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CENTRE FOR POLICY STUDIES

(SANKAR FOUNDATION)



YET ANOTHER CRISIS

Hardly has the euphoria over the golden jubilee of our Independence subsided when yet another crisis confronts the people of India. After the twin dangers of political instability and economic gloom of 1990-91 were overcome, attention began to be focused on ensuring steady economic growth, checking corruption and arresting the spread of violence. The agenda was pursued, adding a new and welcome dimension of good neighbourly relations, after the 1996 elections too. Sadly things are back to square one. And understandably the focus now will be on the 'stability' of the system.

Parliament is in turmoil. In the crossfire between power-wielders and power-seekers, the worst sufferers are the people. Shame indeed that money bags and crass political opportunism are the instruments employed for ensuring the so-called stability. Parties already drained of ideological strength and devoid of commitment to ideals and principles, are desperately trying to keep their flocks together. The present is uncertain and the future gloomy.

We should not allow India to function as a mere 'electoral democracy'. The largest democracy in the world can no longer claim any success if it has to be judged only by the yardstick of 'successful conduct of general elections.' Even these elections do not necessarily produce either stability or good candidates. A person contesting in elections need not get a majority of votes to win the election as the plurality rule enables the candidate with the largest single number of votes 'even if that number is less than half of the votes cast' to win the election. That, in turn, means that the majority of the people may not regard the elected candidates as the best or most desirable. As such it is essential that the participation of the voters in any and every election should be more than 80%. Equally important it is to remain vigilant, fearlessly articulating our views. The fight against poverty, corruption and criminalisation of politics must be intensified. On that there can be no compromise.

— The Editor

DISCUSSION ON TWO BOOKS ON INDIA

"In Light of India" by Octavio Paz and "The Idea of India" by Sunil Khilnani: organised by the Centre for Policy Studies on 26.10.1997 Dr. M. Madhusudan and Dr. B.S.R. Anjaneyulu, Readers in the Department of Politics and Public Administration, Andhra University introduced the books.

Former Mexican Ambassador to India and Nobel Laureate, Octavio Paz writes how he was surprised by "the diversity created by extreme contrast: modernity and antiquity, luxury and poverty, sensuality and asceticism, carelessness and efficiency, gentleness and violence." Referring to Islam and Hinduism, he wonders: "Are they two civilizations occupying a single territory or are they two religions nurtured by a single civilization?" and adds that the history of these two is a history "that unites them but also separates them." Paz is at his best when he writes on the impact of capitalism and modern technology on lifestyles. "Modern humans seem to have all come out of a factory, not a womb." Capitalist democracies, he writes, have created uniformity not equality and they have replaced fraternity with a perpetual struggle among individuals. "We know that people don't know what to do with their time. They have become slaves of entertainments that are generally idiotic and the hours that are not devoted to cash are spent in facile hedonism." Paz does not condemn pleasure but laments the general vulgarity that masquerades as culture. He calls the middle class 'the children of television' and says that Marx's famous phrase about religion as the opiate of the people can now be applied to television "which will end up anaesthetizing the human race, sunk in idiotic beatitude." He warns the Indian middle class and the middle classes all over the world against self-centered attitude to life, ignoring public well being. India, to Paz, is a museum, a living museum. India is "a reality far easier to delineate than to define," he says.

"The people of England think they are free. They are gravely mistaken. They are free only during the election of Members of Parliament."

—Jean Jacques Rousseau

Reviewing the book, Dr. Madhusudan found fault with the author for criticising Raja Rammohan Roy, Ramakrishna Paramahansa and Vivekananda. Hindu philosophy was not properly understood by Paz according to the reviewer. "It is wrong" said Dr. Madhusudan, to "make comments such as Hindus learning Bhakti cult from the Sufi saints and nationalism from Europe."

