

CHAPTER IV

The Cabinet

The executive power of the State is vested in the Governor and is exercised by him either directly or through officers subordinates to him in accordance with the Constitution (Article 154). A Council of Ministers with the Chief Minister at the head aids and advises the Governor in the exercise of his functions. The Chief Minister is appointed by the Governor and the other Ministers also are appointed by him on the advice of the Chief Minister (Article 163). The Ministers hold office during the pleasure of the Governor (Article 164).

The Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the Legislative Assembly. All policies relating to the administration of the State are formulated by the Council of Ministers.

After the General Elections the Assembly was constituted under section 73 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, on 1st April 1957. The existing Council of Ministers, which had assumed office on 13th April 1954, consisting of the following seven Members---

- Sri K.Kamaraj (Chief Minister)
- Sri M.Bhaktavatsalam
- Sri C.Subramaniam
- Sri M.A.Manickavelu
- Sri R.Shanmuga Rajeswara Sethupathi
- Sri B.Paraseswaran; and
- Sri S.S.Ramaswami Padayachi

Tendered their resignation on 1st April 1957, but the Governor asked them to continue till a Ministry was formed. The resignation was accepted on 12th April 1957.

On the forenoon of 13th April 1957, Tamil Nadu New Year's Day, a new ministry under the leadership of Sri K. Kamaraj was formed and it consisted of the following Members—

- Sri K.Kamaraj (Chief Minister)
- Sri M.Bhaktavatsalam
- Sri C.Subramaniam
- Sri M.A.Manickavelu
- Sri R.Venkataraman
- Sri P.Kakkan
- Sri V.Ramaiah and
- Srimathi Lourdbammal Simon.

Except Sri R.Venkataraman, the other members of the Cabinet were sworn in on the forenoon of 13th April 1957 and Sri R.Venkataraman was sworn in on the afternoon of 26th April 1957.

Leader of the House — Sri C.Subramaniam was appointed as the Leader of the House and he continued as such throughout the term of the Assembly.

Allocation of portfolios — The allocation of portfolios among the Ministers is given in Section II-[Table No.V](#). On the occasions, when Sri R.Venkataraman, Sri.C.Subramaniam and Sri M.Bhaktavatsalam went abroad on tour, the portfolios allotted to them were distributed among the other Ministers.

CHAPTER V

The Legislative Assembly

A.--CHAMBER OF THE HOUSE AND GALLERIES

The Chamber

After the delimitation of constituencies when the Constitution of India came into effect in 1950, the strength of the Madras Legislative Assembly was raised from 215 to 375 and it was found not possible to extend the Chamber at Fort St. George to accommodate the increased number of Members. A new building was therefore constructed in the Government Estate, Mount Road and the Assembly was meeting in that building from 1952 to 1957. This was a semi-circular Chamber. The Assembly Chamber at Fort St. George was modified and used for holding the meetings of the Legislative Council during this period.

Consequent on the territorial changes made with the formation of States on a linguistic basis the strength of the Assembly of the residuary Madras State was reduced from 375 to 205 in 1956.

As the number of members of the Assembly had been greatly reduced, the Assembly shifted to its old Chamber in Fort St. George, after the General Elections of 1957. This Chamber is a rectangular Chamber with seven rows of rising seats on either side. An efficient reinforcement sound system had been installed in the Assembly Chamber at Mount Road. The entire sound equipment and most of the cushioned sofas which had hidden amplifiers at the back were also shifted to the Chamber at Fort St. George. The galleries were also remodeled. Details of the galleries are given in subsequent paragraphs in this chapter.

In April 1959, from the 20th to 30th with a break of two days on the 25th and 26th, the Assembly met at Arranmore Palace, Ootacamund, since renamed as, Tamizhagam. The Dance Hall (rectangular in shape) in the Palace was improvised as the meeting chamber. Seating accommodation was provided for about 180 members of the Assembly. Visitors' Galleries for ladies and gents were also provided. A box was also provided for the Governor. The Assembly meetings at Arranmore Palace attracted large number of visitors not only from Ootacamund but also from neighbouring places.

Galleries

In parliamentary language every person other than a Member of the House, whether he is a visitor who has come to witness the proceedings or a Press Representative or an official who is present to assist the Ministers with any information that may be required, is only a stranger and admission to the Assembly Chamber of such strangers during the sittings of the Assembly is regulated in accordance with regulations made by the Speaker. The Speaker. Whenever he thinks fit, may order strangers to withdraw or the press gallery and official gallery to be cleared. The strangers, namely, the visitors, the press representatives and the officials are accommodated in separate galleries brief details of which are given below:-

(f) Visitors' Galleries

There are as many as three galleries for visitors which are located in the balconies overlooking the Chamber. The galleries on the balconies to the right and left of the Speaker are known as the Visitors' Galleries, while the gallery in front of the Speaker is known as the Speaker's gallery. A portion of the Visitors' Gallery to the left of the Speaker is set apart exclusively for ladies, and is known as the "Ladies" Gallery. The balcony above the Speaker contains the "Governor's Box" from where the Governor witnesses the proceedings of the Assembly whenever he desires to do so. There are boxes in this balcony for other important persons and Members of Parliament and Members of the Legislative Council. The Visitor's Gallery can accommodate 190 men and 42 ladies, the Speakers' Gallery 48 and 12 persons can be accommodated in the boxes for M.Ps., M.L.Cs and V.I.Ps.

