

MARCH 3, 1992

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

1. I addressed this August Assembly last time in an air of hope. Today I share with you a sense of achievement.

2. The general elections were held eight months back in the winter of our discontent. Democracy and the rule of law were in jeopardy. Threats to national unity and terrorism came into vogue in parts of the country and the dark forces of violence and destruction snatched away the vibrant life of Rajiv Gandhi, besmirching our sublime Gandhian heritage.

3. If politics was beset with uncertainties, the economy stood on the brink of collapse, with soaring prices, deteriorating balance of payments liabilities, declining credibility and a virtual hand to mouth existence. A feeling of despair gripped almost all sectors of Indian life.

4. The nation went to the polls against the above background. While the verdict of the people was not decisive, their signals were clear and decisive. Consensus achieved immediacy and relevance in national politics and Shri Narasimha Rao emerged as the choice of history to break the impasse in India polity. The rest is there for us to see and judge.

5. Today the process of integrating the national economy with the global economy has started producing results. Our eroding credibility is being restored; economic restructuring is progressing well; dogmatism has given place to pragmatism; enlightend liberalisation has started unleashing the hidden potentials of growth, and there is the growing awareness that what does not make good economic sense will not make political sense either. A popular Government has emerged in Punjab through the democratic process and normacy has been restored in Assam. In these recent developments we hear the death throes of an old order and the birth pangs of a new one.

6. If the nation was rocked by economic crisis and divisive influences, the State suffered under the ineptitude inertia, and irresponsible approach to problems on the part of the previous Government. The state of affairs in Kerala was depressing when we assumed office. The previous Government had bequeathed to us economic bankruptcy, administrative inertia and rising prices. The formal government ceased to function and an informal government surfaced from nowhere as an affront to democracy and a challenge to the people's will. The elections came to the much needed deliverance of the public, and a mandate was given which was clear and unambiguous.

7. Our short stint in office has proved that we have not left a hiatus between promise and performance. My Government had a commitment to the youth that education upto pre-degree will be made free. We made a promise to the Government employees that they will be given one month's pay as bonus. We were committed to the children to provide them noon meals uninterruptedly. We promised exemption from tariff to those consuming upto 20 units of power per month. It took my Government very little time to honour these commitments. Our predecessors had passed on to us a staggering deterioration in the finances of the State, thereby preempting us from launching any worthwhile venture for economic development. While throughout the Sixth Plan the State was able to contribute to its Plan from the balance from current revenues, this surplus was converted to a deficit during the 7th Plan, indicating a deterioration by around Rs. 1217 crores and establishing a trend of diversion of Plan resources for non plan expenditure, which we are finding difficult to reverse.

8. In spite of all this, by judicious financial management, my Government have been able to face the unenviable situation and accelerate the developmental processes with the commitment which the people had expected of us. The new industrial policy has transformed the State from a nightmare to investors to the most investment-friendly state in the country. On the food front, we could stem the spiral of prices during Onam and provide relief to the public by absorbing the inevitable increase in the price of ration rice by extending support from budgetary sources. To provide shelter to the millions and generate employment to the youth, the Rajiv One Million Scheme was launched within weeks of our assuming the reins of

Government. Police was freed from politics and spruced up as a neutral force fit enough to mete out justice without fear or favour. Administration was shaken up from its slumber and given a new buoyancy. The SPEED programme has become proof positive of the commitment of the government to the speedy redressal of public grievances. Modernisation has become the hallmark of administration, be it in computerisation of offices or revamping of the police force. Power scarcity is sought to be met successfully through optimum utilisation of alternative energy sources, especially diesel based power generation.

9. Eschewing the path of confrontation and following the dictates of consensus and co-operation my government were able to set a favourable trend in healthy Centre-State relations. If the Union Budget is an indicator, our attitude of constructive co-operation with the Centre has paid rich dividends to the State. The liberalisation in the import of gold and the partial convertibility of the Rupee have come as a boon to the Keralites working abroad, whose contributions have been especially mentioned by the Union Finance Minister in his Budget Speech. The State's share of Central taxes is being placed at hitherto unprecedented levels for the coming year. Apart from an allocation for Central Sector units in the State at Rs. 300 crores, there are sizeable investment proposals in the offing. The Rs. 1000 crore Special Area Programme for Tourism promotion, the Rs. 525 crore Ammonia Plant in FACT, a new Port at Vallarpadam for Container Transhipment involving a total investment in excess of Rs. 1000 crores, the Rs. 500 crores economic package for the development of Ship Building Industry, the suggested improvements to the Cochin Port involving over Rs. 130 crores the expansion of Cochin Refinery which, according the Petroleum Ministry's projections, will open up the field for downstream units to the order of Rs. 10,000 crores, the declaration of Kottappuram-Kollam Canal as the Third National Waterway involving an investment of over Rs. 100 crores, are all worthy of special mention.

