CHAPTER-VI

SUMMARY AND SUGGESTIONS
Andhra Pradesh is the fifth largest State in India, both in area and in population. It is also the First Linguistic State which came into existence in 1956. The State consists of three regions: Coastal Andhra, Telangana and Rayalaseema.

Yeduguri Sandinti Rajasekhar Reddy, popularly known as YSR, hails from Pulivendula, a small town in Kadapa District. Having attracted to Indira Gandhi’s Policies and Programmes, he entered into party politics as the general Secretary of Youth wing of Kadapa District Congress Party. Y.S.R contested the elections from Pulivendula as a congress – (Reddy) candidate in 1978 for the first time. Since then, he contested five times to Legislative Assembly from Pulivendula and four times to the Lok Sabha from Kadapa. In all the elections, he never faced the defeat. He “defeated the defeat”. “He is the only Chief Minister of A.P who has never faced the defeat”. As the leader of the Andhra Pradesh Congress Legislative Party from 1999 to 2004, he played key role in exposing the misdeeds of Telugu Desam Government in the Assembly. As the floor leader he fought with the govt. tooth and nail in the Assembly Ventilating the aspirations of the people in the state.

He started Padayathra, a non-violent technique that Mahatma Gandhi evolved to understand and appreciate the trails and tribulations of the people at large on 3rd April 2003 from Chevella to Ichapuram through Ranga Reddy District on 3rd April 2003 Covering 1475 Kms in a hot summer. It was unique because no other person perhaps in the history of the world completed the task.
Y.S.R's padayathra, in fact, was a turning point, not only for Y.S.R but also for the congress party, the state of Andhra Pradesh as well as the country on whole. It made him undisputed charismatic leader in the state and he became a towering personality in the party. The congress voted to power in the State after a long gap of 10 years. Y.S.R was a natural choice for the post of C.M as he led the party to victory. Y.S. Rajasekhar Reddy was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh on 14th May 2004 and initiated and implemented a number of policies and programmes from time to time which touched almost all sectors such as Agriculture, Irrigation, Health, Education, Welfare, Industries as well as rural development and information technology.

Rajasekhar Reddy started his second innings with much clarity on his priorities of Jalayagnam and other development schemes to turn the state into a power house of economic growth across agriculture and industry. Further to these efforts, he wanted to put his own mark on the governance with a well conceived "Rachhabanda" programme for goading the state machinery to attend the difficulties of public through open house meeting at Villages.

But the destiny was different. He was killed in a helicopter crash in Kurnool district on September 2, 2009. With the sudden demise of YSR, Andhra Pradesh lost one of its most charismatic and resourceful leaders. The sea of humanity that thronged to pay homage to him at Hyderabad and Idupulapaya in Kadapa was a testimony to the enormous goodwill of the public Rajasekhara Reddy had earned. A visibly emotional Congress president Sonia
Gandhi led the party in mourning the death of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, who played a key role in scripting the creation of the United Progressive Alliance in 2004 and its coming back to power this year. Cutting across party lines, political parties and their leaders paid rich tributes to Dr. Reddy,

Though there were limited studies on YSR from time-to-time, they did not cover all the policies and programmes of Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhar Reddy. Hence, the researcher attempts to discuss and analyze all the policies and programmes of Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhar Reddy and their impact. The study of contribution of political personalities to different fields of society is not a new one to social discipline. Such studies have generally come to occupy an important plan in Social Science Research.

The objectives of the study are as follows;

1. To study the early life of Y.S Rajasekhar Reddy,

2. To analyse the performance of policies and programmes under YSR government,

3. To evaluate the functioning of agriculture and irrigation related programmes such as free power and jalayagnam programme,

4. To highlight the importance of health programmes like as Rajiv Arogyasri.

5. To assess the performance of housing programme such as Indiramma.
The study is based on both primary secondary data. The primary data were collected from various sources such as the report of UNDP and Government of Andhra Pradesh. The secondary data were elicited from available literature on the topic such as newspapers, books, journals, and magazines.

