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Hyperbole as usual, says Opposition leader

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition in icerala. Assembly Ramesh Chemithala termed the bridget an election stunt. It smacked off a desperate political attempt to stave off sure defeat in the Assembly polls, he said.

Finance Minister T.M. Thomas Isaac had attempted to pull the wool over the electorate's eyes by peddling half-truths, the Congress leader said.

As usual, hyperbole and unkept promises characterised Dr. Isaac's latest budget. The government's promise in the previous budget to give jobs to 25 lakh people remained on paper. Dr. Isaac had a history of coming up with flighty schemes. In an earlier budget, he had proposed mining the deep sea for sand. Then he sug-

gested launching three mobile phone factories in the public sector. Generating fuel from marine debris was another quixotic project that did not take form, Mr. Chemithala said.

Debt trap awaits: ALP BJP State president E. Surendran said the budget will push Kerala into an inescapable debt trap.

Or, Isaac had struck a perilous course that would cause Kerala's public debt to shoot up from the current 3 lakh crose to \$5 lakis crore and more, he said on Friday. Or, Isaac's budget was a sham, he added, saying it had no concrete proposal to expand and fordig Kerala's economy and free the people from the outstanding debts incurred by successive Congress- and CPI(M)-led governments.