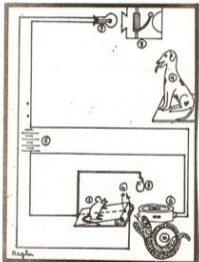


Trapping a rat

THE cartoons in this series are meant to highlight the inherent humour in the manner in which most of our administrations tend to complicate basically simple tasks. Another may draw a parallel between the cartoon and some of our economic or political policy decisions where, for example, it is expected that a series of cause and effect relationships would finally lead to achieving such objectives as lowering inflation, reducing budgetary deficit, generating employment, national integration and so on.



The rat (1) climbs the ramp raised by the springs (2) in order to catch the bait kept just out of reach (3). The springs compress under the weight of the rat so that the contact points (4) meet closing the circuit containing the power supply (5). This activates the hot plate (6) and switches on the bulb (7) which in turn gets the photo-electric cell (8)

going. Hearing this, the Peruvian dog (9) salivates and the saliva falls on the hot plate with a hissing sound. The rat looks towards the rat snake which is actually a camouflaged bag (10). Imagining the sound to be genuine it is petrified and hypnotised to fall from its precarious hold on the bait into the open mouth of the dummy snake