CHAPTER – II

ADMINISTRATION

Administration in Ancient period

The area of the present Kanyakumari District had been under the rule of the Ay, the Pandyas, the Cholas, the Nayaks and the Venad Kings. The remarkable aspect is that it had been under monarchical rule up to 1949 till the accession of the Travancore State to the Indian Union. In Kanyakumari District, the existence of local institutions have been traceable from ancient period. These local institutions, besides relieving the pressure on the Government, rendered certain useful services. One of the local bodies, Panchayat meant a group of five persons selected by the villagers. Indirectly, it denoted the system through which the rural people were governed. In the old Sanskrit works, there was a word ‘Panchayatan’ which meant a group of five persons, including some spiritual men.

Generally, this common place of administration was under a tree in the centre of the village, called podiyil or Manram. Nilakanda Sastri states that Podiyil or Manrams were the Assemblies that existed then. These types of village sabhas existed during the time of the Ay who were the chieftains of the Cheras. But the function of the sabhas were mostly restricted to temple administration. This is confirmed from the Huzur office Plates. It tells that the Ay king Karunandadakkan purchased a place of land from the Sabha of Munchirai, a neighbouring place of Kalkulam to build a temple for Lord Vishnu.

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3 Purananuru 39:71
at Parthivapuram. For administrative convenience, Kulasekhara Chera divided his kingdom into a number of *nadus* and *nadus* were further divided into *desams*. They appointed royal *vassals* or nadu vazhils to look after the *nadus*. The lowest administrative unit was the *Karas* or *Villages*. These Karas or villages were not territorial units but residing areas of people from the same caste or tribal groups. It became the Gramam of the Namboodris, the ‘*tara*’ of the Nairs and the ‘*cheri*’ of the lower castes. The officers like *Adhikari*, *Patanayakan*, *Kizh Patanayakan*, *Bhandaran Kappan*, *Matilnayagam* assisted the administration.

When the imperial Cholas annexed Nanchil Nadu, their local administration was followed here also. The most striking feature of the Chola period was the functioning of the autonomous rural institutions which functioned with vigour. The method of election for the local self governing bodies under them was known as “*Kudavolai Murai*” or “*Pot Ticket system*”. Through that election system, members for various variams were elected. The members of the variams who discharged their respective functions were known as *Variaperumakkal*. The duration of the membership was one year. A big banyan tree shade in the village or the village Mandapa served as the office. Some of the variams were *Erpi variam* or lake committee, *Thotta variam* or garden committee, *pon-variam* or golden committee.

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6 Travancore Archeological Series, Vol 1, p.16, (here after referred as TAS)
10 By this system the names of the contesting candidates were written on Palmyra leaves and put in a pot, suffled and a child was asked to take out as many leaves as the total number of candidates needed to be elected.
11 *Thottavaria perumakkal*, *Eraivaria Perumakkal and kalarivaria Perumakkal* were some of the committees existed in Kalkulam, TAD, Vol.IV, p.25.
After the disintegration of the Cholas, Venad rulers and Travancore kings ruled over this region. During their rule, they followed their local administration with some modifications. Ramavarma Karthika Thirunal (1758 A.D-1798 A.D) divided the state into three big divisions namely, *Vadakke Mughom*, (northern division) *Thekke Mughom* (Southern division) and the *Padinjara Mughom* (Western division). The whole of Kanyakumari formed part of the *Thekke Mughom* (Southern division). Each of these division was placed under *Valia Sarvathi Karyakar*. The Jurisdiction of Sarvathi Karyakars were more or less same of the present District Collector. *Provrithikars* were incharge of *Pakuthis, Chandrakars, Thurakars* and *Velkars* were menials who worked under the *Provrithikars*. Accounts were maintained by a chain of clerks appointed, graded downwards from the *Thirumughom pidicha pillai* to pillai or ordinary accountant. The Karyakars formed the backbone of the administrative system. They were in fact military, social and civil governors in their respective districts. The designation of Kariyakars was changed into *Tahsildar*. This system of a Tahsildar for a Taluk and provritika for a Kelvi or Pakuthi remained more or less unchanged but for some changes of jurisdiction.