The policies and programmes of the governments before YSR could not reach the target groups as they were also not popular as that of the policies and programmes of YSR. Dr Rajasekhar Reddy has gone to the ground level of the system and prepared and implemented his policies and programmes for the welfare of the least and lowliest people in the ladder of the society. These policies have reached the target group that every person in a household has enjoyed the fruits of one or the other which made so popular and dearer in the hearts of the people. Therefore, the study of these policies and programmes are of great significant and important. Jalayagnam, as the word speaks is a ritual for water utilization, has been initiated and implemented by the then Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. Rajiv AbhyudayA Yojana is meant for the welfare of backward classes and artisans. The Rajiv Gandhi Gramaena Vidyuteekarana Yojana aims at electrifying all villages and habitations and providing electricity Connection to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families free of charge. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) was enacted in September 2005 and brought into force i.e. 2 February in 2006 in most backward districts with the objective of providing 100 days of guaranteed unskilled wage employment to each rural household.
opting for it. Andhra Pradesh got the distinction of premier State in implementing it effectively under the leadership of YSR. The Main objective of Rajiv Yuva Shakthi is to empower youth through self-employment. Aarogyasri, a much sought after programme of YSR, is to provide much needed help to poor families for treatment of serious ailments, thereby saving them from debt-trap. With the free power to 30 lakhs agricultural pump sets, farmers of Andhra Pradesh have been successfully exploiting the massive rainfall showered in the State for the last Five years. On the day, YSR took over power on May 14th, 2004 took landmark decision to waive farmers’ electricity arrears to the tune of Rs.1259/- crores, withdrew thousands of cases pending against farmers and happy free power to agriculture pump sets.

By strengthening the Institutional credit for agriculture, the farmers have been relieved from the clutches of private lenders.

The Pasu Kranti Pathakam, launched in 2007, high-yielding cows and buffaloes were distributed among farmers in the State on 50 per cent subsidy. Indira Prabha scheme was launched and took up the distribution of assigned lands to the rightful owners belonging to weaker sections on a priority bias. Indira Prabha has ushered a new light and hope in to the lives of rural poor by providing green cover to the barren lands in tune with the center’s policy of second green revolution. The AMBEDKAR JEEVAN DHARA SCHEME (drinking water), initiated on the occasion of 115th birth anniversary celebrations of Dr B R Ambedkar provided safe drinking water
to villages and SC, ST colonies where the people were facing scarcity. The Government of Andhra Pradesh brought the disbursement of all pensions under one umbrella. As a result the poor were happy to receive their social security pensions every month promptly. The Government has introduced **INDIRAMMA** programme i.e. 01.04.2006 to develop model villages and towns on the concept of saturation of identified basic infrastructure facilities and welfare measures in a phased manner covering a period of three years. Sanctioning of pensions to the entire eligible persons is one among the nine basic amenities identified under Indiramma. In the month long 'Praja Patham', all legislators accompanied by the mandal level officers will visit two or three panchayats a day in respective constituencies, and get resolved all the issues pertaining to eight specified areas viz Drinking Water, Housing, Employment Assurance, Public Distribution System, Power Supply, Water Conservation, Indira Kranthi Patham (DWCRA etc.) and Irrigation works. The basic objective of **Indira Kranti Padham** is to implement various programmes for strengthening of self-help Groups with similar implementation strategy. The new scheme Indira Kranti Padham had been designed by clubbing Women Empowerment with Poverty Alleviation. **Rajiv Palle Bata** is a program involving dialogue between the leader and the people. During the process, people get an opportunity to represent their problems directly to their leaders.

Government of Andhra Pradesh launched the **Rajiv Internet Village** programme to bring Government services/benefits intended for the citizens in a quick, cost effective and trouble free manner, through a single window, without
any hassles mainly for people living in villages and rural areas. 108 services were launched in Andhra Pradesh on 15th August 2005 by the Chief Minister Dr Y.S Rajasekhara Reddy. Operations were started with 70 ambulances initially 1-0-8 Emergency Response Service is a 24X7 emergency service for medical, police and fire emergencies. The service is available for the entire state of Andhra Pradesh, Under Rythu Bandhu Scheme, small and marginal farmers are provided loans at a nominal rate of interest, which ranges from 5-10 per cent.

