सत्यमेव जयते

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY

BUDGET SPEECH

2017 - 2018

Thiru **V. NARAYANASAMY**

Hon'ble Chief Minister



25th May, 2017

BUDGET SPEECH

2017 - 2018

Courage, a liberal hand, wisdom, and energy: these four
Are qualities a king adorn for evermore. – Kural

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

I rise to present the Budget for the year 2017-18. Hon’ble Members of this House are being supplied copies of Annual Financial Statement, Demands for Grants and Explanatory Memorandum for the year 2017-18. Last year, the budget presented by me in this august House with the support of Hon’ble Members and the people of Puducherry and the support of beloved leader Annai Smt. Sonia Gandhi, and excellent leader Shri Raghul Gandhi, Muthamizh viththagar Dr. Kalaignar and Thiru M.K. Stalin has put Puducherry on a progressive path. Action has been taken to implement a vast majority of the measures announced in my last budget and my Government will continue to take all the necessary steps for prosperity and development of Puducherry.

2. Hon’ble Members are aware that the total budget outlay projected for the year 2017-18 is ₹ 6,945 crore comprising of ₹ 4,445 crore for Non-plan and ₹ 2,500 crore

towards Plan. The contribution from the Union Territories own resources is estimated at ₹ 4,022 crore (57.9%) and the Central Assistance from Government of India is ₹ 1,411 crore (20.3%), the anticipated grants from CSS including CRF is estimated at ₹ 361 crore (5.2%); the balance ₹ 1,151 crore (16.5%) would be met from borrowings from Open Market and other financial institutions.

3. Out of the total outlay of ₹ 6,945 crore, around 60% will be allocated towards committed expenditure comprising of ₹ 1,650.40 crore (23.76%) for salaries, ₹ 663.27 crore (9.55%) for pension, ₹ 1,112.88 crore (16.02%) for debt service, *i.e.*, interest and repayment of loan, ₹ 1,012.19 crore (14.57%) for power purchase.

4. During the year 2016-17, ₹ 6,144 crore of expenditure was incurred as against the Revised Estimates of ₹ 6,550 crore which is the highest ever spending in the history of Union Territory of Puducherry. Despite financial hardship, my Government has implemented the 7th CPC recommendations on pay and pension for Government servants. Despite my Government's best efforts, Government of India

is yet to release the requested additional grant towards Non-plan gap grant and 7th CPC. However, the implication on account of 7th CPC implementation and implementation of other welfare schemes were met by rationalization of expenditure. The year 2016-17 was not a financially favourable year for revenue mobilization due to impact of demonetization and various judicial pronouncements related to excise and registration matters. Despite the non-receipt of additional grant from Government of India, my Government has taken steps to manage the State finances satisfactorily.

5. Hon'ble Members are aware that in the current year, the Union Territory of Puducherry has to pay an additional amount of ₹ 347 crore towards repayment of loans availed in the year 2007-08. The continuous request made to Government of India for waivering of legacy loan availed before separation of Public Account and for additional grant against the shortfall in Non-plan grant over a period of years has not yielded desired results so far. However, my Government has been continuously pressing the Government of India on this matter.

AGRICULTURE

6. Farming community in our country has risen to the challenge of making our country largely self-sufficient in providing food in accordance with the growing population. My Government is giving priority for making farming a sustainable and remunerative enterprise. To subsidize the expenditure on farming, my Government has provided Free Electricity to motor pump sets used by farmers for irrigation purposes in the Union Territory of Puducherry from the year 2017-18 onwards.

7. The marketing infrastructure of the Union Territory of Puducherry will be developed to assure remunerative price to the Agriculturists for their produce by switching over to e-platform through e-NAM (National Agriculture Market) by suitably amending the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) Act in consonance with the national Policy. Assistance to the tune of ₹ 75 lakh per market will be availed from Government of India to provide related infrastructure to make the market ready for integration with e-NAM platform.

8. For creating Modern Facilities in Regulated Markets, Community Grain Dryers will be provided at Puducherry and Karaikal for the benefit of the farmers to increase the market value of the harvested paddy grains by reducing the moisture content to the optimum level. It is proposed to provide Electronic Weighing Balance to all the Regulated Markets for accurate weighment of farm produce. Electronic Weigh Bridges of 50 MT capacity is proposed to be installed in the Regulated Markets of all the regions of Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam for the benefit of farmers and licensed traders.

9. My Government protects the farmers against crop loss or damage due to unforeseen events by implementing "Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana" (PMFBY). My Government has totally borne the expenses towards farmer's share of the insurance premium to shoulder their burden. During 2016-17, 7,362 hectares of paddy raised by 8,881 Nos. of farmers were insured for ₹ 31.08 crore. The farmer's share of premium and State contribution to the tune of ₹ 1.64 crore has been remitted to the National Agricultural Insurance Company to provide coverage for Samba crops.

In the current financial year, my government proposes to provide insurance coverage for both Samba and Navarai crops covering 12,500 hectares and protect the farmer's from the vagaries of natural calamities. The Government will pay the farmer's share of the premium. As there is good response for mechanization of farm operation, my Government proposes to provide assistance for purchase of mini-tractors with accessories to 10 beneficiaries this year.

10. Under, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), it is proposed to strengthen the irrigation infrastructure through Public works Department at a cost of ₹ 972.92 crore at Puducherry, ₹ 1,195.57 crore at Karaikal, ₹ 85.66 crore at Yanam and ₹ 23.16 crore at Mahe. In order to ensure availability of irrigation water for agricultural land and to implement 'Per Drop and More Crop' programme, it is proposed to implement water management and drip irrigation programmes through Agriculture Department at a cost of ₹ 9.22 crore at Puducherry, ₹ 15.70 crore at Karaikal, ₹ 2 crore at Yanam

and ₹ 63 lakh at Mahe. In addition, it is proposed to take up all improvements to village ponds at a cost of ₹ 174.33 crore through Commune Panchayats both in Puducherry and Karaikal and at ₹ 33 crore through DRDA. It is proposed to enhance the subsidy limit of 50% subsidy to general farmers and 75% subsidy to SC farmers from the present limit of ₹ 30,000 per individual to ₹ 1,00,000 per individual farmer. 15 general category farmers and 5 SC farmers will be additionally benefitted through this scheme. The Government will incur an additional expenditure of ₹ 10 lakh on account of this.

11. My Government has proposed to distribute Desi-cows to encourage the farmers who practice organic farming. To ensure availability of organic inputs like pancha kavya, amrith karaisal, jeevamirtham, organic pest repellants, etc., 10 Desi-cows are proposed to be distributed at 50% subsidy to general farmers and 5 Desi-cows are to be distributed to SC farmers at 75% subsidy subject to a maximum of ₹ 20,000 per individual of organic farmers. The Government will incur ₹ 3,50,000 for this programme.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND ANIMAL WELFARE

12. Animal Husbandry is an integral component of Indian agriculture supporting livelihood of more than two-thirds of the rural population. My Government will give special attention to augment the production of livestock and poultry and their produces to protect livestock health, enhance productivity and create entrepreneurship. The target for Milk, Egg and Meat production will be 48,500 Metric Ton, 113.60 lakh Nos. and 14.615 Metric Ton respectively. In order to meet the increased demand of Animal Health Care Services in the rural areas of Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam region, Mobile Veterinary services through motorcycle will be provided to extend breeding and health services at farmers doorstep during this financial year. The 20th Quinquennial Livestock Census will be conducted from 16th July 2017 to 15th October 2017 to assess and estimate the Livestock potential in Union Territory of Puducherry with the financial assistance of Government of India. In order to uplift the economic status of the rural people and to augment the milk production, financial assistance for purchase of 1,000 milch cattle at 75% subsidy will be provided to the farmers.

