CHAPTER SIX

TELUGU DESAM PARTY'S
POLICIES & PROGRAMMES
In the wake of the massive mandate given to Telugu Desam Party by the people of Andhra Pradesh in January 1983, the Telugu Desam Government, headed by N.T. Rama Rao in its bid to root out poverty and equalize lost no time in spelling out a series of welfare measures. The 15-point ‘Pragati Patham’ announced by the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N.T. Rama Rao on March 1, 1983 intends to impart greater dynamism to some of the key social and economic programmes. It promises to lead the weaker sections towards new frontiers of progress. It provides a new thrust to the basic philosophy of welfare and lays a firm foundation to elevate the lives of 40% of the population above the poverty line.

The 15-Point Programme has been designed to suit the requirements of people and is aimed at giving a practical shape to the new dimension given to plan priorities beginning with the annual plan for 1983-84.

The programme has been acclaimed as a New Deal for the weaker sections and a comprehensive charter of action in key areas of development. The major objectives of this programme are:
1. To better living conditions of the weaker sections or the downtrodden.

2. To provide for the basic human needs of subsistence such as food and nutrition, house, water, clothing, education, health care and slum clearance.

3. To improve industrial policies.

4. To help the farmers, rural artisans, toddy tappers, weavers, fisherman etc.

5. To provide an efficient and clean administration.

6. To strengthen action against socio-economic offences.

The programme has a predominant rural bias. As many as 12 out of 15 points, directly or indirectly, are for the rural sector. It is significant for its frontal attack on the citadels of poverty in rural Andhra. It focuses more sharply and directly on the amelioration of the living conditions of the vulnerable sections such as the scheduled Castes, scheduled tribes and backward classes, small and marginal farmers, bonded labourers, agricultural labourers, artisans, women and children.

Mrs. Indira Gandhi has formulated a 20-Point Programme to develop Indian economy, so does N.T. Rama Rao's 15-Point Programme 'for the all-round development of Andhra Pradesh' particularly the weaker sections of the community. Over
60% of the plan outlay has been allotted for the implementation of the 'Pragati Patham' programme.

In the following pages, the details of the programmes pointwise are presented and the progress in terms of implementation are discussed

15-POINT PROGRAMME:

POINT NO.1: SUPPLY OF DRINKING WATER TO ALL PEOPLE IN RURAL AS WELL AS URBAN AREAS

The Telugu Desam government is bent upon providing basic needs to the people, particularly the weaker sections. Since time immemorial Rayalaseema in Andhra Pradesh has been suffering for lack of sufficient water facilities. The same is the case with the Telangana region. The summer months are literally a curse to the people of these regions. In accordance with the national policy of supplying drinking water to all the regions of Andhra Pradesh by 1999, the government is trying its best to provide adequate drinking water supply to all these regions. The water survey department is engaged in finding water resources, tapping ground water, planning water storage, refining river waters etc, to meet the dire need of the people of Andhra Pradesh.
The State administrative machinery has been geared up to provide at least one source of drinking water to a population of 100.

Telugu Desam government is committed to provide water to all villages before the completion of the International water Decade i.e., 1981-1999. During 1983-84 budgetary allotment of Rs.3,518 crores was earmarked for this purpose. The amount allotted for 1984-85 is Rs.17.50 crores and for 1985-86 Rs.20 crores, 1986-87 Rs.22,646 crores.

In the 8 years of Congress regime, during 1975-83, only 74,303 borewells had been drilled. In the 6 months of Telugu Desam regime, from April 1983 to November, 1983 20,140 borewells were drilled. This is indeed the creditable achievement of the infant Telugu Desam Party.

The Andhra Pradesh Government has sanctioned Rs.300 lakhs to all the District Collectors for tiding over the drinking water scarcity in rural areas where adverse seasonal conditions prevail.

Water Supply to the twin cities (Hyderabad & Secunderabad)

The failure of the monsoon for the last few years has crippled water supply in the twin cities. The Government has taken immediate steps for regulating water distribution in the twin cities and an amount of Rs.3 crores has been sanctioned for taking up many emergency measures, including drilling of borewells and supply of water by lorries.

To speed up the programme of tapping the water stored in Sitapur reservoir, substantial budgetary provision has been made and the allotment has been raised from Rs.12 crores in 1985-86 to Rs.20 crores in 1986-87. The Government proposes to seek World Bank aid for a scheme to bring the Godavari river water to Hyderabad. Its launching of the Telugu Ganga Project to give drinking water to Madras on humanitarian grounds and also to irrigate the parched expanses of Rayalaseema to turn them into lush green fertile tracts, is yet another milestone on the road to progress initiated by the Telugu Desam Party.

All these go to show that the Telugu Desam Government is determined to spare no efforts to tackle the water situation.

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In our villages, even after 35 years of Independence, the problem of drinking water still remains unsolved. It is really a pity that women have to walk miles and miles to obtain a pot-ful of water. The Chief Minister in his broadcast talk on the Telugu New Year Day pledged to find an immediate solution to this problem of providing drinking water to one and all within a short period of time.

POINT NO.2: SUPPLY OF NUTRITIOUS FOOD TO SCHOOL CHILDREN

The special nutritious programme was originally launched in 1970-71 by the Congress (I) Government. It aimed at providing supplementary nutritious food to children below 6 years so that the existing nutritious gap could be bridged. The daily approved unit cost per child (from April 1993) was fixed at 0.70 paisa per child. Related programmes were the Balwadi nutritious programmes. But this programme did not work effectively under Congress rule.

There were many drawbacks in the implementation of the scheme. The Congress Chief Minister K. Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy changed the nutritious food programme launched in 1970-71 to the mid-day meal programme and
introduced it in 1983 as an election gimmick. As he tried to implement it in a hasty manner, there were many loopholes in the scheme and it was a big failure. The Congress Government spent annually a sum of Rs. 70 crores on the scheme. The Telugu Desam government has evolved a scientific system to implement it effectively and successfully.

The total number of children particularly belonging to the weaker section of the community covered under this scheme during 1983-84 was 17.45 lakhs. Of this 3.25 lakhs are S.Cs., and 4.37 lakhs S.Ts. With the implementation of the scheme the enrollment in schools of children in the age group of 5 increased remarkably.

The New Government modified the scheme in February 1983 with the supply of bun and milk. Rice and Sambar replaced bun and milk from April, 1983 and was given only in primary schools run by the Government and the Local Bodies and was limited to children of S.Cs., S.Ts., B.Cs., and other children whose parents' annual income was Rs. 3000 and less. Sarpanches, Mahila Mandalas and Voluntary agencies
were assigned the work of cooking and feeding, relieving the teachers of this task. In 1983-84 the provision made was Rs.30 crores and, about 46 lakhs children got the benefit. In 1984-85 the provision made was Rs.73 crores, and about 40 lakh children were fed.

The mid-day meal scheme and the CARE feeding programme were introduced in Srikakulam, Vijayanagaram, Visakhapatnam, Anantapur, Mahaboobnagar and Adilabad districts. Besides, Muruku manufactured by the Ready-to- eat Food Factory, Hyderabad was given to about 43,000 children in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad.

Serving of prepared food i.e., tamarind bath, kitchidi and sweet pongal processed at the RTE Food Factory, Hyderabad, was introduced in some selected schools in some blocks of west Godavari, Kurnool and Nalgonda districts in July 1984 on an experimental basis.

