CHAPTER VI

ALIENvioS ON PLANETS - THE ORI
OR DO THE NARKI FORGET OR VASTL
AND CONCENTRATION
There are two facets of administration by the TTD: (1) first one is connected with the running of the temple administration (maintenance of the temple and proper performance of rituals as prescribed by the Agamas and the different institutions attached to the temple), and (2) second is to look to the facilitation, welfare and the safety of life and property of the multitude of pilgrims and worshippers that visit the temple shrine.

In the second facet of the administration role of the TTD is more or less akin to that of a chief minister of different non-hereditary servitors besides major maintenance of temple and institutions attached which has been already discussed in the earlier context.

In the first facet, although it has a supervisory role to play by ensuring regular and timely performance of rituals in accordance with custom and tradition, the major responsibility on the TTD.

While upholding the custom and tradition by which the importance of shrine remains as much as it should for their worshippers, the account of the TTD administration
is laid on the amenities for the pilgrims who resort to this shrine with a rare feeling for fulfilment and contentment. Right from the time that a pilgrim steps into Tirupati, on his way to Tirumala and reaches back again to Tirupati for his home reaching there is evidently a big chain of activity witnessed from III which undertakes multiple services of transport, accommodation, orphan, health and sanitation, security etc. It is interesting to have a look at the operations of various segments of the TTD administration all functioning with pilgrim-orientation.

Transport:

At the outset it may be noted that the TTD which had successfully managed the transport in the past had failed at a particular stage to appreciate the need for its further continuation in the interests of the pilgrims. No doubt, with the progressive increase of pilgrims to the hills on a larger scale, the problems of transport also increased with the result more number of vehicles, both heavy and light had to be put on the road. This necessitated appointment of a large number of technical and non-technical employees such as drivers, conductors, mechanics, engineering staff, workshop workers etc.
The executive officer was so overburdened with onerous duties and responsibilities in different wings of the_TRP that he had hardly any time to go into the details of the mismanagement that had set into the transport organisation as it had become unyielding with the number of transport employees themselves swelling into a huge figure.

Due to the centralisation of power and authority in the executive officer the officers on deputation who were directly incharge of the Transport Management and administration could not take decisions on the spot and play an efficient role. The transport workers who had been left to themselves seem to have exploited to the personal advantage unmindful of the convenience and comfort of the pilgrims and they became more conscious of their rights than their responsibilities as was evident from the frequent threats of strike they had reported to. The pilferage in the work shops, diesel oil, petrol bunk attached to the TRP, reckless replacement of small parts for the vehicles, negligence and rash driving in a drunken state that led to accidents, stealthy misuse of light vehicles in particular and heavy vehicles like lorries in general were some of the
most conspicuous milesale that brought disrepute to the holy administration, besides causing heavy loss. The situation had become so intriguing and uncontrollable that the authorities perhaps thought that it was wise to get rid of this wing by handing it over to the Agency.

As a result the Tn had transferred 114 buses, 10 tankers, one tanker, 10 new chassis, 217 drivers, 246 conductors and about 300 workers of workshop to a T I. The administration was running about Rs. 160 lakhs on the management of the transport. Such a huge organisation was handed over to the Andhra Pradesh Road Transport Corporation (APRTC) on 10.8.1973.

The T I. has undertaken to maintain the two ghat roads at a huge cost. The T I. is extending all the benefits to the transport workers even after handing over the transport to the APRTC, which has become an avoidable expenditure for it.

1. An agreement was signed on 3.8.1975 between the Chairman of T I. and General Manager of APRTC for handing over the T I. transport to APRTC (vide T I. Board resolution No. 1770, dt 8.8.1975).
2. In 1943 the first ghat road has opened for traffic. The second ghat road was cleared to traffic during 1974, constructed at a cost of Rs. 70,93,495/- (T I. Board Res.No. 590, dt 23.10.1968 and Res.No. 455, dt 12.9.1972).
It was perhaps expected by the TTD that the
\textit{AVSRTC} with its rich and varied experience and man
power and authority would play a better and more
efficient role in dealing with the pilgrims vis-a-vis
their past counterpart \textit{TTD}. The \textit{TTD}, by transferring
the transport wing to them, may perhaps thought that
it had found a suitable remedy for the disease that
had set into it. But alas! the remedies sought have
become worse than the disease itself.

Worry now and then the \textit{TTD} is reduced to the
position of a private organisation and has to request
for cooperation from the \textit{AVSRTC}. Inspite of being
the \textit{TTD} employees, they have been denied of all those
benefits such as free transport for going up hills etc.,
which they had when the organisation was in the hands
of TTD. During periods of \textit{Achsaya\-poo\-vam} and during
summer season, the \textit{AVSRTC} has not been providing
adequate number of buses for clearance of the pilgrims
at Tirumala and at Tirupati.

Inspite of the fact that huge fleet of 114 buses
was handed over (by now would have grown into 150 buses)
the \textit{AVSRTC} diverted the \textit{TTD} buses to other routes with
the result, one finds that not even 50 to 60 buses are
being pressed into service during peak periods like
The TTD is in helpless position to alleviate the sufferings of the pilgrims who are made to stand in the queue both at Tirupati and Tirumala for more than 2 to 3 hours to get a bus ticket. In this connection, it may also be mentioned, unscrupulous elements have been taking full advantage of the above said lapses of TTD with the result that in the peak season one can get tickets easily from cal kerics and brokers at the rate of Rs.5 while actual fare is only Rs.2 or Rs.2.50.

In so much as the bus-stand have also been placed under the control of TTD, both at Tirupati and Tirumala, the pilgrims standing in the queue for hours together are not having even the primary facilities like drinking water and bathrooms. For all these reasons, it may be stated that by handing over the Transport to the ASRTC in August 1975, the TTD has not only failed in the discharge of primary obligation and duty towards the pilgrims but have also subjected them to untold sufferings and inconvenience besides putting the shrine to heavy loss of revenue. This aspect deserves to be reconsidered by the new Management Committee of the present autonomous TTD in all its aspects.
A rethinking has already started in the minds of the TTO and a section of the public that if the goods are to be delivered rightly and finally the appropriate agency for doing so should be the TTO only.

The Act of 1979 envisaged that the welfare of the pilgrim shall be the primary responsibility of the TTO. Transport of the pilgrim to and from the shrine on the hills is undoubtedly a welfare measure and this is a responsibility which has to be discharged efficiently by the TTO alone.

It is advisable to connect the two existing roads near Simhachalasana to be used in emergency situation. This may be kept under control and put to use out of necessity.

Simapati could be made a railway terminus for trains going to distance places for the convenience of the pilgrims.

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3. Writer's interview with Mr. C. Anna Rao, the Chairman of the TTO Board and Sri Raja Raju, CTO, of the TTO.


Tirumala is getting more congested due to the increase of the local population from 10,000 to 25,000. Tirupati should be made as base camp. Schemes for an electric roadway to supplement roadways in conveying passengers and materials from Tirupati to Tirumala were obtained in 1962 from Cromptons (British Roadways) from a German firm and from a Japanese firm. These were referred to Dr. A. R. Rao, ex-Union Minister of Health, of India and an eminent engineer for scrutiny and advice.

Every step should be taken for construction of money from Chandragiri.

Reception and Accommodation

The second aspect of the project which requires special attention by the TTD is reception and accommodation for the pilgrims. The average number of pilgrims visiting Tirupati and Tirumala is to the tune of 20,000 on week days and about 10 to 15 thousands on holidays and much more during festivals and occasions like Diwali, New Year Day (January first) etc. It is needless to point out that providing proper accommodation to the pilgrims is a primary function because of the fact that pilgrims form the axur of the whole activity by the TTD administration.

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With the pour in of unending devotees and worshipers day in and day out in fulfillment of their vows such as darshan, tenura, kalyanotsavan etc., they need to stay for a day or two at Tirumala and therefore administration is put to a real test in providing accommodation to the multitudes of the pilgrims. On an average, it is estimated that there shall have to be provision for accommodating not less than 20,000 pilgrims at Tirumala on a day and 10,000 at Tirupati. There is however a need for more accommodation at Tirumala than Tirupati for the fact that at Tirupati there is additional accommodation in the form of departmental guest houses of the State Government and a number of private lodging houses.

The TTD has undertaken the construction of chaulltries and cottages since 1935 and the process continues unceasingly. There is a concerted effort on the part of TTD to provide adequate reception and accommodation arrangements to an increasing number of pilgrims.

Whether or not the existing accommodation is sufficient for the pilgrims, whose inflow average is worked out, will be examined.
The accommodation at Tirupati comprises of:
Sri Venkateswara Swami Chaultry,
Sri Gopinda Varaha Swami Chaultry, and
Sri Venkateswara Swami Chaultry.

