VEDARATNAM PILLAI ON LANGUAGE ISSUE:

Rajagopalachari announced that the government would seek to introduce Hindi as a compulsory language for school children in the presidency. When Rajaji announced the introduction of compulsory study of Hindi in I, II and III forms of 125 Madras schools, there came many objections from Justice Party. On this question, those who opposed Rajaji operated in a style which was in fact more authoritarian. Language had been a sensitive issue. From the time of the announcement about imposing Hindi in 1939 until the middle of 1939 almost the entire focus Justice party activity was aimed at this order and other legislative measures of the Congress Ministry particularly several new taxes which were passed in 1938 and 1939. The anti Hindi agitation was led by two groups the groups belonging to Justice Party and the
group belonging to Tamil populists. A boycott committee was formed by the Justice Party in Madras city on June 1, 1938 and the movement began to pickup momentum.

Under these circumstances, there were heated discussions in the Legislative Assembly on this problem. Vedaratnam Pillai, being a Gandhian, a sincere Congressman and follower of Rajaji participated in the discussions and supported Rajaji on this issue.

Another controversial issue that Rajaji ministry confronted was on Hindu religious endowment. Hitherto, the administration of temples were under the control of local temple committees. There was an increasing pressure on the part of Hindu Religious Endowment Board in 1926 at Madras to take over the administration of temples from local committees. Rajaji wanted to bring all temples choultries and charitable institutions

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under the direct control of the government. Even before the introduction of the legislation, the Nellaiyappar Temple in Tirunelvelly was taken over because of corrupt management despite local agitation by land holders and Municipal councillors. When Rajaji and his Congress Ministry implemented the process of bringing temples under the control of Hindu Religious Endowment Boards they aroused resentments because they were taking away private preserves of power. In 1957 session came discussions in the assembly on this issue, Vedaratnam Pillai was on the side of Rajaji and supported him in the Assembly.

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4 The Hindu, July 22 1937, quoted in E.F. Irschick, Tamil Revivalism in the 1930s, p.229.

5 The Hindu, July 22 1937, quoted in E.F. Irschick, Ibid., p.229.

6 The Hindu, July 22 1937, quoted in E.F. Irschick, Ibid., p.229.

During his second term from 1946 to 1951, Vedaratnam Pillai raised many questions in almost all the subjects. In the field of education his questions related the method of admission in government colleges, fixation of basic salary to language pandits grant from Central Government.

Brahmins, Non-Brahmins, Muslims, Christians and Scheduled Castes. The applications in each one of these communities were further arranged according to the marks obtained in the previous Public Examination, in descending order. Selection was finally made on the basis of this arrangement in accordance with the government orders on the subject from time to time.

Vedaratnam Pillai took note of the discrimination practiced against language pandits and asked the government to level the differences between the teaching fraternity sometimes he even asked the government to

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8 Question No.60, Madras Legislative Assembly Debates, Vol.XXII, 25, April 1947, p.932.
look into the grievances of the teachers in the management schools when they did not receive their salary intime\(^9\).

As regards the grant from Central Government for basic education, Vedaratnam pillai asked the Minister for Education in this session whether the central government was giving any financial aid for basic education to Madras. The Minister said that the Central Government was not giving any financial aid for basic education till then\(^10\).

Vedaratnam Pillai had a much greater interest in the preservation of old manuscripts in the prestigious Saraswathi Mahal Library at Tanjore. He believed that some of the manuscripts contained valuable information on indigenous medicine. These must be preserved and translated so that they would not be lost for ever\(^11\).

\(^10\) Ibid.,
On the subject of agriculture he raised questions on various aspects such as the cultivation of tobacco, bringing waste lands under paddy cultivation and allotment of waste lands to political sufferers. As regards tobacco cultivation, Vedaratnam Pillai asked A.A. Rasheed, the Minister for Revenue in the session of August 1946 to give informations about the area under tobacco cultivation in the Madras Presidency on district wise during the years 1943, 1944 and 1945 and whether there was any proposal in the part of the government to reduce the area under tobacco cultivation. The Minister replied that the statement showing the extent of cultivation on tobacco on district wise during 1942-43 to 1944-45 was given in the Annual Season and Crop Report of the province for the years. He further said that the proposed restriction on tobacco cultivation had not been enforced so far till then.

On the issue of bringing waste lands into cultivation in Tanjore district Vedaratnam Pillai's questions were on the following lines and he raised this problem in April 1947.

