

FEBRUARY 6, 1978

Respected Mr. Speaker and honourable members,

This is the first time I am addressing this august Assembly since I took over as Governor of Kerala. While welcoming you all to this session of the Assembly, I extend my good wishes to you all and through you to the people of Kerala. May I also avail of this opportunity to express my heartfelt sympathy for the thousands who were affected by the cyclone in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. My Government has sought and obtained the help of the Centre for the cyclone hit areas of our State and has done its utmost for people in distress.

The political and administrative stability in the State from 1969 has been remarkably good. Kerala which has had its own share of problems in the past, has been steadily moving forward and tackling even its most intricate problems. Encouraged by this stability that has pervaded all spheres of political and administrative activity during the last eight years and which has had a decisive influence over the common people and this Assembly, my Government is confident of maintaining the stability and will make an all out effort for the welfare of the people.

In this context the silent revolution that has occurred in agrarian relations in Kerala is worth mentioning. The very face of rural Kerala has been transformed during these years and the feudal set up of society which prevailed for centuries based on the land tenures has been eliminated by the land reforms measures undertaken by the Government. More than 30 lakhs of families have become owners of the lands they possessed and cultivated. Kerala can be proud of the fact that it is the only State in India which has abolished landlordism totally. Government propose to make use of this new agrarian society as a spring board for the next phase of development viz. industrialisation and restructuring of the rural economic infrastructure.

The year 1977-78 was a favourable period so far as agricultural production was concerned inspite of the heavy showers which occurred during the north east monsoon, which were responsible for large scale crop damage in certain areas. The Intensive Paddy Development (Ela) Units aimed at demonstrating the efficacy of adoption of package of practices for maximisation of rice production will be continued during the year. The establishment of another 100 Ela Units during the current year is under the consideration of the Government. The coverage under high yielding variety programme is proposed to be enhanced to 5 lakh hectares during 1978-79. To assure the cultivators of the timely supply of quality seeds, a seed agency has been set up. This task has been assigned to the Kerala Agro Industries Corporation.

Government recognise the role the agriculturists in the hilly tracts (മലയോരകർഷകർ) play in the overall development of the State and are aware of the problems faced by them. A Cabinet Sub-Committee has been constituted to study their problems in depth and initiate speedy action to solve their problems.

The Vested Forest Committee has recommended the crop pattern to be followed in lands which are set apart for assignment and this is under consideration of the Government. Ten thousand acres of vested forests have been ordered to be assigned.

The Kerala Agricultural Development Programme is being continued this year. Government also propose to undertake a detailed and scientific study of the pattern of utilisation of land in the whole State on priority basis and take immediate action.

My Government also propose to place considerable emphasis on the expansion of area under cashew and cocoa. The aim of the Government is to achieve self sufficiency in the production of raw cashew nuts. Agriculture Department will assist in the extension of cashew cultivation to an additional area of 25,000 hectares during 1978-79 by subsidising the supply of planting material and inputs to small holders and in the corporate sector, the Plantation Corporation will take up the cultivation of cashew in suitable Government lands with assistance from the Cashew Corporation of India. Cocoa has become very popular particularly as an inter-crop in coconut and arecanut gardens and the Agriculture Department will be implementing a scheme for increasing the area under cocoa by 25,000 hectares during a period of seven years from 1978-79.

Experience has shown that intercropping with cocoa substantially increases farm incomes in the small sector. Intercropping with other crops like pulses and oil seeds has also proved to be profitable and in 1978-79 the State Government propose to organise a large number of demonstration plots throughout the State with a view to popularising the practice of intercropping. This is one of the effective measures that can be taken to arrest the decline in farm incomes consequent on the fall in prices of some agricultural commodities.

A subsidiary of the Plantation Corporation of Kerala by name Oil Palm India Limited has been registered. This Company, which will have equity participation by the State Government and the Government of India will complete the plantation of oil palm in an area of 2,000 hectares in Anchal in Quilon District most of which has already been planted by the Plantation Corporation. In recognition of the importance of indigenous production of palm oil from the import substitution angle, the State Government propose to extend oil palm cultivation to other suitable areas in the State with the Government of India's assistance.

The Kerala Agro Machinery Corporation is setting up a factory for the assembly and manufacture of Kubota Power Tillers with Japanese collaboration. It is expected that the factory will be set up early in 1978-79 with a capacity to manufacture 3,000 Power Tillers per year. The Kerala State Coconut Development Corporation proposes to establish two Coconut Processing Complexes in the State. The complex at Mamom will be set up shortly.

