CHAPTER VI
POST-WAR CRINES AND SCHEMES

The post-War period witnessed increased labour unrest. On the one hand workers agitated for improvement in their working conditions and on the other hand the Communists and the Congressites vied with each other for trade union influence. At this juncture the Congress Party came to power.

The attitude of certain political organizations presented serious impediments to the Quit India Movement. The Muslim League demanded the creation of Pakistan. Taking advantage of the situation created thereby, the British administrators insisted upon the solution of the communal and minority problems as a preliminary to the consideration of the demands, made by the Congress Party. In 1942 Rajagopalachari advocated the acceptance of Pakistan in principle as a basis of settlement between the Congress and the League. The All India Congress Committee rejected his resolution; yet Rajaji’s gesture had a demoralizing effect upon the nationalist movement. This led to his resignation from the Party. The Justice Party extended to the British “unconditional support of Tamilians in the prosecution of the War as a counterblast of the Congress attitude.” E.V.Ramaswami Naicker advocated the creation of a separate Dravidanadu and threatened to launch an agitation for the eradication of social discriminations and communal disabilities. The Communist Party, led by Mohan Kumaramangalam, Ramamurthi and Anandan Nambiar, extended their support to the British, as Communist Russia joined the side of Great Britain. They even organized the workers and peasants in support of the English and attacked land holders and factory owners.
Because of these overwhelming odds and for want of co-ordination, the Quit India Movement fell through Subhas Chandra Bose, who organized the Indian National Army, fought against the British in Assam; but was defeated. In consequence the nationalist circles put on the appearance of gloom. However, the success of the Labour Party which was pledged to India’s independence, in the election of 1945 in Great Britain led to a welcome change in British attitude to India. At the instance of Prime Minister Atlee, Viceroy Wavell released Political prisoners and ordered general elections in the provinces in 1945. The Tamilnadu Congress Committee under the leadership of K. Kamaraj by this time had emerged as a popular organization. It created the National Youth Federation and gained the support of the peasants and workers. As a result it won an easy victory. In 1946 Congress Party formed the ministry under the leadership of T. Prakasam.¹

On 22 April 1946 the Legislative party met to elect its leader. Prakasam and MuthurangaMudaliar were the two candidates contesting for the post of the Party leader. Voting was by secret ballot. Prakasam was chosen leader by eighty two votes as against sixty nine secured by the rival candidate, MuthurangaMudaliar.² There was only one invalid vote. Of the 175 members present, twenty three did not exercise their vote. It was evident that the supporters of Rajagopalachari abstained from voting. The Andhras voted for Prakasam. Following the election, at the request of Henry Fort Knight, Governor of Madras, Prakasam formed the ministry on 30 April 1946.³

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³ F.N.R., for the Second Half of Apr. 1946.
Reintroduction of Prohibition

One of the popular acts of the Prakasam Ministry was the reintroduction of prohibition in the already introduced prohibition districts of Salem, Chittoor, Cuddappah and NorthArcot and further extension of the measure to the other districts.\textsuperscript{4}This was mainly based on the temperancemovement which was a gain to the Indian National Congress towards the beginning of the twentieth century.\textsuperscript{5} It also became one of the most important principles of Gandhian constructive programme. Already there existed a move in the Presidency infavour of total prohibition.\textsuperscript{6} At these beginning of it, ArogyaswamiMudaliar, the Excise Minister in the Ministry of Subbarayan stood for the gradual introduction of total prohibition in the State.\textsuperscript{7}

However the formation of the Congress Ministry in March 1946 again ushered in a golden era in the history of prohibition. In pursuance of the policy of the Congress regarding prohibition, Prakasam in his broadcast speech, from the Madras station of the All India Radio on 1 October 1946 highlighted the objectives of the prohibition scheme.\textsuperscript{8} He declared that 1 October 1946, would be a red letter day in the history of the Madras Presidency as on that day will be inaugurated one of the most important social uplift schemes formulated by the present Madras Government viz., ‘Prohibition’. The Prakasam Ministry was pledged to the Congress ideology and had prohibition as a vital part of its programme of social and economic uplift and amelioration of the population and hence decided to reintroduce prohibition, not only in the four districts in which it was in force, between 1937 and 1939; but in four more districts namely Coimbatore, Kurnool, Anantapur and Bellary. The financial implications of

\textsuperscript{6} Rajagopalachari, C., \textit{Prohibition}, Madras, 1943, p.44.
\textsuperscript{7} \textit{Ibid}.
\textsuperscript{8} \textit{Madras Information}, 5 Oct. 1946.
prohibition, the administrative difficulties involved in enforcing the same were all there. The total estimated loss of revenue was more than Rs.5 crores a year. Nevertheless, the Government was determined to proceed with the scheme, because it felt that financial loss or administrative difficulties would be less when compared to the large-scale social and economic benefits for the people, particularly the poorer sections. It was an experiment of social reform of far reaching implications, which was boldly undertaken by the Government of Madras.

The introduction of prohibition in the eight districts was only an initial step. The intention of the Government was to go ahead with the scheme and to extend it to the whole Presidency in the course of the next three years. As stated in its policy note,

When that has been done and the drink demon has been effectively destroyed throughout the Province, we have accomplished the biggest and the most important social reform that any Government has achieved anywhere. We will then have the satisfaction of having introduced light into thousands of homes where darkness prevailed before; we will have the satisfaction of having spread joy into thousands of families where destitution and poverty reigned supreme.9

When prohibition was reintroduced there arose the issue of whether the enforcement of prohibition should be entrusted to the excise staff or police. The Government had decided that the police department should be in-charge of prohibition work in the districts of Coimbatore, Salem, North Arcot and Chittoor and that the Excise Staff should be in-charge in the districts of Cuddappah, Kurnool, Bellary and Anantapur. The Board of Revenue was requested to submit detailed proposals in consultation with the Inspector General of Police to implement this decision. L.A. Bishop, the I.G. of