While the above three chaultries provide free accommodation there are facilities for paid accommodation at:

- Sri Chaultry House with 20 rooms, and
- Sri Acharya Swami House with 12 rooms.

Thus, the total accommodation made available by the JCO at Tirupati is 392 rooms. On an average of 5 members for a family for each room, the total number of persons that can be accommodated in total number of rooms is $392 \times 5 = 1960$.

As far as Tirumala is concerned the total number of rooms available for free accommodation are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chaultry</th>
<th>Rooms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I Chaultry</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II Chaultry</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III Chaultry</td>
<td>204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>624</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Information obtained from Central Reception Officer, Tirumala)

The total number of cottages and suites is 539, thus the grand total works out to 1163. On an average
FIG. 9 ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS AT TIRUMALA AND TIRUPATI ON 31-3-80
taking 5 numbers per each family, the total accommodation available at Tirumala is 1183 x 5 = 5915. Even if the total numbers are taken into account, the total accommodation can go to about 9 to 10 thousand pilgrims and devotees a day whereas average requirement is estimated to be 30 thousands on ordinary days and 50 to 60 thousands on important days7. As the above facts clearly indicate that the TTD is not able to perform the duty of accommodating all the pilgrims and devotees that visit Tirupathi and Tirumala, with the result, during peak periods particularly, most of the pilgrims go without accommodation and thereby they and their personal property are exposed to all kinds of risks. The situation being so warranting, it is understandable why the TTD is launching so many projects to construct Polyana Mantapas and Sanultrias outside Tirupati and Tirumala involving lot of money. Further, the TTD has been constructing quarters for the employees at Tirumala. This does not appear to be a proper step. Suggestions were made that the persons in regular employment in the TTD can be housed at Tirupati itself and proper transport arrangement can be made for attending to their duties at Tirumala. If this is done, an additional accommodation

7. Vide Statistics obtained from Accounts Section of TTD.
For about 10,000 pilgrims can easily be provided without extra constructions at Tirumala. However, it may result in construction of additional staff quarters at Tirupati but in the interest of the pilgrims that can be taken up.

The C.P.O. had a well-organised reception system. The reception comprises of allotment of accommodation, grant of extension in deserving cases and watching the inevitable vacation. At Tirupati, the Reception Officer, Tirupati is in charge of the reception. Under his charge, there are 3 big choultries, namely Sri Srinivasa Choultry, Sri Govindaraja Swamy Choultry and Sri Hadandarama Swamy Choultry and one Guest House. For the pilgrims who visit Tirupati there is accommodation available within the vicinity of the Railway Station and bus depot. 9.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Paid Accommodation</th>
<th>Free Accommodation</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I.</td>
<td>Choultry</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Choultry (15 are occupied by the canteens)</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>Choultry (12 are occupied by the canteen etc.)</td>
<td>146</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.V.</td>
<td>Guest House</td>
<td>All paid rooms (9 - 10 are given to Indian Air Lines)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the Chaultries and Guest house, a new Guest house named "Samadhanmathews Guest house" with 12 suites including 10 AC suites was opened on 15.3.1979 to cater to the needs of VIC, etc. Besides the paid rooms, free rooms, there are three marriage halls also adjoining in the said four Chaultries.

Further, there are 14 marriage halls at Tiruchchandur also. The marriage halls are rented out on first come first served basis.

There are caretakers in charge of each one of Chaultries and Guest house and enquiry offices. The staff works in three shifts round the clock, and the chaultry rooms and premises are maintained well. The total number of pilgrims accommodated in all the three chaultries and guest houses during 1979-80 are:

- Adults .. 12,30,392
- Children .. 1,39,456

who VIC are running a free dispensary in the VIC for the benefit of the pilgrims. There are also cloak-rooms in all the three chaultries. The pilgrims
luggage is guarded safely free of cost. To serve the
needs of the pilgrims who resort to cooking, there is
a cooperative-store in the AI new choultry. There
is provision for supply of vegetables, fruits, and water
in all the choultries. Apart from all these the AI
is also running a canteen in the AI new choultry.
There is, thus, every amenity made available in the
choultries for the pilgrims.

Several pilgrims come in vehicles, tourist buses,
taxis etc. There is provision for their parking in
front of AI choultry. A parking fee of Rs.5 per vehicle
car day is charged.

The accommodation at Tirupati is not a problem
because there are other private hotels. The object
of giving free rooms to pilgrims is getting affected
by allotting these rooms for conducting eye camps,
religious missionaries like Sravanamana Rama Krishna,
Chaitanyamandla Mission and for other like observed cells,
Canteen etc. Arrangement for accommodation for good
purposes other than that for pilgrims may be made
somewhere in the paid rooms of a guest house. The
rich pilgrims however can afford to take private
accommodation on payment.
The Thr has provided paid accommodation to
14,37,315 persons during the year 1979-80.

The pilgrims are provided with all the amni-
tics in the cottages and guest houses including the
facility to fulfill their vows of tonsure. The expend-
ititure on establishment and maintenance is to the
tune of about Rs. 2 lakhs.

Besides paid accommodation there are 561 rooms
providing free accommodation during the year 1979-80.
19,06,761 pilgrims have availed free accommodation.

For the benefit of pilgrims, provision has been made
to run a cooperative store, reading rooms, cloth
shops, free cloak rooms, supply of vessels, etc.

A free bus service is arranged on the top of the hill
do that people can go around from one place to another
without much difficulty.

It is highly desirable to provide proper sitting
accommodation, proper sanitation facilities in the
Chief Recorder Officer's office. The facilities
that are needed for the pilgrims, namely, sitting
arrangements with benches around, a cloak room, a
canteen, lavatories and bath rooms should be provided.

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10. Work Study project report of the Defence Institute
of Work Study, Missouri, on study of existing
reception and accommodation arrangements for pilgrims,
(1979) N.D., p.60.
FIG. 11 PILGRIMS ACCOMMODATED AT TIRUMALA
It is suggested that the TT may construct more shelters while going slow in the expansion of cottages for accommodating common pilgrims free of rent. The rented rooms should be better maintained and rent may be reduced, since mostly lower middle class people occupy these rental rooms.

In the previous Walter sheds constructed by tenants have been decided to provide VIP cottages or altered to provide quarters to employees, it is necessary to have a free shelter shed and thus help poor pilgrims.

In order to provide safety to the life and property of the pilgrims and worshippers is one of the important functions of the TT administration. About 60 per cent of the pilgrims reach Tirumala from Tirupati on foot along the foot path (Sringeri). The foot path is through the jungles and forest area. The pilgrims will be climbing the footpath day in and day out. To provide protection to them along the foot path is the first stage of operation for the safety of the life and property of the pilgrims by the TT. Then the

II, Writer's Interview with Sri Govind Swamy Naidu, the Peershkar of TT.
pilgrims reach Tirumala, they will have to keep their belongings either in cottages or shrines and such other places and go to the temple for fulfilment of their vows and darshan of the Lord. Most of the pilgrims are to stay and in fact they stay at Tirumala atleast for one night. There are several types of anti-social elements, dandaries etc. whose profession is to cheat the pilgrims on Tirumala, thus the TR's responsibility is to send via, to protect life and property of pilgrims both when they climb the hills as well as during their stay at Tirumala.

The flight of steps from Alipiri to Tirumala as already stated is through the jungles and forest. The facilities provided for the pilgrims are : (1) provision of lighting throughout the length of the foot path, (2) provision of drinking water along the foot path, (3) keeping the different hampas along the foot path, clean and in good condition so as to enable the pilgrims to take rest, (4) giving licences to petty dealers to provide snacks and drinks etc. Above all, the TR has arranged for the patrolling of the path by the security guards. The police too have established an outpost at Narasamudraru, that is at the 7th mile and they have also arranged for patrolling of the foot path. The above
are the several steps taken for the safety of the pilgrims, climbing the hill by the foot path. It appears that lighting on the foot path unto the 7th mile is under the control and charge of the foot path engineer (electricity), Tirupati, while the control of the lighting unto that point from Tirumala is given to the foot path engineer, Tirumala. It is needless to point out that the pilgrims will be climbing the hills even during the nights because most of them start climbing up and down in the evening hours with the result that they shall have to be on the foot path atleast two hours after the night fall. It is also a regular feature of the villagers to be climbing up or down during night time. The point here to direct is that when electricity falls either at Tirumala or at Tirupati, the pilgrims on the footpath during dark nights are exposed to the different types of danger that can be imagined and the talk about jurisdiction is of secondary importance only, since failure of electricity at either of the sides will cause inconvenience to pilgrims. It is not uncommon that thefts are taking place even during day time on the foot path. The miscreants find it very convenient to escape into the jungles on either side of the foot path. It is a common feature that the electricity fails very

often and the pilgrims on foot path are exposed to risk both to their life and property. The TR has been spending money on different routes of different subjects. It is the duty of the administrators to see that there are no interruption in lighting on route the footpath, water supply and sanitation arranged by the TR. Even according to the provisions of the Act, expenditure on the pilgrim facility is the first charge on the revenue of the TR. The TR should do well to consider to erect a generator at 7th mile and see that there is continuous lighting on route the foot path throughout the night particularly when the general electricity fails.