The overall food situation was satisfactory in the State during 1977. For the first time it has been possible to issue ration at 320 gms. of rice per adult per day. As regards wheat, in addition to the normal scale of ration at 240 gms. per adult per day, the bonafide consumers are permitted to purchase 10 kgms. at a time with or without production of a ration card. It is hoped that Government of India will continue the allotment of rice and wheat at the existing scales in the months to come.

In rice trade, hoarding and blackmarketing have been almost eliminated since the Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation has substantial stock of rice in hand. Government ordered the subsidised sale of rice at the rate of two kgms. per card per week for four weeks in September, 1977 from out of the stock held by the Civil Supplies Corporation. The allotment of Kerosene during the year was satisfactory and liberalised issue at 10 litres per card from retail ration shops and at 1 tin to bonafide consumers from wholesale depots has been arranged by the Department.

Government have already decided in principle that the Regulated Market System should be introduced throughout Kerala and during 1978-79 it is proposed to set up a Regulated Market in Idukki on a pilot basis.

Despite this, during the past 12 months the general price situation in respect of essential commodities has been exhibiting an upward trend which is causing anxiety to the Government as well as to the common people. Among essential commodities the price of rice, sugar and tapioca have been held in check. But in respect of a large number of other essential commodities especially of pulses, grams, edible oil and vegetables, the prices have increased and in some cases, quite substantially during the past year. The State Government are keenly aware of this and are taking steps for devising ways and means for discouraging price rise of essential commodities. The Government propose to encourage State agencies such as the Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation and Co-operatives and Marketing Federation to go in more actively for bulk purchase of essential commodities so that the Government will be able to exert a moderating influence on price levels.

Government recognise the need to strengthen the Co-operative movement so as to make it an effective instrument for social transformation in the rural sector. At the primary society level, the co-operative structure is the strongest in Kerala but there is considerable scope for development in the spheres of marketing and processing and efforts will be made during the next year to energise the co-operative movement particularly in these two sectors.

The Kerala Co-operative Central Land Mortgage Bank is implementing 50 schemes with refinance from Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation involving a total outlay of Rs. 1639.44 lakhs. Another 12 schemes are likely to be sanctioned this year involving an outlay of Rs. 2261.13 lakhs. Besides this, the Kerala Land Development Corporation will be implementing shortly, the Trichur Kole Project for providing permanent bunds in 11,000 hectares of Kole lands with a financial outlay of Rs. 904.91 lakhs.

With the twin objectives of improving the economic well-being of the population and exploitation of resources in the Western Ghats Region, the Planning Commission is offering assistance for implementation of schemes under Western Ghats Development Programme. An amount of Rs. 4.90 crores has been tentatively earmarked for the Kerala State during the Fifth Five Year Plan for implementation of the schemes in the Western Ghats Region. Two Dairy Development Schemes at Attappady and South Wynad and a Tourist Development Scheme at Ponmudi are being implemented.

There are at present eleven ongoing major and medium Irrigation Projects in the State out of which four have already been partially commissioned. Two projects viz., Pazhassi and Kanhirapuzha are scheduled to be commissioned during the course of 1978. The target for commissioning of ayacut during 1977-78 is 44,000 hectares, and with this the total area under major and medium irrigation projects would go up to 3.15 lakh hectares. In 1978-79 an additional ayacut of 47,000 hectares is proposed to be brought under irrigation. By the end of 1976-77 an area of about 1 lakh hectares was covered by Minor Irrigation. The Silent Valley Hydro Electric Project which envisages an annual average potential of 538 million units with an estimated cost of Rs. 40.8 crores has been submitted to the Government of India and their approval is awaited.

With the electrification of 40 villages in 1978-79, Kerala will have the unique distinction of having all villages in the State electrified. A crash programme will be drawn up by the Kerala State Electricity Board for improving the electricity supply to Kasaragod area. Government also propose to lay greater emphasis on the transmission and distribution of electricity.

The efforts of the State Government to have direct flights from Trivandrum to Gulf countries to cater to the needs of the large number of people employed in these areas have succeeded. Air India has already had a testing flight and weekly service has been introduced. Work on the extension of the Cochin Airport is in progress. The construction of a new airport at Calicut is being pressed by the State Government and this is under the active consideration of the Government of India.