During the reign of Uttaram Thirunal Marthanda Varma from 1847 A.D 1860 Lieutenant General Cullen suggested on 25th August 1855 A.D, the appointment of two division *perishcars* for the two divisions of the State. Accordingly, the Southern division comprising the taluks of Thovala, Agastheeswaram, Kalkulam and Vilavancode, was divided into three big divisions namely, *Vadakke Mughom*, (northern division) *Thekke Mughom* (Southern division) and the *Padinjara Mughom* (Western division). The whole of Kanyakumari formed part of the *Thekke Mughom* (Southern division). Each of these division was placed under *Valia Sarvathi Karyakar*. The Jurisdiction of Sarvathi Karyakars were more or less same of the present District Collector. *Provrithikars* were incharge of *Pakuthis, Chandrakars, Thurakars* and *Velkars* were menials who worked under the *Provrithikars*. Accounts were maintained by a chain of clerks appointed, graded downwards from the *Thirumughom pidicha pillai* to pillai or ordinary accountant. The Karyakars formed the backbone of the administrative system. They were in fact military, social and civil governors in their respective districts. The designation of Kariyakars was changed into *Tahsildar*. This system of a Tahsildar for a Taluk and provritika for a Kelvi or Pakuthi remained more or less unchanged but for some changes of jurisdiction.

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14 Ulloor S.Parameswara Aiyar, Colonel Munro, Kerala Society Papers 11, series 7, Trivandrum, 1977, p.41.
16 Ibid., p.49.
17 Census of India, 1961, p.2.
placed under a division perishcar.\textsuperscript{18} Again for the sake of administrative convenience, the whole State of Travancore was divided into four Revenue divisions namely, Padmanabhapuram, Trivandrum, Quilon and Kottayam.\textsuperscript{19} The country was divided into 31 Taluks of which Kalkulam, Eraniel, Agastheeswaram, Thovalai and Vilavancode came under Padmanabhapuram division. The taluks were graded into I, II, and III classes based on their size and importance. The Southern division of Travancore contained 427 Pakutis. The average size of a pakuti was 15.3 square miles with the population of 6,925.\textsuperscript{20} Kara or Muri was the smaller division of Pakuthi. But it was not an administrative unit, hence it had no separate officer.

\textbf{Administration during British period}

The British East India Company had set up Corporation in the Presidency towns of Calcutta and Bombay in 1720 and 1793 respectively. The local people did not get much share in the local administration. The final and real control remained rested in the British hands.\textsuperscript{21} The year 1870 was a landmark year when Lord Mayo passed resolutions suggesting the de-centralization of powers and the necessity of associating Indians in administration. He suggested, the strengthening of the Municipal bodies and making them more powerful.

Lord Ripon, the Father of Local Self Government in India, passed two resolutions on local self Government, one in 1881 and the other in 1822 which are great landmarks in

\begin{footnotes}
\item[19] \textit{Travancore Administrative Report}, 1899-1900, Trivandrum, 1901, p.2.
\item[20] \textit{Census of India}, 1911, Trivandrum, 1912, p.52
\end{footnotes}
the growth of the local self-Government in the country.\textsuperscript{22} The Montague Chelmsford Reforms (1919) brought local self Government as a provincial transfer subject, under the domain of Indian ministers in the provinces. The most significant development of this period was the establishment of \textit{village panchayats} in a number of provinces. The Government of India Act of 1935 granted autonomy for the provinces.\textsuperscript{23} For the improvement of rural conditions, the panchayats undertook many activities, within the limits of the fund at their disposal. Their activities were mainly concentrated on the cleaning of streets, providing street light, maintaining hospitals, maintaining roads, bridges, maintaining schools, providing water supply, digging well and so on.\textsuperscript{24} According to the provision of the act, the Government had powers to declare any village or a cluster of villages as a village panchayat, consisting of not less than five and not more than eleven members. The obligatory and discretionary powers of the panchayats were quite identical to these of the municipalities.\textsuperscript{25} The act laid particular stress on the principle that all the matching grants extended by the Government to a village. Panchayat together with local taxes levied and collected from the people were to be spent by the village panchayat itself for the benefit of the village.\textsuperscript{26} Every village had a fund vested in the panchayat and the fund was utilized to meet the welfare schemes and other expenditure.\textsuperscript{27}

