

CHAPTER XXIII **Legislators' Day Celebrations**

In the year 1955, it was considered that some sort of relaxation should be provided for the members of the State Legislature especially after a long and strenuous Budget Session. A "Legislators' Day" was therefore organized by the House Committee which looks after the amenities for Members. It met with a very good response and Members, both Ladies and Gentlemen including the Ministers and Presiding Officers of both the Houses took part in the various events. It proved so popular that it has become an annual social event.

The day usually begins with various items of sports like 100 yards race, musical chairs (separately for ladies and gentlemen) sack race, relay race, putting the shot, breaking the chatty blindfold (separately for ladies and gentlemen) and tug-of-war on a district basis. These items are conducted in the spacious lawn adjacent to the Rajaji Hall in the Government Estate. The invitees are accommodated in a tastefully decorated Shamiana specially erected for the purpose. By arrangement with the police department, a Police Officer is deputed to act as a starter for the sports events and the State Police Band is also in attendance the events are rounded off with a fancy dress competition in which both gentlemen and lady members take part. Sri M.A. Muthia Chettiar, a Member of the Legislative Assembly, has presented an attractive cup called the "Raja of Chettinad Rolling Cup" which is presented to the district scoring the highest number of points. The winners of the championship cup are given below:-

1958	-	Coimbatore
1959	-	Madras City
1960	-	Thanjavur

In the year 1959, there was an interesting cricket match between the governor's Eleven and the Chief Minister's Eleven which, by kind courtesy of the Madras Cricket Club authorities was played on the famous Chepauk Ground, the scene of many a Test' between India's cricketing talent and other cricketing countries of the Commonwealth. In this year, Sri.N. Mahalingam, M.L.A also gave a cup to the member who won the Championship.

After the sports events are over, the prize distribution takes place and is followed by a dinner given by the Chief Minister.

After the dinner, variety entertainments with Bharatanatyam performances by a renowned artiste of Madras are held. Members also take part in these entertainments. One of the members gave demonstrations of physical strength like bending iron bars and another member gave a hobby horse performance.

The Legislators' Day sports also attracted a large number of the public every year. The information and Publicity Department of the Government of Madras had also filmed the various events which were exhibited in the theatres in the State.

CHAPTER XXIV

Our Distinguished Visitors

During the period of the Second Assembly many distinguished personalities and Parliamentary Delegations visited Madras.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad, President, visited Madras in August 1960 and took part in the Independence Day celebrations on the 15th August 1960. To enable the Members of the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council to meet the president, the Chairman, Legislative Council, and the Speaker, Legislative Assembly, arranged a tea party in his honour on Saturday, the 13th August 1960 at 5.30 p.m. at the pergola behind Rajaji Hall, Government Estate, Mount Road, Madras. On arrival the President was received by Dr.P.V. Cherian, Chairman, Madras Legislative Council and Dr.U. Krishna Rao, Speaker, Madras Legislative Assembly and all the Members of the Assembly and the Council and officers of both the departments were then introduced to him. After tea, the President of India addressed the Legislators.

Her majesty queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh visited the City as State Guests in February 1961. The visit was historic as it was the first time the city was receiving a ruling British Sovereign. A reception by the State Government was accorded to them on the 19th February 1961, on the day of their arrival at Madras at the Rajaji Hall, Government Estate, Mount Road, Madras at about 6.30 p.m. At the foot of the steps leading to the Rajaji Hall, the queen and the Duke were received by Sri. C. Subramaniam, Finance Minister, who introduced Dr.P.V. Cherian, Chairman of the Legislative council and Dr.U. Krishna Rao, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly to the distinguished visitors. Srimathi T.N. Ananthanayaki, M.L.A. presented a bouquet to the queen while Srimathi Mary Clubwala Jadhav, M.L.C., presented a garland to the Duke. The reception was attended by Members of both the Houses of the Legislature. Sri. C. Subramaniam presented the Legislators to the Queen, while Sri.R. Venkataraman, Minister for Industries presented the Legislators to the Duke. The Queen and the Duke were presented souvenirs on behalf of the Legislators. The Speaker presented to the Queen a Nataraja in ivory mounted on a silver jewel box while the Chairman of the council handed to the Duke an attractive Cigarette box made of silver. That day being Prince Andrew's first birthday, the queen cut a birthday cake as soon as she entered the hall amidst cheers.