13. It is proposed to give 12 digit Unique Identification Number (UID) to all breedable cattle, milch animals and calves in Puducherry for monitoring of milk production and health status of cattle and calves through INAPH (Information Network for Animal Productivity and Health) by the software developed by NDDB (National Dairy Development Board). In order to intensively increase the fodder production, fodder development wing will be re-established by drawing Agriculture Officers from Agriculture Department and subsidized inputs like fodder seeds, fertilizers, equipments etc., will be provided to the interested farmers. Arrangement for marketing platform facilities will also be made. The Veterinary Hospital building at Puducherry will be renovated at a cost of ₹ 25 lakh in order to provide better health care services to the animals.

FISHERIES

14. Fisheries is classified as a sunrise sector and Puducherry, being a State with coastline, strengthening the infrastructure of this sector is vital for augmenting the income of fisher folk. During the year 2016-17, marine

and inland fish production has been 45,927 MT and 4,325 MT respectively. Similarly, the shrimp production in Puducherry has touched 4,273 Tonnes.

15. In order to increase fish production, my Government is implementing the Central Sector Scheme "Blue Revolution", which consists of three components in which under the component "Development of Freshwater Aquaculture" 50% subsidy for 7 hectares amounting to ₹ 29.70 lakh, under the component "Development of Brackish Water Aquaculture" 50% subsidy for 4 hectares amounting to ₹ 20 lakh and under the component "Motorization of Traditional Craft" 50% subsidy for 167 beneficiaries amounting to ₹ 1.20 crore will be provided. Considering the quantum of loss of livelihood to the fisher folks during fishing ban period, the ban relief assistance will be extended to 21,950 fishermen families to a tune of ₹ 11.97 crore. Subsidy amounting to ₹ 6 lakh @ ₹ 10,000 per acre will be granted to brackish water fish farmers for covering 60 acres under culture activities.

16. For the benefit of the fishermen, diesel bunks will be established at Periakalapet, Nallavadu and Pannithittu fishing villages. Puducherry Union Territory Fisheries and Fishermen Development Corporation will be put into operation. Ice Plant-*cum*-Cold Storage will be established at Savithri Nagar, Yanam with financial assistance from Government of India. Under Central Sector scheme "Blue Revolution" second phase expansion of fishing harbor at Karaikal and Yanam region will be taken up. After the fishermen have availed the maximum subsidized diesel quota, diesel will be issued to them on "Full Cost Basis" from notified diesel bunks of the Fisheries Department. Committee has been constituted to analyze the possibilities of completion of balance work of Fishing Landing facility at Moorthikuppam, Pudukuppam fishing village. A separate Fishing Harbour Management Society for Karaikal region will be established.

COMMERCIAL TAXES

17. My Government has taken all effective steps for the smooth roll out of Goods and Services Tax (GST) and this august House has unanimously passed the Puducherry

Goods and Services Tax Bill, 2017. More than 80 % of the existing dealers have enrolled for migration to GST, through the help desks and special camps organized by the Department. The migration of the remaining dealers would be completed very soon. The Officers of the Department have undergone training in GST Software and refresher training on GST Law. Continuous sensitizing programs would be conducted for the dealers. The IT infrastructure for implementation of GST has been tested and put in place. In order to encourage the Commercial Tax Officers, it is proposed to give incentives to those who collect more tax than the target fixed.

CO-OPERATION

18. The significant objectives of the co-operative movement are prevention of concentration of economic power, wider dispersal of ownership of productive resources, active involvement of people in development programs, liquidation of poverty and unemployment etc. I wish to share with the Hon'ble Members some of the notable achievements made in the Co-operative sector during the last financial year.

The Pondicherry Central Co-operative Processing Supply and Marketing Society has modernized its rice mill by increasing the milling capacity of 3 metric ton.

The monthly pension and family pension payable to Weavers or their nominees respectively have been revised on the basis of age limit.

The interest subsidy to the S.C. members of Primary Co-operative Housing societies has been raised from 4% to 5% and to the other members it has been raised from 3% to 4%.

Notification on freezing of penal interest on housing loan has been issued for those who come forward to settle the entire overdue principal and overdue interest due as on 30-6-2016.

19. My Government has proposed to give long term loans through the State Co-operative Bank and Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd. To meet out the growing need of the storage facilities of paddy, Steel silos will be set up in The Pondicherry Central Co-operative Processing and

Supply Marketing Society. After careful analysis, the activities of the Co-operative institutions such as The Pondicherry State Co-operative Consumers Federation Ltd., (CONFED) and The Puduvai Computer Co-operative Society Ltd. are proposed to be diversified in some of the potential areas. The Skill Development programme in coordination with Labour department will be organized in The Pondicherry State Co-operative Union Ltd., Puducherry and its branch will be opened at Karaikal to impart various courses. In order to find a solution to retrieve the loss making Co-operative societies, my Government will form a Committee and action will be taken on the basis of its recommendation.

20. To substitute the growing fodder requirement for milch animals and to reduce the cost of feeding of milch animals, my Government has proposed to give assistance to the members of primary Co-operative Milk Producers Societies for purchase of farm kits and inputs for cultivation of Azolla. It is proposed to explore the possibility of improving the incidental and pre-weaving activities to reduce the labour cost and to increase earnings in handloom sector through Puducherry State Weavers Co-operative Ltd. The Pondicherry

Co-operative Building Centre will be allowed to undertake civil works at Pondicherry Schedule of Rates upto ₹ 2 crore in Government Departments, Public Sector Undertakings and Co-operative Institution. Action will be initiated to revitalize the Co-operative Spinning Mill and Co-operative Sugar Mill.

SCHOOL EDUCATION

21. My Government fully understands that most of the students studying in Government Schools are from poor socio-economic background and face difficulty in incurring higher education fees. In order to alleviate their hardship, my Government has proposed to reimburse the entire tuition fees for the BPL students, who complete Higher Secondary in the Government Schools scoring 75% and above and get admission in the professional courses of Medical and Engineering through CENTAC. Renovation / Repair of school building will be taken up so as to provide infrastructure to all Government schools. Dilapidated heritage buildings of Calve College and VOC Higher Secondary School will be newly reconstructed/ renovated. A separate building will be constructed at community hall in Thirukanur and the

high school running there at will be upgraded as higher secondary school and accommodated. Junior college with art stream will be established at Grampeta, Yanam. Action will be taken for constructing a central kitchen at Darialdippa, Yanam. Adequate number of teacher will be provided for strengthening Pre-primary (LKG and UKG) education.