Sunil Khilnani's book has received favourable reviews, first abroad and later in India. Ian Jack observed in the *Guardian* that no work can be "wiser and more illuminating" than this book when many works are coming out to mark the fiftieth anniversary of India's Independence. In the words of Ian Jack: "Sunil Khilnani offers a different and more political answer. ...the book is an eloquent, persuasive argument for Nehru's improvised, permeable sense of nationhood."

Khilnani writes that in its politics, "India has managed to achieve relative if precariously balanced—success. It has allowed most of its citizens to live together with a larger measure of freedom than ever before and with more freedom than the citizens of other comparable new nation states. But by the standards of modern liberty, it has not allowed them to live well. The aspiration to economic modernity has yielded a much more uneven picture; for most Indians, it has been a failure... has been a self-proclaimed failure."

Khilnani, who is now working on a biography of Nehru, gives much of the credit to Nehru's vision and constructive approach in building the modern Indian state. "Nehru's idea of India" says Khilnani, "sought to coordinate within the form of a modern state a variety of values: democracy, religious tolerance, economic development and cultural pluralism...the true historical success of Nehru's rule lay not in a dissemination of democratic idealism but in its establishment of the state at the core of India's society." The author presents India's leading cities in a new light as avatars of contrary potentialities of India's modernity with Bangalore being 'the strongest alternative incarnation of Indian modernity.' The reference to the middle path which Nehru pursued was in a way the gift of Rabindranath Tagore. Of that Isaiah Berlin wrote a memorable line quoted on page 171 of the book. Sir Isaiah said: He (Tagore) "never showed his wisdom more clearly than in choosing the difficult middle path, drifting neither to the Scylla of radical modernism nor to the Charybdis of proud and gloomy traditionalism." Dr. Anjaneyulu while reviewing the book stressed the importance of understanding the ideas of thinkers and statesmen and their influence on politics and society. He draws attention to Khilnani's concluding comment that the idea of India was created by collisions between cultures and politics. "India is a state of mind". The definition of culture, especially national culture, invites contest according to Sunil Khilnani.

Summing up the discussion, Dr. A. Prasanna Kumar referred to some of the important issues raised by Indian and foreign scholars about Indian Democracy. Even

in the early years of independence doubts were expressed about the ability of the Indian people to sustain a stable democracy. Books and articles titled 'After Nehru who? After Nehru How? and After Nehru What?' came out conveying the skepticism of the authors about the strength of Indian democracy. Selig S. Harrison predicted the collapse of the Indian system saying that "the odds were almost wholly against the survival of freedom and the issue is, in fact, whether any Indian state can survive at all." Paul Brass wondered how India functioned "with a highly competitive and distinctly adversarial system of politics." A Consociational Interpretation of 'The puzzle of Indian Democracy' was ably provided by Arend Lijphart of the University of California in explaining how "the world's largest and most heterogeneous democracy" successfully maintained democratic rule since 1947. Lijphart argues that the characteristics of Consociational democracy — 1. grand coalition that includes all linguistic and religious groups, 2. Cultural autonomy for these groups, 3. Proportionality in political representation and civil service appointments and 4. a minority veto with regard to vital minority rights — are all present in the Indian system. He shows how India has "always had a power-sharing system of democracy, especially strongly and unmistakably during its first two decades of independence from 1949 to 1967, but continuing albeit in somewhat attenuated form after about 1967." He quotes Rajni Kothari who observed that the Congress encompassed "all the major sections and interests of the society" and that Nehru was "a perfect example of prudent and constructive leadership in the development of successful power sharing systems." Samuel P. Huntington applied in 1993 the 'two-turn over test' i.e., two democratic and peaceful transitions of power subsequent to the creation of the initial democratic government, to India and described India as 'a consolidated democracy.' However, last year Freedom House placed India at 54 on the scale of 1 to 100 and India lags far behind Western democracies and 20 points behind Japan for its failure to protect human rights. The shift in national vote in favour of state parties as against national parties is a significant development of the recent past. State parties increased their vote from 8% in 1980 to 21% in 1996 and their seats in Parliament from 27 in 1989 to 127 in 1996. This according to some experts signifies more active participation of the people through the state and regional parties. Rajni Kothari feels that the 'most remarkable aspect of fifty years story has been the almost continuous coexistence of democracy and poverty...the people still have faith in and actually work through the democratic process alive far more than the elite and affluent middle classes." Pran Chopra commends coalition politics which "has woven wide networks, horizontally between parties at the same federal level, whether at the centre or in the states, and vertically between the Central and State level parties. This networking has begun to encompass the village-level politics because for the first time the Constitution has of-