The scheme aimed at enrolling all the children in the age group of 6-11 years and universalisation of elementary education, improving and regulating attendance, preventing

6-The Hindu, (Madras), 23-7-1984, p.12.
7-Ibid. p.12.
drop-outs of children in classes I to V and providing nutritious food. This resulted in considerable increase in enrolment. Among G.C.s., the recorded rise was 18% and among S.T.s., it was 5%.

The scheme was temporarily suspended due to various reasons. The municipalities and Panchayats who have to carry on this scheme could not play a dynamic role in implementing it. Moreover the Central government failed to supply the necessary quantity of rice to continue this scheme. Referring to the scheme as a whole the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh said "We are sorry that a beneficial programme like this has been misused."

P.Upendra, M.P., Telugu Desam Party General Secretary told newsmen that the Mid-day meal programme was discontinued because the government realised that it was "breeding corruption as middle men were cornering 10 money."

The aim of the midday meal programme was beautifully summarized by Chief Minister N.T.Rama Rao, when he said that

10. Ibid., p.13.
it is unfortunate to note that "the hungry parents are employing their children as child labourers to fill their burning stomach. The main aim of the scheme is to make them literates and provide them with nutritious food for at least once in a day."

This passage stresses the importance of this scheme of providing literacy as well as nutritious food to the hungry children.

POINT 3: SUPPLY OF RICE TO THE POOR AT RS.2 PER KILO (TELUGU ANNA PURNA SAKSHATKARAM)

Andhra Pradesh is traditionally called the granary of the South. In spite of it, the people of Andhra Pradesh have to purchase rice in the open market at a higher rate. This makes the poor at large suffer much and they cannot have even two square meals a day.

The Telugu Desam Government under the dynamic leadership of N.T. Rama Rao introduced the revolutionary scheme of supplying rice to the poor at the subsidised price of Rs.2 per Kg soon after assuming office in January 1983. The Government took this decision as it was realised that unless the basic needs of the people are met, the concept of welfare state could not be realised in its
proper sense. Food being the first of the basic needs of the people and the price of rice having gone up taking it out of the reach of the poor, the Chief Minister rightly decided to accord top most priority to the supply of rice at reasonable price to the people belonging to the weaker sections.

As the first step in this direction, a new system was introduced in the distribution of ration cards. All families with annual income less than Rs.6000 were given green ration cards, and those above this income limit were issued yellow ration cards. Out of the total 1.36 crore ration cards distributed, there were 1.05 crore green ration cards. All the holders of the green ration cards are being supplied rice @ 3 kg per head subject to a maximum of 28 kg per family per month at Rs.2/- per kg. While the open market price of rice ranges between 3.50 to Rs.5.00.

EFFECTIVE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM:

To achieve success in this gigantic programme, an effective distribution system is quite essential. Out of the over 14,000 fair price shops in the State, only 6,257

are located in urban areas, while the rest are in rural areas. A fair price shop on an average serves 1,700 people. This is against the usual norm of each shop serving 2,000 people. 1,257 fair price shops are in the cooperative sector, 5,069 run by Scheduled Castes, 875 by Scheduled Tribes and 133 manned by handicapped persons.

Rice and other essential commodities are transported to fair price shops even in remote areas at Government expense, thereby averting this burden on dealers and ensuring them of their commission.

The Government came to the assistance of those dealers who are unable to get stocks released from the godowns due to financial difficulties by enabling them to get Bank Loans. Till now, over 17,000 dealers were provided with Bank Loan assistance worth about Rs.14 crores. These dealers included 4,000 Scheduled caste persons and 600 Scheduled Tribe individuals. Dealers in rural areas are getting an income ranging between Rs.500 to 400 per month, while those in towns get approximately Rs.750 and in cities up to Rs.1,950/- per month.

12. Ibid., p.11.
13. Ibid., p.11.
Those with income exceeding Rs. 6000/- and residing in towns and cities are issued Yellow Ration cards and are supplied rice at Rs. 2.05 to 2.75 per kg.

SPECIAL ATTENTION TO TRIBALS:

Tribal people are found in considerable numbers in the districts of Khammam, Adilabad, Warangal, East and West Godavari, Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram. Under the Sub-Plan of Integrated Tribal Development Programme, every month about 18,000 tonnes of rice is distributed in tribal areas of the State. There are about 1,400 fair price shops in tribal areas supplying all essential commodities to the people.

Advisory Committees have been formed at Mandal, District and State levels to ensure efficient and foolproof functioning of fair price shops, elimination of bogus ration cards and proper distribution of essential commodities. These committees have representation from all recognized parties. Several steps were taken to eliminate blackmarketeers and for causing successful implementation of the subsidised rice supply scheme. Till now, nearly 9,000 blackmarketeers have been apprehended and dealt with.
The Chief Minister himself periodically reviews the functioning of this ambitious scheme.

No other Welfare Programme for the weaker sections in independent India has ever directly benefited such a large section of the population as this scheme of supply of rice at Rs. 2 per Kg. From the inception of this programme, about 96.50 lakh tonnes of rice supplied to the poor people of the state till December 1987. About 1.03 crore families having green ration cards were benefited and the value of the rice supplied was about Rs. 2,700 crores. For the year 1987-88 the subsidy on account of this scheme will be Rs. 285 crores.

The Rs. 2/- per Kg rice supply scheme is the greatest boon to the poor toiling masses who can not afford to purchase rice because of spiralling price in the open market. There is no doubt that this scheme is worth emulating by other States in the country.

The Finance Minister was happy to inform the House "We are continuing the supply of rice to the poor people at

15. Ibid., p.11
Rs.7/- per litre in spite of the increase in the sale price by the Food Corporation of India by Rs.140 per tonne with effect from February 1986."

The Chief Minister, N. Ramana Rao, has declared that the subsidised rice scheme would be continued at any cost notwithstanding severe drought conditions prevailing in the state threatening rice production. The scheme was helping one crore poor families to eat at least one meal a day and so the Government was committed to continue it.

No scheme has attracted so much of attention as this. The success of this scheme depends on the cooperation given by the centre to the State government. The Telugu Desam assured the people that this scheme will be continued inspire of all odds.

POINT NO.4: PROGRAMMES TO IMPROVE THE LOT OF SCHEDULED CASTES, SCHEDULED TRIBES AND BACKWARD CLASSES UNDER VARIOUS SCHEMES

The Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward sections of the community have suffered a lot from

times immemorial. They suffered from social and economic backwardness and hence their lot requires considerable improvement. The major thrust of the Telugu Desam Party is to ameliorate the conditions of the backward classes.

The weaker section of the society have become conscious of their rights and equal opportunities. The Constitution of India has guaranteed equality of opportunity to all with special provision for those who have been socially and economically backward for ages. The apprehension that reservation will lead to perpetuation of casteism and inefficiency will be proved baseless, if the weaker sections are provided with better educational and training facilities reservation is a welfare scheme. It should be followed to ensure social justice. There is need for a dispassionate and indepth study to identify the beneficiaries of the scheme. Adult education among the weaker sections needs to be given priority.

Minimum needs programme: The following are the components of minimum needs programme: elementary education, rural health, rural water supply, rural roads, electrification, being of assistance to rural landless labourers, environment improvement of urban slums and nutrition.
Villages have to be developed to arrest the emigration of the rural masses to cities and towns and the growth of city slums. Inequality can be reduced by redistribution of wealth by progressive taxation. Government agencies and voluntary organizations should implement programmes such as nutrition.