22. To equip the students to face NEET and other competitive examinations confidently, NEET special classes organized for the 12th Std. during the last year will be extended to 11th Std. also in this year. It is proposed to constitute an Inspection Cell wherein seven committees will be formed of which four committees for Pondicherry region and three committees for Karaikal region will monitor all Government schools in order to improve the performance of the teachers and schools from the academic year 2017-18.

23. My Government is very keen on improving the quality of education having achieved national best practice levels in enrolment and retention of school students. With a view to improve the quality of education in Government

schools it is proposed: to supply Science and Mathematics kits to all government middle, high and higher secondary schools to promote Science and Mathematics ; to supply Tablets with preloaded e-content to 60 schools in the first instance; to supply Activity Books and Cursive Writing Books to all Primary schools to enhance the learning levels and improve the hand writing of students; to set up Reading Corners in all primary schools to promote the reading habits among school students ; to set up Language Lab in all four regions to improve the proficiency and communication skill in English ; to offer counselling in Government schools to maintain good mental health and provide conducive environment for learning; to provide internet connection to enable all the Government Primary Schools and Middle Schools to access the internet and make use of the information available for teaching ; To start model schools to foster excellence. Smart class rooms will be set up in the schools in all the regions of Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam under PPP mode.

24. With a view to encourage sports activities among the students, it is proposed (i) to construct Multipurpose Indoor Stadium at Indira Gandhi Medical College,

Kadhirkamam, Puducherry; (ii) to Lay synthetic athletic track at Indira Gandhi Sports Complex, Uppalam, Puducherry ; and (iii) to Construct swimming pool in Thandhai Periyar Nagar, Puducherry at a cost of ₹ 5 crore during the year 2017-18 ; It is proposed to construct Women's Hostel in Saram at a cost of ₹ 9 crore. Indoor Stadium will be established in Bahour, Seliamedu and Villianur. Action will be initiated to construct District Sports Complex in Kalapet at a cost of ₹ 50 crore. My Government also proposes to establish a Minor Indoor Badminton Stadium in T.R. Pattinam. To encourage the students in sports and for development of sports in grass root level, it is proposed to enhance allowances and prize money of various sports competitions. To encourage participation of school students in the National School Games Championship, my Government has proposed to give cash awards for the gold, silver and bronze medalists.

25. To equip the teachers towards the latest trends in education, 1,669 teachers handling elementary and secondary classes will be trained and 246 Head Teachers working in Government Schools in the Union Territory of Puducherry will be trained to improve the school leadership qualities.

Apart from the cash incentive presently awarded to the Government schools for their percentage of results in the public examinations both in urban and rural areas, my Government has now proposed to award incentive @ ₹ 1 lakh for the Government schools which produce even 90% in urban areas. In order to reduce the stress of the students, mental health counselling will be provided in the Government schools to them. Rank pay and Honorarium provided to Associate NCC Officers will be enhanced from the financial year 2017-18.

HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

26. All Government College Campuses will be WiFi enabled to provide free internet access to students during the current year. Steps will be taken to upgrade the Pondicherry Engineering College into a University and PKIE & T (Karaikal) will be upgraded to the status of a Constituent College of this University. My Government is taking all efforts to upgrade the Dr. Ambedkar Government Law College, Puducherry into a Law University. In order to standardize activities in Government Colleges for quality improvement

it is proposed to obtain ISO Certification for all Government Colleges in Puducherry. Considering the increasing demand for Arts and Science courses, my Government has sent a proposal to the Pondicherry University to increase 1,140 seats in UG and PG courses of Arts and Science Colleges during the academic year 2017-18. Infrastructure facilities in all Government Colleges will be upgraded with financial assistance from the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) at a cost of ₹ 38 crore. The Puducherry Higher Education Council will be strengthened by enacting the Puducherry Higher Education Bill during the current year. A Committee of eminent academicians has been constituted by the Puducherry Higher Education Council to conduct the academic and administration audit of all colleges and to recommend suitable measures for improving the quality of higher education.

27. I am happy to inform the Hon'ble Members that, as a step towards improving the quality of higher education in Puducherry, with the NAAC accreditation of the Kasthurba College for Women, Villianur, all Government Arts and Science Colleges in the Union Territory of Puducherry have now received NAAC accreditation. My Government

has proposed to impart short term non-formal skill training to 1,700 persons under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Community Development through Polytechnics' during 2017-18.

HEALTH

28. My Government is determined to provide accessible and free healthcare by strengthening the public health infrastructure. Most of the health indicators in this Union Territory are far higher than the national average. However, in collaboration with Frontier Life Line Hospital, Chennai, 116 cases of Cardiac Surgery have been successfully conducted in the IGGGH & PGI, Puducherry. To avail the Specialty treatment at higher institutions by Below Poverty families, my Government has released ₹ 5.77 crore to 587 beneficiaries. Various Modern Medical Equipments for use in Government hospitals have been purchased for ₹ 1.87 crore which includes the equipments such as a Hi-tech Optical Coherence Tomograph, Digital Radiography System, Video Gastroscope and Video Colonoscopy, etc.

29. To fulfill the goal of "National Health Mission" in the Union Territory of Puducherry, my Government is effectively implementing various health services and an amount of ₹ 28.37 crore has been incurred during the year 2016-17. In order to strengthen the Health sector in this Union Territory, 136 medical personnel were newly recruited which includes 33 Nos. of Medical Officers and 18 Nos. of Staff Nurse. 58 Health staffs were promoted and compassionate appointment was given to 78 wards of the deceased employees.

30. In so far as the Union Territory of Puducherry is concerned, Health services are good and adequately being served to the deserving population. However, to improve the medical service to avail advanced medical care, my Government has proposed to strengthen the modern infrastructure facilities in higher health institutions. It is proposed to start ICU in Karaikal under NRHM-NCD programme. As a part of improvement in Rajiv Gandhi Government Women and Children Hospital Puducherry, a Central Sterile Supplies Department will be established and

a Multi-Slice CT Scanner will also be procured. As part of the Family Welfare Programme, it is planned to include the Intra-Uterine Insemination in the Infertility Services provided in the Rajiv Gandhi Government Women and Children Hospital, Puducherry.

31. Action would be initiated to facilitate the Multiple Organ Transplantation and strengthening of the Trauma Care Centre. Considering the increase in trauma cases especially incidents of spinal injuries, it is proposed to establish an exclusive Spinal Injury Centre in the Indira Gandhi Government General Hospital and Postgraduate Institute. It is planned to establish a Modern Warehouse for storing all types of medicines / drugs and other consumables in the Chief of Government Pharmacy. To ensure quick transportation of trauma patients with medical care to the nearest referral centre, the feasibility of outsourcing of 108 Ambulance Services will be explored. In view of the increasing number of accidents and the need for giving quality care in acute medical and surgical emergencies, the Health Department proposes to outsource ICU services under PPP mode.

Accordingly, initially, a Pilot project covering a capacity of 50 beds; 30 beds in IGGGH & PGI, Puducherry, and 8 beds in Karaikal and 6 beds in Mahe and Yanam region will be rolled out. It is also proposed to implement the ***'e-Health'*** programme in a phased manner. My Government has proposed to start Palliative Care for terminally ill Cancer patients.