10. Although my Government had inherited an adverse financial situation with a substantial revenue deficit, they have successfully formulated the VIII Five Year Plan (1992-97) with a proposed total outlay of Rs. 5460 crores and an assumed growth rate of 5.6 per cent. Plan schemes have been so formulated as to attract maximum possible institutional and private finance. Poverty alleviation and employment generation will be effected through rural development activities and industrialisation on a massive scale. The power sector, so essential to growth, has been allotted nearly 24 per cent of the total outlay. There will be qualitative improvement in the existing infrastructure and emphasis on high-growth areas like sericulture, housing and tourism.

11. Our proposals were accepted in toto by the Planning Commission while finalising an Annual Plan of Rs. 913 crores for 1992-93. My Chief Minister had personally urged in the National Development Council (NDC) a separate weightage for actual performance in national priority areas such as primary education, literacy and family welfare in the formula for the allocation of plan assistance to the States. The NDC has accepted my Chief Minister's suggestions while finalising the new formula for central assistance. Consequently we will be receiving a total Central assistance of Rs. 537.5 crores during 1992-93. Admittedly, my Government will have to make unprecedented efforts to mobilise the additional resources necessary to cover the deficit in the non-plan revenue account. This has become necessary because of the adverse variations in the immediate past which had converted the surplus on the Revenue Account during the 6th Plan period to a deficit during the 7th Plan by allowing major increases in the non-plan expenditure to the detriment of the availability of the funds required for development activities.

12. My Government attach the highest priority to the restoration of law and order in the State. All efforts are being made to keep down the anti-social elements and to curb violence in any form. The law and order machinery and crime detection agencies are functioning freely without interference of any kind from any quarter, and every effort is being made to ensure the safety of life and property of all citizens irrespective of political affiliations.

13. My Government are committed to the modernisation of the police force. A scheme for providing UHF link to the Police Telecommunication Network to provide for split second communication free of interference is already under implementation. A Commission has been appointed to study and recommend improvements in the service conditions of police personnel. The Kerala Police Housing and Construction Corporation Limited has started construction of apartments for police personnel in Thiruvananthapuram with assistance from the Housing Development Finance Corporation. Under this project, housing will be provided to police personnel both in Thiruvananthapuram and other headquarters towns in a phased manner. Ration money to police personnel has been sanctioned.

14. The Crime Branch (CID) was reorganised during 1991-92. It is also proposed to make institutional arrangements to deal quickly and effectively with communal disturbances as well as extremist activities. Upgradation of transport and communication facilities as well as weaponry is an essential part of these arrangements. Police involvement in the protection of civil rights and the handling of offences against Scheduled Castes and Tribes is being made more effective.

15. My Government will step up their vigilance and intelligence functions and concentrate on the prevention of corruption among public servants. A new Commission chaired by a sitting Judge of the High Court has been constituted under the provisions of the Kerala Public Men's Corruption (Investigation and Inquiries) Act, 1987, to deal effectively with corrupt practices among public men.

16. My Government have integrated the civil and criminal wings of the Subordinate Judiciary to constitute the Kerala Judicial Service. Government have ordered the establishment of three special courts at Thiruvananthapuram to try marklist cases.

17. The Official Language (Legislative) Commission has translated 50 enactments during 1991-92. Efforts will be made to modernise the Fire Force with the assistance of Government of India. It has been decided to establish a Fire Service Training School at Viyyur to teach modern fire-fighting techniques.

18. A scheme to modernise the Jail Department has been submitted to Government of India. A Jail Reforms Committee has been set up to study the existing arrangements and to make recommendations on the improvements needed in the living conditions of the inmates and for the toning up of jail administration.

