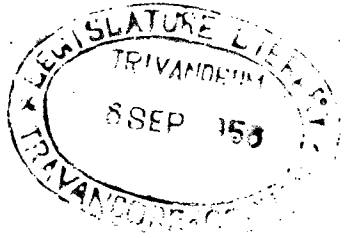


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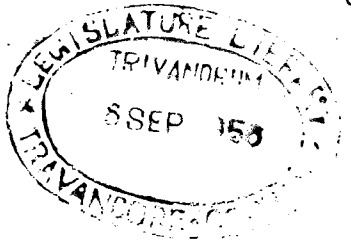
The Adviser to H. H. the Rajpramukh,
Travancore - Cochin



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PRESIDENT'S RULE

IN

TRAVANCORE-COCHIN

25th March to 31st August 1956



CONTENTS

	PAGE
I. General	1
II. Integration of Services	5
III. Planning Department	7
IV. Community Projects	8
V. Industries	10
VI. Labour Department	13
VII. Education Department	17
VIII. Medical and Public Health Department	21
IX. Public Works Department	26
X. Electricity Department	28
XI. State Transport Department	31
XII. Local Self Government Department	32
XIII. Agriculture Department	33
XIV. Department for the Advancement of Backward Communities	35
XV. Animal Husbandry Department	37
XVI. Co-operative Department	38
XVII. Fisheries Department	41
XVIII. Housing Department	43
XIX. Food Department	45
XX. Department of Statistics	46
XXI. Land Revenue, Survey and Forests Departments	48
XXII. Separate Revenue Department	50
XXIII. Law Department	53
XXIV. Election Department	55
XXV. Jails Department	57

PRESIDENT'S RULE IN TRAVANCORE-COCHIN

25th March to 31st August, 1956

Immediately on arrival at Trivandrum on the 26th March 1956, the Adviser issued the following statement:—

“The President’s rule, which is necessarily of a temporary character, will give the people a short respite from politics and will provide an administration, impartial, absolutely above party, above caste and above creed, and I hope, efficient. It will be my special endeavour to implement the schemes included in the Second Five Year Plan and create employment for some at least of our educated unemployed.”

“India is on the march and there is little time for formal statements or speeches. Let us all, therefore, get together and work hard in our respective spheres and try to achieve our goal.”

2. These objectives have been kept steadily in view during the last five months.

3. *General Administration.* The main object of reorganisation of the administration has been to strengthen it and make it possible to deal effectively with the many problems which the last few years of increased governmental activity has thrown up. The most serious defect of the administrative set up in the Travancore-Cochin State, in common with other Part B States, was the concentration of power at headquarters, principally in the Secretariat and the absence of district administration as it exists in Part A States. The President’s Government addressed themselves to remedying these defects from the outset. Orders have been issued delegating large powers to heads of departments and to Collectors and so all along the line, that is to say, to Revenue Divisional Officers and Tahsildars, Deputy Directors of Agriculture, District Educational Officers and so on and so forth. In particular, the Collector’s position as the chief agent of Government in the district, and the officer charged with co-ordinating the activities of the various departments in the district has been affirmed. His responsibility for the implementation of the Second Five Year Plan, so far as his district is concerned, has been placed beyond doubt.

4. *Second Five Year Plan.* It has been the endeavour of the President's administration to complete the schemes left over from the First Five Year Plan and to implement every one of the schemes budgeted for execution during the current year and most of these latter schemes have been initiated and considerable progress has been made in several of them. There is every hope that the entire budgeted amount will be spent during this year.

5. *Buildings.* The State was extremely badly off in the matter of offices and residential accommodation for officers of all grades. This state of affairs, as is well known, is by no means peculiar to the T. C. State. In the first place, administration in Part B States was of a different pattern from that obtaining elsewhere and in the second place, the scope of governmental activities has increased beyond all recognition during the last few years. The result was that lakhs of rupees were being paid in respect of accommodation taken on rent for offices. In particular, the Police Department was worst off in respect of residential quarters. There were very few places where Police Sub Inspector and constables had Government quarters. In order to meet this crying need, the administration has embarked on a large programme of construction. Large district office buildings are under construction at Quilon, Kottayam and Trichur, which will house every department of district administration under one roof. Similarly, accommodation for 72 gazetted officers, 85 clerks and 27 peons are under construction at these three places. A large number of station houses and quarters are also under construction or will soon be taken up. We have borrowed Rs. 40 lakhs from the Government of India for this purpose out of the allotment of some three crore rupees under the Second Five Year Plan.

It has been alleged that valuable buildings are being demolished in order to construct fine structures to house offices. This is entirely untrue. In Trichur the buildings are being constructed on unoccupied land. In Kottayam an old, dilapidated and unsafe structure was pulled down. Useful buildings have been left intact. In Quilon the existing District Collector's office is in a hundred and seventy five year old office and stables of the Rani of Desinganad. As it was unsafe for human habitation it has been pulled down.

6. Although the rules on the subject were unexceptionable, promotion in actual practice was made on grounds of seniority alone. It is the direct result of extreme communalism prevalent

in the State. Nobody would take the responsibility of passing over an inefficient officer or official, lest he should be considered communal. Thus, for instance, if an Ezhuva is passed over, the officer might be accused of being anti-Ezhuva; if a Christian is passed over, he might be accused of being anti-Christian and so on. This practice has been in force for some years. A direct consequence of this was that confidential reports have ceased to have any importance or meaning with the result that it is very common to find in those reports colourless remarks, such as "satisfactory"; "I have nothing to add to what I wrote last year", etc. Orders have been issued directing that merit tempered by seniority should in future be the criterion for promotion and not seniority alone. Detailed orders have also been issued for the proper maintenance of confidential records and keeping them confidential.

7. There was a curious case of sex discrimination also. Till quite recently women were not considered suitable for the post of head of a mixed or a boys school although they were on the staff of the school for years. In a State where women are so advanced educationally and otherwise, it was felt that this discrimination was particularly difficult to justify, besides being unconstitutional. Orders have therefore been issued doing away with this discrimination and laying it down that all men and women teachers should be considered for the headship of the school, the only criterion being their fitness in the light of their seniority, experience, ability and personality.

8. As no reliable confidential records were available, the task of selection of heads of schools is being entrusted to a committee consisting of:

1. Member of the Public Service Commission
2. A lady associated with Education in the State, but not under the Director of Public Instruction.
3. Director of Public Instruction or his nominee.

9. *Reorganisation.* The Secretariat is being reorganised in order to make it fit to discharge the enlarged duties of a Part A State. An officer from Madras has been on special duty and is hard at work. The Secretariat Manual is under revision.

10. As the Collector under the new dispensation will be quite different to what he has been so far, the Collectors' offices are being reorganised and an officer from Madras has been

borrowed for the purpose. Sub-divisions of districts are placed under Revenue Sub Divisional Officers and offices of Deputy Collectors are being reorganised to fit them to deal with the manifold work of a Revenue Divisional Officer. Similarly, taluk offices are being reorganised. An officer from Madras has been borrowed for the purpose.

11. The Collectors' hands have been strengthened by the addition of one or two Deputy Collectors in each district to look after the Plan.

12. Normally in Part A States, the revenue district furnishes the pattern for general administration. For instance, each revenue district in many provinces is also a civil district or in some provinces two revenue districts form one civil district. In extreme cases, there may be two civil districts in a revenue district. But in this State there are 9 civil districts for four revenue districts. Similarly, there is little or no uniformity in the territorial jurisdiction of the various departments. Thus, for instance, the forest district is different from the revenue district and the education district is different from both and so on. Attempts are being made to make these, as far as possible, coterminous.

There are some police station houses falling in more than one taluk. The different parts of a particular town fall into three taluks. All these anomalies are being rectified and the matter has reached a fairly advance stage.

13. *Direct recruitment.* Efficiency has suffered to a large extent on account of the fact that there has been no direct recruitment of officers in the State. The old Travancore State introduced a system of direct recruitment of Tahsildars to be eventually promoted as Deputy Collectors; but gave it up just before integration. The result has been that clerks rose to high positions step by step mainly by reason of seniority. It has therefore been decided to introduce a system of direct recruitment at different levels and accordingly the P. S. C. have been requested to recruit a number of Deputy Tahsildars and Deputy Collectors.

14. *Speed.* Considerable attention has been paid to the speeding up of disposal of files in the various offices of the State and it is gratifying to note that substantial improvement has been effected in this regard.

II. INTEGRATION OF SERVICES.

Consequent on the integration of the States of Travancore and Cochin, the integration of services of 41 Departments had to be completed. By July 1954 Government published the integrated civil and gradation lists of all the Departments on a provisional basis inviting appeals from the aggrieved officers subject to the condition that no appeal petition questioning the principles of integration would be entertained. The appeal petitions received from the officers in the various Departments were examined in detail by the concerned Heads of Departments and then by Government. Orders passed on each appeal petition were communicated to the officer concerned. After the disposal of all the appeal petitions received from the personnel in a particular Department, the civil and gradation list of that Department was declared as final incorporating the necessary changes on the basis of the orders passed on the appeal petitions. In this manner Government had finalised the civil gradation lists of 25 Departments by the 1st April, 1956.

2. The civil and gradation lists of the Departments which remained to be finalised and the number of appeal petitions pending disposal in each Department as on the 1st April, 1956, are furnished below:—

<i>Department.</i>	<i>No. of appeal petitions pending.</i>
1. Secretariat	29
2. Excise	2
3. Government Presses	1
4. Police	9
5. Agricultural Income-tax and Sales-tax	4
6. Co-operation	2
7. Medical	25
8. Forests	22
9. Panchayats	21
10. Department of Law Officers	2
11. Animal Husbandry Department	3
12. Land Revenue (including Survey)	182
13. Electricity	25
14. Public Health	40

The civil and gradation lists of the following Departments were finalised since the 1st April, 1956:—

1. Excise
2. Government Presses.

3. Agriculture Income-tax and Sales-tax.
4. Co-operation.
5. Department of Law Officers.
6. Animal Husbandry Department.

The Departments, the civil and gradation lists of which are yet to be finalised, and the number of appeal petitions pending in each of them are given below:—

<i>Department.</i>	<i>No. of appeal petitions pending.</i>
1. Secretariat	Nil
2. Police	Nil
3. Medical	5
4. Forests	5
5. Panchayats	2
6. Land Revenue	38
7. Electricity	24
8. Public Health	27

III. PLANNING DEPARTMENT.

In his first statement of policy issued on the day of his arrival in the State, the Adviser to His Highness the Raj Pramukh announced that the timely and efficient implementation of the first year's programme under the Second Five Year Plan would be one of the watchwords of the President's administration. In order to enable this to be done the Additional Planning Secretary was relieved of his work as Departmental Secretary and appointed Additional Planning Commissioner in addition to his duties. His principal duty is to see to the timely implementation of plans by local inspection and otherwise.