32. To achieve quick and better infrastructure facilities in health institutions, improvements will be made in Indira Gandhi Government Medical College and Research Institute. Action will be taken to construct a New Building for PHCs at Sedarapet, Bahour and Villianur at an estimated cost of ₹ 5.88 crore and to construct Compound Wall for the sub-centres – Thengaithittu, Uruvaiyar, Manalipet and Thattanchavady at a cost of ₹ 1.68 crore. It is also proposed to construct a 50 beded AYUSH Hospital building at Villianur, Puducherry, for which foundation stone is being laid. It is proposed to cover the pensioners under the medical insurance scheme. As a pilot project, it is proposed to implement a general medical insurance scheme in Karaikal region.

33. I am to inform that following the communication of permission by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, for starting of Postgraduate Medical course in the disciplines of Pathology (2 seats) and community Medicine (4 seats) at Indira Gandhi Medical College and Research Institute, Puducherry, six students of Puducherry have been admitted for the academic year 2017-18.

INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY

34. Media, being the fourth pillar of democracy, my Government is pleased to introduce Medical Insurance Scheme for registered Media Persons from this year. Under this Scheme medical insurance for ₹ 3 lakh per year to each family of the Media Persons of Union territory of Puducherry will be provided. My Government has also proposed to provide life insurance coverage to media persons and their children will be provided scholarship through the said insurance. It is proposed to distribute House-site to the recognised Reporters / Media Persons for those who have not yet obtained the House-sites under “Free Distribution of House-sites Scheme”

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

35. The State Data Centre which forms the back bone of Digital Network of Government of Puducherry will be upgraded to provide faster delivery of services and seamless communication. Under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Sadsharatra Abhiyan (PMGDSA), my Government has proposed to impart training to 28,000 rural population to operate computer or digital access devices through CSC-SPV. The presently available 72 services from 11 line departments to public will be increased under e-District programme. My Government will soon announce the new Information Technology policy to boost setting up of IT industries in the Union Territory of Puducherry.

LABOUR WELFARE

36. An amount of ₹ 11.81 crore has been allocated for the year 2017-18. The issue of license and approval of factory plan has been made online. Licenses to be obtained under various other Acts and filing of returns will be made online as a part of ease of doing business. The Unorganized Society will be converted into Board to

facilitate disbursement of better welfare benefits to its members. In addition to the grant-in-aid being released, the feasibility of levying labour welfare cess, will be explored. For the benefit of members of the construction and other construction workers welfare board, comprehensive medical checkup will be undertaken and a Health Insurance Scheme will be implemented. My Government will continue to give ₹ 10 lakh to Aimbon Labour Welfare Society.

37. A mobile health delivery services scheme will be introduced to give onsite treatment to the construction workers. During the last financial year under Pradhan Mantir Kaushal Vikas Yojana around 1,570 unemployed youth were equipped with various skills. Besides, in association with the Police Department, 150 street children were provided with skill under the PUNNAGAI scheme. Now, steps will be taken to equip 3,500 unemployed youths with appropriate skills at a cost of ₹ 2.60 crore with assured placement. To recognize the skills acquired by the construction workers, skill development programme under Recognition of Prior Learning scheme will be conducted at a cost of ₹ 50 lakh. At present, scholarship of ₹ 1,200 is being given to the children of construction workers studying IX to XII. It will now be

extended to students studying in I to VIII through insurance mode. In addition to the insurance coverage of ₹ 75,000 provided to the dependent of deceased member, action has been taken to provide ₹ 2.25 lakh through Construction Board. now, it is also proposed to cover all the construction workers under Prathan Manntri Suraksha Bima Yojana scheme to get additional insurance benefit in case of death due to accident.

PORT

38. Keeping the multi-farious advantages of Port, Fisheries and Tourism, my Government has initiated the 'Beach Nourishment' through NIOT (National Institute of Ocean Technology) which would ultimately ensure the depth of the River mouth. As part of beach nourishment, construction of off-shore reefs will be undertaken at a cost of ₹ 22 crore. My Government has signed MoU with Chennai Port Trust by which commercial cargo handling operation would commence in June 2017 after completion of the dredging work. The port operation will provide job opportunity to the local people and also generate additional revenue to the Government. I am happy to inform the Hon'ble Members that the Chennai port has declared the

Puducherry port as its sister port. This year 4 lakh ton goods have been handled in this port which will be increased to 10 lakh during next year. Maintenance of dredging work will be carried out periodically so as to facilitate free movement of cargo and fishing vessels. A fee revenue of ₹ 10.80 crore has been earned from Karaikal Port operation during 2016-17. This revenue is likely to go up with increase in handling capacity.

POWER

39. Energy is a crucial factor for economic development. As both agricultural and industrial activities increase, the demand for energy also goes up. Though there is no shortage of power supply in this Union Territory, it is felt essential to provide uninterrupted and stabilized power supply. Under Restructured Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (R-APDRP), it is proposed to replace 42,500 Nos. of Electro mechanical energy meters at an estimated cost of ₹ 8 crore, replacement of the existing Oil RMUs in Town area by SF6 RMUs at a cost of ₹ 4.65 crore and 50 Nos. of 22 KV, 315 KVA Distribution Transformers at a total cost of ₹ 3.83 crore.

40. In order to ensure reliable and uninterrupted power supply to the town areas and Muthialpet, five numbers of new 11 KV underground cable feeders are being laid from Venkata Nagar 110 KV sub-station at a cost of ₹ 14.90 crore. This project is funded by the World Bank under Coastal Disaster Risk Reduction Programme (CDRRP) and is executed by the Project Implementation Agency which will be completed by August 2017. Further, in order to ensure reliable power supply to the coastal villages of Ganapathichettikulam, R.K. Nagar, Ariyankuppam, Pooranankuppam, Narambai, Pannithittu and adjoining areas, conversion of the existing overhead LT distribution system into underground cable system has been commenced under the same project at a total cost of ₹ 56.66 crore and the same is expected to be completed during the current financial year. In order to ensure uninterrupted power supply, a project estimate has been prepared for conversion of the overhead lines into underground lines in Karaikal region at a cost of ₹ 50 crore and in Yanam coastal area at a cost of ₹ 28.30 crore. This work will be done with the financial assistance of World Bank. It is under consideration

of the Government to convert all the sodium vapour street lights into high power LED lights within a period of 6 months.

41. My Government has proposed to implement a comprehensive programme of installation of Meters, Capacitor Banks, Roof Top Solar Projects etc., at a cost of ₹ 21.63 crore under Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS) in order to reduce the aggregate technical and commercial losses and to enhance the quality of power supply. Under the Smart Grid Pilot Project, installation of 34,000 Nos. of Smart Meters in the boulevard area of the Puducherry at a total cost of ₹ 43.91 crore is under progress and the project will be completed by November 2017.

42. My Government has submitted a Revised Detailed Project Report for an amount of ₹ 1,169 crore (approx.) to Government of India for strengthening of transmission and distribution network and Solar generation in the Union Territory to meet the growing power demand by availing loan from Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA). Upon completion of the Project, the quality of Power supply is likely to improve and the T & D losses would be reduced to 11%.

