

CHAPTER VI

Governor's Address

The Governor has the right to address the Legislative Assembly or the Legislative Council or both Houses assembled together. After every General Elections and at the commencement of the first session every year, the Governor must address both Houses assembled together. Provision has been made in the Rules of Procedure of the Madras Legislative Assembly, for the allotment of time for discussion of the matters referred to in the Governor's Address.

The Governor of Madras addressed the Members of both the House of the Legislature assembled together in the Assembly Chamber, Fort.St.George, on six occasions during the period as shown below:-

- i. 1st may 1957
- ii. 8th February 1958
- iii. 4th February 1959
- iv. 5th December 1959
- v. 5th August 1960
- vi. 19th January 1961

The details regarding the number of days allotted for the discussion on the Address, the Members who moved the Motion of Thanks and the number of amendments moved on each occasion are given in Section II - [Table No.IX](#).

On three occasions only, an amendment to the Motion of Thanks was pressed to a division.

On the 7th May 1957 after the discussion on the first Address, an amendment regretting the failure of the Government to name the State as "Tamilnad" was put to vote. The House divided, 42 voting for the amendment and 127 against it.

On the 13th February 1958, an amendment to the Motion of Thanks for the Second Address of the Governor, regretting the failure of the Government to emphasize the need for a judicial enquiry into the action of the Police in denying the just and democratic rights of the Opposition Parties to hold meetings and peaceful demonstrations during the visit of the Prime Minister to Madras on 6th and 7th January 1958, was put to vote. The House divided as follows:-

Noes	...	....	....	....	....	121
Ayes	...	....	....	....	....	36
Neutral	...	....	....	....	...	1

On the 25th January 1961 an amendment to the Motion of Thanks for the Sixth Address of the Governor regretting that no mention has been made about the steps taken to bring down the high prices of foodstuffs and other essential articles was put to vote. The House divided, 28 for and 96 voting against the amendment.

CHAPTER VII

Arrangement of business of the Assembly

Under rule 21 of the Legislative Assembly Rules, the Secretary prepares a list of business to be transacted on each day and circulates it to all members. The arrangement of Government Business is in the order determined by the Leader of the House and approved by the Speaker. No business not entered in the list of business for each day is transacted at any sitting except business of a formal or ceremonial nature. The order of business arranged in the list is not revised except on a motion moved and accepted by the House. During the period of the second Assembly on 14 occasions the order of business set down for the day was revised on a motion moved and accepted by the House.

Non-official business has precedence on all Thursdays, on which the Assembly is sitting, except on Thursdays allotted for the discussion of financial matters under Articles 202 to 206 of the Constitution and Thursdays allotted for the discussion of any motion on the Governor's Address. Non-official business was transacted in the Assembly on 13 days during 1957-62.

But, on a motion made by a Minister for the suspension of this provision, the Assembly may resolve to give precedence to Government business even on those Thursdays on which the business of non-official members has precedence. During the term of the Second Assembly, on fifteen occasions Government business was transacted on Thursday by suspending the above provision. The business of non-official members is not transacted on other days except with the consent of the Leader of the House. On five occasions non-official business was transacted on days other than Thursdays, during the period.

The relative precedence of non-official Bills to be introduced and the non-official resolutions to be moved is decided by a ballot, separately for Bills and resolutions. All admitted notices of Bills and resolutions which are eligible for ballot are included in the ballot. Members may indicate the preference according to which the Bill or the resolution is to be entered upon against their names. In the absence of such an indication, preference is given in accordance with the order of receipt of notice. During the term of the Second Assembly ballot was held 16 times for determining the relative precedence of Bills and resolutions of non-official Members. The result of the ballot is intimated to the members and Departments of the Secretariat concerned. The list of business for the non-official day is drawn up with reference to the results of the ballot. If any items of business set down in the list are not disposed of that day, it is carried over to the next non-official day of a continuous meeting and will be set down in the list of business according to the priority gained at the ballot held with reference to that day. If any motion is under the actual consideration of the Assembly when it adjourned, it is placed in the list of business for the next day available for non-official business, as the first item.

Entries of all papers laid on the Table of the House each day are also entered in the Agenda as the last item. One thousand four hundred and twenty-five papers were laid on the Table under 'A. Statutory Rules and Orders' and 838 papers were laid under 'B. Reports, notifications and other papers', during the term of this Assembly.

CHAPTER VIII

Questions

Questions may be asked by the members for the purpose of eliciting information on matter of public importance. These questions are of three kinds, viz.-

- (i) Starred Questions;
- (ii) Unstarred Questions; and
- (iii) Short Notice Questions.

A convention has also been established enabling the Leader of the Opposition to put Private Notice Questions after question hour, which will not be included in the printed list of questions.

