APPENDICES
Appendix - I

Statement on the Report of Enquiry by Shri K.K. Ramankutty, Member, Board of Revenue on Acquisition of Land for the Agricultural University

in the response to the demand made by several members of the House, both from the opposition benches as well as from the side of the ruling parties, I am placing on the table of the House the report of enquiry by Shri K.K. Ramankutty, Member, Board of Revenue into the allegations about the land acquisition for the Agricultural University at Mannuthy. While doing so, I have to state that Government is unable to accept the findings in the Report. Several of the important conclusions of the Report are not founded on facts, but rather upon inferences and speculations which have no relation to reality. These cannot obviously be allowed to go unchallenged. Government have therefore decided to place before the House the full facts of the case, as they appear from the records in their possession and the reports of their officers.

2. The report of the Indian University Education Commission of 1948-49, frequently referred to as the Radhakrishnan Education Commission Report recommended the establishment of Rural Universities. The existence today of several Agricultural Universities in India can be traced to this recommendation. In 1956, the Government of Kerala appointed a Sub Committee to study the possibility of establishing a Rural University in the State and to submit proposals for the same. The Sub Committee submitted a brief report on 8-9-1956 and indicated thousand acres as the size for a Central Campus. On 15-5-1961, Government constituted a Working Group to
examine the question of organizing a Rural University in Kerala. This Group recommended the setting up of a new Campus in an area of 2000 to 2500 acres in any suitable location. The Group suggested that about 1,000 acres of this extent should be planted with rubber and pepper, since this would enable the University to conduct research on these areas and also provide a steady annual income of about Rs.10 lakhs to the University. In 1963 Government dropped the proposal for the establishment of an Agricultural University. However, in 1967, the idea was revised and on 15-11-1967, Dr. C.K.N. Nair was appointed as Special Officer for the Agricultural University. He submitted his report on 11-11-1968. He endorsed the idea of the 1961 Working Group that the Central Campus should have an area of 2000 to 2500 acres, as also that thousand acres of this land should be planted with rubber and pepper to ensure a steady income for the University. Dr. Nair recommended a Central Campus area of 1500 to 2000 acres in order to enable a proper residential colony and community life as also an additional area of 2000 acres of Government Forest land near the Central Campus for the raising of a Plantation.

3. On 11-2-1970, the Government of Kerala decided to establish an Agricultural University at Mannuthy Dr. N.S. Money, Vice Principal of the Agricultural College, Vellayani was appointed as Special Officer. He was directed by Government to make a recommendation on sites to be acquired for the University. In April 1970, the District Collector, Trichur was addressed by Government to render all assistance to Dr. Money for the selection of suitable land for acquisition. Government had pointed out to the Collector that two or three alternate places may have to be prepared before a final decision is taken by the Government, considering aspects like land value, number of
families which may have to be evicted etc. After due consultation with Revenue Officials, the Special Officer recommended that about thousand acres of land in the Vellanikara Estate may be acquired for the Agricultural University. In making this recommendation he reported that the Estate lies about a mile away from the central gate of the Mannuthy College, is on the National Highway and has 800 acres of fully grown rubber under tapping. The area, it was point out, can be irrigated by the Peechi canal and since full development of University might take 10 to 15 years, even though ultimately some rubber would have to be cleared, the University will get a steady annual income from rubber right from the beginning. Government in G.O MS.225/70/Agri. dated 29-5-1970 ordered the acquisition of this Estate. Together with about 450 acres of the existing Veterinary College Campus and 300 acres from neighbouring reserve forests, the total campus area was determined as 1750 acres to begin with. Since it was considered that more land would have to be acquired later, notification under the Land Acquisition Act was issued declaring the area in the Village of Mulayam., Kozhukulli, Vellanikara and Panancheri as Project areas under the Land Acquisition Act to prevent speculative rise in land value and to freeze prices at current levels.

4. On 31-8-1970, a daily newspaper published a report alleging that some political leaders had personal interest in selecting the Vellanikara Estate for acquisition and that there was political pressure in arriving at this decision and that 25 lakhs of rupees had changed hands which amount was utilized by some political parties for election purposes.
5. In G.O. Rt. 3276/70/Agri.dated 28-12-1970, Government appointed Shri K.K. Ramankutty, Member Board of Revenue to enquire into the whole matter. The terms of reference of the enquiry as amended by G.O. Rt. 80/71/agri. dated 13-1-1971 were as follows:

1. Is the site specified in G.O. MS. 225/70/Agri. dated 29-5-1970 suitable for acquisition for the University considering all aspects including cost of acquisition?

