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“This Government will fully focus on key issues such as eliminating poverty, bridging the rural-urban divide and improving infrastructure.”

Selvi J Jayalalithaa
- Hon'ble Chief Minister

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I Wrapper

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** with Hon'ble Finance Minister Thiru. O. Panneerselvam on the way to presenting the budget for 2013-2014 in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly.

IV Wrapper

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** named tiger cubs in a function held at Arignar Anna Zoological park Vandalur on 15.3.2013.

HIGHEST ALLOCATION FOR AGRICULTURE, STEPS TO BOOST INFRASTRUCTURE, INVESTMENT

Speech of **Thiru O. Panneerselvam**,
Hon'ble Minister for Finance, Government of
Tamil Nadu, presenting the Budget for
the year 2013-2014 to the Legislative Assembly
on 21st March, 2013.



Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

“தூங்காமை கல்வி துணிவுடமை இம்முன்றும்
நீங்கா நிலனாள் பவர்க்கு”

(குறள் 383)

A sleepless promptitude, knowledge,
decision strong
These three for aye to rulers of the land
belong. (Kural 383)

In the words of the immortal poet Thiruvalluvar, diligence, learning and courage are the essential qualities of a good ruler. Apart from having these three qualities elucidated by the divine poet, our Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi J Jayalalithaa is also the epitome of fearless determination, perseverance, timely action, generosity and profound wisdom. She has dedicated her life to the welfare of the people of Tamil Nadu and is working tirelessly for the development of the State. I rise to present to this august House the Budget Estimates for the year 2013 2014, with the blessings of our Hon'ble Chief Minister who is governing the State by considering the lives of our people as her own life and the welfare of our State as her only goal. This Government has taken over the mantle of the State administration for



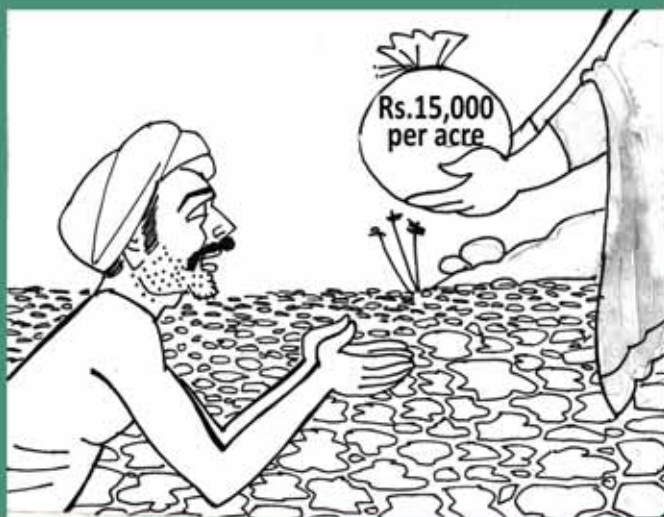
the third time under the dynamic leadership of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, with the promise to ensure "material progress with distributive justice". It is my proud privilege to present the third Budget of this Government, laying down the roadmap in fulfilment of that promise. I express my deepest gratitude to our Hon'ble Chief Minister for bestowing on me this opportunity.

2. Twenty two years after the constitution of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal, the relentless efforts of our dauntless and sagacious Hon'ble Chief Minister have forced the Government of India to notify the final order of the Tribunal. The directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court brought to an end the perfidious saga of denial of justice to Tamil Nadu by the Central Government by delaying the notification of the final order for six long years from 2007. This magnificent victory for the efforts taken by the Hon'ble Chief Minister in reasserting Tamil Nadu's rights in the Cauvery water dispute will go down in history as a glorious chapter, which will be cherished forever by generations to come.

Fighting the Drought - Relief Measures and the Way Ahead

3. The delayed and deficient monsoon and the non-release of Cauvery water by Karnataka have created a drought situation in the State. This resulted in substantial reduction in the area coverage and production of all major crops, particularly in the Cauvery Delta Area. Taking serious note of the low rainfall situation in the State, the Hon'ble Chief Minister declared all the districts of the State, except Chennai, as drought affected and ordered the waiver of land revenue. This has enabled the State to increase the eligibility for employment under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) up to 150 days per annum per family and gave much needed relief to agricultural labour affected by the drought.

4. As part of the special relief package in the Cauvery Delta Area, the Hon'ble Chief Minister announced Rs.15,000 per acre as crop loss compensation and special



compensation including advance against insurance payments to those farmers who had suffered more than 50% crop loss. As a special gesture, the Hon'ble Chief Minister ordered that the Government would bear the farmers' entire share of insurance premium in the Cauvery Delta Area this year. The total financial commitment to the State exchequer on account of the cash compensation package is Rs.541 crores. I wish to inform this august House that the cash relief has been disbursed directly into the bank accounts of over three lakh drought affected farmers in record time.

5. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has also announced that works worth Rs.1,517 crores under various schemes will be taken up in the Cauvery Delta Area, including the creation of 15,000 farm ponds under MGNREGS at a cost of Rs.181 crores. In order to manage the cattle feed and fodder shortage, Rs.17.85 crores has been sanctioned. A sum of Rs.37.25 crores has been sanctioned to augment drinking water supply. **Since the drought has affected the whole State, the Government is finalising a relief package for non delta districts also and this will be shortly announced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister.** A drought memorandum is being submitted to the Central Government.

THE ECONOMIC SCENARIO

6. This Budget has been prepared against the backdrop of the gloomy national economic scenario, manifested in the form of poor economic growth and waning investor confidence. Revival of the country's economy is contingent upon better macroeconomic management and effective fiscal measures by the Union Government. It is regrettable that the recent Union Budget reveals absolutely no commitment on the part of the Union Government towards achieving the twin objectives of reversing the economic downtrend and of controlling inflation.

7. The State Government is already feeling the pinch of the economic slowdown as seen in a lower growth in Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). The GSDP growth rate, according to the Advance Estimates for 2012-2013, is only 4.61% at constant prices. The severe drought and crop failure has hit us badly in the primary sector, which has ultimately affected service sector growth as well. The general economic slowdown in the national economy and shortage of power has hampered growth in the manufacturing sector.

8. However, undeterred by these adverse factors, this Government is committed to playing its destined role in steering the State's economy back to the path of accelerated inclusive growth. This Budget has been formulated as a part of this bold endeavour. Let me now detail the approach adopted in this Budget;

i. Continued thrust on primary sector and infusion of more investment in storage and marketing infrastructure.

ii. Speedy implementation of infrastructure projects and investing more

funds in new projects for power, roads connectivity, etc.

iii. Additional incentives to encourage balanced industrial growth in backward and most backward areas, particularly in Southern Tamil Nadu.

iv. Special package for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) to boost employment generation and to revitalise industrial growth.

v. Increased flow of funds to build quality urban infrastructure.

vi. Infusion of more capital in urban housing to benefit Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and the Lower Income Group (LIG).

vii. Improvement of welfare schemes by ensuring better service delivery through better governance.

viii. Thrust on poverty reduction and skill building for productive and high value jobs.

ix. Strengthening the social security net to protect the destitute and the poor.

x. Stepping up expenditure in social sectors like education, health and nutrition.

These strategies would be implemented along side prudent fiscal management, without adding to the tax burden of the common man and by strict adherence to the Tamil Nadu Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2003.

ANNUAL PLAN

9. The Twelfth Five Year Plan of the State seeks to make Tamil Nadu the Numero Uno State in all indicators of the Human Development Index. The core focus of the Twelfth Plan is on accelerated, sustainable and inclusive growth. The size of the total

State Plan allocation during the Twelfth Plan period is pegged at Rs.2.11 lakh crores. The outcome of the entire planning process will be the eradication of poverty, creation of more and better job opportunities and overall improvement in the quality of life.

10. The State will exceed the Annual Plan target of Rs.28,000 crores during 2012-2013 and the allocation has been increased to Rs.37,000 crores for 2013-2014. The plan allocation for the primary sector has been increased by 20.12%.

LAW AND ORDER

11. Over the last two years, the State has faced some serious issues like tension along the State borders due to the Mullai Periyar dam issue, protests against the Koodankulam Nuclear Power Plant, angst among farmers in the Cauvery Delta owing to the water shortage etc. However, both the wings of the Police machinery i.e. Law Enforcement and

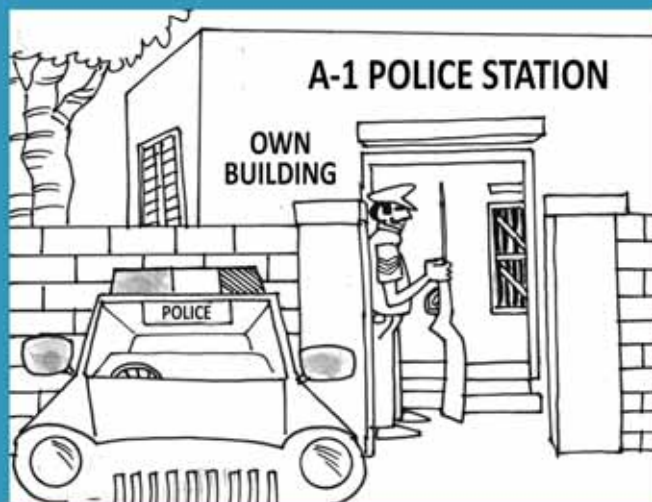


Intelligence, effectively managed the situation and ensured the maintenance of peace and public order in the State.

12. The Anti-Land Grabbing Special Cells, constituted by this Government, have registered 1,673 cases and restored 2,734 acres of land, including more than 10.7 lakh sq. ft. area of house sites, worth Rs.1,137.66 crores, to the rightful owners. This Government did not allow any communal flare-up and kept the anti social elements at bay. Under the effective protection of our brave and vigilant Police Force, the State continues to enjoy a peaceful and congenial environment, where people can live without fear and the economy can flourish.

13. This Government has substantially increased the strength of the Police Force, making the ratio of Police personnel per lakh of population in Tamil Nadu one of the best in the country. During 2012-2013, the Tamil Nadu Uniformed Services Recruitment Board (TNUSRB) has recruited 12,152 Police Constables, 377 Jail Warders and 791 Firemen. **The TNUSRB will further recruit 17,138 Police Constables, 1,091 Sub-Inspectors, 1,005 Firemen and 292 Jail Warders during 2013-2014.**

14. This Government has adequately equipped the Police Force to effectively deal with law and order. During 2012-2013, the Government has sanctioned Rs.27.07 crores for the construction of buildings for 60 Police Stations out of the 169 that are functioning in rented premises. **Rs.50 crores has been earmarked in the Budget Estimates 2013-2014 for the construction of buildings for the remaining 109 Police Stations. This will ensure that all the Police Stations in Tamil Nadu will hereafter function only from their own buildings.** The overall allocation for the Police Department has been increased



from Rs.4,096.7 crores in 2012-2013 to Rs.4,706.17 crores in the Budget Estimates 2013-2014.

15. The bravery and commitment of our firemen have saved 3,796 lives and Rs.338 crores worth of property in 2012. This Government has enhanced the allocation for the Fire and Rescue Services Department from Rs.186.72 crores in 2012-2013 to Rs.208.48 crores in the Budget Estimates 2013-2014. Similarly, Rs.179.67 crores has been provided for the Prison Department.

16. In the past two years, a sum of Rs.162.13 crores had been sanctioned for improving the infrastructure required by the judiciary, for works like the construction of court buildings, residential quarters etc. It has been proposed to sanction Rs.148.49 crores more under the 13th Finance Commission grant for improving justice delivery during the period 2012-2013 to 2014-2015. In the Budget Estimates 2013-2014, a sum of Rs.695.28 crores has been provided for the Judiciary.

GOVERNANCE

E-governance Initiatives

17. As announced in the Governor's Address by the Governor of Tamil Nadu,

the State will create the State Residents Data Hub (SRDH), as a unified data repository to service all departments. A pilot project will be implemented in Pudukottai District for disbursing scheme benefits such as social security pensions, marriage assistances, scholarships, public distribution system benefits, students tracking system, the Hon'ble Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme, free distribution of dhothis and sarees etc., in an Aadhaar enabled platform using SRDH. Thereafter, it will be upscaled to the entire State.

18. When this Government took over the reins of governance, the State administration was paralysed by the large scale vacancies in many departments. This Government took expeditious steps to fill up the vacancies. So far, 1,61,142 vacancies across various departments have been filled up. In co-operative societies and banks, 9,914 employees have been newly appointed. Similarly, in Public Sector Undertakings, 22,452 personnel have been newly appointed. All told, this Government has appointed 1,93,508 employees since May 2011, greatly relieving the stress on governance.

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

19. Efficient revenue administration ensures better maintenance of law and order, land administration and an efficient grievance redressal system. In the last two years, nine new taluks and one revenue sub-division were formed. The fast track patta transfer system introduced by this Government has helped to dispose of over 26 lakh cases so far. Thus, the overall pendency level has been brought down from 1,46,067 cases at the beginning of the scheme, to less than 33,000 cases now.

During 2012-2013, up to February, 1.2 lakh house site pattas were distributed. **During 2013-2014, we will distribute 2 lakh house site pattas.**

POVERTY ALLEVIATION

20. Systematic efforts are being made to eradicate poverty in both rural and urban areas. Apart from implementing wage employment and other welfare programmes, direct intervention for poverty reduction through social mobilisation and economic development is being done through the Pudu Vazhvu Project, a World Bank funded scheme. The Tamil Nadu State



Rural Livelihood Mission (TNSRLM) is also being implemented in 60 blocks from 2012-2013 adopting the strategies of Pudu Vazhvu Project to eradicate rural poverty. This scheme is being implemented in phases in order to cover the entire State in due course. **In 2013- 2014, 110 additional blocks will be covered.** A sum of Rs.350 crores has been provided for the Pudu Vazhvu Project and Rs.100 crores has been provided for the Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihood Mission during 2013-2014 as the State's share.

21. The Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) for poverty alleviation in urban areas will be implemented with an outlay of Rs.99.73 crores during 2013-2014. In order to make an effective dent in urban poverty levels, the Tamil Nadu Urban Livelihood Mission (TNULM) was launched with an allocation of Rs.200 crores during 2012-2013. The TNULM converges all the programmes that target urban poverty and uses its allocation as gap funding. In 2013-2014 also, Rs.200 crores has been allocated for the TNULM.

22. The socio economic survey to identify the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families in rural and urban areas, which would form the basis for all future poverty eradication initiatives, is currently in progress. I am confident that these co-ordinated efforts, through the family based intervention approach, would greatly reduce urban and rural poverty, thus realising the Hon'ble Chief Minister's vision of making Tamil Nadu a poverty free State.

YOUTH WELFARE AND EMPLOYMENT

23. About 25% of Tamil Nadu's population is in the age group of 20 to 34 years. This young and energetic generation is the future of our State. These youth should be motivated and trained to take up self-employment or get employed in the service or manufacturing sectors. It is our duty to empower the youth through skill development to channelize their talents, to increase their productivity and to prepare them to take up high value jobs.

24. Our thrust on skill building will continue through the State Skill Development Mission under the aegis of the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation. **The allocation of**

Rs.75 crores for State Skill Development Mission will be stepped up to Rs.100 crores in the coming financial year. Rs.8 crores has also been earmarked for continuing the modular skill training.

25. In order to make the training programme commensurate with the skill requirements of industry, the State will also explore the possibility of conducting training programmes with industry participation. The State will also seek funding and technical assistance from International Institutions in order to equip our youth with skills of world standards, thus making them globally competitive.

26. Special efforts will continue for promoting self-employment opportunities for youth through the entrepreneurship development programme. **A sum of Rs.5 crores has been provided to the Entrepreneurship Development Institute for the training of youth in 2013-2014.**

INFRASTRUCTURE

Aiming high- The Vision 2023, Volume II

27. In order to achieve higher growth in the economy, this Government will give a thrust to several key infrastructure projects by ensuring substantial capital infusion. Keeping a time horizon of two Five Year Plans in mind, the second volume of the Vision 2023 Document, with a shelf of key infrastructure projects, has been approved by the Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Development Board in its first meeting chaired by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. The Vision 2023 Document envisages a total investment of Rs.15 lakh crores during the next ten years. This includes Rs.1,27,250 crores in the agriculture and irrigation sector, Rs.2,59,000 crores for urban infrastructure,

Rs.60,120 crores for the development of human capital and Rs.3,65,927 crores for the transport sector. It is projected that by 2023, 60% of the investment in infrastructure will come from the private sector. The Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Development Act, Rules and Regulations, along with the Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders (Public Private Partnership Procurement) Rules, which have all been put in place in the current year, provide a clear policy and procedural frame work for speedy infrastructure development in the State. **An allocation of Rs.2,000 crores for the Infrastructure Development Fund and Rs.200 crores for the Project Preparation Fund have been provided in the Budget Estimates 2013-2014.**

THE PRIMARY SECTOR

AGRICULTURE

28. The overall allocation for the primary sector has been increased to Rs.17,220.89 crores in the Budget Estimates 2013-2014. The allocation for agriculture has been increased to Rs.5,189.15 crores during 2013-2014, over the current year's allocation of Rs.4,829.93 crores, which is the highest ever allocation for the sector.