1. The area under wet paddy cultivation in Tanjore district, Talukwise.

2. The area of waste lands, Talukwise.

3. The area of punja lands, Talukwise.

4. The proposals for converting the waste and punja lands into paddy cultivation.

On wastelands he said in the Legislative Assembly that the Government must take efforts to correct wastelands into cultivation in Tanjore district. Such effort would not only increase productivity of land but also achieve the state of food shortage.

DEVELOPMENT OF WASTELANDS:

Likewise in the field of agriculture, animal husbandry and food Vedaratnam Pillai raised a number of questions in the Assembly sessions. On agriculture Vedaratnam Pillai's discussions were on planting of palyra tree on sea coasts, cashew cultivation, the use of cultivable waste lands etc. On October 1958 Vedaratnam Pillai said in the Assembly that there were

a large number of waste lands in the sea shore areas and reserve forest areas in this state. He suggested to the government to utilise these lands properly. He also said that steps should also be taken by the government to plant palmyra trees on these lands.

The forest department had been converting about 100 acres of waste lands annually for the cultivation of palmyra trees in the Theni Reserved forests of Tirunelveli (South Division). Besides planting of all varieties of trees with the inclusion of Palmyra trees in the coastal areas had been recommended by the State Advisory Committee under the Emergency Relief Organisation Scheme in December 1957.  

In the field of Animal Husbandry, he raised a question in the session of April 1947. It was about veterinary colleges in the province. He asked about the number of veterinary colleges in the province and the number of students studying in these colleges. The

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Minister for Agriculture replied that there was only one veterinary college in the province at Madras and in the year 1949-50 about 80 students were admitted.15

On the issue of allotment of waste lands to political sufferers, Vedaratnam Pillai asked the Minister for Revenue on November 1949 to consider in giving lands to the political sufferers and land less poor in places where there were no exservicemen to cultivate the lands allotted for them. The Minister replied that this would be taken into account after carefully verifying the situations.16

VEDARATNAM PILLAI ON INDIGENOUS MEDICINE:

Vedaratnam Pillai also spoke on the subject of health as he was interested in Indian medicines. In November 1948 he asked the Minister for Health whether the government had taken any steps to improve and

encourage Indian medicines in the province. The Minister replied in the affirmative and said that steps were also taken by the government to improve and encourage Indian medicine in the province and the government was also considering the question of opening a college of Indian medicine at Tanjore but it was deferred. Six hundred and ninety three men students and seventy seven women students were admitted in the indigenous college of medical and the daily average number of patients in the hospital in 1958 was 1,449\textsuperscript{17}.

During his tenure as a legislator, he raised a large number of questions on such vital matters as indigenous medicine, conversion of wastelands, hoarding of grains etc., Being a Gandhian he did not accept the discrimination practiced against the ractiness of Indian Medicine. He asked the Government to maintain certain level of parity between allopathy doctors and siddha practioners. He was also particular that the government must found research institution in places like Tanjore where infrastructural facilities are available\textsuperscript{18}.

\textsuperscript{17} Q.484, M.L.A.D., Vol. XX, 2, March 1959. p. 432.
He raised another supplementary question and asked whether the government would consider the desirability of publishing the valuable manuscripts in the Saraswathi Mahal Library at Tanjore on Indian medicines and of making them possible to adopt in colleges of Indian medicine. The Minister said that already two volumes on Indian medicines translated from the manuscripts of Saraswathi Mahal Library had been published. Steps would also be taken to publish more volumes. But the Tamil Nadu Government was indifferent to his view\textsuperscript{19}.

In continuation of the discussions, he informed the Minister that there were effective prescriptions in Saraswathi Mahal Library at Tanjore for treating cancer and asked whether the government had any idea to investigate into this matter. The minister replied that he would take steps to refer those specific records of the library and would also see that these could be properly utilised\textsuperscript{20}.

\textsuperscript{19} Ibid.,

Hence, he requested the Minister for Health to take effective steps for its improvement in the state. In this, he also brought to the notice of the government that there existed some kind of discriminations between the doctors who studied the allopathy medicine and the doctors who studied the Indian medicine. He also cited a G.O. (Government Order) that had been issued by the government sometime back which said about the privileges and special preferences enjoyed by the allopathy doctors. These were not extended to doctors of Indian medicine. Hence, he requested the government to look into this problem and also to take steps to prevent such types of discriminations and to treat the doctors of Indian medicine on par with allopathy doctors in all matters. Vedaratnam Pillai further asked the government to encourage the study of Indian medicine by starting more number of Research Institutions on Indian medicine in places like Tanjore. He suggested to start these institutions in Tanjore particularly as there were infrastructures and other facilities in this town than
in other places. Besides the manuscripts on Medicine available at Saraswathi Mahal library could also be utilised for research purposes²¹.

