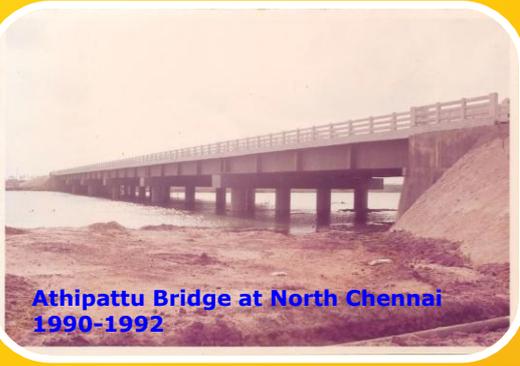


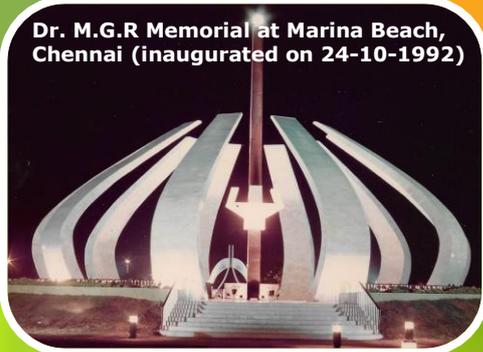
My Career in TNPWD and Beyond



Athipattu Bridge at North Chennai
1990-1992



NHAI Highways connecting Kumarapalyam -Chengapalli



Dr. M.G.R Memorial at Marina Beach,
Chennai (inaugurated on 24-10-1992)



Er. Rajagopalan Nadimuthu
Former Chief Engineer TNPWD



Tamilnadu PWD Senior Engineers Association

No.36 Valluvar Road, TSD Nagar, Arumbakkam,
Chennai - 600 106

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My Career in TN PWD and Beyond...

- Er.Rajagopalan Nadimuthu (R.N)

Former Chief Engineer TNPWD

(M): 9444041346

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**DEDICATED TO MY EVER LOVING PARENTS
(Late) Thiru.R.RAJAGOPALA MUDALIAR &
(Late) Tmt. R.VISALAKSHI AMMAL**



**Obeisance to (Late) "PADMA SHRI" Er.T.Muthaian
(My uncle and Godfather)**

FORMER, DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION, GUINDY, CHENNAI, 600025



My patron

**My obedience to (Late) Er.A.MUTHUKUMARASWAMY, (Uncle)
FORMER CHIEF ENGINEER, (TN Highways)**



MY POLITICAL MENTOR

**Heartfelt gratitude to (Late) Thiru. P.T.R.PALANVIVEL RAJAN
Former Speaker, Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly. (1996-2001)
who ensured my peaceful retirement in TNPWD.**

PREFACE

I have made an attempt through this book to vividly describe the challenges that I met in my fifty seven years of career both in PWD and private sector starting from July 1964 to August 2021. Some important happenings that took place during the above period that have been cited by me in the book includes my 3 years of service in Sokoto, Nigeria, six months stint in TWAD Board Chennai, Greater Chennai Corporation, then Pallavan Transport Corporation (Civil wing), Tamil Nadu State Construction Corporation (defunct), LEA Associates a Canadian based consultancy firm and Artifacts – Ziadeen jung, Malaysian based consultancy firm which and also including “Bharat Engineering Construction Company (P) Ltd., Chennai. All the instances that I mentioned are real without an iota of exaggeration. I took lot of efforts to check and cross check the facts, by closely interacting, with my colleagues both in PWD and others. I took meticulous care to ensure, as not to offend any ones’ feelings. Even after that, if someone feels offended, I sincerely apologize to them. I have also included the names of a lot of engineers and friends, who figured in my life. I only highlighted their good things, ignoring lapses of any one. All the anecdotes that appeared in the book are written are to break the monotony. Many of them were once posted as messages in our whatsapp groups of namely TANSEM and TANSEA group. Prior to publishing this book I took pain to ascertain the views of members for compiling this in a book form so that their sales would not be a big flop. Every time, when I read this book, I find some new errors creep in. The proof reading of this book was done by a panel of Senior Engineers, viz, T/L S.Murugaiyyan, T.Ponniah, K.Anbu, N.Dorairaj, N.Selvaraj, and I thank them immensely. Despite all such care and concern, some inadvertent errors might have crept in while writing this. So please read this book, in the context of **“Indian writing in English”**

I also thank my great friend Er.Dr.A.Veerappan, Our General Secretary, TANSEA for having agreed to publish this book on behalf of “Tamilnadu PWD Senior Engineers Association” Chennai-106. Though we are divided on some issues but are united in protecting our “ALMA MATER” TN-PWD.

There are many who have figured most in my career of spanning 57 years in construction sector. But I could write about only some due to space constraint in book but not due to constraint in my heart. Though, I collected photos of many, but could display only few in this book due to space constraint.

Last but not the least, considering high cost in publishing this book, I have priced this book only for Rs.100/- to meet part of my expenses. Hope my readers won't mind this small inconvenience. Arrangements have been made to make payment by GOOGLE PAY.

**Er.R.Nadimuthu,
Former Chief Engineer, TNPWD
Chennai-600 087.
(M): 9444041346**

Er.R. Radhakrishnan

Former Chief Engineer (Buildings and Ground water, TNPWD)
Chennai – 600 116
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Date 30-09-2021

**Foreword**

It is a matter of great pleasure to write a foreword for the book written by Er. Rajagopalan Nadimuthu. It is a matter of great pleasure and privilege to write this, on his book describing his **“My career in TN PWD and beyond”**. He is transparent, honest, and vividly narrated his experiences with destiny. His narration on his hardships, agony undergone, is interesting and with suspense. His experience narrated will be a path indicator for the young engineering generation. His command of language and sequence of narration is such that you read without a break, so interesting. He has made a mark in the history of PWD and the foot prints will remain forever. **No wonder, “Eminent Engineer” award for the year 2021, was given by the “ Association of Consulting Civil Engineers .(India)” , Bangalore -560070.**

- Er.R.Radhakrishnan

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Er.R.Radhakrishnan President ☎ : 9445142274	Er.A.Veerappan Secretary ☎ : 72000 79289

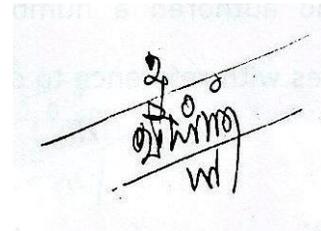
Publisher's Foreword (Aninthurai)

16-10-2021



1. I sincerely thank Er.Rajagopalan Nadimuthu, former Chief Engineer, TNPWD for offering me an opportunity to write "Foreword" for his book titled **"My Career in TNPWD and Beyond"** which vividly speaks about important incidences occurred in the last 57 years from 1964 to 2021.
2. Our former Presidents **Er.C.S.Kuppuraj and Er.K.Ramalingam** always stressed the importance of documenting our experiences in the Government's Service so that they will be giving guidance to our brethren young engineers for performing their duties and responsibilities in a better way. Accordingly our TNPWD Senior Engineers Association proudly published the book **"Arasupaniyil memorable happenings"** written by **Er.RVS Vijayakumar**, former CE, TNPWD (Madurai) and our Vice President, TANSEA during 2015. Similarly **Er.M.Pasupathy**, Former, Chief Engineer, TNPWD also published his experiences in TNPWD as **"Reminiscences of my Government Service in TNPWD"** at his cost. Based on the request of our Senior Engineer friends, Er.R.Nadimuthu has now written his profile as **"My Career in TNPWD and Beyond"** in 29 chapters detailing interesting episodes in his service which are very interesting. We are proud to publish the same on behalf of TNPWD Senior Engineers Association.
3. The above book describes his career from 1964 to 2021 as detailed below.
 - *Joining as JE (presently AE) in Small Arms Project, Tiruchi.*
 - *Serving as AE in Budalur Section of GAC at -----*
 - *As Assistant Executive Engineer (T3 & T12) in the Technical section of O/o the CE (Buildings) PWD.*
 - *Assistant Executive Engineer of NP Division, PWD, Chennai.*
 - *As Superintending Engineer in Buildings Circle II, Madurai.*

- *On promotion as Chief Engineer (GI) of Chennai Corporation.*
 - *And on reversion, as CE (DR&CS), PWD from 12-07-1999 to 31-12-2000 and further his service on deputation to.*
 - *AEE, Pallavan Transport Corporation, Chennai*
 - *Project Engineer in Nigeria from 1982 -1985.*
4. He has been fortunate to have sincere and hard working engineers as his supporting staff and was able to discharge his duties efficiently besides helping his subordinates to the maximum extent, a rare quality missing from many of our Heads in our department. I have also served as his Deputy Chief Engineer (DR&CS) upto 31-03-2000 in a crucial period during which I assisted him in his efforts to save DR&CS wing from winding up by Thiru.N.P.Gupta IAS, then PWD Secretary who is notorious for his misdeeds and misdemeanour and succeeded to retain DR & CS wing with the solid support of Association of Engineers, TNPWD. I have observed him as duty bound, prompt in giving proper guidelines to his subordinates and tough taskmaster in completing Government works in time, even ahead of time schedule and earned good name.
- It is his quality to give proper regard to the friends of TANSEA wherein he is an Executive Committee member in the last 5 years and a source of strength to TANSEA.
5. His book **"My Career in TNPWD and Beyond"** has to be purchased and read by our Senior Engineers as well as serving engineers of PWD since it is a source of wealth to one and all at difficult times. We wish him long healthy life to guide us in coming years too.
- We once again thank Er.R.Nadimuthu for having given us an opportunity to publish his book as 'TANSEA's publication' in the year 2021. Long live Er.R.Nadimuthu, our beloved friend.



-Er.Dr.A.Veerappan
Former Spl.CE, TNPWD &
State Secretary / TANSEA.

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Chapter -1

Introduction of my Background

I was born on 28th December, 1942 in the town of Kumbakonam in my Grandfather's house. My parents are late **Thiru.R.Rajagopala Mudaliar and Tmt.Visalakshi Ammal. My father was the Head Master in the Government High School at Rajamadam. Later on, he moved to the Government High school in NachiarKoil as its Head Master. When I was doing my 10th standard in the year 1956, my father took me to the then Madras (Chennai) and we met late Padmashri Er.T.Muthaian who was there then as Deputy Director of Technical Education, Chennai. He had his office at the present Joint Chief Engineer (General)'s room. He was a tall man of impressive personality. He** stared at me and asked me "what is your ambition?" I felt very shy and I told him that I wanted to become a Teacher like my father. He asked me "why not you become an Engineer or Doctor?" I told him about my rural background and lack of knowledge in English and economic status of my family. He replied back "No, no," He further said, that even to your father, I advised him either to become an Engineer or a Doctor. But, he never listened to me, and he took his decision to become a teacher. See "how he is suffering with meager salary. He told my father and me, that he would take care of my expenditure. He kept up his words and got me admission into the College of Engineering, Guindy in 1958. I chose Civil Engineering branch. After completion of my course in 1963, he put me in construction wing of industries department as Junior Engineer and later on with his help, I got an order, posting me in TAMIL NADU PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (here after as PWD). He was my mentor from 1958 - 1969 or till his date of death on 06th April, 1969. He is survived by two children viz... Er.M.Gunasekaran in California, in U.S., and a daughter Tmt. Vasantha Manokaran and Dr.Manokaran, who is a leading physician in Sydney, in Australia.

I consider Late Padmashri Er.T.Muthaian as a revered person next only to my parents. He was a man of both great sympathy and empathy and used to help any person irrespective of the caste, creed and religion. He was extending financial help also through one philanthropist by name

(Late) Thiru.K.Thiruvengada Mudaliar founder of Thanjavur Spinning Mill for my graduation.

One day, sometime in 1961, my name along with a few others was termed as defaulters by the Warden of Engineering College Hostel and directed me not to take food in the mess anymore. Those days my father was working only as board high school Headmaster, drawing a salary of only Rs.250/-per month he used to get salary only around 15th of every month, whereas mess fees around Rs.75/- had to be paid within the first week of every month. A grace period of 5 days was allowed to pay with fine. I went to my uncle late Er.T.Muthian's house, who was living in the Government estate in the house called "The Hut" though it was called as Hut, but in the reality it was not so, but a well furnished house.

When I met him and told him about the denial of food to me in the mess, he was visibly annoyed, immediately asked where I took the morning Tiffin, I said yes thanks to the help of my roommate ((Late).Er.M.Narasimhan, Former SE PWD) in the hostel as a paying guest. **He sent a note to the Hostel warden and its contents read as below:**

"Please permit Thiru .R.Nadimuthu to take food as before and extend the same facility to other defaulters also. You may also kindly know the unclaimed caution deposit available with is quite adequate to take care of the any number of defaulters, please report compliance. On seeing this note, the hostel warden asked head cook late Mr. R.Seetharama Iyer to permit me to take food as before but also the other defaulters to take food, as before. From that date onwards no name was struck down from the rolls for taking food on account payments default at least till my date of leaving that college."

Late Padmashri Er .T.Muthian was a calm, quiet and composed man and I had never seen him losing his temperament even once. Another added virtue was that he never boasted his achievements to anyone. (Late) Er.C.A.Srinivasan was a frequent visitor to his house and I should say that he was his disciple.

Chapter -2

My initial career in TNPWD as Junior Engineer – Association with a Defence project

I joined duty in **TNPWD**, on 27th June, 1964 as a Junior Engineer at Small Arms Project (SAP), in Navalur, near Trichy along with Er.S.Alagianagalingam, a former Chief Engineer and late Er.S.R.Jayanthilal / Former Superintending Engineer. Our Executive Engineer was late Er.N.Ponnuswamy, a fearless and honest Engineer and was a great friend of late Er.C.A.Srinivasan. Our immediate superior was an Assistant Executive Engineer by name late Er.A.S.S (*name changed*) and later on retired as a Chief Engineer (**TNPWD**). He was a very honest person, but a man of moods and mercurial temperament. We did not know as to when he would shout and laugh; God only knows.

We were posted to the construction of main factory of 600 x 640 feet size, with four annexes at all four sides of the factory. This later on became "Small arms factory" along with me (shortly called as Nadi), other three engineers viz Er.D.Chandrasekaran (shortly called as Chandru), Er S.Alagianagalingam (shortly called as Nagalingam), and late Er.S.R.Jayanthilal (shortly called as Jayanthi). I was put incharge of construction of these annex buildings. Only there, I learnt, as how to lay RCC slab. One day when I was on the roof slab, checking the reinforcements, supervising the concrete laying, my boss late Er.A.S.S, the then A.E.E hurriedly came to the roof .Originally, I thought that he had come for checking reinforcements .But to my great surprise, I, saw him hurriedly inserting a paper under the reinforcements. Then, "I asked him what it was?" He showed me a piece of paper, "**seeking the benevolence of the Gods of all religions", to protect the slab from its collapse**. When I mildly protested against such antics, he said that he relied more on the power of God than the efficacy of our structural engineers. He cited the failure of several structures in **TNPWD** and concluded it all happened because of not performing any "Proper Pooja" to satiate the God.

Daily, at 7-00 AM, a lorry belonging to our Project would collect all AE and JE's, numbering about fifty at various points in Trichy and used to drop them at their works site. For our return journey, we were asked to fend our selves.

Myself, Er.S.Alagia Nagalingam / F.C.E and (Late) Er.S.R Jayanthilal /F.S.E, used to move as one team. At 3-00PM of every day, we would leave the site, and used to stop the empty Lorries, returning from the site after unloading the construction materials, for a lift and would give some amount for their gesture. They would drop us at Tiruverumbur, and from there we would catch some bus and reach our division office. Our sub divisional offices were also located. Our Assistant Executive Engineer / late Er.A.S.Sabapathy F.C.E was a man of moods. On one day, when we explained to him about the woes, we were facing for our return journey, he immediately grew angry and said "if you feel that travelling in a lorry and walking to Tiruverumbur were below **your dignity, you better resign your job and get out.**" We were so used to be exposed to this style of treating, that even today, when someone comes to my own house, and shouts at me "**get out**", we never used to take it seriously. His shouting was so high pitched one that attracted the attention of the entire divisional office staff thinking something serious things had happened. After that, his shouting had become a matter of routine for us and for the rest. On, some days, he used to keep quiet and on those days, we used to ask among ourselves whether our SDO/AEE was not doing well? Occasionally, he used to be very kind and courteous to us also. Sometimes, he used to take us to good hotels and sumptuously feed us. **Overall, he was a very good, frank, honest and an out spoken engineer.**

In our division, my Executive Engineer had a jeep and for four AEE's there was one jeep. Our A.E.E was in charge of the Jeep, he used to close the log book of vehicle exactly at the time of reaching the divisional office campus. Sometimes, he used to leave his jeep for our return journey to the divisional office. In those days 10 hour's gap was required between the start times and closing time, for claiming full travelling allowance. For example, if a jeep starts at 7am, the closing time should be 5pm.

Our A.E.E. used to watch his watch keenly and note down the time of arrival and put that time and close the log book. So to preempt his actions, we would stop our vehicle at Trichy outer near Ariamangalam Railway gate and would wait till the clock to click at 5pm.

"This was just akin to the trains that are standing at outer for want of platform clearance". Later after a One day, as usual we trio myself, Er.Alagia Nagalingam and late Er.S.R.Jayanthilal, were attempting to stop the empty Lorries, proceeding towards Tiruverumbur to fetch building materials like bricks and stone jelly for construction. **Whenever we were passing via Gandhi Nagar, known for frequent street drunken brawl, we used to remove our wrist watches and hide them in our inner pockets, fearing that some antisocial would snatch them at knife point, as that was the only costly possession we had it then.**

One day, a fiat car suddenly stopped with a Creech sound in front of us, when we passed through **"GANDHI NAGAR"**. We recognized him as late Thiru.Veera Reddy; the owner of Raghava and Veera brothers was driving the vehicle. They were the main contractors for the construction of the main factory (civil works / then value about Rs.40 crores). He said that he was going only to the Divisional office to meet the EE and pressed us to sit in his car. But, we were, very hesitating to accept his offer, as both our EE and AEE's did not like their Engineers to travel in the contractors' vehicles. But, as he was pressing us, all the three occupied the rear seat. When the car crossed the market area, we asked him to drop us there. But he did not listen. When the car was crossing Rock fort area where our Executive Engineer/late Er.N.Ponnuswamy was residing, **we tucked ourselves in the space in between the front seat and rear seat where the occupants used to rest their feet.** When our conversation had suddenly stopped, late Thiru.Veera Reddy grew anxious about our safety, stopped his vehicle and asked the reason for our such abnormal action, we explained him that we did so out of our fear of our Executive Engineer, who did not like such actions. He dropped us and left for the Divisional office. **He, went straight to the EE's room and asked him angrily as "what was the harm for the engineers to travel in the**

contractor's cars? Are they not humans?" The EE said that he would look into matter and calmed him down. After he left, he called us into his room and shook hands with us. He got hold of my hand and held it tightly, telling that the hands would loosen in the end and would stop at tolerable limit. All his teachings and advice had left an impermeable print in my mind.

The works were done in hectic speed day and night. The entire work was completed and inaugurated by the then Prime Minister Honorable Mrs.Indra Gandhi on 3rd July, 1966.

Then engineers were demobilized and were transferred. I was able to get a posting in the construction wing of Regional Engineering College, Thuvakudi at Trichy. Now this is rechristened as National institute of Technology. My daughter Tmt.R.N.Kavitha was graduated from this College in the year 1994.

Between the years 1967-1969 I, took two years study leave pursued my PG in Soil Mechanics and foundation engineering in the College of Engineering, Guindy. At the end of my course in May 1969, I was posted to Thanjavur Circle and I was posted as the Junior Engineer to Budalur Section of Grand Anaicut Canal Division, Thanjavur.

Chapter - 3

Tenure at GAC section / BUDALUR in charge of Irrigation works.

In 1969-1970, I was working as a JE under my guru (Late) Er.K.Ramalingam, who was the Executive Engineer, Grand Anaicut Canal Division (GAC) then. One evening, a person from local BDO's office came, telling that the DY.COLLECTOR was reviewing the Union works and wanted us to come there, "hurry, hurry up", he said that the Dy. Collector was already angry. The BDO was one Thiru.R.Rajarathinam and he was a good friend of mine and he had already told me that Deputy Collector was an arrogant guy and used to ill treat his subordinate officers. This came as a flash back in my mind. So I said that I would not come now as I was very busy with impending inspection by the EE (next day). If he wanted anything to be done, let him come here. After ten minutes the peon came again telling me as the final call "Are you coming there or not?" "I said no, no," and you please go. After fifteen minutes, a jeep entered into my campus. I thought as whether DC was himself coming or sending some hefty *guys* to carry me bodily. To my great surprise, nothing happened but the BDO came with a smiling face telling "I was praying to god that you should not come, not only me but entire staff. By not coming, Sir, you gave a big punch on his ego and he never expected that you would behave like this and it was a crude shock to him. He congratulated me for my courageous action. Then, my Irrigation Assistant, by name late Thiru S. Palanivel reminded me about the status of his wife's job as village Health Assistant in the union office. The BDO said that he would issue her orders tomorrow. He did it accordingly and so my refusal to meet the DC was in one way gain to my irrigation Assistant.

Exactly on the day of Deepavali in 1970, the then Executive Engineer late Er.K.Ramalingam called me over Irrigation phone and directed me to take a Christian lascar, to inspect Chakkara channel from its off take point and arrange to remove the obstruction so that water would reach its tail end as he received a complaint from the Collector that the water had not reached the tail end ayacuts. Though it was Deepavali day, quite unmindful of it, I took a Christian lascar (as mandated by the EE),

by name MARIA SUSAI, I proceeded to Chakkara (channel) head. There I saw a drunken hefty man, blocking the water flow to downstream of Chakkara channel diverting the entire water to his field and it was overflowing. On seeing the atrocious act, I directed my lascar to remove his ***mud korambu laid*** across the channel. When my lascar attempted to remove it with his spade, the hefty fellow pushed him back and in the melee, lascar fell down. Since I thought that the drunken mad guy would do anything, I restrained my lascar from any action. I just climbed over the sluice head and squatted on it. In the mean while a small crowd gathered to watch the ongoing fun. On hearing one of lascars by name late **Thiru. Kalimuthu** with full booze came to the scene, angry and words were exchanged between the two sides. But, fearing some untoward incidents might happen causing injuries to both parties, I, had closed my eyes thinking over as what to do next. Advancing further and confronting with drunken farmer would end up in some untoward incident and retreating back to Budalur would be big shame and punch to my ego and would earn the wrath of the Executive Engineer. So caught between two views, I could not arrive at a decision. So when I almost decided to confront the farmer to push back and remove the obstruction, a thundering voice was heard "stop and he shouted at the farmer and on seeing him, he ran away. He introduced himself as an old student of my father and also village head man; he sent two of his men with me to remove the obstruction. Later on I am told by my lascars that he was the village head man and a very powerful person there and advised me to stay friendly with him. After ensuring free flow in chakkara channel, I met the EE at his residence at Rajappanagar, In Thanjavur and briefed him and he was very happy.

For me every inspection was a nightmare. Whatever he instructed, I used to do it and later on an estimate would be prepared and the expenses were regularized. I was so scared of him and always stood at a distance with lot of reverence and respect. One day so upset by his shouts, I picked up all courage, went to his office at Thanjavur. I shared my grievances about him. He offered me a seat and served a cup of tea.

He laughingly told that you are a potential CE and it so happened in October, 1998. And the gold gets refined and become a quality gold only when it underwent several tests and said that I was in that process. He further said that there were three types of Engineers in TNPWD

1) Walk and talk

2) Push and Pull

3) Incurable

He said that I was in the second category and was now trying to take me to the first category, but it would take some more years.

He wanted me to develop the following qualities.

1) Hard work and Honesty

2) Courage and confidence

3) Benevolence

4) Encouragement of native contractors as the contractors are wealth creators and job providers

5) Quick decision and said at times even hasty decisions are better than no decision

6) Take risk or otherwise success would not embrace you.

7) Good conduct and impeccable character

By imbibing the above cardinal principles, the divine power would protect you.

His golden words are still ringing in my ears and make me happy whenever I slip into deep depression.

During my tenure in 1969-1970, two important works structures were done.

1) Construction of one Head constable quarters and four constable quarters at Sengipatti at a cost Rs 50,000/- (1969).

The above quarters were built to accommodate the police constables attached to a police out post, the constables used to request me to go as slow as possible with the construction as they were not willing to leave their quarters at Vallam since their children were studying there. But unmindful of their request, the quarters were completed well in time and were handed over to the police department.

Budalur was a very nice place for me and was closely associated as my father's friend by name (Late) Thiru R.Vaithianathan, is native of that place .Still I am in touch with his son Thiru R.V.Chittarthan a V.I .P. of Budalur. Along with me, Er.S.Murugaiyyan, former special Chief Engineer / TNPWD was also there as a Junior Engineer in charge of mechanical section. There we became very close friends. It is continuing till this date.

At the end of 1970, say by Dec, I was deputed and posted to TWAD Board division to work as an Assistant Engineer at Thanjavur. It was a big shock to me, as the "Bed dam across Mudalai Muthu vari" at Alakkudi at RD 09/00 or otherwise known as M.M.Vari was half way through. I was that it was completed and is functioning well .I am also told engineers namely Er.B.Painthamilselvan / Former Chief Engineer (TNPWD) Trichy Region, Er.S.Asokan / FCE Trichy Region, and Er.K.Nalluswamy / FCE, Trichy Region **have done a lot of improvement works in G.A. Canal Division One such work much talked about was improvements to Rajamadam channel.**

Chapter – 4

Brief stint in Tamilnadu Water Supply and Drainage (TWAD) Board, Thanjavur

Sometime in January 1971, I joined the TWAD board division and late Er.S.Srinivasan was my Executive Engineer. I was not comfortable there as I had no liking to “Water supply” works. I was posted under a diploma holder who was far younger to me in age and in knowledge too. Understanding, the lack of personal equation between me and my A.E.E., he used me for liaison works.

One day, he called me and told me “Hi, Nadimuthu, some time back you told me that you are native of Kumbakonam and your grandfather was a big man there. Why cannot you help me by using your grandfather’s influence to get the patta details for the construction of intake point at Cauvery River for providing water supply to Kumbakonam town?” He also said those details are available only with Aranmanai karnam (Kanakapillai) and also said that he was an old lanky and cunning crooked guy. The EE threw a challenge that if your Grandfather were really great men get the details from the man said above. The EE also said if any money is given to that Karnam he would return that. I took up that challenge I went to Kumbakonam with Rs.5 in my pocket (1971).The EE told me “give him a few rupees and get the work done and I would reimburse it” I went straight to my grandfather’s house. I told my grandfather of my assignment. He laughed at me telling that the job was too small for him and he also said that Karnam was very much obliged to him. He used to help him whenever he was in dire needs by giving rice and money. My grandfather gave a letter to karnam by introducing me as his grandson. He requested him to oblige me with details which I looked for. He gave his bullock cart to reach his house. When I reached his house, it was a small tile roofed house with no electricity and a pretty old man was there. When I gave my grandfather’s letter to him, he read it and hugged me, and introduced me to his wife. He said that he was honored by my visit. He immediately opened patta register and collected the survey number of the site required for construction of head work at Cauvery River. He also signed on the paper and affixed his rubber stamp.

When I put my hand inside my pocket and took two rupee note to give to him, he bluntly refused and said with tears in his eyes and said emotionally that on many occasions my grandfather had helped him by giving money and rice. He said that he would be committing a big sin, if he received money from me. I was touched by his action and surprised to see that he refused to receive any gratis from me; despite his utter poverty. I was touched by his sense of gratitude. I returned back and told my grandfather about it. He was very happy. When I returned to my office at Thanjavur and handed over the patta details to (late) Er.S.Srinivasan, Executive Engineer, he was surprised and shocked to see the patta details and asked me how come "you are able to collect the details from him, whom he could not do so despite being a native at Kumbakonam?"

Moral lesson is that all are not purchasable commodities. Of course their sizes are shrinking but those noble guys are still remembered. "I remember him even after 50 years. Why so? It is because of his sense of gratitude to my grandfather".

Chapter – 5

Resumptions of duties, in Irrigation wing in TN PWD.

As I had no job satisfaction in TWAD board related water supply works I applied pressure and left my post and I joined back in TNPWD Thanjavur Circle. I was posted to town section of GA canal Division. My Assistant Executive engineer was (late) Er.R.Seetharaman / FCE who was well known to me and to my father. *But unfortunately my two Executive Engineers by name Late Er.G and late Er.GKS /FCE where not well disposed to me for the simple reason I was lacking in doing supply and service to them. When one's planetary position is not well placed such problem does occurs in their life. Fortunately my Superintending Engineer was late Er.T.S.Kannan, one of the architects of Parambikulam Aliyar project.*

During my tenure as an Assistant Engineer, Thanjavur a girl child was born on 23rd January, 1973 to us after a gap of six years, who was named as Kavitha in a simple cradle ceremony at my flat at Tamilnadu Housing Board quarters. She was my only child and she now lives in the US with her Doctor husband and two children. She is also a software Engineer. So Thanjavur is an unforgettable place for me and my madam.

