

TEMPLE ENTRY LEGISLATION - REVIEWED -

WITH ACTS AND BILLS

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Preface

Temple entry for Harijans is a burning topic of the day. When temples in some parts of the country have been thrown open to Harijans, one wonders at the delay in opening all the other Hindu temples to Harijans. An uncompromising legislation permitting temple entry to all Hindus including Harijan is long over due. To maintain the purity and sanctity of the temples, rules similar to those in force in Travancore may be made.

This book is a review of the temple entry movement in the country. The relevant Bills and Acts are given in the appendix. It is hoped that this book will be useful to Lawyers, Temple Trustees and Harijan Sevaks.

In the production of this book many have helped. My acknowledgements are due to the Archaeological Survey of S. India, to the Government of Travancore and to Seth G. D. Birla for the several photos which adorn the pages of this book. Sri C. R. Pattabhi Raman, Sri C. R. Srinivasan of the *Swadesamitran*, Sri Ramnath Goenka of the *Indian Express*, Sri S. V. Swami of the *Free Press*, Sri E. R. Govindan of the *Free India*, Dr. P. Natarajan of Gurukul Fernhill, Sri Khasa Subba Rao of the *Swatantra* have all helped me with blocks of pictures appearing in the book. My acknowledgements are also due to Sri D. P. Roy Choudury, Principal, Madras School of Arts for the loan of two blocks representing Temple Entry in Travancore.

13th Nov. 1946.

S. R. Venkataraman.

FOREWORD

Sri S. R. Venkataraman of the Servants of India Society, who has already written a valuable pamphlet on "Harijans Through the Ages" (Bharata Devi Publications, 1946) has, by bringing out this treatise on the temple-entry movement rendered further notable service in the cause of Harijans and Liberal Hinduism. In this treatise, he not only traces the history of the said movement and deals with the various pieces of legislation attempted and enacted in furtherance of it, in this province and elsewhere, including the Native States but critically reviews the whole subject in all its aspects. The review is original and instructive and is well worth perusal by everybody interested in the Harijan problem. Three useful supplements, the second of which deals with the Proceedings and Judgment of the Federal Court in the recent and famous Madura Temple Entry case, have been added to the review, while all the Bills and Acts relating to temple-entry as well as the excellent set of rules framed under the epoch-making Temple Entry Proclamation of the Maharajah of Travancore are collected in the appendices which follow. The book is a very useful one and ought to be in the hands of all Harijan Sevaks.

V. Bashyam Iyengar,

Retired Judge, High Court, Madras.

President :

Harijan Sevak Sangh, Madras City.