More than 54 percent of total country’s Self-Help Groups are in Andhra Pradesh. The state accounts for 75 percent of Bank credit covering 87 percent of the states’ rural poor. All villages in the state have at least in SHG and 75 percent of villages have 15-20 groups in each. Andhra Pradesh is also the state with highest rate of bank linkage. The then state Government headed by Y.S Rajesekhar Reddy reduced the interest rate to just 3 percent.

The Congress government launched a new scheme by name Rajiv Yuva Shakthi to provide wage employment and self employment to one lakh youth during 2004-05.

For low-income urban population, government has launched an innovative housing scheme, Rajiv Gruha Kalpa, with civil infrastructure and free land being provided by government.
As part of improving literacy levels in the State from the present 61.11 per cent, the Congress government launched another spell of literacy programme ‘Akshara Bharathi’ in October, 2004, conceived and implemented in the State of Andhra Pradesh in coordination with various agencies, both governmental and nongovernmental. Jawahar Knowledge Centres (JKC) Jawahar Knowledge Centres (JKC) was set up in every district to impart industry grade (soft) skills to female engineering students to ensure their campus selection by the industry. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy take a revelousationary step to reimburse the fee for economically backward classes (EBC) students in all the degree, PG and professional courses from 2008.

The aim of the 21st century Gurukulam project was to pick up bright students from the countryside and train them in the Information Technology-related subjects and make them employable in the burgeoning IT and IT-enabled service sectors and help to bridge to gap between the urban and the rural students. Various New Universities and educational Institutions were established.

YSR government soon after coming to power in 2004 itself had issued an order providing 4 percent reservation to Muslims in education and jobs fulfilling a key election promise. Various steps were initiated to develop industrial scene in the State. The Government of Andhra Pradesh launched the Rajiv Nagara Bata Program (RNBP) on 9.1.2005 with an overarching goal of deepening good urban governance in the state and enhancing basic
services and livelihoods in an equitable manner all the Urban Local Bodies. Rajiv Gandhi International Airport popularly known as Shams Abad Airport, is a new Airport near Shams Abad about 22 km from the city of Hyderabad, constructed and open during YSR tenure named after former prime minister of India Rajiv Gandhi Government of Andhra Pradesh have taken up construction of 158 kms long Outer Ring Road Project around the twin cities to decongest the cities and set up a direction for the future growth of the city and its surrounding municipalities.

YSR took many measures to boost up information technology. The SC, BC, Minority and youth welfare were also on the top of his agenda.

Among them Jalayagnam, Free Power, Indiramma and Rajiv Arogyasri programmes of YSR were mostly dearer to the people of Andhra Pradesh and also they were attracted the other States Hence they are discussed in detail in the coming chapters.

Jala Yagnam, (water worship), is a water management programme. It has been implemented by former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, India, Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy as an election promise to the farmers of the state to bring 82 lakh acres under irrigation in five years. The Jala Yagnam program was to complete 32 major and 17 medium irrigation projects at a cost of Rs. 65,000 crores to provide irrigation to an extent of 71 lakh acres besides stabilization of an existing ayacut of 21.32 lakh acres The irrigation development was almost stagnant for the last decade and the previous governments were more
concentrating on hi-tech and neglecting agriculture sector on which approximately 70% of the population depends. Andhra Pradesh has a heritage of irrigated agriculture dating back to several centuries. In the past, during the periods of Kakatiya and Vijayanagar Kingdoms, several tanks and diversion systems were constructed and wells dug which are still operating and productive. During the pre-independence period, the Godavari Delta, the Krishna Delta, the Pennar Delta, the Kurnool-Cuddapah Canal, Khanapur, Mahaboob Nagar, Pocharam and Nizamsagar irrigation systems were constructed by the then rulers. After independence, the Prakasam barrage at Vijayawada was the first project taken up after the Andhra State came into being in 1953. The Srisailam Stage-I was started in 1963 The Tungabhadra High level Canal Stage-II and the Pulivendula Branch canal were initiated in 1967 and 1973 respectively. Somasila reservoir in 1975 and Telugu Ganga Project in 1983 were added. Construction of the Srisailam Right Branch Canal in Kurnool district, Srisailam Left Bank Canal, renamed as A Madhava Reddy Canal in Nalgonda district, the Tungabhadra High Level Canal Stage-II in Anantapur district, the Somasila Stage-II in Nellore district and the Priyadarshini Jurala Project in Mahaboobnagar district are also in good progress.