The Alleppey-Ernakulam Railway line is a longfelt need of the people of Kerala and its urgency has been brought to the notice of Government of India several times. This line was included in the Railway's annual plan for 1977-78 but a final decision has not been taken. The Union Government has promised to give due importance to the taking up of the Alleppey-Ernakulam Railway line. It is hoped that Planning Commission would clear this highly remunerative project without delay.

The Kerala State Road Transport Corporation proposes to put on road 300 new buses in the year out of which 100 are for augmentation of services in the existing routes. The Kerala Shipping Corporation is taking steps to acquire one more ship during the year.

My Government are deeply concerned about the attempts made by certain powerful interests to hamper the planning process. The Five Year Plans were formulated after considerable thought and with a view to suit the needs of the country wherein the majority of the population is still below the poverty line. My Government are of the view that the problems faced by the country over centuries can be solved only by means of planned development.

The new financial year heralds the beginning of the next Medium Term Plan. The size of the plan approved by the Planning Commission is Rs. 176 crores which represents a step up of Rs. 35 crores against the current year's approved outlay of Rs. 141 crores. The outlay for Agriculture, Irrigation and Power, account for 63 per cent of the total outlay.

The thrust of the Government's policy concerning the Police is to make it an efficient organisation responsive to the changing social situation. With this objective in view, the Government had launched a comprehensive programme of modernisation of the Police Force. This includes provision for modern scientific equipments as an aid to investigation, improving communication facilities by providing adequate number of wireless sets and vehicles, besides providing modern training aids to the Police Training Institutions. The Government of India have sanctioned a sum of Rs. 20 lakhs for the purpose mentioned above during the year 1977-78.

My Government propose to lay special emphasis on providing for Police Welfare measures. These measures will be taken up in the current year on the basis of an indepth study which is being made by the Police Department. An additional grant of Rs. 5 lakhs has been provided in the budget for the current year.

for implementing the Police Welfare measures. In addition, an amount of Rs. 10 lakhs has been provided during 1977-78 for starting Police Hospitals in Districts for the exclusive use of Police personnel. It is also the policy of the Government to provide residential accommodation for the entire personnel of the Police Force in a phased manner. The Police Housing Scheme is being implemented to achieve the above goal with partial financial assistance from the Government of India. The total expenditure on Police Housing is expected to be Rs. 180 lakhs during this year.

It is also the firm resolve of the Government to take effective steps to combat corruption in all fields of life. The Government have a programme of revitalising the functional efficiency of the vigilance machinery and streamline its working. Action is in progress to introduce the Public Men (Investigation into Misconduct) Bill to combat corruption in public life and the Bill is pending with the Government of India.

Government are aware that for the economic development of the State, particularly in the coastal and hilly areas, communication facilities have to be improved considerably though the road system in our State is by far better than in many parts of the country. Taking this into account, the current year's plan allocation for 'communication' was enhanced to Rs. 650 lakhs from Rs. 475 lakhs. The Government are making all efforts to set apart a still higher allocation for roads for the next year. I am happy to inform the House that during the current year the Kerala State Construction Corporation in association with NBCC has taken up a contract in Libya for the construction of 235 houses at an estimated cost of Rs. 8 crores. This will provide improved employment opportunities to technical and skilled personnel of our State. With a view to enlarging the scope of employment opportunities in this area Government propose to consider the question of permitting the Corporation to take up contracts in foreign countries, particularly in the Middle East. The lack of adequate residential accommodation to Government employees in major cities and towns has come to the notice of Government. Government propose to examine the possibility of Construction Corporation taking up construction of residential quarters for Government employees on rental basis availing of loan facilities from commercial banks and financing institutions.

This year has been one of significant achievements in the field of Sports and Games. There were three recipients of Arjuna Award from this State this year. Special mention has to be made about the creditable achievement of the State team which secured overall championship in the National School Games held at Trivandrum recently. This has been rendered possible to a considerable extent, by the Sports School and the Sports Divisions. It is proposed to extend this facility by starting one Sports School for girls, more Sports Divisions in schools and two Sports hostels for colleges. Government have already decided, in consultation with the Public Service Commission, to give additional marks for sportsmen of merit for purposes of recruitment through the Public Service Commission.

Industrialisation is vital to the progress of the State's economy. Unless the productive base is expanded and deepened it cannot sustain an increasing population. An attempt has been made for the all out expansion in the Industrial Sector. The Kerala Mineral Exploration and Development Project which envisages mineral exploitation programmes with extensive surveys and specific investigations over an area of 14,500 square kilometres has been taken up. The project covers an outlay of Rs. 1,548 million from the U.N.D. P. and Rs. 40 lakhs from the State Government. The preparatory phase of the project has been completed and full scale activities commenced from 1-10-1977.