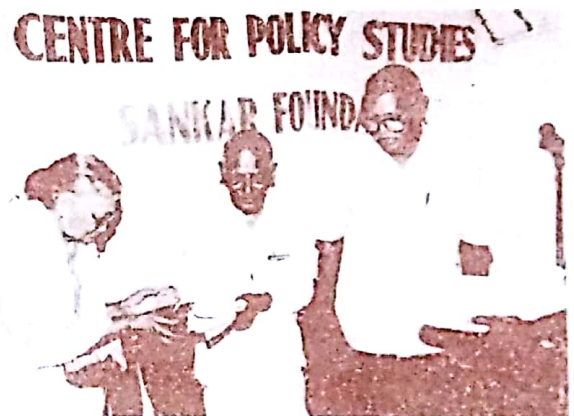
SANKAR FOUNDATION'S PROGRAMMES



A view of the Eye Hospital



Honouring musicologist Sri I.V.L. Sastry and Vedic Scholar Sri A. Narasimha Sarma by Sriman Srihashyam Appalacharyulu. Managing Trustee Sri A. Sankara Rao and Vice-President of Sankar Foundation Sri D.V. Subba Rao are also seen.



Smt. Digumarthi Saraswati Devi, advocate and wife of late Dr. Gopalaswami presenting khadi garments, spun by her during her recent visit to the USA, to Sri Vavilala Gopalakrishnayya, at the Dr. D. Gopalaswami Memorial Award Presentation Function at the Centre for Policy Studies. Ex-Mayor Sri D.V. Subba Rao who presided, looks on.



T.B. Detection Camp at Anakapalle in progress.



Sankar Foundation's Eye Screening Camp at Somalingapalem on 14-7-97. Dr. N.V. Madhavi, Ophthalmic Surgeon examining a patient.



Special incentive programme for family planning operations.



A street play on AIDS awareness at Ramakrishna Beach sponsored by Sankar Foundation.

dained that self-governing institutions must be elected at that level as well as like the state legislatures." Coalition governments might be weak and as the 1996-97 experience shows the Union Cabinet might often display 'collective irresponsibility' not collective responsibility, one of essentials of parliamentary government. Nevertheless coalition politics would certainly help in achieving national consensus on many critical issues confronting the polity. Also attention is once again being focussed on Parliament instead of concentrating on the Prime Minister or a few individual leaders. If political parties and other major institutions regain their importance it will surely augur well for Indian democracy.

SYNTHESIS - THE MAGIC

—K. Parvathi Kumar

International President, World Teacher Trust

Division seems to rule the world. The globe is divided in thought, into nations, races, classes and castes. Religion divided them further. Isms, cults and faiths are many and varied. They divided the human into fragments. Vision is lost and thousands of view points, fixed, strong and adamant, prevail. Even a river water is seen as Maharashtra water, Karnataka water, Tamilnadu water, Andhra Water! Family, the natural group, too is fragmented into individual units. And the individual is divided as well by conflict. Harmony is myth in the current human life.

But human is divine in essence. He carries within him the intelligence. Its wrong use is the cause of all division and consequent fall. Let humans pick up the thought of synthesis and build brick by brick the individual, the family, and the community. Let synthesis prevail, not malice. Let Science pick up the Science of Synthesis along with the Science of Analysis.

