



BULLETIN

OF THE

CENTRE FOR POLICY STUDIES

(SANKAR FOUNDATION)



THE CONTINUING DRIFT . . .

It is but natural to do some stock-taking as the year draws to a close. Politicians may not have the time or inclination to do soul-searching. But people have a right as well as duty to evaluate the performance of those in power and fix responsibility for their acts of omission and commission. Constant vigilance is necessary and vital for proper functioning of democratic government. It is rightly said that democracy provides both facility and opportunity for self-correction.

The manner in which the Indian people exercise their franchise and punish representatives and parties for non-performance has evoked world-wide admiration. The credit for the stability and 'success' (whatever it might mean) of the world's largest democracy undoubtedly goes to the people of India. If, however, their choice is limited and power inadequate to improve the system, it is not their fault. If the nexus between criminal gangs and some politicians/bureaucrats continues to thrive, if corruption remains unchecked and if violence rocks Mumbai in the West, Srinagar in the North, Coimbatore in the South and some areas of the North-East, people are justified in blaming those in power for lack of control over administration. People's faith in leaders and administration has touched the rock-bottom with prices of essential commodities galloping ominously.

Where are the leaders who can speak with courage and vision? Where are the leaders who can instill confidence in the minds of the people? Coalition politics might be the cause for the continuing drift. But courage and conviction on the part of leaders can steer the nation to safety and success. India's problems are not just political. More disturbing than the climate of political uncertainty is the economic downturn that may land India in a terrible mess. Unemployment is on the increase and it serves us no purpose to describe it as a global problem. Trade and industry are sending out negative signals and that will result in greater inflation and unemployment. Equally dangerous are social tensions caused by

caste and communal factors in both urban and rural areas.

A mood of despair has gripped the nation. Alternative approaches and strategies are being thrown up for public discussion and for possible solution to the malaise. If the Marxists had found India unsuitable for executing a Russian or Chinese type of revolution to achieve their goal, the liberals, particularly those influenced by the Westminster model, must have found the democratic approach being followed in India inadequate to achieve the goals enshrined in the Constitution. The 'path of rapid evolution' chosen instead of 'the path of violent revolution', as a writer put, it has been converted into a tunnel of darkness. Will there be light at the end of this long tunnel? The discourse, therefore, assumes special significance in the context of the critical present and uncertain future.

Someone sarcastically wrote that the twentieth century has been described as the Century of the Common Man because the common man has been the worst sufferer in this century. India bears testimony to that fact. Instead of throwing up our hands in despair, will it not be a step in the right direction, if all responsible persons, especially the intellectuals and the well placed middle classes form themselves into people's welfare committees in every village, town and city, keep a watch over the happenings in their area and generate a consensus on basic issues concerning them? Is not governance too serious and important a matter to be left entirely to the politicians and bureaucrats? Surely an attempt, if not a beginning, can be made.

—The Editor

"Political freedom has no meaning for the millions if they do not know how to employ their enforced idleness. Eighty percent of the Indian population are compulsorily unemployed for half the year."

—Gandhiji

INDIA'S POLITY : RETROSPECT AND PROSPECT

*(Lecture delivered at the Centre for Policy Studies by
Sri K. Vijaya Rama Rao, I.P.S. (Retd.), Former Director,
C.B.I. on October 2, 1998)*

Representative Democracy remains to this day the best form of governance mankind has ever been able to devise. The content of democracy encompasses not merely governance, or instruments of State, but all other human associations that have existed to come into existence. An industrial establishment, whether of Government or privately owned, a company, a cultural or literary group, a voluntary social service organization, religious associations, welfare organization to different groups or sections of people, sport or recreational clubs, professional organizations and ever so many organized groups influence lives of people and exercise power, each in its own limited sphere.

People's participation assures protection of their interests apart from making democracy vibrant and truly reflective of people's values, needs and interests. Devolution of power is the most important element of democracy. It is the only practical way of management of affairs of people particularly large democracies. One billion people living in lakhs of villages, thousands of towns and cities spread over the vast sub-continent cannot possibly be served from one place or two, by an individual or two.

