CHAPTER IV

WOMEN LEGISLATORS IN THE MADRAS

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

(1957 - 62)
The second general election for the Madras Legislative Assembly was held in April 1957. In the election 766 men and 24 women had contested for 205 seats. Among them 193 men and 12 women were elected to the Assembly. Out of the 12 women elected 11 women belonged to the Indian National Congress and one belonged to the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. Mrs. T.N. Anandanayaki, Mrs. C. Kolandaiammal, Mrs. P.K.R. Lakshmi Kantham, Mrs. Hemalatha Devi, Mrs. Kamalambujammal, Mrs. Lourdhammal Simon, Mrs. A.S. Ponnammal, Mrs. D. Raghupathi Devi, Mrs. Rajathi Kunchithapatham, Mrs. Savithiri Shanmugam, Mrs. T.S. Soundaram Ramachandran were belonged to the Congress Party. Mrs. Sathyavani Muthu belonged to Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, Mrs. A. Suares was nominated to the Legislative Assembly on behalf of Anglo-Indians. Altogether there were 13 women members in the Madras Legislative Assembly.

Mrs. T.N. Anandanayaki was elected for the first time to the Madras Legislative Assembly from the Basin Bridge constituency on the Congress ticket. At that time the total number of voters of the constituency were 85,667 and the total votes polled were 36,238 and out of that she won with 49,429 votes against her three male rivals. Mrs. T.N. Anandanayaki who was born in 1932, received her education at Nehru Board High

School at Papanasam in Tanjore district and Bentinck High School, Vepery, Madras. She had her graduate at Queen Mary's College and studied law at the Madras Law College. She had been a member of the Congress Party from 1946. She functioned in various capacities in the congress organisation. She was the President of the Madras District Youth Congress. She was also the President of the Women's Congress of the Purasawalkam branch. She worked as the Youth Convener in the Tamil Nadu Congress. She was also a Councillor in the Corporation of Madras and she was the Chairman of the Education Committee of Madras. She was a member of the Senate of the Madras University and also member of the Local Library Authority. She had published articles in Tamil and English weeklies such as "Parasakthi and Prasanta Vikatan". Her hobbies were cultural activities and reading political books.

Mrs. Hemalatha Devi was elected for the first time to the Madras Legislative Assembly from Pennagaram constituency in Salem. She was born in 1922. She was a congress worker for 18 years and a member of Salem District Board from 1949 to 1953. She was the Vice-President of the Women's Association of Madras and a member of the Standing Committee of All India Women's Conference, Tamil Nadu Branch. She was also a well known social worker of Tamil Nadu.

2. Who's Who, Published by Madras Legislative Assembly Department, dated 20th May, 1957, P.78.
Mrs. Kamalambujammal was elected for the first time to the Madras Legislative Assembly from Kumudipoondi constituency. She was born in 1919. She was a member of the Chingleput District Board, District Congress Committee and many Social Welfare Projects and Implementing Committee. She was the President of District Women Congress Committee.

Mrs. C. Kolandaiammal was elected to the Madras Legislative Assembly from Sulur constituency for the first time. She was born in 1924. She was a Pulavar title holder and a renowned congress worker. She was a member of Samarasa Sanmarga Sangam, Siva Sithantham and engaged in harijan uplift work, women and child welfare. She was a lecturer in Tamil and the author of Aram Valartha Mangaiyar, Senthamizh Semmalar and Dravida Mani Malai.

Mrs. P.K.R. Lakshmi Kantham was elected for the first time to the Madras Legislative Assembly from Madurai east constituency. She was born in 1920. She participated in boycott of foreign cloth in 1931 and took part in political meetings and conference of the Congress Party. She worked for the Harijan Uplift from 1933 to 1940. She was the Correspondent and Secretary of Sourashtra Girls High School from 1938 to 1947. She worked as a Councillor, Madurai Municipality in 1952 and engaged in social and religious activities.

Mrs. Lourdhammal Simon was elected for the first time to the Madras Legislative Assembly from Kolassal constituency in Kanyakumari district on the Congress ticket. She was born on 26th September 1912. She was educated at St. Joseph's Elementary
School in Nagerkoil. She was the member of the YWCA Committee, Nagerkoil, Women Association and the Local High School Committee. She was elected to the Madras Legislative Council in 1932 from Guntur constituency on the Congress ticket. She was interested in painting, needle work and art. She had been taking active part in the Welfare of Women and Children. She was a leading figure in the Rotary Movement. The total number of voters of this constituency were 78,859 and the total votes polled were 34,508. She won with 26,312 votes against her male rivals. She was appointed Minister for Local Administration. She introduced many bills regarding the local administration in the Madras State.

Mrs. A.S. Ponnammal was elected for the first time to the Madras Legislative Assembly from Nilakottai constituency. She was born on 25th September 1931. She was educated at Nandanur High School, Chidambaram. She was married and had only one daughter. She took an active part in the Harijan Uplift Movement and was keen on Women Welfare Organisations. She was the sub-editor of the 'Samathuva Murasu' a monthly Magazine. She was a good writer and had written many articles regarding downtrodden women, removal of untouchability etc. She was the founder of the Kasturba Girls Hostel in Madras. She was the member of the District Harijan Welfare Committee and had served in the District

Mrs. D. Raghupathi Devi was elected for the first time to the Madras Legislative Assembly from Mettupalayam constituency. She was born in 1929. She was truly interested in women and children welfare activities and social work.

Mrs. Rajathi Kunchithapatham was elected for the first time to the Madras Legislative Assembly from Tinnevelly general constituency. She was born on 10th August 1922. She was educated at St. Ignatius Convent High School in Palayam Kottah. She took her degree from the Sarah Tucker College for girls in Palayam Kottah and in M.D.T. Hindu College in Tinnevelly. She was a member of the Congress Party from 1948 onwards. She was a member of the All India Congress Working Committee (AICWC) from 1952 to 55. She was the President of the Taluk Congress Committee and the Women Congress Canvasser for the Tinnevelly. She conducted the Congress Party political conference in 1955 and worked as a Committee member of the Youth Congress in Madras. She opened 10 maternity and child welfare centres, and grama sevikas centres in Tinnevelly. She started a society for the upliftment of women. After 1957 election, she did not contest the election again and remained a social worker.

Mrs. Savithiri Shanmugam was elected for the first time to the Madras Legislative Assembly from Coimbatore constituency. She was born in 1913. She was the Vice-Chairman of Coimbatore Municipality, Guild of Service Coimbatore, Seva Nilayam, Coimbatore.

Dr. Mrs. Sathyavani Muthu was elected for the first time to the Madras Legislative Assembly from Perambur constituency on Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam ticket. She was the only daughter of Mr. K. Nagarnather, born at Chingleput on 15th February 1923. She had her education at St. Teresa's Convent Eranakulam (Kerala) and Presidency High School Egmore, Madras. Her father, with his progressive outlook, helped her in acquiring world knowledge. He took her to the meetings and discussed with her about the social and political conditions in general even at the age of 12. It was the influence of her father which laid a foundation for her future public career. A kind-hearted and a generous person, she spoke so outwardly and impressed any one who conversed with her by her courage and bold outlook. Mrs. Sathyavani's father selected her partner also in the same path, a person having an ideal policy in life. She was married to Mr. Muthu on 17th January 1943, which was a self-respect marriage. She said that, she does not believe in any religion except Buddhism. She said that Buddha had preached nothing about God, but taught how a man should lead a life. She was against Varnashrama Dharma and

9. Bio-Data of Dr. Mrs. Sathyavani Muthu by Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Department.
Caste distinctions. She practised Homoeopathic Medicine as a Registered practitioner up to 1957. She served as a social and political worker and was the member of self-respect movement launched by Mr. E. V. Ramasamy. When Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam was formed as a political party by Mr. C. N. Annadurai in 1944, she joined in it as an Executive Member. She was also a member of Scheduled Caste Federation under leadership of Dr. Ambedkhar from 1943 to 1949 and worked as the President of the Women's wing of Scheduled Castes Federation of Madras State. She served as a founder member of DMK from 1949 to 1974 and was its Propaganda Secretary from 1959 to 1967.

While serving in DMK, Mrs. Sathyavani Muthu was imprisoned 9 times, two of those imprisonments were undergone while, she was on the family way in 1953 and 1962 and other two with baby in June 1963 and in January 1964 in connection with Anti-Hindi Agitation. Mrs. Sathyavani Muthu agreed that the position of the Harijans had considerably improved for which, she expressed her gratitude to the Governments that helped and favoured the Harijan Community. She was a member in Indian Rationalist Association in 1945 and President of all India Rationalist Association from 1975 to 1976. She was also a founder, patron and life member of i) Human Rights Society from 1969, ii) Anna Anadhai Illam (Orphans

When DMK came to power in 1967 under Mr. C.N. Annadurai, she was given the portfolio of Harijan Welfare. She had travelled to different places including Mauritius, Madagaskar, Dar-es-Salem, Nairobi, Geneva, Rome, Amsterdam, Frankfurt and Egypt. She had gained knowledge about diverse culture and people. Having worked personally for the people of the Harijan Community, she felt that harijans were deprived of their human rights and what the depressed class people need was not priorities, but their rights and the human rights alone.

Mrs. A. Suases was nominated to the Madras Legislative Assembly for the first time as a representative of Anglo-Indians. She was the member of the Senate of Madras University, the State Medical Advisory Board and the State Parents-Teachers Association. She was the President of Madras State Council of the All India Anglo-Indian Association and the retired inspectress of Anglo-Indian Schools.

Mrs. T. S. Soundaram Ramachandran was elected for the second time to the Madras Legislative Assembly from Vedasandur constituency.

The third Madras Legislative Assembly was headed by

11. Op.Cit., Bio-Data of Dr. Sathyavani Muthu by Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Department, P. 95.
12. Ibid., P. 96.
Mr. K. Kamaraj as the Chief Minister. Mr. K. Kamaraj appointed Mrs. Lourdhammal Simon as the Minister for Local Administration. Under Mr. K. Kamaraj's leadership, Mrs. Lourdhammal Simon introduced many changes in the Local Administration which were very helpful to the people of the Madras Presidency. In the third Madras Legislative Assembly which lasted for 5 years from 1937-62 the 13, women members played a significant role in the Assembly. They took very active part in the Assembly discussions with male members. Like Mrs. Begum Sultan Mir Amiruddin in the First Madras Legislative Assembly which lasted for 5 years from 1946-51, Mrs. Sathyavani Muthu of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam played a vital role in the third Madras Legislative Assembly. As a member of the DMK party which opposed Congress in all aspects, Mrs. Sathyavani Muthu sharply criticised the Government measures in many times. The discussion in third Assembly was very interesting.

**WOMEN LEGISLATORS AND ECONOMIC REFORMS**

During the general discussion on the Budget for the year 1957-58, on 1st July 1957 Mrs. A.S. Ponnammal demanded the Government to distribute uncultivated and promboke lands to the landless harijans so as to improve economic conditions for them.

Mrs. T.S. Soundaram Ramachandran stressed the need to follow socialist principles for the development of Tamil Nadu. She also stressed the need for the legislators and Government officials to

improve the people directly for the successful implementation of the Government schemes. She demanded the Government to take urgent steps to dig drinking water wells for the harijans. She requested the Government to supply necessary seeds and loan facilities for the land agricultural tenants, so as to enable them to produce more grains. She further requested the Government to take personal attention on livestock institution, small scale industries and minor irrigation projects.

Mrs. Kamalambujammal expressed her views in supporting the Budget for the year 1957-58. She suggested to give chemical manures directly to the agriculturists instead of paying them money loans. She demanded the Government to bring more villages under electrification. She suggested that more funds should be allotted to small scale industries. She requested the Minister to make arrangements for the small weavers to get sufficient yarn in time. She suggested that the medical graduates should serve at least for 3 years in rural areas.

Dr. Mrs. Sathyavani Muthu of DMK criticised the Budget as a deficit one. She cautioned the Government that the deficit budget would lead to national disaster. She brought to the notice of the House about the audit report regarding agriculture department. She pointed out that fraud, misappropriation, embezzlement, forgery, irregularities and many more economic evils were found in the agriculture department. So, she expressed her sorrowful

feelings and said that the funds allotted to the developmental schemes were to fill the pockets of politicians and government servants.

During the same discussion, Mrs. T.N. Anandanayaki of Congress welcomed the deficit budget and expressed that "a deficit budget at home was a vice, deficit budget for States was virtue." She suggested that the westward rivers should be converted into the eastward to improve the irrigation facilities for Tamil Nadu. She suggested to start a mill colony in Madras under the control of the Madras Corporation. She urged the Government to take urgent steps to electrify all the villages in Tamil Nadu.

Mrs. Rajathi Kunchithapatham of the Congress Party also requested to bring the properties of muds and other religious institution under its control. She suggested that the lands and houses own by the muds should be given to the landless agriculturists and the houseless people respectively.

During the debate on General Sales Tax and Other Taxes and Duties Administration on 8th July 1957, Mrs. Kamalambujammal requested the Government to exempt "Karunai Kilangu" from sales tax. She suggested to extract more from horse race and abolish all together boxing.

While taking part in the discussion on Community Development Projects on 13th July 1957, Mrs. T.S. Soundaram Ramachandran urged the need for allied industries such as cattle farming, weaving etc. to the agriculturists, as to improve the income. She requested the Government to pay more attention to small scale industries to improve the rural economy.

Mrs. A.S. Ponnammal took active part in the debate on Agriculture and Fisheries on 19th July 1957 and demanded the Government to bring more lands under cultivation and to pay more attention on irrigation projects and to pay adequate loans to the agriculturists on subsidy.