Andhra Pradesh encompasses abundant water resources and Perennial Rivers flowing in the state and is appropriately called as River State. About 34 major state and minor rivers flow through the State. Of these 5 rivers namely Godavari, Krishna, Pennar, Vamshadhara and Nagavali, are important the
ultimate surface irrigation potential in AP is estimated as 88 lakh Hectares. However only 55 lakh hectares has been created so far under all the sources. The Govt. of AP under the leadership of Y.S.Rajashekara Reddy gave paramount importance to irrigation, to convert the developed under areas into irrigated cultivable areas. In this direction, for harnessing the river waters of the state "JALAYAGNAM" are initiated to reap early. About 59 major and medium projects have been taken up with an estimated cost of Rs. 65,000 crores to create new irrigation potential of 26 lakh hectares besides stabilizing 7.63 Lakh hectares of existing command area benefits. (83.10 Lakh acres) while providing drinking water to a population of 1.2 crore and generating power to the tune of 1700 MW. UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi released water from the left and right sluices of Brahamsagar reservoir on Wednesday September 27th 2006 Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Rajasekhara Reddy released water from the Alimineti Madhava Reddy canal (AMR-Srisailam Left Bank canal) to irrigate 50,000 acres in Nalgonda district on September 26, 2006 Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy on September 10th, 2006 released water from the Pedderu medium irrigation project for irrigating 13,334 acres near Ravipalem, about 85 km from Visakhapatnam. The Surampalem Reservoir Project in Gangavaram mandal of the East Godavari Agency area is dedicated to the State by Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy on September 11th 2006 Y.S. Rajasekhar Reddy Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhar Reddy dedicated the Tadipudi Lift Scheme on October 25th 2007, the Ali Sagar Lift Irrigation Scheme on November 4th 2007.
Sonia Gandhi on March 14th 2008 dedicated to the nation the first phase of the Thota Venkatachalam Pushkara lift irrigation scheme near Purushothapatnam village in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh. The first phase of India's biggest lift irrigation project, Devadula, became operational on March 14th 2008. Devadula heralds a new era in irrigation in Telangana. The first benefit of Jala Yagnam is reaped by Vijayanagaram District, completed the Jhanjhavathi Project before the targeted date this was pending for last 3 decades. From 1st January 2008, the rubber dam on the Janjhavathi is the first to be erected in Asia, said Werner Panhauser, manager, Hydro-Construct of Austria, which fitted the pre-fabricated dam. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on October 26th 2006 devoted a major part of his speech to Andhra Pradesh and lavished praise on Chief Minister Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy saying he was walking on the path of Sir Arthur Cotton.

The State of Andhra Pradesh is largely dependent on agriculture. About 70 percent of the total population depends on farming, and Andhra Pradesh is one of India's main rice-producing states. In recent years, Andhra Pradesh has attracted public attention on two fronts: (i) the boom in the Information Technology sector.

Suicides by Farmers—between 2000 and 2005, a total number of 1,835 farmers committed suicide in the state. Such a contrasting performance is an indication of the widening economic inequities in the State—and growing stress in agriculture. Acute water deficiency due to successive droughts is
adversely affecting agriculture in the State; on an average, in a cycle of five years, three are drought years of varied intensity. This has led to a decline in net irrigated area (by 14 percent between 2000–01 and 2004–05), net sown area (by 7 percent between 2000–01 and 2004–05), and production of the majority of crops (rice production has declined to below the level achieved ten years earlier).