\textsuperscript{22} Vidhya Dhar Mahajan, \textit{British Rule in India}, New Delhi, 1976, p.480.
\textsuperscript{23} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{24} P.K.S. Raja, \textit{Medieval Kerala, Annamalai Nagar} 1953, p.5.
\textsuperscript{25} A. Sreedhar Menon, \textit{Trivandrum District Gazetteer}, Trivandrum, 1951, p.626.
\textsuperscript{26} Gopala Krishnan, \textit{Op.Cit.}, p.734.
As per the Village Panchayat Act of 1925, six Panchayats were constituted in 1932 and one more in 1937.\textsuperscript{28} In the beginning, only Panchayats were established in Travancore. Among the six, Bhuthapandi panchayat of Thovala Taluk was the first Panchayat found in the South Travancore. The Panchayat was named as the village Panchayat of Bhuthapandi.\textsuperscript{29} For making village organisation more powerful, the Travancore Village Union Act was passed on 14\textsuperscript{th} November 1939.\textsuperscript{30} Accordingly, thirty nine village unions were constituted in the year 1940-41 throughout Travancore.\textsuperscript{31} By the Act of 1939, of which, four village unions were established in South Travancore. They were Thazhakudy village union of Thovalai taluk, Suchindram village union of Agastheeswaram taluk, Eraniel village union of Kalkulam taluk and Arumana village union of Vilavancode taluk\textsuperscript{32}

By the notification on 23\textsuperscript{nd} June 1940, two more unions namely Kadiapattanam union in Kalkulam taluk and Arudesam union in Vilavancode taluk were also established.\textsuperscript{33} The administration of the local bodies was taken away from the revenue department and entrusted with the public health department.\textsuperscript{34} The Director of Public Health was appointed the ex-officio registrar of Village Unions and Panchayats throughout the State.\textsuperscript{35} The Travancore village Panchayat (Amendment) Act of 1945 was passed on 22\textsuperscript{nd} December 1945 and by that a tax on land was introduced.\textsuperscript{36} The system of

\textsuperscript{28} Trivandrum Administration Report, 1945-46, Trivandrum 1947, p.162.
\textsuperscript{29} Ibid.,
\textsuperscript{30} Ibid.,
\textsuperscript{31} The Village Union and Panchayat Manual, Op.cit., p.38
\textsuperscript{32} The Village Unions Panchayat Manual, p.86.
\textsuperscript{33} The Acts and Proclamations of Travancore, Vol.XII, p.399.
\textsuperscript{34} Ibid., p.51.
\textsuperscript{35} Gopalakrishnan, Op.cit., p.734.
\textsuperscript{36} Supplement to the Travancoe Government Gazetteer No.14, dated 11 December, 1945, Virichigam 1121, p.32.
local administration thus drifted along without any radical change till the Indian independence in 1947.

Meanwhile on the eve of Indian independence in 1947, the two Princely Sates of Kerala namely Travancoer State and Cochin State merged together and formed the Travancore Cochin state. The Government of newly formed Travancore – Cochin state took steps to bring some drastic changes in the administration of village panchayats.\(^{37}\) The first major legislation after independence with regard to the panchayat was the Travancore – Cochin Panchayat Act of 1950.\(^{38}\) After the creation of Kanyakumari District out of the territories transferred to the then Madras State from the erstwhile Travancore Cochin State in 1956, the Administrative set up of the Local Bodies then in existence was allowed to continue until 31\(^{st}\) March 1962. The Tamilnadu Panchayats Act of 1958 was extended to the Kanyakumari District with effect from 1\(^{st}\) April 1962.\(^{39}\) Therefore, nine Panchayat Unions namely Rajakkamankalam, Agastheeswaram, Munchirai, Melpuram, Killiyoor, Thalakulam (later been Kurunthancode) Thuckalai, Thovalai and Thiruvattar were inaugurated in the district on 1\(^{st}\) April 1962.

Generally, village panchayat is a satutory body covering one or more villages with an average population varying between 1000 and 3000 people and an average area of about 6 square miles.