Soon after Independence, Gandhiji's Gramswaraj did not find a structural shape in the Constitution. Only a 73rd and 74th Amendment of the Constitution nearly 45 years after Independence gave some shape to this. The initial efforts after Balwantrai Committee to build the Panchayats met with failure. Gradually State Governments and the Union Government became focus of decision making and power and there was no giving up of that even till now. The 73rd and 74th Amendments are only a belated step. In such a vital matter there is no need to proceed step by step. Such things which are vital to survival of democracy and distributive political, economic and social justice should have been done 50 years ago and should at least now be accomplished at one stroke.

People have to be the main focus of all development. There is nothing for the politician to consider outside or above the various men, women and children who compose the world. The political institutions and the persons which do not, serve them, or fail to achieve the result, have to be replaced.

A legislature is designed to have informed debates on all problems of the people and work out strategies of both short-term and long-term nature and make the Government which is responsible to them to perform.

A Committee system assisted by concerned head of departments, experts, researchers and opinion makers, with constitutional obligation and responsibility to the

Legislature as a whole should be brought into place before it is too late.

The relationship between Centre and States have to be so adjusted that both respect each other and function harmoniously. The basic fact is that India is a federal set up, a Union of States - the nuances notwithstanding. This structure could be preserved only if the ground rules are observed by both. Sarkaria Commission has provided clear guidelines and it is time these are built into the Constitution.

Immediate and enforceable changes in Election to eliminate the distortions as well as the conditions that make such things possible is necessary.

Political parties which have come to stay as a vital force in the democracy have to function under certain legal framework. The organs that wield political power should not be a disorganized indiscipline, loose association where there is neither respect for leadership nor commitment to the cause which the party professes. An organ which actually wields political power or likely to, should organizationally function in a statutory framework where certain obligations, accountability is attached to all the members. Tenth schedule has been one step but has not gone far enough. A complete and the comprehensive Constitutional framework is necessary for this as one cannot just super-impose the party system of other democracies where they have evolved over centuries.

For a long time, one political party which, in fact, was an organization for National Independence having converted itself into a party much against the advice of Mahatma Gandhi was in power for a long time. Last 30 years have shown that it may not be possible for one party to be in power in the Centre or States always. Coalitions have come to stay but, except in one or two cases brought about instability. One has to accept this as a reality. A system which ensures a degree of stability in such circumstances should have two components.

1. The normal needs of the people should not be affected; and
2. There has to be a working Government with assured tenure of at least 2½ years, i.e., the changes in Government being confined only to one in a period of 5 years.

The first requirement is fulfilled to a great extent by properly empowered, accountable and constitutionally recognized local bodies. The second proposition can be achieved by having all the elected representatives of Parliament or Legislature to elect Prime Minister or a Chief Minister by preferential voting through single transferable vote with a stipulation that he should at about the midway period, i.e., around 2½ years, take vote of confidence.

One more fact that needs to be addressed relates to perpetuation of a person in position of political power without any limit. A Constitutional bar of a maximum of

two terms to a person who becomes a Prime Minister or Chief Minister of State is the only way to set right the distortion and the attendant evils.

The quality of leadership and values of a person in politics determines the strength or weakness of a democracy. Such leadership and such persons cannot suddenly emerge and even if a few people do, it will not be adequate to run the affairs of the Nation.

All the facilities, research and resources available in the country and experience of other nations should be pressed into service to deal with this problem and make the youth what it should be - a vibrant, productive, skilled, self-respecting working force playing a useful role in the nation building. The line of action is to (a) ensure High School Education to all. (b) at the High School, before one leaves clearly identify what the boy wants or can become and made to choose from 2 or 3 alternatives. (c) train him for that which he wants to be in the order of preference. (d) those who stop at SSC level either passed or not, counselling has to take place as to what he wants to do with 2 or 3 alternatives. The alternatives must include self-employment depending on the boy's inclination and advice of parents, (e) involvement of teachers and parents and one extension officer dealing with employment is necessary, (f) follow up to see that the person is fixed at least in the last alternative. The entire structure including employment guidance, employment exchange, vocational guidance, etc. should be re-shaped with this specific task.