Visitors are admitted to the ordinary galleries on the recommendation of a Member in the prescribed form. Admission to the Speaker's gallery is at the discretion of the Speaker.

Children below 10 years of age are not admitted to the galleries and visitors have to preserve silence in the galleries and should not indulge in clapping of hands or demonstrations of any kind whether in approval or disapproval of the proceedings of the Assembly.

During the period under review 1, 42,506 visitors witnessed the proceedings of the Assembly. The details regarding the number of visitors for each session are given in Section II, [Table VI](#).

(ii) Officers' Gallery

The Officers' Gallery is situated in the Chamber to the right of the Speaker and is intended for the officials of the Secretariat and other Departmental Officials who are present to observe the proceedings and also to supply the Ministers concerned any information that may be required even while the House is conducting its business. There is an entrance to the Gallery only from the lobby. It is a well-established convention that when a Minister requires any information he has to walk up to the Officers' Gallery and get the required information. A Secretary or a Head of a Department cannot go to the Minister's seat in the Chamber.

Admission to the Officers' Gallery is regulated by duty passes issued by the Secretary.

(iii) Press Gallery

Admission to the Press Gallery is by passes issued by the Secretary under the orders of the Speaker. The Speaker decided in June 1957 that the Press should be associated in helping him in the issue of passes. Accordingly he decided to constitute a Committee called the Press Advisory Committee. At the beginning of each financial year the Speaker constitutes the Committee consisting of not more than nine representatives of the Press. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary of the Committee are elected by the members from among themselves. It is the function of the Committee to recommend to the Speaker about the allotment of seats to various representatives of the newspapers, news agencies and other

periodicals in the Press Gallery of the Assembly and the order in which these representatives should be seated in the Gallery.

The Secretary of the Legislative Assembly convenes the meetings of the Committee in consultation with the Chairman. The Committee generally meets at the commencement of every sitting of the Assembly and, if necessary during the course of a sitting of the Assembly.

Prior to 1957, the accommodation available for the Press representatives was very limited. In addition to the existing seats in the Press Gallery to the left of the Speaker additional seats have been provided on the western side and in the Gallery next to the Officers' Gallery to the right of the Speaker. The first row in the Visitors' Gallery on the western side is also reserved for the Press.

The Press Advisory Committee met on eight occasions during the period under review. Accommodation has now been provided for 24 dailies, 16 weeklies and other periodical publications and five News Agencies including the All-India Radio and the Public (Information and Publicity) Department of the Government of Madras. Those who could not be accommodated in the Press Gallery downstairs, inspite of the increased accommodation have been allotted seats in the Visitor's Gallery upstairs.

B.--SESSIONS AND SITINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY

According to Article 172(1) of the Constitution of India, the Legislative Assembly of a State, unless sooner dissolved will continue for five years from the date appointed for its first meeting. After the Second General Elections, this Assembly held its first, sitting on the 29th April 1957 and therefore its term would expire automatically on the 28th April 1962. But inasmuch as the General Elections have been completed by the 27th February 1962, the Assembly was dissolved on the 1st March 1962 (forenoon).

Summoning and Prorogation by Governor: - The Governor is empowered under Article 174 (1) of the Constitution to summon the Assembly from time to time to meet at such time and place as he thinks fit and under clause (2) of Article 174 to prorogue the Assembly from time to time and also to dissolve it.

A 'session' is the period of time between the meetings of an Assembly, whether after a prorogation or dissolution, and its prorogation.

Meetings: - There were ten sessions in all during this period. A statement showing the date of commencement and termination of the sessions from 1957-1962 is given in Section II - [Table No. VII](#). The actual number of days on which sittings of the Assembly were held was 305 days. In terms of hours the Assembly met for 1,404 hours and 17 minutes.

Sittings of the House: - According to the Rules of the Madras Legislative Assembly the sittings of the House should ordinarily commence at 11 a.m. and conclude at 5 p.m. But in actual practice, except on the first sitting of a session and on the first day of meeting after an adjournment in the same session, the Assembly used to meet from 8.30 a.m. and conclude at 1.30 p.m. with occasional sittings in the afternoon. The Rules of the Madras Legislative

Assembly have, therefore, been amended in 1959 to bring it in accordance with the prevailing practice.