During my tenure in that section as AE I was incharge of construction of two science blocks (Zoology and Physics Lab) at Rajah Serfoji Arts College, Thanjavur. On completion of the work the then Principal of the college by name (Late) Thiru.T.R.Ranganatha Shastri wanted to inaugurate the building by the District Collector. I on the advice my mentor (Late) Er.R.Seetharaman, my Assistant Executive Engineer, then prevailed upon him to get it inaugurated by the Superintending Engineer (Late) Er.T.S.Kannan sometime in 1972. During the inaugural function, the then principal **Professor** Thiru.T.R.Ranganatha shatri read a welcome address. In his address, he paid glowing tributes to me and my Assistant Executive Engineer late **Er.R.Seetharaman** / FCE, late **Er.T.S.Kannan** who was on the dais, was overwhelmed with happiness and was smilingly listening to his welcome address. The S.E., in his reply said that after

a very long time he was hearing some **compliments** to our Engineers. He further said *as the SE Thanjavur Circle, he was besieged with only petitions and complaints against his Engineers. He quipped more of petitions than of work and the Thanjavur Circle compared with his pet project Parambikulam project. He called us and congratulated us before the audience much to the chagrin of the Executive Engineer late G who was also sharing the dais with the Superintending Engineer. Before, the then SE Er.T.S.Kannan boards in to his car in his car, I whispered in his ear telling that" I am a cousin of Er.N.Saranathan, Former C.E. /PWD and Former Principal of Government Engineering College, Vellore. The S.E smiled and said "yes, yes, He was my Junior Engineer in "Parambikulam Aliyar Project and added that he is the honest and hard working guy. "With the Principal's encomium, (Late) Er.T.S.Kannan, along with my connection to Er.N.Saranathan the then Superintending Engineer had changed his perception about me.*

While writing confidential reports of mine, (Late) Thiru.G. the then Executive Engineer /GAC division, wrote that I was an Engineer of some short comings and mentioned my performance average in the rest of the columns. When my confidential report went to the SE to (Late) T.S.Kannan for his counter signature, he overruled my then EE's adverse remarks by writing "he did not agree with views of the Executive Engineer and wrote that "Nadimuthu is very sincere, hard working and Honest Engineer" In the same way for my boss (Late) Er.R.Seetharaman/FCE who also got adverse remarks from the then E.E. along with mine, were also over ruled by the then S.E, (Late) Er.T.S.Kannan.

Chapter - 6

Incharge of Irrigation project investigation work in TNPWD:

In November, 1973, I got my promotion as Assistant Executive Engineer and was posted to Project Sub Division at Mannarkudi; attached to Cauvery development Circle, Thanjavur and joined duty there on 23rd November, 1973. I got my promotion after nine years. While I was working at Mannargudi, one (Late) **Er.U.B.Shreepada Rao**, was posted to the Cauvery development circle as Superintending Engineer, headquartered at Thanjavur. **He is a very sharp tongued man and used to address all his subordinate Engineers except his Executive Engineers called as "fools" I had one Junior Engineer by name late Pattabiraman (புத்தைய சேப்பர் பட்டாபிராமன்)** he used to attend all SE's needs. The SE used to come to Mannarkudi frequently in the name of reviewing the works but in reality, he used to enjoy the hospitality of us. The life was going on uneventful by not doing any productive works, as we had work only for three months. The rest of the time we have to prepare estimate for the remodeling of the channels. I took the job very sincerely and kept my office very busy and also my AE's were on their toes.

On one day, in 1975, our SE / late **Er.U.B.Shreepada Rao**, when he had no serious works to transact in his office, he used to inspect works in Mannarkudi. **On one such occasion, much to the bad luck of my colleague by name (Late) Er.D.Balakrishnan, the SE suddenly called him "hi BALAKRISNAN, I want to inspect your channel." He said "yes sir" a convoy of vehicles was arranged.**

(Late) Er.D.Balakrishnan led the convoy. He identified one channel and led the SE to a Channel. The SE was praising him "oh Balakrishnan, you had improved a lot. What a good construction it is!"

I was wondering as how come that (Late) Er.D.Balakrishnan was showing my channel. I and my EE kept mum. At the end of the inspection, when the SE was about to board his car, late Er .D Balakrishnan said to him, that he had wrongly showed the channel, but actually it was done by

NADIMUTHU and mine is next to that. "The SE grew very angry and took out a paper from his car and said you rubbish you don't even know your channel, apply three months leave and quit". (Late) Er.D.Balakrishnan, AEE immediately wrote his leave letter and the SE endorsed it to the CE / GL and surrendered him from his circle.

When my life was going on peacefully, on one fine morning, I got the order from the then CE / GI /PWD posting me to the Soil mechanics and research Division and I joined duty in S.M. & R Division on 08-03-1976. I seize this occasion, to thank (Late) Er.P.Sivalingam, Former C.E. / General, for having exposed to the elite engineers, to know as what is general section, much feared "C" section Chepauk PWD complex. In 1979, I obtained government loan and I built my house and there is no change of my residence since then.

Chapter – 7

Research work in Soil Mechanics & Research Division, Chennai:

(Events relate to the year 1975-1976 and (has no relevance to present status)

I joined there on 8th March, 1976. Then there were more science graduates than Engineers. Most of them on entering the office would slip into sleep. How could they delve into such deep sleep even at 10-30 AM is still bewildering me. My next seat was that of one Thiru.R.K, Senior Research Officer. He was very close confidante of the then EE by name late Er.R.G.Iyer. Thiru R.K. would either slip into sleep in his seat putting the legs crises-crossed, on the table or would give company to the EE. My, EE then was very soft person and whenever he got any call from the CE or even the SE, he would be scared and always used to take Thiru.R.K as his escort.

One day, when I asked Thiru.R.K as how come that he slips into sleep immediately on entering his office, he told me that he used to do Bhajans in the night in some Bhaktha Gana Sabhas and used to do UPANYASAMS also. He also invited me to attend, which I never did.

In those days, whenever one gets transferred unless the **last pay drawn certificate** reaches his new station, he / she would not be paid of his salary. My last Divisional/EE's office was at TIRUTHURAIPOONDI. The issue of LPC did not come in time, as it involved a lot of procedures and so I applied for my pay advance. But, however, for the reasons best known, the then EE / Late Er.R.G.Iyer said that he could not take action on such requests, citing in case of my (R.N) premature death, he had to repay it and so did not want to take risk. I complained to the then SE, he called him and banged him and gave written orders to sanction my Pay advance. My EE / Late Er.R.G.Iyer was very good man but a "doubting Thomas" He never used to sign any paper. He used to read any papers put up to him holding it up both horizontally and vertically. He used to

count his signatures and used to tell 'oh I signed in 10 papers okay for me today and no more signatures.

He had a sleepy peon and one day the EE (late Er. Ganesa Iyer) who was so fed up with him, transferred him to concrete section in same divisional office, when he was on leave. On return from leave, he refused to join in the new seat and came back to the EE. A situation arose where both peons shared the same stool and whenever the EE pressed his calling bell, both used to appear together and used to go to together to call any body or bring any paper. This drama went on for a couple of days much to the amusement of every one.

One Mr. M.Rashid, a sincere the then Junior Research Assistant was assigned to me to assist to me in my research work. The topic given to me was **"Research studies on THERMAL CONDUCTIVITY OF METAL"** I used to meet the EE often and pester him for the purchase of some materials to start research work soon. One day the EE was so fed up with me, and said to me **"Please don't pester me like this but get some good posting and go"**

Chapter - 8

Transfer to Technical Section in Buildings Branch of TNPWD:

I was in constant touch with the CE/ General office. One day, I came to know that there was a vacancy in CE/B's office. I started moving my coins. Getting a slot in technical wing of the CE's office was a tough job as one has to get his name cleared by the CE himself. Then, an Engineer by name late Er.A.V.Subramaniam was the Dy. Chief Engineer/General. He was a nice gentle and sympathetic man. He was living opposite to my uncle's house (late Er A.Muthukumaraswamy) at Anna Nagar. One day I narrated my woes at SM&R Dn. to my uncle and told him that there was a vacancy in CE (B)'s office and requested him to put a word to the then CE / late Er.P.Sivalingam.

He declined to talk to late Er.P.Sivalingam but agreed to talk to the then Deputy Chief Engineer (General) late Er.A.V.Subramaniam. On one Sunday forenoon sometime in May 1975, we both went to his house. I explained to him as how I was much uncomfortable in SM&R Dn. and requested him to transfer and post me at CE/ Building's office in the existing vacancy. He laughed at me endorsing my views on the then functioning of SM&R Division. He told my uncle that the CE/ late Er.P.Sivalingam had himself posted me in SM&R Division, considering my PG QUALIFICATION IN SOIL MECHANICS and expressed his inability in this matter. He asked my uncle either talk to the CE directly or to request Er. E.C.Chandrasekaran the then CE / Highways as both were good friends. My uncle agreed to the latter option. On reaching home, my uncle called late Prof.E.C.Chandrasekaran and requested him to talk to late Er.P.Sivalingam, to post me in the existing vacancy of AEE's post CE/B's office. I did my P.G course under Professor. E.C.Chandrasekaran. He was always very warm and kind to me, because of his high regard for my uncle late Er. A.Muthukumaraswamy who was also a retired CE/H. My uncle specifically told him not to mention his name but to tell him as a nephew of late Er.T.Muthaian who was very close to him.

In the mean while, I saw the CE / late Er.P.Sivalingam, in my relative's marriage reception and my uncle also came and we were seated together in the first row. Upon seeing the late Er.P.Sivalingam entering the reception hall, I went straight to him and received him and put him in the first row. I was standing behind him till he was there. After some, he

departed; *I accompanied him up to his car and introduced myself. Then, he asked me that how I was related to my uncle late Er A. Muthukumarasamy and I told my relationship with him. Then I said that though late Er. Muthukumarasamy was my uncle, I owe more to my uncle late Er.T.Muthaian than anyone else. I told him that late Er.T.Muthaian was the one, who was next to my father as it was he, who gave a seat in the College of Engineering Guindy and also put me in PWD.* I said that he was responsible for my present status and growth, or otherwise, I would have ended up as a school teacher. Upon hearing this, he gently smiled and he said that late Er.T.Muthaian had helped him on many occasions and acclaimed him as a great man. Then he left in his car, waving his hand telling bye, bye. This was one of the happiest moments for me then. I was also very happy that a great mental block against me in CE's mind had been removed by invoking the name T M. like OHM for me. As advised by uncle late Er. Muthukumarasamy, I met (Late) Er. E.C.Chandrasekaran / CE (H) at Chepauk. In those days, the head offices of both PWD and Highways were located side by side. This continued till they built their own building in Highways Research Station complex.

When I met him, he received me with all kindness and love as I was his old student. He said the following:

"Come on man, your brother in law told me everything and since you are being my old student, I am duty bound to help you. I am just devising a strategy as how to put my request to late Er.SIVALINGAM. Of course we did our PG together in US but in different universities. I am also ex-office member in the BOARD OF ENGINEERS." In those days Highways and PWD chief Engineers were also the members of "Board of Engineers"

Late Er.E.C.Chandrasekaran doubted very much as to whether he would listen to him. Why you did not join in Highways? Had you joined HIGHWAYS, I would have given the posting of your choice. Like this, he raised all self made questions and gave their replies too with no relevance to subject before him.

I was a mute spectator. He said "Ok come tomorrow" Like this a few days passed on. In the mean while my Uncle was also reminding him periodically at frequent intervals as requested by me.

Not tired of his evasiveness/ hesitance, I pursued this matter with him on a day to date basis. Finally, after understanding that he was being cornered, on one good day, Prof. E.C.Chandrasekaran the CE / H, picked up some courage and took the phone and called the CE / late Er.P.Sivalingam and requested him to transfer me to the existing AEE's vacancy in CE/ B office by introducing me as a nephew of late Er.T.Muthaian as requested by my uncle, he never brought my uncle's name even by slip of his tongue. He also narrated that how he was obliged to late TM by becoming as the professor of Soil Mechanics Department. He also told him as how late Er.T.Muthaian was enquiring about my progress in my PG studies. The conversation lasted more than 10 minutes. By seeing such lengthy discussion and also seeing laughing gestures of the CE / H, I intuited that something good was going to happen. Finally, he put down the phone with all smiles on his face, telling that the big man had agreed eventually He also shared this happy information with late Er.A.V.Subramaniam the then DCE (GL), Late Er A.V Subramaniam was a nice and knowledgeable engineer, who later revamped Planning and Designs Circle.

He directed me to meet the DCE (General). I rushed up to his room and he asked me to give my transfer application to him with my EE/ SM&R Dn. & endorsement.

As I was carrying it all the time in my pocket, it was not a problem to me and instantaneously handed over it, to him. He called Thiru. Narayanamurthi / Establishment Asst. and directed him to issue the order immediately and he asked me to wait outside and collect it. Thiru. Narayanamurthi (a nice gentle man) delivered the order with in fifteen minutes. He gave the order and said that never in the history of PWD; the orders were issued with so much urgency. I met the DCE and thanked him. He told me go, go and join duty by today itself before big man changes his mind. I immediately rushed up to my EE / SM&R Dn. room and based on DCE / General's instruction, he was keeping my relieving order ready. He asked me to join duty forth with and said that there was no hurry in handing over my charge paper and it could be done later on also. Then I gave my joining report (already typed and kept ready in my pocket) to the JCE/B. He posted me as AEE T5. I signed my Charge of Transfer Certificate (C.T.C) and took charge from one Er.JAYAPPAUL, the then Assistant Executive Engineer, who was

holding Additional charge of that section. I handed over my CTC personally to late Thiru.M.NAMBIAPPAN, the then AO. I told him as how I was related to late Er.T.Muthaian. He said that he was well aware of it through Er.N.Dorairaj / FCE and he added that he was talking to me so long, only because of my being nephew of Late Er.T.Muthaian

Then he told me "do's and don'ts" in the CE' office as follows:

Ten Commandments of late Thiru.M.NAMBIAPPAN/the then A.O (1975)

- 1) *Paddle in the same direction to impress your BOSS. True. This ensures friction free career. I used to seek the directions of my boss the then JCE / Buildings, Er.Mallikharjunan. Before I minute important files. Except some occasional banging from him, the way forward was smooth. Be reserved and keep the ministerial staff at bay and more so with women as they are more emotional and would shed tears on the drop of a hat and bosses would believe their words only as cent percent true. – " yes sir true "*
- 2) *Offer advice only when sought for. He added that this would never happen as you were the junior most of the ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE ENGINEERS and also pointed out my rural back ground with no contact with the elite engineers of the PWD. I said no sir, I saw them only at a distance and even we were scared of the SEs and whenever the SE wanted me to meet him, my heart rate would palpitate fearing some petitions against me. He immediately laughed at me, saying "don't worry about petitions and unless you write against yourself, which no fool would do".*
- 3) *Improve your English because of your rural back ground. I said that my father would help me in this. No, no don't do this. You first write and get it corrected by your father so that you can explain it well or otherwise when you were asked to explain by your boss, you cannot produce your father before him "you may fumble down or blabber". "Yes sir".*
- 4) *"Always be punctual and leave after your office after your officer leaves. True, sir I will to do this and gain the sympathy of my JCE / B".*

Don'ts

1) "Conduct yourself as the CE's representative and do not go to Chepauk canteens because it is a gossiping centre and if any secrets are out the bosses would suspect you".

2) "Please do not implicate any field officers and if possible help them as the regular EE's had their own sleeper' cell in the CE's office. After all you are young and you may have to go back to them again. "True" Even without doing anything; I was suspected of giving wrong inputs to the JCE / B.

3) The CE / JCE (B) used to take the respective AEE's (subject wise) when they have to meet the SECRETARIES (subject related) "When you go with him, you sit at his back and not to sit on par with them that too you sit only on the edge of the chair. Unless asked for, you should not talk." I said "yes sir"

4) "Many times, your CE or JCE might blabber something wrong to the Secretary don't correct them. Please don't expose them as neither the CE nor the Secretary would remember it and take any serious follow up action. But on the other hand if you expose them, you would be relieved of your post and would keep you waiting for the posting for months together even. Sometimes, depending upon the mood of the CE, some even used to call me to dig out some petition received some time back, and give life to it and he would see that it is not closed. On hearing this, I became very nervous and told him that only to avoid petition menace, I have chosen to come here. No, no, nothing would happen but strict to his advices. He immediately, took the classified list of Senior Engineers and glanced through and said that you have fair chances of becoming the CE some times after twenty years, so be careful. Finally he said that he/AO would take care of me and feel relaxed and requested me as not to reveal my connection with him to anybody but to pretend as if we are totally unknown to each other".

With this lorry load of advice, I went to EE / SM&R's room for formal handing over of my T&P to Thiru R.K and the EE called him to his room with the paper. What is there to hand over? Nothing

but one table with three chairs, one is for the officer to sit and the other two for visitors to sit and to the best of my knowledge no visitor came except my father who was very curious to know as how busy I am! When I accompanied him up to the bus stop, he asked me "what is this? Everyone was sleeping even at the early hours of morning, it looks more like a "kindergarten" and get out of this Division as early as possible or otherwise you would also become one among them. My father came with big hope of thinking that my SM & R laboratory would be an institution like NASA, in US but returned totally frustrated man and shared his utter disappointment with both my mother and wife.

When, I took leave of the EE, he said that seat is always there and you are welcome to join here at any time of your choice. I prayed the God that such contingency should not come at all. My life in CE's office was moving on smoothly. But one day I got a call from late Thiru.M.NAMBIAPPAN. "NADIMUTHU come to my room immediately..."

On reaching late Thiru.M.Nambiappan's room, he whispered into my ears telling that there was a move to push me back to SM&R Dn. as one of the AEE's post in CE/B's office was being diverted elsewhere. Such changes are common in PWD to economize the expenditure. This is akin to just by closing two SE's posts to pave way for one CE's post.

So on hearing this news, I virtually ran to late Er.V.Govindan who was working in the co-operation Dept as the SE cum head of its construction wing. I knew both late Er.V.Govindan and Er.M.Mallikarjunan were very good friends. Late Er.V.Govindan was my father's old student. When he was the EE / REC TRICHY, he used to keep in touch with my father as a mark of respect and regard to my father. Whenever I visited Chennai, I used to pay a courtesy call. My father used to tell me often that I should be in touch with big people as a mark of respect and continued it till his death. **The system of "Pay and use" was not in vogue then.**

When I entered his room, hi guy (ஏன்டா இப்படி ஓடியாரா?), is any one chasing you? Because of his proximity to my father, he used to call me in slang Tamil. He used to call me as தம்பி some times. Immediately I told him about the move to revert me back to SM& R Dn. He told me that Er.M.Mallikarjunan used to give good inputs to him and asked as how

come he could take such decision? I replied back "being JUNIOR OF THE JUNIOR MOST AEE." He immediately rang up to the JCE / B and requested him to retain me there. He advised me as not to be perturbed over such small matters and said that in the worst scenario, he would take me to Construction wing of cooperation department. *I asked him as where was the vacancy? He replied "as why you worry, I will surrender some useless duffer and post me there". I did not say anything because I had big faith in the theory of KARMA as "action and reaction are equal and opposite in nature."*

I went to the JCE / B; he smiled and asked as how I knew Er.V.Govindan and I narrated my connection with him. He took the phone and asked the AO (late Thiru.M.NAMBIAPPAN) "is there any rule that only junior most should only go? He replied him that there is no such hard and fast rule and decision is left to the discretion of the JCE / B. He asked him the way out; the AO replied that one late Er.S. Ramalingam, Senior A.E.E had gone on leave for fifteen days, and for the time being that on his return from leave, he may be posted to the existing vacancy in the SM&R Division. JCE said OK. Accordingly, he sent an UO note to the JCE / GI, and it was approved and orders were issued. On completion of his leave, late Er.S.Ramalingam came to the office to join duty.

To his great surprise and shock he saw the order posting him to SM and Research Dn. He became very angry and shouted at me.

My cabin was so small of size 8 feet by 8 feet Apart from the AEE-T, it can accommodate only two. Late Thiru S. Ramalingam,/FSE came to my cabin and shouted at me telling you guy, being the junior of the junior most, would do and you are far junior to me and settle the score at appropriate time. I coolly replied that in that process, so many ifs and buts are there. Please calm down and I never said that you should be shifted, but only applied pressure for my retention. He was asking as who was that person who influenced the JCE/B, I did not reply but smiled. He was asking as "where is the JCE? I said that he might have gone to the Secretariat". I requested him as the JCE was a very senior officer and not to do any repeat performance before him. He replied "Am I a fool to do this?"

I served tea to him and on hearing the JCE had come back to his room, he met him and asked him as why he was shifted, JCE (B) simply said that it was CE's decision. He also advised him that being a senior officer that he should not be perturbed on such small issues. He also promised him that he would post him back as soon as some vacancy arises.

Late Er.S.Ramalingam was a good man, very good at drafting but sharp tongued, and snubs his people. So his engineers were very much scared of him and so felt happy over his exit.

In the afternoon, he joined at SM&R Division. But he used to come to CE/B's office daily to take his food with his senior colleagues. Sometimes, he would peep into my cabin and used to say "hi, guy and threaten me telling that one day he would settle his scores with me. I used to politely reply that "if god wills."

After few days, on one after noon, around 3-00 PM, I went to the SM&R Dn., as what research late Er.S Ramalingam, Former S.E was doing? To my great surprise, I found him to be sleeping along with Thiru R.K. / SRO. On hearing my voice, Thiru.R.K woke up and told me that he (late Er.S.Ramalingam) would wake up only around 4-00pm and would tell him after he woke up. I said nothing important but just a courtesy call. I went upstairs to meet Thiru M.Rashid my erstwhile JRO and asked him about the "progress of research made in the thermal conductivity of Metal" He said that the new RO/AEE, who came here in your place was very angry with me, **when I attempted to say something about the ongoing research work and shouted at him. He asked me pathetically "Am I responsible for his transfer sir? with tears, rolling down his eyes. As any shedding tears by others, generally sets empathetic chord with me too. Me being, very an emotional guy, I also shed real tears and not crocodile tears. I calmed down Thiru M.Rashid and he explained his research works. My friendship with him continued till I was there in CE's office.**

After meeting Thiru.M.Rashid, on my return, I peeped into EE's room. "Come on, I am told that you are very close to the CE and JCE, is it so?"

I said, "No Sir, as I am scared of both." "No, if any occasion comes say something good about me to them." Then he narrated his hard work and as how much he toiled in Tank Modernization Division at Karaikudi. *He lamented saying that he used to sign countless files. On one file signed by him which relates to the "Salary Advance" to someone which he could not repay but died, resulting in recovery from his pay. But, however, to his bad luck the Accountant General fixed him as responsible. I did not probe further as he would go back to his KARAİKUDI days and that would make him emotional. Then I asked about my friend late Er.K.Ramalingam / Former S.E (Tirunelveli). He replied back "Oh Ramalingam! He is crying, still crying like kindergarten Kid and at least you were more composed than him. He said, "Look here RN, that many eminent engineers like late Er. WALTER, late Er. S.PANCHANATHAN had their roots here (SM&R Division) and you too have fair chances of becoming CE on one day, unless you were stuck with recovery payment like me. So, be careful like me before signing."* He compared the SM & R Dn like a "**பரிகார ஸ்தலம்**". Whoever worked there for more than six months would be blessed by the God, to become CE. The EE also asked me to pray the God for his peaceful retirement. In those days in PWD, retirement is a nightmare to many. The then EE / SM&R Division, late Er.R.Ganesa Iyer's words proved to be a GOSPEL's truth as I became CE in September 1998 and "EMINENT ENGINEER Award for the year 2021 was given by the Association of Consulting Civil Engineers (India) on 25th August, 2021 .

On hearing my visit, Late Er.S.Ramalingam rushed up to my cabin and asked me, "Hi guy! You killed me. Still you came there to pay your condolences! What a great guy you are! நினைவு வைத்து கொள் . நீ ஒரு Junior!" என்றார். நான் அதற்கு, "அத்தைக்கு மீசை முளைக்கும் போது பார்த்து கொள்ளலாம்" என்றேன். That opportunity never came either to late Er.Ramalingam or to me. Then he asked me as what transpired between me and the EE? I told him that the EE said that SM & R Dn was the "Parikarasthalam" (English equivalent not known, but can be taken a divine place to atone one's sins) and whoever stays and

works, for more than six months would likely to become a CE. I said that I had already worked more than six months and so every likely hood of becoming a CE, provided "I am not stuck up with any recovery problem like him." He shot back such promotion was not required for him. **One day one of the AEEs in CE / B's office got a FOREGIN assignment and moved on. I conveyed this happy news to him. And he met the JCE and got posted in the CE's office. I was also relieved of my guilty conscious and Thiru. M. RASHID was also relieved of his botheration. But, he was all along citing Junior and Senior. I also replied that there is always a slip, between the lip and the cup. To make the reading interesting, I have said in satire.**

Chapter-9

Interaction with late Er.A.S.Paul, Permanent Assistant Executive Engineer

On One day an old man came to my room introducing himself as **Er.Paul, Permanent Assistant Executive Engineer** and told me that he was working in Gauging Division in PWD under an Executive Engineer (name withheld). When I asked him as how things were going on, and he replied me so, so. That time, he appeared to me quite old that 50+ years and I asked him how come at the age, he was still AEE only when one ought to be a SE. *He became very emotional and told me that it was a long story. He further said that late Padmashri Er.T.Muthaian who was the then Director of Technical Education, who was his EE to him then at Building Division Kanchipuram. One day, during his inspection, he (late Padmashri Er.T.Muthaian) shouted at him (Er.Paul) for the poor progress. In reply to this, late Mr. Paul replied back angrily telling "Since you received money from the Contractor, so you are shouting like that." Immediately, he got annoyed and drove away from the site. On reaching his Office at Chepauk, he (late Er.T.Muthaian) surrendered him and he was relieved of his post. He said late Er.C.A.Srinivasan who was a DCE (General) then he didn't give him any posting but charge sheeted him for his misbehavior towards late Er.T.Muthaian and he was teased by posting him to the far off place, forcing him to be on the leave forever. Even when he got a posting, his boss was used to tease him indirectly and forced him to go out. After so many years of waiting, he got his postings only now.*

I asked him that how come when so many people were used to tell late Padmashri T.Muthaian as a "Demigod", how could his pickup a quarrel with him? He said it was his bad time. He told me that he went his house several times and tendered apology for his action. But, he did not intervene to get suitable posting. Also added that despite such things, he was kind enough to give admission to his children at Engineering colleges and all the help, he rendered, but, except his posting. I didn't reveal to him my relationship with late Padmashri Er.T.Muthaian.

One day, he rushed up to my cabin and showed a memo as received from his Executive Engineer asking him not to waste his time by looking at the wall, but, help the tracer. **Er.A.S.Paul replied back, telling for doing such insignificant work like tracing, a permanent AEE was not required but to appoint a tracer in his place and relieve him. He added that it would be cost effective action. He became very emotional and asked me "If the sweeper is absent and if JCE/B asks you to sweep the office, will you do?"** I replied in the negative. He also showed his letter and in that letter I saw that a copy of the letter was marked to both AG and CE (GL) by name. On seeing this letter, the CE (GI) /late Er.P.Sivalingam became very angry and called both AEE/ late Er.Paul and EE/ (Name with held) to his room and kept them waiting for more than three hours at the corridor. Both were staring at each other as if they were unknown. By that time late Thiru M.NAMBIAPPAN/ A.O also came there and true to his advice, we too pretended as if we were not known to each other. After that, the CE (General) / late Er.P.Sivalingam called both Permanent Assistant Executive Engineer A.S.Paul and his Executive Engineer and banged them both in equal measure. I was present in his room along with JCE/B. and late Er.P.Sivalingam, He looked at late Er.Paul angrily and said that from the moment, he insulted, late Er.T.Muthaian, late Er.C.A.Srinivasan, the then DCE (GL) wanted to dismiss him, but the then CE (GI), took lenient view and left him with mere charge sheeting. The CE (GI) also asked him as to why he marked a copy to the Accountant General. He shouted at him asking whether he wanted the AG to intervene in this matter and to recommend to the Government for the closure of the Subdivision. Also said that he is retaining the existing post with much difficulty, as the Finance Department was always asking for the closure of the posts, to save the expenditure to the Government and asked late Er.Paul to leave his room. Next he looked at the EE and **asked that he posted him to Chennai on purely humanitarian grounds. He asked him, even after knowing late Er. Paul's eccentric behavior, why he should give such odd work to him?**

After he left the room, he asked JCE/B to enquire both and send a report. In turn, the JCE/B fixed a date for an enquiry and directed them to appear before him for the enquiry as ordered by the CE (GI).