During the demand for Industries and Cinchona etc. on 23rd July 1957, Mrs. T.N. Anandanayaki welcomed the demand on the following grounds. In the first place, it was a demand for heavy industries involving 385 lakh rupees and secondly, it was a demand for 78 lakh rupees for small scale industries. According to the demand, a caustic soda factory at Tinnevelly, two paper industries one at Mettur and other at Papanasam in Tanjore were to be started. It also provided for a Coir and Coconut Oil Industry to be established at Pattukottai in Tanjore. She also suggested to start the Industrial Housing Department for the purpose of constructing houses for the labourers.

Mrs. T.N. Anandanayaki, who took part in the debate on the

Madras Plantation Agricultural Income Tax Amendment Bill on 23rd July 1957, expressed her concern about the tendency of some of the income tax officials. She requested the Government to protect the planters from the teasing. She also requested the Government to instruct the income tax officials to be liberal in collecting the tax from the planters.

On the demand for Money Lenders Bill on 25th July 1957, Mrs. T. N. Anandanayaki severely criticised the bill as it would affect seriously the middle class people in getting loans from private money lenders. She also suggested that banks should come forward to give loans to the weaker sections. She also objected to the appointment of inspectors to supervise the money-lenders business.

While taking part in the general discussion on the Budget for the year 1958-59, on 4th March 1958, Mrs. Kamalambujammal pointed out that there was a deficit of 2 lakh tons in the production of food grains. She urged the Government to take urgent steps to provide sufficient manures and pesticides to the agriculturists in time, so as to enable them to start a farm work in time and produce more. In order to dispose of the large stock of the unsold handloom cloth. She requested that every one in the Assembly should come forward to wear handloom cloths only. She also requested the members of the House to encourage others in


their respective constituencies to wear handloom cloths and there by to save the starving handloom weavers. She also suggested that the Block Development officials should inform the agriculturists in their block about the Government concessions and activities in the field of agriculture. She demanded that diesel should be exempted from tax, so as to enable the agriculturists. She demanded the Government to pay more and urgent attention on minor irrigation projects to boost the agricultural production in the State. Mr.C.Subramaniam, the Finance Minister in his reply stated that diesel would be exempted from sales tax in order to save the agriculturists.

Mrs. Hemalatha Devi demanded the Government to include the Panchapati reservoir project in Dharmapuri taluk in Salem district in the Second Five Year Plan and there by to speed up the construction of the reservoir. She also requested the Government to electrify Pennagaram firka which was one of the back firkas in Salem district. During the general discussion on the Budget Mrs.P.K.R.Lakshmi Kantham welcomed it wholeheartedly. But, She demanded the Government to take urgent steps to solve the problems of the starving weavers and mill workers. She requested the Government to be lenient in dealing with the imposition of taxes on common people. She also

requested the Government to boost the agriculturists to improve their production.

In the same discussion, Mrs. Rajathi Kunchithapatham pointed out that "Indian agriculture was a gamble in ruins". So, she urged the Government to take adequate steps to improve agriculture in the State. She requested the Government to include Manoorkulam project in Tinnevelly district in the list of minor irrigation works to be executed during the year 1958-59.

Mrs. A.S. Ponnammal wholeheartedly welcomed the budget. She was happy that the budget was prepared in such a way that all the people in Madras State would welcome it. She welcomed the suggestion that the agriculturists whose yearly income was Rs.3,000/- and above were to be taxed. She also welcomed the limited meals system prevalent in the State. Taking with consideration of the existing shortage of food grains, she requested the Government to increase the production of fertilizers and provided them intime to the agriculturists. She also demanded the Government to provide pesticides to the agriculturists half on subsidy and the other half by loan instead of cash. She also urged the Government to take urgent steps to solve the drinking water problem at her Nilakottai constituency. The Hindu welcomed the points raised by Mrs. A.S. Ponnammal and pleaded the Government for making arrangements to distribute more fertilizers and pesticides to

agriculturists and to improve the irrigations and protected water supply facilities in Nilakottai constituency.

Mrs. T.N. Anandanayaki, while taking part in general discussion on the Budget, demanded the Government to introduce intensive cultivation in the field of agriculture following the Japanese system. She pointed out that the agricultural production in Madras State per acre were 1,255 pounds whereas in Japan it was 2,550. She went to the extent of demanding the Government to grant subsidy to those agriculturists who followed intensive cultivation adopting the Japanese system. She stressed that the Aluminium industry should be started immediately in Salem. She also welcomed the suggestion of the Government to start a silk industry at Hosur.

During the debate on the Madras General Sales Tax Bill on 12th March 1958, Mrs. T.N. Anandanayaki welcomed the report of Dr. Loganathan Committee on general sales tax. She appreciated the Government for accepting the report and introducing single point taxation for many items. She requested the Government not to exempt the co-operative societies from sales tax and grant them subsidy as directed by Dr. Loganathan Committee. She also suggested that an opportunity of being heard must be given to the parties concerned before, the Board of Revenue and also to increase the period to submit the revision petition to the Board.

of Revenue from 50 days to 90 days. She demanded that milk and other milk products should be exempted from sales tax. She also urged the Government to appoint law degree holders as commercial tax officers. While taking part in the same discussion, Mrs. Kamalambujammal urged the Government to exempt all vegetables and roots from sales tax. She also urged the Government to exempt all kinds of fruits from sales tax. The Finance Mr. C. Subramaniam accepted the points of Mrs. T. N. Anandanayaki and said that milk and milk powder and other milk products would be exempted from the sales tax.

During the debate on Capital Outlay on Irrigation on 26th March 1958, Mrs. T. S. Soundaram Ramachandran requested the Government to construct the Kudaganaru reservoir so as to irrigate more areas including Palayam firka in Vedasandur constituency. She also requested the Government to complete the work of Manjalar project as early as possible. She also suggested to construct the Sathaiyar project and to regulate Mavathanathu water falls, so as to irrigate the surrounding areas. She suggested that the Government should be to pay more attention on minor irrigation projects to increase irrigation facilities and to bring more areas under cultivation and there by to increase the agricultural production. On the same discussion, Mrs. C. Kolandaiammal stressed the need for the construction of Mel Bhavani Project. She also urged the Government to take up the

Sankanur project in Coimbatore. She requested the Government to pay more attention to improve the agricultural facilities to the most backward areas like Palladam and Karavalimathapur in her constituency.

During the debate on Capital Outlay On Agriculture On 28th March 1958, Mrs. T.S. Soundaram Ramachandran said that in a situation in which they depended mainly on rainfall, the only solution to improve irrigation was to harness the waters in rivers and tanks by constructing a large number of dams. She pleaded for the early execution of a number of local schemes including Manjalar scheme to serve the dry tracts of Madurai district. She suggested that research should be undertaken to find out how much they could increase food production by utilising the minimum quantity of water per acre.

While taking part in the discussion Mrs. A.S. Ponnammal requested the Government to provide pesticides to the peasants half on subsidy and the other half on credit instead of in cash. She also requested the Government to take urgent steps to repair the tanks and to save enough water in them. She also urged the Government to supply fertilizers to the peasants wherever and whenever they needed them. She pointed out that the agricultural labourers used to work in the fields only for 6 months in the

   b) 6.O.No. 1252, Food And Agriculture Department, dated 31st March,1958.
year and they were forced to starve for the remaining 6 months. So, she demanded the Government to introduce small scale industries for them to earn their living. She also demanded the Government to take speedy steps to supply electric pumpsets to the agriculturists who were in need of it badly. She also requested the Government to see that all the allotted amount for agriculture was spent and there by avoiding surrender-funds.

Mrs. T.N. Anandanayaki, who took part in the discussion in the debate on land Land Revenue on 31st March 1958, welcomed land ceiling process and suggested to form a district committee in each district for the successful implementation of the land ceiling. She also suggested that the land reform and land ceiling measures should be based on the existing conditions among the agriculturists. She also requested the Minister to reconsider the process of teak cultivation in the State.

While taking part in the discussion on the Appointment of Committee to Enquire and make Recommendations regarding Service Conditions and Scale of Pay to All Categories of Employees in the State on 4th September 1958, Mrs. T.N. Anandanayaki welcomed the suggestion of the opposition member Mr. Kalyana Sundaram to appoint a committee to study and recommend the service conditions of the Government employees. She stressed that the economic development should be given first priority to improve the conditions of the Government employees. She requested the Government to abolish the system of confidential report of the

Government employees. During the discussion on Food Situation in the Madras State, on 10th September 1958, Mrs. A.S. Ponnammal suggested that the uncultivated land should be brought under cultivation utilising the Japanese methods. She also requested the Government to take steps to bring unfertilized lands under cultivation by importing from "Kutzs" grass from Japan. The Kutzs of Japan, she pointed out, would help to convert the unfertilized soil into a fertilized one. She also urged the Government to provide the fertilizers to the peasants at the price fixed by the Government itself in time. She also requested the Government to provide electricity to the farmers without any power cut. She further requested the Government to supply pumpsets on a loan for 5 years term. She also demanded to distribute the uncultivated land of 125 acres in Nachikulam village to the landless harijans, so as to improve their economic conditions. She stressed the need for taking steps to make available to agriculturists, fertilizers, improved seeds and electricity in sufficient quantity for increasing production. While supporting the views of the member, The Hindu stressed the Government that it would be a great relief to agriculturists, if the loans issued for the purchase of agricultural pumpsets were made recoverable in 5 years instead of three years as at present.

34. MLAP., Vol.XIV September, 1958, PP.529-531.
The Agriculture Minister Mr. P. Kakkan, who accepted the views of Mrs. A. S. Ponnammal, told the House that the Government would give agricultural pumpset loans to the farmers for a period of 5 years instead of 3 years and 100 acres lands to the landless 36 harijans in Nachikulam village.

On the same issue, Mrs. Rajathi Kunchithapatham requested the Government to pay more attention to minor irrigation projects. She also demanded the Government to bring more areas for cultivation under the system of Manimutharu reservoir. She requested the Government to allot more powers to the District Collectors to improve the economic condition of the poor 37 agriculturists.

While discussing on the Ceiling on Land Holdings on 11th September 1958, Mrs. T. N. Anandanayaki pointed out that the prevailing conditions in the State were not congenial to bring about land ceiling. So, she suggested a gradual land reform system. She requested the Government to bring crop insurance scheme and stabilization of prices first and then go to ceiling 38 of land.

During the debate on the Madras Plantation Agricultural Income Tax Amendment Bill on 18th September 1958, Mrs. A. S. Ponnammal welcomed the decision to exempt the religious

38. Ibid., PP.672-679.
institution owning lands from income tax. She requested the Government not to insist the small agriculturists to maintain accounts for their income. Mrs. T.N. Anandanayaki justified the proposed levy of agricultural income tax. However, she was of the view that the bill might be simplified by rounding off the exemption limit by fixing it at Rs.5,000 instead of Rs.3,600 or 15 standard acres instead of 12 1/2 acres.

During the debate on the Madras State Electricity Board Budget on 3rd November 1958, Mrs. A.S. Ponnammal suggested that electricity should be provided for agriculture and then to industries and then only to cinema theatres. So, she demanded the first priority in providing electricity to the agriculture. She strongly objected to cut electricity during peak period to the agriculturists. She also requested the Government to provide electricity for agriculture allied industries in her constituency. She particularly requested the Government to provide electricity to the spade manufacturing industry in Nilakottai. She also requested the Government to provide electricity to the streets in harijan localities. While taking part in the discussion on the Governor’s Address on 5th February 1959, Mrs. Rajathi Kunchithapatham welcomed the State trading policy of the Government regarding food grains. She also welcomed the policy of the Government to provide electricity for about 8,000 villages. Mrs. D. Raghupathi Devi welcomed the

Government's step to supply 21 lakh tons of rice through fairprice shop. She suggested to bring water from Guntha project via Avinashi to Mettu Palayam to irrigate a large number of acres in Mettu Palayam area. She also requested the Government to open a treasury to Mettu Palayam area. She also requested the Government to include Mettu Palayam in the block development scheme.

Dr. Mrs. Sathyavani Muthu of DMK criticised the contents of the Governor's Address as they did not contain anything for economic development of the State. She regretted that the prices of eatables were going high day after day. She brought to the notice of the House that the formation of the Independent Dravidian State was the only solution to the economic and other problems in the State. She also regretted that contents of the Governor's Address did not contain any solution to the problem of untouchability. She asked the Government to take steps to bring the entire income of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation to the coffers of the State. She also regretted that the NLC was yet to complete. She pointed out that it was the step motherly treatment of the Centre to the State of Tamil Nadu.

Mrs. C. Kolandaiammal, while welcoming the Governor's Address stressed the need to control the growth of population. Until and unless the population was controlled, she was of the strong view that the economic development of the State would be impossible.

Mrs. P. K. R. Lakshmi Kantham requested the Government to reconsider its decision to close a number of elementary schools on economic grounds.

Mrs. T. N. Anandanayaki regretted for the spiraling rise of prices of all commodities particularly, rice. She suggested that the Government should encourage intensive cultivation in order to increase the agricultural production. She also suggested to introduce Crop Insurance Scheme to protect the agriculturists. She further suggested that the management schools in the State should be regulated so as to give security of service to the teachers. The Government should pay the salaries to the teachers directly and not through the management. The teachers for the management schools should be appointed through the employment exchange. She also regretted that nothing was mentioned in the Governor’s Address about the gas reserves in Cauveri Delta. She also expressed her regret about the plight of the handloom weavers. The Chief Minister Mr. K. Kamaraj told the House that the direct salary to the teachers was not possible because, the Government could not look into the loan got by the teachers from their provident fund and other means. Mrs. Savithiri Shanmugam demanded the Government to take speedy steps to rehabilitate the people in the drought hit areas. She also demanded the Government to bring a land ceiling bill without any loopholes. Mrs. A. S. Ponnammal pointed out that the reason for the

42. MLAP., Vol. XVII February, 1959, PP. 52-278.

hike of prices was due to the black-market by the big traders. She requested the Government to open fair price shops in the rural areas to arrest the price rise in food product. Kudiarasu welcomed the ideas of Mrs.A.S.Ponnammal and stated that unless fair price shops were opened throughout the State the soaring prices of food-grains could not be brought down. The Food Minister Mr.M.A.Manickavelu accepted the points of Mrs.A.S.Ponnammal and agreed to open more fairprice shops particularly, in rural areas.