\(^{37}\) Travancore-Cochin Administration Report, 1125 ME, 17, August 1949 to March 1950, Trivandrum, 19551, p.86.
Activities of the Panchayats

Public health measures comprised of providing good drinking water supply, sanitary facilities such as public latrines, bathing yhats, tanks and drainage facilities, providing burial and burning grounds. The public health organisers of the Department undertook frequent tours in the village under their jurisdiction and gave instructions to the public and the committees in the matter of public hygiene and sanitation.\textsuperscript{40} The Panchayat Department undertook digging wells and ponds and relieved the Panchayat areas of their difficulties due to water scarcity. The question of making permanent arrangement for regular water supply engaged the attention of the Department.\textsuperscript{41} The encouragement given by various organisations for the improvement of livestock was noteworthy. Encouragement was also given for cottage industries such as weaving, poultry, farming and cultivation of plantation.\textsuperscript{42} The panchayats got the power to collect professional tax, house tax, vehicle tax, tax on taxable lands for every four cents of lands.\textsuperscript{43} House tax was assessed and collected by the Panchayats on the basis of the net annual rental value of the houses.\textsuperscript{44} In South Travancore, there were full time Bill Collectors for a group of Village Panchayats.\textsuperscript{45}

The function allocated to Panchayat Union and Panchayats could be broadly classified under three categories such as mandatory, discretionary and agency. Some of the mandatory functions are lighting of public roads, cleaning of streets, maintenance of panchayat roads, maintenance of burial and burning grounds, and provision of water

\textsuperscript{40} Travancore Cochin Administrative Report, 17, August 1949, 31 March 1950, Trivandrum, 1951, p.86.
\textsuperscript{42} Travancore Cochin Administrative Report, 17 August 1949 to March 1950, Trivandrum, 1951, p.88.
\textsuperscript{44} Proceedings of the Travancore Cochin Legislative Assembly, First session, 1956, Vol.XV, No.1, p.127.
supply for drinking and other purposes, maintenance of dispensary including maternity and child welfare centres, elementary schools and prevention of epidemics, improvements to agriculture and promotion of cottage industries. Some of the discretionary functions of Panchayats are planting and preservation of trees, maintenance of public market, bus stand and car stand, reading room and so on. Agency functions are execution of National Extension Service Programme, Community Development Programme, maintenance of minor irrigation, tanks and such others entrusted to them time to time by the Central and the State Governments.

**Municipal Administration**

The Municipalities consist of five functional departments. They are General Administration department, Engineering department, Revenue and Account department, Public Health department and Town Planning department. Each department consists of a head and functions as per the responsibilities prescribed in the Municipal Act. Prior to 1884, (provided by the legal enactments) provisions for the improvement of towns in rural areas and municipal towns were the Madras Local funds Act of 1871 and the Madras Town Improvement Act of 1871. In 1884, the Madras Local Boards Act and the Madras District Municipalities Act were introduced in the Presidency of Madras. On the basis of this model, the municipalities in Kanyakumari District were formed under the Travancore Municipalities Act of 1920. It continued to function as per the provisions of

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47 Ibid., p.322.  
49 Ibid., p.763.
the Municipal Act till 31st March 1962, when this act was brought under the preview of the Tamilnadu District Municipalities Act.\textsuperscript{50}

There are four municipalities in Kanyakumari District. They are Nagercoil, Padmanabhapuram, Colachel and Kuzhithurai.\textsuperscript{51} Of the four municipalities in Kanyakumari District, Nagercoil Municipality is a selection grade Municipality. The other three municipalities are third grade municipalities eventhough the income had crossed Rs. 10 Lakhs.

The Nagercoil has been a Municipal town as per the Travancore Municipal Act of 1920. The Municipality was upgraded to selection grade in 1978. Its status was further upgraded as special grade with effect from July 1988. It is the biggest Municipality in the district. The jurisdiction of this Municipality is spread over an area of 24.27 sq.km. The population of the municipal town as per the census of 1981 was 1,71,648. The normal annual income of the Municipality is Rs. 195 Lakhs.

Padmanabhapuram had been constituted as a Municipality in the year 1920 under the Travancore Municipal Act. The office of the Municipality is located at Thuckalay. The municipality has jurisdiction over an area of 6.47 Kms which includes portions of Kalkulam and Thuckalay revenue village. It continues to remain as a third grade Municipality. The population of the Municipality was 8264 as per the census of 1981.