Er.M.Mallikarjunan, JCE/ B called them one by one. I was asked to record their statements. He called the EE first. He asked him as why he did issue a memo to the PERMANENT AEE, late Er.Paul asking to do some tracing works. Then he replied as he was not having any work, I wanted him to complement the work of the tracers. The JCE /B shot back, asking him, "that in our office too, sometimes sweepers absent themselves, can I ask the lady Assistants to sweep the office. Even If I issue a memo to them, the entire ministerial staff would complain about me to their NGO Union leaders and no wonder if they would resort to gheraoing me in my room. What do you say? Remember all cannot do all jobs. Remember that we all live among a dignity conscious society. The EE said, **"Sorry sir"** and said he would withdraw his memo issued.

Then late Er.Paul / Pt AEE came in, the JCE asked him "how he could write and mark a copy to the AG direct. He asked him as to why he was so long remaining in the same post without any promotion. He further said that because of his nil contribution and his fight with his superiors particularly with the great Engineer like late Padmashri Er.T.Muthaian, it has brought him down to the hilt". Then he told him that the EE was withdrawing his memo issued and late Er.A.S.Paul should give a letter to the CE (GI) expressing his regret for having marked the copy of his letter to the AG. Both warring Engineers were asked to shake their hands. A big issue was settled amicably within the four walls of JCE's room.

Chapter – 10

Innocence Exposed

On one day, I had been to the JCE / B's room for some urgent work. A hefty man was sitting before him and he introduced him as the retired CE / TWAD Board. I recognized him and told the JCE "I had been to his house once in connection with my posting at TWAD Board Division at Thanjavur. The JCE Intervened and asked me "Hi guy, how come being a PWD man went to TWAD Board CE house and asked for posting? What are you blabbering?" The CE / TWAD Board explained that in 1970, as soon as the DMK came to power, the rulers wanted to provide drinking water supply to all rural areas. Due to sudden expansion rather explosions, we promoted all AEs/ JEs as AEEs and there was none to work in the field works. So, we requested the PWD to depute around 300 engineers to TWAD Board. But much to our disappointment, most of the AEs applied pressure and got out of the TWAD Board. Later on, we came to know that they were not willing to work under DIPLOMA AEEs and besides, they were far juniors to their Assistant Engineers posted there both in age and qualifications.

I said that I did not stay for more than six months in TWAD Board and came back PWD. After sometimes, when he left, I turned to the JCE / B, and with low tone audible to him only and said "in the midst of our conversation, his younger brother came in, and asked him to give ten rupees. But he said that he had only seven rupees. I thought that their economic condition was also as bad as mine. "JCE (B) /Sir, to my great surprise, he brought seven thousand rupees sir. I initially took it in the literal sense that I meant that seven means seven rupees, and to my great surprise that it was the first time I saw seven thousands rupees together." On hearing my innocent talk, he burst into big laughter. He replied "What an innocent guy you are! and said that that man was a big fraud and known for his dishonesty. That was the reason for him that he was not kept in main stream of PWD, but, was kept in "Public Health and Municipal works" which was under CE / GI for many decades till the 1970.

In same after noon, late Er.V.Govindan the then, SE Construction Wing of Co-operative Department came to see the JCE (B) and whenever he came, he used to ask him as how is his boy (meaning me)? When he came to his room, the JCE (B) narrated about the incident happened in the morning and JCE (B) immediately called me telling that my guru late Er.V.Govindan had come, "Come immediately." Then late Er.V.Govindan had asked me what happened in the morning and asked me to say as what exactly had happened. I said everything right from start to the end. He also broke into a laughter saying "What a great fool you are? and added telling that man was a big fraud!, Take care of Nadi." Even today when I recall this incident, I used to laugh at my innocence.

Chapter -11

Reemployment of Father in SKPD CHARITIES:

On one day my father saw an advertisement in the HINDU newspaper, calling for the post of Educational Adviser, in a Telugu institution called "SKPD CHARITIES". It is a Telugu institution, where the medium of language was Telugu. Being a Telugu management institution, their main business was trade. On enquiring about this institution, I came to know that the chair person running the institution was by one late Er.H.Gopinath Baliya. I had seen him many times in JCE/B's (Er.Mallikharjunan) room". And I told my JCE (B), "Sir, I get only Rs 900/ and after deducting my rent of Rs.300 and get only a Rs.600/. With this, I have to service the debt obtained by my father, to cultivate our lands at a village near Kumbakonam, so I find it very difficult to run my family. I also requested him to put a word to late Mr.Gopinath Baliya. He immediately took the phone and requested him to consider my father for that post of "Educational Advisor." After a few days, my father was called for an interview. My father (67) attended the interview and they were very much impressed by his education and experience and more so by his English. They had issued an Order appointing him as the "EDUCATIONAL ADVISER".

After some hesitation, he joined duty in Aug 1977. Initially, my father was worried as he was very sensitive and Protocol conscious. He was worrying as how he would be treated. After persuasion by my mother, he joined in his duty and he was appointed initially for six months only (1977). After a few weeks, he got acclimatized to the new environment. Initially, the staff in the clerical level used to call him as "NAINA". Sir This term he did not relish as in those days only the rickshaw pullers used to call their clients as NAINA to invite them to travel in their rickshaws. When my father hinted his displeasure as being called as NAINA,? The Secretary (father's immediate boss and he was also a retired Dy. Secretary from the State Government), called them and instructed them either to call him as SIR or IYYA. He was allotted a room next to the HM and more or less he was appointed as the CORRESPONDENT. He used to often tell, about his

close relationship, with his Secretary and his deep love for SHAKESPEARE's plays. Days rolled. In the mean while the School management had applied for Structural Stability Certificate from the PWD. One day, late Mr. Gopinath Balija called my father and asked him to interact with the PWD to expedite the issue of STRUCTURAL STABILITY CERTIFICATE by particularly mentioning my name. My father too thought that it was an easy routine matter. He told me about it and I too thought it as a simple matter and spoke to the AEE concerned. My father went to him and invited him to inspect the building to issue the Certificate. He also promised to do and inspected but kept the SS CERTIFICATE with him and my father went to him and reminded him couple of times. I too requested him.

Both myself and my father worried as whether the AEE concerned would ever issue the structural Stability at all, as my father's initial tenure of six months was nearing end. So as a last resort, I went to Er.Mallikharjunan. By that time, he had become the SE / Madras Circle. I narrated the entire story. Sequentially, he became upset, telling as "what an aged man he was? Even after knowing he is your father, that fellow did not issue!" I told him his salary of Rs 250 was much useful to lead somewhat comfortable life, at least he was purchasing his medicines and paying my daughter's tuition fees. He became very upset.

He became very sad and said to me, "நீயேயா/you go, Certificate will reach your room this evening."

The same evening the concerned AEE came to my room and handed over the Certificate to me and told that when he was ready to help me, why I complained to the SE. Then I said, "Sorry" to him and went to the SE's room and thanked him.

My father handed over the Certificate to the office Secretary. Then, he told my father that your extension for another term was put up before the Board and he was required to appear before them. **My father told them "I will definitely work till such time till my health permits. But with one condition precedent, that you should not entrust any**

PWD linked subject to me as I don't want to bother my son and I also understand that my son is not such a big guy in PWD to move such big matters." The trustee said, "No sir, we have already identified an agency to do such liaison works. This time we have extended your service by a year more and doubled your salary to Rs 500/- and your job is now confined to improve the "ACADEMIC SIDE OF THE SCHOOLS AND IMPROVE UPON THEIR PERFORMANCES".

That night, he brought a lot of sweets to celebrate and heaved a big sigh of relief as he was not required to go to TNPWD. My impression about PWD is that most of the serving Engineers are not generally inclined to help even their own colleagues, leave alone retired brethren Engineers except persons like **Er. Murugan, who is a General Secretary, Er.R.Pothupani Thilagam/Executive Engineer, (PWD), B'canal division and R.Viswanath the present CE (B) & E-in C (Buildings) and Er.N.Arumugham /A.E.E (WSRMB) Coimbatore .**

In the year 1976, there was a heavy floods in Tamilnadu, the Secretary TNPWD, had called for a report on Flood damages caused to the TNPWD / Government, buildings. I was asked by the JCE (B) to compile a report, which I did so by contacting all EEs / Regular Divisions. As on those days, regular Divisions were in charge of all Government buildings, As expected, many Divisions did not send any report. I told this to JCE/B and he himself phoned up to them, but nothing happened. He said, "Ok" and asked me to prepare a Report on my own. Somehow, with the help of various Progress Reports, I prepared a comprehensive Report, rather a fudged/imaginary Report and with all cosmetic touches, to make it to feel, as if, the details were collected from the Field with some old photos too, showing the damaged buildings. Actually, the photos were collected from the old files. With the help of my AE's; I brought it a book form. JCE / B asked me, "Hi guy, how did you collect such wonderful photos as the EEs had not even sent their reports? I told him the truth. He appreciated and said, "Oh wonderful fellow, you can thrive anywhere."

Then next question was, the JCE / B, told me that today being the Friday, the CE/B wants to give it at least well in advance by a day to Thiru.B.Vijayaraghavan I.A.S (Retd) then PWD Secretary, so that he could read it well in advance, and make the meeting meaningful and purposeful. So, in your own interest, please send some AE or you take it and give it to him or otherwise as what happened to late Er C.Madakkannu would happen to you also.

I did not want to take any risk. So, I took the FLOOD REPORT personally to the Secretary's house on the next Saturday morning itself and handed over it to him. He was watering his plants then. He asked me "you look like an Officer, why you brought the Report personally? I replied, **"Sir, I am really an Officer, holding the rank of an AEE, but, considering the importance of the meeting, our CE/ B, late Er P.Sivalingam felt that it should reach you at the earliest. I added that some of these office Assistants were worthless guys and good** for nothing and were not dependable guys. He agreed with me. He was very appreciating of my action and asked my name. Then, he called me "Nadimuthu, please come inside and take a tea and go." But, as I already saw a black Bull dog, staring at me, so scared of it, I took leave of him and returned home. On next Monday, JCE and CE/B, attended the Secretary's meeting. The Secretary asked him, "What Sivalingam, your AEE had himself brought in person. What a great discipline you maintain!" Our CE, late Er.P.Sivalingam was so elated to hear this and added another feather to his cap. **I am not making sweeping remarks against all. There are some who were very sincere and hard working people. I said that there were very sincere and hard working people. I had two such office Assistants during my tenure as the CE /DR & CS in 1999 -2000 namely Thiruvallargal namely Mohan and Sathyendran. I am still in touch with Thiru R. Mohan/ Former OA/ DR & C.S wing.**

Chapter – 12

Pleasant experience with the Judiciary:

In 1976, I was working as a Technical officer to the CE/ (B). One of the subjects allotted to me was COURT BUILDINGS. Whenever there was a change in incumbency in the post of the Chief Justice of Madras High Court, the new Chief Justice's chambers would be renovated to suit his taste and comforts. During then, there was a change in CJ's post. So, in accordance with Standard Operating Procedures, we prepared a new estimate and had sent it to the REGISTRAR for his counter signature. In the instant case, the estimate was sent to the Registrar and he in turn had put up the file to the CJ. In that estimate, we had made a provision of new modern WESTERN WATER CLOSET WITH A LOW LEVEL FLUSHING WATER TANK. He immediately directed the Registrar asking him to instruct the Officer (with good English speaking)/ Engineer as he did not understand TAMIL to meet him and to clarify certain points.

The then CE / B was our late Er.P.Sivalingam, called me and directed me to meet the Registrar along with the concerned AEE, in charge of execution, who happened to be my beloved friend and class mate Er.N.Dorairaj /FCE.

The Registrar took a big class for us as how to conduct ourselves before the CJ (late Justice Thiru.P.Govinda Menon). The main important protocol was not to show our back while returning from him. We were ushered into his chambers by the Registrar. On looking at us, he asked the Registrar to withdraw from his room. Then, he turned to us and asked us to sit down. We sat only on the edge of our seats. He asked our names and asked us as who had prepared this estimate. I said, Myself First, he asked me, "Do you know my rank in the protocol of VVIP'S. "I said, "You hold the rank of Governor", Sir, Even after knowing my status, you had put "LOW LEVEL FLUSHING TANK "in the estimate. I replied back that it had no bearing on the quality but it refers to its elevation. I showed a couple of similar estimates to him. He was fully satisfied. He even offered us tea.

But we politely declined. And instructed us not to tell the query that he raised more so to his Registrar. He asked me and Er.N.Dorairaj but straight to go back to our Office. I returned back to my Office and met my CE/B, late Er.P.Sivalingam and briefed to him about the meeting that I had with the CJ. He smiled. Late Er.P.Sivalingam was a very good administrator and he was the first Vice Chancellor of "Perignar Anna University of Technology" and now called "Anna University",



With Hon'ble late **Er.S.D.Somasundaram**, Minister for Revenue – World Tamil Conference Project inspection in October 1994 (From left to right) in Er.R.Anantharaman SE (H) Er.V.Balusamy / Former SE PWD Thanjavur.

Chapter – 13

My Experience in Pallavan Transport Corporation (Civil wing)

In the year 1978, Pallavan Transport Corporation (PTC) requested for the services of Assistant Executive Engineers of PWD on deputation to work in the Construction wing of PTC. I got it with the help of Er.M.Mallikarjunan, S.E Madras Circle and late Er.C.A.Srinivasan, CE (GI). I joined duty on 03-11-1978 and my Executive Engineer was one, late Er.Vedalingam. After submitting my joining report, I went straight to meet Er.C.K.Gopalakrishnan, Managing Director, PTC. He warmly welcomed me as he had already been briefed by Er.M.Mallikarjunan who happened to be his colleague in Parambikulam Aliyar Project in 1960's. I had golden opportunities to move with a lot of Engineers, and to say a few they are Viz P.Dorairaj, P.Rajan, K.S.Chokkanathan, Srisailam etc

The toughest Contractor that I had ever met

I was on deputation to the Chennai Metro Transport Corporation between Oct 1978 and July 1982 as AEE (Civil). One day, the then MD late Er.C.K.Gopalakrishnan / FCE (PWD) called me to his room and expressed his sorrow and anguish over the stoppage of Bus Terminal work at Thiruvanmiyur, for well over six months. He wanted me to resume the work and complete it as early as possible. The MD further cautioned me that the Contractor concerned was a big tough guy and I should deal with him carefully. He also informed me that he studied in a hostel funded by his Community to pursue his BE, for which he was the main Contributor. The MD also said that the Contractor used to say very often about this and he told me to ignore and not get offended as it was true only. I heard all his instructions with rapt attention. Next day, I went to the TIRUVANMIYUR Bus Depot site and asked for the location of Contractor's house. They said that it was only a walkable distance from the site. Then I sent a word expressing my desire to meet him. He had told my Work Inspector telling that

it is not necessary. I was wondering how come a Contractor could refuse to meet an AEE, that too, when I called him personally. I was just thinking as to what should I do? Anyhow, I decided to go to his house. To my great surprise, I met him halfway. I held his hands and took him to my Office. He was accompanied by ten Muscle men holding sickles in their hands.

On reaching my Office, I allowed him to rewind his pent up feelings. He was narrating as to how he was ill-treated by my predecessor and EE. He also recalled his help that he extended to my MD for completing his education. He also said that when he met him in a marriage function, he pretended, as if, he was totally unknown to him forgetting his past. He eventually said that the entire world was bad except him. Then he asked me singularly in colloquial TAMIL “நீ எண்ணா சாதி?” /**What caste you belong?** I told him of my caste and told him my relationship with uncle late Padmashri Late **Er.T.Muthian / Former DTE.** He suddenly became emotional and started shedding tears telling that he was only a KOLUTHUKKARA MAISTRY and he became a class I Contractor because of his help. So as a token of his gratitude, he promised that he would restart the work and complete it. In the mean while, he wanted an interim bill. I prepared a bill and sent it to the Division Office. **As usual, the Divisional Accountant expected some money from the Contractor and delayed his bill. I warned him that the Contractor was a troublesome guy and requested the DA to deal with him deftly. He did not listen to me. The Contractor came to our Division Office and entered into a wordy duel with our DA. The Contractor caught hold of DA’s collar and asked for his payment. Eventually, it went to EE’s ears and he issued the cheque to the Contractor. Scared of meeting him, the Executive Engineer left his Office via back door of his Office on the pretext of an urgent inspection.**

I used to stay with the Contractor engaged more labours and worked even in late hours and completed the works as promised by him. I tied up the AE and the Contractor and set a date for the completion of work, Final

measurements and Final bill to be submitted etc., as I was transferred to a new Building Project at Chromepet.

I went to Thiruvanniyur Bus Terminal on the date set by me for my check measurements and did it. That was my last meeting with him. After a year, I heard that he had died. I don't know as to whether he died of natural causes or in a gang war. He had a few noble traits also to mention that he was a great Philanthropist and used to arrange Poor feeding help the Orphanage homes etc and also helped the poor to continue their education.

Among several Contractors, he left a niche in my heart .In my opinion he was a very good man, though he appeared crude and rough outside, a rare specimen in the company of some anti socials.

In the mean while the then Government sanctioned viz the Construction of a TRAFFIC TRAINING SCHOOL at Chromepet to teach both Drivers and Conductors about driving and conducting a bus. A Driving yard was built already nearby. The Contract cost was Rs.5 lakhs (1980). The structure was a simple one with eight class rooms in both Ground and First floor, with a Central staircase in between the two wings of the building (built in 1980-81).

In turn PTC management had called for tenders and signed an agreement with a Contract company by name M/s. K.K.Builders. They took the work at a very low rate of minus 15 percent. He was doing very nice works and I was helping by periodical payment by extending all co-operations that he needed. He quoted very less rate for fixing Glazed tiles in the toilet. The great mistake, he did was, he quoted the Sq foot rate for Sq metre rate. On this item alone, he was losing very heavily. At that time ARTIFICIAL MARBLE LAYING was doing rounds. So I decided to reduce his area of Glazed tile fixing by ARTIFICIAL MARBLE LAYING and to restrict the Glazed tile fixing area only to the URINAL and WC portion. I told my proposal to my Executive Engineer and agreed for my proposal. But, he felt very skeptical about Managing Director's consent. I was very close to the then Managing Director,

late Er.C.K.Gopalakrishnan, who was very straight forwarded and honest gentleman, a PWD CE on deputation. When I told him about this, he readily agreed and also endorsed my views that the Contractor needs to be helped as he was doing good work. I got his approval and the Contractor; M/S K.K.Builders completed their works with a minimum loss to him.

During the above said period, I had an occasion to work under an EE /PWD by name Er.K. On one day, he came for Inspection. There were some Issues between me and the AE concerned. Out of anger, the AE complained to him that my AEE (meaning me) "used to tell every Contractor that unless the Contractor would meet the EE and pay some gratis as, he would not sanction or pass the bill for payment and nothing would move. I actually said this out of frustration. I felt very much delicate to face, such embarrassing situation as no one accepts such thing in open. I was anxiously looking at the EE's face. He said calmly and said "you are correct. I need money as I have a big family to support." In those days, our Officers used to pretend as if, they were honest. They used to receive clandestinely. The EE/ K, further said "Look here, NADIMUTHU that nobody talks about you as what they talk in front and at your back. If you understand this philosophy, your life would be happy one. A few days after his saying, I myself found this gospel' saying came true. On one day , it so happened, that I was walking behind a Contractor and his friend working under me at P.T.C Bus body Building workshop at Chromepet, to catch the bus to go home. The Contractor did not see me following him. He was talking about me in slang TAMIL using "அவன், இவன்". I patted him at his back. On seeing me the duo started to run away. I just asked him to stop and told him about my EE's advice and said that I won't mistake you. "Because, as people's talk are not the same as both at the front and at his back".

Chapter - 14

Foreign Assignment with SOKOTO River Basin Authority, Nigeria (August, 1981)

Prior to a leaving for NEW DELHI to attend an Interview before a delegation of High Officials from Nigeria, I met the MD / Er C.K.Gopalakrishnan. He told me "Look here, NADIMUTHU, with good intention only I am taking engineers from PWD, so that some stagnations in PWD would ease. But the PWD is dumping useless fellows only. Please see as how your EE (K) is behaving, the way in which he begs for money, I pray that he should not put his hand in others pocket and take money . What these guys in Transport Corporation would think of us (P.W.D)?" He said that you were an exception. He told me out of frustration that I need not go to the Countries like Nigeria. He further said, "I would absorb you and promote you as Executive Engineer as engineers like you are rare." I replied back considering my long time prospects, I would like to stay back in PWD. He smiled and wished me a good luck.

The High level delegation from Nigeria was staying in TAJ MAHAL Hotel and my interview took place there. Lot of Engineers came from all over India for the interview. I saw a lot of VVIP officers drawn from **"VARIOUS RIVER BASIN AUTHORITIES"** from Nigeria. **I found late Alhaji.Arzika, the then General Manager from Sokoto Rima River Basin Authority as one among them. He called me to come towards him and offered a seat. He asked my name. I said as 'Rajagopalan NADIMUTHU'. He asked about the development of cracks in his Campus buildings. I said that I can build buildings with minimum cracks but not build structures that are totally free from cracks and put a lot of riders. I was freely using some soil Mechanics Term and at the end, he was a totally confused man and did not ask further questions."** He asked about my experiences both in buildings and irrigation works. I said, "yes". **"Oh, you are an all rounder"**, he said. During his entire interview, he was placing his hand on my shoulder. He smiled and gave me an appointment Order and requested me to join duty immediately, I said, 'yes.' In the mean while, some other in the Delegation called me but, late Mr.Arzika refused, but said that he had already selected me.

Endless efforts to go to SOKOTO in Nigeria

On reaching Chennai, every one congratulated me for having got a job in Nigeria. Only one person who was sad about me going was my mother as there used to be frequent Air crashes. She always used to cite the death of SANJAY Gandhi in Air crash and used to scare me. She felt that when such Accidents were happening even to the VVIP's, like late Mr. Sanjay Gandhi, and who was I then? Then I requested the then Chief Engineer for early relief from PWD. Like me, another five engineers got Foreign Assignment. Our requests were processed and were sent to the Secretary. He, in turn, sent to the then HONOURABLE Chief Minister / late Dr.MGR. He raised a few queries; **the main question being as how our Assignment in Nigeria and other Foreign Countries would be beneficial to the Common man? If these guys were to be sent, who would take care of their works in PWD? One Thiru MADHAV SHETTY, I.A.S was the PWD Secretary then. He showed the File to us and asked us as what answer to give to him. He also suggested to us "Why not you give some Political pressure to late Bhararatna Dr. MGR?**

My father took me to late NAVALAR Mr. Nedunchezian. He told us that though he was no 2, the then CM /late Dr. MGR would not listen to him and even expressed his fear that if he pressurized him, he would run the risk of getting dropped from his Cabinet. Then a common friend of mine and Former Chief Minister of Tamilnadu late.Mr.M.BHAKTHAVATSALAM, came forward to help me in this matter. He took me to late Thiru M.Bhatavasalam and requested him to a put a word to late Dr MGR. That was the first time I met late Thiru. M.Bhatavasalam, a former C.M. of Tamilnadu at such close quarters, in the mean while my father prepared a brief note on my endless efforts to leave for Nigeria and blessed me to meet him.

On meeting late Thiru M. Bhatavasalam, Former Chief Minister, he said that as late Dr MGR was not close to him like late Anna or even Dr.Kalaingar for that matter, he asked me as how I got this assignment

and I read the entire note prepared (by my father). He asked me as whether I was a person sponsored by the Foreign Assignment Section of Government of India? I said, 'yes' sir. He asked me as who was the MINISTER for Public and Personnel Affairs? **When I told him one that late Thiru K.Venkatasubbiah was the Minister of State for Public and Personnel Affairs attached to the PM's Office. Immediately on hearing this, he replied back telling that he and late Thiru K..Venkatasubbiah were together in Alipur jail in the same Cell during the Freedom struggle, well over two years. He said that he would write a letter to him about our problem with a request to intervene in this matter and help. Late Thiru.M.Bhatavasalam, the former C.M, was totally blind then. He relied only on his Malayalee Typist for writing and signing. He called him and dictated a very nice letter to the Central Minister, late Thiru. K.Venkatasubbiah. I took the letter and sent it by registered post. Believe me, within a week, he received back reply from late Thiru.K.Venkatasubbiah / Central Minister enclosing his copy of his letter to late Dr. MGR urging Dr MGR to relieve us immediately. I could still recall as what he wrote to late Dr MGR, addressing him as**

"Dear Shri M. G. Ramachandran,

"I came to know from my Secretary that you were holding up some Engineers deputed by the Centre to certain developing African Countries, on the plea of scarcity of Engineers in the state PWD. Your contention is not correct, as INDIA has a reservoir of engineers talented Engineers and by sending a few Engineers from the India, it would not become poor in Engineers."

"If you want, I can depute some good engineers from the CPWD to fill their vacancies. He added that these Engineers were being sent periodically as a result of Good Will Treaty signed by India and other Developing African Countries under "TECHNICAL AID PROGRAME". If we do not honor our Commitments, it will create a Bad Blood between us and the African Countries. Then, they will turn to Countries like Pakistan who are hostile to us. I am sure

that you understand our problems and will not like to see such situations to arise”.

Nowhere in his letter, had he neither mentioned late Thiru M.Bhatavasalam name nor us. With enclosing a copy of his letter to Mr.MGR, the Central Minister, wrote a separate letter to Mr MB recalling their days in the ALIPUR JAIL and he also said that he spoke about his letter to the then PM Thirumathi.Indraji and she made kind enquires about his health. Finally, the Union Minister concluded in his letter that he hoped that Former Honorable CM, late Dr.MGR would relieve us and if any problem persists, he would intervene again. Hon'ble Late M.Bhatavasalam Sir called me and handed over the copies of his correspondences with Venkatasubbiah for my records. I touched his feet and told him that he never thought him to be so powerful. His house was so badly furnished and poorly lit. I saw even his banyan was torn. How come in those days, political GUYS used to CALL HIM "AS PATHTHU LAKSHAM BHAKTAVAYTSALAM" still remains as a mute question to me till this date of writing this book.

My deputation orders were processed

On receiving the personal letter from Late Thiru.K.Venkatasubbiah, late Mr.MGR immediately called his Cabinet meeting and brought a Resolution for relieving us, and resolution was carried out. This I explained to late MB Iyya. He broke into laughter and only to make my dream into a reality, he stepped into my matter. Finally he told me "you seem to be witty guy. I am a free man since I lost my CM post in 1967. Had you been in contact with me then, with the influence I have with the High profile people like Shri Venkatasubbiah, I would have put you in a high place”.

Since I was the first person to go abroad in my family, lot of my relatives from Kumbakonam came to the Meenambakkam Airport to see me off. Besides, this was being first my Air travel; it was a big thrill to me. A lot of engineers from PTC construction wing came to the airport, which included

Engineers, Er.Dorairaj, K.S.Chokkanathan, P.Rajan, Srisailam and N.Ekambaram. At that time Er.K.S.Chokkanathan **presented a book on "Shri Puttaparuthi Saibabha, which I still preserve it.**

With the blessings of all, I set out for Nigeria on 16th August, 1982. I left for New Delhi to catch Japan Air lines and reach Rome and from there to leave for Kano and reach Sokoto. On the instructions of my father, I meticulously arranged for my trip. I sent two photos of mine to the GM / Alhaj.ARZIKA with a request to send a person to receive me at Kano Airport.

At DELHI, my brother in law by name Flight Sergeant V.S.P.Easwaran was working in Indian Air Force in Ambala. He came to the Delhi Airport to receive me and as my Flight to Rome was only by the next day, we stayed in our Tamil Nadu Guest House. Next night on 17th August 1982, I left for Rome. Then at Gate way meant for Kano, while I was waiting, I saw a black guy wearing FLIGHT CREW uniform who was going up and down. I mistook him for the Flight crew and got agitated as if, this fellow flies the Aircraft as what would happen to my safety and the fate of my family. Fortunately, two white men got into the Cock pit and took off the Flight. I felt relieved. The black man whom I saw at the Airport Gate way was pushing a trolley and was selling beer. During the Flight, I heard some Tamil voice and I went near to the Couple and introduced myself. I told them that my next Flight to Sokoto was only next morning and I have to spend a night there in the Airport and asked them as whether it would be possible for them to give accommodation in their house to spend that night. 'No', he said back and added that he was not running any Boarding and Lodging facilities and advised me to stay at the Kano Airport. I did not react.