POLICE

43. Under Safe City Project, the Police infrastructure will be improved by a comprehensive plan containing various components *viz.*, (i) Integrated Intelligent Strengthening and Surveillance (CCTV) (ii) Control Room upgradation (PCR vehicles) (iii) State of the Art Anti-terrorism and Bomb Disposal Measures (iv) Automatic Traffic Management System (v) Upgraded Training to Police Personnel at a project cost of ₹ 50.75 crore.

44. It is proposed to put in place Nation-wide Emergency Response System with Central Assistance of ₹ 3.24 crore. All the Static / Hand Held walkie-talkies with digital based VHF Static/Hand Held Repeater sets will be replaced. Creation of 1,251 posts for setting up of various units in the Police Department will be taken up during this year. As many as 500 vacant posts of officers and other rank will be filled up during this year. The work of construction of Coastal Police Station at Mahe, Yanam regions and Jetty at Karaikal region will be completed during the year 2017-18. It is proposed to construct Out Posts in Dariyalatippa, Yanam, Karikalampakkam, Lawspet and Reddiarpalayam Police Stations.

FIRE

45. A new fire station building will be constructed for Bahour Fire Station. The Maducarai and Thirukkanur fire stations will be renovated. Vacant posts of 42 Fireman and 14 Fireman Driver and 2 Station Officers will be filled up during this year. Steps will be taken to setup new Fire Stations at Villianur, Thavalakuppam, Karayamputhur, Lingareddypalayam and T.R. Pattinam and to provide the required infrastructure. It is proposed to purchase 4 water tenders during this year. 75 Nos. of Fire Proximity suits will also be procured for the fire service personnel during this year.

PUBLIC WORKS

46. With a view to check flooding due to overflow of rainwater, it has been proposed to construct 3 culverts at Pavaza Nagar, Boomiyanpet in co-ordination with Southern Railways at an estimated amount of ₹ 2.25 crore for broadening and ₹ 2.50 crore for development of canals. As the Hon'ble Members are well aware that investment in

infrastructure is the prime requirement for faster economic growth and development. My Government has proposed to execute road works at various needy areas on priority basis in the Union Territory with an estimated cost of ₹ 71 crore and 3 new bridges with a cost of ₹ 51 crore which consists of (i) construction of high level bridge across river Sankarabarani at Ariyapalayam, Puducherry (ii) construction of bridge across river Arasalar in Athipadugai village in Thirunallar Commune and (iii) construction of a new bridge across river Vanjiar at Melakasakudy, Karaikal. It is proposed to widen the two lane bridge into four lane across Malatar at a cost of ₹ 7.34 crore and at Bahour at a cost of ₹ 5.36 crore. Formation of coastal road from Pudukuppam to Pannithittu *via.* Narambai village is proposed to be taken up at a cost of ₹ 37 crore. Improvements to Thirunallar Ambagrathur road in Thirunallar Commune is proposed to be taken up at a cost of ₹ 11.75 crore. It is proposed to dig a lake at Padutharkollai in Karaikal. I am happy to inform the House that the work being carried out in French Channel in Yanam will be completed this year.

47. Under Water supply and sanitation sector, to improve the protected water supply to all, my Government has earmarked ₹ 14 crore for the works *viz.,* (i) Construction of OHT at Anna Nagar in Kottucherry (ii) Construction of OHT at Ambagarathur village (iii) Construction of OHT with Pumping main at Mudalimedu in T.R. Pattinam, Karaikal (iv) Implementation of community Water Supply System from the available pooled water to overcome acute shortage of drinking water at Mahe. (v) Renewal of the water supply distribution grid of Palloor and Pandakkal, Mahe. Under Comprehensive Water supply scheme it is proposed to construct Over Head Tank, UGR, laying of distribution line and restoration of road works in Sulthanpet, Kurumbapet, Jayaram Nagar, Velrampet, Muthialpet, Thanampalayam, Andiyarpalayam, Kombakkam, Kombakkampet, Villianur, Uthiravahinipet and Kanuvapet at a cost of ₹ 179.89 crore. Further it is proposed to carry out works towards sinking of additional deep borewells at a total cost of ₹ 56 crore in Ellaipillaichavady, Oulgaret and Sudhana Nagar.

48. It is proposed to take up comprehensive water supply sewerage projects by availing loan from Agency French Development (AFD) at a cost of ₹ 1,480 crore in

the urban and semi-urban areas. In the first phase, the DPR for the works at a cost of ₹ 534 crore has been prepared and submitted for approval of Government of India. The work will be taken up after getting the required approval.

49. To fulfill the housing requirements of Government Servant, it is proposed to construct a Type-II 'AX' Block quarters in the campus of Government servant quarters at Lawspet, Puducherry at a cost of ₹ 1.50 crore. To improve the infrastructure facility for public utility, a new escalator in the new bus stand at Maraimalai Adigal Salai, Puducherry at a cost of ₹ 2 crore, Grade Separator at Indira Gandhi square at the junction of NH-66 and NH-45A at CH 37/420, Puducherry at a cost of ₹ 65 crore, trapezoidal drain at both sides of RC-17 Murungapakkam road from Sri Angalamman Temple to cross the Velrampet surplus channel with construction of retaining wall at Murungapakkam, Puducherry at a cost of ₹ 2.14 crore and pedestrian subway-*cum*-shopping complex near JIPMER in NH 66, Puducherry at a cost of ₹ 5.15 crore will be taken up. Geometrical Improvements to the junction near Mahatma Gandhi Medical College and Research Institute, Pillayarkuppam is to be

taken up at a cost of ₹ 5 crore and another one at the junction near Aravindar Eye Hospital, Thavalakuppam at a cost of ₹ 5.50 crore. A multi-purpose community hall in Vizhidiyur at Karaikal is proposed to be constructed.

INDUSTRIES

50. I am happy to inform the Hon'ble Members that my Government has announced the New Industrial Policy 2016 as assured during the last Budget Session which provides the pathways to make use of the available land bank effectively. My Government has proposed to introduce e-governance in this administration. Under fast track system, the clearances/no objection certificates/licences/ consents will be issued within a period of 30 days and if no communication is received within the stipulated time from the concerned departments, it would be treated as a "deemed clearance". In order to create an environment for conducive industrial growth, my Government proposes to introduce self-certification process for issue of licenses/clearances in Industries, Labour, Power, Pollution Control, Town and Country Planning and other related departments.

51. During the year 2015-16, 66 Industrial Enterprises have been registered with an investment of ₹ 45.06 crore providing employment to 556 persons. After the announcement of the new Industrial Policy, 112 Industrial Enterprises have been registered with an investment of ₹ 65.10 crore providing employment to 1,070 persons during the year 2016-17.

52. The New Industrial Policy will improve the ease of doing business and would also effectively address the issues of faster industrial clearances, industrial land bank and the infrastructure facilities in industrial estates and parks. My government is very keen in encouraging Foreign Direct Investment and promoting software parks, pharmaceutical formulation, apparel parks, food processing industries and automobile ancillary units. I hope that this policy will bring back more companies/industries which would help creation of more jobs to the people of Puducherry Union Territory. Green and Clean Industries will be given red carpet welcome. My Government has proposed to provide electricity at lower cost comparably lesser than any State in the country to those who come forward for starting new industries in the Union Territory of Puducherry.