Handloom Industry occupies a prominent place among the traditional industries in the State providing direct employment to about 1½ lakhs of people. The Government of India have sanctioned two Intensive Development Projects with headquarters at Trivandrum and Cannanore each covering 10,000 looms at a cost of Rs. 185 lakhs each. The Kerala Khadi and Village Industries Board has launched a special employment programme which envisages additional employment opportunities to 1 lakh persons under Khadi and Village Industries within a period of 3 years from 1-1-1978 and steps are under way to implement the scheme. The total cost of the scheme is estimated at Rs. 23.94 crores.

The Coir Industry provides direct employment to about 5 lakhs of people in the different operations from the retting of husks to the manufacture of coir products. It assumes importance as an area with large potential for rural employment and manpower utilisation. Apart from the State Plan Programme the Centrally aided scheme for restructuring the coir co-operatives will also be implemented during the current year with an outlay of Rs. 131 lakhs.

The Government continues to support and take necessary steps for the development of electronic industry in large, medium and small scale sectors. The Government of India has recently issued a letter of intent to Kerala State Electronics Development Corporation for the manufacture of electronic process control instruments and systems and this project with foreign collaboration will be implemented during the current year. A special programme has been evolved for the development of small scale industry in the field of electronics by transfer of know-how to small scale units from the Electronics R & D Centre and marketing of the products by KELTRON. All steps have been taken to ensure steady progress of this new industry in Kerala which is expected to play a very dominant role in solving the unemployment problem of the State.

Government have decided to set up a Titanium Complex in the Public Sector based on the Chloride Technology in Chayara utilising the rich mineral deposits in that area at a total cost of Rs. 55 crores. Government of India have agreed as a special case, to have the project considered for clearance by the IDBI.

Government have also decided to set up a cement plant in the public sector at Walayar with a capacity of 1200 tonnes per day. The cost of the plant is estimated at Rs. 28 crores. Steps are also being taken to establish a steel complex unit in Alleppey district. Necessary project report has already been prepared and the project will be implemented with assistance from national financing institutions. The Steel Industrials Ltd., has also been asked to take over the existing forge unit in Trichur district.

In the textile sector, the Trivandrum Spinning Mills which was closed for a long time has been reopened and a comprehensive scheme of mechanisation is being implemented so as to make it a viable unit. The Kerala State Textile Corporation has also been revived and it has drawn up proposals to operate the closed textile mills viz., Kottayam Textiles, Prabhuram Mills and Malabar Spinning and Weaving Mills, as early as possible.

Government have launched a massive programme for the development of small scale industries in the State based on a strategy evolved by the Industries Development Commissionerate. Government are implementing the New Industries Programme for setting up 10,000 new units in rural areas and revitalisation of 2500 estimated existing sick units to a satisfactory level of performance. It is hoped to intensify the programme with greater assistance from the Government of India and other financial institutions.

Government have also taken up a scheme for providing developed industrial plots to entrepreneurs on hire purchase terms. It is proposed to set up development plots in Cannanore, Palghat, Malappuram, Kottayam and Idukki districts during the year.

Special schemes have been drawn up for promoting and organising women's industrial ventures and many have gone into production. Schemes for training women workers, managerial assistance, grant for construction of factory sheds etc., are proposed for the year 1978-79.

My Government note with serious concern the attempts made in certain quarters to hamper the Industrial Policy of the Government of India. Government are of the firm opinion that the public sector should play an ever increasing role in the industrial set up of the country.

In the field of land reforms, Kerala is far ahead of other States in the country. More than 80 lakhs of kudiidappukars and cultivating tenants who were landless have now been assigned land. Government are also taking steps to sustain the socio-economic revolution brought about by the land reforms and a comprehensive scheme for Integrated Rural Development is under preparation.

With a view to reduce rural indebtedness, Government have enacted legislation redeeming the debts of all persons whose annual income is below Rs. 3000 except debts due to banks, co-operative societies etc.

