



Vision

It is with immense pleasure that I offer these few words regarding the achievements of the Labour and Excise Ministry. The previous 3 years witnessed unprecedented Labour Welfare measures. It is beyond dispute that a peaceful labour front is inevitable to attract investments. I can proudly state that we have succeeded in achieving the above objective. We stand for maximum productivity, uninterrupted and quality production. With the active involvement of the officials of the Labour Department and the complete cooperation of the Trade Unions and Public, I am sure, we can transform our State to a model State in the matter of Labour Enforcement and Labour Welfare Measures.

P K Gurudasan



Labour Front Peaceful

MAJOR PROJECT
on the Anvil

Centres of Skill Development

One of the ambitious programmes, we propose to undertake during the 4th year of the LDF regime is the expansion of skill development facilities. The demand for skilled workers is on the increase all over the world. But majority of our job seekers are not provided with sufficient skill training so as to cater the need of the changing global scenario. That is precisely why the LDF Government is giving much importance to skill development. In our State skill training is being imparted through various ITIs and ITCs. At the time of assumption of office by the LDF Government there were only 34 ITIs in the State. But during 2008-09 alone we could start 13 more ITIs which is an all time record. Our intention is to advance further in this field. Therefore we have decided to start 10 more ITIs during the 4th year of LDF Government, raising the number of ITIs to 57. It is our resolve to impart quality skill training through the ITIs, quite in tune with the aim of the LDF Government to provide maximum employment opportunities to the unemployed.





Achieved a peaceful Labour climate in all sectors ensuring better productivity and quality production. Major Labour disputes were settled through tri-partite discussion.

Minimum Wages were revised in 10 sectors. Draft notification has already been issued revising the minimum wages in respect of 14 other sectors.

Wages of cashew workers and cashew staff have been revised. Necessary steps have been taken to clear the arrears of gratuity. Large scale cashew cultivation has been started under Kerala State Agency for Cashew Cultivation (KSACC). As a result of this, it is

expected that the shortage of raw cashew which is posing a serious threat to the cashew industry can be solved to a considerable extent.

Pursuant to the request of the State Govt., the ESI Corporation has taken decision to start a Modern Medical College at Paripally and a Dental College at Ezhukone. Construction work of the Medical College has already been commenced.

Successfully implemented the Rashtriya Swasthya Bhima Yojana (RSBY) and the Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme (CHIS) in all districts. 8.5 lakhs families have been enrolled in the initial stage itself. Our State stands 1st in implementing the Health Insurance Scheme.

As part of our efforts to bring all workers under welfare schemes, we could launch two new Welfare

Boards viz., Kerala Shops and Commercial Establishment Workers Welfare Board and Kerala Small Plantation Workers Welfare Board.

At the time of assumption of office by the LDF Govt., 17 major tea plantations were remaining closed. Out of this all except 5 have been reopened.

All along there were only 34 ITIs in the State. LDF Govt. could start 13 new ITIs. during 2008 -09 alone. 10 more ITIs will be started during the current year. 17 ITIs have been upgraded to Centres of Excellence. Modern trades have been started. Besides, 8 ITIs have been upgraded as 1st grade ITIs. We have started the Kerala State



5 OTHER PROJECTS Envisaged

- 1 Chittoor Co-operative Sugars Limited (CHICOPS) will be revived and production of cheap liquor will be started. For this purpose a new company has been formed.
- 2 Ten new ITIs with modern trades will be started
- 3 Rs.30 crore will be expended for the expansion of cashew cultivation.
- 4 Rashtriya Swasthya Bhima Yojana (RSBY) by Union Govt. for BPL workers as defined by Planning Commission and Comprehensive

Health Insurance Scheme (CHIS) for the remaining non-RSBY population by the State Govt. covers Health Insurance for the entire households of the State.

- 5 Commencement of Technical Courses of International standards by Kerala Institute of Welding & Research (KIWR), a joint venture of Directorate of Factories & Boilers and FACT for moulding skilled workers to take up the challenging assignments in India and abroad.

Institute of Designs (KSID) which is a new venture to promote traditional craftsmanship.

Effective steps were taken to curb the menace of spurious liquor.

Enforcement machinery in the Excise Department has been strengthened by creating more posts and upgrading the existing posts. Vehicles have been provided in all Excise Offices. District level administration has been reorganised under Deputy Commissioners. Training Programmes at Excise Academy Thrissur were restarted. 11 new excise Range Offices were started.

Chittoor Cooperative Sugars Ltd., which is now defunct, has been taken over by the Excise Department and necessary steps are taken for its revival by forming a new company for the production of Cheap Liquor. Travancore Sugars and Chemicals Ltd., Thiruvalla, which is a sick unit also has been taken over by the Excise Department and necessary steps have already been taken to start an additional bottling line and thereby increase the production of cheap liquor. The liquor produced in both the companies will be sold out through the outlets of Kerala State Beverages Corporation.