2. Is there any other alternate site fit for acquisition for the University which will be more suitable or equally suitable considering all aspects including cost of acquisition?

3. Has selection of the site specified in G.O. MS, 225/70/Agri. dated 29-5-1970 been motivated by extraneous considerations?

6. Shri Ramankutty submitted his report to Government on 10-2-1971. He has come to the following conclusions:

(a) It is not correct to say that an Agricultural University should have at least 1500 to 2000 acres in its possession.

(b) The Revenue Officials have not been consulted in the site selection and the proposals have been rushed through in the Secretariat.

(c) There was no need to set about the acquisition before enactment of the necessary legislation.

(d) The cost of acquisition as per the Special Officer’s proposal would be about Rs.2 crores and since at least 500 acres out of
this area will have to be cleared for building purposes etc. the acquisition is wasteful. Further 500 families who are dependent on this estate for livelihood will be thrown out of employment.

(e) The lands held by the Veterinary College, Mannuthy together with a contiguous extent of 675.03 acres from Sirkar Poramboke 89.83 acres of patta land lying contiguous to Sy.No.147 and 15 more acres of patta land would give a compact block of 1183.73 acres with frontage to the National Highway. The cost of acquisition will be about Rs.14.03 lakhs. Some persons will have to be evicted from Sy.No.147 and Rs.75,000 may have to be paid as compensation to them at the rate of Rs.500 per acre. If Government consider that more land is necessary 165.39 acres of wet land also may be acquired raising the total campus area to 1349.12 acres. It may also be possible to get 500 to 600 acres within easy reach of the College campus as also Ayyampallikunnu Fodder Farm. 94.44 acres in extent. The cost of acquisition of 165.39 acres will be about Rs.16.5 lakhs. Thus, the total cost of acquisition to get a compact block of 1349.12 acres which will be the cost of acquisition, if the Special Officers proposal is accepted.

(f) The selection of the Vellanikara estate for acquisition has been a political decision to subserve the purposes of the C.P.I.

(g) The Special Officer showed haste “to take advance possession of the land paying Rs.50 lakhs as advance compensation”
The Enquiry officer has made a number of other statements in his report which caste aspersions on persons in public life as also officials.

7. The Agricultural Universities in India are patterned on the American Land Grant colleges and while the farm area held by the Universities ranges from 1,250 acres in Orissa to 16,000 acres in U.P., it is clear that Agricultural Universities in India hold a sufficient extent of farm area. The following observations from the Joint Indo-American Study Team Report Published in April 1970, by the ICAR (p 30) is relevant. “Even thousand acres of cultivated area would be below the minimum area required for research and student training at a first rate Agricultural University. The practical training of the undergraduate students in the College of Agriculture should consist of participation in the actual farm operation rather than confining them to a small plot of land assigned to their care which does little to teach Modern Agricultural Science or practice”.

8. As has been mentioned earlier, the 1956 sub Committee arrived at a Campus size of thousand acres, the 1961 Working Group arrived at a campus size of 2500 acres and Dr. C.K.N. Nair in his exhaustive report arrived at a campus size of 2000 acres. Dr. Nair, in addition, suggested that Government should hand over 2000 additional acres to the University for raising a plantation. Even though it is not part of the Enquiry Officer’s terms of reference, these facts are mentioned only to show that the finding that an Agricultural University does not require 1500 to 2000 acres cannot stand scrutiny.
9. The Enquiry Officer’s findings that Revenue Officials have not been consulted in the site selection, is also not correct. In a noted submitted by the Special Officer on 6-5-1970, it has been made clear that he held discussions with the District Collector and other officials and that his recommendations are based, also taking into consideration their views. The site plans were prepared by the Revenue officials.

10. In August 1970, the Agricultural production commissioner inspected the site proposed by the Special Officer. At that time the Collector had no criticism to offer about the site selected. Till the appearance of criticism in a daily newspaper on 31-8-1970, the Collector did not make any report to Government expressing second thoughts about the site selected. On 30-9-1970, the collector reported to Government estimating the total cost of acquisition of the Vallanikara Estate as Rs. 70 lakhs which includes a sum of Rs.29 lakhs as compensation for improvements. It has to be noted that as against the Enquiry Officer’s estimate of Rs. 2 crores as land acquisition value for the Vellanikara Estate, the Collector himself estimates only Rs.70 lakhs as the land acquisition cost. In his letter dated 30-9-1970, the Collector stated that while establishing the University after acquisition, a large part of the tree grown may be removed and pointed out that it is for consideration whether this acquisition would not be wasteful.