The Rural Manpower Programme which is now in operation in 48 Blocks will be extended to new Blocks during the year. Construction of Government School buildings costing less than Rs. 1 lakh is also taken up on the pattern of this scheme. The Blocks are also spending a considerable amount on the construction of village roads under the 'Village Roads Programme' which aims at connecting rural areas with nearest marketing places, P.W.D. roads and/or other roads and also at providing employment to unskilled labourers. With a view to providing proper communication facilities in the rural areas, the Government of India have launched a new Scheme viz. 'Rural Link Roads' and have allocated Rs. 45 lakhs to this State. The scheme is under implementation and will continue next year also. The new Integrated Rural Development Project at Cannanore District sponsored by the Government of India is being implemented in Taliparamba Block.

In addition to the normal development works under taken by the Harijan Welfare Department 10% of the plan outlay of other Development Departments will be set apart for the benefit of the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe communities. This would come to Rs. 727 lakhs. Also special attention is proposed to be devoted for integrated development of the tribal concentrated areas. The annual sub-plan prepared for the year 1978-79 contemplates schemes to the tune of Rs. 253.10 lakhs. Lastly as part of a massive housing programme, the Kerala State Development Corporation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has a scheme for constructing 10,000 houses for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The other activities of the Corporation include distribution of autorickshaws, aid for starting small industries and purchasing agricultural land etc.

Kerala has a long coastline and can hardly afford to ignore the development of ports and fisheries. There are several streams, rivers, lakes and backwaters in the State which have high potential for the development of inland fishing. My Government have decided to implement an ambitious plan of development in this field. As a pilot project, a fish seed production and distribution farm is proposed to be started near Aruvikkara in the next financial year for supplying fish seed of better varieties to private farms in order to develop inland pisciculture on a massive basis. Fish seed farms will be started in different parts of the State during the next financial year itself. Side by side with the development of fisheries in the fresh waters of the State, attention will also be given to brackish water fisheries especially in Alleppey, Ernakulam, Quilon and Trichur Districts.

Consequent on the establishment of "200 miles economic zone", it has become the duty of the States especially on the west coast to make immediate arrangements for the intensive commercial fishing of the Indian Ocean. But this requires modern fishing vessels and necessary expertise. The State Government are examining the possibility of launching a big project for Tuna fishing with foreign collaboration. The State Government have decided to start a major programme of pelagic fishing in the Arabian Sea off the Kerala Coast.

Government have already taken a decision to form a Fishermen's Welfare Corporation, through which all schemes intended for the welfare of fishermen community will be implemented. The Corporation will start functioning in 1977-78 itself.

My Government are concerned about the inroads made by the monopolies and multi-nationals in fishing industry.

Kovalam-Vizhinjam has been declared as a Port under the Indian Ports Act. Shipping operations are expected to commence there from 1978-79. Government have also issued administrative sanction for the second stage of Vizhinjam Fishing Harbour. The Kerala Institute of Nautical Studies has been established at Kovalam-Vizhinjam for giving training to our young men in sea-faring. The training in seamen's course for the first batch of 100 candidates will commence soon. My Government have been distressed about the number of fishermen being lost at sea during the monsoon. It is therefore proposed to organise a search and rescue unit permanently under the Port Department to rescue fishermen in distress. Orders have already been placed for acquiring one tug for the unit.

With a view to achieve the desired goal of universalisation of primary education, various measures such as incentives to weaker sections, free supply of text books, enrolment drive and remedial teaching are being implemented. A scheme for extending non-formal education for the age group 6-14 will be implemented in the coming year to prepare the school dropouts for later entry. Vocationalisation of education has been attempted at the Pre-Degree level. A massive programme of adult education leading to the eradication of illiteracy among 50 lakhs adults in the next five years and also for general education, citizenship education and physical education has been drawn up. The programme is expected to be launched in 1978 itself. Government have decided to establish a modern text book press at Thrikkakara, Cochin with highly sophisticated printing techniques for the printing and supply of all text books required by the school-going children of Kerala. This is undertaken in collaboration with M/s. UNITECHNA of German Democratic Republic and it is expected that the press can start functioning by the middle of 1978.

My Government is also implementing several social housing schemes for providing housing facilities to the poorer sections and low income groups. It is estimated that there is a shortage of about 10 lakh houses in the State. Government propose to solve this problem within 10 years by means of a massive housing programme which envisages the construction of one lakh houses every year. In this scheme Government propose to construct one lakh houses for fishermen, Harijans, Land Reforms Beneficiaries and Middle Income Group in 1978-79.