29. During the past two years, this Government has laid a strong foundation

for ushering the State into a second green revolution by enhancing agricultural productivity. This Government will continue to adopt strategies for increasing farmers income through the dissemination of better cultivation practices and front end technology; enhancement of farm productivity through mixed farming and integrated farming; adoption of water conservation measures like use of micro irrigation system; spread of farm mechanisation to small and marginal holdings; and integration of agricultural markets and promoting post-harvest management and processing.

The National Agriculture Development Programme (NADP)

30. Tamil Nadu got the approval for Rs.669 crores under the NADP during 2012-2013. This is the highest allocation ever received by the State. Rs.700 crores has been provided in the Budget Estimates 2013-2014 under this scheme. **In order to make extension services more effective, the highly successful initiative of conducting Uzhavar Peruvizha will be continued in 2013-2014 at a cost of Rs.46 crores under the NADP. To improve the productivity of crops, an additional area of 5 lakh acres of paddy cultivation would be brought under the System of Rice Intensification (SRI).** The System of Pulse Intensification and Sustainable Sugarcane Initiatives will be promoted in a big way. Dry land agricultural production will be stabilised at a cost of Rs.24 crores under the NADP. A special thrust will be given for farm mechanisation.

Timely, Adequate and Quality Inputs

31. Timely availability of inputs like quality seeds and fertilisers is important to



achieve higher productivity. An annual seed plan has been prepared to popularize High Yielding Varieties and to improve the seed replacement ratio. Rs.161.62 crores has been provided in the Budget Estimates 2013-2014 for production and distribution of quality seeds for various crops. In order to ensure timely availability of fertilisers in general and phosphatic fertilisers like DAP in particular, an amount of Rs.150 crores is provided as a revolving fund to the Tamil Nadu Co operative Marketing Federation (TANFED).

Horticulture- The Way Ahead

32. The allocation for the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) will be Rs.140 crores in 2013-2014 and Rs.21 crores has been provided as the State's share in the Budget Estimates 2013-2014. **In the coming financial year, a special focus will be given to increasing the area under vegetable cultivation to 8.2 lakh acres from the existing 7.25 lakh acres.**

33. A special project to integrate markets handling perishable commodities with village production clusters will be implemented by dovetailing the NADP and the NHM funds. New and innovative technologies like precision farming, protected cultivation practices like shade net cultivation, polyhouses etc. will be encouraged. As announced, the project to promote vegetable cultivation in peri metro areas will be implemented at a cost of Rs.34 crores. This will reduce the gap between farm gate price and consumer price besides reducing wastage.

34. Liquid fertilisers are an essential pre-requisite for advancing precision farming technology with fertigation. **For procuring, storing and distribution of liquid fertilisers, and thereby ensuring their timely availability throughout the cropping cycle,**

the Government has provided a sum of Rs.50 crores as a revolving fund in the Budget Estimates 2013-2014.

Supporting Infrastructure in Agriculture

35. The lack of adequate storage facilities, market information and access to markets, forces the farmers to resort to distress sale of their produce. **Infrastructure facilities would be upgraded in select agricultural markets and they will be functionally integrated at a cost of Rs.15 crores using the NADP funds. These markets would also be integrated with commodity exchanges like MCX and NCDEX.** Together, these initiatives would reduce wastage and improve sharing of market intelligence. Strengthening the post-harvest and processing facilities will stabilise prices of agricultural commodities, particularly of perishables. Rs.20 crores has been allocated for promoting agro processing industries under the National Mission for Food Processing. We will continue our efforts to augment the warehousing capacity.

Weather Risk Mitigation

36. In order to overcome the uncertainties of the weather, the strategy in agriculture should necessarily include risk identification, anticipation and mitigation. The Government has adopted a multi-pronged approach to deal with various risks like drought, flood, erratic and uneven rainfall etc. The Government will strive to attain 100% crop insurance coverage. During 2013-2014, Rs.42.95 crores has been allocated as the State Government's share for crop insurance schemes.

37. Water conservation and management through drip irrigation will be given a major thrust. **Funds under the National Mission on Micro Irrigation, National Food**

Security Mission, NHM and other schemes will be dovetailed with State funds for covering 1.30 lakh acres of cultivated land under micro irrigation at a total cost of Rs.520 crores during 2013-2014. The existing ceiling of one acre for availing of the benefit under micro irrigation schemes for small and marginal farmers will be removed. **Farmers will be provided vouchers and given the full freedom to choose quality suppliers.** Subsidy will be released into the farmer's bank account and the amount will be disbursed to the supplier company only after satisfactory installation, as confirmed by the farmer's voucher and third party inspection report.

CO-OPERATION

Timely and Adequate Credit Facilities

38. The importance of timely credit availability in boosting agricultural production cannot be under estimated. In the current financial year, Rs.3,720 crores has been disbursed as crop loans by the co-operatives up to February 2013. The Annual Credit Plan target for the disbursement of crop loans has been set at Rs.39,135 crores for the financial year 2013-2014. **The crop loan target under the Co operative Sector will be stepped up from the present level of Rs.4,000 crores to Rs.4,500 crores in the coming financial year.**

39. Farmers who promptly repay loans are being extended interest free crop loans through the co operatives. A sum of Rs.160 crores is provided in the Budget Estimates 2013-2014 towards the interest subvention support for crop loan.

40. Over the last two years, godown infrastructure of the co operatives was strengthened substantially. So far,

2,270 godowns have been taken up with 2.85 lakh MT capacity at a total cost of Rs.237.02 crores. This has ensured that most of the Primary Agricultural Co-operative Societies have been provided with at least 100 MT capacity godowns to extend produce pledge loans to the farmers.

41. As already promised, elections to the co operatives have been notified. Elections will be conducted for 22,532 co-operative institutions in four phases and the process has already commenced. This will ensure the



realisation of the goal of democratising the co-operative institutions

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

42. Animal Husbandry provides an opportunity to the farmers to earn sustainable income. This Government has given unprecedented importance to this sector. In the Budget Estimates 2013-2014, this Government has allocated Rs.1,082.64 crores for this sector, which is 240% higher than the 2010-2011 allocation.

The Second White Revolution

43. The pioneering scheme of distributing free milch animals, sheep and goats is completing two successful years. So far, 24,000 milch cows and 10 lakh sheep and goats have been distributed across the State. Continuing the success story, **during**

2013-2014, 12,000 milch cows and six lakh sheep and goats will be distributed to 1.5 lakh poor women. A sum of Rs.250 crores has been provided for this purpose.

44. Since this Government assumed office, the Fodder Augmentation Scheme has successfully brought over 50,000 acres under green fodder cultivation. **The scheme would be continued in 2013-2014, with an enhanced allocation of Rs.25 crores and tree fodder will also be promoted.**

Encouraging Infrastructure

45. With a view to ushering in a second white revolution, this Government has sanctioned Rs.235 crores for strengthening veterinary infrastructure. In the last two years, construction, renovation and repairs to nearly 1,500 veterinary institutions have been taken up and 585 sub centres have been upgraded as veterinary dispensaries. Further, 303 Livestock Inspectors have been newly recruited. As announced, two new veterinary colleges have already been started in Tirunelveli and Orathanadu.

46. During 2013-2014, another 100 veterinary sub-centres will be upgraded into veterinary dispensaries. This Government will take up construction of buildings for 450 veterinary dispensaries at a cost of Rs.115 crores during 2013-2014. A sum of Rs.25 crores has been provided for further renovation of existing veterinary dispensaries and hospitals during 2013-2014.



Performance of Aavin

47. As a result of the efforts of the Government in the dairy sector, the milk procurement by the District Co-operative Milk Producers Unions has reached a high level of 27.14 lakh litres per day during the peak season. We will continue our efforts to upgrade the facilities in the Milk Unions as well as the Chennai Metro Dairies to create higher milk processing capacity. The Erode cattle feed plant will be revived at a cost of Rs.14 crores in order to supply quality feed through the milk societies.

Poultry Development

48. The Institute of Poultry Production and Management is being established at Hosur at a cost of Rs.45.96 crores. Our efforts to popularise poultry in non traditional areas have started yielding positive results. During 2013-2014, Rs.25 crores will be set apart to promote poultry in non traditional areas.

FISHERIES

Fishermen Welfare

49. In order to ameliorate the condition of the fisherfolk and to bring prosperity to

their lives, the Government has taken many effective initiatives, such as providing relief assistance of Rs.4,000 per family during the lean fishing season, increasing the fishing ban relief amount from Rs.1,000 to Rs.2,000 and the provision of subsidised fuel. In the Budget Estimates 2013-2014, this Government has provided Rs.200 crores for the above welfare schemes.

50. In order to promote deep sea fishing, the existing 25% subsidy will be enhanced to 50% to fishermen for procuring new tuna long-liners and a sum of Rs.30 crores will be set apart for this purpose. I hope this will slowly wean away our fishermen from unsustainable trawler fishing in shallow waters to sustainable deep sea fishing.

Infrastructure Development

51. In the last two years, this Government has taken up several infrastructure projects to strengthen the Fisheries sector. Works relating to 23 fish landing centres and 4 fishing harbours at a total cost of Rs.245 crores are in progress. Fishing harbours are being upgraded at Cuddalore, Pazhayar, Nagapattinam and Thoothukudi.

52. During 2013-2014, a modernised fish landing centre will be developed in Mudasalodai in Cuddalore District at a cost of Rs.7.78 crores. Two fish processing parks will be established at Ramanathapuram and Thiruvallur districts in the coming financial year through Public Private Partnership.

Further, works to stabilise bar mouths at Nagoor and Parangipettai will be taken up during 2013-2014 at a cost of Rs.10 crores each to enable the safe passage of boats across the shallow bar mouths. A sum of Rs.467.44 crores has been provided in the Budget Estimates 2013-2014 for the Fisheries sector.

FOOD SECURITY

A Model Universal Public Distribution System

53. This Government will continue to implement the Universal Public Distribution System (PDS) irrespective of the outcome of the Food Security Bill proposed by the Central Government. In order to ensure food availability to all and thereby, to eradicate hunger from the State, the Government is providing free rice to all rice card holders from June 2011 onwards. This Government is also supplying tur dhal, urad dhal and palm oil at subsidised prices under the special Public Distribution System so as to insulate the poor from the increasing prices of essential





commodities. A sum of Rs.4,900 crores has been provided in the Budget Estimates 2013-2014 for food subsidy.

54. Seven rice mills under the control of the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation (TNCSC) have already been modernised at a cost of Rs.26.27 crores so as to ensure good quality rice in the PDS. **In 2013-2014, the TNCSC would modernise seven more rice mills at a cost of Rs.32.6 crores.** This is expected to improve the efficiency of the Modern Rice Mills (MRM) and the quality of rice hulled by these mills.

Price Control Measures

55. Inflationary trends in the prices of essential commodities are mainly due to the faulty macroeconomic policies and fuel pricing policies of the Union Government. Incessant increase in petrol and diesel prices has impacted the price of primary goods. This Government is taking the following measures to control prices of essential commodities.

i. **This Government is distributing tur dhal and urad dhal at Rs.30/kg and palm oil at Rs.25 per litre through PDS outlets. This scheme will be further extended up to 31.3.2014.**

ii. **This Government has already constituted a Price Stabilisation Fund of Rs.50 crores for procuring and distributing essential commodities at cost price in emergent situations. This Government will increase the size of this fund to Rs.100 crores.**

iii. **This Government will also off load one lakh MT of rice in the open market for sales at Rs.20 per kg through Amudham, the co operatives and special outlets to control the price of rice.**

iv. **To control vegetable prices, farm fresh consumer outlets will be opened in urban areas by the co operatives and the Horticulture Department, linking farmers to consumers directly.**

IRRIGATION

56. Tamil Nadu, being a lower riparian State, needs a comprehensive strategy for the conservation of both surface and ground water resources. Considering the importance of irrigation for the State's agriculture, a substantial allocation of Rs.3,314.50 crores has been made in the Budget Estimates 2013-2014.

57. Having got the final order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal notified, this Government is now taking immediate steps to have the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee constituted. This Government has moved the Supreme Court in this regard on 18.3.2013 praying for a direction to the Central Government to form the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee without further delay. This will ensure that from this year onwards, Karnataka can be compelled to release the

due share of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu in time.

Conserving Every Drop of Water

58. As announced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, rehabilitation works in 36,000 irrigation tanks and water bodies have already started. Out of these, 13,699 tanks fall under the control of the Public Works Department (PWD) and the remaining are under the control of the Panchayat Unions. Storage capacity of 5,894 PWD tanks has already been augmented under the Irrigated Agriculture Modernisation and Water Resource Management (IAMWARM) project and other schemes. The Minor Irrigation tanks under Panchayat Unions are being improved with MGNREGS funds. **Similarly, 176 works for the rehabilitation of traditional water bodies at a cost of Rs.50 crores will be taken up in 2013-2014.**

59. This Government has already proposed the Cauvery Delta Area Improvement Scheme costing Rs.1,560 crores to the Asian Development Bank to mitigate the impact of climate change. The project components include reconstruction of tail end regulators and improvement of drainage channels in the Cauvery Delta Area.

Rehabilitation of Major Dams

60. The project agreement for implementing the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) has already been signed with the World Bank. Out of the total project cost of Rs.745.49 crores, a sum of Rs.390 crores has been provided in the Budget Estimates 2013-2014 to take up dam rehabilitation works.

Intra State River Linkage

61. Even while the State has been urging the Central Government to take up major inter-state river linkage projects, our State has gone ahead with its own intra-state river linking schemes. The works for the Thamiraparani-Karumeniar Nambiar link and the Cauvery Gundar link with the Kattalai Barrage are in progress and Rs.156.44 crores has been allocated in the Budget 2013-2014 for these ambitious initiatives of the State Government. **We will initiate necessary action for the early commencement of the third intra state river linkage scheme; the Pennaiyar Palar Link project.**

ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

62. Amidst rapid urbanisation and industrial growth, the State needs to take special efforts to protect its forests and the environment. The allocation for the Environment and Forest department has been increased to Rs.880.69 crores during 2013-2014, which is 15.89% higher than 2012-2013.

63. To increase the green cover of the State and to promote soil and moisture conservation



in dry areas, 64 lakh tree saplings were planted during 2011-2012 commemorating the 64th birthday of our Hon'ble Chief Minister. During 2012-2013, this noble initiative has been implemented at a cost of Rs.43.55 crores. **We will continue this scheme in 2013-2014 also, by planting 65 lakh tree saplings.**

Restoration of Chennai Rivers and Waterways

64. The Cooum, Adyar and Kosasthalaiyar rivers, the Buckingham Canal along with other smaller canals for a total length of 214 kilometres (kms) and 42 water bodies in the Chennai Metropolitan Area are highly degraded at present due to severe pollution. The State is committed to the restoration of the ecological health of these waterways and water bodies. **The eco restoration of these rivers and water bodies involves upstream treatment, desiltation, plugging of polluting outfalls, sewage treatment, scientific solid waste management, embankment protection and development of walkways and parks. As these works will be cost intensive, it is proposed to access external funding to implement a special project. This project will be implemented under the**

aegis of the Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust (CRRT).

65. The Japanese International Co operation Agency (JICA) aided Tamil Nadu Bio-diversity Conservation and Greening Project will be continued in 2013-2014 and Rs.50 crores has been allocated for this scheme. In 2012-2013, covering degraded forest areas across the State, the Government has undertaken a Water Conservation and Canopy Improvement Programme at a cost of Rs.50 crores under NABARD assistance. **During 2013-2014, this scheme will be further expanded with an additional allocation of Rs.50 crores.**

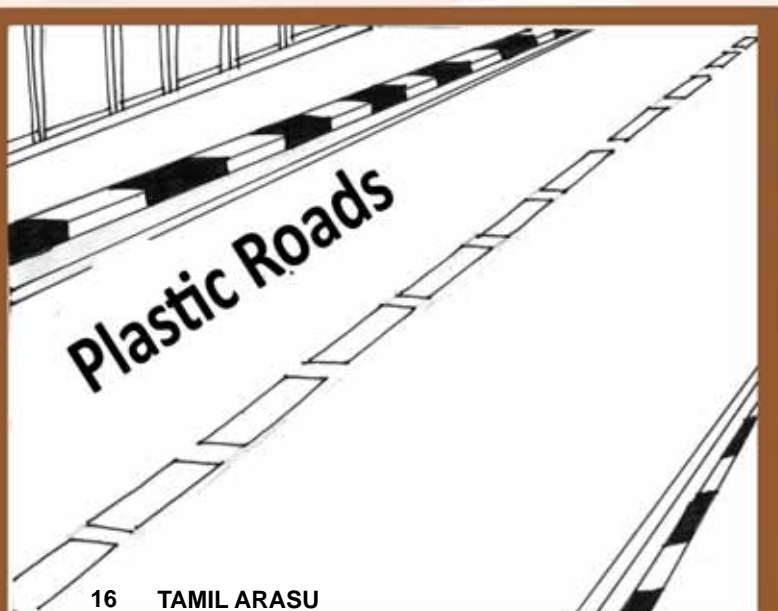
Environment Protection Fund

66. **A sum of Rs.100 crores was allocated for the Environment Protection Fund (EPF) during 2012-2013, for laying roads using plastic waste. In 2013-2014, Rs.100 crores is again being provided to this fund.**

INDUSTRIES

67. Tamil Nadu has emerged as a manufacturing power house in the country. Apart from automobiles, chemicals, petro chemicals, food processing and electronics, the State has also emerged as a major player in newer horizons like software and bio technology. The manufacturing sector of the State contributes 10% of the country's total manufacturing capacity.