19. My Government recognise agriculture as one of the critical sectors of the State's economy and propose to make a policy statement on agricultural development during the current session of the House. My Government intend to give priority to higher levels of production and productivity of food crops without any diminution in the area under such crops. It is proposed to write-off over Rs. 20 crores given as loans to around 2.5 lakhs of paddy farmers. The intensive rice production programme has been extended to Malappuram. Coverage of paddy production on Padasekharam basis is expected to touch about five lakh hectares during the current year. A special programme is under implementation to increase production of pulses. The vegetable production programme has led to a fall in vegetable prices this year.

20. The production of certain cash crops like coconut, rubber and cashew appears to be good. However, pepper production stands affected by quick wilt disease. A revitalisation programme with emphasis on plant protection is being implemented with 100 per cent Central assistance.

21. My Government have taken various measures to ensure remunerative prices to farmers. A market support programme for ungraded rubber has been introduced for the benefit of growers, especially the small farmers. Other grades of rubber will be procured by the State Trading Corporation. The price fixed for monopoly procurement cashew is the highest ever. Coconut prices are being sustained at a satisfactory level. Ginger procurement was introduced for the first time to prevent further deterioration in prices. The Government of India have been persuaded to suspend the collection of pepper cess.

22. Despite their financial difficulties, my Government have provided Rs. 10 crores as assistance for crops damaged during the south-west monsoon. This is the first time that assistance has been provided on such a large scale as relief in a single year.

23. The emphasis will be on developing technology for transforming the agricultural scenario. The research wing of the Kerala Agricultural University will be further strengthened and extension support made more effective and timely.

24. A massive Horticultural Development Project with an outlay of Rs. 92 crores will be launched during 1992-93 with technical and financial assistance from E.E.C. The establishment of two more modern oil mills under KERAFED each with 200 tonnes capacity per day at Kozhikode and Kochi will be speeded up. Extension of oil palm cultivation to 6,000 hectares by Oil Palm India Ltd. with financial assistance from Government of India is under the active consideration of Government.

25. Programmes in Animal Husbandry will be strengthened to enhance production of milk, eggs and meat. Veterinary services will be made more effective and 70 new veterinary dispensaries will be established as part of a phased programme, providing the services of a veterinary officer to each panchayat. Modern management techniques will be imparted to farmers to maximise benefits from crossbred stock. Farmers will also be trained to take up livestock production as a means of remunerative self employment.

26. Milk production will be increased to ensure an enhancement in availability of milk in Kerala from 16.2 lakh MT to 18 lakh MT during 1992-93. Fifty new Dairy Extension Service Units will be set up in 50 blocks, and 300 new dairy co-operatives will be organised to improve procurement and marketing of surplus milk in rural areas. An area of 10,000 hectares will be brought under fodder cultivation and 7 small cattle feed plants will be set up. Three more dairy training centres and three new quality control units will be organised. In the context of poultry development, various activities including establishing a broiler feed farm, a hatchery for broiler chicks and poultry feed manufacturing plant are contemplated. Marketing infrastructure will also be provided. Infrastructural facilities will be provided to 20 broiler farmers' associations for marketing poultry products and storing poultry feed.

27. In the fisheries sector my Government intend to increase the production of marine and inland fish, expand infrastructure facilities and improve the social and economic status of fisherfolk. An integrated programme for development of prawn culture will be undertaken in 1500 hectares with assistance from the Kuwait Fund. Three new fish farmer development agencies for brackish water fish will be started in Alappuzha, Thrissur and Kozhikode districts. Fish farming and prawn culture will be undertaken on scientific and modern lines and extended to more reservoirs, panchayat tanks and privately owned ponds. A new scheme for growing better varieties of fish in reservoirs will be implemented at a cost of Rs. 5 crores with assistance from Germany.

28. My Government have already taken steps to control fish disease and to mitigate the suffering of affected fisherfolk, and these measures will be continued. A savings and relief scheme has already been initiated for the benefit of fisherfolk during the lean months.

29. The available varieties of fish will be used to prepare protein-enriched fish products. A "cold chain" programme to link interior markets with fish production centres is planned, so that fish reach these markets without spoiling.

30. A scheme to provide employment in ancillary occupations to fisherwomen will be implemented.

31. Work on two Fishing Harbours, one at Mopla Bay in Kannur district and the other at Chembal in Kozhikode district, will begin during the year at a cost of Rs. 564 lakhs and Rs. 556 lakhs respectively. Work on the fish landing centre for mechanised boats in Chettuva will be completed during 1992-93. Construction of a fish landing centre at Quilandy will also begin during the year. The fish landing centre for traditional fishermen in Vizhinjam South will be completed during the year.