During the debate on the Madras General Sales Tax Bill on 10th February 1959, Mrs. Kamalambujammal strongly demanded tax exemption from sales tax for vegetables, fruits and roots. She also pointed out that such an extension was in existence in the neighbouring Kerala and Mysore States. She also demanded exemption for oil cakes from taxation, so as to improve the cattle. Mrs. T.N.Anandanayaki requested the Government to exempt all products from taxation. She suggested that the traders might be asked to pay fixed amount as sales tax yearly. Such a step would minimise difficulties of the traders and as well the Government in maintaining the accounts. She also objected the tax for kerosene. She also requested the Government to exempt milk powder from taxation. The Finance Minister

Mr. C. Subramaniam said that the Government would consider the points of Mrs. T. N. Anandanayaki on fixing an amount as sales tax yearly for traders. Mrs. P. K. R. Lakshmi Kantham also endorsed the views of Mrs. T. N. Anandanayaki on the sales Tax Bill.

Mrs. C. Kolandaikkam, during the debate on Constitution of a Committee to suggest ways and means for Bringing Down Prices of Food Grains and Essential Articles on 16th February 1959, expressed her concern that the presents could not enjoy fruits of their labor in agricultural industry because of the price rise of food grains. She urged the Government to introduce new methods in the field of agriculture and to see that such methods should also reach the poor agriculturists. She also requested the Government to start co-operative societies exclusively for agriculturists to sell and purchase agricultural products at the prices fixed by the Government. She also suggested to bring more uncultivable lands under cultivation for which tanks should be repaired and reservoirs should be adequately constituted. She also demanded that the Government should give loans to the poor agriculturists. The peasants should get their loans without any difficulty and intime. She also suggested that some subsidy should be given to the peasants who used electricity for agriculture. Mr. R. Venkataraman, the Minister for Industries

agreed to start co-operative societies exclusively for agriculturists. On supporting the views of Mrs. C. Kolandaiammal, The Hindu remarked that the Government should come forward to regulate and control the prices of the agricultural products but also they should control the prices for the goods purchased by the agriculturists. Kudiarasu also endorsed the views of Mrs. C. Kolandaiammal.

"During the general discussion on the Budget for the year 1959-60, on 3rd March 1959 Mrs. T. S. Soundaram Ramachandran regretted that the 1/3 of the amount allotted for social development was not at all spent and utilised. She suggested that the amount might be utilised for opening hostels for women and children in every district. She also expressed her grief that nothing was mentioned in the budget for the improvement of irrigation facilities in the State. She suggested that boring wells to bring out ground water might be sunk in the water scarcity areas so as to help the small agriculturists. She welcomed the rural allowance for doctors serving in rural areas. Mrs. A. S. Ponnammal suggested to speed up the construction of

Kudaganaru project. She suggested that the Government should get the co-operation of the public in the successful implementation of the social welfare schemes. She requested the Government to consider the feasibility of Sathaiyar and Manjalar projects in her constituency. She regretted that the amount of Rs.72 lakhs which was allotted for the construction of 180 agricultural farms was not utilised for the purpose and requested the Government to take steps to complete the projects. She also requested the Government to start elementary schools in villages having a population of 500 and more.

Mrs. Hemalatha Devi urged the Government to take urgent steps to control the rise of prices. She regretted that the preservation of forest was not taken up properly in the previous years. So, she demanded that adequate funds should be allotted to the preservation of forests. She also requested the Government to include Palacodu block in Dharmapuri district in the social welfare schemes. She also requested the Government to encourage small scale industries in the State. Mrs.T.N.Anandanayaki urged the Government to take adequate steps to control the inflation trend existed in the State.

While taking part in the discussion on Land Revenue Department on 11th March 1959, Mrs.Kamalambujammal suggested that the village munsif should prepare an information board showing the Government schemes and achievements to enable the people in

the village to know the steps taken by the Government in every village. Mr. M. A. Manickavelu, the Minister for Land Revenue said that this matter was under consideration.

While taking part in the discussion on the demand for Capital Outlay on Industrial Development on 20th March 1959, Mrs. Sathyavani Muthu regretted that not even a single heavy industry involving crores of rupees was introduced in the State in comparing with the North, where heavy industries were started. So, she urged the Government to introduce heavy industries in Madras State to have more employment opportunities for the workers.

During the general discussion on the First Statement of Supplementary Demand for Grants for Further Expenditure for the year 1959-60, on 11th September 1959, Mrs. T. N. Anandanayaki regretted that the supplementary demand for the construction of houses for the teachers in villages would have been included in the general budget itself. She pointed out that only urgent schemes should be introduced under the supplementary demand. She said that a number of schemes such as the expenditure for the medical college in Tanjore and polytechnics in North Arcot and Kanyakumari and the construction of the harijan hostels need not be included in the supplementary budget. But, she welcomed the demand for agricultural projects as the food problem was a

burning one. However, she pointed out that the supplementary demand should have urgent and unexpected projects.

While taking part in the discussion on the Governor's Address on 8th December 1959, Mrs. T. S. Soundaram Ramachandran suggested the Government to exempt the gift given to women, from land ceiling. She demanded to start industrial schools to help the blacksmiths and carpenters in every block. She also urged the Government to reduce the Government holidays and fix a minimum salary for the Government servants. She suggested to start many more land mortgage banks to reduce the loan burden of the rural agriculturists. She suggested that long-term loans should be given to the rural agriculturists to relieve them of from the rural indebtedness. Mr. M. A. Manickavelu, the Minister for Land Revenue replied that the Government had decided to start many land mortgage banks to reduce the loan burden of rural agriculturists. On the same discussion, Mrs. C. Kolandaiammal told that despite the improvement in the production of food grains, the price of food grains were unexpectedly high. So, she demanded the Government to control the rise of prices for essential commodities. She also suggested to extend the agricultural loans to small landholders in villages. She also demanded to pay adequate attention on minor irrigation projects.

58. MLAP., Vol. XXVI December, 1959, PP. 202-211.
particularly, in Palladam taluk where major irrigation projects were not feasible. She also requested the Government to grant some concessions to the agriculturists who used electrical pumpsets for agriculture. She also demanded that women should be allowed to own lands in fixing land ceiling. She pointed out that property right to women was a must in a democratic sector.

Mrs. P.K.R. Lakshmi Kantham also felt for the rise in prices of essential articles particularly, for the agricultural products. She urged the Government to control the rise of prices particularly, for tamarind, chillies, rice, etc. The Minister for Irrigation Mr. P. Kakkan told that the Government would start minor irrigation projects particularly, in Palladam taluk. He also told the House that women should be allowed to own lands in fixing land ceiling. During the discussion on the Governor’s Address on 9th December 1959, Mrs. A.S. Ponnammal urged the Government to reduce the prices for agricultural implements and to cancel export licenses for the agricultural commodities. These steps, she asserted, would control the rising prices. She also stressed to implement minor irrigation projects in the State wherever possible to encourage agriculturists in the dry areas. She strongly demanded the Government to take every possible step including the supply of fertilizers, agricultural implements, pesticides, supply of electricity etc. to peasants in time and

60. MLAP., Vol. XXVI December, 1959, PP. 186-199.
61. Ibid., PP. 216-225.
also to lend Government loans to the poor agriculturists. She hoped that this step would improve agricultural products in the State. She also demanded the Government to start sugar industries at Mohanur in Salem district to meet the demand for sugar in the State.

Mrs. T.N. Anandanayaki suggested to link the rivers Ganga and Cauveri on the recommendations of Dr. C.P. Ramasamy Aiyar. She strongly felt that the link would improve, not only agriculture but also trade, navigation, and transport in India. She also suggested to link Madras and Rameswaram along the east coast by a grand road.

Mrs. Savithiri Shanmugam suggested to supply electricity to pumpsets for all agriculturists in the State. On a credit basis through co-operative societies to boost agricultural production. She also suggested to take steps to supply drinking water in Coimbatore and to speed up the work of the underground drainage in Coimbatore. Mrs. Hemalatha Devi expressed her concern about the plight of the peasants in the State. Later, she demanded the Government to take adequate steps to protect the peasants. She also demanded to take urgent steps to arrest the price rise and to reduce the increase of paper currency.

While discussing the Grants for Further Expenditure on 11th December 1959, Mrs. T.S. Soundaram Ramachandran suggested to allot

100 crores of Rupees in the Third Five Year Plan to help the agriculturists. She suggested that the amount should be utilised as loans to agriculturists. She suggested that the amount should be utilised as loans to agriculturists through agricultural co-operative banks. She stressed the need for the grant of long-term loans to the agriculturists.

Mrs. T.S. Soundaram Ramachandran, during the general discussion on the Budget for the year 1960-61, on 12th March 1960 suggested to increase the production of fertilizers and to encourage the agriculturists to use green manure and composite manure. She also suggested that the Government officials should co-operate with the rural agriculturists. She welcomed the package deal introduced for Tanjore district agriculturists. She requested the Government to grant short-term, middle-term and long-term loans to rural agriculturists through co-operative societies. She regretted that no amount was allotted for this purpose in the budget. She requested the Government to start a polytechnic and industrial estate in Dindigul taluk during the first year of the Third Five Year Plan. She suggested to start a special scheme to remove the scarcity of drinking water in the State.

On the same discussion, Mrs. Sathyavani Muthu pointed out the defects and contradictions of the statistics and regretted that nothing was achieved in the field of agriculture inspite of
enormous sanctioning of funds. Mrs. A. S. Ponnammal suggested to extend and encourage Khadi-Craft to the rural areas. She regretted for the delay in the supply of fertilizers to the peasants and also the loans to them and demanded the Government to supply them intime. She requested the Government to bring more lands under cultivation and to encourage growing coconuts wherever possible. She also demanded the Government to allot more funds for rural water supply scheme and protected water supply scheme. While welcoming the exemption of destroyed goods from taxation in the budget. Mrs. Rajathi Kunchithapatham requested to exempt milk also from taxation. She also urged the Government to pay more attention on minor irrigation projects wherever possible in the State to increase food production. She also demanded the Government to take steps to legalise unauthorised cultivation of lands in Tinnevelly district. Mrs. Kamalambujammal stressed the need for minor irrigation projects for the improvement of food production. She regretted for the delay in sanctioning minor irrigation projects and requested the Government to avoid it in the interest of agriculturists. She requested those areas to be brought under the jurisdiction of a Block Development Office. Mrs. C. Kolandaiammal requested the Government to undertake the Siruvani river extension project to solve the drinking water problem in Coimbatore. She also stressed the need to allot more funds for minor irrigation projects in the State particularly, in Palladam
area. While welcoming the points of Mrs. C. Kolandaiammal, *The Hindu* wrote that the Government loan of Rs.1,000 for the construction of a well should be raised to Rs.2,000.

During the discussion on the demand for Capital Outlay on Agriculture on 18th March 1960, Mrs. T.N. Anandanayaki suggested to introduce indigenous fertilizers when there was scarcity for chemical fertilizers like Ammonium Sulphate to increase production in the field of agriculture. She also suggested to start Soil Research Institute in every district to help the agriculturists.

Mrs. T.N. Anandanayaki, during the discussion on Land Reforms Bill on 16th April 1960, suggested introduce crop insurance scheme to encourage agriculture. She regretted that land reform bill had full of confusions and contradictions and requested the Government to make the bill simple and systematic. She suggested to make easy ceilings like 5 acres, 8 acres and 3 acres etc. to make the peasants cultivate. So, she welcomed the exemption of temple lands and lands under trustees and wakf boards from land ceiling act. Mrs. Rajathi Kunchithapatham suggested that widows and small landholders should be exempted from the land ceiling act and to recognise the small farmers as land owners. She also urged the Government to bring the temple lands under the ceiling

and such land should be distributed to small landholders and harijan agriculturists on tenancy basis through co-operative cultivation system. Mr. M.A. Manickavelu, the Minister for Land Revenue told the House that exemption from the Land Ceiling Act for the widows and small landholders would be considered by the Government after consulting others. He accepted the suggestion of Mrs. Rajathi Kunchithapatham to bring temple lands under Land Ceiling Act.

During the discussion on Voting Grants for the year 1960-61, on 17th April 1960 Mrs. C. Kolandaiammal urged the Government to undertake minor irrigation projects in each and every block to boost agricultural production. She strongly felt that the major irrigation projects to help the farmers only in limited areas, but the minor irrigation projects would help the farmers in larger areas. She requested the Government to take up immediately Somanar project and Sankaranar Pallam project in her constituency. She also requested to allot more funds to the Collector for undertaking urgent irrigation works in his district. Mrs. Rajathi Kunchithapatham stressed the need to pay more attention on minor irrigation projects in Tinnevelly district. She requested the Government to take up the Alankulam project, Mannaru and Punalaru projects in Tinnevelly district, so that the farmers could produce more food grains. She also

68. MLAP., Vol.XXXII April, 1960, PP.240-245.
requested to take steps to utilise the water for irrigation from the rivers Punalaru, Kallaru and Ramanathi etc. which were flowing westward in Tinnevelly district.

Mrs. A.S. Ponnammal regretted that most of the minor irrigation projects undertaken by the Government in Nilakottai were not completed. She urged the Government to undertake immediately the minor irrigation projects of Manjalar and Alankulam.