Colachel Municipality is a port town, situated on the western coast, had been constituted as a Municipality in 1920. The financial condition of the Municipality is not sound as a result that it still continues to remain as a third grade Municipality. The

\textsuperscript{50} Ibid., p.753.
\textsuperscript{51} Narayanan Thambi, \textit{A Census of India}, 1941, Vol.XXV, Travancore, Trivandrum, 1942, p.132.
Jurisdiction of the Municipality spreads over an area of 5.78kms. As per the census of 1981 the population was 23124.\(^{52}\)

Kuzhithurai was constituted as a town improvement committee in 1914 and was formed as a Municipality as per the provision of the Travancore Municipalities Act, 1920. This Municipality is having jurisdiction over the portions of the revenue villages of Vilavancode, Nalloor and Pacode of Vilavancode taluk with a total area of 5.22 sq.km.\(^{53}\) This Municipality continues to remain as III\(^{rd}\) grade. The population of the town as per the census of 1981 was 18427.\(^{54}\)

**Classification of Municipalities**

The Municipalities in the State have been classified into various grades, taking into account of their annual income and the income limit for the purpose of classification.\(^{55}\) (G.O.Ms.No.400 R.D L.A, dated 23 March 1983). If the annual income of a Municipality is above rupees 100 lakhs it can claim to be declared as a special grade Municipality. If the annual income crosses rupees 50 Lakhs, the status of the Municipality is classified as selection grade. The first grade Municipality should have an annual income of more than 25 lakhs of the annual income of a Municipality is more than rupees 10 lakhs is classified as second grade Municipality. Ordinarily, municipalities are constituted selection grade town panchayats. Thus, Municipality constituted initially is classed as third grade Municipality.\(^{56}\)

\(^{56}\) *Ibid.*
Function of the Municipalities

The Municipal Act laid down both obligatory and discretionary duties on Municipalities. The obligatory function of the municipalities are relief during famine and scarcity, maintenance of public roads, streets, census, culverts and causeways, maintenance of reading room, park and gardens, playgrounds, conduct of exhibition, cleaning of streets, drains and scavenging, maintenance of hospital and dispensaries, birth and death registration, street lighting, elementary education, water supply, town planning etc. The discretionary functions are maintenance of secondary education, libraries and museums, poor home, orphanage, housing, provision of veterinary hospitals. Though imparting elementary education is an obligatory duty of the municipalities, none of the municipalities in Kanyakumari District maintain educational institutions. The Municipality derives its income from property tax, entertainment tax, tax from markets, bus stand, rent of land and building, professional tax, vehicle tax, cart tax, animal tax, license fee from various traders and surcharges.

Community Development Programme 1952

One of the Directive Principles of State Policy as per article 40 of the Constitution of India in 1950 is that the state shall take steps to organize village panchayats and endow them with powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to work as units of self Government. The objective is to make the Panchayats and Panchayat Unions as self governing bodies with autonomy in their own spheres and day to day administration,

for better and effective administration of villages. After India’s independence, the farmers of the Constitution gave importance to organize the village Panchayats.

From the very beginning of the first five year plan, planners and policy makers paid serious attention to “planning from below” In 1952, the Community Development Programme was started. Followed by this, a year later, the National Extension Service envisaged an administrative setup to read population and to secure the fullest development for raising the level of the living standard of the rural community. The introduction of the Community Development Programme in 1952 was a major step for bringing about economic development and social welfare in rural India. Community Development Blocks were comprising a group of villages which were placed under the control of an officer known as a Block Development Officer. He was to be assisted by a team of extension officers in the field of agriculture, animal husbandry, industries, social education, co-operation and public works by village workers.

In 1956, the National Development Council appointed a committee under the chairmanship of Balwantrai Mehta to suggest the measures for the better working of the Community Development Programme and the National Extension Service. The committee submitted its report and recommendations in 1957. Panchayat Raj, the National Development Council approved these recommendation on 12th January 1958. The three tier system of Panchayat was first adopted in Rajasthan on October 2nd, 1959.