53. My Government has already identified Land bank of 800 acres at Sedarapet and Karasur villages in Puducherry for promotion of Multi Product Industries and 25 acres at Mettupalayam for promotion of IT Park / Industries. This Land will be administered within a framework of transparent policy for attracting the new investments in industrial sector. Lot of applications are being received for setting up of new Industrial Establishment at Karaikal. Further, PIPDIC has also started to allot the land for the new Industrial Establishment at Pologam, Karaikal.

54. The state of the art Tool Room-*cum*-Technology Development Centre, at Kalapet, Puducherry is expected to function from 2018. The Technology Development Centre will be Electronic Systems Design and Manufacturing (ESDM), with specific focus on segments such as industrial electronics, IT systems and hardware, automotive electronics etc. The Tool Room and Technology Development Centre will provide services to MSMEs and contribute towards skilling youth to make them employable by imparting training to fulfill the requirement of industries. The Technology Development Centre will provide skill to the entrepreneurs

to make them more competitive, which would impart training to 6,000 persons per annum. It is proposed to conduct investor's meet at various locations in India and also abroad, if required. I hope several active and proactive measures taken by Government would position the Union Territory of Puducherry as an attractive investment destination, in the new GST era. For the entrepreneurs who started hotel industry with the loan assistance obtained from PIPDIC and were unable to repay the loan, my Government has proposed to waive 50% of the interest if they come forward to repay the entire principal with interest. This would enable the Government to recover the long pending dues. As per policy decision taken by my Government, action will be initiated to renovate Rodiar, Swadeshi and Bharathi mill so as to run the mills in a profit oriented manner.

LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

55. "Clean Puducherry" is my Government's objective. Due to improved focus on Sanitation under Swachh Bharat Mission, in the urban areas 38 wards have been declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) and 28 more wards will be declared ODF by June, 5th 2017 on the

World Environment Day. Mahe region has already been declared ODF. The other three regions will be declared ODF within this year. 2,400 Nos. of Individual House Hold Toilets will be constructed in Puducherry, 2,560 Nos. in Oulgaret Municipality, 3,500 Nos. in Karaikal Municipality and 950 Nos. in Yanam Municipality at a cost of ₹ 15.75 crore.

56. Similarly, to maintain hygiene and promote basic amenities for the general public, it is proposed to construct 4 Nos. of Public Toilets and 2 Nos. of Community Toilets in Puducherry Municipality, 4 Nos. of Public Toilets and 3 Nos. of Community Toilets in Oulgaret Municipality, 3 Nos. of Public Toilets and 9 Nos. of Community Toilets in Karaikal Municipality and 3 Nos. of Public Toilets in Yanam Municipality at a cost of ₹ 3.42 crore.

57. Under National Urban Livelihood Mission, 225 Nos. of SHGs will be formed and assisted with grant of ₹ 26.70 lakh. Under self-employment programme 477 Nos. of persons will be trained to take up commercial ventures for sustainable living (₹ 31 lakh). In Yanam region, it is proposed to enhance the loan amount to

the women self-help groups through banks under Pavala Vaddi scheme from ₹ 2 lakh to ₹ 5 lakh. My Government is taking all steps to achieve garbage free status. Regular sanitation works are carried out by the Municipality to keep the city and urban areas neat and clean. It is also proposed to settle the garbage disposal issue once for all as per the environmental regulation. My Government has prepared the detailed project report and submitted to Government of India to bring Puducherry under Smart City projects. After obtaining approval of Government of India, the scheme will be started.

REVENUE

58. An amount of ₹ 3.72 crore has been paid to 1,097 beneficiaries under "Rajiv Gandhi Social Security Scheme" for poor families during 2016-17. My Government has proposed to provide 14 Nos. of satellite phones and its accessories for Disaster Management unit which will be of immense use during the time of natural disaster. An MOU has been signed between NDMA and the Union Territory of Puducherry on National Disaster Management Services (NDMA), a Pilot Project for VSAT based Communication

Network connecting all States / Union Territories and selected Vulnerable Districts (120 Locations). It is proposed to extend the Early Warning System for Flood, Tsunami, Cyclone, etc. which is at present available only in the coastal villages of Puducherry and Karaikal, to other places covering Mahe and Yanam regions. My Government has proposed to strengthen EWS and Emergency Operation Centre under the CDRRP by providing communication equipments to the revenue field functionaries.

59. To facilitate general public and to improve office administration, web based applications of Single Window System – License Soft (SWLS), e-Filing (On-line) appointment of date and time for registration of documents, Aadhaar enabled Bio Metric Attendance and Dash Board for Collectorate (File tracking system) have been developed which will be launched soon. In addition to the existing Common Service Centres under the CSC 2.0 scheme, 61 VLEs have been selected for establishment of CSCs in Puducherry and Oulgaret Municipal Limits to deliver the G2C services. It is proposed to extend the facility of issuing FMB copies through Common Service Centre in

Karaikal Region. In order to facilitate the issue of document copies to general public, it is proposed to scan all documents under DILRMP available in registries from 1969 to 2005.

SURVEY

60. It is proposed to bring amendments in the Pondicherry Occupants of Kudiyarapu Confirmation of Ownership Act, 1973 to assign patta to eligible occupant who are not legal heirs of the original assignee. It is proposed to bring necessary amendments in Land Grants Rules, 1975 to assign Free House Site patta to poor people who have constructed RCC building with an annual income not exceeding ₹ 75,000 per annum and not having any house or landed property. It is proposed to conduct natham survey to regularize and assign patta to those who reside in natham poramboku land. As a pilot project this will be implemented in Uthiravahinipet area of Odiampet revenue village by using modern techniques. Action will be taken to assign Free House Site patta to eligible people by acquiring the surplus portion of land taken through Land Ceiling Act.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT

61. My Government proposes to set up a Climate Change Cell at a cost of ₹ 1.56 crore for implementing Puducherry State Action Plan on Climate Change. My Government will establish a Space Exposition Centre and Innovation Hub integrating the earlier proposed Planetarium at Thirunallar, Karaikal at a cost of ₹ 3.75 Crore.

TOURISM

62. Puducherry, a destination blending Tamil and French culture, is dominating as a favourite week-end tourists spot in South India because of its rich heritage, cultural and spiritual values besides its scenic natural beauty. Similarly, the outlying regions *viz.* Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam also have unique potential on its own for tourism. As announced in the last year, the Tourism Department had submitted three project proposals (1) Developing Spiritual Tourism Circuit (2) Developing Heritage Tourism Circuit and (3) Developing Yacht Marina, Convention and Entertainment facilities in Puducherry to the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India for financial assistance. Out of the three projects,

Ministry of Tourism is prioritizing only the "Spiritual Circuit", since the works sanctioned earlier in 2015 is pending. Last year, the pending works have been commenced and 60% of the funds were utilized. The remaining 15% of the funds will be utilized at the earliest and sanction for the Spiritual Circuit will be obtained and the works will be commenced in this year itself.

63. To strengthen and streamline the tourism activities in order to fetch revenue, the Tourism department will launch the "Tourism Policy" shortly. Last year, the tourist arrival is only 8% over the previous year. My Government will take effective steps to enhance the tourist footfalls to 10% in this year. The beaches in Kalapet, Narambai, Nallavadu and Manapet will be taken up for beautification and development this year, to a cost of ₹ 27 crore under "Swadesh Darshan" scheme of Ministry of Tourism.