Universities have to be Centres of learning, advanced research, constant updating of courses and main media of application of knowledge to enhance educational levels and provide the finest that modern science and technology can offer. In Universities, in Administration and Political Institutions the enemy that has to be fought is smug complacency, cynicism and helplessness. There is nothing that we cannot achieve if University teachers and students decide to. It is the duty of the people like us to help them achieve it.

Let me end with a sentence from Mahatma Gandhi, "My Swaraj is to keep intact the genius of our civilization, I want to write many new things but they must all be written on the Indian Slate" (*India of My Dreams*, p. 8).

TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN ADMINISTRATION

—R. Prabhakar Rao, IPS
(Retd. Director-General of Police, A.P.)

(Lecture delivered at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Visakhapatnam on 20-11-1998)

In many countries, including India, there is an overwhelming feeling that public service has lost its way. "Public sees officials and officials seem to see themselves as

existing not to provide a service to the public but a body that is not accountable to the public they profess to" (Transparency International). Lack of transparency and accountability facilitates widespread corruption (and vice versa) which causes immense damage to governmental programmes, resulting in inefficiency and waste, misallocation of resources, excessive cost of administration, reduction in benefits reaching the people, decline of moral standards. Transparency International has listed several procedures to counter check the growth of secrecy, indifference and corruption.

In India, much of the publicised schemes have failed to deliver the necessary results. The end state of our Criminal Justice System, the inability of enormous development effort to make a dent on poverty and the ever-increasing social conflicts point to our inadequacies in running democratic administration efficiently. The three wings of our constitution, political, administrative and judicial instead of working in unison appear to be bent upon destroying not only effectiveness but also each other's credibility.

Political leadership indulge in ill prepared, unrealistic and even harmful populist promises for short term political gains and the opposition without constructive cooperation and analytical criticism has a single point programme of removing the Government. Making of law is considered as an end in itself, such laws neither answer the problem nor is there any effort to start implementing them.

Besides, political leadership which depended heavily on Supreme Court, Election Commission, etc. could not much help the suffering citizen. So also the much publicised liberalisation programmes for economic development have not percolated down to the operational levels in government or development or financial institutions as well as regulating bodies.

A few of the suggestions that can make public offices transparent and accountable are:

1. Public opinion and press ought to examine the actions of the executive with understanding instead of merely criticising failures.
2. Press being the greatest bulwark of openness must continue to expose the motivated secrets of Governmental action.
3. NGOs working in different fields at grass-roots level should take active interest in public affairs and the administrative actions.
4. Administrative decisions at higher level should be based on strategic policies duly operationalised to ensure certainty and uniformity.

"I always find I am in the best company when I am alone".

—Albert Einstein

5. An effective information system to check the use of authority, and provision for quick redressal would make our system responsive to the citizen.
6. A basic change in the attitude of administration towards the citizen is needed. The mental equipment and ethical fibre of the administration has to be ensured in their selection procedures and elevated by suitable training inputs. It is necessary to strengthen their character and service orientation to give them a real understanding of their role in nation-building and the immense damage they can cause if they are ineffective, uncommitted or corrupt.
7. Moral courage, initiative in decision-making and an attitude of detachment must govern functioning of administrators.
8. Public Interest litigants must galvanise the leadership of the country to take on the task of administrative reform seriously to make the administration transparent and responsive.
9. With the support of the civil society, all of us should eschew all of our loyalties such as self-interest, family aggrandisement, caste group and narrow political considerations to that of only one loyalty, that is the vision of our country's future.