The slump in agriculture and subsequent decline in agricultural employment, rural indebtedness, Unfavorable Agro-Climatic Conditions and Successive Droughts,

Slow Down in Agricultural Rural Non-Farm Growth, Poor composition of public expenditures, Over-regulation of domestic agricultural trade, Government interventions in labor, land, and credit markets, Inadequate infrastructure and services in rural areas, Inequitable allocation of water, Rural Poor's Little Access To Credit, Weak Natural Resources Management, Weak delivery of basic services in rural areas and Globalisation led to farmers' suicides. The extreme agrarian distress in Andhra Pradesh achieved national prominence when it resulted in the dramatic increase in suicides The YSR Government which came to power in the State was aware of the severity of the problems in the countryside and therefore made agricultural regeneration the most important priority.
The irrigation in Andhra Pradesh depends on water sources like wells, cannels, projects, tanks, bore wells. Over the period of time as the water belt has been receded most of the farmers have been depending on bore wells. As a result there is a necessity for power to irrigate their lands. The previous governments of Y.S. Rajasekhar Reddy have thought only one side of the advantages and disadvantages of the free power to farmers. But under the leadership of YSR the government has discussed from various angles and thought it would be better to give free power to irrigate their lands for better production. The decline in Agriculture led the farmers to commit to suicides as a result the government of Andhra Pradesh under the leadership of YSR took a decision to supply at free of cost to all farmers in Andhra Pradesh. Rejuvenation of Agriculture is gigantic task, and the State government is determined to do it, and succeed. What Dr. Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy initiated in the first minute of his tenure as Chief Minister of the State, raised new hopes and aspirations in the entire rural community of farmers, agricultural labor and the rural unemployed. The state government waived arrears of power bills relating to agricultural consumption to the tune of Rs.1192 crore. Free power to farmers was introduced as a radical measure, first ever after the formation of the State. The measure was heckled at, and criticized as impractical and overzealous. Now there are about 24 lakh agricultural pump sets are under power consumption in the state, out of which 95% comes under free-power category was in dire straits, with distress and frustration prevailing both in urban and rural areas, among the toiling masses and the educated youth.
activity immediately, the state government declared moratorium on repayment of loans taken by farmers from private moneylenders for a period of 2 years.

Ever since Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy took over as Chief Minister, the state was being given a new face-lift with a proactive trend in its pro-active, pro-poor and pro-farmer as well as investor-friendly and rural oriented policies. To put an end to this senseless suicide Health is an important indicator of economic development. Better health is critical human life. Improvement in masses health increases their productive capacity and leads to qualitative labour force which in turn results in economic prosperity of a country. So, investment on health plays a vital role in development. But the overall decline in the share of the health sector in the government budget, particularly after the initiation of structural adjustment Programme (SAP) has further worsened the scarcity of resources in the health sector. The result is that 65 per cent of the population is being forced to take treatment from private hospitals / dispensaries and medical care has emerged as the second most cause of rural indebtedness in India. Public health care system in rural areas in many States and regions is in shambles. Extreme inequalities and disparities persist both in terms of access to health care as well as health outcomes. We have a flourishing private sector, primarily because of a failing in the public sector. The growth of private hospitals and diagnostic centres was also encouraged by the Central and State Governments by offering tax exemptions and land at concessional rates, in return for provision of free treatment for the poor as a certain proportion of outpatients and inpatients.
The cost of health care in the private sector is much higher than the public sector. Public spending on health in India is amongst the lowest in the world (about 1% of GDP), whereas its proportion of private spending on health is one of the highest. Households in India spend 5-6% of their consumption expenditure on health. The cost of services in the private sector makes it unaffordable for the poor and the underprivileged. In this backdrop in order to relieve the poorest of the poor from the clutches of higher expenditure on health, the Government of Andhra Pradesh under the Chief Minister of Y.S.R., initiated a novel programme of Rajiv Arogyasri under Public Private Partnership.

