

Andhra's Budget

C V H

LIKE most other State budgets which have been presented so far, Andhra's Budget for 1965-66 knows a deficit of Rs 6.70 crores. The Finance Minister, Or M Chenna Reddy, has made no proposals to cover this deficit. He hopes that improvement in tax receipts, collection of past arrears and marginal adjustments in the scope and rates of existing land, sales and entertainments taxes will cover the gap. Whether this hope is in the event justified or not, it needs to be said that this is hardly proper budgeting. A leading member of the opposition in the Assembly and a former State Finance Minister himself, T Viswanatham, saw in the strange practice of leaving budget deficits to be covered by fortuitous circumstances, signs of financial delinquency.

An examination of the Budget shows that during the Third Plan the income, and expenditure of the State have nearly doubled. Revenue receipts in 1961-62 were Rs 85.29 crores; in 1965-66 they are expected to be Rs 154.53 crores. Expenditure on revenue account is similarly expected to increase to Rs 181.23 crores in 1965-66 from Rs 84.98 crores in 1961-62. Even more striking has been the growth of the Government's public debt liability. Outstanding public debt by the end of 1965-66 is expected to be Rs 432.09 crores as against Rs 218.76 crores in 1961-62. This sharp increase is reflected in the large annual debt servicing liability. In 1965-66 it is expected to be as high as Rs 30.33 crores.

Plan Progress

The review of the progress of Andhra's Third Plan, presented along with the Budget, shows that while financial allocations have been satisfactorily utilised, the results are not fully reflected in the physical achievements. Expenditure on Plan schemes amounted to Rs 239.43 crores in the first three years of the Plan and in 1964-65 it is expected to be Rs 79.48 crores according to the revised estimates. In 1965-66 Plan expenditure is expected to be Rs 100 crores.

As a result of the substantial outlays in agriculture and related fields in the Third Plan, an additional production potential of 19.23 lakh tonnes of foodgrains has been created. The pro-

duction potential of oil fields has been increased by 4.38 lakh tonnes, that of cotton by 2 lakh bales and that of sugarcane by 1.24 lakh tonnes. A token provision of Rs 15 lakhs has been made in next year's Budget for an agro-industrial corporation. This would be an important step towards encouraging scientific agriculture. The corporation would assist manufacture of improved agricultural implements and also develop industries to profitably utilise available agricultural raw materials.

Industrial development, however, still continues to be the weakest link in the State's economy. The State Plan included a provision of Rs 16.72 crores for mining and industry over the five years. As against this, the proposed expenditure of Rs 3.69 crores in 1965-66 will bring the actual outlay on mining and industry to Rs 15.6 crores. The allocation for the next year is intended to speed up work on the industrial development areas, accelerate the promotional and underwriting programmes of the Industrial Development Corporation, facilitate the supply of electricity at concessional rates to industry and meet the State's share of expenditure on Central projects in the State. The outlay will also cover expenditure by the Khadi and Village Industries Board and the Small Industries Development Corporation.

Industry Lags Behind

The slow progress of industry draws pointed attention to the fact that a suitable industrial climate is still to be created in the State. Among the established industries, sugar registered a commendable increase in the output (21 per cent). Other industries which did well were jute (15.6 per cent), glass (72 per cent), cigarettes (58 per cent) and cement (2.7 per cent). Certain other industries, like vanaspatti, cotton yarn and paper, however, saw a decline in output.

In the sphere of irrigation and power, while minor irrigation projects, for which the Centre has given substantial additional allocations during the last three years, have made considerable headway, the bigger and medium projects continue to lag behind schedule, largely due to insufficient finances. With the additional

assistance assured by the Centre in 1965-66, the execution of the more important of these projects, particularly Nagarjunasagar and Thungabhadra, should be speeded up. The State Government is now committed to supplying irrigation water to 5.79 lakh acres from Nagarjunasagar during 1966.

In the field of power, a resolute attempt is being made to fulfil the target of 411 m W of additional installed capacity by the end of 1965-66. Among the more important schemes are Kothagudem and Upper Saleru which together are expected to increase installed capacity by 240 m W by the end of 1965-66. Other projects under way are Srisailem, Kothagudem Thermal and Ramagundam Project. These will, however, be completed only during the Fourth Plan.

Social Services

A significant feature of the State Budget for 1965-66 is the noticeably larger provision made for social services. In education the revised Plan target aims at the enrolment of 79 per cent of all children in the age-groups 6-11 in schools. However, it is technical education which would substantially benefit from the higher allocation for education. Proposals in this field include the starting of post-graduate courses in two engineering colleges and the establishment of a new engineering college at the Nagarjunasagar dam site.

In spite of being a food surplus State, Andhra experienced the full impact of rising prices during the latter part of 1964. The prices of almost all cereals rose during the year, those of rice by 18.7 per cent and of wheat by 28.7 per cent. Procurement operations in the State now in progress are designed to supply 7.5 lakh tonnes of rice to the Food Corporation and 2.5 lakh tonnes to the State Government.