Mrs. Hemalatha Devi supported the Madras Appropriation Bill moved by the Finance Minister Mr. C. Subramaniam, on 19th April 1960. But, she requested the Government to undertake irrigation projects in Dharmapuri block which was very backward. She requested specifically to take up the Chinnaru project in Dharmapuri. So, as to help the farmers in that area, she also demanded to include Vellaikal Malaisoral and Malleswaram Koil project in the Third Five Year Plan to boost agriculture. Further, she demanded the construction of Mathala Pallam, Peria Pallam and Samathan Pallam reservoir in Pennagaram firkas.

While taking part in the discussion on the Governor’s Address on 18th August 1960, Mrs. T.N. Anandanayaki expressed her concern about the price rise of the essential commodities like rice, dhal etc. beyond the reach of the poor people. So, she urged the Government to take urgent steps to control the rise of

70. MLAP., Vol.XXXII April, 1960, PP.954-957.
price of essential commodities. She also demanded that the Government should take steps to reduce the cost of production for farmers so as to encourage them to produce more. She requested the Central Government to reconsider their import and export policy to arrest the rise of price in the State. She expressed her concern about unemployment problem in the State and requested the Government to provide employment opportunities to the educated unemployed as early as possible. She suggested that more industries to be started in the State to improve the employment opportunities. She also regretted for the suffering of the weavers in the State, because of the rise in yarn price. Swadeshimitran which welcomed the points of Mrs. T. N. Anandanayaki requested the Government to protect the weavers by reducing the price of yarn.

During the discussion on First Supplementary Statement of Expenditure on 22nd August 1960, Mrs. T. N. Anandanayaki welcomed the pay rise for the Government servants but, at the same time regretted for the rise of prices of essential commodities. She stated that there was no use of increasing the salaries of the Government employees instead of arresting the rise of prices of essential commodities. She also expressed her concern about the inflation in the State. She suggested to provide houses for the

Government servants, so as to reduce the rate of inflation. During the discussion on Draft outline of the Third Five Year Plan on 7th September 1960, Mrs. Rajathi Kunchithapatham regretted that the fruits of the previous plans had not reached the agriculturists and the poor people. So, she requested the Government to take steps in such a way that the benefits of a plan should reach the poor people. She also requested to include the Ramanathai and Kallaru projects in Tinnevelly district in the Third Five Year Plan. Further, she requested to start an engineering college in Tuticorin and a medical college in Tinnevelly. She also requested for a University in Tinnevelly and to take up urgently Tuticorin Port project to provide more employment opportunities.

Mrs. T. N. Anandanayaki pointed out that the plan capital of Rs. 400 crores should be utilised properly. She also demanded to take steps to get proper representation for the Madras State in the Planning Commission. She stressed the need for the rural water supply and demanded to provide protected water for each and every village in the State under the Third Five Year Plan. Further, she urged to include Koovam project and Sethu Samudram project in Third Five Year Plan. She also demanded to start textile mills in Madras, Ramnad, Srivilli Puthur and Nanguneri under the Third Five Year Plan.

73. MLAP., Vol.XXXV August, 1960, PP.374-381.
74. MLAP., Vol.XXXVI September, 1960, PP.347-357.
While welcoming the General Sales Tax Amendment Bill on 10th September 1960, Mrs. T. N. Anandanayaki thanked the Government for having exempted some articles from taxation or reduced the rate of taxation on them. But, she supported the demand of Mr. K. Vinayagam, a member of the Assembly, in exempting articles like glass bangles and glass beads which happen to be the cheap ornaments of poor women. She also demanded to exempt gold articles, flowers and milk powders and also eatables like groundnuts etc.

While seconding the resolution of Mr. Selvarajan on Governor's Address on 20th January 1961, Mrs. Hemalatha Devi requested the Government to study the feasibility of bringing more lands under cultivation to face the growing population. She regretted that Dharmapuri district remained a backward area and demanded that the Government must take up the Malleswaram Hill Project for irrigation in Dharmapuri district. She also urged the Government to increase the production of coal in Neyveli, so as to start a steel industry in Salem. She requested the Government to undertake the construction of Salem, Bangalore railway line and Tinnevelly, Kanyakumari railway line under the Third Five Year Plan. The Hindu, while supporting the points raised by Mrs. Hemalatha Devi, pleaded for the greater irrigational facilities in Dharmapuri taluk in Salem district,

and urged the Government that the proposed steel plant should be located in Salem.

While welcoming the Governor's Address, Mrs. Kamalambujammal stressed the need to take up flood relief works properly in time. She expressed her happiness for having included the Tuticorin harbour project under the Third Five Year Plan. She demanded to start a boat industry at Pavalargadu which was once a flourishing port under the Dutch.  

In supporting the Budget for the year 1961-62, on 2nd March 1961 Mrs. Rajathi Kunchithapatham came forward to list the achievements of the Government during the last 10 years. She pointed out that food production had been raised from 19 lakh tons to 35 lakh tons. The production of fertilizers was increased from 40 thousand tons to 1 lakh tons in this connection. She welcomed the proposal for starting a fertilizer industry in Tinnevelly. She expressed her compliments for the successful implementation of the insurance scheme for the labourers.

While welcoming the budget, Mrs. T.S. Soundaram Ramachandran pointed out that it was not on the election eve budget. She stressed the need to give top priority for irrigation and
industry. She requested the Government to start industrial estate service centres and training cum production centres in the most backward areas in the State so as to improve the employment opportunities. Mrs. T. N. Anandanayaki suggested to reduce the sales tax for certain articles under single point system from six percent to 1 or 2 percent. While supporting the points of Mrs. T. N. Anandanayaki, Viduthalai urged the Government to introduce changes in the revenue collection of the State and regretted the spiraling rise in prices of essential commodities like tamarind, chillies etc. and requested the Government to take steps urgently to arrest the price rise.

During the debate on Forest Department on 7th March 1961, Mrs. T. S. Soundaram Ramachandran stressed the need to undertake deep borewells to improve irrigation facilities with proper planning and execution in time in order to increase the area of cultivation. She also stressed the need to lead the agriculturists to use water-economically in every village through grama sevikas. She suggested to grow Palmyra trees in the areas where the cultivation of paddy was not possible. She also requested the Government to provide fertilizers for the farmers in times of need. She suggested to plant more trees in promboke lands along the national road ways.

During the debate on Capital Outlay on Irrigation on 13th March 1961, Mrs. Hemalatha Devi regretted that the Malleswaram Hill Project in Dharmapuri district was not materialised despite the repeated request in the House. So, she demanded the Government to take up the project immediately to convert Dharmapuri district into a forward area. She also suggested to deepen the 33 thousand lakes in the State. She also requested the Government to take up Maravettai Pallam, Samathan Pallam and Mathala Pallam minor irrigation projects immediately. Mrs. Rajathi Kunchithapatham also stressed the need to take up minor irrigation projects to boost small farmers in the State. She requested the Government to include Pampaiyaru and Punalaru projects in Tinnevelly district in the Third Five Year Plan. She urged the Government to allot more funds for minor irrigation projects. Mrs. C. Kolandaiammal expressed her compliments to the Government for having implemented successfully the irrigation projects in Coimbatore district. But, she regretted that her Sulur constituency was not at all benefited by the irrigation project. She requested the Government to bring the waste water from Guntha project to Sulur to improve agriculture in the area. In supporting the views of Mrs. C. Kolandaiammal, Swadeshimitran requested the Government to take up the Sanganeer Pallam, Samakulam, Siranaivanampatti projects in Sulur constituency.

Mrs. T. N. Anandanayaki, while speaking on Land Revenue on 18th March 1961, regretted for the stagnation of income from land revenue. She pointed out that during 1953-54 the income from land revenue was Rs. 6 crores but, even after bringing 3 lakh acres of land under cultivation the income from the land revenue during 1960-61 remain the same 6 crores. So, she requested the Government to find out the defects and loopholes, in the revenue department and rectify them. She requested the Government to instruct properly the revenue officials to take up eviction works without harassing the poor people.

While moving the Madras Local Authorities Finance Bill on 27th September 1961, Mrs. Lourdhammal, the Minister for Local Administration admitted the fact that the finances of the Local Bodies were inadequate even for providing essential civic amenities like good roads, sanitation, etc. in a satisfactory manner. She proposed to empower the local authorities to levy a surcharge on the entertainments tax in their respective areas and to levy a surcharge on show tax levied on cinematograph exhibition under the Act. She further proposed to amend the Madras City Municipal Act 1919, so, as to rise the maximum rate of property tax in the case of any land or building from 20 percent to 25 percent in its annual value.

WOMEN LEGISLATORS AND SOCIAL REFORMS

Mrs. Savithiri Shanmugam who participated on the Governor’s Address on 4th May 1957, requested the Government to equip Municipalities and Corporations in the State with adequate funds to improve the conditions of the people in the cities. She also requested the Government to abolish cheris in the urban areas and provide the cheri people with adequate small houses with all facilities to improve their economic and health conditions.

While taking part on the general discussion of the Budget for the year 1957-58, on 1st July 1957 Mrs. A. Suares regretted for the gradual reduction in the allotment of funds for Anglo-Indian Schools in the previous years. She gave in detail the condition and position of the Anglo-Indians in the State as a recognised minority community. Kudiarasu stated that, she requested the House to consider the Budget for Anglo-Indian education and pass it without any cut for the rest of that triennium.

During the debate on Prohibition on 13th July 1957, Mrs. P.K.R. Lakshmi Kantham expressed her compliments to the Government for the successful implementation of prohibition in the State. She accepted that prohibition had improved the social, economic and health conditions of the people,

particularly, of women in the State. She was happy that women folk were content and satisfied with the results of prohibition. She requested the legislators to propagate the evils of drinking and the good results of prohibition among the people in their respective constituencies. Such propagandas, she felt would bring complete success to the policy of prohibition.

While speaking on District Administration and Miscellaneous on 13th July 1957, Mrs. T.S. Soundaram Ramachandran requested the Government to introduce uniform administrative units in the State. She also requested to rise the pay of N.G.O's upto 100 and to take adequate steps to improve the villages in the State. Mrs. C. Kolanaiammal requested the Government to grant medical concessions to N.G.O's and to the member of their families.

Mrs. Savithiri Shanmugam participating in the discussion on Education on 16th July 1957, stressed the need to give elementary education to all school going children in the State. She regretted that lakhs and lakhs of children were badly in need of education. She pointed out that more than 60,000 students in Coimbatore municipal town were to attend schools. But, she added that the Coimbatore Municipality was not in a position to give them educational facilities for want of funds. She noted with grief that only Rs.87,000/- per year was allotted to Coimbatore Municipality as grant for the past so many years without any

increase. So, she demanded the Government to rise the grant to Rs. 5 lakhs.

Kudiarasu stated that, she also expressed her grief over the plight of college students during the admission seasons. She requested the Government to start more college to accommodate more students. She also requested the Government to introduce Tamil as the medium of instruction in colleges. Mr. C. Subramaniam, the Finance Minister accepted the request of Mrs. Savithiri Shanmugam and granted Rs. 5 lakhs to Coimbatore Municipality.

During the same debate, Mrs. C. Kolandaiammal requested the Government to construct hostels for all the college teachers in the State. She also requested the Government to take steps to improve the standard of education in schools and colleges. She also demanded the Government to take steps to make adult education useful to women particularly, the widows.

While moving the cut motion on Medical on 17th July 1957, Mrs. Sathyavani Muthu pointed out that medical treatment given to the rural population was not adequate. She stressed the need to implement family planning among the rural population. She requested the Government to recognise homoeopathy system in the State. Mrs. P. K. R. Lakshmi Kantham expressed her compliments to

91. Ibid., PP. 592-594.
93. Ibid., PP. 598-604.
the Government for increasing the maternity wards in most of the hospitals particularly in rural areas. She regretted that poor people in rural areas could not get adequate and proper medicines in Government hospitals. Viduthalai stated that, she requested the Government to give proper treatment in Government hospitals for the poor people. She also requested the Government to include the local MLA in Advisory Committee constituted in Government hospitals. Mr. M. A. Manickavelu, the Minister for Public Health promised that the Government would give adequate and proper medicines in Government hospitals for the poor people. He also stated that the Government would include local MLA in Advisory Committee constituted in Government hospitals.

Mrs. A. Suares urged the necessity for creating of facilities for post graduate education in the medical field. She was proud to note that the standard of medical education in Madras State was considered to be almost the highest in India. She requested the Government to provide at least 3 more seats in the Government maternity hospital. Mrs. T. S. Soundaram Ramachandran requested the Government to increase the salary of the professors in medical college to avoid private practice and to concentrate more on teaching in medical colleges. She requested the Government to

94. Ibid., PP. 626-675.
96. Ibid., PP. 680-690.
fix a uniform scale of pay for the medical personnel in the Department of Medicine and in the Department of Health as well if they had the same qualification. She also requested the Government to give non-practicing allowance for the doctors who work in rural hospitals.

During the discussion on Agriculture and Fisheries on 19th July 1957, Mrs. Hemalatha Devi regretted for the inadequate facilities in education in her constituency Pennagaram. She regretted that there were only 2 high schools in her constituency which had a population of more than 3 lakhs. So, she demanded the Government to start many more high schools in her constituency. She urged the Government to start a high school at Paparapatti in her constituency. The Hindu stated that, she brought to the notice of the Government that her constituency was very very backward in all spheres. So, she demanded the Government to take steps to improve her constituency in all spheres particularly, in roads, drinking water, agriculture, construction of houses for the poor etc.

While moving the cut motion on Harijan Uplift on 19th July 1957, Mrs. Sathyavani Muthu regretted that the amount allotted for harijan uplift was not utilised properly particularly, for the eradication of untouchability. She regretted that the display of

98. Ibid., PP.740-837.
posters printed for propagating the evils of untouchability was stopped on a filthy ground of public criticism against the motive of the posters. She requested the Government to start more schools and hostels for harijan students. The Minister for Harijan Welfare Mr. P. Kakkan accepted the request of Mrs. Sathyavani Muthu to start more schools and hostels for harijans. The Hindu stated that, Mrs. Sathyavani Muthu expressed her gratitude to the Prime Minister Mr. C. Rajagopalachariyar for having legally allowed the harijans to enter into Hindu temples for worship. She requested the Government to reserve at least 25 percent for harijans in Government jobs.