11. On 23-10-1970, the Additional Secretary visited the Vellanikara Estate and adjacent areas and suggested to the Collector that he might indicate suitable alternate land if that would be cheaper. The Collector made alternate proposals on 31-12-1970 proposing a total
extent of 540.4 acres for acquisition out of which 276 acres are part of the Vellanikara estate and are covered by the Special Officer’s proposal. The remaining area proposed by him are 145 acres of new rubber plantation and 85.40 acres of wet lands and 33.02 acres of dry lands with improvements. In his report dated 31-12-1970 to Government the Collector estimated the land acquisition cost as per the special officers proposals at Rs.70 lakhs and stated that the old rubber trees in the Estate if cut and sold would fetch a value of 9 1/2 lakhs and that buildings etc., would fetch a price of Rs.50,000 the net cost of acquisition thus being Rs.60 lakhs which works out to Rs. 6000 per acre. In his alternate proposal 540.42 acres the estimated cost of acquisition would be Rs.38.82 lakhs i.e., about Rs.6500 per acre. The Collector has assumed that all rubber trees now under tapping in this Estate would be cut and removed at one stretch. These will not be case because full development of the University will take 10 to 15 years and in the meantime, there will be income from the rubber estate. Again, all along, it has been the thinking that the University should own it own plantation, not only for study and research, but also as a source of income. The Enquiry Officers estimate that the present acquisition would cost of Rs. 2 crores is grossly exaggerated going by the Collector’s estimate. In the proposals given by the Enquiry Officer himself acquisition cost would be Rs.30.5 lakhs for an area of 270 acres. The Enquiry officer has assumed that 675.03 acres in Sy. No.147 can be easily obtained even though there are encroachments. It may be noted that 173.86 acres in Sy. No.147 have been assigned to 159 persons. The remaining area is in the possession of 200 persons by way of encroachment. In other words, in Sy. No. 147 no vacant lands are
available unless Government are willing to evict about 359 persons. As a matter of policy, Government have decided that no large-scale eviction should occur in the name of the Agricultural University and that was why in April 1970, the Collector was requested to propose possible sites taking into consideration the question of eviction also. As is well-known, large scale evictions in Kerala will lead to a number of problems and can hold up the establishment of the University. The assumption that assignees and encroachers can be paid off at the rate of Rs.500 per acre is purely ad hoc and even granting that evictions can be carried out smoothly, compensation on that account is likely to be much higher.

12. In assessing the value of the alternative land suggested by him for the Agricultural University, Shri Ramankutty has calculated the value of land and improvements at Rs.500 per acre for the 150 acres of land already assigned to more than 150 persons under the Land Assignment Rules. After the assignment of Government land to individuals the same can be taken over only by acquisition on payment of market value. Shri Ramankutty has valued the adjacent registered land at Rs.8000 per acre. The compensation payable for the alternative lands suggested by him is thus under assessed by about Rs.12,00,000.

13. Shri Ramankutty assumes that the owners and occupiers of the land suggested by him have no objection to acquisition if they can get adequate compensation. This assumption stands disproved by the memoranda received by Government protesting against any proposal for acquisition of the lands owned or occupied by them.
14. Shri Ramankutty’s report suggests that 500 families who are dependent on the Vellanikara Estate for their daily bread will be thrown into the streets. This is wrong. There are now only 220 workmen in the Estate and these workmen can be retained in their work in the Estate by the University.

15. It is not true that the yielding trees or at least 500 acres of the Estate will have to be clearfelled for conversion as building sites or for raising experimental farm for money crops. The idea is to maintain 500 acres of the Estate as a Rubber Plantation for study and research. The remaining area will be cleared for conversion into experimental farms only in the course of the next 10 to 15 years.

16. On the question of suitability of the land suggested by him for agricultural purposes Shri Ramankutty has not entered any considered finding. The report is silent on the cost of leveling and development of land, the cost of conversion of the land into revenue yielding plantations, the cost providing irrigation facilities the cost of laying out roads and putting up fences etc. So far as the Vellanikara Estate is concerned it is a patch of level land properly fenced with roads laid out and ample existing facilities for irrigation. the lands suggested by Shri Ramankutty are hilly tract, large portions of which are rockbound and unfit for cultivation.