9. Ibid.
Police, was the Dy.Superintendent of Police of Salem when the prohibition was first introduced in 1937. He expressed himself strongly in favour of entrusting the work to the Excise Department. He stressed that the police department was ill-suited for the specialised involvement in prohibition. Thirteen memorialists who were the members of the Excise Department, prayed that before, they were condemned as unfit to work, they should be given a chance to show their worth by working the Act in four districts at least for some reasonable time. The memorialists wanted the remaining of the Excise Department as Prohibition department and also demanded salaries equal to that of the corresponding cadre of the police department. The Board of Revenue was strongly convinced that the Excise Staff deserved a chance to enforce Prohibition. The Director of prohibition submitted a report giving the arguments in favour of police department. Finally the enforcement of prohibition was entrusted to the police assisted by the staff of the Excise Department. All toddy, arrack, ganja and opium shops were closed. Permits for consumption of liquor were given to foreigners on application. In case of Indians, permits for consumption of liquor were only on exceptional case purely on medical grounds. For the enforcement of prohibition, the Government appointed a special staff of two Assistant Commissioners of Excise from the Excise Department and Seven Deputy Superintendents of Police recruited from among the Excise Inspectors, Seven Inspectors from among the ordinary police and 87 Sub-Inspectors from among the Excise sub-Inspectors. In addition to these 334 Head constables were recruited. 494 constables were recruited from among the Excise Peons. The Excise Department consisted of one Deputy

10. G.O.No. 1788, Revenue Department, 17 Aug. 1946.
11. Ibid.
Commissioner of Prohibition, four district prohibition officers and local officers responsible for the enforcement of prohibition. In view of the exceptionally arduous nature of Prohibition work and the corrupt practices, special pay and allowances were given to the staff of the Prohibition department.

Prakasam was fully aware that apart from strict vigilance by Government, the hearty co-operation of the general public was essential for the successful implementation of Prohibition. Hence, including police and the officials of the Prohibition Department, the Government appointed Prohibition Advisory Committees in all districts, taluks and villages to enforce the Act strictly.

The ameliorative side of Prohibition work was very important. In order to effectively control drinking, propaganda was organised in the towns and villages in a comprehensive manner. The Government also started a savings drive and the village steps for uplift was arranged. In each district, a Special Development Officer and Assistant Development Officers were appointed by the Government. The officers were recruited from the Co-operative Societies. The Government also appointed Deputy Tahsildars and rural recreation officers in every taluk. The Ballad Singers were appointed in each revenue division. The most obvious source of counter-attraction the Government had provided was the refreshment stalls opened in the toddy shop itself. About 1000 such refreshment stalls were opened in the more important centres in the Prohibition districts. In these stalls jaggery, water, buttermilk, tea, coffee and food, made from Bengalgram, maize and wheat were provided free of cost. The Government sanctioned only Rs.100 for

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16. Ibid.
17. G.O.No.1778, Revenue Department, 17 Aug. 1946.
each stall; but this was not sufficient to cover the whole cost. This offered an opportunity to the public to complain that the Government was not giving sufficient attention to the cause of prohibition.\textsuperscript{22}

The enforcement of prohibition entailed loss of occupation to a good number of people who had been making a living by toddy tapping and sale of arrack, toddy and allied intoxicants.\textsuperscript{23} The Government realised the urgent need to find alternative means of employment for such people and therefore sanctioned a number of schemes for employing them in areas such as road construction, manufacture of sweet toddy and jaggery and other cottage industries.\textsuperscript{24} With the introduction of prohibition, the supply of intoxicating liquors in the ten mile belt area was completely banned.\textsuperscript{25} But illicit distillation posed a threat to the policy of the Government. Prohibition amounted to a loss of five crores of rupees per year.\textsuperscript{26} Still the Government ordered strict vigilance and detected large number of cases of illicit distillation and connected offences.\textsuperscript{27}

In spite of the financial hardships faced by the Government over the prohibition policy, it generated great enthusiasm among the villagers. Ex-addicts and members of poor families and especially the womenfolk greeted prohibition with immense relief and joy.\textsuperscript{28} The economic benefits of prohibition were observed even during the early months, amongst the ex-addicts and their families. Money, which was formerly going to the toddy shops now came in for the benefit of the family and it was utilised for purchasing new cloth and other requirements of the family.\textsuperscript{29} The Government policy of Prohibition was aimed at the removal of an evil that

\textsuperscript{22} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{23} Ibid. 5 Oct. 1946.
\textsuperscript{24} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{25} G.O.No.1398, Revenue Department, 29 June 1946.
\textsuperscript{26} Madras in 1946, p.12.
\textsuperscript{27} G.O.No.1776, Revenue Department, 16 Aug. 1946.
\textsuperscript{28} Madras Information, 16 Nov. 1946.
\textsuperscript{29} Ibid.
did great harm to the society. With the re-introduction of Prohibition in the eight districts starvation in many homes of the villages came to an end.

**Educational Reforms**

Similar in importance as prohibition was the effort of the Prakasam Ministry to eradicate illiteracy. It was realised that removal of illiteracy was an urgent need.\(^{30}\) When Prakasam became the Chief Minister, the attention of the Government was turned to the reform of the educational system. As the first step the Government wanted to re-organise the educational system in the Province.\(^{31}\) For that purpose it circulated an exhaustive questionnaire and obtained the suggestions of several eminent individuals and corporate bodies connected with educational endeavour in the Province. The questionnaire was evidently the product of much anxious thought. It was expected to evoke a corresponding amount of helpful thinking from all those who were for educational re-organisation of the right type and in the right direction. The intention of the Government was to undertake a major reform on the bed-rock foundation of consolidated public opinion.\(^{32}\)

After getting public opinion a conference was held in October 1946. It was presided over by the Minister for Education and attended by the educational officers of the State.\(^{33}\) The conference mainly discussed the prospects of both boys and girls education and decided to give immediate effect to the following measures.

a) Adoption of the regional language as the medium of instruction,

b) Introduction in the curriculum of the teaching of Hindustani, the national language, in all secondary schools and

c) Improvement in pay and prospects of the teaching staff.

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It was also suggested to constitute an advisory board to advise the Government on the other general matters pertaining to education. The first of the three resolutions received the immediate attention of the Government in the year 1946-47 itself.  

The Government worked on the plan of bringing all children into schools. It also wanted to retain them till their completion of school course to make them permanently literates. By this process the Government expected to secure cent percent literacy in the long run. Based on the resolutions of the educational conference, the Government proposed the mother tongue to be the medium of instruction instead of the regional language. It also introduced the regional language as the first language of study in secondary schools. The teaching of English in Standard I to V of elementary schools and I to V of secondary schools was abolished. English was taught as an optional language in Standards IV and V of lower elementary schools, higher elementary standards and primary departments of secondary schools. The Government carefully considered the issue of whether the study of English was necessary at such an early stage or not. It decided that it would be sufficient if the teaching of English was imparted from VI standard of higher elementary schools. As directed by the committee, the Government ordered to abolish the teaching of English in Standard IV of elementary schools with effect from the school year 1946 and in Standard V from 1947.