32. As part of the existing programme for reorientation and reform of Forest administration, my Government will establish 25 new Forest Stations in Kottayam, Thrissur and Palakkad districts with adequate staff, arms and equipment during the coming year. About 200 Kms. of forest boundary will be demarcated during the next year. Government propose to completely afforest the degraded forest areas of the State in a phased manner over the next ten years. The afforestation of about 5,000 hectares is expected to be taken up during 1992-93. A new programme for setting up Smrithy Vanas will be launched in the State and trees will be planted in memory of Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and other national leaders of eminence.

33. A new initiative has been taken to democratise and decentralise the Social Forestry Programme by involving local bodies in its implementation. Hence forth the raising of nurseries, distribution of seedling etc., will be carried out through local bodies.

34. Co-operative credit societies and banks have achieved commendable progress in disbursing credit especially for agricultural purposes. The activities of societies will be further diversified so as to increase their role in the marketing of agricultural products and in distribution of consumer articles and various agricultural inputs. A programme to strengthen and reorganise weak primary agricultural credit societies will be implemented during the VIII Plan in a phased manner. Programmes for revitalising primary marketing co-operatives, consumer co-operatives, wholesale co-operative stores and the Kerala State Co-operative Consumer Federation will continue. A programme to strengthen and revitalise the Kerala Co-operative Marketing Federation with the assistance of the National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC) will be implemented during the Plan period. The Integrated Co-operative Development Project will be extended to Idukki, Pathanamthitta and Thrissur districts with the assistance of the NCDC. Steps are also being taken to implement the World Bank assisted NCDC Storage IV Programme for which NCDC is expected to provide Rs. 105 crores. Co-operative Hospitals will be equipped to function as fullfledge hospitals, and provided assistance to impart training in various para-medical courses.

35. The Kerala Co-operative Housing Federation and its primaries will advance loans for constructing 35,000 houses during the VIII Plan period. During 1992-93, it is intended to advance loans for 4895 houses with assistance from the LIC. Primary Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Co-operatives will be strengthened and more such societies organised.

36. My Government propose to strengthen Women's Co-operatives, and to start more such co-operatives.

37. A comprehensive amendment of the Kerala Co-operative Societies Act will be undertaken during the year to simplify existing procedures and to make co-operatives more democratic in their functioning. Elected bodies will be brought into position as soon as possible.

38. The Rural Development Department will focus on alleviating poverty and enhancing rural employment, especially among Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes families and women, through the twin vehicles of the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) and the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP). During 1992-93, my Government propose to invest Rs. 79.75 crores in the JRY to generate 180 lakh mandays. Schemes under the IRDP Programme will be formulated to assist about 56,000 families who are below the poverty line. Training under the TRYSEM (Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment) Programme will be made more relevant to felt needs and the programme for Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) will be extended to one more district. Other community development schemes like renovation of drinking water wells, training for Mahila Samajams, etc., will also be effectively implemented.

39. In spite of very serious difficulties in the context of rising prices, scarcity and inadequacy of funds, my Government have taken a number of steps to ensure the smooth distribution of essential commodities through the Public Distribution System. During the Onam season, for example, apart from the normal rations, over Rs. 12 crores worth of material was distributed at reasonable rates through 395 Maveli Stores, five Onam Fairs, 137 Onam markets and 1501 Onam Co-operative markets, and 33 Christmas market were arranged during the Christmas season. The special efforts made for the provision of clean food at low rates during the Sabarimala pilgrim season have been of substantial benefit to the pilgrims

40. Food Advisory Committees and monitoring cells have been set up all over the State. A special squad under the District Collector has been constituted to enforce the Essential Commodities Act. A monitoring Cell at the district, sub division and panchayat levels involving nine departments has been constituted for the effective supervision of the public distribution system. Consumer Redressal Forum have replaced the Regional Forums in all districts.

41. The activities of the Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation will be further expanded. Arrangements will be made to distribute essential articles through one Maveli Co-operative Store attached to co-operative society, and one ration shop in each Panchayat, in addition to the 140 Maveli Stores to be started. Supermarkets will be set up in districts where they do not exist. Thirty more mobile Maveli Stores will be opened in areas where there is a concentration of tribals, fisherfolk, etc.