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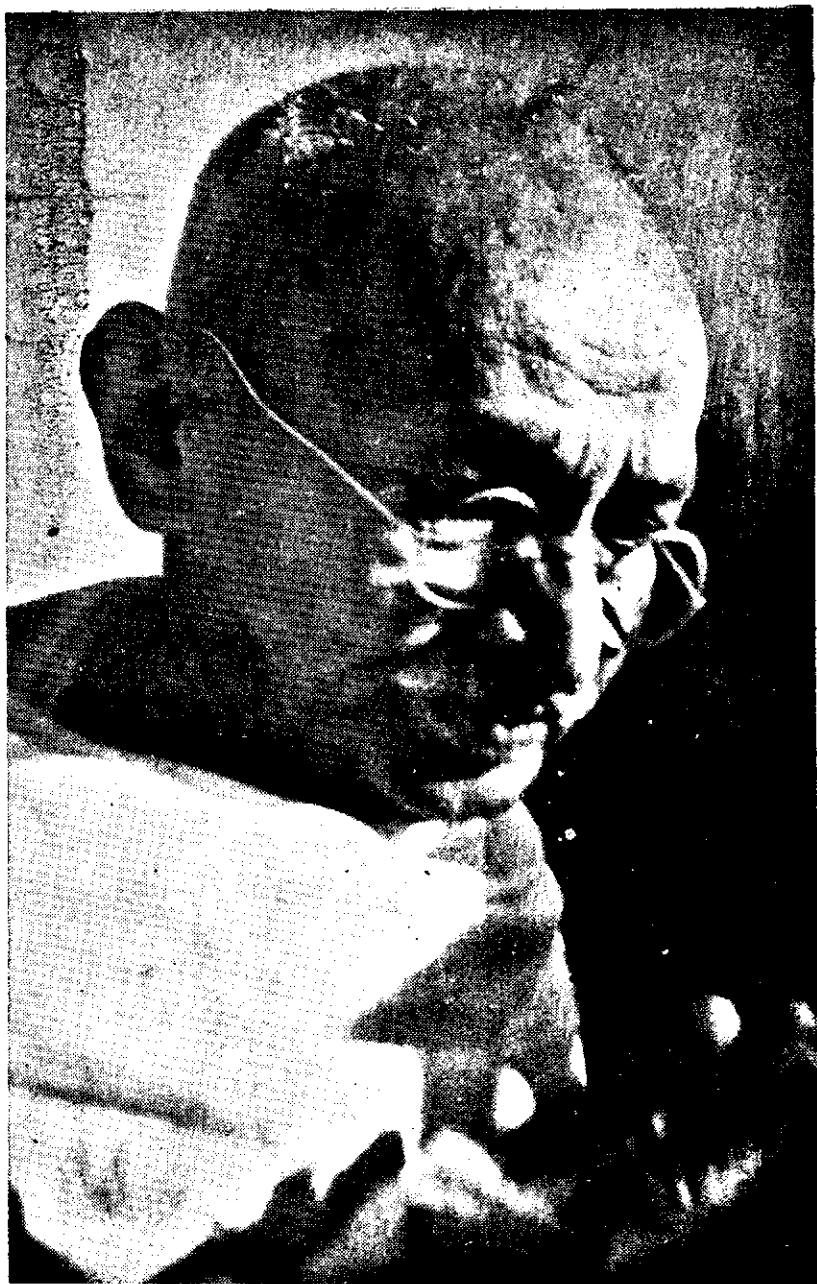
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24. Sri Lakhminarayan Temple, New Delhi.



Courtesy]

Mahatmaji

[Ananda Vikatan.

PLAQUE BY D. P. ROY CHODDURY



TEMPLE ENTRY TRAVANCORE



H. H. The Maharajah of Travancore
(In Temple Dress)



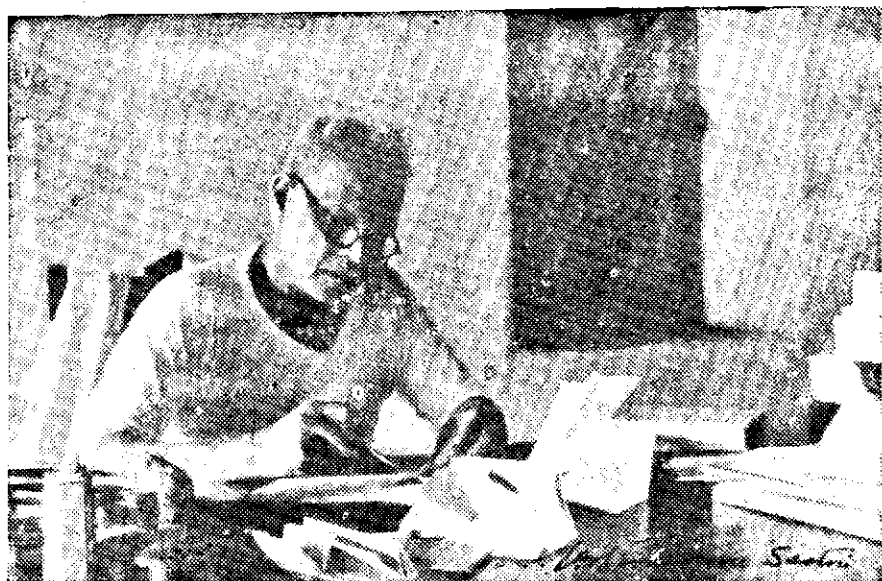
H. H. The Maharani of Travancore
(In Temple Dress)