The Commonwealth parliamentary Conference of December 1957 was held in New Delhi. The delegates from various branches of the Association attended the Conference,. They were divided into two batches and tours were arranged around India, Pakistan and Ceylon. When the delegates visited Madras they were taken around the City. They were enabled to visit the integral Coach Factory. Central leather Research Institute and other important places in the City and also Mahabalipuram. Cultural programmes were also arranged. A dinner was given by the Joint Presidents of the Madras Branch to which many of the leading citizens of Madras were invited.

A Soviet parliamentary Delegation headed by Mr. Labanov, President of the house of the Union, Supreme Soviet and Chairman of the Academy of Agricultural Sciences and thirteen others visited Madras between 27th February and 2nd March 1958. During their stay at Madras, the Delegates visited the Integral Coach Factory, the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills, the Central leather Research Institute, the Industrial Estate, Guindy, the Victoria

Technical Institute and the Handloom House. The delegation also visited Mahabalipuram. They met the Governor at Raj Bhavan on the 27th February 1958 and also visited the Legislative Assembly Chambers and watched the Proceedings of the House. A tea party was arranged by the Speaker, Madras Legislative Assembly and Chairman, Madras Legislative Council and there was a dance recital by Kumari L. Vijayalakshmi. The delegation left Madras on the 2nd March 1958.

A group of five Members of the Bundestag the Lower House of the German Federal Parliament, representing the main political parties in the Federal Republic of Germany, visited Madras between 23rd and 28th September 1959. A tea party was given by the chairman, legislative Council, Madras, to the Members of the Reich Bundestag to enable them to meet the Members of the Madras Legislature.

A Team of 22 Nepalese parliamentarians visited Madras on the 2nd January 1960. Arrangements were made for their visit to the Integral Coach Factory, Victoria Technical Institute, Industrial Estate, Handloom House, Khadi Gramdhyog Bhavan and the Buckingham Carnatic Mills. They visited the Legislative Assembly Chamber and witnessed the proceedings of the Assembly. They were also taken to Mahabalipuram. A dinner party was arranged in their honour by the Speaker, Madras Legislative Assembly, and the Chairman, Madras Legislative Council, followed by a dance recital by Kumari L. Vijayalakshmi. The party left Madras on the 3rd January 1960.

A delegation consisting of five Parliamentarians from Yugoslavia headed by Mr. Veljko Vlahovic visited Madras on the 26th and 27th October 1960. On the 26th they called on the Governor and visited the South Indian Chamber of Commerce. The next day they visited Mahabalipuram before they emplaned for New Delhi.

A Bhutanese national Assembly Delegation consisting of 40 Members of the Bhutan National Assembly visited Madras between the 25th and 27th February 1961. Visits to the Industrial Estate, Guindy, Gemini Studios, the Madras Aquarium, Kalakshetra, Gandhi Mantap, Industrial Exhibition, Legislature buildings, Mahabalipuram and the Integral Coach Factory were arranged. The Speaker, Madras Legislative Assembly, and the Chairman, Madras Legislative Council, gave a tea party to them. At the end of the party, there was a dance recital by Kumaris Lakshmirajam and Kalaimadhi Devi. The party left Madras on the 27th February 1961.

A six-member Parliamentary Delegation from Bulgaria headed by His Excellency Mr. Ferdinand Kozovzki, President of the parliament and Leader of the Delegation arrived in Madras on the 28th March 1961 and after a short stay in the city they left for Calcutta by air. The members of the Delegation during their short stay in the City watched the proceedings of the State Assembly for a few minutes. Then they were taken around the City.

A ten-member Parliamentary Delegation from the Federation of Malaya who were on a study tour of South India from the 19th May to 2nd June 1961 visited Madras. They were taken round the Assembly and council Chambers on the 1st June 1961. The Deputy Speaker entertained them at tea the same evening when they were able to meet some Members of the Madras Legislature.

A party of three members of the French parliament visited Madras on the 1st and 2nd December 1961. They were entertained at lunch by the Chairman, legislative council. They

visited the Integral Coach Factory on the 1st December 1961, after a drive along the Marina. They also called on the governor. They visited the Fort Museum on the 2nd morning and left for Calcutta the same day.

During the period under review, the Members of the Estimates Committees of certain State Legislatures including the Lok Sabha visited Madras. The purpose of the visit was to meet the members of the Estimates Committees in the different States were functioning and also to visit and study the working of certain Institutions in this State in connection with the particular estimates they had taken up for scrutiny.