On the subject of health, Vedaratnam Pillai in 1958 asked questions especially on the spread of smallpox in some areas of Tanjore district. It was at that time smallpox had been spreading in the areas of Ramakrishnapuram Colony of Vedaranyam in Tanjore District. There were also cases of death due to smallpox. He asked the government to prevent the spread of this disease in that area further. Efforts had already been taken by the government to arrest the spread of this disease. The public health staff under took vaccination and revaccination measures in that area²².

On the subject of prohibition, Vedaratnam Pillai question was about the use of spurious liquor. He raised this question in the Assembly session held on

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²¹ Ibid.,

total prohibition in the province. This led to manufacturer of illicit liquors. Spurious liquor seriously affected the health of the consumers. Sometimes, this also led to death. Vedaratnam Pillai came to know of the news of the death of certain persons in places like Salem and Nilgiris because of spurious liquor. This compelled Vedaratnam Pillai to raise a question in the Legislative Assembly and asked the Minister for Prohibition to give a report of the death of such persons and the steps if any taken by the government to prevent such deaths in future.

The Minister replied that the government was also aware of the rows of death of certain persons in Nilgiris and Salem due to the drinking of spurious Liquor. At once the government contacted urgently the District Prohibition Officer at Salem and Nilgiris and urged them to give a report on the actual position of these allegations.

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In 1948, Vedaratnam Pillai as a legislator drew the attention of the government to solve the March 1951. It was at this time, there was food problem in the province by raising questions on this subject in the Assembly session. He was keen in pointing out the defects in the distribution of food grains from surplus districts to the districts which were in deficient in food grains. It was during this time, there was food crisis all over the country. As the British Government was involved in the Second World War, they could not also pay attention to these problems in the country during the early forties. Hence, there came shortage of food almost in all the places. This became a problem to the independent government. To solve this problem, various governments in the country followed various methods. In the Madras Province, the government brought a system of control by which the movement of rice or paddy from the surplus district was prevented to other areas. As a result the black marketers in the border areas of the surplus districts illegally transported the food grains to the districts
which were deficient in food grains and sold them at very high prices. To prevent this type of illegal trade, Vedaratnam Pillai suggested that the government should start more number of fair price shops and make arrangements to distribute the food grains through these shops at a reasonable and low prices to the people. By this black market in food grains could be prevented.

He pointed out the illegal trade in food grains in the district of Tanjore. As the district of Tanjore being a surplus one in food grains there were possibilities of illegal traders exporting food grains there were possibilities of illegal traders exporting food grains unlawfully by steam ships from the port of Nagapattinam to Ceylon. It was reported that about 2000 bags of rice had been transported by these ships in a week to Ceylon. By means of these exports these traders were able to sell rice at a very high price in Ceylon. For instance a bag of rice costing Rs. 25 in Tanjore district was sold in Ceylon at Rs.250/-. Thus they earned considerable money by means of smuggling. Vedaratnam

Pillai was aware of the government measures to prevent this type of trade. But the problem continued. The cause for this was that the illegal traders were having effective and speedy boats with which they could carry the bags of Paddy easily to Ceylon. But the government boats were not so effective and speedy to catch these boats. The government also knew this. Yet it did not take any steps to make the police patrol more effectively. Hence, Vedaratnam Pillai asked the government to supply effective and speedy boats to the police persons guarding the sea shore. Vedaratnam Pillai at the same time pointed another mistake that had been done by the Department of Police in this venture. They in their attempt to prevent the illegal trade caught hold of the innocent coolies and put them in jail. Vedaratnam Pillai held that they were not the real cause for this black marketing. They were the tools in the hands of the black marketers and illegal traders. Somehow the black marketers arrested.

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25 Ibid.,
Vedaratnam Pillai wanted the Police Department to take effective steps to find out the black marketers and arrest them at once and stop the arrest of innocent coolies²⁶.

Knowing the food situation in the Country, Vedaratnam Pillai suggested to the Government of Madras to bring cultivation in the waste lands and thereby increasing the food production. He insisted in the assembly not only to bring more and more waste lands into cultivation but also to provide water and fertilisers to the cultivators at appropriate vendor²⁷. Almost in all the days he participated in the discussions raising many issues such as education, language, health, agriculture, food, transport and minor ports.