It was decided that, as a matter of principle, the schemes which remained incomplete at the end of the First Five Year Plan were given top priority. At the same time all the first year schemes of the Second Five Year Plan were examined, plans and estimates prepared and sanctions for their execution issued. Work has now been in progress on most of the schemes.

Two publications have been issued one detailing the first year scheme programmes for the whole State and the second gives the District-wise break up on the details of the schemes to be executed in each District. The Malayalam version of these publications are in the Press.

IV. COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Greater emphasis has been laid on the co-ordination of the various sides of the activities of the Community Projects with those of the Development Departments concerned. Final orders have been issued co-ordinating the work of the Project staff and the staff of the Co-operative Department. Steps have also been taken to improve the methods of work on the public health side by integrating the activities of the N. E. S. Blocks and Projects, the Public Health Department, Public Health Engineering Department and the Local Bodies Department. When these orders are implemented, there will be better teamwork as amongst the various departments and officers concerned with the rural development programme, and the tempo of work in the Community Projects and Blocks will be considerably quickened.

Training facilities for Personnel

Training Personnel for the Community Development Programme is one of the most important factors that contribute to the success of the work in the Blocks. Timely steps were taken for the selection of Block Development Officers and for their orientation training so that for the first time in the history of Community Development Programme in this State, it has been possible to commence pre-extension work in the Blocks before formal inauguration. Work in the 8 Blocks that are to be formally inaugurated on the 2nd October has already commenced and the Block Development Officers and Extension staff and the Gram Sevaks are actually in position.

Social Education Organisers were selected and posted to the Blocks for pre-training field experience before they are deputed for their training at Gandhigram. This was not done before. Arrangements have also been made, again for the first time, to recruit Social Education Organisers in advance of the actual allotment of Blocks so that they could be fully trained by the time the Block work commences.

The recruitment and training programmes of all kinds of personnel for the Blocks proposed to be opened during the Second Plan have been fully made out so that there will be no more difficulty in regard to selection of personnel or their training.

Gram Sevaks training

In order to meet the additional requirements of the State during the Second Five Year Plan, one more Basic Agricultural School has been sanctioned and the work on the building is expected to be completed within a fortnight.

Principal, Extension Training Centre

As the Principal, Extension Training Centre, which trains Gram Sevaks for the N. E. S. Blocks should be an Agricultural man because Agriculture is given top priority in National Extension Work, the services of an experienced Officer from the Madras Agricultural Service have been obtained on deputation and he has been posted as Principal of the Extension Training Centre for a period of 2 years.

Training for Trades

Three more trades, *viz.*, Auto Mechanics Course, Draftsman's Course, Mechanics and Wiremen's Course, have been added to the curriculum of the Trade Schools in the Community Project areas.

Revision of Gram Sevaks' pay

The question of revision of the pay scales of the Gram Sevaks was pending decision for a long time. As it was not found feasible to raise the pay of the Gram Sevaks we have increased the number of higher grade Gram Sevaks so as to give them greater opportunities of promotion.

V. INDUSTRIES

1. Industrial Estates

Three Industrial Estates have been sanctioned for the State to be located at Pappanamcode in the Trivandrum District, at Kollakadavu in the Quilon District and at Ollur in the Trichur District respectively. The actual sites have been selected and taken possession of to start immediate construction. Complete lay-outs and plans and estimates for the three Industrial Estates have been prepared. A staff consisting of one Special officer with a complete P. W. D. sub-division has been appointed to be in charge of the construction work in each Industrial Estate. Tenders for the construction work have been invited. Industrialists have been invited to make use of the Estate and there has been fairly good response. 12 Factories are proposed to be initially constructed in each Estate before the end of October so that industrialists from whom applications have been invited may move in without loss of time.

2. Small scale Industries

(a) Production-cum-Training Centres: Two Production-cum-Training Centres for Carpentry, 3 centres for Blacksmithy and one Machine-shop have been opened. One Production-cum-Training centre for cloth printing and dyeing has been established at Kottarakara. The building for housing the Production-cum-Training Centre for a leather industry is under construction.

(b) Central Instrument Workshop: Machinery worth about Rs. 63,000 has been purchased and added to the Central Instrument Workshop for the manufacture of precision instruments. The Workshop buildings have been extended to accommodate the new items of machinery.

(c) Expansion of Training Facilities: Two new buildings have been constructed in the premises of the Industrial School at Irinjalakuda and the Occupational Institute at Trichur to provide accommodation for training in Bell-Metal, Toys, Aluminium and Lacquer Industries. Machinery worth about Rs. 40,000 has been procured for the instructional purposes.

(d) Experimental production: Six wood-turning lathes have been fabricated under the auspices of the Department. Model consumer goods like clocks, letter balances and presmatic compasses were produced on an experimental basis.

(c) Second Five Year Plan Scheme: Detailed plans and estimates have been prepared for model workshops in carpentry, smithy, foot-wear and sports goods. Sites for the location of the model workshops have been selected. One model workshop for carpentry and one for smithy have been started at Thottapilly on 16th August.

(f) Pilot Schemes for the educated unemployed: The State Government have formulated a scheme for imparting training to 3000 matriculates as a measure for the solution of the problem of unemployment among the educated. The trainees, on completion of their training, will be absorbed in production centres proposed to be set up during the year, by the State Government and the Government of India. Under the Pilot Project for relief to the educated unemployed, the Government of India are opening six workshops, two major and four minor, in various parts of the State for the manufacture of metal lathes, low horse power electric motors, stainless steel vessels, engineering tools, tin cans and tin printing and foot wear. The Workshops are to be located at Ettumanoor, Thiruvella, Attingal, Alleppey, Muvattupuzha and Trichur.

(g) The branch of the Southern Regional Small Scale Industries Institute of the Government of India at Trivandrum has been upgraded as a full-fledged Institute.

(h) Industrial Survey: A comprehensive survey of Cottage and Small Scale Industries has been completed by the Department of Statistics and the report is under preparation.

3. Industrial Loans

During the period under review, Government have sanctioned industrial loans amounting to Rs. 1.13 lakhs on the recommendation of the State-Aid to Industries Board. Further recommendations of the Board amounting to Rs. 1.75 lakhs are under consideration of Government. An amount of Rs. 74,100 has been disbursed as loans under the Small Scale Industries Scheme.

4. (a) Sanction has been accorded for the implementation in 1956-57 of the schemes under Khadi, Village Industries and Handicrafts Development.

(b) During the period under review, 11 Khadi Co-operative Societies and 12 Screwpine Societies have been organised. Steps have been taken to organise Central Marketing Co-operative Societies at Quilon and Kottayam respectively.

5. Coir Development Scheme

4667 new members have been brought into the Co-operative fold in the Coir Industry.

6. Development of Large Scale Industries

The applications of:

- (a) Travancore Rayons Limited, Perumbavoor,
 - (b) Venus Plywood Company, Nemmara,
 - (c) Travancore-Cochin Chemicals, Alwaye,
 - (d) Aluminium Industries, Kundara,
 - (e) United Electrical Industries, Trivandrum,
- have been sanctioned by the Government of India during the period under review.

7. Industrial Training Centres

The State Government have taken over the *de facto* administrative control of the three Industrial Training Centres in the State from the Government of India with effect from the 1st August 1956.

Preliminary investigations have been carried out in respect of the establishment of a cotton spinning mill with labour colonies and a research and experimental *cum* training centre. The respective schemes have been finalised and referred to the All India Handloom Board for approval.

8. New Major Industries

Schemes for the establishment of an automobile tyre factory and a cycle factory in the private sector in the State are being actively pursued.

9. General

In order to accelerate industrial development in the State by co-ordinating the activities of the Industries Department, Government have appointed an experienced Officer, as Special Director of Industries.

(b) The post of an Additional Joint Director of Industries has been created to be in charge of small-scale industries schemes.

VI. LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

1. *Plantation Labour.* Labour-management relations have always been difficult in this State and special efforts have, therefore, been made to put them on a better footing.

One of the most important disputes settled is that relating to bonus in the planting industry for the years 1951, 1952, 1953 and 1954. This issue had been pending for a long time and had in the past given occasion for strikes and other unseemly developments. At a tripartite conference held on 19-4-1956 a settlement was brought about on this issue. The rates of bonus agreed to were the highest ever paid in the planting industry. The total amount of bonus disbursed amounted to approximately Rs. 50 lakhs. At the instance of Government, Trade Union leaders of every political complexion in the Planting industry issued a joint appeal to the workers to invest a portion of the bonus in National Savings Certificates. They also agreed to promote industrial peace.

The disputes in the Plantation Industry used previously to be referred to a special Industrial Tribunal for adjudication. Government has since taken the view that special conciliation machinery would be preferable to adjudication in view of the special circumstances of the Planting industry. Government therefore constituted a broad-based Committee consisting of representatives of employers, workers and Government for a settlement of the outstanding issues. It is gratifying to note that this Committee has entered upon its labours with zeal and earnestness and have already settled a number of problems referred to them. Since the formation of this Committee there has been no untoward development in the Plantation Industry, so vital to the economy of the State.

2. *Coir Industry.* In accordance with the recommendation made by the Committee on the Coir mats and mattings manufacturing industry, Government have constituted a Coir Industrial Relations Council on a tripartite basis with the Labour Commissioner as Chairman for the settlement of disputes in the Coir industry.

3. *Labour Advisory Committee.* In order to establish a continuing contact between Government, employers and labour on a high level, Government have appointed a Labour Advisory Committee with the Joint Adviser as Chairman and representatives of employers and labour. The duties of this body are to

keep in close touch with the Industrial labour problems of the State, co-ordinate efforts at settling outstanding issues and generally to ensure industrial peace in the State. The first meeting of the committee was held on 16th August.