The state government under the leadership of N.T.Rama Rao had declared several concessions to P.Cs., S.I.s., and other sectors of the community under 'Pragati Patham' to improve the living conditions of the vulnerable sections of the community.

Under the scheme economic assistance from the government as well as the financial institutions is provided to the beneficiaries. The state government has taken some innovative steps in the direction:

(a) The major step in implementing the scheme include provision of rice at Rs.2/- Kilo to the weaker and low income groups.

(b) Housing is a basic need and hence the government of Andhra Pradesh has initiated a massive programme of giving assistance for building houses for the weaker sections.

(c) The government has made provision for an old age pension of Rs.70/- per month to 5 lakh agricultural labourers. 20% subsidy and bank loans to rickshaw pullers to enable them to own their rickshaws and supply of dhoti and sarees to urban land holders at 50% subsidy. The government decided to entrust public works, drainage, relief works in cyclone hit areas etc., to village panchayats, labour cooperative societies and youth organisations, so that the contractors could be eliminated and rural work-force gainfully employed.

(d) The Scheduled Castes Cooperative Finance corporation which has been assigned a crucial role in the implementation of economic development programmes for the S.Cs., will get a share capital contribution of Rs.7.65 crores, from the government in 1986-87. It is proposed to open 46 new S.Cs. hostels with a strength of 100 boarders in each during 1986-87. In order to provide suitable buildings for the hostels, an amount of Rs.5.50 crores is proposed for 1986-87. In all, 1,005 hostel buildings have been sanctioned against which construction of 575 buildings

have been completed and the remaining are at various stages of progress.

Though the Scheduled Castes Cooperative Finance Corporation Rs. 70 lakhs have been equally distributed among 32 districts for construction of buildings for two residential schools in each district.

(f) The welfare of the backward classes has not been left behind. Particularly the toddy tappers, fisherman, rickshaw pullers, stone-cutters, carpenters, blacksmiths, waterman, potters etc. and Harijans are considered under the scheme and money totalling to Rs. 14.61 crores has been provided to 2.88 lakh backward class families.

(f) The Rural Development programme gives preference to the beneficiaries belonging to weaker sections viz. S.C.s., S.T.s., B.C.s., and others. The District Rural Development Agencies have taken up mammoth programmes of starting poultry complexes for the weaker sections like S.C.s., Accordingly, poultry complexes are established in the operational areas of poultry marketing counter since it
facilities supply of food and marketing of eggs in a concentrated manner. So far, 60 poultry complexes are established in different districts of the State.

(a) In this way the animal husbandry activities are helping considerably to improve rural economy and are also providing subsidiary income to a large number of rural families.

(b) During 1985-86 the Telugu Desam Party Government opened 50 new hostels for backward classes benefitting 2,500 children. About 68,700 backward class families are proposed to be covered under economic support schemes utilising the margin money of Rs. 450 lakhs, earmarked for 1985-86.

B.Rama Rao, Minister for Tribal Welfare, told pressmen, that a proposal was under consideration to identify the poorer sections among the tribals so that priority could be given to them while implementing welfare measures.

(i) He said single teacher schools would be started in clusters of villages as tribal boys and girls have to trek long distances to go the ashram schools at present. The
state government has provided Rs.14.72 crores for plan schemes and Rs.21.63 crores for non-plan schemes during the year 1985-86.

An amount of Rs.15.61 crores has been provided for social welfare activities and community services in A.P. State annual plan for the year 1985-86.

The vigorous implementation of the 'Pragati Patham' has yielded good results and the state is poised to accomplish more significant victory in this field in the coming years.

POINT NO.51 PROVISION OF HOUSE SITES TO THE POOR (TELUGU BRUHABRAYA PATHAKAM)

With the advent of concepts like welfare state, the modern governments have undertaken many welfare measures for the people. Among the basic needs after food and clothing shelter occupies an important place in human life.

The construction of houses for weaker sections finds an important place in the policy of the state government due to the following reasons.

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22. The Hindu, (Madras), 7-5-1985, P.12
23. The Hindu, (Madras), 25-4-1985, P.1
(a) The house is the major setting for a family life and the adequacy of the dwelling house will have a direct impact on worker-productivity and family stability.

(b) Housing has significance for economic stability and well being of the family. Housing provides economic activity for the unemployed poor.

(c) Rural housing has acquired new importance in the context of the concern for the preservation of the environment. Keeping in view the above concept of welfare of the people the state government of Andhra Pradesh started implementing the weaker sections housing programme in January, 1983.

The Telugu Desam Party Government implemented three types of schemes. 1) Permanent houses in rural areas at a cost of Rs. 6000 each

2) Semi-permanent houses in rural areas at Rs. 3000 each

3) Permanent houses in urban areas at Rs. 9000 each.

A subsidy of Rs. 40 crores is provided every year and the government stands guarantee for the financial assistance from institutions like HUDCO, life Insurance
Corporation, General Insurance Corporation and Banks for financing the construction of these houses. In 1983-84 the total number of houses completed was 1,07,400, while 90,000 were grounded in 1984-85, and in 1985-86 the total number of houses completed is 1,40,000. In 1986-87 the total number of houses completed is 7 lakhs. The S.C.s., S.Fs., and other weaker sections were benefitted to a tune of Rs. 425 crores from this scheme.

As against the target of two lakh poor families to be provided house sites, over 1.8 lakhs have already received potties of house sites.

The mammoth housing programme undertaken by Andhra Pradesh Government is benefitting thousands of people belonging to the weaker sections, giving them a sense of security and enabling them to call a house their own.

POINT NO.6: PROVIDING BETTER LIVING CONDITIONS IN URBAN AREAS THROUGH SLUM IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMMES

This is a unique programme of the Telugu Desam Party which no congress Government has taken up on such a scale.

26. Ibid., p. 6.
The Telugu Desam Party Government has evolved a programme called 'Vimuktii' for rural sanitation, for the construction of individual and community latrines in select gram panchayats. The basic thrust of the programme is to 'liberate scavengers' without economic dislocation, to provide low cost flush water-seal latrines in gram panchayats which have protected water supply schemes, and to provide community water-sealed latrines for women. One of the schemes under this programme is the conversion of dry latrines into 'water-seal pour flush sanitary latrines.' To abolish the practice of human handling of night soil, a scheme has been formulated for the conversion of dry latrines into water seal pour flush latrines in towns. In addition to completing the ongoing schemes in the towns the scheme has been taken up in 30 new towns during 1984-85 and 1985-86 it is to cover 62 towns at a cost of Rs.7 crores.

The Telugu Desam Party Government allocated a sum of Rs.226 lakhs to meet the rural sanitation programme during 1983-84 and Rs.140 lakhs during 1984-85. In order to improve sanitation and water supply facilities under the various schemes an amount of Rs.14 crores was allocated in

27. The Hindu, (Madras), 14-3-1985, p.12.
1985-86, and the same amount has been allocated in 1986-87.

MASTER PLANS TO IMPROVE SLUM CONDITIONS:

Master plans are being drafted to improve conditions in slums, of 11 towns in Andhra Pradesh, at an estimated cost of Rs.52 crores, according to T. Rajaqpalachari, consultant to the Government on slum improvement schemes. The plans also cover three cities of Andhra Pradesh (Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada) besides Bombay and 11 towns in Maharashtra.