During the debate on the motion Expressing want of Confidence in the Ministry on 29th October 1957, Mrs. Sathyavani Muthu regretted for the horrible incidents which took place in Paramakudi and Mudukulathur areas in Ramnad district during the riots between the harijans and non-harijans. She regretted to charge the Government for their failure to take preventive steps to protect the harijans. She requested the Government to take all possible steps to avoid communal and caste clashes in those areas in future. Mrs. T. S. Soundaram Ramachandran expressed her shock over the horrible happenings in Mudukulathur riots. She urged the Government to undertake preventive measures

100. Ibid., PP. 871-875.
101. Ibid., PP. 880-895.
102. The Hindu, dated 22nd July, 1957.
to protect the harijans in Mudukulathur area. Swadeshimitran stated that, she also analysed the political and caste based causes for Mudukulathur riots. She demanded the Government to take sincere steps to ameliorated the conditions for the harijans in Ramnad district.

Mrs. T.N. Anandanayaki, while commending the Government's Report of White Paper on Education on 6th November 1957, urged the Government to introduce compulsory education as a first step for the students from I standard to VIII standard. She also urged the Government to provide all the students of elementary schools with midday meals to avoid superiority and inferiority complex among the students. She also requested the Government to improve the standard of education in higher classes. She also requested the Government to avoid delay in supplying text books to the students. Mr. C. Subramaniam, the Minister for Finance informed the House that the Government had already implemented the compulsory education upto VIII standard and midday meals for the students in the elementary schools.

Mrs. A. Suares, while commending the proposals said that if the 10 years programme adumberated in the report was implemented, it would bring a new era in elementary and secondary education. She suggested that two subjects-sex education and

106. Ibid., PP. 342-350.
family planning be removed from the draft syllabus for standard XI under Home Science, as the girls at that stage would not be matured enough to be taught these subjects. She also suggested that a provision be embodied in the age rule for admission to university courses, leaving a margin of 3 months in the operation of the rule, so that students completing 16 1/2 years within 3 months after the commencement of the degree courses, might be admitted in the beginning of the term itself. Otherwise, they would have to waste the whole year and joined the course only next year, she said.

Mrs. A.S.Ponnammal requested the Government to consider the question of supplying a set of dress to all poor children in schools at least once a year. She urged that there should be an elementary school in every village with a population of over 300, and that the number of girls high schools in the State should be increased, in order to promote women's education. Mrs. Rajathi Kunchithapatham said that charitable and religious institutions maintaining schools should be asked to provide midday meals to children. She referred to the learning of 3 languages by children of western countries and said that if 3 languages were introduced. She pleaded for a better deal for teachers who, she said did not get even as much wages as the unskilled workers received.

Mrs. P.K.R.Lakshmi Kantham urged that children of handloom weavers should be provided free education up to the SSLC. With a view to improving the standard of English, she suggested that the teaching of the language might be started from the V class. She
wanted that the age limit of girls for admission to elementary education should be reduced, as most of them got married before reaching the school final class.

Mrs. C. Kolandaiammal regretted that the emoluments of Tamil lecturers and teachers had not appreciably been improved. She wanted Tamil teachers must be treated onpar with those teaching Science and English in the matter of promotion to higher posts. She pleaded for advancing the age of admission to schools in regard to girls to 4 years as the girls mentally matured earlier and their memory was sharper than boys of the same age. She also stressed the need for early introduction of Tamil as the medium of instruction in colleges. Mrs. Hemalatha Devi welcomed the proposal of the Government to takeover publication of text-books. She stressed the need for starving a women's college in every district. Mrs. Kamalambujammal pleaded for providing more facilities for the training of teachers.

While answering the questions raised by the women members of the House on Education, the Education Minister said that the changes would be made on sex education in schools only after consulting the educationists. He accepted the request of Mrs. A.S. Ponnammal to supply a set of dress to all poor children. Regarding the three language problems in religious institutions,

108. Ibid., P.7.
109. Ibid., P.8.
the Minister said that though three languages were taught to the students in those schools, Tamil was the medium-language. As a reply to Mrs. C. Kolandaiammal on age relaxation to girls for admission in schools, the Minister said that it was not possible to relax the age limit for girls to 4 years from 5 years for admitting them in schools.

While criticising the Budget for the year 1958-59, on 6th March 1958 Mrs. Sathyavani Muthu regretted for the caste riots in Mudukulathur and urged the Government to take steps to avoid such conflicts in future. Viduthalai stated that, she was proud to note Periyar E.V Ramasamy and D.M.K. for their strenuously fighting for the eradication of caste and caste consciousness which was prevalent even among the educated. So, she asked the Government to follow the steps of periyar E.V.Ramasamy to eradicate casteism and caste consciousness.

While speaking on Harijan Uplift on 24th March 1958, Mrs. A.S. Ponnammal commended the steps taken by the Government towards harijan uplift. She expressed her gratitude to the Government for having considered her request to supply uniform cloths to all the students in schools in the State. She further requested the Government to start more schools in rural areas for the harijan students. She also requested the Government to start

110. Ibid., P.9.
more cottage industries in rural areas to improve the economic condition of the harijans. She suggested to reserve 25 percent of the vacancies in mills especially for the harijans. *The Hindu* stated that, she demanded the Government to grant liberal loans to the harijans for construction of houses. She also demanded the Government to construct the wells for irrigation for the harijans. She also suggested to allot the 250 acres of uncultivated lands in Bettalagundu to the harijans to cultivate under co-operative system.

Mrs. Rajathi Kunchithapatham also welcomed the steps taken by the Government for harijan uplift. But, she regretted that the amount allotted for harijan uplift was not properly utilised. She also regretted that the houses constructed for the harijans were not strong and properly constructed. She also stressed the Government to see that the aids and other benefits intended for the harijans reached them intime and intotal.

Mrs. T.N. Anandanayaki, while speaking on the same issue regretted that the amount allotted for the uplift of backward communities particularly, Kallas and Kuravas was not utilised properly and urged the Government to take steps to utilise the entire amount intime. She also demanded the Government to issue scholarships to the harijan and backward student intime without any delay.

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Mrs. P. K. R. Lakshmi Kantham was proud to note that Mahatma Gandhi was the first man who introduced the cardinal programmes for harijan uplift namely, harijan uplift and eradication of untouchability in the list of 18 constructive programmes of the Congress Party. Swadeshimitran stated that, she was happy that harijan uplift and eradication of untouchability topped the list of the 18 constructive programmes of the Congress Party. She regretted to note that the Sourashtra Community was still most backward and urged the Government to take steps for the uplift of the Sourashtras in the State.

While speaking on Education on 8th April 1958, Mrs. T. S. Soundaram Ramachandran commended the midday meal schemes in schools. She suggested to give midday meals to all the students in elementary schools irrespective of caste. She urged the Government to construct houses for teachers in rural areas. So, that the teachers would stay in villages and concentrate on education in rural areas.

On the same demand, Mrs. C. Kolandaiammal expressed her concern over the plight of the elementary school teachers. She insisted the Government to take urgent steps to solve their problems. The Hindu stated that, she urged the Government to rise the scale of pay of the teachers and construct houses for

115. Ibid., PP. 299-331.
the teachers in rural areas. She also requested the Government to take steps to improve the standard of education, not only in schools but also in colleges.

While speaking on Madras Appropriation Bill, on 23rd September 1958, Mrs. T.S. Soundaram Ramachandran welcomed the Bill, but regretted that the drinking water problem was not at all solved in rural areas particularly, in harijan areas. She requested the Government to take urgent steps to solve the drinking water problem. Kudiarasu stated that, Mrs. T.S. Soundaram Ramachandran requested the Government to appoint a lady doctor in the hospitals where muslims were thickly populated. She urged the Government to reorganise the blocks in the State and appoint experienced ladies as Block Development Officers.

Mrs. C. Kolandaiammal welcomed the State Elementary Board Budget, on 1st November 1958 and commended the Government for having successfully implemented the Periyar project. She also requested the Government to take steps to utilise the waste water from Guntha for irrigation purpose in her constituency. She also requested the Government to improve the economic conditions of the agricultural labourers.

118. The Hindu, dated 9th April, 1958.
119. Ibid., PP.526-527.
During the discussion on the Governor's Address on 7th February 1959, Mrs. A. Suares welcomed the new reorganised scheme of education. She commended the school improvement scheme initiated by the Director of Public Instruction, as one more feather to cap of Madras State. She was proud to note that public response to the scheme had been amazing and it revealed the innate generosity of the people. But, she cautioned the Government that donations should be purely voluntary. She also commended the midday meals scheme in schools as it had been incentive to regular attendance in the schools and it had also alleviated the pangs of hunger of thousands of children. She requested the Government to extend the midday meals scheme to every village in the Madras State. The Hindu stated that, she welcomed the interim relief of Rs. 5 per mensem for non-gazetted employees as well as the employees of the local boards and aided school teachers. She requested the Government to take steps to bridge the gap between the emoluments of the Central Government and the State Government servants doing identical work.

Mr. C. Subramaniam, the Finance Minister accepted the difference in the emoluments of the Central Government and the State Government servants. He said that the Government would consider the issue.

123. The Hindu, dated 8th February, 1959.
124. Ibid., PP.298-310.
While welcoming the Budget for the year 1959-60, on 3rd March 1959 Mrs. P.K.R. Lakshmi Kantham requested the Government to solve the problems of the handloom weavers. She stressed the need for extending the privileges of the members of the weavers cooperative societies to the non-members. She specifically requested the Government to protect the master weavers who were responsible for the improvement of handloom weaving industry in the State.

While speaking on Harijan Uplift on 23rd March 1959, Mrs. T.N. Anandanayaki regretted that the amount allotted for harijan uplift were not spent intotal. So, she demanded the Government to utilise allotted funds properly and intime for the improvement of harijan and other backward classes. She urged the Government to allot more funds for the issue of scholarships to the harijans and to the backward students. Mrs. A.S. Ponnammal welcomed the demand but regretted that the amount allotted for the construction of houses for harijans was not adequate. So, she urged the Government to rise the loan amount for harijans to construct houses from Rs. 550 to 1,500. She was of the strong view that economic improvement of the harijans alone would solve the problems of untouchability. Swadeshimitran stated that, she demanded the Government to take urgent steps to improve the

economic condition of the harijan by providing them with adequate, lands for cultivation, special industries for them and reservation of atleast 25 percent for harijan employees in private sector industries. She also requested the Government to provide the harijans working in Municipalities as menials with proper houses. Mrs. Hemalatha Devi requested the Government to increase the reservation of seats in schools and in colleges for the backward classes from 25 to 40 percent. She also requested the Government to extend privileges to the harijans and other backward communities for another 10 years. She also requested the Government to increase the amount of scholarship for the harijan and backward students and urged the Government to issue them intime and inadvance.

While supporting the demand on Medical on 26th March 1959, Mrs.A. Suarees brought to the notice of the House about the difficulties experienced by doctors in the State particularly, the frequent transfers of doctors, non-availability of accommodation for doctors near the hospital etc. So, she urged the Government to construct residential blocks for doctors in the hospital premises itself. The Hindu stated that, she requested the Government to give compulsory rest for medical men taking into consideration their works for many hours a day. She also demanded the Government to give additional allowance of

128. Ibid., PP.374-661.
Rs. 150 to the doctors working in rural areas and educational facilities for their children in rural areas.

During the same discussion, Mrs. Sathyavani Muthu regretted that the funds allotted for medical were not utilised properly. She stressed the need to encourage homoeopathy to solve the problem of shortage of doctors in allopathy system. So, she demanded the Government to recognise homoeopathy system and to introduce seats in Government hospitals in the State. She also requested the Government to start a homoeopathy college in the State. She suggested to appoint retired doctors to serve in rural hospitals.

Mr. M. A. Manickavelu, the Minister for Public Health accepted the points of Mrs. Sathyavani Muthu regarding the importance of homoeopathy medicine and told that the Government had already taken steps to introduce homoeopathy medicine in the Government hospitals.

Mrs. Kamalambujammal, while talking on the same motion supported the demand but brought to the notice of the Government about the unhealthy and unhygienic conditions prevalent in most of the hospitals in the city. The Hindu stated that, she urged the Government to construct the proper drainage in villages so, as to protect the rural people from mosquitos and mosquito allied

130. Ibid., PP. 690-695.
131. Ibid., PP. 668-685.
diseases. She also urged the Government to provide the rural people with adequate drainage system, lavatory system and facilities for health education.

During the debate on the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Bill on 28th April 1959, Mrs. A.S. Ponnammal emphasised that only religious minded and god fearing persons should be appointed as executive officers and members of area committees. She urged the Government to take adequate steps to evacuate the encroachments in temple lands. She suggested to utilise the surplus funds in temples for the education of harijans. She also requested the Government to take urgent steps against the preventions of harijans from entering into temples. The Hindu stated that, she suggested for the establishment of a separate audit department for examining the account of temples and religious endowments and pleased for appointing atleast a few women as members of the area committees. Mrs. T.N. Anandanayaki requested the Government to appoint only pious, god fearing and religious minded people as Executive Officers in the temples. She also urged the Government to take steps to prevent the sale of temple property.

