

APPENDIX - II

Besides important policies and programmes of Socio-economic justice, Karunanidhi introduced other policies which had only an indirect bearing on Socio-economic justice. These are mentioned briefly.



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### Manu Nidhi Scheme :

Karunanidhi, as a true democrat and a federalist, firmly believed in decentralising powers. He proved himself as pioneer in a decentralising reform which gave special powers to District Collectors in giving financial sanction. Secondly his most important administrative reform scheme was the officers were entrusted to go to public for redressing people's grievances. This was a novel administrative trial known as Manunidhi scheme, which was unique to Tamils. As he was a mass leader, he was aware that the public needed no longer go in frustration in search of officials from pillar to post in the Secretariat to represent their problems, which often led to a waste of time and money. "Under Manunidhi scheme the officials had been directed and entrusted with the task of seeking out aggrieved people to ascertain their problems and adopt remedial measures on the spot." About 2,600 villages were personally interviewed by officials under the novel man contracts programme in a month. At frequent intervals, the officials took quick head of people's complaints and

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legitimate wrongs and hardships, and provided equals quick remedies, particularly in rural areas. This scheme was named after the great and just chola king Manu "who did not hesitate to run his chariot over his own son as the latter's reckless driving had killed a calf. The bereaved cow had gone to the king's place and rung the bell of justice to draw the king's attention to her irreparable loss at the hands of his son." It was to his special credit that Karunanidhi did not hesitate to meet people who comes to see him with representations either at Traveller's bungalows, or at Rest houses, or of District villages or at Railway stations etc. Their representations were instantly solved by quick decision and passed on to his Personnel Assistant for expeditious action.

One-Man Courts :

In the modern political conditions, it is very hard for a sincere and honest man to enter into politics. However clean a man in public life may be, yet he cannot escape from the mudslinging and character-assassination

either by his opponents or by party rival politicians, or by prejudiced public without proper political knowledge. The educated class in India are therefore afraid of entering politics. "Analyse for corruption jobbery and bribery, no leader of mother politics escaped from the monster corruption and bribery." The popularity of a sincere leader gradually comes down because of the slanders and libels of yellow journals.

The filthy words of mudslinger's do not attract any legal action, as they do it in such a way as to escape from the clutches of law and at the same time, they will not fail to earn cheap popularity.

The affected politicians become helpless in a court of law, and the only alternative is to retort through the press. A leader therefore essentially needs his press to defend himself and a leader without his own press is like a bird without wings. This does not mean that politicians are saints who had renounced normal life for public service. The concept of criticism in democracy must be constructive but not destructive.

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Karunanidhi established a common agency of "One Man Commission" which invited allegations against public workers/MLA's/Ministers including the Chief Minister, from those who could take responsibility for making allegations.

Karunanidhi brought a legislation - "the Tamil Nadu Public Men (Criminal Misconduct) Bill - and piloted it himself through the State Legislature. The legislation provides for a Commissioner, specially appointed for this purpose, to enquire into allegations against the Chief Minister; or any other Minister, MLA or MLC, present or past. An Additional Commissioner would enquire into complaints against other public men. The investigation "would follow a 'prima facie' finding, with the complainant and the public men concerned having an opportunity to be heard and to produce the relevant documents. If found guilty, the penal provisions would include conviction with imprisonment upto 7 years, and a fine. In cases where the complaint is found to be frivolous, false or vexatious, the complainant is liable to payment of damages by way of compensation, and to the institution of criminal

proceedings against him. Punishment in this case is imprisonment for a term which may extend to 3 years and a fine." Tamil Nadu was the only Indian State where such a legislation was enacted.

With all his self-respect as Chief Minister of the State, he questioned "If the Centre were to appoint such an enquiry commission against a State Minister/Ministry who are elected by the popular votes of the people, who will institute an enquiry commission against Central Ministers/Ministry? Are the State Ministries subordinate to Delhi? or otherwise it might be interpreted by public as 'an attempt by Delhi to topple the State Minister....'"

#### Hoarded Money:

At all levels as a part of an attempt to fight corruption, the Karunanidhi Government launched an offensive against 'Black money and Red money'. An official resolution seeking powers for the State government to punish hoarders of black money and

profiteers was adopted unanimously by the Legislative Assembly. This cannot ~~be~~ but be an expression of the entire legislature's absolute confidence in the Ministry in its earnest endeavour to eliminate corrupt practices.

Referring to the financing of the Communist Party of India by a foreign country, Karunanidhi had also emphasised in the Legislature the ruinous effect on the Indian economy of the paralled circulation of what he calls 'red money'.

Constitution :

He had always discouraged and resisted all efforts, from whatever quarter, to corrupt democratic practices. "When in July 1969 EMS Nambudripad and A.K.Gopalan made a statement that the aim of the Marxists(CPM) was to capture power by making the fullest use of the constitutional machinery and then to break the constitution from within..." Karunanidhi promptly deplored the move to undermine the constitution and made it clear that the

D.M.K. would not countenance or support any such attempt.

As Nambudripad was then Chief Minister of Kerala, Karunanidhi stated: "If the government itself is a party to encourage violence it will lead only to anarchy. Giving governmental support to violent methods is akin to giving a boon to Bhasmasura. It may be the policy of Communists to wreck and break the Constitution, but our aim is to mend the Constitution."

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