17. Steps for acquisition were taken soon after the Government decided on the establishment of the Agricultural University and it is hard to understand the logic that acquisition should have awaited the enactment of the necessary legislation for the University at a time
when the ICAR had asked the State Government to initiate Campus planning without delay. The Enquiry officer has stated that the special officers proposals had an unusually speedy passage in the Secretariat. The Special Officer was working in the Secretariat reporting directly to the Agricultural Production Commissioner. His proposals were discussed with him, by the Agricultural Production Commissioner and the Additional Secretary (Agriculture), and in the circumstances routine delay was avoided.

18. The Enquiry Officer himself has found that the land proposed by the special officer is suitable for the location of the University even though he characterizes its selection as “mid-summer madness” since yielding trees would have to be destroyed all at ne is wrong, since the University would maintain the plantation as such for quite some time to come. There is no question of rendering persons employed in the estate jobless in the circumstance.

19. The Enquiry Officer has, purely going by rumour and conjecture, characterized the site selection as a political decision to subserve the interests of a particular political party. He refers to “the report current in Trichur” about Mrs. Kochuvareed, the owner of the Estate as having promised a bribe of Rs.25 lakhs to the C.P.I. for getting this land acquired by Government. The sole piece of evidence that Shri Ramankutty adduces for his acceptance of this bazaar story as truth is the appearance of two articles in ‘Kerala Sabdom’, a weekly published from Trivandrum, which, according to him is a mouth-piece of the C.P.I. but which has in fact no connection with the C.P.I. Upon such evidence he concludes that political pressure was brought upon
Mr. Money to make his recommendation in favour of acquisition of the Thattil Estate. All these are conclusions which have no relation to truth.

20. The Enquiry Officer’s aspersions on the Chief Secretary’s conduct are equally unwarranted. The Chief Secretary has categorically and emphatically denied that he tried to threaten Shri Ramankutty or hold out inducement to him by offering the Vice Chancellorship of the proposed University to make out his report in a particular way. All that the Chief Secretary did was to point out to him the impropriety of his conduct in speaking out to pressmen his conclusions with regard to the matter under enquiry, even while the enquiry was going on and he had not submitted his report. As for the inducement alleged to have been held out to Shri K.K. Ramankutty, the Chief Secretary only ascertained his willingness to take up the post of the Vice-Chancellor of the Agricultural University just as he (the Chief Secretary) sounded two other senior officers for the post.

21. It may be pointed out that not a cent of land has been taken possession or not any compensation paid for any interest to any person.

22. These are the true facts of the case. However, since, the Enquiry Officer Shri Ramankutty has submitted a report which contains grave charges against one of the Ruling Parties and casts severe aspersions on the conduct of senior officers of Government the Government think it necessary to subject the whole question to an enquiry under the Commission of Enquiries Act by a Judge of the High Court of Kerala. The Acting Chief Justice has been kind enough to
spare the services of Shri M.U. Issac, Judge of the Kerala High Court to conduct the enquiry.

23. Orders have been issued accordingly.

C. ACHUTHA MENON
Chief Minister

Trivandrum
1st April 1971

Mr. Speaker: Order, Order. The House will now adjourn and meet again at 8 am. tomorrow.

The assembly adjourned at 1.20 pm. to meet again at 8. am on Friday, April 2nd, 1971.
APPENDIX – II

CABINETS UNDER C. ACHUTHA MENON 1969

C. ACHUTHA MENON (C.P.I) Chief Minister

P. RAVINDRAN (C.P.I) Industries and Labour

K.T. JACOB (C.P.I) Revenue

N.K. SHESHAN (P.S.P) Finance

O.K. KOREN (Congress) Harijan Welfare

C.H. MOHAMMED KOYA Home and Education

(Muslim League)

K. AVUKKADARKUTTY NAHA Local Administrations

(Muslim League)

K.M. GEORGE (Kerala Congress) Transport and Health
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<td>C. ACHUTHA MENON (C.P.I)</td>
<td>Chief Minister</td>
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<td>M.N. GOVINDAN NAIR (C.P.I.)</td>
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<td>T.K. DIVAKARAN (R.S.P)</td>
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<td>M.K. BALAKRISHNAN (P.S.P)</td>
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APPENDIX – III

From the writings of Achutha Menon

SCIENCE AND SOCIAL CHANGE

It is indeed a privilege to have been asked to preside over the inauguration of Sree Chitra Tirunal Medical Centre in Cardiology and Neurology – a national research and development institution of Science and technology. I am particularly pleased that this centre of excellence is being inaugurated today by one of the most eminent sons of India. Sree P.N. Haksar whose dynamism, drive, erudition and administrative skill are too well-known. This Institution, like many others, owes its speedy development and expansion largely to the sympathetic interest and understanding Sree Haksar has shown without which the Centre could not have weathered the many man-made crisis through which it had passed.