Deputation with Nigerian Government:

The Flight finally arrived at Kano Airport. To my great surprise, I saw a person carrying a display board "Welcome Rajagopalan NADIMUTHU". I went straight towards him; his Assistant collected the luggage from me and took me to his place called TALAT MAFARA.

After a night halt, I left for my place Sokoto. In the mean while, the GM was monitoring my arrival through wireless.

On reaching Sokoto, I was given a Hotel accommodation in a Hotel called "GUEST INN". There, I met a lot of Tamils. I felt much relieved. Then, I asked them as how to inform my family about my Safe Arrival. I met one friend, Thiru K.SWAMIKKANU from Krishnagiri. He gave an AEROGRAM, an inland letter and wrote to my father about my safe arrival. I was told that it would take minimum fifteen days to reach my house at Chennai. Language strikes an emotional appeal with anyone.

In Nigeria (1982 -85), the Oil prices plummeted and consequently the value of NAIRA against Dollar and their Foreign Reserve also depleted. So the banks could not issue Dollar cheque's to us. Because of the irregular home remittance, my dad was very much upset.

Among the banks in SOKOTO, there was a bank by name "Bank of Credit and Commerce International Ltd". In the mean while, **I received another sharp letter from my father scolding me as a non serious guy and just took my NIGERIA trip and not for earning any money but as a jolly trip. He said in his letter that he found very difficult to run the family with his pittance that he was getting in the name of pension. So he ordered me to pack off everything and return back. The letter was very touching. For migration from one bank to other bank, NOC was required. The original bank was UNITED BANK OF NIGERIA. With much difficulty, I got the details of my home remittances given by them.**

After praying all my God whom came to my mind, I entered into the Manager's (name of the manager forgotten) room of **BANK OF CREDIT AND COMMERCE**, Pakistani owned bank, with head quarters at London and made a request to open a NRI Account there. Then I gave a father's letter and requested him to read it. He was hesitating, but insisted on him to read. **"Oh god! What a pitiable letter! He started praising my father's style of writing English. My mother often used to curse father telling that he was good for nothing except glorifying his**

English and Shakespeare. But this time, his English really helped me by way of getting home remittance.

“Now, I understand the entire situation”, said the Manager. “No problem, I will open up Account now itself” He, himself filled up the application and asked me to Deposit 10 Naira, but I had only five Naira then. He himself deposited by taking 10 Naira from his pocket, He asked me to write to my father telling that the remittances would not be of any problem hence forth. He asked me to keep the matter as very secret.

He told me that he was born only in Mumbai and had an early education there. He said that his father was a leading Lawyer and was a good friend of JINNAH. And on his advice, his family migrated to Karachi in Pakistan. He said that Jinnah did a great disservice to MUSLIMS by asking for a partition and described Pakistan as a Country of Religious intolerance and said that he relinquished his Pakistani citizenship and had become British CITIZEN. Then, I deposited my salary in the BCC. As per my standing instructions, the BCC HQ LONDON would send my remittance to the Bank of America in Chennai Branch and my father would automatically withdraw it for his expenses. I did not tell this arrangement to anyone. Then many expatriates told their problem to the then GM / late Mr Arzika and wanted to migrate to the bank, M/s. Bank of Credit and Commerce Ltd. He wanted them to sign a joint petition to him for opening Account in BCC Ltd for his recommendation. But, I, did not sign as I had an Account there already. Then, they gave petition to the GM. On looking at it, he returned it with a query as why they left my name and instructed me to meet him. I went to him with this petition and explained. He laughed and asked me as how could I open an Account in my Enemy's / Pakistani's Bank, that too, when he was not permitting any Pakistani to open Account there. I told him about his prejudice against them, but liked the Indians. The GM said that he too concurred with him telling except Er M.H.Mallick, the rest were crooks. He revealed that they keep Alhaj.Sheik for brokering big Contract and he said that whatever we say about broker, but without

broker nothing could be finalized. He said that I am such a Great man with high integrity, but can be made use of only for his personal works, like his house Construction and Maintenance of his big estate etc.

Appearance before Military Commission

The Nigerian Military Coup of December 31, 1983 was led by a group of Senior Army Officers who overthrew the democratically elected Government of President Mr. Shehu Shagari. Participants included Major Generals Mr. Ibrahim Babangida and General. Muhammadu Buhari, Brigadiers Mr. Ibrahim Bako, Saniubacha, and **Tunde Idiagbon. General. Buhari is the current President of Nigeria, duly elected by the Public. He is a very honest man, a very rare trait of Africans in general and Nigerians in particular.**

Our General Manager Mohamed Arzika who happened to be the son in law of deposed President of Nigeria, late Mr. Shehu Shagari. A new Military Government setup wanted to wreck vengeance on Arzika to probe into the alleged fraudulent actions and irregularities committed by him. The Commission led by a Colonel, **called several witnesses right from the Assistant General Manager, Er Sheik down to Soil Surveyor and including me. When they called me and asked me how Arzika built such a big Mansion at Kaduna, I said "I don't know." Again when he persisted about the Source from which he build the Mansion. I replied him the best person who can answer his question was the Income Tax Officer in SOKOTO. He got offended and said "Hi, if you don't cooperate with me, I will put you behind bars."** With this, the morning Session came to an end .Again, I appeared before the Commission in the afternoon at 3pm. This time, **I was little more aggressive and told the Commission that I am not a "stowaway", but a legal Immigrant sent by the Government of India under technical Aid Programme signed by the Government of India and Nigeria and I told him that "I am enjoying Diplomatic Immunity. At the most, you can send me back to India and beyond that nothing can be done to me." I also told him that "I am ready to quit. "And also told him, "Nigeria is not a charming country as a value**

of Naira is crashing against the US Dollars.” He became very angry with me and shouted at me to **“Get out.”** I heard the colonel murmuring **“Hi that guy seems to be a hard nut to crack”** .As I was already trained under A.S.S in SAP division at Trichy as early as in 1964 to such shouting’s as **“GET OUT”, I remained calm and composed. Even if someone comes to my own house at Chennai and says “get out”, I would remain calm and composed.**

Outside the Commission’s room, I saw a group of my Nigerian colleagues, asking what happened to me. I said, “Nothing” Next day, the GM Mr.Arzika asked me as what happened? I told the entire thing and told him, “Sir, your Personal Assistant Mrs.Ayesha was taking the notes, and said that she must be knowing better than me.” He said, “you are correct. The Pakistani chaps like Geologist Khan, Soil Surveyor Rashid whom I have not seen even once, gave all adverse comments about me, except you. Finally the Commission was given decent burial after getting sumptuous commission from late Mr.Arzika, the then G.M

The same episode, I never thought would haunt me again after twenty years in the form of Justice N.Arumugham Commission in the year 2003, which I have elaborated in the end chapter under caption **“Post Retirement Agonies”**

Some Good things always happen, when someone is absent

One such occasion was, when my AGM /Alhaji SHEIK went to Pakistan for his annual sojourn, sometime in June, 1985 one AFZAL / Senior Manager from our Office took charge of his Post. During then, a tender for the installation of 100 BRAITE WITE steel water tanks in the Sokoto River Basin area were called for. George stow an UK based Company used to bribe the top people and was monopolizing in this Trade. Er M..Afzal, AGM in charge asked me to get a Competitive Quotation for comparison and to arrive at a reasonable rate. I gave that GEORGE STOW’s Drawing and Specifications (Xerox copy) to the Local Jewish fabricator. He copied that Drawing in total with the same specifications and quoted “50,000 Naira”

per each tank which was just half of what GEORGE STOW had quoted. I processed the File and it was put up before the AGM / ADMIN. On seeing this, the White Man became very furious and a Meeting was called for. During the Meeting, the White Man got angry and shouted that this mischief was done by a crooked Indian guy meaning me. I shouted back telling that the White buggers were exploiting the weakness of Blacks and were swindling their money. The AGM immediately got up from his seat and separated us by asking two hefty Blacks to sit in between us to restrain us. **The AGM said that White Man's calling of me as "Indian Crook" was highly objectionable and said that this "guy" meaning me, If he goes and tells the GM, the Whole Tender would be cancelled and you would be a Big Loser.**

Then, he asked the White Man to tender apology to me. Then AGM turned to me and pathetically requested me to find some way out as he had already committed to the GEORGE STOW. During his conversation with me telling "that he was big family man and You, NADIMUTHU, known as how many children I have, than even me and also you expressed your concern about them to the GM. Then, I said, OK Sir, no problem". Let us divide the numbers equally among these two as fifty Tanks to each at the Lowest Rate quoted by the Jewish Fabricator." And thus, a consensus was arrived at and the matter was finalized. Then the White guy came to my room and tendered apology again and requested me as not to whisper anything about this incident to the GM. He also recalled telling that he was born only in Ooty and brought all his TAMIL connections to me. Moral of this story is that unless we are assertive that nobody would respect us. Honesty has its own respect and recognition anywhere in the World as whether it is in India or in Nigeria or elsewhere. Many Natives came to my room and congratulated me for having saved so much Money to their Country

A sharp retort

I was on deputation to SOKOTO/ NIGERIA in the period 1982 -1986. I was employed in SOKOTO RIVER BASIN AUTHORITY as a Senior Executive Engineer. Though, I was close to the Top man GM, but my relationship with my immediate Superior, a Pakistani guy by name Mr.SHEIK was not so good as he was a big hater of INDIA. He used to find fault with me even on small issues on day to day basis .On one fine morning, he called me and shouted at me saying **"why do you send contractors to my room in the early morning? "I retorted back telling that I am not your his room boy checking who should enter and who should not? I said further that having chosen civil engineering profession, one cannot expect glamorous stars like Thirumathi Hemamalini to step into our rooms but only dark skinned contractors. This evoked a big laughter among his Pakistani guys who used to assemble in his rooms for morning session. (ASSIGNING PERSONAL WORK TO EACH).**

After some time that A.G.M himself came to my room and requested me not to snub him like this, as his clout among Pakistanis and other engineers had declined sharply and my snubbing had become big jokes among Pakistani families. I told him back that giving respect to others is a reciprocal one and if he treats me well, where was the need for me to snub? Any how cold war continued unabated.

Help is Returnable with Interest

In 1984, the GM Mr.Arzika was replaced by another person by name Dr.Bello Haliru Mohamed after his retirement (Arzika). He was doing a Real estate Business. Every now and then, he used to come to my room and takes me in his Car to the House which he proposed to purchase with and asked me to assess its cost. Many Pakistani Colleagues questioned me the need for helping retired person that too without charging him any fees. I told them, "You wait and see" and said, "Help returns always with compound interest." In end of 1985, I decided to return back to India and

started processing, my final claims like Bonus, Leave Salary etc. The File where I minuted all my Clients eventually went to the Chief Accounts Officer, by name Mr.Kwandu and got stuck up there. When I met him and asked him, he said that there was no money to clear my Terminal Benefits. He further said that it would take its own time as he was clearing the File on "first come first serve."

That evening, I rushed up to late Mr.Arzika, Former GM and met him. I saw him getting ready for playing Tennis in Sokoto Club (like a Cosmopolitan Club here). He asked me the reason for coming there? I told him of my problem with Chief Accounts Officer Alhajeer M.Kwandu I requested him to **put a word to him, because it was he (late Mr M.Arzika) who brought him and appointed as Chief Accounts Officer. He said that his house was on his way to Sokoto Club. He further said that he would drop me into his house and would make a request to clear my File. Next day morning, the Chief Accounts Officer called me and asked me how come I know about him and I had told my friendship with him .He immediately cleared my File then itself. On the same day I was paid of all my Terminal benefits. Now I turned to my Pakistani Friend, one by name Mr.M.Rashid and reminded him by saying that any help is always returnable with Interest.**

Sometime in 1985, that related to "my second Tenure in SOKOTO / Nigeria, I was entrusted with the Task of Tank Renovation. I was touring extensively to collect data for the preparation of Estimates and sending them to WRO office in LAGOS for approval.

Every alternative day, I would be on Tour to visit Villages and to meet the Village Head Man and along with me, my PA cum Interrupter and a few Assistants to hold measuring Tape, also would come to talk with the VHM and locals and inspect the Tank and assess its Conditions to arrive at its Renovation Cost. During the day of my Inspection, all my staff would assemble at 7-00AM at my room and from there; we would leave the Office for the places already programmed. On one day, a lady Officer by

name Mrs.AYESHA, AO came to my MAZDA VAN / like that of INNOVA (brand new Vehicle) and requested me for a lift for her sister to be dropped at a place, which is on the way to the Final destination. That Mrs.Ayesha was not of that Standard of my expectation. I declined telling that there was no space to accommodate, her sister. She became very angry and said that she would take up this matter with my GM and challenged me to face the Consequences. I said, "Ok".

Next day, the GM called me and asked as what was that problem between me and Mrs.AIYESHA. I said that there was no space in the Vehicle. He laughed hefty and shot back telling that there was no space in your Heart. He said "NADIMUTHU, you are a highly EGOTISTICAL. You thought that AYUSHA's sister was not equal person to sit with you, and travel together. Is it not?" He asked me as whether I look into the antecedent, status of the co-passengers before I fly in an aircraft? On hearing his comments, I felt guilty of myself. I said, "Sorry Sir".

He further added that lady Mrs.Ayisha brought all Indo-Nigerian Politics and she said that all expatriates were very arrogant guys and labeled me as the most arrogant guy among them. He said that he would enquire and advise. The GM said that giving lifts to the waiting passengers for Public Transport, were little helps you can extend to the people but the benefited people consider it as the biggest service to them and they would bless me.

I promised the General Manager that I would shed my attitudes hence forth to be more magnanimous with others. From that day onwards, I become very liberal in giving lifts. Even after became the CE; I voluntarily offered lifts to my junior, colleagues. This has become part of my System.

But despite my best efforts, I could not patch up with Aisha Madam, the then Administrative Officer and I became little somewhat worried over this development, as Mrs. Ayesha was very close to the GM and I have to put-up any File about my Personal entitlement like Leave Salary, Funds for releasing Air tickets I have to put up only through her. **When I shared my concern with one Mr.Choudry from Uttar Pradesh in India, he told me "Never worry Nadimuthu. You go to her and praise her**

telling, oh! How beautiful you are and she would be flattened.” I picked up some courage and went to her straight. On seeing me, she turned her head and asked me angrily what brought you here. I apologetically replied back “Don’t mistake me. I did a wrong thing by not giving lift to your sister.” Next I said “Hi Ayesha, how nice you are even at this age and what you would have been at your younger age.” On hearing this she smiled and became very normal. That same afternoon, she brought her photo taken at her teenage and showed to me asking how I am. I said “Fantastic”. But actually, I praised her to patch up the difference between us. Generally, Nigerian’s are very plain free and frank people. They were always having inferiority complex that they are not beautiful and attractive.

On one day, when I was in Nigeria (1983), a joint Inspection was arranged to inspect our GM’s (ARZIKA) Mansion under construction at KADUNA, I went earlier and was waiting in our Guest House (all posh suites). I took my dinner and retired into my suite. The GM came late and took his food and was relaxing by watching the TV. He sent word for me and I joined with him in his conversation. The first question that he asked me was that in the Country like INDIA where GANDHIJI was born, how come people should practice of segregating the people on the basis of one’s birth. I was stumped by his unexpected question.

I said that this was a great Sin to discriminate the people on the basis of one’s birth. I replied him that I come from extreme South and in my Village it had almost vanished, thanks to the stringent Rules. In India, as a whole, discrimination was disappearing gradually. Then, I switched over to different subject. I knew that he studied English literature in OXFORD. I started asking him questions in SHAKESPEARE’s play OTHELO. He started to cite different quotations and their meaning. He asked me astonishingly, as me being an Engineer, could know English so much and enter into an intellectual discussion with him. Whereas, he said that Pakistani Engineers like Sheik did not even know the spelling of SHAKESPEARE. I told him about my father who was an English teacher and he taught me good English and he appreciated my good drafting ability.

Next day, we inspected GM's building and asked me to take lunch and to leave early for SOKOTO to avoid night driving. After my lunch, I was waiting for my shoes which I gave it to the Cobbler's shop for resoling and he told me that it would be ready only at 4 Pm.

In the mean while, he returned and asked me as why I still did not leave. I told the reason. He immediately asked for my Invoice and took it with him telling that he would bring them with him tomorrow. Next day, his driver brought my repaired shoes along with a new set and handed over it to me. I went to his room and asked for the cost of new shoes. He simply stared at me and said that if I asked such stupid questions in future, he would beat me.

In December 1984, one Dr Bello Haliru Mohamed relieved Alhaji Mohammed Arzika. He was very much developmental and was a honest.



Dr Bello Haliru Mohamed/ Courtesy "Google"

He created a separate Division called "SMALL DAMS IMPROVEMENTS" and I was designated as "Small Dams Officer". Sokoto was water starved State and it was depending upon only on rains Nigerians used to call the tank as "SMALL DAM".

I identified one tank near SOKOTO called as ACIDA DAM

After I took charge of the SMALL DAM unit, I took action to desilt the Tank called ACIDA DAM. Within one month of time for strengthening of bunds and de-silting of Supply channel, I used to consult Village Head Man and

to do as what all he asked. I did every think he asked after renovation of the Tank, I took the GM to ACIDA DAM. Previous to that, there was a heavy down pour. He sent word to that VILLAGE HEAD MAN. The GM asked him as whether he was happy about the Tank renovation. The village head man spoke very high of our team's performance. He said that never before, the tank used to hold the rain water. The GM directed my Deputy Engineer to change the Board displaying as ACIDA road leading to the tank as "**NADIMUTHU Road**" and it was done accordingly.

In my campus at Sokoto Rima River Basin, though soil appeared to be of clay nature with high swelling, almost all buildings put up on it developed cracks. The CC BLOCKS used for walls were also hardly containing any cement. So using these blocks and constructing building was next to impossible. I did a few tests on soils at Kaduna University where the head of SOIL MECHANICS was an English woman. She gave the Test Results and when I asked as what type of structure was suitable. **Her words are still fresh in my memory. "Sir, I am only a teacher. I can only conduct Tests and give the Results, but not that great like you as what type of structures I should build."**

Prior to my leaving, I was asked to construct a three class room Building for the Primary School. I built a framed structure and used WURNO fire burnt clay bricks as filler blocks. Even a few days prior to my leaving, I saw the building was looking Sound with no cracks. The GM inaugurated it and he examined with eagerness to see any crack on the wall. He could not. He was jubilant. Nigerians generally even for any small gesture, used to appreciate it disproportionately. Once the Contractor for Primary School asked for a Part bill and I had been to LAGOS in connection with my transfer of Final Remittance and clubbed some works of WATER RESOURCES DEPT (same set up as ours)

On the day of my return from Lagos, I expected my translator and personal Assistant Er Jacob to receive with my official Car. But to my great surprise, the Contractor for Primary school was also waiting.

When I asked why he had come. He told me that the GM refused to approve the Bill without my signature. I corrected it and as he suspected

that there was an excess payment of a thousand Naira. The GM banged the AGM / Mr.SHEIK (my Pakistani Boss), with whom I ruffled my feathers at all times.

On one day, a month prior to me, finally leaving Nigeria to India, I had an occasion to travel with my GM Mr.Bello Haliru Mohammed to see his house construction at his native place at KURNO. He asked me, "Nadimuthu, you are leaving Nigeria shortly. What impression do you carry about Nigeria?" After some hesitancy, I replied that marrying more than one wife in the name of religion was something not acceptable to me. Further, I, said, "Look at Alhaji. Sule Abubucker, Assistant General Manager (Admin), who has recently married one Ayesha, Deputy Accounts Officer as his fourth wife, that too with an age difference of about 28 years. I told him "How many children that he had raised through each wife?" and I numbered them wife wise. There was no response from the General Manager who was sitting at the rear seat. Pin drop silence prevailed. The driver was menacingly staring at me, sending negative signals to me for having made a controversial statement. In the meanwhile, I was cursing my stars as why I landed in a such controversial subject namely POLYGOMOUS MARRIAGE that too when they are so sensitive to their religion. After a pause, to my great relief, he concurred with my views and thundered back that I had already told that fool (Sule), but, he did not listen to me.

When I told the above story to my Tamil friends in SOKOTO, they were shocked to hear such news from me and they were wondering that how come that GM did not beat and drop me from his Car. After sometimes, Alhajee. Sule Abubucker had become the Dy. Governor for Katsina State. In honor of him, a big Fare well party was got up at Sokoto Hotel International. Both, Mr.Bello Haliru Mohammed, the then General Manager and Alhajee .Sule Abubucker, the outgoing Assistant General Manager were seated together. Feeling guilty, I wanted to avoid an eye to eye contact with him. So I was hiding myself behind a pillar. GM was looking around searching for me and called me

“Hi Nadimuthu, Come here man” I was given seat to sit with him. Then he turned towards Alhaji Sule and told him that “Nadimuthu did not like you to marry Ayesha, as your fourth wife”. He replied back telling as whether I (R.N) liked or not but he liked it. I felt so bad, and said sorry to him. He said, “No, no, why sorry?” He said that he felt very sorry only for me leaving Sokoto to India back. He asked me to reconsider my decision. On hearing this, I was relieved of my big botheration. From that day onwards, I became very cautious in my utterances, and I maintain this till this date.

On one day, in the first week of February 1985, I left for CHENNAI. On the day of my leaving, I went to GM's Dr. Bello Haliru Mohammed's room to say final good bye to him. **I repeat my conversation with him**

“Many Expatriates came and gone, we were not moved by any body's exit. But your exit had saddened me lot. Look here NADIMUTHU, some of your Indian friends had taken away the AC, Carpet and other removable items from their residences except their houses. The Store keeper told me that I was the person, who left them intact. I requested him as not to call them as some of INDIAN FRIENDS, but call them differently as they don't have any Nationality. “Where are you from India?” asked the GM. I told him that I am a Tamil from extreme South. He came up to my Office Car and bid adieu to me and my Madam.

During my 3 and half years stay in Nigeria, I learnt three things **1) Hard work, 2) Courage, and 3) Integrity.** They are the three acts, which are always recognized as good traits anywhere in the World.

Chapter - 15

Return back to PWD:

After my return from Nigeria and taking some rest, I went to our PWD / HO Chepauk for my posting. I returned from Nigeria in the second week of 1985. I was made to wait for three months for my Posting. Along with me, one late Er. Ramu was waiting at the door steps of the DCE / GI. But, the then Deputy Chief Engineer (General) and his AO were insisting upon us to get the CHIT from the Minister. "The Chit" means getting approval from the Minister in charge of PWD. Till then, I did not know anything about the **Chit. (nothing but pay and use system** I was asking only hypo sensitive post that AEE in CE (B)' s Office, a newly created post **and late Er Ramu was asking for RO -II post in SM & R Division which always remained vacant. From March to May 1985, I was tossed up between my house and the DCE /General's room. In those days, the time slot given for seeing the DCE / GI was 3.00 – 4.00 PM.**

The long hours of waiting, forged myself and late Er R. Ramu to become close friends. One day, late Er. Ramu was telling me that if he did not get any Postings immediately, he would commit suicide. Initially I took it lightly, but, as he was continuously telling me about his suicidal thoughts, I used to counsel him. In the mean while, I gave a big pressure to the SECRETARY. That time one Thiru.H.B.N.Shetty was the PWD Secretary. The pressure was so big, that he couldn't resist it. Thiru.H.B.N. Shetty asked me to meet him and to brief him about my request. He pleaded his inability in this matter as the transfer and postings remain in the exclusive domain of the Ministers, but promised to do something for me and directed me to meet the Dy.C.E.(General). I entered into the room, that DCE / Er.R, was in his tears and handed over me my Posting order as AEE / Tech in CE / B office. The DCE told me that the SECRETARY/ PWD banged him by using abusive words as fool, idiot and stupid. He asked as whether he deserved such banging. I simply told him that I did not

know anything and he should ask the **SECRETARY** only, the reasons for using such abusive words. But by heart of heart, I thought that he used only mild abusive words but **DCE (General)** deserved more.

Poor late Thiru.RAMU was very much upset for not getting any Posting order. On the same night, he committed suicide and left a note accusing the **DCE / GI** as personally responsible for his death. When we came to know of it, a huge group of engineers under the leadership of **Er.A.Veerappan**, the then **General Secretary / Association of Engineers** had gheraoed the **CE**, pressing for the **DCE / GL** and his crooked **AO** for applying leave and quit the Posts. Leave letters were got from them and they were relieved of their Posts. This happened in **MAY 1986**. Even today, when I remember of late **Er.K.Ramu**, that tragic event saddens me a lot. But for **Er.A.Veerappan**, the then **DCE / General** and his **AO**, would not have been relieved of their posts.

Events related to the period from 1985 Oct to Dec 1989

Then, I joined in **CE / B's** Office and this was my second tenure in **CE (B)'s** Office. **Er.A.Srinath** and his **AE**, **Er.Balu** quickly acted upon and I was posted to the **T12** (newly created Post). **Late Er.N.BALASUBRAMANIAN** was there as the **CE/B**. After a few months, late **Er.A.V.Sathyakaman** joined as the **CE / B** and late **Er.R.Seetharaman** became **Sr.DCE/General**. For the sake of brevity, hence forth, I would be addressing late **Er.A.V.Sathyakaman** only as late **Er.A.V.S**.

While working as **T-12**, I had the opportunity to interact with two good pen men by name **Assistant Engineers Er.Ignacious Jude** and **Er.R.Ravi**. Quite impressed by the drafting skill of **Er.Jude**, late **Er.A.V.S** had recommended him for "**ANNA AWARD**" for the best **Assistant Engineer** for the year **1987-1988**. He was the **First Engineer** to receive it. Later on **Er R. Ravi** became the **Superintending Engineer, Tiruvannamalai Building Circle** and did **Collectorate Buildings at Tiruvannamalai**.

Somehow, I became very close to late Er.A.V.Sathyakaman by my hard work and one day after the transfer of Er.A.Srinath FSE, I was posted as T 10. By using my proximity to the CE; I helped several of my friends / Engineers, either for their personal grievances or for their inclusion in the Promotion Panel or for Transfers. One among them was Late Er.M.Palaniappan, FCE / AEE T-3. He wanted to go to the Field. One day, the CE / late Er.A.V.S told me that he was looking for a tough guy who could extract quality work from a Contractor by name National Company contractors for a building which was under construction at Chetpet for the office of Regional Commissioner of Co-operative Department.

I suggested late Er.M.Palaniappan / AEE – T3 for that Post.

Late Er.A.V.S immediately agreed for this proposal as he himself wanted to reshuffle his Engineers in T- section. The C.E immediately recommended to the then Joint Chief General late Er.R.Seetharaman, for posting him in the Construction Wing of Co-operative department. Late Er.M.Palaniappan thanked me for my help and the friendship was continued till his death. The Contractor tried his best to transfer late Er.M.Palaniappan, but could not do so as the CE was adamant. So frustrated by late **Er.M.Palaniappan's** tight supervision, the Contractor stopped coming to the site and entrusted the entire responsibility to his Maistry and Son in law for construction of the building. **Later on, I came to know through Er.K.Anbu/F SPL CE, as how assiduously late Er.M.Palaniappan FCE, had worked and brought out a nice structure by name N.V.NATARAJAN MALIGAI.**

In some of my Files that I put up Late Er.A.V.S used to approve it. But in some Files, he used to mark as "MK" on the top of the draft letter put up to him for approval and he approved it with the Phrase M.K. One day out of curiosity, I asked as what he meant by "MK". He said that due to pressure of work, he could not see many of the Files put up by me but approved them with good faith and on such files, he used to mark as "MK", which means "மொட்டை கையெழுத்து" (which means mechanically signing without application of one's mind) and for any

adverse implications that arise out of them, he would catch hold of me. Fortunately, such contingencies did not happen.

I used to come to CE's Office exactly at 10am and use to leave the Office only 7.30 or 8.00pm, that is, after the CE (B) / Er.A.V.S left for home. On one day, when I saw in the Portico, a heavy down pour followed and electricity went off.

I found myself in a very tough situation. I was slowly walking on the Corridor in front of MARINA DIVISION OFFICE, planning to go to TRIPLICANE to search for some buses going to PORUR. While doing so, I saw a dim light emanating from Saidapet Dn. Office. I went to that Office, where I saw the EE, late Er.Stephen. I requested him either to drop me in my house or allow sleeping in his Room. He said 'No', but said that he would drop me at my house. He dropped me in my house and then he left for his home.

