“The perceptive Tamil people have understood that we are executing varied schemes to ensure prevalence of peace. So they have elected us again to office”.

Selvi J Jayalalithaa

-Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Hon’ble Members of the Legislative Assembly,

Vanakkam.

I congratulate and welcome all the new members elected to this august Assembly. It gives me immense pleasure to deliver the inaugural address of the first session of the Fifteenth Legislative Assembly. The people of Tamil Nadu have delivered a historic verdict by giving a consecutive second term to the Party in power, after a gap of 32 years. I am confident that each one of you, conscious of the immense faith placed by the people in you, will work for their upliftment and for the overall development of the State.

2) The people of Tamil Nadu have once again reposed their faith in the leadership of the Hon’ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa by re-electing her Government. This historic verdict has vindicated the people-friendly policies and programmes implemented by the Government under her leadership and ensured its return to continue the march towards making Tamil Nadu the Numero Uno State in the Country. The Government will strive to achieve its stated objective of ensuring peace, prosperity and development in the State. Towards this, effective policies and programmes will be formulated and implemented, benefiting all sections.

3) The Hon’ble Chief Minister’s commitment to speedily implement various welfare schemes promised in the Election Manifesto, was amply evident from the fact that on the very day of assuming charge, this Government issued orders on giving effect to five important promises,
* Waiving the outstanding agricultural loans owed by small and marginal farmers to Co-operative Institutions.

* Providing one hundred units of free electricity to all domestic consumers.

* Increasing the gold for Thirumangalyam from four grams to eight grams under Marriage Assistance Schemes.

* Increasing the free electricity provided to Handloom weavers to 200 units and Powerloom weavers to 750 units.

* Reducing the working hours of TASMAC retail shops and closing 500 retail outlets.

4) This Government is committed to improving transparency in administration, and will establish the institution of Lokayukta in Tamil Nadu through appropriate enactment, once the proposed amendments to the Lokpal Act are enacted by the Parliament.

5) The Hon’ble Members are well aware that though more taxation powers are vested with the Centre, the functional responsibility for actual delivery of vital public services are with the State Governments. The resource distribution is skewed in favour of the Centre, while the State has to shoulder more responsibilities without matching resources. Therefore, while working with the Central Government for the overall development of the State, this Government will continue to insist on fair and adequate sharing of financial resources between the Centre and the States.

6) This Government will strive to ensure declaration of Tamil as an official language of the Union Government and also the use of Tamil language in the Hon’ble High Court of Madras. Tamil Scholars will continue to be duly honoured through institution of awards and construction of Memorials for them. Earnest efforts will be made to lift the ban on Jallikattu, which is intertwined with the socio-cultural and rural ethos of Tamil Society.

7) Securing the legitimate rights of the State in various inter-state river water disputes is very close to the heart of the Hon’ble Chief Minister. Consolidating her
historic achievement in raising the water level of the Mullai Periyar Dam to 142 feet, this Government is determined to further raise the water level to its Full Reservoir Level (FRL) of 152 feet and bring prosperity to the farmers in the Southern Districts of the State. Another noteworthy achievement of the Hon’ble Chief Minister is securing the legitimate rights of the State through the Notification of the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal by the Government of India. This Government will continue to pursue action to obtain an order from the Hon’ble Supreme Court for the constitution of the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee by the Government of India for effective implementation of the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal.

8) This Government will lay emphasis on the effective management of water resources. To rejuvenate our water bodies and tanks, and increase their storage capacity, the State Government has secured funding from the World Bank for Phase-II of the ‘Irrigated Agriculture Modernisation and Water Bodies Restoration and Management’ (IAMWARM) Project. This Government has also secured the Asian Development Bank funding for the ‘Climate Adaptation Programme’, which will reduce the impact of climate change in the Cauvery Delta, and preliminary works have already commenced in the Vennar sub-basin.

9) The ‘Amma Call Centre’ has emerged as an effective grievance redressal mechanism responding to public calls round the clock. This will be further strengthened. Similarly, the e-Sevai Centres (Common Service Centres) established throughout the State have been providing a range of hassle-free services to citizens. To strengthen the delivery of
e-services, the e-Sevai Centres set up under the aegis of Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu (ELCOT), the Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation (TACTV), Primary Agricultural Co-operative Societies (PACS) and Village Poverty Reduction Committees (VPRC) will be further expanded and services of all the Departments will be made available online through these Centres. The Government will continue its efforts through various novel initiatives to further strengthen the public service delivery system in the State.

10) The recent devastating floods had caused heavy damages in several parts of the State, especially in Chennai City and some coastal Districts. The concerted efforts of various Government agencies under the leadership of the Hon’ble Chief Minister enabled the speedy restoration of normal life, bringing great relief to the large number of affected people. This Government will expeditiously prepare Comprehensive Flood Protection Plans for Chennai City and vulnerable coastal Districts in the State to permanently mitigate the impact of floods.

11) The Hon’ble Chief Minister through her grit and determination has effectively put an end to the activities of anti-social elements. The Police Force will be further strengthened by providing modern equipment and other facilities to deal even more effectively with crime, including cyber crime. The high morale of Police Personnel will be maintained by giving a free hand to them to deal with crime and law and order situation. Public order will be strictly enforced and Tamil Nadu will continue to remain a haven of peace and tranquillity.

12) The Hon’ble Chief Minister has always championed the cause of Sri Lankan Tamils. Through international fora like the United Nation Human Rights Council, this Government will continue to seek accountability of those who perpetrated genocide on innocent Tamils in Sri Lanka during the closing stages of the civil war. This Government will continue its efforts to secure equal rights and opportunities for the Tamil minorities in Sri Lanka on par with other citizens.

13) On being re-elected, this Government has the opportunity of taking the State closer
to the ambitious and aspirational goals set out in the ‘Tamil Nadu Vision 2023 Document’ launched by the Hon’ble Chief Minister. The Tamil Nadu Vision 2023 will continue to be the agenda for action for this Government, which is committed to securing for the people of Tamil Nadu a greatly improved quality of life. For the first time in the Country, a comprehensive and focused institutional and financing mechanism has been established. With this, the pace of implementation of projects will be substantially stepped up.

14) This Government will continue to give a thrust to the development of agriculture with a farmer-centric approach. Self-sufficiency in cereals, oilseeds and pulses will be achieved with enhanced focus on popularizing high-end technologies and crop diversification. This will pave the way for sustained improvement in agricultural production, productivity and farmers’ income. The earlier policy of actively promoting farm mechanization and water conservation measures like micro-irrigation will be continued. As a measure to improve market linkages and realize better prices for farm produce, this Government will take steps to integrate and computerize the regulated and co-operative agricultural markets on electronic platforms, facilitating their eventual linkage with the National commodity markets.

15) With several initiatives launched in the Animal Husbandry Sector in the past five years, the contribution of Animal Husbandry activities to farm income has substantially increased in Tamil Nadu. This Government will continue to accord high priority to the development of the Animal Husbandry Sector. Strengthening the veterinary infrastructure by establishing new sub-centres and upgrading sub-centres into dispensaries will be taken up on need basis. The flagship schemes of free distribution of goats/sheep and milch cows, which have transformed the lives of poor rural women, will be continued. Dairy infrastructure will be further strengthened by this Government to sustain the growth and momentum of the Animal Husbandry Sector.

16) Tamil Nadu, being a State with a long coastline, strengthening the infrastructure in the Fishery Sector is vital for augmenting the income of fisherfolk. This Government will vigorously pursue the development of fishing infrastructure by improving fishing harbours, constructing fish landing centres, creating cold chain and other processing infrastructure. The Government will continue to provide timely and enhanced assistance to fishermen families during the lean season and fishing ban period. A special focus will be given to promote
deep sea fishing by popularizing the usage of Tuna longliners.

17) The frequent arrests and harassment of our fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy while fishing in their traditional waters must be ended and their right to livelihood, safety and security ensured. This Government will continue to urge the Government of India to prevail upon the Government of Sri Lanka to arrive at a lasting solution to the fishermen issue. We will continue to strive for the retrieval of Katchatheevu in order to protect the traditional fishing rights of the Tamil Nadu fishermen in the Palk Bay.

18) As this Government is committed to ensuring food security to all, the policy of Universal Public Distribution System will be continued. The entire operations of the Public Distribution System will be computerised for better monitoring. The pioneering price control measures already taken by the Government, such as, ‘Farm Fresh Outlets’, ‘Amma Marundhagams’, ‘Amma Unavagams’, ‘Amma Drinking Water’, ‘Amma Cement’ and ‘Amma Salt’ have insulated the poor and middle class families from the burden of price raise. These novel initiatives will be continued.

19) The concerted efforts and focused attention given to the Power Sector by the Hon’ble Chief Minister has enabled Tamil Nadu to script one of the most remarkable turn arounds - the transformation of Tamil Nadu into a power surplus State. All restrictions on power consumption have been removed with effect from 05.06.2015, thus ensuring uninterrupted power supply. This Government will ensure that the State continues to be free of power-cuts and provide uninterrupted quality power. In the next five years, new power generation capacity of 13,000 MW of thermal power and 3,000 MW of solar energy will be added. Further, the ongoing power projects will be expeditiously commissioned to augment the State’s power generation capacity.
20) This Government will accord the highest priority for strengthening and widening of the road network. Decongestion and smooth flow of traffic will be ensured through construction of by-passes, ring roads, expressways and bridges. To improve the standard of roads, the ‘Comprehensive Road Infrastructure Development Programme’ (CRIDP) and the ‘Performance Based Maintenance Contract’ (PBMC) system will continue. The World Bank assisted ‘Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project-II’ with an outlay of Rs.5,171 crore, which is under implementation, will give a further boost to the road infrastructure in the State.

21) The scheme of ‘Free Distribution of Dhoties and Sarees’ will be continued in order to provide adequate employment opportunities to handloom and powerloom weavers in the State. This Government will promote new textile clusters and silk parks for generating employment opportunities in the traditional textile areas. The initiatives taken for strengthening the infrastructure for Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETP) to achieve Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) will be pursued vigorously.

22) This Government’s initiative of the rural habitation-centric scheme, the ‘Tamil Nadu Village Habitation Improvement’ (THAI), will be continued to further upgrade the amenities and infrastructure in the rural areas. This scheme will be taken up with the
resources available to the Rural Local Bodies under the Finance Commission grants.

23) This Government is determined to ensuring that every house has a functional toilet and unhygienic open defecation is completely eradicated from Tamil Nadu. Public sanitation will be further improved by taking up Solid Waste Management programmes in all villages. I am glad that the Solid Waste Management model of our State, using ‘Thooimai Kaavalars’, is now being emulated by many other States as well. I am confident that the Government under the dynamic leadership of the Hon’ble Chief Minister will achieve the objective of garbage free clean villages and cities.

24) Financial inclusion and linkage to banking credit are essential for bringing in economic empowerment. This Government will continue its efforts to reduce poverty by adopting the strategies of the ‘Pudhu Vaazhvu Project’ in all Districts through the ‘Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihood Mission’ (TNSRLM). The Self Help Groups, the Village Poverty Reduction Committees (VPRC) and the Panchayat Level Federations will be guided to start a large number of micro-enterprises for their economic empowerment.

25) Tamil Nadu being the most urbanized large State in India, further upgradation of urban infrastructure is required. The thrust will be on providing better roads, storm water drains, solid waste management, sewerage management, street lights, etc. The successful State initiatives of the ‘Integrated Urban Development Mission’ (IUDM) and the ‘Chennai Mega City Development Mission’ (CMCDM) will now be synergized with the Government of India’s ‘Smart Cities Programme’ and the ‘Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation’ (AMRUT) scheme to further strengthen urban
infrastructure. The Government has also obtained the World Bank assistance for the ‘Tamil Nadu Sustainable Urban Development Programme’ (TNSUDP) to provide additional resources for the Urban Sector.

26) It is the endeavour of this Government to provide adequate potable water to all households in the State. The Government is committed to implementing new water supply schemes, to meet the ever increasing demand for drinking water in both rural and urban areas. The work for establishing two more desalination plants near Chennai, with a capacity of 150 MLD at Nemmeli and 400 MLD at Perur will be expedited.

27) At present, the Chennai Metro Rail is operating passenger services between Koyambedu and Alandur. The passenger services on the stretch from Little Mount to Airport and from Alandur to St. Thomas Mount will be inaugurated soon. This Government will expedite the work relating to Phase-I and commence the services in the entire network before the end of 2017. With sustained efforts, this Government was able to secure the Government of India’s approval for the extension of Corridor I of the Metro Rail line from Washermenpet to Tiruvottiyur / Wimco Nagar at a cost of Rs.3,770 crore and the work will be commenced immediately. This Government will take up implementation of Phase–II of the Chennai Metro Rail Project at the earliest.

28) This Government is committed to its goal of making Tamil Nadu the most attractive investment destination in the Country. The
Government will continue its efforts for further improving ease of doing business in the State and creating an even more conducive environment for attracting new investments. The first ever Global Investors Meet conducted by Tamil Nadu was held in Chennai in September, 2015. The event was a resounding success, resulting in 98 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) committing a total investment of Rs.2,42,160 crore with direct employment potential of 4,70,000 jobs. Many of these projects have already commenced. The Government will host a Global Investors’ Meet once in every two years in future.

29) The State Government is taking very serious efforts for the revival of the Nokia plant along with the component manufacturers. The Hon’ble Chief Minister deputed a team of officials to Taiwan recently to hold discussions with global companies like Foxconn on the issue. Issues pending with the Government of India have also been taken up at the highest level to facilitate the revival.

30) Industrial corridor based development, particularly on the Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor and the Madurai-Thoothukudi Industrial Corridor will be given top priority. As part of the Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor project, Ponneri will be developed as a vibrant industrial node. Further, as promised in the Election Manifesto, a new Granite Policy will be framed and the sale of beach minerals will be undertaken directly by the State Government to further augment resources.

31) The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) provide substantial employment opportunities in the organized sector in Tamil Nadu. As per the Annual Survey of Industries, Tamil Nadu has the largest number of factories and largest employment in factories in India. Emphasis will be placed on promoting start-ups and encouraging budding entrepreneurs, channelizing funds under the ‘New Entrepreneur-cum-Enterprise Development Scheme’ (NEEDS). The policy of
this Government to give financial incentives for promotion of new industrial estates established by industrial associations independently or in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Small Industries Development Corporation Limited (SIDCO), will be continued.

32) The vision of this Government is to ensure slum free cities and hut-free villages. A Mission Mode programme will be launched in the State to construct houses under various State and Central schemes to fulfill one of the most important promises in the Election Manifesto relating to the Housing Sector.

33) The Government is determined to providing accessible and affordable healthcare by strengthening its public health infrastructure. This Government will set up new Primary Health Centres (PHC) in needy areas and upgrade PHCs, Taluk and District Hospitals to further improve health infrastructure in the State. The ambitious ‘Chief Minister’s Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme’, which has enabled common people to access quality healthcare services in both public and private sector hospitals, will be continued.

34) The Hon’ble Chief Minister’s commitment to the cause of education and respect for the role of teachers in society was evident from the rich tributes she paid to her own teacher recently. This spirit imbues the numerous initiatives the Hon’ble Chief Minister has launched to upgrade the quality of education in Tamil Nadu including the provision of laptop computers, special cash incentives for reducing drop outs at secondary level, complete kit of study material like textbooks, notebooks and
school bags, four sets of uniform, footwear, bus passes and bicycles. The Government will continue to implement the ‘Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act’ in its true spirit.

35) This Government will strive hard to address the issues of access, affordability and quality in higher education to preserve Tamil Nadu’s pre-eminent position as the State with the highest enrolment ratio in higher education by strengthening infrastructure and opening of new colleges in needy places. Financial support to enable all deserving students to pursue higher education will be provided by continuing schemes such as reimbursement of tuition fees to first generation graduates. The Government will take concerted efforts for improving employability by providing skill training with industry linkage.

36) The Government is deeply concerned about the implications of the interim order of the Hon’ble Supreme Court to admit students to medical colleges only through the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET). This Government will seek the continuation of the existing fair and transparent policy followed by the State Government in Medical College admissions. We will also continue to seek the support of the Government of India for enacting necessary legislation permanently exempting Tamil Nadu students from the NEET.

37) Ensuring a social safety net for the vulnerable sections of society like women, children, differently-abled, transgenders, senior citizens and destitutes, has been accorded the highest priority by the Hon’ble Chief Minister. This has been amply demonstrated through an array of social security schemes like gold for Thirumangalyam under Marriage Assistance Schemes, Cradle Baby Scheme, Social Security Pensions, Integrated Special Homes for Senior Citizens and Destitute Children. In a path-breaking measure aimed at empowering women, the reservation for women in elected posts in Local Bodies has been increased to 50 per cent.