42. My Government have already made a policy statement on the Industrial Policy which has been received well, and has attracted attention all over India. The near unanimity of opinion on the various policy decisions taken and the measures proposed in the Industrial Policy Statement is largely due to the fact that all those concerned, such as the private investors, industrialists' financing institutions media representatives, trade unions and representatives of all political parties were involved in the formulation of the policy. The administrative action to implement most of the measures enumerated in the policy statement stands completed. As a follow up, an inter-face with the leading industrialists of North India was arranged in Delhi recently, which was attended by all the industrialists and business houses. The response has been very favourable and a large number of proposals are being presented before the State Government and KSIDC in pursuance of the deliberations at the inter-face. It is proposed to conduct a series of similar meetings in the major industrial centres all over the country to explain the new policy and various incentives available in Kerala. The new industrial policy statement and the inter-face with the investing community have succeeded to a considerable extent in the removal of certain ill-informed impressions about investment in Kerala.

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41. The activities of the Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation will be further expanded. Arrangements will be made to distribute essential articles through one Maveli Co-operative Store attached to co-operative society, and one ration shop in each Panchayat, in addition to the 140 Maveli Stores to be started. Supermarkets will be set up in districts where they do not exist. Thirty more mobile Maveli Stores will be opened in areas where there is a concentration of tribals, fisherfolk, etc.

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43. A promotional campaign through various news media will be launched projecting Kerala as an area of high potential for industry. A personalised escort service, Green Channel counters for expeditious disposal of applications, and designated Industrial Liaison Officers in departments and organisations connected with industrial development are being arranged.

44. My Government also propose to take up development of industrial infrastructure on a large scale for the identification of suitable sites and the provision of electric connections, water, roads and communication facilities. An Industrial Infrastructure Development Authority will be set up for this purpose.

45. In the field of small scale industries, Government's endeavour will be to streamline the system of administration at the district level. My Government have finalised the procedure for inducting private sector management and technical expertise as well as finances into the public sector in Kerala.

46. In the traditional sector, my Government expect early sanction from the Government of India for the Integrated Coir Development Programme which involves the setting up of 100 de-fibring units and 200 spinning units in the co-operative sector. An Institute of Coir Technology is also planned.

47. Efforts are also being made to streamline the activities of the Co-operative Spinning Mills. A Federation of such mills is expected to be formed shortly. Task Forces for development of handicrafts and handloom or preparation of integrated plans will also be set up shortly.

48. My Government have already ordered the strengthening of the Bureau of Public Enterprises. The new Bureau will shoulder all administrative responsibilities relating to public enterprises, and is expected to start functioning shortly with adequate technical expertise and administrative personnel.

49. My Government are taking all steps to increase the availability of power in the State. Ongoing projects are to be completed expeditiously and efforts will be made to obtain central clearance for pending projects such as Pooyamkutty, Kuriyarkutty-Karappara, etc. By streamlining the operations of the Electricity Board, my Government have succeeded in regaining a World Bank loan which was suspended in September, 1991. Action is being taken to establish three diesel stations at Kasaragode, Kozhikode and Brahampuram. My Government propose to allow private parties to set up power generation projects of any size based on hydel, thermal and non-conventional sources.

50. Efforts are being made to facilitate voltage improvement in the transmission and distribution sectors. The 400-KV Sub Station at Madakathara at Thrissur will be commissioned shortly.

51. My Government have taken steps to ensure an adequate rate of return to the K.S.E.B. Government have also launched a drive to conserve energy. Various concessions to new industries like lower power tariff, duty exemption, etc., have already been announced under the industrial policy of the State.

52. My Government propose to bring out a comprehensive labour policy that will ensure industrial harmony while promoting growth with social justice. After the present Ministry took charge no less than 4222 industrial disputes have been settled and 18 major factories and institutions reopened. The labour situation in Kerala is now peaceful and my Government are encouraging long-term settlements in major industries and establishments as a matter of policy. Timely settlement of the bonus issue ensured peace on the labour front during the last festival season of Onam. The agricultural workers pension and the unemployment allowance have been raised. Five new town employment exchanges have been sanctioned. It is proposed to computerise five employment exchanges during 1992-93.

53. Fifty seven new Industrial Training Centres were sanctioned after the new Government took office. Additional trades like painting, plumbing, plastic processing, radio and TV have been started in various Industrial Training Institutes. Four full time ESI dispensaries have already been sanctioned and eight more are proposed.

54. The Overseas Development and Employment Promotion Consultants Ltd. (ODEPC) has sponsored 191 candidates to various countries after the present Ministry took charge. The autoricksha workers welfare fund has been inaugurated.