The plans for the 11 towns in Andhra Pradesh would be over in three or four months. The 11 towns were Vijayanagara, Kurnool, Nellore, Warangal, Nizamabad, Karimnagar, Pochampally, Eluru, Rajahmundry, Anantapur and Guntur.

A survey was carried out to identify the slums in selected towns, the worst ones were in Guntur, Vijayanagara, Kurnool, and Rajahmundry. The improvement schemes for these towns would be evolved in such a way that the present social patterns would not be disturbed. Each slum would be taken up as a separate entity, with an

Government. Farmers have been ensured of remunerative prices for their produce. The support prices of different crops fixed by the State Government are far higher than those announced by the Centre. The price for paddy was maintained around Rs. 105 per tonne linked to a recovery of 9.5%. Besides, tobacco growers with unsold stocks of tobacco were provided with Rs. 2 crores loan at the rate of Rs. 3.70 per Kg of unsold tobacco. Milk procurement price was raised from Rs. 3.50 to Rs. 3.75 per litre.

Under Prayati Patham, supply of agricultural inputs to farmers was also under taken and 7.85 lakhs tonnes of fertilizers and 36,000 tonnes of improved seeds were supplied at subsidary rates to small and marginal farmers. Under short term credit the co-operatives have distributed about Rs. 132 crores. In addition, massive credit support programme through commercial Banks and the Agriculture Department, and long term agricultural credit programmes through Agricultural Development Banks have been taken up. In the course of three years that the yeddu Desam Party has been in office it has helped the farmers to a tune of Rs. 387 crores, while relief has been given to a large number of farmers particularly those who are cultivating dry lands under the system of abolition of land revenue.
integrated approach to provide roads, drainage canals, houses in selected places, electricity, education and health facilities to the dwellers.

Rajagopalachari said the state Government planned to get the Rs. 52 crores either fully or partly as a grant from the British Overseas Administration, which showed "a lot of inclination to take up such schemes," or from the World Bank as loans, in which case the Government would have to pay interest for it.

This scheme is to improve living conditions in urban as well as rural areas through slum improving Programmes. The scheme would have to be continued and gains consolidated in the coming years.

POINT NO.7: HELPING FARMERS THROUGH MEDIUM IRRIGATION SCHEMES, RURAL ELECTRIFICATION FOR ENERGISING PUMPSETS, BIOGAS UNITS AND SUPPLY OF QUALITY SEEDS AND FERTILISERS

Andhra Pradesh being mainly an agricultural state and farmers being the backbone of the country, the interests of the farmers have naturally been of utmost importance to the

30. Ibid., p.3.
31. Ibid., p.3.
Water rates have been increased so that those who benefit from irrigated areas pay for the operation and proper maintenance of these irrigation systems owned by the Government. Rural electrification plays a key role in lift irrigation and exploitation of groundwater resources, as also in the establishment of small industries which will result in overall development of the rural areas besides arresting migration of labour to urban areas. Andhra Pradesh is one of the states in the country where rural electrification has made significant strides.

UNDER GROUND WATER:

There is a large underground water potential in the state estimated to be adequate for drawl by about 22 lakh wells, of which 12 lakh wells are to be dug. Till now 6,039 lakh pumpsets have been energised. This is the largest number after Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.

In order to intensify the programme of energisation of pumpsets in already electrified villages financial institution like Agricultural Refinance Development Corporation have been drawn for energisation of pumpsets in already electrified villages.
Agriculture is the life of the nation. Telugu Desam holds the deep conviction that unless the farmer is assured of an adequate reward for his labour, there can be no equity and there can be no real development. Telugu Desam claims to have dedicated itself to the sacred task of ensuring a fair deal to the farmers to enable them to better their lot.

**POINT NO.8: IMPROVING THE LOT OF RURAL ARTISANS THROUGH COTTAGE AND SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES**

Telugu Desam believes in assigning an important role to the cottage and small-scale industries in Indian economy. Emphasis on heavy industry with its high capital output ratio is a misplaced one. Labour-intensive cottage and small-scale industry should be encouraged as far as possible with the necessary earmarkings of areas of production for heavy industry, on the one hand and cottage and small scale industry on the other. During the year 1986-87 small scale industries set up in rural areas, 76,413. Although heavy industry has its own place, yet in the name of externalities it tends towards concentration of industries in the city centres. No doubt

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they create some employment opportunities but unfortunately the rush of employment draws more people than what they can possibly absorb.

Instead, the Telugu Desam Party pledges to follow a policy of decentralised industrialisation with dispersal of industries in rural areas. This will facilitate the utilisation of local skill and raw materials while arresting the influx of youth to urban areas. Revival of cottage and small-scale industries will also provide an opportunity for utilising productivity of the considerable number of skilled artisans and craftsmen scattered all over the country, by providing additional training facilities. Such trained manpower can be pressed into small-scale industries with an appropriate intermediate technology for promoting rural industry as a production adjunct to agriculture.

Development of ancillary industry would be an integral and valuable aspect of human resources development in rural and semi-urban areas. Practical training programmes of 3 to 6 months duration would prove beneficial to a very large number among them to upgrade their skills in industry, especially in the medium and small-scale sectors.
POINT NO.9: PROGRAMME TO BENEFIT WOMEN

The Telugu Desam Government is particular about securing a rightful place for women in the society. Women welfare activity has received greater attention than ever before under the Telugu Desam Party rule. Sri Padmavathi Mahila Viswavidyalayam established at Tirupati is a landmark in the history of the state. It is intended to offer special vocational course to women and to enable them to stand on their own feet.

The State Government has reserved 30% of the jobs in public services for women to enable them to achieve economic independence. Provision of at least one women’s hostel in each district is proposed to benefit working women. The working women’s hostels have been set up in 8 centres at Visakhapatnam, Eluru, Vijayawada, Buntur, Mahaboobnagar, Khammam, Hyderabad and Srikakulam. The Government has also taken a decision to give preference to women in certain categories of Government jobs.

A bill to amend the Hindu Succession Act to give equal rights to women in ancestral property is before the legislature. Strict enforcement of anti-dowry laws, loans to weaker sections of women, construction of modern
lavatories providing financial assistance to 46,000 women
are some of the women's welfare measures contemplated by
the Tuluqu Desam Party Government. 50,000 widows have been
sanctioned a monthly pension of Rs.50 each. Among other
measures there are Mangalasutras to the poor women who
cannot afford to buy the supply of nutritious diet to
pregnant women, bringing drinking water facilities within
their reach. It is also contemplated that house sites
pattas to landless poor families, and pension to old
agricultural labourers should be issued only in the names of
the housewives.

Women agricultural labourers belong to the financially
weaker sections of the society, particularly when they
become pregnant, they not only lose their wages, but also
have to bear medical expenses. A scheme was launched to
provide financial assistance to them. This aid is provided
at the rate of Rs.20 where I.C.D.S. Scheme is in force and
at Rs.40 in other places to each pregnant women labourer
for three months before and after delivery.

Women are encouraged to form cooperatives and they are
given necessary training for the purpose. An amount of
Rs.34 lakhs was allotted in 1987-88 to provide 20 per cent

*3* *The Hindu* (Madras), 9-1-1988, P.11
margin money to women when they take Bank loans.

Women welfare centres called 'Telugu Bala, Mahila Pragati Programs' are being established with the cost of 30 lakhs each in all districts of the state to provide training in different crafts to 100 widows and poor women to make them financially independent. The articles manufactured by them are provided marketing facility by the Government. Women who have passed Matriculation are given training in typewriting, shorthand and Radio and I.V. servicing.