On route the foot path which runs to distance of 7 miles, there are only about 4 to 5 tendapans in which the pilgrims take rest. The respondents feel that the TR should construct the waiting sheds at the rate of one shed for each mile, and ensure primary needs like good drinking water and snacks at every such point.
It is high time that the TR has to take up the scheme in the interest of the multitude of pilgrims that come to the hills on foot.

In spite of the TR having a wing for broadcasting, it is necessary to provide mikes for broadcasting religious
music to relieve the pilgrims using the foot path from their stress and strain. One good feature is that the MLAs established a first-aid-centre at a regular site. It is felt that one more first-aid-centre is urgently necessary to help the poor pilgrims at smaller sites.

Experience shows that though provision has been made for supply of tap water throughout the length of the foot path, there will be no water in the tanks because of the mischiefs of Vandals, who sell liquor and such other drinks. This requires more or less daily checking by the Waterworks Department of the T.C."

The Estimates Committee in 1974-75 has put it in a very serious case that the local ruly elements should be dealt with severely. Some of the activities of these unruly elements are:

1. cheat the pilgrims in different ways and
2. exploit them, by indulging in different types of activities such as committing thefts, deceiving pilgrims by promising quick darshan,
3. smuggling of provisions of the T.C., trading in illicit liquor, smuggling of currency from Varanasi and engage in illicit distillation and transporting of liquor etc.\(^\text{13}\)

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\(^\text{13}\) Recommendation Nos. 112 and 123 of the 7th report of the Estimates Committee (9th Legislative Assembly).
Tackling the unsocial elements, which are practically having the upper hand in everything that is happening at Tirumala is primarily upto the police establishment and State police establishment. The CM is also maintaining security guards. Experience has shown that both the police, Revenue and also the security staff are very ineffective. This is evident from the fact that illicit distillation, transport of illicit liquor to Tirumala, sale and consumption of arrack, sale and consumption of non-vegetarian stuff are increasing day-by-day. There seem to be large number of gambling dens under the protection of goondas and playing and prostitution is also thriving unchecked. All this may be due to the inactivity of the police, Revenue and the Pro vigilance security staff. It is also said that the local powerful rowdy elements have managed to keep the so called staff in their pockets. Under these circumstances it may perhaps be desirable that the police and the State police at Tirumala are kept under the direct control of the Executive officer giving him powers of a District Magistrate to this restricted extent. In this connection, it may be pointed out that because of the provision of posh cottages and guest houses the rich public are making Tirumala a pleasure resort spoiling the sanctity of the hills.
Virmala has been notified as a village for the purposes of administration by the Gram Panchayat Act. The P. Public Health Act of 1939 has also been extended to Virmala village, which is confined to about 1.25 sq. miles around the shrine. The p. c. has been notified as the executive authority for the purpose of both the committees. Sanitation is of prime importance at Virmala for the simple reason that it is visited by thousands of pilgrims from all over India. There is every possibility of the pilgrims themselves importing infectious diseases to Virmala. There is also possibility of spreading infection to all parts of India from Virmala. Therefore there is every need to keep public health and sanitation at Virmala in a perfect order. But as one goes round Virmala village, except the four main streets and the streets in and around the cottages and shooltions, every other part of Virmala presents the appearance of a slum with large number of cess pools, drainage pools etc., breeding all types of mis-pitres. There are large number of slums with over-crowded population presenting a serious threat to the public sanitation. There is also large number of ghasa spreading in the village and creating nuisance. One finds any number of beggars mostly locators and persons with all types of diseases. There is smoke
Ushkarini adjoining the temple. Unfortunately neither inlet nor outlet for Ushkarini are functioning as there is no flow of water. The TTO has been striving to filter the very same water of the Ushkarini and let the filtered water into it. This filtration has not done any good so far. The water in the Ushkarini in itself has become a source of infection. Recently the work of improving the existing water treatment plant for and around Ushkarini was entrusted to the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur for assessing the pollution load of Ushkarini and for suggesting improvements to the existing treatment plant. To keep the Ushkarini plant overhauled and fresh, filter media consisting of gravel and gravel was provided. The filters and media was commissioned before the monsoon season of 1979. 14. No Ushkarini and its surroundings need to be kept clean at all costs. The untidy and insanitary like houses around temples and around the temple should be acquired by the TTO and they should be demolished to improve the sanitary conditions of the temple. 15.

15. 7th Report of the Estimates Committee (9th Legislative Assembly) Resolution No. 136.
At the same time, it was also proposed to provide a water treatment plant for treating the Pushkarini water for which the designs will be furnished by the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute with the implementation of which, the problem of pollution of the Pushkarini water is expected to be solved completely. One of the sewage tunnels gave way and the sewage water found its way into Pushkarini. There were questions in the Assembly and the minister for sanitation had to assure that the sewage pipe had since been repaired.

The western side of Pushkarini is all a built-up area and very much over populated. In recent years, there were several cases of malaria and a special squad had to be appointed to diagnose and treat malaria. The respondents said that the health officer and the sanitary staff appear to be concentrating more on the approach roads to the temple and the 4 Road Street neglecting the other areas with the result that several places of insanitation and insanitary slums have come up around the shrine. If this type of growth is not arrested in time it will lead to disastrous consequences. Pilgrims and worshippers visiting Pushkarini will return to their villages with the satisfaction of having worshipped the Lord but with some type or other infectious disease with them.
As against estimated amount of Rs.5 lakhs towards construction of Cancer Institute in the hospital at Tirupati, the TTD has released only Rs.2.0 lakhs (first installment) and the second installment of Rs.3.0 lakhs still remains to be released subject to production of proper utilization certificate by the Signorintendant, SWR Hospital. This commitment was already made by the TTD. Further another sum of Rs.10 lakhs has not been sanctioned, and the proposals were also being sent to the Commissioner for according necessary sanction in the matter. This additional sanction relates to the project of construction of out-patient block for the SWR Hospital. This commitment was made on the instance of the Secretary to Government, Public Health Department, A.P., Hyderabad. So, the sum of Rs.12.50 lakhs as shown under provision upto March 1979 and revised estimate for 1979-80 and also for 1979-80 as a commitment to TTD.

There is a Department of Health and Sanitation under the control and supervision of Senior Medical Officer for sometime and later under the Health Officer on deputation from the Government.

There are 10 sanitary inspectors at Tirumala and 3 at Tirupati, who supervise the work of the large number of scavengers and scavengers and other staff, numbering about 750 including scavengers, sweepers and non-sweeper roll workers. The sanitary staff at Tirumala is kept under the immediate supervision of a senior sanitary inspector and under the overall control of the divisional health officer.

The PWD is also spending considerable amounts for the maintenance of health and sanitation in its other institutions both at Tirumala and around Tirupati. The water supplied to the pilgrim population is protected water.

There is constant vigilance by the food inspectors, who take food samples often from the cant lanes etc., and take all necessary steps to prevent food adulteration.

Medical Department

The medical department is under the control and supervision of a senior medical officer, MS. The MS is obliged to run dispensaries for the benefit and in the service of multitude of pilgrims that visit Tirumala and Tirupati. Before proceeding further, it has to be
pointed out that the TM is mainly responsible for
the establishment of SVRR Hospital and the S.V. Medical
College at Tirupati.

The SVRR Hospital as a leading institution affil-
liated to S.V. University has added a new dimension to
Ayurveda.

The TM is running dispensaries at important
places mainly to provide free medical aid to the needy
pilgrims as well as the Bovastharam employees. Qualified
doctors and trained nursing staff have been employed
for the purpose. The TM is maintaining:

1st New Choultry Dispensary with 4 Medical
Officers,

Kapilla Theertha Colony Dispensary, Tirupati,
with one Medical Officer,

Padmanabha Ahamavaram Temple Dispensary at Tiruchanur
with one Medical Officer,

Tirumala Hospital with five Medical Officers,

Leprosy Hospital: Sri Venkateswara Poor Home
with two Medical Officers at Akkampalle. It
is mainly intended for treatment of leprosy. The
number of admissions, discharges, reconstructive
surgery and root cases treated during the years
1977-78 to 1979-80 are furnished in fig. No. 8.

