a Government of their own choice by the conduct of elections without delay. Before the elections are ordered, the electoral rolls should be completed. I stress this point because in the recent parliamentary elections hundreds and thousands of voters of many years' standing and new entrants have not found their names in the electoral rolls. This should not be allowed to happen again in the Assembly Elections.

Sir, I would like to take this opportunity that unfortunately stay orders have been obtained in from the Supreme Court by the money-lenders in regard to the implementation of certain provisions of the law for the abolition of rural indebtedness, with particular

[Shri S. G. Murugaiyan]

reference to those people having an income of less than Rs. 2400 per annum in whose cases their indebtedness was to be repealed. The Central Government should get vacation of these stay orders as these people are poor agriculturists, and they have been afflicted seriously by the drough in Tamil Nadu. I do not know the reasons for the tardiness in the implementation of the Recovery of Loans Act. The small agriculturists should be exempted from the recovery of such loans at least during the period of acute drought. Similarly, the Land Ceiling Act which has been prepared according to the Central guidelines—12.5 acres per family—should be implemented vigorously. I am unable to appreciate the delay in its implementation. Similarly, the Act regarding bestowing ownership rights on the tillers of the soil has not seen the light of the day. It should be implemented forthwith.

In Tamil Nadu during the past three years there has been recurring drought, which is so acute that there is severe scarcity of drinking water both for human beings and cattle. The agricultural labour has deserted the hearth and home. Besides taking drought relief measures like de-silting of tanks, deepening of wells, laying of roads etc. the people must be given drinking water facilities. The Central Government should allot more funds for this purpose. The drought is so acute that it is feared that even the Kaveri Delta area may become an arid zone. When the natural causes have created havoc on the people of Tamil Nadu, the D. M.K. Government in Tamil Nadu multiplied their misery by unnecessarily antagonising the Karnataka Government in regard to Kaveri Water dispute. Instead of seeking meaningful compromise in the implementation of the Agreement about the sharing of waters, they confronted the Karnataka Government with extraneous issues, in consequence of which the problem of sharing of Kaveri water could not be solved amicably. The Kaveri Delta has

suffered immeasurably and it is feared that only one-third of the irrigated area will get enough water. The Granary of Tamil Nadu, i.e. the Tanjore District is dependent on Mettur Reservoir for cultivation. Unless the river-water dispute between the two States is solved quickly, there is no hope for the revival of agricultural activities in this area. I do not know what the Commission constituted for this purpose is doing. The Report of this Commission should be expedited. The agreements in regard to the sharing of waters between the two States should be implemented without any delay. The agricultural activities in Ramanathapuram Trivelpi Coimbatore, Salem and Madurai Districts in Tamil Nadu have come to a standstill on account of drought. In addition to this, if Kaveri delta is also denied adequate waters, then the entire Tamil Nadu will become an arid zone. That is why I emphasise the need for early settlement of the river water disputes between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. At least in the districts afflicted by drought, the collection of land revenue and loans from Cooperative Banks and Societies and tenants' dues should be suspended forthwith, which will be a great relief to the poor agriculturists.

With these words, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to say a few words.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): I have listened to the discussion with great interest. I assure the hon. Members that the various suggestion which they were good enough to make will be carefully examined and that appropriate action will be taken. I do not think that I can give any immediate answers to the various points raised. I, however, entirely agree with Mr. Venkataraman that a matter like drought is something which ought to be tackled on a permanent basis, rather than on an ad hoc basis. We will see that the State Government proceeds to take action in that direction.

Numerous other points were made. For instance, there was a general request that the Salem steel plant must be proceeded with. I can only say that I will give full consideration to it before I present my Budget in May.

It was said that the law and order situation in the State had deteriorated. As it is under President's rule, it ought not to have been so. If it is so, I will find out the reasons for it.

So much was said about DMK corruption and so on. There is a Commission which has been appointed and it has gone into these matters. (*Interruptions*).

All I can say is that the Prime Minister had indicated whatever he had with regard to this matter in a general way. He said that it would take its own course. That is the general statement which the Prime Minister made and I do not see any reason myself to say that that will be modified, in so far as Tamil Nadu is concerned. So far as elections are concerned, I think on that too the Prime Minister had made certain observations and these too will come about as soon as possible. I think as soon as possible is a reasonable assurance that any Government can give. I think, in view of this, the hon. Members will be satisfied with the assurance made on the various points in regard to administration of the DMK. One hon. Member was pleased to say that the DMK Government is corrupt, that is to say, the popular rule, popular representatives are corrupt. I do not know where we are to go. I hope these charges will not be made. The general assurance is this. So far as this Government is concerned, corruption will not be tolerated at any level. But, at the same time, let us not make these sweeping remarks that there is corruption every-

where among the officials as well as in the public mind.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM (Tiruchirapalli): There is a specific commission of enquiry which has been appointed and it has been proceeding with it. Now, the question is whether it will continue or not.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: If it does not, then you please protest about it. With these remarks, I commend that the demands be passed.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the Third column of the Order Paper, be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Tamil Nadu, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1978, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands Nos. 1 to 57."

The motion was adopted.

16.48 hrs.

TAMIL NADU APPROPRIATION
(VOTE ON ACCOUNT) BILL*, 1977

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Tamil Nadu for the services of a part of the financial year 1977-78.

*Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, section 2, dated 30-3-77.