68. **This Government will create a land bank of 25000 acres through SIPCOT to attract more industries to the State. A new ship building yard will be established in Thoothukudi by the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO)**



under Public Private Partnership.

69. In 2013-2014, the Government will give a push to the development of the Madurai-Thoothukudi Industrial Corridor. The project proposes to create four manufacturing regions, one agri business region, two business investment regions, a special tourism zone, one rural tourism hub and one knowledge hub. This will attract Rs.1,90,000 crores of industrial investment over a period of 10 years. **A special package of incentives for encouraging investments for the development of the industrially backward districts of southern Tamil Nadu will be announced soon.** This is expected to attract more investments facilitating economic development and creating more jobs in the southern region.

The Tamil Nadu Investment Promotion Programme (TNIPP)

70. The Tamil Nadu Investment Promotion Programme with the assistance of JICA, will commence during 2013-2014. The TNIPP aims at easing some bottlenecks faced by the investors, mainly by policy changes and by correcting infrastructural inadequacies. **This will facilitate the investment flow of around Rs.770 crores for investment in small and medium infrastructure projects over three years.**

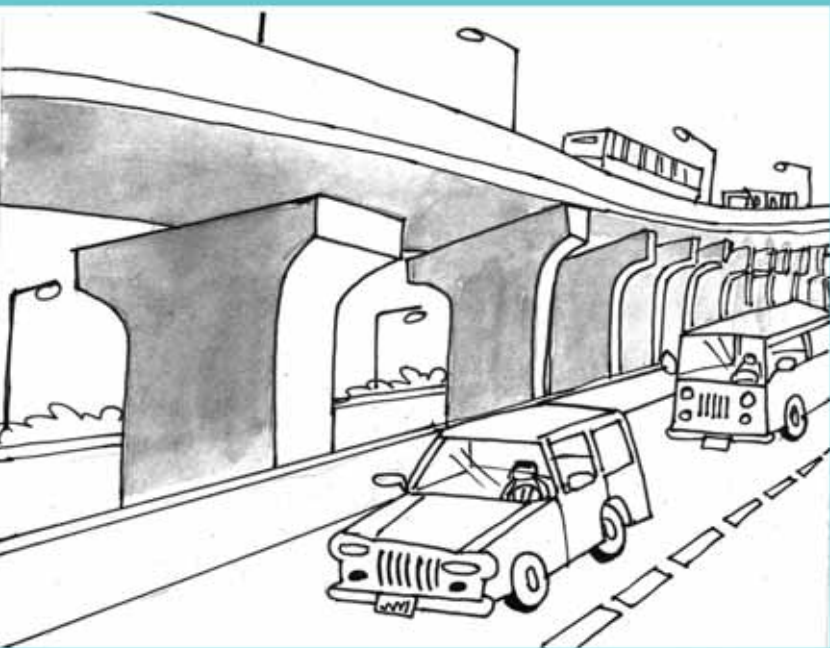


MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

71. Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises contribute immensely to the growth of the State economy through employment creation, increasing industrial production and exports. These enterprises are essential to provide ancillary linkages to the major industries and to stabilise growth in the manufacturing sector. **This Government has decided to offer a special package of support from 2013-2014, to stimulate and revitalise the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises sector. This package will be unveiled soon.**

The New Entrepreneur Cum Enterprise Development Scheme

72. The New Entrepreneur cum Enterprise Development Scheme (NEEDS) is being implemented from 2012-2013. Under this scheme, the Government provides 25% capital subsidy on investments besides training and consultancy support. In the Budget Estimates



2013-2014, Rs.100 crores has been allocated for the NEED Scheme and 50% of this has been earmarked for women beneficiaries. Similarly, Rs.25 crores is allocated for the three percent Interest Subvention Programme to benefit MSME through the Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation (TIIC) and banks.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

73. Tamil Nadu has good infrastructure and human resources for attracting IT investments. The IT parks developed by the State Government Undertakings in Chennai and tier II cities namely Trichy, Coimbatore, Madurai, Tirunelveli, Hosur and Salem have created 18.5 lakh sq. ft. of office space. Efforts will be taken to invite companies for occupying the available space. **For promoting rural Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) centres, Rs.10 crores has been allocated in the Budget Estimates 2013-2014.**

HANDLOOM AND TEXTILES

74. Under the scheme for Revival, Reform and Restructuring of the Handloom sector,

Rs.97.83 crores, including the State's share of Rs.21.32 crores, was sanctioned during 2012-2013. This Government is also implementing the free saree and dhoti scheme to support the handloom and power loom weavers. **In 2013-2014, this Government will procure and distribute 1.72 crore dhoties and 1.73 crore sarees at a cost of Rs.362.80 crores.** Rs.78.45 crores has been provided in the Budget Estimates 2013-2014 as handloom rebate. Similarly, Rs.12 crores has been provided as rebate to the Khadi and Sarvodaya Societies.

HIGHWAYS

75. The road network in Tamil Nadu is one of the longest in the country, with 4,974 km of National Highways, 10,764 km of State Highways and 46,279 km of Major and Other District Roads. Over the years, the vehicular traffic on these roads has increased manifold. **To cope with this increase in demand, the Government has enhanced the allocation for the Highways Department from Rs.5,615.71 crores in 2012-2013 to Rs.6,452.77 crores in 2013-2014.**

Ensuring Quality – Maintaining World Class Roads

76. This Government is taking action to upgrade and strengthen the roads in a phased manner. **168 km of State Highways will be widened from intermediate lane to double lane and 1,000 km of Major District Roads will be widened from single lane to intermediate lane during 2013-2014, under the Comprehensive Road Infrastructure Development Programme (CRIDP).** Besides, 3,500 km of roads will also be further strengthened. **An amount of Rs.2,032 crores has been allocated for the**

CRIDP in the Budget Estimates 2013-2014.

77. In 2012-2013, this Government sanctioned 121 bridges at a cost of Rs.235 crores and rebuilding of 433.72 km of roads at a cost of Rs.211.60 crores with NABARD assistance. During 2013-2014, Rs.191.60 crores has been earmarked to undertake various road works and Rs.233 crores for bridge works with NABARD assistance. **The Performance Based Maintenance Contract (PBMC) model, being tried on pilot basis in Pollachi sub division, will be upscaled to other areas.**

78. Faster mobility demands more by-pass roads and city ring-roads. At present, construction of 28 by pass roads and 3 ring roads at a cost of Rs.436.08 crores are in progress. **Work on four laning the East Coast Road from Chennai up to Mamallapuram will commence during 2013-2014.**

79. **Based on the recommendations of the Chennai City Traffic and Transportation Study (CTTS), four grade separators in Chennai City will be taken up for execution during 2013-2014 at a cost of Rs.271.68 crores. Similarly, work will be taken up for the construction of two flyovers at Kaalavasal and Goripalayam in Madurai City, at a cost of Rs.130 crores during 2013-2014.**

Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project- Phase II

80. I am very happy to inform the House that, as announced in my previous Budget Speech, we have obtained the approval of the

World Bank and the Government of India for the second phase of the Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project. This project would be the biggest externally aided project implemented by the State so far, at a total cost of Rs.8,580 crores and covering 1,678 km. The project will improve and develop road links having very high intensity traffic. These works will commence from 2013-2014.

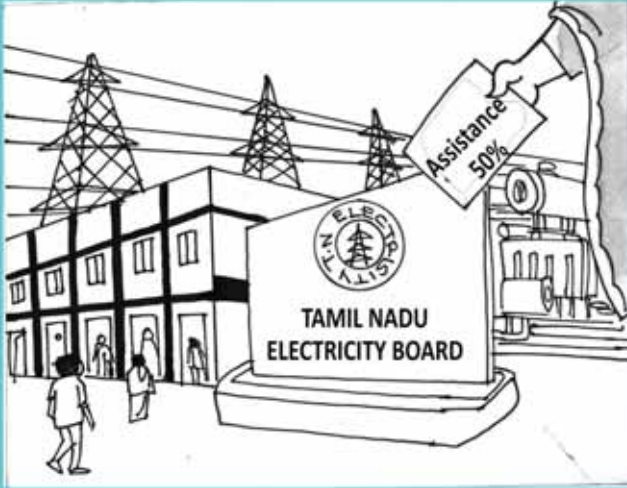
The State Highways Development Authority

81. A new “Tamil Nadu State Highways Authority” will be established on the lines of the National Highways Authority of India and major State Highways will be entrusted to it so as to give more focused attention to their formation, quality maintenance and management, as per global standards.

TRANSPORT

82. Since its assumption of office, this Government has approved the procurement of 6,000 new buses at a cost of Rs.1,026 crores. Out of these, 2855 buses have already been put on road. This has drastically reduced





the average age of the fleet. The kilometre per litre of fuel (KMPL) indicator has also improved. As the accumulated losses of the State Transport Undertakings (STUs) are still very high, it is necessary to address this issue in a comprehensive way. **This Government has decided to constitute a High Level Expert Committee to suggest measures to improve the operational efficiency of various STUs.**

Shouldering the Burden

83. The unpleasant legacy of unbearable financial losses of STUs was reversed by this Government by an unavoidable fare revision. Unfortunately, the frequent hikes in diesel price and the unjust and regressive dual pricing policy of the Central Government on diesel have plunged the finances of STUs back into a crisis. This Government had provided Rs.200 crores during 2012-2013 to absorb the additional fuel costs of STUs without passing the burden to the common man. To compensate the STUs for these additional fuel costs, a sum of Rs.500 crores has been provided in the Budget Estimates 2013-2014.

Integrated Urban Transport System

84. Rapid urbanisation increases the need for a better, faster and more efficient transport system. Effective urban planning requires a combination of different modes of transport like buses, sub urban trains, metro rail, mono rail and also new innovative systems like the Bus Rapid Transport System. **During 2013-2014, a study on the Multi Modal Transport Integration in Chennai City will be taken up by this Government.** In the Budget Estimates, Rs.750 crores has been provided for Metro Rail.

ENERGY

85. The Government is taking several steps to improve power supply in order to provide uninterrupted quality power to the consumers. NTPC TANGEDCO Joint Venture Project Unit I at Vallur has already been commissioned and the generation has been stabilised. The MTPS Stage III (600 MW), NTPC TANGEDCO Joint Venture Unit II at Vallur and North Chennai Thermal Power Station Stage II, Unit II have commenced trial production. North Chennai Thermal Power Station Stage II, Unit I (600 MW) will be commissioned in May 2013. The third unit (500 MW) of NTPC TANGEDCO Joint Venture at Vallur will be commissioned in October, 2013. Two units of 500 MW each of NLC TANGEDCO joint venture at Tuticorin are expected to be commissioned in December, 2013 and March, 2014 respectively. All these new projects are expected to give an additional generation of 3,230 Mega Watt.

86. As already announced, works related to the newly launched power projects viz. Ennore extension for 660 MW, Ennore SEZ for 2 x 660 MW and Udangudi for 2 x 660

MW at a total investment of Rs.21,000 crores will commence during 2013-2014. We will continue our efforts to launch new projects keeping in view future energy needs.

Renewable Energy-The New Horizon

87. Tamil Nadu has the highest installed renewable energy capacity in the country. 12.6% of the total electricity used by the State comes from wind alone. Tamil Nadu has also made pioneering efforts to establish bagasse based co-generation projects in co operative sugar mills to generate 183 MW of power. These projects will be commissioned in 2013 -2014. During the current financial year, the Government has sanctioned Rs.352 crores as short term loan to finance the co-generation plants in various sugar mills of the State.

88. In consonance with the Solar Energy Policy 2012, recently unveiled by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Company Ltd., (TANGEDCO) has invited bids to supply 1000 MW solar power through competitive bidding. About 226 MW has been tied up with the power generators under this bid. **Further, the existing Government buildings will be provided with solar installations at a cost of**

Rs.11.70 crores by earmarking Rs.5 lakhs out of the Member of Legislative Assembly Constituency Development Scheme (MLACDS) funds for each assembly constituency.

The Financial Restructuring Plan

89. To ameliorate the adverse financial position of TANGEDCO, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has approved the Financial Restructuring Plan (FRP). **Under the FRP, 50% of Rs.12,211 crores of the short term liabilities of TANGEDCO will be taken over by the State Government. Further, the cash loss will also be part-financed by the State from 2012-2013 onwards.**

90. When this Government assumed charge, TANGEDCO already had a debt of Rs.45,000 crores. Trapped in debt, the organization was left with few resources to take any initiative to augment its power sources. In order to rescue TANGEDCO from this severe financial crisis, this Government had given a total assistance of Rs.7,913.35 crores for the year 2011-2012. Rs.11,242 crores has been provided for TANGEDCO in the Revised Estimates 2012-2013. Besides, this Government has already provided guarantee to TANGEDCO to avail of loans from the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) and the Power Finance Corporation (PFC) to the extent of Rs.10,000 crores. **During 2013-2014, the Government has allocated Rs.12,197 crores for TANGEDCO, which includes the enhanced power subsidy of Rs.5,197 crores.**

TOURISM

91. A special tourism project, strengthening the infrastructure in selected tourism spots in the eastern tourism circuit





and the southern tourism circuit, is being implemented with the financial support of the Asian Development Bank at a cost of Rs.450 crores from 2012-2013. **Under this project, infrastructure will be strengthened in select tourism centres at a cost of Rs.67.91 crores during 2013-2014. Further, State fund of Rs.10 crores will be used for publicity to popularise “Destination Tamil Nadu 2014” during 2013-2014. Rs.153.95 crores has been provided for the Tourism sector in the Budget Estimates 2013-2014.**

92. **This Government will set up a world class oceanarium at Mamallapuram at a cost of Rs.250 crores through the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation under Public Private Partnership with the technical support of the Fisheries Department. A new Field Fossil Museum will be established at Ariyalur at a cost of Rs.2 crores.** These initiatives will further improve the tourism prospects in the State.

TAMIL DEVELOPMENT

93. This Government has allocated Rs.39.29 crores for the Tamil Development Department for the year 2013-2014. A special grant of Rs.2 crores will be given to the Tamil

University, Thanjavur, to improve the existing infrastructure.

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

94. Tamil Nadu has maintained its lead in various health parameters and it has been commended at various fora for its extra-ordinary efforts in creating a vibrant public health care system with effective birth and death registration, immunization, basic maternity services and an excellent school health programme. Rs.6,511.76 crores has been allocated in the Budget Estimates 2013 -2014 for the health sector.

95. The Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Memorial Maternity Assistance Scheme has greatly helped to increase ante-natal care registration and improve delivery levels in various Government health institutions. Tamil Nadu has registered 99.8% institutional deliveries, which is the highest in India. During 2012-2013, a total assistance of Rs.597.48 crores has been distributed to 6,23,795 beneficiaries under this scheme. For the year 2013-2014, a sum of Rs.720 crores has been allocated for this programme.

96. The Chief Minister’s Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme has benefited 2,84,228 persons to the extent of Rs.623.58 crores till now. For the coming year, an amount of Rs.750 crores has been provided in the Budget for this scheme.

97. The free pick up and drop back facilities made available through 108 ambulances and Government ambulances have benefited 6,40,000 persons including 1,59,899 ante natal mothers and 15,365 sick neo nates till now. Rs.77.59 crores has been allocated for this scheme in the Budget Estimates 2013-2014.

98. The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), which focuses mainly on primary health care facilities, is being implemented from April 2005. It is targeted to cover each block with one 30 bedded upgraded PHC, with round the clock availability of doctors, operation theatre, blood storage centre, dental services etc. This Government has also started 135 urban PHCs during 2012-2013 to provide health care facilities in urban areas. During 2013-2014, Rs.1,400 crores will be spent by the State Health Society to implement this scheme.

Focus on Non-Communicable Diseases under TNHSP



99. The World Bank assisted Tamil Nadu Health Systems Project (TNHSP) is being implemented in the State from January 2005. Under TNHSP, a major Non Communicable Disease (NCD) intervention programme for Screening and Treatment of Cervical Cancer and Breast Cancer, Prevention and Control Programme for Cardio Vascular Diseases and

Diabetes has been taken up. In 125 hospitals, round the clock Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and New born Care Services (CEMONC) have been established under this programme, besides establishing a web based Health Management Information System (HMIS) and Hospital Management System (HMS). Rs.117.93 crores has been allocated to implement TNHSP during 2013-2014.

100. Regional cancer centres have already been sanctioned to the Government Rajaji Hospital, Madurai and Coimbatore Medical College Hospital, Coimbatore. **The Government has now decided to establish two more regional cancer centres in Thanjavur and Tirunelveli Medical College Hospitals at a total cost of Rs.30 crores.** This Government will continue to strengthen health infrastructure at secondary and tertiary care levels. **The operation theatres of the district headquarters hospitals and medical college hospitals will be strengthened during 2013-2014 at a cost of Rs.20 crores.**

AYUSH System of Medicine

101. The AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy) system of medicine provides comprehensive health care support, both on the preventive and curative sides. Siddha health care is a unique gift of our Tamil ancestors to the world. This Government has taken all efforts to preserve this elixir of traditional wisdom for the present and future generations. **It is the desire of this Government to strengthen and popularise Indian systems of medicine for which**



special measures will be soon announced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. For the year 2013-2014, a sum of Rs.169.13 crores has been allocated for the Department of Indian Medicines.