Ayurvedic Dispensary 1 is run at 1st New Choultry
at Tirupati.
Fig. 8. Medical facilities at S.V. Poon Home (leprosarium)
and polavasal town's collage teach centre with one medical officer,

a dispensary at the type quarters with one medical officer, and

first aid centres at: (i) vachasankaranai chode,
(ii) central reception office, tirupati,
(iii) 7th mile on the pathway.

The TTD is maintaining a central drug stores.

all the medicines required by all the dispensaries and
first aid centres are purchased and distributed to the
various dispensaries and, by the central drug stores.

the TTD has constructed a central hospital at
Tirupati for providing specialist facilities, x-ray
and laboratory facilities. the x-ray plant has been
installed.

the influx of pilgrims has also increased in a
dramatic manner. consequently, to meet the needs of
the residential population and of the pilgrim popula-
tion, the TTD has to run a well equipped hospital and
first-aid-centres in Tirupati. the present hospital
was designed as a 8 bedded hospital. it is unable to
to serve either the residential population or pilgrim
influx in the manner it is expected to do. Therefore
TTD has constructed a 30 bedded hospital. when that
hospital begins to function as a full fledged hospital, it may perhaps be able to meet the demands of the pilgrim-patients. So it is, it has to be said that medical facility made available at Tirumala is quite inadequate. Further hospital facilities at Tirumala are being utilized more by the residential population rather than by the pilgrims. Recently the TTD started a clinic within the residential quarters of its employees where they did not even of starting such a clinic either in the century old in the 71 century which are occupied by several thousands of pilgrims day in and day out. It may be pointed out that the TTD while starting its clinics should keep the pilgrim-public in view primarily and should give equal importance to the residential population. The point to be stressed here is about the poor pilgrims who visit Tirumala and do not even prepared to stay for more than a day. If they are prevented from making their return journey by illness they have to undergo untold sufferings. Therefore the type of medicine which have to be used by the medical department at Tirumala should be such as to bring the patient to the normal stage in case of illness within the shortest time possible to enable him to undertake return journey. Consequently, the TTD has to administer effective drugs and medicines even if they cost the TTD much. So let the tendency in TTD appears to be to find ways and
means to reduce the expenditure on medicines by going
for cheap medicines. This attitude of the T.M is not
in tune with the objects of the T.M administration.

The resident population of Tirumala is about
20,000 in 1970-71 and the pilgrims (i.e. the floating
population) is to the tune of about 20,000 per day
on the average. The Tirumala temple premises and the
Tirumala village are being maintained clean. The
T.M is contributing Rs.1.75 lakhs to the Tirumala
municipality every year. As the municipality has not
furnished their audited accounts in regard to the contribu-
tion made by the T.M, the T.M stoppedpaying the
said contribution from 1970-71.

Similarly the T.M has been paying Rs.25,000 to
the Tiruchanur gram panchayat (during the year 1970-71
the said amount of Rs.25,000 relating to the year
1973-74 has been released).

The T.M are also spending considerable amount for
the maintenance of health and sanitation in its other
institutions both at Tirumala in and around Tirupati. The
water supplied to the pilgrims population is protected
water.

The expenditure on account of the Health Departent
is to the tune of Rs.39,50 lakhs. But what all said and
Vrindala: Panchayat Administration:

The population of Vrindala during 1941 was 43.
by 1951 it rose to 3,909, while on 1961 it became 5,901.
In 1971 it increased to 13,079. The decennial growth
rate of population during 1961-71 was 134.60. The
density of population is 10,733 people per sq. mile.

In 1979 the population is about 20,000. With
the constant increase in the population the administra-
tive responsibility of the Vrindala which in turn means
the responsibility of the Panchayat whose executive officer is
the chief executive authority of the Panchayat is increas-
ing in manifold.\[17\].

The Panchayat Administration of Vrindala Village
was with a central health officer, previously the
administration has been put under the control of supervi-
sion of reception officer II.

\[17\] Vrindala: The Abode of Lord Venkateswara, "He Hindu" dated 12,2,1981.
## Paying up the total demand and collections of Group Pachayat, Tirumala for the year 1979-80

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Items</th>
<th>Total Demand</th>
<th>Total Collection including amounts written off</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>House tax/137</td>
<td>1,35,954.00</td>
<td>30,631.00</td>
<td>1,20,293.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Professional tax/3169</td>
<td>40,409.00</td>
<td>25,252.00</td>
<td>9,157.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Curchela/949</td>
<td>7,936.00</td>
<td>7,709.00</td>
<td>147.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Motor Licences 402</td>
<td>3,037.00</td>
<td>30,963.00</td>
<td>394.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Shops in Banks</td>
<td>6,11,422.94</td>
<td>5,39,477.00</td>
<td>71,945.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Market food</td>
<td>6,129.30</td>
<td>6,129.30</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Cattle Feed</td>
<td>7,629.00</td>
<td>7,629.00</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

An addition to the Pachayat Administration Receiv- tion Officer III has also been entrusted with the collection of rents from the TD and other employees occupying TD quarters at Tirumala. During the year 1979-80 out of a demand of Rs. 4,19,306/- a sum of Rs. 3,64,457.23 has been collected leaving a balance of Rs. 38,041.20 at the end of the year.
We provide hygienic food both at Tirupati and Tirumala in one of the important functions of the T.O. So far as Tirupati is concerned, it being a big town there are large number of big hotels. Hence, in the five ascensions, the T.O is running canteens departmentally. At Tirumala the task of providing hygienic food to the pilgrims has become a problem. In this evidently, because of inexperience in running canteens has proceeded to lease out one canteen building to
10. Anandara Chettiar and another building to
10. Facchandu Retailers of Madras. Another canteen in
Banmali Street was leased out to the India Coffee Board.
In 19, however, is running a small canteen in the
S.V. Guest House and another canteen in Anjanedrinagar
Cottages. The canteen in the S.V. Guest House is mainly
intended to serve the pilgrims occupying the suits in
the said guest house, while the Anjanedrinagar canteen
is mainly serving the T.O employees. In this connection,
it may be pointed out that the T.O is supplying food to
its employees at a concessional rate of Rs.1/-.
Besides the above said canteens and hotels relating to the T.O,
there are a number of private hotels at Tirumala. The
Executive Officer being executive authority18 has

(of course) have got the hotel food checked up through health inspectors taking food samples and getting them analysed at Hyderabad Chemical Examiners laboratories under the direct supervision of the animal health officer.

Several kinds of annaprashanas such as pulihora, dalivedanam, pongal, chakkara pongal, chitteram etc. are offered to the Lord in large quantities. After the offerings of the annaprashanas to the deity they are distributed to different musiakaras according to the prescribed scale. The annaprashanas that go to the share of musiakaras are sold by them through their agents at prasada pattide at the rate prescribed by the RTO from time to time. The share of annaprashanas that remain to the RTO is distributed to the pilgrims freely in 'donos' as they come out in the camp, after the return of the Lord. On the average, annaprashanas to the tune of about 25 to 30 half soli-gangalams are distributed to the pilgrims.

One should not forget that bulk of the pilgrims that visit Tirumala are agricultural labourers and villagers and they cannot afford to go to canteens or hotels and they depend upon the RTO to a great extent. The survey reveals that most of the pilgrims are getting
book half starved because of their poverty. Providing
proper feeding of the pilgrims has been a problem for
the TTD. It may not be out of place to mention here
that during the Vijayavaha era, the temple authori-
ties introduced the idea of Tiruppavada in which
(200 michals of rice) prepared as pulihora and the
entire pulihora was arranged in a pyramidal shape
at the mahamandapam and offered to the Lord with several
sacrifices namely, sajanama, jili, tonthola (sumukha).
The food so offered excluding the breakfast share
was intended to be distributed to the pilgrims. The
poor from the adjoining villages gather by previous
indication and take all that food. Thus the idea
namely Tiruppadavada is conducted even now on Thurs-
days and balance of pulihora left over with TTD is dis-
tributed free to the pilgrims. In spite of all these it
cannot be said that the food problem has been solved
particularly in the case of poor pilgrims. In the
year 1970 the TTD launched upon a scheme of distributing
the food packets at the rate of 50 paisa per packet
to the pilgrims waiting in the shade in queue line.
But TTD could not implement the scheme effectively
and dropped it. Recently, the TTD in coordination with
Andhra Bank has brought out two new schemes namely.

