



Speech by
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ON THE OCCASION OF

THE OPENING CEREMONY

OF THE

OFFICE BUILDING

OF THE

ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, MYSORE

On the 6th February 1956



Speech by Shri Asok Kumar Chanda, Comptroller and Auditor General of India, on the occasion of the opening ceremony of the Office Building of the Accountant General, Mysore, on the 6th February 1956.

YOUR HIGHNESS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

IT IS indeed a pleasure and a privilege to perform the opening ceremony of this office, the foundation-stone of which was so graciously laid by His Highness the Rajpramukh. I am indeed happy that we, on our part, are making a small contribution towards the grace and charm of this beautiful city of Bangalore. I am grateful to the Government of Mysore for making a free gift of the land, on which this building has been erected and also for generously allowing us to utilize the services of the State P.W.D. free of any charge for the construction of this building. Had it not been for this generosity, it might have been difficult for us to bring together, under the same roof, the accounts and audit offices, scattered in eight separate buildings. It would have been equally difficult to make it possible for our employees to work under satisfactory conditions. In this building, constructed at a cost of about Rs. 16 lakhs, we have provided all necessary amenities for the staff, such as a lift, accommodation for recreations, the Co-operative Society, Dispensary and Canteen. We have also made arrangements for future expansion, should this

become necessary, without encroaching on the space allocated for these welfare measures.

2. In the pre-Independence era, Mysore had established a high tradition of administrative competence. It was, in many ways, a more progressive State than its neighbouring British Indian Provinces. Not only did the pattern of its administration conform more closely to the conception of a democratic Government, but the State largely realized the conception of a Welfare State. The establishment of industries, with the active assistance and association of the State, while paying an equal emphasis on the development of its rural economy through improved agricultural methods, electrification of villages, etc., were essential features of the State's policy. It is gratifying to note that this tradition of competence and of imaginative planning has been fully maintained after Independence. It might not be out of place to mention here that it was a distinguished Mysorean who had filled the high office of the Dewan of the State, Shri Visvesvaraya, who formulated, as early as 1934, a ten-year plan to increase the national wealth twofold.

3. In a recent address to the Class II Officers of the Indian Audit Department at Madras, I had posed the problems of audit in the future administration of the country. I had mentioned that the formation of linguistic provinces, where the business of the States would be conducted in the regional languages, would constitute a problem for the maintenance of uniformity and for ensuring co-ordination of audit and

account functions on an all-India basis. The recent encouraging ideas of the integration of contiguous areas of economic and cultural affinity would simplify, if not remove, this problem, which we, in audit, face equally with the administration.

4. It would be supererogatory for me to express any opinion on the political aspect of such a move. I can deal with it only on a somewhat narrower angle of administration and audit. If you will permit me to delve into the past and take you into my confidence, I should like to say that, as Chairman of the Departmental Committee on the Regrouping of Railways, I had advocated the formation of five administrative zones—Eastern, Western, Northern, Southern and Central. The proposal flowed from the conviction that such a plan would not only increase operational efficiency and economy, but would take into account the all-important aspect of the economic inter-dependence of contiguous areas. It would also make possible a more effective utilization of resources, more particularly, of competent manpower and provide better facilities for technical co-ordination and research, thus meeting the essential necessities for the execution of a planned programme of development. This plan was moderated and adjusted on other considerations. The considerations mentioned above apply with equal, if not greater, force in any administrative reorganisation. The mobilisation of technical personnel on a zonal basis would also go a long way to meet the necessity for the reconstitution of certain technical services on an all-India basis.

5. Any re-adjustments of territories which would make the States economically viable, with manpower at the required level of competence and strength, any reorganisation and reorientation of the structure of administration and the component services to bring them in tune and harmony with the purpose of our State and equip them better to fulfil their new responsibilities, should be welcome to all. More so, to audit, as these adjustments would be reflected in the economic utilization of the financial resources and a competent execution of the projects free from waste and other undesirable features.

6. I would crave your indulgence for referring to matters which may not be strictly germane to the function of today. But the problems which are likely to be created for audit and accounts by the formation of States on a strictly unilingual basis have been exercising my mind for some time. I now feel that if the proposed merger of contiguous bilingual or multilingual areas under one State administration becomes a reality, many of these problems would vanish. This is my only excuse for inflicting these views on you today.

7. I would now, once again, thank His Highness the Rajpramukh and the Government of this progressive State, and declare the new office open.