SCHOOL EDUCATION

102. A sum of Rs.16,965.30 crores is provided in the Budget Estimates 2013-2014 for the School Education Department, which is the highest among all departments. Our State was among the first few States to notify the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Rules, 2011. I am proud to inform the House that Tamil Nadu is one of the best States in terms of achieving the Right to Education indicators, particularly on gross enrolment and drop out levels. From the year 2011, when this Government took the reins of administration, 51,757 teaching staff and 7,275 non-teaching staff have been recruited. **In order to contain drop outs and to improve student retention ratio at the secondary school level, the Government is giving special cash incentives to students studying in the 10th, 11th and 12th standards and 24.76 lakh students will receive a cash benefit of Rs.381 crores during the year 2013-2014.**

103. Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and with the financial support of NABARD, the Government will continue to provide the necessary infrastructure facilities to schools including additional class rooms, drinking water facilities, etc. During 2012-2013, this Government allocated Rs.1,684.20 crores under the above schemes. **For the year 2013-2014, Rs.700 crores is provided under SSA, Rs.366.57 crores under RMSA and Rs.293 crores under NABARD assistance.**

104. Additional toilets and drinking water facilities have to be provided to 2,733 schools because of upgradation and increased student strength. Funds will be dovetailed from rural development schemes, the Minimum Needs Programme (MNP), the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) etc., to provide these facilities and Rs.50 crores has been allocated under NABARD assistance to fill the gap. **This will ensure 100% coverage of all schools with safe drinking water supply and toilet facilities before the end of 2013-2014.**

Enabling Learning Environment

105. This Government is providing everything that is necessary for creating a better learning environment. The following allocations have been made in the Budget Estimates 2013-2014.

- i. Rs.217.22 crores has been allocated for the supply of text books to 97.70 lakh students.
- ii. Rs.110.96 crores has been allocated for the supply of note books to 86.71 lakh students.

iii. Rs.323.70 crores has been provided for free bus passes to cover 14.02 lakh students.

iv. Rs.353.22 crores has been provided to supply 4 sets of uniform covering 53.53 lakh students.

v. Rs.19.79 crores has been provided to supply school bags for 13 lakh students.

vi. Rs.8.47 crores has been provided for supplying footwear to 6.1 lakh students.

vii. Rs.6.65 crores has been provided for supplying geometry boxes, atlases, etc. to 9.67 lakh students.

viii. Rs.200.98 crores will be provided for the supply of bicycles to 6.30 lakh students.

ix. During 2013-2014, our Hon'ble Chief Minister ordered the supply of woollen sweaters to 10.30 lakh children in hilly areas at a cost of Rs.4.12 crores.

x. Sanitary Napkins will continue to be supplied to 32.79 lakh girl children during 2013-2014 at a cost of Rs.54.63 crores.

All put together, these benefits to students will cost the State exchequer Rs.1,299.74 crores.

HIGHER EDUCATION

106. This Government has opened 22 new Arts and Science colleges and one new Government Engineering college in the last two years. In addition, the opening of ten new Government polytechnic colleges and two new Government engineering colleges have also been announced. The Indian Institute of Information Technology will function from the academic year 2013-2014 in the campus of Bharathidasan Institute of Technology. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has already announced the starting of eight more Arts and

Science Colleges, which will function from 2013-2014.

107. The enrolment of students in higher education went up from 6,09,915 in 2010-2011 to 6,51,807 in 2012-2013. Under the scheme to provide tuition fees to first generation graduates, a sum of Rs.518 crores has been disbursed during 2012-2013. The allocation under this scheme has been substantially enhanced to Rs.673 crores in 2013-2014.

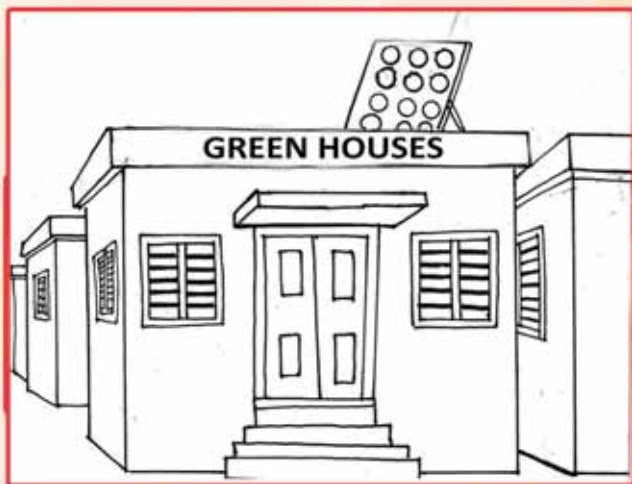
EQUIPPING THE YOUTH FOR THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ERA

108. The scheme of free distribution of laptop computers to students will go a long way in building quality human resource in the State. By this scheme, our State is ensuring that the digital divide which characterises a developing society is bridged. **A total number of 5.65 lakh laptop computers will be given to students during the academic year 2013-2014. An allocation of Rs.1,500 crores has been made in the Budget Estimates 2013-2014.**

SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

109. The State Government considers promotion of sports to be an important tool for the overall development of the youth. During





2012-2013, this Government sanctioned Rs.40 crores for the improvement of the Nehru Stadium and for laying new athletics track in Chennai. The overall allocation for the Sports and Youth Welfare Department has been substantially increased from Rs.31.26 crores in 2010-2011 to Rs.112.50 crores in 2013 -2014. The State is giving a special thrust to improve the sports infrastructure like hostels, athletics tracks, stadia etc. These initiatives would continue in the coming year also.

STATE FINANCE COMMISSION

110. The Fourth State Finance Commission (FSFC) has already submitted its report to the State Government. This report and the action taken report on its recommendations will be placed in the Assembly during this session. As recommended by the FSFC, the Government will continue to devolve 10% of its own tax revenue to the local bodies. **However, though the FSFC had recommended the sharing of resources between rural and urban local bodies in the ratio of 56:44, this Government, having regard for the special needs of rural local bodies, will continue to devolve funds in the existing ratio of 58:42.** Accordingly, the rural local bodies will get Rs.4,887.69 crores in 2013-2014. The Urban Local Bodies will also get

Rs.3,539.36 crores through devolution grants. Altogether, local bodies will receive Rs.8,427.05 crores as devolutionary grant from the State Government during 2013-2014.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Clean Villages

111. It is the desire of our Hon'ble Chief Minister that all the villages in the State should be clean and tidy. This requires the establishment of a sustainable solid waste management system in all our villages. Our Hon'ble Chief Minister had started the 'Clean Village Campaign' during 2003. Regrettably, this scheme was not followed up by the previous Government. This Government has now relaunched the 'Clean Village Campaign' from 2011-2012. **All the villages will put up a proper solid waste management system with recycling and waste disposal facilities. The villages adjoining the urban areas can be part of the solid waste management projects implemented in the urban areas. A sum of Rs.150 crores will be earmarked within the devolution for putting up such facilities, including the cost of manpower for collecting and handling waste.** Rs.97.85 crores, available under the Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan, will also be used for the purpose of solid waste and waste water management during 2013-2014.

Rural Housing

112. The Chief Minister's Solar Powered Green House Scheme is a unique initiative in the country. In the last two years, 1,20,000 houses, at an estimated cost of Rs.2,160 crores, have been taken up for construction. **In the coming financial year also, 60,000 solar powered green houses will be constructed. Under the Indira Awas Yojana, one lakh houses will be taken up during 2013-2014.**

Village Infrastructure

113. Tamil Nadu is the only State focusing on the rural habitation as the unit of development and the Tamil Nadu Village Habitations Improvement Scheme (THAI) is a prime example epitomising this approach. In the last two years, 96,508 works were taken up at a cost of Rs.1,430 crores under this scheme. **A sum of Rs.750 crores has been allocated for the scheme during 2013-2014 to cover 15,115 habitations.**

Member of Legislative Assembly Constituency Development Scheme (MLACDS)

114. Under the MLACD Scheme, 16,153 works have been undertaken during 2012-2013 at a cost of Rs.470 crores. In 2013-2014 also, Rs.470 crores has been allocated for this scheme.

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme(MGNREGS)

115. The State stands first in the country in terms of work completion rate and overall expenditure under the MGNREGS. **For the year 2013-2014, the allocation to the State stands at Rs.6,341.80 crores. With effect from 1.4.2013, the daily wage rate payable under this scheme will be raised from Rs.132 to Rs.148, which is Rs.16 higher than the current year.**

Road Connectivity to Rural Areas

116. Rural connectivity is essential to promote agricultural growth. An amount of Rs.200 crores has been sanctioned with NABARD assistance for road upgradation and bridges during 2012-2013. **During 2013-2014, this Government has proposed**

to take up improvement of 3095.77 km of roads at a cost of Rs.1,130.10 crores under the Prime Minister's Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) Phase VIII. Out of these, 45 bridges at a cost of Rs.78.18 crores and 2,031.22 km of works at a cost of Rs.772.97 crores will be taken up by rural local bodies and 1,064.55 km of works at a cost of Rs.278.95 crores will be executed by the Highways Department.

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION AND WATER SUPPLY

117. Rapid urbanization demands long term planning and vision. This Government is, therefore, according top priority to the fulfilment of the critical infrastructure needs of urban areas like roads, water supply, sewerage, storm water management and solid waste management.

The State Mission Mode Projects

118. In the last two years, this Government allocated Rs.1,000 crores under the Chennai Mega City Development Mission, and Rs.1,500 crores under the Integrated Urban Development Mission for taking up roads improvement, water supply schemes, underground sewerage schemes and other critical projects. **In the Budget Estimates 2013-2014 also, Rs.500 crores has been provided for Chennai Mega City Development and Rs.750 crores for the Urban Development Mission.** These allocations will strengthen the financial capacity of urban local bodies to take up more projects.

119. In order to leverage additional funds to take up more projects under these mission mode programmes, funding will henceforth be project based and grant would be restricted

to a maximum of 75% of the project cost for Chennai Corporation and financially stronger local bodies and the balance of 25% shall be leveraged through local body contributions which may include loans from financial institutions. For the financially weaker urban local bodies, the grant component of the project will be 90% and the remaining 10% will be financed through own funds or loans or by dovetailing from Infrastructure Gap Filling Fund.

Solid Waste Management and Sewage Management System

120. Solid Waste Management in urban areas is a major challenge. This Government will continue to promote source segregation and recycling to limit the disposal of solid waste through land fills. 'Waste to Energy' projects will be established wherever possible. A 'Waste to Energy' project at a cost of Rs.55 crores is under implementation in Tirunelveli Corporation. **As directed by our Hon'ble Chief Minister, a special Solid Waste Management Fund will be constituted with a sum of Rs.100 crores for financing projects in weak urban local bodies during 2013-2014.**

121. This Government is giving special priority to the implementation of proper waste water management in urban local bodies. Out of the 42 urban local bodies annexed to Chennai City, only two viz., Valasaravakkam and Alandur are have sewerage systems. In 13 erstwhile urban local bodies, sewerage works are in progress. In other areas, sewerage works will be taken up in the coming years. Similarly, in 22 Municipalities, sewerage works worth Rs.870.63 crores are under implementation by the Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage

(TWAD) Board. Special priority will be given to taking up tertiary treatment and recycling sewage water for industrial use, especially in and around Chennai. This Government has prepared a massive plan for establishing Under Ground Sewerage System (UGSS) for various Municipalities and Town Panchayats. It is proposed to take up these projects in a phased manner using the funds available under the State Mission Mode Programmes and JNNURM-II.

122. This Government has launched a scheme for eradicating open defecation in the urban areas from 2011-2012. An amount of Rs.19.83 crores was spent to improve 2,484 toilets, besides constructing 1,769 new toilets. During 2012-2013, this scheme was provided with an outlay of Rs.72.60 crores. **The scheme will be continued in 2013-2014 also with an outlay of Rs.72.60 crores.**

Improvement of Town Panchayat Roads

123. This Government had taken up the improvement of 470 km of roads in 292 Town Panchayats at a cost of Rs.101 crores during the current financial year. **During 2013-2014, 425.92 km of roads will be improved in 281 Town Panchayats at a cost of Rs.103 crores with NABARD assistance.**

DRINKING WATER

124. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has recently inaugurated the 100 MLD sea water reverse osmosis desalination plant at Nemmeli. Formation of a new reservoir near Kannankottai and Thervakandigai villages to augment Chennai's existing water storage at a cost of Rs.330 crores is in progress. Works for increasing the storage capacity in Cholavaram, Porur, Nemam and Ayanambakkam tanks are

also in progress and Rs.50 crores has been allocated in the Budget 2013-2014 for these works.

125. The efforts of this Government for the speedy implementation of the Hogenakkal Water Supply and Fluorosis Mitigation Project will ensure its completion soon. In the Budget Estimates 2013-2014, Rs.500 crores has been allocated for this project. Rs.212.54 crores has been allocated in the Budget Estimates for the major Combined Water Supply Schemes in Madurai, Virudhunagar, Sivagangai, Nagapattinam, Vellore, Salem, Tiruppur and Coimbatore Districts.

126. During 2012 2013, this Government has taken up works to cover 7,000 rural habitations at a cost of Rs.781.10 crores. **During 2013-2014, this Government proposes to cover 6,000 partially covered rural habitations and 195 quality affected habitations using funds under the NRDWP, MNP and State funds to the extent of Rs.1190.72 crores.**

URBAN HOUSING

127. During this financial year, the Tamil Nadu Housing Board (TNHB) will develop 5,922 housing units at a cost of Rs.1,530.45 crores. The Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board (TNSCB) will complete the on-going construction of 18,055 tenements during 2013-2014. Further, it will commence the construction of 12,845 new tenements at a cost of Rs.1,936.91 crores in 2013-2014. **In the next three years, the TNSCB and the TNHB will take up construction of 50,000 houses by dovetailing funds from various schemes to meet the housing needs of LIG**



and EWS. Slum redevelopment will also be part of this programme.

ADI DRAVIDAR AND TRIBAL WELFARE

128. Exemplifying its commitment to uplifting the Scheduled Castes, the Government has fixed Rs.7,042 crores as the size of Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) for the year 2013-2014. This is 15.29% higher than the allocation for 2012-2013. In order to revitalise the Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing and Development Corporation (TAHDCO), Rs.13.26 crores has been provided as share capital assistance for the year 2013-2014. Rs.122.48 crores has also been provided to TAHDCO for implementing various economic development programmes under the Special Central Assistance (SCA). Rs.56.34 crores has been allotted for the distribution of free bicycles to the students belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

129. The initiative of the Government to extend post matric scholarships to students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes studying in private institutions has been highly appreciated by the student community. For the year 2013-2014, Rs.420.34 crores has been allocated for post matric scholarships. Another Rs. 59.53 crores is provided for pre matric scholarship to the students belonging to the same category. The total allocation for scholarships to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes students has been enhanced to Rs.479.87 crores, 10.62% more than the previous year.

130. The Government is providing boarding and lodging facilities to 1.31 lakh Adi Dravidar and Tribal students in 1,641 hostels in the State. During 2012-2013, new buildings were sanctioned for 44 hostels at a cost of Rs.35.04 crores with NABARD assistance. This Government will continue its efforts to ensure that all hostels function in own buildings.

131. The size of the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) has been increased from Rs.349.30 crores in 2012-2013 to Rs.489.48 crores in 2013-2014, which is 1.32% of the Annual Plan size. The components of the TSP include vital infrastructure facilities like drinking water, link roads to the villages, construction of houses, etc. Rs.25.72 crores has been provided for the development of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups.

Special Project for Tribal Development

132. In order to ensure the overall development of the tribal people in the State, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has launched a special project for Tribal development under which 5 new ITIs were sanctioned in

tribal areas viz. Jamunamarudur, Kolli hills, Anaikatti, Pachaimalai and Kalrayan hills besides taking up various other works. **An amount of Rs.50 crores has again been provided in the Budget Estimates 2013-2014 for continuing this scheme.**

WELFARE OF BACKWARD CLASSES, MOST BACKWARD CLASSES, DENOTIFIED COMMUNITIES AND MINORITIES

133. By implementing 50% reservation provided for Backward Classes (BC), Most Backward Classes (MBC) and Denotified Communities (DNC), the Government has ensured equitable justice in the State. The allocation for the welfare of BC, MBC, DNC and Minorities has also been continuously increased over the years and in the Budget Estimates 2013-2014, Rs.764.43 crores has been provided for this purpose.

134. Twenty eight new hostels were opened during 2012-2013. Construction of buildings for 84 hostels at a total cost of Rs.64.48 crores was also taken up during the current financial year. For another 56 hostels, buildings were sanctioned at a cost of Rs.50.01 crores with NABARD assistance. This Government will continue its efforts to open new hostels in needy places and construct new buildings so that all hostels function in own buildings.

135. This Government is providing scholarships for the educational progress of the students belonging to Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes, and Denotified Communities. Rs.173.98 crores has been allocated during 2013-2014, for the scholarships, including examination fees, tuition fees and special fees. This will benefit 5,06,630 poor students and enable them to

continue their education. Rs.139.42 crores has been allocated for distribution of free bicycles to students belonging to BC, MBC, DNC and Minorities.

