

JANUARY 4, 1963

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Assembly,

It is once again my proud privilege as the Head of the State to address this August Assembly, especially at a time when we are facing the Chinese aggression which resulted in grave National Emergency. Our country which believes in the principles of Panch Sheela with peaceful co-existence with other nations and non-aggression as its basis, has been led into this great war for no fault of ours due to the wanton and unprovoked attack by our northern neighbour whom we treated as a friend throughout and to whom we rendered great help at a time when they required it most. The present position is that a cease-fire has been declared and the enemy is withdrawing in certain sectors; but no one can anticipate what will be the future course of action. A state of preparedness of the highest order is essential if we have to successfully defeat the enemy, so that the integrity and independence of our country may be guaranteed for all time against aggression from any quarter.

2. I am sure, this House will appreciate the sound policy of my Government in channelising its activities towards the defence of the country in this hour of crisis. In Kerala as elsewhere in India the situation created by the Chinese aggression has united the people in all walks of life in an unprecedented manner. The national cohesion and emotional integration has been as if by magic, achieved overnight. People everywhere have responded to the call of emergency with promptitude, determination and loyalty to the country as a whole. We have here formed a Citizens' State Council consisting of non-official members for various purposes connected with the defence work. This Council working through its sub-Committees is intended to mobilise public sympathy and support for the defence efforts, to encourage people to join Home Guards, National Volunteer Forces and Village Defence Units and to keep up the morale of the people. These bodies are also expected to help in arresting inflationary tendencies and rise in price of essential commodities and in preventing hoarding and profiteering.

3. The present emergency has necessitated a reorientation of the State's expenditure programmes especially in view of the increased expenditure on law and order arrangements caused by the emergency. My Government is fully alive to the necessity of enforcing economy in all sectors and already some measures of economy have been initiated in the administrative and public works spheres. Government have imposed certain restrictions on new appointments and filling of leave vacancies and have curtailed certain leave facilities. Strict economy will be enforced in the execution of public works and the employment of staff in that connection. I am glad to note that Government employees have agreed to work for half an hour more each day during the period of emergency. Workers have also agreed to contribute one day's wages to Defence Fund, increase production and maintain peace in the industrial sector. New avenues for raising resources are being explored and it is likely that people may be called upon to shoulder fresh financial burdens. I am confident, we in Kerala will bear our new obligations dutifully and in good spirit.

4. A modern war is fought not only in the battle field but also in farms and factories. Our Plans are major instruments of economic progress and a determined implementation of the current plan will provide the necessary economic support to our Jawans in the front. Compared to 1961-62 there is better progress this year in spending the current year's Plan provision. Steps are being taken to eliminate the lapses in some sectors of development so as to fulfil the targets set forth in all fields of development. In all fields implementation has to become much more efficient than before. Consistent with the policy of economic and social reconstruction the need of the hour is to re-arrange certain priorities in the Plan in order to meet the present requirements to increased production. The main principle in effecting such adjustments would be not to drop schemes which have already been accepted after due consideration but to aim at the fulfilment of the prescribed physical targets at reduced costs.

5. At present our requirement of paddy is about twice as much as our internal production. Following a Conference of the Chief Ministers of the States in the Southern Zone the Central Minister for Food and Agriculture, Shri S. K. Patil has kindly agreed to ensure the building up of buffer stocks of rice and wheat in the State as an emergency reserve and for ensuring a continuous and regular supply of wagons for moving rice into the State from surplus areas. Already one ship carrying a load of 12,000 tons of wheat has discharged

its cargo at Cochin. In order to step up the production of paddy Government launched package programmes in five Blocks each in the Districts of Alleppey and Palghat during 1961-62. Subsequently they have decided on the introduction of this programme in some more Blocks. As a short term measure to relieve the demand for paddy, comprehensive schemes have been drawn up for intensifying the production of pulses, plantains, banana, tapioca and other tuber crops as well as schemes for increasing the catch of fish in the State. These schemes have been sent to Government of India for approval. My Government is keeping a watch on price situation and planning to set up a large number of co-operative consumer stores. It is gratifying to note that prices are well under control and even in some cases show a downward trend.