Labourers Honoured

Under the previous UDF regime, Labour Department was one of the most neglected departments in the State. Thousands of workers under different sectors were rendered jobless either due to closure or abandonment of various establishments by the managements concerned. The entire Labour front in the State was in total disarray at the time of assumption of office by the LDF Government. This

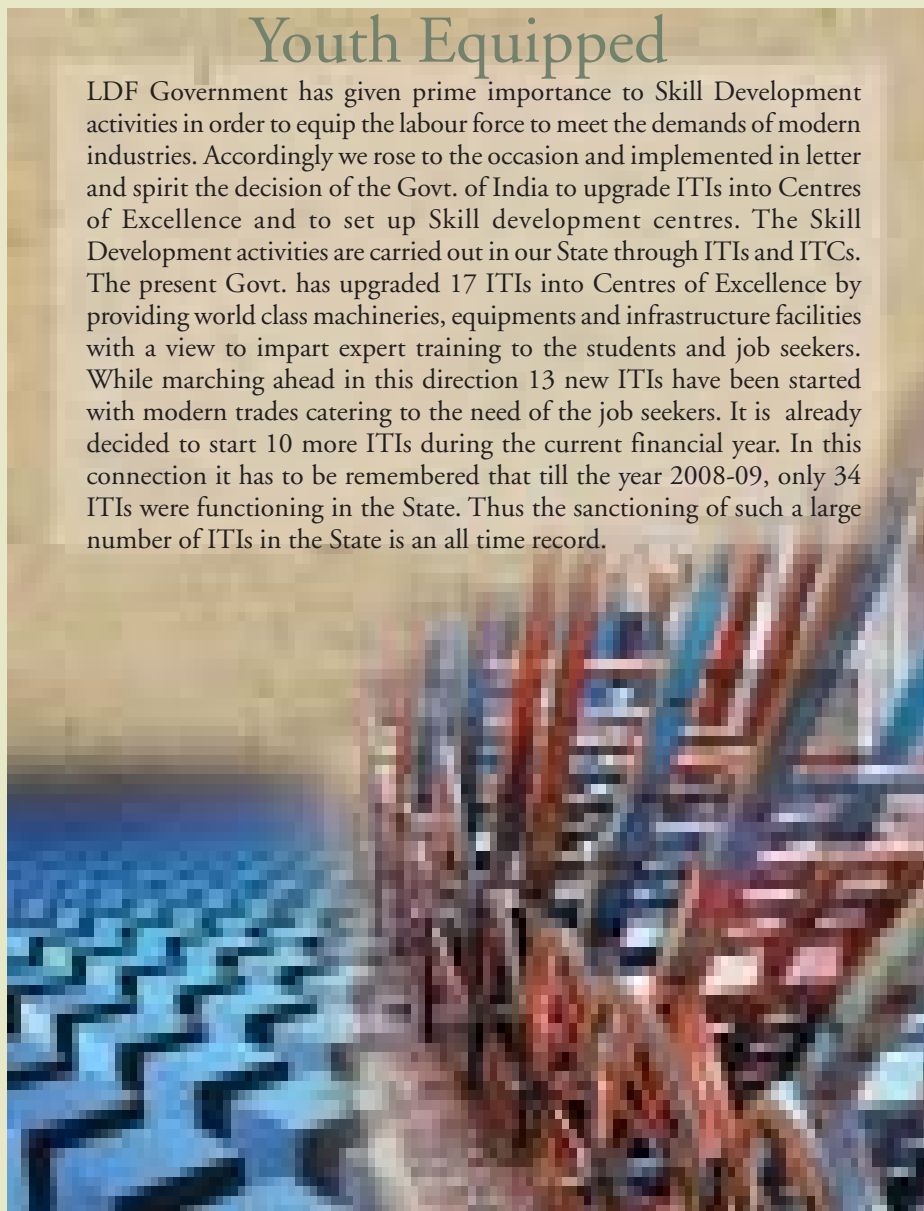
Government gave top most priority in settling the various labour disputes. In order to achieve the above objective, the tri-party machinery was effectively made use of. Plantation sector was one of the worst affected. Almost all the major plantations were either closed or abandoned by the owners. Starvation deaths and suicides were common phenomenon in the plantation areas of Idukki District. The UDF



Youth Equipped

LDF Government has given prime importance to Skill Development activities in order to equip the labour force to meet the demands of modern industries. Accordingly we rose to the occasion and implemented in letter and spirit the decision of the Govt. of India to upgrade ITIs into Centres of Excellence and to set up Skill development centres. The Skill Development activities are carried out in our State through ITIs and ITCs. The present Govt. has upgraded 17 ITIs into Centres of Excellence by providing world class machineries, equipments and infrastructure facilities with a view to impart expert training to the students and job seekers. While marching ahead in this direction 13 new ITIs have been started with modern trades catering to the need of the job seekers. It is already decided to start 10 more ITIs during the current financial year. In this connection it has to be remembered that till the year 2008-09, only 34 ITIs were functioning in the State. Thus the sanctioning of such a large number of ITIs in the State is an all time record.

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Government and the then Labour Department remained a mute spectator to such a development. As a result of a series of discussions held under the auspicious of the Labour Department, all but five of the major tea plantations were opened. The State govt. had submitted a package before the Union Commerce Ministry for the reopening of the closed tea plantations and the rejuvenation of the tea sector. The Government of

India had accepted the major portion of our suggestions. When the LDF Government came to power, there were huge arrears of welfare pensions. We could clear all the arrears within a short span and also enhance the rates of pensions substantially. Other wings of the Labour Department such as Employment and Training, Insurance Medical Services, Factories and Boilers etc. also remained

idle. In Insurance Medical Services Department we have lifted the ceiling of Rs.1 lakhs in the case of speciality treatment to the family members of the insured. 57 hospitals have been empanelled for providing cashless speciality treatment to the beneficiaries. The Factories & Boilers Department has decided to start a Welding and Research Institute at FACT Campus, thanks to the valuable support rendered by the FACT.

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