38) The post-matric scholarships for students belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes studying in private colleges have enabled them to pursue higher studies. This
initiative will be continued by this Government. In the meantime, I also urge the Government of India to release immediately an arrear amount of Rs.1,167 crore which is due to the State under the Post-Matric Scholarship scheme. The infrastructure in the schools and hostels run by the Adi-Dravidar Welfare Department will be further improved to provide an ideal environment for students. This Government will also support eligible persons to take up income generation activities through the Tamil Nadu Adi-Dravidar Housing and Development Corporation (TAHDCO) for their economic upliftment.

39) This Government will continue to work for providing adequate hostel buildings with necessary infrastructure facilities for the welfare of the students belonging to Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and Denotified Communities. The Government will support their education with scholarships and food allowance, and provide financial assistance to these Communities for their economic development through the Tamil Nadu Backward Classes Economic Development Corporation (TABCEDCO). This Government will take all measures to protect the interests of Minorities and continue to implement welfare schemes for their betterment.

40) I have outlined the various polices and initiatives of this new Government. This Government will make all efforts to achieve the inclusive socio-economic development of the State. I am confident that under the able leadership of the Hon’ble Chief Minister, this State will march ahead of all other States and reach the zenith of success and glory.

41) This House has the onerous responsibility of ensuring healthy and constructive deliberations setting the highest standards of democracy. Conscious of this, I hope that this august Assembly will debate and deliberate on important issues and come out with pioneering development-oriented policies and programmes. I once again wish you all the best in your endeavours to fulfill the aspirations of the people of this State.

Nandri
Vanakkam
Jai Hind
Reply of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 23.06.2016 to the debate on the Governor’s address in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly (English Translation)

Hon’ble Speaker,

Members from all parties have expressed their views in the debate on the motion of thanks moved by Hon’ble Member Thiru. Semmalai and seconded by Hon’ble Member Thiru. Thanga Tamilselvan to the address delivered by His Excellency the Governor in this House on 16.06.2016. First, I thank them all. I wish to give my reply.

Perarignar Anna said: “Only movements whose sole asset is the people’s support shine like an unshakeable fort without disfiguration, rusting, emaciation or destruction”.
True to his statement, we were in the seat of administration for the last five years with people’s support as our asset. That is why people made me the Chief Minister for the second time in succession. They have permitted us to serve them again. For that, I thank the people heartily on this occasion.

Hon’ble Speaker,

I recalled Perarignar Anna’s definition of good governance when I replied to the debate on the motion of thanks to His Excellency the Governor’s address on 23.01.2016. He said: “Know a lamp by the light it sheds, the field by its yield, and a people by the peace they enjoy”.

At that time I said that the perceptive Tamil people have understood that we are executing varied schemes to ensure prevalence of peace. As we have been implementing such schemes, people have again elected us to office. By way of fulfilling their aspirations, policies have been outlined in the Governor’s address.

In his first reaction to the Governor’s address, the Leader of the Opposition Thiru.M.K.Stalin had stated: “As for the Governor’s address, it reveals it is Government’s address”. Governor’s address is Government’s address. It is an elaboration of the Government’s policies. Former Chief Minister Thiru. Karunanidhi too had stated in this very same Assembly that that was the rule for a Governor’s Address. It is better that the leader of the opposition understands this.

Thiru. Karunanidhi himself had said while replying to the debate on the motion of thanks to Governor’s address in 1997: “Governor’s address is not the address of the person who delivers it; it is an exposition of the Government’s policy”. Hence, the leader of the opposition need not have any confusion over this.

DMK leader and Hon’ble Member Thiru. M. Karunanidhi has described the Address as mere “rhetoric without any policy notes”. But the leader of the opposition has said: “This Government has stated all its ambitions; but there is no explanation of any sort how they all will be implemented”. This means, the leader of the opposition has accepted that there are policy statements. Governor’s address is nothing but enunciation of Government policies.

I deem it fit to point out here, the views expressed by Perarignar Anna while replying to the discussions on the motion of thanks to the Governor in 1967 after he assumed office as Chief Minister.

“Governor’s address is not a big compilation of what all this Government will do. It is a statement giving out the outline. ......We should infer other things from what has been outlined in the Governor’s address. If one is solicitously asked : ‘Do you want to chew betel leaves and nuts’, it does not mean the lime should be left out. No one asks ‘Will you take betel leaf, nut and lime’. If the request is acceded, all the three – betel leaf, betelnut and lime – will be brought and offered. No one will discard the lime simply because the request made is only for betel leaves and nut. Likewise, can the Governor’s address be discarded on the ground that something is not mentioned in it? The Governor’s address
will have some particular matters. We have to infer other things connected with them”, said Perarignar Anna.

I request the Hon’ble Members to bear in mind what Perarignar Anna has stated.

Hon’ble Speaker,

My Government will continue to accord the same high priority it accorded in the last five years to agriculture, the premier sector for the country’s economic development, providing livelihood for the majority. Foodgrain production in 2015-2016 is estimated at 1,23,47,000 tonnes. This is due to the several measures taken for agriculture and for improving farmers’ income. In 2010-2011, during the the DMK rule, foodgrain production was of the order of 75.95 lakh tonnes. That is, in our rule, foodgrain production has increased by 63 per cent.

Barring the severe drought year of 2012-2013, my Government had recorded great achievements in foodgrain production every year.

Foodgrain production improved every year due to the many steps consistently taken by my Government like increasing the cultivation area, introduction of new techniques in agriculture and distribution of quality seeds and other inputs.

Fertilizers and agricultural implements have been exempted from value added tax (VAT). Interest-free advance is being provided to TANFED to facilitate purchase and sale of fertilizer for ensuring its free availability.

As Tamil Nadu is a perennially water-starved State, my Government gives great importance to micro irrigation schemes. In the last five years 100 per cent subsidy has been given to small and micro farmers for fixing micro
irrigation structures and 75 per cent subsidy to other farmers. Agricultural loan is given at low interest rates. In the last five years, Rs.23,214 crore loan has been given through co-operative banks. Interest is totally waived for crop loans repaid in time. In this way, Rs.811 crore has been disbursed as interest subsidy.

By way of reducing the debt burden of farmers who have raised agricultural loans and by way of redeeming our electoral pledge, I have ordered the waiver of crop loans, medium-term agricultural loans and farm-related long-term loans of small and micro farmers to be repaid to co-operative banks. The necessary Government Order has been issued.

Issue of crop loans to farmers through co-operative banks will continue; the interest waiver scheme for timely repayment of crop loans will continue to be implemented.

Under the public works department, 5,693 lakes have been rejuvenated by undertaking works like de-silting, strengthening of bunds and re-structuring of hydrological structures at a cost of Rs. 2,870 crore. Rejuvenation work is on in 198 lakes. Two hundred and thirteen check dams have been constructed; 47 more are under construction. The World Bank has sanctioned a loan of Rs.2,950 crore for works like revamping 4,778 lakes in 66 sub-basins and improving river beds and constructing 477 dams and check dams.

“Chief Minister’s Uzhavar Paadukaappu Thittam”, a life-long supportive scheme for farmers and their families will continue to be implemented. Under this scheme, assistance is extended in different ways to small, micro farmers, tenants and agricultural labour. Assistance to the extent of Rs.3,044 crore has been extended to more than 37 lakh persons under this scheme.

As cattle play an important role in the livelihood of farmers, cattle improvement and milk production are given primacy and schemes are executed to this end. In the last 5 years, 830 new veterinary dispensaries and 200 branch stations have been set up. One thousand four hundred new veterinary hospital buildings have been constructed; 1,163 veterinary hospital buildings have been renovated.

In the last 5 years, 60,000 milch cows have been distributed free of cost for improving the standard of living of the poor and for increasing milk production. Moreover, 4 goats/sheep have been given each to 7 lakh poor and marginalised people free of cost. These schemes will continue.
Milk processing capacity has been increased, in the last 5 years, to 5.35 lakh litres per day; milk chilling plants’ capacity to 7.30 lakh litres per day; moreover, milk cooling chambers with a capacity of 7.30 lakh litres per day are being set up in different dairy farms. A milk powder plant with a production capacity of 20 tonnes per day has been set up at Tiruvannamalai.

Hon’ble Speaker,

My Government has taken many measures in the last 5 years to develop fisheries, modernise the fisheries sector and improve fishermen income through the infusion of modern technology.

Tamil Nadu Fisheries University has been set up in Nagapattinam; fisheries technological centres have been set up in Nagapattinam and Ponneri. Relief is extended to fishermen during the ban period for fishing and during the lean season. In the group insurance scheme for fishermen, Government pays 50 per cent of the premium. A 50 per cent subsidy is given for mechanisation of country boats. Sales tax on diesel is exempted for mechanised fishing boats and mechanised country boats. Kerosene is supplied to country boats at subsidised rates. Under a novel pioneering scheme not implemented anywhere else in India, a 50 per cent subsidy, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 30 lakh, is given for building new mechanised fishing boats suitable for deep sea tuna long-liner fishing.

In the last five years, 35 fish landing piers have been set up; 7 fishing harbours have been upgraded; in 14 places work is apace for setting up fish landing piers and 3 fishing harbours; works are under way for establishing 5 fish processing parks; sea retaining walls and groynes have been set up in 37 places at a cost of Rs.116 crore. Fishermen welfare schemes like these will be continued.
Hon’ble Speaker,

My Government has been implementing different schemes for ushering in prosperity in the lives of weavers and for developing the handloom sector which plays an important role in Tamil Nadu’s economy and in industrial production.

Ten thousand houses with solar power have been constructed for weavers; 6,000 motorised pedal looms have been distributed; motorised pirn winding machines have been supplied to 25,000 weavers; motorised warping machines have been given to handloom co-operative societies.

The credit card scheme that enables weavers to obtain investment and working capital loans is in operation from 2012-2013; under this scheme, weavers can get loans upto Rs. 2 lakh; a 3 per cent subsidy is given in interest.

Of the 1,163 handloom weavers co-operative societies, 946 have earned profit; this is due to the implementation of different pioneering schemes for the handloom sector and weavers.

As announced in our election manifesto, the supply of bi-monthly free electricity has been increased to 200 units from 100 units for handloom weavers and to 750 units from 500 units for powerloom weavers.

Hon’ble Speaker,

Attention should be bestowed on the educational development of the poor and marginalised if they are to attain economic growth and be on par with others. Economic growth will permeate to the lower rungs of society only through the provision of good education. Educational development is an important factor for determining the social
development index. Human development index should go up if a society is to be considered as a developed one. That is why my Government has been according high priority for educational development.

School infrastructure should be upgraded if quality education is to be given to all. The required number of teachers should be appointed; the number of student drop-outs should be reduced; learning skill of students should be improved. For achieving all these, my Government has been implementing many schemes in the last 5 years.

Students are given at no cost a set of school uniforms, textbooks, notebooks, school bag, geometry box, crayons, atlas, footwear, bicycles, bus pass and nutritious noon meal.

Further, laptops at no cost are given to higher secondary students; a scholarship of Rs.5,000/- each is given to students in standards 10 to 12 in Government and Government aided schools. This has boosted the number of students appearing for the 12th standard public examination to 5,46,233 this year from 5,11,090 in 2010-2011.

The net enrollment percentage in primary education has gone up to 99.85 in 2015-2016 from 99.60 in 2010-2011; likewise in the middle level class rooms, it has shot up to 99.11 from 98.84 in the corresponding years. In the middle level education, the total enrollment percentage has gone up to 93.15 in 2015-2016 from 82.30 in 2010-2011; in higher secondary education, the percentage has gone up to 77.64 from 55.92 in the respective years. The drop-out percentage, has likewise, gone down to 3.76 in 2015-2016 from 11.21 in 2010-2011.

All the pioneering schemes being implemented by my Government for school education will be continued.

My Government is according the same importance to higher education as it has been doing for school education.

In the last 5 years, 54 new colleges have been started ---15 Government arts and science colleges, 24 university constituent arts and science colleges, 11 Government polytechnic colleges and 4 Government engineering colleges. Besides, the Indian Institute of Information Technology and the National Law
School have been started at Srirangam. That is why the student enrollment in higher education is at 44.8 per cent in Tamil Nadu against the national average of 23.6 per cent. Tamil Nadu is the premier State in the whole country in student enrollment.

My Government will continue to accord top priority to higher education.

Hon’ble Speaker,

Health is an important factor in Human Resources Development. Excellent growth is possible only in a healthy society. That is why my Government is giving due importance to family welfare. Though schemes are designed and implemented for the economic development of the poor, the benefits of the schemes can reach them fully only if good medical facilities are made available. A new comprehensive health insurance scheme was designed when I took up the reins of administration in 2011 and the scheme is in operation. Under this scheme, a family can get treatment in private and Government hospitals costing up to Rs. 4 lakh in 4 years. Facilities should be created for the poor to prevent them going on sick leave.

Taking this into Dr. Muthulakshmi Maternity Benefit Scheme is implemented in the State to make good the income loss of poor mothers during their period of pregnancy, to enable them afford nutritious food during pregnancy, to deliver the babies in Government hospitals and to ensure the health of the new borns with administration of immunity vaccines.

To safeguard women’s hygiene, sanitary napkins are distributed free of cost to rural adolescent girls.

To provide quality medical facilities to rural population, 187 new primary health centres (PHC) have been set up; steps have been taken to set up 25 PHCs; 129 PHCs have been upgraded into 30-bed hospitals; steps have been taken to upgrade 15 more PHCs. This will equip all Panchayat Unions with an upgraded PHC each.
Infrastructure facilities like inpatient and out-patient wards, a surgery theatre and a maternity room have been created in 260 PHCs. A first of its kind in India, a Medical Services Recruitment Board has been set up to select personnel to fill up vacancies in hospitals and PHCs.

District Headquarters Hospitals in Districts not having a Medical College are being upgraded to Medical College Hospitals.

Amma Baby Kits containing 16 essential articles are distributed to infants born in Government hospitals. For the upkeep of health of pregnant women, Amma Maternity Sanjeevi is distributed.

As a result of the implementation of the different health schemes, the infant mortality rate has now come down to 21 for every 1,000 births against 24 in 2010 during the DMK regime; that for below 5 years kids has come down to 23 from 27 in 2010; and the mortality rate of mothers during delivery to 67 from 79 in 2010 for every one lakh live births. To further improve these welfare indices, steps will continue to be taken and implemented.

The Tamil Nadu Urban Medical Infrastructure Scheme will be implemented from this year onwards in 21 Government hospitals in 17 cities at a cost of Rs. 1,634 crore with loan assistance from the Japan International Co-operation Agency. The aim is to further improve the infrastructure facilities for providing high level medical care for the urban population.

Blood is essential for surgeries and for treatment of various diseases. There are 288 blood banks and 434 blood storage centres in Tamil Nadu. My Government has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Central Government for establishing a Centre of Excellence in the name Metro Blood Bank at Chennai at a cost of Rs.202 crore and activating it for upgrading the blood banks and their connected services. Only New Delhi and Chennai are to have such centres in the whole country.
Hon’ble Speaker,

Infrastructure facilities form the substratum for growth, create the correct conditions for economic development and industrial growth and are essential for providing the basic facilities to all. In the last 5 years, my Government has executed many schemes for creating infrastructure facilities in urban and rural areas. Schemes to improve them will continue to be implemented.

Through the Highways Department, 13 by-pass roads running to a length of 68.11 kms have been laid at a cost of Rs.211.44 crore under various schemes; 46,890.50 km roads have been upgraded at a cost of Rs.19,190.52 crore; 1,793 bridges and culverts have been constructed at a cost of Rs.3,067.30 crore; and several other works costing Rs.10,298 crore are at various stages of progress.

Schemes for laying new roads, widening of roads, laying by-pass roads and for construction of railway overbridges, bridges and culverts will continue to be implemented.

In the Greater Chennai Corporation areas, development of 4,492 km long roads at a cost of Rs.3,989.13 crore was undertaken and works on 3,390 km have been completed. In other municipalities in the State, 24,231 works costing Rs. 9,619.51 crore were undertaken for drinking water supply, underground drainage, roads, storm water drainage and solid waste management. In the same way, 20,751 works costing Rs. 3,625.68 crore were undertaken in Town Panchayats. Drinking water supply and underground drainage schemes costing Rs.8,943.83 crore were executed through the Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board. Likewise 60 works, costing Rs.4,987.11 crore have been undertaken in Chennai metro area. Steps will be taken to supply drinking water to all residential quarters to the needed extent.