6. The C. D. Programme can play a major role in the present context by mobilising public support for defence, maintaining essential supplies and increasing production on all fronts. The Government have already taken steps to constitute a Village Volunteer Force and a Defence Labour Bank in every Panchayat. Labour Intensive Rural Works Programme has been started to absorb idle labour force in the Block areas. Besides an Applied Nutrition Programme is being drawn up to be implemented over a three year period in five selected Blocks in the State with the technical co-operation and financial assistance of UNICEF.

7. Government are considering the setting up of a cattle and Dairy Development Project in the High Ranges with Swiss assistance. A Swiss Mission had been in Kerala recently to conduct a preliminary survey of the possibilities of such a project. Information regarding the nature of Swiss assistance and other details are awaited.

8. Recognising the importance of Rubber Plantation Government have already launched a scheme for raising 20,000 acres of rubber plantation in the public sector at Kodumon and Kalady. Government have now registered a private Company by name "The Plantation Corporation of Kerala Ltd.", to own and manage the Government Plantations at Kottayam. The authorised share capital of the Corporation is Rs. 7. crores. The Company will start functioning shortly.

9. Irrigation and Power are basic requirements for agriculture and industry. It has been decided to complete as many irrigation schemes as possible during the III Plan period in order to tide over the chronic deficiency in food. The additional acreage estimated to be brought under irrigation during 1962-63 is 36,050 acres. The Government of India have also agreed to allot more funds for minor irrigation works to the State. In view of the National emergency it is again necessary to increase power output. Government therefore accorded priorities to the schemes which can be commissioned within short periods and have decided to accelerate the tempo of progress of the spill over schemes viz., Panniyar, Sholayar and Sabarigiri. Government have already sanctioned the preliminary works of Idukki Project in anticipation of the approval of the Planning Commission. Out of a provision of Rs. 35 lakhs for 1962-63 for the scheme a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs was spent by the end of October, 1962.

10. Steady progress has been maintained in the field of industrialisation of the State. A number of large and medium industries are taking shape. In the public sector, a Precision Instruments Factory is being set up by the Government of India in Palghat District. The Government of India have decided to set up a Machine Tool Factory also in the State. Proposals are under way for the selection of a suitable site and for the training of technical personnel for this factory. For the establishment of the Ship Building Yard, a team of Japanese technicians recently visited Cochin. They have made a detailed on-the-spot study in regard to this project. The Trivandrum Spinning and Weaving Mill, Balaramapuram, which is State-owned, went into production in April, 1962.

11. The expansion programmes of large, Government Controlled private sector industries, like the Fertilisers and Chemicals (Travancore) Ltd., and Travancore-Cochin Chemicals Ltd., are being progressively implemented. The expansion of the Travancore Titanium Products Ltd., in which Government have controlling interests, is also receiving attention. Preliminary steps for the setting up of a Heavy Transformers Factory at Angamaly with an authorised capital of Rs. 2.2 crores have already been taken. This project envisages the setting up of a Public Limited Company in collaboration with Hitachi Ltd., of Japan where the Kerala Government and the Hitachi Ltd., contribute 52% of the capital required.

12. A number of important industries is being set up in the private sector. Messers Cominco Binani Zinc Ltd., of Calcutta have been given the licence to set up a Zinc Smelter Plant at Alwaye with an investment over Rs. 5 crores. The Zinc Smelter Project will have a capacity of 20,000 tons of Zinc a year and 130

tons of Sulphuric acid per day. Land acquisition for this industry is in progress. Work on the factory buildings is to start soon. A factory for the production of abrasive aluminium oxide is being set up at Edappally near Alwaye by Messrs Carborandum Universal Private Ltd., Madras with a capital investment of over Rs. 2 crores.