Free and dynamic press has indeed been a powerful influence in exposing many lapses and failures as well as educating the public, but, there appears to be a tendency to cash on sensationism and headline attention. Sustained pursuit of journalistic investigations and research with constant follow-up will make the press play a far more effective role in ensuring transparency and accountability of the administration. Similarly public opinion and press ought to examine the actions of the executive with understanding instead of merely criticising failures with all informed, motivated malicious criticism. "The great emphasis on avoidance of error also means that avoidance of publication is equally necessary If no one knows what you are doing, no one knows what you are doing wrong". (Rt. Hon. James Hatter in 'Yes Prime Minister'). Press being the greatest bulwark of openness must continue to expose the motivated secrets of Governmental action. As Justice Brandeis says "Publicity is justly recommended as a remedy for Social and Industrial diseases. Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants; Electric light is the most efficient police man".

The "Civil Society" - organisations and networks which lie outside the formal state apparatus can play a powerful role. NGOs working in different fields at grass roots level consumer groups, Environmental Protection groups, Associations of Industry and Commerce, Association of Unions, Farmers Forums, Service Organisations like Rotary, Lions Clubs etc., should take active interest in public affairs and the administrations actions - Alexis De Toanssike credited the strength of democracy in USA to "A Thousand different types" of associations of citizens

pursuing a common purpose. In some countries they are forming 'Integrity networks' to act collectively to project issues in comprehensive manner and work towards solutions. It is unfortunate that in India even a good number of NGOs have turned out to be corrupt and exploitative - even of the poorest of the poor.

As J.G. Holland puts it "Responsibility walks hand in hand with capacity and power". The successful functioning of the administrative systems depends on putting capable persons in proper places, empowering them and holding them responsible for results. Whenever circumstances have compelled our administrations to do so we have seen spectacularly successful results such as atomic and agri. research, space programme, defence laboratories, World Bank Programmes, Elections and most strikingly in VIP visits. In our normal working system we have kept responsibility amorphous, vague unexplainable and virtually unenforceable. Even a study of numerous, judicial pronouncements and Commission Reports, it is very difficult to pinpoint responsibility for executive decisions and their implementation - Decision at political level ought to be based on policy, long-term strategies and basic principles but they are often based on immediate gain - political or otherwise. Administrative decisions at higher level should be based on strategic policies duly operationalised to ensure certainty and uniformity. But they are more often based on self preservation and influence building. At the cutting edge level they ought to be taken based on expediency and legal necessity. In the absence of clear and open policy - executive action is uncertain, uneven, hesitant and even backtracking constantly looking up contrary wise the hierarchical compulsions some times make the higher levels justify even hasty, illegal and wrong actions taken at cutting edge level to satisfy local pressures. An open and declared delineation of responsibility and vesting of adequate powers to discharge the same can only ensure prompt redressal of citizen grievances. Decentralisation with effective checks - delegation with circumscribed limits has to be clearly specified at every level. An effective information system to check the use of authority and suitable redressal at superior and even provision for quick legal redressal and compensation only would make our systems responsive to the citizen otherwise we will swing between unbridled use of authority and ineffectiveness as it suits the convenience of what is now termed as "Clientelistic State" selling out patronage to powerful clientele each at their level and indulging in "Kleptocracy".

LECTURE ON ANNAMAYYA

Shri V.A.K. Ranga Rao, well-known Historian of Performing Arts and a critic of film music, delivered a lecture at Centre for Policy Studies on 1st November 1998, on the "Applicability of Annamayya's Teachings to the present day", Shri Ranga Rao expressed his unhappiness at the

liberal changing of tunes and lyrics of Annamayya by the modern musicians and singers. Shri Ranga Rao described Annamayya as an encyclopaedia of music and paid rich tributes to the language, style and expressions of Annamayya through his compositions. He made a comparison between the songs of Annamayya and the compositions of Saarangapani, Ramadas, Kshetrappa and Tyagaraja. He was critical about the liberty being taken by the present day musicians in singing some of Annamayya's Kruthis according to their convenience like "Adivo Alladivo" being sung as "Adigo Alladigo". There was a very keen and lively interaction between Shri Ranga Rao and the audience on various issues about lyrics of Annamayya and the present day lyrics and a discussion about the films starting from Thyagayya of Nagaiah to Annamayya of Nagarjuna.