136. This Government is taking all necessary steps to safeguard the rights of Minorities. In order to ensure the educational progress of the students from minority communities, Rs.55.21 crores has been provided in the Budget Estimates 2013-2014 for the various scholarship schemes. The Wakf Institution Development Fund has been constituted and a sum of Rs.3 crores has been sanctioned as a grant to this fund. Rs.1 crore has been allocated in the Budget Estimates 2013-2014 for providing financial assistance for pilgrimage by Christians to Jerusalem. During 2013-2014, an overall allocation of Rs.60.39 crores has been provided for Minorities Welfare.

WELFARE OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

137. This Government is firmly committed to the cause of women empowerment. The path breaking initiatives taken by this Government for this cause include substantial enhancement of financial assistance under the Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Memorial Maternity Assistance Scheme, various Marriage Assistance Schemes, the Pension Scheme for Widows and Destitute Women, the Girl Child Protection Programme, the Cradle Baby Scheme, the Special Incentive for Girl Students etc. It is pertinent to note here that all beneficiaries of the free distribution of milch

cows, goats and sheep scheme are women. Rs.750 crores has been provided for the scheme of distributing a 4 gram gold coin for the Thirumangalyam along with enhanced marriage assistance in the Budget Estimates 2013-2014 under various marriage assistance schemes. Rs.105 crores has been allocated for the Girl Child Protection Scheme for the year 2013-2014. Rs.34.26 crores has been provided for special incentives for girl students.

138. The Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women has formed 5.56 lakh self-help groups (SHG), with 85.69 lakh women as members. So far, 4.93 lakh SHGs were credit linked to the extent of Rs.18,200.94 crores. Under the scheme of financial inclusion, it has been planned to provide Rs.6,000 crores of credit assistance to SHGs during the next financial year.

Distribution of Mixie, Grinder and Fan

139. The Hon'ble Chief Minister's flagship programme for distributing free mixies, grinders and fans has liberated women from the drudgery of household work. In the hilly areas, instead of fans, electrical stoves are





being distributed. During 2011-2012, this Government distributed 25 lakh sets at a cost of Rs.1,361.62 crores. In the year 2012-2013, another 35 lakh units are under distribution at a cost of Rs.1,556 crores. **This Government is proposing to distribute another 35 lakh units in the year 2013-2014 for which an allocation of Rs.1,500 crores has been made in the Budget Estimates.**

The Puratchi Thalaivar MGR Noon Meal Programme

140. As announced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, variety meals under the Noon Meal Programme and Integrated Child Development Services Scheme, will be provided in one block in each district on a pilot basis. For 2013-2014, the Government has allocated Rs.1,492.86 crores for the implementation of the Noon Meal Programme so as to benefit 53.53 lakh children. **Further, during 2013-2014, this Government will take up the construction of 14,130 kitchen cum stores in noon meal centres at a cost of Rs.359.70 crores.**

The Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS)

141. During 2012-2013, a pilot scheme was launched to supply colour dresses to Anganwadi children in 5 districts viz., Chennai, Vellore, Trichy, Dindigul and Theni. **In 2013-2014, it will be extended to five more districts viz., Villupuram, Ariyalur, Perambalur, Nagapattinam and Tirunelveli.** Rs.4.30 crores has been provided in this Budget for the supply of colour uniforms to Anganwadi children. Rs.1,320.52 crores has been allocated for the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme for 2013-2014.

WELFARE OF THE ELDERLY, DESTITUTE AND THE MARGINALISED

142. This Government has increased the financial assistance under social security pensions to Rs.1,000 per month. The number of beneficiaries covered under various schemes like Old Age Pension, Destitute Widow Pension etc. has gone up from 23.71 lakhs in 2010-2011 to 30.72 lakhs in 2012-2013. The total allocation for these schemes has been increased from Rs.1207.32 crores in 2010-2011 to Rs.3,461.75 crores in 2013-2014.

143. As promised by the Government, the disbursement of Social Security Pensions and other cash benefits through bank accounts has already started. So far, 6.24 lakh beneficiaries are being given pensions through their bank accounts and the coverage of all the remaining beneficiaries in urban areas and in villages having a population of more than 2,000 is progressing very fast.

WELFARE OF THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED

144. The Government of Tamil Nadu, by various inclusive policies and initiatives, is extending full support to differently abled persons. As ordered by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, a High Level Committee has been formed, with the Chief Secretary as the Chairperson, to ensure 3% reservation for differently abled persons in Government jobs. Rs.131.05 crores has been allocated in the Budget Estimates 2013-2014 for maintenance allowance to the severely disabled, the mentally challenged and muscular dystrophy affected persons. For the welfare of the differently abled, Rs.263 crores has been allocated in the Budget Estimates 2013-2014.

LABOUR WELFARE

145. After this Government assumed office, Rs.178.86 crores has been disbursed to 7.16 lakh workers as welfare assistance through all the 17 unorganised workers welfare boards. **The initiative of electronic transfer of welfare assistance directly to the bank accounts of the members of welfare boards has been successfully implemented on pilot basis in six districts and will soon be extended to all the districts.**

WELFARE OF SRI LANKAN TAMIL REFUGEES

146. This Government has already extended all welfare schemes to the Sri Lankan Tamils living in the various refugee camps in the State and has also hiked the cash assistance given to them. **Further, from the coming financial year, the coverage under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive**



Health Insurance Scheme will be extended to the Sri Lankan Tamils living outside the refugee camps also. Over all, a sum of Rs.109.91 crores has been allocated for the welfare of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees in the Budget Estimates 2013-2014.

PENSIONERS WELFARE

147. As on 1.1.2013, there are 7,00,350 pensioners in the State and a sum of Rs.16,514.34 crores has been allocated for the prompt payment of pensionary benefits. In the coming financial year, this Government is proposing to launch a **separate Health Insurance Scheme in line with the Government servants Health Insurance Scheme to reduce the burden of health related expenses of the pensioners.** Further, the assistance given to each bereaved family under the Tamil Nadu Government Pensioner's Family Security Fund Scheme will be enhanced from Rs.35,000 to Rs.50,000.

WELFARE OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

148. In the current financial year, the house building advance was enhanced from



PART B

Rs.15 lakhs to Rs.25 lakhs. In the Budget Estimates 2013-2014, Rs.252.95 crores has been provided for this purpose. Under the Government Servants Health Insurance Scheme, 21,656 government employees have benefited by insurance claims of Rs.215.34 crores. In 2013-2014, Rs.270 crores will be paid as insurance premium, including Rs.37.46 crores as the State Government's contribution.

WELFARE OF ADVOCATES

149. This Government has enhanced the financial assistance to the legal heirs of deceased advocates from Rs.2.00 lakhs to Rs.5.25 lakhs. Further, the Government has also sanctioned a sum of Rs.4.00 crores per annum as a grant to the Tamil Nadu Advocates Welfare Fund and this has been included in the Budget Estimates 2013-2014.

RESOURCES FOR FINANCING THE BUDGET

150. I shall now turn to the resources that we have identified to finance the projected expenditure as per the Revised Estimates for 2012-2013 and the Budget Estimates for 2013-2014.

Share in Central Taxes

151. The Central Government has once again missed the target of budgeted tax receipts. As a result, the share of Tamil Nadu in central taxes has also been drastically reduced by over Rs.500 crores. Over the years, the proportion of the State's share in central taxes is also coming down in our overall revenue receipts. The proportion had been as high as 17% in 2007-2008 and has now been reduced to 14.7% in 2012-2013. This trend puts excessive stress on the State's own resources.

The Grants-in-Aid from the Central Government

152. The unhelpful attitude of the Centre towards the State, even in these difficult times, reminds me of the visionary words of Arignar Anna in his speech in the Rajya Sabha in 1962, and I quote,

“Southern India is discriminated in industrial development. No new iron plant; no new rail line; no petroleum refinery; no noteworthy industrial plant is allocated to South India. Instead of building iron plant, the Ministry of Heavy Industries is given to a South Indian. Is it political skill?”

153. Even after so many years, Anna’s words resonate and are relevant to the current situation. In the Union Government, we have many Ministers from Tamil Nadu. But do we get any benefit?

154. The Finance Bill 2013, introduced along with the Union Budget for 2013-2014, contains an extremely retrogressive, anti federal provision. Clause 7 of the Finance Bill 2013, seeks to make statutory levies of a State Government non-deductible from the income of State Public Sector Undertakings and thereby intends to boost the income of the Central Government at the cost of the legitimate tax and non tax revenue of the State Governments. **This amounts to an indirect taxation of the income of State Governments and hence is violative of the spirit of Article 289 of the Constitution, which exempts the property and income of a State from Union taxation.** We call upon the Central Government to withdraw this ill-conceived and misguided provision which has no place in a federal polity like ours.

155. The Union budget for 2013-2014 has given a severe blow to the State’s financial

planning by brutally cutting down plan expenditure by a substantial 20%, denying or delaying even our rightful dues. In short, the inefficiencies of the Central Government are eating into the plan allocations of the States and the burden of the artificial contraction of the fiscal deficit of the Central Government is cast upon the shoulders of the States. An already committed amount of Rs.395 crores, for example, which was spent by Tamil Nadu in flood control projects, is not being reimbursed by the Union Government for the past two years. Similarly, a significant amount is due to us under the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan and the JNNURM.

156. Hon’ble Speaker, Sir, let me assure the House that although this sudden reduction of grants has further added to the burden on the State’s finances, our Government will not allow implementation of welfare schemes for the people of Tamil Nadu to falter and all the schemes will continue unabated.

State’s Own Tax Revenue

157. The general slowdown in the economy has affected the tax growth in the State also. Investment sentiment, particularly in the manufacturing sector, has taken a beating. However, the Government is taking all efforts to revive the economy and I am sure that our sagacious policies would ensure the achievement of the budgetary target for tax collection in 2012-2013.

158. The Tax-GDP ratio in our State is one of the best in the country. In 2011-2012, the ratio was 9.3, and as per the Revised Estimates for 2012-2013, the ratio will be 10.3. The favourable Tax-GDP ratio can be attributed to transparent tax administration and efficient tax collection. During 2013-2014 also, the State’s

finances would exhibit a favourable Tax-GSDP ratio.

159. In the face of high inflation and low growth, cosmetic gloss will not change things and the best strategy requires the State Government to exhibit fiscal prudence, incentivise investments and ensure transparent administration. Even at the slightest sign of possible duress, a visionary leader estimates the potential threat to the economy and pre-empt the crisis. Therefore, in spite of pressures for vital expenditure and serious resource constraints, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has decided that, against the backdrop of the slow growth of the Indian economy in general and its possible repercussions on the State's economy in particular, **no new tax will be imposed, nor will any existing tax rate be hiked in this Budget.**

160. For 2013-2014, the Government has pegged the overall target for the State's own taxes at Rs. 86,065.4 crores, with a projected growth rate of 17% over the Revised Estimates for 2012-2013. The estimates for Commercial Taxes, Excise Duty and Motor Vehicles taxes are Rs.56,025.24 crores, Rs.14,469.87 crores and Rs.4,881.15 crores, respectively. We hope that in 2013-2014, the registration of documents will pick up and the revenue from the collection of Stamp duty and registration fees will be Rs.9,874.22 crores.

Public Debt

161. The eligibility for Tamil Nadu to raise net public borrowing in 2012-2013 was Rs.20,716 crores. However, despite fiscal strain, true to its promise to control the State's debt burden, our Government has restricted the net public borrowing to Rs.15,675 crores in 2012-2013. The net borrowing is lower than

the projected capital expenditure, showing that this entire borrowing is going to finance capital expenditure alone. The Debt to GSDP ratio has been contained at 18.98% as against the mandatory requirement of 24.5%. This Government proposes a net borrowing of Rs.21,142 crores to finance its capital works during 2013-2014 as against the approved limit of Rs.24,263 crores.

FISCAL INDICATORS

162. Within the last two years, this Government has brought the State finances back on track. From a revenue deficit of Rs.2,728.69 crores in 2010-2011, this Government has presented two successful budgets with a revenue surplus. The Budget Estimates 2012-2013 had projected a revenue surplus of Rs.2,376 crores. However, owing to increased expenditure commitments, especially because of the efforts of this Government to revive the financial health of TANGEDCO and the substantial reduction in receipts from the Government of India, the revised estimate of revenue surplus is reduced to Rs.451.52 crores. However, the fiscal deficit has been restricted to Rs.19,889.31 crores, which is only 2.88% of GSDP. Both these indicators are well within the targets specified in the Tamil Nadu Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2003, and the requirements of the 13th Finance Commission.

163. During 2013-2014, we are projecting a revenue surplus of Rs.664.06 crores and a fiscal deficit of Rs.22,938.57 crores. This fiscal deficit will be 2.84% of GSDP, which is within the stipulated norm of 3%.

164. The Medium Term Fiscal Plan is given as an annexure to the Budget Speech.

I request that this may be taken as read, as part of the Budget Speech.

165. I have tried my best to give an inclusive, development oriented Budget. This Budget contains several new initiatives and a substantial hike in allocations for existing schemes, despite a tough financial position. Let me also assure the Hon'ble Members that in the course of the debate and while discussing demand wise grants, more measures and programmes will be unveiled by the Hon'ble Chief Minister and the Hon'ble Ministers.

166. Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, these are testing times, and in testing times we need to be poised to take wise decisions. This Government is determined that the State should never falter from the growth path and is confident that the State will continue to march ahead towards our goal of making

Tamil Nadu the Numero Uno State in the country. Let me end with some optimistic words from the Thirukkural:

Say not 'Tis hard', in weak, desponding hour
For Strenuous effort gives prevailing power

(Kural 611)

அருமை யுடைத்தென்று அசாவாமை வேண்டும்
பெருமை முயற்சி தரும்

(குறள் 611)

Honour comes to those who make strenuous efforts. Nothing is impossible!

167. The following words of Swami Vivekananda, who was an inspiration behind her entry into politics, have always been very close to the heart of our Hon'ble Chief Minister.

“Arise, awake;

Stop not till the goal is reached”

True to these words, she has been tirelessly working round the clock, towards the objective of securing the welfare of the Tamils and ensuring prosperity of Tamil Nadu. After meticulously reviewing all departments, she has given the final shape to this Budget, by formulating new schemes intended solely at people's welfare. Her administrative acumen, clear vision, profound wisdom,



vast experience and infinite intellect have helped in formulating this Budget. I wish to record my heartfelt gratitude to our Hon'ble Chief Minister for guiding me to successfully complete this task.

168. I also thank the Principal Secretary, Finance Department, Thiru K. Shanmugam, IAS, and his team of officials in the Finance Department who have worked tirelessly on the formulation and preparation of this Budget.

169. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I commend the Budget Estimates for 2013-2014 for the approval of the House.

Nandri; Vanakkam.

★

More Amma restaurants opened in Chennai, total stands at 200 now!



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 2.4.2013 declared open at the Secretariat, through video conferencing, 127 'Amma Restaurants' (Budget Restaurants) for the benefit of the poor and marginalised sections of the people in Chennai city. With this, the number of such restaurants goes up to 200, one for each one of the Municipal Wards of the Chennai Corporation. In the first instance, the Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated on 19.2.2013, 15 Budget Restaurants at the rate of one for each of the 15 zones in the Chennai Corporation at a function held on Santhome High Road, Chennai. Consequent on this, 'Amma Restaurants' were opened in 24 wards on 24.2.2013 in connection with the Hon'ble Chief Minister's birthday and in 34 more wards on 6.3.2013, taking the total to 73. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also presented appointment orders issued on compassionate grounds to 384 heirs of employees who died while in service – 347 in the Madurai Municipal Corporation and 37 in the Tirunelveli Municipal Corporation. The orders are for the posts of



junior assistant, skilled worker, unskilled worker, conservancy staff and office assistant. The recipients of the orders thanked the Hon'ble Chief Minister whole heartedly.

Network systems in 4 districts for tracking crime



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J. Jayalalithaa has inaugurated under the e-governance plan, 'Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems' in the districts of Tiruvallur, Sivaganga, Coimbatore and Ariyalur at a cost of Rs. 113.24 crores. The inauguration of the system to track crimes and criminals was done through video conferencing at the Secretariat on 13.3.2013.

Through this network, 2,899 centres will be created networking 1,482 police stations, 479 higher level offices and 938 special branches.

The National Information Centre(NIC) has developed a unique core application software for this scheme called 'Common Integrated Police Record Updated System' (CIPRUS). This software has been installed in all the 110 police stations in these 4 districts and the police stations have been networked with 45 higher level police offices.

Under this Scheme, details of the First Information Report and case history will be computerised and collected at the State Information Collection Centre. For the general public, filing of complaints and submission of application for getting licence through e-mail will be facilitated.

The Central Home Ministry requested the implementation of the scheme at least in 2 districts in a State. In Tamil Nadu, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has inaugurated the scheme in 4 districts in the first phase. ■

CHIEF MINISTER NAMES WHITE TIGER CUB 'CAUVERY'



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalitha on 15.3.2013 visited the Arignar Anna Zoological park at Vandalur, Kancheepuram District, named 7 tiger cubs, laid foundation stones for buildings costing Rs. 21.13 crores and declared open buildings constructed at a cost of Rs. 1.41 crores.

The 2 white, male tiger cubs were christened Arjuna and Athreya, the 2 white female tiger cubs were named Cauvery and Chitra and 3 other female tiger cubs were named Nethra, Vidya and Arthi.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also visited Rama and Chandra, the male and female white tiger cubs named by her on 27.9.2011, the male elephant calves abandoned by their mothers and rescued from forest- Asokan (18 months old), Giri (3 years), Urigam (3 ½ years) and Saravanan (5 years)- and hippopotamus Vaampuri (14 years old- male), Soundarya (14 years old- female), Pragathi (6 year old-male) and Trisha (one year old-female).