C.--SWEARING-IN OF MEMBERS

Article 188 of the Constitution of India provides that every member of the Legislative Assembly or the Legislative Council of a State shall, before taking his seat, make and subscribe before the Governor, or some person appointed in that behalf by him, on oath or affirmation in the form given in the Third Schedule. The form prescribes that he will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India as by law established and that he will faithfully discharge the duty upon which he is about to enter.

If a person sits or votes as a member of the Legislative Assembly or the Legislative Council of a State before he has complied with the provisions contained in Articles 188, or when he knows that he is not qualified or that he is disqualified for membership thereof or that he is prohibited from so doing by the provisions of any laws made by Parliament or the Legislature of a State, he shall be liable in respect of each day on which he so sits or votes to a penalty of five hundred rupees to be recovered as a debt due to the State (Article 193 of the Constitution).

Swearing-in after General Elections:- When the Assembly was summoned, after the General Elections in 1957, to meet for its first session, Sri B. Bhaktavatsalu Naidu, was appointed under Article 188 of the Constitution of India, by Governor of Madras as the person before whom the Members should make and subscribe on oath or affirmation as they chose. Under Article 180 he was also appointed by the Governor to perform the duties of the office of Speaker of the Madras Legislative Assembly till the Speaker was chosen under Article 178 of the Constitution. The Governor administered the oath to Sri.B.Bhaktavatsalu Naidu at Raj Bhavan on 1st April 1957.

All the Members made the oath or affirmation as shown below:-

I. In the Assembly Chamber before the Temporary Speaker -

	Members
(1) 29th April 1957	194
(2) 30th April 1957	1

II. In the Chamber of the Speaker -

(1) Before the Temporary Speaker- On 29th April 1957	3
(2) Before the Speaker - On 30th April 1957	1
On 1st May 1957	2
On 3rd May 1957	2

Swearing-in of Members elected at Bye-elections. –

The Following Members, who were elected to the vacancies in the Assembly in the bye-elections, took the prescribed oath on the dates noted against each:-

I. At the commencement of the sitting –

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|------|-------------------|
| (a) Sri. S. Ramakrishna Thevar | | 10th April 1958 |
| (b) Sri. Sowdi S. Sundara Bharathi | | 7th December 1959 |
| (c) Sri. R.J. Sundar Singh | | 10th March 1960 |
| (d) Sri. S. Phandiaraj | | 10th March 1960 |

II. In the course of the day after the House had commenced its business-

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|---------------------|
| (a) Sri A. Samuel Nadar | | 3rd September 1958. |
|-------------------------|-------|---------------------|

III. In the Chamber of the Speaker when the House was not sitting –

- | | | |
|---|-------|-------------------|
| (a) Sri Kulandai Gounder (Kulandai swamy Gounder) | | 27th June 1957 |
| (b) Sri T.L. Sasivarna Thevar | | 18th July 1957 |
| (c) Sri P. Arasan | | 5th December 1959 |

Sri S. Ranganatha Mudaliar, who ceased to be a Member of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly and who was deemed to have been elected to the Madras Legislative Assembly from the newly added Tirutani Constituency, consequent on coming into effect on 1st April 1960, of the Andhra Pradesh and Madras (Adjustment of Boundaries) Act, 1959, was sworn in before the commencement of business at the meeting of the Assembly on 6th April 1960.

D.--PRESIDING OFFICERS AND PANEL OF CHAIRMEN

The First Legislative Assembly under the Constitution of India was dissolved on the 31st March 1957 and the Second Assembly was constituted on 1st April 1957. As no Speaker had been elected when Sri Gopala Menon, Speaker, ceased to be a Member of the Assembly with effect from 1st November 1956, the Deputy Speaker continued to perform the duties of Speaker till the Assembly was dissolved. The Office of Speaker was, therefore, vacant till Speaker Protem was appointed.

Sri B. Bhatkavatsalu Naidu was appointed Speaker Protem by the Governor under Clause (1) of Article 180 of the Constitution to perform the duties of the Office of the Speaker of the Madras Legislative Assembly till a new Speaker was chosen under Article 178 of the Constitution.