4. *Cashew Industry.* Government had been receiving requests from the employers to declare this industry as seasonal and from the workers to declare it as non-seasonal. On a consideration of all relevant facts, Government issued a declaration that establishments in the Cashew Industry were non-seasonal. This has the effect of conferring on the workers all the benefits visualised under the Industrial Disputes Amendment Act 1953. Since this declaration, employers and workers have shown a keen interest in settling the disputes and in stabilising the industry. Negotiations in this regard are being actively pursued by Government.

5. *Effective implementation of Labour Laws.* Government have taken measures to safeguard and promote the interests of labour by effective implementation of labour laws and by making arrangements for the speedy settlement of labour disputes by conciliation and negotiation.

In view of complaints regarding the non-implementation of the Minimum Wages Act, particularly in the coir industry, Government have strengthened the Inspectorate by the addition of five Inspectors who have been posted to important industrial centres in the State. As a result, complaints have largely disappeared.

Government have constituted a Committee under the Minimum Wages Act to advise Government on the fixation of minimum wages in the Cardamom industry.

One more industry, *viz.*, the tile manufacturing industry, has been added to the schedule to the Minimum Wages Act specifying the industries to which the Act applies. The intention of Government to add two more industries to the Schedule *viz.*, the printing industry and the water transport other than public motor boat transport, has been notified.

Steps have been taken to enforce the provisions of the Working Journalists Act in the State. Notices under Section 14 of the Act have been issued to the 15 industrial establishments, covered by the Act, to submit draft standing orders applicable to the Working journalists employed by them.

6. *Need for industrial peace.* It is the intense desire of everybody in Travancore-Cochin to establish large-scale industries in the State to enhance employment opportunities and it was felt that for this purpose a period of assured industrial peace is vital. In this connection, the Adviser broadcast the following appeal in his Independence Day Message:—

“We are all anxious, and rightly so, to see the State Industrialised, although we are sometimes apt to minimise what has already been done in this direction. Both the Central and State Governments, as recent events must have demonstrated, are fully aware of the seriousness of this problem and its impact on the equally great problem of unemployment, both educated and not so educated. The basic facts of the situation seem to be that we have large numbers of intelligent and educated men and women in need of employment and some raw materials such as water and power, but we have very few capitalists or potential employers of labour, *entrepreneurs* or captains of industry. Our problem therefore is to induce industrialists to establish their factories in our State by showing that we have the raw materials, the means of communication and other facilities. One of the more important things an industrialist will look for is satisfactory employer-labour relations. We have unfortunately, probably undeservedly, acquired an unenviable reputation in this respect. As all parties in the State without exception are extremely anxious to industrialise our State and to provide employment for our people, let me make an earnest appeal to employers, workers and labour leaders to do what they can to produce a favourable climate for industrialisation. I have referred to this matter on a previous occasion and I make no apology for reverting to it again because, in my opinion, it is of fundamental importance. While Government would sternly set their face against attempts on the part of employers to deny their workers the rights and privileges secured to them under our labour laws, or give them in a niggardly or half-hearted manner, Government also expect labour leaders to discourage the continual waiving of flags, shouting provocative slogans accompanied by vigorous hand shakes, issuing threats to strike and indulging in other unpeaceful forms of labour agitation. This is not to say that workers should not put forward their demands or ventilate their grievances in a peaceful manner. But frequent threats of strikes and such like demonstrations will only paralyse the will to work and

decrease production which is fatal to our national development, for without ever increasing production, it is impossible for any Government to improve the standards of living or increase the wages of the workers. A couple of well-publicised hunger marches will more than nullify all Government's efforts to persuade manufacturers to establish industries in this State. I know I shall be told that the number of man hours lost by strike action is negligible but it is not the number of days or man hours lost, that is crucial, it is the atmosphere, it is the psychology that results from this constant agitation. The consequences are even more serious than I have tried to picture before you. It has been officially accepted that during recent years the productivity of labour has declined largely as a result of the go-slow policy advocated by some workers. It may be all right as a weapon to cause immediate loss to the employer but its long-term effect on wages cannot be ignored. If our workers get into the habit of going slow, it will permanently reduce their productive capacity and ability to work and earn good wages. If the ability to work, the working man's greatest asset, is lost, then all is lost, higher wages, better working conditions and higher standards of living, not to speak of the harm permanently reduced production inflicts on society as a whole. The go-slow policy is therefore a weapon which will eventually destroy labour itself and he who advocates it cannot be a true friend of the working class. Let an industrial truce be declared, therefore, let labour-management negotiations be conducted in a peaceful and co-operative atmosphere across the table, let flag-waving be discouraged and let hunger marches and satyagraha be suspended, say for a period of five years and the results watched. In the meantime Government will not sit idle; we shall do all in our power to see that working conditions improve, that management-labour relations are based on law, justice and fairplay to both parties."

VII. EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Colleges. B. Sc. classes in Science were started in the Government College, Chittur, at the beginning of the current academic year. Post-graduate courses in Malayalam and English were started in the Maharaja's College, Ernakulam. There has been a long-standing demand for the introduction of specialised courses in Nyaya, Tharka and Vyakarana in the M.A. classes in the Sanskrit College, Trivandrum. This proposal had not made much headway in the past as a result perhaps of apprehensions that it might lead to duplication of the courses already conducted in the University College, Trivandrum. As a result of further consideration, orders have been issued for the starting of these specialised courses in the Sanskrit College from the current year. The pre-University course has been started in the Travancore University with full strength. Though the allotment for the implementation of the Five Year Plan has been placed with the University, the University has not been able to make a start as its proposals are still under the scrutiny of the University Grants Commission.

2. The N. C. C. activities in the University are being expanded.

3. A post-graduate basic training college has been started at Ramavarnapuram from the beginning of the current academic year. Fifty trainees have been admitted in the first batch, 12 of them being non-teachers possessing B. T. qualification. It will be possible after they have been trained to post them on the inspectional and supervisory staff in the field of basic education.

4. Plans and estimates for the expansion of training facilities in the Government Training College for teachers at Trichur and for hostel accommodation have recently been approved.

5. *Schools.* The pattern of academic schools has been reorganised, the duration of the school course being now 12 years as against 11 in the past. Of these, the first 8 constitute the primary grade of free education up to the age of 14 and the remaining 4, the secondary grade. This involves a complete change in the curricular pattern adopted for the school course. It is believed that the Travancore-Cochin State is the first to implement this much-needed reform advocated by the Secondary Education Commission. 33 out of the 613

High Schools in the State have already been so converted, which was the maximum possible with the assistance rendered by the Central Government.

6. The syllabi in all subjects for the primary grade were revised and implemented and text books for pupils and guide books for teachers, particularly in the new subjects, were prepared and published. The changes brought about in the pattern of academic schools and in the syllabi are calculated to rendering education in the primary and secondary grades as effective as possible.

7. The curriculum for secondary education was reoriented on the All-India pattern set by the Secondary Education Commission so as to transform progressively all the existing secondary schools into multi-purpose schools through diversification of the course. The new syllabi were implemented in standard 9 and text books for pupils and guide books for teachers were also provided in the new subjects. The syllabi for standards 10 to 12 have also been revised.

8. As part of expansion of the Education Department, 49 new lower primary schools (formerly called primary schools) and 50 new upper primary schools (formerly called Middle Schools) were opened during the current academic year. All these have started functioning with the full complement of staff.

9. *Basic Education.* The target set for the conversion of lower primary schools into those of the junior basic type for the current year was 60. Out of these, 49 have so far been converted. The shortfall has been due to the fact that not many private schools have been coming forward to undertake the conversion on account of the cost involved. A special feature of the conversion so far made is the opening of a school with agriculture as the basic craft in the N. E. S. Block at Mavelikara. It has been the general practice to have only spinning as the basic craft in the large majority of schools both in the State and perhaps also outside. The new experiment started will be watched with interest.

10. 5 basic training schools have been started by the conversion of 3 departmental and 2 private training schools, each with a full complement of staff and an intake of 80 trainees.

11. *Technical and Vocational Education.* 8 High Schools were equipped with the requisite appliances for conversion into higher secondary schools with technical courses. These have already started functioning on the new pattern. Places have

been selected for the location of a Central Technical Institute and 6 junior technical schools. Plans and estimates have been prepared for all of them. Construction is expected to start soon. A post of special officer for technical education of the grade of a Deputy Director has been created to remain in full charge of technical education.

12. A polytechnic has been started at Alagappanagar, Pudukad. 3 more such institution are being sponsored.

13. *Social Education.* Till now the subject of social education was being handled partly by the Education Department and partly by the Community Projects administration. All activities in this sphere have recently been consolidated under the Education Department and placed under the charge of a Deputy Director for social education. A district officer for social education has been deputed to Denmark for special training.

14. The library movement in the State, including, as it does, over 1,200 libraries, which was being organised by the Travancore-Cochin Grandhasalas Sangham has recently been brought under the control of a Library Board constituted with the Director of Public Instruction as Chairman. The Trivandrum Public Library is being converted into the State Central Library. A distributing library started functioning at Trichur this year. It has already become very popular. 2 such libraries are proposed to be started at Kottayam and Quilon.

15. For the promotion of literary and cultural pursuits and the upkeep of proper literary standards, the Kerala Sahitya Academy has been instituted with eminent men of letters in Malayalam as members.

16. *Special Education.* Preliminary steps for the establishment of a Public School in the State have been taken. A Committee with a High Court Judge as Chairman has been set up to organise the Public School. Pending the establishment of the school, two scholarships have been instituted under the Government of India scheme for enabling pupils belonging to the State to join Public schools elsewhere.

17. A nursery training school, the first of its kind in the State, has been started at Alleppey.

18. The Radhalakshmi Vilasom Music Academy at Tripunithura was inaugurated last month with the first two classes in full form. It provides instruction in vocal and instrumental music of different grades. Sri Musiri Subramania Iyer, the

well-known exponent of vocal Carnatic music, has been appointed as Principal.

19. The Ravi Varma Painting School at Mavelikara which was hitherto run by the famous painter's son is being taken over as a departmental school for drawing and painting. A special Committee is engaged in the preparation of the syllabi required.

20. A school for the blind is proposed to be started at Trivandrum. The site has been fixed and estimates for the building prepared.

21. Plans and estimates for the construction of a stadium at Ernakulam are under preparation.

22. *Seminars and Conferences.* Seminars at the primary and secondary level were held in the various districts. 3 conferences of headmasters of secondary schools were also held. A seminar in audio visual education is being held at Ernakulam to train a batch of 50 teachers in the making and use of audio visual equipments in school teaching. 12 teachers were deputed for the refresher course in English organised at Coimbatore by the British Council in Madras.