Under the post-War Five Year Plan in 1945 the Government sanctioned a scheme of compulsory education in selected villages of the districts. As per this scheme 1.70 lakhs of children attended elementary

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34. Ibid.
36. Ibid., p.85.
38. G.O.No.1128, Education Department, 6 June 1946.
39. Ibid.
But in 1946-47 the Congress Government extended the scheme to all the villages of the districts. Under the extended scheme two lakhs of children received education. The education sub-committee of the post-War Re-construction recommended the appointment of Welfare Officers to enforce attendance of the children. But the recommendation did not have the desired effect. Yet a Local Committee was constituted for each compulsory area. District Board educational officers were appointed to supervise the elementary schools. Compulsory elementary education was enforced in respect of boys up to the age of fourteen and girls up to the age of twelve. Those areas with separate schools for girls insisted the girls to learn up to the age of fourteen. In 1946-47 the Government spent six crore of rupees on elementary education. To encourage education further the Government extended a scheme of supply of mid-day meals in the elementary schools first introduced in 1945 only in selected villages. During 1946-47 the cost of the scheme increased from Rs.20 lakhs in 1945 to 32 lakhs in 1946. The object of the scheme was to increase the strength of the pupils in large number in schools. The strength of the poor children attending the elementary schools in the compulsory areas was estimated as 2.03 lakhs by the Director of Public Instruction. But the scheme of mid-day meals met the needs of only 1.34 lakhs of children. Compared to the previous school year there was an all round increase in the enrolment of pupils in elementary

40. G.O.No.2072, Education Department, 30 Oct. 1946.
42. G.O.No.2072, Education Department, 30 Oct. 1946.
43. *Ibid*.
46. *Ibid*.
49. *Ibid*.
schools, secondary schools and colleges during the year 1946-1947. The following figures show the increase in elementary education.\(^{50}\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Education General Indian</th>
<th>1945-46</th>
<th>1946-47</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Institutions</td>
<td>Scholars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary Schools for Boys</td>
<td>31,726</td>
<td>2.77 millions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>4,193</td>
<td>0.49 millions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As a believer in the Gandhian constructive programme of Basic Education, Prakasam set up committees to reorganize the existing Basic Education for elementary schools. An advisory committee for basic education was also duly constituted in November 1946.\(^{51}\) Steps were taken to train teachers in the basic method of education for which two basic training schools were established at Periyanaiickenpalayam in Coimbatore\(^{52}\) and Vinayasgram.\(^{53}\) The Ramakrishna Mission School of Periyanaickenpalayam was renamed as Sri Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya Gandhi Basic Training School.\(^{54}\) Since Wardha was the only centre which imparted Basic Education in India, the Madras Government deputed eight teachers to Wardha for training in the academic year 1946-47.\(^{55}\) In 1946 PrakasamGovernmentfound that the provision for the compulsory teaching of Hindustani in high schools was bound to result in waste of money.\(^{56}\) Therefore as a policy the Government resolved to make the study of Hindustani optional. The curriculum became more attractive when it allowed


\(^{52}\) G.O.No.1745, Education Department, 10 Sept. 1946.


\(^{54}\) G.O.No.1745, Education Department, 10 Sept. 1946.


\(^{56}\) History of Freedom Movement Diary of Important Events, (From 1910-1947) File No.112.
a wide choice of subjects to meet the needs of pupils with varied aptitudes and drawn from different places. So the Prakasam Government adopted the policy of its predecessor.\(^{57}\) The administration suitably revised the pay and prospects of the teachers of all kinds of managements with effect from 1 January 1947.\(^{58}\) The scale of grant-in-aid to elementary schools was also enhanced to the minimum of Rs.18, Rs.25 and Rs.35 for the lower elementary, higher elementary and secondary schools respectively. The rates of dearness allowance were revised to be on par with those given to Government employers. Similarly the rates of stipends also increased from Rs.8 to 12 in the elementary grade and Rs.12 to 18 in the secondary grade.\(^{59}\) A Provincial Advisory Board on education was constituted in January 1947. The main function of the Board was to advise the Government on all aspects and stages of collegiate, secondary, elementary, technical and adult education.\(^{60}\)

The Government took various steps for the growth of secondary education. As one of the measures the number of Public Secondary Schools were increased. The Congress Government revised the Secondary School Leaving Certificate Board on an enlarged basis.\(^{61}\) In accordance with the recommendations of this Board, it was decided to introduce bifurcation of courses of studies in Secondary Schools. The Board prepared syllabus for new courses in some of the subjects to be introduced at the high school level. In 1945-46 only 434 schools used local languages of the Province as the medium of instruction. But in 1946-47, 25 schools were newly opened and the total number went up to 459.\(^{62}\) The total expenditure on secondary education.

\(^{57}\) Ibid.
\(^{59}\) Ibid.
\(^{60}\) Madras in 1946 (Outline of Administration), Madras, 1947, p.33.
\(^{61}\) Ibid.
\(^{62}\) Ibid.
education during the year 1946-47 was Rs. 248 lakhs.\textsuperscript{63} The following table shows the increase in the enrolment of students and establishment of institutions in Secondary Schools.\textsuperscript{64}

<table>
<thead>
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<th>School Education General</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Institutions</td>
<td>Scholars</td>
<td>Institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary Schools for Boys</td>
<td>631</td>
<td>3,42,614</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>39,814</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 1946-47 the Secondary Schools witnessed slight improvement in the admission of Harijan pupils. In 1945-46 there were 10,890 boys and 2,296 girls pursuing their studies in the Secondary Schools. But it increased in 1946-47 to 13,177 boys and 2,586 girls. There were no increase of physically handicapped. It remained as fourteen.\textsuperscript{65} During the year 1946-47 there was a steady increase of students who received S.S.L.C. certificate. In 1945-46, 32,330 certificates were issued. But in 1946-47, 42,595 certificates including 4,255 girls were issued. It is worthy to note that 4,855 certificates were received by the private candidates.\textsuperscript{66} In 1946-47 the Congress Government gave special consideration for the religious instruction in schools. In the special schools for Muslims, religious instruction could be imparted within school hours by a member of staff. In the non-Muslim schools a part-time religious instructor was employed.\textsuperscript{67}

Compared to the past years, the ministry in 1946 took special attention in collegiate education. The idea of the new Government was “knowledge for all”. Delivering the sixth convocation address of the Annamalai University on 15 October 1946 Avinasilingam Chettiar,

\textsuperscript{63} Five Years Progress of Madras State, 1946-1951, Madras, 1952, p.82.
\textsuperscript{66} Ibid.
Minister for Education appealed to the graduates to live for a greater family than their own which should comprise all the people of their country and even the whole humanity. Further he blamed that the Indian Universities were not to touch with life. They too emphasized more on the rights and too little on duties. He pleaded that the university education should be man-making. It was not enough for a man to add a mere assistance. The duties of the universities did not stop with educating boys and girls. It was also their duty to make all the people share in the knowledge.