19. K.T. Venka Raghavachary, History of Tirupati
(The Tiruvengadam Temples) (TTD), 1976, pp.9-10.
sri Venkateswara Uitya Annadana Scheme and the second
is sri Venkateswara Uitya Prasada Annadana scheme. According
to these schemes if a person pays Rs.500/-
in multiples thereof it will be treated as a trust fund in Annadana
scheme and the interest derived thereon will be utilized for preparation and distribution of
about 20 food packets on a particular day in a year, according
to the wish of the donor. This scheme
has been received well by the public. There are
already about 1,000 donors under this scheme. Recently
one donor by name N.V. Ramesh of Hanuma has donated
an amount of Rs.15 lakhs with the object of serving
100 packets of food every day for the period of 3 months
meeting the expenditure out of the interest derived
from the said trust fund. It can thus be seen that
pilgrims get food from

1. The cantonas leased out by the TTD,
2. The 20 cantonas,
3. private locals,
4. prasada cantanas,
5. From distribution of Annaprashana by
   TTD and lastly,
6. By receiving food packets under Sri Venkateswara
   Annadana Scheme.

20. The above scheme was approved by TTD Management
    Committee vide Resolution No. 363 and 364, dt. 4.9.1979.
Local business at Tirumala has become a very 
prosperous business. In spite of the hotels and 
canteens mentioned above, the poor pilgrims are depend-
ing very much on procedures distributed by the TTD. 
Of course the TTD cannot and will not be in the position 
to undertake free feeding to all the poor pilgrims for 
the simple reason that such a scheme will for obvious 
reasons reduce the TTD to bankruptcy. Even if free 
distribution of prasadam is made to the poor pilgrims, 
the benefits usually do not go to the pilgrims. It 
is a common feature at Tirumala that the unscrupious and 
unscrupulous elements enrich themselves by selling the 
prasadam by engaging fake pilgrims to obtain the prasad-
am. The vigilance cell in coordination with the police 
should try to呱呱 out the regular residents of Tirumala 
who are misusing the benefits meant for the poor pilgrims. 
Particularly, the distribution of prasadam and see that 
suitable punishments be meted out to them in accordance 
with the law. In fact in 1948 when the then chief 
Minister of Composite Madras province, Sri Kanduk 
Ramappa Reddy led a team of Nirmans for the first 
time to Tirumala hills for entry into the temple, 
there was warfare from the caste of Hindus and they 
refused to cater even food and water to Nirmans. 
Then TTD administration was asked to meet the expenditure.
(the Harrisons) out of their funds. Consequently, a head of account for free feeding was opened in the budget and the Harrisons were fed, the middle class and the rich and being exploited by the private hoteliers, realising this, the CCF has launched on a bold scheme and constructed a canteen complex. In the canteen complex they have introduced all modern mechanical methods of preparation installing modern kitchen equipment etc., costing about Rs. 05 lakhs. The canteen complex can easily feed about 1000 persons at a time. The CCF is running this canteen complex departmentally under the stewardship of a special officer canteen, who is a retired officer from India Coffee Board. The achievements have to be viewed. This central canteen complex is also being utilised by the CCF for the implementation of the high/medium schemes. As already stated, it has yet to be seen whether the running of central canteen by the CCF is in any way beneficial to the pilgrims and whether the CCF is able to run such a huge complex efficiently at least on no loss and no profit basis.

Providing of clean drinking water is one of the basic and indispensable amenities to be provided.

21. The Management Committee resolved to allot the Canteen Complex on lease basis (nos. To, 946, dt. 211170) but later it is decided to run the same by CCF itself through a department.

22. As the Spl. officer drawn from India Coffee Board had passed away the Canteen is being run by a Manager of Police Kay Cadre.
The total requirement of water in Tirunelveli district is about 150 lakh litres per day or 25.5 lakh gallons per day.

For supply of potable water the Kavarivasanam water supply scheme was commissioned in 1951. As the water supply from Kavarivasanam was not sufficient to the ever increasing pilgrim population, Sagarinsin water supply scheme started functioning from 1963.

As it became necessary to investigate additional sources for increasing the water supply of Tirunelveli, Sagarinsin and `Kavarivasanam projects were investigated under the suggestions of Mr. K. N. Panneerselvam, a noted water supply expert. With the Kavarsasan and Sagarinsin schemes already been commissioned and the progress of Kavarivasanam goes on, the acute water problem of Tirunelvi is expected to be mitigated to a great extent.

\[ \text{\textit{unanswerable}} \]

The responsibility of the TID does not end in providing safe and clean water to the pilgrims. A great care has to be taken that the pilgrims are not subjected to any kind of inconvenience or hardship due to the misuse of power of position by those connected with the administration at various levels. The confidence of the pilgrims

23. General report of Sagarinsinam project (TID Publication), p.3.
can remain unchecked if only those innumerable malpractices are checked.

The temple servants, the archakas, the narkara and the attenders in the mandir are collecting money from the pilgrims while giving ‘water’ (water) etc. It has also been pointed out that the intensity of malpractices goes to the extent of snatching tulupus from the hands of the poor illiterate pilgrims who come for darshan in 

sama. It is believed that the poor pilgrims are made to believe that they offered their tulupus to the Lord by handing it over to the archakas etc. This is how the temple servants are taking advantage of the ignorance of the pilgrims. The respondents feel that malpractices cannot happen in the Swayanmandir and before Nilachkherapali with the knowledge and connivance of the narkara.

Taking all the above into account the following suggestions can be examined.

Since narkara is at present a servant of the order of a sannathi rather a low paid servant, it is beyond his competence to check the malpractices committed by the archakas or of the attenders in Swayanmandir. Therefore it is to be considered if there could be a different type of hindu where the tulupus can be dropped into the hindu. To that extent the institution would gain. On the average about 12 to 15 thousand pilgrims per day in
loan season and about 20 to 25 thousand pilgrims in
your season have duration of the Lord. Taking these
figures into consideration, it can easily be imagined
the extent of gain that can be easily enjoyed by the
two and the malpractices in Mayavankalpam could be
availed or prevented. In these circumstances, there
is a strong case for posting an officer of the rank
of assistant superintendent as Watcher.

Holding the above, every non-bailable servant
working in the temple including the nob ashish must be
compelled to wear on their uniforms a new badge
supplied by the TEM. That will enable the pilgrims
to spot out (by name) the unscrupulous servant that
resorts to any malpractice.

The temple servants have been posterizing and
collecting money from the grihasthas the uniform
Grihasthas, Vadhukathakam, Vedana Vedam,
Vahalkalpam, etc. In the name of service, nobility,
Sanatana, Naksham, Naksham after condition of the naksham.

Some of the ways to curb the malpractices by
the temple staff are as follows:

The grihasthas should not pay any amount to
the temple servants engaged in the performance of the
uteerwara even for blessings and other activities of the priests. If for any reasons any of them ask or demand the grishaastha may be requested to report the matter to the pishkar, parakbatya or superintendent or their agents who shall be present for necessary action.

The utterparaba or the person who calls at the house of grishaastha makes them seated in room and in proper order. He should be asked to announce the above matter to the hearing of all the grishaasthas.

The pishkara or distributing the anna was done and manual singur candy, as the case may be to the pilgrims in queue coming out after darshan, in shikara mandapam or collecting money from the pilgrims. This can be checked if any official remains present at that time.

The vigilance staff, the pishkar, the parakbatya or the superintendent whoever is present at the time of the closure of dushyotsavan should visit the shikara mandapam, and be present therein till the grishaasthas and their family members get into the queue.

It is found that the collusion and connivance between the salaries, police, sentry guards, attenders
of the temple on queue duty, they are admitting pilgrims for darshan by collecting Rs.5 to Rs.10 per head as against Rs.25, the fee fixed for special darshan tickets. This has really become a problem. There are some views on the subject.

One is that the rate of Rs.25/= is too high and that is to some extent responsible for the situation. The dairies etc. in connivance with others are managing to send in the persons collecting lesser amounts. It is also understood that there are such private lodges managed by local people and local traders and that the proprietors, managers of these lodging houses collect about Rs.1/= extra per person for facilitating darshan.

It is advisable hence to reduce the fee of special darshan ticket from Rs.25/= to Rs.10/=. As a matter of fact fee for special darshan ticket from Rs.25/= to Rs.10/= will not result in the loss of revenue to T.N. During 1977-78 the collection through the special darshan tickets was Rs.43 lakhs. During the same year there was a decline in the usual collection. That means, in the normal circumstances the revenue that accrues through the sale of tickets for special darshan would go to Tndi. Thus, the reduction in the fee of special darshan tickets need not be viewed as a loss in the revenue.
Occasionally the temptation to approach a dawat or an unscrupulous servant takes only in such cases where the pilgrim devotee does not seem prepared to drop at least Rs.25/- in the handi. It is these pilgrims that are exploited by the unscrupulous dawats and temple servants. It is suggested by some respondents that if the fee is reduced to Rs.10/- the exploitation can be minimized.