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60 Planning Commission, First five year plan, New Delhi, 1952, p. 85.
Gradually this system was adopted by almost all the States. The Tamilnadu Panchayats Act of 1958 which was passed on the basis of the Balwantrai Mehta Committee recommendations was extended to the Kanyakumari District with effect from 1st April 1962. The Panchayat Unions implemented the various developmental programmes of the State and Central Governments. They include the National Rural Employment Programme, Integrated Tribal Development Programme, Prime Minister’s New Twenty Point Programme, Integral Rural Development Programme, Self Sufficiency Scheme, Rural Landless Employees Guarantee Programme, National Bio Gas Programme and so on. The Panchayat Union also repairs lands of minor irrigation sources, maintances of rural dispensaries and maternity and child welfare, in addition to the execution of roadwork, construction of school buildings, rural water supply, wells and Primary Health Centres.

The Balwant Rai Mehta Committee (1957) recommended a three tier system of rural local Government at the village, block and district level. Three tier structure as at village level - Gram Panchayat, at Block level - Panchayat Samti, at District level - Zila Parishad were introduced in Kanyakumari District.

Gram Panchayat

Grama or Village Panchayat is a statutory body covering one or more villages with an average population varying between 1000 and 3000 people and an average area of about six square miles. It is a body of elected representatives. The number of members

G.O Ms.No 741, R.D & C.A, dated on 27.3.1962.
Ibid.
vary from 5 to 15. The village Panchyat area is generally decided towards each ward returning its representative to the Panchayat. Reservation for women, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is done in most States. The members of Panchayats are elected by a secret ballot system.

**Panchayat Samiti**

The next tier in Panchayatraj is the Panchayat Samiti. It is called Anchalik Panchayat in Assam, Panchayat Union Council in Tamilnadu and Taluk Development Board in Karnataka. The members are directly elected. In all the States, except Maharashtra and Gujarat, it bears the responsibility of implementing community development programmes covering agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, health, rural, sanitation, communication, social education co-operation and cottage industries. It is the body which exercises supervision and control over panchayats within its jurisdiction and provides financial and technical assistance to them.\(^{68}\)

**Zila Parishad**

The membership of the apex level body in Panchayatraj is the Zila Parishad which has to link with the Panchayat samities on the lower side and with the state legislature and national Parliament at the upper level. To make it a fully representative body, seats have been reserved for women, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Zila Parishad consists of Presidents of Panchayat Samitis in the district, a representative of co-operative society, some members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and some co-operative members possessing experience in public administration, public life

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and rural development. It is thus an indirectly elected body with the membership varying between 40 and 60.

**District level control in Kanyakumari District**

Kanyakumari District has been divided into two revenue division with eighty one revenue villages. In four taluks, for the purpose of development of administration, the district has been divided into 9 Community Development Blocks, 88 villages and 66 town panchayats. There are also four Municipalities, of which Nagercoil is a first grade Municipality.\(^69\) At the district level, the Collector is the supreme authority to control the local bodies. The table below shows the list of Collectors who worked for the development of Kanyakumari District for the selected research period. In addition, there are various departmental officers to take care of the day to day administration of the District. To maintain proper administration of the municipality besides the Director at the State level, there are Regional Directors to administer the municipalities. At the regional level the Municipalities in Kanyakumari District are under the control of the Regional Director of Municipalities, Tirunelveli. The Municipality is headed by the Commissioner in the official side and the Chairman and his council in the non-official side.\(^70\)

The Municipalities consist of five functional departments. They are general administration department, Engineering department, Revenue and Accounts department, Public Health department and Town planning department. Each department consists of a head who reports to the commissioner and functions as per the responsibilities prescribed in the municipal act.

\(^69\) Credit plan for the Kanyakumari District, 1983, Annual Action plan, p.1 (Madurai, Indian Overseas Bank)

The table below shows the list of Collectors who worked for the development of Kanyakumari District for the selected research period