23. Two teachers who attended the seminar in guidance and counselling in Delhi last year are doing research work in the preparation of standardized diagnostic tests and other devices for the assessment of pupils' aptitudes and attainments.

24. A total reorganisation of the departmental administrative machinery has been worked out, as a result of which the revenue in the educational divisions has been made identical.

25. Building construction and renovation work (not including the annual repairs) has been undertaken to the extent of Rs. 9,51,758 in the case of lower primary schools, Rs. 1.39 lakhs in the case of upper primary schools and Rs. 2.01 lakhs in the case of secondary schools. A programme of digging of 100 wells has been sanctioned for the current year, out of which 6 have been completed and others are under construction.

26. Estimates are under preparation to provide living quarters for teachers. 25 blocks are proposed to be built.

27. There are 250 and 580 part-time Hindi teachers in departmental and private schools. In order to achieve the object of the Government of India of providing all schools with full-time Hindi Pandits, proposals have been submitted to the Government of India for the conversion of all the above posts into full-time.

VIII. MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

Unified Control. A scheme for the amalgamation of the Medical and Public Health Departments has been sanctioned. The unified department will be placed under the over-all control of a Director of Health Services assisted by two Deputy Directors, one of whom will be in charge of the medical side and the other the public health side. The administration of the two departments at the District level also will be similarly unified under a District Medical Officer of Health assisted by a Joint District Medical Officer. The responsibility for the two branches will be shared by these two officers, the senior of whom will be appointed as the District Medical Officer of Health. Medical and public health education will be placed directly under the control and supervision of the Director of Health Services. Special institutions for tuberculosis and leprosy and the Public Health Laboratory will also be placed under the control of the unified department assisted by the appropriate Deputy Director. The details of the organisation at the lower levels are being worked out.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

2. The implementation of the Second Five Year Plan during the current year has already gathered momentum. 100 beds have been added to the hospital at Perurkada. A maternity ward in the Government Hospital at Changanassery is ready to be opened and arrangements have been made to admit patients from the 1st September 1956. A T. B. Seal Ward with a bed strength of 12 attached to the Government Hospital, Alwaye, is also ready to be opened. The construction of similar wards at seven other places has been sanctioned. An additional ward at a cost of one lakh of rupees has been sanctioned for the Ophthalmic Department of the District Hospital, Ernakulam.

3. A Deep X-Ray Unit is under erection at the District Hospital at Ernakulam. The X-Ray plant donated by UNICEF is being installed at the Sri Avittam Thirunal Hospital, which is a teaching institution attached to the Trivandrum Medical College. Orders have been placed for a steam laundry plant in the Medical College Hospital at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 2 lakhs.

4. The construction of the buildings for a tuberculosis hospital of 300 beds has already started at Pulayanarcottah

near the Medical College Hospital at Trivandrum. It will also serve as a teaching institution in tuberculosis for the Medical College students.

5. A ward of 32 beds has been completed in the T. B. Sanatorium, Mulankunnathukavu.

6. Sanction has been given for the construction of two wards of 40 beds each in the Leprosy Hospital at Koratti and of 2 leprosy clinics at Chirayinkil and Pulayanarcottah.

7. Four out of the 10 new dispensaries to be started in the first year are ready to be opened. For this scheme the site, buildings and furniture have been provided by the public.

8. Nine taluks in the State have at present only dispensaries and not hospitals. The dispensaries at the headquarters of these taluks will be upgraded into hospitals with 60 beds at each place. The upgrading of the dispensary at Punalur has been taken in hand and the construction of the buildings started. The conversion of the two dispensaries at Thodupuzha and Haripad taken up last year is progressing satisfactorily.

9. A floating dispensary was being conducted during the harvest season for the benefit of the agricultural labourers employed in the Kuttanad lake cultivation area. This dispensary has now been made permanent.

10. For the benefit of the hill tribes, a mobile dispensary used to function under the Department for the Advancement of Backward Communities. A second mobile dispensary has been added in the current year.

11. A scheme to train 176 candidates as midwives has been sanctioned and applications have been invited. Regular classes for 40 students for training in compounding will be started shortly.

12. Free medical aid to all Government servants, gazetted and non-gazetted, has been sanctioned.

13. The annual admissions to the Medical College at Trivandrum have been raised from 80 to 100 with effect from this year.

14. The Employees' State Insurance Scheme is to be implemented in five industrial areas of the State with 11 dispensaries and 3 mobile dispensaries. This scheme is to be inaugurated on the 16th September 1956. All the staff have been appointed and they are in position finalising the arrangements.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

15. *Primary Health Units.* The State had 18 primary health centres and units in 1955-56. In April this year 20 more health units were sanctioned to complete the target of 38 fixed for the plan. Besides, 7 primary health units, which is the target for the first year, have been sanctioned out of the 50 units allotted for the Second Five Year Plan. Arrangements are in full swing for their opening at a very early date.

16. *Secondary Health Centres.* In addition to the Secondary health centres which were functioning in 1955-56 two more centres have been sanctioned for 1956-57.

17. *Maternity and Child Welfare.* Till the current year there was no district organisation for maternity and child welfare services. In order to improve the standard of work in this important sphere, a scheme of district organisation has been drawn up. Four district units have already been sanctioned and two lady doctors have been appointed, one for the Trivandrum District and the other for the Trichur District, with the necessary staff. There were no maternity homes in the State in the past. Four such homes have been allotted for the current year out of the 18 sanctioned for the Second Five Year Plan. Land acquisition proceedings for the construction of the buildings for the homes are in progress. There were 301 midwifery centres in the State at the close of 1955-56. There is a provision for the establishment of 50 more centres this year on an improved pattern, each with two attached beds. It is proposed to hire buildings for accommodating the centres till more suitable buildings have been constructed. Arrangements have already been made for the opening of 10 centres immediately.

18. *Education and training programme.* A great impetus has been given to the training programme. A midwifery course for 30 students was started from the 14th May 1956 attached to the Women & Children's Hospital at Trivandrum. 30 candidates under the categories of midwives, public health nurses and health visitors have been given refresher training at the Medical College Health Unit at Trivandrum. A health school has been started at Trivandrum and a training course for 38 health visitors has already started from the 5th July 1956. Two public health nurses have been deputed to the All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta, for a one year training in certificate course in public health nursing. Two Assistant Surgeons have been sent to the same institute,

one for the D. P. H. course and the other for the D. M. & C. W. course. Two health educational officers, one from the Public Relations and the other from the Public Health Engineering Departments have been deputed for a three months certificate course in health education at the above institute. Four persons were given training in reorientation course at the Orientation Training Centre at Poonamalee. The medical officers in charge of the institutions, with which the 10 family planning centres sanctioned for the first half of the current year are attached, were given a short course of training in family planning and public health control. Ten midwives were given training for a period of one month in family planning. The number of Health Inspectors trained each year at the Medical Hospital has been raised from 30 to 50.

19. *Malaria and filariasis.* The two national malaria control units started during the first Five Year Plan continue to operate and have sprayed D. D. T. about 400 villages since the 1st April 1956. One filariasis control unit and two survey units were sanctioned for the first Plan, but only one survey unit could be raised during that period. The remaining one survey unit and control unit were, however, raised during April this year. The filariasis survey of Trivandrum City which was commenced in 1955-56 was speeded up and completed during the period under review. Arrangements for a similar survey in Quilon town have been completed.

20. *B. C. G. Vaccination.* The B. C. G. team did not have any medical officers apart from the supervising medical officer. With a view to intensifying the campaign, two Assistant Surgeons were sanctioned during the current year. Two special T. B. clinics for the rendering of domiciliary treatment to T. B. patients were sanctioned during the current year.

21. *Family Planning.* To the 10 family planning centres with the registration of vital statistics which used to be done at a training centre during the current year. Of these 10 centres are ready to be opened immediately. The staff for these centres have completed their training and have received the posting orders.

22. *Registration of births and deaths.* The work connected with the registration of vital statistics which used to be done by the Revenue Department was taken over by the Public Health Department on the 15th April 1956. As the health staff are more competent to deal with this matter than the revenue staff, it is expected that there will be great improvement in the quality of the statistics collected.

23. *Enforcement of Adulteration Act on a state-wide basis.* Measures for the proper enforcement of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act have made good progress. The Sanitary Inspectors of municipalities and the Health Inspectors of the Public Health Department have been notified as Food Inspectors under the Act.

24. *Aid from UNICEF and W. H. O. and the Government of India.* A total of 3,73,068 pounds of milk powder out of the total allotted quantity of 10 lakhs pounds of milk powder have been received from the UNICEF during the period under report for school feeding as well as general feeding programmes. A jeep station wagon for use in the maternity and child health project has also been supplied by them.

25. *Outbreak of epidemics.* There was no outbreak of any epidemic such as plague, cholera or smallpox. A few cases of smallpox occurred in a sporadic form but did not constitute a menace to the public. 9 lakhs of persons were vaccinated against smallpox during the period under review.

26. The decision of the previous Government to create a separate Public Health Engineering Department was carried out and a separate department has been constituted.

27. *Water-supply schemes.* Work on the major water supply schemes for Trichur, Kottayam and Quilon, the foundation-stones for which were laid in the previous year, has started. It has been decided to speed up the programme for the completion of these projects from 5 years as originally planned to less than 3 years. Work is now proceeding on this new basis.

28. To meet the drinking water scarcity problems of the coastal areas of the State, the tube-well programme has been accelerated. As against 28 tube-wells originally proposed to be sunk in 1956-57, it has now been decided to sink 75 tube-wells. Twenty-five out of these have already been completed or are nearing completion. A special Executive Engineer and Driller Engineer with 10 drilling rigs are working on the programme.

AYURVEDA DEPARTMENT

29. A scheme has been drawn up for the expansion of the College buildings. Orders have been issued for the acquisition of land in the vicinity of the college. The construction of an administrative block started in December last year is in progress. An elaborate scheme for undertaking research in Ayurveda has been prepared and submitted to the Government of India for acceptance.