Mrs. A. Suares commended the ratification of Amendment to

133. MLAP., Vol.XXIII April, 1959, PP.556-560.
134. The Hindu, dated 30th April, 1959.
Articles 334 of the Constitution of India on 16th December 1959, for the extension of present system of reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and nomination of Anglo-Indian Members to the Lok Sabha and to the State Assemblies for a further period of 10 years with effect from January 1960. She was happy that the Constitution 8th Amendment Bill was passed by a great majority votes in the Parliament. Swadeshimitran stated that, she was equally happy that the representatives of various States in the Lok Sabha were convinced that there was an imperative need for the continuance of the reservation and nomination provided for in the Constitution for further period of 10 years. She demanded the Government to speed up the Community development work for the improvement of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Anglo-Indians.

Mrs. A.S. Ponnammal expressed her gratitude for passing the Constitution 8th Amendment Bill in the Parliament. She also expressed her thanks on behalf of the harijans to all the members of the Lok Sabha.

During the general discussion on the Budget for the year 1960-61, on 12th March 1960 Mrs. T.S. Soundaram Ramachandran requested the Government to convert the G.C.I.M. college in Madras into a full-pledged medical college during the period of the Third Five Year Plan. She also requested to boost the

137. Swadeshimitran, dated 18th December, 1959.
138. Ibid., PP.390-391.
Community Development Scheme in order to achieve social status for the rural people in the State. She stressed the need to improve the social standard of the rural people in the State. She stressed the need to improve the social standard of the rural people particularly, the harijans. Mrs. A. Suares congratulated the Government on the great progress in carrying out the Second Five Year Plan particularly, the development schemes. She also welcomed the proposal to introduce compulsory education in schools in stages. She requested the Government to take steps to fill-up the vacancies reserved for the Anglo-Indian Community. She also stressed to introduce a uniform system of education in the State as the Anglo-Indian Schools had throughout the country. She also appealed to allot the full amount noted in the budget for the year 1960-61 to the Anglo-Indian Schools. She also stressed the need to extend the special privileges enjoyed by the Anglo-Indian Schools.

On the same discussion, Mrs. D. Raghupathi Devi commended the steps taken for social education and scientific education in the State. She also expressed her compliments to the Government for the sincere and systematic steps taken by the Government towards harijan uplift.

The Hindu stated that, she requested the Government to start more Co-Operative Credit Banks and Land Mortgage Banks in the State to grant liberal loans to the small farmers and to relief

them from the burden of debt. She requested to extend the medical facilities in the Government hospital at Mettupalayam and to erect an X-ray plant in the same hospital. She also requested to start maternity and health centres at Kanuvukarai and Sirumugai blocks in her constituency.

While speaking on Administration of Justice, Jails and Police on 21st March 1960, Mrs. Sathyavani Muthu regretted that the pay scale of the police personnel were inadequate and so they were forced to get bribes. So, she demanded to increase the pay scale of the police personnel. She stressed the need that the police officials should be impartial and duty conscious and should not give room for partiality. Mr. M. Bakthavathsalam, the Chief Minister promised the House that the Government would take serious steps to increase the salaries of the police personnel.

During the discussion on the Harijan Uplift on the 24th March 1960, Mrs. T. N. Ananadanayaki stressed the need to increase the amount of allotment for harijan uplift. She demanded the Government to extend the privileges to the harijans particularly, construction of houses, issue of pattas, special allotment of lands, scholarships to the students etc. for the improvements of the harijans. She urged to take sincere steps with the sole aim

142. Ibid., PP. 172-179.
of improving the harijans in all fields. Mrs. Hemalatha Devi also pointed out that the funds allotted for harijan uplift were not adequate and demanded to allot more funds. She requested the Government to issue scholarship to the harijan students in time without any delay. She also requested to construct free houses to all the houseless harijans in the State. Mrs. Rajathi Kunchithapatham appealed to the harijans to give up the caste differences which were prevalent between the different sub-castes among the harijans. She also urged the Government to issue scholarships to the harijans students without any delay if possible in advance. She was of the strong view that the economic uplift of the harijans would definitely lead to the social uplift of them. So, she requested to take steps to improve the economic conditions of the harijans in order to achieve social status for the harijans.

While speaking on Harijan Uplift on 25th March 1960, Mrs. A.S. Ponnammal demanded the Government to allot adequate funds for harijan uplift. She requested to construct free houses and drinking water wells for harijans. She welcomed the proposals to grant of Rs.1,500 for construction of wells for the harijan farmers. But, she demanded the Government to distribute the amount to the harijans through the Block Development Officers. She requested to electrify the harijan pumpsets wherever

possible. She strongly hoped that the economic advancement of harijans would give them social status.

Viduthalai stated that, she demanded the Government to allot more agriculture lands for harijans and to reserve at least 75 percent of the temple lands to be issued on lease to the harijans so as to improve their economic conditions. She also demanded to issue bus route permits, touring cinema licences, export and import licences to the harijans who formed a co-operative society to improve their economic conditions. She requested the Government to increase the pay of the scavengers.

Mrs. Sathyavani Muthu levelled a charge against the Government that the amount allotted for harijan uplift was not properly utilised. She regretted that the fruits were not reached them. She also regretted that harijans were not at all allowed to enter temples for worship. The Hindu stated that, she further regretted that the procession of Gods and Goddess were not allowed to enter the harijan streets. So, she demanded the Government to take steps to allow harijans to enter into all the temples in the State.

While speaking on demand for Education on 20th April 1960, Mrs. Hemalatha Devi commended the steps taken by the Government

146. Ibid., PP.592-594.
to provide the rural population with adequate educational facilities. She requested the Government to start more colleges in the State particularly, in Salem district, which was educationally backward. Mrs. A. Suaves regretted for the change in the medium of instruction in Tamil in colleges. She brought to the notice of the House that English medium for higher education would be necessary, not only for the linguistic minorities in the State but also for some of the Tamil speaking students who had decided not to seek employment within the State. She also pointed out that a high standard of English would be absolutely necessary for all Indian services and that could be maintained only through a medium of English in colleges. Kudiarasu stated that, she appealed to the Government to make suitable provisions for the large number of people of the linguistic minorities who were residents in the State, so, that they pursue higher education through the medium of English.

Mrs. A. S. Ponnammal requested the Government to provide facilities for harijans to study Hindi. Swadeshimitran stated that, she requested the Government to extend electrical facilities to all the villages in her constituency. She also requested the Government to give free cloths to the school going harijan and backward students in the State.

While speaking on the discussion on Official Language Policy on 5th September 1960, Mrs. A. Suares regretted that the progress in the study of Hindi was very slow. She welcomed the assurance of the Prime Minister that Hindi would not be enforced on the Non-Hindi speaking States until, such a time as they themselves desired or were prepared for the changeover. She expressed that English would also continue if necessary for communication for many more years until, Hindi was developed sufficiently to replace English. The Hindu stated that, she requested the Government to make facilities to study both these languages for the purpose of internal use as well as to communicate the countries of the world. She also cautioned that while taking steps for the promotion, dissemination and progress of the regional languages, care should be taken to avoid the spread of regionalism. Mr. C. Subramaniam, the Finance Minister said that the three language formula was accepted by all the political parties in India.

During the discussion on the Draft Outline for the Third Five Year Plan on 7th September 1960, Mrs. A. S. Ponnammal welcomed the draft as it was intended to solve the unemployment problem in the State. She suggested to introduce bonus for workers in labour contract societies and weavers. She also requested the

Government to solve the economic and housing problems of the harijans during the Third Five Year Plan.

While taking part on the discussion on Second Supplementary Estimates of Expenditure for the year 1961-62, on 25th January 1961 Mrs. T. N. Anandanayaki regretted the amount allotted for the scholarship of harijan students was inadequate. Swadeshimitran stated that, she demanded the Government to allot more funds to issue scholarships to all the harijans and backward students in the State.

While welcoming the Budget for the year 1961-62, on 2nd March 1961 Mrs. Rajathi Kunchithapatham insisted the Government to provide the rural people with road facilities to take their agricultural product to the urban areas. She welcomed the policy of the Government to introduce free education to the students upto XI standard. She urged to give adequate instructions to the teaching community in schools and colleges in order to concentrate more attention on teaching. She requested to provide all the teachers working in district board and panchayat union schools with adequate housing facilities.

Mrs. Sathyavani Muthu criticised the budget for the year 1961-62, on the grounds that the amount allotted for harijan uplift was not utilised properly. She regretted that the harijan

155. Ibid., PP.339-343.
uplift in the field of education and economy was still farce. She demanded the Government to take sincere and systematic steps to improve the economic and educational conditions of the harijans. Mrs. A. S. Ponnammal welcomed the Government policy to introduce free education for all students irrespective of caste and religion upto XI standard. She demanded to extend the midday meals scheme to all the students in the State. Mrs. P. K. R. Lakshmi Kantham commended the scheme to introduce free education for all students upto XI standard. She requested the Government to take steps to control the spiraling rise of prices of essential commodities to protect the lower and middle class people in the State. She insisted to supply adequate yarn to the poor weavers through co-operative societies. Mrs. Hemalatha Devi urged the Government to take effective steps to eradicate casteism and communalism.

Mrs. A. Suares pleaded for special grants for Anglo-Indian education. She also congratulated the Government on their decision to extend free education upto XI standard to all children irrespective of caste or creed. The Hindu stated that, she presumed that the concession would also apply to Anglo-Indian schools. She also welcomed the implementation of the

scheme of compulsory primary education for all children within the age group 6 to 11 during the Third Five Year Plan.

While speaking on the Harijan Uplift on 14th March 1961, Mrs. Hemalatha Devi urged the Government to extend the privileges of the harijans for another period of 10 years. Mrs. T. N. Anandanayaki welcomed the allotment of rupees 3 1/2 of crores for harijan uplift for the year 1960-61. She stressed the importance of education for harijans and insisted the Government to allot more funds for harijan education. She also demanded the Government to take urgent steps to issue scholarships to all the students of harijans and backward communities sufficiently in advance without any delay. She also insisted to issue scholarship to the harijan students who stayed in private hostels.

Mrs. A. S. Ponnammal urged the Government to take urgent steps to improve economic and social conditions of the harijans. She demanded to allot agricultural lands for the harijans in rural areas. *Viduthalai* stated that, she was of the strong view that each and every harijan family should own some land so that they could achieve status in society. She also demanded the Government to reserve certain seats for harijans for employment on private mills and industries. Mr. P. Kakkan, the Minister for Harijan

Welfare accepted to allot agricultural land for the harijans to improve their social and economic conditions.

Mrs. Sathyavani Muthu, while supporting the cut motion on Medical and Public Health on 20th March 1961, regretted that the amount allotted for the eradication of Malaria, Cholera, etc. was not utilised properly for the purpose. She expressed her disappointment in increasing the strength of the medical and public health staff to deal with the increased work load in the departments. So, she demanded the Government to increase the strength of the staff of the medical and public health department throughout the State. Swadeshimitran stated that, she also pointed out that 20 houses were found unsuitable for living out of 95 houses allotted for the medical staff. So, she demanded the Government to provide proper and comfortable houses to accommodate the medical and public health staff.

While welcoming the bill on Education on 22nd March 1961, Mrs.P.K.R. Lakshmi Kantham requested the Government to encourage private schools and to be liberal in granting aids to the private managements. She also stressed to fix at 15 percent permanently as maintenance grant for private management schools. She stressed the need to improve the standard of English in colleges particularly, in professional colleges. She suggested to start teaching English from III standard onwards. She specifically

163. Ibid., PP.410-415.
emphasised the need to appoint only lady teachers in elementary schools.

Mrs. Kamalambujammal requested the Government not to introduce the teacher pupil ratio scheme to the rural areas, because of the poor attendance in such schools. She suggested to fix teachers pupil ratio at 15 in rural areas and to appoint more teachers particularly, for each standard in higher elementary schools. She urged the Government to appoint peons and ayas for all the elementary and higher elementary schools in rural areas to pickup the children for schools. She suggested to the Government to provide jeeps for educational officers in every district to supervise and inspect effectively the educational institutions in their areas. Mrs. A.S. Ponnammal requested to appoint separate Director for basic education. Mrs. Sathyavani Muthu the DMK member regretted that the students and teachers were used to collect funds for the implementation of midday meals and free dress schemes.

The Hindu stated that, Mrs.Sathyavani Muthu demanded the Government to implement such schemes on Government funds. She suggested to abolish the system of basic education on elementary schools as it would affect badly the small children. She suggested to implement such a scheme in higher classes.

Mr.C.Subramaniam, the Minister for Finance did not accept the

166. Ibid.,PP.311-334

ideas of Mrs. P.K.R. Lakshmi Kantham to appoint only lady teachers in elementary schools. He also said that the Government fund was not enough to appoint a teacher for 15 students in rural areas.

While speaking on the Grants for Further Expenditure for the year 1960-61, on 25th March 1960 Mrs. T.N. Anandanayaki urged the Government to start primary health centres in rural areas. She requested the Government to utilise the building already constructed for the accommodation of a primary health centre at Thirumullai in her constituency. She alleged that it should have been constructed at Avadi. *The Hindu* stated that, she regretted that inadequate housing accommodation for doctors in rural areas would badly affect the patients and the doctors would be reluctant to stay there. She demanded the Government to start a College for Siddha Medicine and a Siddha Research Institute and to allot sufficient funds for the purposes.

During the discussion on the Third Five Year Plan on 10th November 1961, Mrs. T.N. Anandanayaki requested the Government to allot more funds to the public health department and medical department. She requested to start at least one T.B. sanatorium for 2 districts in the State to treat a large number of patients suffering from T.B. She requested the Government to allot separate funds for the improvement of backward classes in the

State. The Minister for Public Health Mr. M.A. Manickavelu accepted the suggestions to start one T.B. sanatorium for 2 districts. While welcoming the allotment to various departments in Third Five Year Plan, Mrs. A.Suares requested the Government to employ only qualified trained teachers in the elementary schools. She also requested the Government to provide suitable school buildings, modern equipment, open spaces for school gardens, and play grounds. She suggested to start more training schools and colleges for teachers. She pointed out that medical facilities would reach the villages through primary health centres. She requested the Government to offer higher emoluments and residential accommodation to the staff working in primary health centres. The Hindu stated that, Mrs. A.Suares insisted the Government to take efforts to provide better housing, electricity, sanitation, good roads, educational facilities etc. in the location of the primary health centres.