I saw all my family members were waiting at the Gate. So much anxiety was seen on their faces, as I was the only one bread winner for my entire family. Next day, when I met the CE /Er A.V.S, I mentioned about this incident. He told me that he was having different perception about him. I quickly retorted telling him "Sir, you better change your perception about him" For me, he was a Super person. Late Er.A.V.S. also changed his opinion and said that late Er.L.Stephen was really very great as many engineers in PWD did not have that time magnanimity to give lift in their office jeep leave alone in his personal car.

In 1989, Secretariat Maintenance Sub-division became vacant by the promotion of one late Er R.Kannan got his promotion as EE. The Secretariat Subdivision was a very sensitive Subdivision keeping the AEE and his AEs on their toes. I had a Public Secretary who was angry gentleman and wanted to do the work on the drop of his hat. One day, he called me and asked "Why the Painting work (Outer wall of Secretariat) which I gave you to do yesterday, but still you have not completed it and why should not I take my pistol and shoot you down? What will you do?" I replied back telling that I would be no more there to take any action against him and said that in that event, the Police would arrest him and

register a Murder Case under IPC 303. On hearing my reply all his Staff like Dy. Secretary, Under Secretaries and other Section Officers immediately and roared into laughter. The Secretary felt a shamed and left his meeting hall in huff. **The Dy. Secretary who was also an IAS Officer, took me to his room, and asked me, "Nadimuthu, you are on the verge of promotion as the EE, why you antagonize him?" I kept mum and he advised me to keep quiet, whenever the Public Secretary shouts at me. From next day onwards, he became very docile. Here I came to contact Thiru.A.K.Nityananandam who first joined as work charged staff and encouraged him to complete his incomplete diploma course and later on he retired as the Junior Engineer / PWD. He became very close friend of mine. He was acting as point's man between the maintenance sub division and the other secretaries. Along with him Thiru S.Ramachandran / then Assistant in North Presidency Division also became very close friend of mine.**

In the mean while, I got my EE promotion. **Late Er.AVS wanted me to post in Marina Division but I insisted upon going to Tamilnadu State Construction Corporation (TNSCC) as a Regional Engineer. Er.C.P.Thambiannan, the then CE (G) helped me a lot to get posted in TNSCC. I joined there on 06th January, 1990 and continued there upto 10th May, 1995.**

Chapter - 16

On Deputation with Tamilnadu State Construction Corporation Ltd. (TNSCC)

I was there as a Regional Engineer to TNSCC for five years in which my team have completed 13 works comprising both buildings and Bridges which no other Region other than ours had done.

They are namely:

In Chennai.

- 1) Bridge across Back waters at Athipattu
- 2) Moore Market Building
- 3) ANNA Arungachiyagam
- 4) MGR Memorial
- 5) Luz complex
- 6) Widening of Haris Bridge
- 7) Construction of Tharamani Bridge
- 8) Widening of Besant Road Bridge
- 9) Renovation of Naapalayam Bridge

I recall my past connections with Thiru D.Murugaraj, IAS (Retd) during the Construction of ANNA ARUNGACHIYAGAM, in Marina Beach in August – September, 1990.

It was a Radial ornamental structure of 360 M. Sq. It was built in a record time of 21 days as against targeted 27 days. This was accomplished using Pre-cast stream cured beams.

Thiru D.Murugaraj, IAS (Retd) the then Secretary, PWD used to inspect the Structure frequently in the capacity of the Secretary / PWD and he used to encourage me. He was very straight forwarded, honest and simple man. The then Honorable CM, late Kalaighnar Dr.M.Karunanidhi, also used to visit the work very often. On one day, the then CM took me to a secluded place and said what I saw in the last evening was not there now. The progress was so fast that I could not keep pace with it and he asked finally as whether Structure would stand or fall like a pack of cards and the Media would make it as a big issue if anything goes wrong. Late Honorable Kalaighnar was always very sensitive to Media criticism. I said, "Iyyaa, please don't worry, as works are being done under strict

Quality Control and it would not fall down unless a person wantonly takes a BULL DOZER and pulls down the Structure". Moreover, I said, "As a Policy maker, you asked us to do this Structure within a short time and our MD / TNSCC took up this challenging work and entrusted to me for execution and as an Engineer in charge of work that too in the Spot, and I would only be responsible for any failure if it occurs." Finally I said, "No worry, Iyya." In the same evening, Mr.Murugaraj / SECY PWD came to the Site and asked about the Conversation that took place between me and the then CM in the Morning. I told him everything and he said that our CM was a Super-sensitive man and he had sent word through him that he would take the entire responsibility and no Engineers would be faulted upon if that structure collapsed.

At the Inauguration of this ANNAARUGACHIYAGAM held on 15th September, 1990, the then CM paid glowing tributes to me by mentioning my name and the Team of Engineers under me who worked so hard by day and night Mr.Murugaraj, IAS, shook hands with all Engineers including Workers and thanked them. My Team always used to go together for doing any Project whether at Chennai or in Thanjavur:

Team of Engineers

- 1) Er.P.Alagiri – Project Engineer
- 2) Er.K.Rajamani – Project Engineer / Former Divisional Engineer (H)
- 3) Er.A.Sabapathy – Project Engineer / Former Divisional Engineer (H)
- 4) Er.K.Raghu – Site Engineer /Presently AEE/Police Housing Corporation, Cuddalore
- 5) Er.L.Balaji – Site Engineer / Presently a leading Contractor
- 6) Er.B.Kumaresan – Site Engineer / Presently AEE/Police Housing Corporation, Tirunelveli
- 7) Er.T.Sivajii - Project Engineer /Presently D.G.M /NHAI ,Villupuram
- 8) Er.C.Pakkriswamy – Site Engineer /Presently HDO/ HR& CE

Construction of MGR Memorial was entrusted to us and completed within One year. The Work was started on 01-01-1992. This work was one among the many Projects at Hand. On one day, my Project Engineer was laying concrete for the Stub (fifty feet height mast) in Stages of four feet.

I surprisingly went to see the Work and asked him whether he made any provision for running the cable to fix the Aviation light. He replied in negative and said Electrical Wing of the PWD had said no plan to fix any Aviation light on the top of the Stub as it should cause problem to them while changing the Bulb.

Then, I asked him to remove the Concrete and asked to provide a pipe of one inch diameter with necessary bend for the Stub. The then Chief Minister, late Selvi. J.Jayalalitha, came for the Inspection. She called me and asked me as whether I had made any provision in the Stub for fixing Aviation light to glow. I replied "Yes, Madam". Just imagine as what would have been my fate had I not made provision to the Aviation light over the Stub. Both the then CE(B), late C.Madakkanu and the then S.E, Er.S.P.Subramanian/FCE (PWD), Palar Region helped us a lot to complete the project well in time .

Construction of Athipattu Bridge (1990-1991)

Simultaneously, Construction of Pre-stressed Concrete Bridge across Athipattu - Pulicat Back Water and Buckingham Canal (Turn-key Project) was also in progress in North Madras. Er.K.Rajamani / Former Divisional Engineer (Highways) were incharge of this Project and late Er.S.Viswanathan was the Site Engineer.

This Bridge consists of 6 spans of 26.50m each and the Bridge across B' canal consists of a single span of 26.50m. This was commenced on 13-12-1990 and completed in record time of 18 months. Immediately the entire Construction traffic started flowing through Bridges avoiding the Level crossing and the narrow and troublesome Village Road.

While stressing the Pre-Stressed beam, it gave away at one third of its span with thundering sound. Myself and Er K.Rajamani / Former Divisional Engineer were shell shocked to see this Incident. We rushed to our Consultant, late Dr.Srinivasa Rao / Former Chief Engineer (Highways) and he came and inspected it. He asked us to remove the entire broken piece of concrete and cracked portion and relay the concrete and before that

bonding the Epoxy coating (Construction Chemical) on the broken side of the beam, and it was done effecting the Bond between the old Concrete and new Concrete and Curing for 28 days. He instructed us to pre-stress the Cables kept in a sheath of 51mm dia, which were inserted into the Steel gage and fixed to the correct profile. The Beam was repaired. The entire rectification of the Beam was kept as Secret from the knowledge of the Client (TNEB).

When the Curing of the rectified Concrete was in progress, the Site Engineer, late Er.Deivasigamani rushed to us telling that, the World Bank Team was coming towards the Bridge Site and a small ladder was kept there to provide access to reach the Deck slab for Curing. We asked late Er.M.Deivasigamani to rush back and remove the ladder immediately. The visiting World Bank team was nearing to the Bridge and saw no access; they returned back. The Chief Engineer incharge told the Team, TNSCC was known for the quality of Work and no need to see the Work. Just imagine, had they seen the broken Beam, our entire image would have been tarnished.

World Tamil Conference Work at Thanjavur

Buildings relating to World TAMIL Conference held on 1st January, 1995 at THANJAVUR. The following works were entrusted to my Division were as follows:

- 1) Seven Arches at all Entry points at Thanjavur
- 2) RAJARAJA CHOLAN MANIMANDAPAM
- 3) THOLGAPPIER MANIMANDAPAM

I completed 4th year of deputation from PWD in Jan 1994 and approached the MD, TNSCC / late Er.K.Manimozhi / Former Chief Engineer (Highways) for reversion to PWD, but, he did not take any action on it and put lie over on my letter.

In the mean while, in the month of July 1994, the Proposal of conducting World Tamil Conference at Thanjavur on 1st JAN 1995 was doing rounds. The then Hon'ble CM / Selvi.J.Jayalalithaa finally gave her clearance in the end of August 1994. The then MD had instructed me to keep my Team of Engineers, T & P and labour forces ready to move on to Thanjavur. When

he told me, I told him that I was not interested and reminded him of my request for reversion back to PWD and also advised him to deploy the Engineers directly recruited by the TNSCC. He became very angry and went direct to the Minister's residence and complained about me. Then the MINISTER's PA asked me to come to the MINISTER's Bungalow immediately as the then MINISTER Thiru. Raja Kannappan wanted me to see him. I rushed up to him. On seeing me, he asked me so far so good and what happened to me all on a sudden? I told him about my application for reversion to PWD and so was for my inability to take up the World Tamil Conference works. He sarcastically smiled asking me as who was going to relieve me and even if I went there, who was going to give me posting there, telling sharply that he was the Minister for both. Then, he asked me to sit and told me calmly that the decision to conduct the WTC at Thanjavur was taken by the Madam only, entrusting the work to the TNSCC and finally entrusting the work to me also were taken by her. He said that he had no role to play. He directed me to leave for Thanjavur with my trusted lieutenants and asked my MD to extend all the help to me. He said that the Madam / Selvi.J.Jayalalitha had put late Mr.S.D.Somasundaram as the Coordinator. He said that the time available was very short and the work should be arranged in all three shifts in a day. He further said that he would give a prestigious Division to me on my reversion to PWD. I said "OK, Sir" and left his Bungalow went straight to my Office and called for the Meeting of Site Engineers namely;

1. Er.N.Ragu
2. Er.L.Balajii
3. Er.B.Kumaresan
4. Er.P.Azhagiri
5. late Er.K.Viswanathan
6. late Er.Deivasigamani
7. Er. A.Sabapathy, Project Engineer

The Program for the mobilization of men and materials was chalked out. The MD gave me Rs.2 lakh Draft (Cheque) as an Imprest to commence the Work. With my seven Engineers, in the same evening, I left for Thanjavur. The time was somewhere in the last week of August 1994. On reaching Thanjavur, we fixed three independent houses in the TNHB, one for my Office and my stay.

We fixed ex-armed Police quarters for our labourers' to stay. We closed down our Project at LUZ complex and took our 200 laborers after a few days. We moved our Tools and Machineries and we fenced our Work Site and put tight Security system. We programmed in all three shifts 8 AM to 5PM, 8PM to 1 AM and 2 AM to 6 AM, exclusively, for centering works. Daily Review Meeting was held at 11 PM at my Office. We stored our Cement and Steel at Central Warehouse godown and only one my trust worthy Technical Assistant by name Er C.Pakkirisamy was put incharge of receipt and issue of materials. We have stream lined our procedure. I had fixed three quarters from the Tamil Nadu Housing board colony. Among the three, I had opened a central kitchen. Foods were taken from the central kitchen and served to the engineers at the site as no time should be wasted in coming to the kitchen. As per the shift, they used to take rest in their quarters .Our camp was more a military camp. Work, work only was the slogan.

District Collector by name, Thiru M.Venkatachalam, IAS (Retd) was the Chief Coordinating Authority. In the presence of the Collector, late Er.S.D.Somasundaram, the then Honorable Minister for Revenue asked me as why I did not give relief to Er M. Kumaresan / Site Engineer who was in charge of Construction of THOLGAPPIER GOPURAM Site as he was there all the twenty Four hours, without relief (Now Er.M.Kumaresan is working as the Assistant Executive Engineer in Tamil Nadu Police Housing Corporation, Tirunelveli). I told him that I had already told my Managing Director / late Thiru Er.R.Rangasamy about the Man power shortage. But, he took it very casually and said that no Engineers were willing to work under me (R.N). The Minister got very angry. Next day, he called him and banged him. The Managing Director posted additional Engineers to reinforce the present team. Among those many Engineers, one such Engineer was the then Project Engineer, Er.N.Shivajii, currently working as the GM in NHAI and I had posted Site Engineer, Er.M. Kumaresan to work along with Er.N.Shivajii. He is a very hard working Engineer and was a native of Thanjavur town. Even though, his family was at Thanjavur, he stayed only in the accommodations provided at the Site. As no holidays were allowed to be availed, Mr.Shivajii used to take my permission to visit his house at Thanjavur on Sundays .He could have easily slipped in the night, but he did not do so. Even, I used to visit my house at Chennai from Thanjavur only once in Fortnight.

On a day, when we were laying the Roof Concrete for Raja Rajan Manimandapam, the Project Coordinator, a Deputy Collector, asked me as why you were lagging behind by half an hour from the Programme schedule and threatened me to complain it to the Minister, late Mr.S.D.Somasundaram (Shortly called as SDS). I banged him back telling I could not **work beyond that and** asked him to look for better Person than me. After wards he stopped coming to our Site.

On, one day, the then Hon'ble Minister for Finance late Thiru.Navalar Nedunchezhan came to our Site and inspected the works in the evening. He reviewed our works. He told me that he was astonished to see our Progress and asked me as whether the structure would remain or fall down like pack of Cards. He also warned me "You are constructing politically Sensitive Buildings and should be more careful". He also said that if we go, only they would come meaning DMK. He warned me to be careful. When I told this to late Er.SDS, he was visibly annoyed to hear this and told me that *he was still number two in any Cabinet, irrespective of his Seniority because of his negative attitude. He would be so even if his own son becomes the Chief Minister*

In recognition of my works World Tamil conference at Thanjavur, I was chosen as the best Executive Engineer for the year 1994 and it was awarded to me. And that prestigious award was named as "Anna Award". It was also an ironical to note that another name not familiar to many, was proposed in the Board of Engineers meeting on some Technical grounds telling that even though **Er.R.Nadimuthu** also Executive Engineer in PWD in the year 1994 – 1995, he was on deputation to the Tamilnadu State Construction Corporation, forgetting the fact that it belongs to the Tamilnadu Government. **But, late Er.K.O.Palaniswami / Former E-in-C (PWD), late Er.R.Nagamanickam / Former CE (B) prevailed upon the other members, to pass a resolution for giving "ANNA AWARD" to me.**

The Site given for the Construction of Raja Raja Manimandabam at Thanjavur was previously a Parade Ground for the armed Police. The Site was lower by five feet from the existing road. The CE (B), late Er.R.Nagamanickam and the then SE, late Er.Nallusamy /SE (B), Trichy Circle came for the Inspection. I asked what to do with such low lying Site. The SE suggested filling up the site with earth and then

Consolidation. He said after that I should commence the work with Conventional Foundation. I bluntly refused that it was not technically feasible. There was big exchange of words between me and the then SE, and the then SE told that he would settle the scores, when I come back to the Department. I told him that had lot of ifs and buts. The CE asked me for the solution. I replied that adoption of Structural floor / Basement floor was only a solution. He overruled the SE's objection and permitted me to construct a Structural floor. Our Quality Control Chief, late Er.K.Ramalingam former Chief Engineer / my guru had also consented for this. Works were commenced for the Basement floor with Head room of eight feet. One day, Thiru. Venkatachalam IAS, District Collector came for Inspection and asked me "Nadimuthu, what is that you left plain hall." I said, "No Sir, we built a Basement Floor." I took him to the Basement Floor. He asked me and "what to do with this Floor?" I said there were lot of broken Statues in and around Thanjavur and Gangaikonda Chozhapuram and requested him to entrust the Job to the Archeological Department to convert into 'Raja Raja Chozhan Museum'. They immediately swung into action and collected all Artifacts of Chozha Period. Few years back, I had been to Thanjavur on some personal work and I visited the Site of Raja Raja Manimandabam to see how it was! I visited the Museum also. The Gate keeper stopped me and demanded an Rs.5/- as a ticket for seeing the Museum despite me telling that I was associated with Construction of this Mandapam. On seeing this entire Monument, I feel elated and slipped into a nostalgia / reminiscence.

Some of the Public asked whether we would remove the Settings when the Conference would be over. They refused to believe that they are permanent Structures. Suddenly, then I got my hip disc prolapsed. I went to Kumbakonam for Treatment and I was under Traction. After ten days, I returned to Thanjavur and for a few days, I was under Traction in my Site Office, looking at works with a whistle, to call my Engineers who were **incharge of Works. SDS, the District Collector and VIP Officers visited me at my rest Shed at the Site.**

I was physically hurt and started taking sleeping tablets for sleep. Till this day, taking tablets for sleep continues. On the day of Inauguration held on 1st Jan, 1995, the Honorable Chief Minister paid tributes to the Engineers.

Chapter - 17

On Reversion to PWD

In April 1995, I met the Honorable Minister for PWD, gave an application for my reversion back to PWD and requested him to post me in Buildings Division II which was vacant. But to my bad luck, he forced me to join in the North Presidency Division, Chepauk, Chennai. After having used to work, only in original Construction Works, I found it very difficult to work in this Maintenance Division. One day, a Contractor by name late Thiru.Ayyavu came to me and kept a cover on my table containing Rs.5000/- and left the room immediately. Thiru.Ayyavu was a minor Contractor doing some petty Repair works. I gave the cover containing Rs.5,000/- to Head Drafting Officer (HDO) namely Mr. Sridhar. Later on, I heard that Thiru.Ayyavu was suffering from Throat Cancer. I collected back the cover from the HDO and went all along with late Er.S.Rajagopal, Former SE and late. Er. R.Gopalakrishnan, the then Assistant Engineer (Later on he became Engineer in Chief for PWD) to the Contractor Thiru.Ayyavu's house. He was critically ill then and handed over the cover to him. He caught hold of my hands and became very emotional, crying and telling that I was the first EE to visit his house and requested me to enroll his son in the Contractor list which I did accordingly and after some time, he passed away. Here, many of the stalwart engineers who worked under me, became Special chief Engineer and chief Engineer namely Er.N.N.Thiyagarajan and Er.R.Jayasingh became a CE (B) /E-in-C. Now Er.T.B.Tirumurthi is working as the Executive Engineer (Buildings division), Chennai - 600005. ER.R.PANDIARAJAN retired as Superintending Engineer, Er.D.Sivalingam who worked as Assistant Executive Engineer North West Subdivision became special Chief Engineer. He is now running an Educational institution at VANDAWASI. There was another Engineer by name Er.M.Somiah who worked as Assistant Executive and was a incharge of secretariat sub division and later on became Executive Engineer and retired. All engineers said above are very hard working engineers. Like that a few contractors namely late Thiru. G.Subbarao, Thru.R.Bhaskar, Thiru Sakthi Murugesan, fabricator are all reputed contractors. Here only I understand that

maintenance works are more tough works compared to original works, as one has to race against the time.

Another incident that touched my heart was a request by a Person (introduced by the Dean on General Hospital, Chennai) to give permission to Cycle Stand. Unfortunately, my Divisional Accountant was not cooperating and put lot of Objections on his request application. He used to come to meet me daily standing in front of my room, requesting me to help him in this regard. I was so moved by his plight, I took my Assistant by name Thiru.R.Sekar, all along to Divisional Accountant's house without any notice to him. D.A. was surprised to see me in his house and he asked me the purpose of my Visit. I told him that I came specifically to request him not to raise any Objections on application given by the Person (Name forgotten) for providing Cycle Stand. Next day, he dropped his Objections and put up the file for my approval. That Person (NAME not known) erected the Cycle Stand at the entrance in front of Cardiology Block. After a few years of retirement, I went there for a Medical checkup, accidentally I met him and he held my hand reverentially took me to his Cycle Stand, where I saw my photo hanging in the Cycle Stand.

On DMK coming to power in 1996, I was posted as Deputy Director for Central Scheme, attached to IHH Poondi. There was an AE who was doing some Business in Chennai. He never used to turn up to Office but used to come at the last day of the month. He used to give 50% of his salary to the EE, my predecessor, one by name late Thiru.K. who was in the habit of receiving money, from his subordinates from those not willing to attend the Office. The above said AE also insisted upon to avail the same privilege from him. When I declined while such Offer, he came to my house and threatened me that he "would kill me". I said, "Ok, do it". Nothing had happened and out of his frustration he had resigned his job. During my tenure, I came into contact with one Er.S.Amalraj, Former Executive Engineer, PWD. He was doing his Research study on Periyar Dam in Theni District. Then, Thiru.N.Jayakumar was my Office Superintendent and he is still in touch with me and late Er.L.Jayaprakasam was my Director in charge I.H.H Poondi. (a dedicated Engineer)

Chapter - 18

Brief Stint as Vigilance Officer, TWAD Board

I got my promotion as Superintending Engineer on 07th February, 1997 and was posted as Vigilance Officer in TWAD Board at Chepauk, Chennai. My immediate Superior was an IGP rank Officer, by name Thiru. R.Natarajan I.P.S. He was a very nice and benevolent Police officer.

I had 120 pending Confidential Files relating to the Officers of TWAD Board. Some of them were given only Conditional retirement for want of clearance from vigilance section. Most of the cases were built up on flimsy anonymous petitions which had neither Head nor Tail. One such case was relating to one man, by name, Thiru. Arthanareeswaran, an Assistant in one of the Divisions of TWAD Board at Coimbatore. He was transferred on promotion from Assistant to Superintendent, Coimbatore to Pollachi. The main allegation against him was that he had claimed full TTA for bringing his family and the family stayed with him only for two months and afterwards his wife and his children returned to Coimbatore to continue their children's education. I went through the entire TTA rules and no where I could see that the Family should stay for full term with the Claimant. I pointed out this anomaly and put up the File to the then M.D, Thiru.S.Palamalai I.A.S (Retd) with a note that the time has now come to close this File and to allow Thiru. Arthanareeswaran, Assistant to live in peace.

I also wrote this case was perused by the Chief Vigilance Officer, an IPS officer by name "M" who him had dubious record of abandoning late Thiru. Rajiv Gandhi, Former Prime Minister of India. When he was assassinated on 21-May-1991 by a Suicide squad at Sriperumbudur and fled away from the Scene for his safety, while many IPS Officers and many Police men were killed in the bomb explosion. For his dereliction of duty, the Chief Vigilance Officer was kept under suspension.

The then Chief Vigilance Officer, Thiru.R.Natarajan I.P.S, called me and laughed at me for writing this. I asked him with an apology that if he felt

offended, I would delete that sentence. He told, "No no, let the truth prevail." In the end, MD closed the File while appreciating my noting and also thanked me for exposing the hollowness of entire Vigilance Cell. In the end, he downgraded the Cell to be headed by an EE level Officer and saved a lot of money to the State exchequer.

After closure of the 120 Files, The Managing Director, TWAD Board by name Thiru.Palamalai, IAS (Retd) was so much impressed on my work and he relieved me from the post as there was no work for me to do. Very recently I heard from a senior Engineer from TWAD at Nagarcoil that it is still there but headed by Executive Engineer and it still continues to be an unimportant post.

Return to TNPWD (1996)

The above said Postings like "Vigilance Cell" were all considered as useless Post and the then Minister used to dump those Engineers whom he did not think fit and also those who lacked political patronage. Only then, that too after having put in 32 years of service, wisdom dawned on me, that "unless I catch some political heavy weight in DMK party, I felt that my remaining service in TNPWD will be a big problem and even my retirement would be a question mark?"

Then by approaching my uncle, late Er A. Muthukumarasamy, Former Chief Engineer (H), he took me to his friend late Thiru.P.T.R.Palanivel Rajan, who was a Speaker, in Tamilnadu Legislative Assembly then, (1996 -2001). Luckily the SE Post in Building Circle II at Madurai was vacant due to the retirement of my class mate Er.George Jabamani. My uncle told late Thiru.P.T.R.Palanivel Rajan that I would be very useful to him for doing MLA Development works. He said that the Minister was very close friend of him and personally went to the Minister's (PWD) cabin and requested him to post me in the existing vacancy at Madurai. As the Hon'ble Minister could not deny him, he posted me to Building circle no II, at Madurai.

Chapter -19

My tenure as the SE in Buildings Circle -II at Madurai

I joined duty in Building Circle II Madurai in June 1997. I was serving as the SE / BLDGS Circle II in Madurai in 1997-98. I became very close to the Speaker and became a great admirer of him. In 1998, one day, he went to US to spend some time (a period of two months) with his only son Thiru.P.T.R.Palanivel Thyagarajan who is presently TN State Finance Minister. He instructed me to give his MLA Constituency Development Fund say about Ten Lakh rupees to raise a First floor with two Classrooms over the existing building at Sri Meenakshi Government Arts College for Women at Madurai. I, immediately swung in to action by instructing my Executive Engineer, Er.S.Purushothaman, Assistant Executive Engineer, Er.S.Selvaraj and Assistant Engineer Er.Subramanian to start the work immediately by entrusting work to good Contractor by name Thiru.K.Krishnan, and said the pre requisite activities such as calling for Tender etc. might be done later on. Within two months, First floor was completed and it was ready for Inauguration. Speaker late Thiru.P.T.R.Palanivel Rajan returned from US after two months. Immediately, I met him at his residence and his first question was on status of Construction of two class rooms in Arulmigu Annai Meenakshi Government Arts College for Women at Madurai. I told him that it was fit for inauguration at any time of his choice. He did not believe my words. *We took him to the College. When he saw the completion, he was astonished to see this completion. He complemented all the Engineers and the Contractor also. He invited late Thiru.Nanjil K.Manokaran, the then Revenue Minister to inaugurate the building. During the Inauguration, the Speaker paid rich tributes to the Engineers concerned. From that day onwards, I became very close to him, and remained so, till his death on 20th May, 2006.*

Since I was alone I opted to live in an AEE's quarters, Er.G.Pandiarajan/ FCE was my neighbor and we became close friends. During my interaction with my junior colleagues, one day, they complained that their Auditors in their Divisional Office never evinced any interest in posting of 7 F

Register, adjustment of TEOs, approval of Survey Reports except passing Contractor's bills (for obvious reasons). One day on my way to Circle Office, I made a surprise visit to their Office and was opening their Drawers. I saw bundle of accounts lying idle without any disposal there. Then, I sent word for them to attend my Office for a meeting. I offered them seat and asked them to relax first and served Tea to them. Then, I coolly broached the subject about my concerns about their laxity in posting the Accounts. I also asked about their expectations. None opened their mouth. Finally, I said that I would give them three days to clear all their back logs, failing which, I would swipe the entire staff to Circle Office and Circle Office staff to the Division Office. In short, I asked them "WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME OUT OF ISLAND OF PROSPERITY TO ISLAND OF POVERTY? AND THE CHOICE IS YOURS." shocked by my words, they all said in one voice that they would clear the pendency in two days. They did it accordingly within two days and started chasing our Engineers for papers for posting. Our Engineers told that their stock value before them had soared exponentially. One Engineer even told me "Sir! Whenever we go to them, they even get up from their seats and answered reverentially, fearing that we might be the SE's spy."

I narrated this incident to then CE / B, Er.N.Thangavelu; he enjoyed my phrase "**Island of prosperity to the Island of poverty**"

Respect of our officers lie only with their higher officers. First, they would judge as how we treat them and their reactions would reflect accordingly.

Status of My Divisions in Building Circle II Madurai

I had three Divisions under my control

1. Madurai Division
2. Dindigul Division
3. Theni Division.

One day, I visited Periyakulam and then I also visited the local Subdivision Office. I met the Office Peon who was wearing lungi. I objected to wearing

lungi and coming to Office. He replied back that for the Salary given by the Government, he could wear only a Lungi. I told him back, *"As of now, half of the month had already gone, for want of money he would remove his Shirt and after a few days he would remove his baniyan and after few days later, he would remove his lungi and would be naked in the end of any month. "He became speech less.* I instructed the EE to keep the Peon under suspension for his discourteous behavior." The next day, he came to my residence at Madurai and sought apology for his action. I asked him to go to my Office and not to come to my house. He went up and down. He became very normal man by shedding his ego and he was reinstated in his job after Censure.