The visiting Members usually met the Members of the Estimates Committee of this Assembly at 'Tea' or 'Dinner' given either by the Speaker or the Chairman of the Estimates Committee during the course of which there were free and full discussions regarding the working of the Estimates Committees.

Sri P.T. Thanu Pillai, M.P. Convener of the Study Group of the Estimates committee of the Lok Sabha address the members of the Estimates Committee of the Madras Assembly on 13th June 1961 about the functioning of the Estimates Committee of the Lok Sabha when the study group visited Madras in connection with the scrutiny of estimates relating to the Ministries of Commerce and Industry, Transport and Communications and Information and Broadcasting.

The members of the various visiting Committees visited the following Institutions (both Government owned and Private) and places of interest:-

- 1) Industrial Estate, Guindy
- 2) Small Scale Industrial Units, in and around the city
- 3) Community Development Block at Tirukalukundram
- 4) Government Press
- 5) State Transport Department
- 6) Integral Coach Factory, Perambur
- 7) Museum & Zoo
- 8) T.V.S. Automobile Workshop at Madurai
- 9) Vauhini Film Studio
- 10) Kalakshetra

The following Committees on Estimates of other States visited Madras during the period 1957-62, on the dates noted against each:-

1	Punjab Vidhan Sabha	5th to 7th September , 1960
2	Andhra Pradesh Legislature	19th to 23rd September 1960
3	Bihar Vidhan Sabha (Chairman only)	27th and 28th September, 1960
4	Kerala Legislature	19th and 20th January, 1961
5	Lok Sabha	9th to 14th June 1961
6	Maharashtra Legislature	20th and 21st December, 1961

During the period 1957-62, the Committees on Public Accounts of the Lok Sabha for the years 1960 and 1961 and the Public Accounts Committee of the Kerala Legislature visited Madras on 8th January 1960, 12th January 1961 and 6th February 1961 respectively.

The visiting Members usually met the Members of the Committee on Public Accounts of this Assembly at 'Tea' or 'Dinner' given either by the Speaker or the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee during the course of which there were free and full discussions regarding the working of the Public Accounts Committee.

Sri A.K.Chanda, Comptroller and Auditor-General of India, visited Madras on the 23rd March, 1961. In honour of his visit a 'Tea party' was arranged by the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee of the Madras Legislative Assembly. The Comptroller and Auditor-General had an informal discussion with the Chairman and Members of the Public Accounts Committee. Welcoming the Comptroller and Auditor-General, the Chairman made a short speech and suggested that Comptroller and Auditor-General must make it a point to visit each State at least once in six months when the Public Accounts Committee is examining the witnesses, so that he can also guide the Committee and set up a uniform procedure throughout the country.

CHAPTER XXV

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association is an organisation formed for the purpose of aiding and promoting understanding and co-operation between the countries of the Commonwealth which have parliamentary systems of Government. It arranges for exchange of information between the countries and also arranges for visits of individuals or groups from one country to another. The headquarters of the association is in London.

A branch of this Association was formed in Madras in September 1955.

Any Member of the Madras Assembly or the Madras Council can become a Member of the Association on payment of the Annual subscription of Rs.5 or the Life Subscription of Rs.50/-. Members of the Legislature will be entitled to the benefits and facilities afforded by the Association only when they become members of the Association by paying the subscription.

Office Bearers

The Speaker, Legislative Assembly and the chairman, Legislative Council are the Presidents (Ex-Officio) of the Madras Branch. The Speaker, Legislative Assembly, Dr. U. Krishna Rao, died on 3rd August 1961. Since then the Chairman, Legislative Council, Dr.P.V. Cherman alone continues to be the President as the post of Speaker had not been filled up.

The Leaders of both the Houses [(Sri C. Subramaniam for Assembly)] and Sri R. Venkataraman for Council)] and the Leaders of Opposition of both the Houses (Sri.V.K. Ramaswami Mudaliyar for Assembly and Dr.A. Lakshmanaswamy Mudaliyar for Council) are the Vice Presidents (ex-officio) of the Branch.

One Treasurer and an Executive Committee consisting of six members from the Assembly and two from Council are elected every year. Since the formation of the Branch, Sri M.A. Manikavelu, Minister for Revenue, continues to be elected as Treasurer.

Sri T. Hanumanthappa continued to be the Hon. Secretary of the Madras Branch during the period.

The names of the Members of the Executive Committee for the various years are given in Section II - [Table No.XXXVIII](#).