But many respondents hold that view however that merely because the fee is reduced from Rs.25/- to Rs.10/- malpractices cannot be curbed altogether. Against Rs.10/- or so they are collecting when the ticket is Rs.25/- or so on now, how may collect Rs.5/- or so when the actual ticket is fixed at Rs.10/-. But the exploitation may still continue although there is a change in the charge.

The following suggestions have been offered by the respondents:

1. Reducing the price of a special darshan ticket from Rs.25 to Rs.10/-. 
2. Admission of such ticket holders into the general queue at the entrance i.e., at Manikarnika itself, and
3. Treating of tickets and depositing the latter pieces in boxes and verification of those boxes if they contain any untorn tickets and if there are any spurious tickets.
4. At the point of entry into queue a board may be kept indicating - "Entrance for special darshan ticket holders".

In the case of Vris, they should be received with courtesy, the letter holding parties, letters shall have to be examined properly, the temple officials and government officials shall have to be identified before admission.

All this can be properly done by the queue Superintendent, if he is stationed outside Sandesara. He will have to watch over the special darshan gate and also curb the alleged malpractices. Further, he can keep an eye on the delays and other unscrupulous temple servants around the Sandesara gate.

There are 4 and 6 sheds each with 10 compartments and each compartment accommodates about 120 persons. Total comes up to 500 in all with the 4 sheds put together. Malpractice takes place when attendants on duty direct the pilgrims to move from the waiting compartment to the running compartment by taking tips. Near Poya and Ujaya on either side of Sangara Vakili, pilgrims are induced by servants to put some coins there. There is another allegation that the persons working in the Potu particularly
anyone potu and kettles to get coffee and tea from outside. It is said that while the tea kettles are sent out they are filled with baram, cowura, kizim, or jima. This type of theft can be checked by the Malicheru staff. The officer in charge of potu in collision with potu lease recommended extra fees to the extent of 2 rupee per 100 potu ladders which was being saved for the past several years, to benefit potu leasers to the extent of Rs.10 lakhs. These malpractices are due to hereditary office holders like Aranakas and potu (kitchen). Messiders leasing out their shares to outsiders who pay Rs.4/- 1.50 to Rs.6/- 10ths to potu messiders. The lessees may get about Rs.25/- 10ths in a year. This lessee obtains permission to employ 120 members, whereas normally 60 members are employed.

Vigilance should be tightened to eliminate these malpractices.

It has also been seen that although every one of the persons that are working in the potu, shall have to be a person who has been authorised by the CO, but in reality there are persons working as substitutes who have not been authorised by the CO.

The shops and bunk in the Sannidhi Street and on the other roads at sirumala are leased out in auction
by reception officer-I. However, the lessees are allowing petty hawkers to occupy the roadside space in front of their shops and these hawkers do not have licences. The allegation is that these hawkers are permitted to carry on their business in connivance with enforcement staff of the Tp.

Similarly there are several hawkers selling plastic bags, camphor and coconut, pseudo silver bags, fans etc, books and all types of articles without licences. In the case of unauthorised encroachment in the Samadhi Street etc, the Janashayat Officer should take the responsibility and prosecute any unlicensed hawker found anywhere near the shrine.

When the rooms are allotted to the pilgrims in the free akhanees, the Attender and Sentry Guards incharge of the free akhanees are collecting tips from the pilgrims. Apart from this, it is alleged that the pilgrims are asked to pay some baksheh for grant of extension beyond one day.

There are clerks and guides working around the Central Reception officer’s office. They seem to be under the guide of the badge of the Tp as “Pilgrim Guide” pestering the pilgrims and extracting money unauthoritively.
for the service they render. It is needless to point out that the present pilgrim guides at Tirumala were the members of the Nakkajana Sona sangham at Tirumala. They give little guidance to the pilgrims. On the other hand they exploit pilgrims in the name of 50 and under the cover of the badge given for them by the TTD. It is desirable that these pilgrim guides who are expected to render service to the pilgrim devotees are specified and each one of the pilgrim guides is supplied with an identity card with a note of the service which he is expected to render. Many respondents suggest that pilgrims who need guides should deposit Rs.1/- or Rs.2/- with an official and the guide should receive 50% of such fees from the office for rendering service to a group of persons at a time as is done at places of tourist interest and the pilgrim guides should be instructed not to demand any tips at all.

No porter facilities at Tirumala are practically nil. At the bus station and the General reception Officer's Office and around cottages, there are number of women whose services are utilised by the pilgrims for carrying their luggage from the bus stop to the room/cottage and vice-versa. These unscrupulous and unauthorised persons rendering services as porters have become a menace
to the pilgrims. They demand sometimes even 80-10/- per head from V.V. in return to the bus-stand. All the
vehicles are said to be under the protection of some
unscrupulous local leaders. It is desirable to have
authorised porters say about 100 of them. They may
be required to have their uniform at their cost and
the rate per head load may be inscribed and marked on
the pockets of each porter's shirt while issuing badges
of the T.V. to the porters. They should pay for the
badges as well. At the same time they should take
their turn as in the case of big process. Their licence
should be renewed on payment of the prescribed fees.
They should work within the premises of Tirumala Venkayat
area to serve the pilgrims and they should not charge
more than porters age ratios. If this is done, the T.V.
can eliminate all the unsocial shaming, vagrounds of
portering the pilgrims. Further the porters should be
stationed at different points as may be decided by the
inquiry officer.

Though provision has been made for advance reserva-
tion by payment of rent by money order to the reception
officer, Tirumala, in almost every case the pilgrim faces
ordeal. This can be rectified if hotel procedures are
strictly adopted.
In maintenance of reservation board at each sub-enquiry office and also at the Central Reception office is a great necessity. It has to be ensured.

Re-organization of the Central Reception office at Tirumala will increase the efficiency. Cash Register machine is to be provided to the Shariff. An electronic information display system should be installed for instantaneous communication and quick allotment of rooms and cottages at Tirumala. The system of refundable security deposit for cottages and shrines should be introduced to eliminate the lag between vacation and reporting. By some modifications the availability of accommodation can be increased in cottages by 150 rooms and in cottages by 200 single room units.24

It is alleged that there are dacoits selling liquor and other intoxicating drugs and also meat and meat preparation near Dodd Anjaneya Swamy Temple behind Filter plant, Vaddeswara, in Faith Road Street near Elementary School and at different places under the trees and bushes around the Tirumala area. The allegation is that all this is being done with the connivance of the officials vigilance guard sentries.

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and police under the protection of rowdy elements. It
is suggested that the panchayat officer should get
them evicted and prevent from trading within Virunum
panchayat.

If the higher police officials make surprise
inspections in regard to the working of police staff
and they may be able to curb the above malpractices
effectively.

Of late there have been thefts and assaults
on pilgrims on the Joguna Harga (i.e. on the pedestrain
path). The unscrupulous among the electrical employees
purposely remove out good bulbs and put fused bulb
or the tube lights. The bulbs and tube lights so
removed find a way to black market.

Recently underground passages have been constructed
for the pedestrains so as to avoid them from crossing
the ghat road on which the buses are playing. During
nights these culverts will be vulnerable points where
the unscrual elements may rob the pedestrains. It is
therefore necessary that the path way of the culverts
is properly lighted and guarded.

There are about 300 cottages and about 600 rooms
in free choultries. The cottages are expected to be
locked and guarded when the pilgrims go for darshan. During the peak season the pilgrims will not be able to return to the cottage for about 10 to 12 hours. Unscrupulous elements take advantage of this absence and commit thefts by opening the locks with false keys. Most of such offences are disposed of not detected.

We few years back one of the temple staff was caught red-handed while committing theft that way.

There is a lot of beggar nuisance around the temple near the queue shed and in the queue line. The beggars have got their own way.

The Beggar Control Act is in force at Tirumala.

The Sanchayat officer is to administer the same. Now and then, the Sentry guards and Health staff join together and gather the beggars in a lorry and bring them down to Tirupati and leave them. Again the beggars will go back to Tirumala and beggar nuisance continues. This nuisance is found on the foot path and in the canteens and near the cottages. The beggar nuisance can be eradicated only if the Sanchayat’s staff and the Sentry guards are effective in discharging their duties.

It is the failure on their part, that is mainly responsible for increasing of beggar nuisance at Tirumala.