The Government aimed at functioning at least one arts college in every district. In 1945-46 there were fortytwo men’s and six women’s colleges in the Madras Presidency. In 1946 two new colleges were opened in Madras. The Government encouraged the women’s education and sanctioned a college for Muslim women at Madras. It directed the management to reserve seventy five of the seats for Muslim women and the remaining seats for the non-Muslim women. The strength of the women in colleges also increased steadily. The number of Harijan pupil in the colleges too increased. Of the fifty colleges in the State thirty nine were first grade colleges and eleven second grade colleges. Ten first grade colleges had honours and post-graduate classes. Following table tells an all-round increase in enrolment of scholars in the College during the years, 1945-1947.

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68. Madras Information, 2 Nov. 1946.
69. Ibid.
71. G.O.No.831, Education Department, 17 Apr. 1946.
72. Ibid.
73. G.O.No.1334, Education Department, 8 July 1946.
In 1946 the issue of English as the medium of instruction in the university and colleges engaged serious attention. The Education Minister favoured English as the medium of instruction. The Universities and colleges which stood in the way of the spread of higher knowledge in the country choose English as the medium of instruction. Owing to this, there existed an ever widening gulf between the common man and the university graduate. It was further understood that English was the medium of instruction in the highest knowledge, and the greatest thoughts of the world. Yet it was not available to millions of young men and women in India. All the intellect which these persons possessed became a wastage without being utilized to the benefit of their great country. If these persons were to be benefited, instruction even in the highest classes in the colleges were given in the language of the Province. In this matter Salem Municipality unanimously passed a resolution stating that the Arts subjects in the junior intermediate and B.A. classes should be taught through the medium of Tamil from the beginning of the academic year, 1946-47. Ramaswamy Goundar, Principal of Salem College, also forwarded a copy of the resolution to the University authorities requesting to grant permission to give effect to the resolution. An ordinance on this subject had been passed by the Madras

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75. Madras Information, 2 Nov. 1946.
76. Ibid.
77. G.O. No. 1986, Education Department, 8 June 1946.
University to use the regional language as the medium of instruction in the intermediate classes in the third group subjects.\textsuperscript{78}

The post-War reconstruction schemes contemplated opening of new professional colleges in all centres except Cocanada. The Government appointed Bhore Committee to implement the above suggestion.\textsuperscript{79} The Committee made the recommendation that within the next ten years could establish medical colleges at Madurai, Coimbatore, Guntur, Cocanada and Calicut. However, atleast two of the Colleges, each admitting 100 students were started immediately and that the other three were planned within the next five year period. The Government stated that there was a proposal to start two new colleges at Madurai and another at Guntur. But the expert medical committee which inspected the place had suggested to provide for only 50 students instead of 100. In this connection the admissions in the Andhra Medical College was increased from 55 to 100.\textsuperscript{80} It the meantime, two special officers who were already appointed in connection with the above colleges assured the theoretical duties of Principal in each case until permanent appointments were made.\textsuperscript{81}

The Government also opened four professional Engineering Colleges viz.,

1. Cocanada Engineering College
2. Anantapur Engineering College
3. Forest College Coimbatore

Under the Department of Industries and Commerce five of the eight Government institutions formerly known as technical schools were re-organised as polytechnics on a regional basis on the recommendations of the

\textsuperscript{78} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{79} G.O.No.1900, Education and Public Health Department, 26 June 1946.
\textsuperscript{80} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{81} G.O.No.3094, Education and Public Health Department, 30 Oct. 1946.
adhoc committee on technical education and was accepted by the Government. Accordingly Andhra Polytechnic was opened on 4 February 1946 providing diploma course in Civil, Mechanic, Electrical Engineering and Fisheries Technology and Navigation. Each institution had admitted eighty students. The A.G. Polytechnic, Vuyyuru started functioning in August 1946 with the strength of fortysix students. The Government Industrial School at Madurai was re-organised as the Dravida Polytechnic and continued to provide instruction in metal work, cabinet making and electrical wiring.\textsuperscript{82} Three of the Government institutions for technical education, viz., namely the School of Arts, Egmore, Government Textile Institute, Washermanpet and the Institute of Leather Technology, Washermanpet continued to function. Besides these Government institutions, there were eighty two aided industrial schools with a total strength of 6,191 students.\textsuperscript{83}

Prakasam administration for a very short period witnessed vast developments in different fields. Among them education attained a renowned place. The Educational system was re-organised. The number of public institutions increased and the student strength was also increased. With the purpose of imparting education even to the very poor mid-day meals was given to the school going students. Teaching of English was the main obstacle to primary school students. So the Government abolished teaching of English in elementary schools and secondary schools. This led to the increase in the strength of the school going students. The Government realized the insufficiency of medical and professional colleges and opened new professional colleges in the Presidency. The above important measures of the Congress Ministry in 1946-47 brought fame to Prakasam.