13. Considerable progress has been achieved in the establishment of the Penstock Factory at Palluruthy by Messrs Giovanola Binny Ltd., Madras. The products of this factory are designed to meet the requirements of Penstock lines for the Hydro-Electric Projects in the States of Kerala and Madras. Messrs Premier Cables, Delhi are holding a licence for the manufacture of Power cables at Karukutty. The investment involved in this is Rs. 1 crore. The land required for the factory has already been purchased by the Company. The acquisition of the necessary land for the setting up of the Traco Cable Co., is in progress. For the setting up of a tin plate factory with an investment of Rs. 20 lakhs, by Satysheil Gupta of Delhi, land acquisition is under way at Edappally near Ernakulam. A licence has been issued to Messrs Rallis India Private Ltd., for the establishment of a Gelatin & Ossein Factory at Alwaye with an investment of Rs. 60 lakhs. Work on the setting up of a Wire Rope Unit at Alwaye with an investment of Rs. 1 crore has already been started by the Licensee Messrs Seshasayee Bros. Ltd. A Water Meter Plant with an investment of Rs. 20 lakhs is nearing completion at Palluruthy. Licences have been issued for the establishment of 11 new Spinning Mills in the State, each with an investment of over Rs. 40 lakhs. Work on most of these is in progress. A licence has also been issued for the establishment of a Model Spinning and Weaving Mill at Trivandrum with 25,000 spindles and 500 looms. The investment on this mill will be over Rs. 3 crores.

14. The Factory which has been established near Calicut by Gwalior Rayons Ltd., for the manufacture of Rayon Grade Pulp, is expected to go into production within a few weeks. The capacity of this factory will be 150 tones of pulp a day initially. The West India Steel Co., Private Ltd., are setting up a re-rolling mill at Calicut with a capacity of 15,000 tons of iron rods, bars etc.

15. The Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation has been working for more than a year now. In addition to assisting a number of industries by issuing loans and underwriting share capital, the Corporation has also been able to participate actively in the promotion of new companies. The Packaging Paper Corporation Ltd., and the Development Corporation Rubber Co., Ltd., are two public limited Companies recently promoted by the Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation. The Packaging Paper Corporation Ltd., proposes to set up a factory in Kerala for the manufacture of packaging paper using tropical timber species. The Corporation Rubber Co., Ltd., proposes to establish a factory for the manufacture of tyres and tubes for automobiles.

16. In the Co-operative sector considerable progress has been achieved in the setting up of the Mannam Co-operative Sugar Mills Ltd., Pandalam and the Co-operative Sugars Ltd., Chittur. Government have already taken shares to the extent of Rs. 25 lakhs each in these two societies. Both the mills are expected to go into production early in 1964.

17. Government appointed a Special Officer for starting ancillary industries based on the proposed Ship Building Yard and also ancillaries based on automobiles and textile machinery. The Special Officer has submitted his report and action is being taken to persuade entrepreneurs around the industrial areas to start ancillary industries.

18. Arrangements for the acquisition of 400 acres of land in Edayar Village at Alwaye for the establishment of an Industrial Development area are in progress. Acquisition of 200 acres of land for the establishment of a Development area at Pudussery in Palghat District is also in progress. The location of an Industrial Development area in Trivandrum District at Kadakampally village near the Travancore Titanium Products Ltd., has also been sanctioned.

19. Out of the 11 new Industrial Estates included in the Third Plan, sites have been selected for six Estates at Quilon, Edakkad (Kozhikode), Vazhakulam (Ernakulam District), Karakkad (Palghat District) Mancherry (Kozhikode District) and Changanacherry (Kottayam District). Steps for acquisition of land and construction of buildings are being taken on the basis of the annual plan provision made for the respective Estates. The Management of the existing Industrial Estates has been transferred to the Kerala State Small Industries Corporation which was organised with this object in view.