One day, I was inspecting the Madurai Circuit House, a day prior to CM's visit. I was accompanied by Er.M.Purushothaman, the then Executive Engineer / FCE, **Er.G.Pandiarajan**, the then AEE /FCE. When we were going around the Circuit House, I saw an old man who crossed us. I saw him and sitting on verandah. When we went nearer to him, he didn't get up but he was gazing at us menacingly. I introduced myself as Nadimuthu, Superintending Engineer and introduced other members. He told me that he need not know all the big Officers and he knew only the JE, Er.J.Chandrasekaran who used to prepare the Work Charged bill and disburse the payment to him and others were irrelevant to him. I, sarcastically smiled at him and asked him to "keep it up." Then I went to the VIP's suite to check how the bed sheets were. They were dirty and stained and I asked as why there were so? He replied that Nominal Muster Roll Cooly (NMR) concerned did not turn up for duty. Then, I asked him "What are you, then"? He replied that he was a Care Taker and refuted his contention and said that he was only a Head Mazdoor and he had to do a work by himself. I asked the AEE to issue a memo to him seeking his Explanation for not keeping Circuit House cleanly, for not washing the linen in the Suite and for discourteous behavior with the higher Officers. The term discourteous behavior refers the subordinates who are disobedient to their Officers." One day an indecent occurred involving a PWD staff, a handicapped man along with his accomplice attempted to misbehave with a lady Guest, who was staying there in the annex to the

Circuit House. The then District Collector who was overall incharge of the Circuit House, asked me to take severe action against them. Then, I directed my Executive Engineer Er S. Purushothaman, FCE to initiate Disciplinary Proceedings including the old guy (though not directly involved) who said that "*all the senior Officers like SE, EE and AEE were totally irrelevant to him. Next day, the old guy came to my house and told me about his innocence in this matter and prostrated before me. I dilly dallied for a month and reinstated him in different Section but not in the same Circuit House campus*".

Punishment to an unrepentant subordinate Engineer

When I was the SE / Buildings circle II, a case came to my notice that 200 Cement bags were missing in Theni Division. I called that AE and when I asked about the shortage of bags, he smiled and calmly told me that he needed **money** and sold it without any trace of guiltiness. I thought that he would be very apologetic but it was otherwise. I became very angry and therefore, I thought of booking under 17B as Disciplinary Proceedings. But on intervention of late Thiru A.Thirumalai Rajan (A.T.R.) / the then Superintendent, Thiru.P.Amaunullah the then Assistant, I changed it from 17B to 17A (a relatively minor section) and issued the Order to recover it from his pay and sent the draft Disciplinary Proceedings to the CE (Buildings). His promotion as AEE was delayed. In my 36 years of service in PWD, I have never punished any person other than above. I also sometimes feel I should not have done like that.

Chapter -20

Demise of My Father

In the year 1998, 14th June at Madurai was the most memorable one in the sense that my great father late **Thiru.R.Rajagopala Mudaliar** passed away at the age of 88 in my residence. Prior to his death, he was ailing for some time and he was hospitalized, underwent the Major brain operation prior to that he was disoriented and he was not even aware of what is going on around him. I consulted the local Neurosurgeon and a Psychiatrist. Both said that there was lot of fluid accumulation over the brain of my father and they suggested for immediate Surgery and also told that the chance of recovery was also 50:50. I consulted beloved friend Er.G.Pandiarajan / FCE (who was an AEE for South Subdivision). He was very much against for surgery and I consulted my cousin Dr.Rajasekaran, a leading Physician in Kumbakonam, explained and detailed to me about both positive and negative merits of it. He told me that "you are holding your father in very high esteem and any disorientation like without any awareness of the surroundings would cause mental agony and grief." Finally he had left the decision to me. I told my decision of opting for the brain Surgery for my father to my friend Er.G.Pandiarajan / FCE and late Er.N.Sendur Pandiyan, the then AEE / F Spl. CE. He was admitted in Jawahar Hospital at Madurai. When he was hospitalized for about 10 days, since I was holding additional charge of two Circles Building Circle at Tirunelveli and Building Circle Tuticorin, I was hopping between Madurai – Tirunelveli – Tuticorin. Most of the time, my father was taken care of by Er.G.Pandiarajan and his Madam. My wife could not be there as she was taking care of my eldest grandson Eashwar, 1½ year old (Now doing 3rd year, Medicine in Cleveland Medical School at USA) at Chennai. After getting discharged from the Hospital, I brought him to my house. Lying in the bed, he slipped into coma. He was remembering only three names and the names were, late Dr.Sundaravadanam who treated him for the Hernia operation at concessional rate in the year 1948 at Chennai, late Thiru.K.Kamaraj, Former Chief Minister of TN (as he was his Strong follower) and my daughter Tmt.R.N.Kavitha who was murmuring their names

continuously. After a few days, he passed away. At the cremation ground, Er.G.Pandiarajan, FCE also standing with me. When I was asked to lit the fire on pyre of my father, I told Er.G.Pandiarajan to it fire on his pyre as he did more service to him than me.

Chapter - 21

Introduction of Quarry dust as a Substitute for filling in material.

During my tenure as the Superintending Engineer for Building Circle II, a lot of major Buildings came up for construction. One such construction was "Construction of Forest College Hostel" at Theni District near Cumbum. The Executive Engineer in charge of Theni division was one late Er.M.Kanadaswamy /FCE, Madurai Region, was incharge of the construction work. During my inspection of the Building, the then E.E. had complained to me about the shortage of river sand in that area, and further recommended to me that the filling up in the basement of the Ground floor could be done with the availability of large quarry dust in that area. I just held a site Meeting and discussed over the use of quarry dust as filling in material. As this is a chemically inert material, I had my self used in my own house construction, built in 1979. So fully satisfied its efficacy, I directed the Executive Engineer to permit the Contractor to use this as filling material. By doing this I achieved my twin objectives namely faster construction and economization of the cost, Er S.S .Muniaswami who was the A.E.E and later on became E-In-C /General and CE / Palar Region played an active role in this matter.

The Horticulture Department had entrusted the Construction of some of the Office Buildings to the PWD Division at Dindigul. I entrusted this work to **Er.G.Gobi** who was an Assistant Engineer then and a Contractor was one Thiru.P.KuzhanthaiSamy. *Er.G.Gobi was such a dynamic man who completed the Building within two months, presently working as Executive Engineer in Palani Division. Even today, I am in touch with him and used to share the past thoughts. Similarly, another Assistant Engineer Er S. Ramanathan who was incharge of a "Base Eye Hospital at Dindigul" and completed in a record time" I do not know as why it is called as "Base Eye Hospital". Later on he became the Chief Engineer, Ground water at Chennai.*

The present E-in-C (Buildings) by name Er.R.Viswanath also worked under me as Assistant Engineer under Er.Vaitheeswaran, (Former SE PWD) and incharge of original Construction works. Both are very hard working and

sincere Engineers. ***Like that Er.R.Thiyagarajan, the then Assistant Executive Engineer /Periyakulam sub Divion, later on became chief Engineer / Palar region, Chennai -5. He was kind, calm and suave engineer.***

In Madurai Circle, I had an opportunity to meet a lot of good and efficient Engineers and staff both in the Office and in the field. In Madurai Circle, I recorded more than sixty Transfer Charge papers by settling their outstanding 7_F accounts. To recall such good people, they are namely Thiru.P.Amaunullah, Former Superintendent Thiru.M.Arul Jothi, HDO, Thiru.Balusamy Office Superintendent, Er.Pitchai Murugan, AEE, Er.Paulraj, AE I had the golden opportunity of interacting with a lot of good people / Engineers like Er.M.Veluswamy, Er.Manokaran, Er.R.Sethu (Theni) and Thiru.Kallanai, Care Taker of PWD Guesthouse at "Vaigai Illam". I specially thank Er R.Sethu, who was mainly responsible for me getting my pension on 1st February 2001 by using his clout with Pay and Accounts officer, Chepauk, Chennai-600005.

I had a good relationship with my immediate Superior Officer, Er.N.Thangavelu, Former Chief Engineer, Buildings who was kind enough to approve all my proposals.

Chapter - 22

Tenure at Chennai Corporation as CE on Deputation:

In October, 1998 I got my promotion as Chief Engineer and was posted to Chennai Corporation as Chief Engineer (General) and joined duty on 22nd October 1998. On the same day a lot of Engineers came and greeted me, and in the afternoon one Assistant Engineer Er. Shankar came to my room and asked me "how come you occupied our Chief Engineer's post when you are expected to be a Chief Engineer PWD. "I told him back" that it is not my choice but that of the Government. I myself felt bad and decided to leave the corporation at the earliest opportunity. It is an ironical to note after some time, the same Er. V.Shankar came and asked me to stay there as a Chief Engineer (General) and continue their till my retirement.

In Chennai Corporation as the CE / GI, I saved a lot of engineers who were charge sheeted by an IAS officer. In the file I noted that there are 276 engineers, if the charge sheeting spree goes on like that the corporation has to recruit new engineers for charge sheeting alone, leave alone doing work. I minuted that as per corporation rules **the commissioner alone** is the competent authority and not others to charge sheet. So I concluded that he is "exercising his authority which he does not have". Finally a DO letter from the then Commissioner Thiru.P.Kolappan, IAS(Retd) was sent to him that he has no Suomoto powers to charge sheet but only report it to the Commissioner. Annoyed so much that he complained to our then Secretary to Government, PWD and even reported to the Chief Secretary. But the Commissioner stood like rock and turned the table against him. The thing that irritated him was I used to call him by name.

Dispensation of Construction material like cement, steel and Bitumen by the Chennai Corporation:

I followed the GO issued in PWD and got the order of the then Commissioner Thiru.P.Kolappan, I.A.S (Retd) and this paved way for the peaceful retirement of the Engineers. This I considered as one of the biggest help ever rendered to the field Engineers. It is now around 22 years since I relinquished my post on 31.03.1999, many of the present Engineers might not be aware of my help to them in the past. Still few remember it too. The prominent among

them are being Er.M.Panneselvam, FCE (CPN), Er.S.Nakkeran FCE (CPN), Er.R.Swaminathan F.CE (CPN), Er. S.Vadivelu, Former Chief Engineer, Er.G.Govindaswamy, Former S.E (CPN) Er.V.Shankar /Former E.E /CPN Er.A.S.Murugan currently the Executive Engineer at Rippon buildings Head quarters, and among non technical member, is **Thiru.S.Jagannathan, Assessor, Chennai corporation. Thiru.S.Jagannathan needs special mention as he is now as he was then. Whatever helps that lies in his hand, he extends it to me.**

One day news appeared in the local media highlighting the collapse of an un approved private building that too in un approved lay out near Jones road, Saidapet and three people were killed on the spot. The Commissioner (Thiru.P.Kolappan) instructed me to inspect the site and report back and also instructed me to suspend the Corporation Assistant Engineer at Saidapet Division. I took him to the site along with the other Engineers to the site to find the cause of the collapse of the structure. The flat owner with a pose of muscle men did not permit me to go even near the site, such being the case how could we suspend the AE who was not even remotely connected with the building (collapsed). I put-up a note to the Commissioner and convinced him not to take any disciplinary action against the Assistant Engineer (Name with held)

Appreciation about Chennai Corporation Engineers.

Sometimes, during high level review meetings held at the Commissioner's room along with other Deputy Commissioners. The Engineers used to come in for sharp criticism. I used to defend them and used to retort as not to make such "uncharitable comments". Especially, during rainy season if some odd incident takes place, like an old lady died due to the fall of street light posts, or some stray road accidents take place, or some blockages in storm water drains, if some private buildings in unapproved lay out collapses, any break out of pandemic they would come in for sharp criticism by the entire public ,media and bureaucrats. In short both engineers and public health officials of the corporation are the "Whipping boy" at the hands of ever vigilant public, the media and bureaucrats. Their working times are "24* 7 * 365". During my short stint with them, I find them to be embodiment of services and gratitude. Even today the present serving engineers viz, Er.V.Sundarajan /AC /Zone VIII, Er.Srinivasan, Er.D.Rajasekaran /AC Zone 11, Er.R.Thirumurugan

/AC /zone no 13, take up my calls and attends to my civic needs. Though, I served in the corporation only for a short tenure of less than six months, nevertheless, it was very sweet and memorable one. Two chief engineers on promotion as chief Engineers were deputed to Chennai Corporation, I was the one, next was being Er.K.Ramalingam (Kaveripattanam) was posted as the Chief Engineer (Bridges & Buildings) and mine being the Chief Engineer (General). We became very good friends and used to lunch together. He stayed to remain there but I wanted go to back to PWD. He advised me to stay there and continue to enjoy the respect and warmth shown by all engineers, the then Commissioner and the then Mayor Thiru.M.K.Stalin who figures very prominently in many pages of this book.

After getting relieved from The Chennai Corporation on 31/03/1999, I met the then Honorable Mayor of Chennai Corporation Thiru.M.K.Stalin (Present Chief Minister of Tamilnadu) and told him that I am leaving for the US for three months leave to meet my daughter there. He requested me to rejoin duty the Corporation itself. Here I would like to tell few words about the then Mayor and present Chief Minister Honorable Thiru.M.K.Stalin always treat his people working under with great respect and courtesy. I have served under him as the CE in Chennai Corporation for less than six months. I had met him on several occasions. Every time he used to rise up from his seat and receive and offer seat. Again he used to rise up and see me off: Such ministers are still there in our Tamil Nadu. But they are very few.

I went to US on three months leave to my daughter's house. The first week of June, 1999 I returned from US and I met the Honorable Speaker late Thiru.P.T.R.Palanivel Rajan and I requested him to get me reverted back to PWD as I would like to return to my parent department. the Honorable Speaker late Thiru.P.T.R.Palanivel Rajan immediately obliged me and on his request, the Honorable CM's late Kalaingar Thiru.M.Karunanidhi posted me as the chief Engineer /DR & CS, Chennai-5.

Chapter -23

Returning back to the Pavilion (TNPWD)

When I got my first appointment order from late Er.C.A.Srinivasan, the then Dy. Chief Engineer (General) as the Junior Engineer, PWD, in July 1964, I took a vow to become a Chief Engineer and to retire from the same PWD Main Building at Chepauk as a Chief Engineer. But, for late Thiru.P.T.R.Palanivel Rajan, the then Honorable Speaker, my vow would have never been fulfilled.

I joined on 12th July, 1999 as Chief Engineer DRCS (Design Research and Construction Support), in the vacancy caused by, Er.N.Dorairaj, Former CE, who was proceeding, on leave. DR&CS is basically a Special wing of Water Resources Organization (WRO), a wing created to take care of Minor Irrigations systems. D.R. & C.S. had two Circles headed by Superintending Engineer with four Divisions headed by Executive Engineers, with Headquarters at places like Chennai, Kanchipuram, Vellore, Thindivanam, Trichy, Madurai, Virudhunagar and Paramakudi. Er.N.Dorairaj /FCE is a dynamic and honest Engineer. We were not only class mates but close friends too.

On one day, I went to Thindivanam Division and halted at PWD Guest House at Thindivanam for Inspection of some Tanks and preparation of estimates for the same. After my dinner, I was resting in my room, a group of Engineers headed by the Executive Engineers came to my room and complained to me that their Travelling Allowance bills were not paid to them for years together; they also told me that they spent from their pockets and arranged dinner for me. I was so moved by their plight and I took One Hundred rupees from my pocket and gave them to meet my dinner expenses. But, they declined. I told them that I was not inspecting any tank but leaving to Chennai by next day morning and told them that I won't come back for any Inspection till I clear the TA bills. I could not recollect the engineers of that in Thindivanam Division, but could vaguely remembered as Er.C.J.Kandasamy as Executive Engineer / FCE and Er.D.Giridhar Rao, Former Special Secretary, PWD, as Assistant Executive Engineer, and Er. K.Sugumar, former S.E was Assistant Engineer then.

The very next day, I met the then Secretary, PWD and pleaded for the Funds. Initially, he was very reluctant but I did not leave him at all. Almost daily, I used to call him in the afternoons and requested him for the release of funds. On one day not able to withstand my pressure, finally he yielded and, we both Secretary and myself talked and walked to the room of the Finance Secretary. On seeing us, he called for the File. Er.K.Manuraj was there with the file relating to the TA bill arrears and sanctioned the release of Funds and my problem did not stop with this. The CE (GI) Office told me that there was LOC (Letter of Credit) to clear the TA bills. I made a special request to Er.N.Ponnuswamy the then Chief Engineer (Trichy Region) at Trichy and he immediately released fifteen Lakh rupees to our DRCS wing and with this Fund I cleared all the TA bills of our Engineers. For me, the former Chief Engineer Er.N.Ponnuswamy is a great man for me and I am told that he is now settled at Karur.

On 2nd Jan 2000, I received a letter addressed CE / GL by Thiru.N.P.Gupta IAS, then PWD Secretary with a copy marked in a name cover for sending proposals to wind up DRC&S. I wrote back to the CE / GL with a copy marked to the Secretary, PWD sent in a name cover as why it should not be closed with full details. Er.A.Veerappan the then Dy. CE for the DR&CS, wing had helped me to draft by giving necessary inputs. I wrote back to the Secretary, PWD as why DRC&S should not be wound up. In the meanwhile, I was briefed by Er.A.Veerappan, then General Secretary of Association of Engineers, TNPWD & his other associates told me that they had already submitted a memorandum to both Honorable minister for works and the then Honorable Chief minister, which reads as follows:

'Since Thiru.N.P.Gupta is a dominating IAS, giving least respect to the then Chief Engineers of PWD and ill treating them by his bad mouth. He was so prejudiced against the then CE in charge of DR & CS wing of PWD, as both Chief Engineer in charge of D.R & C.S wing and his Deputy Chief Engineer (Er.A.Veerappan), as they were not towing his line of activities in the Department. Therefore his threat letter dt. 2nd Jan 1999 to wind up the DR & CS wing, should be read in this context. Even otherwise, he had no such power to exercise, to wind up a branch of TNPWD. Further he and

union associates said that as per the secretariat manual under the heading "functions and powers of Secretary to Government" cannot take such "*Suo-moto*" action without consulting the Chief Secretary and the Honorable Minister concerned and finally the Chief Minister. The association took this to the notice of the Chief Secretary and the Hon'ble PWD Minister. The Hon'ble Minister, PWD was informed that the fair name of the Minister and good governance of the Hon'ble Chief Minister would be spoilt if an important wing of PWD is closed on the wrong advice and ulterior motive of the egoist PWD Secretary. Er.A.Veerappan along with his office bearers met the PWD minister thrice within a fortnight and gave him lot of pressure wielding all the forces of the Association at its command. Then the Hon'ble PWD Minister gave a solemn assurance to the effect that DR & CS wing would not be wound up at any circumstances since the news media also highlighted the retrograde move of the then PWD Secretary".

In the mean while Er.A.Veerappan, the then Dy. CE (DR & CS) and Er.A.Pragadeeswaran his AE submitted proposals to the NABARD for modernization of 50 major tanks, not covered under EEC Scheme and obtained formal approval of NABARD/ National bank for agriculture and Rural department for 44 tanks at an estimated cost of Rs.15.00 crores. Thus the hands of the CE (DR & CS) were strengthened by Association of Engineers, creating enough work load for DR & CS wing.

Er A.Veerappan also told me that posterity should know that other CEs of PWD including the then EIC, WRO, PWD did not raise their little finger against the misdeeds of then PWD Secretary to Government Thiru.N.P.Gupta IAS (Retd).

It was further informed by Er.A.Veerappan to the effect that Association of Engineers sent a draft Charge memo against the specific lapses and misdeeds of Thiru.N.P.Gupta IAS to the Chief Secretary to Government but no disciplinary action was taken against Thiru.N.P.Gupta IAS(Retd) Hence the Association filed a PIL in the High court of Madras to cause appropriate corrective action listing out 10 specific charges against

Thiru.N.P.Gupta and thereafter only Thiru.N.P.Gupta was transferred to another post and further he went on deputation to Government of India, fearing disciplinary action, did not return to Government of Tamilnadu and retired on deputation attaining his superannuation on 31st August 2005.

It was further Informed by Er.A.Veerappan that a vigilance case was filed against Thiru.N.P.Gupta at the behest of the Association of Engineers; under the PIL (Public interest litigation) petition was also filed by the Association and it is still pending in the "High Court of Madras", citing Thiru.N.P.Gupta, by name, as a Respondent in the said PIL. These events are detailed specifically here to inform the readers of this book that how both me and the association worked efficiently to retain this wing, and I am told that it is still functioning. Er A.Veerappan added "It is never his intention to denigrate the name of Thiru.N.P.Gupta but to say under what adverse conditions the then CE (DR & CS), worked for saving the Department and more so the serving Engineers of the TN.P.WD should know this and must take measures to expand the department and bring glorious PWD, back.

Not that all PWD Secretaries are bad and many are good, to say a few: Thiruvalargal Er.R.Swaminathan I.A.S (Retired) though held the post for a short stint, S.Audiseshiah I.A.S. (Retd), R.Ramasundaram I.A.S. (Retd) were extremely well during their tenure as the secretary PWD.

Let me revert back to the earlier events. On seeing my letter about the necessity to retain the DR& CS, the Secretary, PWD convened a meeting and said that DR&CS should send estimates at least for 150 Tanks within a month for considering the continuation of the DRC&S and I accepted the challenge.

After returning to my Office, I called Er.A.Veerappan, Dy. CE to my room and he promised to act. He prepared typical format and circulated to the all EEs / Tank Modernization Division. Every day, I was monitoring the progress. As against target of 150 Tanks, we sent proposals for 200 Tanks and that were 50 Tanks more than the target. The then Secretary thought

that I would be buckled down and so that he could close down our Wing easily. Nothing happened and the Secretary Office was filled with our Tank estimates. Since Secretary's target, was achieved and he started to show some sympathy towards us. Luck had dawned on DR&CS. A satisfactory working relationship had developed between me and the then Secretary PWD. The Er.M.A.Rajasekaran, (a classmate of mine) then Special Secretary PWD namely had helped me a lot.

In Nov 2000, the World Bank Team agreed to release surplus Fund of Rupees One Twenty Crores arising due to the appreciation of the value of dollars to DR&CS wing. A day prior to their visit, the then Secretary asked all the Chief Engineers to give Power Point presentation about the utilization of Funds in the respective Regions. Finally, I was called to present my case with a Power Point, I explained our demand. He was so much impressed and said at the end as 'good' and had special appreciation for flow of language. Next day before Thiru.S.Jagannathan, member World Bank, I presented our proposals for the utilization of the Funds. At the end of the meeting, I concluded that Regional Chief Engineers were asking for the Ghee, but I was asking Food for poor farmers.

He asked me to repeat my "POWER POINT PRESENTATION" before Er.R.RAJAGOPAL, the team leader of the World Bank. At the end of the meeting the Er.Rajagopal said "Er.NADIMUTHU I am told that you would be retiring on 31st Dec, 2000. But as a "Funding agency", I am also concerned about its way of spending. He further said that he would speak to the then Honorable Chief Minister (late Kalaingar Thiru M.Karunanidhi) and would seek for my extension of service in PWD." Immediately, I said that I had served enough for PWD and would politely decline it, if any such offer is given". I told him that there are several Engineers in the bee line who can excel far better than me. I also told him that the PWD has adequate resilience to absorb the changes. The Secretary confided to me telling that you seem to be a different person altogether. I said yes. Before I retired, the World Bank had sanctioned Rs.120 crores for 630 Tanks till then, many Divisions were vacant and by

overnight it became very lucrative / hyper sensitive Divisions. Divine help was also there and I prayed before ANNAMALAYAR that I would come around 9 times on every full Moon day and prayed for its continuation of the DR&CS. Ers. like S.Ramakrishnan /F.S.E, Canada based Engineer, who was EE, Tiruvannamalai, Division, Er.K.Sugumar / FSE, the then AE / TM division Thindivanam used to accompany me during this holy coming around "Tiruvannamalai Temple. கிரிவலம் (Girivalam) In December 2000, I completed nine times and DR&CS wing of PWD was also stabilized and was set for its further journey. Er.A.Veerappan / Former Spl.CE, Late Er.V.Sundarajan /Former Dy. CE, Er K.Manuraj /Former CE, Er.Krishnamurthi / Former EE, Er.A.Pragadeeswaran / Former Spl.CE and Mofussil EEs like Er.A.Arunachalam, Er.T.Ponniah, Er.K.Sugumar / AEE then were all key men for successful relaunching the DR&CS. I am told that it is still sailing. My schedule was very tight and worked for around 12 hours. Same was the case for other Engineers too.

A few day prior to my retirement, the then S.E / Designs circle by name Er R.Ganesan and later retired as the CE (P.F), led a delegation of Engineers drawn from Design circle (W.R.O), Chepauk, Chennai called on me and said the following:

"Sir, we all consider you as an Engineer on par with the CE, late Er.C.A.Srinivasan, please do not seek any extension of service in PWD or seek any consultancy job in the companies like "THAGAL" and wait at the doors of the PWD, CE's, seeking for their audience. They added that such happenings would sadden them a lot. I said "Never, Never" I asked them whether they would have objection, if I seek any consultancy in southern side corridor of Chepauk. They asked what sir? I said Highways sector they said 'no problem sir'.

Now, I am more identified as a "Highways Engineer" than a PWD Engineer. In the latest issue of "MOOTHA PORIYALAR" in September - October 2021 issue. In this issue, Er.A.Veerappan / TANSEA, has called me as a reputed engineer in both "buildings and highways". This has given me a lot of elation and happiness.

Apart from the portfolio of Tank Modernization work, I was also overall incharge of Institute of Hydraulics and Hydrology (IHH), Poondi and Soil Mechanics and Research Division, Chennai. Fortunately, my friend Er.R.Radhakrishnan /FCE (B) (with the help of Er.Dr.P.K.Suresh) and also Ground water was posted there as its Director. I could not pay much attention in IHH Poondi and Er.R.Radhakrishnan himself did a lot of works there, to say a few as follows:

1. Presentation of Coastal Erosion problem in IIT Chennai International Conference. Staff grievance re addressed in a day.
2. Watershed Management study in Varattupallm Tank.
3. Lime leach Study in Periyar Dam in the National Conference Delhi, which was also supported our claim on stability of the Dam in the Supreme Court.
4. Er M.K.L.F Arul / F.SPL CE ,who succeeded Er.R.Radhakrishnan at IHH,/ Poondi, had kept up the same tempo and from there he retired in December 2002.

Chapter – 24

**Modernization of Soil Mechanics Division.
(In puts given by Er.R.Jayaprakasam / F.S.E)**

The Soil Mechanics & Research laboratory was formed in the year 1945 and attached to the Designs office during 1953 under the Head of Statesman, Dr.K.L.Rao then Cabinet Central Minister in Jawaharlal Nehru.

It becomes one of the standard Research Institutes in India and the CBIP (Central Board of Irrigation and Power had entrusted many lab testings and funded to conduct many Research activities. It was also participated in revision of IS Codes at Bureau of Indian Standards.

During the year 2000, the Laboratory was fully upgraded and established in a new 3 floor Building with modern equipment's like Non - Destructive Machine (NDT), Water Testing Machine under WRCP Fund at Tharamani. Then, it becomes Central Quality Control Laboratory for all over Tamilnadu PWD Project works, under the Design Circle headed by Er.R.Subramanian, the then Superintending Engineer. Er.R.Subramanian. He succeeded late Er.M.Mohanakrishnan as the Chairman, Cauvery Technical cell and he is still continuing in that post.

There was a general complaint that the Engineers are not fluent in English. Therefore, I conducted weekly Review Meeting for Soil Mechanics Engineers and made them to present the papers in English. Though, there was a problem for them to keep them to speak in fluent English in the beginning, but later on they developed.

After launching IAMWARM Irrigation Projects, the importance of Laboratory became vital and the involvements with World Bank Consultants were increased a lot and it led to form Regional Laboratory for ensuring the quality of works in the Project. Main contribution by the Laboratory was by conducting "lime leaching test" in Mullai Periyar Dam and the test results were used as supportive documents to get judgment in favor of Tamil Nadu.

In the year 2000, my colleague, Mr.N.Jayakumar/E-In-C and late Er.R.Pannerselvam/ CE were there in the PWD as Chief Engineer (General). We were extremely friendly and courteous to our fellow Engineers and very liberal in extending our help to them.