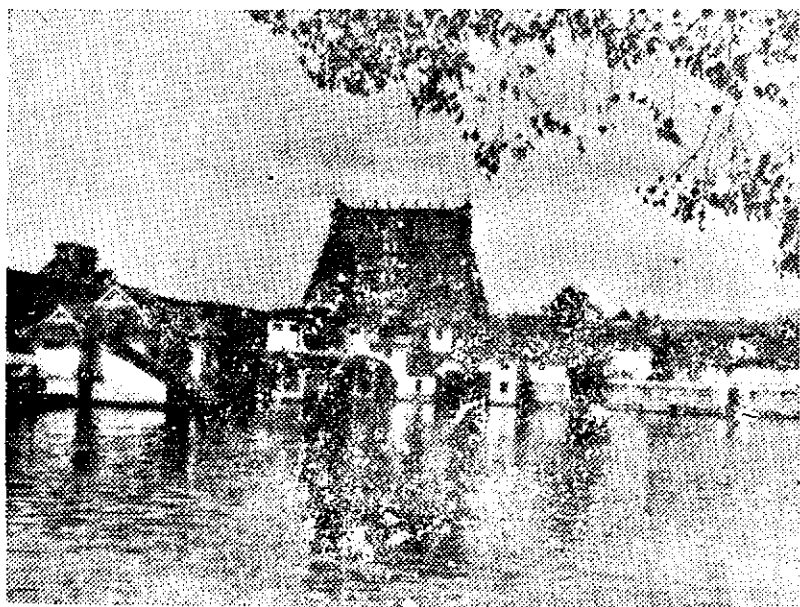
Sachivottama
Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar



Sri Narayana Guru



The late Rt. Hon. V. S. S. Sastri
who valued the means as much as the ends in matters of social reform.



SRI PADMANABHASWAMI TEMPLE
Trivandrum



Seth G. D. Birla
President, H. S. S., Delhi



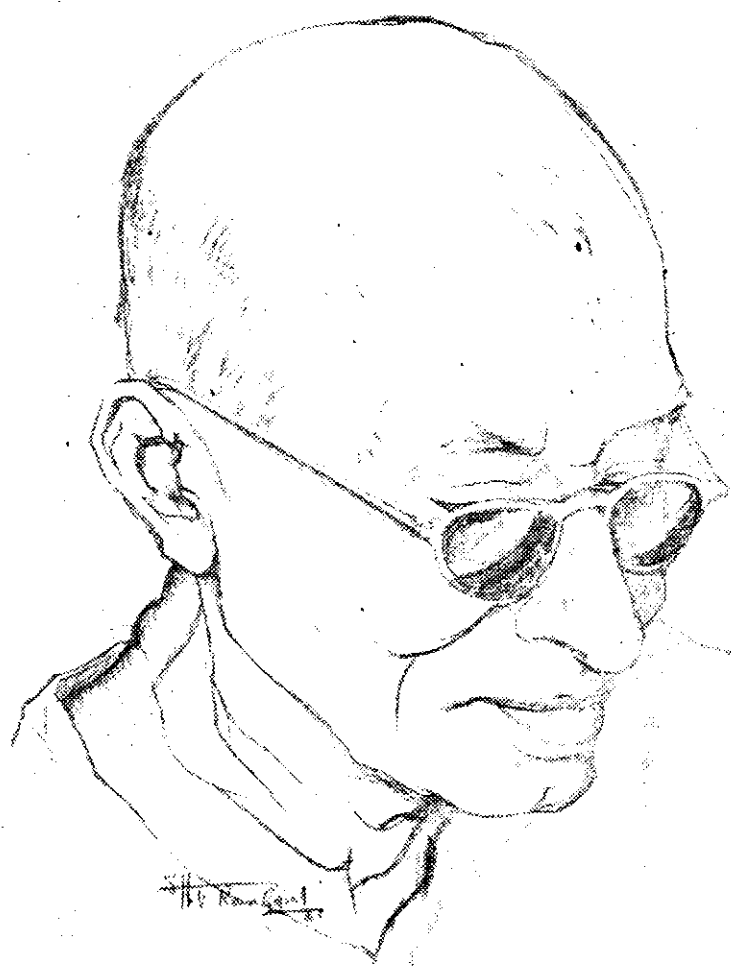
"Harijan Leader" late Dewan Baha
R. Srinivasan



