



Vision

"Global Warming -Tree is the Answer " is a slogan conceived realising the climatic change and calamities due to the deforestation all over the world. I feel it is too late to seriously think about the disastrous consequences of global warming. It is with a mission that we have launched afforestation schemes and planted more than 52 lakh saplings all over Kerala. We must realise that Government programmes and such other measures are not enough to face this phenomenon but the people as a whole must nurture love to tree which I felt among students. Perhaps this may not be the sole answer for this crucial problem while we know well about the political and economic prejudices of developed countries. The Left Democratic Front Government have attempted always for the uplift of the downtrodden and such steps are very visible in the Housing Department also. Laksham veedu renovation and the writing off debt of the poor are the few steps among them.

Binoy Viswam



4 the Present the Future

Making Kerala Green

MAJOR PROJECT
ON the ANVIL

'Harithakeralam' is the major project launched on 5th June, the World Environment Day. More than one crore of saplings will be planted all over Kerala within two years with the massive participation of various walks of life. The Forests Department and the Local Self Governments jointly implementing this campaign with the aim of planting trees in the premises of Government offices and all other available lands. Environmental groups, Kudumbasree members, employees, Youth Organisations etc. will co-operative with this mass campaign. The indigenous species like mango, jack and medical plants are the major chunk for planting. It

is aimed to make maximum tree cover to Kerala so as to face the challenges of global warming.

In housing sector, the major project is the M.N. Laksham veedu reconstruction, to be completed in a phased manner. 'Kalavara', the margin free shop of construction materials will be extended to other districts also. It is also decided to construct Housing and Commercial complexes on Public-Private Partnership under Housing Board. Habitat centre with the facilities like shopping malls and conference halls will be constructed in 3.25 acres at Kowdiar as a joint venture of HUDCO and State Housing Board.



New face to Social Forestry: Giving a new face to social forestry, more than 52 lakhs of seedlings planted in Kerala under the banner of various model schemes like 'Ente Maram' (My Tree), 'Nammude Maram' (Our Tree), 'Vazhiyorthanal' (Shading the roads), and 'Harithatheeram' (Greening the coastal area).

Under these Programmes, a new cultural awakening was evolved in various walks of Kerala especially on students. 'Ente Maram- Varnotsavam' (painting) and other competitions like Poetry and Essay contests were great stimulus for generating creativity in students.

Increasing Reserve

Forest Area: Reoccupying the alienated forest lands is a major achievement in the history of forest



protection; and it is for the first time that a Government took this bold step. 440 hr. in Wagamon, 22.45 hr. from Harrison Malayalam Plantation, 22253.37 acre in Mankulam and 350 acre of Thuthamppara estate were thus made part of Kerala forest. Measures for recapturing the 4896 acre in Muplivalley estate of Harrison Malayalam company who violated the lease conditions, were also started. These daring steps

honoured Kerala to be the State of increasing reserve forest area by three percent.

Forest Mafia brought before Law: Bold steps taken against the Sandal and Forest Mafia were of great impact for conserving forest. A well equipped force with needy weapons was posted at Marayoor and strong fencing was made around the Sandal Forest. More than 150 culprits were taken into custody and

brought before law and as a result of these stringent measures, the theft rate of Sandal brought down to 0.02 from 8.42, which was prevalent in the past.

Buffer zone to Silent valley: At this time of the Silver Jubilee celebrations of Silent valley, we could provide Buffer zone to it fulfilling the long cherished dream of nature lovers of India.

Kadalundi - Vallikkunnu

Community Reserve: The first Community Reserve in India, emerging in to prominence in Kadalundi-Vallikkunnu is one of the major projects becoming reality. This serene place where birds coming from the farthest corners of the world will have a prominent place in the cultural and tourism history of Kerala. The

5 OTHER PROJECTS Envisaged

- 1 Taking over of remaining surplus land involved in cases both at the Land Boards and courts for distribution to landless.
- 2 Completion of Re-survey activities in Malappuram and Kasargode districts under Bhoomi Keralam Project.
- 3 Completion of survey of forestland in 12 districts of the state to allot land to the tribal families under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.
- 4 New legislations to protect land allotted to the landless from land grabbers or so-called 'land mafia'.
- 5 Computerisation of land revenue records to ensure transparent and corrupt free land dealings.



project aims at the revival and protection of our eco-socio and cultural heritage.

Neelakurinji Sanctuary: Sanctuary for a flower is rare but we accomplished it for 'Neelakurinji' at Munnar. A Neelakurinji fest was conducted at Munnar and opened an amenity centre with tourist facilities.

For the first time in India, organic pepper produced by Adivasis of

Vanchivayal exported to Germany, a remarkable step for providing better life for Adivasis. Light and water were also provided to various Adivasis settlements in addition to a number welfare schemes like giving them timber at concession rates for building houses. Participatory forest protection is in a new dimension making innumerable job opportunities for the forest

dwellers. The major scheme of 56 nature friendly eco-tourism projects are on the anvil of which more than 20 have been launched.

Considering the very plight of the poor families, the Government have decided to re-construct the dilapidated houses and launched the scheme in a massive function.

Government have

taken measures to write off the arrears of long pending loans, they have taken from the State Housing Board. It is also made provision in the budget to give concessions in the cases of very poor who died or seriously ill. More than 42,000 poor people will get the benefit of these measures.

First in India, margin free shops named 'Kalavara' were opened in Kerala for giving construction materials to the poor under State Nirmithi Kendra. Cement, Steel, Hollow bricks etc are distributed to the people below poverty line without taking any profit. Forest department and State Nirmithi Kendra jointly started a 'Kalavara' at Kulathupuzha in Kollam District for supplying sand at half the rate of market, a challenging step to save people from the exploitation of sand mafia.