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also laid foundation stones at the Zoological

park for an Administrative Headquarters Building and a hostel for Research scholars (Rs. 7.13 crores), a Rare Wild Species Breeding Scientific Research Centre (Rs. 5 crores), a Tamil Nadu Bio-diversity Protection and Greenery Planning Headquarters Building (to come up at Nanmangalam, Kancheepuram District at a cost of Rs. 7 crores), a Forestry Expansion Demonstration Centre building (to come up at Nanmangalam at a cost of Rs. 1 crore) and for a centenary memorial Mandapam (to come up at the Tamil Nadu Forestry Training Centre- in Coimbatore District at a cost of Rs. 1 crore).

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also declared open a canteen-cum-hostel building at Velachery, Chennai for Indian Forest Service officers (Rs. 1 crore); a Forest Ranger Office building at Pallipet, Tiruvallur District (Rs. 11.70 lakhs), at Tiruthani (Rs. 11.30 lakhs), at Jamunamarathur in Tiruvannamalai District (Rs. 11 lakhs), a poaching prevention camp building at Sathyamangalam in Erode District (Rs. 5 lakhs) and another such building at Ooty in Nilgiris district (Rs. 2.20 lakhs).

Chief Minister seeks Cauvery bodies to implement verdict

D.O. letter dated 11.3.2013 addressed by **Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu** to **Dr. Manmohan Singh, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India**

“I am writing this letter to you in continuation of my letter dated 22.02.2013 regarding the constitution of the Cauvery Management Board and Cauvery Water Regulation Committee for the implementation of the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal, following its notification in the Gazette of India.

As you are aware, the Government of Karnataka is in the habit of depleting the storages from its 4 reservoirs viz., Krishnarajasagar, Kabini, Hemavathy and Harangi during the summer months besides utilizing the inflows into the reservoirs during the period. Normally, the summer showers in the catchment areas of the Cauvery Basin in Karnataka would start in the 3rd week of April and consequently the reservoirs in Karnataka would be receiving inflows. Karnataka, as in the past, would continue to utilize the flows for summer irrigation without conserving it for the releases as prescribed in

the Final Order of the Tribunal. Further, the Government of Karnataka should adhere to the “irrigation season” from 1st June to 31st January as stipulated in the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal and should not be allowed to deplete the storages from its reservoirs for summer irrigation. Therefore, it is absolutely essential that a monitoring mechanism is put in place by the 1st week of May, 2013, so that Tamil Nadu’s rights are protected from the ensuing irrigation year 2013-2014.

Under these circumstances, I once again request you to order the Ministry of Water Resources to ensure that the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee are put in place to implement the Final Order of the Tribunal in letter and spirit.

I look forward to your immediate favourable reply in this matter.” ●



“Changes to Civil Services Exams Discriminatory”

D.O. letter dated 13.3.2013 addressed by **Selvi J Jayalalithaa**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Dr. Manmohan Singh**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

“I invite your kind attention to the recent changes notified by the Union Public Service Commission in the scheme of the Civil Services Examination for the year 2013 onwards. These changes are highly discriminatory and appear to be calculated to bias the system against Civil Service aspirants from non-Hindi speaking regions of the country.

There are four major changes in the pattern of examination which adversely affect the interests of students from Tamil Nadu, particularly those from rural backgrounds. First, students who have had Tamil as their medium of education up to the high school level and who have subsequently done their graduation in the English medium earlier had the option of writing the Civil Service Examination in Tamil. This option has been removed with a new stipulation that the Main Examination including optional papers can be written in the Tamil medium, only if the candidates had studied in that medium up to

the graduation level. This denies them the opportunity to write the examination in their mother tongue Tamil. However, there is no such stipulation for candidates who wish to appear in the Hindi medium. Considering that both Tamil and Hindi are languages included in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution, this clearly discriminates against not just Tamil speaking candidates, but against all candidates from the non-Hindi States, and in particular against rural students from the SC/STs, BC&MBC & other marginalised sections of the population who would have had their mother tongue as the medium of instruction up to the school level. This is violative of Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution of India and places such candidates at a disadvantage when compared to those students writing the examination in English or Hindi.

The second objectionable and discriminatory change is that candidates wanting to opt for the literature of a language

as their optional paper can do so only if they had studied the literature of the language at the graduation level as the main subject.

This is not just discriminatory but also illogical since such a stipulation has not been made for any other optional subject. Therefore, a student graduating in Mathematics can take History as an optional, but not Tamil Literature. This is illogical, discriminatory and unfair.

The third change notified by the Union Public Service Commission is that unless there is a minimum of 25 candidates opting for a particular language medium, those candidates will have to write the examination in English and Hindi only. This is inexplicable, discriminatory and violative of the Constitutional right to equality.

The fourth change is to remove the compulsory qualifying paper in an Indian language and the inclusion of an English composition and précis writing section as an evaluated portion of the Essay paper instead of the qualifying English paper. This change also clearly favours urban, English educated candidates and acts against rural students belonging to disadvantaged sections.

The changes made by the UPSC are invidious, discriminatory and militate against the federal nature of our polity and the constitutional equality bestowed upon regional languages like Tamil which are part of the

8th Schedule of the Constitution of India. These changes clearly infringe on the Right to Equality in Public Employment enshrined in Article 16 of the Constitution of India. They work to the disadvantage of students coming from rural backgrounds who have studied in their native tongues at the school level and pursued higher education in another medium. All regional languages should be accorded equal status in a federal structure and aspirants to the Country's civil services should have the option to take the examination in any language, particularly their mother tongue, listed in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution.

I apprehend that these retrograde changes brought in by the Union Public Service Commission without adequate consultation with the State Governments are undemocratic and unilateral and will have the effect of unfairly denying the youth of Tamil Nadu their fair chance of representation in the Civil Services, and ultimately, hamper the governance of the country.

I urge you to intervene in the matter and prevail on the Union Public Service Commission to reconsider these invidious, unfair and discriminatory changes made in the scheme of the Civil Services Examination.

May I request an early response in the matter as it affects the future of several thousand young Civil Service aspirants in the State of Tamil Nadu?"

'Save Indian fishermen from Lanka clutches'

D.O. letter dated 14.3.2013 addressed by **Selvi J Jayalalithaa**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Dr. Manmohan Singh**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

“It has been brought to my notice that 9 Mechanized Fishing Boats of Tamil Nadu with 53 fishermen on board, which ventured into the sea for fishing on 13-3-2013 from Rameswaram fishing base, were apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy and taken to Thalaimannar and Delft Island, and are now being kept in their custody. This incident of apprehension is another instance of the increasing intolerance of the Sri Lankan Navy towards the hapless fishermen of the Palk Bay area of Tamil Nadu who have no other alternative but to fish in the narrow Palk Bay fishing grounds that are further restricted by the unilateral drawal of the International Maritime Boundary Line, drawn without the consent of the Government of Tamil Nadu or its fishermen.

You will agree with me that solutions to the fishing disputes between two neighbouring countries are not resolved by force or by treating the fishermen of the neighbouring country as ‘criminals’ and arresting and terrorizing them through assaults and gun firing. However, the increasing belligerence of Sri Lanka in the recent past towards the Indian fishing boats fishing in their traditional fishing areas, as exhibited by a spurt of arrests and violence, is a worrisome trend.

The Government of Tamil Nadu, under my leadership, has challenged the issue of unilateral drawal of the IMBL leading to the ceding of Katchatheevu to Sri Lanka before the Hon'ble Supreme Court. We are agitated by incidents of repeated capture of our fishermen while pursuing their livelihood. We expect the Government of India to also respond and react pro-actively when incidents of this nature happen. Let Sri Lanka not be emboldened by your silence and construe it as a sign of weakness and indifference towards our fishermen.

I request you to urgently summon the High Commissioner of Sri Lanka in New Delhi and lodge the Government of India's strong protest against the continuing arrests and incidents of violence against the fishermen of Tamil Nadu, including the recent incident of firing on an innocent fisherman. I also request you to advise the Sri Lankan Government to release the arrested fishermen of Rameshwaram without foisting any criminal cases and desist from future provocations through needless arrests and acts of violence.

I once again wish to convey my strong disapproval of the high handed attitude of Sri Lanka and seek your urgent intervention in this regard.” ●



Push for stronger resolution against Lanka

D.O. Letter dated 18.3.2013 addressed to **Dr. Manmohan Singh**,
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India by **Selvi J Jayalalithaa**,
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

“As you are aware, Tamils in Tamil Nadu and the Tamil diaspora spread across the world are legitimately outraged and incensed over the impunity with which the Sri Lankan Government is ignoring international sentiments and binding resolutions relating to reconciliation and accountability for the war crimes and genocide committed in the closing stages of the civil war in Sri Lanka and the ongoing gross human rights abuses. **To assuage the legitimate sense of outrage and deeply hurt sentiments it is absolutely important that India takes a strong stand in support of the US sponsored Resolution in the 22nd Session of the UN Human Rights Council and more importantly moves necessary independent amendments to further strengthen the Resolution.**

You would recall that I had presented a Memorandum to you on 14.6.2011 and written to you on 25.6.2011 bringing to your notice the Resolution of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly dated 8.6.2011 which had called upon the Government of India to

take up the issue of war crimes committed against Sri Lankan Tamils and also called for an economic embargo on Sri Lanka till the Tamils are fully resettled and are allowed to live with dignity and with equal constitutional rights as their Sinhala counterparts.

Subsequently, I had written to you on 29th February, 2012, and 6th March, 2012, to urge that India take a strong stance in support of the Resolution on Promoting Reconciliation and Accountability in Sri Lanka in the 19th Session of the UN Human Rights Council. Based on the strength of the public sentiments in Tamil Nadu, conveyed through the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly's Resolution and through my communications, the Government of India supported Resolution 19/2 in the 19th HRC. Resolution 19/2 which called upon the Sri Lankan Government to implement the constructive recommendations of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission's (LLRC) report was relatively mild since the LLRC report itself has been viewed as a flawed report not covering many of the points contained in the UN

Secretary General's Panel of Experts Report. It is pertinent to point out that the Report itself was toned down at the instance of the Government of India which itself is a betrayal of the Tamils.

Mr. Prime Minister, a full year has passed since that Resolution and the events and developments of the past year in Sri Lanka, as evidenced by the report of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, are a continued and sorry saga of human rights violations against the Tamils in that country. The report of OHCHR indicates that Sri Lanka is yet to act on many of the recommendations contained in the LLRC's report and it has not given access to the special procedures mandate holders. The report also notes that much needs to be done in the area of justice, reconciliation and resumption of livelihoods and notes the continuance of serious human rights violations against the Tamils. They continue to suffer as second class citizens. They are still often expelled from their homes and subjected to harassment, discrimination and torture. There is no indication that the Sri Lankan Government's obduracy in resisting a fair investigation into the genocide and war crimes has ended. There is no evidence to show that there is either a conscious policy on demilitarization or withdrawal from Tamil civilian lands. There is no credible policy of rehabilitation and reconstruction of the Tamil livelihoods. Clearly the present government in Sri Lanka is not keen on genuine reconciliation or even to allow the Sri Lankan Tamils to be rehabilitated, let alone start life as equal

citizens in that country, which is reflected in the lack of adequate action even on a relatively mild UNHRC Resolution.

At this juncture, the ongoing 22nd session of the Human Rights Council is the most appropriate forum and occasion to mount further pressure on Sri Lanka to ensure that accountability is established under an international framework for the war crimes and genocide committed in the closing stages of the civil war and the ongoing gross human rights abuses. This is all the more important in the light of the mounting fresh independent evidence of atrocities committed by the Sri Lankan Armed Forces. It is also an opportunity to secure for Sri Lankan Tamils equal constitutional rights and a life of dignity. It is very important that Sri Lanka is held to account on this occasion and India plays a crucial role in this regard, given not only the deep and widespread sentiment prevailing amongst all sections of Society and shades of political opinion in Tamil Nadu, but also the need to establish India as a global leader standing up for democracy and human rights.

I am dismayed that the statements made by you and the External Affairs Minister in the past few days appear equivocal and prevaricating. They do not give a clear indication of India's stance, particularly with reference to the genocide which has taken place in Sri Lanka resulting in enormous loss of innocent, civilian lives and gross violation of human rights. It was disappointing that India had maintained a deafening silence when the US sponsored draft was taken up for discussion in the on-



going UNHRC session. **India must take a strong, historic and courageous stance in this matter and not just support the U.S. sponsored Draft Resolution on Promoting Reconciliation and Accountability in Sri Lanka, but strengthen it further through suitable amendments that would make the Resolution unambiguous in intent and effective in implementation:**

In the preambular para 5 (PP5) seek a mention of the UN Secretary General's Panel of Experts report in addition to the LLRC report.

In PP9 strengthen the language from expression of "concern" to "serious concern and dismay" at the reports of the continuing violations of human rights.

In PP10 strengthen the language to "condemnation" of the failure of the Sri Lankan Government to fulfill its public commitments including on devolution of political authority.

In operative para 1, there should be an unequivocal call for a credible, independent, international mechanism to prosecute genocide, war crimes and war criminals and the accused should stand trial before an International Court. This process should be completed within a period of six months and the outcome reported for a special discussion in the 25th session of UNHRC in 2014.

In operative para 2 there should be an insistence that the OHCHR report be implemented in its totality.

In operative para 3 there should be a strong call to the Government of Sri Lanka to accept the establishment of an impartial, international institution to initiate credible and independent actions to ensure justice, equity, accountability, including investigation of violations of international law and reconciliation of all Sri Lankans, including Tamils. This should include Sri Lanka providing a pragmatic political package to the Sri Lankan Tamils and restoring their equal rights of citizenship on par with the Sinhalese Community.

I request you to kindly immediately instruct Indian diplomats to strongly push for these independent amendments to strengthen the US backed Resolution in the 22nd Session of the UNHRC since the final draft is to be placed for consideration of the Council on 19th March, 2013. Further, India should also mobilize the support of other member nations, particularly those who are opposed to the resolution and are lobbying to water down or nullify the impact.

Mr. Prime Minister, I hope that at this historic moment, the Government of India will decisively step forward as a champion of human rights and democracy and take a bold stand in support of the much discriminated against and long suffering Tamil minority in Sri Lanka and thereby demonstrate its empathy and solidarity with the millions of Tamils both in Tamil Nadu and elsewhere and assuage the legitimate sense of outrage amongst them." ●



Chief Minister 'derides DMK chief for drama' on Lankan Tamils

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 19.3.2013

The DMK President, Thiru. Karunanidhi has demonstrated through today's press meet that there is none to match him in doing things solely for selfishness.

Thiru. Karunanidhi, who met media persons today has said: "The Indian Government has allowed the dilution of the American draft resolution to a great extent and has not considered any of the amendments proposed by the DMK. For the DMK to continue in the Central Government even after the creation of conditions that in no way benefit Eelam Tamils, will amount to inflicting a great harm on the entire Tamil race. Hence, it is decided the DMK will immediately quit from the Central Ministry and from the United Progressive Alliance". His statement reminds one of the Tamil proverb "Paying obeisance to Sun after losing vision". (Kann Kettapin Suryanamaskaram - Taking action belatedly and in vain).

When the war in Sri Lanka was at its peak in 2009, Thiru. Karunanidhi was in power both at the Centre and in the State. Without quitting the Central Ministry or withdrawing support to the Central Government at that time, Thiru. Karunanidhi cheated the Tamils by enacting a

3-hour hunger-strike drama! By proclaiming that the war in Sri Lanka had ended, he made the Sri Lankan Tamils come out of their safe bunkers and become easy targets for the Lankan Government's devastating bombardments. Thiru. Karunanidhi was responsible for this largescale annihilation of Tamils. The Sri Lankan Tamils would have been saved if Thiru. Karunanidhi had withdrawn his support to the Central Government at that time. Thiru. Karunanidhi did not do that. This is a great betrayal of Tamils.

Even though he did not do that, he could have at least pressured the Central Government to act on the resolution brought in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly by my Government. The resolution wanted the Centre to take steps to bring in a resolution in the UN Assembly for punishing the war criminals and for imposing an economic embargo on Sri Lanka. Thiru. Karunanidhi did not do even this. This is Thiru. Karunanidhi's second betrayal of Lankan Tamils.

When the Indian Government diluted the somewhat strong American resolution brought before the UN Human Rights

Council last year, Thiru. Karunanidhi should have criticised the Central Government. Thiru. Karunanidhi may say he was duped even then. By releasing the Hon'ble Prime Minister's letter, the Central Government itself has exposed the fact that it was India which diluted the American resolution. At that time also, Thiru. Karunanidhi kept mum. This is Thiru. Karunanidhi's third betrayal of Lankan Tamils. Maybe, Thiru. Karunanidhi too has a role in the conspiracy to dilute the American resolution. One is forced to think that is the reason why he did not say anything about it at that time.

After losing all such opportunities to register a strong dissent against the Centre, Thiru. Karunanidhi himself became instrumental for the untold sufferings of the Sri Lankan Tamils. Now, he has announced that the DMK is quitting the United Progressive Alliance. This is nothing but trying to wriggle out of his responsibility and cheating the Tamil people.

