

# Jayalalithaa govt has little to celebrate

WRITTEN BY

**dna Correspondent**

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When the Jayalalithaa-led AIADMK government celebrated its first anniversary in office on Wednesday, the general feeling in Tamil Nadu is that the administration was directionless and the opposition is clueless.

When AIADMK swept the assembly election, the state was reeling under severe power crisis. One year later, the power situation has aggravated with villages and towns going without power for 20 hours a day.

The major casualty is agriculture, according to Arpathi Kalyanam, a farmer leader from Nagapattinam. "The state is in for a major food crisis as farmers are undecided about Kuruvai, the major crop, which has to begin in mid-June. There is no water in Mettur dam, the life line of the 4,00,000 acre Cauvery Delta region. Because of power cuts, farmers will not be able to operate motor pumps," Kalyanam told *DNA*.

Though Jayalalithaa claimed that the exchequer is crisis-ridden with a debt of Rs 1,00,000 crore, there has been no dearth in freebee-schemes like fans, mixer grinders and laptops. To top it, the administration launched advertisement blitzkrieg reportedly worth Rs100 crore to give an 'all is well' feeling.

"If one goes by the content of the letters written by the chief minister to the prime minister during the last one year, there is nothing to celebrate about," said Kattumannarkoil Kannan, a farmer leader from Cuddalore. He said there was no dearth of announcements. "But they all remain in paper and the conditions of the farmers have worsened," he said.

All infrastructure development works have come to a halt. The work of the road connecting Oragaddam, Sri Perumbuthur (major industrial hubs) with Ennore and Chennai ports is yet to take off though project approvals were granted long back.

The police firing in Paramakudi which claimed lives of seven Dalits too is a blot on the face of the government.

“What we see in Tamil Nadu today is a 110-144 rule,” said Gnani Sankaran, political commentator. “Inside the assembly, Jayalalithaa uses Rule 110 which does not allow debates and discussions on the statements she make. The members can only thank the chief minister. Any critical comments by the Opposition are expunged from the records,” said Gnani.

He pointed out that public resentment on various issues is being silenced through the enforcement of Section 144 all over the state.

Luckily for Jaya, the DMK is yet to recover from the defeat of the assembly election and party patriarch Karunanidhi is busy in solving sibling rivalries. Vijayakant, the Leader of the Opposition is yet to make any contribution in Tamil Nadu politics.

Meanwhile, the first anniversary was spiced up with the Thursday morning raids on the houses and offices of Veerapandi Arumugam, DMK’s Salem strongman.

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