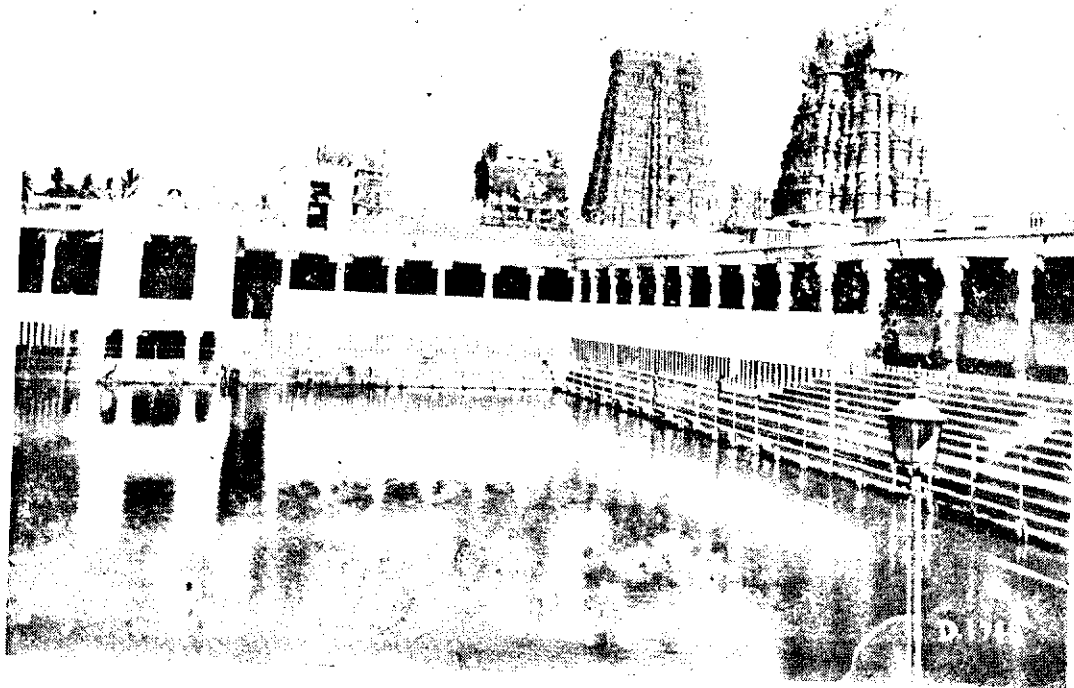
Dewan Bahadur
V. Bhashyam Iyengar
President, H. S. S., Madras