64. Lighting of Heritage Building and Monuments for ₹ 92 lakh, beautification of Ossudu lake at a cost of ₹ 3.37 crore. and formation of Recreational Park around Yanam Tower will be taken up at the cost of ₹ 4.98 crore in this year. Under Thirunallar Temple Town Project, the

works on rejuvenating "Ema Theertham, Poyakulam, Agatheeswarar Theertham" located in the vicinity of Saneeshwar Bhagwan Temple will be taken up and completed this year. In co-ordination with the Health Department, a road map will be prepared to transform Puducherry as a "State of Wellness" by strengthening the wellness activities such as Yoga, Ayurveda and other type of health therapies.

65. In co-ordination with French Consulate, mega festival "Bonjour India" will be celebrated in Puducherry and International Sailing Regatta will be organized as part of the event. In additional Food Festival, Beach Festivals, New Year Event, Classical Dance and Music Festivals will be organized to attract more tourists during the season. The Cultural programme on weekends *i.e.,* Saturday and Sunday will be organized in Beach road. Flight operations from Puducherry Airport will be recommenced from the month of July 2017.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING

66. In order to promote the Real Estate sector and to solve the incidental problems, in the Union Territory of Puducherry, my Government has proposed to establish a

Real Estate Regulatory Authority and a Real Estate Appellate Tribunal. Further, to regulate the real estate sector and to establish transparency in its activities, the Real Estate Projects and Real Estate Agents registration will be made online and the Planning Authority approval will also be made online in all the four regions. Further the Master Plan of Puducherry region will be notified within this year.

67. The Town and Country Planning Act will be amended to ease the land use conversion process, conservation of heritage buildings, transferable development rights etc., and a new fund called State Infrastructure and Amenities Fund will be created to provide infrastructure facilities in the Union Territory of Puducherry. Apart from the proposal to lay 6.5 Km. length of roads and drains in the required various slum areas, basic amenities will be extended to the urban slums to benefit 6,250 slum dwellers.

68. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "PMAY" a scheme for providing "Housing For All", action will be taken to formulate the projects to meet the housing demand for economically weaker section of the society in all the four regions so as to achieve the objective by the end of

2022. For the total number of 3,848 houses approved in the year 2016-17 under the "Beneficiary Led Construction Component" scheme, the second and third installments will be released after getting the Central share. Besides, it is proposed to send a Detailed Project Reports for construction of 5,000 additional new houses under the said component to Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation. 1,362 beneficiaries who availed subsidy/grant under earlier phases of Kamarajar Housing scheme have not constructed the house and in this case, the interest alone works out to ₹ 3 crore. Therefore, my Government has decided to waive the entire interest if they come forward to repay the entire principal amount. Further as regards the issue of unauthorized plots my Government has decided to take effective steps conducive to all stakeholders.

TRANSPORT

69. During the year 2016-17, ₹ 86.94 crore has been achieved as against the revenue target of ₹ 83 crore. With a vision to "Shape a Modern, efficient, economical and safe transportation system and to meet the mobility needs of all Sectors by 2030", my Government has proposed

to bring out a Transport Policy for the Union Territory of Puducherry. In an effort to increase public transport facility steps will be taken to allow buses in the new routes after assessing the requirement. To convert the existing Entry Checkposts from Temporary Structures to Permanent Structures, the required land has been identified for five Checkposts so far and construction is being started soon.

70. My Government proposes to establish an Institute of Driver Training and Research (IDTR) for which land at Thengaithitu to an extent of 10 acres has been identified. A Regional Driver Training Centre (RDTC) is also proposed to be established in Karaikal for which the required land is available. The DPR preparation by Central Institute of Road Transport is under way. The advanced version of software for issue of license has been introduced in all the Regional Transport Offices of Puducherry and this will be extended to remaining RTO's in other regions.

71. To ensure that the vehicles plying in the roads are fit, an Inspection and Certification Centre will be set up with funding from Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has sanctioned

the project for setting up of Inspection and Certification Centre at Puducherry at the cost of ₹ 15.75 crore with ₹ 14.40 crore Central funding and ₹ 1.35 crore State funding. The project is to be executed by Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI), Pune.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

72. My Government is promoting solar energy rooftop power plant to supplement the energy needs. Government of India, under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission is giving 30% subsidy for installation of solar photovoltaic power plant for domestic, institutional, social sectors including colleges and schools. In line with the objective of the scheme, my Government proposes to give 20% share from the State Fund for the said scheme. In order to provide continuous flow of resources to the Government, it is proposed to introduce a cess on the power consumption in the Union Territory to encourage environment friendly and sustainable renewable energy. The fund generated will also be used to convert Government buildings into green buildings. The fund generated will be made available to Renewable Energy Agency of Puducherry (REAP) to implement the scheme.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

73. My Government is implementing various poverty alleviation and employment generation scheme as per the guidelines of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). School playgrounds in 20 schools will be developed using MGNREGA funds. 6 lakh mandays are proposed to be generated and to get more advantage, material component works like Building works are also proposed to be taken up. Under National Rural Livelihood Mission, it is proposed to form 176 Habitation Level Federation (HLF), 44 Panchayat Level Federation (PLF) and 470 new SHG. In addition, 180 SHGs will be benefited by Revolving fund.

74. In view of the importance of Swachh Bharat Mission and the need to provide basic sanitation facilities in rural areas, ₹ 6.40 crore has been released as State Share @ of ₹ 8,000 for each individual household in addition to ₹ 12,000 released by Government of India. 35,830 toilets will be constructed under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) programme and thereby it is proposed to declare 98 Gram Panchayats as Open Defecation Free areas. Under RURBAN,

two clusters namely Bahour in Puducherry and Thirunallar in Karaikal will be taken up for providing urban amenities in these rural areas.

ADI-DRAVIDAR WELFARE

75. During the year 2016-17, budgeted amount of ₹ 130.84 crore has been utilized by the Department which is the highest ever utilization (96.92%). During the current financial year ₹ 156.89 crore is allocated to the Adi-dravidar Welfare Department for implementation of welfare schemes and for promotion of socio-economic conditions of SC people.

76. My Government is implementing 23 welfare schemes exclusively to enhance the socio-economic condition of the SC Community in a time bound manner. Besides various socio-economic development of SC people, 91 persons were benefitted under "Free distribution of House Sites / Houses" scheme. Under the flagship scheme "Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi House Construction scheme" for grant of housing subsidy, 2017 beneficiaries were disbursed ₹ 4 lakh each to construct the houses.

This year it has been targeted to cover 2,200 beneficiaries. ₹ 20,000 each was disbursed as subsidy to 33 BPL SC families for construction of sanitary latrines in their houses by themselves in order to maintain the hygienic environment in the SC habitants location.

77. Last year, 483 persons, whose family income is within ₹ 2 lakh, were granted financial assistance @ ₹ 50,000 each to the first two girls in a family for performance of their marriage. As contemplated in the National agenda, my Government has provided ₹ 12,000 financial assistance to 841 pregnant and Lactating Women in order to improve their health and nutritional status. It is proposed to enhance the financial assistance of ₹ 12,000 given to SC pregnant and lactating women in two phases *i.e.* pre-natal and post-natal to ₹ 18,000.