Prof. M.V. VENKATA RAO PASSES AWAY

Centre for Policy Studies and Sankar Foundation record with deep regret the sad and sudden demise of Prof. M.V. Venkata Rao, Head, Environmental Division on October 31 at the age of 65. Prof. Venkata Rao took an active part in a seminar on October 31 and true to his nature quietly passed away at night not even bothering his only son, his wife having predeceased him.

A scholar and scientist of national renown, he led a life of Spartan simplicity and self-effacement, never seeking a favour from anyone. No one knew about environment as much as he did and none was equal to him in humility and intellectual honesty. His numerous writings and very few public speeches evoked the admiration of the learned and the laity. He served the Andhra University for many years and after retirement he helped the Centre for Policy Studies and Sankar Foundation in organising regular programmes and projects as Head of the Environment Division and by contributing scholarly articles regularly for the Centre's bimonthly Bulletin. He was adviser to many local and state organisations engaged in environmental protection. He was honorary Professor at the Gitam Engineering College and was actively guiding several researchers and young teachers till the last. His lucid exposition and profound knowledge endeared him to his colleagues, students, social activists and, of course, environmentalists. Prof. Venkata Rao's mission and message will inspire many to pursue the path shown by him.

REPORT OF THE HEALTH PROJECTS & PROGRAMMES

—Dr. G. Prabhakar

Joint Director, Health and Projects, SF

The following programmes have been conducted recently by Sankar Foundation in Urban and Rural areas.

20-9-1998: Eye Camp at Old Town, Visakhapatnam :

A major Eye Camp was conducted at Old Town area of Visakhapatnam with Rotary Club, Visakhapatnam Port City. Shri K. Gangi Reddy, Chairman, Visakhapatnam Urban Development Authority attended the Camp as Chief Guest and inaugurated the Camp. Shri A. Sankar Rao, Managing Trustee spoke on the occasion. Several Rotarians, Rotary Past District Governor Shri C. Hanumantha Rao and Shri D. Varadha Reddy attended the programme which was presided over by Rtn. C. Kishore Kumar, President of Rotary Club Port City. 110 patients were screened and 25 were selected for Microsurgery.

Rural TB Camp :

TB Camp was conducted at Narsipatnam with Visakha Zilla Nava Nirmana Samithi, Narasipatnam. 6 patients received free medicines.

Rural TB Camp :

TB Camp was conducted at Anakapalle with Sarada Valley Development Samithi. 16 patients received medicines.

Environment Programme :

Ms. V. Jyothismali, Field Officer, Environmental Division conducted Awareness and Education Programme on Environment at the Eco Club of Timpany School.

Programmes on Sanitation and Hygiene at Jalaripeta

Sankar Foundation jointly with Rotary Club Visakhapatnam conducted an Education Programme on Sanitation and Hygiene at Peddajalaripeta slum. Dr. Prabhakar, Ms. Jyothismali from Sankar Foundation, Cdr. Chandra Sekhar, President of Rotary Club and Cap. Venkateswarlu Director, Community Service conducted the programme. Around 200 Women and Children from the Jalaripeta slum attended the programme. Ms. Jyothismali educated them on the importance of sanitation and hygiene, health hazards due to open defecation, advantages of Sulabh Complex, importance of hygiene and environmental protection.

23-9-1998: Review Meeting

Dr. G. Prabhakar and Dr. M. Venkateswarlu represented Sankar Foundation at the Review Meeting of Eye Care programmes conducted at Regional Eye Hospital, by District Blindness Control Society.

Membership : Dr. G. Prabhakar has been appointed from Sankar Foundation as Member of the District Blindness Control Society.

"Most of us do not attach any real values to creative literary work. We pay the carpenter, the cobbler, the smith, the tailor and so on but we expect our authors to work for nothing. I would set about building a trade union of authors who would refuse to accept less than required and fixed royalties."

—Jawaharlal Nehru

25-9-1998 :

Ms. V. Jyothismali from Sankar Foundation attended, as Resource person, the Training Programme for rural women conducted by DRDA at Narasipatnam.