Rajiv Arogyasri Health Insurance Scheme is being implemented in the State to assist poor families from catastrophic health expenditure. The scheme is a unique Public Private Partnership (PPP model) in the field of Health Insurance, tailor made to the health needs of poor patients and providing end-to-end cashless services for identified diseases through a network of service providers from Government and private sector. The scheme introduced on 01.04.2007 by YSR in three backward districts of Mahboobnagar, Anantapur and Srikakulam on pilot basis was subsequently extended to the entire State in phased manner to cover 20.4 million BPL families encompassing 70 million population spread across 23 districts of the State from 17.07.2008. The scheme started with coverage to 163 identified diseases in 6 systems was gradually extended to 942 procedures in 31 systems with addition of 612 procedures.
through Aarogyasri-I. The scheme was formulated in consultation with specialists in the field. The scheme is unique and unparalleled in the country, and having introduced for the first time in the State, The scheme is intended to benefit below poverty line (BPL) population in the family means the group of individuals as indicated in a white ration card (BPL card).

There is no separate enrollment procedure, the white ration card with photograph / age indicated in the white ration cards (BPL cards) will be taken as the proof for enrollment. The white card (BPL card) will be the Health Card.

The scheme provides coverage for meeting expenses of hospitalization and surgical procedures of beneficiary members up to Rs.1.50 lakhs per family per year subject to limits, in any of the network hospitals. The benefit on family will be on floater basis i.e. the total reimbursement of Rs.1.50 lakhs can be availed of individually or collectively by members of the family. The entire scheme is implemented through insurance firm. An MOU has been signed with the company Star Health an Allied Insurance Firm on 08.03.07.

Former President A P J Abdul Kalam today launched 'Rajiv Arogya Sri' programme, which integrates Emergency Management and Research Institute (EMRI) sponsored 108 services and Health Management and Research Institute (HMRI) sponsored 104 and the State Government's 'Arogya Sri' Health Insurance scheme, to provide medical treatment to all Below Poverty Line(BPL) families free of cost.
Speaking on the occasion, Dr Kalam, who is also the Chairman of Emeritus of EMRI, said the integration of three services would help the people to get medical treatment instantly without any human loss. 108 emergency services, launched under Public and Private Partnership (PPP) scheme by the Satyam Foundation and the State Government had saved many people since 2005.

Lauding the Chief Minister Y S Rajasekhara Reddy's government for taking up slew of measures to provide free medical and health facilities to the poor, he said there was a need to create National Emergency Management services on the lines of EMRI, with the assistance of Centre and State Governments, participation of corporate sector and decentralisation of EMRI services.

Since inception of the scheme faced many a challenges in its execution and implementation. As the Scheme is unique and first of its kind with no parallels either in the state or in the country, the scheme has to face the challenges on its own and find solutions for effective implementation of the Scheme. Apart from the unique and robust ICT solution many innovative implementation methods were incorporated to achieve best results in the scheme. The following are the few select achievements which needs mention under the scheme.

- Cashless treatment to the patient was envisaged.
- While Insurance scheme is addressing the needs of catastrophic health expenditure of poor patients, the health camp screening and treatment of common ailments coupled with Government health care setup is able to meet complete health needs of poor in the state.
The following facilitation services are provided to the beneficiary to guide, counsel, facilitate referral and ensure quality medical services under the scheme. 1. 24 Hour Toll free Call Centre Number 2. Aarogyamithra at PHCs and Government Hospitals 3. Aarogyamithra at network hospital 4. District level grievance cell 5. Central level grievance cell 6. Services of RAMCO (Rajiv Aarogyasri Medical Coordinator) 7. Health Camps 8. Health cards. Trust initiated beneficiary feedback system

The scheme generated indirect employment potential as the insurance company, network hospital and other stake holders have to employ number of people in different cadres such as Aarogyamithra, RAMCO, AAMCO, duty doctors, Para medical technicians, staff nurses etc.

A survey was conducted in this regard indicates that as many as 90 percent of general public welcomed the scheme and all beneficiaries expressed their satisfaction but a few of them wanted the development of infrastructure in Government hospitals.

In this connection, the researcher attended to a seminar organised by Jana Vijnana Vedika and the findings of the Seminar are as follows:

- The Rajiv Arogya Sri scheme was benefiting the corporate hospitals more rather than the poor and the needy.