55. My Government will concentrate on completing on-going schemes of the Public Work Department such as construction of the Legislature Complex building. Plans for the coastal road network and the hill area road system are under finalisation.

56. New works will be taken up only in accordance with guidelines to be prescribed. A major project for four-laning the carriage way between Cherthala and Aroor is likely to be taken up with assistance from the Asian Development Bank. Action will be initiated in respect of Kozhikode and Kollam bye-passes. Three mobile road-repairing units will be set up at Kollam, Thrissur and Kozhikode respectively during 1992-93. My Government will also encourage private participation in the construction of toll bridges and roads, the cost of which is to be covered by such charges.

57. My Government have given priority to the commissioning of irrigation projects which are capable of early completion. The long pending Periyar Valley and Kallada Irrigation Projects will be commissioned this year and the Muvattupuzha Irrigation Project in 1994-95. The Government intend to complete the Vamanapuram-Meenachal Project and Chaliyar Project during the VIII Plan period. The Champravattom bridge-cum-regulator, Kuriyarkutty-Karappara and Vamanapuram projects will also be complete with external assistance.

58. My Government envisage a comprehensive project for utilising natural springs for both drinking water and irrigation projects.

59. The existing 1518 rural water supply and 35 urban water supply schemes in Kerala provide protected water only to 37 per cent of the rural and 70 per cent of the urban population. My Government have already taken action to complete and commission 413 large and small ongoing drinking water schemes as a result of which 59 per cent of the rural and 85 per cent of the urban population in Kerala will be covered by protected water supply.

60. My Government are seeking World Bank assistance to complete 9 ongoing urban water supply schemes. Consultancy reports for water supply and drainage schemes in Kozhikode, Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram under the Kerala Urban Development Project are being finalised for World Bank assistance.

61. To tide over the acute water supply problem in Thiruvananthapuram city it is proposed to implement an interim augmentation scheme costing Rs. 26 crores.

62. My Government propose to streamline the functioning of the Motor Vehicles Department through increased field staff, additional infrastructure, modern equipment and computerisation.

63. The K.S.R.T.C.'s operations will be streamlined to ensure better service to the public. The Kerala Transport Development Finance Corporation is expected to improve KSRTC's financial standing. The Kollam-Kottappuram sector of the inland waterway is to be a national waterway. The development of this canal will open out new avenues for employment generation, tourism and industrial development. The Kerala Shipping and Inland Navigation Corporation and the State Water Transport Department will also play a major role in the development of inland water transport. The Erode-Cochi section of the railway is to be electrified.

64. The upgradation of Trivandrum Airport and the introduction of international flights from Kozhikode augur well for tourism as well as commercial traffic.

65. My Government have taken a policy decision to develop the intermediate and minor ports in Kerala and to provide basic facilities for landing and shipping operations. Such operations have commenced for the very first time at Vizhinjam port. Azhikkal and Munambam ports have been dredged, in addition to the usual dredging at Bypore and Neendakara. Government have also decided to procure additional vessels and equipment to provide better facilities at ports.

66. My Government regard tourism as a potentially high-growth area. The Government will play the role of a catalyst to encourage the growth of the private sector in tourism. Our aggressive tourism promotion strategy has aroused interest within the country and abroad, and major hotel chains have already come up to attract tourist facilities in Kerala. Resort complexes, boat trains, house boats, floating restaurants etc., are some of the activities being established. 1993 is proposed to be observed as Visit Kerala Year, with sufficient attractions and facilities for tourists. My Government have also been informed that the Bekal-Kozhikode stretch is to be developed as a Special Tourism Area based on beach development with the full complement of attendant facilities. This is one of the three such projects being sponsored by the Government of India.



67. My Government have actively pursued programmes for the social, educational, cultural and economic development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Intensive Habitat Development Programme, launched during 1991-92 with the objective of total development of selected backward habitats will cover 2000 habitats by the end of the VIII Plan.

68. A large number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes families will be covered under the Rajiv One Million Housing Scheme. Side by side, Government are implementing the Ambedkar Housing Programme with liberal financial assistance from HUDCO. Under this scheme 20,000 houses will be provided to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes by the end of the VIII Plan.

69. Government intend to take various steps to improve the educational standard of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes students. These include provision of tutorial facilities in pre and postmatric studies, and extension of educational assistance to students.

70. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation has launched schemes to assist Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes entrepreneurs and unemployed persons to take up self employment.

71. My Government will ensure that the full benefits of the Integrated Child Development Services which provides a variety of service like supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check and pre-school education, reach over four lakh children, pregnant women and nursing mothers. Pensions to destitutes, physically handicapped persons and the mentally retarded persons and financial assistance for the marriage of daughters of widows will continue to be disbursed. More employment opportunities will be provided to physically handicapped persons through the Kerala State Physically Handicapped Persons Welfare Corporation during this year. Government have decided to construct two Observation Homes and to implement the Juvenile Justice Act during 1992-93.

72. The Rajiv One Million Housing Scheme has been formulated with the objective of achieving "Shelter for all by the year 2000." This scheme will cover all income groups with special emphasis on economically weaker sections. Two ancillary projects also form part of the scheme. One is for upgrading dwellings of weaker sections and low income groups including the One Lakh Housing Scheme, and the other for providing sanitary facilities to settlements in unhygienic places. My Government propose to set up housing complexes in a phased manner in every panchayat to rehabilitate landless families. To ease congestion in the cities, satellite townships will be developed with private participation.

73. My Government will co-ordinate the activities of different housing agencies both in the public, private sectors. Almost all the money required for this massive programme will be mobilised from financial institutions. When completed this scheme will mitigate the housing problem apart from providing spin-offs like employment generation and promotion of construction activities.

74. New housing colonies on the basis of new cost effective building technologies in Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam and Kozhikode, and building material industrial estates to encourage entrepreneurs to manufacture low cost building materials are also being planned.

75. My Government propose to improve speciality services in all the Medical Colleges, using specialist and sophisticated equipment. Super-speciality blocks are proposed to be constructed during 1992-93 in the Medical Colleges of Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode. Construction of additional buildings will be started on land which is being acquired for the Alappuzha Medical College. Building work on the Thrissur Medical College Hospital will be done in 1992-93. Construction of the hospital building for the Government Homoeo Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram will be completed this year.

76. As part of Central scheme for the control of AIDS it is proposed to modernise and augment infrastructure facilities in the blood banks of Medical Colleges and District hospitals. A programme for early detection of cancer is also proposed to be launched.

77. My Government propose to adopt a camp approach under which teams of specialists will visit sub centres to provide health care with special attention to dental and eye care. Attention will also be paid to environmental factors like drinking water supply and sanitation.

78. As a policy measure, my government will aim to increase the output of trained medical and para-medical personnel.

79. My Government also propose to devote special attention to the further development of indigenous systems of medicine.

80. Having achieved commendable progress in the spread of education, my Government now propose to give utmost importance to improving the quality of education. The State Institute of Education will be reorganised into the State Council for Educational Research and Training. Government also propose to strengthen inservice training for teachers, develop education technology, provide necessary infrastructure facilities, and strengthen academic supervision of schools. The school syllabus will be revised to conform to the NCERT pattern, and will be introduced in Class V and Class VIII during the academic year 1992-93. Fifty-five Higher Secondary and three Vocational Higher Secondary Schools have been started.

81. Government will appoint a high-level committee to study matters relating to the introduction of a proper pre-primary education set up. It is proposed to establish a society for promoting the education of disabled children, and to co-ordinate the activities of different agencies in this field.

82. My Government recognise the importance of post-literacy and the continuing education of neo-literates. Janavidya Kendrams are proposed in all panchayats to help bring neo-literates into the mainstream of the development process. The second phase of the total literacy programme will be implemented vigorously with people's participation.

83. During the VIII Plan my Government propose to improve the quality of higher education and to introduce new courses in emerging areas with reference to the rapidly changing industrial scene and the pace of technical development. As part of a perspective plan for technical and other development in terms of national development goals, courses will be started in applied science, electronics, computer science and management.

84. During the last few months, 38 Junior Colleges have been upgraded, a new Engineering College at Kottayam, a new Law College at Thrissur and a new Women's College at Malappuram have been started, and education upto the pre-degree level has been made free. A Sanskrit University is being established.

85. I am happy to state that the Central Government have agreed in principle to start an Indian Institute of Management and an Indian Institute of Technology in Kerala.