20. On the advice of the Planning Commission this Government have decided to start two Rural Industries Projects for the intensive development of small scale industries in rural areas, one each in the Districts of Alleppey and Kozhikode covering a number of National Extension Service Blocks.

21. With a view to improving the export quality of our industrial products, quality control schemes have been sanctioned for Handloom, Small Scale Industries and Handicrafts articles. In order to help the Handloom Apex Society to tide over financial difficulties, Government have sanctioned a loan of Rs. 5 lakhs to the Society. Government have also given guarantee to the Reserve Bank of India for about Rs. 30 lakhs for the institutional financing of Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Societies through Co-operative Banks during the current year.

22. In order to solve the problem of unemployment in the coastal areas of Alleppey District, Government have constituted three Committees to study the problem relating to stabilisation and development of the factory sector of Coir Industry, to draw up a programme of starting new industries in the coastal areas of Alleppey District and to go into the question of unemployment in these areas and draw up a programme of rural development works. The reports so far received are under the consideration of the Government. For the increased exports of coir manufactured goods mechanised looms have to be set up to produce quality matting. It is proposed to set up a few mechanised coir factories for this purpose as early as possible.

23. One of the important projects to be started in Kerala is an International Equatorial Sounding Rocket Launching pad for Space Research and exploration under the auspices of the United Nations. Important countries like U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. will co-operate in this matter. For this purpose nearly 600 acres of land are being acquired for the Government of India in Pallithura in Attipra village.

24. Agrarian relations and a sound system of land taxation are receiving the attention of my Government. In view of the recent judgments of the Kerala High Court ruling out the applicability of the Kerala Agrarian Relations Act, 1960 to Ryotwari lands in the Malabar area and the majority of lands in Travancore area and the earlier judgment of the Supreme Court regarding ryotwari lands in Kasargod and Hosdurg Taluks, the Kerala Tenants and Kudikidappukars Protection Ordinance, 1962 has been issued to give temporary protection to tenants in the matter of eviction and payment of arrears of rent. The Ordinance is a temporary measure for giving immediate relief to tillers and occupiers of land and by its nature is only of limited utility. Government of India have been requested to consider the question of amending the Constitution suitably to meet the situation that has arisen. In the meanwhile a comprehensive legislative measure for establishing sound agrarian relationship is being examined by the State Government. In addition the Kerala Land Tax Act, 1961 has been struck down as unconstitutional by the Kerala High Court and Government are examining how best an equitable levy on land could be imposed keeping in view the needs of financial resources of the State. In this context the Government are considering the question of having survey and settlement over the entire State. Government are also anxious to see that assignable revenue lands are assigned as early as possible, preference being given to *bona fide* occupants of land. It is my fervent hope that suitable measures would be introduced soon for establishing sound agrarian relationship, instituting rational land taxation and dealing with allied matters.

25. My Government will continue, as hithertofore, to bestow special attention on the advancement of the backward communities, especially the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The various programmes undertaken for their educational, economic and social development will be continued. The Evaluation Committee which was constituted to assess the progress achieved in the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes during the First and Second Plan periods has submitted its report and the Committee's recommendations are under study by Government.

26. In the field of education my Government have taken the lead in announcing free education to the children of Service Personnel in Standards IX and X in all Departmental and Aided Schools. Similar concessions are extended to the children of defence personnel who have been killed or disabled in action on the front. In addition such children would be eligible for free collegiate education as well. Besides, Government have decided that the N.C.C. Organisation should be expanded to cover all eligible male students of the Colleges and other similar institutions in the State. The proposals for introduction of National Discipline Scheme in Primary Schools and Physical Education Programme in High Schools are under the consideration of Government.