Although scientific research has been a part of the national planning process from the very inception of Indian economic planning the extent of Kerala’s scientific and technological effort has been rather grievously limited.
Whether in terms of research and development programme formulation or resource allocation, planning in Kerala had so far been confined to few research departments in universities. This was extremely inadequate. The Five Year Plan had set the task, at the national level, of planning the promotion of science and technology with the basic objective of self reliance in the crucial sectors of the economy such as agriculture contributing to meet the basic needs of our people such as food, housing, health and education.

We aim at a use-oriented science and technology plan which could automatically forge a healthy link with the generators and users of science and technology. Centres of excellence in relevant complementary fields whether state or national, have to be brought together so that research and development work can be really productive. We are determined to ensure that motivated scientists of merit and achievements are associated at each stage of the total innovation chain with selective provision of investments needed for attaining critical levels of scientific and technical competence in meeting well-defined long-term goals. This is best sought to be done as a national programme in
which the capabilities of more than one institution are brought together and closely welded into an integrated effort.

Our efforts so far at technological development have been greatly influenced by the thinking of developed Western countries instead of being on objective considerations of what would be best for our interests. Nonetheless the fact remains that over the last quarter of a century, we have built up a base of science, technology, manufacturing industry and engineering education of some strength and maturity. We have a sufficiently broad spectrum of educated man-power, a number of research and development institutions, fairly widespread network of infrastructure services and an industrial base that gives us the power of manufacturing indigenously much of our requirements. All this makes possible a course of further development through a proper, harmonious use of technology, through an intelligent approach to learning from other’s knowledge and experience, and using our own technological maturity to embark on a programme of action most suited to our needs. I am pleased to note that Dr. Valiathan and his highly motivated team has started
thinking on those lines. The galaxy of science talent he has assembled for this afternoon’s Seminar is proof positive that they mean business.

May I use this opportunity to assure all those interested in this great adventure of making India self-reliant that the Government of Kerala will do everything possible to help their dreams come true. Let Sree Chitra Tirunal Medical Centre be developed as a truly national institution in every sense of the term. The men of science on its staff are already drawn from all parts of India. Even in the midst of great financial strains, we pay them on par with similar national institutions to ensure inter-institutional mobility for the scientific community. Above all it is the policy of the Government to endow these centres of excellence with full autonomy so that Government control on their day-to-day administration through bureaucracy is kept at a healthy minimum. Our Government firmly believes that the test of excellence is the real search for excellence and we welcome to these institution all men of knowledge of Indian origin wherever they are. I would like to appeal to you, the eminent scientists, who are assembled here to help us to build this as an
institution or national achievement and pride. In this great endeavour. I am sure the Government of India through its Department of Science and Technology would come forward to recognize the Sree Chitra Tirunal Medical Centre as a National Centre for bio-medical development and participate in its funding and management.

The situation in India not exactly congenial to rapid development and social change. Loyalties of large groups of our people are very often with feudal associations and symbols. Economic, administrative and even political decisions cannot be taken always on rational grounds. Consequently the process of administration is hampered at every stage by outmoded sociological considerations and habits of thought which die hard in a conventional society.

Administration in any modern concept of the term is not administration of rules only but administration of things. When the rate and pace of growth are fast, there is a built-in obsolescence in every segment or level of life. Groups, individuals and a lot of machinery get out of date and thus render
themselves irrelevant to growth in any positive sense. Science and even administrators who have not political interest are by definition interested in freedom. They are concerned for the freedom of their own research and decision-making rights. Academicians cherish the privilege of unhampered, investigation and teaching while the administrator should be currently informed of the inner spirit of the developing science and the dialectical process of growth implicit in a dying order.

In that sense we should think of science as the intellectual force that challenges traditional authority and a lot of conventional ideas that goes around as gospel truth. We should not forget that the inner spirit of science is one of freedom and the process of scientific enquiry requires freedom. Therefore, political influence on science and administration must be in the direction of the enlargement of freedom of the many even when it involves limitation or curtailment of freedom of the privileged few.