- The health services in the Government sector faced neglect for the past 20 to 25 years and a major chunk of the health budget was catering to the corporate hospitals.
Housing is a basic need which is critical for determining the quality of human life. Housing is one of the top priorities for most people, regardless of their income levels. Poor sanitation and hygiene, inadequate ventilation and smoke inhalation are all associated aspects of poor housing that affect health and social development. According to the National Family Health Survey, concluded in 2000 by the Indian Government, only 19 percent of the rural population lives in pucca (Strong) houses, while the remaining live in kaccha (weak) and semi-pucca houses. The rural poor live in huts and government-supplied "houses" that are no more than 150-200 sq. ft. in floor area. Huts are usually constructed from mud blocks, roofs are thatched and the floors are covered with a mud and cow-dung paste that serves as a disinfectant. Houses supplied by the government are constructed with cement blocks or bricks, the floor is cement, and the roof is made of concrete or asbestos. Usually there is only one room in the house, but in some cases a half-wall may be built to separate out the kitchen. Hence, fulfilling the need for rural housing is an important task to be undertaken as part of the poverty alleviation efforts of the government.

All developed and developing countries have housing policies and many Government programmes were launched with the main objective of providing housing to all and also to ensure that different groups in the society are decently housed in a proper environment at a reasonable cost. However, the capacity of a government to develop housing varies depending upon many factors such as: a government's policies and planning strategies; ideological
frameworks; levels of socio-economic development; cultural and social trends; technological development and demographic patterns. Therefore each nation had adopted particular strategies of development. Some countries have chosen to encourage the private building industry, some adopted large-scale provision of public housing and a few have decided to pursue a comprehensive planning of the entire built environment.

In India, the Ministry of Rural Development has also assessed the annual incremental increase in demand for rural housing at around 9 lakh houses. This has been done on the basis of the housing shortage of 137 lakhs as per the 1991 census, the housing shortage of 148.33 lakh as per the 2001 census, and the 65 lakh houses that were constructed under IAY from 1991-2001. Therefore increase in housing shortage was around 76 lakhs during this period of ten years, amounting to an average increase of 7.6 lakh houses per year. Taking houses likely to be affected by natural calamities the figure of incremental shortage of 9 lakh houses per year has been adopted by the Ministry of Rural Development.

The earliest housing programme taken up by the Government of India was for rehabilitation of refugees immediately after the partition of the country. A formal village housing scheme was later launched in 1957 as part of the Community Development movement. Much later, the programme was enlarged and construction of houses was taken up as a major activity under the National Rural Employment Programme (NREP), which began in 1980 and later under
the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) taken up in 1983. In 1985-86, Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) was launched as a sub-scheme of RLEGP and from April 1989, it became a sub-scheme of the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY). On January 1st, 1996, IAY was finally delinked from JRY and made an independent scheme. IAY is a cash subsidy based programme, under which assistance is provided to rural BPL families for constructing dwelling units on their own using their own design and technology. Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) is part of the comprehensive Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana introduced during the current year to achieve the objective of sustainable human development at the village level. The PMGY envisages allocation of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to the States and UTs for providing /improving the outlay of Basic Minimum Services including "Rural Shelter" in the rural areas. The Credit-cum-Subsidy Scheme for Rural Housing has been launched with effect from 1st April, 1999. The Scheme targets rural families having annual income upto Rs. 32,000.

With a view to encourage innovative, cost effective and environment-friendly solutions in building/housing sectors in rural areas, Innovative Stream for Rural Housing and Habitat Development Scheme has been launched with effect from 1-4-1999. For improving the living conditions of the fishermen in the State, the State Government introduced Fishermen Housing Programme. Weavers Housing Programme (State Sponsored) Scheme was initiated for provision of houses and work sheds for weavers aim to provide a suitable work place to the weavers with a view to achieving higher returns for
weavers in both urban and rural areas. Beedi Workers Housing Programme scheme was providing housing to Beedi workers to improve the living conditions of the Beedi workers employed in the Beedi industry.

