

Dr M. S. ADISESHIAH

In these days, when every public appointment causes nothing but disappointment to the public, it is refreshing news that Dr Malcolm Adiseshiah has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of the Madras University. Dr Adiseshiah secured a First Class in Economics Honours from Loyola College, Madras, and a Master's Degree and a Doctorate from the Cambridge University. He joined the International Civil Service in UNESCO, Paris and rose to the position of Deputy Director-General of that august body. It was a disappointment to many of us that after a long and meritorious service to that organization, he did not become its Director-General before retirement. Unlike people acclimatised to Western life hankering after it, Dr Adiseshiah planned to return to his home State and render whatever service he could to the people. After more than 20 years of Parisian luxuries, Dr Adiseshiah adapted himself to the local conditions and never for once looked back with regret on the comforts and convenience he had forgone. As a retired International Civil Servant, Dr Adiseshiah could have drawn his pension in the currency of the country he chose to settle in, live a life of well-earned rest, leisure and enjoyment. That he preferred to come back to his own State to serve it, proves his dedication. During his service with the UNESCO, Dr Adiseshiah had been of immense assistance to all the developing countries, helping and guiding them in every way. The Indian Delegation to the UNESCO had always received his warm hospitality, deep consideration and willing assistance. Dr Radhakrishnan, Dr Zakir Husain and Mrs Indira Gandhi who had served on the Executive Board of the UNESCO at various times, had always the highest regard for Dr Adiseshiah's abilities. Therefore, it is the Madras University rather than Dr Adiseshiah that should be congratulated on the appointment.

Madras University had a reputation for standard and quality when Malcolm was a student thereof. Eminent scholars and

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scientists have passed out of the portals of this great University shedding light and lustre at home and abroad. In all-India competitive examinations, Madras students had always fared well and carried the prizes. In recent years, however, the University, though it has gained width, has lost depth and its alumni are no longer the top of their class in the country. Standards have fallen and outstanding products of the University are yet to appear. It will, therefore, be no easy task for the new Vice-Chancellor to restore the pristine glory of the University and to improve the quality of its students. Apart from the students, the Professors of the University have ceased to contribute effectively to the solution of national problems by thought-provoking contributions in the press and on the platform. We hear less and less of academicians discussing economic policies and more and more of politicians sabre-rattling their pet theories. In the field of science, the University should be geared to achieve a breakthrough instead of marking attendance and time. Dr Adiseshiah has been afforded a great opportunity to try some of his ideas for improving the University education as well as its contribution to national thinking and we are confident that he will fulfil the highest expectations of the people of the State.

### UNDER-UTILIZATION OF CAPACITY

Mr T. A. PAI, Minister for Heavy Industry, is reported to have warned private sector industries that if they do not utilize 75 per cent of the installed capacity,

the management of these institutions will be changed. Nothing should be more welcome than a drive towards greater production in the country. Not only does it help to fight inflation but it goes a long way in providing the masses with the goods and services of which they have been starved over the past several decades. Under-utilization of capacity is a waste of national resources and a crime against society itself. On the basis of the installed capacity, the Government has been refusing new licences for units and under-utilization of capacity creates an artificial scarcity and a sellers' market. A vested interest in under-utilization of capacity also develops in the absence of competition from other producers. But if Mr Pai means that the management of these erring units will be taken over by the Government, one cannot hope for any spectacular results or improvement, as the record of utilization of capacity in the public sector is none too bright. In fact, one would be tempted to say, "Physician, heal thyself." By the same token, we may ask Mr Pai, "Who should take over the units in the public sector which are chronically under-utilized?" It is notorious that the Durgapur steel plant, the Heavy Engineering Corporation, -Ranchi and a few other heavy industries have never reached Mr Pai's target of 75 per cent utilization of installed capacity. What change in management does Mr Pai contemplate for such units?



"We've been opening and closing our college in such rapid succession that we're not sure for which purpose we invited you . . ."