Hon’ble Speaker,

THAI (Tamil Nadu Village Habitation Improvement) scheme which takes ‘habitation’ as the unit of development is implemented in the State. The minimum basic needs are defined as drinking water supply, street lights, roads, cremation/burial ground, approach road facility to cremation/burial ground and schemes are implemented. These facilities have been provided in 79,394 habitations. Other works like anganwadi centre, threshing floor and playground will also be provided in habitations.

In the last 5 years, 16,320 additional sanitary workers posts have been created; 17,638 tri-cycles have been distributed; solid waste management is implemented in 9,000 panchayats by appointing cleanliness constables. These schemes will be extended and all villages will be made clean villages.
Hon’ble Speaker,

During the 2011 State Assembly elections, I had promised that Tamil Nadu, then steeped in darkness, would be lighted up. The pledge has been redeemed.

Today, no one talks about power cut. There is uninterrupted quality power supply to domestic consumers, farmers, weavers, small scale and large scale industries, high tension industries and commercial complexes. From June 2015, electricity is supplied without any talk of power cut.

From November 2008, the then DMK Government introduced very severe power regulatory measures; there was 40 per cent power cut for HT industries and commercial consumers; between 6 and 10 pm, the cut was 95 per cent for them; for low tension industries and commercial consumers, the power cut was 20 per cent; it was 95 per cent for them between 6 and 10 pm; for the general public the cut was at any time. Such a situation prevailed.

After my Government assumed responsibility again in 2011, not only the different power scheme works were completed expeditiously but steps were taken to purchase electricity from other states. Electricity from other states can flow into Tamil Nadu through assigned power corridors. My Government’s insistence on the creation of such power corridors resulted in the setting up of 765 KV capacity corridors between Solapur, Maharashtra State and Thiruvalam and between Narendra and Kolhapur and through them we are able to import power. In the last 5 years, we were able to get a total of 8,432.5 MW power additionally through the schemes implemented here, our share in the Central Government schemes, from power procurement agreements – long and medium term – and solar power. We have brought about a historic achievement of getting 8,432.5 MW power additionally in 5 years. That is why there is no power cut from June 2015 and the regulation that power generated in the private sector should be sold only in Tamil Nadu has been withdrawn from 01.06. 2016.

In the next 5 years, electricity generation capacity of Tamil Nadu will further go up with the setting up of 13,000 MW thermal and 3,000 MW solar energy units additionally.

Tamil Nadu is among the first 3 industry-friendly states in India. Many surveys say Tamil Nadu is in the forefront in skilled workers, infrastructure, economic climate and in governance. In total domestic production, Tamil Nadu is in the second place, next to Maharashtra. Maharashtra is double the size of Tamil Nadu. Considering this, it is a big achievement to remain next to Maharashtra. Tamil Nadu remains first in the number of industries, in the number of industrial workers and in the registration of new small, micro and medium industries. It is third in net value addition in the industrial sector, in the total income value from manufactured industrial products, and in total exports. In attracting direct foreign investments, Tamil Nadu is in the forefront. Direct foreign investment in the last 5 years is double the amount of that obtained in the previous 11 years – from 2000 to 2011.
In the first Global Investors Meet held in Tamil Nadu in September 2015, memoranda of understanding (MoUs) for an investment of Rs.2,42,160 crore were signed. Of these, 54 companies have invested Rs.23,258 crore and many persons have got jobs. Other companies are engaged in works like acquisition of land and mobilisation of funds. Shortly, they too will start their units.

Even before holding this global investors meet, conditions were created for an investment of Rs.31,706 crore through 33 MoUs. Through the Guidance Bureau, Rs.6,036 crore have come to 57 schemes.

Hon’ble Speaker,

In the last 5 years, 5,97,395 micro, small and medium industries were started with a total investment of Rs.1,00,101 crore. But in the DMK rule between 2006 and 2011, the investment was only 15,906 crore; the number of these industries started in that period was just 1,78,160. In the last 5 years, 14 new industrial estates were started. Subsidy given for micro, small and medium industries in the last 5 years was of the order of Rs.470 crore.

The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board had permitted in the last 5 years the setting up of 4,059 industries with an investment of Rs.1.58 lakh crore.

Hon’ble Speaker,

In river water disputes, my Government will take appropriate action. As for Mullai Periyar issue, we could store water in that reservoir up to 142 ft. after 35 years on 21.11.2014 after obtaining a favourable judgment from the Supreme Court. Last year also, water was stored up to 142 ft.

On my persistent demand, the Central Government has kept in abeyance its permission to the Kerala Government for undertaking an environmental impact evaluation for construction of a new Mullai Periyar Dam.
My Government is taking necessary steps for storing water up to the full level of 152 ft. in the Mullai Periyar reservoir. I wish to state that the water level will be raised to 152 ft. after strengthening the reservoir to the satisfaction of the Central Water Resources Commission and after getting private experts’ opinion as directed by the Supreme Court.

Though the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal gave its final award on 05.02.2007, the earlier Congress-led Central Government in which the DMK was a partner did not publish this order in the central Government gazette. It published the final order of the tribunal in the central Government gazette on 19.02.2013 on account of the persistent steps taken by my Government in the Supreme Court. However, neither the earlier Congress coalition Government nor the present BJP Government at the Centre set up the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee, needed for the implementation of the final award. I am constantly urging the Hon’ble Prime Minister to appoint these bodies.

In his letter to Tamil Nadu Government on 08.01.2016, the Central Water Resources Minister has stated that consultations are on with the central Department of Law and Justice for the setting up of the Cauvery Management Board and Cauvery Water Regulation Committee. I have renewed my demand in the petition I have presented to the Hon’ble Prime Minister when I met him in New Delhi on 14.06.2016.

My Government has filed a petition in the Supreme Court for the setting up of these two bodies.

The Supreme court has set up Special Benches to hear long- pending cases. Cauvery water issue is one of them. When the Cauvery water issue cases came up for hearing before the Special Bench on 28.03.2016, the court had ordered the listing of the cases for 19.07.2016. When the case comes up in the Supreme Court, the setting up of the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee will be insisted upon. I am confident we will succeed in this.

Hon’ble Speaker,

As for law and order, Tamil Nadu remains as a Garden of Peace. Total freedom to Police in matters affecting law and order and in the prevention of crime and investigation has ensured peace in the State. Though actions are taken to this end without affecting the general peace, it is not possible to achieve zero crime rate. The general trend all over the world is that incidents of crime will increase every year on account of population growth, improving economy, progress of information technology, changing social conditions and urbanisation. Yet crime incidents in Tamil Nadu are coming down due to the Police Department’s excellent work under my leadership.

The number of murders that took place in 2010 was 1,715; it has come down to 1,641 in 2015. Likewise murder for gain has come down by 30.07 per cent, dacoity cases by 2.97 per cent, theft cases by 23.22 per cent and property related cases including murder by 13.60 per cent. With regard to crime incidents, the crime rate is taken into account. The crime rate is
the number of crimes that have taken place per one lakh population. The crime rate in respect of crimes covered by the Indian Penal Code in 2010 was 277.08. In 2015, in my rule, it has come down to 244.38. Hence, crime has come down when compared to the then DMK rule, both number-wise and by the calculation of crime rate.

All steps will be taken to continue to keep Tamil Nadu a garden of peace.

Hon’ble Speaker,

I spoke in detail in this House on 20.06.2016 on how Katchatheevu was ceded in 1974 when Thiru. Karunanidhi was Chief Minister and how he failed to prevent it. On 21.06.2016, Thiru. Karunanidhi issued a statement stating that at no point of time he had agreed and acceded to the ceding of Katchatheevu and cited the petition filed on behalf of TESO organisation in the Supreme Court in May 2013. My queries in this connection are:

1. Aren’t the statements that a sudden announcement (on ceding Katchatheevu) on June 27, 1974 alone made him aware of it and then again that the resolution passed at the TESO conference on 15.04.2013 that certain clauses in the agreement (with Sri Lanka) were included on the insistence of the DMK Government, contradictory to each other? Does it not mean agreeing to ceding the island if it is said that inclusion of clauses were conveyed (to the Centre)?

I am asking these questions to Thiru. Karunanidhi. Let him reply. Resume your seat. I am not yielding. The then Prime Minister Tmt. Indira Gandhi reconciled you to it and you are not able to answer but that does not mean you can cover up by shouting. By shouting what is to be gained? Let your leader reply. Is your leader, really, the leader? Or is the leader of opposition here, your leader? Nothing is to be gained by shouting. I will pose the questions I want to. Permit me to speak.

Hon’ble Speaker,

Among them who seeks permission to speak? Their leader, DMK President Thiru. Karunanidhi is a member of the House. He could have come here and replied. Instead, he is issuing a statement from outside. I am speaking only about his statement. If you are unable to answer, resume your seat. Let the author of the statement come here and reply. You resume your seat.

Hon’ble Speaker,

In a few minutes I will conclude my reply. Thereafter, you can permit them to speak whatever they want to speak.

Hon’ble Speaker,

For nearly one-and-a-half hours, the opposition DMK members were patiently listening to my speech. But when Katchatheevu figured, they knew they cannot reply. The moment I said I wanted to raise some questions about Katchatheevu, they ran away. I expected this. If they don’t have an answer, when I speak about Katchatheevu, their tactic is to first raise pandemonium and then run away if it fails to prevent the proceedings in the House.
I wish to point out one thing to all. I expressed certain views here on 20th last about Katchatheevu issue. For that, the DMK President Thiru. Karunanidhi issued a rejoinder from outside this House on the 21st. I wish to remind all Members that as a Member of this House, Thiru. Karunanidhi has every right to come to this House.

He could have come to this House; could have expressed his views; could have replied to my questions. But without attending the House, he is issuing a statement from outside. I am speaking on his statement. I am posing the questions to Thiru. Karunanidhi. If they have the ability, the DMK members should reply. If they don’t have the ability, they should bring their leader to this House for giving a reply. For them, there is confusion who their leader is. Who is their leader? The DMK President Thiru. Karunanidhi? Or the Leader of the Opposition sitting here?

There is confusion who the leader is. Thiru. Karunanidhi can come to this House, if he so wishes. He can give his reply. If these members don’t know anything about Katchatheevu, they can remain quiet. They could have allowed Thiru. Karunanidhi to reply to the questions I raise today from outside the House as he has done through his first statement. But, instead, they ran away the moment I mentioned about Katchatheevu. Now, I will complete the questions I wished to raise.

2. Does it not mean that Thiru. Karunanidhi had agreed to the ceding of Katchatheevu when he says in his statement that then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi’s conciliatory gesture opened the door for many rights?

3. Why the Tamil Nadu Government did not file any case in the court, then, even after the Jan Sangh leader Thiru. Vajpayee stated that a case would be filed in this regard?

4. In my individual capacity I filed a petition in the Supreme Court in 2008. On the basis of a resolution moved by me in the Legislative Assembly in 2011, the Tamil Nadu Government impleaded itself in the case. Only after that, the DMK filed a petition in the Supreme Court on 10.05.2013. Is it not for political reasons and in the anticipation of the 2014 Parliament election?

5. When the Supreme Court issued a notice to Tamil Nadu Government on the petition filed by me, why did not the then Tamil Nadu Government headed by Thiru. Karunanidhi file a counter stating that ceding of Katchatheevu was wrong?.

6. Is it not contrary to fact to say that the rights of our fishermen to fish in the Katchatheevu area and dry their nets there, were included in the clauses of the 1974 agreement on the insistence of the DMK Government? Because there are no such clauses at all in the 1974 agreement.

Will the DMK President Thiru. Karunanidhi answer all these questions?

Hon’ble Speaker,

Needed explanations were given by me and by other Hon’ble Ministers then and there
whenever opposition Members raised queries during the discussions.

Hon’ble Leader of the Opposition, in his speech yesterday said that the continuous occurrence of murders, dacoities and murders by paid gangs in recent times should be put to an end totally and made the baseless allegation that there was incapacity (on the part of Government) to control the movements of such gangs.

I have already dealt with the declining trend of crimes.

When murders occur the media generally portrays them as the handiwork of hired killers. But the fact is that in a majority of incidents the victim’s enemies, relatives, partners or friends are involved. When revenge murders take place in a serial manner due to previous enmity, persons connected with either group alone get involved. Yet media reports in such incidents say that hired killers are involved.

In some recent murder incidents, mercenaries were not involved even though newspapers carried news to the contrary. Hence there is not even an iota of truth in the statement of the Leader of the Opposition that there is incapacity in controlling the movement of hired killers. The Police is taking all steps to totally eliminate hired killers.

The leader of the opposition compared the present prices of some grocery items with those that prevailed in 2011 and hinted that the present Government is responsible for the price raise.

Price raise is due to several factors like supply and demand position at the National level and price of petrol, diesel and like commodities. In these policies, the state Government has no say. The Central Government alone lays down these policies. That is why price raise is more or less even all over the country. Still, the State Government can execute schemes to insulate the people from inflation. Since my Government is implementing such schemes in Tamil Nadu,
The impact of inflation has not affected the poor, marginalised and the middle classes.

It was the earlier Congress Coalition Government at the Centre in which the DMK was a partner, that raised the price of fertilizer. The DMK minister supported the move in the Cabinet meeting. My Government pondered what could be done at the State level for this and waived the value added tax on fertilizer totally. Again, it was the same Government which raised the price of LPG gas. The State Government cannot control this. But my Government abolished the value added tax totally on the LPG gas cylinder. If the price of petrol and diesel go up, transport cost will increase pushing up the cost of goods. It was the earlier Congress coalition Government at the Centre, in which the DMK was a partner that decided on permitting oil companies to fix the price of petrol and diesel once in 15 days. The present BJP Government at the Centre is adopting the same wrong price fixation policy for petrol and diesel.

Even though petrol and diesel prices come down, the Central BJP Government has increased the Central Excise Duty to the tune of Rs.13.57 per litre for diesel and Rs.11.77 for petrol. Many State Governments have increased their sales tax. But my Government has not at all increased the sales tax.

Likewise, without upward revision of bus fares on account of diesel price raise, my Government has given a diesel subsidy of Rs.1,556 crore to transport corporations. Besides these, my Government has been implementing many other schemes to protect the people from inflation. The Hon’ble Food Minister had dealt with them in detail yesterday.

Hon’ble Speaker,

Hon’ble member Thiru. H. Vasanthakumar had expressed the view that pirated VCDs should be abolished totally. The Police are at it with one-pointedness.


In 2004, my Government included video piracy under the Goondas Act.

In the last 5 years, the video piracy cell registered 13,784 cases and arrested 13,446 culprits. Pirated discs, valued at Rs. 108.72 crore had been seized. Under Goondas Act, 52 persons were imprisoned.

Hon’ble Speaker,

I hope my reply satisfied the Hon’ble Members. I request the Members through the Hon’ble Speaker to endorse my reply, withdraw the amendments given to the motion of thanks for the Governor’s Address and pass the resolution unanimously.
Hon’ble Selvi J Jayalalithaa: Hon’ble Speaker, the DMK members are not entitled to raise this question (thumping of desk). When the DMK was in power, when Thiru. Karunanidhi was Chief Minister, Katchatheevu was ceded to Sri Lanka. What was their leader, the then Chief Minister doing when the then Central Government signed the agreements in 1974 and 1976? Did he take any steps to prevent it? Did he protest and conduct any agitation? Nothing. After ceding Katchatheevu, after the passage of so many years, if you ask ‘Did you not speak so in 1991’,..... yes; I spoke. I spoke, fully conscious of the limitations of the State’s powers. I had only stated that the required steps would be taken through the Central Government; I did not say in a foolhardy way that I would raise an army and retrieve Katchatheevu (thumping of desk).
Hon’ble Speaker, the DMK members who harangue us now should reply to this. Why were they quiet when Katchatheevu was ceded at that time? (thumping of desk). Why was the then DMK Chief Minister keeping mum? Why did he consent to the ceding of the Theevu? It was I who took steps through the Supreme Court. After approaching the Centre and learning that no useful purpose would be served, I filed a petition in the Supreme Court in my personal capacity as the General Secretary of the AIADMK (thumping of desk). Thiru. Karunanidhi was the then chief minister here (interruptions). The Central Government (interruptions)..... what does he know about Katchatheevu ? (interruptions)..... Hon’ble Speaker, however much the opposition party members shout, truth cannot be concealed. (thumping of desk).