(i) ADMISSION AND ANSWERING OF QUESTIONS

Members must give notice of questions in writing to the Secretary. A member can give notice of a question either in Tamil or in English. The Speaker decides the admissibility of questions with reference to the Assembly Rules. As soon as questions are admitted by the Speaker, they are communicated to the departments concerned for furnishing answers. Admitted questions are communicated to the departments in the language in which they are given by members. Lists of questions to be answered on any particular day are printed both in Tamil and English. Tamil lists are circulated to members a day in advance of the date of the meeting. English lists are laid on the Table of the House before the commencement of the meeting. Statements referred to in the answers to questions are placed on the Table of the House one hour before the commencement of the meeting. Usually questions lists are prepared after the answers for the questions have been received from the departments concerned. Normally, questions can be included in a list after 14 days of their receipt in the departments concerned. If the departments require extension of time, it is granted in the normal course. However, a convention has been set up under which questions pending with the departments for over one month are included in the Agenda, even if answers have not been received therefore. The number of questions to be included in the Starred List(s) for a day is decided by the Speaker.

(ii) LAPSE OF QUESTIONS

On the prorogation of the session of the Legislative Assembly, all pending questions lapse. Answers to questions received from the departments but not answered on the floor of the House before prorogation are, however, communicated to the members concerned for their information. If a member ceases to hold office and if any of his questions are pending with the departments, no further action is taken thereon.

Statistics, relating to questions are given in Section II - [Table No. X](#).

(iii) AMENDMENTS TO RULES RELATING TO QUESTIONS

In the rules in December 1954, it was provided that questions which have not been disallowed shall be entered in the list of questions for a day not earlier than seven clear days from the date on which thereof was received. This has been amended prescribing a time limit of 14 days for answering a question.

A new rule has also been added to the effect that, when a question given notice of by a member, has been admitted, and if other members also give notice of questions on the same subject, the names of the other members shall be bracketed with the name of the member whose question has already been admitted.

(iv) STATEMENTS MADE BY MINISTERS CORRECTING ANSWERS GIVEN BY THEM TO QUESTIONS

Ministers made statements correcting the answers given by them to questions during the period under review and the particulars are given below:

(1) On 1st November 1958, Sri M.Bhaktavatsalam, Minister for Home made a statement correcting the answer given by him while answering the supplementary question under Starred Question No.299 answered on 12th March 1958.

(2) On 3rd November 1958, Sri M.Bhaktavatsalam, Minister for Home, made a statement correcting the answers to the supplementaries on question No. 102 by Sri.N.K.Palanisamy on 14th February 1958 in regard to the setting up of a Wool Processing Centre at Vinnamangalam, North Arcot district.

(3) On 5th November 1958, Sri C.Subramaniam, Minister for Finance, made a statement correcting the answer to the supplementary on question No.151 by Sri P.G.Manickam on 17th September 1958 in regard to the number of candidates selected by the Madras Public Service Commission as Gramsevakas, Grade II, in 1957.

(4) On 8th August 1960, Sri P.Kakkan, Minister for Works, made a statement correcting the answer given to a supplementary question under Question No.400 by Sri S.Lazar answered on 16th March 1960 regarding the utilization of Cauvery waters between the States of Madras and Mysore.

(5) On 18th August 1961, Srimathi Lourdhammal Simon, Minister for Local Administration, made a statement correcting the answer given to Question Nos.822 and 823 by Sri K. Sattanatha Karayalar, answered on 14th March 1961 regarding nylon threads, etc., supplied to fishermen.

(v) HALFAN-HOUR DEBATES

During the question hour, no discussion is permitted in respect of a question or of any answer given to a question. If notice is given to the Speaker at question time, the Speaker may, in his discretion, allow half-an-hour after the conclusion of the business of the day, to enable a member to raise a debate on any matter of urgent public importance which was the subject matter of a question on that day. At the conclusion of the half-hour, no vote shall be taken on such debate.

This provision was availed of only once during the period under review, viz., on the 13th September 1958 when a half-an-hour debate in regard to the leasing of magnesite deposits in Salem was allowed.

CHAPTER IX

Calling attention to matters of urgent Public Importance

Rule 41 (as renumbered in 1959) of the Madras Legislative Assembly Rules enables a member with the previous permission of the Speaker to call the attention of a Minister to any matter of urgent public importance and the Minister to make a statement on the matter. Not more than one matter may be raised at a sitting of the House and no debate on the statement of the Minister will be allowed.

As in the previous Assembly, this provision continued to be very popular with Members, and during the period under review, 123 statements on a number of subjects of topical importance were made by the Ministers concerned.