In his press interview after Thiru. A.K. Antony, Thiru. P. Chidambaram and Thiru. Gulam Nabi Azad called on him on 18.3.2013, Thiru. Karunanidhi has stated that he had demanded a proclamation dubbing the attacks on Sri Lankan Tamils as "war crimes" and "genocide", an enquiry into the genocide of Sri Lankan Tamils and a resolution in the Indian Parliament containing these amendments. His statement has come at a time when I had written a detailed letter (yesterday) to the Prime Minister. In that letter, I have stated that India's silence over the American resolution against Sri Lanka was disappointing, that India should take

a historic, glorious and firm stand on this issue. I have also given the amendments that should be incorporated to make the resolution strong.

Only when a strong anti-Lanka and pro-Lankan Tamils resolution is passed in the UN Human Rights Council, it would be possible to take strong action against Sri Lanka.

But Thiru. Karunanidhi has said such a resolution should be passed in the Indian Parliament. Answering media persons after his press meet today (19.3.2013), he has stated that there is time till 21.3.2013 and that the DMK will reconsider its decision if the Parliament passes such a resolution by that time. In the present situation, a resolution passed in the Indian Parliament is unlikely to give lasting results. On the contrary, only in the UN Human Rights Council amendments to resolutions should be moved. That too immediately. Instead of doing that, the DMK President Thiru. Karunanidhi's statement tends to stab the Sri Lankan Tamils in the back by delaying the efforts of the Indian Government.

People are fed up with the DMK President Thiru. Karunanidhi's countless dramas like this one. There is no support to the resurrected TESO among the people or the students. In such a situation, the DMK President, Thiru. Karunanidhi feels that through the drama staged now, he can lessen the impact of the irremovable black mark that has fallen on him. That will not happen. It is certain that the people of Tamil Nadu will teach a lesson to the DMK President, Thiru. Karunanidhi for the duplicitous drama that he enacts. ●

Anti-federal budget clause dismays Chief Minister

D.O. letter dated 19.3.2013
addressed by **Selvi J Jayalalithaa**,
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
to **Dr. Manmohan Singh**,
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

“I am dismayed to find that the Finance Bill 2013, introduced in the Lok Sabha along with the Union Budget for 2013-14, contains an extremely retrograde, anti-federal provision in Clause 7 of the Bill. This clause seeks to amend section 40 of the Income Tax Act and make any levy by a State Government by way of privilege fee, license fee, royalty etc., on State Public Sector Undertakings not deductible for the purpose of computation of income. States have the powers to levy such fees, royalties etc. under Article 265 of the Constitution read with the relevant entries in List 2 of the Seventh Schedule. All such levies are legitimate statutory levies and as such were deductible from the income of the State Public Sector Undertakings under Section 37 of the Income Tax Act.

Clause 7 of the Finance Bill 2013, now seeks to make such statutory levies non-deductible from the income of State Public Sector Undertakings and thereby intends to boost the income of the Central Government at the cost of legitimate tax and non-tax revenue of the State Governments. This amounts to an indirect taxation of the income of State Governments and hence is violative of the spirit of Article 289 of the Constitution which exempts the property and income of a State from Union taxation. This provision is also discriminatory because this only subjects State PSUs to such non-deduction

of State Government levies but not Central Public Sector Undertakings. Further, the clause as presently worded also gives very wide discretion to Income Tax Authorities to determine which levies will not be permitted for deduction and these powers can be exercised in an arbitrary manner which will lead to needless litigation.

I am disappointed to note that the Ministry of Finance, instead of focusing on curbing tax evasion by a large number of private persons and increasing the tax base by such means, is attempting to act against the Constitutional scheme of distribution of taxation powers between the Centre and the States and to distort the federal polity of the country. The legitimate expenditure on statutory levies of State Public Sector Undertakings which declare their incomes openly and are subject to audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India and whose annual reports are subject to scrutiny by State Legislatures is sought to be disallowed. Clearly this provision is ill-conceived and misguided and has no place in a federal polity like ours.

I would, therefore, earnestly urge you to kindly ensure that an official amendment is moved to delete Clause 7 of the Finance Bill 2013 before the Finance Bill is enacted into Law in Parliament.

May I request an early response in this regard?” ●

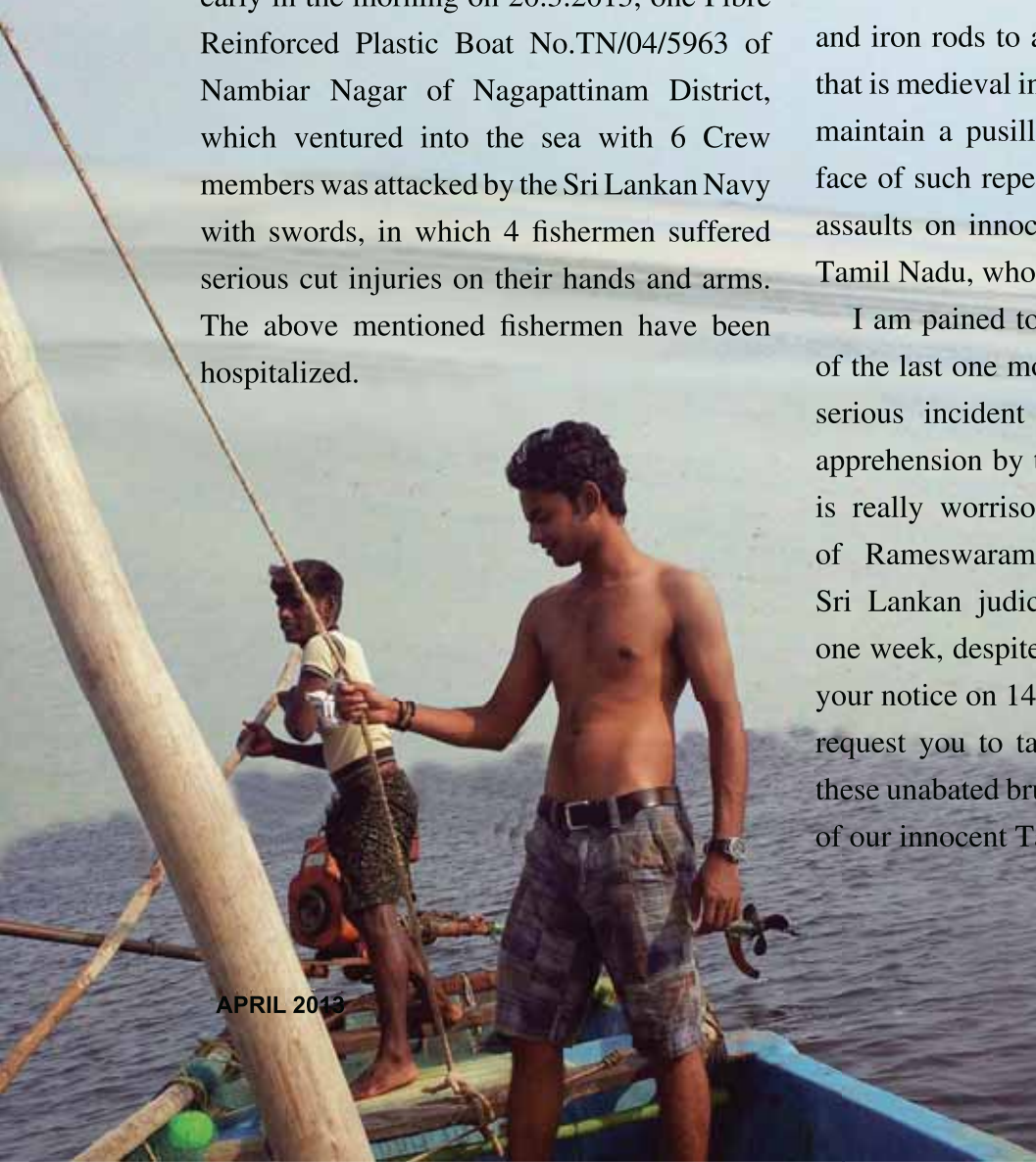
'Take pro-active steps to save Tamil fishermen'

D.O. Letter dated 20.3.2013 addressed to Dr. Manmohan Singh, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India by Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

"I wish to bring to your kind attention two outrageous incidents of attacks on Tamil Nadu fishermen in 3 Fishing Boats on 19.3.2013 and in the early hours of 20.3.2013 in the Palk Bay area of Tamil Nadu. In the first incident, 8 fishermen of Pudukkottai District, who had ventured into the sea in Vallam boats on 19.3.2013, were beaten up by Sri Lankan Navy personnel with iron pipes in the mid sea. In the second incident which occurred early in the morning on 20.3.2013, one Fibre Reinforced Plastic Boat No.TN/04/5963 of Nambiar Nagar of Nagapattinam District, which ventured into the sea with 6 Crew members was attacked by the Sri Lankan Navy with swords, in which 4 fishermen suffered serious cut injuries on their hands and arms. The above mentioned fishermen have been hospitalized.

The continuing murderous attacks on Tamil Nadu fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy have to be condemned in the strongest terms. Despite repeated protests by the Tamil Nadu Government, it is disappointing that no strong deterrent diplomatic initiatives have been taken by the Government of India. This has resulted in even more outrageous, unprovoked and lethal attacks by the Sri Lankan Navy on Tamil Fishermen. The latest incident involves their use of swords and iron rods to attack our fishermen, an act that is medieval in its barbarism. India cannot maintain a pusillanimous equanimity in the face of such repeated brazen and uncivilized assaults on innocent fishermen belonging to Tamil Nadu, who are also citizens of India.

I am pained to point out that in the space of the last one month itself, this is the fourth serious incident of attack or unwarranted apprehension by the Sri Lankan Navy which is really worrisome. Already 19 fishermen of Rameswaram are still languishing in Sri Lankan judicial custody since the past one week, despite this issue being brought to your notice on 14.3.2013 by me. I once again request you to take pro-active steps to stop these unabated brutal attacks as well as arrests of our innocent Tamil Nadu fishermen." ●



'Upgrade Adyar Cancer Institute as National Centre'

D.O. letter dated 21.3.2013 addressed by **Selvi J Jayalalithaa**,
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Dr. Manmohan Singh**,
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

"I would like to draw your attention to a pending request of the Cancer Institute, Adyar, Chennai, which has applied for upgradation during the 12th Plan period, as a "Centre of Excellence - an Autonomous National Cancer Research Institute" for treatment of cancer. I understand that the proposal is pending with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

The Cancer Institute was founded in 1954 as a voluntary charitable institution under the inspiring and legendary leadership of the Late Dr.Muthulakshmi Reddy. The Cancer Institute, Adyar, is a Non Governmental



Institution which the Government of Tamil Nadu has been assisting for over three decades by a maintenance grant. As a Referral

Cancer Centre, it provides yeoman service to the needy cancer patients from all over India.

The Government of India has so far provided meagre support to this Institute through the Tertiary Cancer Centre Scheme under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardio-vascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) by way of a grant of Rs.4.80 crores for equipment purchased in the year 2011-12. The State Government released a sum of Rs.1.20 crores as the State's share for this.

Considering the excellent service rendered by this Institution for over 3 decades, even while functioning as an NGO, I consider that its status should no more be that of a Tertiary Cancer Institute, but requires to be elevated to the status of a "Centre of Excellence – an Autonomous National Cancer Research Institute".

I, therefore, request that the proposal of the Chairperson, Cancer Institute, Adyar, for upgradation of the centre as a National Centre, pending with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, be approved to enable this reputed Cancer Hospital in Chennai to expand and strengthen its capacity to treat cancer patients in larger number, as a National Institute.

I recommend that the Cancer Institute, Adyar, one of the oldest NGO run Cancer Hospitals in the country be conferred with National status as "a Centre of Excellence", particularly when it has been rated by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as the "Top Ranking Centre" in the Country.

May I request a line in reply?." ■



'Ancient Town' status to 15 more towns

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has issued orders declaring 15 more towns as 'Ancient Towns', taking the total number of such towns to 54.

The Town Planning Commissioner will prepare the development plans for these towns. For implementing these plans, a grant of Rs. 1 crore each will be provided from the Town Planning Development Fund.

The 15 towns now declared as 'Ancient Towns' are: Mannargudi, Namakkal, Mayiladuthurai, Thenthiruperai, Azhwar

Thirunagari, Perungulam, Tirukkoyilur, Srimushnam, Tharamangalam, Thiruparakundram, Sholingar, Chennimalai, Thiruvettaru, Suchindram and Kodumudi.

During her first regime in 1993, the Hon'ble Chief Minister declared 23 towns as 'Ancient Towns'. In 1994, 15 more towns were added to the list. In 2009, one more was added taking the total to 39.

Last year, the Hon'ble Chief Minister increased the grant for the development of the 'Ancient Towns' to Rs. 1 crore from Rs. 50 lakhs. ●

'Stop Karnataka check dams across Pennaiyar'

D.O. letter dated 27.3.2013 addressed by Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to Dr. Manmohan Singh, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

"I am writing this letter to you in continuation of my D.O. letter dated 19.5.2012 seeking your intervention in advising the Government of Karnataka to stop forthwith the execution of any Check Dams or diversion structures etc., across the Inter-State river Pennaiyar.

The media had widely reported that the Government of Karnataka has constructed a diversion structure at Mugalur in Karnataka limits for diversion of water through a canal to feed Lakkur tank for irrigation. This act of Karnataka will affect the flows in the river

considerably and will severely affect the irrigation in Tamil Nadu depending upon the waters of the Inter-State river Pennaiyar.

Under the circumstances, I once again seek your kind intervention in the matter and request you to advise the Government of Karnataka to stop any construction activity across the river Pennaiyar immediately and not to venture upon any schemes in the Pennaiyar river without the prior consent of Tamil Nadu.

I look forward to your immediate positive response in this matter." ●



'India must skip Colombo CHOGM Meet'

D.O. letter dated 25.3.2013 addressed by
Selvi J Jayalithaa, Hon'ble Chief Minister of
Tamil Nadu to Dr. Manmohan Singh,
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

“You would recall that I had written to you on 18th March, 2013, conveying the deep sense of outrage amongst Tamils all over the world and particularly, in Tamil Nadu, over the issue of war crimes and genocide perpetrated against Sri Lankan Tamils by the Sri Lankan army in the closing stages of the civil war. There are also continuing instances of human rights abuses against the Tamils in Sri Lanka, who continue to be ostracized as second class citizens in their own land.

There was considerable and broad based support for a strong resolution condemning Sri Lanka for the genocide and asking for an independent, international mechanism to investigate those accused of war crimes and genocide and to bring them to book. I had suggested that India should not only support the US moved resolution but should also move amendments to further strengthen the resolution. As it transpired, India voted in favour of a diluted and weak resolution moved by the US and did not move any amendments to condemn the genocide or to urge the establishment of an independent, international inquiry into the war crimes. There was widespread disappointment at this stand of the Government of India and a

continuing sense of injustice in Tamil Nadu on this issue.

In the meanwhile, it is reported that the biennial Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) and the Leaders' Retreat is proposed to be held in Colombo from 15th to 17th November, 2013.

In the present context, holding such a high profile international event, which will be attended by heads of government from across the world would amount to endorsing the present regime in Sri Lanka, which stands accused of committing genocide, war crimes and ongoing human rights abuses against Sri Lankan Tamils. This regime, which continues to deny Tamils their legitimate human rights, equality and democratic freedom, far from upholding Commonwealth values, has clearly violated the central credo of the Commonwealth, which is democracy and human rights. Nations have been suspended from the Commonwealth for far less.

Mr. Prime Minister, the proposed CHOGM in Colombo is another opportune occasion for India to mount further pressure on Sri Lanka to ensure that accountability is established under an international framework for the war

crimes and genocide committed in the closing stages of the civil war and the ongoing gross human rights abuses. In the light of the fresh, mounting evidence of atrocities committed by the Sri Lankan military, the Conference presents another opportunity to secure for Sri Lankan Tamils equal constitutional rights and a life of dignity. India must play a crucial role in this regard, given not only the deep and widespread sentiment prevailing amongst all sections of society and shades of political opinion in Tamil Nadu, as well as at the national level by many Opposition parties, but also the need to establish India as a global leader standing up for democracy and human rights.

It has also been widely reported that Canada has already indicated that it is likely to boycott the CHOGM in Colombo over the issue of gross human rights violations of the Sri Lankan Government. The House of Commons Committee on Foreign Affairs in the United Kingdom has also urged the British Prime Minister not to attend the CHOGM in Colombo. Clearly, many important countries across the world, including two G-8 countries, propose to leverage the proposed CHOGM in Sri Lanka and make substantial progress in human rights issues in Sri Lanka.

As an emerging great power and an aspirant for a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council, India has a duty to ensure that the values of democracy and respect for human rights are upheld anywhere in the world and in particular in its neighbourhood. As a leader in South Asia, India is uniquely positioned to exert the maximum influence on the Sri Lankans to accept an independent

international mechanism to hold those who committed genocide and war crimes to account.

Mr. Prime Minister, there is still time to consider even an alternative venue to hold the event. India should use this opportunity to ask that the venue for the CHOGM be shifted to another country. If India takes this diplomatic initiative there is likely to be broad based support amongst member countries of the Commonwealth.

In any event, any high level participation or engagement from the Indian side in the CHOGM will not only embolden the Sri Lankan regime but also incense public opinion and sentiment in Tamil Nadu on this very sensitive issue even further. I would, therefore, strongly urge you not to attend the CHOGM and the Leaders' Retreat proposed to be held in Colombo on November 15 to 17, 2013.