During the general discussion on the Budget for the year 1961-62, on 10th December 1961 Mrs. T.S. Soundaram Ramachandran requested the Government to take steps to arrest the rise of prices and to improve the standard of living of the people. She requested to give adequate training to the agricultural teachers employed in basic and high schools in the State. She also demanded to start an agricultural college either to Madras or at

Tinnevelly in Madras State. She also requested to appoint auxiliary nursing midwives in rural areas to improve the health and sanitary conditions of the rural people particularly, to look after the weaker sections of the community. Mrs. P. K. R. Lakshmi Kantham requested the Government to construct houses for handloom weavers through co-operative societies. She also requested the Government to extend the pension aid to all the old people in the State particularly, the widows. Mrs. T. N. Anandanayaki requested the Government to extend the old age pension scheme to all the eligible old people intime without any delay. Swadeshimitran stated that, she also demanded the Government to extend student loan system to all the students in the State without any income restriction. She stressed the need to provide more houses for the income group and the lower income group through housing societies.

During the general discussion on the Further Grants for the year 1961-62, on 11th December 1961 Mrs. T. N. Anandanayaki requested the Government to start separate departments for harijan students and backward students to issue scholarships without any delay. Viduthalai stated that, she also insisted the Government to issue more scholarships for harijan and backward students.

175. Swadeshimitran, dated 14th December, 1961.
WOMEN LEGISLATORS AND WOMEN UPLIFTMENT REFORMS:

Mrs. P. K. R. Lakshmi Kantham, taking on Public Health on 19th July 1957, requested the Government to allow one relative of the women patient who were admitted as inpatients in the hospitals to stay with them and help them. Mrs. T. S. Soundaram Ramachandran requested the Government to appoint lady doctors in the maternity hospitals and child welfare centres. She also requested to appoint more qualified midwives in the hospitals in the rural areas. She urged to appoint ladies as rural medical officers in rural areas.

During the discussion on the report of the Legislature Committee on the White Paper on Education on 7th November 1957, A. S. Ponnammal requested the Government to take steps to admit the girls who were denied admission in the teacher training schools in the industrial institutes in the State. She also requested to start girls' high schools to improve women's education in the State. She specifically requested to start high school for girls in her Nilakottai constituency. Mrs. Hemalatha Devi demanded to start high schools exclusively, for girls in each district. She also demanded to start colleges exclusively, for women in every district in order to provide facilities for women students to pursue their higher studies. She urged upon the Government to start a college for women at Salem as early as possible. Kudiarasu accepted the ideas of Mrs. Hemalatha Devi and requested

the Government to introduce compulsory education for girls in the State. As a reply to the requests of Mrs. A.S. Ponnammal and Mrs. Hemalatha Devi, Mr. C. Subramaniam, the Minister for Finance said that Government would start more separate high schools for girls' throughout the State. He also stated that, he would consider the matter of starting women colleges in each district of the State.

During the debate on Police on 18th March 1958, Mrs. Sathyavani Muthu regretted that there was absolutely no safety for women under police custody. So, she requested the Government to take steps to provide them adequate safety while in police custody.

Mrs. T.S. Soundaram Ramachandran, while taking part in the discussion on the Madras Children Bill on 5th September 1958, requested the Government to fix 18 years as the age for marriage instead of 16. She also requested the Government to start Vigilance Home for girls in every district. She also urged the Government to punish severely those who were involved in rape cases. Mr. M. Bakthavathsalam, the Chief Minister accepted the requests of Mrs. T.S. Soundaram Ramachandran and said that the marriage age for girls would be fixed at 18 years instead of

180. *Kudiarasu*, dated 11th November, 1957,
181. Ibid., PP.456-470.
at 16. He also told the House that the Government would start Vigilance Homes for girls in every district.

Mrs. Lourdhammal Simon, the Minister for Local Administration brought to the notice of the House that the Legislature Committee on Local Administration had accepted the proposal to give adequate representation to women in corporation. The committee had recommended that 6 women councillors might be elected as proportional representation by the whole council irrespective of the number of women already elected to the council by the electorate. She also stated that the Government would take necessary action to reserve 50 percent seats for women in Local Bodies.

During the discussion on the Madras Panchayat Bill on 23rd September 1958, Mrs. T.S. Soundaram Ramachandran demanded 50 percent reservation for women representatives in Panchayat Councils. She also demanded that ladies should also be allowed to represent in village administration. She also pointed out that Village Panchayats were breeding grounds for social services. So, more women representatives should be allowed to serve in village panchayats. She welcomed the proposal to give compulsory education for girls up to 11 years and regretted that the amount allotted for girls education was inadequate. So, she requested the Government to give more incentives to girl students in

184. Ibid., PP. 290-301.
schools so as to attract them to attend schools regularly. She argued that until and unless educational facilities for girls are not provided, women representation in Panchayats would be meaningless. She felt that educated women alone should be made to represent Panchayats to execute effectively the welfare schemes of the Government.

Mrs. A.S. Ponnammal pointed out that women constituted more than 50 percent in the total population. Therefore, she demanded to reserve at least 50 percent for women to represent in the local bodies like the Municipalities and the Panchayats. Mrs. Hemalatha Devi stressed the need to reserve certain seats exclusively for women in Municipalities and in Panchayats.

While taking part on the general discussion of the Governor's Address on 7th February 1959, Mrs. Savithiri Shanmugam pointed out that more than 50 percent of the girls who had passed SSLC, applied for teacher training course but, it was impossible for the Government to admit all of them in teacher training schools. So, she requested the Government to make alternative arrangements for such girls to employ them in other fields. She also requested the Government to start cottage industries in urban areas to facilitate the women to improve their economic condition as was done in rural areas.

During the general discussion on the Budget for the year

1959-60, on 4th March 1959 Mrs. T. S. Soundaram Ramachandran regretted that most of the girls in villages could not go to school due to poverty. So, she demanded the Government to start hostels for girls who were studying from VI standard onwards, so, that they could stay in the hostels and pursue their studies without break. Mrs. P. K. R. Lakshmi Kantham urged the Government to extend the educational concessions to the poor girls of the Most Backward Communities. Mrs. Hemalatha Devi regretted that women in Salem district were very backward particularly, in education. She regretted to note that there was no college in Salem district for women to pursue their higher education. Therefore, she demanded to start immediately a women's college in Salem. She regretted to note that the women students in schools in Salem were not able to get their scholarships properly and in time. Viduthalai welcomed the points of the members and urged the Government to grant scholarships to all girls students studying from VI standard onwards in high schools.

Mrs. Rajathi Kunchithapatham, while taking part in the debate on Police on 12th March 1959, requested the Government to admit women into police force and to utilise their services to look after woman criminals, while taking them to Courts, Vigilance Homes etc. Mrs. A. S. Ponnammal endorsed the views of the members.

188. i) MLAP., Vol. XX March, 1959, PP. 207-463.
   ii) G.O.No.1014, Education & Public Health Department, dated 18th May, 1960.

expressed by Mrs. Rajathi Kunchithapatham in the House regarding the admission of women into police force. Mrs. T.S. Soundaram Ramachandran, while taking part in the discussion on Head of State Ministers and Headquarters Staff on 13th March 1959, requested the Government to increase the nurse training institutions to facilitate more women to undergo nurse training. She also regretted that the funds allotted for children and women's welfare were not adequately utilised. She demanded the Government to start service homes for destitute women and widows in every district and also homes for disabled and old women. She also requested to start more educational institutions for girls to improve their education and also to start cottage industries to employ more women in rural areas.

During the general discussion on the Budget for the year 1960-61, on 12th March 1960 Mrs. P.K.R. Lakshmi Kantham demanded the Government to take steps to admit all the school going girls in schools compulsorily. She also requested to permit destitute women, widows and educationally stagnated girls to appear privately for the SSLC examinations to facilitate them in improving their education and finance.

While taking part in the debate on Voting on Demands for the Grants for the year 1960-61, on 26th April 1960 Mrs. C. Kolandaiammal requested the Government to increase the

teacher training schools for girls in the State to accommodate more women students taking into consideration the increased number of women candidates applied for the posts. She also demanded to increase the amount of stipend given to the girl students undergoing teacher training.

Mrs. A.S. Ponnammal who took part in the debate on Education on 22nd March 1961, requested the Government to provide accommodation for harijan lady teachers who were working in rural areas where the caste Hindus were reluctant to give them houses for rent. So, she demanded to construct houses to accommodate especially, the harijan lady teachers working in village schools.

During the general discussion for the Budget for year 1962-63, on 11th December 1962 Mrs. T.N. Anandanayaki regretted to note that a number of widows had been suffering a lot with their children and it was impossible for them to admit their children in orphanages. So, she requested the Government to relax the rules for admission of the Orphanage Homes to accommodate the children of widows and destitute women. Mrs. Saraswathy Pandurangam requested the Government to start a college for woman in North Madras taking into consideration of the increased strength of college going woman and the impossibility of admission for women student in the college in

South Madras. She also demanded to start a women's polytechnic in North Madras. Mrs. Hemalatha Devi urged the Government to grant at least 20 per month for the widows in the State to maintain their family. She also demanded the Government to start more teacher training institutions for women at least one in every taluk headquarters to co-opt with the increased strength of women students applied for admission into the training institutions. Mrs. Savithiri Shanmugam regretted that the funds allotted for women's organisations in panchayat, child welfare centres etc. were inadequate. So, she demanded the Government to allot more funds for children's and women's welfare centres and to co-opt at least 3 women members in each panchayat.

WOMEN LEGISLATORS AND OTHER REFORMS

During the discussion on the Governor's Address on 4th May 1957, Mrs. Hemalatha Devi expressed her happiness and thanks to the Government for having included Kanyakumari into Tamil Nadu. She requested the Government to take steps to provide adequate drinking water and road facilities for the rural people in the Province. While welcoming the inclusion of Kanyakumari into Tamil Nadu, Mrs. Sathyavani Muthu regretted to note that the Tamil Nadu Government failed to get back, the important pockets like Devikulam, Peermedu, Cochin, Chittoor, Neyyattangarai into Tamil Nadu. She further regretted to note that there was no electric supply to the quarters of the police. So, she urged the Government to electrify the police quarters and do justice to the

police constables who had been serving sincerely and impartially in the Province. Mrs. T. N. Anandanayaki expressed her compliments for having provided electricity for more than 1,250 villages. She also requested the Government to extend the supply of electricity to all the villages in the State. She requested to take steps to get adequate aid from the Centre to improve Madras Province under Industrial Housing Scheme.

During the debate on the Police on 15th July 1957, Mrs. A. S. Ponnammal regretted that some of the police constables in her constituency were involved in helping illicit-arrack manufacturers and dealers. She also regretted that many of the police constables were addicted to drinks. She strongly suggested to de-promote the police constables who were addicted to drink and post them as watchman duty. She urged the Government to take severe action on the corrupted police officials. The Minister strongly stated that the police constables who were addicted to drink must be depromoted and must be posted as watchman.

During the same debate, Mrs. T. N. Anandanayaki requested the Government to increase the salaries of the police force and provide adequate housing facilities for them. She also requested to provide employment opportunities to the family members of the

198. Ibid., PP.520-525.
During the discussion on Labour including Factories on 23rd July 1957, Mrs. Sathyavani Muthu regretted to note that the labourers in the Government match factories would not get more than 7 annas per day even after hard work and with that meagre amount the worker could not maintain his life. So, she requested the Government to increase the wages for the workers of the match factory. She also regretted that there was no safety and security for the workers particularly, cobblers in the Government shoe making industry. She further regretted to note that the Adi Dravidas were not allowed to work in the B and C Mills purely on caste grounds. She also pointed out that the rents collected from the workers were very high. She stated that the salary of the worker was Rs.30 but, he was forced to pay a rent of Rs.12.30 for the Government quarters in which, he lived. So, she requested the Government to reduce the rent for the labourers who lived in the Government quarters. She also regretted to point out that the tanneries in Madras State in which a large number of Adi Dravidas were employed still under the control of the private bodies. She pointed out that the owners of the tanneries did not care for the Adi Dravida workers in the tanneries. While welcoming the points of Mrs. Sathyavani Muthu, urged the Government to look into the matter and take steps to improve the conditions.

of the tannery workers particularly, the Adi Dravidas in private management.

During the debate on the Capital Outlay on Industrial Development on 24th July 1957, Mrs. P.K.R. Lakshmi Kantham objected to the proposal to include all the weavers as members into the co-operative societies. She pleaded to exclude the master weavers from co-operative societies. She requested the Government to grant all the facilities and grants and aids given to the weavers in co-operative societies should also be extended to the master weavers and other weavers who were not members of the co-operative societies. She regretted for the introduction of machines for the purpose of making parts, dots in cloths namely, Junnady which had been providing employment opportunities for a large number of women. She regretted further that consequent on the introduction of machines, a large number of women were not to be employed. So, she requested the Government to re-employ women workers in the industry of Junnady.

During the debate on Motor Vehicle Amendment Bill on 1st November 1957, Mrs. T.N. Anandanayaki suggested to form a body of road transport with a single member namely, the State or Regional Transport Officer for the administration of road transport in the State. She stressed that persons with judicial qualifications should be appointed as State Transport Authorities.