Thakkar Bapa
Gen. Secretary, H. S. S., De



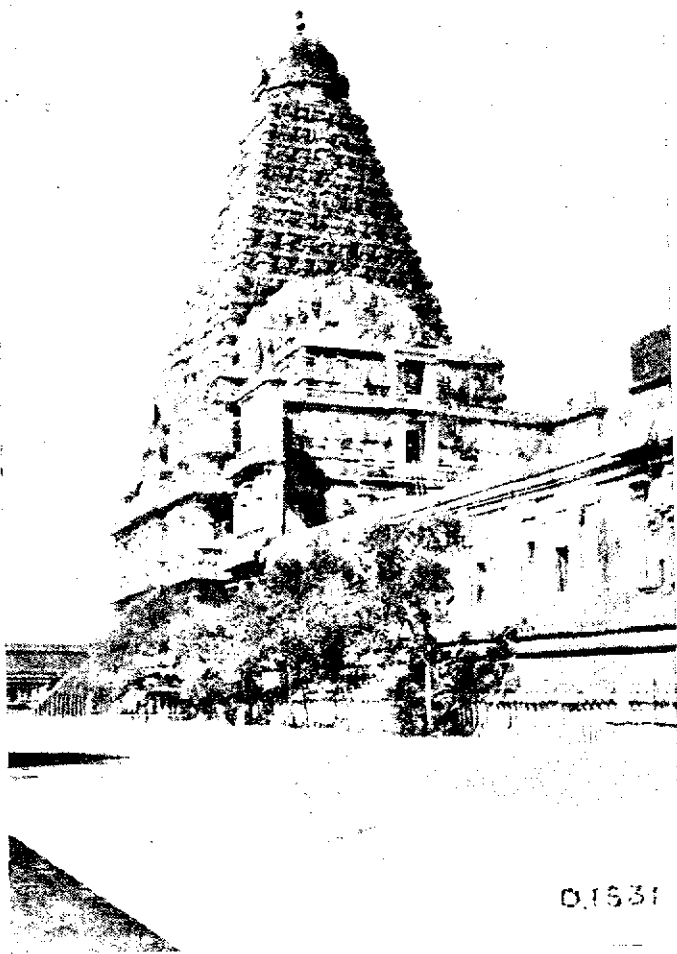
Rajaji



Courtesy |

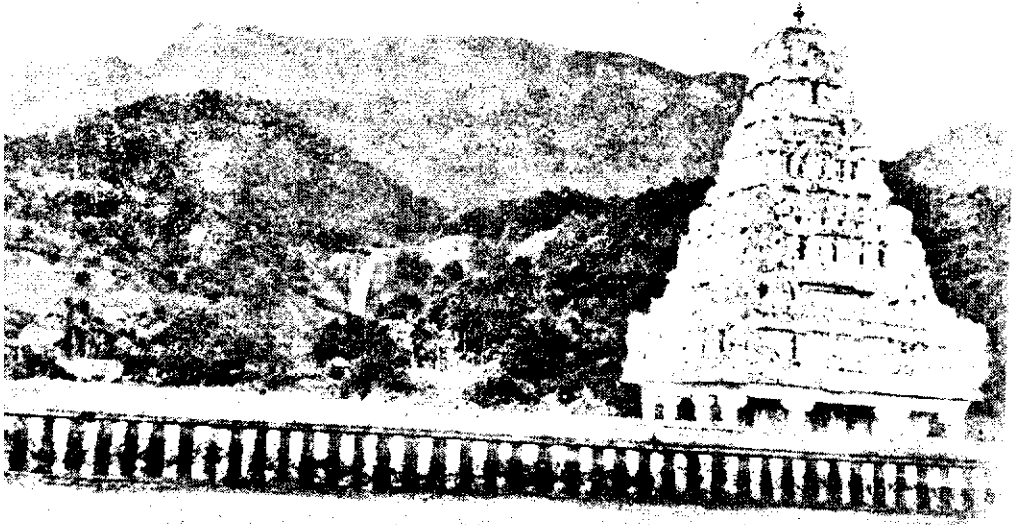
SRI MEENAKSHI TEMPLE, MADURA

| Arch. Survey of India



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Courtesy] THE BIG TEMPLE, TANJORE [Arch. Survey.