Unless the Vigilance Head and Sanchayat Head take the
matter seriously and take interest that there will not be any solution. For that purpose, the CP authorities have to be stiff and severe in dealing with the vigilance and handlooms staff. They should not be afraid if the beggars are present any where around the shrine of the temple premises. There is the "Koppura Kamala Danli" which is the main source of income besides other handlooms. Recently there was a case of handli theft. There is need for security at the time of "parakamani" than the rudial collections are sorted out by the Shroffs. It is needless to point out that innumerable malpractices have come to the light in the case of "parakamani". There are gold placed and silver placed vahanaas in the Vahana mandapa where Kalyanoteavans etc. are performed. About 500 to 600 persons are seated in charai at the time of Kalyanoteavans and the safety of the vahanaas has become a problem.

The pilgrims are deceived and defrauded. It is alleged that due to the fraud, the temple revenues are lost. Therefore, if the temple revenues i.e., rudial collections and other arjitha revenues are to be augmented, there is need to cut down the above said malpractices.

There is every need to strengthen the vigilance staff so as to effectively check all the malpractices, which are resulting in the loss of revenue to the shrine.
It is suggested to appoint persons on deputation from the Government service at key points and no required staff be employed for more than a year. The deputation should expire after 2 years and fresh people will be taken in so that the cases of malpractices with connivance of the staff could be minimised and the 
T.F. would get increased revenue through better supervision and strict enforcement of rules.

Facilities arranged by T.F. for fulfillment of vows of the pilgrims:

While the amenities like transport, accommodation, health and sanitation, food etc. take care of the physical comforts of the pilgrims, there are various kinds of facilities that are to be arranged to the pilgrims who come to the shrine with a variety of vows.

Kalyanaketta:

The place where the pilgrim devotes fulfill their vows of tonsure is called Kalyanaketta. Thousands, in a symbolic surrendering of human vanity, shave their heads while fashionable women may pluck off but a few strands of their long tresses, the more orthodox enter the Kalyanaketta, the place for fulfillment of their vows to have their heads shaved clean. The administration

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of Kalyanakatta was taken over by the TTD by entering into an agreement on 1.11.1975 with the munnakuru of Kalyanakatta Harbour's Seeman, Sri V. Sivaramachari. While doing so, the TTD took advantage of the court's decision to the effect that tonture is done in fulfillment of a vow belongs to the Lord. 26. As provided for in the agreement, all the 360 members of that munnakuru are paid at the rate of Rs.300/- per month each and munnakuru is paid Rs.100/- per month. There are two more Kalyana Kattas, in addition to the main Kalyana Katta, are Kalyana Katta and Pail Kalyana Katta. The Barbers working in these Kalyana Kattas are not covered by the said agreement. They were being paid a share in the proceeds realised by the sale of tonture tickets till January 1979. From February 1979 (1.3.1979) they were being paid daily wages at the rate of Rs.3/- per day for those appointed prior to 1970 Brahmostavan and Rs.5/- per day for those appointed after the said Brahmostavan.

The human hair derived by tonturing is sorted out into 3 varieties, first variety, second variety and third variety and all these are periodically sold in public auction.

26. In W.P. No. 7594/79 in the High Court of A.P. the Private Barbers obtained stay orders. But the final judgement was given in favour of the TTD and the Private Kalyanakattas were closed.
The management of Kalyanakatta is in charge of a Revenue Officer-II, Nizam of the circle of Vizianagaram.

The following are the revenue and expenditure figures (in rupees) of Kalyanakatta from 1977-78 to 1979-80:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Revenue derived by sale of tickets</th>
<th>Revenue derived by sale of human hair</th>
<th>Total expenditure incurred</th>
<th>Total expenditure incurred</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1977-78</td>
<td>19,00,440.00</td>
<td>17,61,306.00</td>
<td>37,90,146.00</td>
<td>13,43,716.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978-79</td>
<td>27,47,011.00</td>
<td>20,05,050.00</td>
<td>43,15,061.00</td>
<td>15,94,117.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979-80</td>
<td>33,40,309.00</td>
<td>19,09,321.00</td>
<td>41,49,020.00</td>
<td>22,60,971.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It can be seen that there is a fall in total receipts by Rs. 0.70 lakhs. The reason for this decline is the running of a private Kalyana Katta.

**Jundi (parchament)**:

Pilgrims make their offerings in cash and kind directly in the Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple. Donations made to the RM are exempted from income tax.

The hundi is also known as Kapatra and it is
captured twice daily in the presence of Paramapathyadar,
another officer of the puroshthanaam, Head - Vigilance Ward,
agent of Padma Jeeyangar, Accountant Department Representa-
tive and a pujari witness. Parakshani is also conducted
twice a day. The collections (both coins and currency
received from the hundi) are being handed over to the
Bank (i.e. State Bank of India and the Andhra Bank on
alternative days) for being credited to the TTD accounts.
The un-current notes (i.e. gold, silver, articles, etc.)
are sent to the Hurum treasury at Tirupati for being
mentioned periodically following the prescribed procedure.

Kurunith Sangham

The Kurunith Sangham is now managed by the TTD
as a consequence to an agreement entered into between
the Kurunith Sangham represented by its President Sri Sita-
rama Sastry and the TTD. According to the agreement
3/4th amount of the sale proceeds of the tickets are
given to the Sangham and 1/4th amount is remitted to
the TTD account towards administration charges. The
TTD has prescribed fees for each type of puroshthiyam
such as marriage, upanayanan etc. The collections during
the year 1979-80 amounted to Rs.1.3 lakhs and out of which 0.53 lakhs was credited to the account of J.J. and the rest i.e. Rs.1.00 lakhs was disbursed to the members of the Sanjan.

for Bhandari Sanjans:

This sanjan is also managed by the CIV under an agreement. The collections during the year 1979-80 amounted to Rs.1.15 lakhs. Out of Rs.0.29 lakhs has been credited to the VAI account and the rest (Rs.0.86 lakhs) was disbursed to the members of the sanjan.

darshan of the Lord:

According to an estimate, 65% of the pilgrims stand in the queue to get free darshan, of the rest 20% buy the Rs.25/- tickets, 10% come with recommendations for free darshan and 5% bribe Rs.2000 to employees to get a glimpse of the deity.27. Providing darshan to several thousands of pilgrims daily has been a baffling problem evading proper solution. About 25,000 per day shall have to get the darshan of the Lord. Darshan in a mystic appearance. It has been defined by a great writer as a form of happiness induced by being in the presence of great manifestation of collective consciousness. It may

to person, place or thing, and represent past, present or future, so long as it sets up the definite recognisable glow of your personal happiness, darshan has therefore to be experienced subjectively. It involves a total surrender of one's ego to the one soul and a taste of infinite happiness that is ever present in all of us, by the merger of our ego with the ever present reality. There are 4 queue sheds on the north-west of the temple each with 10 compartments providing seating accommodation for about 1,250 pilgrims in each shed. In the four sheds put together 5,000 pilgrims are accommodated at a time. On an average the sheds are filled and cleared about 6 times a day. These queue sheds were constructed on an emergency in 1963. Once a pilgrim enters a queue shed he will come out only after darshan of the Lord. The waiting time in the queue sheds plus the time taken in the queue line and darshan of Sri Varu takes about 4 to 5 hours. In the queue sheds every arrangement has been made for comfortable stay i.e. fans, food, jackets, canteen, drinking water, catering of coffee by coffee board, toilet facilities, further the relays of devotional songs etc. and all the programmes in the sadasa hall are shown in T.V. in the queue sheds with a view to pass on the

waiting time and to see that the pilgrims and worshippers have all the comforts and facilities while in the queue line. From 1st March, 1979, darva darshan timing has been increased to about 18 hours from about 12 hours by advancing the primary ritual timings etc. The darva darshan is commencing from 6.00 a.m. now. Special staff have been appointed under the control and close supervision of an officer of the cadre of Revenue. Steps have been taken to see that there are no malpractices in the admission of pilgrims into the queue nodes that there is no harassment from the delarics and that there is proper coordination between temple staff and queue node staff. It is suggested that a movable walkway with an electric drive may be fitted within sanatamaran. 

As a permanent measure, there is a proposal to construct a modern queue complex on the vacant land available on the southern side of the temple in the Chandragiri Park which is within easy reach and access to pilgrims. The complex was designed by the Director, Ram Planning Department, Govt. of A.P. The proposal is to construct a semi-circular amphitheatre

During the panoramic view of the temple, with rows and
cols with necessary passage ways and the entire length
of the theatre divided into bays or compartments of a
suitable dimensions, so as to accommodate about 14,990
pilgrims at a time. The building is proved to be in
suitable style to match with the temple architecture.
It is expected to reduce waiting time to the minimum.
The pilgrims shall pass through a sub-way under south
raba street and then ramp up along the temple wall. The
ramp and time should be covered. The total number of
pilgrims that had darshan during the years 1971-1976
can be seen in the Table 9 and Graph No.1.