P. W. DEPARTMENT.

In view of the dearth of technical personnel especially in the lower ranks, sanction has been accorded to start two institutes attached respectively to the College of Engineering, Trivandrum and the Maharaja's Technological Institute, Trichur, to give intensive training for a period of nine months for 75 students in each institution to make them fit for employment as Overseers in the Department. A similar arrangement has been made in regard to the Electricity Department also.

Irrigation. At the beginning of the year there was a spill over of Rs. 85 lakhs out of the First Five Year Plan allotment. Most of this has been spent. An estimate of Rs. 3.8 lakhs was sanctioned for conducting a model study of Thanneermukkom Salt Water barrier, across Vembanad lake.

The major irrigation schemes included in the Second Five Year Plan cost Rs. 532 lakhs. Preliminary work in connection with the execution of the Periyar Valley and Chalakudi projects has been started. Works on the channels have been arranged for and land acquisition proceedings taken up.

Under Medium Irrigation 16 schemes have been sanctioned benefiting 50,000 acres. Works on 3 of these schemes have been commenced and the other items are being arranged for.

Communications. The eighty miles of surfacing left over from the previous year was completed in April and May 1956.

A number of village roads left over from 1955-56 are being completed.

Bridge Works. The decking and approaches of the two bridges at Meerankadavu and Moolaplakal have been completed during last five months. The bridges at Thondra, Kumbazha, Ittynayarkadavu, Piravom, Kakkadassery and Pulloot have made very good progress.

Under the Second Five Year Plan, the programme is to take up the construction of 41 major bridges. Detailed investigation of all the bridges has been completed. Estimates for 7 of these have been sanctioned. Estimates for 13 bridges are ready. Designs have been prepared in the case of another 13 bridges. Designs in respect of the remaining bridges are being finalised.

On the National Highway No. 47 (Aramboli—Vaniyampara) improvement works are in progress over a distance of about 80 miles costing Rs. 68 lakhs.

Anti-Sea Erosion. The total budget provision for the current year is Rs. 28 lakhs. The following works costing Rs. 23.75 lakhs have been sanctioned and work has commenced:

1. Construction of a sea wall for 2 miles to the south in continuation of the one mile experimental sea wall already constructed at Manassery— Rs. 8 lakhs.
2. Construction of a sea wall for 1 mile to the south from Puthenthodu— Rs. 4 lakhs.
3. Construction of a sea wall for a length of 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ fgs. to the south from Azhithodu to North Chellanam—Rs. 1.75 lakhs.
4. Construction of a sea wall for 2 miles north of Cochin Harbour, (a) one sea wall to the north from Nayaram-balam extending to a length of one mile and (b) one sea wall to the north from Pazhanagad Thodu extending to a length of one mile— Rs. 10 lakhs.

A special Division has been created for the execution of the work of Anti-Sea Erosion measures.

X. ELECTRICITY DEPARTMENT.

Works relating to power development, transmission and distribution, were speeded up, and considerable progress has been made during the last five months.

2. Certain handicaps causing delay in the execution of works, were removed, by effecting decentralisation delegating additional powers both administrative and technical to officers at various levels. Additional staff which were required for speeding implementation of works, were sanctioned. A circle with a Superintending Engineer and three divisions has been created to deal with the increased volume of work in connection with the implementation of the Second Five Year Plan.

3. The Store Purchase System was modified enabling the Chief Engineer (Electricity) to invite tenders and place orders for the purchase of plant and materials after getting sanction of Government wherever necessary with a view to reducing the delay in arranging for procurement of plant and materials. The procedure for land acquisition and making available Government lands for power projects was altered suitably and better co-ordination between the officers of the Electricity Department and the Collectorate was established in this respect. Shortages of cement and steel were partially overcome, and also sanction was accorded for purchase of steel from importer stockists as soon as these become available to meet the urgent requirements.

4. The spill-over works from the first five year plan have progressed considerably and all these works, except the installation of the 4th set at Poringalkuthu and the completion of the Neriamangalam Project which are scheduled to be completed during the 2nd and 4th years respectively of the second five year plan, will be completed in all respects during the course of this financial year.

5. The Poringalkuthu Hydro Electric Project with an installed capacity of 24,000 K. W. is nearing completion. One generating set has already been tested mechanically and is getting ready for commissioning in another two weeks. This Project is expected to be completed in the course of the next four months, in all respects, thus adding to the power availability in the State by another 24,000 K. W. The construction

f the first 110 K. V. line 95 miles long, the work on which was held up due to shortage of some steel, was completed and started on 26-8-1956 and is ready for service. The construction of three 110 K. V. Sub-stations and seven 66 K. V. Sub-stations is well in hand, and some of the necessary equipment and transformers have already arrived at site and the balance materials are on transit.

6. Expeditious action has been taken for commencing work on all the items under the power programme of the second five year plan. The Planning Commission's approval to the Panniar Hydro Electric Scheme (30,000 K.W.) and entire proposals for additions to the transmission system was obtained and formal Government sanction, wherever necessary, issued for taking up the works as per the plan programme. The works also have been commenced on these projects. The tender specifications for the Panniar Project have gone to the press. Administrative sanctions for most of the distribution schemes to be executed under the first year of the 2nd five year plan have already been issued and works taken up. For making available additional accommodation for housing of the various offices of the Electricity Department at Trivandrum, which are now distributed in several rented buildings, sanction has been accorded for the construction of a new administrative block costing Rs. 4.59 lakhs, and contract for this work has been arranged for and work will be commenced at once.

7. The necessity and importance of immediately implementing all the proposals for power development have been impressed on the Planning Commission and their approval to take up immediately for execution the Sholayar Hydro Electric Scheme and the Pumba Hydro Electric Scheme has been sought. The Planning Commission have just asked for a separate project report on the 1st stage of the preliminary works on the Sholayar Scheme have already been taken up and the construction of the necessary roads, temporary buildings, etc., is in hand. The question of investigation of the Idikki Hydro Electric Scheme, which is one of the major projects for execution in the near future, is pending orders of the Government of India. In the mean time, arrangements are set in train for commencing investigation as soon as the sanction is received.

8. Substantial progress has been attained in the distribution works and rural electrification programme during the last

five months. 4,000 additional consumers were given connections, 2,100 additional street lights were installed, 90 villages have been electrified, and 75 miles of 11 K. V. lines and 200 miles of L. T. lines have been constructed together with the installation of 50 numbers of distribution transformers totaling 5,000 KVA. Sufficient stock pile of distribution materials has been built up to implement the distribution and rural electrification programme well in advance.

XI. STATE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

Reorganisation of the Department

The one man Commission appointed by Government to enquire into the working of the Transport Department and to suggest measures for improving the efficiency of the Department submitted its reports in January, 1956. The recommendations of the Commission covering over 300 specific proposals were carefully examined and after considering the views of the Transport Employees' Union and the Transport Workers' Union on these recommendations orders were issued accepting practically all the recommendations. The orders are intended to increase the all-round efficiency of the Department, ensure greater amenities to the travelling public and guarantee better and more satisfying conditions of service for the staff of the Nationalised Transport Services. The revision of the pay scales of the staff with retrospective effect from 1-4-1955 is expected to cost Rs. 8 lakhs per annum. With a view to implementing the recommendations of the Commission as quickly and effectively as possible, Shri K. P. Velu Pillai, the sole Member of the Commission has been appointed as Special Director of Transport. The orders on the recommendations of the Commission are being implemented.

Second Five Year Plan

For the First year of the Second Five Year Plan the allotment under the various schemes is Rs. 23.32 lakhs for purchase of buses, boats, plant and machinery, and for acquisition of land and construction of buildings.

Orders have been placed for 90 chassis, out of which 29 chassis have been received and the building of bodies has begun. Work regarding the construction of new boats, bus stations, waiting sheds, etc., is in progress. About Rs. 9 lakhs have already been spent till now.

Operation of a Tyre Retreading Plant at the Departmental Central Works

A Tyre Retreading Plant worth about Rs. 80,000 erected in the Central Works at Pappanamcode, was commissioned in April, 1956. The Department, which was till then getting the tyres retreaded by private firms, thus has its own plant retreading to the extent of 18 tyres daily on an average. This has ensured better quality and brought down the cost on tyres.

XII. LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT

With a view to ensuring greater assistance to municipal councils and greater despatch of work on their part, the work relating to municipal councils has been placed under the immediate charge of the Director of Local Bodies. The Director of Local Bodies has been asked to inspect the work of Municipal Commissioners, who will hereafter be under his administrative control. The results of this experiment are gradually being felt in the quicker despatch of work.

2. A bill to amend certain provisions of the existing Municipal Acts has been introduced. It aims primarily at removing the anomaly of double taxation of persons residing in one area and exercising their profession in another local area. The bill is also intended to bring District Collectors more directly and fully into the picture of municipal administration. Several matters of a comparatively minor nature which had to go to Government previously can now be dealt with and settled by Collectors on the spot. One of the objects of the amending bill is also to remove the restrictions on the salary limits of Municipal Commissioners so as to bring them in line with the pay scales obtaining in the regular Government services.

3. A slum clearance scheme involving a total expenditure of Rs. 217 lakhs has been prepared and submitted to the Central Government for approval. As the allocation for this scheme in the 2nd Five Year Plan is considerably less, it will be necessary for the Central Government to fix a priority of execution so as to bring the total expenditure within the allocation permissible.

4. In view of the difficulties of holding elections on a State-wide basis on the eve of the reorganisation of States, the term of office of the members of all existing panchayats has been extended by one year, i. e., up to the 5th July 1957.

5. In order to expedite the construction of local development works and minor irrigation works, District Collectors have been empowered to accord administrative sanction for such schemes so long as they do not exceed Rs. 20,000.

6. In view of the very large number of panchayats in the State, the general policy of decentralisation of powers under which large powers have been delegated to the Director of Local Bodies and his deputies is expected to remove many bottlenecks in the functioning of panchayats.

XIII. AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT.

1. *Reorganisation of the Agriculture Department.* The Agriculture Department of the State was too small a unit to be effective. It was felt that unless it was adequately expanded, it would not be able to cope with the problems of implementation of the Second Five Year Plan. Accordingly a scheme for the reorganisation of the Department has been sanctioned costing about Rs. 3 lakhs during the current financial year. It provides for the appointment of a Deputy Director of Agriculture for food production drive, of a Deputy Director for extension work, of a Rice Specialist and of a Plantation and Crop Specialist. With the reorganisation of the Department it is proposed to raise the target of food production for the Second Plan period from 1 lakh tons to 1.5 lakh tons of foodgrains. Improvement of paddy cultivation, improvement of plantation crops and training of agricultural personnel to build a team of trained research workers are some of the salient features of the reorganisation. The deputation of five officers for post-graduate training at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, as envisaged in the scheme, has also been sanctioned. With a view to ensuring the speedy reorganisation of the department and to giving an impetus to the implementation of the Second Five Year Plan, a post of Special Director of Agriculture has been created. A senior officer who has worked as Director of Agriculture in a number of major States has been appointed to the post.