Visits

One of the objects of the Association is to provide introduction and hospitality for Members visiting from other countries. The Branches give preferential treatment in the matter of access to the galleries, lobbies, dining and smoking rooms of the Legislature for the purpose of hearing debates and meeting other members.

During the years 1957-62, we had many distinguished visitors from abroad and some of our Members also went to other Countries.

(1) Dr. Frank Snowden, Dean of Howard University, when he visited Madras, addressed the Members of the Branch on 'Trends in Integration of the Negro in American Life' on 21st August 1957.

(2) On 31st October 1957, Dr. Young, Associate Professor, Kansas State College, on his visit to Madras, addressed the Members on 'The roots of American Myth'.

(3) Mr. Dalip Singh Saund, congressman, United States of America, visited Madras and at a meeting of the Branch held on 12th December 1957, he spoke about Indo-American relations.

(4) The Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference of December 1957 was held in New Delhi. The delegates from the various branches of the Association attended the conference. They were divided into two batches and tours were arranged around India, Pakistan and Ceylon. When the delegates visited Madras, they were taken round the city. They were enabled to visit the Integral Coach Factory, Central Leather Research Institute and other important places in the City and also Mahabalipuram,. Cultural programmes were also arranged. A dinner was given by the Joint Presidents of the Madras Branch to which many of the leading citizens of Madras were invited.

(5) Two eminent lawyers of America visited Madras and a meeting under the auspices of the Madras branch was held on 4th December 1958, when Mr. Harold L. Reeve, Senior Vice-President of the Chicago Title and Trust Company, spoke on the Separation of Powers and Mr. Rush H. Limbaugh, Vice-President, Director and General Counsel of the Cape Girardeu Building and Loan Association, spoke on the problem of Checks and Balances.

(6) Mr.C.J.M. Alport, T.D., M.P. Minister of State for Commonwealth Relations, United Kingdom, visited Madras. A Dinner Party was arranged in his honour on 10th January 1960, to enable him to meet the office-bearers and Members of the Madras Branch.

(7) Mr. Garnet Gordon, C.B.E., Q.C., a West Indian and an Associate Member of the United Kingdom Branch visited Madras on 24th January 1961.

(8) On 5th March 1961, Lord Attlee, former Prime Minister of Britain, addressed the Members of the Branch.

(9) Sir Roland Robinson, Chairman and Mr. S.A. Pakeman, Secretary-General, of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, General Council, visited Madras on 6th March 1961. A meeting of the Branch was arranged on that day to enable the Members to hear them.

(10) Hon.Mr. Miller. M.L.C., Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council in the Tasmanian parliament, visited Madras on the 15th July 1961. he was afforded all facilities to go round the City and meet as many Members of the Branch as was possible.

(11) Mr. Geoffrey De Freitas, a labour M.P. came to Madras on his tour of India on behalf of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and Hansard Society. A meeting of Branch was held on the 17th July 1961 when he addressed the members.

(12) Mr. G. J. Paris Perera, a Member of the House of Representatives and of the Ceylon Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association visited Madras on the 8th January 1962. The Secretary of the Madras Branch met him and took him round the Assembly Chamber and the State Legislature Library.

(13) Mr. Evelyn Walkden, a former Member of parliament, United Kingdom and an Associate Member of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, United Kingdom Branch and Alderman Mrs. Walkden visited and stayed in the city from the 14th to the 16th January 1962. The president of the Association entertained them to lunch.

(14) Sri T. Anantha Pai, a former Member of the Madras Assembly and a Life Associate Member of the Madras Branch, was given a letter of introduction for visiting the United Kingdom in October 1957.

(15) In August 1958, Sri R.M. Palaniappan, another Life Associate Member of this Branch was given a letter of introduction when he visited Malaya.

(16) Sri. S. Natarajan, M.L.C. was given a letter of introduction when he visited Malaya in May 1960.

(17) Srimathi Clubwala Jadhav, M.L.C., visited London in June 1960 and she was also given a letter of introduction.

(18) Sri N. Mahalingam, M.L.A., was given a letter of introduction when he went to United Kingdom in October 1960.

(19) In April 1961, Sri K.T. Kosalram, M.L.C., was given a letter of introduction when he went to London.

(20) Sri P.S. Chinnadurai, M.L.A., was given a letter of introduction when he went to London in may 1961.

(21) Sri M.a. Muthiah Chettiar, M.L.A., was given a letter of introduction when he went to London in June 1961.