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²⁶ Ibid.,
²⁷ Ibid.,
VEDARATNAM PILLAI ON EDUCATION:

Of all the subjects, Vedaratnam Pillai devoted more time on the subject of education. Vedaratnam Pillai in the Assembly session held on 31 October 1958 raised questions on Basic Education. He asked C. Subramaniam, the Minister for Finance and Education to give a statement on the following details.

a. About the number of Basic Education School and Basic Training Schools.

b. The activities of these schools with special reference to the social services during the past three years.

To this, the Minister asked the member to look into the statement that was provided on the table of the house. He further said that the member could see all the details which he required from this statement.

Speaking of Basic Education in general, Vedaratnam Pillai in the Assembly session held on 8 December 1959, asked

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a. proposed to propagate the basic education to the public by means of conducting public meetings.

b. to propagate Basic education by giving speeches on the values of Basic Education through the media of Radio.

Vedaratnam Pillai evinced great interest in the educational sector. He believed that education was a mean of social change and therefore prodded the government to pay attention to the basic education and then higher education. He asked the government of Tamil Nadu to propagate to the people the values of basic education through the medium of Radio and public meetings. It was in the year 1960, the government had received some complaints about religious conversions in some of the Basic Training Schools chiefly in the Basic Training School at T. Kallupatti. In that school some basic education trainees were converted into Christian religion. Vedaratnam Pillai asked the Minister whether the government had taken any steps to prevent such type of religious conversions in government institutions. To this, the Minister replied that two trainees were

converted into Christianity in that school. The government had also sent necessary instructions to the school authorities prohibiting religious conversions. Besides, the Public Department had also issued instructions prohibiting participation by government servants in proselytizing activities.

Vedaratnam Pillai pointed out that in the existing public schools, religious teachings on Christianity and Islam were taught. The teachings of Hinduism were not taught. He asked whether the government would take any effort to make arrangements to teach religious ideals on Hinduism in these schools. The Minister replied that there was no connection between these schools and the government. As such, the government could not do anything, in this matter.

Vedaratnam Pillai argued that if there was no proposal on the part of the government to broadcast the lessons on Basic Education through All India Radio,


the government should take steps as early as possible for broadcasting these lessons through the media of Radio. In the course of his speech he emphasised Basic Education. Its aim was to give training to the pupils in arts and crafts while studying in the schools. Apart from academic studies, the students must also be taught self employment opportunities too. Vedaratnam Pillai elicited information about the number of primary schools in the province that had been converted into Basic schools in 1959 and the number of Basic Trained Teachers serving in these schools. Four hundred primary schools to be converted into Basic Education Schools during the year 1959. In all these schools there were also sufficient number of Basic Trained Teachers. Besides, the Director of Public Instruction had also issued instructions to the respective inspecting officers to supply the equipments that were required for this type of education.°

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The number of training colleges for men in the academic year 1959 were 13 and 4 women training colleges. The sanctioned strength of the students for all these colleges were 1365 and the number of students admitted in the year was 1,142.

VEDARATNAM PILLAI AND SARASWATHI MAHAL LIBRARY:

Vedaratnam Pillai also asked for the improvement of Saraswathi Mahal Library at Tanjore during 1957 - 1961 Assembly sessions also. In fact the library was managed by an administrative committee consisting of five members. Their work was entirely honorary. They were not paid any salary. About 35,000 manuscripts had been examined and catalogued in 28 volumes. In respect of rare and valuable manuscripts arrangements were also made for intensive examination. As a result of which 200 manuscripts had been selected for publication. Out of these sixty one works had so far been edited and published in several languages from 1949 onwards33.

Likewise, in 1961, he raised another question on Saraswathi Mahal Library in which he asked about the grants awarded to Saraswathi Mahal Library at Tanjore by the government for publication of manuscripts. To this, the Minister for Education, C. Subramanian gave the following particulars.

1. Recurring grant for purchase of references Rs. 300.00
2. Recurring grant for improvement and publication of the Journal of the library 2,000.00
3. Recurring grant towards maintaining library 27,700.00
4. Recurring grant for publication of manuscripts 2,000.00
5. A temporary grant towards the expenditure on the employment to special Modi Pandits 3,000.00

The library had already published 84 works34.