The DMK was responsible for the ceding of Katchatheevu. The then Chief Minister Thiru. Karunanidhi was responsible. It is the DMK, DMK, and the DMK alone which is responsible for today’s sufferings of fishermen (thumping of desk). This cannot be hidden however much the decibel is raised. For my petition filed in the Supreme Court in 2008, the then Central Government should file a counter affidavit. Likewise, when the Supreme Court issued a notice to Tamil Nadu Government, it should file a counter affidavit in the court. At that time, do you know what Thiru. Karunanidhi said? Tamil Nadu Government’s (counter) affidavit could be filed after going through the Central Government’s (counter) affidavit, he said (thumping of desk). Is it the way to retrieve Katchatheevu ? (thumping of desk).

In its counter affidavit, the then Central Government stated that Katchatheevu could not be retrieved; agreements already entered into could not be cancelled; it was a closed matter. At this juncture, I wish to point out the Tamil Nadu Government too filed a counter affidavit on the same lines (thumping of desk). I firmly declare again that the DMK members have nothing more to talk over this (thumping of desk) (interruptions).

Hon’ble Selvi J Jayalalithaa: Hon’ble Speaker, If the DMK really wanted to retrieve Katchatheevu... they had not taken any action. When I filed a petition in the Supreme Court in 2008 - the DMK was in power in the State then – could not the Tamil Nadu Government have impleaded itself in the case? (thumping of desk) Why did it not do so? (thumping of desk) After I took up the reins of administration in 2011, a resolution was passed in this House and I made the Tamil Nadu Government through the Revenue Department implead itself in the case. Why did not the DMK, when in Government, did so? (thumping of desk).

AIADMK resolute stand

Dr. K. Ponmudi: When Katchatheevu was ceded in 1974, an all-party meeting was convened and a decision was taken. Please listen. Do you consult the Central Government and act?

Hon’ble Selvi J Jayalalithaa: Hon’ble Speaker, If Katchatheevu was ceded as per the decision of an all-party meeting, it means they have all accepted it. Then why are you asking me why I have not retrieved (Katchatheevu)? (thumping of desk).
Dr. K. Ponmudi: Please.. I have not asked you why you have not retrieved. But from 1991 till date – as per your statement six time Chief Minister – for that issue, you ....

Hon’ble Selvi J Jayalalithaa: Hon’ble Speaker, it is a fact that I have become Chief Minister for the sixth time. Without any deviation in my stand from 1991 till date, I have been taking steps, within the limitations of a State Government, to retrieve Katchatheevu. But in the interregnum the AIADMK was in the Central coalition Government for one year only. We quit the coalition because the Central Government did not accede to any of the demands we placed on behalf of Tamil Nadu (thumping of desk). Barring that one year, in all other years, the DMK was in the Central Government whether it was Congress led coalition Government or BJP led coalition Government (thumping of desk). Their leader was wielding power both here and at the centre. Your leader was boasting then that the Prime Minister himself was listening to him and was acting on his advice. Why did not your leader, former Chief Minister Thiru. Karunanidhi take any step to retrieve Katchatheevu by pressurising the Central Government? After sleeping over the matter for so many years, you suddenly wake up and come to the Assembly like Rip Van Winkle (thumping of desk) and ask me why I have not taken action. What right do you all have to ask such a question? (thumping of desk).

Hon’ble Selvi J Jayalalithaa: Hon’ble Speaker, After remaining silent when Katchatheevu was ceded, if you say we had written letters, had spoken in Parliament, convened all party meeting, there they spoke this and that, we also have done all these things. We also wrote many letters to the Central Government; we also delivered many speeches; passed many resolutions. To every Prime Minister we wrote letters. These did not yield any result. Since no benefit accrued, I filed a case in the Supreme Court. (thumping of desk).

Karunanidhi’s betrayal

When Katchatheevu was ceded, newsmen asked the then Chief Minister Thiru. Karunanidhi on 29.06.1974: ‘Thiru. Vajpayee, Jan Sangh leader has announced that a case will be filed in the court in respect of the ceding of Katchatheevu to Sri Lanka by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. What is your comment’. Thiru. Karunanidhi replied he did not want to comment.. (thumping of desk). Thiru. Vajpayee was not directly connected to the Tamil Nadu fishermen issue. Even after he had stated that the court could be moved, a case would be filed, I reiterate, it was Thiru. Karunanidhi who betrayed Tamil Nadu fishermen by not showing any interest in the issue (thumping of desk). I wish to share certain details about this, for the sake of new members and members not aware of them.

Staging demonstrations, agitations, convening all party meeting, writing letters to the Prime Minister go to an extent only. Beyond that, there is no use. I have also tried all these. As there was no effect, I decided the going to Court is the only recourse and went to the Supreme Court. (thumping of desk). There is a precedent to it. The Supreme Court has given a clear verdict in 1960. The then Central Government
wanted to cede Berubari area to East Pakistan. Today it is Bangladesh. When the President referred the issue to the Supreme Court for an opinion, it gave a clear judgment. It said the ceding of Berubari was invalid. (thumping of desk). Why it is not valid? Because, if a part of the country is to be ceded to a foreign country, a constitutional amendment should be moved in both the Houses of Parliament and they should pass it. Then only, can a part of the country be ceded to another country.

Hon’ble Speaker: Hon’ble Chief Minister Amma Avargal.

**Derisive response recalled**

Hon’ble Selvi J Jayalalithaa: Hon’ble Speaker, when as the Leader of Opposition I raised a similar question in the Assembly by asking, ‘Will you waive all the loans of farmers?’, do you know what reply the then DMK Finance Minister Thiru. Anbazhagan gave? He derisively said that loans obtained by uncles and brothers-in-law would not be waived. I want to convey this (thumping of desks).

Hon’ble Selvi J Jayalalithaa: Hon’ble Speaker, Hon’ble Member has been levelling unsubstantiated charges. Earlier, he spoke about Mundiapakkam sugar mill. He cited the oral statements of persons here and there. Where is the proof that they had stated so? Is there anything in writing? Likewise, he now states that an officer orally gave him some information. Where is the proof for all this? One can talk endlessly in this manner. Hence I request the expunction of all charges levelled without any proof from the records of the House.

**NEWS IN PICTURE**

Thiru. Goutham Adhani, Chairman of the Adhani Group of companies paid a courtesy call on the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Selvi J Jayalalithaa at the Secretariat on 30.06.2016 Thiru. Rajesh Adhani, Managing Director of the Group was present at the meeting.
On behalf of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Minister for Finance, Personnel and Administrative Reforms Thiru. O. Panneerselvam attended the meeting of the Inter-State Council at New Delhi on 16.07.2016. The Text of the Speech of Hon’ble Chief Minister, circulated among the Chief Ministers of States and Union Territories, Union Ministers and other participants during the meeting is given below:

“Hon’ble Prime Minister,
Hon’ble Union Home Minister,
Hon’ble Chief Ministers of States and Union Territories,
Union Ministers,
Senior Officers of the Union Government and of the States,

I extend my warm greetings to all the participants of the Eleventh Inter-State Council Meeting. Although the Council met 10 times between 1990 and 2006, this is the first meeting since 2006. I thank the Prime Minister for convening the meeting of the Council again after nearly a decade to discuss some serious issues.

2. Centre-State relations need to evolve as the milieu of the political economy evolves.

The Constitution of India vested significantly greater legislative, administrative and financial powers with the Centre, as the makers of the Constitution were cognizant of the overall level of economic development of the country, the variation in the sophistication of administrative institutions found in the different regions, and above all the political situation prevailing at that time. Since Independence, there have been phases in which further centralization of legislative and financial powers were also attempted. But the responsibilities for actual delivery of many resource intensive public services - maintenance of public order, public health, agriculture, education, to name just a few, have always been vested with the States which are much closer to the people.
3. Although the political, administrative and economic role of the States has grown significantly and a federal polity has become more entrenched, changes in Centre-State relations have clearly not kept pace. Many of the efforts of over-centralization through transfer of subjects from the State to the Concurrent lists, uniform Central legislations on subjects in the State List, capture of growing tax bases by the Centre, encroaching into the executive jurisdiction of the States’ most notably in the maintenance of Public Order, have not been reversed.

4. The National Democratic Alliance Government at the Centre has pledged itself to promoting “Co-operative Federalism”. We welcome this change of emphasis and I have always stood for an increased role for the States as equal partners in the nation-building process. I strongly believe a Strong Union can emerge only out of Strong States and India’s governance structure has to reflect more and more federal features. “Co-operative federalism” may degenerate into empty rhetoric if the States are not given adequate powers and fiscal resources. Co-operative federalism should not become a catchword to impose uniform administrative practices across the Country without due regard to the specificities of the socio-economic situation in each State.

5. The Inter-State Council should become a forum where the States are called to discuss, debate and evolve mutually beneficial policies and programmes instead of a mere ceremonial meeting where opinions are sought but no action is taken. The Government of India must engage in policy co-ordination with the States in all seriousness and genuinely respect the views of the State Governments. States should also have the opportunity to raise issues in the Council. A systematic mechanism to hear and take on board the views of the States at different levels in the hierarchy should be put in place.

6. Turning to the agenda of this meeting, the Justice M.M. Punchhi Commission was appointed in 2007 and submitted its final report in 2010. In the meantime, events have overtaken many of the recommendations of the Punchhi Commission. However, many of the recommendations of the Commission are still extremely relevant. While my Government would separately submit detailed views on individual recommendations, I would like to briefly dwell on some key issues.

7. The Punchhi Commission’s recommendations on the restrained use of the Legislative powers of the Union for subjects in the Concurrent List are unexceptionable and deserve to be fully supported. A structured consultation with the States through a Committee of State Ministers under the Inter-State Council when the Centre legislates on
subjects in the Concurrent List, great restraint on transferring subjects from the State List to the Concurrent List and a review of Central Laws on subjects transferred from the State List are very welcome recommendations.

8. This is an opportune moment to consider returning the subject of “Education” to the “State List” where it originally was. The recommendation in Volume VI of the Report to include a specific entry on “Environment, Ecology and Climate Change” in the Union List appears retrograde. “Forests and Wildlife” was transferred from the State List to the Concurrent List by the 42nd Amendment and hence “Environment, Ecology and Climate Change” should also be included in the Concurrent List and not in the Union List.

9. The suggestion that a time limit of 6 months may be prescribed for the President to decide on assenting or withholding assent to a Bill reserved for the consideration of the President under Article 201 is very welcome.

10. The Commission has made some important recommendations relating to how the interests of States are to be protected when the Government of India exercises its powers to enter into treaties and agreements with foreign countries. These recommendations are very topical in the light of the announcement in the Union Budget for 2016-2017, about the Centre-State Investment Agreements to back up Bilateral Investment Protection Agreements (BIPAs) and Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs) entered into by the Government of India. Recently, the draft Centre State Investment Agreement (CSIA) has also been circulated by the Ministry of Finance. While we welcome this Government’s move to actually involve States in an area which had hitherto been the exclusive preserve of the Central Government, this is an appropriate forum to voice some concerns about the draft Centre State Investment Agreement.

11. I am concerned that through the CSIA, the Government of India is trying to pass on some of the financial burden it may suffer from adverse arbitration awards under existing BIPAs or BITs. States were not party to such agreements and are not even aware of the contents of such agreements. To make States liable now under the CSIA mechanism for bilateral agreements entered into earlier is unfair. Further, the financial responsibility of States and Local Bodies in the event of an adverse arbitration tribunal award is to be determined by an Inter-Ministerial Group which comprises exclusively of Government of India officials. This is a gross violation of the principle of natural justice that no one shall be a judge in his own cause. States will also have to be given representation on any such Group and the mechanism must be seen as being independent of the Centre and the States. Further, the draft CSIA permits the Government of India to unilaterally deduct any dues from State Governments from the Central Government transfers to States, which is completely unacceptable. Bulk of the Central Government transfers are based on the recommendations of the Finance Commission and are the State’s legitimate revenue and cannot be stopped or redirected to adjust such dues. The remaining transfers are made as the Central share towards the implementation of specific Centrally Sponsored schemes. Settling
dues out of that amount would adversely affect the implementation of the schemes and should not be resorted to. Hence, the proposed summary mechanism for settlement of claims from the States should be deleted from the draft CSIA.

12. The Punchhi Commission has made some valuable suggestions regarding the appointment and removal of Governors. It may not be appropriate to act with haste on the recommendation regarding providing a fixed term of five years for Governors and removal only through an impeachment process and not at the pleasure of the President. Some healthy conventions are coming to be established in this area and should be allowed to emerge. While the recommendations regarding the restraints to be placed on the exercise of the discretionary powers of the Governor are mostly in order, on the question of whether the Governor needs to act on the aid and advice of the Cabinet while granting sanction of prosecution against a Minister, I believe that no change needs to be effected in the present legal position.

13. The Commission has made some important recommendations on the obligation of the Union Government to protect States from external aggression and internal disturbances. These recommendations are timely reiterations of the existing Constitutional framework, particularly in the light of the continuing attacks on and apprehensions of poor Indian fishermen fishing in their traditional fishing waters in the Palk Bay by the Sri Lankan Navy. This is one instance in which the Government of India certainly needs to do more to protect the interests of a particularly vulnerable group of poor fishermen from the coastal Districts of Tamil Nadu.

14. Suitably amending Article 356 to incorporate the safeguards inherent in the Bommai judgment of the Supreme Court is an important recommendation. A reiteration of the safeguards available for duly elected State Governments and preventing adventurism by Governors is very essential and important. The Government of India must provide the necessary reassurances on this aspect to the States.
15. The Punchhi Commission has made important recommendations on strengthening and mainstreaming the Inter State Council as a vibrant forum to address all the functions contemplated under Article 263, which includes advising on Inter-State disputes. In the absence of a strong alternative forum which can address Inter-State disputes effectively, Tamil Nadu has been constrained to litigate on such issues. Tamil Nadu would welcome the metamorphosis of the Inter-State Council into a credible, powerful and fair mechanism for management of Inter-State and Centre-State differences.

16. The Commission also makes some key suggestions on the Rajya Sabha. There has been some discussion on the continued relevance of the Rajya Sabha and how it is proving to be a stumbling block on legislation approved by the popularly elected Lok Sabha. I strongly believe that the Rajya Sabha plays an important role in our federal system and the Rajya Sabha’s powers and functions must not be diminished in any manner. However, I am unable to agree with the Commission’s recommendation that the Constitution should be amended to give equality of seats to States in the Rajya Sabha irrespective of their population size. The present composition of the Rajya Sabha is appropriate and must be preserved. Rajya Sabha’s status as a Chamber representing the States and with a territorial link for the members as, originally envisaged in the Representation of People Act, should be restored, as recommended by the Commission.

17. The Punchhi Commission makes a very appropriate and timely recommendation regarding the sharing of costs on administration of justice. Both Central and State laws are enforced through a common court mechanism and the bulk of the ongoing costs are met by the States. Hence, the Centre must come forward to share a greater proportion of the costs incurred by the States in this regard. However, I do not believe that the establishment of Judicial Councils at the Central and State levels as recommended by the Punchhi Commission is necessary, particularly to prepare the judicial budget. This function should continue to be vested with the respective Governments.

18. Many of the recommendations of the Punchhi Commission on Centre-State Fiscal relations have been overtaken by subsequent developments including the recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, the abolition of the Union Planning Commission, the restructuring of Centrally Sponsored Schemes and the abolition of the Plan-Non Plan distinction from the next fiscal year. The Commission has made some unexceptionable recommendations which I strongly support. These include, increasing the transfer of untied resources to the States, sharing by the Centre of the cost incurred by States in the implementation of Central legislations and avoiding the levy of cesses and surcharges which reduces the shareable pool of Central taxes available for devolution. The present Government in the Centre has been particularly guilty of indiscriminate resort to the levy of cesses and surcharges in the last two years. This trend must be reversed and the cesses and surcharges imposed must be added back to the base taxes and made shareable with the States at least in the next fiscal year. Ideally to counter balance
the greater expenditure responsibilities of the States against the shrinking revenue sources, I had suggested an alternative radical approach in which the levy, collection and appropriation of the substitutes for VAT, Central Excise Duty and Service Tax under the Goods and Services Tax regime within a State could be delegated completely to the State machinery, with the Central machinery focusing on inter-State taxation. I believe this suggestion still merits serious consideration.

19. On Goods and Services Tax, the Punchhi Commission has made certain recommendations that fully support the stand taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu’s demands that revenue neutrality must be ensured, a consensus must be reached on the revenue neutral rate and assurance of providing 100 per cent compensation to States for revenue loss before proceeding with the Constitutional Amendment Bill, finds resonance in the Commission’s recommendations. The recommendation on subjecting polluting inputs and outputs, petroleum products, alcoholic beverages and tobacco products to non-rebatable levy is also in line with Tamil Nadu’s demand to keep Petroleum products out of GST and to enable States to levy additional taxes on tobacco and tobacco products. On the issue of institutionalizing the mechanism to implement GST, the Punchhi Commission has very approvingly cited the functioning of the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers and called for making this arrangement permanent. This has also been Tamil Nadu’s stand. Tamil Nadu’s position on GST implementation is well known, and I do expect that our proposals will be considered favourably.