Parliamentary Course and Conference

Dr.P.V. Cherian, Chairman Legislative Council, Madras attended the Course on Parliamentary Practice and procedure held in United Kingdom during May-June 1957.

The Fifth Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference was held in New Delhi in December 1957. Dr. U. Krishana Rau, Speaker and Dr.A.L. Mudaliar, Leader of the Opposition, Legislative Council, were selected as representatives of the Madras Branch to attend the same. The Secretary of the Madras Branch, Sri T. Hanumanthappa, also attended the Conference at Delhi. He also accompanied one of the batches on their sight-seeing trip to Ceylon.

The General Council of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association met at Barbados, West Indies, in January 1959. Dr. U. Krishna Rau, Speaker was elected by the Executive Committee of the Madras Branch to attend the meeting as a Councilor. He attended the Conference. He utilised this opportunity to visit the Parliaments of various countries of the world such as the United Kingdom, the West Indies, the United States of America and some of its State parliaments, Canada and the Diet of Japan.

Sri V.K. Ramaswami Mudaliar, MLA., Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, was selected by the Madras Branch, as its delegate to the Sixth Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference held in September 1959 at Canberra, Australia and he attended the same.

In September 1961, when the Seventh Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference took place in London, Sri S. Lazar, M.L.A., who was selected by the Executive Committee attended it as the representative of the Madras Branch. Sri.T.Hanumanthappa Secretary, Legislative Assembly, and Secretary, Madras Branch, also attended the Conference as Secretary to the Indian States' Delegation.

Activities

Apart from the meetings arranged to honour the distinguished visitors from abroad, a number of meetings were held when men of eminence addressed the members on various topics:-

- 1) On 2nd July 1957, Dr. C.P. Ramaswamy Ayyar spoke on some Reminiscences of Parliamentary Career.
- 2) On 23rd July 1957, Dr.P.V. Cherian, Chairman, Legislative Council, Madras, gave a lecture on 'My Impressions of Western parliaments'.
- 3) On 18th September 1958, Sri M. Ruthnaswamy, M.A., BAR-AT-LAW, K.C.S.G. , addressed the members of the Branch on 'My Parliamentary Experiences'.
- 4) Sri A.K. Chanda, the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India, addressed the Members on 'Parliamentary Control over National Expenditure' on 5th February 1959.
- 5) On 13th February 1959, Sri V.K. Krishna Menon, Defence Minister of India, addressed the Members on "Democratic India and her position in the international field".

- 6) On the 27th March 1959, Dr.U. Krishna Rau, Speaker, Madras Legislative Assembly, addressed the members on the impressions of his visit to the various Parliaments of the World.
- 7) On 7th September 1959, Sri R. Venkataraman, Minister for Industries, Government of Madras, addressed the members on "The United Nations".
- 8) On 15th December 1959, Sri V.K. Ramaswami Mudaliar, M.L.A., addressed the Members on the impressions of his visit to Australia. On the same day, Sri T.P. Srinivasavaradan, M.L.C., spoke on the impressions of his visit to England.
- 9) On 11th August 1960, Dr.P.V. Cherian, Chairman, Legislative council, gave a talk on the impressions of his Continental tour.
- 10) On 31st January 1961 Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam, Minister for Home, spoke on the impressions of his visit abroad.
- 11) On 18th February 1961, Sri C. Subramaniam, Minister for Finance, spoke on the impressions of his visit abroad.

Apart from the above meetings, the following film shows were also organised by the Branch:-

- (1) On 17th March 1958, the United States Information Service, screened some documentaries.
- (2) On 7th April 1958, the State Information Centre screened some documentaries.
- (3) On 8th April 1958, the United States Information Service screened some documentaries.
- (4) On 8th April 1960, the United States Information Service screened three documentaries, two covering the Goodwill Mission Tour of President Eisenhower of United State of America, in about 11 countries including India, and the third depicted certain events in President Eisenhower's life.
- (5) On 23rd February 1961, a film featuring the Common-Wealth parliamentary Conference held at Canberra in November 1959 was screened.
- (6) On 3rd March 1961, the United States Information Service screened a documentary on the election of Mr. John F. Kennedy as President of the United States and another film about American understanding of India and her leaders.

Members

There are 32 life members on the rolls of the Branch and two Life Associate Members. There is also one ordinary Associate Member. The ordinary Membership for the five years is as follows:-

1957-58	...	47
1958-59	...	84
1959-60	...	38
1960-61	...	22
1961-62	...	15