2. *Arresting of Coconut diseases.* In order to arrest the spread of coconut diseases which have assumed alarming proportions in the State, a comprehensive scheme costing Rs. 25.31 lakhs for spraying all the 70 lakhs of infected coconut trees has been drawn up and submitted to the Government of India for financial assistance. The Travancore-Cochin Agricultural Pests and Diseases Act is being proposed to be amended with a view to facilitating the implementation of the scheme mentioned above. The amending bill has been approved by the Consultative Committee of Parliament and is awaiting enactment by the President.

3. *Soil Conservation.* The soil conservation scheme which was started in January 1955 has been expanded during the period under review. Contour terracing and trenching were completed in an area of about 1286 acres till the end of June 1956. Administrative sanction has been issued for carrying

out soil conservation work in a further area of 3,040 acres in three taluks of the Trichur District. Two more employees of the Soil Conservation Department have been deputed for training in soil conservation at Oottacamund.

4. The seventh Vanamahotsava was celebrated in the State on an adequate scale. Public meetings were organised at the headquarters of districts, taluks, panchayats and community project centres, to emphasize the need of planting and protecting fruit-bearing and other trees to make the countryside a verdant landscape, large quantities of seeds and seedlings were distributed to the public at cost price from the Departments of Agriculture and Forest during the Vanamahotsava week.

5. With a view to stepping up the production of paddy which is the staple crop of the State, Government have fixed a target of consumption of Ammonium Sulphate and Superphosphate at 20,000 tons during the current year as against the actual off-take of 10,000 tons in 1954-55. In order to achieve the target, a large number of manure depots have been opened in the various parts of the State so as to make fertilizers and manures freely available to cultivators. It is proposed to give a considerable impetus to the Japanese method of cultivation. The area under this method which was only 30,000 acres in 1955-56 is proposed to be increased to 200,000 acres in the current year.

XIV. DEPARTMENT FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF BACKWARD COMMUNITIES

The backward classes of the State comprise nearly 1/10th of the total population. The Department is charged with the implementation of the Second Five Year Plan, the allotment for which in the first year being Rs. 34.8 lakhs.

2. *Education.* Additional classes in 20 existing pial schools, 50 additional night schools and 65 additional libraries have been sanctioned to be opened during the current year. Sanction has also been accorded for converting 12 night schools and 2 libraries into social welfare centres.

3. *Housing.* A sum of Rs. 4.75 lakhs has been set apart for the construction of 1,000 houses during 1956-57. The localities for the construction of houses have been selected in some Districts and action is being taken to start construction.

4. *Colonisation and assignment of land.* This is an important scheme for ensuring protection to backward classes from the oppression of landlords. A policy for providing colonies for scheduled castes has been pursued by Government. There are more than 200 colonies under the control of the Department. Provision of common buildings, approach roads street lighting, wells, latrines, burial grounds, etc., is being attended to by the Department. During the current year, a sum of Rs. 54,000 has been sanctioned for wells, Rs. 5,990 for burial grounds and Rs. 10,315 for the construction of compound walls to burial grounds.

5. *Grants to institutions.* Institutions have been started at various centres for giving training in useful arts and crafts. Government have sanctioned the payment of monthly grants to 17 of such institutions. Ten co-operative societies have already been organised and registered for the benefit of scheduled castes and 9 more have been organised.

6. *Amelioration of scheduled tribes.* A provision of Rs. 4,60,900 has been made under the Second Five Year Plan for this year to be spent on education, model welfare centres, settlements, forests, co-operatives and administration. Sanction orders have already been issued in respect of most of these schemes and implementation has started. A Tribal Enquiry Committee formed by Government with Mr. Mackay as Chairman submitted its report and the Central Government have

promised to implement the schemes recommended by the Committee as a centrally sponsored scheme. The State Government are already in correspondence with the Central Government in regard to the sanction of these schemes. A Tribal Board has been constituted and its inaugural meeting was held last month.

7. *Removal of untouchability.* A sum of Rs. 2.85 lakhs has been sanctioned under the scheme for the removal of untouchability. The scheme envisages propaganda, payment of grants for starting cosmopolitan hostels attached to colleges, the starting of 5 cottage industrial centres and the appointment of organisers.

8. As sanctions for most of the schemes were issued sufficiently early this year, it is expected that most of the schemes would be implemented before the end of the year.

XV. ANIMAL HUSBANDRY DEPARTMENT

Arrangements have been made for the starting of a veterinary hospital and three dispensaries during the current year. Six key village centres working under the Department have launched an intensive programme for the artificial insemination of cattle. The results achieved are encouraging. About 3,000 inseminations have been conducted since the 1st April 1956. With the enforcement of the Livestock Improvement Act and the rules framed under it, compulsory castration of stud bulls has been strictly enforced in the key village areas. Poultry development is also progressing satisfactorily and poultry chicken and hatching eggs are being supplied to villages at concessional rates. From the Poultry Farm at Ollukkara alone, 621 birds have been issued to the various N. E. S. Blocks. Nearly 2,000 hatching eggs of the Rhode Island Red and White Leghorn and Barred Plymouth Rock breeds have been sold.

2. An improvement made in the current year in the activities of the Department was the delegation of ample powers to the Head of the Department and his subordinates. This has resulted in considerable progress being made with the various schemes.

3. The veterinary college started last year at Trichur sent up the first batch of students for the first B. V. Sc. examination of the University. The percentage of passes during the year is 65. The number of admissions to the College has recently been raised from 70 to 80. A hostel to accommodate 260 students is under construction in the college campus. The work of construction of the main college building is also in progress.

XVI. CO-OPERATIVE DEPARTMENT

Registration of new Societies. The Co-operative Department showed steady progress during the period under review, the number of societies rising from 3947 to 3995. The new societies included 14 industrial societies, 3 farm societies, 5 milk societies, 2 fishermen's societies and 3 school societies. As the collection of a prescribed amount of capital was made a condition precedent to registration, there has been considerable increase in the total amount of paid up share capital of Co-operative Societies and the newly registered societies have started functioning actively.

2. *Credit Societies.* As a result of the discussions at the Ministers Conference held in July 1956 the physical target allotted to the State have been increased to 250 societies and 100 godowns. According to this target the quota for the current year is 30 societies and 18 godowns. Instead of organising new large-sized credit societies, Government have selected 30 existing societies with a paid-up share capital of Rs. 10,000 and above for reorganisation and conversion to the desired type.

3. *State Co-operative Bank.* Till recently only short-term agricultural loans were issued by the State Co-operative Bank. As medium-term loans were considered essential, arrangements were made for the issue of such loans from the month of July. Recently Government have sanctioned the opening of branches of the State Co-operative Bank in Quilon and Kottayam Districts for facilitating the issue of loans to, and remittance by, societies in those Districts. In order to facilitate more effective supervision of co-operative societies, Government have sanctioned a scheme for transferring the supervisory functions now exercised by the Travancore-Cochin Co-operative Institute and the Cochin Central Co-operative Institute to the Central Financing Agencies namely, the Travancore-Cochin State Co-operative Bank and the Cochin Central Co-operative Bank.

4. *Co-operative Central Land Mortgage Bank.* Steps have been taken for reorganising the Central Co-operative Land Mortgage Bank in the State in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India. It is proposed to convert the Travancore Credit Bank which has gained considerable experience of issuing long-term loans into a Central Co-operative Land Mortgage Bank. The bye-laws of the proposed bank have been approved by the Department.

5. *Amalgamation of Societies.* There are a number of defunct societies which have either to be revived or to be wound up. A scheme for the amalgamation of weaker societies into appropriate units has been formulated. District committees consisting of prominent non-official co-operators have been constituted.

6. *Processing and Marketing Societies.* It has been decided to register 5 marketing societies, one in each District during the current year. The commodities which will be handled by these societies are pepper, cashewnut, cocoanut, ginger, fruits and vegetables. Already two arecanut marketing societies have been organised under the scheme sponsored by the Indian Central Arecanut Society, one at Pazhanchi and another at Nedumangad.

7. *Farming Societies.* Against the target of 25 Societies for the whole Plan period, five have to be organised during the current year. Steps have already been taken for the re-organisation of the Aroor Farming Co-operative Society which has been sanctioned 147 acres of Kayal Poromboke. Other Farming Societies to be organised have been selected and the necessary paid-up share capital has been raised.

8. *Dairy Developments.* The Trivandrum Milk Supplies Unions has made considerable progress during the last six months. The quantity of milk handled by the Union has increased from 4380 lbs. of Milk per day in March 1956 to 5100 lbs. of milk per day in August 1956. Five Feeder societies have already been registered. A pasteurising plant will be installed at Trivandrum with modern equipments.

9. *Training of personnel.* 20 Inspectors of Co-operative Societies have completed the training at the Regional Co-operative Training Centre, Madras, and 10 more have been deputed to the same centre. A batch of 15 Co-operative Extension Officers have completed training at Hyderabad and has been posted to N. E. S. Blocks as Extension Officers. It is proposed to get trained another batch of 20 Extension Officers during the current year. A refresher course for the training of Gram-sevaks for the N. E. S. and Community Projects was conducted by the Department and 12 Gramasevaks were trained.

10. *Administration.* The separation of audit from inspection and supervision was one of the main schemes of improvement carried out by the Department. The number of auditors

has been increased from 24 to 33. The appointment of a Chief Auditor for the supervision and control of audit work has also been sanctioned.

11. *General.* A temporary staff under a Deputy Director of Co-operative Societies has been sanctioned for work connected with the integration of the Apex Co-operative Institutions consequent on the re-organisation of the State.

XVII. FISHERIES DEPARTMENT

1. The activities of the Fisheries Department have considerably increased during the period by the addition of a Fishermen Training Centre at Cochin, of a Welfare Section for the issue of loans and supply of fishery requisites to fishermen, and of a Fresh Water Service Station and an Extension Service at Tiruvella.