20. The Commission has made detailed recommendations on Local Self Governments and Decentralized Governance. A key recommendation is the simplification of the rural local body framework into a two-tier system instead of the existing three-tier system. Tamil Nadu strongly endorses the suggestion of having a two-tier system. While the first tier is necessarily the Village Panchayat, the choice of whether the second tier should be at the Block level or the District level should be left to the States. In Tamil Nadu, where traditionally the Block level Panchayat Unions have been strong, the second tier would necessarily have to be at the block level and not the District level. It would also help if an organic link is maintained between different tiers with the elected Village Panchayat Presidents being members of the Block level body, instead of the present system of having separate representatives with overlapping jurisdictions in the Village Panchayat, the intermediate tier and in the District Panchayat. I believe that the experience of close to 20 years with the present structure of rural local self governance is sufficient to effect the necessary changes. There appears little justification to constitute Commissions every five years to report on the “Status of Local Government-Devolution of Powers” as this is an issue that the Ministry of Panchayat Raj already monitors on an ongoing basis.

Justice and Centre-State Co-operation. We also have a separate agenda item for this meeting on Internal Security, Police Reforms and Police Modernization. Since there is an overlap, the remarks I will now offer will address both these items on the agenda.

22. The first and most vital function of the State is the maintenance of public order and peace in society and ensuring the protection of its citizens.

The trajectory of development and growth is inextricably intertwined with the internal security situation in the country. Unless there is peace and tranquillity, we cannot have social and economic growth. It is precisely for this reason that I have adopted a growth model for Tamil Nadu that seeks to achieve development through inclusive growth and thereby rid society of inner tensions that may surface in the form of communal tensions or extremism or some other form of disaffection. The Vision for Tamil Nadu for 2023 is to become India’s most prosperous and progressive State with no poverty, and where its people enjoy all the basic services of a modern society and live in harmonious engagement with the environment and with the rest of the world. Not only are we targeting high growth, but we also seek to exhibit a highly inclusive growth pattern.

23. The ability of my Government to understand and effectively articulate the just and fair sentiments of the people of the State on critical issues has been one of the important reasons for the proper maintenance of public order in Tamil Nadu. This requires the State Government at the highest level to be in tune with the concerns and aspirations of its people. It also requires the administration at the local level to be sensitive and with an ear to the ground. District Administration in Tamil Nadu is run in this manner, thanks to close supervision and monitoring from above and the positive response to public expectation from below.
24. So far as the maintenance of law and order is concerned, I am proud to inform this august gathering that Tamil Nadu has largely been free of communal, left wing extremist, and religious fundamentalist violence. This is largely because I have provided a free hand and uncompromising support to the Police Force in maintaining law and order. Tamil Nadu now has a near perfect record of maintenance of law and order and is spoken of nationally as a haven of peace and tranquillity.

25. A strong, efficient, well equipped and disciplined Police Force is the only answer to meeting the challenges posed by anti-social elements who try to disrupt law and order. Realizing the imperative need to improve the staffing, infrastructure, mobility and weaponry of the Police Force, my Government has sanctioned substantially enhanced allocations. I have taken up several welfare measures to ensure better working conditions and better housing for Police Personnel in Tamil Nadu contributing to a higher morale and esprit de corps essential for better delivery of service on the frontline. The Police Force has been provided with health cover, insurance cover, housing facilities, and improved working conditions such as adequate rest, allowances for extra days of work and proper barracks and dormitories to house the constabulary deployed in distant places in times of law and order disturbances.

26. The Government of Tamil Nadu has taken a number of pro-active measures to curb fundamentalism and terrorism. Close watch is maintained on provocative speeches and literature. Officers at the Police station level are sensitized and ground level intelligence collected. Foreign links, fund flows, and social media are carefully monitored. A database has been created and incidents and activists indulging in fundamentalist activity are effectively documented. Misuse of places of religious worship is prevented. Preventive sections of law and the Preventive Detention laws are effectively used.

27. Although persistent attempts have been made by Maoists to strike roots in the State, they have not been allowed to gain a foothold by ceaseless vigilance particularly in the tri-junction area between Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala where some intelligence inputs indicated that Naxalites were likely to try to establish their presence. Similarly, firm action has been taken to quell the activities of some front organizations espousing left wing extremist ideology and attempting to build up a mass base.

28. Gathering timely and relevant intelligence and acting on it is crucial to prevent disturbances to Public Order and to tackle such disturbances. Tamil Nadu has a well oiled Intelligence gathering apparatus with a number of specialised wings to look after different types of threats to public order.

The Tamil Nadu State Intelligence wing is an effective and highly professional body which participates in the Subsidiary Multi-Agency Centre by promptly acting on the information received by it and by sharing relevant information with the central agencies and with other State agencies through this
mechanism. The professional capabilities and strengths of the State intelligence wing have been recognized nationally.

29. The maintenance of law and order in the country is the fundamental responsibility of the State Governments, but it is an exercise that requires functional co-operation and understanding between the Central Government and the State Governments and presupposes a relationship based on equality - the States are equal partners with the Centre in protecting the nation from internal strife. It is in this context that some of the specific recommendations of the Punchhi Commission have to be viewed. While in general the recommendations relating to the role and functioning of the National Integration Council (NIC) are acceptable, the suggestion that a delegation nominated by the Council should visit the area affected by serious communal incidents anywhere in the country is unnecessary and could contribute to needless escalation of tensions. Further, direct interface between the NIC and State level bodies engaged in the promotion of communal harmony also does not appear warranted. Such interactions should take place through the State Government and the Union Home Ministry.

30. The Commission makes an important observation on the role of the media. Managing mass media effectively is a key determinant of successful handling of a law and order situation. An added dimension is growing crimes and growth of hate propaganda through the use of modern communication and information technology. These threats are most effectively met by utilizing modern technology. Facilities which track, in real time, the misuse of information and communication means for intensive hate propaganda and cyber crimes require substantial investments in equipment and training of personnel.

While States like Tamil Nadu are investing in this area, the Government of India must significantly enhance funding for such purposes. The proactive use of the social media as an effective means of mass communication and source of correct information also needs to be focused upon. But the risks of using social media including hacking, cyber bullying and capture by anti-social elements have to be mitigated through appropriate safeguards and effective monitoring of such sites.

31. The Commission’s Report while placing primary responsibility on the State Government apparatus for speedily bringing a communal or law and order incident under control, also speaks approvingly of suo moto deployment of Central forces and even imposition of Central rule on a part of a State said to be affected by the problem. These are very dangerous suggestions and go entirely against the federal fabric of the Indian Constitution. These completely unacceptable recommendations, which reflect a lack of faith in State Governments and an over abundance of faith in the Central Government as not being politically motivated, must be rejected outright.

32. The Commission concludes that there is a need for an over-arching structure at the National level for maintenance of internal security. While at one level it appears that this is a reorganization of the architecture of the Central agencies dealing with internal security
related issues, at another level, we sense that this is an argument for the revival of a discredited and unnecessary institution like the National Counter Terrorism Centre. I am very clear that in the name of creating a new national architecture for internal security, the role and functions of existing Central organizations or any new organizations that may be formed, must not diminish in any way the inherent powers of the State Government and its institutions. Surely, in a federal democracy like ours, democratically elected State Governments are as interested in the territorial integrity and unity of the country as the Union Government. The Government of India should shed the mantle of suspicion and distrust and seek the active cooperation of all the State Governments as its equal partners in our fight against the common enemy.

33. The Commission very rightly makes recommendations for greater financial support for strengthening and modernizing the State Police Forces. All the Hon’ble Chief Ministers who are present here today would agree that, mainly, it is financial constraints that stand in the way of the efforts of State Governments to modernize and upgrade their Police Forces. I am happy to note that the Government of India has decided to continue the scheme of Modernisation of Police Force and I request the Union Government to substantially increase the levels of financial assistance for the scheme. Out of the Central share of Rs.510.04 crore for the period from 2010-2011 to 2015-2016 due to Tamil Nadu under the Modernisation of Police Force Scheme, only Rs.338.89 crore has been released by the Government of India and the balance amount of Rs.171.15 crore is yet to be released. This amount may be speedily released.

34. Tamil Nadu has enacted the Tamil Nadu Police (Reforms) Act, 2013 in compliance with the directions of the Supreme Court issued in the Writ Petition filed by Prakash Singh and others. The Act incorporates several features including the establishment of the State Security Commission, Police Establishment Board, State Police Complaints Authority, District Complaints Authority and Police Complaints Division, the separation of the law and order and investigation wings at the Police Station level and prescribing the tenure for specified posts.

35. Volume VI of the Punchhi Commission Report deals with Environment, Natural Resources and Infrastructure. Some important
recommendations have been made regarding strengthening the National Water Resources Council, better co-ordinating the activities of the Inter State River Basin Authorities and streamlining the functioning of Tribunals constituted under the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956, including the need to take a conciliatory approach, fixing timelines for clarificatory and supplementary orders and providing for statutory appeals to the Supreme Court. Experience indicates that these recommendations of the Commission are sensible and can be implemented without much difficulty. In addition, time limits should also be prescribed for notifying Awards of the Tribunals by the Government of India. Speedy action to implement suggestions would reduce the delays in implementing awards of Inter-State River Water Tribunals. Time limits should also be fixed for putting in place monitoring mechanisms for the implementation of Awards. I strongly urge the Government of India to immediately establish the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee. I also reiterate the demand for the speedy implementation of the Interlinking of Inter-State Rivers, starting with the Peninsular Rivers in the first instance.

36. Preserving National Forest Wealth is a priority area of action. Since the Punchhi Commission made its recommendations, the Fourteenth Finance Commission has included Forest Cover as one of the criteria in the horizontal devolution formula. Hence the need to set up an Expert Committee to compensate forest rich States does not seem to arise. Any compensation policy should appropriately recognize and suitably reward States like Tamil Nadu which have actually expanded the area under tree cover.

37. In the area of infrastructure, the Commission has recommended the creation of a number of independent regulatory authorities – for Highways, Ports, Airports, Special Economic Zones, Coal, Oil and Gas, single tariff regulator for Power, Coal and Gas and so on. A number of independent regulators have been functioning in the past two decades in many sectors. The experience with their working has been mixed. There are several issues of overlapping jurisdictions and curtailment of policy space of the Governments. Hence, the creation of new regulators or expanding the powers of existing regulators needs to be treated with circumspection. States should be specifically consulted before such measures are taken.

38. The Commission has made recommendations on encouraging Public Private Partnerships (PPP). One of the suggestions is for the Union Government to create a semi-permanent body to draw up guidelines to be followed for successful PPPs. Each State must be given the freedom to evolve an appropriate PPP policy for itself and no “one size fits all” policy should be enunciated by the Government of India. Tamil Nadu has put in place a policy framework in the form of the Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Development Act, Rules and Regulations, along with the Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders (Public Private Partnerships Procurement) Rules. Tamil Nadu is the first State to have a legislative framework to deal with Public
Private Partnership procurement. The Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Development Board is responsible for implementing this policy framework which aims to improve the quality of project preparation and development, ensure transparent and efficient procurement, monitor and facilitate project implementation, and address any post implementation issues.

39. The next main item on the Agenda is Use of Aadhaar as an Identifier and use of Direct Benefit Transfer for providing Subsidies, Benefits and Public Services. I believe that greater co-ordination is required within the Government of India Ministries and with State Governments to ensure that the requisite coverage of Aadhaar and the consequent desired outcomes are achieved. Government of Tamil Nadu has already put in place the State Resident Data Hub (SRDH) which will be the unified data repository with biometry enabled citizen’s data for delivery of all citizen centric services. Tamil Nadu is one of the States where biometric capture is being done through the Registrar General of India (RGI) and the Aadhaar numbers obtained thereafter through the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). The National Population Register (NPR) database, which has been shared with the Government of Tamil Nadu forms the base of the SRDH. So far the biometric data has been captured for 95.20 per cent of the National Population Register (NPR) enrolment. Aadhaar numbers have been issued for 91.9 per cent of those whose biometric data has been captured.

40. To speed up the process of Aadhaar enrolment further, I request that, instead of the present mechanism where the NPR data is shared in batches by the RGI with the SRDH, an online linkage is provided between the two data bases for smooth operations. It is also essential that the UIDAI, the Registrar General of India and the Government of Tamil Nadu agree to a joint protocol under which UIDAI could continue to allow mutations and change of address, which will be used as inputs for carrying out changes in NPR databases after due diligence by the concerned statutory authority. Further, Birth and Death registration data collected under the
Civil Registration System should be integrated with the NPR database. Biometric capture by Bharat Electronics Limited, the agency of the RGI is proceeding very slowly. The Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency has been enrolled as a registrar for UIDAI/Aadhaar. The Registrar General of India should now authorise the Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency to operate the Permanent Enrolment Centres of the NPR and for biometry capture which would enable seamless operations and considerably speed up the process of Aadhaar enrolment in Tamil Nadu.

41. Tamil Nadu has been a forerunner in adopting Direct Cash Transfer, through bank accounts to beneficiaries under schemes which involve cash transfers including Scholarships, Maternity Benefits and Social Security Pensions. In fact, after the floods in Chennai and the coastal Districts of Tamil Nadu in December, 2015, cash relief amounts were directly transferred to several lakh bank accounts at one stroke. However, Tamil Nadu continues to have certain reservations about the Direct Benefits Transfer model adopted by the Government of India. First and foremost, in principle, Tamil Nadu is strongly opposed to monetizing and transfer in cash the subsidy element for commodities under the Public Distribution System including kerosene, and fertilizers. The primary concern is not the quantum of subsidy, but ensuring access to and timely availability of commodities.

42. Tamil Nadu also strongly urges the Government of India to effect transfer of cash to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries only through the State Governments as this would be an administratively sound practice, given the complexities in different schemes and varying Central and State Shares, and in keeping with the spirit of federalism which forms the backdrop to these discussions. If the objective of introducing Direct Benefits Transfer is to ensure efficient delivery, then the Government of India should route its funds through the State Government, which is already progressively switching over to the bank mode of disbursement for all its beneficiary oriented schemes. Further, more points of outreach should also be created for the convenience of the public by using Primary Agricultural Co-operative Societies and Post Offices as points of disbursal in addition to bank branches since the outreach of bank branches is inadequate to render doorstep service to many beneficiaries, including old age pensioners.

43. Turning to the agenda item on Improving quality of Education with focus on improving learning outcomes and incentivizing better performance, it is my Government’s resolve to ensure that every child in the State gains access not just to a school, but to quality education. As part of my Vision Tamil Nadu 2023, Tamil Nadu will become the “Innovation Hub and Knowledge Capital of India”. To achieve this, I have initiated many innovative flagship programmes. The distribution of laptops to students at the Higher Secondary level is now being emulated in many parts of the country. The special cash incentive of Rs.5,000/- per child is significantly reducing dropouts at secondary level. Students in Government schools receive four sets of uniform, footwear, woollen sweaters where needed, textbooks, notebooks,
schoolbags, educational kits comprising of colour pencils, crayons, geometry box, atlas, bicycles, bus passes and of course the nutritious noon meal. In providing adequate number of qualified and trained teachers, infrastructure facilities such as pucca buildings, toilets, water, electricity, library and noon meal centres, the State has surpassed the requirements mandated by the Government of India. I can state with pride that Tamil Nadu is the only State which truly provides free education to children as envisaged under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009. The 20th Joint Review Mission of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has reported that Tamil Nadu stands at the forefront in the delivery of educational services.

44. Teachers are critical to the quality of education. We have ensured that the required numbers of quality teachers are recruited and both existing and newly appointed teachers are adequately trained. The best among the qualified teachers are recruited in Government Schools by the conduct of an open competitive examination through a transparent process. In the past five years 74,316 teachers have been appointed which has brought down the Teacher Pupil Ratio to 1:25 at the elementary level and 1:26 at the secondary level in Government schools, which is significantly better than the national norms. The findings of scientific annual surveys, conducted at the elementary level to measure learning outcomes and the impact of the various interventions, are applied to develop modules for capacity building of teachers to further improve the competencies of children.