27. In order to alleviate the grievances of private teachers and non-teaching staff a grant-in-aid code for private Arts, Science and Training Colleges in the State affiliated to the Kerala University has been sanctioned by Government. The code *inter alia* provides for continuance as a permanent measure of the U.G.C. scales of pay for teachers approved for Kerala, and for grant of D.A. including D.P. at State rates to the teachers and the non-teaching staff of the private colleges and for expansion activities of the private colleges.

28. During last year the Education Department undertook some specialised expansion. A new school for the handicapped was started at Kottayam. A Degree Course in Chemical Engineering has been started in the Engineering College, Trichur. The Chemical Operators' Course at the Diploma level has been introduced in the Government Polytechnic, Kalamasserry. Steps are under way for gearing up these technical institutions to cater for the needs of war efforts. A Rural Institute will be established at Tavanur in Palghat District in the Public Sector. With a view to fostering and co-ordinating activities in the sphere of visual and plastic arts and promoting cultural unity in the country the Government have constituted the Kerala Lalitha Kala Academy. The Kerala Kala Mandalam at Cheruthuruthy has been reorganised into an Academy of Arts for Kathakali, Ottamthullal and Mohiniyattam on a more scientific basis.

29. Fully realising the large requirements of qualified Doctors and other trained personnel, another Medical College was opened at Kottayam. Sanction for a Medical College at Alleppey has been given already. Postgraduate Courses in various subjects have been undertaken in the Medical College, Trivandrum. Government have also decided to introduce a pre-degree in course Nursing as a preliminary to a degree programme. In the context of the emergency, Government have considered programmes of training of General Nurses Auxiliary Nurses, Compounders and Public Health Nurses. Introduction of a short term training course to meet the need for Technicians under the present emergency is engaging attention of Government.

30. Work on malaria eradication is coming to a close. This State has the distinction of completing a large part of the work, and 13½ out of 14½ spraying units have been withdrawn already. It is expected that as a result of appraisal this year it may be possible to close spraying even in the remaining unit. Surveillance has been strengthened in all the units in accordance with the increase in population shown by the recent census. Small-pox eradication programme started from this year and the work is likely to take three years for completion.

31. There is at present a Directorate of National Employment Service at the Capital with Employment Exchanges located in the Districts. Besides these, there is also a University Employment Bureau. In order to extend the coverage of Employment Service to the rural areas, 12 Employment Information and Assistance Bureaux have already been set up in Community Development Blocks. Six more Bureaux are proposed to be set up this year. Collection of Employment Market Information and vocational guidance programme are some of the important aspects of National Employment Service which are being developed.

32. I am glad to note that the Law and Order situation has been generally satisfactory throughout the year. I wish to make particular mention of the arrangements made for maintaining order during the general elections to Lok Sabha which were held in one day simultaneously throughout the State early this year. The arrangements were quite satisfactory and gained the appreciation of the Election Commission.

33. The Police Force in the State has been suitably augmented to cope with the situation created by the national emergency. A Battalion of Malabar Special Police is being formed in the place of the Battalion deputed for services under the Government of India. In addition, it has been decided to raise one more Battalion of the Special Armed Police consisting of nine active companies and one Headquarter company. Schemes for giving rifle training at Police Stations are being considered. It is heartening to note that the Home Guards Organisation is being strengthened by recruiting 5000 more volunteers to assist in the Civil Defence Programme. The District Armed Reserve is proposed to be increased suitably for internal security duties. A City Police Organisation has been established in the City of Trivandrum under a Separate Commissioner of Police with effect from 15-11-1962. It has been decided to organise Civil Defence Volunteer Corps in each Taluk and Municipal Town.

34. An open prison was inaugurated on a 500 acre site in the Nettukulthery reserve in the Trivandrum District on 20-8-1962, where the prisoners are given more freedom than in the other jails. The success of this new venture will pave the way for more open prisons in the State. Under the Social Welfare Programme included in the III Plan, remand homes at Quilon and Trichur, After-care Hostels for women at Ernakulam and Trivandrum, Hostels for working men and women at Alwaye and Trivandrum and Homes for physically handicapped at Alleppey and Palghat were started in 1962. During this year a certified school has been opened at Kottayam. Steps are being taken to set up a Children's Home at Mavelikkara and a Home for Mentally deficient children at Trivandrum.