GLOBALISATION OF INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION

—Prof. M.V. Venkata Rao

Head, Environmental Division
Centre for Policy Studies

Industrial growth is a well accepted need to a developing nation like ours. However a rational and sustainable growth should consider questions like: growth of what? for whom? at what environmental costs? what type of technology? etc. Optimum progress needs a holistic perspective instead of a blind pursuit of hopeful positives alone. A frank introspection of the current industrial spree in our country is a dire environmental need.

Growth of what?

Industrial production should meet the needs of the people and improve their quality of life. Food, shelter, clothing, transport and healthy recreation are the uni-

versally accepted needs of mankind. Breweries, tobacco products, cosmetic and pharmaceuticals claiming stupid exaggerations, detergents and disinfectants disapproved by science, decorative appliances serving snobbery and self aggrandisement, and unhealthy entertainment gadgets are dominating today's industrial growth, with publicity costs often exceeding the production costs. The consumptions of materials, energy and man power by these industries, while creating pollution of the environment and degenerating peoples health, should be considered as a crime against humanity. The glamour of consumerism of these pseudoneeds, created by the brainwashing of costly publicity, in turn, is also responsible for the frustrations and corruptions among the middle and lower economic classes, who can not afford them with honest incomes.

A better discretion is warranted for preventing pseudo-growths, at this moment of our national industrial spree.

Growth of whom?

Four decades have slipped by since our nation announced a policy for the growth of S and T for the benefit of the rural and those below the poverty line. This policy is often voiced aloud only to confirm that hypocrisy is more talkative. The growth of S and T has been appreciable in independent India helping the millionaires to grow up to billionaires, with no impact on the quality of life for the majority. The recent industrial epidemic is the dollar lure, the characteristic of the vulgar elite. The average Indian has no greed for use for a dollar. Trading off national interests and environmental assets for foreign exchange under the garb of globalisation is more a mischief of a few. The difference between 'export quality' and 'internal market quality' is a measure of our mental slavery amidst political independence. Exporting the best foods and eating the next best at it's boosted price is weakening the national health.

Growth at what environmental costs? :

Polluting industries, difficult to manage in developed countries are migrating to developing countries that are crazy for 'export oriented' business. Pesticides, mushrooms pharmaceutical intermediaries, dye intermediaries etc. tend to come to India with the two attractions, foreign investment and export orientation, violation of environmental laws with the cooperation and collusion of governmental agencies is facilitated in India. Thus the ecodamaging industrialisation is attracted. The elite who invite this for personal gains can conveniently argue that progress must accept certain environmental costs and risks. Otherwise we may be left behind in the international (stupid) consumer market, according to them.

Growth with what types of technology? :

Indian industry persists in believing that imported technology is superior. Technology transfer from devel-

oped countries to developing countries is constrained by two vested interests. The latest technology should be confidential to ensure market monopoly. The obsolete technology should be sold at more than its scrap value. Developing nations extend their cooperation in serving these two interests of the developed nations by suppressing or ignoring their indigenous R and D and importing the obsolete technologies, in exchange for a few personal incentives, by the trade delegations entering into foolish agreements. These imported obsolete technologies are inherently incompatible with the demand of eco-friendliness. Chemical, petrochemical, pharmaceutical and metal industries with the obsolete imported technology can not meet the pollution control requirements, without unreasonably high investments. An easier way for these industries is to keep the pollution control officials in good humour and persist in their environmental offences.

Conclusion:

Globalisation and industrialisation of Indian economy needs a holistic perspective tuned to local contexts. Policies should not be carved from popular slogans of misled or mischievous origins.

WORKSHOP ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT

A 2-day workshop on disaster management was organised by Sankar Foundation on 22nd and 23rd October, '97. Around eighty office bearers of Voluntary Organisations dedicated to environmental services attended taking active participation. On the first day four eminent resource persons explained the origins of natural and man-made disasters, the techniques to assess their magnitudes, and the basis for organising preparedness to mitigate the losses during and after the disasters.