45. My concern for the children carrying heavy book loads paved way for the introduction for the first time in India of the trimester pattern up to Standard IX. This along with the Simplified Activity Based Learning, Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation has brought a radical change in the class room process with, enthusiasm, potential and creative talent coming to the fore. The content of the learning material has been enriched. School children are introduced to digital learning at an
early age to engage attention and sustain interest in learning. I would like to place on record in this august Council that Tamil Nadu stands first among all States in all the three parameters of Reading Comprehension, Mathematics and Environmental Studies assessed in Cycle 4 of the National Achievement Survey of Class V.

46. My Government has recognized the importance of Early Childhood Education to enable children, particularly those from weaker socio-economic circumstances, to achieve their full potential. Lower and Upper Kindergarten classes have been introduced in schools in Greater Chennai Corporation on a pilot basis. Under the Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiative (TANII) an innovative, experimental programme to introduce Early Childhood Education (ECE) in ICDS centres in the State has been launched. This programme will be evaluated as a Randomised Control Trial (RCT) and based on the results of the evaluation, an appropriate, cost-effective scale up model for Early Childhood Education would be selected. Further, under Section 12(1)(c) of the RTE Act 2009 relating to reserving 25% seats in private schools for children from weaker sections and disadvantaged groups, under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan (SSA) only the costs from Class I onwards are being reimbursed based on executive instructions which are contrary to the provisions of the Act. Given the importance of pre-school education, particularly for the disadvantaged and the fact that private schools usually admit children only at the pre-school stage, the costs from this stage onwards should be made re-imbursible under SSA as provided for in the Act.

47. It is important to highlight the massive shortfalls in release of funds committed in the approved plan of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. In 2015-2016, the Project Approval Board (PAB) of the Ministry of Human Resources Development had approved an outlay of Rs.2,329.15 crore for Tamil Nadu with a 60 per cent Government of India share of Rs.1,397.49 crore. However, the actual release was only Rs.821.11 crore, resulting in a shortfall of Rs.576.37 crore, despite the State having submitted all necessary documentation well in time and having met all its commitments and performance parameters. Such shortfalls in release are unfortunate, particularly under SSA which has earmarked funding through the Education Cess. Hence, assured funding based on the budget approved without arbitrary mid-year cuts is very critical to effectively implement SSA.

48. The Government of Tamil Nadu has taken a number of steps, starting from 2005, towards systematizing the admission process to professional colleges including medical colleges, and after careful consideration, abolished entrance examinations for professional undergraduate courses in the State, by enacting the Tamil Nadu Admission in Professional Educational Institutions Act, 2006. This Act was given effect to after receiving the assent of the President under Article 254(2) of the Constitution. This measure is intended to protect the interests of students, particularly from the weaker sections and rural areas. Admissions to Undergraduate professional courses in Tamil Nadu are based on the results of the Class XII examination. The secondary school examinations in Tamil Nadu are conducted with total integrity, fairness and transparency based on an up to date syllabus. The introduction of
a National Eligibility and Entrance Test (NEET) for medical admissions would be a direct infringement on the rights of the State and would cause grave injustice to the students of Tamil Nadu who are already covered by a fair and transparent admission policy which has been working well. Rural students and students from poorer socio-economic backgrounds will be unable to compete with urban elite students in Common Entrance Examinations. Tamil Nadu and any State that has a similar system must be permitted through appropriate legislative intervention to continue the existing fair and transparent system of admission to Medical Colleges and Dental Colleges in State and not be forced to implement the NEET.

49. Tamil Nadu has achieved the highest Gross Enrolment Ratio in Higher Education, amongst States. The financial support provided to first generation graduates, special reservations and fee concessions for students who have passed out under Tamil Medium in Higher Secondary Education and for students from rural schools, has meant that Higher education has been brought within the reach of lakh of young people. The Government of Tamil Nadu is also taking up a number of initiatives to upgrade the quality of higher education in the State and to ensure that the graduates are employable.

50. We have a substantial agenda to discuss today and an opportunity to make history. India is now a confident nation and a mature democracy. Undoubtedly political, economic and social challenges remain, but they are not beyond the capacity of the Nation to solve. With liberalization, the role of the Government at the Centre is now much more that of a facilitator through economic policy making. The role of State Governments, as providers of public goods including maintenance of public order and provision of social and economic infrastructure has grown and their resource needs have increased significantly. State Governments have also demonstrated their greater efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of public services. Tamil Nadu has been a front runner. We have also seen a steady shift in real political and economic power away from the Centre. State level parties and leaders are now far more significant players. These should not be seen as centrifugal or fissiparous trends that have to be curbed, but as a manifestation of India’s maturing as a nation with diversity and as a democracy. Hence, the time is ripe to reverse trends of centralization we have seen over the past several decades and to provide States and in turn local Governments with significantly greater authority and resources. After all, it takes strong States to make a strong Union.

Nandri
Vanakkam”
The oil companies have increased the price of petrol by five paise per litre and diesel by Rs.1.34 from 16.06.2016. They are raising the price twice a month ever since they were given the right to link the price to international prices. Every time they hike the price, the excuse is the prevailing global price of petrol and diesel and the Indian rupee’s exchange value against American dollar. The same reason has been advanced now also.

The oil companies import crude oil only to the needed extent after refining the indigenously tapped crude oil, producing the petroleum products including petrol and diesel and marketing them. In such a situation, it is a wrong policy to fix the domestic price on the basis of the likely price that would be fixed if petrol and diesel were imported at the international price. I have pointed this out several times. Still this wrong policy has not been changed. On this wrong premise, petrol and diesel prices have now been increased.

From November 2014, the Central Government has increased the excise duty on several occasions to the extent of Rs.11.77 on petrol and Rs.13.57 on diesel. The excise duty prevented the benefit from flowing to the people when the price of crude oil slided. In such a situation, the present hike is not justified. As I have pointed out several times, fluctuation in Indian rupee value against American dollar is on account of several factors. There is no link between them and the common people. Hence the policy of fixing petrol, diesel prices on the basis of the Indian rupee value should be changed.

Transport charges of goods will increase on account of the present increase in diesel price. Prices of essential commodities will go up. The standard of living of the poor and middle classes will be affected. Hence, I strongly urge the oil companies to rescind the present hike in the prices of petrol and diesel.
The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Selvi J Jayalalithaa flagged off at the Secretariat on 30.06.2016, 100 two wheelers and 250 bicycles for further upgradation of Police patrolling in Greater Chennai area and distributed 100 high grade e-challan machines for police use.

The vehicles have cost the Government Rs.1.12 crore. Constables on patrol duty on two wheelers and bicycles have been given a specially designed shirt and a headgear. The vehicles are fitted with horns, LED lights and other devices. Patrolling of narrow lanes and congested streets will be made possible by these vehicles.

With the distribution of 4-wheelers and 2-wheelers fitted with GPS instrument, electronic display board and wireless sets already made, the Greater Chennai Police have improved their patrolling. The present distribution of vehicles is to further upgrade their work.

By way of modernising further the electronic challan system for spot-fining of traffic violators, the Government has procured for the use of Greater Chennai Police 100 high grade e-challan machines at a cost of Rs. 1 crore. Hon’ble Chief Minister presented 5 of these machines to traffic Police constables as a token distribution of these 100 machines. The Greater Chennai Police had already been given 300 e-challan machines and with the present consignment, their work will improve further.
The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa met the Union Minister of State for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines (Independent Charge) Thiru. Piyush Goyal in the Secretariat, Chennai on 15.07.2016. During the meeting, the Hon’ble Chief Minister highlighted the following points:-

A) Tamil Nadu has added 8432.5 Mega Watts to the State Grid during the last 5 years, making Tamil Nadu not only a power sufficient State but also a power surplus State.

B) The Hon’ble Chief Minister also highlighted that Tamil Nadu has an installed capacity of 7,600 Mega Watts of wind power and is in a position to sell wind power to other States who require to fulfill their Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO). The Hon’ble Chief Minister has therefore reiterated that it is absolutely essential to provide a dedicated
green corridor to export the surplus power to other States.

C) With regard to the UDAY Scheme, Hon’ble Chief Minister pointed out that she had already requested the Hon’ble Prime Minister, in her letter dated 23.10.2015 to consider certain requests of the State Government to ensure that the State finances are not adversely affected, while taking over the debt of TANGEDCO.

These points were also reiterated by the Hon’ble Chief Minister in her Memorandum to the Hon’ble Prime Minister on 14.06.2016. The Hon’ble Chief Minister requested that the Government of India may consider the request of Tamil Nadu Government positively. The Hon’ble Chief Minister informed that a team headed by the Minister for Electricity, Government of Tamil Nadu consisting of Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, CMD, TANGEDCO and other senior officials will visit Delhi for detailed discussions with the Union Minister.

D) The Hon’ble Chief Minister also requested that the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) and Power Finance Corporation (PFC) which are Central Public Sector Undertakings may extend co-operation by providing loans for both revenue and capital expenditure and also for the new power projects proposed by Tamil Nadu.

Hon’ble Minister for Finance Personnel Administrative and Reforms Thiru.O.Panneerselvam, Hon’ble Minister for Electricity, Prohibition and Excise Thiru.P.Thangamani, Dr.P. Rama Mohana Rao IAS., Chief Secretary to Government, Tmt. Sheela Balakrishnan IAS., (Retd.) Adviser to Government, Tmt. Shantha Sheela Nair IAS., (Retd.), Officer on Special Duty, Thiru. K. Shanmugam IAS., Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department, Thiru. Rajeev Ranjan IAS., Additional Chief Secretary, Energy Department (i/c) and Dr. M. Sai Kumar IAS., Chairman and Managing Director, TANGEDCO and other officials were present. The Union Minister of State for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines (Independent Charge) was accompanied by Shri A. K. Verma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Power, Government of India, Shri Santosh Vaidya, Joint Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India, Shri B.P.Acharya, Chairman and Managing Director, Neyveli Lignite Corporation were present.
D.O. Letter dated 09.06.2016 addressed by Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to Shri Narendra Modi, Hon’ble Prime Minister of India

“This is to bring to your notice yet another incident in which six fishermen, in one mechanized fishing boat from Rameswaram fishing base of Ramanathapuram District, were apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy in the early hours of 09.06.2016 and taken to Thalaimannar.

It is highly disheartening to note that our fishermen are facing daily threats of harassment and abduction at the hands of the Sri Lankan Navy while fishing in their traditional fishing waters in the Palk Bay.

I would like to remind you that 15 fishermen apprehended earlier this month are still languishing in Sri Lankan custody. 91 fishing boats are also in Sri Lankan custody at present. The Sri Lankan strategy of not releasing the boats while releasing the fishermen and thus throttling the livelihood of the fishermen is causing immense frustration amongst the fishermen of Tamil Nadu. I urge you to take this up with the highest authorities of the Sri Lankan Government and ensure the immediate release of our fishermen and their fishing boats.

The IMBL itself is a matter sub-judice in the Supreme Court of India wherein the Government of Tamil Nadu and I, in my personal capacity, have challenged the unconstitutional ceding of Katchatheevu through the 1974 and 1976 Agreements. The Government of Tamil Nadu strongly reiterates the need to restore the traditional rights of our fishermen by annulling the ill-advised Indo-Sri Lankan agreements of 1974 and 1976 urgently.

I urge your personal intervention in this matter and request you to direct the Ministry of External Affairs to take up the matter with the Sri Lankan authorities in a concrete and decisive manner so as to secure the immediate release of our 21 fishermen and 92 fishing boats, including the 6 fishermen and their one mechanised fishing boat apprehended on 09.06.2016 at the earliest”.

PM’s intervention sought for immediate release of fishermen
Four Tamil Nadu fishermen of Kadiapattinam fishing village, Kanniyakumari District were arrested by the Coast Guard of Iran on 07.02.2016 when they strayed into that country’s waters while fishing, and then imprisoned. They were on contract labour to a private individual at Dubai, United Arab Emirates and were fishing in the Ajman area in the sea on 06.02.2016. One of the fishermen was injured when the coast guard opened fire on them and was admitted to a hospital in Iran.

On hearing this, the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Selvi J Jayalalithaa took immediate action to get them released. On the orders of the Hon’ble Chief Minister, Tamil Nadu Government officials got in touch with the Indian embassy officials in Iran and the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Central Government and urged them to provide all legal assistance to the fishermen and get them released.

As a result of the persistent efforts, the 4 Tamil Nadu fishermen were released by the Iran Government on 30.04.2016 and they reached Chennai on 01.05.2016.

Taking into account the indigent condition of the families of the 4 fishermen and to help them start a new life, the Hon’ble Chief Minister sanctioned Rs.2 lakh each from the Chief Minister’s Public Relief Fund.
In his interaction with the media in the Legislative Assembly complex on 17.06.2016, the Hon’ble leader of the opposition Thiru. M.K. Stalin has stated that he has requested the Hon’ble Speaker to reconsider a few demands he had made and will decide on how to handle the issues after waiting for two days (Saturday and Sunday) for the Speaker to take a decision. That is, in an interview, he has arrogantly set a two-day deadline for the Hon’ble Speaker. Tamizh Murasu, a pro-DMK daily has also published the news with the headline: “Two days deadline for the Speaker; Stalin’s sensational interview”.

The Leader of the Opposition Thiru. M.K. Stalin has stated that a request was made for special arrangements to facilitate the DMK leader Thiru. M.Karunanidhi to attend the Assembly on a wheel chair; but a seat has been allotted to him in the second row. The demand itself is a strange one.

Thiru. Karunanidhi took the pledge for MLA on 25.05.2016 from the wheel chair positioned in front of seat no. 207. Taking that into account, the Hon’ble Speaker has allotted that seat to him. If Thiru. Karunanidhi wants to participate in the debates, he can do so in the same way as he did while taking the pledge as an MLA.

The issue is not Thiru. Karunanidhi’s participation in Assembly debates. In fact, it is an issue between father and the son. In the last general election, DMK attained the status of the main Opposition party. DMK is synonymous with Thiru. Karunanidhi. He is the leader of that party. As such, he should have become the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly. But in their inner party feud, Thiru. Stalin got himself elected as the Leader of the Opposition. Thiru. Durai Murugan was elected as the deputy leader, Thiru. R.Chakrapani as the Whip and
Thiru. K. Pitchandi as Deputy Whip. What is Karunanidhi’s position? A mere MLA. In such a situation, Thiru. Karunanidhi will not participate in Assembly debates. To avert the blame falling on him on that account and to divert the issue, Thiru. Stalin has levelled the charge that a proper seat has not been allotted to Thiru. Karunanidhi.

Moreover, in his letter to the Hon’ble Speaker on 26.05.2016, Thiru. Stalin has listed the order in which his partymen should be allotted seats in the Assembly. In that list Thiru. Karunanidhi’s name was not to be found at all. Thiru. Stalin has not mentioned in which row Thiru. Karunanidhi should be seated. This clearly shows Thiru. Stalin does not want Thiru. Karunanidhi to attend the Assembly.

Ten days later, on 06.06.2016, Thiru. R. Chakrapani, DMK Whip requested through a letter allotment of a seat to Thiru. Karunanidhi. Also, Thiru. Chakrapani requested the Hon’ble Speaker in person that a seat be allotted to Thiru. Karunanidhi in the very place where he took the pledge as an MLA. Taking all these into account, the Speaker has allotted the seat.

In his interaction with the media, Thiru. Stalin has stated that the Assembly passed a condolence resolution without adjourning as a mark of respect when the DMK member Thiru. V. Perumal passed away in 2001. This is contrary to facts. The fact is that on 16.08.2001, the Assembly passed a condolence resolution on the demise of Thiru. V. Perumal and adjourned for the whole day.

Thiru. Stalin has also stated that changing the practice of the Leader of the Opposition winding up the debate on the Governor’s address on the last day and the Chief Minister replying on the same day, amounts to sullying the reputation of the office of Leader of Opposition. He has said that DMK should be permitted to field 3 of its members to speak. All these matters have been discussed in detail in the Assembly Business Rules Committee and a decision has been taken. Commenting or expressing views on the Speaker’s decision is contrary to Assembly tradition.

Assembly Rule 98 stipulates that members should speak in the Assembly in the order they are called upon to speak by the Speaker and Rule 108 empowers the Speaker to fix the duration of the debates.

In the 14th Legislative Assembly, the DMK members made it a regular practice to inform the media outside the House that the Speaker was allotting them insufficient time to speak and that he was usurping their democratic rights. Perhaps the Speaker has taken this into account and decided on the basis of Assembly practice, to permit 2 DMK members to speak, giving them sufficient time. The AIADMK has a strength of 132 members and only 3 of its members are permitted to speak. In that proportion only 2 members of the DMK which has a strength of 89 members can be permitted to speak. Likewise, the Speaker has conveyed, citing the practice in the last 5 years, that all party leaders including the Leader of the Opposition should conclude their speeches on the penultimate day and the Hon’ble Chief Minister will reply to them on the last day of the debate.