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KUTTALAM TEMPLE

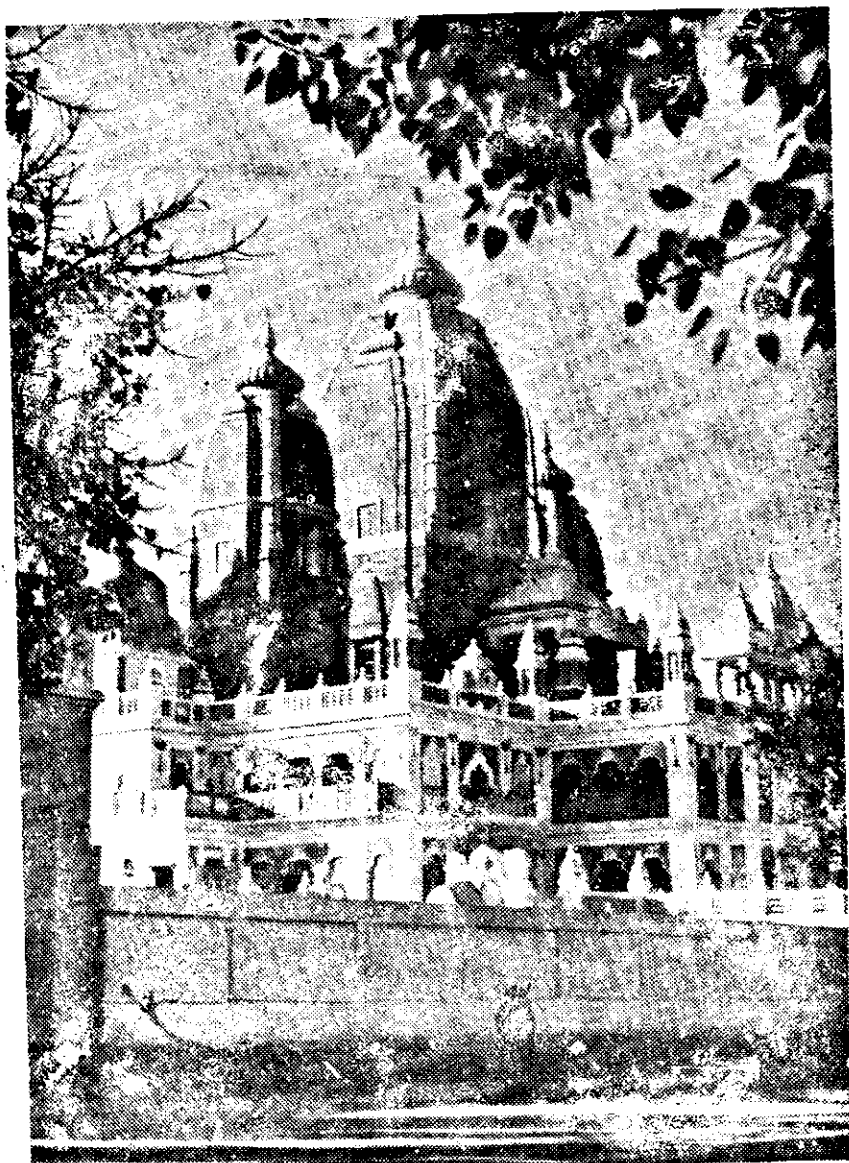
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PALNI TEMPLE