A special department for women and child welfare has been created to ensure speedy and efficient implementation of these schemes.

A separate court has been established in Hyderabad to try cases involving atrocities on women. This is the first of its kind in the entire country.

The social welfare department has been making all efforts to ameliorate the conditions of the neglected women in the society. These schemes may redress the grievances of women and make their lives happy and prosperous. This

34.Ibid., p.11
scheme depends on the active cooperation of the people, particularly the women, who have to strengthen the hands of the Government to implement the measures.

POINT NO.10: REDRESSING PEOPLE'S GRIEVANCES SPEEDILY AND EFFECTIVELY BY ESTABLISHING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND GRIEVANCES BUREAUX AT ALL LEVELS OF ADMINISTRATION

Corruption is a rot that has taken itself into the very vitals of our society and cannot be wiped out overnight. A significant beginning has really been made by the Telugu Desam Party Government in Andhra Pradesh to slam this rot and ultimately end it on early date.

The immediate effort of Telugu Desam Party on assumption of office was to provide a clean and efficient administration to the state. In order to achieve the end a number of measures were initiated. As soon as the government was formed a "Dharmamahamatra" was appointed to deal with cases of corruption, and to advise the government on the action to be taken on the misconduct of the public servant. The institution of 'Lokayukta' came into existence on November 1st, 1983. Justice A. Sambasiva Rao, a former Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court was appointed as the first 'Lokayukta'. The Lokayukta
deals with complaints of misconduct against ministers, legislators, chairmen of Zilla Parishads and Mandal Panchayats, Statutory Corporation, Heads of Cooperative departments and senior officers and so on.

Further grievances cells were set up in the districts and in the secretariat. These cells are to ensure that representation received from the public are dealt with on a primary basis, and the grievances and representations are settled with the least possible delay. The performance of these cells is evidenced by the prompt response to the aggrieved which is being appreciated by the public. Nearly over 4,500 complaints were received by Lokayukta and most of them were settled by the same.

No one can escape from the perview of the Lokayukta however big the person may be. The Government is putting forth all its efforts to root out corruption among the officials and non-officials. The working of the Lokayukta has been hampered because of the lacuna in the Act itself.

Further the Government has instructed its officials and non-officials to economise expenditure and ordered not to resort to luxuries. The number of corporations has been

35. The Hindu, (Madras), 24-4-1985, P.12.
reduced and pensions to ex-MLAs have been suspended. By all these measures to government has saved more than Rs.30 Lakhs. The Legislative Council has also been abolished in order to cut down expenditure.

Thus the government is making all round efforts to weed out corrupt officials in order to bring down administrative expenditure. This will go a long way in giving a clean and corrupt-free economical administration to the people of Andhra Pradesh.

POINT NO:11: DISTRIBUTION OF GOVERNMENT LAND TO THE LANDLESS AND HELPING THEM IMPROVE SUCH LAND

The congress Government started land reforms in the year 1961 to establish a socialistic pattern of society, but it failed to collect surplus land under the land ceiling Act. Soon after assuming powers the Telugu Desam Party began to attach great importance to the implementation of land reforms.

The Telugu Desam Party government has brought structural reforms in the land relations to plug the loopholes in it. Speedy implementation of land reform measures has received considerable attention after the
announcement of the 15-point economic programme by the government. A number of measures have been taken to strengthen the Administrative and Judicial machinery to ensure time-bound implementation. The government has examined the existing procedures with a view to simplifying them and making them more effective. The government has also examined the legal measures necessary to dispense with 'Dhamni' transactions.

The government has reclaimed a large area of land and distributed it among the poor and the needy. By November, 1983 the government collected nearly 24,462 acres of wet land and distributed 21,131 acres to the landless poor. The government collected 4,27,239 acres of dry land and distributed 3,041,124 acres of dry land. This benefitted 1,13,994 S.Cs, 42,262 S.Ts, 69,932 B.Cs families and 15,721 other families. The remaining wet and dry land was converted into house-sites for the weaker sections of the community.

The distribution of the Challapalli estate land to the poor families is worth mentioning here. The government distributed nearly 2000 acres of surplus wet land of Challapalli estate among 800 poor families belonging to
B.C., S.F., B.Cs of the same village.

This programme goes a long way in eradicating the inequalities in land holding between landlords and landless labourers and will bring notable credit to the Telugu Desam government if it is implemented effectively.

POINT NO.12: PROVIDING MOMENTUM OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME TO CREATE DURABLE ASSETS IN RURAL AREAS ON A LARGE SCALE.

Successive Five Year Plans have emphasised the development of rural areas which are predominantly populated by small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers and artisans. The Telugu Desam government under Pragati Patham launched a major poverty removing programme. The IRDP (Integrated Rural Development Programme) comes under this programme. Under the programme small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers whose earnings are less than Rs.1,500 per annum are to be identified and necessary help rendered.

The diversified activities taken up under this programme are buffalo and cross breed crop rearing, social

forestry, horticulture, poultry and dairy complexes and so on. All these activities are being organised to help the beneficiaries to cross the poverty line.

The success of the rural development programme depends on the willing participation of the poverty-groups. The beneficiaries have to avail themselves of the facilities extended under this programme to derive better incomes and improve their quality of life.

**POINT NO.13: PROMOTION OF SPORTS AND YOUTH WELFARE ACTIVITIES TO CHANNELISE YOUNG PEOPLE’S ENERGIES FOR CONSTRUCTIVE PURPOSE (CONSTRUCTION OF ONE STADIUM IN EACH DISTRICT AND LAUNCHING OF SELF-EMPLOYMENT SCHEMES FOR YOUTH)**

The British system of education which is continuing in the educational institutions is not providing bread and butter to the educated youth. The Telugu Desam government wanted to change the system by giving it a vocational orientation so that the youth could acquire competence to stand on their own legs when they come out of the educational institutions, and education would become an effective instrument of social reform and development. Funds to the tune of from 7 to 32 lakhs are allocated for
youth services. The rural youth are provided more facilities for physical and recreational activities. The aim of the government is to channelize youth energies and involve the youth in welfare programmes.

The scheme provides a step for self-employment and is called the 'Gramodaya' Scheme. This scheme aims at providing employment to more than 5 lakh of educated unemployed either in the industrial or business sectors in the economy. Under this scheme a composite loan of Rs. 25,000 would be sanctioned to the unemployed youth without the requirements of guarantees. The scheme envisages 25% of subsidy system as an incentive for hard work. The government of Andhra Pradesh at the first instance has realised that the educated unemployed youth are languishing in poverty practically in every village of the state. To achieve notable results in this attempts the Department of Industries and Banks have to cover each and every village.

This scheme was introduced for the first time in Krishna District comprising of one thousand and eight villages. A project report was prepared on viable schemes of self-employment of the unemployed educated youth.
Advertisements were issued in all the newspapers calling for applications for the self-employment scheme. The scheme met with an enthusiastic response in Krishna District. Selection committees were constituted and 1248 candidates were selected under this scheme. The selected youth were exposed to a two-week training course in various self-employment fields. They were taken round on field visits to the successful units of the type.

The viable schemes under this 'Gramodaya' programme are cycle stand manufacturing, manufacturing of chairs, welding shops, printing presses, making of steel furniture, poultry farming and so on.

These measures shall definitely go a long way in eliminating the frustration among the unemployed educated youth, and diverting their energies into constructive channels.