In an ideal sense it should be so. But that is like saying that since the spirit of morality and religion is one of love, it must always be in the direction
of charity and peace! Historical experience anyhow suggests that there is a fallacy in this statement. Once religion or ideology committed to these ideals are organized into mammoth associations of human beings they do not always conform to their ideals. So scientists and administrators seem to be able to accommodate themselves to the status quo and become apologists of the theory which provide the rationale of such status quo. It is on record in our society and abroad that scientists who are highly sophisticated in their disciplines are quite capable of supporting inhumanity and thus become anti-people.

Scientists in a free democratic society have to be clearly committed to the cause of freedom and therefore, the duty is cast on them to increase the spirit of independence and open criticism within the framework of the available free institutions. But a serious danger has to be guarded against. Wherever science tries to become a unified and authoritative system of thought guiding all types of actions it is likely to degenerate into a rationalization of a will to power rather than a valid intellectual discipline.
In a country like ours we have yet to establish the essentials of human freedom, destroying in its pursuit the iron grip of caste hierarchy and the almost trial value systems engendered by it, before science can become a powerful creative force in society. Science in India can have a chance to flourish and develop only after a deep-rooted cultural revolution in both intellectual and social affairs is ushered in by those politicians who are uncompromisingly committed to social change. It should be made clear that science alone, without the intellectual checks and balances, provided by the other social disciplines, will not fortify a political order against those temptations to use power to force man to be unfree. Though science has given making greater certainty of knowledge, it has gained that certainty by renouncing concern for the purpose that must remain at the heart of politics and administration – both in their practice and in theory. The maintenance of privileges of private property or defence of the prerogative of several segments of society in the present-day sociological context will be one of the most fundamental threats to freedom.
It will be ridiculous to think that the natural sciences can extend their domain over forms of learning. Those who are trained in natural sciences or social sciences or even other cultural pursuits will have the social responsibility to familiarise themselves with what happens in the other branches of science than his own so that one increases one’s usefulness and respect for team-work which alone can make him a useful instrument of social change. The scientist’s or administrator’s freedom in politics and the politician’s ability to control technology and science in a responsible manner depend on the assumption that modern science and a healthy attitude to science can influence our political ends as well as our administrative and scientific means.

Science has a profound influence on the way we all think about ends and means and the values and the social system will have to accommodate themselves to that fact. In politics ends and values are those purposes and policy judgments on the basis of which politicians in a free democratic system have to be responsible to the electorate and obviously, science, more so
because a scientific attitude has a profound effect on the ways in which a political and administrative system makes its most important choices.

Modern administration therefore has to be a function of an inter-action between an informed politician and a trained administrator. To the extent the former lacks the necessary information and the latter is out of date and irrelevant and lacks the necessary training, the minimum basis for an efficient administration cannot be assured. Science has to supply much of the great body of factual knowledge that we must agree on. if our arguments about choices open to us are to be conducted on some rational and orderly basis. Such an arrangement will, of course, sweep away superstitions that paralyse administrative and political responsibility, it will open up new opportunities and new possibilities for co-operation and thus make the concept of a public interest more meaningful through at the same time more complicated and difficult to define. It is impossible, therefore, to expect either involved in the major issues that confront a modern Government.
Developing science should constantly inform a changing administration. The scientific community, the administrators and the politicians need to develop the clearest possible idea of the working rules that govern their relationships. If Science is involved in policy, then we must expect that level of science to be built up in our midst which can solve our problems. The politicians and the administrators must train themselves to base their decisions on the findings of science. The sooner we realize that science has condemned this generation to live a world of rapid social change, and that we may have to get used to a system that does not operate according to absolute rules of fixed procedures, the better for all of us. We should adjust ourselves to meet new conditions in a world that we do not expect to become perfect in the predictable future. Perhaps a nation can be free only if it is not in too great a hurry to become perfect. If only we can induce our scientists to play an active role in Government and our administrators and politicians to take a sympathetic interest in science, can we enlarge our range of positive freedom and renew our confidence in the welfare of mankind.
The Administrative system in India is not only out of date but also out of tune with the needs and aspirations of the people. If it does not put up a continuous struggle to regain its links with the growing society and its motive force, this system cannot perform its appointed task and thus command any degree of prestige among the people.

Wanted in India is a relevant social philosophy. There is no explicit doctrine or theory behind Indian development strategy today. Time was when India could borrow ideas on economic matters from abroad. We will have to develop a growing sense of pride and self-confidence. The habit of looking abroad for authority and ideology will have to be given up for good.

* The Presidential Address by C. Achutha Menon, then Chief Minister of Kerala at the inauguration of Sree Chitra Medical Centre, Trivandrum on February 19, 1976.