Under Article 178 of the Constitution, every Legislative Assembly of a State shall, as soon as may be, choose two Members of the Assembly to be respectively Speaker and Deputy Speaker. The Second Assembly under the Constitution was summoned to meet for the first time on the 29th April 1957, when the Members were sworn-in. On the 30th April 1957, the Assembly met for electing the Speaker and Deputy Speaker. Under rule 12 (4) of the Madras Legislative Assembly Rules, the Speaker Protem read out to the Assembly the names of the Members, who had been nominated for the Office of Speaker together with those of their proposers and seconders-

Members nominated	Proposer	Secunder
Sri.M. Jagannathan	Sri.K.Ramachandran	Sr.M.Muni Reddi
Dr.U.Krishna Rau	Sri.C.Subramanian	Sri.C.R.Ramaswami
Dr.U.Krishna Rau	Sri.M.Bhaktavatsalam	Sri.K.S.G.Haja Sherif

As more than one Member had been duly nominated, the Assembly proceeded under sub-rules (4) to (7) of rule 12 of the Madras Legislative Assembly Rules to elect a Speaker by ballot. Accordingly a poll was held. Sri M.Jagannathan secured 44 votes as against 148 secured by Dr.U.Krishna Rau, both the contending candidates not exercising their franchise and one vote was invalid. The Speaker Protem declared Dr.U.Krishna Rau as having been elected as Speaker and requested the Leader of the House and Sri.V.K.Ramasamy Mudaliar, Leader of the Opposition to conduct Dr.U.Krishna Rau to the Chair. Accordingly he was taken to the Chair and when he approached the Chair, the Speaker Protem shook hands with him and congratulated him. When the Speaker was conducted to the Chair and till he took his seat, all the Members stood up and cheered him.

The Speaker then conducted the election of the Deputy Speaker, as there was only one nomination on behalf of Sri B.Bhaktavatsalu Naidu, he was declared duly elected as Deputy Speaker.

Then, the Chief Minister, the Leaders of various parties in the House, and the Leader of the House congratulated the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker on their election.

The Speaker and Deputy Speaker replied suitably thanking the members for electing them.

Dr. U.Krishna Rau attended the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference at Delhi, held in 1957 as the delegate from the Madras Branch. He was also elected as a Councilor from the Madras Branch to the General Council of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, which met in Barbados, West Indies, in 1959. He utilised this opportunity to visit the United Kingdom, Canada, the United States of America and Japan with a view to study the Parliamentary Institutions in those countries.

In the early hours of 3rd August 1961, Dr. U.Krishna Rau passed away. The Government declared the 3rd August as a public holiday as a mark of respect to the Speaker. When the Assembly next met on the 17th August 1961, a condolence resolution was unanimously passed by the Assembly and the Assembly was adjourned for the day.

No election was held for the Speakership and under the provisions of Article 180 (1) of the Constitution of India, Sri B.Bhaktavatsalu Naidu, Deputy Speaker, discharged the functions of Speaker from 4th August 1961.

The Second Legislative Assembly met for the last time on the 15th December 1961. A part of this day was utilised for valedictory speeches in the course of which the Leader of the House, the Leaders of Parties and some members paid tributes to the able manner in which the proceedings of the House were conducted both by the late Dr.U.Krishna Rau and

the Deputy Speaker. The Deputy Speaker thanked the Members for the co-operation they extended both to him and the late Speaker in the discharge of their duties.

Panel of Chairmen

According to sub-rule (1) of Rule 14 of the Madras Legislative Assembly Rules, the Speaker at the commencement of every session, nominated from amongst the members of the Assembly a panel of not more than four Chairmen. As it was found in actual practice that sometimes the Chairmen so nominated were not available in the House to take the Chair, the rule was amended in April 1959, enabling the Speaker to nominate a panel of six Chairmen from time to time instead of a panel of four Chairmen at the commencement of every session. Any one of the persons so nominated by the Speaker may preside over the Assembly in the absence of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker, when so requested by the Speaker, or, in his absence, by the Deputy Speaker or, in his absence also, by the Chairman presiding.

A list of persons from among the Members of the Legislative Assembly who served on the panel are given in Section II - [Table No.VIII](#).

E.--LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR MEMBERS

Clause (4) of Article 190 of the Constitution of India provide that, if for a period of sixty days, a Member of a House of the Legislature of a State is, without the permission of the House, absent from all meetings thereof, the House may declare his seat vacant. In computing the period of sixty days, no account shall be taken of any period during which the House is prorogued or is adjourned for more than four consecutive days.

Rule 11 (1) of the Madras Legislative Assembly Rules provides that, leave of absence from the sittings of the House may be granted by the House to a member on a motion by him or any other member in his behalf, stating the period of absence, and such motion shall be voted upon without amendment or debate.

During the term of this Assembly permission was given by the House to the following Members to absent themselves from the meetings of the House for the period stipulated against them, on motions moved on their behalf by other members:-

1	10th September 1959	Sri S. Nagaraja Monigar	Till the end of October 1959 from the date of his absence.
2	12th September 1960	Sri M.Kalyanasundaram	- Do -
3	25th March 1960	Sri A.Rathinavelu Gounder	Till the end of November 1960, from the date of his absence.
4	14th March 1961	Sri A.Y.S.Parisutha Nadar	Till the end of June 1961, from the date of his absence.