Under the Minimum Needs Programme, it is proposed to distribute one lakh house sites to landless workers in rural areas within a period of five years from 1977-78. As a first venture under Slum Clearance in the State, Government have taken up a scheme costing Rs. one crore for construction of houses for 750 slum dwellers in Chengalchoola area in Trivandrum City. The first phase of this scheme is expected to be completed by October 1978. Another scheme for construction of low cost houses in five major towns in the State has been approved by Government. The scheme has been launched in the first stage at Thrikkakara in Cochin where the foundation stone of the Satellite Town was laid by the Prime Minister of India.

My Government have taken great care to improve the quality of health care and provide added facilities to the institutions of public health. Two Rehabilitation Units, one at the District Hospital, Palghat and the other at District Hospital, Quilon have been sanctioned. Two Filaria Control Units one at Quilandy and other at Tanur and four clinics have been opened under the Filariasis Control Programme. Multipurpose Health Workers' Scheme will be implemented in Trivandrum and Kozhikode Districts in the first phase and in Quilon and Cannanore Districts in the second phase. The Intensive Health Education Project in selected areas is taken up at the rate of two in each District every year. The integrated health package programme provides supplementary diet to pre-school children and expectant and nursing mothers through feeding centres immunisation service etc., to a community of 200 households around each pre-school Health Care Centre. The National School Health Programme is to be implemented this year.

My Government intends to construct paywards in all hospitals down to taluk level and as part of this programme 864 paywards have been additionally constructed during the last two years. It is proposed to construct 386 paywards in 1978-79.

The Labour policy of the State Government has all along been welfare oriented and dynamic. The Kerala Labour Welfare Fund Act which is intended to provide necessary assistance for the development of common amenities and services to the workers covered by the Act was brought into force with effect from 1-5-1977.

My Government are viewing with concern the existing disparity in wage rates in Kerala and the neighbouring states especially in cashew, beedi, handloom and fisheries sectors. The disparity tends to promote migration of industry from Kerala to these States. Also since the existing wages in Kerala are comparatively higher and neighbouring States take time to revise their wages, further wage revisions in Kerala become difficult. A national wage policy is the proper solution. However in view of the delay in evolving such a policy, the Government are pressing for a regional wage policy involving Kerala and the neighbouring States.

I am happy to mention that this Government and the State Legislature were the first to champion the cause to restore the provision for 8½ per cent minimum Bonus, to the workers, which the Central Government have later restored.

Unemployment is still one of the most crucial problems facing the State. There are at present about 8 lakhs people registered in the Employment Exchanges of Kerala leaving apart the under-employed. In order to tackle this problem Government propose to undertake labour-intensive integrated development schemes in all sectors. The Government also propose to introduce suitable training programmes to augment the employment opportunities for the unemployed and underemployed. The Kerala Institute of Labour and Employment has been established to undertake special studies in training, education and research in Labour and Employment and related matters with particular reference to Kerala.

Due to the acute shortage of raw cashewnuts, most of the cashew factories in the State remain closed for the major part of the year. In order to extend a helping hand to the nearly 1½ lakhs of workers of these factories, Government propose to evolve a scheme to provide relief to them during the off-season on a long term basis.

Government have registered a company 'Overseas Development and Employment Promotion Consultants Ltd.', to promote the employment of Indian nationals in foreign countries. The company also proposes to take up developmental schemes with foreign collaboration both in India and abroad.

My Government are actively interested in training personnel and thus improving the quality of administration at all levels. In addition to the Kerala Institute of Public Administration at Trivandrum, it is proposed to set up new units at Cochin and Calicut under the auspices of the Institute. In the field of administrative reforms, Government have appointed a Special Officer to submit proposals on the delegation and decentralisation and his proposals are under the consideration of the Government.

My Government firmly believe in the democratic approach to the administration of the State. The people of Kerala desire an atmosphere of peace in all spheres of Governmental activity. The problems facing the State are indeed many, but with the co-operation and help of the people, they are not impossible of solution. My Government are convinced that even the most intricate issues can be resolved by peaceful negotiations. There is no cause for anxiety or alarm. To those employees who are restive on the issue of revision of pay scales, I give the assurance that my Government are decided on implementing the pay revision. I wish to declare in this context that my Government will, be always and everywhere in the forefront with the people of India in their efforts to preserve democratic rights, safeguard secularism and accelerate the socialistic process.

Honourable Members, let me conclude and also extend my good wishes to you all and expecting your deliberations to be healthy and fruitful I hope your endeavour to usher in a new era of happiness for our people will bring us together many a time in the years to come.

May I wish you all success.

JAI HIND