Today, Thiru. Stalin went to the Speaker’s chamber along with some DMK members to
represent his demand. During the conversation, the DMK MLA Thiru. J. Anbazhagan denigrated the Speaker by addressing him disrespectfully and Thiru. Stalin overlooked it and kept silent. The Speaker himself shared this with me in anguish. Should not have Thiru. Stalin pulled up Thiru. Anbazhagan when the latter insulted the Speaker? Is this the way of upholding Assembly traditions?

News items have been appearing frequently in the media about the continued differences, rivalry and disputes between the DMK leader and MLA, Thiru. M. Karunanidhi and the Leader of the Opposition Thiru. M.K.Stalin. Two days back, media reported that Thiru. Karunanidhi had boycotted a meeting of the DMK legislators. On Facebook, DMK men had compared Thiru. Karunanidhi to Aurangzeb. Supporters of Thiru. Karunanidhi and Thiru. Stalin recorded their views on that comparison, attacking each other. Thiru. Stalin will be mistaken if he imagines that he can conceal such issues within Thiru. Karunanidhi’s family and the usurping of the post of Leader of the Opposition from Thiru. Karunanidhi by accusing the Speaker and by spreading false information. The people of Tamil Nadu are fed up with bravado made several times in the past like fixing a two-day deadline to the Speaker. I request the Leader of the Opposition and DMK members to attend the Assembly from 20.06.2016 onwards and participate in the debates constructively.

Statement of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 17.06.2016 (English Translation)

Tmt. Datchayini of Tondiarpet, Chennai District, who worked in Saudi Arabia was admitted to a hospital there, with severe spinal cord injuries sustained when she jumped out from the balcony to escape from the atrocities committed in her place of employment. A voluntary agency had sent her to Chennai on 16.06.2016. She is now getting treatment as an in-patient in Stanley Hospital.

I was very sad to hear about Tmt.Datchayini’s severe spinal cord injuries. Taking into account her family situation, physical condition and her future, I have sanctioned Rs.10 lakh to her from the Chief Minister’s Public Relief Fund. The amount will be placed as a fixed deposit in the Tamil Nadu Power Finance and Infrastructure Development Corporation and the monthly interest of Rs.8,125 on it, will be forwarded to her.

I have ordered super speciality treatment to Tmt.Datchayini. I have also directed the Hon’ble Minister for Family Welfare Dr. C. Vijayabhaskar, Hon’ble Minister for Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Scheme Dr. V. Saroja and Hon’ble Minister for Labour Welfare Dr.Nilofer Kafeel to visit Tmt.Datchayini, render all help to her and console her.
D.O. letter dated 16.06.2016 addressed by Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to Shri Narendra Modi, Hon’ble Prime Minister of India.

“I am constrained to again bring to your notice one more instance of apprehension of innocent Indian fishermen belonging to Tamil Nadu by the Sri Lankan Navy. It is reported that 3 fishermen in a mechanized fishing boat from Kottaipattinam fishing base in Pudukkottai District have been apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy in the late hours of 15.06.2016 and taken to Kankesanthurai, Sri Lanka.

The Sri Lankan authorities adamantly refuse to recognize the traditional and historic rights of our Tamil Nadu fishermen to eke out their livelihood from fishing in the traditional waters of the Palk Bay.

At the root of the problem are the ill- advised Indo-Sri Lankan agreements of 1974 and 1976 which unconstitutionally ceded Katchatheevu to Sri Lanka. I have, in my personal capacity, challenged the legal validity of the Indo-Sri Lankan agreements of 1974 and 1976 before the Hon’ble Supreme Court of India with the Government of Tamil Nadu subsequently impleading itself, and the case is still pending.

It is also painful to note that the Sri Lankan Government is now adopting a strategy of detaining boats for long periods of time.

The prolonged detention and idling of fishing craft without care makes them unworthy for further sailing, thus causing immense loss and misery to the fishermen.

I again request the Government of India to initiate immediate efforts to find a permanent and pragmatic workable solution to this livelihood issue of our fishermen. I request your personal intervention in the matter and request you to direct the Ministry of External Affairs to secure the immediate release of the 24 fishermen and 93 fishing boats, including the 3 fishermen and their one mechanised fishing boat apprehended on 15.06.2016 at the earliest”.
I am very happy to convey my hearty Ramzan greetings to all my beloved Muslim community people who are joyously celebrating Ramzan, the Day of Charity.

Muslims enthusiastically celebrate Ramzan with relatives and friends by observing fast, not even sipping water in the day on all the 30 days of the holy Ramalan month, purifying the body and mind, showing love and affection to all, feeding the poor and by participating in special prayers and worshipping God.

Your Beloved Sister’s Government, interested in the welfare of the Muslim community, has been implementing several schemes like providing rice to more than 3,000 mosques in the State for the preparation of ‘nonbu kanji’ (porridge to be taken at the end of the day after fasting) in the holy month of Ramalan, raising the annual administrative subsidy to the Tamil Nadu State Hajj Committee to Rs. 30 lakh, enhancing the annual administrative grant to Tamil Nadu Wakf Board to Rs. 1 crore, raising the compensatory Government grant to District Muslim women help centres from 1:1 to 1:2 per cent for helping destitute Muslim women and providing needed sandalwood billets to Nagore Dargah for its ‘Sandhanakoodu’ festival.

On this happy day, my prayers to God for love and peace to flourish in the world and for health and prosperity to grow. Once again, I extend my Ramzan good wishes to all my Muslim brothers and sisters.
D.O.Letter dated 25.06.2016 addressed by Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to Shri Narendra Modi, Hon’ble Prime Minister of India.

“This is to bring to your notice one more incident in which 5 fishermen in a motorised fishing boat, who set sail from Vilundamavadi fishing base of Nagapattinam District on 21.06.2016, have been apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy on 23.06.2016.

The boat drifted ashore to Valvettithurai, Sri Lanka, due to an engine snag following which the 5 fishermen were arrested and remanded by the Sri Lankan Government and their boat detained. This appears to be an inhumane act of arresting fishermen in distress at sea.

There are already 24 fishermen and 93 fishing boats of the fishermen of Tamil Nadu in Sri Lankan custody. The Sri Lankan strategy of not releasing the boats of our fishermen is causing great frustration amongst the fishermen of Tamil Nadu. I urge you to take this up with the highest authorities of the Sri Lankan Government and ensure the immediate release of the precariously berthed boats.

Denying our fishermen the right to peaceful fishing in their traditional waters of the Palk Bay to which they have a historical claim is causing considerable angst amongst the fisherfolk of Tamil Nadu. The Government of Tamil Nadu strongly reiterates the need to restore the traditional fishing rights of our fishermen in the Palk Bay by annulling the Indo-Sri Lankan agreements of 1974 and 1976. The constitutional validity of these agreements has been challenged on very valid legal grounds in the Hon’ble Supreme Court of India in W.P. (Civil) No.561/2008 by me and the Government of Tamil Nadu has subsequently impleaded itself.

I once again call for your personal intervention to secure the release of 29 fishermen and 94 fishing boats including the 5 fishermen in the motorised fishing boat apprehended on 23.06.2016 at the earliest. May I request you to instruct the Ministry of External Affairs to take urgent steps to secure the immediate release of fishermen and their boats from Sri Lankan custody at the earliest?”
Applications are invited for the presentation of Chithirai Tamil New Year Awards for the current year (2016). The presentation of the awards is part of the unparalleled measures initiated by the Hon’ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma to honour Tamil Scholars and writers who have contributed to Tamil and Tamil development, with innumerable awards and citations as well as welfare measures. In a historic achievement, the Hon’ble Chief Minister also restored Chithirai as the first month of the Tamil Calendar, and ordered its celebration as a Government function every year.

The application forms can be downloaded from the website of Tamil Development Department tamilvalarchithurai.com. Besides particulars about self, the applicants should send 2 photos of themselves, details of the books they have written and a copy of them each to the following address before 05.08.2016.

**The Address is:**

**Director Tamil Development,**
Directorate of Tamil Development,
Tamil Development Complex (1st floor),
Tamil Salai, Egmore,
Chennai – 600 008.

**Ph:** 044 28190412 , 044 28190413

**E-mail address:**

tamilvalarchithurai@gmail.com

The Awards are:

- Kapilar Virudhu (Presented to authors of Classical Poems)
- U.Ve.Sa. Virudhu (Publishers of stone inscriptions, archaeological works, palm leaves)
- Kambar Virudhu (Authors of a Critique on Kambar)
- Sollin Selvar Virudhu (Best Literary Orator)
- Umaru Pulavar Virudhu (For Savants of Tamil and Tamil Literature)
- G.U.Pope Virudhu (Translators of Tamil Literature into Foreign Languages)
- Ilango Adigal Virudhu (Epic writers adopting the style of Ilango Adigal/propagators of Silapathigaram)
- Amma Ilakiya Virudhu (women authors totally engaged in women literature)
- Tamizh Thaai Virudhu (for the best Tamil Institution).
D.O. Letter dated 03.07.2016 addressed by Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to Shri Narendra Modi, Hon’ble Prime Minister of India

“This is to bring to your notice yet another incident in which five fishermen of Tamil Nadu have been apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy. It is reported that 5 fishermen in a mechanised fishing boat who set sail for fishing from Rameswaram fishing base of Ramanathapuram District were apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy in the early hours of 03.07.2016 and taken to Kankesanthurai, Sri Lanka.

The repeated instances of abduction and apprehension of innocent Indian fishermen belonging to the coastal Districts of Tamil Nadu adjoining the Palk Bay, by the Sri Lankan Navy, while engaged in earning their meagre livelihood by fishing in their traditional fishing waters, is a matter of grave concern. I have repeatedly emphasized the importance of the Government of India undertaking a strong diplomatic offensive to uphold the rights and interests of Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu.

The unconstitutional ceding of the Indian territory of Katchatheevu Island by the agreements of 1974 and 1976 have been challenged by me on valid legal grounds in the Supreme Court of India. Despite my repeated appeals to the Government of India to ensure that the traditional fishing rights of the Tamil Nadu fishermen are upheld through a permanent solution to this sensitive livelihood issue, the situation at sea remains precarious with the unabated offensive actions of the Sri Lankan navy.

The Sri Lankan strategy of not releasing the fishing boats, the sole and only source of livelihood of the poor fishermen, is further aggravating the situation. At present 95 impounded fishing boats remain insecurely berthed in Sri Lanka and are sustaining severe damages.

I request that a calibrated set of actions is immediately initiated to ensure that our fishermen are allowed to pursue their livelihood with freedom in their traditional waters. I once again call for your immediate intervention to secure the immediate release of the 34 fishermen and 95 fishing boats currently in Sri Lankan custody, including the 5 fishermen and their mechanised fishing boat apprehended on 03.07.2016 without any delay”.

67 | Tamilarasu | July 2016
D.O.Letter dated 05.07.2016 addressed by Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to Shri Narendra Modi, Hon’ble Prime Minister of India

“I am constrained to write to you yet again to bring to your notice two more incidents of apprehension of innocent Indian fishermen belonging to Tamil Nadu by the Sri Lankan Navy. It is reported that 6 fishermen in their traditional fishing boat who set sail from Pamban fishing base in Ramanathapuram District have been apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy on 04.07.2016 and taken to Kalpitiya, Sri Lanka. In yet another incident, 2 boats from Nagapattinam District with 17 fishermen were apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy on 05.07.2016 and have been taken to Kankesanthurai, Sri Lanka.

The historic rights of our fishermen to fish in the traditional waters of the Palk Bay are being continuously denied and the root cause of the problem is the unconstitutional ceding of Katchatheevu to Sri Lanka under the Indo-Sri Lankan agreements of 1974 and 1976. I had in my personal capacity challenged the legal validity of the Indo-Sri Lankan agreements and the Government of Tamil Nadu subsequently impleaded itself in this case. It is the stand of the Government of Tamil Nadu that the International Maritime Boundary line (IMBL) with Sri Lanka cannot be treated as settled as the matter is sub-judice. I reiterate that only the retrieval of Katchatheevu will ensure the restoration of the peaceful pursuit of their traditional livelihood by our fishermen in the Palk Bay.

The long period of impoundment and disuse and the precarious berthing of the seized fishing craft render them unusable and greatly damage the only means of livelihood of our poor fishermen. I request the Government of India to impress upon the Sri Lankan Government to immediately release the 95 fishing boats of our fishermen already in custody.

I once again seek your urgent directions to the Ministry of External Affairs to initiate earnest efforts to find a permanent and pragmatic solution to this livelihood issue of our fishermen. I request you to direct the Ministry of External Affairs to secure the immediate release of our 57 fishermen and 98 fishing boats in Sri Lankan custody, including the 23 fishermen and their 3 fishing boats apprehended on 04.07.2016 and 05.07.2016.”
In connection with the 90th birth anniversary of Kaviyarsu Kannadasan, Hon’ble Minister for Fisheries Thiru. D. Jayakumar, Hon’ble Minister for Information and Publicity Thiru. Kadambur Raju, Hon’ble Minister for School Education, Sports and Youth Welfare Thiru. P. Benjamin, Hon’ble Chennai Mayor Thiru. Saidai Duraisamy, MLA for T.Nagar Constituency Thiru. Sathya, Thiru. R. Venkatesan IAS, Secretary, Department of Tamil Development and Information, Thiru. J. Kumaragurubaran IAS, Director, Department of Information and Public Relations and Thiru. S.P. Ezhilazhagan, Additional Director, Department of Information and Public Relations offered floral tributes on behalf of Tamil Nadu Government to a portrait of the poet placed near his statue in T.Nagar on 24.06.2016.

On behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government, Hon’ble Ministers paid their respects to ‘Ganniya Thendral’ Quaid-e-Millath on his 121st birth anniversary on 05.06.2016 by placing a ‘Malar Porvai’ on his grave at the Wallajah Big Mosque, Chennai.
The Hon’ble Minister for Industries Thiru. M.C. Sampath, Addl. Chief Secretary to Govt./CMD, TIDCO & Additional Chief Secretary to Govt., Industries Dept. & CMD, SIPCOT have inspected the ongoing works at Aerospace Park situated at SIPCOT Vallam-Vadagal Industrial Park on 08.07.2016.

This Aerospace Park is being established in SIPCOT Vallam-Vadagal Industrial Park which is spread on in an extent of 1,780 acres of land situated in between SIPCOT Oragadam Industrial Park & SIPCOT Sriperumbudur Industrial Park. This Aerospace Park is being established over extent of 245 acres at an estimated project cost of Rs.200 crore for the manufacture of aerospace components and maintenance & repair services for Avionics. The Park obtained Environmental Clearance from SEIAA in the month of May 2016. Further, as announced under Rule 110 by Hon’ble Chief Minister, an Advanced Computing and Design Centre will be provided in this park.

This park will attract Rs. 1,000 crore of investment in a period of 5 years and will generate direct employment opportunity to 10,000 persons & indirect employment opportunity to 25,000 persons.

The basic infrastructure facilities viz., roads, street lights, storm water drain, etc., at an estimated cost of Rs.50 crore in this park will be commenced soon.

Hon’ble Minister also reviewed the work done for the creation of a Truck Terminal built at a cost of Rs.10.8 crore at the Vallam-Vadagal Industrial Park. The Terminal has been provided with the facilities of Truck parking area, Canteen, Dormitory, Toilet and Security facilities.
The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has issued orders for the extension of the insurance scheme to Government employees for another 4 years, that is up to 30.06.2020.

The insurance cover given by the United India Insurance Company for Government employees from 2012 ended on 30.06.2016. The Hon’ble Chief Minister issued orders for the extension of the insurance with some additional benefits for 4 more years from 01.07.2016. Accordingly, open tenders were floated and the committee appointed for the selection of the tender, chose the United India Insurance Company from among the competitors. Based on the choice, orders have been issued for the implementation of the insurance cover scheme to the company.

The new scheme provides more benefits than the current one. The insurance cover continues to be Rs. 4 lakh for the family of the Government employees for four years but assistance for treatment of cancer and some surgeries including organ transplantation has been enhanced and fixed at Rs. 7.50 lakh.

Differently-abled persons with 40 per cent disability and are wholly dependent on Government employees can benefit under the new scheme without any age restriction.

Government employees can derive benefits under the new scheme for sanctioned treatments carried out in emergencies in accident cases in unlisted hospitals too.

Government employees, personnel in local bodies, Government public sector corporations, statutory boards and in State Government universities and their families are covered by this insurance scheme.