86. Government have undertaken major schemes to modernise existing Polytechnics with World Bank assistance. Two new Polytechnics have started functioning, and a third will be opened in northern Kerala for women. A scheme for strengthening laboratories and infrastructure facilities in electronics and computers has been launched with assistances from the Swiss Bank and the World Bank. My Government have approved implementation of the Canada-India Institutional Co-operative Project for improving teachers and teaching methods. Laboratories in the Engineering College, Thiruvananthapuram will be modernized.

87. My Government propose to start autonomous colleges on an experimental basis during 1992.

88. Special emphasis is proposed for the propagation of Hindi.

89. The working of several research and development institutions will be toned up and made more relevant to the State's needs. Their findings will be passed on to user departments.

90. The Archaeology Department has made an important discovery at Mangad in Kollam district and will conduct excavations at Perumkadavila and in Wayanad district this year.

91. The State Gazeteers Department has begun work on new set of district Gazeteers.

92. My Government propose to make the Kerala Kalamandalam a deemed University. A dance drama academy as a centre of excellence for Indian classical dance forms will be set up at Thiruvananthapuram.

93. My Government have taken several steps to encourage sports and youth affairs in Kerala. These include a sports medicine centre at Thiruvananthapuram, the first such effort by any State Government. Training in Kalaripayattu will start in the Martial Arts Centre, Poovar. The Kerala Sports Council has now resumed giving assistance to schools for infrastructure development. The Council has also taken steps to improve the existing facilities for coaching and training. Construction of a Sports Hostel building at Kozhikode is almost over, and two Sports Project Development Area Centres have started operating at Kollam and Thrissur with the assistance of the Sports Authority of India.

94. My Government are committed to revitalising panchayat administration and have enhanced the financial powers of panchayats. Prompt action will be taken as required to solve the problems of local bodies. Government propose to simplify regulations governing building construction.

95. Gram Sabhas have been established in all village offices to bring the revenue administration close to the people and make common essential documents easily available to the public. Village Officers have been empowered to issue 14 types of certificates. The grant of pattas to pre-1977 occupants of forests lands is expected to be cleared by the Government of India shortly.

96. My Government have introduced a welfare scheme for traders and their families. A welfare fund for document writers and stamp vendors is being started this year itself. Measures have been taken to improve the Valayar check post. Government have taken up computerisation of check posts on an experimental basis.

97. Seven additional bumper lotteries are proposed during 1992, which is the Silver Jubilee Year of the State Lotteries.

98. The Kerala State Financial Enterprises Ltd., has opened fifteen new branches in the State. The company has also drawn up and implemented a trade financing scheme and a scheme for housing finance to low and middle income groups.

99. The Kerala Building Tax Act has been amended.

100. My Government have taken steps to safeguard the interests of Public Service Commission rank holders by enforcing restrictions on inter-district transfer. The gratuity to part-time contingent employees retiring on or after 1-7-1988 has been substantially increased.

101. The Pay Equalisation Committee is expected to submit its recommendations shortly. Computer terminals have been installed in 20 district treasuries. My Government are considering introduction of a Group Personal Accident Insurance Scheme for autorickshaw and taxi drivers, and a medi-claim insurance scheme for pensioners.

102. The new Abkari Policy of auctioning individual shops is aimed at the removal of monopoly in the field. In tune with their declared policy my Government will not grant any new bar licences to clubs or allow new arrack or toddy shops. No new alcohol outlets will be permitted within the prohibited distance. Special efforts are being made in the context of the narcotics menace, involving both the destruction of illegal crops and drugs as well as increasing public awareness.

103. In order to provide adequate travel facilities and accommodation to the Haj pilgrims my Government have ensured adequate direct flights from Kozhikode and Thiruvananthapuram to Jedda and back. A Musafarkhana near the Airport at Kozhikode will be constructed, and a Haj Cell will function at Bombay for providing necessary help to the Haj pilgrims. My Government will endeavour to get back the 'KE RUBATH' from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

104. The will of the people is what sustains any democratic government. The people have given the government of the State to us in trust, and as trustees, we will discharge our duties in a fair and equitable manner. My Government consider this a distinctly favourable time to bring in prosperity to the State in all spheres of development. We have untapped potential and unexplored resources. With confidence and determination we will prepare the path to progress, undaunted by partisan considerations. People's faith is our greatest asset and my Government are determined to prove ourselves to be worthy of the confidence reposed in us by the people of Kerala. In the noble task of leading the State to a new dawn my Government are committed to seek, to find, to strive and never to yield.

I wish you a fruitful legislative session.

JAI HIND