78. I am glad to inform that the Government of India has notified "Irular" in the list of Scheduled Tribes in respect of Union Territory of Puducherry which has been republished by the Government of Puducherry in the official gazette so that they can get all the benefits under

ST category. In the first instance, my Government has allocated during the Annual Plan 2017-18, an amount of ₹ 15 lakh (Puducherry – ₹ 10 lakh and Karaikal – ₹ 5 lakh) under Scheduled Tribe sub-plan as token provision within the allocation of Adi-dravidar Welfare Department for upliftment of ST people in respect of their infrastructure development activities in their habitations and providing of scholarship for their children as per guidelines.

WELFARE OF BACKWARD CLASS AND MINORITIES

79. With an objective of ensuring better implementation of welfare programmes and to provide special focus, a separate department for Backward Classes and Minorities has been setup. A separate budget provision has been made and the required staff are transferred from the Directorate of Social Welfare. It is proposed to establish a separate department of Minorities Welfare in this year. Like-wise, this Government will give special attention for the development by strengthening the Department of Backward Classes. Action will be taken to conduct caste-wise survey within a period of six months and the welfare schemes will be implemented according to the percentage of population

under each caste. Adequate funds will be provided to the Department of Backward Classes for implementing welfare schemes.

SOCIAL WELFARE

80. To provide social security, my Government is implementing various schemes for the welfare of the differently-abled persons, Backward and Minority Classes, Orphan Children, Aged persons, poor artisans, Juvenile Children, etc. My Government will continue to take required steps to ensure protective environment to all the vulnerable sections of the society. Out of total population of the Union Territory of Puducherry, 20,501 differently-abled Persons benefitted during the year 2016-17 under various Welfare schemes such as supply of prosthetic appliances, issue of motorized tricycles, grant of scholarships, payment of transport allowance, and other welfare measures to a tune of ₹ 52 crore.

81. In order to protect the child rights, "Integrated Child Protection Scheme" will be effectively implemented in the Union Territory of Puducherry. An amount of ₹ 7.82 crore has been incurred for implementation of ICDS.

WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

82. My Government is giving priority for development and empowerment of women and children and to fulfill the objective, the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights will be constituted with a Chairperson and six Members to ensure that children between the age group of 0 to 18 years of this Union Territory are not deprived of their rights as enshrined in the Constitution of India. My Government will continue the ongoing scheme, such as Old Age Pension, Integrated Child Development Services schemes and Financial Assistance to Women Beneficiaries without any interruption.

83. My Government is successfully implementing "Beti Bachao Beti Padho" scheme on pilot basis in Yanam region. Awareness Programme, Training and Capacity Building Programme were conducted to the stakeholders, Anganwadi workers, religious leaders, self-help groups, para medical staff and village level sanitation workers to educate the importance of girl child in the society. Baby kit materials

where distributed to the new born girl babies. A sum of ₹ 18.20 lakh released by the Government of India has been fully utilized. As a result of the above programmes child sex ratio has considerably increased in the target of Yanam region.

CIVIL SUPPLIES

84. My Government has proposed to migrate from Smart Card based PDS solution to Aadhaar based PDS solution with latest technology utilizing the existing resources. My Government has proposed to weed out duplicate cards through a transparent process of field verification and social audit. In order to honour and complement the people earning higher income who are coming forward to surrender their ration card, green card will be provided to them. This will reduce the Government expenditure on welfare schemes which will be utilized for the welfare of downtrodden people.

ART AND CULTURE

85. My Government has proposed to construct Tagore Culture Complex with financial assistance from Ministry of Culture at a cost of ₹ 14.93 crore in Bharathiar

Palkalaikoodam campus for promoting, preserving and disseminating rich cultural traditions. It is proposed to shift the Mudaliarpet Government Branch Library presently functioning in a rented building to the newly constructed Government building. 13 libraries located in SC populated areas will be provided with computers, photocopiers and RO drinking water system. "Yatra" festival with the participation of artists from various States in India and "Jashme Kashmir" festival, with participation of Jammu & Kashmir artists will be conducted both in association with the South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur. It is proposed to conduct Thavathiru Sankaradass Swamigal 150th Anniversary Drama festival in a grand manner giving opportunities to the drama artists of Puducherry and Karaikal. It is proposed to construct “Kalai Mandram” in order to encourage drama artists. Weekend programme in Beach Road will be continued in Puducherry and also extended to Karaikal. Monthly programme involving local and other State Artists will be conducted in association with the South Zone Cultural Centre. In order to promote the activities of "Nadaga Kalaignars", my Government will provide necessary support and the required premises for performance.

HINDU RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

86. My Government proposes to introduce "Annadhanam Scheme" from temple's own funds to begin with in Puducherry Mannakula Vinayagar Temple, Vedhapureeswarar Varadharaja Perumal Temple, Villianur Kokilambigai Samatha Thirukameswarar Temple, Karuvadikuppam Swami Sithanantha Temple and Thirunallar Sri Darbharaneswarer Temple, Karaikal Punithavathi Ammaiyar Temple and Ambagarathur Sri Bathrakali Amman Temple. As part of women empowerment, it is proposed to include a women member in the management of HRI temples. The Ulema Honorarium will be enhanced form ₹ 1,000 to ₹ 4,000 and the Temple Gurukkal performing poojas in the temples will be paid honorarium of ₹ 3,000 per month.

GENERAL

87. The Government of Puducherry has initiated GRAS (Government Receipts Accounting System) for all receipts to the Government from departments/employees and public through online under TMMP (Treasury Mission Mode Project). Initially it is planned to start with few departments which

have limited transactions in Puducherry. Further, the facility will be extended to all the departments in all the regions. Those departments having online receipts already will share the data to this system for comprehensive accounting. This would facilitate the Treasury to easily compile the total receipts for Government of Puducherry. With the aim of carrying out Government transactions in a transparent and effective manner, e-Office will be implemented with 250 users in Chief Secretariat, Agriculture, Local Administration, Information Technology, Hindu Religious Institutions and Port during the year 2017-18. My Government has been taking up the matter with Government of India / NITI Aayog for 100% funding of all CSS schemes which has been agreed by Ministry of Finance since various Ministries of Government of India are now insisting for State's share for the projects under CSS.

88. My Government will take all steps to fill-up the vacant posts and issue promotion order to the eligible officials at appropriate time.

89. Sir, I am sure that to achieve the above mentioned goals, my Government is committed to continuously and restlessly, work to make this Union Territory a

"Prosperous Puducherry". Hon’ble Ministers, Hon’ble MLAs and Government Officers are giving their fullest Co-operations. Hence, Union Territory of Puducherry is marching forward. When all india growth rate is only 7% whereas, Union Territory has rendered 11.4% despite facing the severe constraints. This is appreciation of good governance.

90. Hon’ble Speaker Sir, I place the budget for the year 2017-18 before this House and solicit the support of Hon’ble Members in this regard.

NANDRI !

VANAKKAM !!

CLEAN-INDIA



GREEN-PUDUCHERRY

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