While the beneficiaries have to pay a monthly premium of Rs.180/- for the insurance cover, the Government will pay as its share Rs.17.90 crore annually.

The scheme benefits 10.22 lakh Government employees and their families.
The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa contacted and conveyed on 02.07.2016 her appreciation to the Greater Chennai Police Commissioner Thiru. T.K.Rajendran for the speedy arrest of the accused in the case of Selvi Swathi’s murder by an unidentified person at the Nungambakkam Railway station on 24.06.2016.

Selvi Swathi, daughter of Thiru. Santhana Gopalakrishnan was slashed in the face and neck and murdered by an unidentified person at the Nungambakkam railway station at around 6.40 a.m. while she was waiting to board a suburban train on 24.06.2016. The railway police registered a case which was handed over to the Greater Chennai police on 27.06.2016 and investigation was taken up.

Special teams were formed for the investigation. During the investigation, the suspect was found to have stayed at the A.S. Mansion, Sourashtra Nagar, Choolaimedu on the basis of the footage retrieved from the closed circuit TV camera fixed there and on the basis of records kept there. The suspect had absconded after Selvi Swathi’s murder.

The suspect was found to have hailed from T. Meenakshipuram near Shenkottai, Tirunelveli District. The special team police contacted the Tirunelveli District Police on the night of 01.07.2016 and arranged for the despatch of a special Police team to find out the address of the suspect, Ramkumar. When the Tirunelveli Police tried to search Ramkumar’s house, he tried to commit suicide by inflicting injuries on himself. He was treated at the Tenkasi Government Hospital and later removed and admitted as an inpatient in the Tirunelveli medical college hospital.

Preliminary enquiries by the Police revealed that Ramkumar had murdered Selvi Swathi.

The Hon’ble Chief Minister conveyed her appreciation to Thiru. T.K.Rajendran on 02.07.2016 for the early cracking down of the case, in the absence of direct witnesses, through scientific investigation and technological assistance and speedy arrest of the accused. Tamil Nadu Police is always in the forefront in the detection of crimes speedily and arraigning the culprits before the court of law. The Police have once again proved its premier status by solving this case which posed a great challenge.
D.O. letter dated 01.07.2016 addressed by Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to Shri Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

“I wish to bring to your urgent notice an important issue relating to the action of the Irrigation Department of the Government of Andhra Pradesh increasing the height of the check dam from the existing height of 5ft. to 12 ft. across Palar river at Perumballam village, in Chithoor District near the Andhra Pradesh-Tamil Nadu border. As you are aware, Palar is an inter-State river and this unilateral action of the authorities in Andhra Pradesh has caused great alarm and apprehension in Tamil Nadu.

You will appreciate that Palar is a River which is already deficit in water supply. This river supports an ayacut of about 4.20 lakh acres in Tamil Nadu. Farmers in the Northern Districts of Tamil Nadu solely depend upon this River for irrigation. The Palar River with its sand strata is the only major source for drinking water supply to several towns and villages in the Northern Districts of Tamil Nadu. Further, water from Palar is also supplied to the Atomic Power Station at Kalpakkam.

I wish to point out that the Palar River which is an inter-State River is one of the Rivers mentioned in Schedule “A” annexed to the Madras-Mysore Agreement, 1892. As per Clause II of the Agreement, the upstream State should not, without the previous consent of the downstream State of Tamil Nadu, build any anaicut or any structure to obstruct, divert or store the waters of the River across any part of the fifteen main rivers, named in Schedule “A” appended to the Agreement.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has already filed a Suit on 10.02.2006 (OS No.2 of 2006) in the Supreme Court seeking to restrain the Government of Andhra Pradesh from constructing any structure / works across the River Palar or at any other place through which the River Palar and its tributaries flow or impounding / diverting water therein in violation of the Madras-Mysore Agreement, 1892.

In the circumstances, the Government of Tamil Nadu lodges its strong protest against the action of the Government of Andhra Pradesh in having unilaterally increased the height of the existing check dam at Perumballam village, Kuppam Revenue Mandal in Chithoor District, in violation of the Madras-Mysore Agreement, 1892.

I also request you to immediately intervene in the matter and issue instructions to the officials concerned to take urgent steps to reduce the level of the check dam to its original level and not to store water additionally and ensure the natural flows to Tamil Nadu.

I look forward to your immediate positive response in the matter”.

July 2016
Hon’ble Speaker,

I was extremely sad to hear the demise of Thiru. Munusamy, Head Constable in the Hosur Police station, Krishnagiri District, of stab injuries sustained while trying to apprehend, with a team of Police personnel, suspected chain snatchers near Bharathidasan Nagar, Hosur on 15.06.2016.

The team, consisting of Sub Inspector Thiru. Kannan, Head constables Thiru. Munusamy and Thiru. Dhanapal of Hosur Town Police station, Sub Inspector Thiru. Nagaraj of SIPCOT Police station, was searching for the culprits in connection with a chain snatching incident at U. Singaripalli, Krishnagiri District.

Extremely distressed at this tragic event, I conveyed my deep condolences to the family of Thiru. Munusamy and directed the grant of a financial assistance of Rs.5 lakh.

Though I had sanctioned Rs. 5 lakh as per the existing Government rules, it is my firm view that this relief is not sufficient to the family of Thiru. Munusamy who had died while trying to apprehend dacoits. Hence, I have directed a relief of Rs. 1 crore to the bereaved family, taking into account Thiru. Munusamy’s great sacrifice.

I have also directed the Chief Secretary to Government to amend the present Government order and issue a new one enhancing the solatium to be given in the event of death or sustaining severe injuries in such heroic deeds.

I also wish to inform that Tamil Nadu Government will bear the higher education cost of the deceased Thiru. Munusamy’s daughter Selvi. Rakshana.
The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Selvi J Jayalalithaa sent on 04.07.2016 a greeting letter with a bouquet to His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu Dr. K. Rosaiah in connection with his 83rd birthday.

The letter read: “On the joyous occasion of your 83rd birthday, I have great pleasure in conveying my warm felicitations and best wishes to you.

I pray that the Almighty grant you many more years of good health and peace to serve the Nation and the people as you have always been doing”.

The Hon’ble Chief Minister also shared her happiness and conveyed her greetings over phone to the Governor.

His Excellency, the Governor thanked the Hon’ble Chief Minister for conveying the birthday greetings.

On the orders of the Hon’be Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, the Hon’ble Minister for Social Welfare and Nutritious Noon Meal Programme Dr. V. Saroja conducted surprise inspections on 24.06.2016 at the nutritious meal centre in the Chennai Corporation middle school, Triplicane, the one at the Corporation primary school, Royapettah and the anganwadi centre in the school complex.

The Hon’ble Minister tasted the food prepared and shared her impressions about it with the staff there. Workers in the centres were instructed on the necessity of maintaining cleanliness. The Hon’ble Minister learnt from the teachers about the working of the scheme, went through the health cards of children and advised on maintaining the cards properly. The Hon’ble Minister inspected the food served to children and obtained their views on the quality and taste of the food.

The Hon’ble Minister also advised the meals centres officials to make periodical surprise visits for the effective implementation of the scheme.
The Tamil Nadu Government issued an order on 18.06.2016, listing the 500 retail TASMAC shops that would be closed down in the State, pursuant to the announcement and orders issued by the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Selvi J Jayalalithaa.

The closing down of shops region wise is:
- Chennai (N) – 2, Chennai (S) – 2, Chennai (C) – 3, Kancheepuram (N) – 13, Kancheepuram (S) – 3, Tiruwallur (E) – 16, Tiruwallur (W) – 19, totally 58 shops in Chennai Region.
- Coimbatore (N) – 1, Coimbatore (S) – 4, Tiruppur – 8, Erode – 16, The Nilgiris – 31, totally 60 shops in Coimbatore region.
- Salem – 0, Dharmapuri – 1, Krishnagiri – 6, Namakkal – 11, Vellore -8, Tiruvannamalai – 18, Arakkonam – 4, Totally 48 shops in Salem Region.

In identifying the shops to be closed down the recommendations of the District Collectors, Senior Regional Managers, TASMAC were taken into consideration. The G.O. stated that a separate order would be issued for the redeployment of employees working in these shops which are to be closed.

While closing the shops, the stocks had to be transferred back to the godowns. Properties other than the stock such as furniture, cash chest box, all records relating to the shops, billing machines, bottle coolers and other fixed assets etc., were to be handed over to the concerned District Manager. This had to be verified with the Asset Registers in the DM Office.

In some of the retail shops, advance rental had been paid to the building owner. In such cases, the respective District Manager had to adjust/calculate the rental advance from the building owner immediately as per the rules with proper acknowledgement.

While closing the shops, a certificate from the Internal Auditor should be obtained after the 100% physical verification of the retail shops being closed.

All the officers were directed to adhere to the above instructions scrupulously without any deviation. They should send a detailed report in complete shape on the action taken based on the above instructions.

The District Collectors were requested to ensure that the above instructions were implemented without any deviation.
Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa was greeted by Manitha Neya Janaanayaga Katchi General Secretary and MLA Thiru.M. Thamimun Ansari and other office bearers of the party at the Secretariat on 30.06.2016, on her assumption of office as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for the sixth time.

Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Selvi J Jayalalithaa presented at the Secretariat on 30.06.2016 a cheque for Rs. 1 crore to Tmt. Munilakshmi, widow of Head Constable Thiru. Munusamy of Hosur Town Police Station, Krishnagiri District who had died of stab injuries sustained while trying to apprehend culprits in a chain snatching incident. The solatium was drawn from the Chief Minister’s Public Relief Fund.

Immediately on hearing of the tragic incident, the Hon’ble Chief Minister conveyed her deep condolences and sympathy to the bereaved
family and directed a grant of Rs. 5 lakh to the family on 16.06.2016.

However, the Hon’ble Chief Minister felt the Rs.5 lakh relief was inadequate and announced in the Legislative Assembly on 20.06.2016, taking into account Thiru. Munusamy’s great sacrifice, that a relief of Rs. 1 crore would be given to his family and the higher education expenses of his daughter Selvi Rakshna would be borne by the Tamil Nadu Government.

Accordingly, the Hon’ble Chief Minister presented a cheque for Rs. 1 crore to Tmt. Munilakshmi and the Government order that Government will bear the medical education expenses fully, of Selvi Rakshna who has been admitted into Madurai Medical college for the MBBS degree course.

Family members of the deceased Thiru. Munusamy conveyed their heartfelt gratitude to the Hon’ble Chief Minister.

In connection with a chain snatching incident at U. Singiripalli, Krishnagiri District on 15.06.2016, a team of Police Personnel comprising Sub-Inspector Thiru. Kannan, Head constables Thiru. Munusamy, Thiru. Dhanapal of Hosur Town Police Station and Sub-Inspector Thiru. Nagaraj of SIPCOT Police Station tried to apprehend some persons, suspected to be connected with that incident. The suspected culprits attacked with knives. Thiru. Munusamy sustained severe injuries and died despite hospital treatment.

---

‘Leader of Opposition should explain’

Reply of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa in the Legislative Assembly on 20.06.2016 when the leader of opposition Thiru. M.K.Stalin spoke about Katchatheevu issue (English Translation)

In his speech, the Leader of the Opposition Thiru. Stalin said that the Central Government did not consult the Tamil Nadu Government. Thiru.M.Karunanidhi kept a studied silence without doing anything to prevent Katchatheevu from being handed over and performed a closure ceremony to the issue by passing a routine resolution in the Assembly after Katchatheevu was ceded.

Speaking on that resolution, Thiru. Karunanidhi said: “A sudden announcement was made on June 27. No hint was given to this Government about the announcement. After seeing it in the newspapers, I hastily summoned all party leaders telegraphically...”

But a resolution on Katchatheevu at the consultative meeting held on 15.04.2013 under the auspices of TESO and presided over by Thiru. Karunanidhi, mentions:

“When the agreement was endorsed in 1974, at the initial stage itself, the DMK Government opposed it strongly. When the agreement was signed overruling the opposition, the DMK Government insisted that Tamil Nadu fishermen should at least have the right to fish in Katchatheevu area and dry their fishing nets there and those clauses were included”. The leader of the opposition should explain which one of these two statements is true.
Letter dated 17.06.2016 addressed by Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to Ms. Hillary Rodham Clinton, Former Secretary of State of the United States of America, New York.

“Kindly accept my heartiest congratulations on clinching the nomination as the Democratic Party’s candidate for the election of the President of the United States of America. It is a matter of immense pride and satisfaction for all the women in the world and in particular, women in democratic electoral politics that you have become the first woman to be a candidate of one of the two major political parties in the United States for the Presidency. In creating history, you have given voice and hope to the cause of women empowerment across the world.

I have fond memories of your visit to Chennai on 20\textsuperscript{th} July, 2011, as Secretary of State, and our warm and cordial interaction on the occasion on a range of issues of mutual interest. My best wishes are with you for the further stages of the campaign and for the Presidential Election in November this year. I have no doubt that as your political career peaks, you will continue to be a role model for women across the world”. ■

On the orders of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, on behalf of Tamil Nadu Government, Hon’ble Ministers and Government high officials offered, floral tribute and paid their respects to a portrait of Thiru. Rettimalai Sreenivasan placed near his statue in connection with his birth anniversary on 07.07.2016.
Hon’ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr. C.Vijayabhashkar has urged health officials to implement the Amma Arogya Thittam with a sense of dedication and get a good name to the Government as the scheme was an unique one in the country.

Releasing a Handbook on the scheme at a State-level review meeting of District-level officers in charge of implementation of the scheme at the Secretariat on 15.06.2016, the Minister said generally only sick people went to hospital. This scheme would alter that trend and facilitate healthy people to go there for a whole body check up without getting charged once in a year. Persons above 30 years of age are eligible. Early detection of disease, if any, through this check up would not only minimise the difficulties for the patient but unnecessary expenditure too would be cut down to a great extent.

The Hon’ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma announced the scheme on 25.08.2015 in the Legislative Assembly and it was inaugurated on 01.03.2016. In the first phase 400 upgraded and Taluk Primary Health Centres will implement the scheme through holding health camps every Thursday and Friday. Twenty-five types of physical and blood tests will be performed. Persons detected to have diabetes and blood pressure will be given medicines immediately for a month and then every month till required. Those requiring intensive treatment and surgery will be referred to District hospitals and medical college hospitals for admission. Treatment under the Chief Minister’s Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme will also be made available. Under the Amma Arogya Thittam, 1,15,069 persons have benefited so far. Till now, Rs.2.43 crore has been allotted for the scheme.
There is none to be compared to Hon’ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma in bringing glory to Thiruvalluvar, Hon’ble Minister for information and publicity Thiru. Kadambur Raju said, He was participating in a meeting held on Marina beach, Chennai on 22.06.2016 in connection with the journey of Thiruvalluvar statue from Kanniyakumari for installation on the banks of Ganges.

The Hon’ble Minister said Tamil scholars were honoured every year with awards in the name of Thiruvalluvar; a resolution was passed in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly demanding National Literature status to Thirukkural; and a university was started in the name of Thiruvalluvar – all these in the reign of Hon’ble Chief Minister Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

Further, the Hon’ble Chief Minister allotted Rs. 98 lakh for the translation of Thirukkural into Mandarin, Arabic and Korean languages, Rs.72 lakh for translation of the songs of Bharathiyar and Bharathidasan and Rs.15 lakh for translation of Aathichoodi (Avvaiyar) into Mandarin and Arabic languages and thus made the world aware of the glory of Tamil language.

Like a mother understanding the hunger of her child and feeding it, the only incomparable leader of the Tamil race, Hon’ble Chief Minister Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma was working round-the-clock for designing schemes for Tamil development and for the development of Tamil Nadu and was implementing them, he said.

Uttarakhand-born Thiru. Tharun Vijay MP has a special affinity for Thiruvalluvar and Thirukkural and is demonstrating that Thirukkural has the power to unite all the people in India, the Hon’ble Minister stated. The effort of Thiru. Tharun Vijay to take the statue from Kanniyakumari to Haridwar and install it on the banks of Ganges would help all Indians to understand the glory of Thiruvalluvar, the greatness of Thirukkural and the fame of Tamils. The Hon’ble Minister said he joined the Hon’ble Chief Minister in wishing the endeavour success.

His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu presided. Union Minister of State for Road Transport and Shipping Thiru. Pon. Radhakrishnan, Tamil Nadu Hon’ble Minister for HR & CE Thiru. Sevur S.Ramachandran, former Governor of West Bengal Thiru. Gopalakrishna Gandhi, Swami Vimurthanandaji Maharaj, Members of Parliamentary standing committee, general public, special guests and students participated.