POINT NO.14: SPECIAL SCHEMES TO HELP TODDY-TAPPERS, WEAVERS, FISHERMEN, RICKSHAW-PULLERS, WASHERMEN, QUARRY WORKERS AND BASKET WEAVERS.

Development makes no sense unless it records...
demonstrable benefits to the people, particularly the poorer sections. The Telugu Desam government is committed to a process of development that is directly linked to the welfare of the people. The process of development and welfare programmes have received the highest priority under the Telugu Desam rule. A package of new welfare measures announced by the Telugu Desam rule. A package of new welfare measures announced by the Telugu Desam government includes 'own your Rickshaw' scheme, supplying necessary material for fishermen, supplying subsidised material to the weaver and so on. Regarding the first scheme, legislation eliminating cycle rickshaw owners and conferring ownership on the actual cycle pullers has been made. A target of one thousand cycle-rickshaw per district has been envisaged. Under this scheme with the active assistance from commercial Banks and other financial institutions, the government has been able to help one of the most exploited classes of our society, namely, the cycle rickshaw pullers.

The schemes intended for washermen, quarry workers and basket weavers and highly praise worthy. Co-operative societies for the above classes were formed and were provided with the necessary raw materials and marketing
facilities. These small units will enable the women to work without paying any wage for. They help the weavers with adequate stocks of yarn and buy handloom cloth be procured and sell them to rural card holders. Unlike units with more amenities are built in all municipalities.

The success of the package of new welfare measures announced by Telugu Desam government depends on the cooperation extended by the officials, and the non-officials who have to utilise the funds earmarked for these schemes fully and effectively.

POINT NO. 15: INTRODUCTION OF TELUGU AS OFFICIAL LANGUAGE AT ALL LEVELS OF ADMINISTRATION

To restore Telugu language to its original prestige and to make it the Prime language of the state the government declared that it would be made the official language at all levels from Ugadi 1983. The main objective in introducing Telugu as an official language is that the Telugu culture should flower, the Telugu flag should fly in the sky and Telugu Talis. The Telugu flag should feel happy seeing her children grow strong and prosperous. The Telugu Desam Party government made it a policy to introduce
Telugu as the medium of instruction from Primary level to research level. The government also wanted to give incentive work in recruitment for Telugu speaking people.

In order to implement Telugu as an official language the government has taken many innovative steps. It has procured Telugu typewriters, given training to people in Telugu typewriting and has published of glossaries to promote Telugu literature.

The government wants to introduce Telugu at all levels of administration. Telugu will be made the official language right up to the sub-divisional level.

B. REVITALISATION OF PANCHAYAT RAJ ADMINISTRATION IN ANDHRA PREDESH

With the introduction of democratic decentralisation, Panchayat Raj was first introduced in Andhra Pradesh in the year 1959. It was a three tier system consisting of Zilla Parishad at District level, Panchayat Samithi at Taluk level and Gram Panchayat at Village level. Now in view of the reorganisation of this act and in view of enforcement of Mandal Praja Parishad, Zilla Praja Parishad and Zilla Abhivrudhi Mandal Saneeksha Act 1984, the Panchayat
Comprehensive enactment was made through Andhra Pradesh Gram Panchayat Act 1960, covering the entire Andhra Pradesh for the first time, under the Act, a village or villages with a minimum population of 1,000 were constituted as Gram Panchayats. Subsequently this rule has been amended and a village with a minimum population of 300 also is constituted as a Panchayat.

The main features of the latest amendment in the Act is the provision of electing the Sarpanch directly by all the voters in the Gram Panchayat. However, the Upa-Sarpanch of the Gram Panchayat will be elected from among the members. The term of members and Sarpanch is for a period of 5 years.

With a view to restructure the Panchayat Raj set up in the State, Government of Andhra Pradesh have brought out a new legislation called the Andhra Pradesh Mandal Praja Parishad, Zilla Praja Parishad and Zilla Abivrudhi 40, Sri Krishna, S., Revitalisation of Panchayat Raj Administration in Andhra Pradesh - A case study of Mandal Panchayats. (Paper presented in 45th IPSA Conference at Aligarh, 22-12-1987), P.1.
Suvarnaka Mandals, etc., 1986 by replacing the Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Samithi and Ilula Parishads Act 1989. This act has come into force with effect from 10th January 1987. This new act is subsequently amended by Act No. 3 of 1987 which has come into force from 1st February 1987. In pursuance of the provisions of the new act of 1104 Mandal Praja Parishads and 25 Ilula Praja Parishads have been constituted with effect from 15th of January 1987. The salient features of the new act are:

1) to constitute a Mandal Praja Parishad for each Revenue Mandal in place of Panchayat Samithis;

ii) The Mandal Praja Parishad will consist of the Sarpanches, M.L.As, and M.Ps as ex-officio members and there will be one elected member belonging to minorities.

iii) The President of Mandal Praja Parishad will be elected directly by the registered voters in the Mandal on party basis.

iv) 15% of the offices of President of Mandal Praja Parishads in a district shall be reserved for Scheduled Castes, 6% for Scheduled Tribes, 20% to Backward Classes and 9% for women.
v) There will be a Zilla Parishad at the district level which will consist of (1) Presidents of the Mandal Praja Parishads in the district, (2) M.L.A.s who are members of the Mandal Praja Parishads in the district, (3) Members of the Legislative Assembly who are members of the Mandal Praja Parishads in the district, (4) Members of the Rajya Sabha who are members of the Mandal Praja Parishad in the district, (5) One elected member belonging to minorities.

vii) There will be a Chairman and Vice-Chairman to each Zilla Praja Parishad. The Chairman will be elected directly by all the registered voters in the district on party basis. The Vice-Chairman will be elected indirectly by the members of Zilla Praja Parishad.

viii) 15% offices of the Chairman, Zilla Praja Parishad will be reserved for Scheduled Castes; 5% for Scheduled Tribes, 9% for women and 20% to Backward Classes.

viii) There will be six standing committees dealing with different subjects. The Chairman of Zilla Praja Parishad will be the ex-officio chairman of all standing committees. The District Collector is ex-officio member of all standing committees.
11) In order to carry on the essential functions of monitoring the development activities in the district and for co-ordinating and consolidating the plan etc., it has been decided to set up a body called 'The Zilla Abhivrudhi Samaraksha Mandali' (District Development Review Board) for each district. This body will consist of (1) the Chairman of Zilla Praja Parishad; (2) M.L.A. and M.P. in the district; and (3) the District Collector.

11) A minister as nominated by the Chief Minister will be Chairman of the Zilla Abhivrudhi Samaraksha Mandali and the District Collector shall be its member secretary.

11i) In order to provide a clean administration, a provision has been made on the lines of Anti-defection Law and the same is made applicable to all elective posts in Mandal Praja Parishads and Zilla Praja Parishads. Provisions for disqualification on grounds of defection has been made on the lines of Constitution (62nd Amendment) Act.