35. The Bye-elections in the Pathanamthitta and Vazhoor Assembly Constituencies were postponed by the Election Commission in the face of National Emergency. The electoral rolls of all the Assembly Constituencies in the State were summarily revised in 1962. Preparations are being made for the delimitation of the Assembly and Parliamentary Constituencies in the State on the basis of the 1961 Census figures.

36. In 1962 nineteen Bills were introduced in the Legislative Assembly. Of these, seventeen Bills as also three Bills pending from the previous year were passed into law.

37. Besides the Bills already introduced or published the following Bills to replace Ordinances promulgated by me will be introduced and proceeded with in this session of the Legislative Assembly:

- (1) The Kerala Police (Amendment) Bill.
- (2) The Kerala Tenants and Kudikidappukaras Protection Bill.

38. The following Bills are some of the important ones that may be dealt with by you during this year:

- (1) The Kerala Co-operative Societies Bill.
- (2) The Kerala Gift Goods (Unlawful Possession) Bill.
- (3) The Kerala State Parks Bill.
- (4) The Kerala Agricultural Produce Market Bill.
- (5) The Travancore-Cochin Irrigation (Amendment) Bill.
- (6) The Kerala Chitties Bill.
- (7) The Agricultural Income Tax (Amendment) Bill.
- (8) The Kerala Revenue Recovery Bill.
- (9) The Kerala Court of Wards Bill.
- (10) The Kerala Money Lenders (Amendment) Bill.
- (11) The Kerala Municipalities (Amendment) Bill.
- (12) The Nurses and Midwives (Amendment) Bill.
- (13) The Kerala Medical Practitioners' Bill.
- (14) The Calicut City Municipal (Amendment) Bill.
- (15) The Kerala Veterinary Practitioners' Bill.
- (16) The Kerala General Sales Tax Bill.

In addition, it is proposed to bring under the purview of the Kerala public Service Commission the appointments under the Kerala State Electricity Board by suitable legislation.

39. Before closing I must once again reiterate that we have to remember that Kerala's economy today is more or less of an agricultural nature and that we are faced with the serious problem of unemployment due to excessive population and lack of space. In the interest of our future development and progress we have perforce to turn our attention and to gear our resources to achieve an agro-industrial basis for Kerala economy. For this purpose, it is highly necessary that we should march steadily towards progressive industrialisation by utilising our power, water and other resources and starting key, large-scale, medium and small industries both in the public and private sectors. It is a matter for gratification that my Government is taking all possible steps in this behalf. The most important single factor that retards our progress is the Pressure on land and to relieve the State of this weight we should try, with the assistance of the Central Government, to encourage colonisation of thousands of our families in other parts of India, eventually making it possible for us to march towards our goal of self-sufficiency and prosperity in rapid strides.

40. I have outlined in broad terms the major achievements and the future policy of my Government in regard to the various spheres of Governmental activity in the wake of the national emergency. I am hopeful that these measures will strengthen our economic base while supporting the defence efforts of the country. Let us take this opportunity of rededicating ourselves to the defence of our motherland. It is the bounden duty of all, irrespective of caste, colour or creed, to unite to a man and place all the resources at our command for maintaining and holding aloft the tri-colour Flag, the sacred symbol of our unity, and direct all our energies to strengthen the defence efforts of our country. Everyone to-day must be prepared to declare conscientiously with a hand on his heart that in thought, word and deed he would render most willingly any sacrifice that would be necessary to drive the enemy from our sacred land, so that our progress—social, economic and political—may be safeguarded for all time and the fundamental rights adumbrated in our Constitution guaranteed to every citizen.

JAI HIND