It is estimated that some 9,000 unemployed were placed in jobs through Employment Exchanges in 1964-65. The number of those who could not be so placed is, however, at least four times as many. Of course, employment exchange statistics do not give a complete picture of either employment or unemployment in the State.

The family planning programme has had too little impact on the State.

The Finance Minister has confessed that progress in this sphere "is still rather slow and needs considerable impetus if we have to be assured of definite results". He has, however, promised to simplify the procedures governing disbursements of grant's from State funds pending reimbursements from the Centre.

Regional Disparities

Finally, programmes for providing essential amenities to the weaker sections of the population have made little progress, whether in the urban or rural areas. In the urban area the principal problems are insufficient

housing, slum clearance, shortages of water supply and unsatisfactory drainage. In villages things are even worse and many villages lack even drinking water and proper sanitation. It is unlikely that the target of providing at least one drinking water well for every village by the end of the Third Plan will be achieved.

Like other State Governments, the Andhra Government has also been preoccupied with the problem of correcting regional imbalances, though one can discern a sense of resignation to the fact that there is little that the State can by itself do in the matter. It is felt that in the ultimate analysis

the problem can be solved only if some major Central projects are established in the State. The State Government is prepared to extend all facilities to entrepreneurs who wish to establish industries in the State. While so far the response has not been particularly enthusiastic, much is expected from the visit of the teams of Central Government officers and private industrialists to explore possibilities of setting up industries in the State. Also, the report of the Anglo-American consortium on the fifth steel plant is anxiously awaited by Andhra since *she* is one of the climaxes for the project.

Language and Indian Unity

Comment

Sankar Nath Maitra

THE article 'Language and Indian Unity' in the Annual Number of *The Economic Weekly* is puzzling. The article starts by being clear and analytical, but ends, if I may say so, in vagueness and diffusion, so that I am left wondering whether you advocate unity or disunity.

India may have a great spiritual heritage, but she often lacked body, not only political body but even religious. Except in the heyday of Buddhism there was no dogma and no visible church to uphold it. The result has been a great burst of undergrowth, choking, if not killing, the tree. In matters of spirit it may be possible to have faith without dogma and the faithful without a church, but it is difficult to think of a polity without form or instruments for the exercise of power.

Ancient India with its rock edicts in Brahmi script or copper plate grants in Sanskrit is a thing of the remote past. In better known mediaeval times the rulers, at least in the North, were Muslims. And the language of the court, right upto the Tungabhadra, was Persian, in which, using Arabic script, all business was transacted. In the last couple of centuries of Muslim rule, a camp version known as Urdu was evolved. In the 18th-19th century when the British established All-India on a bigger and broader basis, they spread the use of English, at first hesitatingly then firmly, as the *Lingua Indica*.

If India is to remain one country, it has to have one language for official and public use. It just will not do to elevate the many local speeches to the status of National Languages. If that is done there is grave danger that in time (and not too distant at that) there will be as many nations as languages. The break up of Austria-Hungary over the language issue is a fairly recent portent. Obviously, in a country of the size and diversity of India the language question has no easy answer. But it is as well to remember that ours is not the only country plagued with a Babel of tongues. In Europe the pattern is simple — one state one language, France (French); Germany (German); Italy (Italian). But even there the language problem is not unknown witness the obstinate survival of Catalan in North East Spain.

But when the state is much larger or diverse in origin, the simple unilingual formula of Europe does not work. The two super-states of today U S A and USSR have solved their language problems in ways that are not open to us. For 'A nation of immigrants', as President Kennedy has described it, it was comparatively easy for the US to stamp the well developed language of the first comers (English) on the later arrivals. In U S S R apart from the gravitational pull of Russian, the Communist party and ideology provide a kind of cement which builders of other

states have not got. But the need for a common language in a state remains. Coming nearer home, in Indonesia with many languages in the string of islands, the new national government had to bring in for official and public use the Bahasa Indonesia, a partly artificial language written in Latin script.

Why Hindi Will Not Do

The need for a common medium will inevitably bring up the question — why not Hindi? Much as I would like to give an 'yes' answer, to show up our Indianness, to banish English to the oblivion of archives like the statues of British Viceroy's in P W D godowns, sorrowfully I have to say 'no'. To begin with Hindi is not the language of the majority — a sacred principle in democracy where 51 per cent is everything and 49 per cent nothing. In all its variations and patois, Hindi is used by barely a third of India's population, I shall not go into the constitutional question, the pat answer to which is that if the Constitution can be amended seventeen times, it can be amended the eighteenth time. To be the all-India language Hindi must be accepted as such not only by the Hindi speakers, but the other Indians whose languages are different. To do so Hindi must have prestige either as the language of conquerors like Persian or English, or as a *Devabhasa* like Sanskrit, or for its own excellence and usefulness, like