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>Name of the Collector</th>
<th>Period</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>From - To</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Thiru R. Thirumalai</td>
<td>1-11-1956 – 1-12-1958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Thiru. J.A.Ambasankar</td>
<td>2-12-1958 – 17-5-1962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Thiru. A.S.Venkatraman</td>
<td>19-6-1962 – 14-12-1962</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Thiru. S. Krishnaswamy</td>
<td>15-12-1962 – 31-1-1963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Thiru. C.V.S.Moni</td>
<td>28-2-1963 – 25-7-1963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Thiru. K.J.M. Shetty</td>
<td>19-8-1963 – 3-8-1964</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Thiru. V.K.C.Natarajan</td>
<td>4-8-1965 – 26-4-1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Thiru. P.P.Krishnaswamy</td>
<td>27-4-1965 – 21-8-1967</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In Kanyakumari District, Thiru.Thirumalai was the first and foremost Collector after the merger of the district with Tamilnadu. Some of the welfare works carried on during his period are as follows. On 10th January 1957 due to the failure of the North East Monsoon, the pumping of water was essentially to meet the requirements of the bulk of the lands about 2/3 of the total wet lands in the year over 40,000 acres would need the pumped out water for the whole month of February. The Superintending Engineer
Thirchi circle requested the collector of Kanyakumari District with the Kerala Government for the supply of a pumpset on fare and the Government of Kerala agreed to spare more pumpsets of 125 H.P for use in the Pechiparai dam with the condition that the collector of Kanyakumari would return the pumps supplied to Kerala at the end of February 1957 by the order of governor. The next important measure taken during his period was installation of six pumpsets and one Transformer of 500 K.W.A, provided at Pechiparai dam for pumping the dead water available below the still level of the sluice. This was restored to in times of scarcity of water and to save crop at the later stage of the cultivation season to save standing crops. Thirumalai – Collector – Installation of two pump sets and one Transformer of 500 K.W.A provided at Pechiparai dam for pumping the dead water available below the still level of the sluice end. This was resorted to in times of scarcity of water and to save crop at the later stage of the cultivation season under G.O.Ms.No.1413 to save standing crops 1960 (6531, 56) 18 – 1271 Extension of Collector’s office building opening ceremony took place on 12th November 1959 at Nagercoil by the Minister for Local Administration during the Collector Ambasankar’s tenure.72 Collector – Sri J.A.Ambasankar took steps to build subjail at Kuzhithurai and Thuckalay and estimates were forwarded in G.O.Ms.No.403. 10th February 1960.73 The subjail building at Kuzhithurai constructed in the site lying adjacent to the police station itself. There was no separate cells for keeping women prisoners and there was no subjail for Vilavancode and Thuckalay. The police station itself acted as subjail so the Collector took necessary steps for the construction of subjail at Thuckalay and an extent of 34 cents

71 G.O.Ms.No.1413 to save standing crops 1960 (6531, 56) 18 – 12


73 G.O.Ms.No. 403. 10 February 1960
land acquired for subjail building in 1960 – 1961. Thiru.Natarajan, Collector of Kanyakumari District, on 26th August 1964 received a proposal with reference to P.W.D on 5-8-1964 and Sri. A.S.Ahtuwalia I.A.S, Additional Secretary (irrigation) Board of Revenue Madras, regarding the proposed line metre gauge from Triunelveli to Trivandrum via Cape Comorin and Nagercoil. During fourth five year plan when Bhaktavatsalam was as Chief Minister, the proposal was implemented. G.O.Ms.No. 2093 dated 22-7-65 the Southern railway, survey of prepared Railway line from Tirunelveli to turn alignment approved.74

Tamilnadu Congress Comittee under Kamaraj was a turning point in the political history of Tamilnadu. He emerged as a powerful leader and then Chief Minister and his ministry did a lot for the development of the State and especially for Kanyakumari district. It was during this time that Tamilnadu under Kamaraj’s administration gave a stable, efficient and liberal administration. His Ministry introduced a new chapter in the progress of Panchayats. The Government had settled the programme of implementation of Madras Panchayat Act in 1958. The act provides for representation of every Municipal Town and every block in the district. The district has four taluks for the purpose of development of administration and nine community development blocks. There are four Municipalities in this district. At district level Collector is the supreme authority to control the local bodies. The Congress ministry for the economic welfare of the district were immense. The Congress ministry constructed a building for the district Collector and other district officers in the district. It was constructed in the interest of efficient administrator and for maintaining dignity and independence of the district. Another step

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74 G.O.Ms.No. 2093, Public Work Department, dated 22 July 1965.
to improve the district was to maintain law and ordered a separate subjail at Thuckalay. Moreover, the panchayat and panchayat union also functioned in Agriculture, Co-operative movement, cottage industries, animal husbandry and education. Thus this district has developed in various fields and stands in the third place in Tamilnadu in industrial progress.