\textsuperscript{82} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{83} Ibid.
**Scarcity of Food Problem**

Prakasam Ministry adopted suitable measures to solve the food problem. The Government started vigorous procurement drive, Grow More Food Campaign and Rationing schemes. To improve the food position, the Government encouraged the tenants by giving bonus to short-term paddy to cultivators. All these measures enabled the Government to attain the goal within a very short period.\(^{84}\)

In 1946 the failure of ‘kharif and ‘rabi’ crops due to drought caused a considerable loss of rice and millets in Southern and Central India.\(^{85}\) The problem of food requirements to nearly five and half of crore of people of the Madras Presidency caused more or less a battle with nature.\(^{86}\) Prakasam concentrated all his energy to save the State from the clutches of famine. As a part of his first effort, he wanted to mobilize internal stocks of paddy. He could have done it by adopting coercive methods.\(^{87}\) But he did not move in that line. On the other hand he declared many financial incentives to persuade the peasants to willingly part with their surplus produce. The officials too received directions and incentives from him to realize the objectives.\(^{88}\) Inspired with a single aim of making the State self-sufficient in food production within a reasonable length of time, the Government also took steps to increase production on the one hand and to eradicate starvation and famine by procuring food from all possible sources and distributing it in an equitable way.\(^{89}\) When the food position was surveyed in 1946, it was predicted that the Province would have the deficiency of about 20, 83,000 tons of rice and millets, as stated below:

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87. Rudrayya Chowdari, *op.cit.*, 90.
The Government extended 95,000 tons of rice to solve the shortage of food materials and tried to consolidate the internal stock position. Nevertheless, the Congress Government put forth its best efforts to solve the problem through procurement, production (Grow More Food Campaign) and rationing.\textsuperscript{90} As the first step, the Government started a vigorous procurement drive by way of negotiations with the Government of India and other provincial governments. Thus, it endeavoured to secure as much rice as possible for the province.\textsuperscript{91} As against the total deficit of about ten lakh tons during the crop year of 1946, the Government of India had allotted only two and a half lakh tons in the form of rice, including an allotment of one lakh tons of rice from outside India.\textsuperscript{92} Yet in August 1946, the Government of India allotted only 40,000 tons of foreign rice for the Madras Presidency.\textsuperscript{93} As part of procurement drive, the Government had ordered the formation of Emergency Committee for every taluk and firka to popularize the growth of early ripening crops.\textsuperscript{94} These committees had a heavy responsibility and they discharged their work without permitting local, sectional, communal, political feelings to interfere in their working.\textsuperscript{95} These committees were expected to be an effective machinery for the administration of the food regulations, for satisfactory procurement of food grains and in fact for the efficient administration of all such village affairs which touched vitally the

\begin{table}
\centering
\begin{tabular}{|l|c|c|}
\hline
 & Rice & Millets \\
\hline
Production & 38,27,000 & 19,42,000 \\
Consumption & 49,62,000 & 28,90,000 \\
Deficit & 11,35,000 & 9,48,000 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\end{table}

\textsuperscript{90} Ibid. \\
\textsuperscript{91} Madras Information, 8 Feb. 1946 \\
\textsuperscript{92} M.L.A.D., Vol. I, 1946, p.47. \\
\textsuperscript{93} G.O. No. 113, Food Department, 10 Dec. 1946 \\
\textsuperscript{94} G.O.No. 4187, Development Department, 19 Nov. 1946. \\
\textsuperscript{95} Madras Information, 21 June 1947.
lives of the people themselves. Under the intensive procurement scheme the produce from crops on lands, owned or cultivated by each landholder was estimated. Out of the estimated produce of the holdings, the Government allowed the landlord to meet his requirement for seed and cultivation expenses and domestic consumption and procured the surplus for eventual distribution to the people.

The method of procurement adopted by the Government was not received very happily by the people who were called upon to part with the food they had in their possession. Various grievances had been ventilated through the press, memorials and through the Congress also. The Government was aware that the people had to pay higher prices to the foodstuffs owing to the involvement of middlemen. Besides the profits made by middlemen, the method adopted for securing the paddy from those who possessed it was also responsible for the higher process. The method adopted was merely to go there, take the paddy from the person in possession and then send it to the Central stores which was far away and then from there again to send it back for sale to the very persons who had given it. As a result the overhead charges became very high. The paddy procured in the village was sold in that village itself with a differences of two annas a maund. The following statement shows the quantities of food grains locally procured in the districts and those received from sources outside the province.

Local procurement ending on 31 May 1946.

96. Ibid.
99. Ibid.
Food grains | Tons
---|---
Rice | 2,559
Millets | 172
Wheat and Wheat Products | Nil

This includes 369 tons of broken rice imported from Sind and courted against overseas allotment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pulses</th>
<th>Tons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blakgram</td>
<td>518</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redgram</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greengram</td>
<td>688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bengalgram</td>
<td>1,946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,172</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Imports from overseas upto June 1946.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food grains</th>
<th>Tons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paddy</td>
<td>68,980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>27,343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Millets</td>
<td>5,490</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Together equipment of 76, 183 tons in terms of rice. Receipts from other Provinces and State during the ending of 15 June 1946.\(^\text{101}\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food grains</th>
<th>Tons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paddy</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat and Wheat Products</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^{101}\)Ibid., Vol.II, 1947, p.42.
The procurement work could not be satisfactorily carried out, because the villagers had the right to fix their requirements when the prices of the commodities increased. So the work of procurement was not so successful. The problem of solving the food problem became difficult mainly because of the vastness of the Madras Presidency. Out of the total area of 1,25,000 square miles (800 lakhs of acres) only 410 lakhs acres were under cultivation.\(^{102}\)

In order to improve the shortage of food, the Government launched to intensive cultivation in 1946, and extend the areas under food crops. The peasants were encouraged to cultivate short-term paddy crops. The intensive cultivation plan had a target of six and a half lakh tons of rice in co-operation. It was in conformity with the declared objective of eliminating grain imports within a short period.\(^{103}\) With a view to get increased yields from short-term crops which would be harvested in September 1946, the Government sanctioned the supply of manure through the Agricultural Department, free of cost.\(^{104}\)

The Government of India took steps to induce cultivators to grow early ripening crops in time in appreciable quantity. The Government of Madras also followed up the steps taken by the Government of India. The Director of Agriculture made the following proposals for increasing agricultural production.

i) As the cultivators were not in the habit of using manures and would not avail themselves of the scheme of the subsidized sale, the only way of rousing interests of the agriculturists to manure their lands was to supply free of cost through demonstration farms.