Professor V. Bangareswara Sarma, retired Principal of Andhra University Engineering College explained the natural and man-made reasons for the occurrence of floods and severe droughts. Denudation of water sheds and reclamation of natural ponds for man's constructional and other activities were blamed. Prof. Sarma highlighted the need for assessing the magnitudes of potential hazards and for organising alert preparedness to mitigate the damages during and after cyclones and earthquakes, citing some case histories.

Prof. K.P.R. Vittal Murthy of the University's Meteorological department, narrated the importance of wind, temperature inversion, humidity and rainfall in the dispersion of toxic gases and dusts released by industrial accidents. The safety precautions to be followed by the citizens in the danger zone during industrial gas leaks and explosions were highlighted. Prof. M.L. Narasimham of Andhra University Civil Engineering department gave a detailed account of the reasons for industrial fire hazards, and the techniques to quantify the hazard potential and to rate the safety levels, so as to prepare a ra-

tional on-site and off-site disaster management plan against fire hazards.

Prof. M.V. Venkata Rao noted environmentalist emphasised the need for sanitary measures and described the possible methods of providing safe drinking water and latrine facilities during the emergencies created by disasters. A few measures for self protection during disasters were suggested. Keen interest and commitment to service were evinced by the participants during the workshop.

REPORT ON THE MEDICAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

—Dr. G. Prabhakar

Coordinator, Health and Projects

Coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh, especially Visakhapatnam district, are always exposed to disasters mainly cyclones, tidal waves and other man-made disasters like the recent explosions and major fire in HPCL. Disasters cannot be always prevented, but their effects can be always mitigated. The science of disaster management involves the systematic observations and analysis of measures relating to Disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, emergency response rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Sankar Foundation conducted a Two day Workshop on 'Disaster Management' for Voluntary organisations to help formulate policies and strengthen their capabilities in all aspects of Disaster Management. The Workshop was conducted on 22nd and 23rd October 1997 at YMCA. 105 representatives from 54 NGOs attended the Workshop with good interest and enthusiasm.

The inauguration of the Workshop was held at 10 AM on 22nd October. Sri D.V. Subba Rao, former Mayor of Visakhapatnam and Vice-Chairman of the Foundation presided over the function. Prof. M.V. Venkata Rao, Director, Environment division of the Foundation spoke about the importance and purpose of conducting the Workshop. Sri Bandaru Sathyanarayana Murthy, Hon. Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development was the Chief Guest. Sri Sathyanarayana Murthy, the Hon. Minister inaugurated the Workshop by formally lighting the lamp. In his address, he congratulated the Foundation on conducting the Workshop on Disaster management, which was the need of the hour after the recent disaster at HPCL. He expressed his happiness for the participation of NGOs in large number at the Workshop. Dr. N.V. Madhavi welcomed the gathering and Dr. Prabhakar proposed a vote of thanks. Sri A. Sankar Rao, Managing Trustee of the Foundation spoke on the occasion and handed over mementoes to the Chief Guest and other dignitaries on behalf of the Foundation.

The proceedings of the First day of the Workshop have been presented by Prof. M.V. Venkata Rao in his report on the Workshop.

The second day of the Workshop was devoted for medical topics. Group discussions and interaction by the participants. The topics discussed include:

Mass hysterias, phobias, psychosocial problems and management by Prof. V.S. Bose, Prof. of Psychology, Andhra University.

Medical Emergencies, Respiratory problems due to gases, shock bleeding, burns, child care, by Dr. N. Srinivasa Rao, Retd. Prof. of Medicine, Andhra Medical College and President Indian Medical Association, Visakhapatnam.

Surgical emergencies, head injuries, fractures, burns, shock disabilities, emergency contingency plans, by Dr. Vishnu Prasad, Asst. Prof. of Neurosurgery, Andhra Medical College.