2. The construction of modern fish-curing yards at Pandarathuruthu, Thottappilly, Thumboli, Narakkal and Malippuram which could not be completed during the First Plan period has been taken up and the work is in progress. A laboratory to conduct research work in marine fisheries has been completed at Vizhinjam.

3. Seven schemes forming part of the programme for the first year of the Second Five Year Plan have all been taken up and have made good progress. Under the scheme for the issue of loans to fishermen co-operative societies, two loans have already been granted. The remaining applications are being investigated. Soft wood timber for 49 boats are ready for supply. A preliminary survey of the scheme for the construction of breakwaters at Vizhingam has been completed. Further investigations are expected to be completed this year and the Government of India have been requested to assign to the work the services of two F. A. O. Harbour Specialists now in India. Administrative sanction for the erection of an ice and cold storage plant for the preservation of fish has been accorded and the work has been taken up. A scheme for the stocking of nursery ponds has been taken up and is in progress. A site for the construction of a boat factory and slipway has been acquired and quotations for the supply of machinery and tools are being scrutinised. Experimental guide lines have been made and tried at Vizhinjam.

4. Under the T. C. M. schemes, a training centre for training fishermen boys in modern mechanical fishing has been opened at Cochin. 20 fishermen boys from Travancore-Cochin, Malabar and South Canara are being trained under the direction of an F. A. O. expert and an Indian under-study. Most of the equipment received under the T. C. M. agreement has been satisfactorily utilised. The insulated fish transport van and a shrimp fishing vessel have been hired out for operations. Nylon for net-making has been issued to a few fishermen's co-operative societies both on a loan basis and for ready cash.

5. Under the Indo-Norwegian Project, 25 fishermen boys were trained in mechanical fishing during this period and 15 more are undergoing training. 19 mechanical fishing boats have been issued to train fishermen on a 50 per cent subsidy. In addition each trainee was given a number of fishing nets at half the cost. The cost payable by the trainees is proposed to be recovered in instalments in the course of 5 years.

6. A 25-ton ice plant and 300-ton storage was completed for the preservation of fish and preliminary arrangements for the formation of a fish sales organisation consisting of two fishermen's co-operative societies have been made.

7. A clinic and a maternity ward were opened in the Project area for rendering medical aid to fishermen and their families. Work on the construction of 800 latrines have been completed.

8. A pipe factory for the manufacture of pre-stressed cement pipes in connection with the supply of drinking water to the coastal fishing villages of the Project and the neighbouring area and also for the Quilon town water supply were completed during this period. This factory is the first of its kind in India and will serve the entire State.

XVIII. HOUSING DEPARTMENT

It was felt that unless adequate powers were delegated to Collectors for proper supervision and implementation of the works under the control of the Department of Colonisation, the progress made by this key Department would be slow. Accordingly, the necessary powers were delegated to Collectors in respect of various housing schemes such as Poor Housing, Subsidised Industrial Housing, the Settlement Scheme, and Co-operative Colonisation. The District Collector, Kottayam, was appointed as the ex-officio Special Officer for Survey, Settlement and Colonisation Schemes in the taluks of Devicolam and Peermade with the powers of the head of a Department.

2. *Housing Schemes.* Under the poor housing scheme, 34 houses were completed during the period under review and 44 are nearing completion. Under the subsidised industrial housing scheme, the construction of 50 houses was taken up, out of which 16 have reached the roof level. Investigations have been undertaken regarding the construction of houses for the workers of Sitaram Spinning & Weaving Mills, Trichur, the Burmah-Shell and the Tata Oil Mills, Ernakulam, the Paper Mills, Punalur, the aluminium and cashew workers of Kundara, and the Vijayamohini Mills, Trivandrum. These investigations are at different stages of progress. Under the low income group housing, 35 applications out of a total of 320 have been sanctioned. The remaining applications are under scrutiny.

3. *Settlement Scheme.* 130 houses under the Settlement Scheme have been completed and the supply of materials for 172 houses is in progress. 80.92 acres have been set apart for implementing further schemes. Government have sanctioned an extent of about 19 acres of land on the southern side of the Alleppey-Changanacherry Canal for allotment of 5 cent plots to 388 landless agricultural families for the construction of houses. These houses are expected to be completed by the middle of November.

4. *Co-operative Colonisation.* The Settlement of landless agriculturists and agricultural operations in the co-operative colonies registered under the Co-operative Colonisation Scheme are in progress. Sanction has been accorded for the disbursement of grants and loans to these colonies.

5. *Colonisation in Devicolam and Peermade Taluks.* The scheme envisages the settlement of 1200 families in an area

of 6,000 acres during the Second Plan period. Survey work in respect of 1200 acres has been completed and the settlement of the required number of families is in progress. 831 families were settled during the last five months against 349 families during the whole of the First Five Year Plan period.

6. *Colonisation outside the State.* The Secretary to Government in the Local Self Government Department was deputed to enquire into the conditions of the Travancore-Cochin settlers at Bhopal. The requirements of the settlers were brought to the notice of the Government of India. The families of the third batch of labourers were despatched to Bhopal. 42 families were also sent to the Andamans during the period.

XIX. FOOD DEPARTMENT

The Food Department which had become comparatively unimportant with the easing of the food situation during the last few years suddenly found itself faced with heavy work in connection with the opening of fair price shops throughout the State. The prices of food grains started rising appreciably since March 1956 and reached somewhat alarming dimensions by about May 1956. The price of a bag of 160 lbs. of rice which was about Rs. 30 in the early part of the year rose up to as much as Rs. 40 to 45 by the month of May. It was, therefore, considered very necessary to open an adequate number of fair-price shops with a view to bringing down the market price. The first round of fair price shops were opened in the bigger towns such as Trivandrum, Quilon, Alleppey, Ernakulam and Cochin. Though the rise in prices was somewhat checked at these places, the general increase in prices, particularly in the interior of the State, continued unchecked. It was then considered necessary to open a large number of shops throughout the State and immediate action was taken accordingly. A total of 155 wholesale shops and 2113 retail shops were opened in the State. Distribution on this large scale has now been going on for about a month. Rice is being sold at fair price shops at the rate of 9 annas 3 pies per Travancore Edangazhi and 9 annas per Cochin Edangazhi, corresponding to a price of Rs. 34-11-0 per bag. This has led to very encouraging results; the price in the open market has come down to about Rs. 37 to 38. The ascending spiral of prices has thus definitely been checked and substantial relief has been given to the people. There are now practically no complaints regarding the availability of rice in the State.

XX. DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS.

The Department undertook as many as ten different surveys during the period under review.

2. *Land Utilisation Survey.* The land utilisation survey conducted by the department is intended to study the varying matters of cropping in the State and are usually done twice a year. A survey was started on the 1st June 1956 and will be completed on the 30th September 1956. The work is being done in a sample of about 800 villages throughout the State.

3. A survey of cultivable waste land was begun on the 1st June 1956. It will cover by turn all the taluks in the State during the Second Five Year Plan period. During the current year work has started in the Taluks of Kottayam, Meenachil and Changanacherry.

4. *National sample survey and livestock verification survey.* In this survey the Department of Statistics is co-operating with the Directorate of the National Sample survey. The survey which was conducted between the 15th December 1955 and the 15th May 1956 covered 68 villages and 56 urban blocks. The Department has also taken up during the period the work of verification of livestock census returns under the direction of the Directorate of the National Sample Survey.

5. *Unemployment Survey.* A survey of the unemployment situation was conducted by this Department during the period from the 15th April 1956 to the 31st May 1956. The object of the survey was to study the pattern of employment in the State with special emphasis on the problem of unemployment in general and of the unemployment of the educated in particular. It covered the whole State and was done on a sample basis.

6. *Cost of living Indices.* There were two sets of cost of living indices in this State causing great confusion, one published by the Bureau of Statistics of the University of Travancore and the other by the Board of Revenue. With the formation of the Department of Statistics the Board of Revenue discontinued publication of their series. In view of the growing importance of the cost of living index numbers in the adjustment of the wage structure, a series of Family Budget Studies were conducted by the Department during 1955. On the basis

of these studies fresh sets of cost of living indices have been compiled this year and the figures of the first few months have already been published.

7. The other surveys conducted included a pepper survey, a livestock census survey, a crop-cutting survey on paddy, and a census of handlooms.

XXI. LAND REVENUE, SURVEY AND FOREST DEPARTMENTS

Forest lands under unauthorised occupation

One of the most important problems concerning the State Forests which the Government in Travancore-Cochin have had to solve is the question of unauthorised occupation of large areas of forest and destruction of valuable forest growths. Large areas of forest lands are under encroachments, some under leases granted under Grow More Food Scheme, the term of which had already expired. Government have taken the following steps to solve this problem:—

(i) To excise from the forest lands under occupation which are not absolutely necessary for the conservancy of the forests and hand them over to the Revenue Department. The area under this is roughly estimated to be 54,000 acres.

(ii) Demarcate the boundary of the reserve forest after excising these portions by prominent cairns. This work is already under way and has made considerable progress.

(iii) Clear the areas of encroaches which are in the heart of the forests.

(iv) The landless occupants who are evicted are proposed to be rehabilitated in the area ordered to be handed over to the Revenue Department. Broadbased Committees have been formed in the Kottayam and Quilon Districts the two Districts concerned with District Collectors as the Chairman to screen the deserving people for rehabilitation. The work of these committees is in progress.

(v) The entire area under occupation has been ordered to be surveyed and a staff consisting of 1 Deputy Collector, 5 Tahsildars, 7 Deputy Tahsildars, 70 Revenue Supervisors, 346 Village Assistants and 800 Chain-men has been appointed for the purpose. The work of survey is under way.

It is hoped that when this programme is fully worked, the question of encroachment of forest lands will be finally solved and the forest lands will be free from further destruction.

Prevention of smuggling

Government have sanctioned the formation of 2 flying squads for the purpose of preventing illicit felling and removal

of trees from reserve forests. A staff consisting of 2 Rangers, 4 Foresters and 12 Guards has been sanctioned for the purpose.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

The Survey Department has been reorganised up to the District level and the rest is under consideration.

Orders have been passed on the recommendation of the Taluk and Village Reorganisation Committee. The newly formed Taluks and Villages will come into existence shortly.