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103. Ibid.
104. G.O.No. 151, Food Department, 2 Apr. 1946.
ii) The area of the intensive agricultural operation was to be limited to a total area of 2,82,000 acres in Walluwanad and Palghat taluk of Malabar district and Kasargod taluk of Kanara District.

iii) Students of the Agricultural College were to be employed during their vacation for the above operations at the rate of one student for 2000 acres as suggested by the Director of Agriculture. For the reduced area of 2,82,000 acres proposed above, about 140 students of the Agricultural College were utilized.

iv) About five additional Agricultural Demonstrators were proposed to employed.

v) The services of the procurement staff of taluk and the firka supply officers were also to be used for supervising in their off – season, from April to June.

vi) One half of the total cost was expected as a grant from the Government of India.\textsuperscript{105}

The Director of Agriculture requested the Government to take necessary steps to localize the areas, where short-term paddy could be grown immediately in each district in consultation with the revenue authorities and arrange for the supply of seeds to the cultivators. In order to increase the short-term paddy harvested in September, the Government sanctioned the grant of bonus to cultivators for encouraging cultivation of short-term crops upto 15 November 1946. The Director of Agriculture submitted a proposal to the Government. About 2,11,000 acres in Malabar district and 80,000 acres in South Kanara District were brought under short-term paddy cultivation during April, May and June 1946.\textsuperscript{106} Manure of Rs. 5,59,500 was distributed free of cost to cultivators.\textsuperscript{107} The Government of India also allotted 50,000

\textsuperscript{105} G.O.No. 2876, Development Department, 26 July 1946.
\textsuperscript{106} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{107} G.O.No. 2440, Development Department, 23 June 1946.
tons of Ammonium Sulphate to the cultivators. The Government also sanctioned a scheme of sinking new wells and repairing the old ones.\textsuperscript{108}

There were three schemes for sinking and repairing wells in 1946. The first scheme was the one introduced in 1946 in eleven districts under which a subsidy of twenty five percent of the cost of a new well or repairs to an old well subject to a maximum of Rs. 300 in Bellary district and Rs. 310 in other districts for a new well and Rs. 200 for an old well was granted. The scheme was ordered to be enforce until the end of May 1946.\textsuperscript{109}

The second scheme was the accelerated scheme introduced in February-March 1946 in all districts except the Nilgiris under which a subsidy of fifty percent of the cost of a new well or repairs to an old well, subject to a maximum of Rs. 310 (or) Rs. 300 for a new well and Rs. 160 for an old well was granted. Time was granted till the end of March 1946 for the completion of the works under this scheme. The third scheme was the one introduced in June 1946 especially for the ceded districts under which a subsidy of fifty percent of the cost of subject to the maximum of Rs. 500 for a new well and Rs. 300 for an old well was paid. This scheme was enforce till the end of June 1946. A sum of Rs. 2.33 crores was granted by way of subsidy for the sinking and repairing of wells.\textsuperscript{110}

In 1946 the Government introduced statutory rationing in the nine villages of Chingleput district which were included within the limits of Madras city.\textsuperscript{111} Statutory rationing of firewood continued to be enforced in Madras city. The ban on the export of fish and eggs continued while the ban on the movement of poultry outside the Province was removed. A scheme for reconstituting milk from separated milk by a special blending process was taken up in order to cease the acute shortage of milk in Madras city and

\footnotesize{\textsuperscript{110} Ibid.}
\footnotesize{\textsuperscript{111} M.L.A.D., Vol. I, 1946, p.46.}
a factory was constructed for this purpose.\textsuperscript{112} The Madras food grains control order continued during 1946 also.\textsuperscript{113} The scheme aimed at equitable distribution by controlling the stock of the articles in short supply—rice, millets, wheat and wheat products which formed the rationed articles.\textsuperscript{114}

A separate Secretary to Government in the Food Department was appointed in June 1946 and the Commissioner of civil supplies continued in the position occupied by him. Four Deputy Commissioner of civil supplies were appointed for the Northern Districts, the ceded districts, the central range and the southern range, with six Assistant Commissioner posts reduced to two—one for the Northern surplus districts and other for the ceded districts. A post of Deputy Commissioner to be incharge of movements with an Assistant Commissioner under him was also created to deal with problems relating to the transport of foodgrains and other commodities.\textsuperscript{115} For the purpose of carrying on propaganda and popularizing unfamiliar food grains a Public Relation Officer was appointed in March 1946. This post was abolished in July 1946 and the work was attended by the newly appointed Director of Information and Publicity. The post of Deputy Commissioner (Enforcement) for the administration of the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance and some other control orders was abolished after the lapse of time. But another Deputy Commissioner had to be appointed because, the Government introduced further control measures over such items as jaggery, groundnut and edible oils. The cost of the civil supplies establishment was estimated to be more than one crore in 1946.\textsuperscript{116}

In 1946 the Government estimated a local procurement of 3,00,000 tons of rice and 36,000 tons millets. It also expected imports to the extent of 1,16,000 tons of rice, 500 tons of millets and 30,000 tons of wheat and

\textsuperscript{112} Legislative Measures on Popular Ministries, 1946-1963, pp.71-72.
\textsuperscript{115} G.O.No. 1424, Public Department, 21 June 1946.
\textsuperscript{116} Madras Administration Report, 1946-47, Part-II, pp.62-63
wheat produce for the period from May to October 1946. Even with these local procurement and imports a deficit in all foodgrains would be 2,68,000 tons at the end of October 1946. Therefore on 31 July 1946, the Government decided to reduce the rice portion of the ration from ten ounces to eight with effect from 4 August 1946.\textsuperscript{117} The heavy manual labourers however, continue to get ten oz of rice. Prakasam was eager to increase the quantity if the food position improved. But the food position was becoming more and more scarce in the Madras city and in the districts of Malabar, chingleput, Coimbatore, Kurnool, Guddapah and Salem.\textsuperscript{118} In view of the difficult food situation and uncertainty of imports from overseas, the Government also reduced the scale of ration to industrial canteens from six oz four oz.\textsuperscript{119} The efforts of the Government to tackle the food crisis has been appreciated. Though the methods adopted simultaneously to solve the problem of scarcity of food such as procurement drive, grow more food campaign and rationing did not fully succeed in increasing the food situation, they certainly helped to check the crisis.