Chapter -25

Retirement Farewell Party

Many Engineers from all over South Tamilnadu attended the Function during my thanks Giving Speech. During the Speech, I recalled two important incidents. One such incident was about my Leave Travel Concession or otherwise known as LTC, one that I availed was during my Visit to Nagarcoil. When I boarded my Train at Nagarcoil to leave for Chennai, lot of Engineers came to the Railway Station. One among them was Er.S.Sethuraman, Former Executive Engineer who raised slogans "Nadimuthu, hibib hurrah, hibib hurrah". My wife innocently told me that she is aware that I was one of the Senior Officers / Engineers in PWD, but never knew that I was a Chief Engineer in PWD. I particularly mentioned that this incident before the audience and I thanked the PWD for having given that recognition and elevated my status before eyes of my Madam.

In the formatives of my Career, late Er.K.Ramalingam, FCE was the Executive Engineer in GAC Division, Thanjavur and I was working as Assistant Engineer at Budalur Section. One among too many Advices given to me by him was not to mix-up with professional and family life. He used to often tell that both personal life and career are separate and one should not allow, neither should interfere into the other domain which was kept by me till date of writing.

In 01st January 2001, I had been to **Thiru.Durai Murugan** the then Minister's house along with my Engineers namely Er.R.Radhakrishnan, Former CE (B), Er.T.Ponniah Former EE and several others accompanied me. On seeing us, the Minister became very emotional Engineers, telling that he did not expect me that I would go there to greet him on January 1. He regretted over his action of neglecting me and not utilized me fully, in the last one and half year of working as the CE (D.R.&C.S). He honored me with a costly Shawl, and requested me to stay and in touch with him. Next, I went to **Thiru.N.P.Gupta** the then Secretary's house. He also told me that he never expected me to call on him. He said that he had never seen such a hard working Engineer like me and he told me, "you have won the Game and retained and saved the D.R.&C.S. wing from closure."

I replied back that it was a "win win" situation for both, as we had played different Roles. Before, I conclude my book "My career in TN PWD and beyond", Two months later, I met Thiru **N.P.Gupta I.A.S. in his Chambers at Secretariat for getting No objection certificate from the Government to apply for some road sector consulting companies, he immediately issued it. During the course of my conversation, he praised me as one of the very hardworking engineer in PWD. I replied back "that for me all recognition and praise come only after either on retirement day and after some time. For me he is "a mixed bag".**



Farewell party by friends on the eve of my retirement (Left to Right) Er.N.Dorairaj, FCE, myself, Er.A.Veerappan, Former Spl. CE, Er.M.Boopal, CE Chennai Corporation and Er.P.Krishnamurthy Former EE PWD



With Er.M.Velusamy, Former AEE and Er.G.Pandiarajan, FCE, PWD at Madurai (1997)



Farewell party on the eve of my retirement on 31-12-2000

(Left to Right) Er.C.H.Narayana Raju, Former SE, Chennai, late Er.S.Sivaraman, Former EIC, Myself, Mr.N.Jayakumar, Former ENC & CE (GI), Er.R.Radhakrishnan, Former CE, TNPWD, Late Er.D.Bose, Former CE, TNPWD.



Myself with Er.N.Dorairaj Former CE, Late Er.D.Bose Former CE, Er.C.H.Narayana Raju Former SE PWD



Standing in Front (L to R): Myself with, Er.N.Thangavelu F.C.E (B) Er.J.J.Arputharaj Former SE, Er.S.Sivaraman, Former E-in-C and Er.R.Subramanian, Former CE presently Chairman Cauvery Technical Cell, Chennai.



Myself with Er. K.Rajamani, Former Divisional Engineer (H) during Inauguration of Athipattu Bridge on 31-03-1992



Author with then Chief Minister late Thiru.M.Karunanithi's inspection sometime in September, 1990 at Chennai

Myself (Extreme right), With late Dr Kalaignar the then CM and Present Honorable Water Resources Minister Thiru. Durai Murugan



Taken on the eve of seminar on E.C assisted Tank Project held on 5th December, 1999 at Madurai. Extreme right Thiru Thangavel / the then collector, Madurai, the then Hon'ble Minister Thiru.Dorai Murugan and myself.



(Left to right (Late) Er.S.Rajasekaran /FEE /PWD and Er S.Sethuraman FEE/PWD.



(Left to Right), Master.Eashwar Soma, myself, Er.R.Bujjian, Former SE (H)



(Left to Right), Er.A.Arunachalam, Former Special Chief engineer, myself, Er T.Ponniah F.E.E, Er.A.B.S.Raju /FSE



My team members of Tamilnadu State Construction Corporation, Chennai / (Left to Right) late M.Deiva sigamani, Site Engineer Er.M.Palaniappan /FCE (PWD), Er.L.Balaji, Myself, Er.P.Alagiri.



Late Er.C.S.Kuppuraj, Er.N.Selvaraj, FSE, Er.R.Jayapragasam former FSE
Photo taken during the National seminar on Water shed Management Studies on 27th January. 2000.



Left to right Myself, Tmt P.Vellammal, /PC to the C.E, DR&CS, late.Er.S.Sivaraman/Former E-in-C (PWD), Er.K.Sugumar / SE, Er.P.Nadanasigamani / FSE, late Er.D.Bose /FCE.



(Left to right) Er.A.B.S.Raj, FSE, Er.Ganapathy Subramanian / FCE, Hon'ble Minister Thiru.Duraimurugan. Thiru.N.P.Gupta I.A.S (Retd) and myself,



Honoring Thiruvallargal S.Srinivasan, Supdt, S.Srinivasan, and A.Kumar Assistants in TN SCC Chennai, who were the part of our team. By the then Managing Director Er.T.P.Ekambaram on the eve of completion of MGR Memorial sometime in February, 1993



(Left to right) late Er.V.Sundarajan / FEE, a pillar of DR&CS, Er.P.Nadanasigamani / FSE, Er.C.H.NarayanaRaju / FSE, Er. A.Pragadeeswaran, F.Spl. CE, K.Sugumar /FSE, myself, late Er.S.Sivaraman /F -E-in -C , Tmt Booma /FAO, Tmt P.Vellammal / Former Personal Clerk to the CE.



Photo taken on the eve of Fare well party to the author /RN, by the Chennai corporation extreme left Er.V.Shankar and right Er.M.Pannerselvam / FCE, Chennai Corporation taken on 31-03-1999.



Photo taken on the eve of Fare well party to the author / RN on 31-03-1999, by the Chennai corporation extreme with Er.V.Shankar former E.E. and others.



Extreme left Er.K.Ramalingam / FCE / PWD (Kaveripattanam), on other duty with Chennai Corporation, Er.M.Boopal/FCE, Chennai Corporation and myself taken on the eve of farewell party held on 31-03-2001.



Taken in the eve of seminar on Watershed Management studies myself with Hon'ble Minister of PWD Thiru.Durai Murugan and Er.A.Veerappan on 27th January, 2000 at Chennai



Checking the reinforcement of the deck at the Athipattu Bridge during the period of May, 1991



(From right to left) Er S.M.Arasu, Former Chief Engineer(Plan Formulation)

And a big crusader against corruption in the public life and besides, he was my classmate (1963 batch) Er.M.Boopal / FCE, Corporation, Er.A.Veerappan /Former Special CE /PWD and General Secretary / AOE, myself, Er.N.Dorairaj /FCE (P.W.D) Photo taken in the first week of January 2001 in the joint fare well party of Engineers of Chennai – corporation and PWD.

Chapter no 26

My friendship with TANSEA State Secretary Er.A.Veerappan:

I would like to say a few words about my association with General secretary "Er.A.Veerappan" and good friendship maintained with him even after my retirement for more than 20 years

He was born on 04-07-1944 in a small town Thuraiyur in Thiruchi District and to a less privileged family. At the age of five, lost his father and he was brought up by his mother, and his elder brother helped him do his schooling. He is inborn genius and group of teachers identified his potentiality and put him in St. Joseph College in Thiruchi and he got his PUC, afterwards his teachers admitted him in Alagappa Chettiyar college of Technology at Karaikudi in Tamilnadu. His educational expenses were borne by both the State and Central government by granting scholar ships. In the college, he chose civil engineering branch and obtained BE Civil in first rank and got the gold medal instituted by "Tmt.Umayal Ramanathan" in the year 1967. As destined by the destiny, he joined in the TNPWD as a Junior Engineer in year 1969 from his early days onwards in PWD, he identified himself with Association of Engineers and became very close to late **Er.C.S.Kuppuraj, then Executive Engineer, PWD and became Former Chief Engineer in PWD through long fighting for 18 years by SC against bureaucracy.**

In the year January 1970, he associated in a big conference of all disciplined Engineers of Tamilnadu ESCO-70 at Abbots Berry hall at Teynampet, Chennai. During the conference, the then PWD Minister late Thiru.Sadiq Pasha announced a gazetted status to the Junior Engineers and later in 1977, they were re designated as Assistant Engineer during president's rule. Again in the year 1976 he took two years study leave and got his ME Structural Engineering from PSG Technology, Coimbatore in 1978 and got second rank. He has put in 33 years & 4 months of services in PWD and served in different capacities. *For the year 2001 - 2002, he was chosen as the best Superintending Engineer in PWD and was honored with "Anna Award". Finally, he retired from PWD on 31-07-2002 as the "Special Chief Engineer (ground water) PWD"*

Association activities:

After the retirement of late Er.C.S.Kuppuraj, he succeeded him as General Secretary in Association of Engineers in 1979 till his retirement (except for a brief period of four years). As a General Secretary of AOE, during his tenure, he moved the matters with the Government along with, his other associates like Engineers Er.S.M.Arasu, late Er.K.Ramalingam, late Er.S.Sivaraman, Er.D.Hariram, Er.T.Jayaraman, Er.S.Balamuthusamy, Er.M.Moorthy, Er.A.Pragadeeswaran, Er.K.Manuraj and got a Government order "for dispensing with the issue of Construction Materials like Cement and Steel by the department. By the above single act, he won the hearts of the entire engineering fraternity working in different departments and organizations of Tamilnadu Government.

Er.A.Veerappan along with his associate Er.G.Krishnan /F.S.E. and saved a team of engineers from the great peril by seeking legal remedy which was otherwise known as "Thovalai Channel" case. The main beneficiary was Er.K.Neelakandan and he was given promotion ante from A.E.E to the C.E and retired as the special secretary, to PWD (CE's cadre)

During my short stint as the Chief Engineer (General) Chennai Corporation in Oct 1998-March 1999, I moved the matter with the then Commissioner Thiru.P.Kolappan IAS (Retd) and other council members of the corporation, "to do away with the practice of issue all construction materials including bitumen by Chennai corporation and thereby ensured the peaceful retirement of many Corporation Engineers". I am best remembered by them only for the single act leave aside other good things done by me.

Er.A.Veerappan, at the age of 76, he has earned Doctorate in Civil Engineering from SRM University, Kattankolathur, Chengalpattu District Chennai on 29-09-2020. His thesis on "Application of Alternate Materials and Advance Technologies in Construction of Irrigation Structures" – Case Studies is very useful to Government Departments for cost reduction to considerable extent.

Apart from the above services, Er.A.Veerappan has edited and published more than 50 technical hand books for the use of civil engineers on behalf of Association.

After retirement in July 2002, he has been elected as the State Secretary of TNPWD Senior Engineers Association and continuing. Further, as a Service to young engineers and construction managers, he publishes a Monthly Journal "**Kattumaanap Poriyaalar**" from 2013 onwards. He used to write articles in other Journals on important construction issues.

He is also the Managing Director of **Er.A.Veerappan & Associates**, engaged in the preparation of Structural designs & CAD drawings for Multistoried Buildings & Industrial Structures till date.

*Not tired of his services, still he is continuing to update the Engineers of PWD by inviting the resource personnel's by asking them to give guest lecture on their specialized fields, on every Saturday 11-00 AM via video conference "**JITSI**" for the past one year. Long live legacy Er.A.Veerappan and his services.*

Chapter - 27

Post Service Career

*I was working for some time in 2002, as Soil Mechanics Engineer for Veeranam Water Supply scheme to provide water supply to Chennai City from the Veeranam Lake which was under taken by the Chennai Metro water. The Project Technical head was Er.K.Sivakumaran who was the Chief Engineer for this Project and also Executive Director for Metro water. My friendship with him is still continuing. My job was testing the soil and find out whether they meet the required Specification used for filling up the excavated pipe trench. **Er.K.Sivakumaran was very dynamic and hard working Engineer. He completed the Project well within the time schedule of one year that too, when Chennai was suffering from water shortage. Commissioning of a Veeranam Project came as a big relief to the Chennai People.***

After completion of Veeranam Water Supply Scheme Project, I got an appointment as Team leader in SOWIL, Road Consultancy Firm with head quarters at New Delhi thanks to the help of Thiru.A.M.Swaminathan, IAS(Retired), Former Finance Secretary, Tamilnadu Government and Thiru. Arun Ramanathan, IAS, (Retd) Former Finance Secretary, Government of India.

The work involved Feasibility Study for the formation of an Outer Ring Road around Chennai. I successfully completed the Project Report well in time and submitted to the Client, Tamil Nadu Road Development Corporation Ltd. (TNRDCL). The above Project envisages Construction of an Outer Ring Road to give connectivity between NH-45, Old Mahabalipuram Road, NH-5 via NH-4, up to NH-205 and finally providing connectivity to Ennore Port bypassing Chennai City. The Unique Feature of this Project is Development of 6 lanes Traffic with provision for a monorail in the Median and also Land Area Development along the Corridor. This Project also aims at decongesting Chennai City, by encouraging settlement along this proposed "ORR". Total length of the proposed road was 63 KM. Total Cost of the Project was Rs.10000 Million. The proposals were for Rs. 6000 Million in the Phase I and Rs.4000 Million in the Phase II.

Services as a Consultant

While I was working as Team leader in SOWIL Consultancy, I got an Offer from LEA Associates Ltd., otherwise known as LASA. It was an Indo-Canadian Company with head quarters at New Delhi. They posted me as Contract Consultant for the Bangalore - Maddur Road works for 62.6KM, which involved widening of the existing two lanes to four lanes Road. The work was started in April 2004 and it was completed in April 2006, which was *six months ahead of scheduled time. LASA was a very fine Consultancy firm and it stands first in Professional ethics even today. The Present two serving, Directors, Thiru.Pinaki Mukherjee and Thiru.Bishwaroop Mukherjee* were from Client side and the General Manager for Karnataka Road Development Construction Ltd., (KRDCL) Thiru.M.Kamble I.A.S (Retired) and Er Mr.Ganesh now retired the E-In-C/KRDCL, were from client. Both are gems and enabled both contractors and the consultants to complete the project well.

Successful Journey in Uncharted Territory

On 30th April 2005, I got a Call from the then Managing Director / LASA Thiru.Ashok Kumar Mukherjee to come to Bangalore. I went to Bangalore and met him at his son's house. Then, we went together to meet the Managing Director/KRDCL by name Thiru.M.Kamble IAS (Retd) I was introduced to him telling that I was the Team leader replacing Er.B.Ravindrakumar a former Chief Engineer PWD of Uttar Pradesh State. Prior to that, I told M.D., Thiru.Ashok Kumar Mukherjee that I was only a Bridge Consultant and I did not know anything about Roads. Thiru.Mukherjee asked me to keep mum and to accept it. Thiru.A.Mukherjee introduced me to one Er.R.Megaraj of LASA. He is a very knowledgeable person in Highways design. I went to Road Corridor (under construction) and myself came to know various aspects of Road works with the help of my friends in Tamilnadu State Highways Department, Er.T.P.Ekambaram, Former Chief Engineer (Highways), Er.K.Rajamani, Former Divisional Engineer (Highways) and Er.Hariraj, Former Engineer - in - Chief (Highways). I also gained knowledge in scrutinizing specifications for Roads and Bridges published by Ministry of

Road Transport and Highways (MORTH). Then I gained lot of knowledge about the Construction and roads and Bridges.

I had one Bridge Engineer by name Er.Rao, from Andhra Pradesh who claimed himself as a retired Superintending Engineer from Andhra Pradesh PWD. But to my knowledge, he pretended that he knew everything. On one occasion in May 2005, I was supervising the Deck slab over the bridge, across the river namely SIMSHA River near Maddur, Karnataka State. I was just checking the reinforcements. Er.Rao came and told me that the reinforcements were not adequate and therefore Deck slab would get collapsed. I asked him what were the correct reinforcements then? He replied that he didn't know. I showed the reinforcement details to him, but he was not convinced and asked me to give in writing that the reinforcements were adequate. This nuisance continued for other Deck slabs also. This dialogue went on like between "Vedalam and Vikkaramathiya" One fine morning, I spoke to the MD and expressed my difficulty in dealing with him. With his consent, I asked him for resignation and he gave his resignation and gone away without any resistance and I myself took over the supervision of bridge constructions.

For a Railway Bridge over the Bidhi, beams were laid over Corbel beam built on either side of the Piers. The Corbel beam is otherwise known as a cantilever beam. It should be designed with main reinforcement at the top and the secondary reinforcement at the bottom. On verification at the site I could see the main reinforcement on the bottom and secondary reinforcement on the top, which was a serious flaw. Immediately I directed to correct it and then concrete was laid.

During my tenure at Bangalore, as Team Leader LASA, a meeting was held in December 2005 under the auspices of Road Stake Holder Association. I was asked by the MD of KRDCCL by name Thiru.D.Kamble IAS (Retd.), to talk on behalf of the KRDCCL. Prior to my talk, a Consultant from European Country passed damaging remarks against Indian culture of open defecation and anti social habits like defacing the Sign boards etc. When my turn came, I replied that European have an unique culture, "what we do inside the house you people do it outside. Such acts,

we permit only, the dogs to do". On hearing this, there was a big ovation among the audience. On completion of my talk, I was asked few questions by the audience. One Lady Engineer from the Karnataka PWD asked me what would happen if land acquisition would have been entrusted to the Concessionaire. I replied that if such work would have been entrusted to the Concessionaire, he would take his own time to take off. I further explained that if the Pilot would be entrusted with issuing tickets, security frisking etc., he would take his own time to take off which I narrated was very much to the delight of the audience.

Chapter - 28.

TEAM LEADER – NHAI (National Highways Authority of India)/ TN-07 of NHAI 47.

On completion of my assignment at Bangalore in April, 2006, I applied for a Team Leader to the company to M/S Artifact – Ziadeen company for TN07 of NH47 connecting Kumarapalayam to Chengapalli in Erode District. I Got it. Also I took up my assignment on 03rd May, 2006. This Project cost around Rs.383 Crores. This was a B.O.O.T (Build Own Operate and Transfer) Project. **I took up my assignment as the Team leader in NHAI, on 3rd May 2006.**

The Union Minister for Road and Transport, Thiru.T.R.Balu inspected the work (sometime around JAN 2008). He commenced his Inspection from CAUVERY BRIDGE. Two nagging Press men approached him and asked him whether he was aware of the death of three labours at that Bridge Site a month back? The Minister said, "Yes, so what?" They replied that no action was taken by the NHAI against the Contractor and the Engineer. The Minister asked me to brief him on this. I said, "Despite our several warnings, those three dead labourers were habitually sitting under the shadow of the precast beams laid over the span and used to take lunch. On the day of the accident, the PSG girders which were resting on the ledger pieces across a span and were waiting for positioning that afternoon. Due to some freak phenomenon, one ledger piece gave way. One fell on the other; all the three beams fell on those three labours and crushed them to death. The police was duly informed and they registered a Case and the bodies were sent for Postmortem. The police held an inquest and handed over the bodies to the Contractor. He arranged to send the bodies to a nearby village in PATNA by Air. Their Maistry accompanied the bodies. The Contractor had taken Labour Insurance and the amount will be paid to the dead persons." I concluded that thus due process of Law was observed.

Then the MINISTER turned to the Press men and asked as what else they want. They were hesitatingly asked the Minister about the action taken against the Contractor and Engineer. The Minister asked them whether

they were craving for some sensational news for their news papers. He laughed at them and continued that such things were common in any big Project. He said that he was himself an Engineer in PWD and he knew the hardship of both Engineers and Contractors. He moved on telling that those guys were interested only in taking punitive action, publishing sensational news and not on the Project completion. Of late, the Civil Engineers' jobs are becoming increasingly risky.

In 2008, I was a Team leader incharge of Widening of Road from Kumarapalayam to Chengapalli. At Chengapalli, we were to construct a HIGH WAY UNDER PASS. Both approaches were formed embankments. As a symbolic gesture of commissioning this Road Corridor, the then Hon'ble Minister, Thiru.T.R.Balu opened this Under Pass some time in Feb 2009. The Hon'ble Minister while delivering his speech, paid glowing tributes to me by mentioning my name. He said that if every Engineer worked like me that INDIA would soon become another Japan. After the function was over, there was heavy downpour. Kumarapalayam side embankment caved in. Immediately we inspected the Site and found out that instead of giving a normal slope of 1:2 it was built in 1:1 slope. Immediately, we instructed the Contractor/ Concessionaire to redo it with a toe wall and thereby, we restored the traffic. Imagine for a moment, if it happened a day prior to its Inauguration, I would have been in trouble. It is all due to God's grace that I was saved.

Though formal Inauguration by the then Hon'ble Minister in February 2008 was made, actually the Road was thrown to Open to the public on 16th August 2009.

There was a big uproar when they started collecting the Toll on 16th night 12 AM. The Police were in large numbers to quell riot. My teammates in this Project were Er.R.Bujaiyan, Former Superintending Engineer Highways, Er.R.Veeraraghavan, Senior Bridge Engineer, late Er.B.Raveendran, Survey Engineer and also my Technical Personal Assistant. Er.Prabhakaran, the then Highway Engineer, Er.M.ChandraSekaran, the then Material Engineer presently Town planning Officer, Er.Ramasamy, the then Assistant Highway Engineer / Former ADE

Highways, late Er.Muthusamy, Assistant Bridge Engineer and Thiru.Harrish Khan, Administrative Officer were my teammates. All of them did wonderful work and helped to complete the Project in time, six months ahead of the schedule. From the Contractor side Er.M.S.Reddy Project General Manager, Er.Joseph sahayaraj / Senior Highways Consultant, and Er.S.Rajkumar structural consultant, Er.R.K.Selvaraj / Q. Surveyor.

Between 2010 and 2012, I worked as Team leader for a TNUDP (Tamilnadu Urban Development Project) a wing of State Highways department located at Alandur. Project cost Rs 12 crores only. The Consultant Company were Lea Associates (LASA) with whom, I had the privilege of working for Bangalore – Maddur Road work Project. Here my teammates were Er.R.Krishanmuthy, Senior Highway Engineer, Er.R.Veeramani Assistant Highway Engineer, now working as A.E.E (Civil)/TNEB and Thiru.N.Muthu Ramalingam was my Manager. Since I did not have much job satisfaction, I left the job in early 2012.

In late 2012, I joined in Thiruvallur Bharat Engineering Construction Company Pvt. Ltd., (BECC) a quality conscious Contractor. They are specialized in "Bridge and Flyover constructions". I was there as a Contract Consultant and I had a golden opportunity to interact with the Directors Thiru.H.Ameerdeen, Thiru.H.Mubarak, Thiru.A.G.M.Salman and Thiru.Ahamed Basheer and also very knowledgeable engineers Er.R.Padmanaban / General Manager, Er.C.R.Rajasekar and Er.Amanullah / Dy. General Managers Er.S.Ashik Ahamed / Manager Contracts, Er.S.Ramesh /Quantity Surveyor and Thiru.K.J.Suresh, Assistant Manager (HR & Administration). I got entry into this Company, thanks to my friend Er.M.Pannerselvam /Former Chief Engineer, Chennai Corporation and continued there till 2019. Due to my health problem, I left the job.

I am presently practicing Arbitration. Since, Arbitration matters are very Confidential and Sensitive, I refrain from discussing in detail. I learned that the Art of Contract Management from the following three stalwarts:

1. Thiru.S.Ramanathan, Former CHD, (Highways), Chennai-5
2. Thiru.C.H.Sathyanarayana, Former Contract Consultant, in Nagarjuna Construction Company Ltd, Hyderabad.
3. Late Thiru Sethuramaswamy CHD, (PWD), Chennai-5

Memorable Contractors

1. T/L RNS Infrastructure, a Bangalore Head Quartered Company. I was associated with them in a Project upgrading of Road from Ramanathapuram to Tuticorin TNRSP-04 (Which was completed well ahead of schedule as a Dispute Resolution Board member. Its Chairman, Thiru R.N.Naveen Shetty and Sr.Vice President, Thiru.R.N.Suresh Shetty. Apart from the Construction Sector. They are involved in from Hospitality sector to Automobile sector. I am in touch with them since 2005.
2. T/L Nagarjuna Construction Company Ltd. was incharge of Bangalore to Bidithi Road work Project far ahead of the completion date 2004-2005. For the supervision consultancy team, I was the Team leader for lea associates, New Delhi. Their Annual turnover is stated to be around rupees ten thousand. The company is head quartered at Hyderabad and Thiru.R.Narasimhan is their chief General Manager for Chennai region –Chennai. They have, taken work across entire India



Thiru. ASN Raju, Director NCC LTD

3. T/L KMC Construction: Bidithi to Maddur Road work Project-completed well in time with all quality parameters intact. The Present Managing Director is Er R.Vikkaram Reddy, an IIT graduate from Madras. They are head quartered at Hyderabad .This is a leading company, in road sector India.
4. Koya & Company Construction Ltd with head quarters at Hyderabad. They are the leading Water Supply Contractors and its Director, Thiru.Salim Koya and the Project Managers, Er.R.Ravichadran in "Providing Water Supply to Eranial village at Nagarcoil". Thiru.Salim Koya is their Managing Director. I saw them doing wonderful works in my recent trip to Nagarcoil despite several hardship they face at the site.
5. Thiruvalargal K.K.Builders, Kodambakkam, Chennai-600024. Took up the work of "Construction of traffic training School". Estimate cost of Rs 5 lakhs at Chromepet., Chennai-600044, at low percentage of 15%, they successfully completed the work without compromising the quality. 1980-1981

Chapter -29

Post Retirement agonies:

Much ado about nothing:

The above title is the comedy play by Shakespeare about "misunderstanding". The story is based on gossip and rumor etc.. On similar lines, the then AIADMK Government constituted a Commission with the sole aim of nailing the then Mayor Thiru.M.K.Stalin (presently the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamilnadu). The mandate of the Commission was to probe into the alleged (imaginary) irregularities in the proposed construction of Flyover at Perambur, which was stopped with the driving of just one Pile. How come a big financial irregularity had cropped up, when not even a trace of work was done then.

On 19th August 2002, I received a letter of Intimation (intimidation) to appear before the Commission for enquiry as said below:

"I am directed to state that as you were examined as one of the Commission witnesses by this Commission of inquiry and you gave Oral evidence in person. You are hereby informed that the submission / arguments, if any to be advanced by you in person or through the lawyer, positively it is posted on 28.08.2002, on Wednesday by 11.00AM at the Secretariat of the Commission of inquiry at the above address."

Accordingly, I appeared before this Commission. Late Justice, Thiru.N.Arumugam, who was the Chairman of the Probe Panel, was outflanked with two members, one is the Former Managing Director/Tamil Nadu state Construction Corporation cum Chief Engineer in Highways, under whom, I worked assiduously for three years, who was well aware of my honesty and hard work .Other member is former lady Chief Engineer. I was accompanied with the Lawyer Thiru.Walter, a very bold lawyer and who was a classmate of my nephew, Thiru.A.Nagarajan, currently a leading Lawyer practicing in Criminal Justice in Madras High Court, Chennai.

On entering the room, the Chairman, late Justice Thiru.N.Arumugam (though a good man), my karma brought me to face the commission. The Justice sir, plainly asked me as whether there was any possibility to implicate the then Mayor Thiru.M.K.Stalin, currently Honorable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and promised me to let me off honorably, if I towed in line with him. I bluntly refused and told the enquiry Commission that as the Mayor was not even remotely connected with this work, how could be implicated in this matter. The Commission then threatened me that there was every possibility of putting me behind bars for seven years. I sarcastically said, "Why seven years, Sir?" But, I requested him to put me for seventy seven years and said no problem. When the Chairman realized that I was a hard nut to crack he cooled down. Angered by my answer, I was arrayed as 18th accused.

In the mean while, on one day, when I went to Madurai, I met late Thiru.P.T.R.Palanivel Rajan, Former speaker of the Tamilnadu Assembly, along with my friend Er.N.Dorairaj, Former Chief Engineer PWD. When Thiru.P.T.R., former speaker enquired me about the status of the commission enquiry against me, I casually told that "one redeeming feature is that I am eighteenth accused, as the total sum numerical comes as "Nine", which is the place for auspicious planet "GURU". "This is a quite lucky number and so I am quite hopeful of my acquittal and same thing happened to me in reality too."