11ii) Provision of no-confidence motion with simple majority has been made applicable to the offices of Vice-President, Mandal Praja Parishads and Vice-Chairman of Zilla Praja Parishads as they are elected indirectly.
xiii) Provision has been made to enable the Mandal Praja Parishad, (a) to get funds relating to institutions and scheme transferred by the Government; (b) to get a share of income of the former Municipal Board; (c) to levy taxes, surcharge of fees; (d) to levy contributions from the Gram Panchayat, (e) to get annual grant of Rs.500 per person from the State Government;

xiv) Provision has been made for incurring expenditure on elections to Mandal Praja Parishad, Zilla Praja Parishad and maintenance of election establishment by the State Government from its funds;

xv) Provision has been made empowering the Government to create posts of officers and other employees for Mandal Praja Parishad and Zilla Praja Parishad for carrying out the purposes of the Act and also to provide for payment of their salaries and allowances and pension, etc., from the consolidated fund of the State.

xvi) Provision has also been made to enable the Zilla Praja Parishad (a) to get funds from Central or State Government in respect of schemes and institutions transferred to the Parishad; (b) to levy taxes and fees; (c) to get share of
Income from firm, district boards; (d) to levy contributions from the Mandal Praja Parishad; (e) to get the annual grant of Rs.500 per person from the State government.

Since the reorganised Panchayati Raj structure has come into force with effect from 15-1-1987, the Mandal Praja Parishad and Zilla Praja Parishad have started functioning with the primary object of bringing the development administration to the door steps of the people. The process of change over will be complete with the completion of elections to the Mandal Praja Parishad and Zilla Praja Parishad in the month of March 1987.

PRESIDENT, MANDALA Praja Parishad

There shall be a President for each Mandal Praja Parishad who will be elected directly by the registered voters in the Mandal. The members of the State Legislature and the Parliament are also eligible to be elected as a President, but they are required to exercise the option within 15 days from the date of elections to return either of the two posts.

1. Ibid., p.6.
VICE-PRESIDENT

There shall be a Vice-President who shall be elected indirectly from among the members of the Mandal Praja Parishad. Legislators i.e., M.L.A.s and M.P.s are not eligible for being elected as Vice-President.

CHAIRMAN & VICE-CHAIRMAN OF ZILLA PRAJA PARISHAD

There shall be a Chairman for every Zilla Praja Parishad who shall be elected directly by the registered voters from among themselves. Members of Walu Legislature and Members of Parliament are also eligible to the elected as Chairman, but they are required to exercise their option within 15 days from the date of election to remain either of the two posts.

There shall be a Vice-Chairman of every Zilla Praja Parishad who shall be elected indirectly by the members of the Zilla Praja Parishad from among themselves.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Every Standing committee of Zilla Praja Parishad shall deal with the matters referred to in the Act and shall exercise the powers and functions as prescribed in the
rules. The Standing Committee shall watch the progress of implementation of works and schemes in so far as they relate to the subjects assigned to each of them.

Every Standing Committee shall consist of the Chairman of Zilla Parishad and the District Collector, who shall be the ex officio members and such number of members as may be arrived at by dividing the total number of members of the Parishad by three. The Chairman, Zilla Parishad Parishad will be Chairman of every Standing Committee. In the absence of Chairman of Zilla Parishad Parishad the District Collector and the absence of both the Chairman and District Collector, a member of chosen by members present at the meeting shall preside. The members of the Standing Committee shall be elected by the members of Parishad from among themselves in the manner prescribed in the rules. One representative of the R.C.S., or S.I.S. or B.C.S. of minorities or women shall be elected to each of the Standing Committee for social welfare or as the case may be, women welfare as provided in Section 31 of the Act.

ZILLA ABHIYRUDHI SAMERKSHA MANDALS:

Every Zilla Abhyrudi Samerksa Mandal shall consist of the following members:

1. Chairman, Zilla Parishad
2. District Collector
3. Representative from R.C.S., S.I.S. or B.C.S. of minorities or women
1. The Chairman of Zilla Praja Parishad concerned.

2. All the members of the Legislative Assembly of the State and the House of the People elected from the District including the areas comprise in a Municipality or a Municipal Corporation and the members of the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) who are the members of the Zilla Praja Parishad and

3. The District Collector, who shall also be the member Secretary of the Mandal.

The Government have notified the constitution of Zilla Abhivrudhi Sammelana Mandal consisting of the above members for each District in the State except the Hyderabad (Urban) District in S.O. Ms. No. 1131 (R. & R.D. dated 18-2-1987).

A Minister of the Council of Ministers shall be Chairman and the Chairman of the Zilla Praja Parishad shall be the Vice-Chairman of the Mandal.

The Mandal shall review the development activities of all departments in the District and also perform such other functions as the Government may entrust to it from time to time.

[Reference to page 42 of the document]
time. It shall meet at least once in three months or as often as desired by the Chief Minister.

It is evident from this set up that the Chairman of Zilla Praja Parishad and the District Collector will have to function in close harmony and co-ordinated manner to the maximum growth of the district and ensure successful implementation of all plan and non-plan schemes of various departments in the district. The Chairman, Zilla Praja Parishad also plays an important role in the execution of development activities which are now directly under the Zilla Praja Parishad. For instance, he is made Vice-Chairman of the District Rural Development Agency by the Collector who is the Chairman. In the absence of Collector, he shall preside over the District Rural Development Agency meetings. Similarly the Chairman of various committees and other departments at the district level. The Chairman, Z.P.P. has to tour intensively in the entire district and guide the Mandal Praja Parishads in successful execution of various development schemes. The Chairman, Z.P.P. is also the Vice-Chairman of the Zilla Abhivrudhi Sammelana Mandal to which the Minister nominated by the Chief Minister is the Chairman. This is an important body to review the development activities of
all the departments in the district and also the perform
such other functions as the Government may entrust to it
from time to time. The Chairman of Zilla Praja Parishad
will preside over the meetings of the Mandalas in the
absence of the Chairman. Since the Chairman, Zilla Praja
Parishad and President of Mandalas Praja Parishad are
elected directly by the registered voters in the district,
there is no provision of no confidence motion against them.
This makes them to function independently without fear or
favour. The Chairman, Z.P.P, therefore can do justice to
all the various parts of the district keeping in view the
felt needs and backwardness of the area. Without yielding
to the pressures of the various power groups in the
district.

C. OTHER POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES:

There are many more things yet to be achieved to
secure the minimum needs of the people the State by
overcoming built-in handicap like limited and inelastic
resources and a tradition-bound administration. But some
firm and determined steps were taken, first to provide
succour to the suffering, and instil confidence in them
that the Government they voted to power is sincere and
honest in solving their problems.
It is necessary however, for a Government to take a
profound stock of the situation, draw a balance sheet and
recommence itself to the fulfillment of unfinished tasks.

TELUGU VASTRA PRADHANA VIDHANAM

Under the Janata Cloth Scheme, Green Card holders are
supplied with a handloom saree and a shawl at a half the
price, Government meeting the difference payable to the
Andhra Pradesh Handloom Weavers Coop. Society. This sche-
meme not only provides cloth to the poor but also tackles
unemployment and underemployment among the handloom
weavers.

TELUGU VYAYABAYA KARNAKA SADARA SAMKSHENAM

Under the "Telugu Vyayabaya Karnika Sadara Samkshenam"
scheme introduced in November, 1984, landless agricultural
labourers over 60 years old are given monthly pensions of
Rs. 50 each. These pensions are sent by money orders direct
to the beneficiaries regularly every month, relieving the
awesome necessity to their going to treasuries to collect
the amount every month.

43. Andhra Pradesh 3 years of Progress, (Director
44. Andhra Pradesh: Statistical Profile, (Director,
TELUGU VITANTU UPADHYA VALPANAM:

To alleviate the misery and privation of poor widows who are left to their fate without anyone to take care of them, the Government had decided rightly that some relief has to be provided to them. Towards this objective, the scheme 'Telugu Vitanla Upadhy Valpanam' has been launched. Every helpless poor widow is given a monthly pension of Rs.50/- under this scheme.