XXII. SEPARATE REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Various trade associations and merchants' chambers had moved the State Government several times in the past for the constitution of an Appellate Tribunal under the Sales-tax Act. The necessary amending legislation was undertaken towards the end of last year. A Sales-tax Appellate Tribunal was accordingly set up early in June 1956. The Appellate Tribunal is expected to commence work shortly, as the connected regulations are ready for publication. This is expected to go a long way towards improving the administration of the sales-tax law.

2. An Expert Committee appointed to go into the recommendations of the Taxation Enquiry Commission with reference to sales-tax and agricultural income-tax has submitted its report to Government and the report is under examination. Pending such examination the period of exemption from payment of sales-tax given to green and soaked husks, coir and coir products, during the previous years has been allowed to continue.

3. The collection of sales-tax has considerably suffered in the past because of stay orders issued from time to time. This was particularly so in the oil-milling trade. The right of the State Government to collect sales-tax on the entire value of oil produced by oil millers without allowing any rebate for the value of copra purchased by them was in dispute and had been taken up to the High Court. Though the High Court gave a ruling in favour of Government in November 1954 the sales-tax due for the period prior to the judgment of the High Court was administratively stayed. This accounted for arrears amounting to over Rs. 15 lakhs. The stay of collection of this and similar amounts was vacated and a vigorous drive for collection of these amounts has been started.

4. Special efforts have been made to speed up the assessment and collection of sales-tax and agricultural income-tax. As a result of these measures, the Department has been able to collect during the last five months of the President's rule about Rs. 26 lakhs more than that collected during the corresponding period of the previous year, as the following figures show:—

24/00
81

	1955-56.	1956-57.
	Rs.	Rs.
I. Sales Tax		
April ..	11,66,490	15,73,964
May ..	15,37,686	18,62,631
June ..	19,80,700	25,33,459
July ..	14,12,747	25,72,197
	60,97,623	85,42,251

II. Agricultural Income-tax.

April ..	7,21,707	4,73,848
May ..	1,64,976	4,43,842
June ..	8,75,211	8,02,168
July ..	4,36,933	6,27,716
	21,98,827	23,47,574

Increase in Agricultural Income-tax	Rs. 1,48,747
Increase in Sales-tax	Rs. 24,44,628
Total	Rs. 25,93,375

5. This very satisfactory trend in collections should be viewed against the difficulty caused by the decision of the Supreme Court in the Bengal Immunity Company's case restraining the State from levying and collecting sales-tax on inter-State sales or purchases. The financial results achieved by the Department during this period is the highest since the last six years.

6. The collection of excise revenue under both arrears and current demand has shown a similar improvement. The collection under current demand amounted to Rs. 45,08,728 during the first four months of the current year as against Rs. 34,46,352 for the corresponding period of last year. Under old arrears, the collection during the current year amounted to Rs. 9,49,023 as against Rs. 4,68,828 for the corresponding four months of last year.

7. An important change made in the procedure for the supply of arrack is the inviting of tenders in place of the old practice of settling contracts by negotiations. As a result of this, there has been a saving of 4 1/2 annas per gallon, bringing in an increase in revenue of about Rs. 40,000. There has been an appreciable increase in the collections under tree tax also, by about Rs. 50,000.

8. Enforcement of prohibition has been intensified by stimulating the work of the flying squad.

9. In general it may be stated that a vigorous drive has been launched for the collection of arrears and current dues in all the three revenue earning Departments, *viz.*, the Agricultural Income-tax Department, the Sales Tax Department and the Excise Department. The result has been that a large amount of revenue that remained uncollected has begun to come into the treasury.

LAW DEPARTMENT

After the President assumed the administration of the State by Proclamation dated the 23rd March 1956, the powers of the State Legislature vested in Parliament. The Parliament, in turn, by the Travancore-Cochin State Legislature (Delegation of Powers) Act, 1956, which received the assent of the President on the 13th June 1956, conferred on the President the power to make laws for the State in consultation with a Committee consisting of 21 members of Parliament. The first meeting of the Committee was held at New Delhi on the 21st July 1956 to discuss certain legislative measures. The Committee completed discussion of the following five Bills:—

1. The Travancore-Cochin State Aid to Industries (Amendment) Bill;
 2. The Travancore-Cochin Indebted Agriculturists Relief Bill;
 3. The Travancore-Cochin Agricultural Pests and Diseases (Amendment) Bill;
 4. The Travancore-Cochin Land Conservancy (Amendment) Bill; and
 5. The Travancore-Cochin Police (Amendment) Bill.
- These Bills are awaiting enactment by the President.

2. The next meeting of the Consultative Committee is to be held at New Delhi on the 8th September 1956. At this meeting the following six Bills, which have already been circulated among the members, will be discussed by the Committee:—

1. The Travancore-Cochin Irrigation Bill;
 2. The Travancore-Cochin Lime Shells (Control) Bill;
 3. The Municipal (Amendment) Bill;
 4. The Travancore-Cochin Interpretation and General Clauses (Amendment) Bill;
 5. The Travancore-Cochin Compensation for Tenant's Improvement Bill; and
 6. The Holdings (Stay of Execution Proceedings) Second Amendment Bill.
3. The Travancore-Cochin Compensation for Tenant's Improvement Bill aims at giving statutory recognition to the

right of the tenant to effect improvements and to claim compensation in the event of eviction throughout the State on the lines of the statutory provision already applicable in the Cochin area. The Holdings (Stay of Execution Proceedings) Second Amendment Bill is intended to extend the period of the stay of evictions of tenants in the Travancore area by one year from the 24th September 1956. In the Cochin area there is already statutory provision for this purpose. These Bills are also expected to be passed as President's Act on a near date.

4. The question of the abolition of intermediary rights in respect of Sreepadom lands and Sreepandaravaka lands is being considered by the Government. The Bills relating to other land reforms which were introduced in the State Legislative Assembly lapsed but which on the dissolution of the Assembly are also being examined.

5. The laws in force in the Malabar District and the Kasergod Taluk of the Madras State which will form part of the Kerala State from the 1st November 1956 are being examined with a view to adapting them suitably and for the appointment of proper functionaries pending the unification of laws. The work is progressing satisfactorily.

XXIV. ELECTION DEPARTMENT

The work of the manual preparation and revision of electoral rolls, which is one of the main functions of the Department, has been completed by Tahsildars who are the statutory Electoral Registration Officers. The printing of electoral rolls was completed by the 25th June 1956. The date fixed for the preliminary publication of the rolls was the 30th June 1956 for the entire State and accordingly the rolls of all the Legislative Assembly constituencies were published by Tahsildars on that date. The complete Assembly Constituency rolls have been published in the Taluk offices concerned and the relevant parts in each panchayat and municipal ward in the State. The fact of publication has been announced over the Radio and through a press release. All the political parties in the State were also informed about the publication of rolls and they were requested to extend their co-operation to make the rolls correct in all particulars.

2. The District Munsiffs and the Sub-Judge, Chittur, have been nominated as Revising Authorities for the disposal of claims and objections on the published rolls. The nomination has been notified in a Gazette Extraordinary dated the 20th June 1956. The last date for the filing of claims and objections was the 21st July 1956. To make the rolls as exhaustive as possible, particularly in view of the fact that the next General elections are to be held on the basis of these rolls, the Election Commission have extended the period for filing claims and objections in respect of all the Assembly constituencies in the State up to the 4th August 1956.

3. With a view to ensuring that the electoral rolls are complete and accurate and to eliminating bogus names and the names of dead and unqualified persons from the rolls, Government have ordered the constitution of joint committees for each polling area, consisting of one or two representatives of each recognised political party functioning in the area and the Village Officer concerned. They have to personally verify the entries in the rolls, as far as possible by house to house visits, and to give a joint report regarding the corrections, additions and deletions to be made in the rolls. The District Collectors have been authorised to implement the scheme.

4. The work of fixation of polling stations for the forthcoming General elections has been completed on the basis of

the existing constituencies. The lists for the various constituencies were prepared by the Returning Officers in consultation with the Members of the Legislature and representatives of political parties. The lists of all the constituencies have been printed and forwarded to the Commission for approval.

5. In view of the extension of the limits of the Municipal towns of Kayamkulam, Ernakulam, Trichur and Chittur-Tattamangalam by the inclusion of certain adjoining areas, the rolls of these areas do not reflect the correct date of the administrative units. With the concurrence of the Election Commission, the Department has sanctioned an intensive revision of the rolls of these areas which is expected to be completed by the 31st October of this year.

6. The estimate of the additional number of ballot boxes and other election materials which have to be provided, consequent on the transfer of areas to and from the Madras State, have been prepared and arrangements for their procurement in time, are engaging the attention of the Department. Repairs and repainting of ballot boxes in the depots are being attended to wherever necessary. The Electoral machinery of the State has been geared up for undertaking the big responsibility and the details are being planned carefully on the basis of the directions issued by the Commission from time to time. A conference of Revenue Divisional Officers and Tahsildars is being held at the headquarters of each district for discussing the working of the Election Section in Taluk Offices and considering the preliminary arrangements for the conduct of the ensuing general elections.

JAILS DEPARTMENT

Most of the recommendations of the Jail Reforms Committee have been implemented.

2. The following constructions at the estimated cost noted have been sanctioned :—

	Rs.
(1) Construction of A Class Sub-Jail, Thuckala ..	50,000
(2) Construction of quarters for the released prisoners at Trivandrum ..	10,000
(3) Construction of quarters for the subordinate staff of the Central Prison, Trivandrum ..	1,11,500
(4) Construction of a permanent compound wall for the Central Prison ..	1,50,000
(5) Construction of an office building for the Inspector General of Prisons ..	50,000
(6) Construction of A Class Sub-Jail, Mavelikara ..	50,000
(7) Do. Muvattupuzha ..	50,000
(8) Construction of quarters for the Assistant Jailers, Central Jail ..	20,000
(9) Construction of quarters for the Warder staff of the Jails Department ..	1,30,000
(10) Construction of Prayer halls in the Central Prison, Trivandrum ..	9,450
(11) Construction of 3 B Class Sub-Jails ..	3,000
(12) Construction of guard room in the Central Jail, Viyapur ..	2,370
(13) Construction of released prisoners Home, Trichur ..	10,000

A State Aftercare Association has been formed. The general public have now begun to realise the importance of Aftercare work and within the short period of 4 months, 8 discharged prisoners have been provided financial aid by the Association, 2 employment, and 2 with working implements.