Mr. Prime Minister, I write to you in the hope and expectation that the Government of India will decisively step forward as a true champion of human rights and democracy and will launch a strong diplomatic initiative in support of the much discriminated against and long suffering Tamil minority in Sri Lanka. At the very least, India must stay away from the CHOGM to be held in Colombo and, thereby, exert pressure on Sri Lanka to do justice by its hapless, much exploited Tamil Minorities. By doing so, India would also demonstrate its empathy and solidarity with the millions of Tamils both in Tamil Nadu and elsewhere and assuage the legitimate sense of outrage amongst them against Sinhala excesses against Sri Lankan Tamils.” ●



Tamil Nadu's 'no' to IPL matches with Sri Lankans

**D.O. letter dated 26.3.2013 addressed by
Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon'ble Chief Minister of
Tamil Nadu to Dr. Manmohan Singh,
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India**

“I am writing to you on a matter of urgency and importance connected with the Sri Lankan Tamils issue. The recent continuous agitations in Tamil Nadu during the debate in the UNHRC have revealed the great angst and anguish amongst the people of Tamil Nadu with regard to this highly emotive issue. In this surcharged atmosphere the IPL cricket tournament is scheduled to be held at various locations including Chennai from 3rd April, 2013 onwards and will go on for over a month till the 26th May, 2013. I understand that almost all the participating teams have in their ranks Sri Lankan cricketers as their team members.

You are aware that the civil strife in Sri Lanka is a lamentable saga of an ethnic pogrom launched by the Sri Lankan Government, using Sri Lankan Army against Tamils, which resulted in the commission of genocide against a defenceless civilian Tamil population and the decimation of thousands of innocent women and children. These human rights violations have been extensively documented in the international media and internationally condemned.

These painful events of genocide of innocent Sri Lankan Tamils have had a deep impact amongst the people of Tamil Nadu, who have been severely shocked, pained and angered by these barbaric acts. Recently, against the background of increasing and credible evidence of continuing atrocities against Sri Lankan Tamils, Tamil Nadu witnessed mass agitations, hunger strikes, self immolations and the large scale spontaneous involvement of many sections of the Society, including the student community, protesting against the Sri Lankan action against the Tamils.

I have also been regularly writing to you protesting against the repeated and unprovoked attacks by the Sri Lankan Navy on innocent Tamil Nadu fishermen on the high seas, which have caused the deaths of and injuries to scores of Tamil Nadu fisherfolk. Understandably, their sentiments, too, have been hurt by these brutal and hostile acts of the Sri Lankan Navy.

All political parties in Tamil Nadu have repeatedly voiced their grave concern

regarding these issues. The atmosphere is, therefore, already surcharged with a groundswell of popular public opinion against the Sri Lankan Government.

In such a hostile and tense environment, we apprehend that the participation of Sri Lankan players in the IPL tournament, with many games to be played in Chennai, will aggravate an already surcharged atmosphere and further offend the sentiments of the people.

In view of the popular antipathy and anger in Tamil Nadu against the actions of the Government of Sri Lanka, the Government of Tamil Nadu is of the view that IPL matches involving Sri Lankan players, umpires and

other officials should not be played in Tamil Nadu. The BCCI may be advised by the Government of India to prevail upon the IPL organizers not to allow Sri Lankan players, officials, umpires and support staff to take part in the tournament in Tamil Nadu. The Government of Tamil Nadu will permit IPL matches to be held in Tamil Nadu, only if the organizers provide an undertaking that no Sri Lankan players, umpires, officials or support staff would participate in these matches.

I would be grateful for a line in reply in this matter.”



**Laptops for
9,397
village nurses
to help record
medical data**

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has directed distribution of laptops to all Village Nurses at no cost and has allotted Rs. 19.17 crores for this programme. Village nurses working under the Public Health and Preventive Medicine Department, numbering 9,397 will benefit from the Chief Minister's move.

The distribution of laptops is expected to ease the job of the village nurses in keeping

registers on medical data. It will thus improve their services.

Amidst their daily routine, the village nurses maintain several registers to record the progress of the various schemes of the department of public health and preventive medicine. They also have to upload statistics about the number of pregnant women, children and lactating mothers for which they have to go to browsing centres and primary health centres. Hence the laptop programme.



Info technology institute at Srirangam at Rs.128 crores

To help Tamil Nadu students acquire technological education of international standards, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has ordered the setting up of an Indian Information Technology Institute at Srirangam at a cost of Rs. 128 crores with the participation of State and Central Governments and industries. An extent of land measuring 56.37 acres has been identified for this at Sethuraapatti in Srirangam Taluk

As it will take some time to construct buildings on this land, to avert delay and in the interest of students, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has issued orders permitting the Indian Information Technology Institute to function temporarily from the campus of

the Bharathidasan Technological Institute at Thiruverumbur Taluk in Tiruchirapalli District from 2013-2014 academic year.

To help students, particularly rural students access higher education, the Hon'ble Chief Minister directed the starting of 11 University-affiliated Arts and Science Colleges last year and 3 Engineering, 10 Polytechnic and 11 affiliated Arts and Science Colleges in the current year.

For raising compound walls and laying approach roads to the 7 newly started polytechnic colleges at Theni, Tiruvarur, Villupuram, Tiruvannamalai, Dharmapuri, Karur and Perambalur Rs. 2.17 crores have been allotted at the rate of Rs. 31 lakhs to each one of them. ●

Chief Minister to the succour of 4-year old girl

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has directed that the 4-year-old girl, Dhanapriya, who was bitten by a street dog, should be admitted to Apollo hospital for treatment and that the entire treatment charges should be borne by the State Government.

Dhanapriya, daughter of Thiru. Saravanan of Valli Nagar, Govindarajapuram, Guduvancheri, Kancheepuram District was bitten by a street dog while she was going to school. She sustained injuries on her head and cheek.

On hearing the news, the Hon'ble Chief Minister directed that the child be removed to the Apollo hospital to get the best medical

treatment and to get her face re-structured through plastic surgery. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also instructed the Hon'ble Minister for Health and Secretary to Health and family Welfare department to visit the child and console her.

Accordingly, the Hon'ble Minister and the Secretary called on Dhanapriya, and also requested the doctors to give the best possible treatment to her.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also ordered the Municipal Administration Department to take immediate action along with Blue Cross Society for preventing such incidents involving street dogs. ●

UPPARU TO BE LINKED TO PARAMBIKULAM-ALIYAR

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has allotted Rs. 66.50 crores for executing canal and sea erosion prevention works.

The Upparu canal in Dharapuram Taluk, Tiruppur District with a capacity of 572 cusecs irrigates 6,060 acres of land. In the face of reduced inflows into the canal, the Hon'ble Chief Minister, has directed the linking of the canal with the Parambikulam-Aliyar Project canal to increase the inflow. A sum of Rs. 8.10 crores has been allotted.

Ferocity of the sea

Tamil Nadu has a coastline of 1,076 KM and the fishermen colonies along the coast are

often affected by sea erosion, boisterousness of the sea and inundation. The Hon'ble Chief Minister's Government has been taking protective measures like constructing sea walls and laying groynes.

To establish 10 sea groynes between Ennore and Ernavoor Kuppam in Madhavaram Taluk, Tiruvallur District, Rs. 31.82 crores has been allotted. For raising the height of the existing sea wall by 2 metres between Nethaji Nagar and Nettukuppam in the same taluk, Rs. 26.58 crores has been allotted to relieve the people residing in the areas of their sufferings due to sea erosion and the ferocity of the sea. ■

Chief Minister for store rooms in all school kitchens



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has given administrative sanction for Rs. 359.70 crores for the construction of kitchens with store rooms in 14,130 schools. The Government's aim is to provide such a facility in all schools.

In the first phase, funds were allotted for the construction of kitchens with store rooms in 14,340 schools and the construction is on. Works have also commenced in 7,650 more schools.

The nutritious meal scheme was introduced in Tamil Nadu to provide nutrition to school-going children. It is imperative to have a store-room attached to the kitchen to keep food articles like rice, pulses, eggs and fruits in good condition and to help in the uninterrupted supply of nutritious meals to school students. ■

44 Adi Dravida, ST students' hostels to have own buildings



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has allotted Rs. 35.04 crores for construction of own buildings for 44 Adi Dravidar and Scheduled Tribes students' hostels. Of these hostels, 3 that can each take 50 students will be constructed in the hill areas at a cost of Rs. 88.53 lakhs each and the rest (intake of 50 students each) in the plains at a cost of Rs. 78.99 lakhs each.

The locations where these hostels are to come up are: Kaadamparai, Thondamuthur, S.Punganpalayam, Valparai and Chinnathadaagam in Coimbatore District; Kalimanthai and Palani in Dindigul District; Namakkal and Namagiripettai, Okur, Vallathirakottai, P.Alagapuri, Melathaniyam, Odugampattu and Keeranur in Pudukkottai District; Neimalai, Maanoor and Thalaivasal in Salem District; Elayangudi, Vediaienthal and Chithalur in Sivaganga District; Oveli in Nilgiris District; Tiruthani in Tiruvallur District; Kanchi and Kalasapakkam in Tiruvannamalai District; Nazereth in

Thoothukudi District; Vellakovil in Tiruppur District; Ambasamudram, Thulukkarpatti, Radhapuram, Thenmalai and Viswanathaperi in Tirunelveli District; Poigaipatti, Vaalasiraamani and Kaanakiliyanallur in Tiruchi District; Veerapandi, Sevelapparai and Gingee in Villupuram District; Kallavi in Krishnagiri District; Maduranthakam, Nagalkeni and Thaiyur in Kancheepuram District; and at Arcot and Arakonam in Vellore District.

At present, there are 1,300 Adi Dravidar and 42 Scheduled Tribes students' hostels. Various steps taken by the Government have considerably reduced the phenomenon of drop-outs among students from these communities. As more students are joining the hostels, basic facilities in the ones functioning from rented buildings are found to be inadequate. Hence, the Hon'ble Chief Minister ordered that all the hostels in rented buildings should gradually shift to their own buildings.



Horticulture farm to come up in Srirangam taluk

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has directed the setting up of a new Government horticulture farm on 10 acres at Thorakudi village in Srirangam Taluk Tiruchi District at a cost of Rs. 50 lakhs.

The farm will produce planting materials needed by farmers and distribute them. Fruits, flowers and plantation crops will be grown in the farm. The annual production of plant materials will be from 2 lakhs to 5 lakhs. About 30,000 farmers belonging to Tiruchi District will benefit.

At present, 50 Government horticulture farms and 10 parks and gardens are functioning in the State under the Department of Horticulture. They grow fruits, flowers, vegetables, herbal and other horticultural crops.

In the earlier regime, the Hon'ble Chief Minister launched the Rain Water Harvesting Project. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has now directed that 323 infrastructure works like constructing check dams,

percolation ponds, farm ponds, new village tanks and re-charge bore wells be taken up at a cost of Rs. 5 crores in all districts excepting Chennai and Nilgiris for improving the moisture content of soil in the water-draining areas so that agricultural operations can be taken up in a larger area. The scheme will be implemented under the Rain Water Harvesting and Management Project. ■





Leakproof tiling for NGO-built tsunami houses

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has allotted Rs. 19.25 crores for preventing seepage in the ceiling of houses constructed by NGOs in 5 districts as part of the tsunami rehabilitation programme. Ceiling tiles will be laid with 'surki' on the concrete roofing to make them leakproof.

When tsunami struck Tamil Nadu in 2004 during the earlier regime of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, countless relief measures were implemented to re-build the lives of those affected. Besides the Government, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) too constructed houses for those who were rendered homeless. In the houses constructed by NGOs in the rural areas of Nagapattinam,

Cuddalore, Tuticorin, Kancheepuram and Tirunelveli district, ceiling tiles were not laid. This resulted in much damage to the houses. Though the houses were constructed by the NGOs, in the interest of the residents, the Hon'ble Chief Minister allotted Rs.19.25 crores for preventing water seepage in the houses.

The allotment is for 12,035 houses as indicated below: Nagapattinam District – 7,513 rural houses (Rs. 12.02 crores); Cuddalore District – 1,203 houses (Rs. 1.92 crores); Tuticorin District – 233 houses (Rs. 37 lakhs); Kancheepuram District – 2,518 houses (Rs. 4.03 crores); Tirunelveli District – 568 houses (Rs. 91 lakhs). ●

Chief Minister orders 26 model schools in backward areas

To impart the best education to students in backward areas, model schools are being started in educationally backward Panchayat Unions.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has ordered that 26 such model schools be started in as many unions as possible. These schools will have classes from 6 to 12 and will start functioning from the academic year 2013-2014. Till own buildings are built for these schools, they will function from nearby Government Higher Secondary schools.

The 26 unions where the model schools will be located are: Ariyalur (in Ariyalur District), Mangalur (Cuddalore District), Karimangalam and Palacode (Dharmapuri District), Sathyamangalam, Thalawadi and Andhiyur (Erode District), Gundadam (Tiruppur District), Thali and Veppanahalli (Krishnagiri District), Veppur (Perambalur District), Nangavalli,

Sankagiri, Veerapandi, Bedda-nayakanpalayam, Tharamangalam, Kolathur, Makudanchavadi, Panamarathupatti and Yercaud (Salem District), Javvadu Hills (Tiruvannamalai District), Thirunavalur, Thiruvennai-nallur, Sankarapuram (Kalvarayan Hills) and Ulundurpet (Villupuram District), and Mallasamudram in Namakkal District.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has also directed the creation of 17 teaching posts and 7 non-teaching posts in each of these model schools. They are 1 headmaster, 7 post-graduate teachers, 5 graduate teachers, 1 computer teacher, 1 physical training teacher, 1 music teacher, 1 drawing master. The non-teaching posts are: 1 Junior Assistant, 1 librarian, 1 laboratory assistant, 1 office assistant, 1 sweeper/conservancy staff, 1 night watchman and 1 gardener. ●



Cash awards enhanced for district-level artistes

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has issued orders for increasing the award money for the five awards presented by District Art forums to Rs. 5,000/- from Rs. 2,000/-. A sum of Rs. 8 lakhs has been allotted for this.

To encourage artistes at the district level, the Hon'ble Chief Minister, in her earlier regime in 2002 had ordered the institution of 5 age-wise awards. They are 'Kalai Ilamani' (18 years and below), 'Kalai Valarmani' (19 – 35 years), 'Kalai Sudarmani' (36-50 years)

'Kalai Nanmani' (51-60 years) and 'Kalai Mudhumani' (61 years and above).

The District forum, headed by the District Collector would select the artistes for these 5 awards. The enhanced award money will be disbursed from the current year (2012-2013).

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has also directed the setting up of District Art Forums in the newly created districts of Tiruppur and Ariyalur, and the giving of awards in these districts.

Ball set rolling for Poompuhar fishing harbour

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has given administrative sanction for Rs. 78.50 crores for setting up a fishing harbour at Poompuhar in Nagapattinam District and has allotted Rs. 6.67 crores in the first phase for expediting work on the harbour.

On learning that lack of parking facilities for deep-sea fishing boats and deficiencies in processing and storage markets pose hurdles for increasing fish production, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has ordered the setting up of fishing harbours at Nagapattinam, Pazhaiyar, Poompuhar and at Mookaiyur near Rameswaram.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has already ordered the setting up of a fisheries University on a 85-acres land in Panangudi and

Nagoremuttam villages in Nagapattinam taluk to encourage fisheries education. She has also ordered the setting up of fish seedling farms with modern facilities at 11 places in the state at a cost of Rs. 37 crores. Increasing inland fish production, utilising inland water resources fully to increase fish production and establishing hygienic fish landing centres with all facilities at a cost of Rs. 63 crores are being undertaken at the Chief Minister's orders.

Also, orders have already been issued to set up two fish processing parks in public-private partnership mode, one at Periya Kankanankuppam in Cuddalore District on a plot of 1.94 acres and at a cost of Rs. 14 crores and another at Nagore village in Nagapattinam District on 2.19 acres at a cost of Rs. 23 crores. Besides these two, 11 more such parks are to come up in the State.



FREE MIXIES FOR NUTRITIOUS MEAL AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has ordered the distribution of mixies to 99,329 nutritious meal centres and child welfare centres at the rate of one each at a total cost of Rs. 12,36,68,000/-.

In the first phase, 43,787 nutritious meal centres and 9,094 child welfare centres (Rs. 6,56,26,000) will be covered. In the

second phase, 46,448 child welfare centres will be covered (Rs. 5,76,42,000/-).

The supply of mixies is essential on account of the introduction of new varieties of nutritious food served in these centres for students and children. The Hon'ble Chief Minister ordered the introduction of 13 types of mixed rice and 4 varieties of masala eggs to suit the tastes of students.



100 crores more for weaning food to babies, mothers

The Hon'ble Chief minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has increased the budgetary allotment for the distribution of weaning food ('Sattu Maavu') by Rs. 100 crores, in the current year. In the budget for 2012-2013, an allotment of Rs. 190 crores was made. With this increase, Rs. 290 crores will be spent on this scheme in the current year.

The weaning food is distributed as a parallel food to babies aged 6 months to 3 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers for improving the nutrient content of their diet. The food is prepared from wheat/jowar/kumbu, ragi, powered jaggery and Bengal gram and vitamins. The food also ensures that mothers get the needed protein.