Role of Media during and after disasters and in prevention of disasters by Sri B. Prabhakara Sarma, Correspondent, The Hindu.

The speakers made their presentations with OHP and slides and they were very informative, educative and interesting. During the Group discussions, the interaction with the speakers and experts in the field was very interesting and several important subjects were raised and discussed at length. Topics like snake bites, nutrition and food supplies, transport of victims, first aid, reaching children and women during emergencies, security, sanitation, shelters, prioritising and setting objectives in emergencies, logistics and management, targeting and distribution and role of NGOs at various stages of Disaster management were discussed.

ONE DAY WORKSHOP ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT (MEDICAL)

A one day Workshop on Disaster Management (Medical) was conducted by Andhra Medical College and Govt. King George Hospital, Visakhapatnam at Hotel Dolphin on 6th Nov. 1997. The Workshop was sponsored by Sankar Foundation along with few more sponsors.

Dr. B. Subba Rao, Prof. of Neurosurgery and Vice-Principal of Andhra Medical College was the Convener for the Workshop and was instrumental in conducting the Workshop very successfully. Dr. M. Sriram, Superintendent of King George Hospital presided and Dr. C.V. Sanyasi Rao, Principal of Andhra Medical College inaugurated the Workshop. Dr. Subba Rao explained at length about the purpose of conducting the Workshop specially in view of the recent Disaster at HPCL. The main Objective of the Workshop was to formulate a Hospital Contingency Plan for Govt. King George Hospital and Networking of various Hospitals in Visakhapatnam. A Questionnaire was sent to all participants from various Hospitals, Government, Public sector undertakings, Industries, private hospitals, corporate hospitals and voluntary organisations to furnish the data of the facilities available with their respective hospitals to formulate the networking.

The main speakers at the Workshop include Dr. KVGK. Tilak Prof. of Medicine on Medical Emergencies, Dr. C. Pulla Reddy Prof. of Surgery, on Surgical emergencies and Dr. C. Dharma Rao, Prof. of Orthopaedics on Trauma.

Cdr. Dr. Nagaraj and Surg. Lt. Cdr. Nagaraj from INS Kalyani spoke about their experiences in Disaster management and their Hospital contingency plan. Dr. Subba Rao presented the Draft of the Hospital Contingency Plan of King George Hospital and was discussed at length by all participants. The participants at the Workshop include Dr. B. Swaraja Lakshmi, Retd. Prof. of SPM, Dr. M. Subba Rao, Retd. Prof. of STD, Dr. Sathyanarayana, CMO, Visakhapatnam Port Trust Hospital, Smt. Indrani Jagga Row, Smt. Digumarthi Saraswathi Devi, Kum. P. Jaganmohini, Sri Kasim Mehdi, well known Social workers from NGO sector, Medical Officers from Hindustan shipyard Ltd., Coromandel Fertilizers Ltd., Hindustan Zinc, Hindustan Polymers, Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, officials from Collectorate, Civil Defence and Pollution Control Board and several prominent doctors of Vizag.

A core group was formed to finalise the draft plan and follow up of the Workshop. The Core group consists of Dr. Sriram, Superintendent of KGH as Chairman, Dr. B. Subba Rao, as Convener, with Chief Medical Officers of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, Port Trust, Municipal Corporation, District Medical and Health Officer, Command Medical Officer INS Kalyani, Smt. Indrani Jagga Row, Mahila Dakshitha Samithi and Dr. G. Prabhakar as Members.

The Core group will meet regularly to finalise the document of the proceedings of the Workshop and initiate action on the recommendations. The first meeting of the Core group was held in the Chambers of the Core group was held in the Chambers of the Superintendent of KGH on 20th November 1997 and was attended by all members.