However, despite the allocation of considerable funds by central and state governments, the housing program for the poor is failing for a number of reasons. The plan is ill-conceived, focusing on offering shelter as opposed to improving living conditions, and executed without sufficient thought about many inter-related considerations. In India, the housing shortage has increased considerably since 1985. The housing problem could not be solved substantially. They have not improved the human settlement effectively. The interventions of the Government by providing housing had not kept pace with the demand resulting in supply/demand imbalance. The absence of adequate surpluses in the rural economy for investment in the housing programme has not helped the matters much. The imbalance has become more acute because Government is the only agency in this field.

With a view to resolve this issue, Government of Andhra Pradesh under of leadership of Y.S.Rajasekhara Reddy has mounted a major initiative, named Integrated Novel Development in Rural areas and Model Municipal Areas (INDIRAMMA) in 2006-07.

The objective of this programme is to saturate the basic needs in respect of the identified activities in all the Villages and Towns over a period of three years in an integrated manner. INDIRAMMA is the flagship programme of Government of Andhra Pradesh to deliver a package of 9 services like housing, pensions, drinking water, roads, elementary Education, Electricity, ICDS, Health and Sanitation to the rural and urban poor.
The Phase I of INDIRAMMA programme was started in 2006 (the actual construction has begun only by December 2006) in 8,026 Gram Panchayats and 1,317 municipal wards. 8,037 Gram Panchayat and 1,487 Municipal wards have been taken up for coverage under the Phase II programme. Under the Phase II programme, sanction has been given for 22.92 lakh houses at a total cost of Rs. 6418 crores in rural areas and 2.79 lakh houses have been sanctioned in the urban areas with a project cost of Rs. 1,117.31 crores. Till 23rd Jan. 2009, 6.97 lakh houses have been completed. The last phase of wards is being covered under the Phase III programme. The identification process has been completed. The improvements made under this phase are – sanction of the house at the doorstep of the beneficiary by completing the entire documentation process in the village itself. The programme has cut down the delays in sanction and the related ills. Till 2nd Jan. 2009, 20.61 lakh beneficiaries are found eligible.

A field survey in this regard revealed that almost all the respondents expressed their satisfaction with the programme but they found certain problems, such as scarcity of bricks and other building material, heavy cost of labour, power cuts, non-availability of supervising engineers, intervention of middle men, corruption, improper selection of beneficiaries etc.
SUGGESTIONS

Based on the above study, the suggestions made are as follows:-

➢ The loop holes like payment of heavy advances to the contractors and corruption, if any, may be unearthed and the steps may be taken to complete the projects early to fulfill the dream of YSR.

➢ Free power may be restricted to the farmers who have below five acres of land.

➢ The infrastructure facilities in Government hospitals may be increased.

➢ The selection of the private hospitals may be done carefully and the errant hospitals may be strictly punished by conducting periodical and surprise inspections.

➢ The problems in Indiramma scheme such as scarcity of bricks and other building material, involvement of middle men, improper selection of beneficiaries, political interference, corruption etc may be properly studied and plugged.
CONCLUSION

Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy was adjudged as the best Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, according to a survey conducted in 2008 by Nelson MARG and was ahead of all the others in the race. His sudden demise has had a devastating effect on the State's political landscape, which now looks barren. A consummate politician, the doctör in him could gauge the people's pulse as much as the leader in him could empathise with the poor and their problems. He loved to reach out the masses, listen to their grievances and try to resolve them. He never lost an election. He proved himself as the undisputed leader of the Party. He was “the friend of farmers” - a description which we cannot make to any Chief Minister of any State. Agriculture and farmers became dearer to the politicians from Kashmir to Kanyakumari only because of YSR. The schemes of YSR were acknowledged through out length and breadth of the State as well as the Country. The programmes of Y.S.R. should be continued after plugging the loopholes, if any. Although all the schemes may run, the personal touch that YSR gave them will be missing now. The people will also miss his white dhoti and shirt, his genial smile, brevity of speech, physical fitness and discipline.