Then, on 28-08-2002, at 11-00 AM, I appeared before the commission for the second time. I narrated the entire story in the form of an Affidavit as briefed under:

"I submit that the Bids for the Construction of Flyover (Rail over Bridge) at Perambur in Chennai city were opened, processed and placed before the Tender Evaluation Committee by the Bridge Department. During the first Meeting of the Tender Evaluation Committee for the above work held on 04-12-1998, it was found that the bid of M/s. National Building Construction Corporation Ltd., (A Government of India undertaking) was found to be the lowest bidder for the above work. It was also revealed in the Meeting that the first lowest bidder M/s. National Building Construction

Corporation Ltd. had not produced the work Completion Certificate, which they claimed to have completed works of similar nature, in their Technical bid (a work of Public Works Department of Gujarat). The Committee, therefore, had asked the Superintending Engineer to explore the possibility as to whether the third lowest bidder Thiruvallur Bhagheeratha Engineering would be ready to do this work at the lowest rates quoted by the first lowest bidder viz T/L. National Building Construction Corporation Ltd., since the lowest bid was not substantively responsive to the bidding document. The committee asked the Superintending Engineer (Bridges) to address the Executive Engineer, Express Way Division IV, PWD Ahmedabad in Gujarat, to inform on the stages of works said to have been completed by National Building Construction Corporation Ltd., in their Technical bid”.

In the next Meeting held on 23rd December 1998, the Superintending Engineer (Bridges) produced the letter as received from the Executive Engineer Express Way Division which stated that Thiruvallur National Building Construction Corporation had completed the work in the extended period of Construction. Since Thiruvallur NBCC was being a government of India concern and their rates were being the lowest, consensus decision was taken to entrust the work to NBCC as other agencies would not find acceptance by the funding Agency as it did not permit any negotiation with any other agency with a view to reduce Bid prices. *Besides, the Committee also felt, by entrusting the work to any private agency like Thiruvallur. Bhagheeratha engineering works would invite adverse criticism by the Corporation Council, besides inviting Audit objection and adverse criticism from the media too. The cost of the Project was then Rs.34.84 Crore.*

So, the Tender Evaluation Committee took a conscious decision to entrust the work to M/s. National Building Construction Corporation (A government of India undertaking) and submitted the File to the Commissioner, Chennai Corporation for further action”.

Despite my pleadings that I was not the final Authority to decide on such matters, the Commission did not listen to me. Like me, many engineers

like Er.G.Govindaswamy, Former SE/ Chennai Corporation, Er.M.Boopal, Former Chief Engineer / Chennai Corporation, Structural Consultants from IIT, Chennai, bureaucrats were called in to depose as witnesses.

Truth alone Triumphs:

Then the Commission Report was placed before the Tamilnadu Assembly in the first week of September, 2002 for consideration. Finally the Report was sent to CBCID for detailed investigation and to initiate "prosecution proceedings "against the alleged accused.

On the appointed date on 02-09-2004, I appeared before him (D.S.P.) and narrated the entire Case and my total innocence / zero involvement in the Case. Initially, he was very harsh with me and threatened me to take me to custodial interrogation (Police Custody), if I did not cooperate and toe in line with him. I told him to carry on and also mildly warned him about my proposal to take up this matter to the notice of Hon'ble Madras High Court under the relevant provision of the law, if he continued to threaten me like this. Infact, Er.G.Govindaswamy, Former SE/Chennai Corporation was the worst victim despite his active involvement in Construction of several Flyovers, Stadium construction Egmore, Chennai in and around Chennai city. I also told him about the story of my uncle late (name with held) in Tamilnadu Police, who had lost his vision. I also told him that, I met him at his house in Defense Colony at Chennai and asked about the reason for his blindness. He said to me as Police inspector in Thanjavur he used to nab twenty suspects to catch two accused. He said that eighteen innocent people, depriving in total loss of his Vision. On hearing this, he got up from his Seat and with folded hands promised me not to include me in this case and also said that if he decided not to hear me further left, he should be brainwashed and take SANYASAM. During the above period of crisis, Er A.V.Sathyakaman, F.C.E (B) and my father's old student by name Thiru Ramani Gurujii of Tambaram were periodically enquiring the status of case and extended both emotional and moral support .



Thiru Ramani Gurujii

In the meanwhile under the pretext of enquiry, I used to receive Calls from an anonymous sources, introducing himself as the Constable /CB /HQ and used to ask for my location. I was also instructed not to leave Chennai without informing them. Once it so happened that, I had to go to US, I got their permission and shared all my contact details at US and went to US. Again on my arrival to Chennai, I reported back to the CB /CID, HQ. This drama went on for two years. Annoyed by their frequent verifications, that too at odd times and at odd places, I requested the inquiry Officer to hasten his inquiry. Eventually, I was asked by the then Deputy Superintendent of Police, to appear before him on 02-09-2004 at 10 AM at the CB-CID Head Quarters. So upset, by such incidents, I decided as not to take any job in Tamil Nadu, but went to Bangalore and worked as Team leader, for Bangalore – Maddur four laning works with headquarters at Bangalore for well over two years very peacefully. On one day, Thiru M.R .Kimble IAS (Retired) casually asked me as why I frequently go Chennai that too when my madam was in US.I told my pathetic Case before CB -CID head quarters sequentially and how I became Accused officer No 18. After hearing calmly, he quipped as what

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I am not branding all police as bad but only a few among them are like, my then inquiry officer, (who was also good) but my bad Karma brought me before him. I know many good police officers, the best among being, my friend Thiru V.Gopaldaswamy, a former additional Superintendent of Police, now settled at Coimbatore. He became good friend of mine while I was the Team leader of Kumarapalayam –Chengapalli TN-07 of NH-47 Road corridor project.

The enquiry continued further till April, 2006. There was change of incumbency in Tamilnadu in April, 2006. The Justice Arumugham Commission Report was given a decent burial and CBCID also submitted the closure reports under the heading "MISTAKEN FACTS". The "truth triumphs at last".

Resumption of Perambur Flyover Work

Finally the Perambur Flyover Construction was given a fresh lease of life, by inviting tenders to take up the work and T/L. IVRCL took the contract at a cost of Rs.68 Crore with some added facilities and completed. Eventually, the Bridge was inaugurated on 28th March, 2010 by the then Chief Minister, late Kalaignar Thiru.M.Karunanidhi and the then Deputy Chief Minister, Thiru.M.K.Stalin presided over the function.

Had the project which was costing only Rs. 34.84 Crores then taken up for Construction, it could have saved around Rs.30 Crore approximately even after giving additional facilities.

I need not narrate how much mental agony that I underwent in the period of 2002 to 2005. I have chosen to write this episode to warn serving Engineers that problem would come to them at any time of its choice and I would like to cite a famous Greek mythological saying "for Achilles the heel is the weakest Spot"

"In Greek mythology, when Achilles was an infant, it was prophesized that he would perish at a young age. To prevent his death, his mother Thetis took Achilles to the River Styx, which was supposed to offer powers of invulnerability. She dipped his body into the water but, because she

held him by his heel, it was not touched by the water of the river. Achilles grew up to be a great warrior, who survived many great battles”.

But for Engineers, the entire body is a weak spot. At any time, any Engineer either working in the Site or in the Office or even in retired life like me, cannot escape from the fate and any Engineer can get divine protection only by remaining honest and hard working not succumbing to any political pressure. This may be read in the context of present structural failures happening at many places in India.

When I sent this draft articles to my friends Er.A.Arunachalam, Former Special Chief Engineer (Tirunelveli) and Er.T.Ponniah, Former Executive Engineer (Chennai) for the comments, they all said that how come I withheld this information in spite of being close to them. I told to Er.N.Dorairaj, Former Chief Engineer (PWD) very much aware of this episode and he was consoling me then and there. He also further said this episode was not a pleasant one to share with anybody.

Exactly after 3 years of this incident, that is in December, 2005 I had a chance to meet Late Thiru.P.T.R.Palanivel Rajan, Former Speaker Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly and also Thiru.M.K.Stalin now Hon'ble Chief Minister, Tamilnadu together in a marriage function at Arivalayam at Teynampet. I greeted them and particularly asked the Former Mayor, Thiru. M.K.Stalin present chief Minister "Sir, do you remember me? He replied back to me "how can I forget you?" என்னால் உங்களை மறக்க முடியுமா?. His utterances were very touching. Afterwards, I have no chance to meet him in the past sixteen years.

Concluded for the time being but will be continued in my next edition if the GOD wills.

Acknowledgement

My sincere thanks to

Thiru.A.M.Swaminathan I.A.S (Retd)

Former Secretary, Department of Finance, Government of Tamil Nadu,

Thiru. Arun Ramanathan I.A.S (Retd)

Former Secretary, Petro-Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals, Government of India,

For induction into Road Sector

Thiru. R.Poornalingam I.A.S. (Retd)

Former Special officer, Greater Chennai Corporation

And Former Secretary Home

for having helped me to gain knowledge on Bridge

Engineering by entrusting a lot of Bridge works in and around

Chennai City, specifically to my lily pond region (headed by me) of Tamil Nadu State

Construction Corporation, Chennai

Er.T.P.Ekambaram, Former chief Engineer (H)

And Er.M. Saravanelu

Former chief Engineer (H)

For induction into “Roads and Bridges sector “

Which enabled me to become Team leader / NHA/ NH-47.

Bountiful thanks to my brother-in-law, Justice Thiru.P.Bhaskaran, Former Judge, Madras High Court who continues to extend his moral support to our family till this moment.



I am much indebted to my wife Tmt. N.Sakuntala who has been most supportive and is an embodiment of love, patience and tolerance.

Thanks also to my loving daughter, Tmt. R.N.Kavitha , a Software Engineer, in US and her loving husband Dr. V.Somasundaram, Patients friendly Doctor and their two sons, Eashwar Soma, a Medical student and Kylesh Soma, a College student, who resembles me more than his parents and is very much attached to me (R.N) who are source of our happiness and peace here.



From left to right, Kylesh Soma, Dr.V.Somasundaram M.D M.R.C.P, Tmt.R.N.Kavitha BE, MS, (US) our only child, (Dr.) Eashwar Soma, Tmt.Sakuntala Nadimuthu and myself



(Dr.) Eashwar Soma



Thiru.Kylesh Soma/ Third Year B.S

Thanks to all my friends, and relatives and to say a few as under:

Dr.S.Vaithianathan, Cardiologist, Ashok Nagar, Chennai, (Friend, Philosopher and Guide)

Dr.R.Rajasekar, M.D, Physician and Diabetologist (Cousin at Kumbakonam)

Dr.M.Nallanayagam, Physician at Porur, Chennai

Dr.D.Balakrishnan, M.S., DLO, Phd., E.N.T Doctor, Chennai.

Dr V.Palaniswamy , M.D , D.M , Leading cardiologist at Coimbatore

Dr .N.Sethupathy –MD (Dermatologist), Coimbatore

Nephews:

Er. M.Venkatesan, Senior Executive Vice President, H.C.L Technology Chennai,

Thiru. N.K.Vanan, Advocate, Madras High Court, Chennai

Thiru. A.Nagarajan, Advocate, Madras High Court, Chennai

Thiru.V.P.Balaji, HR, Manager (Talent Acquisition), Amazon, Chennai.

Thiru.E.Thiyagarajan, Investment Consultant . Cell No. 9381006390

Cousins

Thiru.R.Kumar, Virugambakkam, Chennai.

Thiru.R.Karthikeyan, Chartered Accountant at Bangalore

Who are supportive of us, in the absence of our kith and kin here.



Last but not the least, I thank **Thiru.P.Manikandan**, my “**Personal Assistant**” an epitome of love and concern who spends more time with us than at his home .He also played a major Role in writing this book notably in editing photos



Thiru.K.J.Suresh

Who meticulously typed, my dictation and shaped this book.

Commendation Certificates

SECRET

SOKOTO—RIMA BASIN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
 ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT
SOKOTO.....

P.M.B. No. 2223
 Telegrams: SOKOTORIMA
 Telephone: 232337



Ref No. SR/CON/P-1428/19
 Date: 17th December 84.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:
MR. R. NADIMUTHU-ENGINEER

The above mentioned has worked with the Sokoto Rima River Basin and Rural Development Authority as a Senior Executive Engineer from 1st August, 1982 to date. During the period he has been involved in design and construction and maintenance of the Authority's facilities including offices, workshops, roads etc.

2. During the period he has been working under me Mr. Nadimuthu has proved to be an experienced, resourceful and undaunted Engineer ever willing to face up to the challenge of his profession. His presence occasioned substantial improvement in the quality of Civil Engineering activities of this Authority.

3. I wish him good luck.


 (ALHAJI MUHAMMAD ARZIKA (CFR),
 GENERAL MANAGER.

SOKOTO RIMA RIVER BASIN & RURAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT
SOKOTO.

P.M.B. No. 2223
 Telegrams: SOKOTORIMA
 Telephone: 232337



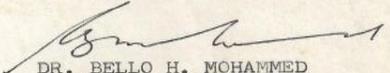
Ref No. SR/CON/P-1428/35
 Date... 7th Nov. 1985

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN
MR. R. NADIMUTHU- ENGINEER

1. The above named has worked with the Sokoto Rima River and Rural Development Authority as a Senior Executive Engineer from 1st August, 1982 to 20th December, 1985, when his contract for employment has expired with the Authority.

2. During the period he has been working under me Mr. Nadimuthu has proved to be a hard working and resourceful Engineer. Considering his performance in the Engineering Department of this Authority, he will be a valuable asset to any organization requiring his services.

3. Good luck.


 DR. BELLO H. MOHAMMED
 GENERAL MANAGER.



Letter of Appreciation received in SOKOTO RIMA RIVER BASIN AUTHORITY at Nigeria on 1984 & 1985



Arignar Anna Award given for the Best Executive Engineer for 1994-1995
Given on 22-10-1997 by the then Honorable Chief Minister, late
Dr.Kalaingar Karunanidhi



10RS.



181
70 MAR 1999

R. NADIMUTHU.

J. J. Sankaralingam
S. V. L. NC, ECG/S
VELLORE - 632 004, TAMIL NADU.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

PERARIGNAR ANNA AWARD

1994 - 1995

Thiru R. NADIMUTHU, Executive Engineer, Buildings Section, Public Works Department, Government of Tamil Nadu has been awarded 'Perarignar Anna Award' with cash award of Rs.1,500/- (Rupees One thousand five hundred only) in recognition of rendering meritorious service as Executive Engineer in Buildings Section, Public Works Department in the year 1994-1995.

Sd/-
G. Ganapathisubramaniam
Engineer in Chief and
Chief Engineer (Genl.)
W.R.O., P.W.D.

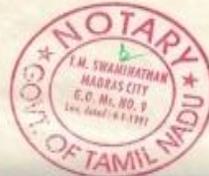
Sd/-
Durai Muragan,
Minister for
Public Works
Department.

Sd/-
M. Karunanidhi,
Chief Minister
of Tamil Nadu.

*True Translation from
Tamil to English*

J. Swaminathan

J. M. SWAMINATHAN
Advocate Notary Public &
Commissioner of Oaths
Madras City
133, Thambu Chetty Street
Chennai - 600 001.
Off: 5343172, Res: 4942447



An Appreciation to Er.R.Nadimuthu, Former CE, TNPWD

15.05.2020

Dear Sir,

Recently I have travelled from Coimbatore to Neyveli, through Kumarapalayam-Chengappalli 4-lane highway, which recalls me the efforts put by you during the Construction of the Project. The riding quality of the Highway stands as a testimony for your selfless & proactive leadership, under whom the Highway was built 12 years ago.



So, I thought of taking this opportunity to express my sincere admiration for the amazing efforts put by you during the Construction Phase. I appreciate everything that you have done for the project, be it Review & Approval of the Designs, Modification of the designs to facilitate serving for the local public, being firm on quality compliances, act proactively in protecting interests of all parties, encouraging all the team members, creating a corruption free work environment, etc lead the project for a successful on time completion with a win-win situation for everyone.

It's really a wonder, that the Pavement was designed for a design life of 10 years, with periodic overlay for once in every five years. However, even after 12 years of completion of the project, the riding quality of the Highway still remains excellent, even without a single overlay. Your guidance and leadership was instrumental on this count and has been influential in achieving such a good quality.

On behalf of the entire team of the Concessionaire, Contractor and IC Team, I'd like to express my deepest appreciation for your excellent mentoring & leadership during execution of the project. I appreciate everything that you have done over the Project and the endless hours that you have spent working on the project, and the professionalism that you have shown had motivated the entire team immensely for making this possible.

Sir, I take this opportunity to Thank You once again for your commitment and invaluable contributions towards achieving this. You have been a source of inspiration & role model for me always.

With Warm Regards,

Thanks & Regards,
J. JOSEPH ANTONY SAHAYARAJ
 Team Leader,
 Authority's Engineer for NHAI,
 VPS Package-1, NH-45C

2-A Malligai Street,
 Gandhi Nagar, Vadakuthu Post,
Neyveli - 607308
 (M) : +91 4142 266726
 E: +91 7708555777, 8754633009
 Email: ti_aethemevps@outlook.com;
jose10168@yahoo.com

Courtesy: Mootha Poriyaalar Magazine May – June 2020



Association of Consulting Civil Engineers (India)

A-21, A-Block, 2nd Floor, Brigade MM Industrial Complex, K R Road, Near Yediyur Circle, Bangalore -560 070

Tel: 080-26770365, 26770366 Email: accemanger@gmail.com Website: www.acce.in



Dear Er. RAJAGOPALAN NADIMUTHU, CHENNAI

ACCE(I) - EMINENT ENGINEER 2021

We, the members of the **Association of Consulting Civil Engineers (India)**, place on record our deep appreciations for all the achievements that have come on your way due to your assiduous and fervent efforts in furthering the cause of Civil Engineering in general and society at large.

Your continued passion in accomplishing the objectives of this Association, stands as a testimony for the next generation to stay focused and pursue the goals of this Association with renewed vigor and energy.

Association of Consulting Civil Engineers (India), recognize your services and confer the award of **ACCE(I) - EMINENT ENGINEER** on the august occasion of **36th Annual General Body Meeting** held virtually on 25th August 2021 at Bangalore.

Dr. M U Aswath
President

Rajesh Kannan R
Secretary General

Badarinaath Singri
Treasurer

My Commendable Projects:

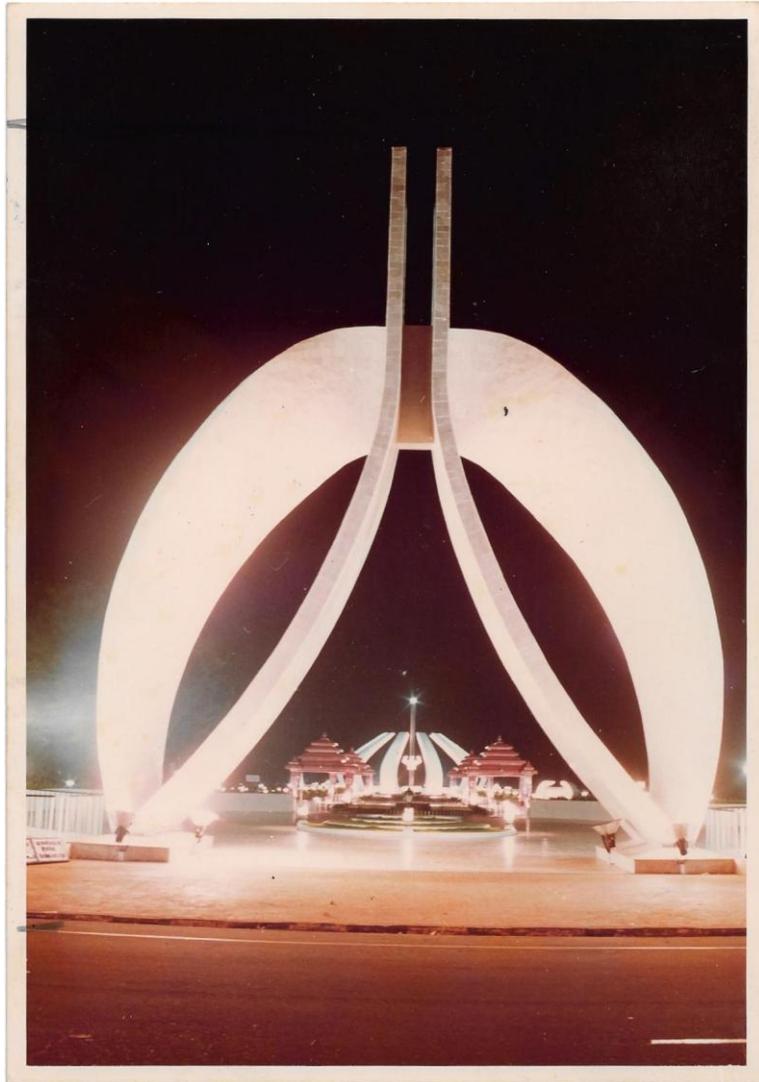


Moore Market Complex, Near Chennai Central Railway Station (1991)



Anna Museum at Marina Beach Chennai (3900 Square feet)

Innaugrated on 15th September, 1990 Constructed in a record time of 27 days



Dr M.G.R. Memorial Entrance as in 1992



Dr. M.G.R Memorial_at Marina Beach, Chennai,

still remains unchanged structure, Inaugrated on 24th December,1992 by the then Chief Minister of Tamilnadu late Selvi.J.Jayalalithaa - Project Completed in 9 months

World Tamil Conference Projects:



Welcome Arch at all approach roads to Thanjavur Town

1994



Tholkapiar Manimandapam at Thanjavur ,Tamil Nadu(1994)



**Raja Rajan Manimandapam, Medical college Road, Thanjavur
Buildings built on the eve of World Tamil Conference Project held at
Thanjavur Town , namely 7 Arches and 2 Manimandapams.**

**completed in Record time of 4 months (August 1994 to December 1994)
Inaugurated by the then late Hon'ble Chief Minister
Selvi.J.Jayalalithaa on 1st January 1995**



Athipattu Bridge at North Madras (Chennai) 1990-1992



NHAI highways connecting Kumarapalyam -Chengapalli -TN-07/NHAI 47

My countless friends and engineers who figured and triggered the concept of Writing this book and to name a few as under.



Er. A. Veerappan
Former Spl. Chief engineer
PWD Chennai



Er. R. Radhakrishnan
Former Chief Engineer
PWD Chennai



Er. S. Murugaiyan
Former Spl Chief Engineer
PWD Chennai



Er. K. Manuraj
Former Spl chief engineer
PWD Trichy



Er. N. N. Thiyagarajan
Former SE PWD, Chennai



Er. N. Kailasapathy
Former Joint Chief Engineer
PWD, Chennai



Er. K. Anbu
Spl. Chief engineer
(PWD)



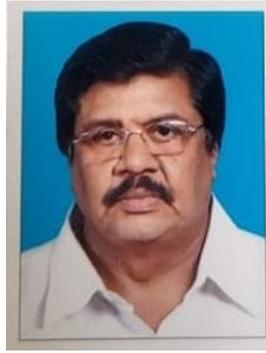
Er. V. Mahesan
Chief Engineer
Greater Chennai corporation



Er. A. S. Murugan
Executive Engineer
Corporation of Chennai



Er.K.Murugan
Executive Engineer PWD
General Secretary
Association of Engineers



Er.Ignatius Jude
Former Executive Engineer
PWD



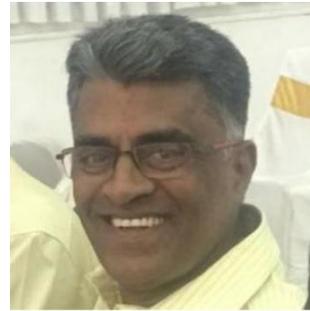
**Er.J.Joseph
Antony Sagayaraj**
Authority Team
Leader, NHAI



Er.T.T.Shanmugavadivelu
Former EE.P.W.D (Trichy)



Er.M.Kumaresan
AEE, Police Housing
Corporation Thirunelveli



Er.L.Balaji
Contractor -Chennai



Thiru.S .Jaganathan
Chennai Corporation
chennai



Er.R.Gobi
Executive Engineer PWD,
Palani



Er.S.Purushothman
My class mate
1963 batch ,London



Er.N.Raguraj/ Co-Coordinator for G-63
Global friends
Chairman ,Nettur Tech. Foundation
Bangalore



Er.A.K.Nithiyanandam
Former Junior Engineer PWD

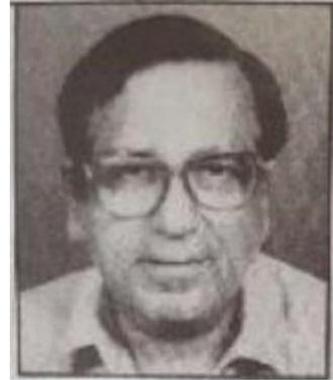
My great Gurus



Late Er.R.Seetharaman
Former CE PWD

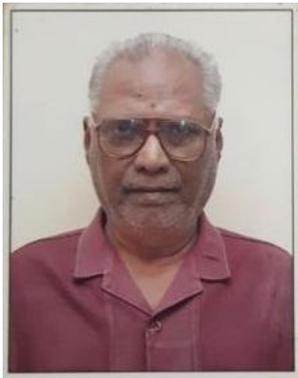


Late Er.K.Ramalingam
Former CE PWD



Late r.A.V.Sathyakaman
Former CE PWD

My Mentors

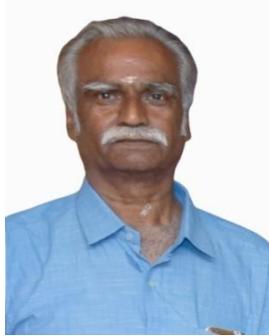


Er.T.P.Ekambaram
Former CE (Highways)



Er.M.Mallikarjunan
Former Chief Engineer PWD

In the fond memory of my best friend late **Er B.Ravindran, Former Junior Engineer, WSRMB, Poondi** who left for his heavenly abode on **6th January 2021**



Er.B.Ravindran
Former JE PWD



My walkers club friends (Right to left)Thiru.Pushparaj, Er. Mohan, Myself, late Thiru.Ragothaman 2019.

Abbreviations:

T.N. PWD – Tamil Nadu Public works Department.

D.R.& C.S ----Design ,Research ,and Construction Support .

IHH-Institute of Hydraulics and Hydrology

H-Highways.

I.A.S –Indian Administrative service.

I.P.S –Indian police Service.

D.C.E or Dy. C.E –Deputy Chief Engineer.

R.O –Research officer.

S.M & R Division –Soil mechanics and Research Division

W.S.R.M.B - Water shed management Board.

TWAD B –Tamil Nadu water supply and Drainage Board

NHAI - National High Authority of India.

C.J –Chief justice

MDU---Madurai

Er-Engineer

FSPI C.E – Former Special Chief Engineer

Retd –Retired.

FMR –Former / Retired

TANSEA –Tamilnadu Senior Engineers Association

A.O.E – Association of Engineers

FCE –former Chief engineer

FSE –Former Superintending Engineer

F.E.E – Former Executive Engineer

F.A.E E –Former Assistant Executive Engineer.

F.A.E –Former Assistant Engineer.

F.J.E –Former Junior Engineer

A.E. – Assistant Engineer

J.E. – Junior Engineer

A.E.E. - Assistant Executive Engineer

E.E - Executive Engineer

S.E - Superintending Engineer

C.E (PWD) - Chief Engineer Public Works department

C.E (H) - Chief Engineer (Highways)

R.N - Rajagopalan Nadimuthu

G.M – General Manager

A.G.M - Assistant General Manager

A.M. – Assistant Manager

C.A.O. - Chief Accounts Officer

M.D. - Managing Director

P.T.C. - Erstwhile Pallavan Transport corporation, Chennai.

C.P.N. - Chennai Corporation

T/L -Thiruvallur (Messer's)

Former - Retired

S.R.R.B.D.A.A-Sokoto Rima River Basin Development Authority

"Hi -Dialect used by NIGERIANS and some Indians to call others as
"Hello".

Sokoto - A Northern province in Nigeria

Alhajee - Form of Salutation in Nigeria for those Muslims who performed
"MECCA" Pilgrimage.

November 2021



Er Rajagopalan Nadimuthu (R.N),
Former Chief Engineer, TNPWD

During my first ever meeting with my uncle late Padmashri T.Muthian that took place in sometime in May 1956 , at PWD complex at Chepauk, he said that it was his wish that I should join in PWD, (as he had a special love for" TN PWD") and retire as a CE from the "TNPWD" same building ,from where he was sitting .I also promised him by saying " Yes". Later on, I could see as how difficult it is to achieve the goal set by him. When I told my promise, to late the then honorable Speaker Thiru P.T.R .Palanivel Thyagarajan , he said yes . Later on he gave high pressure to the then Chief Minister late Dr Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi and got me posted as the CE in the DR& C.S on 12th July 1999 and retired from there on 31st December 2000.