27-9-1998: Rural TB Camp at Narasipatnam

TB Camp was conducted at Narsipatnam with SVC Trust. 12 patients received free medicines.

30-9-1998: CME Programme

Continuing Medical Education Programme was conducted at Sankar Foundation's Hospital for Women and Child. Several Doctors working in the rural areas and PHCs attended the programme. The topic for discussion was "Bronchial Asthma".

2-10-1998: VIP Visit

Shri K. Vijaya Rama Rao, IPS (Retd.) Former Director, CBI visited the Foundation's Eye Hospital, Hospital for Women and Child, and Hospital for Chest Diseases (TB).

4-10-1998 :

Dr. G. Prabhakar, represented Sankar Foundation at the Get-together meeting for NGOs arranged by "AMODITA" a leading NGO working with Spastic Children in Visakhapatnam.

5-10-1998: Eye Camp at Chidikada

A major Eye Camp was conducted jointly with Integrated Rural Development Society, (IRDS) at Chidikada. 165 patient were screened and 53 patients were selected for microsurgery.

5-10-1998: Rural TB Camp at Anakapalle

30 patients attended the Camp and received medicines.

8-10-1998: Rural TB Camp at Haripalem

Camp was conducted at Bhagavalula Charitable Trusts Health Centre. 28 patient attended the Camp. 3 patients were selected for treatment, and Drugs issued to 16 old patients.

10-10-1998 : Special Award

Sri A. Sankara Rao Managing Trustee, Sankar Foundation, presented Rs. 501/- to the Best Postman of the year through Dr. Uday Balakrishnan, Post Master General, at the "Open House On Postal Services" conducted jointly by Postal Department, Visakha Journalists Forum and Centre for Policy Studies at Kala Bharathi on 10th October 1998. This cash award will be given annually to the Best Postman.

12-10-1998: Rural Eye Camp

Sankar Foundation conducted a major rural Eye Camp at Anandapuram with Zilla Parishad. 174 patients were screened and 40 were selected for microsurgery.

TB Camp at Vaddadi

Monthly TB Camp was conducted at Vaddadi. 37 patients received medicines at the Camp.

20-10-1998: TB Camp at Anakapalle

Rural TB Camp was conducted at Anakapalle and 14 patients received medicines at the Camp.

26-10-1998: Rural Eye Camp

Sankar Foundation along with Organisation for Rural Re-Construction (ORRC) Yelamanchili conducted a rural Eye Camp at Bangarampalem near Adda Road. 130 patients were screened and 18 patients were selected for microsurgery.

29-10-1998: Rural Visit

Dr. G. Prabhakar and Dr. M. Venkateswarlu visited Ramachandrapuram, a remote Tribal Village near V. Madugula to see the pilot project of Housing for poor, being taken up by Sankar Foundation. 16 houses are being built with financial assistance from Sankar Foundation and Govt. of Andhra Pradesh at Ramachandrapuram. The families of the beneficiaries are collectively participating in Shramadan and constructing their houses in an organised manner. The housing colony will be ready by middle of December, for occupation.

31-10-1998: Inauguration of 2nd Operation Theatre and Equipment at Sankar Foundation's Free Eye Hospital

A programme was organised by Sankar Foundation on the occasion of opening of 2nd Operation Theatre of the Eye Hospital situated at Srinivasanagar, Simhachalam. Shri K. Gangi Reddy, Chairman, VUDA attended as Chief Guest and inaugurated the operation theatre and dedicated it to the patients. Shri Manam Anjaneyulu, MLA, Pendurthy switched on the Phaco Emulsifier and Auto Refractometer which were recently imported from Japan and Shri K. Praveen Kumar, IAS., Vice-Chairman, VUDA switched on the Carl Zeiss German Operating Microscope. Prof. A. Prasanna Kumar, Executive Trustee, Centre for Policy Studies, Sankar Foundation presided over the function and Shri A. Sankar Rao, Managing Trustee welcomed the guests. Shri K. Gangi Reddy in his message appreciated the quality of the voluntary service being rendered by Sankar Foundation and assured all his support as an individual to the Organisation. Shri Manam Anjaneyulu expressed his happiness about the hi-tech services being provided by Sankar Foundation Hospitals to the poor and needy people in and around Visakhapatnam and also hailed the spirit of service of the doctors in rendering the service.