Mrs. Lourdhammal Simon, the Minister for Local Administration moved the White Paper on the Reform of Local Administration in the Madras State including the Madras City Corporation on 4th November 1957, for consideration and discussion in the House. During the debate on the White Paper, Mrs. T.S. Soundaram Ramachandran welcomed the proposal and suggested that the Village Panchayats should be allowed to function independently without interference from the revenue officials. She suggested to appoint a non-official as the head of District Development Council. She also requested the Government to allot adequate funds for the Panchayat and Panchayat Unions to execute development schemes. Mrs. P.K.R. Lakshmi Kantham requested the Government to conduct secret elections to Panchayats and Panchayat Unions. She suggested to have uniform system throughout the State in the elections to the Panchayats, Municipalities, Legislatures etc. She further suggested to have hospitals and high schools under the district boards, but maternity homes might be placed under the control of the Panchayat Union.

While taking part in the discussion on the Village Panchayat Amendment Bill on 9th November 1957, Mrs. Kamalambujammal suggested to elect Village Panchayat President by the elected members of the wards for the successful and smooth functioning of the Village Panchayat. She suggested that industrial areas

should not be brought under Village Panchayats, but a separate committee should be formed to administer the industrial areas and the committee should be endowed with all the powers enjoyed by the Village Panchayats. She also demanded to conduct the elections for the local bodies without any further delay. She welcomed the proposal to raise the life of the Panchayats from 3 years to 5 years so that the Panchayat could perform the functions successfully. Mrs. T.N. Anandanayaki favoured the indirect election of President of the Village Panchayats instead of direct election. She pointed out that the President of the Village Panchayats should be elected by the elected member of the wards concerned so, that a cordial relationship could be maintained between the President and the Members. She also pointed out that the President himself was an elected member of a particular ward concerned. So, she added that the elected members of the ward in the Village Panchayat should elect, the President of the Village Panchayat from among themselves. She stressed that the real democratic principles were followed in such a system of election. She regretted to note that the Village Panchayat Inspector was empowered to exclude any part of the Village Panchayat from itself, provided, even after exclusion, the population of the village would not less than five hundred. She feared that such a power of the Inspector would lead to arbitrary acts from the Inspector. In supporting the views of Mrs. T.N. Anandanayaki, Swadeshimitran demanded the Government to amend the provision insuch away that the Inspector

should on notification and with consent of the Government should make any change, inclusion or exclusion of the Panchayat Acts.

Mrs. Kamalambujammal, while taking part in the discussion on Motor Vehicle Acts Administration on 5th April 1958, regretted to note that road accidents had been increasing day after day due to the reckless driving of lorry drivers in our country. She further regretted to note that most of the lorry drivers continue to drive lorries without rest or sleep and thereby paved the way for frequent accidents. So, she urged the Government to appoint checking inspectors for a distance of 10 miles instead of 30 miles in the State to check the lorry drivers. She urged to tax carts which were used as transport vehicles in carrying large amount of goods from place to place. Mrs. T.N. Anandanayaki requested the Minister for Transport to take steps in framing suitable rules on the basis of the Motor Vehicles Act of 1956 of the Central Government to issue route permits to vehicles. She denied the charges that bus route permits were liberally granted to the ruling party men. She urged the Government to appoint an Expert Committee to look into the affairs of issuing route permits to the parties concerned. She also requested the Government to issue route permits to the lorry owners the same route if they off for.

Mrs. Lourdhammal Simon introduced the Madras District

Development Councils Bill on 8th September 1958, for consideration in the House. She pointed out that the composition of District Development Council would be almost the same as the present District Planning Board and the functions of the District Development Council would be purely advisory in character. She also pointed out that it was proposed to abolish certain advisory bodies including the District Planning Boards functioning in the districts and to transfer all their functions to the District Development Council. The District Development Council, she added, would be assisted in their work by a number of standing committees. She further pointed out that the District Development Councils were expected to play the role of a co-ordinating agencies between the State Government and the elected representatives of their people in the implementation of developmental activities in the district and in the execution of the schemes under Five Year Plans.

Mrs. P.K.R. Lakshmi Kantham welcomed the bill on the ground that the District Development Councils would function as an ardent co-ordinator between the Government and the district. She requested the Government to appoint a special standing committee under the District Development Council especially, for the welfare of the women exclusively with women members. Mrs. T.N. Anandanayaki strongly objected to sending the bill for the consideration of an Expert Committee as required by the member Mr. A. Govindasamy of DMK but, she regretted that the District Development Council was purely an advisory body without any power to take decision regarding the developmental activities
of the district. So, she urged upon the Government to empower the District Development Council with more powers to take decisions on the Developmental activities of the district. She suggested that the President of the District Development Council should be elected from among the elected members of the Panchayat Unions and the members of the Council should also be elected in the same way so that the Committee would function smoothly.

Mrs. Lourdhammal Simon introduced the Madras District Municipalities Amendment Bill on 9th September 1958, for the purpose of postponing the ordinary elections to Municipal Council by six months and for continuing office the existing Councillors during the period of postponement. She assured the House that it was only an out of limit bill and the elections to the Municipal Councils would be taken on hand immediately as soon as the elections to a considerable number of Panchayats were over. Therefore, she moved that the Madras District Municipalities Act 1958 would be taken into consideration. During the discussion on the bill Mrs. Savithiri Shanmugam welcomed the bill on the ground that it was impossible to conduct elections to Municipal Councils as already the elections were going on for a large number of Panchayats in the State. She also suggested that the period of life of Municipal Councils might be raised from 3 years to 5 years. She also requested the Government to reserve more seats for women in Municipal Councils.

During the debate on the Madras Panchayat Bill moved by the Mrs. Lourdhammal Simon, the Minister for Local Administration Mrs. Kamalambujammal welcomed the bill, but regretted to note that the present system of election of the council of members had service defects. So, she urged the Government to introduce proper method of election of members to the Council. She further urged to reserve certain seats for women in Panchayat Union Councils in Panchayat. She also requested to take steps to send only the elected members of the Village Panchayats to the Panchayat Union Council to represent as its Chairman or Member. Mrs. Hemalatha Devi welcomed the bill and requested the Government to give more power to the Panchayat Presidents in developmental activities of the village. She also requested the Government to give the right to vote for the MLA’s and MP’s concerned in the deliberation of the Panchayat Union Councils. Mrs. T.N. Anandanayaki was proud to note that the bill was an ideal one and exemplary. She was also proud to point out that the bill was intended to establish Village Swaraj which was the cherished goal of our beloved Gandhiji. While taking part in discussion on the Madras State Electricity Board Budget on 3rd November 1958, Mrs. Rajathi Kunchithapatham expressed her compliments for the functioning of the Electricity Board. Mrs. Sathyavani Muthu pointed out that though more than 60,000 pumpsets were given to agriculturists in the State not a single agriculturist was satisfied with it and no achievement was

recorded in producing more agricultural products. So, she regretted that most of the farmers were not contented in the electricity programmes of the Government. She urged the Government to undertake immediately the electrification of railways from Tambaram to Villupuram and from Madras Central to Arakonam, so, as to increase the income of the electricity department. She further regretted that more amount were spent for electricity in the field of agriculture but nothing was achieved concretely to solve the food crisis in the State.

In the same debate, Mrs. T.N. Anandanayaki expressed her compliments to the Government for having improved achievements in the field of electricity. But, she regretted to note that only 19 percent of total electricity was being utilised for agricultural purposes. So, she pointed out that it was not the yard stick to measures the agricultural improvement in the State. She suggested that the supply of pumpsets to the farmers and the supply of electricity should be entrusted to one and the same department namely, electricity department, so, as to help the farmers without delay in the State. She also suggested the Government to take up the private agencies authorised for electric supply under the Government so that rural electrification would be done effectively. She also urged to give priority in the supply of electricity to the more backward districts like Ramanad and Tinnevelly. The Hindu welcomed the

points of Mrs. T.N. Anandanayaki and demanded the Government that the private companies eight in number authorised to supply electricity in the State should be abolished and the entire supply of electricity should be undertaken by the Government.

During the debate, on the Calling Attention Motion to the Closure of Beedi Factories on 10th February 1959, Mrs. Rajathi Kunchithapatham regretted to inform the House the plight of the beedi and lungi workers due to the restrictions to export the beedi's and lungi's manufactured by them. Consequently, she added that a large number of beedi workers and lungi workers were out of employment and they had been suffering a lot particularly, in Tinnevelly, Melapalayam, Mukkudal, Amba Samudram areas. So, she urged upon the Government to provide them alternate jobs immediately to earn their living. She proposed to start a Mill in Tinnevelly so that the unemployed beedi workers and lungi workers could be employed in the Mill.

During the discussion on Head of State Ministers and Headquarters Staff and Elections on 13th March 1959, Mrs. Sathyavani Muthu pointed out that lakhs and lakhs of rupees were being wasted on the salaries of Governor and she felt that the Governor post was not at all needed in a democratic set up. She regretted to note that most of the problems affected the people were not yet solved particularly, the food problem for

want of funds. But, she wondered that a large sum of money was being wasted for an extravagant and Ornament Post like the Governor. She requested the Ministers to co-operative with the opposition leaders and members of the Legislature in the discussion on important matters of the public. She also urged the Ministers to take the members of the Legislature also to in their visits to the various constituencies. Viduthalai on accepting the points of Mrs. Sathyavani Muthu, urged the Minister to come forward to reduce their salaries and daily allowance etc. So that the Government servants and teachers could not glamour for more.

While welcoming the Madras Gramdan Villages (Repayment of Debts) Bill on 30th March 1959, Mrs. T.S. Soundaram Ramachandran urged the Government to abolish altogether the agricultural loans of the gramdan villages. She requested the Government to encourage the villagers of the gramdan villages to undertake collective form operation as a first step towards socialism. She hoped that the Government would come up with specific schemes for the guided development of the gramdan villages and there by to attain self-servicing schemes in every field.

During the debate on the Madras State Electricity Board Budget for the year 1959-60, on 22nd April 1959

Mrs. T. N. Anandanayaki criticised that in comparing with other countries of the world the achievements of Madras State in electricity was very low, she pointed out that in other countries the consumption of electricity for individual was more than 2,000 units. But, she regretted to note that in Madras State in the individual consumption of electricity was less than 36 units. She further regretted that crores of people were out of the reach of electricity consumption. So, she urged the Government to take steps to produce more electricity in the State. She requested the Government to reduce the electrical charges per unit must be fixed at 3 1/2 annas. She also requested the Government to take steps to erect Thermal Power Stations with the adequate assistance of the Central Government to produce more electricity in the State so, as to avoid the scarcity of electricity in the future. She requested the Minister to make arrangement for the collection of electrical charges from door to door through the persons who took meter readings from house to house to avoid the long queue of people in paying the electrical charges at the counters of the electricity office particularly, in Madras. She requested the Government to take steps to extend electricity to all the villages in the State as early as possible.

During the discussion on the Andhra Pradesh and Madras (Alternation of Boundaries) Bill on 27th April 1959, Mrs. Kamalambujammal expressed her compliments to the member.
Mr. Vinayagam for having achieved in bringing Tiruthani for Tamil Nadu. But, she regretted to note that more than thirty villages in Nellore district where the Tamils were in majority were not included into the Madras State despite their repeated option through petition to the Government to include them into the Madras State. She further regretted to note that Sunnampukkulam near Kumudipoondi was an integral part of Madras State but, it was given to Andhra Pradesh. She requested to Government to pass the resolution to the effect to include Panankadu and Ramapuram into the Madras State. She also urged the Government to request the Andhra Pradesh Government to make arrangements for the Tamil Children in Andhra area to study Tamil in Schools.

During the debate on Road Transport Schemes, on 22nd March 1960, Mrs. T.N. Anandanayaki while welcoming the nationalisation of road transport, pointed out that a large number of people were struggling in bus stands to catch the buses to their destination because of the inadequate number of buses. She felt that it cost a lot of difficulties to the passengers particularly, in Madras City. So, she urged the Government to increase the number of buses and provide easy transport facilities for the public in the State. She suggested to appoint a committee to study the problems of the transport workers and recommend it to the Government. She also suggested to boost the workers in the body building section of the transport to enable them to build at least

219. MLAP., Vol.XXIII April, 1959, PP.400-452.
two bodies in a month. She also requested the Government to get adequate supply of spare parts of the buses to avoid breakdown of buses. Viduthalai which appreciated the point raised by Mrs.T.N.Anandanayaki requested the Government to construct houses for the bus workers so that they could serve sincerely in their fields and suggested that the houses could be constructed from the funds which the transport department received as profit. Mr.K.Kamaraj, the Chief Minister stated in the House that the Government would appoint a committee to look into the problems of the transport employees and loans also would be given to them to construct houses. He also promised the House that the unemployed persons with heavy licence would be given jobs in the transport department to solve the unemployed problems.

During the debate on the Madras Chit Funds Bill on 31st January 1961, Mrs.Rajathi Kunchithapatham asserted that the system of chit funds had been playing an important role among the middle class and rural people in small savings. She requested the Government to encourage the chit funds system by granting privileges to those who run the chit funds. She also requested the Government to protect the people who join the chit fund system from cheating on the part of chit fund managers. She also requested the Government to take steps to enable the chit funds share holders to get back the chit fund money without any final payment.

222. Ibid., PP.245-250.
delay. Mrs. T. N. Anandanayaki pointed out that there were certain type of chits run by workers in transport department. She stated that some workers joined together and conducted a chit called "Kulukku Chittu". She added that the departmental people working in high court also conducted such chits and monthly salaried people joined those chits and they paid some amount every month. She also pointed out that the Foreman did not take any large commission. She felt that if the Government did not exempt those chits then it would lead to a lot of hardship for those poor people. She regretted to point out that it might not be possible for the Foreman conducting such chits to observe all the formalities laid down in the bill. Swadeshimitran requested the Government to exempt such chits from the purview of the bill. Mr. R. Venkataraman, the Industrial Minister told the House that many labours were affected by the local chit funds. In order to protect them from cheating of chit owners, Government had decided to bring the bill. He informed the House that the Government would take steps to promote small savings in Government offices like the post office.

225. Ibid., PP. 309-317.