The communists fought for the cause of the peasants and food crisis. They demanded the abolition of the zamindari system to reduce the peasant problem and food crisis. They proposed to conduct a provincial Kisan Conference on 30 and 31 March 1944 at Tenali in the Guntur district. But the Government did not give permission. In Madurai and Ramnad, the communists organised Kisan Sanghams (unions). In Salem three Kisan Sanghams were opened. There was some unrest in the Krishnagiri taluk in Salem district among zamindari tenants and in order to prevent disorder, the District Collector did not grant permission for meetings organised by the peasants.\textsuperscript{120} In order to prevent communist influence in Tanjore, a new

\textsuperscript{118} \textit{Ibid}.  
\textsuperscript{119} \textit{Madras Information}, 21 June 1946.  
\textsuperscript{120} \textit{F.N.R.}, for the First Half of Feb. 1945, p.3.
Association known as the Agriculturists’ Welfare Association was formed in the Mannargudi area by the pro-Congress land owners. The Association decided to offer increased wages to labourers.\textsuperscript{121} In Watrap of Ramnad district Communists arranged the Provincial Kisan Conference on 7, 8 and 9 June 1946. In Tirunelveli district, there was a strike by cultivators in two villages for a higher share in the production in order to reduce food grains. The local revenue authorities made a compromise and finally, the zamindar agreed to pay higher share to the cultivators.\textsuperscript{122} In Mannargudi there was a clash between the Kisans and the servants of a mirasdar in which two of the latter were murdered.\textsuperscript{123}

The Fourth Madras Kisan Conference was held at Uttamapalayam in Madurai district on 10 March 1947. The principal speaker was Benkim Mukherji of Calcutta and the conference demanded the actual cultivator of the soil to receive as his share half of the produce of wet lands and two-third of the dry lands.\textsuperscript{124} At Gobichettipalayam in the Coimbatore district, the tenants refused to take lands on lease on the old terms. So some landlords made efforts to cultivate the lands with the help of outsiders.\textsuperscript{125} The same kind of troubles were started at Chidambaram in South Arcot district. The Kisan movement had rapidly spread to Tanjore district especially in Tiruturaipoondi and Mannarguditaluks.\textsuperscript{126} The tenants demanded fifty percent of the produce to improve the food condition. But the mirasdars did not concede it. Finding that it was impossible to get any concessions from the mirasdars, they harvested the entire crop, putting it out on the threshing floor and took away fifty percent as their share leaving the rest on the floor. The mirasdars got very panicky and submitted petitions and telegrams to the

\textsuperscript{121} F.N.R., for the First Half of Jan. 1946, p.3.
\textsuperscript{122} F.N.R., for the Second Half of Mar. 1946, p.3.
\textsuperscript{123} F.N.R., for the Second Half of Dec. 1946, p.2.
\textsuperscript{125} F.N.R., for the First Half of May 1947, p.3.
\textsuperscript{126} G.O. Ms. No. 628, Public (General) Department, 26 Feb. 1947.
government. In one of the telegrams sent to the Premier on 12 November 1946, they mentioned:

Communist Kisan parties forcibly and defiantly armed with dangerous weapons, remove paddy stocks belonging to mirasdars. The mirasdars sent telegram to government which was forwarded to the District Magistrate of Tanjore and instructed him to provide necessary police bandobustto themirasdars. He directed the District Superintendent of Police, Tanjore to visit the taluks who visited the spots and reported the matter to the Inspector General of Police, Madras. Police protection was given to the mirasdars. Cases were registered against many kisan leaders. The Revenue Divisional Officer, Mannargudi and the Labour Conciliation Officer tried to effect a compromise with regard to the sharing the paddy. But they were not successful as both the parties were adamant.127

Similar troubles started in Shiyali in Tanjore district. So a telegram was sent to the Revenue Minister by the Mirasdars’ Association on 2 July 1947.128 The Revenue Minister during his visit to Tanjore instructed the District Collector to settle the dispute. The latter, after elaborate discussions with the mirasdars and the labourers, sent his report to the government.129 No permanent solution was made and the peasant movement continued.

Sholavandan in Madurai district was the headquarters of prominent mirasdars. It was also the centre of kisan agitation. The chief leaders of the kisan agitation were T.G. Krishnamurthy and N. Karuppaya Pillai.130 During October and November 1946, the Kisans organised an agitation claiming half of the yield as the tenants share in the place of the usual 33.33 percent.

127. Ibid.
129. Ibid.
The agitation assumed serious proportions so much so that K. Bhashyam, the Minister for Law visited the village to effect a settlement.131 On 20 November 1946, an agreement was reached between the representatives of the tenants and the landlords in his presence. Certain terms were also agreed to by the landlords and the tenants. According to this settlement, the tenant’s main demand of a half share of the yield was not be conceded and continued the share of 33.33 percent. Yet certain other small concessions were made to the tenants. One kalam* of paddy which was taken by the landlords as swatantram** was deducted from the gross yield. When the landlords contributed to the extent of Rs. 20 per acre for manure, one-third of straw was given to them.132 The total effect of the terms was, however a slight advantage to the tenants over the conditions that existed at that time.

The peasants of Sholavandan did not satisfy themselves with this small advantage and continued their agitation for half of the yield. The kisan leaders made propaganda and claimed half share through their violent speeches and threats against the landlords. As a result of police action and compromise, the situation was brought under control. The harvest, affected by this agitation in Sholavandan and the surrounding villages, was more than 10,000 acres of double crop area. A.VaidyanathaAyyar, MLA made efforts to bring the parties together and arrive at some settlement. On 30 August 1947 the landlords met at a meeting and passed a resolution expressing their unwillingness to enter into talks in view of the fact that the dispute had been settled the previous year before the Law Minister. The landlords feared that if such settlements were denounced very frequently and if every time the tenants launched an agitation, the landlords had to agree to fresh terms; then

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131. Ibid.
*One kalam – one kalam is equivalent to 12 marakkal. One marakkal is 3.5 paddy measurement.
**Swatantram – a small share of the gross produce meant for the village servants like barber, washer man, etc.
there would be no end to the demands. The meeting condemned the action of Krishnamurthy, KaruppayaPillai, the kisan leaders and others to taking out processions with ‘indecent slogans’ inciting violence and requested the government to take suitable action for the safety of the people. In the meeting the Landholders’ Association also requested the Collector to refer the matter to an Arbitrator.

The cultivators continued their agitation and addressed in many places and involved themselves in violent actions. They raised the slogans like “we want half yield, if not we will take the whole” against the landlords. By the end of September 1946 at the time of harvest of the short crop in Thenkarai, a surrounding village of Sholavandan, the cultivators began their campaign of aggression against the landowners. The cultivators made every attempt to carry away the entire produce. On representations having been made to the Collector, the entire produce then remaining in the threshing floor, was procured under his orders, and the amount due were kept in government deposit in the joint names of the landowners and the tenants. The ryots were, however, given one month’s ration for their maintenance while the landlords did not take anything. This social boycott lasted for more than fifteen days. The Collector made his camp at Sempatti near Sholavandan and severe warning was given. In spite of the warning, processions were taken under the leadership of Karuppaya Pillai and others. They not only cried down every land owner using filthy language but also pelted stones at their persons and houses. The Deputy Superintendent of Police camped there for two days. But the situation remained tense.