Shri Praveen Kumar expressed his happiness for the quality of service and the facilities provided for treating the patients. He also congratulated the team spirit of the Foundation's Doctors and Staff. Ms. V. Jyothismali Field Officer, Environment Division, Sankar Foundation invited

the Guests and Shri R. Suryanarayana Raju, Honorary Ophthalmic Surgeon proposed vote of thanks.

2-11-98: Rural Eye Camp

The Foundation conducted a major rural Eye Camp at Ramabhadrapuram near Bebbili with the local NGO Community Development Centre (CDC). CDC is a major NGO working in Vizianagaram District conducting major Rural Development and Health Programmes. At the Eye Camp 260 patients were screened and 125 patients were selected for microsurgery.

5-11-98: Rural TB Camp

Monthly TB Camp was conducted at Anakapalli. 21 patients were examined and given medicines.

6-11-98: Eye Camp in City

The Foundation conducted an Eye Camp jointly with Rotary Club, Visakhapatnam Port City at a major slum near Rajeswari Theatre. Shri C.S. Venkata Rao, District Governor, Rotary International, Dist. 3020 was the Chief Guest and inaugurated the Camp. Shri Kishore Kumar, President presided over the inaugural function. 112 patients were screened and 29 were selected for microsurgery.

7-11-98: Meeting at Prasada Gardens

Dr. G. Prabhakar and Dr. M. Venkateswarlu conducted a meeting with Officials from Municipal Corporation, Visakhapatnam Urban Development Project and people of Prasada Gardens, for preparation of slum level action plan for the MCV-UCD-United Nations Centre for Human settlements Projects. Around 200 women along with their Community leaders, Presidents of Mahila Mandals and other social activists attended the meeting.

8-11-98: Rural TB Camp

TB Camp was conducted with Bhagavatula Charitable Trust at Haripalem. 43 patients were examined and provided medicines.

9-11-98: Rural Visit

Dr. G. Prabhakar, Dr. M. Venkateswarlu and Shri G.L.N. Prasad, Asst. Field Officer, Env. Division visited SUSAG (Sustainable Agriculture Farm) of Sarada Valley Development Samithi at the foot of eastern ghats near V-Madugula, as a study visit.

11-11-98: Meeting with Community Leaders at Bhupesh Nagar Slum

Dr. G. Prabhakar and Dr. M. Venkateswarlu conducted a meeting with Officials from Municipal Corporation, Visakhapatnam and Urban Development Project for preparation of slum level action plan for the MCV-UCD-United Nations Centre for Human settlements project allotted to Sankar Foundation at Bhupesh Nagar Slum.

12-11-98: Inauguration of Water Project

Sankar Foundation has taken up a 'Safe Drinking Water Project' at Vaddadi. The Borewell was inaugurated

by Shri Reddy Salyanarayana, local MLA. The MDO, Panchayat President, and other officials along with local leaders participated in the function. Shri Reddy Salyanarayana appreciated the services of Sankar Foundation and expressed his happiness at the successful running of the TB Centre at Vaddadi. He assured his support and all help to Sankar Foundation for strengthening its Health Programmes and Community Development Programmes in and around Vaddadi. The Bore Well construction was supervised by Organisation for Rural Reconstruction (ORRC) Yelamanchilli.

15-11-98: Rural Eye Camp

The Foundation conducted a rural Eye Camp with the Local Panchayat at Gajapathinagaram near Chodavaram. 208 patients were screened and 58 patients were selected for Microsurgery.

Think awhile please !