The subject matter of the notice on which statements were made and other details are given in Section II - [Table No. XI](#).

CHAPTER X

Motion for Adjournment on a matter of Public Importance

A Member desirous of moving a motion for an adjournment of the business of the Assembly for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance must give notice before the commencement of the sitting of the House at which he proposes to ask for leave of the House to make his motion, and obtain the consent of the Speaker to do so. If the Speaker does not give his consent, the matter cannot be raised in the House at all. If the Speaker gives his consent, the Member after questions and before the list of business for the day is entered upon, should ask for leave of the House to make the motion. The Speaker then reads the statement given by the Member, and if he feels it necessary, asks the Member concerned to explain briefly how the motion is in order and also ascertain from the Minister concerned as to the accuracy or otherwise of the matter. Sometimes, the Minister concerned makes a statement in regard to the matter raised or gives an assurance that he would make a statement in due course.

If, however, the Speaker holds that the motion is not in order, the matter ends with that. He may, while giving his decision, state the reasons for his opinion.

During the period under review 105 notices for adjournment of the business of the Assembly to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance were received. The Speaker refused his consent to raise that matter in the Assembly in respect of 18 notices. The other 87 notices which received the consent of the Speaker were actually brought before the House. On eight occasions consequent on the concerned Minister making a statement on the matter sought to be raised or giving an assurance that a statement would be made in due

course, the Members concerned did not press their notices. The remaining 79 notice of adjournment motions were ruled out of order by the Speaker.

During the life of the Second Assembly no occasion arose on which the Speaker held that the matter proposed to be discussed was in conformity with the rules.

CHAPER XI

Discussion on urgent matters of Administration (Rule 57)

Under rule 57 of the Madras Legislative Assembly Rules, any Member may raise a discussion on any urgent matter of administration. Along with his notice he should send an explanatory note stating the reasons for raising such a discussion.

If the Speaker is satisfied that the matter is urgent and is of sufficient importance and is in accordance with the rule, he admits the notice and fixes a date in consultation with the Leader of the House on which such matter is to be taken for discussion and allots time, not exceeding one hour for discussion of the subject. The Members speak on the subject and the Minister replies in the end. No vote is taken on the matter.

During the term of the Second Assembly, only one such matter was raised and discussed. The matter was raised by Sri M.Kalyanasundaram and related to the alienation of Government poramboke lands at Subramaniapuram (Golden Rock Panchayat) to Messrs.T.V.S. and Sons.

CHAPTER XII

No-Confidence Motions

Two No-Confidence Motions against the Ministry were given notice of during the life of the Second Assembly, viz.-

(i) On 28th October 1957, the House gave permission to Sr.M.Kalyanasundaram to move a Motion expressing want of confidence in the Ministry. The discussion on the Motion took place for four days from 28th to 31st October 1957, and on the last day the motion was put to the vote of the House and declared lost (Ayes 28 and Noes 146). Twenty-five Members in all participated in the discussion on the Motion.

(ii) On 5th September 1960, the House refused permission to S.P.S.Chinnadurai and Sri.T.S.Ramaswamy Pillai to move a No-Confidence Motion in the matter of the appointment of a Government Pleader in the High Court.

CHAPTER XIII**Statement by Ministers suo motu**

Under Rule 82 of the Madras Legislative Assembly Rules, Ministers may make statements in the Assembly on matters of public importance with the consent of the Speaker but no question should be asked at the time the statement is made. During the life of this Assembly, statements by Ministers were made on seven occasions as shown below:-

(i) On the 26th October 1957, the Minister for Home, made a statement, regarding the Law and Order situation in Ramanathapuram district.

(ii) On the 30th March 1957 the Minister for Home, made a statement regarding the sudden strike of the taxi drivers in the City of Madras and the incident connected therewith.

(iii) On the 22nd August 1960, the Minister for Finance made a statement regarding the fear of the public about the negotiability of hundred-rupee currency notes and the steps taken by the Government in abating the alarm and in publicising the free convertibility of genuine notes.

(iv) On the 28th January 1961, the Minister for Home made a statement regarding the agitation to be started by a party to change the name of the Madras State as "Tamil Nadu"

(v) On the 31st January 1961, the Minister for Industries made a statement in regard to the bus accident on route 51-A (Broadway to Padappai) that occurred on the 23rd January 1961 at Mudichoor.

(vi) On the 21st March 1961, the Minister for Revenue made a statement in regard to the inauguration of the scheme to eradicate the incidence of smallpox in Madras City and Chengleput district.

(vii) On the 15th December 1961, the Minister for Revenue made a statement regarding the failure of the monsoon and the consequent sufferings of the people in Karur taluk.