On 6 September 1947, T. S. Avanasilingam Chettiar, the Education Minister during his procurement campaign, visited Sholavandan and as a result of his efforts, both the sides agreed to abide by the decision of the arbitrator. The Education Minister made a temporary arrangement. Accordingly, one-third of the produce went to the cultivator, one-third of
the land owner and one-third to the government. Both the parties accepted the arrangement made by the Education Minister. But the arrangement became only temporary and the cultivators renewed their agitation. On 7 September 1947, they held a conference at Sholavandan and passed resolutions. The trend of the speeches and resolutions was that the peasants would never agree to any unfavourable decision as a result of arbitration and that the agitation would go on till their demand for equal share in the produce was settled. One of the resolutions demanded the abolition of the zamindari system without offering any compensation to the existing owners. It was also stated that the settlement made on 6 September 1947 in the presence of the Education Minister was only temporary and that it had been accepted by the peasants for the time being. The Collector personally met Premier Prakasamat Madras on 13 September 1947 and explained the situation to him. The latter instructed the Collector to take severe action against the kisans, if they indulged in violence. Finally, the Madras government appointed T.A. Subbiah Pillai, retired District Judge and Industrial Tribunal Officer, Tirunelveli as Arbitrator for settling the disputes between the landlords and the tenants in Sholavandan.

The Arbitrator visited Sholavandan on 8 October 1947 and conducted preliminary enquiries on 13 and 14 October 1947 at Madurai. Meanwhile, the peasants continued their agitation. In the speeches made at Sholavandan, the kisan leaders said openly that they would not accept the decision of the Arbitrator, if it did not concede their demands. They also tried to get the consent of the landlords for half the yield without waiting for the decision of the Arbitrator. The people received the complaints of threat and intimidation. The police took action against the Kisan leaders, T. G.

133. Ibid.
134. F.N.R., for the First Half of Sept. 1947, p.3.
136. Ibid.
Krishnamurthy, Karuppaya Pillai and ten others. They were arrested and produced before the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Dindigul. Later, on the execution of bonds, they were released. Complaints were received of hooliganism in Mannadimangalam and Karuppatti, two nearby villages of Sholavandan. At Mannadimangalam, some landlords were forced to agree to give half yield to the peasants.¹³⁷

Both the landlords and the tenants submitted their statement before the Arbitrator as given below:¹³⁸

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AsPer Tenants’ Statement</th>
<th>Landlords’ Statement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seeds</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ploughing</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manure</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uprooting seedlings</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transplanting</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dressing ridges</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weeding</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watering</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>850</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Income Per Acre

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rs.</th>
<th>As.</th>
<th>Ps.</th>
<th>Rs.</th>
<th>As.</th>
<th>Ps.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/3 of 18 bags i.e.6 bags</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8 bags</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¾ share in 40 bundles of straw</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>½ of 1 2/3 kalam of grains found in the threshing floor or mixed with chaff</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Loss</th>
<th>Rs.</th>
<th>As.</th>
<th>Ps.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>59</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If the tenants share is taken ½ of 18 bags, the

¹³⁸. Ibid.
The tenants showed an expenditure of Rupees eighty five per acre and the landlords Rupees forty and ten annas for the same. The former showed a loss of Rupees twenty five and eight annas per acre, if one-third of the produce would be allotted to them, and the latter showed a profit of Rupees thirty nine and eight annas at the same ratio. The tenants further submitted that even if half of the yield to be allotted to them, their profit would be only Rupees four and four annas. Each party naturally desired to give estimates as would serve its purpose. In this atmosphere, the Arbitrator decided to verify as to who had exaggerated. On the side of the tenant, one Ramanservai was examined. He owned 17.5 acres of land. In a reply to a question put up by the representatives of the Tenants’ Association, he stated that he was spending about Rs. 500/- as expenses of cultivation for 17.5 acres of land. This would work out at Rupees twenty nine and odd per acre. But in the statement filed on behalf of the tenants, the amount of expenditure was mentioned as Rupees eighty five. Therefore, the Arbitrator found that in the statement filed by the Tenants’ Association, there was gross exaggeration. He estimated approximately the expenditure at Rupees thirty and the value of the existing one-third yield was Rupees forty nine and eight annas. The tenants also admitted that they would get Rupees ten in addition by way of straw. After thoroughly analysing the situation, the Arbitrator felt that the tenants’ demand of one-third (33.3%) to one half (50%) was very high and it was liable to render suffering to the landlords. On 21 October 1947, the Arbitrator submitted his report fixing the landlords’ share at fifty five percent.
and the tenants share at forty five percent. The entire straw was also allotted to the tenants.\textsuperscript{139}

The ryots’ association induced both the workers and the ryots to agitate against the government and the zamindars and demanded to abolish the zamindari system. The government also made efforts to settle the agrarian disputes and it improve the food condition.\textsuperscript{140} The Government policy of Prohibition was aimed at the removal of an evil that did great harm to the society. With the re-introduction of Prohibition in the eight districts starvation in many homes of the villages came to an end. The educational system was re-organized. The number of public institutions increased and the students strength was also increased. With the purpose of imparting education even to the very poor mid-day meals was given to the school going students and opened new colleges in the Presidency. The Government started vigorous procurement drive, Grow More Food Campaign and rationing schemes. To improve the food position, the Government encouraged the tenants by giving bonus to short-term paddy to cultivators. The peasant movements opened the eyes of the government and the political parties. The Congress Party availed itself of the situation and took up the cause of the peasants for their political gain. The period was full of troubles, for the country suffered considerably due to shortage of food, inflation and unemployment. The Communists, the Dravida Kazhagam and the Rastria Seva Sangh created disturbances. The workers and peasants too resorted to agitations. Added to these, the Prakasam ministry faced opposition from inside the party. In consequence the ministry collapsed and O.P. Ramaswami Reddiar formed his government in 1947.

\textsuperscript{139} \textit{Ibid.}
\textsuperscript{140} G.O. Ms. No. 329, Revenue Department, 13 Feb. 1948.