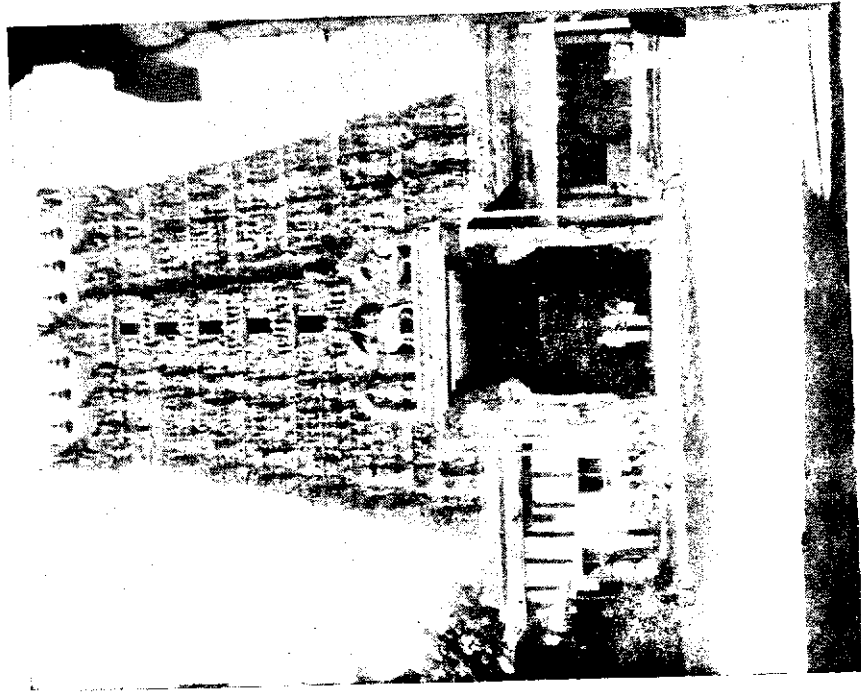
[Archeological Survey



SRI LAKSHMI NARAYAN TEMPLE

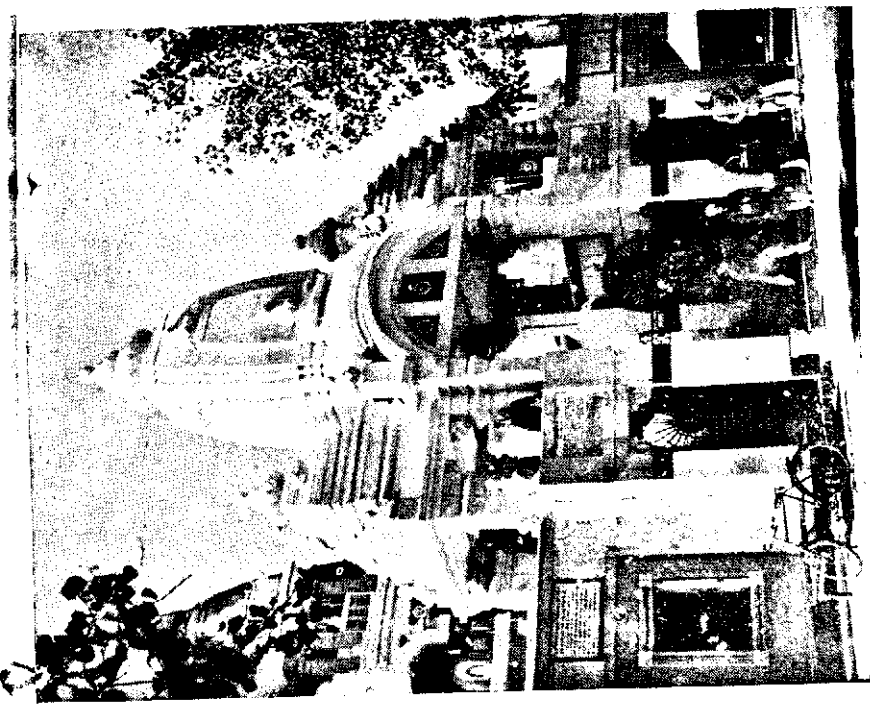
New Delhi

(View From South)



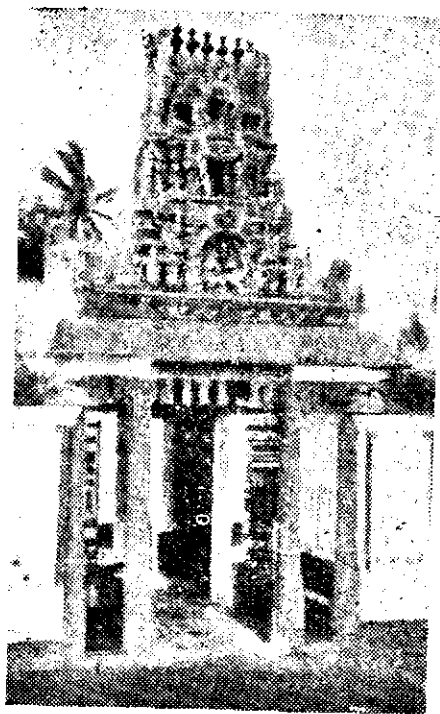
Courtesy]

SUCHINDRAM TEMPLE [Information
Officer, Trivendrum.



Sri Lakshminarayana Temple in New Delhi. This temple
was built by Raja Baldevdas Birla in 1940. This temple is
open to all Hindus including Harijans. This was opened by
Mahatmaji. (View From outside)

AN EXAMPLE WITH A MORAL



ELLAMMAN TEMPLE, PERIAMET.

The trustees of this temple are Harijans. But caste Hindu and Harijans worship in this temple together without any feeling of high and low.