In a Budget speech, on the submission of education grant on 25 April 1960, Vedaratnam Pillai welcomed the government's policy of introducing Tamil medium in the colleges too. It was at that time there were some educationalists against the introduction of Tamil medium in the colleges. Some of the members in the Assembly too raised objections for the introduction of Tamil medium in the colleges. But Vedaratnam Pillai was staunch supporter of introducing mother tongue as medium in the colleges. He pointed out that in high schools, the medium of mother tongue became successful, the same if it was brought in the colleges, would bring fruitful results. At the same time, Vedaratnam Pillai argued that he was not also against the study of English. The study of English as a language was also essential and this should be strengthened also. But the medium of instruction for the different subjects should be only through the mother tongue. In rural areas, the students found difficult to understand the English language. Experience had also shown that many of the students coming from rural areas could not easily understand the
subjects taught through the medium of English. Hence, to make the subjects easily understandable to the students, the medium of instruction should be through mother tongue. With this aim Vedaratnam Pillai stressed the need to introduce the medium of Tamil in the colleges as early as possible.

Vedaratnam Pillai was in favour of introducing "Hindi" as one of the languages in the school studies. At the same time he was also of the view that the study of mother tongue in the schools should not also be minimised.

On 29 April 1960, Vedaratnam Pillai spoke about adult education and the problems related to this education. He came to know from some sources that there were irregularities in payment of salaries to teachers. He asked the Minister the reason for these irregularities and the steps taken by the government, if any, to regularise these problems in the adult

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schools. The Minister replied that there was no possibility of teachers of adult schools. For the adult schools were under the control of government officials. The schools were also to be recognised by the government. Only then, payments to teachers of these schools would be made by the government. These schools were often inspected by the Deputy Inspector of Schools. Besides, these schools were also visited by the Block Development Officers too.\footnote{Q.883, M.L.A.D., Vol. XX, 29, April 1960, p.792.}

On the problem relating to salaries of teachers, Vedaratnam Pillai found that there were some delays in disbursement of salaries to teachers in some of the management schools. This created heated discussions among the members of the Assembly irrespective of any party affiliations. The managements had also been making foul plays in the disbursement of salaries to teachers in many of the schools. The members also suggested to the Minister for education that the government officials should take steps to disburse the salaries to the teachers directly by more orders.

\footnote{Q.883, M.L.A.D., Vol. XX, 29, April 1960, p.792.}
Some members also said that this new system would be welcomed by the teachers themselves. At this point, Vedaratnam Pillai asked the Minister whether the teachers were willing to receive their salaries through the government or through managements. The Minister replied that the government had received a number of petitions from the side of teachers to receive their salary directly from the government officials that from the managements. Only a few petitions of numbering about two or three had accepted to receive their salaries from the managements\(^\text{37}\). He suggested establishment of at least one college in every district in the state\(^\text{38}\).

Apart from participating in the discussion on education in general, Vedaratnam Pillai emphasised on technical and professional education also. For instance, in March 1958, Vedaratnam Pillai asked in the Assembly whether the government had any proposal to start an engineering college at Tanjore in accordance with the resolution passed by the District Board of


Tanjore. To this, the Minister for Education replied that the government had not received the resolution of the District Board Tanjore regarding the proposal for opening an engineering college in Tanjore district.

Vedaratnam Pillai also asked the government to start a medical college at Tanjore as per the resolution passed by the District Board at Tanjore in 1958 December. The Government had to get approval from the university of Madras. Secondly it required more finance. Some more infrastructure for starting the medical college was necessary. Thirdly, there were some difficulties in getting qualified staff.

There were also oppositions for introducing "Hindi" as a compulsory language in the schools. Hence, this became a sensitive and delicate question as far as Tamil Nadu was concerned. Vedaratnam Pillai desired Hindi as a medium of instruction.

There were a larger area covering about 35 miles on the sea shore lying waste between Tiruvadanai and Sundarapatnam in his constituency and asked the government to use these lands for cultivating cashewnuts. In fact, steps had already been taken by the government to cultivate cashewnuts in the lands where there were possibilities of cultivating them.\textsuperscript{40}

Vedaratnam Pillai did not stop with this. Vedaratnam Pillai asked the government in 1960 to give more attention in bringing the waste lands in the state into cultivation of food grains.\textsuperscript{41} When there was also food shortage in the State of Tamil Nadu too in 1959 Vedaratnam Pillai said that the transfer of certain tons of rice to Kerala would affect the food situation in the State of Tamil Nadu too.\textsuperscript{42}

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\textsuperscript{40} Q.883, M.L.A.D., Vol.XXXI, 4, November 1958, p.505.
In March 1959, the Government of Tamil Nadu requested the Government of India to supply 10,000 tons of Nellore rice in exchange for equal quantity or locally produced rice. Subsequently, in May 1959, when the Government of Tamil Nadu represented to the Government of India their difficulty in procuring rice in this state in view of free movement of rice from this State to Kerala, the Government of India offered to supply one lakh tons of rice during 1959\textsuperscript{43}.

**DEVELOPMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY:**

It was in 1950's there were shortage of veterinary doctors in the state. Many of the Veterinary dispenseries were run without proper veterinary doctors. This drew the attention of Vedaratnam Pillai and asked the Minister for Agriculture in the Assembly in November 1958, about the shortage of veterinary Assistant Surgeons in the state. Stockmen were posted

in the place of veterinary Assistant Surgeons in some of the dispensaries\textsuperscript{44}. There were 48 artificial insemination centres in the state\textsuperscript{45}.

**VEDARATNAM PILLAI'S CONCERN ABOUT THE ORPHANAGE:**

On 5 September 1958, when the Madras Children Amendment Bill was introduced Vedaratnam Pillai told that poor children and orphanage children were utilised by anti social elements such as pick pocketeers and the persons involving in illicit liquor business for their illegal and criminal activities under such circumstances, it was these children who were charged by the police as criminals and were also given punishments in the courts. They were also put in prison. The real situation was that the antisocial elements who utilised these children for their illegal purposes had escaped. To avoid such situation, the government was urged to make efforts to eradicate poverty.

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Besides, he suggested that the philanthropists should also be motivated to come forward to start more orphanages for the destitute children. The government also should make arrangements to utilise the temple funds for the purpose of starting orphanages in many places in the state. Proper education should be given to the children who were punished under criminal procedures and they must also be treated in such a way that they should not repeat the same mistakes again\textsuperscript{46}.

In the Assembly debates held on 11, September 1959, Vedaratnam Pillai spoke about the orphanages meant for backward and Harijan children. To these children the government was paying Rs.15/- per child in every month as grant. Vedaratnam Pillai asked the government to increase the amount taking into consideration of the rise in prices. To this the Minister replied that the government was considering to meet all the expenditures in connection with the children belonging to backward and Harijan communities in the orphanages\textsuperscript{47}. In the


assembly debate held on 12 March 1960, Vedaratnam Pillai asked the Minister whether the temples in the state were running orphanages. The Minister said that there were a few temples running orphanages too. The following is the details of the orphanages run by some of the temples in the state during the year 1960.

1. Orphanages run by Kapaleswarar Temple, Mylapore, Madras - 4

2. Dharmapuram Adheenam Devasthanam, Hindu Orphanage, Vaitheeswaran Koil, Sirkali Taluk

3. Hindu Orphanage, Nachiar Koil attached to Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple, Nachiar Koil, Kumbakonam Taluk, Tanjore District

4. Sri Singaravaelar Hindu Orphanage, Sikkil attached to Navaneethakrishnaswamy Temple, Sikkil, Tanjore District

5. Poor Home run by Sri Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple, Palani, Madurai District

6. Sri Meenakshi Orphanage, Kallupatti attached to Sri Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai

7. Swami Nellaiyappar Anbu Asramam Palamcottah, attached to Sri Nellaipappar Temple, Tirunelveli

8. Senthil Murugan Siruvar Illam, attached to Sri Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruchendur

Vedaratnam Pillai apart from participating in the discussions on various subjects in the assembly, he also raised questions and sought clarifications from the government on some of the common problems too. For example in 1957, there came a general elections both to the State and Central Legislatures. In these elections, government officials were appointed as election officers. These officials were also eligible to receive travelling and other allowances for their election works. In the distribution of allowances to these officials there also occurred some delays in some places. This came to notice of Vedaratnam Pillai especially in the district of Tanjore. Taking interest on these officials. Vedaratnam Pillai asked the Minister for Finance, whether there was any delay in paying travelling allowances to the employees who were employed on election work. The Minister replied that there was no delay in paying T.A. to these employees. He further said that out of 14,290 claims received, payment had been made to 14,284 claims. The payment for the remaining six claims would soon also be made.\textsuperscript{49}

On another occasion in 1958, Vedaratnam Pillai raised question relating to the employees of Ambar Charka and khadi. These employees looked after the production of khadi and other related things. They were employed by some appointment committees\(^5^0\).