PROGRAMME ON 'AIDS' Sponsored by Sankar Foundation

SPAAD, the Society for Prevention of AIDS and Allied Diseases, Visakhapatnam organised a Seminar on 'The Role of Government and Non-Government Agencies and Mass Media Units in creating Awareness and Prevention of AIDS' on 12th Nov. The seminar was sponsored by Sankar Foundation. Sri Sabbam Hari, HW Mayor of Visakhapatnam was the Chief Guest and inaugurated the Seminar. Dr. M. Subba Rao, Retd. Prof. of STD and President of SPAAD presided over the function. Dr. M. Sriram, Superintendent of KGH and Prof. A. Prasanna Kumar Executive Trustee of Sankar Foundation were the Guests of Honour and spoke at the Seminar. Dr. K.N. Kondala Rao, Secretary of SPAAD presented a report on the programmes of the Society and thanked Sankar Foundation for sponsoring AIDS Awareness Street Plays at various educational institutions along with SPAAD.

Around 80 participants including doctors, social workers and representatives from several voluntary organisations actively participated in the Seminar.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY FUNCTION OF INDIAN EPILEPSY ASSOCIATION, VIZAG CHAPTER

The first Anniversary function of Indian Epilepsy Association Vizag Chapter was arranged at Taj Residency Hotel on 16th Nov. 1997, following NEURO 97, Continuing Medical Education Programme on Neurological Medicine. Dr. V. Hanumantha Rao, former Superintendent of KGH and Prof. of Medicine presided over the function. Dr. P. Satish Chandra, Additional Prof. of Neurology, NIMHANS, Bangalore was the Chief Guest and delivered the keynote address. Mrs. Uma Rao, Trustee of Sankar Foundation was the Guest of Honour at the function. Dr. K. Venkateswarlu, Prof. of Neurology, KGH and Secretary Indian Epilepsy Association, Vizag chapter narrated briefly about the birth of IEA, Vizag chapter and its activities. Dr. Venkateswarlu thanked Sankar Foundation for associating with IEA in running the Epilepsy Service Centre for poor patients and for the supply of expensive anti-epileptic drugs at subsidised price to poor patients. Dr. Satish Chandra in his address, expressed his happiness at the growth of IEA Vizag chapter and lauded the services of IEA and Sankar Foundation for supplying the drugs at subsidised prices. Mrs. Uma Rao, in her address outlined the various Objectives and activities of the Foundation and expressed her gratitude to IEA, behalf of the Foundation, for giving an opportunity to the Foundation to serve the poor through IEA Service Centre. Dr. Satish Chandra and Dr. Venkateswarlu gave their opinions and clarifications on various issues relating to Epilepsy, raised by the patients and their relatives. Sri Sathyanarayana Retd. Executive from Pharma-

ceuticals and Incharge of the Service Centre, presented a brief report on the Service Centre. Dr. Y. Prabhakar Rao, Asst. Prof. of Neurology, KGH proposed a vote thanks. Sri Sathyanarayana and Sri Venkata Rao, were presented with mementos in recognition of their services at the Centre.

Coming to the TB Programme, monthly TB camps were conducted at Anakapalle on 5th October and 5th November 1997. 89 patients received the medicines at the camps.

Sankar Foundation is conducting Screening camps for Cataract regularly.

3rd November 1997 : Eye camp at Ramabhadrapuram :

Rural Eye camp was screening Cataract patients was conducted at Ramabhadrapuram, near Bobbili on 3rd Nov. With this camp, the Foundation has extended the services to Vizianagaram District also. The camp was successfully conducted with the help of Community Development Centre, a well known NGO. Sri Venkateswara Rao Director of CDC and his team of dedicated staff conducted the camp in a well organised way. 125 patients were screened and 51 were selected for surgery.

17th Nov 1997 : Eye camp at Cheedikada :

Eye camp was conducted at Cheedikada, near Anakapalle for the second time on the request of the local NGO, Integrated Rural Development Society. 60 patients were screened and 15 were selected for surgery.

The Foundation's Eye Hospital has performed 250 operations with IOL implantations till the first week of November 1997.

—G. Prabhakar

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