Women constitute fifty per cent of the population. But they do not enjoy equal rights in the ancestral property. This Government has initiated action and secured the consent of the Assembly for a bill providing equal rights to daughters along with sons as heirs.

TELUGU GRAMIKA SWANTA RICKSHAW PATHAKAM

Under the 'Telugu Gramika Swanta Rickshaw Pathakam', rickshaw pullers are helped to have their own rickshaws by a combination of subsidy and loan. 12,500 rickshaw pullers have so far benefitted from this scheme.

Constitution of a Finance Corporation for Minorities, a Directorate for the Handicapped and handloom training-
Our service centres are some of the other important measures for the welfare of the weaker sections.

**TELUGU MATRUDEVATHA SAMADHARAN**

Pregnant agricultural women find it difficult to look after the livelihood before and immediately after childbirth. With a view to help these poor women, "Telugu Matrudevatham Samadhanam" scheme has been sanctioned under which pregnant women will receive monthly assistance.

**TELUGU BALALA SKHEERA SANGSKHEEMAM**

Child Welfare is promoted by several schemes. Under the 'Telugu Balala Skheera Sangskheemam' scheme, launched on August 15, 1985, buffalo milk is supplied at a subsidized rate to slum children up to six years of age. Initially more than a lakh of children were benefitted by this novel scheme in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad.

**TELUGU CHIRAMALEVULU SATHSHEERHAVAM**

Under the 'Telugu Chiramalevul Sathsheerhavam' scheme, 46. (bid., p.10),
all children in I to V standards are given health cards. A medical check-up is provided for once in six months and free treatment is given to children who are found unhealthy. This scheme was launched on October 2, 1985, and benefits about 60 lakh school-going children.

Children upto 12 years of age can commute to school free in State owned Road Transport Corporation buses. Uniforms and text books are supplied free to children in 7 and 11 standards in Government Schools.

About 27.48 lakh children have got free text books and 17.02 lakh free uniforms.

SRAMA SAKTI

To get over the problems faced by the present cooperative movement and with a view to build it on strong foundations, a Single-Window System was conceived and is awaiting Central Clearance in order to release the Government from the clutches of the middlemen and the contractors in its efforts to undertake construction work. "Srama Sakti" has been introduced for rural construction

works. Under this system, labour will be employed directly by the Government or through cooperatives, middlemen are sought to be eliminated.

TELUBUGRAMMENDAKRANTIPATHAM

The State Government has taken up yet another scheme named "Telugu Grammendu Kranti Patham". Under this scheme, people's projects will be executed by involving voluntary contribution of labour by the people grouped as "Brama Dalams" - thus, eliminating intermediate agencies like contractors. For each Brama Dalam, works costing Rs.5 lakhs or less will be entrusted, 50% of which will be people's contribution of irrigation canals, water and drainage courses, laying of village roads, construction of 40 school building etc.

This scheme will be launched on the auspicious occasion of Sankranti in January, 1986.

TELUBUGHALANA, CHITRAKALAVIKASHAM

With a view to reach the common rural folk through the powerful medium of cinema, the State Government have...
introduced a new scheme - `Telugu Chalana Chitra Kala Vihar' for promoting construction of permanent semi-permanent cinema theatres in every mandal headquarter.

Out of 1104 mandals in the state which are the new key units of administration, over 439 mandals do not have permanent/semi-permanent cinema theatres. The scheme contemplates construction of permanent/semi-permanent cinema theatres in semi-urban and rural mandal headquarters with a seating capacity not exceeding 600, at an estimated cost not exceeding Rs. 8 lakhs. The State Government have also drawn up an attractive package of incentives to encourage entrepreneurs establishing Cinema theatres.

There are:

(a) 10% of the capital investment on the project subject to a maximum of Rs. 80,000/- in respect of permanent theatres and Rs. 55,000/- in respect of semi-permanent theatres by way of an outright subsidy;

(b) 50% of the cost of project subject to a maximum of Rs. 3.00 lakhs in respect of permanent theatres and a maximum of Rs. 2.00 lakhs in respect of semi-permanent theatres.

42. Andhra Pradesh: 3 years of Progress, (Director, Information and Public Relations, Hyderabad, 1986), p. 8.
theatre by way of loan by the Andhra Pradesh State Film Development Corporation.

(3) There will be one year moratorium on the repayment of interest and principal amount.

(4) The loan will be repaid in ten (10) years, in equal monthly instalments, commencing from the first anniversary of the loan or from the date of commissioning of the theatre, whichever is earlier.

(5) The loan will carry a rate of interest 12% per annum.

(6) Twenty-five percent of the subsidy on power tariff will be available for a period of three years from the date of commissioning of the theatre.

(7) Whenever Government land is available, land not exceeding 2,000 sq. yards would be made available at 50% value.

This is besides the existing loan scheme of the Andhra Pradesh State Film Development Corporation for construction of cinema theatres in rural and semi-urban areas. Preference will also be given to educated unemployed under this scheme.

TELUGU 'VIGNANA PARITHOSHIKAM' - SCHOLARSHIPS

Under this scheme, 150 merit students securing highest marks in VII class, 100 students in X class and 50 in Intermediate class in each district are sanctioned scholarships ranging from Rs.500 to Rs.1000/- a year.

4,500 elementary schools were newly opened in school-less hamlets.

A decision was taken to introduce Telugu as the medium of instruction compulsorily at the primary level in all Government Schools, introducing English in 6th and 7th Classes and Hindi in 8th, 9th and 10th Classes.

TELUGU MAAGANA SAMARADHANAM

A special programme of dry land farming has been launched in 1985, with its major component being integrated Land Development Programme in 5,000 acres in each district.

Under the 'Telugu Maagana Samaradhanam' Programme, N.T.Rama Rao distributed 11,500 acres of wet land in chilamallu, Krishna District, bringing to an end decades old struggle of the farmers there. He also

st. Andhra Pradesh: 5 years of Progress, (Director Information and Public Relations, Hyderabad 1987), p.3.
distributed 426 acres of land taken over from the landlords in Anantapur district.

Planning from the base was only a slogan ever since planning began. Only the new government formed District Development Boards, which prepared district plans for the Seventh Five Year Plan period on the basis of which the Seventh Plan draft has been prepared. A State Development Board was also constituted to advise the government on matters relating to planning and development of the State.

The Andhra Pradesh Shore Areas Development Authority was constituted in 1985 with top experts in various disciplines for integrated development of shore areas through measures like disaster management, arresting environmental degradation, afforestation, development of marine and semi marine fishing, formation of link roads to fishermen’s villages, development of tourism and recreational areas and welfare schemes specially for fishermen.

In this connection on the day of fifth Anniversary of Indian Ocean Party at Hyderabad, the Karnataka Chief Minister, Shri. Ramakrishna Hegde, said every citizen in 1985, Andhra Pradesh-3 years of Progress, (Director, Information and Public Relations, Hyderabad, 1986), p. 7.
Andhra Pradesh was with Shri N. T. Rama Rao. He said Government of Haryana, West Bengal, Tripura, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka had adopted different programmes to benefit the people. In Andhra Pradesh, the Rama Rao Government had ushered in welfare programmes for the poor.

The success of the implementation of the socio-economic programmes and policies depends on the cooperation given by the officials and the people at large.