### Table 9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Pilgrims</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>31,32,935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>33,10,924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>30,74,069</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>35,95,549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>40,80,903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>93,13,937</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FIG. 1. NUMBER OF PILGRIMS WHO HAD DARSHAN AT TIRUMALA TEMPLE DURING 1979-80
The TTD has introduced special darshan tickets of Rs. 25/- per head. The ticket holder is admitted into the queue line at the Jagannath Temple and thereby he is facilitated to have earlier darshan of the Lord quickly. This is specially intended for the benefit of persons who for any reason or other could not wait for and come in queue line for darshan. During the year 1979-80 the number of persons had darshan on these special tickets are 3,53,473 and this fetched an amount of Rs. 80,383.25/-.

In this connection, it has to be mentioned that the TTD is obliged to provide special entry at kankeeram for devotees coming with:

1. Recommendation letters from different dignitaries,
2. For VIPs, their families and encourage,
3. For the family members of the employees,
4. For pilgrims who make unstavasthanam, and
5. Who are disabled.

To regularise the admission covered by items (1), (2) and (3) above, a pass system has been introduced under the supervision of an officer of the cadre of 

Vaidikar called Complaint Call `viishak\'31.

31. As per TTD Board Reg.No. 2 dated 2.6.1979 the Complaint Call `viishak\' is authorised to issue darshan passes.
Apart from the above the local people have been enjoying the privilege of admission through bandhavaran on every Tuesday.

The Chhama Darshanam queue may be continued during the Bandhavaran. Ardhana and pranbhasana also without any fee. Those who have vows to perform ardhana can pay the fee and have observatory in the queue at present. Smarana performing pranbhasana, pranabhasana, and other observatory can join first. The queue for darshan should move on without stagnation. Regulation by volunteers is preferable. Interruption of the queue may be avoided. Those desiring convenient darshana may join at the end of the queue.

The pilgrims may get small quantity of chandan, arjunaaruniy and ethaprasaad from the sadhak or other persons authorized in this behalf free of any charge. Other items of offered panyrarna, vada, laddo etc., may be purchased from the vyapadl room in the vichara arsha-kshina, or also publications, pictures, etc., of the navasthanam at the book stall.

It is the most haggling problem of KPD to arrange happy darshan to the pilgrims that visit Tirumala (Table 10). There is a growing criticism that even darshan in a public

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Average waiting time</th>
<th>Lean days</th>
<th>Week days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>outside the gate of the temple</td>
<td>00.20</td>
<td>03.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>in the queue</td>
<td>01.10</td>
<td>03.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>from the queue shed to the deity</td>
<td>01.30</td>
<td>01.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>03.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A religious institution is being commercialised which was also condemned by many religious commissions. As primary rituals, mahapuja, night puja (30 minutes), Umasoma Sowa (40 minutes), first Ahobana (40 minutes) and second Sowa (15 minutes) are excluded from arjita sowa, there shall be 2 more hours available for darshan duration for about 4,000 pilgrims. The two queues will enter Arjuna jandapan through Dangaru Vadi. I will go up to the entrance of Amulavari Vada where they will obtain darshan of the Lord in two tiers. The pilgrims in the rear queue will be standing on a raised platform so that their view is not
obstructed by pilgrims in the front row.\textsuperscript{33}

The significance of the services like water works, electricity, health and sanitation, medical services, engineering department (maintenance) and transport services, which form the basic amenities for the pilgrims, was aptly recognized by the State Government and it is in the befitting of things that it brought the above services into the fold of Andhra Pradesh Essential Services Maintenance Act 1971\textsuperscript{34}.

\textbf{33.} Defence Institute of York Study, Insecurity in the Dogra, p.33. An Interview with the CMA, Bishop - Sri Goudaiah Naidu of TTD.

\textbf{34.} A.O.912,912, 927 dated 7.9.1978 of the Revenue (Andt.III) Department. Further in A.O.912,1143 dated 12.9.79 the State Govt. of A.P. has banned the strike during Brahmosavam period.

climbing the Tirumala hills (though he managed to climb on hands, his toes still touched the ground and thereby he felt, he committed the sin). That was not a sin for a common consideration was a sin in the strict adherence and upholding of sanctity in those days. In the earlier days, the following principles were strictly followed:

1. No person should be allowed to sit on the hills.
2. A pregnant lady should not go to the hills.
3. Pleasure indulgence is prohibited on the hills.
4. Consumption of meat and meat products is prohibited.
5. Drinking is prohibited.
6. One should not wear flowers for all flowers etc., at Tirumala were believed to have belonged to the Lord.

There were very many restrictions of this type mainly intended to protect the sanctity of Tirumala hills. But all these restrictions and principles were and could be followed till recent times. As the influx of pilgrims has increased by leaps and bounds almost all the above said principles are not observed diligently. Tirumala has come to be notified as a 'village' under the 'ancasthet Act. The residential population which was about 300 in 1941 has grown now to a tune of 20,000 and now it
has become a township.

The facilities now created have resulted in obliterate the sanctity of the Tirumala hills to a great extent. There is now a burial ground; the hospital and doctors are conducting deliveries; there is sale of illicit liquor as is evident from establishment of State Excise office at Tirumala 36; there is large scale sale and consumption of meat preparations; now-a-days one does not find a lady without wearing flowers, people without chappals and shoes. Trading on the sacred hills has become a common feature. Thereby, almost every principle connected with the sanctity of the hills has disappeared. It has been centuries old custom to consign the flowers and garlands with which the main deity is decorated to ‘Pulabavi’ near Tirama Vattada, after offering them to Bhudavi. This custom which had been there for over centuries also has been given up and the TMD authorities have become bold to disregard the sanctity of the flowers worn by the Lord. Because of the closure of Pulabavi the sacred flowers and garlands are now being thrown in the gardens which receive water from the gutters and sewage. Further, the ‘Ahendam’ before which the devotees break coconuts and offer ‘mangith’ was installed centuries back near Tirumamani Mandapam. The TMD had made itself bold

36. An Excise Station opened at the instance of the TMD on 24.11.1979.
perhaps, to avoid congregation and obstruction to the free passage of pilgrims shifted from Tirumani Sundaram and the Visvanath Predahaline to a place altogether outside Thiruvannamalai, even there the RTO had not taken care to construct any type of shelter. The Ashram is exposed to the rain and wind and pilgrims offering coconuts and nymphs are similarly exposed to the vagaries of the nature and human-strings.

The dismantling of monuments in Thiruvana in the name of renovation and cleaning agent has been criticised. All renovations in temples should be referred to the technical committee consisting of superintendant of Archeology or by. Sepoy, of Antiquities department, Bonasthavanom again consult along with the Chairman and executive officer of the RTO.37

In the name of renovation the following things were prohibited - white washing, painting and covering stone walls with Kovamana, stone mades, and copiers with images. The Commissioner of Antiquities had instructed executive officers of the Temples to strictly conform to the Master Plan drawn by the Director of Town Planning, chandobab regarding development in any temple area to preserve the appearance and beauty of the township.38

37. RTO Resolution no. 517 dated 8.2.1974.
38. Newspaper Source.
Timssue Hills, which have the centuries old traditions and the shrine there being the oldest, are attracting thousands of pilgrims every day. The TTD administration without envisaging the importance of the sanctity of the place is unwillingly catching up with the pace of the times thereby sacrificing the age old values. Providing all the up-to-date amenities to the pilgrims with the natural beauties that the hills have, the TTD is creating a feeling among the general public that Tirumala is a better place for relaxation. 

The Acharya Jagadguru Sri Venkata Kamakoti Shankaracharya said that "it has become common knowledge that Tirumala was being used for excursions and picnics by young men and women as a pleasure resort instead of as a place of worship." 39

In order to preserve the sanctity of the atmosphere on the hills the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh have prohibited all meetings of any kind on the top of the hill except the meetings of maintenance of the temple concerned with the administration of temple and welfare of pilgrims. Social type of marriages and society functions have been completely prohibited at Tirumala. 40


40. N. Reddy, "Relinquishment of Government Control over the Tirumala Temple and Administration by Sankar etc. up-to-date" - The Tirumala Temple, Tirupati 1981, pp.572-573.
One must strengthen all its resources to preserve the capacity before an irreparable damage is done. It is better to create more awareness with the presence of more Saints, than modern cottages and sophisticated officials. The atmosphere at temples should be so holy and so sanctified that self-worship need not have to think of temples.