THE WILL

—Dr. K. Parvathi Kumar

International President, World Teacher Trust

- Desire is the inferior form of will. Desire is the strongest force in the human activity. Whatever one determines to have, he works for it and many times succeeds. Man is generally propelled by that which he desires.
- Will is the divine aspect of desire. It is the spiritual Will in contrast to personal desire. Often good personal motives are understood as Divine Will. Mostly, it is not.
- What is seen today in human activity is strong, organised, mass desire in contrast to organised will.
- Will demands understanding - of nature, of man, of created beings, of the patterns of formation, of manifestation and of deformation and disappearance, of the cycles of time and of the forces at play in the creation. It requires recognition of the hidden aspect of apparent things (forms) viz., their quality, their pattern and the law that governs them.
- Will is not just personal determination. It is not whipping up constantly the stimulated desire to be transmuted as will. It is not implacable, unshakeable, immovable, focussing of energies in the need to triumph. It is not 'iron fixation' or to 'stand steady' to achieve or accomplish something. It is also not 'non-yielding'. It is intelligent understanding of the subtle forces at play and tuning upto them for the welfare of all concerned.

"Freedom is a mockery so long as men starve, go naked and pine away in voiceless anguish."

—S. Radhakrishnan

- 'Many for one' is the key note of desire 'One for many' is the keynote of will.
- Desire works through the material form upwards. Will works downwards into the form, bending form consciously to the Divine purpose. It is realised purpose but not the desired expression. It is explosive, clarifying and purifying agent and is therefore referred as fire - Agni. It expels undesirable matter, clarifies and purifies the form.
- The divine purpose of desire is to invoke will. Will, when invoked, ends desire!

FELICITATIONS TO SRI A. SANKAR RAO BY VISWA SAMAKYA

VISWA SAMAKYA, the federation of voluntary organisations in Visakhapatnam District conducted its general body meeting and elections on 25th November 1998 at Rotary Community Hall, Anakapalle. Viswa Samakya is a unique body with 46 voluntary organisations (NGOs) as its members working in rural development programmes. Viswa Samakya supervises and coordinates various development programmes of State Govt., Central Govt., and other funding agencies providing assistance. Viswa Samakya conducts regular review meeting with NGOs, regular training programmes on health, sanitation and hygiene, housing empowerment of women, income generating programmes and other development programmes. Sankar Foundation is channelising its health programmes and other devel-

opment programmes through the network of Viswa Samakya.

Viswa Samakya arranged a felicitation function for Shri A. Sankar Rao, Managing Trustee of Sankar Foundation on the occasion of its general body meeting, to express their happiness and gratitude for associating their organisation with Sankar Foundation for the health and Community development programmes. Shri Kannam Srinivasa Rao, Honorary Chairman of Viswa Samakya and Shri P. Viswanath, newly elected President of Viswa Samakya felicitated Shri A. Sankar Rao and Smt. Yesodha Sankar Rao with a Shawl, garlands and memento. 32 representatives of various NGOs representing 32 mandals garlanded Shri A. Sankar Rao on the happy occasion. A citation was presented by Shri Patnaik, President, Mandala Vikalangula Sankshema Sangham. Shri A. Sankar Rao in his reply to the felicitations thanked the organisation profusely for their coordination with Sankar Foundation in rendering free services to the rural poor in health and development. He highlighted the facilities available at the 3 hospitals of Sankar Foundation and the future plans of Sankar Foundation and requested their cooperation for conducting the joint programmes. Shri C. Hanumantha Rao, past Dist. Governor, Rotary International, Shri P. Viswanath, President, Viswa Samakya, Shri Prasad, outgoing President of Viswa Samakya, Shri K. Joginaidu, Charter President of Viswa Samakya, Shri Kannam Srinivasa Rao, noted social worker and Sarvodaya leader and various representatives from the NGOs spoke on the occasion.

*"Technology, unlike science, is a group activity. It is not based on an individual intelligence, but on the interacting intelligence of many.....
Let the latent fire in the heart of every Indian acquire wings, and the glory of this great country light up the sky."*

—A.P.J. Abdul Kalam in "Wings of Fire"
(An Autobiography)

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